

Report 03.494
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Committee Landcare
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Divisional Manager's report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of the Landcare Division since the Committee's last meeting.

2. Managers' reports

The Departmental Managers' reports are attached.

3. A busy year

As you have seen this order paper is larger than usual, with a swathe of year-end reports on performance indicators. While the reports are useful, they only tell part of the story in terms of the Division's achievements over the past year. I have made a point of getting to our river corridors and parks since the year ended and they are looking great.

I also tried to prepare a list of highlights for this report, but it was too long. As a result I've restricted myself to a few "super highlights". They are:

- the new car park at the Rimutaka rail trail
- the new truss bridge and track at Kaitoke Regional Park
- the success of the Hutt River Ranger service and the improvements on the Hutt River berms and Trail
- the progress of the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan, "Non Structural Options" work
- the removal or licensing of a number of encroachments in the Hutt River Corridor
- the Battle Hill Farm Forest Park interpretation signs
- making Whitireia Park possum free
- the community plantings and involvement in Queen Elizabeth Park
- the Otaki River mouth enhancements and the Otaki rock edge improvements.

There are also a large number of behind the scenes achievements which are important but rarely noticed. For example:

- both the Ava to Ewen project and the Belmont edge protection works resource consent applications were exceptionally well handled by Geoff and his team
- for the first time in my tenure in Landcare we have a full complement of River engineers
- Parks and Forests completed a revaluation of their assets as at 30 June 2003.

4. Challenges for the coming year

This year we are looking forward to continuing the momentum. The LTCCP has set us on a path of moving from “planning to doing”. The key challenges for Flood Protection are squarely in the “doing” patch where a huge capital works programme will keep us very busy. Parks and Forests is a little more focussed on “planning” with a number of park management plans to be written. However, there is also a lot of “doing” with East Harbour Regional Park coming on line this year and the environmental and infrastructural asset management programmes in full swing.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *receive the report.*
2. *note the contents of the report.*

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Departmental reports