



inside

2 Buggy walks – a mass movement

4 Fun in our parks

5 Getting rid of chemical waste

8 New GW Chair

elements

news & information from the greater wellington regional council

issue 40 December 2007



Members of Nga Uruora – Kapiti Project on the escarpment above Paekakariki. Left to right: Hannah Kyle, Joe Clarkson, Pete McLaughlin, Paul Quinn and Ken Fraser

Award winners wow judges

What do the Paekakariki escarpment, a school in Eastbourne and the Wellington inner-city bypass have in common?

They are winners of Greater Wellington's first-ever GW Environmental Awards, recognising and rewarding outstanding environmental achievement in our communities.

Nga Uruora – Kapiti Project won the Rata Community Partnership Award for its work to restore the spectacular stretch of land from Pukerua Bay to Paekakariki to its pre-European-settlement native forest.

The community group started 10 years ago. With funding from Greater Wellington and the QEII Trust, it began its plan for an unbroken ribbon of bird-safe native forest from Porirua to Waikanae. Its flagship project is on the escarpment

between the main trunk railway line and the ridgeline. Local people volunteer, local businesses provide supplies, and Pukerua Bay and Paekakariki primary schools house native plant nurseries.

"We really appreciate this award and it means a lot to get it from Greater Wellington, which has been a long-term supporter," says Nga Uruora member Paul Quinn. "It's one of the best job references you can get for this sort of work!"

Muritai School in Eastbourne won both Greater Wellington awards for schools. Year 7 and 8 teacher Stephan Eames won the Kahikatea School Leadership Award for promoting environmental sustainability by encouraging

parent and community involvement in the school's environmental projects.

The school also won the Miro School Sustainable Project award for its commitment to a waste management programme. Students set up a recycling station, compost bins and worm farms. This project has been going for three years. Muritai School has been supported by Greater Wellington's environmental education team and participated in the Take Action for Air and Take Action for Water programmes in the past two years.

Titahi Bay School received a merit award for its ongoing sustainable transport initiatives and St Bernadette's

received a special award for its large number of environmental projects.

The Nikau Compliance Award for a resource consent holder that has gone above and beyond the conditions of their resource consent went to the Wellington Inner City Bypass project team, for innovative solutions to their many consent conditions and management of stormwater and groundwater consents. Jeremy Rusbatch, one of Greater Wellington's resource advisers assigned to this project, says: "The team created innovative solutions to meet its consent

conditions that we haven't seen before and it was done on a tight urban site. They came up with new designs, implemented and maintained them extremely well, kept us informed and had a proactive approach."

Capacity and Wellington Pipelines Ltd won a joint merit award for resolving an erosion problem in the Takapu Stream. They had perfect textbook solutions to their consent conditions, working on a tricky small site with the added complication of a sewer line running through it.

Inside –
Regional Outdoors
Programme 2008

Buggy walks – a mass movement

Group buggy walks around the region have proved to be a winner with parents and babies. Enthusiastic participants have been inspired to increase their level of exercise and a major funder – the Lion Foundation (a charitable trust) – is now on board



Tamino and Inez (Mum) Romanos at a buggy walk in Karori Cemetery, July 2007

“These walks have been a far greater success than we anticipated when we came up with the idea last year,” says Ellie Goddard, Active Movement Advisor for Sport Wellington Region, who organise the monthly walks.

“We’re usually getting between 70 and 90 adults and children at each buggy walk, and we now have major funding from the Lion Foundation – the walks just go from strength to strength.”

Since the walks began last year, Greater Wellington has funded them and provided practical support, such as checking the routes are an appropriate length (not too long and not too short), helping to plan the walks, and providing support staff and equipment.

Ellie says regional parks such as Kaitoke and Battle Hill have been popular venues, and that parents and kids especially enjoy having the rangers there. “Those guys are a lot of fun! It’s easy to

forget to get out in the open air for a bit of exercise when you’re busy looking after a small child, so Sport Wellington set up the buggy walks to encourage outdoor activity. They’re a fantastic way to push play and meet other adults with small children.”

The walks are also proving to be a strong motivator for new parents to do more exercise. In the September buggy walk, Sport Wellington asked returning participants if their level of physical activity had increased – 85% said it had – “that’s exactly what we’re aiming for with buggy walks”, says Ellie.

Buggy walks have also been held along the Hutt River Trail, the Botanic Gardens and Karori Cemetery. Venues for 2008 will include Queen Elizabeth Park and Tunnel Gully.

For more information on upcoming buggy walks, see www.buggywalk.co.nz

New-look Elements for 2008

Look out for a new, improved version of *Elements* – Greater Wellington’s quarterly publication – in your letterbox in April/May next year. It’ll have a new name too.

There’ll be more news on what Greater Wellington is doing for you and stories on the excellent work that people in the community are doing to make our region truly sustainable.

The new publication will also include more information on ways you can participate in Greater Wellington’s decision-making processes and work with Greater Wellington for a better region.

What does a Regional Policy Statement do?

Have you ever thought about why district and regional plans have particular policies or rules?

In some cases, it’s because they have been directed to do so by the Regional Policy Statement (RPS). For example, the Otaki beach ridges were included in the Kapiti Coast District Plan heritage register as a result of them being identified in the RPS as regionally significant geological features.

Other documents are also influenced by the RPS. For example, the Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy is not allowed to be inconsistent with the RPS. Councils must consider the RPS when they make decisions on applications for resource consents and designations. It also plays an important role

in outlining other resource management actions or programmes to promote sustainable management of land and other resources.

Our region’s RPS is currently under review – Greater Wellington is required to review the RPS every 10 years. If you would like to influence the policies used to make resource management decisions, you will need to read the draft RPS and make a submission on it.

To find out more about the RPS review, see www.gw.govt.nz/rps. A draft RPS will be released for comment in February 2008



The RPS sets out what we need to do to sustainably manage important natural and physical resources

Greater Wellington promotes **Quality for Life** by ensuring our environment is protected while meeting the economic, cultural and social needs of the community

Metlink turns two

It's two years since Greater Wellington's public transport services were brought together under the Metlink banner to make them easier to recognise and use. Since then Greater Wellington, the region's public transport operators, and city and district councils, have continued to work together on a comprehensive programme of improvements to move more people out of their cars and onto public transport

The following changes have already been made under the Metlink banner:

- A new zone-based fare structure to standardise travel costs across the region
- Three new trains for the Wairarapa Line
- A confirmed contract for a new fleet of trolley buses for Wellington city – the first two are due to hit the road in early 2008
- Nearly 2,500 new Metlink bus stop signs throughout the region, providing more information and greater visibility
- A new txtBUS service enabling bus passengers to

find out when their next scheduled bus is due via their mobile phone – 2,000 texts are sent from the Metlink txtBUS service per month and this number is continually rising

- One website for all public transport information – the Metlink website received nearly 400,000 hits last year
- One phone number for all public transport information – the Metlink Service Centre received 500,000 calls last year
- New pocket-sized Metlink timetables for all Metlink services – available from 120 outlets around the region

- A regular Metlink newsletter to update commuters on public transport developments
- Eight train station upgrades on the Wairarapa Line, including a whole new platform at Matarawa

- Better bus services for Wairarapa, including new modern wheelchair-accessible buses
- And there are more improvements to come, including a major upgrade of the rail network and real-time

information for bus and train passengers.

More than 34 million trips were made on the region's bus, train and ferry services in the 2006/07 financial year, supporting the region's claim to have the highest level of public transport use in New Zealand.



The new Metlink train on the Wairarapa Line. Photo courtesy of Stew Robertson and Toll NZ

Prototype trolley buses on the road

The first of the new fleet of Go Wellington trolley buses are coming. Two prototypes will be in service early in 2008, giving passengers a preview of what's to come

Go Wellington will introduce an entirely new fleet of trolley buses over a two-year period. The new buses will carry more passengers in greater comfort and boast battery backup so breakdowns, resulting from power outages, will soon be a thing of the past.

Go Wellington and Greater Wellington will survey passengers to see how they find the seating arrangements and help establish the best seating layout for subsequent new trolley buses.

With 20% more capacity, the larger buses will help keep up with growing demand without having to increase the number of buses on the road. And they are New Zealand made – the new buses are being built in Ashburton by Designline.

Trolley buses have been part of Wellington's landscape since 1924. The oldest of the current fleet was introduced in 1980. Currently, around half of all passenger trips in Wellington are made on trolley buses so they are a significant part of the Metlink network.

Goodbye Cityline, hello ValleyFlyer

Over the next year, all Cityline buses are being rebranded in vibrant purple and orange ValleyFlyer colours and given a new name – ValleyFlyer. The individual designs celebrate different parts of the Hutt Valley (Eastbourne, Stokes Valley, Upper Hutt, Wainuiomata and Waterloo).

Staff uniforms are changing too. "The new look reflects a strong connection to our local community," says Cityline Hutt Valley Operations Manager Matthew Lear. "Along with our new brand, we aim to offer the best service and are starting this process at the grassroots with our drivers undergoing new customer service training."

Routes and timetables will remain the same. ValleyFlyer services are part of the Metlink network.

Christmas services

- Metlink bus, train and harbour ferry services will be reduced over the Christmas break from 24 December to 6 January 2007
- Bus routes 6, 13, 17, 80, 90, route 14 Molesworth Shuttle and Runciman commuter buses will not be operating. After-midnight services will run in the early morning of 22 December, 23 December, 29 December, 30 December 2007 and 1 January 2008
- Most services will return to normal on 7 January 2008
- Pick up your Christmas timetable now from any Metlink outlet. Call Metlink on 0800 801 700 or see www.metlink.org.nz for more timetable information



New Wellington city bus timetables

Following a review of Go Wellington (formerly Stagecoach Wellington) bus services, the times of some services have changed to better reflect their running times, particularly through Wellington's CBD.

Printed timetables are available from any Metlink timetable stockist or online at www.metlink.org.nz. Check the Metlink website for details, your nearest timetable stockist or call Metlink on 0800 801 700.



Paekakariki's American connection

Twenty thousand American soldiers invaded Paekakariki between June 1942 and October 1943. But they were very welcome...



John Porter remembers the American marines from his Kapiti childhood in the 1940s

The marines were here because of a threat to the Pacific during World War II and to boost our defences when the Kiwi forces were overseas. The American regiments were based in three camps in what is now Queen Elizabeth Park and Whareroa Farm – Camp Russell, Camp Mackay (at MacKays Crossing) and Camp Paekakariki (north of Paekakariki). They carried out military exercises on the ground and in the sea, but they also charmed the local women and befriended families.

Kapiti historian John Porter has fond memories of the marines. He was only 10 when they arrived but recalls the impact they had on children in the area. "My friends and I used to sneak around one of the camps," says John. "We'd forage through their rubbish tip for things like chocolate and coffee. But they never booted us out or chased us away."

John says all the kids loved the marines. "They ran a picture theatre and handed out ice

creams – though my Mum wouldn't let me join in! They also spent a lot of time playing craps (dice) anywhere and everywhere, but usually in a sunny spot on the footpath."

Greater Wellington has recently updated information panels near the road to Whareroa Beach at Queen Elizabeth Park telling the story of the marines. They include new information that's come to light and an additional panel where plans of the military camps are superimposed on the current landscape.

"The panels are a rich source of information and look like they'll last for years," says John. "They give people an idea of what was once here and show that you're right in the middle of a military camp that many people didn't know existed."

And the legacy of the marines still remains. Even now, extra care is taken for the park's landscaping projects. Any excavations beyond the digging of planting holes require a metal detector to be run over the site to check for stray munitions.

Park gets even better

East Harbour Regional Park is a stunning combination of rocky coastline, lakes and native bush between Eastbourne and Wainuiomata. Greater Wellington, the Department of Conservation and the local community are working on improvements to make this gem of a park even better.

A restoration plan to restore the lakes block of the park after more than a century of burning and grazing is now underway, and the forest cover is slowly re-establishing itself.

Some of these areas are exposed to the extremes of a coastal environment – making growth difficult – but sheltered areas that can act as a seed source for future regeneration have been identified.

Greater Wellington's Parks department staff have fenced off the planting sites for protection from rabbits and hares, and at a recent planting day 600 locally sourced seedlings were provided and planted by MIRO, and Forest and Bird volunteers.

It's not just the lakes block getting special treatment. The Butterfly Creek valley has more boardwalks on the Kowhai track to aid the protection of environmentally sensitive, semi-swamp forest.

The boardwalks will allow visitors to keep to the track and appreciate the surroundings, while the plants on the forest floor get the opportunity to flourish.

Find out more about East Harbour Regional Park at www.gw.govt.nz or contact Greater Wellington's East Harbour Regional Park Ranger Gareth Cooper (T 04 526 5344, gareth.cooper@gw.govt.nz)



Volunteers and GW staff, East Harbour Regional Park planting day, August 2007

Kaitoke camping

Fancy getting away from it all this summer without travelling too far? Kaitoke Regional Park has great camping areas in a lovely setting

"It's a relaxed, easy place to camp with a lot to do," says Kaitoke Regional Park Ranger Steve Edwards. "There are good swimming spots in the Pakuratahi and Hutt rivers, excellent bush walks and plenty of open spaces to kick a ball around."

The camp is cheap too and there's no need to book. The self-registration system is at the park's information kiosk and costs \$5 per adult per night and \$2 for people aged 16 and younger.

There's also a treated water supply, toilets, six coin-operated

barbecues and rangers onsite to provide information, security, monitor facilities and enforce camp rules (loud music, noise after 11pm, driving at night and drunken behaviour are prohibited).

For more information, contact Steve Edwards (T 526 7322, steve.edwards@gw.govt.nz)



Hunting in the parks

Hunters will soon be able to put their names into a ballot to hunt deer in the Wainuiomata Catchment and East Harbour Regional Park in 2008

"The 2007 hunting season went very well," says Gareth Cooper, Greater Wellington's East Harbour Regional Park Ranger. "We were especially pleased with the interest in the East Harbour ballot since the park has been closed to hunting for so long. The ballot winners enjoyed the opportunity to hunt in the area and many commented on its environmental quality. Some had never even visited the park before."

Following feedback from the hunters, Greater Wellington has increased the number of hunters for East Harbour from eight to nine, and each hunter will have the choice of being accompanied by a nominated hunting partner. Forty hunters will be drawn from the Wainuiomata Catchment ballot, who can also be accompanied by a partner.

The 2008 East Harbour Regional Park hunting season will take place from 30 March to 29 April. The Wainuiomata Catchment season will take place from 29 March to 23 April.

Applications for the 2008 East Harbour Regional Park and Wainuiomata Catchment hunting ballots open in February. Contact Joanne Clifford-Marsh at Greater Wellington's Upper Hutt office for more information (T 04 526 5332, joanne.clifford-marsh@gw.govt.nz)

Our water history – on tap

Providing water at a cost that the population can bear has been a challenge ever since European settlers arrived in the region. Greater Wellington has just published *Our water history – on tap*, which tells the story of how this challenge was met



Council waterworks staff at Orongorongo River, February 1915

When Europeans first settled in the region, getting drinking water was labour intensive. People usually collected it themselves direct from rooftops, shallow wells or from streams by bucket.

The first piped water was brought to Hill Street in Thorndon from a local spring in 1868.

This was soon improved by two reservoir projects in Wellington city (in 1874 and 1878) and wells

in Petone that fed underground tanks for fire-fighting (1883). By the 1890s the Wellington systems couldn't keep up with demand for water and the first hosing bans were introduced.

Water supply schemes were then developed in Wainuiomata (two), Porirua, Petone, Normandale, Karori, Ohariu Valley and Upper Hutt between 1884 and 1914. Again, demand for water outstripped supply until the Orongorongo system began supplying water in 1926.

In 1927, several more catchments were put aside for water supply. Despite shortages of both labour and metal for pipes, water reached many parts of the region thanks to the determination of farsighted engineers who strove to maintain and extend the system. However, water supply was expensive and there wasn't much local government revenue to maintain and expand the systems.

The Kaitoke scheme, completed in 1959, was the first to address the region's water needs and resources in a truly integrated way. It was developed to supply

many parts of the region and set the scene for collaboration between the region's different local authorities.

Wellington region is again facing a growing need for water. There are various options for increasing supply or managing the resource that we already have more efficiently. Greater Wellington is developing a proposal for the future of our water supply that will be available for consultation in 2008.

To read more about the history of water supply, ask for *Our water history – on tap* at your local library or view this publication online at www.gw.govt.nz/waterhistory. To learn more about water conservation, see www.bethedifference.gw.govt.nz

Sunscreen for your garden

Did you know that mulch can lock up 70% more moisture in your garden?

"Basically, mulch acts like a sunscreen on your garden," says Andrew Samuel, Greater Wellington's Water Supply Marketing Analysis Manager. "It reduces the need to water, slows weed growth and feeds the soil, helping you conserve water and keep your garden looking good."

In November, Greater Wellington ran print and radio advertising to promote the use of mulch as part of its summer

water conservation campaign. The campaign was supported by a range of garden centres and hardware outlets, which put on great deals for mulch throughout November.

Andrew says that water demand in Wellington's four cities during summer can be 50% higher than in winter. "A garden hose or sprinkler can spray away 1,000 litres of water an hour – that's the same as what a family of four

uses on a winter day."

Though the promotion has ended, it's not too late to summer-proof your garden. To care for gardens with less water this summer, gardeners should follow these four simple steps:

1. Use mulch (make sure the soil is moist before you put it on)
2. Check that your soil needs watering before turning the tap on
3. Only water your plant's roots
4. Time sprinkler sessions to 30 minutes – once a week should be enough



For more information on mulch and garden water conservation tips, see www.bethedifference.gw.govt.nz

Helping rid farms of chemical waste

Do you have banned or unwanted agrichemicals on your property?

A joint Greater Wellington and Ministry for the Environment programme aiming to rid the region of banned and unwanted agrichemicals is planned for early 2008. Last year the programme facilitated the removal of 1,250kg of chemicals from 15 properties in the Wairarapa region, assisted by Medichem Waste Services and Transpacific Technical Services.

Persistent organic pollutants (or "POPs") such as DDT are among those targeted in the collection. They have been deregistered because they are harmful to humans, animals and the environment. Farm owners are encouraged to take the opportunity to get these and other banned or dangerous chemicals off their land.

"Often these chemicals are sitting in drums around the property, unbeknown to owners," says Naomi Middleton, Greater Wellington's Pollution Control Officer. "Some property owners may have inherited or recently purchased properties and need to check their land for containers that may contain chemicals. To reduce risks to farm owners, contractors will come right to the properties to collect the chemicals."

Continued storage or onsite disposal of dangerous chemicals may lead to contamination of crops and other environmental damage, and may also lead to properties being registered as contaminated on Greater Wellington's Selected Land Use Register.

Greater Wellington is currently compiling a list of rural properties throughout the region for the proposed collection.

Farm owners can register now by phoning Greater Wellington's pollution control team on 04 384 5708 or emailing pollution.control@gw.govt.nz

Wanted: pest plants

It's difficult to predict which pest plants might next invade our region but Greater Wellington continues to be on the lookout

In our Regional Pest Management Strategy these are identified as "Regional Surveillance Pest Species" and are plants with the potential to cause serious damage to our environment, economy and wellbeing if not stopped. We need your help to identify if these plants are here and how widespread they are throughout the Wellington region. Please contact us if you see the following pest plant.

Chocolate vine (Akebia quinata)

Chocolate vine is a vigorous climbing vine and groundcover. If left unmanaged it can cover, out-compete and kill existing groundcovers, shrubs and young trees. Once established, its dense growth prevents the establishment of native plant

seedlings. Chocolate vine can tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions from full sun to shade, and drought to frosts. Even though it can survive a range of conditions, it prefers partial shade and well-drained yet moist soil, such as beside streams and rivers, forest edges, wetlands and urban areas. It generally loses its leaves over winter but can be semi-evergreen during milder winters. Chocolate vine spreads mainly by human activity, such as the dumping of garden waste.

Description

- Leaves are made of up to five oval-shaped leaflets on long stalks (up to 12cm long) that create a hand shape and has a purplish tinge that becomes blue-green at maturity

- Slender, round stems are green when young and brown when mature
- Chocolate-purple coloured flowers (25mm across) have a vanilla scent, and hang in clusters of six to eight flowers from August to October
- Fruits are purple-violet flattened sausage-like pods (8-9cm long). The inside of the pod has a whitish, pulpy core with many tiny black seeds.

For more information on pest plant species, see www.gw.govt.nz (keywords – pest plants). To report any sightings of pest plants, phone Greater Wellington on 04 526 5325 (Upper Hutt), 06 378 2484 (Masterton) or email pest.plants@gw.govt.nz



Chocolate vine (Akebia quinata)

Look out for toxic blue-green algae

River users are urged to keep an eye out for blue-green algae blooms this summer



Toxic blue-green algae. Photo courtesy of Cawthron Institute

Blue-green algae (or cyanobacteria) are naturally present in many New Zealand waters and often grow as mats attached to the riverbed. Some blue-green algae can produce toxins that are harmful to humans, dogs, livestock and wildlife.

Dogs are particularly susceptible to poisoning. In humans, contact with blue-green algae mats through activities such as swimming can cause rashes, skin and eye irritation, allergic reactions, gastrointestinal upset and other effects.

It's also not safe to drink water containing toxins from blue-green algae. Toxins are not removed by boiling, normal filter systems or disinfectants.

What does blue-green algae look like?

Blue-green algae mats are a dense dark brown/black colour typically found on large rocks, stones and cobbles. They may have a "dreadlock" appearance in slow moving parts of the river, and can come loose from the riverbed and form floating "rafts". When the mats die and dry out, they become light brown or white in colour.

The longer, bright-green algae commonly found in rivers and streams are harmless and do not produce toxins.

Who should I call if I experience a reaction?

Contact your GP and advise them of your potential exposure.

Who should I call if my animal is sick?

If you are concerned about your animals, contact a veterinarian immediately. The toxins can affect dogs very quickly.

Who should I call if I think I've seen blue-green algae mats?

Please phone Greater Wellington on 04 384 5708 or your local council.

Where can I get more information?

Phone your local council, Regional Public Health (04 570 9002) or Wairarapa Public Health (06 370 5020).

Safe summer swimming spots

Weekly monitoring of water quality has begun at popular beaches and rivers across the Wellington region

Results are published weekly from November to March on our website (www.gw.govt.nz/on-the-beaches) using a traffic-light system. A green light is for go and indicates a low health risk for swimmers. The health risk is determined from the level of bacteria found in water samples.

This year for the first time swimmers on the Wainuiomata River can check swimming safety as Greater Wellington has extended the programme to include a swimming spot at Richard Prouse Park.

The level of risk is highest during and after rain events, and the public are advised to avoid swimming at these times. Even light rain can sometimes be enough to affect water quality. It also pays to keep an eye out for other events, such as livestock contamination, in addition to checking out our monitoring results.

Sustainability on show

Sustainability took centre stage at the recent Get Sustainable Awards for the central region, with Dulux winning the supreme award on the night



The Get Sustainable Challenge has rewarded staff at Dulux (Gracefield, Lower Hutt) for supreme sustainability. Left to right: Melchiades Rodrigues, Shelley Reynolds, James Tala, Ralph Dawson and Robert Cordner

"Taking up the challenge of sustainable business is easier than you'd think," says Dulux General Manager Greg Warren. "Everything that you do to be more sustainable makes a

difference, whether it's big or small. Our sustainability strategy is based on contributing lasting benefits to the environment and the communities that we operate in."

Dulux, which has its head office and paint manufacturing plant in Gracefield, Lower Hutt, won the award for excellent waste management (including its site stormwater containment

system) and setting ambitious targets for reducing electricity, water, waste and greenhouse gas emissions. Dulux has also increased its production of water-based paints and found a way to recycle almost every material used in the paint-making and distribution process.

"It's important for us to meet the needs of our customers and the community in an environmentally sustainable manner," says Greg. "To rise to this challenge, we've found that it's critical to communicate the importance of sustainability to your staff, be confident that you can make a difference and then take action."

Greg says that a key factor in winning the award was the high level of employee participation, reflecting their desire to make a meaningful contribution. Dulux has held voluntary tree-planting days for staff, provided employees with recycling bins to take home, and celebrated Safety, Health and Environment Day

by shutting down the entire Dulux site for a day of visiting speakers, environmental activities and health promotions.

Dulux also won the Trailblazer Award for large businesses. Other award winners were Contact Energy, YHA Wellington, Squiz (a website company), Starfish fashion and 3R (Responsible Resource Recovery).

Each of the award winners went through to the NZI National Sustainable Business Awards. Contact Energy, YHA Wellington and Starfish each won in their categories.

Greater Wellington was the principal sponsor of the central region awards. The other sponsors included the Wellington and Hutt city councils. The Get Sustainable Challenge is run by the Sustainable Business Network.

For more information about the Sustainable Business Network, see www.sustainable.org.nz or email central@sustainable.org.nz

Lessons from Peru

The recent rumble of earthquakes throughout New Zealand has had the effect of focusing everyone's attention on emergency preparedness

Greater Wellington's Emergency Management Advisor Craig Hamilton knows just how important it is to be prepared for an earthquake after seeing first hand the damage a substantial quake had on Peru. In the quake on 15 August (8 on the Richter scale) at least 519 people were killed and 1,844 injured.

More than 52,700 buildings were destroyed and more than 22,800 buildings were damaged. The majority of the

damage and casualties occurred in Chinchá Alta, Ica and Pisco. There were widespread communications and power outages in the area and main transport routes suffered heavy damage due to landslides and cracks.

The New Zealand Society of Earthquake Engineering sent a six-person reconnaissance team from various disciplines to spend a week in Peru inspecting the damage and seeing the impact of a substantial quake.

By the time the New Zealand team arrived in Peru, the bodies had been removed but the physical damage to buildings was still very much in evidence. The landscape was cluttered with debris and some of the broken buildings still housed horrific stories.

"We saw a church where 148 people were killed when the walls of the building failed and collapsed on the people at evening mass," says Craig, who also says the impact the



Building on a lean after the Peru earthquake, August 2007. Photo courtesy of Dr David Hopkins (David Hopkins Consulting Limited)

earthquake had on people who lost their houses was hard on the team emotionally. "You just wanted to do something for them, we felt very gloomy at times because it was such heart-rending stuff."

Craig says he saw how the authorities were working hard

to provide food, water and shelter for their communities in the aftermath of the devastating event. The experiences of the team will now be focused on bringing the lessons home and applying them in a New Zealand context.



Preparing your family for a disaster

Wellington Railway Station was a sea of yellow during Disaster Awareness Week in October as Greater Wellington and other agencies handed out goodie bags to commuters.

"We arrived at 6am and had handed out all 6,000 bags before 8am," says Greater Wellington Emergency Management Officer Jessica Hare. "People were very interested to see what was inside the bags and some people came back for more to take to their workmates!"

Minister of Civil Defence Rick Barker distributes goodie bags at Wellington Railway Station, October 2007

The bags contained household emergency plans, fridge magnets and other information on giving your family the best shot at surviving a disaster. "Even though Disaster Awareness Week is over, it's not too late to prepare your family," says Jessica.

Each family should have:

- Emergency water
- Emergency survival items (eg, food)
- A household emergency plan

For more information, see www.wrcdemg.govt.nz or contact Jessica Hare (T 04 803 0379, jessica.hare@gw.govt.nz)

New Chair and Deputy for Greater Wellington



New Greater Wellington Chair Fran Wilde in the Council Chamber, November 2007

New Greater Wellington Chair Fran Wilde has challenged the Council and local communities to work together on finding solutions for the big issues facing our region.

Fran Wilde was elected by councillors following the local government elections on 13 October. Peter Glensor was elected deputy chairperson. Former chairperson Ian Buchanan remains on Council. There are five councillors new to Council this term.

“The future for our world is less certain and less scripted than it has ever been. We are increasingly battered by massive global trends – social, economic and environmental,” Cr Wilde told the Council following her election.

“There is strong consensus on the reality of climate change regardless of the debate around its speed and specific impacts. For our organisation, with its role as guardian of the region’s natural resources, this issue is

of the utmost significance. Whatever actually transpires, it’s clear that in respect of Greater Wellington’s delivery, business as usual is no longer an option. Now more than ever we all need to be futurists, anticipating trends.”

Cr Wilde noted that communities in the Wellington region are complex, dynamic and increasingly diverse. “Though it’s impossible to please all of the people all of the time, Greater Wellington must aspire to understand the community’s commonly accepted ambitions. We have the ability to do this. And though we must provide leadership, we do it best when we reach out and build effective partnerships with our allies and as many as possible of the stakeholders in the region.”

Wilde is a second-term regional councillor, representing the Wellington constituency. She has been a local MP, Government Minister and Mayor of Wellington City. In recent years she has also been active in the business sector as

CEO of the New Zealand Trade Development Board, and more recently as a company director and consultant.

Throughout her career she has engaged with the community

and is currently Chair of the NZ International Arts Festival, as well as being involved with a number of other groups.

The committee chairs and deputy chairs are as follows:

- Catchment Management Committee**
Chair Ian Buchanan
Deputy Chair Nigel Wilson
- Finance, Evaluation and Risk Committee**
Chair Judith Aitken
Deputy Chair Barbara Donaldson
- Parks, Forests and Utilities Committee**
Chair Rex Kirton
Deputy Chair Sandra Greig
- Regional Land Transport Committee**
Chair Fran Wilde
Deputy Chair Peter Glensor
- Regional Sustainability Committee**
Chair Chris Laidlaw
Deputy Chair Paul Bruce
- Regulatory Committee**
Chair Sally Baber
Deputy Chair Prue Lamason
- Transport and Access Committee**
Chair Peter Glensor
Deputy Chair Sandra Greig
- Wellington Regional Strategy Committee**
Chair To be appointed

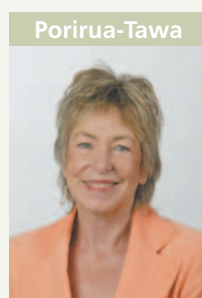
Contact your regional councillors



Nigel Wilson
T 04 905 0583
M 027 242 4105
nigel.wilson@gw.govt.nz



John Burke
T 04 233 0377
F 04 233 0317
M 027 444 1483
john.burke@gw.govt.nz



Barbara Donaldson
T 04 237 0773
M 021 976 747
barbara.donaldson@gw.govt.nz



Judith Aitken
T 04 475 8969
M 027 304 3518
judith.aitken@gw.govt.nz



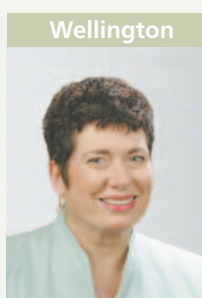
Sally Baber
T 04 476 3116
M 027 476 3116
sally.baber@gw.govt.nz



Paul Bruce
T 04 972 8699
F 04 972 8699
M 021 027 19370
paul.bruce@gw.govt.nz



Chris Laidlaw
T 04 934 3143
F 04 934 3148
M 027 425 4668
chris.laidlaw@gw.govt.nz



Fran Wilde
T 04 802 0346
F 04 384 5023
M 021 888 075
fran.wilde@gw.govt.nz



Peter Glensor
T 04 586 4119
M 027 241 5152
peter.glensor@gw.govt.nz



Sandra Greig
T/F 04 586 0847
M 027 640 8681
sandra.greig@gw.govt.nz



Prue Lamason
T 04 566 7283
F 04 566 2606
M 021 858 964
prue.lamason@gw.govt.nz



Rex Kirton
T/F 04 528 4751
M 021 435 277
rex.kirton@gw.govt.nz



Ian Buchanan
T 04 304 9553
F 04 304 9546
M 027 282 2833
ian.buchanan@gw.govt.nz

See www.gw.govt.nz for a list of council meetings