

# Recount

Taranaki Regional Council Newsletter

August 2004 No. 47

## Environmental awards are presented

Eleven Taranaki Regional Council Environmental Awards were presented earlier in the year for outstanding environmental projects in the region. Awards are presented each year to community groups, industries, schools and individuals.

This year's award winners are:

### Industrial/local authority category

Transit New Zealand – for installation of the SH3 Waverley stock effluent disposal facility. The Waverley facility allows stock trucks to efficiently unload effluent at the region's southern entrance. In its first year of operation, over half a million litres of effluent were collected.

TrustPower Generation Taranaki Region – for enhancement of fish passage in the Manganui River. TrustPower constructed a fish pass in 2002 to enable fish to migrate past a six-metre high weir to the upper reaches of the Manganui River.

### Individual/school/community group category

New Plymouth Sportfishing and Underwater Club – for promotion and support for the Sugar Loaf Islands Marine Protected Area. Since 1982, the New Plymouth Sportfishing and Underwater Club and its predecessors have promoted and supported the Sugar Loaf Islands Marine Protected Area. The highly valued recreational area has a diversity of marine flora and fauna.

Moturoa Primary School – for increasing environmental awareness and understanding through environmental education. Environmental education has been integrated across the school's curriculum and management practices.

Tikorangi Primary School – for increasing environmental awareness and understanding through environmental education. Children at all levels are involved in environmental projects such as recycling, composting, a bush trail and propagating plants.

Oakura Primary School – for increasing environmental awareness and understanding through environmental education. Children raise plants in the school's nursery for planting projects at local reserves



Council Chairman David Walter and pupils from Oakura School inspect plants in the school nursery.

or sand dune areas. All children are involved at different stages of the programme.

Avon Kindergarten, Stratford – for increasing environmental awareness and understanding through environmental education. In the past year, children at Avon Kindergarten have been learning about the environment through the planning and development of their outdoor environment area.

### Agricultural category

Tony and Maryanne Carey, Upper Duthie Road, Stratford – for riparian management and environmental enhancement. The Careys have fenced and planted all of the 3.7 kilometres of riparian margins on their 60-hectare dairy farm. The work will benefit the water quality in the Inaha Stream and its tributaries that flow through their farm.

Mrs Hanna Padrutt, Manaia Road, Kaponga – for riparian management and environmental enhancement. Every year since 1994, Mrs Padrutt has been involved in growing plants, fencing, planting and maintaining the riparian margins on her son's

81-hectare dairy farm. Mrs Padrutt has had a strong commitment to giving something back to the land that she has always loved, and to increasing the sustainability of the property.

Mr Ross Drinkwater, Upper Lepper Road, Inglewood – for riparian management and environmental enhancement. Mr Drinkwater has progressively fenced and planted riparian margins on his 72-hectare dairy and mixed dry stock farm. Over seven kilometres are completed with a further three kilometres planned to complete protection and enhancement of the sections of the Waiongana Stream and its tributaries that flow through the farm.

Mr David Jupp, Otaraoa Road, Waitara – for sustainable land management and environmental enhancement. Mr Jupp is committed to increasing the sustainability of his 266 hectare property at Tikorangi. The banks of the Waitara River have been fenced and planted for erosion control; a 15-hectare block of native bush has been permanently protected; and production forestry planted on steeper slopes.

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## From the Chair

It is always gratifying to observe the commitment of the people who are awarded Council Environmental Awards, and to see the benefits of the activities they carry out. This year's award winners are no exception. Eleven awards were presented this year in three categories and they represent individually and collectively an impressive commitment to the enhancement of our environment in Taranaki. I congratulate them all.



Chairman David Walter

Another heartening feature of the Environmental Awards is the range of different sectors of our community working together towards a common goal. This year's award winners include large-scale industry and business, a community-minded sports club, three schools and a kindergarten, and four farmers whose investment in the environment benefits us all.

The recent public planting day for the Herekawe Stream Project also drew a variety of groups together for a common purpose. While the project is the initiative of the Taranaki Tree Trust that is administered and serviced by the Council, the work would not be achieved without the great support it has received from the local community, local landowners, tangata whenua, supportive industries – Dow AgroSciences, Methanex, Shell Todd Oil Services and Shell – and the New Plymouth District Council. This is not only in the form of financial support, but encouragement of a vision and, as the planting day showed, a willingness to don gumboots, take up a spade and dig and plant.

Sir Brian Lochore, Chairman of Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, complimented Taranaki on its environmental work recently at the launch of another very worthwhile and significant regional initiative, Treescaping Taranaki – a Taranaki Tree Trust project supported by the Taranaki Regional Council. The trees and shrubs planted in all these projects, he said, will be of advantage not only to those who live here but also to our visitors, both now and well into the future.

David Walter - CHAIRMAN

## Regional plans guide published

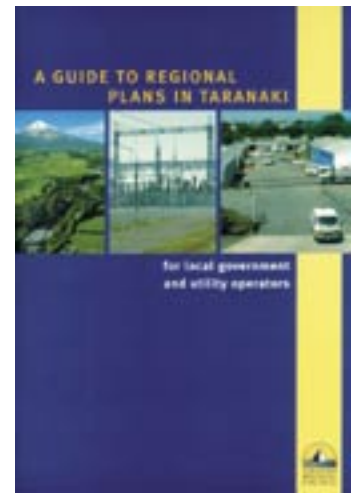
A guide to help local government and utility operators interpret the Council's four regional plans has been distributed recently throughout Taranaki.

The comprehensive guide sets out the most common activities undertaken by local councils, roading developers and utility operators, such as telecommunications companies, and electricity and gas suppliers. It indicates whether the activities are permitted, whether a resource consent is needed before they can be undertaken, or whether they are prohibited. Sections of the guide also suggest good practice techniques.

*A Guide to Regional Plans in Taranaki for local government and utility operators* is not intended to replace the four regional plans, but to help local government and utility operators to identify the activities covered by the requirements of the plans.

The guide is of particular relevance to people involved in:

- road construction and maintenance including bridges
- water supply
- sewage and wastewater disposal
- storm water management
- landfills and solid waste disposal
- river control and flood protection
- parks and reserves management
- pipeline installation and maintenance
- cable laying and maintenance
- electricity networks including substations
- rail networks
- coastal protection works
- depots, storage yards etc.
- stock truck effluent disposal
- emergency works.



The recently published guide to help local government and utility operators interpret the Council's four regional plans.

The four regional plans and further assistance are available from the Council offices in Stratford and the web site [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz).

## Long-Term Community Plan takes effect

Following the presentation of 26 submissions to its draft at the end of June, the Long-Term Council Community Plan has been approved and is now in operation. The submission process proved to be very positive and brought no changes to the proposed budgets and rates levels.

For copies of the Plan call the Council offices or visit [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz).

## Council election nominations close

Nominations for this year's local authority elections on Saturday 9 October close on 20 August at 12 noon. Election results are expected to be available on 13 October.

A referendum will be held at the same time this year to gauge public opinion on the need for a Maori constituency on the Council.

Any information required regarding the procedure for standing for election to the Council, is available from the electoral officers at the New Plymouth, Stratford and South Taranaki district councils.



# National air quality standards are approved

The first ever, national environmental standards aimed at air quality and controlling landfill gas emissions were approved last month.

The Council lodged a number of submissions when the standards were first drafted, contributing to changes in the final 14 standards that have made them more consistent with the Council's own approach to resource management.

Environment Minister Marian Hobbs said in a media release announcing the approval, that the improvement in air quality from the standards was expected to save 625 lives by 2020, and to improve the operation of the Resource Management Act.

There are seven standards for dioxins and other toxic emissions, five for ambient (outdoor) air quality, one for the design of new wood burners in urban areas, and one requiring landfills to collect and destroy their own greenhouse gas emissions.

The first of the standards comes into effect in October, banning specific activities that

discharge dioxins and other toxic emissions to air. From September next year, the design standard for new wood burners in urban areas will apply. From October 2006, school and hospital incinerators will be banned unless they obtain resource consents.

The ambient air quality standards set a maximum level for the amount of fine particles, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and ozone in the air. From October next year, regional councils will monitor and publicly report on air quality levels and notify if and when the standards are exceeded. Locations that exceed the ambient standards will need to improve by 2013.

The Council's own regional air quality plan is already in place and working well. The



national standards will serve to support this early planning.

- *In order to reduce risks to public health, the Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry of Health are planning a national environmental standard for human drinking water sources. The favoured option is a standard that requires the monitoring, grading and reporting of the suitability of these sources, with wider responsibilities for regional councils. A discussion document, technical workshops and public notification of a draft standard calling for submissions are expected later in the year.*

# Review begins on monitoring programmes

Under the Resource Management Act, the Council is required to monitor the state of the region's environment and the efficiency and effectiveness of its policies and plans.

These activities are in addition to monitoring of compliance with resource consents and are an important means of determining whether policies and programmes are effective, and what adjustments or additions should be made.

This year, the Council will review its current state of the environment monitoring programmes. The review will have an eye to their relevance and their scientific robustness, and will consider programmes that can address new functions such as the recent National

Environmental Standards on ambient air quality.

Under the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002, the Council must also monitor and report on progress made towards desired community outcomes. The Council, along with the three district councils, has recently completed extensive public consultation identifying desired community outcomes, and is now developing the means to measure their achievement.

The Council began formal state of the environment monitoring in 1995. The current programme includes regular and ongoing monitoring of freshwater (physicochemical, bacteriological, biological, hydrological and

riparian), air quality (physicochemical and amenity), coastal/marine (erosion processes, physicochemical, bacteriological and ecological) and land (soil, land use effects and wetlands), as well as the collection of other information.

Since the state of the environment programme was first established, some new programmes have been introduced, some individual monitoring sites have been added or deleted and in a few cases the frequency of monitoring has been altered, but by and large, the programmes are unchanged since the mid-1990s.

The review of the state of the environment monitoring and reporting programmes is expected to be completed later this year.

# Council receives awards

The Council's report on the state of the environment has received the New Zealand Planning Institute's Award of Merit for 2004. The report *Taranaki – Our Place, Our Future* was published last year as part of the Council's ongoing state of the environment, monitoring programme.

The Awards Committee stated that the Council had "made a meritorious contribution to the practice of planning in preparing this non-

statutory monitoring report". Of particular note were the report's inclusion of summary of progress tables and the report's high production values and legibility.

The Council has also received a Local Government Forum Hot Council Award, taking first place in the regional section. The Hot Council Awards recognise "excellence by local authorities in promoting growth through discipline in rating and expenditure, best



practice, resource management administration and accountability through local democracy".



# Taranaki Treescaping project is launched



Sir Brian Lochore and David Walter look through the *Treescaping Taranaki* guide at the launch of the community project.

Sir Brian Lochore Chairman of the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust launched a community project last month that promotes tree planting throughout Taranaki's rural landscape. The project is an initiative of the Taranaki Tree Trust.

New Zealanders were now more aware of the need for "sensible planting" of trees, Sir Brian said. Trees could satisfy visual needs as well as provide shade, shelter, food and timber. He congratulated the Taranaki Tree Trust on the project and, in particular, its publication of a booklet to be distributed widely throughout the region. It provided very enjoyable reading, he said, and couldn't fail to excite its reader to get out and plant trees.

The publication of *Treescaping Taranaki*, a guide to planting suitable trees for the range of conditions and uses found in the region, is stage one of the project. The 30-page booklet includes sections on planning, planting, maintenance, self-help information and appendices that include lists of suitable indigenous and exotic tree species. The booklet will be distributed

to all farmers, schools, libraries and any interested groups in the region.

The second stage of the Treescaping Taranaki project will establish demonstration sites and include field days.

Taranaki Tree Trust Chairman David Walter said that while Taranaki was well known for its many attractive plantings, there was always room for more.

The Taranaki Tree Trust is administered and serviced by the Taranaki Regional Council. The Treescaping Taranaki project is supported by both the TSB Community Trust and the Taranaki Regional Council.

For copies of *Treescaping Taranaki* contact the Council offices 06 765 5097 or email [info@trc.govt.nz](mailto:info@trc.govt.nz).

## Purple Pampas purge begins

Time is up for the common and purple pampas. As of 1 July this year, anyone occupying land that contains the pest plant is obliged to bring it under control.

When the Council adopted its second *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Plants*, common and purple pampas were declared to be containment pest plants, that is, plants that must be controlled by land occupiers.

It was recognised at the time, however, that the plant was used extensively throughout Taranaki, particularly in coastal areas, for shelter belts and live fencing. As a result, the rule requiring the plant's control, was phased in, to allow farmers time to remove the pampas voluntarily with minimal disruption to farm operations. Purple pampas can,

however, be retained as shelter or fencing if it is trimmed to prevent flowering and the flower heads are properly disposed of.

The rule finally took effect last month following a publicity and education programme that included wide distribution of pest plant guides and information sheets, farm visits and newspaper articles and advertisements.

During the first year of the rule, affected properties will be identified and visited by Council officers providing advice and information. At the end of that year, the properties will be visited again and compliance enforced where necessary.

For further advice or information about pest plant management call the Council offices or visit [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz).



Pest plant purple pampas requires control by land occupiers.

## Giant Buttercup trial results vary

Council-supported AgResearch trials on a biological control method for the pest plant Giant Buttercup have so far shown some variation in its effectiveness.

Land occupiers have been required since 2002/2003 to destroy Giant Buttercup on their properties but significant spraying programmes to control the pest plant were limited by wet weather in 2003/2004.

The field trials use a naturally occurring

fungus *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* formulated into a living pathogen and applied to pasture by boom or spot spraying. The field trials in Takaka, and on three sites in Taranaki since November, will be expanded to include 15 sites in Taranaki to determine the most effective application against various environmental conditions. Further trials are now under way at Lincoln University to determine any genetic variation in Giant Buttercup populations

susceptible to the biological control.

Giant Buttercup poses problems in many dairy pastures throughout Taranaki, building up quickly, competing with palatable grasses and clovers and reducing milk yields. Recent research estimates the cost of the pest plant to the dairy industry in the 2002/2002 season at \$156 million in lost milk solids revenue. Most of the losses occurred in Taranaki (\$111 million) and the Takaka district (\$11 million).



# Herekawe Stream project continues

A public planting day last month marked the next step in the Taranaki Tree Trust's Herekawe Stream walkway project. A large crowd of enthusiastic volunteers planted more than 3000 native plants in the area.

The stream on New Plymouth's western boundary is a valuable site for recreation and provides habitats for freshwater fish, insects and birds. The walkway project has brought together a wide range of organisations, community groups and industries to establish a link between inland residential areas and the coast.

Stage one of the project which was launched in June this year has completed the control of willows along the stream and the erection of 300 metres of fence. Last month's planting completed the initial stage.

Next year, stage two will form the walking track, erect a further 200 metres of fence and plant another 3000 native plants. The third stage is planned for 2006 and will complete the fencing and planting of the 1500 metres of stream bank, and carry out maintenance work.

The Herekawe Stream Walkway Project is an initiative of the Taranaki Tree Trust, which is administered and serviced by the Taranaki Regional Council. The project is supported by the local community, local landowners, tangata whenua, Dow

AgroSciences, Methanex, Shell Todd Oil Services, Shell, New Plymouth District Council and the Taranaki Regional Council.



Volunteers plant the Herekawe Stream Walkway.

# Resource Management Act comes under review

A comprehensive review to improve the operation of the Resource Management Act 1991 is now under way.

The review that will lead to a "decent tune-up" follows 18 months of consultation with business, local government, environmental organisations and the broader community, Associate Environment Minister David Benson-Pope said in a media release.

The review will focus on:

- balancing local and national interests

- local resource management planning
- resource consent processing
- natural resource allocation
- capacity and practice in local government.

The Council believes these five categories reflect the key areas in which greater consideration is required to improve the operation of the Act. It also supports the review principles which are:

- achieving good environmental outcomes in line with the purpose of the Act
- certainty of process but not outcomes

- (for resource consent applicants)
- certainty of cost (for resource consent applicants)
- local decision making
- public participation
- central government leadership.

Council Chief Executive Basil Chamberlain has been appointed to the ministerial reference group established to help ensure options are both workable and desirable, and will convene the local government working party.



# Councillors tour North Taranaki sites

Councillors recently visited Perry Environmental operations on Waitara Road and at Uruti, and viewed coastal erosion and discussed reserve management proposals for Tongaporutu. Pictured from left to right at the Uruti composting and vermiculture facility

are David Walter, Council Chairman; Gary Bedford, Director Environmental Quality, Councillors Neil Walker, Donald McIntyre, Roger Maxwell and Ian Armstrong and Chief Executive Officer of Perry Environmental Ltd, Peter Rabbidge.



# Ahititi stock effluent facility is opened

The third in-transit, stock truck, effluent disposal facility in the region was opened earlier this year. Two other facilities are already successfully operating at Waverley and Stratford and a further facility is planned south of Mt Messenger.

The aim of the facilities is to reduce the amount of effluent being spilt from stock trucks on to roads and thereby reducing potential hazards to other road users and to the environment.

The sites were selected with regard to:

- maximising utilisation of the site by stock trucks
- traffic safety
- proximity of dwellings
- capital cost
- ongoing maintenance cost of storage and disposal systems
- consent issues
- storm water discharge measures.

The Ahititi facility is expected to collect approximately 450 litres of stock effluent per day (165,000 litres per annum). The figures are based on a comparison of traffic volumes and percentages of trucks along this route, with the collected stock effluent and traffic at the Waverley facility. Planting and general tidying of the Ahititi site will be completed this month.



At the opening of the Ahititi stock truck, effluent disposal facility are pictured left to right, Ian Vickers, Chairman Clifton Community Board; Neville Hagenson, President Federated Farmers, Taranaki; John Sutton, Manager Special Projects, New Plymouth District Council; Tom Cloke, Western Central District Road Transport Association and Taranaki Regional Councillor; Errol Christiansen, Regional Manager Transit New Zealand, Wanganui and Gay Andrews, Clifton Community Board and New Plymouth District Councillor.

# Rural hazardous waste collection proves a success

A record 180 vehicles delivered 16.5 tonnes of hazardous waste to 10 rural collection sites throughout the region in April making it the best response to date.

The collection was included in the implementation of the recently adopted *Regional Waste Strategy for Taranaki*, prepared by a forum made up of representatives of Council and the New Plymouth, Stratford and South Taranaki district councils and was carried out in partnership with the Ministry for the Environment and the three district councils.

It was part of a nationwide project to encourage farmers to clear out any unwanted or banned agricultural chemicals from their storage sheds or garages and to check for any other types of rural hazardous wastes needing disposal.

The amounts collected were similar to those of the previous two collections undertaken by the Council in 1991 and 2001, but attracted a higher number of drop-offs than anticipated and yielded much reduced quantities of intractable waste such as DDT and dieldrin. The most popular waste was oil followed by treatable

waste and vehicle batteries.

Facilities for the ongoing disposal of hazardous wastes are available at district council transfer stations.



A hazmobile received hazardous waste at 10 rural collection sites including this site in Waitotara.

# Submission made on Hazardous Substances Strategy

The Council has in the past strongly advocated for amendments to the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 which it has seen as unwieldy. Its submission on last year's Government Hazardous Substances Strategy which aims

to improve the workability of the Act therefore supports the proposal in general while identifying some matters of detail still to be worked through.

The Strategy's discussion papers include proposals to streamline the hazardous

substance application process – particularly for lower risk substances – and improve communications of hazardous substance controls, the workability of exposure limit controls and the compliance and enforcement regime.



# Working paper discusses indigenous biodiversity

Last year's Resource Management Amendment Act increased and broadened the Council's responsibilities for maintaining indigenous biodiversity in the region. In respect to these functions and as part of its review of the *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki*, the Council has taken stock of the situation and prepared a working paper to stimulate feedback.

The working paper examines the extent and health of indigenous hill country forests, coastal and lowland forests and wetlands, freshwater habitats and marine resources. It notes the other organisations who have key roles for managing aspects of indigenous biodiversity, and the maintenance activities already in place, including its own well established programmes.

Recommendations in the working paper include the provision of grants to protect valuable habitats on private land, control of pests on regionally significant natural areas on private land, and provision of advice and planning services to protect indigenous biodiversity on regionally significant and some other areas.

The working paper will be distributed to a wide range of stakeholders for their comment before the inclusion of recommendations in the second *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki*. The deadline for comments is 27 August. Further opportunities for public input into the issue will be available through the Policy Statement review process.

# Draft civil defence plan for public scrutiny

A single group civil defence plan for the region will be released for public comment this month. The plan follows the introduction of new measures under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002.

A Civil Defence Emergency Management Group comprising the region's mayors, Mary Bourke (South Taranaki District Council), Brian Jeffares (Stratford District Council) and Peter Tennent (New Plymouth District Council) and chaired by Taranaki Regional Councillors Claire Stewart, then Roger Maxwell, along with a Coordinating Executive Group

of local authority chief executives and emergency specialists, have prepared the comprehensive plan.

The plan is designed to ensure that the region is united in its risk management approach to hazards, and is self reliant.

The public will be invited to make submissions on the draft plan and the final plan will be signed off by the end of the year.

The plan is available from district libraries, service centres, the Council offices and on the Council website [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz).

# New scheme deals with unwanted tyres

A national scheme to manage the responsible disposal of end-of-life tyres has been set up by the Motor Trade Association, the Ministry for the Environment, tyre companies and councils.

The voluntary tyre collection system "Tyre Track" links tyre dealers, transporters and preferred delivery points in an effort to better manage the disposal of the 3 - 4

million tyres expended in New Zealand each year.

Taranaki, unlike some other regions, does not face a very large surplus of unwanted tyres at present. However, the Council continues to remain up to date with developments in the Tyre Track scheme for its own future planning.

## Taranaki Regional Council Facts File

**Address:** Private Bag 713  
Stratford  
**Street Address:** 47 Cloten Road  
Stratford  
**Telephone:** 0-6-765 7127  
**Facsimile:** 0-6-765 5097  
**Email:** [info@trc.govt.nz](mailto:info@trc.govt.nz)  
**Website:** [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz)

### EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Emergency Management: 0-6-765 7127  
Flood Alert: 0-6-765 7127  
Pollution: 0-6-765 7127  
Environmental Hotline: 0800 736 222

### NON-EMERGENCY AFTER-HOURS CONTACT NUMBERS

Emergency Mgmt: Bev Raine 0-6-758 1110  
Security: Dave Digby 0-6-765 6463  
Port Taranaki: 24 hours Capt.  
Ray Barlow 0-6-751 0200  
Pest Animals: George Gallop 0-6-762 2894  
Pest Plants: Brian Calkin 0-6-758 5359

### REGIONAL COUNCILLORS

#### New Plymouth Constituency:

Tom Cloke 0-6-753 5586  
David Lean 0-6-753 3325  
Barry Marsh 0-6-758 2252

#### North Taranaki Constituency:

Roger Maxwell 0-6-752 3622  
Donald McIntyre 0-6-762 4701

#### South Taranaki Constituency:

Ian Armstrong 0-6-761 8052  
David MacLeod 0-6-278 5577  
Neil Walker 0-6-278 7541

#### Stratford Constituency:

David Walter (Chairman) 0-6-762 7822

### MEETING SCHEDULE:

The Taranaki Regional Council operates to a six-weekly committee and Council meeting schedule.

Wednesday 11 August, 10.30 am, Ordinary Meeting

Wednesday, 1 September, 10.30 am, Consents and Regulatory Committee

Thursday 2 September, 10.30 am, Policy and Planning Committee

Monday 13 September, 10.00 am, Executive Committee

Tuesday 21 September, 10.30 am, Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

Wednesday 22 September, 10.30 am, Ordinary Meeting.

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# Rainfall continues to have an impact

The exceptionally high rainfall during the first six months of the year has had a significant impact on the region's river systems, and brought especially marked changes to the Stony River.

The February dousing contributed significantly to this year's rainfall figures at the North Egmont recording site, but was not alone in racking up a total of 4761mm over the first six months, achieving the highest figure since records began in 1982. Since January 14 rainfall events on the mountain recorded over 100mm at the site in 24 hours. From January to June, the Dawson Falls site recorded 4002mm, while the Carrington Road Pouakai site on the ranges recorded a total of 2127mm.

In the eastern hill country, the Huinga site recorded 1100mm, well above the average for the first six months of the year of 738mm. In North Taranaki, 1573mm was recorded at Uruti and 1322mm recorded on the Pohokura Saddle. In the Waitotara catchment, the Rimunui site recorded 864mm from January to June.

The heavy rainfall has flushed increased volumes of gravels and sediments into the river and stream channels that drain the southern flanks of the ranges and the mountain, and has caused water levels to rise. Bank erosion, siltation and flooding have increased and many properties have faced problems along their river frontages.

The most dramatic effects have been felt by the Stony River where millions of tonnes of material have been added to the river channel below the Egmont National Park boundary, and have been moved through the system by successive flood

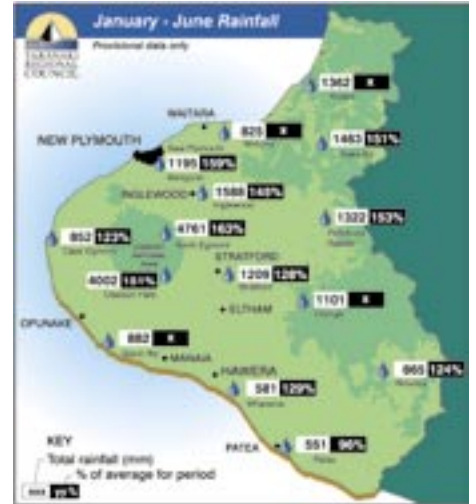
events. Volcanic ash continues to degrade river water, effectively wiping out all aquatic life in what has been a favourite trout fishery river.

The material is depositing downstream of SH45 where the grade of the Stony River flattens and the river widens. As a result, the large build up of gravels has destabilised the natural floodway in this area.

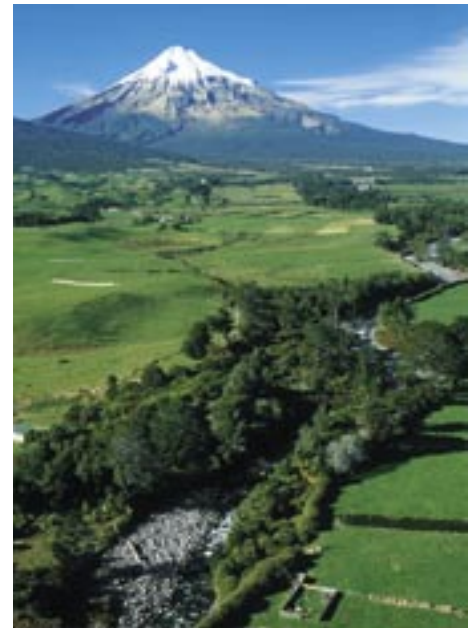
The effects of this year's heavy rainfall follow the flooding six years ago when the upper reaches of the Oaonui catchment diverted naturally into the Waiaua catchment within Egmont National Park, depositing an estimated one million tonnes of debris into that system. Successive floods have since been working vast amounts of sand and gravels through the entire length of the system, causing considerable damage to adjoining properties and to facilities such as water supplies. The process is expected to continue for a considerable time.

Understandably, affected landholders have required a great deal of information and assistance to deal with the problems they face. Council staff are working hard to meet these requirements.

**Information on rainfall and river flows is readily available to the public on the Council's web site [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz). The rainfall figures recorded at 12 sites between Mt Messenger and Cape Egmont are updated every half-hour.**



The graphic shows the exceptionally high rainfall recorded during the first six months of the year.



The high rainfall has brought exceptionally marked changes to the Stony River.

# Port and harbour safety submission made

A Council submission made earlier in the year to the Maritime Safety Authority has sought clarification of Council obligations for navigation and safety in regional waters.

The submission followed the publication of the draft New Zealand Port and

Harbour Safety Code and Associated Guidelines. The Code and Guidelines aim to promote good practice in the conduct of safe marine operations in ports and harbours. The Code is not law, but is to be an agreed interpretation of the law, and is intended to set a national standard for port and harbour safety.

The Council has supported the development of a safety code to provide clear guidance and national consistency for port and harbour operations, but has queried some of its statements of roles, responsibilities and processes.