

## Bell Block bypass decision reserves regional funds

Smiles of delight and sighs of relief greeted the recent announcement that the Bell Block Bypass project is to proceed.

Of particular satisfaction was the agreement that 50% of the funding will come from national funds, thereby reserving regional funding for other much needed Taranaki roading tasks – an arrangement strongly advocated by the Council.

Council Chairman David Walter said the decision was a victory for common sense.

“We have always argued the national significance of this route, given the importance to the country of the energy-related transport and servicing of Port Taranaki, New Zealand’s second largest export port,” he said.

Land Transport New Zealand’s decision came after robust discussions with the Taranaki community who delivered a clear and consistent message that delays on projects including the bypass, the Rugby Road underpass and Normanby overbridge threatened the region’s road safety and its future economic growth. Hundreds of concerned Taranaki people turned up to public meetings, business people researched the commercial impacts of work delays, the Road Transport Association, district councils, Venture Taranaki, Automobile Association and local Members of Parliament combined forces to push the case.

“Transit NZ, Land Transport NZ and the Government are to be applauded for their decision. The Taranaki community must be commended too for giving a clear and consistent message that delays on such important roading projects threaten our safety and economic growth,” David Walter said.

Transit New Zealand are presently evaluating tenders for the Bell Block Bypass project.



Delays in roading projects threaten our safety and economic growth.

## Regional funding application argues urgency

The Council’s nominated priority projects submission to Land Transport New Zealand for 2007/2008 endorses the commencement of the Bell Block Bypass as soon as possible and puts forward 13 further projects.

Number two and three on the priority list are the realignment and new rail overbridge at the Rugby Road underpass and the road alignment and replacement of the Normanby overbridge, both for reasons of increased road safety.

The Awakino North realignment project is ranked fourth on the priority list. The Council’s Regional Land Transport Committee pointed out in its submission to Land Transport New Zealand that if the pavement rehabilitation works for the same area proceed during 2007/2008 as planned without realignment work, contouring and river scouring problems are unlikely to be addressed for another 10 years. The result of any delay, the submission argues, could mean further road closures and their subsequent impact on the regional economy.

### Inside Recount

- Pampas removal
- Wildlife protection
- Moumahaki plans
- Water quality
- Eltham project stalls
- Oxidation ponds study
- Fonterra outfall
- Turangi station
- Compliance reports
- Accord progress
- Bus trial
- South coast report

## From the Chair

The release last month of a draft regional walkways and cycleways strategy for Taranaki is a first for the region.



Like many other Taranakians, I have tramped most of the tracks and appreciate the wonderful outdoor resource we have here. This report goes further than addressing just recreational pursuits, however. It's designed to encourage Taranaki people to abandon driving in favour of walking or cycling, and outlines a region-wide network of walkways and cycleways.

The report identifies six types of walking/cycling routes within the region: Coastal Pathway; Mountain to Sea (or town); Eastern Hill Country; Mountain or Remote Walking Experience; Urban and Rural Walks and on- and off-road Cycle Routes.

It's an exciting mix of new projects and projects that extend existing walking and cycling routes. It grew out of this year's Council review of the *Regional Land Transport Strategy for Taranaki* and its recognised need for infrastructure that encourages alternative means of transport.

Hopefully, it will lead to better promotion of Taranaki's recreational walks and cycleways, bringing economic and employment benefits from additional visitors. Many other regions in both New Zealand and overseas offer popular three- or four-day walking packages that include accommodation. I am sure Taranaki can build on these opportunities in the future.

While it is a Council initiative, the strategy was developed by a project team drawn from a number of sources including the Council, the New Plymouth, Stratford and South Taranaki district councils, the Department of Conservation, Federated Farmers, Taranaki/Wanganui Conservation Board, Venture Taranaki and Transit New Zealand.

We need your feedback and look forward to hearing your opinions. Submissions open on 16 December. Copies of the *Regional walkways and cycleways strategy for Taranaki* will be available from the Council offices or by visiting [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz)

David Walter - CHAIRMAN

## Pampas removal still on the agenda



The invasive Pampas grass had become a problem on many of Taranaki's roadsides and is now being controlled.

The current review of the Council's plant pest management strategy had originally proposed 2010 as the date for control of all Pampas grass in the region. After hearing submissions, the Council's hearing committee extended the date to 2012 and reintroduced a rule for the plant's control during the interim period. Land occupiers with Pampas shelterbelts or hedgerows are required to prevent the plants from flowering and seeding either by trimming or chemical means. Pampas in all other situations must be destroyed by land occupiers as has been the case for some years.

Common Pampas (*Cortaderia selloana*) and Purple Pampas (*Cortaderia jubata*) are invasive plants whose wind blown seed can travel up to 100 metres. They are a particular problem on roadsides and any disturbed land like quarries, eroded hillsides or young or regenerating forests. They threaten wetlands, scrub and forest margins, island, coastal cliffs and sand dune habitats.

They are not to be confused with the four indigenous species of toetoe whose smaller creamy-yellow flowers from October to January have a droopy habit. Both Pampas types have erect flower stems: Common Pampas has fluffy white flowers in mid March and Purple Pampas bears purple flower heads in late January.

Four new plants have been added to the pest plant list – Undaria (eradication), Pink Ragwort and Giant Gunnera species manicata (containment) and Woolly Nightshade (surveillance).

Public submissions have been heard, and following an appeal period, the strategy will be formally adopted early next year.

Further information and copies of the *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Plants* are available from the Council offices or on [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz).

## Council urges changes on wildlife protection

The fate of Canada geese, spur-winged plovers, eastern rosellas, crimson rosellas, Indian ring-necked parrots, rainbow skinks, eastern banjo frogs, paradise shelducks and pukeko hangs in the balance following a Council submission to a Department of Conservation review of wildlife protection.

The submission suggests that removing their protection status would lessen the problems associated with Canada geese (pasture damage and fouling), spur-winged plovers (airport bird strikes), paradise shelduck (pasture and crop fouling and reduced farm profitability) and pukeko (destruction of

riparian planting). Removing protection of the other introduced wildlife under the Wildlife Act and declaring them to be unwanted organisms under the Biosecurity Act would address concerns relating to the pet trade and potential impacts on indigenous biodiversity, and enable the Council to control their populations.

The submission also urges DoC to give threatened indigenous species such as the black shag and pied shag absolute protection rather than their current partial protection status.

# Silt-stricken Moumahaki turns to plans



Floodwaters deposited their loads of silt on the Moumahaki flats.

Increased interest in sustainable land management has resulted in a further 15 properties in the Moumahaki area coming under land management plans.

The development follows a series of rainfall events in the area during winter including a heavy dousing on 5 July when the combined main Waitotara catchment and Moumahaki sub-catchment flows above the Waitotara township reached approximately two million litres/second.

Consequently, many hectares in the Moumahaki catchment in south east Taranaki are covered in silt. The generally wet winter

and subsequent high soil moisture levels led to higher than normal rates of runoff, land sliding and erosion in the area. Floodwaters deposited their loads of silt on the Moumahaki flats.

After the 5 July downpour, the Council provided free poplar poles for land stability planting and 50% subsidy for grass seed on slip debris trails. In the course of damage assessment of their properties, landholders in the area applied to Council officers for land management plans. A discussion group last month further discussed flood damage restoration.

## Report checks on recreational water quality



Children make the most of a sunny day and good water quality at Urenui.

Most popular recreational sites in the region are safe to swim in, however monitoring of their bacteriological quality shows that water quality can vary.

The 2005-2006 survey of 11 Taranaki lakes, rivers and streams is part of an ongoing programme that keeps a watchful eye on suitability for bathing. Monitoring is carried out in early November to the end of March and measures indicator micro-organisms for pollution – *E. coli*, enterococci and faecal coliforms.

## Groundwater trends encouraging

Trend analysis of nutrient concentrations in Taranaki groundwater shows improved water quality as decreases in nutrient concentration significantly outnumber increases.

These results add further good news to a series of reports during the year showing mainly encouraging trends in water quality throughout the region.

The most recent analysis was carried out by the Geological and Nuclear Sciences in August using analytical data from 302

Where point discharges upstream of bathing sites are suspected of contributing to elevated bacteria levels, monitoring and inspections will be carried out both before and during the bathing season. Modifications will be made during this season to integrate the sampling programme with the dairy shed compliance monitoring programme to identify any adverse effects and quickly deal with them.

Recreational sites monitoring based on *E. coli* results are ranked in descending water quality as follows:

- Urenui River at estuary
- Waiwhakaiho River at Merrilands Domain
- Lake Rotomanu
- Waingongoro River at Ohawe Beach
- Manganui River at Everett Park (downstream of Kurapete Stream)
- Waingongoro River at Eltham Camp
- Kaupokonui River at Beach Domain
- Oakura River downstream of SH45 Bridge
- Timaru River at Weld Road
- Patea River at King Edward Park, Stratford
- Waimoku Stream at Oakura Beach.

groundwater sites throughout the region. Seventy-one of the sites are used regularly for state of the environment monitoring and have recorded data from 1992 to 2005. Data from the remainder of the sites covered 1991 to 2003.

This is the most comprehensive trend analysis of Taranaki groundwater quality data to date. The records will be updated as new data comes to hand from the Council's ongoing groundwater monitoring programmes.

## Greenhouse gases under scrutiny

As part of its commitment to an international campaign that challenges regions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the Council is working towards cutting down emissions in the region to 2001 levels by 2010.

The Taranaki Regional Council is one of only three regional councils in New Zealand participating in Communities for Climate Protection, and joined the programme late in 2004.

The goals of the programme are not new to the Council, as work towards reducing greenhouse gases has long been part of everyday business. In addition, earlier this year, the Council analysed emissions caused by its own buildings, its vehicle fleet and its waste, and by the community's residential, commercial, industrial and transport sectors. The agriculture sector is yet to be included in community emissions analysis.

The reduction goals equate to a 12% reduction in emissions for corporates and a 14% reduction for the community. The Council is already actively reducing its own greenhouse gas emissions by trials of recycled printing paper, office recycling of paper and aluminium cans, purchase of more fuel efficient vehicles and encouraging composting, and has completed an energy audit of its buildings.

Recycling and better business practices by suppliers are always encouraged. The *Regional Land Transport Strategy* promotes alternative modes of transport and the *Regional Waste Strategy* encourages waste minimisation.

A local action plan that will set goals and target dates, and design effective and practical measures to ensure Taranaki's greenhouse gas emissions are minimised will be prepared early next year.

# Eltham wastewater project stalled by appeal



Eltham oxidation ponds near the Mangawhero Stream.

A proposed project to pipe treated Eltham wastewater 21.5 km to the sea via Hawera and the Fonterra Whareroa outfall bringing to an end the last problematic point source discharge to Taranaki's freshwater environment has been appealed.

Last month's recommendation to the Minister of Conservation, Chris Carter, by the Council's Hearing Committee was the culmination of a 14-year struggle to improve the quality of the Mangawhero Stream. An appeal has been lodged by the Inuawai-Okahu Hapu and Kanihi-Umutahi Hapu.

The South Taranaki District Council lodged the application to change its existing coastal permit to allow a further 2,000 cubic metres a day to 12,000 cubic metres a day of treated wastes discharged through the outfall. The move followed an enforcement order by the Environment Court for the district council to repair the stream, a tributary of the Waingongoro River.

## Water quality management an ongoing activity

Management of water quality in Taranaki's rivers and streams has been a significant regional issue for more than 20 years. Despite increasing pressure on our water resources from agricultural and industrial expansion, there have been significant improvements in most indicators of water quality over this time.

Organic pollution is falling, nitrate levels, however are generally increasing.

The Council takes the management of water quality very seriously. The riparian management programme continues to grow and an extensive water quality monitoring network and programmes to monitor the effects of activities of resource consent holders, keep a close watch on all Taranaki's rivers and streams.

Coastal water quality is also monitored by the Council through marine ecology and bathing water at beaches and by means of checks on resource consent compliance. In the mid- 1970s there were 25 major discharges to the coastal area. Today there are only four – New Plymouth Power Station (seawater used for cooling), Waitara wastewater treatment plant discharge (highly treated effluent), New Plymouth wastewater treatment plant discharge (highly treated effluent) and the Fonterra Whareroa outfall (treated effluent).



Despite significant increases in stock numbers and in industrial activities, Taranaki's water quality has generally improved.

The project includes pre-treatment of industrial waste in Eltham, upgrading treatment plants in Eltham and Hawera and the construction of both a pump station and a pipeline from Eltham to Hawera. The multi-million dollar project is planned to be jointly funded by the district council and industries, and is programmed for completion by July 2008.

The Eltham wastewater includes domestic wastewater from a population of about 2,100 and industrial wastewater from Renco New Zealand, Mainland Products Ltd and Pastoral Foods Ltd.

While people who live alongside the Mangawhero Stream have been relieved at the prospect of an odour-free stream with fish in its waters, not all were convinced the proposal was the correct one. Local iwi have objected to the disposal of human effluent and industrial waste into the sea. Fish and Game NZ, on the other hand, have supported the application as a means of improving the Waingongoro River trout fishery – the most productive and popular trout fishery on the Taranaki ring plain.

Five pre-hearing meetings were held at which submitters (three against, one neutral and one for the project), representatives of both councils and consultants discussed associated environmental, economic and cultural issues and alternative schemes.

In its conclusions, the Council's Hearing Committee reported that monitoring of the outfall's wastewater discharge over several years had shown no significant adverse effects. Discharge of similar additional wastewater therefore, it concluded, should bring no change.

The consent has 17 conditions including provisions for meetings with iwi, other submitters and interested parties at least once a year to ensure ongoing consultation.

## Good water and effluent disposal essential for Eltham's future

Effective water supplies and effluent management are essential infrastructure to attract new businesses to a town and to allow existing businesses to expand, Trevor Johnston, Chief Executive of Riverlands Eltham Limited, believes.

The meat processing plant that had operated an oxidation pond system since 1986, established an irrigation wastewater disposal system in 2001 when it became apparent that there were no viable local alternatives.

Working with the Council, Riverlands explored various wastewater disposal options, and decided on a dual, land/river system that includes wastewater treatment ponds from which effluent is successfully disposed of either to land or to the river. Paunch content material is disposed of in a worm farm. Riverlands holds 10 resource consents that include 108 conditions regularly monitored by the Council.

The new proposal for Eltham's wastewater foreshadows a major change from the situation Riverlands faced in 2001. It is a very encouraging move for the future of business in Eltham, Trevor Johnston believes, and good news for the town.



Riverlands Eltham Limited established its own wastewater disposal system to enable the company to expand.

# South Taranaki wastewater disposal history

- 1994 Working party established by the South Taranaki District Council to address the wastewater problem at Eltham opts for an upgrade of the treatment plant that proves unsuccessful.
- 1997 Outfall 1,845-metre long, off Rifle Range Road, Hawera commissioned for disposal of waste water from the Whareroa dairy factory complex of Kiwi Co-operative Dairies Limited, now Fonterra Co-operative Group Limited.
- 2001 Effluent from Hawera wastewater treatment ponds discharged through the outfall following a hearing and two submissions. Hawera wastewater formerly discharged to a small coastal stream that flows on to the foreshore about 2.8 km north west of the outfall pipe. (Both the South Taranaki District Council wastewater discharge prior to 2001 and the dairy factory discharge prior to 1977 had caused adverse effects on the coastal marine environment).
- 2001 Design for larger activated sludge plant for Eltham produced following pilot trials. Disposal of sludge causes concern.
- 2003 Taranaki Regional Council seeks an enforcement order from the Environment Court that requires South Taranaki District Council to lodge resource consent applications to discharge to the outfall and report to the Council.
- 2006 Council Hearing Committee recommends project. Appeal lodged.

## Oxidation ponds study confirms guidelines

A recent study of 10 farm oxidation pond systems concludes that the Council's guidelines for discharge as a controlled activity remain appropriate.

Under the *Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki*, resource consent applications for discharges from ponds of specified size into waters of specified dilution capacity are assessed as controlled activities, that is, consent must be granted by the Council along with any operational and environmental performance conditions required.

The purpose of the study was to relate the actual performance of a selection of oxidation ponds to the requirements of the Council in order to assess the appropriateness of the criteria used for controlled consents.

All the farm oxidation pond systems were located towards the head of their respective catchments where the environmental performance of the required dilution capacity of 100:1 could be examined successfully. Extensive monitoring of physicochemical, biological and hydrological parameters was carried out throughout the 2000-2001 and in some cases 2001-2002 dairy seasons.



A farm oxidation pond comes under close inspection during the recent study weighing performance against Council requirements.

The study highlighted the disadvantages of additional pond flows from yards and/or paddock run off, groundwater infiltration and excessive wash-down, and the advantages of riparian management in protecting and enhancing waterways.

## Domestic wastewater agreement

A joint agreement will ensure that domestic wastewater-systems – mainly septic tanks – throughout the region are managed under a standardised process.

A memorandum of understanding signed by the Council and the South Taranaki, Stratford and New Plymouth district councils formalises the various responsibilities of the four local authorities that are required by a number of relevant statutes. The Council will continue to safeguard the quality of water-bodies and air, while the district councils will address any other environmental effects.

The agreement outlines a process for receiving and providing advice on domestic wastewater system design suitable for Taranaki,

investigations, complaints and development of rules, regulations and bylaws, and focuses resources on settlements and townships where domestic wastewater-systems are concentrated.

The new process will provide better means of monitoring systems, some of which do not meet the current standard, are not properly maintained or managed and pose a risk to the environment. Assessments by district council staff for compliance with relevant codes or standards will include checks against the Council's *Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki*. Any cases of non-compliance will be referred to the Council for follow-up action.



About 40 earthworks contractors were introduced to *Guidelines for Earthworks in the Taranaki Region* at a Council organised workshop last month. The contractors discussed requirements of the Resource Management Act, the *Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki* and other regional plans, relevant rules, resource consent process and consent conditions, enforcement, silt and sediment controls, installation and maintenance. Here, workshop members are observing the correct installation of silt fencing. Copies of the booklet are available from the Council offices or [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz).

# Fonterra outfall increase approved

The maximum discharge volume allowed from Fonterra's Whareroa marine outfall has increased by more than half following a recent Council hearing.

Fonterra's original coastal permit granted in 1995, and due to expire in 2015, authorised the discharge of up to 26,000 cubic metres per day of dairy factory wastewater into the Tasman Sea. At the time, the volume limit was 33% greater than the peak discharge rate recorded by the factory.

Commissioning of new plant during a season of exceptionally high milk production and additional intake of milk following the merger with Tui Dairy Company in 1996 led to volumes of wastewater over the original allowable limit that caused no observable change in environmental effects. Subsequently Fonterra applied to increase the maximum daily discharge volume from 26,000 cubic metres to 40,000 cubic metres.

Four pre-hearing meetings were held with three submitters – the Department of Conservation, Ngati Ruanui and Ngati Ruahine – and successfully reduced the issues to be heard. The Council's Hearing Committee approved the application, no appeals were made and Fonterra's permit was amended.

## Turangi station appeal

An Environment Court hearing will be necessary to decide the resource consent application by Greymouth Petroleum Limited for its proposed Turangi Production Station on Inland Road North, Motunui.

The proposed production station is designed to act as a control point and hazardous substances storage facility for the Turangi well site.

The Council's Hearing Committee approved the application, concluding that there would be no significant adverse effects from any flaring that would result in the event of an emergency or during commissioning or shutdown. A neighbour of the proposed station site has appealed the decision to the Environment Court.



The two regional gardens, Tupare in New Plymouth and, garden of national significance, Hollard Gardens, Kaponga (pictured) attracted large numbers of visitors during the spring season. The implementation of the gardens' asset management plans is well under way and visitors will start to see improvements during the first half of next year.

## Annual monitoring reports

Annual reporting on compliance monitoring programmes for major consent holders is ongoing and important Council work with approximately 180 programmes in place.

Recent examples follow:

### Concrete batching plants

Annual monitoring programme reports for concrete batching plants in the region have shown good overall environmental performance with mixed individual results. Monitoring for the year included two inspections and two water samples collected for physicochemical analysis at each site.

Firth Industries' plant on Glover Road, Hawera, holds a resource consent to discharge treated wastewater into an unnamed tributary of the Tawhiti Stream and showed a good level of environmental performance and compliance.

The Waitara Allied Concrete plant in Mould Street holds a resource consent to discharge treated wash water into an unnamed tributary of the Waitara River. The plant achieved a high level of environmental performance and compliance.

Like the other companies, the operation of Dick Sybrandy Limited in Bedford Street, Patea, includes the storage of aggregate, sand and builders' mix. The company holds a resource consent to discharge treated wash water into the Patea River. Monitoring showed that improvement to the level of environmental performance and consent compliance is required.

### Swift Energy New Zealand

Swift Energy New Zealand Limited has been engaged in oil and gas exploration and development in the onshore areas of the Taranaki Basin since 1999. This year's triennial report deals with the company's 16 resource consents covering the disposal of wastes by deep well injection via 16 wells. The consents include 88 special conditions, for which the company achieved a good standard of environmental performance.

The one deep well injection consent exercised during the monitoring period is for the Waihapa-7A well at the Waihapa Production Station, Stratford. This well discharges into a saline aquifer within the Matamateonga Formation at a depth of 1126 – 1176 m below ground level.

Monitoring of company records shows that maximum injection pressures and the concentration of contaminants in the injectate were significantly higher than the levels originally applied for by Petrocorp in 1992. The company will need to either apply to change the consent conditions and justify the change or work within the parameters on which the original application was based.

### PPCS Limited (Hawera)

PPCS Limited (Hawera), demonstrated a good level of environmental performance and compliance during the 2005-2006 year for its six resource consents with 33 conditions.

There were no unauthorised incidents recorded against the Tawhiti Road, Hawera meat processing plant. The condenser installed in the previous monitoring year has been effective in eliminating the condenser discharge of heated water to the Tawhiti Stream, and reducing the volume of water abstracted from the stream.

# Accord makes further progress

Dairying and Clean Streams Accord partners and the Taranaki dairy farming community can be satisfied with progress on most of the targets set in Taranaki's *Regional Action Plan*.

The Council's 2005/2006 annual report illustrates the range of work already carried out by farmers and the Council to meet Accord targets. To ensure further progress, the report urges Fonterra to promote the Accord more rigorously. A Council survey of property plan holders found that while 98% were aware of the Accord and its deadlines, its lack of enforceability and current time and cost pressures meant that plan implementation was still not at the top of the priorities list.



Dairy farm property plan implementation needs stronger action.

Progress on Taranaki's Accord targets is summarised below:

	2004/2005	2005/2006	target
% of dairy farms with property plans	34%	49%	90% of dairy farms to have a property plan by 2010, 50% of property plans to be implemented by 2010, 90% by 2015.
new fencing completed (annually)	40 km	90 km	
new planting completed (annually)	44 km	58 km	
% of regular crossings with bridges or culverts	96% (of the 750 farms specifically monitored for bridge and culvert status)	97% (of all farm plans prepared to date)	50% of regular crossing points to have bridges or culverts by 2007, 90% by 2015.
% of dairy farms with effluent discharge consent under the Fresh Water Plan	99.90%	99.5%	100% of dairy farms to have consents that comply with regional plans by 2004.
% of regionally significant wetlands fenced	64%	74%	60% of regionally significant wetlands to be fenced by 2005, 90% by 2010.
% of farms with nutrient budgeting in place (Fonterra)	22%	39%	Fonterra to have 100% of dairy farms with systems in place to manage nutrient inputs and outputs by 2007.

# Bus trial figures look promising

While further data is required to draw significant comparisons, early indications are that the New Plymouth Passenger Services trial has increased passenger numbers travelling by bus.

The 18-month trial that was launched in July added new routes and altered others, increased the frequency of some routes, changed the fare structure and installed electronic ticketing. A second report due early next year will give more accurate indications of passenger number trends.

A second trial that has grown out of the *Regional Passenger Transport Plan for Taranaki* will test passenger transport proposals for South Taranaki and will begin in April.

The trial includes a Waverley-Patea-Hawera once-a-week return service; an Opunake-Hawera once-a-week return service and an Opunake-New Plymouth once-a-week return service. All three services will run for 18 months and will be reviewed at three-monthly intervals.

## 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  
 Web site: [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz)

### AFTER HOURS CONTACT NUMBERS

After Hours Contact: 0-6-765 7127  
 Environmental Hotline: 0800 736 222  
 Civil Defence  
 Emergency Management 0800 736 222

### REGIONAL COUNCILLORS

#### New Plymouth Constituency:

Tom Cloke 0-6-753 5586  
 Moira Irving 0-6-753 3063  
 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:

Bruce Cudby 0-6-278 5573  
 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 31 January**, 10.30 am, Consents and Regulatory Committee

**Thursday 1 February**, 10.30 am, Policy and Planning Committee

**Monday 12 February**, 10.00 am, Executive Committee

**Wednesday 21 February**, 10.30 am, Ordinary Meeting

**Tuesday 13 March**, 10.30 am, Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.

ISSN No 1171-1140

# Coastal knowledge netted



The Coastal terraces at Ohawe in South Taranaki are included in a new South Taranaki-Whanganui coastal report

A report that fills a number of gaps in the recorded knowledge of the South Taranaki coast has been released by the Department of Conservation.

The project began after a public meeting to discuss the Coastal Inventory 2004 revealed an apparent lack of information on the South

Taranaki-Whanganui marine environment. A project team including Nga Ruaru iwi, Ngati Ruanui iwi, various diving and fishing clubs from Whanganui to Ohawe, DoC, Horizons Regional Council, Taranaki Regional Council and the Ministry of Fisheries, gathered anecdotal information from locals and held workshops and surveys.

The research highlighted the significance and value of the South Taranaki-Whanganui coastal area and its vulnerability. It has provided additional information for the Council's Coastal Inventory.

Recommendations to various management agencies include:

- further information gathering for the upcoming Taranaki and Horizons regional councils coastal plan reviews
- further environmental agency funded research including recreational fishing in the South Taranaki Bight
- increased local involvement in fisheries management
- improved and enhanced enforcement of regulations
- increased education
- improved communication and consultation processes
- changes to the management of commercial and recreational fishing.

A copy of the report *Netting Coastal Knowledge: a report into what is known about the South Taranaki-Whanganui marine area* is available from the Department of Conservation. To access the Coastal Inventory visit [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz).

## Didymo alert continues



*Didymosphenia geminata*

Environmental authorities remain on alert this summer to prevent the arrival of the invasive, freshwater diatom alga Didymo in the North Island.

The Council for its part will ensure that Taranaki residents and visitors are aware of the need to routinely decontaminate gear used in one waterway before use in another.

Didymo, or rock snot, was first reported in New Zealand in Southland's Mararoa and lower Waiau Rivers in October 2004. At least 13 rivers and streams in the South Island are now affected by the smothering brown alga.

Steps to prevent the spread of Didymo are:

- check gear for clumps of algae and leave them behind before leaving the waterway. Any found later should be cleaned (as below), dried and disposed of in the rubbish bin
- soak and scrub items thoroughly for at least one minute in a 2% solution of household bleach (one cupful per 10 litre bucket)
- dispose of the bleach solution down a sink or on grass well away from a waterway but never down the stormwater drain or into a septic tank.

## CDEM conference in Taranaki

Taranaki hosted this year's two-day North Island Civil Defence Emergency Management Conference last month.

Ninety emergency managers took part in discussions that covered a wide range of topics including tsunamis, latest developments in communications and technology, pandemic planning updates, North Island volcanoes, this year's Canterbury snowstorms, Ministry updates and professional development.



Councillors join Education Officer Kevin Archer and students from Stratford Primary School to study macroinvertebrates in the Patea River.