

## Minister praises local farmers

Taranaki farmers are to be congratulated on their high level of resource consent compliance and the ongoing improvements in the region's water quality, according to Minister for the Environment, David Benson-Pope.

The Minister was in Taranaki last month to launch the third Dairying and Clean Streams Accord annual report at Peter and Kathleen Adamski's farm near Omata. Taranaki was a model region, he said, and the Adamski's a model farm.

David Benson-Pope said he was concerned that 10 per cent of Fonterra dairy farmers in New Zealand were putting the environment at risk by ignoring effluent disposal requirements. He urged local government to "get tough on those few who continue to pollute our waterways. Those who do not comply are on notice – they will not be tolerated, and not knowing is no longer an excuse. We need to see all farmers making an effort like Fonterra farmers in Taranaki and Otago."

Council Chairman David Walter said the Taranaki Regional Council had thought hard before joining the Accord because its own existing programmes were already delivering good environmental results. These included the voluntary riparian management programme begun in 1993, regulatory farm dairy monitoring that began more than 25 years ago and the identification and protection of regionally significant wetlands, in place since 2001.

However, there was value in being part of the national Accord as the Taranaki region has the second highest number of dairy farms in the country, behind Waikato, David Walter said.

"The Taranaki Regional Action Plan which is under the national Accord and developed along with key dairy farming stakeholders in 2004 has proved to be very much a partnership both in development and implementation. It is a good example of the Council's slogan – Working with people, caring for our environment."

David Benson-Pope said he was concerned that nutrient levels in rivers had increased over the past 20 years as land use had changed. While the impact of industrial and commercial discharges into waterways had reduced, the recent intensification of surrounding land use had reduced the quality of New Zealand lake and river water in some parts of the country, he said.

Barry Harris, Director of Fonterra Milk Supply said that Fonterra was making good progress to meet the Dairy Accord targets in partnership with regional and central government. He emphasized that the dairy industry was committed to sustainability through responsible environmental management, and should not be judged by the poor environmental performance of a few non-compliant farmers.



Farmers Kathleen and Peter Adamski, Chairman of the Taranaki Federated Farmers Dairy Section (right) describe their six year-old riparian plantings to (from left) Barry Harris, Director of Fonterra Milk Supply, David Walter, Chairman TRC, David Benson-Pope, Minister for the Environment.

He said that Fonterra was focusing extra efforts where they were needed, citing as an example, recent assistance for farmers to prepare nutrient budgets. The whole country, he said, needed to understand the importance of operating a sustainable dairy industry for the future of New Zealand.

Copies of the Accord report are available on [www.mfe.govt.nz](http://www.mfe.govt.nz).



Progress on implementing the Accord regional action plan for Taranaki

### Inside Recount

- New director
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## From the Chair

The recently completed Herekawe Walkway is an excellent example of our community working together positively.



The January opening of the final link in the walkway brings to a very successful conclusion a 5-year project to join the Herekawe Stream to the beach. 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 with a common goal to establish a link between inland residential areas and the coast.

The project led by the Taranaki Tree Trust has benefited from contributions from the Taranaki Regional and New Plymouth District councils, local iwi, schools, landowners, the Conservation Corps, Methanex, Shell Todd Oil Services, A. J. Cowley Ltd., Dow AgroSciences and many members of the wider community who have helped plant more than 10,000 trees. It has been a very popular project and hundreds of people have attended the field days and this year's official opening.

The success of this initiative means that other walkways in the region can be planned along similar lines. Walking has become a major recreational pursuit in recent decades and a preferred means of getting to and from workplaces in urban areas. Most of our towns have developed walking tracks, and the coastal walkway has greatly enhanced New Plymouth city.

The Council's draft *Walkways and Cycleways Strategy for Taranaki*, and the submissions it has received, identify the potential for more developments to be carefully considered.

(see page 8 for news on the Strategy)

David Walter - CHAIRMAN

## New Director-Operations joins Council

The Council's new Director-Operations Rob Phillips was previously employed, since 1981, at Environment Canterbury, and its predecessor organisation the North Canterbury Catchment Board. His most recent position was that of Portfolio Manager Land, Biosecurity/Pest Management. He is currently Convenor of the Biosecurity Managers' Group. He holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Science and post-graduate papers in management studies and resource economics. He is a member of the New Zealand Association of Resource Management and the Biosecurity Institute.



Rob Phillips, Director-Operations.

## Regional Policy Statement review progresses

Preparation of the Council's second regional policy statement is progressing following the acceptance of submissions late last year.

A summary of the 35 submissions has been made and distributed to all submitters inviting their further support or opposition as part of the thorough 10-year review required under the Resource Management Act.

Once these responses are received, recommendations will be made to Council, pre-hearing meetings will be held where appropriate, and the Policy and Planning Committee will hear submissions and make recommendations to the full Council. The Council's final decisions can be appealed by submitters to the Environment Court before the *Regional Policy Statement* can be adopted and made operative.

## Draft Annual Plan responses

A summary of the draft *2007/2008 Annual Plan* has been distributed widely and responses are invited.

The *Annual Plan* is a component of the Council's 2006-2016 *Long-term Council Community Plan (LTCCP)* which was thoroughly discussed, reviewed and adopted last year.

One area of modification for discussion this year is passenger transport. The demand for these services continues to grow beyond expectations. Provision has been made in the *Annual Plan* to complete the trial of improved bus services throughout the region and to trial new routes and services in one or two areas. Funding of \$40,000 requested by the Ironside Society to provide transport services to the transport disadvantaged has been included in this *Annual Plan*. The Council specifically seeks its community's opinion on whether or not that funding should proceed. The net effect of the

increased demand on services is \$116,000, resulting in a small increase of \$28,500 in the passenger targeted rate already forecast.

In another response to demand, funding for minor general river and flood control works has been increased by \$50,000 over the *2006/2016 LTCCP* forecast.

If you wish to comment on the *2007/2008 Annual Plan* write a letter to the Council or complete the submission form enclosed in the *Annual Plan* document and send it to:

Annual Plan Submission  
The Chief Executive  
Taranaki Regional Council  
Private Bay 713  
STRATFORD

Submissions must arrive before 4.00 p.m. on Friday 20 April 2007.

A free copy of the full *Annual Plan* is available from the Council offices or at [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz).

# Heavy fines send clear warnings

Heavy fines handed down by the Environment Court in Taranaki in recent months indicate a hardening of attitude towards environmental pollution.

Opunake farmer Roger Sorrenson was fined a total of \$30,000 by the Environment Court for discharging cowshed effluent into a stream – the biggest fine yet to be awarded against a Taranaki farmer. Councillor Bruce Cudby was fined \$40,000 in the New Plymouth District Court and, according to the judge, narrowly escaped jail for dumping illegal wastes – including toxic materials – near Hawera, and breaching an environment court enforcement order. Because of his conviction, Bruce Cudby was automatically disqualified as a councillor at the end of March.

Roger Sorrenson pleaded guilty to contravention of an abatement notice, discharge of dairy effluent from an oxidation pond into a tributary of the Mangahume Stream, and discharge of effluent from an inspection pit and farm race on to land, which may have resulted in effluent entering the tributary. He had received numerous warnings from the Council since November 2000.

Judge Brian Dwyer said failure to properly maintain the effluent system indicated a failure to take responsibilities seriously. Roger Sorrenson was fined \$15,000 for contravention of the abatement notice and \$7,500 for each of the other charges.

Also in the Hawera District Court, another Opunake farmer Russell Hohaia was fined \$10,000 by Judge Dwyer for discharging untreated dairy shed effluent into a tributary of the Mangahume Stream last May.

Bruce Cudby and his company, H. G. Cudby Ltd., had been found guilty by a jury in December of two charges of dumping unauthorised wastes, including wastes toxic to humans and the environment, on his South Road site between 12 October and 17 November 2005. The company was convicted and discharged.

Judge R. Whiting said that the court needed to send a clear warning to others that a contemptuous attitude to the Resource Management Act and orders of the court “will not be countenanced”.

# Pest animals strategy approved

The recently reviewed *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Animals* will be operative on 1 May this year.

Changes to the strategy include the addition as surveillance pest animals of koi carp, rudd, mosquitofish and catfish. A strategy rule bans their distribution, release or sale, in support of the Department of Conservation’s responsibilities for managing the fish.

The Self-help Possum Control Programme has been amended to reflect the progress made in covering the ring plain and signals

an increased focus on pest management in regionally significant key native ecosystems. The duration of the strategy has been increased to 2017 (from 2011), and sightings of rooks for reporting added.

Seven submissions were received on the proposed strategy. There were no appeals to the Council’s decisions on submissions and the Council adopted the strategy this month.

For details on the *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Animals* visit [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz).

# Pest plants strategy in operation



The Council’s third *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Plants* got under way last month following last year’s review.

New rules have been included that mean land occupiers now need to progressively destroy all Common Pampas and Purple Pampas in shelterbelts and hedgerows to meet the 1 July 2012 deadline. Woolly Nightshade has been included as a new surveillance pest plant.

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).



A Council submission promotes 1080 use for possum control.

# Council backs 1080

The Council has made a submission to an application for reassessment of 1080 and has endorsed the use of 1080 for possum control.

The joint application by the Animal Health Board and the Department of Conservation was made to the Environment Risk Management Authority (ERMA). This is the second scrutiny of the substance that has been approved under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act.

The application was made on the grounds that: a significant amount of new information relating to the effects of 1080 is now available; the quantity of 1080 used has significantly changed over the years; and public concern and confusion over the use of 1080 and its effects continue.

The Council’s submission said that there were significant benefits to New Zealand from the use of 1080 to control possums and other animal pests. The pesticide had helped protect and improve native ecosystems, enhancing conditions for a wide range of native, including some threatened, species, and was an essential part of the bovine tuberculosis eradication programme. 1080 remained the most effective pesticide over a range of environments and an essential tool in the possum control programme. Accurate documentation of the science behind the effects or lack of effects from the use of 1080 was essential in view of public concern.

A copy of the discussion document is available from the Council offices or at [www.ermanz.govt.nz](http://www.ermanz.govt.nz).



# Reading the information

Many people regularly use the information recorded by the Council's hydrological recorder network as much of the data on rainfall, river flows, soil moisture and temperature, and wind direction and speed are automatically and regularly downloaded and readily available on the Council web site. A summary of rainfall information for the month is provided also to the region's newspapers.

The current rainfall situation is recorded at 18 sites across the Taranaki region and data is downloaded on the hour and half-hour. The 25 rainfall monitoring sites measure rainfall at five-minute intervals. Information recorded on the web site includes 30-minute rainfall totals for the past seven days and daily rainfall totals for the last 30 days.

A map on the web site shows where river and water levels and flows are recorded. The information is analysed every two hours and includes site flow data, river level data and river temperature readings for the last seven days. Fishermen, trampers and kayakers in particular find the information very useful.

Wind direction and speed figures are followed closely by keen surfers in particular. The information includes wind speed data at a 10-minute average, maximum wind gust data and wind direction data for the past seven days.

## Drying out in February

If you thought February seemed particularly dry – you were right.

The Council's monthly rainfall and river report shows that rainfall for February was below normal for all sites, recording between 7.7% and 76% of normal monthly rainfall.

The North Egmont Visitors Centre recorded only 37 mm of rain compared to its normal February total of 481 mm. This is the site's lowest recorded February rainfall since records began in 1990.

The recorder sites in the Central, West and South Taranaki areas received less rainfall than the summer 2003 low rainfall event, but were not as low as the summer of 1999. Rimunui Station in the Waitotara Valley is the only exception to this, as it had the highest monthly rainfall total (67.5 mm) of all the sites. The mountain site at Dawson Falls received only 61.0 mm. The North Taranaki sites, including New Plymouth area, all fared slightly better than the 2003 event.

The region recorded rainfall only between three and six days (up to 10 days for Mount Taranaki) for the month compared to the expected 12-15 days in a month and up to 20 days for the higher altitude sites.

*Lest we forget: February 2004 was the wettest February on record at all of the Council's rain gauge sites. Most of the totals were four to five times greater than normal. North Egmont received the most rain with 1880 mm. Most sites in northern and central Taranaki recorded over 100 mm of rain in only one day.*

## National water allocation report

A timely report commissioned by the Ministry for the Environment provides an overview of the management of water abstraction and allocation throughout New Zealand.

The report prepared by Aqualinc Research Limited comes at a time of increasing national demand for water, and when its availability and the management of its

allocation are becoming hotly debated issues, especially in Canterbury and Otago.

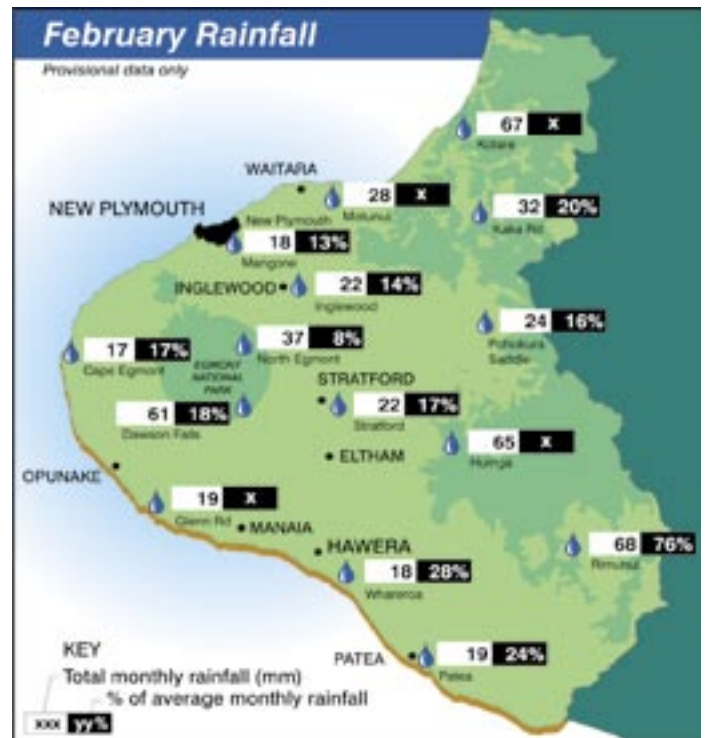
In Taranaki between 2000 and 2002 there was considerable interest in dairy farm irrigation for increased productivity, with a surge in the number of consented abstractions. Twenty-three applications were processed in that period and 12 have been processed in the last five years. The Council's

Farmers and land managers keen to know up-to-date details of soil moisture and temperature both current and over the past seven days, can access the information on the web site. While soil moisture monitoring has concentrated on Taranaki hill country in the past, inquiries from farmers have led the Council to consider extending its sites to include more areas of the ring plain.

To access the data, visit [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz).



Fiona Moore checks the automatic rainfall recorder near Egmont Village.



This map graphic shows the total rainfall for February and the percentage of the rainfall for the month.

sustainable management. The Council's state of the environment report in 2003 anticipates that demand for water in the region will continue to grow and points out that some of our catchments are under more pressure than others are. This national report helps put the situation in Taranaki into perspective.

Facts in brief:

- Nationally groundwater supplies 66% of abstraction consents and surface water 29% (Taranaki 23% ground, 65% surface) Nationally agricultural irrigation accounts for 78% of all consents (Taranaki 49%. In addition Taranaki's proportion of industrial abstractions is 39% compared with 10% nation-wide).
- Taranaki (187), Nelson (33) and Gisborne (162) have the fewest abstraction consents compared with the most in Canterbury

(close to 6,000), Hawke's Bay (2,500) and Otago (just under 2,000).

- Canterbury and Otago together account for over 70% of the water abstracted each week (Taranaki less than 1% of the total and the second smallest after Nelson).
- Taranaki has the smallest area of land under irrigation (0.4% of the irrigated area of Canterbury and less than 0.3% of the total irrigated area nation-wide) after West Coast and Nelson. Of the area of land irrigated Taranaki has the highest percentage irrigated for pastoral use (98%).
- Nation-wide, the volume allocated from groundwater has increased 77% and from surface water has increased 39% in the last seven years.

- The biggest increases in volume allocated were provided in Canterbury, Otago, Waikato and Bay of Plenty. The smallest increase was in Taranaki (together with a decrease in Northland).
- The area under irrigation nation-wide has increased from just over 600,000 hectares to 972,000 hectares.
- In terms of water availability, allocation is examined against water availability from the National Water Accounts i.e. the total volume of water flowing to the sea. Nationally the average allocation is 4.3%. It exceeds 10% in regions of highest irrigation demand (Canterbury and Otago) or municipal demand (Auckland, Wellington). Taranaki's annual allocation 1.5% is among the lowest alongside Manawatu, Tasman and the West Coast.

## Rotokare Reserve project makes good progress



This predator proof fence when completed will protect the Rotokare Reserve.

A project that started in 2003 when concerned neighbours called a public meeting to discuss the care of Rotokare Reserve has raised \$2.3 million and is well on the way to achieving its goals.

Around 70 people turned up to that first meeting in the Eltham Town Hall and a trust was duly set up. The first task was to eradicate animal

pests in the area, then in 2005 the Rotokare Reserve Trust decided to install an 8.4 kilometre predator proof fence to surround the 230 hectares of lake and bush land. Neighbour support remained strong and 12 hectares of land was volunteered to provide access for the fence.

About two-thirds of the all-stainless steel fence is now completed, and plans to move the old Mangamingi school room on to the site as an education facility, and to install a caretaker's house are under way. The six trustees, 20 committee members and a raft of volunteers hope to reintroduce kokako, stitchbirds, kiwi, saddlebacks and skinks, and provide Taranaki with an ecologically sustainable sanctuary that is readily accessed by members of the public.

Trust Chairman Joe Menzies says the project has been an ambitious venture.

"This is big and hard country and we needed neighbour support to get the fence in. One of the advantages is that the water that goes into the lake is spring fed from its own catchment. It makes it particularly valuable in terms of native fish. We have a great team of people and we've achieved everything we said we would do. It's a brilliant project."

## New drinking water standard affects consents

The introduction of a new national environmental standard for sources of human drinking water will affect both consent applicants and the Council's consents staff. The new standard, which will be introduced presumably in the second half of this year, requires the provision and assessment of additional information within applications and by extending the matters to be covered by consent conditions.

The standard requires regional councils to ensure that effects on drinking water sources are considered when making decisions on resource consents and regional plans.

Specifically, the standard requires that councils:

- decline applications for discharge or water permits that are likely to result in community (i.e. 500 persons) drinking water becoming unsafe for consumption following existing treatment
- be satisfied that permitted activities in regional plans will not result in community drinking water supplies being unsafe for consumption following existing treatment
- place conditions on relevant resource consents requiring notification of water suppliers and consent authorities if significant unintended events occur that may adversely affect sources of human drinking water.

The Council's *Regional Freshwater Plan for Taranaki* became operative in October 2001 and is to be reviewed in 2010-2011. The introduction of the new standard means that the review process will now have to provide for an explicit scrutiny of what is presently allowed as a permitted activity within up to 45 drinking water supply catchments.

For more information on the new national environmental standard for sources of human drinking water visit <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/laws/standards/drinking-water-source-standard.html>.

# Consent monitoring annual reports

## Deep well injection

Deep well injection is an integral part of hydrocarbon production in Taranaki where large volumes of saline water are released along with gas and condensate. These waters would create problems if discharged to surface waters. The best environmental option is to re-inject them into deep, confined aquifers (water-containing layers) through dedicated wells. This is a robust disposal method, provided the integrity of the re-injection zone is maintained. Contaminated storm-water and water-based drilling fluids can also be managed in this way.

Consent monitoring of two companies' deep well injection activities has resulted in good reports.

Both Todd Taranaki Limited and Shell Todd Oil Services hold resource consents to discharge produced waters, drilling mud wastes and well site storm-water from their activities by deep well injection.

Todd Taranaki Limited holds 12 resource consents via 30 wells at 12 sites which include 73 special conditions. Between July 2005 and June 2006, the Company is reported to have exercised one consent via the McKee-1 well at the Tikorangi McKee-A well site, discharging into a deep, confined saline aquifer. A good level of environmental performance and compliance with resource consents was demonstrated throughout the year.

Between July 2003 and June 2006 Shell Todd Oil Services exercised three consents for deep well injection via KW-2 and KA-1 wells at Kapuni and via McKee-1 and McKee-4 at Tikorangi. The Council carried out 54 monitoring inspections and collected seven samples of injectate, identifying no resulting environmental issues. However, records for

the well suggested that hydro-fracturing of the injection zone may have occurred. The Council is satisfied with the outcomes of subsequent discussions and investigations. Shell Todd Oil Services is required in 2006-2007 to demonstrate that the KW-2 disposal well and the injection zone are secure.

## Organic fertiliser

Recovery of wastes for re-use is an important part of waste management in Taranaki. Perry Environmental Limited provides a solution for the disposal of a range of organic wastes including dead chickens, drilling muds, paunch material and treated sewage sludge from a number of sources. The company carries out vermicast (worm casting) and composting to produce an organic fertiliser at four sites – Waitara Road, Pennington Road, Manutahi Road and Mokau Road. The Company holds eight resource consents for discharging solid hydrocarbon drilling wastes, storm-water, leachate and air emissions, with 80 conditions that must be satisfied.

In the 2005-2006 monitoring year the Company experienced problems with stormwater runoff and inadequately treated compost leachate at its Uruti site discharging to the Haehanga Stream and its tributaries. At the start of the 2006-2007 period the issues were continuing and the Council issued an abatement notice in July. An action plan was drawn up and submitted to the Council by Perry Environmental Waste Services in February this year and the Company has subsequently undertaken both improvement to the stormwater management system, and improvement and extension to the wetland that forms part of the leachate treatment system. Further works are scheduled for this month and Council officers will continue to monitor the site.



## World Wetlands Day

About 85 people took the opportunity to visit the Corbett Lake Scenic Reserve on World Wetlands Day in February. The four-hectare property is on Allan and Elizabeth Moorby's property near Okato and was named after the former owners who gifted the reserve to the Crown in 1978. The natural lake was formed in a depression of old volcanic debris from Mount Taranaki and supports an abundance of plants and animals.

## Taranaki Regional Council Facts File

Address:	Private Bag 713 Stratford
Street Address:	47 Cloten Road Stratford
Telephone:	06-765 7127
Facsimile:	06-765 5097
Email:	info@trc.govt.nz
Web site:	<a href="http://www.trc.govt.nz">www.trc.govt.nz</a>

## AFTER HOURS CONTACT NUMBERS

After Hours Contact:	06-765 7127
Environmental Hotline:	0800 736 222
Civil Defence	
Emergency Management	0800 736 222

## REGIONAL COUNCILLORS

### New Plymouth Constituency:

Tom Cloke	06-753 5586
Moira Irving	06-753 3063
David Lean	06-753 3325
Barry Marsh	06-758 2252

### North Taranaki Constituency:

Roger Maxwell	06-752 3622
Donald McIntyre	06-762 4701

### South Taranaki Constituency:

David MacLeod	06-278 5577
Neil Walker	06-278 7541

### Stratford Constituency:

David Walter (Chairman)	06-762 7822
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## MEETING SCHEDULE:

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

**Thursday 26 April**, 10.30 a.m.,  
Consents and Regulatory Committee

**Friday, 27 April**, 10.30 a.m.,  
Policy and Planning Committee

**Monday, 7 May**, 10.00 a.m.,  
Executive Committee

**Monday, 7 May**, 10.30 a.m.,  
Ordinary Meeting (submissions to Annual Plan)

**Wednesday, 16 May**, 10.30 a.m.,  
Ordinary Meeting

**Tuesday, 29 May**, 10.30 a.m.,  
Civil Defence Emergency Management  
Co-ordinating Executive Group.

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# Open day stresses the need to be prepared

An open day and demonstration of civil defence and emergency services attracted an interested crowd last month.

Members of the public took a look behind the scenes at the Taranaki Emergency Management Office at Marsland Hill, New Plymouth, observed a vehicle accident rescue, a helicopter evacuation and demonstrations of fire prevention, first aid and road safety.

The day was a reminder that a major emergency gives little warning time to prepare. Organising survival kits, storing water and non-perishable foods in advance greatly assists people to cope with major emergencies such as infectious disease, flooding, earthquake, volcanic eruption, strong winds or failure of essential services.

For detailed information on how to prepare for an emergency visit [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz) or [www.getthru.govt.nz](http://www.getthru.govt.nz).



Fire and ambulance personnel carry out a vehicle accident rescue as part of last month's open day.

# Interest grows in walkways and cycleways

Fifteen submissions have been received on the *Draft Regional Walkways and Cycleways Strategy for Taranaki* indicating lively interest in developing opportunities for cycle and foot traffic in the region.

The draft strategy was developed by a project team set up by the Council in September 2004 representing the Council, the three district councils, the Department of Conservation, Federated Farmers, Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board, Fish and Game, Venture Taranaki and Transit New Zealand.

The draft is the first of its kind for Taranaki and follows the Ministry of Transport's *Getting there – on foot, by cycle* national strategy.

The submissions on the draft 20-year strategy are a mix of general support for development of walkways and cycleways, and suggestions for enhanced safety, tourism opportunities and public access on private land.

The submissions will be heard by the Regional Land Transport Committee in June.

# Winning plant scheme

Landholders who order riparian plants by 1 May through the Council's bulk plant supply scheme could be in for a prize.

As an incentive to increase riparian management in the region this season, the Council with the support of Fonterra Co-operative Group is offering prizes valued at over \$14,000.

The two major prizes in the draw are: 700 riparian plants and associated pre-planting preparation, planting and maintenance valued at \$3,500; and a Sony 46" flat wide-screen LCD television set valued at \$5,999. To automatically qualify for either of the prizes, landholders must order 300 riparian plants. Multiples of 300 plants qualify for multiple entries. One hundred additional prizes of \$50 RD1 vouchers will be awarded to the first 100 landholders who order 400 or more riparian plants.

The bulk riparian plant supply scheme makes native riparian plants available to landholders at cost as part of an ongoing programme to protect waterways by fencing and planting riparian margins throughout Taranaki.



Malcolm Oxley of Okato Bus Lines assists a passenger in a wheelchair on to the company's new super low-floor bus. The Volvo bus, assembled in Tauranga runs on low emission diesel fuel and can be pneumatically lowered for easy access. The new addition to the fleet will become part of the company's regular bus service.