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Report to the Landcare Committee
from Rob Forlong, Divisional Manager, Landcare

Divisional Manager's Report

1. Purpose

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

2. Managers' Reports

The Departmental Managers' reports are attached.

3. Security on the Hutt River Trail

On 17 May 2002 Fraser Oliver (Senior Ranger), Jeff Evans (Area Engineer, Wellington) and I, together with Kelly Crandle of Hutt City Council met with Senior Sergeant Pete Whiteman of the Hutt Police to discuss measures for improving public safety and security on the Hutt River Trail.

The meeting was very fruitful and we agreed on a number of further actions. For example, we will be clearing some bypass paths to allow people to divert around areas where they feel unsafe. We will be working closely with the Police to establish the new Hutt River Ranger. In addition, the Police have volunteered to spend some time with all our field staff to inform us about how we might best improve security on the Hutt River.

Senior Sergeant Whiteman was very pleased to hear about the Hutt River Ranger service and considers that the ranger will be of immense benefit. He is presently attempting to extend the horse mounted police patrols through to October when the new ranger starts.

4. **Takapu Block**

I have just received a letter from the Department of Conservation requesting that the Council “control and manage” the Takapu Block in Belmont Regional Park. I understand that the previous Council made some effort to secure the block as an addition to the Park. We will evaluate their proposal and report back to you at the next Committee meeting.

5. **Arbor Days**

The first of two Arbour Days was held at Queen Elizabeth Park on 31 May 2002. Her Excellency the Governor General Dame Sylvia Cartwright and the British High Commissioner Mr Richard Fell both took time to attend the planting. Councillors Shields and Turver hosted the event and I also saw Councillors Yardley and McDavitt.

The day was very successful with children from Raumati South School, Te Ra School and Paekakariki School planting a large number of trees.

Special thanks to Angie Gooch and Ross Jackson who organised things exceptionally well and to the ranger team who had the Park looking great, prepared the sausage sizzle, and cleaned up afterwards.

The second Arbour Day planting is planned for the Rimutaka Incline Summit Yards on Saturday 15 June.

6. **Divisional Reorganisation**

Geoff Dick and Murray Waititi formally took up their new roles on 1 June 2002. They have already prepared draft organisational charts for the new departments and are consulting with staff before they decide on a final structure.

One of the purposes of the reorganisation was to deliver more staff resources at a technical (rather than managerial) level. The draft structures developed by Murray and Geoff create a number of new senior technical positions and retain us within our overall approved staffing numbers.

7. **Recommendations**

That the Committee:

- (1) **Receive** the report.
- (2) **Note** the contents of the report.

Report prepared by:

ROB FORLONG
Divisional Manager, Landcare

Attachment 1 : Departmental Managers' Reports