

Chief Executive's Report: May 2008

Introduction

This month there are three parts to the report

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 - To 31 March 2008

Part One: Activities Report

a) Summary of Activity

1 General

1.1 Annual Plan 2008/09

The Draft Annual Plan submission period has now closed with over 900 submissions having been received. This is a significantly higher number than previous years, proof of the level of community interest in Council's activities. Hearings were held at Mangawhai, Maungaturoto and Dargaville. All Councillors were present at all three Hearings. While these were long days for Councillors and staff, especially the Dargaville Hearing which did not finish until after 6.00pm, it is also a rewarding time, giving Councillors another opportunity to hear the community's concerns, issues and wishes. Positive feedback has been received by staff from members of the community about the presence of all Councillors at all three Hearings.

Staff have been busy preparing the Issues and Options Papers to assist Councillors during the deliberations which are to be held on Friday 16 May. Following on from these deliberations changes will be incorporated into the Plan to change it from the draft to the final. A special Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 4 June for Council to adopt the final Annual Plan. This meeting will also include the signoff from Audit New Zealand. Council's works programme will once again be set for the coming financial year.

1.2 Rubbish and Rubbish Cages

A great idea from the community has resulted in a total of seven rubbish cages having been placed through the district removing some major eyesores.

Council responded to last year's Annual Plan submissions by allocating funds for wooden cages which are assembled from kit sets and are being installed by community workers under the supervision of Harry Baycroft.

The rubbish cages are helping remove piles of accumulated rubbish bags that often get mutilated at rural collection points in Kaipara. They hold about 30 standard sacks and are only for pre-paid blue rubbish bags.

Following the success of the first, installed as a trial at Glinks Gully, others have been set up at Turiwiri West Road near Dargaville, Tangowahine, Waihue, Pouto, Omamari, plus Bulls Road and King Road in Mangawhai.

Several new queries have been received regarding a continuation of this project with many other locations highlighted by communities as ideal for the placement of these cages. This project was done through the Annual Plan process with any further extension to this programme requiring further investigations, costing and budgeting.

1.3 Libraries

The community libraries in Paparoa, Maungaturoto, Kaiwaka and Mangawhai are now computerised, and are using the same computerised library system as Dargaville. Volunteers have put in a lot of hours learning the new system and training others, and Dargaville Library has been happy to provide support during this process.

The integration of systems between libraries will assist in the sharing of resources – making the Kaipara’s book stock easier for all residents to access.

Ruawai library continues to use a separate school-based library system, although some of its catalogue is available on the new computer system.

Dargaville, Ruawai, Paparoa and Kaiwaka libraries took part in a recent book buying trip to Auckland, so there will be new titles appearing on library shelves – and in the new computer system, soon.

1.4 Playing Around

Children are playing happily on the new playground at Wharf Road Ruawai. This project was successfully carried out between Kaipara District Council and several community groups in Ruawai. The outcome of which sees a new playground replacing a very old and unsafe one that had served the community well for many, many years but which was not worth upgrading.

1.5 Seal is Great News for Garbolino Road Residents

Garbolino Road residents and users are trading some short term pain for long term gain while Kaipara District Council upgrades and seals the strategic road near Mangawhai.

It is Tara residents’ most direct road to Kaiwaka and also an alternative route from Mangawhai Heads to Kaiwaka, bypassing Mangawhai Village. Along with Cove Road it also provides the most direct alternative from Kaiwaka to Waipu, apart from using the state highway.

Contractors, Donovan Drainage and Earthmoving Limited, began at the Kaiwaka/Mangawhai Road end in March, working towards Tara Road. Despite recent wet weather that slowed progress somewhat they hope to finish by mid June.

The contractors have written to residents advising that the project will cause some disruption and are advising them to use Tara Road as an alternative through route.

The sealing contract is costing \$725,000 of which Land Transport New Zealand is paying 70 percent.

2 Contracts

Contract	Project Name	Tender Closes	Work Start	Work Finish
KDC AWPT Projects 2006/07				
515	Tinopai Road	26 October 2006	December 2006	Complete
KDC AWPT Projects 2007/08				
552	Mangawhai Heads Road West	Closed	5 November 2007	Complete
553	Tinopai Road	4 December 2007	14 January 2008	Complete

Contract	Project Name	Tender Closes	Work Start	Work Finish
554	Tangowahine Valley Road	13 November 2007	1 December 2007	Complete
555	Trounson Park Road	Closed	5 November 2007	Complete
556	Pahi and Matakohe East Road	27 November 2007	14 January 2008	30 May 2008
557	Ararua and Poyner Road	Closed	5 November 2007	Complete
558	Paparoa Area AWPT	7 May 2008	14 May 2008	October 2008
KDC RDF AWPT Projects 2007/08				
567	Pouto Road North (two separate sections)	13 December 2007	7 February 2008	7 May 2008
568	Pouto Road South (six separate sections)	13 December 2007	14 January 2008	October 2008
KDC Seal Extension Programme 2006/07				
521	Intersection sealing on Mt Wesley / Mahuta Rd and Aranga Coast/Waitapu Rd	Closed	28 June 2005	Complete
518	Intersection sealing on Paparoa-Oakleigh/Hook, Charity Hill/Lutrell & Redhill/Mahuta	Closed	28 June 2005	Complete
KDC Seal Extension Programme 2007/08				
565	Garbolino Road	14 February 2008	14 March 2008	30 May 2008
	Baldrock Road (R - fund)	30 May 2008	September 2008	November 2008
552	Golden Stair/Causer Road, Omana/Girls School, Paparoa Station Road Bridges	7 May 2008	September 2008	October 2008
	Oparakau Road RP 1570 & 2281 bridge approaches, Dunn/Rehia, Access/Greenhill & Access/Oparakau intersections sealing	6 December 2007	14 January 2008	30 May 2008
554	Paradise RP 6711, Kirikopuni Road RP 8225 bridge approaches, Omana/Pukehuia, Kirikopuni / Summerville & Hoyles/Waller intersections sealing	13 December 2007	14 January 2008	Complete
	Maropiu Settlement RP 1492 & Opanake Rd RP 10567 bridge approaches sealing	Closed	5 November 2007	Complete
	Horniblow RP 1132 bridge approach sealing	13 December 2007	14 January 2008	Complete
	Tokatoka RPs 6914, 11436, & 11869 bridge approaches and Ararua/Porter intersection sealing	13 December 2007	14 January 2008	Complete
KDC Bridge Replacement Programme 2006/07				
455	Cove Road bridge repair	Closed	28 June 2005	Complete
535	Paparoa-Oakleigh Rd Bridge 180	Closed	5 November 2007	30 May 2008
503	Wairere Road bridge 318	OnTrack Liaison		

Contract	Project Name	Tender Closes	Work Start	Work Finish
	Central Road bridge 47	OnTrack Liaison		
KDC Bridge Replacement Programme 2007/08				
	Omana Road bridge 158 replacement	OnTrack Liaison		
KDC Bridge Maintenance Programme 2007/08				
	Various	Invite	1 February 2008	30 May 2008
KDC Minor Safety Programme 2006/07				
546	Molesworth Drive safety footpath	EcoCare Liaison		
543	Insley (Tomarata) Rd footbridge	11 April 2008	28 May 2008	30 June 2008
548	Matakohe Museum entranceway	On Hold		
KDC Minor Safety Programme 2007/08				
563	Ruawai Safety Footpath and Cycleway	19 December 2007	7 January 2008	Complete
	Tomarata/Clarke Rd curve easing & slip repairs at Oruawharo Road	28 February 2008	March 2008	Complete
	Mangawhai Road Carter Road Curve Easing	On Hold		
522	Komoti Road Safety Footpath Protection	Resource Consent Required		30 June 2008
	School Bus Routes Unsealed Roads Widening	Invited	Commenced	30 May 2008
	Montgomery Avenue Traffic calming Devices	Invited	March 2008	30 May 2008
	Widen narrow crest and corners - Redhill & Te Maire Roads	Invited	Commenced	Complete
	Bridge guardrailing (7 bridges - to be advised)	March 2008	April 2008	30 June 2008
522	Sight benching of dangerous corners (Projects to be advised)	Ordered Work	March 2008	30 June 2008
	Streetlight improvement	Invited	April 2008	May 2008
KDC Reseals 2007/08				
549	Reseals 2007/08	Closed	3 December 2007	Complete
KDC Slip Repairs 2007/08				
	Omamari Road RP 940 (July 07 slip)	18 December 2007	7 January 2008	Complete
	Station Road Dargaville	Invited	February 2008	Complete
	Mangawhai Road RP 2690 (July 07 slip)	28 February 2008	Awaiting Funding	TBA
	Paparoa Oakleigh Road RP 1340 (July 07 slip)	28 February 2008	Awaiting Funding	TBA
	Paparoa Oakleigh Road RP 4870 (July 07 slip)	28 March 2008	Awaiting Funding	TBA
	Tinopai Road RP 7600 (Historical slip)	28 March 2008	Awaiting Funding	TBA

	Tinopai Road RP 7700 (Historical slip)	28 March 2008	Awaiting Funding	TBA
	Pebblebrook Road RP 100	28 March 2008	Awaiting Funding	TBA
KDC Unsubsidised Footpath 2006/07				
559	Moir Street between Domain and Village in conjunction with SW upgrade	15 March 2008	May 2008	August 2008
KDC Unsubsidised Footpath 2007/08				
	Portland Street - Beside Dargaville Primary School	13 December 2007	TBA	TBA
	Gibbons Road to Sports Complex	13 December 2007	7 January 2008	30 May 2008
	Ngatoto Road	13 December 2007	14 December 2007	Compete
KDC Unsubsidised Construction Programme 2006/07				
	Marine Drive	Invited	14 December 2008	30 May 2008
KDC Wastewater 2007/08				
528	Dargaville WWTP Consent Renewal/Upgrade	Closed	1 May 2007	Complete
	Maungaturoto WWTP Consent Renewal upgrade	28 May 2008	June 2008	February 2009
KDC Water 2006/07				
	Maungaturoto - Baldrock Dam Pipeline	Closed	TBA	TBA
KDC Stormwater Programme 2006/07				
559	Moir St stormwater improvement	28 February 2008	14 April 2008	August 08
	Ripiro Drive drain (Baylys Beach)	14 February 2008	TBA	TBA
	Edward Street (Day to Victoria St)	30 May 2008	June 2008	TBA
KDC Stormwater Programme 2007/08				
	Hokianga Road from Panorama Avenue to Cobham Avenue	Check Project Brief		
	Completion of stop banks at boat club	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Piping of open drains on Insley Street	July 2008	September 2008	December 2008
	Estuary Drive detention/treatment pond	On Hold		
	Coastal outfalls	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Piped outlet from Pohutukawa Place and Quail Drive to Molesworth Drive	On hold due to budget and annual plan submissions		

3 Roothing

All major contracts are progressing well with the majority completed. Baldrock Road Seal Extension project has been considered by the Regional Land Transport Committee and approved with the work ready for tender.

We are still awaiting Preventative Maintenance funding from Land Transport New Zealand for the slips caused by heavy rain in mid-2007.

The maintenance request for 2008/09 funding to Land Transport New Zealand will be made in mid-May and reported back to Council when confirmed. The request has been supported by Land Transport New Zealand's local office however the final allocation will be largely dependent on available funds at the national level.

3.1 Maintenance Contracts

<i>Network Condition</i>	Grading began in earnest as the rain commenced. The network has been in good condition with an improvement in all areas.
<i>Unsealed Pavements</i>	<p>The focus over the last month has been re-establishing cross-falls and establishing cut outs where these are required for drainage. Metalling has followed behind the grader where required.</p> <p>In a prelude to heavy metalling to re-establish the base on the Pouto Peninsular roads the Greenhill quarry has commenced crushing aggregate.</p> <p>Heavy metalling is programmed for Baylys Basin Road, Pukehuia Road and Porter Road.</p>
<i>Sealed Pavement</i>	<p>Sealed patching and pothole repairs are continuing.</p> <p>Seal patching on Mititai Road (Excluding 2008/09 AWPT section), Tokatoka Road and Marine Drive.</p>
<i>Drainage</i>	<p>Culvert replacements, repairs and clearing have commenced prior to winter including Bull Road.</p> <p>Piping of the drain next to Tatarariki Tennis Courts has commenced.</p> <p>A concerted effort on culvert and general roadside drainage is continuing with an emphasis on alleviation of known heavy rain problem areas with the view to minimise surface flooding. This will be completed in preparation for Winter.</p>
<i>Vegetation Control</i>	Vegetation clearing is continuing using the new side arm mower.
<i>Emergency Slip Repairs</i>	No significant work this month.
<i>Ordered Works</i>	Sight benching and school bus route improvement works is continuing with the most restrictive and possibly the most dangerous corners attended to including sections

of Hill Road, Linton Road and Porter Road.

Marine Drive new access will include stabilising and sealing in conjunction with other work in autumn.

A short section of Flood Protection has been completed on east side of Dargaville Boat Club.

Minor Safety Works; Hoyle Road sight benching will continue this month. Armco railing of selected bridges in both areas.

Minor bridge repairs being carried out as result of recent inspections.

Financial Total maintenance items are at 96.2% of budget. The contractor has programmed a busy end of year with heavy metalling, routine metalling, seal patching and culvert repairs/replacements programmed.

Performance The already good level of performance by the contractor has lifted in April with all areas in the Average to Proactive range.

Evaluation

3.2 Resealing Contract 2007/08

All resealing works were completed in February for the 2007/08 Financial Year.

3.3 Pavement Marking Contract

All works were completed for the 2007/08 Financial Year.

3.4 Signs Maintenance Contract

The contract commenced in April. Budget is currently constrained to maintenance of existing signs until the end to the financial year.

3.5 Seal Extensions

Works are well underway for both Intersection and Bridge Approach sealing. A further contract has been advertised to cover the early part of the 2008/09 year to allow completion of Intersection and Bridge Approach sealing well before Christmas 2008.

3.6 Regional Development Projects

The Regional Development Fund projects at Pouto Road North and Pouto Road South are underway. The Southern Pouto Road contract is likely to require suspension over winter to allow completion of the seal coat on the final sections.

3.7 R-Funded Projects

The contract for the initial section of Baldrock Road from State Highway 1 to Gibbons Road will be tendered during May for commencement in September 2008. The final stage of Baldrock Road is yet to receive Land Transport New Zealand funding approval. A decision is expected in late May.

3.8 Bridge Replacements

The Paparoa Oakleigh Bridge is now open to traffic with the approaches operational. The surfacing will be prepared for sealing but may need to be delayed for winter.

We are chasing OnTrack for comments regarding Wairere Road Bridge 318 following a joint site visit. These bridge replacements are programmed to progress in the 2008/09 financial year.

3.9 Minor Improvement (Minor Safety Works)

The Insley Street pedestrian bridge has been the subject of liaison with the school and community. The contract will be tendered in May.

3.10 Street Lighting

Work has commenced on the Street Lighting upgrade. Some additional sites have been added following discussion with the community during the Open Forums, these include Ruawai Wharf Road and Hokianga Road. A prioritisation process will be developed for 2008/09 financial year considering amenity, security and road safety issues.

3.11 Unsubsidised Roading Programme

Despite a change Contractors will complete the Gibbons Road footpath this month. The proposed footpath on Moir Street will be completed as part of the ongoing stormwater contract.

4 Wastewater and Water Supply

The contractor is now well established and has detailed work plans in place to ensure the completion of both maintenance and renewals items prior to the end of the 2007/08 financial year.

4.1 Water Supply

4.1.1 Public Health Risk Management Plans (PHRMPs)

PHRMPs have the purpose of identifying health risks to water supplies and look to develop methods of reducing risks or ensuring that contingency plans are in place to protect the public if an adverse event was to occur. These have been used to develop the upgrade proposals in the Draft Annual Plan. These upgrade plans could receive significant subsidy should the Annual Plan confirm these programmes.

PHRMP's for Dargaville and Maungaturoto have now been resubmitted to MOH for final approval.

PHRMPs for Glinks Gully and Ruawai are now being used to finalise applications for funding assistance with investigations and capital works. The Capital Assistance Programme (CAPs) applications will be applied for in September, with a potential 90-95% funding availability for water treatment plant upgrades, which is based on Kaipara's high decile ratings.

4.1.2 Maungaturoto Water Supply

The raw water tank is now operating at 100% water level. Condition and capacity assessments are ongoing with control systems completed in preparation for the Asset Management Plan review later in the year.

The demand model previously developed is now being used to develop a pipe-work model for the scheme. This will allow the development of future scenarios and assessment of future needs. This modelling will be completed in the current financial year.

The pipe and valve renewals have been programmed. Two lengths of the raw water pipeline have been replaced on the Transit New Zealand Wairau S project at Transit's cost.

The length alongside the eastern most section of State Highway 12 will be completed in May, this will be at Council's cost.

Additional water meter readings have commenced in April to assess the location of water loses.

4.1.3 Ruawai Water Supply

An information pack has been prepared to send Ruawai ratepayers to update options and in particular the potential rating impact of those options.

Following the approval of the PHRMP for Ruawai, Council's Engineers are developing a preliminary design to accompany the funding application to Ministry of Health.

The reticulation renewals which included replacement of AC pipe have been completed.

4.1.4 Dargaville Water Supply

The supply security of the Baylys Beach has been investigated. This involved modelling the Dargaville to Baylys Beach pipeline and the reservoir system along with developing a model for the future population of Baylys. This indicates that a pipeline upgrade will be favoured over the reservoir upgrade. A portion of the renewal could be programmed for the next financial year with the full impact costed into the 2009/19 Long Term Council Community Plan.

There is now sufficient water for Dargaville water following a period of moderate rain. Testing results have been returned for the Rotu source. This has indicated that the source meets the required Drinking Water Source Standards and will be able to be treated at the Water Treatment Plant. Consultation has been undertaken regarding possible other sources.

Renewals work involving the maintenance of culverts and bridges on the raw water pipeline has commenced in April and will progress through to the end of the financial year.

The water loss programme has commenced with leak detection progressing.

Capacity assessments have been made of critical control systems with a remedial action plan developed. This will see some upgrade work undertaken over the last months of this financial year. Most extensive works will be deferred until the next financial year.

Treatment upgrades involving instrumentation and monitoring equipment have been progressing at the treatment plants and will continue through to the end of the year. These

measures have focused on upgrading plant equipment to ensure more reliable treatment in terms of the new Drinking Water Standards.

4.1.5 Glinks Gully Water Supply

A contract for the upgrade of the system to supply current quantities but at higher quality standards to reflect the changes to the Drinking Water Standards has been prepared based around preliminary quotations. This will be tendered in May.

Investigations are continuing into development of a third water source option.

4.1.6 Mangawhai Water Supply

Consent for the Mangawhai water supply has been issued. The consent is subject to conditions, including the monitoring of water quantities. The new consent is valid until November 2025.

4.2 New Water Supply Investigations

Scoping documents have been drafted for investigations for a new scheme for Kaiwaka. The proposal to include Mangawhai is being reconsidered.

4.3 Wastewater

4.3.1 Mangawhai - Wood Street Wastewater

Ongoing monitoring of this system is being undertaken to ensure that changes to the treatment process are working. Options for the future of the treatment plant are being considered, given that the area serviced by the plant will be connected to EcoCare.

4.3.2 Maungaturoto Wastewater System

The change from a Rock Filter to Membrane Filtration has reduced the land area required for the immediate needs of the Maungaturoto Wastewater Treatment Plant. An assessment of current and future operational needs indicate that the purchase of the Department of Conservation Land would be prudent.

A total of seven Expressions of Interest were received as a result of pre-tender advertising. A pre-screening analysis has been undertaken to assess the various suppliers. The tender documents have been assessed against the latest draft consent conditions made available by the Regional Council to ensure consistency and have now been issued to those suppliers who have expressed an interest. Overall the tender process is currently on track.

Electricity requirements for the new Membrane Filtration plant have been estimated and the most efficient and effective means of providing that electricity is being worked through with Northpower. This assessment includes whether or not the existing electricity supply line can be utilised, or whether a new line and easement is needed from Bickerstaffe Road.

4.3.3 Dargaville Wastewater Plant Upgrade

The Dargaville Wastewater Plant Upgrade appears to be working well. There is some vegetation in the retention pond. This is not expected to impact on the treatment process and will be removed as part of the desludging operation that is planned for the 2008/09 summer, subject to Regional Council Consents.

A Consent application for desludging is expected to be lodged with the Regional Council by the end of May 2008. This should provide ample time to secure the consent prior to summer desludging. It should be noted that desludging during the summer period improves the efficiency of dewatering the sludge.

4.3.4 Glinks Gully

The reticulation renewals including pipe replacements are underway.

4.3.5 Te Kopuru

Monitoring indicates that the plant is operating in terms of its consent.

4.3.6 Kaiwaka Wastewater Consent Renewal

A consent application is currently being drafted, along with technical information. It is anticipated that the application will be lodged with the Northland Regional Council in mid-June 2008.

4.3.7 Pahi Reserve Wastewater Consent

The Consent for the effluent field has been successfully renewed.

4.3.8 Tinopai Camping Ground Consent Renewal

The Consent has been successfully renewed.

4.3.9 Glinks Gully Sewer Extension

Investigations have identified that the extension of the scheme will require a much expanded disposal area. This will require significant changes to the consent. This questions whether the extension can proceed. Accordingly a report will be prepared for the June Council meeting detailing the need for the extension along with the costs and benefits of options.

5 Stormwater

5.1 Dargaville

Work has been undertaken to the east of the Boating Club to close the remaining gaps in the floodwall. Discussion with the community on how to close the final gap at the boat ramp is ongoing.

The Hokianga Road (Cobham – Panorama) Improvements has now been put on hold.

Tenders for the Edward Street Improvements will be called in May.

5.2 Mangawhai

Liaison is ongoing with EcoCare regarding all stormwater projects in the Mangawhai area.

The Moir Street contract for piping the drains past the Domain has been awarded. This will be followed by the construction of the footpath above the stormwater drains. The footpath extends from the existing footpath through to the Domain.

The Insley Street works have been programmed for next financial year with commencement programmed for September 2008. This is subject to approval of the 2008/09 Annual Plan.

An options report Cullen Street/Taranui Place has been approved and submitted to EcoCare for pricing. This has led to agreement from land owners to allow the progress of EcoCare works.

The Design of the Pohutukawa Place Overland Flowpath has commenced with no work planned for this year.

5.3 Baylys Beach

The contract for the programmed works at Ripiro Drive has closed. Unfortunately, whilst the lowest price is a competitive price it exceeds the available budget. The scope of work will be reduced to suit the budget.

6 Refuse

6.1 Hakaru Refuse Transfer Facility

The interim landfill capping construction has commenced. This includes re-contouring the land surrounding the landfill to divert stormwater away from the landfill and to reduce instability of the old quarry face. This work will be staged over two construction seasons to allow settlement of the clay fill over the old landfill.

The development of a post-closure plan will now proceed with design of the final landform and final leachate treatment proceeding.

6.2 Awakino Landfill/Transfer Station

An interim contract has been prepared to allow Kaurilands to operate the site until a Council owned site can be identified in Dargaville. This would allow sufficient time for the establishment of a Council owned transfer station site in line with the Council Resolution from the March meeting after which Council would re-tender a modified version of the Hakaru Transfer Facility contract document.

7 Land Drainage

7.1 Hoanga Drainage District

Three new floodgates are to be installed in the Hoanga ring drain system this month. The ring drain is to be machine cleaned in the areas the floodgates have been leaking and the balance of the ring drain is to be sprayed.

7.2 Awakino Point District

An application has been made to Northland Regional Council for resource consent to install a new floodgate in the Awakino Point District. The floodgate is to be repositioned closer to the river to reduce outlet cleaning. Newman Engineering Limited is to construct the floodgate.

7.3 Raupo Drainage District

Crompton Engineering have completed the pre-winter maintenance of the floodgates with a final inspection due now. Maintenance spalling of the stop bank is still to be done subject to weather. Machine cleaning of G Canal is to be done when the long reach digger is available. The Wallace Road pump shed has been made bird proof and McKay Electrical have checked the pump over for the season. Crompton Engineering are to submit a price for an auxiliary power take off system for the pump in the event an extended power failure. There has been some slipping on the Tramline Road drain, which will require cleaning and a section of piling and breast work to prevent further problems.

8 Community Facilities

8.1 RSA Memorial Entranceway Mount Wesley Cemetery

The new entranceway to Dargaville's Mount Wesley Cemetery has been formally opened at the annual Anzac Day dawn ceremony held at Mount Wesley Cemetery. The new entranceway adds to the very well maintained and formal look of the Cemetery and enhances its reputation as one of the best RSA cemeteries in New Zealand.

8.2 Upgrading Well Underway

The upgrade work is well underway on Council's social housing units in Awakino Road. The first block of five units has now been completed with residents back in them and comments ranging from "being overwhelmed" to "totally amazed" with the improvements. Outside plugs for their mobility scooters have also been a highlight for the residents making it easier for them to ensure their scooters are always fully charged and ready to go. Extractor fans in all the units ensure the units are warmer and no longer damp.

A visit from Regional Manager Rick Borastan of Housing New Zealand and delegates was held in April to see first hand the progress on the project. He was delighted with the partnership between Council and Housing New Zealand which ensures an increased standard and level of social housing in the Kaipara

Insulation Options

Discussions are underway with Eco Insulations Limited to enter into a contract with the Council to insulate Councils 24 units at Fagan Place Mangawhai and its 12 units in Bledisloe Street Ruawai. The cost of this 100% wool insulation will be undertaken from within the existing rentals collected and will ensure warmer units for the residents while helping to reduce overall heating costs.

8.3 Community Halls

All Council hall committees that require funds from the Council grant have their wish lists in with Council Commercial Manager.

The Matakohe Hall hand over is moving forward and getting closer to finalisation with the advertising for the change in the status of the land from recreational to local purpose reserve being in the newspapers last week, we are now waiting the required month for any submissions that may come from the public regarding this change.

Documentation for the handover of the Kaiwaka Hall has been sent to the lawyers, to kick start the handover process with this committee which should be more straightforward than many of the others as the land is in freehold, fee simple.

9 Recreation

9.1 Soccer Is All Go

The Northern Wairoa Soccer Club has had its club house building moved down to Memorial Park in readiness for its permanent shift to the park and is now working towards getting it hooked up to water, power and sewage services. The Club is currently working on getting the fields ready for the upcoming junior soccer season in May.

9.2 Taharoa Domain

A site visit was held at Taharoa Domain (Kai Iwi Lakes) with members of the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee and representatives from Department of Conservation, Northland Regional Council and Northland Fish and Game. This was a great opportunity for a first hand look at some of the major issues at the Domain and for some healthy discussion with the representatives on these matters. The Governance Committee is very keen to work with these agencies along with other groups who have an interest in the domain for the benefit of these lakes' health and the future of the lakes and its surrounds. Issues looked at during the morning were: weeds, launching sites, toilets, fencing, removal of pine trees, aquatic weeds and water quality.

9.3 Biodiversity Fund:

Applications for funding from the Council's Biodiversity Fund are down this year with only six applications received seeking a total amount of \$13,140. The Fund was extensively promoted and advertised this year, with more application forms being picked up than normal and being well promoted at the Dargaville Field Days site. It is unclear as to why there has been a drop in numbers.

Site visits on applications are now underway and will be finished by the end of May with a recommendation for funding then going to Council for final approval. Most applications received this year have been in the South Eastern area of the district with two received from Mangawhai, two in the Oneriri area with the others being from Glinks Gully and Pouto.

9.4 Waiatua Dam Grazing

The grazing lease over the old Jenson Farm which was purchased to construct the water supply dam on Opanake Road, Dargaville has now expired. Most of this land has now been planted in pine trees with the remaining areas forming the area to be advertised for expressions of interest to graze long term.

9.5 Kopuru Leases

Work has started on the renewal of the Kopuru Leases. These leases cover Council administered land in the Glinks Gully / Parawanui coastal area and are grazing leases that are due to expire this year. Revaluations are under way on the properties concerned and letters have gone out to all parties concerned regarding the process on renewing these leases.

10 Planning and Reporting

10.1 District Plan Review

April has been a busy month for District Plan review workshops, with four having been undertaken. These have provided staff and consultants with direction to proceed with earnest to draft chapters of the District Plan. An agenda item on this month's Council meeting sets out the direction given, so that Council can confirm, there by giving staff and consultants confidence to proceed with the drafting. Also on this month's meeting agenda is the revised workshop schedule for the review of the District Plan. Once confirmed by Council, this schedule will be publicly notified, including workshop venues, so that members of the public can attend, should they choose.

A hui with the Taumata Council of Te Uri o Hau will also have been undertaken by time this report is read. To be held at the Maungaturoto Country Club on Thursday 15 May, Councillors and staff will share with the Taumata Council progress to date with the review, and listen to concerns or issues.

10.2 Business Plan 2008/09

Preparation for the 2008/09 Business Plan has started. This follows on from the adoption of the Annual Plan. Managers are now updating the project plans for their teams and co-ordinating overlapping resource requirements and tight spots. The 2008/09 Business Plan will be presented to the 25 June 2008 Council meeting for adoption.

10.3 Vehicles on Beaches

The topic for discussion in the workshop slot before Council's May meeting is vehicles on beaches within Kaipara and Northland. Attending will be staff from Northland Regional Council. Invites to also attend in this workshop have been extended to the Dargaville Police and the Department of Conservation, as other parties participating in finding a solution to this problem. Their attendance is yet to be confirmed. All parties are aware of the Chief Executive's comments in his April report to Council, regarding the involvement of communities in the identification of solutions to driver behaviour on beaches.

11 Development

11.1 Residential Buildings

Just recently Statistics New Zealand released the March statistics for building, which show a significant overall drop in the number of building consents for residential dwellings nationwide.

Excluding apartments there were 562 (27%) fewer dwellings authorised, compared with March 2007. There is some speculation that this could be partly due to Easter falling in March this year, instead of April as it did last year. In fact the nationwide figure has been decreasing since last June.

For the twelve months ended March 2008, the number of authorised new dwellings fell 4.9% compared with the previous March year. It should be noted that while most regions recorded decreases, a few recorded increases.

For Northland including Kaipara there was 81 new residential buildings consented in March 2008 compared with 105 the year before – a drop of 22.9%. The Kaipara contribution to this figure was 17 new dwellings in March last year against 18 this year, which is a small increase.

On the basis of this snapshot for March, it appears that Kaipara has yet to join the nationwide trend, given that most of its building work is residential in nature. It is dangerous to read too much into small numbers measured over a short time period. It will be interesting to revisit this information in a few months.

11.2 Building Accreditation

It was reported to the last Council meeting that the assessment visit in March had been a great success, and that the next step was to attend to the seven Corrective Action Requests (CARs) arising from that assessment. This was expected to take until about the end of April to address. It can now be confirmed that the Building team attended to the last of these items, and the accreditation body (IANZ) has now cleared six of the seven items. This is a great achievement. There has been excellent liaison between Council staff and IANZ representatives so it is reasonable to expect that the process from here on will be straightforward. It is interesting to note that at 5 May 2008, still only 26 Councils had achieved registration. Neither of the other Northland district councils are yet registered.

This extra effort by the building team in attending to the CARs has not come without a cost, as can be seen in the processing statistics for April - while it was possible to issue a few more consents than the previous month, the compliance with timeframes was way down, to 39%. On the other hand, compliance with timeframes for issuing code compliance certificates - the final signoff on building projects - was well up. This is a reflection of improved record keeping rather than a sudden change in emphasis away from processing applications.

The new systems and processes are indeed more time consuming than the previous, less formalised way of operating, and there is not enough permanent staff resource to cover training, annual leave and sick leave entitlements for the Building team as it stands. We have managed up until now with assistance from temporary and casual staff but now a more long term solution has been put in place by appointing an additional building team member who will have supervisory responsibilities. He will

take up his duties in June. This extra staff member was contemplated in preparing the schedule of building consent fees for 2008/09. With this additional very experienced person on board it will be possible to improve the quality and convenience of our systems and processes both for our staff and for our customers on an ongoing basis.

12 Community Development

12.1 Community Employment Officer

In October 2007 Council appointed Glenis Walkinshaw as our Community Employment Officer. This was a new position funded by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), which focuses on people who are dependant on benefits for a variety of reasons including disability or illness and assists them to participate in the community. Participation in cases has ranged from fulltime employment through to being involved in a community organisation and has been tailored to the capabilities and needs of the clients.

Glenis has far exceeded all expectations with the number of placement in employment as a testimony to both the value of this project and the benefit of Ms Walkinshaw's experience and contacts.

13 Finance

During April the major points of interest were:

- Hosting the Regional Rating Forum meeting on 4 April. This is a useful half-yearly meeting to achieve cohesion between the three Territorial Local Authorities, and the Regional Council, in respect of the levying and collection of Regional Council rates by the Territorial Local Authorities.
- Forward planning for the 2009/19 *Kaipara's Future - Working Together* was progressed with vigour including a production session with Audit New Zealand.
- Councillors Smith and Sutherland, together with the Finance Manager, met with the Chairpersons and Committee Members of both Mangawhai Bowls Incorporated and Mangawhai Club Incorporated on 15 April. It was a just a standard review of the Clubs' financial positions in relation to the \$100,000 Council bank loan guarantee.
- The three-yearly revaluation of our District is due again in 2008. Finance staff will be working closely with Quotable Value Limited, who is responsible to the Valuer-General for an accurate and timely revaluation. The results are audited.

Key dates are as follows:

Effective Date of Valuation	1 September 2008
Date of Public Notice	19 November 2008
Approximate Date Owners Notices Posted	26 November 2008
Objection Close Date	9 January 2009.

14 Emergency Management

A varied and busy month for the emergency services in Kaipara during April.

After the severe weather experienced at the end of April crews attended:

- 6 vegetation fires, all except one was minor and controlled by a single crew. None of the fires required permits with 5 under the control of the landowner.
- 1 tractor fire
- 1 house fire at Kaiwaka, causing minor damage
- 4 vehicle crashes involving trapped and/or seriously injured occupants and
- 1 Ambulance assist where the ambulance was only single manned.

Two severe weather systems passed through Northland, the first mid April, dumped significant amounts of rain causing surface flooding and minor slips, and the second at the end of April with a lesser amount.

Temperatures were moderate to high with the fire danger reaching its peak for the year on Saturday 12 April immediately prior to the storm.

It is significant that this fire season, which included long periods of fine weather, Council has not needed to impose any fire restrictions other than the year round 1 kilometre fire safety margin around commercial forests.

15 Leave

Chief Executive, Jack McKerchar away until 13 June 2008.

Part One – Activities Report

b) Looking Forward

- | | | |
|---|---------|---|
| 1 | 4 June | Special Council Meeting to adopt Annual Plan |
| 2 | 18 June | Workshop - District Plan: Landscape, Ecology and Designations |
| 3 | 25 June | Council Meeting |