

Chief Executive's Report: September 2008

Introduction

This month there are two parts to the report

Part One Activities Report

- (a) Summary of Activity
- (b) Looking Forward

Part Two Organisational Monitoring

- (a) Dashboard
- (b) Assets Contract Acceptances

Part One: Activities Report

a) Summary of Activity

1 General

1.1 Once In A Life Time

It is only once in a life time that one can celebrate a century of birthdays and this is about to happen to Dargaville. Dargaville as a Borough turns 100 years old this year.

Planning is well underway and set in stone for the upcoming 100 year birthday celebration of the Dargaville Borough. My how times have changed!

A number of formal and informal community and sports events are planned over three days in September from Friday 26 to Sunday 28, starting with a Market Day and trolley derby relay on the Friday and finishing with a Variety Show of Kaipara talent on Sunday afternoon. In between sees the home coming of local boy Mark Williams, lead singer with the iconic kiwi band Dragon on Friday night followed by the Centennial Ball in Dargaville's Memorial Town Hall on Saturday night. The organisation of this has kept Council's Community Facilitator busy with the multitude of different planned events and people wanting to be involved somehow in the event. What a great way to celebrate 100 years of the Dargaville township, its community and its future.

1.2 SOLGM Annual Conference

The theme for this year's conference was community wellbeing and the programme included a number of highly respected speakers from both New Zealand and overseas including Kim Hill and Paul Keating. The conference being held in Northland this year meant an opportunity to send more Council staff than usual to this worthwhile professional development opportunity. Four Managers and two staff attended, one staff member was sponsored by the northern branch of SOLGM.

Through extensive sponsorship this conference provided an opportunity for professional development at a fraction of the normal cost.

It brings together a range of speakers from New Zealand and overseas and is attended by senior managers from throughout New Zealand. The programme also includes presentation on successful projects undertaken by New Zealand Council, followed by workshops where there is opportunity to ask questions and explore the detail. This year's topics were as wide ranging as *Zero Tolerance for Violence* to *Working Together for Healthy Streams and Strong Communities*. All who attended reported this as being a valuable learning and networking experience.

1.3 Colourful Lunch for Recycling in Kaipara

Tee shirts bearing the 'Ready...Set...Recycle' message, balloons, children's posters and recycling information provided a colourful launch for official kerbside recycling in Kaipara at the Mangawhai Markets on 30 August 2008. Representatives from Kaipara District Council and Kaipara Refuse Limited joined with

locals and visitors to mark the new fortnightly service which will collect pre-paid blue bags in Dargaville and Mangawhai streets and along the highway in between.

A highlight was the presentation of cheques for \$500.00 to representatives from St Josephs and Matakoho Schools, acknowledging their efforts in the recycling poster competition.

Prepaid blue recycling bags are currently being delivered to outlets selling Kaipara Refuse's official blue rubbish bags.

The blue bag collection operates between Ruawai and Mangawhai every second Monday, starting on 8 September 2008 and in Dargaville every second Thursday from 11 September 2008.

1.4 Kaipara Kowhai

This month site visits were undertaken to completed biodiversity projects approved this year through Council's Biodiversity Fund.

A site visit to a completed planting programme at Takahoa Bay on the Oneriri Peninsular brought home the importance of the Kaipara Harbour in ensuring the survival and restoration of the harbours coastal forest remnants. This site was an outstanding display of Kowhai in flower and it was noted that many of these Kowhai are of some considerable age. The Takahoa Bay Group are undertaking pest control on the coastal bush areas to control possums along with an enhancement planting programme to extend the existing bush areas and to provide more food sources for native species. These remnant pieces, which are on steep areas of cliff face or gullies and cut off to past land development, have survived and provided a much needed food source and habitat to native birds. Indications from locals were that they were in bloom earlier than previous years, a sign of the past winter and summer ahead. It was also pointed out that organised boat trips used to be held on the harbour and planned around the flowering of the Kowhai, which does not seem to happen anymore, with many believing the Kaipara Harbour has the best display of Kowhai in New Zealand.

1.5 Mangawhai Head/Surf Beach Re-development

The re-development work at the Mangawhai Heads Reserve and surf beach is poised to get underway. Those heading into Mangawhai will have (hopefully) noticed the signage advising that there will be no parking available at the Heads from approximately mid September until 15 December 2008.

Tenders for the re-development works closed earlier this month, those tenders received are being evaluated and the preferred tenderer will be advised and hopefully on site by the time this Council meets for its September meeting.

The Council has a Mangawhai Surf Beach dedicated webpage on its website which will be updated regularly so the latest information is always available.

1.6 Mangawhai EcoCare Update

Construction of the wastewater scheme has now been underway for 8 months. Progress with sewer reticulation in August has been steady with half of the sewers now completed and survey for as-built drawings progressing. Nine of the eleven pump stations are now at various stages of completion.

The earthworks for the treatment plant site were completed in late August and a period of pre-load has followed to ensure the newly level site is stabilised. Initial settlement readings indicate that civil construction works can proceed next month. Final geotechnical testing of the preferred dam site on Council's Brown Road is being carried out this week. Construction of a dam at this site will likely reduce construction costs compared to the original consented location. Low pressure grinder pumps have arrived and information about these can be posted to residents and ratepayers on request. Design of private drainage works is proceeding through the village. We have started requesting permission from individual property owners to carry out private drainage works including grinder pump installation. Response has been extremely positive. In conjunction with the design work, any areas of concern with existing on-site systems are being highlighted to ratepayers and/or Council's Development Team.

Reinstatement of sewerage areas is ongoing and once Earth Tech is satisfied with the level of reinstatement then landowner sign-off will be sought. The wet winter has delayed some areas of reinstatement however with the improved spring weather the situation will improve. Feedback from community is mixed, with some minor complaints generally relating to delays with reinstatement however there have also some positive comments.

Earth Tech's present advice is that the current scope of works will be completed by August 2009 with initial areas having wastewater services by April 2009. The scope of work is progressively being expanded to encompass subdivisions and areas that have built up since the initial reticulation scope was determined. The timing of these additional works will follow the initial areas.

Modifications:

At this time, we have agreed Modifications with Earth Tech totalling \$516,000. These Modifications cover:

- Design of all house drainage works (this involves the employment of a plumber/house drain designer by Earth Tech for approximately 12 months)
- Design of additional sewerage to connect areas developed in the last six years plus those existing areas that are now less remote due to development

Please note that these Modifications cover investigation and design costs, consent variations, geotechnical and survey costs only. Once this has been completed we will be requesting firm pricing for the agreed additional scope.

The relocated treatment plant Modification will involve a time and cost claim as per the Contract.

Status:

Of the 1,450 properties formally notified of intent to enter private property to construct the sewerage scheme, twelve objections were received. All but two are effectively resolved.

The Project Team aim to reduce costs by further investigating potential dam sites on the farm. Final decision will be made by September 2008 to allow design and construction of the dam and pipeline over the following summer.

1.7 Slip Repairs

The July storms have had a significant impact on our road network. It resulted in 78 slips across the district. These slips have now all had a first assessment and the total damage is estimated to be \$4.43 million. An application to the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) for Emergency Reinstatement Funding has been lodged this month. The funding assistance rate (FAR) for this work has been calculated at 88%. Council will be required to provide 12% local share. The local share in the Annual Plan is calculated at 40%. Therefore, there is currently enough local share available to undertake the work submitted to NZTA for funding. However, if the value of the emergency works change, the FAR and local share requirements will need to be re-calculated.

2 Contracts

Contract	Project Name	Tender Closes	Work Start	Work Finish
KDC AWPT Projects 2007/08				
558	Paparoa Area AWPT	7 May 2008	14 May 2008	October 2008
KDC RDF AWPT Projects 2007/08				
568	Pouto Road South (six separate sections)	13 December 2007	14 January 2008	30 October 2008
KDC Seal Extension Programme 2007/08				
565	Garbolino Road	14 February 2008	14 March 2008	30 October 2008
	Balrock Road (R - fund)	September 2008	October 2008	February 2008
552	Golden Stair/Causer Road, Omana/Girls School, Paparoa Station Road Bridges	7 May 2008	September 2008	30 October 2008
553	Oparakau Road RP 1570 & 2281 bridge approaches, Dunn/Rehia, Access/Greenhill & Access/Oparakau intersections sealing	6 December 2007	14 January 2008	30 October 2008
KDC Bridge Replacement Programme 2006/07				
503	Wairere Road bridge 318	OnTrack Liaison		
	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	Ongoing
KDC Minor Safety Programme 2006/07				
546	Molesworth Drive safety footpath	EcoCare Liaison		
543	Insley (Tomorata) Road footbridge	13 June 2008	Further funding required	September 2008
548	Matakohe Museum entranceway	In Design		
KDC Minor Safety Programme 2007/08				
	Mangawhai Road Carter Road Curve Easing	On Hold		

Contract	Project Name	Tender Closes	Work Start	Work Finish
522	Komiti Road Safety Footpath Protection	Invited	September 2008	September 2008
	Montgomery Avenue Traffic calming Devices	Invited	Invited	September 2008
	Streetlight improvement (programme extended)	Invited	April 2008	September 2008
KDC Reseals 2007/08				
	Reseals 2008/09	October 2008	Jan 2009	March 2009
KDC Slip Repairs 2007/08				
	Mangawhai Road RP 2690 (July 07 slip)	Funding Approved	TBA	TBA
	Paparoa Oakleigh Road RP 1340 (July 07 slip)	Funding Approved	TBA	TBA
	Paparoa Oakleigh Road RP 4870 (July 07 slip)	Funding Approved	TBA	TBA
	Tinopai Road RP 7600 (Historical slip)	Funding Approved	TBA	TBA
	Tinopai Road RP 7700 (Historical slip)	Funding Approved	TBA	TBA
	Pebblebrook Road RP 100	Funding Approved	TBA	TBA
KDC Unsubsidised Footpath 2006/07				
559	Moir Street between Domain and Village in conjunction with SW upgrade	15 March 2008	May 2008	October 2008
KDC Unsubsidised Footpath 2007/08				
	Portland Street - Beside Dargaville Primary School	New Project 08/09		
KDC Unsubsidised Construction Programme 08/09				
	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
KDC Wastewater 07/08				
	Maungaturoto WWTP Consent Renewal upgrade	Closed	September 2008	February 2009
KDC Water 06/07				
	Maungaturoto - Baldrick Dam Pipeline	Closed	TBA	TBA
KDC Stormwater Programme 06/07				
559	Moir St Stormwater improvement	28 February 2008	September 2008	November 2008
	Ripiro Drive drain (Baylys Beach)	14 February 2008	September 2008	November 2008
	Edward Street (Day to Victoria Street)	30 June 2008	September 2008	November 2008
KDC Stormwater Programme 07/08				
	Hokianga Road from Panorama Avenue to Cobham Avenue	Deleted		
	Completion of stop banks at boat club	Invited	May 2008	Review Solution
	Piping of open drains on Insley Street	September 2008	October 2008	December 2008

Contract	Project Name	Tender Closes	Work Start	Work Finish
	Estuary Drive detention/treatment pond	On Hold		
	Coastal outfalls	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Piped outlet from Pohutukawa Place and Quail Drive to Molesworth Drive	Design 2008	TBA	TBA

3 Roothing

This wet winter has required that we change some of our maintenance methodologies and apply the following roading strategy.

Sealed Roads - There are many potholes appearing in sealed roads because of the saturated pavement conditions. These are being filled regularly but this is often only a temporary solution. Transfield plans to carry out extensive lime stabilised patching of failed sealed areas as soon as weather permits, with priority on roads to be resealed this summer.

Unsealed Roads – Due to wet conditions, only light grading and pothole patching are holding the roads at present. When the roads start to dry out, two graders in each area will pull in metal from roadsides, reshape the crossfall for summer, and grader clear water tables where possible. Potholing crews will be freed up for other work.

Drainage - Excavators are fully engaged on slips and blown culverts. Labour crews are working full time on pothole patching. When available, an excavator in each area will work full time water tabling and extending culverts. Labour crews will be available three days/week to clear culverts and minor blockages in water tables as part of their routine work.

Vegetation - Weeds are mainly dormant at this time of year. The weed spraying subcontractor is ready to carry out his first cycle in October to catch the spring flush growth. Special attention will be given to roads to be resealed this summer.

Unsealed Roads Lime Stabilisation - Transfield and Council staff are preparing lists of road sections to be treated when the weather warms up.

With the 2008/09 Works Programme, approved at the August Council meeting, investigation and design work is well underway with the roading programme. Some Pavement Rehabilitation (AWPT) contracts were prepared earlier and are out for tender. This should ensure that Council receives good prices for this work.

We have received confirmation of funding on the majority of the Capital Works Programme from the New Zealand Transport Agency. There are some Seal Extensions Projects that require further information prior to final funding approval.

The Regional Development Fund Steering Committee is meeting this month to determine the priority listing for Northland. The length of work originally proposed is likely to be less than originally expected as projects have been prioritised between the East Coast Region (Tai Rawhiti) and Northland. This has no rating impact as these works are 100% funded by New Zealand Transport Agency.

3.1 Maintenance Contracts

<i>Network Condition</i>	The wet weather seems to be easing slightly but the network is still saturated as the cumulative result of a number of adverse weather events. To date it is holding up well, with no roads reported closed due to a lack of routine maintenance.
<i>Unsealed Pavements</i>	The graders have been working district wide clearing minor slips and reshaping the pavements where minor slumps have occurred, this work appears to be easing and maintaining these slips is slowly allowing the graders to move back into their general maintenance cycle. We are also metalling bare areas, soft spots and minor slumps as they are reported and found by inspections.
<i>Sealed Pavement</i>	Our sealed pavements, especially the older pavements are more susceptible to breakdown of the surface at this time of the year. To address this maintenance crews are out constantly patching sealed and unsealed potholes.
<i>Drainage</i>	As the work of making safe the numerous slips in the area slows down crews are able to return the water tabling, culvert replacements, and repairs programme.
<i>Vegetation Control</i>	Mowing and envelope clearing continue, branches and trees brought down by the storms are mostly cleared and any remaining will be cleared as the crews continue with routine maintenance.
<i>Emergency Slip Repairs</i>	Although the ground is still waterlogged, many of the slips and slumps have started to settle but it will be a while yet before we can be confident enough to place a more permanent surface over them. All of this years active slips to date and a number of historic land movements have been revaluated with a view to seek funding from New Zealand Transport Agency, enabling us to affect a permanent repair or divert roads way from unstable areas.
<i>Ordered Works</i>	Bridge repairs are continuing. This is a specialised area and it has been necessary to engage additional resource with bridge specific skills to assist with the process.
<i>Financial</i>	Due to the extra work associated with the emergency slip repair work we are over budget by 13%. This is to be expected and a levelling off over the drier months will see the budget back on track.
<i>Performance Evaluation</i>	Performance has continued to improve in August with all areas moving higher up the Average to Proactive range.

3.2 Resealing Contract 2008/09

The final lengths for the 2008/09 Reseal contract have been identified with the contract ready for release this month subject to a review of the term and style of the contract.

3.3 Pavement Marking Contract

The new contract will be developed for release in the new calendar year.

3.4 Signs Maintenance Contract

The contractor is making good progress re-establishing signs blown over in the gale force winds.

3.5 Seal Extensions

All ongoing contracts have been suspended over winter.

3.6 Regional Development Projects

The Southern Pouto Road contract is now scheduled to recommence in October given recent heavy rain. A funding request has been submitted for the replacement of the Mosquito Gully Culvert with a two lane structure. A decision is expected this month.

3.7 R-Funded Projects

The contract for the initial section of Baldrock Road from State Highway 1 to Gibbons Road is currently out to tender with commencement expected in October. The final stage of Baldrock Road is yet to receive New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) funding approval. Design is well advanced for the final stage of this project.

3.8 Bridge Replacements

We have approval from OnTrack for the design of Wairere Bridge. This contract was tendered previously and we have a preferred tenderer. Discussions have commenced regarding contract terms due to the delayed award. The OnTrack approval will allow finalisation of the Central Road and Omana Road Bridges, these being similar in design to the Wairere Road Bridge. These bridges require OnTrack approval as they are over railway lines.

3.9 Minor Improvement (Minor Safety Works)

The Insley Street pedestrian bridge is currently being tendered as part of the Insley Street upgrade project that includes stormwater, pavement rehabilitation and safety footpaths. This contract is currently out to tender. Discussions will be had with the school prior to the commencement of the work.

3.10 Street Lighting

The programmed Street Lighting upgrade is now complete. However, there are additional isolated sites and these will be completed this month. A further programme of work will be let in early 2009 in response to the 2008/09 Annual Plan process.

3.11 Unsubsidised Roading Programme

The proposed footpath on Moir Street will be completed as part of the ongoing stormwater contract which will commence this month.

4 Water Supply and Wastewater

4.1 Water and Wastewater Operations Contract

Downer EdiWorks is now into the eighth month of contract 527 Water Supply and Wastewater Operations 2007-2010. The contract started on 1 February 2008 and is continued to be overseen by Garson Bell of Resolve Group as Engineer to the Contract who is monitoring the management of the contract on a month by month basis.

Maungaturoto Water Supply Major problems were encountered due to breaks on the water main on State Highway 12. Potentially caused by a combination of water saturated ground, traffic weight and old pipes. After the water main was excavated, operators discovered a fracture on the pipeline. After the initial repairs were carried out and water reinstated, the main started leaking on another section of the pipe. Hence, the process of re excavating the sealed road, shut down supply, repair pipe, reinstate water and bleed the lines had to be repeated. This continued on several occasions which further delayed reinstatement of the water supply to the community. The total length of pipe eventually replaced was 8 metres and water supply was eventually fully reinstated to the community by 1.00pm.

Work is progressing on the pump station at Brynderwyn Bridge to be overhauled/ upgraded as part of the State Highway 12 realignment.

The leak detection programme has commenced and will guide the reticulation upgrade programme. This is specifically targeting the lost water problem. Further surveys of valve locations will be undertaken to allow the completion of these surveys. Once the results of the leak detection surveys are completed the reticulation upgrades will proceed.

Ruawai Water Supply Maintenance is currently programmed on several valves in association with stormwater renewals. Reticulation upgrades including valve and pipe renewals are programmed to commence in the New Year.

Pipe condition assessments which involve taking samples of the pipe line and testing its condition have commenced and will continue this month. The result of this assessment will be used to determine the financial projections for the reviewed Asset Management Plans.

Dargaville including (Baylys Beach) Water Supply Potential usage of Waiatua Dam/Rotu trials are progressing. A full production run is to be tried at end of this month and involves running water from the Waiatua Dam/Rotu into the Dargaville plant. This will occur after further tests on the water quality from the dam and Rotu are completed. Rotu intake and pumps have been trialled and appear ready for the plants activation.

The raw water line was isolation tested in August. This involves testing valves to ensure they shut down various sections of the pipeline when required.

This occurs prior to replacing initial sections of the pipeline. The first part of renewal has been successfully completed with the second section to be undertaken early this month.

Further X-ray inspections of the line are being undertaken to develop future programme of renewals.

Glinks Gully Water Supply	No Issues.
Kaiwaka Wastewater System	Currently testing to see if UV treatment is required.
Maungaturoto Wastewater System	No issues.
Dargaville including (Baylys Beach) Wastewater System	Coped well with recent storms no major problems.
Glinks Gully Wastewater System	No Issues.
Te Kopuru Wastewater System	Remedial work was undertaken after damage was caused to the over-ground pipeline by heavy rainfall. This job was successfully completed following rapid response investigation and design.

4.2 Water Supply

4.2.1 Public Health Risk Management Plans (PHRMPs)

The Capital Assistance Programme (CAPs) applications are ready for submission. Discussions with the District Health Board (DHB) have assisted the development of these proposals. The DHB has noted that the standard of Council's applications are the best it has seen to date. Further workshops with the DHB and design staff are planned over the coming months to ensure the objectives of the upgrades from the DHB's point of view are met.

Public Health Risk Management Plans (PHRMP's) form the basis of the funding applications. The District Health Board has approved the PHRMP for Ruawai, Glinks Gully, Dargaville and Maungaturoto.

4.2.2 Maungaturoto Water Supply

A consent application has been lodged with the Northland Regional Council for the discharge of backwash water from the Maungaturoto water treatment plant.

Work is continuing with respect to providing outstanding information on applications to renew water take consents for the supply scheme. This includes the potential for fish passes at weirs associated with water take sites, dissolved oxygen levels and possible alternative water sources.

The updated PHRMP has been submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval. It has been indicated that a relatively fast approval will be achieved to enable early applications for funding to upgrade the scheme.

4.2.3 Ruawai Water Supply

The Capital Assistance Programme application has been finalised and lodged with the District Health Board. The application to the Ministry of Health for funding of the Ruawai water upgrade is on target.

Resource consent has been issued by the Northland Regional Council to install a new bore and maintain the existing bores within the Ruawai Water Supply Scheme. A consent application for the discharge of backwash water from the water treatment plant and for the water take has been lodged with the Northland Regional Council.

4.2.4 Dargaville Water Supply

The PHRMP for the Dargaville Water Supply has been approved. It is currently being assessed by the Ministry of Health.

Upgrading of instrumentation and monitoring equipment at the treatment plant continues. Upgrading the plant equipment has involved installing new filters to ensure more reliable treatment for alignment with the Drinking Water Standards.

The supply security of the Baylys Beach has been investigated. A pipeline upgrade is considered the preferred option rather than a reservoir upgrade. Sections of the line have been sent for testing to determine the extent of the renewal programme. Due to workload at the laboratory the results are not expected back until late this month. This will not unduly impact on the proposed upgrade programme.

Renewals work involving the maintenance of culverts and bridges on the raw water pipeline is underway and will continue with replacement of the raw water line commencing from the Dargaville end of the line.

The water loss programme has commenced with leak detection progressing.

We have assessed the capability of current telemetry and control systems which provide various water components and frequency data. A remedial action plan has been developed that will be actioned as part of maintenance and renewals through the coming year.

4.2.5 Glinks Gully Water Supply

The tender to install UV treatment which is a disinfecting of water system has been evaluated and awarded. Work is expected to commence in early October.

4.2.6 Mangawhai Water Supply

A programme for installing telemetry and monitoring equipment to meet consent condition requirements is currently being developed.

4.3 New Scheme Investigations

A proposal to undertake investigations for Kaiwaka has been accepted. It will commence this month. The proposal to include Mangawhai has been put on hold.

4.4 Wastewater

4.4.1 Mangawhai - Wood Street Wastewater

The performance of this system is being monitored. It is not anticipated that any further work will be required as the scheme will be replaced by the EcoCare system. Some further work to educate users to undertake maintenance of grease traps is required as this would seem to be the one of the key reasons for system non-performance.

4.4.2 Maungaturoto Wastewater System

Prior to the final evaluation of the supply contracts, an operational Membrane Filtration Plant in Hahei was visited. This plant has been operating for 18 months. The visit enabled the clarification of detailed technical and operational considerations for Maungaturoto.

The Discharge Consent has been progressed to a point where all parties have agreed consent conditions and withdrawn their right to be heard. Therefore there is now no need for a hearing and Regional Council is completing the processing of the consent, which is due to be issued this month. The Earthworks Consent from the Regional Council has been granted.

Tenders are expected to be awarded this month. The project is on track for completion during the summer construction period.

4.4.3 Dargaville Wastewater

An application for consent to desludge the maturation pond and the oxidation pond has been lodged with the Regional Council. It is anticipated that the Regional Council will notify this application.

A revised boundary for the Dargaville Drainage District has been developed and is currently being reviewed by Staff. This will allow consideration of the Colville Road sewer extension. In addition our engineers are currently assessing the effectiveness of the current plant upgrade to determine how many additional users can be added to the plant.

4.4.4 Glinks Gully

A programme of pipe replacement renewals has been determined. These will be undertaken prior to Christmas. 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. Further investigations are required and will be undertaken this month.

4.4.5 Te Kopuru

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

4.4.6 Kaiwaka Wastewater Consent Renewal

A review of existing information is currently underway for the Kaiwaka Wastewater Treatment Plant to provide input into a meeting with Northland Regional Council, where a response to their request for further information will be discussed. In addition the effluent is being tested to check if it is of suitable quality for using ultraviolet disinfection, should this be a requirement of future consent conditions.

4.4.7 Taharoa Domain Wastewater Discharge Consent

A site meeting has been arranged for suppliers of composting toilets to determine the optimum location of the toilets and general requirements.

A consent application was lodged with the Regional Council to renew the water take and discharge consents. A Regional Council request for further time to process the consents has been agreed.

Work is also proceeding to determine whether the water supply at the Pine Beach campground meets, or needs to meet new drinking water standards.

5 Urban Stormwater

5.1 Dargaville

The Edward Street Improvement Contract has been let. Investigation and design work is progressing on the 2008/09 programme.

5.2 Mangawhai

Two significant stormwater projects are set to commence prior to Christmas. The first project is the Moir Street contract which will commence this month. The second project is on Insley Street and is currently out to tender. Once the contract is let the project is expected to continue through to Christmas with some work being undertaken during the school holidays to minimise disruption to the school.

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

The design of the Pohutukawa Place Overland Flowpath will be finalised prior to Christmas.

5.3 Baylys Beach

Further to last month's Council meeting, the Ripiro Drive contract has been awarded. This now includes work on Bayly Street.

5.4 Hilltop Road, Hakaru

A resource consent has been applied for with the Regional Council for the management of stormwater on Hilltop Road. The application was notified and several submissions were received. A meeting has been held with submitters. Discussions have been productive to date, however, given the competing requirements of various landowners it is likely that a hearing will be required.

5.5 Mangawhai Bypass Routes

At a meeting with Gages Road residents, Council undertook to review the routes to bypass Mangawhai. A preliminary study indicates that there is no preferred route and a more in depth study is required to consider land development patterns. As there is no specific Long Term Council Community Plan project to undertake this work, a more in-depth study is needed. This will be included in the draft 2009-19 Kaipara's *Future - Working Together*.

6 Refuse

During the month some discussion was held with the Ministry for the Environment regarding the proposed Landfill Levy that is included in the Waste Minimisation Bill. Ministry for the Environment have signalled that they will consult with Council regarding how this levy would be implemented as part of the consultation process on the bill.

6.1 Hakaru Refuse Transfer Facility

Discussion has commenced with the Northland Regional Council regarding the post-closure landfill management plan. The interim landfill capping construction has ceased for winter. Further work is planned once the refuse in the old landfill has settled.

6.2 Awakino Landfill/Transfer Station

Discussions have been held with Kaurilands regarding the Transfer Station operation. Liaison with landowners of potential Transfer Station sites is ongoing.

7 Community Facilities

7.1 Mangawhai Shuttle

The Northland Regional Council is looking at the feasibility of a shuttle service operating in the Mangawhai Village and Heads area over the summer holiday period. The Northland Regional Council is looking at the cost of operating a shuttle service, funding costs, if there is enough infrastructure in place and if the demand is there to warrant a service like this in the area. Once this data has been gathered it will be reported back to Council for its information.

8 Recreation

8.1 Parks and Reserves Contract

In August a new contract for the maintenance of Council's parks, reserves and recreational facilities was finalised and advertised. This new contract has recognised public expectations on the level of service provided and where needed endeavoured to raise the standard of service across the district with its recreational facilities. It is hoped to have the preferred contractor and recommendation to this month's Council meeting for approval, with a new contract in place for an October 2008 start.

8.2 Dargaville Swimming Pool

Research was undertaken during August into admission statistics, operating expenses, admission charges and special events for 50 metre pools throughout the country. Pools contacted were from smaller type centres and with a low socio-economic grouping. This information is now being analysed, and will be presented to the pool committee at their next meeting. This will provide the committee with valuable information going forward when looking at operating the pool.

Registrations of Interest for the construction of the pool closed on 22 August, but as there was still interest being shown the Project Manager (Mark Bates) accepted registrations until 29 August. The Quantity Surveyor is still working on the current schedule, and this work should also be completed this month. All parties and the pool committee will meet in Auckland later this month to discuss the Registrations.

8.3 Crimson Domain

Thanks to Project Crimson over two hundred Pohutukawa plants are planned to be planted within the Taharoa Domain. Project Crimson collected seed from mature Pohutukawa trees along Ripiro Beach. Two planting days are being looked at this month to get the plants into the ground before it starts to dry up. The Taharoa Domain Governance Committee is very keen to continue with this Pohutukawa planting programme along with other planting and weeding programmes planned throughout the holiday period when families are up at the lakes. This is seen as being an ideal opportunity for campers to be part of the restoration of the lakes and domain surrounds and taking part in the future of the Domain, while enjoying their camping experience.

8.4 Rototuna

A planting day was held at upper Lake Rototuna, on the Pouto Peninsular in late August. This replanting programme around the edge of this lake was started in 1999 and has happened every year since. This year's planting was organised between the Department of Conservation, Kaipara District Council, Pouto School, Iwi and the Pouto community. To date several thousand plants grown from locally sourced seeds and plants have been planted around the lakes edge.

Upper Lake Rototuna is one of the many dune lakes found on the Pouto Peninsular and unique to the Kaipara. It is the closest lake to Pouto Road which makes it easily accessible to the public. Historically it has been farmland and grazed right up to the lake edge with the remaining boundary having been planted in plantation pines. The entire lake edge is now completely retired from stock access and fenced, varying in width from 15 metres to 25 metres. Approximately half the lake edge has now been replanted in pioneer plant species, many of which are now well over head height, flowering and seeding, adding to the replanted species. The planting day was once again well attended by the Pouto School, teachers and parents along with Department of Conservation, Council and the Pouto community. Along with the planting programme Council is also looking at what can be done to lessen the silt impact from the existing roadside culvert which directs water into the lake from the road carrying with it silt and other contaminants. Investigations are being made into a still trap system along with roadside planting to filter the water before it reaches the lake.

8.5 Council Property

Opanake Road grazing lease tender closed on 15 August, with only two tenders received. This lease is for the remaining area of land not planted in pine trees as it was deemed unsuitable. Council's Commercial Manager is presently negotiating with one of the tenderers regarding this lease.

The Whenuanui lease tender closed on 5 September. There has been considerable interest in this block with several enquiries about the possibility of cropping this block for sorghum or millet being expressed.

8.6 Kopuru Domain

The submission period required under the Conservation Act 1987 for these leased properties has now closed, with no submissions having been received from the public regarding these areas. Council's Lawyers have prepared new lease documents and these have been sent to all current leaseholders.

The new lease documents look very different to the old documents and reflect Council's obligations to both the Conservation Act and the Reserves Act. However, this makes very little difference to the day to day operation by the leaseholders with several having already indicated to Council's Commercial Manager their willingness to proceed with the new lease.

9 Development

9.1 Engineering Code Review

As advised to Council earlier in the year, a Practitioner Liaison Group is assisting with the preparation of a revised Engineering Code. Since then, a new draft document has been prepared making best use of existing codes and standards to produce a document which is best suited to Kaipara's circumstances. A further meeting of the Group has recently been held to review the draft, and another meeting is to be held next month. There has been some consideration of the process which needs to be followed in order for such a document to be incorporated into the district plan "by way of reference". There will be a report prepared to come to Council at its October meeting to explain this process more fully. Of necessity there will be changes to the district plan to refer specifically to the new document, as well as some consequential additions and deletions to eliminate any confusion between the district plan and the code, and any other standards which may be relevant. Through this, Council will need to give some direction before the code is finalised and opened up for feedback from the public. These relate to such matters as requirements for footpaths, cycle ways and parking, as well as the use of private shared accesses.

Just as a reminder, the Practitioner Liaison Group consists of two engineers, Mr Peter Geddes of Hawthorn Geddes, Mr Gary Clarke of KEA Consultants, a surveyor, Mr Phil Lash of Reyburn and Bryant, and a developer, Mr Mark Rowbotham of Traverse Developments. These people are to be commended for freely giving of their time to help Council come up with a document which is comprehensive and fit for purpose. Their contributions up until now have been most invaluable, and have already helped to make the document one which will be more readily accepted and understood by the people who will need to use it.

10 Planning and Reporting

10.1 District Plan Review

There has been two workshops on the review of the District Plan since last reported. The first workshop looked at the draft District Wide Section, as well as debate was had on Rural-Residential provisions. In addition, landscape feature consultation has been steadily progressed over the last month. As called for by the Mayor at the August Council meeting, an extra workshop was held on 3 September to discuss process and progress on this project. Due to the fast pace of the project, the associated workload, and the desire to have a job well done, the merits of extending the timeframes out is being considered.

An update to the project plan for the review of the District Plan will be given to Council at the workshop before this month's meeting. It is considered more important to do a job well than stick to timeframes, especially for a document as important, influential and far-reaching as the District Plan.

The Landscape Focus Group debate is planned for Tuesday 23 September. The Facilitator and two Speakers have been booked and confirmed. Participants have been contacted, with availability currently being confirmed. This should prove to be an interesting evening with the sharing of different perspectives and appreciations on this emotive topic.

10.2 Kaipara's Future – Working Together 2009 – 2019

For the last couple of weeks meetings with Activity Managers were carried out and some changes on Activity sections of the document were made. Each Manager has to provide a vision for their Activity in the draft *Kaipara's Future -Working Together*. They have to prepare key messages for the community for the upcoming consultation period, 27 September – 11 October 2008, too. Please see Looking Forward section for the list and timetable of Open Forums.

We have also been working on the Open Forums Flyer, which has been finished, printed and ready for delivery to all Kaipara District households.

10.3 Annual Report 2007/08

The Annual Report is designed to provide feedback from the Annual Plan 2007/08. It outlines the performance measures that were set in 2007/08, and whether or not these were achieved and if not, why not. This document is well underway, with the Auditors having arrived on Monday 15 September and clearance expected in early October. The Annual Report will go to the October Council meeting for adoption.

10.4 Kaipara Heritage Assistance Fund

The Kaipara Heritage Assistance Fund has now opened for applications. We will be following similar guidelines as last year with the committee involved including at least one Councillor. Applications close on Friday 31 October and will be assessed in November and the final decision going to the December Council meeting.

10.5 Totara Park Limited Private Plan Change 25

With the further submission period now over, Council's consultant planner is drafting up the Planner's Report. A Hearing is proposed to be held in November pending Council being agreeable to the agenda item.

11 Community Development

11.1 Community Facilitation;

Council's Community Facilitator has been busy this month helping various individuals and groups with a number of requests for assistance with the following:

Northern

- Providing improved medical care for many of the elderly residents in Council's Social Housing units in the Dargaville area and to make better use of the services of health provider Te Ha Ora.
- Assisting Dargaville resident Marion McEwing with funding applications for Dargaville's annual Christmas in the Park event. This is a very well supported event held in Dargaville's Taha Awa Community Gardens, but one that requires coordination and funding to ensure it continues.
- Assisting the Dargaville Intermediate School with funding applications for sports equipment.
- Helping Circus Kumarani look at potential funders to help the Circus remain a part of the Dargaville and Kaipara Community. Invitations to various potential funders have been sent out to experience their conference held on 5, 6 and 7 September in Dargaville's Memorial Town Hall. Help has also been provided to ensure the 3 days of conference is successful in its running with volunteers organised to provide lunch and tea every day during the conference.

Southern

- Through Kaipara District Council's Annual Plan Mark Perry and his Mangawhai Radio Station submitted and presented to Council, seeking assistance for his community based station in Mangawhai. Investigations into the installation of solar power or diesel generation as an alternative / backup to his existing power supply are currently underway.
- Discussions are at an early stage with the Hakaru Pony Club, who occupy and lease Council owned land and use it as a Pony Club. The Pony Club approached Council through the Annual Plan process asking for assistance with the renewal of a boundary fence. Costing of this is underway to determine what is needed to get this project underway over the next few months.
- Discussions are also underway into celebrations of 150 years for the Kaiwaka Township. A community group has been formed to look at ideas for this celebration.

11.2 Mangawhai Information Centre

The Information Centre at Mangawhai is a totally volunteer run organisation and does not collect any income for services provided. They had approached their insurance company that covers the building and contents to sponsor them for public liability insurance as they could not afford the premium, but had not received any positive news.

They talked to Council to see if there was any way they could be covered under the umbrella of Council. Council agreed that this was something that should be looked at, as this organisation has done wonders with what little it has been able to acquire over the years and it does a wonderful job for the Mangawhai area. After discussions with Council's insurance company ACM, it was agreed that Council and ACM could provide Public Liability cover for the Mangawhai Information Centre, under its existing insurance policy.

12 Finance

The major tasks for August were:

- Preparing the financial content of the 2007/08 Annual Report, in readiness for the arrival of Audit New Zealand on 15 September
- Preparing the appropriate financial information and templates for Larry Mitchell, the facilitator of the two Revenue and Financing Policy Workshops in September.

Rate rebate applications continue to arrive at a brisk pace, and, at 238 (for \$108,813), are ahead of the same period last year.

13 Emergency Management

An interesting and varied month for emergency responders with rain damage causing electrical fires in vehicles, cowshed and dwelling. Emergency crews were called upon to assist St John Ambulance by providing a safe landing site at Mangawhai and to assist lifting a patient at Tinopai.

A potentially dangerous crash occurred at 5.00 pm on Normanby Street almost outside the Fire Station on Tuesday 12 August. A tow ball less than 2 years old snapped causing the trailer to break its safety chain and collide with the power pole carrying the main electricity supply to the Dargaville Central Business District. Fortunately the trailer did not spill the aviation fuel although it capsized. Emergency crews from Dargaville Brigade and Northpower had everything back to normal in about 2 hours. An excellent job well done.

Severe weather was again a feature with heavy rain and high winds for several days during the month but caused little damage. The continued wet weather did nothing to help our already damaged roads with slips, slumps and potholes evident. Fortunately, the only road closed was Pukehuia Road which was closed as a precaution pending the removal of a potentially dangerous slipping hillside. Contractors, emergency crews and specialists worked hard to get the road open without delay although some disruption was caused to through traffic.

All in all it was a case of several "near misses" and good management by response crews.

Fires

- 10 Fire alarm at a factory on Griffin Road, Maungaturoto Settlement – false alarm
- 11 Road roller on fire at Artillery Road, Brynderwyn
- 22 Barn fire, Kaiwaka
- 23 Cow shed fire, Turiwiri

- 27 Rubbish fire Kellys Bay, Pouto
- 28 House fire Baldrock Road, Kaiwaka

Ambulance assists

- 2 Helipad requested Mangawhai
- 17 Ambulance assist – Tinopai

Hazardous Chemicals

- 12 1300l aviation gas tanker trailer tow ball snapped, trailer collided with power pole – no injury or spillage

Severe weather watch

14 and 15

Severe weather bulletin

22 and 23

Earthquake alert

- 26 Hawkes Bay area

14 Meetings

I attended the following meetings:

- 21 August Chief Executive Te Uri o Hau
Regional Commissioner Ministry of Social Development
Regional Manager Te Puni Kokiri
- 22 August Tree Planting, Lake Rototuna
Chief Executive Kaipara Community Health Trust
- 25 August Northland Regional Council, Department of Conservation and Mangawhai Harbour
Restoration Trust
- 29 August Earth Tech and Tyco
- 2 September ACM Insurance Brokers
- 4 September Circus Kumarani
- 5 September Northland Intersectoral Forum Co-Chair and Strategic Broker
- 5-7 September 2nd National Community Circus Convention
- 9 September Transfield
- 12 September Public Service Association
Northland Sport and Physical Activity Strategy
Chief Executive Officer Northland Regional Council, Conservator Department of
Conservation - regarding Vehicles on Beaches
- 15 September Northland Intersectoral Forum
Chief Executive Enterprise Northland
- 16 September Kaipara Community Outcomes Steering Group

15 Leave

The Stakeholder Engagement Manager will be on leave from 30 September until 13 October and the Community Spaces Manager will be on leave from 13 October until 24 October.

Part One – Activities Report

b) Looking Forward

- 1 Wednesday 8 October: Workshop - Asset Management Plans**
- 2 Wednesday 15 October: Workshop - Asset Management Plan**
- 3 Wednesday 22 October: Workshop and Council Meeting**
- 4 Tuesday 28 October: Taharoa Domain Governance Committee Meeting**
- 5 Wednesday 29 October: Workshop - District Plan**

6 Open Forums scheduled for:

Saturday 27 September	Mangawhai Market	10.00am to 1.00pm
Monday 29 September	Kaiwaka Hall	1.00pm to 3.00pm
	Maungaturoto Centennial Hall	5.00pm to 7.00pm
Friday 3 October	Kaihu Hall	1.00pm to 3.00pm
	Council Chambers	5.00pm to 7.00pm
Thursday 9 October	Tinopai Hall	10.00am to 12.00noon
	Ruawai War Memorial Hall	3.00pm to 5.00pm
Friday 10 October	Rangitane Hall, Pouto	10.00am to 12.00noon
	Tangiteroria Sports Complex	2.00pm to 4.00pm
Saturday 11 October	Paparoa Farmers Market	9.00am to 12.00noon
	Baylys Beach Church Hall	3.00pm to 5.00pm