

Chief Executive's Report: March 2009

Introduction

This month there are three parts to the report

Part One Activities Report

(a) Summary of Activity

(b) Looking Forward

Part Two Organisational Monitoring

(a) Dashboard

Part Three Council's 2008/09 Financial Report

To 31 December 2008

Part One: Activities Report

a) Summary of Activity

1 General

1.1 Kaipara District Council is First Equal - Go the Rates Department!

Towards the end of last year Quotable Valuation, as part of a three year cycle, revalued properties in the Kaipara District.

There are a number of sources of information Quotable Valuation use in this process but one of the most important sources and one that has a major impact on their ability to do a good job is Council's property database. Council's Rating staff must enter every sales notice, subdivision and building consent that has occurred over the three year period thus providing a complete and accurate picture for Quotable Valuation.

The work done by Quotable Valuation is then audited by the Valuer-General, Land Information New Zealand and, wait for it, the Kaipara District Council was first-equal of approximately 25 territorial authorities revalued last year. This was achieved in part because the quality of the database information the Council was able to provide Quotable Values.

Well done to all those involved.

It is worth noting that while the rating values are based on market sales, they are but a 'snapshot' of the market at a single point in time so in effect the community sets the value levels and Quotable Valuation and Council's Rates Department are only the messengers.

1.2 Total Span Can

Dargaville Primary School, Total Span, Ritchie's and Council staff have been in discussions to identify safe places to put up bus shelters where none exist and children wait for buses. Bus shelters in rural communities are sponsored by Total Span and the Kaipara area has been lucky enough to have been allocated four bus shelters. This project is still being worked though with representatives from Total Span, Council staff and various communities to see where the need is highest, however one site has been secured, this being at Old Golf Course Road, Mount Wesley, Dargaville. Another site looked at was Baylys where the community was very keen to have a bus shelter for their children. However, the issue that arose there was that no one wanted a bus shelter in front of their private property so it has not been possible to place a shelter there. The bus shelters, while needing to be placed on Council roadside berm areas, will not be the responsibility of Council. Total Span will look after all maintenance for a minimum of 25 years; a very big thank you to Total Span.

1.3 Mangawhai Look Out

The Look Out structure in Mangawhai behind the Mangawhai Club is closed at present and urgent repairs are underway. Hawthorn Geddes, Engineers and Architects Limited from Whangarei were asked to inspect the structure when concerns were raised by members of the public and Council staff following a routine inspection of the structure. The report undertaken by Hawthorn Geddes has identified that the structure is unsafe for public use and should be closed while repairs are done. The handrails, stairs and some bolts are rusted and need replacing urgently. Repairs are being undertaken by local builders and they are hopeful it will be open before the long weekend in April. In the future we need to think seriously about what to do with the Look Out. It is at the stage where it needs ongoing repairs to maintain it in a safe condition for the public. This is a very old wooden structure and it does not comply with the new building regulations.

1.4 Baldrock Dam Pipeline: Contract 529

After four years of negotiations the Water Supply and Take Agreements for the emergency water source for Maungaturoto have been signed by landowners and Fonterra. Fulton Hogan successfully tendered to build this pipeline in 2006. However, as the agreements were not formalised until now there has been no need for Fulton Hogan's services. As the 2006 tender was competitively bid and scope of work remains the same there is no benefit in retendering. As the project began to get traction again in 2008 Fulton Hogan was asked to resubmit a price adjustment and construction programme. The price adjustment was assessed as reasonable and the construction programme is expected to take 70 days from site possession. The project will proceed with Fulton Hogan as the contractor as soon as the documentation is finalised.

1.5 Leadership Forum

Several past participants of the Kaipara Community Leadership Group have reformed informally to undertake a project designed to stimulate leadership debate and conversation in Northland. A panel discussion and workshop will take place at Barge Park Events Centre, Maunu, Whangarei on Wednesday 8 April 2009, 6.00pm - 9.30pm. Two well known and high profile New Zealanders who have been at the forefront of leadership nationally and who come from very different backgrounds, **Georgina Beyer** and **Tame Iti** will talk about the challenges of being different. The workshop will look at leadership in Northland, where is it, what is it and who is it.

1.6 Regional Development Projects (RDF)

In October 2002 the Regional Development Fund (RDF) was established by government to upgrade essential public roading infrastructure used to transport logs and forestry products in Northland and Tarawhiti. In 2007 the Regional Development Fund was received and the government committed \$10 million per year for the next three years. This resulted in the Northland Regional Council preparing a Regional Development Funding Project Review Terms of Reference and commissioning GHD and Framgroup to undertake that review.

The GHB / Framegroup report was released in August 2008. Kaipara's 2008/09 projects were deferred and reprioritised to Year 2 and 3 of the programme. Negotiation with Northland Regional Council, GHD and Framegroup on this reprioritisation has been unsuccessful. Kaipara's programme is focused on upgrading the District's arterials that have significant current and future forestry traffic. This is compared to some Greenfields projects that have been prioritised ahead of Kaipara's arterials. These Greenfields projects will not see harvesting commence until 2019/20.

The reprioritisation process leaves Council with no option but to implement the Forestry Targeted Rate to ensure the timely delivery of forestry roading projects. In Year 2 and 3 of the Regional Development Funding programme Council will complete its programme using a combination of Regional Development Funding and Forestry Targeted Rates.

1.7 Maungaturoto Wastewater System

After considerable investigation, stakeholder and community engagement the Maungaturoto Wastewater Membrane Filtration plant is nearing completion.

- 1 The majority of civil works for the treatment plant upgrade have been completed. Placement of the membrane liner is programmed within the next two weeks.
- 2 Installation of the mechanical and electrical components is underway, including the effluent pump station, piping and electrical control panels.
- 3 The membrane tanks have been installed and construction of the filter building is currently underway. The majority of the membrane control and pumping system has been fabricated off site, where it will be tested prior to be installed on a skid.

Membrane Filtration technology in wastewater applications was developed in Japan and is now used worldwide in a variety of applications. For Maungaturoto this technology will provide high quality effluent discharge to the receiving environment.

The construction of the plant is scheduled for completion April 2009.

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 AWPT Projects 2008/09				
577	Whakapirau Road	18 December 2008	9 February 2009	April 2009
578	Mititai Road	13 November 2008	1 December 2008	April 2009
579	Tomarata Road & Insley Street (Includes Stormwater project)	25 September 2008	4 December 2008	April 2009
583	Robertson Road & Te Kowhai Road	16 October 2008	14 January 2009	30 March 2009
584	Waihue Road Baylys Coast Road (Including Seal Extensions of Bridge Approaches & Intersection)	21 October 2008	19 January 2009	8 May 2009

593	Gorge Road (Including Intersection sealing of Doctors/Hill and Valley/Laurence)	2 April 2009	27 April 2009	October 2009
548	Matakohe Museum East & West	In Design	TBA	TBA
KDC RDF AWPT Projects 2007/08				
568	Pouto Road South (4 km)	13 December 2007	14 January 2008	18 Dec 2008
KDC Seal Extension Programme 2007/08				
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
558	Southern Minor Seal Extensions (Bridge approaches, Intersections & Guard Rails)	7 May 2008	September 2008	29 Dec 2008
565	Garbolino Road	14 February 2008	14 March 2008	30 October 2008
KDC Seal Extension Programme 2008/09				
585	Baldrack Road Stage 1 (R - fund) (Including Baldrack/Gibbons Road)	March 2009	6 April 2009	October 2009
566	Baldrack Road Stage 2	23 October 2008	5 January 2009	22 May 2009
591	Awakino Point East Road	13 November 2008	27 November 2008	16 February 2009
592	Central/Arcadia Road Intersection	February 2009	February 2009	April 2009
596	Bickerstaffe Road	April 2009	September 2009	December 2009
KDC Bridge Replacement Programme 2006/07				
503	Wairere Road Bridge 318		Contract has been awarded	October 2009
	Central Road Bridge 47	Financial analysis to be carried out		
KDC Bridge Replacement Programme 2007/08				
	Omana Road Bridge 158 replacement	Financial analysis to be carried out		
KDC Bridge Maintenance Programme 2007/08				
522	Various	Invite	1 February 2008	Complete
KDC Minor Safety Programme 2006/07				
546	Molesworth Drive safety footpath	EcoCare Liaison		70% Complete
543	Insley (Tomarata) Road footbridge	Further funding required		
KDC Minor Safety Programme 2007/08				
	Mangawhai Road Carter Road Curve Easing	On Hold		
522	Komiti Road Safety Footpath Protection	Invited	September 2008	Complete
	Montgomery Avenue Traffic calming Devices	Invited	November 2008	Complete
	Streetlight improvement (programme extended)	Invited	April 2008	September 2008

KDC Reseals 2008/09

586	Reseals 2008/09	October 2008	Feb 2009	March 2009
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KDC Slip Repairs 2007/08

582	Mangawhai Road RP 2690 (July 07 slip)	3 March 2009	23 March 2009	8 May 2009
582	Paparoa Oakleigh Road RP 1340 (July 07 slip)	3 March 2009	23 March 2009	8 May 2009
	Paparoa Oakleigh Road RP 4870 (July 07 slip)	Funding Approved Being Designed	TBA	TBA
	Tinopai Road RP 7600 (Historical slip)	Funding Approved Being Designed	TBA	TBA
	Tinopai Road RP 7700 (Historical slip)	Funding Approved	TBA	TBA
594	Lawrence Road & Tokatoka Road	2 April 2009	27 April 2009	12 June 2009
522	Pebblebrook Road RP 100	18 December 2008	March 2009	April 2009

KDC Slip Repairs 2008/09

	Slips (June 2008 Storm Event)	NZTA Funding approved (Being Designed)		10 have been completed
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KDC Wastewater 07/08

574 and 576	Maungaturoto WWTP Consent Renewal upgrade	Closed	September 2008	April 2009
602	Dargaville Pond Desludging	Closed	February 2009	April 2009

KDC Water 06/07

	Maungaturoto - Baldrock Dam Pipeline	Closed	TBA	TBA
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KDC Stormwater Programme 06/07

559	Moir Street Stormwater improvement	28 February 2008	September 2008	March 2009
561	Baylys Street	November 2008	November 2008	January 2009
561	Ripiro Drive drain (Baylys Beach)	14 February 2008	January 2009	February 2009
562	Edward Street (Day to Victoria Street)	30 June 2008	September 2008	Completed

KDC Stormwater Programme 07/08

	Completion of stop banks at boat club	Invited	May 2008	Review Solution
	Estuary Drive detention/treatment pond	Agreement Reached with Kaizen Investments 29/12/2008		
	Coastal outfalls	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Piped outlet from Pohutukawa Place and Quail Drive to Molesworth Drive	Design 2009	TBA	TBA

KDC Stormwater Programme 08/09

	Taranui Place Improvements (EcoCare)			Completed
	Cullen Street Improvements (EcoCare)			Completed

579	Insley Street (Piping of open drains) Included in AWPT Project	25 September 2008	4 December 2008	April 2009
559	Moir Street West Stormwater (Portion A)	11 March 2008	25 September 2008	March 2009
559	Moir Street West Footpath (Portion B)	11 March 2008	25 September 2008	April 2009
	Gordon Street (Culvert Replacement and Upgrade)	March 2009	April 2009	June 2009
	Montgomery Avenue (Culvert Replacement and Upgrade)	March 2009	April 2009	June 2009
601	Moir Street East (Piping open drains), Molesworth Drive & Pearson Street	February 2009	March 2009	June 2009
603	Mangawhai Stormwater Pipe Supply (for Contract 601)	January 2009	March 2009	June 2009
606	Gordon Road and Montgomery Avenue	TBA	TBA	TBA

3 Rooding

The rooding network is in good condition with the construction programme underway and able to take advantage of excellent weather conditions. Ongoing projects may extend into winter if weather conditions are mild; if not the project will be put on hold until the weather stabilises.

We are currently preparing the new three year rooding programme using the new NZ Transport Agency procedures for the first time. There are new policies to implement and it is clear that the Agency is still feeling its way. It is also apparent that the Agency is acutely aware of declining revenues and is looking to reduce programmes wherever possible. In the current climate it will be an achievement to sustain current maintenance funding levels.

The Regional Transport Committee has reviewed the future capital works programme with the next phase of the review being undertaken by the NZ Transport Agency. This will see the final approval of the programme in late April 2009.

In Dargaville there has been some ongoing discussion with the community regarding the Montgomery Avenue chicanes which are functioning well. A request to add another chicane nearer Hokianga Road to moderate speed has been received. This could be funded from the 2009/10 Minor Safety budget.

3.1 Maintenance Contracts

<i>Network Condition</i>	The network is in generally good condition. The weather is leading to rapid vegetation growth, as well as corrugations on sections of unsealed roads.
<i>Unsealed Pavements</i>	We will continue to grade selected road sections, with attention to corrugations, crossfall and cut-outs.
<i>Sealed Pavement</i>	Maintenance crews are out patching sealed and unsealed potholes, attending to edge breaks, edge markers and extending the inspection program.

<i>Drainage</i>	A rolling programme of culvert cleaning, repair, extensions and renewals is continuing. A concerted effort on general roadside drain cleaning and formation is continuing with an emphasis on alleviation of known heavy rain problem areas.
<i>Vegetation Control</i>	A new cycle of sealed and unsealed roadside spraying started last month to control rapid growth. Roadside mowing is continuing, together with vegetation envelope cutback where required.
<i>Emergency Works</i>	The storm on 7/8 February 2009 caused no significant damage to roads or stormwater systems within the district.
<i>Ordered Works</i>	Minor structural bridge repairs are continuing as a result of annual inspections. Minor Safety Armco railing of selected bridges in both areas is continuing.
<i>Financial</i>	Maintenance budget over-expenditure incurred during the wet spell at the beginning of this financial year is being clawed back, and expenditure now stands at 112% of budget. We still hope to end this financial year on budget.
<i>Performance Evaluation</i>	Performance has dropped 1.3% however all areas still in the Average / Proactive range. Defects occurred mainly in vegetation spraying.
<i>Slip Repair</i>	The geotechnical investigation of slips is continuing. A number of smaller slip repairs have been designed, and referred to the maintenance contractor for repair.

3.2 Resealing Contract 2008/11

The 2008/11 Reseal Contract 586 has been awarded to Black Top Construction Limited on 12 February 2009. The contractor commenced design work in February and will complete physical works programme in early April 2009. The contractor has met with the Assets team to strategically determine treatment options for this year's programme of works. As part of this year's works the contractor will pre-assess the Year 2 and 3 while they are completing the physical works in April.

3.3 Pavement Marking Contract

Coastline Road Markers commenced work on 18 February 2009 and expect it to be completed by the end of March 2009.

3.4 Signs Maintenance Contract

The contract commenced in April 2008. The expenditure is currently constrained to maintenance of existing signs until the end of the financial year.

3.5 Seal Extensions

We have been able to confirm funding for Bridge Approach and Intersection sealing projects. The Bickerstaffe Road project is currently being designed with tendering expected in April. This contract will be undertaken with funding from a developer on this road.

3.6 R-Funded Projects

The contract for the initial section of Baldrock Road from State Highway 1 to Gibbons Road commenced on 20 January 2009. The construction of the Baldrock Dam Pipeline, Maungaturoto will require thrusting of a waterline along the new road and will run concurrently with the sealing of Baldrock Road.

The final stage of Baldrock Road has received NZ Transport Agency funding approval. This contract has been tendered and will close in March 2009.

3.7 Bridge Replacements

The Wairere Overbridge contract was awarded in February and will be completed by October 2009. The Deed of Grant to allow work above the rail network has been reviewed by Council's legal advisors and requires revision by OnTrack. The OnTrack approval obtained for Wairere will allow finalisation of the Central Road and Omana Road Bridges, these being similar in design to the Wairere Road Bridge.

3.8 Bridge Maintenance

Maintenance work has continued in January with good progress made on priority works.

3.9 Minor Improvement (Minor Safety Works)

The approved programme is progressing and will be completed by the end of the financial year. The Tomarata Road Pedestrian Bridge has been deferred with a substitute pedestrian related programme currently under development.

3.10 Street Lighting

The programmed Street Lighting upgrade is now complete. A smaller programme of work at the Ruawai Wharf has been awarded to Northpower to be undertaken over the next two months.

3.11 Unsubsidised Roding Programme

The proposed footpath on Moir Street will be completed as part of the ongoing stormwater contract 559 which was started in September 2008. The start of footpath construction has been dependent on completion of the EcoCare pipelines and is now expected to be finished in April 2009.

3.12 Road Naming

Council did not approve of the name Pohut Drive and Archey's Lane. The subdivider has been contacted and asked to resubmit names that are more suitable under Council's current policy adopted in February 2009.

3.13 Road Safety

Council has received the Road Safety Co-Ordinator's report for February. There are no deaths in Kaipara, year to date. This compares with one for the District for the same time last year.

Numerous meetings have been attended for the month, with the highlight being the possibility of Kaipara running a Recidivist Drink Driver Programme which has been extremely successful in other areas resulting in a decrease in repeat offending by those who have completed this programme.

3.14 Give Way Signs at Intersections

A request has been received for a Give Way sign at the intersection of Hokianga Road / Charlotte Street, Dargaville. This is being assessed and will be reported on in April 2009. As part of this process a procedure is being developed to assess future Give Way sign requests across the District.

4 Wastewater and Water Supply

4.1 Water and Wastewater Operations Contract

As of February 2009 Downer Edi Works is into the 13th Month of contract 527 Water Supply and Wastewater Operations 2007/10. The contract started on 1 February 2008 and is overseen by Garson Bell of Resolve Group as Engineer to the contract who monitors the management of the contract on a month by month basis.

A summary of works completed in the reporting period is summarised below for each utility.

4.1.1 Maungaturoto Water Supply

The pump station at Brynderwyn Bridge has been refurbished and communications equipment is to be installed.

The Treatment Plant has been optimised for current water quality and quantity.

4.1.2 Ruawai Water Supply

The new bore project has been reviewed as part of preparation of the Public Health Risk Management Plans and will be integrated in with the Capital Assistance Programme request to Ministry of Health.

Borehole pump N^o 3 was taken offline earlier in the month due to low aquifer level. This has now been reinstated.

4.1.3 Dargaville Including (Baylys) Water Supply

The Parore booster pump will be refitted in March/April. The water main replacement project at Grey Street has started and new aluminium tanks have arrived with new fittings to be made prior to connection.

Due to lowering catchment levels Rotu was put into service to check running capability after the intake/ bankside was cleaned of weeds and obstructions. A low level stop is to be installed.

Catchment levels are recovering with latest rainfalls.

4.1.4 Glinks Gully Water Supply

The plant upgrade has been completed.

4.1.5 Kaiwaka Wastewater System

The system operated smoothly for the month.

4.1.6 Maungaturoto Wastewater System

The system operated smoothly for the month.

Operations at the plant have remained smooth whilst the new plant is being built.

4.1.7 Dargaville Including (Baylys) Wastewater System

A new inlet flow meter was installed at Dargaville ponds which will be connected to the telemetry system.

Pump Station N^o1 has experienced running problems and new pumps are on order.

Pump Station N^o3 has also experienced running problems since the Fosters fire. Northpower is aware of these issues and will change back to previous transformer when fixed.

4.1.8 Glinks Gully Wastewater System

Minor problems with this pump station are being monitored.

4.1.9 Te Kopuru Wastewater System

The system operated smoothly for the month.

4.2 Water Supply Capital Works

An overview of capital water projects currently underway is provided below.

4.2.1 Public Health Risk Management Plans (PHRMPs)

Tenders are being prepared for the supply and installation of a UV disinfection system in Dargaville and installation of a new water supply bore in Ruawai as part of addressing risks identified in the PHRMP's.

4.2.2 Ruawai Water Supply

Tenders documents associated with the bore installation are currently being prepared (Contract 608). Initial programme estimates indicate a new bore will be drilled in April in proximity to existing bores.

4.2.3 Dargaville Water Supply

Tenders are being prepared for the supply and installation of an ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system at the Dargaville water treatment plant (Contract 607).

4.2.4 Waitatua Dam Comprehensive Safety Review

The Waitatua Dam is considered to be a large dam under the Building Act. Under the Act a Comprehensive Safety Review of the dam structure is required periodically. The review was completed late 2008. Minor maintenance items were identified and have been included in work programmes.

4.2.5 Glinks Gully Water Supply

Further work is currently underway to automate the treatment process.

4.2.6 Mangawhai Campground 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 draft report on the investigation into raw water supply options for Kaiwaka is being developed and discussion with tangata whenua needs progressing.

4.4 Wastewater Capital Works

A discussion on capital wastewater projects currently underway is provided below.

4.4.1 Mangawhai: Wood Street Wastewater

This system is the subject of ongoing monitoring. No new work is programmed, as the system will be replaced by the EcoCare project within the next 12 months.

4.4.2 Dargaville Wastewater

The tender to desludge the maturation pond was issued in December 2008. The successful tenderer was Harrisons Contracting Limited who has begun work on site to remove the sludge. This work is being co-ordinated with Northland Regional Council monitoring staff, and is scheduled to be completed mid April.

Smoke testing of selected sewer lines has continued to help assess the extent of infiltration of stormwater into the sewer network.

4.4.3 Glinks Gully

A programme of renewals has been determined.

4.4.4 Te Kopuru

The consent application, lodged with the Regional Council for replacement of the wastewater discharge consent, has been notified by the Regional Council, with a closing date for submissions of 26 March 2009. The original application mistakenly indicated that the discharge was to the Makaka Stream. This has been corrected, confirming that the discharge is to the Northern Wairoa River.

Council will review submissions when the submission period closes and discuss with Regional Council what further steps are required to obtain the resource consent.

4.4.5 Kaiwaka Wastewater Consent Renewal

There has been no further progress on the Kaiwaka Resource consent renewal pending discussion with the Northland Regional Council on discharge requirements.

4.4.6 Taharoa Domain Wastewater Discharge Consent

The resource consent for the camping grounds water take and wastewater discharge have been issued by the Northland Regional Council.

An options report has been prepared for consideration by the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee to improve treatment of the water used at the camping ground. Cost estimates have been prepared for installation of composting toilets at Promenade Point.

4.4.7 Duck Creek, Dargaville

Currently we are considering various proposals that impact on the capacity of the Dargaville Wastewater system. These include the possible connection of Baylys, the Colville Road area including Duck Creek and the changes to the discharge from the Silver Ferns Farms processing facility. The possibility of a Baylys connection will be resolved by the end of April and will allow the direction to be set for the remaining issues.

4.5 Water Supply

4.5.1 Drinking Water Assistance Programme: Capital Funding Application Update

With the election of a new Government the Drinking Water Assistance Programme is under review. Council has lodged applications for Maungaturoto and Ruawai. These applications were considered by the Sanitary Works Technical Advisory Committee (SAWTAC) in February 2009 who has endorsed the applications and Ministry of Health recommendations. The applications are now with the Minister for approval pending the outcome of the review.

5 Urban Stormwater

5.1 Dargaville

The Edward Street Improvement Contract is now complete. The Contractor has coped well with the difficult services and ground conditions and completed the project well under budget.

Investigation and design work is progressing on stormwater improvements in Montgomery Avenue and Gordon Street. This should see contracts released in April 2009.

5.2 Mangawhai

The Insley Street stormwater works have been largely completed in preparation for the roading area wide pavement treatment. This will see the complete reconstruction of the road. Liaison with the school will be ongoing during the final stages of this project.

The Moir Street West stormwater project has largely been completed. The final phase to install the footpaths will need some final shaping of berms to complete the stormwater works.

A contract to supply pipes for the Moir Street East and Molesworth Drive South has closed. Awarding of this contract will ensure a four week delivery time for pipes preventing problems experienced with the Moir Street West contract. This is a continuous improvement initiative.

Design of stormwater improvements at Pohutukawa Place and Quail Way has commenced. Community consultation and land entry agreements will follow completion of the design and approval by Council. A construction programme of works is planned for 2009/10.

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

5.3 Baylys

Pipe construction work on Baylys Street has been completed with sealing to follow shortly. Work on Ripiro Drive will commence before the end of the financial year.

6 Refuse

6.1 Hakaru Refuse Transfer Facility

No further work is proposed until the new financial year.

6.2 Awakino Landfill/Transfer Station

Maintenance work is to begin on cleaning the drain between the transfer station and Awakino Road.

7 Land Drainage

7.1 Raupo Drainage District

Spalling of the stopbank (1,000 cubic metres) from the Boat Club slip way to Awaroa Creek has been completed. Repairs to the stopbank near Floodgate N^o 2 have also been done requiring only placement of existing spalls.

A new steel door has been fitted to Floodgate N^o 1 and the existing door is to be repaired and held as a spare.

Repairs have again been made to the breast work of Floodgate N^o 2. Spalls have been placed behind the breast work to prevent further slipping.

Spot spraying of drains as required is still on going due to rapid weed growth this year. At a recent Raupo Drainage Committee meeting it was decided to have the first season spray round in October as normal. A second complete spray round would then be done in February and then only re-sprays as required prior to winter. It is hoped that this would achieve better control of weeds and assist in keeping to the drain spraying budget.

7.2 Kaihu Valley Drainage District

Repairs are underway to a floodgate on the Lupton property. The floodgate assembly was successfully removed as a unit and is to be placed back in position at a higher level once a suitable foundation has been installed.

7.3 Owairangi Drainage District

A price to replace an existing flood gate in the Owairangi district has been received. The existing flood gate is a wooden structure and is starting to collapse due to nail corrosion. The district is to hold a meeting regarding the replacement of the floodgate as a rate increase would be required.

7.4 Green Hill Drainage District

Machine cleaning of the main drain below the road bridge to the Green Hill Quarry area is to be done when the long reach digger is available.

7.5 Koremoa Drainage District

Machine cleaning of the main outlet is also to be done when the long reach digger is available.

7.6 Manganui River Drainage District

Machine cleaning of the Manganui River from the Alspach boundary to the Webster boundary has been completed. The last section had only the bullrush removed as required, leaving funds for other problem areas to be sprayed.

7.7 Notorious Drainage District

Repairs to the floodgate wing wall and floor have been done on the Windust property. The stopbank in this area has been raised and a culvert put into the ring drain.

8 Recreation

8.1 Mangawhai Walkways

Council is now beginning to focus its attention on the provision and promotion of a safe and enjoyable public walking network around the Mangawhai Harbour. This project reflects the vision of the people of Mangawhai who have signalled they want walking opportunities explored and comes through in both the Mangawhai Structure Plan and the Reserves Open Spaces Strategy. It is also in line with Council's decision to seek to increase the priority given to the development of reserves and open spaces in the draft 2009/19 *Kaipara's Future - Working Together* document thus reflecting community aspirations.

Stage One of this project was identified as the existing walkway from Alamar Crescent to Robert Street Reserve which only required some general maintenance and vegetation works and minor upgrade work to bring it to a good standard. As the overall project progresses the various stages will be brought before Council for its consideration as the works required will be more than minor and in some cases will require the development of linkages where none presently exist.

8.2 Trees, Trees and More Trees

There are a number of trees causing concern in the district that Council staff are working on. Trees causing particularly concern are:

- 1 the Pahi Morton Bay Fig and the development of a maintenance plan for the tree situated on Pahi Reserve
- 2 a large mature Norfolk Pine at Komiti Road, Tinopai that appears to have been poisoned, and
- 3 a mature Norfolk Pine on Council's roadside berm, Coates Avenue, Baylys which has rapidly deteriorated over the last 12 months and is now dead.

Both the Norfolk Pine at Tinopai and the Morton Bay Fig at Pahi are identified in Council's District Plan register, with the Morton Bay Fig having a Heritage Order on it. This is the highest protection a tree can have.

8.3 Toilets

The audit report on Council's toilets and current condition has been received. The report has highlighted the current condition of the toilets, what is urgently required and which ones to look at first. This information will now be taken a step further with costs sought for the works, this will help to understand the likely costs associated with upgrading and replacing where needed and highlight the likely budget needed to undertake the works identified. This second step will be started as soon as possible with a local firm asked to price up the immediate work required. This is expected to take around a month to complete. Other work may require a lot more work where a major upgrade or replacement is identified and will require working with Council's engineers to look at the types of facilities available, consenting issues, location water supplies etc, this work will take several months to complete, with each location and requirement different from the other.

8.4 Contract 575

Contractors have had a busy month cutting grass throughout the Kaipara with the weather conditions being ideal for grass growth. This has seen the contractors chasing their tails across the District.

Illegal rubbish dumping has been a concern this month in the southern area around Oneriri, Oruawharo and Tara Roads. All dumping picked up by contractors has been contained in unstickered bags. The contents have been looked through by contractors for anything that might help identify the culprit(s) and any information found is being followed up by Council staff.

9 Planning and Reporting

On Wednesday 11 March 2009 Council adopted its third Draft Long Term Council Community Plan called *Kaipara's Future - Working Together*. The Draft *Kaipara's Future - Working Together 2009/19* Plan sets out Council's strategic direction for the next ten years and also includes Council's Draft Annual Plan 2009/2010.

Council is now calling for submissions with the official submission period commencing on Friday 20 March 2009. Copies of the Draft *Kaipara's Future - Working Together* Plan and the summary document will be available from 20 March 2009 and maybe obtained as follows:

- Viewing available at our District libraries
- On our website www.kaipara.govt.nz
- Visiting our Council offices to view or obtain either a CD or hardcopy
- Telephoning 0800 727 059 or 0800 100 388 to have a copy posted.

The summary document is also being circulated as an insert in the Dargaville and District News and Mangawhai Focus early in April. The summary document has a submission form included for ease of use.

Council will be holding the following Public Meetings to discuss the Draft Plan:

Kaiwaka Hall	Wednesday 18 March 7.00pm
Mangawhai Library Hall	Tuesday 24 March 7.00pm
Dargaville Town Hall	Wednesday 25 March 7.00pm
Maungaturoto Centennial Hall	Thursday 26 March 7.00pm
Ruawai Muddy Water Festival	Saturday 28 March
Mangawhai Market Day	Saturday 4 April
Tinopai Hall	Saturday 11 April 2.30pm

The closing date for submissions is 5.00 pm Tuesday 21 April 2009.

10 Development Management

10.1 Development Team Highlights

In the last month members of the Building team carried out a further competency assessment. This was overall a positive experience with staff either maintaining or improving the rating of their competence to carry out processing or inspection of various categories of building projects. This is a tribute to their professional approach to the job, and shows the benefits of the training they have been undertaking. This stands the Council in good stead for maintaining its accreditation status, regardless of the changes which might come with initiatives from the new Government.

The team, in conjunction with Regional Council staff have arranged to make a presentation for tradespeople about on site wastewater design and approval so that they have a better understanding of what is expected of them in meeting the requirements of the relevant national standards and district and regional council rules. This will take place at the Kaiwaka office on the afternoon of Tuesday 31 March.

In recent times, we have had to take the step of calling up a bond provided in relation to subdivision works, and may be faced with this situation with a couple more developments. This arises where the developer is no longer in a position to follow through with their commitments. It is as well that the Council has had the benefit of good legal advice in preparing these bonds so it has not been a problem in gaining access to the funds necessary for completion.

The final clearance was given to enable a further 27 lots to be created this month; only two of them were liable for payment of a development contribution - the rest were either outside the area, predated the policy, or had been granted a waiver by Council.

10.2 Proposal for On Line Building Consent Processing

The Department has sought preliminary response to a proposal for on line processing of building consents to operate nationwide. The key features of this arrangement would be:

- It will be a standard operating system that will receive all building consent applications electronically.
- All consent applications will be processed on the system and not on individual Building Consent Authority (BCA) consent systems.

- Consent processing will still be done by staff in the BCA where the building work is to be undertaken.
- Consent processing could be undertaken by other BCAs in situations where workloads exceed BCA capacity or where specialist knowledge is required (arrangements up to individual councils).
- Communications with applicants will be electronic (email, text message, etc).
- The system will offer 'end to end' processing from receipt of the building consent application through to building inspections and issuing of Code Compliance Certificates.
- The system will integrate with Council IT systems, particularly the property database, GIS and finance systems.
- It will include a national building product database.

There are potential advantages to both Councils and people applying for building consents particularly in Kaipara's case where the Council serves such a large area, there is a significant absentee ownership component and many of the designers submitting applications are from outside the district.

The Department cites the following advantages to council Building Consent Authorities:

- Standardised consent application forms and processes.
- Reduction of paper and associated handling and storage issues and costs.
- Electronic processing of applications with the ability to process various elements of a consent application simultaneously.
- Complex consent applications can be referred quickly to specialist BCAs/contractors.
- Provides councils with flexibility to move work around to other BCAs when internal staff resources are under pressure.
- Electronic communication with applicants to reduce phone calls, letters, etc.
- Electronic receipt of consent fees to reduce cash handling and associated costs and risks.
- Inspection times can be booked online.
- Building inspectors can use technology to increase productivity and reduce the time taken to record inspections

This should ultimately result in improved efficiency, convenience and cost savings for councils, leading to lower costs and improved service for consent, but there are establishment costs to bear, as well as operating costs. These can be offset at least in part by the saving in the current ongoing cost of scanning completed building files. Advantages to applicants have been listed as follows:

- Standardised consent application forms across New Zealand.
- Group builders, architects et cetera will be able to avoid the need for providing duplicate information for every consent e.g. applicant details completed automatically).
- Reduced time and costs to prepare consent applications e.g. copying and providing product details by using links to the product database.
- Electronic lodgement of consent applications, thereby reducing travel and other lodgement costs.
- Electronic payment of consent fees.
- Online tracking of consent progress. This will also save staff time in dealing with such enquiries.
- Improved communications with BCAs.

- Improved consent processing time.
- Online booking of inspections and improved inspection services.

The Department will be reporting back in the second half of the years once the feedback to the draft proposal has been evaluated.

10.3 Building Act Changes

The Minister of Housing, the Honourable Maurice Williamson has announced a package of reforms to the Building Act 2004 designed to help streamline processes. These changes will be helpful, though modest in scale. They will simplify the process of making changes to an approved plan, make the requirement to apply for a Project Information Memorandum voluntary, and enable efficiencies where replicated house designs are used.

This is just a first step, and more fundamental changes have been signalled, in particular how to get developers and builders to stand behind their work and put things right where needed. To quote the press release: "The Government will also be looking at how liability and risk around building is distributed between parties and how it might be better managed. This will include looking at Home Warranty Insurance."

11 Community Development

11.1 Tutus on Tour

Dargaville was again included in the Royal New Zealand Ballet Company's Tutus on Tour touring throughout New Zealand. The Tour arrived in Dargaville on 17 March and the Company held a show at Dargaville's Memorial Hall, Hokianga Road. Council's Community Facilitator worked with the Company to ensure a successful event was staged.

All the funds raised went to the local Hospice branch.

11.2 Field Days

The Council's Community Facilitator was part of the team involved in setting up and manning Council's site at the field days this year and was the main organiser for the Lucky Saloon playing area. On Thursday eighty-one players went through the Lucky Saloon to play "Pentaque" and Friday saw eighty five players. Spot prizes were given to people and there was also a \$50 cash draw every day. Unfortunately Saturday did not go ahead as planned due to the weather conditions. Council's site was one of the sites badly damaged and beyond repair.

11.3 Dargaville Town Hall Equipment Upgrade

Following on from Council resolution to upgrade the cooking facilities in the Town Hall an electric fan forced oven is being installed at a cost of approximately \$4,000. A trial period of continuing to use the current equipment with the addition of the new oven is planned and this will allow staff to monitor whether any further expenditure is warranted. All those quoting on the upgrade included this as a possible solution as it addresses the concerns that have been raised while still providing benefits from previous expenditure.

12 Finance

The major task during February 2009 was the financial modelling of *Kaipara's Future - Working Together* 2009/19, and the onsite audit thereof during the last fortnight of the month.

To date, 450 rate rebate applications have been processed by our Rates Department and approved by the Department of Internal Affairs. They total \$204,003, which is an average of \$453.00 per claimee.

13 Staff

13.1 Stakeholder Engagement Manager

Mrs McInnes has tendered her resignation. Her resignation date has not been finalised but is likely to be towards the end of June 2009. I will report further on the impacts of this resignation which may lead to a review of organisation structure.

14 Meetings

I attended the following meetings:

23 February	Audit New Zealand
24 February	NZ Transport Agency - Highways North liaison
27 February	Waipoua Lodge
3 March	Dave Warburton - Chief Executive Officer Duffill Watts
4 March	Housing Corporation of New Zealand and Rodney North Harbour Health Trust
5 March	Beca NZ Transport Agency
6 March	Phil Heatley Northland Intersectoral Forum Economic Review Group
9 March	Hammonds
10 March	Barfoote Construction Limited
12 March	Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group
13 March	Glinks Gully Camping Ground with Councillor Guest Te Kuihi with Mayor
16 March	Northland Intersectoral Forum Northland Connecting Young People Project
17 March	Taharoa Domain Governance Committee Ministry of Health - EcoCare
19 March	EcoCare
20 March	Keeping Northland Working - Jobs Summit
24 March	Taharoa Domain - Ski Club

15 Leave

I will be on Annual Leave from 14 April to 24 April inclusive (following Easter).

Part One – Activities Report

b) Looking Forward

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|----------|-----------------|--|
| 1 | 27 April | Taharoa Domain Governance Committee |
| 2 | 29 April | Council Meeting at Mangawhai |
| 3 | | <i>Kaipara's Future - Working Together Hearings</i> |
| | 5 May | Dargaville |
| | 6 May | Maungaturoto |
| | 8 May | Mangawhai |