



NEWSLETTER 4

NOVEMBER 2006

## East Harbour Regional Park Management Plan

This is the fourth in a series of newsletters about the East Harbour Regional Park management plan review. It also provides updates on news from the park, and up and coming events throughout the summer period.

### Update on Management Plan review

The draft management plan updates the existing management plan to align it with the management concepts of Greater Wellington's Regional Parks network management plan, as well as reflecting the vision the community has for the park.

A public meeting was held in September 2006. The community were invited to comment on the draft East Harbour Regional Park Management Plan in the form of a submission to Greater Wellington.

Submissions on the draft plan closed on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2006. Seventy-two (72) submissions were received in total from members of the public and community groups and organisations.

Key issues highlighted in the public submission process include the following:

- General support for the vision and overarching goals of the draft management plan
- Differing views on policies relating to dogs, cycling, camping, recreational hunting, horses and firearms
- Request for a change in the status of the Lakes Block from Recreation Reserve to Scenic Reserve
- Request to repair fish passage at the outlet to the lakes

Council hearings for the plan review are to be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November 2006 at the Community Board Room, 7-11 Britannia Street, Petone.

Following the consideration of all submissions by the Hearing Committee, a final plan will be drafted in line with the direction given by the Committee. It is anticipated that the final management plan will be in place in early 2007.



### News from East Harbour Regional Park

Work within the park on the Mainland Island project continues. A number of volunteers are currently involved with this project including MIRO and East Harbour Environmental Association. Recent monitoring of rodents in the bait stations has been undertaken with results yet to come through. In addition, on three separate occasions, sightings of Kaka in the park have been reported in recent times, which is encouraging news.

Ranger Gareth Cooper reports that the upgrade of the track system throughout the park has seen increased numbers of the public utilising the tracks which is encouraging news. Further details of this work are outlined below.

### Timetable for the Management Plan

**October 2006** – Analysis of submissions

**November 2006** – Council Hearing

**Early 2007** – Plan finalised

## A face-lift for East Harbour Regional Park

The aim of Regional Parks is to provide accessible outdoor recreational opportunities close to populated areas for a wide range of age groups and abilities, with safe parks for users.

Over the last three years since Greater Wellington took over the management of the park, a number of upgrades have been made to the tracks and signage. Previously, some of the tracks were in a poor condition, deeply rutted and prone to slipping.

Ranger, Gareth Cooper reports that track-work has been prioritised over this time, and now most of the walking tracks have been constructed to NZ track standards. There are also plenty of off-track opportunities for the more adventurous and numerous tramping tracks. In addition, most structures on the tracks throughout the park now meet the building code standard. There are also boardwalks in the Butterfly Creek valley which will assist with year-round access to the popular picnic area.

Signage has also been upgraded throughout the park to a good standard resulting in fewer queries for park staff and less people getting lost. To make it easier to get around the Lakes Block, circular routes have been planned. The boardwalk at Lake Kohangapiripiri is part of this project.

## Pest Control update

- The pest plant team have re-started work on the climbing asparagus in the Northern Block. Last year, an 80-90% kill rate of this weed was achieved in the Bus Barn area and the team are now looking to build on this success.
- Possum numbers in the northern forest were recently found to be at a low level (1.8 % residual trap catch). This is excellent news for MIRO members, as it shows that their hard work in continually trapping these pests is paying off.
- Rat numbers are falling dramatically in the Gollan's Stream area, where intensive pest control work is underway. Birds will be able to breed more successfully, with fewer predators attacking their nests.

## What's on at East Harbour Regional Park?

Similar to previous years, over the summer months a number of walks are being organised in the East Harbour Regional Park. These will provide the public with the opportunity to get into some parts of the park that they may not have experienced before.

There will be opportunities to explore the heart of East Harbour Regional Park in the upper and lower Gollan's valleys. It is also planned to head into Butterfly Creek to look at its fascinating flora, history and geography. There will also be the chance to view and learn of the ecological and maritime history of the lighthouse and lakes.

For full details please see the 2007 Regional Outdoors Programme Events Calendar ([www.gw.govt.nz](http://www.gw.govt.nz)).



Pencarrow Head, East Harbour Regional Park (Photo: Syd Moore)

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