

Regional Policy Statement Implementation Report Geoff Skene, Manager

May 2000

1. Trees for Survival (Nigel Clarke)

We are pleased to announce that a 10th school has now joined the Trees for Survival programme in the western part of the Region. Porirua College's growing unit has been set up and is now in operation. The Plimmerton Rotary Club is funding the on-going costs of this unit. The unit itself was paid for by the Tyndall Foundation.

Nigel has also been successful in acquiring 5000 milk cartons for potting on plants through the Wellington waste exchange, Enviromart. The cartons have been provided by Mainland Products Ltd in Palmerston North.

2. Pauatahanui Inlet (Tim Porteous)

The Draft Vision and Action Plan has been completed and submissions sought from the public and interested parties. Approximately 90 copies were sent to people who had previously expressed an interest in the project, and about 25 additional copies have been requested. The Plan is available on the Council's web site as well. The Pauatahanui Residents Association has convened a public meeting to discuss the Plan. Submissions are welcome until Friday the 19th of May. Hearings will commence in the week beginning the 29th of May.

In April, the Pauatahanui Inlet Advisory Group approached the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment to discuss permanent community group structures in other parts of New Zealand. The Group was seeking a suitable model for its recommendation for an "enduring entity" to oversee the management of the Inlet once the Action Plan is completed and adopted. While no specific models were identified in the discussion, the Commissioner and his staff expressed considerable interest in the overall approach of the Advisory Group.

3. Kaiwharawhara Stream (John Holmes)

Good progress has been made on this project recently. By the time the Committee meets, residents and businesses in the vicinity of the stream will have received a newsletter outlining the project and how they can be involved.

We have been heartened by the Wellington City Council's interest in the first major operational phase of the project, the removal of the coarse debris from the stream (rusting metal, concrete, bricks, roofing iron, litter). We have contacted most of the relevant land owners along the stream edge and determined the cost of removal of the debris. We expect this work to be done in the next few weeks.

4. Waitohu Stream (Nigel Clarke, Gretchen Robertson)

We have been testing some of the kits which have recently been developed for communities and care groups to monitor the health of their local stream or river. One of these, the Stream Health Monitoring and Assessment Kit (SCHMAK), was tested recently on the Waitohu Stream by staff and members of the community. The kit proved useful and the local people are now keen to continue monitoring.

5. Environmental Education (Jo Campbell, Richard Morgan, Nigel Clarke, Jo **Fagan**)

Work is progressing well on the development of the Community Connections (care groups) and Learnwell (environmental trails) programmes. In particular, Jo and Richard have been working with the teacher focus group to devise ways of getting environmental messages across to young people. We have also continued to look for suitable sites to be included in the trail, a process we expect to be engaged in until September. A full report on how we plan to implement the Learnwell programme will be presented at the June committee meeting.

We have also been developing the community care group programme. This has involved such matters as how applications will be sought, how funds will be allocated, what types of projects will be eligible, and so on. We expect to be able to report on this to the first meeting of the Committee in the new financial year.

5. Bio-What and the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy

At the last meeting of the Committee I indicated that a paper analysing these two reports (including a submission on Bio-What) would be presented to the Environment Committee in May. However, the subject matter is of interest to a great many Councillors and has implications across most of the Council's functional responsibilities. I have therefore taken the decision to report back to the Council on these two important documents to the Policy and Finance Committee on the 30th of May. This reflects the course of action taken on the draft NZ Biodiversity Strategy in April 1999.