

# **Manager, Marketing and Design Water Supply, Parks and Forests**

## **Report for period ending Friday, 17 November 2006**

### **1. Manager's comments**

Preparations for summer are heating up as we finalise work on the Regional Outdoors Programme and get that ready to go out in early December. The programme is more limited in its scope than last year but still provides plenty of opportunities for the public to explore the regional parks and for Greater Wellington to further develop our relationships with volunteers and other agencies. The turnout for the Greater Wellington Buggy Walk shows what can be achieved with the contribution of skills and resources from a variety of agencies.

There is considerable interest in the Eastbourne community in having more regular contact with Greater Wellington in relation to East Harbour Regional Park. Rather than deal with one group we encourage the formation of representative "Friends of Parks" groups and will be putting together a process to help this particular group take shape.

#### **1.1 Signs**

##### **1.1.1 Loop Track interpretation**

We are in the final implementation phase for this new signage which includes routing the base macrocarpa blocks and printing the actual signs.

#### **1.2 Events**

##### **1.2.1 Greater Wellington Buggy Walk**

We were delighted to see around 210 mums, dads, grandparents and other caregivers with their young children at Waitangi Park on 11 October for the first Greater Wellington Buggy Walk. Organised by Sport Wellington Region's Active Movement (Early Childhood) advisor, this event generated support from a range of organisations including the Cancer Society, Caffe L'Affare, Wellington Waterfront Ltd, Classic Hits and numerous other "sponsors in kind".

The first of the series of six guided buggy walks in regional parks took place at Kaitoke Regional Park on 2 November with around 36 mainly mums, a few dads and associated children coming along. With perfect weather, they enjoyed the morning. However, feedback indicates that they would like a longer walk, so we will adjust our plans for the next event at Kaitoke. Walks at the other parks will be around an hour in length.

##### **1.2.2 Regional Outdoors Programme**

We have finalised the programme of events and the material is currently being printed ready for distribution in early December.

There has been a further iteration of the Queen Elizabeth Park Family Open Day in that we are now working with organisers of the "Anything Vintage" Transport and Machinery

Festival to be held in the park from 30 December to 2 January. This was a “win-win” opportunity as a committee has already been established, planning is under way, and a grant secured for television advertising. Our rangers will guide bird watching and wetland walks each day so they gain some profile as well.

The Plimmerton Rotary Club has decided not to proceed with the Pauatahanui Country Festival this summer. The concept has considerable support but they need to reconsider its organisation and funding.

For the first time we will be able to offer people the facility to pay for events over the internet via their own banks’ payment systems. It will be interesting to see how successful this initiative is, as it does make the booking process much more convenient for people.

### 1.2.3 Sponsorship

Last summer we often borrowed the Cancer Society’s blue tents to supplement our EZY Ups and help provide shade for event participants. However, this did create a lot of extra ferrying of equipment at an already busy time.

Given that the Regional Outdoors Programme is a great way to promote healthy lifestyles and “sunsmart” behaviour, we successfully applied to the Cancer Society’s community grants scheme for funding to purchase two new EZY UP tents, to be based at the Battle Hill depot displaying both the GW and Cancer Society logos. We will also promote the Sunsmart message on the Regional Outdoors Programme lift out and distribute “Livesmart” material to event participants.

Dwights Canvas has once again generously offered to support us with spot prizes of daypacks and similar items to give away to participants.

### 1.2.4 Corporate planting days

Late in September, 10 staff from the Transport Division took their bikes on the train to Paekakariki. They then rode to Queen Elizabeth Park, planted numerous trees near MacKay’s Crossing, had lunch, and went back to Wellington the same way. It proved a good day to “test the system” and give the park a hand as well.

We had two corporate groups – one from Argest Technical Services and the other from URS – descending on two regional parks on 14 October for the final corporate planting day of the season. The Argest team of around 35, including several children, planted about 1,400 Honda trees near one of the bush remnants at Te Marua, while URS did more planting in Battle Hill’s Triangle Paddock. With drizzly weather, our ability to provide shelter at both spots once again came in very handy.

## 1.3 Wellington Region Recreation Initiatives Group (WRRIG)

The WRRIG (with the exception of Upper Hutt) submitted to the Wellington Regional Strategy, emphasising the role of active leisure in enhancing the health, community and economic growth of the Region and noting how that is reflected in the document’s imagery. With this in mind, we outlined our work to date and the opportunities we intend to explore, and recommended that the phrase “active leisure” be added to the vision statement.

At a recent meeting we adopted a new name for our Regional Physical Activity Plan. It will now be known as “At the Heart – Activating People in the Wellington Region”. “At

the Heart” reflects the integral nature of physical activity to our wellbeing and our community and Wellington’s place in the “heart” of the country.

#### **1.4 Community Group Meetings:**

During the period, staff attended monthly meetings of the Friends of Belmont Regional Park, Queen Elizabeth Park, and the Guardians of Whareroa. We also visited the Whareroa Block with some of the Guardians to identify key areas for riparian planting.

#### **1.5 MacKay’s Crossing development**

Parks staff have been implementing a landscape plan for around the ranger’s office and toilets at the MacKay’s Crossing entrance, including car parks, planting and grass areas.

As part of the mitigation arrangement, Fulton Hogan (on behalf of Transit) has agreed to do hard landscaping around the wider entrance areas, including drainage work and tar sealing. This will probably take place in the New Year as part of the peripheral tidy up work once the new highway is operating. They are currently focused on getting the new road open by mid-December but have been hampered by poor weather

#### **1.6 Wainuiomata**

A draft landscape plan has been completed for the relocation of the former water treatment plant site office on Reservoir Road. Now used as an environmental education centre, it will be relocated near to the ranger’s office. In its new position the centre will have more space around it and will be in a safer position away from the water supply storage and yard area.

#### **1.7 Staff**

We were very pleased to welcome our new Events Advisor, Catherine Hunt, to the Marketing and Design team. Catherine is well known to many people from her time as PA to Murray Waititi. Since leaving that role two years ago she has worked for Sport Wellington Region as the Event Co-ordinator and then Race Director for Iconic Events. These have included two annual Round the Bays Fun Run Walk events and Sportsperson of the Year Awards.

Shortly we will be recruiting temporary staff to take bookings for the Regional Outdoors Programme, and to conduct this year’s parks research work at Kaitoke Regional Park and Queen Elizabeth Park.

**Amanda Cox**

Manager, Marketing and Design, Water Supply, Parks and Forests