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Natural Heritage Preservation – Taking An Innovative Approach



Otama (photo: John Barren)

An innovative approach to preserving iconic landscapes and areas of exceptional regional significance is currently being developed by Environment Waikato. In what may be a first for New Zealand, the Waikato Regional Council asked residents if they would be willing to pay a bit more through their rates bill to fund protection of the region's natural heritage. And the almost emphatic answer was 'yes'.

The Waikato Region stretches from the Bombay Hills to Lake Taupo and from the cliffs of the Tasman Sea coast to the sandy bays of the Coromandel. The natural heritage of the 2.5 million hectare region is correspondingly diverse. Like much of New Zealand, however, the pressure on that natural heritage is mounting. In particular, the natural character of the coasts is increasingly at risk.

At the same time, residents have consistently said that having access to undeveloped, natural beaches is extremely important to them. EW is tailoring a new natural heritage policy to respond to that conflict.

In early 2002, EW was asked if it would support two natural heritage protection projects. One was an ambitious effort to restore native biodiversity to the Maungatautari Reserve in the central Waikato by constructing a 47km pest-proof fence. The other was an unusual proposal by a private landowner to create a public reserve on the dramatic Te Kouma Peninsula on the west coast of the Coromandel.

During the discussion of these two proposals, it became clear that a more comprehensive review of EW's role in natural heritage preservation was required. After some preliminary analysis EW sought public feedback on whether the council should become more involved in natural heritage preservation. The question was whether the public would be willing to support a programme that could promote partnerships with local authorities, central government, private landowners and the general public to secure a permanent protection for significant natural heritage areas.

The proposal is in line with the EW's commitment to sustainable development and the Government's "Sustainable Development Programme of Action", which warns that important aspects of our natural heritage may be lost unless proactive strategies for protection are developed.

Although EW suspected that there would be public support for protecting natural heritage, it was important to clarify that any additional work would involve additional costs. With that in mind, ratepayers were specifically asked if they would be willing to pay an extra \$3 - \$5 to support this kind of programme.

The proposal generated a remarkable amount of interest. More than 400 submissions on the draft plan were received, an increase of more than 350 from the previous year. The vast majority of



submissions concerned the natural heritage proposal, and about 84% were supportive. A common theme was that protecting coasts and open space is an urgent need and one that the Regional Council should help address.

Submitters also indicated a strong willingness to pay. About 77% said that an additional charge was acceptable to them, and many indicated that they would willingly pay more than \$5. Not surprisingly, the willingness to pay was tempered with a strong desire to see the money go directly to natural heritage projects.

Submitters who opposed the proposal or expressed reservations mostly felt that natural heritage preservation was not appropriate for a regional council arguing that the work should be left to the Department of Conservation. There also was concern about the potential for “rates creep.”

These submissions, while not a representative sample, were a strong indication of public opinion and, as a result, EW decided to go ahead with developing the proposal. The Council concluded that by working with others EW could leverage a variety of resources and make a significant contribution to a sustainable environment and a high quality of life in the region. The move reflects the community’s sense that native bush, natural coasts and public open spaces are valuable community assets and that a special effort is needed to ensure they will be available for future generations.

Environment Waikato’s Regional Policy Statement provides “... for the protection of significant natural and cultural heritage resources, including the protection of views and sight-lines of outstanding natural features and landscapes.” The policy defines natural heritage as “indigenous flora and fauna, terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems and habitats, landscapes, landforms, geological and geomorphic features, soils, and



Te Kouma (photo: Ian James)

the natural character of the coastline.”

Environment Waikato has found that the ability of the Regional Council to preserve natural heritage areas is severely limited by the methods provided by the Resource Management Act. The proposed Natural Heritage Partnership Programme would, however, provide new tools to achieve outcomes that the community supports.

It is envisioned that the programme would collaborate with other partners to secure a permanent public interest in important natural heritage areas through leases, management agreements, covenants, access rights or acquisition. The policy could also promote incentives for private landowners to preserve natural heritage areas on their property.

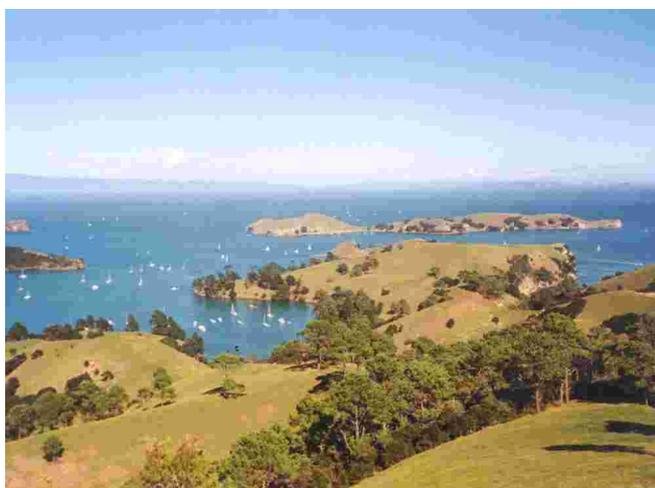
Environment Waikato has been clear that this programme will work only in voluntary co-operation with others. There is no intention to force landowners to provide any form of protection or public access.

In essence, the programme would offer financial assistance from a contestable fund, and non-financial support such as technical assistance, staff expertise, and political backing.

The most discussed funding source has been a uniform regional targeted rate per rateable property. There is little support for a rate based on capital value. The rate would likely be set for a certain number of years in order to avoid the “rate creep” that concerned many submitters.

Environment Waikato believes that protection of New Zealand’s natural heritage is not a responsibility that should fall solely to any one department or level of government. All have a role to play, and more can be achieved by working together rather than separately.

*Kevin Collins
Strategic Development Manager
Environment Waikato
kevin.collins@ew.govt.nz*



Te Kouma (photo: Ian James)

Coasts & Ports Conference

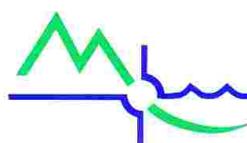
Over 350 scientists, planners, engineers and port managers from fourteen different countries gathered in Auckland during September for the 16th Australasian Conference on Coastal and Ocean Engineering. While over half of the delegates who attended the conference were from New Zealand and a little more than a third from Australia, registrations were also received from as far away as Norway and the Netherlands, as well as Fiji, the Cook Islands, England, Ireland, Belgium, India, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan and Canada.

The forum, which replaced the Annual New Zealand Coastal Society Conference for 2003, was not only sponsored by NZCS but in addition NZCS provided two members – Matthew Patterson and Terry Hulme – to assist on the conference organising committee.

The theme for this year's conference - "Coastal development: A quest for excellence" - incorporated a diverse range of topics. These included models for 'good' coastal development; assessing the design, construction and impact of ports and coastal structures on the natural system; the cost of regulation and compliance; coastal hazards; and the role of science and technology in modelling and monitoring ecological and geomorphological changes in the marine environment.

Although the Australasian Coastal and Oceans Engineering Conference was first held in Australia in 1973, nearly 30 years ago, this was only the fourth time the forum has been held in New Zealand. The next ACOEC will be in Australia in 2005 while the next event to be held in New Zealand will be in 2009.

**Coastal
News**



NEW ZEALAND COASTAL SOCIETY
Promoting Sustainable Management of the Coastal Environment

Making Connections: Cross-boundary Coastal Management

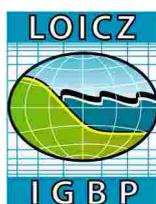
The 2004 Annual Conference of the New Zealand Coastal Society
A Technical Group of the Institute of Professional Engineers of New Zealand

18 - 20 October 2004, Dunedin

Incorporating

A LOICZ* Workshop

*(*Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone)*



in association with the

New Zealand *IGBP Committee

*(*International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme)*

The Impact of Major Dams, Diversions and Water Abstraction on Coastal Sedimentation in New Zealand

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Conference Website: www.coastalsociety.org.nz/conference2004.htm



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Whangarei Coastal Management Strategy

NZCS Regional Co-ordinators

There are a number of Regional Co-ordinators around the country who may be able to help you if you have any queries about NZCS going on's in your local area – or if you are just interested in getting involved in the NZCS on a local level.

The NZCS Committee relies heavily on assistance from the members to provide an ongoing quality of service to the Coastal Society members. There are two vacant positions for Regional Co-ordinators that need filling. If you think you might be able to help out the NZCS in a small way please contact Jo Fagan (Jo.Fagan@gw.govt.nz) who will be able to give you an insight into what this might involve for you.

North Island

Northland	Rick Stolwerk	stolwerk@extra.co.nz
Auckland	Matt Paterson	matthew.paterson@aucklandcity.govt.nz
Waikato	Bronwen Gibberd	Bronwen.Gibberd@ew.govt.nz
Bay of Plenty	Tom Fitzgerald	tom.fitzgerald@opus.co.nz
Hawkes Bay	Gary Clode	Garyc@hbrc.govt.nz
Taranaki	Peter Atkinson	dwk.newplymouth@duffillwatts.com
Manawatu/Wanganui	Jo Rosier	D.J.Rosier@massey.ac.nz
Wellington	David Kennedy	David.Kennedy@vuw.ac.nz

South Island

Upper South Island	Eric Verstappen	eric@tdc.govt.nz
Canterbury	Justin Cope	justin.cope@ecan.govt.nz
Southland/Otago	Mike Hilton Paul Pope	mjh@geography.otago.ac.nz ppope@dcc.govt.nz

Annual Report of the New Zealand Coastal Society Inc.

For the year October 2002 to October 2003

2003 has been another successful year for the New Zealand Coastal Society across a wide spectrum of matters. This success has brought us to the crossroads on many issues, which the new committee will need to address in 2004, but, overall, these are matters that only need consideration due to the positive growth in the society, its products and its members.

Looking back, we had a very successful 2002 conference in Pauanui, with over 100 participants coming to the Coromandel. Andy Short provided our keynote address, and society members from all over the country contributed by way of presentations and field trips. I'd like to especially thank Bronwen Gibberd and Mat Patterson for putting the conference together and making it such a success.

Coastal News continues to be our main flagship, and is the area where we have made the most progress. The current conference edition represents the level we would like the publication to reach on a permanent basis, however, doing so requires considerable effort, more than can be achieved on a voluntary basis.

The committee has looked at a range of options to manage *Coastal News*, and has now contracted the services of a professional advisor, whose job it is to collate articles and prepare *Coastal News* for formatting and layout. I'd like to welcome Alex Eagles to this position, whom I'm sure will make a fantastic difference to the ability of the committee and the society to deliver its outcomes.

A special thanks must go to Lucy Brake who has managed the entire process for *Coastal News* over the past 2 years, with assistance from Mike Hilton. Our website has also developed over the past year, with more information for our members to surf, for which I'd like to thank John Lumsden and Charles Hentdlass at CAE.

Members also continues to grow. At our 2002 AGM, we were forced to re-arrange our membership fee structure to accommodate an administrative fee from IPENZ. While this seems to have not affected our membership in any way, our decision to make student membership free has led to a considerable increase in students joining the society, a trend we are very pleased with. Our membership now totals 329, with 65 students and 16 corporate members. Jo Fagan and Ken Murray have done an excellent job of managing this process over the past year. A special thanks also to Paul Baunton who has worked tirelessly as committee secretary over the past 2 years, managing many of the administrative systems and processes which kept the society

ticking.

The roles of our regional coordinators have continued to develop with NZCS co-coordinators now present in every region. These people provide a point of contact for NZCS members and can facilitate regional meetings and other fora. We hope that you will all take advantage of these contact people to continue to network and grow the society. The names of all contacts are published in every *Coastal News*, as well as on the website. Again my thanks to Jo Fagan for managing this process.

We have developed relationships with other key players in the coastal and environmental management community. In March we met with senior officers of the Department of Conservation, Ocean Policy Secretariat (Ministry for the Environment) and the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, Dr Morgan Williams, and some of his staff. We discussed areas of common concern and interest. I hope these relationships will help put the society nearer the centre of coastal and ocean policy development in the future. We have also developed a closer relationship with the Environmental Defence Society, who have a long history of expertise and interest in coastal development and subdivision in New Zealand. This relationship will develop over the coming year.

Our financial position continues to be very sound. We have taken a prudent approach to our funds, while investing in key services and products such as *Coastal News* and sponsoring the "New Zealand Coast" book, which has recently been published. The society does have a reasonable amount of accumulated funds, however, with our foray into professional assistance for *Coastal News*, we will assess the effects this has on our financial resources through the year, before committing to any other expenditure. We do not propose to change the fee structure this year. I'd like to thank Eric Verstappen for continuing to liaise with IPENZ as our committee treasurer.

Looking forward, I expect that the next committee will oversee an exciting and promising year for the NZCS. We expect our services and products to continue to grow and develop, and we hope that this will be reflected by more members joining and seeing value in the society. Lastly, I'd like to invite you all to Dunedin on 18-20 October 2004 for the next NZCS conference, the theme of which will be "making connections: cross boundary coastal management".

Coastal
News



A Vision/Moemoea for the Future of the Wairoa Coast

Coastal News



Maungawhio Lagoon (photo: Beca)

Wairoa District Council and Beca Planning are preparing a coastal strategy for the Wairoa district. With approximately 130 km of diverse coastline, the Wairoa District on the eastern coast of the North Island of New Zealand boasts a stunning landscape – rich in Maori and European history, with a range of iconic wilderness landscapes from mountains to the sea, including the Mahia Peninsula and the extensive lagoon systems at Whakaki. This coastline represents a complex, dynamic and fragile environment with many, often competing resources and resource demands.

Whilst it would appear that development pressures in this area of New Zealand are fairly minimal, a recent subdivision application for over 100 lots on the coastal hill slopes of the Mahia Peninsula has alerted the Council and the local community to the future pressures on the coastal environment and the need for a robust planning regime to be in place.

In order to provide an integrated direction for the protection, use and development of the Wairoa coastal environment the Council has asked Beca to develop a coastal strategy to set a long-term strategic vision or 'moemoea' for the coast. This includes identifying and describing the resources and values of the coastline, assessing options for management of the coastal environment, determining infrastructure requirements for



Tē Mahia (photo: Beca)

coastal settlements and providing implementation methods to achieve the vision/moemoea. Key to the successful integration of coastal management is the adoption of a common community vision/moemoea for the future of coastal environments and establishing a way forward to achieve this vision/moemoea. It is about a strong partnership between the Council and the community. The strategy will provide the Council with an umbrella from which a raft of plans, tools and other statutory and non-statutory methods can be derived.

The strategic vision/moemoea and direction will result from extensive public consultation with the local community, stakeholders and tangata whenua over the next year. The initial rounds of consultation have already been undertaken with a number of wananga, meetings and workshops being held in marae and community centres along the Wairoa coast. As a result of the initial consultation key strategic management themes have been developed, including Landscape, Tangata Whenua, Natural Hazards, Social and Community, Recreation and Access, Land Use and Development and Infrastructure. Key issues within each of these themes have been identified and from these objectives and policies will be drafted.

The second round, due to take place at the end of November, will also involve wanangas, meetings, hui, workshops, public displays and a drop-in centre. A key component is working closely with the tangata whenua and local communities to ensure the objectives and implementations of the strategy reflect their vision for the coast and that these groups are empowered and supported to sustainably manage the coastal environment. From this round of consultation visions/moemoea, objectives and policies for each local coastal community will also be developed as well as implementation tools for each set of policies, for the key strategic management themes and the local area visions. Structure Plans will



Opoutoma Beach (photo: Beca)



Table Cape, Mahia Peninsula (photo: Beca)

also be developed for Mahia Beach and Mahanga Beach to provide initial implementation of the strategy.

The Wairoa Coastal Strategy will help the Council plot a coherent direction for long-term planning and embrace a prosperous future while protecting the environment for generations to come.

For more information contact one of the Project Team: Lucy Brake, Beca Planning (lbrake@beca.co.nz) or Leo Koziol, Wairoa District Council (leo@wdc.co.nz).



Consultation at Kaiuku Marae (photo: Beca)



NZCS Financial Report

The opening balance of the NZCS financial accounts from 1 October 2002 to 31 July 2003 showed an increase of more than \$10,000 from the previous year at \$81,868. The income of \$22,707 received was also slightly up from 2002, the major increase a result of the NZCS involvement in the highly successful 2003 Coasts & Ports Conference.

On the other side of the balance sheet NZCS expenses for 2003 were marginally less at \$12,995.

Of the total accumulated funds balance of \$91,581 a sum of \$80,000 is invested in a Westpac short term deposit account leaving \$11,581 in the current account.

Profile – David Phizacklea, NZCS Management Committee Member



New NZCS Management Committee member, David Phizacklea, is an environmental policy planner in Tauranga, a region where he has lived nearly all his life. David holds a position with the Tauranga District Council, which involves

working on a myriad of policy and planning issues within one of New Zealand's fastest growing coastal environments. He is responsible for a myriad of projects including mangrove management, coastal urbanisation, State of the Environment monitoring, coastal hazards and harbour flooding plan changes, archaeological site inventory work, and marine protection initiatives. He has been a coastal society member since 1996 and has an enormous interest in coastal processes and management.

David graduated from the University of Waikato with a Master of Science degree with first class honours in earth science in 1993. His thesis was entitled "Littoral Sediment Budget and Beach Morphodynamics, Pukehina Beach-Matata, Bay

of Plenty". David worked for the Department of Conservation in Rotorua as its coastal planner and as a senior conservation officer for six years before joining his current position in 2000.

David's professional highlights have included the role of coastal expert for the Western Bay of Plenty District Council and Pukehina Ratepayers Association who successfully opposed continued sand extraction at Otamarakau before the Environment Court in 2000. He has also organised field trips on coastal hazards and management in the Tauranga District for the 2000 Rotorua International Coastal Symposium and 2001 New Zealand Planning Institute Conference.

David spends his spare time in the summer enjoying cricket and touch rugby. He is currently club captain of the Otumoetai Cadets Cricket Club, who last year represented Northern Districts in the National Club Championships. However, in the winter he continues to be 'semi-retired' from rugby in an effort to find solace in more sedate pastimes.

David can be contacted through his email address: davidp@tauranga.govt.nz

Coastal News



A Word from the Chair

Last month saw the Coasts and Ports conference being held in Auckland. This conference - the 16th Australasian Coastal and Ocean Engineering Conference and the 9th Australasian Port and Harbour Conference - incorporated our own Annual NZCS conference and Annual General Meeting. As those of who you came to Auckland will agree, the conference was an outstanding success both in terms of attendance from around the world, and also in terms of the quality of papers and presentations made. Our society played no small part in the conference, with most of the organising committee being NZCS members. I'm extremely grateful to the organising committee for their dedication and commitment to what was a mammoth, but I'm sure very rewarding task.

Our own AGM is always a significant milestone, as it give us an opportunity to look back on the success of the society over the past year, and to seek the views of our members as we look forward to the next 12 months. It also gives us a chance to elect a new management committee. I'm delighted that most of the 2002/03 committee has decided to stay on for another year and I'm sure their wisdom and experience will continue to add value to the Society. Importantly, we have three new committee members who will bring new life, vitality and new ideas with them. They are: David Phizacklea, Tauranga District Council; Bronwen Gibberd, Environment Waikato; and Megan Linwood, Ministry for the Environment.

I'd like to welcome David, Bronwen and Megan and would encourage you to contact them and any other committee member if there are matters you would like brought to our attention. Lastly I'd like to thank Paul Baunton for his tireless work as NZCS secretary over the past 2 years. We've all appreciated his invaluable input into the outcomes and the culture of the committee, and hope that when time permits he can return to add more value.

We're now making plans for the Society's 2004 conference, which will be held in Dunedin between 18 and 24 October, with a theme of "Making Connections: Cross-Boundary Coastal Management". The conference is being held in conjunction with a LOICZ (Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone) workshop on "The Effects of Major Dams, Diversions and Water Abstraction on Coastal Sedimentation in Southern New Zealand". Together these promise to result in one of the most exciting conferences we have held, so I'd encourage you to start setting aside those dates now.

Best wishes

Harvey Brookes, Chairman, New Zealand Coastal Society harvey.brookes@arc.govt.nz



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What's Hot On The Web



Surfrider Foundation - State of the Beach Environment 2003
www.beach.com/stateofthebeach/

The US Surfrider Foundation State of the Beach report is an annual survey of the health of US beaches. The report is intended to empower concerned citizens and coastal managers by giving them the information needed to take action. Surfrider's State of the Beach report applies that critical 'surfer's eye' to the conditions of US beaches. For four years the Surfrider Foundation has been collecting information in the areas of beach access, surf zone water quality, beach erosion, beach nourishment, shoreline structures, and surfing areas to get an understanding of the condition of our nation's beaches. For 21 coastal states and territories the Foundation have looked at the availability of public information on these 'beach health indicators' and also evaluated the status of the indicators.

American Coastal Coalition
www.coastalcoalition.org/index.html

The American Coastal Coalition is a US membership organization composed of governmental entities, government officials, business people, academics, national and regional interest groups and advocacy organizations, property owners' associations, individual coastal community residents, and others. It has been organized to serve as the voice of the nation's coastal communities in Washington, DC. ACC's goals are to preserve the role of the federal government in shore protection; support policies and programs which promote travel and tourism to coastal regions of the United States; promote the preservation, protection and restoration of sandy beaches along America's coastline, including the Great lakes; foster public understanding of the importance of well-maintained beaches to the national economy and to national disaster protection policy; and support these objectives in an environmentally and fiscally-sound manner.

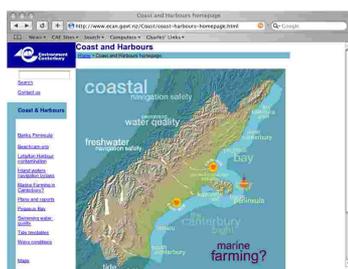


Sewage World
www.sewage.net/

The Sewage World website connects you to water and wastewater plants around the world. Most of the plants are located in the USA and Canada, although a few waste-water and water plants located in other countries are listed.

Environment Canterbury, Coasts & Harbours
www.ecan.govt.nz/Coast/coast-harbours-homepage.html

The Coasts & Harbours section of the Environment Canterbury website covers everything from tide times to beach cams and water quality reports to marine farms.



New Zealand Legislation
www.legislation.govt.nz/

This website provides free public access to unofficial versions of New Zealand statutes (Public, Local, and Private Acts) and Statutory Regulations. You can search and browse this material free of charge. The New Zealand Legislation website is provided by the New Zealand Parliamentary Counsel Office/Te Tari Tohutohu Paremata (PCO) in association with Brookers, as part of the Public Access to Legislation (PAL) Project. The website is hosted and maintained by Brookers, and is updated monthly.



Footprints Newsletter
www.beachdrainage.com/

This newsletter is dedicated to beach drainage and beach-face dewatering technology. The newsletter provides information on research and project activities round the world.



Coastal News



News from the Regions

Coastal News



Hawke's Bay Region

by Gary Clode, NZCS Hawke's Bay Area Coordinator

Tenders are currently being called for the annual Westshore Beach nourishment contract. This has been an annual contract since 1987 involving placement of 10,000 to 12,000 cubic metres of fine gravel onto either the northern or southern half (alternately) of the Westshore Beach. Material for nourishment is obtained from the Napier foreshore, just down-drift of the Port breakwater. Napier City Council and the Hawke's Bay Regional Council jointly fund the project. Costs are about \$120,000 per annum.

Although the nourishment has successfully halted the landward erosion over the past 15 years or so, there has been increasing public and political concern about the sustainability of the scheme and the desire to look for a more 'permanent' solution. There is also the never-ending debate on the effect of the port breakwater and its impact on the movement of fine sand into Westshore Bay. Over the years there has been several hundred thousand dollars spent on a variety of investigations and reports relating to Westshore.

In the *Hawke's Bay Today* (06/09/2003), under the heading 'Port Entrance is Starving Westshore of Sand', Cr J Harrison was reported as saying "the council has spent an estimated \$350,000 on studies..." However, this did not include the cost of studies carried out by the Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

Two of the most recent reports have undergone a peer review by a world-renowned coastal expert, Dr Paul Komar, Consulting Oceanographer, USA, who visited Hawke's Bay in early May. These two reviews are part of a larger review of a number of coastal issues in the Hawke's Bay and Dr Komar's visit and review work is being jointly funded by Napier City Council, Hawke's Bay Regional Council and the Port of Napier Limited.

One of the peer reviews completed is "Review of the Westshore Nourishment Scheme – Napier City" by Dr J Gibb and A Gibb. This report was to review the nourishment scheme in order to improve its efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability. The review was favourable to a number of recommendations made in the report regarding the source of nourishment sediment and placement of the sediment. The review also highlighted the need to improve the understanding of the sediment budgets and recommended a number of studies to be carried out.

The second peer review completed was "Westshore Coastal Process Investigation" by ASR Marine and Freshwater Consultants, S Mead, K Black, P McComb. This substantial report was completed in Sept. 2001 and contributes to the understanding of the sediment transport and

coastal erosion problems with a focus on the fine-grained sand that resides mainly in shallow water, offshore from the beach. The ASR report concluded that prior to the construction of the breakwater, sand was able to bypass the natural headland and move directly into the Bay where it accumulated on Westshore Beach. A point not contested by Dr Komar and a point not lost by the proponents for more permanent solutions for Westshore. The review strongly supported the ASR recommendations to:

- place the Port's dredged sand in the nearshore, shallower than 5 metres; and
- construct an artificial reef, (sand-filled geotextile tube) to the north end of the sand disposal area to inhibit the dispersal of the placed sand alongshore.

The review was less convinced about the placement of the artificial reef and noted that any change to improve the surfing should not be at the expense of the need to provide shore protection and restore a sand beach at Westshore.

With each new report and review generating recommendations for further work, it looks to me like there is plenty more investigation and reporting required and lots more debate to come. Is there no end to all this?

Wellington Region

by David Kennedy, NZCS Hawke's Bay Area Coordinator

Coastal development has been very much in the news in the Wellington region over the past few months. Leading the way has been the completion of the Oriental Bay Beach, which was officially open by the Mayor near the end of June, and the last barge load of sand delivered in July. Visitors to Wellington and residents alike can look forward to swimming on a golden sandy beach this summer. (The more hardy need not wait that long!). The beach, which cost a total of \$7.5 million, saw 27,000 tonnes of sand barged across the Cook Strait from Takaka.

A new development has just been approved for Lyall Bay where an artificial surfing reef will be installed for an estimated cost of \$1.1 million. The reef will be positioned on the eastern side of Lyall Bay and is designed to increase the total area of break as well as the amount of surfable days.

On the less developed Wairarapa coast, Wellington Regional Council has just released their draft coastal strategy. This has been the result of 18 months of consultation with the local community and key stakeholders. The main aim of the plan has been "to provide for sensitive, sustainable development of the Wairarapa coast which recognizes and retains its special qualities". Its key recommendations relate to providing guidelines for, and allowing community

involvement in, the management of the area.

If you require more information on any of these projects I can point you in the right direction as there are some excellent web sites providing many more details.

Canterbury Region

by Justin Cope, NZCS Canterbury Region Area Coordinator

An Update On Amberley Beach

In Issue 22 of Coastal News we reported on the proposed 10,000m³ beach nourishment for over 1km of beachfront at Amberley Beach, North Canterbury. This project was completed at the end of August and now should provide some



Figure 1: The Amberley Beach car park before nourishment in February 2002 (photo: Environment Canterbury)



Figure 2: The Amberley Beach car park after the nourishment in September 2003 (photo: Environment Canterbury)

well-needed protection for the residents of this small coastal settlement. The nourishment project has been a collaborative effort between the residents, Hurunui District Council, Christchurch Ready Mix Ltd (who donated the nourishment material) and Environment Canterbury.

Canterbury Coastal Group Seminar 2003

The annual Canterbury Coastal Group Seminar organised by Environment Canterbury was held in Christchurch during June. Hosted every year for the past 11 years, the seminar invites practitioners and students in the Canterbury coastal science and management community to participate in presentations and discussions on topical coastal research and management issues in the Canterbury region. We had another great turnout this year with around 40 participants entertained by a full day of presentations and group discussions.

David Gregory and Hamish Barrell from Environment Canterbury spoke on the challenges of accommodating marine farms along the Canterbury coast while Andrew Old, also from Environment Canterbury discussed how ECan is monitoring the state of public access to the coastline.

We had three great presentations on tsunami. Michelle Wild outlined NIWA's recent tsunami modelling study of the Kaikoura coastline and James Goff updated everyone on his searches for evidence of some historical big ones. Mark Bang from the Timaru District Council talked about his Councils' approach to emergency management planning for tsunami and coastal inundation.

Emma Vesey and Tim Nolan from the University of Canterbury gave an update on their research into coastal processes at Gore Bay in North Canterbury and beach cusps as relic systems respectively.

Jenny Ridgen from the Christchurch City Council gave an excellent presentation on current state of knowledge on the melting of the Antarctic ice and Derek Todd rounded off the day with his investigations into erosion at Amberley Beach in North Canterbury and the design of the now completed renourishment project.

Waikato Region

by Bronwen Gibberd, NZCS Waikato Region Area Coordinator

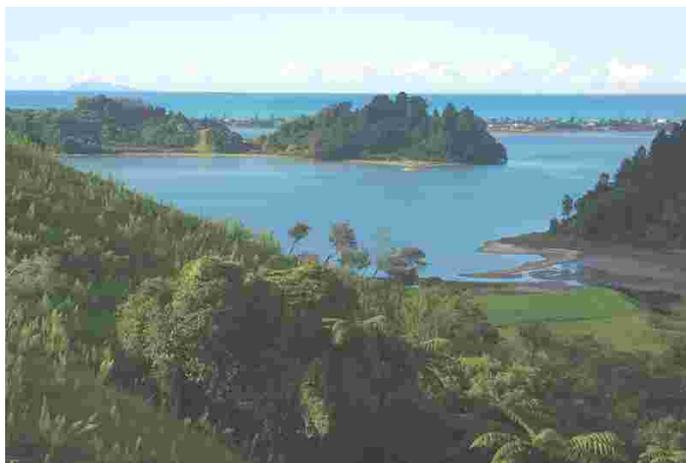
Fate Of Seawall To Be Decided

Environment Waikato and Thames Coromandel District Council will be holding a joint Restricted Coastal Activity hearing in early October to decide the fate of a block and rubble wall placed along the frontage of a number of beachfront properties at Buffalo Beach, Whitianga. The wall was first placed by residents during a period of erosion in the winter of 2000, and has been maintained since under a short-term consent.

**Coastal
News**



Looking To The Future Of Ohiwa Harbour



Ohiwa Harbour (photo: Environment BOP)

Coastal News



Ohiwa Harbour, nestled on the Bay of Plenty coast near Whakatane, has a special place in the hearts of many generations of people who have long appreciated its natural beauty, gained sustenance from it, and enjoyed the recreational opportunities it offers them.

Now, those who have a relationship with Ohiwa Harbour and its catchment are being invited by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council to help create a strategy for its future.

Ohiwa Harbour is the second largest coastal body in the Bay of Plenty and is considered 'a place of great significance' both nationally and around the world, says Beverley Hughes, Environment Bay of Plenty resource planner.

The harbour and its wetlands are located in the flight path of internationally significant migratory birds (godwits, whimbrel, curlew, golden plover, red-necked stints, sandpipers, rudy turnstones, dotterel and lesser knot), coming from as far away as Siberia. The harbour, covering approximately 2,700ha at high water, is actually very shallow and the ideal feeding ground for waders with 70% of this area exposed at low tide.

Originally a river valley, the harbour was formed between 7,000 and 18,000 years ago when the last ice age ended. The sea level rose and flooded the area forming an open bay. Then 2,000 to 6,000 years ago the Ohope and Ohiwa spits began to form as sands were deposited at the entrance to the bay until eventually the area was almost completely enclosed and a harbour was formed.

The harbour is also famous for being the southern most place in the world where significant numbers of mangroves grow, as well as the southern most point where the Pacific oyster will grow.

Mangrove trees and vegetation together account for only 5% of the vegetation found in Ohiwa Harbour. The remainder is composed of estuarine vegetation, which covers around 14% (380ha) of the harbour, 135ha of rush and sedgeland, 115ha of flaxlands and freshwater wetlands, while

seagrass and Gracilaria algae occupy most of the intertidal areas.

Secretive birds, like the bittern, banded rail, spotless crane and fernbird, utilise this vegetation to hide out of sight while pukeko, pied stilt, hawk and ducks build their nests in amongst the foliage. Tui, bellbird and grey warbler sing from the forest which hugs the edge of the harbour while the occasional falcon hovers above the tree tops in search of prey.

Ohiwa Harbour is the local ocean supermarket for animals to stock up on those essential items such as worms, mud crabs, fish, shellfish and stingray. As well as the abundant bird life Ohiwa Harbour is a feeding ground for seals, orca, penguin, dolphins, sharks and even whales. It is also a nursery where juvenile fish and crustaceans are nurtured in the warm, protected waters.

In addition to shellfish collecting and fishing, people use the harbour for diving, swimming, skiing, jet skiing, sailing, windsurfing, picnics and bird watching.

For many years Ohiwa Harbour was considered to be the best shipping harbour in the Bay of Plenty. In fact it was nearly chosen to be the timber export port that Mt Maunganui is today. Although the Port Ohope wharf was built in 1958 to transport newsprint from the local mills to the South Island, by 1963, when the roll on-roll off ferries started to cross the Cook Strait, it spelled the end for Ohiwa as a commercial harbour.

"Environment Bay of Plenty is looking for information that will help to develop a strategy for things like kaitiakitanga, recreation, reserves, and development," says Ms Hughes. "We need to know what it is about Ohiwa and its catchment that makes it special to the local people. What qualities would these people never want to lose? What should Ohiwa be like in 50 years time?"

A number of agencies, including Environment Bay of Plenty, the Department of Conservation, Opotiki and Whakatane District Councils, Ngati Awa, Tuhoe and Whakatohea, are currently managing different aspects of the harbour and catchment. Environment Bay of Plenty is hoping to use the new strategy to promote more effective communication between agencies and people to avoid duplications of spending and gaps in management.

"The pressure for development in the Ohiwa Harbour is growing," Ms Hughes says. "It's important that we are proactive and working together in our approach to sustainably manage this wonderful resource so it is there for future generations. Let's think ahead together."

Editorial

The New Zealand Coastal Society has grown and developed to a point where the Management Committee have now secured the services of a paid part-time Editor for *Coastal News* and Coordinator for the society. Alex Eagles will be assisting the Management Committee Team in editorial work and administration services. Alex has a Masters in Marine Science and extensive experience in environmental journalism. The contract will be on a 6-month trial basis until March 2004, at which time the services and costs will be reviewed. As has been previously discussed, the scale of the work the Management Committee undertake voluntarily and the importance of the *Coastal News* to the NZCS have led the Management Committee to assess a range of opportunities to reduce the pressure on key members and have chosen this as the best option.

As always *Coastal News* attempts to portray an unbiased view of what is happening out there in the coastal world and the articles submitted have been left as untouched as possible to allow the authors' individuality to prevail. Therefore, please be assured that the views expressed by the authors are not necessarily those of the NZCS or IPENZ. The *Coastal News* merely provides a forum for discussion. The *Coastal News* appreciates all contributions and would like to thank all of the authors in this edition. We are always on the look out for interesting features, so if you have an interesting project you are working on we will be more than happy to include something in the next *Coastal News*.

The next *Coastal News* will be run by Alex, who can be contacted at penguins@clear.net.nz. This issue will feature articles on New Zealand Coastal Society members working on projects overseas and I am sure there will be lots of interesting articles and great photographs of coastal areas around the world. I will still provide a guiding role to Alex for a couple more editions but I am certainly looking forward to taking a step back and a different role on the NZCS Management Team. I am very grateful for the assistance of a few key people during the time I have spent as Editor, and would specifically like to mention the support of Harvey Brookes and Terry Hume as well as all the people who have continued to provide interesting, thought provoking articles.

Lucy Brake, Editor
(lbrake@beca.co.nz)

Coastal
News



Profile — Tom Fitzgerald

NZCS Bay of Plenty Regional Co-ordinator



Tom Fitzgerald may not have started out his academic life in the manner of your typical planner but today he is more than making up for it as a graduate planner with Opus Consultants in Tauranga.

Tom started out studying physical sciences for four years at Massey University eventually completed an Honours degree with specific focus on coastal management. The final year of Tom's studies included a dissertation relating to investigation of sea level rise and coastal hazard assessment, particularly relating to the Manawatu-Wanganui coastline. Also included in this final year was a fieldtrip to Phuket, Thailand where Tom investigated the overwhelming impact of tourism on Thailand's famous beaches. This of course was all completed under the close scrutiny

of Dr Patrick Hesp.

Since that time Tom has worked for Opus Consultants for just over a year on variety of projects both small and large in scale. These have included authorising a number of summertime activities on the Main Beach at Mount Maunganui such as volleyball and surf lifesaving competitions, as well as processing a consent for the extension of the boardwalk on the Main Beach within the Coastal Hazard Erosion Policy Area. Tom is currently involved in preparing the consent for all Transit New Zealand's pre-1991 coastal structures in the BOP Region.

Tom has a keen interest in any and all matters coastal and would like to carry on his studies to a higher level. When he isn't studying or playing on the beach Tom spends his days strumming the guitar, swimming, tramping, and a whole range of other sports including beach volleyball!

To contact Tom you can email him at thomas.fitzgerald@opus.co.nz.

To all NZCS memebrrs: if you are interested in becoming a NZCS Regional Co-ordinator, please contact Jo Fagan at jo.fagan@gwrc.govt.nz to register your interest.



Marine Farm Tendering

Fisheries Minister Pete Hodgson recently announced that existing marine farms will not be tendered as a result of aquaculture reforms. Established marine farmers had been concerned they would lose security of tenure under the reforms. The minister said tendering would still be the default mechanism for allocating new water space within Aquaculture Management Areas developed after the reforms. The Minister advised the Aquaculture Bill would be introduced to Parliament soon.

ODT, 4 June 2003

Exclusive village on island planned

An exclusive 200-home Pauanui-style residential retreat built around man-made canals and private beaches is being proposed for Matakana Island. The planned multimillion-dollar development is a joint venture between Matakana Island trust company, TKC Holdings, and Kapiti-based development company Pritchard Group. Matakana Island is in freehold title with TKC Holdings owning 2000ha of the island. The Pritchard Group confirmed the development, now known as 'Matakana Waterways', could begin late next year with completion in 2007. The development could also include a village centre, tennis courts, clubhouse, helipad, marina and yacht club.

ODT, 28 July 2003

Environment Court finds in favour of East Coast Tangata Whenua in outfall case

Since 1964 wastewater from Gisborne City has been discharged into Poverty Bay via an offshore outfall. The Gisborne District Council applied for, and was granted, three coastal permits to enable the continued use of the existing wastewater outfall.

The appellants, who are representative bodies of tangata Whenua (Te Runanga o Turanganui a Kiwa, and the Paokahu, Kopututea and Awapuni Trusts), appealed the granting of the consents. They oppose the granting of the consents because the outfall discharge is inconsistent with sections of the RMA1991 and an affront to, and desecration of, their cultural values as tangata whenua. Specifically, the discharge of human waste to the coastal marine area is fundamentally inconsistent with tikanga Maori. Tangata whenua lost their appeal to have the outfall stopped by December this year, but the Council has been told that its timeline for a wastewater strategy is inadequate.

The Environment Court has allowed the outfall discharge to continue only until 2005, and not until 2010 as requested.

The Gisborne Herald, 26 September 2003

Dunedin City Council granted discharge consents, but must improve wastewater quality by 2011

The hearings panel of the Otago Regional Council have recommended to the Minister of Conservation that the Dunedin City Council be granted coastal permits (28 years) to discharge treated wastewater into the ocean via an 1100m offshore outfall. The proposal had attracted significant local opposition, with the majority of submitters seeking improved wastewater quality (in addition to the new outfall). However, a condition of the consent requires the wastewater to be improved to a standard that will allow contact recreation and seafood gathering along the shoreline by 2011. Occasional chlorination must also cease by 2011. The Dunedin City Council has estimated advanced secondary treatment with ultraviolet treatment would cost in the order of \$47m. The Council's strategy was to shift the existing Lawyers Head outfall offshore, then invest in further treatment only if the results of shoreline monitoring indicated this necessary. Effluent dispersion models presented in the AEE indicated the proposed offshore outfall would not prevent occasional pollution of adjoining beaches. The parties involved have not yet resolved to appeal the Committee's recommendations.

Waikato District Health Board widens shellfish warning

Shellfish from the Waikato coast show high levels of a toxin which causes paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) at levels of 101 micrograms per 100 grams of flesh. The acceptable limit is 80 micrograms. The limits of an existing health warning on the coast from south Taranaki to the Kaipara Harbour have been extended to include Raglan harbour. Affected species include kina, mussels, scallops, catseyes or pupu, toheroa, pipi, tuatua, oysters and cockles. Officials have warned that cooking does not remove the toxin. Warning signs are being put up at boat ramps and shellfish accesses along the coast. The last such warning on Waikato's west coast was lifted in January 2001. It was issued in June 2000 and was caused by the same algae.

NZH 1 October 2003

Waikato aquaculture management area

A variation to Environment Waikato's regional coastal plan will result in Wilsons Bay - 34km north of Thames on the peninsula's western coast - becoming an area of intensive aquaculture. An area of 1000ha has been identified as an aquaculture management area. Marine farming will be a prohibited activity outside this area, apart from 540ha of existing marine farms mostly located around the upper Coromandel Peninsula.

A report to the council says Wilsons Bay will produce a further 35,000 to 40,000 tonnes of mussels a year, with a primary value of a further \$40 million within several years. The current moratorium on processing new marine farm applications ends in March 2004.

NZH, 1 October 2003

DoC seeks to reduce disturbance of seals

Following a recent review the Director-General of Conservation has declared a 10-year moratorium on new permits for tourism operations involving swimming with seals in the Kaikoura and Abel Tasman areas, and on new permits for seal tourism at Ohau Pt, near Kaikoura. The review also recommended a 20m minimum approach distance for seal viewing from boats and the shore, previously 10m for kayaks and from the shore.

NZH, 20 September 2003

Kapiti Island guest lodge approved

A nature lodge on Kapiti Island has gained final Environment Court approval after protracted talks between opponents and supporters. The applicants applied to Kapiti Coast District Council in December 2001 for consent to take overnight and daytime paying visitors to private land on the island. The proposal was opposed by the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society and Kapiti Island Watching Interest, which appealed against the council's decision in August last year to grant consent. Conditions issued by the court, agreed to by all parties, are mainly concerned with protecting the island's predator-free status, limiting visitor numbers and minimising fire risk.

NZH, 17 September 2003

Consents for Ruakaka marina & canal development declined

A hearing committee of the Northland Regional Council has advised the Minister of Conservation to decline permission for a 130ha housing, marina and canal development at Ruakaka. The Committee resolved that dredging a 600m channel would be too damaging to the environment. The proposal is from Marsden Cove, a joint venture between Hopper Developments, which developed waterway subdivisions at Pauanui and Whitianga, and Northland Port Corporation. Its plans were for a 250-berth marina, 700 housing sections, cafes, bars and a 25m-wide access channel from the Whangarei Harbour. Up to 400 houses would have had canal frontages.

NZH, 24 September 2003

Peugeot (NZ) Sponsorship

Peugeot (NZ), who are committed to supporting environmental initiatives in countries where they have a presence, have recently become financial members of the Coastal Dune Vegetation Network. In addition, they have agreed to develop a sponsorship role with the CDVN to help protect and restore New Zealand's coastal dunes. The sponsorship will mainly involve providing financial assistance in the form of advertising for CDVN promotional activities. The CDVN Chair, Harley Spence, will continue to undertake the management of such activities.

Lyall Bay artificial surfing reef gains consents

The Lyall Bay Reef Charitable Trust gained resource consents from the Wellington Regional Council to construct an artificial surf reef in Lyall Bay on the 12 September. The proposed surfing reef will be constructed in 4.0 m - 5.3 m depth at Lowest Astronomical Tide. The surf reef will be located approximately 200 metres off shore, more or less opposite Kingsford Smith Street in Lyall Bay.

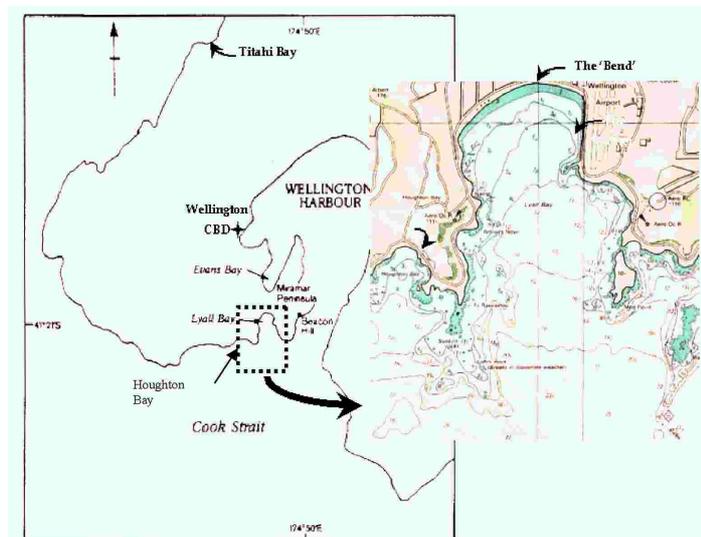


Figure 1: Lyall Bay Map

The reef will consist of a 135 m right-hand break with the first 75 m - 80 m fast and hollow for competent surfers, a 15 m short very fast section (to provide a deep tube-ride in clean swell conditions, or to divide the 80 m section from the inside 50 m section during broken conditions) and an inside slower peeling section of 45 m - 50 m section for intermediate surfers, and a 65 m left-hander, fast and steep for competent surfers.

The proposed surf reef will cover an area of approximately 5400 m². The volume of the proposed surf reef structure is 15,000m³ (Dougall Campbell, Senior Environmental Planner, MWH NZ Ltd.).

At the time of writing it is not known whether there have been any appeals.



Conferences/Workshops

HYDRO 2003 The 4th Australasian Hydrographic Symposium

24-26 November 2003, Christchurch, New Zealand

For those interested in hydrographic surveys or coastal and offshore oceanography, the New Zealand branch of the Hydrographic Society of Australasia is this year hosting the Australasian Hydrographic Symposium only held every 6 years.

For further information contact the conference secretariat at wendybarker@xtra.co.nz.

Coastal Dune Vegetation Network Conference

10-12th March, 2004, Te Papa, Wellington, New Zealand

The first day of the CDVN conference will include a fieldtrip to coastal restoration projects on the South Wellington Coast, Petone and the Eastbourne bays as well as a look at the sand renourishment project which is turning Oriental Bay back into a beach.

The second day will explore issues relevant to community groups and organisations undertaking coastal restoration projects such as:

- where to find funding;
- new OSH regulations;
- recruiting, retaining and working effectively with volunteers;
- planning restoration plantings;
- using threatened and/or culturally important plants;
- coastal ecosystems; and
- recreational impacts.

The final day looks at dune restoration on the Kapiti Coast, the impacts of shore protection works at Raumati, and sand dune restoration on a budget, managing community conflict and running a nursery at Otaki. The conference will end with workshops on harvesting seed, growing seedlings, community nurseries, and plant care.

For more information contact Jo Fagan at jo.fagan@gw.govt.nz.

Coast to Coast 2004 – Australia's National Coastal Conference

19-23 April, 2004, Hobart, Tasmania

Although huge progress has been made in integrated coastal zone management there are greater pressures on our coasts now than 10 years ago, and new directions and solutions are needed. As a result the 2004 ANCC will focus on quality planning and management of the coastal and marine areas such as:

- natural resource management across the catchment-coast-ocean continuum;
- adapting to climate change;

- sustainability and the coast;
- inspiring and supporting community participation;
- understanding and integrating indigenous issues;
- planning and management in our marine areas; and
- sustainable coastal tourism and recreation.

For more information go to www.cdesign.com.au/coast2coast2004

International Conference on Hydrosience and Engineering 2004

30 May – 3 June 3, 2004, Cairns, Australia

The 6th ICHE focuses on the interactions between coastal aquifers and the ocean/estuaries, covering a wide range of topics including saltwater intrusion, contaminant transport and reactions in coastal aquifers, submarine groundwater discharge and associated chemical fluxes to coastal waters, and propagation of oceanic oscillations in coastal aquifers.

All papers featuring analytical and numerical modelling, laboratory and field experiments and case studies are welcome.

Visit www.ncche.olemiss.edu/iche2004/ for more information.

Estuarine Conference

20-25 June, 2004, Ballina, Northern NSW, Australia

In June 2004, Southern Cross University will host the next joint Estuarine and Coastal Sciences Association (ECSA) and Estuarine Research Federation (ERF) International Conference. The conference theme 'Response of tropical, temperate and polar estuaries to natural and anthropogenic changes' identifies that estuaries are subject to both natural and anthropogenic change and that both the forcings and responses may be different at different latitudes.

Located at the boundary of the land, sea and atmosphere, estuaries are affected by changes occurring in all three adjacent systems. Estuaries have always been in a continuous state of natural change in response to forcings on diurnal (e.g. productivity), daily (e.g. tides), seasonal (e.g. river flow), episodic (e.g. floods), annual (e.g. biological communities), decadal (e.g. ENSO), and longer (e.g. sea level rise) time scales.

More recently however, anthropogenic change due to intense pressure from human use has been superimposed on, and in some cases is overriding, these scales of natural change.

One of the most difficult tasks facing estuarine scientists is discerning natural change from anthropogenic change; an essential task required for management of human impacts.

For more information please visit the website at www.scu.edu.ecsa37erf2004conference

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8th National Conference on Hydraulics in Water Engineering

13-16 July, 2004, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia

The Institution of Engineers conference will provide a forum for reporting and discussion on design challenges and solutions, environmental issues, sustainability, risk management, and the latest research in hydraulics. All those with an interest in water engineering hydraulics are invited to attend and consider submitting a paper for review.

For updates on the conference you can visit www.orgaus.com.au/hydraulics.

International Conference on Coastal Engineering 2004

19-24 September, 2004, Lisbon, Portugal

The ICCE is inviting original papers on the following topics:

- Coastal processes and climate change.
- Flood and coastal defence engineering and management.
- Flood risk management.
- Coastal environment.
- Ports and harbours.
- Coastal legislation, planning and co-operation.

For more information contact icce2004@nec.pt or go to www.icce2004.org

Littoral 2004

19-22 September, 2004, Aberdeen, Scotland

Littoral 2004 is the second joint conference between EUROCOAST (www.eurocoast.org) and the EUCC-The Coastal Union (www.eucc.nl). The theme "Delivering Sustainable Coasts: Connecting Science and Policy" will include topics on:

- data and data policy;

- dynamic coasts and their management;
- exploitation of living marine resources
- geospatial technologies;
- maintaining and improving coastal biodiversity;
- reducing conflict through coastal planning and management; and
- tourism and recreation.

For more information contact d.r.green@abdn.ac.uk (or www.littoral2004.org).

New Zealand Coastal Society Annual Conference 2004

18 - 20 October 2004, Dunedin, New Zealand

The theme for the 2004 annual conference of the NZCS is "Making Connections: Cross-boundary Coastal Management". The conference will incorporate a LOICZ (Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone) workshop in association with the New Zealand IGBP (International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme) Committee.

For further information visit www.coastalsociety.org.nz/conference2004.htm.

Indian National Conference on Harbour and Ocean Engineering 2004

7-9 December, 2004, Goa, India

The third INCHOE2004, to be held at the National Institute of Oceanography, will bring into focus the latest research and developments in harbour and ocean engineering. INCHOE2004 will also provide a platform for discussion on the problems, solutions and recommend guidelines on critical aspects for planners and decision makers in the field of harbour and ocean engineering.

For further information email Dr S Mandal, Organising Secretary on inchoe2004@darya.nio.org or visit www.nio.org.

Coastal News



NZCS Management Committee

Chairperson Harvey Brookes – Auckland Regional Council (harvey.brookes@arc.govt.nz)
Treasurer Eric Verstappen – Tasman District Council (Eric@tdc.govt.nz)
Secretary *to be arranged*

Editor *Coastal News*: Lucy Brake (lbrake@beca.co.nz)
Conference 2004 Co-ordinator Mike Hilton (mjh@geography.otago.ac.nz)
Regional Co-ordinator: Jo Fagan (jo.fagan@gwrc.govt.nz)
Website Co-ordinator: John Lumsden (j.lumsden@cae.canterbury.ac.nz)
Membership Co-ordinator: Ken Murray (Kmurray@doc.govt.nz)
Matt Patterson (matthew.patterson@aucklandcity.govt.nz)
Doug Ramsay (d.ramsay@niwa.govt.nz)
Bronwen Gibberd (bronwen.gibberd@tauranga.govt.nz)
David Phizacklea (davidp@tauranga.govt.nz)
Terry Hume (t.hume@niwa.govt.nz)

Coastal News articles, ideas and pictures to Alex Eagles (penguins@clear.net.nz)
Website queries to: Charles Hendtlass (c.hendtlass@cae.canterbury.ac.nz)

Reconsenting Coastal Structures in the Bay of Plenty

Coastal News



Environment Bay of Plenty estimates that more than 2000 of the region's older coastal structures, including slipways, seawalls and boat sheds, now require a resource consent.

Environment Bay of Plenty's "Regional Coastal Environment Plan" became operative on July 1 of this year. Under the new plan the transitional provisions set out in sections 418(6) and (7) of the Resource Management Act 1991, which allowed the continued approval of coastal structures installed prior to 1st October 1991, have ceased. As a result the Bay of Plenty Regional Council now requires that the owners of pre-1991 structures within the coastal marine area apply for resource consents before January 2004. If the owners of these structures do not apply, the structure concerned will subsequently be considered illegal.

The Regional Council's Resource Consent Manager, John Gardner, points out that "Newer structures, built since the introduction of the Resource Management Act 1991, are already under the current resource consents regime and owners of these structures do not need to reapply for a coastal consent."

Structures affected by the legislation include seawalls, wharfs and jetties, boat ramps, boatsheds, discharge pipes, boardwalks, mooring blocks or piles and erosion protection works. The legislation does not, however, include temporary structures such as duck shooters maimai.

Over the past few months Environment Bay of Plenty has used existing information to identify and notify those parties that may be affected by the 'Regional Coastal Environment Plan', including District Councils, network utility providers and foreshore property owners.

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council is endeavouring to make the process of consenting



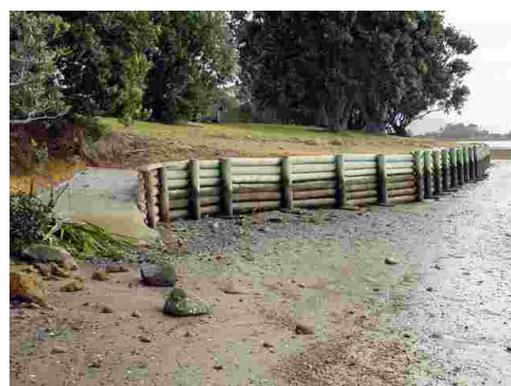
Matakana wharf (photo: Beca)



Waitui boatramp (photo: Beca)



Jetty (photo: Beca)



Athenree seawall (photo: Beca)

old coastal structures as smooth as possible. For instance the council is currently working closely with major stakeholders to establish agreed positions on the packaging of large consent applications and the streamlining of the resource consent process. Environment Bay of Plenty has also received several hundred inquiries from individual property owners, providing case specific advice where possible.

For further information, contact Environment BOP on 0800 368 267.

Seeking contributions to *Coastal News*

Your contributions to *Coastal News* keep Society members and the coastal community informed about coastal issues. Contributions can be advertisements for conferences or workshops, short news items or longer articles. We prefer articles of a maximum of 400 words (about 1-page in the newsletter), preferably with pictures or diagrams. Submit articles to Alex Eagles, Editor, *Coastal News* (e-mail: penguins@clear.net.nz).

Oceans Policy Put On Hold

Nationwide consultation on the proposed government Oceans Policy package has been rescheduled from October 2003 to sometime in early 2004. This follows the release in August 2003 of the Government's proposals for protecting public access and customary rights in the foreshore and seabed.

In June 2003 the Court of Appeal delivered a judgment in the Marlborough Sounds foreshore and seabed case that would have implications for all foreshore and seabed around New Zealand. It ruled that the Maori Land Court had jurisdiction to consider claims based on customary rights to the foreshore and seabed of Aotearoa. If the Maori Land Court should subsequently find that a customary interest amounts to customary title, the Court can create a new freehold title over that land.

The possibility that freehold ownership might be created over the foreshore and seabed has alarmed many people because it clashes with the general assumption that these areas are open and communal spaces. It also has the potential to create significant legal uncertainty and administrative confusion, because it is not clear how private ownership of the foreshore and seabed would affect activity in the sea itself such as the rights of commercial and recreational fishers.

The findings of the Court of Appeal has implications over other reforms which the government currently has underway including the reform of the regulation of aquaculture, the Marine Reserves Bill currently before Parliament, and the development of an overarching oceans policy for New Zealand.

The government has decided that it needs to legislate, to provide clarity and to ensure that some basic principles are put beyond doubt.

The issues associated with the foreshore and seabed are factually and legally complex. They involve several different but overlapping questions - public access to the beach, the commercial use of the seabed and coastal space, the protection of the customary interests of whanau, hapu and iwi, and the way in which regulatory decisions are taken.

As the government considers these issues, it must take into account a range of people and interests. They include:

- All New Zealanders concerned about their basic ability to access, use and enjoy the coastline and marine environment.
- Maori concerned about the modern day recognition of customary interests significant to Maori culture.
- Business sectors which have a significant interest in how the coastal marine area is controlled and regulated, such as the fishing, marine farming, marine transport, mining and tourism industries.
- Local government who administer much of the law which regulates use of the coastal marine area.

However, the government also has a responsibility to protect the customary interests of whanau, hapu and iwi under the Treaty of Waitangi.

The government proposes the following four principles as the basis for legislation concerning the foreshore and seabed.

Principle of access

The foreshore and seabed should be public domain, with open access and use for all New Zealanders.

Principle of regulation

The Crown is responsible for regulating the use of the foreshore and seabed, on behalf of all present and future generations of New Zealanders.

Principle of protection

Processes should exist to enable the customary interests of whanau, hapu and iwi in the foreshore and seabed to be acknowledged, and specific rights to be identified and protected.

Principle of certainty

There should be certainty for those who use and administer the foreshore and seabed about the range of rights that are relevant to their actions.

**Coastal
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NZCS Mission Statement

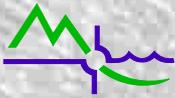
The New Zealand Coastal Society was inaugurated in 1992 "to promote and advance sustainable management of the coastal environment".

The Society provides a forum for those with a genuine interest in the coastal zone to communicate amongst themselves and with the public. The Society currently incorporates over 300 members. Members include representatives from a wide range of coastal science, engineering and planning disciplines, and are employed in the engineering industry, local, regional and central government, research centres and universities.

Applications for membership should be sent to the Secretary

An Insight into Underwater Marine Surveying

Coastal News



(photo: Daniel Sharp)



Photo 1: Gem nudibranch (*Dendrodoris denisoni*) gliding its way across the sand flats

(photo: Daniel Sharp)



Photo 2: Clown nudibranch (*Ceratosoma amoena*) looking for a mate or a sponge to graze on

(photo: Daniel Sharp)



Photo 3: A small kina shell (*Evechinus chloroticus*) the size of a finger nail

(photo: Daniel Sharp)



Photo 4: Blue bell tunicates (*Pycnoclavellina* sp.) decorating the overhangs

(photo: Daniel Sharp)



Photo 5: Sand eel keeping an ever-watchful eye on the happenings on the seafloor

Since the invention of underwater breathing apparatus, or SCUBA, during the middle part of the last century, an increasing focus has been directed towards understanding of the sea floor and surrounding foreshores, fringes such as beaches, dune systems, rocky shores, reefs and estuaries. In exploring and documenting such environments there is an increasing number of future marine ecologists and underwater surveyors who are participating in tertiary education to increase their skills needed for employment in areas with a practical marine focus.

A unique component of the Bay of Plenty Polytechnic Diploma in Marine Studies Course involves students spending weeks involved in underwater surveying and experiencing conditions ranging from freshwater macrophyte stratification transects in the cooler months of June and July, to subtidal surveying of marine reserves such as Tuhua Marine Reserve (Mayor Island, Bay of Plenty).

The underwater surveying of Tuhua Marine Reserve involves a 10-day field trip in late March. The data collected is then used by the Department of Conservation for their ongoing database. This database is a unique collection of marine reserve surveying work spanning over eight years and is said to be one of only a few in the Pacific.

Another project area for underwater surveying includes the Mercury Island group and Slipper Island. Shallow water boulder diving for paua (*Haliotis iris* and *Haliotis australis*) is undertaken, which provides distribution and size classing whilst using a catch per unit effort survey method. Fish survey transects are carried out at varying depth increments, with, at times, some surprising finds of semi-tropical species such as the Lord Howe coralfish (*Amphichaetodon howensis*). Rocky shore surveying populations of kina (*Evechinus chloroticus*) are also undertaken, as the absence or presence of such populations can help indicate other issues within the reef ecosystem.

Further surveying involves habitat description surveys where 1m by 1m quadrats are placed on the sea floor and all life, big and small, is documented on survey sheets. It is upon these transects that the weird and the wonderful of the underwater world puts on a grand show. Colourful nudibranchs, such as the clown or gem nudibranch with their naked gills protruding from the lower back, wander across the sand or cliff wall. Other wonders of the aquatic world also appear, like the sand eel that is more like the puppet "Thingee" from Jason Gunn's after-school program in the 80's rather than an eel. Then there are the amazing sponges, ascidians, bryozoans and hydroid trees that stand perpendicular to the ebb and flow of the coastal currents. Trial survey methods that may well be utilised in further studies are also conducted on such survey trips.

The organisation and allocation of students for these trials into underwater grid formations, is at times an amusing array of the bubble paths criss-crossing the water's surface...very similar to bees walking around their hive, it is at such times where the role of surface supervisor pays its own rewards. Throw in a few dolphins and sun, you soon forget how physically draining working underwater can be.

by Daniel Sharp
Bay of Plenty Polytechnic, Marine Studies
(Daniel.Sharp@boppoly.ac.nz)

(all photos taken by author on survey trips)