

Pōwhiri welcomes in new Council

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Councillor Davies-Colley is a businessman involved in technology, engineering, farming, forestry and property. A director of several private companies, he has a Bachelor of Agricultural Science degree and over the last 30 years has been actively involved in farming, forestry and the wood processing industry.

Councillor Ramsey returned home to Dargaville after a management career overseas. He served six years as Mayor of the Kaipara District and has continued his career in New Zealand as Chief Executive Officer and Director of commercial and not-for-profit national organisations. He has degrees in Geography, Sociology and a Masters in Business Administration and lives at Baylys Beach with his wife Josie.

Councillor Hunt has been involved in local government for over 20 years, 13 of which were in the Far North. Her community interests are wide and varied. She heads the Strategy and Policy unit at Te Runanga o Te Rarawa.

For profiles of all our Councillors visit: www.nrc.govt.nz/councillors



Northland lakes doing well

Lake water quality in Northland has improved over the past five years according to a recent National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research (NIWA) report.

Of the eight lakes nationally that had improved significantly over the course of the study – conducted over five years from 2005-2009 – four of these were in Northland.

Northland Regional Council Chief Executive Officer Ken Paterson says while Northland has one lake in a non-vegetated state – in other words in very poor health – it has 13 that are in excellent health.

“Northland has the highest number of lakes in excellent ecological condition of any region in the country,” he says.

“This is a significant result and reflects well on the work the Regional Council has been undertaking.”

Mr Paterson says improvements in lake water quality have been particularly successful where the Council has worked with iwi and local communities and he is keen to acknowledge the input of many volunteers.

Lake Ōmāpere is one of these projects and was noted in the report as having improved significantly over the period of the study. A third of Northland’s lakes showed significant improvement.

“The results contrast strongly with other regions across the country, but there is still work to do,” says Mr Paterson.

“We are fortunate that the quality of our lake water remains good with little intervention from us, but we are also aware that our ecologically significant lakes are easily damaged and need ongoing and improved protection.”

The study looked at the trends for various water quality variables for 68 lakes across the country and found that 19 had deteriorated significantly.

Further information

If you wish to discuss anything raised in this newsletter, please contact:



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Purongo Putaiao

Issue 6 — November 2010

Welcome Nau mai haere mai

Kia ora and welcome to this sixth issue of the Council panui – Purongo Putaiao.

This newsletter is the first since the October election, which has seen a number of changes around our Council table. I'd like to welcome our new Councillors, Tony Davies-Colley, Bronwyn Hunt and Graeme Ramsey and am looking forward to the valuable contributions they will all bring to Council over the next three years.

I must also acknowledge the dedication and hard work over many years of our former Chairman Mark Farnsworth and long time Whāngārei-based Councillor Peter Jensen, both of whom were unsuccessful in seeking re-election.

Lastly, a special mention to Lorraine Hill, who had represented the Far North in various local government roles for many years. Lorraine was farewelled at a function attended by family, friends and colleagues in September after deciding not to seek re-election. Council and staff wish her well for her future.



Lorraine Hill pictured at her farewell function with former Regional Councillor Jim Peters.



PŌWHIRI WELCOMES IN NEW COUNCIL



Councillors and supporters are formally welcomed to the Regional Council during a pōwhiri for the newly-elected Councillors.

Craig Brown is the Northland Regional Council's new Chairman.

Councillor Brown, a Bream Bay resident, replaces Mark Farnsworth as Chairman, while Cr John Bain will serve as Deputy Chair.

Craig Brown – now serving his third term on the Regional Council – is a former Whāngārei Mayor, an ex-policeman and has been involved in farming and real estate. Both he and Cr Bain (now serving his second term on the Regional Council) are also members of the Northland District Health Board.

Councillor Bain – currently in the importing business – is also Chairman of the Northland Emergency Services Trust and has had a 35-year involvement with the Northland Ambulance Service, including many years as its Chairman.

Returning Councillors are Bill Rossiter (Whāngārei) and Ian Walker and Joe Carr (Far North). Councillor Lorraine Hill did not seek re-election.

The NRC has also welcomed three new Councillors; Tony Davies-Colley (Whāngārei), Graeme Ramsey (Kaipara) and Bronwyn Hunt (Far North). *Continued page 4*



Craig Brown is sworn in as a Regional Councillor, shortly before being elected as its new Chairman.

Kei roto

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National study on lakes—where we sit

Putting Northland first



Shaping Northland's Future

"This will affect all Northlanders so we need to know what they think!"

Kathryn Ross, Northland Regional Council Policy Senior Programme Manager, is passionate about the importance of Northland's main planning document, the Regional Policy Statement (RPS).

"The RPS is designed to ensure the region's natural and physical resources are sustainably managed," she says.

"It affects what we can do with Northland's resources. Things like who can use water, when and how we will prioritise water use in the face of increasing demands. It will set out how we allow for economic development while protecting resources today and for future generations."

Kathryn says Northlanders need to have their say on the development of the new RPS, starting with a discussion document, recently released, which sets out the issues and management options currently identified by the Council.

"Now is the time to get feedback from as many Northlanders as we can about what the key management issues are for our region's natural resources."

Northland's current RPS is 10 years old and work to develop it began even further back, in the early 1990s.

The RPS Discussion Document has been developed after a year of consultation with key stakeholders and research into the latest resource management monitoring results, methods and issues. This included working with a Māori technical advisory group and researching Hapū and Iwi planning documents and submissions by Māori on key Council projects such as consents and the Annual and Long Term Council Plans.

Kathryn says a review of the existing RPS highlighted the many legal, social, cultural, environmental, economic and other changes that had occurred since the plan was written. These include:

- Regional issues which have taken on an added urgency, including infrastructural matters like sewerage, water quality and supply and climate change;
- A much better understanding of the environment and the pressures on it;
- Increased regional emphasis on the economic and social wellbeing of Northlanders;
- The increasing recognition of the role of Māori across a range of issues; and
- Law changes which mean any new RPS will now have greater influence on Regional and District Plans.

Kathryn says given the importance of a new RPS, Regional Councillors were keen to see as much input as possible from those it would affect.

To that end, the outgoing Council had asked at its last meeting that the public be given an extended period to comment on the discussion document that would help shape the content and approach of a draft RPS, expected to be released in mid 2011.

The discussion document – which is more than 60 pages long – is available for public comment and people are able to voice their opinions on it until Friday, 17 December.

"It's important to stress that this discussion document is exactly that – a discussion document, not a draft of the new RPS itself," Kathryn says.

"Essentially we're asking if the current balance between the use, development and protection of Northland's natural and physical resources is right. Have we identified the right issues to address and the right range of options to pursue, as we rewrite the RPS?"

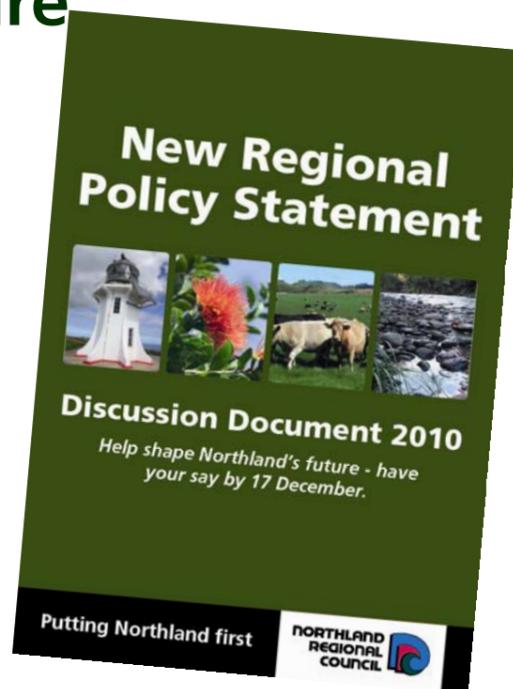
Kathryn says once the eight-week consultation period ends, Regional Council staff will collate the feedback and prepare a summary of it for release after the Christmas/New Year break.

She says the new RPS will help set the future direction of Northland at a crucial time, given the region is still emerging from the global recession, its political landscape is changing and there are increasing financial pressures and constraints on local authorities and the communities they serve.

She says outgoing Regional Councillors felt it was important that as well as the public being given plenty of time to voice their views, the actual rewrite of the RPS should take place under the watch of – and eventually be signed off by – the new Council elected last month.

The discussion document can be viewed at all Regional Council offices and public libraries. The discussion document and background information is also available from the Council's website via:

www.nrc.govt.nz/newRPS



Have your say...

What's in the RPS Discussion Document?

The Discussion Document is broken up into sections based around our region's resources and some key management areas, for example regional community growth and integrated management.

Each section outlines the issues the Council has identified, what we're aiming to achieve and some of the options to manage these.

There is a range of questions highlighted throughout the document. These questions are meant to prompt you to think about the options we've outlined. We also want you to tell us what issues and options we may have missed.

Which sections should you provide feedback on?

That's up to you. You may have a particular area of interest and wish to provide feedback on this area alone, or you may want to provide feedback on several or all of the areas outlined.

Where can you find the discussion document?

The RPS Discussion Document is available to view at all libraries throughout Northland. You can also download copies of the full document, or individual sections of interest from our website at

www.nrc.govt.nz/newRPS

Copies are also available at all Regional Council offices – phone 0800 002 004 for more information.

How do you send us your feedback?

- There is a feedback form on the website at www.nrc.govt.nz/newRPS
- Email your comments to us at mailroom@nrc.govt.nz
- A feedback form is also available in the back of the Discussion Document, or you can write your own comments and post to us (no stamp required):

Please
get your
comments to us
by Friday
17 Dec, 2010

New RPS

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47 students attend Youth Summit

Forty-seven students, pictured, from throughout Northland have gathered in Whāngārei for the 2010 Northland Regional Council Youth Summit.

The 15th annual summit, held at Whāngārei's Onerahi Yacht Club on Wednesday 03 November, saw students discuss coastal environmental issues and what they could do to make a difference.

The day-long workshop brought together Year 7 and 8 students from 20 Northland schools. The day-long workshop brought together Year 7 and 8 students from 20 Northland schools, 12 schools in the Whāngārei, two from Kaipara and six from the Far North District.

The Summit was based around a coastal marine theme and ways in which young people could take an active role in the future sustainable management of Northland's coast. Regional Council staff worked with students



on a variety of coastal-themed indoor and outdoor activities.

Northland Regional Council Education Officer Susan Botting says it's encouraging to see Northland students taking an active interest in seeing their marine environment and coast protected and preserved.

"Students who attend the Youth Summit go on to carry out all sorts of great work, helping boost the health of their local coastal area," Ms Botting says.