

Introducing your new Council



John Bain
Whangarei

Joe Carr
Far North

Introducing two new Regional Councillors, John Bain and Joe Carr.

Cr Bain, 62, of Whangarei, is best-known to most as Chairman of air ambulance provider the Northland Emergency Services Trust (NEST).

A former Northland District Health Board member, Cr Bain has had a 35-year involvement with the Northland Ambulance Service. He is currently in the importing business and has been self-employed since his early 20s.

Okaihau-based Joe Carr, 57, has local business, farm and forest interests and is also a Justice of the Peace. He is a trustee of the Far North Life Education Trust and is a former Far North District Councillor.

Cr Carr has served on a number of Regional Council Committees over the past nine years including Civil Defence and Emergency Management, Regional Land Transport and Landcare. For the past three years he has been a Hearing Commissioner and Appeal Negotiator for the Far North District Council.

Both Councillors successfully contested seats left vacant by outgoing Councillors Jim Peters and Stan Semenov.



Northland Regional Council 2007
Pictured back row from left: Ian Walker, Lorraine Hill, Mark Farnsworth (Chair), Craig Brown, and Peter Jensen (Deputy Chair)
Front row: Joe Carr, Bill Rossiter and John Bain.



Our Christmas office hours

All Northland Regional Council offices will be closed over the Christmas period from 2pm Monday 24 December 2007 until Thursday 3 January 2008.



Purongo Putaiao

Issue 3 — December 2007

Welcome Nau mai haere mai

Welcome to the final edition of the Council Panui for 2007.

It gives me great pleasure to serve as your Chairman for another term. I also welcome our two new Councillors, John Bain of Whangarei and Joe Carr from Okaihau. Both Councillors have a long history of serving communities and are no strangers to local government.

As the year draws to a close it is a good time to reflect on the events that have unfolded in 2007. The progression of Treaty negotiations, the success of Te Kura Kaupapa o Te Rawhitiroa on the international scene with its water quality initiatives, the untimely and sad passing of respected kaumatua, the rise of Labour MP Shane Jones and the two major storm events that hit Northland.

We look forward to the New Year and hope that it holds much success for Northlanders.

On that note I take this opportunity to wish you all, a safe and happy summer break and look forward to seeing you next year.

Nga Mihi o Te Wa me Te Tau Hou
Heio ano,
Mark Farnsworth



156 projects to share \$500,000 fund

More than 150 projects ranging from planting eroding sand dunes to protecting kiwi have been awarded a share of this year's \$500,000-plus Northland Regional Council Environment Fund.

Now in its 12th year, the fund has provided more than \$1.5 million since 1996 to help people improve and protect Northland's natural environment. Almost \$530,000 was available from this year's fund.

Regional Council Chairman Mark Farnsworth says this year the fund received 170 applications (up 50 on last year).

"The Council is pleased at the growing community interest in this fund and is happy to be able to help so many people with such a diverse range of projects that will have ongoing benefits for Northland's environment."

He says 156 projects have been approved for funding, up from last year where 130 projects were successful. Of the projects funded, 65 are in the Far North District, 66 in the Whangarei District and 25 projects in the Kaipara.

The largest grant awarded from this year's fund is \$17,930 to fence a large Bay of Islands wetlands system. The smallest grant – just \$260 – will be used to control pest animals in the Far North.

Of the projects that were successful in gaining funding, 10 were applications from Maori groups for projects such as wetland enhancement and fencing waterways, coastal margins and native bush to keep stock from entering these areas.

Mr Farnsworth says the fund typically contributes up to 50 percent of the total cost of a project and that the projects must be of long-term benefit to the local environment and clearly show evidence of good resource management.

This year's fund was split across a number of areas;

- General biodiversity protection,
- Wetland protection and enhancement,
- Pest animal and plant control,
- Revegetation and enhancement with native plants (includes \$22,400 from Honda NZ Tree Fund),
- Excluding stock from the Coastal Marine Area and
- Coast care projects (including sand dune protection)

Kei roto

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<h3>Further information</h3> <p>If you wish to discuss anything raised in this newsletter, please contact:</p> <p>Rachel Ropiha Iwi Liaison Officer</p> <p>Freephone: 0800 002 004 Email: mailroom@nrc.govt.nz</p>	<h3>Regional offices</h3> <table border="0"> <tr> <td> WHANGAREI 36 Water Street Ph: (09) 438 4639 Fax: (09) 438 0012 </td> <td> KAITAIA 192 Commerce Street Ph: (09) 408 6600 Fax: (09) 408 6601 </td> </tr> <tr> <td> DARGAVILLE 61B Victoria Street Ph: (09) 439 3300 Fax: (09) 439 3301 </td> <td> OPUA Unit 10, Opuia Marine Park Ph: (09) 402 7516 Fax: (09) 402 7510 </td> </tr> </table>	WHANGAREI 36 Water Street Ph: (09) 438 4639 Fax: (09) 438 0012	KAITAIA 192 Commerce Street Ph: (09) 408 6600 Fax: (09) 408 6601	DARGAVILLE 61B Victoria Street Ph: (09) 439 3300 Fax: (09) 439 3301	OPUA Unit 10, Opuia Marine Park Ph: (09) 402 7516 Fax: (09) 402 7510
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Caring for Northland and its environment



38 attend 2007 NRC Youth Summit



Thirty-eight pupils from all over Northland gathered at a special Regional Council Youth Summit in Whangarei recently.

The 12th annual summit, held at Whangarei's Onerahi Yacht Club, saw students discuss coastal environmental issues and what they could do to make a difference.

The day-long workshop brought together Year Seven and Eight (Form One and Two) students nominated by 18 schools from throughout Northland.

The summit was built around a coastal marine theme and how young people could take an active role in the sustainable future of our coast.

Regional Council staff worked with students on a variety of coastal-themed indoor and outdoor activities and there was also a presentation

from present and former Kamo Intermediate students involved in their school's local environmental education success story which is now spreading nationwide.

Northland Regional Council Environmental Education Officer Susan Botting says it is encouraging to see ongoing interest in taking care of Northland's coast from a growing number of schools.

"Most schools represented are based within a short distance of the coast but it was also pleasing to see a number of participants from inland schools as the coast is inextricably linked to what happens further inland," Ms Botting says.

Schools participating in this year's event included; Ahipara School, Bream Bay College, Broadwood Area School, Christian Renewal School, Dargaville Intermediate, Kaitiā Abundant Life School, Kamo Intermediate, Kokopu School, Matarau School, Okaihau College, Oruaiti School, Pompallier College, Rawene School, Tangiteroria School, Tautoro School, Tikipunga High School, Whangarei Heads School and Whangarei Intermediate.

For information on Environmental Education contact Susan Botting at Northland Regional Council Ph: 0800 002 004 or email: mailroom@nrc.govt.nz



Mamaranui farmer fined



A Mamaranui dairy farmer has been fined \$20,000 for what the sentencing judge described as one of the most serious and persistent cases of dairy effluent pollution he had seen.

Reuben Paul Hayes was sentenced in the Whangarei District Court recently after admitting a charge of discharging a contaminant (animal effluent) into a tributary of the Taita Stream in November last year. The charge was laid by the Northland Regional Council.

Fining Hayes \$20,000 and court costs of \$130, sentencing Judge CJ Thompson said the fine would have been significantly higher but for Hayes' "tight, if not critical"

financial position. "I have to say that this is as serious and persistent a case of dairy pollution as I have seen."

Judge Thompson said with about 250,000 cows on Northland's roughly 1150 dairy farms, "the message needs to be clear that clean dairying is the requirement; it is not optional".

The court heard Hayes purchased the farm in July 2005 and soon after increased its carrying capacity from about 300 to about 600 cows. A Regional Council inspection in September revealed a broken pipe which meant effluent was discharging straight into a tributary of the Taita Stream rather than an effluent pond.

An abatement and infringement notice were issued and although the pipe was repaired, a follow-up inspection in November revealed it had a blockage and effluent was still discharging to the stream and Hayes was given notice to fix it.

The judge said a year after the initial inspection, another examination revealed the same pipe had broken again and once more untreated effluent was being discharged, grossly polluting the stream.

Hayes was given notice to carry out urgent repairs. Two months later, another inspection revealed yet another break, again discharging untreated effluent into the stream.

A summary of facts showed that even 900 metres downstream "effluent solids were still visible in the water and the stream was grossly polluted and odorous".

The judge said it was impossible to accept that Hayes was not aware of the problem and his responsibilities to do something effective about it.

Northlander represents NZ abroad



Jason Dawson (in white) with Wrexham County Borough Council's IT Manager Dave Hylands, Mayor Joan Lowe and Rob Griffiths, Web Manager.

A Whangarei-based Council worker who travelled to Great Britain recently to see how Tai Tokerau and Aotearoa's local government websites stack up internationally is pleased at what he has found.

Jason Dawson (Ngapuhi, Ngati Whatua), travelled on an international study award to England, Ireland and Wales during September and October to research how website and other technologies are being used by local authorities overseas.

Jason, Community Relations Team Leader for the Northland Regional Council, says although New Zealand sites lag behind their overseas counterparts in some areas – like accessibility – overall they provide the same level of services online. However, New Zealand and the UK also share a number of issues and challenges.

Jason spent some time at Wrexham County Borough Council which has won numerous language awards for its bilingual website – English and Welsh. He wanted to learn the process and issues around maintaining a duplicate language site as he is keen to explore developing more online resources and pages in Te Reo Maori.

Representing New Zealand at the Society of Information Managers Conference in Belfast was a trip highlight where he learnt a lot about how public services are engaging with their communities. Other themes of the conference focussed around the environmental impact of technology and delivering more service at less cost.

Online communication – including responsibility for the NRC's website and intranet – is among Jason's key roles and he is also involved in local authority online communications at a national level.

Eight schools recognised at ceremony

Eight Northland schools have been recognised for a range of environmental initiatives - including a study on kaitiakitanga and the significance of waterways to Maori - at the region's second annual Enviroschools Awards.

Enviroschools is a whole-school approach to environmental education. It encourages student-driven action, based on sustainable management of resources in several key areas of school life.

The Regional Council played a key role in bringing Enviroschools north in 2003 and there are now about 30 local schools in the programme.

Susan Karels, an Environmental Education Officer with the Regional Council, says the Enviroschools Awards are now in their second year in Northland.

"The awards effectively recognise the whole school community, which includes students, teachers, non-teaching staff, trustees and local members of the public."

Mrs Karels says there are three levels of awards; 'bronze', 'silver' and the highest, seldom-awarded 'green-gold'.

This year the Regional Council (which co-ordinates the Northland Enviroschools programme) has once again joined forces with Ministry of Education advisory arm TEAM Solutions (which facilitates the programme in schools) to run the awards.

Two schools – Ohaeawai and Mangakahia Area - received silver awards at a special ceremony in Kerikeri recently for their long-running and in-depth environmental work. The remaining six schools were presented with bronze awards.

Mrs Karels says silver award winner Ohaeawai School "lives and breathes" environmental education and is being recognised for a myriad of projects and practices, including winning a national competition that earned it hundreds of native trees for a school makeover.

This year's only other silver award winner, Mangakahia Area School, is another champion for environmental sustainability and includes three student-driven envirogroups addressing issues including waste reduction, biodiversity and running the whole school on an environmental footing.

Mrs Karels says the remaining, bronze award recipients, were recognised for a diverse range of environmentally-themed projects and practices.



Dargaville Intermediate School receiving its Bronze Award