

What's happening at the Council?



Farewell ...

Tanya Gray, who left recently to work in Wellington.

Tanya, Environmental Reporting Coordinator, resigned to take up a position at the Ministry for the

Environment.

She was employed by the Council to monitor the quality of fresh water in Northland, progressing on to study the North's lakes in more detail. More recently Tanya worked as the co-ordinator for the Council's State of the Environment Report.

Tanya also worked with the Council's Iwi Liaison Officer administering the Council's Joint Iwi Monitoring Fund, working alongside groups such as Utakura Environmental Management Roopu and Waima Kokako monitoring group.

During her time with the Council, Tanya also worked on many other projects. One of these was the Lake Omapere Restoration Project, where Council worked with the Lake Omapere Trust, establishing a plan to restore the lake's health.

and ...

Peter Joynt, retiring after more than 20 years serving the Northland community.

Peter Joynt, well-known Kaipara community member and long standing Council employee, is retiring from fulltime work at Northland Regional Council.

He joined the now defunct Otamatea County Council in 1983, swapping to Northland Regional Council with local government reorganisation in the late 1980s.

Peter, based at NRC's Dargaville office since it was opened, has been tackling invasive exotic weeds in Northland for more than two decades.

Two big challenges Peter has taken on in recent years are the eradication and education programmes for major plant pests, Spartina and Manchurian rice grass.

Peter is now working part time, focussing on Manchurian rice grass control under an NRC contract working with Biosecurity New Zealand.



Staff and Councillors wish both Tanya and Peter well in their future endeavours and thank them for their valuable contributions over the years.

It's official! Our website is number one

Northland Regional Council's website - www.nrc.govt.nz - has beaten more than 80 other local authority websites to be judged the best of its kind in New Zealand.

The Council was ranked number one amongst New Zealand's 85 councils, collecting the Supreme Award at the 2008 ALGIM Web Awards in Nelson.

Judging covered two main areas - a technical assessment and benchmark against Government web standards and a functional assessment looking at each website's information, ease of use and online services.

The NRC's website is no stranger to national awards. It was redeveloped and relaunched in March 2007 and quickly gained national recognition by winning 'Best Website Design' and 'Best Use of Innovation - People's Choice' at last year's ALGIM Web Awards.

What can you find on the Council website? A comprehensive online library of the Council's publications and plans, an email subscription service which allows users to stay in touch about consultation, job vacancies, events, Council meetings and news and much more!

Further information

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



Rachel Ropiha
Iwi Liaison Officer

Freephone: 0800 002 004
Email: mailroom@nrc.govt.nz

Regional offices

WHANGAREI

36 Water Street
Ph: (09) 438 4639
Fax: (09) 438 0012

DARGAVILLE

61B Victoria Street
Ph: (09) 439 3300
Fax: (09) 439 3301

KAITAIA

192 Commerce Street
Ph: (09) 408 6600
Fax: (09) 408 6601

OPUA

Unit 10, Opu Marine Park
Ph: (09) 402 7516
Fax: (09) 402 7510

Purongo Putaiao

Issue 5 — September 2008

Welcome Nau mai haere mai

Kia ora, as Chief Executive Officer of Northland Regional Council it gives me great pleasure to introduce you to this latest Panui in our Chairman's absence.

This year has been a busy one for Councillors and staff alike, with the finalising of our Annual Plan, changes to Council staff and governance structures and now preparation for our latest Long Term Council Community Plan.

We continue work on major projects such as river management, work to secure a Marsden Point rail link corridor, broadband and the proposed Regional Events Centre, all of which will benefit the region long term.

This year has again brought some major weather events and I pay tribute to the region's Civil Defence team which proves itself time and again in these situations.

Lastly, in October our Councillors will embark on a three-day fact-finding tour of Northland. They will be contemplating first-hand, some of the issues facing Northland. The tour coincides with the monthly full Council meeting to be held in Hokianga on Wednesday 15 October.

Heio ano, Ken Paterson



Kei roto

- Whangarei Harbour Cultural Audit funded P1
- Exciting news for Whangarei Harbour P1
- Aerial BOI poison drop approved P2
- DOC to eradicate pests from islands P2
- Election - 2008 - have your say P2
- General election enrolment information P3
- Northland schools share NRC \$15,000 P3
- Environmental Curriculum Awards P3
- School projects gain funding P3
- eDay - 2008 P3
- E-waste initiative in Northland P3
- Free sand dune workshop P3
- Workshop gives sand dunes a chance P4
- What's happening at the Council P4

Whangarei Harbour Cultural Audit funded



A plan to identify and record a range of cultural features in and around the Whangarei Harbour has secured \$36,000 from a special fund designed to improve the harbour's health.

The cash is part of a 10-year, \$500,000 Whangarei Harbour

Health Improvement Fund funded by Northport Limited as part of resource consent conditions for its multimillion-dollar deepwater port at Marsden Point.

Northland Regional Council (NRC) administers the fund and at a recent Council meeting agreed to fund the project.

The Whangarei Harbour Kaitiaki Roopu had previously identified the need for a Whangarei Harbour Cultural Audit but initial proposals were not successful in gaining funding.

However, this latest proposal gained the full support of the Roopu, Northport and NRC.

The cultural audit's primary objective is to enable improvements to the general health and wellbeing of the harbour and its tributaries.

The audit aims to achieve this by identifying and recording a range of cultural features and indicators associated with the harbour. These include Korero Huhua - customary history and practices and Maramataka - seasonal / tidal practices.

Four rounds of consultation hui (19 hui in total) are proposed with all identified hapu associated with the harbour.

From there, the oral and traditional knowledge about the harbour's cultural heritage will be collated into a comprehensive report.

This is the first project since 2001 to fully embrace the second component of the fund conditions - 'the study and/or mitigation of the effects of the Port Development on wahi tapu, taonga and other features of special interest to tangata whenua.'

It's anticipated this project will help develop a stronger working relationship between tangata whenua and agencies involved with Whangarei Harbour, along with the development of a kaitiaki training programme specific to the restoration and general health and wellbeing of the harbour.

Some previously-funded projects have included seagrass restoration, shellfish reseeded trials, lizard translocation and an environmental wananga.

Aerial BOI poison drop approved



Rat poison can be dropped from the air next year to kill rodents on offshore islands in the eastern Bay of Islands (Ipipiri), a Northland Regional Council Hearings Committee has decided.

The two-member Committee heard an application by the Director General of Conservation to apply 15.5 tonnes of Brodifacoum poison bait to a number of islands and islets as part of 'Project Island Song'.

The Department of Conservation project aims to wipe out mice and several types of rat in order to repopulate the islands which include Motuarohia, Moturua, Moutkieke, Urupukapuka, Waewaetoria and Okahu with native bird, animal and plant species.

Weather-permitting, poison will be dropped on to the islands from a chopper over two days on two separate occasions between June and October next year.

The Director General's application for the four resource consents needed for the poisoning campaign was publicly notified in February this year, attracting 53 submissions, all but several in support.

Opponents were concerned at the possible effect of the drop on non-target and protected species, the transfer of poison from the islands by game birds and that there should be adequate signage warning of the poison's presence.

However, all submitters agreed eradication of rodents was necessary for the restoration of the islands' native wildlife.

In its decision, the Hearings Committee found the topography of the islands meant the proposed operation was the best practicable option.

While acknowledging the potential for some non-target species to be killed, the Committee considered the long-term environmental benefits would outweigh the potential short-term effects

A number of steps could be also taken to reduce potential risks from the operation, including a rahui on collecting kaimoana within 100 metres of shore "as proposed by the applicant in conjunction with Patukeha hapu and the Ministry of Fisheries".

There are also plans to shoot a small number of paradise shelduck on the islands to prevent them eating baits, flying to the mainland and being shot by unwitting hunters.

Warning signs will also be placed on all known landing areas, boat ramps and island access points. The public must also be warned by media release at least 48 hours prior to the poisoning and target areas closed to the public, tourist and ferry operators and others until the day after the operation is completed.

In an attempt to address cultural concerns, the Department of Conservation has also agreed to trap and relocate part of a small population of kiore from Moturua Island to Wellington Zoo and/or Nga Manu Nature Reserve (Kapiti Coast, near Wellington). Seaweed will also be removed from beaches used by foraging native birds to prevent them eating any baits in the area.

The consents are also subject to a raft of other conditions, including a requirement to keep a detailed log of any complaints received during the operation.

Election - 2008 - have your say



Northlanders are being reminded to make sure they are properly enrolled to vote for the 2008 General Election - to be held on Saturday, November 08. A major campaign to get everyone correctly enrolled to vote started in early May. Remember, if you didn't get an Enrolment Update Pack, then you're not enrolled.

How do I know if I am eligible to enrol?

You are qualified to enrol if:

- ✓ you are 18 years or older;
- ✓ you are a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident;
- ✓ you have lived in New Zealand for one year or more without leaving the country.

How can I check if am already enrolled?

On 5 May 2008 all enrolled electors were sent an Enrolment Update Pack for them to check and update their enrolment details. If you did not receive your pack, you are either not enrolled or your address details are out of date. If this happens, you need to fill in an enrolment form.

You can pick up an enrolment form called "Enrolling to vote: Application" from your nearest New Zealand PostShop. You can either fill the form in and leave it at the counter or return it back, freepost. Or, phone free on 0800 ENROL NOW (0800 36 76 56) or text your name and address for free to 3676 and a form will be posted to you.

When must I be enrolled by?

You can enrol up until election day. If you enrol a month before the election you will receive an EasyVote information pack in the mail. The pack includes useful information about voting including an EasyVote card. You can vote without the EasyVote card but it will take longer.



Northland schools share NRC \$15,000 Environmental Curriculum Awards



Blomfield Special School students (Whangarei) with the school's 2008 Environmental Curriculum Award

Maori medicinal gardens, community vegetable gardens, native worm breeding and recycling systems are among 15 school projects that will receive \$15,000 funding from this year's Northland Regional Council 2008 Environmental Curriculum Awards.

Council Environmental Education Officer Teresa Rudgley says the annual awards aim to foster excellence in environmental education, with schools eligible for up to \$2000 each (plus GST) for their efforts to educate children about caring for the region's environment.

"It's encouraging that some of the award-winning schools are being funded for ongoing projects such as Hurupaki Primary School's wetlands area and Kamo Intermediate's Islands of Life project," Ms Rudgley says.

The awards aim to encourage Northland schools and their communities to actively participate in efforts to improve their environment in a sustainable manner.

The winning schools were presented with Environmental Curriculum Awards in July. Successful schools were: Blomfield Special, Dargaville Intermediate, Kamo Intermediate, Hurupaki, Onerahi, Poroti, Raurimu Avenue, Ruakaka, Tautoro, Tikipunga Primary, Oromahoe, St Francis Xavier, Whangaruru, Whangarei Boys High schools and Okaihau College.



Councillor Peter Jensen presents Whangarei Boys High student Cam Clarkson with the school's 2008 Environmental Curriculum Award



eDay 2008 is to be held in over 30 centres across the country on Saturday, 04 October, including here in Northland.

eDay is a community initiative designed to raise awareness of the hazardous nature of electronic waste (e-waste). It offers an easy way for households to dispose of old computers and mobile phones in an environmentally sustainable manner.

The idea for eDay came about in response to growing concern about the volume of e-waste being dumped in landfills around the country with a potentially toxic effect on the environment.

The Northland eDay is being co-ordinated by the Community and Business Environment Centre (CBEC), with support from Northland Regional Council and the Far North and Whangarei district councils.

Items such as computer hardware, monitors, modems, scanners, keyboards, laptops, printers, game consoles, toner and ink cartridges and mobile phones can be deposited. Household goods like televisions and stereos will not be collected on the day.

E-waste can be dropped off at three Northland locations on Saturday 4 October between 9.00am and 3.00pm: **Whangarei:** WDC Transfer Station, **Kaikōhe:** Kaikōhe Waste Station, **Kaitiāia:** Kaitiāia Resource Recovery Centre.

To find out more about this event and answer any questions you may have, visit the eDay website: www.eday.org.nz or contact one of the participating Councils for more information.

Free sand dune workshop

Northlanders interested in learning more about the importance of sand dunes - and ways to help protect them - are being urged to attend a free workshop at Baylys Beach in October.

Northland Regional Council, which is supporting the free workshop, says dunes play an important role in protecting beaches from coastal erosion and flooding.

The workshop provides participants with the opportunities to learn more about natural dune formation and function, dune restoration through planting and the role of local communities in dune protection.

It is the first in a series of similar national events organised by the New Zealand Dune Restoration Trust and funded by the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund.

The workshop also aims to create awareness of the potential effects of climate change on coastal communities and the role dunes can play in hazard reduction.

The aim is to encourage communities to get involved in local planting efforts, which will ultimately increase the biodiversity and natural character of their sand dunes and protect their beaches.

The workshop will be held in the church hall in Seaview Rd, Baylys Beach, from 10am to 4pm on Saturday, 18 October. A free lunch, morning tea and afternoon tea will be provided.

For more information or to register for the event please contact Northland Regional Council CoastCare Co-ordinator Laura Shaft on 0800 002 004.

Registration is essential by Tuesday, 30 September.