

Working On Recovery

David Oughton, Recovery Support Facilitator & Sarah Norman, Emergency Management Planner

The flood events in February 2004 created damage and dislocation over a wide area of the country and the effects are still being felt. As of 8 June 2004, there were still a significant number of people out of their homes. The cumulative totals are listed in the table below:

As at 8 June 2004	Cumulative Totals
Individuals out of their homes now	867
Family units out of their homes now	377
Houses uninhabitable	379
Houses destroyed/condemned	41

The activity around the aftermath of the floods is now well into the recovery phase and implementation of the various assistance packages approved by Government, to date, is well in hand. The key elements of the Government's recovery assistance are:

Agriculture Recovery Package

There are now 11 Agriculture Recovery Facilitators (ARFs) assisting in the recovery effort.

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) have set up an office in Palmerston North to support the local committees (chaired by the ARFs) which will consider the claims, and process approved payments. To date, registration of claims from affected farmers is proceeding slowly. It is expected that registration will increase as people complete some of the more immediate restoration work surrounding their properties. Shed meetings have been held with large numbers of farmers and growers attending and briefings have been held at several locations for rural professionals.



Flooding from the Makino Stream in Feilding in the Manawatu-Wanganui region in February 2004 caused over 90 homes to be evacuated (including the one in the picture) Photo courtesy of Horizons Regional Council.

Compensation For Rates Remitted

A meeting was held with representatives of the most affected councils to confirm the basis for allocation and the timing for actual



The Makino Stream and Oroua River channels are progressively being cleared and re-protected in the Manawatu-Wanganui region.

distribution. \$4M will be distributed in June 2004, \$3M in July and the remaining \$3M at a later date if required. The delay in the final distribution will enable adjustments within the available sum to align the amounts initially allocated to individual councils with the amounts actually remitted.

Economic Impact

A study by Vision Manawatu regarding economic impacts of the floods, which was commissioned by Ministry of Economic Development, is nearing completion.

Relief Funds

Cabinet approved matching, dollar-for-dollar, the total of the sum raised from public donations to relief funds. The final figure for donations received as of 31 March 2004 was \$7.6M.

Welfare and Social Support

The appointed Work and Income Regional Flood Recovery Coordinator provides a single point of contact in the region and is pivotal in liaising with external agencies and service providers including Agricultural Recovery Facilitators (ARFs), Rural Coordinators and local councils, and monitoring needs and coordinating welfare responses with other government and non-

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February Floods - The Work Continues

It is interesting to contemplate the ongoing demands of the February 2004 flood event – now four months since it started. There is still a wide range of people committing energy and resources to the recovery activity and there remain 377 families still out of their homes. We always knew it would be demanding, but it is still surprising. It is the value of experience, which takes the smugness out of our planning. It is of fundamental importance that we identify and take the lessons from this event.

To this end the independent February 2004 Flood Review Team, chaired by Piers Reid from the Department of Defence & Strategic Studies of Massey University, is well into their interviews of a wide-range of organisations and individuals at the local, regional and national levels. The Review Team will be reporting to the Minister of Civil Defence through a Steering Committee with Government and Local Government representation (refer article on page 3).

In order to ensure the lessons are not clouded, the Review Team is specifically not addressing potential liability issues. The support and frankness of contributions to the Review Team to date is acknowledged and appreciated.

The reporting timeframe has been extended by two weeks to mid-July for the draft report. Following consideration by Ministers we are contemplating a series of workshops and seminars around the country to CDEM groups, government agencies and others commencing sometime in August. This work will also inform the on-going development of guidelines to various parts of the sector and the National CDEM Plan.

As our focus on the flood event continues it is useful to remind ourselves of the mandate for an integrated approach to civil defence emergency management and to consider the lessons for reduction and recovery as well as the immediate ad hoc issues for readiness and response. There are a number of policy

issues around risk, mitigation and recovery activity, which are coming into focus and will be the subject of ongoing policy development across government. While these will focus around river and flood management they will inform general policy development across all hazards.

There is a further piece of work around the February floods commencing shortly. This is a technical study of the elements and extent of river damage in the Manawatu-Wanganui region from the flood event. This will provide a broader discussion on the scope of damage and means of addressing it. The study is being managed by the Minister for the Environment with input from Horizons Regional Council and others.

Our other major focus at the moment is on the upcoming Recovery Symposium in Napier on 12 and 13 July. We are addressing, for the first time, the fundamentals of the fourth R:

- What is it?
- Who does it?
- What can it achieve? and
- How should it be structured?

It has become very clear to me that the potential for properly structured Recovery planning to decrease the impacts of disasters has at least the same potential as good planning for Readiness and Response. It is also clear, as for Readiness and Response, that if you do not plan for it, it won't happen effectively. The Symposium is a major opportunity with international input to discuss and confirm the components of recovery and the elements within them to provide a sound structure for planning. (Refer to www.civildefence.govt.nz for information and our background paper "Focus on Recovery").

The outcome from the Symposium will inform the National CDEM Plan and will result in a revised Recovery guideline.

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Review of the February 2004 Flood Event

The February 2004 storms and flooding created New Zealand's largest emergency event in the past 20 years and was the first major event since the passage of the new CDEM Act 2002.

It stretched the response and recovery capabilities of the local authorities and emergency management agencies involved, and provided a valuable opportunity to increase learning within the civil defence emergency management sector.

An independent review of the February flood event is currently being undertaken. The review's aim is to identify the lessons around the overall management of the event, through the response and initial recovery phases. The review is not intended to consider liability issues and will report on issues and processes rather than individual lessons and responses.

The review is being carried out under the responsibilities of the Director of Civil Defence as contained in Part 2 of the National Civil Defence Plan.

The members of the Review Team are:

- Piers Reid (Chair) – Senior Lecturer, Centre for Defence Studies, Massey University
- Paul Fitzharris – Management Consultant
- Dave Brunsdon – Director, Kestrel Group – Risk & Emergency Management Consultants; Infrastructure Advisor to the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management during the flood event.
- David Oughton – Consultant; Recovery Support Facilitator for the flood event



(Left to right) Piers Reid, David Oughton, and Paul Fitzharris

To provide for its independence, the Review Team will report to the Minister of Civil Defence, through a Steering Committee comprised of:

- Christopher Blake (Department of Internal Affairs)
- Iona Holsted (State Services Commission)
- Pat Helm (Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet)
- Paul Reynolds (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry)
- Harry Wilson (Environment Waikato)

The Ministry is also collating all of the CDEM agency debriefs from the floods. A report drawing together the main issues will be generated and shared with the sector and the Review Team.

The terms of reference for the Review are available on www.civildefence.govt.nz

National CDEM Plan – the building and testing continues

By Peter Wood, Emergency Management Planner, National Plan

The national CDEM functions and contingencies required for readiness, response and recovery tasks during and after an emergency are being identified for the National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan (National CDEM Plan) that is to be in place by December 2005. The formal publication of a draft and the call for public submissions on it will occur in mid-2005, as required by the CDEM Act 2002. The significant impacts on people's time of the response and recovery activities following the storms of February 2004 have put added pressures on the delivery of the Plan, which MCDEM are dealing with. The recommendations for CDEM planning that result from the initial trials of electronic publishing systems and, most importantly, from the review of the national scale activation that followed the storms of February 2004 have yet to be finalised.

National CDEM Plan Functions and Contingencies to manage hazard events and risks have been identified in the current National CD Plan. They have also been developed from reviewing broader emergency management arrangements, and from those CDEM Groups that have noted matters of national significance from their own assessment of their hazards and risks. The resulting list is to be put in front of the National CDEM Plan Working Group for their review and comment. Formats of the functions and contingencies are being

piloted. The formats are to help readability and navigation within the plan. They also help structure plan content that brings several benefits, including aiding review of plan drafts for completeness.

Trials of the National CDEM Plan are nearing completion. Results will be presented to the next Working Group meeting and will also be made available as a report, now likely to be summarised in the September 2004 Impact.

Testing the National CD Plan occurred through February 2004, in the response to the consequences of the storms and in the ongoing recovery. This has been a major test of the current National Plan (and other) arrangements, including a new CDEM Group plan, local and regional declarations, and the Whole of Government Emergency Management arrangements. Lessons for the new National CDEM Plan are expected from the several reviews that are currently underway.

Contributions or submissions regarding the development of the National CDEM Plan can be made at anytime via a member of the Working Group or through Peter.Wood@dia.govt.nz. The formal publication of a draft and the call for public submissions on it will occur in 2005, as required by the CDEM Act 2002.

government agencies. The Work and Income Regional Flood Recovery Coordinator also coordinates the Enhanced Taskforce Green effort across the region with local Councils, ARF's and Work and Income staff.

Government Flood Helpline

The interagency information line (0800 779 997) which was established in February continues to provide integrated advice across a range of government agencies. The Flood Helpline is providing services within the normal contact centre operating hours of 7:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday to Friday and 8:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturdays.

One-Stop Welfare Shops

With the move from response to recovery, on-call services are being provided as needed, rather than one-stop welfare shops. Work and Income have the following strategies to continue to support those in need:

- Mobile services
- Specialised case management
- Community liaison and increased promotion of assistance



Repairs continue to the Whirokino Trestle bridge stopbank, just outside Foxton.

Community Recovery

There is recognition that recovery from this type of event must involve community participation to be successful. Over the coming months, the aim will be for those agencies, which have been involved in welfare and social support at the local level, to continue to support and promote community development initiatives.

Roading

The Manawatu-Wanganui Infrastructure Recovery Task Group met on 4 May and decided to cease operating in its current form. Future monitoring of reconstruction progress, including any potential bottlenecks such as bridging contracts, will be undertaken at the quarterly Transit-led regional State Highway Coordination June meeting. The total estimated expenditure for restoration and reconstruction is estimated at \$66.5 million through to 2005-2006.

Riverworks and Soil Conservation Issues

The Ministry for Environment (MfE) have taken the lead role to deal with all river management and soil conservation issues. MAF and MCDEM will be closely involved. As a first step, MfE have engaged a consultant to carry out a comprehensive review of the damage. This will assist in developing guidelines to distinguish the on-farm elements



Taskforce green

Work and Income are continuing to liaise with the MAF Agricultural Recovery Facilitators, local councils and individual employers with a view to establishing Enhanced Task Force Green Projects that support local communities affected by the floods. There are approximately 600 people employed on Enhanced Task Force Green projects across the affected regions. Regions have advised that they do not have any opportunities that they are unable to fill and in some cases they have a list of people waiting for work to become available. By all accounts the use of Task Force Green has clearly been a success story coming from this event.

Return Visit from Dr Rob Gordon

Following his visit to flood affected areas in March, Dr Gordon made a return visit jointly funded by Department of Labour, Child, Youth & Family Services and Ministry of Social Development. Dr Gordon spoke with agency staff and communities involved in the response and ongoing recovery effort during the first week of May 2004.

from the council's area of responsibility and also identify those items that fall outside the current scope of the Recovery Plan. The latter will require detailed investigation before any proposals can be submitted to Ministers for consideration. In the meantime, work is proceeding on the examination of claims that do fall within the National Recovery Plan.

Satellite Images

A planned programme for the acquisition of post-storm satellite images was initiated during the response phase. After considering a number of options and costs, the French SPOT-5 satellite was chosen.

LINZ, MAF and MCDEM funded acquisition. Seven near-clear images were purchased. After some processing by LINZ and Landcare these have been distributed to agencies working on the recovery programme.

A large wall map showing the satellite images has been prepared by LINZ and has been widely distributed to interested groups and organisations.



COUNCIL ADOPTS LAHAR PLAN

By Barbara Dempsey, Manager Customer Services, Ruapehu District Council

The Ruapehu District Council adopted the Ruapehu Lahar Emergency Management Plan (Southern) at its June 2004 meeting subject to conditions.

The conditional status of the acceptance reflects the fact that Council requires formal confirmation of the level of support that central government will provide to fund Council's costs associated with the lahar event.

John Compton, Deputy Mayor of the Ruapehu District, stated that the Ruapehu District Council is confident about the robustness of the plan but is awaiting written assurance from the government that it will fund the extraordinary costs transferred to the Council. The Budget announcement on 27 May provided for \$64,000 for the council for past planning and \$180,000 for 04/05 for the management of the lahar and formalisation of this is expected.

"The Council has developed a comprehensive plan that we feel will provide an excellent level of protection to the community so long as the right level of resources are made available," says Mr Compton.

"Council is confident that given the transparent basis on which the plan was developed that it would stand up to any scrutiny if required," he said.

The Director of the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management, John Norton, has endorsed the Ruapehu District Council's plan as meeting the requirements for robust planning under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002.

The plan focuses on using 'best practise', and is based on the Coordinated Incident Management System (CIMS), a model that is used by all emergency response providers.

A core planning group consisting of representatives from New Zealand Police, Horizons Regional Council and Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management have supported the Ruapehu District Council to coordinate a response plan.

While the above group have formed a core planning committee, the agencies required to respond to the plan are many, and varied. This has included all emergency response agencies, major public corporations, Department of Conservation, TransRail, Transit, Defence, and Transpower.

The plan was developed with tremendous assistance from other stakeholder organizations. and the commitment and support from these groups has been great.

The plan allocates tasks to various stakeholders but does not seek to impose how those tasks will be completed.



The members of the sub-committee met in Taupo in June to finalise the public information plan.

However, an assurance that the tasks allocated can be achieved will be required by the group formed to support Ruapehu District Council in preparing the plan.

A sub-committee of the core-planning group has been formed to consider Public Information. This group consists of Communications representatives from the core-planning group along with Taupo District Council and Department of Conservation.

This group is currently developing a public information plan, which when completed will provide the guidelines for public information before, during and after the lahar event. The group are also preparing an information pamphlet.

The pamphlet along with many other incentives to ensure that the public are well informed on the level of risk, and the actions taken to ensure their safety when the lahar occurs will be released soon.

BOP CDEM Group Appointment

John Thurston commenced as Project Manager for the Bay of Plenty CDEM Group Plan in December 2003. John says that he has experienced good will and assistance from other areas that have progressed further in the development of their plans.

With many years in the Police, from the rank of Cadet through to Superintendent, John has a number of operational experiences to call upon. These include Operations Support, Marine and Land Search and Rescue (SAR), Civil Defence, Airport



Ground Safety and other special operations. Most of his service was in the Wellington area, but John has also served in Palmerston North, Auckland, Wanganui and Hamilton. He has also been part of two United Nation missions to Cyprus and Namibia.

John lives with his family in Te Puna, just out of Tauranga, and works from the Mt. Maunganui office of Environment Bay of Plenty. When not working, John enjoys the outdoors, sport, fishing and following his son's sports pursuits.


Raising Awareness

There are some excellent initiatives around the country to raise public awareness and preparedness. Featured here are some examples. These initiatives, plus a whole range of other resources for those tasked with looking after public education, are shared in the Public Education and Information section of www.civildefence.govt.nz

Caring For Our People -

by Stephen Dunn & Linda Archer, Horowhenua District Council

When the floods and storms hit the Horowhenua, the impact on those affected was quite devastating, and still is for many. Whilst organisations and people came together in support and did some amazing things, there is more that can be done to try and help lessen the impact for future emergencies. People often think it will not happen to them, and are not prepared enough to put their own emergency actions in place. With this concern in mind, the Horowhenua District Council led the way, along with various supporting agencies, to instigate a three-step awareness, preparedness and safety programme.



The first of these was to put out a publication in Lifestyle, showing what happened in the Horowhenua. The publication illustrated organisations that worked together, the support and tenacity of people helping themselves and others, and the real impact on the community, which for many will continue as they try and pull themselves back to some form of normality.

The second step was the creation and distribution of a preparedness publication in our free newspaper. The publication asked readers a series of relevant questions, such as do you know what to do in the event of any disaster? What are your family plans/actions, who to contact, etc? Do you know what to include in an emergency pack? The publication also included an information and contact page for readers to complete and place in a handy spot.

The third step is currently underway and is aimed at motivating people to take action. The publication "How safe is your house?" aims at using competitions for kids that require adult input as a way of getting families involved in becoming prepared. The four competitions included in the publication are:

- **After a Disaster**
– Challenges children to put in sequence the levels of assistance that will be available after a disaster.
- **Escape Plan for your House** – Asks kids to draw an escape plan for their house.
- **Make your House Safe**
– Entrants read the "I



am Prepared" publication and put the "20 steps to be better prepared" into action. The homes of entrants are inspected and judged by Civil Defence staff.

- **Home Safety Checklist** - Kids fill in the ACC home safety checklist to help prevent injuries in and around their homes.

The creation and funding of the publication and of the prizes came from several important community agencies, as well as the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management. The participation of these agencies helped Horowhenua District Council keep the cost of the publication to an acceptable level.

There are several pitfalls that other organisations could avoid when creating similar public education materials and campaigns:

- Use the publication company to do most of the work. Raising sponsorship, drafting articles, conducting interviews, and creating design components can take a lot of time. The publication company is well aware of their own deadlines to get information, and they will make sure they get it on time. Also, publication companies have access to graphic artists who know what types of images have the right impacts.
- It is important to maintain control of what content goes into the publication. Conduct regular update meetings and consistently check the copy. Right from the start of the project, decide which organisations would be most suitable to be included, including those prepared to provide prizes.
- If competitions are going to be included in the publication, they will require marketing support. Some ideas to include are signs where entries are handed in, reminders of competition completion dates, or radio advertising support.
- The process for selecting winners will also need to be considered. There may be legal issues around the competition that need attention. Winners need to be contacted promptly, and the results will need to be published.



and Preparedness

“Are You Ready For This?”

By Susan Wylie, Hawke's Bay Regional Council

A new publication is on its way for Hawke's Bay residents. “Are You Ready For This?” continues the preparedness campaign that the five Civil Defence offices in Hawke's Bay have carried out over the last few years in local newspapers and on radio.

The new publication is a double-sided A4 newsletter which simply covers essential emergency preparedness tips for homeowners and businesses.

There's plenty of information out there in the phonebook, local councils and websites so there's no point duplicating it all. We concentrated on making this a bright, easy to read, fairly personal newsletter so that people learn simple ways to take action.

As you'd expect the top 10 hazards for Hawke's Bay include earthquakes. Because of the region's strong horticulture sector there are also the unexpected hazards such as pests and diseases, and hazardous substance spills. There's a clear message to store water and avoid using the phone for anything other than essential calls. There's also an outline of the process emergency services go through in a disaster.

We learned from the floods earlier this year that many people don't know how Civil Defence works. Some expect an immediate response,

while others get on and sort themselves out. It was important to outline the actual steps we go through, so they have a more realistic expectation come the next disaster.

The brochure will be out in libraries, medical waiting rooms, community centres and sports centres in July.



Floodwater covers a property and damages a home in Porangahau, Central Hawke's Bay.

CDEM in Schools

The goal of the National Public Education Strategy is to create “Increased individual and community awareness and acknowledgement of all hazards, and improved preparedness to cope in an emergency.”

As a component of this goal, the National Public Education Working Group has developed a series of project groups, including one focused on delivering CDEM messages to students. Children are recognised as an important conduit for altering the public understanding of CDEM, and for getting CDEM preparedness messages into homes.

The members of the working group are:

- Sandy Pedersen – Wellington Emergency Management Office (Project Lead)
- Tanya Jenkins - Environment Canterbury
- Jane Lodge - Auckland City Council
- Bill Obers - Invercargill City Council
- Tom Shaw - Southland District Council
- Shawn Hollister & Kirsty Winchester- Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management

On 20 – 21 May, the project group met in Christchurch to develop the key messages to be included in a national, all-hazards resource

for teachers of years 5 through 8. The group analysed a wide sample of existing resources, and called upon their own expertise, to identify a comprehensive list of core messages for educators to use when teaching CDEM. The selected messages will be developed to target this audience and to work into the teacher's curriculum.

Sue Charmley, a year 8 teacher from Manning Intermediate in Christchurch, joined the group during the evening of 20 May, and shared her ideas about the types of resources that would be useful in her classroom. The ideas discussed included the best possible types of resource packages, how to best present the information (CD-ROM, website, hard copy, etc.), and the best way to support teachers with the dissemination of CDEM messages.

The CDEM sector recognises the importance of working together with the education sector, and is seeking to establish strong support, both on a national and local level.

As a result of the meeting, the group developed a comprehensive series of action points and a timeline for reaching these defined goals.

More information about the National Public Education Strategy and the CDEM in Schools project can be accessed at www.civildefence.govt.nz

In The Works

“Know What It Takes” Radio Campaign

The “Know What it Takes” national public education radio campaign will be running over three separate periods during the next six months. The campaign includes a series of 30 commercials, with topics ranging from general preparedness messages to specific hazards. The commercials will be run in combinations that are customised for various regions.

The campaign for the remainder of 2004 will run over the July and the December 2004 school holidays.

A concentrated weeklong campaign will be launched the second Wednesday in October, centred on the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction. This campaign will complement a range of national and local public education activities.

Details of the Disaster Reduction week, and further information on the radio campaign can be viewed on www.civildefence.govt.nz, under the Public Education and Information section.

International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction - 13 October 2004

In December of 1989, the General Assembly of the United Nations designated the second Wednesday of October to be International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction. Originally, the International Day was to be observed annually, and only during the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, which was 1990-1999.

However, in 2001 the General Assembly decided to maintain the observance of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction on the second Wednesday of October. The day is seen as an instrument to endorse a global culture of natural disaster reduction and an opportunity to focus on disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness.

www.civildefence.govt.nz - Making it Easier

In recent years, a whole lot of online resources for the public and the CDEM sector have been added to the Ministry website. With all of the new content, navigation from the homepage has become increasingly more difficult and not as intuitive as it should be. To that end, the Ministry are in the process of redesigning the homepage and architecture of the site to add increased functionality and provide easier and faster access to the content.

Taking it to the Street

By Sandra Pedersen, Education & Marketing Manager, WEMO

‘Get to know your neighbours before you need them’ was the theme of a street party in Konini Road, Wellington in June. The event was organised by local residents and the Wellington City Council's Emergency Management Office.

Following the media coverage of the February flood events, Konini Road resident Adrian Parkyn became concerned that he and his neighbours were not really prepared for ‘The Big One.’ Mr. Parkyn took it upon himself to get the community involved and educated, and approached the Wellington Emergency Management Office for assistance.

Adrian contacted the street’s 60 households and received a favourable response. Many residents did not know each other and were keen to be involved in their community’s preparedness.

The event featured two survivors from the 1931 Napier earthquake as guest speakers. The message to residents was that they may be on their own for up to three days, and it is up to them to be prepared. To encourage storing water, Wellington Emergency Management Office donated a 10 litre water container to each household. WEMO is keen to support similar community initiatives.



Residents of Konini Road enjoy the festivities and take the opportunity to learn about Civil Defence preparedness.

CDEM on the Chatham Islands

By John Lovell and Tom Roche

During the last week of April, John Lovell, Emergency Management Advisor Christchurch, and Tom Roche, Emergency Management Advisor (Education), visited the Chatham Islands to run a series of training workshops aimed at developing the island's emergency response capability and to assist with their CDEM planning.

The Chatham Island's training included sessions on welfare, an introduction to Controlled Incidence Management System (CIMS), and Emergency Operation Centre operations. The sessions were well



Focused on training (left to right) Gabbie Larnuze, Debra Goomes, Mark Taylor, Rana Solomon, Patrick Smith, Eddie Frazer, and Alison Davies.

attended and participants were put to the test. On the afternoon of Thursday 29, the team conducted an exercise based around a scenario of a storm hitting the islands. Although there is a high level of self-sufficiency amongst the residents of the islands, the need for a coordinated approach and support from the rest of the country was evident. The island's ability to respond to emergencies was fully tested by providing realistic problems, including loss of communications, power failure, coastal erosion, pollution, wind damage to buildings, and storm surge.

Early this year, Rana Solomon took over as the island's Emergency Response Coordinator and, with the support of the Ministry, is working on the development of their CDEM Group Plan. Rana has lived most of her life on the islands; her family is from the Chatham's (Rekohu) and are of Moriori descent. Tommy Solomon, the last full-blooded Moriori, was her great grandfather. Rana is keen to use her skills and knowledge for the betterment of the Chatham's.



Standing in front of a statue of her great grandfather, Tommy Solomon, Rana Solomon speaks with Tom Roche.

As a result of the visit, the Ministry is working with the CDEM Group to bring together all the agencies with an operational role in the Chatham's, and to promote and encourage a system of mutual support. A meeting will be held in Wellington that will identify the operational functions of the involved agencies, ascertain the education and training needs of the island, pinpoint how to develop an inter-agency, generic programme, and determine the scope for joint agency initiatives and the sharing of resources. For a community with a total population of just under 700 people, these types of approaches are essential

A Slow Earthquake

By Dr John Beavan, GNS

Scientists believe they are a step closer to understanding the way tectonic stresses translate into earthquakes in New Zealand.

In what scientists consider a significant advance, we have linked unusual land movements north of Wellington to a recent swarm of earthquakes under Upper Hutt.

In recent years, Paekakariki, a coastal township 40km northwest of Wellington, has been moving gently west at 25mm-a-year.

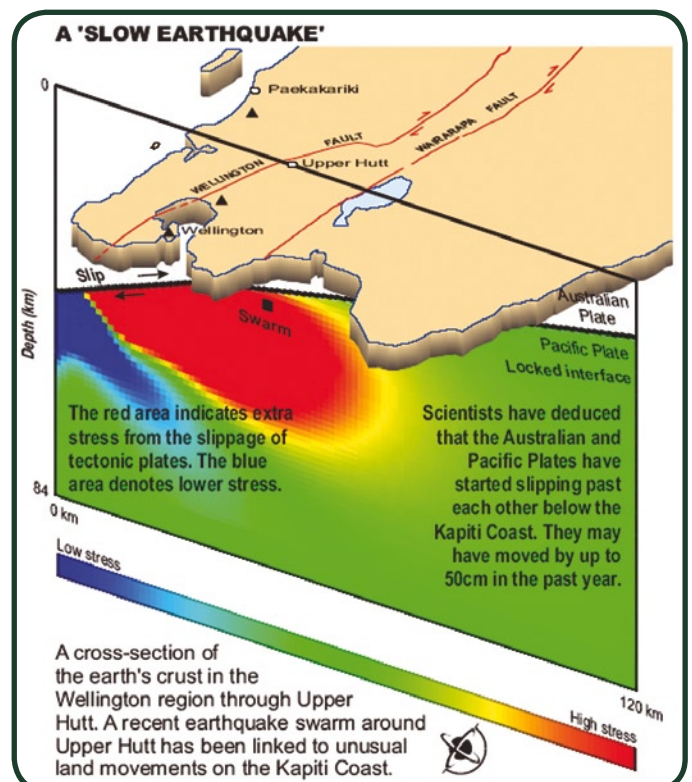
Scientists at Geological and Nuclear Sciences Ltd (GNS) have found that movement at Paekakariki has suddenly slowed to 15mm-a-year. And 12 months ago, a hill above Paekakariki started rising at 10mm-a-year.

At about the same time, Upper Hutt began experiencing a swarm of more than 40 earthquakes - a rare event in the Wellington region.

Modelling shows the quake swarm and the unusual surface movements near Paekakariki appear to be linked.

The two tectonic plates colliding about 35km under the Kapiti Coast appear to have slipped past each other by 50cm in the past year.

This would account for the change in surface movement measured by a GPS instrument near Paekakariki in recent months. Traditionally scientists have regarded the Pacific and Australian Plates as being locked together under Wellington. However, this latest finding suggests slipping or "slow earthquakes" are occurring. Slow earthquakes are a relatively new phenomenon that have been observed in only a handful of places worldwide, and only in the past eight years thanks to the advent of continuous GPS recording instruments.



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National CD Warning System Review

By David Coetzee, Emergency Management Planner

A review of the existing procedures and systems of the National Civil Defence Warning System (NWS) was started in November 2003. The first phase in the review process took the form of a survey among the civil defence offices of all regional councils and territorial authorities. The survey dealt with a range of issues related to warnings including the current procedures, warnings for the respective types of events, means of communication, national warning system tests and contact lists.

The positive response to this survey (75% return) emphasised the importance placed upon efficient civil defence warning systems. The data obtained was processed in December 2003.

The results of the survey were evaluated by a representative working group and the areas for improvement identified at a meeting of the working group in February 2004. The results of the review process and the findings of the working group were presented and discussed at the MCDEM Director's Forum in Christchurch in April 2004.

In general, the survey found that there was not much wrong with the existing system. However, areas that need to be addressed were highlighted, including:

- Setting of a policy that determines the key fundamentals of the NWS, including minimum standards for participation
- Inadequate after-hours communication means by some participants
- Inconsistent success with NZ Police role in confirmation of receipt of warnings
- Need for follow-up information/value-adding to warnings and cancellation of warnings
- Need for more critical and in-depth discussion on issues, particularly around tsunami warnings
- Need for more regular after-hours testing of the NWS

Based upon the findings of the review to date, a draft revised National Civil Defence Warning System Procedure was compiled in May 2004 and sent to the respective CDEM Groups. The revised procedures (draft) are currently under consideration by CDEM Groups for approval, or further comments, to enable the working group to bring the review to conclusion. Responses from the CDEM groups are expected by the end of June 2004. Depending upon the submissions, it is anticipated that the review will be completed by September 2004.

A Slow Earthquakecontinued from page 9

A slow earthquake happens over weeks or months and its only surface manifestations are small ground movements picked up by highly accurate GPS instruments.

The plate movement, or slow earthquake, would have increased the tectonic stress under Upper Hutt by the right amount to trigger a swarm of small to moderate sized earthquakes.

It's likely they have been occurring for many years in New Zealand, but no-one has been able to detect them.

"The measurements we've recorded in recent months are changing the traditional view that the two tectonic plates are tightly locked under the lower North Island.

A global positioning system instrument capable of detecting horizontal movement down to 2mm recorded the earth deformation near Paekakariki.

It transmits data continuously to the GeoNet operations centre run by GNS. More information on what is happening under the lower North Island will become available as more GPS instruments are installed during the next few years.

It needs to be emphasized that the revised procedures are still in draft form and will only become active after reasonable consensus between participants and following sign-off by the Director. Sufficient notification will be given to all participants when that stage has been reached.

In addition to changes to the NWS procedures, another outcome of the review process was the need to reflect in more depth upon the contents and procedures (national and local) related to tsunamis, volcanic and weather events. It was proposed that MCDEM facilitate individual workshops to that end. The first of these workshops (to focus on tsunami) will be conducted in August in Tauranga to coincide with the Natural Hazards Conference 2004 (www.naturalhazards.net.nz).

Contact david.coetzee@dia.govt.nz for more information.

Exercise Pegasus 04 Update

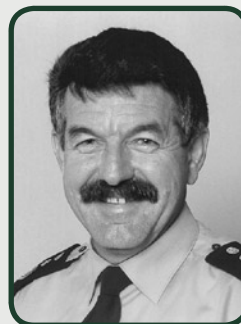
by Sara Williams, Project Coordinator

Planning is continuing for one of the major emergency management exercises of 2004, entitled PEGASUS, which will be based on a scenario of a major earthquake. The simulated event will affect the regions covered by the Canterbury, Marlborough, and Nelson/Tasman CDEM Groups.

The exercise will take place from Friday 17 to Sunday 19 September at locations in and around Christchurch. The Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) of the three participating CDEM Groups, and the National Crisis Management Centre in Wellington will be activated for the event. The aim is to train and test participants in a number of critical emergency response areas. An important aspect of the exercise will be to practise the interaction of all personnel and organisations concerned, in order to achieve effective integration of their actions during the exercise.

The charter and coordinating instructions for the exercise has been agreed upon. The project is now being managed by Sara Williams, MCDEM, as Charlie Higgins has been deployed by UNOCHA to Bangladesh.

Staff Appointments



During the February flood events, Bernie Rush was appointed to the role of Emergency Management Advisor (EMA) for the lower North Island. "It was a baptism by floodwater," Bernie said.

Bernie originally joined the Ministry in the role of EMA in April 2002, on secondment from the New Zealand Fire Service (NZFS). He began his fire-fighting career with Auckland's North Shore fire brigade in 1971, and

continued for 33 years.

Serving out of many fire stations, including Onehunga, Balmoral, PT Chev, Avondale, Otahuhu, Ponsonby, and Remuera, Bernie also spent two years as a full-time instructor at the NZFS Auckland regional training centre in Mt Wellington.

In 1995 Bernie was appointed project manager of a pilot project to develop a national Urban Search & Rescue capability for NZ. He was appointed to the position of Chief Fire Officer of the NZFS Wanganui fire district and the Principal Rural Fire Officer for the Wanganui District Council in 1998.

USAR Update

By Steve Glassey, Emergency Management Advisor

USAR Response Team Registration

During May, the Ministry approved the registration of a further six USAR Response Teams. The USAR Response Team Registration process provides a voluntary accreditation process for regionally based first response teams, validated by the Ministry to ensure USAR standards are consistent nationally. Congratulations to the following teams who have been successfully registered:

- NZ-RT4 Palmerston North City Council Rescue Emergency Support Team
- NZ-RT5 North Shore City Council Initial Response Unit
- NZ-RT6 Taupo District Council Civil Defence Rescue Team
- NZ-RT7 Victoria University Rescue
- NZ-RT8 Wellington City Council Tawa Rescue
- NZ-RT9 Upper Hutt Community Rescue

These registrations have provided an opportunity for all nine USAR Response Teams to attend Exercise Pegasus04 to be held in Canterbury in September.

Disaster Search Dog Programme

The National USAR Search Dog Programme continues to gain momentum. In association with Otago Polytechnic, the final Tertiary Education Programme (TEP) workshop was held in Palmerston North

in June. The programme provides NZQA accredited training in canine first aid, legislation relating to the use of canines, ethical issues, canine transportation and emergency care.

The specialist training aids in preparing operational handlers for the advanced search dog assessment, Canine Readiness Evaluation Process (CREP). The advanced assessment will be held Labour Weekend 2004, in Taupo.

Regulations to protect USAR logo

Regulations are currently being drafted by the Ministry to manage the use of the USAR logo. If you wish to make use of the USAR logo, please submit a written request to:

National USAR Steering Committee
c/- Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management
PO Box 5010, Wellington

Further information

For those wishing to be kept up to date with USAR, join the stakeholder update list by simply sending an email to join@usar.govt.nz. Further information on USAR can also be found at www.usar.govt.nz

Recovery Symposium

12-13 July 2004 Napier War Memorial Conference Centre, Napier

Planning continues in the final lead up to the start of the Recovery Symposium. Focused on providing a unique opportunity for professionals with a role in recovery to discuss and debate the multifaceted aspects of recovery, the Symposium will go beyond the physical aspects of recovery considered immediately following a disaster. For information on registering for the Symposium, visit www.civildefence.govt.nz

Places are booking up fast, with over 240 people registered for the Symposium. The deadline for full registration is 1 July, thereafter the cost of Late Registration rises to NZ\$500.

Please note that all accommodation being arranged through the Symposium is now booked. Due to high registration, those wishing to attend will need to find their own accommodation. In addition, all places for the Symposium dinner have now been taken.

Sunday 11 July: Earthquake Tour

Starting at 2pm at the Hawkes Bay Museum with a screening of Gaylene Preston's 'Survivors' Stories' and 'Hawkes Bay Earthquake' - a historical documentary with footage of the 1931 quake. This is followed by a bus tour of Bluff Hill (Scinde Island), to see the reclaimed land, One Tree hill and other Napier sights of interest. The tour will conclude at the Napier Club with refreshments. Places are limited.

Student Grants

The Ministry has awarded three grants for New Zealand students to attend the Recovery Symposium. Grants have been awarded to: Kirsten Finnis (University of Otago), Jessica Ward (University of Auckland) and Sonia McManus (University of Canterbury).

New Session

A new breakfast session has been added to the Symposium schedule, entitled "February 2004 Flood Event: Recovery Lessons Identified". The breakfast will last one hour and will be held at the Te Pania Hotel Restaurant on Tuesday 13 July, from 7:15 am. The session will be chaired by John Richardson (Recovery Manager, State Emergency

Unit, Victoria, Australia) and will include Mark Harrison (Recovery Manager, Horizons Regional Council), Penny Rounphwaite (Regional Commissioner, Work and Income), Chris Ward (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry), and Merv Lauder (State Highway Control Manager, Transit)

Featured Speakers

One of the Symposium's keynote speakers will be James "Ken" Mitchell, Professor at Rutgers University, in the United States of America. Professor Mitchell's educational background includes a Masters degree in Geography and Community Planning, and a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Chicago.

He is closely acquainted with the effects of extreme events through service on U.S. National Research Council post-disaster field study teams and via direct experience of a commercial jet aircraft crash. Currently, he has published more than 120 professional works on the human dimensions of environmental hazards and has chaired the National Research Council's Ad Hoc Committee on the International Decade for Natural Hazard Reduction (1985-87) and the Planning Conference for the proposed decade (1986). Among his recent research contributions are papers on: the implications of 9/11/01 for hazards research; expanded notions of urban vulnerability; re-emerging hazards of Europe; the 20th century history of disasters in New Jersey; and the evolution of large area systems of hazards management in North America, Australia and Europe.

Other speakers include:

- Dr. Anne Eyre, sociologist and Certified Trauma Specialist
- Professor John Handmer, Director of the Centre for Risk and Community Safety, RMIT, Australia
- Professor Brenda Phillips, Professor of Emergency Management at Jacksonville State University, USA
- Richard Sharpe, Technical Director Earthquake Engineering, BECA, New Zealand
- Mr. R J (George) Hooper, Executive Director, Centre for Advanced Engineering, New Zealand

Please note all session chairs and speakers are tentative.

The “Earth Rocks” at Te Papa

By Debbie Cunningham, Emergency Management Officer, Greater Wellington Regional Council

The 2004 Easter holiday was deemed the “Earth Rocks” weekend at Te Papa. Activities focused on earthquakes, and included games for children; emergency services demonstrations, public talks and static displays.



Kids holding the civil defence 10-litre water containers from the “Earth Rocks!” weekend at Te Papa.

A major focus of the weekend for the Wellington Region CDEM Group was to remind people of the need to store water for an emergency. To help raise awareness and preparedness, over 300 10-litre water containers were given away to visitors. People attending the event were surveyed to find out how much water they stored. The results of the informal survey showed that most respondents are storing only a small amount.

To reinforce the theme of saving water, the Fire Service ran a game for kids that involved filling water containers from a temporary manifold, similar to what might be used after a real earthquake. Needless to say, the kids got drenched. Despite the soaking, the game helped to convey the message that after an earthquake they may have to travel to get water if they don’t have enough stored.



Visitors survey the activities at Te Papa, including this display of rescue tools.

The weekend offered many other activities, including Suzy Cato being winched under the Westpac Rescue Helicopter, the EQC “Quake Safe House” showing how to “Fix Fasten and Forget”, a high angle rescue, and comedians trying to explain what you need in your survival kit.



“When I grow up . . .”

Napier Quake Survivors Tell Their Stories

The 7.9 1931 Napier earthquake lasted 2 ½ minutes and was felt intensely in the Napier – Hastings area, killing 258 people.

During a recent community event Winifred Scott, 93 (left), and Edith Shakespeare, 86 joined the residents of Konini Road, Wellington as featured speakers.

Edith, 14 at the time, recalls being at morning tea at school on the day of the event. She remembers being evacuated to the Marine Parade, feeling the ground shake, and watching fish flapping about on the shore as the seawater retreated. There was also a shipwreck that had not been visible before, lying on the exposed seabed.

See story, *Taking it to the Street*, pg. 8

