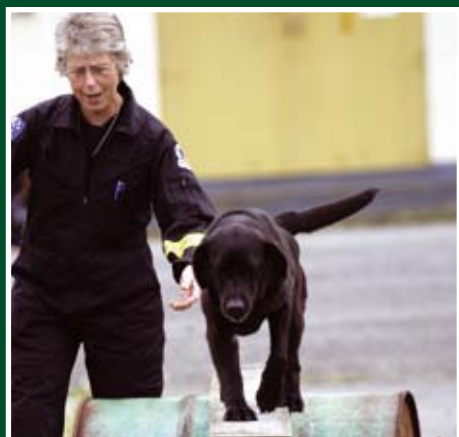


New Minister meets MCDEM heads



New Civil Defence Minister Rick Barker shares a light moment with MCDEM Director John Norton and National Controller Mike O'Leary during Mr Barker's first visit "downstairs" to the National Crisis Management Centre in the Beehive basement. *See page 3 for comments by Mr Barker.*

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MESSAGE FROM

JOHN NORTON

THE RECOVERY/REGENERATION DICHOTOMY

In recent weeks we have been subject to righteous interviewers on television

encouraging vocal bystanders to complain about why the Government or local government haven't rebuilt communities damaged by major disaster impacts "yesterday". Behind these people are anxious citizens who have lost homes or damaged homes wondering if they will be safe in the future. Also behind these people are local authorities grappling with the question of how to protect these citizens, how much to pay for this protection and who should pay – the affected citizens, their insurance companies, the local community, the community at large or the taxpayer.

These are highly emotive questions and the wish to respond quickly needs to be balanced against the need for the affected individuals and the community to decide on an appropriate mix and to become comfortable with it.

At Matata for the first time we have followed a process to commence identifying these issues immediately after the event. It took four months of assessment, investigation and design to develop a range of physical solutions. It has taken a further three months to verify the particular solutions physically, environmentally and socially. We expected the four months and we have come to understand the importance of the following three months. In future events where regeneration (re-establishing communities with reduced future risk) is needed we will set expectations around a timeframe which incorporates both design and validating processes.

This of course depends on the assumption that we will not rebuild existing risk – which is often the easy solution. The

local authorities dealing with these issues are to be commended for their processes – they know how difficult this is and the trade-offs that are necessary. The communities involved equally are enduring the anxiety and the frustration of coming to a view. The options include protecting from the risk (how much and with what consequence?) or retreating from the risk (with consequences on land use rights).

The question of who pays is probably a combination of those noted in paragraph one. The management of risk is both a public and private responsibility. To achieve an outcome in a reasonable timeframe, deals need to be done and a willingness to commit to a solution is needed.

As I mentioned at the start these are difficult issues. The sector is maturing in its ability to deal with them and we are taking the lessons learned. Society needs to understand the processes and be tolerant of the timeframe needed to come to a conclusion.

On the MCDEM development front – we have funding for an additional 18 people over the next 18 months to better serve your needs. Ongoing reviews of how we should look are progressing and we should be seeing extra staff coming on board around May/June. In the meantime we remain limited in our ability to respond to demands.

It has been a challenging year and I wish to acknowledge the hard work and the huge heart of my staff and the sector in completing all that we have achieved.

I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas.

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Hon Rick Barker Minister of Civil Defence



NO TIME FOR MUCKING AROUND

Only a couple of days after I received my new Ministerial Warrants in October, the heavens opened over Gisborne, the East Coast and northern Hawkes Bay – this was a rapid induction into the world of civil defence emergency management.

There was a downpour like one we hadn't seen on the East Coast in quite some time. Gisborne and Tolaga Bay were again hit by floods – and I hadn't even had time to buy some decent souwesters!

Visiting the Gisborne area in the aftermath of the flooding, I was struck by the calm and efficient manner in which people from local authorities and a wide range of organisations just 'got on with it' to mitigate the effects of the storm and get the region up and running as quickly as possible.

People in the CDEM sector will know as well as I that, internationally, disasters have wreaked havoc and taken enormous numbers of lives in the past 12 months.

The Boxing Day tsunami, Gulf hurricanes, the Pakistan earthquake, along with the portents of a bird flu pandemic, have raised public awareness and focused scrutiny on preparedness. This has been further heightened by the rainstorms that devastated Matata and parts of Tauranga earlier in the year.

My Ministry has a busy work programme for the coming months. It was a pleasure to see the National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan Order made by the Governor-General last month. I am fully aware of the hard work that has gone into this Plan in the past three years. I congratulate the MCDEM staff and sector representatives who have put so much effort into this essential document. The next step is the development of a Guide to accompany the Plan when it comes into force on 1 July 2006, and the plan itself will be reviewed by the end of June 2008.

In collaboration with other agencies, both national and international, MCDEM will continue the development of civil defence emergency management roles and responsibilities.

Knowledge of the potential hazards and risks affecting New Zealand is an important part of building a resilient nation, and my Ministry will be reporting on the national hazardscape by the end of 2006.

I'm sure the tsunami reports, which will be considered by the Government and the CDEM sector in the next few weeks, will present decision-making challenges across a wide range of spheres – ranging

from early-warning techniques to town-planning issues.

I look forward to seeing the national public education campaign. This campaign will reinforce a vital message to the New Zealand public – that we all have to be ready to look after ourselves, our families and neighbours for at least a few days after a major disaster.

MCDEM supports other agencies that have lead responsibility for hazards within their area of core expertise, and is contributing to the Pandemic Action Plan being developed by the Ministry of Health.

I have already received thorough briefings from MCDEM Director John Norton and his staff about the emergency management issues facing the country. And following the 'whole of government' philosophy at the centre of the National Plan, I will be working closely with the likes of Hon Jim Anderton as Agriculture and Biosecurity Minister, Local Government Minister Hon Mark Burton, Associate Minister of Local Government Hon Nanaia Mahuta, Basil Morrison, President of *Local Government New Zealand*, and others.

Next year I hope to get around the country as much as possible to meet CDEM representatives – because I have a lot to learn about this challenging and exciting portfolio.

In the meantime, have a Merry Christmas and a trouble-free New Year.

Hon Rick Barker



Meeting of minds - the Minister and his staff receive an introductory briefing in the NCMC meeting room

National Plan update - now on to the Guide

New Zealand's first National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan has now been published in the Statutory Regulations series and is available in hardcopy from retailers of government legislation. The Plan can also be viewed at www.civildefence.govt.nz

Civil Defence Minister Rick Barker welcomed the development of the new Plan, which was given formal approval by the Governor-General, via an Order-in-Council, last month.

"New Zealand has not faced a major national disaster since the 1931 Napier earthquake, but our dynamic physical environment and level of technological development means we are now exposed to a wide variety of hazards," says Mr Barker.

"Flooding, earthquakes, fire and other disasters are being exacerbated by our propensity for development. Because of this new level of threat to our communities, work has had to be undertaken to ensure that we have the capacity to deal with these events."

The new Plan states, and provides for, the hazards and risks to be managed at the national level and the CDEM arrangements necessary to meet these hazards and risks. The Plan also provides support to the management of local emergencies.

Mr Barker expects a stocktake on available resources to be included in the review of the Plan expected in two years. This stocktake will help identify critical resource gaps.

He also expects the Committee for Domestic and External Security Co-ordination to prepare a report to Cabinet early in 2006 on the feasibility of mounting disaster preparedness exercises for Wellington and Auckland.

The Plan was comprehensively consulted on and includes significant input from CDEM groups, emergency services, local authorities, lifeline utilities, government agencies, and voluntary organisations.

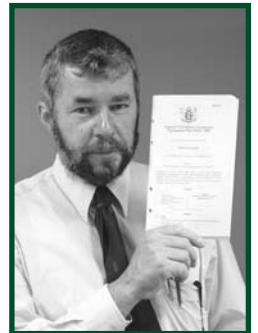
"I'm pleased with the new plan, it gives us a clear structure for emergency management and puts in place guidance necessary for effective and efficient emergency management," says Mr Barker.

"As the new Civil Defence Minister, I congratulate all those involved in drafting the Plan. It confirms the philosophy of the CDEM Act that local people and organisations are responsible for dealing with emergencies in their area, because they know the area and capacity best.

"Central Government will provide direction and ensure support will be available from a national or international level when necessary."

A major festive-season and new year effort is under way producing a draft of an extensive compilation of supporting material, known as "the Guide", to accompany the new National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan.

Technical writers, designers, sector personnel and MCDEM staff are currently working on the Guide project. An advisory group comprising a number of people from a wide variety of organizations involved with CDEM is assisting the team in the development of the Guide. Progress updates on this process will be posted to the MCDEM website from time to time.



Peter Wood (MCDEM) holds a copy of New Zealand's first National CDEM Plan.

The Guide will reinforce with additional detail, the CDEM roles and responsibilities of people and organisations as published in the Plan. It will also detail the arrangements from the Plan that have been made between the various organisations for working together at the national level to prepare for and respond to civil defence emergency events. In addition, the Guide will contain resources and references for CDEM activities.

The document will make extensive use of navigational tools to allow quick access to information, and will have an easy to read style including appropriate diagrams to enable ready understanding. It will be built on the published Plan by including the text of that document and following the same sequence of presentation of material.

The immediate aim of the project is to produce a draft of the Guide ready for inspection and consultation by the CDEM sector and other interested parties in February. It is expected a PDF version of the Guide will be emailed to interested parties by mid-February. It will also be posted onto the MCDEM website at this time.

The CDEM sector organisations and other interested parties involved in reviewing the draft Guide will be able to comment on the detail of the arrangements documented. Six weeks have been allocated for comments back to the MCDEM production team.

The Guide to the National Plan, subject to Ministerial inspection and government approval, will be published by the beginning of June 2006 – well before 1 July when the Plan itself becomes operative.



Members of the National Plan team - from left, James Scott, Peter Wood, Jenna Rogers, Sarah Stuart-Black and Jonathan Jull - working hard on the guide.

Exercise Pandora focuses on tsunamis

Landslips and heavy rain cutting off Kaikoura from the outside world - and then tsunamis. Doesn't sound like a recipe for fun – but these scenarios were the focus for the Canterbury CDEM Group's annual Exercise Pandora, held in September.

Since 1995, the Canterbury CDEMG has run Exercise Pandora annually to practise and evaluate operational procedures. This involves the activation of the Group Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC), district emergency operations centres and, in some districts, area or sector Civil Defence posts.

This year Pandora was conducted in three phases over three days. Phase one, on Saturday 3 September, exercised the Group ECC and the Kaikoura EOC. The scenario had heavy rain in the Kaikoura district and then a small earthquake that caused a number of landslips that blocked access to Kaikoura from the north and the south. Flooding in Kaikoura township was also a problem. The Kaikoura EOC managed the response to this emergency with the Group ECC providing support - mainly air transport and response personnel.

Phase two was on Saturday 10 September and phase three on Friday 16 September. Phase two exercised the Group's northern local EOCs (Kaikoura, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Christchurch, Banks Peninsula) and phase three the southern districts (Selwyn, Ashburton, Timaru, Mackenzie). Each district had its own scenario to work on - mostly tsunami based - each trying to achieve specific exercise goals. For example, some districts used the time to plan for evacuation of coastal areas threatened by the tsunami.

The objectives for the districts were to manage information, plan a response to the emergency, produce public information, respond to requests from other EOCs and sector HQs, and practise



Tsunamis proved a worthy theme for Pandora.

emergency management team (EMT) decision-making. Many learning opportunities occurred through the exercises and areas of improvement were identified. The main improvement identified is the need for more EOC training, cross training, and up-skilling of staff.

This was the first time a formal EMT was formed in the Group ECC. The team worked together to develop action and task plans and coordinate resources. Early on the EMT struggled to produce effective action or task plans but in phase 2 it performed much better. Future training will be based on the further developmental use of these teams.



Closeup of a map used in exercise Phoenix.

Phoenix flies again in Wellington

New Wellington Region CDEM group plans and a new group website were given a thorough fitness test during Exercise Phoenix IV last month.

Up to 100 people were actively involved in the 12-hour exercise on 25 November. The scenario was based on the third day after a Richter-magnitude 7.5 quake hit the region.

Centred on the region's Group EOC in Greater Wellington Regional Council's Wakefield Street HQ, Phoenix involved many of the region's local bodies and emergency services along with lifelines utilities and health organisations.

Group Controller Wayne Hastie says Phoenix was an invaluable opportunity to test the effectiveness of the CDEM Group Plan. Draft public information/media management and welfare plans were also put through their paces, along with the group's new website – www.wrcdemg.govt.nz

Jo Guard, Greater Wellington's Emergency Management Officer, says the exercise organisers were "really impressed" with the results of Phoenix. "Recent natural disasters around the world continue to remind us of the absolute importance of each and everyone of us being prepared. After a big quake or other emergency it could be weeks or even months before power, phone, sewage and water are fully restored.

"During this time emergency managers will be expected to co-ordinate resources and processes to reduce impact on communities.

"Phoenix was definitely a worthwhile exercise. Systems, processes and relationships were tested and overall we were pleased with the way it went. Obviously there'll be a bit of tweaking as a result of the exercise – but of course that's exactly why we run them – so we can troubleshoot and make adjustments before we have to deal with the real thing."

Certified sniffers

Words: Chris Schraders. Pics: Darren Moore

New Zealand's complement of USAR canine search teams is now stronger following the 2005 Canine Readiness Evaluation Process (CREP) in Christchurch at Labour Weekend.

Volunteers and their dogs travelled to Christchurch from around the country for the long weekend – which was broken up into three main parts: evaluation of the 'basic elements' (agility, direction control, bark alert and veterinary skills), evaluation of the USAR basic canine search teams and evaluation of the USAR advanced canine search teams.

Saturday morning saw all canine search teams evaluated on their basic elements, while the afternoon was set aside for evaluating those canine search teams attempting basic certification or re-certification. Evaluation of the canine search teams at advanced certification level took place on a rubble pile on the Sunday.

Shirley Hammond, from Californian Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 3, again acted as an international moderator of the advanced evaluations. Shirley has been a canine search specialist for many years, has attended events such as the Mexico City earthquake in 1985, the Oklahoma bombing, the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Centre and, most recently, hurricane Katrina. Shirley attended last year's CREP in Taupo, and has been influential in New Zealand's ongoing development of a canine search capability.

The weekend was a success with four canine search teams receiving advanced level certification and two qualified at the Basic level. Shirley and Paul George (Chief Evaluator – Advanced Evaluations) were both positive about the vast improvement in the quality of

the canine search teams.

Congratulations to the Canine Search teams who successfully certified or recertified, and a big thank you to the numerous volunteers and staff who organised, evaluated or were buried in 'hidey-holes' during the weekend.



New Zealand has four USAR canine search specialists (Advanced) and three canine search specialists (Basic). The long-term goal is for 24 teams in New Zealand.

Advanced certificate recipients:

- Linda Pike and Mij
- Brenda Woolley and Milo
- Brenda Woolley and Easy
- Malcolm York and Jack.

Basic certificate recipients:

- Janelle Mackie and Kahlie
- Sue Chesterfield and Nugget.

If you are interested in becoming a USAR canine search specialist, email searchdogs@usar.govt.nz for more

Qualified training now available

Emergency management training just got easier after The Emergency Management Academy of New Zealand (EMANZ) opened its doors early last month (2nd November).

Steve Glassey, formally of the Ministry, and founder of EMANZ, has begun providing a range of services that include training needs assessments, strategic training planning and delivery of emergency management courses.

One key service is the delivery of tertiary level emergency management training, delivered in collaboration with Tai Poutini Polytechnic.

For more information see www.emanz.ac.nz



Steve Glassey from his office at the Grand Building in Palmerston North.



Kahlie caught in the middle of her evaluation at the 2005 CREP. Unfortunately she died just ten days after from a kidney disease.

USAR community mourns Kahlie

The NZ search dog community is reeling with the news that a second dog has died in recent months. Ten days after the National CREP, Janelle Mackie confirmed that her dog Kahlie had passed on. Kahlie, a three-year-old Flat Coat Retriever, died unexpectedly in November. It appears, from an autopsy, Kahlie suffered a kidney disease.

"Kahlie was born in Australia and came to New Zealand as a puppy," remembers Janelle. "People often asked me how I could get her to do things like climb ladders, abseil, work on big rubble piles etc. I would reply 'sssshhh don't tell her it is not normal dog behaviour'." Janelle and Kahlie had successfully certified as a USAR Canine Search team – Basic.

Pandemic planning well under way here

Inter-agency planning to deal with a bird flu pandemic – or any other pandemic – is now well advanced.

Bird flu (H5N1) is spreading through Asia, Europe and the Middle East. Through bird to human contact about 70 people have died.

While there is no indication that a human pandemic is imminent, there is sufficient concern to warrant international planning for the possibility. In New Zealand, it is likely the CDEM sector would have an important role in keeping the country “up and running” in the event of a pandemic.



Chickens by the thousands have been slaughtered as Asian countries try to stop the spread of bird flu.

The Ministry of Health is the leading New Zealand's inter-agency pandemic response and has developed a five-point strategy: plan for it; keep it out; stamp it out; manage it; recover from it.

The Health Ministry has divided the contributing work of 20 government agencies into 13 work areas, each with a lead department:

- Strategy – Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Health – Ministry of Health
- Border control - Customs
- Economy - Treasury
- Workforce – Department of Labour
- Education – Ministry of Education
- Community logistics - MCDEM
- Law and order - Police
- External – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Infrastructure – Ministry of Economic Development
- Welfare – Ministry of Social Development
- Legal issues – Crown Law Office
- Communications – Ministry of Health.

Coordination and information sharing is through an Interagency Pandemic Group (IPG), comprising all of the government agencies.

The assumptions (based on a model of the 1918 Spanish Flu) are to plan for:

- Up to 50% absenteeism for up to three weeks
- 35% attack rate, up to 1.65 million people ill – many severely debilitated
- 33,000 deaths, with a peak rate of 10,500 in the highest week – compared with about 500 in a “normal” week.

Whilst the objective of the Action Plan is to maintain normality to the extent possible, it is likely that significant social and economic disruption would occur as a result of the range of measures, which would be used, including:

- Border management (including NZ quarantine of incoming air travellers)

- Closing educational facilities, including all schools
- Restricting public gatherings
- Restricted internal travel
- Tactical use of antiviral medication (Tamiflu) – but not as a prophylaxis.

A pandemic situation will affect all society and have a major effect on the health system and people will need to help themselves and each other. Plans will therefore be needed to engage all of society.

A national pandemic planning workshop was held in Wellington on 28-29 November to brief CDEM groups and local government, and determine planning priority issues.

MCDEM Director John Norton says that, overall, New Zealand is better positioned than most countries in terms of pandemic planning and natural advantages to mitigate the effects of a pandemic. It does not represent a doomsday situation, but would “touch” all New Zealanders if it were to occur.

MCDEM's role

MCDEM is the lead agency for Community Logistics, which is addressing the issues for maintaining “community”, and reinforcing “normal” CDEM processes in order to address issues relating to:

- Logistics to support emergency requirements under pandemic
- Support for infrastructure and essential services
- Maintaining FMCG/food supply – including keeping supermarkets and distribution systems running
- Emergency home distribution for FMCG (if needed).

MCDEM has to date:

- Distributed a pandemic resources information CD to CDEM groups and local government
- Contacted key food distribution agencies to establish critical systems
- Contacted some voluntary agencies regarding emergency food distribution
- Established a steering committee to facilitate engagement with the FMCG/food sector
- Established a Cluster Group (MCDEM, MED, MSD, Welfare and Police).

For further inquiries contact Alan Walker, 04 472 9420, or email alan.walker@dia.govt.nz



Pandemic workshop participants John Foley, Ross Hamilton and Mike Langford discuss the trouble caused by birds.

2005 the year of disaster on amcam



The human toll to the Kashmir region which was devastated by a 7.6 earthquake has totalled over 80,000.

Words: Richard MacLean

No year ever passes without major disasters and loss of life around the world - but 2005 appears to have been blighted more than any year in the recent past.

The year got off to a devastating start - as the world came to terms with the international horror that was the Boxing Day tsunami. The death toll around the edges of the Indian Ocean eventually reached an estimated 283,000.

Hurricanes repeatedly blasted the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico.

Then, in October, the devastating quake hit the Kashmir area. The death toll is already well over 80,000 - and survivors are facing an extremely grim existence as they face winter in the mountains with little or no shelter.

Perhaps what has made 2005 different, and seemingly more gruelling than previous years, has been the saturation media coverage afforded disasters - and this, to a major extent, has been made possible by the advent of mobile phone cameras and digital video recorders. This year, like never before, we saw terrifying footage of tsunamis sweeping away seaside villages, and clouds of dust as tower blocks collapsed in Pakistan. The footage all came from everyday people, on the spot, bearing technology.

It was also the year when devastating disasters hit hard against westerners - who were among the thousands overwhelmed by the tsunamis. Americans - and the rest of the western world - also watched in bewilderment as the ugly aftermath of Katrina unfolded in New Orleans.

It comes as no surprise financial losses as a result of weather-related natural disasters were the largest on record, more than \$200 billion compared to \$145 billion in 2004, the previous record, according to statistics presented to the United Nations Climate Change Conference currently meeting in Montreal, Canada.

This year's figures, partly as a result of the highest number of hurricanes or tropical storms ever seen since records began in 1850, are part of a climbing trend being linked by many in the industry with climate change as a result of human-made emissions.

Insurance industry experts point to growing scientific evidence, including studies in the journal *Nature*, which indicate that major tropical storms in the Atlantic and Pacific have increased in duration and intensity by about 50 per cent since the 1970s.

The year was also marked by the highest ever rainfall recorded in India (in Mumbai), the first ever hurricane to emerge that approached Europe, and the appearance of the strongest hurricane on record.

Purely as a matter of record, we chronicle some of the more notable disasters from around the world on these pages. New Zealand's eventful year, marked particularly by heavy rains and flooding - and growing concerns about whether the wild weather is caused by global warming - is detailed below.

In New Zealand

- 31 Dec-10 Jan: Heavy rain in Southland, Otago and Canterbury causes flooding of roads. On

January 1 a man drowns in the Orari River near Geraldine. Southland and South Otago in tributaries of the Clutha. Houses are flooded at Havelock. North Island between 5-10 Jan. River overflows and a number of houses are evacuated. The swollen Silverstream Bridge. SH 1 is blocked north of Paekakariki. Wellington are blocked by SH 29 over the Kaimai Range. SH 29 were also closed by flooding. SH 45 at Manaia is affected.

- 7 Feb: In Dunedin, an early evening dump of rain just 20 minutes. The downpour and southern city areas, Hospital patients are evacuated. 11-14 Feb: Heavy rain in Otago causes extensive February surface flooding. 1 between Waimate and Dunedin. Vehicles. Two cars are written off. Makikihi and two others are damaged. Otaio.
- 10 March: A Tornado cuts through 1pm causing an estimated 1000. It ripped roofs off buildings. destroyed several businesses. Tony Kokshoorn says he was killed.
- 17 March: Heavy seas to coastal homes in the Hauraki of Hawkes Bay. Six homes are damaged.
- 25 March: Heavy rain in Otago on Good Friday causes flooding. bridge approaches on SH 1. SH 6 south of Motueka. Motueka. Flooding hits the region.
- 30-31 March: More heavy rain. Marlborough, where a milk stock had to be rescued. Wairarapa causes chaos. Riversdale and flooding of shops in Waipukurau, and are flooded in Wanganui.
- 3-4 May: Torrential rain up to 84 mm falling in the and businesses in Otago are flooded. In Mount M



Matata was devastated in May.

trying to ford the swollen
 e. Further heavy rain in
 ago causes flash floods
 cha River on Jan 7-8. Six
 eriot. Heavy rain hits the
 10 Jan. The Waikanae
 oliday park and 20 homes
 en Hutt River closes the
 1 and the rail line are
 ariki. All roads out of
 y flooding on 8 January.
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 acuated from flooded units.
 n South Canterbury and
 surface flooding. On 13
 g hits Alexandra, and SH
 Timaru is closed to light
 ashed off the road at
 trapped by floodwaters at

through Greymouth about
 ed \$10 million in damage.
 ings, and completely
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 couldn't believe no-one was
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 umoana and Te Awanga area
 es are evacuated.
 the northern South Island
 flooding and washes out
 H 63 near St Arnaud and
 Homes are evacuated near
 roads in the Wellington

y rain causes flooding in
 otor camp is evacuated and
 . Widespread rain in the
 cutting off Castlepoint and
 houses. Flash floods hit
 d basements and garages
 .
 hits the Tauranga area with
 two hours. About 50 houses
 etai and Mount Maunganui
 aunganui two women are

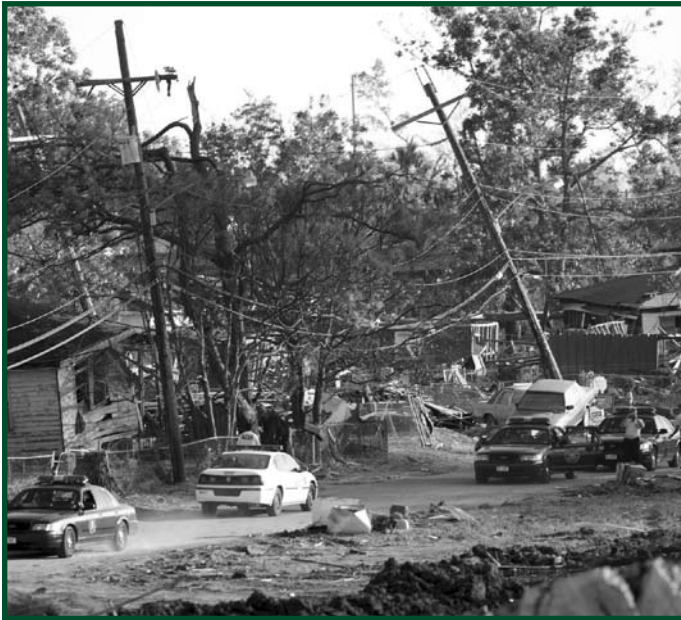


Severe damage after a tornado swept through Greymouth in March. Picture by the Greymouth Evening Star.

- rescued from a car when it begins floating down a street.
- 17-18 May: The most intense rainfall ever recorded in the western Bay of Plenty/Coromandel area begins with extensive flooding in Whangamata. By midday on 18 May extensive flooding is affecting Tauranga, Mount Maunganui and Matata, blocking roads, sweeping away bridges and damaging houses. Nine caravans are swept into the sea from a motorcamp, and 14 cars swept into the lagoon at Matata. A state of civil emergency is declared at 3.50pm on 18 May. About 70 homes at Matata are damaged by floodwaters and slips.
- 22 May: More heavy rain forces some houses in Matata to be re-evacuated. More than 100 Tauranga homeowners have had their houses ruled off-limits for six weeks while they dry out and are decontaminated after the floods.
- 25 June: A two-hour thunderstorm in Auckland generates tornados, lightning, hail and flash floods. Stormwater drains overflow, flooding basements and homes, and flooding on the Southern Motorway causes a 12-car pile-up.
- 5-7 July: Heavy rain causes flooding in Whangarei. Schools are closed as a precaution against further flooding on 7 July.
- 12 July: SH 2 is closed by flooding at Matata and two truck drivers are rescued from floodwaters at the railway underpass. Northland is also hit by flooding, with vehicles trapped at Kumeu.
- 15-21 July: Heavy rain causes flooding in the Coromandel. Pauanui is cut off by damage to the access road. Storms cause surface flooding and drain overflows in Auckland. Late on 21 July, SH 1 is closed by flooding between Waikanae and Paraparaumu.
- 21-22 Oct: Very heavy rain affects the east coast of the North Island from Hawkes Bay to East Cape. This is the biggest event to hit the region since Cyclone Bola in March 1988. Particularly badly hit are Gisborne and Tolaga Bay. All roads in the region are blocked, and Gisborne is completely cut off. Large numbers of farm stock drown, 40 houses are evacuated, and power and telephones cut off. Floodwaters ruin millions of dollars worth of crops.
- 26 November: a severe hailstorm north of Auckland pelted Maungawai and Kaiwaka with golf-ball-sized hail and caused surface flooding around Warkworth and Wellsford. Water entered 12 premises, forcing some people from their homes.
- 27-29 November: High winds and heavy rain caused flooding in the northern Hawke's Bay and Gisborne region. Between 200 and 250 mm of rain fell over three days in the hill country north of Gisborne. The town of Te Karaka was put on standby for evacuation due to the rising Waipaoa River. Flooding closed State Highway 2 between Gisborne and Opotiki, and between Matawai and Te Karaka, also State Highway 38 at Waikaremoana. The Gladstone Bridge was closed for several hours to clear debris. Many crops replanted in the Gisborne area after Labour weekend flooding were destroyed.

From Around the globe:

- Jan 6-13, US: in California, drenching rains and heavy snows hit hard, killing 25 people. More heavy weather from Indiana to Pittsburgh causes flooding along the Ohio River where state emergencies are declared in 56 counties.
- Jan 8-12, Europe: wild storms batter Europe, leaving 19 dead.
- Jan 22-23, US: snowstorms sweep across the



Midwest to the Atlantic coast, killing 20 people.

- Feb 6-13, Pakistan: heavy flooding from snows and rain kills more than 460 people.
- Feb 17-23, US: storms cause flooding, landslides, and avalanches, killing at least nine people.
- Feb 22, Iran: A magnitude 6.4 earthquake strikes near Zarand, a city in Kerman province, killing more than 600 people.
- Mar 20, Kyushu, Japan: a magnitude 7 earthquake destroys homes, kills 1, and injures 500.
- Mar 18-22, Afghanistan: heavy rains and melting snows kill more than 200.
- Mar 28, Sumatra: a magnitude 8.7 earthquake killed 1300 on the islands of Nias and Simeulue. Many buildings were destroyed and there were fears of another tsunami. The area was severely hit by the Boxing Day tsunami. The March 28 quake is considered an aftershock of December's 9.0 quake.
- June, China: widespread flooding for the month of June, particularly in southern China, kills 536 people.
- June 12, China: a flash flood sweeps through an elementary school in Ning'an, in northeast Heilongjiang province, killing at least 117, mostly children.
- June 13, Chile: a 7.9 magnitude earthquake hits Chile and Peru about 940 miles north of Santiago, killing 11.
- July 10, US: Hurricane Dennis makes landfall in Florida



Mount Manaro on Ambae island in Vanuatu continues to erupt.

with 180kmh winds and 3 metre storm surges, leaving thousands without electricity. Dennis kills at least 40 people in Haiti and 16 in Cuba.

- July 18, Mexico: Hurricane Emily blasts the Yucatan Peninsula with 225kmh winds. The death toll is low due to emergency measures instituted since Hurricane Gilbert killed 327 people in 1988.
- July 26, India: a record 925mm of rain falls in Mumbai in just 24 hours - the most ever recorded in India. The monsoon rains leave 1000 dead in western India.
- Aug 16, Japan: a 7.2 magnitude earthquake shakes northern Japan, injuring at least 59 people, and creating small tsunami waves on a nearby coast.
- Aug 25, US: Hurricane Katrina brings heavy rains and winds to south-eastern Florida, killing 14.
- Aug. 29-30, US: Katrina, now a Category 4 hurricane and one of the most powerful to hit the US, devastates the Louisiana and Mississippi coast with 230kmh winds. Storm surges, up to 8 metres high destroy much of the coastal infrastructure. The breach of two levees in New Orleans, the day after the storm, submerges 80 percent of the city, greatly increasing the damage from the hurricane. The death toll reaches 1290, making it the third deadliest hurricane in the US.
- Sept 1-3, China: Typhoon Talim causes major flooding and landslides, extensive crop damage, and kills at least 129 people.
- Sept 6-7, Japan: Typhoon Nabi kills at least 18 people in Japan.
- Sept. 24-25, US: Hurricane Rita makes landfall along the Texas-Louisiana border as a Category 3 hurricane. More than 3 million people evacuate the Houston area, causing horrendous traffic jams. Rains also drench New Orleans, causing a levee to breach, re-flooding parts of the city.
- Sept 20-25, Philippines, China, Thailand, Nepal: powerful typhoon Damrey kills at least 122, primarily from flooding.
- Oct 1, El Salvador: Ilamatepec volcano erupts, killing 2. Thousands evacuate as boiling water pours down the slopes and a column of ash reaches 15,000 metres high.
- Oct 2, China Sea: Typhoon Longwang hits Taiwan and China, killing 65.
- Oct 3-4, Central America: Hurricane Stan brings landslides and floods to El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Mexico, killing more than 2000, and forcing hundreds of thousands to evacuate. In Guatemala, floods and mudslides bury the village of Panabáj.
- Oct 2, Pakistan: a 7.6 earthquake centered in the Pakistani-controlled part of the Kashmir region kills more than 80,000 and injures 65,000. About half of the region's capital city, Muzaffarabad, is destroyed, other towns and villages are flattened, and the mountainous terrain and bad weather make many areas unreachable for weeks. An estimated 4 million are left homeless.
- Oct 18-Oct. 24, Caribbean, Mexico, and US: Hurricane Wilma moves through Haiti, killing 11, and Jamaica, then strengthens to Category 5 and the most intense hurricane in the Atlantic on record - with pressure plunging to 882 mb. Wilma batters the Yucatan Peninsula. Moving back to the east, she hits southern Florida, leaving 21 dead and 6 million without power. Extensive flooding also hits Cuba.
- Oct 22, Haiti: Heavy rainfall and flooding in Haiti from Hurricane Alpha kills 12.
- Nov 20, Honduras: Tropical Storm Gamma kills 14. Gamma is the 24th named storm in the Atlantic this year, breaking the record of named Atlantic storms since 1851.
- Nov - 6 Dec, Ambae Island, Vanuatu — An erupting volcano on this remote South Pacific island burst into spectacular life shooting steam and toxic gases 3000m into the sky.

Students dive into CIMS

Words and pictures: Chris Baylis

It's 2am and you're the first emergency worker on the scene of a major landslide. How would you respond?

Panic! Well possibly not, but before attending a CIMS (Coordinated Incident Management System) level-four course I doubt things would have gone smoothly.

The Dive HQ centre in Palmerston North was to become home to 24 people plus tutors for the weekend course in October.

Attending a three-day course that has been cut to two-and-a-bit means more in less. So right from the get go the pace was frantic. Group bonding over and it was straight to the learning.

Steve Glassey, formally of MCDEM, ran the course on behalf of Tai Poutini Polytechnic. The course material was well prepared and slimmed down so that the guts were quick and easy to digest to maximise the learning environment. There was also plenty of disaster scenarios designed to stretch attendees' ability to cope with managing an incident.

Participants came from a wide array of organisations including the New Zealand Defence Force, CDEM groups, Rural Fire, Red Cross, SPCA, Land Search and Rescue, Water Safety and MCDEM.

Speakers included Shane Bailey from Taranaki Regional Council who is a member of UNDAC. Shane spoke of his tsunami experiences in Banda Aceh where all the usual structures were obliterated and how the UN dealt with this.

Tutors ranged from former Police Inspector John Bowman to Blair Hillyard from the SPCA animal rescue unit. Hillyard kept the atmosphere light with the occasional random quiz by donning the Quiz Master Daddy hat.

One participant, Jarrod Coburn, reflected on his CIMS experience, "After the first exercise I resented Tom Roche as all I wanted to do



THE CIMS EMT grapple with a subsidence event in the main street of Tokoroa.

was rescue the cows [The first practise exercise featured a cattle truck that had crashed in the Manawatu Gorge and Tom Roche was an assessor].

"However over the course Tom helped me realise that the overview of an incident far outweighs individual needs in terms of CIMS. This represented a huge paradigm shift in my thinking from the first instinct of treating the most critical to appraising the situation to utilise resources in the best way possible. In other words, often there are more important things than rescuing cows in a big emergency."

The debrief left Steve Glassey with plenty of praise for his entertaining delivery of the course material. See www.emanz.ac.nz for more information.



Clear well designated areas on maps help keep everyone on the same page.

New Faces

Rebecca Martel

Senior Policy Analyst, Policy Team, MCDEM Wellington

Joining the Ministry at the start of November, Rebecca brings with her many years experience. Most recently she was employed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, where she was in the Natural Resources Group working on water allocation issues, and on the East Coast Forestry Project. Her background is in Physical Geography, which sees her working on risk issues at MCDEM starting with a Cabinet paper on Tsunami risk.



Erica McMillan

Senior Policy Analyst, Policy Team, MCDEM Wellington

Erica recently joined the staff at the Ministry after working in the policy team of Housing New Zealand Corporation. Erica started work at housing in 1982 and has, with the exception of a six year break spent traveling the world, worked in a wide variety of roles since then.



Napier readies to mark 75 years since quake

The 75th anniversary of the disastrous 1931 Hawkes Bay earthquake will be commemorated with a number of events in the region early next year.

Supported by EQC and MCDEM, the events will centre on Friday 3 February, 75 years to the day since the quake – New Zealand's worst recorded natural disaster – devastated Napier and Hawkes Bay, killing 258 people.

On the day the anniversary programme will commence with memorial services in Napier and Hastings. There will be countdowns to 10.46am – the exact moment when the magnitude 7.8 quake wreaked its havoc on the region.

In Napier the Veronica Bell will toll from the Soundshell to mark the moment. Following this a cannon will fire, the city's church and cathedral bells will ring and vintage aircraft will pass overhead.

Official commemoration events will then run from 9-16 February, culminating in the annual Brebner Print Art Deco Weekend in Napier. Visit www.artdeconapier.com for more details on the programme of events.

A commemorative issue of stamps distributed from Napier by vintage aircraft, and a promotion to bring earthquake survivors back to Hawke's Bay, are just two elements in the programme.

In the hope of preserving details of the fateful day, a key element of the anniversary will be the compilation of earthquake memoirs and photographs from those involved in the disaster, or their families.

Organised by the Art Deco Trust, the anniversary will celebrate the community spirit that saw the citizens of Napier and Hastings rebuild their cities following the devastation. "The earthquake was a tragedy that threatened to crush the community's spirit. Yet from the ashes emerged stories of heroism and bravery that inspired the reconstruction of the twin cities," says Art Deco Trust organiser Peter Mooney.



Abandoned vehicles on the Embankment Road.

"The famous art deco and Spanish Mission architecture of Napier and Hastings was a direct result of rebuilding from the rubble of the earthquake and it also brought about major changes across the country." The New Zealand Red Cross was constituted following the rescue efforts in Hawke's Bay – and the organisation is celebrating its own 75th anniversary in 2006. A fledgling airmail service also began operating to speed up communications in and out of the Bay during the first few days after the disaster.

The anniversary programme will also include a Hawke's Bay regional road show that will travel between Wairoa and Waipukurau. The roadshow will include stage productions of the effects of the earthquake, steam train tours, military bands, vintage car rallies and school visits.

There will also be naval visits to Napier to mark the part that sailors and marines played in the quake rescue effort.

New Zealand Society for Earthquake Engineering is holding its 2006 conference, titled Remembering Napier 1931 – Building on 75 years of earthquake engineering in New Zealand, in Napier from 10-12 March.



Central Napier in the immediate aftermath of the 1931 Earthquake.

OCHA aims for stronger Pacific role

Strengthening international disaster response capability in the Pacific was one of the main topics for discussion when two members from the UN's Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) visited Wellington earlier this month.

Terje Skavdal, head of OCHA's regional office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, and Carolina de Borbon-Parma from OCHA headquarters in Geneva, met with MCDEM staff as part of a whistle-stop tour of New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Samoa.

Discussions included a focus on disaster preparedness and response arrangements involving OCHA, the UN Disaster Assessment and Co-ordination (UNDAC) structure, the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG), and Pacific island countries.

Talks also centred on New Zealand's new National CDEM Plan and its ready acknowledgment of our potential need for international assistance in a state of national emergency.

Mr Skavdal said the UN's disaster response abilities depended on successful partnerships with emergency management personnel around the world – so the visit was “all about maintaining

relationships and ensuring our arrangements are robust”.

He added that the work done in New Zealand in terms of emergency planning and USAR capacity “is a model that can be used by the rest of the world”.



Terje Skavdal, head of OCHA's regional office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, and Carolina de Borbon-Parma from OCHA headquarters in Geneva are flanked by Ministry UNDAC Members Sarah Stuart-Black and John Titmus.

Ruapehu's lessons from the last decade

Words: Chris Baylis

Volcanic eruptions often conjure images of Vesuvius-like destruction due to over-dramatised Hollywood depictions.

However in October the Department of Conservation, GNS Science, the Volcanic Impacts Study Group and the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management held a three-day workshop designed to reflect and highlight the more realistic lessons learnt from the 1995 eruptions of Ruapehu.



DOC's Harry Keys and John Titmus formed part of a panel discussion at the 10 Years on celebration of the 1995 Ruapehu eruption.

It was appropriate that the tenth-anniversary workshop took place at Whakapapa, where many of the participating scientists, like DOC's Harry Keys, based themselves after the eruptions began.

Workshop topics focused on the effects of the 1995 and 1996 eruptions and looked at what's happened since – including the upgrading of the mountain's volcanic monitoring and alert systems. The weekend opened with a Friday evening talk at the DOC headquarters, attended by some 100 people. An impressive series of slides depicted the lahar that burst from Ruapehu's crater and in to the Whangaehu valley as the eruption started. The interesting thing was how long the surge continued – over a period of hours. For those who dared there was a walk to the crater on the Saturday. It was lucky that there were such experienced hikers as Harry Keys

and Graham Leonard on hand as the conditions were tough: it was snowing at the top of the mountain.

According to the Ministry's Margaret Niven, “I couldn't see where I was going, I was just following the footsteps in the snow.”



Back in 1995, the Trans Rail lahar tower takes a pounding as the lahar roars down the Whangaehu river.

Happy Valley was to be the snowy setting for a workshop panel discussion to talk about some issues regarding the various public information requirements of different audiences. Robert Milne from the Ruapehu Bulletin provided an insight into issues surrounding the local community as opposed to those of the wider national or international media.

Overall this was a good chance for the science and lessons from the eruptions to be remembered and passed on – so that when it occurs again, we won't have to reinvent the wheel in another ten or twenty years' time.

Manawatu floods teach lifelines lessons

Analysis of the types of flood-borne trees and timber that caused so much damage during the 2004 Manawatu-Wanganui deluge may help prevent similar chaos in future floods around the country.

That was one of the lessons learned by a group of lifelines experts who met for the two-day National Lifelines Forum in Palmerston North last month - and who saw for themselves the work that is continuing to be done to restore and strengthen the region's infrastructure.

Manawatu-Wanganui EMO Manager Mark Harrison led a field trip around the Manawatu district - and despite the glorious weather and the fact almost two years has passed since the floods, participants saw that much work still remains before the region can withstand another major deluge.

Bridges and approaches in the area were destroyed by rivers running at record heights - and Mr Harrison said huge volumes of trees and timber that built up on the upstream sides of the structures contributed to the damage.

The 'dams' of timber either pushed bridges over or forced water around the sides to take out the approaches. Field trip participants visited the hard-hit Kiwitea Bridge near Feilding and the Saddle Road bridge - which is being completely replaced.

Mr Harrison said timber dams would have exerted unbearable pressure on both bridges. As a result, Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council staff are analysing the types and origins of the timber that was brought down in the torrents. "If we find, for example, that a lot of the debris came from production forest cuttings then we may have to take steps to ensure this wood doesn't get into waterways."

Field trip members also saw and heard about the work necessary to upgrade the stopbanks and flood protection infrastructure alongside the Manawatu and Oroua Rivers.

Mr Harrison said up to \$13 million would be spent to restore 100-year protection around the Oroua River - from which up to 30,000 cubic metres of gravel and silt would have to be removed annually to prevent riverbed build-up.

The field trip also visited the massive Te Apiti windfarm. Construction of the Meridian power facility was extensively delayed by the 2004 storm - and the disrupted access from the Saddle Road served to further highlight the issues facing road and rail access between Hawkes Bay and the Manawatu.



Lifelines conference attendees stopped for lunch at the Te Apiti wind farm.

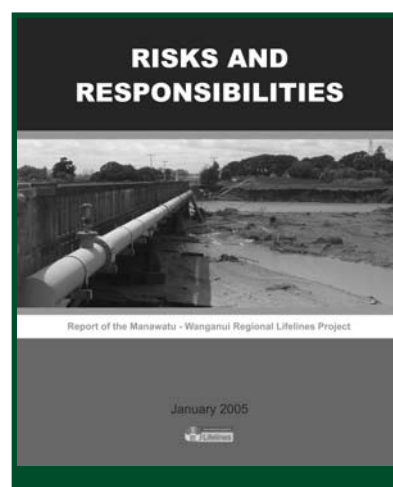
Manawatu-Wanganui lifelines report released

Information that is current has been the basis for a Manawatu-Wanganui Engineering Lifelines Project that is a resource of data on the region's infrastructure.

After three years of gathering and analysis, the lifelines document, titled *Risks and Responsibilities*, represents a significant information resource to assist in reducing the vulnerability of the region's infrastructure to a natural disaster.

Three of the most likely natural disasters scenarios that would hit the region (flood, volcanic eruption and earthquake) were documented to enable weak points in the three key areas of utilities (water and wastewater, energy and communication, transport) to be identified.

Understanding interdependencies between utilities and how each one ranked in the recipe for recovery was one of the final steps of the project, and is the key to reducing the community impact of major emergency events.



"We are now able to say that utility X is the most important bit of hardware for our region and therefore efforts should go into making sure it functions after an event," says Mark Harrison, Horizons Regional Council's emergency management manager.

Mark says there is still more work to do to ensure the information now available is utilised properly.

Far North leaders get set on public information

Far North mayors, councillors and council managers now have an enhanced awareness of their public information responsibilities following a workshop in Kaikohe last month.

The Far North District Council hosted the workshop to promote awareness of the new CDEM Public Information Handbook produced for the region.

The workshop highlighted the regional nature of the document and the public information role. Twelve elected representatives attended from two of the region's District Councils - Far North and Kaipara.

The 10-page handbook helps to fulfil the objectives of the Northland CDEM Group Plan. The booklet outlines the roles that mayors and councillors play in the dissemination of consistent, accurate and prompt information to the public and Council during, and after, an emergency.

The workshop emphasised that their input provides an essential community/council communication link.

Far North District Council Civil Defence Co-ordinator Debra Ellis says high public visibility within affected communities by informed elected representatives is a powerful aid to maintaining morale and reducing uncertainty, confusion and suffering, showing that councils are in control of response and recovery.

The regional CDEM emphasis to the workshop was further supported by presentations from Whangarei District Council Emergency Management Officer Antoinette Mitchell, John Titmus from MCDEM and Debra Ellis.

This was the first workshop of its kind specifically targeting the role of elected representatives in an emergency and sets the Northland CDEM Group's Public Education Strategy on track towards achieving its intended goal on schedule.

Gisborne twice bitten by floodwaters

By Sarah Stuart-Black and Bernie Rush

In what can only be described as a cruel twist of fate, the Gisborne region was battered by heavy rain and flooding - for the second time in six weeks - in late November.



Heavy rain sits on paddocks causing widespread damage for growers in the region.

Around 400 residents of Te Karaka, 32km north-west of Gisborne, were put on stand-by to evacuate on 28 November as the nearby Waipaoa river threatened to burst its banks after heavy rain and strong winds caused flooding, power cuts and road closures.

Farmers and growers were still cleaning up after serious flooding - the worst since Cyclone Bola in 1988 - hit the region at Labour Weekend when around 50 families were evacuated, roads closed, power and water supplies cut, and crops destroyed.

Last month the Gisborne CDEM Group Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was activated to coordinate the evacuation and welfare of residents from the affected areas and ascertain the impact on the district.

In managing the Labour Weekend flood event the Gisborne Group demonstrated the focus of the CDEM Act 2002 on a Resilient Community - with the affected communities understanding the flood hazard and knowing how to act. Many people in the affected areas became aware of potential flooding early on Friday 21 October with the onset of unusually heavy rain.

Police and the Fire Service worked well together in many of the affected communities assisting with evacuations. Neighbours and volunteer Civil Defence coordinators at predetermined welfare centres initially supported evacuees and the Group EOC using the Group CDEM Plan arrangements supported this process.

Crater lake update

Inspections of Ruapehu's Crater Lake in recent weeks have found the lake level has dropped substantially. In early December the level was at 2527.17 metres - about 1.6 metres below the level of the rock rim. There has been predictable snowmelt into the lake since late October - however the drop is consistent with major evaporation due to an increased lake temperature (39C) and strong winds. Steam has been seen wafting above the crater in recent weeks.

Former Gisborne Mayor John Clarke was appointed Recovery Manager on Saturday 22 October and a Recovery Office was established before the transition from response to recovery took place. His role will now include recovery activities from the latest flooding in November as well. A number of key processes and activities have been established to ensure recovery activity is coordinated across the district including multi-agency recovery meetings and regular reporting arrangements.

Total losses

- more than \$10m (includes wages) Downstream impacts
- Lost export value \$10.8m
- Lost wages/labour \$2.4m

Key facts and figures from the Labour Weekend flood event:

- Significant rainfall with severe intensity over a short period (up to 44mm/hour).
- Highest rainfall recorded north of Tolaga Bay (385mm in 36 hours).
- Average 230mm across the region (Bola: total 900mm over longer period).
- Both Hikuwai (Tolaga Bay) and Waipaoa (Gisborne) rivers peaked at within half a metre of Bola levels.
- Flooding hit at critical start of growing season; affected intensively cropped areas.

Horticulture

- The Gisborne district grows about 30% of New Zealand's squash, sweetcorn and brassica crops; 40% of its processed tomatoes; 20% of maize; and 16% of grapes.
- Horticulture exports have doubled in past 10 years from \$1b to \$2.1b.
- Horticulture domestic sales estimated at \$1.8b. Crop losses
- About 2000 ha flooded. Total estimated farm gate value of crop lost -- \$8.4m

Source: Gisborne District Council

If you are interested in finding out more about the flood events and the recovery process, check the Gisborne District Council

website - www.gdc.govt.nz.

The Ministry gets views

The Ministry has moved into a larger, less cluttered premise. Now calling 22 The Terrace home, the ministry has two floors at its disposal.

Now working from the eighth and ninth floors the Ministry has glimpses of sea views and the glass expanse lets the sun stream in, providing a warmer more inviting environment for both staff and guests.

The building is still within two minutes walk of the National Crisis Management Centre in the Beehive's subbasement.

The shift also allows for the Ministry's eminent expansion.

CDEM in Schools – What's the Plan Stan?

Next year every primary and intermediate school in New Zealand will receive a free copy of the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management's *What's the Plan Stan?* resource for schools. This resource focuses on disasters and emergencies, and enables students to obtain the necessary information and skills to act in a safe manner, and to be prepared when these may occur.

Children can act as vital agents for change. By doing the home tasks in *What's the Plan Stan?* they will prompt parents and families to also be better prepared for disasters.

What's the Plan Stan? will contain four components, each of which can be used independently or in conjunction with each other:

- Guide and unit plans for teachers.
- *What's the Plan Stan?* CD-ROM with information and resources for teachers and students, including interactive games and a copy of the teacher's guide and unit plans.



Stan, the main character of the education campaign



The new site uses graphics to allow navigation through the site.

- *Kidsworld* – a website for students, with content that will be added to and regularly updated. www.whatstheplanstan.govt.nz
- Poster outlining *What's the Plan Stan?* to promote the materials available.

Every primary and intermediate school will receive the resource free of charge. The intention is that most schools will manage to use this resource school-wide by printing off sufficient copies of the teachers' guide and unit plans from the PDF files on the CD-ROM.

Each regional Civil Defence office will also receive a shipment of extra copies. Schools will be advised that they can contact their local Civil Defence office to obtain extra copies of the resource.

National CDEM Public Education Programme

In the 2005/06 Budget, funding of \$6.1 million over four years was provided for national public education initiatives aimed at strengthening individual and community preparedness. The Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management called for tenders in October to select a preferred supplier to work with MCDEM and interested stakeholders in the development of a long-term national programme.

The scope of services listed in the tender document were:

- The development of a 'way forward' strategy for National CDEM Public Education for 2005 – 2009 that reviews and captures the existing strategy and tests if the issues and areas of need identified in 2002 are still valid and makes recommendations on key areas of focus to achieve the stated goals.
- The development of a targeted national mass media campaign aimed at improving awareness of hazards and encouraging individuals and community groups to take action to be better prepared.
- The development of appropriate and accessible resources in the form of printed and online material to reinforce the campaign.
- Benchmark research to monitor and improve effectiveness of programmes. Qualitative research to better understand and overcome barriers to action is also envisaged.

There was a positive response to the tender process with 13 agencies submitting proposals.

Four shortlisted agencies were invited to present their proposals to an evaluation panel comprising senior managers from the Department of Internal Affairs and MCDEM, and a representative from local government. The panel members were:

- John Norton: Director, MCDEM
- Norah Famlton, Director Business Services, DIA
- Paddy Clifford, Chair, CEG, Canterbury CDEM Group
- Colin Feslier, Strategic Communications Manager, DIA
- Chandrika Kumaran, Communications Manager, MCDEM.

Mr Norton said that the quality of the proposals and the huge amount of energy that had obviously gone into many of the proposals was hugely encouraging. "We faced a situation where we had a number of strong options to choose from. I would like to thank all the various agencies who put in a great deal of time and effort into their proposals".

"Preparing individuals and communities to better deal with disasters when they happen is compelling stuff and it was obvious from the proposals that there are many agencies out there keen to work with civil defence to help us achieve that."

The Ministry is in the process of finalising a contract with the selected agency.

Mr Clifford, who is also the Chief Executive Officer of the Hurunui District Council, said that he was delighted to have been asked by the Ministry to represent local government interests in the tender evaluation process.

"The selection of an agency to work with civil defence on the development of a national public education programme is one that is of very real interest to CDEM Groups. In addition to the national programme, it is important that the preparedness messages are reinforced regionally and locally. The quality of the work that obviously went into most of the proposals we received was impressive and it was nice to be in a situation of having to select from a number of good options.

"The successful agency has I believe proposed an approach that will take us through an effective leverage process, which should deliver greater market penetration and sustainability particularly if it is coordinated over the longer term. I am confident that the CDEM Groups will be supportive of the approach that is being taken. I look forward to seeing the outcome of the work that is being done to develop the programme", Mr Clifford said.