



Twenty five thousand visitors to Te Papa over the Queen's Birthday weekend in June were treated to a range of civil defence and emergency services demonstrations and displays.

Pictures (left): All eyes on Les Pester, Civil Defence Officer from the Waimakariri District Council who helped the Ministry run 18 "Be a Survivor" sessions over the weekend for over 400 kids; (below): Les hands out the "Be Prepared" drink bottles which list the essential emergency survival items.

Showcasing civil defence at Te Papa

Civil defence and emergency services enjoyed a high profile during the Queen's Birthday Weekend in June at Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington.

The Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management was one of the key sponsors of the Natural Disaster Awareness Weekend hosted by Te Papa.

Other sponsors were the Earthquake Commission and the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences. Participants included Wellington Emergency Management (City Council and Regional Council), NZ Fire Service, Wellington Police, helicopter rescue teams, Order of St John, Wellington Free Ambulance, and search and rescue dog teams.

Ministry Communications Manager Chandrika Kumaran said a crowd of 12,000 was expected, but a total of about 25,000 came along.

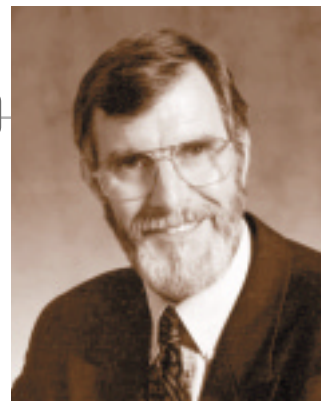
"The response was fantastic," she said. "People had plenty to do and see, and hopefully they went away with a better idea of what to do to prepare for an emergency and an understanding of the calibre of the civil defence and emergency services available in New Zealand."

Over the three day weekend, visitors had the opportunity to see emergency services demonstrations ranging from sea and rescue winch demonstrations, aerial firefighting displays, car crash extrication enactments, search and rescue dog demonstrations, and high angle rescues.

A big hit with the younger visitors were the "Be a Survivor" sessions run by the Ministry. The sessions were made possible with the help of Les Pester, Emergency Management & Civil Defence Officer from Waimakariri District Council.

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The Way Forward

Since our April issue of Impact we have had the CDEM 2001 Forum in Wellington, we have surveyed our stakeholders on their impressions of us (thank you for your responses) and the Select Committee has reported back on the Civil Defence Emergency Management Bill. I have some observations to make on each of these in turn.

CDEM 2001 Forum

This forum told us that regions progressing their CDEM Group formation and planning are seeing significant benefit from this work in understanding relationships and hazard consequences beyond the local event. Those regions also noted that time and energy was needed from all Group agencies to identify, understand and resolve issues particular to their Group.

Two things are clear to me – the benefit is not realised until the effort is put in and progress does not happen until someone puts their hand up and takes a leadership role.

AC Nielsen stakeholder survey

Amongst other detail this survey has told us three things :

- there is good awareness and acceptance of the CDEM Bill and its principles
- you see us more positively than 12 months ago but question some of the quality of our contact with you
- you welcome our coordination and facilitation activity rather than our “telling you how it is!”

Our recent restructuring is strengthening our ability to support the implementation of the new Act. You can expect to see a continuing and increasing use of focus groups as we develop guide-

lines and other documentation to give substance to the generic requirements of the Act.

I do not see us sitting back and expecting you to get on with it – there is a shift in thinking and executive level buy-in required for agencies to act on the realisation that they can influence how a major disaster can affect them. Our role is to promote and support that shift.

Reporting Back of the Bill

The Select Committee report was unanimous in supporting the direction of the Bill and confirmed its broad acceptance by the sector. The Committee has addressed the key issues around Controller, liability and property in a manner which appears to satisfy most objections.

The Bill is now ready for progressing through the House and enactment is expected over the coming months and certainly by year's end.

It is timely to note that 6 months from the date of enactment CDEM Groups are required to have formed.

Those regions who are waiting to start their thinking on this will find a substantial commitment will be necessary to meet the deadline. It is now inevitable that this process will be happening while local authorities are coming to grips with Council election results, which will only compound this situation.

The fundamentals of the legislation are now clear and there is no reason why these next few months can't be used for preparation. The Ministry is ready to help with this as necessary.

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Disaster Assessment and Coordination

The Ministry's Emergency Management Advisor John Titmus will lead a project to develop disaster assessment and coordination guidelines for the emergency management sector. New Zealand's investment in the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) has provided an international perspective, which will give the sector the benefit of new and proven methodology.

The project team will consist of representatives of the key stakeholders, including local government, emergency services and government departments. John says that he and Rian van Schalkwyk, Wellington Regional Council Emergency Manager, who have both completed UNDAC training are now available for emergency missions responding to natural disasters and complex emergencies worldwide.

The Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) which administers UNDAC provides a world wide disaster information website www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf . The site can be accessed from the Links section on the Ministry's website.

For more information you can email John Titmus at john.titmus@dia.govt.nz

Meeting of the National Civil Defence Committee

By Kevin O'Kane

The National Civil Defence Committee held its meeting on 25 June in Wellington. The committee was established under the Civil Defence Act 1983 to assist the Director with a variety of tasks, including the review of national plans.

The June meeting is likely to be the last time that this committee meets formally. To mark the occasion, proceedings began with a group photograph. The Secretary of Internal Affairs, Peter Hughes, has as one of his many titles "Secretary of Civil Defence", and acts as the Chair for this group. Twelve major agencies and corporations, as well as Ministry staff, were represented at the meeting.

John Norton, as Director, began by updating members on the progress of the CDEM Bill, which had been reported back from the Select Committee. He also took the opportunity to outline the Ministry's key projects. He emphasised the need to replace inaccurate assumptions with clarity around responsibilities, especially in regard to national emergency planning.

Most of the meeting was directed at examination of revisions to the National Civil Defence Plan. We are now almost finished with the work of updating its various parts, before the new Bill is enacted. By the time the CDEM Bill becomes law, we will have revised every section of the plan within the last two years – a considerable achievement considering that some sections had not been changed since 1992.

The key updates for this final round include the Introduction, the Response Plan (Part One) and the Recovery Plan (Part Two). They

take note of the changes within government over the last few years, such as the transfer of national recovery coordination from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) to the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management. They incorporate a considerable amount of discussion with core government agencies and local government representatives about how we explain roles and responsibilities. For example, there is now more explanation of the functions of the National Emergency Operations Centre.

The principal difficulty in preparing these

changes has been the task of balancing the requirements of the existing (1983) Act with the provisions of the new CDEM Bill. This is necessary, because this revised plan is likely to remain in force for up to three years – and must work within the new legislation.

At the end of the meeting, Peter Hughes acknowledged that that this was expected to be the final gathering of the National Civil Defence Committee. He thanked members for their participation and acknowledged the commitment of agencies to the work of this group over the years.



Members of the National Civil Defence Committee at the final meeting on 25 June 2001

Back Row Geoff Weber (TranzRail) Steve Brazier (Health) James Dance (Fire) David Hill (DPMC) Andrew Smith (MED) Pat Helm (DPMC) Roger Crimp (Telecom) Paul Bluett (MOT)

Front Row Kevin O'Kane (MCDEM) Eric Good (NZDef) Peter Hughes (Secretary, DIA) John Norton (Director, MCDEM) Paul Brennan (Police). **Also in attendance:** Richard Davies (Treasury) Tony Leighton (DWI)

Queen's Birthday Honours

Congratulations Judy



Judy Fowler was awarded the QSM (Queen's Service Medal) for community service in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours list. Judy's involvement with civil defence began almost 15 years ago as a volunteer. This role grew in 1991 to part-time employee of Manukau City Council as

their Civil Defence Welfare Officer, which grew to full-time in charge of welfare and training – her current role. In that role she trains and recruits 14 teams of adult volunteers throughout Manukau and speaks to schools, service clubs and other community/youth groups about civil defence. She also consults with businesses, rest homes

and hospitals on evacuation procedures. She is very active at a regional level, leading the Welfare Regional Project team and is a member of the Public Awareness Team for the Auckland CDEMG. She also works as a Sales Representative for Avon Cosmetics and is one of the top four Sales Reps in her region.

A group of her Civil Defence volunteers got together and coordinated her nomination for this award.

Judy's extensive work in the Pakuranga/Howick area saw her receive the Community Service Award from the Pakuranga Rotary Club in 1997 and in the same year the Caltex Unsung Hero of Pakuranga Award.

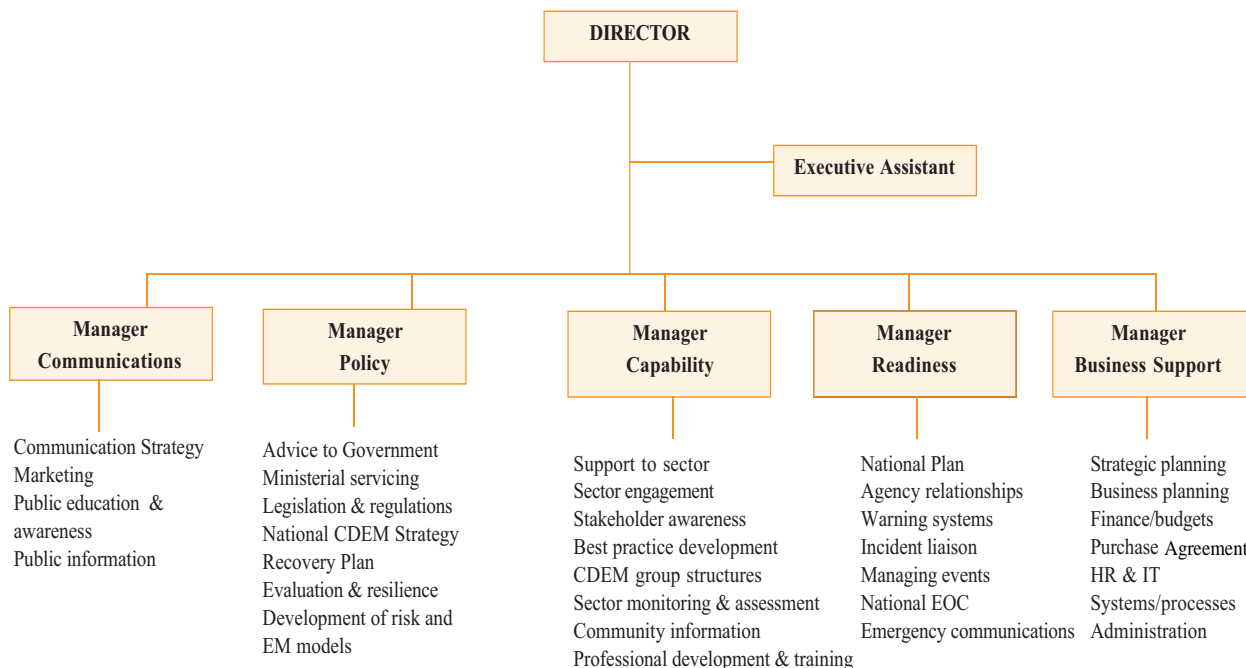
Judy's reaction to her Queen's Service award was to read the letter twice as "this is not something ordinary people like me get". She feels there are lots of people out there in the community doing good work but says she was lucky that someone took the time to put her name forward. She is honoured that they would do this for her.

Why does she do all this? "I just like to do my bit" says Judy.

New Ministry organisation structure

The new structure for the Ministry took effect on 1 July 2001. We are now organised into five business units – Policy; Capability; Readiness; Business Support; and Communications. The

following chart lists the main functions of each of the units. The structure and contact details for staff are available on the Ministry website at www.mcdem.govt.nz.



Update on CDEM Bill

The Government Administration Select Committee reported the CDEM Bill back to Parliament on 1 June 2001. Having considered 80 submissions and heard 11½ hours of evidence, the Select Committee had a clear idea of the issues concerning the Bill and made unanimous recommendations for amendment.

The key changes to the Bill are:

- The addition of 3 subclauses making clear that the purposes of the Bill include the formation of CDEM Groups, the integration of local and national activity, and encouraging the co-ordination of wider emergency management
- Several amendments clarifying the relationship between local authorities and the CDEM Group as a joint-committee
- Establishing two tiers of controller appointed by the CDEM Group (the Group and Local controllers)
- Restricting the liability of local authorities for compensation
- Protecting information provided by lifeline utilities.

The Select Committee's report and the redrafted Bill are available from Bennett's Government Bookstores.

The Ministry was involved in a lot of work to support the Select Committee process. The Ministry team working on the Bill -Mark Jacobs and Sarah Young from our Policy Unit and Leigh Hodgson

from DIA Legal -provided reports and advice to the Select Committee and assisted Parliamentary Counsel in drafting the amendments sought by the Committee. The Ministry team met with the LGNZ working party on the Bill and spent a day discussing their submission in detail. To ensure that there was a reality-test for proposals, three informal focus groups of local authority officers provided feedback on draft amendments.

Mark Jacobs said, "The input from the field and from the LGNZ Working Group was essential in making sure that the redrafted Bill can work. There was a lot of goodwill shown in getting to meetings, respecting confidences and providing frank and constructive comments."

The Ministry's work on the Bill is now focusing on implementation during the transition period. We have a commitment to maintain a high degree of consultation and support. Tasks for the year ahead include:

- Regional workshops on implementation of the Bill
- Engaging with local government and other key stakeholders on the draft National CDEM Strategy
- Updating guidance material on CDEM Group formation and CDEM planning
- Reviewing Government policies related to CDEM and updating them to align with the new legislation.

International Search and Rescue

The Asia Pacific regional meeting of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) was held in Seoul, Korea earlier this year. New Zealand was represented by John Lovell, Christchurch based Emergency Management Advisor from the Ministry and Bernie Rush Wanganui Chief Fire Officer. Delegates came from, Korea Japan, China, Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore India, Australia, New Zealand and the United Nations. Taiwan also sent some observers.

INSARAG was set up by the United Nations within their Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Geneva and provides the secretariat for the group. After the 1988 Armenian earthquake the need for co-ordination of international support to major disasters was identified. Since its establishment INSARAG has been involved in events such as the 1999 Turkey and Taiwan earthquakes and recently in El Salvador.

There are 3 regional groups covering America, Europe and Africa, and Asia/Pacific, with a Steering group comprising representatives from each of the regional groups meeting annually.

Over the last 10 years the organisation has become a world-wide network of disaster relief organisations developing guidelines to standardise search and rescue operations using internationally applicable criteria. Methodology for teams entering affected countries has been streamlined and rapid disaster assessment procedures have been developed. Debrief information and lessons learnt from recent earthquakes have quickly been included in documentation. Guidelines for international teams were adopted at the Seoul meeting.

A roster of international teams which meet the required standard and criteria is maintained and a duty person is available 24hours in Geneva to ensure the quick deployment of rescue teams and assessment personnel to any country requesting assistance.

New Zealand's search and rescue capability is small and both Bernie and John were able to give the other countries attending an appreciation of New Zealand, its border control issues such as vaccination of incoming search dogs, prohibited materials and immigration procedures. John said that most countries underestimate the time which it takes to fly to New Zealand, and that it could be over 30 hours before the first teams arrive.

John came away from Seoul impressed by many of the countries represented. Korea has over 4000 personnel trained with 1200 USAR specialists. Korea has the latest high tech equipment including radar to detect heartbeats in a collapsed building. Korea, Japan Taiwan and Singapore are equipped and train for international deployment.

In Seoul, the New Zealanders took part in an exercise based on a 7.2 earthquake, 20km outside of Seoul affecting over 20 million people. John said that this was a great experience where the INSARAG procedures were tested and it enabled the

New Zealanders to work with some of the best practitioners in the world. They also visited the Korean rescue training establishment where their hosts put on a “mind boggling” demonstration involving terrorist attack, chemicals, search and rescue, helicopter rescue and a tour of the establishment.

Since 1997 John has been a member of the Australian Urban Search and Rescue Steering Committee. Bernie Rush has recently also become a member of this committee. Much of the work being done by Australia in developing their capability can be applied in New Zealand.

Benefits for New Zealand

Involvement offers New Zealand a number of benefits which include:

- a knowledge of the capabilities and resources of other countries which could be the likely responders to a major disaster in New Zealand
- knowing the key people involved in member countries, the UN and OCHA and being able to brief them on New Zealand.
- ability to exchange information, training needs and local requirements
- ability to work with other countries to test and evaluate systems whilst we are developing our own plans to manage incoming international assistance
- ability to maintain an awareness of protocols between countries and ensuring that arrangements are suitable for New Zealand
- developing an awareness of international agreements for military assistance, customs agreements and other protocols

At the conclusion of the recent Seoul meeting of INSARAG John Lovell was elected to Chair the Group from 1 April 2001 to March 2002. The next meeting of the Asia Pacific group will be held in Christchurch from 28 - 30 November 2001.

Currently the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management and the NZ Fire Service are working on the range of issues associated with New Zealand's USAR capability. Over the next few years this will become a major project for the organisations.



At the conference left to right Bernie Rush; NZFS, Mr Jin-Jong Choi, Chair of Asia/Pacific Regional group last year and Chief, Search and Rescue; Mr Kwon, Hyung-Shin, Commander General Civil Defence and Disaster Management; and John Lovell.

The Nisqually Earthquake:

Lessons for New Zealand – RESPONSE

By Denzil Duncan and Barry Earl, Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management

The New Zealand Society for Earthquake Engineering (NZSEE) and the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management sent a Reconnaissance Team to the state of Washington in the U.S.A. following the 6.8 magnitude earthquake which struck the Puget Sound region on 28 February 2001. In the previous issue of Impact - the first of this three part series - we looked at mitigation issues and the differences between the New Zealand and US emergency management systems. We would now like to draw out particular lessons learned from the American response effort. These are lessons shared with us by those responding, together with our own observations of arrangements that facilitated a speedy and effective response.

Impact Assessment

The organisational arrangements described in our earlier article mean that the Information & Planning Emergency Support Function mirrored at each level of government, has the responsibility for collecting, analysing, processing and disseminating information to decision makers about the disaster. The Federal Response Plan, in their "Concept of Operations" explains, "In the initial period of an incident, the main avenue for collection of disaster information should be from local sources (primarily first responders and other government elements), which should report information to the State EOC." The arrangement in fact is much the same as would operate within New Zealand for an event of significant scale. Information would be gathered at district or city level, coordinated at region and then forwarded to Central Government.

What was eye-opening for us was the speed with which pre-planned Rapid Impact Assessments ("wind-shield" surveys) were carried out by the Emergency Services. Their field "size-up" reports, together with 911 call centre incident logs, provided the EOC with good initial data on the scale and impact of the event.

Also impressive was the post-earthquake damage assessment process carried out by City and County Building Departments. Pre-event vulnerability assessments meant that building inspectors had previously identified which buildings to inspect first – starting with the Emergency Operations Centre itself. They had pre-prepared kits available and accessible, containing supplies of the initial "rapid" evaluation safety assessment forms and the three (red, yellow and green) coloured placards used to warn of entry/occupancy restrictions on a building.

It was also the Building Department's responsibility to establish a call centre for handling reports of commercial, industrial and government building damage. A tracking system was required for monitoring progress in "tagging" buildings, the whereabouts of building inspectors and the re-inspection process as detailed inspection reports came to hand and the status of buildings changed.

While the participants in these processes felt everything had not run as smoothly as they would have liked and refinements would be made to plans, we remain impressed by their achievements. New Zealand local government has access to the NZSEE booklet "Post-Earthquake Building Safety Evaluation Procedures" which contains preparedness checklists and a response plan for Territorial Authorities responsible for this aspect of Emergency Response. It is questionable how well bedded down this planning process is in New Zealand and therefore how quickly we would initiate such a response.



There was damage to the columns of the dome of the State Capital building in Olympia during the earthquake.

Response Background

Preliminary observations were:

Seattle

Electricity - 200,000 of 350,000 users lost power immediately after the quake.

Airports - Seattle-Tacoma Airport closed initially but opened later with limited flights; sustained major damage to the control tower.

Boeing Field (King County Int'l Airport) closed their main runway and had limited use of the secondary emergency runway.

Railways - some disruption to the Amtrack service.

Ports - cargo handling was suspended pending inspections being completed. At the Coleman Ferry terminal a 30 ft crack appeared on the north pier parking lot.

Highways - several Inter-state and state highways affected.

Olympia

Buildings – buildings on the Capitol Campus closed. Legislative Building - cracks in the dome, façade and column damage. The Governor's mansion suffered damage. 19 government buildings evacuated and red tagged pending inspections. 27 commercial buildings red tagged and closed immediately after the earthquake. The Olympian Apartments were evacuated following damage to the elevator shaft and a tower collapse.

Bridges - 4th Avenue Bridge railings fell onto bridge, columns at south end showed damage and cracked expansion joints.

Railway - line adjacent to 4th Avenue Bridge and Deschutes Parkway suffered liquefaction.

Throughout the state, roads, bridges, houses, apartments and businesses sustained damage. Against this background we look at the response challenges confronting Washington State's emergency management organisations.

Response Co-ordination

The Emergency Operations Centre (EOCs) in the affected jurisdictions went to Phase 3 activation immediately. The activation levels are: - Phase 1 – standby; Phase 2 - partial activation; and Phase 3 - full activation. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regional Operations Centre activated in support of Washington State. Due to the time of day the EOC activation was achieved within minutes. The one exception was King County EOC, which had to deal with an initial loss of power, temporary loss of

communications and evacuation of their EOC due to a suspected gas leak. So in most instances once the shaking stopped staff came out from under desks or doorways and went to work. They knew where to go, what to do and how to do it. They had exercised regularly and been tested in events such as the Mt St Helens eruption, snow storms, bush fires and civil disturbances such as World Trade Conference riots. The Washington State EOC carries out a similar function to our own National Emergency Operations Centre in that it coordinates information and arranges additional resources for jurisdictions within Washington State. The County and City EOCs mirror our regional and city/district EOCs. They are the organisations collecting information, allocating resources and responding to community needs.

Damage assessment information gathered by a range of agencies (including emergency services, departments of each level of government and utilities in both public and private ownership) was forwarded to the relevant EOC. All EOCs had intelligence collection plans within which the various agencies carried out pre-agreed tasks. The strength of the reporting arrangements appeared to be in their service agreements or Mutual Aid Agreements. Lead responsibilities had been assigned, as had the activities and tasks required of each party. Throughout the response period adequate resources appear to have been available to the participating emergency management organisations and no reports or evidence suggested any pressure on resources. Resource



The Subduction Zone quake getting a retail interpretation

prioritisation plans were therefore not invoked or tested. The State, County and City emergency management organisations employ full time professional staff, and provide stand alone EOCs. To back up the public telephone system a statewide alternate radio communications system is in place.

Welfare activity is largely the responsibility of the American Red Cross. In the event they initially opened 9 shelters (Welfare Centres) and deployed fifteen emergency response vehicles. The American Red Cross has an active role in carrying out initial *residential* rapid impact assessments and in the follow-up to individual householders. Red Cross also established three fixed feeding sites to provide meals to relief workers and evacuees in affected areas - between 28 February and 4 March they served 3,200 meals. During the event 327 Red Cross staff and volunteers were involved in the welfare effort. With relatively few evacuees or injured however it was clear that the demands placed on welfare systems were limited.

In the next issue of Impact, we will look at the public information function and how it operated during the event. We will also summarise the lessons we learned and which we trust will benefit the emergency management community in New Zealand.



Fourth Avenue bridge, City of Olympia unusable and likely to be condemned

Pandora

By Josie McNee

Environment Canterbury

More than 900 people took part in this year's Exercise Pandora – an annual event run by Environment Canterbury to test the region's Civil Defence capabilities.

The exercise, which tested Canterbury's readiness for a major storm, was held in three shifts over two weekends. Staff and volunteers from the Canterbury Regional Headquarters, sector posts and area posts were involved.

It was the first big test for separate logistics and welfare



Marlene Harrison (left) and Janelle Mackie at work at the welfare operations table.

sections, which had previously been incorporated in the main operations centre. Both sections ran their own operations tables and were managed separately.

Civil Defence manager John Fisher said liaison staff working between the operations centre and the two sections played an important role.

"Things ran very smoothly, with liaison people for logistics and



Civil Defence controller John Talbot (left) and operations manager Don Wethey at work on Operation Pandora. In the foreground is Anne-Marie Duggan

welfare working in the operations centre and providing the link with their respective sections in other parts of the building."

With more space available, the sections were able bring in staff from other organisations with specialist skills in areas like roading, harbours, air traffic, defence and welfare.

Another first for the exercise was the use of the Geographic Information System (GIS) to mark locations of hazards such as closed roads and flooding.

An electronic whiteboard system was also used to speed up the information flow. This meant the logistics and welfare staff had access to information as soon as it arrived, and did not have to wait for paper copies of information.

Environment Canterbury civil defence portfolio chairperson Cr Angus McKay said that while it was the busiest Exercise Pandora to date, it was also one of the most smoothly run.

"Various improvements this year ensured we had some good efficient processes in place. In particular, the message flow, which is so important in this kind of event, moved very quickly. We're very pleased with the result."

Districts involved in Exercise Pandora included Christchurch, Waimakariri, Hurunui, Kaikoura, Marlborough, Selwyn, Ashburton, Timaru and Mackenzie. Reports back indicated all districts thought it was well worthwhile.

Medusa

By Bill Morley

Waitakere City Council



Media /Public Information Manager Dai Bindoff (left) briefs Controller Harry O'Rourke (CEO Waitakere City Council)

Thursday the 21st of June was disaster day for the Waitakere City as the biggest cyclone to hit the district in 100 years created havoc causing numerous casualties and devastation on a scale never before experienced.

Fortunately it was not the real thing but a major exercise to test the city's civil defence preparedness and response capability. Over 85 Waitakere City Council staff, emergency services personnel and volunteers took part in this 2-hour exercise.

The exercise, code-named "Medusa", was conducted at council's Emergency Operations Centre as part of the annual training programme.

The exercise scenario included response to chemical spills, flooding with sewage overflows, loss of power and telephones,

landslip and house movement, plus road closures and a fatal road accident. One incident also involved 6000 chickens on the loose after the truck they were being transported on had overturned. The theoretical evacuation of 1400 students from the Massey High and primary schools was an exercise event as the result of a



L to R; EOC Manager Graham Wakefield is briefed by Media Public Affairs Manager Dai Bindoff while assistant Barbara Kade takes notes. Alt controller Cr Alan Davies listens in.

major windstorm that had devastated the Massey area. Welfare centres were also established to cater for other areas of the district.

Waitakere City's Emergency Services Manager Heather Smith was delighted with the exercise. "Quite a number of the people were participating in the headquarters for the first time and coped extremely well under the guidance of the more experienced staff. We had participants from North Shore, Rodney and Auckland councils and several visitors from the media, rescue personnel and one irate mother who couldn't locate her children. Over 100 events were injected into the exercise throughout the 12 hours and all were effectively responded to," said Heather.



Left, Techscape Manager Don Green, Controller Harry O'Rourke, District Fire Commander Bill Ellis and Emergency Services Manager Heather Smith.

By special request from the Police and Fire Commanders, 22 police and 11 fire service personnel took part over the 12 hours of the exercise.

"The presence of so many emergency service staff from the Police, Fire and local Health District was a tangible sign of their recognition of the benefits gained by working together in these simulations of the "real thing," says Heather. Waitakere City Chief Executive Harry O'Rourke, who was Civil Defence Controller in the

third shift, also paid tribute to those participating in the exercise. Mr O'Rourke was mindful of the work required to develop such a big exercise and was impressed with the realistic variety of events.

New workstation name boards were installed in the EOC prior to the exercise to reflect CIMS nomenclature as would be used in the field to reflect the new code of practice.

Also trialled for the first time was a closed loop hands free radio for directing staff. Four inexpensive CB radios were purchased for the trial and proved to be an excellent tool for maintaining a link between the Operations Room and Emergency Services directing staff members and the exercise director. The use of the radios also saved a lot of legwork.

Cascade

West Coast Regional Council

Heavy rains and flooding of large parts of the West Coast was the scenario for the West Coast Regional Council's Exercise Cascade



Regional Controller Doug Truman and CDO Vijay Narayan run through the exercise scenario.

held in Greymouth on 15 June.

With heavy rains of 250mm forecast for the ranges, and the Waiho River rising at a phenomenal rate, there are initial concerns for the township of Franz Josef (and 120 non-English speaking tourists in the region). As the situation develops, districts are stretched to the limit and evacuation and welfare assistance become necessary.



Intelligence Cell Chris Pullen (left) & Darren Cottam.

Cascade continued

Regional Controller Doug Truman said that as flooding is a perennial affair on the West Coast it was appropriate for Council



Operations Cell. From left: Trevor James, Toni Morrison & Peter Anderson

staff and volunteers to be prepared by way of exercises.

The Ministry's Emergency Management Advisors John Lovell and Wilson Brown worked with Civil Defence Officer Vijay Narayan to conduct the refresher training and the exercise. Vijay said that the purpose of the exercise was to hone the procedures for activation of the Regional headquarters and to help the attendees to acquire the necessary skills in running the various cells within the headquarters. Staff from the three district councils and representatives from the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency management and emergency services attended the one day exercise, which ended with a debrief session.

Niva

By Richard Steele, Gisborne District Council

On 10 June Mt Tarawera (its 115th anniversary) provided the scenario for the Gisborne District's Civil Defence exercise. Every four years Gisborne activates its whole organisation to make sure it is on track to manage the "real thing".

The mountain started rumbling late on the Friday night and was in full eruption by 1430hrs on the Saturday. The main eruption finished in the early hours of Sunday morning and by that time there was ash thicknesses of between 50mm around the Matawai, area, 30mm in the city and 15mm further up the coast.

While the declaration happened at 1500hrs on the Saturday the EOC was not fully manned until the following morning, as were the Area Headquarters at Te Araroa, Ruatoria and Te Karaka – about 150 people all together.

While there were some response activities thrown in to keep the exercise flowing and test those procedures, the exercise was designed to get the players to concentrate more on the management issues. No water or power, limited communications, limited fuel, major social disruption, what to do with the ash and what to do with all those people who "ran away" from the Bay of Plenty.

The exercise also gave us the opportunity to play with the RMD software in a more intense atmosphere than we had had in the millennium and its use is now going through a major review.

The exercise achieved more than we had hoped and it has already led to development of a more robust decision making process for the management team – this will be presented to the combined BOP, HB and Gisborne Controllers training session in November and the development of a new training policy for council staff.

See picture on back page.

Thank you Professor Neall

Associate Professor Vince Neall, has stood down from the Emergency Management Board of Studies, after eight years as Chair. The Board is responsible for the academic development and administration of the Diploma in Emergency Services Management (formerly the Diploma in Civil Defence).

Vince has been on the Board since its inception in 1989, and has been instrumental in seeing the Diploma develop as an internationally recognised university-based programme in the area of disaster prevention, response and recovery management. His final act as Chair was to submit a proposal to the Academic Board at Massey University, to introduce a new postgraduate subject area of Emergency



Ven with friend, during a break in excavating trenches across the Wellington

Management to the schedule for the Degree of Master of Arts.

Vince is widely known to the scientific community and the emergency management sector for his research as a volcanologist. Vince is currently Associate Professor, and Joint Group Leader of Soil & Earth Sciences, Institute of Natural Resources, Massey University, Palmerston North.

Mr Richard Heerdegen another founding member

of the Board, replaces Vince as Chair. Richard's only comment on being elected was "I trust we don't have to wait another eight years for another willing volunteer!"

Richard Heerdegen has been lecturing at Massey University since 1963, interspersed with periods of teaching, study and research in Fiji, USA, UK and Australia.

He is a physical geographer and hydrologist with a major interest in rivers and natural hazards, particularly floods and meteorological hazards. Richard has been teaching an undergraduate course in Natural Hazards for over 20 years and has been a major contributor to the Natural Hazards paper for the Diploma in Emer-



Richard Heerdegen

gency Services Management. He has also been a member of the Board of Studies for the Diploma since its inception more than a decade ago.

New approach to emergency management progressing

By Ged Shirley, Manawatu –Wanganui Region

Planning is well advanced in the Manawatu-Wanganui Region to produce a Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEMG) Plan. Work on the CDEMG Plan began in January this year and the aim is to have this plan completed, ready for public consultation, by July 2002.

The Plan contains a Strategic Component (which sets goals, clarifies risk, identifies key issues, and sets objectives to fix the issues), and an Operational Component (which clarifies the 'nuts and bolts' of day to day readiness, response and recovery). The majority of the Strategic Component has been completed by the Coordinating Advisory Group (CAG) at a series of monthly workshops; it is due to be completed and ready for consideration by the Governance Body (CDEMG Committee) in August this year.

Workshops

An invaluable aspect of the planning process has been the series of workshops attended by CDEMG members that have been held this year. At the workshop in May, the CAG completed work on analysing the current Management Mechanisms being used to

manage our hazards. This process looked at what is being done (by Local Government, Health, and Emergency Services), where the gaps are, areas of duplication, and ideas for improvement. As a result 13 key issues were defined, and prioritised. These 'issues' were important for forming the basis of future planning.

In workshops held in June we developed Objectives, Targets and Actions to 'fix' the issues identified in the previous workshop.

- Objectives are high level statements/ aims (not specific to any one organisation),
- Targets outline the various activities (or tasks) that need to occur to complete each objective,
- Actions outline the agreed agency responsibilities for completing each Target. Great progress was made at this workshop.

At their meeting on 16 July, the CAG confirmed the Objectives, Targets and Actions for our CDEMG. These will form the basis of a work programme to guide various projects over the next few years.

This Strategic Plan will provide the platform for day-to-day operational planning. Once

the Governance Body has considered and approved the Strategic Component, it will be made available on a website that is currently being developed for our CDEMG.

CIMS Training

Concurrent with the production of the CDEMG Plan, we have also commenced CDEMG sponsored level 2 and 4 CIMS training courses for each district. CIMS training has proved to be a useful medium for enhancing local integration of CDEMG members, and reinforcing the new concept of CDEMG's.

Local Government members of the Manawatu-Wanganui CDEM Group are:

- horizons.mw (Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council)
- Palmerston North City Council
- Wanganui District Council
- Horowhenua District Council
- Ruapehu District Council
- Rangitikei District Council
- Manawatu District Council
- Tararua District Council

National Fire Fighting Competitions

In November locals will get a chance to see rural volunteer fire fighters from around the country in action. Hastings District will host the National Rural Fire Fighting Competitions at the Hasting A&P Showgrounds on 17 November. Hastings District Council's Emergency Management Officer Rick Sloman says organisers have sent out 300 invitations covering 105 rural fire authorities throughout the country.

"Hosting the competitions will be a great opportunity for the public to see what the teams do in training. We're planning to have a fun event to let people have a go. It will be a real family fun day with entertainment and food stalls along with the competitions."

Each team will carry out two basic hose runs and a monsoon bucket filling exercise with a helicopter. The teams are judged on technique and speed. Usually about 200 volunteers take part.

"This is the official Year of the Volunteer and our organising team wants to promote the valuable work these volunteers do in our rural communities."

Hastings District Council has 14 rural volunteer fire forces. The local Puketitiri Volunteer Rural Fire Force took away 3rd place at the competitions in Christchurch last year. Mr Sloman says securing the national competitions is a valuable opportunity to give the local teams more experience and contact with other teams.

"It will give our guys a chance to compare notes with the people who have been out fighting fires in Marlborough last summer. The Puketitiri Force put in a great effort considering it was only the second time they had competed at national level. Some of the teams have been competing for years. This year we will be able to enter more teams and they will have the home advantage. We want locals to really get out there and support our boys."

Mr Sloman says the rural fire fighters take part in monthly training sessions and a lot of controlled burns with farmers. Each fire force has its own local commander and deputy who co-ordinate local training and fire responses.

SOPAC Meeting in September

SOPAC (South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission) Disaster Management organisations are holding their annual meeting in Manukau City, Auckland from 5 - 7 September 2001. This will be preceded by a SOPAC Disaster Managers workshop on 31 August - 4 September at the same venue.

The SOPAC Disaster Management Unit will be sponsoring this activity for the Pacific member countries. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management will be providing representation at the Meeting and the workshop.

For further information regarding SOPAC, visit website www.sopac.org.fj or contact John Titmus (john.titmus@dia.govt.nz)

Exercise- Mt Tarawera Eruption



Checking progress during the exercise in Gisborne (from left) Regional Fire Officer Peter McClelland of Napier, Gisborne Chief Fire Officer Bill Beale, Inspector Bruce Blayney and Senior Sergeant Moera Brown. In the background (l-r), Jill Simpson, Controller's PA, Bill Turner, Alternate Controller and Denzil Duncan, Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management.

See story on page 10 in CDEM Round-up.

Photo courtesy of Dave Thomas, Gisborne Herald

Showcasing civil defence at Te Papa continued from page one.

The "Be a Survivor" sessions were aimed at raising awareness among kids, and parents, of the all important need to know what to do before an emergency.

Les not only put together a session compete with audio visual aids and props that had both kids and parents involved but did it 18 times over the three day weekend. Thank you Les. We couldn't have done it without you.

Rian van Schalkwyk, Emergency Manager, Wellington Regional Council said that the three days were certainly worthwhile from their point of view.

"We had over 6,000 people at least come through the mobile tent that we had set up in the amphitheatre. There was a good mix of people that came through and a great deal of interest in the materials we had on display.

"It was great the way the Ministry, the councils and emergency services- fire, police, ambulance, rescue - all worked as one big

team to promote awareness of civil defence. It was also a good opportunity to build on the teamwork and working relationships that exist", said Rian.

The participating volunteer organisations were also delighted with the weekend - many of them signed up new recruits.



There was something for everyone over the long weekend, and opportunities to see first hand emergency services staff in action.