

# RANGITIKEI ENVIRONMENT

## *Treasured Natural Environment Group*

## Grants available to support community initiatives

*By Horizons Regional Council*

Horizons Regional Council is calling for applications to its community grants programme with \$20,000 available to support environmental initiatives.

The programme helps encourage and support local community groups, schools, early childcare centres and iwi/hapū, with not-for-profit projects designed to enhance the Region's natural environment.

Horizons chairman Bruce Gordon says applications will be assessed on environmental benefits, feasibility, community involvement and long-term benefits.

"In the past we have granted funding to a range of projects such as sand dune stabilisation, native tree planting, wetland preservation and trapping to protect endangered species," says Mr Gordon.

"More often than not we help groups that simply need a little funding to get their projects underway. It's really satisfying to provide this support and we can also supply expert advice where possible."

Mr Gordon says applications that provide opportunities for the public to learn more about the environment and encourage greater use of the Region's facilities and amenities will be considered favourably.

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"We receive frequent proposals for beautification planting, vegetable gardens and edible forests. While these are great ideas, they don't focus on engagement with the natural environmental aspect of the programme, so we ask that applicants have a decent read of the grant guidelines."

Last year Horizons funded 13 projects which ranged from a variety of activities across the Region.

The closing date for applications is 5pm Friday 13 May 2016. For further information please visit [www.horizons.govt.nz](http://www.horizons.govt.nz) or phone Horizons on 0508 800 800.

*For more information contact: Cara Hesselin, Communications Advisor, Horizons Regional Council, 021 2277 190 or 06 9522 951*



## Paengaroa Road Environment Group

By Phyllis Leigh

In the past few months the Paengaroa Road Environment Group have spent many days working to control Old Man's Beard (OMB) on 6 properties adjoining Paengaroa Road and State Highway 1.

Previous helicopter spraying by Horizons and work done by Rangitikei Environment Group achieved significant control of this pest. This year, Horizons funded two additional days of Biodiversity Services contractors to further reduce levels of infestation.



*Old Man's Beard invasion*

Dry conditions throughout much of the summer has enabled ground teams to get into otherwise inaccessible gullies where more OMB was found

than expected. Of all the material found and treated this season, only a few plants have been in flower; which is most encouraging.

Our focus is to now revisit known infestation sites and check for seedlings and missed plants as well as generally patrolling this patch of bush on the lookout for the inevitable random patches.

The Biodiversity Services team discovered (but treated) an infestation of Gunnera, a plant which Malinda Mathewson from Horizons had treated, but whose location was unknown to the Group. We are keeping an eye on it now!

**Another pest of concern which is now appearing in this area is Tutsan.**

This area is remarkable for its small divaricating trees and shrubs and is one of the few natural locations of *Olearia gardneri*, a rare and endangered native tree daisy. This has been found on three properties where we are working on OMB control.

Recently, the Group has discovered a currently unidentified tree species, perhaps a *Myrsine* hybrid, on yet another property on Paengaroa road. Material has been sent to and are awaiting further information from retired DOC botanist Colin Ogle and have provided at his request specimens for inclusion in the Auckland Museum collection.

Finally, the Group have also been involved in collecting local kowhai seed (*Sophora Godleyi*) for the Massey University native seed bank.

*To get involved contact Phyllis Leigh on: 06 388 016*

## Te Mana o te Wai

By Brian Megaw

### The Mana of Water

In the government's "Next Steps for Fresh Water" consultation document, Te Mana o te Wai is recognised as a core concept for fresh water. The document explains this concept as:

*"It encompasses the integrated and holistic health and well being of a water body. It represents the innate well being and vitality (mauri) of a water body and its ability to provide for the health of the water (te hauora o te wai), the health of the environment (te hauora o te taiao), and the health of the people (te hauora o te tangata).*

*The health and well-being of our water bodies is integral to the health and well-being of our land and other resources (including fisheries, flora and fauna) and to our health and well-being both as communities and as a nation.*

*When Te Mana o te Wai is given effect, the water body will sustain the full range of environmental, social, cultural and economic values held by iwi and the community. This is a concept that is relevant to all New Zealanders."*

Having attended one of the Fresh Water presentations hosted by the Minister of the Environment, I thought it was really interesting that the word "holistic" was used in the Consultation Document.

Why did I find it interesting that the word "holistic" was used?

The dictionary definition of holistic is – *"characterized by the belief that the parts of something are intimately interconnected and explicable only by reference to the whole".*



Source: Next Steps for Freshwater Consultation Document

There is a problem with the use of this term in that the balance of the Consultation Document does not really take a holistic approach at all. As with much of our management of nature, we tend to view water as just another resource. A resource to be managed for economic gain. This economic gain is then pitched against societal values, or the needs of natural communities.

Hence we hear terms used such as "only xx amount of water flowing down such and such a catchment is being utilised". Utilised by whom?

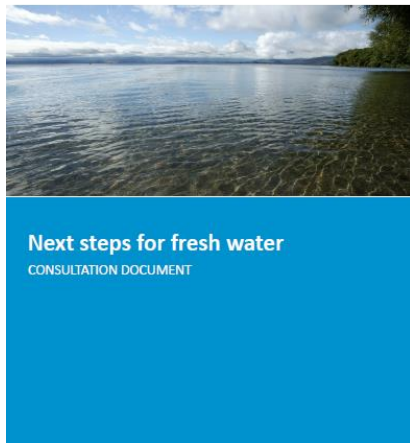
If we view water management in a holistic sense, there is no such thing as underutilised water. That underutilised water sustains countless natural communities. If we take or pollute that water, then this impacts those communities. Under a holistic approach, there can be little doubt that we do not stand separate from these communities. In fact the reverse is true.

There seems to be a view that if we cannot measure the impact of our actions on soil, water and natural communities, then in some way those impacts do not exist.



So what needs to be considered in a practical sense if we are to both manage fresh water for the good of all, and sustain natural communities?

New Zealand Government



A true holistic approach would have us look at land use patterns in their totality and our interactions with that land and water rather than the narrow focus on the proposed bottom lines of whether fresh water should be swimmable or wadeable.

To view our interactions with the earth, land and water in a holistic sense is totally what we should be doing. To my mind, the use of the term "holistic" in the Consultation document is at best a fob, at worst a farce. That does not mean that all the proposals in the document are wrong. Far from it. Rather we need to expand our thinking. We need to consider our actions on a wider more inclusive canvas.

Have a read of the document and see what you think.

Submissions to the Next Steps for Fresh Water Consultation Document closed on the 22nd April.

The [Next Steps for Fresh Water Consultation Document](#).

## Planting season around the corner

By Clare Ridler

Planting season is just around the corner, so it is a good time to start preparing areas so they are ready to go. We generally recommend planting between May (in coastal areas) and August (in higher altitude).



### *Riparian fencing*

It is important to think through site preparation, weed control, and ongoing maintenance.

Horizons have developed some planting guides, with species lists of what grows well in various areas. It is available on the Freshwater team's section of our website [www.horizons.govt.nz](http://www.horizons.govt.nz)

There is also a more detailed '*Community guide to riparian restoration*' full of information and tips for planning and undertaking planting projects, which will be available soon.

If you are planting an area beside a stream or river, you may also be eligible for a grant from Horizons.

## Parks and Reserves

*By Athol Sanson*

It's been a busy start to the year for the parks team. We have had a number of events during the weekends throughout the region.

These events require the parks and reserves to be constantly maintained to a high standard. The events attract a large number of locals and visitors so for the parks team it is important to keep our parks and reserves in a tidy condition at all times. It is an enjoyable part of the team's work helping with these events and seeing locals and visitors enjoying our parks.

The recent rain has been fantastic for our gardens, lawns and trees. They have really benefited from the regular rainfall which has resulted in continued growth throughout the summer. Trees have especially enjoyed the rain with little summer leaf fall noted.

### Trees

Our parks' trees are a significant feature in the region. Our parks' tree populations make a significant contribution to the amenity values of our community and urban environment.

Trees in Marton Park and Memorial Park in Taihape highlight these areas and make a significant contribution to the framework of these outstanding parks.

We are very fortunate that the early landscape designers of these areas recognised the importance of trees and their placement, in my view, were very successful in achieving very attractive parks.

Careful consideration of our trees' future long-term care needs to be undertaken to ensure not just the longevity of the trees but to also to make sure the trees are of low risk to park users.



Over the last six months we have commenced a maintenance programme to assess all trees for plant health and to identify any trees that have gone into decline. We have commenced with assessments of trees near playgrounds. A number of trees have been felled or pruned to ensure safety of users to these areas. Tree assessment across the region will be a major undertaking due to vast numbers in our region's parks and reserves.

As we have an aging tree population we need to now start thinking about a replanting programme that will mitigate the loss of mature trees in years to come.

Careful consideration will be exercised when selecting trees for future planting. A number of criteria will be used to select the appropriate tree.

Examples of these will be tree location, ultimate mature height, soil type, service locations etc.

The trees to be planted will be larger specimens that will be less prone to vandalism. Although larger trees limit the amount we can plant due to increased cost, in the long term they are best value due to being able to withstand both environmental and human impact.



**Two trees that I would like to highlight are:**

Sequoia sempervirens – coast redwood or California redwood

This tree is a major feature in both Marton Park and Memorial Park.

The coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) grows in natural stands in a long, thin coastal area along the Pacific Ocean in the west and northwest of the US (mostly California). It is the tallest growing tree in the world.

The trees in both parks are enjoying their current growing conditions. Redwoods cannot just grow in

any situation but require rich free draining soil and adequate soil moisture.

The trees are already a feature of the Marton and Taihape skyline and with correct care will be there for future generations to enjoy.

Fraxinus excelsior – ash, or European ash or common ash

This majestic tree growing in Marton Park must be one of the largest in the country. It is situated next to the new walkway from Maunder Street to Broadway, it may be upwards of 100 years old and is thriving in its current sheltered location. European ash can live to 250 years and during autumn the tree will turn a vivid shade of red.

This tree has been well maintained and is well worth a look – it is my view a horticultural highlight of our parks.

## Rangitikei Environment Group

*By Hugh Stewart*

The Old Man's Beard (OMB) spray season has finished for this summer. Rangitikei Environment Group (REG) have organised a wide-scale helicopter spray in the Otuaieiawa Stream catchment between the Moawhango and Rangitikei rivers near the Pukeokahu and Taoroa Junctions.

The farmers adjoining the area have contributed \$15,000 to go with the \$15,000 from REG's Community Partnership money and Horizon's have picked up areas nearer the Ruahine Ranges. Rangitikei Helicopters (Simon Werthmuller) have the expertise and technology to drop into the gorges and seek out every scrap of OMB back to the Moawhango River trench.

## Bulls River Users Group

*By Jan Harris*

Throughout the summer we received many complaints about fly dumping down at the Rangitikei River. It is completely unnecessary when we have a great refuse station here in Bulls. One Friday afternoon I wandered down to the picnic area just to see for myself if there was any rubbish – there was boxes of empty beer bottles, garden rubbish which included agapanthus plants and lawn clippings. For some of us these plants are fantastic fillers up driveways, but in the wider environment are an invasive weed.

***Mr Brian Scadden and Mr Bill Genefaas have for many years undertaken a lot of replanting and weeding down at the River***

For these two gentleman it has been a labour of love, but they now need your help maintaining existing areas and the possibility of planting up new areas. Sadly Mr Genefaas can no longer manage to work down at the River, but Mr Scadden still grows young trees from his home to plant down at the River and can be found regularly down at the River weeding or planting the new trees he has grown.

Bulls has a fantastic group of people who meet twice a year to discuss and work out what we can do better down at the River, what is achievable and how we can do the many things we would like to. This Bulls River Users Group has great plans, but sometimes we tend to run out of money for lots of the projects we would love to do. We have representatives from Rangitikei District Council, Horizons, Mr Brian Scadden, Mr Jim Howard, Mr Greg Bradley, Jo Rangooni, Chris Shenton from Ngati Apa and myself. When they can, both employees from Higgins and Bullocks attend these

meetings and help with repairs to the road when possible.

Last winter, the June flooding caused extensive damage to the actual foot print of the River and saw areas where more land has been carved out as the amount of water, and the pace caused damage. Much of the area under the bridge was covered in silt and debris. This area is a fantastic resource for the residents and tourists, but must be treated with respect. Through our meetings Rangitikei District Council and Horizons will be putting up 'no dumping' signs. If caught dumping, rubbish or butchered carcasses you will be reported to Police, dealt with by them and may also receive a fine.

***12 May 2016 – working Bee at the Rangitikei River Access in Bulls***

On the 12th May we will be having a working bee down at the River. We would love your help with this. Old Man's Beard and Ivy is growing through some of the larger trees and needs chopping down, areas of young planting need weeding, the picnic area could be sprayed and weeded, we need a load of metal for the Picnic area where the winds has ripped up weed matting and even more rocks placed to help hold down the matting permanently.

Why a week day? Unfortunately when you are trying to get help, especially free help there is no right or wrong day. I know people are busy, but if you could give this area which is very visible as you drive into Bulls some of your precious time, we would be grateful.



## Planting trees for bees!

By Clare Ridler

A large number of landowners now have beehives on their properties.

It's important to make sure you have enough food for the bees at the right time of year, so why not think about adding some plants into your garden or farm this winter which will help sustain them.

Incorporating a mix of species into fenced off areas along waterways or in shelterbelts can be a great way to help the bee population.



**Flowering times of common riparian plants to support bee populations**

Common Riparian Plants		SPRING Build up			SUMMER Pollination & Honey crop				AUTUMN Winter preparation			WINTER Rest	
		Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Akiraho	<i>Olearia paniculata</i>												
Broadleaf	<i>Griselinia littoralis</i>												
Cabbage Tree	<i>Cordyline australis</i>												
Five-finger	<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>												
Flax	<i>Phormium tenax</i>												

*Flowering times to support bee populations*

Horizons Regional Council has produced a guide outlining when native plants are producing food for bees. Contact a Freshwater Management officer on 0508 800 800 to get a copy.

The website

<http://www.treesforbeesnz.org/home> also has some handy tips on planting trees for bees.

## Upcoming Events/Community Contacts

### Community Initiatives Grants Close

5pm Friday 13 May

[www.horizons.govt.nz](http://www.horizons.govt.nz) or 0508 800 800.

### Working Bee – Rangitikei River – Bulls

12 May 2016

Contact Jan Harris [bulls.community@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bulls.community@xtra.co.nz)

### Treasured Natural Environment Group Meeting

3pm 22 June 2016 – Marton Council Chambers

Contact Katrina Gray

[katrina.gray@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:katrina.gray@rangitikei.govt.nz) 06 327 0099

### Bulls River Users Group Meeting

Contact Jan Harris – [bulls.community@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bulls.community@xtra.co.nz)

### Tutaenui Stream Restoration Group

Contact Greg Carlyon– 021327774

### Paengaroa Road Environment Group

Contact Phyllis Leigh – 06 388 016

### Hautapu Catchment Care Group

Contact Angus Gordon – [angusg@xtra.co.nz](mailto:angusg@xtra.co.nz)

If you have any contributions to the newsletter, any questions, or wish to subscribe please contact  
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