

Report 03.203
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Committee Landcare
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Divisional Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of the Landcare Division since the Committee's last meeting.

2. Managers' reports

The Departmental Managers' reports are attached.

3. How are we shaping up for year end ?

With over three quarters of the year gone both departments are reporting that they are on target to complete the vast majority of projects. The only exceptions appear to arise from factors outside our control. The main issues in Flood Protection are the incredibly slow process for the Crown to transfer Strand Park to Greater Wellington and an unprecedented shortage of good quality rock for our works.

In Parks and Forests all projects (other than the repair of the Baring Head Bridge) are on target. As well as getting through their programmed work, Parks and Forests are making considerable progress in preparing new signs following the branding review. Over the next few weeks you will notice new signs at the entrances of the parks and forests.

4. Divisional Manager away

I will be overseas from 1 May until 16 June. Initially, I will be having two weeks holiday followed by a four-week management course. Geoff Dick will be Acting Divisional Manager in my absence.

5. Rewards for volunteers

At the last Committee meeting you asked me to look into whether Greater Wellington could better reward people who provided outstanding contributions to the regional environment. The option suggested was an award scheme run by the Council. Over the last few years the Greater Wellington Regional Council has been very active in nominating people for the two major awards currently operating, the Conservation Week awards and the Green Ribbon awards. This approach has proven to be very successful with a large number of our volunteers receiving outside recognition. However, we have determined that while there has been considerable success through this system, we need to look more closely at the broader question of rewarding volunteers.

Recently Ross Jackson and Nigel Clarke (Environment) have been looking at how we can provide effective rewards for our environmental “partners”. That work is likely to result in some recommendations regarding providing recognition to people who assist the Council to meet that community’s environmental objectives.

Ross and Nigel’s project is part of a larger programme looking at improving the way that we work with those volunteers who are involved in Restoration, Care, and Friends Groups. Together with the Wairarapa and Environment Divisions, we are investigating whether we can bring all the volunteers assisting the Council under the “Take Care” banner.

The growth of the “Community Connections” function has been very rapid and we need to do some extra planning to ensure that we can continue to provide the volunteers with an appropriate level of support.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *receive the report.*
2. *note the contents of the report.*

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Flood Protection Manager’s report
Attachment 2: Parks and Forests Manager’s report
Attachment 3: Divisional Accountant’s report