



A non-toxic red dye colours the Waikanae River as Dr Alastair Suren takes samples.



Technical Advisory Group chairman Don Hunn at the Waikanae Water Treatment Plant.

Further community involvement in the Kāpiti Coast Water Supply Option Selection Process

You are invited to attend a Public Information Day

Thursday 20th May 2010

7 - 10pm

Waikanae Memorial Hall

Pehi Kupa St

Waikanae

Saturday 22nd May 2010

2 - 5pm

Kāpiti Community Centre

Ngahina Street

Paraparaumu

Contacting the Water Project Team

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April 2010

our water is precious - he tāonga te wai

Kia ora,

I am pleased to give you an update on the Water Project to secure additional supply for the Paraparaumu/Raumati/Waikanae catchment. There has been steady progress with the detailed investigations of the six in-catchment options – the Lower Maungakotukutuku Dam, the Kapakapanui Dam, the Ngatiawa Dam, Aquifer Storage and Recovery, Extended Borefield and Storage, and Groundwater River Recharge.

Some of you may have noticed a red tinge in the Waikanae River the other day – this was one of the series of tests carried out by NIWA for the Council which will provide data on the flow characteristics of the river and streams at the dam locations. This data will be used in assessing the issues around the various options.

These tests were part of a series of investigations which are on going around the various supply solutions. We're carrying out ecological assessments around the various potential dam sites, as well as test drilling to establish geotechnical and other conditions. We're also testing existing bores to understand aquifer yield and are investigating water treatment processes to establish what water quality can be achieved from underground water sources.

Taste testing

As part of the water treatment testing, we'll be conducting water taste tests. We are looking for ten people from our community who are interested in taking part in this test. If you would like to participate, please send your details to:

preciouswater@kapiticoast.govt.nz

We'll draw ten participants from all the names out of a hat.

Public Information Day

We'll be holding a Public Information Day to give the community the opportunity to catch up with what's been happening on the Water Project. Please see the back of this newsletter for dates and times.

Technical Advisory Group

The Technical Advisory Group of expert community volunteers, led by former State Services Commissioner Don Hunn, has been keeping a close eye on investigations and visited the sites last Saturday. The group's findings will greatly inform Council when it makes a decision on a preferred solution in June.



NIWA scientists Janine Wech and Dr Alastair Suren prepare dye for testing Waikanae River flows.

Water Conservation

The District's "water is precious – he tāonga te wai" message appears to be getting through, with consumption figures showing a significant reduction in the amount of water used over the summer.

Consumption figures show the District's peak use of water over the summer period dropped to 556 lpd in 2009/10, representing a reduction of 17.6% on the previous year. This is a great result for the Kāpiti Coast. There are a number of variables in water consumption figures but it seems that the importance of conserving water is now being understood by a very large section of the community.

We are pushing ahead with our Water Conservation Plan and would like to remind you that you can comment on this as part of the Annual Plan consultation process.

I would like to thank you for your interest in the Water Project. We have made significant progress towards a final decision on a new water supply solution, which is due in June. We are cracking down on illegal taking of drinking water from the Council network. We have launched industry-backed water education initiatives. It is wonderful to see these initiatives supported by a community which cares about its water supply and water conservation.

Yours sincerely

Jenny Rowan, QSO JP
Mayor Kāpiti Coast District