



Landscan

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A news update for Land Information New Zealand clients

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All **Landonline** users will need to purchase a digital certificate.

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Landonline roll-out reached another milestone in late January when remote access to LINZ's electronic title and survey information was launched in New Plymouth, Hamilton and Tauranga.

VALUABLE HISTORICAL RECORDS MOVE TO ARCHIVES NEW ZEALAND

Shifting some of New Zealand's most valuable and important historical documents from a muniments room at LINZ Head Office to their new home at Archives New Zealand in Thorndon has been a mammoth task.

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Overseeing the job has been LINZ Technical Policy Adviser, within the Chief Crown Property Officer's group, Chris Buckler.

While the actual physical transfer of the documents took a few weeks the planning and organisation stage for the transfer took as many months.



Chris Buckler: Reassured to know valuable records are safely housed and maintained.

Chris says the collection includes records evidencing the acquisition and disposal of Crown land since the Treaty of Waitangi. "Many of these items are original copies of historical documents upon which this country was founded and are priceless. In many cases they are the only copy in existence and are of huge national importance.

As an example, the acquisition records include the Kemp purchase of the Middle Island of New Zealand dated 1848. The disposal records include a complete set of Crown Grants.

He says it is reassuring to know that they are now housed in the most appropriate location where the public has access to them under secure viewing conditions and resources are available to assist enquirers.

"Moving the documents to Archives New Zealand was the correct thing to do and was achieved after consultation with state departments and Crown entities who access the records regularly, local iwi and Archives New Zealand.

"I received excellent support from Archives New Zealand senior archivist Sandra Falconer who understood the uniqueness of the records and went beyond the call to assist with the transfer," Chris says.

"The Crown documents underwent extensive restoration in the late 1980s after their relocation from the basement of the Charles Fergusson building. Under the careful attention of employee Frank O'Leary, the deeds were flattened, microfilmed, electronically indexed and boxed in acid free cardboard boxes. This exercise saved many records from further deterioration."

Chris says LINZ and Archives New Zealand were always conscious of maintaining public access to the records during the archiving process and frequently-used record sets were moved in a staged manner direct to the viewing areas at Archives New Zealand.

"A special dawn ceremony officiated by our industrial chaplain (Robyn Ash) and Kaumatua (Jack Cunningham) was held at LINZ, to bless the records prior to the powhiri at Archives New Zealand to welcome the records. The powhiri was attended by local iwi and staff involved in the project."

Chris says LINZ embarked on the rigorous archiving programme because they realised that the documents needed to be more accessible. "Having them all archived and safe and sound in the best possible place brings the project to a happy conclusion."

Sandra Falconer, Archivist with Archives New Zealand, says the collection represents a considerable slice of New Zealand history and is an invaluable resource for historians and other researchers.

She says a wide range of people - from the Waitangi Tribunal and the Crown Law Office to private individuals - use the documents regularly.

"Because some of the records are heavily used by researchers, we had to ensure they were available to the public as soon as they were transferred.

"As the records arrived from LINZ they were given a unique series number to facilitate public access to them in the future. Over time, some of the documents have sustained damage - some even survived the 1952 Hope Gibbons fire. However, most of them are in very good condition."

To ensure the continued preservation of the records, the humidity and temperature levels are carefully controlled, but most of the material is readily available to the public.

"A small proportion of the records are in an extremely fragile state and may only be viewed by appointment," Sandra says.

Some of the more damaged sets need preservation work, and Archives New Zealand's preservation staff will complete this as soon as possible. General research enquiries to: Archives New Zealand, Phone (04) 499 5595, Email enquiries@archives.govt.nz

At a glance

- LINZ is no longer in the business of storing and maintaining public access to the National Office Crown purchase and disposal historical documents.
- Historical records have been moved to Archives New Zealand.
- Local iwi and other interested parties have been consulted as part of the process.



Sandra says the collection represents a valuable slice of New Zealand history.

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GEODETIC SPECIALIST IN JOINT OSGS/US/LINZ ANTARCTIC PROJECT

LINZ Geodetic Specialist Matt Amos was one of around 500 New Zealand personnel to work on the world's southernmost continent each year. Based at McMurdo Station in Antarctica from 9 November 2001 until late January this year, he was part of a joint US Geological Survey/LINZ Project team.

Matt was involved in several projects during his time on the ice.

“I worked on installing two more Global Positioning System (GPS) Continuous Stations in the Trans-Antarctic mountain range - another station that was installed during the previous season was also upgraded. We installed a GPS receiver at each site with 12 truck batteries that are charged by solar panels during the summer. Hopefully that will be enough power to keep them going during the winter darkness.

“We also made GPS observations at a number of remote sites as part of a five-year project that aims to detect deformation in the Trans-Antarctic Mountains.” This data will be incorporated into the geodetic database that LINZ has established for the Ross Sea Region.



An international effort: Brad Johnson, Jane Turner (US Geological Survey) and Matt Amos assemble an A-frame to mount solar panels that charge receiver batteries at Fishtail point, near the end of Skelton Glacier.
Photo: Robert Glover, US Geological Survey

Matt supported the acquisition of ground control for the New Zealand mapping project in the dry valleys and visited Cape Roberts where the team calibrated the tide gauge that operates there continuously. The gauge measures the tidal variations of both the sea and ice level. “This was quite interesting as the tidal differences varied between 35 cm and one metre, and there was only one tide a day instead of the usual two.”

The team travelled to project locations by helicopter and returned to McMurdo each evening apart from two three-day trips to Cape Roberts, and a four night trip to the Italian base at Terra Nova Bay while working on Mt Melbourne.

“Travelling by helicopter was quick and we also got a great view of the landscape. Distances were hard to judge because there was no scale to make comparison with. What looked like 40 km could well be 200 km away.”

While in Antarctica Matt managed to fit in visits to Scott's Hut at Cape Evans, the ice caves on the Erebus ice tongue and Cape Royds Adelle penguin rookery.



Face to face: Matt Amos gets up close with an Adelle penguin at Cape Royds, Ross Island. Photo: Jane Turner, US Geological Survey

He also did some support work for an Antarctica New Zealand project, including an expedition flying up the 9500ft Mt Melbourne, where temperatures hover around -20C.

“We were there to survey a protected area around a rare moss that grows near the summit alongside ice mounds known as fumaroles. The fumaroles are formed by geothermic areas of warmth coming up out of the soil - ice forms a fragile sort of steeple over the warm areas, which is quite amazing.

“The tiny clumps of this rare moss grow in the lee of these strange shapes where they have adapted to the harsh conditions - ground temperature at these sites is +60°C.”

Matt says coming back to Wellington took some unexpected adjusting. Darkness was a new phenomenon after the 24 hour sunshine down on the ice. Colours were another surprise. “The colour scheme on the ice was basically monochrome so even after a relatively short time there, seeing vibrant colours again took some getting used to.”

At a glance

- ◆ LINZ Geodetic Specialist Matt Amos has just returned from Antarctica where he was part of a joint US Geological Survey/LINZ Project team.
- ◆ Geodetic work included setting up GPS equipment, ground control for the mapping project, and calibrating tide gauges.
- ◆ Another project included mapping around a rare moss growing around fumaroles on Mt Melbourne.

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LAND ONLINE'S SECURITY STEPPED UP

Landonline's security is being stepped up for Stage Two - which enables remote electronic lodgement of survey transactions and routine title dealings - planned for piloting after mid-year and implementation before the end of the year.

Stage Two completes the main **Landonline** vision, and includes benefits such as: real-time updating of the Register for routine dealings, quicker turnaround times for electronic transactions, the introduction of a Workspace to interact with other parties online, extraction of survey information from **Landonline**, direct importation of survey data into **Landonline** (for Surveyors using XML supportable software), and the ability to check that work will pass the business rules prior to submission.

This means changes are also in the wind for the structure of **Landonline's** fees and charges regime. For example, lodgement fees for electronic transactions will be cheaper than for paper transactions.

DIGITAL CERTIFICATES

With electronic lodgement, the current **Landonline** security systems will be augmented to protect online transactions from misuse and abuse. When user requirements were canvassed in early 2000, representatives from the survey and conveyancing professions identified that an extra level of security would need to be introduced to protect their transactions in the new online environment. Digital Certificates form an integral part of that security.

Prior to the Pilot, all **Landonline** users will need to purchase a Digital Certificate (renewable annually). As everyone who accesses **Landonline** will be working within the system, even those using **Landonline** only for searching will need a Digital Certificate. The rules are simple: "no certificate, no access, no exceptions."

Digital Certificates provide a unique identification, and confirm that a transaction could only have been submitted by the person claiming to have done so. It also encrypts all data transmitted, so even if intercepted externally it would be unintelligible.

While much of the step-by-step process of the paper environment remains the same in the electronic environment, some protocols will change.

The current regime reflects that Stage One of **Landonline** provides only a search facility for land professionals to access the most frequently needed of LINZ's 30 million records. However, when Stage Two comes online, the electronic environment of **Landonline** changes considerably, enabling users to undertake actual transactions via the Internet.

This is a significant change, and because the Internet is an inherently "hostile" environment, extra security measures must be put in place to counter possible misuse. The costs associated with these measures will be reflected in the new fees and charges.

For example, solicitors can currently delegate searching, preparation and settlement aspects, but the 'certification and signing' of instruments under Stage Two cannot be delegated.

Certification requires the solicitor to sign for the client. Surveyors and solicitors also certify that all supporting documents and authorities are held and all relevant legislation complied with.

This can be traced directly from an encoded Digital Certificate. An electronic archive will permanently show whose certificate was used.

Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) must be confident that online transactions won't compromise the quality of data held in **Landonline**. Therefore the registration process is more comprehensive for Stage Two. A Registration Authority (RA) has been established within LINZ to process all applications. The aim is to make the whole sign-up process "seamless" for customers.

After verifying an applicant's identity, and being satisfied as to their authenticity, LINZ will authorise the issuing of a Digital Certificate. As the confidentiality of the certificate is paramount,

1. **Landonline's** surveyor stakeholder representative Jeff Needham demonstrates **Landonline** to his ex-boss Ross Stewart at the Hamilton launch. ①

2. Scanning operator Trina Cawston scans titles at the Hamilton office. Titles conversion for the Hamilton region is expected to be completed by late March. ②

LINZ will not hold or issue certificates itself. A Certificate Authority meeting stringent security requirements will manage the issuing and revocation of certificates.

Digital Certificates must be stored securely. Unauthorised use of a certificate will not allow direct access to the system on its own, however individual users must protect their certificate like they would their ATM card. Individual users will be responsible

for ensuring their certificate details are secure, and sharing of certificates will not be permitted under any circumstances.

More details on the pilot and how to obtain Digital Certificates will be provided to customers closer to the pilot date. In the meantime, look up the Security Fact Sheet, along with information on the new licensing and fees and charges structure, on our website www.landonline.govt.nz.

HAMILTON REGION TITLES LAUNCHED INTO CYBERSPACE

Landonline roll-out reached another milestone in late January when remote access to LINZ's electronic title and survey information was launched in New Plymouth, Hamilton and Tauranga.

The launches signalled the opportunity for Land Information New Zealand's Hamilton region customers to sign up to **Landonline**, an Internet-based search system which will provide electronic access to seven million of LINZ's most accessed survey and title documents.

Speaking at the launches, LINZ Hamilton Regional Manager Jeremy Maseyk said, "**Landonline** removes dependency on location. That's good news for those who might have worked some distance away from a LINZ office. With **Landonline** you can log on to a national database of records without leaving your office."

There were some nervous glances among the **Landonline** team prior to the Tauranga launch as it was the 13th in the series, but it went without a hitch, and the 80 or so customers who attended were very receptive.

"Far from being unlucky, the 13th event showed that the whole launch process has become like a well-oiled machine," said Mike Bodnar, **Landonline**'s communications manager.

"Everything went smoothly, and all the different elements - such as catering, venue, Internet connections, etc - that make or break a launch were excellent. The Hamilton LINZ office staff assisted greatly in the administration and on-site management of the launches and took the opportunity to meet with many of their customers."

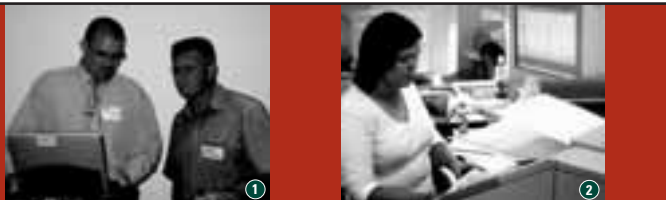
All the Hamilton region launches were well attended, and keen interest was shown in the live demonstrations of **Landonline**. Surveyor stakeholder on the **Landonline** team, Jeff Needham, even found himself demonstrating the service to his old boss Ross Stewart in Hamilton. Jeff used to work for Ross in RMS Surveyors when he previously lived in the Waikato.

The launch in Tauranga was only the second to be held in a location without a LINZ office. Customers in such locations get the most benefits of remote access since they haven't had the benefit of being able to easily access records from an office in their vicinity.

The roll-out of **Landonline** began two years ago in Southland and Otago. Since then, remote access to LINZ records has been launched to conveyancers, surveyors, search agents and other land professionals throughout the South Island, and last October in the lower half of the North Island. The launches in the Hamilton region leave Auckland as the final region to get **Landonline**. Remote access is due to be launched to Auckland - LINZ's largest customer base - about mid-year.

Stage Two of **Landonline** - which will enable customers to undertake electronic survey lodgement and routine title dealings via the Internet - is under development and is scheduled to be implemented towards the end of the year.

For more information on Landonline, visit the website www.landonline.govt.nz



OPTIONS EXPLORED FOR WAYS TO COPY AND ACCESS PAPER RECORDS

LINZ has begun looking at new options to improve local access to paper land records.

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The most frequently accessed land records - the 7 million online certificates of title, survey plans and linked documents - are well on the way to the electronic age as **Landonline** completes its rollout across the country.

But as electronic access available through **Landonline** becomes more widely established, attention is turning to the way the remaining 23 million paper records in LINZ's care are accessed. These are the records that are not stored electronically on **Landonline**, but are requested from time to time.

With the closure of the last of LINZ's former branch offices completed this month, access to copies of all records, subject

to size and fragility, has been streamlined. In a nutshell, copies of records can be requested:

- through **Landonline** (registered users only)
- by visiting any one of LINZ's five regional offices (for **Landonline** and paper records)
- by employing a search agent
- by requesting the record remotely via mail, fax or the internet through LINZ's 'Skylight' portal.

'Original' records and those records that are too large or fragile to be copied must be viewed at the LINZ 'home' office.

These options are underpinned by a helpline with advice on how the access system works: 0800 ONLINE (0800 665 463).

records used more frequently for LINZ's business transactions (e.g. Crown Grants and Deeds Books), but not scanned for **Landonline**, are kept at regional offices for easier access.

The department is now investigating alternative methods of access. It's not simply a case of slapping the requested document on a photocopier. Many are extremely old and fragile; many are bound in awkward formats; and many are far too large to fit onto a conventional copier.

LINZ is taking a step back and looking at options for copying LINZ paper records and making them available, while at the same time ensuring unique records are protected. In a discussion paper the department has outlined six different options, ranging from the status quo (i.e. leaving the system 'as is') to relatively high-tech options involving digital storage on media such as CDs.

The options

While not necessarily the only options, these form the basis for consultation between LINZ and those interested in accessing paper records. In brief they are:

1. Status Quo
System for accessing paper records remains as it is now, and outlined above.
2. Photocopy
Photocopies of records would be stored by an external third party who would provide hard copies to members of the public on request. Indexing and the need to physically search through files would mirror the current system.
3. Records electronically imaged to CD/DVD
LINZ would store scanned images of the paper records on its own database, and an electronic index would be developed. The bulk data and index would be provided to end users on CD/DVD format, either directly or through an intermediary.
4. Records electronically imaged to LINZ database
Records would be scanned and indexed as in (3), but access for clients would be through the internet - either directly using their own computers or through an intermediary.
5. Microfilm/microfiche
Images of records stored on microfilm cards/microfiche cartridges. An index would be developed for a separate card/cartridge. Access would be through a microfilm/microfiche reader owned by an external agency.
6. High quality reproductions of books and maps at cost price
A third party would own and store the reproductions and provide copies to customers as requested. There would be no indexing or search facilities.

At a glance

- ◆ LINZ is considering options for improving access to the 23 million paper records that are not stored electronically on **Landonline**.
- ◆ There are currently a range of options for accessing these records - details are available through 0800 ONLINE (0800 665 463).
- ◆ LINZ has held a series of regional hui and consultation meetings to canvass ideas on the preferred methods of accessing paper records, and which are the most requested types of records.
- ◆ There is a discussion paper available on the LINZ web site.
- ◆ Recovering the costs involved in making these records available is also being considered.
- ◆ A Cabinet paper on the options is due to be produced by May.

Storage and management resolved

Records that have been digitally imaged for **Landonline** (titles, survey plans and related documents) are stored at regional facilities of Recall, a professional document storage company which met LINZ/National Archive standards for storage and management of historical paper records. Low-use paper records (e.g. transfers and mortgages) are also stored at Recall. Other

Consultation meetings

Last month LINZ held a series of regional hui and public meetings to discuss the options in the paper. LINZ Project Manager Angela Cull, who helped facilitate the meetings, says participants were grateful for the opportunity to discuss the options.

“There was general acknowledgment that preservation of these records for future generations is very important,” Angela says. “The preferred option seems to be to create an electronic image of the original documents for preservation purposes, and a working paper copy.”

The meetings were also used to gauge priorities for types of records to copy. The highest priority records were identified as:

- Field books
- Crown grants
- Crown purchase deeds
- Land transfer deeds
- Indexes
- Maps
- Traverse records.

LINZ will provide a summary of the submissions to stakeholders by the end of March 2002. These responses and a cost benefit analysis will form the basis of a Cabinet paper, due in May 2002.

Angela notes that funding is a key issue. "No specific budget has been allocated to this project, and whatever option is pursued, an important element will be mechanisms for recovering the costs of making the images available," she says.

Copies of the discussion paper are available on the LINZ website at

http://www.linz.govt.nz/services/copying_linzrecs/index.htm

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PUBLIC WORKS ACT REVIEW: POLICY DEVELOPMENT UNDER WAY

Policy development work in the lead-up to legislation updating the Public Works Act is now in full swing. Input into the process is coming from several quarters, including stakeholder groups, a Maori reference group, overseas legislation and the hundreds of submissions made after the extended period of consultation.

Policy development work has been continuing since we last updated progress on the Public Works Act Review in Landscan Issue 18 (October 2001). This has involved several interdepartmental working groups on which key stakeholders such as Local Government New Zealand, New Zealand Law Society, Transit New Zealand and New Zealand Railways Corporation are represented. The working groups have been focusing on:

- definition of a public work and who should be able to use the Public Works Act
- acquisition and compensation
- mechanism for disposal of land (after it is no longer required by the agency for the public work for which it was acquired) and offerback
- The Treaty and other issues of particular interest to Maori.

In addition, a Maori reference group (Te Roopu Arataki) has been established to provide a Maori focus in the policy development phase. It has a specialist technical focus, with members who have knowledge of the Public Works Act and tikanga Maori.

Policy development is being informed not only by the expertise of the working group members, but also by the submissions, overseas legislation, and interaction between the working groups and Te Roopu Arataki. This will assist in the robust assessment of options put forward for consideration and decision by Ministers.

At this stage, Ministers are expecting to consider policy options in late April.

It is envisaged that there will be some consultation with other interested stakeholder representatives on options prior to their consideration by Ministers. This will be similar to the meetings that were held to discuss the issues outlined in the Review of the Public Works Act: Issues And Options Public Discussion Paper.

To register your interest in this consultation, or for general information about the Public Works Act review,

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At a glance

- ◆ Policy development work in the lead-up to legislation updating the Public Works Act is under way.
- ◆ Input is coming through stakeholders, a Maori reference group, overseas legislation and submissions received after the initial consultation.
- ◆ There will be further consultation before Ministers consider the policy options that are being developed.

TARANAKI LAND RECORDS JOIN THE DIGITAL WAVE

A further milestone in the migration of land information to a digital environment was passed in Taranaki last month, when land records from the district began to go online.

The New Plymouth branch office of LINZ was the last of six such offices around New Zealand to close its doors as part of the implementation of **Landonline** - LINZ's digital title and survey system. The office closed to the public on Friday, 1 February 2002 with staff completing their duties on 8 March.

Land titles from Taranaki, dating back to 1840, have begun to be converted from paper records into digital land records.

LINZ Hamilton Regional Manager Jeremy Maseyk says that while LINZ will no longer appear at street level in Taranaki, the introduction of **Landonline** in fact signals a much greater level of access to land records for Taranaki land professionals.

“Taranaki **Landonline** registered users will soon have instant, on-screen access to Taranaki and South Auckland land district titles and survey information, as well as titles and survey information from the South Island and Wellington.

“Once the national rollout of **Landonline** Stage one is complete in mid-2002, Taranaki registered **Landonline** users will be able to search for or request any title or survey plan in the country. To date, **Landonline** has more than 1500 users nationwide including lawyers, surveyors, real estate agents and city and district councils.”

Land records previously stored in New Plymouth will move to LINZ's Hamilton regional office.

Jeremy says it's important to remember that irrespective of where they are stored, access to all records will continue for both professional and public customers.

In a related initiative, LINZ is consulting with customers in various regions where branch offices have closed, to canvass ideas on the best methods to use for copying and accessing paper records that are not being imaged for **Landonline** (see ‘Options explored for ways to copy and access paper records’ in this issue).

While LINZ's New Plymouth business customers - lawyers, surveyors and other land professionals - should be using **Landonline** to access land records following last month's closure of the New Plymouth branch office, the public have

a range of options to access Taranaki and South Auckland land records (and records from the South Island and Wellington) from this time forward:

- via LINZ's Internet ‘Skylight’ service at www.linz.govt.nz (new service)
- by fax to the LINZ Hamilton regional office on 07-834 6788 (new service)
- through a search agent who can help get copies of documents from anywhere in New Zealand (look in the Yellow Pages under Real Estate Agents, Property Management, Land Information, Resource Management, Document Services, Lawyers, Surveyors or Legal Agents)
- by visiting LINZ's Hamilton office (cnr Victoria & Rostrevor Streets) and ordering a record over the counter
- by mailing in a request to the Hamilton office (Private Bag 3028 Hamilton) with the appropriate fee
- through a **Landonline** registered user who offers a public search service.

LINZ has published a brochure, ‘New system of accessing records: **Landonline** and other changes’ which summarises the changes to the way land information is provided. This is available from all LINZ regional offices.

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At a glance

- The New Plymouth branch office of LINZ closed to the public on 1 February as part of the rollout of **Landonline**.
- It was the last of six branch offices to close and marks the transition of land records from Taranaki to a digital environment.
- Land professionals in Taranaki will now have online access to records from their own district and around New Zealand as they join **Landonline**.
- A range of options are available for accessing land records, including a new internet portal on the LINZ website, and a fax request service.

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ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENT POSES SPECIAL CHALLENGES

In January this year LINZ Strategic Adviser Nadene Boyle spent a week at Scott Base as part of a six person group of environmental visitors sponsored by Antarctica New Zealand.

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International gathering on the ice: From left: Emma Waterhouse Antarctica New Zealand, Jacqui Burgess, Ministry of Fisheries, Maurice Hoban Ministry for Environment (sitting), Shulamit Gordon Antarctica New Zealand, Tony Robinson, Ministry of Research Science and Technology, Nadene Boyle LINZ, Rebecca Roper-Gee, Antarctica New Zealand, Birgit Njastad Norwegian Polar Institute.

While the title sounds grand, the visit had a very practical purpose.

Nadene was there to experience conditions first hand and gain an insight into how they impacted on LINZ operations in the region.

She says the harsh and variable conditions in the area have major impacts on the work of LINZ staff who are completing mapping and charting data capture projects. "The sensitive equipment used in these processes requires mild, clear and constant weather conditions," she says.

"None of these weather conditions are well known in the Antarctic and so work has to be carried out in the narrow windows of opportunity that arise in the summer months. This involves careful planning both to ensure the most is made of any good weather opportunities plus contingencies for the expected down times when bad weather puts projects and staff on hold.

"Having been there gave me a better perspective and understanding of mapping and charting issues in the area and I can appreciate the practicalities and logistics of planning programmes down there."

While on the ice Nadene spoke with a wide range of map and chart users, both on base and out in the field, to obtain feedback on the maps and charts LINZ provides.

"LINZ also has a long and established working relationship with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) in undertaking

mapping and charting programmes in the Antarctic and it is always helpful to build good working relationships with our international partners.

"The United States and New Zealand also operate a joint logistical support system with a helicopter pool on McMurdo Sound as well as the Christchurch McMurdo aircraft pool. These relationships are very important to our continued work in the Antarctic."

She says because her visit was land based she didn't get to meet with many actual chart users to evaluate their use of hydrographical information but did meet environmental managers to discuss mutual needs in such areas as charting, the need to co-ordinate oil spill/marine incident responses, the safe passage of tourism vessels and the need for charting around the Ross Sea vicinity.

"The Antarctic provides special challenges and I realised what a huge mission it can be to complete even relatively simple tasks. Any work programme in Antarctica is likely to cost more and take longer than would be normally expected in other places and there are many extra considerations to be made when working in that environment.



Polar tents with Mt Erebus in the background.

"Everything takes longer to complete and the weather affects every decision."

She says life at Scott Base was a pleasant surprise, as she had not expected the accommodation to be quite so comfortable.

"The base is quite a lot larger and more modern than I had imagined and had most of the comforts of life - espresso coffee, great chefs, and a very comfortable feel to it. It was a home away from home."

Despite a busy workload Nadene did manage to fit in some sightseeing plus a visit to the very impressive United States Crafer Science Lab at McMurdo.

She also got to go mountain biking on what must be some of the world's southern-most tracks.

"Becoming familiar with the Antarctic environment was one of the greatest rewards of the trip and no matter what one has read, seen or heard, nothing can compare with the personal experience of actually being there."

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At a glance

- ◆ LINZ staff member makes a familiarisation visit to Antarctic sponsored by Antarctica New Zealand.
- ◆ Extreme weather conditions in the region impact greatly on LINZ staff and their activities - even simple activities take longer to complete.
- ◆ LINZ has an established working relationship with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) in undertaking mapping and charting programmes in the region.

NAVY MAN SAMPLES LIFE AT LINZ

Lieutenant Commander Dave Mundy has moved to Wellington on a two-year secondment to LINZ from the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN), where he previously held a senior survey management role at the Hydrographic Business Unit in Auckland.



Lieutenant Commander Dave Mundy: on a two-year secondment to LINZ from the Royal New Zealand Navy.

At LINZ, Dave is working in the National Topographic/Hydrographic Authority as a hydrographic survey adviser.

LINZ sets the standards and contracts out the surveying work that underpins the official New Zealand navigational charts used by commercial vessels and recreational mariners.

Until 1996, when LINZ was established, the RNZN was the prime provider of hydrographic surveys in New Zealand

and was the only organisation that offered professional training in this area, Dave explains.

He says the navy continues to conduct hydrographic surveys as a contractor to LINZ and, in this role, is involved in surveying rather than regulatory work.

“The Navy is the largest single source of personnel trained in hydrographic surveying in New Zealand. As part of this resource I've been seconded to LINZ to build on my past survey experience and training with the Navy to provide advice on standards and specifications to the LINZ Chief Topographer/Hydrographer.”

Dave, who joined the navy fifteen years ago as a school leaver, finds working for LINZ quite a change.

“The culture is different - quite relaxed but hiding quite a big work load. More people are involved in the management of projects than I am used to.”

While Dave misses the hands-on surveying work with the Navy, his new position is going well and he is enjoying his exposure

to the regulatory aspects of surveying that LINZ is responsible for. These responsibilities include representing New Zealand on a number of international committees to ensure that this country's best interests are always considered.

Meanwhile he is thoroughly enjoying the change in direction that his secondment has brought, and likes living in Wellington.

“The city is very easy to negotiate and has a real heart - it will be an interesting couple of years.”

Dave's plans for the future include perhaps some RNZN staff training overseas with an aim to eventually command the Hydrographic Survey Ship, HMNZS Resolution.

But until then he looks forward to charting new territory here in Wellington.

At a glance

- ◆ Lieutenant Commander Dave Mundy has been seconded to LINZ National Topographic/Hydrographic Authority as hydrographic survey adviser.
- ◆ LINZ sets the standards and contracts out surveying work for navigational charts used by commercial vessels and recreational mariners while the Navy conduct hydrographical surveys as a contractor to LINZ.

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