



Landscan

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A news update for Land Information New Zealand clients

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Survey conversion is now complete for the South Island. So far, 433,816 parcels have been converted into **Landonline**.

PARTNERSHIP APPROACH WINS BATTLE AGAINST BROOM

There's some stunning country in the upper Rangitata. So stunning in fact that it caught the eye of the location scouts for *Lord of the Rings*. But even the magnificent Canterbury landscape you'll see in Part 2 of the Rings trilogy is vulnerable - not to rampaging armies but to a creeping blanket of introduced weeds.

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A thick carpet of broom has been invading the riverbed in the Rangitata Gorge. While harmless on the surface, the infestation severely disrupts the ecosystem for both invertebrate species such as river insects and endangered native birds such as the wrybill, which nests on the stones of the riverbed. It also provides cover for the predators that threaten ground-nesters such as the wrybill. And it destroys the enjoyment of the many trampers, anglers and other lovers of the outdoors who utilise this unique part of the country.

The local landowners aren't too keen on it either, and four years ago they got together to take on the challenge.

A five-year management plan to eradicate the broom and control regrowth has been a resounding success, and it's all down to a productive partnership between local and central government, landowners and weed control specialists.

The Rangitata Gorge Landcare Group (RGLG) was last month presented with the Canterbury Conservation Board's Aoraki award for its successful efforts to control broom weed in a 120 hectare stretch of the Rangitata Gorge.

RGLG Chair Rosemary Acland says the five-year plan succeeded thanks to the excellent cooperation between LINZ, which provided half the funding, the Department of Conservation, the Ashburton and Timaru District Councils, Environment Canterbury and local landowners.

"The project was also given tremendous momentum by the enthusiasm of Dunedin contractor Bill Chisholm, of Landward Management," Rosemary adds. "Once LINZ, the various landowners and other parties agreed to cooperate, Bill coordinated RGLG's efforts and approached other agencies to assist the group."

Landward Management Ltd is LINZ's biosecurity contractor.

Rosemary says an early hurdle was not knowing who was responsible for the riverbed, but once this was established the project could move ahead. Most New Zealand riverbeds are Crown owned, and LINZ administers the Crown's responsibilities for weed control on its land. "The Crown is only responsible for part of this area of riverbed, and this made it more difficult to get a coordinated response to the environmental problems we faced."

Story continued on page 10.

At a glance

- ◆ Broom has become a major weed problem in the riverbed of Canterbury's Rangitata Gorge
- ◆ The broom threatened native species and disrupted the enjoyment of the river by anglers, trampers, local landowners and others while downgrading the landscape values
- ◆ A successful five-year management plan has been carried out to control the weed
- ◆ It was a joint effort between LINZ, local landowners and local government
- ◆ Maintenance spraying will be required to keep on top of the problem
- ◆ Ongoing funding is available
- ◆ The Rangitata Gorge Landcare Group won a conservation award for the project.



Contemplating a job well done: LINZ Contract Manager David Morgan, Laurie Prouting of Mesopotamia Station (standing), and Rangitata Gorge Landcare Group Chair Rosemary Acland of Mt Peel Station (holding the Canterbury Conservation Board Aoraki award) enjoy the view of the cleaned-up Rangitata Gorge riverbed. Laurie Prouting's father began the work to address questions about responsibility for the care of the riverbed during the 1960s and Laurie continued his father's work as an active member of the landcare group.

STRONG LINZ COMMITMENT TO MAURIORA KI TE AO SCHOLARSHIPS

A scheme to increase Maori participation in the public sector has received strong backing from LINZ, which has taken over its administration on a rotational basis.

The Mauriora ki te Ao ('universal life force') scholarships are for Maori studying towards tertiary qualifications in natural resource management and science. Five government agencies, MAF, LINZ and the Ministries of Fisheries, Environment, and Research, Science & Technology, take part in the scheme. The departments share a common involvement in natural resource management and science.

The \$2000 scholarship is supplemented by vacation work offered by the participating departments. LINZ Human Resources Adviser Lyndsey Gilbert says the department's involvement in the scholarship scheme pays big dividends for both parties and is an important part of LINZ's Responsiveness to Maori Strategy.

"On one level, our involvement has helped LINZ consolidate and grow its Maori networks. Consultation with Maori is a very important part of what we do," she says.

"And on an individual level, the department benefits from the unique experience and perspectives of our scholarship recipients when they are working with us in vacation jobs. It's hard to quantify this benefit, but it's certainly an important one."

Vacation work within LINZ is provided in a range of areas, including Policy, Legal, Crown Property Management, the Geographic Board and others.



Former scholarship recipient Haylee Putaranui is now a full-time employee at LINZ.

The links with scholarship recipients can turn into more permanent ones. Former scholarship recipient **Haylee Putaranui** used the funds to help complete the final year of her BA/LLB degree at Waikato University in 2001. Haylee spent time as a vacation worker in the LINZ National

Office, and since graduating has joined the department full time as a Help Desk Technical Advisor in the Hamilton regional office.

This year LINZ has two Mauriora ki te Ao scholars.

Kathleen Belshaw (Ngati Awa and Ngati Tuwharetoa descent) completed a Bachelor of Social Science at the University of Waikato last year, and is this year enrolled in a Post Graduate Diploma in Resources and Environmental Planning.

Melissa Derby (Ngati Ranginui and Ngai Tamarawaho descent) is studying for a Bachelor of Arts in Maori Resource Management at Victoria University.

Since the scheme began in 1998 LINZ has sponsored six scholars. The first of these, Atareiria Heihei, completed a Bachelor of Applied Science in 2000 and is now a heritage adviser with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust in Kerikeri.

Applicants are assessed according to their area of study and academic history, their personal qualities, their iwi, hapu and Maori involvement, and their departmental job potential.

Lyndsey says the department has injected fresh energy into the scheme. "We have produced a new brochure about the scheme and have just mailed 170 iwi and tertiary education organisations with information on how to apply. It is also possible for applications to be made online."

Lyndsey's enthusiasm is shared by Te Herekiele Herewini, Senior Adviser, Maori, with the Ministry of Research Science and Technology. "It has been exciting to see the scholars progressing well in their studies and actively participating in science and matauranga Maori. In this regard this scholarship has been extremely successful," he says.

Applications for 2003 scholarships close on 31 October. The application form can be downloaded from the internet at: <http://www.linz.govt.nz/mauriora>

At a glance

- ◆ LINZ has taken over administration of the Mauriora ki te Ao scholarship, which began in 1998
- ◆ The scholarships are for Maori studying towards tertiary qualifications in natural resource management and science
- ◆ The scheme is supported by MAF, LINZ, MFE, MORST and the Ministry of Fisheries
- ◆ The scholarships benefit both LINZ and the recipients
- ◆ The department has awarded six scholarships to date, including two this year
- ◆ Applications for 2003 scholarships close on 31 October.

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SOUTH ISLAND CONVERSION COMPLETE

Surveyors in the Mainland will be pleased to hear that survey conversion is now complete for the South Island. The final Christchurch area was uploaded on 18 August. So far, 433,816 parcels have been converted into **Landonline**. This represents just under one-third of the 1.35 million parcels (approximately 70% of existing parcel boundaries) selected for conversion.

Survey conversion began in March 2000 and involves taking the existing Digital Cadastral Database (DCDB) data and adjusting the boundary bearings and distances using survey data captured from survey plans.

The good news is that not only is the South Island complete but the conversion project is increasing in speed as it works its way up the country. The capture team at EDS responsible for converting survey parcels into **Landonline** is currently processing an average of 10,000 parcels per week. This is expected to rise to a peak of 15,000 parcels per week by November this year.

“Making one seamless map of everything” has been a steep learning curve for the staff at EDS, including LINZ Quality Assurance staff who are assisting EDS with the conversion effort. Survey Quality Assurance Analyst Aaron Holmwood who moved from the LINZ Blenheim office to assist with survey conversion admits, “We’ve learnt lots since day one.”

Aaron says it is important to appreciate the enormity of the task; connecting all surveys from the 1800s to the present day, coping not only with regional variations but different regulations from successive Surveyor-Generals and the even more divergent interpretations of these rules from surveyors.



LINZ Survey Quality Assurance analysts Kevin Power and Beverly Fletcher at work on survey conversion.

“One land district may have over one hundred years of surveys, all with different regulations, and we’re trying to make it all conform to one set of rules so it can fit into **Landonline**... it’s been an interesting challenge!”

There are over 150 survey capture staff working at EDS and the majority have been trained from scratch. Those with prior survey experience still needed to find their way around a new computer system.

With conversion in the South Island complete, work has begun on the North Island, beginning in the Wellington Land District.

While areas are being converted, they are “frozen” meaning that new survey plans affecting the areas cannot be approved in **Landonline** during that time.

Information about “freeze areas” is provided to surveyors in advance to enable them to co-ordinate and prioritise their work around the conversion schedule.

Upper Hutt has already been completed. Miramar, the final Wellington freeze area, is scheduled for completion on 3 November 2002. Following Wellington, survey conversion will concentrate on Kapiti, Palmerston North, Wanganui, Wairarapa, Napier and Gisborne. LINZ is currently identifying the areas that are affected by high survey activity to enable the sequence of conversion to be confirmed for the remaining districts. A decision on the next region will be made after an analysis of activity in these areas.

TITLES CONVERTED

It's not just survey conversion that's celebrating. The conversion of the 1.8 million live titles that began in Dunedin back in April 2000 was completed on Friday 19 July, effectively marking the end of the titles conversion project.

The titles conversion project has involved a huge effort by a great many people. At its height there were 235 people working at the EDS facility in Trentham. A handful of titles staff are still on site to process the remaining 14,000 instruments (900,000 have already been imaged and loaded into **Landonline**) and the last of the 1.2 million cancelled titles. The final task is to reconcile the titles index with what actually went into **Landonline**. The clean-up work should be completed in September - this is the real lights-out date for titles conversion - although survey conversion continues until December 2003.

LINZ WEBSITE GEARED UP FOR LINK TO GOVERNMENT PORTAL

LINZ website administrators are cautiously optimistic that the site's revamp earlier this year has met with the approval of its many visitors. More than 3,000 people a week access the LINZ home page.

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Web Manager Tim Housden says feedback has been generally low key but positive. "We haven't had a great volume of feedback, and that in itself indicates that people have settled quickly into the new format."

But they are not taking things for granted. "We think we've hit the mark, but we will be seeking more audience-specific, structured feedback. Online questionnaires will be one method of gleaning this, but we'll also be installing more sophisticated tools for analysing the way people move around the LINZ website."

The drop-off in generalised enquiries is another indication that people are finding their way around more easily.

While the revamp has been a success, Tim acknowledges there is always room for improvement, and refinements are being made as required. One such change was to create a direct link from the home page to the Publications section – a small change but one that reduced the amount of "drilling down" required to reach the right information.

The changes have not been made in isolation. The design of LINZ's website has been modelled on the requirements of the E-government Unit Web Guidelines (part of the overall E-government Strategy), which is mirrored in the department's own *Virtual Agency Strategy*, or *Moving to eLINZ*. Because LINZ is such an information-driven organisation, the department has been at the forefront in many areas when it comes to making information available online.

Tim Housden says that the department's compliance with the guidelines is kept under constant review. Areas such as accessibility, cost effectiveness and the ability of citizens to participate in government are permanent benchmarks for LINZ's information delivery.

This also requires close alignment with the soon-to-be launched Government Portal, a single-point of access to government information and services (see below). The portal will give structured access to all government websites with the accent on the public's requirements rather than the composition of government agencies.

Tim Housden notes that the bulk of people who need to access information or interact with LINZ online are land professionals, who are generally already "well-connected" to LINZ databases such as **Landonline**. However, the department has a commitment to make information more widely accessible in line with the E-government strategy. The Government Portal will underpin and extend the department's information reach to all New Zealanders – not just the specialists.

"We are to be featured on the portal, and in the leadup to its launch we are working to ensure that what we deliver will be linked seamlessly to what is on the portal."

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GATEWAY TO GOVERNMENT

The revamp of LINZ's website is just part of a much bigger initiative to connect people more effectively with government information and services. The Minister of State Services, Hon Trevor Mallard will soon be launching the Government Portal, a website gateway to the on and offline services of around 90 government organisations.

Andrea Gray is Relationship Manager with the State Services Commission's E-government Unit, which is responsible for the development of the portal.

She says visitors to the site will be able to find information in a number of ways. "There will be topic entries, an A-Z listing of government organisations and a full text search engine, as well as a gateway for services delivered specifically to Maori," she says.

"Because the portal is user focused, a single enquiry could yield information from a number of different sources. For example,

someone enquiring about student loans could be given links to the Ministries of Education and Social Development, Inland Revenue and eventually perhaps the universities themselves.

"Each participating department has used a government locator service standard for discovery level metadata so that there will be consistency across the board. We have provided the tools and training for this and will continue to do so."

Further out, Andrea says, there will be potential to extend the range of the government portal. Local government is already involved, and the portal is expected eventually to connect people directly to local government services in their area. Other agencies such as the wider net of Crown entities, universities and district health boards are also expected to be linked to the portal in future.

The address for the Government Portal website will be **www.govt.nz**

ESA DATA IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME GAINING TRACTION

How would you describe, say, a pencil? Even if your conversational skills are modest, it's not a hard ask – a few carefully chosen words should do it. But for a computer, it's a different ball game. These machines have to be told everything. Making sure a computer could reproduce identical descriptions of a simple pencil requires pages and pages of code, and very clear data standards.

It's one of the reasons why computers are a long way from taking over our world, and it's one of the reasons why so much thought needs to go into data sharing.

There are literally dozens of government-run databases, many of which describe the same things in different ways. In the case of geospatial information, this could have disastrous consequences – for example if two different emergency services were using incompatible databases to locate, say an isolated accident site.

It is this need to ensure the integrity of data used for 'common location identifiers' – geographic indicators like property addresses or landmarks - that has provided some of the impetus for the Emergency Services and Government Administration (ESA) spatial data improvement programme.

The ESA Project Manager is Richard Murcott. While conceding that the intricacies of data modelling are not everyone's cup of tea, Richard is nonetheless enthusiastic about the potential benefits of this programme. In layman's terms, the ESA data standard prescribes the way to describe "real-world things in a language that computers can understand".

At a glance

- ◆ LINZ has developed a data standard for the way location information is described in geospatial information systems
- ◆ The standard is designed primarily for the databases used by emergency services, but can also be used in other areas of government administration
- ◆ The standard is receiving wide spread support by government agencies, and is being used as a reference by Transit New Zealand for one of its own data management projects.

onto the same base," Richard says. "For example, the Fire Service needs to know not only where particular places are, but what routes can be used by their heavy vehicles for access."

It is also designed to underpin other government administration functions such as the registration of electors or the gathering and analysis of national statistics. The key for all applications is interoperability - the ability for computer systems to be able to talk to each other and share data unambiguously.

"Geospatial information has a role in many government activities and databases," he explains. "Inevitably some of these have developed in isolation and are not based on common data standards."

The ESA programme has been initially focused around the requirements for emergency services to be speaking the same language when it comes to identifying specific locations. "The data standard will enable the various agencies to overlay their own specialist data

"The trend towards open source code in software development reflects what we're doing," Richard says. "With open source code, programming tools are made available free of charge and software developers encouraged to use them for their own applications. The ESA data standard is being developed in the same spirit - it will be free for government agencies and the rest of the community to use as a standard for their own geospatial data."

Currently the data standard is being used within LINZ to investigate the quality of existing LINZ data. Richard says that even within the department, different databases have different ways of describing places.

"In a cadastral database you might find legally defined 'paper' roads that don't actually exist. In a topographic database you could find roads that actually exist (such as some forestry roads) but which don't have legal status. The data standard will help address these kinds of issues."

The ESA data standard has been agreed to by an interagency steering committee and has been welcomed by the wider state sector.

Richard says a submission is now being prepared for the State Services Commissioner that would make the ESA data standard part of the E-government Interoperability Framework (eGIF). This would make it a mandatory consideration for all government agencies modifying or building information systems involving location data.

And there are signs that the standard is being adopted. Transit New Zealand is referring to the standard for its own Location Referencing Management System (LRMS) project, a hub for its asset information system.

Dave Robertson, Transit's Asset Management Systems Engineer, says that although the ESA data standards require a greater resolution in the data model to that required for the LRMS centreline information, work is being done to avoid inconsistencies with the ESA standard.



Transit New Zealand is ensuring its Location Referencing Management System is consistent with the ESA standard.

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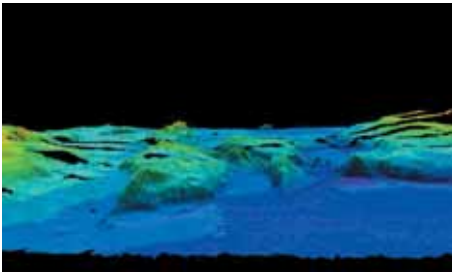
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NUMBER CRUNCHING TIME FOR CONTINENTAL SHELF PROJECT

The action is now returning to dry land for the Government project to define the boundaries of New Zealand's continental shelf. LINZ is leading the technical aspects of the project and will provide a series of reports and supporting geographical information to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade so the Ministry can present New Zealand's continental shelf territorial claim to the United Nations by 2006.



A 'bird' being attached to the streamer which is towed behind the survey ship during low fold seismic survey work. The birds help regulate the streamer's depth.



Multibeam data in the Bollons Seamount region.

For those involved at the 'wet' end of the project, the wrap-up of the survey work could be welcome news. According to LINZ Project Leader Russell Turner the last low-fold seismic survey carried out in May and June on the *RV Tangaroa* was done in some of the roughest weather ever experienced by the team.

The only sea work remaining is one more rock dredging survey to be carried out in October or November. Russell says the *RV Sonne* will dredge to a depth of

up to 5000 metres in the Colville Ridge area to the northeast of New Zealand near Raoul Island.

"What we're looking for is evidence of continental rock, as opposed to typical oceanic rock normally found beyond the continental shelf. If we find rocks of continental nature in the dredge samples, that will help build the evidence we are gathering on the extent of our continental shelf."

The dredging, which complements the seismic and other data gathering, has also been carried out on the Campbell Plateau, Resolution Ridge, Chatham Rise and Bollons Seamount areas. Russell says that the analysis of samples brought up to the surface sometimes yields equivocal results, but in some areas

they have helped confirm that New Zealand's continental shelf extends well beyond the borders of its 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone.

The Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences is carrying out the geological interpretation of the dredge samples, with some of the sample analyses being carried out in overseas laboratories which can take up to eight months.

Russell says the focus is now swinging towards the data analysis and report writing. "The surveys have revealed six areas within the continental margins, for which separate reports will be prepared.

"Only one continental shelf submission has been made to the UN so far – from the Russian Federation – so we're breaking new ground in terms of how to prepare our case," Russell says. "We will be presenting both hard copy and digital copies of the reports, including sophisticated graphics. The process will be thoroughly documented – we will be showing the methodologies used and QA information to underline the integrity of what we're saying."

The New Zealand team is working closely with its Australian counterparts to help ensure a coordinated approach when the respective countries make their submissions. Australia is likely to put its submission to the UN in 2004 with New Zealand following in 2006.

The UN has recently extended the deadline for submission of New Zealand's case to 2009. Russell says that while this extension relieves some pressure on the programme, it is still geared towards a 2006 delivery date.

At a glance

- ◆ The data gathering phase of the Continental Shelf project is all but complete
- ◆ The work has included rock dredging to provide geological evidence supporting New Zealand's territorial claim to the continental shelf zone under the surrounding ocean
- ◆ The reports on the continental shelf will be divided into six zones
- ◆ MFAT will present the New Zealand case once the technical work and report writing have been completed
- ◆ The 2006 deadline has been extended to 2009 but we are still working towards the earlier date.



Aboard the RV Melville.

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TURANGI STREAM NEGOTIATES NEW COURSE

As you turn west off State Highway 1 at the small central North Island town of Turangi there are plenty of distractions ahead. You could divert over the Saddle Road to the Ruapehu skifields; there is the impressive Tokaanu power station and tailrace; inviting thermal baths lie a few kilometres ahead – and beyond that is the majestic Lake Taupo.

So chances are you won't notice the small, almost invisible stream that runs alongside State Highway 41 before meandering off towards the lake and disappearing into a small wetland beside the Tokaanu tailrace. Unless there's been some heavy rain, that is.

The Hangarito Stream, innocuous most of the time, has developed the habit of flooding surrounding farmland during the winter rains. The floods are a legacy of the massive engineering work of the 1960s that transformed Turangi from a sleepy hamlet into a Ministry of Works town, and host to the nearby Tokaanu power scheme.

from private property to securing the proper legal status of new roading.

The preferred engineering option for managing the flooding problem was actually arrived at quite quickly, by 1997. The stream would be deepened and diverted into the Tokaanu tailrace canal, and a silt trap built upstream near the township. This would help prevent future silting up, and protect water quality.



The Hangarito stream near Turangi: silting up causes flooding of the adjacent land.

At a glance

- The Hangarito Stream near Turangi was diverted during work on the Tokaanu power scheme in the 1960s
- Because of silting through lack of cleaning out, this now causes periodic flooding on adjacent farmland
- LINZ is managing the process of resolving this problem
- The preferred option involves deepening the stream, diverting it into the tailrace canal and building a silt trap
- There has been extensive consultation with affected parties, an environment impact report and peer reviews completed
- All parties now support the preferred option including additional safeguards
- The resource consent application to carry out the scheme work is now being considered
- It is important to resolve issues like this correctly and transfer responsibility for the stream to the appropriate authority.

As part of the work, the stream was diverted. Instead of flowing into the larger Tokaanu Stream it now stays north of the highway. With the gradual build-up of silt since the last clean out over 25 years ago, the adjoining land becomes subject to periodic flooding.

Because the government organisations responsible for the original work - the former Ministry of Works and Development and ECNZ – now no longer exist, the task of negotiating a successful outcome has been allocated to LINZ's Crown Property Management group. Since its involvement in the mid 1990s, LINZ has worked with all parties to patiently negotiate a solution for the flooding to the stream.

The flooding problems are the subject of three ancillary claims included in the Ancillary Claims Deed as part of the Ngati Turangitukua Treaty of

Waitangi Settlement. Shaking out of the Claims Deed are more than 30 unresolved issues stemming from the transformation of Turangi into its present form. These ancillary claims range from compensation for the removal of pumice

The six affected landowners, and LINZ, were also happy with the concept. However there were more parties involved, and over the past five years, LINZ has been working through the correct processes of consultation and negotiation to ensure all consequences of the proposed work have been covered.

Graham Williams, Portfolio Manager with LINZ Crown Property Management, says the Department of Conservation raised a number of environmental and cultural questions about the planned work, which needed to be addressed.

A proposed resource consent application to the Environment Waikato Regional Council was sent to all interested parties - the landowners, DoC, the Tuwharetoa Trust Board, Taupo District Council, Transit New Zealand, Genesis Power and the Ancillary Claims Committee - as part of the consultation process.

"I'm happy to say that all parties supported the thrust of the proposal," Graham says. "Some additional safeguards have been added, but the original preferred option is still being pursued."

The final resource consent application was filed with Environment Waikato's Taupo office in March. Graham is not sure how long the resource consent process will take, but he's quietly confident that a project he started working on nearly 6 years ago is moving towards a satisfactory resolution.

"We want to be absolutely certain that the problem is fully resolved, and the Crown is able to transfer responsibility for the future control and maintenance of this drain to the appropriate authority. I think we'll achieve that."

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