

## need your road/drive graded?

I have been negotiating with a grader contractor to get the Farm Road graded with improved camber and water tables/run-off. Is anyone interested in having their driveway done whilst the grader machine is here? This is a once in a ten year opportunity. Please get back to me in the next couple of weeks. The more people who are interested the better our chances of making it financially viable for the grader contractor and ourselves. Please ring 8128078 for Tracey Schubert.

## Next Landcare Day / Sunday 09 March

March Landcare vigilante weeding day meets at the carpark at 10am:

**Pampas (Cutty Grass) - *Cortaderia selloana* and *Cortaderia jubata*.** Pampas, one of the larger members of the grass family, is an introduced plant from South America which is a very efficient coloniser and can eventually replace native plants on wetlands, sand dunes, stream banks, coastal cliffs and roadsides, it can also invade pasture and gardens. The large clumps which form can harbour vermin and increase fire risk. The wind blown seeds can cause respiratory problems. Both types of pampas are to be found in Karekare. The purple pampas (*C. jubata*), shown below, is the most prolific, particularly in the Auckland area, and therefore, is the worst problem. It has the pinky/purple flowers and is to be seen on roadsides and in large clumps



Recent picture taken in sanddunes on northern end of beach 01 March 2003

at the beach, a lot at the north end and up around the waterfall, where there have been slips, and in some places on Lone Kauri Farm where bush has been cleared.

**Status:** National Surveillance Plant Pest. Banned from sale, propagation and distribution throughout New Zealand. Land occupiers are encouraged to control existing plantings, but without legal obligation to do so.

**Landcare group's action :** The Landcare group have targeted pampas once a year when the seed heads have been removed – mostly in the beach area. The more volunteers who turn up, the bigger the area we can cover. The pampas grass is flowering and going to seed now, so this is the time to get out and cut seed heads off and destroy any plants on your property or anywhere on roadsides or reserves.

**How to tell the difference between pampas and the native toi-toi:** The native Toi-toi, shown here, belong to the same genus as pampas grass – *Cortaderia* (from the Spanish – cortadero – something that cuts!), but it is not hard to tell the difference. Note the way these flower heads curve or droop – whereas pampas (see above) are very upright. For other differences and information see the Landcare section of the Karekare website, or turn up for a demonstration on 9 March! Weed bags available from Caroline Grove (8128-760).



Native Toi-toi grass

**Karekare Landcare** meets the second Sunday of each month at 10am to tackle weeding or planting projects according to the season. Come and meet some locals, and become familiar with

the special native plants in our area. For more information on other and coming conservation projects see the Landcare section on Karekare website: [www.karekare.org.nz/landcare](http://www.karekare.org.nz/landcare)

## FIRST RESPONSE

First Response volunteers have been attending many accidents lately on the Piha Road, there have been numerous summer accidents that have kept the team very busy, so drive carefully...

A big thankyou especially from CherieCollis to Karel & Rebecca Witten-Hannah and Paul Buchanon of First Response for attending a 2.30am call-out on the 20th January.

The first response team can be contacted in an emergency via a pager system from St John's Ambulance. They respond to calls on the Piha Road and in Piha itself as well.

### If you need help:

1. Phone 111
2. Ask for ambulance
3. Keep calm. Be clear
4. Tell them where (the incident is)
5. Tell them who (you are and your phone number)
6. Tell them what (has happened)

The First Response Team will respond to all calls but sometimes we are out of the area. For emergencies dial 111, for other enquiries: Rebecca Witten-Hannah Ph 8128863.



Fire restriction season still in force

Call Kevin on 812 8153 for information.  
Call 111 in an emergency.



# billboard news/march

## KKRRT update/news

The last committee meeting of the Trust was a more informal affair than usual with presentations on Canyoning, ARC separate rating, and plans for a Kawerau o Maki commemorative carving to be erected in the Kare Kare carpark. Briefly then for those who couldn't make the meeting:

**Canyoning:** Julien Senamaud presented information and a video on his adventure business on Cowan stream and in the Corimandel. Julien was well received by the meeting and is clearly a professional operator with a love and understanding of the Kare Kare environment. Submissions on CanyoNZ application to continue their operation on the same basis as the past three years will be accepted up until 4:30pm, Wednesday 5th March 2003. It was clear to the meeting that the environmental impact of CanyoNZ activities on Cowan stream is less than that of the combined effect of other unpermitted users and of nature herself (floods!) There are a variety of views about the role and extent of commercial activity on parkland, and the meeting

learned that the ARC takes ten percent of the turnover from this sort of commercial activity as a fee.

**Rating:** Like it or lump it, new legislation on the funding of regional councils means that they are no longer able to have city councils collect rates for them and remit them on; they must now levy their own rates directly. That means that from July this year we will receive a separate WCC rates bills and ARC rates bill. (And, as Forrest Gump would say 'that's all I want to say about that!') Seriously though, the options for how it will work are many and complex and consultation on the matter is happening over March and April. So, if you want to know more than Forrest (and/or get involved and have your say) you can visit <http://www.arc.govt.nz/arc/about-arc/regional-rates/>

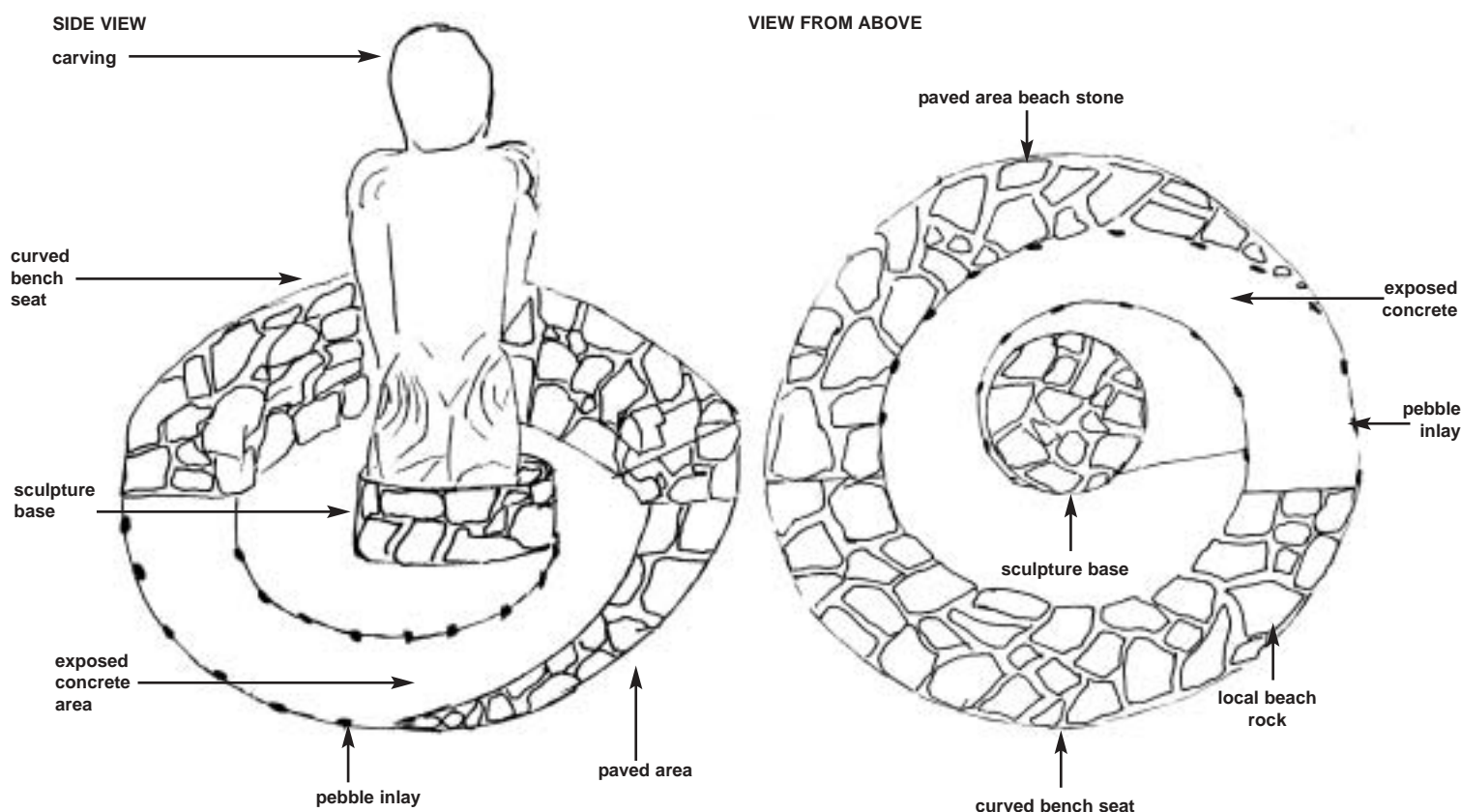
**Carving:** Andy Pederson (ARC Ranger) reported on plans for the placing of a Kawerau o Maki commemorative carving and circular stone seat down at the beach carpark about 10 metres north-west of the steel gate to the beach (near the stream, tucked away with the

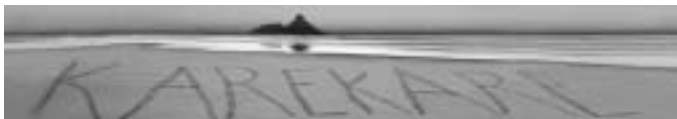
Pohutakawa and Karo tree there). The 'opening' and blessing for the carving are set for 30 March 2003 subject to carving completion. A sketch drawing of the concept (all the stone will be west-coast sourced) is below, and more information about arrangements for its installing and 'opening'/blessing will be circulated locally as it becomes available.

**AGM:** A reminder again that the AGM will be held 7.30pm Friday April 11th at the Fire Station. We are asking that members get nominations for committee and officers (nomination forms attached), and any remits, into the secretary by the end of March. That gives us time to circulate nominations, bios (one-to-two hundred words) and remits in advance of the meeting eleven days later. There will be a number of committee members retiring this year so if you are keen to be involved, get in a nomination. Generally, KKRRT is interesting and fun (No Tricking!); committee membership comes highly recommended.

Regards *David Munro*, KKRRT Chair  
8128696  
[david.munro@tmp.com](mailto:david.munro@tmp.com)

## Plans for the Kawerau o Maki commemorative carving





# billboard news/march

## weed bins arriving soon

We hope to be getting a bin or two from Keep Waitakere Beautiful, they will be here from mid-March to mid-April. This is part of their War on Weeds campaign, the bins are for weeds you cannot safely compost. So start weeding now, if you need bags to collect them in contact Caroline Grove ph.8128 760



## wedding belles

Congratulations to Tania & Rob Hammond who managed to survive the rain and continue with the vows. The ceremony was officiated by Karel Witten-Hannah on the beach on 01 March. Good luck and best wishes to Vanessa Ferguson's daughter Louisa this coming weekend when she weds Paul Riddell in the Glade.

All residents and ratepayers of Karekare are invited to attend the

**KKRRT AGM Friday 11 April 2003**  
7.30pm at the Fire Station, Farm Road

All nominations for committee and officers to be handed into the secretary by 31 March 2003

Jacqui Madeline 3 Waikarekare Lane  
enquiries: 8128525 or jacmad@xtra.co.nz

## why remove the lilies? & notes from last Landcare Day

Thanks to the faithful few plus two new faces and Shannon the new temporary ranger, much was achieved and the ranger's truck went away full of nasties. Cutting agapanthus heads was much easier than in previous years as the message is spreading - Gills have done a great job getting rid of many of their plants and others had already removed many of the heads. So, although it was disappointing that on the day none of those helping us, on the beach and in the valley, were residents of the valley, we could see that some had already been on the job. Lilies, agapanthus, wachendorfia (the tall yellow flower spikes, migrating down the stream from the top of the valley) , were removed from the beach.



became a pest. An environmental weed is one which threatens to dominate a particular habitat and thereby take the place of native plants. There are a number of native coastal plants found only on this part of the west coast, their survival is threatened by introduced weeds. In Karekare, we all live surrounded by parkland, forest and beach, our very presence threatens the integrity of the native habitat, lets do our best not to trash it. Not spreading our weeds is just one way. Most of the weeds in the parkland, beach and roadsides have come originally from somebody's garden.

### Why remove the lilies and what makes a plant an unwelcome weed?

In Karekare we are fortunate to live surrounded by the Waitakere Ranges, which is a unique patch of regenerating kauri rain-forest. Despite the best attempts of the pioneer settlers a hundred years ago, who felled and burnt a lot of what was left, the forest is regrowing with amazing determination. Karekare is not yet seriously invaded by exotic weeds. Do we want to try and keep it that way? Do you care? If you want to see how bad it could get, you only have to look from the road as you get close to Titirangi. Many of the plants now recognised as nuisance weeds are attractive flowers which keen gardeners had introduced and nurtured originally and then later came to be regarded as pests. These exotic plants found conditions in NZ so much to their liking that they multiplied to a point that they

**Lilies, what harm do they do?** The lilies have been slowly spreading their way up Lone Kauri Road for many years – for most of the 30 years I have been here – a problem maybe, but developing slowly. BUT, the lilies on the beach have spread at an alarming rate, they have only been growing on the sand dunes for three or four years and now cover a large area. A few more years at the same rate, and they could be over all the sand dunes and spreading down the coast to Whatipu. Any plant that spreads that quickly must be a concern. We cannot tell whether the lilies on the dunes will continue to spread at the same rate but it seems highly likely, sand dunes obviously suit them perfectly. If we don't attempt to remove them now we could be faced with a much harder job in a few years time. A recent weed survey by the ARC had this to say:

*Christmas Lily Containment – Control should be continued on the worst infestation on the dunes to reduce its spread, could be a problem if it gets south to Whatipu. Eradication – Will require a sustained effort. by Caroline Grove*

## view from above

Ted Scott will be doing aerial photography Pihā/Karekare area in the next few months. This would be a good opportunity to have aerial pics of your property at very cheap rates. Give him a call for details. Tel 8128859. email:tedscott@clear.net.nz