Catchment Restoration
Pauatahanui

Peter Handford
PA Handford & Associates Ltd
Introduction

• Overview
• Progress to date
• The Future
Pauatahanui Catchment
Vegetation Framework

Overview
Origins of the Catchment Programme

- Pauatahanui Inlet Action Plan (2001)
  - Theme 3: Pauatahanui Inlet Catchment


- Towards
  - Catchment level approach.
  - Focus on the large rural catchments
Project Purpose & Scope

- Vegetation Frameworks for Freshwater Management

- Pauatahanui Basin – Rural

- Support improved vegetation cover and management across the rural catchment to benefit water quality and much more…

- Key point in Pauatahanui Inlet Action Plan

- Stage 3 restoration plan

- 2005/06
Supported by research

• Research in 2005 by NIWA examining sediment cores found sedimentation rates in the order of 4.6 mm/yr (pre forest clearance rates were around 1mm/yr)

• Recent accurate bathymetric survey suggests this an underestimate

• Major sediment input apparently coming from large rural catchments e.g. Horokiri.
Catchment Vegetation is Key

- Particular focus on catchment vegetation and the benefits it provides e.g.:
  - Stabilising steep slopes
  - Stabilising streambanks
  - Shading & keeping water cool
  - Filtering sediment and contaminants

- Many other benefits to landowners & the wider community

- Practical & tangible aspect of ICM

- Can be modified relatively quickly
Working with landowners

- Work with and support landowners
- Developed from catchment landowners input
- Planting, land retirement etc that benefits landowners and benefits the wider community
- Provide a future catchment that sustains the Porirua Harbour system and its communities
- Voluntary, non regulatory
General Principles

- Information and understanding is required first. Good objective info about the land etc
  - Made available to community in an accessible way – maps, images etc
General Principles (cont)

- Develop a broad community consensus
  - Based on information – an informed debate

- Provide practical help / support on the ground to move land management in the agreed direction.
The Process

• Prepare information – maps etc for discussions with landowners.

• Landowner consultation
  – Meetings with major landowners
  – Mail out to all landowners
  – Drop in meetings

• Draft vegetation framework

• Feedback

• Framework Poster

• Implementation
• Steepland soil protection
• Earthworks management
• Coordinated weed & animal pest control
• Minimising contamination
• Flood channel planning
• Flood channel maintenance
• Streamside planting & protection
Implementation

- Property Plans
  - Framework actions at a property level

- Coordinator
  - Working with landowners – “one door” to agency support
  - Facilitating landowner projects
  - Independent

- Catchment agency coordination
  - Land protection forum – on ground managers
  - Catchment Agency Group – strategic
Vegetation Framework
-Catchment Overview

Subcatchment or farm Plan

Work Unit
Action on Ground
Pauatahanui Catchment Vegetation Framework

Update on Progress So Far
Landowner Contacts & Support

• Over the 05/06 period of the project
  – Initial mail out to all approx 500 rural landowners
  – Direct contacts or response with 99 landowners (20%)
  – 49 landowners (10%) at drop in days.

• Focussed support where landowners are interested in immediate involvement – to get initial work programme underway.
Property Planning

- Whole farm plans for larger properties
- Work unit plans for smaller property areas
- 2300 ha of land included in property plans
- 21% of the catchment area.
Support

• Property planning and work unit planning provided to any landowner where:
  • Steep unstable land, streams, biodiversity values
  • Landowner is committed to implementing work
  • Land links logically with other project work

• Further support is provided where property scores highly in terms of points, and significant size, or part of group plan
Farm Plan Example – The Glen
The Glen – Work Units
Subcatchment Groups
Subcatchment groups cont – Lower Horokiri

- Battle Hill to the Inlet
- Approx 5km
- Approx 40 owners
- Started focus 08/09
- Working with 9 owners
- Around 1km fenced and/or planted 2009.
- Coordinated planning and work
Action on the Ground

Supporting landowner action

• Initial programme 2007
  – 4000 Plants
  – 700m of fence
  – 4 properties
  – Early demonstration projects
• 2008
  – 7,500 Plants
  – 1,150m of fence
  – 5 properties
• 2009
  – 25,500 Plants
    • 10,500 riparian
    • 15,000 afforestation
  – 950m of fence
  – 12 properties
Barrowside
Successful Funding Bids

• Leveraging off GW & PCC support
• SMF Support for catchment coordination for 2 years 2007 - 2009
• Biodiversity Condition Fund
• AGS
Communication

- Catchment newsletter
- Landowner open day
Looking Forward
Looking forward

Ongoing work – but reduced coord funding

• Continue current general approach
  – Property planning
  – Fencing & planting programme

• Upper catchment
  – Afforestation
  – Retirement
  – Carbon opportunities
  – Supporting forest harvest best practice
    • Harvest planning
    • Operational management
Looking forward (cont)

• Horokiri – Inlet to Battle Hill
• Battle Hill SLM plan projects
• Lower Horokiri
• Building scale and sustaining funding
• Continuing to reduce costs
• Keeping the community part of what is happening