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- ≈ **Rivers Group Fellow of IPENZ** Our belated congratulations to Dr Graeme Smart on his nomination as a Fellow of IPENZ
- ≈ **Rainfall and Runoff Guideline** The idea of establishing a national rainfall-runoff guideline gains momentum.
- ≈ **Conference Update** Rivers Group involvement at the 2012 Stormwater Conference.

FROM THE CHAIR

Mark Pennington, Chairman of the Rivers Group

This is a shortened newsletter, aimed at publication before our up-coming symposium. Following this the subsequent newsletters will revert back to being full-length with a number of feature articles of interest and relevance to members.

Members will notice a new name for the group Chairman, and it is with regret that I advise all members that our previous Chairman, Associate Professor Stephen Coleman, has had to step down from his role on our committee. I have filled this position until our AGM, scheduled for December, at which time a new chair may be elected.

On behalf of the Rivers Group Committee I would like to sincerely thank Stephen for his enthusiasm and leadership through our first two years of existence. He has been a tower of strength and, together with several other key members of the committee, has successfully established the Rivers Group as a recognised and respected technical interest group in the New Zealand forum.

I would like to assure Stephen that all of his good work has provided a solid foundation for us, and that he leaves the group in dedicated hands.

I would like to remind all members that nominations for the committee are able to be received until Friday 18 November 2011. If interested, members should send a 50-word summary of their experience, involvement and relevant interests to Sharyn Westlake, along with a supporting nomination from another committee member. Email to: Sharyn.Westlake@gw.govt.nz.

Since our last newsletter the Rivers Group has been active in organisation of several events for members. Many of these are reported on in this newsletter, so read on!

Hopefully we will see a great turnout of members at our annual symposium in Wellington. The day looks set to be interesting, stimulating and thought-provoking and will provide attendees with great networking opportunities. The committee has worked hard to keep costs down, with a significant discount being offered to members. Please come along and join us for the symposium, AGM and for the dinner that will follow the day's proceedings. If you can't spare the whole day but will be in Wellington, we invite you to join us for the dinner only, which begins at 7pm.

As usual the committee invites members to make contact and get involved. You will notice that our website has recently been revamped, and contains numerous useful links including email addresses of committee members. Please get in touch! ≈

RIVERS GROUP 2ND ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM 2011

Reflecting on the future

When: Monday 5 December 2011

Where: Mac's Function Centre, Shed 22, corner of Taranaki and Cable Streets on the Wellington Waterfront

The second Annual Rivers Group Symposium will be held in Wellington on Monday 5 December 2011.

The symposium will run from 08:30 through to 17:45, with an optional social function and dinner following. The event will involve presentations by invited speakers and the Rivers Group Annual General Meeting will also be held in the afternoon. The keynote presentation will be given by Professor Tim Davies from the Department of Geological Sciences, University of Canterbury, and entitled "Floods: not just cumecs". This will explore the interaction between floods and river geomorphology.

Other invited presentations will cover flood vulnerability in the face of possible future climate change effects, the historical impacts on people of floods in the Hutt River and the effects of past river management practices, case studies on the rehabilitation and restoration of rivers and streams in the Hawke's Bay, Manawatu and Wellington Regions, and cultural health monitoring of streams. There will be representatives from local, regional and central government as well as practitioners, consultants, contractors, iwi, and interest groups.

With our event scheduled to dovetail with the 50th New Zealand Hydrological Society Conference, registrants will have the option of attending both events, and/or the Friday field trips to either Lake Wairarapa or the Hutt Valley and Waiwhetu Stream.

Registration for the Rivers Group 2nd Annual Symposium is currently open, and can be done via the IPENZ web page.

Please visit the web site <http://www.ipenz.org.nz/riversgroup/Symposuim2011/index.cfm> for this. ≈

THE CANTERBURY EARTHQUAKES AND OUR RIVERS

Tom Parsons, Rivers Group Committee

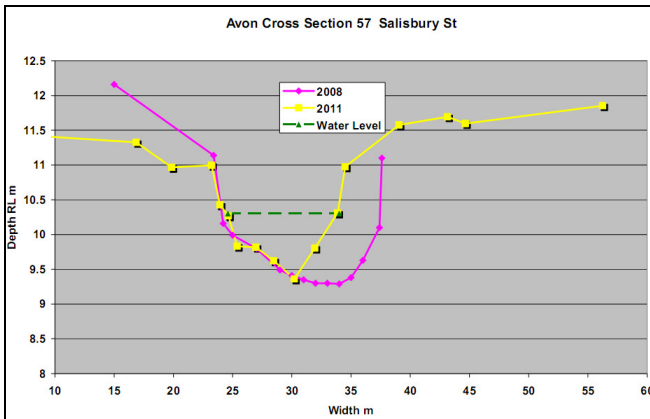
In the evening on Wednesday 21 September 2011 the Rivers Group and IPENZ Canterbury Branch hosted presentations on the effects of recent earthquakes on some Canterbury rivers and streams.

Nearly 100 people attended this, the first local Rivers Group event to be held in Canterbury, making it a huge success. The lively group enjoyed a drink and nibbles before the two presenters Ian Heslop (ECan) and Graham Harrington (CCC) gave an enlightening talk on the local rivers and how they and the authorities responded to the recent earthquakes.

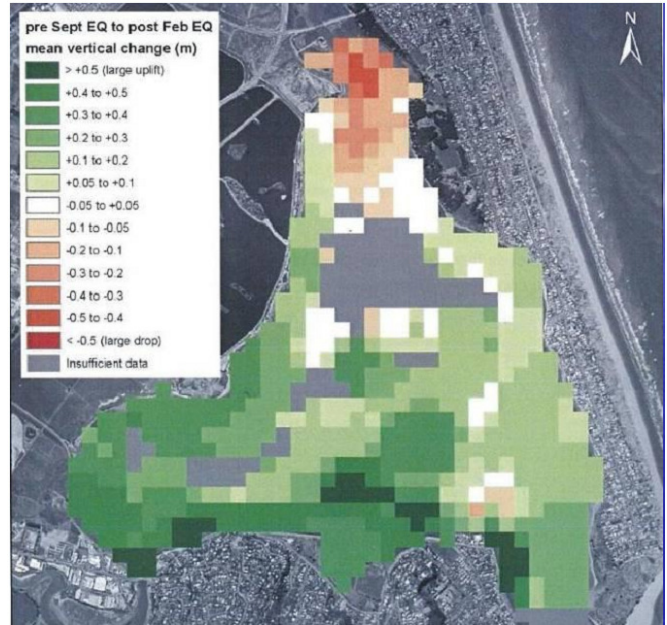
Mr Heslop gave insight into the way the Waimakariri and Kaiapoi River protection systems stood up (or otherwise) to the earthquakes and the repair strategy. He then discussed the Halswell River and the way the river has changed since September 2010.



The interested attendees then heard from Mr Harrington who gave a great pictorial and graphical presentation on the Christchurch urban watercourses. He showed the earthquake effects by bringing together a range of evidence, including photographs, water level records, cross section data and ecological study results.



Some good questions rounded out a great evening. The event was enjoyed by all and there is even talk of taking the presentation to the North Island so keep alert and watch your inbox!



Thanks to IPENZ Canterbury Branch for their joint sponsorship of this event. We look forward to furthering this collaborative relationship between our two organisations. ~

RIVERS GROUP MEMBER ELECTED FELLOW OF IPENZ



Graeme Smart is elected a Fellow of IPENZ for his contribution to the advancement of engineering knowledge. Graeme has been involved in research in river mechanics, sediment transport and flood hazard prediction and mitigation and sediment transport. He has particular expertise in gravel-bed river behaviour under flood conditions and is a sought-after adviser to a number of regional councils. He is an author of the Smart-Jaeggi sediment transport equation for steep gravel-bed rivers, and has developed a flow meter suitable for rivers with high gravel and sediment loads. He also leads hazards research programmes.

RAINFALL-RUNOFF IN NZ – THE NEED FOR A NATIONAL GUIDELINE

Mark Pennington, Rivers Group Committee

In the past few weeks the Rivers Group have been involved in two presentations, one in Auckland and one in Rotorua, where the need for a national guideline for rainfall-runoff assessments has been examined. The initiative was sparked by the Rivers Group Committee in response to feedback from many of our members. The Modelling Special Interest Group under Water New Zealand has subsequently been involved, and together our groups intend to take things further.

The first event, held in Auckland in the evening of 18 October 2011 attracted almost 50 attendees. Presenters Ian Garside and Mark Pennington initially set the scene for a forum-type discussion, with active participation from those present. Many thanks to the event sponsors, the University of Auckland (venue) and DHI (drinks and nibbles). There was consensus amongst those there that there was a need for a guidance document on rainfall-runoff analysis, and it was recognised that the Australian Rainfall and Runoff document, currently being updated, was enviable.

A similar forum session on this topic was held during the Water New Zealand national conference in Rotorua. This was attended by some 20 or so people, and followed the same format as the Auckland event. While it was held during the final session in a long day, there was some robust participation in the discussion that followed, with a similar conclusion being reached in identification of a need for some national consensus in methods applied.

This is currently an active topic that the Rivers Group will progress. It is in its infancy, and outcomes and deliverables have not been fully scoped nor identified. Watch this space for further updates, and if you would like to contribute to the discussion and share your views on the topic, please contact the Rivers Group Committee. Email may be addressed to rivers.group@yahoo.co.nz.



CONFERENCE UPDATE

NZ Hydrological Society Conference



50th New Zealand Hydrological Society Conference
Learning From The Past : Creating The Future
5 - 9 December 2011, Te Papa Wellington



The conference this year marks the **50th anniversary** for the Society, an important milestone that is reflected in the conference theme: "Learning from the Past: Creating the Future".

The programme will include a mix of keynote sessions (speakers confirmed so far include Paul Mosley, Alastair Bisley, Ross Woods and Jeff McDonnell), a special Jubilee session during the week dedicated to exploration of the theme from different perspectives, and the usual social activities.

The conference paper sessions will officially begin on Tuesday 6th December but a number of interest groups and workshop meetings will be held on the Monday, including the Rivers Group Symposium and AGM. There are also two fieldtrip options for those able to stay on for the Friday. ≈

Water New Zealand Stormwater Conference 2012



The Stormwater and Modelling Special Interest Groups of Water New Zealand, in conjunction with the Rivers Group invite you to the 2012 Stormwater Conference in Wellington. The Stormwater Conference is an annual event, with a larger conference being held every second year to include an international component. The 2012 conference will be held on the 10-11 May 2012 at the Amora Hotel, Wellington.

The call for abstracts is now open. Please visit http://www.waternz.org.nz/stormwater_conference.html for more details. ≈

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily representative of the Rivers Group as a whole, nor of any of the individual or committee members.

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