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Eel farming at Waikeria Prison

The eel population at Waikeria Prison is thriving, with the recent establishment of an eel farm on the property.

Located in the grounds of the prison's Maori Focus Unit, the eel farm is a joint initiative between Corrections Inmate Employment (CIE), the Maori Focus Unit and the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA).

Farm Manager Alan Bullock supervises the eel operation and is enthusiastic about the future possibilities of the project.

"To date, only a pilot project has been set up," says Alan. "Providing the eel farm is successful, we will look into expanding operations."

The eel farm has three main goals. The first is raising the eels, which gives inmates work experience they can use when released. The skills they learn can be used in many different industries.

Secondly, there is a strong conservation element to the project. The eel population in



An inmate working on the eel farm inspects the day's catch.

New Zealand is currently declining, since eels breed only once during their lifetime. At the Waikeria eel farm, eels will be protected until they reach breeding age and then some will be released back into local streams with the aim of regenerating the population.

Thirdly, the eel farm will provide eel meat for use in the prison kitchen and also for sale to local marae and other community groups.

Based in the Maori Focus Unit, the project has a strong cultural element, with

involvement from local iwi.

"We really appreciate the support we have from local iwi on this project," says Alan.

"We regularly consult with local kaumatua who advise us on cultural issues in relation to all inmate employment activities.

"As well as increasing inmates' work skills, this project provides a great opportunity for CIE to work closely with key iwi groups in the area," he says. **cN**

Sentencing and Parole Reform Bill: Update

The Sentencing and Parole Reform Bill (SPRB) continues its way towards commencement; however, recent delays in SPRB being heard in Parliament mean that - at the time of writing - the Bill is unlikely to be enacted until late April.

The Bill will be split into two new Acts: the Sentencing Act 2002 and the Parole Act 2002. Each Act is still intended to come into effect from 1 July 2002.

The changes that these Acts will bring include:

- significant changes to imprisonment sentences and release conditions
- abolition of the District Prisons Boards

and the Parole Board, and the establishment of a New Zealand Parole Board

- abolition of the current community-based sentences and the creation of two new sentences called Community Work and Supervision
- significantly increased penalties for the breach of community-based sentences

- increased emphasis on reparation, fines and victim issues.

Corrections' national office staff are currently preparing for the practical aspects of how these new laws will be implemented: planning staff training and resource materials; setting up the new New Zealand Parole Board and its support systems; altering the Integrated Offender Management System (IOMS) computer programming to allow for changes to sentence calculations, and so forth.

Watch for further updates on the new legislation in future issues of *Corrections News.cN*



DEPARTMENT
OF CORRECTIONS



Election Year arrives

As the year unfolds, the political tempo will quicken the closer we get to election day. The prospective passage of the Sentencing and Parole Reform legislation will serve as a defining point where politicians of the various camps will seek to stake out their positions on criminal justice issues. And it would be very unusual if the debate on law and order issues did not assume some prominence over the balance of the year.

That in turn may lead to any number of pressures, commentary and issues for us. In this respect we would all be advised to refresh our memories on the constitutional conventions that govern public servants in their dealings with politicians. There should be plenty of this material around, including the Code of Conduct. If there is not, contact your Head Office Human Resource staff. Also, we will be re-issuing reminder material in several months' time.

If circumstances arise and you are in doubt as to what the response of professional, politically-neutral public servants should be to a particular issue, then ask your manager.

Throughout the year we should endeavour to continue to provide our services the same high standard and carefulness we would normally aspire to. It is to be expected that the year is likely to be accompanied by even more than usual scrutiny and holding us to account for the services we deliver.

During the year we will also be looking to develop a new suite

of strategic business plans, which we would hope to present to an incoming Minister before the group of current plans expire in June 2003. In the next month or so we will start developing the processes for gathering contributory input and information for them.

Clearly, one of the important themes will be around what we can do to advance our aspiration of reducing re-offending. I expect an equally important dimension will be a focus on our people at all levels in the Department.

Some while back we set ourselves a goal to be the best provider of corrections services (by which I mean both probation and prison services) in the world. We were always one of the better performers and while we are not the best yet, we have made substantial strides over the past seven years. My hope is that the next four to five years will get us up to be equal in the first rank. In another article I will talk about some of the factors I think such judgements should be based upon.

In the meantime I would urge you again, remind yourself about maintaining public service ethical standards in election year.[cN](#)

Former quarry becomes proposed prison site

For 30 years, the site in Manukau purchased by the Department for the proposed Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility was a quarry.

In October last year the Department began a restoration programme to convert the former quarry to a landscaped level area suitable for building. This process will involve the relocation of around 320,000m³ of material such as soil and rocks, the rejuvenation of existing wetlands and ponds and the formation of three artificial ponds.

Where a portion of this site touches the Manukau Harbour some historic stonefields can be found. This piece of land is of cultural importance and no work will be undertaken on it.

The work is going well and should be completed in early July 2002.

Before starting the earthworks the Department received the necessary resource consents from the Manukau City and Auckland Regional Councils to ensure that the earthworks would have no negative effects on the environment or the community.

The next step in the designation process - the lodging of the Notice of Requirement - is due to occur in late April 2002. Further updates on this project will appear in [Corrections News.cN](#)



Earthworks are underway to make the proposed site suitable for building

Arohata's new self-care units on display

Tawa residents living near Arohata Women's Prison recently took the opportunity to check out the prison's newly-built inmate self-care units.

Corrections officers showed about 60 people through the units on a sunny Wellington afternoon. Acting Site Manager Jan Taepa says the day was a chance to explain what the prison is doing to help inmates make the transition back into community life.

"Visitors heard how the units will help inmates who are near the end of their sentences to reintegrate into the community," says Jan. "The units provide an environment for mostly longer-serving inmates to live together in a flatting situation. They'll be responsible for managing their household and sharing tasks like cooking and budgeting."

There are four units that can house four minimum security inmates, plus a community house for group activities and visitors.

Jan says the self-care units are just one of the ways inmates are prepared for life outside of prison. There are also programmes to address topics like finding accommodation and employment, and managing money, relationships and healthcare.

"We're giving the women the skills and confidence they need to face the challenges of the real world. That way it's less likely we'll see them back in here again."



Newly built and landscaped, Arohata Prison's self-care units await their first residents.

The units were blessed by Ngati Toa in March after eight months of construction. The first group of inmates move in this month.

Self-care units already operate successfully at prisons in Wanganui, Hawke's Bay and Christchurch.

The units are not the only new building features at Arohata. To bring the prison's facilities up to international standard a major upgrade has just been completed. Work includes a new 25-bed minimum security unit, a new control room, receiving office, health centre, kitchen, at-risk cells and secure cells.

Over the next few years further work is proposed to upgrade the prison's visiting facility, administration area and education facilities. [cN](#)

Prison population decreases

The latest muster numbers released by the Department endorse a predicted fall in the total number of female prison inmates.

A sharp increase during the year 2000 saw the female prison population rise to a peak of 329. The latest total shows this figure has now fallen to 237.

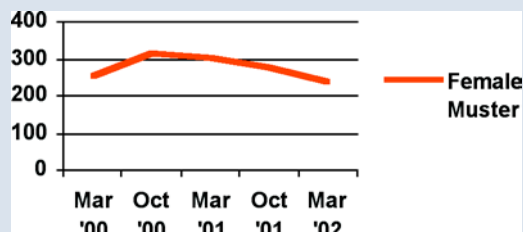
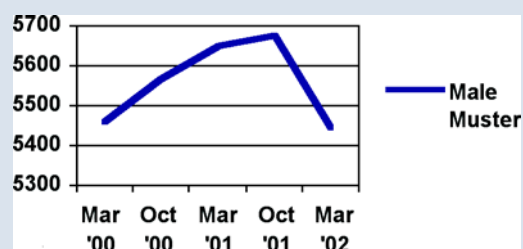
The male population also shows a downward trend, with the total number of males in custody falling from 5658 in March 2001 to 5447 in March 2002.

More good news to come out of the figures is that there continues to be a surplus of beds available at peak muster times. Currently this surplus stands at around 190.

Daily checking and monitoring of muster numbers by the Public Prisons Service tries to anticipate any shortages but until the number of available beds drops to below 100 there is unlikely to be cause for concern.

Despite the current dip in figures, the trend for prison populations is on the increase, broadly in line with nationwide population increases.

An increase of 14 percent for male inmates and six percent for female inmates is predicted over the next six years by the latest forecast. [cN](#)



A hand with health for Panmure periodic detainees

Panmure periodic detainees have learnt about health risks during a three-month health programme run by Orakei Marae at the Community Probation Service's (CPS) Panmure Periodic Detention Centre.

Orakei Health Services nurse Audra Laughland-Harawira contacted Panmure Service Manager Parani Wiki in October 2001 to suggest running a Hepatitis B education programme in periodic detention centres.

This led to the running of a three-month programme held for those being inducted into periodic detention, and eventually all other detainees.

"Audra and her group would come in and make presentations to the detainees about various health issues and risks. The beauty of it was that they didn't use health jargon, the language was simple and it got the message across," says Parani.

Following presentations, detainees were invited to come to health clinics at Orakei Marae for free hepatitis B testing, and were able to discuss issues such as safe sex, alcohol abuse, and stop-smoking programmes.

"The effects of the programme have been really positive and, based on its success, we're hoping to run a similar one in the future," says Parani. [cN](#)

Periodic detainees improve Auckland parks



Spectacular scenery at Duder Park, one of the many Auckland Regional Council parks maintained with the assistance of periodic detainee work parties.

Community Probation Service (CPS) periodic detention work parties spend thousands of hours each week maintaining and improving parks the length and breadth of New Zealand.

Umupuia Park, east of Manurewa, is just one example. Auckland Regional Council is gradually converting the parks 165 hectares of coastal land from farmland into a public nature reserve.

Work carried out by detainees at the park includes: realignment and removal of fences; planting thousands of manuka and pohutukawa trees to stabilise cliff faces; removing thistle and dock plants; and picking up rubbish that accumulates along the park's beaches.

An average of four periodic detention work parties per week work in Umupuia Park. That's 400 hours of work per week, and about 20,000 hours per year, every year - in one park alone.

Other nearby examples in the South Auckland area include Hunua Park, where Papakura periodic detainees help maintain the park's 160 km of walking tracks; and Omana Park, where Tamaki Station Road periodic detainees maintain fences, walking paths and barbeque areas, and remove rubbish.

Manurewa Probation Officer Terry McConnell says that the work enables detainees to do something practical to help their communities.

He also paid tribute to fellow Probation

Officer Dan Bass, who will be retiring this year, for his part in getting periodic detainees working in Auckland parks.

"Twenty-seven years ago, Dan, (who was then warden of Fort Richard Road PD Centre, Otahuhu) helped get the ball rolling about the possibilities for work in parks. These days there are hundreds of thousands of hours being worked to improve parklands all over the greater Auckland area."

Also acknowledging the Department's contribution is Auckland Regional Council. Says Tony Oliver, Principal Ranger, Southern Parks: "Over the past 20 years, periodic detention workers have made a significant contribution to the parks system through weekly visits to assist Park Rangers with the more labour-intensive projects in our parks.

"The parks offer a wide variety of tasks that are physically challenging and provide an opportunity for workers to put something back into the community. By contributing to the environment with meaningful projects, these workers have been able to improve the quality of their own environment and personal growth. Consequently, a number of workers have been witnessed back in the parks with their families, pointing out projects that they have been involved in, and obviously developing a sense of pride in their achievements." [cN](#)

CPS operates at the heart of the West Coast

The West Coast has seen two significant agreements involving government departments and local people reach fruition in recent weeks, and the Community Probation Service (CPS) has played a major role in both.

The Coast's first Heartland Centre opened in Westport, and CPS was one of the agencies that participated in getting the scheme off the ground. In the same week, Terms of Reference were signed between government departments active on the coast and local iwi groups.

The Heartland Centre, implemented by the Ministry of Social Development, aims to give people living in remote areas face-to-face contact with government services. It was officially opened by Social Services and Employment Minister Steve Maharey at Westport's courthouse.

Raymond Clark, Service Manager Greymouth, says involvement in the scheme will mean improved services and access for CPS clients.

"Until now the Westport CPS office was staffed only one day a week. Now offenders who need help on other days will be able to reach CPS staff via the Heartland Centre,

making it easier for them to complete their community-based sentences and take advantage of reintegrative options."

Other government agencies represented at Westport's Heartland Centre so far include the Accident Compensation Corporation, Child Youth and Family Services, Housing New Zealand and the Inland Revenue Department.

Raymond also took part in a recent ceremony at Arahura Pa Church which marked the signing of the Terms of Reference between government departments and local iwi groups. Paul Tomlinson, Area Manager Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast, supported the initiative and also attended.

"The purpose of the agreement was to see how government departments could service the local Maori community. A lot of people are not aware of services available, and we want to know how we can help," says Raymond.

"It took about four months to set up a document that would provide a basis on which Memoranda of Understanding could be based and guidelines to an overall working relationship outlined."cN

Canterbury marae benefit from work parties

A number of Canterbury marae are benefiting from maintenance work being done by work parties from Christchurch's South Kingsley Street Periodic Detention Centre.

Twice-monthly maintenance work is being carried out on marae at Little River, Rapaki and Rehua.

The work involves general landscaping duties such as lawn-mowing, weeding and pruning. Painting, decorating and repairs are also carried out on the kaumatua flats at the marae.

As well as making reparation to the community, those doing the work also benefit from a change of scene.

Probation Officer Tom Raroa says, "Some of these guys have never been to a marae, let alone these local ones. Some find it a bit strange at first but it does them good to get out of the city for a while and learn what goes on here."cN

Walls come down at Waitakere Service Centre

The walls have come a'tumbling down at the Community Probation Service (CPS) Waitakere Service Centre.

Service Manager Karl Bethell says alterations in the downstairs area will provide room for the centre's Community Service and Periodic Detention staff to share office space while also creating more room for the teams based there.

The alterations are a physical reminder of the forthcoming Sentencing and Parole Reform Bill. Under the legislation, which will come into force later this year, CPS functions will alter as the current community-based sentences change to new sentences: community work, supervision, home detention and parole. This transition will be made easier with community work staff based together.

An artistic feature complementing the new-look office is a mural painted by periodic detainees. The mural brightens up the main room where offenders report each morning.



Service Manager Karl Bethell (centre) shows off the Service Centre's new mural with Probation Officer Periodic Detention David Sarich (left) and Probation Officer Community Service Garry Smith (right).

"The mural has a local flavour, as it depicts the Waitakere landscape with views of Hauraki Gulf, Rangitoto Island and yacht KZ7," says Karl.

Alterations are expected to be finished by the end of April, and the revamped service centre will be officially blessed by Ngati Whatua.cN

IOM champion's column

Maori Cultural CNI Trainers meet the challenge

The criminogenic needs inventory (CNI) is the Department's main tool for the assessment of offenders. The placement of the Maori culture-related needs (MaCRNs) assessment within the CNI has caused considerable debate, and our Maori Cultural CNI Trainers are at the sharp end of dealing with the issues on a daily basis.

As described in the July 2001 column, the MaCRN assessment has been integrated with the CNI. The CNI is first and foremost a tool for the systematic gathering of information about an offender. This information is used to make consistent decisions about an offender both pre-sentence and after sentencing.

As part of the development of the CNI the question was asked: would this be a more complete tool if it included a screening process for gathering more information about offenders who identify as Maori? In what way can aspects of that Maori cultural identity be used to encourage people to address offending behaviour?

Mark Moses, a Probation Officer turned Maori Cultural CNI Trainer from Blenheim, says he heard about CNI assessment and MaCRNs through the

National Maori Hui at Orakei and Whakatu.

"I am keen on assessment and interventions which will reduce Maori offending and so I made an effort to find out more, which eventually led to me becoming a trainer."

During training he has sometimes been told that the MaCRNs are 'racist', or they make Maori culture 'criminogenic'.

"My view is that they are a start to an exciting period of targeting Maori re-offending, by acknowledging that how Maori perceive their culture can influence our behaviour in both pro-social and anti-social ways," says Mark.

"It's not about changing those values and beliefs, but looking at how offenders use them, that can contribute to their re-offending.

"Racism can arise from a fear of difference, a lack of information and understanding. I find that some participants come to training with pre-conceived views and I think 'the mind is like a parachute, it works best when it's open', and as a practitioner and assessor you work best when you have the information."

Mark says one thing that stands out for

him in training is that he gets to work with colleagues from all over the country, which makes him appreciate the wealth of knowledge and experience within the Department.

Mere Wallace is a Maori Cultural CNI Trainer based in Nelson. She feels that one of the most important features of the MaCRN assessment is that the Department has been bold enough to implement a cultural dimension.

"People may feel uncomfortable about it, but this usually goes once they have used the tool and find that offenders are okay with it.

"I believe this is a really good beginning to ensure that the needs of Maori are met. With the increasing number of Maori offenders in our system it is timely that we are concentrating on Maori cultural-related needs, which will help Maori offenders to reduce their risk of re-offending," she says.

Both trainers agree that the MaCRN assessment identifies factors that may be ignored by a more monocultural approach, and that ultimately the MaCRNs lay a foundation for culturally responsive interventions for offenders. **cN**

Prison walls become work of art

Despite modern advances in the design of corrections facilities, few would go so far as to call a prison a thing of beauty.

Yet that is what Auckland jeweller Ilse-Marie Erl has done - transforming concrete from prison walls into a spectacular silver-trimmed bracelet and brooch.

The concrete was cut from cores drilled from walls demolished at Auckland's Mt Eden Prison. The jewellery was recently exhibited at Lower Hutt's Dowse Art Gallery in 'Reclaimed', an exhibition of recycling in design and craft.

Ilse-Marie, a tutor at Unitec Institute of Technology, says she turned to inner-city debris for inspiration.

"This body of work is a response to the issues of urbanisation and its impact on our environment and our psyche. I also looked at the interrelation of private spaces and public spaces in our lives. Being stuck in traffic and watching the urban sprawl, I realised the need in myself to discover some kind of beauty in it." **cN**



Ilse-Marie Erl's silver and concrete bracelet and brooch, incorporating concrete from Mt Eden Prison.

Associate Minister visits Hastings PARS office

Associate Minister of Corrections, the Hon. Tariana Turia, recently visited the Hastings office of the Prisoners' Aid and Rehabilitation Society (PARS), and was impressed with staff commitment to supporting the families of inmates.

"It was exciting to meet Clem Thompson, Bill Herewini, Jackie Katounas and the team, who have such great enthusiasm and a real passion for the people and families they work with," she says.

The services provided by PARS include helping inmates, their families and former prisoners to maintain and enhance family/whanau relationships during and after a prison term.

PARS workers also help inmates adjust to life after prison, including finding suitable accommodation and employment, managing their finances and building positive relationships with family and whanau.

"What PARS does is a service seldom acknowledged and is not easy work. PARS staff are sometimes the only support system inmates and their families have," says Tariana.

"It was just great to sit and talk with



Associate Minister of Corrections, the Hon. Tariana Turia (second from left) with members of PARS' Hastings office.

the people who are trying new ways of achieving their goals, of looking beyond 'what is done' to 'what could we do to make the difference for this inmate, for this family'.

"They acknowledged the need for reconciliation and healing, not only through the restorative justice project. They understood the wider needs of inmates, families and communities and were involved in other associated activities and had dreams of how to fulfil those needs that were exciting to hear about.

"This was my first visit to a PARS office since I've been in Parliament and I was overwhelmed with the energy, knowledge, genuine commitment and

drive of the people in the Hastings PARS office.

"These organisations are tightly resourced and keeping families strong and together is often really difficult. Despite these difficulties, PARS works to enable the strong links that are needed, particularly between inmates and their children."

PARS was started in Dunedin in 1877. The national organisation was formed in the 1950s and there are now 20 local PARS offices.

The Department has an agreement with NZPARS for the purchase of re-integrative support services, which are provided to inmates by local PARS offices.[cN](#)

Inmates shine in Kapa Haka

Inmates in the Maori Focus Unit at New Plymouth Prison had a taste of success when their kapa haka team was selected to perform in the Aotea Kapa Haka Festival in Hawera and the national competitions. They topped this off when they were featured on the television programme *Marae*.

Unit Manager Novena McGuckin is proud of the progress that the inmates made. Members of Te Ara Pounamu Poutama ki Taranaki o Pukaaka moved from (in some cases) never having performed in public before, to competing at a national level for the first time.

"It's not too shabby for a group that

has only been together for four months!" she notes.

Maori Focus Units are units within prisons wherein inmates address their offending in a Maori-focused environment. Programmes are based on tikanga Maori concepts (language, culture and principles) as well as providing educational development and employment training opportunities.

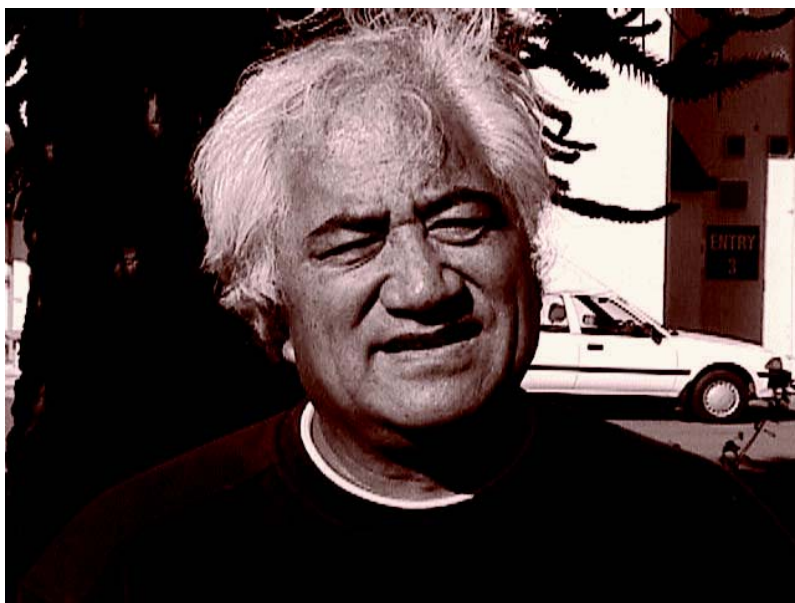
Novena and her colleagues at the Maori Focus Unit have also noticed more subtle changes in the members of the team, who participated in a busy schedule of twice-weekly practices and regular wananga.

"Throughout the last four months the men have become committed to their kaupapa and have maintained their commitment to tikanga values," says Novena.

"We have seen the change from eyes looking down to heads raised with pride."

The inmates intend to continue the progress they have made in skills and understanding of their kaupapa - and soon it'll be time to start rehearsals for the next round of kapa haka competitions.[cN](#)

A change for good with Mauri Hauora



Te Hata Ohlson, Mauri Hauora facilitator

Former television presenter and entertainer Te Hata (Ollly) Ohlson says that, after working in many different fields, he is finally doing what he loves - helping others appreciate who and what they are.

Te Hata runs a behavioural change programme called Mauri Hauora, which uses Maori culture to effect positive change in inmates' lives.

Based at Christchurch Prison, he has been delivering the six-month long programme to 12 inmates at the prison's East Wing, and an adaptation of it to nine inmates from the prison's young offenders unit.

"The youth programme is in its infancy but I am pleased with what we have achieved to date. During the group sessions I have been including guest speakers who encourage the boys to better themselves. One speaker shared his regrets over drug and alcohol use, at the offending he got into as a result, the people he hurt, and the loved ones he lost. He encouraged them to make the most out of life and never get into the position where they end up inside a cell - it's not worth it.

"Another key element in the youth programme is meeting with whanau on a

regular basis to help work inter-family communication issues and to expose whanau to the programme so they know the kinds of things their whanau member is learning."

Three two-hour sessions are held with the adult offenders each week and focus on teaching the inmates the Mauri theory, te reo and karakia.

"We study the relationship we humans have to one another, to the environment and to all living and so-called non-living things," Te Hata says. "Mauri is pure energy. Like electricity, it can be used for good or for harm. We discuss, through storytelling techniques and personal experiences what happens when they use mauri positively or negatively...the results become obvious.

"Through other techniques, inmates locate their taniwha or thought process, to identify patterns of negative behaviour. They then embark on reprogramming this negative pattern into a positive one. They learn how to take control over their addictions and criminal behaviour, how to predict behavioural outcomes, how to be assertive, how to be appreciative of everything about them - in other words, they take control over their own mauri/energy."

The course covers a variety of themes including accepting personal responsibility for one's actions, verbalising feelings, stress management, violence intervention and prevention, being sensitive to others, developing manners, showing respect for others and others' property, and 'walking the talk'. Goal setting and planning their future is also covered.

"Understandings hit the guys at different times during the programme. Many have changed dramatically. Not only can they now talk about their stuff but they can do so freely, and they undergo strong emotions surrounding their actions - not only in regards to what they have put their whanau through, but also the implications for their victims and their whanau too.

"I have seen the guys go through a lot of change for the better," says Te Hata. "I'm also seeing hope come back into their lives."

The te reo component is an important part of the programme.

"The guys have taken to it like a duck to water and are already chatting away quite well, making me feel quite redundant! They have taken on board over 500 words in five two-hour sessions, which is quite an achievement."

The youngest of 24 children, Te Hata says he knows what it's like to be neglected, rejected and overlooked.

"I felt there was no future for someone like me and everything just seemed so hopeless."

Through his own personal hardships and experiences he says he has learned to take everything and turn it into an advantage.

"I believe no matter what we've done, it's never too late to change. With the help of this programme, inmates come to realise that they too can change, how they can sustain that change and pass it on to their offspring." **cN**

Te Piriti relapse prevention programme

Every inmate who completes the Te Piriti programme for sexual offenders (see panel on right) serves a parole period after their release from prison.

During parole, Te Piriti graduates are required (usually among a number of other conditions) to attend monthly relapse prevention support groups which are facilitated by Probation Officers.

It is known that there is a predictable process that happens when a person starts the slide towards re-offending. When a person re-offends, the offence does not 'just happen': it is usually the end result of a sequence or chain of events.

The relapse cycle has a number of recognisable 'stages', and there are important coping skills which can be used to deal with each stage of the relapse process. Relapse prevention is a collection of ideas, skills and strategies which help people prevent themselves from re-offending.

Facilitators spend two days at Te Piriti, to become familiar with what the prison programme entails, and the relapse prevention programme follows on from there, using the same principles.

Attendance in the Mt Eden relapse prevention group typically ranges from 12-15

men; its monthly meetings are held in the evening, over a two-hour period.

The sessions themselves, says a facilitator for the Mt Eden relapse prevention group, are fairly informal, usually starting with an open forum where group members discuss what is happening in their lives. During these feedback sessions, facilitators have noticed that group members can be very quick to pick up on any unusual behaviour or problems, and discussion often follows.

Participants tend to share problem-solving techniques. There is a strong emphasis in the group on assisting each other not to re-offend, and members are supportive of each other, both in group sessions and outside.

One or two members at each session are asked to bring along their personal statement, developed for them at Te Piriti, and read it aloud to the group. The statements are detailed and personal and group members find it valuable to revisit them at intervals, to remind themselves how far they have come and how vigilant they must always continue to be.

It is not unusual for group members to voluntarily continue attending long after their parole requirement has finished. Some return on a regular basis every few months, while others come back for a refresher if they are

facing difficulties in their lives or feel that they are in situations where they may be at risk of re-offending. [cN](#)

About Te Piriti

Te Piriti is a special treatment unit run by the Department for men who have committed sexual offences against children. Men on the programme, which is run from a 60-bed unit at Auckland Prison, are volunteers who have been referred by psychologists in prisons.

The name Te Piriti was chosen for this treatment unit because it represents a process of crossing over from the old to the new towards a better life.

Te Piriti's goal is to help participants avoid re-offending. In the first phase of the 40-week programme, the men work on developing a thorough understanding of their offending pattern. In the second phase, they are helped to gain knowledge and skills to deal with the problems linked to their offending.

The treatment programme is one of two special treatment units of this nature running in New Zealand, the other being Kia Marama, based at Rolleston Prison, near Christchurch.

Chief Executive visits Salisbury Street Foundation

Department of Corrections Chief Executive Mark Byers recently visited the Salisbury Street Foundation in Christchurch, which has been in the forefront of the development of the Habilitation Centre concept.

Habilitation centres play a role in helping the Department achieve its main aim of reducing re-offending through effective re-integration of offenders who might otherwise have difficulty adjusting back into the community.

Salisbury Street targets male offenders over the age of 20 who have a history of offending and have been assessed as being at high risk of re-offending.

The centre's programme helps its 12 residents to understand their offending patterns and establish non-offending lifestyles in the community. The programme includes relapse prevention, stopping violence, alcohol and drug addiction, community and work skills, and Maori culture. The centre also seeks to have the residents placed in work.

Mark says, "The work that Salisbury Street is doing is top drawer and their practice is something that others should have regard to. The vision and energy of its Board and the commitment and professionalism of Director David Coom and his team impressed me.

"Clearly the centre is working

effectively with offenders. I met the current residents and supporters and was grateful for the time they spent with me explaining how and why they were addressing offending behaviour issues." [cN](#)



Chief Executive Mark Byers (second from left) presents graduation certificates at Salisbury Street Foundation.

Auckland Central Remand Prison gains ISO accreditation

Auckland Central Remand Prison (ACRP) gained recognition when it was recently awarded ISO 9001-2000 accreditation.

ACRP is the main reception prison for newly-remanded male inmates in the Northland and Auckland regions. The prison, which opened in July 2000, is the only privately-run prison in New Zealand and is managed by Australasian Correctional Management Ltd.

The ISO accreditation scheme is a recognition of the effectiveness of an organisation's quality management systems. It covers the preparation, documentation and delivery of these systems.

Required by its owners to become ISO certified, ACRP carried out an 18-month review and implementation scheme.

The main emphasis of the scheme was to ensure ACRP met its regulatory and statutory obligations and that day-to-day routine matched existing policy and encompassed best practice.

As a result of the review several operational changes were made, including to the visiting policy and to recruitment practices.

Assistant Operations Manager Colin Burnett explained what the accreditation means. "Anyone who needs our services can now be confident that our management systems are effective and quality driven."

All ACRP staff were involved in the process. General Manager Dom Karauria comments that, "This award has given all our staff immense satisfaction and pride in the work we do. I hope that the Public Prisons Service can now use our success as a basis for all New Zealand corrections facilities." **cN**

Award-winning work by Wanganui detainees

Three different projects in Wanganui have seen periodic detention staff and workers responsible for improving a reserve, kindergarten and airport.

Staff and detainees on one project were recognised with a Department of Conservation award for the preservation of a wetland area.

Probation Officer Dominic Devine says the award recognised the work of detainees behind the transformation of the Titoki Wetland Reserve from a neglected area to a well-maintained community asset.

"We were asked to help tidy the reserve about four years ago. It had become a major eyesore and had become a hideout for truants and glue sniffers," says Dominic.

Dominic says much of the praise must go to work party supervisor Brian Floyd who has been largely responsible for much of the work done at the reserve.

"After receiving some council funding last year Brian was able to purchase mowers and a weed eater to maintain the area. Since then he has been responsible for clearing scrub, rechanneling water flows to improve drainage, and plans to extend a walkway."

Work by detainees has also seen the

much-needed clean-up of Wanganui's Harriette Vine Kindergarten. Two large gum trees had become a playground hazard, while poor soil meant the grounds resembled a dirty sandpit.

As well as tidying the section, detainees helped to raise money for the kindergarten, raffling firewood from the trees that were cut down. Following this, work parties installed a fence and retaining wall, filled a new sandpit, and designed and laid a crazy pathway around the play area.

"The kindy's head teacher Christine Walker is thrilled with our work and is planning an extension to the crazy pathway, which we will be able to help out with again," says Dom.

Other work at Wanganui's airport has also seen detainees develop skills which Dominic hopes will lead to many detainees gaining employment in the rural sector, having spent time building fences and removing noxious weeds.

"All the projects have been really good opportunities for the detainees to develop and enhance their skills in preparation for future employment. The community has been supportive in all three initiatives." **cN**

New security framework in operation

Recently appointed Departmental Security Officer Phil Butter says the introduction of the Department's revised security framework will not change much for the majority of staff.

At the end of 2000, Cabinet revised its security classifications to bring them in line with the system used in the Australian public sector. The revised system also reduced the over-classification of material that had been a problem under the old system (and subsequent added expense of storing and securing documents) and the potential of restricted access to documents that should be more freely available.

Under the new framework there have been two new security classifications - 'Sensitive' and 'In Confidence' - added. These cover protection for public interest and personal privacy reasons, without requiring the stringent security

measures needed to protect 'Top Secret', 'Secret', 'Confidential' and 'Restricted' classified material.

Also, whereas the earlier system only applied to paper-based information, the new framework takes into account electronic means of storing and sending information.

However for the majority of staff, most of whom do not handle classified documents, the new security regime will be business as usual. Changes to policies on e-mailing and storing documents electronically will also not change a great deal, as the Department's IT Security Policy already covers e-mail and electronic security issues.

The revised manual Security in Government Departments (SIGD) is currently before Cabinet awaiting approval. Once it has been approved, the Department will be able to issue its own revised security policy for staff. **cN**

Chief Executive's Scholarships awarded

The Chief Executive's Scholarships for 2002 have been awarded.

The scholarships support recipients in their final year of study, by providing paid study leave to complete qualifications in the areas of business management, economics, public policy and criminal justice.

This year's recipients include Wellington Probation Officer Joanne Thompson, who is studying towards her Master of Arts (Social Policy). She is completing her thesis on Community Probation Service (CPS) and the Service's values throughout its history.

Polly Cunningham, Acting Dunedin Area Manager, CPS, is completing her Master of Social Welfare degree this year. She plans to develop her thesis around the topic of home detention.

Corrections News caught up with the other two recipients, Amanda Jones and Astrid Kalders, for an update about how their studies are progressing.

Amanda Jones, a Wellington-based senior corrections officer, is completing her Postgraduate Diploma in Rehabilitation: an

advanced study of the principles, theory and practice behind rehabilitation, with a chosen field of interest.

"My interest is, obviously, offender-based," says Amanda, "with emphasis on addiction, addictive behaviours and dual diagnosis.

"Prior to returning to university I had been working in Integrated Offender Management sentence planning, so it is wonderful to have prior knowledge and experience of the practical model in rehabilitation that the Department is currently using.

"I am very excited about returning to tertiary study and look forward to communicating with the Department about my studies. There is a vast amount of literature available to me and I have the added advantage of being able to work with offenders."

Astrid Kalders, Principal Psychologist, Christchurch, is completing her Master of Business Administration at the University of Canterbury.

"After having been a manager for the past

four years, I am now being exposed to a range of management practices that I hope will allow me to be a better manager for Corrections," says Astrid.

"The course covers management across a wide range of topics, from accounting and economic theory to strategic planning, marketing and computer simulation modelling of financial and planning decisions.

"The course is extensive, covering 18 topics in 10 months of course work, and is followed by a five-month project in which the new skills are applied.

"The most valuable part of the programme for me is the contact with other managers. Participants on the course come from a range of management positions, and the sharing of ideas is strongly encouraged. It is an exciting process to be involved in, despite the level of demand it is on the brain and the time required to cover the extensive content.

"I am sure that the programme will develop new ideas and skills for me that I can use in my work as a Corrections manager." **cN**

Christina Rush Memorial Bursary awarded

Ratapu Rangiawha has been chosen as this year's winner of the Christina Rush Memorial Bursary, which is awarded to a Maori or Pacific student to undertake a clinical psychology degree.

"It's great to have a bursar of Ratapu's calibre associated with the Department," says General Manager Psychological Service David Riley.

"The fact that he has been selected for a highly-competitive course like the clinical psychology diploma at Waikato University shows Ratapu's skills and his commitment to this field."

The bursary honours the memory of Christina Rush, former General Manager Psychological Service, who died of cancer in December 2000.

"We wanted a special way to recognise Christina's commitment to encouraging better representation of Maori and Pacific peoples in the field of psychology," says David. "Not many people realise that the Department is the

largest employer of psychologists in the country."

Ratapu already has strong links with the Department, from his job as programme director of Montgomery House.

Southern Regional Manager Psychological Service Steve Berry has been highly impressed by Ratapu's abilities.

"Ratapu is a person with great mana and dynamism, which is evidenced by the environment he has helped create at Montgomery House.

"A fluent speaker of te reo, he has also distinguished himself with his ability to provide services that are responsive to the cultural needs of offenders and are based on sound psychological theory."

Ratapu is currently settling into his course of study at Waikato.

"I gained a lot of motivation from working with the Department, particularly in the early days of designing Integrated Offender Management," he



Ratapu Rangiawha relaxing in Rarotonga prior to commencement of his studies.

says.

"It relates to what I want to achieve with this qualification - to be a voice of support for Maori and to develop programmes that will help reduce offending among Maori."

Meanwhile, previous bursary recipient, Havila Matanga, has started work at Rolleston Prison's Kia Marama special treatment unit for men who are sex offenders against children. **cN**

Managing our technology environment



The gen-i Online Corrections Support Team. From left to right; Back row: Ricky Greaves (operation manager), Craig Harper (systems administrator), Andrew Feringa (systems administrator), Maria Casale (technical analyst), Rahul Patel (systems administrator); Front row: Michael Moran (technical analyst), Edmond O'Connor (technical analyst), Sharlene Merrill (technical analyst), Adrial Hall (systems administrator), Erin Senior (field services co-ordinator), Angela Dellos (asset manager).

In 2001 Corrections awarded its Facilities Management contract to Sytec and gen-i. Sytec manages the help desk and Microsoft Office support while gen-i is responsible for managing the technology environment.

A previous issue of Corrections News focused on the services Sytec provides. This issue looks at gen-i's role.

What does gen-i do?

Much of gen-i's work goes on behind the scenes, to ensure users have uninterrupted access to the technology we now take for granted. Key services are:

- managing the desktop (PCs, thin client terminals, printers etc)
- central server management and support
- managing the thin client environment/architecture
- equipment Moves, Adds and Changes ('MACs')
- liaising closely with Corrections' IT team.

Obituary - Bob Greenwood

Waikeria Prison is mourning the sudden death of catering instructor Bob Greenwood.

Bob served in the Department for 22 years. He joined Waikeria Prison as a corrections officer in 1980 and in 1982 moved on to a catering instructor position.

Mark Owen, Catering Manager, says Bob was a fine instructor.

"Bob was very committed to his job and was an extremely loyal employee. A diamond in the rough, Bob called a spade a spade. He had his own unique way of communicating with inmates, and held their respect."

Over 150 staff from Waikeria Prison attended Bob's funeral, forming a guard of honour as the casket left the church.

Bob will be sadly missed by his friends and colleagues at Waikeria Prison. [cN](#)

All in a day's work

Typical work for gen-i's facilities management staff includes:

- solving problems users have with their PCs, terminals and printers
- checking the server loads and re-balancing them where necessary
- implementing system upgrades, such as when Corrections moves from one software version to the next
- implementing each IOMS release
- managing the Department's e-mail databases.

The people behind the phones

Three gen-i teams support Corrections users;

- gen-i Online, based in Auckland, handle calls passed by the Sytec help desk for further investigation. This is the team you talk to most, so check the photo to match faces to voices.
- gen-i Fieldforce, a team of engineers, handle onsite hardware issues and liaise with site administrators.
- gen-i Repair Centre, based in Hamilton, supplies replacements under the Desktop Courier Replacement service.

Biggest challenge to date?

"Implementing the thin client environment. At its peak we had 125 staff working on this project, in order to convert 2800 PCs, 200 laptops, decommission 80 local servers and install 96 high capacity servers at two central server sites," says Brian McKenna, gen-i's Service Delivery Manager for Corrections.

"It's already paying dividends for the Department. Platform-related calls are definitely lower, and we are now able to deploy new software, such as IOMS upgrades, in a fraction of the time taken previously." [cN](#)



Corrections News is the magazine of the Department of Corrections, New Zealand.

Letters and comments are welcome.

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