

5. NEIGHBOURHOOD WEEK GOES NATIONWIDE

Officer responsible
Acting Community Advocate,
Spreydon/Heathcote

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The purpose of this report is to inform members of the expansion of the Neighbourhood Week project.

The Neighbourhood Week Joint Committee can now advise the community boards of Christchurch that the joint project, Neighbourhood Week, has been adopted by Neighbourhood Support New Zealand and will run nationwide from 26 October until 1 November 2002.

At its meeting, the Joint Boards Committee discussed its terms of reference and what it needs to achieve in light of that this year. Clearly, with national publicity occurring it is vital that there is coherence and cohesion. There are opportunities for great synergy with Neighbourhood Support New Zealand, but there is also potential for resource wastage if we do not keep updated with what is going on.

The joint committee will be working through the relationship in terms of publicity material within the Christchurch context.

The joint committee reflected on the activities of the previous year and has decided that events such as the colouring competitions are better handled board by board. It sees it has a more useful role as an 'ideas bank', and a gathering point for anybody interested in the concept. The board delegates will have a greater role to play this year in feeding back ideas and information to their community board and bringing forward the same to share.

On 11 April Wilma McCorkindale of New Zealand Neighbourhood Support attended a special meeting of the Neighbourhood Week committee from 10am to 12 noon. All boards' delegates at that meeting will bring information back to their boards. Selwyn, Banks Peninsula and Waimakariri District Councils were also invited.

As was said in 1997, "if communities are the cornerstone of society, then neighbourhoods are the cornerstone of the community." It is enormously pleasing to think that because of the work of the community boards of Christchurch over the last four years, that message will be taken all around New Zealand.

Neighbourhood Week is supported by four of the six Community Boards in Christchurch, both at a local and metropolitan level. The Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board promotes local events during the week, but does not become involved in metropolitan activities. Hagley/Ferrymead does not support the concept and does not promote any events in its community.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairman's Recommendation: That the officer's recommendation be adopted.