

18. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

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During 2002 the Board resolved that there should be brief reports, from time to time, provided by Members who had been appointed to outside organisations.

The following reports have recently been received:-

18.1 ORANA PARK WILDLIFE TRUST BOARD (Mike Wall)

This Trust is overseen by five Board members and the CEO Lynn Anderson. The Board comprises Kerry Nolan, solicitor (Chair), David Barker, accountant, Tony Bywater, Lincoln university, David Loughlin, South Island Zoological society and Mike Wall representing the city. This Trust meets bi-monthly with an executive group, should it be needed, of the Chair and David Barker. I have attended all Trust meetings.

The Park is managed extremely well and is still achieving high ratings amongst other Parks in New Zealand and, indeed, around the world. The Park under Lynn Anderson is very efficient considering the meagre resources she has to work with. On comparison with Wellington and Auckland, Orana Park is the poor cousin when it comes to funding. The Christchurch City Council as part of its funding of the Park commissioned deloitte to review the Park and its activities. This review showed that the Park is underfunded and a reasonable increase has been recommended.

Visitor numbers to the Park depend on the weather, but generally numbers have been growing over the years. Visitor surveys praise the Park for the condition of the animals, easy access and wonderful footpaths (thanks to this Board) and general outlay of the Park. The Park aims to provide value for money and this is being achieved.

Volunteers play a huge part in the running of the Park, and the role they play should not be underestimated. Without them the Park would not be the success it is today. In 2001 the Park celebrated 25 years and this city can be proud of this achievement.

The animal collection is always on the move and the Park had new lion cubs on display. Staff are looking at new exhibits and this is ongoing and time consuming.

The Board may not be aware but the Southern Encounter Aquarium has been part of the Orana Wildlife Trust for sometime. This facility now boasts Kiwi and is proving a great attraction for tourists and citizens of Canterbury. Suitable signage has been agreed to which will enable visitors to locate this not to be missed attraction. The number of visitors is increasing and a number of schools are using the aquarium for teaching purposes.

Orana Wildlife Park and the Southern Encounter Aquarium are in the top attractions in this city and I firmly believe that you will see these assets going from strength to strength in the near future. The Park and Aquarium provide schools in Canterbury with curriculum based activities for both primary and secondary students.

In concluding this brief report I must record my enjoyment in working with the dedicated management and staff who all work hard to ensure this city's assets remain among the top attractions in Christchurch.

18.2 CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU, CHRISTCHURCH NORTH (Mike Wall)

This Bureau is ably chaired by Mrs Pamela Francois who runs a team of very enthusiastic people from all walks of life and ages.

The Bureau has well run meetings which are always well attended, and the passion the management committee feels for this work is a credit to them and all they serve. Meetings are held on a bi-monthly basis and the agendas are well prepared and contain all relevant information. The meeting runs smoothly and all members come prepared to debate the issues. I have attended all meetings held.

This Bureau is achieving its goals and the numbers contacting them for advice remain constant. The Bureau handles over seven hundred enquiries per month. This is made up of telephone callers and callers to the office and some email enquiries.

The Bureau provides regular training for its members and some volunteers have just completed an eight week Legal Education Course at the Christchurch Community Law Centre. The Bureau employs a co-ordinator and a secretary part-time to assist with the large number of volunteers and administration functions.

I believe that this Bureau is performing above the expectations and the Board should continue to support this Bureau wherever possible. The management and volunteers should be congratulated for the time and effort they contribute to help the people of the North West sector of Christchurch.

18.3 RICCARTON BUSH TRUST (Barbara Stewart)

The year 2002 was probably the busiest and most eventful one in the Trust's history.

A highlight of the year was the conversion of Riccarton House to a fully active heritage visitor attraction, and the appointment of a new caterer providing café, restaurant and outdoor services. This important event was launched on 24th October by the Hon Judith Tizard before a large and appreciative audience. Riccarton House is now virtually fully restored and most of the rooms feature period furniture and fittings from the Deans family era, as befitting one of the city's premier heritage attractions. Since the official launch, and the publicity that followed, there has been a noticeable increase in visitors which bodes well for the future.

During the year the Trust resolved to erect a predator-proof fence around the perimeter of the Bush and to close the Kauri Street entrance. This move is designed to protect the natural resources of this nationally important forest remnant; to allow the re-introduction of flora and fauna formerly present; and to permit the better management of this Bush and its boundaries. The Trust has applied to the City Council for a resource consent to carry out this work.

The Riccarton House and Bush conservation site is poised to become one of the city's major heritage and natural history attractions for a wide range of visitors from the city and beyond. To meet this likely outcome the Trust is determined to protect these invaluable resources for the benefit and enjoyment of all visitors, and to continue to develop its already impressive volume of interpretive information.

18.4 KEEP CHRISTCHURCH BEAUTIFUL (Mark Kunnen)

Keep Christchurch Beautiful works to develop and promote a litter free, more beautiful environment within Christchurch City, and to raise the level of awareness of what individuals and groups can do to improve their community.

Keep Christchurch Beautiful undertakes a range of campaigns, and undertakes and supports various 'clean up' events, awards and education programmes.

Keep Christchurch Beautiful recently adopted a new constitution and structure. This introduces a new structure, clarified the various membership and officer positions, and consolidated the focus and work of the Association.

The Committee delegated responsibility for developing and writing the new constitution to Yani Johanson (Hagley/Ferrymead Board representative) and myself. We worked on developing and writing the constitution to reflect the associations focus and members desires. This involved several meetings with members, both past and present, various Council and wider community representatives. We worked on this project over three months and I am pleased to report that the new constitution was adopted in its entirety at the Keep Christchurch Beautiful 2002 Annual General Meeting.

The Christchurch Keep Christchurch Beautiful Association hosted the annual Keep New Zealand Beautiful conference. The conference based around a series of workshops and training sessions, designed to enable members from throughout New Zealand to share the many successful programmes that are operating in various areas. A luncheon presentation was given by Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board member Sally Buck who gave an enlightening and humorous presentation on the "history of rubbish". The presentation Sally developed is now being enhanced as an education resource pack for schools.

Locally, hundreds of people joined together with Keep Christchurch Beautiful in the 'Clean up the World' week and cleared out many tonnes of rubbish from McLeans Island. This clean up campaign lead to the Keep Christchurch Beautiful Association calling on the Council to undertake stronger and more robust enforcement of the Litter Act to try and mitigate the disturbingly increasing number and volume of rubbish being illegally dumped in or around many of our community spaces.

The Keep Christchurch Beautiful Association undertakes regular litter counts at a number of sites around Christchurch each year. The Litter Abatement Committee has expressed concern about the Christchurch City Councils proposal to stop the annual supply of rubbish bags to residents and local businesses.

There will be major implications on the local streets and neighbourhood environment if the Christchurch City Council pushes ahead and withdraws the annual rubbish bag allocation to local residents. With the ever increasing and substantial price rises for taking rubbish and litter to a transfer station the litter abatement monitoring has been showing an increased incidence of illegal dumping.

Keep Christchurch Beautiful efforts will be made significantly harder when the Council abandons the core function of providing a regular rubbish removal scheme that encourages residents' participation by way of free to use rubbish bags. Collectively the costs of environmental damage could outweigh any short term financial savings obtained from the withdrawal of free to use residential rubbish bags.

Keep Christchurch Beautiful undertakes a yearly 'SEEP' campaign – Schools Environmental Enhancement Programme. There are resource packs for teachers to undertake class projects on various local environmental awareness and education programmes within the school curriculum.

Each year awards are made to those schools for environmental enhancement projects, community pride projects, and caretakers awards.

The Keep Christchurch Beautiful Committee greatly appreciates the assistance and support provided by the Councils support officer, Fendalton/Waimairi Community Technical Adviser, Lois Anderson. Lois's hard work for the Association, sound advice and support has greatly assisted in the Association meeting its aims and objectives.

18.5 AURORA CENTRE TRUST (Cheryl Colley/Ron Wright)

The three Christchurch City Council representatives on the Aurora Centre Trust are Ron Wright, Brian Laws and Cheryl Colley. Ron Wright and Brian Laws have been trustees since the establishment of the trust. Cheryl Colley was appointed in August 2002 on the resignation of Margaret Murray, who had also been on the trust since its inception. The other trustees are Burnside High School representatives.

The Aurora Centre celebrated its first anniversary in October of 2002. Since it opened it has met widespread community needs and has also been used for a broad range of activities, from drama, concerts and Burnside High School events to launching the Rugby NPC, seminars, workshops, public lectures, conferences, fundraisers and various musical events.

A new manager, Petrea Hart was appointed in mid-2002 and since that time has worked towards operating the centre on a more professional basis with proper operational and reporting procedures to ensure the efficient and effective running of the facility.

As part of this improvement process in October the Trust undertook a strategic planning exercise to establish short, medium and long-term goals. A major threat and weakness for the centre is its lack of funding to complete various capital items and for immediate maintenance management. Therefore one of the major goals is to seek sponsorship with naming rights. Other outcomes of the strategic exercise were the need to develop a marketing plan defining the centre's brand, building a brand name and clarifying its target market. Since the October discussions the Trust has held a special meeting on the issue of branding for the centre.

The Trust was also concerned that the Christchurch City Council and the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board were apparently not prepared to support the centre as CCC did for the Town Hall. It was noted that the Community Board wanted cheap rates for community use, but were not prepared to underwrite that and therefore it is Burnside High School that would have to subsidise the costs. It is in no position to do that.

The issue of community rates was raised in a letter from the Community Advocate to the Trust and was the subject of a meeting between the trust and the board in December 2002. At that meeting the Trust explained the new base hire charges for community and other users of the Aurora Centre and the necessity to have front-of-house staff included. It was agreed that some of the community saw the venue as a "community hall" rather than the top quality facility that it is. It was also agreed that some community group functions/activities would be better suited to the school hall rather than the centre itself.

The Trust's major foci for 2003 will be on adherence to its new budget as set in November 2002, on resolving its maintenance management issues, and on further developing and implementing its marketing strategy including a website.

18.5 WAIMAKARIRI/EYRE/CUST RATING LIAISON COMMITTEE (George Hampton)

This Committee meets approximately once a year. It is expected that this Committee will be meeting within the next few months.

Chairman's Recommendation: That the information be received.