

4. ARBOR DAY SCHOOL PLANTINGS

Officer responsible
Parks and Waterways Manager

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The purpose of this report is to inform Board members of the events that took place as part of Arbor Day 2003. The Board funded these events in the amount of \$2000 from its 2002/03 community events and special days fund.

INTRODUCTION

Arbor Day was first established in New Zealand when a tree planting event was held in Wairarapa on 3 July 1890.

Following years during and after World War one, when the interest in Arbor Day waned, the date of 5 June was established for the celebration of this event.

During the 1970s, as deforestation became a globally important issue, the significance of Arbor Day gained momentum.

THE EVENTS

The Arbor Day schools planting programme is a Community Board funded initiative. Within the Hagley and Ferrymead Wards, seven schools have been involved for 2003, namely:

- Our Lady of the Sea School
- Bamford School
- Tamariki School
- Woolston School
- Sumner School
- Linwood Intermediate School
- Van Asch Deaf Education Centre

From 4 to 6 June, all the schools except Van Asch Deaf Education Centre had tree and shrub planting events. The Parks and Waterways Area Advocate attended the events at Bamford, Tamariki, Woolston and Linwood Intermediate Schools where opportunity was taken to speak with the pupils and assist in planting.

Staff at each school expressed appreciation for the Board funding of these plantings. Van Asch Deaf Education Centre is planning to undertake its planting during Conservation Week 5–11 August 2003.

Having witnessed the enthusiasm of young people at each of the schools visited Board members can be assured that the benefits are significant in reinforcing the importance of vegetation in our environment and the value of correct plant management practices.

Staff

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the information be received and the Parks and Waterways Area Advocate be commended for including schools in the project.