

8. EVENTS REPORT - SUMMER 2002-2003

Officer responsible
Leisure Manager

Author
Maria Moran, Community Recreation Adviser (941 5107)

The purpose of this report is to inform the Community Board of the summer events delivered by the Christchurch City Council Leisure Recreation and Arts Team and the local community in the Spreydon/Heathcote Board area over the period November 2002 - March 2003.

BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community events bring residents together in a safe environment for a free, enjoyable experience. Events can create a sense of belonging to and celebration of the local community, and may develop a sense of pride in the community. Local community groups often have an opportunity to promote themselves, and local residents who attend these events learn more about their local community.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

Four events were delivered by the Christchurch City Council Leisure Recreation and Arts Team, three of these in conjunction with local community groups. In addition, the Tongan Community delivered the Tongan Traditional Dance Festival, and the Beckenham Neighbourhood Association delivered a Christmas Carol event. All of these were funded primarily by Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board Project Funds 2002-2003. An estimated total of nearly 6,000 people attended these events.

KidsPlay, a free community event delivered by members of the Recreation and Arts, and Events Teams was held in each Community Board area. This event was funded by the Leisure Unit as part of the Summertimes programme.

EVENTS DELIVERED

- St Martins Community Concert – Saturday 9 November 2002, Hansen's Park
- Tongan Traditional Dance Festival – Friday 15 November 2002 – Manning Intermediate School
- There's Something About Victoria – Sunday 1 December 2002, Victoria Park
- Carols in the Park – Friday 20 December 2002 – Beckenham Park
- Kidsplay – Monday 6 January 2003 – Centennial Park
- Barrington Fun Day– Sunday 16 February 2003 – Barrington Park
- St Martins River Race – Saturday 1 March 2003 – Heathcote River/Hansen's Park

St Martins Community Concert

Rev. Chris Carey-Smith of St Anne's Church and the St Martins Community Youth Centre organised this popular event with assistance from the Community Recreation Adviser. The event had to be postponed for a week from the original date of 2 November due to inclement weather. Blue skies and sunshine on the postponement date made for a perfect family evening of entertainment.

Local groups, 15 in total, provided a varied programme of entertainment, ranging from primary school dance and orchestra groups, to singing and instrumental groups from the local community, and youth bands. Two talented young Master of Ceremonies, both of whom were excellent at interacting with the crowd, came from local high schools. Other entertainment offered included "Bouncy Boxing" and the "Human Fly", both of which proved very popular.

The highlight of the programme was perhaps the fireworks show, sponsored by St Martins New World, which drew many more people to Hansen Park as darkness fell. The other major sponsor was Showtime Canterbury. An estimated crowd of 2,000 attended the concert and fireworks.

The Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board provided \$2,500 toward this event from 2002-2003 Project Funds.

There's Something About Victoria

The Port Hills Rangers worked closely with the Community Recreation Adviser to plan this event. Promotion focused on local schools, with flyers and posters being distributed to all schools in the Spreydon/Heathcote area. Articles and advertisements in the community newspapers promoted the event to a larger audience.

The activities essentially promoted Victoria Park and the Port Hills, with the following activities available: a climbing wall; orienteering; mountain biking skills instruction; guided walks; information on dog ownership and the exercise dog park; a rural fire-fighting display; art opportunities. Music, an MC and some comedians welcoming people at the entrance to the Park provided a fun yet relaxed atmosphere. To prevent anticipated parking issues in Victoria Park, it was decided to organise a road closure and have buses and cycle trailers available to take participants up the hill.

The low cloud that was forecast to clear unfortunately hung about the hilltops all day, with the effect of the event location appearing very unappealing from the suburbs below. Perhaps this, combined with Christmas shopping well under way, resulted in a disappointing turnout.

Those that attended were very positive about the event and enjoyed themselves immensely. Of those surveyed, 93% rated the event as either "good" or "excellent". Comments included:

"Nice and relaxing with fun things to do for children and adults"

"More advertising and promotion needed to let people know what a great family day this is"

"Need sunshine next time!"

"Enjoyed the guided bush walk."

An estimated 300 people attended throughout the day. The Board provided \$3,500 toward the event, and the Parks and Waterways Unit provided assistance toward promotion and road closure.

Barrington Fun Day

A group of local residents met regularly at Manuka Cottage to plan this event with the Community Recreation Adviser and a student from Lincoln University undertaking practical work. The event was promoted through flyers, posters and signage.

Entertainment and activities were largely provided from within the local community, including Cashmere High School. Almost 30 stalls were organised by local groups as fundraising and promotional activities, resulting in a variety of food, craft and information being available. Other activities such as a bouncy castle, donkey rides, sumo wrestling and basketball with the Canterbury Rams were very popular.

The weather was windy but warm and sunny. An estimated 1,500 people attended during the day.

Of those participants surveyed, 97% rated the event as "good" or "excellent". Comments received included:

"Bigger is better"

"Nice to see families"

"Great day out"

"Nice to see many people"

Community Board Project funds provided \$3,500 for this event.

St Martins River Race

The St Martins Youth Centre, and in particular the Rev. Chris Carey-Smith worked with the Community Recreation Adviser to organise this event. The event was promoted via flyers and posters distributed to schools in the area, signage, and articles in local community newspapers.

A road closure was organised, and the majority of traffic was safely kept away from the busy registration area. A total of 70 craft, most of them home-made, carried approximately 250 participants down the Heathcote river from the Waltham Road Bridge to Hansen's Park. Participants adhered to the rules and there were no incidents or accidents. The river level was low and City Care contractors ensured the river was free of debris and overhanging branches.

A large number of family groups were in attendance, and many of the rafts were decorated imaginatively. Local sponsors/supporters provided assistance with prizes which enabled many participants to receive a prize.

An estimated 800 spectators watched the race from the riverbank, or attended several activities at Hansen Park afterward.

Community Board Project Funds provided \$2,500 toward the costs of this event.

Tongan Traditional Dance Festival

The Christchurch Tongan Community Association organised this event. The festival encourages New Zealand-born Tongan girls to learn about Tongan culture and tradition, by dancing traditional dances in an age-group competition. Eighteen girls aged between four and twenty years of age participated in the competitions in front of an audience of 300 people.

Community Board Project Funds provided \$2,000 toward the total event cost of \$3,174.

Carols in the Park 2002

The Beckenham Neighbourhood Association worked together with the Beckenham School and the Beckenham Methodist Church to provide this well-established annual community event. The Woolston Junior Brass Band provided wonderful music for the singing of carols.

A free sausage sizzle, great weather, and a good turnout of approximately 250 people resulted in an excellent community evening.

Community Board Project Funds provided \$170 toward this event.

Kidsplay 2003

'Kidsplay' has become a popular annual event produced by a team made up of staff from both the Recreation and Arts Team and the Events Team of Christchurch City Council Leisure. The first of a series of six "Kidsplay" events was held at Centennial Park, Spreydon.

The event is free, and is aimed at children aged 5 to 10 years of age. Children were involved in organised games for almost two hours, then relaxed while enjoying a cushion theatre production. Approximately 400 children and their caregivers participated. Funding for this event came entirely from the Christchurch City Council Leisure Unit.

Staff

Recommendation: That the information be received.