

9. CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL LEISURE - ACHIEVEMENTS

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The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Community and Leisure Committee about the achievements of Christchurch City Council Leisure in 2002.

INTRODUCTION

Christchurch City Council Leisure is involved in a wide range of leisure related activities on behalf of the Council. At times it is difficult to gain an overall picture of its achievements. Conscious of this situation the Chairperson of the Community and Leisure Committee requested a report for elected members bringing together the unit's achievements over the last year.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2002

Arts

- Co-ordinated Art Beat' which involved Christchurch artists opening the doors to their studios and inviting the public to come and view them working.
- Successfully staged 'The Body' Festival of Dance and Physical Theatre.
- Coordinated 'Art Attack' tour of inner city art galleries.
- Organised 'Jolt' - a mixed ability dance performance including four people with an intellectual disability.
- Developed new KiwiAble drama course for people with disabilities.
- Developed and opened The Firefighters Reserve and Sculpture in partnership with Parks and Waterways Unit, which received unprecedented international and national media exposure for the city.
- Reviewed Artworks in Public Places Policy establishing a new policy framework.

Facilities

- Ongoing development and construction of Multi Sensory Facility at QEII Park (due for completion and opening mid 2003).
- Completion of English Park redevelopment with a new 500 seat grandstand, lounge and offices to be leased to Federation 6 of New Zealand Soccer plus community facilities and a new cycleway and pedestrian link of benefit to the St Albans community.
- Resolution to rugby league leasing issue at Addington.
- Commenced planning of Porritt Park Stadium redevelopment.
- Began preparation of Cuthberts Green smoke free ball park for men's Softball World Championships 2004.
- Incorporation of Jellie Park Aqualand as Council managed facility.
- Agreed allocation of future capital monies for facilities to Jellie Park upgrade, extension of Centennial Leisure Centre, toilets at QEII main pool and fit out of mezzanine floor at QEII.
- Both the 50 metre 10 lane competition pool and the Atlantis leisure pool were opened at QEII and have been very popular ever since.
- QEII hosted the World Fina Masters Swim Championships, Oceania Athletics, South Island Swim Champs and The Red Hot Chilli Peppers Rock concert.
- Christchurch City Council Leisure has also taken on the responsibility of monitoring the water quality at all the Council parks paddling pools.
- Christchurch City Council Leisure has been contracted to manage the Lyttelton Swimming Pool.
- The former New Brighton Trotting Club Members Stand and old Civil Defence building at QEII were relocated to provide facilities for the Village Green.
- The Major Recreation Facilities Plan process was commenced.
- The suburban pools were brought under direct Christchurch City Council Leisure management to enable health and safety requirements to be met.
- Centennial Leisure Centre has produced high revenue and incurred lower expenses than anticipated.

Community Recreation

- Continued increase in KiwiAble Leisure Card membership (now at 1,675 members).
- Twelve month staff exchange programme with City of Calgary (Community and Neighbourhood Services).
- Four new programmes developed for Older Adults (Tai Chi, Leisure Clubs and Walk n Talk programmes).
- Two new holiday programmes developed for 10-14 age group ('The Depot' Youth Programme in Aranui and Templeton Energisers).
- Two new programmes for children aged 5-12 years (Spencerville and Aranui).
- Continued increase in popularity of Pilates with 7 new classes (6 Level Two & 1 Introductory Class).
- Two community based Tai Chi classes opened September 2002.
- The programme of community summer events at local parks attracted in excess of 13,000 people.
- Over 2,000 copies of the fully revised edition of *'Walk Christchurch 70 short walks that explore your city and surrounds'* sold.

Festivals and Events

- Staged successful Penny Sport Cycles Park to Pier Cycle event on behalf of the City Streets Unit.
- Organised very successful Meridian Energy Fireworks Display at New Brighton Pier on reserve night due to high winds on 5 November.
- TV2 Kidsfest celebrated its 11th birthday by attracting audiences and participants of more than 60,000 for the first time with the festival also expanded geographically as a result of a partnership with Waimakariri District Council.
- Increased listings and significant growth in page views on the Be There website.
- Strategic review of festivals and events was completed by the Festivals and Events Subcommittee resulting in an overall programme being recommended for funding for the first time.
- Creation of the New Zealand Garden Festival Trust to develop a major garden/lifestyle festival for the city.
- Summertime's continued as a perennial favourite with the ASB Starry Nights developing to a point in its second year at which it attracted over 30,000 people and Rick Armstrong Classical Sparks also attracted its largest crowd ever.

Sports Development and Promotion

- The 7th World Fire Fighters Games was hosted, which attracted 1,500 international participants and generated NZ\$3.75 million of spending within Christchurch.
- The International Masters of Rugby League tournament was hosted, which attracted 500 participants and generated NZ\$1.05 million of spending within Christchurch.
- The City hosted the 4th International Deaf Bowls Championships at Hoon Hay Bowling Club which attracted 240 international participants.
- The FINA World Masters Swimming Championships brought around 1,900 participants in to the city generating an estimated \$7.75 million of spending into Christchurch.
- The Council won a New Zealand Recreation Association Industry Award for Best Project under \$40,000 for the Mizone Sport and Recreation Guide.
- Successful bids were staged to host the World Masters Series and Junior International Indoor Cricket Tournament, World Softball Championships in 2004, Invacare Wheelchair Tennis World Team Cup 2004, Asia Pacific Dancesport Championships 2004 and the Special Olympics Asia-Pacific Regional Games 2004.
- Successful bids were staged to host the World Softball Championships in 2004 and World Bowls Championship in 2008.

Miscellaneous Others

- Developed a funding database with potential to include records of all Council grants to enable easy reference of applying organisations Council funding history.
- Completed Physical Recreation and Sport Strategy identifying the strategic direction for the Christchurch sport and recreation sector and fostering more co-ordinated and collaborative ways of working.
- Completed Leisure Parks and Waterways plans at a Community Board level for Burwood/Pegasus, Spreydon/Heathcote and Fendalton/Waimairi outlining the local priorities for these activities.
- Cathedral Square public conveniences have seen 650,000 people through using 1520 jumbo rolls of toilet paper.

CONCLUSION

Whilst it is impossible to encapsulate all the work of a large and diverse unit (such as the Leisure Unit) in a short report of this nature, it is clear that a tremendous amount has been achieved in 2002. In many cases it is the small things that make the difference to our customers and community. Many of these actions go unheralded but make up the day to day work for the staff in Christchurch City Council Leisure.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.