

6. CHRISTCHURCH OLYMPIC CITY COMMITTEE

Officer responsible Leisure Manager	Author Kevin Collier, DDI 941-8977
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The purpose of this report is to provide information details of the establishment and role of the Christchurch Olympic Committee, and outline some of the major events and programmes undertaken by the Committee since it was first constituted in June 1991 to enable the Council to determine its level of representation.

BACKGROUND

In March 1991, the Convener of the then Olympism Commission of New Zealand Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association (NZOCGA) addressed the Christchurch City Council's Parks and Recreation Committee on the Olympic City concept. At the time, the Olympic Cities programme was one being developed by Olympism Commission of the NZOCGA. The objectives of the Olympic City programme was outlined as follows:

- (a) To achieve greater local input into the Olympism programme.
- (b) To promote the Olympics and the principles of the Olympic movement.
- (c) To establish an Olympic family in New Zealand.
- (d) To distribute and disseminate information on the Olympic movement.

It was suggested that should the Christchurch City Council respond positively to the request that Christchurch apply to NZOCGA for designation as an Olympic City it would be the first city in New Zealand to gain this status. It was also stated that, because the NZOCGA Olympism Commission was the first of the International Olympic Federation Countries to promote the Olympic Cities concept, if Christchurch gained the designation it would be the first in the world to do so.

The Christchurch City Council at its meeting on Monday 25 March 1991, adopted the above resolution that the Olympic City designation was granted to Christchurch at a special ceremony presided over by Sir David Beattie, President of the NZOCGA at the monthly meeting of the Christchurch City Council on Monday 24 June 1991.

Included in the designation ceremony was the presentation of an official New Zealand Olympic Flag to the city and the adoption of a Christchurch Olympic City Charter signed on behalf of the Council by the then Mayor of Christchurch, Vicki Buck, President of NZOCGA Sir David Beattie, City Manager John Gray and the General Secretary of NZOCGA, Frederick Smith.

The Christchurch Olympic City Charter lists the following objectives:

1. Promote the Olympics and the principles of the Olympic movement.
2. Assemble and distribute information on the Olympics.
3. Foster a greater awareness of the Olympic movement in Christchurch and the benefits to the city.
4. Establish an 'Olympic Family' in Christchurch.
5. Achieve greater local input into the Olympic movement.
6. Gain interest in the Olympic movement from young people through programmes in local schools.
7. Undertake a variety of programmes in Christchurch based on the Olympic movement.
8. Engage in archival research on past local Olympians.
9. Through the Olympic movement promote Christchurch as a viable regional, national and international sports venue.

ADMINISTRATION AND FUNCTIONAL OPERATION OF THE CHRISTCHURCH OLYMPIC CITY COMMITTEE

The various events and programmes undertaken in Christchurch are organised by the Christchurch Olympic City Committee. The Committee is made up of representatives of NZOCGA, nominated Council representatives, past Olympic representatives and others who from time to time may be invited to join the Committee.

In March 1991 the Council also resolved that the Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee or his/her nominee chair the Christchurch Olympic City Committee.

Since that time two representatives of the Council have served on the Committee. Councillor Condon currently chairs the Committee and at its December 2001 meeting the Council appointed Councillors Erin Baker and Ishwar Ganda as its representatives on the Committee. There is no constitutional requirement for the Council to be represented on the Committee. Councillor Baker has since resigned from the Committee. In terms of the day-to-day administration the Senior Sports Adviser offers his time to assist the Committee as part of his Council duties.

As far as funding is concerned, during the first five years funding of the Committee's projects came from the local sponsorship and during the current financial year the Council has allocated \$3,000 for the Committee's projects as a budget item under "Sports Liaison and Development" in the Leisure Unit budget for the 2003/04 period.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The present Christchurch Olympic City Committee is as follows:

Cr Graham Condon	- Chairperson (currently not a Council representative)
Cr Ishwar Ganda	- City Councillor
Mr Selwyn Maister	- Olympic representative, CEO, Sport Canterbury
Mr Tony Ineson	- Olympic representative, Company Manager
Lesley Murdoch	- Olympic representative, Radio New Zealand reporter
Mrs Cathy Hemsworth	- NZ Swimming representative
Mr Ron O'Reilly	- NZOCGA, Lecturer in Forestry, Canterbury University
Mr Bruce Ullrich	- Business Consultant
Dick Tayler	- Commonwealth Games Representative
Nick Tolerton	- Sports Editor, Christchurch Star.
Rex Cosgrove	- Founding Member
Kevin Collier	- Christchurch City Council Senior Sports Advisor
Cr Erin Baker	- Councillor (recently resigned)

The Christchurch Olympic City Committee is responsible for implementing the objectives of the Christchurch Olympic City Charter. The Committee is serviced by the Leisure Unit.

OLYMPIC CITY PROJECTS, EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

The following is a summary of some of the projects, events and functions undertaken by the Christchurch Olympic City Committee since its inception.

Ongoing Projects

(i) Canterbury Children's Olympic Track and Field Championships

This event is held at QEII Park over two days during early March each year. Over 400 children from ages 7 to 14 years from throughout the Canterbury and West Coast regions take part. Each year the Committee has assisted with this event as an ongoing project.

The Committee has assisted with this event by arranging funding from the Olympic sponsors and others for meeting the costs of programme printing, refreshments for children taking part, some administration costs and providing the Olympic flag for the day. Usually one of the Olympic City Committee members is asked to open the event.

(ii) Database on Christchurch Olympic and Commonwealth Games Team Members

Since the establishment of the Committee the members have undertaken the ongoing process of compiling and revising a database of past Christchurch Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games Team members who are willing to visit local primary, intermediate and secondary schools and share with the pupils their own experiences in sport, the principles of the Olympic movement and explain the benefit of healthy living and participation of sport.

The database to date has over 160 Christchurch past Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games team members listed, most of whom are willing to visit schools.

Recently the database has been extended to include coaches, medical support staff and other officials who were past team members as well as the competitors themselves. The database therefore lists the names and other details of Christchurch's 'Olympic Family' whose members are regularly invited to various functions organised by the Committee.

In recent months, the New Zealand Olympic Committee has developed its own national database of athletes and this will most likely supersede the Christchurch Olympic City Database.

Functions

The following list of the 'Farewell' and 'Welcome Back' functions that the Committee has organised for Christchurch members of Summer and Winter Olympic Teams, Paralympic Teams and Commonwealth Games Teams since 1992:

- (a) Summer Olympics
 - Barcelona Olympic Team, Spain, 1992
 - Atlanta Olympic Team, USA, 1996
- (b) Paralympics
 - Barcelona Paralympic Team, Spain, 1992
 - Atlanta Paralympic Team, USA, 1996
- (c) Winter Olympics
 - Albertville Winter Olympic Team, France, 1992
 - Lillehammer Winter Olympic Team, Norway, 1994
- (d) Commonwealth Games
 - Victoria, Canada, Commonwealth Games Team, 1994

The Committee views these functions as important in terms of offering local support to Christchurch Olympic and Commonwealth competitors and as the means of extending the Christchurch 'Olympic Family'. Due to the changing nature of the Committee in recent times, these farewells have not been run for every Olympic and Commonwealth Games but a similar function is planned for the 2004 Athens Athletes.

SPORTS MUSEUM

The Committee is currently investigating possible sites for the establishment of a Sports Museum and Hall of Fame to house the many pieces of sports memorabilia, medals and such from the many successful Canterbury and New Zealand athletes.

There is currently no central place to catalogue, store and display these important and irreplaceable items which represent the history of sporting achievement for the many Canterbury athletes.

The project is in its initial stages and will require significant resources and financial support from many outside agencies.

CURRENT SITUATION

Recently Councillor Baker wrote to the Olympic City Committee advising that she wished to relinquish this appointment. A report was submitted to the October meetings of the Strategy and Finance Committee and the Council recommending that Councillor Condon be appointed to replace Councillor Baker on the Committee. At the Council meeting, following a debate on the level of Council representation on the Committee, Councillor Condon withdrew from the proposed appointment. The Council then resolved that staff report to the Community and Leisure Committee on the Council's future representation.

Staff

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Council continue to support the Christchurch City Olympic City Committee.
 2. That only one Council representative be appointed to the Christchurch Olympic City Committee.

Chairman's

- Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.