

4. DEPUTATIONS

(a) Native Trees to Schools

Mr Mike Peters attended and outlined the history and activities of the Bush Society. The Addington Bush Society Inc was established as a result of the actions of a group of Addington residents in 1994 who decided to remove their fences and establish a common area of native bush. This has evolved to the present situation where the Bush Society comprised a network of schools and community groups in Christchurch that were planting areas of native bush throughout the city and the port hills. The Society provided free materials to its members to enable them to be more productive and involve the local community in practical activities caring for local native flora and fauna.

Of the 20 schools that were currently members, three were from the Shirley/Papanui area. The Society's goal was to approach every school in Christchurch, to encourage them to grow and plant either for their own school grounds or a particular community project. A high level of public interest was anticipated. Further information about the society was tabled.

The request was made for Board funding to add to a tagged fund to purchase potting mix for groups in the Board's area.

(b) Community Gardens Project

Jane Quigley and Frankie Deans addressed the Board on behalf of the Community and Home Gardens team of the Organic Garden City Trust to explain the 'Kids edible gardens for schools' project. The aim of the project was to implement organic gardening in schools, the benefits for children including valuable skills in safe, sustainable gardening; increased self-esteem and self-reliance; pride in the school environment and a deepening interest in the wider environment. A selection of photographs about the group's activities was circulated.

At the moment the group's resources were fully stretched and a limit of 20 schools had been imposed. However, with the use of Task Force Green labour and the Trust undertaking the necessary administration, a budget of \$2,000 would support five schools for one year.

The Trust was now working with Keep Christchurch Beautiful and a new category was to be added to their activities in 2000.

(c) Mairehau High School – Truancy Programme

Linda Parsons, Truancy Officer for all of the Shirley/Papanui area, attended to outline the pilot Truancy Programme that was being implemented at Mairehau High School. This was to be used to demonstrate the need for permanent provision of such services and to obtain national funding.

The former dental clinic at Birchgrove School was available for use by the programme and a volunteer team with a supervisor was to be established. Daily data would be collected and reports produced monthly. In addition, an after-school officer position at the high school was to operate 5 evenings a week for 2 hours.

The Board **decided** that a report be considered at the 2 June 1999 meeting with details of the truancy programme and possible funding assistance.

(d) Metropolitan Development Team

Sally Latham and Julie McDonald, Community Advisers from the Metropolitan Development Team, outlined their role in the Council and how their expertise might be utilised by the Community Board.