

8. **NEW ZEALAND RECREATION ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CONFERENCE, CHRISTCHURCH,  
12-14 SEPTEMBER, 2001**

<b>Officer responsible</b> Leisure Manager	<b>Author</b> Lesley Symington, Recreation and Arts Team Leader, DDI 3711879
---	---

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for members of the Parks and Recreation Committee to attend the above conference, which is being held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor Conference Centre from 12-14 September.

The conference is being hosted in Christchurch for the first time in more than ten years and the Council has sponsored the conference with a contribution of \$10,000.

The theme of the conference is "back to basics" and its programme represents a marked shift away from a policy focus to one of practical sessions of interest to both staff and elected members. Sessions will be presented in "streams" – recreation, facilities and parks, allowing recreation programmers, facility managers and staff, parks professionals and elected members to get together for a "conference within a conference", as well as attending sessions in other streams which are of interest.

For every trend, policy issue or great idea presented at the conference there will be time allowed to discuss practical implementation ideas and approaches, giving attendees plenty of ideas to take back to their everyday work lives.

Opportunities for networking will be maximised, and another "first" at this conference will be a luncheon get-together for all elected members attending the conference, hosted by Councillor Condon.

Keynote speakers include Canadian Pam Meunier who has been prominent in Canada's implementation of physical activity ("30 minutes a day") strategies; the Minister of Sport, Fitness and Leisure, the Hon. Trevor Mallard; Christchurch City Council City Manager, Mike Richardson and Garry Henshall, the Executive Director of Parks and Leisure Australia.

As part of the Council's sponsorship the Chair, Parks and Recreation Committee, receives a full complimentary conference registration. As the conference is being held in Christchurch it is requested that all members of the Committee be authorised to attend.

The registration fee for the conference is \$646.88 per registrant. The day registration is \$309.38.

As this year's conference is being held in Christchurch and the Council is sponsoring this event, the Committee considered it would be appropriate for all members of the Parks and Recreation Committee to attend.

**Recommendation:** That all members of the Parks and Recreation Committee be authorised to attend the NZRA National Conference.