

8. **RICCARTON/WIGRAM ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT OF 12 MARCH 2002 MEETING**

The Board was in receipt of the report of the Environment Committee meeting held on 12 March 2002.

8.1 **NATIVE TREES PLEASE!**

On behalf of the project organising committee, Alison Taylor-Hayhurst was in attendance to discuss this initiative, and to seek some funding for information panel work at the Westmorland East Valley Reserve.

Native Trees Please! is a planting project based on the concept of re-establishing representative New Zealand native plant species that originally existed on the various flood plain surfaces throughout what is now Christchurch City. One of the aims has been to develop city-wide 'living museums' of plant life and associated ecosystems that will also add to the city's landscape heritage and provide a valuable educational resource for schools, other institutions and the general public, benefiting both present and future generations. The plan envisaged having one site with the appropriate underlying soil type, selected within each of the city's six community board areas and to plant a total of 2000 trees (symbolizing the year 2000) at each site.

The original concept was developed through a series of meetings of interested groups and individuals commencing in 1997. Council staff will develop plans of action including the sourcing of native trees, the preparation and planting of sites, the involvement of the wider community, and the staging of the planting itself throughout the year 2000. Achieving these outcomes includes site visits, the preparation of design and planting plans for each site, the development of a communication plan, the promotion of the event to various schools and community groups and organizing the planting days for the participants.

Westmorland East Valley Reserve

This planting, held on a Sunday in August 2000, was family orientated with families from the local Rotary club and residents association taking part. Both these groups have had involvement with this site in the past. There was a large turnout on the day, much enjoyed by all and with over 2000 trees being planted.

As with any planting project the success of Native Trees Please! in the longer term, will in large measure depend on the commitment of adequate resources including funding, technical skills, and the interest and commitment of local communities including the schools.

One element in the project for which sufficient funds were not available was the provision of on-site information/interpretation. This was always seen as an integral part of Native Trees Please! as a means of permanently explaining to the public the long term goals, nature and function of each site, at the same time signalling its importance as a Turning Point 2000 Millennium Project.

This site interpretation is envisaged as being in the nature of information panels, suitably sited and affixed, and containing text, diagrams, photographs and the like, covering for example information on site history, flora and fauna, and conservation and ecological values pertaining to each site.

8.2 **UPPER RICCARTON DOMAIN - UPDATE**

Riccarton Racecourse Bowling Club and the Winter Bowling Club presented a proposal to the Board in December 2001 whereby the Winter Bowling Club would surrender their existing lease on Upper Riccarton Domain.

The relocation was conditional on the Council providing financial assistance to the full amount requested in the proposal. The clubs have been advised that Council has secured the total amount of financial assistance requested and it is now available subject to various conditions.

The clubs are now working through the process in obtaining approvals for lease extension at the Riccarton Racecourse site as well as securing funding for their financial commitment.

Community Consultation

The situation has changed significantly since the original consultation regarding the tennis club's application was undertaken in August 2001. At that time the tennis club's proposal had significant impact on the park and required changes to the layout of existing sports fields. A number of local residents were opposed to the tennis club's application.

The Parks and Waterways Unit believes that the proposed relocation of the Winter Bowling Club provides an opportunity to reach a compromise on the opposing views within the community regarding the tennis club's application.

The Parks and Waterways Unit would like to hold a public meeting to present the current proposal to the community. This will enable elected members to gauge the feeling of local residents and receive community feedback prior to the tennis club's application for a lease extension coming to the Board for a decision.

Committee Deliberation

A full discussion ensued on this report.

8.3 PROJECT FUNDS (2001/02) ALLOCATED TO THIS COMMITTEE

The Committee had \$50,000 available, as at 1 July 2000.

Board approvals to date are:

	\$
• 5 September 2001, Avonhead Basketball Facility, Crosbie Park, half share	15,000
• 30 January 2002, Upper Riccarton Domain Winter Bowling Club, relocation	20,000
• 27 February 2002, Community Pride Garden Awards, presentations	2,000
• (Recommended), 12 March 2002, Native Trees Interpretation Panel, Westmorland East Valley Reserve	1,840
Balance	<u>\$11,160</u>

Two new projects were promoted by the Parks and Waterways Area Advocate, being

- Springmead Reserve, playground installation, where the Parks and Waterways Unit had \$12,000 available. More funds were sought.
- Vicki Reserve, completion of development plan.

8.4 WHARENUI SCHOOL PROPOSED JUNIOR PLAYGROUND EXTENSION: COMMUNITY ACCESSED FACILITY

The Wharenui Board of Trustees is planning to extend the existing junior playground.

The cost of the extensions is between \$13,000 and \$14,000. As well as approaching local service clubs and businesses, the Board of Trustees is seeking assistance from the Community Board on the basis that the playground is a facility widely used by the community.

The Committee **decided** to defer consideration of the request at this time, and suggest that the Board of Trustees make application through the Community Board Funding Committee.

8.5 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ROLES AND FUNCTIONS

At the last meeting of the Committee some consideration was given to the roles and functions of the Committee, bearing in mind their relationship to the Board objectives.

Areas of significance include sale of liquor, resource management, parks and waterways, heritage, biodiversity, and all aspects of environment (air, water etc).

In order, therefore, to contribute to these significant activities the Committee needs to consider the following draft **'purpose'**.

1. Assist the Board to deliver its environmental objectives to the community.
2. Provide appropriate resourcing to community organisations/agencies to assist in achieving Board objectives.
3. Receive delegations from, and be proactive on behalf of, community groups and the wider community.
4. Advocate, on behalf of the community, on those significant activities which this Committee has a mandate to contribute to.

These can be achieved by:

1. Developing an understanding of policies and business unit programmes.
2. Facilitating community/stakeholder meetings on identified issues/projects.
3. Close liaison with groups/units associated with any Committee-resourced projects/programmes.

8.6 OWAKA PIT, UPDATE

An update would be sought from Environment Canterbury.

8.7 RAVENSDOWN FERTILISER WORKS

Ongoing.

The Board **decided**:

1. That subject to all details including costs of the interpretation panels proposed for each site being satisfactory to the Board, the installation of these be approved, at Westmorland East Valley Reserve.
2. That an amount of \$1,840 be provided, from 2001/02 Environment Committee Project Funds to place the interpretation panels.
3. That the Parks and Waterways Area Advocate expedite the surrender of the lease from the Upper Riccarton Domain Winter Bowling Club back to the Council.
4. That the Community Recreation Adviser be requested to measure the Yaldhurst Road frontage of the Domain, to establish if it was able to accommodate an additional tennis court, and report back to the Committee.
5. That \$8,000 be allocated to Springmead Reserve, subject to receipt of design work/costings.