

8. ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE CONFERENCE – CHATEAU ON THE PARK, CHRISTCHURCH

Officer responsible Council Secretary	Author Tony McKendry, Committee Secretary, DDI 941-8252
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The purpose of this report is to obtain approval for the attendance of elected members at the 2003 conference for the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture being held in Christchurch from the evening of Tuesday 21 October 2003 to Friday 24 October 2003.

BACKGROUND

The 2003 conference of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture is being held in association with the Christchurch City Council, Environment Canterbury, Landcare Research and Pyne Gould Guinness Ltd. The conference theme is "Greening the City: Bringing biodiversity back into the Urban Environment. The conference will be launched on the evening of Tuesday 21 October 2003 with Dr Morgan Williams, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, delivering a keynote address "The Ecologies of Liveability – Why Cities Need Biodiversity".

The following information has been signalled by the organising committee on what will be an interesting and informative programme.

RATIONALE

The important role of cities as a repository for biodiversity is increasingly recognised within New Zealand and overseas, along with the need to focus on sustainable development, triple bottom-line accounting, and the function of green environments in maintaining community health and cohesion. In New Zealand, recent reports by the Parliamentary Commission for the Environment and the Ministry of the Environment have drawn attention to these issues. The conference will be based on these and other themes, with an emphasis on practical outcomes.

The conference will be held in the Garden City of Christchurch, where there is much collective expertise on urban biodiversity. Complementing our local experts will be several world authorities on the greening of cities, landscape architecture, and town planning to act as keynote speakers.

These topics are very timely as the Christchurch City Council puts into place its biodiversity strategies.

Keynote speakers include:

- Dr Morgan Williams, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, Wellington, New Zealand.
- Professor Chris Bains, one of the United Kingdom's leading environmental campaigners, and an award winning author and broadcaster.
- Mason Tan, Landscape Architect and Director of Mace Studio, Singapore.

Registration fees are as follows:

Full registration fee	\$420 (incl GST)
RNZIH member	\$300 (incl GST)
Conference Dinner 23 October 2003	\$70 (incl GST)
Field Trip to Akaroa and Hinewai	\$55 (incl GST)

Recommendation: That Councillors Carole Anderton, Carole Evans, Pat Harrow and Chrissie Williams be authorised to attend the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture Conference.