

7. EVENTS REPORT - 2003-2004

Officer responsible Community and Recreation Manager	Author Maria Moran, DDI 941-5107
--	--

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the events delivered by the Christchurch City Council Recreation and Arts Team and the local community in the Spreydon/Heathcote Board area during the 2003-2004 financial year.

BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community events bring residents together in a safe environment for a free, enjoyable experience. Events can create a sense of belonging to and celebration of the local community, and may develop a sense of pride in the community. Local community groups often have an opportunity to promote themselves, and local residents who attend these events learn more about their community.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

Four events were delivered by the Christchurch City Council Recreation and Arts Team, all of these in conjunction with local community groups. All events were funded by Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board 2003-2004 Project Fund, of which \$17,500 was allocated to community events. An estimated total of approximately 4,000 people attended these events.

“Kidsplay”, a free community event delivered by members of the Recreation and Arts, and Events teams. was held in two locations in Spreydon/Heathcote. This event was funded by the Community and Recreation Unit as part of the Summertimes programme.

Two smaller events were organised and delivered by two local community cottages. The cancellation of the “Fun on Hastings” event provided an opportunity to assist with the funding of both the “Waltham Children’s Disco” and the “Rowley House Opening” event.

EVENTS ORGANISED

Community Fiesta – Saturday, November 1st 2003, Hoon Hay Park

Kidsplay – Monday, January 6th 2004 – Waltham Park and Centennial Park

Barrington Big Fun – Sunday, February 22nd 2004 – Barrington Park

Fun on Hastings – Saturday, February 28th 2004 – Waltham School

St Martins Community Concert– Saturday, March 6th 2004 – Hansen Park

Community Fiesta

A group comprised of staff from the Rowley Resource Centre, the Hoon Hay Youth Centre, the Hoon Hay Presbyterian Church and the Pacific Health, Employment, Sports and Education Trust organised this new event with assistance from the Community Recreation Adviser.

A large stage provided an excellent platform for the many and varied performances, ranging from well-known youth bands to cultural dance groups. A blessing was given by one of the local Pacific Island identities prior to the official opening of the event, which set the theme of a multi-cultural celebration. A highlight of the event was the performance from the local Tongan dance group, splendidly dressed in traditional costume.

A great variety of stalls represented many different cultures and local organisations. Children were obviously delighted by the many activities, including the extremely popular soap-carving workshop and the kite-making workshop, both led by members of the local community. The bouncy castle and balloons were as popular as ever, and there was an atmosphere of joy and family togetherness. All participants surveyed responded positively when asked if they would come again next year. Other comments received included:

“Awesome day” (6)
“Impressed with the quality of local talent”
“Lots for the kids, which is great”
“Relaxed, laid back atmosphere”

It is estimated that between 1,000 and 1,200 people attended the event.

This event cost \$8,000, the full amount of which was provided from the Board's 2003-2004 Project Fund.

Kidsplay 2004

'Kidsplay' has become a popular annual event produced by a team made up of staff from both the Recreation and Arts Team and the Events Team of Christchurch City Council. This year there were two events per day, one in each ward. The first of the series of 12 "Kidsplay" events was held at Waltham Park, with the second event being held at Centennial Park, Spreydon, in the afternoon.

The event is free, and is aimed at children from pre-school to 10 years of age. Children were involved in organised games for almost two hours, then relaxed while enjoying a cushion theatre production. Approximately 100 children and their caregivers participated at each of the events in the Spreydon/Heathcote ward. The "Kidsplay" team of 12 staff did a fantastic job in keeping their enthusiasm and energy levels high with such a demanding schedule. Funding for this event came entirely from the Christchurch City Council Community and Recreation Unit.

Barrington Big Fun

A group of local residents met regularly at Manuka Cottage to plan this event with the Community Recreation Adviser. A student from Lincoln University undertaking practical work assisted in the early stages of planning. The event was promoted through fliers, posters and signage.

Entertainment and activities were many and varied, including performances from a Chinese dance group and the popular Cashmere High School Band. Children's art activities, including kite-making and a collage competition, were very popular. Thirty stalls were organised by local groups as fundraising and promotional activities, resulting in a variety of food, craft and information being available. Other activities such as a bouncy castle, donkey rides, and basketball with the Canterbury Rams were once again highlights for many children.

The weather was calm and sunny. The event resembled a bustling "village" with lots of people and lots of things happening. An estimated 1,600 people attended during the day.

Of those participants surveyed, 98% rated the quality of the event as "good" or "excellent". Comments received included:

"Great day"

"Great to see lots of smiling faces"

"Fantastic outcome. Thanks to all who organised this event."

"Great to have so many free things."

The event costs of \$4,660 were covered by the Board's 2003-2004 Project Fund.

Fun on Hastings

An enthusiastic group of local people, including residents, the Principal of Waltham School, the Waltham Youth Trust Youth Worker and Waltham Cottage staff, planned this event in conjunction with the Community Recreation Adviser. The wealth of contacts which the group had within the community resulted in a very "local" event, with the Recreation Adviser having a co-ordination role rather than an organising role.

Unfortunately, the wet February weather was at its worst on this day, with driving rain and cold temperatures, despite an optimistic early forecast. The event was cancelled an hour before it was due to begin.

The decision by Waltham School to have a "giant garage sale" after school a week later meant the event was able to be salvaged somewhat, with the majority of performers/suppliers opting to come to this alternative event rather than charge a cancellation fee. The result was that over 20 stallholders finally got to sell their wares, and the children had some fun with the juggler/unicycle rider, the bouncy castle and the balloon hats. There was a small crowd of approximately 250 people despite the chilly weather.

The cost of staging this event was \$1,615; leaving some funds available to assist in the delivery of several other small events.

St Martins Community Concert

The St Martins Youth Worker worked with the Community Recreation Adviser to organise this small lunchtime concert event in Hansen Park. The event was promoted via fliers and posters distributed to schools in the area and by signage throughout the St Martins/Opawa area.

The event showcased local talent, with school groups and the local Youth Centre bands performing, and a local youth providing a polished performance as Master of Ceremonies. The younger children were kept amused with a bouncy castle, while the "Human Fly" provided a lot of enjoyment for older children. The event had a neighbourly, friendly atmosphere.

The Youth Worker organised local businesses to provide considerable sponsorship, which kept the costs lower than originally anticipated.

It was unfortunate that the local school and kindergarten organised events on which the dates clashed, which resulted in lower numbers than anticipated. The weather was sunny and pleasant, with 300 attendees.

The event cost \$1,745, with over \$800 in sponsorship being provided in addition. This saving enabled funds to be directed toward other events.

Waltham Community Cottage Children's Disco

This small event held on Friday 25 June 2004 was organised entirely by a team from the Waltham Community Cottage. Fliers and posters were distributed in the local community and, in particular, at Waltham School. The school hall was transformed by DJ lights, streamers and balloons, which created a great atmosphere. The DJ catered well to the children's taste in music and everyone enjoyed a fun night together. Approximately 100 children and a good number of adults participated. Community Board Project Funding provided \$300 toward the costs of this event.

Rowley House Opening

Organised by the Rowley Resource Centre staff, in conjunction with staff from Beckenham Service Centre, this event held in early July 2004 was a celebration of the move to new premises. An official opening was followed by children's entertainment, art activities, a sausage sizzle and buffet lunch. There was a delightful atmosphere of togetherness and pride. Despite cold temperatures, a good crowd of approximately 300 people from the local community attended. The Board provided \$1,180 from its 2003-04 Project Fund towards the event.

Staff

Recommendation: That the information be received.