

6. YOUTH PROGRAMMES

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Community Services Committee on the outcomes of new youth programmes implemented over the period December 2003 to April 2004. The programmes include "Boards n Blades" (skateboard and rollerblading workshops) high school touch rugby tournament, surfing workshops plus a series of BMX and skate events held at Jellie Park.

INTRODUCTION

The Fendalton/Waimairi Youth Consultation (Mathew Newton 2003) states that the most frequent response to the ways that Council could help in meeting young people's needs was in providing more recreation opportunities. Desired activities included expanding existing or generating new touch modules and the provision of other socially inclusive sports such as summer soccer, volleyball and basketball. Other activities included under 18 events such as concerts at Jellie Park and skate and BMX events.

BACKGROUND

The Community Board allocated \$5000 for youth events plus an additional \$2500 was carried forward from the last financial year following the review of the YMCA youth programmes. The Board agreed that this amount be reallocated for youth activities. This report accounts for \$5860 of this vote. A further \$1300 was granted to the Youth Forever Club to host a youth summer soccer tournament and to subsidise places in a Kiwisport programme. Youth Forever have yet to report back on these activities.

PROGRAMMES

1. Boards n Blades – Summer Holiday

This programme involved a series of four concurrent skateboarding and rollerblading workshops held at Bishopdale Park over December and January.

The workshops aimed to teach young people interested in rollerblading and skateboarding some of the popular moves and how to improve their technique. The programme also catered for those new to these sports with rollerblades and skateboards available for use. Instruction was provided by staff from Cheapskates.

The programme was co-ordinated by the YMCA at the Bishopdale Community Centre who took bookings and collected revenue. Promotion included fliers distributed to local schools, a mail box drop in the area, posters around Bishopdale shopping centre plus two ads in the local paper. The four workshops had an average attendance of 18 youth with an age range of 8 – 14 years.

Programme Cost: \$2035 Attendances: 72 Revenue: \$5 per head - \$360

2. Boards n Blades – April Holidays

After the success of the summer workshops four more were planned for the April holidays. The format differed slightly from the summer workshops in that they were split between two skate parks – Bishopdale and Jellie Park. Due to limited registrations for the two Bishopdale workshops these had to be cancelled.

It appears that participants preferred the Jellie Park facility as it offers more challenge which was evident in the fact the a high percentage of participants were intermediate to advanced skill level. Cheapskate instructors suggested that in order to attract learners it would be better to base all workshops at Bishopdale Park. The two Jellie park workshops had a combined total of 28 registrations however the second workshop was cancelled due to adverse weather.

Programme Cost: \$933 Attendances: 15 Revenue: \$5 per head - \$75

3. **High School Touch Rugby Coaching Clinic and Tournament (Summer Touch Fever)**

The aim of this event was to promote the sport of touch rugby to local youth and to provide an opportunity for new and inexperienced players to become involved. The event was organised by Sarah Hebert, Bryndwr Churches Community Support Society youth worker and hosted by the Burnside Rugby Club, who provided the coaching and referees.

Touch rugby is well supported in local secondary schools however youth are underrepresented in club touch rugby. By targeting Burnside High School students it was hoped to create a link between the school and the club. This event was also promoted to the other high schools in the area via sports co-ordinators and fliers.

The planned format for the event was a coaching clinic followed by friendly tournament with players placed in teams depending on ability and experience.

The response to this event was disappointing with only 20 registrations however those that participated thought it worthwhile and would participate again. The recommendations from the Fendalton/Waimairi Youth Consultation (Mathew Newton, 2003) state that local youth want more opportunities to play touch rugby and also wanted activities available between the time school breaks and Christmas. However the response to this event suggests that youth prefer to participate in touch rugby through the secondary schools competition.

Programme Cost: \$772

Attendances: 20

4. **Introduction to Surfing**

Following on from the huge popularity of the surfing workshops offered during the Rapid Youth Festival, September 2003, two workshops were staged in December to provide further opportunities for local youth to try this sport. A total of 33 youth participated on the workshops at a subsidised cost of \$15 per person.

The aim of the programme was to introduce participants to surfing and to encourage on-going involvement in this accessible sport.

Professional Surf Coaching, who were contracted to deliver the workshops, report that as result of the workshops, 4 participants enrolled for further training and have gone on to surf independently or with surf clubs. All participants were given contact details of surf clubs to encourage on going involvement.

Given the limited space available in the programme it was only promoted at Burnside High School.

Programme Cost: \$872

Attendances: 33

JELLIE PARK EVENTS

1. **Skate and BMX Events**

A grant of \$1248 was made to the Bryndwr Churches Community Support Society to deliver informal skate events at the Jellie Park skate facility during the summer holidays plus two dedicated BMX workshops during the April holidays.

This grant also included the delivery of a BMX event, "Peanut Butter and Jellie Jam" held on 28 March.

Four events were held during January which were informal and involved the three main users groups of the facility, skate boarders, BMX riders and rollerbladers. The groups were divided into their respective disciplines and then given the opportunity to display their talent. Judging was carried out by their peers with prizes awarded accordingly. A total of 122 youth attended these with an age range of 8 – 15 years.

During the April holidays two BMX workshops were held and run in conjunction with Boards n Blades programme. A total of 25 youth attended these workshops.

2. "Peanut Butter and Jellie Jam" BMX Event

This event was organised by an older group of BMX enthusiasts who are regular users of the Jellie Park facility with support from the Bryndwr Churches Community Support Society Youth Worker. This project was an excellent opportunity for users of this facility to have a lead role in the provision and organisation of events.

The event involved demonstrations, age group competitions, music plus a sausage sizzle and attracted 65 local youth. Promotion was via youth networks and fliers to local schools.

The funding for all the Jellie Park programmes was used for promotion, prizes and gift vouchers for the workshop instructors plus public liability insurance for "Peanut Butter and Jellie Jam" event.

Comments from participants:

"The Council rocks! This is the coolest day ever."

"This has been a great day. It's nice to get a chance to get all of the BMX enthusiasts together"

"I really like it when there's something going on at Jellie "

"This is a really great way to get people together"

"I like the way that older riders get along with younger riders so well at this park"

Programme Cost: \$1248

Attendances: 212

CONCLUSION

The programmes and events discussed in this report were selected based on recommendations from local research and through consultation with youth workers. Delivery of the programmes was through partnerships developed with the YMCA (Bishopdale Community Centre) and the Bryndwr Churches Community Support Society. This collaborative approach to programme delivery enables community stakeholders to have a lead role in meeting the recreation needs of their particular target group.

Staff

Recommendation: That the information be received.