

## 6. L.Y.F.E. (LINWOOD YOUTH FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE) 2003

<b>Officer responsible</b> Community and Recreation Manager	<b>Author</b> Diana Saxton, Community Recreation Adviser, DDI 941-6628
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The purpose of this report is to inform the Board about L.Y.F.E. (Linwood Youth Festival Experience) 2003. A presentation by representatives of the LY.F.E. crew and advisory group will also be given as a deputation at the Board meeting. (Refer to clause 10.1.) The Board provided a grant of \$15,000 for L.Y.F.E 2003 and this report and presentation is part of the accountability process.

### BACKGROUND

L.Y.F.E. has been running since 1998 with significant support from the Board and the Community Recreation Adviser. It is a well established, local community event where youth and agencies supporting youth are involved in the co-ordination of the event from start to finish. The process is as important as the final event and the youth learn a variety of valuable skills along the way.

### Objectives

- Enables youth to be responsible for creating an event for youth
- Provides an opportunity for information sharing and networking among youth, their families and agencies working with youth
- Celebrates youth diversity and profiles youth in a positive way
- Provides an opportunity for youth to participate in a wide range of activities on the day
- Builds a sense of belonging and strengthens communities

### Relevant Council Policies and Board Objectives

Social Well Being and Community Policy  
Recreation and Sports Strategy  
Youth Policy  
Events Policy

An Active Community

### RESULTS

This section gives a brief overview of the many aspects involved in meeting the objectives identified above. The information has been gathered from anecdotal feedback, evaluation surveys, coordinator and advisory group reports.

### Planning

L.Y.F.E is a process that takes 11 months, with varying intensity depending on tasks to be completed. The festival itself was held in Linwood Park on Sunday, 2 November from 11am – 4pm. The many hours that go into planning an event this size multiply considerably with the process of involving youth in all aspects of putting on a festival of this type.

This year, the organising team for L.Y.F.E. 2003 consisted of a dedicated advisory group representing 10 local community groups and organisations, a 'crew' of 30 local youth and a co-ordinator. A further 250 young people from the local community were involved in performing at L.Y.F.E. 2003.

It is worthwhile noting that this year's crew included a greater number of secondary school students with representation from Linwood College, Avonside Girls and Shirley Boys. There was also a number of crew who attend Linwood Intermediate.

Everyone involved in organising L.Y.F.E. is keen to be involved for the next festival. The young people had an 'awesome' time being on the crew and even though there was 'lots of work to do' it was 'good fun' and they all want to do it again.

An event management workshop is being planned to add more value to crew members participating in L.Y.F.E. The possibility of linking L.Y.F.E. to the education curriculum is also being explored. This initiative could be a great way for youth to gain wider recognition for the skills acquired through L.Y.F.E. A presentation of L.Y.F.E. has been accepted by the Local Government Youth Conference to be held in July. This will be done in conjunction with Diverse Café and will provide a few members of the crew with the opportunity to participate in a conference, gain further presentation skills, network with other youth and profile positive Christchurch city youth initiatives.

Most advisory group members have been involved with L.Y.F.E. from when it first began. It is a highly valued project that community organisations contribute to. However, it can be very time consuming and may impinge on other commitments. As a result it has been agreed that a co-ordinator needs to be appointed earlier in the year so that preliminary networks and youth facilitation can be established well in advance. The advisory group also recommends that, given the length of time L.Y.F.E. has been running, it is necessary to assess the project and determine the future direction of L.Y.F.E. This assessment is being progressed through engaging an independent researcher to conduct a review with funding support from the Board.

The L.Y.F.E. co-ordinator is based at Linwood Resource Centre and is well supported by the Community Worker based at the Linwood Resource Centre who is a central member of the advisory group. This excellent arrangement is available for 2004.

### **Programme**

L.Y.F.E. was opened by local kaumatua Rick Pitama followed by Bob Todd, Chairperson of the Board. The main stage provided an eclectic mix of sound and performance throughout the day guided by the experienced 4YP crew and giving Linwood College's LUMA academy and L.Y.F.E. crew the opportunity to demonstrate their stage management skills. There were 14 acts orchestrated by two lively MCs from Tahu FM.

A highlight of L.Y.F.E. this year was the increased number of, and participation in, interactive activities. There were 24 interactive activities and 24 stallholders providing information or selling refreshments. Popular new activities included trampolining, stone carving and touch. Old favourites such as giant games, breakdancing and skating comps continued throughout the day due to demand and willingness of activity providers to carry on beyond scheduled time slots.

The atmosphere was relaxed and active with healthy sales reported by vendors and good responses to performers. Everyone involved in L.Y.F.E. 2003 would like to be involved again for 2004.

### **Attendance**

An estimated crowd of over 5,000 people attended the day with two thirds of the crowd coming from Linwood and surrounding suburbs. Festival goers were satisfied by the quality of the event, with many attending with family (37%) or friends (61%). A high proportion (80%) were aged from 10 – 25 years and 50% were Maori or Polynesian. The most effective form of promotion was word of mouth and everyone expressed an interest in attending the event in 2004. Many attending the event were impressed with what was on offer and some were keen to see larger acts such as Scribe playing at L.Y.F.E. There was some support for the event to be held on a Saturday. This has been done in the past but proved to clash with sport and people working.

### **Health and Safety**

It was a fine day but strong nor'westers caused problems with market stalls, and a number of stall holders were forced to dismantle before the finish time. A tree also needed to be cordoned off due to suspected wind damage. People bringing dogs to the event caused some problems which were seen to by the police and there was some evidence of substance use which was monitored. An incident was seen to be brewing between rival youth gangs but this was closely attended to by the Youth Workers Collective, Maori wardens and Police. Overall, there were no serious incidents and a sound health and safety management plan was in place to deal with any problems.

### **Finances**

Avebury House agreed to act as an umbrella organisation for handling the L.Y.F.E. accounts. This operated very well with timely, accurate reporting for accountability purposes. Avebury House is willing to continue providing this service as its contribution to L.Y.F.E., and the Community Worker is a vital member of the advisory group. The event cost \$23,100 to stage and operated within budget. Income for the event was generated through a \$15,000 grant from the Board, \$3000 from NZ Lottery Grants Board, \$4,100 from NZ Community Trust and smaller donations of \$500 or less totalling \$1,000. Meridian sponsored the t-shirts, Tahu FM promoted the event and a number of businesses donated product or services for spot prizes.

### **CONCLUSION**

L.Y.F.E. 2003 has been considered a success by organisers and participants. It has operated within budget, met the objectives and was well supported with good levels of satisfaction. Planning for L.Y.F.E. 2004 is underway and an independent evaluation will be carried out to assess the project and assist decision makers determine the future direction of L.Y.F.E.

**Staff**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.

**Chairperson's**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.