

7. PA HARAKEKE - JANET STEWART RESERVE

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941-8270
Officer responsible:	Greenspace Manager
Author:	Christine Heremaia, Styx Project Area Leader - Learning Strategist and Kim Swarbrick, Parks and Waterways Area Advocate

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is:
 - (a) To seek Board approval to proceed with the concept plan for an integrated artwork design.
 - (b) Seek approval for adopting the landscape plan.
 - (c) Seek approval for installation of signage about Janet Stewart and funding for associated costs of \$5,000.
 - (d) Seek approval to remove one birch and two willow trees.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Pa Harakeke located at Janet Stewart Reserve is an important flax resource for Christchurch. A number of management issues have arisen that need resolving. These are:
 - Access.
 - Flax identification.
 - Demonstration of correct cutting techniques.
 - Maintenance and removal of off-cuts.
 - Plus the need for identifying Maori protocol when harvesting flax.
3. This report presents a solution to these management problems in the form of an amended landscape plan and integrated artwork which will contain educational material. In order to implement the landscape plan and integrated artwork, approval is being sought from the Board to adopt this report. Additionally, it is proposed to honour Janet Stewart, whose son Edmund Stewart gifted land for the Janet Stewart Reserve. This will be done by means of installing an information portal dedicated to Janet Stewart. Consultation has been undertaken with relevant stakeholders to seek community opinion which has been strongly supportive of this concept plan.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

4. Funding of \$5,000 was obtained from the Board on 1 June 2005. Similarly \$5,000 was also obtained from the Shirley/Papanui Community Board. This combined \$10,000 is allocated to the development of an integrated artwork for the Pa Harakeke at Janet Stewart Reserve. Currently \$3,000 has been paid to artist Jim Instone for the initial design work leaving \$7,000 from the combined Board funding. The balance of \$43,145 will come from the Styx Waterway and Wetland Restoration budget 2005/06 to meet the total project cost of \$50,145. This funding is identified in the 2005/06 financial year so approval for the integrated artwork is urgent. The project leader is concerned that any delays at this point may not only result in the loss of funding in this financial year but if unused may limit future funding allocations.
5. The costs associated with the development are listed below:

Chip paths: - Pa Harakeke	\$12,600
- Entry	\$1,000
- Off cut area	\$720
Transplant Harakeke	\$1,125
Willow removal	\$1,000
Sow lawn	\$460
New planting areas	\$1,040
Vehicle entry alterations	\$200
Gateway entry portal	\$25,000
Signage portal and markers	\$5,000
General tidy up of Pa Harakeke	\$2,000
Total Cost	\$50,145

INTEGRATED ARTWORK DESIGN

6. The design for the Pa Harakeke improvements has been undertaken jointly by Antony Shadbolt (landscape architect, City Solutions Christchurch City Council), Jim Instone (artist), Perry Royal (architect, Royal Associates Ltd) (**Attachment 2**).
7. Interpretation panels attached to the integrated artwork will provide on site information about cultural protocols, use and information about the Pa Harakeke, together with processes to overcome management issues (ie permits to cut flax, correct cutting methods, management of flax off cuts).

AMENDED LANDSCAPE PLAN

8. The management issues associated with the Pa Harakeke were investigated. Some of these issues are concerns around Health and Safety, where flax has been harvested incorrectly. Correction of these issues has been addressed through a range of improvements to the landscape plan (**Attachment 1**). They include:
 - Improved access to the flax bushes through the development of a crusher dust path and the removal of some flax bushes, as well as some willow, birch and wilding trees.
 - Identification and uses for the different types of flax leaves through the placement of individual sign markers at the start of each flax row and a general layout plan on the main sign.
 - Management of flax off-cuts through the creation of a designated area where they will then be regularly removed. A range of alternative uses for the flax cuts is being investigated (ie paper making).
 - Appreciation of Maori protocol through the placement of information on the entry portal and the main sign.

INSTALLATION OF JANET STEWART SIGNAGE

9. At a seminar meeting held on 19 April, Board members requested that staff give consideration to developing further signage to emphasise the original Janet Stewart theme and present it to the Board as a possible project for Discretionary funding.
10. It has been noted that the current Janet Stewart sign leading into the reserve is of a size, shape, and lettering style consistent with parks and reserve signage policy. This means that the original Janet Stewart Reserve sign cannot be altered.
11. Staff have therefore considered alternatives and would like to propose this option; that a portal, in keeping with the same style of other Styx artworks and signage, be placed adjacent to the trees that were planted by Janet Stewart's descendants. Additionally, in recognition of the bequeathed land, by Edmund Stewart, an information panel dedicated to Janet Stewart will be installed (**Attachments 4 and 5** - proposed design, and location).
12. The development and installation of this portal and associated information panels has been costed at \$5,000. This funding is sought from the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board's 2005/06 Discretionary fund.

TREE REMOVAL

13. To implement the new improved landscape design there is one birch and two willow trees that will require removal from their current growing position amongst flax plantings within the Pa Harakeke. The two willow trees are in various stages of decline and regrowth. The birch tree appears healthy yet its value is in conflict with the design and revegetation work already implemented. An arborist has assessed all the above mentioned trees and recommends that they be removed (**Attachment 7**).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve the following options:

Integrated Artwork Design

- (b) Approve the design for the integrated artwork for the Pa Harakeke at Janet Stewart Reserve as outlined in this report.

Amended Landscape Plan

- (b) That the Board adopt the new landscape plan with its amendments that will increase user safety and enjoyment.

Installation of Janet Stewart Signage

- (b) That the Board approve the instalment of Janet Stewart signage and provide funding of \$5,000.

Tree Removal

- (b) That the Board agree to the proposed removal of one birch and two willow trees that will allow the implementation of the amended landscape plan to go ahead.

BACKGROUND

14. The Pa Harakeke located at Janet Stewart Reserve on the corner of Marshland Road and Lower Styx Road provides an important and popular source of flax for local weavers. Unfortunately many people are not cutting the flax properly resulting in safety issues as well as reducing the quality of leaves for weaving. The flax off-cuts are also being left in a variety of places and these are a nuisance in the ongoing maintenance of the Reserve.
15. The design concept, for the integrated artwork, has evolved from the growing understanding of the Styx landscape character. It is thought that the word "Styx" evolved from the use of 'sticks' which were used to guide people through the swamp in the vicinity of Main North Road. The incorporation of 'sticks' in built structures along the Styx River green corridor highlights the origins of the name of the Styx River. This association is also being recognised in the design of new bridges throughout the catchment (**Attachment 6** - photo of bridge and artwork, upper Styx River, Crofton Road). Other concepts integrated into the design are the imitation of flax weaving and colours used are found at the base of flax leaves (**Attachment 3** - inspiration for design work).
16. A public workshop was held at the Fendalton Service Centre, on 2 November 2005, where management issues and signage in the form of an integrated artwork was discussed. Invitations to the workshop were extended to current users of the Pa Harakeke and Christchurch schools. The workshop was also promoted through libraries and service centres. Outcomes from the workshop supported the need for signage, a designated area for flax off-cuts, a permit system for harvesting flax and the need for on going training.

OPTIONS

Integrated Artwork Design

There are two possible options:

- (a) Do nothing or status quo. This option is not desirable as it would not resolve the current management issues that have arisen. There is also merit in continuing the artwork theme to be consistent through the entire length of Styx River Catchment. The Pa Harakeke area is worthy of recognition as a place of special significance within the Styx Catchment area.
- (b) Approve the design for the integrated artwork Pa Harakeke at Janet Stewart Reserve as outlined in this report. Greenspace Unit sees merit in the provision of interpretation panelling that will help to educate groups utilising the area. The Pa Harakeke signage will promote sustainable management of the flax resource, resolve management issues and ensure the harakeke plants flourish.

Amended Landscape Plan

There are two possible options:

- (a) Do nothing or status quo. This option would leave the area in its current state which is undesirable as the safety of people harvesting flax has risen as an issue.
- (b) That the Board adopt the new landscape plan with its amendments that will increase user safety and enjoyment.

Installation of Janet Stewart Signage

There are two possible options:

- (a) Do nothing or status quo. There will be no formal recognition on site of who Janet Stewart was.
- (b) That the Board approve and provide funding for the instalment of a portal displaying information about Janet Stewart, her family and relationship with Janet Stewart Reserve. Greenspace Unit sees merit in the provision of interpretation panelling in recognition of Janet Stewart.

Tree Removal

There are two possible options:

- (a) Do nothing or status quo will hinder the new and improved landscape design from being implemented.
- (b) That the Board agree to the proposed removal of one birch and two willow trees that will allow the implementation of the new landscape plan to go ahead.

ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS

	Benefits (current and future)	Costs (current and future)
Social	Mitigate risks to public and property.	Landscape planting and installation of artwork \$50,000.
Cultural	Many cultural benefits identified for Maori.	
Environmental	Improved reserve facility for community. Increased sustainability for flax plants to flourish.	
Economic	No positive or negative economic impact for the community identified.	

Extent to which community outcomes are achieved:
 Primary alignment with community outcome:
"To provide for access to and the use of traditional resources within public forest, parks, and reserves" City Plan 5.1.3 Volume 2.
"To identify places with special significance for Tangata Whenua, and minimise, avoid, remedy, or mitigate adverse effects upon their values" City Plan 5.1.4 Volume 2.
 Styx vision 2000/2040
"Our City's natural resources, biodiversity, landscapes, and ecosystem integrity are protected and enhanced."

Also contributes to *"Our City's infrastructure and environment are managed effectively, are responsive to changing needs and focus on long-term sustainability"*.

Impact on Council's capacity and responsibilities:
 No impacts on Council's capacity and responsibilities have been identified.

Effects on Maori:
 Improved access and provision for flax collection. This in turn will benefit and strengthen cultural awareness.

Consistency with existing Council policies:
 Consistent with the Environmental Policy and specifically: *"Open Spaces and Planting - The Council will manage and maintain the open spaces of the City in ways that enhance amenity, avoid adverse effects and minimise maintenance requirements"*.
"To acknowledge and promote the "Garden City" identity of the City by protecting, maintaining, and extending planting which complements this image".
"A City of Inclusive and Diverse Communities" Our diversity is seen, heard, valued and celebrated.

Views and preferences of persons affected or likely to have an interest:
 Workshops with the community received outstanding support for the proposed improvements to the Pa Harakeke site.

Other relevant matters:
 N/A