

4. RICCARTON/WIGRAM ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT OF 20 APRIL 2004 MEETING

The Board considered the report of the Environment Committee meeting of Tuesday 10 April 2004.

1 APPLICATION FROM "EVENTING CANTERBURY" TO ESTABLISH AN EQUESTRIAN CROSS COUNTRY COURSE AT CANTERBURY PARK

The Parks and Waterways Advocate (Rod Whearty) presented a comprehensive report on the application to construct an equestrian cross country course at Canterbury Park.

The Board was supportive of the application, and **endorsed** the application request from "Eventing Canterbury", noting that it would be considered by the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee.

2 PETITION FROM RESIDENTS REGARDING DOMESTIC GEESE AT WESTLAKE RESERVE

Rod Whearty presented a report on a petition from residents living adjacent to or near Westlake Reserve. The Council's Ranger, Andrew Crossland, was also in attendance.

The petition sought the placing of signage on the islands within the lake to stop people causing damage to wildlife and also raised concerns about the increasing population of geese and their detrimental effect on other wildlife and the reserve.

Parks Rangers have been aware of the problems associated with the increasing geese numbers, and the report suggested three possible options.

The options were to

- (a) "take no action",
- (b) restrict the numbers to an agreed level, or
- (c) remove all the geese.

The report acknowledged that any management programme would not necessarily receive universal acceptance from residents, but wildlife management on parks and open spaces was necessary.

The Committee was supportive of the installation of signs, and working towards a nil target for domestic geese. A further recommendation to allow staff to manage any other feral pests (on such reserves) was suggested also.

The Committee was supportive of the Parks and Waterways Unit undertaking additional dredging around the lake islands as a deterrent to people accessing these islands, in the interest of protecting the wildlife that inhabit these islands.

The Board **decided:**

- (i) That appropriate signs be installed by Friday 21 May 2004.
- (ii) That a proposed management programme to restrict geese numbers from a maximum of six down to none will be formulated based on advice and guidance from the Park Rangers.
- (iii) That the local petitioners be advised of the proposed management programme prior to implementation.
- (iv) That where Council Staff become aware of the unauthorised release of pests or feral animals, that the Board support and grant authority to staff to undertake proper management control in these instances.
- (v) To consider funding appropriate interpretation panels to be erected within the reserve to educate users on the special nature and wildlife of this reserve.

**3. CARMEN/PEBBLES/SHOWGATE CORRIDOR
PATHWAY LINKAGE, ENHANCEMENT**

At the 16 March meeting of this Committee, it was agreed to fund some minor pathway linkages on this corridor, subject to an estimate being received.

The Parks and Waterways Advocate advised the Board that this work did not, in his opinion, provide a benefit to the corridor. Any minor works sought could be looked at under maintenance.

The Committee supported the officer's advice and, therefore **agreed** not to provide any funds for this corridor enhancement.

4. TEMPLETON COMMUNITY CENTRE, NETBALL/TENNIS COURT FENCING

A plan was tabled showing the need to provide fencing around the total perimeter of the courts. It was noted that the eastern side was not being fenced under the present contract.

The Board was supportive of the request to provide some funding for the 43 metres of fencing required, and its decision is recorded under clause 14 of this report.

5. HERITAGE WEEK 2004, UPDATE

An update was given on the possible projects in which the Community Board could become involved for Heritage Week, 2004.

6. OWAKA PIT, OPERATION

There was general discussion on the current activities at this privately owned pit.

Members were of the strong belief that current dumping practices were contrary to Council bylaws, and that a firewood operation at the site could be operating without Resource Consent.

The Board **decided** that:

1. In view of the possible non-conforming activities currently being undertaken at Owaka Pit, the Board support the Council enforcing the closing down of the current operation until it can be established that it complies with current Council bylaws and its resource consent conditions, and that the Council be requested to take any necessary remedial action so as to ensure that the site is being operated in full accordance with current bylaws and resource consent conditions.
2. It support any Council efforts for the Owaka firewood operator to be told to cease all work forthwith and that this site remain closed until all appropriate consents are obtained, and that any consents sought should be publicly notified.