

6. JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES

RR 10406

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Corporate Plan Output: Recreation Promotion and Programmes	

The purpose of this report is to inform Board members of the July school holiday programmes run in the Shirley/Papanui Community Board area by the Recreation and Arts Team of the Leisure Unit and supported by the Shirley/Papanui Community Board.

BENEFITS OF SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES

School holiday programmes provide quality, safe recreation experiences for children and above all a chance to relax and have some fun! Longer term, school holiday programmes teach children good leisure habits and help them to learn about the activities and groups in their local communities. They are also an important community service to Christchurch families, particularly working families who require care for children. This issue has been exacerbated by the introduction of the four term school year.

PROGRAMMES RUN

A total of over 820 children between the ages of 5 – 13 years participated in holiday activities in the Shirley/Papanui Board area, run by the Recreation and Arts Team.

There were three one week holiday programmes run or contracted by the Leisure Unit, targeting primarily the 5- 10 year age group. These were located at Northcote, Papanui and Belfast, catering for a maximum of 35 participants per day. The Northcote programme was not fully booked on several days and averaged only 30 participants per day. In response to research, half of the placements were allocated specifically for Northcote School pupils, which were not taken advantage of by Northcote parents and caregivers. The Belfast programme was contracted to St Aidans Trust.

There was a one week programme in Shirley targeting the 9 – 12 year age group, which was fully booked at 35 participants per day.

A new programme, based at Casebrook, targeting 11 – 13 year ages, received 20 participants over a three day programme. This programme operated on a low tutor/participant ratio, catering for this specific age group.

KidsFest Pavement Art, a free one day event, based at the Shirley Community Centre, attracted over 130 children between the ages of 5 and 12 years. This was planned and delivered as a partnership between the Events and Recreation and Arts team.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Demand for the Christchurch City Council Holiday Programmes continues to be very high. The Papanui Pirates programme, for example, was fully booked within 3 days. Evaluations received from parents/caregivers, indicate these programmes are good value for money, operate a high standard of care and supervision, and that recreation outcomes are achieved by the participants.

NEW PROGRAMME: NORTHCOTE YOUTH (11-13 YEARS)

This programme was funded by the Board and meets an identified need from recent research for activities for this age group, who are too old for current programmes for 5-10 year olds and not old enough for many of the youth activities in the city.

The “Cool Holiday Stuff” was a selection of activities specifically catering for the needs of the 11- 13 year age group. It was trialled, targeting only Casebrook Intermediate students, and planned for small group work. Relationship development with positive tutor role models was a key emphasis, incorporating challenging and skill development based activities. This programme was planned and promoted in an extremely short time frame, and provided an opportunity to present a mix of activities as a starting point in targeting this age group. One day was cancelled (Lip-sync and Disco), due to low numbers and high delivery costs. Given the limited lead in time for the promotion of this inaugural programme, it is envisaged that further programmes will have increased participants. The development of activities for this targeted group will be in conjunction with the students of Casebrook Intermediate.

Future Developments in the Provision of School Holiday Programmes in the Shirley/Papanui Community Board Area

Working with community organisations to deliver and develop holiday programme provision.

Specific programming for the 10–14 year age group will be a key developmental priority.

Working in partnership with the St Albans Youth Worker addressing youth needs (12-18 years).

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the officer's recommendation be adopted.