

Officer responsible Parks Manager	Author Robyn Taylor, Area Parks Officer (Sockburn)
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The purpose of this report is to request funding support from the Board for the 1999 Community Pride Garden Awards.

Background

For a number of years the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board has sponsored the Community Pride Garden Awards in partnership with the Christchurch Beautifying Association. This Award acknowledges residents' personal contribution towards maintaining Christchurch as the 'Garden City of the World'.

This non-competition-based Award has proven very successful in encouraging the home gardener to make an extra effort in their gardens. The Christchurch Beautifying Association has twelve key members who give their time voluntarily to compile lists of deserving recipients. Judging takes into account the socio-economic situation, local climate, soil factors and general standard across each ward area.

Last year the Christchurch Beautifying Association identified 200 gardens within the Spreydon and Heathcote Wards worthy of recognition. The Community Board decided that a formal acknowledgement be made for the Awards by way of a function with presentation of the certificates by members of the Board and the Christchurch Beautifying Association. A morning tea function was held at the Hoon Hay Club for Spreydon residents receiving awards, and Heathcote recipients were invited to an afternoon tea function at the Cashmere Club. Hosting two functions enabled the presentations to be held within the local area which minimised travel for those receiving an Award, and also enabled a large number of people to be adequately catered for. Costs to provide two presentation functions with morning or afternoon tea, similar to last year are \$2,000.

At a debriefing meeting of the Christchurch Beautifying Association and Council representatives it was discussed as to how well the awards were received. Members of the Beautifying Association suggested that all Boards be encouraged to provide presentations similar to those hosted by the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board.

Conclusion

The Community Pride Garden Awards are an effective way of recognising extra effort being made by residents towards maintaining Christchurch as the 'Garden City of the World'. The Board's initiative to formally recognise recipients at morning or afternoon tea functions was received very favourably last year. This is an excellent opportunity for Board members to meet with residents within their wards who have contributed to the Garden City image.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Spreydon-Heathcote Community Board allocate \$2,000.00 from its 1998/99 Discretionary Fund in support of the 1999 Community Pride Garden Awards.
 2. That the Board nominate two members from each ward to present certificates at each presentation ceremony.