

## 5. SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES

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Corporate Plan Output: Recreation Promotions and Programmes	

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to inform Community Board members of the school holiday programmes delivered by the Recreation and Arts Team, Christchurch City Council Leisure in the Shirley/Papanui Community Board area over the September/October school holidays.

### BENEFITS OF SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES

School holiday programmes provide quality, safe recreation experiences for children and above all a chance to relax and enjoy themselves after the long school term. Longer term, school holiday programmes teach children good, lifelong leisure habits and help them to learn about the activities and groups in their local communities. Holiday programmes are also an important community service for Christchurch families, particularly working parents who require care for their children. This issue has been exacerbated by the introduction of the four term year, and by central government policies with regards to the Community Wage.

### PROGRAMMES DELIVERED – GENERAL

Four, fully booked, one week holiday programmes were delivered during the spring holidays, located at Belfast, Papanui, Northcote and Shirley, catering for a total of 793 participants between the ages of 5 – 12 years. These programmes are funded and managed by the Christchurch City Council Leisure. The Belfast programme delivery was contracted to St Aidans Community Trust. Evaluations received continue to be very appreciative of the programmes, and comment on the high quality of the service. Increased recreation opportunities for children and good value for money, particularly from working parents was also feedback strongly.

### DEVELOPING PROGRAMMES - YOUTH

Three new programmes were delivered during the spring holidays, specifically targeting youth and catering for a total of 170 participants. Board members will recall that programming for the 10 – 14 year age bracket was identified by the Community Recreation Advisor as key developmental priority during the 1999/2000 year. These are summarised as follows:

## **1. The North Zone (11 – 13 years), Northcote, 27<sup>th</sup> September – 1<sup>st</sup> October**

The North Zone was a one week programme, developed from the initial trial during the July holidays, based at Casebrook Intermediate. This programme was funded by the Shirley/Papanui Community Board, and delivered in partnership by Christchurch City Council Leisure and the YMCA. There was an excellent response to the programme, catering for a total of 80 participants. The catchment for participants were mainly drawn from Casebrook and Breens Intermediate in the Northcote area, where research had identified the need for this age group.

### *Activities*

Activities for this programme are pitched at a more challenging level, with smaller group work for positive relationship development. The programme was presented with differing themes for each day and incorporating varied skill development opportunities. Activities that proved to be particularly successful was a partnership approach with the Papanui Softball Club and the Parks Unit. The Papanui Softball Club was most enthusiastic about the sports workshop, and the benefits from this approach saw a great day of social games and skill development with participants so motivated, the Club now has some new members! A “Green Day” was based at the Styx Reserve, hosted by the Park Rangers. This was an invaluable opportunity to involve youth with a local reserve, with enormous environmental education opportunities.

### *Comments from Youth & Caregivers*

Evaluations received from the youth and caregivers accessing The North Zone, were extremely positive. Comments provided reinforcement that a programme specifically catering for this age group, and locally based, is needed. The programme was considered “awesome” by all of the participants!

## **2. Shirley Skate Workshop, (11 – 14 years), 29<sup>th</sup> September**

The one day Shirley Skate Tour Workshop was a new initiative, targeting the young skateboarders, ages 11 – 14 years. The Workshop was funded by the Shirley/Papanui Community Board and managed by Christchurch City Council Leisure. The day was fully booked with 20 plus very enthusiastic skateboarders.

### *Activities*

The workshop commenced and finished at Shirley Intermediate, providing easy access for youth in this area. The participants were toured around several of Christchurch’s skate parks throughout the day, culminating with a BBQ and spot prizes at St Albans Park Ramp. This provided an opportunity to discuss with participant’s plans for the St Albans ramp. Top Christchurch skaters tutored the

workshop, with an emphasis on injury prevention, skate protocols, promotion of positive values and plenty of demo!

### *Comments from Youth & Caregivers*

With nearly 100% of positive evaluations forms returned, indicate what a huge success this workshop was! Caregivers congratulated the Council on such an initiative, both for recognition of the skateboarders and a programme appealing to a difficult age group. Both participants and caregivers strongly indicated the need and interest for more of the same and other “groovy” workshops.

### **3. The Youth Zone (11 – 18 years), St Albans, 20<sup>th</sup> September – 1<sup>st</sup> October**

This was a new programme trialled over two weeks, targeting youth of St Albans. The programme was funded by the Christchurch City Council Leisure and managed by the St Albans Youth Worker (SARA). The Youth Zone catered for two different age groups over the holidays, 11 – 13 years and 14 – 18 years. As an initial programme with little publicity, the programme successfully catered for 68 participants.

#### *Activities*

The programme was planned in response to discussions with youth in the St Albans area. The activities included a mix of full day trips away to Hamner and Skiing and afternoon sessions of theatre, art and skating!

### **OBSERVATIONS**

#### *General*

Programmes for the 5 – 10 year old group continue to be in high demand and are located at venues of highest need, where there are no other community providers. The Community Recreation Advisor will be seeking to develop partnerships with community organisations for the delivery of these programmes.

#### *Youth*

The three new programmes catering for youth in the Papanui/Shirley ward are a good step towards catering for the holiday needs of this group. They will be further developed during the year and support from the Community Board is fundamental.

### *Summer*

During the summer period many of these programmes will be operating. The Skate Workshop concept is being extended to cover the wider Christchurch area, as “The Big Sk8 Out” and being combined with the Waimakariri District Council’s planned girl’s skateboarding workshops.

The Community Recreation Advisor is also working in conjunction with the St Albans Youth Worker and YMCA to produce youth programmes with summer and surf challenges galore.

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

### **Chairperson’s**

**Recommendation:** That the officer’s recommendation be adopted.