



## 10. NATIONAL LANDSCAPE AWARD FOR THE COUNCIL'S AVOCA VALLEY STREAM PROJECT

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| <b>Officer responsible</b><br>Water Services Manager              | <b>Authors</b><br>Rachel Barker, Waterway Enhancement Coordinator<br>Roy Eastman, City Design Engineer |
| Corporate Plan Output: New Assets (Waterways and Wetlands 9.3.45) |  |

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide information on a national award, the Charlie Challenger Award, presented by the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects (NZILA) for the Avoca Valley Stream restoration project.

This report has also been submitted to the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board for its information.

### BACKGROUND

This top award for landscape planning has recently been awarded by the NZILA to Lucas Associates for the report on the project. The Avoca Valley Stream project was initiated and led by a Christchurch City Council team under Rachel Barker, who contracted Lucas Associates to produce the report.

In 1996 the Christchurch City Council applied to the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund for a large amount of funding, and received \$101, 000 to develop a community model for stream restoration over a two-year timeframe. From 1996-1998 the Council was actively involved in developing a Stream Care Group, and conducted a public workshop held in Heathcote, in early 1997.

During 1997- 1998 the Avoca Valley Stream Care Group developed plans for replanting and restoring the stream margins from the head of the catchment in the Port Hills, to the outlet of the stream at the Avon/Heathcote estuary near Ferrymead. Two major projects were implemented including the replanting of streamside land at the top of the Avoca Valley Road, and the creation of a pond and planting at the entrance to Mary Duncan Park, off Port Hills Road. In both projects the local community was actively involved in the planning and the planting. A very successful day was held with Heathcote Valley school children in the planting alongside the Mary Duncan Park pond.

More recently, the Council has also approved the purchase of land alongside Avoca Valley Stream on the Heathcote floodplain off Scruttons Road. This will be an area to be restored for the enjoyment by wildlife and people involved in passive recreation of the area- and an asset for future generations.

### OUTPUTS

A report and video were produced in 1998, titled " Restoring Avoca Valley Stream- a community model". These were attractively packaged in a flax-paper box and, as part of the agreement with the Ministry for the Environment, were sent as guidelines to every local authority throughout New Zealand. Feedback has been very positive and complimentary.

A presentation of a technical paper by Rachel Barker on the project was given at the International Conference on Urban Storm Drainage held in Sydney, Australia from 30 August to 3 September 1999. The paper was presented by Ken Couling, titled "Developing Community Partnerships: The Avoca Valley Stream Restoration Model", and created a lot of interest which generated requests from Australia, South Africa and North America for copies of the project report.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The Avoca Valley Stream restoration project has been highly successful largely due to the team effort of the Christchurch City Council, Lucas Associates, the local community and the Ministry for the Environment.

#### **Chairman's**

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