

4. DEPUTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT

4.1 BERNARD FOLEY

Bernard Foley has requested speaking rights to address the Board on two issues:

- (1) The possibility of commemorating the former Johnson's Fish Nursery by naming some feature of the area formerly occupied by this nursery after the proprietor.

The following historical background notes are provided for Board members' information by the Area Parks Officer:

“The Area Parks Officer reports that mention is made in the files of an initial request by the Woolston Residents Association in 1997 which was handled by his predecessor

The Association requested that Andrew Johnson be recognised in the area and suggested a number of ways.

It is understood that Mr Foley will outline at the meeting the association Andrew Johnson had with the area.

The renaming of Radley playground was refused on the basis that recognition of the McCombs family was more pertinent to that area. The Council resolved in September 1997 to rename this reserve McCombs Playground. This was never done and a request for a new sign has recently been undertaken.

The Association also requested that the straight stretch of the Heathcote River between Marshall Street and Ferry Road be known as Johnson's Reach, similar to that part of the Avon River known as Kerrs Reach.

A letter is on file from the Otautahi Runaka of Kai Tahu stating “The Maori name for the Heathcote river (and its original name) is Waimokihi. We would have some difficulty in supporting the renaming of part of the river with a non-Maori name in light of the fact that its true and original name is not given appropriate official recognition. However, we would be prepared to meet with you to discuss these issues further in the new year.” As far as is known, this was not concluded.

Research shows that from Anderson's "Place Names of Banks Peninsula" (1927) the Heathcote was named in several parts, not as a whole, viz:

Te Heru-O-Kahukura	From the source to Lincoln Road
Waimokihi	That part through Spreydon
O-Pawaho	That part through Opawa
Te One-Poto	Redcliffs beach

In 1844 the river was known as "the Serpentine", and D Munroe wrote on 1st May 1845 that the Maori knew it as Upawa (probably his interpretation of O-Pawaho).

In 1997 the Board set up a subcommittee including present Board members Aaron O'Brien and John Freeman which made the following suggestions:

1. That the renaming of the stretch of the Heathcote River, from Ferry Road to opposite the end of Marshall Street, proceed.
2. That signage and/or a plaque be erected in McCombs playground that acknowledges the contribution made by Mr Johnson.
3. That a lychgate type information board that details Mr Johnson's contribution be erected on the river bank.
4. That the proposed enhancement of the riverbank be strongly supported.

It was proposed that once the comments of the Woolston Community Association had been received a full report would go back to the Board.

It is understood that the association replied that they supported these suggestions. There is no record of any further action than that mentioned above.

To progress this, the following has recently been undertaken:

- A request for a name change on the Radley Playground site.
- A request for a sign or plaque at McCombs playground to acknowledge Johnson's contribution to that area.
- A request for an interpretive panel on the riverbank between Marshall Street and Ferry Road outlining Johnson's contribution to the area as a whole.
- An approach to the Council's Maori Liaison Officer to further the proposal to name the area between Marshall Street and Ferry Road "Johnson's Reach".

- (2) Mr Foley also wishes to seek the Board's support for a grant of \$1800 from the Board's 2000/01 Discretionary Fund towards the running costs of the Community Watch car which travels approximately 1,000 kilometres per week.

A formal letter outlining this request will be found under the correspondence section of this agenda paper.