

15. WATERLINK PROGRAMME

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the WaterLink Programme, particularly that aspect of the programme that relates to school restoration projects. This programme forms part of the Waterways and Wetlands Education Strategy.

WaterLink replaces the earlier Water Expo Programme that had a much narrower focus. The goal of the WaterLink Programme is for young people to learn about and participate in the sustainable management of the water resource (eg water supply, waterways and wetlands). Its objectives are:

- To obtain an understanding of the water resource
- To obtain an understanding of the values associated with water
- To obtain a local, national and global perspective on water
- To develop skills in future visioning in relation to the management of the water resource
- To provide opportunities for learning how to implement the visions through involvement in political processes and implementation of local projects

These objectives will be achieved through a range of activities such as teacher workshops, development of teacher resources, audio-conferences, exhibitions of children's work and the web site.

The Water Services Unit has obtained the assistance of a teacher, Margaret Yorke, who is being funded by the Royal Society of Science and Technology. Her work will involve the development of a teachers' resource that focuses on maximising student learning opportunities associated with waterway and wetland restoration activities. She is, or will be, working with a number of pilot schools which have waterways in or near their school grounds. These schools are:

- Cashmere High School—Spreydon Ward
- Christ's College—Hagley Ward
- Mairehau High School—Shirley Ward
- St Andrew's College—Fendalton Ward
- Sacred Heart College—Spreydon Ward
- Breens Intermediate School—Papanui Ward
- Cobham Intermediate School—Fendalton Ward
- Heaton Intermediate School—Fendalton Ward
- Beckenham Primary School—Heathcote Ward
- Opawa Primary School—Heathcote Ward
- West Spreydon Primary—Spreydon Ward
- Rudolf Steiner Area School—Heathcote Ward

Most schools are in the very early stages of involving students in the planning process, the exceptions being West Spreydon School and Breens School where some planting has already occurred.

The teachers' resource will consist of teacher guidelines, activity pages and case studies and focus on activities associated with waterway and wetland restoration. Content will cover include the following:

- Getting started
- Site assessment including assessment of drainage, landscape, ecology, recreation, culture and heritage values
- Development of long term visions
- Consultation
- Decision making processes
- Implementation of plans
- Maintenance requirements
- Case studies

It is envisaged that student representatives from each of the pilot schools will present their school waterway and wetland project to the Community Board once the concept has been developed and their has been consultation within their local community.

The development of the resource will provide a learning model that other schools can use in the development and management of their local waterway or wetland.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the foregoing recommendation be adopted.