

22. REPORT ON DAWN 2000 - A NEW SUNRISE EVENT

Officer responsible Chief Executive Officer, Turning Point 2000	Author Events Co-ordinator, Turning Point 2000
Corporate Plan Output:	

The purpose of this report is to provide a post-event report on the Dawn 2000: A New Sunrise event.

INTRODUCTION

On Saturday 1 January 2000, Christchurch's only large-scale free public Dawn celebration, 'Dawn 2000: A New Sunrise', was held at New Brighton Beach and Pier.

Pre-event media interest was very high with the event receiving national exposure via radio and television networks. Television New Zealand went live several times during the event.

The event was included several times in the Global Millennium Day Broadcast by TV3, and photos and articles on the event featured in The Press, the Christchurch Star as well as the Sunday Star Times. Reporters from other media organisations were also present during the event, including a representative from the BBC in London.

A staging area was placed on the village green facing seaward, with spectators enjoying the entertainment from various vantage points on New Brighton Beach and Pier.

The number of spectators at the event was estimated at around of a peak of 12,000, during the time the sun was due to rise. This number slightly less than anticipated, but this can be attributed to the poor weather conditions on the day. The number of spectators at the event quickly dropped after the official sunrise due to the rather inclement weather.

Entertainment

The morning's entertainment began with a combination of traditional Maori, Cook Island drumming and instruments to welcome people to the beach. This was followed by a Karakia Timatanga – Opening Ancient Chant by Ngai Tahu.

Highlights of the entertainment programme included Kai-a-te-Po (Creation of the land), A production by of Te Runanga O Ngai Tuahuriri, extending a welcoming the new dawn and extending a greeting to Ranginui (sky father) and Papatuanuku (earth mother) and a performance of an excerpt from Handel's Messiah by a combined Pacific Island Choir.

The Master of Ceremonies for the event was former Newstalk ZB radio host Robin Harrison.

Funding from the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board was used for small payments, to cover mostly transportation and actual costs to local cultural groups for their services.

Turning Point 2000 staff managed every aspect of the event, due to the limited budget.

The disposal of rubbish was an issue after the event, with the portable bins not being utilised by members of the public. During pack-down Turning Point 2000 staff collected 35 wheelie bins of rubbish from the beach and surrounding area.

There was a large, generally well behaved crowd at the event from early evening on New Year's Eve until sunrise. The overnight crowd mostly consisted of teenagers and was focused on the beach. Due to Health and Safety considerations the New Brighton Pier was closed to the public from 11.30pm until 4.30am New Year's Day.

A variety of Food Vendors were located on the North Ramp, and reported modest trading levels. It should be noted that all the vendors were commercial operators and not community groups as we had hoped.

General Crowd Services

General crowd safety was provided by a number of services. First aid was provided by both The Order of St John and Red Cross.

A contracted security company in partnership provided security with The Police via a communications system designed specifically for the event. Other service organisations assisted with parking and rescue services.

Overall, the Police were extremely satisfied with the crowd behaviour, with only a few minor unrelated incidents reported throughout the evening and morning.

SUMMARY

Overall, public response was extremely favourable with both businesses and residents in the area fully supporting the initiative. Public reaction from those that attended has also been overwhelmingly positive.

The event came in slightly over budget, which has been absorbed within the Turning Point 2000 core funding.

Turning Point 2000 gratefully acknowledge the support given by the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board to making the event an outstanding success and helping to profile New Brighton on the local, national and international stage.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the information be received and the Events Co-ordinator be complimented on a very successful event.