

11. REPORT ON ARBOR DAY

Officer responsible Environmental Policy and Planning Manager Parks Manager	Authors Kerry Everingham, Environmental Promotion Officer , Richard Doyle, Education Co-ordinator
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The purpose of this report is to report back on this year's Arbor Day programme (attached) and to gain the support of Community Board members for the proposed Arbor Day Schools Programme for 2001.

ARBOR DAY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

During 1998/99 a review of the Arbor Day activities within the various Community Board areas was undertaken by staff members in an effort to introduce a consistent programme across the city. As a result five community boards, with the exception of Spreydon/Heathcote, each set aside \$2000 for the introduction of an Arbor Day Schools Programme that was to be undertaken within each boards area of responsibility.

Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board opted to continue to operate its own Arbor Day programme, whereby schools are offered shade trees through the Area Parks Officer for grounds enhancement, shelter and shade. Spreydon/Heathcote schools that took up this offer were not under any obligation to involve pupils or to incorporate the planting programme into classroom learning activities.

This year's programme was based upon offering all schools the opportunity of plants for school planting programmes within the school grounds as a part of their Arbor Day or Conservation Week activities on the proviso that:

- they provided a planting plan
- they placed mulch over the planted area (the compost facility offered "Living Earth" mulch at a reduced price)
- they involved the pupils in the planting and maintenance of the plants provided
- and that messages learnt during the planting were followed up and reinforced within the classroom (activity sheets were made available through EPP and Parks).

On site assistance was available to all participating schools and was the responsibility of the Park Ranger Service. Schools that requested the services of the Park Rangers are noted in the table below. The Rangers ensured that the correct ground preparation was carried out and that plants were appropriately planted. They also provided an education component on the day – covering the importance of caring for our natural environment including local parks and green spaces.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS FOR 2000

<i>Ward Area and School</i>	<i>Funds spent per ward area</i>	<i>Request for Ranger Visit</i>
Burwood	\$400	
North New Brighton		Visited
Parkview School		Visited
St Pauls		
Windsor School		Visited
Pegasus	\$200	
Central New Brighton		Visited
St James		
Riccarton	\$100	
Our Lady of Victories		Visited
Wigram	\$500	
Canterbury Christian College		
Gilberthorpe		
Hogben School		
McKenzie Residential		Visited
Sockburn School		
Shirley	\$400	
Glenmoor School		Visited
Hammersley Park		
Maurehau School		Visited
St Albans		
Papanui	\$200	
Casebrook Intermediate		
Saint Josephs		
Fendalton	\$900	
Burnside School		Visited
Christ the King		Visited
Fendalton		
Ferndale		
St Andrews College		
St Patricks		Visited
Waimairi		Visited
Wairakei		
Merrin		Visited
Waimairi	\$600	
Breens Intermediate		Visited
Harewood		Visited
Isleworth		Visited
Kendal		
Roydvale		
Westburn		
Hagley	\$500	
Christchurch East School		
Emmanuel Christian School		Visited
Linwood Intermediate		Visited
Phillipstown		Visited
Richmond		Visited
Ferrymead	\$500	
Bromley School		
Linwood Avenue		Visited
Sumner School		
Tamariki School		
Woolston		Visited

A total of 43 schools declared an interest this year (out of 137 primary and intermediate schools). Because of the time commitment involved it is unrealistic to expect all schools to participate every year. However, by offering the programme on an annual basis schools can take up the offer when they feel they have the time to give serious consideration to the educational aspect.

In the Shirley/Papanui Community Board area high schools were included in the mail-out as requested by the board. As suspected there was no uptake/buy in at this level probably due to the difficulty of involving secondary students who are restricted by timetable constraints.

EVALUATION

Letters of support from some of the schools involved show that the programme is filling a need as well as meeting our own objectives. Below are some comments taken from letters sent in from students in Room 15 of Windsor school that were involved in the Arbor Day programme:

“When you came to room 15 you told me heaps of things I did not know. I like the way you ate the huhu grub. I live by the forest and me and my dad and sister go bike riding on the trail and I go horse riding in the forest to and its very fun. Thank you for telling us new things we had not heard before.”

“Thank you for coming to teach us about Bottle Lake forest. I never knew that the huhu beetle is the biggest native beetle. I think that Arbor Day is a good thing to have.”

“Thank you for teaching us about huhu beetles. I didn’t know about Arbor Day.”

“Thank you for telling us about huhu grubs and huhu beetles. It was a lot of fun. I never even knew that a huhu grub turned into a huhu beetle.”

Follow up phone calls were made to those schools that did not register after the initial promotional mail-out. As a result more registrations were secured and those schools that did not take up the offer were encouraged to say why they hadn’t and what they thought of the programme. Comments were very positive and the majority of teachers/principals talked to indicated that they would be interested in participating in the programme at a later date.

The Riccarton/Wigram Community board added to the programme in its area this year by providing schools with the added bonus of the opportunity to use the services of a landscape architect for half-hours consultation. Those teachers talked to within other board areas supported the opportunity to consult with a landscape architect as introduced by the Riccarton/Wigram.

Participants approved of the flexibility the programme provided by giving schools the option of planting at different times of the year. The opportunity for schools to build on areas established in future years was also seen as a positive factor.

COMMUNITY PLANTING DAYS

Historically, an Arbor Day budget has been held by the Parks Unit for a variety of community Arbor Day activities that should continue to be supported through this source. The budget of \$11,400 is usually split between the community planting days undertaken in each community board area, involving various community groups, as listed below:

Yaldhurst Bush (part of the Native Trees Please! Programme)

Participants - Yaldhurst School

Organised by Area Parks Officer, Rod Whearty.

Halswell Quarry

Participants - Halswell School, Halswell Scouts and Halswell Lions Club

Organised by Park Ranger, John Moore

Styx Reserve Dog Park Pond

Participants – Lemon Villas Team, and Kids Festival Programme

Organised by Park Ranger John Parry

Taylor's Mistake

Participants – Residents and General Public

Organised by Coast Care.

Travis Wetland Heritage Park (some of the activities were undertaken under the banner of the Native Trees Please! Programme)

Participants – General public, Native Habitats for Canterbury, Manuka Group, Forest & Bird, Travis Wetland Trust, Simon Johnson & Polytechnic Students

Organised by the Travis Wetland Trust and Coast Care.

South New Brighton

Participants - South New Brighton School

Participants – General public

Organised by Coast Care

Shakelton St Park

Participants – South New Brighton School

Organised by Coast Care

Bexley Wetlands

Participants – Bexley Wetland Trust and the general public

Organised by Coast Care

EDUCATION AND PROMOTION

Newsprint coverage was the result of media releases sent out by the Media Relations Officer. The media releases highlighted a number of notable trees and their history. For example a half page spread appeared in the garden pages of the Press titled "Tree Time". This is the third year this practice of providing information on the various notable trees found in our city has been undertaken. The information gathered could potentially be used for publication at a later date.

An Arbor Day teaching plan, relevant teaching activities and notes on curriculum links were produced for use by participating classes. There is potential for this part of the programme to be developed further in 2001 with the introduction of a teacher through the Parks Environmental Education Programme (funded by the Ministry of Education).

Work continues on the update of two publications:

Tree Care and Preservation Booklet – looks at topics such as tree planting, preservation, care and maintenance.

A Guide to Tree Protection – looks at why and how we protect trees.

The Arbor Day walks and topics promoted through the Leisure Units Active Christchurch walk series were well received and attended.

FUNDING DETAILS

Each of the 5 Community Boards set aside \$2000 for this programme. Those schools that registered received vouchers to the value of \$100. Any leftover funding remained in the discretionary budgets of the relevant Community Board.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That \$2000 be confirmed for the provision of trees for Arbor Day plantings in schools grounds for the financial year 2000/1.

Chairman's Recommendation: That the officers' recommendations be adopted and that the writers be thanked for their report.