

11. INTERNATIONAL PEACE MONUMENT FOR CHRISTCHURCH

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The purpose of this report is to submit an application from Rotary District 9970 Advisory Council, on behalf of Christchurch Rotary Clubs, for approval in principle to erect a peace monument in Hagley Park.

If approved in principle, this will become a possible project for the combined Rotary Clubs of Christchurch.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PEACE CITY CONCEPT

This initiative is to foster peace between and within all families, communities and nations of the world. The objective of the peace city concept is: "To bring together all peoples of the world in the promotion of lasting peace through fellowship, international understanding and goodwill".

As a means of meeting this objective, some Rotary groups have erected peace monuments in a prominent place in towns and cities throughout the world to remind people of the importance of world peace

On 23 February 1993 the first peace monument was unveiled in the City of Wagga Wagga, Australia (see attached). This city was proclaimed the first Rotary City of Peace. Through the efforts of Rotary International, the peace message is spreading to other cities and to date cities in the United States of America, Japan, Hawaii, South Africa, Israel, and the Philippines have followed suit. Waitakere City was the first New Zealand city to initiate the idea in 1999.

THE PROPOSAL AND DESIGN

If the project proceeds, then Christchurch would join the growing number of Rotary peace communities in the world. It is important the symbol is suitably sited, provides exposure to the public and contributes to the city's statutory and sculptures. Hagley Park is the city's most significant park and has only a few monuments.

The proposed design of the peace symbol follows the original Wagga Wagga monument, which is a large flat granite structure with Rotary symbols and the dove of peace at the apex, portraying a "reaching for the heavens" searching for peace theme. Seating is provided on either side to encourage the public to sit a while and enjoy the monument and scenery.

Hagley Park Management Plan addresses issues of structures such as buildings and furniture such as seating.

The proposed monument will be relatively simple and will indicate a "reaching for the heavens" searching for peace.

In terms of the Management Plan, any symbol should be of sufficient quality to reflect the high quality and park character of the Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park.

THE SITE

The siting preferred by Rotary is the area at the south western end of Lake Victoria, Hagley Park, adjacent to the exotic woodland area where Rotary has been planting ceremonial trees. This is a good site for a memorial which will be adjacent to the busier pedestrian corridors in Hagley Park (see attached).

The proposed site is within the cultural zone which caters for a number of passive recreational uses, from model boat sailing and petanque to organised events such as Gardenz and concerts.

Future plans for this area include additional picnic facilities and plantings to upgrade this important entrance to the Botanic Gardens. Further passive recreation facilities may be added.

SUMMARY

At this stage, only approval in principle is being sought, in order for the combined Rotary Clubs of Christchurch to consider this venture as a possible project.

Following consideration by the Committee it would be advisable to undertake community consultation on the proposal prior to any decision by Rotary to proceed.

The peace symbol design will also need to be considered by the Art in Public Places Working Party prior to any final approval.

Recommendation: 1. That the Rotary proposal to erect a peace symbol at the south-western end of Lake Victoria in Hagley Park be approved in principle, subject to the following:

(a) The public being consulted on the proposal to gauge opinion on the peace symbol siting.

(b) The final designs for the symbol being approved by the Art in Public Places Working Party.

2. That following completion of the above processes the matter be reported back to the Council for final approval.

Chairman's

Recommendation:

1. That the above recommendation be adopted.

2. That, following completion of the above processes, the matter be reported back to the Council for final approval.