

12. **'LOOK WELLINGTON 2000' NEW ZEALAND RECREATION ASSOCIATION  
CONFERENCE, TE PAPA, WELLINGTON, 29 OCTOBER – 1 NOVEMBER 2000**

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Corporate Plan Output: Recreation Programmes and Promotion	

The purpose of this report is to advise Parks and Recreation Committee members of the attendance by Councillors Condon, Austin, Anderton and Ganda and Council staff at this conference and to report its highlights.

#### **LOOK WELLINGTON 2000 CONFERENCE**

This annual recreation industry conference brings together recreation, sports, arts, open spaces and parks industry colleagues as well as local authority politicians with an interest in this area. It is a valuable opportunity to hear the latest in overseas and local trends and innovations and to network with colleagues in the industry.

The theme of this year's conference was 'Looking back, looking inwards and looking forward'. The industry's history in New Zealand was examined, personal learning and developing featured and future trends presented.

Keynote speakers included the Hon Trevor Mallard, Minister of Sport, Fitness and Leisure; Peter Dale, Chief Executive Officer, Hillary Commission; David Mitsui, President, Canadian Parks and Recreation Association; Gareth Morgan, Infometrics and Farah Palmer, captain of the New Zealand Black Ferns.

#### **CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS**

A key focus of this conference was the contribution leisure in its broadest perspective makes to a community's quality of life, providing personal, social, economic and environmental benefits to its residents and visitors. It was argued that the provisions of leisure services and opportunities by central and local government is a 'must do' rather than a 'may do' and that methods of measuring outputs (quantitative and economic models) disadvantage the leisure area in terms of describing and valuing its impacts on individuals and communities. David Mitsui from the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association gave an update on Canadian initiatives to describe and report outcomes rather than outputs using a language of 'benefits'.

On a more pragmatic level there were also very valuable presentations on how, as a client, to determine the viability of feasibility studies (for example for a new facility); a panel discussion with the Ministerial Taskforce on Sport, Fitness and Leisure; and presentations on global and local social and economic trends and their impact on the leisure industry.

#### **2001 CONFERENCE**

The Wellington conference was of particular interest to Christchurch participants, as the Canterbury branch of the New Zealand Recreation Association will be hosting the next conference in Christchurch in September 2001.

#### **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.