

21. COMMEMORATION OF ANDREW JOHNSON

Officer responsible Parks and Waterways Manager	Author Gary Harrow, Area Parks Advocate, DDI 3722614
Corporate Plan Output: Community Consultation	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of recent investigations into a request to recognise Andrew Johnson, an early settler in Woolston.

Some time ago, the Woolston Community Association requested a number of matters be investigated as part of recognising the proprietor of the Johnson's Fish Nursery, originally in the Sheldon-Marshall-Clarendon Terrace area alongside the Heathcote River (Te Ihutai) in the 1890's.

These ideas were: a cast bronze plaque, a lych gate and naming a part of the river "Johnson's Reach".

A suitable plaque will cost approximately \$500, a lych gate to go over an interpretive panel \$2,500 and an interpretive panel up to \$5,000 (as there is considerable information already on hand, \$3,000 would be a realistic figure).

Also requested was for the stretch of river between Brougham Street and Ferry Road to be called Johnson's Reach, similar to that part of the Avon River colloquially called Kerrs Reach.

Consultation with local iwi began about three years ago and has still not resulted in any resolution. The representative of the Otautahi runaka Te Runaka ki Otautahi o Kai Tahu did not support the renaming with a European name. The Council's Maori Liaison officer has suggested consideration in more depth of the ramifications and justifications on this and similar issues. This could result in setting council policy in these matters. Such consideration will take some time yet to resolve.

Another more recent project has been the Water Services Unit initiating clearing and planting of a small area of river bank immediately east of the Radley Bridge. Consultation is with Waitaha and has taken two years to get the development underway. It is hoped to complete this clearing and planting by April this year. Of interest is the naming of this area: "Te Wakawaka o Te Ihutai", the place where canoes meet on Te Ihutai. An approach for a Maori name to recognise this area (Johnson's Reach) could be an option but would again have to go through appropriate channels. It is doubted whether local iwi would be interested in recognising Johnson as there are no records as to any significant contact with early Maori. It is suggested that recognition be by plaque and/or interpretive panel.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the recognition of Andrew Johnson in the Woolston area be by interpretive panel.
 2. That the Board allocate \$3,000 from its 2000/2001 Discretionary Funds for an interpretive panel.
 3. That the Board consider funding \$2,500 from its 2001/2002 Project or Discretionary Funds for a lych gate over the panel.

Chairman's Recommendation: For discussion.