

10. ST JOHN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL: JANUARY 2002

Officer responsible Community Relations Manager	Author Robyn Moore, DDI 372-2406
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The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of an international youth festival taking place in Christchurch from 15 January through to 21 January 2002.

BACKGROUND

In January 2002 the St John International Youth Festival will be hosted by the Christchurch Regional Office of the Order of St John. Delegations will attend from throughout New Zealand and in addition, large numbers of young people will travel here from overseas. To date registrations include groups from Australia, England, Fiji, Hong Kong, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Wales, Zambia and Uganda.

THE PROGRAMME

Day 1

Arrival and registration; single rooms at the University Halls of residence
Orienteering and fun photography competition around the city centre
Welcome, concert and hangi (meal) at the Nga Hau E Wha Marae

Day 2

International and national competitions
Prize giving
Entertainment

Day 3

Full day trip to Hanmer, visiting the thermal pools and going jet boating. Also a bar-b-que and visit to a farm to watch sheep dogs working and a shearing display

Day 4

Youth symposium (incorporating young people from Christchurch Schools and Youth Organisations who are not part of the St John organisation). Organised in partnership with the Christchurch City Council's Youth Advocate.
Youth leaders symposium
Dance party

Day 5

Visit to some of Christchurch's main attractions; the International Antarctic Centre, Canterbury Museum and Art Gallery and Air Force World
Cultural exchange night and camp concert

Day 6

Faith for today – towards a better understanding (a look at major world religions)
Parade
Farewell dinner at the Hotel Grand Chancellor

Day 7

Farewell and return home

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL INVOLVEMENT

The Youth Advocate has been working in partnership with St John staff to ensure that Christchurch youth and Christchurch youth workers (in addition to St John volunteers) will have the opportunity to meet and share experiences with the visitors.

As a consequence of this partnership a "Global Youth Symposium Day" is planned which will bring together the young St John delegates and young people from Christchurch secondary schools and youth organisations. An organising committee comprising St John representatives, the Christchurch City Council Youth Advocate and community representatives has planned a programme designed to explore different cultures, discuss issues facing young people around the world, and celebrate the diversity of those attending. This should be a wonderful opportunity for the young people to gain an insight into how peers from all around the globe live life. After a day of conference type activities the young people of Christchurch and the visiting St John delegates will celebrate with a dance party.

INVITATION TO CITY COUNCILLORS

St John staff have indicated their intention to write to all City Councillors inviting them to view aspects of the Youth Symposium Day.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.