

10. REQUEST FOR A MEMORIAL SEAT IN HEATHCOTE VALLEY RESERVE

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| Officer responsible Parks and waterways Area Advocate | Author Warwick Scadden, DDI 941-6614 |
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A request has been received from a Heathcote resident, Mr Peter Bigelow, to have a memorial seat or bench installed in a reserve at the junction of Port Hills Road, Martindales Road and Railway Terrace.

The letter is as follows:

"I wish to place a memorial seat/bench, in memory of my mother, a valley lady who died tragically on new years eve in her fiftieth year, on the site of the 80 year old oak blown down in our last great storm which is now bare. The land was apparently owned by the railways in the past but is now council reserve. I refer to the grassed area on the corner of Port Hills, Martindales and Railway Terrace. I will have a craftsmen build a custom made seat which will have a small plaque commemorating my mothers death and the old oak tree.

Obviously I will require council permission for the venture, and ask for council assistance in the form of the funding and construction of a concrete pad to secure the bench to. Possibly a small amount of landscaping (the site has already been beautified with plantings around the border) and the planting of a tree to replace the oak."

The reserve has been inspected. It is on a prominent corner site with low boundary planting on two sides with the balance in grass and affords good views of the surrounding area. A park seat would be most appropriate and some low planting nearby would link it visually to the adjacent boundary plants.

Adequate space is available for the planting of an oak tree and this would be a fitting association with the prominent oak which existed.

The placement of memorial seats in parks has been done for many years. Current costs are as follows:

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|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Standard park seat | 350.00 |
| Paved base and surround | 130.00 |
| Plaque (stainless steel) | <u>45.00</u> |
| | <u>\$525.00</u> |

The replacement of an oak tree should be undertaken by the Parks and Waterways Unit as a maintenance item.

Staff

- Recommendation:**
1. That approval be given for the installation of a memorial seat; costs to be met by Mr Bigelow.
 2. That a replacement oak tree be planted by the Parks and Waterways Unit.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the recommendations be adopted.