

6. **RICCARTON/WIGRAM ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
REPORT OF 9 JULY 2002**

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Roger Cave, Community Secretary, DDI 941 6502
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The purpose of this report is to advise the outcomes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 9 July 2002.

The meeting was attended by Neville Bennett, Paddy Austin, Ken Cummings, and Mike Mora.

Peter Laloli and Bob Shearing were also present; and apology was received from Lesley Keast.

1. PORT HILLS RECREATION STRATEGY

The Parks and Waterways Manager provided a report on the Port Hills Recreation Strategy.

The Parks and Waterways Unit Planning and Investigations team and the Port Hills Rangers are currently preparing a Port Hills Recreation Strategy. The primary purpose of this work is the preparation of an Asset Management Plan and Long-term Financial Strategy to direct capital development and to target levels of service on the Port Hills.

A comprehensive recreation survey of Port Hills users has been the first stage towards understanding user needs. The aim of the survey was to assist in the identification of the recreational values of the Port Hills, and the built and natural resources which support those activities. Surveyors interviewed users at key locations across the hills, and there were 397 people who completed questionnaires. Some of the key findings from the recreation survey are summarised in "Key Findings" below.

The next step in the consultation process involves both recreation users and non-users. A full asset and financial analysis of the facilities on the hills is being compiled, and staff are involved in engaging a wide group of communities through as many as 15 Focus Groups. Later in the year a draft Port Hills Recreation Strategy will be developed and distributed for review, and then made available for submissions.

The recreation user survey has recently been completed (June 2002). In late 2002, the Parks and Waterways Unit will seek formal feedback from the Community Boards on their priorities for the management of the Port Hills as one of Christchurch's most significant recreation resources.

SOME KEY FINDINGS FROM THE PORT HILLS RECREATION SURVEY

- The primary recreation activities carried out on the Port Hills are walking (40%), mountain biking (17%), sight-seeing (9.8%) and running (9.5%). Dog walking, exercising, rock climbing, picnicking, road cycling and driving were other significant activities.
- Most important features of the Port Hills are exercise and views (first equal) followed by accessibility and peacefulness.
- The most popular entry and exit sites on the Port Hills were the Sign of the Takahe, Rapaki Track, Sign of the Kiwi, Taylors Mistake and Victoria Park. The highest use area of the Port Hills is the corridor between Elizabeth Park and the Sign of the Kiwi (including the Bowenvale Track). Use drops, but is still relatively high for Rapaki Rock, Taylors Mistake to Breeze Bay, the top of Kennedys and Worsleys Tracks, and Castle Rock and the northern half of the Bridle Path.
- Respondents were asked if they felt their main activity in this area was better, worse or the same as the first time they visited, and why they felt things had changed. The majority thought things were better or the same, with only 4% who felt things were worse.
- Respondents were asked if there were any recreational or commercial activities they would not like to see on the Port Hills. While 14% could not name an activity, 16% stated 'any commercial activities' as being undesirable, while another 12% did not want any 'residential housing.'

The Committee were very supportive of the Strategy, their recommendation is listed in clause 7 of this report.

2. AVON-HEATHCOTE ESTUARY IHUTAI TRUST

On the 18th of June 2002 the Avon-Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust was presented to a public forum at the Mount Pleasant Community Centre. The forum was well attended with a supportive audience.

The working group, which formed at the August forum last year, presented their work from the last nine months; the Trust, its vision statement, constitution and objectives.

Thirteen people indicated their support and commitment to the Trust by volunteering to be the signatories of the Trust Deed and the first Trust Board.

The presentation also included the proposed structure of the Trust and potential working groups. It is through working groups that the Trust will engage with projects and they will need the support and input of ordinary Trust members to function.

The forum unanimously supported the formation of the Trust and its vision and objects.

The Committee agreed that the Community Board should become a member of the Ihutai Trust; their recommendation is listed in clause 7 of this report.

3. ONGOING ISSUES

A schedule was received.

In discussing the recently-completed Wycola skate bowl refurbishment, some outstanding maintenance issues were identified.

The Committee **agreed**, in principle, to consider funding the Wycola Park development plan.

4. ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY AIR QUALITY DOCUMENTS

The Committee was in receipt of two documents.

- Draft Clean Heat Project
- Proposed Canterbury Natural Resources Natural Plan

It was noted that a joint Board seminar was scheduled for 11 July 2002 to consider these documents

5. ONGOING MATTERS OF INTEREST

Issue	Recommendation
ECan Natural Resources Regional Plan: copies of Overview/Management of Natural Resources; and Air Quality reports received. Submissions close on 30 August 2002.	On today's agenda.
Riccarton Racecourse Trustees, Tea House restoration joint committee. Our representatives – Neville, Lesley, Mike (and Bob).	Ongoing
A & P Canterbury Park Development Committee, with Spreydon/Heathcote. Their representatives – Phil Clearwater, Liz Maunsell, Lynda Carter, and Barry Corbett. Our representatives – Neville, Ken, Bob, and Mike.	Ongoing (Seminar 21 July 2002 with Spreydon/Heathcote and local residents)
Heritage Week – Community Board participation.	Ongoing
Stock Truck Effluent. Need for update on progress (or lack of).	Presentation at future meeting of the Transport and Roading Committee.
Wigram Air Base, Servicemen Memorial. Board has approved \$500 (max) grant for computer graphic design work.	Ongoing
Youth Environment Award Scheme. To be discussed with local school headmasters.	Ongoing

6. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 13 August 2002: Environment Seminar

- Waterway setbacks
- Kyoto Protocol
- Esplanade reserves
- Climate change
- Northern Pegasus Bay Coast Vehicle Access Strategy

7. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- That Neville Bennett and Mike Mora represent the Community Board on the Port Hills Recreation Strategy Focus Group.
- That the Community Board accept the invitation to become a member of the Ihutai Trust, and that ongoing information be received through the Environment Committee (on behalf of the Board).

Chairpersons

- Recommendations:**
1. That the report be received.
 2. That the Committee's recommendations be adopted.