

10. TEMPORARY SCULPTURE IN BOTANIC GARDENS

Officer responsible Parks and Waterways Manager	Author Botanical Services Team Manager, Craig Oliver, DDI 941-7583
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The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of the decision by the Art in Public Places Subcommittee to place a sculpture temporarily in the Botanic Gardens.

BACKGROUND

A report was presented to the Art in Public Places Subcommittee on 2 August 2002 concluding in the recommendation for the placement of the sculpture to proceed. The report was authored by Deborah McCormick, Director - Art & Industry Biennial Trust.

The Art & Industry Biennial Trust role is to deliver biennial urban art projects through a mix of Council core funding and industry sponsorship. Core funding by the Council is \$40,000 per year which has leveraged \$600,000 from industry sponsorship. These biennial urban art projects mostly feature in public places, with some placed in galleries. The biennial exhibits started in 2000, with the second exhibit about to take place this spring.

Below is the text of the report:

"INTRODUCTION

*Caroline Rothwell's public sculpture Kotuku is a temporary work being developed for **SCAPE: New Zealand Community Trust Art & Industry Urban Arts Biennial**. The artist wishes to site the sculpture, based on the form of the kotuku or native white heron, in the Water Garden Pond in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens from 4th September – 30th November 2002 as part of SCAPE. Art & Industry and the artist have already entered into discussion with the Gardens staff regarding planning and siting of this.*

SCAPE is the second Art & Industry contemporary art biennial; the first was Art & Industry 2000. This second biennial includes: Whare, an exhibition of contemporary Maori art; site-specific art sited in the Canterbury Museum, the Botanic Gardens and the Arts Centre; exhibitions by international artists; and a site-specific video programme that screens artists' videos in non-gallery venues such as inner city shops and the Public Library.

The programme includes several leading artists from New Zealand (including Simon Morris, Ani O'Neill and Tony de Lautour) as well as international artists of note including Tacita Dean, Richard Wentworth (both UK) and Ed Osborn (US).

PROGRESS TO DATE

After being invited to participate in the SCAPE programme by one of SCAPE's curators, Lara Strongman (Programme Manager, City Gallery Wellington) Caroline Rothwell developed the Kotuku concept. The sculpture is a semi-abstract form 2 metres tall by 6 metres wide based on the form of the native white heron (kotuku); whereby three heron-like heads project from a single body. The artist will collaborate with polyurethane resin and foam manufacturers/suppliers to produce the work which has a resin shell filled with expandable foam. Already Art & Industry and the artist are being advised by Ivan Ingham of Composites Industry Training Options on the sculpture's manufacture and the sponsorship of its materials. Siting of the work in the Botanic Gardens has also been discussed with Gardens management; and the Water Garden Pond is the preferred option for siting. Art & Industry will provide all funding to construct, site, insure, install and de-install the artwork at the site.

WAY FORWARD

RECOMMENDATIONS

We request that the Art in Public Places Subcommittee approve the siting of Caroline Rothwell's sculpture Kotuku in the Water Garden Pond, Christchurch Botanic Gardens from 4 September – 30 November 2002."

Craig Oliver, Botanical Services Team Manager, attended the meeting and signalled his support for the project.

The Subcommittee **decided** to approve the placement as requested.

Botanic Gardens Comments

The placement of sculpture in the Botanic Gardens has become a feature over the last four-five years and such works aligns with one of the key values of the Botanic Gardens in providing the opportunity to experience art and culture. Art and sculpture has always been supported by Robert McDougall Art Gallery and more recently Art and Industry.

There have been many features in the Gardens such as Enid Eriksson's glass sphere on the ponds adjacent to the alpine garden, Bing Dawes' "Eels Alongside the Avon River" behind the children's playground; and the archery lawn fountain feature, a working sculpture "Regret" by Sam Mahon. All these works attract additional visitors to the gardens and entertain both children and adults alike.

In the case of the proposed temporary work "Kotuku" this will be placed in the centre of the largest water garden pond and will have no effect on the surrounding vegetation. The back drop of native vegetation will suit the Kotuku or native white heron and attract additional visitors to the water gardens and NZ Native section.

NATURAL + PEOPLE + ECONOMIC STEP ASSESSMENT

#	CONDITION:	Meets condition ✓✓0*	HOW IT HELPS MEET CONDITION:
The Natural Step			
N1	Reduce non-renewable resource use	×	Includes plastics in the manufacture
N2	Eliminate emission of harmful substances	×	The manufacture includes emissions
N3	Protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystems	×	Attracts people to the gardens
N4	People needs met fairly and efficiently	NA	NA - See People Step + Economic Step
The People Step			
P1	Basic needs met	✓✓	Art is a basic need of people
P2	Full potential developed	✓✓	
P3	Social capital enhanced	✓✓	
P4	Culture and identity protected	✓✓	Enhanced awareness of art
P5	Governance and participatory democracy strengthened	N/A	
The Economic Step			
E1	Effective and efficient use of all resources	✓	
E2	Job rich local economy	✓✓	Artists are employed
E3	Financial sustainability	✓✓	From grants

Staff

Recommendation: For information.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That where works of public art are proposed to be sited within area(s) under the jurisdiction of the Parks Unit, such proposals be notified to the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee before a decision is taken.