

11. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

| | |
|--|---|
| Officer responsible Community Advocate | Author Tony Gemmill, DDI 941-6701 |
|--|---|

During 2002 the Board resolved that there should be brief reports, from time to time, provided by members who had been appointed to outside organisations.

1. **RICCARTON BUSH TRUST** (Barbara Stewart)

Although not originally expected, the year 2003 turned out to be at least as busy as the extremely busy and eventual 2002 year.

Riccarton House continues to build on its reputation, and standing, as a premier heritage attraction in Christchurch. Of particular interest has been the continuing willingness of visitors to donate artefacts from the distant past which are most suitable for inclusion in the heritage décor within the House.

The number of visitors, for either the heritage experience, or for dining showed a slow growth during the year. The Trust's recent decision to provide impetus to marketing of the site will however result in more sustainable numbers in the future.

The major activity at the Riccarton House and Bush site, during the year, related to the Trust's decision to proceed with the installation of a predator proof fence around the Bush. Of particular delight to the Trust was the overwhelming financial support provided by sponsors for the project. To raise a sum in excess of \$280,000 (excl. GST) in such a short period of time will rate as one of the successes of the Trust and its officers for 2003. At the appropriate time, closer to the opening of the completed fence, there will be a formal recognition for all who have so ably supported the project.

The Trust will shortly be giving consideration to the best means for eradication of pests in the Bush, and for the ongoing opportunity for the protection and growth of endangered species in association with relevant other agencies.

As far as the 2004 year is concerned consideration will be given to updating of the By-laws and suitable amendments to the existing Riccarton Bush Act will be initiated.

With the upcoming completion of the term for Council/Community Board appointees to the Trust, representation on the Trust will likely be subject to change following the 2004 local body elections.

2. **CHRISTCHURCH NORTH CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU** (Mike Wall)

The past year has seen the leadership of the Christchurch North Citizens Advice Bureau change. The Chair for this year is Shona Carey. Shona is an extremely capable lady and her skills are very evident and I believe that the group will go from strength to strength. The board members come from all walks of life and they are determined to offer and indeed enhance the work this bureau offers to the community. The services provided range from calls on education, budget, health, and tenancy, legal and of course personal issues. The numbers of calls remains on par with last year and averages out at about 400 to 500 calls per month. The volunteers are enthusiastic and they take on new challenges with a passion. The training provided is excellent and well received. The number of people carrying out this work is consistent and the volunteers work on a roster system.

Many members will know Pat Colenso, and I am pleased to advise you that Pat has been appointed to the National Board. Pat has a huge knowledge of CAB and her input at the national level will be well received. The co-ordinator Carolynne Davies has had her hours increased from twenty hours to twenty-two hours per week, to assist her with the increased workload and to provide more time to give advice to new volunteers. Overall this bureau is working well and the aims and objectives of the Citizens Advice Bureau are being achieved. We as a Board, can be proud of the support we have given over the year, and I have been proud to be a member of the management team.

3. ORANA PARK WILDLIFE TRUST BOARD (Mike Wall)

This Trust is overseen by five Board members and the CEO Lynn Anderson. The Board is chaired by Kerry Nolan, solicitor, David Barker, accountant, Tony Bywater, Lincoln University, David Laughlin, South Island Zoological Society and Mike Wall representing the Council. The Trust meets bi-monthly with an executive group should it be needed, of the Chair and David Barker.

The park is managed extremely well and is still achieving high ratings amongst other parks in New Zealand and indeed around the world. The park under Lynn Anderson is very efficient considering the meagre resources she has to work with. On comparison with Wellington and Auckland, Orana Park is the poor cousin when it comes to funding. The Christchurch City Council as part of its funding of the park commissioned Deloitte to review the park and its activities. This review showed that the park is under funded and a reasonable increase has been recommended. Visitor numbers to the park depends on the weather but generally overall they have been growing over the years. Visitor surveys completed praise the park for the condition of the animals, easy access and wonderful footpaths, thanks to this Board, and the general outlay of the park. The Park aims to provide value for money and this is being achieved.

Volunteers play a huge part in the running of the park and the role they play should not be underestimated. Without them, the Park would not be the success it is today. In 2001 the park celebrated 25 years and this city can be proud of this achievement.

The animal collection is always on the move and the Park has new lion cubs on display. Staff are looking at new exhibits and this is ongoing and time consuming. The Board may not be aware but the Southern Encounter Aquarium has been part of the Orana Park Wildlife Trust for sometime. This facility now boasts Kiwi and is proving a great attraction for tourists and citizens of Canterbury. Suitable signage has been agreed to which will enable visitors to locate this not to be missed attraction. The numbers of visitors is increasing and a number of schools are using the aquarium for teaching purposes. Orana Wildlife Park and the Southern Encounter Aquarium are in the top attractions in this city and I firmly believe that you will see these assets going from strength to strength in the near future.

The Park and aquarium provides schools in Canterbury with curriculum based activities for both primary and secondary students. Finally, I enjoy working with the dedicated management and staff who all work hard to ensure that assets such as Orana Park remain amongst the top attractions in Christchurch.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the reports be received.