



Community Services Manager's Report – October 2005

Information Centre

Special Packs

Two potential residents' and nine new residents' packs were given out in September.

Brochure/Membership

Invoices to renew membership for period 1/11/05 – 31/10/06 have been sent to 28 members.

Waimate Strip Maps

A reprint of 300 pads of 50 maps have been signed off. We anticipate this quantity should last two years. The cost of printing is fully covered by advertising.

Events

Waimate Strawberry Fare (Saturday 10 December 2005)

Donette Fargher represents Council on the Waimate Strawberry Fare committee in an advisory capacity. She also co-ordinates the stall site for both this event and the Busking Festival. The committee have the event well organised with stall sites booked out, and entertainment set with the first appearance of the Topp Twins in Waimate. The evening show featuring the Topp Twins and other local artists will have multi benefits; it will pay the costs of bringing such quality performers to Waimate, it will encourage people to stay in Waimate longer, and it reinforces that the Waimate community really know how to run first class events.

50th Waimate Rodeo (Tuesday 27 December 2005)

A small group of local people have successfully run the increasingly popular annual rodeo. This year they are celebrating their 50th event by organising special activities. They are offering more entertainment at the grounds and hope to encourage larger crowds. We are assisting with entertainment and promotional ideas and contacts, and the design of posters and flyers.

South Canterbury Busking Festival (Sunday 5 February)

Planning is underway for this annual festival. Letters have been sent to local groups requesting assistance, and emails are coming in from international Buskers showing interest in being part of this colourful day. We have had preliminary talks with the Whitehorse Recycling Trust on again running their recyclable and wearable arts competition in conjunction with the Busking Festival.

Tourism Get-together

The final tourism get-together for the year was held on Thursday 22 September at the Old School Café, Ikawai. Guest speaker, Alison Lewin from Oamaru spoke to 23 people on the Waitaki Heritage Alive initiative, and collective marketing.

The Waitaki Heritage Alive working group was made up of representatives from a cross-section of heritage stakeholders, a board was established and a strategic plan and a business plan produced to scope the Heritage Alive concept.

Identified needs were:

- Improve communication between the different heritage-based activities across the district
- Identify and have a common purpose across the Heritage sector
- Build a better working relationship with the Waitaki District Council
- Better use of local heritage resources and develop sustainable ways to connect with growing tourism opportunities

An enthusiastic group, which includes Mayoress Sandra Coles, are considering running an Edwardian event.

Funding Information Service

The Funding Information Service is New Zealand's primary source of information about all forms of funding for voluntary organisations and individuals in our community. I met with the sales and liaison manager.

Currently the Waimate District Resource Centre subscribe to one of the services, FundView, however as they are not a local authority are restricted to the FundView service only. It is suggested that as a local authority we subscribe and allow the Waimate District Resource Centre to continue to use the database as they do now. This would also give Council the option of allowing others access, e.g through the library. We would also be eligible to subscribe to other services not available to organisations outside the local authority.

Currently CEO John Maxwell, Cnr Peter McIlraith, and myself have a special access code to view the database and consider the viability of subscribing.

Focus Groups

The second round of focus group meetings was held in September for the social and cultural groups. We addressed some of the issues that people highlighted in the initial meetings. For the social group we produced a resource manual for recruiting and retaining volunteers and the cultural group a special meeting was held to discuss a mini theatre. Attendees at both of these meetings were appreciative of the opportunity to participate and enjoyed hearing issues and ideas from like minded groups and organisations. The next focus group meeting scheduled: Economic – Wednesday 19 October 2005.

Meetings

- 1) Strawberry Fare committee meeting
- 2) Special Social Services sub group meeting – youth/community worker
- 3) Funding Information Service
- 4) Attended Civil Defence exercise in Timaru
- 5) Reporters Hamish Stuart & Rosa Studholme

Library

Catalogue On-line

The library is about to enter into an exciting new era. By the end of October, or at the latest early November, we aim to have the library catalogue accessible to public in their homes via the Waimate District Council web site. Staff are currently testing the site and working through minor problems.

WebOPAC offers library patrons access to our library catalogue and borrower information from anywhere in the world by registered borrowers using their unique logins. This means people can search for books and other items to see if our library stocks them and if so it will show if the item is available or out on loan. Borrowers can also check the date their items are due back and may extend their loan period on-line. They will also see if they have items overdue and outstanding fines.

Carolyn Johns
Community Services Manager – 7 October 2005