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**REPORT 3**  
*(1215/52/IM)*

## **REPORT BACK ON NEW ZEALAND RECREATION CONFERENCE 2005**

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### **1. Purpose of Report**

Report back on the New Zealand Recreation Association Conference, held in the Wellington Town Hall 14-16 November 2005.

### **2. Details on the Conference**

The Strategy and Policy Committee approved the attendance of Councillors Morrison and Wain to the New Zealand Recreation Conference. A number of Council Officers were also in attendance.

The main theme for the conference was 'At the Heart'. The focus was on how recreation impacts on the health of New Zealanders.

### **3. Subjects Covered**

#### **Richard Neville** – Professional Futurist

Richard spoke about the focus on the future of recreation. Richard believes it is important that we look ahead to the future and look in to what are the driving forces of change and how these changes may impact on the future of sport and recreation.

He spoke about the shift to new online technology and the advancement of robotics. Climate Change was another example used, how will climate change impact on sport and recreation?

Although he spoke broadly about each of these examples, he highlighted the importance of looking ahead to the future of sport and recreation.

#### **Hamish McInnes** – Head of Governing Bodies, Sport England

Hamish is Head of Governing Bodies at Sport England responsible for investment at grassroots and elite levels.

Hamish spoke about the main aim of Sport England – Making England an Active and Successful Nation. Hamish continually stated the positive impact that sport and recreation can have on a community, as it offers a way of building an identity and can enhance social cohesion.

He spoke about the need to ensure that volunteers were looked after as they are key to any sport or recreation activities. Hamish believes that more focus needs to be put on promoting a club culture to ensure that school leavers continue on with sport and recreation activities.

Sport England is trying to introduce programmes that promote sport and recreation from a grass routes level they are doing this by:

- Building up Community Sports Clubs Databases to ensure people know what is available and who to contact.
- Continuing to work on promoting the social side of sport.
- Working with large companies to ensure they have sport/recreation friendly environments, eg. Showers etc.

### **Nick Hill** – SPARC

Nick Hill spoke about the Future Direction of New Zealand Sport and Recreation. Nick highlighted the commitment SPARC is making to ensure that Sport and Recreation is accessible to everyone.

Nick talked about SPARC's aim for New Zealand to become the most active nation, but reminded us that before we can even think about that we need to ensure that current barriers are eliminated.

SPARC are trying to encourage participation in sport and recreation at an early age, they are currently designing a programme for preschools and primary school children, as part of there 'Kiwis Push Play' promotion.

Nick spoke about the need for schools to build networks with the Community to ensure that students know what recreation and sports facilities are available.

The main point that Nick Hill made was the importance of working as a community to ensure that the current trend of decreasing physical activity does not continue.

### **Ian Hunter** – Brisbane City Council

Ian ran a workshop entitled 'From Elite to Grassroots, Embedding Activity into Populism'. Ian talked about the development of sport and recreation in Brisbane since the 1982 Commonwealth Games.

After the commencement of the 1982 Commonwealth Games Brisbane was left with three elite venues, in the 2002 Brisbane Sport and Recreation Strategy Brisbane City Council transferred these venues in to local and district recreational facilities.

Ian talked about Brisbane City Councils investment in Rocks Riverside Park which was opened in December 2003. The Brisbane City Council have built their Sport and Recreation Strategy around the current facilities they have and are continuing to work with the public to develop new workshops and exhibitions.

## **5. Benefit to Council/Elected Members**

The NZRA Conference was well worthwhile attending. The speakers were interesting and diverse. The conference enhanced the need for continued investment in sport and recreation, but it also encouraged creative approaches to increasing participation.

I found it of particular interest to find out what other local authorities are doing in this area and in my mind it cemented that Wellington is on the right track but a lot more work needs to be done to facilitate closer relationships with sport and recreation clubs and the communities that serve them.

I would recommend this conference in the future.

Report prepared by: Councillor Hayley Wain.