

# REPORT

**TO:** Community Services Committee

**FROM:** J L Edgar, Community Services Committee Chair

**SUBJECT:** Chair's Report – RCS-11-03-06

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It can be very hard to focus on “everyday life” when we are having destructive and shocking disasters unnerving our families, our communities, our countries. “Everyday life” for Council is the draft annual plan. While this is year two of the ten year plan, with the sky-rocketing petrol prices, flood damage (locally), earthquake impact (Christchurch) and still tenuous global economy, the need for community feedback could not be greater. Each year we usually get as many requests for more expenditure as we get for reductions in expenditure. To help Council to best meet the needs of our community we need to know what the priorities are, and what compromises people may be prepared to make with regards to quality or service (if any).

Despite all of the difficulties we may be facing at the moment, we need to continue to provide services and facilities for today, for tomorrow and for the future. Our children need us to be strong for them and to make good decisions.

"Be willing to make decisions. That's the most important quality in a good leader. Don't fall victim to what I call the 'ready-aim-aim-aim-aim syndrome'. You must be willing to fire."

T. Boone Pickens

The Community Services department were able to support the Crusaders and help to bring two fantastic games to Trafalgar Park. Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to host these games. It was 30 years since I had last been to Trafalgar Park (Springboks tour 1981) so it was great to see the new stand in action. The amount of funds raised at these games for Christchurch, and at a number of other fundraisers and community events around the region has been most heartening.

The impact of the Christchurch earthquake in particular, on our community will need to be monitored, from the seemingly small, such as the lack of respite care beds and larger numbers in classrooms, through to the potentially large, such as unemployment and rental increases.

## RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Chair's Report RCS11-03-06 be received by the Community Services Committee.



Judene Edgar  
Chair, Community Services Committee

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