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## Council Workshop

### AGENDA

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#### Notice of Workshop Te Pānui o te Hui:

A Council Workshop will be held on:

**Date:** Tuesday 22 July 2025  
**Time:** 9.30 am - 2.30 pm  
**Venue:** HR Training Room, Level 1, Civic Offices,  
53 Hereford Street, Christchurch  
**Open session will be recorded and published online**  
<https://councillive.ccc.govt.nz/meeting-calendar/>

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#### Membership Ngā Mema

Chairperson	Mayor Phil Mauger
Deputy Chairperson	Deputy Mayor Pauline Cotter
Members	Councillor Kelly Barber
	Councillor Melanie Coker
	Councillor Celeste Donovan
	Councillor Tyrone Fields
	Councillor James Gough
	Councillor Tyla Harrison-Hunt
	Councillor Victoria Henstock
	Councillor Yani Johanson
	Councillor Aaron Keown
	Councillor Sam MacDonald
	Councillor Jake McLellan
	Councillor Andrei Moore
	Councillor Mark Peters
	Councillor Tim Scandrett
	Councillor Sara Templeton

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18 July 2025

Principal Advisor

Mary Richardson

Chief Executive

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**There will be no public admittance into the meeting room. The open session will be recorded and published online.**

**Note:** This forum has no decision-making powers and is purely for information sharing.

To find upcoming meetings, watch a recording after the meeting date, or view copies of meeting Agendas and Notes, go to:

<https://www.ccc.govt.nz/the-council/meetings-agendas-and-minutes/>



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10.00 am – 11.00 am

Presenters: Ike Kleynbos, Principal Advisor Planning and Brent Pizzey, Senior Legal Counsel

Break: 11.00 am – 11.15 am

4. Parks Unit Update ..... 9

11.15 am – 11.45 am

Presenter: Rupert Bool Head of Parks

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11.45 am – 12.15 pm

Presenters: David Griffiths, Head of Strategic Policy and Resilience, and Mark Stevenson, Head of Planning and Consents

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6. Recreation, Sports and Events Unit Update ..... 37

1.15 pm – 1.45 pm

Presenter: Nigel Cox, Head of Recreation, Sports & Events

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## 1. Apologies Ngā Whakapāha

Apologies will be recorded at the meeting.



## 2. Council submission on Going for Housing Growth proposal

Reference Te Tohutoro: 25/1214672

Presenter(s) Te Kaipāhō: Helaina Gregg, Principal Policy Advisor, Ike Kleynbos, Principal Advisor Planning

### 1. Detail Te Whakamahuki

<p><b>Purpose and Origin</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of this session to provide elected members with an overview of the draft Council submission staff have prepared in response to the ‘Going for Housing Growth’ package.</li> <li>The Going for Housing Growth package is the fourth package in the national direction reforms.</li> <li>Councillors have previously been briefed on the proposed changes under Package 1 (Infrastructure and Development), Package 2 (Primary Sector) and Package 3 (Freshwater) of the national direction package. This submission will be lodged separately.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Timing</b></p>	<p>This information session is expected to last for 30 minutes.</p>
<p><b>Outcome Sought</b></p>	<p>We are seeking feedback from elected members on the draft Council submission on the Going for Housing Growth package. This feedback will enable staff to take a final submission to Council on Tuesday 6 August 2025 for approval.</p>
<p><b>ELT Consideration</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The General Manager for Planning, Strategy and Regulatory Services will review the draft Council submission that will be distributed to elected members after the session.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Next Steps</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following the Information Session, staff will distribute the draft submission to elected members for feedback. Feedback is due by Friday 25 July 2025.</li> <li>Following elected members feedback, staff will revise the Council submission.</li> <li>The final draft submission will be taken to the Council on Wednesday 6 August 2025 for approval.</li> <li>Once approved, staff will lodge the submission on Friday 15 August 2025.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key points / Background</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Going for House Growth Package (Package 4) is part of the Government’s broader work programme that aims to progress key policy and regulatory changes to address land prices.</li> <li>Key proposals include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requiring a new ‘housing bottom line’ to be met (high growth projection plus 20% contingency) – this is the same as the proposed MDRS opt out criteria;</li> <li>Removing any urban / rural boundary to permit outward growth;</li> <li>Increasing the ease of ‘out-of-sequence’ private plan changes;</li> <li>Enabling at least six storeys within 1.2km / 1.5km of the City Centre;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enabling at least six storeys around transport corridors (City Centre, Riccarton, Papanui) – either 400m or 600m catchments are proposed;</li> <li>○ Three storeys being enabled around all other high frequency bus routes – either 400m or 600m catchments proposed; and</li> <li>○ Enablement of mixed-use zoning around specific centres.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposals in Package 4 are intended to test how Going for Housing Growth proposals can be implemented in the design of the new resource management system. The feedback received will be used to shape the new system.</li> <li>• There will be other opportunities to engage on the new system, including during the Select Committee stage of the Planning Bill and National Environmental Bill.</li> </ul>
<b>Useful Links</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Full Discussion Document</a> and <a href="#">Summary of the Discussion Document</a> on the Going for Housing Growth Package from the Ministry for Housing and Urban Development.</li> </ul>

### Attachments Ngā Tāpirihanga

There are no attachments to this coversheet.

### Signatories Ngā Kaiwaitohu

<b>Authors</b>	<p>Ruohan Zhao - Senior Policy Analyst Ike Kleynbos - Principal Advisor Planning Helaina Gregg - Principal Advisor Policy</p>
<b>Approved By</b>	<p>Mark Stevenson - Head of Planning &amp; Consents</p>

### 3. Discuss MDRS opt out options

Reference Te Tohutoro: 25/931651

Presenter(s) Te Kaipāhō: Ike Kleynbos, Principal Advisor Planning, Brent Pizzey, Senior Legal Counsel

#### 1. Detail Te Whakamahuki

<p><b>Purpose and Origin</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council is required to notify all decisions on Plan Change 14 (PC14) by 12 December 2025.</li> <li>• The Environment Select Committee have proposed changes to the Resource Management Act that would allow Council to ask the Minister to approve PC14 being withdrawn, in part, if the operative District Plan provides a specified amount of residential development capacity.</li> <li>• This workshop will explain:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) how much residential development capacity the Bill requires;</li> <li>(ii) the amount of any shortfall in the operative District Plan; and</li> <li>(iii) options for Council to accept PC14 IHP recommendations for zoning so as to meet that shortfall in the operative District Plan.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Timing</b></p>	<p>This information session is expected to last for 60 minutes.</p>
<p><b>Outcome Sought</b></p>	<p>Guidance for staff on options for accepting IHP recommendations for medium density zoning that would be sufficient to meet the Bill’s development capacity requirement.</p>
<p><b>ELT Consideration</b></p>	<p>This has not been considered by ELT.</p>
<p><b>Next Steps</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possibly a further information session to discuss options.</li> <li>• After the second or third reading of the Bill (subject to timing) a report to Council (this might be late August/early September) seeking a decision on whether to             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Accept IHP recommendations for MRZ zoning for sufficient areas to meet the Bill’s requirement for development capacity; and</li> <li>(ii) Apply to the Minister to withdraw the undecided balance of PC14.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Request the Minister to approve the Council withdrawing the undecided balance of PC14.</li> <li>• If satisfied that the District Plan meets the Bill’s (Act’s) development capacity requirements, the Minister approves the Council withdrawing the remaining parts of PC14.</li> <li>• Council formally withdraws remaining parts of PC14 (likely to be completed by new Council after local government elections).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key points / Background</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed criteria in the Bill that the Council must meet before the Minister will approve Council withdrawing part of PC14 requires Council to demonstrate that the total commercially feasible housing capacity of the operative District Plan matches</li> </ul>

	<p>the total housing demand under a high growth scenario, plus a 20% contingency. This equates to approximately 65,600 households.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That is more than is provided in the current operative District Plan.</li> <li>• Compared to the actual household growth projection of 27,600, the Bill’s criteria represents about 2.4 times actual household demand over a 30 year period, equating to commercially feasible housing for over 70 years. Staff expect that additional medium density areas need to be zoned to meet these criteria.</li> <li>• The only sure way to provide extra feasible development capacity in the operative District Plan by December is to accept some IHP recommendations for zoning additional areas as medium density.</li> <li>• The Bill might not be enacted until the end of August and we will not know until then whether it is changed.</li> <li>• The Minister’s timetabling direction requires Council to notify decisions on IHP recommendations by 12 December.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Useful Links</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See the Environmental Select Committee Report here: <a href="https://selectcommittees.parliament.nz/view/SelectCommitteeReport/54e665d5-e581-4ece-42b2-08dda86dcc73">selectcommittees.parliament.nz/view/SelectCommitteeReport/54e665d5-e581-4ece-42b2-08dda86dcc73</a> (pages 103 to 106 contain the proposed PC14 opt out schedule).</li> </ul>

### Attachments Ngā Tāpirihanga

There are no attachments to this coversheet.

### Signatories Ngā Kaiwaitohu

<p><b>Authors</b></p>	<p>Ike Kleynbos - Principal Advisor Planning Brent Pizzey - Senior Legal Counsel</p>
<p><b>Approved By</b></p>	<p>Mark Stevenson - Head of Planning &amp; Consents John Higgins - General Manager Strategy, Planning &amp; Regulatory Services</p>

## 4. Parks Unit Update

Reference Te Tohutoro: 25/1209093

Presenter(s) Te Kaipāhō: Rupert Bool Head of Parks

### 1. Detail Te Whakamahuki

<b>Purpose and Origin of the Information Session</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The purpose of this information session to update the Council on the key activities Parks have carried out since January 2025 until June 2025. This unit update provides details about our work delivering and maintaining safe and sustainable outdoor spaces that enhance our community's wellbeing.</li></ul>
<b>Timing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>15 minutes</li></ul>

### Attachments Ngā Tāpirihanga

No.	Title	Reference	Page
A 	Parks Unit Update January-June 2025	25/1418065	10

### Signatories Ngā Kaiwaitohu

<b>Authors</b>	Vita Rowe-Smith - Personal Assistant/Technical Support Coordinator Rupert Bool - Head of Parks
<b>Approved By</b>	Andrew Rutledge - General Manager Citizens and Community

# Parks Unit

January to June 2025



[ccc.govt.nz/parks-and-gardens](http://ccc.govt.nz/parks-and-gardens)

Christchurch  
City Council 

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## Executive summary

Our Parks Unit 2025 update provides details about our work delivering and maintaining safe and sustainable outdoor spaces that enhance our community's wellbeing. It also gives insight into completed and upcoming capital projects.

This update covers the six-month reporting period from January to June 2025 for the key activities carried out by the Parks Unit teams.

These teams are responsible for a wide network of parks across Christchurch and Banks Peninsula, with services delivered outlined in Parks and Heritage Management Plans.

The teams are:

- Parks Programmes and Partnerships
- Regional Parks
- Residential Red Zone
- Community Parks
- Botanic Gardens
- Metropolitan Parks
- Parks Planning and Asset Management

Parks has achieved several notable milestones in 2025. One of the most significant being the start of work on the second phase of the Takapūneke Reserve development.

Other highlights included the opening of the Western portion of the City to Sea pathway, the reopening of the Mona Vale Bath House following damage from the 2011 Christchurch earthquake, construction starting on new maintenance depots, and a noticeable improvement in park maintenance services since bringing all operations in-house.



Updates will be prepared twice a year, covering a six-month reporting period from January to June and July to December.

## Parks Programmes and Partnerships

### Education

The Parks Education Team is again hosting third-year students from Ara's Outdoor Education and Sustainability Course on internships throughout the school year.

Each term an Ara student works alongside our team to learn more about education for sustainability and the wider educational opportunities our city environment offers.

The students initially observe the development and delivery of programmes and eventually help to run some activities. The internships are a great opportunity for both parties to support each other on their sustainability journey. The Ara interns also gain insight into potential future career pathways in the Council's Parks Unit.

### Our cadet programme

We welcomed eight Parks cadets to work alongside us in February and June. Cadets are funded by the Ministry of Social Development and gain parks maintenance skills.

### Visitor experience

The Parks Visitor Experience Team is the public face for Parks information. Improving visitor experience is the heart of what we do. We aim to understand and anticipate visitor needs, from planning a visit, to enjoying and learning about our parks and sharing experiences afterwards.



Kids trail at the Botanic Gardens.



Interpretation at Lancaster Park.

The team has been working with community groups, like the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network and the Takamatua Residents Association, to help them develop their own interpretation signage for their local parks. An application process and guide have been developed, and the team is looking forward to seeing the results come to life.



Interpretation panel at Takamatua.

## Regional Parks

### Planting and restoration

**Our Coastal and Plains Ranger Team has been busy maintaining their restoration plantings from last winter.**

These photos show the same area in Dickeys Scenic Reserve after six months – incredible growth.



### The Walking Festival

**Our team has been involved in running guided walks as part of this year's Walking Festival.**

Rangers Guillaume Jacob and Yvette Williams had a spectacular autumn day to host their 21km Ōtūkaikino-Waimakariri loop. The walk started and finished at The Groynes Reserve and showcased the spectacular wetlands and braided rivers to the north of Christchurch.



## Regional Parks

### Pest plant and animal control

We deliver pest plant and animal control programmes across a large network of reserves throughout the city and Banks Peninsula.

This work protects and enhances our biodiversity and provides natural and wild spaces for the community to enjoy.

Here is a snapshot of some work we currently have underway:

- Dickeys Reserve willow control where the regenerating growth underneath is looking amazing.
- Wilding pine control at Brooklands, which show how areas can be regenerated through weed management.
- Willow control at Travis Wetland.
- Penguin nesting site in Sumner.



Regional Park Rangers at Brooklands Spit carrying out Wilding Pine.



Alice Waterhouse heading out to control some Willow at Travis Wetland.

## Regional Parks

### New development projects

We have some interesting development projects happening in our regional parks, including the lake edge development work at Roto Kōhatu and ongoing development of Takapūneke Reserve.



Roto Kōhatu lake edge development.

### Barnett Park Cave Loop Track

Rangers have been working with the Eastenders volunteer crew on the Barnett Park Cave Loop Track. The crew have been working for 18 months to reinstate the track after rockfall remediation works, bridge installations and the construction of a four flight staircase, which has made the cave accessible again.



The rebuilt Drummonds Jetty in Akaroa, opened to the public in February.

## Regional Parks

### Takapuneke Reserve

In January 2025, work started on the second phase of the Takapuneke Reserve development. This phase focuses on the creation of two takarangi – double spiral pathways.

The first takarangi under construction (Takarangi 2) sits high up the hillside and is designed to ‘float’ and work with the existing contours of the whenua (land). Stairs and raised boardwalks connect to a central deck that features seating, a shelter, and deck pattern that reflects on the history of the site and the narrative of harakeke.

The project is part of a development plan created jointly by Christchurch City Council and Ōnuku Rūnanga. This work acknowledges the cultural and historical importance of the site, which was the scene of a massacre in 1830.

Takarangi 2 and 3 will be completed by late December 2025, along with path connections providing a walkway between Britomart memorial and the first pou that was unveiled in 2022.



Artist impression of Takarangi 3.



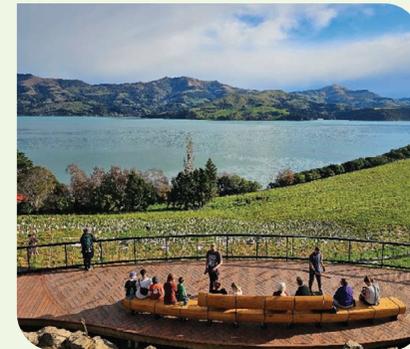
Takarangi 2 under construction.



Takarangi 2 with shelter.

### Matariki planting day

The community was invited to take part in a Matariki planting day at the reserve. Between 70 and 100 people attended and planted 1800 plants, helping with the native regeneration of the reserve.



Regional Parks

## A man of mana, a legend and a bloody good bloke!

We recently celebrated the retirement of Steve Leiataua, one of Parks' most well-known rangers, after more than 30 years of service. Steve worked in various park ranger roles at Christchurch City Council, spending most of his time at Spencer Park, where he became widely known in the community for his welcoming smile, outgoing personality and willingness to engage with people visiting our parks.

Steve has also fostered the new generation of rangers by sharing his many years of parks knowledge and experience with others.

He was presented the Recreation Aotearoa Awards Ian Galloway Memorial Cup for outstanding contribution in parks and amenity horticulture in 2023. When receiving his award Steve spoke of his enjoyment working with other parks colleagues and seeing the team grow throughout the years.

**“One of the highlights for me over the years has to be watching and working with staff as they come and go. It’s about people and watching them grow, helping them along the way.”**

Steve will be greatly missed by our parks team, but we are incredibly proud of his outstanding career as a ranger and his contribution to the sector.



Steve Leiataua at the Lancaster Park planting day.

## Residential Red Zone

The majority of our efforts are focused on the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor as it is our largest landholding.

A snapshot of our work over the last few months includes:

### Avon Park

The upper terrace was opened for use late last year, and since then the team has been busy on the lower terrace, excavating the back wetland, removing redundant power infrastructure, constructing the long-term stop banks, installing play features, and creating the boardwalk that will connect up the City to Sea Pathway. Planting of the lower terrace wetland is underway, and the whole project is scheduled for completion around November.



Avon Park drone shot.



Avon Park drone shot.



Avon Park play features.



Avon Park play features.

## Residential Red Zone

### Wetlands and stormwater management areas

The back wetland at Waitaki Street opened last month and it has been really cool seeing the water come and go with the tidal cycles. Over time the exotic grasses will be replaced with native saltmeadow, which will improve the habitat for native birds while also making it less desirable for Canada Geese. We are documenting this process with drone photography.



Waitaki back wetland.

Earthworks for the first of the Corridor's stormwater management areas will get underway shortly on the other side of the stopbank. This will be a significant milestone, as it marks the first of the water quality improvement projects to get underway.

The Goodman Street Wetland expansion project has commenced with earthworks underway, to be followed by track work and native planting in collaboration with Conservation Volunteers New Zealand. This project includes a culvert removal and improvements along the riparian margin of the outlet tributary that runs from Waikākāriki/Horseshoe Lake into the Ōtākaro Avon River, along with the removal of contaminated land. It is expected to be finished around August.

### City to Sea pathway

The western portion of the pathway, between Fitzgerald Avenue and Snell Bridge, was opened for use just before Christmas and featured in this year's City to Surf fun run. It is not quite finished, with lighting to go in next month and then furniture, signage and cultural art works completing the picture later in the year. Construction of the fourth and final walking and cycling bridge is underway at Dallington Terrace. Like anything in the red zone, this is an evolving project that will be added to and improved over time. Construction on the eastern portion of the Pathway, from Porritt Park to SH74 will commence around October this year. The last portion, from SH74 to Waitaki is dependent on the construction of stopbanks, but should follow closely after completion of the Porritt to SH74 section.



City to Sea pathway.



Dallington Bridge.

## Residential Red Zone

### Planting

We are aiming to install close to 200,000 native plants this season across the Corridor, most via projects or in collaboration with volunteer groups. You may have noticed one of our larger planting sites at Dallington Loop being prepared and planted out by Conservation Volunteers New Zealand.

Having learned some lessons in our tricky red zone soils – with only a 60% survival rate of trees in some of the more difficult sites – we are trialling a new decompaction and soil improvement programme here. We believe this will increase the carbon storage capacity of the soil and yield improved plant growth. It will be interesting to monitor this site over the coming years.

Other planting sites for the year include Brooker Avenue (with Avon Ōtākaro Forest Park), Atlantis Street (with the EcoAction Trust) and the Avon Loop riparian edge. We're also planting several red zone sites on the Port Hills, in association with local groups there.



Banks Peninsula Conservation trust at Lyttelton Memorial Orchard.



Dallington Landing planting day.



Conservation Volunteers New Zealand team photo.



Bridle Path Road planting day.



Conservation Volunteers New Zealand maintenance at Goodman.

Residential Red Zone

### Lake Kate Sheppard

Planning is well underway for improvements to the Lake Kate Sheppard sector, which will include an expansion of Bower Park along with a significant expansion and protection of the wetland areas surrounding the lake itself. Public engagement has been completed, and the team is updating the drawings based on the feedback. Consent will be lodged soon, with the build expected to start next summer.



Lake Kate Sheppard

### Sector 7

Sector 7 is a red zone area south of New Brighton Road being trialled as an events space and the team put in a lot of effort getting it ready. 3000 people came through the gates for the Urban Jungle music festival in March.

The event went well, with no known issues from neighbours and a request for a repeat booking next year. Hopefully this is the first of many more to come.



The Urban Jungle music festival in March 2025.

### Southshore Estuary Edge

The public notification period for the regional consent has wrapped up, with 99% of 300 submissions in support of the project. We are now preparing for a hearing in September with an outcome expected in October. This will determine when we can begin work on site.

## Community Parks

### In-house maintenance

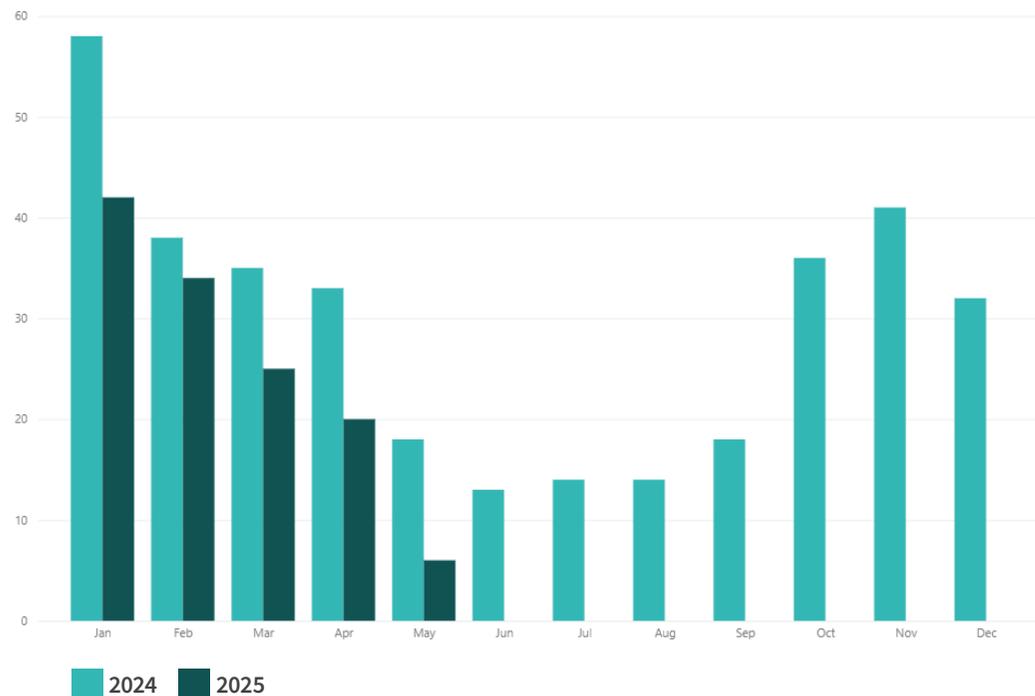
Since bringing Community Parks maintenance in-house last July, we've been refining our approach to improve efficiency in our delivery of services. This has seen changes in team structure, identifying key locations, and improving our work programmes to cover all parks, cemeteries, and land drainage assets. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, despite a challenging start.

Structuring our teams around Community Boards across the city has fostered strong connections between our staff and the local community. As we continue into winter, frontline Parks and Garden Maintenance Office staff will take on additional activities such as green asset renewals. This is an exciting step forward for our service, as we transform problematic gardens into refreshed green spaces.



### Tickets

We have consistently seen fewer complaints every month in 2025 compared to 2024 since bringing our operational services in-house.



Community Parks

“

**Some of the compliments our Community Parks maintenance team have received over the past month.**

I just want to say a huge thank you for the recent upgrade you did at Corsican Grove/reserve in Parklands here in Christchurch. I put in a 'ticket' about three months ago to please take a look at this tired little reserve, and now it's all been cleaned up, mulched, trimmed and replanted! WOW!

...

I just want to pass on our enormous thanks to the very very very hard working parks and gardens team who have recently worked extremely hard to tidy up the gardens around the wee stream that is near our home, as well as the borders of the river that aligns with Linwood Ave and backs onto the back of St Lukes St. These areas are looking INCREDIBLE And it has been a big talk of our neighbourhood.

”

**In-house close out**

The agreed provision was to add \$7.4 million for plant and equipment and \$4 million for depots, a total of \$11.4 million of additional capital funds.

The new maintenance depots in Wigram and on Pages Road are currently under construction and are on track for completion later this year, with costs expected to remain within budget.

	Operating plant and equipment	Depots for maintenance teams	Total
Additional budgets as per Council resolution	\$7,400,000	\$4,000,000	
Existing budgets	\$1,718,060	\$7,500,584	
<b>Total budget</b>	\$9,118,060	\$11,500,584	<b>\$20,618,644</b>
<b>Total spend</b>	\$9,097,596	To be confirmed	



Wycola Park.



Tullet Park.

## Community Parks

### New community parks depots

Construction is currently underway on new Parks in-house maintenance depots at Pages Road and Ngā Puna Wai, Wigram, with practical completion expected in October or November 2025.

These purpose-built facilities have been designed to meet the operational requirements of the in-house maintenance teams and to accommodate the storage, charging, and servicing of electric plant and equipment. Once completed the maintenance teams will transition from the temporary depots that were set up last year.



Wigram depot under construction.

### Community park rangers

The community park rangers have been busy helping make our parks safer and more inviting by replacing boardwalks, handrails, and structural barriers, and ensuring playgrounds are well-maintained. They are currently working on the Heathcote River pedestrian bridge in Cashmere.



Heathcote River pedestrian bridge in Cashmere.

## Botanic Gardens



Sue Molloy (Botanic Resources Coordinator at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens) was presented with the Canterbury Horticultural Society Outstanding Horticulturalist Award on 25 March 2025. The Outstanding Horticulturalist Award is presented to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the field of horticulture. The purpose of this award is to acknowledge those who have demonstrated exceptional horticultural knowledge, a commitment to sharing that knowledge, and the ability to promote horticultural practices to a wider audience.

**Well done, Sue!**

### Mona Vale Bath House

The historic earthquake-damaged Mona Vale Bath House has reopened for the first time since the Canterbury earthquakes, following a seven-month repair and restoration, which means the entire collection of buildings at Mona Vale that were damaged in the earthquakes have now been restored.

Thanks to the generosity of the Friends and the local Community Board, we've been able to undertake this restoration five years earlier than would otherwise have been possible. Much of the repair work on the timber-framed building has been structural, but visitors will notice the freshly painted woodwork inside and out, along with the new timber deck. Our main contractor Armitage Williams have done a wonderful job maintaining the heritage fabric of the building. Our wonderful staff and volunteers have been hard at work growing the sub-tropical plants and then filling and planting the beds inside the house as well as planting hardy plants outside.



Mona Vale Bath House official reopening.

## Botanic Gardens

### Young Amenity Horticulturist of the Year

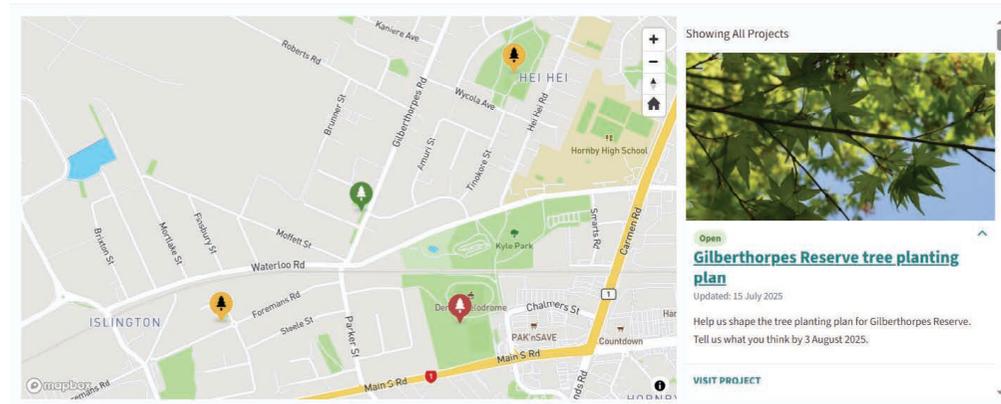
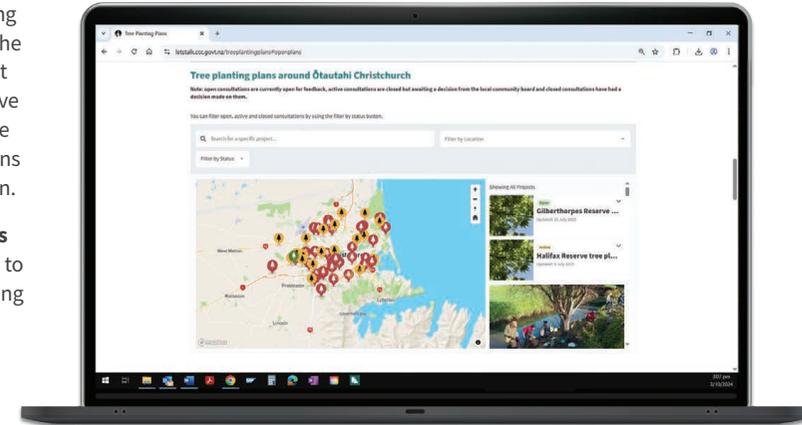
Reece Chalklen and Alannah Kwant competed in this competition at Auckland Botanic Gardens on the 19 of May. Both Reece and Alannah are trainees at the Botanic Gardens and were finalists in the Amenity Sector. This is an annual event that is an opportunity to benchmark their skills against their peers across the wider horticultural industry.



### Urban Forest Plan

The team is currently planting tree replacements to cover the removal of trees over the last 12 months and will then move onto full park planting. There are several new planting plans currently out for consultation.

Visit the **Tree Planting Plans** page on the Council website to learn more about tree planting projects in your area.



## Metropolitan Parks

### Events

Hagley Park has again had a jam-packed event calendar. Electric Avenue was a massive success for the city and the organising team has improved on their management of the site year on year. Other events such as Urban Polo, Polyfest and Mitre10 Sparks have continued to bring the community to the park in large numbers.



Apollo Projects Stadium hosted the recent successful Crusaders finals run, with three back-to-back games held there. Despite the cold evening temperatures, there was an impressive turnout. The stadium turf performed well throughout, maintaining strong grass cover across all fixtures.

Ngā Puna Wai hosted the National Masters Touch tournament in March. Teams from across New Zealand descended on the venue to play on the 15 fields that were prepared on site.



## Metropolitan Parks

### Sports fields

The sports turf team has recently incorporated a new piece of equipment into the fleet. The shockwave tractor implement is designed to revitalise sports fields by relieving soil compaction, improving aeration and removing surface water, all while causing minimal surface disruption so play can resume quickly and safely. This year, we received 133mm more rain than last year, creating some challenges for our sports turf team.



### Te Kaha

The playing surface for One New Zealand Stadium at Te Kaha is being constructed and grown off site by contractors. Staff have been keeping a close eye on how the turf is growing, and a dedicated team will be recruited for the stadium later in the year.

### Central city planting

Winter bedding planting has been completed throughout the central city's parks.



## Parks Planning and Asset Management

### Bringing plans to life

It's always rewarding to see our planning efforts take shape as tangible assets that benefit the community. Some recent highlights include:

- New shade umbrellas at New Brighton playground, offering sun protection for beachgoers.
- A new basketball hoop at Cornelius O'Connor Reserve, encouraging active recreation especially amongst our rangatahi.
- Avebury Park playground renewal, providing fresh play opportunities for local families, including young Freddie Tickner shown here.



### Protecting our taonga

The McLeans Grassland Park Management Plan has been approved. As one of the last undisturbed alluvial grasslands on the Canterbury Plains, this reserve plays a vital role in protecting biodiversity and supporting threatened species. It may be overlooked by the average Cantabrian, but luckily our botanists know their stuff and are working to protect this precious environment.



## Parks Planning and Asset Management

### Christchurch Archery Club

After months of collaboration, we're pleased to share that the Christchurch Archery Club has secured a new lease at Rawhiti Domain. Initially, following a decision by the Community Board not to issue a new lease, the club explored options for a new location to expand its facilities. However, after reviewing their long term plans, they determined that staying at Rawhiti Domain was the best path forward. This decision was supported by the Community Board, ensuring the club can continue to thrive in its current home. The archery club has become a well-loved local destination, offering a variety of programmes that engage the community.



### Cemeteries

Staff have developed a draft concept plan outlining the proposed layout for Whakatā Cemetery on Council-owned land in Templeton. Community engagement on the draft plan has recently concluded. Following approval of the concept plan, the project will progress to the consenting and detailed design phases. The planned development at Akaroa Catholic Cemetery will provide up to 60 new non-denominational full burial plots once completed. Meanwhile, the search for a new cemetery site to serve Whakaraupō/Lyttelton Harbour is underway, as the Diamond Harbour Cemetery has reached capacity. Our Parks Asset Management, Community Parks, Cemeteries, and Digital teams are developing a modern cemeteries management system to replace the ageing database. The new system will provide easier access to cemetery information, online plot bookings, and improved search functions, while also streamlining data management and coordination with contractors.



Akaroa Catholic Cemetery.

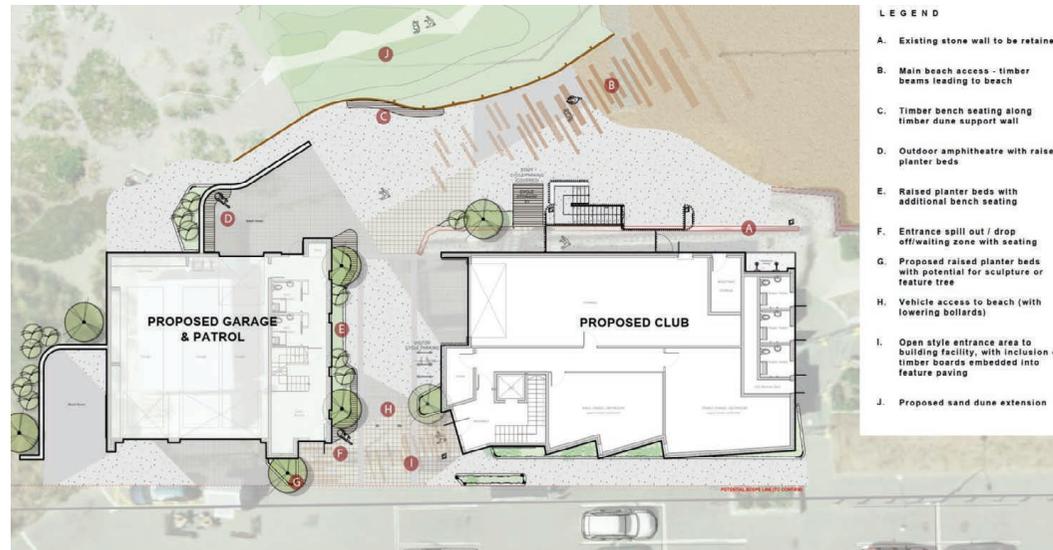
Parks Planning and Asset Management

Park use

Enquiries and applications for the use or occupation of parks continue to keep planning staff busy, including proposals for sports lighting, commercial activities, utility easements, leases, sports club infrastructure, and community events. Examples include:

- Addington Farm lease approved in Addington Park.
- Consultation for North Beach Surf living saving Club redevelopment has concluded.
- Sumner Valley Riding School lease approved
- Sydenham Rugby Club floodlights at Waltham Park.
- Cuthberts Green Softball building approved.
- St Leonards Park new building and cricket nets lease approved.
- Fendalton Park university athletics facilities approved.

Staff carefully assess each application against the park's intended purpose, relevant regulations, and Council policies to ensure the best outcomes. Not all applications proceed to approval reporting and implementation.



North Beach Surf Lifesaving Club – plans and concept design.

## Parks Planning and Asset Management

### New parks

In alignment with our Levels of Service, we continue to acquire new neighbourhood parks in greenfield subdivisions. We are also actively seeking opportunities to secure additional parks in areas experiencing growth and identified as having insufficient open space. However, this is always subject to willing sellers in the right location.



Crofton Playground plans.

### Play space developments

- Approval of the new Quarry View Playground and tree planting in Halswell – construction to begin August 2025.
- Approval of the Crofton Playground renewal – September 2025 Construction.
- Approval of Tralee playground renewal - September 2025 Construction.
- Moffett Park Playground renewal designed, approved and constructed.
- Consultation complete for the Halifax Reserve Playground and Tree Planting Plan – report for decision August/September 2025 and Construction in October 2025.
- Consultation complete for the Hyde Park Play Space renewal – report for decision August/September 2025 and Construction in October 2025.
- Westburn Park learn-to-ride and new playground landscape plan approved.
- Ferrymead Park pump track approved.
- Queenspark Reserve play space approved and construction commencing mid-July 2025.
- South New Brighton Park Redevelopment – Landscape Plan out for consultation with construction planned for over Summer/Autum 2025/26.



Halifax Reserve Playground design.

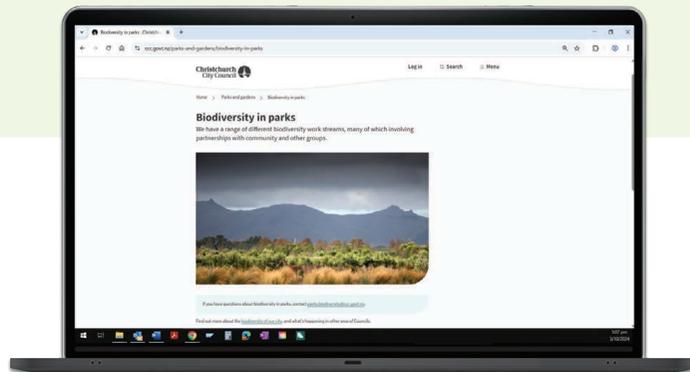
## Biodiversity

We're developing a new web page to make our biodiversity plans and updates more accessible to staff and the public. It's your go-to spot for exploring how we're working to restore and protect some of our region's important natural areas, such as Brooklands Lagoon, McLeans Grassland Park, Murchison Park, Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor, Smacks Creek Reserve, Styx Esplanade Reserve, and Yaldhurst Bush. Additional plans will be added as they are developed.

The web page also outlines how we're managing pest plants and animals, alongside updates on our efforts to monitor and protect native, rare, and threatened species. Recent initiatives include a management plan for the Australasian Crested Grebe, identifying potential sites for lizard translocation, and a plan to safeguard our threatened coastal plant species. Implementing these plans to achieve the Council's biodiversity goals and obligations is supported by passionate and dedicated field staff and requires ongoing capital and operational resources in the face of an ecological emergency.

The web page also features ways for the public to get involved, encouraging greater community connection with our biodiversity efforts.

Visit the **Biodiversity in parks** page to learn more.



Coprosma atropurpurea



Huhu beetle (*Prionoplus reticularis*).



Styphelia nesophila close up.



Crested Grebe at Lake Rua.



Restoration of Ōruapaeroa-Travis Wetland.

## 5. Recent Government Announcements Update - proposed changes to the Local Government and Resource Management Acts

Reference Te Tohutoro: 25/1435400

Presenter(s) Te Kaipāhō: David Griffiths, Head of Strategic Policy and Resilience, Mark Stevenson, Head of Planning and Consents

### 1. Detail Te Whakamahuki

<b>Purpose and Origin of the Workshop</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide Councillors with an update on recent Government proposed legislative changes to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Local Government Act 2002</li> <li>○ The Resource Management Act 1991</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Timing</b>	This workshop is expected to last for 30 minutes.
<b>Outcome Sought</b>	Councillors will have an overview of the recent government announcements regarding the Local Government and Resource Management Acts and next steps.
<b>ELT Consideration</b>	Workshop requested by the Chief Executive.
<b>Next Steps</b>	Staff will come back to Councillors once submission approaches are confirmed.
<b>Key points / Background</b>	<p><b>Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last week the <i>Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill</i> was read in Parliament and referred to select committee for public consultation. The Bill intends to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Refocus the purpose of local government</li> <li>○ Prioritise core services in council spending</li> <li>○ Better measure and publicise council performance</li> <li>○ Strengthen council transparency and accountability</li> <li>○ Provide regulatory relief to councils</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Staff are in the early stages of working through the implications the Bill has on the Council.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resource Management Act Reform</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Government has signalled major reform of resource management laws. There are three phases to this reform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Phase 1 – Repeal the new two new Acts enacted by the previous government (complete)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Phase 2 – Fast Track Approvals; First resource management amendment Bill passed; Second RMA amendment Bill; National Direction Programme.</li> <li>○ Phase 3 – Replacing the RMA.</li> <li>● Last week at the LGNZ Conference, Minister Bishop announced stopping unnecessary Council plan changes. The rationale for this move is save Council’s time and money preparing unnecessary plans and plan changes when extensive reform is occurring.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Useful Links</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Changes to resource management   Ministry for the Environment</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">RMA Reform   Beehive.govt.nz</a></li> </ul>

**Attachments Ngā Tāpirihanga**

There are no attachments to this coversheet.

**Signatories Ngā Kaiwaitohu**

<p><b>Authors</b></p>	<p>Sharna O'Neil - Policy Analyst                  Mark Stevenson - Head of Planning &amp; Consents                  Thomas Lee - Principal Policy Advisor</p>
<p><b>Approved By</b></p>	<p>John Higgins - General Manager Strategy, Planning &amp; Regulatory Services</p>

## 6. Recreation, Sports and Events Unit Update

Reference Te Tohutoro: 25/1151125

Presenter(s) Te Kaipāhō: Nigel Cox, Head of Recreation, Sports & Events

### 1. Detail Te Whakamahuki

<b>Purpose and Origin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of this report is to update the Council on the work across the Recreation, Sports and Events Unit for 1 July 2024 – 30 March 2025</li> <li>The attached report was put together by staff in the Recreation, Sports and Events Unit</li> </ul>
<b>Timing</b>	This information session is expected to last for 30 minutes.
<b>Outcome Sought</b>	Update the Council on the RSE Units work. It is for information only
<b>ELT Consideration</b>	This has not been considered by ELT
<b>Next Steps</b>	NA
<b>Key points / Background</b>	<p>This report highlights the following areas -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recreational and sporting facilities</li> <li>Programmes and activities</li> <li>Community events</li> <li>Funding opportunities</li> <li>Advice, advocacy and building capacity in the community for the recreation, sporting community events and arts sector.</li> </ul> <p>There have been increases in participation across the board, this has been helped by the positive impact of Matatiki Hornby Centre</p> <p>The team is preparing for the handover and opening of Parakiore Recreation and Sports centre at the end of this year.</p>
<b>Useful Links</b>	

### Attachments Ngā Tāpirihanga

No.	Title	Reference	Page
A  	RSE Unit Report Update June 2025	25/1131094	39

## Signatories Ngā Kaiwaitohu

<b>Author</b>	Helen Whitley - Team Leader Management Support / Personal Assistant
<b>Approved By</b>	Nigel Cox - Head of Recreation, Sports & Events Andrew Rutledge - General Manager Citizens and Community



# Recreation, Sports and Events Report

1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025

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## Executive summary

Our goal is

**more people, more active, more often.**

Sport, active recreation and culture creates

**happier, healthier people,  
better connected communities  
and a stronger Christchurch.**

This Recreation, Sports and Events report provides an update from 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025 and highlights the work we do to deliver:

- recreational and sporting facilities
- programmes and activities
- community events
- funding opportunities
- advice, advocacy and building capacity in the community for the recreation, sporting, community events and arts sector.

More detailed Recreation, Sports and Events project and financial information is available in reports from the Project Management Office and Finance.

We've had a very successful period, with increases in participation across the board. This has been helped by the positive impact of Matatiki Hornby Centre.

We've also delivered a well-attended programme of events to suit a range of ages and interests.

The team is preparing for the handover and opening of the Parakiore Recreation and Sport Centre at the end of the year. Parakiore will be the largest aquatic and indoor recreation and leisure venue of its kind in New Zealand, accessible to people of all ages and abilities.



## Participation – the overall numbers

**4.37 million**  
participations across our facilities.



**1.72 million**  
aquatic participations

We've had a strong start to this financial year for aquatics, with **participations up 7.3%**

This includes summer pools (up by 11.4%) and pool memberships (up by 29%).

So far, this financial year we have

**11,424**  
Gym, Gym/Pool and  
Pool memberships  
a 22% increase on the  
same time last year.

**382,926**  
participations at our  
fitness centres  
a 36.8% increase on the  
same time last year.

## Swim education

**617,688**  
overall Swim Education  
participations, with  
**99,555**  
Swimsafe lessons delivered.



**14,695**  
tamariki and rangatahi completed  
the Water Skills for Life programme,  
5882 of these through the funded  
portion of this programme.

We deliver **Water Skills for Life** on behalf of the Council, private aquatic providers and Christchurch schools. It's funded in partnership with Water Safety New Zealand and Tū Manawa (Sport Canterbury), and is aimed at Year 1–8 students from schools with an Equity Index (EQI) of 432 and above.

We have a target of 8596 tamariki  
completing the programme for 2025.



We continue to deliver the **Water Safety New Zealand Kaiako Programme** in Canterbury. This programme aims to raise the capability of teachers so they can deliver a high-quality water skills programme in their own school pools. **So far, 12 teachers at Isleworth schools have completed the programme.**

In the April school holidays our Swim Education instructors attended training in collaboration with Sport Canterbury, Halberg Foundation, Special Olympics Canterbury Trust and Deaf Aotearoa, discussing inclusion and learning New Zealand Sign Language.



So far this financial year,  
participations are up  
**4%** against what  
we planned

**Swimsmart's Term 1  
enrolments are the highest  
ever at 7892**

**Matatiki** has exceeded its first-year  
target of 600 registrations already,  
**hitting 802 registrations  
in Term 1**

## Aquatics

**2713 swimmers**  
have pool memberships, a **29% increase on last year.**

**102,558 preschoolers and their caregivers** enjoyed the pools at no charge.



The hydroslides have had

**86,179 participations.**

The dedicated **women's swimming sessions** at Te Pou Toetoe and Matatiki support **433 participations** each week.

**Pool parties** in partnership with Youth & Cultural Development have seen **2631 participations.**



**120 people** competed to qualify for the **Z Manu World Champs** Grand Finals.



Our **Pride Week pool session** received rave reviews – some attendees were moved to tears and commented how they hadn't been to a pool in more than 10 years.

**Doggie Pool Parties** involved **950 pooches** having a splash at the end of the summer pool season.

The new Matatiki Hornby Centre has received **298,517 pool visits** since it opened in April 2024.



## Fitness centres

**382,926**  
participations at our fitness centres.

So far, this financial year,  
participations are up **36.8%**

and delivery of our personal fitness programme is **16% ahead of what we planned**, with a large focus on taking new members through a four-week induction programme with the aim of encouraging commitment to physical activity.

Pioneer Recreation and Sport Centre had a refresh with a new layout designed to create better customer flow to allow for increased participations.



## Group fitness programmes

**192,773**  
participations in our group  
fitness programme.

So far, this financial year,  
participations are up **14.1%**

We delivered  
**225** live classes  
and **115** virtual classes  
every week, across  
**15** different locations.

Aqua fitness classes are in  
high demand and very well  
attended with participations up  
**10%** from last year.

The introduction of a Group Training licensed model at Graham Condon Recreation and Sport Centre has provided us with a modern training service that adds variety and opportunities for our community and ongoing development for our instructors.

Our virtual classes continue  
to be popular with a  
**53%** increase on  
last year

showing the value of offering off-peak  
opportunities for those new to exercise or  
with flexible working patterns.

In partnership with **School Sport Canterbury**, we continue to deliver group fitness classes for the **Active Wāhine programme**. This is aimed at young women and girls from local high schools.



## Community sport

**358,094**  
participations made use of  
our stadia spaces.

This includes supporting **145 events delivered by the community.**



**143,276**  
participations at Ngā Puna  
Wai Sports Hub, up 15.4%

with **113 event days** and **54 different sporting and recreation community partners** using this space.



Ngā Puna Wai welcomed  
**1143** athletes for the  
**South Island Colgate Games**, more than the  
North Island event for the first time ever.



... and hosted a **Matatū Game.**

The Canterbury Rams provided an event highlight, **winning back-to-back New Zealand National Basketball League titles** at Cowles Stadium in July 2024.

The coach Jude Flavell said, 'To have us play at Cowles Stadium and a full house and that noise, that drove us home in that second half, unbelievable.'



The **Hornby community** is embracing all the different elements of **Matatiki** with more than **200 meeting room bookings by 108 different hirers.**

## Outdoor sports fields

**59,786** people

enjoyed international and domestic cricket this summer, **up 11%**.

This season included:

1. Record home attendance (**more than 4000**) to watch the **White Ferns**.
2. An **English Test** against the **BLACKCAPS** that contributed circa **\$3 million to the local economy**.
3. The Black Clash event was watched by more than **1 million TV viewers**.



We've allocated more than **400 sports fields across Ōtautahi to 21 different sporting codes**.

The Council's Parks Unit maintains these fields across the city so our Recreation and Sport Services team can work in partnership with all the regional sporting organisations in Waitaha to allocate these spaces for winter and summer games.

## Campgrounds

**121,968**

**holidaymakers** enjoyed the Council campgrounds, last summer, despite the rainy weather.

Spencer Beach TOP10 Holiday Park achieved an amazing **Net Promoter Score of 77** over Christmas and New Year – **a world class result**.

Google reviews for Duvauchelle and Okains Bay parks reached **4.6** and **4.5** respectively.





Our **Southern Centre** offers a unique sensory experience, particularly for people with disabilities. It is so popular that it **operates at near 100% capacity every day.**

**6078 participants and whānau** enjoy this world-leading service. Trials of extended afternoon and weekend hours experienced a **97% uptake** of the expanded offering.

## 16,436 participations in Tumbletimes plus pre-school gymnastics and sports

We've also introduced a sensory Tumbletimes option for whānau.



## Events

# 200,000+

attendees at our events

Our Events Production team successfully produced and coordinated Winter Fireworks Spectacular, KidsFest, Go Live Festival, Summer Theatre, Kite Day, Mitre10 Sparks, Outdoor Movies and Summer Sundays.

Due to the weather conditions leading up to NYE Kids' Countdown and NYE24, we were unable to proceed with the event and had to make the difficult call to cancel.

In addition to these events, the team also collaborated with the Council's Civic and International Relations team to deliver Anzac Day commemorations.

**Overall, the summer events we delivered each hit record attendance.**

**Sparks** was delivered with the ongoing support and partnership of the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra.

We successfully raised **\$5300**, an increase from \$3267 in 2024, for the event's charity partner, Rānui House Bone Marrow Cancer Trust.

This event was well attended and attracted a rolling crowd of 24,000 people, an increase from 18,172 people in 2024 and 12,000 in 2023.



We extended **Summer Sundays** by an additional hour (1pm–4pm), giving attendees more time to enjoy the performance. It achieved **over 90% satisfaction** and was well attended, with the venue near capacity for every show.



The **Anthony Harper Summer Theatre** show *The Complete Voyage of the RMS Titanic* achieved an outstanding 99.3% satisfaction rating in the annual Residents Survey. Attendance also reached a record high, with **more than 10,000 attendees**, an increase from 6000 in 2024.



## Events (continued)



Kite Day attracted  
**more than  
10,000  
attendees**

with additional traffic and waste management measures implemented to support the increased numbers, measures that were well received by the community.



In a bid to reduce emissions, our **Winter Fireworks Spectacular** trialled the reduction of fireworks and the inclusion of a lighting component.

**More than 30,000 people flocked to New Brighton Beach to watch the lights and pyrotechnics, set to '80s music anthems.**



**Go Live** returned to the Town Hall, bringing together a diverse lineup of 15 talented acts from various musical genres. The event retained all its existing sponsors and was supported by Crowne Plaza, Three Boys Brewery, Dig the Gig, RDU, Radio Hauraki and charity partner Youth Hub. Low-cost community-priced ticketing generated \$27,000 in revenue to assist with offsetting some of the production costs.

## Community Arts

# 30,000 unique visitors to the Toi Ōtautahi virtual arts office

In 2024/25 the Arts and Cultural Projects Fund supported a number of events and programmes including Port Noise, Dig the Gig, and Little Street Art Festival. The team aims to ensure support for innovative and distinctive projects which contribute to the city's profile as a cultural powerhouse.

A number of community groups continue to regularly use Toi Auaha monthly including Brown Town, two writing groups and a mending club.

The team continues to deliver free workshops on the first Wednesday of each month covering topics such as taxation, copyright law and marketing. Local professionals donate time to support these workshops.

The final incubator wrapped up in April covering screen writing, music and waiata Māori, and street art. Two weekend workshops were included covering screen writing and professional development.

The Community Arts team supports public art development working with Parks and Whitiara in the last few months while working closely with Watch This Space and the team delivering Flare Street Art Festival.

The team is leading a review of the Art in Public Places Policy and a review of Toi Ōtautahi arts and creativity strategy. Both will come to the Council in late 2025 or early 2026 for workshopping.

Managed by the Community Arts Team, Toi Ōtautahi digital channels include the website, newsletter, Instagram and a Facebook page. Engagement with Toi Ōtautahi has continued to grow.

## toi ŌTAUTAHĪ

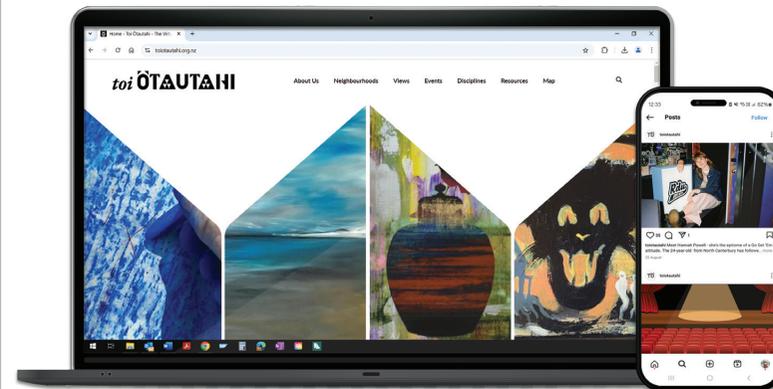
Toi Ōtautahi assets were developed in partnership with Creative New Zealand, Rātā Foundation, mana whenua, and Manatū Taonga Ministry of Culture and Heritage.

We had **30,000 unique visitors** to [toiotautahi.org.nz](http://toiotautahi.org.nz) over the last quarter, which is an increase from 25,000 last period.

In the last 90 days the Toi Ōtautahi website has had **7800 new users**. Viewers are interested in events, opportunities and profiles.

The Toi Ōtautahi Instagram (our favoured platform) has **2090 followers and got 29,832 views in the last 90 days**. We average 50 new followers a month. We have an average of 25,000 views each month, with an interaction rate of around 1000 per month.

The Toi Ōtautahi Newsletter has increased to **1000 subscribers**, averaging nine signups per week.



## Tīrama Mai

The Community Arts Team delivers Tīrama Mai, the city's Puanga Matariki festival.

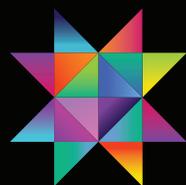
Around **120,000** people attended Tīrama Mai, and much of the feedback was positive, with **71% of respondents to our survey saying they enjoyed the artworks**

**91% were positive about the giveaways** (seedlings from Trees for Canterbury, yoyos from Orion and Matariki-focused books)

**43% of respondents felt Tīrama Mai strengthened their knowledge of local artists and creatives**

**97% of respondents believe Tīrama Mai is an important part of the Council's events calendar**

There are a few areas for improvement. People have said they'd like to see more lights, a closer location, and more information panels and interactive learning sessions, including workshops.



**TĪRAMA MAI**

Bringing the light

Powered by **Orion** and **connetics**



Tīrama Mai 2024 ran for 10 nights, and featured 24 installations including projections, lights, sculpture and moving image and music from three local artists. We gave away 2000 trees, kindly donated by Trees for Canterbury.

The Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment, along with Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage continued to support Tīrama Mai, with value in kind and cash support from main sponsor Orion and Connetics, and with additional sponsorship from Streamliner. The total value of these partnerships was \$195,000.

Planning is underway for Tīrama Mai 2025. The 2025 event will span five nights and focussed over a smaller area incorporating the Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū, Canterbury Museum and CoCA on Gloucester Street, and The Arts Centre Te Matatiki Toi Ora. We'll also be promoting Riverside Market and the Terrace. Trees For Canterbury will once again provide seedlings to give away.

We'll be looking to build our capacity with use of projection mapping. Two projects will take place in 2025. In the Great Hall artwork from Xoë Hall will come to life with sound from Bea Gladding, and on the exterior of the Harley Chambers with work from artists Sam Emerson and Drows. There will be a walk-through experience on the Gallery forecourt with a story and waiata from Kommi and local collaborators. The event is very well supported by local fabricators Art Fetiche and projection company Streamliner.

## Permitted events

We issued nearly **300 event permits** in the past year for events held in public spaces.

**1,085,000**  
people attended events  
that went through our event permit process.

**122 community event permits = 384,000 attendees**

**119 sport event permits = 382,000 attendees**

**37 commercial event permits = 306,700 attendees**

**14 “other” event permits = 12,300 attendees**

**Sector 7**, the latest addition to our event spaces in the Residential Red Zone, proved its potential with Urban Jungle, the first large-scale event to activate the site. Previously held in Cathedral Square, the electronic music festival drew enthusiastic crowds and transformed the landscape into a vibrant hub of sound, light, and connection.

Social media said:

*“Epic venue – more at Sector 7!”*

*“What a show, and what a way to start reclaiming the Red Zone.”*

With its successful debut, Sector 7 is quickly carving out its place as a unique and dynamic addition to our event scene.



### Electric Avenue

For the first time in its history, Electric Avenue expanded to a two-day format in North Hagley Park, bringing in more than 75,000 event attendees across both days – a bold move that required meticulous planning and coordination from the Event Partnerships Team. Their careful work paid off: the transition was all but seamless, disruption was minimal, and the surrounding community responded with praise rather than complaints. Residents applauded the outcome, recognising the balance struck between delivering a world-class music festival and maintaining respect for the local environment.

### Illuminate

In 2024, the Botanic Gardens hosted the Illuminate Light Festival, the first time a light festival has been held in the Botanic Gardens since the final Botanic D’Lights in 2020. Held over several weeks and spanning two kilometres in length, the event transformed the Gardens into a luminous wonderland, featuring lighting installations never seen before in New Zealand that wowed and delighted more than 50,000 residents.

## He Puna Taimoana

In 2024/25 we've welcomed

**115,000** guests

(even factoring in a two-month closure!)

and been awarded the

**Gold Qualmark**

(for the third year in a row!)



## Partnerships

### Waitaha Recreation and sports organisations

We have worked in partnership with **294 organisations.**

**94% are satisfied** with the service and support they receive from the Council's Recreation and Sports Services team, up again from last year (the benchmark is 80%)

### Funding

We granted

**\$326,000**

to community based Sport and Recreation agencies from our Strengthening Communities and Discretionary Response Funds. These funds support operational costs.

### Hagley Oval

Hagley Oval delivers opportunities for our community through a collaborative partnership involving:

- Canterbury Cricket Association
- Canterbury Cricket Trust
- ChristchurchNZ
- Venues Ōtautahi
- Christchurch City Council



## Community activation and engagement

The Active Communities team continues to focus on those most at risk of physical inactivity by partnering with local community groups.

The team joined with the Community team at Kāinga Ora to support people in social housing into the pools. Kāinga Ora has regular neighbourhood parties where kōrero is shared about services and programmes. We gave out pool passes with the objective of breaking barriers to coming into our centres and increasing health outcomes. Kāinga Ora has also partnered with Gear Up to provide goggles and other sport equipment.

The team provided tautoko / support to the three Ōtautahi-based kapa haka groups into our centres. The rōpū / groups are Kōkō Tangiwai, Te Ahikaarua and Ngā Manu ā Tāne, who represented Waitaha at Te Matatini 2025. The aim is to get the whole rōpū accessing our facilities to become 'Haka fit' and amplify the varying levels of fitness and hauora journey each kaihaka / performer is on. This has seen kaumātua, pakeke and rangatahi, grandparents and their moko giving it a go.

They partnered with Te Tumu Waiora who manages the Health Coaches and GP Support Workers, based in GP surgeries across Canterbury. They worked with the organisation to understand what would be of most benefit to support the health coaches in the community – this was access to the pools. A small grant allows the Health Coaches to accompany clients to come to the pool to support them on their health journey. This has led to an average of 88 visits per month with clients, who would otherwise not attend our facilities.

They worked with their Swim Education colleagues to provide culturally inclusive swimming lessons for the Nepal NZ Friendship Society of Canterbury for 19 women (ages 35–64) at Matatiki over two terms. This programme included an interpreter for both participants and swim instructors and a customised entry card to remove language barriers. Participants reported increased confidence, social connection, and long-term engagement with the facilities.



Vai Ora, a Pasifika community aqua gentle class run by Tangata Atumotu Trust, was launched at Matatiki and Taiora QEII. The attendance exceeded expectations with more than 15 weekly attendees at each location. This led to hydrotherapy pool access for short-term bookings, which were previously unavailable.



They partnered with six agencies to support tamariki in funded swimming lessons and improve retention where attendance had dropped to 40% by the end of the term. Partners include Tangata Atumotu Trust, Purapura Whetu, Waitaha Primary Health, Whānau Whanake, the Methodist Mission, and Te Puawaitanga. A streamlined registration process and regular attendance tracking have strengthened agency support. Since launching in September 2024, the initiative has expanded to include holiday lessons for the first time. Agencies report that this approach empowers them to better support whānau.

## Community activation and engagement (continued)



Our Play Advocate continues to raise awareness of the importance of and value of play for tamariki, rangatahi and adults within the Council and the local community. We engaged with more than 1000 school-aged children to discover how they like to play as we develop the Play Space Network Plan. Feedback from this engagement has contributed detailed information on access to Physical Activity and Play for tamariki to Council projects in Banks Peninsula, Linwood, New Brighton and Phillipstown.

We partnered with three Community Governance teams to engage with residents around creating informal play opportunities for local children. These projects all received funding from their respective boards and have been co-designed with tamariki. Projects will all be completed by the end of 2025 with ongoing partnerships in place to ensure long-term activations. We have two longer-term collaborations with local youth underway in Linwood and Hoon Hay to improve play equity. The Hoon Hay project has received funding from three external providers, a positive response from the Community Board and a start date of June 2025.

We've created a Children's Participation guide to support Council staff to include young people in decision-making and opportunities for co-design that lead to greater outcomes for being physically active. We're presenting the guide at the Sport NZ National Play Hui in July 2025 as a template for other councils to follow. We're now looking to workshop this guide with Council staff as a way of helping other units incorporate these considerations into what they do.

We have begun a pilot in partnership with Sport Canterbury with a funded project to install play opportunities in areas where we've identified play inequity. This will start in July 2025 with the addition of four tree-swings and painted pathways, creating long-term opportunities for more cost-efficient play installations and greater opportunities for encouraging active play in areas where there is a need.

## Event funding

### The Events and Festivals Sponsorship Fund

- 49 applications assessed
- 23 recommended funding
- 17 declined funding
- 9 applications withdrawn and referred to other Council funds
- 10 applications were already on contract totalling \$154,500

### Community:

7 applications assessed  
1 recommended funding, **totalling \$8000**

### Creative and culture:

15 applications assessed  
9 recommended funding, **totalling \$122,395**

### Multicultural:

13 applications assessed  
8 recommended funding, **totalling \$165,375**

### Sport:

10 applications assessed  
3 recommended funding, **totalling \$70,000**

### Commercial:

4 applications assessed  
2 recommended funding, **totalling \$16,565**

### Polyfest

Polyfest 2025 transformed North Hagley Park into a vibrant showcase of music, dance, and community spirit. Attendance more than doubled from 15,000 in 2023 to more than 30,000 this year, making it the biggest Polyfest to date. With 30 schools from across Te Waipounamu taking part, the festival highlighted the rich diversity of Pasifika cultures through powerful performances and traditional song and dance. Attendees also enjoyed authentic Pacific Island cuisine and handmade crafts, adding to the festive atmosphere. This event continues to receive support through the Events and Festivals Sponsorship Fund.



### Christchurch Marathon

The 2025 Christchurch Marathon attracted 7015 participants, marking a 33% increase from the previous year and making it the largest field in the event's history. It drew a total of 22,200 attendees, including participants and supporters, with 4068 visitors from outside Christchurch, contributing to more than 10,000 nights spent. Data collected from athlete surveys showed an 87% athlete satisfaction rate and 97% of visitors recommending the central city to others.

## Event bidding

### Masters National Touch Championships

Christchurch successfully played host to the Masters Nationals Touch Championships in March 2025 at Ngā Puna Wai. The event attracted 1120 participants from around the country with more than 200 games played across three days.

### Open Trans-Tasman Touch Championship

The city also hosted the Open Trans-Tasman Touch Championship at Ngā Puna Wai over Anzac weekend in 2025. The event saw the best mixed, women's and men's teams from Australia and New Zealand competing for the Series title. This was the first Trans-Tasman Series hosted in New Zealand since 2017. Alongside the One New Zealand Warriors Community Foundation, we delivered a free community skills session to school-aged children in the lead-up. There were more than 160 Tamariki registered who spent the hour with Touch Blacks players doing skills and drills.

Touch NZ has indicated that feedback from the tournaments has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the high standard of Ngā Puna Wai.

### Upcoming events that have been successfully attracted to the city include:

**Ford National Hockey Championships** – Sept 2025

**NZ Rugby League National Youth Tournament** – Sept 2025

**Special Olympics National Summer Games** – Dec 2025

**Youth National Touch Championships** – Feb 2026

## Places

Indoor sports courts at Pioneer, Cowles and  
Graham Condon achieved

# 94% utilisation

Made possible by around 1200 different groups booking space.



Southern Centre achieved

# 98% utilisation

Trials of expanded hours in the weekend and later afternoons have  
achieved 97% utilisation.

## Places (continued)

### Camping grounds

Ground has been broken at Spencer Beach TOP 10 Holiday Park to build the replacement service block and facilities that were destroyed by fire.

### Matatiki

Matatiki opened on 19 April 2024 to serve the growing population in southwest Christchurch. In the 12 months since it opened, Matatiki has welcomed more than 462,000 visitors.

The pools have attracted 5765 participants in various aquatic classes, and more than 800 new enrolments in the Swimsmart programme. It's been home to regular groups practising swim training, artistic swimming training, dive training, school groups and water polo. It's hosted five community pool parties in collaboration with Youth & Cultural Development. The Thursday women's sessions in the pool offer a female-only environment, to encourage all women and girls to feel more confident in our pools, and has had an overwhelmingly positive reception. The hydrotherapy pool has been a huge win for the community – the aqua gentle classes have been at capacity, offering a fun low-intensity workout option, particularly for those who need physiotherapy or rehabilitation. The building's meeting rooms have played host to 21 birthday parties and more than 280 bookings by community group and local businesses.

### Pioneer

Regular maintenance and refurbishment work was completed over the summer period. The stadium had a new clean energy heating system installed and the diesel boiler removed. We connected a clean energy heating system for the pools and replaced the concourse flooring in the main pool hall. Our gym and group fitness studios were refurbished, and the ground floor toilets were upgraded leading to accessibility improvements.



## Places (continued)

### Parakiore

Crown Infrastructure Delivery is reporting that the practical completion of the centre will enable the facility to be open to the public late 2025. Our establishment planning is now well underway, including recruitment, with the employment of eight team leaders. The Council is looking to fill around 200 positions at the facility.

### He Puna Taimoana

He Puna Taimoana has recently (February–April 25) completed a facility refresh. Our sauna has had a complete renovation, adding all new wood and drainage. A highlight is the improvement to the steam room which has gone from a sterile white space to a luxurious spot to unwind with added aromatherapy and blue herringbone wall tiling. In September, we're launching our next new experience called the Starlight Cinema Soak, which will let visitors relax in floating hammocks in the hot pools while watching a selection of favourite films.

He Puna Taimoana continues to elevate guest experience. We've recently upgraded our booking system IBIS to a membership module, which allows residents to receive their discounts with ease. We're also evolving our brand strategy to further target tourism growth. Year on year, tourism has grown from 4% to 9%. Our top three markets are the United Kingdom, Australia and North America. We're developing partnerships with international agents and working alongside ChristchurchNZ to develop new high-end tourism experiences.



## People

The 2025 Working@Council survey's overall score for Recreation, Sports and Events team members was **70% satisfied**.

### Staff achievements

- **Harry Roberts**  
Recreation Aotearoa Emerging Leader of the Year 2024
- **Ben Rzoska**  
Recreation Aotearoa Paul Stuart Memorial Award for Excellence in Facility Management 2024

### Staffing strategy

Parakiore will increase our employee numbers by approximately 200. To ensure we successfully fill all the roles, we're working on an effective staffing strategy. We want to build talent to ensure a quality candidate pool, engage with the community to attract a diverse and large candidate pool, and engage current staff to retain existing employees.



## What people are telling us



In the Council's annual General Service Satisfaction Survey:

- **95%** of respondents were satisfied with the support provided to the events sector by the Events Partnership and Development team.
- **94%** of respondents were satisfied with the support provided by the Recreation Services Team.
- **91%** of respondents were satisfied with the range and quality of facilities.



- **92%** agreed that we make it easy to use our recreation and sport facilities.
- **78%** were satisfied with Council-funded events.
- **76%** said we made it easy for them to use our events support service.

## Filming permits

We've had 75 enquiries for filming so far this year.

14 required a filming permit, 34 were for student filming (no permit required) and 27 were general filming enquiries where no permit was required.

	Permitted	Student	No permit
July	-	1	1
August	1	10	7
September	-	13	6
October	2	1	3
November	5	5	1
December	2	-	1
January	-	-	2
February	2	-	3
March	2	4	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>27</b>
		<b>75</b>	

### Notable productions

#### Korban

A Malaysian drama series funded by Screen Canterbury filmed in the central city, New Brighton beach, Lyttelton and Bottle Lake Forest in October 2024.

#### Holy Days

A full-length film also funded by Screen Canterbury filmed in the Port Hills and Banks Peninsula from November to December 2024.

#### Signature Steve

A commercial for Signature Homes filmed in the Botanic Gardens in March 2025.

#### Malaysia Alif Satar

A Malaysian travel show initiated by Tourism NZ filmed in the central city and New Brighton beach.



## The Community Events Implementation Plan 2025–29

**The Community Events Implementation Plan 2025–29** was presented to the Council in May and is ready to be finalised. This plan accompanies the Events Policy Framework. Its purpose is to outline the goals and actions the Council will undertake to develop and deliver community events across Christchurch and Banks Peninsula at local, regional, and national levels.

In developing this plan, we considered feedback gathered over recent years from event attendees,

participants, and organisers. We commissioned a statistically representative survey to understand how residents perceive Council-produced and sponsored events. The survey explored who's attending events, what aspects are most valued and overall perceptions of the Ōtautahi events calendar.

Our priorities will be to strive for a balanced and inclusive events calendar by diversifying offerings, spreading events year-round, deepening community

partnerships, refreshing the event portfolio, reducing attendance barriers, and evolving funding and sponsorship models with sustainable event practices front of mind.

We've developed three goals for this implementation plan which will help achieve the high-level goals of the Events Policy Framework, along with actions to achieve the goals, with key tasks and timing noted.



## What's On

Our online platform for listing and promoting events, received:

- **32% increase in website views** (1,116,136)
- **10% increase in Facebook followers** (38,595)
- **14% increase in Instagram followers** (9202)
- **6% increase in subscribers to the newsletter** (13,940)
- **9% increase in the open rate for newsletters** (46%)



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## 7. Items Closed to the Public

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The information session/workshop items noted from the next page will not be open to the public under the sections of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) outlined in the table on the following page. The full wording of the noted LGOIMA sections is found in [section 6](#) or [section 7](#) of the Act.

In the Council's view, these reasons for exclusion are not outweighed by public interest considerations in section 7(1) favouring their release.

The public can ask the Ombudsman to review this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

ITEM NO.	GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	SECTION	SUBCLAUSE AND REASON UNDER THE ACT	PUBLIC INTEREST CONSIDERATION	POTENTIAL RELEASE REVIEW DATE AND CONDITIONS
8.	SPORT PROCESS UPDATE	S7(2)(1)	CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS	IF THE INFORMATION WAS PUBLICLY AVAILABLE IT WOULD PREJUDICE THE COMMERCIAL POSITION OF COUNCIL AND AFFECT ONGOING CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS	28 MAY 2027 AT THE COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS