

**Title:** Final design approved for Bay aviary

**DATE:** 13 February 2009

**FOR RELEASE:** Immediate

“We are pleased to announce that the Aviary will be relocated and remain a feature of Caroline Bay,” said Bill Steans, Parks and Recreation Manager for Timaru District Council.

The upgraded facilities will be relocated on the site of the former tennis courts. This has been made possible by a strong community involvement and commitment spearheaded by the Timaru Bird Club.

The club was determined to find the shortfall and gained community-wide support to top up club funds to a level where the project could proceed.

The involvement of local developer Noel Fitzgerald has led to an innovative design being produced, that is more cost effective than the previous design which was proposed. This means that the existing free flight dome can be relocated and a new building constructed to house separate cages, a storeroom and office. Mr Fitzgerald’s company has also undertaken to supply materials at cost, leading to a saving of approximately \$25,000. His son, Mark, will manage the construction.

“I knew the late Bill Agnew, a past president of the Timaru Bird Club, and have had an interest in aviaries,” commented Mr Fitzgerald. “That is why I became involved with this project”.

Timaru District Council has allocated \$100,000 to the project. The Timaru Bird Club, through their fundraising efforts is contributing another \$25,000 to top up the funds to the level of the \$125,000 needed to complete the project.

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The club will hand over their contribution to the Council next week, meaning that work will begin once an amended building consent is obtained.

The construction, and the relocation of the dome will take about two months to complete before nest boxes and vegetation can be incorporated and the birds introduced to their new home. The club also has separate funds from earlier fundraising that will be used to purchase additional birds.

“This project has been a good example of the community working together,” said Mr Steans.

**ENDS**

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