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Committee Council
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Report on the Carter Observatory

I am appointed to the Board of the Carter Observatory by the Minister of Research, Science and Technology on the nomination of GW. From time-to-time I provide you with a report on Carter activities and developments.

The Carter Board continues to function very well. It is a Board with a good range of abilities and it is very active. We have two major lines of development:

- (1) the Carter's bid for a building on the Wellington waterfront
- (2) the development of an online education business to teach astronomy into secondary schools throughout New Zealand.

The move to the waterfront is proceeding. The plans for a building have been developed and preliminary work is being done. Of course, the project depends on funding from a variety of sources, including central government. At this moment we are 70% confident of the move to the waterfront.

On Tuesday next the Minister of Education will formally launch the astronomy distance education business. This has been my main responsibility as a board member. The New Zealand Community Trust has funded scholarships for students to a total value of \$50,000. The web site seems to work and one course is operational. The second course should be operational within about 6 weeks. Students can gain NCEA credits for astronomy now and we are working towards full courses for each of the senior secondary school years. The unit standards were put in place by the Carter working with the NZQA. It is incredible that the secondary school curriculum can be altered in this way without the Ministry of Education being involved at all and without any funds from the taxpayer (or the ratepayer for that matter).

Should any member of GW wish to discuss the Carter Observatory they could email me robert.shaw@paradise.net.nz or telephone 233 0252

My regards to everyone.

Councillor Robert Shaw
Porirua City Council

Wellington Regional Council – 31 May 2004

To be moved:

That the report be received and the contents noted.