

Last night (Friday 17th October) around 60 - 70 people gathered to celebrate the official opening of Swanson Oaks park. Both our present and past Residents and Ratepayers presidents, Steve Healy and Ian Hutchinson, made speeches acknowledging the hard work and effort that had gone into acquiring the land and developing this park by both the Swanson community and Waitakere City Council. Councillor Penny Hulse and Council officer Janet Cole also acknowledged this work and emphasised the importance of celebrating community achievements such as this, particularly when the community has gone through difficult times as Swanson has in recent months around the Penihana and Structure Plan issues. Mayor Bob Harvey rounded off the speeches by talking about what a special place Swanson is and how much he admires and respects the community spirit that drives developments such as this.

Jim Hunt said a special prayer to mark the occasion and then Swanson R&R co-secretary and Swanson Oaks Resident Sharon Davies turned on the switch that started up the water and light feature. This was followed by the inaugural petanque game. Congratulations to our president Ian Hutchinson who won this first game, playing for the Swanson community against Mayor Bob!!

Much earlier in the day (at 6.30am to be precise!) a group of around 24 Swansonites, Councillor Penny Hulse, Community Board Chair Christine Shepherd and Council staff attended the dawn blessing of the park, which was also a very special and significant occasion. A native Clematis was planted at this ceremony to symbolise the renewal of community spirit in Swanson

Thanks to everyone who helped organise these events, especially Sharon Davies and other members of the Swanson R&R Association.







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