

6. REHUA MARAE BUILDING UPGRADE

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The purpose of this report is to seek support from the Community Board for inclusion of a major facility upgrade in the Board's area to be included in the Christchurch City Council's Annual Plan.

REHUA MARAE HISTORY (BRIEF)

As members will know, Rehua Marae was established in the 1960s and has become a significant cultural and conference/hui facility in the city since then. From the Marae base a number of social services are operated and the facility is the venue for numerous conferences, hui, tangi and other activities. The Trust Board managing Rehua has recently entered into a partnership with Shirley/Papanui Community Board to present Nga Tapuwae o Matou Tipuna: Footsteps of Our Ancestors – annual heritage awards.

The origins of Rehua go back to 1945 and a debate in Parliament about the establishment of apprenticeship schemes for Maori youth. Although the scheme was initiated by Government the Methodist Mission was integral to its success, by selecting boys, assisting them to move, providing accommodation and finding apprenticeships for them.

The original Rehua Hostel, located in Stanmore Road, was purchased in 1952 and was home to 14 Maori girls mainly from Rotorua, Kaikoura and the King Country. The Methodist Mission struggled to maintain numbers. When the Minister of Maori Affairs asked the Mission to consider converting the hostel to a boys' hostel, the Mission did so and the first intake of 20 trade trainees were accommodated in 1954. Eighteen of these boys came from *Te Ika a Maui* (North Island).

The site in Stanmore Road proved to be unsuitable and so, in 1957, The Mission purchased an old mansion in Springfield Road for £6500. This building was named *Te Maire*, after a Wesleyan layman from Waimate, Rawiri Te Maire. Because of expansion to the trade training scheme, additions were made to the building in 1958, so that by 1959, 36 boys were being accommodated. Further expansion saw the construction of more buildings on the site, including *Te Koti Te Rato* allowing a total of about 70 to be accommodated. The costs of these additions were met in varying ways by the Mission and the Government.

Because of the numbers of boys now being accommodated, away from their ancestral and rural roots, the Mission decided that a whareniui (meeting house) was necessary as an essential step in integrating the boys into life in Christchurch, as well as encouraging them to retain their culture. After consent was given by local Maori, construction was started with donated materials from businesses in the area. The tapu was lifted on 27 March 1960 by Dame Te Ata I Rangi Kahu and the whareniui officially opened on 3 September 1960 by Sir Walter Nash. Wera Couch of Rapaki was approached to name the whareniui and gave the name *Te Whatumanawa Maoritanga o Rehua*.

In early 1961 a Rehua Old Boys Association was formed, as many of the boys remained in Christchurch after their training, having often married local women. Its early purpose was to assist the Hostel in fund-raising. The old Boys Association still exists and has input into the governance of Rehua Marae.

The trade training scheme ended in late 1980. However, the Mission, with co-operation from Ngai Tahu decided to continue with the hostel. Eventually the hostel was disbanded and the buildings utilised for administration and office space for a number of marae-based social services.

SIGNIFICANCE OF REHUA

Rehua has been shaped by a coming together of Maori and European spiritual heritages. The name, Rehua, was suggested by Henare Te Ara Jacobs, a Ngai Tahu kaumatua of Tuahiwi. It is a significantly spiritual name as Rehua is one of the heavens that the spirit passes through once leaving the body. As the hostel was run by the Methodist Mission it is influenced also by the Western Christian heritage.

Because the boys who were accommodated at Rehua were primarily from other parts of the country, an attempt was made to help make them feel at home. The carvings inside the whareniui depict the ancestral leaders of all the waka (canoes), so that each tribal area is represented, with Ngai Tahu (as Mana Whenua) ancestors taking pride of place. This makes *Te Whatumanawa Maoritanga o Rehua* unique.

STATUS AND OWNERSHIP

Rehua Marae has mixed ownership. The Methodist Mission owns the land and other facilities and the Government owns some of the buildings. *Te Koti Te Rato* is situated on land given to the Government by the Mission when the Government financed the building of the dormitory in 1969. The wharenuī itself is owned by the Mission.

In 1978 the land on which the wharenuī and wharekai (dining hall) are situated was gazetted as a Maori Reserve after the Mission took action through the Maori Land Court. *Te Whatumanawa Maoritanga o Rehua* is listed as a Group 3 heritage building of the Christchurch City Plan.

GOVERNANCE AND TIKANGA

Rehua is governed by a Trust Board made up of representatives of local runaka, the Old Boys Association and the Methodist Mission. Although Rehua has the blessing of Kai Tahu, it is not a traditional papa tipu marae. Hence, Rehua is not a recipient of Ngai Tahu Development Corporation funding, nor does it receive fees or annual grants from any of the members of its governing Trust (including the Mission). Thus it is, in common with other Charitable Trusts, Incorporated Societies and community organisations, dependent upon obtaining grants, contracts and donations from a wide variety of sources.

Funding for Rehua has been a constant difficulty from its early times. The Mission has often had to appeal to the Government for assistance. The very first hostel (in Stanmore Road) was purchased via a loan from the Methodist Home and Maori Mission Department, a Government subsidy and a grant from the Ngai Tahu Trust Board. Later additions and alterations were funded through combinations of subsidies, grants and loans from the Mission, religious associations, the Government, Maori Affairs Department, Maori Purposes Fund Board, the Old Boys Association, gifts from businesses and the gateway by a donation from the Christchurch Rotary Club.

Rehua views itself as a marae that exists for everyone. Indeed, one of the functions of the Rehua Marae Trust Board is to ensure that the Marae's tikanga (purpose) - *aroha ki te tangata (love to all people)* - is kept.

TE MAIRE UPGRADE

Ongoing maintenance and improvements to the facilities at Rehua Marae are continuously on the Trust Boards agenda. A major upgrade is presently needed for one of the buildings on the site. *Te Maire* (the original hostel building) is the building in which the administration for the Marae is based and is in need of major upgrade.

An earthquake a few years ago loosened bricks and disrupted the piles for part of the building, which is now condemned. Consequently, this part of the building is now used only for storage, although it had previously been used as a base for social activities for the kaumatua.

The Marae is also in huge demand for its facilities and is presently unable to meet that demand (for example, 14 of the first 16 days in December are already booked). An upgrade to the building provides an opportunity to plan for helping to meet this demand. It is also an opportunity to make the building accessible for wheelchairs etc. The present ramp was put in at a time before standards were set and has proven to be too steep.

THE CONCEPT

The basic concept involved in the upgrade of Te Maire is to remove the risk from the building and to provide for further space in which conferences and hui can take place, in such a way that tangi can take place without compromising the conference nor detracting from the privacy and wairua of the tangi.

Conceptual plans have been drawn up and although detailed costings have not been completed, the indicative cost of the upgrade is in the order of \$300,000 to \$400,000. The Marae itself may be able to reduce some of these costs through its own voluntary input. Copies of the concept plans have been sent to Community Board members under separate cover.

DISCUSSION

As Board members are aware, Rehua Marae provides a significant base for a number of services and programmes in the city – both Maori and others. It is also a significant facility for community activities within the Boards area and the city as a whole. The building is also definitely in need of upgrade and the opportunity exists to improve the facilities of Rehua Marae.

NATURAL + PEOPLE + ECONOMIC STEP ASSESSMENT

| # | CONDITION: | Meets condition ✓✓0* | HOW IT HELPS MEET CONDITION: |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| The Natural Step | | | |
| N1 | Reduce non-renewable resource use | | |
| N2 | Eliminate emission of harmful substances | | |
| N3 | Protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystems | | |
| N4 | People needs met fairly and efficiently | | See People Step & Economic Step |
| The People Step | | | |
| P1 | Basic needs met | ✓✓ | Provides venue for kaumatua social interaction |
| P2 | Full potential developed | ✓✓ | Educational and cross-cultural learning opportunities |
| P3 | Social capital enhanced | ✓✓ | Whanau/Families and communities strengthened |
| P4 | Culture and identity protected | ✓✓ | Enhancement of Maori identity and visibility in Christchurch society |
| P5 | Governance and participatory democracy strengthened | ✓ | Increases rangatiratanga of Maori |
| The Economic Step | | | |
| E1 | Effective and efficient use of all resources | ✓ | Use of recycled materials is a possibility |
| E2 | Job rich local economy | ✓✓ | Helps provide income for Rehua and hence job opportunities |
| E3 | Financial sustainability | ✓✓ | Significant contribution to the city's economy, by way of hui/conferences |

Staff

Recommendation: That the Shirley/Papanui Community Board support Rehua Marae in their endeavour to upgrade Te Maire. That staff be asked to provide a full and detailed report (including costings) for referral to the Council for consideration in the Annual Plan 2003/04.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: For discussion.