

8. MARSHLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL- KIDS EDIBLE GARDENS

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Lynne Batty, DDI 941-9405
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The purpose of this report is to seek funds from the Shirley/Papanui Community Board towards maintenance and future expansion of the Marshland Primary School edible garden project.

Last year the Marshland Primary School started an edible garden. The school received a \$720.00 grant in June 2002 from the Shirley/Papanui Community Board to fund a Garden Facilitator from Kids Edible Gardens for one afternoon a week for a year.

The garden is now up and running very well, featuring in an article in the Weekend Press on Saturday 15 March 2003. The school has two extremely dedicated parents who volunteer their time to the garden and children so that the garden will continue when the school's contract with Kids Edible Gardens expires.

There has been a keen interest in this project from the school children and those involved would like to expand the garden so that more children can enjoy the experience. There are fifty children wanting to fill the twenty spaces in the project. The children learn practical skills like how to save seeds and build compost bins, while gaining knowledge about biodiversity, companion planting and insect-attracting plants. Similarly, they learn to appreciate that the garden is part of the community and that physical activity is fun. Students gain an awareness of the environment within an urban area and how they can affect that environment. They learn that they can grow their own food and are empowered to make choices and facilitate change. Fundraising for maintenance and future expansion has failed to reach the desired targets.

Marshland Primary School would appreciate any financial assistance the Shirley/Papanui Community Board could offer to help it meet the expansion and maintenance costs.

You will be aware that the Board granted \$5,000 to the Organic Garden City Trust for the Kids Edible Gardens Scheme in March 2003. This grant was independent of any grants that are made to individual schools to establish and/or maintain an edible garden under this scheme. The Board has made three grants of approximately \$700 each to schools (including Marshland Primary School) in relation to establishing gardens under the Kids Edible Gardens Scheme since 2001.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Board allocate a grant of \$700 to the Marshland Primary School Edible Gardens project.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the staff recommendation be adopted.