



2. MULTICULTURAL CENTRE, HEI HEI UPDATE REPORT

The Community Advocate (Martin Maguire) reported on progress in establishing the multicultural centre formerly known as Friendship House.

A working party comprising the Deputy Mayor, three Advocacy team members, and four members of the local Iwi has been meeting to progress the establishment of the multicultural centre.

To date, the grounds have been upgraded. The old play equipment has been removed, the sandpit filled in, shrubs cut back and the grassed area cut out and prepared for some resowing. The adjacent car park area has had all the rubbish removed and a longer entrance way made in the picket fence to allow easy access for mowers. Several damaged and diseased trees have also been removed. A contract has been let with Citycare for ongoing maintenance of the grounds.

The interior of the building has had some minor modifications made and has been repainted. The exterior has also been repaired where necessary and repainted. It is hoped to obtain sufficient second hand carpet to re-carpet the areas currently carpeted. The Council's Property staff is endeavouring to source sufficient carpet for this.

An official opening will take place on Sunday 20 May 2001 at 2pm when the Mayor, Garry Moore, along with Ngai Tahu representatives, will open the complex under its new name Te Whare O Nga Whetu.

A Management Committee is being established with the assistance of the Advocacy Team. This Committee will be responsible for the day to day management of all aspects of the centre and will have Council representation as part of its membership.

The Board **received** the report.