

18. TE HEKENGA 2002

The Board was asked to underwrite the fees for three high school students from the Riccarton/Wigram ward to attend Te Hekenga 2002 and to consider further funding towards this project in order that more students from the Riccarton/Wigram ward can participate in Te Hekenga 2002.

Te Hekenga 2002 developed from a vision by the Maori Community Development Worker, Wene Hepi, Nikora Nitro and the local Maori community "to touch the lives of future Maori leaders" by changing attitudes and promoting education among young Maori. The project is under the umbrella of Te Whare O Nga Whetu Charitable Trust.

Last year the above group of people initiated and facilitated three major events (Natural Talent, Fashion Contest and Maori Production) drawing on Maori youth from all over the city with Hornby young people acting as hosts. All of these events were a great success which has inspired the Maori community to continue to develop a one year programme which involves firstly a journey to the North Island by 120 senior secondary school students to the Auckland ASB Secondary School Maori and Polynesian Festival. As well as attending the festival (the first time ever by Christchurch students) the young people involved will have the opportunity to stay at Maori boarding schools where they will develop relationships with other Maori students who have a positive attitude towards education.

All students will be asked to pay a registration fee of \$150. The actual cost per person is \$852.56. This includes accommodation, travel and entry into the festival. The shortfall of \$52,602.16 will be raised by approaching organisations and businesses for financial assistance. A report will go to the Community and Leisure Committee on 11 February 2002 requesting funds for 18 students (3 per Board area) to attend Te Hekenga 2002.

The Christchurch City Council Youth Policy provides that "*The Christchurch City Council is committed to developing, supporting and promoting initiatives which positively contribute to the safety and wellbeing of young people, the families and communities.*"

Te Hekenga 2002 is an event which will involve 120 senior Christchurch students travelling to the North Island. It will provide a catalyst for other small events and festivals throughout the rest of the year. Its goal will be the promotion of education and positive attitudes for the future for young Maori students. It has been professionally organised and managed as seen by the prospectus.

The Board has always been pro-active in addressing the needs of young people in the ward area as highlighted by the number of youth-related projects in the Riccarton/Wigram Community and Social Plan 2001/02. It is hoped that at least 40 students from the Riccarton/Wigram ward will be able to participate in this unique experience.

The Board **resolved** to underwrite the fees for three local high school students from the Riccarton/Wigram ward to attend Te Hekenga 2002 (Total cost \$2,107.68), from the Board's Youth Initiatives fund pending the outcome from the Community and Leisure Committee on 11 February 2002.

The Board would give this funding to allow more students from the Riccarton/Wigram ward to participate in Te Hekenga 2002 if the Community and Leisure Committee allocated funds.