

11. PAPANUI RETURNED SERVICES ASSOCIATION

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Stephen McArthur
Officer responsible:	Catherine McDonald, Acting Unit Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to present to the Board a request for funding from the Papanui Returned Services Association. The request is to enable the Association to maintain their Broadband connection. The RSA are requesting \$979.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Papanui RSA is well established in the Papanui Community. Many of its members are elderly and have difficulty keeping in touch with family and friends due to lack of their own computer technology.
3. By providing access to the Internet and email, the RSA are expecting that this upgrade will enable members to learn new skills and be able to maintain communication with friends and family throughout New Zealand and the world.
4. Papanui RSA has identified the following as the outcomes of this project:
 - a) That members will be able to gain new skills in Internet and email technology.
 - b) That members will be able to establish and maintain communication with friends and family.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

5. Papanui RSA runs two trading accounts (a Bar Trading account and a Gaming Machines account). Their combined gross profit from these trading accounts was approximately \$190,000 in the financial year to 31 December 2004. After expenditure, the Association had an operating profit of just over \$50,000. Their net assets at 31 December 2004 are approximately \$726,000 with almost \$542,000 of this being fixed assets.
6. The financial year for Papanui RSA has recently changed, hence their next audited accounts will not be available until after 30 June 2006.
7. Papanui RSA has not applied for funding from the Community Board in the last three years. They obtain some funding (approximately \$12,600) from other fundraising activities, including a raffle.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Community Board decline a grant to Papanui RSA.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

For discussion.

BACKGROUND

8. Papanui RSA is well established in the Papanui Community. Many of its members are elderly and have difficulty keeping in touch with family and friends due to lack of their own computer technology.
9. Papanui RSA has a membership in excess of 1,000, have three full time staff, one part-time staff member and 25 volunteers.
10. By providing access to the Internet and email, the RSA are expecting that this upgrade will enable members to learn new skills and be able to maintain communication with friends and family throughout New Zealand and the world.
11. This project contributes to the following Community Board Objectives:
 - Encourage participation of children, youth, aged, Maori, other ethnic groups, people with disabilities, by promoting and supporting community based recreation and education and support programmes.
 - To fund and support early childhood programmes and other educational projects that have been identified as a need in the community.
12. Furthermore, it contributes towards the following LTCCP Community Outcome of “A City of Lifelong Learning”, viz:

“Our learning opportunities help us participate in the community and the economy. Quality education is available for people of all ages.”

OPTIONS

13. The Community Board has three options available to it:
 - a) To allocate the full amount requested (i.e. \$979).
 - b) To allocate a partial grant.
 - c) To decline the application.

PREFERRED OPTION

14. This project helps to meet the needs of elderly in the community to maintain communication with friends and family. With decreasing mobility and the phenomenon that people no longer live in one place for extended periods of time, the ability to maintain communication is a difficult one for elderly members of the community.
15. Papanui RSA are in a healthy financial position, with over \$½ million in fixed assets, almost \$200,000 in current assets and ongoing income from their two trading accounts which together have returned a net profit of \$50,000 - \$60,000 in the last two financial years.
16. Notwithstanding the valid merits of the project and outcomes, it is considered that Papanui RSA is in a very healthy financial position and is capable of funding this project from their own resources. For these reasons Option c) above is preferred.