

6. SHIRLEY RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB – 50TH JUBILEE

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Stephen McArthur
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to present a funding request of \$5,400 from Shirley Rugby League Club for expenses relating to the Club's 50 year Jubilee.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Shirley Rugby League Club ("the Club") has been operating since 1956, and has been an incorporated society since 1968. The Club currently has over 160 registered members, the majority of these being junior players. The Club places a strong emphasis on local families, and endeavours to encourage all members of the family to become involved in Club activities. All members of the community are welcome, regardless of age, ethnicity or income. The majority of members are children from low income families, who often find it difficult to pay subscription fees. There are however, a large number of volunteers who are very active in running the Club, and proactively raising funds.
3. The major finding of the "Community Needs Analysis of the Shirley Area" (January 2001) was that support was needed for low income families in their parenting and supervising of their children. Two approaches were identified to this support:
 1. Formal and informal programmes for parents
 2. Quality social and recreational programmes for children and youth.

The Club is certainly very active in this second approach.

4. The Club has been involved in a number of community-wide initiatives in the Shirley area including:
 - Initiating the "Shirley Youth Day", a significant piece of youth consultation, in November 2001.
 - Facilitation of young men to participate in Mau rakau classes at Rehua Marae.
 - Provision of youth activities (eg discos) at the clubrooms on Briggs Road.
 - Signatory to the Shirley Charter.
5. The involvement of Shirley Rugby League Club in these initiatives steps well beyond the boundaries of merely providing opportunities for the community to play Rugby League. Hence the Club could almost be considered a "social service organisation", rather than just a sports club.
6. Wider community support for Shirley Rugby League Club and its activities is strong. As an example of this support, a number of local organisations have provided supporting letters to this funding application, including Mairehau High School, Hammersley Park School, Shirley Primary School, Shirley Intermediate School, Shirley Community Trust, Canterbury Rugby League, and Christchurch Mayor Garry Moore.
7. The Club's 50 year Jubilee will take place on June 2–5 (Queen's Birthday weekend) and will incorporate a number of activities, including:
 - Friday – opening ceremony.
 - Saturday – home games for all teams, with an early disco for juniors and a later one for seniors.
 - Sunday – past vs present game, team photos, and a formal dinner.
 - Monday – commemorative tree planting and closing ceremony.

8. The aim of the Jubilee is to bring together past and present Club members and their families over the weekend, reuniting old friends and celebrating Club successes. By recognising the contributions of so many people over the last 50 years, the Club aims to support and celebrate the work of existing coaches, managers, committee members and other volunteers, and recruit new volunteers as well. It is anticipated that approximately 300 people will attend Jubilee activities over the weekend.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

9. Shirley Rugby League Club has funds on hand of \$5,144 of which \$4,554 is already committed to other projects.
10. Many funding organisations exclude jubilees/reunions from their criteria, hence Shirley Rugby League Club is aiming to raise funds for the 50 year Jubilee through registration fees, sale of reunion books and advertising space, tickets for the formal dinner and, of course, this funding application.
11. The financial accounts for the Club show that for the financial year ending September 2005 it had annual operating expenses of just over \$42,000 and an operating income of \$38,000, giving an annual loss of just over \$4,000. The Club has total assets of just over \$143,000 of which just over \$139,000 are fixed assets.
12. The recommendation of this report is that the Board allocate \$5,400 towards this project from its 2005/2006 Discretionary Fund. The current balance of the Board's Discretionary Fund is approximately \$8,000.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board allocate \$5,400 from its 2005/2006 Discretionary Fund to the Shirley Rugby League Club for its 50 year Jubilee on 2-5 June 2006.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the application be declined.