

3. FUNDING APPLICATION FROM ST MARY'S IN MERIVALE

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to provide information in relation to an application for funding from St Mary's Church in Merivale for \$11,000 from the Board's 2006/07 SCAP funds.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. St Mary's in Merivale are requesting financial support from the Board to assist them with the employment of a part-time coordinator for the Merivale Corner Community Centre.
3. The Merivale Corner is a community facility which provides a focal point for the people of Merivale. This facility acts as an information and resource centre and also provides a number of community programmes including:
 - Pre-School Music Group
 - Fun Singing Group
 - Craft Group
 - Walking Group
 - 'Coffee and Conversation' Group including jigsaws, scrabble, cards, table tennis
 - English Conversation Group
 - Monthly Friday talks/speakers/activities with crèche available
4. This application was originally submitted by the group for consideration under the Board's 2006/07 Project Funding round. The decision at that time was to put this application on hold until research into the needs of the Merivale community had been completed. This research is now complete and clearly indicates the need for the programmes being delivered through the Merivale Corner. The research has also highlighted some other community needs which the Merivale Corner are interested in looking at providing support towards.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

5. The organisation has applied for funding that can be sourced from the Board's 2006/07 SCAP funds.
6. The total cost of the project is \$18,200. The remaining \$7,200 is being provided by St Mary's church funds.
7. Previous Council funding received by the group has been through the Community Development Scheme and is outlined below:

Year	Purpose	Amount
2004/05	Promotion of activities and equipment	\$2,355
2005/06	Contribution towards programme costs	\$4,000

8. There are no legal considerations in regards to this project.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:

Approve the application for funding from St Mary's in Merivale and allocate \$8,500 from its 2006/07 SCAP funds for the Merivale Corner Coordinator's position for the period of October 2006 to June 2007.

BACKGROUND

9. The Merivale Corner has been operating as a community facility for approximately 16 months. The group's main objective is to provide a community facility and focal point for the people of Merivale. The Merivale Corner acts as an information resource centre and provides a safe, culturally sensitive environment where friendship, support and company is available to anyone who needs it.
10. The Coordinator's responsibilities will include:
 - Taking responsibility for liaising and networking in order to promote the Merivale Corner activities to the wider community.
 - Utilising research and community feedback, develop new programmes / activities that meet the community's needs.
Coordination of the various groups and activities that are already taking place at the Merivale Corner.
 - Organising the volunteer rosters for the various programmes being delivered.
 - Provision of support and encouragement to the volunteers.
 - Becoming familiar with funding opportunities and completing funding applications where appropriate.
 - Providing monthly reports on the activities of the Merivale Corner to the Vestry of St Mary's Church.
11. The Church has a very loyal group of volunteers who, on a conservative estimate, put in approximately \$13,000 worth of voluntary hours into the running of the Merivale Corner.
12. The Merivale Corner currently has anywhere between 50-100 people a week utilising its services. It is envisaged that this number will grow considerably once a Coordinator is employed and actively promoting the centre's programmes.