

## 12. MARIAN COLLEGE ENVIRONMENT GROUP

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager, Community Services Group, DDI 941-8607
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Unit Manager, Community Support Unit
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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to present a request to the Shirley/Papanui Community Board from the Marian College Environment Group for the purposes of developing a vegetable garden. The application is to be shared with the Burwood/Pegasus Ward. Hence, the total requested from the Shirley/Papanui Community Board is \$611.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Marian College is a Catholic Integrated School for girls located in North Parade, Richmond. It is a decile 7 school with a roll of almost 500 students.
3. The school has an Environment Group made up of students and staff. This group recycles paper, grass, cans and glass. Compost bins and two worm farms also enable them to recycle food scraps.
4. The Environment Group is also involved with education of the school community and runs an Environmental Hero Scheme, which rewards students who are involved in a positive manner towards the environment. Marian College is also a member of the Enviroschools network. The kaupapa of Enviroschools/Kura Taiao is about the well-being of the whole school, community, and eco-system.
5. The group has 40 students involved and has been operating for approximately eight years. The group meets fortnightly at lunch times.
6. The Environment Group now wish to build a vegetable garden, the objectives of which are:
  - To learn new skills about gardening.
  - To work co-operatively in the garden.
  - To grow plants that the school's food technology department can use.
  - To be able to share any excess with members of the local community in need.
7. The aim is to build six raised beds, with students undertaking this work under the supervision of the Kids Edible Gardens Co-ordinator, with assistance from the school's caretaker.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. The budget for this project is as follows:

Timber (six beds at 5 x 1m)	\$ 648
15 bales of pea straw	\$97.50
1 bag of Blood n' Bone (8 kilograms)	\$27.40
4 m <sup>3</sup> organic compost	\$ 220
Consultation (2 hours at \$65 per hour)	\$ 130
Working bee (4 hours at \$25 per hour)	\$ 100
	<b>\$1,222.90</b>

9. The latest Annual Audited Accounts (to 31 December 2008) of Marian College show an annual turnover of just over \$4 million with a deficit of approximately \$100,000. Their Balance Sheet shows a Working Capital of \$110,000.
10. The Board has \$37,116 available in its Discretionary Response Fund.
11. The school does have an internal fundraising body, Marian Foundation, established "to provide resources and facilities for the college that would be otherwise unavailable." However, funds from this source are not possible as this Foundation has been heavily committed to a new building and landscaping project in the school.

**Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?**

12. Yes.

**LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

13. There are no legal considerations.

**Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?**

14. Yes.

**ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS**

15. This application aligns with LTCCP and Activity Management Plans, Page

**Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?**

16. Yes.

**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES**

17. This application aligns with the Council's Strengthening Communities Strategy in part by:

- Improving basic life skills so that all residents can participate fully in society.

18. It also helps to meet the Community Board's objectives of:

- The Board advocates for Shirley/Papanui lifestyles that reflect a commitment to the guardianship of the local environment including waterways, and
- The Board advocates for and supports local lifelong learning opportunities.

19. The Shirley/Papanui Community Board also has a policy relating to assessing applications for funding from schools (30-6-99):

This criteria to be applied to all applications from schools within the Shirley/Papanui wards for funding from Project Funds, Discretionary Funding, Community Services fund (or similar Board established funds).

- *Does the proposal fit with the Community Board's strategic plan/vision?*

Yes.

- *Are there other sources of funding available to the schools?*

The College also has a "Marian Foundation" which is "established to provide resources and facilities for the College that would be otherwise unavailable". See body of report (paragraph 11).

- *What is the community benefit: indirect – social, behavioural; direct – physical, environment?*

Benefit is primarily to the students of the school, although some excess produce is available to members of the community in need.

- *Can assistance be given through ways other than funding, i.e. advocating on behalf of the school to other agencies and government, providing advice?*

- *Is it an isolated request from one school or likely to be a need from all schools. The impact would need to be considered if it was likely to attract other requests.*

Many schools are developing edible gardens and the like. This could act as a precedent for further applications.

- *Is the funding to help fund a core educational/school programme?*

The Environment Group meets at lunchtimes and is not part of the school's core curriculum.

- *Do the benefits of the activity pertain primarily to students and/or their immediate families?*

Yes.

- *A report from Council staff on the request to be considered by the Community Board at its next ordinary monthly meeting.*

**Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?**

20. Yes.

**CONSULTATION FULFILMENT**

21. Not applicable.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Shirley/Papanui Community Board allocate \$600 from its 2009/10 Discretionary Response Fund to Marian College as a one-off grant to help with the Marian College Environment Group establishing a vegetable garden.

**CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION**

For discussion.