

12. MACFARLANE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

RR 1858

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A request has been received for funding for a Trust that has been established as an employment scheme and is to carry out the work at MacFarlane Park under the guidance of the Wai Ora Trust.

Background

As explained by the Area Parks Officer (Clause 11) an allocation of \$10,000 was set aside from 1997/98 Project Funds to undertake work in MacFarlane Park.

Park Improvements

A Trust comprising local residents has been established and has met several occasions with the Area Parks Officer, Community Activities Officer and Pete Vink (Community Employment Group, Department of Labour).

The aim of the Trust was to set up an employment scheme doing the maintenance work as the employment project. By having locals working in the park the Trust hopes to engender a sense of ownership in order to help reduce vandalism.

Through discussion, Francey Kara and Trust members realised that they did not yet have the skills and infrastructure to run such a project. The Area Parks Officer explained that though the Council looks for resident involvement in most of its parks, it still uses mostly contracted or Council labour to maintain the parks.

A solution has been found in engaging the Wai Ora Trust to carry out the work on the park starting 26 May; Francey Kara will work with Wai Ora Trust as volunteer to acquire some skills: In the future the Kulcha Trust anticipates that it may be able to undertake such projects.

Vandalism

The question of vandalism is not addressed by this solution. The St Aidans Community Centre has recently gone into recess thus cutting out one of the daytime community “eyes” on the park.

Consequently Kulcha Trust are receiving requests from community members to meet needs formerly met by the St Aidans community worker.

The Kulcha Trust has access to a small building behind the doctors' surgery in Acheson Avenue that looks out onto MacFarlane Park. Kulcha Trust already runs a number of activities in the community, mostly in the sporting /activities area (see attached appendices). They plan to widen the scope of their services in the future. In fact, they currently have applications for funding into Creative Communities New Zealand and the Hillary Commission.

The Future

Kulcha Trust is applying to the Community Board for funding to lease the above described building for 9 weeks @ \$40.00 per week.

The building will be used as a base for the workers doing the maintenance contract, a place to store the tools and equipment that Kulcha Trust has for sports etc, a facility to training volunteers and referees, a space for counselling and a resource information room, a "safe house" for kids and an on-site presence overlooking the park.

Additional administration costs incurred recently in carrying out their activities in the community total \$160.00; as well there will be some very minor administration costs over the next 9 weeks.

<i>Rent - 9 @ 40</i>	\$360.00
<i>Administration to date</i>	\$160.00
<i>Administration anticipated</i>	\$30.00
<i>Total</i>	<u>\$550.00</u>

By the end of June it will be clear if the St Aidans Community Centre will be continuing and the Kulcha Trust will have had responses to their requests for further funding.

The Community Employment Group supports this project and will be working in future with the Kulcha Trust to develop and fund some employment/training related projects.

For discussion.