

50. REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR WAHI-RURU, HEBERDEN AVENUE, SUMNER

RR 9082

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Board Secretary, John Shanks
Corporate Plan Output: Board Discretionary Funds	

At the meeting of the Board held on 18 November 1998, a letter was received from Dr and Mrs P J Mulhern, the owners of 'Wahi-Ruru', requesting financial assistance towards the funding of a colour brochure which they would produce about the property and a brass plaque to be erected at the entrance to the property summarising its historic value.

The Board expressed reservations about supporting the funding of a brass plaque for the property as it understood that the New Zealand Historic Places Trust had standard plaques available to identify heritage buildings. Accordingly, the Board resolved to defer this matter to the next meeting of the Board and to seek further information.

Jenny May, the Heritage Planner in the Environmental Policy and Planning Unit advises as follows:

"I refer to your memo re the request by Dr and Mrs Mulhern for funding assistance for a plaque and pamphlet with respect to their property 'Wahi-Ruru', 50 Heberden Ave, Sumner, a Group two listed heritage item in the proposed City Plan. The heritage value of this property is also recognised by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust who register the building as a Category II Historic Place under Section 23 of the Historic Places Act.

With respect to the funding of a plaque, it is my understanding the Board, through the Hagley-Ferrymead Community Board Heritage Awards, has undertaken to fund two plaques on an annual basis as part of the awards scheme. (The 1998 plaques were for the Nurse Maude Association building and the former Sumner Borough Council Buildings.) The Board could give consideration to the funding of a plaque under this scheme.

However, as alternative option, I would draw the Board's attention to the plaques available through the Canterbury Branch of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust which may be purchased by building owners at a cost of \$37.50, (information attached). These plaques are available only to those properties registered by the Trust.

(I have a sample of this plaque which I will bring to the Board meeting on 3 February 1999.)

While I am of the opinion that the publication of a pamphlet about 'Wahi-Ruru' is an excellent project I am not clear as to the purpose of this pamphlet when the building is not open to the public. Thus I think the Board must give consideration to the precedent that may be set by financially assisting with the publication of a pamphlet for a privately owned building not open to the public.

We welcome Dr and Mrs Mulhern's suggestion that they would consider opening this significant example of our colonial domestic heritage to the public once a year, particularly if it could be associated with Heritage Week. In this instance I would suggest that the Board could consider assisting Dr and Mrs Mulhern with the text and

format of a master pamphlet which could be printed if they choose to do so or the Council could assist with a photocopied version.

I will be pleased to attend the Board meeting on 3 February and discuss any queries that Board members may have with respect to this matter.”

Recommendation: For discussion by the Board

**Chairman's
Recommendation:** For discussion