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The purpose of this report is to provide Board members with background information on the Riccarton-Fendalton Pony Club and to advise on the development at the club of a cross-country course.

The Riccarton-Fendalton Pony Club is seeking financial assistance from the Board towards the construction of this new cross-country course.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Riccarton-Fendalton Pony Club is located on the corner of Yaldhurst and Steadmans Roads in the Riccarton Ward. The club, established in 1956, is home to 26 members aged between 6 years to 21 years. The members of the club predominantly live locally.

The Riccarton-Fendalton Pony Club has a core of dedicated volunteers, and runs many working bees throughout the year to ensure the smooth running of the club. The club is recognised as one of the leading and better run pony clubs in Christchurch, thanks in no small part to the dedicated team of volunteers involved with it.

The Riccarton-Fendalton Pony Club is affiliated to the Christchurch Pony Club which is the governing body for pony clubs in Christchurch. Pony clubs exist to encourage young people (up to the age of 21 years) to ride and enjoy all kinds of sport connected with horse riding. In general, pony clubs are involved with conducting rallies, gymkhanas, competitions and hunter trials for young people.

### **CROSS COUNTRY COURSE**

Presently the club is in the process of developing its cross-country course, the past course having been dismantled when the racing track was upgraded two years ago. The club is aiming to have this project completed by the end of May 1999, when they will be hosting one of Christchurch's major one-day events. The facility will be a great asset to the club and of benefit to the community. It will also attract many riders from around the city to compete at events staged by the club. Committee members are expecting an increase in membership from local riders once the facility is complete. The club can comfortably cater for up to 40 members.

In all, 22 jumps are being developed through the expansive bush area the club leases from the Canterbury Jockey Club. The jumps being developed are professionally built and of a high standard. They are also safe and inviting to jump. The cost for a single jump is approximately \$400, with the total cost of the project being \$8,500. The Riccarton-Fendalton Pony Club is a small but well organised club, and like so many other sports clubs, is constantly fundraising to meet the costs of the club. The sport is particularly demanding on those involved, and takes a great deal of personal dedication, time and financial commitment from the young members involved and their families.

To date, the Riccarton-Fendalton Pony Club has fundraised \$4,000 towards the cost of this project and is requesting the difference (\$4,500) from the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board to meet the shortfall.

#### **SUMMARY**

This new cross country course will enable the Riccarton-Fendalton Pony Club to run competitions it is currently not able to run. The course will assist the club in generating much needed revenue, which will in turn be used to train riders, offer a varied and exciting programme and cover the club's overheads. This is a major project for this small club - one of the few clubs that provides for city riders.

**Recommendation:** That the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board support this project from the 1998/99 Discretionary Fund with a sum of \$4,500.

**Deputy Chairperson's  
Recommendation:** For discussion.