

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Barbara Ford
Corporate Plan Output: Board Discretionary Fund 3.1.text.27	

At its meeting on 3 November 1999 the Board received a presentation from Di Lucas seeking funding for a proposal to produce a Native Plants Design Guide. The Board decided that a report be prepared for the 24 November meeting and a decision on funding be made at that time.

BACKGROUND

The general native plant design guide for the plains of Christchurch, focuses on the typical awkward places in peoples gardens, and suggests innovative designs for these places using local plains plants and materials. Trees, shrub and groundcovers will all be included, with selections used in various designs.

The plains design guide and a second book, Design Guide for Christchurch Ferns, are proposed to be produced by the end of this year. The ferns book is for both hills and plains. That there are 74 species of local native ferns is a surprise to most people. People don't think of Christchurch as naturally such a lush place. There is potential for the various fern to be grown in gardens of all types, and in pots, or revegetation projects. Ferns have wide appeal, but the local flora is unknown to designers and to the public.

The fern guide book provides information on the range of local ferns, and suggests some uses by incorporating them in various types of planting, including inter-mixed with exotic plants. It is a non-threatening information tool to encourage awareness and use of local unknown diversity.

To design and produce the booklets, financial support is sought, thus:

1. \$2,500 for the plains planting design guide.
2. \$1,500 toward the Fern guide for the hills and plains, for which will supply 100 copies of the booklet.

This request is being made to each of the community boards. Burwood/Pegasus, Riccarton/Wigram and Fendalton/Waimairi Community Boards have yet to consider the request. Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board have supported the proposal and referred it to Environmental and Parks and Recreation Committees for funding on a metropolitan basis. Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board gave a grant of \$2,000 towards producing the two booklets.

CONCLUSION

This project fits well with the Board's draft objectives of enhancing the natural environment, by encouraging people to plant natives and ferns in home gardens, as well as public green spaces. The Board's recent planning seminars identified the natural environment as an area of concern, and where the Board could have input.

OPTIONS

The Board could:

- Allocate funding of up to \$4,000 towards producing the two booklets.
- Advocate funding subject to other Boards' support.
- Refer to Environmental Committee and Parks Committee.

Recommendation: That up to \$4,000 be granted from 1999/2000 Discretionary Funds towards the production of the two booklets 'Plains Planting Design Guide' and 'Fern Guide for the Hills and Plains'.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the Board support this proposal and it be referred to the Parks and Environment Services Committee for funding on a metropolitan basis.