

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Denise Galloway, Community Development Adviser
Corporate Plan Output: +	

Background

As the result of a needs analysis in the Broomfield area two community development workers were employed to follow up the identified outcomes and recommendations. These positions were accountable to the Family and Community Division of Anglican Care who had been contacted to provide this service by the Christchurch City Council and the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board.

Due to the gap in information from the Broomfield research related to the needs of Maori, it was decided that one of the community development workers role would be firstly to identify the needs of Maori in the area and then work alongside them towards meeting those needs. According to statistics New Zealand, the Maori population in the Broomfield area is 18% and the Pacific Island 9.9%.

Eight hui have been held with 20 to 28 attending as part of the consultation process. The following needs identified by:

1. A Whare Hui Huinga
2. Rangatahi Activities
3. Bi Liingual Unit
4. Pakeke training/activities
5. Te Reo, tikanga, waiata courses
6. Job creation
7. Arts and crafts
8. Ongoing funding for the Community Workers position
9. Fundraising

According to the Maori Community Development Worker the vision identified is a communal place where Maori and other cultures feel free to congregate with a sense of belonging or turangawaewae. The Maori community have felt the lack of a venue for the past twenty years and this is particularly evident when activities such as karakia, kapa haka, wananga, hui and especially tangi have to be held on the other side of town. The extra pressure placed on whanau by not being able to hold these activities locally places stress and financial burdens on families when these occasions arise.

Multi Cultural Centre

A multi cultural centre based in the Hornby area would embrace people of all tribal affiliations and cultures with Maori as the hosts. The kaupapa or purpose would be to unite tangata whenua and other cultures by encouraging the sharing of skills and knowledge. The kawa or procedure would be that of the hosts, Kaupapa Maori. Once each group has been officially welcomed they would use their own kawa.

This concept has been based on a model used by the Te Aitarakihi Multi Cultural Centre in Timaru. They have found this works well and many diverse groups/cultures use the venue for their activities. In fact the first group to use the facility was disabled and attending a sports related event in Timaru.

Existing Facilities in Hornby

The existing Hei Hei Community Centre, due to its size and current usage by 'regular' groups, would not meet the identified needs. The closest marae is Rehua, twelve kilometres away and Nga Hei Wha at Aranui. There is an issue of transport as well as the cost of hiring these marae. They are not multicultural and therefore would not be in line with the proposed concept.

The two community development workers have been based for the last twelve months at St Aidan's Anglican Church Hall on the corner of Hei Hei Road and Buchanans Road. We have been very grateful for this partnership with the Anglican Parish who have charged a minimal rent. The following activities take place at the hall.

- Monday morning is used by the **playgroup**.
- Tuesday afternoon a **craft group** meets which has a maximum of 20.
- Tuesday evenings there is a **te reo** class
- Wednesday afternoons, a **health group** meets
- Wednesday afternoons, a **sewing group** meets with a core group of 6.
- Thursday is the only "**drop-in**" day
- Friday there is a **community lunch** which has been well attended, average 20 attend.
- Wednesday morning there is a **walking group** which has grown and has now a roll of 24.
- Friday evenings there is a **waiata class**
- Once a month a **support group** for foster parents meets (Thursday afternoon).

The Maori community worker has also been working with the local police to address issues among local youth through a "restorative justice" process. The hall at St Aidan's was used as the venue as there was no financial assistance available to access a Marae, which would have been a more culturally appropriate venue. Unfortunately there were tradesmen at the hall so the meeting had to work around these linguistic difficulties. The community development workers are also researching the needs of "women alone" on limited incomes (35-55 years) with the assistance of a research student.

St Aidans therefore has limitations; they are as follows

- Group times can clash with church activities which are given priority
- There is an expectation by the church that the community development workers will fit around church activities.
- Sometimes there is a need for an "urgent" community meeting which cannot be accommodated because of these classes.
- The tenure is twelve months, renewable, which is in the long term unpredictable.
- No place locally for Maori church service
- If St Aidans resumed church services on a Sunday, both Maori and Samoan would no longer have access

- Lack of office space/privacy for community development workers
- Lack of toilet for the disabled
- Only one group can meet at a time
- Inadequate kitchen facilities
- Inadequate heating system
- Unable to plan and provide venue for full time programmes such as the Pre-Employment Programme for Women. However, it runs for six weeks, five days per week, which given there is only one area available for use at St Aidan's, she will need to look elsewhere for a base.
- Restrictions on the kind of activities as specified by the church, eg no yoga classes.

A multicultural centre which provided optional areas to meet would be able to accommodate more than one group at a time. It could also be used as a base for other service deliverers, eg alcohol and drug workers, youth workers, counsellors etc.

The multi-cultural centre would complement what is already happening at St Aidan's by providing an alternative venue with a multi-cultural purpose.

Location and Venue

At this point in time several options are being explored in terms of their potential availability and suitability as a multi-cultural centre. It is clear that the site needs to be in Hornby and ideally near or close to a reserve for recreational activities.

- The Community Advocate is currently discussing the availability of land on Broomfield Common with the Parks Unit at Christchurch City Council
- Friendship House Community Facility has recently become available for purchase, so this is also being followed up.
- The purchase of a house, should it become available, adjacent to a reserve would also be considered on a short term basis.
- St Aidan's is not for purchase.

Although the concept of a multi-cultural centre has grown with great enthusiasm, we are still in the early stages of looking at the "where, when and how", which includes of course issues around funding and management.

At this point in time, however, we are clear that a multi-cultural centre would provide benefits for all cultures and groups which may not be able to be accommodated, or feel a sense of belonging in the same way, somewhere else.

Recommendation: On that basis we would highly recommend to the Community Board that this proposal be given high priority, along with an appropriate allocation of funds to assist with the purchase or erection of a building, in the Annual Budget 2000/2001.

That a working party be established comprising of two Community Board members, community development workers, community development adviser and other relevant members of the community to develop this project further.

Chairperson's

Recommendation:

1. That the officer's recommendations be adopted.
2. That three Community Board members be appointed to the Working Party, being Mary Corbett, Alison Wilkie and Bob Shearing.