

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Ingrid de Meyer, Community Development Adviser
Corporate Plan Output: Community Development	

The purpose of this report is to update Board members on the Te Ropu Tamahine Girls' Club programme based at Aorangi School.

BACKGROUND

The Te Ropu Tamahine Girls' Club programme based at Aorangi Primary School was initiated in February 1999. The community development project is a one year long, life and social skills programme for girls aged between 8-10 years. The aim is to reach those girls who come from disadvantaged backgrounds – to teach girls various life skills, education and empowering activities that might not be taught or currently used in their home environment.

The Board provided funding support of \$7,500 for the programme.

EVALUATION

Evaluations have been undertaken at the end of each term. These have included feedback from the girls on the programme, their parent(s), the school and the support volunteers on the programme. Ethnicity has also been noted.

FEEDBACK

Parents noted significant benefits which included new skills but also behavioural changes, eg "more confidence", "happier than she's been...", "better self-esteem". In terms of the young participants – responses from the girls have been positive and that they enjoy also the 'special' feeling of belonging to the club. Some of the activities have included personal hygiene, self care, confidence building, appreciation of others, homeskills, developing community awareness, basic first aid, self defence, fire safety. These are some of the main activities which have formed the theme for the day which other fun games and activities are based around.

SUMMARY

The Te Ropu Tamahine Girls' Club is a well run programme. The girls attending the Club at Aorangi have gained in self-confidence and have been given the opportunity in a small supportive group environment to develop life skills.

The programme will conclude in late November/early December 1999.

- Recommendations:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That the programme be evaluated again in February 2000 in terms of the need for future programme provision in the Fendalton/Waimairi area.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the foregoing recommendations be adopted.