

4. REHUA MARAE

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The purpose of this report is to familiarise Board members with the role of Rehua Marae and to seek funds to assist them with heating costs.

HISTORY

Te Whatumanawa Maoritanga O Rehua (Rehua Marae) is located in Springfield Road just to the north of Berry Street. A Methodist/Ratana church hui soon after World War II gave rise to the concept of Rehua. The building of the Wharenui (Meeting House) began in 1957 and was opened on 30 September 1960.

Rehua was established to embrace all tribal affiliations although the ancestors of Ngai Tahu take pride of place, thus recognising the mana whenua of the area.

Alongside the Wharenui a hostel was used during the 1960s to house many young Maori men on training schemes. A recent television programme documented the return of many of these men back to the Gisborne area for an unveiling of the headstone of the women who made these schemes possible. A number of the men are now actively involved in Maori and community organisations throughout Christchurch.

CURRENT SERVICES

Rehua Marae Services are housed at the Marae providing a range of services designed to help empower people. Their kaupapa is:

“To work from a Marae Based (kaupapa) offering Manaaki/awhi care and support services, working within the perspective of Kaupapa Maori. Rehua Marae offers a wide range of integrated services. This enables us to provide a large range of support services to those families and individuals who require support to make positive changes for themselves inclusive of whanau, Hapu and Iwi.”

Included amongst the services are: budgeting, counselling, parent support, elderly home-based support, health clinic as well as providing training in Tikanga Maori as Marae based workers. Rehua Marae Services has had contracts with the Health Funding Agency and Youth, Child and Family Services for over 11 years, as well as receiving grants from a number of agencies.

The Marae itself has been the venue for many hui, conferences, training workshops, school visits and other community activities for many years.

Presently over 12,000 people are welcomed onto the Marae each year. Many of these people are non-Maori. A number of local schools have visited the Marae over the last year including: St Albans School, Shirley Intermediate and Mairehau High School.

REHUA: HE TAONGA

Rehua Marae is the only community facility of its kind within the boundaries of the Shirley/Papanui Community Board. As a facility operating completely within Maori kaupapa and kawa, Rehua deservedly ranks as a taonga (treasure) in this part of the city.

The administration of Rehua is by way of a Trust Board incorporated under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957, presently under the Chair of Montero Daniels. Day-to-day management is the responsibility of the Kaiwhakahaere (General Manager) who is responsible for implementing the policies as directed by the Trust.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

The Trustees of the Marae have recently identified a number of items that need improving, with the priority being heating for the Wharekai (Dining Hall).

This hall has been heated with bar heaters and gas heaters in the past. These have been shown to be inefficient because of the size of the hall, and prone to theft. Three options have been explored:

1. Freitas Gas Solutions - \$8,500

This option will cover all heating of the dining room, kitchen and long term will be very economical and the Marae will be able to maintain ongoing costs. This will also save floor space for the Marae dining room.

2. Heat Master Ltd - \$4,260

Ideal, affordable; however, will require a higher maintenance cost long term.

3. Tropicair - \$2,475

Cheaper for item, but does not heat air adequately and will require the installation of \$2,665 of drapes, insulation and conserving of heat.

The preferred option is Option 1 because of the lower maintenance costs, greater efficiency and less spatial requirement.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

As previously alluded to, Rehua Marae is a unique community facility within the Shirley/Papanui Community Board area and Rehua presents an opportunity for this community board to initiate a process which may lead to possible future partnerships. Included in this process may be the opportunity for Maori language/pronunciation and protocol training for Board members and staff to be implemented.

With the Government presently considering legislation relating to Local Government and Maori representation for the 2004 local body elections, it is timely that this Board begin looking at its links with the local Maori community.

Recommendation:

1. That Rehua Marae be allocated a grant of \$8,500 from the 2000/01 Community Services Fund to enable the dining hall to be adequately heated.
2. That the Community Board and Papanui Advocacy and Library/Information Services staff consider possibilities for establishing a relationship with Rehua Marae.
3. That the Community Development Adviser establish Maori Language/Pronunciation and protocol training for Board members and staff.

For discussion