

12. REDWOOD LIBRARY – CHILDREN’S COMPUTERS

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Barbara Lindsay, Community Secretary
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The purpose of this report is to request funding to enable the Redwood Library to add a touch screen to its new children’s computer.

Currently the Library has an old Macintosh, that is heavily used, but very limited in its functions. A large number of children in the area do not have access to computers. This is reflected in the low issue figures for the Library’s Cd-roms.

The Library reports as follows:

“This technology adds a new level of enjoyment and excitement to using the computers, as it allows the children to use their fingers on the screen and increases their interaction with the software. It is user-friendly and assists children, particularly younger ones, to navigate their way around the computer. The computer would also have about 30-35 titles installed on it with most of the cd-roms having educational themes and problems that help children learn and have fun.

This would be a great advantage for the area as we have large numbers of pre-school and school age children using the library computer – with 4 pre-schools, 3 primary schools and 1 intermediate school in close proximity to the library. We have noted that many of these children are from homes where computers are not available and they have limited access to using cd-roms in particular. This is reflected in the issues statistics for children’s cd-roms, with Redwood Library’s being by far the lowest of any Christchurch City Library.

At present we have a very old children’s mac that is heavily used but limited in scope, and this requires constant maintenance and repair.

Redwood Library has funds for the computer itself but not for the touch screen. We would be grateful for your assistance in this funding request and know it will be a most worthwhile addition to our library’s services, and an asset to the local community as a whole.”

The Libraries Information Technology Unit has advised that if Redwood is able to raise \$2,300 it would be prepared to top up the balance to enable the purchase of a new PC that has a touch screen and would be able to accommodate a large selection of Cd-roms.

The touch screen is seen as an enhancement to the standard PC funded by the Libraries Unit.

There is currently a balance of \$32,925 in the Discretionary Fund.

Recommendation: That a grant of \$2,300 be made from 2000/01 Discretionary Funds to enable the purchase of a new PC for the children’s section of the Redwood Library.

Chairperson’s

Recommendation: That the officer’s recommendation be adopted.