

7. TE HEKENGA 2002

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Denise Galloway, Community Development Adviser, DDI 372 2536
Corporate Plan Output: Riccarton/Wigram Community Board Vol 1 3.2 Text 6	

The purpose of this report is to ask the Community Board to underwrite the fees for three high school students from the Riccarton/Wigram ward to attend Te Hekenga 2002. The Community Board may also wish to consider further funding towards this project in order that more students from the Riccarton/Wigram ward can participate in Te Hekenga 2002.

BACKGROUND

Te Hekenga 2002 developed from a vision by the Maori Community Development Worker, Wene Hapi, Nikora Nitro and the local Maori community "to touch the lives of future Maori leaders" by changing attitudes and promoting education among young Maori. The project is under the umbrella of Te Whare O Nga Whetu Charitable Trust.

Last year the above group of people initiated and facilitated three major events (Natural Talent, Fashion Contest and Maori Production) drawing on Maori youth from all over the city with Hornby young people acting as hosts. (An evaluation will be presented to the Community Board in February.) All of these events were a great success which has inspired the Maori community to continue to develop a one year programme which involves firstly a journey to the North Island by 120 senior secondary school students to the Auckland ASB Secondary School Maori and Polynesian Festival. As well as attending the festival (the first time ever by Christchurch students) the young people involved will have the opportunity to stay at Maori boarding schools where they will develop relationships with other Maori students who have a positive attitude towards education.

It is expected that these connections will continue throughout the year, not only by email etc but when the North Island students come down to the South Island to attend specific cultural festivals.

The Goals and Objectives of Te Hekenga 2002 are as follows:

1. To celebrate Senior Maori Students

Objectives

- Rangatahi meeting rangatahi on local, and national levels.
- Personally meeting other senior students that are still at school.
- Reiterating the positives of staying at school.
- Learning and sharing local and national hapu/iwi histories.

2. To offer an experience that will have quality lasting effects for continual education

Objectives

- Motivated and inspirational role models and adults
- Sports and cultural exchanges
- Having a caring and celebratory environment
- Education programme

3. To establish and promote an Otautahi Rangatahi Support network

Objectives

- Expose our rangatahi to each others Natural Talents
- Promotion of Matua Mohio and Whaea Kumara initiative
- Ongoing initiatives promoting self determination and motivation
- Promoting the Rangatahi Kumara Vine (RKV) initiative

4. To hold an efficient, effective and accountable event

Objectives

- Have effective evaluations
- Be accountable for finance
- Clear lines of responsibility
- Excellent management

The students will be departing from Christchurch on 10 March 2002, and returning on 17 March 2002. They will be accompanied by adults on a 1:3 ratio. Clear lines of management and responsibilities have been outlined in the prospectus which have been given to all Community Board members with their agendas. Activities which the students will be involved with during this time are as follows:

Karakia

Mo nga wa katoa

Kapa Haka Celebration

- 50 students performing at the ASB festival
- Watching ASB Festival
- Boarding Schools Kapa Haka
- Kura Kaupapa Schools

Rangatahi Korero

- Student Advocates
- Kai Karanga
- Manu Korero

Sports Exchange

Sports team of 40 students who will exchange in:

- Touch Rugby
- Volleyball
- Novelty Sports Exchange
- Tug O War

Matauranga

- Whanau Support
- Daily prep classes (homework)
- Iwi History
- Hands on performance

Po Whakangahau

- Showcase exchanges
- Tu meke nights
- Kapa Haka performances

FEES AND FUNDING

All students will be asked to pay a registration fee of \$150.00. The actual costs per person is \$852.56. This includes accommodation, travel, entry into the festival. The shortfall of \$52,602.16 will be raised by approaching organisations and businesses for financial assistance, a list of over 60 groups who are being contacted is attached (Attachment 1), as well as a budget for Te Hekenga (Attachment 2). As senior students are coming from all over Christchurch, the organisers have approached Robyn Moore (Christchurch City Council Youth advocate) for Metropolitan Funding assistance. A report will go to the Community and Leisure Committee on 11 February 2002 requesting funds for 18 students (3 per Board area) to attend Te Hekenga 2002.

POLICY

According to the Christchurch City Council Youth Policy, "The Christchurch City Council is committed to developing, supporting and promoting initiatives which positively contribute to the safety and wellbeing of young people, the families and communities."

The Christchurch City Council Youth Strategy (December 1999) states that 9.5% of Christchurch young people classify themselves as New Zealand Maori. The Strategy claims that certain sectors of the youth population face substantial barriers that prevent them from reaching their full potential. One of the Strategies is "Supporting and encouraging groups targeting young people from different cultures and backgrounds". "Maori 16 and 17 year olds remain less likely than non-Maori to stay on in secondary school to senior levels. Lower participation in the senior levels of secondary school for Maori reduces their opportunities for higher learning and training and entry into the labour market." (Report to Minister of Maori Affairs, May 2000 p17) Te Hekenga 2002 will "touch the lives of future Maori leaders" by "offering an experience that will have quality lasting effects for continual education". A report to the Minister of Maori Affairs "Progress Towards Closing Social and Economic Gaps between Maori and Non-Maori" (May 2000) suggests "that if disparities are to be reduced in the future, focus needs to go on the current Maori population aged 17 years and younger".

CONCLUSION

Te Hekenga 2002 is an event which will involve 120 senior Christchurch students travelling to the North Island. It will provide a catalyst for other small events and festivals throughout the rest of the year. Its goal will be the promotion of education and positive attitudes for the future for young Maori students. It has been professionally organised and managed as seen by the prospectus.

The Riccarton/Wigram Community Board has always been pro-active in addressing the needs of young people in the ward area as highlighted by the number of youth-related projects in the Riccarton/Wigram Community and Social Plan 2001/02. It is hoped that at least 40 students from the Riccarton/Wigram ward will be able to participate in this unique experience. At present there is \$32,700 remaining in the Youth Initiatives Community Board Project Funds 2001/02.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Community Board underwrite the fees for three local high school students from the Riccarton/Wigram ward to attend Te Hekenga 2002 (Total cost \$2,107.68), from the Board's Youth Initiatives fund pending the outcome from the Community and Leisure Committee on 11 February 2002.
 2. The Community Board consider further funding towards this project in order that more students from the Riccarton/Wigram ward can participate in Te Hekenga 2002.

Chairperson's Recommendation: For discussion.