

4. LINWOOD RESOURCE CENTRE'S REPORT TO THE HAGLEY/FERRYMEAD COMMUNITY BOARD

Officer responsible
Community Advocate

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The following is a report to the Community Board on the Centre's activities as at August 2002 from Marion Rickerby, Co-ordinator of Te Whare Taonga O Nga Iwi Katoa Linwood Resource Centre.

TE WHARE TAONGA O NGA IWI KATOA LINWOOD RESOURCE CENTRE

THANK YOU

A very big thank you to the Board for the funding the Resource Centre received from the Community Development Fund. We have finally purchased a second-hand computer and a new printer just in the nick of time as our old computer has developed an unfixable fault in its hard drive. We have yet to purchase an irrigation system but will be following up on this in the warmer weather. Our volunteer expenses are being put to good use with ongoing training for volunteers organised through Volunteering Canterbury and serendipity occasions such as our midwinter feast to reward our volunteers for all their hard work. The plan is to have a pool of volunteers trained in facilitating meetings and workshops as in addition to our regular groups we are developing a number of workshops on topics such as gardening for beginners, conflict resolution skills, computer skills for beginners and Te Tiriti O Waitangi. All our workshops are run in conjunction with other community groups eg Te Whare Roimata provides a pruning specialist for the gardening course and Linwood Intermediate provides the venue and computer-savvy youngsters for the computer course.

CENTRE USAGE

There is now very little down time at the Centre with our issues meeting on Monday afternoon, Pacific Island preschool play group on Tuesday morning, heritage group on Tuesday afternoon, gardening group on Wednesday morning, women's support group on Wednesday afternoon and a Live to the Max course starting on Thursday afternoon. As well as these regular groups we have just finished an 8 week gardening course with another one planned for September and have nearly finished a second 8 week computer course. Other groups using the Centre on a regular basis include CYFS, Ka Wahine Ki Otautahi Trust, Linwood Toy Library and Overeaters Anonymous.

REGULAR GROUPS

Issues Meeting: We have had three guest speakers at meetings – Bev Adams from the Woolston Development Project, Margaret Morrison from the Community Law Centre on making a will and Debbie Hollebon on Live to the Max. We have put in two submissions from this meeting – one on the proposed increase in bus fares and the other on the proposal to set up a Trans Tasman regulatory body to regulate dietary supplements. The meeting also organised a petition in conjunction with the Union Church for a bus stop outside the Church in Linwood Avenue.

Pacific Island Preschool Play Group This has taken careful planning to get off the ground and is for parents with preschoolers who are seeking to maintain their cultural heritage. We are fortunate to have a volunteer with an early childhood certificate to facilitate this group and she is supported in this initiative by the Ministry of Education's early Childhood Development Unit.

Heritage Group At last we have a date for the gala premiere of 'Faces and Places of Linwood', which will be shown at 7pm Thursday 12 September 2002 in the Board Room at the Linwood Service Centre. Please note your diaries although you will be getting a personal invite closer to the date. Discussions are well under way for the next project, which looks like being a joint initiative with Linwood Intermediate to record the stories of senior citizens who have lived locally most of their lives. We hope to use this material to develop electronic books for use at the school.

Gardening Group The extension garden is nearing completion thanks to all those who have worked so hard building no-dig beds, putting down carpet and bark chips between beds and building tree planter boxes to provide shade and seating in the summer months. Unfortunately our glasshouse was vandalised with several smashed panes but we have plans to erect netting to provide protection to the side nearest the car park. The herb spiral in the house garden is being replanted in a traditional medieval design. We have a member of the garden group willing to assist with running our gardening workshops and we have obtained funding for her from WINZ Activity in the Community. There are two groups of youth from YMCA coming to work in the garden on a regular basis and we were part of the community gardens tour with over 100 people coming through the garden over a weekend. We also recently had a group of school teachers through to look at our wormery.

Women's Support Group This group is facilitated by two volunteers who have attended several training courses and who are about to undertake a review of the group, which will involve all those who attend.

Other Happenings We participated in the Bromley Residents' Carnival by decorating the fair ground which gave us a free stall where we sold plants, had our information boards on display and gave away heaps of brochures.

We were also part of the planning team for the multicultural festival held at the Linwood Community Arts Centre and once again this provided valuable experience in organising a celebration as well as having a great time even if the Council managed to double book the tents on us.

Both our midwinter feast and our AGM where Bob Todd presented our volunteer certificates were well attended. I think we set a new record in togetherness with 35 people crammed into our front lounge for our AGM.

LYFE is now underway with co-ordinator Izzy Boigelot on board and a very creative Advisory Group of nine members in support. We have spent some time firming up the structure for LYFE which next year will come under the auspices of the Youth Initiatives Trust whose public meetings have been attended by members of the Resource Centre.

At present we have two students researching a profile of the Linwood area and their report will be presented at a Linwood Forum meeting as well as at one of our issues meetings early in October.

Our volunteers continue to organise community van outings and fish and chip nights, which are well attended. All in all the Centre is in good heart. We have been particularly grateful to the Council for organising batts in our belfry and foil under the floors – a huge improvement – and another power point in the back lounge.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the information be received and Marion thanked for her report.