

4. STRICKLAND STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN

Officer responsible Spreydon/Heathcote Community Advocate	Author Jane Parrett, Community Development Adviser, DDI 941-5101
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The purpose of this report is to request the Board allocate \$5,000 from its 2003/2004 Professional Support and Development Project fund toward an evaluation of the Strickland Street Community Garden (SSCG), which operates under the umbrella of Manuka Cottage.

The key purpose of this fund is community capacity building. This evaluation will assist in identifying future planning and direction for this project.

BACKGROUND

The Community Board has supported SSCG since it was established in 1999 (almost five years). The table below summarises the Board's contribution to SSCG over the past four years.

Year	Source	Amount	Purpose
1999/2000	Discretionary Funds	\$2,290	Community Garden Project
2000/2001	Discretionary Funds	\$5,000	Development of a business plan
2001/2002	Project Funds	\$10,000	Co-ordinator's salary
2002/2003	Discretionary Funds	\$200	Purchase of portable drill
2002/2003	Project Funds	\$15,000	Co-ordinator's salary

STRICKLAND STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN OVERVIEW

SSCG aims for "... continued development as a dynamic community resource actively engaging with the community and responding to its needs. Of key importance are the active promotion of sustainable land-based urban production, waste minimisation opportunities for local people, cultural diversity, neighbourhood support, community events, and the provision of a supportive worksite for clients of social service agencies." (*Christine Blance - 2002-03 Strickland Street Community Garden report to the Board.*)

The Garden Project Manager, Christine Blance, is primarily "... responsible for the administrative requirements of the gardens including project development, accounts, funding, employment, monitoring, evaluation and networking. There is regular liaison with the Addington Community Cottage co-ordinator and treasurer as required. Volunteers and residents are encouraged to participate in the above activities at a range of levels. There is a Strickland Street Community Garden Committee comprised of garden workers which meets to discuss funding requirements, evaluate projects, workshops, etc ... and to plan for future activities." (*Christine Blance - 2002-03 Strickland Street Community Garden report to the Board.*)

CURRENT SITUATION

The latest report received from SSCG (refer attached) briefly discusses future resource development and 2003-04 planning and visions (see page 6 of attached report).

Given the nature of the above planning, the fact that the Garden has now been operating for five years, and the potential opportunity with regard to the property at 188 Strickland Street, it seems timely to initiate an evaluation. Both the SSCG Project Manager, Christine Blance, and Manuka Cottage Community Development Co-ordinator, Jan Rogers, are supportive of an outside evaluation taking place.

As well as the evaluation helping SSCG and Manuka Cottage with their future planning, it would enable the Board to assess whether its own objectives are being met through the Garden, and hence enable it to make more thoroughly informed decisions regarding the funding of SSCG.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Board allocate \$5,000 for the purpose of an evaluation of the Strickland Street Community Garden.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: I support the staff recommendation.