

5. TAIAHA WEEKLY TRAINING PROGRAMME

General Manager responsible:	Stephen McArthur
Officer responsible:	Lesley Symington
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to request \$6,000 from the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board 2004/05 Discretionary Fund for the development of a 2 hour weekly Taiaha training programme. The programme will teach the use of taiaha or Maori longstaff. The training comprises of learning various *ahai*, or 'on guard' movements, and combinations of positions and rigorous moves. Haka (traditional dance), waiata (song), and karakia (chants and incantations) are also taught. The Taiaha training session will be managed and operated by Te Tohu O Tu Trust who currently organise Taiaha Wananga programmes for the South Island.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Christchurch City Council, Community and Recreation Unit has supported the development of the Taiaha Wananga programme for North Hornby children. A full evaluation was carried out in December 2004 by Pae Manawa Associates Ltd to assess the impact of the Taiaha programme on participants. Recommendation one of that report is: "That Te Tohu O Tu Trust, in conjunction with Te Whare O Nga Whetu and such other community organisation as are willing to assist, establish a pilot weekly Taiaha training session in the North Hornby area, in order to consolidate the skills development and behaviour change in Taura (student) that have resulted from participation in the residential Taiaha Wananga". The report focussed on the children from the North Hornby area, however the training session will be open to the whole Riccarton/Wigram Ward. The programme is culturally appropriate but does not exclude non-Maori community members should they wish to participate.
3. The training session will be managed and facilitated by Te Tohu O Tu Trust. The training programme will run weekly for two hours, after school at Te Whare O Nga Whetu. To manage the training programme efficiently and effectively, two instructors are needed at each session. The programme will run for 29 weeks from the week starting the 2 May 2005 until 20 December 2005, (this excludes school holidays). Te Tohu O Tu Trust will continuously monitor/evaluate the programme to ensure it is sustainable and meets the needs of the community. Time, duration, day of the week, numbers attending, venue, quality of the programme and overall benefits will be evaluated. Any resident over 8 years of age within the Riccarton/Wigram Ward can join the programme (**at no cost**) by expressing their interest to Te Tohu O Tu Trust.

An attendance record will be kept but children have the opportunity to turn up on the day without prior notification. Participants do not need to attend a Taiaha Wananga before attending the training session.

4. The 2004 evaluation highlighted the positive physical, emotional, spiritual, cultural, behavioural and mental benefits achieved by attending the Taiaha can be lost after a certain period of time. This is because the principles of the Taiaha are not continuously reinforced between each Taiaha Wananga programme. The Taiaha Wananga programmes are run 4 or 5 times a year hence the need for a weekly training session to reinforce these values.
5. Two options have been identified and assessed:
 - provide funding to support the initiation of the programme; or
 - funding is not granted and the programme will not commence until funding is secured from outside agencies.
6. The demand to attend the Taiaha Wananga programme has increased and the Taiaha programmes have been full. Te Tohu O Tu Trust will use different methods to advertise the training session, including distribution of flyers to schools and community groups, e.g. Te Whare O Nga Whetu, as well as phoning those individuals; who are currently on the Taiaha Wananga register.
7. This programme meets with Christchurch City Council Policies, LTCCP Community Outcomes, and Riccarton/Wigram Community Board objectives.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

8. Te Tohu O Tu Trust is a Charitable Trust and has no paid staff. The majority of members from this trust are employed full time with other organisations. This project cannot be set up without financial funding. Each two hour session is estimated to cost \$200 for all expenses. The cost until the end of December 2005 for this programme is \$6,000.

BACKGROUND ON TAIAHA TRAINING DEVELOPMENT

9. In September 2003 it was identified by the field worker in schools that young people in the Hornby area did not have access to culturally appropriate programmes. Programmes would need to address behaviour, health, cultural, personal and social issues. The field worker applied to the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board for 10 at-risk boys to attend one Taiaha Wananga. Since then the demand has increased to include 40 boys from the North Hornby area to attend each Wananga in 2004. A formal evaluation by Pae Manawa Associates Ltd took place in December 2004. The evaluation showed positive results around all the issues outlined above (for further information see North Hornby Taiaha Wananga Evaluation Project Report, 2004). One recommendation from the report was to provide a weekly Taiaha training session as a way to reinforce positive behaviour, over and above increasing participant knowledge about health, personal and social issues during the Wananga itself .
10. Teachers support the post Taiaha training session because:
 - Participants behaviour improved during school time
 - Participants had longer concentration periods, leading to less disruptive behaviour
 - Wananga provide the opportunity for success for children who are often challenged by mainstream subjects
 - The Taiaha Wananga programme meets the national recommendation of 30 minutes of exercise a day.
11. This is important because Ministry of Education statistics showed a high level of stand-downs or suspensions in schools of Maori boys (www.minedu.govt.nz).
12. The weekly Taiaha programme will be run for 2 hours once a week at a local community facility in the Hornby area. Each session will be run by two tutors from Te Tohu O Tu Trust and is open to children age 8 years and over at **no cost** to the participants. Each two hour session will cost \$200 inclusive of all costs.
13. The programme will be monitored and evaluated throughout the sessions. Evaluation will focus on; time of the day, duration, day of the week, numbers attending, venue, quality of the programme, and the benefits to each participant.

OPTIONS

14. Provide \$6,000 from the Riccarton/Wigram Discretionary Fund for the development of a 2 hour weekly Taiaha training programme. This programme has been identified as a youth initiative but no funds are available from this fund, so money is being requested from Discretionary.

(The current balance of the Discretionary Fund is \$24,000).

15. If no funding is granted the programme will not commence until funding is secured from other organisations.

PREFERRED OPTION

16. Provide \$6,000 from the Riccarton/Wigram Discretionary Fund for the development of a 2 hour weekly Taiaha training programme.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Community Services Committee allocate \$6,000 from the 2004/05 Discretionary Fund towards the establishment of a weekly Taiaha training programme. This programme has been identified as a Youth Initiative Project. However, as no funds are available from the Youth Initiative Fund, funding is being requested from the Discretionary Fund.

(The current balance of the Discretionary Fund is \$24,000).

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Officer's recommendation be adopted.