

14. SPREYDON/HEATHCOTE 2009/10 YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT FUNDING APPLICATION - INGA SOLOFUTI, ALEX FRAME, RUPERT CHAPMAN AND STEPHANIE BIRKETT

General Manager responsible:	General Manager, Community Services DDI 941-8607
Officer responsible:	Recreation and Sport Unit Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

- The purpose of this report is to present to the Board, four applications for funding assistance from the Spreydon/ Heathcote 2009/10 Youth Achievement Scheme fund.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Funding is being sought by the following applicants:
 - Inga Solofuti, 18 year old from Hoon Hay, to attend the New Zealand Breakers Basketball Academy in Auckland's North Shore from March to December 2010.
 - Alex Frame, 16 year old from Cashmere, to represent New Zealand at the 2010 Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) Juniors Track World Championships in Italy from 24 July to 15 August 2010.
 - Rupert Chapman, 18 year old from Cashmere, to represent New Zealand at the 2010 Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) World Mountain Bike Championships in Canada from 31 August to 5 September 2010.
 - Stephanie Birkett, 16 year old from Somerfield, to represent GymSports New Zealand at the 2010 Australian Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships in Perth from 5 to 11 July 2010.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- The following tables detail event expenses and funding requested for each applicant:

a) Inga Solofuti

EXPENSES	Cost (NZ \$)
Accommodation Board (9 months)	\$6,300
Academy Fee	\$300
Travel Expenses	\$1,000
Total Cost	\$7,600
Amount raised	\$1,000
Amount requested	\$500

b) Alex Frame

EXPENSES	Cost (NZ \$)
Accommodation	\$2,500
Flights	\$5,400
Insurance	\$380
Meals	\$1,250
Ground Transport	\$1,210
Track Hire	\$1,221
Team Clothing	\$605
Total Cost	\$12,566
Amount raised	\$3,000
Amount requested	\$500

c) **Rupert Chapman**

EXPENSES	Cost (NZ \$)
Accommodation, Food & Technical Support	\$1,200
Flights	\$3,235
Ground transport	\$122
Insurance	\$477
Total Cost	\$5,034
Amount raised	\$3,000
Amount requested	\$500

d) **Stephanie Birkett**

EXPENSES	Cost (NZ \$)
Accommodation	\$1,195
Airfares	\$1,378
Ground transport, food, entry fee	\$325
Uniform	\$350
Coaches cost	\$200
Total Cost	\$3,448
Amount raised	\$400
Amount requested	\$500

4. This is the first time all the applicants have applied for funding from the Spreydon/ Heathcote Youth Achievement scheme.

5. There is currently a balance of \$1,250 available in the 2009/10 Youth Achievement Scheme fund.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

6. Yes see page 184, regarding Board funding.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. There are no legal issues to be considered.

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

8. Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

9. Yes.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

10. Yes, Community Grants (pg 176), Strengthening Communities (pg 172), and Recreation and Sports Services (pg.108).

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

11. Application aligns with the Youth Strategy and the Physical Recreation and Sport Strategy.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

12. Not applicable.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Spreydon/Heathcote Board allocate Inga Solofuti \$250 from the 2009/10 Youth Achievement Scheme fund towards costs associated with attending the New Zealand Breakers Basketball Academy in Auckland's North Shore from March to December 2010.

It is recommended that the Spreydon/Heathcote Board allocate Alex Frame \$450 from the 2009/10 Youth Achievement Scheme fund to assist him to represent New Zealand at the 2010 UCI Juniors Track World Championships in Italy from 24 July to 15 August 2010.

It is recommended that the Spreydon/Heathcote Board allocate Rupert Chapman \$450 from the 2009/10 Youth Achievement Scheme fund to assist him to represent New Zealand at the 2010 UCI World Mountain bike Championships in Canada from 31 August to 5 September 2010.

It is recommended that the Spreydon/Heathcote Board allocate Stephanie Birkett \$350 from the 2009/10 Youth Achievement Scheme fund to assist her to represent GymSports New Zealand at the 2010 Australian Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships in Perth from 5 to 11 July 2010.

CHAIRPERSONS RECOMMENDATION

For discussion.

BACKGROUND OF EACH APPLICANT

Inga Solofutui

13. Inga attended Middleton Grange last year and is currently studying part-time at Whangaparaoa College while he attends the Breakers Academy. Inga's highest basketball achievement so far has been his selection for the New Zealand Men's Under 20 years Basketball team in 2010. Last year he was the overall top points scorer at the New Zealand Secondary School National tournament while playing for Middleton Grange. Inga was the captain of his school team and received Player of the Year and Most Valuable Player, last year. Before starting at Middleton Grange School he played for the Pioneer All Star Team. In 2009 he also represented Canterbury in the Under 19 team that won the National championship. Over the years he has represented Canterbury in Under 17 years and Under 14 years old. He has also coached the Rowley School Boys basketball team for the last three years.
14. There are various opportunities for a young man who is a talented basketball player in New Zealand. These include being contracted to play in the National Basketball League for a provincial team such as Canterbury Cougars or playing in the second division Conference League. Alternatively players can get contracted to play for the New Zealand Breakers team that competes in the Australian basketball league. At the same time a young player can play for either the New Zealand Tall Blacks, Emerging Tall Blacks or Junior Tall Blacks at various tournaments and tests. Inga's long term goal is to be a 'professional basketball player'. He believes by attending the Breakers Development Academy he will develop as an athlete and become equipped with the skills to achieve his goal. He is also pursuing the remaining NZQA credits he needs for University Entrance. Inga plans to continue to coach and pass on these new skills.
15. The Basketball Development Academy, in partnership with the Basketball Development Trust, is focused on providing a pathway for elite players in the 15 to 19 years age group. The Academy structure guides players in this age group into a full time training programme in which they are given elite coaching and playing opportunities. Specialist coaching is involved, including involvement from the Breakers coaching staff. Breakers players will also be involved in mentoring roles with the Development Academy. The Academy Head Coach is Breakers Assistant Coach Judd Flavell. The Academy will be playing in their second annual Conference League Competition which takes place between April and August. In addition to basketball skills, Academy members are instructed in the responsibilities of professional athletes, and given access to ongoing education in non-basketball areas. Academy members are involved in community projects as part of their commitment to the programme, and assist in aspects of the Young Hoops Programme.
16. Inga has been working part-time leading up to and after starting at the Academy in order to fund his ongoing costs. He has also sought donations from his church, family and friends. A significant part of the cost is the accommodation/board required to be living away from home. Alex will be boarding with a family who live close to the Academy in Auckland's North Shore. The family that Alex is staying with are charging \$175 per week and he is applying for an accommodation supplement from the Government likely to be about \$40 per week. The Academy program does not qualify him for student allowance. To compare, private board accommodation offered to students while studying at University is about \$230 per week plus placement fee. University residential accommodation in the North Shore is about \$175 per week for a room and shared spaces only.

Alex Frame

17. Alex attends Cashmere High school where he is a student councillor. He has been involved in track and road cycling for four years and currently trains six days per week for up to four hours a day. He races at least once per week including national road races and social events such as Le Race. Alex rides for Benchmark Homes Cycling Team. This is a semi professional cycling team under the umbrella and major sponsor of Benchmark Homes and formed by the Youth Cycling Development Trust. Alex has been selected with 10 other riders to represent New Zealand at the 2010 UCI Juniors Track World Championships in Montichiari, Italy.
18. The Juniors Track World Championships is raced on a velodrome track. The event can be used as a stepping stone to a professional career or preparation for Commonwealth Games and Olympic Games selection. BikeNZ National Development Coach Stuart MacDonald states on their website that he is looking for the team to build on New Zealand's previous results at the World Championships but also to ensure the riders are given the opportunity to gain the international race experience needed to develop into senior world champions. *"With the team that has been selected, there is a mix of first and second year juniors, and I feel we can cover each event with enough quality and depth to be able to perform on the Worlds' stage as well as expose the youngsters to a higher level of racing needed for their development."*
19. Alex's goal is to represent New Zealand at the Olympics in London in 2012 and at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow 2014.
20. Alex has organised a quiz night which has raised \$1,000 and has set up a donation scheme for his supporters known as '100 club', where he expects about 20 supporters to donate \$100 each.

Rupert Chapman

21. Rupert finished high school last year and is currently working full-time as a labourer and some weekends at a local bike shop. He has been downhill mountain biking for six years and he claims that it was easy to get started because he lives at the foot of the Port Hills. Rupert is a member and on the committee of Gravity Canterbury club and a member of Huxster Secondary Schools Mountain Biking club. Over the last summer he has helped build tracks and mark out courses in order to improve his understanding of the sport and his technical skills.
22. Downhill mountain biking at a competitive level is a race down a mountain bike track that lasts about four minutes. The race demands that riders keep their physical and mental strength performing at an optimal level while utilising advanced technical riding skills. For the last four years Rupert has competed at local, South Island, national level and international level. He raced for the New Zealand Under 19 years downhill team at last year's World Championships in Canberra and recently he has been selected for the Under 19 years team for this year's World Championships in Canada. His selection comes after getting second place for Downhill and third place for Dual Slalom at the National Championships in February this year. This summer he also came first in the South Island Cup based on cumulative points over a three race series.
23. The World Championships event is the high point of the international downhill mountain biking calendar. There will be about 100 other junior riders selected by their respective countries to compete. Rupert's selection has been approved by BikeNZ and Mountain Bike NZ Inc. Rupert will be training and competing in races in Europe to get more international experience prior to the World Championships. This is an added cost.
24. Rupert has three short term goals including; to finish in the top 10 at the 2010 World Championships; to qualify for selected World Cup races in the 2010 European summer season; and to be invited to race Pro Elite class in the 2011 New Zealand race season.
25. Rupert has secured sponsorship from Beckenham Cycles and Rock Star Clothing. He has also put aside money from part-time jobs over the summer and his current full-time job.

Stephanie Birkett

26. Stephanie is in Year 12 at Cashmere High School and has been doing Rhythmic Gymnastics since she was six years old when she started at Pioneer Stadium. She went on to join the Kudos club now known as Olympia Gymnastic Sports based in Sockburn. She has competed through the levels over the years and is now at level nine. Last year she was placed second in the individual all-round for level four at the National Championship. Her Grade five group also placed second overall at the Nationals last year. Stephanie trains for over 13 hours every week and is a qualified coach working nine paid hours every week.
27. Stephanie has been selected to compete for GymSports New Zealand in level nine rope, hoop and ball activities at the Australian Nationals. Her selection is a result of her performance and score at the New Zealand National Championships. She has been selected as part of a 19 member squad.
28. Rhythmic Gymnastics teaches body awareness and control - skills that will assist in the development of athletic potential for any sporting endeavour. In Stephanie's goal is to reach apparatus finals in Australia and to gain experience and new techniques that she can pass on as a coach.
29. Stephanie has also applied to Sport Canterbury for \$500. She has been fundraising with the group, running sausage sizzles and selling raffle tickets. She has also been saving money from her part-time job.