

with his chatter and is now a captivating ring-tone on cellphones all over the world. Ratabag's dependence on people means he will never be released.

He still tries to dominate Terry as the alpha male of the household, and Terry has come off second best to the bird's sharp beak.

"I've run from this enclosure with blood pouring down my face more than once," he said. "But that's magpies."

# School focus on north-east

By ANNA PRICE

PROPOSALS FOR the city's existing high schools have not acknowledged the soaring population in Christchurch's north-east, an education lobby says.

The North East Secondary Education Committee (NESE) wants a new co-educational school – even a relocated high school with a strong learning culture, providing a distinctive curriculum.

In a submission to the Ministry of Education's draft education renewal recovery programme, the group says the school would utilise modern teaching methods, ICT and resource sharing between schools.

Spokeswoman Elissa Smith said historically the area has enjoyed a high proportion of families with young children and school-agers.

"It has a natural catchment with several established early childhood centres and full primary schools that can link for easy transition to secondary education."

This area from Marshland Rd, including Prestons through the Parklands area, North Beach and New Brighton would ensure the new school was viable, she said. "All of these suburbs could reach a well-placed school without having to cross main roads."

Secondary students from South New Brighton would also be included, as Ararui High moved to become a combined campus, Mrs Smith said.

NESE supported the rejuvenation of Mairehau High School, and was in favour of Shirley Boys' High being relocated to a site near Avonside Girls'.

earnings. It had the potential to improve the economies of communities nationwide, Mr Bout said.

## Notorious crash site

The intersection of Orchard and Wairakei roads near Christchurch Airport will be "actively" policed over the next few weeks to try to stall the crash rate. Canterbury road policing head Inspector Al Stewart said the intersection had been identified as a high-risk site after eight crashes in the past two years. The area would be targeted following crashes and many reports of near misses and high speeds. Many motorists

approached intersections too fast with little time to react to the unexpected, he said. About half of the 3500 crashes in the district every year occur at intersections.



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