

Christchurch North East Secondary Education Committee Inc.

Annual Report 2016



NESE's Management Committee 2015

The North East Secondary Education Committee Inc. (NESE) advocates for secondary education in North East Christchurch. NESE has been actively lobbying politicians and the Ministry of Education since 2009. The Management Committee is a dedicated group of volunteers from the local community. I would like to thank committee members for their ongoing commitment to achieving our community's goals. The Management Committee 2015 was Amanda Williams (Chairperson), Greg Morehouse (Vice Chair), Elissa Smith (Secretary) Kerri Rowlands (Treasurer) and Committee Member Rae Mills.

Personal Contact with NESE Supporters

Active consultation with families is one of the ways NESE ensures we represent our community's views. We receive valuable feedback by engaging the local community in conversation. During the year the committee kept in touch with our subscribers by email. A newsletter was sent out in December. Our Facebook page is a good way to distribute information quickly. We write articles for newsletters and community newspapers. We also engage with talkback radio when the topics are related to NESE's core goals. On 12 February 2015 The Mail promoted NESE's position on school zones. NESE wrote articles for PRA's April and November Newsletters; Queenspark Playgroup's newsletter and Neighbourhood Support's Eyes on Community magazine, December edition. We ran a Community Conversation in February and had a variety of other contacts with families throughout the year.

Building Alliances in the Community

Committee members aim to continually meet with people in the community to receive feedback and to advocate for NESE's Goals. NESE also consults widely to establish good working relationships with influential people and organisations. During the year committee members met with education specialists and community leaders. People we've engaged with include Ministry of Education Staff, Secondary School Principals, MPs, the Mayor, Councillors, Burwood Pegasus Community Board members and other education specialists. We also benefit greatly from their advice and encouragement. Keeping people engaged and up to date with NESE's goals creates additional opportunities for us to influence local education decisions.

NESE's Core Goals

Our advocacy work is focused on achieving these key objectives:-

- Primary aged students have a clear vision of their future secondary education pathway.
- All homes fall inside a defined catchment for both a primary and secondary school.
- Barriers to secondary education are actively reduced.
- All students can get to school by active transport.
- Students are confident about being educated in their local community.
- Schools provide community access for continued education, clubs and interest groups.
- Schools develop robust networks through sharing resources and working together.

NESE's Position on School Zones

A clear learning path should be known in each community, with every residential area having a clear educational direction for their children. We believe all co-ed schools should be zoned. NESE supports single sex schools having a zone network which is separate from co-ed school zones. This zone layer would sit over a co-ed zoning layer, resulting in every home in Christchurch being zoned for entry onto both co-ed and single sex education.

Education Act 1989 Update

Committee members contributed to the Ministry of Education's workshop on the proposed changes to the Education Act. It was an excellent opportunity for NESE to influence the future of education.

Community Consultation on moving the Secondary Schools to QEII Park

We first began asking the Ministry of Education (MOE) to establish a local co-ed secondary school in 2009. The Ministry's decision to move Avonside Girls' High School (AGHS) and Shirley Boys' High School (SBHS) to QEII Park generated considerable community discussion. This is not our community's first preference, as 70% of local families surveyed would prefer to send their children to a co-ed secondary school. The Ministry chose QEII Park as it meets the needs of these two existing schools, rather than meeting our local co-ed secondary education needs.

In response, NESE invited local groups and families to a community consultation held in February, following NESE's 2015 AGM. The MOE assisted by sending two representatives. It was a positive meeting with the MOE answering questions in detail. We wrote a FAQ sheet of key points from the meeting. The Ministry also supplied a FAQ sheet on AGHS and SBHS moving to QEII Park. We emailed both to our subscribers and posted them on Facebook.

Despite our community's preference for co-ed education, the majority of our community will support the two secondary schools at QEII Park. Relocating these schools to QEII Park will help establish a desperately needed community facility. School facilities being available for community use after hours will enhance wellbeing, supporting a culture of lifelong learning. We look forward to our local networks benefiting from more teenagers being involved. It will be important for families and the community to actively engage with the schools and to welcome them as our local schools.

QEII Park

NESE's objectives for the development of QEII Park reflect community feedback. We support the sale of Council land to the MOE. We have made a submission and will speak at the QEII Park Land Sale Consultation Hearing to promote the following additional key objectives:-

- Create a Comprehensive QEII Park Development Plan for the 49Ha of QEII Park.
- Form a QEII Park Establishment Board to oversee development of QEII Park, with representatives from the schools, aquatic, recreation and the community.
- Provide multi-use sports fields, with extra provision for netball and hockey.
- Relocate the cricket oval within QEII Park.
- Retain as many of the existing trees as possible.
- Establish safe walking and cycling routes before the schools move to QEII Park.

Conversations with Avonside Girls' High School and Shirley Boys' High School

Throughout 2015, NESE Committee members actively engaged with Sue Humes, Principal of AGHS and John Laursen, Headmaster of SBHS. We have developed a good understanding of each other's objectives, with common agreement on many issues. We are confident ongoing discussions will ensure our community's ideas and preferences are considered as relocation plans develop.

Haeata Community Campus

Amanda Williams & Elissa Smith were invited to be involved with the Principal recruitment process for the year 1-13 school to open in 2017 on the present site of Aranui High School. This recognised NESE's ongoing contributions to education. Andy Kai Fong was subsequently appointed as principal. They also contributed to the campus design and the final name of the school. The school will be called Haeata Community Campus. "Haeata", means a new dawn for learning.

CERA Community Forum Representative

Chair, Amanda Williams was appointed to CERA's Community Forum to represent Christchurch East on earthquake recovery matters. Government proposals and community issues were debated in the Forum, with recommendations being made to the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Minister. Amanda's appointment recognised her interaction with community networks through NESE.

Community Support

Education remains a high priority for our families. Committee members would like to thank and acknowledge our many supporters who share information with us and contribute in other ways. We are extremely grateful for the ideas and support we continue to receive from the community.

Amanda Williams
Chairperson