

Annual Report 2019

The North East Secondary Education Committee Inc. (NESE) advocates for secondary education in North East Christchurch. NESE's Management Committee members are all volunteers from our local community. NESE has been actively lobbying politicians and the Ministry of Education since 2009.

Consultation and Building Networks in the Community

NESE committee members continually meet people in the community to share ideas and gather public opinion and feedback on education related issues. NESE Committee members consult widely to establish good working relationships with influential people and organisations. In the last year committee members met and attended meetings with representatives of other organisations, elected officials and community leaders. Some of these are detailed in this report. We continue to benefit greatly from their advice and encouragement.

Committee members made a presentation to the Coastal Burwood Community Board in April, updating the Board on local education issues, including the consultation on secondary school enrolment zones for Avonside Girls' and Shirley Boys'.

Key Learnings

NESE Committee members enjoy positive relationships with Christchurch leaders in the Ministry of Education. Our meetings are mutually beneficial, leaving both parties with ideas to investigate. Some of our learnings this year include things you might like to know:

- You should question secondary schools whose retention rate is low for Y12 and Y13 students.
- The MOE recommends students do not "leave school" but stay enrolled when they begin a course. Students are then able to return to their school for help if the course does not work out.
- All school years provide students with opportunities to develop leadership skills.
- School policies do not support students driving to school. Providing student parking is not an "education and learning" related priority.
- The Education Counts website <https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz> is a good source of useful information.

Community Support

Secondary education remains a high priority for families in our community. Committee members would like to thank all our supporters who share information with us and support us in other ways. We are grateful for your ideas, and encouragement. NESE had a stall at Parklands at Play community day. We enjoyed meeting so many people and answering their questions. Feedback was mostly consistent with that received from other sources.

Bus Route Review

Environment Canterbury's Long Term Plan proposed to cut eight bus routes across the city including the 135 bus connecting Burwood Hospital with New Brighton, via QEII Park. NESE supported retention of this route to provide student access to QEII Park. NESE committee members wrote a strong submission to the Canterbury Regional Transport Plan.

Committee members spoke to NESE's submission at the hearing on 2 May. The Chairperson complimented NESE presenters on our thorough submission which efficiently summarised all the bus submissions they had received over the previous three days. The subsequent changes to the 135 bus route included most of NESE's recommendations. We are pleased to have influenced another positive outcome for our community.

New School Zone for Avonside Girls' & Shirley Boys' High Schools

This significant process occupied many man hours in 2018. Avonside Girls' & Shirley Boys' High Schools held public consultation on their proposed zone at QEII Park in April. This included four public meetings and an online survey. NESE emailed the information to our subscriber database and posted it on Facebook to help ensure anyone who would like to have a say took the opportunity to do so.

Committee members attended all four public meetings. Many passionate families took the opportunity to voice their concerns personally. NESE's submission was developed reflecting NESE's established philosophy on schools zones as well as points raised by members of the public.

NESE Goals were:-

- A home zone for local students.
- A dual layer zone enabling families living in the single sex schools' home zone in zone access to the nearest co-ed school.
- Inclusion of both the South Shore and Marshlands areas.
- Provision for students living in the current zones for both schools.
- Provision for siblings to attend the other co-located school.

The Ministry of Education implemented a new enrolment scheme for Avonside Girls' High School and Shirley Boys' High School on 29 June 2018. The new zone took effect on 1st January 2019. The zone provides for:-

- Current students at both schools.
- Students living in the area surrounding the new school campus.
- Students who remain living in the same house, in the schools' previous zones, for the next 13 years.

We achieved most of NESE's goals. However, the new zone does not include the Marshlands area. The Ministry has not provided for a son or a daughter who attends either Avonside Girls' or Shirley Boys' to enable their sister or brother to qualify for sibling priority at the other co-located school.

The next legal opportunity to review the schools' zones is in May 2019.

QEII Park Draft Master Plan

Committee members attended open days at QEII Park in April and November 2018. We wanted to share our community's vision for the future development of QEII Park. These days were also great opportunities to be shown around, understand the Council's concepts and to hear other people's ideas.

\$3.4 million from the land sold to the Ministry of Education has been set aside. This is only enough for the initial developments for the park. All other developments are currently unfunded. Implementing other developments our community wants will require a budget to be allocated in the future through the Council's Long Term Plan process.

Committee members drafted a submission based on our own consultation and discussions. The QEII Park Master Plan will be finalised soon after being approved by Council.

Communication with Families

We only email our subscribers when we believe there is something of interest. Facebook allows us to quickly share information with you. In 2018 many posts were extensively shared, well beyond our followers. The posts with the strongest community wide engagement were those about:

- QEII Park – the Pools and Community Days.
- Secondary School Open Days
- Proposed changes to Bus Route 135.
- New AGHS & SBHS School Zones – consultation and outcomes.
- Aerial photos showing the construction progress of AGHS & SBHS High Schools.

There was significant interest in our student focused articles. We will continue to share these with our families. In 2018 our popular posts were:-

- 9 scientifically-proven ways your teen can get the most out of study time.
- Are you struggling with your teen?
- Your Teen's Online World.

School Earthquake Repair Timeline

The Ministry of Education "Shaping Education" publication from 2013 documented schools in the property repair programme, the type of work to be carried out and when construction was planned to be completed. Reviewing this work programme shows clearly that all schools are behind target. It is extremely disappointing to our communities that process has been protracted and continues to be so slow.

NESE's Management Committee 2018

I would like to thank committee members for their ongoing commitment towards achieving our community's goals. The Management Committee is a dedicated group of volunteers. NESE's Management Committee 2018 was Amanda Williams (Chairperson), Greg Morehouse (Vice Chair), Elissa Smith (Secretary) Kerri Rowlands (Treasurer) and Committee Member Rae Mills.

Amanda Williams
Chairperson