

Annual Report 2022

The North East Secondary Education Committee Inc. (NESE) advocates for secondary education in North East Christchurch. NESE has been actively informing, persuading and lobbying politicians and the Ministry of Education since 2009. 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.

Another Challenging Year

Covid-19 significantly impacted the education sector again in 2021. Schools were closed for a time. Learning went online and NCEA exam dates were delayed.

Constitution Update

NESE's August 2021 meeting was cancelled due to the Covid-19 Lockdown, as were some meetings in 2020. Acting on the Charities Commission recommendation, we propose to update NESE's constitution to enable committee meetings and decisions to be held online, by audio, visual or electronic communication. The proposed changes will be voted on at NESE's 2022 AGM.

NESE Guide – Investigating Secondary Schools Booklet

Our delayed plan to distribute NESE's booklet more widely in 2020 was achieved in 2021. We were pleased to again be able to provide primary and intermediate school students in Christchurch with NESE's "Investigating Secondary Schools". The booklet is aimed at supporting the needs of families with year 7 and 8 students and their transition to secondary education. Families benefit from being able to make informed choices.

NESE received funding to print the booklets from the Christchurch City Council Capacity Fund. Committee members organised printing & distributing booklets to local schools, community groups, prominent places and libraries.

1. Schools: Booklets were delivered to Chisnallwood and Shirley intermediate schools as well as the following primary Schools: Ouruhia, Marshland, Mairehau, Christchurch East, Bamford, Waltham, Knights Stream, Queenspark, Parkview, Rawhiti, Belfast and South New Brighton primary schools.
2. Libraries: Booklets were delivered to the following libraries: Shirley, Parklands, New Brighton, Aranui, Linwood, Redwood, South, Riccarton, Papanui, Fendalton, Bishopdale, Spreydon, Hornby, Woolston and the Learning Needs Library.
3. Community Groups and Prominent Places: Booklets were delivered to ACTIS (The Aranui Community Trust), Youth Alive Trust, Legacy Community Centre, Burwood Education Centre, All Saints Anglican Church, VTNZ Litchfield St, Bromley Community Centre, Linwood Community Centre, Countdown at the Palms and FreshChoice Parklands.

NESE's booklet received good publicity.

- 1) The Eye on Communities Magazine promoted NESE's booklet in their June magazine.
- 2) Bromley Community Centre put the link to NESE's booklet on their Facebook Page.
- 3) News on I.C.E (Christchurch Eastern Inner City Community Newsletter). An article was published in the July newsletter promoting NESE's booklet. This monthly newsletter is circulated to 3000 residents in the Linwood area. 60% of their population has been living in NZ for less than five years. The NESE Committee is pleased to be able to provide this vulnerable community with a good resource.

The booklet is also available in digital form from NESE's website www.nese.org.nz There is also a link to it at the top of NESE's Facebook page.

Communication with Families

NESE's Facebook page currently has 214 followers. Facebook is a good way to communicate with our followers and to reach other local families when our posts are shared. Facebook statistics indicate 46% of our followers are aged 45-54 years and 25% are aged 35-44 years. 80% of all followers are women.

There was good interest in our student focused articles. NESE's most popular posts in 2021 were:-

- School enrolment schemes in New Zealand.
- Secondary school open days and night dates 2021.
- Year 8 students not enrolled yet?
- Enrol your child for secondary school before the end of July.
- Ensure you enrol your child for secondary school as soon as you can so your child can participate in all the events the school has to test and welcome students.

Avonside Girls' High School's Enrolment Scheme Map

New enrolment zone maps were drawn by the Ministry of Education in 2019 following changes to Avonside Girls' and Shirley Boys' enrolment zones. However, the official zone maps for the two schools were not identical as intended, due to a clerical error. Avonside's zone map did not reflect the written description correctly. Also the transitional zone identified on Avonside's map was so transparent that it was hard to identify the boundaries accurately.

These irregularities were first notified to Director for Education Coralanne Child and Avonside Principal Sue Hume in March 2020. NESE wrote to the Avonside Girls' High School's Board in January 2021 and discussed it with Coralanne Child at a meeting in March 2021. NESE again wrote to Avonside Principal Sue Hume, Board Chair Johnathan Brooks, and Coralanne Child about the map error in November 2021. Avonside High School's map was finally corrected and updated to include NESE's recommendations in January 2022.

Casebrook Intermediate - Implementation of Enrolment Zone

Casebrook Intermediate was directed to implement an enrolment scheme by the Ministry of Education. NESE wrote a submission to the Casebrook Intermediate Board with a number of suggestions for the Board's consideration. Our key issue was that the school's boundary should stop at the Northern Motorway which forms a strong natural barrier. NESE Committee members were disappointed when the new zone announced did not reflect NESE's key recommendation. Casebrook's new zone is what was originally proposed, with a couple of minor changes.

Consultation and Building Networks in the Community

NESE committee members network and meet people in the community to share ideas and gather feedback on education related issues. NESE Committee members maintain good working relationships with elected officials and community leaders. There were limited opportunities to network in 2021, but members made the most of those available. We continue to benefit from their advice and encouragement.

Fundraising

NESE still runs on a shoestring with members donating their own resources and consumables. The main expense that requires payment is NESE's annual website hosting and domain name invoice. NESE sold sweet pea seeds again in 2021 as a fundraiser raising sufficient funds to cover this cost.

Secondary School Communication to their local Communities

It is important that secondary schools inform their local communities about what is happening in their schools. This enables people and families with no students currently at the school to still feel connected and loyal to it. In 2021 our four local secondary schools' websites did not have any newsletters posted on them and their Facebook pages had very few posts. All four schools have started the year with upgraded websites. They are all now actively posting information on their Facebook pages. We hope this trend will continue. We encourage the public to regularly check out their local school's newsletters and social media pages, take up opportunities to view performances, actively engaging with the schools supporting their achievements and events.

NESE's Management Committee 2021

Despite another challenging year, there were still achievements Committee Members can be proud of. NESE's Management Committee members are all volunteers from our local community. I would like to thank NESE's Management Committee members for their continuing commitment towards achieving our community's goals. They are a dedicated group of volunteers who in turn are supported by their partners and families. NESE's Management Committee 2021 was Amanda Williams (Chairperson), Greg Morehouse (Vice Chair), Elissa Smith (Secretary) Kerri Rowlands (Treasurer) and Committee Member Rae Mills.

Amanda Williams
Chairperson