

## **Annual Report 2024**

The North East Secondary Education Committee Inc. (NESE) has been actively informing and lobbying politicians and the Ministry of Education since 2009. NESE advocates on education issues in Christchurch, with a particular focus on North East Christchurch.

Some of the highlights of the NESE committee's work in 2023 follow.

### **Secondary School Open Nights**

Secondary schools continue to adapt to the challenge of ongoing illness in the community. Schools have become innovative in the many ways they share their school's information to prospective students. Some hold traditional open days, while others hold virtual open nights and small group tours.

As usual, we compiled our popular secondary school open day list to help families plan their secondary school open day visits. The open day schedule was posted on NESE's Facebook page, then shared to the People's Republic of New Brighton's page, Prestons Residents' page and Travis Country's page, generating NESE's most viewed post ever. It had even more views than last year's most viewed ever post. Families appreciate this comprehensive list.

### **New Enrolment Schemes for Chisnallwood and Shirley Intermediate Schools**

In 2023 Chisnallwood's zone was reviewed and Shirley Intermediate established a zone for the first time. NESE investigated the proposals and wrote detailed submissions to both schools' enrolment schemes. The new enrolment schemes came into effect on 1 January 2024.

### **Ministry of Education**

Committee members met with Coralanne Child, Director of Education for Canterbury, and Fuetanoa Kose Seinafo, Education Manager in November. We meet with Coralanne as needed. We had good discussions on a wide range of topics and the NESE committee's ideas were well received.

### **School design requirements and Design Quality Learning Spaces**

Committee members wondered if schools have the equivalent of the "healthy homes" guidelines, compelling schools to achieve modern building standards in the classroom. We are pleased to confirm there are similar standards for schools. The Ministry of Education's design requirements and Design Quality Learning Spaces (DQLS) describe mandatory requirements of school quality factors such as acoustics, lighting, visual comfort, indoor air quality and thermal comfort. The DQLS requirements apply to all new-builds, extensions, modular buildings and alterations of existing school buildings. They ensure architects, designers and engineers create quality learning environments that are fit for purpose.

### **Communication with Families**

NESE's Facebook page currently has 203 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 our followers are all aged 35-54 and 80% are women. In 2023 our most viewed Facebook post was our annual list of the Secondary School Open Day Dates which reached 1623 people. There was good interest in our student focused posts.

In 2023 our most popular posts were:

- Secondary School Open Days 2023
- Chisnallwood Intermediate school's enrolment scheme (zone) is being reviewed.
- Investigating Secondary Schools Booklet
- NZ schools have the equivalent of the "healthy homes" guidelines.
- How to help your teenagers at exam time.
- The Council plans to reduce speeds around schools to 30km, and to 40km in nearby streets.

### **Investigating Secondary Schools Booklet**

NESE's "Investigating Secondary Schools" 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. The booklet is available from NESE's website [www.nese.org.nz](http://www.nese.org.nz) There is also a link to it at the top of NESE's Facebook page.

This year we sent a letter with one booklet to local schools with Y7 and Y8 students inviting the school to share the booklet with their school community, either through their school newsletter directing families to the online link; by making it available on the school's website, or by sharing the booklet post on NESE's Facebook page. Schools were Parkview School, Queenspark School, Mairehau Primary, Marshland School, Ouruhia School, Rawhiti School, South New Brighton School and Shirley Intermediate. Booklets were delivered to Shirley, Parklands and New Brighton libraries, Fresh Choice Parklands and New World Prestons.

### **NESE's Constitution**

The new Incorporated Societies Act 2022 introduced changes designed to make incorporated societies' structures and processes more robust, to help societies govern themselves, and to give societies and members more options when things go wrong. All incorporated societies including NESE need to rewrite their constitutions to meet the requirements of the new Act and must reregister before April 2026.

### **Building Community Networks**

NESE committee members regularly meet with people in the community to share ideas and gather feedback on education related issues. We continue to benefit from their advice and encouragement. Committee members make the most of opportunities available through work and community roles. NESE Committee members maintain good working relationships with elected officials and community leaders.

### **NESE's Committee 2023**

As volunteers, sometimes our committee members don't have enough time or energy to achieve all our goals and aspirations. 2023 was another year where illness, work and family commitments often took priority over NESE projects. However, we continue to strive to make a difference to benefit our wider community on education issues

I would like to thank NESE's Committee members for their continuing commitment towards achieving our community's education goals. Committee members are all volunteers from our local community. They are a dedicated group of volunteers who in turn are supported by their partners and families. NESE's Management Committee 2024 was Amanda Williams (Chairperson), Greg Morehouse (Vice Chair), Elissa Smith (Secretary) Kerri Rowlands (Treasurer) and Committee Member Rae Mills.

### **Supporters**

Secondary education is still a high priority for families in our community. We would like to thank our supporters who continue to share information with us and support us in other ways. Committee members are grateful for your ideas and encouragement.

Amanda Williams  
Chairperson