



**northeast**  
secondary education  
**committee**

[www.nese.org.nz](http://www.nese.org.nz)

# Newsletter

May 2013

## Renewing Secondary Education in Christchurch

Rapid change is inevitable in the current environment. Families are now looking for results that show courage, planning and consideration for all people in our society.

NESE is a strong voice in discussions on the future of schooling in Christchurch. Our vision is to create a local secondary school in North East Christchurch.

Our Annual Report outlining last year's activities is attached. Reading it will show that we are still a very active group.

NESE believes that building strong bridges between primary and secondary education is essential to achieve the vision of lifelong learning. We must establish a comprehensive education network encompassing all services from Early Childhood through to Tertiary education.

The population of the North East is quite diverse. NESE believes meeting educational needs within a community will deliver many benefits which in turn will improve the health and function of the community.

NESE has a strong desire to increase participation in education for groups especially those not currently reaching their full potential.

Schools bind communities together, giving them a focus. They are places where people invest their time and build friendships. These ties continue beyond our time at the school as a student.

We wish to unite our community around a secondary school. A well placed co-ed secondary school would nest within our strong and supportive community. NESE supports a school location that promotes cycling and walking; has easy access to bus routes and is close to the majority of residents, without imposing on surrounding residential areas.

The school could be a relocated secondary school. A natural catchment from Marshland Road including Prestons through the Parklands area, North Beach and New Brighton will ensure the new school is viable. These suburbs could all reach a well placed school without crossing main roads

## NESE supports the following outcomes

- The location of secondary school sites in Christchurch should be geographically well placed, to provide easy access to education and meet the needs of both current and future populations.
- A well placed co educational secondary school should be established in North East Christchurch.
- We support the rejuvenation of Mairehau High School on another site. A site on the Northern side of the main transport routes would serve the growing population of Belfast. Alternatively a site towards the East would better serve the large populations in the North East.
- We support Shirley Boys' High School relocating to a suitable site near the Avonside Girls' High School site. If Shirley Boys' High School cannot be located near Avonside Girls' High School, then a new site should enable the possibility of Avonside Girls' High School and Shirley Boys' High School being located on the same site.

## NESE's Officers

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Chairperson      | Amanda Williams |
| Vice Chairperson | Greg Morehouse  |
| Secretary        | Angela Wilson   |
| Treasurer        | Kerri Rowlands  |

## Submissions

The NESE Committee has been working alongside agencies in charge of rebuilding Christchurch, attending meetings and spending long hours making submissions to the Ministry of Education.

The Supported Outcomes on this page and the Key Messages on the following page are the main points from our many submissions. You can read all our submissions at [www.nese.org.nz](http://www.nese.org.nz) under the proposal tab.

## Contact us

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## NESE's Key Messages

- Planning for secondary education in North East Christchurch must involve local input to achieve the best long term outcome.
- A local secondary school would stimulate and support the rebuild of our community.
- Easy access to secondary education is a priority for all areas of Christchurch, to enable regular student attendance and a high level of student achievement.
- Both co-ed and single sex schooling must remain as viable secondary education options.
- All co-ed secondary schools should be zoned.
- NESE advocates for school zones and catchments which do not cross arterial roads.
- Primary school zones should fall inside a secondary school zone where possible.
- A clear learning path should be known in each community with every residential area having a clear educational direction for their children.
- Any charter school proposed should only be additional to a strong and comprehensive state education network.



## Annual Report 2013

The North East Secondary Education Committee (NESE) was formed in 2008 following growing concern in the community about local high schooling options in North East Christchurch. NESE's Management Committee members are all parents and grandparents from a wide cross section of the local community.

### NESE's Management Committee 2012

|                  |               |                |                    |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Amanda Williams  | - Chairperson | Greg Morehouse | - Vice Chairperson |
| Bridget Hanrahan | - Secretary   | Kerri Rowlands | - Treasurer        |

Nicola Elis, Aaron Gilmore, Helen Haggitt, Rae Mills, Elissa Smith, Vanessa Tappenden and Angela Wilson

### NESE's aims and objectives:-

- To promote and advocate to advance secondary education in North East Christchurch.
- To be an advocate for parents and children in the North East of Christchurch.
- To be impartial in its investigations and to address the majority of the community's needs in its recommendations.
- To promote and advocate for the development of a local secondary school in the North East of Christchurch.
- To raise funds for the development of a local secondary school.
- To support the development of a local secondary school through fundraising to provide extra resources, facilities and opportunities.

Following the earthquakes in 2011, NESE's focus evolved from building a local secondary school, to using our extensive knowledge of this area's education requirements to advocate for a common sense approach for education provision at all levels. NESE members participated in more than a year of education consultation. This has been a challenging time. Our Committee members have worked hard attending meetings and writing submissions, often within very tight time frames.

### The Future Shape of Education

In 2012 the Hon Hekia Parata was appointed as the new Minister of Education. The Minister visited Christchurch many times last year as she became familiar with Christchurch schools. The Ministry of Education has focused on house and land decisions as a basis for making decisions on the education direction for Christchurch. The Ministry is in the process of making decisions on the futures of secondary schools and zoning throughout greater Christchurch. Primary and Intermediate schools across the city have proposals that their school communities are struggling to come to terms with. The recent announcements of land viability affecting Avonside Girls' and Shirley Boys' High Schools and the concept of a year 1 to 13 school in Aranui, signal there will be dramatic change in Eastern Christchurch Secondary Education provision.

NESE considers the provision of a local secondary school in North East Christchurch is still a priority. A secondary school would provide an anchor for families and businesses to stay here. It would cater for the growth of local subdivision developments and service the increasing number of families commuting from North of the city.

In seeking to fill the secondary education needs in our local community, we must consider all options presented. It is important to acknowledge that school models in the future may not follow a familiar model in their governance, building design, land ownership or funding. Our Committee's role is to investigate proposals thoroughly and impartially, with any recommendations addressing the majority of our community's needs.

### Education Renewal in Greater Christchurch

NESE members attended various education consultations and focus groups in 2012. NESE continued to be involved in the development of education strategies for Christchurch City as a whole, with a special interest in ideas and proposals for the North East of the city. NESE has had strong input into the development of the draft education renewal plan through participation in workshops, attending school and community meetings and by preparing submissions. Copies of these documents are available on NESE's website. These include submissions to:-

- Draft Education Renewal Recovery Programme May 2012
- Draft Education Renewal Recovery Programme December 2012

### Forming Alliances

The NESE Committee consults widely to establish good working relationships with influential people and major organisations, while continuing to connect with families and the local community in conversation. In the last year



committee members met or attended meetings with Green MP Mojo Mathers; National MP Nicky Wagner; Christchurch City Councillors; Burwood Pegasus Community Board members; Coralanne Child the Ministry of Education Programme Manager for Christchurch Earthquake Recovery; representatives from Ngai Tahu; as well as local school principals and other business and community leaders at Burwood Pegasus Networking Forums. We have benefited greatly from their advice and encouragement. Our community has a vision to rebuild and enhance the infrastructure in North East Christchurch. This vision centres around a strong desire for a local secondary school.

### Charter Schools

Charter schools were announced under a government coalition agreement. They allow communities to run their own school with funding from the state. This schooling model can be used where the current inflexible model of schooling is not achieving well for its students. The concept has met with mixed reactions. We understand that a community will only elect to have a charter school if a need is identified within their community and the community wants a charter school. There are lessons to be learnt from overseas charter schools. We understand charter schools' accountability will be high.

NESE's position on charter schools is that we're interested to talk to anyone considering developing secondary education in North East Christchurch. Any charter school proposed should be additional to a strong and comprehensive state education network.

### Marketing and Publicity

NESE has engaged the local community on the issue of local education and a local high school. We want to hear people's ideas and we believe everyone should have an opportunity to have their say. NESE is supported by more than 1000 families and individuals subscribed to our email newsletter. We sent a newsletter to our subscribers in August. We had a few radio slots and made the newspapers a couple of times. The NESE fence sign and large stickers on green wheelie bin publicity campaign has lessened as the signs experience wear and tear and graffiti. During the education consultation process we added their words "Restore? Consolidate? Rejuvenate?" to the fence signs with sponsorship from Classic Signs. Our fence signs still direct people effectively to our website. Our Website [www.nese.org.nz](http://www.nese.org.nz) has about thirty visitors a month. NESE also has a Facebook page.

### Fundraising

NESE undertook no specific fundraising activities in 2012. We received some small donations at the AGM. Fortunately the year's expenses were minimal so were paid with money raised in 2010. We would welcome donations to assist with NESE's 2012 expenses. NESE is a registered charity so donations of \$5.00 or more are tax deductible.

### Valuing Volunteers

We have had a change in committee members during the year. In March we welcomed new committee member Nicola Elis. Helen Haggitt tendered her resignation in June when she retired and moved to Dunedin. Helen was one of NESE's founding members. Her connections and insight into the education system were valuable contributions which kept us on track. Vanessa Tappenden resigned from the committee in July when her family moved to Auckland. Vanessa's enthusiasm was helpful at many times when the road ahead seemed difficult. Bridget Hanrahan, our secretary is stepping down from the management committee at the AGM. Bridget was one of NESE's founding members. She was one of the NESE members who presented our case for a local secondary school to the Science and Education Select Committee in Wellington and she has contributed to NESE's documents and submissions over the last four years. Our committee members enjoy each other's company. We had dinner out twice last year, once at Little Saigon and another was a potluck dinner with our spouses.

The Management Committee is a dedicated group of people. Education remains a high priority for our families. I would like to thank committee members for the commitment and enthusiasm they continue bring to this project.

I would also like to acknowledge the volunteers who continue to contribute in other ways. We are extremely grateful for the ideas and support we continue to receive from the community.

### NESE's Key Messages are:-

- Planning for secondary education in North East Christchurch must involve local input to achieve the best long term outcome.
- Education planning must be based on robust, evidence based data.
- Our local communities are determined to achieve a local secondary school.
- A local secondary school would stimulate and support the rebuild of our community.
- NESE advocates for school zones and catchments which do not cross arterial roads and for primary school zones that fall inside a secondary school zone where possible.
- Any charter school proposed should be additional to a strong and comprehensive state education network

Amanda Williams  
Chairperson