



northeast
secondary education
committee

Newsletter

December 2015

www.nese.org.nz

NESE is working on the future plans for QEII Park

NESE has been actively meeting with the many different groups who are energetically debating the future plans for QEII Park. As our community's representative for local secondary education, we've had significant input into discussions. The developing ideas for QEII Park are exciting. The future plans with two secondary schools and the pool complex are only now beginning to come together on paper. You'll be pleased to hear the concepts being discussed include retaining as many trees as possible, as well as tidying and caring for the whole of QEII Park after construction is complete.

NESE is always keen to hear your thoughts and ideas. When you think about a community hub, what do you imagine? What do you value about QEII Park currently? What will locating the secondary schools at QEII Park offer your family and our community?

To know more and be part of the discussion follow NESE on Facebook www.facebook.com/NESEInc. Our posts from February and April answer many questions. Our February post is reprinted later in this newsletter for those who don't use Facebook.

Who works with NESE?

We've been fully involved in the Ministry of Education's "Education Renewal Recovery Programme". Our work is well respected and our contributions appreciated.

We enjoy good working relationships with leading educators. Our knowledge and community perspective has been integrated into many education decisions made over the last four years.

Committee members were invited to be involved with appointing the new principal for the Aranui Community Campus and their workshops to select the school's new name.

We are an active group. You might like to read NESE's Annual Report which details last year's activities on our website. NESE was established in 2008 to advocate for secondary education in North East Christchurch. After the earthquakes our vision broadened to support a wider area of need. NESE's specific Goals are later in this newsletter.



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Local Schooling has Positive Community Benefits

We all know the phrase “it takes a village to raise a child.” Have you ever considered the benefits a village gets back in return?

Many people express concern about the disconnected teenagers in our community. Our teenagers all leave our local community “village” to travel to 23 different secondary schools. They leave behind their primary school connections. Teenagers become invisible in our community and they lose their village support network.

When a secondary school is located in your local neighbourhood, more people bike and walk in the streets. In the weekends teenagers stay closer to their homes, where their school friends are. They use local parks, libraries and shops. They join local sport and recreation groups. They have on going relationships with primary school friends, adults in the community and neighbours they walk past. These ongoing connections nurture friendships and caring. If anything is wrong familiar people are there to help.

Seriously consider enrolling your child at your local school. Support the teenagers in your community by getting to know them. Active inclusion of teenagers in the community helps build well rounded adults.

Communities in the North East look forward to having two local secondary schools at QEII Park in 2018 with the relocation of Avonside Girls’ High School and Shirley Boys’ High School. We look forward to our community village networks including and benefiting more from our local teenagers.

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NESE's consultation & advocacy this year

NESE is promoting future learning methods which share resources between secondary schools. The idea is to ensure every student can study any subject - no matter which school they attend.

We're advocating for a collaborative approach for the development of facilities at QEII Park. Families we've spoken to want to see QEII Park developed as a whole to get the most benefit from the education, aquatic and recreation elements.

In February we held a community consultation with representatives from recreation, aquatic, Ministry of Education and our community. Feedback together with ongoing conversations in the community ensure NESE reflects the community's preferences when we talk with authorities.

We've also met with Avonside Girls' principal Sue Hume; Shirley Boys' headmaster John Laurenson and several people in the Ministry of Education.

NESE members have met or spoken with Poto Williams MP; Jo Hayes MP; Burwood Pegasus Community Board Chair Andrea Cummings; Councillor David East, Councillor Glenn Livingstone, CCC's Simon Batrick, Jo Zervous from Keep QEII in the East and the Aranui Community Campus EBOT members to name a few.

We look forward to ongoing conversations with the community and key stakeholders.

New school to be named "Haeata"

"Haeata", meaning a new dawn for learning, has been chosen as the school name for the Year 1 - 13 school opening on the site of Aranui High School. Principal Andy Kai Fong says "Our challenge is to ensure that every boy and girl who passes through our doors leaves with meaningful options and pathways for future success." Haeata will welcome its first students in term 1 in 2017.

NESE's Officers

Chairperson	Amanda Williams
Vice Chairperson	Greg Morehouse
Secretary	Elissa Smith
Treasurer	Kerri Rowlands



NESE's Goals

Primary aged students will have a clear vision of their future secondary education pathway.

Transition from primary to secondary school will become easier for families.

All residential addresses fall inside a defined catchment for both a primary and secondary school.

Barriers to education are actively reduced.

Travel distance is minimised.

The diverse nature of our local community is reflected in our local schools.

Students have equal opportunity and access to education.

Schools have an inclusive practice where uniform cost, travel cost and zoning issues meet the needs of all learners.

All students can get to school by active transport.

Secondary education is provided within our community removing the need for students to leave the area each day for education.

Students are satisfied to be educated in their local community.

All students are able to study the subjects they are interested in or need for their future career.

Secondary students are visible in our community.

Secondary students become active members of local clubs and interest groups.

Secondary schools provide community access for continued education, clubs and interest groups.

School venues provide education and lifestyle opportunities.

Our community has local activities available which promote positive wellbeing.

Schools become community hubs.

Schools develop a robust network through sharing resources and working together.

Strong connections are generated between local primary and secondary schools.

Transition to secondary school is facilitated.

Students are able to study the subjects they are interested in through interschool co-operation.

NESE's AGM 2016

NESE's AGM will be held in March. Please consider coming along and supporting us. A notice will be sent out in January confirming date and venue.



Facts about moving the two secondary schools to QEII Park

(Facebook post 20 February 2015).

NESE hosted a community conversation last night. Two representatives from the Ministry of Education (MOE) attended to answer our questions. Here are the current facts:-

- QEII Park is 49 Ha – the schools will only need 8-10 Ha. That's 20% of the total area.
- The MOE will negotiate with the Council to buy the land needed for the two schools. The size is large enough for future expansion if needed. While the MOE prefers the South East corner, the site will be negotiated with the Council which also represents the pool and recreation interests.
- The aim is to keep as many large trees as possible. The school buildings are likely to be two storey. The design will cater for disabled students.
- The Council will own the remaining land and will decide its future use.
- The MOE imagines a design where the community can access and enjoy the whole site for leisure, recreation, sports and continuing education. It could be a school without gates or barriers.
- The MOE envisages schools, pools and recreation working together to achieve the best outcome for all. The design will be completed in 2015.
- The existing zones for Avonside Girls' and Shirley Boys' High Schools will change when the schools move to the QEII site. Decisions on this will be made some time in the future. The zones of the secondary schools adjacent to the single sex schools' current zones will also change at the same time.
- The roll size for both schools are yet to be decided. The size of the schools will determine the facilities provided.
- Community groups can fundraise if the community wants extra facilities.
- The Boards of Trustees for both schools will decide how much community consultation the schools undertake. This could be limited or broad depending on their decision.
- NESE will actively represent the community's interests at every opportunity.
- If the processes go according to plan both the Sports hub and schools will be completed in 2018.

There is a strong desire for QEII Park to become a community hub again. Vision, co-operation and innovative thinking can produce an outstanding result. Let's work together to make this education and sports facility amazing

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