

Cashmere Residents' Association

Annual General Meeting 2017

Chair's Report

Welcome and thank you to all members and supporters of Cashmere Residents' Association, to all Newsletter contributors and deliverers, to our guests and committee friends.

We may not have a government but we will always have communities.

The instinct to collaborate in groups, for mutual aid and greater good, adapting to environment, is older than humanity. We need only observe our nearest evolutionary relatives, primates, to see how fundamental family groups, tribes and integrated societies are to a developed species' survival. As changing climate brings hotter, wetter times, and a plethora of other challenges, we can look to each other - as we always have - for substantial solutions.

It is my pleasure to open the 2017 AGM and summarise some of Cashmere community's work.

Committee

Many thanks to our hard-working committee. To start with those needing to resign tonight, in great appreciation: Eve Harding has been a rock for Cashmere RA over many decades, but, in her nineties now, can no longer attend or serve - please applause Eve; Carolyn Phibbs has been our minute keeper for two years and it has been fantastic to have her help - all the best for the future endeavour; Joan Earl has processed community board agendas to keep us up with council play and well informed, but now has to leave committee. Thank you so much, all three. Thank you too, Murray Wards, for the time and good spirit you have put in this past year.

We have places open to anyone wishing to join the committee, tonight or during any month in future: CRA committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday night and are always open to new topics and ideas for Association activity.

Contact us via any committee member or the group email - info@cashmere.org.nz. Leona Murahidy, Anne Hodge, Ralph Roden, Jan Webster and myself remain eager to serve, and welcome new input. Thank you Christchurch City Council for newsletter print support, and thank you to all sponsor donors. What follows is a sample of Cashmere Residents' Association work.

Cashmere Road congestion

At AGM one year ago, initiative from the floor formed a traffic sub-committee, as the minutes show. This met over summer and conducted, with helpful volunteers from Cracroft and Lower Cashmere too, a count of Cashmere Road traffic and turns last December. Although the numbers were quite high, a second count awaits the leadership of our traffic engineers. We will report back the next steps on this as soon as they are known, via Association email channel. In the meantime decision is pending on the Worsley's Road intersection upgrade, with work scheduled for next year. Traffic lights there may soon be joined by a cycle crossing from Ashgrove Terrace and a second set of lights. Really, we need to see the effect of the imminent improvements, on Cashmere Road flow - which, by generating traffic pulses, could very much assist morning rush-hour blockage at Hackthorne Road. Dyers' Pass Road and Barrington Street roundabouts are also kept watch of for functionality, as are the busy Centaurus

Road junctions.

WECCA

To lobby for Cashmere Road improvements we have formed a collaborative local community of interest – the Westmorland, Cracroft and Cashmere Accord (WECCA) – through the respective residents' associations. Occasional inter-committee meetings keep communication open on a range of benefits for this wider area. The dangers of isolation and limited access were highlighted by the February fires and response.

Predator-Free Port Hills

Opportunity has arisen to tackle a long-time problem for hills residents – animal pest rats, opossums and stoats. We have started a trap library and can supply them, with training, as part of the Summit Road Society's Predator-Free Port Hills program. Let us know if you wish to take part, and thank you to all who already do. Important is for us to hear back about any pest animals caught or sighted. The count will help us prove this program effective, to modify it as necessary.

Health services and public transport

CRA maintains a strong interest in quality public services in our immediate area. The loss of Princess Margaret Hospital should be properly balanced with replacement facilities of high standard. Hospital users need to be able to travel easily between destinations so CRA is lobbying for improved public transport. A bus sub-committee will form in the weeks ahead, to focus on Dyers Pass Road and Bowenvale service reinstatement particularly, and we ask now for bus users to join this towards success.

CREST

Cashmere Residents' Emergency Support Team meets monthly here at the church, preparing a basic community response to any future disaster. Four years old now, CREST sees collaboration between the Cashmere Presbyterian Centre, Cashmere School and Cashmere Residents' Association, assisted by Christchurch City Council Civil Defence Emergency Management and the Rotary Club of Cashmere. The working party of organisational representatives is developing systems for mobilising local resources if ever there is a need. CREST committee membership is by invitation and commitment to be available. We now have starter funds for hub emergency power supply and water tanks, and are applying for more. A community event will be held here on Sunday 18 February, with lunch provided, to meet Red Cross and all agencies involved in preparedness planning. A special newsletter will precede that so watch out for it and we hope to see you here.

Hot-water cylinder corrosion

There appears to be a water quality issue for some parts of Cashmere, if not all, affecting some HWC hardware. CRA has maintains a website collating known facts and correspondence at chchwater.wordpress.com and we liase between city council and residents over regular water testing and technical remedies. All input welcome.

Thank you to our local sponsors, a growing list including Cashmere Cuisine, Kaizuka gifts, One Stop Liquor, Computer Help NZ, and others I may have missed.

Questions and suggestions are invited for the Cashmere year ahead. Thank you everyone for attending CRA AGM tonight. We will continue to deliver you increasing service.

Rik Tindall

CRA Chair

17 October 2017