

CASHMERE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

23 October 2012

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

First, thanks must go to Terry Young, our previous CRA Chair. Early this year Terry had to leave CRA committee, due to combined high demand on his business and major EQC work at home. It was Terry, with cheery support from his partner Stella, who held CRA together through the earthquake period, filling multiple committee roles when necessary, and for this we remain very grateful. The 2010 CRA AGM was postponed after the big September quake, being held in March 2011 with a revitalised committee including new volunteers. The next AGM followed in October 2011, and one year later we find the association busy consolidating for 2013. That must be our goal tonight, to further strengthen our community organisation. Cashmere has been like so many Christchurch suburbs, where families have just had to push on as best they can. Your presence tonight shows there is light at the end of the recent local disaster's tunnel. Our sincere condolences go to all those affected by loss.

Secondly, many thanks to my fellow CRA committee members: Leona Murahidy and Ralph Roden, hospitality coordinators; Linda Watts, communications and networking; Hilary Marks, Treasurer and acting Secretary; Eve Harding, committee host; Barry Armstong, long service to CRA committee; and Peter Hart, recent addition representing Bowenvale Valley residents. Without all your monthly attendance and input CRA simply could not function. All present tonight are invited to volunteer or nominate, to keep the Cashmere Residents' Association committee and work program dynamic and strong. What we do is guided entirely by what members ask and help us to do.

For example, this year CRA made submission on the Christchurch City Council's Draft Annual Plan, on the topic of street-light design and effects, as requested and assisted by members. Some answers as to progress on what is a somewhat outdated and inefficient lighting system may be available tonight from our guest speaker, Councillor Sue Wells, after this AGM. Questions and contributions on this theme or others are very welcome after Sue's speech. We must thank association member Natalie Sweetapple for coordinating our local response on the lighting issue, and ask anyone concerned to contact Natalie via the phone number provided in recent CRA Newsletters. Thanks Natalie. Member interests are primarily what decides the CRA work each year, in this way. What residents bring to us is what we will do.

We have two annual meetings traditionally, being this AGM and the Mid-Winter Gathering in July. Both have been well-attended and always feature interesting guest speakers on topics of relevance to Cashmere residents. Our thanks go to all attendees, including our gracious guest speakers, for increasing community activity this way. The Cashmere Anglican and Presbyterian church facilities are used in rotation, and we are gladdened by the greater connection this continues to bring. Thanks also to the city council staff and community board for their ongoing support of CRA efforts.

When the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) asked CRA for help interacting with local residents on recent land-zoning decisions, a series of meetings was initiated with them for the Bowenvale Valley: our worst-affected area. It has been a great pleasure to meet these neighbours and CRA has extended its Newsletter run to 3,500 copies for communicating regularly with them. The next of the Bowenvale information evenings is Wednesday 14 November 2012, 7.30pm at Landsdowne Community Centre, and all are most welcome to attend. There is room on the CRA committee for more of you.

Thanks everyone for your support of Cashmere Residents' Association. We wish you well.

Rik Tindall, acting CRA Chair, 332-1069 / 027-406-0077.