



Newsletter

May 2015

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Next meeting of CRRA: Wed 20th May 7pm at the Riccarton Community Centre, Clarence St. Councillor Jimmy Chen will be there.

Welcome to our latest newsletter. We are pleased to announce that our website is now fully functional. www.crra.org.nz

Neighbourhood Support Are you interested in meeting your neighbours and making our communities safer and more caring places to live in? Find more information on www.nscanterbury.org.nz or phone 03 420 9944 and consider joining or starting a group.

Police Tip: Report all graffiti in your area to the council (941 8999)

This can be an indicator of trouble to come if left unchecked.

Bus Waiting Lounge — Riccarton Road

According to the Press report 14.4.15, this facility **will not** be open this winter as hoped. Cr. Clearwater, Transport & Environment Committee chairman, has expressed his disappointment that the landlord of the property to be leased for the lounge still has some work to do to bring the building up to the required standard before the internal fit-out can be undertaken. Even though there have been submissions to council pointing out that a lounge in this locality will increase dangers, this is the final site for the lounge.

Community Centre

Despite repeated efforts of Cr. Chen and CRRA to have this matter of the rebuild or repair of the community centre activated, no further progress has been made.

Links With Business Community

As there has been in the past, there is a close and friendly relationship between our Association and **Westfield** management. We would all agree that the mall in Riccarton is a warm, very clean and happy place in which to shop. The mall management are very keen to be good 'corporate citizens'. We could not ask more of them in this regard. The mall is the second largest in New Zealand.

With the retirement of Paul Farrow and the closing of Paul's Camer- as we have lost a close link with the business community in central Riccarton, a business community which has experienced a huge number of changes since the February 2011 earthquake. We wish Paul well in his retirement.

Picton Avenue Reserve

A number of our Association members spend time each weekend in the Picton Avenue Reserve cleaning the pond and stream, weeding the gardens and picking up rubbish. As this reserve is the only one in Christchurch with a pond and stream - and a potential environment for wildlife - we hope that there will be other residents who will volunteer to spend time helping us with this community project. Please contact the secretary, on riccartonressidents@gmail.com if you are able and willing to give some assistance.

Liquor Licence Renewal

There are over fifty commercial premises in central Riccarton where alcohol is sold or able to be served. The overwhelming majority do not cause a problem for the community. Indeed, they contribute to making central Riccarton a vibrant place in which to live. However, when complaints were made to our Association about the conduct of patrons of the Craic on Riccarton Road and after failing to secure a meeting with the management of Craic, our Association opposed the renewal of Craic's liquor licence at the end of last year. The result is that the owner of the Craic is now investing in a new ventilation system which will greatly assist in restricting the noise to the bar and mean a more peaceful time particularly in the early hours of Saturday and Sunday for nearby residents.

Riccarton Community Network Group and Riccarton Neighbourhood Policing Team are working together to make communities safe and enjoyable places to live and work. They are hoping to organise Community forums in July to get residents together to discuss what is important to them in their neighbourhoods. This has worked really well in Riccarton West where crime and anti-social behaviour are now minimal and community activities abound.

Hagley Park

The article by John McCrone in the Press on Saturday 11.4.2015 about Neiel Drain, Head of Christchurch parks from 1979-97, is a reminder that the people of Christchurch stand to lose more yet as a result of the earthquakes. Drain says the drift towards commercialisation is changing Hagley's character. Unless we are diligent about protecting Hagley Park and Victoria Park from further ill-conceived development to provide events centres and commercial sports venues with the accompanying parking grounds, our world acclaimed parks will be lost to the people of Christchurch, and will no longer be a tourist attraction. 'A proud history has lost some of its focus'.

Drain says that when the modern corporate approach to local government swept through the council offices, there was an exodus of institutional knowledge. To quote Drain again 'it is Hagley's sheer scale, its wooded vistas, that is the key to its calming influence. If the future central city is going to be more densely populated.... then this aspect of Hagley becomes even more important to preserve.'

Rates

CRRA has made a submission on the proposed rate increase. Where assets are making an acceptable return they should not be sold off. Other areas of saving should be considered first including;

- postage and catering
- the deferment of 'nice to have' items like the convention centre, and the stadium
- re-assess Community Board grants
- Multiple housing ownership should attract business rates.

Savings can be made in many small ways and not just on major spending items.

Having a Party?

Register your party at www.goodone.org.nz and have a safe, fun time.

Representation Review

CRRA has made a submission to council on the Representation Review on wards, number of councillors and the role of community boards. We support the retention of wards with some boundary adjustments. Until the decisions have been made on ward population size and the number of wards, deciding the number of councillors would be premature. An increase to 14 councillors could be advantageous but 20 would be too many.

Of special concern to CRRA is the representation for the greater Riccarton area. Allowance should be made for the expected rapid population increase over the next 6 years.

Have Your Say

Please share your comments on matters affecting Riccarton residents.

Write to us at Central Riccarton Residents Association Inc. Box 73022, Christchurch or drop the letter into the Riccarton Service Centre in the Riccarton Community Centre in Clarence Street. Contact us by email at:

riccartonresidents@gmail.com

Riccarton Road Proposed Changes

Pick up a booklet from CCC Service Centre and email/post your thoughts to the council.

They are proposing big changes to an already busy road.