

## 30. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS APPOINTED TO LIAISE WITH OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS



**Officer responsible**  
Community Advocate

**Author**  
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The following reports have been received.

### **AVEBURY HOUSE (Anne Carroll)**

Following public consultation, there was 100% response to this historic building in Evelyn Cousins Avenue, Richmond (gifted to the Christchurch City Council by the Flesher family who were significant in the early development of Christchurch) being run by and used for community development purposes. Eight local people put their names forward to form a management group and held their first meeting on 6 November 2001, with Lesley McMillan, Avebury Community Development Worker and Lynette Eborn, Linwood Community Development Adviser. A Trust was formed in December and refurbishment began January 2002. The Trust has been supported by the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board (\$15,000) the Shirley/Papanui Community Board (\$5,000 granted in March) and \$3,000 from the Council for the opening event on 11 October with Prime Minister Helen Clarke cutting the ribbon. Subsequent grants have been allocated from the Community Trust, Community Employment Group, COGS and a further \$5,000 grant from the Council in December. As the representative from this Board I have attended 12 of the 18 meetings held since 15 April when I was welcomed by the Trust.

It has been a pleasure to support this committed, focused group of locals led by Chairperson Beth Rouse. As well as putting on a significant community celebration for the opening event with an historical theme, they have developed the policies and the strategic plan needed to maintain the focus on development of the facility and developed a community newsletter. This newsletter has had support from Douceline Wardell and Kate Taylor from STANN, whose generous co-operative support I would like to acknowledge. The group has worked closely with Council staff throughout the refurbishment process. There has been wide community interest in using the facility and it is now well utilised. Lesley McMillan is submitting a full report to the Hagley/Ferrymead and Shirley/Papanui Community Boards next month. Her role as community development worker has been a focal one in this process and much of the progress to date reflects her skills and facilitation.

### **SHIRLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE (Anne Carroll)**

I attend many of the Shirley Community Centre meetings especially when special issues arise, eg review of constitution, AGM and maintain contact with Dennis Rich, the Chair. Special thanks to him for his input to this report. User groups of the facility have representatives on the Management Committee.

#### **Dennis Rich:**

This Community Centre continues to host a large variety of users.

The Centre has seven classrooms and a double classroom used as a hall.

There are three permanent tenants and a fourth with limited tenure. These occupy four rooms, three offices and two ancillary rooms. There are approximately 27 regular users and many casual ones. The Centre enjoys good occupancy and the Committee sponsored a two page supplement in the Pegasus Post in January to promote the Centre and the activities available.

The Centre is managed by a Management Committee of eight and a paid employee to co-ordinate bookings and general office duties.

Recent items of interest include:

- Insulating the underfloor areas (assisted by a grant from the Community Board)
- Completion of a reheating programme using infra red overhead heating
- Providing of new lockers in two locations
- Complete review of the Society's rules
- Extending co-ordinator's hours to four hours daily (It is hoped eventually to have this position full time)
- Upgrading the computer system and software

All rental income is used to maintain the interior of the premises and equipment and this is an ongoing exercise overseen by a sub committee.

Currently the committee is consulting with the Council over a management plan for the future.

#### **CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU (Anne Carroll)**

"This Bureau is ably chaired by Mrs Pamela Francois who runs a team of very enthusiastic people from all walks of life and ages.

The Bureau has well run meetings which are always well attended, and the passion that the management committee feels for this work is a credit to them and all they serve. Meetings are held on a bi-monthly basis and the agendas are well prepared and contain all relevant information. The meeting runs smoothly and all members come prepared to debate the issues.

This Bureau is achieving its goals and the numbers contacting them for advice remain constant. The Bureau handles over seven hundred enquiries per month. This is made up of telephone callers and callers to the office and some email enquiries.

The Bureau provides regular training for its members and some volunteers have just completed an eight week legal Education Course at the Christchurch Community Law Centre. The Bureau employs a co-ordinator and a secretary part time to assist with the large number of volunteers and administration functions.

I believe that this Bureau is performing above the expectations and the Board should continue to support this Bureau wherever possible. The management and volunteers should be congratulated for the time and effort they contribute to help the people of the North West sector of Christchurch." (Mike Wall)

The above report written by Mike Wall, the representative from the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board, captures my experience superbly and is used with his permission.

I have attended all but one of their meetings (usually two monthly) and their planning session. The skill and commitment of the management and volunteers makes this a rewarding group to participate with.

#### **Staff**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received

#### **Chairperson's**

**Recommendation:** That the staff recommendation be adopted.