



4. MARY MULLER DRIVE - FERRYMEAD WARD

Officer responsible Environmental Services Manager	Author Bob Pritchard
Corporate Plan Output: Subdivisions	

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with information relating to the background of a new road name in the Ferrymead Ward (see attached plan).

The Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board approved the name MARY MULLER DRIVE for a new road linking Chapmans Road and Port Hills Road. The Council requested that this approval be referred to the Spreydon-Heathcote Community Board for information, as Mary Muller was such a well known local identity in the Heathcote Ward, and the former Heathcote County. John Shanks has supplied the following background and tribute to Mary Muller.

“For many years Mary Muller was the principal of Muller’s Transport in Port Hills Road. This transport operation was founded by her late husband. When he died relatively young, his widow, Mary, decided to take over the business and to operate and develop it herself. This Mrs Muller did with great success over a very long period of years. Mary Muller continued to run this business herself until her very sudden death some two years ago at an age well past the biblical “three score years and ten”. Muller’s Transport was a well known and respected business in the Woolston and Heathcote area over many years.

Mary Muller herself was a wonderful character. She was a tough Scot and a survivor. She was forthright and direct. She was utterly charming and a great conversationalist but she could be tough, direct and outspoken when the occasion demanded it. She was a hard-nosed and successful survivor in a competitive man’s world. Her style could match the demands of issuing directions or chivvying her male staff in the trucking firm’s yard, but she could be just as much at home within the respectable constraints of a church meeting or persuasively advocating for her community at a Community Board sponsored community consultation meeting.

Mary Muller was a Presbyterian. For many years she and her two sisters attended the St Martin’s Presbyterian Church where they frequently sat well forward, often in the front pew of the church, in a tall and straight backed row. Sadly, Mary and her two sisters passed away within a short time of each other, leaving a considerable gap in both their church and the local community.

It is appropriate that Mary Muller should be remembered and commemorated in the new road which in part passes over the land on which her business and her home was situated.

The Mullers’ home adjoined the truck yard. Mary lived on the job which, for many years, was her life.”

Recommendation: That the information be received, and the choice of name be supported.