

CASTLE HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2020

Covid-19: What's happening in the Village?

Liz Hay responds:

Not much, on the surface. It's very quiet with no beep-beep or noise from the development construction machines, and no builders working on the eight houses or more under construction. Yet there are quite a few people here; 91 in total, including 19 children, in 38 houses. One person's in social isolation in a relative's holiday house, after flying in from Singapore. One house has a group of surfers, who were caught out after a surfing competition was cancelled. Some who are here are over 70, or considered to be very vulnerable if they caught the virus. (The count of village occupants was done by Ray and Maree Goldring, wearing their Civil Defence vests, to ascertain how many are here in the event of an emergency, and to check that everyone was aware of the lock-down protocols.)

The mail is still arriving, as is the daily Press for subscribers. Rubbish and recycling deliveries are continuing. (Though apparently the recycling is going into the rubbish, because of risks to the workers.) The public toilets are being cleaned DAILY; a SICON worker told me they are being kept open for the benefit of the truckies. (An occasional truck goes past, but there's scarcely any traffic.)

The hall is closed, (so no climbing wall or TV watching); the playgrounds are closed, and people are keeping their distance if they happen to meet. Because they can do so locally, there are still kids out on bikes, usually with an adult; some people on the bike trails, and tennis court; and of course, walking in the bush. (It's rather difficult though to keep a 2 metre distance when you pass on a track in the bush...)

Efforts are being made to keep in touch with each other, to co-ordinate the replenishment of perishables, and help each other out.

And the nor-wester is still blowing, we can hear the bellbirds, magpies and other birds more easily, and the village's resident falcon is still around.

I can't think of a better place to be in lockdown.

Craigieburn Trails

During the lock-down period the trails are closed. If you have to drive to get to a trail, then the plea is:

Please Stay Home!

The Springfield Garage is open

The garage will be open from 8.00am to 10.00am and then 3.00pm to 5.00pm daily, though these hours could change.

All their food suppliers are still operating and delivering so fresh milk, bread and groceries are still available. Social distancing and other protocols are being observed during the lockdown.

Any essential mechanical service is available. They have good stocks of oil, batteries tyres etc. and can access parts.



Thank you to all involved in the recent programme. The increase in bell-bird song is delighting us all.

Easter Art Weekend Cancelled

Ildica Boyd writes: "With much disappointment but realism we have postponed the Art Weekend for a year, so we're now aiming for 4th- 6th April 2021. There were 39 artists scheduled to exhibit, including 14 new ones, so we are hoping they will still be on board for next year. Equipment bookings and advertising was halted, and rebooked for next Easter. The many individuals who were also hosting workshops and talks, will either be postponed till next year, or will be rolled out within the village as weekend events during the remainder of this year. Thanks to all who had put their hands up, and we look forward to 2021".



Our resident female falcon who arrived in Jan.

Chair's Musings



Newly-elected chair, **Fiona McDonald**, writes:

What unusual times we find ourselves in. Covid-19 has changed the way we interact and everything that relies on those interactions. The village has had an increase in 'permanent' residents, with around 100 people choosing it as their base for self-isolation, and a decrease in weekend visitors. I'm sure there are lots of us very much missing our dose of the high country. Thanks for everyone who made it to the Village Association AGM. It was great to have a full hall. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rick Hill for his work as Chair last year. Luckily, he agreed to remain on the committee this year. I would also like to thank James Baines and Anna Boggis, who finished their time on the committee at the AGM, for all their input. Since the AGM we have managed to hold one meeting and welcomed James Broadbent, Ross Johnstone and John Nicholson to the new committee. Then it became clear meetings weren't the best idea! At our first meeting we created a very long list of ideas and jobs for around the village. I would welcome any input from you as we create an action plan for the committee's work this year (my email is at the end of the newsletter).

All the best for staying home, warm and safe,
Fiona

Fiona and John, with Hannah and Tom, and Daisy the Dog, bought in the village a few years ago. Fiona soon became active in village affairs. She is a consultant with EONZ, a national organisation overseeing education outside the classroom.


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Castle Hill Village Association Committee for 2020

Elected at the recent AGM were **Fiona McDonald** to the chair, **Carol Ferrier** as Deputy Chair, and **Jan Hann** and **Sonia Wakefield** continue in their respective roles as secretary and treasurer.

Rick Hill continues on the committee, after standing down as Chair, and new committee members, **James Broadbent**, **John Nichols**, and **Ross Johnston** were welcomed aboard.

Co-opted committee members include **Ildica Boyd** (in her Easter Art weekend role), and **Duncan Sherratt** (from the Trails sub-committee.)

(**Liz Hay** will continue to do the newsletter, but is not a committee member.)

Outgoing committee members, **Anna Boggis** and **James Baines** will be thanked for their contributions, especially for the huge amount of work and expertise **James** brought to the Reserve Management Plan.

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Sub- Committees:

1. Reserves Committee: It was noted that the reserves committee was disbanded three years ago to focus on the Reserves Management Plan. Although the status quo will remain until the RMP finalized, it is envisaged that a committee appointee will manage tree removal requests and submissions once the RMP finalized. (Any tree removal requests need to be submitted to the committee; these are then forwarded on to Graeme Densem at SDC. (No-one has permission to cut down any trees on reserves, and a chain saw certificate is required if any fallen trees on reserves are to be cut up.)

2. Hall Sub-Committee: Instead of a committee, Carol Ferrier is handling hall bookings and oversight of the call, with Liz Hay and Maree Goldring available for inspections of the hall after private hire, if needed.

3. Hall Extension Working Group: It is likely that in due course a group will be formed to provide feedback to SDC on needs to consider for the hall extension. Those who expressed interest in being on such a group included: Pete Wakefield, John Reid, Maree Goldring, Carol Ferrier and James Broadbent.

CHV Association Subscriptions

It was agreed that subscriptions should remain at \$50 if paid by 31st May, and \$60 if paid after that date. An additional \$20 is charged to list a rental on the web site. (Because of the planned hall extensions a trails donation was deferred to next year.) Currently 110 households are paying subscriptions, out of 150 plus village houses.

Visit of ECAN

Ecan staff have now completed their on-site survey of wilding conifers on private properties in the village. If you have any 'offending' trees on your property, presumably you will be notified.

Tree Survey Result

Below is the analysis of the recent tree survey and the associated data. The review was completed by a qualified statistician. **Please note the survey and its result only apply to the village reserves.**

You can view the information and options at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7WP59PF>

This result will be used to further develop the draft Reserves Management Plan. Selwyn District Council will run a formal consultation and submissions process for the Reserves Management Plan which will allow all villagers to have input into the plan.

Reviewing the responses to the Castle Hill Village Reserves survey

Overview: The options essentially ranged from removing trees named as pests in the Canterbury Regional Pest Plan (in accordance with ECAN rules) (option A) through to remove the least possible number of these trees (option D).

Finding: Option C best reflects the desires of all householders.

Methods and considerations:

No method of determining the results of the survey was declared in the survey which has given rise to a question of how to interpret the results.

Option D was the first choice of 59% of households, but it was also the last choice of 39% of households. Selecting D would not take account of the households that found D to be the least desirable.

The most appropriate way of determining what reflects the desires of the community is to weight everyone's choices.

Most weight given to their first choice and least weight to their last choice.

The weighting I applied was 3 for the first choice, 2 for second 1, for third and 0 for the last choice.

Using this process Option C best reflects the desires of all householders.

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Fire Control Report

Dick Moore reminded residents at the recent AGM that there is still considerable fire fuel in and around the village. That still applies – despite snow falling on the ground recently.

He also reported on the conversion of the old Comms Shed near the tennis court, into an Incident Control Point (ICP). (See photo opposite.) This will be the base for the co-ordination of all emergency services – the fire trailer is soon to be located next to it. Signage on the hall and on the ICP will show people where to go for assistance for any emergency – illness, earthquake or fire. (Since the AGM fire alarms have been installed in the hall, signage on its way for ICP, and the fire siren is operational.



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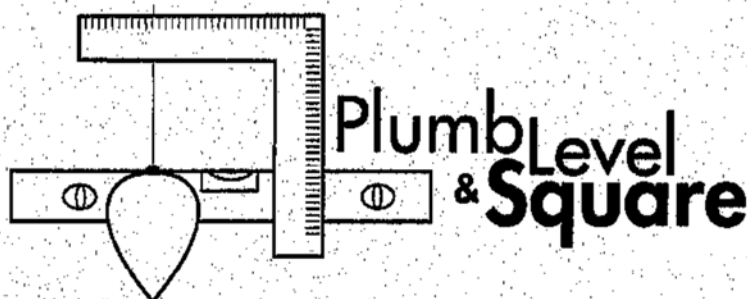
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Where are emergency resources kept?

Ray Goldring, Community Response Team leader reports:

“The small shed behind the tennis court has been renovated and converted into an emergency centre (Incident Control Point [ICP]) from which we can coordinate and manage emergency events – primarily the Alpine Fault quake when it occurs. Located at the ICP now is the AED defibrillator, a fire siren and all the resources and equipment for coping with any kind of emergency. Soon the fire trailer will be located next to the ICP. My thanks to Dick and Lin Moore for all their great work in preparing the ICP for service.”

(Note: Bedding is kept in the hall.)



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Getting rid of stoats, and other feral pests



Ray Goldring writes: "A recent meeting was held to establish a predator trapping group to help continue the excellent trapping programme being run within the Craigieburn Forest Park and Kura Tawhiti Reserve. As a result of the meeting the **Craigieburn Trapping Alliance (CTA)** has been formed, which will be a sub-committee of the Canterbury Environmental Trust – the organisation currently coordinating the trap checking and which operates the Environment Centre at Craigieburn. Some Village residents have offered to be members of the CTA and we encourage others to offer their help too, to stem the tide of predators killing our native birds and other wildlife. For more details contact me at rmgoldring@xtra.co.nz"

To advertise in the newsletter and CHCA business directory <https://www.chca.org.nz/directory/>, email Sonia treasurer@chca.org.nz

AGM Assortment:

Playground update: SDC are currently pricing and exploring replacement equipment. Any equipment chosen needs to be sympathetic to the surrounding environment. Concern was expressed that branches are being cut out of trees thereby compromising the structural integrity of reserve trees in the village. SDC is vigilant about removing play structures constructed in reserve trees.

Village Entrance: Discussions are in progress with SDC and developers on the long-proposed revamp of the village entrance.

New Subdivision: Peter Montgomery reported that the proposed commercial development is a "work in progress" and is open to ideas from villagers.

AGM/Sports day requires rejuvenation, and how to repurpose the existing donated trophies. A family oriented multisport activity may be an option, or a mini-Highland games. Good forward planning and advertising of dates is needed in order to get community buy-in.

Public Toilets: The new toilet block is to be clad in batten over board to match the hall.

Village Hall heat pump: This has been deferred until after the hall extension is built, although Pete Wakefield commented it is possible to still proceed with installing a heat pump that will serve the extra space after the extension is built.

Newsletter: Currently a monthly email update is being sent out to subscribers, and an email newsletter will come out three times each year. Printed newsletters are no longer being sent out.



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Trails Update

Anthony Bown reported on behalf of the committee: The committee is continuing to work on the management plan with DOC, and on maintenance and funding applications. 'Pirate tracks' are an ongoing source of frustration, and have served to erode the relationship with DOC. A good working relationship with DOC is imperative for formalising the 5-10-year management plan for all the trails.

A Cheeseman Road traffic counter shows summer bike shuttle traffic is double that of winter ski field traffic. This popularity of the trails in summer is echoed by the occupancy rate for Forest Lodge.

Prioritising work on the Hogs Back and Dracophylum tracks is necessary as both are badly gullied and side-walled with erosion accelerated by water. The "Easy up" track has been successful and will see some repair works for water management in the upper regions. Drac track has had a redirection, and the committee hopes to get a bridge built for Coal Pit Spur, and toilets for Texas Flat carpark.

It was agreed by the meeting that SDC be approached for an annual contribution to trail maintenance, in the light of growing support for the trails from SDC, in their promotion of the Selwyn district. (Recently \$6,000 was allocated to Hogs Back maintenance work by SDC through the Selwyn Charitable Foundation - an acknowledgement that the trails are of regional value.)

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Castle Hill Community Association

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Treasurer: Sonia Wakefield, treasurer@chca.org.nz

Committee:

James Broadbent

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Ross Johnston, rossjanet@xtra.co.nz

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Co-opted members:

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Trails: Duncan Sherratt,

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