



Hands Off Our Library



One fight is over and another one begins! The Upper Hutt City Council is intending to close Pinehaven Library in 2006. The decision will be made this year and so action must be taken now.

Pinehaven Library should NOT be closed. It is an odd document so read it carefully - the closure is listed as being a "new project of capital works"! The council has a strange idea of *new* projects. Submissions are being accepted until 14th May, so sharpen your pencils once again and make yourselves heard.

The proposal to close the library is a tiny paragraph hidden in the Long Term Council Community Plan. You should already have received the council newsletter which summarises the contents of this plan. Public consultation meetings are being held next week and we need the people of Pinehaven to turn out in force—to let the council know how we feel: that closing the only branch library in Upper Hutt is a backward step. Instead of reducing library services, our council should be looking at expanding—opening a branch in the north perhaps. Did you know that Lower Hutt library has SEVEN branches?

The council's main goal for the library is to increase the number of users. Closing the only branch seems a very strange way to meet this worthy goal. Our tiny branch, with its limited hours, manages to account for 3.7% of the issues. This is amazing and with a little more marketing and increased facilities this could be even higher. There are many people in the Pinehaven area who do not have transport to get to Upper Hutt and who read voraciously—far more than the mobile library visiting once a week could possibly cater for.

Inside the council newsletter is a submission form. If you do nothing else, please take a moment to complete the form indicating that

"A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life"
Henry Ward Beecher

This fight is not a new one as can be seen in the history of Pinehaven Library, which we hope to have published later this year. In 1990, the then Upper Hutt City librarian wanted the council to replace Pinehaven Library with a book van. "Fifty Pinehaven residents arrived at the council meeting and heard Chairman Ross Mason and Treasurer John Donaghy present a very strong case for Pinehaven." The decision was overturned.

This is a local body election year and I know that not all the councillors are in favour of this backward move. Our mayor helped us to fight for our school—perhaps he will also help us to fight for our library? Come on Pinehaven, let's make this an election issue. Come to the meeting on Monday 26th April, 7.00pm at the Silverstream School Hall and have your say.

Public Meeting
Monday 26th April
7.00 pm
Silverstream School Hall

Flora Christeller 1923 - 2004

Many residents of Pinehaven were greatly saddened recently to learn of the death of Flora Christeller, the famous potter who lived here for many years and who regularly exhibited at our annual Art and Craft Exhibition.

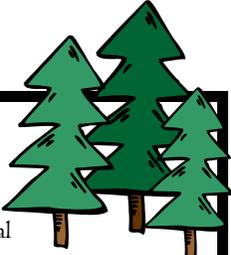
haven, and others came to us year after year in the local show. Woe to those who were not there at the opening, for the 'sold' spots were soon out! Flora's pots appeared in many shapes and sizes: large ewers and amphorae, plain or decorative platters, wall ornaments, small jugs and mugs, and dinner plates, cups and saucers. All were both practical and crafted to a very high standard. Their range of colours was astounding. Most combined classical, harmonious proportions with creative touches such as striking handles, or motifs of New Zealand leaves and flowers. And they cost so little! It was evident that the ever modest Flora made her pots with love, caring only that others should use and treasure them as she would. We mourn her loss, but remember her daily through that wonderful legacy.

When my family first settled in Pinehaven in 1974, we were introduced to Flora by her now late husband Dr Gerald Christeller, a colleague of mine at Victoria University. Their house in Wyndham Road was a hothouse of New Zealand and international culture, with frequent gatherings at which Gerald sang, Flora was persuaded to show her latest pots, and guests met many now well-known figures such as the pianist Colleen Rae-Gerrard, the architect Gordon Moller, and the arts administrator Elizabeth Kerr.

Patrick Waddington.

Flora's kilns were always busy, producing a steady flow of marvellous productions. Although the Christellers and their children afterwards moved to Eastbourne, many of Flora's finest pots remained in the households of Pine-

It seems appropriate to also mention that Flora was one of the library stalwarts and served on the committee and in the library for 29 years. *Ella.*



Snippets

- ☺ It was wonderful to hear tales of people checking neighbours were okay and helping out where needed during the nasty rains last month. A very special thanks to the kind hearted person who cleared Helen Druce's driveway—without being asked and without seeking thanks. People like you are what makes Pinehaven so special.
- ☺ Take a closer look at the LTSA ad on TV: 'Tie down your load'. Filmed in Pinehaven, it features the beautiful oak tree at the bottom of Elmslie Road.
- ☺ We are still on the lookout for more Pinehaven memorabilia for our up coming exhibition. Please search your cupboards and call Glenys Peterson on 528 4990.
- ☺ A big welcome to John Masson, the new principal at Pinehaven School
- ☺ Congratulations to the parents elected onto the school board: Julie Manu, Terry Wesselink and Brett Millin. To have six candidates of such high calibre was wonderful to see but made voting a challenge!
- ☺ Don't forget to register for the upcoming School Jubilee—a chance for all of Pinehaven community to celebrate its school. See over for contact details.