

A Bit of History #2

In 1922 Sir Francis Chichester of 'Gipsy Moth' fame (as in Chichester Drive in Fendalton) went into partnership with Mr W Goodwin (whose family still live locally) and purchased part of the Deller property as well as the land farmed by the Pymms.

Between 1927 and 1932 Goodwin and Chichester planted thousands of pines, the descendants of which still grace our surrounding hills. In 1939 the partnership employed one of the first bulldozers in New Zealand to clear firebreaks along the ridges.

The early Pinehaven pioneers were weekenders and the area was dotted with their 'baches'. There were few cars and it was a common sight to see the Pinehaven enthusiasts trudging from Silverstream railway station, pack on back.

With the onset of the Second World War what were originally 'weekenders' became for some a more permanent secure haven for families, away from the threat of war.

As the Pinehaven Community strengthened, Mr Goodwin gave the community the use of a property adjacent to the 'Tearooms'. This is, of course, the site of the PPA Community Hall today.

by Barry Yandle

Contributions to this newsletter are always welcome. Please send to:
pinehavenpa@hotmail.com

Editor: Ella Kahu



**Pinehaven School
Twilight Gala
Friday 5th
March, 4–8pm**

If you wish to hold a stall, or you have goods to donate to the school or you would like to help with this important fundraiser, please contact:
Janette Andrews on 527-9938

Otherwise, make a note in your diary to come along, spend some money and have some fun.

Community Contacts

After School Care

Gill McIlhone 528 2691

Brownies

Gill McIlhone 528 2691

City Councillor—resident

Pat Christianson 528 2710

Cubs & Scouts

Ian McCulloch 528 5797

Girl Guides

Carol Etchel 527 7047

Indoor Bowls

George Moen 971 8115

Lighthouse Church & Drop In

Rita Bota 939 0442

Pinehaven Playcentre

Angela Browne 971 9804

Pinehaven Library

528-2208

Pinehaven School

528 4365

Silverstream Petanque Club

Shirley 528 4639

Table Tennis Club

Nik Edwards 528-8781

Tennis Club

Barry Yandle 528 7045

Yoga

Maria Christensen 970 7630

Pinehaven News

Pinehaven Progressive Association

February 2004

President: Ella Kahu

976-5995

Secretary: Dominic Baron

970-9147

Pinehaven School Golden Jubilee

The first schooling in Pinehaven was in 1952 when Silverstream School was growing too large and the Pinehaven Progressive Association hall accommodated the overflow. Then, in 1954, Pinehaven School officially opened its doors. It is interesting to think that it was a preference for smaller schools which motivated the opening—at nearly 400 children, Silverstream was considered to be too large. A shame such common sense thinking and commitment to quality education would appear to be missing from today's education policy makers.

But we will not let the Ministry of Education get us down! This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of Pinehaven School and regardless of what happens in the future, we will celebrate in style. The Jubilee committee is hard at work organising a fun filled weekend with a mix and mingle, official opening celebration, formal dinner at the Civic Centre and a church service. Prices are being kept to an absolute minimum—only \$20 per person to register, this includes the Mix and Mingle, and only \$35 per person for the Saturday night dinner.

Remember this is not just a reunion for past pupils and staff—it is a 50th jubilee: a celebration of all that Pinehaven School has been in the past, is at present and will be in the future. All members of the Pinehaven community are invited to join us in the celebrations. And if you do know ex-pupils and staff who no longer live locally, give them a call or an email. The more the merrier!



Pinehaven School



1954—2004

11th—13th June 2004

For registration contact:

School office: 04 528 4365
Terry Wesselink: 04 973 4899
pinehavenschool@hotmail.com

A Community that Cares

This issue of Pinehaven News is dominated by Pinehaven School—not surprising with the threatened closure and upcoming events such as the 50th Jubilee and the school gala.

But also appropriate: a school is a community's heart. It is difficult to imagine Pinehaven without the sounds of happy play at lunchtime, the sight of the school nestled at the centre of our valley, and the pleasure of school events such as the gala and the Art & Craft Exhibition.

That Pinehaven loves its school was demonstrated at last week's public meeting—wonderful to see not just staff and parents but also many long time Pinehaven residents. Thank you Pinehaven for showing you care. The fight is not over yet.

Ella Kahu, Editor



Hands Off Our School



The Network School Review in Upper Hutt is now into its second phase with the Minister announcing his amended proposal and inviting further submissions but from Boards only. For those who may have missed the announcement, the Minister has seen fit to reverse his earlier proposal for Pinehaven and Silverstream Schools. The official statement is as follows:

“Merge Silverstream and Pinehaven schools, with Silverstream the continuing school. Both sites are to be retained until the roll of the merged school is at a level that can be accommodated on the Silverstream site, with an underwriting to be developed for up to six years of additional costs (only covering one principal) with an expectation that a deputy principal will be based at Pinehaven.”

At last week’s public meeting the people of Pinehaven made their wishes very clear—that all efforts must be made to ensure that Pinehaven School continues as a school in its own right with its own Board of Trustees, principal and management. The Minister’s proposal would relegate the children of Pinehaven School to a second class education and would ensure a diminishing role and a slow, painful death. This is unacceptable.

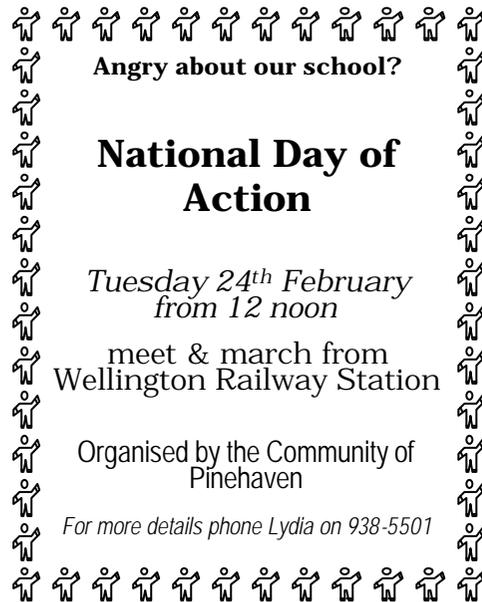
The Board resolved to work closely with other members of the community to prepare the next submission and a meeting was held on the 11th of February with representatives from the PPA, PTA, Playcentre, After School Care, and Pinehaven residents. This group of committed and talented Pinehaven people will prepare the submission which, due on the 28th February, is the highest priority.

A secondary priority is an ongoing campaign to ensure Pinehaven School receives the widest possible media coverage. We need to make lots of noise! We need to make the Minister and the government understand that Pinehaven is a community that cares, that supports its school and that we will not go down without a massive fight.

Already a group of residents have planned a march on parliament which needs your sup-

port. If you have time and/or ideas to help with the media campaign please contact Dominic Baron on 970 9147, drop a note into the school office or email pinehavenpa@hotmail.com Also, check out the list in this newsletter of things that you can do - every bit helps so why not write a letter or send an email today?

The submission group will endeavour to keep the community informed with notices in the library, the school hall door and in the school office.



Angry about our school?

National Day of Action

Tuesday 24th February from 12 noon

meet & march from Wellington Railway Station

Organised by the Community of Pinehaven

For more details phone Lydia on 938-5501

What Can I do??



Many people have asked what they can do to help in the fight for our school. Here are some ideas:

- attend any public meetings—numbers are important
- Write Letters to the Editor of the Leader, Dominion Post, Sunday News
- Write to Paul Swain, Trevor Mallard and Helen Clarke. The majority of the people of Pinehaven voted Labour at the last election—is this what you voted for? See contact details below and remember a letter is better than email but email is better than nothing.
- Come and protest on 24th February
- Ring Paul Swain’s electorate office on 528-5715, make an appointment and ask what he is doing to help his electorate
- Talk positively about the school every chance you get. Did you know that our class sizes are only 22-23 pupils?

Contact Details

Paul Swain MP
Trevor Mallard, Minister of Education
Helen Clarke, Prime Minister
The address is:
Freepost Parliament
PO Box 18 888
Wellington

And it’s free!

It doesn’t have to be a long, detailed letter—just that you don’t want Pinehaven School to close and why. End your letter with a question as MPs are obliged to answer questions.

tmallard@ministers.govt.nz
pswain@ministers.govt.nz
pm@ministers.govt.nz

Snippets

The Lighthouse Pinehaven Christian Fellowship Church services are held at 10.30 am on Sundays. Everyone welcome.

The Drop-in centre is back in business after the holidays. Come along to the PPA hall on Wednesdays between 10.30 am and 2.30 pm for coffee, lunch, company and conversation. Newcomers are welcome and our old favourites too! Enquiries: Rita on 939-0442.

Pinehaven Playcentre is replacing its bark chips this month. The old bark makes excellent mulch and sells for \$10 per trailer. Please call Heather Campbell on 563-6673 or Cheri on 528-4878 for more details.

Pippins, Brownies and Guides all have vacancies in both Pinehaven and Silverstream for girls from 5+. We also have vacancies for adults who wish to train as leaders. Come along and join in the fun and fellowship that Guiding provides. Contact: Glenys Peterson 5284990 or Anne Elzanaar 5278383.

Memories Needed

To complement the school Jubilee in June, the PPA are considering organising an exhibition of Pinehaven history to be held in the PPA hall. There will be many ex-Pinehaven people back in the community for the weekend so it is an ideal time to celebrate the history of the community as well as the school.

So we are on the search for any old photos, documents or other memorabilia from Pinehaven’s past. I am sure there are many people with such mementos tucked away so please hunt them out and get in touch with either Kerry on 528 0252 or Ella on 976 5995.