



## Annual Report July 2015 to June 2016

### **Greater Green Island Community Network**

The Greater Green Island Community Network was established in 2013 when a group of likeminded people came together with a shared desire to foster a strong community which works together to develop its own solutions - a community where neighbourhoods are again full of people we know as our neighbours.

In 2014 funding was secured from the Department of Internal Affairs Community Development Fund to employ a community worker for three years. The network formalised and became a legal entity. The Greater Green Island area comprises the suburbs of Abbotsford, Brighton, Concord, Fairfield, Green Island, Ocean View, Waldronville and Westwood.

All of these areas have their own distinct sense of community however Green Island is used by many as their hub for shopping and medical needs.

The Greater Green Island Community Network have a strong focus on bringing people from communities together. One way that we achieve this is through community events, these events are a great way for people to come together and build friendships.

This year has been an exciting one for the Community Network.

We have been working on various projects which have been community led such as:

### **Advocacy with the DCC and ORC on Traffic, Pedestrian Safety, Parking, Playgrounds and Bus Services/Bus stops.**

We have worked in collaboration with Bus Go Dunedin to present the petition to the Otago Regional Council requesting that they reinstate the local service for residents of the Greater

Green Island area. Bus routes changed so that people from Green Island and Concord could no longer travel directly to South Dunedin, and Concord people could no longer bus to Green Island. Members of the community approached us to assist in lobbying the Otago Regional Council as they felt their voices were not being heard. A petition and submission to the Otago Regional Council was arranged on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March to reinstate the services to South Dunedin and Concord. This is a continued process to find a solution that suits both the ORC and the needs of the local residents who use the Bus Services, with a small win of a bus being reinstated between Concord and Green Island being

We have held several meetings with the Dunedin City Council and the Otago Regional Council this year. We are currently working on a draft plan of the Main South Road of Greater Green Island to give to the DCC, ORC and NZTA identifying the wants and needs of pedestrians, businesses, drivers etc around parking, crossings, bus stops and traffic safety. Community consultation has been undertaken during community events and now two formal meetings around the issue will be held this month. The DCC and ORC are very happy that we can do the community consultation to speed up the process and allow them to make improvements that suit the community's needs. We will also present ideas from all other suburbs on the safety in their areas.

### **Community Survey**

A Community Survey was very successful this year with 1200 households around the six suburbs in Greater Green Island being delivered a "Baseline Action Research Survey" by amazing community volunteers. The survey is important to our network and the community as it directs the work we do, ensuring it is community led. The survey is called the baseline research as it will also be used to measure outcomes from any work that we undertake, as it will be repeated. Survey results will be fed back to each community at community events beginning in 2017 (such as BBQs and Pot Lucks). Community Members can then decide what they want to do about the issues raised specifically in their neighbourhoods and form plans of action for 2017.

## **Community Events**

We have worked alongside the Saddle Hill Community Board and Neighbourhood Support Otago to host a series of Community Morning Teas. These morning teas have been held in each of the six suburbs of the Greater Green Island area. The purpose for these morning teas is to facilitate connections within members of the community as well as to find out from each individual community what the priorities are for that area. They have been a great success with many community members coming along to eat Leanne's beautiful scones while they meet other locals and learn about various supports and social groups within their neighbourhoods that exist.

A Family Fun Day was held in April, Artisan Market in September at the Community Garden a Teddy Bears Picnic and a Community Safety and Security meeting in the October School Holidays. All of these events are held to provide informative, fun, free events for all community members and are a great way to enable people to meet their neighbours. We also use each event to consult with community members about what we are doing in the network and what we can improve on and how they can be involved.

## **Website Development**

[www.greenergreenisland.nz](http://www.greenergreenisland.nz) was officially launched in September this year. It is a fantastic website that works as a directory of the Greater Green Island Businesses, Community Groups, Community Facilities, Health and Social Services and Education. We also use the sight to inform people about our network and recruit volunteers. The sight also has an Events page where we encourage people to support local events/groups.

## **Food share**

Food Share Dunedin supply food for Greater Green Island Food Distribution to families in the area who have food insecurity. Two fabulous volunteers run the Food share service each week from a local Presbyterian Church facility, which is free for our use. Referrals can be made through the community network, local Schools, churches, health care providers and information on this service can be found on our website.

## **Community Garden**

Community engagement has been successful with an increase in community members attending and enjoying the community garden. Local schools, early childhood providers

have regular groups attending and learning about gardening. The garden is run by volunteers and is already sustainable with its funding after only a year and a half! A huge success which the Community Garden Committee and volunteers should be very proud of. Community members are welcome to pick and eat any excess fruit and vegetables and it is also shared with the Food share service for families with food insecurity.

### **Playground**

Through Community Consultation we have been made aware of the need for a 0-6 year old playground in Green Island. A train design has been chosen by community members (especially hearing the voice of the preschoolers) and now we are working toward a final design plan before starting on a fundraising plan with the help of the lovely Lois Scott!! The RSA and DCC are supportive of the Green Island Memorial Gardens to be used as a site for the new playground. Watch this space.

### **Newsletter**

The Greater Green Island Informer has become increasingly popular with local schools, club etc sending through public notices and stories to the point that it is filling up quickly. It has been especially helpful for promoting new businesses in the area and sharing of upcoming events. We are now printing 600 newsletters a month and delivering 300 to difference suburbs to increase awareness with CCT Sherwood Volunteers delivering the flyers to neighbourhoods for us. We are very thankful for this help!

### **Lilliput Libraries**

We are in full support of the Lilliput Libraries initiative and are working together with their founder Ruth Arnison getting more libraries and books shared in our communities. We consider that the libraries encourage connectivity and the opportunity for contribution. We have purchased 3 libraries which have been distributed around the area. Members of the public have helped decorate, install and donated books.

If anyone would like to follow what we are doing please find us on Face book, Sign up for our newsletter online and check out our website [www.greatergreenisland.nz](http://www.greatergreenisland.nz) (which has the links to both our facebook and newsletter online).

### **Community Inclusiveness**

The Greater Green Island Community Network was awarded a Community Choice Awards 2015, Te Pou o Te Whakaaro Nui, Disability Workforce Development award.

Leanne Stenhouse and Amanda Reid

Community Workers, Greater Green Island Community Network