

Mutual Ground Ceremony Event Report Dec 6th 2015

After many 'committee' meetings and a few last minute changes, this event ran smoothly and successfully. Close to 85 residents from Birdlings Flat and Little River turned up to be part of the land Blessing in preparation for the contractors coming in and building the new Community centre. In disregard of the weather forecast, a beautiful day shone above the event with very little wind!



James Robinson, local Rununga, Iwi and Ratana representative, opened the ceremony with a whaikorero followed by the walking over the land blessing it and giving thanks to the Wairua of the area. James requested that those people/residents who have helped organise and rally for the building and Blessing Ceremony to follow him as he invoked and lead the blessing upon Pāpātuānuku. The blessing was followed by speeches and then a toast was called. All guests were handed a glass of locally made home-brew or elderberry wine.



Residents mingled and looked over the building plans, seemingly enjoying chance to catch up and chat. Ideas were shared and a steering committee local residents for the management of the building was collated. Residents were encouraged to place a pebble in a sculpture which will become part of the completed building.



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The continuation of the Ceremony, and the Birdlings Flat residents Christmas party, followed on from the Blessing down at the local golf course clubrooms. The local Akaroa band 'The Drew Peacocks' played, a sausage sizzle was enjoyed and the children enjoyed a visit from Santa with a lolly scramble. The plans for the building were further examined, discussed and commented on.

A very successful and enjoyable day ☺

