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# The Nelson Mail

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## LOCAL NEWS STORY

### Brethren school planned

07 September 2004

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**The Nelson region's Brethren community is planning to build a new school for secondary school students in Richmond next year.**

Mark Hewetson, a board of trustees member for the new school, said the church hoped to open it next year.

He said about 100 to 120 Brethren families lived in the region, although not all had school age children.

The school is expected to open with a roll of 75, the number of Brethren students of secondary school age in the region.

Although not willing to disclose the exact location of the new school, Mr Hewetson said resource consent was being sought for a site in lower Queen St.

Brethren schools throughout New Zealand have recently joined forces under the umbrella of Westmount School.

The Richmond school would be called Westmount Tasman, and is one of five new Westmount schools planned. Ten already exist, catering for about 500 students.

Mainstream teaching policies and programmes are followed in the schools, which aim to provide a "quality learning environment, including the upholding of Christian principles and beliefs as held by the Brethren community".

Until now, Brethren children in the Tasman region have been educated using different arrangements, including home schooling and attending local secondary schools.

These arrangements had worked well but the new school would "go a step further", Mr Hewetson said.

"Through private schooling, we are seeking a higher level of attainment."

Teachers would not have to be Brethren, he said.

The idea for a new school was first floated "two or three years ago", Mr Hewetson said.



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Education Ministry district manager John MacDuff said the Brethren had gained ministry approval to establish the school.

Once a site was finalised, the ministry would inspect it to ensure it met proper standards, he said.

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