

St Albans News

The Voice of our Neighbourhood

November 2007

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Controversial New Café/Bar on Westminster

A new café-bar and restaurant is to be built near the corner of Cranford and Westminster Streets on the site of the well-known former Sallies shop, which currently houses a quaint, stylish gift shop.

The building was purchased by Westminster Holdings Ltd and will be refitted by RM Designs Ltd. The new development will use the existing colonial façade and verandah, which will be upgraded, but the interior will be completely renovated to create a single space with a seating capacity for fifty-three, and the building extended to the north to accommodate a small courtyard for smokers.

Planning is well underway, Resource Consent has been given and the Building Consent and Liquor License applications will probably begin making their way through Council red tape early next year. The application was considered as a Limited Notification

because, although this type of activity is permitted in Business 1 Zone, it didn't comply with two aspects of the city plan. The proposed extension comes to within a metre of the boundary of the property owned by the family who run the Fish 'n' Chip shop, and off-street parking for six cars is an impossibility considering the position of the site.

The prospect of a licensed premises in the neighbourhood has ruffled more than a few feathers, with all but one of the closest neighbours strongly opposing the application. There are several reasons why they are uneasy.

Although the bar is a permitted activity, they feel that having a licensed café-bar in a

family-oriented area with a school nearby is just plain wrong. It could dramatically alter the character of the environment, and have a number of negative outcomes.

Firstly, they are concerned about noise, not only noise from within the building, but more specifically noise that cannot be controlled by the proprietors, such as raised voices, car doors being slammed and vehicles starting up as they prepare to leave. This type of noise pollution has not been a problem until now because all the other businesses close by 8.00pm.

The second concern relates to anti-social



The site of the future café/bar on Westminster St

behaviour by intoxicated patrons, such as littering, urinating, vomiting and, in a worst-case-scenario, people entering or vandalizing the adjacent properties.

The third and perhaps most significant complaint relates to parking. The Council's estimate is that around a hundred and forty extra cars per day will be in the vicinity, and will undoubtedly park outside residential properties—and exacerbate difficulties currently experienced by residents in being able to access their driveways, or park directly in front of their own homes—which is something most of us consider a right.

Continued page four

Chair Chat



Well, at long last, the Local Body Elections are over. My thanks to all of you who voted. To those that did not...shame on you. To those who said that their vote did not matter...please consider that one of our new Community Board representatives, Pauline Cotter, was voted in by only nine votes!

Here in St. Albans we have new representatives that will work very hard for our neighbourhood and support our Centre. They are:

City Councillors: Ngaire Button and Norm Withers. Ngaire is a newcomer to the City Council, but is well-versed on local issues, having served on the Shirley/Papanui Community Board. Nice going, Ngaire. Well done, Norm!

Norm returns for yet another well-deserved term, and has for many years been very supportive of the Centre and the needs of St. Albans.

Community Board: We have longstanding and new people to serve on this very important Board. The Board will be represented by: Megan Evans, Aaron Keown, Yvonne Palmer, Matt Morris and Pauline Cotter. Three new faces and two experienced people will clearly change the way this Board functions. Nice going to all of you and a well earned victory to each.

Environment Canterbury: Carole Evans and Jane Demeter were elected.

Both will support the interests of our St. Albans community. Jane's little Fiat Bambina has become very well known. Congratulations to both Carole and Jane.

I want to say that I attended several candidate meetings, where the audience showed up with The St. Albans News – Special Election Edition in hand. I asked about this, and all said it was the most informative piece of information they had. We certainly will do this again in the future. Thanks to all of the volunteers that took the many hours needed to make this edition happen.

To all the candidates that made the effort to run for office...a special thank you for being involved in the democratic process.

Bill Demeter – Co-Chair of the
St Albans Residents' Association

Events Calendar

- 28 Oct Canterbury Community Dollar Market (374 2465)
- 2 Nov Gala Evening, St Albans Catholic School
- 3 Nov Neighbourhood Street Party, Corner of Thames and Dee Street (387-0076)
- 3 Nov Fireworks Family Extravaganza, St Albans Baptist Church (355 6522)
- 10 Nov St Albans School Monster Fair (355 9132)
- 13 Nov St Albans Residents' Association Meeting (374 2465)
- 14 Nov Intergenerate, Opening Night (emerging.artists.foundation@gmail.com)
- 18 Nov Ratana Church Service, Rehua Marae (355 5606)
- 25 Nov Friends of Edgeware Plant Sale
- 25 Nov Liedertafel Christmas Concert (332 8317)
- 27 Nov NZ- Japan Society (355 9903)

The St Albans Residents' Association wishes to acknowledge and thank the following organisations for their support:

* New Zealand Post – for providing 500 postage-paid envelopes.

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Send your contributions and adverts to:
St Albans News, P.O. Box 21-102, Christchurch

email: news@stalbans.gen.nz,
phone: 374 2465 or 379 6305, fax: 374 2467

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Maxine Feutz, Richard Bradley, Hilaire Campbell, Bill Demeter, Maggy Tai Rakena and Dafyd.

St Albans Pool Community Project



Ribbon-cutting at the opening of the Gardening Project

A great afternoon was had by all who were present at the ribbon-cutting and start of work on the community garden, being established in the car park at the Edgeware pool site.

Rosemary Soryl welcomed the local community gardener and newly-elected Community Board member, Dr Matt Morris, who addressed the gathering...stressing the importance of maintaining "green" spaces in our urban environment and the important part community gardening plays in sustainable communities.

All ages were represented, and as we worked, homemade lemonade and cookies were appreciated by everyone...thanks to Rosemary.

This project, initiated by the idea to grow veggies for fundraising for the new pool, has all the advantages of a true community project, bringing residents together to share each other's skills, interests, and of course to have fun! Hopefully, the local council housing residents will feel free to "potter" if they so desire.

We are grateful to a local developer who has kindly donated and transported four truckloads of topsoil. This should provide the basis of some reasonably-sized raised garden beds. Many thanks go to Rosemary Soryl who had the vision, organised and co-ordinated the project. Also thanks to those who supplied plants and soil etc to get the garden underway.

The garden and tidy-up of the site will also make the area a more pleasant recreation site and meeting place for the community. Swim club members are hoping to meet at the site to carpool to swimming lessons during summer. All enquiries can be made to Rosemary Soryl - phone: 3563166

- Valerie Somerville

Community Announcements

FLOWER POWER !

From the garden of renown Botanist BILL SYKES.
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PEGGY KELLY !
NOV 25TH
SCOTTISH HALL, EDGEWARE & CALEDONIAN RD
11AM - 3PM
ALL PROCEEDS TO ST ALBANS POOL PROJECT

Neighbourhood Street Party,

3rd Nov. 11am-2pm.

Corner of Thames and Dee Street.

Free sausage sizzle, bouncy castle, face painting,
colouring competition, refreshments available.

Organised by Christchurch North Apostolic
Church.

Ph. 387-0076.

In conjunction with the Christchurch City Council
Neighbourhood Week.

From page one

Controversial New Café/Bar on Westminster

The intersection currently has a rather high collision rate (five crashes per year in the last three years, three of them serious) and it is feared that extra vehicle movements will eventually lead to deaths.

This area is also home to a number of small, family-run businesses, some of which have been in the area for up to twenty years. There is a very real fear that more cars parking for much longer periods will put their livelihoods in jeopardy. Customers already have difficulty finding conveniently close parking, and might drive on by if they need to walk long distances.

These basic concerns are a summary of the most important of the residents' opposing submissions to Council.

In next month's issue, we will look at why the Council decided in favour of the development going ahead, and why the neighbours, and many in the wider community, feel let down by the consultation process. We will also take a look at the Resource Management Act from a layman's point of view.

Max Feutz

Westminster/Cranford corner



The name is Rose Lennon's idea. "I like the French thing," she says. La Boutique. It's a touch of Paris. Very feminine." Petticoats and pomanders, shoes and baskets and wide-legged knickers, jewelled chandeliers and vases de nuit (chamber pots to us). Imported replica furniture. Her logo is the fleur-de-lis (see it here in triplicate). A touch of exotica in a street which sells Scottish meat.

Rose is a long time local and here she has lived out a dream. But soon her lease expires. The peaked brick and paint and the best outdoor dunny in town, will go. Petitions and MPs and 3ZB have not helped.

And there is something here you can't measure. Fellowship and neighbourliness and people who have rubbed shoulders and been through thick and thin. Like Annabelle and Rab who sell curtains, and Anna and her fisherman husband who run St Albans Seafoods. "These people have been here forever and a day," says Rose. She thanks them all (and also puts in a plug for the St Albans newsletter). Says she is a great supporter.

Shop history is mostly anecdotal, but many of the older ladies have done time in the Sally army op shop and I myself used to park my daughter here with Vema (who drove a hard bargain in knitting wool). Before that it was a library and Anna and fisherman husband used to be fruit and veg. They will go on being seafood next to a restaurant cum bar and the poodle will parade in some other neck of the woods.

Hilaire Campbell

St Albans News

ON LINE

The St Albans News can be downloaded
from our website at
<http://stalbans.gen.nz>

If you would like to receive our newsletter
by email, please send us a message
at news@stalbans.gen.nz

Youth Conference in Follow-up to Edgeware Road Party Incident

On June the 15th 2007, a youth forum was held at Unlimited College function centre where 150 young people contributed their views, opinions and recommendations to the communities' discussions in regard to young people, and in particular to the incident which occurred on Edgeware Rd resulting in the loss of life of two much-loved young people. The conference was co-ordinated by a group of youth leaders supported by UNLIMITED School and White Elephant Trust, a youth network.

Present were young people drawn from co-operating schools, and those attached to the networks of the White Elephant Trust and other community groups of the Future Pacific network including: Lumanai o Aiga; Ironhorse; and Emerging Artists Foundation. Also in attendance on the day were interested community workers including delegates from PILLARS and SADD. The conference was visited by political and community leaders including: Tim Barnett, Labour MP; Nikki Wagner, National Youth Spokesperson; Tony Milne, standing for Council; Helen Broughton, City Council; Megan Woods, Mayoral Candidate; and Pam Sharpe on behalf of Mayor Garry Moore.

The four focus workshops throughout the day were drawn from planning sessions by the organising committee, these areas for discussion set as follows:

1. The safety of young people, particularly at social gatherings.
 2. The image of youth, particularly the perceptions held by adults, portrayal in the media and the wider community.
 3. The opportunities for a youth voice to articulated, understood and respected.
 4. The relationships between young people and authority.
- Those in attendance at the conference split into small focus groups providing notes and feedback in relation to the above discussion points.

The conference provided young people with the opportunity to focus on a youth response to the issues facing their communities, and to this end the conference has formulated forty recommendations and calls for action. These

recommendations were outlined in the conference report and are to be presented at an art exhibition INTERGENERATE in November.

Key themes and messages from young people in the conference identified that young people do have a passion for the community; are calling for stronger, safer communities where youth can be trusted and valued; and where young people can socialise safely. Key themes included calls for stronger relationships with parents, authorities and the media. A key issue addressed by the conference was that of safety—and in particular the safety of young people while gathering socially. Key comments indicate that there is a sense of anxiety amongst many young people who are fearful of being victims of crime—and in particular violent crime—this being in line with the culture of violence prevalent in New Zealand society which is the focus of the Ministerial Task Force for Violence, and other strategies addressing community and family violence. Further comments and discussions also identify limited social opportunities for young people which are safe and organised. Young people at the conference expressed very heartfelt and strong views in relation to the relationships between young people and authorities. Those identified by young people present, as being in positions of authority included parents, teachers, police and government both local and central.

The discussions outlined a sense of disappointment in the relationships with the authorities, with many examples of conflict and disenchantment were provided. Young people expressed a sense of being excluded, mistrusted and discriminated against. A key point, however, was the clear desire to improve these relationships. A number of strategies being put forward to this end included a particular call for strengthened relationships with parents and the police.

For more information, and would like a full copy of the conference report—or if you are in a position to be able to support young people with implementing these recommendations, please contact us at info@we.org.nz

Many thanks

Matthew Glanville; On behalf of White Elephant Trust



St Albans School MONSTER Fair

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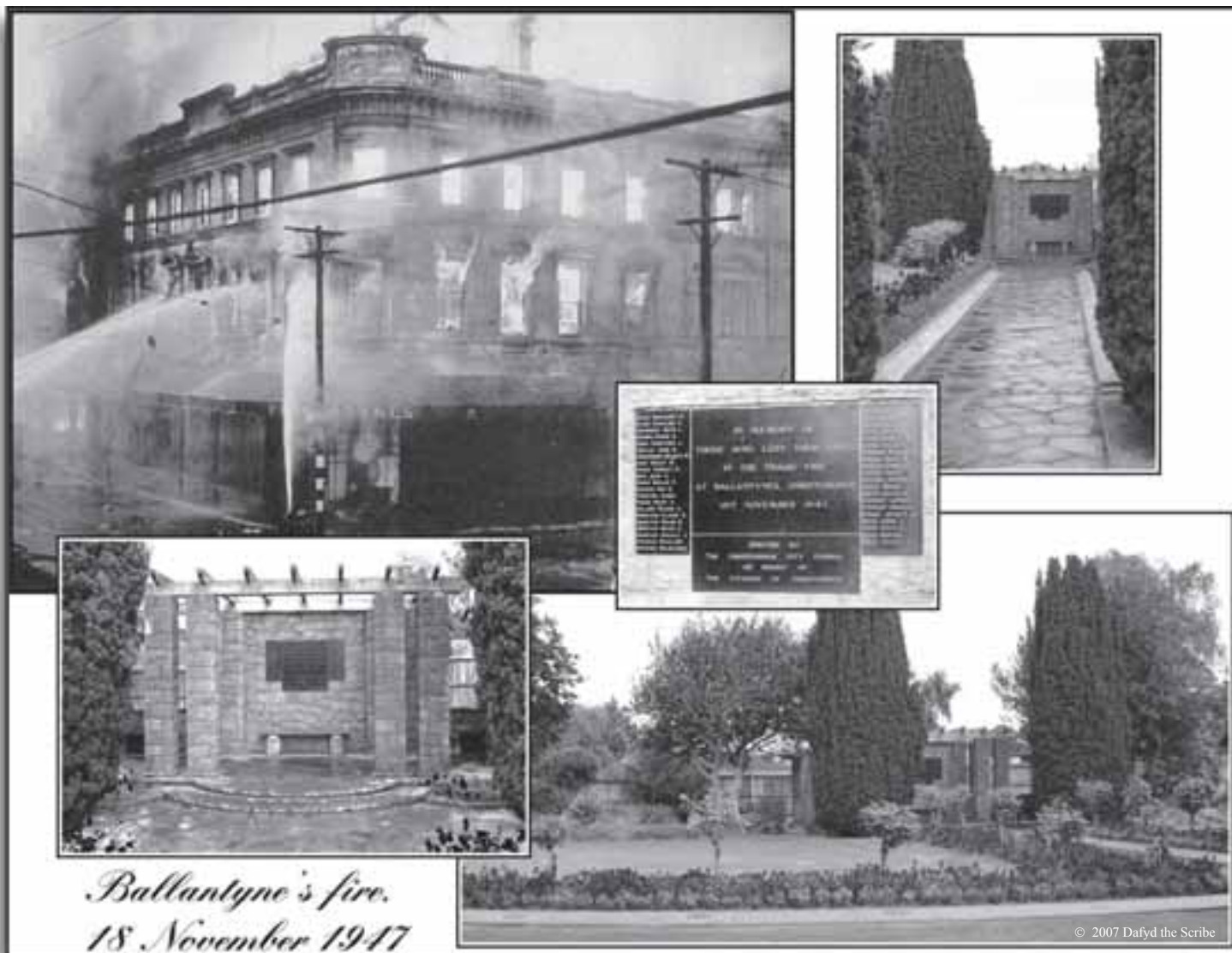
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Ballantyne's Fire - 18th November 1947



(top right) The central walkway. (bottom left) The shrine at the focus of the memorial.
(bottom right) A general view of the memorial. (centre) The plaque within the shrine.

I remember it well

I still remember the day of the fire as though that horrifying event happened only a few days ago rather than 60 years ago. After school I was reading a book at the kitchen table of our home in Westminster Street when I noticed billowing smoke flowing high into the sky from the centre of town.

I had to have a better look so I got the long wooden ladder from the shed and used it to climb to the chimney at the centre of the roof. I could see sheets of flame rising above the surrounding buildings. I was a little too young to realize the full implications of what I was seeing, but the event made a lasting impression upon me. I stood there, clutching that chimney for over an hour.

Next day, after school, I just had to go and see the Ballantynes building.

The area was cordoned off, but I managed to get to the opposite corner of that intersection. I could feel the heat still radiating from the ruined building, a full day after the event.

The only good thing to come out of that tragedy was the tightening up of safety legislation, fire alarm procedures and the proper funding of the fire service. Forty-one people lost their lives that day – a lot of them needlessly.

This morning, to prepare the montage (photo), I went to the Ruru Lawn Cemetery to see the memorial for myself.

In a secluded area of the grounds I came across a large semi-circular area of flowers and roses and trees of many types. Around the edge and to the sides of the centre walkway were plaques giving the names of those who lost their lives that dreadful day. It had been raining and the feel of the place was of peace and tranquility. The sun came out briefly as I walked up the centre path to the memorial and stood there reading the 41 names. I am glad I visited the memorial. It helped to relieve the memories that have haunted me for sixty years. If you get the opportunity, a visit to the cemetery is a well worth-while exercise.

Dafyd

Ballantyne's Fire – the St Albans Connection.

As the 60th Anniversary of the tragic fire which raged through Ballantyne's Department Store on 18th November 1947 approaches, we record the names of those who died and who had a connection with St Albans.

From the Register of Inquests held by National Archives, the following victims of what was the worst fire in New Zealand's history, are shown as being resident in St Albans:

Miss Rosalind HAYMAN, of 23 Mayfield Avenue. 20 years old, the daughter of Robert Henry and Grace Kathlene HAYMAN, she worked in the Millinery Department.

Willard Alan LAWSON, of 41 Bishop Street. A 24-year-old single man who worked in the Credit Office.

Kelvin John RODGERS, of 103 St Albans Street. He was only 20 years old and was the son of Mrs Emily RODGERS.

Isobel Ann WARD, of 1 Dover Street. A 23-year-old who worked in the Display Department. She was the daughter of Herbert Edward and Jessie (nee MacDougall) WARD.

Mrs Bertha WERE, (nee RIDINGS) of 18 Berry Street. The 22-year-old wife of Harry Prior WERE, she worked in the Credit Office.

Contemporary reports record that smoke was first detected in the basement of the building about 3.30 p.m. Thick smoke soon filled the area and this thwarted attempts to control the blaze.

The cause of the fire was never established. The Royal Commission set up to investigate the fire found no conclusive evidence to support any theory advanced.

The fire swept with amazing swiftness through the big block. Within twenty minutes, it was ablaze from top to bottom.

By 4.15 p.m., the flames were soaring more than 30 metres above

the building. The Fire Service, hampered by inadequate equipment, did what they could, but forty-one people lost their lives as a result of the fire. Thirty-eight were staff members; two were visiting auditors; and one was from the College of Retailing Representatives. On Sunday 23rd November 1947, thousands of citizens lined the route to Ruru Lawn Cemetery, where the bodies were taken for burial in a semicircular common grave.

Compiled by the St Albans History Group

Comment from City Council Archives

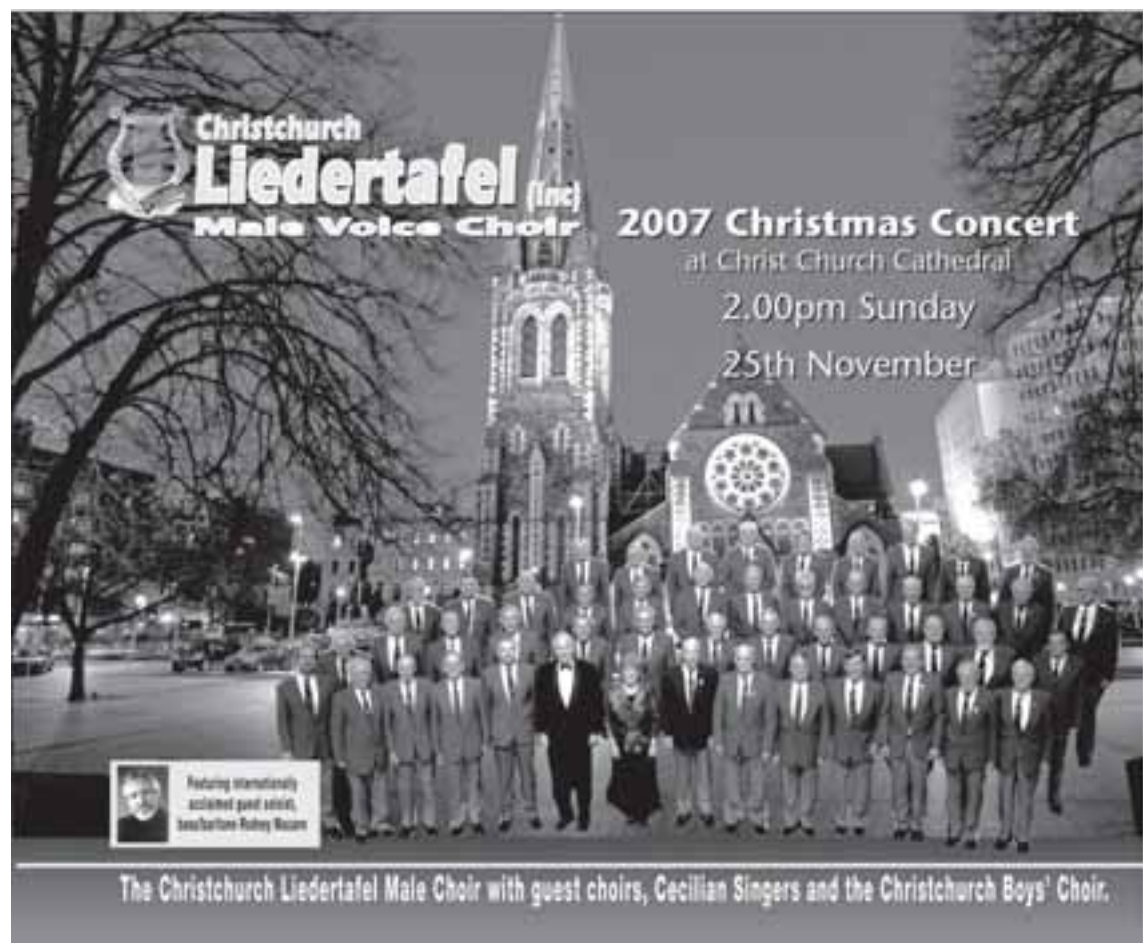
Ballantyne's department store in Colombo Street was the scene of one of New Zealand's most disastrous fires late in the afternoon of 18 November 1947.

A total of 41 people died and damage was put at half a million pounds. The fire was first discovered in the basement of the wooden building but the alarm was not given immediately. The actual time the alarm was received by the fire brigade was 3.46 pm.

Onlookers say that within 15 minutes of their first noticing the black smoke billowing from the building, it was past saving. Of three shopgirls who jumped after being trapped on upper storeys of the three-storey building, one died and two were seriously injured.

A Royal Commission of Inquiry - which later sat for 65 days and heard 186 witnesses - criticised the firefighters for failure to take effective action in the first 10 minutes after their arrival because they did not recognise the potential danger.

The company's store, established in 1864, was one of the best known in New Zealand. The premises covered about an acre of ground. All those who died were members of the staff of about three hundred.



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Letters to the Editor

The Editor, St Albans News.

Thank you to everyone in the Christchurch North constituency of Environment Canterbury who took the time to vote in the recent elections and a special thank you to those that voted for me.

I am very grateful for your support and look forward to representing you for the upcoming three years along with fellow councillor Carole Evans.

Thanks also to the other candidates for all your hard work participating in the democratic process. Chatting with many residents as I knocked on doors confirmed my view that your voice needs to be heard and I will make myself as available as I can for you.

Jane Demeter

www.janedemeter.org.nz

Ph: 365 2399

STANN - WE MISS YOU!

Kia ora,

We have enjoyed the regular community news since we moved into the locality around 10 years ago, but please - what ever happened to STANN?

STANN felt like an old special neighbourhood friend. A familiar local entity, down-to-earth, modest, unpretentious and friendly, like the people who live here. Has something important changed, or was it change for the sake of change?

Are we losing the character of the community? Are we moving to become much more up-market? "St Albans News: the Voice of our Neighbourhood" just doesn't convey the same kind of friendly feeling as STANN did. In my mind this new name sounds detached and impersonal, almost with a touch of religious fervour.

And yet the content is still great, the hours of work are evident, but why fix something that wasn't broken?

P. Wallace

The Editor
St. Albans News

I would like to thank and congratulate you on the delivery of the Election booklet around the district. I, and several of my friends, have appreciated being able to have all the candidates' names before us, set out in such a way that we could study them at leisure.

There should be a good turnout of voters in our Electorate!

With thanks and regards,

**Merle Gregor
Casebrook**

To the editor, Sir,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the team at St Albans for the time and energy you all invested in the Local Body elections. It was an inspiration to know that there are others who care about Local Government as well as the candidates who put our names forward. The election supplement was a great success and I visited many families who had it on their coffee table and were using the information to help in their decision making.

I am honoured and excited to have been elected to represent our Ward at the Council table and will do my very best to serve you all well.

My contact details are below, it may be necessary to leave a message but I will return your calls within 24 hours. Please contact me if you need help with anything.

Ngaire Button

Ngaire.Button@ccc.govt.nz

Ph: 352 6002

Upcoming Council Submissions

- * CCC: Gosset Street (full length) Kerb and channel renewal project. Closing 5 Nov. 07
- * CCC: Rezoning of 250 Cranford St and 215 Innes Rd. from L1 to B1, closing on 12 Nov 07
- * CCC: Cleanfill bylaw consultation. Closing 21 Nov. 07
- * CCC: Papanui Rd / Main North Rd bus priority route. Closing 17 Dec. 07
- * ECan: Regional Land Transport Strategy. Closes 20 Dec. 07
- * ECan: Travel Demand Strategy. Closes 20 Dec. 07
- * ECan: Canterbury Transport Regional Implementation Plan 2007. Closes 20 Dec. 07

For details, please consult the City Council and ECan websites at <http://www.ccc.govt.nz> and <http://www.ecan.govt.nz>

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Housecleaning: Regular or casual. \$13 per hour. Phone 356 1353

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St Albans Neighbourhood News ten years ago

November 1997



Douceline Wardle, Hazel Ashton and Kate Taylor receiving the 1997 Community Service Award

The front page headline said that STANN received a Community Service Award in recognition of the four years of its existence. And, ten years later, the local community newspaper is still flourishing and passing on information of relevance to the folk of St Albans. Well done team. Also awarded was Bob Smith, the St Albans School Principal and the Board of Trustees. It is nice to be recognised, although the doing of the job is the only purpose and the only real reward.

I noticed the headline that Jane Smith was hung in the Trattoria. I thought to myself 'what a way to go' before realising that Jane is/was a painter and her works were being hung in a local establishment. Whew, what a relief!

Also in that issue was a note that the Coptic Church was to rent the Berwick St church and that it was the 150th anniversary of the death of Mary Potter (22-11-1847), the founder of the Little Company of Mary, an organisation devoted to the care of the sick and dying. And the golden kowhai (Sophora) had been flowering all over the neighbourhood, as it does to this day.

There was a lot of ephemeral news in the St Albans Neighbourhood News as well - businesses changing hands, places being painted and news from all around the area. You should ask at the centre to have a look at these fascinating slices of history.

Dafyd

St Albans Youth Holiday Programme

The last holiday period was loads of fun with the St Albans Community Centre holiday programme. The programme itself was written in consultation with local young people who had attended previous programmes, and was supervised by myself, a local youth and community development worker.

The programme itself consisted of a number of activities which encouraged team building, and leadership; and provided ample opportunities for young people to socialise and expand their knowledge base. Activities involved a lot of team building exercises; therapeutic recreational pursuits; and then the good old movie, laser strike and mini golf in between!

Highlights of the activities were the games at Godley Heads Reserve; voice and drama activities in the military barracks; and water fighting goodness at Victoria Park. The group explored the gardens, rose bushes, tropical garden, cactus garden, bonsai gardens, climbed trees and then explored the Museum. The whinges and moans of boredom soon dissipated as those in attendance became immersed in the displays requiring encouragement to leave.

The programme was attended by more youth this time around, and the expectation is that numbers will rise in the next period with a relaxed programme in the sun, floating, learning and exploring. As for now, we move on the weekly Thursday-night activities with the Youth Café, an exciting programme lined up including: movie nights; community events; CV development and job seeking; and more!

For further details, get in touch the St Albans Community Centre, 374 2465.

Matthew Glanville

Wendy Kappler

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Community Resource Centre

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Monday to Friday

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