

# St Albans News

The Voice of our Neighbourhood

February 2008

## Highlights



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Grocery Store  
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Supplement:  
100 years of  
Hardie and  
Thomson

## Successful Packe Street Park Youth Holiday Programme



Eight year-olds painting wooden blocks assisted by Alex Wylie, Youth Worker

The volunteer gardeners at Packe Street Park thought it would be a good idea to offer some fun activities for local pre-teen children towards the end of the summer holidays – mainly to ensure that our Community Garden was benignly occupied at a time of the year when, going on past experience, it is vulnerable to vandalism. This year for the first time the Holiday Club (as it came to be called) was supported financially by the Shirley/Papanui Community Board and administratively by the St Albans Residents' Association, and this meant that a coordinator and youth worker could be paid to run the programme every Tuesday and Thursday for three weeks. The activities included a visit to the Botanic Gardens and the Museum; trips in the Community Bus to the seaside (to help make up for the lack of a local pool); old-fashioned games and cre-

ative construction in the park itself; picnics and a BBQ. On Thursday 17th January, the children witnessed a very special occasion – the gathering of the late Daphne Conaghan's family and friends for a farewell afternoon tea. Daphne was one of the original group who worked hard to get the park land and then to make it into a garden. Her death brings an era to a close. She will be very much missed. She made the Rainbow Bed in the western border and it remains today as a colourful reminder of her ten years of unstinting work. It seems that simple, old-fashioned (inexpensive) summertime activities still hold some appeal. As soon as this holiday programme was advertised, parents telephoned to enrol their children; it could easily have been filled three times over. We thank the children and Tessa and Alex for helping to keep our Community Garden safe this year—and SARA for its support.

*Peggy Kelly*



Welcome to 2008.

We hope all of you enjoyed the Holidays with family and with safety.

Many of us have made New Year's resolutions, and we at the St. Albans Community Centre have made a few as well. One resolution is in regards to the relationship the Centre and the Residents' Association has with local political bodies.

In the past, we have expected our local politicians to serve our community and make decisions that help St Albans become a better place to live.

In some cases this has happened, and in other cases this has not happened. This year, and through the next election cycle, we will "Inspect Not Expect" in our dealings with local political bodies.

What does this mean?

Firstly, we (The Board and Manager) will attend Council and community meetings, and make sure our residents' views are heard.

Secondly, we will invite Environment Canterbury (ECan), City of Christchurch, and Community Board representatives to speak to us on a regular basis about those issues that have impact on St. Albans.

Thirdly, we will survey residents and get your feedback on what you consider to be the key and important issues that need to be dealt with by these political bodies.

Issues such as transportation, zoning, a new community pool, graffiti, activities for youth, funding for community centres, cycle lanes, etc. are issues for which we want answers and action.

We have a new Community Board with a new Chairperson and Deputy and three new representatives.

The City Council has a new Mayor and Deputy and five new Councillors. Environment Canterbury (ECan) has two new Councillors to represent our area. We want to get to know all our representatives and to work as closely as possible with them to assure positive outcomes.

We also want all residents to let us know what your concerns and issues are, and we will have a short survey form for you to fill out in an up-coming issue of the St. Albans News.

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

## Events Calendar

- 12-25 Jan Youth Holiday Programme activities  
(374 2465)
- 29 Jan St Albans Residents' Association meeting  
(374 2465)
- 9 Feb Ceilidh with Joy & Andrew,  
Scottish Society Hall Edgeware (355 8249)
- 12 Feb Linux User Group (CLUG); Is Linux Right  
for Me?" for curious friends by Julia & Yuri  
de Groot. (981 5469)
- 12 Feb St Albans InterAgency Meeting  
(374 2465)
- 14 Feb Traditional Songs & Tunes from the  
Highlands, Scottish Society Hall, Edgeware  
(355 8249)
- 17 Feb Ratana Church Service,  
Rehua Marae (355 5606)
- 23 Feb Overesters Anonymous Public Meeting  
(365 3812)
- 26 Feb NZ-Japan Society meeting at  
St Albans community Centre (379 6305)
- 2 Mar Garden Tour, Friends of Edgeware  
(355 6512)

## St Albans News, February 2008 Vol.15, Number 1, Issue No. 157

The St Albans News is a contribution driven community newsletter. It is published by the St Albans Community Centre, 1047 Colombo St. This is a not-for-profit newsletter, delivered monthly, and is free to over 8000 homes and businesses. All contents are copyright by the original authors. Please acknowledge the source of any excerpts as the "St Albans News"

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

email: [news@stalbans.gen.nz](mailto:news@stalbans.gen.nz),  
phone: 374 2465 or 379 6305, fax: 374 2467  
website: <http://www.stalbans.gen.nz>

The newsletter is produced by a dedicated group of volunteers.

Editor: Christoph Hensch

Proof-reading: Terry Connor

Design, layout, advertisement design: Dafyd the Scribe

Print: New Century Press Ltd

With contributions from:

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

**St Albans Community Centre**  
**2008 - Activities - Term 1**  
**1047 Colombo Street.**  
**Phone: 379 6305 Fax: 374 2467**  
**Email: office@stalbans.gen.nz**

**Weekly Activities/Courses**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Art Society	Monday	10am – midday	Ph: 385 3123 (Janet)
Dance Academy	Tuesday	3.30 – 5 pm	Ph: 021 120 6540 (Pam)
Chi Kon	Monday	5 – 6 pm	Ph: 930 4451 (Mitsue or Kiyomi)
Choir	Monday (2nd,3rd,4th)	7.30 – 9 pm	Ph: 379 9188 (Heather)
Dance Fitness	Monday	2 – 3 pm	Ph: 365 6585 (Donette)
Dance Fitness	Thursday	5 – 6.30 7 pm	Ph: 365 6585 (Donette)
Email/Internet	Mon – Fri	11 – 3 pm	Ph: 379 6305 (Centre)
Email/Internet	Saturday	1 – 3 pm	Ph: 379 6305 (Centre)
Friday Night O/A	Friday	7.30 – 9 pm	Ph: 381 2974 (Damien)
Hatha Yoga	Tuesday	10 – 11.30 am	Ph: 980 8760 (Pauline)
Laughter Club	Sunday	11 – midday	Ph: 021 998 109 (Hannah)
Meditation Talks	Wednesday	7 – 8.30 pm	Ph: 027 545 4823 (John)
Pilates – Levels 2 & 3	Friday	9.30 – 10.30am	Ph: 342 3172 (Coralea)
Tai Chi - Maintenance	Monday & Thursday	12 – 1 pm	Presbyterian Support –
Ph: 366 5472 (Pip)			
Tai Chi - Beginners	Monday & Thursday	1 - 2pm	Presbyterian Support – Ph: 366 5472 (Pip)
Toddlers Music	Thursday	10.15 – 11.45 am	Ph: 355 9458 (Kerry)
Wu Tao Dance	Tuesday	5.45 – 7.15 pm	Ph: 354 9328 (Karen)
Youth Café	Thursday	7.15 – 9 pm	Centre - Ph: 379 6305

**Monthly Activities**

Friends of Edgeware	Tuesday (1st)	7.30 - 9 pm	Phone: 980 5584
Linux Users Group	Tuesday (2nd)	7.30 – 10 pm	Phone: 981 5469
SANDS	Monday (1st)	7 – 9 pm	Phone: 323 9850
SARA	Tuesday (3rd)	7 - 9 pm	Phone: 374 2465
NZ Japan Society	Tuesday (4th)	7.30 – 9.30 pm	Phone: 355 9903

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

- \* Christchurch City Council - for donating 3 used computers to the NeighbourNet Room.
- \* Hagley College - for granting \$864 for the running of computer courses.
- \* COGS - for granting \$5,625 (incl GST) for wages.
- \* Lotteries - for granting \$14,250 for wages.
- \* Canterbury Community Trust - for granting \$7,500 for wages.
- \* Bendigo Valley Sports & Charity Foundation - for a donation of \$500 towards Centre equipment.

**What's happening at the  
 St Albans Community Centre**

Leisure group: Designed for residents 55 years + to participate in a range of arts, cultural & recreation activities during the daytime. Low cost & great value.

Computer Courses: Computer courses tailor made to suit individual needs are going to start in February. Small classes of six. Low fees. Please call now!

Phone Alison at the Centre – 379 6305



## The Mary Potter Community Centre

The new Mary Potter Community Centre is situated at 442 Durham Street North, St Albans. It is owned and operated by the Little Company of Mary Sisters.

It was blessed by Bishop Barry Jones, the Catholic Bishop of Christchurch, and officially opened by the Hon. Lianne Dalziel M.P. for Christchurch East on Friday November 27th 2007.

A large number of guests attended and enjoyed the evening in warm, beautiful Christchurch weather.

It is hoped that when the Centre is fully functional it will provide activities and events for the Residents of Mary Potter Courts, and seniors in the local area who may feel socially isolated and would benefit from some company and interaction.

This venture is an extension of the Sisters' Mission in Christchurch; previously involved with institutional care they were anxious to find a new way to serve others, especially seniors in the local community.

After selling the Mary Potter Hospital in 2004, the Sisters decided to share their resources with the elderly, so embarked on a building programme.

Stage one: the erection of thirteen additional Villas for low income seniors was completed and occupied in October 2006. Stage two is the completion of the Mary Potter Community Centre.

Mary Potter was an English woman who founded the Little Company of Mary Congregation in Nottingham England in 1877. Mary Potter's vision was to serve the needy, especially the suffering and the dying.

The first Little Company of Mary Sisters came to Christchurch from Australia in 1914, and initially carried out district nursing before establishing Calvary Hospital—now Southern Cross Hospital in Bealey Avenue. Since then, the Sisters have been involved in various areas of care: medical, surgical, psychiatric, midwifery and long term care for the elderly and the terminally ill.

As needs changed, Hospital facilities were sold and the Sisters have been involved in home, Hospital and Rest Home visiting. With the erection of the new building, the Mary Potter Community Centre has become a new focus for the Little Company of Mary Mission in Christchurch.



The New Mary Potter Community Centre

### Letter to the Editor

The Caledonian Hotel site development is at the City Council for Consent. It comprises 91 apartments, and according to the City Council Building Control person has only minor deviations from the City Plan, which will probably be easily overcome. The previously approved scheme for the site had only 61 units and was reasonably attractive and stylish. Sadly this has given way to a development which is not attractive but will 'maximise' the site potential from the developer's point of view.

We believe that this development, because of its huge scale, has the potential to improve the neighbourhood or to destroy it. When examining the plans as held by the Council, we were dismayed to find that the design is very ordinary and really does not have any redeeming features that will help the development enhance the neighbourhood.

This really is a key development in our area, and we would appreciate your assistance in any way to improve what we believe is an ugly and environment-destroying scheme.

Kind regards,  
Suzanne and Bryam Graham

*If you are concerned about the Caly site development or would like to have more information, please contact Christoph at the St Albans Residents Association on 374 2465 or email [christoph@stalbans.gen.nz](mailto:christoph@stalbans.gen.nz)*

# The First One Hundred Days

The need for more communication between elected representatives and community members became very apparent to me while campaigning for election to Environment Canterbury (ECan) last year.

We are now 100 days into the new triennium. A good time to give you my first update as your representative at Environment Canterbury for Christchurch North along with Carole Evans. Councillors took their oath of office on 24 October, to represent the entire Canterbury region. From Kekerengu to Kurow...and everywhere in between.

The chairman was elected along with chairs and members for the various committees. Each councillor has at least one portfolio chair responsibility, as well as chair or membership in the area liaison committees, advisory appointments or appointment to multi-agency bodies.

For 'who has responsibility for what' see the ECan website under "About us" "Council Info": <http://www.ecan.govt.nz/About+Us/Council+Info/Committees.htm>

We are fourteen councillors, eight of whom are newly elected, so the dynamic around the table has changed. Expect the unexpected! We bring diverse experiences and interests to the role. There is much to be learned. As a new councillor I have appreciated all the briefings by staff scientists and policy planners to ensure we are all well versed in the many areas of responsibility and the current status of each.

Presentations on Canterbury water resources from representatives of organisations and agencies have been particularly valuable, and there are more presentations planned on other areas of responsibility. Collaborative governance presentations have been well received by councillors. The Living Streams programme is a good example of this practice. Getting out and seeing what's going in our communities, and talking to people with issues and inputs is particularly valuable. I welcome any opportunity to see the issues 'in the flesh' be they stop-banks on the Waimakariri, stream restoration projects, or dairy effluent disposal systems.

The honeymoon period was short. We have had four full days of formal Council meetings and fifteen of seminars, training

and workshops before breaking for the holidays.

Because policy was already under development there have been policy decisions from our second meeting onwards. Much work is being done with staff in the various portfolio areas. Work on the Annual Plan budgets for 2008-09 is under way along with preparing for the ten-year review of the Long Term Community Plan (LTCCP) due in 2009.

The upcoming year promises to be full of challenges around budgets to support desired policy as we decide what projects are priorities for the next ten years. Later this year make sure you review the proposals and have your say via the submission process. Do you know that Council meetings and workshops are open to the public? Council meetings are at least monthly, and usually on the last Thursday of each month in the Kilmore Street premises (just west of Victoria Street).

There are lots of chairs for the public that too often go unoccupied. The previous day is generally a workshop where councillors are briefed on matters that will be on Council agendas in upcoming months.

These are excellent learning opportunities for you as well as for councillors. It is easy to see the meeting schedule, agendas for upcoming meetings or the minutes of previous meetings on the ECan website:

<http://www.ecan.govt.nz/About+Us/Council+Info/Committee-Meeting-Schedule.htm>

Summertime gives many of us the opportunity to see or experience first hand the natural environment we are so fortunate to live in here in Canterbury. It is a significant reason why we choose to live here. Take time to reflect how it might be different if some of those resources disappear.

Each of us has a role to play to ensure we do the best we can for future generations. As chair of the biodiversity portfolio I was privileged one evening last week to encounter a kereru (native pigeon) drinking at length from the small trickling stream near the heritage rose garden in the Botanic Gardens. An image that I hold as a symbol of the possibilities that we can achieve - together.

*Jane Demeter*

**Tim Barnett**  
 Christchurch Central's  
 Member of Parliament



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## Holly Road Greets New Day

This is a picture which can be interpreted on many levels! Architectural notes from Historic Places Trust (thank you Judith Savage) describe the cottage as “classic weatherboard.... attic bedrooms in the front section... gables trimmed with decorative bargeboards.” There is a lean-to with a section behind, and sash windows. It is listed as Category 2, which means that it is of historical but not outstanding historical significance (cf. Category 1). The building is lovingly owned by Shayle and Steve Leggett, whose good looks are not apparent in the angry expressions of the couple in the flower baskets. Her arms are raised against the shower of dust which will come her way when demolition of the Caledonian Hotel begins. He could be Brian Tamaki’s double. “Enough’s enough,” he cries, so loud he disturbs a flock of paradise ducks. Pippin knows that horses hooves are less damaging than the competition she will face when 98 flats go up on the empty site opposite, but the rubbish bags will be a big plus. Think of all those tasty morsels. Steve Leggett is thinking of the narrow street and the noise. “It will be like Soweto,” he says. He and Shayle have been here 15 years but are now

thinking of selling. The original plan was apparently 60 town houses and a coffee bar on the Caly corner but this became 98 flats and no coffee bar about a week ago. “It was done on the sly,” says Steve. Plans for the new development can be seen on the second floor at the City Council. For the moment, Steve and Shayle are trying to enjoy what they have- a well designed garden, lots of green space, a house with history. It came as a kit home from Canada and was built in 1876, the same year says Steve, as Custer’s last stand. Its’ twin, Curragh Cottage, was moved to Ferrymead in 1972. The first owners lived wholesomely as basket weavers and boot makers but there is a story one of them was murdered. At one stage the house operated as an underground abortion clinic, possibly in tandem with the Rising Sun brothel which predated the Caledonian Hotel. The street itself is named for the vast holly hedge which ran almost its entire length. Thanks Steve and Shayle for sharing your home and thoughts with St Albans News. Best wishes for the future.

*Hilaire Campbell*

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# Hamilton's Grocery Store

The 3rd April 1933, was a red-letter day for a nine-year-old St Albans boy named Max and his family.

It was the day that Hamilton's Grocery Store opened on the corner of Barbadoes and Warrington Streets. No trace of it remains now, but it was an imposing building that enveloped the site, and became the social centre of the district, located as it was at the terminus of Tram Line No 16 to St Albans Park running from Spreydon (No 14).

That small boy is now eighty-four years old—and the site is now a car park—but his memories of the era remain vivid, which is perhaps hardly surprising since the shop was at the centre of family life and required a lot of effort to run.

In those days, the word 'service' had an entirely different meaning from what it has today.

Nearly all the customers were known by name, as were their addresses, because every Thursday Max cycled round the neighbourhood on his bike to get the weekly orders from twenty or thirty homes. The next day would be spent making up the orders, which were wrapped in brown paper and string, ready for delivery on the Saturday. Max himself did the smaller deliveries on his bicycle with its enormous basket on the front, while his dad delivered the bigger orders in the car...a shiny new 1937 Chevrolet.

The car was a huge source of pride, because in those days very few people had cars, and it had cost the princely sum of £300! Almost everything was purchased on account, and at the end of a long day, his father would tot them all up at night. Credit was arranged on a handshake and considerable leeway was given to anyone suffering financial hardship.

Readers who were regular customers of the shop may remember how it looked inside, with shelves stacked high and many goods available in bulk. They may also remember a woman called Joan Ramshaw, who worked in Hamilton's at a time when it was very rare for a woman to work in this type of shop.

She had previously worked in a grocery store in Sydenham, and proved her worth by being able to lift a 70lb bag of sugar, and was always unfailingly polite and helpful to customers. Max also describes his father in glowing terms.

He was a jack of all trades and a master of all but one. He



hated selling ice creams because, try as he might to be careful, he succeeded in breaking half the cones.

In those days, the ice cream was rather solid, the cones were rather delicate, and Mr Hamilton's hands were rather large. Many of the shop stories are also tram stories, with strong friendships forming between the drivers and the Hamiltons. The drivers came in to warm their hands in front of the fire and grab a little something in the way of confectionary.

Long after all the customers had left and the shop closed they were still welcome to come in.

On their last run, frozen stiff and exhausted, they would be able to save time balancing their takings when they got back to the depot, because Mr Hamilton took the fiddly pennies and halfpennies and changed them for bigger coins.

Max also remembers one particular driver, Charlie Walker, who used to tell the kids a riddle as he left, which they tried to solve before he got to Spreydon and back.

All in all it was a good life, with the long arduous hours of work rewarded by the respect they received from the community and by the occasional escape from it all.

Let's leave them then, on a Sunday, taking a few things off the shelves to place in a hamper, donning their Sunday best and boarding a train bound for a communal picnic in the countryside.

*Maxine Feutz*

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# St Albans Pavilion and Pool Update!!

Our community level fundraising is progressing really well. Through raffles, donations, our garage sale, plant sale, sausage sizzles, St Albans Newsletter deliveries and recently donations to our collection buckets at local businesses, we have raised over \$15,000.

This is not to mention the many thousands of dollars of donations of work in kind.

Our ability to access major funding for our project will depend on whether the Council gives us the green light and a significant extension of our present time limit.

In early December, we were given the opportunity to hold a sausage sizzle at the Packe St Park carol-singing afternoon. Thank you to everyone who organised and supported this lovely event—it was a great opportunity to fill people in on our progress and raise some money (\$159 for sausage sizzle, raffle and donations!)

The hamper raffle from the plant sale in November and at the Packe St carol-singing in December was won by Helene Macnab...Congratulations.

Collection buckets are dotted around the Edgware shops and are working well...\$350 in donations received in December and early January. We really appreciate the high level of support from both businesses and donors for a new community pool in St Albans.

Every little bit counts and every single person's support and involvement adds so much. We really need these contributions for administration costs and resource consent fees etc.

Any additional businesses wanting to have a donation bucket, please call Aynsley at 980 5584.

Also: Attention local businesses - fantastic advertising spots are available on our website at very reasonable rates.



Abberley Park

**Resource Consent Update:** The Council has decided, due to traffic/parking issues, that the consent application must be 'notifiable'.

This means that they will publish our intent in the newspapers, put up signs around the pool area and call for submissions from the public. We will be out there with forms as soon as we receive them, and encourage as many positive submissions as possible.

The Council staff allows 20 working days for the submissions to be returned, and then they do a report to decide on a recommendation to Council.

The first major fundraising event planned for 2008 is an all day Gardens Tour of seven stunning gardens in St Albans, Merivale, Fendalton, and Avonside on Sunday 2nd March from 10am - 4pm.

We are very grateful to all the garden owners who are opening their gardens free of charge to support our fundraising for the new pool.

The Garden tour will include the Historic Category 2 home, "Hadleigh" in Springfield Rd, Kirsteen Britten's historic stable conversion conservatory, and Robyn Kilty's historic cottage close to the Avon loop.

Barry Gadsby's notable garden, in "Cornwall Gardens" is also included and recently described in The Press 12/1/08.

"A very special green native garden - small and perfect like an emerald,

it has been developed with much passion and insight [and] planted in drifts of ferns".

Three newly established gardens are also included: the organic garden of David and Letitia Moorehouse (featuring

*Continued on page nine*

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*Continued from page eight*

two water gardens), their neighbours Roger and Gail Turner's garden (featuring a raised veg garden and newly created water sculpture) and the walled garden of Ali and Barry Holliday in Derby Street (which also boasts a water feature).

There will be a lunchtime sausage sizzle at Abberley Park in a reserved area beside the new rose garden and sculpture.

The tour also suggests visiting Packe Street Garden to view the birdbath sculpted for their tenth anniversary, and the Heritage Rose Garden at Beverly Park designed by Robyn Kilty, and created in 2000 to commemorate 150 years of European settlement of the area.

Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased from "Circa" 926 Colombo St, the St Albans Resource Centre at 1047 Colombo St, Edgware Civic Video and Kiwi Bookshop during February. Garden entry is by ticket only.

All enquiries: 355 6512

Website: [www.stalbans-pavilionandpool.org.nz](http://www.stalbans-pavilionandpool.org.nz)



## Neighbourhood Support

You have all seen the Neighbourhood Support stickers on letterboxes and the signs on the power poles.

Like to feel just that little bit safer in your neighbourhood? Would you like to live in a friendlier neighbourhood? A very easy and effective way to achieve that is to set up a Neighbourhood Support Group. Neighbourhood Support is not just about protecting yourselves against crime. We are now working in conjunction with the Police, Fire Service, City Council and Civil Defence...and are concerned with all aspects of safety in neighbourhoods. Neighbourhood Support benefits all age groups.

Groups have access to information about crime prevention, fire safety, accidents in the home and civil emergencies. You also get to know your neighbours, which is a real plus. Take ownership of your neighbourhood and let's help make Canterbury a safer place.

There are over 2000 Neighbourhood Support Groups in Canterbury. They are effective and it costs nothing to belong.

Want an information pack, or want some questions answered? If so, please contact the Christchurch Coordinator, Pat Creasey at: 378 0437 6749

or email: [canterburyns@paradise.net.nz](mailto:canterburyns@paradise.net.nz)

## Get Waterwise this Summer!

Christchurch has some of the best drinking water of any city in the World, but it needs to be protected to ensure there will always be enough for us to enjoy.

Most of us have no idea how much water we use. Every day we need water to drink, brush our teeth, wash the dishes, flush the toilet, water the garden...the list just keeps going! The general rule of thumb is that we use twice as much water during summer. This Summer has been particularly hot and our demand for water has risen with the temperature. The average household used 1617 litres of water per day between 8 January and 14 January. That was nearly 500 litres more than the week before.

The Council monitors how much water is being used and has developed targets for City water consumption. Once water usage gets to 2000 litres per household per day water restrictions will be introduced, beginning with alternate day garden watering and escalating, if required, to a total hosing ban.

If everyone did something to reduce the amount of water they used during summer then the need for water restrictions would be avoided. Simple steps such as only watering your garden when it's cool, not leaving the tap running when you brush your teeth, and fixing leaky taps can make a big difference.

This Summer the Christchurch City Council is running the Waterwise competition, designed to help families understand how they can make a big reduction to the amount of water they consume just by being a bit more aware of their water use.

By monitoring their water meter people can figure out how much water they're using, and then try a few of the Waterwise tricks to see how much water they can save. People that participate will be in to win some great prizes from Fisher & Paykel, including a washing machine, dishwashers and vouchers.

To take part in the Waterwise Challenge simply go to [www.ccc.govt.nz/waterwise](http://www.ccc.govt.nz/waterwise) and register. If you don't have access to the internet at home simply write down the numbers you see on your water meter and logon to Waterwise at the free waterwise terminals at the Council's libraries at Linwood, Hornby, New Brighton, Papanui, Shirley, and Fendalton. Our water is too precious to waste, so it's up to everyone to use it wisely. Doing your bit this year will help us avoid water restrictions, and help ensure there will always be enough for us to enjoy. Get Waterwise!

*Kevin Crutchley*

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## Community Involvement in your Newsletter

It mostly falls upon our little dedicated team to find the news that gets into your newsletter. These folk spend many hours for no pay to search out things that they believe you would want to read. But it is a daunting task. With a circulation of over 8000, there has to be many people who have interesting stories to tell. If you have experiences or news that you could tell others about, please let us know. Give us a call at 374 2465 !



St Albans Community Centre volunteer staff at the 2007 Christmas dinner

### 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](mailto:news@stalbans.gen.nz)

### Letter to the Editor

Life in the 1500's Whatrot! Please no more contributions from anonymous contributors. I've checked a few and all of them have been lifted (plagiarised might be more accurate) from a website that answers questions about the English language (which of course may not be accurate). Your contributor has just copied the "fact" from the top of the page without reading the more plausible explanations below. Maybe it was deliberate. Here's a link if you want to check: <http://www.wordskit.com/language/legends/threshold.shtml>

Anyway I like the new look magazine and it's nice to get it delivered again (we're on the east side of Geraldine Street). Cheers, Andrew Couper

**Nicky Wagner**

NATIONAL PARTY MP

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**Celebrant** available for your marriage, civil union, or other ceremony. Ruth Gardner, phone 03 365-6943, [www.ruth.org.nz](http://www.ruth.org.nz)

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**Housecleaning** job in St Albans wanted by honest and reliable lady on a weekly basis. \$25 per townhouse/flat. Phone Nicola 386 1118

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**English Tutor:** Students, all levels. \$15 per hour. Phone John on 027 6865 232

**Yoga:** St Albans Community Resource Centre. Tuesdays 10-11.30am. Friendly, relaxing class, well suited to mature figures. Phone Pauline on 980 8760

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## Ray White

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## St Albans Neighbourhood News ten years ago

### February 1998

While looking through the newsletter of ten years ago, I happened to glance at my own advertisement. Nothing has changed in there except for the contact details. It struck me that we live in a slightly harsher and less caring world, and it is even more important now to keep in contact with those around us. This seems to be the time when people, especially the young believe they have all the rights, and they do not care about the other side of the coin - responsibility. In video games, you can "kill" someone and, after a reset, you can carry on with the game. But you cannot reset the real world. Everything has consequences. If you "stuff up" you will pay the price. And I do not understand why a few teenagers attempt to make our city ugly with graffiti. It seems so futile and has no redeeming features or purposes.

The St Albans community organisations are most valuable and help to hold the community together. You need to be involved.

Enough speeches though.

The newsletter of ten years ago contained information about a gala day for St Albans, with ceremonial planting of trees at the Packe Street Park, a bus tour around the historic places in the area and a community organisation get-together at St Albans School. OSCAR (Out of School Care and Recreation) would be represented.

The 'Mediterranean Taste' celebrates ten years of operation next to the St Albans Pharmacy in 2008. Well done!

The Youth Worker Programme was highly successful with

overnight trips and climbing expeditions with the assistance of the YMCA. There was kayaking, cooking classes and skateboarding lessons. It was another initiative by the St Albans Residents Association.

Ian Kerse the motor engineer, celebrated more than 50 years of service from his business in Pitt St, and I note from the phone book that the business is operating still. Well done.

In 1998, the Summit Road Society celebrated their 50th anniversary with an Arbor Day tree planting expedition, Crater Rim Walk and other events.

And speaking of anniversaries, Hardie and Thomson

Timber celebrate their one hundredth year in 2008. That is quite an achievement. ([www.hardie-thomson.co.nz](http://www.hardie-thomson.co.nz))

That's a brief run-down of the happenings of 1998. There is much more, but you will have to pop into the Community Centre in Colombo St to find it. Come meet the team - Alison, Christoph, and others. You will be most welcome. See you next month.

*Dafyd*



Overnight Camp at Rapaki Rock - Youth Holiday Programme

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# St Albans News

The Voice of our Neighbourhood

**Hardie & Thomson**  
TIMBER & MOULDING SPECIALISTS

**100**  
YEARS

## Celebrating one hundred years serving New Zealand

One hundred years ago in 1908, Hardie & Thomson Ltd was started in St Albans. They offered wages of 17 shillings and 6 pence (\$1.75) per week, and only a 44 hour work week instead of the usual 48 hours. This was an attractive way of getting new employees.

The company provided timber, sawmilling and joinery services. Today, they provide the same basic services... and I'm certain that Hardie & Thomson Ltd is St Albans' oldest business.

It remains at the original location on Colombo Street. William Thomson and Bill Hardie and their employees worked hard to deliver high quality product, on time and at a fair price. As a result the business grew and prospered throughout the first twenty-five years. In 1933, a fire burnt the entire factory to the ground. This was the time of the great depression and there was no insurance and little income as orders could not be finished.

Yet a large number of employees stayed on to rebuild the factory in return for food and tobacco. Within a year they were back in business and growing. William Thomson now owned the business outright and there was further expansion. In order to maintain high quality, management carefully supervised each step in the manufacturing process, from obtaining the raw materials through to the final installation of the product in homes and buildings. I asked John Thomson why the business had been successful over four generations. John was very clear in his answer: "First, treat your customers with respect and provide excellent value for the money they have spent. Always make sure the customer is satisfied and if they are not, quickly make sure they become satisfied regardless of what it takes. Treat the customer like you would like to be treated.

Second, treat your employees just like you treat your customers. Make sure they are trained well and continue to learn their trade. Treat them fairly and pay competitive wages."

Hardie & Thomson must really believe this, because of the 17 employees, six have been there for over ten years, and seven have been employed for over 20 years. I talked

to several of the employees and, of course, have seen their fine work. They enjoy what they are doing, who they work for, and are very proud of their skills - craftsman in the true sense of the word.

"Third, do everything with honesty and integrity."

It certainly appears to me that Hardie & Thomson really practise this in every aspect of their business. What an accomplishment for a business to be in the same family for a hundred

years, providing the same services at the same location. This could only happen because of the strong business ethic to take care of customers and employees. Last year Jane and I contracted with a Christchurch company to install double glazed windows in our 1908 villa. Shortly after starting work, the company realised they had encountered some problems they were incapable of solving because of the complexity of fitting wooden windows into the existing frames. They said there was only one company that could solve the problem—Hardie & Thomson Ltd.

I agreed, and the work was completed by Hardie & Thomson. The work they did was outstanding, and we are very pleased. It was perfect!

We in the St Albans community extend a grateful "HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY!"



*Bill Demeter*



# Hardie & Thomson Ltd - a short history of a hundred years of operation

Tradition has played an important part for Hardie and Thomson Ltd.

Starting in 1908, Mr William Thomson (who was already running a team of tradesmen and building houses) teamed up with Mr Bill Hardie, a joiner, and created the timber, sawmilling and joinery company, Hardie and Thomson.

soon took over the company as Mr Bill Hardie suffered ill health. Employing approximately 60 staff, Mr William Thomson established a tradition by investing in the most advanced technology in the industry, and concentrating on fine machine work and joinery.

This tradition has continued down through the generations with Mr Kelvin Thomson concentrating on expertise in machining, designing and installing machinery exclusively for Hardie and Thomson, and Mr John Thomson establishing a joinery shop with a reputation for custom built classic and quality joinery.

A West Coast logging and milling operation commenced during the 1940s, milling native timber for the Christchurch market. This continued until the 1970s when the sawmill was closed with the milling operation continuing under contract.

At it's peak, the West Coast operation employed 25 staff in tree felling, hauling and sawing.

Hardie and Thomson's most important asset is in the tradition of its people - this was illustrated at An-



zac weekend in 1933 when the factory was completely burned to the ground.

The Hardie and Thomson site in Colombo Street is much smaller in area than has been in the past.

For instance, on the site of the BP service station, and behind the Century Cinema (now the Century Supervalu), timber was stacked for air drying before being processed at the Colombo Street site.

Charles Luney served his apprenticeship here and went on to become extremely successful, building most of the landmarks in Christchurch. Mr Luney died recently, aged 100 years.

Today, Hardie and Thomson spans four generations of Thomsons with Mr Casey Thomson joining the team. Already the 5th generation - Keenan Thomson is showing signs of wanting to continue the family tradition. Some employees have been with the company for over twenty years, taking pride in crafting the finest machining and cabinetry for both commercial and residential work.

Some examples of commercial work that Hardie and







Thomson have been involved with over the years include: The State Fire Insurance Building, Millers, Wigram Barracks, Burnham Camp, Christchurch Hospital Nurses Home, Westpac Bank (Hereford Street), Heatherlea, Quality Inn, the Parkroyal, the Charlotte Jane Boutique Hotel, Rossendale Wines restaurant and bar in Tai Tapu and the fine finishings of the refurbishment of Parliament Buildings. The list of notable projects that Hardie and Thomson have been involved with over the years continues to expand to the present day.

Since the earliest days, Hardie and Thomson has carefully controlled each step in the manufacturing system by establishing many sawmills to service the company, air drying the resultant timber and in latter years, kiln drying and processing the timber. Hardie and Thomson design and construct ubiquitous, high-quality joinery, followed by stringent final inspections and installation of the finely crafted timber products.

In line with the company's ethos of advanced tech-

nology and quality and in response to public demand, the eighties saw the modernisation of the Hardie and Thomson door manufacturing business to produce a range of distinctive and crafted standard doors. This selection of exterior and interior doors offers consistency in quality and represents the finest value in the marketplace.

The eighties also saw the launch of a 'drive in' facility to service both the tradesperson and the public. The 'drive in' is administered by proficient and skilled staff - who understand that service is a commodity.

These days, Hardie and Thomson concentrates on high quality joinery for new and existing homes, as well as light commercial work and the manufacture of traditional and modern timber mouldings.

Backed by a commitment to excellence, Hardie and Thomson is a company that for a century has stood behind its finely crafted timber products, giving customers a solid pledge of quality.

*Dafyd*



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Sherborne - Edgeware corner about 1935