

# St Albans News

The Voice of our Neighbourhood



May 2008

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## Help! Are we losing our heritage?

Help! Are we losing our heritage? Those of you who walk around St Albans will have noticed that there seems to be many more gaps in the streetscape of our neighbourhoods. Where older houses and cottages once existed, there are rubble-strewn sites often with a fence and a builder's name on it. The boom in medium density units is continuing at such a pace in St Albans (839 building permits for new residential units since 1991) that we are in

rural fifty acre sections, and of most of the Anglican Church land west of Manchester Street that more buildings were put up. The earliest buildings here date from the turn of the nineteenth century. While it did not have many buildings of architectural interest, it had and still has, some buildings that are worthy of preservation for their social and cultural histories. The Community Resource Centre is one (built 1920-21), as is the Oddfellows Hall in Canon Street and the Coptic Church on Edgware Road.

However, the NZ Historic Places Trust has only three registered sites listed in St Albans, and has only been consulted on one listed property in Abberley Crescent in the past three years. The local officers of the Trust are sympathetic to associations or residents seeking listing, and can advise how this is done (see page



69 Caledonian Road St Albans 1910

danger of losing most of our connections to the heritage that made St Albans a distinctive suburb north of the Town Belt. St Albans' history is worth saving and recovering. St Albans first became a separate borough in 1881, with its own mayor and councillors, and existed as a separate entity from Christchurch City until 1903. During much of that time, some large and distinctive houses were built in the west of St Albans (around the Eversleigh, Ranfurly, Springfield Roads areas) and smaller workers cottages on Edgware Road and High Street (now Dover Street) areas. The area at the top of Colombo Street was known as Knightstown, to distinguish it from the part of St Albans that existed along and west of Papanui Road. This part is now known as Merivale. Much of Knightstown remained as swampy peat and raupo bogs with flax ten feet high, or later as improved land in market gardens and dairy farms. It was not until new roads were created with subdivision of the old

4). But it should be noted this does not save a house or building from demolition. Only a Category I or II Heritage Register listing from the City Council will prevent that (but not always!), or a heritage covenant undertaken by the current owners to bind themselves and future owners from levelling a building.

In the meantime I watch the "for sale" signs on houses at the top of Manchester Street and along Colombo Streets with trepidation. And the last wooden villas in Packe Street opposite the Orion site are now for sale. Are we about to lose more of our heritage?

(Information on St Albans history taken from St. Albans: Swamp to Suburb, 1989, by The NZ Federation of University Women, Canterbury Branch.)

*Doug Craig*

Please also see NZ Historic Places article on page 4

# Chair Chat



Tena koutou katoa.

Recent activities at the ever busy St Albans Community Centre have included a warm celebration of our manager, Christoph Hensch's Henri Dunant Medal; a get-together for local business owners; as well as various meetings around issues of concern to a variety of people. The breadth of topics considered is reflective of our diverse community. One topic striking a chord with many within the local area—and those further afield—is the apparent inconsistency with which city developments are controlled through the Resource Consent process. A number of our members are working diligently to research this concern, with a view to some public awareness-raising.

The Centre's first targeted get-together with local business owners was a positive and enjoyable event. We plan to continue with our goal of encouraging residents to support local businesses as an environmentally sustainable approach to sourcing our needs. We plan to repeat this get-together so if you are a local business (large, small, or home-based) you are most welcome, and I encourage you to watch out for the notices. As our economy appears to be tightening—along with the rest of the country's—we will need to think about cost-effective options for our food, utilities and transport. Perhaps it is time to dust off those old gardening skills and tools and get cracking

planting your winter crops. On the buying local theme again there is an excellent array of cheap fresh fruit and vegetables available each Saturday morning at the English Park Market.

The recent Christchurch City Council (CCC) decision to increase its housing rents was a hard blow for tenants, particularly as it is designed to be 'social need' accommodation. I appreciate the need to balance the budget, particularly when Councillors are regularly lambasted for rate increases, however, I believe we all need to lobby CCC to maintain its historically respected social conscience.

A recent Government decision to significantly increase the social service spend was welcomed by all in the Non-Government Organisation (NGO) social service area. This is long overdue and whilst generous will still leave large gaps in service provision. Much of the essential work creating safety and care for young people, families and the aged who are victims of mistreatment and poverty, is provided on the smell of an oily rag. If not for the "love" factor as described by David Shannon of Strategic Pay, social services could not survive in NZ. The "love" factor is the commitment that enables the social service workforce to accept pay levels well below other sectors to ensure that the work is done within the extremely limited resources available. It seems unjust to exploit that "love" factor. As the Autumnal weather sets in, remember that there is a warm place to sit and read the paper at your local community centre. You might just find a club of interest to join, or a project you want to volunteer to help! Keep warm.

Maggie Tai Rakena Co-Chair of the  
St Albans Residents' Association

## Events Calendar

- 29 Apr, 10am Leisure Group (55+) Get together (379 6305)
- 29 Apr, 7.30pm St Albans Swim Club AGM (St Matthews Anglican Church Hall)
- 5 May, 7pm Small Projects Funds seminar, CCC (941 5408)
- 6 May, 7.30pm St Albans Pavilion and Pool AGM (info@stalbens-pavilionandpool.org.nz)
- 18 May, 11am Ratana Church Service, Rehua Marae (355 5606)
- 20 May, 7pm St Albans Residents' Association meeting (374 3465)
- 22 May, 6.30pm Business Open House (374 2465)
- 27 May, 7.30pm NZ-Japan Society (355 9903)
- 31 May Small Projects Fund CCC applications close (941 5408)
- 5 Jun, 7pm Immigrant Open House (374 2465)
- 10 Jun, 12.30pm InterAgency meeting (374 2465)

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

- \* Pub Charity – for the grant of \$285 for a piano cover
- \* Bendigo Valley Sports & Charity Foundation – grant of \$500 towards a new whiteboard.

### New Whiteboard at the Community Centre

Thanking manager Chris for the excellent discount that allowed us to buy a new electronic whiteboard. Please remember **Office Max** at Tuam Street, Christchurch!

### Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that the article "The Only Way To Go" in our March issue, page 9, originally appeared in the 'News on I.C.E.', Christchurch's eastern inner city community newsletter, February 2008 issue.

## Business Open House A Success

On the 27th of March, the St. Albans Community Centre hosted the first of a regular schedule of Business Open Houses to introduce the business community to the Centre and the vital role the Centre plays in helping the business community. Our Business Open House guests learnt that:

- \* 21,000 people use the Centre each year and many shop in nearby stores

- \* 50% of Centre users are not from St. Albans, but buy goods and services while in St. Albans

- \* 25 groups use the Centre each week.

The business people also learnt about our monthly newspaper, the St. Albans News, which is distributed free to over 8,500 households and read by over 21,500 readers. The newspaper is also distributed over the Internet and read throughout the city. The newspaper has frequent "Buy Local" articles and stories about local merchants.

The business community seems keen to help the Centre in many different ways, and this will become more and more important as funding from the CCC and grants appears to become more problematic.

The next Business Open House will be held on 22nd May and we are looking forward to welcoming another select group of local business people.



**St Albans  
Community Centre**

Te Pokapū Hapori o Hato Ōpani

### New at the Community Centre

#### St Albans Community Online Discussion Forum

Are you unhappy with yet another liquor store opening in your community? Do you want to share some information about urban planning and building projects in St Albans? Or would you like to announce an AGM or other events of your community group, sports group or church? Then visit the new addition to our website at: <http://stalbands.gen.nz/forum> The forum allows you easy access and posting of information for all to see.

**Immigrant Open House.** Are you a new immigrant or even an old one? Then you are invited to our Immigrant Open House on 5th June at the Community Centre at 1047 Colombo Street, to share stories, discuss issues, network and enjoy each other's company. If you would like to attend, please call Alison on 379 6305 and let us know, so we can organise catering accordingly.

#### St Albans Residents' Association meetings.

The Residents' Association meetings are held monthly and are open to the public between 7pm and 7.30pm. Please let us know if you intend to attend (phone 374 3465). The next meeting dates are: 20 May, 17 June and 15 July.

### St Albans News, May 2008 Vol.15, Number 4, Issue No. 160

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 8500 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@stalbands.gen.nz](mailto:news@stalbands.gen.nz)  
phone: 374 2465 or 379 6305, fax: 374 2467  
website: <http://www.stalbands.gen.nz>

The newsletter is produced by a dedicated group of community workers.

Editor: Christoph Hensch  
Proofreading: Terry Connor  
Design, layout, advertisement design: Dafyd the Scribe  
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With regular contributions from:  
Maxine Feutz, Hilaire Campbell, Bill Demeter, Maggy Tai Rakena, Kirsty Bliss, Doug Craig, Dafyd and others.

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The opinions expressed in this publication are solely those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of the St Albans Residents' Association.



# The New Zealand Historic Places Trust

## An introduction

Buildings and natural heritage are vehicles for rich storytelling. As tangible markers of the history of our ancestors, they represent to us 'our place to stand,' our turangawaiwai. These places allow us a sense of identity and ownership over our history.

As an advocacy organization, the role of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust Pouhere Taonga is one of education and information dissemination. We advocate for the retention and sympathetic conservation of heritage buildings, archaeological sites and sites of cultural significance to Maori through statutory means, registration and through public education.

The vision statement of the New Zealand Historic Places



Trust (NZHPT) is 'To promote the identification, protection, preservation, and conservation of the historical and cultural heritage on NZ'

Over the coming six months, the Southern Office of the NZHPT will produce a series of five short articles on our work and how we can be of assistance to the St Albans community. The series will cover: our registration process and heritage protection; heritage conservation and funding; planning and statutory advocacy; archaeology; and Maori heritage. We hope you find the articles informative and inspiring. For further information, visit: <http://www.historic.org.nz/>

## The New Zealand Historic Places Trust

### Registration of Historic Buildings and Sites

Registration is a core statutory activity of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) and is established under the Historic Places Act 1993 (HPA).

The NZHPT Register (Rarangi Taonga) identifies New Zealand's significant and valued historical and cultural heritage places. Its size, scale and national focus make the Register one of the most important historical information resources in New Zealand. The Register has four types of registration: Historic Places; Historic Areas; Wahi Tapu; and Wahi Tapu Areas. These identify New Zealand's significant and valued historic and cultural heritage places.

There are two categories of registration that apply to historic places - Category I means a place is special or outstanding historical or cultural heritage significance (there is a Category 1 registered house on Ranfurly Street, St Albans) and Category II means a place of historical or cultural heritage significance, such as Chippenham Lodge on Browns Road,

St Albans.

The purpose of the Register is to identify important heritage sites, to inform owners, the public, iwi, community organisations, government agencies and local authorities about significant heritage, and to assist protection under the Resource Management Act 1991. It is an information and advocacy tool and does not directly create regulatory consequences or legal obligations on property owners. Registration can provide heritage funding opportunities and can also lead to heritage properties being considered for inclusion in district plan heritage schedules.

Your first port of call for finding out about the registration status of a place or area is either on our website: <http://www.historic.org.nz/Register/register.html> or by calling the office Ph: (03) 365 2897. You can also nominate a site for registration on this website or by phoning the office for a registration pack.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>This amazing, yet powerful &amp; simple technique can assist with a large range of conditions:</p>   |  |
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| <p><b>CONTACT LINDA &amp; MARK</b><br/> <b>Linda Gregory Ph: 027 4200985 or 3236455</b><br/> <b>Tuesday, Wednesday &amp; Thursday 3.00 - 6.00</b><br/> <b>Mark Palmer Ph: 0800 581481</b><br/> <b>Monday &amp; Fridays 12.30 - 5.00, Wed 8.00 - 12.00</b></p>   |  |

### Basic Computer Skills Courses



- ✓ Tailor made to suit individual needs
- ✓ Starting May
- ✓ Small classes of six
- ✓ Low fees

**St Albans Community Centre**  
**1047 Colombo Street, Phone 379 6305**

# WEA - the Canterbury Workers' Educational Association

WEA Offers Low-cost Co-operative Learning The programme of the Canterbury Workers' Educational Association (WEA) may look very much like the programmes of other adult education providers around the city, with its wide range of courses in the arts and recreation. Take a closer look, however, and you'll find that the WEA aims to provide 'education for personal growth and towards the establishment of a just and equitable society.' It also 'strives to provide affordable courses of a high standard that encourage discussion and respond to ideas and events in the community.' In May-June, for example, there will be an afternoon series on 'Peak Oil and Other Global Issues.' Each week a documentary DVD will be screened, followed by discussion around the issues of peak oil and what might happen to western society when oil supplies start to dwindle. As well, there's a three-week series on Thursday evenings on working towards 'Sustainable Communities.' Another lecture series, starting on Wednesday 14th May at 1.30pm, is called Issues of the Day and has various speakers on some of the important topical issues of the moment, both local and international: 'Environmental justice'; 'The problems and risks associated with the genetic modification of crop plants'; and 'Challenges facing the next US President' are just three of the topics on the agenda. Subjects offered at the WEA include the creative arts, history, literature, international and local social and political issues, as well as personal growth and development. As well as the education programmes there are WEA clubs and groups that

meet on a regular basis. The WEA Bridge Club, Mah Jong group, chess group and play reading group meet each week, while the Field Club, Sketch Club and Writers' Fellowship meet less frequently. Contacts for all these groups are included in the WEA programme which is published four times a year. Canterbury WEA is an independent voluntary adult education organisation, where members are encouraged to play an active role in planning the programmes. It is governed by a voluntary Council elected each year at the annual general meeting of members.

The WEA began in England more than one hundred years ago, and started in Christchurch in 1915. The aim of the founders was to make tertiary-level education available to people who would otherwise miss out. The WEA stands for open entry, no examinations, low-cost co-operative learning. The Christchurch founders of the WEA came from both the trade union movement and Canterbury College, now the University of Canterbury. In its early years, WEA classes were often held either at the Trades Union Centre in Gloucester Street, or in classrooms at Canterbury College. Since 1959, the WEA has been based in its own building


at 59 Gloucester Street, opposite the new city Art Gallery. There are kitchen facilities in the building, and students are welcome to eat lunch and socialise between courses. The WEA rooms are also available to community groups in return for a small donation, and many groups meet here on a regular basis.

*Margaret Lovell-Smith*



WEA - 59 Gloucester Street

**Dr. Matt Morris**  
Community Board member  
for Shirley Papanui



*Working for a  
Safe, Healthy,  
Sustainable  
Garden City*

*You can phone me at home  
on 386 1025, or email me at  
matt.morris@ccc.govt.nz*

**WEA** Adult Education  
Courses

**New programme  
for May - July 2008**

Now available from  
public libraries,  
the WEA building  
and the WEA website

**Canterbury WEA**  
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Email: cwea@xtra.co.nz  
cwea.cyberplace.org.nz

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## Upstairs Downstairs – 69 Sherborne St



“Demolish Or Detonate!!!!” screamed the agent’s sign. Ten foot high letters and endless rows of exclamation marks, designed to put fire in the eye of every local warlord-the sort of person who has no regard for variously coloured pointed brick and crenellations, or for fine workmanship.

Saved from the hammer in 2003 by a smart young woman who appreciates the lovely curve of the Spanish arch and who likes aerial living. Who has also worked very hard and dangerously to make it liveable. You may have seen her climbing up the firewall as you wait in the traffic. This is part of earthquake strengthening- hanging in a harness, counter-weighting metal rods being nutted together by people inside

and then bolted on the outside. Probably built early 1900s. Architect unknown. Nothing much in Properties Records. Bricks have been repointed. The upstairs flat nicely refurbished. Was very 1980s-gold paper, blue furniture. The owner painted it Dulux Pohutukawa which was too dark- now it is offwhite. It is interesting to note that the upstairs windows have been inserted at some stage into what was a very open verandah. There are new flats on the north side, apparently well built, where there used to be a very derelict villa held together by a large plum tree and the bones of many dead cats.

*Hilaire Campbell*

### **St Albans Pharmacy**

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## Who Are We? The people who run the St Albans Community Centre

You may have wondered who those people are behind the name of the St Albans Community Centre. We are a small and dedicated group of mostly volunteers and some paid staff, providing you with a range of services. Over the next few issues of the St Albans News, we will be providing profiles of the many volunteers and workers who contribute to the Centre, whether as volunteers for the St Albans News, the NeighbourNet Computer Room, the Governance Board, or simply as workers in the Community Centre. We hope to give human faces to that small community that keeps the Centre and its services running, year-in and year-out. And maybe we will even be able to entice some of you to join us.

### WESLEY PARISH

Wesley Parish is one of the volunteers for NeighbourNet, the community computer service at the Centre. He has been working with the Centre since the second half of 2003, after seeing an advertisement in the newsletter and applying for the volunteer position. He has trained as a computer technician, and now uses his skills to help out at the Centre. He has also studied some courses at the Polytechnic to expand his knowledge in computers. Born in Papua New Guinea, Wesley spent the first part of his life moving between New Zealand and Australia. In his spare time, he enjoys reading and writing short stories particularly those of the science-fiction genre. Wesley also has a passion for music after learning both the guitar and the violin. In the future he hopes to make his own musical instrument, such as a guitar or a Chapman stick.

### TASHA SALMI

Tasha Salmi works part-time at the Community Centre as an accountant. She started the position in November 2007, doing the Centre's accounts and also some receptionist duties. Tasha is currently doing extramural study towards a Bachelor of Accounting at Massey University. Before beginning study, Tasha travelled for four years. She spent three years in Australia before returning to New Zealand and travelling around the South Island for one year. Despite

being kept busy with work and study, Tasha enjoys the outdoors, taking time out to go camping, hiking, rock climbing and horse riding when she can get the chance. After having grown up in St Albans, Tasha says it is nice to be living back in the area, whose history she has a great awareness and appreciation for.

### DOUGLAS HORRELL

Douglas Horrell is a member of the St Albans Governance Board. A relatively new committee member, he is responsible for property issues. Douglas is a long-time resident of St Albans having lived in the suburb for the past fifteen years. He first became involved with the Board when he was a gardener for the community garden on Packe St. He was motivated by his neighbour, Peggy Kelly, to use his interest in local issues to become involved in the Residents' Association. After completing a Master of Arts in art history at the University of Canterbury, Douglas now works at the School of Fine Arts at the University as an art history administrator and also in the specialist reference library. Douglas enjoys gardening and is interested in 'preserving green space,' particularly in maintaining St Albans as a 'green suburb.'

### TERRY CONNOR

Terry Connor volunteers in two positions for the Community Centre. Firstly, she is one of the volunteers for the computer service NeighbourNet. She came across this position when browsing the Volunteer Canterbury website and began the job two and a half years ago as a way to spend her free time productively and share her knowledge in computers with others. Terry also acts as the proofreader for the St Albans News. Despite these two positions keeping her busy, she also enjoys reading and photography. London-born Terry enjoys the community spirit of St Albans and the services that the Centre provides for its residents, something which she believes is missing from other Christchurch suburbs.

*Kirsty Bliss*

### Market

#### The St Albans Community Market

Every Saturday 9am - 2pm

at English Park,  
Cranford Street

*up to 40 stalls selling plants,  
fruit & vegetables, cakes, crafts,  
collectables, household goods  
& much more*

Enquiries phone 351- 9727

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





## St Albans Uniting Parish

St Albans Uniting Parish is having a change of Ministry. The parish is pleased to welcome Rev. Hugh Perry who will commence his Ministry with us in early May. Born in 1944, Hugh has a Bachelor of Theology and a Post Graduate Diploma in Theology (University of Otago), and a Certificate of Ministry (Knox School of Ministry). He was ordained to Stephen's Presbyterian Church South Hamilton, by Waikato Presbytery on the 7th March 2002. Hugh has been convenor of a number of Presbytery committees in the Waikato, and currently convenes the Parish Assessment Committee. He also represents the Presbytery on the Board of Presbyterian Support North-eastern and the Waikato Interfaith Council. Since Assembly abolished the compulsory retirement age, Hugh aims to fulfil his passion for ordained ministry and gain full enjoyment from this second career by postponing retirement until he is seventy. Prior to Hugh training for the Ministry, he and his wife Raewyn ran a photographic business initially in Wanganui and then in Christchurch. As a legacy of that career and his involvement in his professional organisation, Hugh is a life member of the New Zealand Institute of Professional Photography. As an elder,

Hugh served on the Christchurch Presbytery for many years including an eighteen month term as moderator. Hugh also served on the board of Presbyterian Support Upper South Island and was Board chair at the time of moving to Hamilton. During his training, Hugh spent six years in a part-time lay appointment at Parklands

Co-operating Parish and enjoyed the interaction with the different denominations. Raewyn and Hugh were married in 1968, at St Andrews Wanganui, and they have two grown sons. The oldest, Geoff, is married to Carla and they have two daughters Nicola and Anna. Geoff is rowing coach, and history and social studies teacher at Saint Kentigern College in Auckland. Craig teaches geography and social studies at Lincoln High School. He is married to Chris and

they have a son Nico. In his time at St Stephen's, Hugh has thought deeply about the future of the church and sees hope in a model of church that is less concerned with numerical growth for its survival and focused on being Christ in the community with no strings attached. Following that concern, Hugh was appointed as a civil union celebrant in 2004, because he saw that as important for a truly inclusive ministry. Hugh recognises that in our present culture people do not commit to any kind of institution as they did in the past, but the church is still called to transform lives, and must be structured to cope with those who belong for a short time as well as those who are long time members. He has a passion for ministry to those whom Bishop Spong calls the 'church

alumni society,' but also feels that theologically it is time we stopped talking about what we don't believe, and build a progressive theology that makes clear what we do believe.

*Jennifer Delaney*



Hugh and Raewyn Parry

## Who is Maitreya?

He has been expected for generations by all of the major religions: Christians know him as the Christ, and expect his imminent return; Jews await him as the Messiah; Hindus look for the coming of Krishna; Buddhists expect him as Maitreya Buddha; and Muslims anticipate the Imam Mahdi or Messiah.

Although the names are different, many believe that they all refer to the same individual—the World Teacher, whose personal name is Maitreya (pronounced my-tray-ah). Preferring to be known simply as the Teacher, Maitreya has not come as a religious leader, or to found a new religion, but as a teacher and guide for people of every religion and those of no religion. At this time of great political, economic and social crises, Maitreya will inspire humanity to see itself as one family, and create a civilization based on sharing, economic and social justice, and global cooperation. He will launch a call to action to save the millions of people who starve to death every year in a world of plenty. Among

Maitreya's recommendations will be a shift in social priorities so that adequate food, housing, clothing, education, and medical care become universal rights. Under Maitreya's inspiration, humanity itself will make the required changes and create a saner and more just world for all. The Christchurch Transmission Meditation group meets every Wednesday evening at the St Albans Community Centre at 7.30 pm to discuss the ramifications of this statement. We have excellent sources of information regarding this phenomenon and have regular meditations to support this work. If anything in the above statement triggers some inner feelings within you, then join with us on Wednesday evenings to further explore this. If you require more information please contact John Pickles on: 027 545 4823 or go to: <http://www.share-international.org/index.htm> for a comprehensive update on this startling news.



## Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

As a frequent and regular visitor to the Community Centre for the past two and a half years, I have seen many 'near misses' involving traffic at the intersection of Colombo Street and Edgeware Road. Not only are cars involved, but cycles, pedestrians, buses, trucks...in fact all types of road user. The most recent 'near misses' for me have been on two different occasions in the past month, while I have been travelling along Edgeware Road (from Hills Road) when cars (one was a Medlab South vehicle) have pulled out turning right from Colombo Street, forcing me to brake severely to avoid a collision.

Several people have also told me of incidents where collisions have occurred, pedestrians knocked down and cyclists hit. While being a 'controlled' intersection - yes, there is a Give Way sign in Colombo Street - it seems many people are unable to make the correct decisions when at this intersection. I sincerely hope the authorities are not waiting until someone is killed before they do something to make this a safer area.

*Yours Terry*

Dear St Albans News

Thank you for highlighting and continuing to support the splendid efforts of the many people who have been involved in fighting to regain such an important community facility such as the St Albans Pavilion and Pool. The group has done a fantastic job in preliminary fund raising for the initial infrastructure costs. The main problem is that we are in a Catch 22 situation. There are contributors waiting to donate money as soon as the Council guarantees the land for the pool. The Council is unwilling to grant that assurance until they see that the group has raised the necessary funds.

CCC has now delayed its decision to grant time to the group to raise the capital while it researches what other uses the land may be used for and what impact an outdoor pool has on the CCC Aquatic Strategies Plan. The question is though - to what extent does the community agree with this Strategy, which wants to eliminate all suburban outdoor pools? With the increased in-fill housing that St Albans has experienced over the past 9 years, community facilities and green spaces such as the proposed pool and Pavilion are going to be much needed, especially locally as transport costs will continue to rise in the future. Our question is - what has Council to lose by giving a very motivated community group a couple of years to raise the capital for a community project which will be of no cost to the ratepayer? If the group fails, the community will have the satisfaction that it has been allowed to give it its best shot; if the group succeeds, it could become yet another precedent and jewel in the fabric of St Albans' very strong community spirit. We hope that Council will do the right thing and give the people a chance.

*Douceline Wardle*

*President St Albans Pavilion and Pool Group*

### **Mairehau High School Adult & Community Education Programme**

Enquiries: Contact Adrienne Lomax  
Ph 385 3145 or  
email lomaxa@mairehau.school.nz

www.mairehau.school.nz  
www.paceinfo.org.nz

Part of Pegasus Adult & Community Education

Friends of Edgeware  
Incorporated.  
(St Albans Pavilion and Pool Project)

### **AGM**

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2008,  
7.30 pm

St Albans Community Centre  
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## No Community Input on Liquor Licences

As a community, we are again seeing an application for a new development in St Albans without any chance for local input.

Rather like what happened with the Caledonian development, an application has been lodged for a new bottle shop in the former video store on Colombo St, just a few metres from Edgeware Road.

Residents were encouraged by the Community Centre to let any opposition be known, even though current law means such views are disregarded by the Council as the Liquor Licensing Authority. A resident then emailed this critical comment: "It's just another retail shop..."

I think that ignores strong evidence that alcohol is not just another retail product such as videos. Sure, most of us enjoy a drink and can do so responsibly, just as many people enjoy an occasional flutter on the pokies or TAB.

But we put some rules around gambling because of the harm it does. However, when it comes to alcohol sales, there's precious little done to acknowledge that this is our number one drug problem.

Take the application to open the new Colombo Street liquor store. First, if you wanted to register a concern, it is too late. The deadline was Friday 18th April 2008, and was barely advertised. Even if you found out ahead of the deadline, you are whistling in the wind if you think you as an individual, or a community organisation, have any chance of influencing the granting of the licence. At present, community concerns don't carry any weight. Essentially, if you aren't a criminal, you provide enough car parks and are zoned correctly; you will get a licence to sell

liquor.

The Sale of Liquor Act was last reviewed twenty years ago, and it is failing to deliver on its overriding purpose. Its main object was to reduce the harm associated with the sale and supply of liquor.

Since 1990, the number of liquor licences in Christchurch has darn near trebled – from 342

to 991. We know that alcohol is most often the trigger for much crime, yet as a community we don't have any say in allowing more and more alcohol outlets.

I favour a comprehensive review of the Act, and current MP Tim Barnett and I are discussing how we might achieve that.

One step forward currently being considered would certainly have my support. Manurewa MP George

Hawkins is promoting a Member's Bill that would allow objections from anyone who thinks they would be adversely affected by the granting of a liquor licence. They must provide some evidence—but equally, applicants would be required to assess the social and wider impacts of granting a liquor licence.

Community organisations would be among those groups and individuals able to lodge an objection.

I think this Bill would be a good first step towards a wholesale review of our liquor laws. I am looking at organising a forum on these issues next month, and would welcome your comments...for or against.

**Brendon Burns**

*Labour candidate Christchurch Central*

*Email: [bb@brendonburns.co.nz](mailto:bb@brendonburns.co.nz)*

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## What can we do for the environment?



### Nappies

Babies need between 5000 and 9000 nappy changes, a gruelling task for any parent. It's no wonder disposable nappies are so popular. It's estimated in New Zealand alone we throw away 575 million disposables each year, and each one takes up to 500 years to decompose in a landfill. On top of that, most parents don't flush the waste first, meaning not only do the nappies hang around forever, they also add to the harmful methane gases that help cause global warming. (A UK study showing cloth nappies to be more environmentally unfriendly than disposables – due to energy use in washing etc – was found to have used flawed methodology).

Buy cloth nappies. This isn't the 1920s; you don't have to fold mountains of white cloth squares in complicated patterns while using your hand as a pin cushion. There are plenty of great re-usable versions available. And you'll save money – the cost of two years' worth of cloth nappies is about one-eighth the amount you'd spend on disposables. See [www.thenappynetwork.org.nz](http://www.thenappynetwork.org.nz)

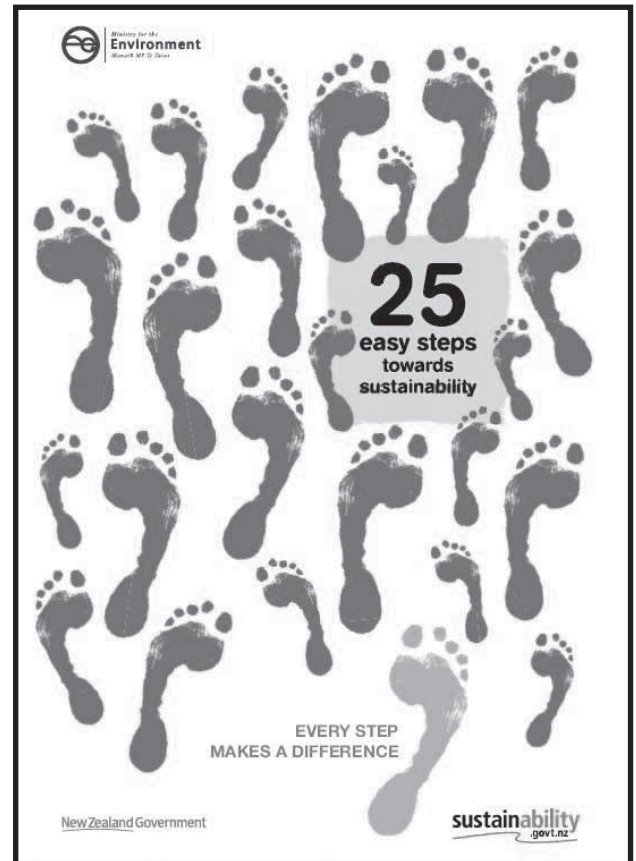


### Mercury poisoning

Environmental toxins like mercury exist in very low levels in seawater but become concentrated in the flesh of long-lived, top-of-the-chain predators like swordfish and tuna. Mercury, which affects brain development in babies, has accumulated to such levels in these fish that pregnant women are cautioned against eating too much of them.

For a list of the safest fish to eat in pregnancy, see [www.nzfsa.govt.nz/consumers/chemicals-toxins-additives/mercury-in-fish/index.htm](http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/consumers/chemicals-toxins-additives/mercury-in-fish/index.htm). If you are looking for an alternative way of obtaining the crucial Omega-3 (a highly effective anti-depressant, amongst other things) that fish provide, you can take cold-pressed hemp seed oil (if contains more essential fatty acids than flax seed oil).

(We were given permission to reproduce this article by Sunday Star Times Magazine, a Fairfax publication.)



The Minister for the Environment, Trevor Mallard—seen briefly in Christchurch at the recent Sustainability Partnerships Conference—has launched a new guide to household sustainability. (14 April) “25 easy steps towards sustainability” is a more than useful guide towards helping your household be more sustainable and meet the climate change challenge. And as “Wasted” a current TV programme demonstrates, being more sustainable is possible, and furthermore, will save you money as well as the planet's resources. The Guide is available only on the “Net” to save trees at: <http://www.sustainability.govt.nz/>

## Work In Progress At Edgware Community Gardens

Tidying up and beautifying the area where Edgware Pool was, is slowly happening. Locals were given permission to put in some raised gardens around the borders of the car park. Everything is being donated, mainly from Meta NZ, which seeks to reuse items that would otherwise be dumped. “These include two large old milk vats which will be used as planter boxes,” says Rosemary Soryl, organizer of the gardens. “Hopefully, over time, we can get local children to paint them and make them attractive, and counter all the tagging that is sadly happening,” she added. If you would like to lend a hand in any way, please contact Rosemary at: [yorosoryl@hotmail.com](mailto:yorosoryl@hotmail.com)

# A History of the St Albans Swimming Club, and the Edgeware Pool 1923 – 2008. Part 2

After ten years, the flourishing Swimming Club had outgrown the St Albans School pool facilities. It was decided to form a separate committee to look at the possibility of a new community bath. The first meeting of this 'General Committee' was held by local residents on 13th Feb 1930, the purpose being to raise funds, secure the site, and construct an open-air swimming bath.

The site committee members were Messrs Prouting, Grover, Sillifant, Pickard, Wilcox and Thomson.

Meetings were to be held weekly in the St Mathews Church hall, Edgeware Road. A resolution was passed "that the City Council be asked for the southern half of the reserve situated between Edgeware, Dover, and Trafalgar St, and that the pool committee ask the City Council Works Committee to receive a deputation to state the case for asking for the ground." The meeting duly took place and the deputation came away with the feeling that "as far as could be judged, the Council were sympathetic to the project."

In March, Mr Daley again followed up with the Council and was told the "matter was in the hands of the city engineer who was to inspect the site and report back to the Council." At this stage the pool committee decided to form an Emergency Executive consisting of Mr Daley, Mr Thomson, and Mr Stanton "to act if a verdict from the City Council was not favourable re the site."

However, by 3rd April a letter was received from the Coun-

cil with permission "to erect a swimming bath on the southern half." The pool committee minute book noted "now the site has been definitely secured."



Swimwear fashions 1930s

With the site secured, the committee could begin serious fund-raising. Work began immediately to make and erect a signboard for the Edgeware Road entrance, and a letter with a sketch was sent to the City Council requesting permission. The May minutes confirm permission for a sign was granted, but for a period of six months only. By this time funds were being raised by public subscription and community events such as a concert in the Civic Theatre with the Woolston Brass Band, and a "large scale" jumble sale at the Forresters Hall, Oxford Terrace.

Also under way was a swimming carnival organised by the Swim Club (at St Albans School pool), school concerts, bottle collections and fancy dresses. The social event of the year, organised jointly by the Swim Club and the Ladies Committee (chairman Mr Prouting), was the fortnightly dance at the Winton St hall. Pianos were tuned and regulated, tea trollies procured, and music provided by the Woodward Orchestra, (four instruments at £2.5s a night).

The committee apologised to Mr C Begg when the electric pickup gramophone he placed in the hall was not used. These dances were to prove such a fund-raising success that later in the year they became a weekly event.

Around this time, it was suggested that the City Council be approached for funds "but it was agreed to await events and

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then try for a government grant.” In July, the secretary wrote to the City Council re: “cleaning the ground and placing a culvert over the drain” in preparation for community fund-raising events. The pool committee was prepared to grant £10 to carry out this work, but decided to “let the matter stand over ‘til we had a reply from the Council re cleaning



the site.” In August, a letter was received from the Council claiming a twenty-foot wide right of way from Edgware Road right through the proposed pool site to gain access to the northern part of the reserve.

The pool committee decided not to respond and to “leave over ‘til we are ready to build!” Mr Prouting suggested a meeting on the site to mark out the approximate position of the pool “so that in the event of needing rubble etc to build up the bath the Council foreman would know where to dump same.”

By the end of August 1930, the clearing of the site was well underway and a letter written to the Council thanking them for “doing the same so well and also the Foremen and staff.” With the pool site now cleaned up, real progress was being made towards the major fund-raiser of the year: a November carnival on the pool site.

Permission was received from the Council to hold a ‘street drive’ for the sale of tickets, and the committee suggested the following advertising should be made: “Messrs Thomsons and Wallaces’s trucks to carry calico signs; Mr Mercer to drop parachutes from plane; calico signs on the City Hotel and Thomsons timber yard; show slides in four picture theatres for one week at a cost of £6.”

The minutes portray a carnival of no mean proportion, with the Tug of War being the main event. This was to “be organised by professionals.” Ropes with electrical indicators were provided, and teams were “coming up from down south.” It was to be held over three days in November. The platform was to be 60 feet long by 7 feet wide, the height yet to be decided. Weights of teams were – Heavy teams: 62½ stone or an average of 11 stone 7 pounds. Light teams: 57½ or an average of 10 stone 7 pounds. A number of local sports teams were to compete and, by the 19th November, seventeen team entries had been received.

The pool committee noted that “as the Chinese could not get anywhere near the weight it was proposed to hold a separate

competition for them.” Other events planned for the carnival were: sawing and chopping; side shows; bands; produce stalls; fancy dress; a sheep competition; and a guessing game with a fat sheep as first prize. And “an offer from Mr Keen to kill and dress the same.”

By October, Councillor Beanland had arranged for the site drain to be piped and half the old fence removed. The Council also waived the twenty-foot right of way to the northern part of the site, and a relieved pool committee wrote them a letter of thanks. The Mayor accepted an invitation to open the carnival, and the City Council granted permission for a band to march from Cathedral Square.

Fund-raising in all its various forms continued through 1931 and up to November 1932, at which point the pool fund consisted of £117 plus promises of donations to the sum of £50. Another £50 to £100 was required to start the project, but on 30th November, the committee shifted into high gear with weekly meetings in Mr Thomson’s office to discuss proceeding with the building of the pool.

In next month’s episode, the committee starts working with the City Council to prepare the site, but all is not plain sailing, and the committee has some nail-biting moments! Compiled from the St Albans Public Swimming Bath minute book 1930 – 1933, kindly loaned to The Friends Of Edgware by Hardie and Thomsons.

*Paul Somerville*

★ ★

## Attention Mums at Home

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## New Financial Assistance Available for Homeowners and Landlords to Improve Home Energy Efficiency

Many Cantabrians dread the onset of winter. Concrete-coloured skies and freezing southerlies make living in a cold, energy-inefficient home an absolute misery. Keeping warm in your home is essential, not only for good health and comfort, but also for emotional well-being. It's hard to be happy when you are cold.

Community Energy Action (CEA) is a local charitable trust dedicated to making cold homes in Canterbury warmer and more energy efficient. This is achieved by providing financial assistance for the cost of retro-fitting energy efficiency measures into homes built before 1978. For a long time one of the criteria for assistance required the home owner or tenant to hold a Community Services Card (CSC).

CEA is delighted to announce a new financial assistance package that does not require home owners or tenants to be in receipt of a CSC. This means that help is available for a much wider range of households. The package takes the form of an interest-free loan or a grant. These can be used to pay for energy efficiency measures such as ceiling and underfloor insulation, heating appliances (e.g. heat pumps and pellet fires), low flow showerheads and damp-proofing.

This package is available where two homeowners' combined earnings are less than \$100,000, or three homeowners earn less than \$140,000. This criteria applies to landlords as well. One long-standing criteria for eligibility assistance—the house must be built before 1978—still stands.

Homeowners with a CSC or landlords with tenants who hold a CSC can still apply for this loan. This means that a customer can 'mix and match' different financial assistance packages: for example, they could receive a subsidy for ceiling and underfloor insulation, and apply for a loan to pay for a pellet fire or a heat pump.

CEA's chief executive Bede Martin says "...for a long time CEA has recognised there is a significant need to support householders who do not hold a Community Services Card to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. We are really pleased to now be able to do this and want to make sure that as many as possible benefit from this assistance."

For more detailed information about CEA's interest free loans and grants, visit: <http://www.cea.co.nz/insulation-subsidies/#Interestfree> You can also call: 374 5698 or email: [info@cea.co.nz](mailto:info@cea.co.nz) to request more information.

## Asylum for the Verbally Insane (Author unknown)

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,  
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes.  
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,  
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.  
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,  
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.  
If the plural of man is always called men,  
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?  
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,  
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?  
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,  
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?  
Then one may be that, and three would be those,  
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,  
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.  
We speak of a brother and also of brethren,  
But though we say mother, we never say methren.  
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,  
But imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim!

Let's face it - English is a crazy language.

There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple.

English muffins weren't invented in England.

We take English for granted, but if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square, and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham.

Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend. If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it? If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?

Sometimes I think all the folks who grew up speaking English should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what other language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? We ship by truck but send cargo by ship. We have noses that run and feet that smell. And how can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out, and in which an alarm goes off by going on.

So if Father is Pop, how come Mother isn't Mop?

And that is just the beginning - even though this is the end!

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**St Albans Neighbourhood News ten years ago****May 1998**

A few weeks ago, I almost got hit by a car on the crossing at the corner of Colombo and Edgware. I shouted at the driver, but only received a close-up view of his upraised fingers in return. Asking around revealed a history of accidents and near misses at that corner. Then, looking in the newsletter of ten years ago for things for this column, I noticed a request for information on near misses and accidents at the very same corner. Checking later newsletters, I found a record of continuing problems. There have been many requests to Council for a set of lights at the corner, but nothing has been done. The accidents and near misses go on - many hundreds of them. I have heard that two people have to be killed before any action is taken. Any volunteers? The photo of the crossing shows another car that didn't give way to a lady, a superimposed set of lights (wishful thinking) and a tombstone (arrow) in memoriam to the two hypothetical people who gave their lives so that the danger could be reduced. I suggest that a councillor stand on the corner (well back from the road) between 4 and 5 on any weekday to witness the near misses that occur every few minutes. A deadly corner indeed.

Back in 1998, with the closure of the St Albans Library, discussions were under way on the use of the building as the focus of the community. and the result is that we have a really great resource these days. You should pop in.

And the green recycling crates had all been delivered to households by May 1998. It has struck me that the proposed new lot of wheelie bins are going to cause problems for many people. A friend lives in a block of 30 flats. If the proposal goes forward, that would mean 90 bins cluttering up the place. What an eyesore. If **you** had three wheelie bins given you, where would you put them on your section? This is another instance of mental ineptitude of the decision makers of Christchurch. The council is supposed to make the city work better and smarter, not sit back, ignoring the rules, avoiding the moral and ethical issues and collecting their large salaries. They say you cannot fight city hall, but I say that if enough citizens demand changes, the fat cats have to listen and do the right thing. Write letters to the council and to your local politician and send a copy to the community centre so they can keep a record of letters sent (and mislaid). Ring up the council and complain about the wrongs that need to be righted. Unless you do this, the steamroller will roll right over you.

See you next month.

*Dafyd*

**Quote of the Month**

*"People who are wrapped up in themselves make very small packages"*

*- Anon*



**The St Albans News  
relies on your  
contributions. Please send  
us your articles, letters and  
notices. The deadline for the  
June  
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