

September 2008

The Perfect Storm

A Commentary by Bill Demeter



Highlights

Korean
Church
page 4

Tennis Club
page 6

Barbadoes/
Edgeware
Corner
page 8

Youth
page 11

Margaret
Wilson
page 12

I had coffee last week with two gentlemen, both conservative business owners of long standing in Christchurch. Each has followed local politics for at least 30 years and both strongly agreed – the local city government appears to be in dire straits and off to the worst start they can ever remember. Agreeing on that point was easy but trying to understand why was a more difficult conversation.

We agreed it seems like a Perfect Storm composed of Arrogance, Amnesia and Apathy blowing into Tuam Street.

Arrogance appears to have seeped into some of the decisions made by senior staff, as illustrated by the handling of the Henderson fiasco. Why didn't they get independent valuations? Why didn't they wait for Henderson's companies to end up in receivership? Why did they make the councillors separate voting decisions of the \$17.0 million deal by keeping each vote decision under \$5.0 million so as not to have to seek public consultation? Why didn't they use their own CCC property evaluation team? I personally believe this happened because of apparent arrogance.

Amnesia – has partial or total loss of memory infected the Mayor, Teflon Bob, and a number of the elected councillors? In my humble opinion, these elected councillors fall clearly into three groups: those that make



CCC Tuam Street Headquarters

things happen, those that watch things happen, and those that say "what the hell happened?" Thus far it seems to me a number of the 13 active councillors populate the latter two groups. I say 13 active councillors because one has not been at a council meeting for several months and is rumoured to be on an

continued on page 2

Chair Chat



Boring as it is to say so, the impact of this harsher than usual Christchurch winter seems to be that people everywhere are feeling somewhat glum and grey like the weather itself. Surely a lovely spring awaits and Christchurch will be a blaze of colour and new life very soon? Please!

Life with the CCC has been something of a roller coaster ride over the last wee while for us at the Centre. We have had the positive news that the Centre is to receive a grant over the next three years from the CCC instead of the usual one-year grant. This grant will increase the stability of our projects and services and allow for far better planning. We appreciate CCC's recognition of the Centre's contribution to the St Albans community.

A flip side however, has been the frustrating attempts to establish the working party regarding the future usage of the Edgware Pool site. The CCC voted on 26th June 2008, to establish a working party comprised of representatives from the Centre, St Albans Primary School, the Shirley Papanui Community Board, the Pavilion and Pool Committee, a Councillor who represents this ward, a person to represent the local business community, and an independent chair to facilitate the working party. Somehow this decision has morphed into an apparent attempt by senior staff to control, chair and determine outcomes. This composition bears little resemblance to the original CCC vote as recorded in the minutes, and makes one wonder how democratic decisions can

change so significantly in the process of their delivery. The feelings of optimism and possibility for creative problem solving on this controversial issue appear to be diminishing.

On an entirely more hopeful note I have managed to catch the wave of positive possibility being generated by the Transition Towns Initiatives. I attended a stimulating meeting where the Lyttelton version presented some of their work and ideas, and this has led to a St Albans version getting started. In a nutshell the Transition Town Initiative is one that attempts to rebuild communities along environmentally conscious principles and looks at specific local possibilities. For example, in Lyttelton they developed a local walking track map; they established the famous Farmers' Market and are now looking at possibilities around local waste management. St Albans has started taking some initiatives in the area of local food security and transport matters. This is about learning to live in an era without cheap fossil fuels. We are keen to hear from anyone who is interested and passionate and has knowledge and skills to offer to the community. I was lucky enough to watch a very interesting DVD that Christoph sourced on Cuba's efforts to respond to their loss of access to cheap oil in the 1990s. The Cubans basically have a head start on us all when it comes to managing with less energy, and so it is great to share their learning. Watch out for screenings of this DVD and others about the same issue at the Centre.

Well it is nearly time for the annual celebration of the Centre's survival and accountability session to the community by way of the AGM. Please join us for an interesting evening on the 30 September and give some thought to joining us in our projects' work.

Until next time.

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

continued from page 1

island somewhere in the South Pacific. So what is it that they have forgotten? It is something very basic to the principle of democracy. It is simple – they work for the people – not for senior staff.

Apathy – in the last local election 6 out of 10 people did not vote. Could it be that it was more important for those people to alphabetize their spice rack or watch cartoons rather than vote? We get the government we deserve when we do not vote. The recent news from CCC should

be a shot over the bow reminding us to vote in far greater numbers next election.

So what do the councillors need to do to get back to calmer waters and a safe port? It will require a daily dose of responsibility mixed with accountability and transparency. Taking this remedy will hopefully allow the recipient to remember who elected them, who pays them and who they work for.

Bill Demeter

News from the Community Centre

Transition Initiative St Albans

Build local resilience for a time beyond oil. Regular meetings are now held and we are looking for people to participate in different project groups. On 18 September we will present the inspiring documentary 'The Power of Community'. For more information please phone: 374 2465.

We need books for our Library

The St Albans Community Centre is looking for any type of book which is in good repair, to be used in our current library for our drop-in area. Phone: 379 6305 or drop them off at the Centre.

Residents' Association Meetings

Please note that Residents' Association meetings are now held every 4th Thursday of the month. All are welcome to attend. If you have an issue to present, please let us know in advance so that we can add into the agenda. Contact: 379 6305

Resident's Association AGM

All are invited to the AGM of the Residents' Association on 30 Sep, 7pm at the Community Centre.

Tenth Anniversary

On 18th October the Community Centre will celebrate it's tenth anniversary. Stay tuned!



**St Albans
Community Centre**

Te Pokapū Hapori o Hato Ōpani



Events Calendar

18 Sep, 7pm	Transition Initiative St Albans: "Power of Community" - documentary (374 2465)
21 Sep, 10am	Community Garden Bee (980 5584)
21 Sep, 11am	Ratana Church Service, Rehua Marae (355 5606)
23 Sep, 1.30pm	Edgware Bowling Club, Summer Season Opening (366 2160)
23 Sep, 7.30pm	NZ-Japan Society (980 5770)
24 Sep, 2pm	St Albans Uniting Church Garden Club (389 6458)
25 Sep, 7pm	SARA Board meeting (374 2465)
27 Sep, 1pm	Bokashi Workshop at Packe Street Park (347 9339)
30 Sep, 7pm	SARA AGM 2008 (374 2465)
2 Oct, 6.30pm	Immigrant Open House (374 2465)
18 Oct	10 Year Anniversary of the Community Centre
21 Oct, 12pm	Christchurch Transition Forum (374 2465)

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St Albans News, P.O. Box 21-102, Christchurch

Email: news@stalbands.gen.nz
Phone: 374 2465 or 379 6305, fax: 374 2467
Website: <http://www.stalbands.gen.nz>

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With regular contributions from:
Maxine Feutz, Hilaire Campbell, Bill Demeter, Maggy Tai Rakena, Kirsty Bliss, Doug Craig, and others.

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

Korean Presbyterian Church of Christchurch

With our attention as a community increasingly drawn towards the vacant “Orion” site and what development might take place there, we thought it would be a good idea to get to know the sole occupant of the site at present and find out how the proposed development will affect them. Many people must also be curious about this large church in the heart of St Albans.

The Korean Presbyterian Church was founded in October 1988, when the first service took place in St Giles Presbyterian Church, but later it moved to its own premises in Colombo Street. It was the first Korean Church established in the South Island and the congregation grew rapidly. In September 1993, the Church split into two but then re-united again six years later. It has been in the current premises on the corner of Packe Street and Purchas Street since 2002.

There are two large buildings on the site, and in the one on Packe Street—formerly the administrative offices of Orion—extensive alterations have been carried out on the inside whilst preserving the exterior. The result is a large, modern auditorium capable of seating seven hundred to eight hundred people, with several smaller meeting rooms for Bible classes, a large kitchen and dining area, and administrative space. For the convenience of mothers with young children, there is also a viewing room with closed-circuit TV and a window through which to view the services.

There are programmes and services for all ages, and the building also acts as a Community Cultural Centre. Members of the Church volunteer their skills to teach music, art, English, floristry, computer skills and much more.

The congregation is mainly made up of local Korean residents and language students, and services are always conducted in Korean. However, anyone is welcome and a translation service is provided. In addition, there is a free shuttle service from the central city.

One gets the impression of a very pro-active Church, actively seeking to recruit new members and engage the interest of young people. Music, singing, praise and prayer are all big features, and there is a missionary training

programme. Eventually, the main goal of the Church is to establish a World Mission Training Centre. Already, they have missionaries in the Pacific, Indonesia, Kenya and China.

As part of a new initiative this year, the Korean Church wants to open itself up more to the community. One of the ways they intend to do this is by making the premises available free of charge to local community groups when they are not in use. Anyone planning a responsible, alcohol-free event is welcome to make an approach. Open days could be another possibility or perhaps a community Christmas party.

The Church also plans to spend a projected \$30,000 to \$40,000 in the local community by donating to rest homes and other causes.

Because this location is so central and convenient, and offers room for expansion, Church elders are waiting anxiously and praying hard for a positive result to their negotiations regarding the second building on the site. At the moment, the Church has a monthly lease on the building and uses it to conduct youth activities, housing around one hundred and twenty young single adults. In exchange for removing rubbish from the vacant land, they have the use of both the building and a large parking space. Because of the size of the congregation, between two hundred and two hundred and fifty car parking spaces are needed, so if they were to lose this extra space, it would cause problems not

only for them, but for the neighbouring property owners as well.

Apparently, they were originally offered the first right to buy the extra land—which is the only remnant still owned by Orion—but it has now been decided to put it out for tender, making it less likely that the Korean Church will win it.

Having found a new life for these perfectly sound buildings, it would now be a huge pity if this thriving community



Korean Church located at Packe Street

enterprise had to relocate.

Since there is nothing practical they can do to influence the outcome at the moment, they are putting all their faith in the power of prayer and are running a forty-day continuous ‘prayer relay’ in the hope that God will hear their plea.

Max Feutz

Beacon Pathway — shining a light

It's been a wild and cold winter. On a day that most of the country seemed to be underwater, I attended a fascinating presentation by Beacon Pathway, a consortium of researchers, reporting on their initiatives in sustainable housing.

One of the more interesting and disturbing issues reported was the fact that the majority of NZ houses pre-1978 have no insulation. This means that, in winters, they are cold and damp and unhealthy. Slides shown at the presentation depicted mould and fungi growing on bedroom walls, and rot consuming timber joists. The standard of much of NZ housing, an estimated 800,000 out of 1.7 million houses, needs a big upgrade to be healthy and sustainable. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that houses be heated to 18°C in living rooms and 16°C in bedrooms to retain heat and comfort, and reduce winter illness. Christchurch houses measured in a 2006 study were well below this guideline.

The way to bring older houses up to a warm home standard is to increase the thermal envelope — insulation of at least R4.6 (correction R3.3) in the roof, and insulation of R 2.0 and 1.3 respectively in wall cavities and under floors. Some older villas and bungalows can do this as they have space under the floor and in the walls, but other types of houses may have some problems and may require re-lining. Double-glazing for windows is recommended in Zone 3 (the South Island) but insulated floor length drapes are also useful. The NOW house built by BEACON and BRANZ (Building Research Association of NZ) used polished concrete floors to gain heat in the day, and double-glazed windows and a small entrance way with inner door but no hallway to reduce heat loss. The tenants in the house said it was the most comfortable and warm house they had ever lived in!

Many houses in St Albans are older and so are their occupants. If the houses have no insulation, people such as the elderly and young families are at greater risk of respiratory illness because of spending greater time in the

home, and not moving around as much. Homes do need a reliable source of heating, and BRANZ research shows that gas central heating, solid fuel heaters (pellet chip fires) and heat pumps provide greater heat for the home and its occupants, than electric or fan heaters or open fires. Unflued LPG heaters are not recommended as they are killers when unventilated!

BEACON is now beginning a nationwide home renovation programme focused on making homes more sustainable — reducing energy costs, improving warmth, reducing waste and water consumption. If conservation measures like these are introduced, then an extra 500,000 homes nationwide can be serviced for the same energy consumption as now — sufficient for the next forty years without the need for costly dams or thermal plants.

BEACON want volunteer homes —1200 nationwide with at least 200 in Canterbury. If you want to become a BEACON renovation house please sign on at: www.beaconpathway.co.nz

It will not be free, but BEACON can help low income earners with accessing subsidies and loans. Landlords of older housing can also access these loans if they have low income tenants. It may be the best thing that they and you can do for your future this winter.

(Details are available on the website: www.beaconpathway.co.nz)

Doug Craig

Community Garden Working Bee

Spring action at the old Edgeware Pool Site
10 a.m.–2 p.m. Sunday, 21st September 2008

Bring a spade or trowel

Sausage sizzle for helpers

If wet ... postponed until Sunday, 28th September

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St Albans Tennis Club

St Albans Tennis Club has been part of the local community for over one hundred years. The Tennis Club has reflected what is happening in our community at the time; this was particularly true in the years of the Second World War, 1939–1945. The War years were a time of change and stress for society and St Albans Tennis Club.

The most obvious change for the club was the fall in membership, as most of the young men joined the armed forces and were posted overseas. These young men were remembered by being given honorary membership while they were in the armed services. Unfortunately, the club was not spared the tragedy of war with two members killed in action. The fall in membership and subsequent decline in subscriptions hit the club's finances hard as it recovered from the difficult depression years. The committee was forced to negotiate to not pay the interest on its second mortgage until its finances improved.

Rationing and shortages were facts of life during the War years, and St Albans Tennis Club had to cope with wartime shortages; there was a shortage of tennis balls which were a rationed item. The club was often in the difficult position of not knowing at the start of each season how many balls it would receive. In 1944, the club's quota was only sixty-four balls. To conserve balls the club's championship and handicap championship were cancelled. It was not until the summer of 1945–1946 that tennis balls became plentiful again. Other items such as wire netting were not available, forcing maintenance to be deferred.

Petrol rationing also affected the club by ending most private use of cars. This stopped St Albans Tennis Club from being able to visit country clubs to play friendly matches. The cancelled visits to country clubs were a greatly missed part of the club's social life. The club's social life also suffered from the members' commitments to various wartime duties.

The role of women in the club changed reflecting changes to their role in wider society. With so many men serving in the armed forces, women had to take a more active role in running the club. For most of the War years the

majority of the club's executive was women. The maintenance of the courts and pavilion also fell to the women. The lady members put in a lot of time and effort into maintenance for which they were generously praised. However, the emphasis was keeping the grounds presentable, as making improvements was impossible due to shortages of materials.

During the War years the president's report would end with a comment hoping for happier times, similar to this one taken from the 1943 president's report.

"The retiring committee extends to all members the hope that the difficult times through which we are passing will shortly come to a victorious end and that the men on active service will soon return to enjoy their sport on the courts once again."

St Albans Tennis Club summer season starts 6 September. New members are invited to join us from 2pm each Saturday. Our club offers social tennis in a relaxed friendly environment. Unlike the War years, there is no shortage of tennis balls or good times.

For more information contact: 351-2992.

John Laffey

St Albans Swim Club News Flash

The St Albans swim club has re-formed, and we have an energetic new committee. For seventy-four years the swim club held lessons at the St Albans pool, or baths as they were then known. One day the Christchurch City Council surprised everyone and smashed it up, so it was a bit tricky for the club to take the lessons. Now, Shirley Intermediate School has come to our rescue by offering us the use of their wonderful pool. The club is organising the programme now, and we invite you to contact us if you wish to enrol your child or children. We will be offering lessons for beginner and intermediate levels on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons, with Wednesday being free swimming time for club members. For enquiries or to enroll, please contact Val on: 355 6512 or email: paul.valerie@actrix.co.nz

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Are you keeping fit?

Hi, my name is Peter Evans. It is my pleasure to be able to share my passion with the St Albans community through this new health and fitness column. As an Holistic Lifestyle Coach and Personal Trainer, I have had the pleasure of working with a wide range of people to help them achieve their individual goals.

To start off our journey to improve your health and fitness, I wanted to begin by explaining the six keys to improving your physical, mental and emotional health and fitness.

There are six components to leading a valuable and rewarding lifestyle – these include our Breathing; Thinking or Thoughts; Hydration; Nutrition; Exercise; and Circadian Rhythm. Each of these is needed in unison to support the body and mind working at its optimum.

Can you think of any areas you'd like to improve in order to have the quality of life you deserve?

Let's begin by looking at breathing and how it affects us.

As winter continues in its wet, cold and damp fashion, house temperatures get lower and lower. In fact, St Albans has some of the lowest house temperatures in Christchurch—averaging about 11 degrees. Leading health organisations recommend that your house should be heated to at least 15 degrees during the colder seasons, especially if you have children or elderly people living in your home.

Cold, damp houses frequently trigger a number of breathing ailments such as asthma. Asthma affects around 15% of New Zealand adults and 20% of children under the age of fifteen, ranging from mild cases to chronic conditions.

Symptoms of Asthma include:

- coughing – which may worsen at night
- wheezing
- chest tightness
- shortness of breath
- difficulty speaking

Seeking medical advice from your GP or health care specialist is essential, to provide you with the necessary

tools to monitor and understand your condition.

However, many of us can benefit from several important actions:

1) Be aware of the environment you spend most of your time in. If that place is your home, ensure it is as free of dust, mold and dampness. Having a clean home will reduce the likelihood of developing common diseases and allergies.

2) It is also important to acknowledge that pets can cause allergies and trigger asthma-type symptoms.

3) Breathing exercises can help manage the symptoms of asthma. In some cases breathing techniques have decreased the use of asthma inhaler medication.

The regular practice of breathing techniques has been shown to increase mental clarity, mood, energy, digestion and longevity. A study by Nobel Prize winner Dr Otto Warburg demonstrated a correlation between reduced oxygen intake and the formation of cancerous cells – this clearly highlights the need to breathe 'well.'

A simple diaphragmatic breathing technique is outlined below. The main objective is to reduce 'chesty breathing' and encourage air to be drawn deep into the lungs.

Method:

- start by placing your hands on your abdomen, or belly button area
- as you breathe in, feel your abdomen expand to draw your breath deep into your lungs, pause for a moment and breath out feeling the abdomen 'deflate'
- inhale for a slow count of 4, pausing and then exhale for a count of 4. Counting will help you focus on relaxing whilst you breathe
- repeat ten times, three times a day, to improve your mental clarity and wellbeing

People sometimes catch themselves saying inside "I wish I had more energy, a better mood or a greater sense of relaxation." This can be achieved through the power of something most have control over... the power of breathing.

Peter Evans

St Albans Tennis Club

Summer season starts 6 September

Senior tennis from 2 pm every Saturday

Children's registration 6 + 13 September 1-2 pm

New members are welcome

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Corner shops at Barbadoes & Edgware, Part I

Barbadoes Café

At last! A place that young people in our area would be drawn to! This funky little place shows just what you can do with a not very inspiring, rundown suburban shop if you've got a strong vision and heaps of style.

I've been there several times now, and each time find something new to look at, something new to talk about with the friendly, chatty staff and something new to eat. And each time, I try to find a way to describe it that avoids using tired old phrases like 'eclectic mix of kitsch' or 'funky retro style!' But the fact is that these are the very phrases I need. There are Formica tables and chrome-legged chairs, an inviting-looking '50s or '60s-style sofa which is sometimes outside in the sun, and lots of those prints that adorned almost every home of our childhoods, in the style of the famous Chinese Girl painting by the legendary Tretshikov.

Occasionally, exhibitions by local artists are displayed instead.

There is too much to describe in full, so here is a short list of some of my favourite things: a flamboyant red glass chandelier (I must say I'm a sucker for anything bright red!); a 'peace sign' made out of green toy soldiers; plastic tikis (everywhere); some large red and white cinema number signs; a crayon teapot for younger customers; and some wonderful graffiti which is to be found not on the walls but on the arms of Sahni Bennett, the person responsible for this visual feast.

The café is quite small, but at the back an old storage area has been fitted out as a little retreat where you can have a bit more privacy. This is where I imagine the local teens hang out. There's an old foosball machine, an '80s arcade game and more interesting bits and pieces out there too.

Sahni and her staff are committed environmentalists, so there is cute wooden cutlery and the takeaway cups are made of biodegradable cornstarch. Smoothies and milkshakes are served in old glass milk bottles.

The food is all delicious, with a particularly good selection for vegetarians, and a lovely range of sweets. They use Havana fair trade coffee from Wellington, and offer Phoenix Organic Juices.

There is a kind of 'mission statement' on the menu board, which sums up their ideals: "All kai made with love,

We use organic produce & free range eggs 'cos we like happy children & people, biodegradable packaging 'cos we want a happy planet."

The cafe is located at 565A Barbadoes Street, near the corner of Barbadoes Street and Edgware Road.

Open: Mon to Fri from 7.30 a.m., and Sundays from 10 to 3 p.m. Available also for private functions. Ph: 03 3860565.

Ambrose Heal Furniture

Owned by the colourful Peter Davey for close to thirty years, this furniture making and restoration business on the corner of Edgware Road and Barbadoes Street is a very familiar sight to most of us in the area.

Recently, I caught up with Peter and the talented Annie Hough—who has worked full-time in the shop and adjacent workroom for seven years—to ask them about the history of the place, their business philosophy, and what keeps them going in a business climate that I imagine is not easy to survive in.

Firstly, I was curious about the name. Was it linked to a famous forebear or a previous owner? No. It was chosen because an English firm of furniture makers in the 1800s had the name. It had suitable gravitas and began with 'A.'

I had often peered in the windows, but have to admit to never having had a reason to go in, so it was wonderful to finally find myself breathing in the wonderful scents of French

polish, beeswax and lemon, and to be instantly transported back to other eras at the sight of the softly gleaming pieces on display.

There is a variety of styles on offer, but the main inspiration comes from the Arts and Craft Movement. The pieces look solid and functional, but at the same time fine and elegant due to the exquisite detailing using inlays, doweling and dovetailing. Every single one is a work of art. Pieces that caught my eye included an oak screen with an inlaid flower design, a French provincial style side table, and an amazing couch in the style of Frank Lloyd Wright,



Out the back at Barbadoes Café



Expert hands plane elegant furniture

which is in rich brown leather set into a bulky, square oak frame. You can also see a collection of old radios, and a little dog curled up on a chair near the window. Of course, I liked that!

Furniture making seems an unlikely business for Peter to have ended up in, actually. He is the son of a post office technician and his original qualification was a Bachelor of Horticulture. Yet, somehow, he found himself dabbling in antiques for many years, starting off in Rutland Cottage, which is now Meschino Cafe, and later moving to the city

centre. He had an eye for a bargain, and began restoring pieces he'd bought, slowly honing his skills and developing a passion for it. Eventually, he began making pieces from scratch, and this work is now the core of his business, with 90% of his pieces being custom-made reproductions. He had discovered that people cared less about the age of an 'antique' than its appearance and naturally, its affordability.

Peter is very modest about his success, which he puts down to good timing. When the first Labour government came into power, most home loans were arranged through lawyers, and they were unwilling to finance people into older properties, but once the banks freed up loans, it broadened the market and the renovation of old villas and bungalows became fashionable. The style of Ambrose Heal Furniture was an ideal choice for these homes.

These days of course, cheap imports are really hurting craftsmen woodworkers, and it is increasingly difficult to compete. But for Peter this is just an added incentive to stick to his niche market, and build on the shop's reputation for quality.

Words by Maxine Feutz

Photos by David Binstead & Maria Hayward



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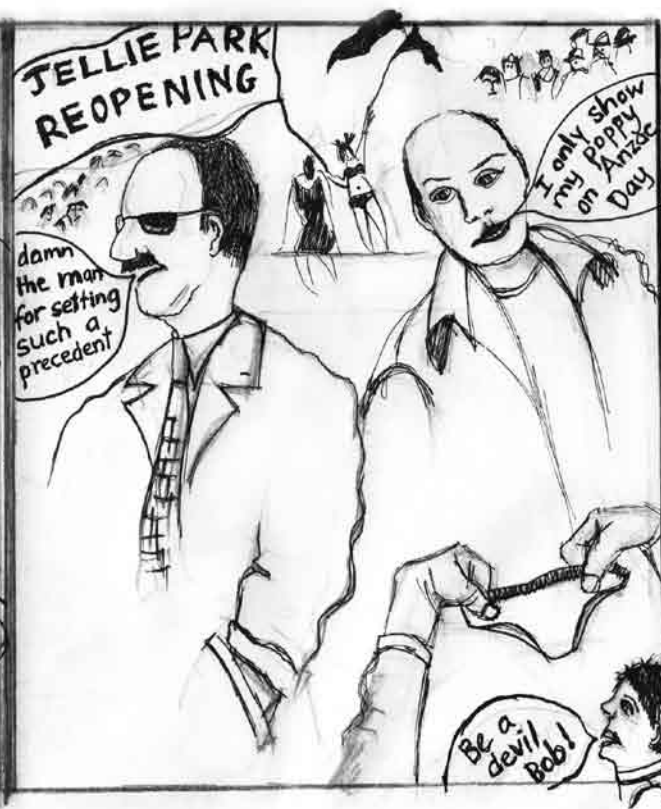
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First day at the pools - Heroes and anti-heroes



**ST ALBANS BATH
1934**



**TELLIE PARK COMPLEX
2008**

On Saturday, the 12th of January, after the new bath is declared officially open, Canon Bean (not to be confused with Councillor Beanland) is invited to take the first plunge. He swims a length... in the rain... in spite of the weather... in spite of his age... and the fact that he cannot swim very well. "It is such an honour to be asked," he says.

(Acknowledging Valerie Somerville's fine article on the history of Edgware pool, sourced from Christchurch Public Library archives).

On Monday, the 4th of August, the new pool was opened by Mayor Bob Parker...

An article for the Press, by Giles Brown, reports that he turned down a request to don his togs... for a photo shoot... and further, that this did not prevent Parker from volunteering his deputy Norm Withers as a "swimwear model." Withers apparently also declined.

Draw your own conclusions!

Hilaire Campbell

Ray White

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Cheap or free activities that are fun

Well, the last term's holiday programme was a blast with a good number of young people joining in and completing photo shoots for the website which is coming soon! The young people did the deed too, at Laser Strike, in the battle zone at Ultimate Game and also explored underground tunnels at Godley Heads and a lot more! St Albans is certainly set to deliver more programmes with exciting content and more young people involved over the summer which should be an absolute blast!

An interesting point that was discussed throughout the holiday programme, was that of youth socializing in Christchurch and the limited opportunities for young people to have a good time, meet others from outside of their school and to get into cheap or free activities that are fun, without having to spend a lot of money. Throughout the holiday programme it was noted that so many young people are either hanging out at the malls, movies or TimeZone, having to spend copious amounts of money just to enjoy themselves. If not spending money, then being in environments that continuously subject them to commercialism. A key point put forward by those on the programme was the fact that so many businesses were making so much money out of youth, and not necessarily re-investing in the social development of young people i.e. the \$5000 deposited in TimeZone games on a Saturday afternoon. The participants in the programme were

A Second interesting point of discussion on the holiday programme was that of Youth Drugs and Alcohol, their availability and how on earth one would determine whether or not their drug and alcohol use was an issue or a concern. Those on the programme discussed that it was difficult to judge whether or not their alcohol use was "normal" or harmful, in that comparisons to the adult drinking culture failed to provide what they thought was a "safe" benchmark. The words of wisdom provided by their experienced youth worker Mathew Glanville are outlined as follows, just in case there are young readers that are wondering the same thing...

Ok, here is how it goes... if you answer yes to two or more of the following, you would probably do well to get further assessment:

- if you think you ought to cut down on your drug and alcohol use
- get annoyed at others criticizing the amount you use
- use drugs or alcohol as an upper as soon as you wake up to ease a hangover
- or have regrets about the way you have used, or the things you have done while under the influence.

Further, if your use has been subtracting from your ability to perform and function in other areas of life including school/work, your family relationships, sports or community involvement, or with your friends, then this is probably indicative that you need to address your use.

Managing alcohol use, and resisting drug use is going to be a difficult area for young people, and even into adulthood. Suggestions are that if you are worried GET ON THE PHONE and ring up Waipuna Trust and talk to their most awesome and wicked youth drug and alcohol workers, they will certainly tell you the truth and let you know if you have been kidding yourself! Alternatively flick us an email to the centre and we can make any referrals you may need ;-)

Until next time... this is youth worker Mathew Glanville signing off and out, will bring you more muses from our youths in the next newsletter.

Mathew Glanville



Avonside Girls' High School students on the holiday programme take photos for a Cancer Society Campaign Against Cigarette displays.

bemused by these discussions and were also more than grateful that they had been able to spend a few days doing the mish with St Albans Youth Group, having good, cheap and old fashioned fun!

St Albans puts forward a key message.....It Takes Fun People To Have Fun....Not Necessarily The Biggest Budgets In The World

**The next youth holiday programme starts
on September the 29th.**

**For information call 379 6305 or email:
communitycentre@stalbens.gen.nz**

St Albans History - Margaret Wilson (nee Bruce)

Margaret Wilson (nee Bruce), shares her personal memories of life in St Albans from 1927.

Margaret was born on her parents' Hororata farm in 1921, the fourth child of David and Margaret Bruce's family of five. When she was six years old, her father's health caused him to give up farming and bring the family to live in Trafalgar Street, St Albans. He set up a butchery and sold meat from a shop on the corner of Trafalgar and Dover Streets. One of Margaret's earliest memories was of a frightened horse belonging to an Indian bottle dealer, bolting and causing the shaft of the cart to smash the shop window, fatally cutting the horse in the process.

Margaret's mother was a very resourceful lady who had one arm paralysed since childhood. In spite of this, she did all the family dressmaking and was a keen embroiderer.

Margaret's maternal grandparents were John and Rebecca Beatty, who by 1920, had retired from farming and shifted to St Albans to build a substantial bungalow on

the corner of School Road (now Sheppard Place) opposite St Albans School. They developed a lovely garden which was watered by an artesian well and buckets, and was for many years noted for its fine lawns and display of auriculas. Margaret at four years old, remembers being there from Hororata on the day of her uncle's wedding in 1925. Picture her there in her brown velvet dress—made by her mother—and which was forbidden to be worn until moments before the wedding.

From six years of age Margaret attended St Albans School and remembers, like thousands of pupils, being taught by Miss Lace the infant mistress and Mrs Saunders in Standard 1. During the Depression, she lived for a while in Darfield with her aunt and uncle who had no children of their own. They wanted to adopt Margaret, but as she missed her family so much, she returned to St Albans after one term.

Margaret remembers the incident of her brother terrifying her by chasing her with a live crayfish. Another frightening event was during their time in Trafalgar Street near the school, when one night while sharing a double bed with her two sisters, a fire started in the meter box. They all escaped out the back door and one fireman was so impressed by the behaviour of her little sister that he gave her a penny. While living beside the Trafalgar Street butchery, another trauma was one of Canterbury's earthquakes. While she can't remember which one, she remembers the chimney crashing on to the roof. Immediately, all power was lost, and Mr Grimshaw the grocer over the road, opened up his shop in case residents wanted to buy candles.

Her years at St Albans District School nearly all coincided with the Great Depression. She remembers her



John and Rebecca Beatty's home on the Trafalgar Street/Sheppard Place corner.

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grandmother, Rebecca Beatty, having an orchard growing apples, pears and raspberries, and also running fowls on what is now the western part of the extended school playground. In the years leading up to the Depression her butcher father had various shops in Dover Street, Dean Street (now Purchas Street) and in Colombo Street just on the town side of Bealey Avenue. With his butchery skills he was employed by the city council to cut up carcasses donated to the needy and unemployed, and distributed through food banks and soup kitchens. Margaret sometimes visited a St Albans relief depot in Papanui Road, to be given broken biscuits for the family. Food was also grown in their vegetable garden. Her father was given further relief work on roading—including the Summit Road—but in a more adventurous scheme he and his son Gordon took off on their bicycles to Takaka and Collingwood to prospect for gold.

Holidays in her childhood were by tram to New Brighton to stay with an aunt, and by car to Rangiora to stay with more relatives. Her first trip to Wellington was by ferry with her younger sister. She recalls having a very choppy bath en route, then walking the decks over many sleeping bodies. They stayed at the People's Palace and, like teenagers of that era, window shopped with their glory boxes in mind. She remembers admiring a lovely tea set and was so pleased to find the same one available in Christchurch later.

At St Albans School they played tennis (if there were enough school racquets), basketball, knuckle bones, skipping and marbles. A favourite pastime was with friends in the school playground—which was bordered with pine trees—using pine needles to map out floor plans of imaginary homes.

Common ailments of her childhood were measles and mumps. Her father suffered from scarlet fever and although kept in isolation, Margaret succumbed too, and they were both in Bottle Lake Hospital together.

Much of their time outside school hours was filled with the chores of helping their mother with housework, such as washing dishes; fuelling the copper in the washhouse and the coal range in the kitchen; scrubbing the steps and tables; polishing brass taps and nuggeting their shoes. So there was little time for reading other than the School Journal (which began in 1908) and their Sunday School prizes.

Most of the family attended the Church of Christ in Warrington Street, often three times on a Sunday. Later, Margaret changed to the Rutland Street Brethren Church as it was nearer to home.

Family entertainment included concerts and cards at the Caledonian Hall in Kilmore Street. Sometimes there

were dances held at the hall, and they would stay until the last tram about

11 p.m.

To bring Margaret's siblings into these years, her eldest brother Gordon left primary school to follow in his father's trade as a butcher. He gave six years of his life to World War II service overseas, and on his return settled into driving taxis and later forestry work.



96 Trafalgar Street

Elder sister Anna left primary school to be a housemaid and nanny to two St Albans families, then after caring for her grandparents at 4 School Road (Sheppard Place), married Bill Platt about 1938, and lived in various suburbs of Christchurch until returning to St Albans to make her present home in Manchester Street.

Alister, her elder brother, left school to work at Plimsoll's Menswear in Armagh Street, became a doctor's chauffeur and then joined the fire service.

Margaret enjoyed two years of a commercial course at Avonside Girls' High and until her marriage to Raymond Wilson in 1941, was a cashier/receptionist at the dry cleaning firm of Brown & Armitage in various branches in the City.

Adele, the family's youngest, left Avonside Girls' High to work in Whitcombe & Tombs printing works, helped at home for a while, then enjoyed time at Mrs Pope's drapery in Cashel Street. She was threatened with being manpowered during the War, but refused to work at the Sanatorium and instead shared a milk round with her brother-in-law, Bill Platt.

In 1947, Margaret and Raymond bought this house at 10 Sheppard Place next door to her late grandparents' corner house. Here they reared three girls and a boy. Margaret stayed here for fifty-three years until the turn of the millennium. St Albans remains home now, in Colombo Street.

*Compiled by Daph Parkins
for the St Albans History Group*

Easy care gardening – Choose a style and stick to it

The old adage: preparation, preparation, preparation, is imperative! Decide which features of your existing site you wish to keep.

Getting the basics right will ease frustrations later and help with design. Sketch a simple plan of where you wish your relaxing areas – service areas and play areas are to be.

For lawns to be impeccable they require continuous hard work - consider removing some existing lawn areas and laying pavers, pebbles or bark. After marking out borders, remove unwanted or spindly trees, shrubs, weeds and rubbish. Add around 5 – 10mm of good quality compost or mulch over the entire area to be planted and dig in, this will add nutrients and texture to hungry soils. Where ground is exceptionally hard and mostly clay, dig in gypsum to add texture and break up the soil. To ensure your plants get away to a good start, soaking in a bucket of water is a must, then lay them out and decide where best to plant.

When you are satisfied as to your layout...prepare for the fun part. Dig holes approximately double the size of your plants' root ball, tease out the plants' roots a little as time in a small tub or plastic bag restricts the plants' growth. Add compost or mulch to the hole, then plant - the extra room is for more mulch once the tree or shrub is in the ground, they will love you for the space available to spread and grow. The top of the root ball should be just below the surface of the soil, press down firmly to settle the plant in its new home and water well. Add another good layer of compost/mulch, bark or decorative shingle on top of weed

mat or paper (mulching will protect your trees and shrubs from either winter cold or summer heat, keeping nutrients and moisture where they should be).

Mass planting is low maintenance gardening; too much variety involves work. With only a few varieties we have less pruning, feeding, and in some cases a watering system will suffice for the whole garden. The more densely planted, the fewer the weeds; but be aware that close planting has its disadvantages with ventilation becoming a problem sometimes causing disease and pests. A yearly prune to remove diseased and dead wood and a bi-yearly spray with organic formulas will suffice.

Raised borders for shrubs, trees and vegetable gardens are the ultimate in easy gardening; the procedure also adds seating for easy management. *Scleranthus biflorus*, *rauolia*, *pimelia* and many of the scented thyme varieties planted among large river stones are care free; these plants love to scramble over hard surfaces, and if they drift a little too far can be snipped off and propagated for another part of the garden. *Bromelia*eds are another pebble lover preferring to be watered from the top but again no care. The stunning effect of *buxus* around the edge of a terrace or step requires a light bi-yearly prune.

The shady side of your garden will be stunning planted with evergreens such as *viburnum*, *pieris*, *camellia* *sasanqua*, *rhododendrons*, *azaleas* and *hydrangeas* (the flowering stems needing to be pruned after flowering).

The hotter areas will love many of our special natives such as evergreen *Kowhai* and *Kaka Beak*. Plant these in the natural way of threes and fives. *Aciphylla dieffenbachia* with its stunning foliage will stand out and draw the eye, as will *euphorbia glauca*'s grey leaves with purple flowers compliment the groundcover *Acaena*. *Astelia chathamica* 'Silver Spear' has striking silver leaves that will give impact and interest, especially when combined with either purple or green groundcovers.

Coprosma prostrata has small glossy leaves that will drip over any edge of a raised border, or grow happily along the ground and fill in gaps to lessen weeds. New Zealand natives like a good covering of humus (natural decomposed material) or fine bark looks the part and conserves our precious water.

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Maori Heritage Team - Tira Pouhere Taonga

Puritia nga taonga tuku iho o nga matua tupuna hei tiki huia mo nga uri whakatipu o Aotearoa.

Keep the treasures handed down by the ancestors as an adornment for the descendants yet to be born in New Zealand.

Maori heritage places are taonga tuku iho (treasures handed down), and are integral to Aotearoa/New Zealand's culture and identity. As a part of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT), the Tira Pouhere Taonga/Maori Heritage Team focuses on the identification, protection and promotion of Maori Heritage and Maori Heritage Places. The Tira encompasses a wide range of skills and experience to aid and support iwi Maori in preserving and protecting Maori culture and heritage in Aotearoa. The work of the Tira includes:

- advice and expertise on Maori-built heritage and Marae conservation
- guidance on the identification, protection and preservation of archaeological sites
- registration of wahi tapu, wahi tapu areas, historic places and historic areas of Maori interest
- advocacy in supporting Maori heritage
- support for whanau/hapu/iwi to manage their own



heritage resources

Tira members are based in NZHPT regional offices around the country. The Pouarahi (Maori Heritage Advisor) in the Christchurch office works on Maori heritage projects in the Canterbury/West Coast region, including rock art projects and site identification projects.

Recent projects include the wahi tapu registration of Tautahi Rua Koiwi, the burial place of Tautahi. Tautahi was the Ngai Tahu chief after whom Otautahi/Christchurch is named. Other Maori heritage registrations within Canterbury include Tautahi Pa and Puari Pa Urupa in central Christchurch, Te Pa o Turakautahi (Kaiapoi Pa) in North Canterbury and Tuhiraki (Mount Bossu) overlooking Akaroa Harbour.

The Christchurch-based Pouarahi works primarily on Maori heritage projects identified by Ngai Tahu Papatipu Runanga. Te Tira o Pouhere Taonga also advocates for the recognition and protection of Maori heritage places via local and central government processes.

For further information, or advice on Maori heritage services please contact the Pouarahi at NZHPT's Christchurch office: InfoSouthern@historic.org.nz

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DIY skills...important life skills

It would seem today's economic times (rising costs of food, petrol, services) are creating pressure on many households, and homeowners are looking at saving money where they can to redirect it to areas of need. Homeowners who have learnt the basic life skills of budgeting, cooking from scratch, growing vegetables, sewing, servicing their own car and DIY home maintenance, may be more equipped than many to weather these economic storms.

One life skill that was more commonly taught to men and not women was DIY home maintenance. In New Zealand, DIY has traditionally been the domain of men—which isn't surprising considering the rigid gender stereotyping of the 1950s–1970s—reinforced both in the home and through the educational system. It's laughable now to consider some of the views of that time: anything inside a home was a woman's domain and everything outside it was for the men; cooking and sewing classes for the girls; metalwork for the boys; boys steered into trades' training and girls steered into office work if they weren't considered academic. And as for men and women interested in learning about things outside their designated square...it wasn't the done thing. Thankfully, societal expectations have changed, and now men and women are free to explore careers and interests, without encumbrance. But the legacy of those times remains.

What do you do if you want to do DIY but haven't good DIY skills, confidence in your own abilities or a network of DIY role models to guide you? Short of embarking on formal trades' training, there are few opportunities available to learn, under expert tuition, basic DIY-related skills such as: backing trailers; painting; wallpapering; plastering; or doing simple household maintenance. Many men and women are confident enough to 'pick things up' as they go along, however, that isn't so for everyone. Common barriers to people beginning their DIY journey include: not knowing how simple or difficult a task is; not knowing the tools and equipment needed for a task; not knowing where to begin a task; or a lack of support, encouragement or confidence.

The ideal is to learn DIY skills in a workshop setting with skilled tutors. This way DIYers can learn how to keep themselves and others safe before embarking on a task or using particular tools (the statistics for DIY-related injuries around the home are alarming). The best ways to do a task (time, energy and resource efficient) can be demonstrated and time spent giving individual guidance to participants. DIY learners need a supportive, encouraging environment in which to learn in, a place where it's alright not to know things and alright to ask questions, however basic they may be. There's also rich learning to be had listening to skilled tradespeople share their tips of the trade and their experiences. The ideal too, is separate workshops for men and women because typically men have more prior knowledge on DIY issues than women, and the beginning points tend to be different for each group.

DIY skills are important life skills and ones to have throughout our lives: when we go flatting; when we have a large mortgage and little spare cash and need to save money on repairs; when we purchase a rental property and want to a refurbishment, minor repairs or a freshen up; when the person we have relied upon to do these things is no longer with us or, doesn't have the interest, skills or knowledge; or when we want to avoid being 'ripped off' by unscrupulous repair people who may expect us to be ignorant of basic DIY issues.

For those of us without good DIY genes or the courage to simply give it a go and see what happens, we need help to learn basic DIY skills (get it right first time). For those of us with good DIY genes, skills and enthusiasm, help is still needed to ensure the skills and techniques used are safe and effective, and the finished product meets all legislative requirements and won't cause problems for the next owner. We could choose to pick things up as we go along, but can we be sure we've picked up the right things? And why put off maintaining or freshening up our homes, because we don't know how or where to begin?

Sue Dwan

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“Latino Club de Futbol”

Last Sunday (17th August) an enjoyable potluck lunch was held in the Community Lounge, Avonside, to promote the “LATINO CLUB de FUTBOL” soccer team and the 2008 Global Football Festival. The function, which was hosted by Ahmed Kafedzic, was attended by twenty-five invited guests, including Nicky Wagner (National MP), and Kevin O’Sullivan, the team’s coach. Entertainment by Andy Thompson, international singer, songwriter and music tutor, with his talented student Judy, created a nice atmosphere at the lunch.

Ahmed’s son Tarik, is a talented player for the team and has lived in St Albans for the past few years. The international team is made up of players from Chile; Argentina; Italy; England; New Zealand; China; Uruguay; Brazil; Bosnia and Hertzegovina; Turkey; and Peru.

The function was a response to a special request from Miroslav Ciro Blazevic, who is the new soccer coach of the national team of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He is reputed to be the ‘best soccer coach in the world.’

Many of those attending the lunch, then went to watch the team training in Hagley Park.

The day’s events were recorded by eight cameras and resulted in some good photos and movies. These will be put on to a DVD “LATINO CLUB de FUTBOL.”

Ahmed is grateful to Council Housing for providing the Lounge free of charge for this function, and also would like to thank Nicky Wagner for taking an active part in the team’s training session. Finally, he would like to thank everyone for attending and providing their cameras,



great food, company, and most of all, their encouragement and support.

*Written by Terry Connor,
on behalf of Ahmed Kafedzic.*

Anyone for Croquet?

Everyone lucky enough to live in or near St Albans knows where to find St Albans Park. It has, since its establishment in 1903, always been a valuable recreational asset to the community, providing space for kite and model aeroplane flyers, band concerts (early days), mushroom pickers, frisbee flingers, joggers, dog walkers, slides, swings and roundabouts, family picnics, etc and several popular winter and summer sporting codes.

Many local residents also know that the Edgeware Croquet Club is in the north-west corner of the park protected from the easterly wind and the flight of cricket balls. Over the years since its establishment in 1913, many hundreds of members have shared time there playing competitively with other Canterbury croquet clubs or just socially within our club.

But how many of today’s locals have ever ventured inside our greens on a club day (Thursday or Saturday) or any time when members are enjoying a game? You could visit us through the park gate near our pavilion, or via the Forfar Street gate next to the Orion sub-station.

As from September, we have several vacancies for new members keen to learn the basics of croquet from our accredited coaches. Are you a local secondary school pupil? A tertiary student? Employed but with weekends off? A couple? Widowed? Just retired? True, some of us are older, but we started the game earlier (some twenty years ago) and we are still addicted! The world’s very top players are quite young and several of them live in Christchurch.

The season lasts from September till April, and the annual subs are very reasonable and good value. All equipment except your mallet is supplied. The mallet you choose can last from your beginning and will not go out of fashion. So if you are looking for a challenge of new skills, gentle exercise (no scrums or tackles), sunshine, fresh air and fellowship with both genders in a variety of interests and age groups, call on us. All you need to start the game is flat-soled shoes, a mallet (we’ll lend you one at first), determination and a sense of humour. Tempted?

Phone Bev our new President on: 366 7718

Community Notices

Looking for historical knowledge of St Albans

We are setting up a new walking group in the area. Have you got a story or two of interest about a local building or a site? We need you! Other walking group themes may soon include an organic trail, gorgeous gardens and/or a waterway visiting walk. Feel free to join and help shape our tiny group, we aim to put out a colourful walking map of St Albans. You may also be, or you may know, some older people who will share treasured or infamous local memories with us.

You can drop off your contact details to the St Albans Resource Centre, or contact Ro at: 356 3166, or email Kerry at: goodkeengirl@snap.net.nz

Transition Initiative St Albans (TISA) Walking Group - building a sustainable community in St Albans.

Sparking your Interest

St Albans Artist Hilaire Campbell explores the uninhabited space and beauty of our city's substations. Exhibitions on till 13th September.

Displays are open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Saturday. Our city O-Tautahi, corner of Worcester Boulevard and Oxford Terrace.

Ph: (03) 941 7460 – Admission free

Mary Potter Community Centre

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for further information, or to receive a copy of the
Activities Programme.



**The St Albans News relies on
your contributions. Please send
us your articles, letters and
notices. The deadline for the
October issue is 16 September.**

Computer Course

Do you struggle with today's technology?

A Basic Computer Skills Course tailor-made for you is starting soon.

Small classes and small fees. To register your interest or for further information, phone Alison at the St Albans Community Centre on: 379 6305

Edgware Bowling Club

On 23rd September, 1.30 p.m. Edgware Bowling Club Inc Summer season opening day. New members welcome. All ages welcome. Enquiries: 3662160

Nehushtan

In Arabia, Major William Jones joins the "In the footsteps of Moses" Tour, following his own archaeological interests. His attention is drawn by various means to Moses' Brass Serpent. He discovers that snakes can still kill, but, he may have found a possible cure for snakebite.

Upon returning home to England, the Home Office gives Jones a tricky problem to solve. This also involves dangerous snakes which are infesting a northern mine. Helen, his wife, has another close call with death. Their efforts to solve the problem conclude with Jones saying "There never was a Lambton Worm." But, is he telling the truth?



Order your copy of this novel from St Albans author William Worley by phoning: 03 377 4824 or e-mail: worley2002@yahoo.co.uk

The cost is \$20, which includes postage and packing.

WORD WHIZZ ANSWER bindi glass

Afire, aim, aimer, air, airmen, amen, amine, amir, are, arm, ear, earn, emir, era, ern, fain, fair, fame, famine, fan, far, fare, farm, fear, fen, fermi, fern, fie, fin, fine, finer, fir, fire, FIREMAN, firm, frame, infer, ire, main, man, mane, mar, mare, marine, mean, men, mien, mina, minae, mine, miner, mir, mire, name, namer, near, nim, rain, ram, ramie, ran, rani, ream, rein, remain, reman, ria, rife, rim, rime.

(Reference: www.websters-online-dictionary.org)

Answers for the August issue puzzle

St Albans News Classifieds

SERVICES

0800DC3FLY

A to Z Appliances. Repairing, Selling & Buying Whiteware. Any brand, old or new. I stand by my work with warranties & offer very cheap local rates. For personalized service with a smile phone Zaine Harding on 669 2292 or 021 249 2292

Aakland Carpet Cleaning: Super cleaned from \$15/room; standard clean from \$10/rm, economy clean from \$8/room. Over 20 years experience. Ph. 388 3314

Accountant: Working from home in St Albans area. Self employed accounts, rental properties, GST and tax returns etc. Excellent references available. Phone Susan Ayton on 980 7334 or email taxayton@paradise.net.nz

Artist seeks work space like unused garage, room, or other area. Must be free of charge. Ph David. 356 1280

Books: St Albans Community Centre is looking for any type of book which is in good repair, to be used in our current library for our drop-in area. Phone 379 6305 or drop off at the Centre. Thank you for all the contribution we have received!

Builder: Kitchen & Bathroom Alterations, Extensions, Repairs and New Homes. Local qualified and experienced. Free quotes. Phone Neill 355 7695 or 021 352 599

Celebrant available for your marriage, civil union, or other ceremony. Ruth Gardner, phone 03 365-6943, www.ruth.org.nz

Classifieds: 25c per word, prepaid. Deadline for the next issue is 16 September.

Computer Guru: Highest quality computer servicing, fixing all hardware/software problems, installations, advice and more. Servicing St Albans for three years, now expanding. Call outs start at \$40/hr. Offsite repairs \$20/hr. Phone 379 3061 or 021 0243 7398, or pcguru@orcon.net.nz

Computer Problems? I do trouble shooting, virus and malware removal, pc maintenance and cleaning. Improve the speed and performance of your computer. Do better email and internet. Some free software. Backup documents, music, videos etc. Tuition provided. Low rates negotiable. Phone David, 356 1280 or email, davidmackenzie@clear.net.nz

Divine Massage: Therapeutic/Deep Tissue Massage & Acupressure. Yvonne – Diploma (Ad.C.M.A) BSYA Queensland. Introductory special \$45 hour, welcomes new clients. Phone now for appointment 382 9569 or 027 617 3179

Electrical: Bright Sparks Electrical Ltd. Registered tradesmen. Call Peter at 027 572 8864 or 382 5824 (after hours)

Electrician: registered tradesman. Accredited Heat Pump installer. Domestic & Commercial Local rates. Call John: 021 232 1173

Get a Website: Professionally designed for your business. From NZ\$299 (3 page website). Includes all art work. Free consultation and quote. Call Stefan from www.ambit-webdesign.com on 942 1314.

Hairdresser: long lasting shiny haircolour, organic based, ammonia free. good for you, good for the environment! Great haircuts. Tracette.. 80 Derby St ph 3796368

Holiday Accommodation: Fully furnished country houses North Canterbury (Amberley/Waipara and Waiau/Hanmer) 027 434 0015

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

Housecleaning: Honest & reliable \$15 per hour. Phone 356 1353

Housekeeper requires cleaning job. References available, competitive rates. Phone 027 2066844

Ironing: \$15 per hour. In your home or can collect in St Albans/Merivale area. Ph. Janis 355 9034

Painting & Decorating: Qualified Tradesman, 20 years experience. Internal external plastering. Free quotes. Locally based. Ph. Mark on 355 7670 or 0274 343 300

Painting & Decorating: 10 years experience. Guaranteed quality work at reasonable rates. Ph 027 294 8277

Plumber and Gasfitter: Craftsman available for all plumbing and gasfitting work. Ph Hamish 027 2166 998

Roofing: New Roofs, Repairs, Maintenance, Parapet Flashing, Free Advice. Ph. Clinton 366 6019 or 027 220 1982

Self Defence Classes: non-contact, no competition. Qualified Instructors, St Albans Church, Berwick Street, Tues & Thurs 4.30 – 7.30 All ages welcome Ph 0800 581481

TUITION

Clarinet, sax & piano: experienced local teacher. Phone Nicola on 385 6399

English Tuition: Foreign students of all levels. Individuals or groups. \$15/hr. Phone Peter 377 8197

Fairies and Angels from 2 years. Music, ballet, fantasy, fun. Thursdays & Saturdays. \$65 Term. Enrolments phone 021 120 6540 or 379 6305

FRENCH Students of all levels: prepare for exams or holidays. Practice conversation or follow a programme with a native French speaker. Ph Pascal 385 2483

Guitar Tuition: For beginner & intermediate; up to Grade 5, acoustic or electric, all ages. Competitive rates. Call Stacy – 366 3838 (evenings) 027 304 0617

Piano, keyboard and pre-school music at the Red House Music Studio. 101 Holly Road. Phone Danielle 355 1920 or 027 434 0015

Present Work Confidence for Women. 4 week course begins 1 Sept or 13 Oct. Mon, Tues 9.30am – 2pm Hope-4life, 943 2980, www.hope-4life.org.nz

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

Grab your partner and round you go...

With Bill Baratompia calling the dances, and Bush Telegraph and friends playing the music, the St Albans Community Choir annual Ceilidh and Barn Dance got off to a roaring start. "It is such a fun family event," says Heather Gladstone who leads the choir. "This year we had even more entertainment with the choir singing, then they were joined by other singers to form a massed choir, soloists, morris dancers, and a real slice of New Zealand with a piece by Phil Garland winner of this year's Folk Album of the Year."

There were a few nervous faces as the crowd were walked through the dances, but once the music started everyone gave it their all. With ages ranging from eighteen months to eighty-three years, there were some interesting interpretations of the dances, but in the end everyone seemed to be heading in the same direction and doing more or less the same thing at the same time. Of course, when it came time for the little ones to form an arch for others to go through it was a real test of backs to make sure the dancers could bend low enough.

"It's such a great atmosphere," commented Herbert, "and Heather has such amazing enthusiasm it's infectious."

There was a break in the evening to partake of the very fine supper and get a much needed cup of tea or coffee. During the break, Carol was accompanied by Joe on guitar and unfortunately the burglar alarm. Luckily she has a good strong voice so people were still able to hear her. It all broke up around eight o'clock with a lot of tired but happy people heading for home.

If anybody would like to join the choir please visit their website at: www.stalbanscommunitychoir.com or contact Heather Gladstone on: 379 9188.



Submissions with CCC:

Private Plan Change 31

Please use the opportunity to make a submission to the city plan change affecting the Orion site between Madras St and Packe St. The submission closes on 15 September at 5pm

Community Centre

1047 Colombo Street. Phone 374 2465 or 379 6305

Email: office@stalbens.gen.nz

Office Hours 10 am – 3 pm Monday to Friday

Offers to the community:

- The Press – available for visitors to read in our lounge area
- Fax facility
- Photocopying @ 10 cents per A4
- Hall Hire – Conditions apply

Quote of the Month

Political language - and with variations this is true of all political parties, from Conservatives to Anarchists - is designed to make lies sound truthful, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind.

George Orwell

Given some of the City Council's recent antics, this quote seems to be quite appropriate ...

The Editor

The St Albans News relies on your contributions. Please send us your articles, letters and notices. The deadline for the October issue is 16 September.