

St Albans News

The Voice of our Neighbourhood

December 2008

St Albans Gets a Close Election Result



Highlights

Megan Evans
page 4

Vibrant
Colours
page 6

Kevin
McDonald
page 11

History of the
Swimming
Pool, part 7
page 12

Well, the election is done and dusted for another three years, with some voters no doubt feeling triumphant that the long-term Labour government came to an end as the polls predicted, and an equal number watching and waiting in trepidation to see what we are in for over the next three years.

Both are dedicated politicians, each has the support of roughly half of the voters, and each will be fighting tooth and nail to increase their margin at the next election.

What does all this mean for St Albans residents? I approached both Brendon and Nicky and asked for comment on what effect the election result will have,



Brendon Burns MP, Labour

In our own little neck of the woods, which has always been a Labour stronghold, there might well be more of the latter, and with many of our residents being among the poor or elderly, it will be a long time before they ever abandon their deep-seated Labour loyalties and distrust of National, if ever.

However, the election result that was delivered to Christchurch Central by MMP quite possibly gives its constituents the strongest representation it's ever had, with two candidates of extremely high calibre 'winning' the election. As most of you will know, Brendon Burns won the seat for Christchurch Central, but Nicky Wagner has also gained a parliamentary seat due to her list ranking.



Nicky Wagner MP, National

particularly in our area.

Brendon Burns had this to say:

"I intend to be a very active MP for all of Christchurch Central, including St Albans. The first priority is doing all I can to retain every job that we can in what will be some tougher times. I am now making contact with union, business and community leaders to get fully briefed on where there may be some vulnerable jobs and what can be done to assist.

I also have made it clear that the current liquor laws are in need of reform. An early task is to check whether some Labour legislation — making such changes as greater community input into liquor licence applications — will be progressed

continued on page 5



YOU NEED TO ACT: The Council is reviewing the number and type of community facilities it provides in the Shirley/Papanui Ward. In the St Albans area they will review Abberley Park Hall, Ouruhia Hall, St Albans Community Centre and the Shirley Community Centre.

The Council is looking for input from the community and from groups that use these facilities. They want to know what you think, do you use any of these facilities, are the services provided what you want, and other comments you feel are important.

Two drop-in meetings are scheduled: Thursday, 4 December 4 – 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 13 December 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Shirley Papanui Service Centre Board Room.

The St Albans Community Centre has a Council form you may use to submit your written feedback. Please give Alison a call on: 379 6305. It is very important you take the time to let the Council know what you think about the St Albans Community Centre and Abberley Park Hall, both of which are in our area. Please either attend one of these sessions or submit your written opinions. If Council thinks either facility is not being used enough, they may review the continuation of these facilities.

ELECTIONS IN NEW ZEALAND AND USA: What a change in America! Perhaps the USA will now rejoin the rest of the world and work with other countries versus telling the world we have to do it “their way.” I’m sure history will be very harsh on the Bush years and

the virtual bankrupting on the USA economy and the resultant world economic woes.

Here in New Zealand Mr. Key and company will try and lead us through the growing financial crisis. Economists say we are in for some hard times over the next 18-24 months including another sharp rise in petrol prices. We wish the new Government well.

FUNDING DISPUTE: As many of you know, we have been engaged in a dispute with the City Council regarding a new clause they put into funding contracts that gives the city unwarranted powers to control behaviour or what can be said at Community Centres via a termination clause which states the Council may terminate funding immediately if “the Recipient, by any means whatsoever, causes the image or reputation of the Council to fall into disrepute.”

We were able to come to an understanding with the City that includes they will review the clause next funding period with an eye towards being more specific about behaviour and steps to correct negative behaviour. Furthermore, they now fully understand the independence of the St Albans News and our right to comment on Council matters fairly or unfairly.

Our thanks to the many calls, visits and letters we received from both organisations and individuals supporting the Centre. A special thanks to Michael Aiken the General Manager of Community Services for the Council for working towards a workable solution.

CHRISTMAS: Please remember we are closed from the 19th December until the 12th January 2009.

May you all have a simple and safe Christmas, and take a moment for a ‘random moment of kindness’ to another person.

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

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

Lotteries: \$12,625 for salaries
COGS: : \$4,500 for salaries
Community Trust: \$9,980 for salaries

The St Albans News relies on your contributions. Please send us your articles, letters and notices. The deadline for the February issue is 23 January

A Christmas surprise for some of the most vulnerable

In a landmark decision, the High Court in Christchurch has ruled the 27 March decision by the Council to increase the rent for the city's social housing tenants by 24% as invalid. The ruling is a major legal victory for the Council of Social Services (COSS) and the affected tenants. The Court found that there were significant procedural problems with the decision making process around the rent increase, such as failing to properly assess the significance of the decision and not adequately considering the views of the tenants. The decision is hailed as a victory for democracy. However, Mayor Bob Parker still insists that the rent increase was the correct decision and said that he did not rule out an appeal.

Christoph Hensch

*Wishing all Centre visitors and readers a
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year.*



**St Albans
Community Centre**

Te Pokapū Hapori o Hato Ōpani

**The St Albans Community Centre and
NeighbourNet close for the Christmas holidays
on**

**Friday, 19 December 2008,
re-opening Monday, 12 January 2009.**

**Phone Alison on: 379 6305 for
starting dates of programmes and courses.**



Events Calendar

7 Dec, 5pm	Carols in Packe Street Park
9 Dec, 12pm	Christchurch Transition Forum (374 2465)
13 Dec, 10am	Community Facilities Review (941 8999)
14 Dec, 3pm	Family Movie Fundraiser (980 9702)
18 Dec, 7pm	SARA Board meeting (374 2465)
21 Dec, 11am	Ratana Church Service, Rehua Marae (355 5606)
21 Dec, 7.30pm	Carols in the Car Park, Chch North Apostolic Church
18 Jan, 11am	Ratana Church Service, Rehua Marae (355 5606)
29 Jan, 7pm	SARA Board meeting (374 2465)

St Albans News, December 2008 Vol. 15, Number 11, Issue No. 167

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

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

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Printed at the St Albans Community Centre

With regular contributions from:
Maxine Feutz, Hilaire Campbell, Bill Demeter, Maggy Tai Rakana, 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.

Megan Evans

Megan Evans, who has been a part of our local government in Christchurch for the past seven years, as councillor, community board member, and more recently as Community Board Chair, has announced her resignation. Megan's husband has accepted a job opportunity in Singapore, which means the whole family will be leaving New Zealand. Megan has been a popular figure in our community, (actually she was the highest polling community board nominee with 12,000 votes in the last local body election), and she has championed many community causes. To leave her constituents was a very tough decision for Megan. It was a decision she certainly did not make lightly, as she has taken her role as community advocate very seriously. However, she is viewing the move optimistically, and considers this to be a great opportunity to experience another culture and hence return to Christchurch enriched and with even more to offer. Being Board Chair involves many hours of dedicated hard work. Last October, the government authorities imposed a 26% reduction in board remuneration. Megan, like other elected members, feared a lessening of the perceived value of Community Boards. However, this has been partially buoyed by allocating a Council meeting per month dedicated to Community Board reports. "The Council is largely involved with policy setting, and the Community Board is the essential interface between Council and community," says Megan.

After her OE experience, Megan has plans to return to Christchurch to claim a place in local body politics once again.

Megan and family, we wish you well and look forward to your return.

Kevin McDonald



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St Albans Working Party Update

The St Albans Working Party has been meeting each week over the past month. During these meetings we have been discussing the following issues:

1. Looking at how we consult with the community and the Council and to what level. It was felt that the best way forward is to work in a collaborative manner with both.

2. The tight time schedule that the working party has to come up with a solution (Jan 15th 2009). It was felt that it was possible to come up with a successful outcome in this tight timeframe.

3. Discussing what community facilities are in the St Albans area and the demographics of the area.

The group has visited the former Edgeware Pool site to view the scope of the site, and spent a day visiting community facilities around Christchurch to see the many wonderful projects that are occurring. Included in the tour were Project Lyttelton which runs a community garden, the farmers' market and two annual local festivals; Wycla Ave, an 'adult' playground; Heartlands Hornby;

a collaboration of Government departments and NGOs; English Park and Waltham Park and Pool.

The working party has also met with the St Albans Forum (a network of community agencies) and with Council staff. A series of questions were put to the Council staff with regard to such issues as the Long-Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) process, legal requirements, the site and the wells, any restrictions of use on the site, growth in the area and any CCC identified needs for the area.

Our main focus now is our consultation with the community. We want to hear from all of you who have an idea about what community facility/project could add to the St Albans Community. To do this you can:

Fill in the submission form inserted into this month's St Albans News. Post it back to us or fax it to: 374 2467

Add your ideas to our forum:

<http://www.stalbans.gen.nz/forum/index>

Email your ideas to: working.party@stalbens.gen.nz

Emma Twaddell

St Albans gets a Close Election result cont. from page 1

by National. This is important to communities such as St Albans, with two new liquor stores approved this year with little reference to local people.

And I am now seeking meetings with ECan representatives and others on how we might best progress the vital need for improved water allocation on the Plains."

Nicky Wagner talked of a two-pronged approach:

On the macro level, dealing with the financial crisis will get top priority, with the most important focus being on retaining jobs. She said that it is inevitable that people will lose equity in their homes, but as long as people have job security and can keep up their mortgage repayments, they'll eventually come out on top.

Educational opportunities, especially in the early years, providing easier access to health care, and law and order are issues she also mentioned.

On the micro level (that's us in Christchurch Central), she intends to carry out election promises to tackle noise pollution, strengthen communities and provide residents with a feeling of personal security. She stressed that this isn't so much a matter of legislation but of prevention.

I also asked both politicians about their constituency work, and came away with the strong impression that this was the aspect of political life that they enjoyed the most. Nicky Wagner said that it is surprising how personal relationships with constituents develop, and that managing

constituent case files had provided a steep learning curve in her early days as a politician.

She enjoyed every aspect of political life, even being in opposition, where you have more freedom to 'rattle the cages.'

The case load that Brendon Burns and his staff will be taking on at the Labour Party office is legendary, and he told me that it's very much business as usual.

"St Albans' constituents have come to expect a very high level of service from their local elected representative. That has applied whether the MP has been in government or opposition. I will work to maintain that very long and proud tradition as the MP chosen to represent every voter in the Christchurch Central electorate."

In the course of the 2008 election campaign, one thing became very clear to me. We have a very robust, healthy democracy in NZ, and in part this is due to the easy access we have to our politicians, which I think is something we all too often take for granted. Where else in the world can you pick up the phone to call a politician and have them answer in person? And where else can you mingle so freely with them at public functions?

Of course, getting them to depart from a well-rehearsed script can be another matter, but I believe we have in St Albans two political representatives ready and willing to listen and who are both extremely approachable. Lucky us.

Max Feutz

Vibrant colours and heady fragrances

How wonderful it must be to work amongst the vibrant colours and heady fragrance of the flowers at Miss Feaver's, and to pass on so much pleasure to people every day. This month, owners Cynthia and John Chamberlin have clocked up a milestone of twelve years in the current premises on the corner of Edgware Road and Hills Road, so it is appropriate that they should be featured in this particular issue.

The business has been around for many years, and has always had the same name, stirring other memories of its contemporaries, which also carried the names of their owners, names like Mrs Pope's, Hay's Department Store, Logie's Shoes, Fail's Cafe and many more. The original shop was situated near the corner of Colombo and Hereford Streets and later moved into the Shades Arcade at the height of its popularity, and it is at this point that it was purchased by the Chamberlins. When they moved to the present site, they were able to retain much of the history of the old place. The old-fashioned bike which is always outside the shop is the original delivery bike, and inside you can see the original desks belonging to Miss Feaver herself.

The day-to-day running of the shop is in the hands of Cynthia and her staff. Cynthia has a long association with floristry and shows no signs of tiring of it. Her mother was a florist, so she's been around flowers for as long as she can remember and began her apprenticeship twenty-seven years ago, aged fifteen. She recalls those years vividly. At that time, it was necessary to prove you had a natural talent for flower arranging in order to be accepted, and the apprenticeship was extremely strict. Cynthia particularly remembers the freezing cold of the early morning starts, when she often had to break the ice on the buckets containing the flowers. Being at the bottom of the pecking order of course meant doing the most arduous tasks. In those days, hand-wound wreaths for funerals were a big seller and she often had to make around twenty of them each morning, with numb, blue fingers. If the apprentices complained of the cold, a solution was quickly offered... they were sent for a run around the block to warm up. It's a sight we certainly wouldn't see today.

Whenever you drive past Miss Feaver's, there's always a

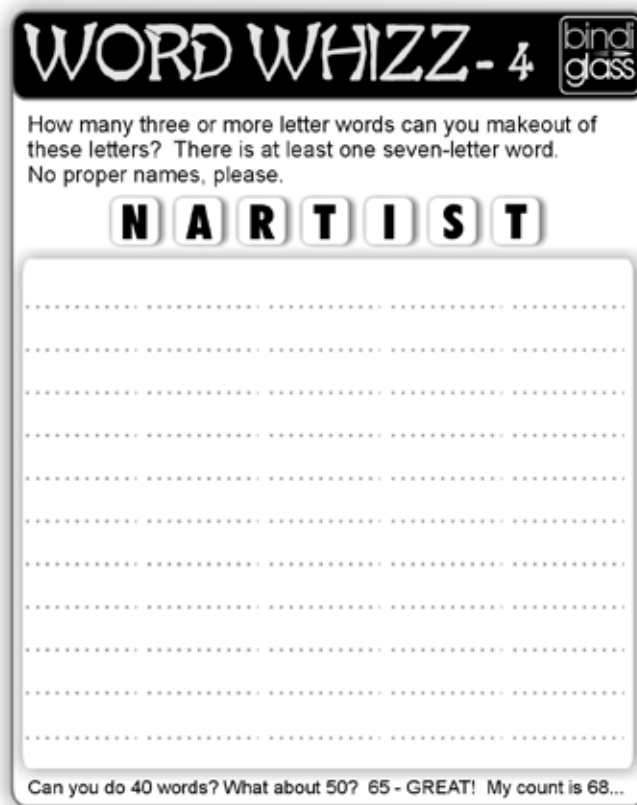
profusion of tempting flowers outside, but the best season of all is spring because, in addition to the shop, they own a farm called Hadstock, which John Chamberlin grew up on, and where they grow fifty to sixty acres of daffodils and tulips every year. The farm also has a long history, with the Chamberlins being the third generation of growers. In addition to the labour-intensive work of growing, lifting and sorting the bulbs for replanting and sale, other crops are also grown and the farm also runs cattle.



Miss Feaver's Flowershop

As usual, in these uncertain economic times, I asked about making ends meet. Surely flowers are a luxury item that people give up when things are tight? But it turns out that it's quite the contrary. During the severe downturn in the '80s for example, the flower industry actually picked up. When many big-ticket items become out of reach, people turn to the simpler pleasures of life and a \$5 bunch of flowers seems an absolute necessity.

Text: Max Feutz, Photo: David Binstead



Council decision enables community sports facility plans to proceed

Westminster Sports Incorporated is celebrating the Christchurch City Council decision to lease it land in St Albans, which gives the multi-code sports club the green light to proceed with plans to build a community sports facility on the land.

Chair of Westminster Alan Trent, described the Council's decision to approve the lease on the former Works Department land adjoining Westminster Park as a huge step forward for the club's plans.

"We have been working towards this for at least two years. We can now move ahead to apply for resource consents and begin raising the funds to build the facility. It is a long process, but now we have certainty from the Council, supported by positive feedback from the community consultation process that has been undertaken, we can move ahead with much greater assurance," he said.

Concept plans developed by Westminster Sports and presented to the Council are for a multi-purpose indoor sports facility, with capacity to accommodate potentially an early childhood learning centre, physiotherapy rooms, fitness centre, a café and associated office space.

Alan Trent said the lease made it possible for the club to develop more detailed proposals.

"We can now start to work through some of the practicalities on the plans and bring on board other partners to ensure maximum community use of the facility.

"We intend to build something that will provide a hub for local sporting activity, create recreation opportunities and enhance the lives of our sporting members, and of the wider community, for generations to come," he said.

Based on the present concept plans, he said a budget of \$6.5 million would be required to build the facility... a figure, he said, Westminster Sports could now begin to plan for.

According to Alan Trent, the best case scenario was for resource consent applications to be lodged in the first

half of 2009, and for the facility to be completed in 2011 or 2012.

Westminster Sports Incorporated is an umbrella organisation for eight different clubs, numbering approximately 2,500 individual members, including Christchurch Football Club; Western AFC; Christchurch Football Club Squash; Christchurch Football Club Netball; Canterbury Judo Area Association; Canterbury Lacrosse; Canterbury AFL and Westminster Korfball.

Eddie Croyley

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Lovely Locals

Our Lady of Fatima

I wanted to do Santa Claus, because he is the legendary protector of children, and God knows we need him at this fairly sour time in our country's history. But he isn't out yet, so instead, I have a version of the mother of Jesus — Our Lady of Fatima, whose lifesize figure smiles fixedly from a perch high on the wall of the Catholic Church in the parish of Mairehau. She famously appeared in 1917 to three small boys as a spinning sun in the Portuguese sky, and was thereafter deified and cast in stone by one Guilherme F Thedim. She was imported to Christchurch in 1951 by the fourth Bishop, along with stones, leaves, soil etc from Fatima. In 1988, the Innes Road church was built in her honour. The day before the opening, there was a terrific housewarming party. The statue was unveiled; the leaves etc in a silver box were placed behind it. I don't know how he did it, being so high up, but Monsignor Harrington crowned it in 1992, at a Mass celebrating the Fatima apparition...

Father Paul Duncan is the parish priest. His mother lives in Manchester Street. His job is to preserve the beliefs and traditions of the Church. He prays, takes Mass and visits endlessly (dying people), meets teachers at the school. Of course he's not married, "I am supported in the call," he says. And he is a fine cook. Loves fish. Highlight was appointment to Chatham Islands. "I used to catch blue cod off the rocks. Got it cooked at the pie cart on the wharf at Waitangi. Pie cart was owned by Catholics."

Hilaire Campbell



 **Families Welcome**
Carols in the Car-park
 Sunday 21st December 7:30pm
 Cnr Thames St & Dee St, St Albans
Christmas Day Service
 9:30am
 Christchurch North Apostolic Church
 Contact: Warren Hight (pastor)
 ph 356 1939

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Traditional Prayer Book Service Sunday 8:45
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Cranford Centre Opens

As part of the Neighbourhood Week the new look Cranford Centre was opened. The Saturday Neighbourhood Day was a great success with many from the community coming to bounce on the bouncy castle, have a face painted and eat from the sausage sizzle. Perhaps the highlight of the day was Cranford's Got Talent where some sixteen acts performed on stage.

The next events for the diary are the Nativity, where all children will be given dress-ups and face-paints to share in the drama; and the Carols by Candlelight on 21st December.

Adrian Brundt (text and photos)



Parker cuts ribbon at the opening ceremony

The Sunday was the official opening, when Ken Shelley the Pastor of King's Church told the story of both the Salvation Army's building on Cranford Street and King's Church which are now based at the building now called the Cranford Centre.

The Cranford Centre holds a café every Saturday morning to serve the English Park market. A very successful quiz night was held recently, and in the New Year a pre-school music group, Musical Tots, is beginning. Courses and classes on parenting and marriage will be running soon, and the Centre looks to be a hive of activity for the community.



A lot of fun for the younger generation, too!

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Community Notices

Carols in Packe Street Park

INVITATION

Sunday, 7 December 2008

5.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Music by

Heather Mitchell Gladstone,
The St Albans Community Choir
And Guests

Seasons Greetings from The Friends of Packe Street Park

- If the weather is good, bring your picnic
- If the weather is bad, Carol Singing will be in the St Albans Community Centre, 1047 Colombo Street.



Photo by Catherine Freebairn

A happy St Albans Community Centre volunteer serving sausages at the BBQ held on Saturday, 15 November. This event was the first Annual St Albans Neighbourhood Event, co-hosted with the Korean Presbyterian Church. It was attended by about four hundred Korean Church members and local neighbours on a brilliantly warm weekend.



Dance Classes

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St Albans Community Centre

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Brendon Burns
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Cartoon by Stuart Carlson

Welcoming a new boardmember: Kevin McDonald

Continuing our series on volunteers at the St Albans Community Centre, this month we profile Kevin McDonald, who recently returned to the fold, so to speak, becoming a Board member of the St Albans Residents' Association at its November AGM. He had previously had a long and close involvement with the Centre a few years earlier, when he was part of the administration team led by Douceline Wardle, so it's great to have his experience and expertise back with us.

Everyone involved in our Centre brings different strengths to the job. In Kevin's case, I think it's the sheer diversity of interaction that he has had in the community and the wide range of people he knows by becoming involved in so many things. His business activities to date have included long-term vehicle hire for inbound tourists, management of a West Coast pub, and marketing the famous wraparound pants called Strydes Ahead at the Sunday market, to name a few.

But these days the common theme connecting all his activities is the need to foster acceptance of cultural diversity and the fact that everyone has different needs within our community. His current job is as a behavioural support worker for an autistic child at a rural primary school.

As with many volunteers, our children's activities and needs are often the catalyst to becoming involved in things that might not otherwise interest us, and so it was with Kevin. Because of his strong commitment to his Maori heritage, his four children all attended the Bilingual Unit at St Albans Primary School, where they were taught all subjects in both Maori and English by Tosh Ruwhiu. At the end of their primary schooling, they transferred to Shirley Intermediate, where funding was obtained and a similar unit opened. This contact led directly to Kevin seeking a position on the Board of Trustees because he had identified a number of concerns about the culture of the school, the way it was run, and the way troublesome pupils were

handled. Since then, he has been an extremely pro-active member of the Board and is its current Chairman. He now feels that the school has managed a complete turn-around under the strong leadership of a new principal, and offers students a good culture in a safe environment, and with proven strategies for dealing with challenging behaviour and special needs.

Kevin has also been a strong advocate in our own community, notably in his support for the retention of Edgware Swimming Pool, and now finds himself heavily involved in the running of the St Albans Swimming Club, which had been homeless until recently because of the demolition of our pool. In fact, he is the new President. Happily, the Club can now make use of the Shirley Intermediate pool, and currently has seventy kids enrolled in its learn-to-swim programmes.

This is all practical, hands-on stuff, so we have much to look forward to when Kevin further extends his role in our community.

Max Feutz



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A History of the St Albans Swimming Club and the Edgeware Pool Part 7

The 1950s and 1960s were the “boom years” for the bath and the club. The Swim Club minutes reflect the dedication and hours of work by committed local volunteers and local business owners who were enthusiastic efficient organisers well able to meet the future challenges in running the club and maintaining the bath.

The 1950-51 season commenced with Mr W.J. Cowles (local soft drink factory owner) as President. He continued in this role until his death in July 1961. Mr R. Sutherland was elected Club Captain and Mrs Doris Venning Ladies' captain assisted by an able committee: W. Thomson (Hardie & Thomson) D. Coffey (local property owner) S.J.Hobday (Hobdays Cycles & Toyshop) A.B. Anderson (local butcher) and H. Cowles.

Early in the season, the Victory Challenge Cup for junior diving was presented by St Matthew's Victory School (so named after the 1914-18 War). The Cup represents the close association the Victory School and St Matthew's Church had with the club. Meetings were often held in the schoolroom or hall and all classes had daily swimming lessons at the bath. The old stone school building dating from 1921 still stands hidden at the end of Keoghs Lane in the grounds of the Beulah Church Complex in Springfield Road. Daily swim lessons still continued when the school became St Margaret's Junior School. The first winner of the Victory Cup was Raeleen Hall of 200 Springfield Rd. The bath was also in high demand by other schools: Girls High, Avonside, Papanui, Banks Ave, St Mary's and West Christchurch. The season flourished with Club carnivals, inter-club carnivals and championship events and two water polo teams also continued in competitions.

The 1951-2 season was highlighted by the success of the club water polo teams with Brian Spear and N.R. Austin selected to represent Canterbury. Club carnivals and diving coaching continued but it was decided to abandon inter-club carnivals and to use the money to coach swimming. Baths were closed on Christmas Day but were available for committee members to have a swim. During the winter months a basketball club was formed from club members supported by a donation from the committee.

The 1952-3 season opened with Mr Meyer as the new Club Captain, and Mrs Kirk as the new Ladies' Captain. There was much to attend to so a working bee was organised to get ready for the new season: a diving tower replacement, drains to be cleaned, new starting blocks, a new roof for the children's dressing shed and a lifebuoy purchased. Mr S Hall was employed to assist with preparing and maintaining the baths. A water polo demonstration was the highlight of the opening carnival and the success of the club was recorded in an interview on Radio 3ZB.

Growth of the club continued with the decision to establish permanent coaches. Mr Stephens for the Advanced; Mr Wilcox and Mr Yarr for diving; Mr Butterick for freestyle; lifesaving — Mr Austin; water polo — Mr Berryman; and Mrs Venning to coach the beginners. As the club grew so did the congestion of bicycles. The committee responded with a notice in the right of way “BICYCLES WILL BE REMOVED.” At this time associated membership between the Waimairi Surf Club and the St Albans Swim Club was established with members taking part in each other's events.

In February 1953, an accident on the high diving board put Shawn and Terence Fahy in hospital. The committee asked Mr Sutherland to visit them, “with a message of



Victory Memorial school swim lessons at the pool in the 1950's using the newly built grand stand.

appreciation, and fruit and cigarettes from the club.” Soon after, a warning notice “NO JUMPING FROM THE SIDE OF DIVING BOARD” was erected. The season ended with a final carnival advertised on 3ZB, the Century Theatre, and on Mr Cowles' soft drink truck. It was followed by a party and dance at the Winton Street hall with the usual presentation of cups. The final committee meeting for 2nd June 1953 coincided with the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, so it was postponed until July. At the AGM a dark blue blazer with monogram was adopted and Mrs Venning donated a new flag.

At the beginning of the 1953-4 season Mr Anderson, the local butcher donated a cup for Ladies' Diving and the idea of Challenge Buttons for Men and Women was introduced. Inter-club carnivals were enjoyed once again at Ashburton and Timaru. The open air bath was the first choice for many for their swimming lessons and sports: Victory Memorial, St Albans, Girl Guides, Methodist Sunday School, St Mary's College, Christchurch Girls' High, Canterbury University, National Bank and the Water

Polo Board. A very busy and successful season ended with a club carnival followed by a dance conducted by Mr Des Begg and prize giving at the Winton Street hall.

Mr Stout became the Club Captain for the 1954-5 season. Mr Hall resumed daytime duties as caretaker and a volunteer roster of committee members covered evenings and weekends. The club became affiliated to the Royal Life Saving Association with Raeleen Hall appointed as the first delegate. Mr Stentiford became the deputy Club Captain with the resignation of Mr Willcox who was one of the foundation members since 1923. He was presented with a bedside lamp in recognition of his long service to the club.

Inter-club carnivals continued with two buses hired to transport the club members to Culverden which was reciprocated later in the season. Christchurch swim clubs chose to use the St Albans pool for their carnivals and hired the club race officials as well. The committee was very proud that two club members were selected for the New Zealand Championships in Nelson, and gave grants to cover their expenses. Profits made during the season were such that a Post Office savings account was opened and the flourishing club increased its committee members to sixteen "ordinary members and eight executive" members. Committee members were asked to resign if their attendance was poor and new members were quickly voted in as replacements.

Mr Meyer once again became Club Captain in the 1955-56 season. The opening day carnival was advertised for the first time in the ST ALBANS NEWS as well as at the Century Theatre. The pool was quickly booked by Wharenui and Spreydon clubs for their carnivals. An approach was made to the council to attend to all repairs to be made – the office roof, concrete floors in the dressing sheds, line the ladies' dressing sheds, seating and erect a gate on the high diving platform. When this was turned down, the club quickly organised working bees to attend to the repairs before opening day. In addition everyone helped clean the baths and a grandstand was built by Mr Malcolm and Mr J Ware with timber gifted by Mr Abernethy. Carnivals continued as grand affairs with "ladies to see to refreshments," "sandwiches and cakes for officials" and "sandwiches and biscuits for swimmers"... the same arrangements as for opening days.

The pool continued to be used for water polo practice and by other clubs. Club committee members were rostered on duty during opening hours and club rules were vigorously enforced after complaints of "honeypotting and jostling etc near small children." The club sent representatives to the inter-club carnival at Allenton (Ashburton) and it was reported "re the good behaviour of swimmers and congratulations to the relay team on winning the James Cup."

The 1956-57 season was a successful year, in fact the coming of age for the club. At the A.G.M the President, Mr

Cowles, congratulated Peter Stentiford in winning a New Zealand title and all the others who were place getters in the Canterbury Championships. Mr W.J. Cowles became a Life member. Mr E. C. Stentiford was elected as Club Captain, and by September the foundations for the new concrete block clubhouse were laid. The club was built by club members "the young and not so young – male and female." It cost the club £118 and the council contributed some materials. The season attracted record attendances with extra good weather and the new clubhouse was put to good use with the Royal Life Saving Club using it for all their Christchurch classes. During winter, table tennis was taken up to keep members together. The club was involved in a Water Safety campaign in the Culverden area with the swim instructors visiting three times to provide instruction.

Mr E Stentiford became the new Club Captain in 1957, and Mrs Kirk was made a Life member. The pool was painted by the club members before the start of the 1957-8 season. A new diving class was conducted by Mr C Farquhar and Mr D Stewart on Saturday mornings. The improvers' classes, learn to swim and lifesaving classes also continued, conducted by Mrs Yorsten and attracted two hundred and seventy-four swimmers. The water polo team achieved success ending the season with first equal place with Spreydon, and Mr P Stentiford was made a member of the Canterbury team at the National Championships.

Prior to the 1958-9 season working bees were held. Fences, sheds and the clubhouse were painted and repairs made to the men's and ladies' dressing sheds. Membership increased during this year. Mrs Yorsten's Saturday learn to swim classes achieved outstanding success averaging two hundred and fifty swimmers each day. A popular Water Safety campaign was held in the holidays and water polo and lifesaving classes flourished with the highest number of awards issued by any club in Canterbury. Improvers' classes, carnivals and inter-club carnivals also continued. A trip to Leeston was enjoyed where a number of races were held "in a very friendly atmosphere" with "demonstrations of four swimming strokes given by our swimmers and a good lifesaving display."

The pool was fully utilised by the club and also attracted use by the Canterbury Centre Training Squad, the Arawa Canoe Club, the Sea Cadets, The Crippled Children's Society, and a Salvation Army Carnival. A fundraising carnival was also held by the Christchurch Nurses' Association in aid of their new chapel.

With such high usage, by the end of the 1959 season the committee began looking to the future and made investigations into installing a filtration plant. The Boom Years continue in the 1960s in Part 8.

Compiled from St Albans Swim Club Minutes by
Valerie Somerville

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

When I first became a volunteer in the St Albans NeighbourNet Computer Room three years ago, I never realised what a positive effect it would have on my life... and how much my life would change. Having this opportunity to help people with their Internet use and emailing has also increased my knowledge and experience, so it is a win-win situation; plus, of course, I've made many friends whom I would not have met otherwise.

St Albans people are very fortunate in having such a Community Centre that provides these services, facilities and functions. The environment is very welcoming and the staff (paid and unpaid) are always very helpful.

The Community Centre near where I live (in North New Brighton) does not have a Computer Room, drop-in lounge area, classes for yoga, Tai chi, or dancing; nor does it have a Youth Group, choir, drama group; and if it holds regular Residents' Association meetings no one would ever know because we certainly do not have a monthly newsletter to advise us of anything happening in our neighbourhood. At best we get an A4 flyer about once a year advising of the AGM.

And for special occasions such as the General Election, there has been no opportunity to Meet the Candidates in North New Brighton such as there was recently in St Albans... I don't even know who the various candidates are for this area!

I strongly believe that "communication" is what holds a community/society together... and communication is definitely what St Albans Community Centre provides. I am honoured to be involved in such an organisation.

Yours truly,

Terry Connor



St Albans Tennis Club

**Summer season has started
new members are welcome**

Senior tennis from 2 pm every Saturday
Children's coaching available
Social tennis to suit everyone
New Senior members get 4 free lessons

For more information contact John Laffey 351-2992 or Brian Wyatt 385-3848
Or visit us at our Dover Street courts near the Edgeware Road shops

Dear Sir,

Thank you to everyone who took the time to vote last week. It is so important to have your say!

A special thank you to all of you who voted for National and for me, Nicky Wagner.

But this election result is not just about National.

John Key says: "whether you voted for National or not tonight, tonight you have my pledge.

I will lead a government that serves the interests of all New Zealanders. And it will be a government that values individual achievement and it will be a government that supports those who cannot support themselves. And it will be a government we can all be part of".

Best regards,

Nicky Wagner

Community Centre

1047 Colombo Street. Phone 374 2465 or 379 6305

Email: office@stalbans.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

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

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Voice Tuition: Saturday lessons available now, stand-alone lessons or 5 week block. Phone Andrew 377 9721

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

St Albans News Classifieds

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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. It needs to be free of charge, or very low rental. I can work in exchange for rent. 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!

Bowen Therapy – Bowtech. Gentle Hands therapy for all aches & pains. 1040 Colombo St, Edgware, Ph 0800 581 481

Builder: Maintenance, alterations, decking, new residential, kitchen installations, bathrooms, office

fitouts, etc. Phone Kevin 021 268 2832 or 366 1177

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 23 January.

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 0210243 7398, or pcguru@orcon.net.nz

Computer Problems? I do trouble shooting, virus and malware removal, pc optimisation 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. No hardware repairs, Low Rates negotiable. Phone David, 356 1280 or email, davidmackenzie@clear.net.nz

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Flatmate wanted. St Albans/ inner city – mature to share with 3 others, furn/unfurn \$120/\$100 + \$30. Exp. Broadband, dishwasher, warm comf. char. home with small garden. Ph 379 4184 or 027 228 7000

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

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

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gym fee and no contracts. First Session free. Phone Robyn Perkins 027 421 0058. Fit & Perky Personal Training.

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Treasurer Required: Preparation of accounts for Incorporated Society and monthly meeting reports. Small honorarium. For further information please contact Christchurch Competitions Society, Marie (03) 355 6580

Wanted: Housekeeper companion, walker, driver. St Albans, Merivale area. 2 – 3 hours weekly. Please ring 379 6522

Wanted: 8mm Movie Projector: Phone 356 2717

The St Albans News relies on your contributions. Please send us your articles, letters and notices. The deadline for the February issue is 23 January

Swim Club Opening 2008

Fantastic!

The St Albans Swim Club held a successful opening day on Wednesday, 12th November at Shirley Intermediate School.

Through the efforts of a determined group of volunteers and the generosity of Shirley Intermediate School the St Albans Swim Club is back, teaching kids to swim. Sixty kids and their parents attended the opening. The school pool was in pristine condition as senior swimmers, (and a fully clothed club president!) 'took the plunge' to signal the opening. Committee members were on hand with a free sausage sizzle, sweets and drinks. Paul Somerville and Phil Conway, both committee members, commented that it was good to hear the sounds of children happily splashing in a pool again.

For seventy-four years the swim club had been based at

Edgware, until the pool was demolished by the City Council in 2006. The swim club was just one of the groups adversely affected by the Council decision. When the community first expressed their outrage at the pool's demolition,

local Councillors Norm Withers and Graham Condon attended a public meeting. Both claimed they had no prior knowledge of the impending demolition and offered their support.

The community is still waiting for a decision on the land at Edgware where it is hoped they can rebuild a new pool and pavilion. Until then we are very happy to be back in business at

Shirley Intermediate School. For swim lesson information please contact: paul.valerie@actrix.gen.nz

'Happy splashing' from your swim club committee.

Kevin McDonald



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Quote of the Month

A politician thinks of the next
election. A statesman, of the
next generation

James Freeman Clarke