

St Albans News

The Voice of our Neighbourhood

February 2009

A Missed Opportunity for Genuine Community Consultation



Highlights

page 4
Council
Report Card

page 5
Crossing
Danger

page 6
Realise the
Dream

page 9
Creekside
Community

page 13
Community
Board
elections

After a slow start, the Council mandated Working Party for the Edgeware pool site recently submitted a report with recommendations on the future use of the former Edgeware Pool site. The report recommends that the Christchurch City Council (CCC) “build a purpose built multi-use community centre” on the site. The Working Party has been accused of delivering a predetermined outcome, since Michael Aitken, General Manager Community Services at CCC, early on during the set-up phase of the Working Party clearly stated that no pool shall be proposed in the Working Party’s report. Also, Councillor Button said right at the beginning of the process: “I don’t think that making a decision against the recommendations of staff is a wise thing to do.” As a result of that, the independence of the working party was compromised. 80% of the respondents to the survey

conducted by the Working Party opted for a pool to be rebuilt on the site. This finding is also supported by a survey conducted by the St Albans Community Centre in May 2008, where more than 65% of the 263 participants said that having a pool in the area was ‘important’ or ‘very important’. The chair of the Working Party declined an offer to make the results of that survey available to them.

The Working Party was set up as a result of the decision on 26th June 2008, not to extend the time limit for fundraising for a pool as requested by the St Albans Pavilion and Pool group. At that time a resolution was proposed that a Working Party be set up to “engage with the

wider community and to co-operatively investigate an entire range of options” of what could be done with the site that used to house the Edgeware Pool.

While the report claims that its conclusions have been arrived at unanimously, not all parties represented on the Working Party were satisfied with the outcome. Pavilion and Pool group spokesperson, Craig Dickson, said that the conclusions of the report were irrational and that the process of the Working Party was flawed. He requested that the Working Party be



given a chance to review the report before it is formally tabled to Council. There is also criticism that not all submissions were taken into account, especially the verbal submissions received during an Open Day event on 26th November. The Pool group also condemned the justifications that were raised to exclude a pool from the recommendations, and claimed that their efforts were belittled. Among other issues raised by the group is the fact that the report was leaked to the media by Councillor Button before the constituent members of the Working Party could give some feedback.

Douceline Wardle, formal representative of the Pavilion and Pool group, expressed



Nga mihi o te tau hou ki a koutou.
Happy New Year to you all.

Last year, 2008, finished up on a really positive note at the Community Centre with a delicious Christmas meal for all the volunteers and staff. The continued commitment and effort of a broad spectrum of people achieved another successful year, with the St Albans Community Centre providing an active community voice. St Albans has demonstrated an unwillingness to 'roll over' for parties who show a lack of consideration of the community's interests. This voice of dissent will continue to be heard until it is understood that people matter more than profits or plans.

Recent publicity around the safety or otherwise of the Colombo Street/Edgeware Road intersection and pedestrian crossing has reawakened this debate. The CCC has scant evidence of actual injury accidents so we would be interested to hear if the community has any. It is unlikely that major changes will be made unless there is evidence of actual risk, however, we are keen to explore creative solutions to this perceived risk area.

The report of the Task Force looking at possible uses for the Edgeware Pool site is now out. Clearly the vast majority of submitters still passionately want a pool. I am left however, wondering how free the Working Party

was to openly consider the community's feedback when it appears that a pool was not an acceptable option. Some other interesting suggestions were also made including a possible re-siting of the Community Centre to enable a larger building to be purpose designed. We will wait with keen interest to see whether the land will remain available for community use and what the CCC will decide regarding the report. A copy of the report can be downloaded from <http://stalbens.gen.nz> or picked up from the Community Centre.

There has also been considerable publicity regarding the Caledonian Hotel site and its connection with a recent murder case. There would be few who see the present dilapidated site as acceptable. However, there are others who are far from convinced that the planned high density housing development will result in a great community asset. Sadly this site development has seen very poor community consultation. This is in complete contrast to the excellent consultation process the CCC ran recently over the redesign of the Westminster/Courtenay/Roosevelt Corner. A great solution has been arrived at by sharing professional and public ideas.

This year, 2009, is shaping up to be a challenging year if world economic trends hit NZ as expected. However, the situation also gives us all an excellent opportunity to get back to the important things in life. Do we really need all those new 'things' or do we need each other? Clean water to drink, wholesome food to eat, people to support one another...if a fiscally tight time gets us back to these values I will be delighted to tighten my belt!

Let love and laughter live in 2009!

Regards

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

her unease as being 'between a rock and a hard place.' She agreed to the 'second best' option only because she felt that Council would ignore the report if it proposed a pool, and she still intended for the land to not be lost for community use. Working Party member Casey Thomson agreed with that stance, saying that the Council's position seemed to be intransigent and that while the community may want a pool, a community facility is a real need.

Also, other Working Party members felt that it would not have been helpful to advocate a position that was untenable for the Council. Emma Twaddell, representative for the St Albans Residents' Association, felt that it was difficult to work in-between two sides that could not compromise, and that a solution needed to be found that benefited the community as a whole. Besides, she felt that this was a steep learning curve and a one-off. Councillor Button, was happy with the outcome of the report, and expressed hope that if the recommendations were accepted into the

Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP), council money might be made available for a new community facility no later than 2010-11, despite the current effort to save money on community facilities. The St Albans Community Centre has not endorsed the proposal to have its facilities moved to the former pool site.

The report acknowledges that the grief and pain over the loss of the pool needs to be addressed, but did not go as far as proposing any action or process that would address this. To this writer it seems that in the spirit of respecting the public opinion of the community, the report might have proposed two options: a) a pool, as this seems to be the clear favourite of St Albans residents; and b) a community facility, and leave it to the Council to reconcile the apparent difference between the wishes of the community and the Council's own strategy papers.

Christoph Hensch

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Please send us your articles, letters and notices.
The deadline for the March issue is 19 February**



**St Albans
Community Centre**

Te Pokapū Hapori o Hato Ōpani

Events Calendar

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 4 Feb, 12.30pm | St Albans InterAgency meeting (374 2465) |
| 10 Feb, 12pm | Christchurch Transition Forum (374 2465) |
| 12 Feb, 7pm | Travel & Transport, Transition Initiative St Albans |
| 14 Feb, 10am | Arts & Car Show (379 6305) |
| 15 Feb, 11am | Ratana Church Service, Rehua Marae (355 5606) |
| 19 Feb, 7pm | 'Living the Questions: Invitation to a Journey' (3554 012) |
| 24 Feb, 7.30pm | NZ - Japan Society (355 9903) |
| 25 Feb, 2pm | St Albans Uniting Church Garden Club (389 6458) |
| 26 Feb, 7pm | Residents' Association meeting (374 2465) |
| 4 Mar, 10.30pm | Why Volunteer? (366 2442) |
| 7 Mar, 1pm | Visioning St Albans (374 2465) |
| 10 Mar, 12pm | End of Voting for Shirley/ Papanui Community Board by-election |

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

Council Report Card

I spent some time during the holidays taking an informal survey about how people view the current City Council; I asked questions primarily in the Fendalton, and Shirley areas and the results are shown below.

One can safely conclude the current City Council has issues they really need to address especially in order to regain the trust and confidence of the ratepayers. A poor rating does not bode well for the Mayor and Councillors,

There are two issues that cannot be totally blamed on the city. Firstly, the boy racer issue can only be solved by central Government. Why they have not passed a simple law stating: "no replacement exhaust muffler may exceed the car manufacturer's original muffler dB level." is beyond comprehension. With this simple sentence the bulk of the problem immediately goes away.

Secondly: the alcohol issue. Retail liquor licences are not the responsibility of the Council. I checked many city laws regarding the closing times of taverns and bars in other cities such as London, Vancouver, Barcelona, etc., and the latest I could find is 3:00 a.m. Christchurch drinkers have access to purchase alcohol 24 hours a day! I'm unclear at the time

of this writing who is responsible for these laws.

I did not record the many comments made after people completed the survey. They were, however, very strong and very clear they did not trust the majority of the elected Council, saw no real leadership from the Mayor, and felt their rates were being spent foolishly and without being informed.

Bill Demeter

CENTRE SURVEY - DECEMBER/JANUARY'09

TOTAL PERSONS SURVEYED =

82

RANK THE FOLLOWING FROM 1-4 (4=EXCELLENT 3=GOOD 2=FAIR 1=POOR)

HOW IS THE CITY COUNCIL DOING OF THE FOLLOWING ISSUES?

	<u>AVERAGE SCORE</u>	<u>SCORE TOTAL</u>	<u>SCORE</u>
WASTE MANAGEMENT	2.20	180	FAIR
ALCOHOL ISSUES	2.46	202	FAIR
BOY RACERS	2.63	216	FAIR
USE OF RATE PAYERS MONEY	1.38	113	POOR
TRANSPARENCY OF THE COUNCIL	1.20	98	POOR
RENT INCREASE SOCIAL HOUSING	1.07	88	POOR
HENDERSON BUILDINGS PURCHASE	1.01	83	POOR
FLOWER SHOW	1.41	116	POOR
BUSKERS PURCHASE	2.73	224	FAIR
INFLATABLE DOME	1.33	109	POOR

DID YOU VOTE FOR BOB PARKER

YES =

47

57.3%

IF THE ELECTION WAS HELD TODAY WOULD YOU VOTE FOR PARKER ?

YES = 16 **34.0%**

No = 31 **66.0%**



Brendon Burns

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Crossing Danger in St Albans

There has been increased concern about the Edgeware Village pedestrian crossing. Especially since Christmas and the pedestrian injury that occurred at this dangerous location.

Yet the Council traffic engineers' and the Shirley/Papanui Community Board's recommendations say: "there is no need for action as the Edgeware/Colombo Street intersection was not a matter for concern."

However, those of us who use the area on a regular basis feel unsafe in the area. Local residents feel that the traffic engineer's opinion is short-sighted, and neglects the opportunity for traffic safety measures to benefit all.

Based on an hour's observation during a recent afternoon, most vehicle traffic was well behaved. However, there were times when car drivers entering or exiting Edgeware Road car parks and nearby intersections did seem unsure about the give way rule, and other times when vehicles approached the crossing at speed before stopping. It is often indecision, combined with inattention and speed that leads to collisions. Yet most collisions are preventable.

So what can be done?

I would like to suggest a course of action that brings the Council and community together in finding workable, and efficient solutions to the Edgeware Village intersection issues:

- Decide on what are the main road safety issues via a write-in campaign to the St Albans News, plus some interviews of road-users, local businesses and shopper/pedestrians.
- Use students to monitor the intersections over a period of time over the next month.
- Approach the Council's Safer Community team to work with the Community Centre to organize a public meeting on the issue.
- Analyse findings from this process and road safety statistics to come up with some potential solutions.
- Make recommendations to the Community Board and Annual Plan for street improvements to remedy the situation.

Some possible improvements might be to alter some of the road markings and signage to increase visibility of the crossing; remove the three parking spaces in front of the Medical Centre to increase eastward visibility; and make the Bar 1066 car park entry onto Edgeware one way—entry only, with an exit onto Colombo Street. The situation of traffic turning right from Trafalgar Street onto Edgeware Road also needs some analysis to reduce roading conflict and indecision.

The question of street amenity improvements, graffiti, rubbish etc. also mentioned in a 2003 Council report needs to be back on the agenda, but dealt with separately. Some options were canvassed in the recent Council B2 business zone consultation held at the Community Centre, but there needs to be commitment to bring community suggestions through the neighbourhood planning process, and to fund improvements that have only been talked about and not auctioned for the past five years. St Albans needs action this year!

Doug Craig



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Realise the Dream

Reuben Posthuma, a local homeschooled student, has recently returned from a fantastic week at the prestigious Genesis Energy Realise the Dream event. Realise the Dream was set up to recognise excellence in research by school students. Twenty-nine students from around New Zealand attended, as well as four internationals. "I had a fantastic week, and have learned many different skills, as well as meeting heaps of great people," Reuben said. The event, which is run by the Royal Society of New Zealand, is an annual event, and was held between the 7th and 12th of December. "The standard of research just keeps getting better and better by the year," says Royal Society of New Zealand spokesperson, Debbie Woodhall. Realise the Dream appreciates its many sponsors

including Genesis Energy, New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO, and Dairy New Zealand. Reuben's project was a controller to regulate and Datalog the operation of a refrigeration system. This refrigeration system was built by one of Reuben's friends, and is used on his computer down to -120°C for optimum gaming. "It's crazy the extremes people go to just to play computer games," joked Reuben. However, he cannot complain about the successes he has had with his project,

which took out first place in the Brightsparks HiTech competition, and then procured him entry into Realise the Dream. "I'm really stoked with this success," Reuben mused.

"During the event, we attended various media training

workshops, which taught us presentation skills that are all too often neglected by Science and Technology experts. We also visited many different industry locations in diverse fields." The highlight for Reuben, though, was a day at the Massey University Wellington Campus. "We got to build a robotic car, which I added



Reuben receiving his award

a few functions to. We were also

taught the theory behind sterling engines, which convert heat into motion."

The celebratory awards dinner will be held at Te Marae, Te Papa on Monday, 9th March, where scholarships and travel prizes will be presented to many of the participants. For more information about Realise the Dream, go to: www.realisethedream.org.nz

For more information, please contact Reuben Posthuma on: 03 366 3525.

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St Albans Uniting Parish: Looking to New Beginnings in 2009

Since the arrival of the new minister, the Rev Hugh Perry in May of last year a lot of energy at St Albans Uniting Parish has been directed towards the best use of the parish buildings in partnership with the community and for the community. Some exciting possibilities have emerged and will be considered and hopefully approved by the parish council early in the new year. In the meantime, the parish has initiated two new programmes for the wider community that will begin in January and February.

Musical Parenting: Music and Movement

St Albans Uniting Parish opens its doors to preschoolers in 2009, with a weekly Music and Movement programme for pre-schoolers, 0-5 years on Tuesday mornings at 9.30 a.m. started on the 27th of January. This is a Musical Parenting based fun music and movement programme and will be lead by Jody Keehan who has a diploma in early childhood music. A gold coin donation per child is requested to cover all expenses, and there will be approximately 30 minutes of musical activity followed by something to eat and drink for the children. Tea and coffee will be provided for the parents. All this will happen at the Aldred complex on the corner of Knowles Street and Nancy Avenue, just one block from Innes Road.

Living the Questions

St Albans Uniting Parish understands that at its core, Christianity has something good to offer the human race. At the same time, many have a sense that they are alone in being a “thinking” Christian and that “salvaging” Christianity is a hopeless task. What is needed is a safe environment where people have permission to ask the questions they’ve always wanted to ask but have been afraid to voice for fear of being thought a heretic. Therefore, St Albans Uniting are offering the first part of the second edition of ‘Living the Questions’ programme that explores these challenging issues. This will be a seven-

week series beginning on Thursday the 19th February at 7 p.m. with coffee and dessert and will be held in the parish’s Berwick Street complex. This first seven weeks is appropriately named ‘Invitation to a Journey’ which is also the name of the first session. That first session will be followed each week by: ‘Taking the Bible Seriously,’ ‘Thinking Theologically,’ ‘Stories of Creation,’ ‘Lives of Jesus,’ ‘A Passion for Christ: Paul,’ and ‘Out into the World: Challenges Facing Progressive Christians.’ This series is designed for those just curious about faith as well as Christians struggling for relevancy in today’s world.

The format of each session includes a video, guided discussion, spiritual exercises and Bible study. The 20 minute videos for each session include conversation, sermon clips, lecture excerpts, and spiritual exercises for practical applications. This is a programme for exploring beyond the traditions and rote theologies in which so many people and local churches seem to be stuck. Living the Questions will help seekers and ‘church alumni’ alike in discovering the significance of Christianity in the 21st Century and what a meaningful faith can look like in today’s world.

Participants will receive a folder of notes and study guide for preparation of each session and for future reference. There will be a small charge for this material to cover costs, but anybody is welcome to the first session to assess its appropriateness for their particular spiritual quest.

Recap of times and places:

Musical Parenting: Music and Movement starts 9.30 a.m. beginning on Tuesday, 27th January at the Aldred complex on the corner of Knowles Street and Nancy Avenue.

Living the Questions: Invitation to a Journey begins Thursday, 19th February at 7 p.m. with coffee and desert at the Berwick Street complex, 10 Berwick St.

Further information can be obtained by phoning the parish office at: 3554 012.

Hugh Perry

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Transition Initiative St Albans (TISA) Events

Travel Planning Workshop—12th February at 7 p.m.

In this workshop Simon and Steven will introduce some of the reasons why is transport key in securing a sustainable future. They will look more broadly than at just pollution emissions, and also examine the impacts on such things as health. Reference will also be made to why some congestion may not be a bad thing. The workshop will also look at practical ways we can address the issue with particular focus on cycling and what can and can't be done without the use of a car.

Simon Kingham is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Canterbury. He teaches and researches on a variety of issues related to transport including sustainable travel behaviour and air quality.

Steven Muir works in the Department of Medical Physics and Bioengineering at the Canterbury District Health Board. He is a passionate activist for sustainable transport, and as part of this produces low-cost bike trailers.

Envisioning St Albans—7th March at 1 p.m.

The Transition Initiative St Albans is inviting the community to an extraordinary afternoon workshop, lead

by experienced Lyttelton facilitator Margaret Jefferies. Transition initiatives are about preparing us for the profound and inevitable changes that lie ahead of us and about how we are going to cope with the effects of peak oil and climate change. In this workshop we allow ourselves to imagine where our community of St Albans is transitioning to. The arising vision will give community groups, and us personally, a direction towards which we can focus our community development efforts. It will also give us a measure from which we will be able to give feedback to the city's proposed Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP). The workshop will end in the early evening with a shared meal.

WORD WHIZZ ANSWER - 4

Air, airs, ais, ait, aits, ant, anti, ants, art, artist, arts, astir, ins, instar, its, nit, nits, rain, rains, ran, rani, rant, rants, rat, rats, ria, riant, sain, saint, sari, sat, satin, sin, sir, sit, sitar, stain, stair, star, start, stint, stir, strain, strait, strati, stria, taint, tan, tanist, tans, tar, tarn, tars, tarsi, tart, tat, tin, tins, tint, tints, tit, tits, train, trains, trait, traits, TRANSIT, tsar.

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

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Creekside Community, St Albans

Maggie knows each of her neighbours by name. She is the youngest member of Creekside community. Established in 1973, Creekside community is an 'urban village' of five houses with no fences on a one acre section, giving Maggie a huge backyard to play in.

The community, down a long driveway on Warrington Street, consists of ten adults (ranging from 20s to 60s) and six children (ages 2 to 13) who share two meals a week and commit to each other's well-being.

There is a saying that 'it takes a village to raise a child' and co-operative housing definitely offers children many benefits. They have lots of support both from other kids and adults. At Creekside, there is a communal trampoline, play area and a big lawn for soccer or cricket games. Santa even dropped off a basketball hoop for Maggie's older brother which all the children are enjoying.

Adults pool resources too. At Creekside they share a lawnmower, tool shed, washing lines and fruit and veges from their gardens. The children are car pooled to their local St Albans schools. "You're never short that cup of sugar, milk or flour and whatever your creation there is always a friend to share it with over a cup of tea." says Maggie's Dad.



"It takes a village to raise a child."

A Guided Tour of Christchurch Housing Co-operatives

Creekside is one of three intentional communities on a co-operative housing tour on Sunday, 22nd February from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. It starts at Peterborough Housing Co-operative, 179a Peterborough Street, and you will need your own transport. After visiting Creekside, the tour will finish at Heartwood intentional community's historic Chippenham Lodge.

The tour is free and shows how housing co-operatives work in practice. If this sense of community appeals, you can use this opportunity to find out more about starting your own housing co-op or how to join an existing community.

A house is currently available at Creekside Community. This is a rare opportunity as in seven years there have

been no changes to the families living at Creekside (except for new babies being born).

The housing tour also celebrates the launch of a new fund designed to turn your neighbourhood into a community. If you and your neighbours want to form a housing co-op, the Neighbourhood Co-housing Fund will help. Details of the fund can be found at: www.otakaro.org.nz.

Carla Martin

If you would like more information about the housing tour, please contact Carla from Creekside Community on: 386 3183 or visit the website.



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St Albans Community Centre

2009 - Activities - Term 1

Weekly Activities

Activity	Day	Time	Contact
Art Society	Monday	10am – 12 pm	Ph: 385 3123 (Janet)
Fairy Dance Academy	Thursday Saturday	9.30 – 12 pm 9.30 – 12.30 pm	Ph: 021 120 6540 (Pam)
Choir	Monday (2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th)	7.30 – 9 pm	Ph: 379 9188 (Heather)
Dance Fitness	Monday Thursday	1.30 – 3 pm 5 - 6.30 pm	Ph: 365 6585 (Donette)
Dancing Drum	Thursday	3.45 – 4.45 pm	Ph: 365 7944 (Helen)
Email/Internet	Mon – Fri	11 – 3 pm	Ph: 379 6305 (Centre)
Email/Internet	Saturday	1 – 3 pm	Ph: 379 6305 (Centre)
Friday Night O/A	Friday	7.30 – 9 pm	Ph: 384 0122 (Debbie)
Harlequin Players	Days & times change		Ph: 331 6162 (Glenys)
Hatha Yoga	Tuesday	10 – 11.30 am	Ph: 980 8760 (Pauline)
Laughter Club	Sunday	11 – 12 pm	Ph: 021 998 109 (Hannah)
Leisure Group	Days & times change		Ph: 739 6305 (Centre)
Maitreya Meditation	Wednesday	7 – 8.30 pm	Ph: 027 545 4823 (John)
Pilates – Levels 2 & 3	Friday	9.30 – 10.30am	Ph: 342 3172 (Coralea)
Qi Gong	Monday	5 – 6 pm	Ph: 366 1013 (Mitsue)
Tai Chi - Beginners	Monday & Thursday	3 – 4 pm 1.30 – 2.30 pm	Ph: 366 5472
Tai Chi - Maintenance	Monday & Thursday	12 – 1 pm	Presbyterian Support
Wu Tao Dance	Tuesday	5.45 - 7.15 pm	Ph: 354 9328 (Karen)
Youth Café	Thursday	7 - 9 pm	Ph: 379 6305 (Centre)

Monthly Groups

Linux Users Group	Tuesday (2 nd)	7.30 – 10 pm	Phone: 981 5469
NZ Japan Society	Tuesday (4 th)	7.30 – 9.30 pm	Phone: 355 9903
St Albans Choir	Tuesday (3 rd)	7.30 – 9 pm	Phone: 379 9188
SANDS	Monday (1 st)	7 – 9 pm	Phone: 323 9850
SARA	Thursday (4 th)	7 - 9 pm	Phone: 374 2465

1047 Colombo Street

Phone: 379 6305 Fax: 374 2467 Email: office@stalbans.gen.nz

Letters to the Editor

Boy Racers

Dear Editor

We are concerned about the increasing boy-racer activity in St Albans. The hotspots seem to be Winton Street, Lindsay Street, Madras Street, Dover and Trafalgar Street. There might even be more...

We have to deal with tenants who drink and rubbish their houses. They mark the places they live in by inflicting skidmarks and burnouts in front of their rental properties. The noise level at night is annoying, scares adults and wakes up their children in the middle of the night. Even Harcourts Real Estate agents are known for arranging contracts with boy-racers for landlords as far away as Auckland. Who can we trust when it comes to maintain a safe neighbourhood? Do we have to change our lifestyles to live with these problems? We shouldn't have to put up with this!

Are we the only ones suffering?

Has anyone an opinion or experienced trouble and knows how to deal with it?

The police can only act when the driver of a car doing burnouts is identified (as well as the number plate). The car can then be impounded for 28 days. They therefore depend on help from the community!

Concerned residents

(Names known to the Editor)

and staff. I hope the residents of St Albans remember this at the next election. How will Councillor Button feel if over 80% of voters were to ignore her candidacy?.

Kevin McDonald

Dear Editor

It is with confusion that I read the St Albans Working Party report to the Council and Community regarding the future use of the Old Edgeware Pool Site. Yet again the majority of the submissions received by the Working Party on their recent information gathering exercise have asked for an outdoor pool and yet again this option has been quashed. One of the reasons the Working Party voted against the pool is that the new Graham Condon Pool (indoor) and the St Albans School Pool are in the vicinity. As a mother of pre-school children am I allowed to use the St Albans School Pool? How can this point be used as an argument against a community outdoor facility if it is not able to be used by all the community? When are the Council and their Working Parties going to listen to what the community really wants?

Regards

Michelle Tracey

St Albans

Editors Note: As mentioned on page 1, there were also an additional 171 people that were identified by the Community Centre survey that also wanted the pool.

St Albans Working Party Report

Dear Sir,

In June 2008 Councillor Button successfully moved a resolution suggesting a 'working party' be set up to determine the best use of the Edgeware Pool site. A 'shirking party' would have been a more appropriate title. The party members ignored over 80% of the submissions, which clearly favoured an new outdoor pool, because they believed this outcome would not be acceptable to council



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WORD WHIZZ - 5 bindi glass

How many three or more letter words can you makeout of these letters? There is at least one seven-letter word. No proper names, please.

O C U N C A T

15 words - good; 25 words - excellent; 29 and over - you are on fire!

Magpies on Madras



Developers say buildings first, birds last. Out with flighty things and in with high rise. To hell with flapping black feathers and warbling and oodling; give us a stack of tilt slab and a hundred hammers...

The bell magpies came, hopefully, from Australia in the 1860s. They spread. Their descendants spread. They flew on, and some of them, the territorial kind, saw the big Orion site in the Madras/Canon/Packe/Purchas block. They saw that it was good, so they landed in the trees there, in the pines and the poplars. They laid eggs—light blue, green, or blotchy red—and made umbrellas of their wings to keep their naked babies dry. From time to time they scratched our necks, they sang old songs.

Actually, magpies are first rate musicians. Can sing over four octaves, strike two tones at once. Voice has flute-like quality. Well researched by Gisela Kaplan in The

Australian Magpie. Funny book. All about sex. For anyone who missed biology at school, here it is—the male has no penis. He has a cloaca. An opening or vent. So does she. He struts and oozes hormones, she waggles her splayed tail feathers like the best of Dancing with the Stars, and their openings come together. Requires team players. Theirs may be a better world than ours? But as long as money speaks, it is short lived. Good people have had their say, but architect plans for an eco village gather dust. Instead, Champagne Homes—denoting luxury—are crammed in the corner with promise of more. Possible supermarket, retail, business space. One poplar tree only—as a focal point in the development.

No lizards, no worms, no weeds.

No magpies.

Hilaire Campbell

Market

The St Albans Community Market

Every Saturday 9am - 2pm
at English Park,
Cranford Street

up to 40 stalls selling plants,
fruit & vegetables, cakes, crafts,
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& much more

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Shirley/Papanui Community Board Election

10 March 2009

Karl Maddaford

Hello. I have recently returned from five years in Afghanistan working on community reconstruction programmes with the United Nations. This experience reinforced to me the unique gifts we have in Christchurch and the importance of protecting and enhancing them. I see my lack of local-body political experience as an advantage when asking for your vote as I serve without preconceived ideas. Community politics to me is about the community and what we can do to help one another. My main areas of concern are local law enforcement, ensuring that council is truly representative of community needs and formulating a community response to these tougher economic times. I work for the people of my community and use the question 'is this the right thing to do' as my guiding principle. A strong and committed family man, I seek only the opportunity to help protect and enhance our community.



Tim Heaver



If elected to the position I would like to use the experience that I have gained as being Chairperson of the Redwood Residents Association. I would be able to use those skills & knowledge to cover a wider area, that of the Shirley/Papanui Ward. It is important for the community to be able to voice their concerns and to have answers about what happens in their community. Community assets need to have a proper maintenance schedule and to be acknowledged as more than just a figure on the balance sheet. Community halls being an example of this where they help underpin the social network in the community.

As Christchurch continues to grow with property developments and intensification it puts more pressure on available resources. A strong community can help point out to the council representatives potential and immediate problems so available resources can be put to the best possible use.

Kathy Condon

Working Hard For You

I will be a strong advocate for the community of Shirley/Papanui.

I have lived in this community for over 12 years and am aware of the concerns of this area.

I am a widow and work as a nurse at Christchurch Hospital. I am very involved with the NZ Nurses Organisation.

I have previously been very involved with working with the disabled as a volunteer especially with disability sport and recreation.

I will support the improvement of sporting and recreational facilities but am mindful of financial constraints and the Long Term Community Plan.

I am concerned about traffic safety and the increase in traffic through our area and will support improvement to this.

Because of previous experience I am aware of what is required to be an effective Community Board Member and if elected I will ensure I am accessible to all.



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Inspection welcome

Community Notices

Why Volunteer?

An opportunity to discuss:

What volunteering is and why people do it - Rights and responsibilities of volunteers - What voluntary work you could choose? - Services offered by Volunteering Canterbury

Date: Wednesday, 4th March
Time: 10.30 a.m.
Venue: St Albans Community Centre
1047 Colombo Street

Open to everyone. No charge.

Volunteering Canterbury, phone: 03 366 2442, website: www.volcan.org.nz

St Albans Leisure Group

A group has got together for fortnightly Friday morning coffee and chat sessions, and has done some exploring of places such as the Arts Centre, craft groups, and New Brighton Pier. Members say they have enjoyed the get-togethers and the activities. These are planned based on suggestions from the members. The first one for this year will be on Friday, 30th January at the Community Centre, when we plan to look at options and suggestions from members and put together a programme based on that.

There are still places for more folk to join, and pickups can be arranged if needed. If you, or someone you know would like to consider joining in, do give the Centre a phone

call, and we will arrange to meet you, and if you choose to join, introduce you to the group.

Please contact us on: 379 6305. Anne Caroll

St Albans Toy Library HELP!

The St Albans Toy Library is desperately looking for a new home. If you know a site in St Albans, around 80 square metres with parking that we could rent, buy or squat in, then please email us on info@stalbanstoylibrary.co.nz or phone Jo Scott 980 2920. All ideas will be gratefully accepted.

Jewellery Making Classes

Thursday Evenings 12, 19, 26 February at 7-9 pm

Cost: \$5 per class

Where: 19 Thames Street, St Albans

To Register or enquiries Phone Ann on 942 7478

New Zealand – Japan Society of Canterbury

The New Zealand-Japan Society of Canterbury continue to meet at the St Albans Community Centre and our first meeting for 2009 is on Tuesday February 24th at 7.30pm. The Society fosters friendship and goodwill between the people of New Zealand and Japan. Society meetings are informal with speakers and topics relating to our interests, followed by refreshments and a social time together. You are welcome to come along. Contact 355 9903.

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

Baby Belly hanging around? Join a mums and bubs exercise Class starting late February, Juniors comes too so no childcare Hassles, Robyn Perkins, Fit & Perky Personal Training, Phone 027 421 0058

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!

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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St Albans News Classifieds

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dogs get stressed and lonely
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372 9253 for more info.

Green Recycling Bins: The
St Albans Community
Centre is looking for about
30 unused cycling crates
once the wheelie bin system
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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: \$20 per hour. In
your home or can collect in
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Janis 355 9034

Mature lady: looking for part
time work – Housecleaning,
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shopping. References
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New Year Resolution: to get
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Small honorarium. For further
information please contact
Christchurch Competitions
Society, Marie (03) 355 6580

Lost: Bunch of keys on a
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379 6305

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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

The ART N' CARS show

Here are two of the many classic automobiles you will be able to inspect at our first annual ART N' CARS show to be held at the St Albans Centre on 14th of February. The car show will have 16 fine classics for you to view and talk to the owners.



Bill Demeter's cars will be shown

The Art Show will feature many St Albans artists and many of their excellent works will be for sale.

The ART N' CARS show will be from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. and the suggested gold coin donation of \$4.00 will go toward supporting the Centre. Food and drinks will be available at modest prices.

St Albans Art Society

The St Albans Art Society is sharing in its tenth year celebrations with the St Albans Community Centre.



Over ten years ago, the Society was first formed with six artists, and had an immediate response for membership. Total membership has now passed fifty. Our conscientious committee plans each year for four or five exhibitions including an annual show at Rugby Street Church, Papanui Road.

We have a working group on Monday mornings, and at least one guest artist during the year, to demonstrate his own art expertise to the members. Each year we organise a picnic lunch at a restaurant and also various social events. We are inviting people to join our Society, and you do not have to be an artist. Feel free to phone the President, Reg Weld: 355 5090 (evenings).

Community Centre Donates Books to Christchurch Prisons

Susan Smith, librarian of the Christchurch Prisons recently accepted over 100 books donated by the residents of St Albans.

Susan said that many of the prison residents were excellent readers and enjoyed books about history, adventure, self-help, health and do it yourself topics. Her library has grown significantly as well as book check-outs increasing each month.



Susan, politely but firmly rejected Bill Demeter's two favourite choices much to his surprise.

Quote of the Month

"An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves."

Bill Vaughn



**St Albans
Art Society's
10th Anniversary
Exhibition &
Sale of works**

14 February 10 am–3 pm

**& visit the
Vintage Car
display**



**St Albans
Community Centre**
Te Pokapū Hapori o Hato Ōpani

1047 Colombo Street, PO Box 21-102, Christchurch 8143
Phone: 03 374 2465 / 03 379 6305 | Fax: 03 374 2467
communitycentre@stalbens.gen.nz | www.stalbens.gen.nz