

St Albans News

The Voice of our Neighbourhood

April 2009

Vision 2019



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Happy residents walk and cycle through streets of abundant colour, lined by productive fruit trees and vegetable gardens. Musicians enliven front yards and community parks, as people talk to their neighbours and trade local produce. There is much greater interaction between young and old throughout the community, while current-day clusters of shops have become miniature village centres—hubs for active transport (walking and cycling) and locally grown produce and

have been removed, the marae is a greater part of the community, most houses use solar thermal water heating and the local fish and chip shop sells fish caught in nearby streams.

On Saturday, 7th March, Transition Initiative St Albans hosted a visioning day at the St Albans Community Centre, to better understand community desires for the future, and to collect ideas for submissions to the Christchurch Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP).



"St Albans Park: The future location of a community-owned, electricity generating windmill?"

manufactured goods. The Orion site has become an urban Eco-village, complete with a lake and grassy spaces for horses. Development is now carried out on the human scale, reflecting distances that people can walk or cycle (rather than the automobile scale), which significantly reduces the number of cars. Electrified light rail lines connect different suburbs, but many people work locally. Fences

The event was attended by a mix of locals and interested members of other communities, including Waikuku Beach and Roimata, and was facilitated by Margaret Jefferies, coordinator of the highly successful Project Lyttelton.

An intense familiarisation and contemplation process, carried out in pairs, was followed by an imaginative visioning exercise in which participants

The St Albans News is read by 22 000 people, 19 dogs, 3 cats and a parrot

Chair Chat



Warm greetings as we start to do a wintry shiver!

Having recently returned from a North Island road trip where I was the 'camp mum' for my daughter's hip-hop dance crew, I have had the privilege of seeing the world through younger eyes for a brief interlude. I must say I really enjoy the spontaneity and optimism of youth. As we trundled around the central North Island in our rental van packed to the gunnels with seven girls, a huge suitcase full of costumes, make-up clutter and bags galore of everyday wear, we joked and laughed ourselves sore. We had a great opportunity to enjoy other communities and see how things vary around Aotearoa. The dancers connected well with other young people and were besieged with interest after each show. I arrived home proud of their efforts to provide enjoyable entertainment and forge relationships with other young people. The many hours of rehearsals and fundraising were all worth the effort.

The St Albans Community Centre has been engaged in considerable thinking and debate of late as a result

of the report of the Working Party on the Edgeware Pool site. Many locals have been upset over the subsequent CCC staff's recommendation to sell off this sizeable piece of greenspace for housing. I believe that regardless of the existence of a pool in the area this greenspace provides much needed relief from the surrounding building intensity, and I think it is a shame to lose it.

I was sorry to miss the recent Ellerslie Garden Show while I was away, but it is great to hear it was an apparent success. Whilst a risky gamble to take, the CCC may have proved their instincts were accurate on this occasion, and I congratulate them for bringing back the 'Garden' to our City.

Many in the city are already feeling the pinch of our tighter economy, and it is a great time to ensure that we look out for one another. Perhaps you could set up a street event, barbecue or picnic and get to know your neighbours. Perhaps you could share that excess produce from your garden. Perhaps you could show someone how to grow vegetables or sew a garment. Perhaps you could volunteer at the local school/kindy/kohanga reo. We will all get through a rough patch better by pulling together.

Heoi ano

Maggie Co-Chair of the St Albans Residents' Association

continued from page one

walked through St Albans as they imagine it to be in 2019. Individual thoughts and recollections were recorded on the board, allowing everyone to share their ideas for the future of the community. The most significant differences between now and then are: residents work and play locally; food is produced closer to where it is consumed, and there are active relationships between producers and consumers; and transport modes have become more active.

A theoretical "backcasting" was carried out to create an historical timeline, viewed from the future, noting events which occurred before 2019 contributing to the vision: worsening of the global economic crisis encouraging community banks that stimulate local economies; the establishment of local food forests; local markets opening up to sell produce from within St Albans; and a diverse mix of legislative (top-down) and community driven (bottom-up) initiatives to reduce environmental impacts, enable local scale production and enhance the community.

A timeline of actions was created that charts real steps to reach this goal, to be undertaken by the Visioning Day participants and the wider community, particularly: the completion of LTCCP submissions; the further development of connections with other active communities; beginning active local democratic processes, to create a

more involved and representative city council; an in-depth review of past community projects (to understand and learn from successes and failures); and the redevelopment of the Edgeware shopping area, to form an attractive village centre within St Albans.

A shared community vision is required to provide a defined goal towards which the community can aspire, and against which progress can be measured. The full results of the visioning day are available online, as part of the Transition Initiative St Albans Wiki; click the Transition category (left hand side) at: <http://www.stalbans.gen.nz/pm/pmwiki.php>

Stacy Rendall, photo: Maria Hayward

LTCCP 2009-2019

Make a submission before 16 April
<http://www.ccc.govt.nz>

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

St Albans Harvest Celebration

As a result of the St Albans Visioning Workshop held recently by the Transition Initiative St Albans, a new St Albans Organic Garden Group has sprouted up. We had our first get-together recently: a candlelit pot luck dinner at the home of Matt Morris and Christopher Musgrave.

We are keen to celebrate the abundance of food we already have in our suburb and to find ways to build on this. So we are organising the St Albans Harvest Celebration!

This will be held on Sunday, 26th April from 2 p.m.–4 p.m. at Packe St Park Community Garden

We encourage people to bring along something from their garden for the harvest table (could be flowers, herbs, fruit, veggies, cuttings, seeds etc.) which we will be able to share and swap. You are also very welcome to bring some food or drink to share if you are able.

Another idea some of us are working on is a Fruit Trees for St Albans project (like Trees for Canterbury but with fruit!). We'll keep you posted!

Matt Morris

Reminder: Logo Competition

The Transition Initiative St Albans is holding a logo design competition to help get the message out there about moving the suburb forward towards a sustainable future. All entries will be displayed in a community exhibition at the St Albans Community Centre on Saturday, 9th May from 1p.m.–4 p.m. when judging will take place. All entries must be in hard copy form at the Community Centre by 30th April. Remember, Transition Initiative St Albans is about local resilience, about enhancing what's special about St Albans, about sustainability and about creativity. So get out your Crayola sets and see what simple, effective design you can come up with to promote those ideas and values.



St Albans
Community Centre

Te Pokapū Hapori o Hato Ōpani

Events Calendar

7 Apr, 12pm	Christchurch Transition Forum (374 2465)
9 Apr, 7.30pm	Packe Street Community Garden AGM
16 Apr, 7pm	Tisa: Energy (374 2465)
18 Apr, 7pm	An Autumn Ball (385 6399)
19 Apr, 11am	Ratana Church Service, Rehua Marae (355 5606)
19 Apr, 2pm	Walk: Meandering in St Albans (379 6305)
21 Apr, 7.30pm	Heritage Action inaugural meeting
22 Apr, 2pm	St Albans Uniting Church Garden Club (366 0396) "My Favourite Things"
23 Apr, 7pm	Resident's Association meeting (374 2465)
26 Apr, 2pm	St Albans Harvest Celebration (386 1025)
28 Apr, 7.30pm	NZ- Japan Society (355 9903)

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Send your news contributions and adverts to:
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>

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

Editor: Christoph Hensch
Proofreading: Terry Connor
Design, layout, advertisement design: Maria Hayward

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.

If Not You — Who? If Not Now — When?

In the short ten years of our existence, your St Albans Community Centre has grown into one of the largest and fastest growing Centres in all of Christchurch. Last year we provided a variety of innovative and meaningful programmes to over 31,000 people from throughout the city.

Since January, people are using the Centre at a rate than means we will most likely serve over 37,000 people in 2009.

We also see the economic downturn as driving some of this increase as people look for less expensive ways to exercise, learn or take part in the many programmes for children. Our NeighbourNet computer services have seen a significant increase...probably due to CV-writing and job searches.

We are providing these services to a growing user-base with fewer dollars and trying to do so without compromising the quality of what we provide. We have been able to do this because of a very dedicated paid staff (Christoph, Alison, Magda and Kim) and our extremely loyal volunteers numbering over 35.

The reality of declining dollars from grants and no increase in funding by the CCC for three years leaves us with little choice: either cut back our vital services, or ask

you, the community, to help us. We are asking for your help.

We are asking you to contribute by making a donation to the Centre. If you could find a way to give us just \$50 this year, we will continue to provide our users with the services they have come to expect. None of your contributions will go to salaries or support of the St Albans News. Your contributions will go to support rising costs of infrastructure, power bills and much-needed equipment (tables and chairs, for example).

Without your help we are facing a difficult struggle. St Albans has shown in the past they are proud of our neighbourhood and we are sincerely asking for your help.

Please use the Contribution Form inserted in this paper and return it with your cheque. If you have any questions, please call us at: 379.6305.

Bill Demeter



If you do not have a Contribution Form at hand, and would like to support us, you can contribute by either direct credit into our bank account at Kiwibank: 38-9002-0405715-02, or send us a cheque by mail to:
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PO Box 21-102
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For more information, please call 374 2465 or email 'communitycentre@stalbands.gen.nz'

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The Risingholme Orchestra

You're never too old to learn music! I belong to a keen group of musicians—the Risingholme Orchestra—in which nearly half of the members did not begin to play until after the age of 40. Since I live near the St Albans Community Centre, I was a “sitting duck” to be chosen to describe the Risingholme Orchestra and some of the events in my life leading up to my involvement.

The orchestra has met every Thursday morning since 1992, in the Risingholme Community Centre Hall in Opawa. It was started by Bernice Thompson, a prominent physiotherapist, with whom I shared a desk in the Orchestral Society Orchestra. The Risingholme Orchestra (RO) is made up of retired people and any other age groups who happen to be free, who enjoy performing challenging music such as Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, Dvorak's Eighth, Beethoven's Ninth, Elgar's Enigma Variations, Moussorgsky's Persian Dances and so on. The RO is presently under the baton of Tony Ferner, principal flute in the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, with John Emeleus, former head of music at the College of Education, as deputy conductor. The orchestra is also well-supported with compositions from a former viola player Nick Wogan, our legendary trumpet player Doug Kelly, and Eric Biddington.

With 60 members, the orchestra currently has vacancies in the strings and brass sections. You need to be able to play at Grade 5 level at least, and sight-read.

We perform two concerts a year in Christchurch, Diamond Harbour, Oxford or Darfield. On Thursdays we start at 9.45 a.m., stop for a cuppa and a bite at 11 a.m., and finish at noon. We are a highly congenial group and a non-threatening, helpful atmosphere prevails. The conductors are always encouraging and inspiring. I personally look forward to each rehearsal even if I haven't mastered a particular passage. I feel I must extend myself to contribute to the end result. We are at all different levels of achievement. Some younger than myself display skills I do not have.

And now I go back to 1935, for a trip down memory lane to explain how I came to be playing violin in the Risingholme Orchestra. When I was a boy aged about six, my mother sent me to Spreydon School's Saturday afternoon class conducted by Miss Drayton. I remember reluctantly practising violin on Saturday mornings. The passion for music probably started earlier as my mother sang and played piano, and no doubt during my pre-natal life as well. (Ample proof exists that the foetus remembers music.)

At about 12 years, I played my first solo in a Caledonian Hall concert arranged by my second teacher, Bernard Barker. Then, as money was tight, my parents sent me

and my three brothers to Arthur Gordon. His favourite piece was the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto, which I and my nearest brother worked on. In my seventeenth year, I started learning the piano, which I enjoy listening to and playing, but not very well. In my teens, I also learnt the Hawaiian guitar from Maurice Liebert, and still enjoy that type of music.



After serving a carpentry apprenticeship, I married and built a house for us in Oamaru, started a family and continued building houses, still playing my violin regularly. We returned to Christchurch in 1955, and settled in Mairehau, where a tennis court materialised opposite our house. So my wife and I, and later our four children, started playing tennis. About this time also, I acquired an 18-foot racing catamaran (with sails)—fun at the weekends.

My music progressed after meeting well-known pianist Dr John Moffatt, and a cellist, and together we played much of the string repertoire. After attending a chamber music course at the WEA, I joined the Civic Orchestra in the early '70s, the forerunner to the Christchurch Symphony. I was already playing in the Orchestral Society (now the Canterbury Philharmonic). Next I joined the Canterbury Trust Orchestra after an upset caused by a small faction in the Civic.

And that's how I came to be now playing in the Risingholme Orchestra, and also sometimes in the Philharmonic and the Garden City Orchestra as well.

Remember, if you are a string or brass player, come along and join us.

Inquiries should be directed to Reiner Dornan on: 337-2163 or: reinadornan@xtra.co.nz

Stan Raymond

Soil Contamination at Edgware Pool Site

There has recently been a lot of media and community interest in the issue of soil contamination at the old Edgware Pool site, and a lot of inaccurate reporting of the issues.

To begin with, there are two very different kinds of contamination on the site being spoken about, and two different parts of the site. The first of these is the remains of the old pool. When the council destroyed the old pool, somewhat hurriedly, they broke the sides and pushed all the materials from the site into the hole. This counts as 'contamination' because the land is not in its natural state. It is not the same as being 'poisonous'. So, when we hear a figure in the order of \$500,000 to clean up the contaminated site, this refers to actually removing the debris and refilling it properly. As residents will know, the original job was so poorly done that the area is a hazardous zone and has been locked off from public access ever since.

The second kind of contamination, which has received all the media attention, is a much simpler issue to deal with, and has to do with toxins found in the old car park site, and in the community garden beds that have been built on top of it.

Soil tests were conducted by Council staff in the latter part of 2008. Seven sites were tested: three samples were of the unsealed car park, and four from the garden beds. Elevated levels of arsenic were present in all the samples. The worst by far was one of the car park samples. However, of the garden beds, the best result was twice the recommended land use health criteria, which is quite bad. Lead was found in very elevated levels in one of the car park samples; in all of the garden bed samples except for one, the lead levels fell below the residential land use health criteria (which is good). The bed with higher levels was only slightly in excess of these criteria. Finally, Benzo (a) pyrene results fell below the residential guidelines in all samples other than the car park. But Benzo (a) pyrene equivalents were in excess of the residential guidelines. The very worst were in the old car park.

What do these results mean? First, there is no question that these toxins are present in the soil. However, there has been a sensationalist response. What hasn't been mentioned is that by far the majority of plants grown in the garden

have been decorative shrubs and flowers. Second, the most luscious vegetables have been grown on a raised bed made with a considerable amount of compost brought in by a local school group. They have not been planted into the soil. Third, the potatoes planted directly into the ground have all been mysteriously removed, tops and all. In other words, there is no immediate risk to anybody of being poisoned from eating anything out of the gardens.

Also, the advice I have seen from a Ministry of Health official is that these results are indicative of the state of ordinary garden soils throughout the city. They are the results of the way we have treated our properties here for a few generations. Arsenic is actually naturally occurring in our soils, but we make it worse through such actions as using arsenic-treated timber. Lead contamination has occurred through the old lead-based paints we have coated our homes with. In other parts of the city DDT residues can be found from the pest treatments we once doused our garden in. The soil that was brought onto the site for the community garden at Edgware was from an ordinary residential property. I suspect that what has been uncovered is just the tip of the iceberg for our city as a whole.

The community garden was established at Edgware as a way of keeping the vacant old car park safe, making sure people knew the community cared about it, deterring vandals. It has been an amazing community project bringing all sorts of people together and even involving a school. I heard from a teacher at the school that the boys who made their garden at Edgware are now in a position to become gardening mentors in the school. What a fantastic result!

The future of the community garden is still uncertain. Council staff have recommended that a large part of the site be sold for residential development, and Councillors accepted that proposal. It will go out for consultation as part of the LTCCP process. However, staff and Councillors have also recommended that the front part of the site—the Trafalgar Street entrance—be redeveloped as a community garden. They have recommended \$10,000–\$20,000 be spent on doing this, which includes the construction of raised beds. These raised beds would need to be made of untreated hardwood timber, be lined, and filled with soil that has had a multi-residue test to ensure it is 'clean'.

The current gardeners have investigated getting independent soil tests done, and some are even looking at getting their own home gardens tested to get some evidence of the actual extent of the problem. This may be something that the new St Albans organic and permaculture gardening group also explores.

Matt Morris

Matt is the Chair of the Greenspace Traffic Works Committee of the Shirley/Papanui Community Board, and a National Councillor of the Soil & Health Association of New Zealand.

Brendon Burns

Member of Parliament
for Christchurch Central

Contact my electorate office
Monday-Friday, 10-4pm
Level 3, 103 Worcester Street
Phone: 377 8840

Working for your future



Water an Issue for St Albans

Canterbury dairy farmers continue to be among the nation's worst polluters of waterways. Our local MP, Brendon Burns who is also Labour's water quality spokesperson, says this is an issue of concern to St Albans residents.

"At the election forum last year in the Community Centre, water emerged as a topic of real interest. We all know that what happens in Canterbury's hinterland is eventually going to affect our quality of life in St Albans.

The signals are not promising. Five years into the 'clean streams' accord, less than half of Canterbury's dairy farmers are fully compliant with resource consent requirements; twenty percent were in significant breach of their consents.

In Parliament recently, Agriculture Minister David Carter attempted to put the gloss on the figures, suggesting 'the vast majority of farmers have done a very credible job.' He needs to stop fudging and tell Canterbury farmers that their widespread, continued breaches of the minimum standards of the 'clean stream' accord are putting a great deal at risk, starting with people's health. Many rural Canterbury townships have drinking water quality that is below World Health Organisation minimums. In Cheviot, for example, the supply is such a risk to health that the

region's Medical Officer of Health is currently threatening to declare a Drinking Water Emergency and shut it down.

The ongoing pollution of Canterbury streams and rivers, largely by the dairy industry, also undermines New Zealand's international branding as a 'clean, green country.'

We all need to be worried about having less than half of Canterbury dairy farmers meet resource consent requirements. Maintaining Christchurch's pure water is fundamental to our quality of life. It is already unsafe to swim in, let alone drink from, most lowland Canterbury streams. There are wider economic issues at stake as well as our environment. The world recession is seeing protectionism rear its ugly head. Today's pollution could provide a reason for tomorrow's trade barriers to our exports. If all Canterbury dairy farmers got their environmental act together it would be in their own interests, as well as benefiting everyone else in the region."

Brendon Burns

If you share Brendon Burns' concerns about Canterbury water quality, you are welcome to contact him c/o his electorate office:

sue@brendonburns.co.nz or phone: 381 6522.



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Kathy Condon Elected to Community Board

We congratulate Kathy Condon on her recent election to the Shirley/Papanui Community Board. Kathy had the opportunity to run as a result of the resignation of Megan Evans, and subsequent to the by-election on 10th March, was welcomed at a meeting of the Board on Tuesday, 17th March. Becoming directly involved in local body politics has long been a goal, and was mooted long before the sudden death of her husband.

Her appointment was timely, because it enabled her to attend the 2009 Community Boards' Conference, organized by fellow member Yvonne Palmer. Kathy found the Conference extremely stimulating, with workshops on a variety of topics, such as increasing community involvement, safer communities, and creating a child-friendly community. A representative of UNICEF, Swiss Christoph Baker, was one highlight amongst the many guest speakers, and both the Prime Minister and The

Honourable Rodney Hyde attended and spoke enthusiastically about the role of community boards. Hopefully, this bodes well for their future, especially in the current economic environment, when there has been a lot of talk about pruning expenses and sticking to core business.

Through these pages Kathy would like to pass on how grateful she is for the support of the community in the election, and as promised when she campaigned, emphasizes that she is accessible to all.

Constituents are welcome to contact her on ph: (03) 3541149 or email: kathyacondon@yahoo.co.nz.

Max Feutz



The Environment. Sustainability. Climate Change.

These are the biggest issues of our time; so why are we still failing to do anything about them?

While green awareness is definitely increasing, we aren't doing as much as we could, or should. Indeed, the National Government just increased funding for state highway construction by \$1 billion, thereby reducing funding for alternative forms of transport, and also made cuts to the Greens' Waste Minimisation Act 2008. It would be wrong and short-sighted for the Government to use bad economic times as an excuse for abandoning green policies.

The Press recently featured a few articles proclaiming dire consequences for our Earth due to global warming: humanity doomed; world will end in 100 years; no point doing anything; it's too late—to paraphrase.

Scary stuff! "But," I can hear some protest, "I don't believe in global warming. Not all scientists agree with this...et cetera."

IRRELEVANT. This article is not intended to be a scientific discussion of environmental issues/global warming. Whatever scientists say, what reason do we have for not protecting our Earth and trying to reduce our harmful impacts on the planet? Why shouldn't we want to live more sustainably?

We were once much more in touch with our environment.

However, industrialization, globalization and urbanization have resulted in us becoming somewhat disconnected from it... more focused on our jobs, our wages and everything modern society has to offer.

Environmental warnings have been thrown (or perhaps limply tossed) at us for decades, and finally we are beginning to give environmentalism a place in our

consciousness, thank the heavens. It worries me how dismissive the majority of "my" generation is towards sustainability, considering we are going to be "in charge" of the world at such a crazy and rapidly-changing time and really need to have concern for the environment in our hearts and minds.

Hopefully our apathy will wear off!

In the interim, everyone can do a little to live greener. Recycle effectively, start a compost pile, grow your own food if you can, print on both sides, replace car trips with walking or cycling when possible, buy in bulk or look for products with minimal packaging, consider a vegetarian diet, get your takeaway coffee in a re-usable thermos mug, say no to plastic bags at the checkout. Everything large or small helps. No change was ever achieved with an "I'm just one person" mentality.

Daniela Petrosino

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Vocal Local — Bill Demeter



Bill is savvy, Bill is strong. He wrestles mountain dogs and punches holes in faulty arguments. How can anyone, he asks, blame a bunch of pigeons for fouling an entire river? As co-chair of St Albans Residents' Association, he pitches serious questions. Who are these men roaming around in shiny suits? Why do they like bulldozers so much? Who tells the truth anymore?

Bill immigrated to NZ in 2003. He comes as a trained philosopher, a researcher, and a company owner. He has a wife who does great things as an ECan Councillor, four children in Seattle, a collector's certificate and an instinct for preserving beautiful things he can pass on. A bay villa house with wraparound verandah, and all the fripperies so beloved in 1908 by the emergent upper middle class; a Wolseley car with mahogany dash; and smaller things in glass cases which you can hold in your hand; badges of

office with enamelled faces and red ribbons; razor sharp adze heads; and one million year old mushrooms; and not a speck of dust anywhere. Pictures of whales by American Haida Indians, done with sand and horse hoof glue at the height of a trance.

In the hallway, a domestic scene by Mark Ponder, painted, says Bill, before he got too big for his britches. And a print by our own Marian Maguire, who studied in Albuquerque where Bill was born. It speaks to him because her mythical figures embody aspects of the Kiwi psyche which he finds difficult. Herakles makes a great chariot from No. 8 wire, but he never questions orders. "Dumb acceptance never helped anyone," says Bill. His mission is to urge critical thinking—hard, he says when we've never been taught. As for me, I blame the British.

Hilaire Campbell

What a Splash!

St Albans reformed swim club celebrated the close of a successful season with a poolside barbecue and prizegiving at Shirley Intermediate School.

'What a brilliant first season we have had,' said organizer Val Somerville, 'with over 90 pupils of varying abilities, from the little tots learning water confidence to our accomplished senior swimmers.'

All pupils received a certificate of progress and achievement. Some proudly receiving highly polished 'historic' cups dating back to the early 1900s.

Ro Sorryl, committee member, thanked the Shirley Intermediate School Principal and caretaker for the use of their pool and their continuing support of the swim club. Bernie Aulavemai, secretary, thanked and congratulated coaches and pupils.

Well done to all involved.

For enquiries regarding next season, contact Val: paul.valerie@actrix.co.nz

Kevin McDonald



Tiana Pokai is receiving her cup from Helen the intermediate swimcoach

Annual General Meeting 2009

"The Friends of the Park at 125-129 Packe St. Inc."
(Packe Street Community Garden)

Thursday, 9th April 2009 at 7.30 p.m.
143 Packe Street (corner Packe Street and Edgeware Road)

Everyone welcome: please bring a small plate of finger food to share. People can support the community garden by becoming members of "The Friends" or helping at the working bee on Thursdays 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Annual Membership: \$5.00 per family \$2.00 individual

An Autumn Ball

The University of Canterbury Medieval and Renaissance Society invites you all to try historic dancing at this fun and social event.

Saturday, 18th April 7 p.m.-9 p.m. at the St Albans Community Centre. \$2 entry. Please bring a plate to share. For more information, please contact Nicola on: 385 6399

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Max (Maxine) Feutz

If there is anyone who deserves the title of “Lois Lane — intrepid woman reporter” for St Albans News, it is Maxine Feutz (known to all as Max). Her innate

Max is Canterbury born and raised, coming from rural Darfield, then graduating to a Bachelor of Arts in History and English Literature at Canterbury University.



Max Feutz, our intrepid reporter! (Photo: Christoph Hensch)

curiosity leads her where no others fear to tread — be it interrupting busy shopkeepers for a chat, or staking out a “haunted house”. Her personal viewpoint articles, “a sort of community blog”, she says about local identities, and activities, have featured in almost all the editions of the News since November 2007, and are always well read and appreciated by her interviewees.

However, she said that it did not inspire her to write — this came much later when she became involved in local politics in St Albans. The Edgeware Pool closure fired her up; she met with Douceline Wardell, seeking to help in community issues. And quickly graduated to “newshound” for the paper, and then to a post on the local St Albans Residents’ Association board. Her German/Swiss family background through her grandfather, has given her a strong sense of justice and fair play, and she also has a great interest in people and multiculturalism. She used this first in her work with migrant families in the Refugee Resettlement Scheme, and now in her work as a tutor in a Canterbury language school. Having two teenagers in the family

has also given her an insight into youth, so now she is charged with investigating how to involve young people more in the Community Centre’s programmes. All this scarcely gives her time to write, and so we in St Albans are very fortunate that Max always meets her deadlines (sometimes by a whisker) and another enthralling story of St Albans life emerges once more in print. **Doug Craig**



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Meandering in St Albans

The St Albans Stream Walk

Sunday, 19th April 2 p.m. until approx 3.30 p.m.

The St Albans Stream is one of the forgotten treasures of St Albans. It winds its way like an eel from a spring in the grounds of St Andrews College on Papanui Road and across the flat flood plain—the previously flax and raupo swamp area, long since drained, of St Albans and Shirley (see Black map attached). After joining with the Stapletons Road (Shirley stream) stream, it finally discharges into the Avon River at the corner of River Road and McBratneys Road. Parts of it are publicly visible above ground, other parts are in pipes, and yet other parts wind in front of people's houses or at the back of properties. Small sections of the stream have been naturalized with graded banks and native plantings. Some of these plantings are visible at English Park and at

Geraldine Street. The St Albans Walking group is going to explore part of this waterway on Sunday, 19th April. The walk will take about an hour and a half from 2 p.m.

We will meet at the Community Centre on Colombo Street, and then walk down to Rehua Marae on Springfield Road to look at a restoration of Upper Frees Creek before winding our way up to Webb Street. There is a recent creek restoration there as an example of what can be done to restore a naturally functioning waterway. From there, we will follow the stream to Abberley Park and north-east to English Park, before coming back to Edgeware Road to follow up the stream to the Geraldine Street bridge.

The walk will finish at “Peggy’s” Packe Street Park with a cup of tea and cake. ***Doug Craig***

Doug Craig

TISA Walking group



WORD WHIZZ - 6 

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

SHLEFS

[illegible]

15 words - good; 25 words - excellent; 30 and over - you are on fire!

Community Centre Services

Lounge area with local papers and wireless Internet access

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Julie Wylie School of Music

An exciting and research-based music school is now operating on Barbadoes Street for children and their parents; from new babies through to eight years of age.

"Julie's work in early childhood music is unparalleled in its sophistication, creativity, insight and basis in science."

*Dr. Susan Foster-Cohen,
Director, The Champion
Centre*

The two teachers — Julie Wylie and Louise Shand — are Pediatric Music Specialists at The Champion Centre in Christchurch, and are highly qualified and experienced in the field of early childhood and pediatric music. Julie's research and work in this field is internationally recognised and she has been invited over the last few years to present workshops and lectures in Australia, Singapore, the UK, Lithuania, Finland, Estonia, Korea, Italy and Japan.

The school has been established in order to provide high quality, effective music classes for babies through to eight year olds; to provide professional development and support to early childhood and school

teachers, and to promote the importance of music for healthy child development and brain growth.

Musical play promotes the physical, emotional, social and intellectual development of all children. These classes are designed to encourage a love of music in both parent and child, and to explore the elements of music in a nurturing environment.

Enrolments are being taken for Term 2 for Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday classes. A beginner's keyboard class will also be starting in Term 2 with a focus on a fun, interactive and child-centred approach.

Enquiries should be directed to: specialtymusic@gmail.com or: 366 3055.

Please visit: www.juliewyliemusic.com for information on her award winning children's CDs and DVD, and for links to her research and articles.

Louise Shand



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Email: stmatt@paradise.net.nz

The History of the St Albans Swim Club and the Edgware Pool—Part 8

The St Albans Swim Club's "THINK BIG" projects in the '60s kept the club to the fore in the New Zealand swimming scene. With an increase in the membership, the 1960–'61 season started with much optimism and the usual Saturday working bees of volunteers painted the bath for the new season.

The first project of the '60s was to install a new filtration plant. Negotiations were made with the council for a grant of £750 pounds, with the balance of £1250 to be raised by the club members. A "Filtration Ways and Means Committee" was formed to plan a number of functions to raise funds. A raffle was proposed with a ½ ton of coal as first prize and a second prize of ½ cord of slab wood. Other functions were a fete in Abberley Park, a cake stall, a Beetle evening, and a "Paddy's Market" auction, but the highlights were a mannequin parade held in the Scottish Society Hall with a "Burlesque item by a group of men" and a Sunday evening picture evening at the Century Theatre. A fundraising barometer was erected on the verandah of the butcher's shop facing Colombo Street (now Mitre 10).

In spite of very bad weather conditions, it was a successful year of club activities. Two members were recognised for their achievements: Helen Broughton who was selected to be a representative at the Canterbury and National Championships, and Michael Gould who came fourth in the Harbour Swim at Corsair Bay. The Learn to Swim classes run by Mrs Yorston added a new class for adults: "who found the enjoyment of a very healthy sport and social contact with other mothers with similar interests." These adults also were very successful in gaining their Royal Lifesaving Resuscitation Certificates.

The season ended on a sad note with the death of the Club's Patron, Mr W J Cowles, who had been involved in the welfare of the club since its inception in 1921. A cup was purchased in his memory and known as the W J Cowles Memorial Cup and is still in use today in 2009. Miss Doreen Brown became the new Patron. Respects were also paid to the late Mr D Hall who so ably assisted the club to raise money for the filtration plant.

The 1961–'62 season started off with a hiss and a roar with the new filtration plant in operation. It was a great asset "which did away with the old bug-bare of cold water every fortnight." Thanks were due to Mr Yorston and his son Malcolm for building the housing and installing the plant. The official opening and switching on was held on Saturday, 9th November 1961. With the realisation that insufficient funds had been raised, an increase in club subscriptions was necessary. A decision was soon made to employ a pool attendant, Mr Clark, to look after the plant and a new chlorination unit was purchased.

Club members excelled again during this season with

outstanding performances of the juniors in the Corsair Harbour Swim with Michael Gould taking first place, and the Junior Team of Linda Marshall, Brian Spear, Barry Middleton and Michael Gould winning first place. Helen Broughton and Blair Campbell were representatives at the South Island Champs and Michael Gould at the NZ Champs. The boys also participated in the water polo competition and the girls in water ballet. In the clubrooms during the winter months well-attended callisthenics classes were run by Mr S Williams and Mr D Stewart, which they believed were "responsible for the excellent showing of our swimmers in the Interclub Carnivals."

Membership increased during the '62–'63 season, with some excellent swimming on club nights and at interclub carnivals. The Learn to Swim week attracted 320 on one very hot day. Lifesaving classes and callisthenic classes also continued. The club water polo team competed, led by Captain Brian Spear. Brian was also in the Canterbury team which won the New Zealand Junior Championship in Auckland. Michael Gould continued breaking various Canterbury records and again won the Harbour Swim. Jane Ogilvie won the trophy for the Junior Girls' Under-10 Breaststroke in the first Junior Olympics held at Wharenui. The Swim Club Chairman, Mr E C Stentiford, was honoured, being awarded the New Zealand Service Award Blazer for his many years' service to the sport.

Early in the 1963–'64 season, the unsatisfactory state of the dressing sheds was discussed, and a committee was formed "to go into the possibility of building new concrete block dressing sheds." The next "THINK BIG" project was on its way. Separate cubicles were planned for men, boys, ladies and girls, including toilets and showers. A deputation approached the council for a loan of £1,750 and building commenced. The building was contracted out; however, a large amount of club voluntary labour was used wherever possible. Another milestone was achieved with the official opening of the newly completed concrete block sheds. "These were a very necessary amenity and are really something the club can be proud of."

In December 1963, a formal agreement for control of the baths was signed between the club and council. It set out the club's responsibility for the running the pool, routine and major maintenance, the preparation of the pool at the beginning of the season, the collecting and keeping of entrance fees, and setting charges for schools using the pool. These responsibilities the club had already been carrying out for the past twenty years. Now they had the stamp of formality.

With club membership increasing again a "fine team spirit" was shown by members competing in the club nights and interclub carnivals in Ashburton and Leeston.

Michael Gould won the first 3-mile swim across the Akaroa Harbour. Many members swam successfully in the Junior Olympics with the club winning all places in the Girls' Under-12 Breaststroke. Jane Ogilvie 1st Michelle Richardson 2nd and Margaret Duff 3rd. At the AGM it was recorded "with much regret, the death of Mr W E Alsop, a former vice president who held that position for many years." Veteran members of the committee participated in an hilarious race at the club's closing day with Mrs Wehipeihana winning the event.

A highlight of the '64-'65 season was the interclub carnival at Allenton with the very exciting win of the James Cup relay race by the St Albans B Team of Barry Middleton, Craig Richardson, Malcom Yorston and Ross Bartlett. Four club members were chosen to represent Canterbury in the South Island Champs: Mike Gould, Margaret Slade, Craig Hill and Eifon Breese. Mike Gould had a good win again in the Akaroa Harbour swim, and once again represented Canterbury at the National Champs. Two trophies were won by club members at the Junior Olympics: Michelle Richardson in the Under-13 Breaststroke, and Margaret Slade in the Under-15 Freestyle.

As the season ended, it was with much regret that the club accepted the resignations of Mr E Stentiford and Mr Malcolm, both of whom had given so many years service to club activities. Mr Malcolm was joint patron, a life member and president for many years. Mr Stentiford had been club captain, a centre delegate, vice and club president. Mr Meyer became the new president.

In 1965-'66, outstanding work and amazing results were achieved by Mrs Yorston and her helpers responsible for the Learn to Swim Week. The programme became well-known all over Christchurch and throughout New Zealand. A daily average of 340-450 children and 40 adults attended these classes. This was topped in 1966-'67 with an average of 400-450 children and 50-60 adults.

Monica Slade showed outstanding ability in Lifesaving by obtaining her Distinction Award. Both Monica and Margaret Slade gained Bars to the Award of Merit. Margaret also represented the South Island in the National Champs. The Patron, Miss Doreen Brown received the distinction of the M.B.E. and was made a Life Governor of the Royal Life Saving Society.

With the final filtration plant CCC loan repayment made in April 1966, discussions commenced on the club's next "THINK BIG" project: the heating of the pool. A&T Burt was employed to discuss the merits of a boiler to maintain a heat of 74°F and to quote for its installation. The capital outlay by the club was £1,600 plus a building to house the heating plant at the cost of £45. It was considered "to be

the turning point in the club's progress, knowing that tepid pools produce better competitive times than cold pools."

In 1967-'68, further club projects followed: the building of a concrete block fence at the entrance gate, a control room/office and the purchase of double gates all at the cost of \$576. Membership swelled and police checks had to be instigated as "boys were loitering at the gates" after closing time.

The club was well represented at the Canterbury Champs. With Miss J Meyer winning the Ladies' Dive, and Wayne Huddy the Junior Boys' Dive. The adult swimming group of 80 also formed a lifesaving group and were successful in gaining awards from Elementary up to Bronze Cross. The Learn to Swim programme awarded 849 swimming certificates.



A sizeable collection of trophies!

At the prizegiving "The Wahine Disaster" was reflected upon, highlighting the importance of swimming and lifesaving to the community: "It is when such tragedies such as these occur that we become aware of our frailties and shortcomings." The club can be duly proud of its record of swimming and lifesaving tuition.

The '68-'69 season was highlighted by club members' success in the Dunedin Diving Carnival: Joy Meyer: a Gold medal and Kim Ball: a Bronze medal. There must have been a glittering array of silverware at the end of season prizegiving on account of the Christchurch Ladies' Club unexpectedly going into liquidation and the St Albans Swim Club becoming the recipients of their trophies. They celebrated the occasion with a four-piece band. A great way to end a decade of hard work.

Part 9: Cruising through the '70-'80s with all assets in place...but was it all smooth sailing?

Valerie Somerville

(Compiled from the Swim Club Minutes and Archives NZ)

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor

As a long time older resident of St Albans having been born and lived most of my life here I feel justified in responding to a letter in last month's edition of St Albans News – E Cook of Edgeware.

I perused the February issue to look for the 'old issues' that caused the writer so much agitation. Sure the pool, City Council and the writer's identified 'new issue' – the Edgeware Road Pedestrian crossing were documented and I thought relevant and valid but I was surprised that the writer identified and prioritised The Caledonian Site because there were only a few lines in Chair Chat – no dedicated article! However 'these old issues' are still very current issues to a number of St Albans residents. I also know that the Community Centre works very hard at fostering a good working relationship with the City Council.

I also walk a lot in the area – taking care when I cross the Edgeware pedestrian crossing as I have witnessed some near misses especially on Saturdays when there are a lot of moving vehicles – parking outside shops, medical centre, turning right into Colombo Street when at times vision can be blocked by vehicles, buses, plus two car parks opposite one another – perhaps 'blinking lights' on crossing may alert drivers unfamiliar with the area.

My walking takes me near and at times through the Caledonian site which indeed resembles a war zone (I have never been to Bosnia) and is used as the local rubbish dump, furniture of all descriptions, whiteware including a toilet bowl, TV, computers are just some of the items that I have observed – I use the site gingerly avoiding human/animal faeces, condoms, hypodermic syringes and needles – none of these items would have been left had the property been secured as happens in most parts of St Albans and Edgeware – I feel sorry for residents of Caledonian and Holly Roads and Eversleigh Street whose houses overlook this ugly site. However, I have been told that they are regularly entertained by learner drivers, boy racers, police/dog training sessions, arson attempts, taggers, etc – my point being I cannot relate to the writers assimilations to 'empty sites' nearby that are already secured and small and relatively safe to nearby residents. I no longer walk through the site as construction is underway and as the site develops I'm sure there will be further articles re this site and other current issues affecting the lives of St Albans residents in future articles of the excellent and well researched St Albans News.

Name withheld upon request

Dear Editor,

The article Tips for Tough Times by Bill Demeter on page 6 in last month's newsletter was interesting and helpful. It recommended ways on how motorists can reduce their fuel costs.

However the article failed to mention the option that can give readers the biggest bang for their buck. Fortunately that was on the newsletter's front page - not to use a vehicle at all, but to walk or use a bike!!

The point is; every dollar spent on petroleum products is one dollar less available for locally made products and services.

So stop being slaves to greedy foreign-owned oil companies and start using cycling and walking as your preferred means of transport! Do it on a regular basis and an added bonus is you'll feel fitter, stronger, healthier.

And remember, a healthier society is a happier society!

Yours sincerely,

Nigel Rushton

Dear Editor

Sustainable transport is all very well, but one hopes that the clowns in the Police Dept and the Land Transport Safety Authority manage to get their facts straight.

To wit: in April-May of 1988, the LTSA and the Christchurch City Council staged a "blitz" on unlit cyclists. I was one of the unlit cyclists "brought to book", in late May. So I got lit up, like a lighthouse. Then I made the grave mistake of running a green light while a motorist - on a joyride, it appeared, most probably in a stolen car - was going through the red lights, and refusing to stop.

One thing bike lights share with traffic lights - they don't stop psychopaths. So much for the traffic safety aspect of that fine - once the traffic cops realized that, they dropped the fine.

I got fined in 1993 for riding an unlit bicycle. I never bothered turning up for the court appearance - it was being pushed as a traffic safety thing, which in my experience, had no experience to any sort of reality. All I could see was the blatant fraud of the Police and the Courts, the deliberate bringing of themselves into disrepute by disregarding reality.

In 2006 I got stopped and fined, again, for riding an unlit bicycle. Then last year I got knocked off my bike - while wearing a high-visibility vest in daylight - by a motorist who hadn't cleaned his windscreen or unfogged his sidewindows.

So much for high-visibility vests in broad daylight.

I would suggest that the people pushing bicycles as sustainable transport seriously look at the fraud that is the Road Code, and get it changed drastically first, before doing anything else. Bike lights as the be-all and end-all of cyclist safety is rather like putting condoms on crocodiles in Kakadu National Park, Australia, to stop shark attacks in Death Valley, USA.

Yours Sincerely

Wesley Parish

The Editor

To cross Cranford Street to the bus stop is hazardous.

I don't attempt it unless the road is clear but cars two blocks away are on you before you are half way across and not slowing !

Papanui Road has islands, why not Cranford Street where traffic is travelling faster?

I would like islands installed now, before winter.

Yours faithfully

H S Pearce

Re: 192 Geraldine Street***To the Editor***

I would like to comment on Maxine Feutz's March article on the above address. No, the old man who owned/s the burnt out house, now demolished and cleared out was not living there.

He lives further down Geraldine Street, near the Bealey Avenue end, and is a live and well. So alive, that he startled the rest of the residents who happened to be on the street, by loading salvaged boards onto an antique iron handcart and proceeding to wheel them with great effort, off down the street to where he is presumably re-establishing his "collection" of useful objects.

As I understand he owns several other properties around Christchurch, there can be no way the Council cannot find him. Whether or not they will ever get him to co-operate in any way, other than how it suits him is another story.

Yours sincerely

Beverley Blair

To the Editor

After reading Maxine Feutz's article, "Me and 192 Geraldine Street", I can reassure her that whether or not she was an investigative journalist when she went onto this property, she was indeed trespassing. It was the same kind of trespassing by less a romantically inclined group of thrill seekers that led to the demise of this fine old house in the first place.

The "old gentleman" she writes of has a name – Owen – and we his neighbours have learned to live with him and leave well enough alone, unlike the group of teenagers who invaded his property prior to 2004, intrigued as was your journalist by this old, rundown "haunted house". When Owen saw them off with some determination, they returned the favour by firing the fatal skyrocket into what was once his family home, leaving as sign of their operations the "badly decayed tooth" which we all became familiar with.

Let's just say Owen had some issues that resulted in his being unable to carry out repairs, but he still had rights including the right to privacy. Many times we his neighbours saw off and warned off the curious and the nosey, such as party animals breaking glass in the gutters outside and getting on the front lawn. The police and the then local MP Tim Barnett ran a meeting to help us with our concerns.

Of course "the man who lived there" knew what was going on: he has been on the demolition site often in the past weeks, picking over the sad remains of his family history. Others have been involved in trying to assist him: those members of the community who cared, and the local agencies tried to help.

All in vain: and now, most likely Owen will have to pick up the bill, if there is a forcible sale of the cleared land. What bothers me in her article is the idea that we can simply wander onto someone else's property at will, as the vandals and wreckers did, simply because of some emotional need of our own.

As for the council not being able to locate the owner, I find that had to accept – going by what the Police community liaison person and Tim Barnett told us at the meeting mentioned earlier. Owen had been contacted by them and by other community agencies, but resisted their attempts to assist him, as was his right.

Best wishes

Jeffrey Paparoa Holman

In response to this letter, I would like to say that it was certainly not my intention to cause offence to anyone who knew Owen, whose name I was well aware of, but did not use out of concern for his privacy, which I agree it was important to protect. At the same time, I was writing the article because of repeated calls to the Community Centre regarding the state of the property, most of which were concerned only with getting rid of it, and not with the feelings of Owen or his family. In fact, my own sympathies lie entirely with Owen, which in hindsight I could have perhaps stated more overtly. In the end, I expressed it anyway by writing from an extremely personal, and yes, romanticized perspective.

As regards my self-confessed 'trespass', I completely agree that it is inappropriate to enter a property with prior knowledge that it is unoccupied, but to visit in order to ascertain whether someone is 'at home' is no crime.

Was I thrill-seeking? I don't think so.

I certainly had no mischief on my mind, but I am guilty of being the potential cause for distress to Owen if he had been there, for which I apologize.

The points raised in Mr Paparoa Holman's letter give us a great deal of food for thought, and add to the sum of our knowledge of this sad affair. It resulted also in a productive discussion between us, during which we agreed that there are many wider issues that should be considered by our community. Some of these are as follows: Are we really caring for our elderly? Are our mental health services able to function effectively on the ground? And is the gentrification of our neighbourhood taking place at the expense of the diversity of lifestyles that provide colour and texture to our physical and spiritual world?

Max Feutz

Community Notices

Heritage Action

Heritage Action is holding its inaugural Public Meeting at the old Sydenham Church on Tuesday, 21st April at 7.30 p.m. (There is plenty of parking behind the church).

This will be an opportunity for groups and individuals who are interested in, and worried about, the destruction of heritage in and around Christchurch to connect, discuss and strategize.

It will also be an opportunity for people to see the great work that has been done so far on the old Sydenham Church... inspiring!

We are especially keen that all residents' groups are aware of this meeting, but realise that our contact list is far from complete, so hope that by advertising early and as widely as possible people will hear about it.

Guest Speaker is John Wilson, author of "Lost Christchurch". There will be time for questions and discussion. There will be pictorial displays and an information table. People will be invited to actively support.

The function will be funded by koha and the sale of refreshments.

Peggy Kelly

Christchurch Competitions'

Centenary Celebrations—July 2009

The Christchurch Competitions' Society is celebrating their centenary this year and they are keen to hear from people who may have been involved in the past. The Competitions' Society encompasses seven performing platforms – Vocal, Instrumental, Speech and Drama, Ballet, Tap, Highland and Irish Dancing. The competitions are held in the July school holidays starting on Friday, 3rd July with the Instrumental, and finishing on Friday, 17th July with a celebration demonstration concert featuring all the art forms.

As most of the performances will be held in the Aurora Centre this year, the committee is keen to set up visual displays in the foyer, documenting the hundred year history of the Society. They would love to hear from competitors, teachers or committee members from the past who may have stories or photos they can share. The celebrations will include displays, special prizes for all art forms, commemorative medals, certificates and lapel pins, and social events for past committee members and competitors.

If you have memories or memorabilia from past festivals; if you would like a syllabus for any of the art forms; or if you would like to be sent information closer to the event, please email the secretary at: chchcompetitionsociety@hotmail.com

Postal address is: PO Box 8692 Riccarton

Marie Kelly

Powering up for the power down? Energy facts and myths for Transition Towns

Most people involved in the Transition Town movement here in Aotearoa New Zealand have a good understanding of how fragile and costly our energy supplies could become in the future. A reliable, affordable and accessible supply of energy is key to achieving a healthy, good quality of life in your own home. But it is not necessarily clear what the best way forward is, particularly when the issue of sustainability is introduced into the equation. Solutions need to be as diverse as the different kinds of communities all over New Zealand who are stepping up to the Transition Town challenge.

Come and listen to a speaker from the Canterbury Home Energy Advice Centre who will explore some energy facts and myths plus make suggestions on the way St Albans can start preparing for the power down, focussing on household energy efficiency. You might be surprised at what you hear – and it's easier than you think!

When: 16 April, 7 pm, at the St Albans Community Centre!

Katie Nimmo

St Albans News Classifieds

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Furkids Doggy Daycare: Dogs get stressed and lonely by themselves. Socialisation also improves behaviour. Ph 372 9253 for more info.

Garden Design: Like a nice garden but don't know where to start? Ideas on garden layout, plant choice and more. Amberlee 980 2673

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

Ironing Service: available at \$20per hour. In your home or can collect in St Albans/Merivale area. Ph.Janis at 355 9034

Mature lady looking for part time work – house cleaning, babysitting, driving, walking, shopping. References available. \$15 per hour. Mira 021 0516832

Onlinepersonaltrainer.co.nz: Get fit and healthy using resources Under the supervision of an award winning Team of fitness professionals. Inexpensive, No gimmicks, no fads, — results guaranteed!

Osteopathy: Highly effective

for back & neck pain, ACC without referral, Philip Bayliss, 43 Thames St. Ph 356 1353

Painting & Decorating: Qualified Tradesman 20 years experience. Internal external plastering. Free quotes. Locally placed. Ph Mark on 355 7670 or 027 434 3300

Painting & Paperhanging: Airless spraying. New work & Renovations quality workmanship. Qualified Tradesman established over 40 Years, Ph 355 2948 or 027 432 9870. Ask for John

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

Saturday Morning Fitness Class: No co-ordination needed, all abilities Welcome, Friendly group. Only \$10, to book your place call 021 224 2866 or Email: tarsh@balanceforlife.co.nz

Tiling Services: St Albans Local available now, quality work and very competitive rates. No job too big or too small, call John for a free quote on 021 144 0844 or 942 0646

To Let: St Albans/Mairehau - Sunny 3 dble b/room 2 living (log burner) sm easy care section. Dble gge. No smokers/pets. Amenities close by. \$300 pw. Ph 385 8612.

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

Volunteers needed: Offering flexible time commitments and working from home – be part of a vibrant community and help us weave our community together through our website. Contact 'christoph@stalbans.gen.nz'

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 382 8471

German Lessons: in your home \$15 per hour. Mira 021 051 6832

Self Defense Classes: Learn practical self defense & gain health & flexibility. St Albans Church, Berwick St, Tues & Thurs 4.20 — 7.30, Ph 0800 581 481

Yoga: St Albans Community Resource Centre. Tuesdays 10-11.30am. Friendly, relaxing class, well suited to mature figures. Phone Pauline on 9808760

CATS on CRANFORD
(Next door to St Albans Vet)
102 Cranford Street
Phone Rebecca
355-6743
Inspection welcome

The Dressing Room

It's been open only a few weeks, and already both clothes and customers are flooding in. It's easy to see why. Located on the corner of Madras Street and Cannon Street, where the art gallery Heart of Art used to be, it's a sunny, spacious and extremely welcoming shop, selling a good-sized range of new and used designer clothing of such good quality that it's almost impossible to tell which is the new and which the old.

Unlike many shops of this type, it has a very clear identity. The look of both the clothes and shop is bright and modern. The racks are well-spaced, and (halleluia!) not overcrowded. The fitting rooms are enormous, set in what feels like a private lounge with an enormous gilt framed mirror. Best of all...no musty smells!



Owner Jude Gane, for whom this is the first foray into the fashion business, sells on behalf at 50/50 commission, but selects only items that fit with her vision. Some local designers are represented and she would like to develop an emphasis on foreign designers.

In addition, there's lots of jewellery, scarves, belts, handbags, and shoes that look as if they've hardly been worn. They've probably been snapped up...but if not, take a look at the polka dot slingbacks, or the cute bright pink slip-ons with the candy-striped inner and pert bows on them. In the children's section there are some lovely boys' shirts.

What about price? Is it cheap? No. Is it good value? Definitely, because no one will know you cheated.

Hours of Opening: Mon to Fri: 10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. and Sat: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Ph: 377 0219.

Max Feutz, Photo: Maria Hayward

SAVE OUR LAND from council land grab !

- * Keep old **Edgeware Pool** site for your community!
- * Community land since the 1930's!
- * Rightly your land since the 1930's!
- * Loved, used and cherished since the 1930's!

- PUBLIC MEETING -

Drinks and Nibbles provided! All welcome!

7.30pm, Tuesday 7th April '09
St Albans Community Centre
1047 Colombo Street

This meeting is organised by the St Albans Pavilion & Pool group.

Quote of the Month

As we come to see how many different sources there are for events we have less confidence in any one scheme of betterment, any one person, class, race or nation; but more in what all can do by team-work in a common spirit."

Charles Horton Cooley
Life and the Student