

St Albans News

The Voice of our Neighbourhood

June 2009

There Is No Edgeware



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I'm sure you get a bit annoyed when you get mail with your name spelled incorrectly or someone mispronounces your name. Even more upsetting is when someone insists on calling you by the wrong name!

There is no suburb called Edgeware! Why is our neighbourhood called Edgeware? According to the New Zealand Geographic Board there is no town or suburb called Edgeware. St Albans has been officially St Albans since settlement in the 1850s and was named St Albans by the early dairy farmers in the area.

It appears that two events caused the problem. Apparently in the 1970s the Fire Service was looking at key routes to evacuate the city in case of a civil defence emergency and decided a key route running east to west would be called the Edgeware route because of using Edgeware Road. The second event about the same time was the opening of the Edgeware Post Office and it was decided to use (incorrectly) the name, Edgeware.

Is there anything we can do collectively or individually? Yes!

The St Albans Community Centre is working with the Geographic Board to follow the steps necessary to preserve the name and assure the name Edgeware is minimised. We will also work with local merchants to see if they would be willing to change back to the legitimate name of our community. We will also check and make sure that any CCC signs making reference to Edgeware get changed.

As an individual you can request a change of address form to make the typical change. Assume your current address reads:

OLD ADDRESS	NEW ADDRESS
Biff & Velma Fern 1841 Ti Kouka Road Edgeware Christchurch 8013	Biff & Velma Fern 1841 Ti Kouka Road St Albans Christchurch 8013

It would be fun to see if we could at least save our legitimate name, seeing as we seem to be losing everything else in St Albans.

Bill Demeter



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



Talofa lava.

I hope the thought of a warm place manages to warm you up just a little!

I have to own up to being a person who prefers warmer temperatures, so I am having to work hard to remain upbeat in this unpleasant weather. So I decided I needed to notice the many good news stories I have heard recently to keep the cold and the recession at bay.

Good news story #1

We here at the St Albans Community Centre could not be more surprised and delighted to learn that the CCC has included a huge sum of money in its LTCCP to enable a significant expansion of our Centre. I understand we have never been specifically asked about our needs to expand, so to have the CCC take this initiative is a real surprise and a bonus. We have certainly been bursting at the seams for some years, and have had to turn groups away on numerous occasions so there is no lack of evidence of the need for expansion. We wait with great anticipation to contribute our ideas to the plan. Thanks CCC.

Story #2

The sector I spend my work life in, the NGO social service sector, has been in a highly anxious state since the national election last year worrying about expected funding cuts alongside hugely increased demand as a result of the economic times we are facing. We were somewhat relieved by the Minister of Social Development, Paula Bennett's recent announcement that all existing social service funding as promised by the previous Labour government will remain in the sector. There will be some re-arrangement however, of the allocation of this money to enable a sizeable sum to be available to respond to the current recession pressures. Whilst this is not exactly what the sector hoped for, it appears to be a manageable compromise in the present circumstances.

Story #3

This story has some relevance to the previous one. In these tightened times the need for all groups to work together to enable the smartest use of limited resources could never be more pressing. I am therefore delighted to observe a significant number of excellent collaborations operating here in Christchurch. One collaborative project I have been personally involved in is an educative campaign around sexual abuse. This tough subject needs to be discussed if we are to have any hope of stemming New Zealand's high prevalence. The project has seen the Police, CYFS, NGO social services working with both victims and perpetrators, Women's Refuge and a number of others put their collective knowledge and resources together to develop some resources for the community. A pamphlet has been produced that addresses child sexual abuse in particular, and educational workshops are available to the wider community. While you could challenge me placing this story in the good news category I think it is excellent news to see such a committed, joint effort to address this shameful problem we all share. Please feel free to contact me if you have any enquiries.

Story #4

St Albans Community Centre remains a warm, responsive and caring resource for all the community to share!

Until next time

Regards

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

PS: It was with some dismay last week that I saw the departure of the beloved OSCAR building from the St Albans school site where it had spent approximately the last 25 years in various locations. The extraordinary growth of the school roll has led to this decision I believe; however, I cannot help but see it as the loss of a fantastic community initiative. St Albans OSCAR was the first in New Zealand and blazed the trail for out of school care for children up and down the country. What is now considered a normal service was then seen as quite radical and it only resulted from a determined struggle. I certainly hope this service will remain available in our community to families such as mine who depend on such support to enable them to work and feed their families.

Residents' Association Special General Meeting

You are invited to a Special General Meeting (SGM) of the Residents' Association on Thursday 25 June at 7pm at the St Albans Community Centre, 1047 Colombo St., St Albans. The purpose of the SGM is the adoption of changes to the constitution that will make the Association eligible for charitable status.

The details of the changes can be requested from the office (379 6305 or office@stalbens.gen.nz.)

Event Organisation

Is event organisation your strength and are you well connected within the community? We need Volunteer to help with two to three community events per year. Please get in touch with the St Albans Community Centre, 379 6305

Transition Initiative St Albans

Integral Philosophy And How It Relates To Transition Towns

Thursday 11 June, 7pm

You're invited to St Albans Community Centre on Thursday 11th June, 7pm to watch two DVDs... Spiral Dynamics Integral with Don Beck and the hot off the press Foundations of Integral Philosophy with Steve McIntosh. We'll begin a conversation to explore how an emerging Integral Consciousness can be 'creative, compassionate and genius' with regard to transition and sustainability... a quote from the trailer for the about to be screened, "In Transition"

See you there,
Linda Watts

Money & Community Resilience - Christoph Hensch

Saturday 4 July, 9.30am - 4pm, gold coin donation

An exploration of the role of money, alternatives to the current financial monoculture, and the design of complementary currencies to build community resilience in the face of global financial disorder. Christoph Hensch is a community development worker, complementary currency practitioner and member of the Living Economies Educational Trust who has had many years of experience designing and running community exchange systems.

Please register for the Saturday workshop with the the St Albans Community Centre, 1047 Colombo St., St Albans, Christchurch.

Phone (03) 379 6305 or email: communitycentre@stalbans.gen.nz



St Albans
Community Centre

Te Pokapū Hapori o Hato Ōpani

Events Calendar

6 Jun, 10am	Matariki winter working bee at Packer Street Community Garden (366 3844)
9 Jun, 12pm	Christchurch Transition Forum (374 2465)
11 Jun, 7pm	TISA: Integral Philosophy (374 2465)
19 Jun, 7.30pm	Trivia Night, English Park Football Club (942 7015)
21 Jun, 11am	Ratana Church Service, Rehua Marae (355 5606)
23 Jun, 7.30pm	Pool & Pavilion AGM (980 5584)
24 Jun, 2pm	St Albans Uniting Church Garden Club - AGM (366 0396)
25 Jun, 7pm	St Albans Resident's Association meeting (379 6305)
4 Jul, 9am	TISA: Community Economics (374 2465)
14 Jul, 12.30pm	St Albans Interagency Meeting (374 2465)

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Tai Rakana, Doug Craig, and others.

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

St Albans Celebrates its Harvest

For some months now we have been reporting on different ways that many people in St Albans are getting together to prepare for the challenges of Peak Oil and climate change. Collectively, these efforts make up what we call Transition Initiative St Albans.

My own particular interest in all this work is food. More precisely, it is accessible, affordable food grown in our own community. This can be through school gardens, community gardens or home gardens. It has been a major component of my voluntary work for a decade, and was a major part of my election campaign for the community board in 2007.

If we are going to take this matter seriously, there's an awful lot of work to be done. We need to be thinking in terms of St Albans actually feeding itself. This doesn't just stop at making sure we have a few leafy greens available as a garnish to our otherwise imported main courses. It means making it possible for the bulk of our meals to be supplied from within the suburb. No small challenge when our available land is disappearing under infill housing!

As with all projects of this nature, change begins with small, sure, steps. A couple of months ago a little group popped up under the auspices of Transition Initiative St Albans. We don't have a name yet, and we certainly don't have minutes, a constitution or a bank account. If we did have a name, it would be something like the St Albans Organic Gardening Group, or the St Albans Food Group...or something like that. We are in touch with each other by text or phones, and occasionally by email, but I think it's important that we don't rely on such impersonal communication tools as 'email groups' which have their place but seem at odds with what we are about.

After a couple of pot lucks we came up with the idea of holding a St Albans Harvest Celebration. We thought the

best place to start with this sort of project is to actually see, and enjoy, the abundance we already have in our home gardens. So we organised the celebration, which was held in Packe St Park on 26th April. People turned out from around the suburb bringing all manner of things from their homes for the harvest table. We had multitudes of apples, figs, grapes, feijoas, quinces, walnuts, tomatoes, lemons, globe artichokes, potatoes, Jerusalem artichokes



The abundance that comes out of our own back yards

and other fruit and veg. Alongside these were jellies, chutneys, relishes, herb cuttings, boysenberry canes, and bunches of flowers. It was incredibly heartening.

After feasting on cakes, homemade bread, and other delicious treats, and getting to know each other, we held a 'swap', where people took whatever they wanted off the harvest table. We actually had a real live bartering event!

It is from such simple occasions that we can really start to grow the capacity of our suburbs to maximise their abundance. I'd like to thank Jane Quigley for MC-ing the event and everyone who helped make it a success.

Matt Morris

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St Albans Fairy Dancers



Introducing The Fairy School of Dance & Music and Pam, the Director. For 30 years she has taught and examined students of ballet and dance in Christchurch, Australia and Hong Kong and now has opened this unique school. Her classes are at the St Albans Community Centre where fees are low, for children aged two to six years, Thursdays & Saturdays. It's not every teacher's cup of tea; you need a lot of patience; but Pam's teaching is special, innovative and nurturing.

Pam is every child's sweetie. "Who can see the stars?" she whispers. Her dropped voice holds them... fixes their attention. It's not a trick, but a way Pam has of working with young children. It's all pretend, but very real. Pink-winged babies with butter legs become ponies trotting, bears hiding in deep dark places — behind curtains, under piano stools.

Wherever they are, the teacher is at their centre, stirring

imagination, encouraging Olivia, Kate and Lucy to be spontaneous, to explore music and use their tiny bodies creatively; to be whatever they want... arching snakes, fluttery butterflies. "It's a vital mix," says Pam. "Young children love to blend fantasy with reality." This belief is at the heart of her teaching.

Movement and music benefit social and psychological development, and dancing hones motor skills and balance. The fairies know it as magic; but in this wood-panelled room, parents feel it too. It's something you wouldn't want to tarnish. It's the innocence of childhood, with a sprinkle of fairy dust.

Phone Pam on 021 120 6540

Hilaire Campbell

Are Local Businesses Feeling the Pinch of the Recession?

As a country, we were warned of an approaching recession by economists and financial advisors as early as the beginning of 2008. Although New Zealand is perhaps currently experiencing a weaker version of the global economic downturn compared to many other countries such as the UK, we are definitely noticing changes in consumption levels, business investment, and business trading levels.

Results from the latest quarterly survey of Business Opinion undertaken by the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research illustrate a rather bleak picture for recent trading levels of New Zealand businesses. Nearly half of businesses surveyed reported a decrease in business activity for the March quarter of 2009; the highest reported level of decreased activity since the 1970s.

How close do these results of surveyed New Zealand businesses reflect what is happening in local businesses in the St Albans community? Are they experiencing the same low levels of trading in the midst of the economic downturn?

Surveying local businesses in the St Albans neighbourhood, I received varying responses as to the impact the recession has had on business trading levels. Some note that the recession has not made much of a difference to their business. Chris Timbs of Peter Timbs Meats said, "We're about half a percent lower on last year's figures, so the impact has been very subtle." Others have noted a definite drop in sales. Andrew Weir of Ris'tretto Café observed that customers are spending less on a daily basis. He acknowledges that, "Customers are still happy to spend money on a breakfast at the weekend; however, we have noticed a decrease in weekday spending."

Many local businesses mentioned that they have noticed a change in patterns of consumer spending. Local mechanic John Radley has definitely noticed a change in spending amongst his customers. "They're only getting done what they need to. Less [sic] people are having preventative maintenance done, which is going to cost them in the long run," he said. Amanda Hawke, of Skin Deep Beauty Therapy, notes, "People probably aren't treating themselves as much; they're not really splashing out on pampering treatments."

While this recession may have proved to be some business owners' worst enemy, for other businesses in the community it may have a silver lining. Kim Dale of Brumby's Edgeware noted that his business is thriving under current conditions. "We haven't felt any negative impact of the recession, trading is actually up on last year's figures. People aren't eating out as much at fancy cafés which has proved to be beneficial to our business," he said. Brian Ronan of United Video notes, "The recession has


been good for our business during these tough times. I think people look for more reasonably priced entertainment, and DVDs fit that criteria."

What are the strategic responses of local businesses in these potentially challenging economic times? Rose Lennon of La Boutique recognized the importance of careful planning and an active imagination for surviving the recession. "You are more cautious about what stock you buy. It's also about thinking outside the square, so you can stay in the shop another day, another week or another month." She also emphasised the value of providing excellent customer service, especially during the recession, so that people will continue their support of local businesses. Malcolm Pearce of St Albans Pharmacy noted that the recession has also made him more cautious of business financial decisions. "We're not planning any major capital works or that sort of thing in the near future, we're definitely being more careful with our costs," he said. Peter Davey of Ambrose Heal Furniture noted that the recession has caused many businesses to be more flexible in what they do, and said that his business was now taking on certain types of furniture restoration jobs which he would have previously referred people elsewhere.


How can you as a consumer aid the St Albans community in the economic downturn? Buying locally and supporting businesses in the area is vital to stimulate the local economy. Often people take it for granted that they can pop down the road to the local convenience store for that last minute ingredient needed for preparing the family meal. One must realise that local businesses rely on the continued support of their community for survival, and this is even perhaps more important in a recession.

Kimberley Ristrom





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Not Just for Drinking

Cantabrians are vitally interested in the issues surrounding the availability of three vital liquids: alcohol, fuel and water. The availability of alcohol is being tackled through a Bill currently in Parliament (The Sale and Supply of Liquor and Liquor Enforcement Bill 2009), and fuel is regulated by its cost at the pump and international supply arrangements that may change significantly with peak oil.

But water has followed a much more torturous and contentious process to ensure its wise use into the future.

The Canterbury Water Management Strategy from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum is now in the process of public consultation on which of four options might guide its valued use into a more sustainable future. The four options loosely classed as: Improving Status Quo; Development-oriented; Environment-oriented; and Comprehensive Re-allocation and Review are presented in an interesting booklet with a prominent logo “Canterbury Water”. Apart from marketing the concept and possibly an enhanced sense of ownership, there is some suspicion that the “owners” of that water resource, that is, all the residents of Canterbury, are being set up for water being marketed as a privatized resource. The view has some traction due to some in the farming development lobby believing that much of the water resource in Canterbury, in aquifers and river systems, has a destiny as a secured irrigation and storage source. The current system of first come and first served in water use allocation has reinforced this view.

Yet the role of water in Cantabrians’ lives is much more diverse as the summary document makes out. Water has spiritual, cultural, recreational, amenity and biodiversity values to many in Canterbury. The state of that water—both its availability to satisfy these values and its quality—are of urgent and ongoing concern. Reading the background information to the strategy document, there is interesting information on nutrient loadings, river flows, and water quality. But it is the stakeholder consultations’ summaries done by a private consultancy, Open Strategy Limited, that give the wider picture of the many differing views and conflicts on water allocation. (See www.canterburywater.org.nz/background-documents/#stakeholders).

For example, there is the statement, “that there is strong and widespread resistance to the concept of damming and/or diverting any more Canterbury water bodies, as a violation of the environmental, cultural, intrinsic and recreational values of water bodies” and further, “very vigorous opposition to infrastructure developments that

could potentially disrupt, obstruct or otherwise disturb natural ecosystems, species or biotic processes.” Yet there is a recognition that rural development and services depend on viable economic activity. It is the nature of that activity, its intensiveness and impacts on the natural physical environment that are up for debate. The Water Management Strategy recognizes this economic dimension in context of the other important values in the outlined options, but it is only through reading the background papers that one finds a statement, “about a lack of clarity around the distribution of economic benefits to the wider community” versus individual private developer benefit. Some infrastructure plans for Canterbury rivers and lakes are widely seen as allocating costs to the many, and benefits to the chosen few.

The community dimension of water is perhaps undervalued in the summary document. In historic times, water often ruled the lives of Maori and European settlers alike through its use, the food resources contained in it, and its seemingly wayward and fluctuating nature—either through flooding or through the periodic droughts. In urban Canterbury, the surface waters have been tamed, and for the most part regularly polluted and degraded. On a recent St Albans Stream walk, participants learnt about the elevated nitrate levels, the lack of stream invertebrates (and fish) and the high levels of silt. Urban runoff from roads and the interplay between the underground aquifer below Christchurch and urban stream levels were also discussed. There are some good examples of community and council efforts to restore and upgrade the amenity values of the St Albans waterway to look at, such as Cornwall Gardens and the Webb Street drain improvement.

The background paper summarized this engagement with community water resources with the quote that: “community engagement with the natural environment or with natural resources is viewed as pivotal, not only to individuals’ health and well-being, but also to the maintenance of community cohesion and relationships.” This is the essence of community stewardship or kaitiakitanga as embodied in the principles of the Resource Management Act.

Urban dwellers too need to demonstrate that they value the water flowing throughout their communities, and its availability from their taps, and show their wish to preserve it for future generations.

Consultation on the draft document finishes on 5th June and the draft strategy is due out by 31st August 2009. I urge you to go and look at your local stream and consider its future, and then put in a submission to this very important strategy.

Doug Craig

Discuss this article online on the St Albans Community Centre Forum at:
<http://www.stalbans.gen.nz/forum/showthread.php?tid=85>

An Ongoing Journey

On Thursday, 29th July 2004, I had a routine two-yearly mammogram at Princess Margaret Hospital in Christchurch. I went home feeling quite confident that everything would go the same as usual. On Monday, 9th August 2004, I received a phone call from St George's breast cancer department at 8.30 in the morning. I was told two lumps had been found in my left breast that needed further investigation. I was stunned and shocked; so much of the rest of the day was a blank. I rang two friends and my youngest daughter. I decided not to tell my husband, because he was very ill in hospital nearing the end of his life. I didn't want him to be worried or concerned about me. He had enough to cope with. My duty, as always, was to help and support him.

On Tuesday, 10th August, from 10 o'clock until five o'clock I was tested at St George's Milford Chambers. Here, I had three mammograms but because they weren't clear enough I had to have two more. The mammograms were very painful because the breast is squashed flat horizontally, then vertically, as much as possible, between two metal plates on the x-ray machine. I felt faint and tears fell from my eyes. I had ultrasound to the lumps in my left breast.

After this, I was allowed to go home for two hours. Later that afternoon, I had a biopsy. Gel was smeared onto my skin. Then a painkilling injection was inserted into the left breast. The first biopsy for the first lumps, size 8mm went fine, but when the doctor did the second biopsy, he cut a vein. Blood poured out. The doctor and two nurses used several bandage pads to press down very firmly on the breast to stop the bleeding. I had been having aspirin for years from my GP to thin my blood, to allow the blood to flow better due to cholesterol in my veins. The doctor said that it was government policy to have only one lump investigated at one time. But, also in my case too much blood had flowed into the flesh of the breast to give an accurate result of another biopsy.

I returned to St George's Hospital a few days later. The

surgeon, Ms Philippa Mercer, told me that the 8mm lumps were cancerous. I tried to be brave, but I felt sick and frightened. Then I fired questions at her.

"Why have I got it? Is it because I am fat,"

"No!" she answered.

"Is it because my father had liver cancer? ...Do I need just the lumps out or the whole breast? ...When can I have the operation? ...Who will do it?"

I broke down and wept.

The doctor and two nurses were very kind and compassionate. I felt a great strength coming from them, which flowed onto me, giving me full confidence in these ladies.

I decided that it was either the boob or me, and it wasn't going to be me! So I had the whole left breast off as well as thirteen lymph glands, one of which was cancerous.

After the operation, I have had to take one tamoxifen tablet a day for five years, and have had constant checks by the Oncology Team. Today, five years later, I am cured.

My sincere thanks to Chris Atkinson and his team, and to Philippa Mercer.

The reason I have written my story for The St Albans News is to show that there is hope and life after cancer.

Anna


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CCC Spending on Roads

"Congestion has worsened over the past 10 years, despite large increases in transportation spending at all levels of government and improvements to the physical condition of highways and transit facilities. Furthermore, according to DOT, highway spending by all levels of government has increased 100 percent in real dollar terms since 1980, but the hours of delay during peak travel periods have increased by almost 200 percent during the same period. These mobility issues have increased at a relatively constant rate over the last two decades..."

-- Katherine Siggerud, Managing Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, U.S. Government Accountability Office.

Submissions on the draft Long Term Council Community Plan have come to an end, and the Council now decides what changes, if any, will be made. In view of rising debt levels and economic uncertainty, has anyone in CCC not asked: "Is over \$660 million for roads a prudent use of our ratepayers' money?"

The purpose of this spending on roads is to reduce traffic congestion. While this may be commendable, will it actually achieve the desired outcome? Experience in other cities suggests it is extremely doubtful. When a road is built or widened, it acts as a magnet for drivers and soon becomes clogged with traffic. A classic example is the new extension of Auckland's Northern Motorway.

So is there a more cost-effective way of doing things?

One option would be to encourage people to use their cars less. Last year we saw petrol prices climb to more than \$2.00 per litre and a corresponding reduction in traffic volumes. It is clear from this experience that price levers are effective at modifying behaviour.

So how should it be done?

The first is to increase the price of cars. Virtually all the world's vehicle makers are insolvent or near to it; General Motors recently made the biggest loss ever. These companies are being kept afloat by their taxpayers (governments) in the form of grants, subsidies and bail-

outs. The chronic state in which car makers find themselves suggests that the current price of their product is too low and does not reflect the full cost of production.

If we are to break this vicious cycle, vehicles will need to be double their current value, or at least increase to an amount that allows manufacturers to make a reasonable and sustainable profit.

More expensive cars will reduce demand. Fewer cars mean reduced congestion...reduced congestion means less need for bigger and more expensive roads. With reduced need to spend on roads means more money for social services such as health, education and community housing. It might even be possible to reduce rates!!

The second option is to introduce a fuel tax. While car makers are losing money, oil companies are raking in huge profits. Exxon recently announced the world's biggest annual profit ever, in the tens of billions of US dollars.

With oil companies making such huge profits, there is an opportunity for government(s) to increase fuel tax by more than the 6 cents already announced. The extra income could be directed into more sustainable transport modes, just as the regional fuel tax was intended until scrapped by the Government a few weeks ago.

The extra tax could also offset the fall in revenue due to reduced volume sales of fuel. Petrol prices have fallen a long way from the highs of last year, so there is room for it to go up. If the product is thought to be too expensive, oil companies can always consider reducing their margins.

This is not such a bad thing as some might immediately think. People are very adaptable and will adjust. After all, mass motorised transport is a recent phenomenon; we coped very well for thousands of years without it.

Reducing dependence on motorised transport gives people real choices and the opportunity of more flexible lifestyles. And it is so much more pleasant to walk and cycle with fewer cars on the road.

This is what I call working in the best interests of residents and ratepayers. Building more roads isn't.

Nigel Rushton

Discuss this article online on the St Albans Community Centre Forum at:
<http://www.stalbans.gen.nz/forum/showthread.php?tid=84>

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Maaka Mihaka

A familiar sight to many, 49-year-old Maaka's drawings of cars adorn the wall of the St Albans Community Centre next to the office door, where they can easily catch the eye. This is to honour the fact that these drawings mean a great deal to Maaka, who treats the Community Centre as a home away from home, and who can be seen almost every day working on something or just relaxing there. He says he's been drawing for as long as he can remember, and does his drawings freehand in pencil and felt pens; always coming up with his own designs, which he can get down in as little as five minutes.

The bedroom wall at his flat is virtually wallpapered with drawings, and shows some of the other materials and styles he has worked with. Over the years he's made stencils, done oil paintings, Maori carvings in Oamaru stone, and made clay models of people. In the past, his work has been displayed in the Art Centre. The thing which makes Maaka different from most amateur artists, though, is that he does his work in spite of several disabilities.

Throughout his life, nothing has been easy and still isn't. He never attended school as a boy, and therefore never learned to read and write. Instead his father, a dam builder on the Manapouri Project, would take him along wherever he was going. From birth, Maaka apparently had eye problems, and this was exacerbated by an incident

when he was five or six years old when he and some other kids were throwing stones from the top of a water tank and Maaka was hit in the eye. These days, he is classified as legally blind, and his eyesight is deteriorating even further

due to his battle with Type 2 Diabetes. He has also had ongoing problems with mental illness and told me he has spent a total of eight years in and out of Sunnyside (now Hillmorton) with highs and lows that necessitate much tinkering of his medication and a lot of positive thinking on his part to retain a sunny outlook on life.

He lives reasonably independently at a group house near to the Community Centre, which is run by the Te Peto Ora Trust, and in fact, is its longest resident, having lived there for close to ten years.

One of the things that keeps him going is that he still has dreams; one of those dreams is to eventually live on his own independently, and another is to exhibit his work again.

Max Feutz



Maaka is pointing out one of his drawings that are displayed at the Community Centre



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Believe in Youth? We Do

Another winter is with us—the season of “the blues”—and if we believe the alarmists it’s going to be a rough one, but we can make choices, lift our heads, look to the future and get on with life.

However, in the St Albans community, as in many others, there are people who struggle with choices. Being a young person can be incredibly hard with so much peer pressure to do things that may not be the smartest choice. When a young person makes wrong choices, they can be seen as a challenge; we are all annoyed by tagging and vandalism, so whether we mean to or not it is easy to label youth as a lost cause. For many young people, that is when they tend to give up on making something of themselves; they can lose their self-esteem and motivation. If young people are constantly put down and told they won’t succeed, they start to believe it.

The number of young people that just don’t seem to fit in is not someone else’s problem; it is a problem in our community, maybe in our home, or down the street, or round the corner—so what to do, where to start?

At the YMCA Education Centre, we have an amazing success rate in taking those young people that thought they could never succeed, and assist them to become motivated, educated and a success. With a maximum of 12 students per class and positive one-on-one tutoring, students realise that it’s cool to achieve, whether it be NCEA Level 1, learners’ licence, reading, maths, cooking, carpentry, abseiling, further training or employment.

Past students—who thought they would never be able to achieve for different reasons—include a fully trained midwife, a Department of Conservation worker, and another who is in her third year of a Diploma in Childcare.

We offer help to new mums with little support, or stressed out coping with motherhood. In conjunction with SWAP, we work with these mums in a lovely villa in Springfield Road, the warm friendly atmosphere and professional child care creates an environment where they feel comfortable to continue their own learning, as well as

learning child care skills.

The YMCA Education Centre cares about the whole person; we don’t have formal classrooms, and most days are a combination of work towards units mixed with outdoor activities. Classes go ice skating, visit the art gallery, play netball, challenge themselves rock climbing. All the time they are working on goals they have set themselves for their personal and educational development.

Our courses are free, no student loan to carry about; there are rolling starts and students tell us when they are ready to move on—maybe onto another course with us, to further training, or into employment—the finish date is up to the young person, they decide, they can shift the goalposts when they are ready. We want them to achieve, we support them to do so, we work with their strengths.

For school leavers to age 18, we have classes that focus on sport, life skills, NCEA Level 1 and employment, school leavers to 24 years are offered numeracy and literacy, and our Adventure Conservation course for those who thrive in the outdoors, our mothers and pre-schoolers’ course is open to all ages.

If you have, or know of a young person that needs support, then support them to enrol in one of the YMCA Education Centre courses; our community will be a better place for each young person that finds a new direction.

We are happy to show you our centre at 48 Lichfield Street. Phone us, or drop in—we’ve lots for you to see.

Our phone number is: 377 2174.

Jan Hibbins

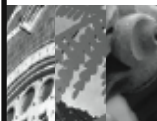
**The St Albans News relies on
your contributions. Please send
us your articles, letters and
notices. The deadline for the July
issue is 18 June**

Nicky Wagner

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Letters to the Editor

The Editor,

Edgeware Pool – The ongoing Saga

In the February edition under the heading “A missed opportunity for genuine community consultation”, the St Albans News reported erroneously on the Report of the Working Party, the establishment of which I had initiated, to consider the future use of the former Edgeware Pool site. There are a number of factual errors in that article including the statement that I “leaked” the Working Party’s Report to the media before the members of the working party could give some feedback. The facts are quite simple. The Working Party, including the Pavilion and Pool Group representative on that Working Party had agreed that the Report, once completed by the Working Party, would be provided to the Council and it would then become a public document. It is incorrect to suggest that the members of the Working Party had some further opportunity of feedback after the Report had been provided to the Council. That is not correct and the article’s heading was quite misleading.

It is equally incorrect to state that I “leaked” the Report to the media. I certainly provided a copy of the Report to the Press in response to an enquiry from them. However, that was after the Report had been provided to the Council and when it was a public document.

I am often asked whether I enjoy being on the Council and whether it is what I thought it would be like. My response to that is always that I love the work but hate the politics. Unfortunately, the February article in this publication has taken the politics to extremes and, in stating that I “leaked” the Report, has transcended fair comment and entered into the realms of politics. The publishers of the St Albans News have apologised to me privately about the errors in the article but for reasons best known to themselves, have not been prepared to publish that apology themselves.

The purpose of this article is simply to set the record straight, assuming of course that the publishers do in fact have the gumption to publish it.

I regard it as a privilege and an honour to be elected as a city councilor and to represent the people of St Albans. It is of course a cross that elected council members bear that they can be the subject of inaccurate and misinformed comment although that does not make it any easier to accept. However in this case, the suggestion that I have leaked a document and therefore cannot be trusted to maintain confidentiality when appropriate, is a comment on my integrity which goes outside the normal bounds of what might be generally be regarded as fair comment. Despite what the article infers and other political opponents say, I am not motivated by personal gain and have no interest in personality politics. It is a pity that so much

time and energy is wasted in denigrating others rather than endeavouring to work constructively for the benefit of the community.

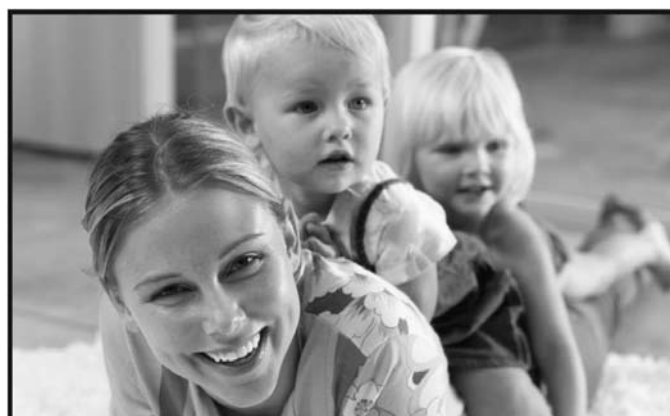
Councillor Ngaire Button

Dear Sir,

Thank you for clarifying exactly which of our local Councillors voted against the motion to support the retention of the Edgeware pool site for community use. Councillors Button, Withers, Palmer and Condon will be names for us to remember very carefully, when next they want us to vote for them; should they offer themselves to ‘serve’ the community again.

For Council Party-Poopers to follow this with bully-tactics and threats of prosecution in attempts to prohibit the fulfilment of 75th anniversary plans is unbelievable! Haven’t they got anything more important to do?

In my view, the demolition of the pool on the site that was purpose-given to the St Albans community, by the Council in 1930, looked like spiteful big-brother vandalism. Grabbing the land back, in order to sell it off for private development seems tantamount to theft. There appears to have been such single-minded determination behind all



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Letters to the Editor

this that one wonders exactly who may be benefiting in the long run. We may yet see.

I don't swim any more, but the pool was part of what made this locality a community; we always enjoyed seeing youngsters with towels around their shoulders, walking to and from the pool. It somehow showed that this was a safe community, with sound values.

It is important to keep things happening within a community; forcing people to find activities outside the community will destroy it. I sincerely commend all those who have been working so hard to keep this community together.

Sincerely

P. Wallace

The Editor,

I am in receipt of your latest 'St Albans News' and found it quite interesting BUT could you please give us all a spell from the continuous 'news' about the St Albans Pool ! My friends and I are tired of the space you allocate to this matter which seems to dominate all your thinking. Not everyone is interested so please get over it and move on !!

M Smith

Dear Editor

I would say there are three causes of road "accidents" - genuine accidents, such as a road surface being unexpectedly slick, and throwing you off the road or into oncoming traffic; avoidable accidents, such as neglecting to check the tire pressure while expecting the car to tow an overloaded trailer across the Southern Alps; and genuinely "non-accidents" which are the caused by driver's malice, without extenuating circumstance whatsoever.

After reading and re-reading Mr Stricker's email on my email, I am wondering if he actually read my letter in the first place.

His comment: "His comments go off on many tangents."

I re-read my letter and concluded that its focus was that bike lights - like traffic lights - are useless, or worse, in the face of someone determined to ignore them, or someone who neglects to take due care.

In fact, I wondered if he was intoxicated or worse, his letter was so irrelevant a comment on my letter. Viz: "Does he deserve his own set of rules?" "Here's a thought ... try riding your bike with lights on like the rest of us."

I already tried that, in 1988, and my bike lights were smashed up, much like the rest of me. Not much help against the psychopaths that litter the roads - like putting condoms on Northern Territory crocodiles to stop shark attacks in Death Valley, California.

Then I re-read his letter and concluded that the focus of his letter was "see[ing] the destruction of a serious road crash". I've done more than that - I've been the victim of a random malicious assault using a car as a weapon, aka "hit and run", and survived it. I signed the realistic penalties petition of a few years back, with my own experience as the justification.

Even worse, and if I am reading this right - he confesses to causing this "avoidable accident" that caused the death of a family member. Fine person to be talking about me "living in [my] wee bubble" - avoidable accidents are the result of motorists who live and drive - and kill and die - in their own wee bubble.

Yours Sincerely

Wesley Parish

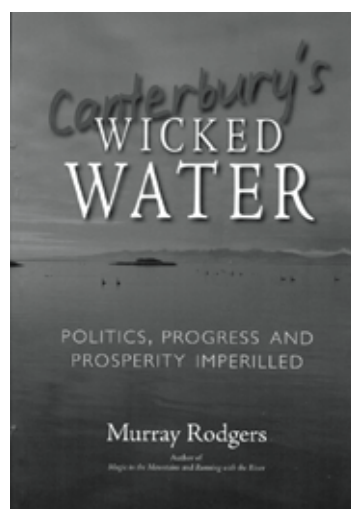
Bill,

We also lost our beloved dog about the same time your dog died. They leave such a large void in your life. Thanks for printing the wonderful story of the Summation to the Jury in your paper, we loved it.

S. Hall & Family

"An intermittently entertaining read underpinned by an important message"

The Water Rights Trust's dealings with the bureaucracy and its political masters over the last eight years point to flaws in how our democracy presently functions when it comes to dealing with complex issues with long term ramifications. Canterbury's Wicked Water (A5/184 pages/50 plus colour photos) presents the argument for adjusting our governance structures and behaviours fitting to a sustainable future.



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Community Notices

St Albans Pavilion and Pool Inc.

AGM

Tuesday 23rd June 2009,
St Albans Community Centre, 1047 Colombo St,
7.30pm

Aynsley Macnab

Trivia Night

Friday June 19th at English Park Football Club, Cranford St.

Doors open at 7pm, Games begin at 7.30pm.

Tables of 4 - \$15 per person (R18)

Includes entry fee, snacks and supper.

In addition to trivia, we will also have a variety of other fun activities between rounds!

Prize for the best theme dressed table! Cash Bar too!

Fundraiser for Mairehau Community Hall.

Tickets available from Mairehau Primary School or Phone Judy on 942 7015.

Wanted — Spring bulbs

To plant in the old Edgware Pool garden. If you are digging up or dividing bulbs and have any to spare please consider leaving them on the doorstep of 115 Packe Street, St Albans For replanting at Edgware Pool Site

Peggy Kelly

St Albans Toy Library

Urgent!

We need to find either a piece of land where we could place our portable buildings or a building (at least 80 square meters) and are able to pay some rent. Our search area has widened and we're now looking on the St Albans side of Papanui, Merivale or the Central City.

If you can help us, then please get in touch with Jo Scott, Phone 980 2920 or 027 376 0316.

Community Centre Services

Lounge area with local papers and wireless Internet access

Hall Hire

\$10 per hour non-profit community rate

\$15 per hour Commercial rate

\$30 per hour for private functions

Conditions apply

Photocopying

10 cents per side – A4, 20 cents per side – A3

Laminating

\$1.20 per A4, \$2.00 per A3

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Monday to Friday

WORD WHIZZ ANSWER - 7

Ape, apes, apse, apt, are, art, arts, asp, aster, ate, ear, ears, east, eat, eats, era, eras, erupt, erupts, eta, etas, par, pare, pares, parse, part, parts, past, paste, PASTURE, pat, pate, pates, pats, pause, pea, pear, pears, peart, peas, peat, peats, per, pert, pest, pet, pets, prate, prates, pure, purest, purse, pus, put, puts, rap, rape, rapes, raps, rapt, rase, rasp, rat, rate, rates, rats, reap, reaps, rep, repeat, res, rest, ret, rets, rue, ruse, rust, rut, ruts, sap, sat, sate, saute, sea, sear, seat, sept, septa, sera, set, seta, setup, spa, spae, spar, spare, spat, spate, spear, sprat, sprue, spue, spur, spurt, sputa, star, stare, step, strap, stupa, stupe, sue, suet, sup, super, sura, surat, sure, tap, tape, taper, tapers, tapes, taps, tapu, tapus, tar, tare, tarp, tars, tau, taupe, tea, tear, tears, teas, trap, trapes, traps, true, trues, tsar, tup, tups, turps, upas, upset, urate, urea, use, user.

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

The St Albans News relies on your contributions. Please send us your articles, letters and notices. The deadline for the July issue is 18 June

St Albans News Classifieds

SERVICES

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

St Albans News Classifieds

Aakland Carpet Cleaning: Carpets and Upholstery Cleaned, Super cleaned from \$15/room, Over 25 year's experience. Ph. 388 3314

Accountant: Working from home in St Albans. Self employed accounts, rental properties, GST & tax returns. Budgeting & business advice. Contact Susan Ayton 980 7334 or 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

Bowen Therapy – Bowtech. Gentle therapy for all aches & pains. 1040a 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

Builder: Renovations, Alterations, Bathrooms, Kitchens, New Homes & Extensions, Local Quality Workmanship Guaranteed. Ph Neill 021 352 599 or 355 7695

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

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

Computer Guru: Highest quality computer servicing, fixing all hardware/software problems, installations,

advice and more. Servicing St Albans for four years, Call outs start at \$40/hr. Offsite repairs \$20/hr. Phone 379 3061 or 0210243 7398, or pcguru@orcon.net.nz

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

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

Event Organisation. Is event organisation your strength and are you well connected within the community? We need a Volunteer to help with two to three community events per year. Please get in touch with the St Albans Community Centre, 379 6305

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

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 by honest, efficient and reliable, Ph Tia 354 4306 or 021 164 4540

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

IDEAS: are the new currency for business growth, Creation Marketing and Advertising seeks new clients. From concept to copywriting across all media, get real results for your product or service – cost effective – every first consultation free. Ph Nick Kearney 021 123 5503

The Leisure Group: Meets fortnightly at the St Albans Community Centre for outings & coffee. Please phone Alison on 379 6305 for further information

Painting & Decorating: Internal/external 22 years experience plastering, Owner operator, Efficient Service, locally based. Ph Mark 355 7670 or 0274343300

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Stress & Relationship Issues: Local Counselling rooms 110 Bealey Avenue (Durham Centre). Counsellor Don Rowlands M Ed;

MNZAC; MNZAPT. Couples, individuals, families, blended family advisor. First session free. Family Court & Disability Allowance affiliated. Tel 027 688 2061 or (03) 365 7776. Email rowlands.don@paradise.net.nz

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Piano Tuition: theory & practice available locally for details phone Paula 365 0369

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

Singing Lessons: Do you want to learn how to sing? Affordable lessons for all ages Meredith phone 355 3672

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

Tranquility - Zone Comes to St Albans

Feeling tired? Stressed? In need of some spiritual refuelling? Then the Tranquility Zone could be just for you.

Organizers of the Tranquility Zone describe it as "An oasis of calm and well-being for your body, mind and soul. A short but memorable journey where people from all walks of life, with different beliefs or none, are able to leave behind a hectic and stressful world and enter a place of stillness and peace. It features a 30-minute programme of inspiring spiritual writings and relaxing music, and is presented in a simple, peaceful candlelit setting. Tranquility Zone readings are sourced from the world's major faiths and philosophies and have proven to have wide appeal."

The Tranquility Zone started in 1998 as a community service project in Swindon in the UK. Today, the programme can be found in various countries around the world and in a diverse range of settings, in community

centres, businesses, hospitals and charity organizations. The Tranquility Zone programme has featured on BBC1 television, and since 1998 has been enjoyed by thousands of people.

Recently, three Tranquility Zones have been set up in Christchurch for residents to enjoy, one of which is at the St Albans Community Centre. Tranquility Zone is a free, community service project hosted by members of the local Baha'i community. Visitors are invited to visit and attend any of the city programmes.

St Albans Community Centre, 1047 Colombo Street, St Albans: Sunday 10 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.

WEA Centre, 59 Gloucester Street, Christchurch City: Tuesday 5.15 p.m. to 5.45 p.m. Canterbury University, Steed Meeting Room, UCSA Building: Wednesday 12.15 p.m. to 12.45 p.m.

Mark Henderson



Quote of the Month

"Politicians believe logic is a systematic method of coming to the wrong conclusion with unbelievable confidence."

Attributed to Ambrose Bierce

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