

St Albans News

The Voice of our Neighbourhood

July 2009



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Learning from Leaders

by Tim Barnett

They say that a politician's habits die hard. Recently, I found myself door knocking a dozen or so of our new neighbours in Cape Town, to say *kia ora* and find out who was living around us. It was the cautious response—conversations through intercoms, homes with no bell and big security, even the person who told me he “wasn't interested, thank you!” Such a contrast to knocking on doors of St Albans residents as the local Member of Parliament—friendly responses, open conversations, polite disagreement (just occasionally!) and only very rarely, a slammed door. It was only a few days after that Cape Town door knocking experience that I was invited to be the opening contributor to this new and

fascinating “Learning from Leaders” series in the community voice for St Albans. It caught me in reflective mood.

Describing New Zealand to African audiences has been a common experience for me in recent weeks. I speak of geographical isolation, of high political principle, of landscapes and of an absence of native mammals (and snakes). Of Maori, of the meaning of the greenstone I always wear around my neck, of the low population density. Of powerful women in charge and of much, much more.

And of course I keep in touch and glance at Stuff (www.stuff.co.nz) most days—I guess that's what Kiwis do when they are on an extended OE.

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Learning From Leaders:

In this issue we feature the first of our exclusive series of essays from acknowledged regional leaders. These diverse leaders will give us their views on the future of the Canterbury region and Christchurch.

What should we be doing now to insure a viable future? How will we change? What should we be doing now to assure the next generation is given something better, not worse?

In alternate issues you will read what twelve acknowledged leaders think on these vital issues. This issue features our former MP, Tim Barnett, whose career was focused on our region for many years. We are proud Tim is our first contributor.

Edgware/St Albans:

We received many calls and letters, were written up in the Press, and appeared on radio (<http://plainsfm.org.nz/on-demand/mornings-stalbans-18jun/>) over our article regarding the Edgware/St Albans name issues.

Further research and many of your helpful letters seem to have brought clarification to the matter. Simply stated, Edgware Village is the correct name for the business district at the juncture of Colombo Street and Edgware Road and, of course, includes businesses in the immediate area. Since its formation in the early 1960s, it has been correctly called "Edgware Village". Let's keep it that way.

The area of real concern is the subtle change of calling St Albans by the name Edgware. The most obvious is the area between Madras Street (west) to Hills Road (east) and Bealey Avenue (south) to Warrington Street (north). This area has been St Albans since the mid 1800s and should remain as such. If you live in this area, drop by the Centre and we can show you how to make sure you remain in St Albans. The name Edgware, when used to describe a suburb or neighbourhood, is wrong and the result of apparent bureaucratic mistakes.

Remember, St Albans is an historical suburb with a boundary from Bealey Avenue (south) to Innes Road (north) and from Papanui Road (west) to Hills Road.

Our Councillors:

How sad to have our two local Councillors vote against retaining the old Edgware Pool site land for use by our community. Both Councillors Button and Withers voted to sell this land to a private developer at a recent Community Board meeting. What is more shocking is a short time before, Button, as a member of a working party (created by her own CCC resolution) voted to retain this land for community use; yet weeks later, she voted against keeping the land. Incredible!

Judging from the calls and letters we have received on this subject, it appears the voters certainly won't forget this in the next election.

Orion Site:

Christoph, Doug Craig, and I have been very busy preparing and presenting our community concerns over a pending rule change for the Orion site. A developer is seeking the change to allow for higher density than L3 and the creation of a Business Zone that includes a full service supermarket and up to 15 stores. The proposed apartments seems to be the usual 'cement box' style and the centre portion will be up to four stories in height. This development could have between 550–600 occupants. Many other individuals have made submissions and I was very impressed by two: Peggy Kelley and Craig Dickson who live next to the site.

Traffic issues, noise, water runoff, green spaces and public access are issues still being reviewed. We will keep you informed when the hearing reconvenes in the next few weeks.

We are concerned because the site is the largest piece of undeveloped land close to the CBD and should be something we all can be proud of instead of the possibility of building tomorrow's slums with today's dollars.

Visit: Jane and I are off to America to visit family and friends. I'm sure we will see a much different America than our last visit in 2006. We visit a country with a new President, a very severe recession and in my former city, Seattle, a 12%+ unemployment situation. I plan to write about my observations in our August issue.

Until then stay healthy,

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

Notices

Change of Constitution Adopted at Special General Meeting

The St Albans Residents' Association Incorporated adopted a change to its constitution at a Special General Meeting on 25 June. The change sees Art. 3 completely rewritten to properly, and in detail, reflect the purposes and activities of the Association. The change has become necessary for the Association to comply with the requirements of the new Charities Commission, and because the constitution has not been updated since before the Association amalgamated with the former St Albans Community Resource Centre Incorporated in 2004.

Mobile Library at Edgware

Council is about to propose big changes to the route of the mobile library, which until now stops at the top of Colombo Street every Tuesday at 11 a.m. It is said that the proposal includes the removal of the Edgware stop, not to be replaced with anything. In total 17 stops of 33 will be removed, however these are being replaced by 19 new stops (making the total 35). There will be a public consultation and it is worth giving feedback. Anyone will have the opportunity to have a say by using the Council website at: <http://www.ccc.govt.nz/HaveYourSay/> or phone: 941 7923.

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.

Events Calendar

4 Jul, 9am	TISA: Community Economics (374 2465)
14 Jul, 12.30pm	St Albans Interagency Meeting (374 2465)
17 Jul, 7.30pm	Under the Sun – opening night (355 8031)
19 Jul, 11am	Ratana Church Service, Rehua Marae (355 5606)
22 Jul, 2pm	St Albans Uniting Church Garden Club (366 0396)
23 Jul, 7pm	St Albans Resident's Association meeting (379 6305)
27 Jul, 6pm	Guaranteed Basic Income Group
27 Jul, 7.30pm	Civil Defence meeting (323 5016)
28 Jul, 7.30pm	NZ-Japan Society (355 9903)
11 Aug, 12pm	Christchurch Transition Forum (374 2465)



St Albans
Community Centre

Te Pokapū Hapori o Hato Ōpani

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Maxine Feutz, Hilaire Campbell, Bill Demeter, Maggy Tai Rakana, Doug Craig, and others.

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

Learning from Leaders

continued from page one

So now I've set out my stall, the base from which I look at our city and region now, dream of how it could be in twenty years, and suggest some of the construction materials needed to build the leadership bridge between the two.

Let's start off with the facts. Christchurch in 2029 will have a larger black and brown population than now; it will be even more starkly divided between rich and poor (north and west, east and south); it will be modestly bigger in population terms than it is now; and will still have a deserved reputation for eccentricity, progressive politics and energetic if reasonably conservative artistic activity. Ngai Tahu will be a more dominant economic force than now. The world is unlikely to be much richer, and is likely to be facing great tension around climate change, access to water, over-use of resources and, in all probability, religious difference. Factors such as migration, tourism, export of primary produce, free trade—all vital to Canterbury in recent decades—will all be dependent on leaders making the right decisions from here on in.

There is nothing easier than predicting lists of issues; some are safely predictable, some aren't. Rather, I want to focus on the style and qualities of the people who will be leading us through those challenges. They should be:

Mentors: especially of young leaders, of women leaders and of leaders from the Maori and ethnic communities of our city and region. Christchurch has a global reputation for promoting the rights of women, has a rich multi-ethnic scene, and was even the place where the nation's first Maori MP went through varsity. There needs to be contemporary expression of this proud history, otherwise disillusionment with democracy will spread as whole groups feel unrepresented.

Ethical and transparent. The current condition of British politics is a sad example of what happens when leaders lose touch with the reality of the lives of their voters, and the low esteem in which politicians are generally held. Thankfully New Zealand politics has many more checks and balances already in place, especially at

Parliamentary level, but complacency is so easy when leaders lead extraordinary lifestyles and accessibility goes hand in hand with an open way of working.

Able to work across the boundaries which often suppress innovation and sensible cooperation. As the local MP, I struggled to have a constructive and open relationship with the city council, and only rarely could my local colleagues in Parliament and I truly say that we were informed, equipped and trusted to act as the voices of the Christchurch people in Wellington. There is a reason for many French MPs also being mayors of their local towns, although it wouldn't work here. Equally, New Zealand MPs have minimal contact with Australian MPs, although Ministers of each country meet regularly. I do think we live in leadership compartments at our peril.

Decentralisers: thinking South Island, thinking Christchurch and thinking community. The direction of the debate on Auckland governance shows how much central power likes to remove anything which looks too close to the voice of the grassroots. Leaders need strong and honest relationships with civil society in all its complex flowerings, and they need to pursue that most European (and indigenous) of concepts, subsidiarity, where decisions are made at the lowest possible level in the system. Schools, public housing and social services being run from Wellington does not make an awful lot of sense. If St Albans people had run the Edgware Pool, the situation around it would never have descended to the high farce it became.

Visionaries: politicians need some big ideas to bring us out of our comfort zones. Being in both the UK and now South Africa in recent months has convinced me of the potential of large sporting events (Olympics and soccer World Cup respectively) to transform a place and how it sees itself. If I was living my time as a South Island MP again, the Island-wide Winter Olympics would be my project. That would generate the transformation in our country which would make leaders seem relevant and popular again.

Tim Barnett



Tim was born and raised in the English Midlands. Between school and university he volunteered to undertake NGO research work. Then he went to study Government for three years at the London School of Economics, volunteering with Quaker Work Camps in Turkey

for a summer while there. Since then there have been three themes to his work career – NGOs, politics and Rainbow. He worked as a community centre manager in South East

London; as Manager of the Greenwich Volunteer Bureau and was an elected Labour local government councillor in two London Boroughs 1982-88. Then he emigrated to New Zealand, where he became involved in the Labour Party, and the AIDS Foundation. In 1993-96 he worked as Kaiwhakahaere/Coordinator of the Christchurch Community Law Centre, and in 1996 was elected to the New Zealand Parliament as (Labour) Member for Christchurch Central. He voluntarily left Parliament in November 2008. Tim currently works as Global Programme Manager of the World AIDS Campaign in Cape Town, South Africa.

Quality of Life?

In April when the triennial Quality of Life survey results were announced, Mayor Bob Parker said, “It was great news that most Christchurch residents believed that Christchurch was a great place to live.”

Yet in 2007, residents of the Canterbury DHB region—the majority of whom live in the greater Christchurch area—were the recipients of the largest number of anti-depressant prescriptions in the country, according to PHARMAC (The Star, 10 June pA3).

What could be happening in Christchurch to cause such a wave of depression?

Is the population in Canterbury a guinea pig for a large-scale anti-depressant drug trial by the pharmaceutical companies? Could it be a very strong outbreak of SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) during the winter months?

The answer, according to the article by Rebecca Lewis, was that the current recession itself was depressing and affecting people’s well-being.

But in 2007, the recession in terms of business activity was barely registering, and unemployment in Canterbury was under the national average. So answers must be sought elsewhere.

The Battered Women’s Trust and Women’s Refuge in Christchurch both said recently (Radio NZ National, Nine to Noon, 21 June) that their referrals had gone up by 50% in the past two years. Also, reports from migrants and refugees both mentioned that isolation arising from language difficulties, and unemployment or low paid jobs not commensurate with qualifications was depressing. Much depended on the strength of family and community links to support them through the period of adjustment to Kiwi life.

Other reports said that the housing situation over the past few years had become more unaffordable for low income earners who could not now expect to own their own homes.

The uncertainty of tenure on the rental market was stressful, particularly for solo parents with children. New multi-unit housing was being built primarily for the young professional or student market, and not for families. Social housing provided by government and local authority, besides going up in cost, was not keeping pace with demand.

So for some residents in Christchurch, living was difficult.

There is however, some good news.

There was a rise of 2% to 93% from 2005 to 2008, in resident responses rating overall quality of life as good, with 87% saying that they were satisfied with life in general.

Almost ¾ of people surveyed said Christchurch had a rich and diverse arts and cultural scene. The various festivals, exhibitions, and events promoted by council, as well as a thriving local music scene e.g. Chartfest, showed that Christchurch is a creative hotspot for talent.

There was a strong sense of pride in the city’s look and feel, with most mentioning the parks and gardens and the

lifestyle of the place. Almost all (nearly 96%) said they found it easy to access a local park or green space. Public transport was rated as very easy to access, but only 1 in 6 people used it regularly.

Of the residents surveyed, ¾ said they were satisfied with the quality and quantity of their leisure time in Christchurch, but 1 in 12 had done no physical activity in the week leading up to the survey.

This suggests many residents support the Crusaders, and other local sports teams, only from the comfort of their own couches.



Mural at the Edgware Pool site. Photo by Christoph Hensch

Issues needing attention

Water pollution had become a major issue in urban Christchurch (up from 21% in 2001, to 42% in 2008). Perceptions of safety in neighbourhoods and the central city at night (from 50% to 65% feeling unsafe in the central city by 2008) was a major issue in a city that has advertised itself as Safer Christchurch. Most put this down to media publishing crime rates or the crime rate going up, along with alcohol and drug problems.

The sense of connectedness with the local community, a measure that links with perceptions of help from others and safety, had also been going down—from 57% in 2004 to 47% in 2008, and was lower than the national average of 58%.

Almost ½ of those surveyed would like a greater say in council decision-making (47%) with a fall in confidence in council decision-making from 57% in 2004 to 41% in 2008. This negative trend is similar to the national survey results over the twelve NZ cities.

The full Quality of Life survey results for Christchurch are available at www.ccc.govt.nz/reports/2009/perceivedqualityoflifeinchristchurch/qualityoflifesurveyresults2008.pdf

Doug Craig

Cultural Diversity

Christchurch is a genuinely multi-ethnic city but not yet a multicultural one. With people from over 160 ethnicities living in our city, one would assume this defines Christchurch as being multicultural.

Perhaps superficially yes, but an analysis of any definition of culture reveals how monocultural we are in the capital of the South island. Consider the following definition:

Culture is what holds a community together giving a common framework of meaning. It includes how people communicate with each other, how we make decisions, how we structure our families and who we think is important, It expresses our values towards land and time, and our attitudes towards work and play, good and evil, reward and punishment.

Culture is preserved in language, symbols and customs and celebrated in art, music, drama, literature, religion and social gatherings. It constitutes the collective memory of the people and a collective heritage which will be handed down to future generations.

Waitangi Consultancy Group

This definition highlights the inherent complexities of all cultures and challenges us to determine how much we really know, even about our own culture, to comment broadly with any degree of authority. We can, however, reject the mainly Auckland-generated myth that we in Christchurch are

an Anglo-Saxon backwater. Sorry, northern brothers and sisters--we've moved on, and are on a journey from a multi-ethnic community to a multicultural one.

There are challenges, solutions and rewards in proactively fostering ethnic diversity.

The challenges centre on the host society, its collective attitudes and those of individuals within it. Newcomers must also be willing to explore and participate actively within their chosen destination (migrants) or their place of settlement refuge (refugees).

We need to move from a community that tolerates diversity to one that accepts diversity. Tolerance implies an inherent dislike or disapproval for what others bring, rather than an acknowledgement that people's backgrounds and traditions, protocols and customs are special and need preserving. We need to celebrate our differences as well as our similarities. We need also to challenge the racism, prejudice, discrimination and discomfort within

us individually, and collectively, toward people who look differently, speak another language, worship differently, dress differently etc. Street racism is unacceptable but a nasty insidious form of discrimination is institutional racism. Such discrimination is evidenced in Government departments, community facilities, the employment sector and suchlike where no or poor intercultural training is provided for staff and the workforce does not reflect the diversity of our citizenship.

Solutions can be found in the mandate we give to our elected representatives, local and central Government, to be pro-active about diversity and race relations. The recent withdrawal of the Christchurch City Council as a partner in the Inter-Cultural Assembly (ICA) is an example of the lack of awareness and leadership a city can have apropos its demographic tapestry. The ICA provided a forum for the learning about, and celebration of, all cultures. We all have ethnicity and should be proud of what that means whilst celebrating the inherent value and beauty of everybody else's.

Our education systems and institutions need to enhance their programmes and appointments of staff reflecting our city demographically. A fine example of the latter is the Christchurch Police who have appointed ethnic liaison officers who are bilingual and have recruited officers from

newcomer ethnic groups.

The rewards can be measured by the ethnically diverse contribution people make to the city's quadruple bottom line—economic, environmental, social and cultural.

A recent visitor to Christchurch, international authority on the benefits of diversity,

Philippe Legrain demonstrates that companies, cities and countries directly benefit economically from strategies and policies which recognise and utilise a diverse ethnic profile.

The greatest reward though, encapsulated in the poem below, is an harmonious, vibrant, respectful community where every citizen contributes to the community and is recognised as doing such.

Patrick O'Connor

Patrick is the Director of PEETO, The Multi Cultural Learning Centre; Chair of Christchurch Refugee and Migrant Centre and a founding member of the Christchurch Inter Cultural Assembly (ICA)

Naku Te Rou Rou
Nau Te Rou Rou
Ka Ki Te Kete
Tatou Kua Tau Mai i nga
Waka i Te Ao
Tatou nga uri onga Hau e Wha
Piki Mai
Kake Mai
Ki Aotearoa
Tunga Mo tatou Katoa

With what I have
With what you offer
Our basket will be full
We who have landed
from the canoes
of the World
We descendants of the
four winds
Welcome to New Zealand
A place for all to stand

Original: author unknown (Translation)

Cuts at Local and National Level

I was pleased to make a submission recently to the Council against its proposed cuts of \$1.5m to community grants funding.

While acknowledging to councillors this is a difficult environment, the point I made was that if there was ever a time to cut funding to community groups, now is not the time.

When the Government is itself cutting funds for important social fabric such as community education and training—and when charitable trusts are reeling from drops in returns—the need for councils to provide support is greater than ever.

That is especially so when we do not yet know where the axe will fall if the Council does reduce its funding to community organisations. Any hope that the Government might pick up more costs is rather forlorn at this time.

Look, for instance, at what is happening to community education. After talking up the virtues of adult education while in opposition, Bill English used his first Budget to slash at least \$67 million from its funding over four years. Shirley Boys' High, Mairehau High, Papanui High and Linwood College are local schools which will have to cut courses and staff.

Education Minister Anne Tolley, has tried to justify the cuts by belittling the sector, describing it as, "Hobby and recreational courses."

In fact, most community education provides second chance education and valuable skills for many people in our community, including literacy, numeracy, foreign language, arts courses and computer training. It employs thousands

of full- and part-time tutors, and has an estimated economic benefit of between \$4.8 billion and \$6.3 billion annually.

The decision to cut is especially short-sighted at this point in time.

Giving people the chance to upskill is particularly vital during a recession. Labour has launched a petition which calls on the Government to reverse the cuts. Copies are available at my office or by emailing: sue@brendonburns.co.nz.

We are looking at a public meeting in Christchurch on the issue and hope we can count on St Albans support.

Brendon Burns

MP for Christchurch Central



AUGUST 24 -30

PARENTING WEEK

Monday 24th August

Tough Love, 7.30pm
Venue: St Albans Baptist Church
64 McFaddens Rd

The Importance of Play, 7.00pm
Venue: Shirley Early Years Hub
69b Briggs Rd

Beat the Budget Blues, 7.00pm
Venue: Mairehau Primary School
43 Mahars Rd

Tuesday 25th August

Music and Movement, 9.30am
Venue: Aldreds Church
Nancy Ave

Celia Lashlie, 7.30pm, \$10
"Growing Gorgeous Boys Into Good Men"
Venue: The Aurora Centre
Burnside High School

Wednesday 26th August

Tiny Tots, 10.00am
Venue: The Cranford Centre
115 Cranford St

Celia Lashlie, 4.00pm
Venue: Cotswold School, Cotswold Ave

Sophie Gray (Destitute Gourmet), 7.00pm
Venue: The Cranford Centre, \$10
115 Cranford Street

Seasons of Life, 7.30pm
Venue: North City Apostolic Church
19 Thames Street

Thursday 27th August

Helen Mann, 7.00pm, \$5-\$8
"Now How Many Times Have I Told You?"
Venue: Mairehau Primary School
43 Mahars Rd

Friday 28th August

Parenting Forum, 12.00pm
Venue: Shirley Early Years Hub
69 Briggs Rd

Paul Webb, 7.30pm
"Making The Family Dollar Go Further."
Venue: North City Apostolic
19 Thames St

Saturday 29th August

Merged Families, 9.00am, \$30-\$50
Graham & Jenny Purkis
Venue: St Albans Baptist Church
64 McFaddens Rd

BOOK NOW

CALL - 03 355-6522




Shirley / Papanui Community Board
Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board
Dove Charitable Trust

Discuss this article online on the St Albans Community Centre Forum at:
<http://www.stalbens.gen.nz/forum/showthread.php?tid=89>

Towards a Safer Central City

In May 2008, I called a public meeting in response to concern that Christchurch city was too violent. The 2008 Quality of Life in twelve New Zealand cities survey showed that more people in Christchurch felt unsafe on the streets after dark than in any other city in the country. And every day people were coming into my office nervous and worried about their personal security.

On the night, over 400 people made the time to come to the Town Hall to discuss the issue and deliver the message that the community wanted a safer city and increased security for people on our streets at night.

The Mayor, Bob Parker, the Police and National MPs attended the meeting and promised changes. And since then we have all been proactively working together to change the central city at night, and we are seeing results.

It really is democracy in action. It was great to see the public making the effort to have their say, and even better to see city leaders listening and taking action.

At the meeting, Canterbury Police District Commander Superintendent Dave Cliff promised an increased police presence in the central city. He has delivered through Operation Crusader which has more police walking the beat in Christchurch on Friday and Saturday nights, providing improved enforcement and public reassurance.

The Mayor, Bob Parker, promised additional security measures. Safer City Patrols on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights in the central city began in October last year and are proving very successful in deterring and defusing incidents. He also promised increased CCTV security cameras, and recently a further 25 cameras have been installed. They will be monitored by the police and are expected to make a significant impact in reducing central city crime and violence.

In response to the concern about alcohol fuelled violence, the Christchurch CBD Alcohol Accord has tightened up its successful "One-Way Door Policy". Trialled in 2007 at 4 a.m., it is now in permanent operation from 3 a.m.

At the central government level, National has passed significant law and order legislation. The Law Commission is reviewing alcohol licensing and use in New Zealand, and there is new alcohol legislation on the way.

These new laws will provide the framework for safer communities throughout the country, but it is positive action from our local organizations that ultimately determines the safety in our city. The Canterbury police and the Christchurch City Council are delivering.

This week, we saw tangible results of these initiatives—a 36% drop in serious assaults on Saturday nights within Christchurch's central city during the last seven months.

Combined action has increased security in the city and made people feel safer. Twelve months ago the public made it very clear that they wanted a safer city. The leaders in our city have listened and acted and the result is a victory for us all.

It is great to see so many people in Christchurch working hard to make our city safer. I thank the public who have shown their concern and the police, the City Council and hospitality industry who are working together to make change. Christchurch is a great city and the new initiatives that came out of the public meeting just one year ago are making it even better.

Nicky Wagner MP

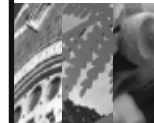
Nicky Wagner

NATIONAL PARTY MP

Available for appointments/contact
my office:

chchoffice@nickywagner.co.nz

Ph: 03 365 8297, 189 Montreal St, Christchurch



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- Matrimonial Matters
- Property Sharing Agreements

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355-2333

Compost Worms, Worm Farms And Education

When: Every Wednesday Noon
until 1.30pm
Where: University of Canterbury,
Okeover Community
Gardens
What: Workshop covers Garden
Composting, Bokashi &
Worm Farms
Who: Annmarie on 021 190 4559
or 942 7190 (evenings)



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etcetera...



Also called Edgware Trading, where Tim and Michelle Clyne are wrestling a dinner jacket onto a dummy. The elbows are shiny; the bib smells faintly of cologne. Next to it, a silk dress shimmies in the wind.

Its story is lost, but we know this face; peering into harsh light from a faded photo, it's that old cowpuncher John Wayne.

Still, nothing surrenders its mystery, which is part of why Tim and Michelle left office work on the kind side of middle age to become dealers. In a Four Square store built in 1903, run in the '80s by Lynn Freaney as a junk shop, quietly restored by them to reflect its Edwardian origins.

"Mostly it was furniture to begin with," says Tim, "lots of brown lumpies. Very ugly."

Now it is anything but. Fine china, retro clothes, older objects valued for their beauty or workmanship. Things military. Brass buttons, bugles, badges. See them in Tim's 'man cave' at the back of the shop—where women mostly go. Today one of them buys a flag.

Ask Tim about uprights, flats, and smalls – not what you think of, dear reader, but an articulated toy or an egg cup. It’s part of the antique vernacular. And here’s a tip: “Look out for early NZ pottery,” says Tim. “Most of it has no name. Milton sometimes has a horseshoe stamp but not always.”

What else? Window dressing is tops. People try to buy the light fittings. Community spirit is well—the tattooist is in for a coffee. Michelle is a barista. Tim's gran lives in St Albans. Their boy goes to the school.

An American film company used the shop for a scene in *Holy Roller*, about a priest going wild at a casino.

Tim and Michelle get on very well. “We have different areas of interest, which works for us,” they say.

And last words from Tim, “We are constantly evolving; trying to pick the next wave. So we have coffee. But my passion is for old and interesting. I love the job. I’d love to go to Paris, buy stuff there, but I’ve got big dreams and empty pockets.”

Hilaire Campbell

Death of Democracy?

An excellent article by Daniela on youth participation in politics in May's St Albans News. In fact during my involvement in the just finished Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) submission process I was wondering about the same thing for oldies like me!!

If democracy is to survive then it needs to be part of everyday life...in the home, the school and the workplace. The consequences of young people not participating needs to be made clear, otherwise this entire system of government is at risk of collapse.

Mind you, if our group's experience while participating in the democratic process such as the LTCCP is anything to go by, then I don't blame the young for turning off.

Take transport as an example, just one section of the LTCCP. There are several other related documents that need to be read and understood before a coherent submission can be made.

These are: Canterbury Regional Policy Statement; the Regional Land Transport Strategy; the Canterbury Transportation Regional Implementation Programme; the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy; and the draft Greater Christchurch Travel Demand Management Strategy. Last but not least, don't forget the Regional Land Transport Programme.

It makes your eyes glaze over doesn't it?

Well, some members collectively spent hundreds of hours of their free time to wade through hundreds of pages of this dry matter. It definitely wasn't fun!

Clearly the entire process overwhelmingly favours large organisations that have the resources to read the stuff as well as lobby and cosy-up to politicians, whose fingers are on the public dosh. The evidence of this is reflected in the amounts and where funds are allocated.

While doing research for our LTCCP submission, it was discovered what we were saying to CCC in 2009 is remarkably similar to a submission made in 2004, and supported by an independent survey the council conducted at that time! This time many others were saying similar things, but it is unlikely to have much effect if the reaction they received is anything to go by.

So even when individuals or small organisations participate in good faith, make submissions for change, or propose valid increases in funding for their areas of interest, the chance of success is close to zero if it doesn't fit with the world view of those in authority.

And sometimes the world view of those in positions of authority seems to be rather bizarre. Perhaps that is why we have seen huge increases in the city's social housing rents, while at the same time generous funding is made available for things like tired old trams and second-hand flower shows.

But the most disappointing aspect of the process was seeing the disrespect elected officials showed towards those who submitted and spoke at public hearings if they disagreed with what was being said. There seems little point in participating in this so-called democratic process if the important decisions are made behind closed doors long before going to the public.

Taking the question to its logical conclusion, one must ask why bother at all if the only outcome is likely to be angst? Call it what you like—plutocracy, autocracy, or even sham-ocracy—but from the point of view of this correspondent, it is not democracy!

Without public participation, we will witness the death of democracy.

Nigel Rushton



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As it was before: Photo taken in 2007 by Christoph Hensch

Below: As it is today. The old trees are said to have been diseased.

Photos taken on 24 June 2009 by Maria Hayward



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Letters to the Editor

Letter to the editor,

While I normally agree with Bill Demeter on most things and count him as a friend, I beg to differ when he says there is no Edgeware. In spite of the historical inaccuracies that led to this small part of St Albans being identified as Edgeware, I don't believe there is anything to be gained by trying to reverse the clock. History is made up of layers and layers of little things built up over time, and somewhat ironically, the suggestion that we should now tamper with it is the very thing that upset Bill in the first place. Let's leave it alone. Personally, I don't think the name St Albans will disappear as a reference to our suburb as a whole, so this seems like tilting at windmills to me.

Max Feutz

Kia ora,

Edgeware is the heart and soul of our community in St Albans. Contrary to Bill Demeter's opinion on the front page of the June newsletter I believe we should be proud of this name and actively promote it. The suburb of St Albans is one of the largest in our city and it has something many other suburbs lack: a vibrant community centre in the form of the Edgeware shopping centre.

Everyone refers to this part of St Albans as Edgeware. Don't we all say things like "I'm just popping down to the Edgeware shops", or often just "I'm popping down to Edgeware"? Despite what Bill says, if it's what we say then this can't be "incorrect" or "wrong".

What disturbs me more than his opinion is the information that the Community Centre has been in discussion with the NZ Geographic Board, the CCC and local businesses about "minimising" the Edgeware name. The Community Centre has no mandate from this community on this particular issue to represent this negative opinion about the name Edgeware as the feelings of the community. I don't believe it is difficult or contradictory to embrace the idea that Edgeware is the centre and focus of the suburb of St Albans. We can cope with both names - after all, we've been using both for decades. Long live Edgeware!

Jeanette King, Edgeware

Editors Note:

Please see Bill Demeters Chair Chat on page 2 for a clarification of the Edgeware/St Albans name issue.

Dear Sir

I was born and bred in St Albans. Trouble is, it's a big suburb and covers the area from Merivale to Mairehau and from Richmond almost to Redwood. So, when I say I come from St Albans - which part? The wealthy bit next to Merivale, or the great-majority part?

Any business, for this reason, must find the name 'Edgeware' very convenient - you know exactly where it is. If they called themselves 'St Albans', they could be in any one of a dozen shopping centres.

From memory, there used to be the St Albans Post Office - over in the Merivale area somewhere. The local (Edgeware) branch was called Christchurch North.

However, while I think 'Edgeware' is fine, it may have been a mistake changing the name of the pool from St Albans to Edgeware. Leaving it as the St Albans Pool may have helped in promoting it.

Of course, if anyone wants to be really fussy, there should be no Edgeware. Any Londoner will tell you it should be Edgeware, just as any West Indian will tell you it should be Barbados Street. Oh well, back to the Geographic Board.

Dave Palmer

Dear Maggy,

Commenting on your comments in June's newsletter. re the campaign around sexual abuse.

Firstly, I object that this is a shameful problem we all share. I do not share the problem, I repudiate it.

It is worth reconsidering how this problem can be effectively dealt with. Education may be one thing, but first, should we not aim to clean out the environment? There is certainly an outcry when toxic waste is dumped, but what about the toxic nature of pornography, of the preponderance of sex and violence in films, DVDs? And now we are told about the "sexualization" of young children in both clothing and behaviour. In the last few months, I have written to three businesses who used sexual suggestions to advertise cars, pizzas and an airline! Such a highly sexual climate feeds depravity.

Why don't we spend some effort on cleaning out the moral environment? Or are we too enslaved in liberalism and moral relativism? Isn't it better to hit the problem at the source, instead of trying to mop up after wrecked lives? Is not prevention better than a cure?

Yours in earnest

Beulah Edwards, St Albans

Response by Maggy Tai Rakena:

Kia ora Beulah,

Thank you for your response to my Chairchat column in the June St Albans News.

In this I made reference to a recently developed booklet of information about sexual abuse. The primary purpose of this booklet is to provide some accurate information

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Inspection welcome

Letters to the Editor

for the general public about sexual abuse and how it is perpetrated on children in particular. It is intended to be a prevention education tool.

As such, I think it nicely assists to fulfill your desire to see our community stop abuse before it starts.

There is a considerable quantity of misinformation in the community about sexual abuse and how 'victims' are chosen. This is why our group (Canterbury Solutions to Sexual Violence- CSSV) felt it was essential to provide some accurate information. Given that sexual abuse generally happens in secret and carries great shame it is hard for many people to accept that it happens.

NZ has an appalling prevalence of this crime and of considerable concern is the fact that around 90% of abuse is perpetrated by persons known to their victims.

Your views regarding the role that a sexually preoccupied wider society plays in enabling sexual abuse are not unique and certainly warrant consideration.

As front line professional service providers attempting to support victims to recover and perpetrators to stop their offending behaviour, we are attempting to share what we have learnt in our daily work. An education campaign is just one component of changing behaviour however it is an important element.

You are most welcome to access a copy of the booklet at the Community Centre. Regards,

Maggy Tai Rakena, Co-Chair SARA



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Dear Sir,

Councillor Button claims that the facts as reported in the February edition of the St. Albans News are simple, but they are not as she has chosen to style them.

By her own admission she released the Edgeware Pool Working Party's report to the media – when, in our opinion, she was not entitled to do so. All the members of the Working Party (including Ms. Button) had previously determined that the only spokesperson and media contact for the Working Party would be its Chairman, Ross Banbury. Furthermore, a commissioned report does not become available for public consumption until it has been tabled and/or considered by the statutory body which commissioned it – in this case, the full Christchurch City Council. Until then it remains a draft report and conventionally, is not available for media release by anyone.

The Free Dictionary defines a "leak" as 'an unauthorised or deliberate disclosure of confidential information'. Given the simple facts above, readers may draw their own conclusions about whether the report was therefore, "leaked" to the media. We should be wary of ignoring the facts and centuries of democratic convention in the interests of some self-serving politicking.

The St. Albans Pavilion and Pool Group believes it is entirely appropriate for a group, represented by a member on a committee, to be afforded an opportunity to review a report that will be advanced in its name. However, the Pool Group was not permitted to even read the Working Party report before it was presented to Council staff. Which is why, along with the fatally flawed processes and illogical recommendations that comprised the report, the Pool Group has felt forced to disassociate itself from it.

"Fair" comment covers a multitude of sins in the political arena and elected officials are absolutely not immune from accountability or opinions critical of their actions. Consequently, Ms. Button might care to comment on how she can rationalise being part of an ostensibly unanimous Working Party recommendation to use the Edgeware Pool land for a "purpose-built multi-use community centre" and greenspace, and then later, at Community Board level, vote against retaining the land for use by the community.

Ms. Button says she is concerned about the negative effects of the time and energy wasted in denigrating others rather than working constructively to benefit the wider the community. Perhaps the Councillor can then explain how she feels it is proper to publicly voice support for the Pool Group's proposals and yet, in private, refer to that same group as "troublemakers"?

Yours faithfully,

Craig Dickson

Chair of the St. Albans Pavilion & Pool Inc.

Community Notices

Edgware Bowling Club

Bowls for new bowlers. Wednesday evenings 7p.m till say 9 p.m. bowls etc supplied.

Ring Fay 942 1878

Guaranteed Basic Income Group

We present a free film and tea evening on Monday 27 July, 6 – 7.30pm at the St Albans Community Centre, 1047 Colombo St.

For more information contact Nick at mcilraithnick@hotmail.com

Under the Sun – Local art creates more than pictures

For the first time the Cranford centre on Cranford street will be hosting an Art exhibition entitled Under the Sun. This multi media exhibition will be the first time the cafe area at the Cranford centre has been turned into an exhibition space and it is hoped that it will be used more regularly for exhibitions open to the St Albans and Christchurch community.

This is an excellent opportunity to support and be involved with local arts in a community setting.

In the last year there have been headlines of about delinquent and promiscuous youth, family violence, cyber bullying, financial fraud and the death of morality, as well as the usual murders, wars, natural and unnatural disasters, economic meltdown and celebrities behaving badly, all the staples of our modern age. If only we could go back the good old days. What good old days?

Under the Sun is an attempt to look beyond the headlines and hyperbole at a world which may look very different from the world of 50, 100, or 2000 years ago, but which in reality is inhabited by the people filled with the same basic needs, fears and desires.

One of the highlights of the show is an interactive wall where people in the community and across Christchurch have been asked what makes them happy, and what makes them angry?

What makes you happy? What makes you angry? Come along to Under the Sun and see how your answers compare.

Under the Sun is an Art exhibition being held at the Cranford Centre (115 Cranford Street, next to English Park) from 19th July – 10th August (open Sat and Sun mornings 10.00 – 1.00pm) The opening night is Tuesday 17th July from 7.30pm all are welcome to attend. Free entry.

Civil Defence Emergency Management

PAPANUI / SHIRLEY AREA
ST ALBANS SECTOR POST MEETING

St Albans School Hall, Sheppard Place
Monday 27 July 2009 at: 7.30pm - 9pm

Working together towards a resilient community we need volunteers to respond to an emergency event at our Sector Posts at Primary Schools and Emergency Centres at Papanui and Mairehau High Schools.

YOU are invited to visit our Area meeting to meet our Sector Supervisor Sally Thomas and the CD Team who will be pleased to outline the structures and functions of providing information and basic needs to people in such an event.

Meet new people! Develop new skills and connect with your community! We look forward to welcoming YOU!

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

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

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

Pilates: – Beginner and Intermediate classes, Monday and Wednesday nights, St Matthews Church, Cranford Street. Phone Julie 355 8168

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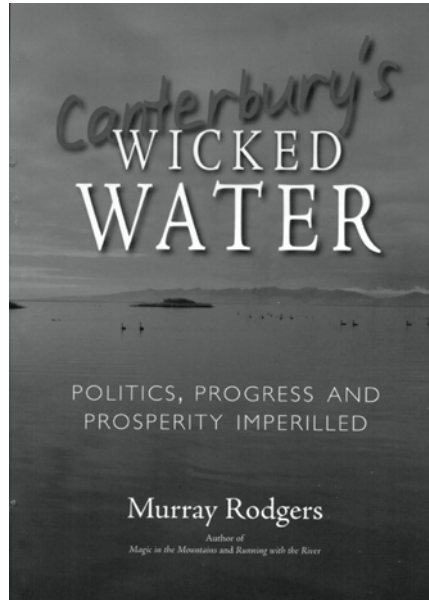
Singing Lessons: Do you want to learn how to sing? Affordable lessons for all ages Meredith phone 3553672

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

Book Review – Canterbury's Wicked Water by Murray Rodgers

I've known Murray Rodgers since 2004, and initially viewed him as a calm, professional businessman who didn't seem to get upset about much. This initial impression soon expanded and another side of Murray became quite apparent. Murray was passionate and dedicated about water! He was one of the first in Canterbury to correctly see water as a finite resource and one that was in serious danger of being privatised, polluted, and squandered away by inept politicians from both parties who are united only in their lack of vision.

Murray is the Chair of the Water Rights Trust, a group that has been working to convince politicians at all levels to "do the right thing". This is no easy task and one can see why it might just be easier to do nothing. That, however, goes against the grain of how Murray thinks. According to Murray, we need to do something now; it must be holistic and long lasting, and it will take everyone working together.



Canterbury's Wicked Water is a book that people on both sides of the argument can read and for the first time start to understand the history of water, how we got ourselves into the situation we are in, and some possible solutions we could employ.

As one reads this history and the macabre politics of the battle of water, another more subtle story takes place. Murray introduces us to another world of silence, awe, respect and peace of just being near pristine streams and lakes still uncorrupted by the water thieves. Calm places where one can simply sit and soon feel revitalised. What is the value one places on this?

The overriding questions that I gained from this wonderful and informative book remain unavoidable: Do we have a moral imperative to leave our country in better condition than we received from

our parents? What does that mean? How do I help?

Haunting questions from a haunting book!

Bill Demeter

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Quote of the Month

"People who won't help others in trouble
"because they got into trouble through
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a lifeline to a drowning person until they
learned whether they fell in through their
own fault or not."

Sydney J. Harris - *Strictly Personal*