

St Albans News

The Voice of our Neighbourhood

September 2009



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A Vision for the New Centre

While I was with my family in Canada and the USA, I spent time visiting community centres, urban villages and local governments, trying to get some ideas that might prove helpful in planning and building our new St Albans Community Centre.

In the next few issues I'll report to you about how these local governments see their role in supporting community centres and resources, how high density urban villages are working, and what innovative ideas are at work in community centres.

I'd like to share with you a tour I had that was arranged by Todd Skinner, the manager of the Orinda Community Center, California. I was given a tour of the new Orinda City Hall complex located next to the community centre. This recently completed all-purpose building is unique in almost every aspect of its design and construction.

It was delivered on time, within budget (actually below), and done in a manner almost free of bureaucratic red tape and interference. The primary reason this happened was inclusion

of all interested parties in a meaningful way from Day One. In another issue I'll explain this more fully, but here is the story of the Orinda City Hall.

In 2004, the City of Orinda funded the building of a new City Hall of some 1300 square metres with a budget of \$NZ14.5 million. The essential requirements were: the building be open and friendly; use recycled material wherever possible; and be of low-cost to maintain. Highlights of the building are:

- ☺ won the coveted Gold rating from the Green Building Council for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED Award). The first USA city to win this award
- ☺ 80% of the building was made from recycled materials.
- ☺ air flow design that minimizes the need for heat and air conditioning
- ☺ natural lighting from windows that open in each office.

The walls are insulated with denim fabric cuttings from a factory that makes Levi's® brand jeans. All counter and

continued on page two



Welcome to spring (hopefully). I just returned from a holiday in the USA and Canada to see children, grandchildren and friends. The weather was very hot and the economy very cold. It was very interesting to see so many changes occurring so quickly since my last visit to the USA in 2006.

In the belief that funding will be granted to our Community Centre for expansion, I took time to visit various community centres in California, Washington and Canada. I met with various community centre managers, city officials and building designers who were able to give graciously of their time and knowledge. In this issue, I've reported on what one city did in creating a unique environmentally friendly building for community use, and to do so at a cost far less than conventional building. In future issues I'll discuss funding and attitudes as expressed by those whom I visited.

In this issue you will see a notice regarding a Centre Film Weekend (19th and 20th September) where we will

show two very different but significant films. Saturday, we will show *Fargo* the classic Academy Award-winning movie about a crime going terribly wrong and the heroic efforts of a northern USA town's female police chief, played by the incredible Frances McDormand, who won the Best Actress Academy Award for this performance. Typical of a Coen Brothers' movie, the cast has some of the finest character actors in the profession. Steve Buscemi, William H Macy and Peter Stormare are all brilliant in their respective roles. This movie is consistently listed in the top 200 best movies ever made.

Sunday night we will show *1984*. This excellent adaptation of George Orwell's famous novel was critically acclaimed, but did not do well at the theatres until much later. Richard Burton, who died soon after making this film, was reported to have said playing the role of O'Brien was the most satisfying of his movie career. Very few books have been successfully adapted to the screen, but *1984* comes as close as possible. John Hurt and Suzanna Hamilton received much critical acclaim for their roles.

Please join us on Saturday, 19th September and Sunday, 20th September for these thought-provoking and brilliant movies. There is a \$4 charge. Coffee, tea and cookies are provided. For details, see ads on the back page.

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

continued from page one

desk tops are made from sunflower seed hulls mixed with recycled clear plastic bottles. The walls are painted with recycled paint, and floors are cork to retain heat. The beautiful wood beams are not wood but rather wood chips and shavings mixed with plastic; they last longer than wood, retain their shape and require no upkeep. If a room is left vacant for a short time the lights turn off automatically. Photo-voltaic panels on the roof provide enough light that they are able to sell some electricity back to the grid.

Employees love their building. I spent time speaking with many of the people, and all were very proud and enjoy working in these surroundings. Several commented that the building had changed their personal views on

conservation and recycling. As one said, "I love working here, and to think that 80% of this building is made from what others throw away is mind-boggling. My wife and I have completely changed our thoughts about the house we plan to build."

A woman in the License/Permit office said that, "For some mysterious reason my headaches and sinus problems have virtually disappeared."

I could go on and on about the merits of this building, but the main thing I learned was how getting users, customers and community experts together at the very beginning of the process helped everyone to be very proud of their building.

Perhaps this can happen again right here in St Albans.

Bill Demeter

The St Albans News relies on your contributions. Please send us your articles, letters and notices. The deadline for the October issue is 17 September

**Would you like to receive this newsletter by email? Send us your request to
news@stalbans.gen.nz**



1984

**Sunday 20 Sep, 6.30pm at
St Albans Community
Centre
1047 Colombo St**

Suitable for Mature Audiences 16 Years and Over
You better be there

Erratum:

The caption to the photo on page 10 of the August issue should read as follows: “Mrs Toni Tully (right) tows Mrs Anna Uitslag, by the hip method. Both women passed their bronze crosses that week, but a few years ago neither could swim.” We apologise for the misspelling of Mrs Anna Uitslag’s name.

Events Calendar

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 15 Sep, 12.30pm | St Albans Interagency Meeting (374 2465) |
| 17 Sep, 7pm | Clothes Swap (379 6305) |
| 19 Sep, 1pm | Reconstruct Your Clothes, workshop (942 0721) |
| 19 Sep, 6.30pm | Movie evening: Fargo (374 2465) |
| 20 Sep, 11am | Ratana Church Service, Rehua Marae (355 5606) |
| 20 Sep, 6.30pm | Movie evening: 1984 (374 2465) |
| 22 Sep, 7.30pm | NZ — Japan Society (355 9903) |
| 23 Sep, 2pm | St Albans Uniting Church Garden Club (366 0396) |
| 24 Sep, 7pm | St Albans Resident’s Association meeting (379 6305) |
| 30 Sep, 7.30pm | The Reappearance of the Christ and the Masters of Wisdom (027 545 4823) |
| 13 Oct, 12.30pm | Transition Forum (374 2465) |



**St Albans
Community Centre**

Te Pokapū Hapori o Hato Ōpani

St Albans News, September 2009 Vol. 16, Number 8, Issue No. 175

The St Albans News is a community newspaper. This newspaper is delivered monthly, and is free to over 8500 homes and businesses. All contents are copyright by the original authors. Please acknowledge the source of any excerpts as the “St Albans News”

Send your news contributions and adverts to:
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With regular contributions from:
Maxine Feutz, Hilaire Campbell, Bill Demeter, Maggy Tai Rakena, Doug Craig, and others.

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

Adult Literacy

ARAS began as a pilot scheme initiated by the Canterbury Workers Educational Association (WEA) in 1977. ARAS is one of around 45 schemes in New Zealand linked together by Literacy Aotearoa based in Auckland.

The Scheme is now an incorporated society, and one of the largest schemes in the country, with approximately 200 students and 120 tutors at present. Nearly every student comes to ARAS with a particular goal in mind, whether it is to improve job skills, read to their children, gain skills for further study or just for personal development. About 48% of students come to ARAS for job skills, and about 45% of the students who enter the Scheme are on Ministry of Social Development or WINZ benefits.

All the tutors are trained by ARAS on an 80-hour Tutor Training course and have ongoing training each month. Tutors need special qualities to be a tutor in the Scheme. These include having patience and understanding, being non-judgmental, having a sense of humour, a good standard of literacy and genuine desire to assist other adults. Although all tutors are originally volunteers, it is not possible to say that they tutor for no reward. Tutors get a great sense of satisfaction from using their skills to help other people discover their potential.

The ARAS Governance Committee oversees the Scheme's direction and finances and pays the administration overheads, funds for which are raised by ARAS. As well as Literacy Aotearoa funding, ARAS is fortunate in having support from the Christchurch City Council, Canterbury Community Trust, and a number of other organisations, service clubs and trusts. For three of the last four years, ARAS's expenses have exceeded its income. If you would like to make a donation, or arrange for a bequest, please contact Maureen or Helen at the ARAS office: 72 Gloucester Street, or phone: 366 9479.

Maureen Vance

collated by Jackie Cornes



A literacy lesson led by one of the 120 volunteer tutors

Carl's Story

Carl, an ex-St Albans' resident, was an inmate at Christchurch Paparua Prison when this was written. He has visited Christchurch schools talking about the problems he has faced because of his low literacy level. He has also written for the ARAS Newsletter. Here is his story.

"I'm writing this to try and help people understand that life is no fun at all if you don't know how to read and spell. A lot of people just like me keep coming into jails around New Zealand because they feel they have no hope because they can't read or spell well enough to survive in this world we live in. The best way to say how I feel is, it is a bit like being armless, legless, deaf or blind. If you can't spell or read, your options and potential are very limited. You get very angry with yourself and other people because you find it hard to communicate and express yourself. But by learning how to read and spell a whole new world will open up for you, as it has for me.

I first came to jail in 1982 and I've still kept coming back here for 12 years. But with the help of Maureen, a part-time tutor at ARAS (The Adult Reading Assistance Scheme), I can now follow my dreams. We all have them, and with her help, now I can live a much more positive life. It has been two or more years, of sometimes-hard work, but I will get there in the end.

When I was 15 I couldn't spell my own name, now at 30 I can. It is better than coming back here each year like I have done, because now I have the life skills I need to be a real member of society. I felt before learning to read that I was not a part of this society.

ST ALBANS TENNIS CLUB

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Children's registration 5th + 12th Sept, 1- 2pm

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COME JOIN US FOR A GAME

Gamble Free Day (01 September 2009)

Tony Milne JP, Health Promoter for The Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand, poses questions for us to think about on Gamble Free Day (01 September 2009).

Small pleasures, small pleasures, who would deny us these?

There is a moment in the song “It’s a fine life” from Oliver that reminds me of my grandmother. Nancy arrives asking Fagin for some gin toddies: “All in moderation,” he replies.

Nancy:

“Ooh, and what’s wrong with a bit of danger then, eh, Mr. Fagin?”

After all it’s about the only excitement we get.

And who would deny us that small pleasure?”

My grandmother wasn’t a drinker, but she was a smoker (and not averse to the odd pokie machine in her final few years). I recall from a young age her lighting up a smoke numerous times and me telling her that she was going to die of cancer to which she would reply, “You’ve gotta die of something.” She taught me how to knit (I made scarves) and how to roll smokes (never came in handy) and shared my love of cricket (when I moved away from Invercargill I’d often think of her watching the same game). Three years ago she was diagnosed with cancer and died six months later. By a strange coincidence, I ended up down in Dunedin that weekend, and being the only family member with her when she died.

While I spent most of my childhood in battle with my grandmother over her smoking, when I spoke at her funeral I conceded the point, just that once, that I wouldn’t deny her her small pleasure.

Because when it comes to the “vice industries” (alcohol, smoking, gambling) there is always a balance to be struck between individual rights and responsibilities, and community health and wellbeing. It’s a balance that we must wrestle with each and every day in our work in the problem gambling sector.

Go too far and you become the ‘nanny state fun police’. Go too far the other way and you condemn people to a ‘dog-eat-dog’ world of individuals looking out only for number one. We are not all just isolated individuals; we are all in this together.

Many gambling activities are legal in New Zealand. But that doesn’t mean that we have the balance right. The liberalisation of our drinking and gambling laws in the 1990s has left much to be questioned. Gamble Free Day on 01 September is a good day for us to ask those questions.

Twenty years ago, \$500 million was lost on gambling by our communities. Today, \$2 billion is lost each year; around \$1 billion is lost from pokie machines alone. To put that into context, the New Zealand Police budget is \$1 billion per year. Is too much money being lost on gambling in New Zealand and if so, how can we reduce those losses?

The money that is being lost comes out of our poorest communities. Most gambling outlets are located in our poorest communities. Forty-seven per cent of pokie machines are located in decile 8, 9, and 10 areas. Can these communities afford to be losing this money on gambling?

Once a pokie venue has a licence it has the licence for ever. Would it be unfair to make pokie venues licences renewable every five years and give communities the ability to oppose those licences?

During the 1970s and 1980s communities began to declare themselves “nuclear free”. Perhaps it is time for streets and neighbourhoods, towns and cities to ask themselves whether it’s time to declare themselves “pokie free”? That isn’t ‘nanny state fun police’. That is about communities being empowered to make a collective choice about whether we are better off without pokie machines.

Perhaps St Albans could be the first community in New Zealand to say, “We will be pokie free!”

And what would my grandmother think? Would she be denied her small pleasures? Possibly. But we’d certainly have a good debate about it. And that is what is so great about our city and our little country — that we can disagree and through that discussion reach a balanced consensus. A balance that constantly shifts. I’d say to my grandmother that the gambling balance has shifted too far one way — and, just this once, she might agree.



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Property in St Albans

If you have a property in St Albans you are probably wondering right now about what the property market is doing? Is it bottoming out? Is it on the rise, or are there further falls in either price or volume to come?

The answer is: property is an investment. And like all investments such as in the stock market, prices and volumes go up and down. It is influenced by a number of factors

Local Market Data Reports St Albans

from zoodle.co.nz

Median Sales Price	\$301, 834	+ 0.9 %
Number of New Properties	34	- 33.3 %
Numbers of Views	16916	+ 24.1 %
Number of New Properties (rental)	31	+ 6.9 %
Numbers of Views (rental)	6827	+ 88.7 %
Days to Sell (median)	33	2009 May
Property Sales	30	2009 May

both local and overseas. Overseas, the global economic outlook has been gloomy with a worldwide recession in the large industrialised economies and a tightening up on lending. The previous boom period was partly built on unsound property lending and was followed by a severe correction. (Some 20% fall in property prices in Britain as an example). However, in New Zealand, median sale prices have decreased only slightly (NZ wide by 5.0%, and Christchurch by 9.7%) but volumes of sales have been the lowest for many years. So at low volumes the sale of a few higher priced items can affect the median sale price quite a bit and skew it upwards.

In Christchurch new property listings were down by about 2% in July 2009 over the previous year's period. And prices fell back by 5.5% to a median price of \$342,993. Sales were steady to a slight rise in numbers in the central and city suburbs, but lower sales volumes on the hill suburbs. The Real Estate Institute monthly report attributes this to more

activity and more listings in the lower to medium priced end of the market as new home buyers and investors begin to look at property again as spring approaches. St Albans as an inner city suburb with an interesting mixture of older homes and new apartments and flats, provides a good choice for those seeking to buy or rent.

Ken Sharplin, Franchise Manager at Harcourts St Albans, said an advantage of St Albans was its proximity to the city. "You can walk in about 18-20 minutes, and it had a good range of facilities including parks...The local St Albans Primary school with its high educational reputation and the zoning for local high schools also attracts buyers," he said.

Heritage houses were another feature of St Albans but you either love or hate them. He himself had lived in a heritage villa, but they required quite a bit of work to restore to modern standards of plumbing, and facilities. Money spent on them was worth it in the long run in increased value and sale price. Bill Demeter who has recently restored a heritage villa (1908) winning a Christchurch Heritage Restoration Award in 2008, said this was so, and the improvements he had put in over two



Another St Albans landmark disappears in favour of residential property development

years had paid off in higher valuations plus a very warm and convenient home.

In the rental market, asking prices had fallen back from the highs of last year for three bedroom houses from highs of \$380 to now about \$330; for two bedroom flats from \$250 to \$225; and one bedroom apartments from \$200 to \$178 approx. The Tenancy Bonds division of the Department of Building and Housing reported that average rent for a three bedroom house in Merivale/St Albans west was \$367; for a two bedroom flat \$301; and for a one bedroom flat \$210. As St Albans (2006 Census) has approximately 53% of residents renting properties, rental costs are an important consideration for moving to St Albans.

There are some signs of life in the construction of new dwellings around the suburb with the new Caledonian apartments being built, and preparations beginning on a Madras Street site. The ten vacant sections recently advertised on Packe Street, part of the vacant Orion block, will have been sold by tender, and the plan change decision released by the time of publication. So it will remain to be seen if St Albans will achieve the integrated residential and commercial development promised, along with the long anticipated open green space for this area of the suburb. Whatever happens in the property market of St Albans, the assets of the community--the spirit of its people remain.

Doug Craig

Opinion Piece

On the Button



One Sunday afternoon few weeks ago, Youth worker Simon and Community worker Lynda from Belfast organised "The Amazing Race" for their young people and invited me along.

The energy and vitality of the young people was a joy to behold as we travelled all around the City visiting the Pier, Thompsons Park and the botanical gardens, played tennis, went down the giant slide and all jammed into a red telephone box.

As I enjoyed the company of these young people I couldn't help thinking what a bad rap Youth get in the media, how the minority colours our view of the majority.

Our young people need us to believe in them, regardless of what they have pierced recently, the tattoos they are proud to display or the clothes they wear.

It is important that the message we send is not one of disdain but *You are accepted, you are loved, you have something to offer, you have a future and you are a valued member of our community.*

I will end with some quotes from Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs

- There has been no increase in Youth offending over the past 10 years.
- Kids don't actually think their parents hate them – more than 90% of students say that at least one of their parents or guardians cares for them a lot.
- More young people say they could not live without books than an MP3 player.
- Young people aged 12 to 24 do more than 49 million hours of unpaid work outside of the home – young Maori give significantly more of their time than any other group.
- Young people do not cause most of the drink-driving accidents -those aged 20 to 39 are responsible for more than half the vehicle related deaths involving alcohol.
- Most students see the importance of being at school. They spend more time there and achieve better grades than previous generations.

Please, encourage a young person this week.

Ngaire



Ngaire Button - City Councillor

Phone: 352 6002

Mobile: 027 491 6832

Email: ngaire.button@ccc.govt.nz



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Brendon Burns

Member of Parliament
for Christchurch Central



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Working for your future



There's blood in my coffee and palm oil in my chocolate!

Trying to think of a topic to write on has been particularly wracking this week as my mind is preoccupied with university related matters. Essays on Kant's Categorical Imperative, and debate over whether psychiatrists are trying to make us all white, middle class clones by "medicalising deviance" (they are!) are surely worthy of attention. However, I reluctantly concede that such delicious scholarly theorising and elitist academia may not be most at home within the pages of our dear St Albans News.

With this in mind, I turned to reputable corporate media sources for inspiration, and lo and behold, an idea! Enter Cadbury's backtrack on the decision to add palm oil and other vegetable fats to its chocolate recipe. My initial reactions to this news were: a) a large corporation has actually listened to consumer demands, hallelujah! and b) hold the phone, New Zealanders are passionate about something! We actively stood up against something, we fought for a cause... Yet it is a cause of the confectionary variety.

Now, I certainly don't want anyone to think I regard the palm oil issue an insignificant one. Au contraire mes amis, I think Cadbury's back down is excellent proof of the way consumer choice can be used to exact change (or in this case, ensure the status quo). The reality is that in today's market-oriented society, consumers have much more power than we realise. We can support ethical, fair trade and sustainable manufacturing practices, recognise the importance of trade unions and the right to good living wages for workers, and make political statements simply by choosing how we do, or do not, spend our money. It's the noble thing to do, innit?

While the thought crossed my mind that people should shut up about chocolate and turn their attentions to deforestation, human rights abuses, overthrowing the National Party et cetera, it was soon replaced by a voice of reason. There are innumerable things worthy of

protest, but hey, surely there's enough indignation to go around! Let us view the victory over Cadbury as a small but significant one, and let it act as a call to arms. Muster each repressed heave of frustration, every bilious spurt of anger, and all efflorescent gushes of possibility and tendrils of idealism; and let this heady mix loose on the world. Boycott Nestle, the world's largest food company! Say no to child labour, Third World exploitation and environmental destruction!*

Coca-Cola uses fertilizers responsible for ruining waterways in India; its workers have been intimidated and killed by paramilitaries to drive down wages and suppress unions in their factories in Columbia... moreover, it's really, really bad for you. It's off the shopping list!

Moving slightly away from the realm of ethical shopping, why not turn our fresh energy to Greenpeace's Sign On campaign? Yo! John Key! 10-20% isn't good enough! I think so, 100,000 other NZers think so; even the chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change thinks we "need a much greater level of ambition." Come on, live a little!

To conclude, all power to the people and that.

I have successfully put off completing classics' assignments and writing philosophy essays for approximately two days now, so highly prioritised is the St Albans News in my mind, and so great is my aversion to real work in any form. What's more, my need to indulge in self-righteous opining has been momentarily quenched! Until next time...

*This possibly will be a difficult task as Nestle owns literally everything in the world except the media, which at time of writing belongs to Rupert Murdoch.

For more information look up:

www.ethicalconsumer.org

www.babymilkaction.org

www.killercoke.org


www.signon.org.nz

Daniela Petrosino

F A R G O

*Help this lady solve the crime
Please attend!*

**Saturday 19 Sept -
6.30pm**



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On St Albans Street



Here we're looking at a family home, circa 1930s, converted like many others to flats in the 1950s. Owner Mark Williams says it just scrapes into the Merivale boundary. St Albans creek runs through from a spring at St Andrews College. The odd tired bulb still mirrored in what ecologist Zoe Dewson calls quality water. "The Council wants to naturalize and remove concrete from this part of the stream," she says.

Bruce is the longest serving resident—twelve years—but all sorts have passed through: gardeners; musos; and artists who love the corner garret and the skyline pricked with chimneys.

Mike Garland from Urbis Design says St Albans is full of former homes carved into flats, still quite attractive, still with a purpose, but marked nevertheless for demolition. "Because their Living 3 designation encourages high density.... people squashed into little sausage flats." He says it's hard to avoid because generally it's not possible to buy a number of sites and develop them as one. "This is the problem with the Orion site, which I have been involved with. Though St Albans Residents' Association lobbied hard, my feeling is it will revert to Living 3." He adds that there was a brave attempt to develop it comprehensively. "And the design was fantastic; there just isn't enough money." Cheers.

Hilaire Campbell

Delicious and Beautiful!

The Owers family, long-time residents of St Albans, is extremely busy running not one, but three businesses from their home at 80 Derby Street, on the corner of Springfield Road.

Tracette has been running her hairdressing business 'Tracette Owers Hairdressing' (formerly Imago) from home for fourteen years, and still enjoys it more than ever. She has thirty years of experience behind her but still faces every day full of an obvious enthusiasm for her trade. She loves being able to offer a 'one-on-one experience', and says many clients feel more comfortable having the same person wash, apply colour, cut and blow dry their hair.

Tracette is highly regarded as a colour specialist, and these days more than ever emphasizes the importance of minimizing damage to the hair. For this reason, she uses a range of organic colours, which are sulphate and ammonia free, non-toxic for the client and better for the environment.

Over the years, her business has gone through several changes of focus. For eleven years she did hair and make-up for weddings in addition to her regular business, but has given that up in order to launch a new project with her photographer friend Tessa Burrows called 'You Rock'. The new business offers a confidence-building hair and make-up makeover in the client's own home with the transformation recorded in a magazine-style photo shoot. The inspiration for the business, and the biggest target market, is pregnant women, who can have glamorous photographs taken during the pregnancy and after the birth. Tracette and Tessa see this as an ideal gift that focuses on the mum-to-be, not just on the baby.

After a successful launch, the two women now want to welcome customers from all walks of life. To convince me that it is indeed a relaxing and re-energizing process, I agreed to put myself in their hands and experience the makeover. Considering that I seldom go near a mirror, let alone put on make-up or spend time on my hair (as all who

know me can testify!), I didn't consider myself to be an ideal subject. However, I have to admit that I was made to feel extremely comfortable, the stresses of the day started to melt away, and I definitely left the salon with an extra spring in my step. I can thoroughly recommend it. Don't forget to make sure you have an evening out planned though, so that you can show off your new look. My only admirers were me, myself and I, although I must say that I watched America's Next Top Model with less guilt than usual!



Grant and Tracette Owers

The third business run by this dynamic family is the cafe/restaurant 'Delicious' located at 6 Papanui Road, Carlton Corner.

Run by husband Grant, who founded the famous Mainstreet Cafe in the '80s, it specialises in fresh handmade pizzas and pasta, but, as the sign outside says, is 'more than Italian'. Some favourites from the Mainstreet days, such as the famed pumpkin and kumara balls with peanut sauce, have found their way onto the menu, and there are many other vegetarian choices. Dairy and gluten-free dishes are also available. Winter dessert choices include apple crumble, lemon meringue pie and Baileys chocolate cheesecake.

Perhaps we could say there is a fourth business too, that of raising two kids, Paris aged seventeen, in her final year at high school and already making a start on a Forestry Degree; and McLeod, a busy Year 9 student at Burnside. What lucky kids. Free stylish haircuts, free fashion advice and delicious free food a couple of blocks away. Not to mention two excellent role models to teach them how to tackle life head-on.

Max Feutz

Tracette Owers Hairdressing ph: 03 379 6368

You Rock ph: 03 379 6368 or: 027 661 9454

website: www.tessaburrowsphotography.com

Delicious ph: 03 379 7497

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Are you over 55? If so, read on

Have you ever heard of SeniorNet and wondered what it is? It's a wonderful organisation where people over 55 years of age can learn to operate in the fascinating world of computers, using the Microsoft Windows Operating System.

There are now more than 80 SeniorNet Learning Centres in New Zealand, all managed by enthusiastic groups of people who volunteer their time to pass on the necessary skills and knowledge.

SeniorNet Canterbury has been a thriving organisation since its inception; the first newsletter the Society produced was posted to 81 financial members in February 1996. In August 2009, Newsletter #150 was sent to 1,320 members. Since the first class was held in April 1996, more than 4,000 people have benefited from membership of the Society, gaining various computer skills in the many courses and workshops run in Room 1 at the Shirley Community Centre. These new skills are applied to digital photography, genealogy research, music and video and having fun flying aeroplanes at the Flight Simulator Special Interest Group (SIG). And much, much more. The possibilities are endless.

So, come along. You will be given a warm welcome. The joining fee is \$25 and, for that, members receive four

two-hour introductory lessons for free. It is amazing how people attending their first class—some not even knowing how to turn a computer on—are smiling with pleasure at what they have learnt by the end of the class. And so they go on to learn how to send an email, to learn keyboard skills, if required, and progress to Microsoft Word. Here members learn how to produce letters and documents, and how to enhance these with colour and photographs. Before progressing to some very interesting, advanced classes—such as desktop publishing, genealogy, making cards, Photoshop Elements, the Internet, and perhaps setting up their own Web page—students learn how to manage their files and folders in file management. There are numerous one-session workshops in which to participate, with subjects ranging from Trade Me and using Skype to photo editing, restoring old photos, transferring music from vinyl/tape to CD, using scanners, and many, many more.

For all the courses and workshops, students will use the Society's computers and be given a full set of notes to take home.

The Learning Centre is a pleasant place to learn, meet people and have lots of fun and laughter. At the most, there are eight students in each class, with two tutors to instruct and give assistance. There are free help sessions every



Computer suite at the Shirley Community Centre

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Tuesday from 12.00 noon to 2.00 p.m. And, at 2 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month, SeniorNet Canterbury members meet in the Hall at the Shirley Community Centre to hear interesting speakers on a variety of topics. This is followed by refreshments, over which members meet, discuss, chat and exchange ideas.

Don't hesitate any longer. Come and join us. If you telephone: 386 2140 between 10.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon weekdays, one of our volunteers will send you an information pack and application form, and you will be on your way. If the office should be unmanned when you ring, leave a message on the answerphone and we will get back to you.

Jackie Grimshaw

An Early St Albans Business

William Taylor DAWSON Herbalist

William Taylor DAWSON, sometimes known as James William Taylor DAWSON, was born in Tasmania, Australia, in 1865. During his boyhood he immigrated to Invercargill and received his education there. He studied as an herbalist, and in 1892 married Grace Marion BRADLEY.

She was born in England in 1872, and came to New Zealand about 1883.

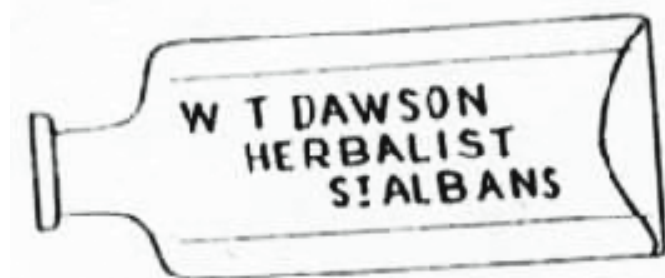
In 1893 they were living in Gore, and it was there that their first two children were born.

By 1896, William had set up business in Christchurch and advertised as a Medical Herbalist operating from 16 Victoria Street, which would be on the site now occupied by the Crown Plaza Hotel. The couple was apparently living at 11 Conference Street.

In the 1909 and subsequent electoral rolls, William and Grace were living in Hills Road, and Wises Directory lists them at 207 Hills Road near the corner of Warrington Street. William appears to be operating his business from 10 Warrington Street.

The children of the couple were Norman Cyril Wilfred DAWSON, who was born in 1894 in Gore. He married Gladys Susan DRAYTON in 1920. Norman died on 3rd December 1969, and Gladys died on 3rd June 1964. Both are buried in the Waimairi Cemetery.

Their second son was Harold William Everard DAWSON who was born on 3rd December 1895 in Gore. He has already a strong St Albans connection as he later attended St Albans School, 1908–09, and was a casualty of the Great War, being killed on air operations at Passchendaele on 4th October 1917 while flying for the Royal Flying Corps.



William and Grace had a daughter, Thelma Areta Grace DAWSON, who was born on 14th February 1902 in Christchurch. She married Alfred Kingsley NORTH (later became a Judge) in 1924. Alfred died on 22nd June 1981, and Thelma died on 13th September 1991. Both are buried in the Purewa Cemetery in Auckland.

William and Grace are both buried in the Linwood Cemetery and their gravestone, which has suffered serious damage at the hands of vandals, also commemorates Harold's death in Belgium.

*In
Loving Memory of
Grace M Dawson
Dearly loved wife of
W T Dawson
who was called home
Dec 6th 1918 aged 46
also beloved son of the above
Flight Lieut
Harold W Dawson
RFC
Killed in Action at Passchendaele
Oct 4th 1917 aged 21
With Christ which is far better
Also
William Taylor Dawson
Who passed away
Aug 3rd 1946 aged 81*

To complete this study, the History Group would be keen to obtain any further information or photographs which may exist of either this family or the business premises used by William Dawson.

St Albans History Group
Promoting the Preservation of the History of St Albans



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The Reappearance of the Christ and the Masters of Wisdom

With that contentious book title, the author, esotericist and painter Benjamin Creme launched a thirty-year global journey in which he has presented deeper interpretations of that first and most significant claim.

During the introduction to that long ago paperback he opened with, "The subject of a coming Avatar or World Teacher or Christ is one that has enthralled men of all backgrounds and teachings for centuries. Even the most sceptical will often express the wish that such a desirable event were possible, however unlikely. To these, this paper is presented as an interesting hypothesis."

The hypothesis of that original book has continued and grown and gained recognition around the world. Like all good stories this one has a sad beginning and a happy ending. However, it is the turbulent and disheartening middle that we are all involved with and suffering through now. But like any good legend in the making this story also has large slices of mysticism, of miracles and of mayhem.

The mayhem you can identify for yourselves, so let us touch together on the mysticism and miracles. The mysticism revolves around the concept and study of 'The Constitution of Man'. The hint here is: we are not just creatures of blood, gristle and bone; nor just thoughts and emotions; nor just receptacles for suffering. Yes we are those things and yes we do those things—and yet we are so much more. We are also 'vehicles for reincarnation'. What then, seeks to 'reincarnate'? Therein lays one of the mysteries.

What about those miracles? Humanity has a history of miracles, and Avatars and great Teachers — and yet modern man often chooses to ignore these phenomena. There have been times when such teachings have been given credence. Often as not the revealing agency seeks to control the information and those that are interested in it. Dilution and disintegration follows, with cynicism and ridicule not far behind.

Have we then, as a culture, lost the ability to identify and work with the Teachers and Avatars that regularly appear throughout our human history? The miracle, of course, is that They keep coming to us with a consistent message. With this same consistency they never give up on our inability to hang onto that message. These Teachers demonstrate a love and concern for us which we cannot feel for ourselves.

However, let's go back to Benjamin Creme and that hypothesis. It goes like this: we are in a New Age, the Age of Aquarius — this is an astronomical fact not a 1960s love fest — and humanity always gets an Avatar to inaugurate a New Age. The Avatar or Teacher for this Age is named Maitreya, and consistent with another of Creme's predictions, there is a 'Star' in the sky to herald His emergence. When did that last happen?

Creme tells us that Maitreya's message has a simple beginning — He tells us to share and save the world. Maitreya understands that this bountiful planet produces sufficient resources for everyone, and yet nowhere do people enjoy the right food, housing, healthcare and education that they need. In fact many on this planet have very little. He says, "My Teaching, simple though it is, will show you the necessity for sharing, for the creation of a pool of resources from which all men may take, the substitution for greed of co-operation and trust, the manifestation of the inner divinity of men." (Maitreya, excerpt message no. 64)

All right-minded people want this human created and human tolerated suffering on our planet to end. All right-minded people want justice and peace. If you are so minded, then there will be a full presentation of this information at the St Albans Community Centre, Wednesday, 30th of September 2009, starting at 7.30 p.m.

John Pickles



Benjamin Creme

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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Market

The St Albans Community Market

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

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

Enquiries phone 351- 9727

Community Notices

Workshop: Reconstruct Your Clothes!

St Albans Community Centre

Saturday, 19 September

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Tutor: Briar Cook

Entry by donation

About the Workshop:

Reconstruction, also known as upcycling, is the process of taking something (in this case, an item of clothing) and cutting and altering it to create something new. We'll spend the afternoon redesigning your old, outdated clothing to come up with totally fresh and exciting new looks. We'll cover some of my favourite basic techniques, like making your own iron-on patches, or blanket stitching to make a nice finish to a rough edge. I'll bring some of my own projects, and some books and web links for inspiration. The first part of the workshop will be a discussion and demonstration. We'll take a short break, then come back and get to work on some projects.

For more information please email me: rethreads@clear.net.nz

Clothes Swap

St Albans Community Centre

Thursday, 17 September

7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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

Faxing available

donation

Computer Room

Internet Access, Printing

Daily 11am – 3pm, Saturday 1pm – 3pm

1047 Colombo Street., Phone 379 6305

or 374 2465

Email: office@stalbens.gen.nz

Office Hours 10 am – 3 pm

Monday to Friday

Entry free, however a gold coin donation is appreciated.

If you have ever been to one of these you'll know what a blast they can be. If you haven't, the idea is this: bring clothes you no longer wear. Decent stuff, and clean. Lay them out on a table with everyone else's clothes. Then choose some things, try them on if you want, and go home with a bag full of goodies! It's pretty simple, really, and a great evening out.

Note: if you have a full length mirror you can bring to lean against a wall that would be greatly appreciated, the more there are the easier it is.

For more information please email me: rethreads@clear.net.nz

The Reappearance of the Christ and the Masters of Wisdom

Presentation on 30th September, 7:30 p.m., St Albans Community Centre, 1047 Colombo Street.

A star-like luminary of brilliant power is currently being seen all around the world (visit: <http://www.share-international.org>). What does this mean? How is it possible? Is there a significance to this event? Come along and find out. All welcome. For more info contact John on: 027 5454823 or email: maitreya.chch@xtra.co.nz

Computer Training for the Over 55s

SeniorNet Canterbury — at the Shirley Community Centre — has computer instruction available on a wide range of subjects for those aged 55 and over. Peer training with small classes of six to eight students and two tutors. Telephone 386-2140 between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon for an Information pack or leave a message on the answerphone.

Absolute Beginners Computer Course at St Albans Community Centre

Starting October. Small classes of 6 students.

Cost: \$36 paid in advance.

Further information phone Alison at the Centre office on 379 6305

St Albans Veterinary Practice

Cnr Cranford & Berwick Sts

Phone us when your pet needs the vet

355-6747 (24 hours)

Dr. Geoff Mehrtens B.V.Sc

CATS on CRANFORD

(Next door to St Albans Vet)

102 Cranford Street

Phone Rebecca

355-6743

Inspection welcome

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

SERVICES

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, Edgeware, 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: 30c per word prepaid. Deadline for the next issue is 16 September

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

Computer Problems? I do trouble shooting, virus and malware removal, pc

optimization and cleaning. Improve the speed and performance of your computer. Do better email and internet. Some free software .Backup documents, music, videos etc. Tuition provided. No hardware repairs, Low Rates negotiable. Phone David, 356 1280 or email: davidmackenzie@clear.net.nz

Electrical: Bright Sparks Electrical Ltd. Registered Tradesmen. Call Peter at 027572 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 Volunteers to help with two to three community events per year. Please get in touch with the St Albans Community Centre, 379 6305.

DOOR SPECIALIST: Repairs, adjustments and installation of all doors and locks, Ranchsliders, Garage doors. Qualified Tradesman. Phone Stewart 365 2969 or cell 021 185 4055.

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 available 2 or 4 hours \$15 per hours 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

Lawnmowing, rubbish removal, tree pruning, section

tidy-ups. Phone John 385 9335 or 021 0529 739

Painting & Decorating: Internal/external 22 years experience plastering, Owner operator, Efficient Service, locally based. Ph Mark 355 7670 or 027 434 3300

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

Registered Electrician: Certified Heat Pump installer. Residential and Commercial. Expertise and experience in all type and sizes of an electrical contract and call-out work. Liviu 021 298 2830

Real Estate Agent: Competent, friendly, hard working, professional agent is waiting to help you with your property needs. List to sell and have the confidence that you will get the best service and results. Phone Wendy Teague 356 1422 or 027 5230588, Ray White Merivale, AJ McPherson Ltd, MREINZ.

Roofing: New Roofs, Repairs, Maintenance, Parapet Flashing, Free Advice. Ph. Clinton 366 6019 or 027220 1982

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

TUITION

Clarinet, Sax, Guitar & Piano: Experienced local

teacher for the NZ Modern School of Music. Phone Nicola on 385 6399

Computer tuition: 1 on 1, Windows, Internet, Email plus much more, For beginners and over, on my PC or yours. Low rates. Ph David 356 1280 or email davidmackenzie@clear.net.nz

Dance Fitness: Adults Monday 1.30 – 2.30 pm At St Albans Community Centre Phone Donette 365 6585

English Tuition: Foreign students of all levels .Individuals or groups. \$15/hr. Phone Peter 377 8197

Fairy Dance: Classes from 18 months. Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday. Phone Pamela 021 120 6540 or 379 6305

Fizzical Fun: Jump & Jazz classes for Boys & Girls from 4 years. St Albans Community Centre Tuesdays. Phone Pamela 021 120 6540 or 379 6305

NCEA Chemistry Tuition: All Levels, Qualified, experienced teacher \$20/hr. Phone Nigel 3557794

NCEA English Tuition: Levels 1 and 2. Qualified, experienced teacher \$20/hr. Phone Rebecca 3557794

Renaissance & Baroque Dance: For class details phone Nicola 385 6399

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 3553672

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

St Albans Leisure Group

We are a small group of men and women, most of us are in our sixties or seventies, who like to get out and see different places. Every second Friday we meet at 10.30 a.m. at the Community Centre in Colombo Street, then set off to a planned destination. Sometimes we travel by bus and other times by car pool. This time of the year we choose to go places which are warm and dry, rather than battle Christchurch's stiff southerlies or freeze in our bleak, cold winter. In summer we venture a little further. As one or two of us have walking sticks or are not too sure of their footing, we pick places with good access.

Recent visits have been to the Southern Encounter Aquarium in the Square, the Art Gallery to see the Rita Angus Exhibition and the Paua House at the Museum. After a wander around these venues we join together

and have a chat over coffee and a snack, which some turn into lunch. Every now and again we go across town to somewhere a bit different or interesting for coffee. Oderings Nursery Café in Spreydon, which we visited recently, is such a place. It has a very pleasant indoor garden setting and quite a few interesting things for sale, as well as plants.

Venues we plan to visit in the future are the Air Force Museum, de Spa Chocolatier in Ferrymead, Sparks Museum in Rangiora, and the Lavender Farm in Tai Tapu. We are always open to suggestions as to where to go, so if you know of an interesting place to visit come and join us. If you enjoy meeting people and getting out, give Alison at the St Albans Community Centre a phone call for more information, Ph 379 6305.

Wendy Carryer

St Albans Merivale Bowling Club

5 Donald Place (off St Albans Street)

Welcome to the St Albans Merivale Bowling Club and enjoy social bowls beginning end of October.

Business House bowls starts at 6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday nights. Teams of three (Triples) cost \$15 per

team. Bowls are provided free plus coaching. Learner bowlers will really enjoy this non-competitive type bowls.

Get a team together and contact Mick Tarling, phone: 355 5134. Light supper provided, Bar available for those wishing to have a convivial during the games. Commencement dates will be advised.

The St Albans News relies on your contributions. Please send us your articles, letters and notices. The deadline for the October issue is 17 September

BIG BROTHER
1984

Sunday 20 Sep, 6.30pm at
St Albans Community Centre
1047 Colombo St

Suitable for Mature Audiences 16 Years and Over

You better be there

St Matthews On Cranford #145

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Traditional Prayer Book Service Sunday 8:45
Informal Service With "Real Time Kids"
Children's Programme @ 10:30
Phone 355 7004
Email: stmatt@paradise.net.nz

F A R G O

**Help this lady solve the crime
Please attend!**

**Saturday 19 Sept -
6.30pm**

**St Albans Community Centre, 1047 Colombo St
Koha: \$4 +
Restricted to Persons 18 years and over**

Quote of the Month

Today I went out. It smelled, it felt, it sensed spring. I had for the first time faith — not intellectual belief, but a sudden feeling of turning tide. "Yes, there will be spring"

Anne Morrow Lindbergh