

St Albans News

The Voice of our Neighbourhood

October 2009



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Community Centres

Who Needs Them?

In our last issue, we looked at how a community and a local government can work together in a collaborative process that gave them a beautiful, environmentally friendly, and cost-effective building.

In my visits to community centres in the USA and Canada, I asked many questions about what programmes they offered, how they were funded, what works and what does not. However, I always left one question until the last. The question was: Do we really need

them, and if so, why?

I made sure there was ample time for each of the centre directors, a city CEO, and managers to express their views and their conclusions. However, a bit of history might be helpful first.

In the United Kingdom, possibly the oldest community centre in an English speaking country was started 1901 in Leicestershire by Charles Booth, as an educational, social and recreational

continued on page four

Chair Chat



The classic Christchurch spring has finally arrived, in full force. It is such a pleasure to walk the streets of St Albans enjoying the scents of all the trees and flowers that are in full bloom. I can understand why some cultures celebrate their New Year on the first day of spring with all of its sense of hope and promise.

In this issue of the St Albans News we continue our series of articles started after the Council decided to allocate \$3.6 million to the building of an extension to our Community Centre. We believe it is vital that the local community is invited to be fully included in the planning process for these exciting developments. We look forward to the Council responding to our offer to work with them on this matter.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our neighbour, Martin Coffey for generously stepping forward and providing funding to the Community Centre for new trestle tables. These tables are constantly in use and the old ones were in dire need of replacement. Thank you, Martin, for taking the initiative and supporting the community!

I would also like to thank the many other donors who stepped forward earlier this year and made cash donations to the Centre. In the current economic situation the support we receive from institutional granting bodies is under threat and we depend to a much larger extent on the direct involvement of the local community we serve. So thank you for your community spirit.

The direct involvement of the community is also reflected in the number of volunteers who continue to

provide their services to us, and in the incredible work that is being done by them. In fact, the 37+ volunteers form one of the pillars of our Centre, without whom we would not be able to achieve most of our outcomes. Thanks to every one of you.

One volunteer worth an extra special mention is Bill Demeter, Co-Chair of the St Albans Residents' Association and Community Centre, who has now spent more than 2012 hours volunteering for us since Feb 2004! His work has been pivotal in many ways, and ranges from taking on small support jobs for the Centre to liaising with community members and contributing significantly to the success of our local paper, the St Albans News.

Bill is a shining example of the kind of volunteer we need more of. No one will expect you to spend a full working week at the Centre but we are looking for new people to join the governance board of the Association. A board member attends a regular monthly meeting and in-between meetings is involved in taking care of a particular portfolio. This might have to do with the internal running of the Residents' Association or the Community Centre, or it might be connected with issues that concern the community at large.

We are always striving to further improve the quality of life in St Albans. This requires us to be in touch with the issues that concern the local residents and advocate for them with local authorities like the Council, the Community Board and Environment Canterbury. If this is a challenge you'd like to take on, please get in touch with us before the upcoming AGM on 29 November for further information. Recent travels away have reminded me that community links make the difference between enjoying and feeling connected to your home space or conversely feeling isolated and lonely.

Heoi an

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

Best In Show

"Love Dogs or hate them this is a doggone great movie"

Sunday 1 November at the Community Centre, 7pm — rated PG

The St Albans News relies on your contributions. Please send us your articles, letters and notices. The deadline for the November issue is 22nd October

AGM St Albans Residents' Association

The AGM will be held on 10 November at 7pm at the St Albans Community Centre. The special guest and speaker will be Ann Brower. Members and the general public is invited to attend!

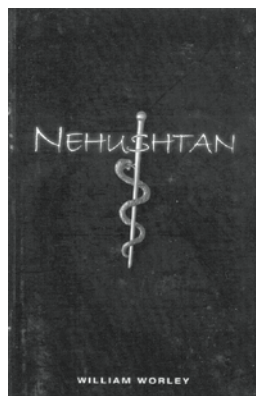


Ann Brower is a lecturer at Lincoln University, the Faculty of Environment, Society and Design. Ann, a Fulbright Scholar, studies the politics, law, and administration of publicly-held natural resources. She made headlines and started an ongoing controversy when she uncovered that the government was moving farmers off high-country tracts they'd leased for grazing, setting the land aside for conservation parks and reserves. In return, it was giving away low-lying valley land.

Attention "Kiwi Geordies"

Buy William Worley's novel NEHUSHTAN from the Community Centre for \$13, with \$3 going as a donation to the Centre.

The Book tells the story of Major William Jones who follows his archeological interests in Arabia, where his attention is drawn to Moses' Brass Serpent. He discovers that snakes can still kill, but, he may have found a possible cure for snake-bite.



**St Albans
Community Centre**

Te Pokapū Hapori o Hato Ōpani

Events Calendar

- 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)
- 18 Oct, 11am Ratana Church Service, Rehua Marae (355 5606)
- 22 Oct, 7pm St Albans Resident's Association meeting (379 6305)
- 27 Oct, 7.30pm NZ-Japan Society (355 9903)
- 28 Oct, 2pm St Albans Uniting Church Garden Club (366 0396)
- 31 Oct, 4pm St Albans School Monster Fair
- 1 Nov, 7pm Movie evening: Best in Show (374 2465)
- 8 Nov, 11am Stash reHash (Scottish Society Hall)
- 10 Nov, 7pm AGM St Albans Residents' Association (374 2465)
- 17 Nov, 12.30pm St Albans InterAgency meeting (374 2465)

St Albans News, October 2009 Vol. 16, Number 9, Issue No. 176

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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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.

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community resource. As these community centres grew throughout England they were seen as playing a major part in developing local community needs and wants free from too much government interference. By allowing this to happen the hope was that communities would learn and

essential and important to the health of their cities, and fund at a level much higher than the USA or New Zealand. I tried to work it out on a per user basis:

Do we really need them? In these difficult economic times one could make a strong case that money could be saved by just getting rid of them. As Mr Hyde has said, we should have cities get back to the basics — streets, sewers, and safety. Facilities that most often belong to the city could be sold and the money used elsewhere. People who used centres could go elsewhere.

The answer given to me on my visits was loud and clear — community centres are essential to the health of a city because they:

- allow a group to run their centre with a minimum of interference, and this is essential to strengthen neighbourhoods and involvement in the democratic process
- centres are very cost-effective because of the high use of volunteers. On a per person cost basis a city-staffed service cannot compete.
- a sense that it is “Our Centre” not “Theirs”. People respect their centres and this is reflected in the lack of vandalism, graffiti, theft and the abundance of cooperation.
- they provide unique and essential services for youth and seniors.

Our city has recently budgeted a significant amount of money to expand our St Albans Community Centre and we are both grateful and excited to see this expansion become a reality. We are also looking forward to a collaborative process of planning and design between the city and the community, to create a model for other centres throughout the country and beyond.

Bill Demeter

Computer Course Reminder

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register phone Alison at the
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Nothing Blooms Without Light

A commentary by Bill Demeter

Events are heating up over the Ellerslie Flower Show and how much the Council paid for it using your ratepayer money. Interested and concerned citizens have wanted an accounting of how much of their money was used to acquire the Show and how much is it costing per year going forward.

Bob Parker and a majority of councillors purchased the Show with ratepayer money, and have not wanted us to know how much it cost. Reasons given by Mr Parker claim that if we know it would make it more difficult to compete for future events. Using that logic going forward could mean another event could be purchased and once again we would not be allowed to know how much of our money was spent.

Thanks to the efforts of concerned citizens and The Press newspaper, the figure of how much of our money was paid to acquire the Show was finally made public. It cost \$3 million dollars just to acquire. This figure is only part of what we want to know. What is this Show costing the ratepayer each year? Who runs the Show? Who pays

for the signs, the security, the lighting, etc.? Who gets the profits?

Until the city gives us this information we shall remain in the dark and not be allowed to learn the truth. From this writer's view, the Council should fully and quickly reveal to the ratepayers not only the cost of buying the Show, but what amount of our money is required to stage the Show over the next five years. Sadly, I am less than optimistic this will happen.

I believe a far bigger question is at play here, and one that goes to the very core of the problem with this current regime. *To whom does the city belong?* If you believe that the city belongs to the residents—and not to special interests, senior staff, the councillors or business interests—then we have the right to know, and our elected officials have the moral responsibility to tell us. No amount of clever or slick words or closed-door procedural manoeuvres can avoid the issue of simply doing the right thing.

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Dear Newsies,

I'd forgotten how demanding a new baby is. Up half the day and night, doing my best to keep on top of things. So sorry no picture this month. Next time I'll have drawings and Plunket doings in St Albans. I'd welcome a story from someone who had a Plunket baby here a long time ago, plus any dramatic tales! Ph: 366 8246. In the meantime my daughter is doing well, and I will try to be the best grandmother I can!

Some of you may have seen these stories in the paper, or on posters around town recently, for prose and poetry week. They are all connected somehow with St Albans.

Hilaire

Breasts for Babies

Where have all the breasts gone? Poor underused, under worked, unmilked things. Where are all the babies, who love to palpate the warm pudgy things with their fat little fingers, and drink warmly from fragrant smelling teats? So good for baby, so good for mother, bringing them close, bringing intimacy and comfort, keeping them safe from sabotage as no bottle can.

April 2009

At the time of the Fonterra milk scandal and thousands of sick babies in China.

We'll be a Gun City

Bang bang bang! It's not boy racers backfiring; it's everybody gone mad on guns. They've seen the sign, the mighty billboard on the Waltham overbridge, and can't resist. Will it be Benelli's semiautomatic shot or a Maverick with pump action? I reckon the second one's the better choice; it means more bullets faster, more value for money. But personally I'd go for the camo semi 'cos it's got a jungle pattern and there's a nice patch at the end of my street where I can hide. There's a neighbour needs picking off.

But it's a big machine, man. At least the picture is very big, and if Gun City's Mr Tipple can sell guns the way super saleswoman Alison Aldridge sold houses from the same spot, then he'll have aimed well, and reached his target.

We'll be a gun city.

Love Those Legs!

A working leg is a happy leg, my physio says. It's to do with how it articulates and lubricates itself and releases endorphins; it's about fast twitch muscles and hip and knee flexors and heel strike, and the seamlessness of the action.

And it's about me, standing there watching, enjoying the spectacle of not just one, but many legs, on rubbish day. Real legs, redder than beets, racing against time in odd socks from unknown rugby clubs, and shorts the size of handkerchiefs. My, how I miss them.

April 2009

Written the day machines, instead of men, started collecting rubbish in Geraldine Street.

Thanks to Dr Mark Laslett for his description of the leg in motion. And his comment on my piece. "I like the last line. Much poetry with a bit of spunk is written by men about women, so this is a nice mirror on the usual."

Joy in Something Natural

On a dry day in Edgeware, three schoolboys converge on an empty section. In silent accord, they rush a heap of dirt and thrash it till the dust's so thick you can't tell where their flannels end and the ground begins. I read their animal cries as joy in the discovery of something natural... something unconcreted, ungrassed, untended. Something from a summer in childhood. Something I thought was gone forever.

May 2009

A week later the section was barricaded by Fahey Fence Hire.

Trading in the Future

Whenever the ETS (Emissions Trading Scheme) is mentioned in the media, people's eyes tend to glaze over. How can trading in carbon be of significance to people in their everyday lives? Most people don't even know how much carbon they emit daily and where it comes from. (To calculate your own carbon emissions, see: Carbon Footprint Calculator: What's My Carbon Footprint? www.nature.org/initiatives/climatechange/calculator/ or: carbonZero.org/calculators/index.asp from Landcare Research).

(Or use these shortened versions: <http://tinyurl.com/3x5tv1> and: <http://tinyurl.com/lsl17e>).

Seeking to get to grips with carbon emissions and futures trading, I read a number of online articles and Government press releases. From what I understand, emissions' trading is an attempt to get all sectors of an economy to participate in the task of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Government has set a target of 10 — 20% reduction by 2020 to meet the expected Copenhagen greenhouse gas reduction targets. As we, as a country, have emitted an additional 24% over the 1990 baseline, this means an effective reduction of up to 44%. Greenpeace's well publicized campaign asked for 40% i.e. up to 64% over 1990 levels. This would be a formidable task.

The ETS now adopted by Government with the help of the Maori Party, is primarily targeted at business in different sectors, which will then pass on their additional costs of carbon emission charges to the consumer. For example, a passenger transport company will have so many carbon credits allocated to it. If it emits less than the allocated amount, it can sell its surplus credits to more polluting operators. If it emits more it has to buy credits, or possibly opt to sequester additional carbon in forestry. The cost of those credits will be passed on to users in increased fares. The consumer in effect pays companies to pollute more.

If the passenger transport operator opts for low emissions or electric buses/trams, it is not rewarded for this because it then may have less carbon credits allocated in the next round.

For small business enterprises, the main effect of the Emissions Trading Scheme is likely to be a rise in fuel prices (from 2011) and electricity prices (from 2010). For example, it is expected that fuel prices will rise by about seven cents per litre and electricity prices will rise by about 5%. There will also be secondary effects, such as increases in the prices of some goods as a result of increased freight charges (from 2011), and increases in the cost of disposing of waste at municipal landfills (from 2013). [information on effects from Ministry For the Environment (MFE) website: <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/index.html>].

For a trading scheme to work there needs to be incentives for companies to do better. If a sector does not have capped emissions' targets and planned reductions it will not be encouraged to seek lower emissions' technologies. The cost of buying additional credits also needs to be high enough so that there is an incentive to modernize equipment and institute energy saving practices over "dirty" business as usual. The price of \$25 per tonne is unlikely to do this, but any higher will be a difficult burden for households who are stuck with the end cost.

Emissions' Trading Schemes are now working all over the developed world (see: www.ieta.org/ieta/www/pages/index.php?IdSiteTree=26 or: <http://tinyurl.com/nbavbp> for the short version), but they are not necessarily prime ways of reduction. There needs to be targeted campaigns of energy reduction and conservation aimed at the largest polluting sectors; for example, more insulated homes, and investment in low emission industrial technologies. Much of our vehicle fleet and rail rolling stock is too old and needs to be replaced by lower emission vehicles. The transport sector emits some 40% of our greenhouse gas emissions including nitrous oxides and carbon monoxides.

A large polluter is our agricultural sector with nearly 50% greenhouse gas emissions. This is primarily methane, but with high capital investment, particularly in larger dairy enterprises, more energy is also taken up with irrigation pumping, fertilizer production and distribution, and operating larger specialized farm equipment. Agriculture has become more energy intensive overall since 1990. Research methods are being developed to deal with methane production in an animal's gut. (see: www.sciencemediacentre.co.nz/2009/08/11/tackling-methane-emissions-the-science-involved/ or: <http://tinyurl.com/laxa33> for the shorter web address).

NZ also needs to invest more in forestry and planting long-growing indigenous forests. Wood takes up carbon in its live form, and stores it when used. It is more carbon conserving than concrete or steel as a building material. Large buildings can be built in wood — see the old Education Department, now Victoria University buildings opposite the Beehive for example; and Finland has pioneered use of wood in many beautiful commercial buildings.

Lastly, we all need to conserve energy in our lifestyles. Less use of sole occupant cars, less energy used in heating from gas or wood, and more use of public passenger transport will encourage operators to convert to electric buses and trams. Walking and biking also have their place, and you can go a long way on a piece of toast with honey. A low emission lifestyle can be healthier for you, as well as the planet.

Doug Craig

Age of Stupid — Film Review

Age of Stupid is a film by Franny Armstrong, director of McLibel — a documentary that looked at the way friendly MacDonald's used its considerable resources and full weight of the law to try to silence publicity it perceived as negative — and is produced by John Battsek, of One Day in September fame.

This time the spotlight is turned on climate change and what could happen if we fail to keep global carbon emissions under 350 parts per million. This is the trigger point experts consider could push temperatures beyond levels what life as we know it can cope with. It has already reached 390 and is still climbing.

This is a hard-hitting look at a possible scenario of a bleak and not too distant future of 2055. The lead role has Pete Postlethwaite as an archivist holed up in a remote, lonely outpost near a North Pole whose ice cap has completely melted. He spends the time looking at historical film footage to see where things went wrong, and questioning why we didn't take action when we had the knowledge and time to act to avert the catastrophe.

It shows the big picture actions

of multi-national corporations like Shell, polluting the soil, water and air as it burns off vast quantities of gas in Nigeria. We are told the gas is burnt off because the local population is too poor to pay for it to be exploited commercially. A local population that is excluded from sharing in the wealth created.

The film also drills down to look at the actions and aspirations of ordinary individuals in Iraq, India, France, America, UK and Nigeria. This is the most powerful part of the film.

It follows the wealthy Indian entrepreneur as his dream of starting a budget airline with fares starting at 1 rupee becomes reality.

The Iraqi refugee children in Jordan, who had to flee their home when the Americans invaded their country to get their hands on the oil.

Victoria, the leader of a group opposing a proposal to build a windfarm in the UK — while claiming to be an environmentalist—shows her to be a classic hypocritical nimby.

There's Alvin the American oil worker and Hurricane Katrina survivor, who coins the film's title while not seeing his contribution to the problem.

While not in the film, the director sent him a pre-release DVD copy. When he saw his contradiction he said although he felt foolish, he didn't want it edited out because it was too important.

Layefa, the Nigerian mother who dreams of drinking clean water, being a doctor and having a Western consumer lifestyle. It shows her cleaning a fish in Omo washing powder to remove oil contamination. Fish that were once abundant are becoming increasingly rare due to pollution... a situation that is being repeated countless times throughout the world.



The film informs us that the current levels of consumption of wealthy Western nations is well beyond Earth's annual ability to sustain by about 5:1. As we continue to exploit energy stored in the ground that has built up over billions of years, time is running out. This is it; there isn't another comparable Earth nearby.

It also spells out the necessary steps that must be taken—primarily the need to reduce carbon emissions by 20%. It shows how it can be achieved but it requires a buy-in by everyone.

That is: Everyone.

There is a quote from Nicolas Stern, author of the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change. He predicts dire consequences of not taking the necessary action that might result in the premature extinction of the human race, no less.

The film conveys an important and timely message. Will we find the collective will to prevent a catastrophic outcome as it is depicted?

Nigel Rushton

How Safe are Christchurch Streets?

As one strolls along the banks of the Avon down Oxford Terrace on a sunny springtime afternoon amid the chatter of punters enjoying a leisurely lunch across the road, an impression of central Christchurch could be formed of a secure and peaceful, yet vibrant place where locals and tourists alike are content with their surroundings.

One walking our inner city streets in the early hours of a Sunday morning would face a totally different Christchurch experience. Whilst a vibrant ambience still exists, the city centre at this time leaves many feeling on edge, with alcohol-fuelled assaults commonplace on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

Statistics on the Canterbury district recorded crime offences show that violence offences are on the rise. Minor assaults alone have increased by 13% from 1,531 in 2007 to 1,732 in 2008, while serious assaults increased by 9% from 1,429 in 2007 to 1,563 in 2008.

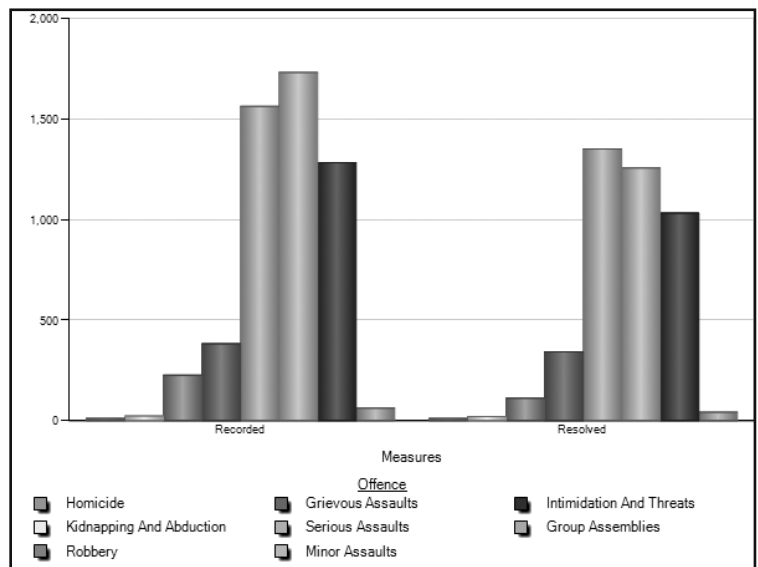
Central Christchurch streets have seen their fair share of attacks in recent years. Just recently on the 11th September, a teenage boy was subject to a prolonged attack in Kivers Lane next to the Bus Exchange between City Mall and Lichfield Street, receiving facial cuts, bruising and swelling. Last December, Christchurch taxi driver Abdulrahman Ikhtiari was found lying dead near his taxi on Worcester Street, after being stabbed. The father of five had fled persecution in Afghanistan and came to live in New Zealand to build his family a better life.

A Quality of Life survey released in April this year highlighted the level of concern held by Christchurch residents for their personal safety. Out of the twelve main centres in New Zealand surveyed in 2008, Christchurch residents were the least likely to feel safe or very safe in the central city after dark (32% of us, compared with the New Zealand sample average of 49%).

However, some claim that perceptions of safety do not accurately reflect facts. "Many perceptions about

safety in Christchurch are not based on fact," says Christchurch Central Area Controller, Inspector Derek Erasmus. "Christchurch remains the safest large city in New Zealand with 100 violence offences recorded per 100,000 population; which is lower than Auckland, South Auckland, Dunedin, Hamilton and Wellington," he said.

The Christchurch City Council, in an attempt to improve



the perception of crime levels in central Christchurch, installed 25 new crime prevention cameras in May, the same type of cameras which identified those responsible for the attack on eight English and Danish tourists as they were walking in the City Mall in April 2008.

The presence of Safe City Officers can also be seen patrolling areas identified as high-risk for alcohol-related criminal offending late into the night on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, assisting police in deterring crime and anti-social behaviour. It can be hoped that those measures will help reduce crime and subsequently improve our sense of safety!

Kim Ristom

Source: Statistics New Zealand

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An Interview with Hera

I recently had the opportunity to talk with singer-songwriter Hera Hjartardottir, born in Iceland but now living in Christchurch and basing her career as a contemporary alt-folk-pop musician on these fair shores.

Hera moved here with her family in 1994, and ever since has been happy to call Christchurch home (specifically Richmond, hey, it's almost St Albans).

In 2002, her song "Itchy Palms" was chosen to be the title song of the film "Hafid" (The Sea) and Hera was offered a recording deal. Since then, she has achieved success and played around the world, notably winning Best Female Artist at the 2003 Icelandic Music Awards. A live album; Hera Live at Al's Bar was recorded in 2008. I spoke with her over smoothies at The Lotus Heart one fine Friday afternoon.

How did you come to play music?

"I wanted to learn to play the piano but my mum wouldn't let me 'cos it was too big and it wouldn't fit in the house, so she bought me a guitar.

I started playing guitar when I was about eight, and I'd always written poetry. I wrote my first song at fourteen." **Surely fifteen years is long enough in one place to call it home, and Hera readily expresses her fondness for Christchurch.**

"Wow it's fifteen years! (She sounds a bit surprised) I love it here.

How are you received both in Iceland and here?

"I'm always a foreigner... I'm never local. I am a local!"

Are there overriding themes/a particular style in your work?

"Stories. I like to tell stories. I really like the kind of music that is saying something: Johnny Cash and Bob Dylan, Tori Amos, Tracy Chapman. Music that's actually saying something."

Describe your songwriting process.

"Quite random. I sit down and play a chord and then the song comes at the same time, if that makes sense. I've never sat down and forced myself to write. I'm not a nine to five person, I write when I feel like it, which is nice. That's what I love about music; I get to do what I love at random times."

After our interview, Hera was heading to Nelson as part of the work she does as a mentor for the NZ Music Commission, teaching kids mostly between the ages of 4 — 18.

"It's such a nice thing to do, to go and see the kids and show them it doesn't have to be a complicated process to write a song."

Tell me about the design on your face. (Hera's trademark is the decorative patterns she paints on herself before she plays. It seems to separate her two personas; onstage and off. It takes 3-4 minutes.)

"It's inspired by the moko, and it's also inspired by celtic warrior painting; so for me it's Iceland and New Zealand. I put different symbols in it and change it depending on how I feel; it's a nice way to separate when I'm playing music and when I'm just going to the supermarket."

What are your thoughts on Christchurch's music scene? There seems to be

several bands playing alt-country/nu-folk type music right now, such as The Unfaithful Ways, Von Klap etc.

"Country nu-folk, the kind of music that I love and play. There's so much amazing music coming out of Christchurch, it's nice that it's being celebrated with a disc. (Chart Disc, Volume II) It's just great, it's very alive. I feel like the music scene is more alive now than years ago. There's always good music, it just depends what's getting listened to."

You obviously are very happy; it's so nice to meet people who are enthusiastic about what they do.

"I'm very happy to be here...I love it. I absolutely love it."

To find out more about Hera, go to herasings.com or myspace.com/herasings

I thank her for her time and good conversation.

Daniela Petrosino



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Saving the Crown Jewels

A century old house has recently been pulled like a tooth from the Edwardian smile that makes Hawkesbury Avenue almost unique in St Albans, if not wider Christchurch. Yes, the site will be filled but with an amalgam of two or more jarring modern townhouses. Hawkesbury Avenue resident Catherine McClean lives just two doors away. Like most of the rest of the street, her family's villa is painstakingly restored to former glory. (I confess it was rather like one I restored, even down to the colour scheme.)

Catherine is very disappointed that six years after an amendment to the Resource Management Act requiring protection for historic heritage buildings, the Christchurch City Council has still not provided protection for heritage precincts such as Hawkesbury Avenue, with the result that this 101 year old villa in an original block was able to be demolished.

Catherine trained and worked as a lawyer which is again proving useful, as she has taken up the cause of demanding to know why a Special Amenity Area (SAM) zone created by the Christchurch City Council does little to protect the character of such areas.

There is a street boundary set back rule, requiring that houses are sited six metres back from their boundary, but as the only special rule relating to this SAM, it can't be said to do much to protect its special heritage character. So this quaint street of heritage homes could gradually be replaced by mock Tudor mansionettes, clusters of concrete tilt slab

townhouses, a Spanish-style hacienda or two. So long as they are six metres from the boundary, they will comply with the only unique requirements of the SAM zone. What a nonsense. Our Council has effectively enacted a façade. While it gives ratepayers' funds to restore and paint

heritage homes, the Council does nothing to stop the next owner bowling the freshly-painted lady and sticking up a monstrosity in her place.

To assist this campaign, I have asked the Parliamentary Library to research what other councils do to protect homes in character streets. If you have visited Auckland's Ponsonby you will know how attractive a suburb it has become. This was not by chance. The council has protected those villas.

From 35 years ago when Ponsonby was a down-at-heel suburb, it has become one of the highest priced areas of Auckland. The same would apply to more of St Albans if there were better town planning rules. Those who buy into an area with some heritage protection will get some certainty on their investment. Well-maintained

character homes in attractive streets always maintain their value. Can the same be said if a street becomes an ad hoc collection of individual developers' designs? I hope you will join me in supporting the effort to get the Council to give some teeth to Special Amenity Zones before we lose any more crown jewels in St Albans.

Brendon Burns

Photo by Christoph Hensch



One of the remaining Edwardian villas along Hawkesbury Avenue

W.H. McMenamin
Barrister & Solicitor
Merivale

For personal assistance for:

- Buying and selling property
- Wills & Estates
- Traffic Prosecutions
- Applications for Limited Drivers Licences
- Matrimonial Matters
- Property Sharing Agreements

Phone Bill McMenamin
182a Papanui Road
355-2333

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

Brendon Burns
Member of Parliament
for Christchurch Central

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

Working for your future

Ode to Doggy-Doos

Dear Mr Parker...

I have a problem with my poos —
well, not exactly mine —
the poos in question emanate
from my beloved Brian.

I blame the City Council —
in particular Mr Parker
and his new-fangled wheelie bins
for confusing my dear barker.

This colour-coded carry-on
is getting on my nerves,
despite whatever aesthetic
it may be adding to my verge.

The problem is the toss-up —
it's a tricky one to choose —
is red or yellow or maybe green
the receptacle for poos?

Is doggy-doo organic?
Does it constitute green waste?
The answer should be simple —
but do not choose in haste.

For it could be deemed recyclable,
returning whence it came,
in which case choosing yellow
could avoid the Council's blame —

the wrath they love to exercise
on those who beg derision

by inadvertently making
a 'wheelie' bad decision.

Red could be the answer —
the bin of last resort.
The place we stuff the other stuff
we can't be stuffed to sort.

But back to my dilemma —
the prob I face each morning —
of where to hide the evidence
as Christchurch dawn is dawning;

as neighbours up and down the
street
ensure that I can prove it:
that whatever Brian deposits
I am careful to remove it,

to take it home all neatly wrapped,
to place it where it fits.
I'm sorry, Mr Parker,
your new scheme gives me the...

...incentive I require
to challenge colour-coding —
simplistic demarcation
of the crap I am offloading.

In the meantime as I struggle
to best the Council please
my collected plastic bag-fulls
I will simply sort in threes.

*Cheers,
Max Reid*

Letter to the Editor

It is good to notice that Councillor Button is finally giving something back to our community. After leading the way in getting rid of our community pool and land for community I guess she figures she better start now. I hope you are charging her lots of money to advertise in your paper. Aren't the elections next October not next month?

Name withheld by request



St Albans
School
Monster

Fair

31 October 2009

4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Lots of great stalls and sideshows
including our famous haunted
house, sweets, cakes, monster raffle,
chocolate wheel, white elephant,
plants, lots of yummy food, games,
entertainment and FUN.

Nicky Wagner

NATIONAL PARTY MP

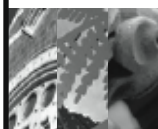
Available for appointments/contact
my office:

chchoffice@nickywagner.co.nz

Ph: 03 365 8297, 189 Montreal St, Christchurch



**The St Albans News relies
on your contributions.
Please send us your
articles, letters and
notices. The deadline for
the November issue
is 22nd October**



National
www.national.org.nz



Frocks on Bikes

If you're interested in having a little fun on Labour Weekend Saturday, 24th October between 2 and 5:00 p.m., then come and join Frocks on Bikes in Victoria Square. This event is being held to encourage a different sort of cycling from the high-speed lycra-clad road warriors that usually populate our streets.



Frocks on Bikes is a celebration of "Slow Cycling" on upright bikes that can be ridden by anyone (especially women) while wearing everyday clothes such as frocks! While this event is especially for women, it is not exclusively for them. So girls bring your beaus as well as your bikes!

Hosted by Kaila Colbin of Missing Link: www.missinglinknz.co.nz, join us on a city cycle promenade that leaves Victoria Square at 2:30 p.m. and will wend its way through the city; a "Catcycle" — a fashion parade on bikes — featuring fantastic "Dutch Style" bikes and Chalky Digits' clothing; entertainment and spot prizes that include a lovely retro-style recycled bike. There are even food stalls and coffee if you start to feel peckish.

There will be free basic bike checks and maintenance and expert advice on all options of cycling will be available, including how to access beginner and refresher courses.

It's hoped the event will encourage more women (and men) to realise our beautiful FLAT urban Christchurch landscape is perfect for using a bike as the obvious transport choice.

For more information email: frocksonbikeschristchurch@gmail.com.

Nigel Rushton



PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Opinion Piece



I can't believe the price of groceries! Butter, milk, eggs. Nearly everything is \$4, not to mention the price of cheese!!

The global economic crisis is affecting us here at home and everyone is impacted to some extent, however there are a few local solutions we can help with individually.

First, let's all support local businesses. They provide us with goods, services and employment, but they also have a huge flow-on effect to the local economy. Local businesses are purchasers of goods and services too and so in turn support other local businesses. Sometimes it costs a bit more to shop locally, but I believe it's worth it to keep our local shopping centres alive and well.

Second, we can make a conscious effort to buy New Zealand made products. The Australians are much more loyal to their local manufacturers than we are. Sometimes the price difference makes it unrealistic here, but often, if everything is taken into account including the quality and lifespan of the product, there is not much difference. New Zealand has a proud reputation of an excellent standard of products, so let's buy Kiwi made. Our manufacturers have the odds stacked against them with a global economy, free trade agreements and the high NZ\$. If we support them, they will reward us with employment and a standard of products we might not otherwise enjoy.

Third, let's reclaim the famous Kiwi work ethic. Now is not the time to expect to work a little less or be paid a little more. We have always been known the world over for our work ethic, so in tight economic times we might have to go the extra mile and give our employer a little more goodwill and effort.

These are small actions, which have the potential to make a big difference - healthy local businesses mean a healthy economy and contribute to healthy communities.



Ngaire

Ngaire Button - City Councillor

Phone: 352 6002

Mobile: 027 491 6832

Email: ngaire.button@ccc.govt.nz

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Community Notices

Northwood Village Fair

The Boulevard Northwood

Sunday, 8th November

10.30 a.m. — 2 p.m.

All Welcome, Live entertainment, Children's events

For further information contact:

David: 323 8655

Email: djmg@xtra.co.nz

St Albans Swimming & Lifesaving Club

2009/10 season

Shirley Intermediate School pool

- Learn to Swim programme
- Senior Training Squad
- Adult lane swimming
- Recreational swimming

Enrolment enquiries: 3556512

Email: paul.valerie@actrix.co.nz

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

Fabric and haberdashery donations please

Arthritis New Zealand is having a stall at the upcoming Stash reHash fabric, haberdashery and craft supplies market in the Scottish Society Hall in St Albans. They welcome your donations of good quality fabric, (old and new) yarn, knitting and crochet supplies, vintage textiles, buttons, buckles, kits, patterns etc. to sell on their stall.

This is great chance to spring clean out those cupboards and know that your goods are going to help a great cause. All proceeds from the stall will go towards Arthritis NZ's excellent work providing an extensive information and education service for people affected by arthritis.

Your donated goods can be left at:

Arthritis NZ Southern Regional Office & Service Centre, Level 1, 15 Washington Way, Christchurch, during office hours, Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

If you'd love to donate goods but are unable to drop them off yourself, please email: stashrehash@clear.net.nz or phone Deidre: 980 1332 and we'll make arrangements to collect your goods.

Many other stall holders are already booked in to sell goods at Stash reHash. They include hoarders, collectors, crafters and artists, clothing designers and inheritors of grandmothers' craft stash. You will find a treasure trove of goods for sale including hard to find vintage treasures, imported designer fabrics, beautiful hand dyed yarn, plenty of bargains and no doubt some weird and wonderful surprises.

Stash reHash

Sunday, 8th November 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Scottish Society Hall (at the Corner of Edgeware and Caledonian Roads).

Cash only

www.stash-rehash.blogspot.com

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 a.m. and 12.00 noon for an Information pack, or leave a message on the answerphone.

Volunteers Wanted

The St Albans NeighbourNet at the St Albans Community Centre requires volunteers to help with our internet & computer services to the community. If you have IT experience and would like to volunteer for 2 hours a week please phone Alison on 379 6305.

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 personalised service with a smile phone Zaine Harding on 669 2292 or 021 249 2292

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

Affordable Counselling: Experienced Counsellor and Therapist Don Rowlands, is locally based at the Durham Centre 110 Bealey Avenue. Couples, individuals and blended families. Free counselling may be available through the Disability Allowance (WINZ) or the Family Courts. Telephone (03) 365 7776 (w) or 027 688 2061

Bellydance Fitness Class: Fun exercise for all ages. Wednesday 10 – 11 am at St Albans Community Centre. Starts on 21 October. Phone Yurie 352 8209 or email: mebellydance@gmail.com

Blindcleaning Specialists: "SPECIAL" Readymade Wooden Blinds available \$50 per blind, can be cut to size, at addition cost, so get in quick, we also clean and repair, all blinds including Romans, Duettes, Pleated, Sunscreens, and Holland blinds, plus we rejuvenate, and re oil your wooden blinds, and with this advert you will get 10% discount on cleaning of blinds, we are local operators, ph Kevin today on 960 1952.

Blindcleaning Specialists: NEW Blinds with this advert 30 % discount on new Blinds. Bowen Therapy – Bowtech. Gentle therapy for all aches & pains. 1040a Colombo St, Edgware, Ph 0800 581 481
Builder: Maintenance, alterations, decking, new residential, kitchen installations, bathrooms, office fitouts, etc. Phone Kevin 021 268 2832 or 366 1177

CHAHAT: Astrology and Tarot Readings, 406 Innes Rd, Ph 385 8692 or 021 02437897

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

Classifieds: 25c per word prepaid. Deadline for the next issue is ? October

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 021 0243 7398, or pcguru@orcon.net.nz

Dave's Computer Service: Help with troubleshooting, virus removal, optimisation & cleaning, to increase the speed and performance of your PC. Improve you Email and Internet. Save documents, music, photos, videos, etc. Get Social Sites: Facebook, MySpace etc. Tuition for beginners & above. Low rates, No hardware repairs, Free PC upkeep software included (no hardware repairs) Phone David, 356 1280 or email: davidmackenzie@clear.net.nz

Divine Massage: Acupressure, Therapeutic/Deep Tissue Massage (non-sensual) Diploma (Ad.C.M.A) BSYA Queensland. Yvonne welcomes new clients. Phone Divine Massage 382 9569

or 027 617 3179. Tuesday – Friday 10 am – 7 pm. Saturday 11 am – 4 pm.

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

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

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

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

MISSING Birman Cat: Blue eyes, fluffy cream body, brown legs, pale face and ears, ph 355 5960 or 027 585 2700

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

Personal Training: 1-on-1 or group sessions, At your home or in a local park. Sara 021 075 2386 or Jayne 027 414 3591

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 027 523 0588, Ray White Merivale, AJ McPherson Ltd, MREINZ
Roofing: New Roofs, Repairs, Maintenance, Parapet Flashing, Free Advice. Ph. Clinton 366 6019 or 027 220 1982

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

Renaissance & Baroque Dance: For class details phone Nicola 3856399

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

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

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

Reconstructed Clothing Workshop

On 19th September, it was my pleasure to pop in on Briar Cook's first ever clothing reconstruction workshop, which took place at the St Albans Community Centre. The idea is to take pieces from your wardrobe that no longer fit or are outdated, and transform them into something new and highly original.

One of the main techniques she used was to re-cut garments. She said that op-shops are full of good quality tee shirts, tops and jerseys whose only problem is that they have become too wide. Grabbing a couple of different coloured jerseys from her pile and working at incredible speed, Briar showed us how to cut them up into strips ready to assemble into a new piece. A third sweater in orange and white stripes was used to make a contrasting hood and cuffs, with the final piece being a youthful creation combining warmth and practicality.

Taking a very large tee shirt, Briar used a quilting tool on a self-healing cutting mat to quickly cut it in half on the diagonal, make even slits on each side of the cut, and then knotted them together, creating something two sizes smaller with an eye-catching feature.

She showed us many of her other creations: skirts made out of old-fashioned ties, light cotton hoodies, a beautiful skirt made from an old sweater and a pair of kid's tights, neck bands, even arm warmers made out of her mistakes. Oh, and something called a 'scoodie' which you can check out yourself.



Briar in the process of creation

All of this is really easy to do at home, and really, really cheap. It would be great to have an overlocker, but many of the pieces were also made without. Briar is a self-confessed hippy, so as she says, all her things are 'character' pieces. They are all bold and colourful, but the same techniques could be used to create more demure styles.

For Briar this has grown from a lifelong hobby into a business. She has a workshop and a sewing assistant, occasionally does the markets, and since August 2008 has had an online shop. She is currently working on a range of summer clothes that she is going to take on the road around all the interesting markets and shows in the South Island before Christmas and around the North Island after Christmas.

Another fun thing she does is clothing parties, (think Tupperware), where she brings a rack of her designs to your home, tells you all about what she does, and you

can try on and buy. If you are interested, Briar can be contacted on: rethreads@clear.net.nz.

She is absolutely passionate about the environment and sustainability, and is therefore proud to say she produces zero waste, with all scrap textiles being used to fill cushions, all paper waste recycled, and other bits 'n' bobs going to local kindies.

Her website at: <http://rethreads.felt.co.nz> states her position clearly: "It's a big fat NO to the fashion industry and all the inherent waste and inequalities that are built in."

Max Feutz

Best In Show

"Love Dogs or hate them this is a doggone great movie"

Sunday 1 November at the Community Centre, 7pm — rated PG

Quote of the Month

"Nothing so betrays the leader as reluctance to stand behind, defend and pay the price of the course of action he or she has chosen to follow. One must be willing squarely to shoulder the responsibility; and it is at this point that many people reveal deficiencies which debar them from real strength as leaders."

Ordway Tead, The Art of Leadership