

St Albans News

The Voice of our Neighbourhood

November 2009



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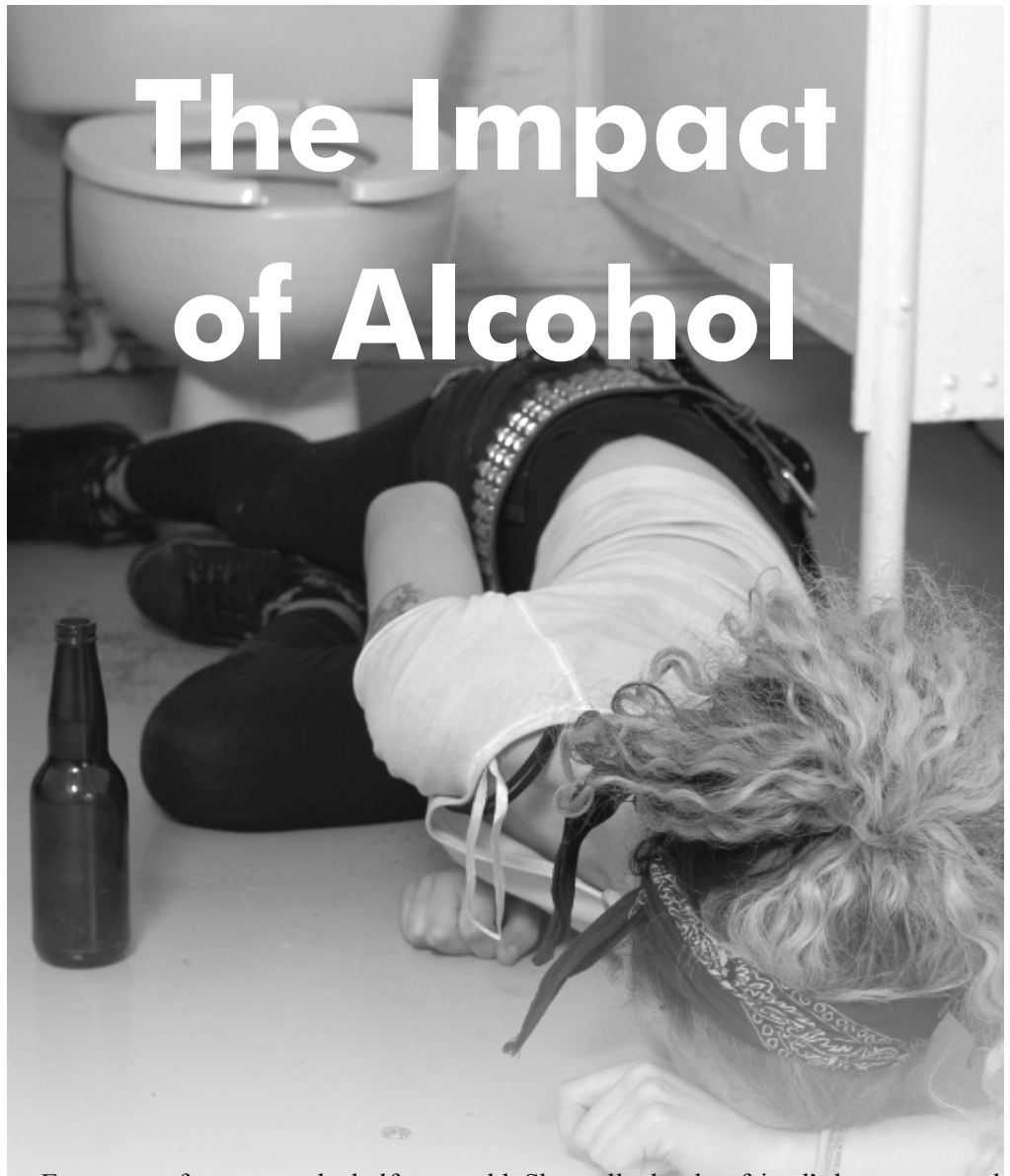
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The Impact of Alcohol



Emma was fourteen and a half years old. She walked to her friend's house to watch some movies with Lisa, her best friend. While speaking with Lisa's parents the girls were offered a glass of wine by the father who said, "It's important to learn to drink responsibly just like the French." Each of the girls had several glasses of wine and then went upstairs to watch videos. As the parents left to go to a movie, Lisa's father called up to them and said they could have more wine as long as they stayed at home.

Several hours later, Emma stepped in front of a bus while trying to make her way home. She was rushed to the hospital with a broken pelvis, ruptured spleen, and other internal injuries. Because of the smell of alcohol, Emma's blood was tested and she measured 1.75 times of the legal limit for an adult.

Emma's parents were furious and angry. They called the police and wanted Lisa's father arrested for serving alcohol to a minor. In discussing the matter with Emma's parents, the police sadly informed them that no law had been broken. Further discussions with several law firms netted the same result — no legal action would be successful.

As of today, there still is no law that would change the sad story mentioned above.

continued on page two

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



Flower Show

At long last ratepayers have found out about some of the costs of the Ellerslie Flower Show. Thanks to The Press newspaper using the Freedom of Information Act, the City Council finally told us the cost to acquire was \$3 million.

What was not revealed was the ongoing costs over the next four years of running the Show, advertising, signs, security etc. How much ratepayer money has been earmarked or obligated over the next four years? Why was this not revealed?

This paper will request this information through the proper channels.

Korean Church Visit

At our last Board meeting we were visited by the leadership of the Korean Presbyterian Church located at the old Orion site. Andy Lee, the head of the Church, and others expressed their desire to work more

closely with the community to create and implement cooperative programmes that help bring the St Albans community even closer together.

The Church recently purchased the last of the remaining old Orion buildings, and is in the process of remodelling it as a youth centre and multifunctional venue for use by the public. We will schedule several events there, and together we will have a St Albans neighbourhood celebration at the end of February.

Alcohol Article

Please read the lead article on Alcohol. In researching my article it became very evident that we have a serious problem that is going to continue costing us millions of dollars and many broken lives unless each of us lets our politicians at every level know we want action for change now. Daniela's article on page 12 gives an excellent viewpoint from youth

Newspaper Growth

Our paper continues to grow. We now distribute 9000 copies and our online reader numbers are growing larger each issue. It is estimated we now reach 24,700 readers.

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

continued from page one

Consider for a moment the following facts about New Zealand:

- 9.5 litres of pure alcohol are consumed per each person aged 15 or older. This is 105 full bottles of wine per person per year
- \$4.42 billion dollars are spent on alcohol each year
- 34% of male drinkers, 18–24 years old, report drinking enough to get drunk at least once a week
- 31% of all criminal acts, and 33% of all automobile accidents were committed by persons under the influence of alcohol
- over 120,000 New Zealanders suffer from a diagnosable alcohol disorder (dependence). Experts consider the true number to be significantly higher than reported. Some estimates are as high as 500,000
- young people normally start initially drinking at age 12
- the World Health Organisation recently classified alcohol as “carcinogenic to humans”, placing it in the same category as asbestos, formaldehyde and tobacco.

Parliament is studying this serious problem and hopefully something will be forthcoming shortly to help address issues of alcohol. Some of the many suggestions that have real merit are:

- shift some funding to early intervention versus harm

reduction

- stop serving or selling of alcohol for at least 5 hours per day (i.e. 3:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m.)
- increase taxes on alcohol to fund prevention programmes and alcohol assessment and treatment programmes
- minors caught over the limit lose driver's licence until the age of 21
- enact laws against public intoxication
- DIC offenders lose their driver's licence for six month on the first offence and must install a breath interlock device in their car prior to regaining their licence
- 2nd offence: 2 years loss of licence and mandatory alcohol outpatient programme
- 3rd offence: permanent loss of licence and 30 days in jail
- reduce legal drink driving blood alcohol limits to 0.05mg for all drivers
- make it an offence for an adult to supply liquor to a minor except for their own children in their own home.

This would prevent a repeat of the tragic story of Emma.

Bill Demeter

**Statistics sourced from “Alcohol in our Lives”,
Law Commission, July 2009. Photo: Uncyclomedia
Commons (<http://uncyclopedia.wikia.com>)**

Funding Acknowledgement

The St Albans Residents' Association wishes to acknowledge and thank the following funders for their support:

- Christchurch City Council—for a grant of \$40,000 for wages
- Shirley/Papanui Community Board—for \$80 for the Leisure Group (60+ programme)
- Shirley/Papanui Community Board—for \$600 for Volunteer Costs
- Martin Coffey—for \$1000 to replace the old trestle tables at the Community Centre.

Guest Speaker for the AGM

Due to unforeseen circumstances we had to change the guestspeaker for the AGM on 10 November from the person presented in the last St Albans News.

There is a great saying about getting off your bum and actually doing something.

The saying is "If not you - who? If not now - when?"

Our new guest speaker is Sharon Torstenson, manager of Council of Social Services (COSS).

Sharon's believed a 24% rent increase on council housing initiated by the City Council was wrong, and she fought it all the way through the court system. Her victory caused the City Council to rescind this ill advised increase.

Please come to our AGM and hear more about Sharon's story.



**St Albans
Community Centre**

Te Pokapū Hapori o Hato Ōpani

Events Calendar

8 Nov, 11am	Stash reHash (Scottish Society Hall)
10 Nov, 7pm	SARA AGM (374 2465)
15 Nov, 11am	Ratana Church Service, Rehua Marae (355 5606)
17 Nov, 12.30pm	St Albans InterAgency meeting (374 2465)
19 Nov, 5 pm	Deadline for contributions to the December issue (374 2465)
22 Nov, 12.30pm	SHINE Shirley Neighbourhood Event (941 8999)
24 Nov, 7.30pm	NZ-Japan Society (355 9903)
25 Nov, 2pm	St Albans Uniting Church Garden Club (366 0396)
26 Nov, 7pm	St Albans Resident's Association meeting (379 6305)
26 Nov, 7.30pm	Aldred Men's Shed meeting (355 4626)
8 Dec, 12.30pm	Transition Forum (374 2465)
13 Dec, 7.30pm	Movie: this is Spinal Tap (374 2465)

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With regular contributions from:
Maxine Feutz, Hilaire Campbell, Bill Demeter, Maggy Tai Rakana, Doug Craig, and others.

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

2009 HERITAGE AWARDS

Nga Tapuwae o Matou Tupuna: Footsteps of Our Ancestors

The Shirley/Papanui Heritage Awards were held at Rehua Marae on 7th October. The awards serve to acknowledge the preservation and restoration of our community's heritage; an initiative which encourages individuals and groups to take pride in their local heritage, whether it be a building, an object, a place, or a documented history. The judging panel comprised of Dr Terry Ryan, Mrs Sarah Dwyer, Ms Anna Crighton and Warren Hudson, all dedicated experts in this field. St Paul's Anglican Church Papanui featured strongly, winning the Heritage Involvement Category for their wonderful Youth Facility, and participant awards for the maintenance of the 150 year old church, and for the three history booklets they have published.

(Check out: www.stpaulspapanui.wordpress.com). St Paul's Church also received the Overall Winner-Supreme Award! Congratulations to all involved with the Church projects, particularly as they rely heavily on

their volunteers. We are living in a city of rapid change, and all the participants are people who have contributed in some way to preserving a little bit of our history. In our suburb of St Albans we have witnessed a great deal of destruction of some truly beautiful heritage houses, and



The successful winners of this years awards

it is so good to see homes that are not only being looked after, but also some that have been totally restored through a labour of love! Thanks also to Rehua Marae, itself a beautiful heritage site, for their friendly welcome, and warm hospitality.

For information about these awards, or if anyone is considering entering their property or project for next year's awards, please contact me at: cotter.pauline@gmail.com.

Pauline Cotter

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355-6743

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Coming up at the Cranford Centre



Saturday 7th November

Cranford's Got Talent – check out your local talent
11.30am-1.30pm



Friday 13th November

Spring Fling – Dinner, Drinks
& Dancing 6pm-late



Friday 20th November

Quiz Night 7.30pm

115 Cranford St
(next to
English Park)

For more information call 355 8031

King's Church
kingi whanau

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know?



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Limited Drivers Licences
- Matrimonial Matters
- Property Sharing Agreements

Phone Bill McMenamin
182a Papanui Road
355-2333

Road Safety In St Albans

We have a new intersection at the top end of Colombo Street and Edgware Road. New STOP signs as per a Shirley/Papanui Community Board decision of 16 September have gone up at entrances of Trafalgar Street and Edgware Road, and at Colombo Street and Edgware Road. Following concerns raised about near misses and pedestrian safety in St Albans News [July 2009] it was pleasing to see action being taken at last.

However, judging by a half-hour observation at 3 p.m. on a Tuesday, many motorists have not noticed the change and persist in their old habits. Coming up to the STOP sign on Colombo Street, most right turning traffic does pause and stop to ascertain that the intersection is clear from through traffic on Edgware Road. Left turning traffic thinks it is still a GIVE WAY, and mostly continue into the intersection. One example that could have been quite dangerous for other road users was a bright red vehicle that whipped through the intersection and into Trafalgar Street like he was negotiating the chicane in the Hamilton 400. Others are a little slower but do not stop as required probably only 1 in 5 vehicles is coming to a stop as per the sign.

Coming from Trafalgar Street and then immediately turning right into Colombo Street is still a favourite manoeuvre, and most cars negotiated this without stopping at the Trafalgar Road STOP sign. Again a case of not noticing the change in the road signs.

Pedestrians crossing in front of the Supermarket must feel a bit safer with the new striped poles and lighting, but the Pause markings as promised in the Community Board decision have not yet materialised. Perhaps a slight

hump in the road for the crossing might also benefit pedestrians during the Friday night rush. The problem with cars exiting out of the 1066 car park on the south side of Edgware Road continues, and this exit into oncoming traffic without adequate visibility still promises to be an accident waiting to happen.

A long-term solution for this complicated stretch of road has not yet been looked at. For example, how about a redesign of this important intersection to better convey a distinct sense of St Albans as a vital community with a distinctive heritage? This could have been done in a revised Neighbourhood Plan, as it appears the old 2000 Neighbourhood Plan is not now being followed by the Council. All ideas about

future Edgware Road and landscape welcome. We will forward them onto the Community Board.

Doug Craig

Photo by Terry Conner



St Matthews On Cranford #145

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Informal Service With "Real Time Kids"
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Were You a Plunket Baby?



1907 was a good year for St Albans. There was a new cricket club, a balloon display, and the stamping out of ‘furious motoring’ around the park. At a vegetable show, the man who won best pumpkin made soup for onlookers from the newly published Edmonds Cook Book. And Plunket was born, not in St Albans of course, but we had a kick start with many children in a large working class suburb.

Plunket is a Well Child provider, the biggest of four, alongside Te Pua Waitanga O Te Tamaiti, and others e.g. Pacific Trust and the Public Health Nursing Service in Akaroa, so it’s not a monopoly. But all have one aim — to ensure that the health of NZ children is as good as anywhere.

Our NZ health record isn’t brilliant, and you only have to

look in my street to see unfed children, but the checks put in place after Truby King founded Plunket (with lots of help from Mrs P) have enabled many more families to be reached—now about 95%. For this, I hope he went to heaven.

He almost certainly saved his own adopted baby with his special formula and his books: *The Feeding and Care of Baby*, 1913, and the first mother craft manual, translated even into Russian. It’s all on the Plunket website. Spend an hour at least. It’s great stuff. Beautifully written.

Read about the evolution of Plunket, its changing philosophy — now a more flexible, holistic approach. Consider the statistics e.g. “in 1935, 65% of non Maori children had Plunket contact.” And that in the 1990s, Plunket started looking for “ways to support Maori

families who historically hadn't been part of the Plunket movement."

But that's a whole new subject. See stunning images of Truby King looking tender and tough all at once. Read the life of the amazing Lady Victoria Plunket, wife of the Governor General, who had eight children of her own and cared for the nations'. She and her husband were undeservedly killed in 1968 in a plane crash. Papers reported her mother, the actress Fanny Ward, prostrate with grief in Palm Springs, California.

But I digress. I'd like to introduce Gail Keith, a Plunket-trained Registered Nurse from Invercargill. She has two sons and now grandchildren, and worked for many years on Plunket committees and in the gynae ward at the old Dee Street Hospital. "Women and children have always been my focus," she says.

Gail has a case load of 250 plus. The Ministry of Health funds seven core visits, from six weeks to five years, plus extra for first time parents, or those in great need. The Ministry also pays nurses' wages and admin, but not value added services e.g. education groups.

"Plunket structure is robust," says Gail. "We have policies and protocols to follow, from marae custom to violence prevention and infection control, and staff are supported by Clinical Leaders at every point. It keeps our practice safe."

The wellness check for each little customer is as long as your arm. How does baby respond to mum, is there eye contact? "It's about body language," says Gail. "I learn a lot from watching a mother unwrap her baby," says Gail, "And it's important to see all the skin. If it doesn't spring back when you pull gently, the baby is dehydrated. And did you know that babies get skin tags?" Even in the ear. Just like old people. And, yes, she is alert to signs of abuse such as cigarette burns.

Volunteers are the glue that holds Plunket together. They work in partnership with staff to provide services. They circulate a newsletter and run parent education and play groups. They clean and then they fund raise. And here I'm holding out a begging bowl, because there's no one to run this year's appeal. They say it's fun, and if you are that man or woman, please ring Pip Tschudin at: 355 0558.

St Albans Plunket is now under the Shirley umbrella at 166 North Parade (what I should have told you at the start). The well maintained stand-alone house is a far cry from the old place in an alley off Innes Road. The waiting room is warm, the carpet wall to wall. There are books — Tickle Tickle and The Wild Baby, who keeps running away (this was my daughters' favourite, and yes, she did). Sitting next to me, a young woman is shushing a gently straining baby. I see a large well designed play space, clean, group meeting rooms, clean, and a kitchen with not one dirty cup. I think I could live here.

Hilaire Campbell

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



My brother in-law died of cancer in January. Andrew was a farmer in North Canterbury. I was truly inspired as I witnessed the way the rural community supported Andrew's wife and children through his illness and passing. There was an endless supply of meals and baking, childcare and offers of help, with no expectation of payment or compensation. The community was a community in every sense, caring for and supporting each other and grieving together.

The Christchurch City Council spends millions of dollars a year on community development to try to achieve what the rural people do for each other every day. It saddens me that so much energy and resource is wasted attacking the council when we fundamentally all want the same thing. We all want to build strong healthy communities ...don't we?

The Christchurch City Council has a reputation for supporting social justice, funding community groups and individuals who are serving in their communities. In fact, as a city, we spend more on community development than any other city in New Zealand. Surely that is something to celebrate and show gratitude for.

Friends, the City Council is not your enemy. We councillors want to see you succeed in your task of connecting with the community of St Albans. We should be united in our fight against the real enemies of our city.

The war against poverty, discrimination and abuse is where our energy and resources should be invested, rather than fighting each other.

In my short term in office, my focus has been advocating for the wellbeing of the wider community. This has meant strong advocacy for the extension of the Resource Centre as a meeting place and community space for the people of St Albans. My hope is that communities in our city will become more like those in North Canterbury and other rural areas, where people instinctively recognise working together achieves more for everyone.

For a number of reasons this is the last time "On the Button" will appear in the St Albans News ... but watch this space.

As always, I will continue to welcome your calls and inquiries.
Best regards

Ngaira



Ngaira Button - City Councillor

Phone: 352 6002

Mobile: 027 491 6832

Email: ngaira.button@ccc.govt.nz

Jeffrey Paparoa Holman—Poet Laureate

“Poet Laureate.” Such magical words, and a title well-earned as I now know, but such seldom-heard words that as soon as I said them to myself, Jeffrey Holman flew up onto a pedestal of my own making, where I was sure I would never reach him.

But in fact, the man I met was a down-to-earth, kind, reflective person, who showed a great deal of tolerance for my somewhat rambling approach to the business of interviewing him. I had the feeling I already knew him, perhaps because he bears more than a passing resemblance both physically and in manner to my father, although my father wouldn’t be caught dead wearing an earring! This comparison is by way of a compliment, by the way. They share the same warm presence, but also a steady gaze and certain no-nonsense air that tells you they don’t suffer fools gladly, and know what’s what.

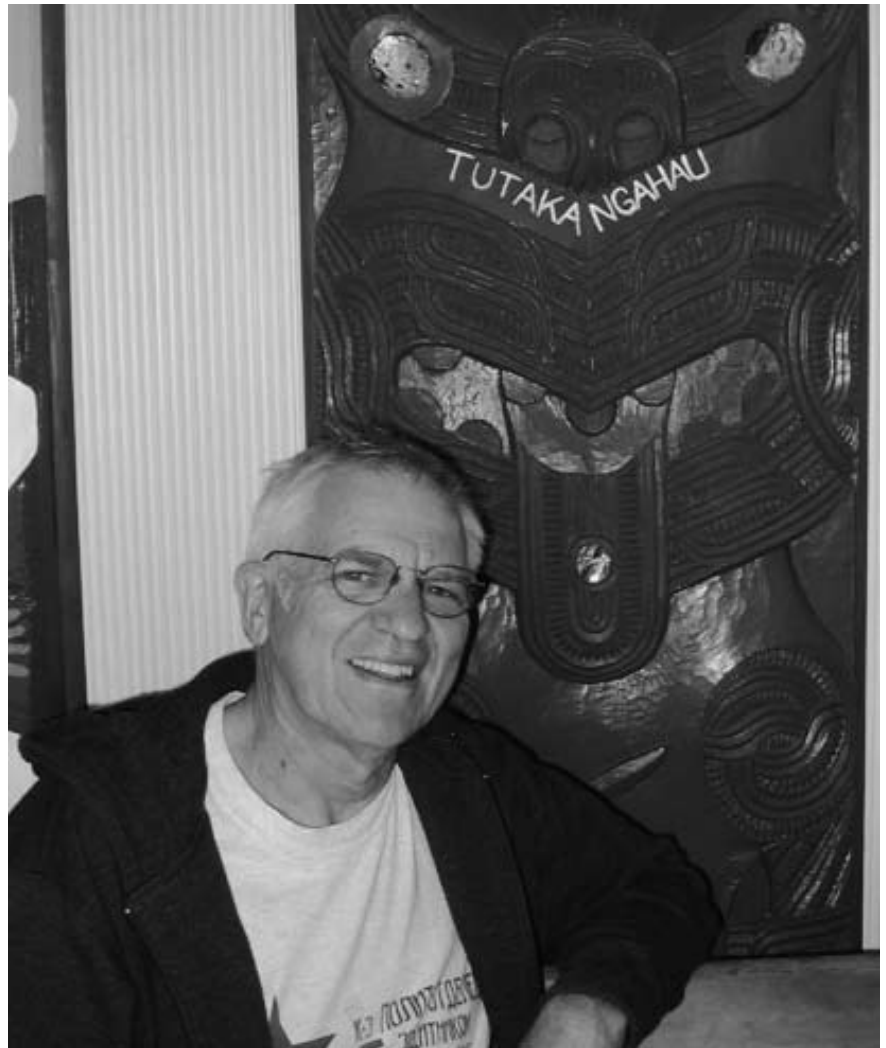
Jeffrey Holman, who is so Kiwi through and through, was actually born in England in 1947, but moved here with his family in 1950. He spent most of his formative years on naval bases and on the West Coast, first in Blackball (1957–1967), where his father was a miner, and then in Hokitika and Runanga (1977–1987). He went back to England from 1987 to 1997, and then returned to NZ and settled here in St Albans where he still lives.

These days he’s a poet, author, historian and lecturer, and has a PhD under his belt, to mention just some of his achievements in later life. In short, he’s an academic, but some of his earlier jobs, which include sheep shearer, postman, bookseller and psychiatric social worker, do not seem to presuppose such a result.

However, as it turned out, going back to the old country ended up changing the course of his life in ways he did not imagine when he set off on the journey.

For six years, he had a reasonably agreeable lifestyle in London, working as a bookseller. He enjoyed being around books and was already writing poetry consistently, (I resist the temptation to substitute the word ‘feverishly’ here, which would better fit the stereotype but not the facts!), but not making any headway in getting published. At the time, he wasn’t sure if that was because he was writing ‘crap’ or because they just didn’t get his distinctly Kiwi point of view, which was coming through more and more clearly as a result of experiencing a reawakening to his identity and history, and consciously beginning to examine what it meant to be a Kiwi. When I embarked

on my own grand OE, I suddenly felt that I’d come from a very small, insignificant place, and often found myself trying to fatten my vowels into something that more closely resembled the Queen’s English... but for Jeffrey Holman, it was exactly the opposite. His pride in coming from a small, special place with such a unique identity became stronger and stronger. He discovered too, somewhat paradoxically, that the influence of Maori culture exerted



itself more strongly now that he was far away from it. He went from being, in his words, “a Pokarekare Ana Pakeha” — that is, with next to no knowledge of things Maori — to wanting desperately to speak the language, understand the history and incorporate its perspective into his work. (He mentioned two books that influenced him further, one being ‘Ask That Mountain’ by Dick Scott, the other ‘The South Wind’).

He returned to NZ in 1990 for a few months, and again in 1995 for the Blackball School Reunion, at which point he realized that he was actually really homesick and didn’t want to go back. He knew he belonged in NZ. The strength of his feeling is clearly illustrated by his decision in 1993, while still in London, to adopt the name ‘Paparoa’, the

name of the mountain range that runs northeast from Greymouth between the sea and the Grey Valley, and which had provided the backdrop for his childhood memories. He did this, as he explained, “as an acknowledgement of my Pakeha identity... It is my mihi — as a Pakeha — to the influence of te ao Maori on my life.”

By 1997, he had come back to New Zealand for good and set about achieving three goals. He spent two years completing his unfinished degree, he learnt Maori, and in 1998 enrolled in Rob Jackaman’s Creative Writing course. However, the truly life-changing event was winning the 1997 Whitireia Poetry Prize for his poem ‘As Big as a Father’. Subsequently, he met Sam Hunt who was on the judging panel and learnt that NZ’s most famous poet had been moved to tears on reading this extremely powerful poem.

Although his work had already appeared in several publications since the mid-’70s, and he’d already had two books published (‘Two Poets’ in 1975, and ‘Flood Damage’ in 1998), he described winning the prize as a ‘benediction’ which gave him renewed faith in himself. In 2002, the poem became the centrepiece of an anthology of the same name and became a finalist in the 2003 Montana Book Awards, again throwing him into the limelight, albeit briefly.

Jeffrey says that the professional recognition, while extremely gratifying, does not really change the demands of his work. It is certainly not a nine-to-five job, but nor is it about doing nothing until inspiration strikes. He goes about his business, maybe wandering down to Laxmi’s Dairy or rifling through old war books in Etcetera, but is always in what he calls a “free associative state”, a state of alertness that he likens to a fisherman who is always responsive to tugs on the line. For example, ‘The Late Great Blackball Bridge Sonnets’ (2004) were inspired by a picture he saw of the bridge he’d crossed many times as a boy, but which by 2002 lay in ruins. He memorably wrote in the forward, “I started writing these sonnets at the insistence of that picture.”

Of course, at the same time the wolf has to be kept from the door, and this is achieved by his academic pursuits. He is currently a lecturer in the Maori Studies Department at Canterbury University, poetry reviewer for the Christchurch Press, a tutor and mentor to students at the Christchurch School for Young Writers and is often involved in literary events.

His own studies have perhaps reached a conclusion for the time being, although I somehow doubt it, with the completion of his PhD. His thesis on ethnographer Elsdon Best (1856–1931) has been developed into a book to be published by Penguin and is due out in March.

Max Feutz

As Big As A Father (2002) was longlisted for the Poetry Category of the New Zealand Book Awards 2003.

As Big as a Father

I lost him the first time
before I could grasp
who he was, what he did, where
he fitted with her
and it’s always seemed so dumb:
how to lose something
as big as a father.
I lost him the next time
to the rum-running Navy
who took him and took him
and kept right on taking
and it wasn’t my mistake
losing a vessel
as big as a father.
I lost him a third time
to a ship in a bottle
that rocked him and rocked him
and shook out his pockets
and no kind of magic
could slip me inside
with my father.
I lost him at home
when floorboards subsided
as he said and she said
went this way and that way
and dead in the water
I couldn’t hang on
to my father.
The last time I lost him
I lost him for good:
the night and the day
the breath he was breathing
and death’s head torpedoes
blew out of the water
the skiff of my father.

Jeffrey Paparoa Holman

Cantabrians Get In Behind Climate Campaign

2009 is a make or break year for climate change. World leaders will meet in Copenhagen in December to decide on a new global treaty to reduce emissions. There's never been a more urgent task; climate change is happening much faster and with much more severity than anyone—including the world's top climate scientists—predicted. It really is now or never.

With this sense of urgency in mind, Greenpeace launched its biggest ever public mobilisation push in May, to get New Zealanders calling for our Government to sign up to a 40% by 2020 emission reduction target at Copenhagen. This target is what the scientists say developed countries like ours must commit to if we're to avoid widespread catastrophe. In order for this to happen, Prime Minister John

Key needs to know he has New Zealanders' support. Sign On is getting as many Kiwis as possible signed up to a petition calling for 40% by 2020.

The campaign called on some of New Zealand's most high profile people for backing. We put together a "First IV" of climate ambassadors, including Lucy Lawless, Dame Susan Devoy, Stephen Tindall, Rhys Darby, Geoff Ross (who founded 42 Below Vodka), Climate Scientist Jim Salinger, Robyn Malcolm, Keisha Castle-Hughes, international chef Peter Gordon and Harry McNaughton, Sarah Thomson, Toni Potter, and Bonnie Soper from Shortland Street. Check out all our ambassadors on the Sign On website: <http://www.signon.org.nz/community/high-profile>.

The voice of these people, along with a genuine desire among New Zealanders to see action on climate change, has seen the impact of Sign On exceed all expectations. At the time of writing, over 130,000 people had Signed On, over 3% of the population and the equivalent of 9.25 million people in the US, or 650,000 Australians.

Possibly the most impressive thing about Sign On is the amount and range of people who're involved in making it happen. All across the country people are getting active. Local Sign On groups have sprung up from Auckland to

Ashburton, Waihi to Wellington, and on most university campuses. These groups of volunteer campaigners get together regularly and get active to support the campaign.

Locally, we have a diverse and proactive group of volunteers. We've already held a range of events, and there

are more to come—from public movie screenings to letter writing evenings to Sign On pub crawls, there's something for everyone! Most Cantabrians I meet are only too happy to sign a petition for New Zealand to do the right thing on climate. And when I mention that John Key might not even go to Copenhagen, all seem surprised, shocked or disappointed.

We recently had a fundraising bake sale at the Arts Centre Market, to raise money for John Key's air ticket (part of a national

campaign that has already raised nearly \$1000). We had a great response, with hundreds signing the petition and one older chap donating \$25 worth of cake for us to give away as free samples! This shows how much Kiwis are willing to put their money where their mouth is. If you'd like to give John a helping hand, go to: <http://www.signon.org.nz/take-action/send-john-key-to-copenhagens> to donate.

It's great that Christchurch is part of a movement that's changing the world person by person.

Is the Government listening? Yes. Although it's only committed so far to a 10–20% target, the Government's whole attitude to targets has shifted, as has its understanding of public support for climate action. Sign On asks New Zealanders to remember what our values are as a nation: smart, brave, reasonable, proud and responsible.

So log onto: www.signon.org.nz and set up a profile, invite and Sign On your friends, watch funny videos of our ambassadors and see other Kiwis taking action on climate change.

With less than 50 days left to Copenhagen, it's time to get active. If you want to become more involved locally contact us at: christchurch@signon.org or phone: 021 2724044

Dan Marrow



Nidya, Kelly, Tessa and Helen, volunteering for SIGN ON

New Laws to Ensure Safer, Quieter Streets

This week marks a major breakthrough in the National Government's campaign to ensure our streets and neighbourhoods are safer from boy racers.

Both the Land Transport (Enforcement Powers) Amendment Bill and the Sentencing Amendment (Vehicle Confiscation) Act 2009 have passed into law, legislating against illegal street racing and allowing for vehicles to be seized and destroyed.

Christchurch people will be delighted at this news. And so am I, because I can remember when Christchurch was a much quieter and safer city. This is the first step towards turning back the clock and making it a much more pleasant city to live, work and sleep.

Police Minister Judith Collins says illegal street racers will now face the ultimate deterrent, while Transport Minister Steven Joyce is confident the new legislation will send a clear message that New Zealanders will not tolerate dangerous and disruptive behaviour on their roads.

Indeed, I was disturbed recently to receive this message from a Christchurch central resident clearly concerned about the dangers his family faces,

"We have a young family who live just off Bealey Ave. And we are sick of young idiots on the road making me feel unsafe walking our daughter on the footpaths, in our area, during the day."

Good luck with this."

Name withheld.

And it's not just a Christchurch central city issue. As St Albans residents, you may well have experienced feelings of insecurity from noise and bad behaviour in your streets.

I have elderly constituents who are actually frightened in their own homes.

So it is heartening to know that residents like my correspondent and his family should be able to feel safer in the knowledge that street racing is now illegal and there are serious consequences for transgressions.

The boy racer culture got out of hand under the Labour Government because there were no consequences if offenders didn't pay their fines. Under the new legislation, demerit points, confiscation and crushing will hit boy racers where it hurts. They love their cars and need their licences. If they don't abide by



Nicky Wagner counts down to one minute's silence in Cathedral Square to mark Hearing Awareness Day as Deputy Mayor Norm Withers and event organiser John McKenzie look on.

the law, they will lose both.

And as for the noise factor — it is now officially annoying. On Wednesday, 14 October, I joined Deputy Mayor Norm Withers in Cathedral Square for a countdown to a minute's silence to mark Hearing Awareness Day. What really grabbed my attention about this significant and worthwhile event was that a National Foundation for the Deaf survey to determine New Zealanders' ten most annoying noises put car (boy racer) exhausts firmly at number one!

I'm confident the new legislation WILL make a difference. I wish everyone a safe and hopefully quiet Christmas!

Nicky Wagner

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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Youth Drinking

I have neglected writing about the most obvious issue pertaining to youth in this country partly because I have very few ideas for “solutions” and partly because I drink and would feel massively hypocritical penning an article about why young people should not. I enjoy drinking, and I started before my eighteenth birthday, as most teenagers do. However, there is a difference between the kind of drinking I partake in with my friends and the tacky, vomitous binge-drinking which The Press and the CCC and others describe to illustrate young people’s relationship with alcohol. I don’t think all youth drinking ought to be homogenised like this, and yes, in true elitist fashion, I believe the way I drink is better than the way other people drink. An amount of wine at my flat with my friends after dinner (probably pasta, unless I can be bothered buying vegetables-stir fry = exotic!); drinking while listening to music; talking, gossiping, socialising. When summer shows up; a frolic in the park might be on the cards; if not, a gig in town is the default option.

Contrast: pre-loading on canned beverages of a sticky, bourbony variety at home, or going on a bus trip before converging on town, dancing at Shooters and vomiting in the taxi on the way home. This is the binge drinking culture of which we speak, and it definitely does exist. And it isn’t pretty.

Perhaps in essence these two scenarios are not that different in the eyes of those seeking to fix New Zealand’s binge drinking culture, but to me they are. I think it is important to note that not all young people drink in a way that is harmful to anyone or anything, except perhaps their own livers.

Firstly, why do young people drink? Because it’s enjoyable. Youth interaction with alcohol and other drugs is hardly a new phenomenon for the simple reason that young people want to have fun and to experience alternative realities. Drinking is one way of doing that. Drinking in itself is not necessary for these conditions; rather it is one element in the creation of a social atmosphere. Drinks at my flat aren’t about drinking as much as possible. Nor is consuming alcohol in any way a mandatory act. Drinks are about good conversations, funny stories and entertaining banter. It is therefore, in my opinion, pointless to attempt to stop young people drinking altogether. I take exception to the recent suggestions of the CCC of ways to curb binge-drinking.

The first recommendation is that a minimum drinking age of 16 be implemented. Presumably intended to target parents who provide their fourteen year olds with packs of mixers; this rule would make it illegal for parents to allow their children/teenagers a taste of alcohol in the home or in a restaurant before 16. This is the most stupid. Societies which are often held up as examples of positive drinking cultures are places like France and Italy, where alcohol is

not some illicit intrigue and children are exposed to it in a safe, convivial environment from a young age. My brother and I were allowed half a glass of watered down wine on special occasions since about the age of ten; now fifteen he does not drink, unlike many of his friends who are frequent drinkers. It is much better for young people to have their first experiences with alcohol in settings like this, rather than to regard alcohol as a dangerous and exciting thing, first consumed stealthily in the back of someone’s car or down by the riverbank at Christmas in the Park.

Other recommendations include a minimum age of 18 for buying drinks in licensed premises, and 20 for buying drinks in off-licenses. The council says this would prevent people buying cheap drinks and consuming them at home before coming to town off their faces, but my cynicism makes me think that this rule is less about stopping binge drinking, and more about increasing revenue in the inner city and excluding those who aren’t good for the image of Christchurch that our city leaders wish to propagate; namely young and low-income people. According to the CCC, drinking is fine if it involves spending \$14 per cocktail in Sol Square, but unacceptable if you are under 25 and want to drink a bottle of \$10 wine with your friends at home.

The 2am closure of bars will be rejected rapidly by businesses as no one even begins to go into town until after 11pm. Closing at 2 will only result in the mass exodus of drunken people into the streets; no doubt the last thing the police or council want.

However, I do think some stricter regulations would be beneficial. Not serving alcohol to intoxicated people is supposedly the law, but I’ve witnessed people stumbling and slurring their way to the bar and coming back with more drinks countless times. The wider enforcement of this law might go some way to decreasing the disorder in the inner city, reducing the amount of KFC eaten in moments of drunken craving and preventing the disgorging of stomach contents onto taxi seats.

The binge drinking culture in New Zealand is clearly not something that can be changed quickly; but will evolve with the slow adjustment of attitudes towards drinking. Targeting youth and demonising young drinkers isn’t going to be productive because we aren’t the only ones who drink, nor did we invent the concept of youth drinking. We just wanna have fun.

Daniela Petrosino

St Albans Veterinary Practice

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Dr. Geoff Mehrtens B.V.Sc

Letters to the Editor

THANKS

We want to say thank you to the man from St Albans who helped us find our way out of the Styx Mill Conservation Park on Sunday 13 September.

We were both really stressed and had been walking far longer than either of us can really manage comfortably.

You were a 'Good Samaritan'

Thank you,

Betty and Cliff

P.S. Loved the cow story — I used to talk to cows in my childhood — they are very understanding. *Betty*

I read Ngaire Button's 'On the Button' advert in October, encouraging us in these 'tight economic times' and whilst I agree in principal I think life choices need to be balanced.

First, our local businesses are convenient and make the area easy to live in but they have a duty to us to supply goods and services at affordable rates and good quality...

Second, a Buy New Zealand ethic is difficult when so many items sold are not readily identified in country of origin — the sunglasses may be bought from a local company but where are they made? Many firms would have empty shelves if they were to truly stock NZ made items. And since NZ makes so much from exports imagine if other countries took such a nationalistic approach — then the recession would really bite.

Third, its a bit on the nose to ask Kiwis to 'give our employer a little more goodwill and effort' when daily you read of somebody like Mark Bryers from Bluechip, Rod Petrovic from Bridgecorp and many other CEO's taking home very very high salary packages whilst rorting their staff.

The use of this recession as a big stick to keep wages low for those down the food chain means less money for us to pay for lots of things from our local area let alone put aside money to pay for power, rates, the Busker's festival, or the Ellerslie Flower show or whatever demand our council makes on us.

I see the column is a paid advertisement and hope it was paid for by the writer and not her council employer...

Regards

Alan Grigor

I have just moved into St Albans, and being an avid walker, I have explored the immediate streets in the neighbourhood. What a beautiful, beautiful suburb. The old villas nestled amongst the "state of the art" townhouses and flats. Please, please St Albanites whether you are renting or own property, look after the sections and mow the lawns that the council has provided outside your fences. The lawns are put there to enhance not detract. This suburb is unique and could be the oldest and the most beautiful in Christchurch. I just love it, THUMBS UP for St Albans!

Denise Mckenzie

Hi there,

Having not long returned from 3 weeks in Australia, I've noticed that there seems to have been a fresh outbreak of graffiti around many parts of St Albans with many new tags visible. Disturbing and unsightly!

The other thing is that while walking our dogs recently, on different days, I have come across items of mail lying on the footpath. The first was an A3 envelope found in Edgware Road, clearly addressed to an Allard Street property. It had been ripped open and the contents disturbed. My wife delivered it to the recipient at the address who was unaware that mail was missing. I surmise that it had been stolen because of its size and checked for any valuables it may have contained. A couple of days later, I found a letter for a Geraldine Street property lying on the footpath some distance away for the private house it had been addressed to. I put it in their letter box.

I don't know whether these things are related or not but the second one does give concern that someone may be stealing mail. Maybe you could alert readers to this.

As far as the graffiti is concerned, it is probably the work of one or two thoughtless individuals and we all know the problems of dealing with this.

Regards

Allan Grant

Dear Editor

It is morally indefensible for you to allow criticism of Councillor Button from an unsigned letter author.

If it is good enough for the author to write to you and you to print it is good enough to print the name and address.

Your integrity is in question.

Please print the name and address in your next issue which I look forward to.

David Cox

Editor's Comment:

We received numerous negative comments via letter, email, phone and visits regarding Cr Buttons early campaign paid advertisements. We did not publish nor comment on these negative comments as we preferred to wait to see if we would receive more favourable and balanced responses after future columns. We followed process used by all other newspapers who do publish letters without names and addresses (for example. The Press, 28 Oct 09). The person requested their name to be withheld because their name and business are known to Cr Button.

Community Notices

St Albans Swimming and Lifesaving Club: 2009–10 season

Shirley Intermediate School Pool

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

Enrolment enquiries: 355 6512

or email: paul.valerie@actrix.co.nz

SHINE — Shirley Neighbourhood Event

Back by popular demand!

Sunday, 22 November, 12.30 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Macfarlane Park

Stalls – Food – Music and Entertainment featuring local performers – Free Kids' Activities and sausage sizzle.

A great day out for the whole whanau

For more information phone: 941 8999

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.

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

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Computer Room

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Daily 11am – 3pm, Saturday 1pm – 3pm

1047 Colombo Street., Phone 379 6305
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Email: office@stalbands.gen.nz

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St Albans News Classifieds

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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

Babysitter Available: Sensible teen girl with references \$6 p/h. Telephone Ella 356 3166

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

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 19 November

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

Counselling: Is your life going to plan? Are you struggling to juggle family and work commitments-is there no balance? Does your teenager not talk to you anymore. Perhaps I can assist. First consultation free-see if we connect. Rooms based in St Albans, late nights and Saturday appointments. Trained and experienced Counsellor (MEd,B.A, NZAC). Phone Shelley on 3791-788 or 021 131 5730

Dave's Computer Service: Help with troubleshooting, virus removal, optimization & cleaning, to increase the speed and performance of your PC. Improve your Email and Internet. Save documents, music, photos, videos, etc. Get Social Sites: Facebook, MySpace etc. Tuition for beginners & above. Low rates, 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.

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Dog Walker: \$5 a walk (at least ½ an hour) 027 340 8538

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

Hairdresser: Long lasting shiny hair colour, organic based ammonia free, good for you, good for the environment! Great haircuts. Tracette, 80 Derby St, ph 3796-368.

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: Since 9 July, Blue eyed, fluffy cream body, brown legs, brown 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 0274343300

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TUITION

Bellydance Fitness: Wednesday 10 – 11 am at St

Albans Community Centre. Phone Yurie 352 8209

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

Drums: Experienced & qualified teacher at well-equipped studio with two kits, Rock school exams available, Andrew Couper, ph 980 5456, a.s.couper@paradise.net.nz

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

ITALIAN LANGUAGE LESSONS: \$25 per hr ph. 03 355 6852 email: bpetrosino@hotmail.com

Renaissance & Baroque Dance: For class details phone Nicola 3856399

Self Defense Classes: Gain health & flexibility, Tues at St Albans Church, Berwick St 5.30-7.30 & Thurs at Foundation for the Blind, 96 Bristol St, Merivale 5.30-7.30 All ages. 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 980 8760

Aldred Men's Shed Launch Meeting

St Albans Uniting Parish, in partnership with Papanui High School Community Education Department, has been working at establishing a Men's Shed in the parish's Aldred complex on the corner of Nancy Avenue and Knowles Street. A steering committee, made up of a combination of parish and wider community members, has been planning and refitting what was a church lounge to become a community workshop. Now, after a successful community garage sale, a positive response to funding applications and the completion of the electrical work, the steering committee is calling a public meeting at 7.30 p.m. on 26th November to give those interested a preview of the Men's Shed concept and an opportunity to become members of the Aldred Men's Shed in preparation for the opening in February.

Although this is open to any men looking for fellowship and a space to work at their hobbies, it is envisaged that this concept would be attractive to older men who have been involved in wood and metalwork activities both as hobbies and employment in the past, but because of downsizing of accommodation or a growing need to work with others for safety and mobility issues can no longer have access to a place to continue their interests. Those

initiating the project can also imagine that men who have been left with limitations following an accident could be part of the Men's Shed group. As the project progresses it is envisaged that users will become part of the committee that runs the Shed, although St Albans Uniting Parish will continue its involvement giving a legal structure and supplying a chair, treasurer and committee member. Projects, methods and times of operating the Shed will be decided by the working committee when formed.

The organisers have been heartened by the wide community interest in this project as it has developed, and are looking forward to meeting people who wish to become involved, at the

public meeting. Further information can be obtained by phoning the St Albans Uniting Parish minister at: 355 4626 or simply by attending the meeting on 26th November.

Rev Hugh Perry
Minister St Albans Uniting Parish
 131 Francis Ave
 Mairereau
 Christchurch 8013
 Phone: 03 355 4626

ALDRED MEN'S SHED



This is Spinal Tap

A Mockumentary of this famous
 British rock group
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Market

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

Enquiries phone 351- 9727

The St Albans
 News relies on
 your contributions.
 Please send us your
 articles, letters
 and notices. The
 deadline for the
 November issue
 is the 19th of
 November

Quote of the Month

"Those who stand for nothing, fall for
 anything"

Alexander Hamilton