

St Albans News

The Voice of our Neighbourhood

May 2010



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First St Albans Community Day



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The St Albans News is read by 26 000 people, 19 dogs, 3 cats and a parrot

Chair Chat



First Annual St Albans Community Day: Wonderful weather, great people and fun entertainment marked the First Annual St Albans Community Day held at the Korean Church complex. Over 500 people attended and enjoyed everything from a belly dancer, a rock band, choir singing, art show, classic cars, and much, much more.

The variety and quality of the food was excellent, and it was great to see so many people getting to know each other.

We thank all the people that worked so hard to make this a success, especially the Korean Church and our own Aidey Nolan who co-ordinated the entire effort.

The St Albans Community Day will be an annual event and will get bigger and bigger; but most

importantly, our neighbours will become closer and closer.

Democracy in Danger: The unwarranted removal of our elected regional Environment Canterbury councillors prior to their term in office is shocking. This is the first time in the history of New Zealand that this has happened in this manner. New law was passed under urgency that ignored the fact that the Creech Report did not find that the Councillors had failed in their duties. The John Key government has gone way further than the recommendations of the report. This happened for one simple reason. The people in power and their allies wanted to get their hands on water for corporate farming and for short-term gain.

It appears our regional elected Mayors, including Bob Parker, helped engineer this coup d'état, and voters should hold them accountable at the next election.

Democracy is in danger, and don't believe otherwise.

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

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By Aidey Nolan

At 11 a.m. Saturday morning 10th April, the grounds of the Korean Presbyterian Church on 75 Packe Street were a sight to be seen as hundreds of people gathered to participate in the First Annual St Albans Community Day. With stalls selling goodies from books to jewellery, treats and sweets to homemade cards, there wasn't one person that I saw who wasn't busy looking at one thing or another, or buying the odd novel or caramel slice.

It was great to see the response from the community, with people chatting over their Buzz coffee, telling each other about the bargain they just got from one of the stalls nearby, or giving advice on what clothes to buy from the clothes swap. At the beginning of the morning, there were mountains of clothes that people had donated for the clothes swap, and with items being sold for 50c or \$1, by the end of the day, I wasn't surprised to see that the only things left behind were loose threads.

Throughout the day, there was entertainment for all ages. Starting with a Korean Worship Dance and the St Albans Choir, all the way down to belly dancing, the local Jump Jam Kids and band Two Dogs In A Bath.

There was a bit of a break in between the acts, so people could go out into the sunshine and buy themselves a dish from the huge selection of Korean food or a sausage from either of the sausage sizzles we had going.

By 2 p.m., things started to die down, but there were still the devoted dozen or so who stayed till the very end.

All in all, it was a great day for everyone involved. Our two months of planning and organising has paid off, as numbers of attendees at the First Annual St Albans Community Day exceeded 500. We are looking forward to this happening again in 2011.

Thanks to Andy, Ahn and the Korean Presbyterian Church for hosting the event and

being so accommodating. The performers, for keeping us entertained. The volunteers, who helped wherever they were needed. The weather, for being nice and not raining on us. And last, but definitely not least, all of you who came and supported us. We hope to see you all again next year!

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Aidey Nolan, Events Co-ordinator

The St Albans News relies on your contributions. Please send us your articles, letters and notices. The deadline for the next issue is the 20th of May



Commentary by Christoph Hensch.

Here in Canterbury we've been spectators to an extraordinary and quite unusual political drama over the last few weeks and the drama is still ongoing. The dismissal of our democratically elected councillors of Environment Canterbury (ECan) is a first in New Zealand history. The fact that those elected councillors are being replaced by a few highly paid Government-appointed commissioners instead, rings alarm bells with everyone who is concerned with the well-being of our communities. There will be no elections in October and there is no guarantee there will be in the future.

Economic and Quality of Life indicators (like the Genuine Progress Indicator, GPI) measure, among other things, citizen participation in the governance of their communities, on local, regional and national levels. Does it mean that the loss of our ability to elect our own councillors indicate that the quality of life in Canterbury will be lower in the future?

One might argue that with a mere 32% participation in the ECan election in 2007, we haven't shown much interest in our democratic structures on a local authority level. In response to that I would argue that recent developments in Canterbury, and the introduction of the Auckland Super City, indicate more cutbacks of our democratic rights. It is apparent that plans for another Super City in Christchurch are already underway. This is the time when we all need to get involved and defend our given rights to participate in our democratic society.

Now don't think for a minute that, Well, I'm just one person - what change can I effect? or, My vote doesn't make a difference. During recent elections, there were several races that were decided by 10 votes or less. As an example, in our own Ward, Shirley-Papanui, Community Board member Pauline Cotter was elected by only 9 votes over her closest rival.

There are many things that you can do about this impending loss of democracy, but here is one thing you can do right away, and that doesn't cost any money and just a few minutes of your time: If you are not already registered on the Electoral Roll, register yourself now. It is your responsibility, and the well-being of our community depends on it!



**St Albans
Community Centre**

Te Pokapū Hapori o Hato Ōpani

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

Local Democracy Stolen

By David Moorhouse

Since I wrote last month, the situation regarding local democracy has deteriorated. The Regional Council that you elected in 2007 has been removed by the Government, in an act that would have been illegal had they had not passed legislation under urgency. What this means is that opposition MPs, including your local representatives, had to vote on legislation which they had only just seen and had been given insufficient time to consult on prior to the debate. Even worse, the rushed schedule excluded any public participation, so your democratic rights have been extinguished, as surely as if they had been removed at the point of a gun. To their shame, local National Party MPs went along with this unethical behaviour and voted to support this legislation.

What is very clear, is that there is no emergency requiring this drastic level of government intervention. Rather, it is driven by an attempt to grab the water resources of Canterbury and transfer them to private ownership. John Key made this clear in his opening speech to Parliament this year where he stated that regulatory barriers to more irrigation in Canterbury needed to be removed.

At a meeting arranged by the Green Party last week to provide more information about this disturbing state

of affairs, more than 250 people turned up at Our City Otautahi, a venue that could only accommodate 150. An impromptu meeting convened on the steps outside. I've since been approached by people from across the political spectrum who feel betrayed and angry by the Government's actions. Cantabrians are not happy about having their water and democracy removed under false pretenses.

So, what can you do? One of the easiest actions you can do is to make a submission on the ECan Annual Plan. All households received a copy of 'Living Here', from ECan in their letterbox in the last couple of weeks, and more copies are available at libraries and from the Community Centre or go to <http://ecan.govt.nz> on the Internet.

One of the questions relates to Accountability through elected representatives. Accountability is about to fly out the window with the sacking of the Council, as these commissioners will be accountable to Nick Smith in Wellington, not to the citizens of Canterbury. However, the budget the commissioners set and the rates they levy will be paid by you, even though you will have no say in what the money is spent on. I encourage you to make a submission and let the newly appointed commissioners know how you feel. Submissions close at 4 p.m. on 30th April.

There will be other action, especially events that will occur at the end of May when the existing councillors are sacked and replaced by commissioners.

David Moorhouse is the Green Party's local spokesperson on waste and local democracy.

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Sacked ECan board was no damp squib

This excellent article by Rod Oram was originally published in the Sunday Star Times on 04 April 2010. With his usual clarity, Rod gets to the heart of the matter clearly and quickly. - Editor

by Rod Oram

Clearly the Key government loves to create havoc and enemies over local government and natural resources.

Fresh from stripping voters' influence over Auckland's regional governance and picking a fight over mining conservation land, it has sacked Canterbury's regional councillors and poisoned the process aimed at finding more sensible ways to manage New Zealand's water resources.

It is frightening how easy it was for Local Government Minister Rodney Hide and Environment Minister Nick Smith to deal to Canterbury. All they had to do was to appoint Wyatt Creech, a dairy industry investor and former National Party politician, to head a panel to review the performance of Environment Canterbury then sit back and wait for his report.

Sure enough, Creech and colleagues delivered in double quick time a damning indictment of ECan. They concluded that the gap between what was required of it on water issues and what it was capable of delivering is enormous and unprecedented.

In fact ECan was such a basket case, it argued, that its failure requires comprehensive and rapid intervention on the part of central government to protect and enhance both regional and national wellbeing."

There was, though, a minor inconvenience, the panel conceded. Whatever the shortcomings of the council, it had not breached its duties under either the Resource Management Act or the Local Government Act so the only way to boot out the councillors was by passing emergency legislation.

The government obliged last week, appointing Dame Margaret Bazley as chief commissioner of the region. She will be joined by up to six more commissioners. They will run the council until 2013 at the latest.

This is an appalling abuse by the government of power, process and good sense, not to mention voters' rights.

The problems start with the Creech Report itself. It spends its first 48 pages faithfully reporting all the complaints of ECan's critics. Two camps dominate the short list of parties it interviewed:

- The region's local councils, some of which have long lobbied to disband the regional council so they can become unitary authorities. Christchurch and Timaru lead the movement. Yet, apart from a letter to the ministers and a hastily concocted list of complaints about ECan, they offered no substantive written evidence of its alleged failings. But if they get their way we can give up any

hope of achieving integrated and sustainable resource management across the Canterbury plain.

- Farmer-led organisations pushing very hard for more water storage and irrigation. Since 2002, the number of cows in Canterbury has increased by 60.5%, the report notes. That's an additional 239,000 cows, which account for 47% of the growth of the national herd. No wonder the region has escalating issues with water allocation and effluent. The RMA can't cope. Hobbled by it, ECan has performed the best it can.

These critics told the panel that the regional council is dysfunctional because it is, among other things, deadlocked between seven councillors who are pro-development and seven who are pro-environment; let down by substandard and arrogant staff; negligent in the performance of its statutory obligations; obstructive to the courts and incapable of a constructive relationship with its 10 local councils.

Having faithfully detailed the critics' complaints, the report then concedes it can't find any evidence for some of the accusations. Next, it actually looks at ECan's performance and finds reality is a whole lot better than the perception put about by its critics.

A deadlocked council? No. For example it voted 10 to two to support the Canterbury Water Management Strategy. It is the region's best hope for involving all parties in collaborative allocation and management of water, thereby achieving a sustainable economy and environment.

Obsessed about being a hardline environmental regulator at the expense of other drivers? No. It's done a good job on the region's urban development, energy, transport and biodiversity strategies, among others. All ECan's nonwater responsibilities we believe 'are well executed, the panel concluded.'

Poor relationships with other councils? No. They have improved a lot, particularly under Alec Neill, its current chair, the panel says.

Lousy service standards? The 2007/08 Ministry for the Environment national survey of local government did find that ECan met its statutory timetable commitments on only 29% of resource consents. But the panel concedes there are some valid reasons why the timeframe compliance was low. The council was swamped by claims to irrigation water before the region ran out. It is close to fully allocating many water sources and has already overallocated some to the detriment of the environment.

The panel also concedes that ECan had increased its consents staff from 35 to 57 and improved processes and systems. ECan's goal was to meet timelines on more than 95% of consents within 12 months. It is considered that if ECan continues with this approach its survey result in the

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180 Degrees Trust

By Doug Craig

Jeremy Nurse, a former resident of St Albans, looks like a mild-mannered and friendly grandfather. Yet he has been responsible for tackling one of the more difficult issues in today's society—how to relate to, and turn around, young men who have started to enter a world of crime. He calls this process turning 180 degrees and that is the name of the Trust he founded in 2007: the 180 Degrees Trust.

His background is in bringing up a family of three sons, and in high country farming in the Clarence valley of Marlborough. It is a steep, rugged country that requires much patience and stamina—qualities he has brought to his work with disadvantaged and challenged youth. He has also brought a profound love of the outdoors and the way it can teach lessons to the unprepared and unwary. Many of the young people he puts onto his courses have not been beyond the city, and the experience of tramping with heavy packs, preparing meals together, climbing, kayaking and fording deep cold rivers comes as a complete shock,' he says. But it teaches them self-reliance, planning and ways of relating to the environment and each other.

Most of the young people in the programme come through the Youth Justice system: Child Youth and Family, or from the police diversion scheme for potential juvenile offenders. They are young men aged between 13-17 years, and have come to notice for petty crime, such as theft, vandalism, burglary or for truancy. Some are used to violence—from their families, at school or from their peers. Jeremy says that he and his dedicated team of four staff aim to break this cycle of violence by teaching new ways of relating to others and diverting the anger.

They do this through organizing four 12-month programmes for eight students at a time. The programme begins for the student with an initial Family Court (or similar) interview with him and his family. Then follows a six-week getting to know you period, where we talk about goals and mix it up with one-day outings.

Then comes the three-week back country adventure challenge, culminating with the Coast to Coast from Kumara to Sumner just like the annual (Speights) Coast to Coast Race but over five days. Most of the boys complete it, he says, and with only two weeks' preparation! Next comes an individual programme of mentoring by himself and his staff, where the student sets individual goals and is assisted into alternative education, or back to regular school with additional assistance. Some want to enter the workforce and are put onto various job skill or work ready courses. Jeremy has run farm skill courses and placed one

or two into farm work. Others have further ambitions of work or study but may be held back by drug or alcohol habits. The outdoor experience with no drugs, alcohol or 'weapons' allowed begins to break that cycle too, he says.

It's early days for the Trust, but Jeremy says the evaluations done on students in the programme are



beginning to show positive results. Some students may slip for awhile, but then come back to it because the life they are leading leads nowhere, he says. One student, who was taken from the outdoor course because of violent behaviour to others, has now come back to it and hopes to complete his Coast to Coast soon. This challenge gives them a positive sense of accomplishment that they may not have felt before. (See photo)

The Trust has now taken 32 students through the programme, but the demand is much greater. The Christchurch business community and the Canterbury Community Trust has been marvelous in its support, he says but he sees a further expansion of the Trust's programme as desirable. "We would like to buy or lease a high country farm" he says, "to give us a permanent base and run more and longer farming related courses, and of course there is all the equipment such as packs, boots, kayaks etc. and possibly a van to carry it all. And then perhaps use the model of positive youth development run by the Trust, in other areas beyond Canterbury" he says.

You can see that Jeremy has a great passion for what he does, and in one way it has also turned his life around 180 degrees.

The Trust can be contacted at:

Jeremy@180degreestrust.org.nz

or at: PO Box 36-216 Christchurch 8146.

Calling All History Buffs!



By Max Feutz

The St Albans News is happy to congratulate Jeffrey Paparoa Holman, whom we profiled in our November issue, on the publication of his book *Best of Both Worlds, The Story of Elsdon Best and Tutakāngahau*. The book surveys the life and work of Elsdon Best, an early ethnographer who lived among and observed tribal lifestyle in the Tuhoe tribe in the late 1800s.

Published by Penguin, and launched last month on Maungapohatu Marae in the Ureweras amongst the ancestors and descendants of the Tuhoe, the book has already received critical acclaim. The Christchurch launch took place at Te Whare Akonga o Te Akatoki at the University of Canterbury, which was well attended, and where a delicious meal of roast lamb and all the trimmings was served afterwards.

Copies of this handsome volume are available through any bookshop.

✍

Brendon Burns

Member of Parliament
for Christchurch Central

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198 Free Youth Health Centre Closes

By Hilary St John, Youth Reporter

By the end of May, 198 Hereford Street—the Free Youth Health Centre in Christchurch’s central city—will shut its doors for good due to the lack of funding. The centre has been in its place for fifteen years, not only assisting with mental health and sexual issues affecting youth—such as alcohol and drug abuse, depression, and suicide—but also helping out by offering free counselling and health checks as well as pregnancy tests and contraception. The centre’s fourteen staff members make it a safe place for vulnerable teenagers, and anyone is welcome.

When the centre’s closing plans were revealed, funding was sought, which was backed by Labour MPs and the Mental Health Foundation, however, a winning argument concluded that the majority of youth are enrolled with their local GPs and unfortunately the fate of the centre is that it still remains closed.

There has been much concern from the public over this. In fact, the debate over the centre’s closure has attracted so much attention that protests and petitions have occurred. A Save 198 Youth Health Facebook Page consisting of over three thousand Fans has been set up, as well as a donation page, Give A Little. Comments on the site include these from Rachel: This is a really important service for the youth in our community, and not just for the ten to twenty five year olds, but also for their children.

Christchurch woman Laura (not her real name) aged 24,

also agrees that the closure of the centre is appalling, it is a great shame, as it is so important to Christchurch. She has suffered from depression since adolescence. She believes that, these centres are a must-have. People need someone to talk to, someone who understands, and knows what they are going through without being judged. Health care is expensive so a youth centre is the perfect opportunity to get help, it is so much different to being at a doctor’s clinic.

In a recent interview conducted by Rebecca Todd in The Press, Dr Sue Bagshaw, (a senior doctor and founder of the centre) stated that without the centre, there will be more suicides, there will be more alcohol and drug binge drinking, more teenage pregnancies. Research shows that 20% of young people suffer from depression, and 20 - 30% have binge drinking problems. Tony Milne, a former peer supporter at 198 Hereford Street, has said: “that, New Zealand has one of the highest rates of sexually transmitted diseases, teen pregnancy, and youth suicide in the Western World.”

These statistics cannot be ignored.

The closure of the centre will leave so many people without the health care that they so badly need. We need to protect our youth. The Youth Centre needs to stay open.

What other solution is there?

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Youth group service Saturday	06:00 pm

St Albans Uniting Parish Community Comment

7th May 7:30 at the church hall corner
Nancy Ave and Knowles St.

The evening will begin with a cup of tea or coffee. Guest Speaker Brian Butterfield, Emeritus Professor of Biological Studies at the University of Canterbury.

Brian will tackle some of the issues facing Christianity in the 21st century, the debate between science and the biblical accounts of creation, and how we can recover the good in Christianity while living in a post Darwinian era. Brian will speak for two 15 minute periods and invite questions and debate after each session.

Jennifer Delaney, Parish Steward.

**Contact the church office on Ph 385 7545,
or Rev Hugh Perry on Ph 355 4626**

The Wicked Ways of Weeds

by Hilaire Campbell

You could never call me a namby-pamby or say I've got no fight. I once risked everything to save my daughter from a sour dog, and I've notched up several victories over authority...but now my life is in crisis. I'm being mobbed by a bunch of weeds!

They are a bit like scheming relatives. When they first arrive, their demands are modest—bed and breakfast only—but soon they make it plain they want full board.

Hiding behind innocuous names like scrambling speedwell and pellitory of the wall, they send out leaves that are finely divided, and flowers that taper into slender beaks, then more leaves and more flowers, over and over again.

Seeds slip from pods and fruit capsules snap open everywhere.

In less time than it takes a louse to infest a head of hair, their colonisation of the earth, my earth, is complete.

Dandelion is the devil that dominates them all. It's in every crack, every bit of concrete, everywhere you look, everywhere you walk.

*It's underneath the outhouse
and up above the eaves*

*It's growing in the garden where
there should have been some peas.*

What it's doing here at all is a mystery to me. In Asia, it's got vast plains and deserts at its disposal. It's got the mountains of the Hindu Kush, and the tributaries of the Ganges, yet here it is in Christchurch, in a fenced off section in St Albans. I suppose I ought to feel flattered.

Not a single seed of any kind has come here unescorted. Obvious agents are birds and windy days, but there are others, less salubrious: Bonza the bitser from over the road, and the bold faced burglars who bring them on their boots. But mostly I have myself to blame. If I'd declined that daggy pile of dirt from the school reclamation project, buttercup and bugloss would still be pretty pictures in a book.

One of these days, when there aren't so many visitors, and the sky is bright and dry, I'm going to do some weeding.

I can just see myself, reaching for my garden gloves, getting out my grubber, rubbing cream into willing hands.

*At first my breath is laboured
and my swing is short and slow,
But soon I've got my second wind,
And weeds are lying low.*

Weeds have degrees of wickedness. Some, like sun spurge, are downright malevolent. Their frowsty flowers draw little children in, and the milky sap makes them itch and cry. Musky storksbill is merely mischievous; it doesn't sting or scorch, but it produces an odour that intoxicates shepherds and makes it entirely suited to



farmyards.

In a little place like mine, it drives a woman wild, makes her want to get up and go, especially when it's teatime and there are mouths to feed, teeth to clean, and stories to read.

I've had about as much as I can take. I'm going to get some chemicals to rid myself of weeds—at least a ton of Turfix and some other stuff besides:

Basamid in powder form,

Zero by the drop.

*I can't decide on any
so I'll have to buy the lot.*

But I can't cope with goggles and rubber coats and I haven't got a gun, so I'm going to have to dig them out.

Can't you just see me? Reaching for my garden gloves, getting out the grubber, rubbing cream into willing hands...one of these days, when the sky is bright and dry and I don't have visitors.


This story was printed in the Evening Star a decade ago, but weeds don't date!

Mairehau Primary—functional inside and out



By Teresa Petas

Recently, Mairehau Primary has had a major makeover. Our school grounds have been transformed from grassy muddy patches to lined trees, sitting rocks and well-placed tiles. The entrance from Innes Road has taken on a certain ambience with its planted lancewood, ribbonwood, dwarf flax and native Iris. The process involved many hours of designing by Tony Milne Landscaping Architects Limited and labouring by Shaun McMahon. Every student added to the project by planting trees throughout the school's landscaped areas. Students were inspired to contribute to their learning environment, and will continue to contribute by painting tiles that will be placed around their

seating areas. After consultation from the Maori families in our community we now be focusing on creating meaningful designs that will be formed on our Pou (carved Maori designs). The four Pou to be carved will represent our four key motto words: respect, believe, aspire and achieve; and the elements of earth, air, food and life. It has been an amazing process for Mairehau Primary as it has allowed the students, staff and community to come together and create an environment that is welcoming and conducive to the needs of our students. One parent remarked that we now have landscaping that reflects the quality learning programmes that are taught in our classrooms. 

Where To From Here?

By Bill Demeter

The St Albans Pavilion and Pool group is looking to the future after the 10-4 vote by the CCC to accept the tender of this group. Four councillors voted against the pool: Sheriff, Cox, Wall and Button *) voted against the sale.

Now the pool group can look ahead to the next steps in making the pool a reality. What needs to happen is to go through the process of legally completing the sale of the property and gain title to the site. Secondly, obtain the Resource Consent for building a pool. Some reports remain to be completed, the most important which is the Acoustical report to resolve issues of noise. Thirdly, do the required project planning to enable the start of construction. In theory, children could be again swimming in their own neighbourhood within three years.

All of this is possible as long as the community supports the project with cash contributions of significance. Martin Coffey's generous offer assumes the community makes significant contributions to assure adequate funding.

One sunny day in the not so distance future, kids will be swimming and this community can take pride in our

own pool. We will reflect back on all the hard work of those involved from the very beginning who fought for what should never been taken away. We can take pride in the fact this community proved that the people's voice was heard, and on opening day all of us, even the naysayers, will say, what a wonderful achievement!

*) Ms Button, who, ironically, is the councillor who represents the St Albans area, claims,should a small group who have been very aggressive and militant but not representative of the wider St Albans area, be able to get what they want? (Nor'West News, 14 Apr 2010). The St Albans Residents' Association has in the past offered to provide Ms Button with the results of a significant survey done in the St Albans area which clearly showed that 65% of the residents who returned the survey wanted a pool. There was also a CCC working party (Ms Button was a member) which received many submissions and 80% wanted a pool on the old site. Additionally, they did not want the CCC involved and wanted the ownership to be in a community trust.

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Sacked ECan board was no damp squib continued from page 5

next MfE survey will be significantly improved.

Having failed to prove that ECan is anywhere near as had as its critics contend, the review panel then goes on to make two extraordinary assertions.

Firstly, that the RMA is perfectly capable of handling the two big problems with managing water resources: the intensifying competition between users for the fast dwindling volume of water left to allocate and the cumulative effect whereby each consent to take water from a river or aquifer may seem small and reasonable on its own but in aggregate they tip it into unsustainability.

Thus, the reviewers argue, the problem is the council not the legislation so sack the councillors, override voters and bang in commissioners. But the government says the RMA is failing to deal with those issues and has embarked on a raft of changes, is designing an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take some powers and responsibilities from local government and is seeking, through the Land and Water Forum, new collaborative ways to handle these issues.

Secondly, the panel argued for creating a Canterbury Regional Water Authority to take over all freshwater issues. That is a crazy idea. You can't deal with water in isolation from resource, environmental and economic issues as it would go against the integrated resource management of past decades.

Thankfully, the government says it won't decide whether structural change is needed at ECan until the Land and Water Forum delivers in midyear its recommendations

for new collaborative water mechanisms for the whole country and the government has decided how extensive it will make the EPA's national powers.

Actually, ECan has made great progress pioneering new ways to resolve these very difficult water issues. The centrepiece is the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, the result of ECan's painstaking work. The strategy has the potential to promote sustainable water use that will aid economic growth.

But to make it work ECan needed the government to modify the RMA and Local Government acts. It had also sought, but failed to receive, from this government and its predecessor other legislative help to do its job better.

Then last week National acted by modifying the acts to create some of those powers. But instead of handing them to the elected councillors, it used the Creech report as a flimsy excuse for replacing them.

Such highhanded tactics only fuel suspicions that the government, which has made more irrigation a plank of its economic platform, is siding with landowners who consider their water allocations are property rights to be protected at all costs and those who are pushing for damming more rivers. So much for collaboration, the only hope for sustainable water use.

✍

St Albans Veterinary Practice
Cnr Cranford & Berwick Sts
Phone us when your pet
needs the vet
355-6747 (24 hours)
Dr. Geoff Mehrtens B.V.Sc

CATS on CRANFORD
(Next door to St Albans Vet)
102 Cranford Street
Phone Rebecca
355-6743
Inspection welcome

Canterbury Australian Football League Success

The Canterbury U20 Australian Football League (AFL) team returned victorious from the National Provincial Championships held in Hutt Park in Wellington, beating reigning champions Auckland to snare their first National AFL title, the Canterbury side closing out the Grand Final 5 15 45 versus Auckland's 5 4 34.

The Red and Blacks were easily the best performing team over the weekend going through undefeated.

An ecstatic Canterbury Coach Dave de Cuevas said: "We played our best footy in the final, dominated possession, stuck to our game plan and turned it into points when it mattered."

It was the first ever National title for a Canterbury AFL side and de Cuevas said: "The team had high expectations before the tournament and everyone worked very hard and contributed to lifting the trophy at the end of it!"

Team Manager, Alan Harding, echoed the coach's sentiments: "The guys were awesome and the team spirit and unity that had been built up over several months of training culminating in the Grand Final was very special to be a part of."

Canterbury's winning efforts were also recognised with



(jc 1301) Under 20 National Provincial Championship
© juntanlayco

no less than 16 players selected for a New Zealand U20 training squad to prepare for matches against a Victorian Amateur Football Association side in a Labour Weekend Tournament to be played at Westminster Park, St Albans, which is the Canterbury AFL's home ground.

Canterbury players selected for the New Zealand U20 training squad include:

Adam Baker, Sam Blackler, Ethan Church, Justin Clark, Matthew Crighton, Ethan Harding, Mitchell Harding, Andrew Howison, Ryan Marshall, Chris Morel, Tom Satterthwaite, James Stevenson, Brendon Swift, Nile Talaepa, Stephen van Gruting, Zac Williams. *✍*

St Albans Catholic School KiwiSport Day



KiwiSport Day at St Albans Catholic School on 20th April. The day was organised by the School and Lincoln University Sport and Recreation Management students with the help of the Canterbury Dragons and Canterbury Cougars team members.

Letters to the Editor

To: Bill Demeter

I am writing about the great struggle now being over regarding the Edgeware Pool and the great result allowing it to now be built.

I wish to thank the great efforts of yourself, Craig Dickson, Pauline Cotter and others and so you must all feel great relief and am sure you will all have great pleasure doing all the planning for it. I think it was Pauline who came to my place to help me fill in forms when hoping to save it. It was an absolute disgrace that it was demolished when it wouldn't have cost so much to repair and it is great that Mr. Coffey is giving so much for it.

We were all pleased to see the last Mayor go and I hope most of will be glad to see this one go with his grandiose spending of other peoples' money on the wrong things. I have taken note of the four Councillors who voted against it so we won't want to see them again. I remember them all with their 'Vote For Me' adverts promising great things until they are elected. We need a Mayor who will involve rate payers with decisions especially with enormous amounts of money given to Dave Henderson, etc.

I think Craig Dickson would make a great Mayor but sad that he is going to Auckland and also sad that he has had so much sickness.

I read your articles in our local newspaper, and like Craig, you have so much common sense which is lacking in so many organizations today so what about standing for Mayor?

I will be interested in the election and can give you a donation regarding the pool when needed.

Yours faithfully,

Pearl Neilson

Dear Sir / Madam,

I think the the entire community of St Albans should be recognised for the huge support they have given the pool group during the 4 year struggle to regain the local pool. St Albans has a very special community 'feel', which we should value and nurture. Sometimes a struggle can strengthen this by bringing people together. The local businesses are big enough to supply our needs, and yet small enough to provide good old fashioned friendly service, which I am sure all would agree, makes for such a wonderful atmosphere around our Edgeware village. I am looking froward to exciting times ahead, all working together to build our new pool, and make our dream a reality.

Pauline Cotter

The St Albans News relies on your contributions. Please send us your articles, letters and notices. The deadline for the next issue is the 20th of May

Play Indoor Bowls

Tuesdays 1.00pm

Scottish Hall,

Edgeware

Admission \$2

Christchurch Senior

Citizens

Phone 383-8074

The Metro Star and No 14 and 16 buses stop nearby

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Market

The St Albans Community Market

Every Saturday 9am - 2pm

at English Park,
Cranford Street

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

Enquiries phone 351- 9727



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Scottish Hall,

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Community Notices

Art Society; Monday, 10 am – 12 pm at St Albans Community Centre. Ph: 355 5090 (Reg)

Belly Dancing; Wednesday, 10 - 11 am at St Albans Community Centre. Ph: 027 201 8858 (Yurie)

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

Dance Fitness; Thursday, 5 - 6.30 pm at St Albans Community Centre. Ph: 365 6585 (Donette)

Diet free weight loss for women; 15 May 9am to 3.30pm at the Abberley Park Hall. Learn to use visualisation and gentle exercise to turn around your weight issues. This revolutionary programme combines the proven Gabriel Method and Invincible Athletes programmes. e-mail shonabradly@xtra.co.nz or phone 379-0332 to book your place.

Fairy Dance Academy; Tuesday 3 – 4 pm, Thursday 9.30 am – 10.30 am, Saturday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm at St Albans Community Centre. Ph: 021 120 6540 (Pam)

Friday Night O/A; Friday, 7 pm – 9 pm at St Albans Community Centre. Ph: 386 3183 (Carla)

Hatha Yoga; Tuesday, 10 – 11.30 am at St Albans Community Centre. Ph: 980 8760 (Pauline)

Jewellery design/making classes; Book Now for school holidays. Children can make bracelets for \$25. Includes bracelet and 10 beads. European/Pandora Style just like Mums. 1hr classes Tues-Thurs. 10.30-11.30. Also available Birthday Parties by arrangement. Term 2. Adults Classes Tues-Fri, Children Saturdays. 6/60 Vagues Rd, Papanui. Phone 352 3562

Laughter Yoga; Sunday, 11 – 12 pm at St Albans Community Centre. Ph: 021 998 109 (Hannah)

Leisure Group (55+); Friday – fortnightly at 10.30 am at St Albans Community Centre. Ph: 379 6305

Mairehau Parish Indoor Bowling Club; behind Our Lady of Fatima Church. We welcome new members. Starts Monday at 7 pm. The Season is between March & September. For details phone 382 8340

NeighbourNet; Open Monday - Friday, 11am - 3pm, and on Saturdays at 1pm – 3pm. Internet access and Office applications, listen to podcasts, etc. At St Albans Community Centre. Phone: 379 6305

NZ Japan Society; Tuesday (4th), 7.30 – 9.30 pm at St Albans Community Centre. Phone: 355 9903

Pilates – Levels 2 & 3; Fridays, 9.30 – 10.30am at St Albans Community Centre. Ph: 342 3172 (Coralea)

Qi Gong; Monday, 5 – 6 pm at St Albans Community Centre. Ph: 021 161 7831 (Mitsue)

Ratana Church Service; Every third Sunday of the month. 11am-12pm at the Rehua Marae. (355 5606)

Scottish Society Inc; Great Winter activity for your child. Saturday morning dance classes for all ages starting March 27th. Scottish Society Hall, Corner Edgeware and Caledonian Road, 9.30 – 11am. Tutors all trained in Highland and National Dancing, Please contact Cushla Piesse 3527251 for more information.

Christchurch Senior Citizens meet at Scottish Hall, Edgeware Mondays 12.30 Whist or Euchre; Tuesdays 1.00 Indoor Bowls; Saturdays 1.30 1st and 3rd Saturdays for the Old time Dance

Share International - Maitreya steps forward; His open mission has begun. St Albans Community Center. 1st Wednesday of every month, 7.15pm-8.45pm. For further information phone/txt John 027 545 4823. maitreya.chch@xtra.co.nz

Shirley Community Choir; Sessions on Tuesday evenings, 7:30-9:30, at the Scout Hall in Harrison St (off Flocton St). Contact Christopher at: 386 1025, 027 568 5515 or christopher_musgrave@yahoo.co.nz

Shirley Toy Library; Hammersley Park School, Amos Place (off Marshlands Road. Opening hours: Wednesday 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Saturday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

St Albans Choir; Monday (2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th), 7.30 – 9 pm at St Albans Community Centre. Ph: 379 9188 (Heather)

St Albans Choir; Tuesday (3rd), 7.30 – 9 pm at St Albans Community Centre. Phone: 379 9188

St Albans Pavilion and Pool Inc; AGM Thursday 20th May 2010, 7.30 pm. St Albans Community Centre, 1047 Colombo St, St Albans

St Albans Residents Association (SARA); The next meeting will be held on 4 May at 7.30pm at the St Albans Community Centre, 1047 Colombo St. If you have issues you'd like to put onto the agenda, then please contact 379 6305

St. Albans Swim Club AGM; Monday, 10 May 7:30pm. Shirley Intermediate School Library, Shirley Rd (signs will be up). All welcome. Refreshments available.

St Albans Uniting Church Garden Club; 28 Apr, 2pm-3.30pm (366 0396)

SANDS; Monday (1st), 7 – 9 pm at St Albans Community Centre. Phone: 323 9850

Tai Chi - Beginners; Mondays, 1.15 – 2.15 pm. Ph: 366 5472 (Phillipa, Presbyterian Support)

Tai Chi - Maintenance; Monday, 12 – 1 pm. Ph: 366 5472 (Phillipa, Presbyterian Support)

Transition Initiative St Albans (TISA); For more information, phone 374 2465 or email tisa@stalbens.gen.nz

Wu Tao Dance; Tuesday, 5.45 - 7.15 pm at St Albans Community Centre. Ph: 354 9328 (Karen)

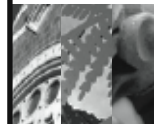
Nicky Wagner

NATIONAL PARTY MP

Available for appointments/contact my office:

chchoffice@nickywagner.co.nz

Ph: 03 365 8297, 189 Montreal St, Christchurch



National
www.national.org.nz



St Albans News Classifieds

SERVICES

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

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

St Albans News Classifieds

SERVICES

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

Alexander Technique: For women. Pain relief and stress release through postural awareness. Take control of your own health & well-being. Call Shona on 379 0332

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

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 20 May

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 Ron 379 3061 or 0210243 7398, or pcguru@orcon.net.nz

Computer Volunteers Required: If you have some spare time & are knowledgeable in Internet, email & XP the St Albans Community Centre would love to meet you. Please phone Alison 379 6305

Dave's Computer Service: Troubleshooting, Virus removal, Tuition etc. Low rates, ph David 356 1280

Door Specialist: Repairs, adjustments and installation of all doors and lock, Ranch sliders, Garage doors. Qualified Tradesman. Phone Stewart 365 2969 or cell 021 185 4055

Educators Needed: Interested in

working from home and earning up to \$20 an hour? We'll give you the support to earn an income in your own home doing a job you'll enjoy with opportunities for ongoing professional development. We provide free training, regular visits and support from qualified Early Childhood Teachers, and the opportunity to be part of a network of KidStart Educators. An opportunity to be part of a network of KidStart Educators. For more information ph Moira on 0800KidStart (0800 543 782)

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

Ironing: Available at \$20 per hour. In your home or can collect in St Albans/Merivale area Ph Janis 355 9034

JEWELS n BEADS Wholesale Jewellery. Open to the public. Competitive prices for European Style Jewellery, Necklaces, Beads & Pendants. Unit 6, 60 Vagues Road, Papanui

Massage Therapy: SPECIAL MOTHERS DAY VOUCHERS. 1 HOUR \$45. Therapeutic Massage / Acupressure.

Diploma (Ad.C.M.A.) BSYA Queensland. Welcome to new clients. Community Services Card Discount. Tuesday–Friday 10am–7pm. Saturday 11am–4pm. Phone Yvonne 382 9569 or 027 617 3179.

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.

Good Dry Open Pine Cones: for sale Ring 355 7320 to order some. \$10 a bag.

REAL ESTATE SALES PERSON: Competent, friendly, hard working, professional agent is waiting to help you with your property needs. List to sell and have 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. Licensed (REAA 2008)

Relationship Counselling: Professional, confidential counselling service by approved Family Court Counsellor. I am able to help people to access funding to meet with me from the courts where appropriate. Website: <http://www.dianecounsel.com> or ph 386-2746, Mob 027 338 5274 Diane Counsell

Tiler available: Local & experienced. Interior/Exterior. Wall & Floor. Licensed Waterproofer. Phone 021 411 542

Tiling: Qualified Experience, Workmanship all kinds, Kitchens, Bathrooms, Repairs, Ph A/H 356 0244, cell 021 1898057

TUITION

BELLY DANCE CLASS: For fun & fitness. Any age & fitness level, no dance experience necessary. City YMCA (Thurs 7:30pm / Sat 11am), St Albans (Wed 10am), Rangiora (Mon 7:30pm). Ph Yurie

352 8209 / 027 201 8858 / email: mebellydance@gmail.com

Clarinet, Sax, Guitar & Piano: Experienced local teacher for the NZ Modern School of Music. Phone Nicola on 385 6399.

The Dancing Tree Tiny Dancers (3-5 yrs). Mother & Child Gentle Stretch (babies under 12 mths). Dance for Dance Sake/Inspire (5 & 6 yrs) an Express (7-10 yrs). Tuesday & Wednesday afternoons at St Albans Community Centre. Ph Karen Lewis on 021 944 675 or email: karenlewis@ihug.co.nz for details.

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

Guitar Tuition/Harmonica Tuition: St Albans/City based. I am a professional musician and a very patient, motivational and passionate tutor. I cater to all ages, many styles. Complete beginners onwards, Great facilities. David 021 124 4801, (03) 379 9394. backyardmusic.co.nz

Guitar Tuition: For beginner and intermediate (up to Grade 5); acoustic or electric, all ages. Private lessons, weeknights in Richmond area. Competitive rates. Call Stacy 366 3455 (evenings) or 027 304 0617

Italian Language Lessons: \$25/hr, ph 03 355 6852, email bpetrosino@hotmail.com

Piano: Experienced local teacher of Piano and Theory. The Associated Board of the Royal Schools and the Trinity College exams available for grades and Diploma. Contact Virginia Rennie on 374 4219 or 0272 485 400.

Self Defense Classes: Gain health & flexibility, Mon & Thurs 5.30 - 7.30 at Foundation for the Blind, 96 Bristol St, Merivale. All ages. Ph 0800 581 481

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

Trees in Oxley Avenue

by Aidey Nolan, photos by Christoph Hensch

“Butchered”, “Deformed” and “Sad” are just a few of the words used by a long-term resident to describe the poorly pruned trees that line Oxley Avenue. Approximately a month ago, the CCC decided to prune the trees in some areas of the Leafy Suburbs. Unfortunately, long term residents of the street have been unimpressed with the outcome. One resident of 34 years said that many people who have moved to the Avenue were influenced by the trees and it was sad to see such a lovely street scape butchered.

“It took 17 years to grow those trees, and now much of the lovely feeling is undone again.”

Another has said that he has noticed that more and more is being pruned off each year and, having worked for a pruning company himself, says this latest job was “unnecessary” and was “a very amateur looking job.” Seeing as the damage to the trees was already been done, the only thing that could be done was to try and stop it from happening again to their, or any other street.



Oxley Avenue Trees

As a result of this, one local has started a petition and collected 35 signatures on one morning, protesting the job of the city workers.

A spokesperson for the CCC said that the trees had been trimmed to standard requirements and that Council was happy with the outcome. However, they would send an arborist to the site and inspect and evaluate the job. ✂

New Classrooms for the St Albans School



The Easter break saw the demolition of old classrooms at the St Albans School. By July four new classrooms will be ready on the same site for the Junior School.

Photo: Christoph Hensch

Musical Tots
Pre-school musical group

Every Wednesday during term
10-11am
The Cranford Centre, 115 Cranford St.

Gold coin donation

For more information:
call: 355 8031



Quote of the Month

The death of democracy is not likely to be an assassination from ambush. It will be a slow extinction from apathy, indifference and undernourishment.

Robert Hutchins