

St Albans News

The Voice of our Neighbourhood

September 2010

Edge-Where? Calendar celebrates village life



Highlights

Heritage
Buildings
page 4

SeniorNet
Canterbury
page 6

Arts Society
page 7

Stanton
page 8

Students Can
Shape City By
Voting
page 11



By Peggy Kelly

In February 2010 a small group of people decided that they wanted to do something to celebrate their village, to show that it's a unique place, with no other left like it in Christchurch. We thought we'd try to capture the spirit of the village as we enjoy it. Here, perhaps we should say who the 'we' were: Kate Taylor and Douceline Wardle who together for many years, and in a voluntary capacity, edited and published the St Albans Neighbourhood News, Roger Metherell of the Kiwi Bookshop, Stephen Anderson, the new owner of SuperValue, Peggy Kelly, a villager since 1973 and Caleb Sawtell. Our first meeting was held at the Mocha Café, Edgware Village.

At the beginning, Caleb Sawtell was engaged to take the photographs, but as soon as he had captured the shots that include Danny's yellow Morrie (December) he was suddenly called to

Wellington to progress his artistic and media studies. At short notice, and in a moment of brilliance, we recruited 14 year old Zea Harmen whose photos include the August village people. Pictures of the St Albans Primary School children, swimmers, extras and props come from five more sources (acknowledged on the back of the calendar).

We were incredibly lucky with our designer Sam Prebble (volunteered by his mother), who had already done a stint at Weta Workshop "making blades of grass move and such like" (said in his gentle, modest way) for the blockbuster movie Avatar. Sam, back in Christchurch working with the Whitebait Studio and deeply involved in the 48 hour Film Festival and other projects, amiably agreed to sort, select and arrange the images and design the pages that go to make this light-hearted, yet classy, celebratory calendar. It was finished just in time to hand over to Macprint before returning

continued on page two

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



Orion Site Update:

The St Albans News is still trying to get the necessary information from various sources as to why the CCC went against the decision of independent commissioners and negotiated a larger retail supermarket than that was included in the commissioner's decision. We, and another local paper, are also looking into the procedures used that excluded other submitters from knowing about this CCC decision until much later. Until we clearly have the facts at hand, we will not make our findings public, even though we find this frustrating, (as do many other concerned parties).

Centre Building:

Speaking only for myself, I'm disappointed in the plans for the addition to the St Albans Centre and the updating of the existing building. I get the feeling the CCC is missing a wonderful opportunity to build something that fully integrates the old and the new in a manner that reflects our community. The costs of the project are far, far less than what was allocated and I've discussed the plans individually with three different designers and architects. Each of these people seemed unified about some issues to make the project better

and I'll make these suggestions available to the project team from CCC. Please submit your submissions as they are due soon.

Food Articles:

We received many phone calls and emails regarding our two part series: *You Are What You Eat*. It was amazing to learn from everyone about their personal experiences and difficulties in trying to buy New Zealand-produced products because of inadequate labelling. We also were informed that virtually all rice from Asia is grown just like prawns (See Part I). We will put these two articles together and please feel free to drop by the Centre and pick up a copy. Eat wisely and live longer.

Election:

The 'Silly Season' is upon us and we are getting used to political signs everywhere and the papers full of what everyone is promising to do for us. It is easy to become a bit jaded but you should not because the 'Silly Season' is really the 'Serious Season.' Without this process all of us would be living in a far different, and less free country. You owe it to yourself, your family, and your children to make the time to understand the issues, the candidates and to really get to know what they really stand for. Find out about the voting records of incumbents and attend or listen to debates.

In making your decisions you should adopt a simple rule – **inspect don't expect!**

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

continued from page one

to Weta Workshop in Wellington and to celebrate his 21st Birthday.

The advertising sold brought in \$1200 to give some working capital. We thank Rosemary Soryl for her sensitive approach to the business community. We would have included all 50 + businesses and all the uncounted community entities in the enterprise but it simply wasn't possible. We hope that everyone will find an image in the calendar they can enjoy and relate to and take as their own. It was put together with an inclusive intention and we hope that this is how it will be received.

The proceeds from the sale of the Edge-Where? 2011 Calendar are ear-marked for helping rebuild the Edgeware pool. We need to sell 1000 calendars to cover the cost of their production – after that every calendar sold is a fundraiser for the pool. We extend thanks to everyone who buys.

Associated with the pool project, Village Green is another village-enhancing project that entails the creation of a new community garden on the land between Trafalgar

Street and the site of the new Edgeware pool. Perhaps, before long, another group of "villagers" will feel moved to help the community group working to accomplish this worthwhile work.

Enquiries: Calendar: kellysykes@xtra.co.nz
Village Green: rosoryl@gmail.com



**The St Albans News relies on
your contributions. Please send
your articles, letters and notices
to news@stalbens.gen.nz. The
deadline for the next issue is
September 15**



Commentary by Matt Morris

Community Boards get asked to do some really weird things, sometimes. At one recent meeting a seminar topic was held for the Board on whether St Albans should change its name from the official Saint Albans to St Albans. The difficulty with the change, we were told, was that St (as in Saint) can be easily confused with St (as in Street). Doubly confusing when you get a street called St Albans St (which, actually, it is already). Now the issue is out for a three month consultation. Weird.

But the other topic on that agenda had to do with the St (Saint?) Albans Community Centre expansion. This 3.7 million dollar project will provide the St Albans community with much-needed additional meeting space. For me, this is a very exciting opportunity that will, I hope, complement the new community swimming pool just down the street and the new community garden that will adjoin the pool.

These new developments in St Albans speak loudly about the power of an articulate community that has the resources – stretched as they are – to make its point. It was a baptism by fire for me to end up on the St Albans Working Party, which had the task of making recommendations to Council about how the Edgware Pool land should be used, and the final report recognised a strong desire to see the pool rebuilt, to have additional meeting space and to have a community garden. So it's good to see these things coming together even if the process has been very bumpy and unsatisfactory.

I also know that in some neighbourhoods the issues of the day are whether their families will eat tonight or whether their kids will have somewhere safe to sleep. Youth homelessness is a genuine issue, in parts of the ward, which really needs attention. My stint on the Community Board has reinforced for me the fact that communities come together not only to fight Council to get what they want, but also to join hands to try to ensure that those doing it tough are kept going while they wait for a better tomorrow and so that, as a community, all people have what they need. Sometimes I feel overwhelmed by the levels of poverty and desperation in our ward – misery that remains largely hidden – but I'm also cheered by the extraordinary generosity of many individuals in offering up their time, kindness and money to help.

In St Albans, as elsewhere in the ward, there's a danger that community sectarianism ('you're with us or against us' thinking) will lead to some poor decisions that will do little to address the genuine needs of the populace.

I am not standing for election again this year as I want to focus more on grassroots projects. But when I vote, I'll be looking for candidates with a broad understanding of the needs of the whole Shirley/Papanui ward, a willingness to listen to different points of view, and an open-door policy.

Our Community Board's work is broader than merely talking about the aint in our Saint. St Albans himself, who lived in Britain in the third century, became remembered simply as a result of giving shelter to someone in need.



St Albans Community Centre

Te Pokapū Hapori o Hato Ōpani

Community Centre Notices

Residents' Association Meetings

Are you a member of the St Albans Community Centre and Residents' Association – or would you like to become one? On Tuesday 7 September from 7.15pm, the St Albans Community Centre (1047 Colombo St) will be open for a casual meeting with the board of the Community Centre and Residents' Association and a short presentation about our activities and concerns in the community.

The next regular meeting of the Residents' Association will be held on 14 September at 7.30pm at the St Albans Community Centre.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the St Albans Residents' Association (SARA) Inc. is held on Thursday 28 October at 7.30pm at the St Albans Community Centre.

Erratum:

The author of the Edgware Bowling Club article in the August 2010 issue is Kevin Dolan, not Dolean, as mistakenly printed. We apologise for the error.

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

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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.

Where is our Heritage?

By Doug Craig

I have been waiting for some months now for the City Council to produce plans or documents relating to care and protection of Christchurch's older buildings. Despite a Heritage review promised at the end of 2009, nothing has arrived, and a number of buildings have been demolished or altered before they can gain protection. And sometimes the protection of listing on the Council's City Plan is not enough to save them.

So I thought about what does get protected and it seems to me that there are different classes of building that get a measure of protection.

1. Churches: As befits a place named Christchurch, churches are respected and valued for their spiritual value and their community heritage and architectural values. There are very few churches that have been demolished in Christchurch although some have been altered and/or renovated. One that disappeared was the wooden St Mathew's Anglican Church that stood on the corner of Caledonian and Edgeware Roads from 1876 to 1960. It was designed

Star Hotel on the corner of Holly Road (see picture), was one such heritage building that has literally bit the dust, and is being replaced by multi apartment blocks of little character. The Clarendon Hotel, on Worcester Street in the city, became little more than a façade to a tower block.



The Caledonian, formerly the Star Hotel, recently demolished

4. Commercial buildings: While a good variety of these have been preserved in the blocks east of the Square they have often been remodelled and altered inside. A number are presently undergoing earthquake strengthening, such as the former Smith's Books buildings in Manchester Street but others have been left to lapse into decay and are being torn down for new developments. A block of Armagh Street (numbers 140-158) is slated to be demolished for a larger commercial premises but will temporarily be yet another empty car park. There was a threat to a group of premises in upper Barbadoes street a couple of years ago but there is now a thriving local business community in these older business



Etcetera Antiques, corner of Edgeware and Barbadoes Sts

by Christchurch's pioneer architect Benjamin Mountfort, who also designed Christchurch Cathedral.

2. Municipal/Government buildings: These include council offices, libraries, post offices and the like. These are more likely to be changed in purpose instead of being demolished. Former post offices have been converted into shops, offices or even dwelling places. The Heritage Hotel in the Square now incorporates the Old Government Building in Worcester Street. The former St Albans library has been our valued Community Centre since 1998.

3. Hotels: These are less likely for protection even though they served as a community meeting point in the early colonial years and provided accommodation of varying degrees and character as well as serving various liquors. The recently demolished Caledonian, formerly the

premises (see picture left)



Right: Gentleman's residence in Eversleigh Street

5. Larger Residential Homes: These have good chances of being saved if they remain in family hands, or are owned and managed by sympathetic owners for B & Bs and boutique accommodation. One such heritage building in St Albans, with a category 3 historic place listing, is Hadleigh in Eversleigh Street. Hambledon (1856) on Bealey Avenue is another listed heritage building, which is used for tourist accommodation.


Many more properties in the L3 and L4 zoned land have no such protection. As the multi-level apartments spread onwards and outwards through the suburbs, these larger homes with the bigger, and often tree-lined sections, (such as the group in upper Manchester Street) are at risk of being removed or surrounded by poorer quality, three storey flats.

6. Colonial Cottages: These are an extremely endangered species. Some have been done up but others are showing their years and will probably be demolished in the next few years for newer, modern buildings. Yet, with sympathetic alteration and good insulation they can become cosy homes for people and remain an enduring part of Canterbury's heritage. The cottages in Dover street, largely a group of older homes built as workers' cottages (some of which have been remodelled and extended) should be saved if possible as a heritage character area.

7. St Albans Villas: The Victorian villa is still alive and well in St Albans and is valued by many owners. Real estate agents continue to promote good examples of these residential homes as holding, and even appreciating, in value in tough economic times. With the availability of heritage grants, there should be no excuses for removing them from the palette of the St Albans streetscape. The recent remodelling of one such villa on Trafalgar Street shows what can be done to turn a villa into a valued community asset. While the recent revival of the Christchurch Heritage Trust (see www.



Dover Street Cottage

highbeam.com/doc/1P2-17346126.html) can mobilise public opinion and provide advice and encouragement to owners, the Council needs to come to the party with some strong heritage protection in its City Plan. Let's save both our water and our history in these next council elections. 

Photos by Doug Craig & Maria Hayward

Below: Well cared for Victorian villas on Bristol Street





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Seniors Welcome to Computer Party

By Ann Shearer, Course Co-ordinator, SeniorNet Canterbury Inc

The feeling of being excluded is always painful – remember that birthday party that you weren't invited to, when you were eight? Many retired people experienced that feeling as the Great Computer Party expanded explosively during the 1990s. Suddenly everyone around us was talking in a private language that excluded us – bits and bytes, World Wide Web, hardware and software – and Big Brother Bill Gates, whose party it seemed to be, hadn't invited us to join in. A few hardy souls tried to claw their way in by way of evening classes, or even enrolled at institutions which offered computer training. Often they were daunted by large classes, busy or unhelpful tutors, or lack of notes. The sheer competence of younger people in the class was in itself off-putting.

Fortunately for us, in the mid-90s our plight was recognized and dealt with. SeniorNet branches sprang up around the country, among them SeniorNet Canterbury, which still flourishes at the Shirley Community Centre on Shirley Road with over 1400 members. This development was in fact supported by that formerly exclusive Big Brother, and by Telecom. Designed for those who are 55 or older, SeniorNet offers courses, workshops, interest groups and social gatherings to those who want to 'join the party.' A joining fee of \$25 gives a year's membership and a free Introductory Course. This first course is big on practical work; only essential theory is taught, and the class is limited to eight people with two tutors. Students work at individual computers. Excellent notes are provided and support is offered at a free Help and Practice Session every Tuesday from 12 until 2 pm. At this session advice can also be sought about which computer, printer or scanner to buy, and if finances are tight, SeniorNet will lend a computer for the duration of the Introductory Course, and can sell members a used computer for a very affordable price.

Some of our members attended the old Shirley Primary School when they were children. Hamish Keith, in his autobiography, had vivid memories of his days there. But how things have changed – the old 'murder house' - the school Dental Clinic - now houses the SeniorNet Office, with friendly volunteers to answer enquiries. The classroom next door is now warmly carpeted and heated, and contains a corner for tea or coffee during the mid-class break, which invariably turns into an animated chat session. The tutors are all volunteers, and many of them learnt their computing at SeniorNet, so they know exactly what it's like to learn at a later age.

Our reasons for wanting to learn computing are varied. Many people want to communicate more freely with friends and family members, dispersed widely throughout the world, and e-mail is the ideal way now that letter-

writing is becoming almost a thing of the past. Digital photography, with the ability to send and receive instant images, is extremely popular among our age group, and the Special Interest Group that meets once each month has expanded so much that a larger room has to be used to accommodate all the members. This group also holds lively field trips and competitions. The desire to find out about our family histories seems to flare up in later life, and classes in Genealogy open up new channels of acquiring information via the Internet. In some cases, handwriting has simply become too painful for us, and the use of a word processor is a welcome aid.

A variety of workshops are popular among members. Besides those dealing with photography, members can learn to make cards, use scanners and printers, buy and sell on Trade Me, transfer their favourite music from vinyl records and tapes to CDs. These are just a few of the tempting subjects covered. A social gathering once each month gives the opportunity to meet other like-minded members.

Perhaps you would like to join this convivial group? Ring SeniorNet Canterbury at 386 2140, and ask for an Information Pack. This will contain an application form if you decide SeniorNet is for you, and you can be assured of a warm welcome.

✂

Vote



Paul Young

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"If elected, I will represent and advocate for my community using my skills from both the private and volunteer sector. I will expect ratepayers to hold me accountable to my promise to keep costs under control and rates rises reasonable"



www.independentcitizens.org.nz

Authorised by Rosanne Hawarden, 17 Jane Deans Close Chch

Arts Society exhibits in Knox Church Hall

By Francine Bills

What are your plans for the last weekend in September?

Do pay a visit to the annual exhibition of the St Albans Art Society.

This talented group of 60 Christchurch artists is thriving. In 1999 they started out as a small group of artists keen to foster art in our community, to encourage emerging artists, and to provide opportunities both to develop and to exhibit artistic talent.

Though the society is still based at the St Albans Community Centre, it attracts keen members from all parts of the city. With regular painting sessions, sometimes on location, all-day workshops, and frequent successful exhibitions in halls and shopping centres, they needed to find a new venue big enough to showcase well over 100 paintings for their 2010 Annual Exhibition. Knox Church Hall, on the corner of Bealey Avenue and Victoria Street, is the ideal venue. There is car parking beside the church with the entrance on Bealey Avenue.

All paintings are for sale, and an additional attraction this year will be the work of guest artist, Stephanie Crisp.

Raffles and prizes have been generously donated by Supervalu, BP, Mitre 10, St Albans Pharmacy, Super Liquor, Peter Timbs Meats, Brumby's Hot Bread Shop - all of Edgware, plus Dawn Tilly, Dowsons Shoes, The Drawing Room, Gordon Harris Art and Graphic Store, and Brush-N-Palette.

Of course, the society is also very grateful to Knox Church for its enthusiastic support.

Exhibition Opening Night is Thursday 23 September at 6pm, with guest speaker Jim Anderton, MP. Please phone Diane 352 4904 before 20 September if you wish to come on that evening. *JB*

Brendon Burns

Member of Parliament
for Christchurch Central

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

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117 Champion Street · St Albans · Ph 365 2399

Website: www.janedemeter.org.nz

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Authorised by Jane Demeter, 117 Champion St, St Albans, Ph 365 2399



Stanton built in the grand style

by Hilaire Campbell

Designed by England Bros. and built in 1915, this is a grander style of house. Andrew and Rachel McEwan bought it from the Kings in 1970. "We've always loved it the space, which has been great with three boys, the raised corner site, and the style of the house... arches are a strong feature; they are repeated in the entrance hall and upstairs... to give an idea of the size of the house, to repaper we needed 89 rolls of wallpaper."

Andrew and Rachel love the detail: pre electricity gas lights, still ducted, with glass lamps, and, much better than Fawlty Towers, a maids' bell system with little flags that drop beneath the number of the corresponding room to which they have been summoned. Plus an intercom system which reached the back passage. "You could hear it in the cellar," says Andrew. "Needless to say we never found any wine. The previous owner probably drank it all."

There are five bedrooms upstairs, and a box room; somewhere there's a secret door, but no lions or witches. In the early days, a gardener looked after rose beds and rhododendrons, the fish pond and vegetables and slept in one of two lined sheds. The other, his bathroom, had a ceramic cast iron hip bath "embossed with flowers, and it is something I regret selling," says Rachel.

In 1895, Oscar Alpers, Supreme Court judge and writer of a book called *Cheerful Yesterdays*, bought 22 and 24 as a single block. "It stretched to Bristol St, then called Chapel St," says Andrew, unfolding title documents with spidery writing. "A Mr Stringer bought it in 1899 and Buss in 1907. In 1914, the land was divided; the people next door got the fish pond. William Sedgeley, a Buick importer, was first owner of this house. We think his wife was an invalid as all the baths are walk around. Sedgeley called the house



MADE BY THE ARTIST
SAT 13th MARCH
1993

Stanton, apparently for a friend who was a Catholic priest. The ash we felled recently had 108 rings so must have been planted before his time.” There were other owners – Oakleys, the glass people, and a Mrs Tennant who “must have been a bit odd; she lit a fire in 1957 in the Blue Room.”

“There are only a few original homes left in Ranfurly St,” says Rachel. “Two are double brick, with Historic Places status. They back on to Abberley Park. Mrs Molloy lived in the one with the turret for many years. There’s Gavin at the end of our street since 1954; Fergus Murray, our closest neighbour, a master at Boys High just died in his 90s. He and his wife greeted us the day we arrived and have been friends ever since. The rest are flats, unknown people... except the Conlins, who own Crosby House, the only house they don’t own is on the corner of Ranfurly

and Bristol St... I still feel angry with Gary Moore about the Blind Institute land; it could have been added to Abberley Park but instead he sold it off for \$600,000...”

Rachel and Andrew’s three sons have gone on to great careers: the oldest a forestry engineer in Mosgiel, the second a plastic surgeon in Hamilton, the third an organic research chemist in Sydney. Rachel says “Locals will recall them delivering papers with Ben, our King Charles spaniel snoozing in the basket.”

Rachel and Andrew met on the Milford Track in 1964. They spent their courting years cutting firewood for her father in Henley near Mosgiel “with a tractor you had to run downhill to start, and a lethal saw on the back.” But they have lived and worked here more or less since they married over 40 years ago. “We don’t want to leave,” says Rachel. “We’ve been very happy. But the time is coming.”




St Albans Art Society

St Albans Art Society

11th annual exhibition

24 to 26 September 2010
Open 10am till 5pm Friday & Saturday,
10am till 4pm Sunday.

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for more information
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Full House For Old Time Movies


By *Pauline Cotter*

It was a full house at the Scottish Society Hall for the Old Time Movie Night on August 7. The whirring, click-clack of the old projector set a reminiscent scene as the lights dimmed, Jaffas rolled loudly over the wooden floorboards, and we all stood for 'God Save The Queen'. The Movie Tone Newsreel broadcast the then latest hi-tech WWII planes, equipped with revolutionary radar, 1953 footage of the Queen's Birthday Parade in London, and a touching segment on our very own Opo the dolphin. Then followed the hilarious, highly 'un-PC' Woody Woodpecker cartoon, and Abbott and Costello. Half time arrived with traditional icecream cones, raffles and spot prizes, and then onto the main Marx Brothers feature film.

Thanks to projectionist John Niven for sharing some of his invaluable celluloid collection and giving his time. Thanks to Paul and Valerie Somerville for organising the evening, and to Peggy Kelly for taking on the task of

co-ordinating the many raffle prizes. Many thanks to two local business owners who generously donated the main prizes: Tracette Owers for hair treatment and product worth \$160 (winner Kerri McKenna) and Deli de Luxe of Carlton Corner for a \$160 meal for two (winner Sally Leach). Thanks also to Super Value, The Dunkley's Craft Shows, and to everyone who chipped in to make this a fun night.

Another successful fundraiser for the new Edgware pool, and the wonderful turnout (despite competition from the Bledisloe Cup game), is indicative of the continued unwaivering support for our community project. This was such a good night that we are all staying tuned for the next one.

Check out the website for up and coming events, and details of how to support the new pool. 

www.stalbans-pavilionandpool.org.nz

Probably The Oldest Resident

Probably the oldest resident of St Albans is still enjoying life and keeping reasonably good health.

Founded in 1903, the St Albans (now known as St Albans Merivale) Bowling Club has provided relaxing and competitive sport to many hundreds of local residents over the 107 years in Donald Place. Some of these former members have not only represented Canterbury, but have achieved fame by representing New Zealand successfully in the international scene.


To keep a sporting club healthy, it needs constant membership and the Executive are currently promoting a membership drive to ensure the continued good health of the Club. With two excellent outdoor greens, equal to the best in Christchurch, modern club house facilities, indoor bowls during the winter and qualified coaching all year round, St Albans Merivale has a lot to offer.

Bowls is not just an activity for the old fogies – younger and younger people are now discovering the fun that can

be had and the skills achieved on the bowling green.

Twilight Bowls on mid-week evenings after work is proving very popular. We organise friendly competitions for business firms and teams of three to enter these fun events. The cost is minimal, dress is casual, the time – a couple of hours a week for five weeks and the enjoyment is something to be experienced. This is an excellent introduction to bowls.

- Commencing Wednesday 3 November from 6.00 to 7.30 pm for 5 weeks
- \$15.00 per team of 3
- BBQ available; friendly competition

Corporate bowls: Christmas is coming, get your company/office or groups together and enjoy an afternoon or evening's bowls as your end of year function. Contact Mick Tarling, phone 355 5134 

New members are very welcome to the friendly club

etcetera... **coffee**

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Children's registration

4th, 11th +18th Sept, 1- 2pm

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Our courts are in Dover St near the Edgware Rd shops

For further information phone John Laffey 351-2992.

COME JOIN US FOR A GAME

Students Can Help Shape City By Voting



By Hannah Muir

Here in New Zealand, turnout for the last local elections was only 40 per cent. As a current student of the University of Canterbury, studying Political Science and International Relations, I see a high level of disinterest and lack of education on political issues, especially within my peer group. I believe that this is an issue that needs to be addressed. Lack of participation at any level of the democratic process presents a grave challenge for our society and the future of democracy as a whole.

Two of the most common reasons I have discovered for many of my peers' lack of involvement are: a) not believing their votes will make a difference and b) feeling that the local government has little, if any, influence over them and the issues that they see as important. I feel that these reasons should not be a sufficient enough challenge to prevent us from exercising our right, and our duty to participate in local elections or any other part of the democratic process. Because of this I would like to address each issue individually.

Firstly, disempowerment. Many people still believe that their vote does not have the power to make a difference. However, it is important to understand that democratic processes rely on maximum participation for maximum efficiency. If any one person feels like their vote has less weight, less relevance, or less power than someone else's, this fundamentally skews the outcome of an election. Also, it has been said before that 'by not voting you give someone else two votes.' I feel like this has extra relevance in the case of the local elections and the lack of 'youth' participation. If youth do not participate, how can they expect those who get into power to have any understanding, alliances, or sympathies towards their needs and desires as students, individuals, and members of our community?

This brings me to the second issue, lack of influence. Many university students I have talked to have stated that the main reason they do not participate in local elections,

even though they may participate in national ones, is due to the perceived lack of influence that the local government has over issues of importance to them. Two important elements need to be addressed here. Primarily, I believe that it is necessary to draw a connection between this issue and the concept of empowerment discussed above. If students feel that in the past, the local government has not paid attention to issues of importance to them, this is more, not less of a reason to get involved and vote now. By voting in local elections, students will be empowered themselves, and will also empower leaders who will be conscious of student issues and willing to take steps to positively effect student life.

It is also important to remember that local governments have the power to profoundly affect all aspects of student life, even if they rarely exercise it. They have the power to fundamentally alter our environment both socially, economically and ecologically. The decisions that they make will affect the workings of our community long into the future, and this is something that all members of the community, students included, should be conscious of. Whether it is student subsidies for transport and entertainment, decisions relating to alcohol and drinking age, promotion of better job opportunities within the community, or broader environmental issues involving clean air and water; all of these issues are subject to the power of local government and all of these issues affect students.

In sum, I believe that we have both a right and a duty as students, individuals, and members of our community to participate in local elections. By not participating, we risk having the issues important to us ignored and we also severely limit our opportunities for further development and improvement of our community to serve our needs. Democracy is not easy, it is not passive, but the rewards are empowering and the potential is immeasurable. I strongly believe that we must get active, get educated, and get involved in the local elections and the shaping of our city to support us, the citizens.

✍

V O T E
 **CHRISTOPH HENSCH**
 I N D E P E N D E N T

FOR CITY COUNCIL
 Shirley / Papanui

03 355 6393 / 0210 77 12 44
 christoph@hensch.org.nz
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I believe we need:

- Strong and active communities
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Authorised by: Christoph Hensch, 40a Somme St, Christchurch



St Albans Hosts Cosy Energy Expo

Article and photos by Aidey Nolan

With winter weather and cloudy skies, what better time to have an Energy Expo about keeping warm and dry. On Sunday, August 8, the St Albans Community Centre was feeling very cosy with exhibitors specialising in solar energy, pallet fires, underfloor insulation and much more. The three main themes of the Energy Expo were Energy Conservation, Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy, with an electric bike display and free EcoBulb lightbulbs thrown in for good measure. It was an information treasure trove with booklets and pamphlets on the best solar panels

to chose, which energy efficient light bulbs would suit your home and the easiest way to keep your house warm in the winter months (many of which are available here at the St Albans Community Centre).

Those who attended no doubt went away with fresh ideas on how to cut their energy usage, the best way to heat their homes and alternatives to the usual forms of energy. A big thanks to the exhibitors: Solar Energy Specialists, Sunshine Solar, HRV, Electric Bike Company, Parkwood and Wunderfloor and speakers Katie Nimmo and Rhys Taylor.

✍

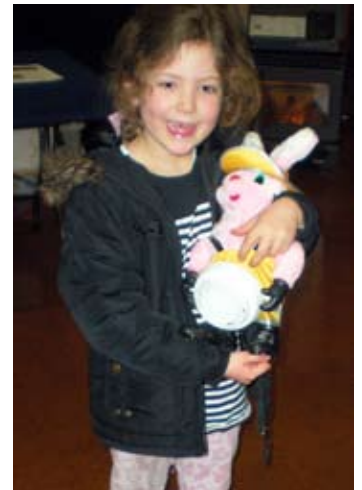


Above left: Recumbent electric powered bicycle

Above right: Floor insulation

Right: Grace and her Energiser Bunny

Left: Doug Craig, centre, one of the organisers doing a presentation



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St Albans Community Centre Expansion


By the CCC Project Team

With public consultation on the extension to the St Albans Community Centre drawing to a close (on 27 August 2010), the CCC project team is looking ahead to the next steps.

Soil investigation, traffic evaluations and planning for a resource consent are now all underway.

At the time of writing this piece, public consultation on the initial project design is still open and is yielding constructive comments on all aspects of the project. Around 20 people attended a public drop-in session at the Community Centre in mid August, and many more have viewed material on display in the Centre, or have accessed information on the Council website. Analysis of community feedback will continue into early September, with results feeding into the final detailed design process.

The project aim is to have the new building completed in April 2012.

Information about the project will continue to be displayed on a noticeboard at the centre throughout the duration of the project. 

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor of St Albans News

Thank you for the great article *You Are What You Eat*. I'm looking forward to the next one.

I've started to read labels and you are right, they tell you as little as possible. It is shocking how much milk is made with 'milk solids' and the nuts and dried fruits are exactly as your article described – there is no way to tell where they come from.

Perhaps you plan to tell us in a future article the answers to a few questions. Would you please answer these for me?

1. Why doesn't the government require stricter labelling on all foods not just imported?
2. Why are New Zealand products made here in New Zealand cheaper in Australia?
3. Why are we importing so much food (\$750 per person) when we are supposed to be a country that is feeding the world?

Thanks again. We really like your paper and we find it strange your paper publishes articles the Press would never publish. Keep up the good work.

Rudd Wilson

Re-elect



Ngaire Button
For Council

Ngaire's achievements for St Albans

Lobbied and convinced Council to:

- increase funding to St Albans Resource Centre for 3yrs to 2011
- keep brothel signage off community streets
- approve \$3.5 m expansion of Resource Centre
- cut projected rates rises from 9.7% to under 4%

"The courage to make a difference"



Authorised by Rosanne Hawarden
17 Jane Deans Close Chch

Nicky Wagner

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chchoffice@nickywagner.co.nz

Ph: 03 365 8297, 222 Bealey Ave, Christchurch



National
www.national.org.nz



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accountability, responsibility.

JANE DEMETER
City Council Shirley Papanui

www.janedemeter.org.nz
Authorised by Jane Demeter, 117 Champion St, St Albans, Ph 305 2300

Community Notices

Adult and Community Education:

Brochures available at the St Albans Community Centre. For term 3 & 4 information, contact Risingholme Community Centre. Ph: 332 7359. Email: risingholme@xtra.co.nz.

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

Astronomy Open Nights: The Canterbury Astronomical Society's West Melton Observatory is open to the public from 7:30 to 9:00pm every Friday night from April to September. Individuals and groups of less than 15 people are welcome on any public night. Larger groups require a booking. For further information see www.cas.org.nz, email bookings@cas.org.nz, or phone 027 445 8443. Cost \$6 per person.

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 Inc – 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 for an Information pack or leave a message on the answerphone.

Community Gala: Our Lady Of Fatima. Friday 19 November at Our Lady Of Fatima School from 5pm till 8pm. Food-Fun-Families-Friends-To raise Funds for your community. Food, Entertainment, Stalls. For more information, contact Convenor Philippa Grocott (942 6198) or Secretary Bernie Campbell (386 1024).

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

Edgeware Bowling Club: Indoor greens operating every day @ 6 Forfar St bowls etc provided all welcome to have a go contacts Ken Murray or Rose Alabone 354 1381 or the clubrooms 366 2160

Fairy Dance Academy: Tuesday 3.30 – 5 pm, Thursday 9.30 am – 11 am, Saturday 9.30 am -1pm at St Albans Community Centre. Ph: 021 120 6540 (Pam) Free YWCA After Breast Cancer Surgery Programme. Eight weeks of gentle pool and floor exercises for women who have had breast cancer surgery at any time. Enrolment essential. Phone Susan 355 3303.

Golden Connection: A service for older adults, is a six week programme provided by the Neighbourhood Trust for older adults over 55. Based at the St Albans Baptist Church, 64 McFaddens Road. All welcome. For more info, contact Tony Marsh on 355 6522, email: tony@nht.org.nz. Website: www.nht.org.nz

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

Jewels n Beads Wholesale Jewellery have moved to 10 Cavan Place, Mairehau. New Phone 385 8010. We have a great range of beads, pendants and jewellery at great prices. Open 9.30 - 3.30 Monday - Friday. Saturdays 9.30 - 12. Closed Wednesdays. Also book now for school holiday classes.

LaughterYoga: Sunday, 11–12pm 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. Mondays at 7 pm. The Season is between March and September. For details phone 382 8340

NeighbourNet: Open Monday - Friday, 11am - 3pm, and on Saturdays from 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

Overeaters Anonymous: Is eating a problem for you? Are you suffering from Anorexia, Bulimia, Obesity and/or Compulsive Eating? There is a solution. Meetings held weekly throughout Christchurch. Friday, 7.30 - 9pm at St Albans Community Centre. All welcome. Phone 365 3812.

Pilates: Fridays, 9.15 – 10.15am at St Albans Community Centre. Ph: 342 3172 (Coralea)

Pilates Intro: Beginning Friday 1st October 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: Sun 12 Sep, 2pm: Ceilidh; Fri 17 Sep, 2pm: Senior Citizen's Ceilidh; Thu 7 Oct, 7.30pm: Council Meeting. Hall phone: 366 2074. Great Winter activity for your child. Saturday morning dance classes for all ages. 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.

Share International - Maitreya steps forward: His open mission has begun. St Albans Community Centre. 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: Monday nights, 7:15pm, Room 11 in the Shirley Community Centre. Ph 386 1025 or 027 568 5515 or email 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 Meeting: Tuesday (3rd), 7.30 – 9 pm at St Albans Community Centre. Phone: 379 9188

St Albans Residents Association: The next meeting will be held on September 14 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

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

The Dancing Tree – Wednesdays: Including Tiny Dancers 12.30 – 1.30pm, Mother and Child 1.15 – 2.45pm, Dance Express 3.30 – 4.30pm, Dance Challenge 4.30 – 5.30pm and Wu Tao (Adult) 5.30 – 7pm.

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): Next Transition Forum is held on 12 Oct at 12.30pm at the St Albans Community Centre. For more information, phone 374 2465 or email tisa@stalbens.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

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

All Creatures Small – Pet sitting and Locum Vet Nurse Phone 365 6156. thseeker_who@yahoo.com

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 15 September

Computer Guru: Highest quality computer servicing, fixing all hardware/software problems,

installations, advice and more. Servicing St Albans for four years, Call outs start at \$40/hr. Offsite repairs \$20/hr. Phone Ron 379 3061 or 021 0243 7398, or pcguru@orcon.net.nz

Computer Volunteers Required: If you have some spare time and are knowledgeable about the internet, email and 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 locks, ranch slider wheels and locks, garage doors. Qualified Tradesman. Phone Stewart 365 2969 or 021 185 4055

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

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

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.

Healing: Energy healing, sound healing, regression lealing. Tel Sunny 374 3388. Facebook: sunnymayahealing

Healing and Readings: Crystal and Theta Healings, intuitive readings. September special only \$40! Phone Yvonne 960 9711 or info@healingpathways.co.nz or www.healingpathways.co.nz

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

House To Let: Great 2 bdrm apartment close to town that

includes nice sunny deck and private courtyard. Single carport. Close to shops, cafes, bus route and only short distance to town. Electric heating, electric Hot Water, Internal laundry. No pets. \$260.00 pw please contact Shantel 021 143 4242

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

Life Coaching – Free Trial. Feel better and get everything you want, call Christopher 3861025

Mobile Haircuts: From \$5.00 Ph 027 691 0080.

Painting & Decorating: Internal/external 22 years experience plastering, Owner operator, Efficient Service, locally based. Ph Mark 355 7670 or 0274343300

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

Wanted: Gardener – 2 to 3 hours per fortnight. Phone 365 7790

TUITION

Belly Dance Class: Fun fitness for all ages, City YMCA (Thurs 7.30pm / Sat 11am), St Albans (Wed 10am). Contact Yurie Ph 352-8209 / mebellydance@gmail.com

Clarinet, Sax, Guitar & Piano: Experienced local teacher for the NZ Modern School of Music. Phone Nicola on 355 1095

Drums: Experienced & qualified teacher at well-equipped studio with two kits, Rockschoo 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

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

Pilates: Beginner and Intermediate classes. Monday & Wednesday nights, St Matthew Church, Cranford St. Ph julie 351 2100

Self Defence 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: by Koha, Pay what you can afford. Phone Christopher 386 1025

Teacher: Maths 9 – 12 years. English 9 years to NCEA Level, ESOL & IELTZ, Phone Rowena 365 8666

Yoga: St Albans Community Resource Centre. Tuesday 10-11.30am. Friendly, relaxing class, well suited to mature figures. Phone Pauline on 980 8760

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Interested in Local issues?



Are you a member of the St Albans Community Centre and Residents' Association – or would you like to become one?

Are you new to the area and are wondering what the Community Centre and Residents' Association is all about? On Tuesday September 7 from 7.15pm, the St Albans Community Centre (1047 Colombo St) will be open for a casual meeting with the board of the Community Centre and Residents' Association and a short presentation about our activities and concerns in the community. The meeting will be accompanied by some form of entertainment and drinks and will be nibbles provided. Entry is free.

The aim of SARA is to be part of the development of a vibrant and healthy community by generating involvement and empowering residents

If you are already a member of the association or would like to become a one, RSVP your spot by ringing the St Albans Community Centre on 379 6305 by no later than Monday, September 6.



Shirley Community Choir seeks members

The Shirley Community Choir has started afresh in the Shirley Community Centre and we're looking for new members. Our new room is lovely and warm, with great acoustics. We're all finding it even more satisfying, since the acoustics make us sound at our best and we can hear ourselves clearly reflected. We sing songs from many different cultures and traditions, with a focus on spirituality in the broadest sense. We'd particularly love to have some more men so come along and enjoy being treasured but we're open to all ages and levels of ability so no experience is necessary. If you can talk, you can sing. It is a chance to sing with others, without a spotlight on you. For those who want it, there is opportunity for solos and we do some vocal development activities too.

Monday nights, 7:15pm, Room 11 in the Shirley Community Centre.

Ph 386 1025 or 027 568 5515 or email Christopher_musgrave@yahoo.co.nz



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The St Albans Community Market

Every Saturday 9am - 2pm
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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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- Educate people with talent
- Become a Base Camp for World Mission

Church Services

Sunday morning service	09:30 am
Sunday main service	11:30 am
Dawn service (Tues-Fri)	06:00 am
Youth group service Saturday	06:00 pm

Quotes of the Month

The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook

William James

Growth in wisdom may be exactly measured by decrease in bitterness

Friedrich Nietzsche