

# St Albans News

The Voice of our Neighbourhood

October 2010



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The earthquake stopped the clock in the St Albans Centre at 4.36am when it fell on top of the piano in the Knightstown Room

## A new beginning

*A commentary by Bill Demeter*

Our city and our area survived a 7.1 earthquake and did so without a single loss of life, the first in history of this magnitude. Now after several weeks we are still feeling the aftershocks and coming to grips with the size of the damage. Experts are now talking about \$5.0 billion dollars and five years to recover.

### What about the damage to ourselves?

What about the impact we feel internally? How will we view our collective futures? Is the glass now half empty or half full? These are the questions that are the most difficult to answer. We can always fix a broken building but can we fix how we will act towards ourselves, our neighbours, and our community?

### “Random acts of kindness”

Anne Herbert’s famous quote comes to mind as I reflect on the last few weeks. The sign on a lawn that said they had a room a couple could use if they had no place to stay. Think of the people taking the time to take frightened cats to the vet. Consider the many people who opened their doors and hearts to share their bathrooms and their food. These were not actions initiated from the mind they came from the heart. These were simply, random acts of kindness.

### Where to from here?

For the leadership of Christchurch we hope that going forward there will be much more listening to people and hearing our ideas as to what this city should look like and how to rebuild with care and character.

For our communities and neighbourhoods we have a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other better, watch out for each other and even start having block parties every 4th of September.

For ourselves, say hello to strangers, smile more, and promise that in the future you will commit to random acts of kindness.

✍

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



### St Albans Centre

As you know our Centre suffered serious damage. At one point it was red-tagged but upon later inspection changed to a yellow tag. For now, the Centre is inoperative and can be entered only by authorised persons. Christoph and Alison are currently working out of their homes. I've had numerous meetings with Kevin Bennett, Manager of City Buildings, and we have looked at a number of options for relocation of the Centre. The CCC support from Kevin has been excellent.

The short term outlook is difficult. Our income stream is compromised because we no longer have a facility to rent out. The very popular NeighbourNet Internet computer facility has been severely damaged and that income stream is also gone. Because of the necessary and correct priorities of the CCC we are not a high priority. It will be months before we are operational and even then we will be much changed. I'm sure the start date for the new Centre has been pushed back significantly.

Our Centre will have a changing role yet to be completely defined. The services we provide will change and we certainly see ourselves evolving (in the short term) into a Resource Centre working with other agencies to help in the social rebuilding of St. Albans.

One thing is certain given the spirit and character

of our St Albans community, our future is bright and collectively we will build anew.

### Election Results:

On Saturday the 9th of October we learned who will be our team of leaders for the next three years. Many newspapers will shout out who won and who lost. Those papers sadly overlook the truth. The truth is there were no winners and losers, only those who were elected and those that were not.

Every person who ran for office was a winner. To devote untold hours knocking on doors, working 16 hour days and nights, spending their hard earned money and disrupting partners and family speaks strongly of winners.

Our community and city remain democratic because of these candidates elected and not elected. Our thanks to all of you.

### St Albans News:

The Fuji Xerox machine we use to print our newspaper is still in our damaged Centre. We cannot use it and yet we felt it very important to get this and future issues out.

Fuji Xerox has come to the rescue with a generous offer to print at no charge (we provide the labour and paper) our next two issues. We will limit our circulation to south of Innes Road but provide pick up issues at the Edgeware Post Shop. Our thanks to Xerox and the help we have received from them at this critical time.

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

## Earthquake Information

### Sewer repairs

There are seven closed circuit television cameras checking sewer pipelines in the city and two more are expected next week. Several contractors are doing repair work on sewer lines and pump stations in an effort to reduce the overflow of sewage into streams and rivers in several suburbs where the sewer system has been damaged. Some of these repairs will only be temporary until final solutions can be implemented. Steady daily improvements are being made to the level of sewage overflows into the Avon River (east of Fitzgerald Avenue) and the Lower Styx River.

### Cleaning up silt and sand

The Council can help residents remove sand and silt that has appeared on properties since the earthquake. Residents are asked to pile this on the roadside (rather than on grass berms) and to call the Council's call centre on weekdays (ph 941 8999) to let CCC know where it is so that they can arrange to collect it. Alternatively, discounted rates apply at Council refuse stations, and payments can be claimed back on insurance.

Residents needing help to remove silt or sand are asked to call the

Council so that we can arrange for a volunteer or helper to shift it to the roadside for collection. Breaks in sewer lines can lead to contamination of silt or sand - creating a risk to human health. Residents are asked to treat silt or sand near broken sewer pipes as potentially contaminated. This means avoiding unnecessary contact; thorough hand and clothing washing after contact with sand or silt; keeping pets, children or those in frail health away from the material; and reporting any health symptoms such as an upset tummy to a doctor. Once the silt or sand dries in sun or air, bacteria present will die off. It is advisable to wear a mask when working in a dusty environment. Free face masks are available at Christchurch City Council Service Centres for people requiring them to clean up silt and sand.

### Cemetery headstones

Residents are asked to check the condition of their family headstones in Christchurch City Council cemeteries. If repairs are required they are the responsibility of the family and need to be done by one of the following Council approved monumental masons: Decra Art ph 366-3932; Fraser Lawrence Memorials ph 366-0627, L Robertson Memorials ph 366-5630. Where possible repair work should be started before 30 November 2010.

(For more information please see page 6 and 7)



*Commentary by Margaret Jefferies*

I am writing this one week after the 7.1 earthquake, hoping that we are moving out of the aftershock period. But who knows? It is hard at this stage to get a perspective on it all but there are some insights:

We see the caring, supportive nature of the people of Christchurch.

Despite all the destruction, heartbreak and economic hardship that may follow we can see that we were blessed. No one in the whole city and surrounding towns and countryside was killed. Is that a miracle?

We could be pragmatic and explain all with geological understanding when all the data has been analysed. That will be interesting. However, just as our night time dreams can give us insights into our world, I believe this week long nightmare can raise questions and provide insights too. What was this big shake up for? Why were we so blessed with no loss of life? What are we being called to do/be? You may think these questions are far fetched and that is not what the earthquakes were about. Even so, I think the questions are still valid.

A summary of SANZ (Sustainable Aotearoa New Zealand)'s message in their publication Strong Sustainability for New Zealand says: Complex global changes have already begun that will take human civilisation outside the range of prior experience in terms of magnitude, speed of arrival and simultaneity. These changes will cause abrupt and radical shifts in human living, work and recreation. If the responses to these changes are sensible they will mark the early steps on the path to a sustainable New Zealand.

Maybe we can learn from this earthquake and its aftermath so that we are ready for these times ahead. It has certainly given us a sample of what is in store.

Project Lyttelton, the community group I am involved with, strives to create a vibrant, sustainable community. We are putting sustainable processes in place, for example, a Time Bank. This had a good test run recently. We had no real Civil Defence presence in our community. The volunteer fire brigade and the Health Centre approached the Time Bank to step into the breach. All members (10 per cent of the local population) were quickly contacted, volunteers pulled together, tasks identified and dealt to: a relatively smooth process. And the beauty of the system is that once the dust settles, the deep relationships forged in these days will continue to grow, increasing the vibrancy of this community and building up the resilience for the SANZ predicted events



**St Albans**  
Community Centre  
Te Pokapū Hapori o Hato Ōpani

**Community Centre Notices**

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the St Albans Residents' Association (SARA) Inc. will be held on Thursday, 28 October at 7.30pm in the Abberley Park Hall.

The Community Centre likes to express its thanks to Fuji Xerox which has kindly offered to provide a replacement facility for us to print the St Albans News this and next month and also to bear most of the printing costs.

Significant damage to the St Albans Community Centre means it is likely to be some time before it is repaired and able to be used again. In the meantime most groups and events have found a home elsewhere (see page 14) The Centre itself is still in the process of finding a temporary home, and we hope to be able to provide our services again to the community very soon.

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Phone: 374 2465 or 379 6305, fax: 374 2467  
Website: <http://www.stalbands.gen.nz>

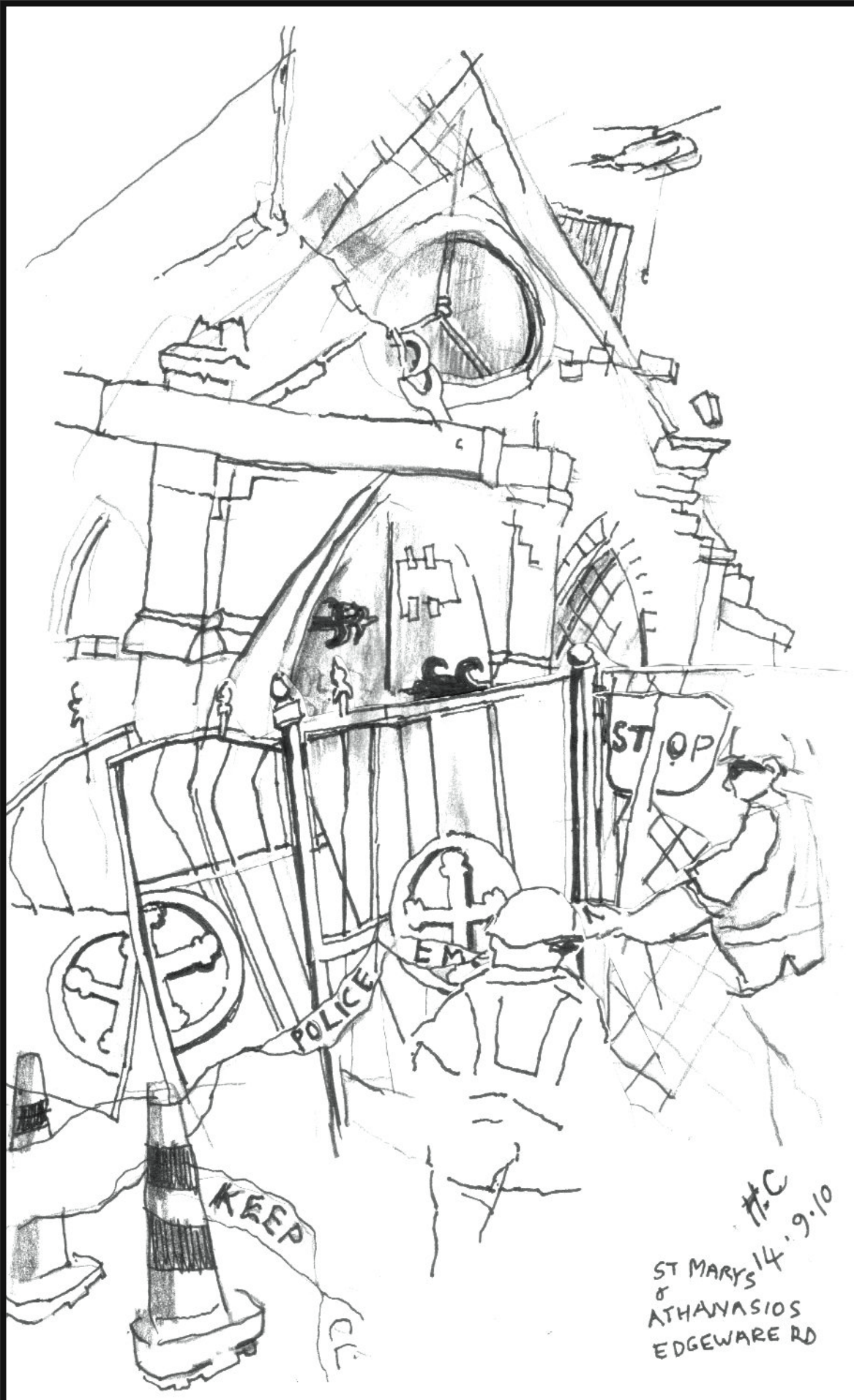
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With regular contributions from:  
Maxine Feutz, Hilaire Campbell, Bill Demeter, Maggy Tai Rakena, Doug Craig and others.

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





by Hilaire Campbell

# Caring community revealed on September 4

by Monica Guy

To be honest, I was intending to make my “writing comeback” with STANN by writing a report about the wonderful new buildings at St Albans School. After 4 September my priority changed and whilst I was incredibly thankful for those wonderful buildings (especially if the earthquake had hit in day time), I realised that there was something far more important to write about.

That is the amazing spirit and caring and sense of community that is St Albans.

My family was incredibly lucky, as was everyone in Christchurch ... it is quite simply a miracle that no one was killed. However, the damage and devastation, both materially and emotionally is huge, and that is being felt strongly in St Albans. We had very close friends lose their home and to be honest, close to losing their lives. Others have been completely traumatised by the earthquake, possibly even more so by the aftershocks.

Seeing buildings torn down around the corner from where we live eg Cranford/Westminster corner and Barbadoes/Edgeware corner is quite simply hard to believe.

However, if a positive can come out of such an horrific event it is the spirit of community in this amazing suburb.

## How incredibly lucky we are to live in such an amazing community

Personally, we had a knock on the door only a few minutes after the worst was over from our amazing neighbour, who took us to his house (with their family of six), where we stayed (with other neighbours and their children) until daylight. We had so many txts and later calls (phone needs power) from our friends checking that we were okay.

Even on the Saturday (the actual day of the quake), neighbours were helping each other, taking down chimneys, repairing roofs, cleaning up, delivering food, and offering support, which is a prime example of how St Albans people work. Friends were offered accommodation, and so much emotional support. Since the quake it has become even more apparent how amazing St Albans residents are. The selflessness

is quite simply amazing; people who have lost much are still so incredibly willing to give to others.

As time goes by and the aftershocks ease, we will recover. Physically, people are fine, materially people will rebuild/replace, emotionally, this will take a lot longer but we can take so much comfort in knowing how incredibly lucky we are to live in such an amazing community, with so much support and caring. ✂

## STRESSED OUT AFTER THE SEPTEMBER EARTHQUAKE

DO YOU HAVE;

Repeated, distressing memories or dreams of the earthquake?

Intense distress when exposed to images or sounds resembling the earthquake?

Inability to experience a normal range of emotions and interest in life, since the earthquake?

Difficulty concentrating or relaxing (especially sleeping)?

Efforts to avoid anything that could remind you of the earthquake?

Sudden anger and startle responses?

ARE YOU;

Acting or feeling as if the earthquake is still happening?

Not planning as if life has a future?

These are symptoms of Post Trauma Stress Disorder and can be helped within 30 minutes utilizing an NLP technique proven successful after 9/11, Samoa and Haiti.

If you or someone you know would benefit relief from the above symptoms, please call Julia Taylor-James, qualified Master Practitioner NLP and HNLP Coach for free ½ hour treatment; 0272 398 131.

## The Edgeware Sports Bar

*“The Tiny Bar with the Big Atmosphere”*

18 POKIES **TAB**

**Pool Table**

**Ph: 377 2294**

*Beside Sema's Restaurant*

**The St Albans News relies on your contributions. Please send your articles, letters and notices to [news@stalbens.gen.nz](mailto:news@stalbens.gen.nz). The deadline for the next issue is October 15**

**Brendon Burns**  
Member of Parliament  
for Christchurch Central

Contact my electorate office  
Monday-Friday, 10-4pm  
Temporary office: Level 1, 232 Armagh Street  
Phone: 377 8840

**Working for your future**

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# Earthquake recovery resources

## STARTING POINTS

### Earthquake Government Helpline

This provides information on income support, housing, community assistance, clean-up and how to contact any other services people may need. (Non-English speakers can also use this service with the assistance of Language Line). 0800 779 997

Christchurch City Council public information helpline: 03 941 8999

### Recovery Centres

Four new recovery centres have opened to provide a one-stop-shop to help people recover from the quake. These centres will provide information, as well as access, to a number of services including Victim Support, Inland Revenue, Housing New Zealand, City Housing, Work and Income, as well as providing access to counselling and budgeting services.

The four recovery assistance centres can be accessed Monday to Friday, 9am-4.30pm at:

- Department of Labour, 144 Kilmore St
- Linwood Community Link, 154 Aldwins Rd
- Heartland Services, Hornby, 25 Shands Rd
- Work and Income, New Brighton, 26 Beresford St

Anyone who needs assistance outside these hours should call the Government Help Line above.

### Don't speak English?

My friends and family don't speak English. Is there any information about support services in other languages? All Government telephone help lines are linked to "Language Line" which has professional interpreters in 40 languages.

## HEALTH

How can I find out what health services are available and get other health information?

If you have a health emergency, call an ambulance on 111. For other health advice, call your GP, a local accident and medical clinic, or Healthline on 0800 611 116.

Counselling and support is available to people affected by the Canterbury quake. An 0800 number has been set up for people to ring if they require some form of counselling

support. The number is: Right Service Right Time: 0800 777 846.

### Free Counselling - Christchurch

The Ministry of Social Development have contracted the following agencies to provide free trauma support counselling in the aftermath of the Canterbury earthquake:

**Victim Support** 0800 842 846. Telephone contact 24/7. People may need to leave their details and a volunteer will ring them back.

**Samaritans** 0800 726 666. National telephone listening and support service staffed by volunteers 24/7.

**Lifeline** 0800 543 354. Trained telephone counsellors 24/7.

**Real Steps Trust Relationship Services Whakawhangaungatanga** (03) 366 8804 Trained counsellors. Available by phone until 8pm. Face to face counselling is available at the Christchurch office (Level 5 CTV Building, 249 Madras Street) on both a walk in and appointment basis - 8am to 8pm.

**Salvation Army** (03) 377 0799 Available until 8pm to make appointments for face to face counselling sessions.

**Ministry of Education** (03) 378 7300 8am to 5pm weekdays. Counsellors available to parents and schools to discuss the trauma reactions of children.

**St Johns Caring Caller Service** - volunteers who can make daily phone calls to people at home to provide support. Email referrals to: [jacci.tatnell@stjohn.org.nz](mailto:jacci.tatnell@stjohn.org.nz)

Trauma Counsellors are also available at the new recovery assistance centres.

## HOUSING

Feeling unsafe in your home?

- Talk with your landlord.
- If you believe your home is unsafe, ask / expect your landlord to get a professional to check the home as soon as possible.
- Keep paying your rent unless you have agreed to a rent reduction. Organise a rent reduction with your landlord if you can't live in your home or if parts of your home cannot be lived in or used:
- Remember, a tenancy agreement is a contract - if you have a fixed term contract you need the permission of the landlord to end it before it is due to expire or
- The Tenancy Tribunal might make an Order to end the contract if it believes it is unfair to make the landlord or tenant continue with it, even with a rent reduction.
- If you and your landlord agree to end the contract or to a rent reduction, make sure you record it in writing.
- If you have a property manager ut you make an agreement directly with the owner, make sure the property manager knows about it.

If you can't come to an agreement with your landlord about what is going to happen get tenancy advice. One place you can get this is:

**Tenants Protection Association** (Chch.) Inc. Christchurch Community House Te

## Trauma, Stress and Psychological Reactions - Fact Sheets

**Helping Children Cope** - EAP have released the following factsheet that provides tips on helping your children cope with the aftermath of the earthquake and the aftershocks: Helping Children Cope with the Canterbury Earthquake

**Factsheets on Reactions** - Joint Centre for Disaster Research based at the Massey University's School of Psychology, has released 11 fact sheets on how to identify and deal with emotional and physical reactions to Saturday's magnitude 7.1 quake. The fact sheets offer tips on helping children, adolescents and families; identify common reactions; identify how to recognise and respond to the stress of being under threat and what to do when someone you know has been through a traumatic experience: <http://disasters.massey.ac.nz/index.htm>

Updated information at:

<http://canterbury.webhealth.co.nz/articles/view/article/705/canterbury-earthquake-useful-information/>

Whakaruruhau ki Otautahi 141 Hereford Street, Christchurch 8011 ph. (03) 379-2297 fax (03) 366-8535 email: [info@tpa.org.nz](mailto:info@tpa.org.nz), [www.tpa.org.nz](http://www.tpa.org.nz)

**Tenancy Bond Money** - Canterbury tenants forced to end the lease of their property due to earthquake damage should have their bond money released within 24 hours, thanks to the Department of Building and Housing (DBH). Tenants and landlords looking for guidance should call 0800 836 262 or visit [www.dbh.govt.nz](http://www.dbh.govt.nz).

As well as from the 0800 TENANCY line, advice and information is also available from the Department's Christchurch office and Linwood Community Link Centre. Information is also being made available through Ministry of Social Development welfare centres.

## What is HELP?

The Housing Emergency Lease Programme (HELP) is a Government initiative which provides temporary housing support to people whose homes have been left uninhabitable after the Canterbury earthquakes. HELP will lease vacant homes (such as holiday homes and baches) from private property owners in Canterbury. Properties will then be let to people who need a temporary home for a few months while their own home is repaired or until they find other suitable long term accommodation. HELP is managed by Housing New Zealand Corporation on behalf of the Government. You can phone them on 0800 HELP 00 (0800 435 700)

## Insurance Claims

EQC is New Zealand's primary provider of natural disaster insurance to residential property owners. It insures against damage caused by earthquake, natural landslide, volcanic eruption, hydrothermal activity, tsunami; in the case of residential land, a storm or flood; or fire caused by any of these. To make a claim phone 0800 326 243

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

**Red Cross Earthquake Fund/Mayoral Relief Fund** - This is the money that has been donated to the Canterbury Earthquake Fund (also referred to as the Mayoral Relief Fund). This Fund is currently being administered by Red Cross Volunteers who are based at Civic Offices in the new Council building in Hereford St. Please see [http://www.redcross.org.nz/cms\\_display.php](http://www.redcross.org.nz/cms_display.php) for information regarding the level of grant available, criteria and the application form.

## FOOD SAFETY

After an emergency: ensure food is safe. Knowing what is safe to eat during the 'clean-up' phase after an emergency can become a guessing game. Understand what may or may not be safe to eat:

- food that retains ice crystals and where the packaging has not been damaged or opened can be safely refrozen
- foods that have been defrosted can still be used if they have just recently defrosted and can be kept cold, ie the fridge is working again
- defrosted food cannot be refrozen
- inspect the food – does it smell or appear different? (Has the colour changed and does it have a slimy texture?), if so it is probably unsafe to eat
- do not use any tinned food that has been damaged (for example if the can has split seams or has been punctured).

You should always be prepared for a disaster. If you follow the guidelines above, they may help prevent you or your family from becoming ill.

Food safety is just one step in staying safe during and after an emergency. To find out more visit the Civil Defence website: <http://www.civildefence.govt.nz/memwebsite.nsf>

## Before the next disaster strikes: prepare a survival kit

There are many things you can do to minimise the impact on your health before a disaster strikes. Do it now and make sure you include the following items to last at least three days:

- canned and/or dried food – luncheon meat, ham, fish, fruits, vegetables, cereals, tea, coffee, powdered soup, salt, sugar, sweets, biscuits
- a can opener
- a primus/portable gas cooker or barbeque to cook on
- eating equipment – utensils, knives, pots, cups, plates, bowls, matches, lighters
- bottled water – 3 litres per person per day, or 6 to 8 large plastic soft-drink bottles of water per person per day
- bottled water – 1 litre for washing food and cooking each meal, washing dishes and washing yourself
- milk powder or UHT milk.

Check and renew food and water every year, taking into account medical or dietary conditions in your family. If you have babies or children, make sure they have enough suitable food. If you live in a flood-prone area, keep your food survival kit above the likely reach of flood water.

(Source: <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/publications/media-releases/2007/foodsafety-in-adverse-weather.htm>)

**IRD** - Inland Revenue has been given the power to waive interest on late tax payments for Canterbury earthquake victims, Revenue Minister Peter Dunne announced on 14 September. Contact Inland Revenue Disaster Response line on 0800 473 566.

**Workplace Issues** - Is your workplace affected by the quake? Are there health and safety and employment issues? The Department of Labour has information to help businesses and their employees make good, safe, sensible and practical decisions in this difficult time. You can see more information on their website: [www.dol.govt.nz](http://www.dol.govt.nz). Or you can contact them on 0800 20 90 20 between 8.30am and 5pm from Monday to Friday.

## OTHER

**Pets** - My pet is lost after the quake. Can anyone help? Anyone who has lost an animal for more than 24 hours should call SPCA

Track-A-Pet on 0900 56 787.

## Power - The Orion website

<http://www.oriongroup.co.nz/> provides up to date information regarding power status for areas of Christchurch still affected. If you have an electricity emergency ph 0800 363 9898 or ph 363 9898.

**Rubbish Collection** - Rubbish will continue to be collected as normal in most areas of the city.

**Asbestos Management** - A large proportion of buildings older than 20 years will contain some asbestos materials. When not disturbed these are normally safe as they do not release asbestos fibres. Following the earthquake any break up of these materials can pose a risk of asbestos dust exposure. If you have concerns check out <http://www.dol.govt.nz/quake2010/asbestos-management.asp>

# 7.1 Earthquake



The St Albans Community Centre is closed due to damage to the building.



*Photos by  
Maria Hayward and  
Christoph Hensch*

Left: The shops at the corner of Edgware and Barbadoes.

Bottom Left: St Albans has lost many of its chimneys.  
Bottom right: At the corner of Westminster and Cranford.







The Coptic Church on Edgeware Rd.



Nordwest corner of Edgeware and Barbadoes



Right: Hardy and Thomson at Sherbourne St.

Left: a crack is running through the parking space at English Park, and right through the church building at the back.

**4 September 2010**

**4.36am**



## Response and recovery

*By Brendon Burns, MP for Christchurch Central*

By mid-morning on September 4, the scale of 7.1 damage was clear in St Albans. From turning into Colombo St from Bealey Ave, the devastation wrought on old masonry buildings was stark.

The community centre was standing, but minus a wall. Repairs were already going on at Edgware village. Members of the congregation from the Coptic Christian church stood with evident shock and distress at the damage done to their church and hall. On the corner of Barbadoes and Edgware, there was huge damage to shops on three corners. At Westminster and Cranford, the same picture.

And many of you as home-owners have lost chimneys or sustained worse damage..

I think we can all feel proud of how we as a community responded. The civil defence effort was immediate and well-organised – as much as any disaster response can be. Our firefighters, St John, police and other services were swamped but prioritised and assisted those most in need. I visited the Linwood Recovery Centre daily for the nine days it was open. Hundreds of volunteers made those arriving feel very welcome.

Now we are past response and into recovery. This will be prolonged and just as demanding. There are more than 72,000 claims lodged. Damage to Canterbury will exceed \$4 billion. Hundreds of people out of their homes in parts

of the electorate, notably Avonside and near the river in Richmond.

What is now clear is the need for improved communication. At the three quake information public meetings I've chaired to date, the hundreds of people attending mostly left feeling a bit brighter. Even if the EQC, insurance or council officials were unable to say when a house could be inspected or re-occupied safely, or sewer line reconnected, the case was able to be lodged and assurances given.

It is now important that council and other authorities open up and connect better than ever before to their communities. Where decisions need to be made about whether to save homes or buildings or rebuild them, there must be the chance for owners and locals to be involved in the process. The St Albans community centre can be a very important conduit at this time.

Social needs are also growing as temporary accommodation arrangements come to an end, businesses fold after quake damage to premises and stress takes its toll.

My electorate office has relocated since the quake. We are now temporarily at level 1, 242 Armagh St, opposite Centennial Pool. Our phone remains 377 8840

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any assistance, quake-related or otherwise. Let's get through this together

✍



On quake day, Brendon inspected damage including a moment of reflection with Magdij Abd El Messih at the badly damaged Coptic Christian church on Edgware Rd (Photo supplied by Brendon Burns)



## NeighbourNet computer service suspended

by Belinda Carter

A low cost computer service run by volunteers in the St Albans Community Centre is one of the victims of the Christchurch quake.

A substantial part of an outside wall collapsed outwards and as a result part of the building is a no go zone.

Until the September quake, a dozen or so volunteers with St Albans NeighbourNet offered internet access and computer tuition in a long narrow room at the centre. The room housed seven computers and at its peak operation more than 300 people used the computers each month to send emails, scan, print and so on and numbers have continued to rise every year since the centre opened in October 1998.

Initially known as the St Albans Infolink Trust, which formed in 1995, NeighbourNet operated out of St Albans School library building on Sunday afternoons before moving into the former Edgeware Library Building in Colombo St in October 1998. The original scheme included a dial up bulletin board, intranet webpages and a computer recycling scheme. Limited space later saw the abandonment of the distribution of free computers and intranet was replaced by the internet and a broadband connection. The trust later merged with the resident's association and the more recent focus has been on providing low cost computer access and assistance for those who request it, for more than 20 hours each week, in a kind of drop in centre.

When Government funded a wider range of community education activities, computer courses were run in the centre in collaboration with Hagley Community College.

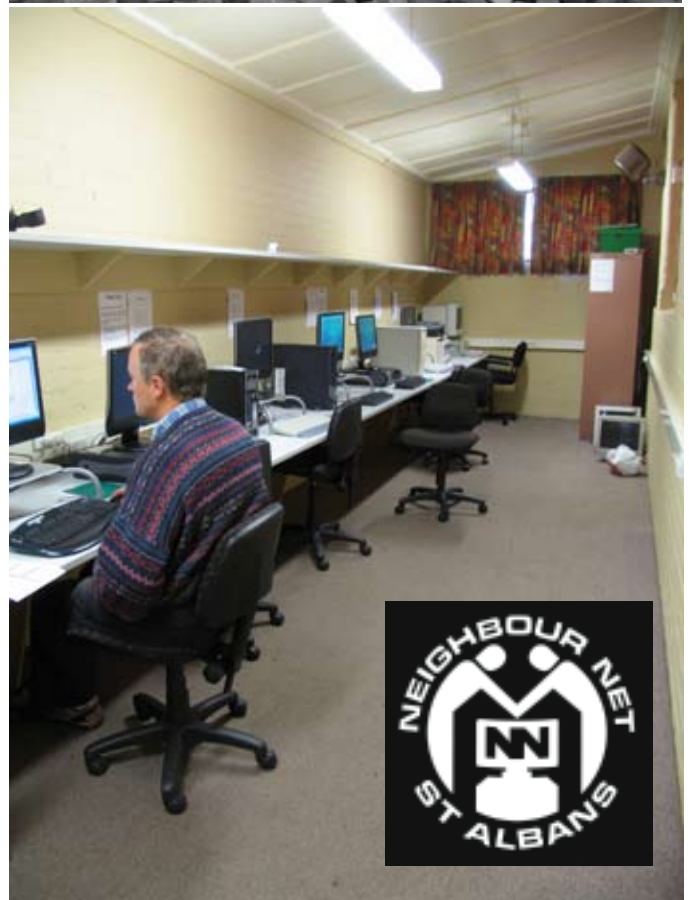
The future of the NeighbourNet service is up in the air because the Centre building is inaccessible and its fate in the hands of the Council, which owns the building, and engineers. Plans to upgrade hardware and update 10 year old software have been put on hold as the centre needs to secure temporary premises to resume this popular service.

Several community computer centres in operation in Christchurch, including the CCC libraries, owe their initial inspiration to the room at the St Albans Centre. The centre has also been part of the Zenbu wireless network, offering access to the internet 24 hours a day.

Although the Council has plans to extend the centre, it would be April 2012 at the earliest before the new building was due for completion. The design produced in July for public consultation does not include space for more permanent users of the complex, such as office staff and computer access. The damaged building is owned by the Council and we are heartened by Mayor Bob Parker's request for people to think twice about demolition of heritage and character buildings.

✍

*(Belinda has been a NeighbourNet Volunteer and tutor since March 1997)*



## St Albans Preschool Community formed

*By June Sutherland*

A cluster of preschools that contribute to St Albans school have united to form a St Albans Preschool Community. This cluster was bought together by June Thompson – Sutherland, the Junior Team Leader of St Albans School for the benefit of all the young children in the area.

At these meetings the group share their wonderful educational ideas, discuss transition to school programmes and discuss how all children can have the best possible start to their educational journey.

With the introduction of National Standards the St Albans Preschool Community have been working on a framework to help all children achieve success in relation to the literacy and numeracy standards.

The Community acknowledges the fantastic growth that a child will get out of the union of the preschool, the parents and the school teachers with all parties working together for the benefit of making the children's education a success.

The preschools in the cluster are: Portobelo Preschool, Mozarts, Mairehau First Learners, Learning Curves, St Albans Educare, Forfar Nursery School, Sunbeam Kindy, The Playroom and the Montessori preschools.

These preschools are meeting again in October at St Albans School to discuss a community meeting of all parents to attend to help them with their preschoolers' learning. *JS*

## St Matthews Scouts

*by Steve Dunford*

St. Matthews LLO Scout Group, which meets in The Scout Groups Hall, in Harrison St, is turning 50.

We want to take the opportunity to have a get-together and invite as many previous members as we can find along. The event will be on 20 November, at the Scout Hall.

St. Matthew's LLO Scout Group has been a proud member of the St. Albans Community since the early 1920s, and the Group has a history going back to the very earliest days of Scouting in New Zealand. We have a great deal of information, written and photographic: for example: one of our previous scoutmasters was Brick Soanes, the father of well-known local, Muriel Soanes, and we have several newsletters in our archives that he wrote while in charge.

I can be contacted via email at [steve@essentialtech.co.nz](mailto:steve@essentialtech.co.nz), or on 385 7230. Steve Dunford, Group Historian *JS*

## Letter to the Editor

I enjoyed Doug Craig's excellent article 'Where is our Heritage' in the September issue of St Albans News. I do want to clarify his statement regarding the disappearance of St Mathew's Anglican Church. He has not reckoned on the canny Scots who purchased the church to provide a home for the Scottish Society of New Zealand Inc.

True to their thrifty heritage they did not demolish the wooden structure and beneath the roughcast coating of the Scottish Society Hall on the corner of Edgeware and Caledonian Roads stands St Mathews Anglican Church as detailed on the plaque on the Caledonian Road side of the bus shelter in front of the hall.

Yours sincerely

*Graeme Matheson*

*Senior Chieftain,*

*Scottish Society of New Zealand Inc.*

**The St Albans News relies on your contributions. Please send your articles, letters and notices to [news@stalbens.gen.nz](mailto:news@stalbens.gen.nz). The deadline for the next issue is October 15**



## Free bike workshop

*by Steven Muir*

A group of enthusiastic volunteers is running its fourth, free bike maintenance workshop from 1-4pm on Sunday 10 October at the Linwood Community Art Centre (cnr Stanmore Rd and Worcester St).

Bring along your bike and give the tyres a pump, fix the punctures, oil the chain, tweak the brakes, regrease the bearings etc. We would appreciate the donation of any old bikes that can be restored to be given away, or that have useful parts. If you have bike maintenance skills come along and help out. Other non-mechanics are welcome to help with tracking fixes, preparing refreshments, and making smoothies on the bike blender etc.

Hosted by Te Whare Roimata and the Linwood Community Art Centre, Contact Jenny 3795134, or Jonathon 389 4227 or email [steve@cycletrailers.co.nz](mailto:steve@cycletrailers.co.nz), cell 021 0619296. *JS*



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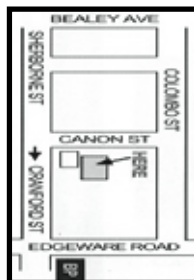


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### Church Services

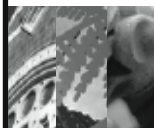
Sunday morning service	09:30 am
Sunday main service	11:30 am
Dawn service (Tues-Fri)	06:00 am
Youth group service Saturday	06:00 pm

## Nicky Wagner

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## Community Notices

**Adult and Community Education:** For term 3 & 4 information contact Risingholme Community Centre. Ph: 332 7359. Email: [risingholme@xtra.co.nz](mailto:risingholme@xtra.co.nz).

**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).

**Edgeware Bowling Club** now open and operating for the new season. New members urgently wanted old bowlers welcomed Call at the club 6 Forfar St or ring Ken Murray or Rose Alabone 3541381 club rooms 3662160

**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](mailto:tony@nht.org.nz). Website: [www.nht.org.nz](http://www.nht.org.nz)

**Hatha Yoga:** Tuesday, 10 – 11.30 am at Mary Potter Community Centre, 31 Caledonian Rd. Ph: 980 8760 (Pauline)

**Laughter Yoga:** Sunday, 11 – 12 pm at Scottish Society Hall, Cnr Caledonian & Edgeware Rds. Ph: 021 998 109 (Hannah) Leisure Group (55+): Friday – meets fortnightly at 10.30 am Ph: 379 6305

**Mairehau Parish Indoor Bowling Club:** behind Our Lady of Fatima Church. We welcome new members. Mondays at 7pm. The Season is between March and September. For details phone 382 8340

**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. All welcome. Phone 365 3812.

**St Albans Art Society:** Monday, 10 am – 12 pm at Shirley Community Centre (Room 11), Cnr Shirley Rd & Slater St. Phone: 366 3022 (Catherine)

**St Albans Choir:** Mondays 7.30 – 9 pm at St Paul's Anglican Church, 1 Harewood Rd, Papanui. Phone: 379 9188 (Heather)

**St Albans Choir Concert:** Tuesday (3rd), 7.30 – 9 pm at St Paul's Anglican Church, 1 Harewood Rd, Papanui Phone: 379 9188 (Heather)

**St Albans Swim Club** 2010/11: 10 week Summer Season Nov. Feb. March at Shirley Intermediate HEATED Pool. \* Monday-Thursday Lessons at all levels; Advanced Training squad; Lane swimming available; Fridays: Club/ Family Swim/Barbecue. Enrolment Enquiries by email: [paul.valerie@actrix.co.nz](mailto:paul.valerie@actrix.co.nz) or phone: 3556512

**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.

**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](mailto: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

**Transition Initiative St Albans (TISA):** Next Transition Forum to be held on 12 Oct at 12.30pm at the WEA, 59 Gloucester St. Further information, phone 374 2465 or email [tisa@stalbens.gen.nz](mailto:tisa@stalbens.gen.nz)

The St Albans Community Centre apologises for the inconvenience caused due to earthquake damage to our building. We are still trying to find accommodation for some of our regular groups. For the time being please phone the tutor of the group for further information:

**Dance Fitness** – Phone 365 6585 (Donette); Fairy Dance Academy – Phone 021 120 6540 (Pam); NZ Japan Society – Phone 355 9903; Pilates – Phone 342 3172 (Coralea); SANDS – Phone 323 9850; The Dancing Tree – Phone 354 9328 (Karen)

### Church Services:

**Beulah Christian Fellowship,** 140 Springfield Rd; Sunday services at 10 am & 6.30 pm

**North Avon Baptist Church,** 103 North Avon Rd; Sunday service 10 am & Monday service at 7 pm

**Ratana Church Service:** Every third Sunday of the month. 11am-12pm at the Rehua Mara. (Ph: 355 5606)

**St Albans Baptist Church,** 64 McFaddens Rd, Sunday services at 10 am & 5 pm

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**Aakland Carpet Cleaning:** Carpets and Upholstery Cleaned, Super cleaned from \$15/room, Over 25 year's experience. Ph.388 3314

**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

**All Creatures Small:** Pet sitting and Locum Vet Nurse Phone 365 6156. thseeker\_who@yahoo.com

**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 pre-paid. Deadline for the next issue is 21 October

**Cleaning:** Rental cleans, move in/ move out cleans, oven cleans and builders cleans. Reliable service and free quotes. Contact Ken at Paramount Cleaning Ltd on 021 070 6652 a/h 366 3246

**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

**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 027572 8864 or 382 5824 (after hours)

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

**Healing and Readings:** Crystal and Theta Healings, intuitive readings. 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 Swap:** Wanted to swap for holidays by mutual agreement, our townhouse 5 minutes walk from central Blenheim, suitable for couple, for similar in St Albans, please phone 03 5779789 or email j.h.mcmurdo@xtra.co.nz to discuss dates etc

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**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

**Singing Lessons:** by koha, pay what you can afford. Phone Christopher 386 1025

**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

**Yoga:** Mary Potter Centre. Tuesday 10-11.30am. Friendly, relaxing class, well suited to mature figures. Phone Pauline on 980 8760

*etcetera... coffee*

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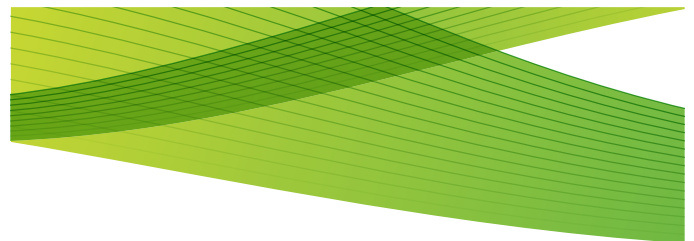
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**The St Albans News relies on your contributions. Please send us your articles, letters and notices to [news@stalbans.gen.nz](mailto:news@stalbans.gen.nz). The deadline for the next issue is 15 October**

## Quotes of the Month

Courage is the basic virtue for everyone so long as they continue to grow, to move ahead  
-Rollo May

We who refuse to embrace an unique opportunity lose the prize as surely as if we had failed  
- William James



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