

St Albans News

The Voice of our Neighbourhood

June 2011



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A Big Neighbourhood Muck In

by Peggy Kelly

For many years we have wanted to build some raised vegetable beds in the community garden. Now a ready supply of bricks makes this a real possibility.

After the February earthquake Kings Seeds donated vegetable seeds to all the Community Gardens in Christchurch. This generous gift encouraged The Friends of Packe Street Park to decide to get on with planning for a proper vegetable garden in ours.

Volunteering Canterbury (of which we are a member) sent out word that Genesis Energy and the Red Cross were going to sponsor some community projects staffed by volunteers from the North Island who wanted to help Christchurch. Our society applied to be considered and was very fortunate to be chosen.

On Thursday 26th May 2011 a mini bus full of energetic people arrived at the park at 9.30am and together with our own volunteers worked all day in quite wet weather to put in the foundations for our raised beds. This involved digging out the site, measuring, pegging the boxing,

5 trips to Placemakers for builder's mix, cement and sand, mixing in a wheelbarrow and lots of laughs.

Special Thanks To:

- Roger for his truck and his help in bringing bricks from Merivale to the park
- Tony for allowing us to take the bricks
- Bertram Rush for ordering the necessary materials and for transporting the boxing and for lending his tools
- Genesis Energy, Red Cross and The Friends of Packe St Park for providing the volunteer workers
- Helen for baking and bringing the delicious savoury scones
- Hazel from baking and bringing the delicious banana cake
- Nellie for hot chips and an overwhelming donation of packaged food that will sustain us on future workdays
- Tessa for supplying her shovels and energy

continued on page four



Oh my, what does one write when one's head has so many thoughts and emotions mushing together in it? I probably should stick to an easy topic like the weather, which it could

be said, would be my number one reason for enjoying living here. And, though I'm not sure if it is 'politically correct' to admit it, I am enjoying Christchurch.

I have been forcing my husband to take Sundays off (completely!) The sun has continued to shine and we have been having the most wonderful family missions. Tree climbing and the 'leaf monster game' around the Peacock Fountain in Botanic Gardens, back again for the 'conker game' and again for a picnic with friends in the Rose Garden. And when we temporarily tired of that great park we went bike riding through McLeans Island Forest which is a great place to spend a day and I find it a lot more calming than biking around St Albans.

St Albans, my neighbourhood; the broken streets, the destroyed houses, my neighbours living in damaged homes and the empty home. My neighbours gone. The lost shops and businesses and the empty lots. The bike rides around these streets bring me back to reality. The reality that we are all facing together. But the 'reality' of today is not my future. I want my future to be amazing.

I want to live in a city that protects its environments, both natural and built. I want to be proud of the foundations of our citywide infrastructure and the all important foundations that will make our city a happy,

healthy and safe place to live. I want to live in a city that benefits from the latest technological advances... (many more wants)... and provides me with fresh food, water and air.

For St Albans I want the tram to run up Colombo St. I have just discovered that the beautiful old block of shops at the Westminster/Cranford Street intersection was once the end-of-the-line, for the trams. It was once suggested the structure ought to be named "The Terminus." Could we rebuild some history we lost long ago?

I wouldn't mind seeing, just for starters, a modernised Edgware Village, more community orientated property developments, changes to the zoning and a traffic management plan, that is not the current one, perhaps that produced somewhere around 1967?

Oh, and what about a St Albans College of Engineering, Architecture, and Earth Sciences and our own museum? And add a gymnasium (with opening roof) to the St Albans Pool? And the empty site on Madras St (currently grazing cows, which also happens to be about the only thing that has happened to the site in 20 years) set up as a non-profit community food produce area?

What do you want?

I hope you too are continuing to dream. Remember to smile and get some timeout. Get involved in your community, this can be as simple as using your local businesses or as adventurous as planning a community event. Have the courage to make a difference.

Emma Twaddell
Chair of the St Albans
Residents' Association

Editorial

First, I want to apologise to all who didn't get to hold a copy of the St Albans News in their hands in April. It was the first after the quake, and we only printed and distributed 3200 copies. Distribution was a bit patchy, to certain areas of St Albans but not others. This month around we have printed 5000 copies, with a much wider distribution. We have also a much larger volunteer team helping us with the distribution — please join us for the next issue which we are planning for August.

Again, a big thank you to the local business community who are supporting the current issue with paid advertising. And thank you also to those community members who have sent in stories and reports. This paper is open to everyone — please send us your contribution for the next issue by 29 July to 'news@stalbands.gen.nz'.

by Christoph Hensch, Editor

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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.

What's new with the St Albans Residents Association?

by *Emma Twaddell*

In December 2010, due to a complaint made from a member of our community, the organisation was investigated by the CCC and the Charities Commission. The council thoroughly inspected our financials; they found no faults or wrong doings and as was the case in the past, believe we are a very viable organisation and will fully support us in the future. The Charities Commission pulled us up on three articles in the St Albans News, concluding that the organisation had engaged in political advocacy. Unlike Greenpeace, who have lost their 'charity' status for the same reason, SARA was given a warning and the Commission recommended that the organisation does not engage in any matters of political advocacy in the future.

The first edition of The St Albans News has been produced since this finding and as was the case in the past, "The opinions expressed in this publication are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the St Albans Residents' Association." So while I'm not sure if holding 'charity' status will be part of our future, I am aware that there is one very important lesson SARA must learn from these experiences to continue to play a part in the development of a vibrant and healthy community. It must communicate with its members and the wider community. It must ensure it has the mandate of the community for the projects it leads and not assume that what it's doing is what the community wants.

So we started thinking about how we can engage the community more and came across a project in Wellington called the 'Newlands Project' and then we were lucky enough to have Jarrod Coburn from the Draco Foundation and a member of the Newlands Residents Association talk to us about the project at our last meeting.

The Newlands Project is basically a ten-year strategy which guided the organisation toward establishing a strong mandate to act for and on behalf of the greater Newlands community. It started with a survey of the community, and some of the things it has helped with — or was directly involved in — over the past decade included the new skateboard park, several children's playgrounds, a heritage walkway, bus shelters at all stops where possible and the \$3M Newlands Community Centre.

With the loss of the St Albans Community Centre, SARA has been presented with a situation where, like our city, we can take all the good work it has done in the community over the past two decades and build a new vision for the future. One where the outcome is greater levels of social capital, a more competent community, better and more trusted sources of local information and greater equality.

"The world is moving on from money being the prime resource in communities: we are now seeing Social Capital playing a major role in transforming local economies and improving the lot of ordinary people," says Jarrod Coburn.



Residents Associations					
	Mandate	Vision	Governance	Accountability	Consultation
Current Situation	Not required	Often not present or visible	Traditional committee structure	AGM, annual return to Companies Office	Not required and often not sought
	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Change Required	Residents' Association showing it represents the interests of the community	Local people becoming more involved because they share a common vision for their community	An internal framework that promotes good governance and accountability	A mechanism allowing residents to raise concerns and be assured of proper performance	Communication channels established between association and the wider community
	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
"New" Residents' Associations based on the Newlands Model	Annual survey of all households in the area	Community strategy developed from survey results	Committee becomes Board of Governors, delegates certain authority to Programme Champions	Committee accountable to local residents at AGM and public meetings, Programme Champions accountable to the committee	Ongoing and regular communication with groups; businesses; and religious, educational and ethnic organisations in the area.
	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Relationship to Community Resilience	Builds local networks	Contributes to 'sense of place'	Increases public confidence in Association, boosting trust in information released by it	Increased public participation by local residents	Builds social capital

Companions In Crisis

by Reetah Mitchell

Along with Ken Ring giving us the collective heebie-jeebies with his predictions, recently we've also had Reverend Harold Camping in the good old U. S. of A. giving his Judgment Day prophesies. It probably wouldn't have even made our national news, except for the fact that Armageddon was to kick off in New Zealand with an earthquake or two. Funnily enough, even three whole months after our last apocalyptic shake, we are still a little sensitive about people telling us we might be getting more.

Had the Reverend's calculations been correct, my rapturous uprising wouldn't have been a certain thing. The major problem being, my religious leanings are decidedly ambivalent. "Be kind" is the only mantra of meaning I live by. Although it is encouraged heartily within the Christian faith, there are a few more hoops you have to jump through before you qualify as a fully fledged member of God's inner circle.

However, even if any Higher Being had fudged over some of the finer details of my entitlement and was happy enough with my humanitarian benevolence, I know there would have been a divine dilemma at the actual time of ascension. You see, I'm pretty sure that while God would be eagerly elevating all the true believers to Heaven, upon attempting to pull my earthly body to paradise, he would've struggled. There would've been some huffing and puffing, a bit of groaning and then a deep deity-like booming complaint from above, "Good grief child, how did you get so heavy?"

You see, I've put on a few kilos. I'm not going to tell you how many (a lady has to keep some secrets), but it's enough that my jeans sit on a shelf in my room quietly mocking me. Post-September and Pre-February, I had a muffin top, which was being beaten into shape with lots of walks, yoga and healthy eating. Since 22 February, my little muffin has mushroomed into

a triple layer gateau. With icing. And cream. And sprinkles.

Quake weight or girth-quake, whatever whimsical name you want to give it, a whole heap of stuff got past my lips and it is now clinging grimly to my hips. In this vain, vacuous world we live in, a not-so-secret part of me wishes that during times of stress, I could forgo food and melt away to waif-like proportions. Oh no, not me! I'm the polar opposite of that woman. During times of angst, my whole physical and psychological self turns its focus to food.

Not only do I have to eat tonnes of it, but some primitive hunter-gatherer part of me needs to stockpile and squirrel away whatever sustenance I can find. Even during substantial aftershocks, I was up trees, stripping them of crabapples, lemons and black-boy peaches. The harvest to be packed, stacked and shelved away in case of future eating emergencies (all glass receptacles now being kept very low, in padded surroundings – I will not lose preserves for a third time, dammit!)

However, my guiltiest gluttony involves ambrosia that doesn't even need chewing. It just tickles my taste buds and slides right on down: Pinot Noir.

I have to confess, even before Canterbury started acting like some sort of gigantic trampoline, I was very partial to a glass or two (and on special occasions, three) of red wine. But after two serious shakes and thousands of aftershocks, I calculate I have single-handedly kept most of the vineyards of Central Otago open and operational with my quaffing.

At first, my intake was purely for medicinal reasons, a quiet couple to render myself unconscious and hopefully comatose for the worst of any nighttime wobbling by Old Mother Earth. Then, I took to the motto "eat, drink and be merry" with gusto, because it was just so

much jollier than "diet, be sober and sensible." I do need to point out, I may have become a bit of a soak, but not a dangerous one – unless of course you happen to be a roving chocolate bar, pack of chips or bucket of KFC.

And therein lies the problem:

- Alcohol + alcohol = munchies.

This leads to the inevitable equation:

- Junk food + alcohol already ingested = elasticated waistbands and empire line tunics.

The time has come to say, enough is enough. I cannot stop the earth from moving, nor can I tell you if or when it will shake again. I don't have the ability to foresee the time the world will come to a cataclysmic end. But I do have the skill to control what goes into my mouth.

My new formula will be:

- Closed mouth + active body = a more harmonious relationship with the bathroom scales.

And I won't need to be a psychic to predict that eventually I'll be the one rocking my jeans, instead of them mocking me. *✍*

Continued from page one

- Mark for minding everything while the site was unattended
- Bill for washing the dishes and acting as general factotum
- All the members of our society and from the community who have supported the garden in challenging times — especially including Larry from City Care.

Next Stage

While we wait for an experienced bricklayer to volunteer help we need to clean 1000 bricks. Please feel free to come and clean some bricks! *✍*

Country comes to town



by *Hilaire Campbell*

There's a bit of a farm on the old Orion site. Swallows and magpies, paradise ducks in puddles, the odd rabbit, and, until winter, four Friesian cattle. Mothers and babies love them.

Any fine Sunday they park their buggies at the wire fence and fat little fists force autumn apples through the gaps at their cavernous mouths. It's the closest some of them have ever got to the real thing, and although Wayne Harper, the owner of the animals, had reservations about putting them here, he says "it's been a very positive experience with the public."

Wayne lives in St Albans and runs a business called Pasturecare — "I'm the weed bandit." But he mows the grass on the Orion site in exchange for reduced grazing rates. For many years he was a psychologist, "now I'm left to ponder animals." Naturally Wayne has developed a deep understanding

and respect for his animals. "Some farmers use sticks, but I don't like aggression. I'd rather work with them. Even when I've got a rope, a three month old cow can throw me because it's in constant four wheel drive. It's got four feet for traction, and weighs seven times more than me."

Wayne's Friesians are less than a year old but he says when they get to 18 months or 200 kilos, they will develop real character. "Already one of them is unusually sensitive. It hates being touched on the head, but loves chewing my fist. Another is always happy. Its tail goes loop galoop." When he checked them just after the September earthquake, "there they were, quietly chewing their cud. Totally unperturbed."

Wayne says paddock time is divided roughly into thirds. "Cattle spend a third of it eating, a third

standing chewing cud, and a third lying down chewing cud. In Canterbury, by two in the afternoon they should be lying down. If you see cattle standing all the time you know they're hungry."

Wayne used to have pet names; "I remember every animal in one line of Herefords. The Colonel had three stripes, and Noisy was really embarrassing because people thought he was being tortured. But it's a wrench when you sell. Now a number is as close to a name as I get. 204, 205, 206 and 207 will reach prime around 500 kilos, this time next year. Then they'll be off to the sale yards."

It's funny," Wayne says, "I love my animals

and enjoy looking after them, especially in winter when they need you most... but it's never stopped me eating them. The trouble is you end up with more sausages and mince and stewing steak than you can handle, and it gets freezer burn."

When Wayne buys cattle, it's by the weight — \$1.50 kg is good — and he'd like to try Jersey cross. He's heard it's the best meat, "and it's really cheap. But the typical housewife buys with her eyes. She doesn't like yellow fatted beef so butchers won't sell it. She holds them to ransom."

Wayne got into grazing cattle after he bought a horse, and he could tell you some stories, but he's got to go and check his darlings. If they get on the road they'll be shot, and if there's an accident I could be up for manslaughter. It's a pretty good motivation for looking after them in the city."

St Matthews Scout Group

by Steve Dunford

In 1909, (approximately 18 months after Baden Powell first began the Scouting movement in the UK) a new Scout Troop was formed at the Avonside Holy Trinity Church. This Troop did very well, and gained the notice of the Governor General and his wife, Lady Liverpool. The Troop was renamed as The Avonside Troop, Lady Liverpool's Own (LLO for short) with her blessing. Due to reasons that have been lost in history, the Troop parted company with the Church some time prior to 1920 — meeting in various halls and other locations until a connection was

and an active committee backing them up though, and we are struggling on towards the light at the end of the tunnel (and no, we're pretty sure that light isn't an oncoming train!).

We occasionally have events to mark milestones, and for the latest one our Hall, which has just turned 50, was to have a birthday party late September last year. For obvious reasons, in that month we decided to postpone — until March of this year! Not surprisingly, we have now decided to indefinitely postpone this event — and at this stage we'll tie it in with our official (as St. Matts) 90th celebrations next year. The birthday event was to be partly a fundraising one — as the hall roof is leaking in places (this has gotten worse with the quakes, and now is quite bad in places). We've also lost some major fundraising opportunities that we normally rely on after the recent quakes, but we've been very actively "sausage sizzling" lately at various sites to try and top the coffers up again. We have a few other ideas, and will be out in force trying all kinds of things to stabilise our finances and we would urge you to support us if you see us out there. We've been part of your community for nearly 90 years, and we fully intend to be part of it for at least 90 more.




St Matthew's Scout Troop - Sept 1942. Scouters - Acting SM: A. W. V. Reeve (DSM), ASMs: J. Macaulay, D. Watson, L. Holland

made through one of the Scouts and his uncle who was on the Vestry of St. Matthew's Church. The Church was looking at setting up a Scout Troop at the time, and the Avonside Troop was looking for a new home — so a trial arrangement was put in place, and the boys moved to their new location sometime in 1921. Thus began an association with St Albans that has spanned nearly 90 years, and one which provides the community with a link to the very beginnings of Scouting in New Zealand and even worldwide. In 1922, the Troop was officially registered (with Lady Liverpool's blessing, but sad note at the loss of the original name) as the St. Matthew's LLO Scout Troop.

The St Matthew's Group (the word Troop was replaced with Group in approximately 1930) is still going strong today, with around 70 members spread across Keas, Cubs and Scouts (covering ages 6 1/2 through to around 14). Many of our Scouts also go on to join the local Venturer Unit, which takes them through to age 18.

As a Group today we are doing well, but the quakes have taken their toll with reduced numbers and (importantly) funds. We do have a fantastic team of dedicated leaders

If you have any questions about Scouting, or if you would like to get involved (or get your children involved) then feel free to contact our Group Leader, Stu on 960 4478, or myself (Steve) on 385 7230.

Note: As part of our fundraising efforts, the Group is able to provide our hall for hire at very reasonable prices (daytimes and some evenings) to groups who may have lost theirs in recent events. See the hire page on our website — <http://www.stmatts.co.nz> if you are interested. 



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SeniorNet Canterbury regains its feet

by Ian Scott

After the earthquake on 22 February, the Society's rooms at the Shirley Community Centre were sadly no longer usable, with the building having been declared dangerous by Engineers. As a result, all the groups that used the facilities had to find other premises.

Members of the SeniorNet Canterbury Executive Committee were able to salvage all the technical equipment from the building but, unfortunately, the furniture had to be left behind. The brave souls who carried out this task are to be commended; their efforts have enabled the Society to be up and running with the minimum of delay.

Other groups came to the rescue with offers of rooms, and tutoring recommenced in April at the premises of SeniorNet Garden City, Brake Street, Riccarton and also at the Ferrymead Lions Club at the southern end of the Heritage Park. Classes are



Student with Teacher at new Ferrymead location

now held at Ferrymead on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays with Help Sessions on Tuesdays, 12.00 noon to 2.00pm. In addition, classes are held on Fridays in the SeniorNet

Ferrymead.

Garden City rooms. We really appreciate the generosity of both the Ferrymead Lions Club and SeniorNet Garden City for coming to the rescue of SeniorNet Canterbury, which has contributed greatly to its quick recovery.

Meanwhile, new members are very welcome. Subscriptions are \$25.00, which includes a free Introductory Course of four two-hour lessons. When this has been completed, the student can progress to such courses as Word Processing, File Management, E-mail, Internet, Genealogy and many more. Free Help Sessions are available with membership, which also allows one to become part of a friendly group of enthusiasts dedicated to peer-to-peer learning. The monthly Social Meetings are held at Ferrymead on the third Thursday of each month, at which stimulating speakers never fail to create interest.

Workshops, monthly Social Meetings and Special Interest Groups are also now up and running with all being held at

To join SeniorNet Canterbury, ring the Secretary, Kitty Milner, on 980-2985 and ask for an information leaflet and application form, or leave a message on the answerphone.

For more information, visit our website www.seniornetcanty.co.nz

✍

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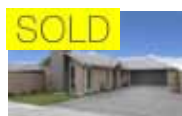
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St Albans' Treasures: Christchurch's Oldest Kindergarten

by Emma Twaddell

St Albans is home to Christchurch's oldest kindergarten, now known as Kidsfirst Kindertartens Sunbeam. St

ever since. And Sunbeam has also continued to be part of St Albans community. Providing, not just a

Another example is the Cultural Lunch coming up, where parents and children will be sharing food that is special to their own families and 'culture,' with each other.

If you are interested in your children attending Sunbeam Kidsfirst Kindertartens they are currently enrolling children aged just under 3 years. Contact Neroli at Neroli. Gardner@kidsfirst.org.nz or 366 7157

2

***Sunbeam Kindergarten Centennial
1899-1999 Souvenir Book.
Compiled by Bruce King and
Amanda Fairs.***



The Montessori system in operation at the Sunbeam Kindergarten at St Albans in 1915. Photo: Christchurch City Libraries Heritage Collection

Albans School, as it was then called, was opened in August 1899 in the St Albans Public Library, High St, Knightstown, now known as Dover St.

Nine children started on the first day and grew to thirty by the end of the first year. The children were provided with training in reverence, orderliness, neatness, cleanliness, courtesy and industry while also developing the child's physical, mental and ethical nature.

The site of the kindergarten moved to Cornwall Street in 1905. The original building on the site was replaced in 1961 which was also the year of the Golden Jubilee for the Kindergarten Association. As part of the celebrations the new Sunbeam kindergarten building reopened at the hour of the first meeting called half a century earlier.

St Albans children have been attending sessions at this gorgeous little site hidden away on Cornwall St in the heart of Edgeware Village

place for our littlies to play, socialise and learn, but a place where parents meet and involve themselves in this smaller community. A great example of this was a recent working bee where many parents and caregivers worked and talked alongside each other to get the property ready for winter.



Below: Children tending to the vegetable garden in today's Kindergarten. Photos by Emma Twaddell



Where has St Albans Edu-Care Centre gone?

by Allison Alexander

Like many other business in the Christchurch, St Albans Edu-Care has also had to move from their premises due to damage to their building after the February earthquake. Multiple cracks appeared in their Thames Street centre, making it unsafe for the teachers, pre-schoolers, and their families, who attend the early childhood centre.

But where have they moved to? Glenmoor School has opened their doors and now St Albans Edu-Care is sharing the Philpotts Road site.

Glenmoor School is a small school, with a rural outlook, on the edge of town. Instead of having two classrooms sitting with limited use, the school has welcomed the teachers and children of the Edu-Care centre, to share their facilities until their own building is once again safe.

The children share the playground, with either the school children or the pre-schoolers using the play equipment at one time, to stop unnecessary accidents. But there are times when both the school & Edu-Care joined together, like the "Fun Day" the school held, after the earthquake, to bring fun back into the lives of the children.

Even though the recent earthquake has done so much damage, it has also brought our communities together. St Albans Edu-Care, ph: 355-9396
Glenmoor School Ph: 385-3575



Some of the children & their teacher, at St Albans Edu-Care Centre, now based at Glenmoor School

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Break-Away Programme Bucks The Trend



Youth playing Korfball at April Break Away Programme

by Emma Twaddell and Westminster Sports


Females led the charge at the April Break Away School Holiday Programme staged by Westminster Sports recently. With 24 of the 26 registered participants, female, it was a dynamic that proved a recipe for success.

Westminster Sports CEO Eddie Cropley said "this bucks the trend that only males are interested in sport" adding 'they were very competitive, and demonstrated a high level of skill and understanding across the various sports delivered during the programme'

This free programme provided opportunities for the young people in the community to experience a range of sports and to develop new skills and importantly have fun doing so.

The attendees got to have a go at a variety of sports including athletics, basketball, korfball, martial arts (judo & kick boxing) football lacrosse, AFL and turbo touch over the course of the four days. Top level coaches, NZ and Canterbury representative and

ex Olympians took the time out to demonstrate their skills and passion for their respective sports to the youth participating.

Westminster Sports is currently planning a July school holiday Break-Away Programme. For more information visit www.westminstersports.co.nz. 

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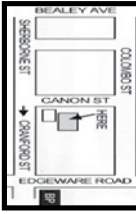






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Fixing St Albans Roads

by **Nicky Wagner**

St Albans residents have expressed understandable concern about the state of the roads in the area after the February earthquake. Madras Street north, in particular, has suffered extensive infrastructural damage and requires considerable care when driving.

Some locals have also raised the issue of dangerous footpaths and access ways posing hazards for children, the elderly and the infirm.

The scale of the infrastructural damage to Christchurch, and in particular to suburbs like St Albans, in the wake of the September and February earthquakes is immense. The raised pot holes and slumping in roads, street flooding, and storm water blockages are all indicators of significant damage to underground pipes and service systems.

I would like to offer reassurance that the National-led government, in conjunction with our earthquake

recovery and rebuild partners, is wholly committed to the reinstatement of essential services in Christchurch.



The \$5.5 billion allocated to the Christchurch Recovery in this year's budget incorporates the Government's share of repairing essential local infrastructure — mainly water and roading infrastructure.

A proportion is also earmarked for repairing state owned assets such as state highways, schools and hospitals.

But it is not only guaranteed funding that is crucial to the rebuild — appropriate expertise is too.

Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Minister Gerry Brownlee last month announced an alliance of specialised parties that will rebuild Christchurch's badly damaged ground level and below ground infrastructure, including roads, water, wastewater and stormwater.

The Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) worked with the Christchurch City Council (CCC) and NZ Transport Agency to

establish the alliance, which includes CERA, CCC, and experienced expert operators Fulton Hogan, Downer Construction, Fletcher Construction, MacDow New Zealand and City Care.

I have absolute confidence in the ability and expertise of all alliance partners to deliver for the people of our city.

Our Say, Our Assets

by **Brendon Burns**

It has been really encouraging to see thousands of Cantabrians sharing their ideas on the future of our city. We all have a role to play in the rebuild of this city — through our support, our ideas, and our commitment. Ideas and commitment were on display at the recent Community Expo, where people of all ages shared their vision for our city. The UNESCO Christchurch Youth Voices Forum was a great opportunity for the younger members of our community to express their views and what is important to them — after all, we want a city to be enjoyed now and long into the future. It will be our young that inherit the city we create. I look forward to seeing Generation Y

playing their role in our recovery so we can benefit from their experiences and knowledge.

These recent collaborative events show that Cantabrians are thinking in the long-term. One major contribution to our long-term welfare is our assets. Christchurch City Council assets deliver a strong income stream to ratepayers. Selling the assets would provide a short-term gain for a long-term cost and that is why I am opposed to the powers enacted by the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act being used to sell our family silver.

Providing leadership and support in the rebuilding our city remains at the heart of my focus as MP for Christchurch Central. In this role I

look forward to working with new CERA boss Roger Sutton. I recently attended a Canterbury Business Recovery meeting where Roger Sutton showed why he is the right man for the job. He joked that he was going to put CERA on the 20th floor of the still abandoned PWC building as a symbol of rebuilding — and so nobody else would come up and hassle them! Roger will need this humour, and our support, as he meets the demands of this job.

I am very pleased to have a new Electorate Office at 304 Fitzgerald Ave. My staff and I are here to help with earthquake or other issues. Please phone 377 8840

Letter to the Editor

Save The Quarter Acre Pavlova St Albans Paradise

Dear Sir

Some of the rebuilding ideas of Urban Ecology are a welcome addition to the current debates — but not the zealotry and disingenuity that goes with the message.

Urban Ecology asserts that “most of us spend hours commuting”. Well, not all of us. Some of us work from home. And do we always have a choice to eliminate commuting? Look at the plethora of employers which have recently fled to the fringes of the city requiring staff to follow. But how about taking a bike or the bus in a city where most places are within 30 minutes travel? We don't all need to live in apartments.

The urban ecologists refuse to acknowledge that communal or intensive living is the choice of a minority and that it is fraught with many social problems — I bet the urban ecologists are the same people

who vehemently oppose battery hen and pig stall housing for animals.

Numerous surveys have revealed that the first choice of the vast majority of home buyers is a stand alone house on a section with room for kids to play, ability to park the boat on the lawn, knock up a shed, grow a veggie garden, play music and cook fragrant food without worrying about the neighbours upstairs, downstairs or next door. These are the things that make the character of St Albans a pleasant place to be.

The Christie's Walk project that so entrances Urban Ecology leaves me cold, although if I was a student I might enjoy the idea. But why on earth we would want to squash people into high density living when we have so much available land within 5 kms of Cathedral Square for spacious housing is beyond me.

Urban Ecology talks of the “blight”

of urban sprawl. Why is housing so horrible compared with the green and industrial desert of much of the countryside? Urban homes are spaces where people live and love, decorate, create biologically diverse gardens, and nurture families. Urban ecologists need to look beyond the confines of their own ideology.

Viva la choice but don't demand that we all bow down to the apartment lifestyle.

Yours

Chris Hutching

The St Albans News relies on your contributions. Please send your articles, letters and notices to news@stalbans.gen.nz. The deadline for the next issue is July 29th

“The time, dedication & effort Mike put into selling our home was exceptional”

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Mike Goatley
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Community Notices

Beat the Budget Blues

Where: SWAP Community House

Time: 9.30am — 12pm (with soup lunch to follow)

Date: Wednesday 3, 10, 17 & 24 August

Beat the Budget Blues is run each Wednesday over 4 weeks to show you tips and strategies to stretch your dollar further, to reduce debt and stay debt-free. The facilitator is Paul from Kingdom Resources. Phone Lorelei on 366 8540 if you are interested in this or any other course.

Lorelei Skilton, Community Worker, Single Women as Parents, Ph. 366 8540

Packe St Gardens

Weekly working bees continue (for the 15th year) on Thursdays 2 — 4pm.

Annual membership subscriptions remain at \$5 Family and \$2 Individual.

Parenting the Early Years (1-6 year olds):

Great 6-week course to help you tackle the changes and issues that arise in parenting young children. FREE. Starts 2nd June — daytime course at Hammersley Park School; evening at St Albans Baptist. Phone Kim at 3555 6522 or txt on 0276772472 or email Kim@nht.org.nz

Christchurch Area Citizens Advice

We will be in the English Park Car park on Cranford St operating out of a caravan on Friday 17th June 2011 from 10 — 4pm.

Come and see us for free and confidential advice. We take the time to listen to you and equip you with the information, options and support that fit your needs. In the meantime if you have any questions or you need help please don't hesitate to contact us on:

0800 367 222 — Mon — Fri 9 — 5pm

Problem Gambling Foundation

According to the Problem Gambling foundation, pokies are one of the most dangerous forms of gambling. Nearly 70% of clients seek help for problems caused by pokie machines, and 1 in 4 regular pokie players are expected to develop a problem at some point. In the Christchurch district, there are 1618 pokie machines. 54 of those machines are in St Albans. Pokie takings have increased since the earthquake. In some pubs, spending has doubled or even tripled. It is disconcerting to see this money lost from vulnerable communities — more disconcerting still to consider the harms wrought on individuals and their whanau as a result of problem gambling. If you are concerned about your gambling or

someone else's gambling, free confidential help with Christchurch staff is only a phone call away: 0800 664 262

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St Albans and St Matthew's Church in Bryndwr.

- What is Catholic Faith? What / Who is God?
- Why does a loving God permit suffering? Why do we exist?
- The Catholic Faith can help you find purpose in life.

You are warmly invited to attend an Inquiry Evening in St Matthew's Church Foyer on Wed 8th June 2011 at 7.30pm.

The Church is located at 108 Jeffrey's Road, (cnr Idris Road), off street parking available. For more information please contact: Sr Bertha Hurley 355 0959, or Steve Sparrow 355-8557; 021-031-4770

WEA

The WEA is open and our usual great mix of educational courses are running. To find out more about our current programme please phone 366 0285, or look at our website: cwea.org.nz

Canterbury WEA, 59 Gloucester Street, email: cwea@xtra.co.nz

St Albans Residents' Association looking for Space

Community Space. Do you have/know of space available for local community groups to rent or use? Hall space, meeting rooms, office space. Days, evenings, weekends. Short or long term. Let us know if you have space or if need space. communitycentre@stalbans.gen.nz or leave a message on 374 2465

Computer Training for the Over 55's

SeniorNet Canterbury — now located at the Ferryroad Lions Club, 80 Ferryroad Park Drive — has Computer Courses available for those aged 55 and over on a wide range of subjects plus numerous one-day Workshops. Peer training with small classes of up to six students and two tutors. Free Help Sessions also available. Telephone 980 2985 for an information pack.

Rental Accommodation Issues with your rental, need information, advice or support? Tenants Protection Association are operating out of Linwood Community Link (Work and Income) Aldwins Road Linwood between 9 — 1pm Monday to Friday. Phone 379 2297 for advice or an appointment, or email info@tpa.org.nz Website: <http://www.tpa.org.nz>

tpa.org.nz

Sustainable Otago — Christchurch

Annual General Meeting. Speaker: Paul Cottam Social Policy Principal Advisor at Christchurch City Council on "Community Wellbeing and the Central City Plan"

WEA Hall, 59 Gloucester Street, 7.30 pm Tuesday 14 June 2011.

All members and supporters are invited.

St Albans Pavilion and Pool Inc. 2011 AGM

Tuesday 28th June, 2011, 7.30pm. Location to be confirmed.

Discussion Topic: Rebuilding Edgeware

It is widely recognised that our communities and neighbours have become a lot closer as a result of the massive earthquake events that we have all endured. We now acknowledge, more than ever, the important support that strong communities offer. We also have to come to terms with the loss of many of our neighbourhood facilities and the opportunity for meeting and for getting involved in our community that those facilities provided.

To that end the St Albans Pavilion and Pool Group is even more determined to bring back our open air pool and community facility, so that we can again have a central, safe recreation and meeting place for everyone. A place that can be used and enjoyed by as many groups in our community as possible; a safe place for children to swim, play, and learn water safety; a place to help and promote the re-build and recovery of our part of our city. We want your involvement and need your ideas and input. All Welcome!

ST. ALBANS DAY — "rekindling our community"

Saturday, June 25th 3 — 7pm, on the old Edgeware Pool site, 43 Edgeware Rd/ Trafalgar St

A chance to come together for warmth and hospitality.

Marking the past, celebrating the present, planning the future...

Come along and partake in

The Speakers Corner/Listening Post

The Wailing Wall/Wishing Well

The Faraway Tree, With Free Gifts/Food/Fun

The Kids Corner: limbo rock, lucky dip, and much more...

What is this all about? Well, come on down, bring a mug, bring your stories, bring your smile. ALL WELCOME — There is something for everyone. For more info (or just be surprised) look out for posters, or contact Helen on 3662426

rossh1@paradise.net.nz

St Albans News Classifieds

SERVICES

Apex Painting and Decorating: All interior-exterior work and roofs. Competitive rates. Free Quotes. No job too big or too small. 40 years experience. Pensioner rates available. Ph 354 6300 anytime

A to Z Appliances: Repairing, Selling & Buying Whiteware. Any brand, old or new. I stand by my work with warranties & offer very cheap local rates. For personalized service with a smile phone Zaine Harding on 980-8262 or 021 249 2292

Aakland Carpet Cleaning: Carpets and Upholstery Cleaned. Super cleaned from \$15/room. Over 25 years experience. Phone 388 3314.

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

Computer Guru: Highest quality computer servicing, fixing all hardware/software problems, installations, advice and more.

Servicing St Albans for five years. Callouts start at \$40/hr. Offsite repairs \$20/hrs. Phone Ron 379 3061 or 021 0243 7398 or pcguru@orcon.net.nz

Counselling: Earthquake trauma has placed considerable pressure on some relationships. As an approved Family Court Counsellor, I am able to help people to access funding to meet with me where appropriate. Website: <http://www.dianecounsell.com> or ph 386 2746, Mob 027 338 5274 Diane Counsell.

Door Specialist: Repairs, adjustments and installation of all doors and locks, ranch slider wheels and locks, garage doors. Qualified Tradesman. Ph Stewart 365 2969 or 021 185 4055

Eastcoast Landscapes: Unique quality service. For all your landscaping needs. We do paving, lawns, fences and planting. EQC approved contractor. For free quotes and advice phone Blair Gibson on 03 981 5929 or 027 699 5815

Hairdresser: Long lasting shiny hair colour, organic based ammonia free, good for you, good for the environment. Great haircuts. Tracette, 80 Derby St, ph 379 6368

Handyman: Pete Knuiman Ltd. For all your property

maintenance, repairs, painting, carpentry, fencing, brickwork, tiling work, alterations and those odd jobs. Ph Pete 021 022 53774 or 385-1718. pete@knuiman.co.nz

Healing: Energy healing, sound healing, regression healing. Ph Sunny on 374 3388. Facebook: sunnymayahealing

House cleaning job in St Albans wanted: By honest efficient and reliable lady on a weekly basis. \$25 per hownhouse/flat. Excellent references available. Ph. Nicola 386 1118

Intuitive healings and readings, also crystal healings. Caring and experienced practitioner. See my website www.healingpathways.co.nz or phone Yvonne 9609711

Mothers help/ home help wanted. Temporary position starting end June. 10 hours/ week (flexible) for 4 weeks. Household duties plus some childcare. References required. Drivers license helpful. Contact Olivia on 356 3603 or 021 495770

Painting and Decorating: Internal/external. 22 years experience plastering. Owner operator, efficient service, locally based. Ph Mark 355 7670 or 027 434 3300

TUITION

Clarinet, Sax, Guitar & Piano: Experienced local teacher for the NZ Modern School of Music. Phone Nicola 377 1753

Drums: Experienced & qualified teacher at well-equipped studio with two kits. Rockscool exams available. Ph Andrew at 980 5456. a.s.couper@paradise.net.nz

Self Defense Classes: Gain health & flexibility, Monday & Thursday 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

Zumba Fitness NZ — Zumba With JB: Zumba Fitness NZ has extended our great range of classes. We can now provide 9 Zumba classes each week. With 4 nights and 5 daytime classes, there's something for everyone. Come and join the party! Check out our website, www.zumbafitness.net.nz or email us for more information, admin@zumbafitness.net.nz Casual classes \$10 — Concession cards available \$80 for 10 classes

Edgeware Village Closures



by Christoph Hensch

Rather unexpectedly, St Albans has lost more shopping opportunities at the Edgeware Village. The block of shops at the corner of Colombo St and Edgeware Rd was evacuated on 2 June for at least a month or until further notice. The buildings were declared unsafe after they have been operating for about three months since the February earthquake, to the shock of both business operators as well as clients. Might this provide an opportunity for the creation of a real village square in Edgeware? *✍*

Photo: C. Hensch

Newly formed St Albans Business Group meets

The newly formed St Albans Business Group (no formal name yet) met for their inaugural meeting on May 26th at Meshino Cafe. There was a great turnout and some interesting discussion was had. The attendees were owners and managers of local shops, businesses and sporting organisations; health and property professionals and of course, as is now the Christchurch way, a couple of new garage dweller business owners.

It was felt that business in St Albans has been severely affected by the earthquake in many ways. One being, the collapse of many buildings and the loss of trading for who knows how many businesses and the issues of relocation for others. Another our proximity to the central city and the loss of

Discussions centred on the issues facing local businesses now and how the group could benefit from 'being

a group.' All were in agreement that one thing the business community is learning fast, is that most businesses rely on other businesses to be successful. The logistics of the city, such as buses and zoning were also hot topics.

There was a general consensus to meet again and continue discussion on the future. The next meeting will be on 30 June @ 5.30 at Meshino Cafe. Anyone interested in joining the group can email communitycentre@stalbans.gen.nz for further information. *✍*

The St Albans News relies on your contributions. Please send your articles, letters and notices to news@stalbans.gen.nz. The deadline for the next issue is July 29th



St Albans
Community Centre

Te Pokapū Hapori o Hato Ōpani

Community Centre Notices

St Albans Residents Association meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Tuesday. The next meeting is held on 12 July 2011.

St Albans Residents' Association looking for Space - Community Space. Do you have/know of space available for local community groups to rent or use? Hall space, meeting rooms, office space. Days, evenings, weekends. Short or long term. Let us know if you have space or if need space.

Please contact us by email at communitycentre@stalbans.gen.nz or leave a message on 374 2465 for more information.



A sign in Edgeware reflecting the increasing frustration felt by the local residents.
Photo by Maria Hayward

Quotes of the Month

"You will not be able to go back to what it was like, but you can go forward by using the creative, innovative, sustainable opportunities that are already there."

"It will be a challenge, and it will be huge, but the city can be safer, stronger and more beautiful than it was before."

Art Agnos, 39th Mayor of San Francisco

Look us up on
<http://stalbans.gen.nz>



Follow us on
Facebook,
<http://www.facebook.com/StAlbansNews>



The QR code can be de-coded by a "smart-phone" with an embedded camera and barcode reading software installed.
Barcode scanning software is available for free.