

New Ideas for the Edgeware Pool Site

A very positive public meeting, attended by about 60 people, was held at SARA on Thursday, 15th March. The meeting was chaired by Christoph Hensch, who encouraged the community to embrace a new positive time for our cause.

Pauline Cotter, chair of Friends of Edgeware, welcomed the group, which included

Cr Withers and Condon, and Megan Evans from the Shirley-Papanui Community Board, and outlined the funding avenues open to us as an Incorporated Society. Pauline offered the example of the Rainbow Ski Field, which was rescued by a committed community, as an inspiration to our group. It is possible to achieve our goal of rebuilding an outdoor pool at Edgeware!

We were privileged to have leading Christchurch architect Peter Beaven as guest speaker. Peter proposed a design competition for a new pool complex, which he is willing to organise. He hopes that many architects will take this opportunity to put their ideas forward. Peter himself expressed his vision of a heated outdoor lane-pool and a shallow children's pool, a pavilion with changing rooms and café surrounded by a beautiful area of trees and grass. He mentioned potential community groups, which could enjoy such an all-season facility.

An open forum ensued, producing a huge and exciting input of ideas from the group present...too numerous to list here, but including: grass, trees to encourage Kereru, picnic area, diving-board, using renewable energy for heating (solar & heat pump involving

aquifers), open all day and for a long season, disabled access, crèche facility, and even a multi-storey pavilion with a telescope and weather vane at the top! The attendees expressed a clear preference for an outdoor pool facility to be built on the site. The feeling of the

building is still standing and that there may be merit in protecting this historic building. Friends of Edgeware requests anyone with information on the history of this building to contact the resource centre.



Ideas and concerns voiced at a well-attended meeting

- Photo C. Hensch

meeting was very optimistic, with the councillors present offering to aid and support us in attaining our goal.

Raising the \$1.5-\$2million required is going to be a huge task. We must get the resource consent process underway, and formulate a business-plan for running a pool complex. Obtaining money may be easier once a design and a business-plan are complete...however, Friends of Edgeware are happy to receive donations or pledges now! The \$600 of donations received last night and pledges of a further \$1200 are a fantastic start!

It was noted that the Swim Club

Inside STANN

- ◆ Ideas for pool site 1
- ◆ Chair Chat 2
- ◆ Community groups invitation 2
- ◆ Award-winning Garden 3
- ◆ Parish in the Community 3
- ◆ Lead Lights Revealed 4
- ◆ Concentric Circles 5
- ◆ The Water Thieves 6
- ◆ Classified advertisements 7
- ◆ National LETS Conference 8

STANN is a contribution driven newsletter We need your input to offer a balanced content. Please send in contributions on local groups, activities, etc. or express your opinion. All contributions are treated equally and with respect.

STANN does not have an opinion of its own (just a strong community bias). Any opinion is that of the writer only.

STANN is published by the St Albans Residents' Association and printed by New Century Press.

STANN is a not for profit newsletter, delivered monthly, free to over 5000 homes and businesses.

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Chair Chat

Kia ora koutou

It has been some time since I last wrote a comment for STANN and much has happened over that period. We have moved into yet another phase in the life of our



wonderful Community Centre with the commencement of the new manager, Christoph. Douceline managed to steer this project through many choppy seas over her nine years as its leader, and she has left the Centre in a very strong position. We acknowledge her magnificent contribution and thank her for it.

Now to a couple of things I have been pondering recently!

I have been thinking about the loud voice St Albans has managed to find for itself of late, regarding a number of issues in our city. Whilst some have found this disturbing, I have a different view. In a country where political apathy is common, and our active participation in civil decision-making processes is very poor, I view this rise in interest as a very positive sign. We may have strongly opposing views and opinions, but the debate is essential. We need to remember it is the issues we are arguing about and not stoop to personal attacks where our views differ. With our collective skills and wisdom we have a far greater chance of arriving at better solutions for all. I am keen for our Community Centre to continue to provide a venue for such debate and community participation. We plan to arrange another opportunity later this year with a forum of all candidates standing in the local body elections, so please join us and find out about the people who seek to represent you.

On a completely different note, I was delighted to attend the Lantern Festival in Victoria Square last night, along with thousands of others. The colour and pleasure such occasions add to life in Christchurch are precious. With Culture Galore also coming up we are learning to enjoy and embrace diversity. I will be really thrilled when I also see this level of interest in occasions that celebrate our own indigenous culture. It is interesting to note the number of immigrants who have become actively involved in our Community Centre including both our leaders. They have brought both new ideas and energy to our work. I have a personal goal to work towards more active connections with our community's tangata whenua in the future.

Well that's my two-bob's worth for now!

Maggy Tai Rakena – Co-Chair

Invitation to Community Groups

Community groups and other organisations based in (or working in) St Albans are invited to a St Albans Community Network meeting. The first meeting is to take place on Thursday, 26 April, 10am at the St Albans Community Resource Centre (Colombo St). Many people will remember that such meetings used to take place a number of years ago. Christoph Hensch (Manager SARA) and Bruce Meder (Community Development Adviser, CCC) have decided to try to resurrect this initiative in the St Albans area, based on the successful operation of similar networks in Shirley and Papanui.

The meeting will begin with tea or coffee and biscuits, at 10am and will be facilitated by Bruce Meder. The meeting will not go past 11.30am, so that you can be assured of knowing when we will finish. The objective of the network is to enable the sharing of information within and between groups in St Albans. The idea is that you do not go away from the meeting with more work, but hopefully with some ideas, information or new contacts that may help ease your work.

All groups are welcome to attend; your views, ideas and knowledge are valuable.

Events Calender

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 10 – 13 April | Youth Holiday Program, St Albans Community Centre (379 6305) |
| 14 April | Market and national LETS conference, St Matthews Church (366 1992 or communitydollars@gmail.com) |
| 18 April | St Albans Residents' Association meeting St Albans Community Centre (374 2465) |
| 18 April | Golden Spoils, St Albans Baptist Church (355 6522) |
| 21 April | Standing for Local Body Elections, National Council of Women NZ (kellysykes@xtra.co.nz) |
| 25 April | Golden Meal, Anzac Day Special, St Albans Baptist Church (355 6522) |
| 2 May | Friends of Edgware AGM, St Albans Community Centre |



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Award-winning Garden hidden in St Albans neighbourhood

At a time when local gardens are getting smaller and leisure time is under threat, it is a pleasure to see what Barry Gadsby and his team of volunteers have achieved in Cornwall Gardens. His own garden is a delight, but it is Barry's success in the community that has resulted in awards from the Canterbury Civic Trust, the Mayor and the Canterbury Horticultural Society.

A year-long project saw a team of hard working residents tackle the neglected area, replacing introduced plants that had run rampant, with over seventy native species...and creating a haven for wildlife and local residents.

A true oasis in the city, and one that Barry says, 'has been a joy to create'.

Mark Williamson

Berwick Street Church St Albans Uniting Parish looks to the wider community.

There is a neighbourhood kitchen run by the YWCA operating from the back of the church and delivering about 10 meals a day to local Christchurch homes. Meals can be delivered hot, cold or frozen. The volunteer drivers for this service received an award from the Shirley/Papanui Community Board last year. The phone number for the kitchen is 355 4903.

An Indoor Bowls Club meets on Thursday evenings from April to September. About 30 men and women attend. However, the club is also exploring the idea of operating an afternoon session during the winter months, so interested men and women would be welcome. No experience is necessary, as you would be given tuition. Ring Bob (383 8429) or Ernie (355 6872) if you are interested.

The St Albans Garden Circle meets monthly (fourth Wednesday) throughout the year. They have outside speakers at each meeting on some gardening topics, run competitions for best bloom or posy or vegetable and exchange gardening hints while enjoying an afternoon of fellowship. Attendance is 30-40 ladies each meeting and the contact person is Eileen (389 6458) or Beth (358 2425).

Ernie French



Barry Gadsby at 27 Cornwall St is happy for you to visit.

St Albans Residents' Association meetings

Every third Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm at the
**St Albans Community Resource Centre, 1047
Colombo St, St Albans.** Any resident can attend or bring
any issue to the meeting or Ph 374-2465.

Oops !

The title of the front page article in the March issue should of course read "20-Year Celebration of 1st OSCAR in NZ - St Albans"

We apologise for this mistake.

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Lead lights Revealed



86 Edgeware Road observed and sketched by Hilaire Campbell

Promoting the Preservation of the History of St Albans Residences, people and commerce.

Past Revealed:

With the redevelopment of the corner of Sherborne Street and Edgeware Road, and the demolition of the existing buildings, an interesting side of the residence at 86 Edgeware Road has been revealed. On show are ornate barge boards, old finials and a more extensive than normal use of leadlight windows in the house.

Research has shown that the first residents on this section were John and Margaret TEMPLETON, both of Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland. Margaret DUFF had arrived in the country about 1879, and John was a new arrival, when they married on 8th November 1881 at the home of the Baptist minister, Rev Charles DALLASTON in Barbadoes Street.

John was a labourer, and the couple continued to live here until his death in 1908 at the age of 55. Margaret remained at

what was then 44 Edgeware Road. With renumbering the address became 86 Edgeware Road, in 1911.

Charles Frederick BUTCHER took up residence in 1913. His occupation was given as "painter", and his wife was Emmeline Edith (nee CURTIS). They married in 1893 in the parish of Bethnal Green in London. A son, Charles Victor BUTCHER, who was born in Hackney, London, in 1893, married Doris Marguerite Irene Mahala VINCENT, a 22 year old, at St Matthew's Church, St Albans, on 5th July 1917. Charles Victor served in the Army during World War I.

Charles Victor and Doris had

a son Victor Vincent BUTCHER in 1920.

By 1918, Charles Frederick lists his occupation as "lead light maker". Is this the time that 86 Edgeware Road acquired its distinctive windows?

Charles Victor described himself as a "labourer" in 1920, but by 1924 he was a "lead glazier" and was living just down the road from his parents at 14 Cranford Street.

The BUTCHER association with this house continued on until at least the 1970s, with a succession of "Charles" being shown as residents. Lead light manufacturing appears to be a family concern, as there was a Ralph BUTCHER, living in Courtney Street in 1937 and 1940, who gave this as his occupation.

Researched by Nancy Sutherland

Compiled by the St Albans History Group
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STANN relies on your contributions. Please send us your articles, letters and notices. The deadline for the May issue is April 15th.



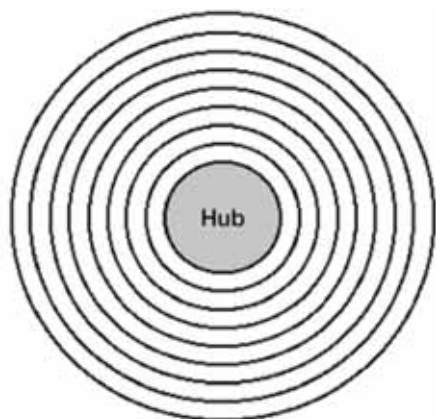
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Concentric Circles



Jane and I are in the process of restoring a 1908 villa in St. Albans. Needless to say, it seems as if it is taking far more money and time than we have available. We are constantly running to various stores to buy something either for ourselves or for the various trades' people working on the house.

Two separate incidents have made us firm believers in the theory of buying in concentric circles away from your home. Some examples:

Paint for our home. Our painter stated a preference for Dulux paint. We thought about buying the paint from one of the big chain stores and got a price. Jane reminded me that we were not being true to our philosophy of buying in concentric circles. I went to the Edgeware hardware store, explained what we were trying to do, and could they try to match the price. The manager, Vicky, explained they could match the price, and also pointed out that both Drew and Roz were quite skilled about paint and I would be pleased working with them. I did so and not only did I get a competitive price, but I also got superior service.

Lawn Mower. I called around town to check prices after I had found the model I wanted. The best price I received was from a chain store, but this time I also went to Edgeware Mower. The owner, Andrew, explained that they could not match the price I was quoted on the phone, but that I needed to be aware of several points when buying a mower. They clearly explained the differences in construction, blade width, and after sale service. After hearing what Andrew explained, I purchased the mower from Edgeware.

After ten hours of use, I received a complete maintenance that included blade sharpening, oil change, etc. and it did not cost me a penny. Not only that, but when we purchased the mower they completely assembled the mower and had tested it prior to me picking it up. Since then, we have purchased a chainsaw and a weed eater from Edgeware Mowers.

So what have Jane and I learnt? We have learnt three very important lessons.

#1. Always start first by talking with your local merchant. Give them an opportunity to tell you about their services, prices, after sale follow up, etc. Give them a chance to convince you to buy from them.

#2. Remember that the dollars you spend with these local merchants stays, for the most part, in the St. Albans neighbourhood. They buy their own goods and services locally, and often hire their employees from our neighbourhood.

#3. Price. The initial cost is only one part of making a successful purchase. Talk about quality, the right model, after care service and maintenance, warranty guarantees, and most importantly, determine if you are seen as a real live person versus just another customer.

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Bill Demeter

Wendy Kappler



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The Water Thieves

Late last year, I went to hear Sam Mahon at the Art Gallery... and I'm glad I did.

I was struck first by the creative instincts expressed in his artworks, and then in talking about his new book *The Water Thieves*, which attempts to weave a picture of a past state of imagined bliss contrasted with a projected awful future. He said writing it was like a painting being constructed-with perspective and feeling, and light and shade. It was also like an unfolding detective story. He had a certain precise way of searching for the right words ... waving his hands as though to grasp a telling phrase, and then coming at it from several angles; constructing a story to better illuminate the situation. Much as his celebrated lawyer-father, Justice Peter Mahon illuminated the gloomy and tragic picture of *Erubus* many years ago. Sam's word pictures painted another tragedy being enacted in the countryside at this moment.

One of his pictures was that of a country idyll. His boyhood memories of running alongside babbling brooks, and clear rushing rivers, seeing fat trout or eels in the shallows, and catching them later through skill and stealth, were very seductive. Many of us can recall wading through clear cold streams when tramping in the high country and being able to stop for a refreshing drink. That is not possible or advisable now. Many of those clear streams are polluted weedy trickles, attacked by a ferocious combination of irrigation companies dominated by small cabals of corporate farmer-entrepreneurs; and of equally tenacious power companies after the last drops of running water for "renewable" electricity generation.

Didymo chokes the life blood from alpine waterways, and gravel companies mine the shingle islands and river banks for more highways. It's fast becoming a picture of a landscape in crisis.

So that is the country! And it is beginning to happen in our cities and towns as well. We hear from Fish and Game spokespeople that our lowland rivers and streams are badly degraded, lakes are declared "clinically dead" and urban waterways run brown with silt after every rainfall. The clear clean Avon and Heathcote that once teemed with mahinga kai are now rivers of past memory. We are told it is possible that parts of the Avon may run dry during drought periods. Yet we forget that the waterways that Sam Mahon talks about and the rivers of urban Christchurch are linked by the vast system of underground aquifers running from the Waimakiriri under Christchurch to the sea.

We abuse and pollute its above ground visible parts, and waste much of the "pure" underground springwater on watering exotic plants foreign to Canterbury's soil. The sight of water running from no doubt well-tended gardens into gutters fills me with sorrow every time I see it; because it is a theft from other living creatures and from our future generations. We are stealing our futures through greed and carelessness. I agree with Sam Mahon on this. It is time to wake up and be responsible. To be clear on what has happened, and why, and on what can be done to remedy this continuing crisis. I, for one, do not want another tragedy.

Doug Craig



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National LETS Conference

Canterbury Community Dollars (CCD) invites similar organisations from all over New Zealand to St Albans for this years national conference. It is being held at St Matthews Church on 145 Cranford St. There will be an excellent opportunity to have a look for ourselves on Saturday, 14th April, when a market will run from 10am till lunch time. During the afternoon, the conference will feature workshops and presentations that are open to the public.

CCD, in operation since 1989 and formerly known as PLEBS, is a community-based, non-profit trading system. It is based on continuous give and take and particularly useful in supporting and encouraging those in our community who might have low or no incomes. This "social currency" designed to include everyone, regardless of background and economic means and is an excellent platform for local community building.

Everyone can join either as an individual, a family, organisation or business. The current initial joining fee of \$15 is waived if you join at one of the events. Membership in subsequent years is free.

For more information email communitydollars@gmail.com or call (03) 366 1992.

St. Albans Youth Café

at the St Albans Community Resource Centre at 1047 Colombo Street. The Café is open every Thursday evening from 7 pm to 9.30 pm and is available to young people from 11-16. There's a pool table and tennis table with lots of time to just chill out – bring your friends.

St Albans Community Notice

Community Resource Centre

1047 Colombo Street.

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