July 2007 - Vol. 14, Number 6 Issue No. 150

The St Albans Neighbourhood News

Send your contributions and adverts to PO Box 21-102 ChCh. Ph: 374 2465 (Fax: 374 2467). e-mail: stann@stalbans.gen.nz

The St Albans Community Centre - a hub of community activity

Have you ever noticed that old heritage building close to the end of Colombo St in Edgeware Road? It says

'St Albans Library' outside, but it hasn't been a library for a long time. The building is a Council-owned facility, run by the St Albans Residents' Association. Having started my work as the Manager of the St Albans Community Centre about six months ago, I feel now is an appropriate time to report back to the community.

The Centre and its functions

The centre is an increasingly popular place, now with the added convenience of the carpark that was opened last year. We estimate that there are about 23,000 people passing

through our doors annually. There is a large diversity of community groups using the hall, as well as individuals teaching classes. Besides Tai Chi, Pilates and yoga, there are also groups practising Wu Tao Dance, and the Laughter Group on Sunday mornings. We see the St Albans' Choir, the Harlequin Players rehearsing, as well as the Savage Club. On Thursday evenings a Youth Cafe with a small number of regularly attending young people, livens up the place. And there are many more. One group, the Fly Fishing Club, grew so much since they started meeting at the Centre a few years ago, they had to move on to larger premises. We also provide services like Internet access through the NeighbourNet Computer Room, and photocopying and faxing.



No, this building is not a library anymore. If you are among the many local residents who have never ventured through the doors of our Centre, then we invite you to pop in to have a look.

In order to further improve our Centre's services, we've decided to fundraise for some equipment improvements. We need to urgently replace our two dilapidated whiteboards, we'd like to add more chairs to the hall, and we are still following-up on raising money for a sound system. Also, a screen and a projector is on our wish list. We have partially achieved our goal to replace and upgrade our computer monitors with LCD screens. This all adds up to about \$10,000 that still needs to be raised. If you, as a local resident or a local business, would like to support our fantastic community facility...we would

like to hear from you!

While the centre is the most visible

part of who we are, we are also engaged in many other activities. As one of the about 80 or 90 Residents' Associations in Christchurch, we actively take part in Council consultation and submission processes. We gave input to the new Community Development Strategy, which among other things, proposes to abolish the Council's Social Initiatives Fund, thanks to which the Centre has been running for the last ten years. Developing our relationships with the Community Board, Council and its employees, is an important part of my work.

It is the function of a Residents' Association to listen to what our local residents have to say; take up issues; and mediate conflicts if such should arise. In our position we are well-

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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.

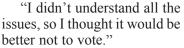
STANN does not have an opinion of its own (just a strong community bias). Any opinion is that of the writer only. STANN is published by the St Albans Residents' Association and printed by New Century Press. STANN is a not for profit newsletter, delivered monthly, free to over 5000 homes and businesses.

Built by Dafyd



Chair Chat

I recently talked to twenty people in St. Albans, and asked if they had voted in the last local elections. Only nine had voted. When asked why they did not vote, the most common answers were:





"I lost the voting card and didn't find out if I could get another."

"I only voted for the Mayor, I didn't know much about the other positions."

"I don't vote because my vote does not mean anything."

All of the above comments are excuses and are wrong. Voting is an obligation, not an option.

I've been told that in the last twenty years in the South Island, there have been twenty local elections where the winner won by less than twenty votes. Two elections ago, in Christchurch, a city councillor was elected by four votes! So how can you believe your vote is not important or does not count? If you don't vote for someone you want elected, you have just give the opponent two votes!

I emigrated from a country where less than 36% of the people vote. In the USA we got what we deserved, because people did not vote. I would like to share with you part of a famous quote:

As democracy is perfected, the office represents, more and more closely, the inner soul of the people. We move toward a lofty ideal. On some great and glorious day the plain folks of the land will reach their heart's desire at last, and the White House will be adorned by a downright moron.

Oct 3, 1928

Baltimore Sun

H.L. Mencken

Don't let that happen here in New Zealand. Every person in Christchurch needs to vote in the upcoming local elections. There is no excuse not to vote.

The St. Albans Community Centre will do whatever it takes to help you register and help you understand the issues. Please come to the Centre and either Christoph or Alison will give you the postal registration cards and explain to you the different elections involved. We will not tell you whom to vote for, that is your responsibility.

We will have candidates appear at the Centre for meetings and be questioned by the public. We will publish articles about issues to be considered. We will help in anyway possible, but the moral responsibility and the obligation to vote is yours. To do something other than vote is reckless and irresponsible.

Sincerely,



Bill Demeter - Co-Chair

What's happening at the St Albans Community Centre:

Computer Course:

Struggling to use the computer?

Come to a course tailor made to suit your needs.

Small classes of six.

St Albans Community Centre: New Courses

Struggling to use today's technology?

Basic Computer Skills Course designed with you in mind.

Available soon. Small classes and low fees

Learner Driver Licence Course

– learn with a qualified tutor.

Our very popular <u>Youth Holiday Programme</u> – designed with the 11 to 16 year olds in mind is rolling out for the July holidays – be in quick to reserve a place.

For further information, phone Alison at the Centre on 379 6305

Leisure Group:

Come along & join the fun with the St Albans Leisure Group – get to know our city & what it offers in entertainment & activities that are of low cost & high value.

Phone Alison at the Centre – 379 6305

The St Albans NeighbourNet

Open Monday – Friday 11 am - 3 pm Saturdays from 1 – 3 pm

Internet access, email & photocopying available

ST ALBANS YOUTH CAFÉ

at the St Albans Community Resource Centre at 1047 Colombo Street. The Café is open every Thursday evening from 7:15pm to 9:15pm 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.

Events Calender

11 July Golden Spoils, St Albans Baptist Church

17 July St Albans Residents' Association meeting

(3742465)

18 July Water Wisdom presentation at

St Albans Community Centre (379 6305)

21 Aug. St Albans Residents' Association meeting

 $(374\ 2465)$



From page one

placed to take concerns of local residents and businesses to the appropriate Local Authority Bodies. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have a problem with the RMA, or if there are other issues that affect you unfavourably and need attention. You are also always invited to attend the monthly Residents' Association Meetings...please see the announcement box on page 3.

Community Development Work

On a broader level, the Centre aims to do community development, work that has been described as 'being broadly concerned with enabling people to improve the quality of their lives and gain greater influence over the processes that affect them' (Marjorie Mayo). For us, that means being involved in more than the immediate area of St Albans, and connect in with activities of the wider community sector. I have spent some time visiting and networking with other community centres in Shirley, Mairehau, Richmond and Addington, to name a few.

On 28 April, two representatives of St Albans Residents' Association attended a local Community Sector Taskforce meeting. This meeting was part of a nationwide consultative process, leading up to a national forum with Government in Wellington on 20-21 June. I've been chosen to be one of three Canterbury people representing the local community sector in Wellington. Expect a report on the outcomes of the meeting to appear in the next issue of STANN.

In our quest to enable people to improve the quality of their lives, the Centre is also participating in the Structural Poverty Group – a small forum dedicated to the education of the community on the structural causes of poverty, which arose from a forum organised by Healthy Christchurch last year. In the context of the 'Musical Chairs' seminars, I've given two presentations on 'Poverty and the Money System'. On a practical note, the Centre has also decided to join the Canterbury Community Dollars Exchange (CCD) and offer some basic services like photocopying, Internet access and a percentage on hall-rentals.

'Gaining greater influence over the processes that affect people' also means helping people become more aware of political processes. One such process is the upcoming Local Body Election in October. We've made it our goal to use our local paper to provide you with as much information as possible to enable you to participate in the Election and make an informed choice among the candidates vying for the positions that are up for election.

STANN

This gets me to the newspaper you are reading right now. With 150 editions, STANN has been a feature of St Albans for thirteen years now. It has been successful, and an inspiration to many other local newsletters around the city. Part of my job is to edit it, and to make sure it is printed,

published and distributed on time. Besides that, it is a completely volunteer-driven project. There is currently a group of seven or eight people who take care of producing editorial content, contacting advertisers, proofreading, typesetting and the distribution of the paper. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who is involved in producing our paper – as without this voluntary input it would never be possible to have STANN.

You may have noticed that this issue is a bumper issue with twelve pages, instead of the usual eight. Expect more changes to happen to your favourite local newsletter in the near future. We are planning to redesign the layout, but also to increase circulation by distributing to more households.

This paper is a voice by the community for the community. If you as a resident would like to share a story, or make us aware of issues that are locally relevant, I'd like to invite you to get in touch with us and/or contribute an article or photographs. We are also happy to print letters to the Editor (we just never get any).

To contact STANN, please send an email to 'stann@stalbans.gen.nz' or call 374 2465.

To conclude this overview, I have to say that I'm really happy with my job, and St Albans and its people are great to work with. I'd like to invite you all to participate in our community life, either come to one of our Residents' Association meetings, participate in one of the many courses we offer at the Centre, or just drop by for a chat and a cup of

Christoph Hensch

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.

Paul Evans the nature correspondent of the Guardian states: March 9-15, 2007

Concerning an insensitive development in England: "This landscape desperately needs large trees for the future – not just for their aesthetic value and the role they play in filtering the air, retaining moisture and providing habitats for wildlife, but also to establish an identity of place and some contact with nature."

STANN relies on your contributions. Please send us your articles, letters and notices. The deadline for the August issue is July 16th.

Learning to Love Your Community Board

Yesterday, in the course of my working day, I conducted a straw poll amongst my colleagues and anyone else I happened to meet, and asked them the following question: "What's a Community Board?" No one could give me an answer, although a couple tried. "Is it the notice board opposite the supermarket?" one very witty person replied. Another came slightly closer when he asked, "Isn't it some kind of committee of the City Council?"

So, let's try to explain, in very simple terms, what a Community Board is—because actually they have a vital and far-reaching effect on decision-making in our community, and we really should be more well-informed. Besides, in October we are going to have local elections, and we are all called to elect our local Community Board members.

In New Zealand there is a total of 143 Boards, originally set up to replace the old District Councils as a result of the Local Body Reforms in 1989.

In Christchurch there are eight of them, and they are part of the elected structure of the Christchurch City Council. Our own Community Board is the Shirley/Papanui Board, whose territory has the same boundaries as the C.C.C. wards. This is a very large area encompassing the suburbs of St Albans, Shirley, Papanui, Belfast, Brooklands, Redwood and Spencerville, and possibly some areas I haven't mentioned!

The five Board members are elected by postal vote every three years, and in addition two Councillors—in our case Graham Condon and Norm Withers—are appointed to the Board.

Perhaps it is due to the fact that a Community Board is a political body, that many people feel it is just an extension of Tuam St, and they therefore feel unconnected to it—but the truth is quite different, both in theory and in practice—because in effect a Community Board member has two bosses: one the C.C.C., and the other, you and I.

It is true that one of their main roles is to consider and report on any issues referred to it by the Council, and to carry out work delegated to it. This role alone involves a wideranging number of activities such as: keeping the public informed of the objectives of the Council as outlined in the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP); approving leases of Council land; dealing with safety and policing issues; and making traffic decisions with regard to parking, bus routes, and so on. The Board has an annual budget of \$390,000, which needs to be carefully allocated as fairly as possible between the needs of all the different communities—and in addition there is also between \$50,000 - \$60,000 of discretionary funds to be used on community projects.

From the point of view of community leaders and the general public, of far more importance than these tasks, is the second role of the Community Board, which is "to represent and act as an advocate for the interests of the community." In other words, the Community Board is that vital stepping stone between the grass roots and the somewhat remote ivory tower we love to hate in Tuam St, enabling any individual to take part in the political process.

So, how easy is it, in reality, to participate? Very easy,

The Shirley/Papanui Community Board meets fortnightly (on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 4.00pm) and reports to the C.C.C. on the outcomes of these meetings. Members of the public are welcome to attend open meetings, and can directly have their say on any issue affecting their community. In order to have speaking rights, you need to make a request to the Chairperson (Yvonne Palmer) or to the Community Board Advisor at the Papanui Service Centre on Ph 9418999.

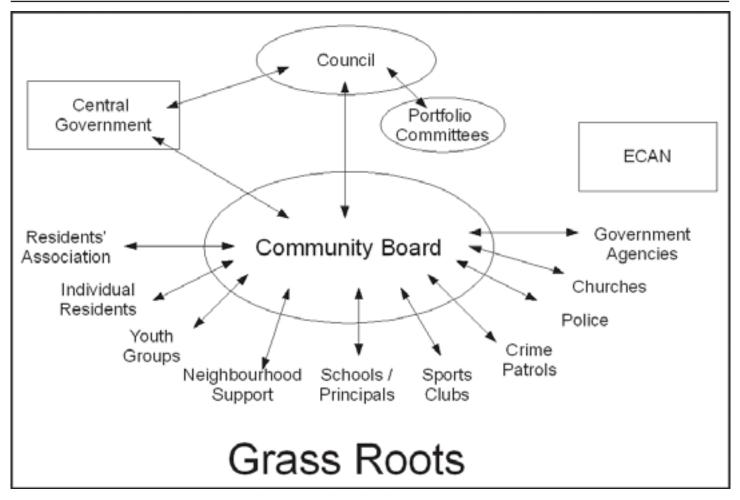


The Community Board Meeting Room is at the back of the Papanui Service Centre and Library building.

It can sometimes feel intimidating to get up and talk in front of a bunch of strangers, and you might not want to do it yourself. In that case, there are a number of smaller 'stepping stones' you can use to get your message across, or to obtain further information: firstly by speaking to the elected members personally; or secondly, through one of many active community groups. There is a constant two-way exchange of information between the Community Boards and organizations like Residents' Associations, Youth Groups, Neighbourhood Support Groups and so on, and leaders of these types of networks are usually more than willing to advocate on your behalf. As a resident of St Albans you are always welcome to address yourself to the St Albans Residents' Association.

In addition, the City Council employs various people whose specific role is to advise and facilitate, and who have a wealth of experience of Local Government. The wonderful thing is that they are incredibly easy to access through our local Service Centres, and more importantly are very personable. One such is Roger Cave, who is one member of a city-wide Community Engagement Team. Another is Bruce Meder, who is a Community Development Advisor. These services are well-used by people in the know, but too few of us are aware of their existence. (We hope to remedy this in future editions of STANN.)

Many people might ask "Is my participation going to be meaningful? Will I actually be listened to?" We have learnt



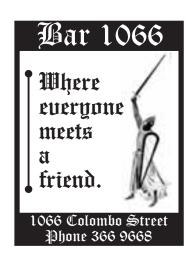
This is how the Community Board sees itself, nested within the larger community

to be somewhat suspicious of the consultation process, and sometimes imagine that the letters we have sweated over are thrown into some kind of "bottom drawer" in the basement of the council building. However, in learning about Community Boards and talking in-depth with Chairperson Yvonne Palmer, I now feel I have a much deeper appreciation of the workload involved, and the complexity of Local Government. It is certainly not a job I'd ever put my hand up for! It must be incredibly difficult making decisions for the common good, balancing the opinions of different sections of the community, and dealing with personality conflicts that must surely arise from time to time.

In the course of our conversation, Yvonne explained that currently Community Boards throughout New Zealand are addressing the need to develop a more thorough understanding of community views, and to build mutual trust and respect. In our own community, and we might have to admit that we are sometimes fiercely parochial, we often feel under-represented by our Community Board—since none of its current members live right in our community—but I would suggest that we might have to adjust our mindset a little and learn the fine art of effective lobbying if we want to be a strongly heard voice.

We have this resource, and if we use it, there will be the added benefit of strengthening it, so that we do not run the risk of losing it in the future. We might get better results from using the services found right on our doorstep, than in always going to the Big Cheese.

Maxine Feutz





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Everything you need to know about Enrolling to Vote!

"Bad politicians are elected to Government by good people who didn't vote"

The St Albans Community Centre has made its goal to inform our local residents in depth about the upcoming Local Elections. We will present the issues at stake, as well as the candidates who put themselves forward for the different positions. We will also present the different local authority bodies, for which we will be electing members. Please see the article on the Community Board in this issue.

Who is going to be elected?

- * Mayor of Christchurch City.
- * Christchurch City Councillors: 13 Councillors in total; with two Councillors being elected in the Shirley/Papanui Ward.
- Members of the Christchurch Community Boards: five members to be elected in our Ward.
- Christchurch City members of the Canterbury Regional Council (ECAN): eight city members, with two members being elected from each of the four city constituencies
- Canterbury District Health Board members: seven members elected at large across the region.

Election Calendar

Nominations for all positions are open between 27 July and 24 August 2007.

The day of the election is Saturday 13 October 2007.

Signing up to be on the Electoral Roll

The St. Albans Community Centre can help anyone who has questions about: if they are enrolled to vote; or if they want to enrol for the first time. Here's what we can do:

- * We can check to see if you are currently enrolled.
- * We can enrol you to vote for the first time.
- We can provide special 0800 phone numbers to assist you with languages such as Maori, Cook Island Maori, Tongan, Samoan, Chinese and Korean.
- * We can assist you in filling out the enrolment form - it only takes a few minutes.



* We have all the forms and information you need, to be able to vote in the next Local Elections in October

The St. Albans Community Centre has received some voter information from the last Local Elections, and it is very clear than a minority of voters are now voting for the majority. Consider for a moment:

In the last Christchurch Local Election, there was a 46% turn-out

54% did not vote!

In the last City Council Election, there was a 39% turn-out. 61% did not vote!

In the last ECAN Election (Christchurch area) there was a 22% turn-out.

78% did not vote!

Just remember, if you don't vote, you get the Government you deserve.

Please drop by the Community Centre, and let us try to help answer any questions or concerns you might have about

Bill Demeter (Co-Chair)



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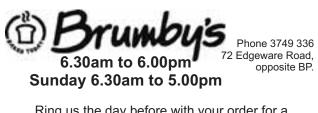






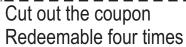
St Albans Pavilion and Pool Project aiming for charitable status





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sandwich loaf and
receive another free
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with this coupon. Conditions apply Brumby's Edgeware only. One coupon per household. 'Friends of Edgeware' President Pauline Cotter, (at left), board member Craig Dickson, Secretary/Treasurer Aynsley Macnab, and Klaus Hermanspan, (standing), pictured signing documents applying for charitable trust status for the group. "This means donations to the St Albans Pavilion and Pool Project will soon be tax deductible," said Aynsley. "One more step toward our goal," said Pauline, "since the Council vote to give our community time to rebuild our facility, our group has been part of a huge learning curve on process. This project has overwhelming community support, without which we could not continue." The group's website is now active, and can be found at:

www.stalbans-pavilionandpool.org.nz.

Many wonderful people have donated their time and professional skills: Stefan Garble for a website design; Lynette Woods, graphic artist, for a Logo; Peter Beaven, renowned Christchurch architect, for draft plans—now ready to be submitted for resource consent; also Gary Knight and Craig Dickson for legal advice. Thank you all, and see you in the swim!

Kevin McDonald

Speight Street Volunteer(s) sought

We're looking for a local resident who could help us out. You may be aware of the water feature which has been installed at the end of Speight Street where it intersects with Ayleford Street. Spring water is piped to the water feature which consists of a channel that the water flows through before continuing on to the stormwater system.

The City Council is looking at effective ways to maintain this feature within a restricted budget and would welcome help from a civic-minded resident who be willing to check the feature weekly, clear out any litter from the channel and report any general concerns or damage. If this sounds like something you can help with, please contact the Council's Central City and Heritage Contract Manager Maria Adamski on 941 5103

Community Leader aims to preserve the richness of a multicultural society

Father Sourial, Priest of the Coptic Church in Edgeware Road, expressed his thanks for the opportunity to talk to STANN. He compared the present situation for migrants to how it was ten years ago.

"A few years ago when we came here, the migrant situation was very, very hard....people couldn't find any

work." The rosy picture the migrant had of the job situation was soon disillusioned. But now, Father Sourial says everything is completely different.

He is very proud of the atmosphere of friendship and fellowship between migrants and New Zealanders. "I feel very happy that now the migrant finds his own job, starting their own business, whereas before even with their qualifications they could only find a job driving taxis. Even with our children studying they can graduate with a good degree from university or polytechnic."

Referring to the problems of youth culture, Father Sourial said he emphasized keeping the best of both cultures according to their conservative way of thinking. Young people find it easy to adapt to the New Zealand culture . But it was his aim to maintain the diversity and richness of a multicultural society.

In relation to the youth culture, the tragedy that occurred in Edgeware Road recently, was uppermost in Father Sourial's thoughts. "The tragedy was very severe, a catastrophe."

He realized that for the past ten years it had been very peaceful among the St Albans neighborhood. People supported each other when they needed something even as minor as a flat battery. But he felt sorry that this sort of entertainment turned into fighting and trouble. Even though his Church was closed on the Sunday afterwards—because of the crime scene—his prayers were for the comfort of the families affected, and that those two beautiful girls may rest in peace.

He prays that young people are made aware that life is very important and that even though we are very proud of our young people, they sometimes make mistakes which affect family, friends and the community as a whole.

He hopes that the young might take a good lesson out

of this tragedy, and that Christchurch becomes a more peaceful place after this.

"These sorts of gatherings, socializing and entertainment, must become more peaceful, because life is very important, we have to keep it, we have to enjoy it."

"That night I came and prayed and lit a candle for the

lives of those two girls. The media asked me if I wanted to say anything and I mentioned that in spite of the tragedy we must seek goodness out of it, and that most of all we have to care for our children. They start off in life thinking they know everything but that is an exaggeration. We have to look after our children and see that they have the right company at the right times."

Father Sourial said that not all our children receive the guidance they need. "We have to teach our parents how to look after our children, that they are a gift given to us, that's why parenting is a fine art according to their responsibility. We

have this hope in God."

"We need more activity in the St Albans Community so that we can come together, particularly on occasions that have religious or ethnic backgrounds, to share our culture and festivals. Not only on the level of family, but also on the level of young children. We need to have something in common together."

Next month Father Sourial is expecting another priest from a monastery to come and help him, so there will be two Egyptian priests serving here in St Albans, and their activities can be coordinated to do more socializing and providing for the needs of their Church's families.

There are around one hundred and thirty of them. Eighty of them are Egyptian, fifty Ethiopian. In general there are four Coptic Churches in New Zealand. It shares a tradition that goes back two thousand years to the First Century A.D. Father Sourial sees that his work as a priest is to continue this tradition, and promote its heritage among New Zealanders and the other Churches. Part of the tradition is the iconography and the teachings of the early Church.

Richard Bradley



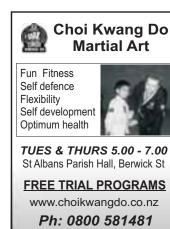
Coptic Church Edgeware Road



4.30pm to 9.30pm.







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NeighbourNet – Volunteers and computers wanted



For a long time, the Internet Café has been a part of the services we provide. During 2007, an average of 171 people per month have used the facility. The computer room is open Monday to Friday from 11am till 3pm and on Saturdays from 1pm till 3pm, and is run entirely by volunteers. Do you have spare time and computer skills, including the use of Windows XP, email and the Internet? We are urgently looking for more people to help us continue this service. Please contact us at the number below.

The NeighbourNet also runs another service – recycling of older, unused computers, that are still in good working order. We currently have a lot of monitors, but no desktop boxes to go with them. Instead of throwing them out – why don't you drop your old computers to the Community Centre and give someone else an opportunity?

Please phone Alison at the Centre at 379 6305

List and sell your house with Gillman's Edgeware and we will donate \$1,000.00 to the new





355-3500 027-433-6865

(Quote this advertisement to the agent)

A "Virtual" Memorial for St Albans ?

They shall grow not old, as we who are left grow old.

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning,

We shall remember them.

-unknown

These sentiments expressed so often at ANZAC Day services throughout the World remind us of the sacrifice made by the young men and women of St Albans who fought and died in armed conflicts around the globe.

The St Albans History Group, recognising that there is not a civic memorial in the area, is keen to create a "virtual" memorial in the form of a database on a website where the names of those who lost their lives—and who had a connection with St Albans—can be recorded.

We know of the plaques at St Matthew's Church in Cranford Street, and one at St Albans School. There may be others recording names of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Entries could be in the form of this example, or more extensive depending on information available:

Private in Canterbury Infantry Regiment. Service number 6/1101.



Born 25th December 1892, the son of William Robert and Janet Stirling SIME, who lived at 54 Mansfield Avenue.

Noel attended St Albans School 1902-03 and Christchurch Boys' High 1905-08.

He was killed in action at Gallipoli on 25th April 1915 and is commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial.

The History Group would welcome comments or information which would help with this project.

Brian Spear (convenor) 3559 202 or {briangspear@hotmail.com}

St Albans Residents! Did you know you have a

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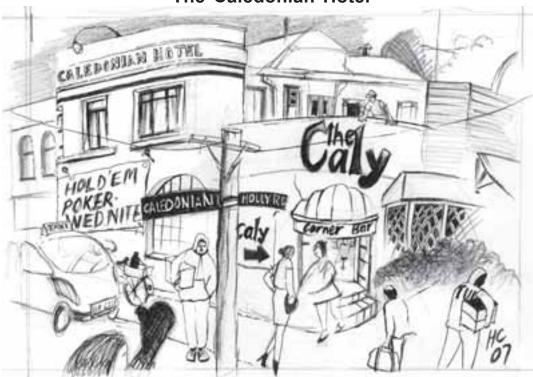
Hours: Monday - Friday 2.00pm - 4.00pm Saturday 10.00am - 11.30am

Mairehau Library, 42 Kensington Ave

Perhaps you have a couple of hours to spare and could join the

Ph 385 7552 or 980 1225 for more information

The Caledonian Hotel



The Caly is the family restaurant and bars which make up the Caledonian Hotel. Caledonia is the Roman name for Scotland, and was a popular pub name in the 1890s when it was built. Sources for information are: Grenville Tomich-the-Dalmatian Manager – see him waving from the balcony; and Martin Coffey (rental properties)—now in his 80s—who inherited the pub from his parents in the mid-70s. Martin's Dad bought it in 1938.

A grocery shop-cum-brothel called the Rising Sun is how it is first described, and, when Martin's grandfather knew it, nothing short of a bog when it rained as there was no asphalt. "There were no half-gallon jars," says Martin, "my grandfather took his beer away in a tin billy." He has several photos – one from 1945 shows a Vauxhall stuck in a big snow drift outside the original east wall of the pub. "This was the way the original bar ran," says Grenville, "parallel to Caledonian Road."

Sooner rather than later, the whole structure will be bulldozed. The high relief lettering, the interesting cornices on the old sash windows upstairs, the fine Georgian frames, all will be gone, because the land is worth so much money. Hilaire Campbell



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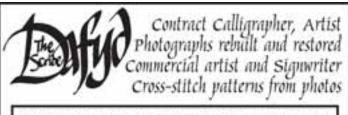
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STANN ten years ago - comment on old news

It seems that a lot of excellent ideas in the St Albans area come to naught. In July 1997, plans were drawn up for landscaping the Edgeware-Colombo corner. A picture of those plans is printed below. As far as I can tell, the corner looks the same as it did many decades ago. Looking back through old issues of STANN is quite an eye-opener.

Some folk commented that the Edgeware-Colombo corner was dangerous - it still is. We need traffic lights - you should see the corner at rush hour! And that dangerous crossing just far enough from the corner to be a hazard. Do we have to have someone die before notice is taken? The local folk keep trying to get something done, but Big Brother throws cold water on nearly all the ideas. To me, this is not the way things should be. Someone once said that you cannot fight City Hall - and in Christchurch, the folk at City Hall have their earplugs firmly in place. I am disappointed in the fact that politics, rather than people and reason, control this city.

In July 1997, the St Albans Library was being closed and a Mobile Library introduced.

Plains Exchange and Barter System (PLEBS) advertised that it was doing well and needed more tradespeople to get involved. But, ten years on, PLEBS has disappeared. I think that people realised that the green dollar idea, while a great concept, had a few people gaining and many losing...because the services offered were not needed or wanted by most people. However, the concept has been reincarnated as

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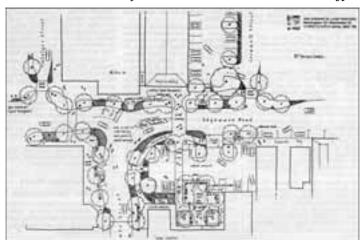
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Back in 1997, Garry Moore, City Councilor, was saying that cellphone towers were dangerous to school kids and people in St Albans, and that Telecom should go somewhere else. Isn't it fascinating how attitudes change, depending on what's fashionable or crowd-pleasing at the time?

And that's the way I see it.

Dafyd





House and Stables - 42 Innes Road. Circa 1900 (CCC Library Heritage Collection)

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