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St Albans Heartbreak - one mother's story

On the evening of Saturday the 5th of May, I was dining with my siblings when a discussion arose around managing youth parties. A number of us had stories to share of our own offspring's parties that had gone awry. One parent of an upcoming party hopefully resolved to ban all such activities at her home!

How shocked I was then, to awaken the next day to an unfolding tragedy right in my neighbourhood. My daughter, like hundreds of other Christchurch youth, had been invited to a party at Edgeware Road the night before. She decided to flag it after receiving her third text message invitation from various sources recognizing it would be a very large event. A number of friends and acquaintances attended and witnessed the heartbreaking chaos and carnage.

What went wrong? How could this 'war-zone' be our usually peaceful neighbourhood? How can a young person be facing such murder charges? How can it be that many families are facing the agony of their child's death or injury?

We naturally seek someone/something to blame. Often we also seek simplistic solutions. The messy part of life however, is never simple to solve. If it was, it would have been solved a long time ago.

We can blame the party hosts for

allowing so many invitations to circulate. I would suggest however that today's technology limits our control over such communication. It also reminds me that in my youth it was usual for us to drive around looking for crowds, and therefore parties. I understand the hosts did sensibly seek Police assistance to control



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their increasingly out of control event.

We can blame the Police for not dispersing the crowd sooner. I would suggest that the Wisdom of Solomon is required by Police to know exactly when to intervene, as such action can also precipitate a violent reaction. The Police were on hand and in force, and will spend hundreds of hours sorting out the subsequent mess.

We can blame the parents of the young people who chose to attend this party. I cannot think of a time in history when people have not sought the company of

others to relax and celebrate special occasions. Today's young people are no different. As a parent, I believe it is my duty to teach my children sensible behaviour...to check their plans, and to follow up on inappropriate actions. The task of adolescence is to individualize and separate from the parent as the child

makes the transition to adulthood. This task involves exploration, experimentation and practice. Sometimes a child... sometimes an adult... making foolish, childish decisions, yet able to undertake adult activities. Parents need to allow the boundaries of childhood to gradually stretch so that independence is achieved safely. There is no script for this—every individual is different and mistakes will be made along the way. We cannot just lock up our young people at

home until they are adults to keep them safe. If they don't learn to work things

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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.

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St Albans Heartbreak - continued

out for themselves, they will remain children and not mature. Parents need support to carry out the hardest job in the world alongside the courage to stand firmly and wisely.

One area of concern for me is the drug and alcohol fuelled approach our country has to festivity. We seem to believe we cannot have fun without them. We also seem to model that excess usage is funny, and that we are not accountable for our behaviour while under the influence. Binge drinking did not start in 2007...it has a long history in our country.

Another concern I have is around our country's apparent acceptance of violent behaviour. We do not seem to recognize the prevalence, seriousness or harm of it. We dismiss and minimize it. In Christchurch each week, Police are called out to an average of one hundred incidences of Family Violence. More than 10% of local children reported incidences of sexual abuse before the age of sixteen years in one large world-respected local study. NZ recently won the Bronze medal for child abuse out of the OECD countries. That means NZ is the third worst in the developed world for harming children.

My final concern in this context, is the lack of care and understanding I see expressed for young people. I see them labelled as troublesome and difficult and responsible for a large proportion of crime. I however, experience the majority of them as our wonderful future. As a country I see little knowledge evident of child development. This leads to poor policy and legislative decisions. I consider parenting to be my most important contribution to society, yet I feel constantly pressured to find sufficient time to do it justice. In between earning a living and community participation, I know my own children have missed out on my time. We are working longer hours in NZ than those in many other countries for wages that are lower than in many countries, and I would suggest that our children are paying the price. What values are we portraying to our young people? When surveyed many young people stated a strong desire for more time with their parents/caregivers.

In conclusion, I want to extend my heartfelt sympathy to the grieving whanau of Hannah and Jane, and to the distressed parents of the many injured. I also extend my thoughts to the whanau of the young person who chose to drive the car that night for whatever reason. There are no winners in this story—just many victims. Let us all learn to treasure and respect one another.

He aha te mea nui o te ao .

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He tangata It is people

He tangata It is people

Maggy Tai Rakena

St Albans Community Notices

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Events Calender

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 5 Jun | Structural Poverty and the Money System, a seminar at St Albans Community Centre, 7 pm, (374 2465) |
| 7 Jun | Give Life, by Nicky Wagner, MP at St Albans School Hall, 5.30pm |
| 19 Jun | St Albans Residents' Association meeting (379 6305) |
| 23 Jun | Community Dollar Market, St Albans Community Centre, 2pm (374 2465) |
| 26 Jun | Inter-Agency meeting, St Albans Community Centre, 12.30pm (374 2465) |

“The good, the bad and the ugly...”



St Albans is suffering from a creeping malady. The urban development bug has arrived in St Albans courtesy of the L3 Council zoning, and various multi-unit developments are mushrooming up along the suburban streets.

Partly this is in response to the need to conserve urban space. As Christchurch’s population grows new households are being established across the region. While much of the new development is in green field subdivisions in the South West in Halswell, Rolleston, Aidensfield etc, further infill is also taking place in the inner suburbs. This is not a new trend—what Christchurch is experiencing has happened in other cities such as Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and to Christchurch itself with the first round of flats being built in the late 1970s and early 1980s. But the recent housing boom has seen the development taking a new form...that of closely-built medium density development. These are townhouses and multi-unit developments springing up in places such as Bishop, Canon, Champion, Purchas, Sherbourne and Barbadoes Streets.

Some of these are built to a price and a perceived market...and it shows. The lack of character and local context, the large expanses of blank walls, concrete drives and high fences lend nothing aesthetic to the St Albans’ streetscape. It is unlikely that these multi-units will become the heritage buildings of the next generation.

The St Albans Residents’ Association is concerned about the social, environmental and aesthetic effects of these developments on the St Albans landscape. It has agreed to support a survey of the various neighbourhoods, and ask residents about the impacts of the new buildings on the neighbourhood through a questionnaire. If you want to help in this survey contact Christoph at the Community Resource Centre (by phone at 374 2465 or by email at Christoph@stalbans.gen.nz) and leave your name and phone number.

Doug Craig

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 deadline for the
 July issue is June
 14th.**

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St Albans Craftsmen and Women - BARBARA JOHNS

For sixteen years, Barbara has been working out of her shop, Treasured Times, at 67 Rutland St, as an artisan embroiderer.

A quick glance around her shop quickly tells you how all-absorbing her work is. It is a colourful jumble that represents the forty or so styles of embroidery at which she is proficient; with stacks of samples, designs at various stages of completion, multi-coloured cottons and silks, kits for a wide range of customers, and of course the art works themselves.

In the middle of all this is the table where Barbara works, and where she generally spends five days and two evenings a week. The premises are not only used as a shop, but function as her workshop, design studio and classroom.

All of her work is original—even that designed for her students to try their hand at—and she makes samples herself before teaching her students. Many of her classes are for children, and this year Barbara is involved in a programme at Kidsfest, so look out for her. She absolutely sparkles when she talks about teaching, so if you are considering taking up a new hobby..... visit her shop.

She has difficulty sometimes in balancing the need to finish commissions on time and the desire to complete work for her own pleasure or for future exhibitions. It is worth visiting her just to see the lovely, half-finished Jacobean bed curtain with an NZ theme that hangs on a frame behind her. She calls this

her 'work NOT in progress' because she has now been working on it off and on for ten years. But something else always gets in the way. This week it's a deadline for twelve needle lace butterflies to go on a hand-woven scarf.



During the previous weekend, she'd been busy at the Canterbury Embroiderers' Guild Ruby Exhibition at the Visitors Lounge at the Canterbury Museum, where she had three works on display, two of which were needle lace necklaces, one called Lava Flow and the other Paua Fish hook. All the works on display were exquisite and reflect many hours of intensive labour.

Barbara has been making things since she was a young child. When people ask her if embroidery might be considered old-fashioned, perhaps even a dying art, she has a ready reply. She asks if rugby is dying in NZ, and explains that it all depends on the circles you move in. None of her friends are interested in rugby, but that doesn't mean it is not thriving, and the same can be said for all the various types of needlework. Some might drift a little in or out of fashion but each will always have its strong core of devotees.

Maxine Feutz

This is the first in a series of articles on talented craftspeople in the St Albans area. If you have any talents, hidden or otherwise, make yourself known to us!

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.

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.

Ray White

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Promoting local businesses

St Albans-Shirley Club Inc.

Whether you are a couple new to the area, looking to meet others in the district, or are a member of a sports or social club requiring a venue, the St Albans-Shirley Club Inc. is a place where you can centralize your activities. Situated at 269 Hills Road, it is set well back and its versatile complex covers a large area with convenient parking.

From its foundations over fifty years ago, the Club is still going strong. A number of people still remember when the Club first opened in December 1960. Further additions were made: the Billiard Room in 1969, and the Lake Matheson Room in 1972...the latter added greatly to the Club's amenities i.e. dancing classes, indoor bowls, table tennis and darts. The Quoits Pavilion followed in 1979. Chris O'Connell, one of the Committee members, has been a member since the early seventies. There was no restaurant when he first started, and it was mainly men only although partners were allowed at certain functions.

Now that has all changed. Although the restaurant no longer continues, there is catering onsite for weddings or twenty-firsts, meetings, and award dinners, accommodating from ten to three hundred people. Catering is provided by Kiwi Cuisine. The bar also includes a continuous bistro.

The most recent addition, the Lounge Bar and Functions Room Complex was completed in 1992, and has eight TVs including Big Screen, bar jukebox, computerized TAB, eighteen new pokies and beer gardens. The club also offers the services of a courtesy van that can pick you up and drop you home.

Chris mentioned that "Although the Club has seen its financial worries, it is now back on track. The present management committee under the direction of Mike O'Neil plans to sell an acre and a quarter of the Club's land in order to secure its financial future." The focus is on getting younger members to join and participate in the Club's activities.

The development programme on the Club's land is well under way. The concept has grown from units for over sixties to a more spacious design, bigger sections with bigger housing on them. Fliers are available for the development, or you can contact the manager Mike O'Neil.

A number of organizations hire the facilities. A war gaming section has been started on Thursday nights. There is also a table tennis section and indoor bowls. The Western Soccer Club meets on a Saturday night, and a church group meets on Sundays. Other organizations such as dancing groups hire the hall. The Club is promoting itself as a community centre where people don't only go there to drink.

So...if you would like to check it out for yourself, there is always an opportunity to meet committee members, and others. The contact phone number is (03) 982 0421.

Richard Bradley



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Christchurch's Heritage Preserved in Online Photos

Have you ever taken a photograph and wondered about the moment you are capturing? Is it something that will be meaningless to other people outside your family? Or is it something that people in the future may look at and laugh at the clothes, or speculate about the event, or marvel at the building?

The Aotearoa New Zealand Centre in the Central Library has been building its collection of heritage photographs for a number of years. It's an eclectic mix of family portraits, sporting events, public buildings, and family homes...with some wonderful moments in Christchurch's past caught by the professional and the amateur photographer.

Some years ago, the print photograph collection was digitized and the online collection—now numbering several thousand photographs—can be accessed through the Heritage pages on the Christchurch City Libraries' website at [http://](http://library.christchurch.org.nz/)

library.christchurch.org.nz/.

People donating photographs to the collection are asked to sign a document transferring all rights to Christchurch City Libraries, so that the library can then make them available to the public, both online and in the print collection. Copies on disc of any of the online photographs can be ordered for a fee by contacting the library via the photographs collection web page.

While most of the collection records scenes from early Christchurch and Canterbury, the library is hoping to grow the number of photographs from the more recent past, from World War II to the present. The library is currently exploring the best way to do this, but in the meantime don't throw those photographs away – one day, very soon, we will be asking you for them.

Annette Williams



Women's Land Army plots, Abberley Park, St Albans 1942

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Brumby's Edgware

Brumby's. This is where you get your slice of heaven or your chocolate frog, your married high tin or your Vienna roll. Used to be the Bank of New Zealand (till round 2000). Remember the blue and gold, the interest rates? Always on the rise, but nothing like the Brumby loaf. Sue (see her in the picture, perky black cap and stylish hair) plumps for their specialty breads and weekend treats. She and her husband have run Brumby's as a franchise since Nov 2004. "Nothing much has been altered", she says except for the awning, the building is still in its entirety the BNZ.

Hilaire Campbell

In STANN ten years ago

In the June 1997 Stann Newsletter, there was a report on the conversion of the Edgware Library to a "Community Cottage" that would incorporate an information/computer centre. That, of course eventually became the present Community Centre.

The tragic death of Glen Payne at the Caledonian Bottle Store was remembered.

In 1957, a request was made to the CCC to improve the footpaths, kerbs and channels in Forfar Street. In 1995, a flyer was sent to householders telling them that the work would be done. The draft plan for 1996/7 allocated money for the work, but in 1997, the work was rescheduled for 1999/2000. I wonder if it has been done yet? They say that patience is a virtue.

The Transport Master Plan, introduced in 1966 with the enforced taking of properties, shuddered on, with no money in the coffers, but the 6-lane expressway that would split St Albans in half remaining designated. Many people left or were forced to leave - many losing money on the sale of their properties. The look of Madras Street became slummy - still is in part. In 1992, the Community Board asked for a consultation process about the transport plan. In 1997, it hadn't happened yet. Fascinating, eh!

Dafyd

St Albans-Merivale Bowling Club Winter Activities

Indoor Bowls .with the big bowls commences at the beginning of May , at 5 Donald Place, Merivale. Open mixed sessions are on Sat. & Wed. afternoons at 1-15pm. Cost \$2 includes tea & biscuit. Phone Sandy on 352 5164 to book a place or for more details. In July we intend to have a coaching school ,held over six weeks, for new bowlers or those wishing to improve their bowling ready for the next outdoor season. This will be held one night a week 7-8pm and will include theory as well as practical sessions indoors. Cost \$15. Free loan of bowls if necessary. Phone Mick Tarling on 3555 134 for more info. or to book a place, as numbers will be limited.

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