

20-year Celebration of 1st OSCAR in NZ - St Albans

There was this idea that the children of St Albans needed a place to go to when school was out, a home away from home, a safe place with fun activities, with great staff, where you could go when parents were not home for whatever reason.

This idea was like a seed that needed fertile soil to grow in. St Albans was like that soil for the growth of OSCAR. The first people who became involved were Colleen Young, the Senior Teacher of the Junior School at the time and Margaret Hayman, the Community Advisor of the CCC. Together we went to the St Albans School Board and asked cooperation and approval for a building. The building was Colleens idea: from one idea comes another.

The business community became involved, so did Rehua Marae, other St Albans schools, retailers, and of course the parents and children represented by people like Geoff Low, Reggie Iwihora,

Elisabeth Bryant, Nick Gladstone, Tracey Dunn, N a d i a Carmichael. With them we formed a core group to organise the different elements of setting up this project. Many parents answered a questionnaire and supported the fact that there could be activities close to home and professional care if they would not be there. 89% said YES to the idea.

By then the idea had grown into a plan. Our plan got a name: Out of School Care And Recreation or... OSCAR!

Many, many hours were spent on debating the philosophical basis and the whys, whats and hows. We put the results together in a constitution, became an incorporated society and so became the first OSCAR Service in New Zealand.

During this time many people of St Albans took part in preparing for the start and continuation of the service. Some

assisted with the first holiday programme: horse riding, ball games, tie dying, pancake baking on tin fires. Other St Albans residents were part of the telephone tree, set up to pass on



messages about news, meetings etc. Some people were behind the scenes fundraising, networking, lobbying, letting others know about OSCAR.

The process of development of OSCAR in St Albans has been a model for many other consequent Out of School Services around the country. Often the constitution of OSCAR in St Albans was found most helpful in establishing another

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

Promoting good community with accessible, honest, non-profit communication

Chair Chat

For all of you, who attended Douceline's Farewell Party at the Centre, thank you very much. Douceline will be remembered for all her hard work and efforts and leaving the Centre in a position where we can now move to another level of service to the community.



Maggy, I and the Board have had numerous discussions on how we can serve the St. Albans community more effectively and maximise the services we provide at the Centre. This year we will focus on four key areas:

- Encourage more residents to learn and use the Centre's many and varied resources
- Increase the distribution and enhance the contents of our Community Centre newspaper and also significantly develop a greater web presence.
- Forge closer links with the St. Albans business community and encourage residents to use their services
- Streamline the Board structure in a manner that will encourage more volunteer participation

In the coming months you will see some of these changes take root and we look forward to your comments and suggestions.

I would also encourage all our readers to take a little time to drop by the Centre and introduce yourself to Christoph Hensch, our new Manager of the Community Centre. As you read in the February issue of the St. Albans Neighbourhood News, Christoph brings a great deal of talent and experience to our Centre.

I'm most impressed with his very strong and clear views on what can be accomplished when people living in a neighbourhood see that by working together with common goals they can make things happen. This collective strength can only make St. Albans a better place for all of us.

Bill Demeter – Co-Chair

St Albans Garden Club

The St Albans Garden Club is affiliated with the Horticultural Society and Members of the club meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 2 pm at the Berwick St Church Hall. Each month there is a guest speaker, a competition table and a sales table. Sometimes there are floral demonstrations by visiting artists or occasional bus outings. The Club also takes an active part in the Garden City Floral Festival each year. For more information, phone Beth West on 358 2425.

At Douceline's Farewell

Maggy Tai Rakena (Co-Chair) & Douceline with farewell cake donated by Martin Meehan from Kidds Cakes & Bakery. The St Albans Choir contributed hugely to the atmosphere with their performance ending with the crowd getting up and dancing. The second photo is a lithographic print by Marion McGuire presented as a gift to Douceline. Our sincere thanks to the many businesses who donated goods for the farewell.



Quotation

Then he reads, from Sterling Hayden's *The Wanderer*. "I have always wanted to sail the South Seas, but I can't afford it. What these people can't afford is not to go. They are enmeshed in the demands of security. And in the worship of security we fling our lives beneath the wheels of routine and before we know it our lives are gone. What does a person need, really need? A few pounds of food each day, heat and shelter, six feet to lie down in and some form of working activity that will yield a sense of accomplishment. "That's all in the material sense. And we know it. But we are brainwashed by our economic system until we end up entombed by a mountain of time-payments, mortgages, preposterous gadgetry, playthings that divert our attention from the sheer idiocy of the charade. "The years thunder by, the dreams of youth grow dim while they lie caked in dust on the shelves of patience. Before we sense it, the tomb is sealed. "Where then lies the answer? In choice. Which shall it be, bankruptcy of purse, or bankruptcy of life?"

Submitted by Douceline Wardle

Who is worried about Climate Change?

Sitting here at the keyboard during the grey days of summer, I wonder where the fine warm summer weather has gone this year. Yes, there has been the odd fine day, sometimes even coinciding with a vital cricket match, but it seems both sunshine hours and temperatures have been down markedly over that which many Cantabrians are used to. What has happened to our climate people ask? –is it just “liberal weather”, as one character on the satirical John Dailey show (TV4) claims? – there are no long term climate trends, and global warming is a statistical blip on the weather radar? Or is the more marked variability of our daily weather now part of the pattern? Snow in November, cooler temperatures with southerly flows, more rain through what used to be summer?

The problem with large scale trends and variability on the scale of global climate change is that patterns can become difficult to see. It is the patterns of the accustomed seasons that give us some certainty about our seasonal sports and past-times, as well as when to sow crops and harvest them. Variability throws everyone out and makes life that much more uncertain. Just image the same in your financial circumstances –if you didn’t know what you had in your bank account at any given time. It would certainly make it difficult to plan for any sort of future.

I have also noted that this uncertainty is creeping into television themes. We have had “Lost” – a meandering plot about existential uncertainty after a plane crash; and now “Jericho” with a small middle American township struggling for survival in the face of disaster. Judging by several other recent shows, we are beginning to depend on the supernatural or the superhuman (“Heroes”) to get us out of these predicaments. I am not suggesting that TV plots necessarily follow life, but it is interesting that certainty seems have disappeared from our fictional worlds since the World Trade Centre attacks and the Iraq invasion. The recent dire warnings of climate change add yet more uncertainty to the mix.

Now we have more variability in weather and a longer term trend towards global warming over large areas of the globe (the tropics and polar regions experiencing the greatest average temperature increases), what then can be done? I suggest we had better learn to adapt and perhaps in a relatively short period of time. Fortunately humans are perhaps the most adaptable animals on the planet- we can change our behaviours and technology in short time frames. We also need to reduce our carbon loadings on the atmosphere and not add more unknowns to the volatile mix that enables most life on earth to survive.

Ten things you can do to reduce uncertainty:

- Save and use water wisely in the home and garden
- Mulch around plants over summer
- Grow crops that do not need large amounts of water and fertiliser-much fertiliser simply runs off into the nearest stream or drain
- Reduce fossil fuel vehicle travel –take a bike or walk distances of less than 2km.
- Invest in rainwater storage or greywater re-use systems
- Don’t build within 500 metres of the seashore-coastal erosion will eat away your section and dream home.
- Grow more woody plants and less grass on your sections, saving fuel spent on mowing as well as storing some carbon.
- Use solar warming to heat your water, reducing gas or coal fired power generation.
- Grow more of your own seasonal food or buy at local markets and reduce the fossil-food miles spent at supermarket
- Invest in double-glazing or storm windows (Europeans used shutters)

It might be useful for both radio and TV to restart the public service advertising that they used to do –the last campaigns I remember were for being Firewise (don’t play with fire) or Waterwise (wear your life jacket). How about being Climate Change Wise as well?

Source: World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), UNEP 2001: Climate Change Report

Doug Craig - Community Sustainability Planner



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Te Tiriti O Waitangi

In this issue we conclude the 3 part-series of articles on Te Tiriti O Waitangi, originally presented by Louise Tankersley at a Community Development conference some time ago. (CH)

Legislative Changes since 1840

What has happened in New Zealand since 1840 has been a process of colonisation by successive Pakeha controlled governments through the use of laws to:

- alienate Maori land (which had a direct effect on their security and economic base, their values and self esteem);
- impose systems based on English Law;
- undermine the practices of Maori law, religion, education, health, language, and culture.

As a result, Maori are over-represented in every negative statistic in this country.

The Government systematically used the law to alienate Maori from their land, and to set up systems that were based on British law. At the same time, they outlawed and decimated Maori practices in relation to their spiritual, economic, educational, health and language customs, lore and practices.

There were many laws passed specifically to alienate Maori from their land. There were laws passed that prevented Maori from speaking Maori, and it is only in the past 30 years that there has been a cultural renaissance that has enabled Maori to have much more control over their language and culture. Probably one of the most damaging laws that was passed was Tohunga Suppression Act (1907), which outlawed Maori practising their own spiritual beliefs and practices via the practice of Tohunga (Spiritual Experts). The passing of this Act had a huge decimating effect on Maori spirituality, and on Maori society as a whole.

The cumulative effects of such legislation, of course, is the current situation where Maori are over-represented in just about every negative statistic in the country. The effects of these statutes and government policies are long-standing, and still show their consequences today.

Relevance of the Treaty for Pakeha and Tauiwi New Zealanders

The Treaty is for everyone in this country; everyone was supposed to get something out of it. It's not just there to give special rights to Maori; it's there to give rights to everyone in this country. The main problem, however, is that Maori are still waiting to have their rights recognised; that's where the talk of redress begins. The fact that Maori culture (customs, practices, values and beliefs) have not been enhanced, nurtured and protected in this country (the only country where they exist) is relevant for us all today. Maori language and culture are for all of us to take part in and enjoy, as part of our identity as New Zealanders. We all live on a street with a Maori name, or we have Maori neighbours, or we have a Maori son-in-law or grandchildren, we live in a town with a Maori name, or we know Maori people in any number of settings. You can't live in New Zealand and not be involved in something Maori; even if it's only the haka at a rugby match.

These things don't exist anywhere else; **if Maori culture dies out in this country, it dies forever; it doesn't exist anywhere else - it's as simple as that.** Yet there are many New Zealanders who would quite happily let it just go out the door. I think people don't have a clue about what they are really saying. Maori culture is a

part of us. We feel quite proud of aspects of it; the little bits that we do have contact with.

Conversely, Maori have to spend huge amounts of time defending their right to practice their own culture in this country. It is hard to look after your people when you have to justify everything you do, and every programme you want to set up in order to restore the identity and dignity of a culture. It makes me feel very sad that this is the case.

Why Can't Maori Do Things for Themselves?

Everyone Else Has To.

The short answer to this is that Maori people should have their culture enhanced, nurtured and protected every day, without having to ask for it. That's what the Treaty promised. It was Maori who suffered the colonial process in this country, not other cultures.

It is incorrect to assert that "we should all be one people; there should be one rule for all people, where everyone gets the same rights". What this statement assumes is that everybody starts on the same level on the playing field, which is actually untrue. Due to the long colonial history of Treaty breaches, all aspects of Maori wellbeing have been affected negatively – for example, health, socio-economic status, spirituality, and education. As a result, Maori start right down at the bottom, and it is important to redress this. Affirmative action is required to just get Maori on to the field, let alone an even playing field.

To this day, Maori spend a huge amount of effort defending their right to practise their own culture. It is not getting much easier with the monocultural institutions, policies and attitudes that still exist. Sometimes it is really hard to be Maori in this country.

Conclusion

So what I would say to you is this: Feel free to have an opinion about Maori issues, as long as it is an informed opinion. Make a commitment to becoming informed, and don't make up your mind about an issue until you have all the information available. Also, don't listen to unreliable sources (such as the media). Nothing annoys me more than people who love to share their opinions publicly, without knowing anything about all sides of an issue. To me this is the height of laziness and ignorance, for which there is no excuse.

What it's about at the end of the day is Pakeha and Maori taking responsibility in their respective journeys with the Treaty. It's about the culture on the strong end of the power differential giving away some of that power, in order to empower Maori to develop within the community, in a way that is appropriate to them.

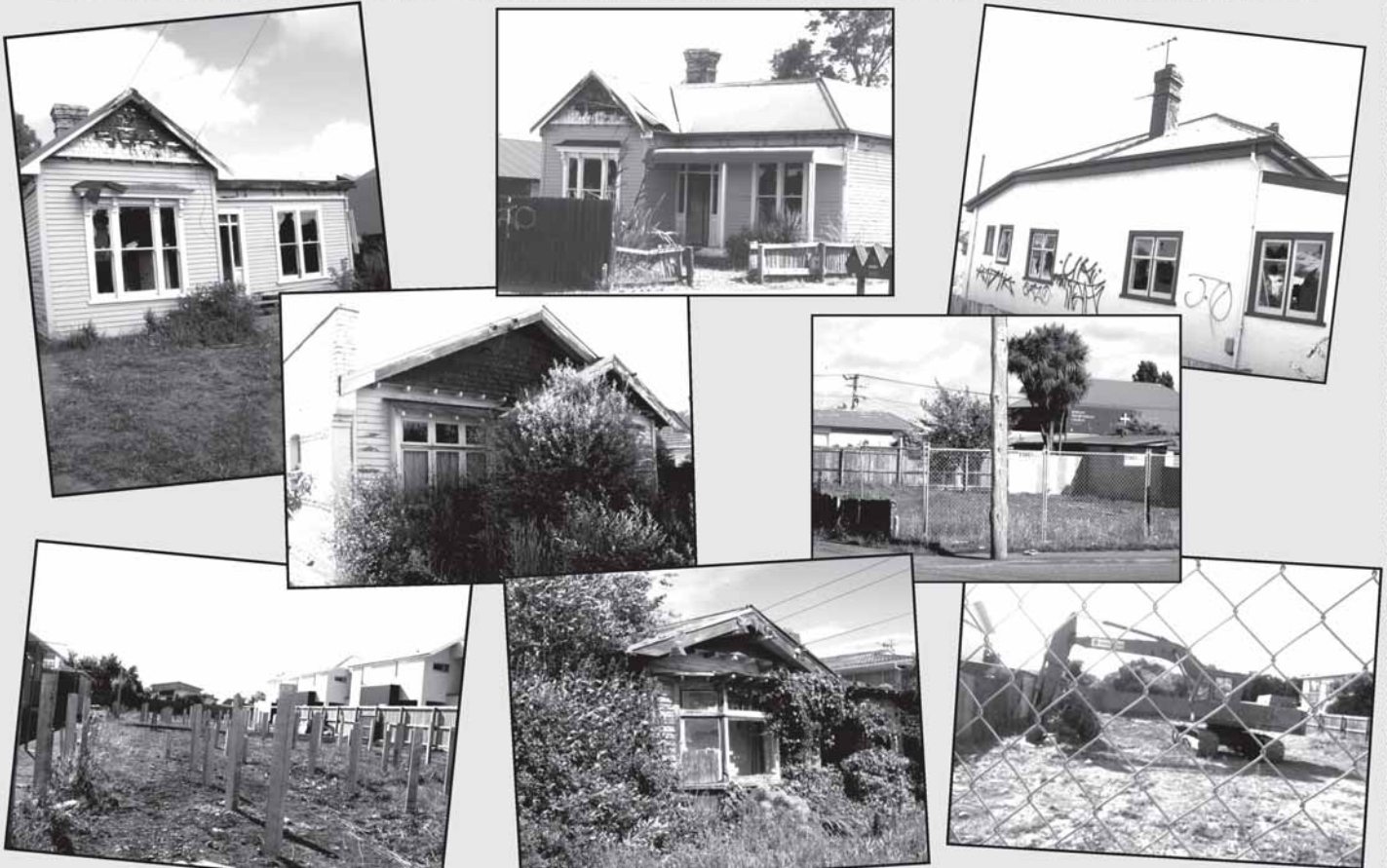
It's about appreciating the privilege it is to walk alongside the Maori community as they work towards improving the long-term social, economic, cultural and environmental conditions of their community. It's about the sense of fulfilment we get when we know we have empowered, enabled and assisted Maori in creating a better overall quality of life for their community, and for the wider community as a whole.

And long-term, it's about working with the Treaty in order that we can all move positively into a future which is built on mutual respect and understanding.

Mairehe Louise Tankersley
Kai Tahu, Kati Mamoe, Waitaha

Derelict Houses and Developments

All is not lost ! While there are many derelict and unsightly sections in our area, there are signs of redevelopment. Here are some of the local sights that lower the tone of the district. Let's hope that things will happen soon.



Photos by Mark Williamson

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Promoting local businesses

Heart of Art Contemporary Art Gallery

If you are an art lover living right in the city centre, there are plenty of opportunities to come across small galleries, some long-established and some very new, and the wonderful thing about these places is that each has its own unique flavour and style. Many of them are discovered by accident while wandering around on foot. We have such a gallery here in St Albans, but you might be more likely to speed past it in your car than amble past, because it is located on busy Madras St, on the Canon St corner.

However, every once in a while, even if you are not the sort of person who usually does a regular circuit of the galleries, you should make the effort to visit this slightly out-of-the-way place.

From the outside, it looks rather small, but not so. It is in a lovely old house which has been opened up inside and the entire space given over to the art. It is light and airy, but establishes a calm, contemplative mood as soon as you walk in the door.

The layout enables you to discover pleasant surprises around each corner and leads to a pleasant outdoor area with some seating. Heart of Art was set up about eight years ago, but on 1st April this year will begin its third year in the hands of William Templeton and Phil Foster, who had previously been the Promotions Manager at The Court Theatre for 18 years.

The gallery has enabled him to stay within the arts, and both enjoy the flexibility and rewards of working for themselves.



The philosophy of the gallery is to offer affordable contemporary NZ art with a strong emphasis on local talent and emerging artists. Over forty artists are represented and include our 'own' Becky Conway. Other established names such as Toni Duffy, Sue Ferguson, Beverley Frost, Sharon Duckmanton and Christine Lang are among the many in their extensive catalogue which can also be accessed on line. In

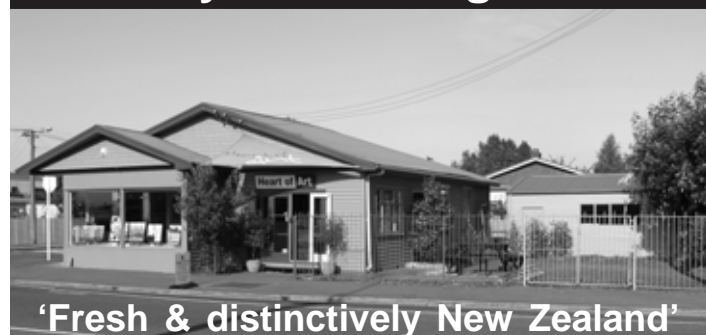
addition to the art works themselves, there are art materials and an interesting range of cards available, as well as a complete professional framing service that many locals may be unaware of.

Heart of Art boasts a full-time, highly-qualified framer, who has been with them for just three months. Her name is Tania Brickell, she has 12 years' experience and is London Guild Commended.

The gallery's autumn exhibition runs from 19 to 31 March, and will feature Salomi Prinsloo, Bronwyn Williams, Mandy McConnon and Katie Ross.

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Edgeware Pool News Flash!!!

St Albans residents and Edgeware Pool supporters have won a vote from councillors to give the community 13 months to raise money to build a new pool at the Edgeware site! Graham Condon and Norm Withers presented a Notice of Motion at Thursday's council meeting, and after some lengthy debate councillors agreed that the community should have this window of opportunity to rebuild this wonderful asset. Of course we realize that the cost is much higher now that the pool has been completely demolished, but the positive outcome from this is that we will end up with a modern and efficient facility. People who are keen to support the project in any way, including ideas for the new pool design, funding, and eventual operation of the facility please contact savededgewarepool@hotmail.com or phone Pauline on 027 296 8811, or Ro on 356 3166.

St Albans Community Notice

Community Resource Centre

1047 Colombo Street. Phone 374 2465 or 379 6305

Email: stalbens@ihug.co.nz

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 - Hall Hire - Conditions apply
- \$10 per hour non-profit community rate
\$15 per hour Commercial rate

20-year Celebration of OSCAR in NZ - St Albans

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programme.

The invisible strength of OSCAR in St Albans has always been its people, the people of the first hour, young and old that helped develop the idea into a plan, give it a name and then start the service. The strength has also been in the people who struggled through the first years when there was not yet an OSCAR Network to support you with the day to day running of the programme, with staff training, with ideas on funding etc. etc.

Quality Out of School Services are a hot topic internationally because of economic trends. They are called OOSH in Australia, Kids Clubs in the UK and in Holland 'Buitenschoolse Opvang'. Whatever its name: where would the world be without those people who -with energy, skill and patience- inspire our children, not just for an hour or an afternoon, but every day again. This is OSCAR at its best, and that was our vision in 1986.

This view is shared by the OSCAR Foundation (the national body, also deriving its name from St Albans) which organises the OSCAR Conference on 16, 17 and 18 March to be held in Christchurch's Convention Centre.

There is an old Japanese proverb: It takes a village to raise a child. St Albans does that with OSCAR and has given a signal to the rest of New Zealand to do a similar thing in their own communities.

To St Albans: thank you for carrying the idea, it would have been nothing without you. To OSCAR in St Albans: Happy Birthday and many, many happy returns. To New Zealand: remember...O is for OSCAR!

Margreet Stronks (author) is the instigator and first coordinator of OSCAR in St Albans. She was awarded for her Services to OSCAR with a Civic Award in 1995 and received recognition for contributions to youth and community with a MNZM in 2001.

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