

Jan Wright made Dame



Dr Janice Claire Wright, better known as Jan has been made a Dame Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit, in the 2023 New Year's Honours for service to the State and the environment. She was Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment for two terms from 2007 until 2017, a time of growing public and political interest in environmental issues, providing independent advice on a number of issues including fracking, agricultural emission, the plight of the longfin eel, the use of 1080 pesticide and freshwater quality. Dame Jan's connection with St Albans will become apparent in the March edition.



Three decades spent helping the community heal

by Belinda Carter

Known as Maggy to St Albans residents where she lives, Margaret Teresa Tai Rākena was awarded a Membership of the New Zealand order of Merit (MNZM) in the New Year's Honours list for services to victims of sexual violence and the community.

"Ms Tai Rākena has years of experience in early childhood education including kohanga reo, and in social work, using her knowledge to contribute positively to her community," the citation for her award reads.

Maggy began her working life as an early childhood teacher working across daycare, creche and kohanga reo. She was on the boards of trustees at St Albans School and Shirley Intermediate between 1989 and 2004 and as a parent was involved in Te Tikanga Rua Reo, the bilingual unit at St Albans School.

Her children Aramiro and Hariata attended the kohanga reo at Rehua Marae (this is no longer running) and were part of the unit learning in Māori as well as English at St Albans School. This set them up well for success and learning other languages later on. Her multi-lingual son is using several of his six languages in the diplomatic service and her daughter (with four) is part way through doing a PhD in the United States.

Maggy's association with efforts to combat sexual violence began in 1994 when she was approached to work for a sexual violence agency which was switching from a collective to a governance structure. Initially working from a house in Westminster Street, she now manages the organisation from larger premises in Mairehau. Along the way she has gained formal tertiary qualifications in social work, management and leadership.

Maggy spent 15 years on the St Albans Residents Association (SARA) management committee as a member, chair and later co-chair. Her work there came to an end when the association went briefly into hibernation, as many community groups

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Maggy Tai Rākena relaxing at home amongst the ferns after a day at the office. Her job involves finding ways to prevent sexual violence from occurring in the first place and helping those impacted by it.

Special
Election
Issue

See page 7



The St Albans News — distributed to 7000 households

<http://stalbans.gen.nz>

Published by St Albans Residents Association

Three decades spent helping the community heal

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did, after the earthquakes. Emma Twaddell, who has been the face of SARA for about 10 years, then worked tirelessly from home, pushing for the quake-damaged community centre to be replaced at 1049 Colombo St. It opened in 2021.

Following the quakes Maggy was a member of the Ministerial Advisory Panel for the Transition from the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority.

"A former chair of Chair of Social Service Providers Aotearoa," the citation continues "Maggy is a member of the Sexual and Family Violence Sectors Working Group alongside Te Puna Aonui. She helped develop the Sexual Assault Support Service Canterbury, collaborating with AVIVA to bring the two organisations together and creating a new 24-hour service in Christchurch. She is the current Chair of the Tauwi Caucus of Te Ohaakii a Hine - National Network Ending Sexual Violence Together (TOAH-NNEST).

"Ms Tai Rākena helped create the 'Right Services Right Time' initiative, which co-ordinates community responses for clients amongst local non-governmental organisations."

Maggy has been receiving messages including congratulations from Waipapa/Papanui-Innes-Central community board Emma Norrish on the board's behalf.

Find out more about the work START does:

<https://starthealing.org>

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Maggy with her children Hariata and Aramiro in front of the Speaker's Chair in the New Zealand Parliament building.

Writers wanted for St Albans News

Are you interested in writing articles for St Albans News as a volunteer writer? We have a list of possible topics that need covering or you can come up with your own ideas. Contact community centre.



Advertising in St Albans News

If you would like to advertise in the News, phone Lynne on 027 433 4469 or email advertising@stalbands.gen.nz

Please ask for a copy of our ratesheet, which specifies sizes, prices and requirements.

SARA Committee

St Albans Residents Association meets at St Albans Community Centre, 1049 Colombo St. on February 15 at 7pm.

St Albans History Group

Next meeting Monday February 13th 2 pm at the St Albans Community Centre.
Email: briangspear@hotmail.com

Wednesday Wheelies

Wednesday Wheelies meet at 9 am, St Albans Community Centre carpark on Caledonian Road.

BBQ Trailer for hire

St Albans Community BBQ Trailer is available to hire for events. Marquee also available for hire, separately or with the barbecue, for corporate events, community gatherings or private celebrations. Enquiries to: BBQ@stalbands.gen.nz

SARA Website

Check out SARA's website on www.stalbands.gen.nz. Contains digital copies of St Albans News, a calendar of events and occasional blog posts.

StAN on Facebook

St Albans News is published every month. If you wish to comment on stories you read in St Albans News or anything that is happening in the area, you can write a letter to the editor (and wait) or you can go to our Facebook page: [StAlbansNews](https://www.facebook.com/StAlbansNews) and post a message there immediately.

SARA on Neighbourly

SARA also has a presence on Neighbourly, a community asset owned by Stuff. Contains notices, advice, things to buy or sell and topics of interest to the neighbourhood. www.neighbourly.co.nz

SARA on Facebook

Emma Twaddell has set up a Facebook page for the St Albans Residents Association. <https://www.facebook.com/SARA.StAlbans>

SARA and Centre news

Christmas cheer and a Christmas thief

The annual Christmas market on December 3 brought cheer and Christmas goodies to the St Albans Community Centre but not every stall did well out of the day. Some things just move faster and attract buyers.

One stall attracted some unwanted attention. The St Albans Community Barbecue Trailer, which raises a small amount of funding through hires for the St Albans Residents Association, was targeted by a thief who made a beeline for a non-descript ice cream container used to collect coins and notes in exchange for grilled sausages. In the process they nearly bowled over a SARA volunteer looking after the trailer. She's fine; the thief is still at large.

Money raised by charging stallholders fees for stalls in the Hall, hallway and deck and sales of plants helped raised nearly \$2000 for the Edgware Pool, a drop in the bucket

of the remaining million dollars they need to get the pool built. The raffle was won by Peggy.

Several other groups used the event to raise funds: Arvida retirement village brought their vegetables and crafts and craftspeople took up space at centre tables to sell their wares, from ceramics to cookies, and pre-owned clothing to household goods.



Kohinga Mārā stall (left), Arvida retirement village (top right), Edgware Pool Group (bottom right)

Pātaka kai to hold garden produce



The vegetable garden at the St Albans Community Centre is bursting with produce. Some of this is being dropped off at the Dover St pantry but soon residents will be able to choose items from the pantry under construction at Kohinga Mārā in Caledonian Rd, adjacent to the centre. SARA volunteer Mark Wilson has constructed the wooden pantry from recycled wood and it is being painted with white paint, although that might not be the final colour(s).

Mark and his daughter Towa, after installing shelves in the pantry, give it an undercoat.

Morning tea at the community centre

The morning teas held at the St Albans Community Centre once a month on Thursdays will start again on March 1 at the slightly later time of 10.30am. The morning tea features matching old-style coffee cups, saucers and plates with handmade savouries, pikelets and little cakes to go with the coffee or tea. There's nothing formal about the occasion though, come as you are and meet others and catch up with what is going on in St Albans.

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The St Albans News is a free local newspaper which is produced by a team of volunteers. The social enterprise is managed by the St Albans Residents' Association.

Send your news contributions and adverts to:

news@stalbands.gen.nz

<http://www.facebook.com/StAlbansNews>

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The opinions expressed in this publication are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the St Albans Residents Association.

SARA and Centre news

Tai Chi helps keep people healthy and prevents falls

Rose Gaia is running Tai chi classes at the St Albans Community Centre on Sunday evenings at 6.30pm starting from February 12, aimed mainly at beginners.

Tai Chi, which is the most popular exercise in Asia, has had thousands of years of development. It can improve cardiovascular health, boost the immune system, and reduce stress and anxiety. It's also been shown to improve sleep, cognitive function, and overall quality of life. In the west, Tai chi is popular with older people because it helps prevent falls.



The short wu-style of these classes was developed by Bruce Frantzis, particularly for westerners, because western cultures tend to push too hard.

Rose, who has been a teacher for more than 30 years, says Tai Chi is part of qigong which is having skill with energy. Tai chi involves slow movements and creates a sense of flow and balance.

This class can be taken on its own or combined with the earlier longevity breathing class at 5.15pm. Visit www.taichiwell.co.nz for more information and to enrol.

Classes at the community centre this term

Many of the centre's regular classes are starting back in February and there are a few new ones.

If Tai chi isn't your thing, there are three different yoga classes on offer run by Tristin Apse (Tuesdays at 6.45pm), with Tracy Kells at 11am on Wednesdays and Lisa Banks at 10am on Thursdays.

Happy Feet has started up again (contact the centre for more information) and gentle dance routines for those who enjoy moving to music take place on Mondays from 11.15 - 11.45.

The Italian language classes are back on weekdays during daytime and evenings, catering for beginners and

those more advanced.

The usual classes Saygo (fall prevention exercise), Pippins for 5-6 year old girls, puppy training, toastmasters, martial arts all get underway in February.

A new group is offering classes in Gnostic Studies on Mondays from 7.30 - 9 pm starting February 20 for 4 weeks. Check out their advertisement below.

Please contact the St Albans Community Centre to find out more about when these classes operate and who you need to contact to enrol. That part is handled by the groups themselves while the community centre handles room bookings.

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Funding for SARA

The following organisations fund the activities of the St Albans Residents Association (including St Albans News)



Help with PCs running Windows and Android phones

Tuesdays and Thursdays

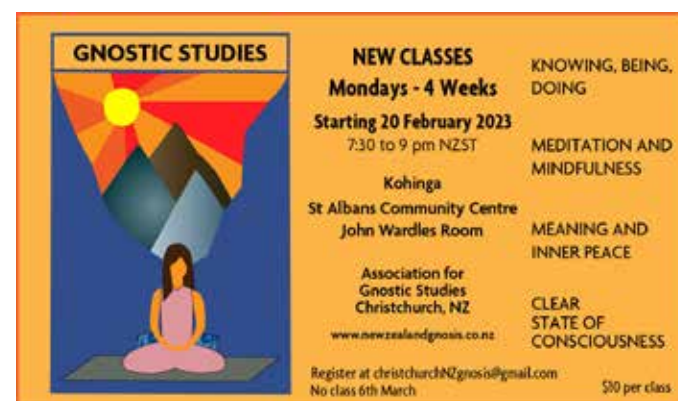
10-12pm

Saturdays 1-3pm

St Albans community centre

Small koha or donation

Email neighbournet@stalbens.gen.nz



St Albans and beyond

Poisonous puddle sickens dogs



Heavy rainfall on St Albans Park late last year resulted in a brackish pond or puddle at the north end by the oaks and the flying fox. It was slow to drain and proved toxic to dogs, a number of which ended up at local vets. The small pond seems to have become a semi-permanent fixture with downpours topping it up, so take care to avoid water in the middle of the grass when walking the dog. No dogs were harmed during the taking of this photo. Good dog, Troy.

Walk Christchurch seeks volunteers

Do you have an interest in telling stories about Christchurch, past and present while getting some exercise? Walk Christchurch, which has operated in the city for more than four decades is looking for volunteer guides to take city visitors on scheduled and customised tours on foot, mostly in the inner city. Training and detailed information about the city's past and present is provided to assist volunteers to build stories around particular sites in the city and thereby help visitors know the city better. For further information check out the group's website on:

www.walkchristchurch.nz

Community board changes meeting time

The Waipapa/Papanui-Innes-Central Community Board has decided to meet on Thursday afternoons from 4pm instead of 9am on Fridays. When foreshadowed at a meeting shortly after the elections in October, it was believed that the new time would suit working people better. The first meeting this year, after a two month break over Christmas, will be on Thursday, February 9 at the Papanui Service Centre. The board also has briefings from staff once a month. Community groups willing to host a forum that will enable a meeting to be held at a community venue should get in touch with board staff.

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Quake safe household objects

From sticking \$4 blu tack to your fragile valuables to securing your TV with a \$100 safety strap, Toka Tū Ake EQC has partnered with Consumer NZ to investigate the best ways to quake safe the things you love. Consumer NZ examined over 20 items in its product testing lab to investigate how effectively they could make household objects safer and more secure. This included simulating shaking to assess which products work best to secure everything from televisions to vases. Watch the video here:

<https://www.instagram.com/consumernz/>

Suggestions they make include hanging pictures with proper hooks (not just nails), using non-stick mats and gels for things on your shelves, and tethering TVs, bookcases and cabinets. Not all quake-safe products are equal so check out Consumer's website: www.consumer.org.nz. Look for the article that includes the word quake in the title.



Securing crockery and glassware will save you from the heartache of losing items like these.

Census day set for March 7

Census day on March 7 this year will give people more choice how they fill in the census form (online or on paper) and people can get more help to fill in the form.

Everyone who is in Aotearoa New Zealand on 7 March 2023 is expected to fill out a census form, including homeowners and renters, homeless and tourists, babies and seniors. Some may need assistance or require others to fill in the forms for them. The information is based on where people are on March 7.

Data gathered helps governmental agencies and community groups, iwi and business make decisions on where to spend funds.

The previous census in 2018 placed too much emphasis on the internet for a population that was not as digitally savvy as Statistics New Zealand thought they were and the responses were poor. Changes made to the 2023 census, including paper forms and more assistance available should make this one more accurate.

As a consequence more funding means the census forms can be filled out on paper if people choose to do so. Paper forms will be delivered to households in late February and the filled out ones collected shortly after March 7.

More events have been organised to promote awareness of the Census. Organisations like Age Concern and Citizens Advice Bureau are available to help. Citizens Advice can be phoned on 0800 367 222 to find out where to get assistance. <https://www.census.govt.nz> ☞



CHARMING HAPPY
LADY OF EDGEWARE
FROM \$100
VIA SOLLERTIA

Innes ward byelection

Greater diversity needed on board

by Belinda Carter

Shreejana Chhetri's resignation on October 25 2022 led to the Innes Ward by-election. Seven candidates have stepped up offering to replace her.

Old hands Mike Davidson and Ali Jones, who lost their council seats last October and had no fallback plans (they could have also stood for the community board then), have a wealth of council experience to share.

But maybe it is time to bring greater diversity to the role and enable some younger candidates to step up, for

example Harrison McEvoy and Mahlon Saumalu. We also have candidates who bring, along with their abilities to interact with broad communities, links to different ethnic groups that make up the tapestry of Christchurch eg: Moazzem Hossain and Mahlon Saumalu and could bring greater diversity to the community board table.

Mark Wilson and Garry Neale have also been active supporting their respective communities.

Some of the candidates have been grizzling about the presence of the old hands with name recognition, who lost in the 2022 elections, trying to find a way to get back around the table. This by-election is not a done deal and it could be any of the seven candidates listed on the following pages taking a seat at the community board table.

The vote is a simple, postal one - pick one of seven. Papers will be posted out to enrolled Innes ward residents and ratepayers before the end of January.

Please take the time to vote and make sure it reaches the Papanui Service Centre before noon on February 17. You can also drop off the filled in voting papers in their sealed envelopes to Kohinga St Albans Community Centre at 1049 Colombo St but only between 9am and 1pm Monday to Friday, with the exception of February 17 where it needs to be in before noon.

Vote for who you think represents your views and will do the best job around the table

Other places collecting voting papers during their open hours include:

- Christchurch City Council Civic Offices at 53 Hereford St
- Shirley Library and Service Centre at the Palms
- Tūranga Library in Cathedral Square

Those who have shifted into the area or turned 18 since last October may need to visit the Papanui Service Centre to enrol. Please contact the service centre for more information.

St Albans News has put together a piece (which starts below and continues on page 8 and 9) covering the seven candidates who were nominated before Christmas. Their entries are largely based on answers given to a

series of questions but have been edited and compiled for the benefit of smooth reading.

The entries are in reverse alphabetical order to make things fairer. Late last year Harrison McEvoy, a student of politics, told the Waipapa/Papanui-Innes-Central Community Board that, after a brief study, he found those in the second half of the alphabet tended not to win in political contests, unless they were backed by a party machine.

Vote for whoever you think represents your views and will do the best job around the table. Emma Twaddell is already there - she was the highest polling candidate in the Innes ward community board election voted in by over 3000 people. ☞

Remember to drop your voting papers off at the Papanui Service Centre or Kohinga St Albans Community Centre before noon on February 17.



Mark Wilson - Independent Voice for Innes

St Albans resident Mark Wilson describes himself as "committed, active and a true local" focused on giving honest and truthful representation of the community.

"As an invested Innes resident I am motivated to see real pragmatic action on issues where our needs have been ignored or sidelined, some examples being storm-water drains, the rebuild of the Shirley Community Centre, and the ongoing prioritising of commuting traffic over all aspects of our community's

safety."

He continues to be involved in community groups and committees, ranging from workplace representation to community activation, empowerment and sustainability.

Because of the increased financial pressures on the horizon he wants funding for projects that actually benefit the community prioritised and for the council to stop wasting resources on bureaucracy.

Mark would like to see a community network started to focus on increasing awareness of the greater number of opportunistic crimes happening in local communities, with the possibility of starting a community patrol.

Your local MP for St Albans

If you would like me to be a guest speaker at your meeting or event, have questions about Government policy, or you would like some help with a problem, contact my office.

Duncan Webb
MP for Christchurch Central
chchcentral@parliament.govt.nz
366 5519



Innes ward byelection



Mahlon Saumalu - Independent

Mahlon Saumalu is an independent candidate who used to live in the Innes ward. He is future-focussed and practises equity, openness, respect and compassion.

Years of experience engaging with communities, especially people aged 0-30 years, makes it easy for him to use that experience and come up with ideas to actively engage communities in conversation.

Relevant leadership experience includes participation in a number of health and education boards in the city including Pegasus Health's Population Health Advisory Board, Canterbury Clinical Network's Leadership Team

Board, youth advisor with the Electoral Commission's Community Engagement and Education Team, a member of the Ako Ōtautahi/Learning Cities Christchurch Board and leader of the Puāwai Leadership Lab programme.

"There's been a lot of urban development recently, I want to ensure community voices are heard and everyone is considered within that decision-making process. Innes Ward historically has been a truly residential area so maintaining homes that reflect family living (backyard etc) is always a good thing. Housing an increasing population can be addressed in other ways."

To find out more, email Mahlon at: moevaom23@gmail.com



Garry Neale - Independent: Your Voice for the Community

Garry Neale thinks the community board and Christchurch City Council should listen more to the community but citizens also need the board's encouragement to participate.

He has lived in the Innes ward since 2011 and has a background of 22 years working for the Army in Waiouru as a warehouse manager, where he also ran a scout troupe for two years. Post army in Christchurch, he ran a commercial cleaning business for 18 years and was a budget advisor for 5 years. A Christian, he does his best to live by the 10 Commandments.

Garry wants the city council to limit the number of infill houses and their heights because of the shadowing on other homes. Too many multi-storey homes in the area will cause overpopulation and strain infrastructure such as water, transport and sewerage. For much the same reason he wants trees limited to 5 metres high x 4 wide and for weak trees to be removed before they become a problem. He also wants households supplied with just 600 litres a month of water. He would like to see better removal of residential and industrial waste to improve the environment and for green areas to be kept tidier.

Contact: nealegarry@aim.com



Harrison McEvoy - Independent

St Albans resident Harrison McEvoy is standing as an independent in the Innes byelection.

Harrison stood in the Innes ward for the community board elections last year, coming close to the second highest poller, who later pulled out and caused this by-election. He has been submitting to council consultations for several years and mentions his involvement with the United Nations Youth Association's Board of Directors for the past seven years as a key part of his leadership experience. A recent graduate from the University of Canterbury, he has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

As an advocate for young people, Harrison says youth are being left behind in decision-making and social matters and this has had detrimental long-term effects on our social fabric, already showing up in higher rates

of antisocial behaviour by young people and this needs to change

However, he says being a representative means working for everyone in the community regardless of differences.

He thinks the biggest issue facing the Innes ward in the next decade will be shifting population demographics and the services, infrastructure and programmes the council needs to provide and to do so in an equitable manner. To become more accessible to groups who do not seek out the board, the board needs to go out into the community.

He says that housing intensification is acceptable around public transport corridors and service centres, but it can be problematic in areas without infrastructure. He would also like to see the council enforcing higher tree coverage requirements more strictly.

Email harrisonmcevoy@gmail.com for further information.

Ali Jones - Independent



An Innes resident for more than three decades, Ali Jones runs her own public relations firm and has been an earthquake advocate for more than 10 years. Her previous local government experience includes three years as a city councillor (2013-16) and community board member (2013-2022).

Ali describes herself as an independent and says her values include honesty, loyalty, justice, tenacity and commonsense. She would like the Christchurch City Council to promote the circular economy (reuse etc) and be more strategic, aspirational and inspirational.

The Papanui Innes Central Community Board could do with less bureaucracy and she would like better communication between boards and city council, residents and businesses. The board could investigate partnerships for

community events to involve the community. A project to encourage teaching of civics in local schools would help increase (later) community participation.

The ward faces challenges over the next decade, related to increased traffic, housing density and the increased cost of living. These would be helped by better public transport, community spaces and limits placed on the number and heights of buildings. She would particularly like to see a commuter train service from the north into Christchurch seriously reviewed and soon. I would use the train tracks and help reduce road congestion.

To build resilience to deal with climate change she says the red zone (includes a part of Richmond in the Innes Ward) should be used for growing food and the use of solar power and water harvesting should be promoted.

Ali Jones can be reached at ali@redpr.co.nz



Moazzem Hossain

Moazzem Hossain, a Justice of the Peace, is standing as an independent. He comes from a background in neighbourhood support, civil defence and crimewatch. Late last year he was appointed to the Christchurch City Council's district licensing committee (liquor licences).

He aims to be open, transparent and accountable.

High-density housing, congestion and narrow streets are the biggest issues for Innes ward in the next decade. He thinks the council should limit the numbers and heights of new homes being built in the Innes ward and the area could benefit from more greenery. He believes "the originality of the land should be maintained as

much as possible."

He would like to see the Papanui Innes Central community board standing by the community and assessing the issues independently. He says climate change would benefit from more funds and greater community participation. To encourage more citizen participation he suggests seminars to keep the community on the same page as the governmental activities.

With his involvement in crimewatch he wants communities to be safer "The current security matter needs to be looked at for our community businesses and homes and schools."

If you have any election-related questions email: nihakhanam4578@gmail.com



Mike Davidson - For a Safer, Greener Innes

Mike Davidson wants better public transport access and safer streets for walking and cycling because these things are important for building strong communities and a healthy environment.

He was on the local community board that includes Innes ward (the board's name keep changing) for about nine years (including three years as chair) and was a city councillor for six until the 2022 election.

Although he has been more associated with Papanui, Mike owned his first home in front of the Edgeware Pool and wants to see it back up and running ASAP.

The biggest issue facing Innes in the next decade is

climate change. Council should be investing in communities so they will be resilient to the impact of climate change. Planting more trees in Innes streets and parks, with developers helping to fund them, is a good start.

The need for denser living is changing the face of areas like St Albans and Richmond and this needs to be managed. "Denser living is essential if we want to be a more sustainable city and Innes is such a great place to live. However, it's important that new developments are appropriate, enhance communities and that Council mitigates any impacts."

To encourage community participation Mike would like the community board holding more meetings in community venues, instead of using the service centre in Papanui.

Mike can be reached at Mike4Innes@gmail.com

What matters to you in 2023?

Happy New Year.

I managed to get off grid over New Year on Stewart Island. It's amazing how nature recharges the batteries. As we kayaked our way around I was amazed at the golden beaches and blue skies – and the fact that no one else was there. I was also impressed with the work being done to reduce and ultimately eliminate predators on the island.

However it is fair to say that environmentalism starts at home. There is a lot going on in the neighbourhood from our own slice of nature in the form of Abberley Park. Check it out on the ccc.govt.nz website. With mature trees, two playgrounds and a paddling pool beloved by local kids, Abberley Park is one of our suburb's best-kept secrets. Not far away there are restorative plantings at the Bridgestone Reserve in Papanui and a wetland kahikatea project in the Cranford Basin. If you are interested in these check out <https://conservationvolunteers.co.nz> to get involved.

Reducing waste is part of keeping the environment pristine. We got rid of single use shopping bags early on and we are phasing out single-use plastics like produce bags from 2025. I've got some reusable produce bags for your shopping to give away. If you'd like me to post you one, get in touch with my office. They are large enough for potatoes or apples and very durable. I'll also throw in one of my environmentally friendly pens. And let me know if you're over 60 – we've produced a booklet with up-to-date information on services for senior Kiwis.

I've been out and about on my bike a bit this summer – do say hello if you see me. If you'd like me to hold an MP chat/drop in in Abberley Park, let me know. I'll bring the barbecue and do a sausage sizzle – email chchcentral@parliament.govt.nz. If you're a local business and you'd like me to drop in when I'm out cycling, let me know. Parliament resumes in mid-February so I like to make the most of this break in Christchurch.

The Government's focus in 2023 is on the economy. We're in pretty good shape to navigate the choppy waters ahead – COVID was expensive, but our debt as a percentage of GDP remains low, especially when compared with OECD partners, and Grant Robertson's careful management has left us wriggle room.

I'm conducting a survey to find out what issues are uppermost in the minds of Central Christchurch residents. I'd love you to share your thoughts. So far climate change/the environment has emerged as the issue respondents are most worried about – do you agree? Tell me about it at www.labour.org.nz/duncanwebb_survey

Ngā mihi

Dr Duncan Webb

MP for Christchurch Central



Dr Duncan Webb, MP for Christchurch Central



Jacinda Ardern steps down, Chris Hipkins in charge

by Belinda Carter

When MPs like Duncan Webb head back to work in February, Jacinda Ardern will not longer be the Prime Minister. On January 18 she announced, after five and a half years in the driver's seat, she would resign as Prime Minister before February 7. If the ongoing COVID pandemic and the mosque massacre of 2019 were not enough, she has also been dealing with

increasingly nasty, misogynist attacks and death threats including some directed at her family. However, in one of the smoothest, non-controversial transitions New Zealand politics has probably ever seen, cabinet minister and sole nominee Chris Hipkins was voted in a few days later as the new PM by fellow MPs. The lad from Lower Hutt, is being joined by Carmel Sepuloni as deputy prime minister. The Aucklander, who has family links

to Tonga, was a key organiser of the government apology to Pacific people for the dawn raids of the late 1970s. Both MPs have 14 years of parliamentary experience. Jacinda is not stepping down completely until April (to avoid a by-election – the central Government elections have been set down for October 14) to focus on things like a covid-postponed marriage and her daughter's first day at school.



The little community library in Kensington Ave

by Lorna Szentivanyi

Half way down Kensington Avenue sits the Mairehau Library, a great asset for the St Albans, Mairehau and adjacent communities. The history of this community library reflects the changes occurring in the neighbourhood.

The now defunct Mairehau Residents Association, recognising the need for a library in the growing suburb, approached the Christchurch City Council for materials to build a Children's Library. Volunteers worked hard to build it and the library, which was opened in 1961, was extremely popular with families in the district and had 2000 children as members.

It became apparent that an adult library was needed. Another approach to the City Council was successful and a new building attached to the Children's Library opened in 1964.

Over the years the library faced several setbacks. The opening of the Shirley Library, the earthquakes, the Flockton Basin flooding and the building of the pump station directly in front of the library have all impacted on library membership.



Mairehau Library keeps up to date with the latest books - in this case Prince Harry's controversial memoir *Spare*.

The Children's Library is colourful and well stocked with the supervisor keeping abreast of current trends and making purchases to meet the interests of the children. The books are free to borrow and there is also a selection of DVDs.

The Adult Library has a large variety of fiction and non-fiction books. There is a small charge to borrow a book but non-fiction is free. Large print books are available for those with limited eyesight. Volunteers, who do a two hour duty

one or two days a week, keep the library running. They can always do with more volunteers to keep the library open.

The library is available for local community groups to meet. A small knitting group meets every Wednesday from 10am to 12noon. Recommencing from February 1.

Come and check the library out. Chat to the volunteers. Sit and read. Do a few pieces of a jigsaw. Everyone is welcome.



Come and choose a book from the wonderful selection at:

Mairehau Library

- Latest releases
- Large print
- NZ/Aotearoa books
- Non-fiction
- Fiction
- DVDs

Opening hours:

Monday to Saturday: 10am - 4pm
Thursday late night to 7.00pm

42a Kensington Avenue, off Innes Rd and Westminster Street



The deadline for the March of the St Albans News is February 13. Please send your articles, letters and notices to: news@stalban.gen.nz



St Albans parks and gardens

Plans to Improve the health of St Albans Stream

by Belinda Carter

A small group of University of Canterbury students who studied St Albans Stream in Abberley Park last year recommended native, riparian species be planted along the stream to stabilise the banks and make it healthier.

The study was done in partnership with the St Albans Residents Association, which would like the stream to be in better health for the 100-year anniversary of the heritage garden in 2040.

Water quality testing in 2022 confirmed the poor ecological state of the stream, largely due to erosion of soil on the banks, particularly after heavy rainfall. Vertebrates found in the stream tended to be pollution-tolerant species.

The third year Geography students came to the conclusion that more riparian plantings along St Albans Stream would help stabilise its banks, stop soil eroding and decrease sedimentation. Aquatic life (plants and macroinvertebrates) would also thrive with better water quality.

The report said deep rooted plants support bank stabilization, reduce contaminants such as nitrates, phosphorus, and pathogens entering the stream and provide social benefits to users of the park who can walk past indigenous nature. Using indigenous species improves the success of plantings while techniques like mulching would help suppress weeds and disease and increase plant survival. The additional trees would add to the city's total tree canopy.

The students split the area adjacent to the stream into four zones, with the poorly vegetated sites 1 and 2 closest to the entrance gate in Abberley Crescent at highest risk of erosion and requiring dense planting of sun-tolerant species because of the low canopy while those with high canopy cover upstream suited shade-tolerant species.

They then recommended particular trees and shrubs, depending on the distance from the stream: the margin (under 0.5 metres from the stream), lower bank (up to 3 m from the stream) and terrace (more than 3 m from the stream) and the amount of shading

available from the tree canopy.

The plants included on Table 3 in the report (follow the link below) were drawn from lists compiled in the 1990s by landscape designer Di Lucas with help from Colin Meurk from Landcare Research and others. Some of the tree types listed are already part of the park life living alongside the heritage oak trees.

This full report, which may be of particular interest to those whose properties border the stream, can be accessed here:

<https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/media/documents/oexp-science/geography/community-engagement/geog-309/2022/More-Than-a-Drain-Improving-the-health-of-St-Albans-Stream-through-riparian-planting-methods.pdf>

Those living elsewhere in St Albans can check out the interactive plant guide on the city council's website. Start with the ecosystem map: <https://ccc.govt.nz/environment/land/ecosystem-map> We will run a feature on the guide in the March edition of St Albans News..

✂

Let's go carolling in St Albans



It was a hot sunny, Sunday afternoon on December 4 when the St Albans Community Choir, conducted by Heather Gladstone, sang traditional carols and the New Brighton Silver Band also performed. Families brought picnics to eat, shaded by the garden's fruit trees (or made shade with a rain umbrella) and grabbed a snag at the St Albans barbecue trailer.



The Reformed Church of Christchurch in Cornwall St had planned to hold a carol service outdoors on December 18 but the weather wasn't the best, so the singing happened indoors. Carols were sung, instruments were played and everyone sang their hearts out the mark the birth of Jesus and made the most of the free sausages afterwards.

Volunteering at Packe St is a healthy pursuit

by Helen Kidd

A study conducted in North America over a 13 year period confirmed that people over 65 who were active volunteers, but didn't exercise regularly, were just as physically healthy as those who didn't volunteer but exercised regularly.

Many active older people are finding that volunteering is a purposeful and satisfying activity, particularly where friends can volunteer together. The fact that it has these social and health benefits is an extra bonus.

Packe Street Park offers anyone (not just older people) a fantastic opportunity to meet people, do something meaningful for the community, and improve health and well being, by joining in twice-weekly working bees. Tools, help, and refreshments are provided, and the second Thursday of each month the working bee becomes a family barbecue afterwards.

Over the holidays the white strawberries planted as ground cover under the apple trees have proven a

tasty success. And thanks to volunteers who carefully nurtured the potato beds there was a productive potato harvest. Large numbers of visitors have enjoyed summer salads from the park, and apples and apricots have been particularly popular.

A small tactile garden is steadily being planted out, and the moon garden started last year has been re-established, with the new plants are already beginning to flower.

The park has been trialling the use of compost supplied by Christchurch Convention Centre (Te Pae) which dehydrates its food scraps into a powdered, concentrated compost. Early results indicate that this will be a successful addition to the park 'toolkit', leading to even better harvests in the future.

Packe Street Park is a community garden and relies on donations and gifts from the community: donations of time for working bees, books for the book exchange, food for the community pantry, and pots and plants for the plant exchange, are all



Fruit trees in the park appreciated.

Working bees are Saturdays 10 am – 12, and Thursdays 4 – 6 pm. The next family barbecue night will be on February 9 from 5.30pm.



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8 Hours Free UMA Training

Over a month
Age 6+, wear comfortable clothes & bring water bottle

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- Vaccination documents
- Health Care
- Gifts etc

Weekdays 9 am – 6 pm • Saturdays 9.30 am – 2 pm
Cnr Colombo St & Edgware Rd • Phone 366 0404

Community Notices

A JP service will be available the first three Saturdays of the month 11 am - 1 pm at Kohinga St Albans Community Centre.

Canterbury Embroiderers' Guild: Hammersley Community Centre, Amos Place. Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri. Contact Ros 021 108 5539, Marie 021 68 3547 or email CEGstitchers@gmail.com. Any form of stitching

Christchurch Senior Citizens: Cards: Mondays 12.30 - 3 pm. Indoor bowls: Tuesdays 12.45 - 3 pm. Activities group have outings for meals, social days, bus trips. Further information - call Veronica 383 4682 or 021 1187 360 or Beth 389 2375 or 027 2610 4931

Citizens Advice Bureau: The North branch now at Fendalton Library, 4 Jefferies Road, 0800 367 222

Coffee and conversation: Every Wednesday 11 am - 1 pm at Kohinga St Albans Community Centre. Join us for coffee and conversation, meet others in your community. All Welcome. Koha for coffee appreciated.

Coffee with friends: Would you like company, meet new people, make new friends? Then join us for a cup of coffee or tea and some home baking at the Reformed Church Hall, 63 Cornwall Street every Friday at 10:30am. Any queries please ask Sarah at 027 758 5141

Computer aided, touch typing course for students 9 or older with difficulties reading, writing and spelling. Run by the Seabrook McKenzie Centre in London St. Mon, Tues 4-5pm.

Community Bible study: Small non denominational Bible reading class. Monday mornings, 10.30 to 12pm. All welcome. Phone Veronica on 960 7655 or 021 0229 2613.

Cranford Pippins for 5 and 6 year olds meets Tuesdays during school terms, 5:30 6:30pm. Contact: info@girlguidingnz.org.nz

Edgware Croquet Club: Come and try Croquet, a friendly club off Forfar Street in St Albans Park. Association Croquet Thur and Sat 9.30-12noon and Golf Croquet 12.45 -3pm. We welcome visitors and new members. For more info contact Jan 021303843

Elizabeth Bridge Club: Wednesdays 12.50 (for 1.00pm start) to 4.00pm at the Christchurch Bridge club rooms, 21 Nova Place. Visitors welcome. Friendly club, parking. No partner, contact Maureen on 021 646 123.

Family Drug Support Aotearoa New Zealand: free phone line set up to support family/whānau and friends impacted

by the alcohol and other drug misuse of people they care about. Phone the support line on 0800 337 877 or 03 2818 740 for other enquiries.

Free Kindergarten Enrolments: Not for profit Kidsfirst Sunbeam Kindergarten welcomes queries and new enrolments. 13 Cornwall Street, (03) 366 7157.

Free insulation: Community Energy Action (CEA) can assess your house and if eligible organise free insulation for above ceilings and under floors. Curtain bank offering free recycled curtains (including fitting). Curtain bank is mobile so can visit your home. More information, visit cea.org.nz

HOUSIE at the Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham St North, every Thursday at 12.30 - 2.15pm. \$2 per card or bring a prize to the value of the card. Afternoon tea to follow. All ages welcome. Numbers are limited. Gold coin donation. Enquiries ph 372 9224. Visit website: www.lcmchristchurch.org.nz.

Knitting Group meets every Tue at Edge Cafe 10 - 11 am. Ph Mandy 022 365 0745.

Knit & Knatter Shirley: Please can anyone help with free wool for these ladies. Contact Mary 027 733 9666 or 980 0811

More Than Music. For families with preschoolers 9.30 every Wed during term time at Rutland St Church. Contact church office 3554101 or text Nicola on 0272831905

Morning tea at Kohinga St Albans Community Centre, the first Thursday of the month at 10 am. Everyone welcome. For more information phone 9725534

The Respiratory Relief Society Canterbury Inc. runs weekly exercise classes Tuesdays from 1-00-2-15pm at St. Albans Uniting Church Nancy Ave for people with Respiratory, Cardiac and vascular conditions. Contact David Chamberlain 332 4471 or Helen Bush 021 230 6338.

Rotary New Horizons meets at St Albans Community Centre every second Wednesday of the month at 6pm. Email Marg at mlyons747@gmail.com for more info or find us on Facebook, or visit www.rotarynewhorizons.org.nz

Saygo Falls Prevention: Mondays 10 - 11am and Thursdays 9.30 - 10.30 am. \$2 entry. Spaces available in Thursday class. Kohinga St Albans Community Centre.

Shirley International Playgroup: a fun playgroup for mothers and under fives from any cultural background. Fridays during school term time. 9:30am 11:30am at the Shirley Hub, 69B Briggs Road, Mairehau. \$2 per session or \$10 for the term. Call Shauna at Delta Trust on 03 389 0219 for more information.

Scottish Country Dance club,

Scottish Society hall cnr Edgware Caledonian Rds, Tuesdays at 7.30pm, February - December. A time of fun, fitness and friendship. Contact: Margaret Birse, ph 327 0193.

Seniornet Mac runs help sessions for those with Apple devices at the St Albans Community Centre on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10am- noon.

Shirley Rugby League: Need players to join our family club, girls and boys welcome, ages 4 to Masters age 35 yrs. Contact Rochelle 021 133 5437.

Shirley Ladies Friendship Club meets 2nd Wednesday of the month 10.00am at All Saints Church New Brighton Road (by Bassett Street bridge). Interesting speakers, walking group and trips are arranged. Please phone Dale 385 1133 for more information.

St Albans Leisure Group is an older adults' recreation group that provides social contact and activities for its members. Contact Wendy at SARA@stalbens.gen.nz

St Albans Community Pre school: 20 free hours, 2 5 yr olds, casual bookings taken. 3 Thames St. Contact Odette on (03) 355 9396 or look us up on Facebook.

The St Albans History Group is interested in old photos or articles about St Albans. Contact: Brian: briangspear@hotmail.com

St Albans Shirley Football Club. For players 4-40+ Phone 021 0204 2300 for team details.

St Albans Laughter Club: Laughter yoga teaches you to breathe properly to release tension and stress. Sundays 11am-12pm. Scottish Society Hall, corner Caledonian and Edgware Rds. \$3. email: hannah@lotustrust.org.nz www.lotustrust.org.nz, FB: Christchurchlaughteryoga

U3A St Albans: meet at St Albans Uniting Church. Monthly 4th Thursday 9.45am, morning tea followed by speaker. Many more activities. Visitors warmly welcomed. Call Noni, 03 354 5643, for further details.

Women in Harmony community choir: Meets Thursdays in primary school terms from 7.30-9.30pm at Kohinga St Albans Community Centre. Sing world and popular music in 3 part harmony. No auditions. Email: women.in.harmony.nz@gmail.com; facebook.com/womeninharmonychristchurch

Weekend Group: Second Saturday of the month 4.00 pm - 5.30 pm at Kohinga St Albans Community Centre. Meet for friendship and company with lively chat. Refreshments provided. Koha appreciated - (recommended \$5.00 per person).

St Albans News Classifieds

SERVICES

Having difficulty making a good decision about a family, work, relationship or legal problem? We can help you make a thoughtful and practical decision. Give me a call and we can discuss. If needed, we can then meet at the St Albans Community Centre. Bill Demeter at 027 379 3873. There is no charge for this service.

Clarinet, Sax, Flute, Guitar, Bass, & Piano: Experienced local teachers. Ph Nicola and Ivan 385 3856.

Singing lessons available: Experienced local tutor. All ages welcome. Please ph or text Meredith 027 696 6290

Becoming You Yoga: \$13, Slow mindful yoga. St Albans Community Centre, Thursday 10am \$15, Restorative Yoga. Suitable for all. Contact: https://www.becomingyouyoga.com

Yoga Class: Tuesday and Thursday 10:45am-12pm at St Albans Community Centre. All abilities and ages welcome. Tracy 022 048 6949 or 03 356 1754

Qualified Florist: Located at 201 Geraldine Street, Edgware. Same day delivery. theflowershopchristchurch.co.nz 02108355345

TRADIES

Door Specialist: Repairs, adjustments and installation of all doors and locks, ranch slider wheels and locks. Qualified tradesman. Ph Stewart 0800 677 262 or 021 185 4055.

Eastcoast Landscapes: Specialising in all aspects of PAVING including patios, paths, courtyards and borders. We also do lawns, irrigation, garden makeovers and general property maintenance. Commercial and residential. Small, friendly business. Quality work. Free quotes. Call Blair on 027 699 5815.

Handyman: Pete Knuiman Ltd. For all your property maintenance, repairs, painting, carpentry, fencing, brickwork, tiling work, alterations and those odd jobs. Ph Pete 021 022 53774 or 385 1718. www.peteknuiman.co.nz, pete@peteknuiman.co.nz

Painter: Experienced local tradesman, interior/exterior, full repaints, fences, decks. Residential or commercial. Call now for quality painting services at competitive rates. Timeliness guaranteed. Shayne 027 214 1827

Pegasus Landscapes: All aspects of landscaping, design. We do everything on the outside including planting, paving, driveways, lawns, lawn renovation, irrigation, raised timber planters, all timber work, brick and block work, full garden maintenance service. Established in St Albans in 1992. Please contact Andy Cox, ph 0274337629, email: pegasus.landscapes@gmail.com

SITUATIONS VACANT

Tourism/Dinner Only Hosting Opportunity
Rural Holidays NZ Ltd, an established and innovate Christchurch based company with considerable experience in hosting of

overseas visitors over the past 40 years, is seeking further hosts, to provide dinner only in a private home, for a regular USA tour series visiting the city. If you enjoy entertaining and presenting a home cooked meal, then this opportunity is for you. Time involved with your guests is approximately three hours. A genuine interest in meeting visitors from wide and varied backgrounds along with need to be flexible, reliable and maintain a consistent level of hospitality at all times are key factors we are seeking. A competitive industry level of remuneration is paid. To find out more, please register your interest today via email at: hosting@ruralholidays.co.nz

St Albans events

Events happening in the next couple of months. If you have events you would like announced here, please email:

news@stalbens.gen.nz

February 18, 4-7pm:
Abberley Park's birthday celebrations.

February 19, 10am-Noon:
Kohinga Mara, 126 Caledonian Rd Working Bee.

February 22, 9am-2pm:
River of Flowers remembers the 2011 earthquake, Abberley Park and Courtenay Green. Flowers supplied

Mental Health Support

There are a number of places that offer free help, handy when you are having mental health issues:

- **Allies online mentoring** offered by young Muslim adults to Muslim teens run by Youthline. Free text 234 or phone 0800 376 633
- **After hours counselling:** Phone counselling provided. Offer of a free introductory chat and affordable fees related to clients financial situation in these challenging times. Call on 027 694 5275 or email at: murray@afterhourscounselling.co.nz
- **Are You OK?** Family violence helpline 0800 456 450.
- **Canterbury Charity Hospital:** 03 360 2266
- **Comcare Trust:** Comcare assists people with mental health or addiction issues to live well in the Canterbury community. Tel: (03) 377 7020, Fax: (03) 961 0794, Email: enquiries@comcare.org.nz
- **Counsellors** available via text: 1737
- **Depression:** 0800 111 757 or text 4302
- **Eating Disorder Recovery Support:** Here you will find a place to: connect with eating disorder experts, find recommended resources and join a forum for families. If you would like to talk about it further, please contact: 021 195 6766.

- **Family Drug Support Aotearoa New Zealand.** Support for families impacted by the alcohol and other drug use of family members. Tel: 03 2818 740. www.fds.org.nz
- **Kidslines:** 0800 54 37 54—For under 18s, 24/7
- **Male Survivors:** 03 365 9000
- **Mental Health Advocacy Peer Support (MHAPS):** Phone: (03) 365 9479, Text: 022 370 8055, Rural Phone: 0800 437 324, Email: reception@mhaps.org.nz 9:00am-4:30pm, Monday to Friday
- **OUTLine NZ:** provides confidential telephone support for matters of gender or sexuality, 0800 688 5463
- **Rape Crisis:** 0800 883 300 for support after rape or sexual assault.
- **Sexual Assault Support Service Canterbury (SASSC):** 03 377 5402 for recent and historic cases
- **Shakti Crisis Line:** for migrant or refugee women living with family violence 0800 742 584
- **Suicidal?** Phone 0508 828 865

Death to Cookie-Cutter Townhouses!

"We thought we could build something better - and people say we have."



Why Smart Investors Buy When Naysayers Tell You Hold Off.

House prices in NZ have kept increasing even in recessions.



Town Homes? That's What Owners have Started Calling Them - They're so Different



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BUT NOT LIKE THE OTHERS

St Albans residents are excited that, finally, one developer is building homes in keeping with the spirit of pre-earthquake St Albans.

Death to cookie-cutter townhouses.

Brooksfield, now Christchurch's third largest developer, have said no to what they call 'those horrid cookie-cutter homes'. The reasons are refreshingly honest. 'We're number three, so we have to try harder', say directors Oliver Hickman and Vinny Holloway. 'And we detest the whole cookie-cutter thing that lots

of other developers go for. They stop feeling like homes and start looking like motels'. The pair have taken an innovative approach to ensure Brooksfield Town Houses are always different from the others.

When Brooksfield first started out, 425 Town Houses ago, the two directors made a commitment. They would go out on a limb to get it right. They would hire the world's best classical architects. They settled on London's Ben Pentreath to restore the spirit of pre earthquake Christchurch.
www.benpentreath.com

WHAT PEOPLE SAY

Comments from Brooksfield's Facebook Page

"We need these types of beautiful heritage houses in Auckland. Most townhouses here just look too cheap. When are you guys building in Auckland?" M.P.L

"Come to Dunedin please! We adore heritage." TC

"Thank you for being the ONLY developer in town building something sensitive to the surrounding areas and considering the long-term considerations like sustainability and solar." M.R

"Hamilton could do with a bit of this.. " B.H.

"Loving seeing these all pop up in the neighbourhood!" B.T.

"These are gorgeous - If only our high-density housing in Auckland looked like this." AL.

"Glad to see some classic heritage looking stuff with a soul and not some box." B.C

"So nice to see a bit of class." K.S.

"Awesome, natural. renewable builds with a touch of humanity in this emotionally devoid concrete jungle." A.N.

"These are simply perfect. Seeing your vision and Ben's signature detailing - so very impressive. We need you in Wellington." M.B.

"Walked past these homes the other day. They are really beautiful" R.M.

**For more, go to
Brooksfield's Website
<https://brooksfield.co.nz/>**