

Your vote crucial in hot council contest

Every vote in the Innes-St Albans ward will count in the upcoming council elections as the current councillor Pauline Cotter fends off contender Ali Jones in a neck and neck race.

In the last elections Cotter won by just eight votes. Her rival, Jones, is targeting rates as a major issue, while Cotter stands by her record of support for community projects.

A forum at the St Albans Community Centre on Thursday September 25 at 7.30pm will give candidates a chance to outline their views on issues.

It will include the Innes candidates for the community board, council, the north east

constituency of Environment Canterbury, concluding with the mayoral candidates.

They have provided StAN with their profiles and commentaries on significant issues.

Another five candidates in the Central Christchurch constituency represent about four streets around Webb St. They are - Raf Manji (Independent), Hayley Guglietta (Truly Independent), Jake McLellan (Labour), Mace Reid (Independent), and Tom Roud (Alliance Party).

The Christchurch City Council and the Environment Canterbury websites outline the candidates and the areas they represent.

An everyday hero on four legs

by Chris Hutching

Dan Shepherd's guide dog, Ezra, has saved his life at least twice. "On one occasion he stopped for no reason. A car was coming out of a driveway in front of us and he'd heard it coming long before me. Otherwise I would have been bowled."

Dan is part of the executive team at Low Blind Vision NZ. He has a genetic condition called Retinitis Pigmentosa that causes progressive vision loss. He recently told about 30 people at the St Albans Residents Association monthly Cafe Chat about the challenges he faces daily and overcomes with Ezra's help.

Receiving Ezra as his guide dog immediately gave Dan a new lease of life. For the first time in many years he could walk at the speed of his natural stride. Ezra has an almost uncanny connection with Dan - the dog is like an extension of him.

"I can say 'Ezra find me a cafe' and he'll take me to the nearest one. One time I went to Auckland to see my dying grandmother. We'd never been to the airport there before. I said to him 'Ezra find me a taxi'. Without knowing what a taxi was he led me out of the terminal, down the escalator and delivered me to the passenger door of a taxi. Ezra will take me to anyone wearing an Air New Zealand uniform. The airline always books a seat next to me and they have dog mats available. Ezra will search it out when we get on the plane.

"When I received Ezra I had to sign a special contract. He doesn't belong to me although I'm responsible for him but I have to follow the instructions of the trainer. About 40% of puppies pass training which takes four years.

My kids are not allowed to play with him like a pet because he's a working dog. They're usually retired around 10 years old when we can choose to adopt him as a pet and we've agreed to do this. I won't get another dog until he dies. It would seem like a betrayal while he's alive. I also work for the organisation that trains the dogs. It costs about \$175,000 to get a trained dog to a person.

"We're very familiar now with the streets of St Albans with Ezra helping me navigate. We face many barriers. I was late to this Cafe Chat because an Uber driver didn't want to take a dog."

Physical barriers on footpaths are a major problem. Rubbish bin day can add 20-30 minutes to Dan's walk to work because of poorly placed bins. "I'd ask everyone to be aware that when it is on the footpath it creates a hazard for



Dan and Ezra at Cafe Chat

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Activities at the community centre

Weekly groups that meet at the community centre.

Monday	10am	Saygo - join waiting list
	11am	Happy Feet
	5pm	Universal Martial Arts
Tuesday	9.30am	Zumba with JB
	10am	NeighbourNet
	5.30	Pippins
Wednesday	7pm	Avon Toastmasters
	7pm	Ungu Capoeira
	9am	Wednesday Wheelies
Thursday	10am	SeniorNet Mac
	10.30am	The Corner, coffee and chat
	7.00pm	Capoeira Angola
Friday	9.30am	Saygo - join waiting list
	10.45am	Yoga with Tracy Kells
	10am	NeighbourNet
Saturday	5.00pm	Universal Martial Arts
	7.15pm	Women in Harmony
	10am	SeniorNet Mac
Sunday	10am	Social Square Dancing
	6pm	Impact Youth
	6pm	Impact Youth

The programme above lists weekly activities run at the centre, 03 972 5534 or communitycentre@stalbands.gen.nz for more information or hire enquiries.

One off or monthly activities / events can be notified for free in community notices, events column or through paid advertising. Please contact advertising@stalbands.gen.nz for information and rates.

Funding for SARA

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



ST ALBANS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (SARA) AGM

Saturday September 27 @ 2pm
Kohinga St Albans Community Centre
1049 Colombo St

Join us to explore SARA's impact in St Albans, unveil our 2016-2035 Community Strategy, and launch the new community website.

Help shape St Albans
New committee members welcome Contact
chair@stalbands.gen.nz

SARA Committee

St Albans Residents Association meeting, October 15, 7 pm at St Albans Community Centre, 1049 Colombo St.

Advertising in St Albans News

If you would like to advertise in the News, phone Lynne on 972 5534 or email advertising@stalbands.gen.nz
Please ask for a copy of our ratesheet, which specifies sizes, prices and requirements.

St Albans History Group

Next meetings: September 1 and October 6 at 2pm at the St Albans Community Centre.
Email: briangspear@hotmail.com

BBQ Trailer for hire

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

Wednesday Wheelies

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

The deadline for the November issue of St Albans News is October 13
Please send your articles, letters and notices to:
news@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 bimonthly. 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

Sweet Sunbeams



Sunbeam kindy kids enjoying a honey treat

by Emma Twaddell

The tiny explorers from Sunbeam Kindergarten set off every week to discover the wonders in and around Edgeware Village and they are regular visitors to the community centre and Kohinga Māra.

The children have been buzzing with excitement as they learned all about the Kohinga Māra beehive. With the sun shining and bees busy at work, the tamariki transformed into bees - zooming around the garden, "pollinating" flowers, and flapping their wings with impressive enthusiasm.

Sunbeam is part of the 64-strong Kidsfirst Kindergarten network, located in Cornwall St, and the oldest in the Kidsfirst network, established about 100 years ago.

Working bees

Monday and Thursday
from 2 to 4 pm

For more information visit
our FB page:
facebook.com/packestreet

Kohinga Māra Community Garden

WORKING BEE

TUESDAYS
FROM 2PM TO 4PM

ALL WELCOME

130 CALEDONIAN RD
(BESIDE THE COMMUNITY CENTRE)

ST ALBANS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

First Monday of the Month

Cafe Chat

GOLD COIN ENTRY

Sept 1 **TIM JOYCE, DES THOMSON & NIGEL YOUNG - THE MEN'S SHED NZ**

Oct 6 **SENIOR SERGEANT ROY APPLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER CHCH METRO - TBC**

Nov 3 **BELINDA BARRETT-WALKER - GRAFFITI PROGRAMME COORDINATOR CCC**

10.30AM - 12.00PM

An everyday hero on four legs

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people with disabilities. Scooters are the bane of my life. They're great for people to get around but so many are left in the middle of footpaths. When Ezra has to take me around obstacles we have to go onto the main road, it's dangerous."

The increasing number of construction sites in St Albans means there are more obstructions on footpaths, particularly trades vehicles.

"Ezra always walks to the left of me. He will pick up undulations and will stop if necessary. If there are some tree roots sticking up from the footpath he will put his front paws on them and I can tell he's elevated and I need to step over something. Once when walking with my kids to school my son was ahead and told off the tradesman about the problem he created by parking on the berm. Ever tried arguing with a nine-year old?" he chuckles. "Another time a nine year old on a scooter ran into me. That gave rise to the school programme."

The two-session programme is designed to raise awareness of vision loss in both the school environment and our neighbourhoods. There is an optional staff awareness session which can help those schools with students who are blind or low vision in the school environment.

Blind Low Vision has been going for about 135 years. There are up to 180,000 blind or low vision people receiving its services. Dogs are matched by height and walking pace, with 135 guide dogs in New Zealand.

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Send your news contributions and adverts to:

news@stalbands.gen.nz

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

Letters can be mailed to:

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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.

Mayoral candidates

Blair ANDERSON (Mild Greens)



Anderson was once reported as having “a bewildering array of social and scientific knowledge, but it is a pity he didn’t reveal he has a cannabis conviction.” He said he now offers Christchurch pragmatic, centrist leadership focused on core issues:

sustainable, rapid regional and civic transport, evidence-based environmental action, and resolving the urban planning crisis.

By championing a regulated cannabis market, projected

to generate a “billion-dollar evidence-based social dividend” for our community, this bold initiative draws deeply on Deloitte’s reports on Canada’s reforms, which in its first three years, demonstrated an additional CA\$43 billion in GDP, that rightly, can be reinvested locally in vital services and infrastructure.

I am committed to building a connected, resilient, liveable Christchurch, tackling crucial issues while fostering innovative opportunities in transport, technology, agriculture and science.

Phil ARPS (Independent Nationalist New Zealand)

Phil Arps describes himself as a nationalist promoting what he calls One Policy.

A summary provided to StAN advocates charging people with treason for facilitating “mass immigration of

cheap labour to New Zealand and the waging of the war against drugs.”

He promotes the ultimate punishment for people found guilty.

Tubby HANSEN (Economic Euthenics)



Hansen has stood in every general election and mayoral race over five decades and 34 elections. He has his name down for mayor, council, and community board.

He said Auckland should become

the 51st state of the United States, MP Winston Peters be knighted, and Chatham Islands become a service centre for Chinese and Russian submarines.

Wind up all clubs, and young men under 30 sent to clinics at Burwood hospital for counselling to combat spread of chlamydia.

Thomas HEALEY (Independent)



I am a self employed garden business owner operator and stand on the board of the Canterbury community garden association, I have also been a student executive council member for the Christchurch polytechnic during the September earthquake.

I want to stand for mayor due to my interpretation of transparency and accountability which is fiscal responsibility.

An example of this is spending money on art work and still we have our elderly struggling to survive. I do not support the chlorination of our water supply. Sodium hypochlorite which is the chemical used MUST be removed.

I am against excessive speed humps. While some can be beneficial the excess is unsafe due to back injuries being aggravated when ambulances are transporting patients.

I also want to see less red tape and faster clear communication for members of the public.

Phil MAUGER



I’m standing for re-election as Mayor because I want to keep Christchurch, and communities like St Albans, moving forward. Over the past term, I’ve worked hard to deliver practical results, from progressing key citywide projects to improving local infrastructure and community facilities.

I grew up in Christchurch, built a successful civil construction business, and have spent my life working alongside local people and communities. That hands-on background shapes my approach as Mayor, I believe in straight talking, rolling up my sleeves, and focusing on

getting things done.

For St Albans, I’m committed to safer streets, better traffic management, and improving walking and cycling connections. I’ll keep pushing for upgrades to stormwater and flood protection, so homes and streets are more resilient. Citywide, the focus will be on getting rate increases down, delivering One New Zealand Stadium/Te Kaha on time and on budget, improving roads and public transport, making our city safer, and getting better value for every rates dollar.

I’ll keep listening to St Albans residents and working with you to make Christchurch an even better place to live, work, and visit.

Nikora NITRO (Independent)



My name is Nikora Nitro. I am 47 years old and have lived and worked in Ōtautahi Christchurch for 25 years. I’m standing for Mayor because I believe the next three years offer real opportunity to achieve the aspirations of our communities. Through collaborative leadership—between Council, Community Boards, residents, and stakeholders—we can move Christchurch forward.

My priorities include:

Capping rates increases at 35%, establishing five city entrepreneur hubs, addressing homelessness and creating jobs, expanding the city’s housing portfolio, strengthening tourism and infrastructure, promoting unity, celebration, and wellbeing.

Christchurch has the people, the passion, and the resources to deliver real outcomes. A bicultural model of leadership ensures inclusive decision-making, where every voice counts. With your support, we can create a thriving, inclusive, and future-focused city—together.

Sara TEMPLETON (Our City. Our People. Our Future)



“Kia ora. I’ve worked in and with our communities for the last 14 years, helping rebuild, reconnect and reimagine our city and now it’s time to plan for the future.

I’ve helped build gardens, improved access to our libraries by removing fines and hold fees, and supported local councillors’ bid to fund the Edgware pool when others questioned the need.

When it comes to a healthy environment and climate action, nothing beats trees and they need protecting wherever we can. Every suburb should be a leafy suburb, which is why my

plan is to plant 1 million trees and other plants across the city and Banks Peninsula in my first term as Mayor.

We also need to look after our infrastructure better and I will install a network of chlorine-free water stations across the city so that everyone has access, while we ramp up renewals of our aging water pipes to reduce leaks and maintenance costs.

I am committed to retaining our strategic assets and keeping our core services strong.

Together, we can shape a city that’s sustainable, connected and affordable.

Visit www.saratempleton.nz today.

Peter WAKEMAN (Independent)



Wakeman seeks answers ensuring the safety of our water supply without fluoridation. pH level can affect the effectiveness of the chlorine if the pH level is over a certain level. Serious questions are raised with respect to the levels currently shown by CCC. pH according to the council website is 7.8 and 8.2 after aeration, and also states 5 g/m³ chlorination. Given that chlorine has only a fifteen percent effectiveness at this level of pH, how much chlorine is required to add to the water supply?

Central and local Government information can be requested under the Official Information Act. In the event your request is not answered in full, you can go to the Office of the Ombudsman. Christchurch City Council needs to be more transparent and accountable. More information needs to be made available without the need to go to the Office of the Ombudsman. eg: when they tender or choose not to and why.

Electricity line charges are making electricity very expensive. A luxury many people cannot afford. The lines company is mostly owned by the City Council.

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Council candidates - Innes

Pauline COTTER (The People's Choice)



Living locally for 38 years and serving as your City Councillor for the past 12, including this term as Deputy Mayor, I've always been accessible to residents. Whether it's potholes, broken pipes, park maintenance or traffic concerns, I have delivered results for the Innes Ward and

will continue to do so.

Some achievements through collaboration include:

- Securing \$200 million for flood prevention in areas like Edgeware Village and Shirley
- Leading the "two-for-one" tree planting policy
- Bringing parks maintenance back in-house—saving money and improving service
- Supporting local projects such as the Edgeware Pool, Shirley Birdsong Trail, Kohinga Community Garden, and Abberley Park revitalisation

I stand for:

- Keeping strategic assets (Airport, Port, Orion, City Care) in public ownership
- Controlled rate increases
- Reducing waste
- Addressing the urgency for Mass Rapid Transport corridors into the CBD
- Respecting local knowledge

The closure of Edgeware Pool first drew me into local government. After 18 years of persistence and community effort, a new outdoor pool is finally under construction and will open this summer. This is a powerful example of what communities can achieve when Council listens and enables great ideas.

For Experience, Competence, and Diligence—vote Pauline Cotter for Innes.

Ali JONES



Residents and businesses in the Innes ward deserve a strong, independent voice advocating on issues they tell me are important – lower rates, sensible spending, better transport flow, fewer road bumps, roads and pavements fixed properly, and more trees, better tree management

(actually DO it, not talk about it).

We can and should have lower rates. Don't believe those who suggest pools and libraries will close, that's nonsense. We've seen billions of dollars invested in Christchurch since the earthquakes; now is the time to rein in our spending so people can afford to live in their homes – doing our bit to help reduce the cost of living.

We need a majority of councillors around the table who

are focused on the same things, the things you want, and right now we don't. That is in the hands of voters.

As a city councillor from 2013–2016 and having been on the local community board for 12 years, I understand local government, and where bureaucracy is slowing progress and unnecessarily costing ratepayers in time and money.

I've lived in St Albans all my adult life and have been married for 30 years, we have a grown-up daughter and son, and an adopted greyhound called David. I volunteer for Meals on Wheels and promote this wonderful city whenever I can on RNZ and NewstalkZB as part of a regular panel slot.

After missing the Innes council seat last election by 8 votes, I am asking for your support in October. Every vote counts.

Wednesday Coffee and Conversation Group

We welcome anyone

wanting a cuppa, chat, and good company every

**Wednesday from 10.30am–12.30pm,
Kohinga St Albans Community Centre**

Come join Leigh and her host and other like-minded people for company and friendship. Everyone is welcome.



Community board candidates - Innes

Matt CLOUGH (Practical. Independent. Future.)



Like you, I want Innes to be a place that works—for the people who live, work, and raise families here.

That means keeping rates in check, so renters and homeowners alike aren't squeezed even harder. It means tackling traffic with practical solutions—not just throwing in more speed bumps or narrowing roads. It also means addressing issues like the rats in Malvern Park—because clean, safe public spaces should be a given.

And it means making long-term decisions now, so we're not stuck fixing yesterday's mistakes later.

I'm not here to play politics. My career has given me governance experience and a strategic perspective—helping me to ask the hard questions, challenge what doesn't stack up, and back ideas that make sense for everyday people.

As a world champion athlete and Strategy Manager at a local business, I bring real-world problem-solving skills, fresh thinking, and a focus on outcomes.

If you want someone committed to building a better future for Innes, vote Matt Clough for Innes Community Board.

Mike DAVIDSON (The People's Choice)



I'm standing for the community board because I care about St Albans and want to help tackle the issues that matter most to residents today, while working with the community to help shape the future ahead.

I've lived in St Albans for over 35 years and as an experienced community board member and former Christchurch city councillor, I know how to get things done and advocate effectively for our community.

I'm on the committee that is rebuilding Edgeware Pool and thrilled that, after 19 years, we'll be back swimming in our community pool this summer. I also played a key role in the development of the new community centre in St Albans and securing the adjoining land, that is now home to a thriving community garden.

St Albans is a fantastic area to live, but we face real challenges, like increased traffic congestion, the impact of new housing developments and the loss of trees. I've spoken to many residents who want children to be able to get to school safely, chlorine-free water, and localised flooding issues addressed. These are my priorities too.

I'm a trusted and known community advocate. Contactable on mike4innes@gmail.com

Emma TWADDELL (Independent)



As your Community Board Representative for Innes Ward over the past six years, I've delivered strong, local leadership—championing safer streets, advocating for smarter transport solutions, and securing community spaces that foster wellbeing and connection.

St Albans, the vibrant heart of our ward, is growing rapidly. Rising population and traffic are putting pressure on our infrastructure. Intensification is stretching our 'pipes and pavement'—the very systems funded by 45% of your rates.

Our water infrastructure must be resilient, protecting our supply and ensuring wastewater is responsibly managed.

Our streets should be safe and functional, yet over 24,000 vehicles enter St Albans each morning. We can't build our way out of congestion—we need smarter planning that prioritises moving people, not just cars.

I will advocate for a built environment that integrates green infrastructure, diverse housing, active transport networks, and accessible public spaces. Planning must support density without sacrificing liveability, equity, or environmental health.

With 20+ years in community, business, and urban development, I bring proven leadership, deep local knowledge, and a commitment to equity. I know how to listen—and how to get things done.

Vote Emma Twaddell – The Independent People's Voice. Our future is now.

Regional council candidates - Northeast

Ashley CAMPBELL (Independent)



I'm standing for ECan because I strongly believe we must do better for our environment and people. A sustainable society and economy rely on a sustainable environment. ECan regulates use of our natural resources – it's vital it does that through an environmental lens.

I'm a former journalist turned science communicator. For 8 years I have worked at Lincoln University as a communications adviser and manager with researchers tackling issues such as climate change, nitrate pollution, and regenerative agriculture.

In 2011 I began the campaign to regenerate the Red Zone. I was a founding member of Avon-Ōtākaro Network, founder of Greening the Red Zone, and member of Te

Tira Kāhikuhiku, the Red Zone's transformative land use consultative group.

Major issues for Canterbury are:

- Environmental sustainability – we must protect our waterways, groundwater, and biodiversity. We must act on climate change.
- Equitable public transport – we should prioritise reliable services in lower-income areas.
- Economic sustainability – we must diversify our economy away from industries with unsustainable land-use practices.
- Transparency – we must make it easier for people to know how councillors have voted and hold them to account.

www.campbell4ecan.nz

David EAST (Independent)



I have had 18 years of experience in local government within both Christchurch City Council Environment Canterbury. Depth of knowledge in water and catchment management, regulatory and consenting functions are valuable attributes I offer ECan.

BSc qualified (Geography and Geology). My focus – Geomorphology, Erosion, Fluvial studies. Qualified RMA Commissioner, Member – Institute of Directors.

My career started with the North Canterbury Catchment Board (now ECan) working in ground water, water quality and Catchment Management. Water is our life blood; without it we cannot survive. Primary focus: Functional and clean waterways, well-engineered catchments giving protection to both urban and rural communities, an efficient regulatory and consenting regime.

Water is a huge focus both in business and recreation. I was raised and worked in a rural environment, but have lived in the city for many years, giving me a balanced approach to both urban and rural values as an elected member.

Joe DAVIES (The People's Choice - Labour)



It has been an honour to represent the East of our city on the Regional Council.

My environmental focus has centred on water protection through wetland restoration. Our council secured increased biodiversity funding, including Christchurch's \$1 million biodiversity targeted rate, and advanced redzone consents along the Avon corridor. I chair the Avon Heathcote Estuary Trust, which champions the health of the estuary/ihutai.

As Public Transport Core Service lead, I delivered data-

driven improvements including Route 7 high-frequency services out to Queenspark, dogs on buses, and expanded rural transport. I will continue advocating for Christchurch Heavy Rail Transit. www.chrt.space

I've transformed council transparency through digital democracy initiatives, establishing live-streamed meetings, the Canterbury Artificial Intelligence Working Group, and improved public access to decision-making processes. My science and technology background informs my approach to creating quality information systems that lead to better outcomes for our community.

Edgware Village enhancements

City council staff have asked the Innes Community Board for decisions on spending money available in long term plans. Staff and councillor recommendations range from fairy lights on trees near Baines and the supermarket, flags or banners at the road entranceways (\$3000 to \$23,000

depending on design), drinking fountain (\$12,000), wider and bigger kerbs (\$70,000-\$170,000), flower beds (\$15,000), two trees \$40,000, plus removal of some car parking. Also in the possible mix is a wayfinder sign (uncosted), more speed warnings, and lighting features (\$5400).

Big kids welcomed back to St Albans Community

by Chris Hutching

St Albans Community Preschool will be greeting older visitors in September as it welcomes families who have attended over the past 40 years.

"The anniversary open day at the Thames St home of the preschool will be a chance to share special memories and see how things have changed," said manager Suzy Rogerson.

"We're keen to share the history of the preschool over the past four decades, and we've made a call out for photos from past families and staff. We'll highlight our ongoing role in the community and encourage new enrolments to support our future," Suzy said.

One of the many parents who have supported the preschool with two children, Alex Adank, is looking forward to revisiting. Her child began school a month ago.

"The staff at St. Albans Community Preschool have always



Suzy reading to youngsters at St Albans Preschool

been so welcoming, kind and caring. They really nurture children as individuals and take a genuine interest in them. It is a bittersweet feeling to see my youngest graduate after being a part of this community for so long," Alex said.

The preschool welcomes children from 24 months old up to school age and is happy for parents to call in and see if the environment would suit their child.

The not-for-profit preschool focuses on children's emotional well being, relationships and play-based learning to help them develop empathy, respect, and diversity.

"There are many corporate owned preschools but not so many not-for-profit community ones like ours. We can cater for about 35 children and have a staff to child ratio of one to five, which compares with up to one to 10 at some centres. Some of our teachers have been here for 10 years, as well as several younger staff members," Suzy said.



VOTE

Ali Jones

for City Council - Innes Ward

- Lower rates
- Sensible spending
- Roads and pavements fixed properly
- Stop the speed bump spread
- More trees

Authorised by Ali Jones: ali@redpr.co.nz

History group

Mary Ursula Bethell

Ursula, as she chose to be called, is recognised as one of the pioneers of modern New Zealand poetry. For part of her life, she lived in St Albans. She was a pivotal figure in the Christchurch arts community, a writer who blurred the boundaries between art forms.

Born in Horsell, Surrey, England on 6th October 1874, she arrived in New Zealand with her parents, firstly in Nelson, and in 1878 in Christchurch. By 1881 the family had settled in Rangiora but the death of her father in 1885, prompted a return to Christchurch.

Her education started at Rangiora Primary School, and continued at Christchurch Girls' High. In 1889, together with Sibylla Maude, who was heading for England to further her nursing training, Ursula left New Zealand to attend Oxford High School for Girls. After further schooling in Switzerland, where she trained in painting, she returned to New Zealand late in 1892 and practising her Anglo-Catholic faith, became deeply involved in social work. By the end of 1895 she returned to England and continued with this charity work in South London. This visit was cut short when she suffered a life-threatening bout of pneumonia which forced her to spend



several months recuperating in the mountains of California.

Ursula returned to England via New Zealand and United States in 1904. She was planning to establish a retreat for Christian workers together with Effie Pollen, another single woman newly arrived from New Zealand, but soon abandoned this idea. When Effie departed for New Zealand to care for her father, Ursula followed and in March 1910, moved into a house in Webb Street, St Albans, owned by her mother.

She entered into the work of the parish of St Mary's, Merivale, and even provided accommodation for a sister of the Community of the Sacred Name, who had been appointed to assist the vicar.

In 1913 Ursula was back off to England via Java, India and Switzerland. She made a last-minute escape from mainland Europe when war broke out and continued her charity work in London. She returned to Christchurch after the Armistice and in August 1924, set up home with Effie in Rise Cottage, a newly built bungalow in Westenra Terrace on the Cashmere Hills. She made a final brief visit to England in

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Mary Ursula Bethell

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1926 but by 1928 she had created a garden on the slopes of the hills and she had also composed much of the poetry for which she is known today.

Much of this poetry described the garden and drew inspiration from the Canterbury landscape. All her work appeared anonymously as she used her pseudonym, Evelyn Hayes, derived from an ancestor who was deported to Australia for attempted abduction. Tragedy struck in 1934, when her very close friend, Effie, died suddenly, leaving Ursula feeling utterly bereft. She gave her Webb Street house to the Anglican church and took up residence in an apartment in her old house. She died on 15 January 1945 in Christchurch and was buried in St John's Anglican cemetery in Rangiora alongside her parents.

In 1979, the University of Canterbury founded the Ursula Bethell Residency in Creative Writing to encourage New Zealand writing. Notable recipients included Margaret Mahy and Keri Hulme.

*Sources: Dictionary of NZ Biography and Wikipedia
Compiled by the St Albans History Group*

Budding time for conservationists

by Maria Lamb, Waste Minimisation Officer

Spring is nearly here and so too is my favourite month of the year! September is also dedicated to highlighting environmental issues and living more sustainably.

We tend to live in a throw-away society and proof of this can be seen on our streets, reserves, and beaches. Anywhere that humans are, the rubbish simply follows.

Upcoming activities include:

1-7 September NZ Conservation Week

19th World Clean Up Day

21st Keep St Albans Beautiful event at English Park

28th Sept. World Rivers Day; 19-25 Keep New Zealand Beautiful Clean-Up.

For more details, please contact Maria via <https://www.facebook.com/TidyKiwiNZ>



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Matt Clough

FOR INNES WARD COMMUNITY BOARD

- ✓ Keeping rates down
- ✓ Making traffic flow better
- ✓ Planning for the future

Authorised by Matt Clough: mattcloughforinnes@gmail.com



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¼ cup brown sugar
1 cinnamon stick
The juice of an orange or grapefruit
½ tsp of ground nutmeg

TO MAKE:
Simmer all ingredients except the Cointreau in a large pot for 30mins
Add the Cointreau and gently bring back up to temperature
Strain & serve warm

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Your local MP for St Albans

If you would like me to be a guest speaker at your meeting, or you would like some help with a problem, **please contact my office:**

Duncan Webb

MP for Christchurch Central

366 5519
chchcentral@parliament.govt.nz



Labour

Authorised by Duncan Webb MP,
Parliament Buildings, Wellington

What you need to know about rats

“They’re incredibly good climbers which makes them a devastating predator.”

Cam Speedy is talking about ship rats which are prevalent in most suburbs, including St Albans where residents have recorded 130 catches over the last year or so, along with many sightings. As an ecologist, Cam’s an expert when it comes to saving our native wildlife and an expert in pest control. He says ship rats are omnivores, eating fruit, seeds, protein such as bird’s eggs, chicks, invertebrates, snails and frogs.

If food is plentiful rat numbers multiply quickly. “From March to August it’s not uncommon for a female ship rat to have two litters or more if there’s a lot of food and those litters can be six, seven or eight individuals”. And he warns, at just three months of age, young females can start breeding.

According to Cam, rats are cautious, which works in their favour. But they’re also inquisitive which works in our favour when trying to trap them.

He believes the key to successfully killing rats is pre-feeding for about a week before setting the trap. “Train them, reward them. Imagine putting a sign up saying



Predator Free St Albans representatives at a recent market day at Kohinga St Albans Community Centre

welcome, more free food inside.” If rats visit the tunnel they set a scent trail for other rats. “Get them to bring their mates, win their confidence”.

While peanut butter is a popular lure, Cam favours mixing it up. Try fruit or bits of leftover meat. During pre-feeding he recommends leaving the tunnel open so rats can run straight through.

One of his key strategies is the rule of thirds. One third of the bait on the trap, one third around the entrance to the tunnel and another third on fence posts or trees within

five to 10 metres of the trap to entice them in. “They come to your trap and eat the outside stuff and then you’ve sold them, done the sales and marketing stuff and you’ve got them hooked”.

Most importantly, whatever is used to lure them in, needs to be on the trap itself.

If you want to protect our native birds contact Predator Free St Albans. You can find PFSA on Facebook, use the QR code or phone 021-0648861. To cover costs, a contribution of \$20 is appreciated for a Victor trap and tunnel, \$25 for T-Rex traps. PFSA’s next handout evening at the St Albans Community Centre is Wed 17 Sept, 4-7pm.

ST ALBANS PHARMACY

EDGEWARE AND COLOMBO

MON - FRI
9:00AM TO 6:00PM

SAT
9:30AM TO 2:00PM

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Authorised by Paul McMahon: tpc@paulmcmahon.info

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MEET YOUR CANDIDATES

LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS 2025

Thursday 25 September
7:30 PM to 9:30 PM

Kohinga St Albans Community Centre
1049 Colombo St

Hear from candidates standing for:

- ECAN North East Constituency
- Innes Ward Councillor
- Innes Ward Community Board
- Mayor of Christchurch

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Community Notices

Are you a model boat enthusiast?

Interested in sharing and comparing your models with others? Contact SARA@stalbands.gen.nz to connect with others.

Canterbury Embroiderers' Guild: Hammersley Community Centre, Amos Pl. Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri. Contact Pauline 021 188 7727. Email CEGstitchers@gmail.com.

Chch Senior Citizens: Indoor bowls from 12.45 to 12.30 to 3pm. Phone Beth 388-2375. Scottish Society Hall cnr Edgeware/Caledonian Rds.

Citizens Advice Bureau: Need help? Ask us. Free service. Fendalton Library, 4 Jefferies Road 0800 367 222 www.cab.org.nz

Coffee and conversation: every Wednesday 10.30 am – 12.30 pm at Kōhinga. All welcome. Koha for coffee appreciated. All welcome.

Coffee with friends: Meet new people, make new friends. Join us for a cup of coffee or tea and home baking at. Reformed Church Hall, 63 Cornwall St every Fri at 10:30am.

Community Bible Study: Small non denominational class. Phone Veronica 021 0229 2613

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

Community Centre Talk: Mel Frazer, Aspire Canterbury Presentation on Mobility Support Services. Monday 1 September, 1.30-2.30pm at the Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham St North. All ages welcome. Cuppa to follow. Donation/koha requested to help cover costs. Enquiries ph 372 9224.

Community Centre Talk: Brenda Hayes, Canterbury Repertory Theatre—Behind the Scenes of Amateur Theatre, Monday 6 October, 1.30-2.30pm at the Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham St North. All ages welcome. Cuppa to follow. Donation/koha requested to help cover costs. Enquiries ph 372 9224.

Greater Company of Mary Associates and Affiliates Mass will be held on Saturday 2 August, 10.30am at the Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham Street North. All welcome, morning tea after. Rsvp by Monday 28 July, ph 372 9224 or visit lcmchristchurch.org.nz.

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

Edgeware Croquet Club: Forfar Street in St Albans Park. Assoc Croquet Thur and Sat 9.30-12 and Golf Croquet 12.45 -3pm. We welcome visitors and new members. Contact

Jan 021 30 3843

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

Family Drug Support Aotearoa New Zealand: Ph 03 21818740

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). More information, visit cea.co.nz

Gambling Harm? Salvation Army Oasis: free counselling and support for anyone affected by gambling harm, whether it's their gambling or someone else's. Ph (03) 365 9659 or call in to 126 Bealey Ave. Website: oasis@salvationarmy.org.nz

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

Justice of the Peace available at Kōhinga Saturdays 10.30 - 12.30.

Knit & Knatter Shirley: 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

Predator Free St Albans: Interested in trapping rats? Contact: FB page, Predator Free St Albans or ph 021 0648861

Saygo Falls Prevention: Mondays 10 –11am (class full) and Thursdays 9.30 – 10.30 am. \$2 entry. Kōhinga St Albans Community Centre.

Support 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 Donella Kyle, 0210 282 1565.

Scottish Country Dance club, Scottish Society hall cnr Edgeware/Caledonian Rds, Tuesdays at 7.30pm. Fun, fitness and friendship. Contact: Margaret Birse, ph 327 0193.

Seniornet Mac: Help sessions for those with Apple devices at the St Albans Community Centre on Wednesdays and

Fridays 10am- noon.

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.

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.

St Albans Community Preschool: Community not for profit preschool based at 3 Thames Street offers care for children aged 2 to 5 years. 20 hours free from 2 years old. Contact Suzy on 027 355 9396 for more information.

Shirley Ladies Friendship Club meets 2nd Wednesday of the month 10.00am at All Saints Church 305 New Brighton Road. Interesting speakers, walking group and trips are arranged. Please phone Dale 385 1133 for more information.

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

St Albans History Group wants old photos or articles about St Albans. Contact: Brian: briangsp@hotmail.com

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

St Albans Uniting Church, 36 Nancy Ave. Services Sundays at 10am.

Social Square Dancing Group welcomes dancers who have danced Mainstream. No partner required. Contact: George Murray 0212942669 or email masakomizusawa@hotmail.com

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 Jenny 021 149 7990.

Weekend Group: Second Saturday of the month 4 – 5.30 pm at Kōhinga. Meet for friendship and company. Refreshments provided. Koha appreciated (\$5 recommended).

Women in Harmony community choir: Thursdays in school terms from 7.30-9.30pm at Kōhinga St Albans Community Centre. World and popular music in 3 part harmony. Please Email: women.in.harmony.nz@gmail.com; facebook.com/womeninharmonychristchurch

St Albans News Classifieds

SERVICES

Having difficulty making family, work, relationship or legal decisions? We can help you make practical decisions. Call Bill Demeter 027 379 3873. Can meet St Albans Community Centre. No charge for this service

Italian language classes, all levels at St Albans Community Centre. Info on our website: www.dantechch.com

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

Guitar Lessons: Jonathon Harper (weebly website) Mairehau 027 413 6299 Learn with a long time professional concert artist, composer, singer, and band leader (AMIGOS).

Nutritionist: Women's health and disordered eating recovery support. Call Anna 0274364134 or annamorgannutrition.com

SUZUKI Piano Lessons. Beth

Robinson. 021 231 4039, bhr.797@gmail.com

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

Yoga: Monday 6-7.30pm at the Mary Potter Centre, 442 Durham Street North, St Albans. Join anytime. Enquiries: Kerry 027-2118519

TRADIES

Bill Green Gardens. Mowing, weeding, pruning and tidying, Landscaping Free Quotes 0224600759. billgreenservices@gmail.com

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.

Floor Level Surveys. Specialist in Post-Quake building assessments. Pre-sale & Pre-purchase & EQC reviews. Ph. Risknet 022 609 6026

General Junk: For residential rubbish

removal call General Junk 027 313 8782

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

Roofing repairs: leaks and maintenance. Phone Richie 021 342 852

Support Services

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

Aviva, live free from violence: Free Canterbury-based 24h support line: +64 800 2848 2669

Emergency Services: call 111
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: Call on 027 694 5275 or email at: murray@afterhourscounselling.co.nz

Are You OK? Family violence helpline 0800 456 450.

Comcare Trust: For health or addiction issues. 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: Contact: 021 195 6766.

Elder Abuse Response Service: 0800 EA NOT OK/0800 32 668 65 (available 24/7) Email: support@elderabuse.nz or text 5032

Family Violence Information Line: 0800 456 450 (available 9.00am -11.00pm daily)

Family Drug Support Aotearoa New Zealand. Tel: 03 2818 740. www.fds.org.nz

Hey Bro helpline: 0800 HeyBro/0800 439 276. Supporting men to be free from violence

Kidslines: For under 18s, 0800 54 37 54 (speak to a Kidslines Buddy 4pm-9pm weekdays)

OUTLine NZ: provides confidential telephone support for matters of gender or sexuality, 0800 688 5463

Rape Crisis National Call Line: 0800 88 33 00

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 with multi-lingual staff. 0800 742 584

Suicidal? Phone 0508 828 865

Worried about a child: 0508 FAMILY/0508 326 459 (available 24/7) - Oranga Tamariki - Ministry for Children, formerly Child, Youth & Family

Youthline: 0800 376 633 (Free TXT 234)

St Albans events

If you have events you would like announced here, please email: news@stalbands.gen.nz

September 25, 7:30pm: Candidates meeting at Kōhinga/St Albans Community Centre. see advert on page 13

September 27, 2pm: SARA Annual General Meeting at Kōhinga/St Albans Community Centre, see advert on page 2

October 6 & November 3, Cafe Chat at Kōhinga/St Albans Community Centre, see advert on page 3

Your local shops



Living in St Albans – we've got you covered



St Albans Community Preschool warmly invites past, present and community members to join us in celebrating our 40th birthday on Saturday

27th September, from 11:00am to 1:00pm at our preschool in St Albans.

This milestone is a proud moment for our centre, and for the wider community who have supported and shaped us over four decades. As one of the few remaining community-owned and operated early childhood education (ECE) centres in Christchurch, our longevity is a testament to the strength and resilience of grassroots education initiatives and the collective commitment of families, educators, and community leaders.

Founded in 1985 by a group of dedicated local parents, St Albans Community Preschool was created to meet a growing need for affordable, high-quality early childhood education. Our centre philosophy is deeply rooted in values of whanaungatanga (relationships), manaakitanga (care and hospitality), and inclusion. We would be honoured if you could join us for this special event.



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