

Edgeware pool progresses as summer approaches

Further progress on Edgeware pool includes removal of the old pavilion building, levelling of ground and the start of pool lining.

An invited guest visit saw numerous community visitors and supporters inspecting the progress. Among them were some of the people who had assisted with funding, such as Rata Foundation board chair Glenn Livingstone. He paid tribute to Pauline Cotter and Lynne O'Keefe for their pursuit of support for the pool after the previous one was demolished at the behest of the city council in 2006 after many decades of service.

While the city council is the largest funder, the pool would not have been possible without additional contributions from individuals and groups.

Also present was Trish Hughes, a community advisor with Department of Internal Affairs, Lotteries NZ and NZ



Trish Hughes, Lynne O'Keefe chair of the pool incorporated society, Glenn Livingstone, and Lesley Murdoch representing NZ Community Trust

Community Trust board member Lesley Murdoch..

Lynne O'Keefe told the small crowd that signs would soon go up in Edgeware showing a thermometer of targeted further funding to assist with operations. "We've secured funding for the completion and we were really hoping to be open by Christmas but realistically it looks more like February."

Developer decries higher density zoning

by Chris Hutching

Three-level residential buildings look set to become the norm in most St Albans neighbourhoods, but property developer Brookfield managing director Vincent Holloway says they are unnecessary and risk the loss of nice homes.

Christchurch City Council has released new zoning rules driven by central government which defines medium density as three level buildings that don't require resource consent or the agreement of neighbours.



More three level houses like this one on Packe St are likely to be the central city at risk.

under new zoning rules Mansfield Ave is a lovely area with nice bigger homes that now may be lost.

"It won't really change anything for us because we're already able to purchase in higher density areas. I just don't think the new rules are necessary. There's more land than there are people. There's no need to fill older areas of town for a market that doesn't exist. Wellington and Auckland may be different but it's not necessary for

Christchurch. It's already zoned where there is need," Vincent said.

There are a handful of exceptions that might restrict development including natural hazards, lack of sewer connections, plus a small number of "character" zoned streets.



Character streets such as Severn St are unaffected by new zoning rules

City Council head of planning and consents Mark Stevenson said higher density zoning is limited to the surrounds of Merivale and Shirley commercial centres (The Palms).

The Medium Density Residential Zone Rules allow for three residential units permitted per site to 12 metres or three storeys. They permit 50% building coverage, with recession planes and a 1m building setback from side boundaries, or 1.5m from front boundaries.

"More than three units requires consent, but if all built form standards are met, then there cannot be any form of notification such as neighbour approval," Stevenson said.

The Edgeware village immediate area around the retail centre is zoned a Local Centre Intensification Precinct, which means that there is no recession plane control for the front

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Chairchat

Kia ora koutou,

As we head into the end of the year, it's a good chance to reflect on the year that was and what is to come.

Firstly, it's a pleasure and an honour to be elected as the St Albans Residents' Association chair for 2025/26. I look forward to helping our community flourish in the coming year. There certainly is a lot to look forward to in the coming months, and a lot of work to do.

Here at Kōhinga – St Albans Community Centre we've looked to start a new series of Residents' Forums, where residents can come and meet community groups and elected members to discuss opportunities and concerns. As an open invite, I'd love to see as many of you as possible there in January at our next one. Our November one had good feedback, and we hope to build on that.

We're also keeping a sharp eye on opportunities for investment in our community. For residents of Courtenay Street, consultation is open for renewals from CCC. Have your say on what you want your street to look like, and how you want it to function!

For residents interested in what's happening with Woolworths on Madras Street, we still have our eye on that ball too. We will be engaging with CCC to address some of the concerns raised that weren't addressed in the consenting stage to try and provide a best-case outcome for everyone. If you'd like to be a part of that process, all voices are welcome.

We'd like your input and experiences on some local issues as well! If you've had difficulty with parking on your street in recent months, we would like to hear from you. There will be scope for us to input into a city-wide policy at some point in the future and the more information we have, the better it will be.

I'm always available at: chair@stalbands.gen.nz.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Harrison McEvoy, St Albans Residents' Association - Chairperson

Developer decries higher density zoning

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proportion of sites, when developing three units or more, and no minimum site size.

The new rules create a stark difference with the handful of "character" streets in St Albans.

The "Character Area" streets within St Albans area Massey Crescent, Malvern and Mersey Streets and Francis Ave (Beverley and Ranfurly Streets were removed in 2017 and Dudley in Richmond reduced to the tree-lined part). Any publicly-visible new building, alteration requires resource consent as a controlled activity and requires a 2m landscaping strip along the road frontage, and a minimum site size of 400square metres for every residential unit supported by reports from architects, planners, and landscape architects.

The city council website contains maps that show the zoning for neighbourhoods, with map 32 showing St Albans.

SARA Committee

The next St Albans Residents Assoc committee meetings will be on December 17 and February 18 at 7.30. at Kōhinga 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 Strategy

Learn about the St Albans Strategy adopted 10 years ago and the 20 projects the community came up with: Contact SARA@stalbands.gen.nz for more information.

St Albans History Group

Next meetings: February 2 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

The deadline for the March/April issue of St Albans News is February 16
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

Gift - Giving fun and exercise rather than stuff

As many couples and those on their own downsize into smaller homes, in retirement they obviously want to get rid of what they no longer need, so buying them gifts becomes a problem for families.

However, there is a new trend showing up in our corner of Christchurch—membership of the Edgeware Croquet Club.

Club President Stu Rich says they are getting more family members paying for a membership.

"It is probably that the word is getting out amongst our older community who have moved from the family home that croquet is fun and gentle exercise, so they are suggesting a membership when asked what they want."

The club offers the use of mallets so there is no outlay.

"It has to be the easiest way to get into a social situation with others who are looking for a hobby and sport that isn't taxing while connecting with others for the social side and sport."

Stu says people new to the sport learn very quickly.

"We have people who have never seen a mallet before, let alone swing one, but within 20 minutes they are playing with confidence."

He says subs for the first year are very low to encourage learners.

"Families will be very happy with that as they are



giving a discounted gift, but we are sure that when next year comes around and the question of what they want for Christmas, the answer may well be the same as this year."

"The club has games on Thursdays and Saturdays and covers both types of croquet being the Association game as well as golf croquet which has become super popular and definitely growing in numbers across the game as more people seek fun and gentle exercise."

The season runs from early spring through to late autumn but continues through the winter months as weather conditions allow. Call us on 021303843 for more details. ☼

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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>

Letters can be mailed to:

1049 Colombo Street, Chch 8014

Editor: Chris Hutching

Contributors: Chris Hutching, Harrison McEvoy, Jonathan Allan, Pauline Cotter, Duncan Webb, Frances Adank, Belinda Carter and Caroline Christie

Production staff: Maree Coffey, Sarah O'Keefe, and Daph Parkins

Layout & advertisement design: Maria Hayward

Advertising: Lynne O'Keefe

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



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/SeniorNet Mac
	5.30	Pippins
Wednesday	7pm	Avon Toastmasters
	7pm	Ungu Capoeira
	10am	SeniorNet Mac
Thursday	10.30am	The Corner, coffee and chat
	7.00pm	Capoeira Angola
	9.30am	Saygo - join waiting list
Friday	10.45am	Yoga with Tracy Kells
	10am	NeighbourNet
	5.00pm	Universal Martial Arts
Saturday	7.15pm	Women in Harmony
	10am	SeniorNet Mac
	10am	Social Square Dancing
Call Centre for details	6pm	Impact Youth

We are closed from 19th December and reopen Monday 12th January.

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

Funding for SARA

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



Carols on Cornwall

The annual Carols on Cornwall is coming up on Sunday, 14 December at 61 Cornwall St. Come at 6.30pm for a free sausage sizzle, ice creams, and the singing of Christmas carols. We'll hold the event indoors, so it'll be happening, rain or shine!

Carols at Packe St

Our annual Christmas carolling and community picnic is back! On Sunday December 7 wear those festive costumes, warm up your vocal chords, and get ready for kid's activities and BBQ from 3pm, weave a tī kōuka bracelet workshop, live music from 4pm, carolling from 5pm and Santa visiting. As always, our coordinators will be on hand to chat about the gardens. See ya there!

Traffic planners eye Courtenay St



City council traffic planners have been seeking community feedback on revamping Courtenay St, a small curved street which connects St Albans St to Westminster St. Traffic volumes have increased 30% since the opening of the Christchurch Northern Corridor along Cranford St in 2020.

This prompted the Waipapa Papanui-Innes-Central Community Board to request an investigation into the road condition under the Downstream Effects Management Plan.

Courtenay Street is described in planner jargon as a "collector" road which means it must distribute and collect local traffic between neighbourhoods and the arterial road network. It provides the only continuous east-west connection, between St Albans Street and Westminster Street, serving many residents in the surrounding residential area.

The traffic planners are considering replacing the deep-dish kerb and channel and renewing the road and footpath; installing "traffic calming" devices; removing parking along one or both sides of the street.

A St Albans St resident, Ali Jones, is encouraging people to make submissions. A public meeting was recently held at the St Albans Residents Association headquarters Kōhinga to discuss options.

Ali said Courtenay St needs resurfacing, possibly levelling, replacing deep dish gutters and parking enforcement. However she said that traffic was already slow enough and the street does not need traffic calming measures (eg narrowing and speed humps).



Mural art? Or graffiti?

by Chris Hutching

The big difference between street art and graffiti is the p-word – permission.

Street art is often welcomed by property owners because it tends to deter the more unsightly graffiti scrawls that deface walls, fences and public utilities around the city.

This was the message from Linwood service centre-based Belinda Barrett-Walker who is one of a team of three co-ordinators on the city council graffiti volunteers programme. She discussed the management and deterrence of graffiti at a well attended monthly St Albans Residents Association Café Chat morning.

"We work alongside graffiti artists. There's a difference between art and vandalism – and that is permission. Some cities such as Wellington have a free wall for graffiti artists. We have relationships with commercial property owners



Commissioned murals on buildings can lift city views

who may seek murals. We're often asked about the best deterrent to graffiti. The best thing is to get rid of it as quickly as possible because it tends to attract other taggers to the same spot."

Favourite targets tend to be flat white walls, slat fences less so. Any surfaces with protrusions are generally a deterrent. The targets of taggers are staggering in their breadth –

high buildings, motorway overpasses, buses, statues, trees. The incidence of tagging increases with the warmer weather and people getting out and about more. And it's not just young people – taggers can be all ages, Belinda said.

The graffiti volunteers all wear identifiable hi-vis vests, plus tags, and are trained to avoid conflict. The vests and identification are important because on one occasion a volunteer out on the job late one night was mistakenly accused of being a tagger and police were called.

Belinda Barret-Walker at a recent cafe chat

"Our goal is to reduce the impact of graffiti.

It started about 16 years ago through a community programme and now involves groups as well as individuals. Many do it from a sense of civic involvement, others do it as an addition to their CV, to get service hours, or may wish to provide the courts with proof of community involvement ahead of sentencing. Volunteers look after a particular area so we don't double up. We also have a close relationship with Resene and Altec which provide us with the special paint to cover graffiti."

Members of the public can use the Snap Send Solve app that reports to the city council or can report to a service centre. A phone call may be appropriate in the case of offensive graffiti, Belinda said. The volunteers are also tag spotters who go out looking for defaced walls or fences.

"Some of our dedicated volunteers may report numerous incidents while others only occasionally."





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Sustainability

Make memories not waste...

by Maria Lamb

Spring has offered a mix of surprise weather, along with the colourful vibrancy witnessed in our gardens. This led me to the notion that we are entering the season where marketing is rife, and spending money isn't for everyone. We all know that the costs of living have increased and consumerism isn't a one fit for all offer.

Christmas is a time for joy and connection, but it's also one of the most wasteful times of the year. Together, we can celebrate in ways that bring cheer without costing the earth.

Celebrate without costing the earth

Something that is easy and fun, swap a recipe with friends and family. This could be presented in a paper bag with some garden foliage on the outside. Gift some seeds. Present a small plant potted within an old teacup/saucer set. Frame a photograph and make someone smile. Pack a picnic and head into nature, not all celebrations need to be formal and indoors. Host a "gardening party" where others BYO tools and help for a few hours in your garden. The host simply provides own yard and some refreshments. I did this recently and it felt like a huge win, plus was great

spending time with friends when we all lead busy lives. Give back to our environs by volunteering; plant a tree or get involved with a community clean-up. Thrifty shopping is always fun and a great way to spring clean some unwanted clutter. With a little extra thought, we can probably all save some well-earned cash and stretch it further in a meaningful way.

Keep Christchurch Beautiful will be hosting some events, so stay tuned. These will be advertised on <https://www.facebook.com/TidyKiwiNZ/>. ☸



History group

An "Old Colonist" from St Albans

by Jonathan Allan

On August 4, 1859, Richard Edmund Green, aged 6, arrived in Lyttelton on the "Mary Ann" from London with his family. The Green family consisted of Edmund and Eliza, and their five children, of whom the middle one was Richard.

Richard's father, a telegraph engineer, had been offered £25 and a free passage for himself and his family by James Edward Fitzgerald, to come to Christchurch to erect the first telegraph lines in the colony. At the time Fitzgerald was in England acting as Canterbury's emigration agent.

From Lyttelton the family straight away boarded the S. S. Mulloch which took them around via Sumner to Ferrymead. From there the family walked to the Immigration Barracks in Market Square (Victoria Square) to their initial accommodation, carrying what they could of their possessions. Richard's first impressions of Christchurch were scathing: "there was nothing but a wide, open, and dreary expanse... which was decidedly uninviting, cheerless and comfortless." As he and his close siblings began to explore the city, Green quickly softened his initial feelings and came to be a staunch Cantabrian for the rest of his long life. The family probably struggled initially to establish themselves in their new homeland. On his eighth birthday, Richard went to work on a farm to help support his family until he turned sixteen. He then left home and worked in different jobs until becoming a builder/carpenter, which he continued for the rest of his working life.

From 1917 until 1938, Green and his family lived at 159 Springfield Road. By the look of the house today it is likely that it was built by Green for his own use.

By about 1913, Green had retired and he devoted a lot of his energy to writing about the early history of Christchurch. He supplied voluminous

writings to the Star newspaper in the form of articles as well as letters to the editor, engaging in debates with other subscribers to the paper when one or other questioned his accounts. The details contained in so much of Green's writings is fascinating, and it is hard to know whether Green had an excellent memory, kept detailed diaries of his comings and goings in the city, or had access to other readily available sources – or a combination of these.

One of his contributions to the Star of particular interest to St Albans residents included an account of Anthony Knight and that part of St Albans known as Knight's Town (Star, 17 December 1927, p. 20)

Later in life Green gifted three items to the city in memory of his father. They were clock towers at New Brighton and Scarborough, and the statue of James Edward Fitzgerald, the first Canterbury Provincial Superintendent which is on Rolleston Avenue. The clocks were erected in 1934, but the statue had a rather chequered history. It was initially offered to the City Council in 1934, and after much toing and froing was accepted by the Christchurch Domain Board and erected in Rolleston Avenue in 1939. The sculptor was Mr F. A. Shurrock of the Canterbury School of Art and the bronze was cast in England.

The clocks both have plaques attached to the towers commemorating Green's father, with similar wording: "This clock and tower were donated to the Borough of Sumner by Richard Edward Green, to perpetuate the name of his father, Edmund Green a Canterbury pioneer who arrived in Christchurch on August 4th 1859, to install the telegraph system over this island, the first in New Zealand. His son, the donor, was born in Staffordshire, England on December 14th 1852, and came to Christchurch with his parents in the ship Mary Ann."

However, the statue has no such plaque, only a marble slab with the



James Edward Fitzgerald

following inscription:

*"James Edward Fitzgerald
First Superintendent
Canterbury
1853 – 1857"*

There is nothing to record the sculptor or the donor, in complete contrast to the clock towers. The puzzle is reinforced by comments in a letter to the editor of the Press (6 June 1935, p. 7). The anonymous writer states: "Mr Green had said that it had been his father's dying wish that a statue of James Edward Fitzgerald, who was his greatest friend, should be erected in the city", and Green promised his father that he would do this. Below the inscribed stone is a darker rectangle which may indicate where a commemorative plaque may have been mounted. No photos of the whole statue are known which show what might have been there, so this puzzle remains.

The plaque about Fitzgerald's time as superintendent was incorrect. In 1945 a citizen noticed that the dates were wrong and pointed this out in a letter to the Press. The inscription was duly corrected, which is why the dates showing are in large numbers beneath a blank strip of etched marble to show where the original dates had been excised. ☸

Edward Ave's glorious street gardens

by Frances Adank

Edward Ave east of St Albans Park is arguably St Albans' most colourful street thanks to a couple of residents who have transformed the Geraldine St intersection and Edward Ave street frontages into a river of colour.

Mae, who moved to Edward Ave just nine years ago, is regularly seen pulling out convolvulus, gathering cabbage tree leaves and tidying up the flowers around the council-planted white roses and bigger native plants.

When she moved to Christchurch from Mid Canterbury she left behind 23 varieties of iris, but brought many with her – blues, yellows and a golden amber variety. All amidst an explosion of colour and shapes – daisy bushes, tall purple and apricot foxgloves, white and purple osteospermum, gazanias, marigolds, fragrant herbs and oat grass.

"I'm really, really pleased with it," she says, noting that her neighbour and friend Bee (short for Belinda), a bee-keeper, planted the herbs and is the other person to thank for these buzzing mini-meadows.

As well as her own home frontage joining a curvaceous grassy patch along a winding footpath (a great council design change from a traditional straight street many years ago), Mae has shared her seeds and plants with other



Mae hard at work tidying up the ceaseless cabbage tree leaves (which make very good kindling for log fire owners).

neighbours happy to improve their front gardens. "The aim is to bring the bees and bring the butterflies. Things are now self-pollinating, some plants I do not know how they got there."

Her current project is to expand the hardy succulents she has poked in along some dry fence edges facing the footpath to fill up the gaps.

Needless to say Mae knows lots of people around the neighbourhood, out walking dogs, buggies and themselves, so if you see her, have a chat. You might go home with a new cutting for your own garden.

Edward Ave fun facts:

First mentioned in the Press newspaper in 1903 as part of the Croydon Estate then being subdivided and named after King Edward VII (1841 to 1910).

The rest of the Croydon Estate included Madras and Barbadoes Streets, Cornhill St (renamed Allard) and Fitzgerald St (renamed Geraldine). The advert said there was "ample" drainage and good prices for land close to the burgeoning Christchurch town.

From 1908, Edward Ave was also called King Edward's Ave, but the simpler version was reverted to in 1912.

The western end of Edward Ave arguably had one of the city's largest sink holes (not surprising given the amount of

Edward Ave's glorious street gardens, cont.



Edward Ave: Inspirational.

Top right: a small book exchange box on the fence

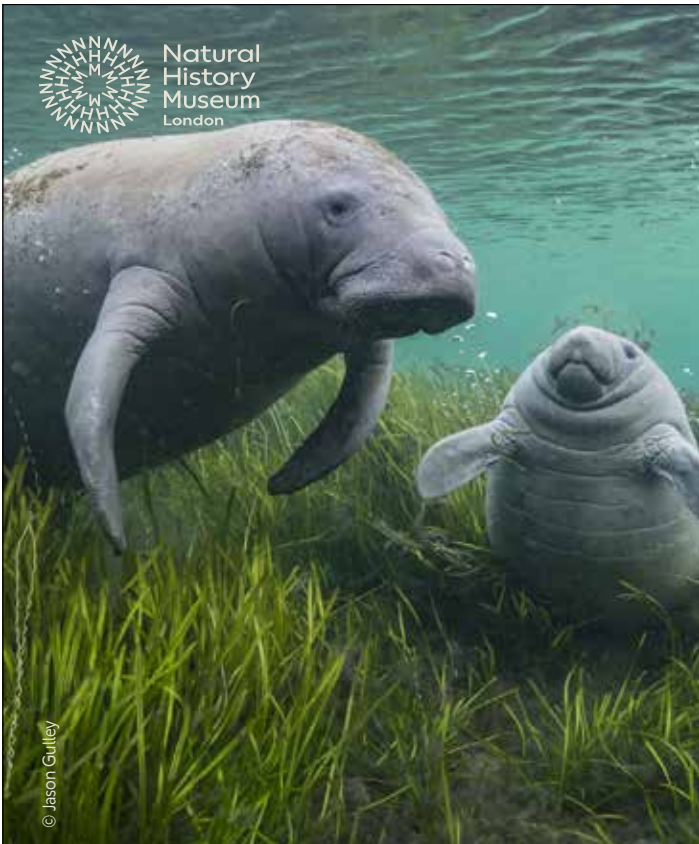
Bottom right: Mae's irises plus a water bowl for neighbourhood dogs

peaty soil) after the 2011 earthquakes, with a dozer disappearing into a hole right near St Albans Park. There is a depression in the road still near the Allard St corner.





Natural History Museum London



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News from the council

Community board plan

Kia Ora,

I'm delighted to be returned as your Councillor for another term, with a majority of 246 votes. Thank you all so much for your support and confidence.

Our Waipapa Papanui-Innes-Central Community Board has now been sworn in, welcoming new member Ashley Feary, and the return of Mike Davidson. Sunita Gautam will be leading us as Chair, with Simon Britten as Deputy. Our first official meeting is December 11th, then monthly from February.

Early next year we'll begin shaping our new Community Board Plan. This is built with the community, with input from residents, volunteers, groups, and local organisations to build a draft. We'll then be asking for your feedback before finalising it for the Board and Council's budget. We're always keen to hear your

thoughts, so please keep the ideas coming as we move into 2026. You can read the current plan here:

<https://ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/The-Council/Community-Boards/Plans/2023-2025/Papanui-Innes-Central-2023-25-Community-Board-Plan.pdf>

It's hard to believe another year has flown by and summer is almost on our doorstep. Our community gardens are bursting with life and the Kōhinga Māra is well worth a visit. There's always something new and inspiring popping up on the site, and new volunteers are always welcome!

There's also fantastic progress on the new Edgeware Pool, which is still on track to open this summer. The team has launched a "Let's Fill the Pool" fundraiser to help complete the finishing touches, so if you'd like to support the project, you



can find details on their website: edgewarepool.co.nz

As Christmas approaches, I want to wish each of you a happy, safe, and relaxing festive season. I'm looking forward to working together for more great outcomes for our community in 2026.

Meri Kirihemete
Councillor Pauline Cotter
Pauline.cotter@ccc.govt.nz
027 2968811



News from the electorate

'Business as usual' - Duncan Webb

It's been the greatest honour to be your MP but as you may have read recently, I've decided not to seek re-election in 2026.

After three terms in Parliament, it's time for something new. I'm also looking forward to being at home more and seeing more of my family.

I'm not going anywhere just yet! It's business as usual until late 2026 and I'll remain a loyal resident of St Albans, the greatest suburb in Christchurch.

There's still a lot of work to do to hold the Government to account. It was gratifying recently to see a victory for public safety when ACT's Nicole McKee announced her long-awaited Arms Act Reform – and didn't get what she had been pitching for.

There is no place for the general use of semiautomatic, military style weapons in New Zealand – the ones that we banned after the mass shooting in our city in 2019. Labour lobbied hard

to keep these weapons off our streets but for your Christchurch MPs, this was personal as well. So it was a relief to see that she could not persuade coalition partners to have her way. I guess it is a relief to know that there is a limit to what the gun lobbyist turned politician can achieve.

As I write this, we're breaking all sorts of records in the worst way. Record numbers are leaving New Zealand as Luxon fails to deliver on his promises, we are losing the fight on climate change under National, and the cost of basics like milk, eggs and cheese continues to soar.

As we approach the end of the year I wish you and your families a restful summer.

I hope you get a break and some family time but also spare a thought for the 160,000 Kiwis out of work this Christmas – an 8-year-high. There are plenty of ways to help out those

in need including the City Mission and Salvation Army's Christmas Appeals. If you need details get in touch.

In 2026 I will continue to advocate for Kiwis to get a fairer go.

Stay safe and well this summer – we know that our health system is under pressure. The suggestion that we use a tent for overflows at the Christchurch Hospital Emergency Department is not the kind of camping we want. Our policy of three free GP visits for all New Zealanders every year is aimed at addressing health needs well before they get to ED and is part of an aspiration for all health care to be free, universal and comprehensive.

If you'd like to learn more, I'm happy to come and speak to your group or organisation. Get in touch with my office to book.

Merry Christmas
Duncan Webb

MP for Christchurch Central



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Irish dancer qualifies for world champs

Irish traditional dancer Indya Kennedy has qualified for the world championships to be held in Chicago next Easter.

The 23-year old has been enjoying Irish dancing for 18 years. She dances for the Scoil Rince Kay Hallissey school of dancing under the guidance of teacher Shealagh Hallissey. Indya practices four or five times a week often by herself in the Kōhinga St Albans Community Centre, and also with other dance school members, all while juggling working shift work for the Police in emergency communications.

"I competed at the New Zealand Irish dancing national championships which were held on the 25th-27th of September in Auckland. I competed in the 22 and over senior ladies category and was placed second. I also qualified for the world championships to be held in Chicago next year. This is the fifth time I have been placed within the top five at the nationals and the 5th time I have qualified for the annual world championships."

The world championships are open to the top 1% of dancers in that age category. The NZ Nationals are a



qualifier for the world champs, and only the top five in each age group are eligible to attend. Last year, Indya competed at the world championships held in Glasgow, Scotland with around 100 other women the same age.

"This year I also competed in the world championships, held in Dublin, Ireland. Although I didn't obtain a place, it was an amazing experience to be on the world stage. The level of dancing outside of New Zealand is outstanding. I've also competed in the Gold Coast multiple times at the Australian International Oireachtas where I have gained championship medals."

Traditional Irish Dancing NZ was established in 2001 and has a website with more information about events and activities, but the NZ National Championships have been celebrated in New Zealand since 1949, in association with the Federation of NZ Irish Societies. Each year, TIDA of NZ organizes the NZ Championships, providing dancers the opportunity to qualify for the World Championships and represent New Zealand. ☘

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THE CORNER

Thank you again for joining us this year. You have made the groups rewarding and fulfilling. Great chatting was had and friendships were formed.

- Last Wednesday Coffee and Conversation, 10.30am-12.30pm on 17 December, returning 14 January 2026
- Last Saturday Nibble and Refreshments 6 December, returning 4-5.30pm 17 January 2026

We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you in 2026

Leigh Figgitt: 021 264 1485, thecornerst.albans@allsouls.org.nz

EDGEWARE AND COLombo

ST ALBANS PHARMACY

MON - FRI 9:00AM TO 5:30PM

CLOSED SAT & SUN

Early prevention controls measles

by Dr Caroline Christie

New Zealand is currently facing an outbreak of measles. We need to be prepared for this in our local community. The outbreak has already resulted in many schools closing. Measles is a highly contagious illness that can make people very sick or even cause death.

Measles can be prevented by having the MMR vaccine. The vaccine is safe for most people. It works by providing a minute dose by injection into the arm. The immune system then develops antibodies to the virus. This process can take two weeks. Then whenever you are next exposed to the virus your body knows what to do.

Vaccines require over 90 percent of the population to have the vaccines to provide herd immunity. Not everyone is well enough to have the vaccine. This includes patients who have had a transplant or are on certain drugs for cancer. Women who are pregnant need to wait until after the baby is born to have the vaccine. It is important that everyone else gets the vaccine. This means you will not get sick from measles, or be able to pass it on to others, or be required to stay at home.

Health New Zealand are providing free vaccines for all New Zealand residents after 12 months of age. Those born after 1969 are encouraged to get vaccinated. The vaccine is not required for those over 70 as they are not expected to be at risk.

Please see your GP practice or pharmacy for a vaccine if you have not had 2 MMR vaccines before. Edgware Health can provide this service. We are open 8.30 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday. Please phone us on 03 385 1701.

A person can pass on the illness before they even feel unwell. If you are unwell, please stay at home. Call Healthline on 0800 611 116 for advice. In an emergency please call 111.

For more information please see <https://info.health.nz/conditions-treatments/infectious-diseases/about-measles/measles-immunity> ☘



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Community Notices

Are you a model boat enthusiast?

Interested in sharing and comparing your models with others? Contact SARA@stalbens.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:

The card section meet on Monday at 12.30. The indoor bowls section meet Tuesday 12.45 – 3 pm. Activities group have outings for meals, social days, visit places of interest and bus trips. For further information call Veronica 383 4682 or 021 1187 360 or Beth 388 2375 or 027 261 0493

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:

Carolyn Prebble, ASB Bank – Better Banking Workshop Frauds and Scams. Monday 2 February, 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.

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:

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 Edgware/ 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 Edgware Rds. \$3. email: hannah@lotustrust.org.nz, FB: Christchurchlaughteryoga

St Albans History Group wants old photos or articles about St Albans. Contact: Brian: briangspear@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



Edgware & Barbadoes

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

Stone Guitars: For all your guitar repairs

and maintenance. Experienced touring technician with repair shop based locally. Contact David on 027 4237688 or stone_guitars@outlook.co.nz

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

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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@stalbens.gen.nz

December 5 4.30-7.30pm: Carols at the Pā, Rehua Marae

December 7, 3pm: Christmas Carols, Packe Street Park

December 14, 6.30pm: Carols on Cornwall, 61 Cornwall Street

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St Albans and beyond

Musical chairs at the community board

As former Waipapa/Papanui-Innes-Central Community Board chair Emma Norrish opted not to stand for election in October, this meant a new chairperson and deputy chair were required. The new board chose at its inaugural meeting on November 6 to elect Sunita Gautam to chair meetings in the first half of the term, with Simon Britten as deputy. In early 2027, Gautam and Britten will swap places, with Britten in the chair

and Gautam as deputy. Emma Twaddell and former city councillor Mike Davidson (who is now a Green List MP) represent the Innes ward. Victoria Henstock, a councillor for Papanui was appointed by Mayor Phil Mauer as deputy mayor at a council meeting on October 30, replacing former deputy mayor Pauline Cotter who represents Innes on the city council. The board's first ordinary meeting is on December 11. ☞

Feral Cats

Feral cats have now been added to the Predator Free 2050 strategy, where they are described as "stone-cold killers." They are devastating native bird populations in many bush areas. Urban cats also contribute to bird deaths in city gardens.

Cat owners can help by keeping their pets indoors overnight. Cats tend to roam long distances in the dark while hunting. Although they often catch mice and rats, they also prey on our precious native birds.

There is a growing movement to encourage bellbirds back into the city through the creation of tree corridors. The piwakawaka (fantail) is also a regular and friendly visitor to gardens at certain times of the year. ☞

Places to swim

While waiting for the Edgware swimming pool complex to open early next year, parents of toddlers can access the fenced paddling pool at Abberley Park. For older swimmers the closest option is the Graham Condon indoor pool in Papanui, available all year round.

The new Parakiore Recreation and Sports centre close to Christchurch Hospital, which includes swimming pools, is due to open 17 December.

The council-owned community outdoor pools are due to close for the season in mid March. ☞



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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

