

Pool rebuild could start as early as October

by Belinda Carter

The Waipapa Papanui-Innes-Central Community board has granted the Edgeware Pool project \$41,000 from the Better-Off fund to cover some final costs before building commences. And if all goes as planned the pool construction could begin later this year.

The Better-Off fund is money given by the Crown to city councils for use in the community. Many community organisations have benefited from the distribution of these funds to date.

"This funding now allows the Edgeware Pool Project to move to the stage of lodging consent and engaging a contractor", the St Albans Pavilion and Pool chair Lynne O'Keefe, told St Albans News after the board meeting on March 14.

The Edgeware Pool was demolished in 2006, against the wishes of the St Albans community, which has campaigned ever since to get it rebuilt.

"We are now looking at a construction start date of October 2024 which is incredibly exciting. We are grateful for the continued support of the Waipapa Papanui-Innes-Central board and their commitment to our communities."

However there was some opposition to the Edgeware Pool's Better-Off grant by board members Ali Jones (an Innes ward board member) and Victoria Henstock (a Papanui councillor) questioning about a lack of detailed information available to the board. When the motion was put it was carried 7 – 2.

It's a win for outdoor swimming pools in suburban areas, Lynne said. At the same meeting a separate motion to grant the Shirley Intermediate School and Community Pool Project \$60,000 to reopen the closed facility did not face the same "fiscal scrutiny" and was passed easily and unanimously. The 56 year old pool had closed in 2022 with the loss of Ministry of Education funding.

End of an era for furniture manufacturer



Furniture maker Peter Davey is closing Ambrose Heal furniture and looking forward to playing more golf

by Garry Moore

Another business in our suburb is no more. For 30 years Ambrose Heal furniture manufacturing has operated on the corner of Barbadoes and Edgeware Roads. It has just ceased operating.

Peter Davey started manufacturing furniture almost by accident. He trained at Lincoln University but couldn't find a job in the sector he was trained in, so he started his own business. He collected rubbish from homes and found that he could restore pieces of furniture which people often just wanted to get rid of. He was being paid to take away very restorable items of quality furniture others wanted to buy when they were restored.

Slowly this business dried up, so Peter decided to start manufacturing replica furniture of the type he had been restoring over the years. Most of his customers have been locals. Peter crafted tables, book shelves, scotch chests and

chairs as well as many other unique items which people wanted. Many readers will be able to look across their lounge and see furniture made by Ambrose Heal.

I have been visiting Peter for years. He had a constant flow of coffee and was always ready to share his views on how the city could be run, whether I wanted to hear his opinion or not. Next to Peter's shop lives Paul van Hept who operates from his home as an architect. The banter between these two is wonderful and I have shared many coffees and bottles of wine with them over the years. They share a meal together at least once a week.

So, why, other than the fact that Peter is 68 and wants to just play golf, is this shop closing?

Peter explains that one of the self-employed tradesmen who works with him is 65 and wants to retire. Another is

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Activities at the community centre

Weekly groups that meet at the community centre.

Monday	10am	Saygo - Rowena
	10am	SeniorNet
	11am	Happy Feet
	5pm	Universal Martial Arts
Tuesday	10.45am	Yoga with Tracy Kells
	10am	NeighbourNet
	5.30	Pippins
	7pm	Avon Toastmasters
Wednesday	7pm	Ungu Capoeira
	9.30am	Wednesday Wheelies
	10am	SeniorNet
	10.30am	The Corner, coffee and chat
Thursday	7.00pm	Capoeira Angola
	9.30am	Saygo - Daphne
	10.45am	Yoga with Tracy Kells
	10am	NeighbourNet
Friday	5.00pm	Universal Martial Arts
	7.15pm	Women in Harmony
	10am	SeniorNet

Tuesday working bees in garden

The Kohinga Mārā garden at the community centre holds weekday working bees on Tuesdays from 5-7pm. The garden is bursting with vegetables ready for harvesting, followed by planting of winter vegetables and could do with a few more hands in the soil.

St Albans Fella-ship
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EDGEWARE POOL PROJECT

ST ALBANS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

Cafe Chat

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with Barb Whipp-Ruiz from Kiwi Family Trust as guest speaker

10.30AM - 12.30PM

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

BBQ Trailer for hire

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

St Albans History Group

Next meeting: 8 of April, 2 pm at the St Albans Community Centre.
Email: briangspear@hotmail.com

Wednesday Wheelies

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

The deadline for the May issue of St Albans News is April 15

Please send your articles, letters and notices to:
news@stalbans.gen.nz

St Albans News April 2024, Vol 32, Issue 3

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@stalbans.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.

SARA and Centre news

Men talk about prostate

The Prostate Cancer Foundation would like to see a screening programme for men, much like the one available to detect breast cancer in older women.

Chris Jones from the Christchurch central branch told a gathering at Café Chat in March that more men die of prostate cancer each year than women die of breast cancer. The session attracted one of the biggest audiences of the last two years, with as many men as there were women. Women often attend the Café Chats because of the high teas served before the speaker stands up.

The PCFNZ encourages men aged 50+ to ask their doctors for a test. That's because early diagnosis means more treatments are available including surgery, radiation and medication. If the cancer is caught early enough men can live good lives for another decade or two.

The PCFNZ runs support groups, attended by both men and women, which offer access to useful resources and to just talk. It also runs Prost-fit exercise sessions. With the stigma of prostate cancer lifting, it is easier for men to chat with someone who has experienced the procedures and coped with side effects.

Two groups operate in Christchurch, one in Merivale and the other in central Christchurch. For more information about prostate (and testicular) cancer phone 0800 477 678 or check out the website: <https://prostate.org.nz>

Mental health focus for cafe chat

Barbara Whipp-Ruiz from the Kiwi Family Trust will be talking about wellbeing at the next Cafe Chat being held in the St Albans Community Centre on April 8. Her talk follows morning tea which starts at 10.30am. The organisation focuses on mental health for children and young people, organising youth camps for teens and courses for adults.

Got an Xtra email & need to change?

Spark is now making customers pay for the privilege of continuing to use their own email addresses which have been free until now. If you need to change your email address and have an Apple computer or device, visit the centre on Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings from 10 am till noon and someone from SeniorNet Mac can help. If you have a Windows computer or Android device then drop in on Tuesdays or Thursday mornings and someone from NeighbourNet can help with that.

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End of an era for furniture manufacturer

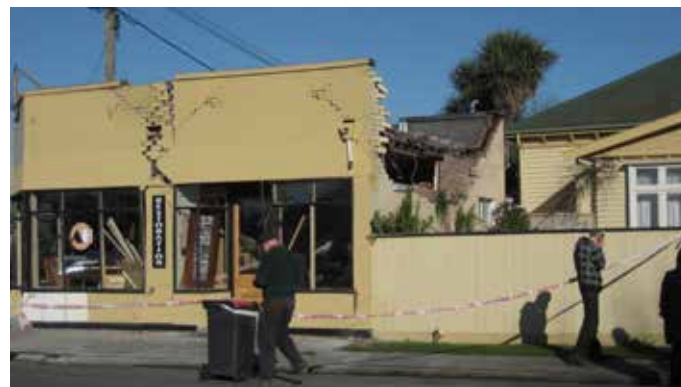
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that the margin is just not in the product anymore. Peter explains that 30 years ago he could sell a sideboard for \$3000. Timber cost \$300 a cube and labour was \$12-\$15 per hour. That sideboard still sells for \$3k, however timber is now \$3000 per cube and labour is \$30 to \$50 per hour. Small time manufacturing has been destroyed by us all supporting Ikea or other imported furniture retailers.

Peter's observation is that people are generally not staying in their homes as long these days. Much of the furniture is chucked out as people cash in on another untaxed capital gain and move on to their next home. Peter and I both discussed that he has lived in his home for 35 years and we have lived on our site for 45.

When our house was pulled down post-earthquake we engaged Peter to build much of our new furniture. This happened after Peter had rebuilt his shop which was also destroyed in 2011.

Over the years Peter purchased his shop, and the house attached to it, and the property next door. The rent from these houses have propped up an uneconomic furniture manufacturing business. This experience reinforces the



Peter (left) outside his shop on the morning of the September earthquake

opinion of Bernard Hickey in Kaka (I recommend this daily e-publication) who refers to New Zealand's economy as being a housing-market-with-bits-tacked-on.

So, I am looking at our home with the furniture we bought from Peter at Ambrose Heal and I hope, in 100 years' time, that our descendants rejoice in the fact that we supported a local manufacturer rather than one residing overseas.

Mowers replace furniture

Another furniture place, this time Wooden Ya Know it Form Furniture, tucked in behind Ristrettos cafe at northern end of Barbadoes St has also closed down. It was as much known for repairs as it was for new furniture. St Albans won't be devoid of furniture places with Bellish

and several businesses running from home remaining in the area. The space vacated at 670 Barbadoes St has already been taken over by Edgware Mowers and Chainsaws, which was based at the eastern end of Westminster St until recently.

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Big bump in Christchurch rates bills

Residential rates charged by Christchurch City Council to ratepayers are going up more than 12 per cent in the next financial year which begins in July.

The planned residential increase is 12.4 per cent on average, whittled down from the 15.84 per cent proposed in February. Te Kaha sports stadium, currently being built, is responsible for 2.17 per cent of that increase but nothing has been budgeted for the Christchurch Arts Centre.

It's a big jump for this coming financial year but it is lower than the 15 per cent average being charged by other New Zealand councils. Rates increases will drop down to a more reasonable annual increase of around 5-7 per cent in the following two years.

If finalised as planned, the new rates add about \$8 a week (or \$416.23 a year) to the rates bill for an average residence

valued at (\$764,364).

To find out more about CCC's longterm plans and the proposed rates increases for the next financial year check out: <https://letstalk.ccc.govt.nz/draft-ltp-2024-2034> then submit feedback before April 21 on the makeasubmission.ccc.govt.nz website. Click on this shortened link: bit.ly/3x7QEvb, to go directly to the right place. Printed copies are also available from the Papanui service centre in Papanui.

The rates bill also includes a charge for Environment Canterbury (ECan) which plans to increase rates by more than 24 per cent. This will add around \$100 to the total residential rates bill for the next financial year. Submissions to ECan can be made by April 14 on printed copies available from ECan offices at 100 Tuam St. Visit the haveyoursay.ecan.govt.nz website or click on this [link to take you there directly](#).

Public Meeting
Revealing CCC rates
St Albans Community Centre
1049 Colombo St
Monday April 8
7.30-8.30pm
Mayor Phil Mauer and Deputy Mayor Pauline Cotter in attendance
Short presentation plus Q and A

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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.

Cafe Chat at Kōhinga. 1st Monday of the month. 10.30am to 12.30pm. St Albans Community Centre. Guest speakers

Canterbury Embroiderers' Guild: Hammersley Community Centre, Amos Pl. Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri. Contact Diane ph 021 024 36739 or Liz 022 547 7642. Email CEGstitchers@gmail.com.

Christchurch Senior Citizens: Cards: Mon 12.30 - 3 pm. Indoor bowls: Tuesdays 12.45 - 3 pm. Activity group outings. Further information - call Veronica 383 4682 or 021 1187 360 or Beth 389 2375. Scottish Soc Hall cnr Edgware/Caledonian Rds.

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

Coffee and conversation: Every Wednesday 10.30am - 12.30pm at Kōhinga St Albans Community Centre. Join us for coffee and conversation. All Welcome. Koha for coffee appreciated.

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.

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

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

Edgware Croquet Club: 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

Mary Potter Talk: Hints and Tips on how to use your heatpump. Monday 8 April, 1.30-2.30pm at the Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham St North. All ages welcome. Cuppa to follow. Gold coin donation. Enquiries ph 372 9224.

HOUSEIE: 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 St Albans Community 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

NZ Japan Society of Canterbury provides understanding and goodwill between the people of NZ and Japan. Visitors welcome. Contact Je

an Bell: 355 9903 or jeanpbell8@gmail.com

Predator Free St Albans: Interested in trapping rats? Ph Philippa 021 064 8861

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 Helen Bush 021 230 6338.

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

Seniornet Mac runs help sessions for those with Apple devices at the St Albans Community Centre on Mon, Wed 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.

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

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

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

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

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

St Albans Laughter Club: Laughter yoga teaches you to breathe 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 Uniting Church, 36 Nancy Ave. Services Sundays at 10am.

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

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

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

Contributions for the community notices page should be emailed to

news@stalbens.gen.nz with community notices in the subject line or left at the community centre for possible inclusion.

No charge is made for these notices but they may be edited.

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).

Piano & Theory Teacher: Experienced, registered local teacher; all ages. Please call or text Cate on: 027 300 0357

Netta Home Care Ltd: Brian is offering care in the community, Netta Home Care Ltd, can offer showers, dressing, PC, medications.

For hours available ring Brian Henderson at 022 461 0855

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

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

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

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

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

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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

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)



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St Albans Community Centre,
Thursday 18 April, 7.30-8.30pm
Discussion welcome
After Hours Counselling Services First of a planned monthly
free series on this topic.



News from St Albans and beyond

Bus tour raises funds for pool



by Peggy Kelly

Croissants and conserves with hot drinks served in pretty china cups set the tone for the community gardens association harvest bus tour on March 2.

Beginning at Kohinga Mārā, the community garden adjacent to the St Albans Community Centre, the group visited nine other gardens, including the University of Canterbury's garden, the Smith Street Community Farm and the Linwood Community Garden.

Former mayor Vicki Buck met the bus at the Climate Action Campus (on the former site of Avonside Girl's School) and led group through the market throng to the campus garden.

Then it was on to Brighton Community Garden, where the group checked out the fish composting facility and the sensory garden. The tour raised \$765 towards the replacement of Edgeware pool.

Cuddle hearts for prem babies

A workshop to make and pack fabric hearts for newborn babies at Christchurch Women's Hospital Neonatal unit is being held at the St Albans Community Centre in April.

Fabric Hearts are a local project for Altrusa Christchurch. These are made and shared between mothers and babies to strengthen their bonds and provide comfort. Members take part in fundraising and supporting this ongoing local project, while also meeting socially and enjoying each other's company.

The workshop, which includes afternoon tea, is being held from 1-4pm on Saturday April 13. Information on other Altrusa activities will be shared.

Altrusa Christchurch is part of an international, non-profit service organisation with a national focus on literacy in 19 clubs. Altrusa welcomes new members of all ages who want to make a difference in the community. For more information email: president.christchurch@altrusa.org.nz, or visit the Facebook page: Altrusa International of Christchurch Inc.



Help Altrusa make fabric hearts like this one

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



Authorised by Duncan Webb MP,
Parliament Buildings, Wellington



VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE

CHRISTCHURCH
Pentecostal church

**Every Sunday
2:30pm**



**Life starts here,
come as you are
Hall@Kōhinga/St Albans
Community Centre**

**Address: 1049 Colombo Street, St Albans
Entry and Carpark: 130 Caledonian Road**

Contact:

**Pastor Cornelius 021 258 2731
Jeanette 027 463 8367**