

Local groups celebrate Christmas in St Albans



It was a hot Sunday evening in PackeSt park when the community gathered for a spot of carol singing on December 2. The annual event featured the St Albans Community Choir led by Heather Gladstone and accompanied by the New Brighton Brass Band. One little girl delighted the picnickers waving her arms like a proper conductor while Heather played the piano accordion.



A variety of traditional carols along with the New Zealand carol, "Te Harinui, glad tidings of great joy" were sung at the annual Carols on Cornwall event on December 10. The Reformed Church of Christchurch held the annual event indoors because of the chilly weather, followed by a sausage sizzle then cake and ice cream, which went down a treat.



Samoan and other Pasifika community groups based in Christchurch joined local iwi and gave the annual Carols at the Pa being held on the ātea in front of the Rehua marae's wharehau gave a distinctly Pasifika feel. Later Hana Kōkō turned up in his usual red suit on a ride on mower, instead of the Harley Davidson of previous years, to hand out sweets to local children.

Local teacher honoured for phonics programme

by Belinda Carter

A movement spearheaded by St Albans resident Yolanda Soryl to bring phonics back into New Zealand classrooms, has been recognised with the recent awarding of a Companion of New Zealand Order in the New Year's Honours list.

Yolanda trained as a primary teacher in Christchurch in the early 1980s when the whole language approach was the favoured method in literacy teaching and phonics was ignored.

She first encountered phonics teaching in London in the 1990s. Combining phonics with the whole language approach she later became a phonics and early literacy advisor to 60 schools in London's Tower Hamlets.

When Yolanda returned to Christchurch

in 2002, Judy Calder, the principal of St Albans School where she was teaching at the time, challenged her (after training the St Albans staff) to go on to teach New Zealand primary and early childhood teachers how to teach phonics. To show them that phonics could be engaging and fun and would help accelerate literacy outcomes, she uploaded videos of her lessons to Youtube, wrote training manuals and uploaded tons of resources to her website yolandasoryl.com. She also produced a New Zealand-accented alphabet app.

Word of mouth spread amongst early childhood education and primary school teachers and teacher aides. Now more than 25,000 primary school, ECE teachers and teacher aides have been trained by Yolanda to teach



Yolanda uses puppets to teach phonological awareness.

phonics explicitly as part of their day to day literacy programmes.

Phonics was part of literacy education in schools until the early 80s so many older people benefitted and might not realise that since then, a generation has missed out. Yolanda developed her phonics programme at a time

continued on page 2



Chairchat

Busy year ahead for SARA

Happy new year everyone. Already a couple of weeks into 2024, and things are shaping up to be a busy year for SARA and the community centre

The community garden has been very productive in 2023 and continues to grow with funds provided to build more raised planters and put up another green house. Working bees (with food and a cuppa after) are held in the garden in Caledonian Rd the first Sunday of the month from 10am-12pm. We would love to see you down there, even if it's just popping in to say hi.

Another focus of SARA this year is to improve our accessibility online to all, and so a refresh of the website and its resources is hopefully going to happen this year.

Enjoy Summer
Mark Wilson

Phonics teacher honoured

continued from page 1

when phonics lacked official government endorsement and was denigrated by some educationalists but it is now recognised as a fundamental part of the structured literacy approach endorsed by the Ministry of Education. "It's more acceptable now. It has been normalised" says Yolanda.

Yolanda favours an integrated approach to the teaching of literacy with phonics, and explicit teaching of reading skills, but she sees the benefits of other teaching approaches, "We need phonics within a wider context of literacy teaching. As well as, not instead of, a broad literacy programme."

Currently the Reading Recovery and Early Literacy Support teacher at Ao Tawhiti School, Yolanda grounds her work in the realities of the classroom, where her success rate is above the national average. Every year she takes a couple of terms of unpaid leave to teach teachers and others how to effectively use phonics and other early literacy skills.

The award is timely recognition of two decades of hard work, assisting teachers to help children learn to read.

She will receive the honour, with her family present, in Wellington in May.

Abberley Park celebrates 84 years

On 17 February 1940, Christchurch Mayor Robert Macfarlane opened Abberley Park to mark the centennial of the signing of New Zealand's Treaty of Waitangi. The Friends of Abberley Park are holding a picnic and BBQ at the park to mark the anniversary of its opening. Entertainment and kai will be available – but picnickers are also welcome to bring their own. The Friends group wants people to share ideas on what the heritage park needs and, as infill housing intensifies, how to ensure Abberley Park remains the revitalising green space of St Albans.

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.

SARA Committee

St Albans Residents Association meets bi-monthly at St Albans Community Centre, 1049 Colombo St. Next meeting is Wednesday March 20, 7 pm.

St Albans History Group

Next meeting Monday February 5, 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.

BBQ Trailer for hire

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

ST ALBANS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

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SARA and Centre news

SARA marks several anniversaries

St Albans Residents Association marked anniversaries along with the end of year function at Saket in late November, celebrating 30 years since St Albans News was started and 25 years since the first community centre was set up in the former volunteer-run library building with computer helpdesk St Albans NeighbourNet occupying a side room. It was also 25 years since the history group started (see separate article).

Pictured at an event to celebrate St Albans Residents Association anniversaries late last year, former St Albans Neighbourhood News (STANN) editor Douceline Wardle and former designer Kate Taylor were among a group of community-minded volunteers who started StAN in 1993, later selling it to St Albans Residents Association (SARA).



Computer help at centre

Two different groups offer help with computers, phones or tablets at the St Albans Community Centre. If your computer is a PC and runs Windows, or your phone/tablet is based on an Android operating system, then visit the centre on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10-12 when St Albans Neighbournet volunteers are available to help. The Saturday afternoon session has been dropped. Bring your own device or use one of the laptops at the centre to access the internet. If your devices have an Apple logo on them then Senionet Mac can help on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10-12. You don't need to be a senior citizen to ask for help. Small charge for both services.



The St Albans History Group, which meets monthly on the first Monday in the month to listen to speakers and share research on St Albans topics, marked 25 years in late 2023. The group now has more than a dozen members and is chaired by Brian Spear. From left to right in the back row: Lynne O'Keefe, Gary Lang, Jean Bell, Brian Spear, Nigel Larsen and Jonathan Allan and in the middle row: Brian Lang, Dave Hinman and Belinda Carter. Seated in the front row are: Philippa Wadsworth, Kay Sullivan, Peggy Kelly and Daph Parkins.

Correction

In the December/January issue of St Albans News, in a piece about Christchurch poet Jane Simpson, St Albans News referred to her poem Imagined Scar about her experience of breast cancer. The first reference was the correct one; two subsequent mentions omitted the letter 'd' off the end of Imagined Scar.

The deadline for the March St Albans News is February 12. Please send your articles, letters and notices to: news@stalbands.gen.nz

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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:

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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.

News from St Albans and beyond

Decision near for Cranford St congestion

After nearly two years of testing possible solutions to congestion on Cranford St between Innes Rd and Berwick St, Christchurch City Council is close to making a decision. It expects to consult widely on several options sometime in March and later make a final decision.

Testing of the bus lane from Innes Rd to Berwick St hasn't made as much difference as CCC would like, so it may need to be combined with other options. Based on what has happened elsewhere in Christchurch this could include a clearway (like Curletts Rd) or an HOV (high occupancy vehicle) lane similar to one used on the motorway, with a faster moving lane restricted to buses and cars with two or more passengers. If traffic can be kept moving rather than queuing then drivers are less likely to rat run.

CCC is also looking at making intersections safer, in particular one at Westminster St used by St Albans School pupils. Raised platforms on Lincoln Rd and other city intersections have helped reduce traffic speeds at those intersections and prevented accidents.

Stop Press: Unless savings can be found in the annual plan, Christchurch rates could rise nearly 16 per cent for the 2024-25 year, including 2.7 per cent for the Te Kaha stadium alone

Housing hearings postponed till March

Remaining public hearings over intensification for Christchurch City Council residential area will now be held between 18 March and 30 April, following a recent decision by the independent hearings panel.

Some hearings were held late last year for Plan Change 14. The delay will allow CCC time to get clarity about the next steps for the plan change and to bring it into line with the new Government policies, including making medium density residential zoning optional for councils.

Later this year changes will be made to the new district plan. It is likely to include some residential intensification (multi-unit housing) around the central city and suburban centres.

This was planned for September 2024 but CCC is also asking for an extension before it becomes part of the district plan that governs what can or cannot be built.

New waste processing facility planned

Christchurch City Council plans to move organics to a purpose-built indoor facility in south Hornby in a couple of years. In the meantime the first stage of processing kerbside organics waste will continue indoors in Bromley with the compost trucked to Kate Valley for the second stage.



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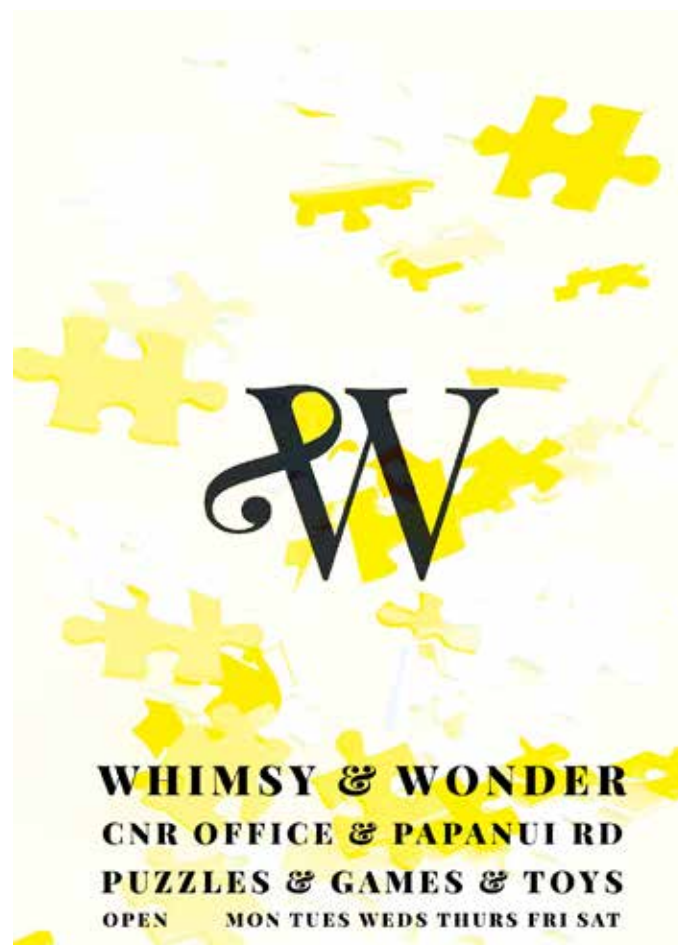
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Works underway to strengthen Innes Rd

Work has begun on the northern side of Innes Rd between Mersey St and Mahars Rd to fix the road surface and vibration issues. The road will be stripped back to its foundations and the watermain, which is at the end of its life, is also being replaced.

Two lane traffic will be maintained during the roadworks but street parking has been removed temporarily, Christchurch City Council's Transport Planning and Delivery Manager, Jacob Bradbury, said.

Work on the northern side is expected to be completed by mid-March and work on the southern side by mid-June.

The chipseal will be strengthened to handle the increased traffic - 15,000 vehicles including many more heavy vehicles - use the road daily following the opening of the motorway extension.

Safety improvements making it easier for people to cross the side roads, are also being implemented at the same time, such as kerb buildouts at Ethne St, Nancy Avenue and Kensington Avenue intersections. A central island will be installed at Thames St and the existing central island at Philpotts Rd will be replaced.

Raised platforms will be installed at existing zebra crossings at Mairehau Primary School and St Francis of Assisi School, while stop signs will be introduced at Thames St, Philpotts Rd, Nancy Avenue and Ethne St to improve drivers' visibility of pedestrians and cyclists.

Small changes for waste bins

Most councils, including Christchurch, will be recycling items according to national standards set by the previous government from February 1. A handful of changes are being implemented by Christchurch City Council. For example, clean pizza boxes with no food attached can now go in the yellow bin along with the plastic bottles, plastic containers with number 1 2 or 5, clean food and drink cans, paper and cardboard, glass bottles and jars that are already collected. Teabags, shredded paper, paper serviettes or towels and aerosol containers now have to go in the red bin. Aerosols can cause fires at recycling centres. Not all councils will be able to meet the new government standards, some smaller ones won't be able to until 2027.

Long term plan consultation in March

Christchurch City Council is in the process of drafting the longterm plan to cover 2024-2034 and will consult widely in March with submissions and hearings. The public were surveyed on their priorities for expenditure in May 2023. The draft plan, which will need to take into account increased expenditure not always under council control (eg: insurance, inflation etc) will be put before a full council meeting on February 14. This is in addition to the annual plan for 2024-2025 which will be dealt with following the longterm plan.



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
chccentral@parliament.govt.nz

Labour
Authorised by Duncan Webb MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington



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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.

Cafe Chat at Kōhinga. 1st Monday of the month. 10.30am to 12.30pm. St Albans Community Centre. A guest speaker each month

Canterbury Embroiderers' Guild: Hammersley Community Centre, Amos Pl. Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri. Contact Ros 021 108 5539, Marie 021 68 3547. 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.

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 Centre Talk - Life without a Car presentation with Age Concern. Monday 12 February, 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

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

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). Curtain bank is mobile so can visit your home. 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 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 Jean Bell: 355 9903 or jeanpbell8@gmail.com

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

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.

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

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

Scottish Country Dance club,

Scottish Society hall cnr Edgeware 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 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@stalbands.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 Edgeware 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.

Women in Harmony community choir: Meets Thursdays in primary 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
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).

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. There is 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.
Pilates - early morning sessions. Tuesday 6.30 am at Kohinga 1049 Colombo St. Further info call Christine 0276875829. E. pilatesreforminglane@gmail.com. Bookings essential

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

Tai Chi - to create awareness of the body and mind and remain injury free. Sun 5.15pm at Kohinga St Albans Community Centre starting 11 February and other day time classes. Visit www.taichiwell.co.nz

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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Choir Director Vacancy

Women in Harmony community choir that sings world and popular music, are seeking a new choir director from February 2024
For further information and to apply please go to: <https://womeninharmony.wordpress.com/>
Or email: women.in.harmony.nz@gmail.com



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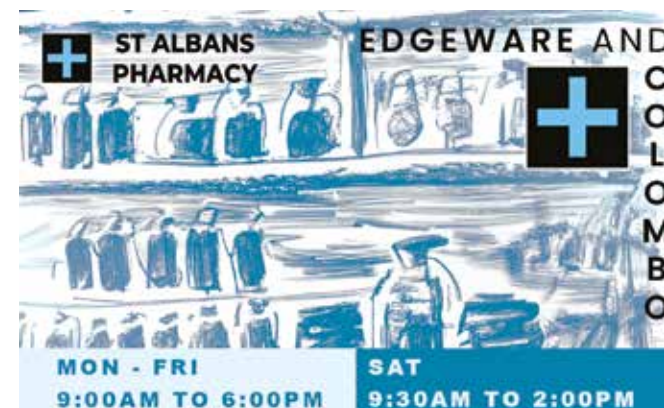


Harvest Bus Tour

Saturday 2nd March 2024
9.30 am - 4 pm
Hosted by the Canterbury Community Gardens Association

Board the bus at Kohinga, St Albans Community Centre, 1049 Colombo Street. Parking entrance at 126 Caledonian Road

Tickets \$25



News from St Albans and beyond

Cycling advocate given civic award

Is Christchurch the cycling capital of New Zealand? Ask Robert Fleming and he would confidently say it is. Robert recently received a Christchurch Civic Award at a ceremony held last month for his contributions to the cycling community in Christchurch.



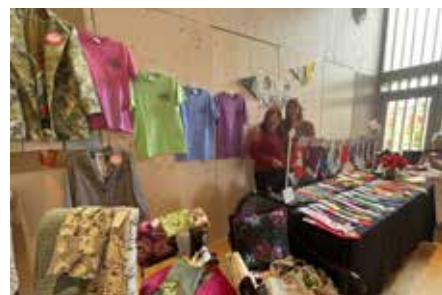
Robert is a member of cycling advocacy group Spokes, which has been making sure that cycleways have been included in transport planning for the past decade.

The month long Biketober festival, celebrating bike riding, has benefited from Robert's work since it began in 2017. For five years he co-ordinated the groups that contributed to the event's success.

Seven years ago, the Wednesday Wheelies bike group started, attracting around six people to a fortnightly ride; now 50 or more riders go out weekly in small groups discovering the city from a bike. Robert knows the bike pathways and networks inside out, as he has spent many hours planning, mapping and testing 155 routes for the group.

Christmas market attracts crowds

On November 26 when SARA held its annual Christmas market, more than 40 stalls occupied nearly all the space in the St Albans Community Centre and the carpark. Music was provided by Chris Williams while children



Barbara Blowes and daughter Mel sell her "treasures" at the Christmas market. played on the bouncy castle and their carers looked through the stalls for items such as pottery and jewellery crafted by local artists or as fundraisers for community groups.

Girlboss Lucy Butterfield

While St Albans residents are gearing up to battle local rats, 14 year old schoolgirl Lucy Butterfield has set her sights further afield. Her traps, placed around Akaroa Harbour, help protect little blue penguins, something she has been doing for three years. Her efforts have won her a national Girlboss Award, given to young women aged 11-18, who are trailblazers in various categories including digital, sports and art. Hers was for STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) and she also won a \$1000 prize. For more information about the awards visit: <https://www.girlbossawards.com>

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