

St Albans residents seek action on flooding

by Belinda Carter

Residents living near the intersection of Edgeware Rd and Champion St want the council to investigate solutions to the repeated flooding in the residential area, particularly in light of 11 years of infill housing which has greatly reduced the ability of ground absorption with the increase of hard surfaces.

In the most recent flooding on December 15 2021, the area around Champion and Geraldine St where it intersects with Edgeware Rd faced heavy flooding. Water levels rose from the creek, a metre below street level, into Ian Westbrook's garden in Edgeware up to the top of some stone steps.

Along with fellow Edgeware Rd resident, Andrew Pengelly, Ian thought that the Hills Rd culvert was unable to drain water fast enough and suggests that the size of this culvert, the one at Champion St and another at Geraldine

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Floodwaters covering the road and footpath made driving down Edgeware Rd near Champion St a dangerous occupation.

Plans for rehab in Bristol St stopped

by Belinda Carter

Two independent commissioners dealing with plans for a live-in centre to rehabilitate intakes of 12 men who received a home detention sentence for crimes of violence have declined the resource consent for the Department of Corrections to operate in a complex in Bristol St.

The Corrections department had planned to run the programme in a readymade residential complex at the corner of Bristol and Berry Streets, previously used by the Cerebral Palsy community, but needed resource consent.

When they found out, residents were upset about the plan. Some moved from the area and others refused to allow grandchildren to visit the area as St Albans News reported last year. It was traumatising to some neighbours who had escaped from their own violent upbringing.

Hearings and submissions were held late in 2021. The commissioners visited the site twice, unaccompanied, before and after the hearings. It was not an easy decision for them to make. They applauded Corrections' attempts to create a second version of their Hamilton-based Tai Aroha programme in Christchurch, but on balance decided the impact on the neighbours in the medium density residential neighbourhood would be too great and it was not an appropriate use of the site, judged by the current district plan.

The 180-page commissioner's report contains a detailed summary of the hearing in November and the submissions made to the city council about the plan in 2021. The commissioners did not judge the programme's value and made no recommendation where or when it should be placed instead.

They did say that when the programme was established, the likely effects would be less than local residents anticipated/feared but still declined the resource consent because it would have a significant effect on this community.

Bristol St residents are pleased the commissioners decided to decline the application. Bristol St Network spokesperson Baden Ewart, who represents a group of 1300 members concerned about the proposal, said the decision to decline the application was well founded and "reflects the intention of the district plan as it applies to appropriate activities in residential suburbs."

Meanwhile Corrections is taking time to reflect on the commissioners' decision, not commenting further on the matter other than to thank those in the community who made submissions. They could appeal. Or they could apply for a resource consent for a different programme, possibly a daytime one, to make use of the complex now owned by Kainga Ora (formerly known as the Housing Corporation).

✂



SARA has plans for 2022

by Emma Twaddell

The St Albans Residents Association (SARA) has an exciting year ahead planned, with projects to provide residents opportunities to involve themselves in their local community and its development. We would like to thank our funders, CCC, Aotearoa Gaming Trust (formerly The Southern Trust), Rata Foundation, Ministry of Social Development, for their support and collaboration in the community led development of St Albans.

From joining a dance group to becoming a St Albans Strategy Champion, information, and discussion on what's happening, and how you can be involved, is happening at the Community Centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am – 1pm. Come on down, have a look around.

The St Albans Alliance is a group coordinated by SARA which involves connecting the leaders of local organisations and businesses, sharing information and resources. Developing these connections through 2022 will support our local resilience through our covid times and beyond.

The general feeling is that having local opportunities will continue to be of high importance due to the challenges we face with Covid. Staying local being one way to reduce spread of infection while still being able to be involved in cultural, physical, and social activities.

Local events planned for 2022 include the upcoming birthday celebration of Abberley Park, River of Flowers, in memory of 22 February 2011, Arbor Day, and St Albans Day on June 22. Then the year quickly rolls into Hallow Eve at Abberley, the Christmas parties, Christmas carols and the Edgeware Christmas Market.

Kohinga has been selected to be part of Open Christchurch 2022—a celebration of the city's most exceptional works of architecture to be held 30 April-1 May. SARA is joining with CCC and the building designers to provide guided tours through our wonderful new building during the celebration.

Building design, urban design, are areas of the development of our neighbourhoods SARA has been active in for years and the current community continues to ensure a community voice is included in local authority planning.

Another focus for 2022, backed with a strong commitment from the SARA committee, is building relationships with Tangata Whenua and addressing the growing desire among Māori to be more active in developing living environments that are compatible with and incorporate Maori cultural values and concepts.

SARA is working with Canterbury Community Gardens and Packe St Park to continue to improve local food security with the development of Kohinga Mara being a focus.

Developing a group of residents, business owners and park users interested in achieving projects based around Warrington Village and St Albans Park is a focus for 2022. To strengthen and further utilise community amenities around the 2021 research of a 15-min neighbourhood.

Get out, Get involved.



Community Centre 1049 Colombo St

The Community centre is available for hire within the Red Traffic Light protocols. For booking enquiries please phone 972 5534 or email: communitycentre@stalbens.gen.nz or visit our website: sacc.org.nz

Advertising in St Albans News

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

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

SARA Committee

St Albans Residents Association meets at St Albans Community Centre, 1049 Colombo St. on the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm.

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@stalbens.gen.nz

St Albans History Group

St Albans History group will meet on February 14 at St Albans Community Centre at 2 pm. Email: briangspear@hotmail.com

Wednesday Wheelies

Wednesday Wheelies meet at 9.30 am St Albans Community Centre carpark on Caledonian Road.

SARA Website

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

StAN on Facebook

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

SARA on Neighbourly

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

SARA and Centre news

A chat over the teacups



The new St Albans Community Centre has been open for less than a year but its cupboards feature items much older: cups and plates with stories to tell.

An older generation often gave them as 21st birthday presents; it was a common



choice 70 years ago and these days people don't know what to do with them so they sit in cupboards unused by later generations.

The centre collection includes a cup gifted from a grandmother to her grand daughter 85 years ago. The grandmother has passed on but the cup and grand daughter are still with us. It has been joined by a 1930s willow pattern tea set.

Those lucky enough to share a cuppa at the centre, like this SAYGO group, will hear tales of the cups' origins. Knowing the stories behind the tea cups is rare these days as most sets end up as a single setting in antique shops after estate sales.

Those lucky enough to share a cuppa at the centre, like this SAYGO group, will hear tales of the cups' origins. Knowing the stories behind the tea cups is rare these days as most sets end up as a single setting in antique shops after estate sales. ☘

Working bee tidies up centre garden

The first working bee at the Kohinga Mara community garden in January 2022 had to contend with knee-high weeds. But seven eager people armed with suitable garden tools soon put paid to that. They also found new uses for old tyres from Packe St garden and other places to make a succulent garden feature and put this next to the herb planter. They also set up some compost bins that will eventually feed back into the planter bins. Seven year old Lara (seen with Jean Bell at right) found some mint growing amongst the clover and weeds and potted it up. Many hands make light work. The remaining planter boxes will be planted soon with winter vegetables. The boxes planted in late 2021 have produced a bumper crop of lettuces, broccoli and cauliflowers in a few short weeks and these have found their way onto the menu in several workers' homes.

Portacom to get a colourful new look

A workers' cabin used when the new community centre was under construction was donated by the building contractors, Watts and Hughes, to the St Albans Community Centre when they left. This shed/cabin at the back of the community garden (Kohinga Māra) is about to get a paint job thanks to mural painter Koryu Aoshima, whose colourful design featuring birds and native flora will transform the white panels. Koryu also participates in live painting and runs workshops for the younger generation.

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Send your news contributions and adverts to:

news@stalbens.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.



Volunteer Jean Bell and seven year old Lara help turn old tyres into small planters (above). The portacom in the community centre garden is about to be repainted.



First Christmas market at centre



The St Albans Residents Association hosted the Christmas market at Kohinga on December 12. It was the first market held at the community centre as in previous years it had to be held at Edgeware Village. Locals got the opportunity to stock up on homemade Christmas presents, yummy treats and even some upcycled furniture. ☼

The deadline for the March issue of the St Albans News is February 14. Please send your articles, letters and notices to:

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Covid and community centre

Kohinga St Albans Community Centre remains open but vaccine passes will be required to use the centre. Some groups are limiting their activities for the next few months eg: St Albans NeighbourNet will not be offering computer help at the centre.

Activities at the centre will continue, operating within the Red Traffic Light system along with Vaccine Pass, mask wearing and scanning, a limit of 100 people will now be enforced. For enquiries phone the centre on 972 5534

Street by Street

If you are interested in setting up a support network for your street contact Emma@stalbans.gen.nz for information about the Courtenay St group she is setting up with neighbours to pick up essentials, take the dog for a walk and so on



NeighbourNet's computer service is not operating until further notice.

Email neighbournet@stalbans.gen.nz

Funding for SARA

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



Rātā Foundation



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Get ready to tackle Omicron

by Belinda Carter

New Zealand is now at the Red light level of the Covid19 Protection Framework, in a bid to deal with the Omicron variant. The next few months could be a bit rough with supply chain shortages and limited services because so many people are sick and isolating. Stay safe.

Get boosted: Not everyone is eligible for the boosters yet four months after their second dose. Boosters deal with the waning immunity from the first doses. If eligible get boosted. If not already vaccinated do so as the illness and outcomes will be worse for those who are not. There are a few places near St Albans where this can be done, from GPs (enrolled patients) to chemist shops like Remedy pharmacy in Springfield Road. Addington raceway hosts drive-in vaccinations. To book an appointment visit <https://bookmyvaccine.covid19.health.nz>

Upgrade your mask: The Government is tightening up on the use of face masks and places they should be worn. Bandanas and scarves are not good enough. Readily available surgical masks are the cheapest option but if you can locate the scarce and expensive N95, KN95 or P2 masks and fit them properly they can be used. Cloth masks with three layers can be used, and some people double mask with a cloth mask and surgical mask. Masks protect the wearer and the people they come into contact with.

Health and welfare: The Government has recommended putting together a wellness kit with such things as pain relief, nasal sprays, throat lozenges, gloves, tissues, 2 weeks worth of medications, and boredom busters, in case you catch Covid19 or have to isolate. Tests can be done to confirm Covid19 at your local medical centre, and they can give further advice and dispense medicines. For more info on Making a Plan go to <https://covid19.govt.nz/prepare-and-stay-safe/be-prepared-for-covid-19>

Get support: Buddy up with someone so you can get groceries and medicines delivered. Although supermarkets have home deliveries there won't be enough time slots. Keep in regular contact with friends by phone. All, but the most serious cases of Covid19, will be isolating at home from 14 days (and in some instances longer), particularly as case numbers potentially will rise from February. Use Neighbourhood Watch networks or email emma@stalbans.gen.nz for details on how to set up a street support group similar to one in Courtenay St.

Shortages and cancellations: Shortages and cancellations will be the norm for the next few months. Some events may still go ahead with distancing and caps on numbers while others, will be cancelled, particularly music events and theatre. Businesses can stay open but customers will face restrictions like social distancing and capacity limits, particularly in hospitality and retail. Staff absences may lead to unexpected daily closures.

Travel: There are no physical boundaries on travel around New Zealand like there were during the lockdowns, but if traveling away from home make sure you can drive back without staying overnight enroute in case you fall ill. You won't be able to use public transport to return home and may need to stay many nights in a motel at your own expense.

Helpful sources of information:
Government website www.covid19.govt.nz
Ministry of Health www.health.govt.nz
The Government run Healthline can be phoned on 0800 611 116 or if the phone is busy visit www.healthline.govt.nz.

The March edition of St Albans News available in late February will feature more information about Covid19. Please email news@stalbans.gen.nz if you offer help and support to people isolating with Covid19 or know of groups that do so that information can be shared. ☼

News from around St Albans

Bookshop now in hands of third generation

When Debs McGinn took over the Paperback Bookshop from her father-in-law Thady around 30 years ago, she had big shoes to fill.

Thady, a well-known member of the community, opened the bookshop in Edgeware Rd near Trafalgar St in the mid 70s.

Debs has built up the business into a much loved and possibly St Albans' only second-hand bookstore.

These days Debs is semi-retired and working one day a week and the little bookshop near the Pharmacy at the top end of Colombo St has been handed on to another generation, with son Ry and his partner Angela at the



Debs and Ry McGinn

helm. The third generation is busy renovating the shop and building a big following on Facebook to engage with their "treasured" customers online.

Ry has fond memories of hanging out at the bookstore after school. "It was on the other side of Edgeware Road and I remember sitting in front of the 3-bar heater in winter, cooking my little kidneys while reading superhero comics".

Ry and Angela are excited for what the future holds for the Edgeware Paperback Centre and look forward to providing the old and new customers with an unlimited supply of reading material and being part of the Edgeware community. ☼

St Albans residents seek action on flooding

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St are looked at, possibly with a view to enlarging them. The water is partly channelled underground through pipes along Edgeware Rd and partly through gardens.

Cr Pauline Cotter, who moved a council motion in December 2014 to investigate St Albans Creek, from Hills Rd to Geraldine St, to assess the benefit of upgrades to the Champion St culvert, said that investigation had been carried out.

It has been said a solution to the flooding near the village is technically possible but [it] would be extremely expensive and disruptive to businesses at a cost of around \$12-\$15million. The solution identified during the assessment involved installing a pump station and pump, upgrading the existing infrastructure and gravity network to enable excess water to be pumped directly into the Avon river. However, it was not recommended by staff as it would only realise minimal benefits and was not included in the Ten Year Plan.

Three Waters Head Helen Beaumont said the final decision about drainage from Dudley tributaries was to upgrade Dudley Creek and St Albans Creek only up to Hills Road; it did not include improvements to Edgeware Road.

"Upgrading the Champion Street culvert for St Albans Creek was raised as a possibility however the constraint then shifts to the capacity of the downstream channel. Upgrading the culvert and increasing the capacity of the channel (widening the channel through a number of private properties) was also considered however it would come at a very high cost and provide minimal benefits."

Ian and Andrew also want much faster city council responses to flooding as it is a health and safety issue. Ian said he rang the council multiple times on December 15 but contractors did not turn up till around 8pm to assess the situation. By then the water levels had peaked. In the meantime the pair searched around for some orphaned road cones to warn drivers. ☼

City council:

David Timbs has had enough of council inaction to prevent the repeated flooding of Edgeware Village; the Peter Timbs Butcher retail manager plans to stand for election to the city council later this year.

It's not just the retailers affected by floods. Residents are impacted when they cannot access their local shops. Peter Timbs has a butcher shop, the Butcher's Apron (takeaway van) and deli at the village, but it is the butchers shop that is worst affected.

It seems every time there is heavy rain in Christchurch, Edgeware Village floods. Something needs to be done to fix this problem or it will keep happening and can only get worse with increased infill housing and climate change.

However, Christchurch City Council has no plans to address the issue, preferring to focus on residential areas and is leaving it up to local businesses to find their own solution.

No plans to fix Edgeware Village funding

There was a heavy downpour on December 15 last year and it continued for roughly eight hours. It went across the full width of Edgeware Rd. It seeped into the butcher shop through the front door and it wasn't long before water reached nearly half a metre up the walls.

The shop had to be closed and it took a day and a half and 10 staff members to clean up before commercial cleaners were called in.

David Timbs said that heavy flooding was a yearly occurrence, particularly after the quakes in 2010 and 2011, although other St Albans residents spoken to felt that flooding had been an issue for longer.

Edgeware Village is part of a flood management area and low lying compared to the outfall of the drainage network for St Albans Creek, a block to the east along Edgeware Road. As with similar low lying areas across the city, such as the Flockton Basin, this leads to surface ponding of water across the roads, Three Waters

Head Helen Beaumont explained.

"The butcher shop is located at the lowest point in the catchment and the floor of the shop is at the same level as the back of the footpath. So there is no freeboard between the top of the kerb and the floor of the building.

"The butcher shop is in an older commercial building in a flood management area and the floor level is below current district plan requirements. If a resource consent was granted for a rebuild the floor

would need to be higher."

(A council memo seen by St Albans News suggested that Peter Timbs should investigate drainage work in the area or consider raising the floor of the shop to approximately half a metre above the average ground level)

"There is no funding or budget in the Long Term Plan to upgrade the drainage in this area. The priority for drainage and stormwater projects is to address the risk of flooding to residential buildings," Helen Beaumont said.

Unlike another flood prone area around Flockton St, which has been the beneficiary of multi-million dollar drainage work on Dudley Creek, the same work has not been done in Edgeware. It ends at the Hills Rd culvert.

(For more about the wider area of flooding around the Champion Street/Edgeware Rd please see the accompanying story) ☼



Council to strengthen water bylaws

by Belinda Carter

Christchurch City Council is toughening up its water bylaw and splitting it into two parts: Water supply and wastewater (which are piped systems) and stormwater and land drainage (which involve different surfaces). Among the items targeted are contaminants in water runoffs, cracked pipes on private property in residential areas and accessibility to pipes for maintenance purposes.

The council is seeking feedback. Please go to the council's website and search for Have Your Say Water Bylaw. Summaries of the changes and copies of the current bylaw and the two replacement bylaws are available on the site. If you want to make comments fill in the feedback form before February 9. Council will hold a hearing and discuss any further changes in May. The new rules will come into force from July 2022. ☼



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Jan's garden a source for her pickles and preserves

by Lynne O'Keefe

Jan MacKenzie, who was legendary in our community for her plant and culinary knowledge, died on New Year's Day.

Born and educated in Dunedin, Jan started her working life in a bank in 1962, achieving 95 per cent in the ANZ staff training examination. She later worked for a finance company.

However, like many young people in the 60s, Jan went off to do her OE (overseas experience). Buying the proverbial VW Combi van, she travelled extensively around Europe with friends, before leaving the van on the autobahn (motorway) in Germany. Her actions caught up with her soon after when the polizei (police) came looking for the owner of the abandoned van, and Jan moved quickly on.

Working her way around the UK and Scotland, Jan met her future husband Rod in a London street. When he walked her home it turned out they both lived in the same building. Not believing he lived there, she slammed the front door in his face but later accepted an invitation to meet up again.

However, her visa was about to run out so she headed home slowly via South Africa and Rhodesia, taking up the offer of a job in Bulawayo from the mother of a friend she had made in the UK.

In 1970, Jan arrived back in New Zealand. Rod, originally from Scotland, followed her shortly afterwards and they married in Dunedin's Knox Church. Jan did not want to settle



Jan and Rod McKenzie

there so Rod got work in Christchurch instead. They have always lived in St Albans, raising their daughter Sam in the home they lived in for 50 years.

Always keen to learn, post quake Jan gained a Telford Certificate in Organic Horticulture (level 3) at Lincoln University and put these skills to use in

her large garden.

Jan worked in the hospitality industry for many years, including summers and winters at Shirley Rugby and Cricket Club, and the Rangers Football Club. Jan was night porter at the Avon Lodge and could have told many stories about visiting sports teams, but she was employed because she was well-travelled and did not tell tales.

She features in the Edgewhere? Calendar working at the IO66 Bar in Edgware Village. This calendar was produced for 2011 and because it is a matching year for 2022, the calendars that were unable to be distributed after the quakes are now available at the new community centre. It forms a kind of photographic time capsule featuring mostly vanished buildings. Jan later worked for a short time at Bailies, utilising her baking skills, which replaced the IO66 Bar.

Jan leaves behind husband Rod, daughter Sam, two grandchildren and many memories for St Albans people, in particular her preserves and pickles.

A memorial service will be held soon at Packe Street Garden. ☘



Jan worked behind the bar at 1066, the pub that preceded Bailies. Jan, seen here with Trish, another barmaid from 1066 days, was known to bring food harvested from her home garden to share with bar patrons.

The generous and giving gardener

by June Peka

Jan McKenzie wasn't your common garden variety gardener. And you could hardly say her fingers were just green. Like her garden itself, they were generous and giving, multi-hued, creative, sensitive, hardy and practical, and always busy.

Friends will remember Jan as that special person who put much thought into their gifts, often hand-made or from the garden. Robyn Melrose has many reminders of Jan's thoughtfulness over the years.

"Whenever Jan ordered something like a not-so-common lily, she'd get an extra bulb or two for me. Many years back she shared sweet pea seeds which I've carried on from, and now passed on to my family. And thanks to her we have sampled superb preserves and sauces, and wines and liqueurs out of the usual. When Jan gave you a gift, it was yours personally. You knew she'd been thinking of you when she made it."

As recently as New Years day in our house we too enjoyed Jan's "red-zoned, pickled walnuts" and "watermelon pickle (USA recipe)" with our turkey pieces, and I fondly



Jan loved talking to people about plants such as sunflowers, which can be harvested for their seeds, during this talk in Neighbourhood Week in November 2012.

recalled leaving her place with giddy knees, after a tasting session of "light cordials".

We will miss Jan's extensive knowledge about everything which grows, especially the rare and unusual. Thankfully she shared and documented all she knew about yacon and skirret, whaler potatoes, earth gems, Chinese artichokes, anu and mashua and much more. Her legacy will live on. ☘

The cheery barmaid who nourished the community

by Peggy Kelly

People will see that Jan features as the cheery bar-maid in the month of August in the updated Edge-where? calendar. Not only was she a welcoming presence in the Edgware Blues Lounge she was also a well-known figure for many years with her regular Plant, Pickles and Conserves Stall in Edgware Village. From this stall she dispensed information about rare culinary plants, fancy ways with food and tips about preserving what she grew and foraged.

Jan was an extraordinarily knowledgeable gardener and shared rooted cuttings and seedlings with great generosity.

My botanist husband, the late Bill Sykes, had many a fruitful chat with Jan. They enjoyed exchanging plant information and plant parts. What her ordinary-sized section produced in terms of variety and volume was mind boggling.

She supported both the Edgware Village Green and Packe Street Park/Community Garden for many years, bringing trays of delicious food to sustain the volunteers.

St Albans has long been rich in community-spirited people. Jan McKenzie will be remembered as one of them.

Our hearts go out to Roddy, her husband at this sad time. ☘

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Reflecting on how lucky we have been these holidays

The time we have away from work and regular routines over the summer break can be really important. I find it is the time I get some perspective away from the hurley burley of what goes on every day and can reflect on what really matters. Life can get noisy and sometimes a bit of down time is needed to reflect on how things are going.

I was really lucky to be able to do what I love – which is to enjoy the outdoors in the mountains as well as to spend time with family and friends. It struck me not only what a truly spectacular and largely empty country we live in, but also how fortunate we are to be able to do so pretty much the same as we ever could. Whether it was attending markets and festivals, going to the beach, or hiking in the mountains we can continue to do the things we love.

I know that there was some anxiety about what the summer would bring with people moving all over the country and attending events. However while we still have COVID in the community it is being effectively contained.

We have a lot to be grateful for – most of all for the fact that New Zealanders are doing what it takes to keep everyone safe. Scanning and mask wearing is really important, but most important of all is getting as many people as possible vaccinated. The next steps are booster shots and getting kids vaccinated.

The child dose has a lower dose and smaller volume

than the adult vaccine and is administered using a smaller needle. This will not only protect children, but also limit the risk of schools and classrooms being a vector for spread into the community.

In politics people are pretty ready to let you know when they think you are on the wrong track. On the other hand when we do the right thing it is only what governments ought to do, so comment is limited. So summer has also been a time to take stock and recognise that we are doing good work in addressing the problems that matter like raising wages, increasing benefits to liveable levels, addressing climate change and creating a health system that is fair.

I'm looking forward to getting back out into the community and having conversations about what is going on. Keep a look out for my programme of street corner meetings or get in touch if you want to know where to find me.

Ngā mihi

Duncan Webb

MP for Christchurch Central

chchcentral@parliament.govt.nz



Dr Duncan Webb,
MP for Christchurch Central

Grandad hugged by kids and canines

by Martin Cooney

Being a grandad means being the subject of 'hug attacks'. When the little ones haven't seen you for a while, that run up and hug fills you with such warmth.

I've never owned a dog but have 'adopted' a few as a walker over the years. When the pup sniffs you coming and decides you are a friend, you can expect a similar 'dog hug attack' on its way.

Funnily enough, when these two types of 'attackers' come together, the reaction can be quite different. My two granddaughters, when little, were very scared of dogs – particularly of the barks, jumpy persuasion. And you can't blame them. There are dog attacks reported, so it's sensible to be careful if you don't know a dog.



Too hot for Teddy the Retriever/
Beardie cross

My first experience of the girls' fear was with a friendly but energetic Jack Russell. I thought my engaging with Sasha would carry them through a friendly introduction. But I literally ended

up holding two very scared and upset youngsters who had suddenly jumped up at me and were hugging me tight. The same thing then happened with an even smaller, playful Shih Tzu at a friend's place. This reaction can be a little awkward when your friends know that their pup wouldn't hurt a fly.

I reflected on what I could do or say to help. I only really know three things about dogs. The concept of being the 'pack leader' to the pup and showing that you are not scared (at least not on the outside). Dogs can get jumpy if you don't act in this way.

Second I told them about that great song out of the 1960s, "Good Vibrations" by the Beach Boys. While the song reflected Denis Wilson's fascination with cosmic vibrations and flower power (Go boomers!), the title actually derived from a comment by the Wilson boys' mum about their family dog. His mother had told him that dogs sometimes bark at people because they can sense their 'bad vibrations'. I told them how a dog can sense a person's energy, so it is best to appear as calm and fearless as possible when around them.



Rules for dog-walkers in the time of Covid

And the last piece of advice is when out walking the dog on a lead to try to have puppy walking behind—not pulling the owner from in front! During the COVID lockdown, we got used to the signs about dogs being on a leash at the parks, and I used to point out to the kids the 'error' in the CCC image (the dog pulling the owner)!

As the girls have gotten older and played with friends who have dogs, they have also gotten more able to do these things. The big test was when their aunty recently got Teddy, a Golden Retriever crossed with a Bearded Collie. He's a big long haired puppy—but well trained. He responds to commands and (mostly) doesn't jump up at you. I am happy to report that now Teddy is the subject of the hug attacks from the girls when he arrives.

Working for you

Contact: Phil Adcock
021 909 950

phil@grassamrealestate.co.nz



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Pilates

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Mondays

During school term

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yourspacepilates@gmail.com
www.yourspacepilates.co.nz

ST ALBANS TENNIS CLUB

Returning to, new to or just love tennis, then we're the club for you. The new season is already underway but you can come along and give our friendly club a go. You can find us at the courts on Thursday evenings from 5pm or Saturday afternoons.

Visit our website or phone
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37 Dover St, off Edgeware Rd

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St Albans parks and gardens

Social time at community garden

by Helen Kidd

What better way to spend a couple of hours on a nice day than pottering around in a garden with like-minded people, having a cuppa with them, and taking home some fresh fruit and veges. Come and join us from 4-6 pm on Mondays and Thursdays.

This is what the volunteers at Packe Street Park have discovered, and the result is a sense of satisfaction and time well spent creating a productive garden in the park. There are salad veges to pick, and apricots and plums are ripe. Peaches and quinces are still a little way off, but check them out if you're passing and take some home with you. You could drop off any cans or non-perishable food in the

community pantry too, or books in the book fridge.

A fairly quiet month has seen the few holiday volunteers weeding and generally cleaning up the park and gardens. We have a lot of brick areas, which are difficult to keep weed-free, and a new project is to plant thyme between the bricks – aromatic weed control!

We are planning a demonstration workshop on pruning next month, and a seedling/plant swap. Both of these follow on from successful events last year and are repeated by popular demand.

Our big upcoming event is on March 27. It's the 25th anniversary of Friends of Packe Street Park, later changed to Packe Street Park and

Community Garden. Incorporated in 1996, this group of visionary garden-lovers lobbied the city council to buy this land and turn it into a community park. They then 'adopted' the park under the Adopt a Park scheme.

Twenty five years later, it is a suburban oasis, providing not only produce for the community but also a relaxing, peaceful green space where children play, dogs exercise (thank you, dog owners for keeping the park clean), and people sit and read, or garden, or just enjoy the quiet and peace.

Watch our Facebook page for details of workshops and all upcoming events, and drop in anytime. This is a community park and garden – your park and garden. Enjoy it. ☼

Growth is rampant in summer gardens

Summer is well underway here in Ōtautahi. It is the perfect time of the year for evenings in the garden. With all the summer rain we had at the start of this season, growth is rampant not just in the plants we want but also with weed species. So it is a perfect opportunity to become familiar with these plants as a lot of them are tasty edible plants that make a great addition to summer salads. But it is worth learning about them before you add them to your meals, to avoid any nasty surprises.*

Tomatoes should be in full swing and zucchini plants producing more than you know what to do with. So, sharing summer abundance with your friends and neighbours should make sure nothing goes to waste. Packe St Park and Community Garden also has a food fridge and is a great spot to share bumper crops.

It is important to harvest from your plants regularly to ensure continuous fruiting, and remember to replant

greens like lettuces and rocket to make sure you don't run out. With the heat we have been having, lots of plants are going to seed early, but this is not always a bad thing as it provides food and habitat for beneficial insects.

Early stone fruit will be ripening, lots of the plums are almost done and summer fruiting berries are well underway. Netting can help to make sure you only share what you want to with local birdlife, but check them regularly as our feathered friends can end up getting caught.

Mulch your gardens to save water, but also remember that watering for longer, less often will encourage your plants to grow deep roots and make them more resilient in the summer heat! More than anything this time of year is about getting out into the sun and soil and enjoying yourself.

Good gardening, *Basil*

Come and enjoy social interaction with other seniors...

MONDAYS	THURSDAYS
9.00 am Board Games	9.00 am Board Games
10.00 am Morning Tea	9.30 am Mass
10.30 am Arts and Crafts	10.00 am Morning Tea
12.00 noon BYO Lunch / Socialise	10.30 am Board Games
1.00 pm Exercise Class	12.00 noon BYO Lunch / Socialise
1.30 pm Variety Hour	12.30 pm Housie
	2.15 pm Afternoon Tea

Gold coin donation for non-residents

MARY POTTER COMMUNITY CENTRE
442 Durham Street North, St Albans, Christchurch 8014 Telephone 372 9224
Website www.lcmchristchurch.org.nz Email nzadmin@lcm.org.au

Butterfly tree destroyed by storm

The tree in Abberley Park that St Albans residents know as the "butterfly tree", because of the crowd of monarch butterflies overwintering on its branches, blew over on a walkway during the storm on December 15. It has since been removed. Christchurch City Council parks staff assure it will be replaced before winter. This will allow time to talk with local butterfly and tree experts and interested groups (such as Friends of Abberley Park) about what should replace the Acacia melanoxylon (better known as a Tasmanian Blackwood): more of the same or something different perhaps. ☼



Blooms on display in city streets

Midsummer is a time when Christchurch gardens are mostly at their best. It is also when judges from various garden clubs and horticultural societies are busy with clipboards judging the best gardens and the best streets.

If you find a slip of coloured paper in the letterbox congratulating you chances are it has been put there by one of The Community Pride Awards judges from the Christchurch Beautifying Society. The first award was given 32 years ago by the Papanui Shirley community board.

The Christchurch Beautifying Society, with the support of the Christchurch City Council has also been running the Christchurch Street and Garden Awards for 70 years,

as a way of acknowledging those who have contributed to "maintaining the image of Christchurch as the Garden City by beautifying their streets and gardens."

There are lots of chances for whole streets and specific gardens to win, including cul de sacs and living fences. Volunteer judges have a lot of work on their plate, as they need to visit and judge 4000 city streets for different awards. Presentations of the awards will be made in April and include plaques for display in chosen streets.

The Canterbury Horticultural Society is judging the Edible and Sustainable Gardens Awards. The annual awards celebrate productive gardens tended by local residents,

Dr Duncan Webb

MP for
Christchurch
Central

☎ 03 366 5519
✉ 282-290 Durham Street North
@ chchcentral@parliament.govt.nz



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Community Notices

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

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

Christchurch Senior Citizens: card section Mondays at 12.30-3pm, indoor bowls Tuesdays 12.45-3pm, old time dance 3rd Saturday of each month 1.30-4pm, live band, Scottish Society Hall, Edgware and Caledonian Rd. Visitors welcome. Further information phone: Veronica 383 4682 or Beth 388 2375.

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

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

Come and Learn Scottish Country Dancing at St Albans Uniting Church Hall, corner Knowles Street and Nancy Avenue. Wednesdays 7.30–9pm from 28 February. Affordable Fun and Fitness, no partner required. FIRST NIGHT FREE. Contact Geraldine 357 0922 or Sandra 021 079 0047.

Computer aided, touch typing course for students 9 or older with difficulties reading, writing and spelling. Run by the Seabrook McKenzie Centre in London St. Mon, Tues 4-5pm. Further information phone 381 5383 or visit the home programme version on readandspell.com

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

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

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

Fit Beans Coffee Club: 9.30am Fridays, Reformed Church Hall, 63 Cornwall Street. Easy exercise for anyone looking to maintain or regain strength and balance. Suitable for any age or ability, sitting or standing. No running,

jumping or lying on the ground required. Led by Dee Owers, \$5 per class, followed by free tea, coffee and cake. Phone Sarah on 338-1648 or 027 758 5141

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

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

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

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

Happy Feet Dancing. Movement to music. Weekly Wednesdays at 1 - 2pm. \$2. Suit low to medium level of fitness. Kohinga, St Albans Community Centre. Contact Rowena at 027 404 0897

Laughter Yoga: The St Albans Laughter Yoga Club. Sunday mornings, 11 am – 11.45am at the Scottish Society Hall cnr Edgware and Caledonian Rds. Contact; Hannah Airey 021 998 109 www.lotustrust.org.nz. No bookings necessary, \$3 donation.

Mainly Music: a preschool music programme, All Souls Church Complex, 30 Church Lane. Monday at 9.30 am, followed by morning tea. Warm welcome. Enquiries to Susan McDonald 027 2764653 or just come along.

Meditation, Mindfulness & Gnostic Philosophy. 8-week course. Starts 8 February. Gold coin donation. Tuesdays 7:30 to 9 pm at Kohinga St Albans Community Centre. Learn to relax and concentrate. Contact Helen at 022 354 0902 or gnosismnz@xtra.co.nz.

NZ Japan Society of Canterbury meets to promote understanding and goodwill between the people of NZ and Japan. Meetings include talks, video shows or other activities with a Japanese accent. Visitors welcome. Contact Jean Bell: 355 9903 or jeanpbell8@gmail.com

Saygo Falls Prevention: Mondays 10 – 11am and Thursdays 9.30 – 10.30 am (wait list for Thursdays) \$2 entry. Kohinga St Albans Community Centre.

Shirley International Playgroup: a fun playgroup for mothers and under fives from any cultural background. Fridays during school

term time. 9:30am 11:30am at the Shirley Hub, 69B Briggs Road, Mairehau. \$2 per session or \$10 for the term. Call Shauna at Delta Trust on 03 389 0219 for more information.

Scottish Country Dance club meets at the Scottish Society hall corner Edgware Caledonian Roads, Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm, February through to December. A time of fun, fitness and friendship. Contact: Margaret Birse, ph 327 0193.

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 the second Tuesday of the month at 10.00am at Delta Community Trust 101 North Avon Road. Interesting speakers. Walking group meets on 3rd Wednesday, and trips are arranged. For more information please phone Dale at 385 1133

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

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

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

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

Rockers Of Ages Choir: For elders and aspiring elders (any age welcome). No auditions, music provided. Wednesdays, 2pm 4pm during term time, Forfar Courts, 95 Forfar Street, St Albans. Phone 0800 843 687 for more information.

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

Women in Harmony community choir: Meets Thursdays in primary school terms from 7.30-9.30pm at Kohinga St Albans Community Centre, 1049 Colombo Street. Sing world and popular music in 3 part harmony. No auditions. Email:

women.in.harmony.nz@gmail.com;

womeninharmony.wordpress.com;

facebook.com/womeninharmonychristchurch

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

St Albans News Classifieds

SERVICES

Are you having difficulty making a decision about family, work, relationships? We can help you make a thoughtful decision and guide you to proper resources if required. There is no charge for this service. Call for further information or an appointment with Bill or Emily at 027 379 3873. We can meet at the Kohinga St Albans Community Centre on Wednesdays 12:30 to 2:00. First meeting usually 30 minutes.

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

ProofreadingNZ: All proofreading and editing services \$60/hour, GST incl. Contact carlaheslop@slingshot.co.nz

Becoming You Yoga

Mary Potter Centre, Tuesday 4.30pm \$13, Slow mindful yoga. St Albans Community Centre, Thursday 10am \$15, Restorative Yoga. Suitable for all. Contact: <https://www.becomingyoutyoga.com>

Yoga Class: Tuesday and Thursday 10:45am - 12pm in the delightful Abberley Park Hall all abilities and ages welcome.

Tracy 022 048 6949 or 03 356 1754

Cleaner: Good personality and experience with Age Concern clients, seeks work in St Albans. Linda 021887840

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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.

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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

SITUATIONS VACANT

Quality Laundry: Delivery driver/laundry worker in central city. 4-6 hours per day Monday to Friday, option for longer hours. Must have Full drivers licence and vaccine passport. Call Deb 027 514 5586

Mental Health Support

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

- **Counsellors** available via text: 1737
- **Suicidal?** Phone 0508 828 865
- **Kidslife:** 0800 54 37 54 For under 18s, 24/7
- **Depression:** 0800 111 757 or text 4302
- **Canterbury Charity Hospital:** 03 360 2266
- **Shakti Crisis Line:** for migrant or refugee women living with family violence 0800 742 584
- **Allies online mentoring** offered by young Muslim adults to Muslim teens run by Youthline. Free text 234 or phone 0800 376 633
- **Sexual Assault Support Service Canterbury (SASSC):** 03 377 5402 for recent and historic cases
- **Male Survivors:** 03 365 9000
- **OUTLine NZ:** provides confidential telephone support for matters of gender or sexuality, 0800 688 5463

- **Mental Health Advocacy Peer Support (MHAPS):** Phone: (03) 365 9479, Text: 022 370 8055, Rural Phone : 0800 437 324, Email: reception@mhaps.org.nz, 9:00am – 4:30pm, Monday to Friday
- **Comcare Trust:** Comcare assists people with mental health or addiction issues to live well in the Canterbury community. Tel: (03) 377 7020, Fax: (03) 961 0794, Email: enquiries@comcare.org.nz
- **Rape Crisis:** 0800 883 300 for support after rape or sexual assault.
- **Are You OK?** Family violence helpline 0800 456 450.
- **After hours counselling:** Phone counselling provided. Offer of a free introductory chat and affordable fees related to clients financial situation in these challenging times. Call on 027 694 5275 or email at: murray@afterhourscounselling.co.nz

St Albans events

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

February 19, 4-6pm: Abberley Park birthday celebrations

February 21, 7pm:

St Marks, Withells Rd, Avonhead Housing and waters event organised by CCC

February 22, from 12:30pm:

Abberley Park local quake memorial event



News from around St Albans

Wizard as Mayor of Christchurch?

His full name is Ian Brackenbury Channell but you can just call him Jack. His latest caper is to put his name forward to be the next Mayor of Christchurch. However, the local body elections are not likely to be held until much later in the year. It would certainly be a boost in income for the Wizard whose small but two decade promotional contract with the city was terminated late last year. And perhaps bring some fun back into the city. Although his most recent hangout has been the Arts Centre, he now has a new place to hang out. You might spot him some days at Kidds Cakes and Bakery in Cranford St, where he has been promised him caffeinated beverages for the rest of his life. The Wizard, who was born in Britain, reinvented himself as a Wizard and living work of art when he came to Christchurch for the Commonwealth Games in 1974. He managed to avoid being included in the census by sailing a few miles offshore each time.

Right: The Wizard casts a spell to celebrate Abberley Park 80th anniversary



Odour from the east

When the wind blows from the east as it often does in summer, it now brings with it unpleasant odours spoiling a relaxing time on the deck or in the back garden. It comes from the sewage ponds in Bromley that treat wastewater before emptying it into the sea. Unfortunately for Christchurch residents a rather dramatic fire with black clouds spread across the city in early November and destroyed the domes and the equipment that helped reduce the smell many older easterners grew up with. According to the Christchurch City Council it could take many months to fix, but in the meantime a temporary solution is in place to use machines called aerators to increase the oxygenation and reduce the smell.

Local icon part of pendant

Help the Edgeware Pool project by purchasing a pendant shaped like the bollards at the crossing by the Freshchoice supermarket. The pendant, inspired and made locally by Via Sollertia, is called Chloe and is available in Sterling Silver or 9 carat, 14ct, 18ct, 22ct White Yellow and Rose Golds and Platinum, owner Phil Vicary says. Via Sollertia has only been in the Edgeware Village a short time but has embraced the community and is pledging a donation to the Edgeware Pool Project for every pendant sold.



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