

Local government elections 2022



Left: Pauline and Shreejana with their supporters



Right: Three term councillor Pauline Cotter welcomes Innes ward newcomer Shreejana Chhetri.

Innes Councillor named deputy mayor

by Belinda Carter

Innes councillor Pauline Cotter was appointed deputy mayor at the first meeting of the new Christchurch City Council on October 25.

Hanging over her head, though, is an application from rival Ali Jones for a recount of the votes for Innes councillor. After a 46-seat lead over People's Choice candidate Pauline Cotter on October 8, independent Ali Jones found out the following day after special votes had been counted that Pauline Cotter was leading by 11 votes. At the end of the week the lead had grown to 16.

Encouraged by supporters on Facebook, Ali asked for a recount. This involves paying a \$750 deposit and waiting for a district court judge to decide whether a recount should take place, a decision which is expected in early November.

It is looking like Ali Jones will miss out on a council role altogether because she did not stand again for the Papanui-Innes-Central community board either, thereby forcing a break from local body politics.

We should acknowledge her involvement in helping to get the St Albans Community Centre across the finishing line in 2021. She has also been actively helping others chasing quake repairs get what they deserve. This year she has been living, and campaigning, from a pimped-out bus called Dylan while her home is rebuilt. She can now look forward to focusing fulltime on her PR company and lending her voice to occasional radio appearances, perhaps while contemplating a comeback in 2025.

Meanwhile in Papanui, extensive door knocking and dissatisfaction with councillor Mike Davidson gave Victoria Henstock,

endorsed by Mauger, with experience in governance and legal matters, the right to represent the Papanui ward. Independent Mike Davidson was an unfortunate victim of a campaign that cast aspersions on his motivations for being in local government, claiming he had a personal agenda and would not work well with others, but failed to provide any proof.

Victoria spoke at meetings prior to the elections of the opposition she was finding to the handling of cycleways. Mike is taking a break before deciding what to do next but his contribution to cycling, streets affected by the motorway extension and collaboration with other councils as part of the greater Christchurch partnership will be missed.

Mauger voted city's new mayor

Burwood councillor Phil Mauger, who had effectively been campaigning for the position of Mayor since August 2021, beat his nearest rival David Meates by more than 2000 votes. Meates has considerable governance and leadership experience through his involvement with the now defunct Canterbury District Health Board, while businessman Mauger was known for getting things done and not always following council rules. In terms of the number of votes Mark Chirside was third, followed by Carl Bromley and the Wizard.

Mauger came up with a cunning plan to try to ensure he had councillors on his side by endorsing and even paying some expenses for selected independent candidates. It also helped pay for expensive, wrap around pages of joint newspaper advertising as candidates are limited to the amount they can spend on campaigns. Mauger's biggest task now is to raise funds to pay for the expensive stadium (with the additional seats he fought to be added) and some city projects are in

Continues on page 6



SARA and Centre news

Civic Trust award for Kohinga

The St Albans Community Centre has won a Civic Trust award for the design and reinstatement of the community centre. SARA representatives received a certificate for the building at an award ceremony on October 12. The citation referred to the "innovative purpose built community centre" that meets "perfectly the parameters of the award criteria." The award praised the use of pinus radiata on the exterior, spruce gulum beams and timber CLT (cutting edge laminated wood) used on floors, walls and ceilings. It described the centre as a "stunningly beautiful building". Buildings from different eras featured in the awards, with the supreme award going to a brick villa in Tonbridge St Merivale that was painstakingly rebuilt after the quakes. The trust was formed in 1965 by concerned residents and has been instrumental in the saving of Mona Vale for the city and transformation of the University of Canterbury's town site into the Arts Centre. Past awards in St Albans include Hinman House, Innes Rd streetworks and English Park.

A shady spot in the garden

A couple downsizing their property and leaving the area have donated a garden table and four chairs to Kohinga Mara, the community garden beside the community centre. People can sit in the shade under a tree near the fence in Caledonian Rd during a long hot summer.

Pay online by card

Groups and individuals hiring the community centre can now pay by credit card (or debit card) but only if they pay online. Credit card facilities are not available in person at the centre.

Strategy up for review

The St Albans Residents Association has started the review of the 2013 St Albans Strategy, with a view to updating its own goals. The wider community will be involved later in discussions about the projects residents want to see happening in St Albans. No dates have been set but it is likely to be completed in early 2023.



Advertising in St Albans News

If you would like to advertise in the News, phone Lynne on 027 433 4469 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 at St Albans Community Centre, 1049 Colombo St. on November 16 at 7pm.

St Albans History Group

St Albans history group meets on the first Monday of the month at 2 pm at the St Albans Community Centre, next meeting will be November 7. Email: briangspear@hotmail.com

Wednesday Wheelies

Wednesday Wheelies meet at 9 am, 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

SARA Website

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

StAN on Facebook

St Albans News is published 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 on Facebook

Emma Twaddell has set up a Facebook page for the St Albans Residents Association. <https://www.facebook.com/SARA.StAlbans>

SARA and Centre news

Community support at neighbourhood gym



In late September Unbreakable Community Gym, based close by in Canon St, hosted their Unbreakable Games at the St Albans Community Centre.

Joined by whānau from Tuahiwi marae from just outside Otautahi/Christchurch, the event focused on getting participants out of their comfort zone to test their physical and mental strength, director Ciara Corrigan said. The games included lifting of heavy weights.

The quarterly event provides members with a wide range of fitness and experience, something to work towards. Many participants, children

and adults alike, had only started their exercise journey in the last 12 months.

"The Unbreakable studio is built on the belief that neighbourhood gyms have a great potential to be important pillars of community support. Gyms provide access to training that improves physical and mental well-being as well as being sources of social connection."

The aim is to make this sort of group training available to those who need it, through free or subsidised memberships, with the launch of this new social enterprise's Unbreakable Foundation funding available to charities.

The deadline for the December issue of the St Albans News is November 14. Please send your articles, letters and notices to: news@stalbands.gen.nz

Printing funded

The residents association has received a \$8000 grant from Aotearoa Gaming Trust (formerly known as Southern Trust) towards the cost of printing St Albans News for the next six issues.

St Albans News November 2022, Vol 29, Issue 10

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.



SARA and Centre news

Activities at the community centre

Weekly groups that meet at the community centre.

Monday	10am	Saygo
	10am	SeniorNet Mac
Bookings essential	3.15pm	Giant Leaps
	5 pm	Universal Martial Arts
Tuesday	10:45am	Yoga with Tracey
	10am	Neighbournet
	5.30	Pippins
	7.00pm	Yoga with Tristin
Wednesday	9.30am	Wednesday Wheelies
	10am	SeniorNet Mac
And 2nd Saturday of the month at 4pm	11am	The Corner, coffee and chat
	7.00pm	Capoeira Angola
Thursday	9.30am	Saygo
1st Thursday of month	10am	Morning Tea
	10am	Yoga with Lisa Banks
	10:45am	Yoga with Tracey
	10am	NeighbourNet
Bookings essential	3.15pm	Giant Leaps
	5.00pm	Universal Martial Arts
Friday	10am	SeniorNet Mac
Saturday	1pm	Neighbournet

Community Centre 1049 Colombo St

Kohinga the St Albans Community Centre is available for hire. For booking enquires please phone 972 5534 (leave message) or email communitycentre@stalbens.gen.nz or visit our website sacc@org.nz where the centre calendar is available to view and enquires can be submitted.
Office hours: Mon – Fri 9 am – 1pm or by appointment.

Funding for SARA

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



Sustainability

From plastic lids to skateboards

Plastic bottle tops and lids gathered in recycling bins at the community centre are being made into skateboards.

High school student Neith Absalom shreds the lids in the family garage at home and finishes them off in the tech room at Ao Tawhiti School. He's been doing this for about a year, after watching a youtube channel called BrothersMake and another one called Goose Board who make skateboards from recycled wood.



Neith Absalom

"I love skateboarding, I am horrified by the amount of plastic that gets into our waterways and into the oceans and I am angry that the council thinks it is okay just to dump fully recyclable plastic."

Residents are told to put the recyclable plastic lids in their red bins and these currently end up at Kate Valley in North Canterbury.

"It's mostly milk bottle tops that get used but soft drink tops are also suitable. Number 2 plastic is the safest to work with. If it doesn't have a 2 inside a recycle triangle on it I can't use it."

"Some plastics when melted are dangerous so it is important for people to learn the differences and ensure that they are recycling the right plastic to the right places otherwise they are putting people's lives at risk," Neith said.

Sometimes he gets sent unsuitable plastics and metal beer caps and batteries which the family then has to pay to dump.

Once those things are picked out the lids can be sorted into colours and shredded using a garden shredder. The tops are then melted directly into a skateboard cake tin which acts as the frame or mould.

He uses a hooded gas barbecue for his bake oven because he can control the temperature by turning the gas up or down.

"I put my skateboard shaped cake tin in the bbq and

place the first layer of shredded tops. Once the first layer is melted I add the next, and once that melts, I add another layer. It normally takes about 1000 tops to make one skateboard.

"Once it is a good thickness I take the skateboard cake tin off the bbq and press on a lid/top. It's made from wood that is the same shape as the skateboard cake tin but a bit smaller so it can fit inside of it. This ensures the top of the board remains flat.

"I have to clamp it down and add weights to make sure it doesn't crinkle up as the plastic cools. As number 2 plastic cools it does shrink a little bit. Because of the amount and thickness of the plastic in my skateboards it takes at least three hours to harden, but about six hours to fully cool down."

At the moment he mainly sells the boards without trucks and wheels. "Most people like their own custom setups. But I am hoping to be able to source big, all-terrain wheels and trucks to ensure Over The Top skateboards are ready for everything."

If people want to purchase a distinctive 100 per cent recycled number 2 plastic skateboard track Neith down on Facebook or Instagram under the label Over the Top Recycling. Or visit Rudolf Steiner School's fair on November 5. It's a good space to see what other products he's been quietly concocting from the same materials. Could he build a business from this? Neith is at secondary school and his future is wide open, so who knows what might come of this.

(Note: collection of the plastic tops at the St Albans Community Centre is currently on hold because the Residents Association recently sent four large council-size bins to Neith and he probably has a surfeit right now. However, plastic no 2 tops can still be dropped off at Avebury House in Richmond along with razor blades and chip packets which are not collected at the centre) ☼

More plastic items banned from sale

The Government has banned the sale or manufacture of polystyrene takeaway containers, plastic cotton buds and drink-stirrers in New Zealand starting October 1.

Foam containers used for takeaways and instant noodle cups are also now banned, as are PVC food trays and containers for meat, produce and baked items.

Consumers can still use the banned items but they cannot be sold or given away by retailers. The ban will reduce waste to landfill by replacing

plastic with more biodegradable containers.

This Ministry for the Environment website contains more detail on items affected by the ban: <https://environment.govt.nz/publications/plastic-phase-outs-guidance-for-sellers-and-manufacturers-of-products-banned-from-1-october-2022>

Single use plastics to be phased out in mid-2023 include plates, bowls, cutlery, produce bags and non-compostable produce labels. Alternatives have been sought for all these items.

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Duncan Webb
MP for Christchurch Central
chchcentral@parliament.govt.nz
366 5519

Labour

Authorised by Duncan Webb MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

Local government elections 2022

Continued from page 1

danger of being sacrificed in the process.

It is too early to say how well the new Council will work together. Positive predictions come from the Mauger camp that he can make a mixture of independents and People's Choice councillors gel, for the city's benefit, so let him try.

Community board grows

Community board meetings are going to be interesting with three councillors and six community board members around the Papanui-Innes-Central board table, making decisions that affect the central city, St Albans, Richmond, Shirley and Papanui.

Independent Emma Twaddell attracted the most votes in the Innes ward (3066). Newcomer People's Choice candidate and community organiser Shreejana Chhetri, who received 1965 votes, placed second, with Mark Wilson a few hundred votes behind.

Voting was not required for the Papanui community board as Simon Britten and Emma Norrish were the only two candidates nominated.

In the central city ward People's Choice Dr Sunita Gautam and John Miller were elected as community board members joining councillor Jake McClellan on the board.

Taking an independent stand

Some commentators have suggested voters are moving away from People's Choice, a sign of anti-Labour Government fervour and dislike of party politics, but when you look at the results (see link below) it seems being part of People's Choice, with its support network, is still a good way for new candidates like Shreejana Chhetri to win a seat at the council table. And they certainly are not Labour puppets, otherwise they would be supporting instead of passionately opposing the Government's Three Waters plans and intensified housing requirements.

If you look at the results, being an independent is not a guaranteed route to winning as Ali Jones and Mike Davidson have found out. Too many people use this label thinking it will appeal to voters who don't like party politics. It also becomes devalued when Voices for Freedom members stand as independents, hiding some of their weirder views so they can be more palatable to mainstream voters.

To check out the full results of the CCC elections:

<https://www.ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/The-Council/How-the-Council-works/Elections/2022-elections/Christchurch-City-Council-2022-Triennial-Elections-Final-FPP-Result.pdf> ☞

New councillors and new era for Environment Canterbury

St Albans 'is partly covered by both Central and North East of Environment Canterbury (referred to as ECan).

Greg Byrnes and Genevieve Robinson were both elected to Ohoko (the central constituency) while former CCC councillor David East and People's Choice candidate Joe Davis were elected to the North East (Orei) constituency. Tane Apanui whose ideas for using trains to deal with Christchurch traffic congestion failed to retain his position.

A large number of voting papers returned were blank – 2648 when it came to ECan North East candidates, suggesting a lack of knowledge or interest and a similar number for Central. The

North East had a response rate of more than 43 per cent whereas Central attracted only 36 per cent of voters.

In accordance with the Canterbury Regional Council (Ngāi Tahu Representation) Act 2022, Te Rūnunga o Ngāi Tahu has appointed: former Environment Canterbury Councillor and Tumu Taiao Mana Whenua expert laean Cranwell and a former National MP Tutehounuku (Nuk) Korako to the new council.

Further detail about voting is available from this site: <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/about/your-council/engage-with-us/elections/2022-local-elections/>



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Domestic violence

St Albans based group tackles sexual violence

Sexual violence is all too common in New Zealand society but there are groups actively trying to stop the abuse and support victims to heal. START Manager Maggy Tai Rakena explains the work the organisation does.

START was established in 1987 specifically to address the healing needs of children, youth and adults who have experienced sexual violence. Some 35 years later that is still what we do, alongside offering education about sexual violence and trauma, and supporting whānau, professionals and the general community when they have concerns about sexual violence. START is also active in national advocacy settings where work is focused on eliminating sexual violence.

START is based in a home in St Albans with a big yard: a peaceful therapeutic setting for our work. START employs ACC-registered psychotherapists, psychologists, counsellors, art therapists and social workers and this enables the bulk of START's services to be offered free of charge to users.

Sexual violence is remarkably common in Aotearoa New Zealand with around one in four females and one in six males having experienced this in their lifetime. Most commonly sexual violence is perpetrated on children and young people by people they know, and similarly for adult victims. As you can imagine this leads to all sorts of



emotional turmoil when the person who hurt you, might also be one of the people that you would normally turn to when upset. This turmoil can make reaching out for support difficult, as trust can be impacted. Sexual violence is also not something many people talk

about, so shame, confusion, and even a fear of getting in trouble can also make disclosing abuse difficult.

A good deal of research concludes that sexual violence is harmful to people. It happens right across the community no matter the age, ethnicity, religion or socio-economic status. Each person will have their own response and will need support tailored to their particular needs. With good support, people who have been exposed to sexual violence are generally able to heal from such experiences and although impacts can vary across a life time, these impacts do not have to dominate that person's life story.

START, also known as Timataia te mahu-oranga, is available during office hours. Phone 03 355 4414 or email admin@starthealing.org. More information is available on the website: <https://starthealing.org/about-us/> ☞

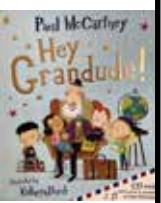
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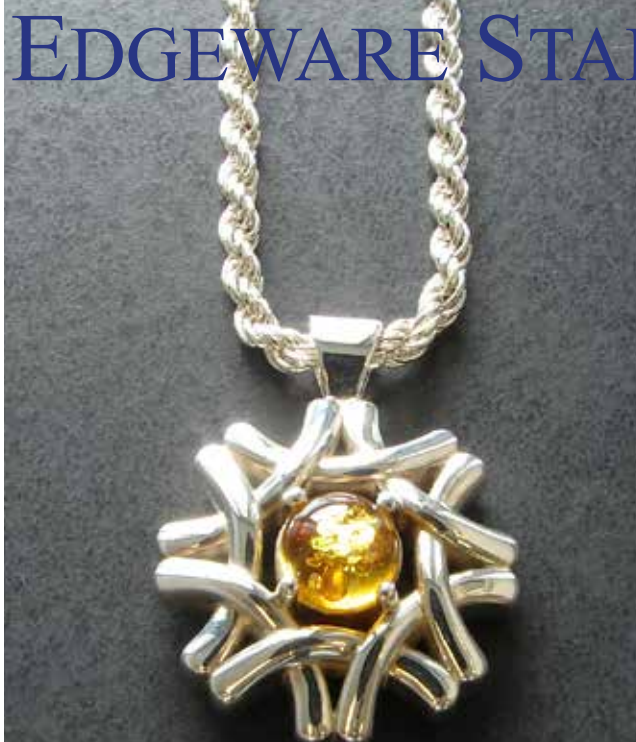


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Housing

Making current houses warm, dry and healthy

Damien McGill from Healthy Homes Co-operation based in St Albans says 19th and 20th century houses like villas can be retrofitted rather than bowled and replaced.

Imagine waking up in the morning, feeling warm and fully refreshed or coming home in the evenings to a home that feels like a warmer, drier version of the office you just left. These are some of the feelings of comfort we are missing living in our housing stock, both old and new here in St Albans.

A big focus as we head towards 2050 is going to be how we upgrade our existing housing stock to meet our climate change requirements. Recently the Superhome Movement conducted its annual tour. Every year the movement opens up high performance housing that its members have designed and built over the last year to the public, so they can experience what it feels like to venture into a healthy home.

The Superhome Movement is a Christchurch-based charitable trust comprising of industry participants nationwide, including architects, designers, developers, engineers, builders, trades, suppliers and more. These professionals have a shared purpose to help Kiwis live in better, healthier, more energy-efficient, and environmentally-friendly homes. The shared aim is advancing design education with a focus on reducing the effect of poor housing on the environment and improving the health



of our communities.

This year a villa renovation in Woodville St (near Hills Rd), in the process of being retrofitted, was among the houses open for viewing. Work is ongoing but the aim of the renovation is to make the 1910 transitional villa, a super healthy home while also dealing with quake repairs. This is being done while retaining as much of the villa's character as possible by:

1. Making the villa as airtight as possible to reduce heat loss in winter.
2. Fully insulating under the floors, in the walls and above the ceilings to retain heat in winter and keep it out, in summer.
3. Double glazing the windows with argon filled, low emissivity (low-e) glass and sealing all gaps around

the frames.

4. Installing a mechanical ventilation system with heat recovery to bring in warmed fresh air from outside, when opening the windows isn't an option because it's too hot or cold outside.
5. Adding a smaller capacity heat pump as the house will take less energy to heat and stay warmer for longer.

These five basic steps apply equally to new builds as well as renovations, it's just harder to retrofit homes after they are built. This is why it is important to ensure new build housing is fit for purpose, for people and planet, now and in the future. This is not currently happening although small changes are coming. Over the next 10-20 years, however, change will be rapid and this is why educating people about the villa super reno is so important, as residents will need to consider how they improve the comfort levels and energy efficiency of their villas and bungalows.

For more information about the Superhome movement visit:

www.superhome.co.nz

Damien McGill runs Healthy Home Cooperation from his home in St Albans.

For more information visit:

www.healthyhome.kiwi



Updating an old villa for the 21st century

by Belinda Carter

When Margaret Stewart bought her Woodville Street house in 2009 little did she know of the extended renovation journey that lay ahead.

In September 2010 the 7.1 Greendale earthquake toppled the chimneys and cracked piles, foundations and lathe and plaster walls. The following earthquakes did more damage creating an 86mm floor level differential.

She continued to live in the house, fighting EQC and the insurance company, to get the money needed to repair the house to an "as new" standard. It is a long story but, with most of the money received, Margaret rented a property in March 2021 expecting to be back by the end of September 2021.

She has had to contend with delays caused by rain, COVID and gib board shortage but expects to be back in the house before the end of 2022 with remaining work continuing into 2023.

The house had to be rolled to the back of the property to remediate extensive land damage: approximately 260 tree trunks were pushed into the TC3 ground which was compressed and covered with gravel. This was topped off with a steel reinforced concrete slab and ring foundation. Steel ABI pier piles completed the picture. These can be adjusted to relevel the house in the future.



Inside the house the old lathe and plaster is being replaced with gib board. Missing rimu wall panels will be reinstated in the main bedroom and a bay window from the Pumphouse has replaced an "upgraded" front window. Earthquake damaged electrics, drains and plumbing have been replaced. Retro light fittings and wallpaper have

been chosen and picture rails will be reinstated. Removed materials eg hearth tiles, chimney bricks and cupboard doors will be repurposed.

This is not a return to early 20th century levels of discomfort in pursuit of authenticity. The brand-new heritage style cheesecake kitchen will feature a brand-new oven, dishwasher, and a Nespresso coffee machine.

Damien McGill, who she met in 2014, introduced her to the idea of healthy homes so retro double glazing, airtightness, ventilation and ceiling, wall and floor insulation are being added. See his article on page 8.

It may have taken longer than anticipated but Margaret's transitional villa will blend quality character features with a modern, warm healthy home, ready for the next 112 years.

Look out for news about this modest home in subsequent issues of St Albans News and visit it in Spring 2023 when the completed home will be part of the next Super homes tour weekend.



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It pays to shop with small retailers

Every vote counts

Pauline Cotter was reconfirmed as Innes Ward councillor by the slimmest of margins. She faced a strong challenge from Ali Jones – proof that every single vote counts. I look forward to working with Pauline as she continues to push for the things she is passionate about. Innes was lucky to have two good options for councillor. Congratulations to all the candidates, successful or otherwise. Putting your hand up to serve is not an easy thing to do and this local body election seemed especially fraught.

Thank you to all those who stood—know from personal experience what it takes to do so. I look forward to working with all of the successful candidates.

Price check

You may have seen me out and about on my bike around St Albans (do say hello!). When I have time I like to check out independent retailers and compare prices on things like produce and meat. In many cases bargains on high quality groceries can be had at independent grocers or butchers – and they often buy direct, giving better prices to our farmers too.

I recently price checked key items at a leading supermarket with the Mad Butcher in Linwood and every item was the same or cheaper—and often substantially so. I also get some good vegetable bargains at Crisp in Edgware, and Ma Baker has some great specials too. By encouraging smaller and emerging grocers you can help.

The underlying problem is the lack of competition in

the supermarket sector. The Government is cracking down on supermarkets, which have got away with some unfair activities for too long. We are:

- Requiring supermarkets to sell from their wholesale arm to competitors
- Appointing an independent Grocery Commissioner to ensure supermarkets play by the rules
- Introducing a code of conduct and consistent pricing to allow comparisons
- Removing the covenants that supermarkets placed on the best land which prevented competitors opening up there.

We all want lower pricing and more choices for Kiwi consumers. You can help keep them honest by shopping around and supporting smaller, independent retailers, especially when shopping for produce and meat.

We are not immune to global circumstances, but we're in a strong economic position—and we are taking the actions we can. We've also taken some pressure off wallets with half price public transport fares and continued the cuts to fuel excise tax until January 2023.

I've enjoyed visiting with groups and organisations again since restrictions were lifted—if you would like me to speak to your group, get in touch. ☞

Ngā mihi, Duncan Webb, MP for Christchurch Central



Dr Duncan Webb, MP for Christchurch Central

Making New Zealand more accessible to all

The Government is consulting on the Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill until November 7. When it becomes an Act it will create an accessibility committee, mostly made up of people with disabilities, who will advise the Minister for Disability Issues Poto Williams, help build up knowledge of the sector, keep disability issues front of policymakers' minds and make the Government accountable on progress towards

removing barriers for those with disabilities to achieve their goals of independence and full participation in all areas of life. This website: https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/53SCSS_SCF_BILL_125643/accessibility-for-new-zealanders-bill contains links to the bill, documents in different formats eg: sign language and audio recordings related to the consultation.

Local history

Miss Adela Innes – A musical talent in St Albans

by Jonathan Allan

Level 2 in Tūranga (central city library) houses the city archives He Kōhinga Pūranga and is home to a gem of an historic manuscript of interest to those researching information on early 20th century St Albans.

The 57 page document entitled “When the Street was a Village” tells of the early days of Caledonian Road and surrounds and was written by Adela Innes in 1977, when she was aged 79. Born in 1898, she lived in the same house in the same street for most of her life. The manuscript told of her education and connection to St Matthew's Anglican Church her years as a teacher of singing and piano. She also performed as a soprano soloist for many years.

The memoir is available for viewing only in the Wāhi Rangahau / Research Room, and is still under copyright.

Most of the memoir relates to the history of Caledonian Road and some of its immediate surrounds, but mostly Adela recounts her memory of the occupants of the street recounting the details of the families, their house, section, and their occupations – several ran small business from their property, like her parents.

Whether Adela relied on diaries to prompt her memory or just relied on memories alone, the result is amazing in terms of the details she has been able to recall. According to Innes, Caledonian Road was formed in 1875, and was muddy until widened and metalled in 1876. Initially, it was only built on the west side, the other having a deep ditch and paddocks beyond.

Following three chapters headed: “Introduction”, the manuscript contains 11 named and numbered chapters. The final chapter is numbered “12”. There is no Chapter 10 (maybe an error is transcription from what was likely a handwritten version), and the pages are numbered consecutively 1 through to 57.

The three introductory chapters cover acknowledgements from the writer, background to the formation of Caledonian Road, and other local streets. After these topics the early lives of her grandparents and parents are dealt with. The remaining chapters of the memoir are self-explanatory: “Changes” 1, 2, and 3; “Early Childhood”; “Personalities in the Street”; “Random Memories”; “Christchurch Girls High School”; and “Later Years of the Street”.

Adela was educated at St Matthew's Day School, St Albans Primary School, Christchurch Girls High, where she left with a higher leaving certificate and Miss Digby's Commercial School where she did a course in shorthand and typing.

Her only absence from her Caledonian Road home was in 1917/18. The family could not afford to send Adela to Canterbury College, so she sat the Public Service entrance examination, and having done well, was offered a position in the Department of Internal Affairs in Wellington. Her first work there, in 1917, turned out to be for the Base Records of



“Curragh” – the Gordon residence from Springfield Road, now in Ferrymead Heritage Park

the War Department, counting the words of the casualty telegrams going to relatives in order to reconcile the Post Office account with the word count.

She returned to Christchurch in 1918, and not being able to find work as a clerk, took a course in shorthand and typing. At this time she discovered that as she had left school with a higher leaving certificate, she was entitled to a year's bursary at a college. To her regret she had not been told of this at the time as it was only on offer the year after leaving school. Adela's real wish was to have studied singing. She clearly was a good soprano, appearing in many competitions, concerts and on radio in Christchurch. She went on to become a teacher in voice and piano for many years. How much Adela travelled within New Zealand and abroad isn't known, but two travel items in the Christchurch Press in 1961 contributed by her showed that she had been in England about this time.

One of the houses described was situated on the south west corner of Holly and Springfield Roads and in Adela's mother's time was occupied by George Gordon and his family. Gordon was the first Town Clerk of Christchurch. Surrounding their land was a holly hedge, and it is thought Holly Road was given this name because of the hedge. The house was to have been demolished about 1970, but thanks to public pressure it was relocated to Ferrymead Heritage Park. The private lane through the land became Holly Road.

Adela believed that after the Gordons “some people named De Renzy lived there”. However, it is likely that this is a reference to the Gordon's daughter. Mary de Renzy – de Renzy being Mrs Gordon's maiden name. Mary was an active suffragist, and as a widow (Mrs Newton) took in Canterbury College boarders at her home in Bealey Avenue. One of these was Ernest Rutherford who ended up marrying Mrs Newton's daughter Mary (known as May).

In 1976, Adele then aged 78, was obliged to move out of her house, and the property which had originally been acquired by her grandfather 112 years previously was sold. She died on 15 February 1990 and was interred in the family plot in Linwood Cemetery. ☞


Hi, I'm Brigita, a maternity nurse, sleep consultant, routine advisor, and baby whisperer based in Christchurch.
I'm pretty much obsessed with all things baby!
I've been working with new parents to create newborn parenting routines that let whole families thrive and grow together.
www.bhbabychand.com
p. +64 27 265 4025
e. babyhand2020@gmail.com

Edgware Pool Project
Last quiz of the year
November 20 at 7pm at Bailies
 

Carols at Packe Street Park
Sunday December 4th
4 pm start. Carols at 5
For more information visit our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/packestreet

ST ALBANS TENNIS CLUB
Adult Back to Tennis 4 week refresher from 9th November
Contact Nick Caton:
info@nickcatontennis.co.nz
37 Dover St, off Edgware Rd

Learning in a modern learning environment

by Martin Cooney

One joy of grandparenting is the after-school pickup—particularly from Room 1. That smile of recognition followed by the run up and hug! It makes the traffic buildup, jostling for a handy car park, and being outside the classroom by 10 to 3, all worthwhile. Only it's not a "classroom"—it's an "MLE"—a "Modern Learning Environment" rebuilt after the earthquake. It rooms about 80 kids and about 5 staff.

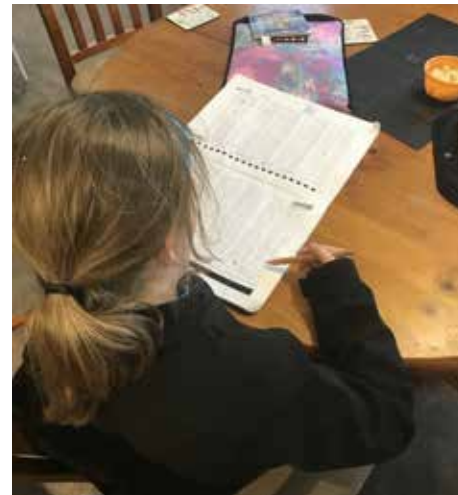
Next we pick up the older grandchild (if it's Wednesday—don't forget the guitar!) and head to the car. If it's fine, it's to a park for a play. We aim to get home around 4pm as there is "home learning" in the girls' bags. It comprises mostly reading and arithmetic. Nothing has really changed though—the children still need pressure to leave their free time and "do your home learning (work)".

Another parent proudly said that our youngest grandchild is at the highest level of reading in her year group—along with his daughter. But

Hazel seems blissfully unaware that she may be "first in class", just happy she can understand the stories in her books. The reading level is printed on the back of the books so the students are ability grouped. The arithmetic they do each night, covers addition and subtraction and times tables.

I initially was sceptical of the MLE change, being a retired teacher myself. But the teachers and children clearly like it. "Discovery time" is a one monthly opportunity for family to get inside the MLE classroom and it is here the advantages become clear. For two hours, the MLE room become the base of about 15 activities which the children can choose to move around in. Whanau and teachers are placed in charge of making chocolate drinks, repairing a bird's nest, games and so on. The range of teachers and the size of the classroom make this possible. In my day, you would have had to requisition the school hall!

The PPTA recently stated they want "streaming" or grouping students on



the basis of skill level gone by 2030. When you have multiple teachers available in an MLE to help individuals with their learning at their own level, streaming is less of a requirement. But there would need to be a massive investment to allow secondary schools as currently designed to move beyond streaming. Meritocracy will still require pushing children to do their best and not be held back. Learning is still a life-long experience needing good starting blocks for all. ☘

Volunteers 'busy bees' at Packe St garden

by Helen Kidd

BUSY, BUSY, BUSY sums up Packe Street Park at this time of year. The volunteers have been creating new garden beds for more vegetables, raising seedlings, and of course pruning and clearing. Currently the weeds are winning—if you have any time to spare, come along and pull a few weeds, or better still, join the volunteer team and help maintain this wonderful productive and relaxing space.

One recent Saturday morning we expanded our regular seedling swap morning into a little market with a few stalls, face painting, and a sausage sizzle supporting Ōtautahi Outreach. It's great to be able to work with other organisations to benefit all, and we'll do this again.

Composting is an ongoing major project at the park and we welcome donations of food scraps for the compost. We recently received a donation of dehydrated, powdered food scraps from the Convention Centre. This is very concentrated and will be gradually added to compost bins along with other matter.

Thank you to the people who have donated plants for the succulent garden. This is now taking shape, and pavers dug up from that area have been replaced as a pathway across it.

A planter box left at the park is being painted with



different textures and mosaic designs, planted with textured plants, and now houses a small tactile garden. Thank you to whoever donated it.

Watch out for the annual Carols at Packe Street Park, to be held this year on Sunday December 4. Put it in your diary now—more details to come.

We appreciate the plants, seedlings, pots, and other garden bits that people leave for the Park. Community support is essential to ensure the future of the park, and we would like more people to volunteer as casual gardeners. If you have a little time, and like gardening and social contact, please come along. Working bees are currently Thursday at 2pm, and Saturday at 10am. ☘

St Albans parks and gardens

Tamariki help endangered longfin eels in St Albans

This year the tamariki in Te Tikanga Rua Reo (bilingual unit) at St Albans School committed to a inquiry based learning project to help endangered long fin eels.

They met Jenny Bond from Te Tuna o te Tāone (Urban Eel—Christchurch Envirohub Trust) whose main kaupapa is to revitalise the population of longfin tuna (eels) in Ōtautahi through yearlong action learning projects. Te Tuna Tāone is funded by Christchurch City Council's Sustainability Fund until December 2022.

Since early 2022, tamariki have spent time at the St Albans Creek, catching and releasing local eels in the stream. "We want to make the environment eel friendly, which in turn will revitalise the population."

Tamariki analysed the water quality through temperature and clarity, studied the habitat and environment such as plants, trees and the state of the stream banks. They also measured the flow and investigated the variety of bugs living in the water.

During reflection activities tamariki identified what they did and did not like and created an action plan to add value and look after this environment. They investigated what a good environment would be, what needs to be changed, such as removing 'wilding' exotic trees that shade the growth of smaller native plants, stabilising the banks, putting rocks in the stream to create flow and removing some of the mud/sediment from the creek bottom.

They came up with some initial social actions. Teina/Junior social actions are to:



1. Remove mud/sediment
2. Remove rubbish from in and around the stream

Key actions for tuakana/seniors were about improving the habitat by:

1. Creation of a mural on an exterior wall showing a healthy awa (stream)
2. Mud removal, planting native plants and using rocks to stabilise the banks etc.

The children wrote to the city council and told them about their investigations and what they wanted to do to help the eels and the stream. They met council staff later at the stream and found them keen to support their ideas.

At the moment tamariki are learning about native plants that protect stream banks and help filter or stop the mud/

sediment from the banks getting into the stream.

"We are planning to have our whānau come in to help with shovels, wheelbarrows and strong muscles to help remove some of the mud/sediment. This is likely to happen later in the term when it is a little warmer.

"Then we are asking for permission to get the 'wilding' exotics removed so we can replace them with native plants to protect the stream banks.

"We are so proud of our mahi and are excited to bring our social actions to reality and share our love for our native longfin tuna (eels)."

Written by the tamariki aged 5 to 10 years in Te Tikanga Rua Reo, Te Kura o Hato Ōpani, with the assistance of kaiako. This piece has been edited for length.

For more information on the project to save longfin eels visit: <https://www.chchenvirohub.org/blog/te-tuna-taone/> ☘

Get ready for a blooming summer

The scent of blooming wisteria and jasmine has been filling the air in our neighbourhood this month, and the warming days (except for the odd spot of rain and snow) have been coaxing out irises and tulips of every imaginable colour.

As Labour Weekend and the risk of frost are firmly in our rear-view mirror, we can now plant out those more fragile plants with confidence. Tender tomato and basil seedlings can be planted out in beds or patio pots. Cucurbits including pumpkin and zucchini can be sown, as well as fast-growing crops like lettuce, radish, rocket and salad turnips.

To give your crops the best chance of a bountiful harvest, top up your beds with compost or liquid fertiliser prior

to planting to boost nutrient levels that may have been depleted over the last growing season.

While many deciduous trees are now in full bloom, consider giving your pollinators a little extra incentive—keep your bird baths clean and full, remember (if you're in the habit of leaving food out for them) to feed them whole seeds/grains rather than processed wheat products. As for bees and other insects, a small patch of wildflowers can do a long way and have positive flow-on effects for your garden's fertility. ☘

Good gardening,

Basil

Community Notices

Canterbury Embroiderers' Guild: Hammersley Community Centre, Amos Place. 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: Cards: Mondays 12.30 - 3 pm. Indoor bowls: Tuesdays 12.45 - 3 pm. Activities group have outings for meals, social days, bus trips. Further information – call Veronica 383 4682 or 021 1187 360 or Beth 389 2375 or 027 2610 4931

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 Kōhinga St Albans Community Centre. Join us for coffee and conversation, meet others in your community. All Welcome. Koha for coffee appreciated.

Coffee with friends: Would you like company, meet new people, make new friends? Then join us for a cup of coffe or tea and some home baking at the Reformed Church Hall, 63 Cornwall Street every Friday at 10:30am. Any queries please ask Sarah at 027 758 5141

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.

Community Bible study: Small non denominational Bible reading 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: 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. Visitors welcome. Friendly club, parking. No partner, contact Maureen on 021 646 123.

Family Drug Support Aotearoa New Zealand: free phone line set up to support family/whānau and friends impacted by the alcohol and other drug misuse of people they care about. Phone the support line on 0800 337 877 or 03 2818 740 for other enquiries.

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 12.30 - 2.15pm. \$2 per card or bring a prize to the value of the card. Afternoon tea to follow. All ages welcome. Numbers are limited. Gold coin donation. Enquiries ph 372 9224. Visit website: www.lcmchristchurch.org.nz.

Knitting Group meets every Tue at Edge Cafe 10 - 11 am. Ph Mandy 022 365 0745.

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

Morning tea at Kōhinga St Albans Community Centre, the first Thursday of the month at 10 am. Everyone welcome. For more information phone 9725534

NZ Japan Society of Canterbury provides 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

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.

Rotary New Horizons meets at St Albans Community Centre every second Wednesday of the month at 6pm. Email Marg at mlyons747@gmail.com for more info or find us on Facebook, or visit www.rotarynewhorizons.org.nz

Saygo Falls Prevention: Mondays 10 – 11am and Thursdays 9.30 – 10.30 am. \$2 entry. Three 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 Edgware Caledonian Rds, Tuesdays at 7.30pm, February - November. 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 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.

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.

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

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. 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).

The Greater Company of Mary Associates and Affiliates Mass will be held on Saturday 26 November 2022, 10.30am at the Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham Street North. All welcome, morning tea after. Rsvp by Monday 21 November, ph 372 9224 or visit lcmchristchurch.org.nz.

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 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.

Becoming You Yoga: \$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 at St Albans Community

Centre. All abilities and ages welcome.

Tracy 022 048 6949 or 03 356 1754

Qualified Florist: Located at 201 Geraldine Street, Edgware. Same day delivery. theflowershopchristchurch.co.nz 02108355345

TRADIES

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.

Mental Health Support

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

- **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:** 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
- **Are You OK?** Family violence helpline 0800 456 450.
- **Canterbury Charity Hospital:** 03 360 2266
- **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
- **Counsellors** available via text: 1737
- **Depression:** 0800 111 757 or text 4302
- **Eating Disorder Recovery Support:** Here you will find a place to: connect with eating disorder experts, find recommended resources and join a forum for families. If you would like to talk about it further, please contact: 021 195 6766.

- **Family Drug Support Aotearoa New Zealand.** Support for families impacted by the alcohol and other drug use of family members. Tel: 03 2818 740. www.fds.org.nz
- **Kidslines:** 0800 54 37 54—For under 18s, 24/7
- **Male Survivors:** 03 365 9000
- **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
- **OUTLine NZ:** provides confidential telephone support for matters of gender or sexuality, 0800 688 5463
- **Rape Crisis:** 0800 883 300 for support after rape or sexual assault.
- **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 0800 742 584
- **Suicidal?** Phone 0508 828 865

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

November 20, 7pm: Bailies Pool Quiz

November 27, 5pm: St Albans Choir Christmas Carols, St Paul's Church, 3 Harewood Rd, Papanui

December 3, 10-2pm: St Albans Community Centre Christmas Market

ST ALBANS
COMMUNITY CHOIR
will be presenting
CHRISTMAS CAROLS FROM
AROUND THE WORLD
Sunday, November 27 at 5pm
St Paul's Parish Church
3 Harewood Road, Papanui
Entry by donation.
The audience will have
opportunities to join the choir and
sing a few traditional carols too.
Please be prepared to wear
a face mask should Covid
protection conditions
necessitate.

Come and choose a book from
the wonderful selection at:

**Mairehau
Library Book
Sale**

**Saturday
November 19
10 am - 4 pm**

42a Kensington Avenue, off Innes
Rd and Westminster Street

St Albans and beyond

Kohinga shortlisted for award

Kohinga, the St Albans Community Centre, has been shortlisted for an New Zealand Institute of Architects national award under the public architecture category. Other shortlisted buildings in this category include the Ravenscar House Museum in the central city, built to house the art collection of the late Jim and Susan Wakefield whose Scarborough home was destroyed in the February 2011 earthquake. The other three are North Island entries. A jury of architects visited the centre in September. Kohinga has been recognised for its environmental aspects, in particular the laminated timber that has sequestered carbon. It was designed by an architect working for the Christchurch City Council and opened on 10 April 2021 to replace a 1920s unreinforced concrete building. The winners will be presented with the award at a dinner in the Christchurch Town Hall on November 18.

Slowing driving speeds

The Ministry of Transport wants to drive down the number of deaths and injuries happening in city streets by lowering speeds to 40kph and even 30kph around schools. Local councils are now consulting on creating safe speed neighbourhoods. Regardless of the cause of a crash speed is the difference between someone being able to walk away unharmed or being seriously injured or killed. When

everyone travels a bit slower people feel safer using the street and walks, scoot or bike to parks, schools and shops.

The speed around schools is currently around 40kph and that will drop to 30kph. Remaining neighbourhood streets could be limited to 40kph. St Albans already has 40 and 30 kph limits in many streets as part of a plan to calm suburban streets after the motorway off-ramp started funneling more cars through the area. To comment pin your views to an online map at ccc.mysocialpinpoint.com.au. Driving the road toll down to zero is part of a 10 year Government plan. Local speed reductions are expected to be implemented in June 2024. More information is available here:

<https://ccc.govt.nz/transport/travel-safety-and-travel-updates/travel-safety/safe-speeds/>

Abberley Park focus of research

SARA and the Friends of Abberley are calling for expressions of interest from families willing to join a focus group for a study on local social and environmental resilience. This study will be conducted by Dr Rita Dionisio and Dr Ed Challies from the University of Canterbury and is currently awaiting ethics approval from the university. For further information contact Emma Twaddell emma@stalbens.gen.nz or research lead Dr Rita Dionisio (rita.dionisio@canterbury.ac.nz).



SAKET INDIAN
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10% off all takeout orders

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03 366 7223

***opening soon in Prebbleton**