

30 years young at Packe St

Friends of Packe Street Park and Community Garden recently celebrated its 30th birthday.

Patrons Peggy Kelly and Anthony Wright, plus garden coordinator Helen Kidd cut the official cake.

Peggy, a Packe St resident, met Helen eight years ago when she had taken on the job for just three months. "How lucky were we? She is a treasure - turned 80 years young in 2025. Full of energy, imagination and goodwill," Peggy said.

Anthony Wright (also director of the Canterbury Museum) lives in Edgeware and was a botanist and close



Packe St patrons Peggy Kelly and Anthony Wright with garden coordinator Helen Kidd.

friend of Peggy's late husband Bill Sykes, despite their nearly 30 year age difference. "Anthony gave us the kauri and the rimu trees growing in Packe St Park for the past 25 years. Our committee asked him to be the Packe St Society's Patron - a role he has taken to heart for about 15 years," Peggy said.

The anniversary programme included the St Albans choir, birthday speech by Cr Pauline Cotter, tree planting by former mayor Garry Moore, a garden tour by Peggy and garden coordinator Nikki Staskiewicz, and additional explanations by plant ecologist Colin Meurk.

More photos of Packe Street Park on page 8

'Bring your digger Phil Mauger' - residents at wits end

by Chris Hutching

Road rage and dangerous behaviour have been driving Francis Ave residents to distraction as motorists and buses are forced to use the leafy street.

In rush hours, traffic is snarled along its length. Adjacent Flockton St to the east has been closed for street works for months, Aylesford St further along has had road cones on it, while the other potential alternative - Forfar St - was closed permanently at the Warrington St end by city council traffic planners in May 2020.

Residents Erin and Don McGill are adamant Forfar St should be reopened with appropriate road calming structures, because even when Flockton St is reopened the problem will remain with all the new apartment developments. "We need mayor Phil Mauger with his digger."

"There used to be about 5000 traffic movements along Forfar St. Closing it has simply moved them to adjacent streets. If you live on streets north of Westminster St such as Mersey, Severn or Thames you are going to choose Francis Ave or Flockton St to get to Warrington St and town. We made a big effort to reverse the Forfar closure but we hit a brick wall," Erin said.

Motorists have become increasingly impatient, while truck drivers and tradesmen have been driving at excessive speeds along the narrow spaces despite signs forbidding parking on one side of the avenue.

Another resident, Mel McGowan, said most

of the increased traffic was from local St Albans and Mairehau people trying to travel between Westminster and Warrington streets, rather than rat runners from out of town. "Forfar St is one of

the widest streets in St Albans at 12 metres. You could build townhouses down the middle of it. The more roads that are open to spread the load the better. We've asked them many times to reopen Forfar St," Mel said.

Road rage erupted when a bus was forced to cut the corner into Francis Ave from Westminster St and a motorist refused to back up. Wing mirrors had been broken, cyclists forced onto the footpath, and older houses shaken by buses, Mel said. "Francis Ave isn't the inner city. I'm pro-bike but not everyone can bike or bus all the time," Mel said.

Community board member Emma Twaddell said reopening Forfar St would only be a temporary answer to traffic coming from north of the city. Public transport and biking was the solution, she said.



Erin and Don McGill



Activities at the community centre

Weekly groups that meet at the community centre.

Monday	10am	Saygo - join waiting list
	11am	Happy Feet
	11.30am	Tai Chi with Jan
	1.30pm	Yoga with Hamish
	5pm	Universal Martial Arts
Tuesday	9.30am	Zumba with JB
	10am	NeighbourNet/SeniorNet Mac
	5.30	Pippins
	7pm	Avon Toastmasters
	7pm	Ungu Capoeira
Wednesday	10am	SeniorNet Mac
	10.30am	The Corner, coffee and chat
	3.45	Enchanting Productions
	7.00pm	Capoeira Angola
Thursday	9.30am	Saygo - join waiting list
	10.45am	Yoga with Tracy Kells
	10am	NeighbourNet
	5.00pm	Universal Martial Arts
	7.15pm	Women in Harmony
Friday	10am	SeniorNet Mac
	10am	Social Square Dancing
	3.45	Enchanting Productions
	6pm	Impact Youth
Call Centre for details		

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

One off or monthly activities/events can be notified for free in community notices, events column or through paid advertising. Please contact advertising@stalbands.gen.nz for information and rates.

St Albans events

If you have events you would like announced here, please email: news@stalbands.gen.nz

May 4 & June 8, 10.30 am: Cafe Chat at Kohinga/ St Albans Community Centre

May 9, 10am-12pm: Cleanup at Westminster/ Courtney corner

May 23, 12-3pm: Skate Jam at St Albans Park

June 5, 11am: Arbor day at Abberley Park

June 20, 1-4 pm: Matariki at Rehua, 79 Springfield Rd

June 21: Winter Christmas Trail, see advert page 3

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ST ALBANS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

Cafe Chat

May 4

MAREE HANSEN FROM PURAPURA WHETŪ SPEAKING ABOUT THE NEW CRISIS RECOVERY CAFE

June 8

HAYLEY GUGLIETTA SPEAKING ABOUT THE AVON OTĀKARO NETWORK & PLACEMAKING IN RICHMOND

ST ALBANS COMMUNITY CENTRE 1049 COLOMBO ST
10.30AM - 12.00PM

SARA Committee

The next St Albans Residents Assoc committee meeting will be held June 10 at 7pm. A Public Forum meeting will be held on May 20 at Kohinga St Albans Community Centre, 1049 Colombo St.

Advertising in St Albans News

If you would like to advertise in the News, phone Lynne on 972 5534 or email advertising@stalbands.gen.nz

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

St Albans Strategy

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

St Albans History Group

Next meetings: May 4 at 2pm at the St Albans Community Centre.
Email: briangspear@hotmail.com

BBQ Trailer for hire

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

The deadline for the July/August issue of St Albans News is June 15

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



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St Albans Mother of all

Saturday, 9 May

10.00 - 12.00

Meet @
Westminster/Courtenay
St corner

Clean Ups

Protect Christchurch's waterways

ST ALBANS SKATE JAM

Saturday 23 May

12pm - 3pm

ST ALBANS PARK

FREE EVENT

ALL WELCOME

Tips, challenges & competitions
Live Music, Food & a clothing stall

CHRISTCHURCH NEW ZEALAND

Edgeware pool seeks community support

As the Edgeware Pool prepares to open at the end of this year - just in time for summer - the Edgeware pool board is seeking expressions of interest from local residents who have skills or experience that could contribute to the management and operation of the complex.

We welcome input from individuals with a wide range of skills, including administration, maintenance, event coordination, community engagement, and governance.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the group by emailing: swim@edgewarepool.co.nz, calling 03 355 5868, or via the contact form on our website: edgewarepool.co.nz.

Be part of bringing this exciting community facility to life - we'd love to hear from you!

Lynne O'Keefe, St Albans Pavilion and Pool Inc chair ☞



St Albans News May/June 2026, Vol 34, Issue 2

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 to:

news@stalbens.gen.nz

<http://www.facebook.com/StAlbansNews>

Letters can be mailed to:

1049 Colombo Street, Chch 8014

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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.



Fundraiser

WINTER CHRISTMAS TRAIL

Town and Country
Christmas House Tour

Sunday 21 June 2026

Early bird tickets until 22 May 2026
zontachristchurch.org.nz



Keep Moving

by Dr Caroline Christie

Keeping moving is key to helping you and your whanau stay healthy and well. A minimum of 20 to 30 minutes activity on most days will help your health.

Dancing, riding bikes or playing with your children are clever ways to keep active.

Try starting with 10 minutes a day and build up over time. We are fortunate to have parks in the area.

There is now a new initiative through the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners in conjunction with Park Run, which is free. The closest ones are Riverlution Eco Park and Hagley Park. They offer a 5 km run or walk on Saturday mornings at 8 am. <https://www.parkrun.co.nz/>

Other activities such as yoga, tai chi or pilates help strengthen your core muscles in your abdomen and back which help prevent injuries. ACC offer an app known as Nymbal which is free to download for kiwis aged 50 and older. See: <https://www.acc.co.nz/newsroom/stories/keeping-your-balance-with-nymbal>

The long-term health benefits include preventing heart disease, strokes, dementia, obesity and many cancers. <https://healthify.nz/hauora-wellbeing>

Edgware Health is a new GP clinic, and we are currently taking new enrolments. Wait times are short. We are open 8.30 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday at 701 Barbadoes Street, Edgware. Please phone us on 03 385 1701 or visit our website on www.edgwarehealth.co.nz. ☼

Wednesday Coffee and Conversation Group



Regulars and new members are welcome every

Wednesday from 10.30am—12.30pm

Come in for a cuppa, chat, and company

Saturday Nibble and Refreshments

4—5.30 pm, 2nd Saturday of month

Come join Leigh and her host for company and friendship. Everyone is welcome.

Kohinga/St Albans Community Centre

Urban Forest under way

The city council is planning to remove and trim trees in St Albans streets while promoting a project called Urban Forests.

English Park next to St Albans Primary School is destined to receive 23 new trees which will provide canopy cover of about 19% on the site. There are 72 other parks (out of 1200 throughout Christchurch) where similar programmes are under way.

Meanwhile, the streets to receive removal and trimming include Massey Cres, St James Ave, Emmett, Jebson, Riselaw, Dudley and Skipton streets. (Some have arguably been adversely affected by poor pruning – ed).

The report says there are numerous streets in the Papanui and Innes wards with old oak trees “which present challenging management and maintenance options”.

These streets have also been identified as non-compliant with electricity regulations, the council says.

Trees requiring canopy reduction work and potential for removals are in Massey Cres due to wind damage trees, and will see canopy reduction, removals and planting. In St. James Ave there is wind damage and whole tree failure.

Dudley St pruning was scheduled for late April. A planting plan will be available for Massey Cres community feedback following two removals. Planting plans for a total of 100 trees have been formulated for Emmett, Jebson, Riselaw and Skipton streets. ☼

Get ready for it!
Arbor Day event in planning
- Abberley Park -
Friday 5th June
Starting 11 am

More volunteers needed to help with this community event!
 Please leave contact details with Kohinga – Phone 03-972-5534.

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Council news on flooding

by Pauline Cotter, Cr Innes

Flooding remains one of our key concerns, particularly around Edgeware Village. I recently met with the mayor on site to look at options for reducing this risk. One solution currently being explored involves pumping stormwater eastward during heavy rain events, allowing it to reconnect with the St Albans Stream closer to Hills Road. This is actually the natural direction water used to flow, but over time, changes in the land mean gravity alone can no longer do

the job, leading to water pooling in the village.

Alongside infrastructure improvements, there's also a strong focus on emergency preparedness with community organisations preparing resilience plans to ensure shelter, food, and care if an emergency occurs.

As we head into the colder months, it's also a good time to think about keeping warm and well. The Mayor's Welfare Fund, can help with essential costs like power bills or firewood. mwf@ccc.govt.nz. ☘

Rapid transit plan drags on

Christchurch City Council's Mass Rapid Transit plan is at least 12 months away from knowing what additional land it may need for its route, according to St Albans Residents Association chair Harrison McEvoy.

SARA will be hosting a forum discussion around transport investment in St Albans at Kohinga St Albans Community Centre on May 20th, he said.

The project, which is now almost a decade old, would see a mass rapid transit along a route, including Papanui

Road, to try and stem the traffic influx from the northern suburbs and the Waimakariri District by offering a park-and-ride alternative from Belfast.

Work is focused on what land is needed to build the stations and bridges, and which potential transit malls will be rebuilt, at places like Merivale Mall. Private land may be designated.

The indicative business case has been signed off by Waka Kotahi, but funding is yet to be finalised. ☘

New candidate for Christchurch Central

by Duncan Webb

Come November I will be on my bike in a more permanent sense as I am not standing in the election, so I am very pleased to be handing the Christchurch Central reins over to our new candidate, George Hampton.

George studied at the University of Canterbury and was a Fulbright Scholar. He has had a career as a diplomat but his most recent role was with the United Nations.

Meanwhile, about 30,000 extra cycle trips have been taken in Christchurch as a result of the rising petrol prices. This is no surprise given how easy it is to get around Christchurch on a bike. We absolutely should continue to design a city where we can have as many transport choices as possible – including walking, cycling and busing.

The fuel crisis will prompt more people to try another transport option – it might even be fun! ☘



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Community Notices

Canterbury Embroiderers' Guild: Hammersley Community Centre, Amos Pl. Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri. Contact Pauline 021 188 7727. Email CEGstitchers@gmail.com.

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

Citizens Advice Bureau: Need help? Ask us. Free service. Fendalton Library, 4 Jefferies Rd 0800 367 222 www.cab.org.nz

Coffee and conversation: every Wednesday 10.30 am – 12.30 pm at Kohinga. All welcome. Koha for coffee appreciated. All welcome.

Coffee with friends: Meet new people, make new friends. Join us for a cup of coffee or tea and home baking at. Reformed Church Hall, 63 Cornwall St every Fri at 10:30am.

Community Bible Study: Small non denominational class. Phone Veronica 021 0229 2613

Computer aided, touch typing for students 9 or older with difficulties reading, writing and spelling. Seabrook McKenzie Centre, London St. Mon, Tues 4-5pm.

Community Centre Talk: Air Force Museum of NZ – Rationing in the 1940s. Monday 4 May 2026, 1.30-2.30pm at the Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham St North. All ages welcome. Cuppa to follow. Donation/koha requested to help cover costs. Enquiries ph 372 9224.

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

Edgeware Croquet Club: Forfar Street in St Albans Park. Assoc Croquet Thur and Sat 9.30-12 and Golf Croquet 12.45 -3pm. We welcome visitors and new members. Contact Jan 021 30 3843

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

Family Drug Support Aotearoa New Zealand: Ph 03 21818740

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

Gambling Harm? Salvation Army Oasis: free counselling and support for anyone affected by gambling harm, whether it's their gambling or someone else's. Ph (03) 365 9659 or call in to 126 Bealey Ave. Website: oasis@salvationarmy.org.nz

HOUSIE: Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham St North, every Thursday at 12.30 - 2.15pm. \$2 per card. Afternoon tea to follow. All welcome. Numbers limited. Gold coin donation. Enquiries ph 372 9224. Visit website: www.lcmchristchurch.org.nz.

Judo: kids classes 4 - 5.30/6pm, different ages, different days at 4 Forfar St. Phone Graeme 0212264100 for more information

Justice of the Peace available at Kohinga Saturdays 10.30 - 12.30.

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

More Than Music. For families with preschoolers 9.30 every Wed during term time at Rutland St Church. Contact church office 3554101 or text Nicola on 0272831905

Predator Free St Albans: Interested in trapping rats? Contact: FB page, Predator Free St Albans or ph 021 0648861

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

Support The Respiratory Relief Society Canterbury Inc. runs weekly exercise classes Tuesdays from 1-00-2-15pm at St. Albans Uniting Church Nancy Ave for people with respiratory, cardiac and vascular conditions. Contact David Chamberlain 332 4471 or Donella Kyle, 0210 282 1565.

Scottish Highland Dancing Lessons. Saturday's 10 am – 10.45, for 4+ year olds and preschoolers to learn the basics. \$2.00 each for Saturday lessons with qualified tutors. Programme runs from 2 May to 27th June 2026. Scottish Society Hall, corner Caledonian & Edgeware Road.

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

Seniornet Mac: Help with Apple devices at the St Albans Community Centre on Wednesdays and Fridays 10am- noon.

Shirley International Playgroup:

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

Shirley Rugby League: Need players to join our family club, girls and boys welcome, ages 4 to Masters age 35 yrs. Contact Rochelle 021 133 5437.

St Albans Preschool: Community not for profit preschool based at 3 Thames Street offers care for children aged 2 to 5 years. 20 hours free from 2 years old. Contact Suzy on 027 355 9396 for more information.

Shirley Ladies Friendship Club meets 2nd Wednesday of the month 10.00am at All Saints Church 305 New Brighton Road. Interesting speakers, walking group and trips are arranged. Please phone Dale 385 1133 for more information.

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

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

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

St Albans Uniting Church, 36 Nancy Ave. Services Sundays at 10am.

Social Square Dancing Group welcomes dancers who have danced Mainstream. No partner required. Contact: George Murray 0212942669 or email masakomizusawa@hotmail.com

U3A St Albans: meet at St Albans Uniting Church. Monthly 4th Thursday 9.45am, morning tea followed by speaker. Many more activities. Visitors warmly welcomed. Call Jenny 021 149 7990.

Weekend Group: Second Saturday of the month 4 – 5.30 pm at Kohinga. Meet for friendship and company. Refreshments provided. Koha appreciated (\$5).

Women in Harmony community choir: Thursdays in school terms from 7.15pm to 9.00pm at Kohinga St Albans Community Centre. World and popular music in 3 part harmony. Please Email: women.in.harmony.nz@gmail.com; facebook.com/womeninharmonychristchurch

St Albans News Classifieds

SERVICES

Having difficulty making family, work, relationship or legal decisions?

We can help you make practical decisions. Call Bill Demeter 027 379 3873. Can meet St Albans Community Centre. No charge for this service

Italian language classes: all levels at St Albans Community Centre. Info on our website: www.dantechch.com

Music Lessons: Tuition at your tempo! Music lessons for all ages and stages with In Tune Music Studios NZ (027 606 4023 or nicola.intune@gmail.com)

SUZUKI Piano Lessons: Beth Robinson, 021 231 4039 bhr.797@gmail.com

Yoga Class: Thursday 10:45am-12pm at Kohinga St Albans Community Centre. All

abilities and ages welcome. Tracy 022 048 6949

Yoga: Monday 5:45-7pm. Mary Potter Centre, 442 Durham Street North. Join anytime. Enquiries: Kerry 027-2118519

TRADIES

Cleaner wanted:, one clean, tidy person in unit, once per fortnight, \$45.00. Easy clean, about an hour. MUST be honest, reliable and trustworthy. Please phone 02102723372

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.

General Junk: For residential rubbish removal call General Junk 027 313 8782

Painter: Experienced local tradesman, interior/exterior, full repaints, fences, decks. Residential or commercial. Call now for

quality painting services at competitive rates. Timeliness guaranteed. Shayne 027 214 1827

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

Roofing repairs: leaks and maintenance. Phone Richie 021 342 852

Laundry Assistant wanted for a small commercial Laundry, city location. Experience not required training is available, must have a reasonable level of Fitness. Full Licence would be a bonus. Call Deb 0275145586

New laundrymat

A new laundrymat is setting up in Edgeware Village to cater to the larger number of residents in the area, including the many people living in recently-built apartments.

Hayez coming

Hayez restaurant is opening soon on Westminster St opposite Schroeders Bar, replacing the former hospice shop.



Edgware Health

701 Barbadoes Street

ENROLLING NOW

Dr Caroline Christie
GP Clinic

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Duncan Webb

MP for Christchurch Central
03 366 5519 | chchcentral@parliament.govt.nz
www.labour.org.nz

Authorised by Duncan Webb MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

Reporting a crime or anti-social behaviour

Our street community is enabled when people give money, and it is worth remembering that:

Giving money to people on the street is a short-term act of kindness

Supporting a local social service is a long-term community solution - you can make a donation to City Mission

- Call 111 for Police
 - Injuries or danger
 - Serious risk to life or property
 - Crimes in progress or just occurred.
- Call 105 or report on line - www.police.govt.nz/use-105
 - If a crime has happened
 - To report suspicious behaviour
 - To report anti-social behaviour
- Remember, any criminal or anti-social behaviour that is not reported will not be included when crime patterns are analysed.
- Reporting welfare concerns for homeless or street-based people call or email the Christchurch City Mission Outreach Team
 - 0800 787 855
 - outreach@citymission.org.nz

Happy days at Packe St anniversary



Matthew Whittle is a supplier of mushroom compost that fertilises the gardens



Entertainer Inga



Left: Alex and Fletcher among the Packe St greenery
Right: Melissa and Hilary were in charge of the pikelets.



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