St Albans News

The Voice of our Neighbourhood

July 2022 Vol 29, Issue 6

Finding Matariki

The rise of Matariki, key star in the cluster named after it, over the horizon marks the beginning of the New Year for Māori. It signals the time is right to start planting kumara and other vegetables. The easiest way to find Matariki is to first look up at the night sky and find Tautoru *(Orion's Belt, also known as The Pot)*. Next, work from right to left past a triangular-shaped cluster called Te Kokota *(Hyades)*. You will then come across the small cluster of Matariki *(Pleiades)*. Remember, though... the most important time to observe Matariki is before the sun rises

Edgeware pool funding boosted to $3million

by Belinda Carter

The Edgeware Pool replacement is now ensured with the Christchurch City Council's top up grant of $1.75 million to St Albans Pavilion and Pool group confirmed as part of the Annual Plan on June 21.

"The extra $1 million the group needs to find now much easier to raise," spokesperson Lynne O'Keefe says.

The total amount needed for the pool to be rebuilt is now $4 million. The Council had already promised $1.25 million, but O'Keefe says it has proved difficult for the small community group to find as much as $2.75 million from local sources.

"We're absolutely thrilled the council has given us enough now to make this community pool a reality. St Albans can once again have the small community pool it had for just on 70 years. We're enormously grateful to our local councillor Pauline Cotter, supported by Papanui councillor Mike Davidson, for making this happen."

Continues on page 9

Rates increase kept to 4.66 per cent

The average rate to be paid in Christchurch in the financial year beginning on July 1 has been set at a 4.66 per cent increase, well within the rate predicted by the longterm plan.

The rate was set at the city council meeting on June 21 when the annual plan was accepted. (The plan, which includes the additional funding for the Edgeware Pool) sets out what the council will spend money on in the next year and is based on the long term plan).

The city council has managed this despite pressures from Covid19 and the impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine which have increased costs for everyone.

It was a fraction more than staff recommended and took account of some late amendments that were accepted. It could have reached 5.4 per cent had a plan been passed to defer the introduction of excess water rates for some households till July 2023.

See information about excess water charges on page 16

The St Albans News — distributed monthly to 7000 households
www.stalbans.gen.nz
Published by St Albans Residents Association

High tea at community centre

The next high tea at the community centre is on July 7. The activity run by centre staff and volunteers makes use of the fancy cups and saucers and tea service donated to the centre. Just turn up at 10am, check out the centre facilities and hear what is happening in St Albans.

Parking near community centre

Kohinga St Albans Community Centre has plenty of parking behind the centre in Caledonian Rd but do not try to use the walkway beside the centre to enter it unless you are on foot or cycling. Plenty of free street parking is also available along Caledonian Rd and Ranfurly St. Please be kind to the centre's neighbours and refrain from parking even a portion of your car over their driveway. Just dropping something off is not an excuse for bad parking. Look before you walk off. Parking rules require a gap between the bridge over the gutter and the back of your vehicle and Christchurch City Council has been known to ticket and even tow offending vehicles away.

SARA meeting change

The St Albans Residents Association is changing its committee meeting time to the third Wednesday in the month, starting from July. The change will leave more time between the end of the previous month's activities and the meeting to enable reports to be completed. The next meeting is on July 20.

Meet the candidates

The residents association will host its triennial meet the local candidates meeting on Monday September 5 at Bailies Bar. Put that in your diary and come along for some political banter and a fun evening. Local body candidates will be contacted with further information after August 12 when nominations close. ⌘

The deadline for the August issue of the St Albans News is July 18. Please send your articles, letters and notices to: news@stalbans.gen.nz

St Albans Strategy

Residents needed to join local community projects. Contact SARA@stalbans.gen.nz for more information.

Wednesday Wheelies

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

Community Centre 1049 Colombo St

The Community centre is available for hire within the Orange Traffic Light protocols. For booking enquiries please phone 972 5534 or email: communitycentre@stalbans.gen.nz or visit our website: sacc.org.nz where the centre calendar is available to view. Centre open Mon - Fri 9am - 1 pm, Mon - Thur 4.30 - 7 pm.

Advertising in St Albans News

If you would like to advertise in the News, phone Lynne on 027 433 4469 or email advertising@stalbans.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 3rd 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@stalbans.gen.nz

St Albans History Group

St Albans history group meet on the first Monday of the month at 2 pm at the St Albans Community Centre, next meeting will be July 4. Email: briangspear@hotmail.com

SARA Website

Check out SARA's website on www.stalbans.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 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

Something for everyone at winter market

The St Albans Residents Association held its first mid-winter market at Kōhinga on June 18, attracting around 30 stall holders to set up tables selling their wares. Food stalls on the apron on the community centre's forecourt offered hot chocolate, sausages and stir-fried Thai food while Chris Williams serenaded customers *(top left)*. The hall was chocka with a large range of stalls *(bottom right)* that flowed out into the hallway *(bottom left)* and adjacent rooms, selling a range of items from jewellery to pottery, freeze dried sweets to doggy treats, guinea pigs to silverbeet from the centre's garden. The Edgeware Pool group's white elephant stall gathered so many books, clothing and nic-nacs in the Wardle Room they could even open an op shop with so many items donated. St Albans Retirement Village residents *(top right)* have been busy making soft toys this year and sold them from a table in the hall. The centre's next market will be the Christmas Market in early December.

Community activator sets up more Facebook pages

Community activator Emma Twaddell has set up another Facebook page that focuses on activities that the St Albans Residents Association (SARA) is responsible for. The STAN Facebook page covers items in St Albans News (StAN) and discussions on topics that range much wider while SARA is mainly about activities the association undertakes.

She is also one of the administrators behind the St Albans Streets Woes and Pros Facebook pages. To find the Facebook page type in the name in the search box in Facebook. ⌘

Writers wanted for St Albans News

Are you interested in writing articles for St Albans News as a volunteer writer? We have a list of possible topics that need covering or you can come up with your own ideas.

Brown's Rd tree

In the June edition of St Albans News we misidentified this tree in Brown's Rd as one on the Christchurch City Council's list of protected treesn. It is not protected like two others further down the street but it certainly is a spectacularly tall tree and its autumn colouring makes it stand out on a sunny autumn day.

St Albans News
July 2022, Vol 29, Issue 6

The St Albans News is a free local newspaper which is produced by a team of volunteers. The social enterprise is managed by the St Albans Residents' Association.

Send your news contributions and adverts to:

news@stalbans.gen.nz

http://www.facebook.com/StAlbansNews

Letters can be mailed to:

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The opinions expressed in this publication are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the St Albans Residents Association.

Centre and neighbourhood news

Activities at the community centre

St Albans community centre is now operating at the orange level. Vaccine passports are no longer required but masks will be, particularly in areas like the hallway and kitchen where groups and individuals mix. The centre is limited to 200 people inside. The programme contains groups that meet weekly at the centre but if they fit we can add monthly ones as well.

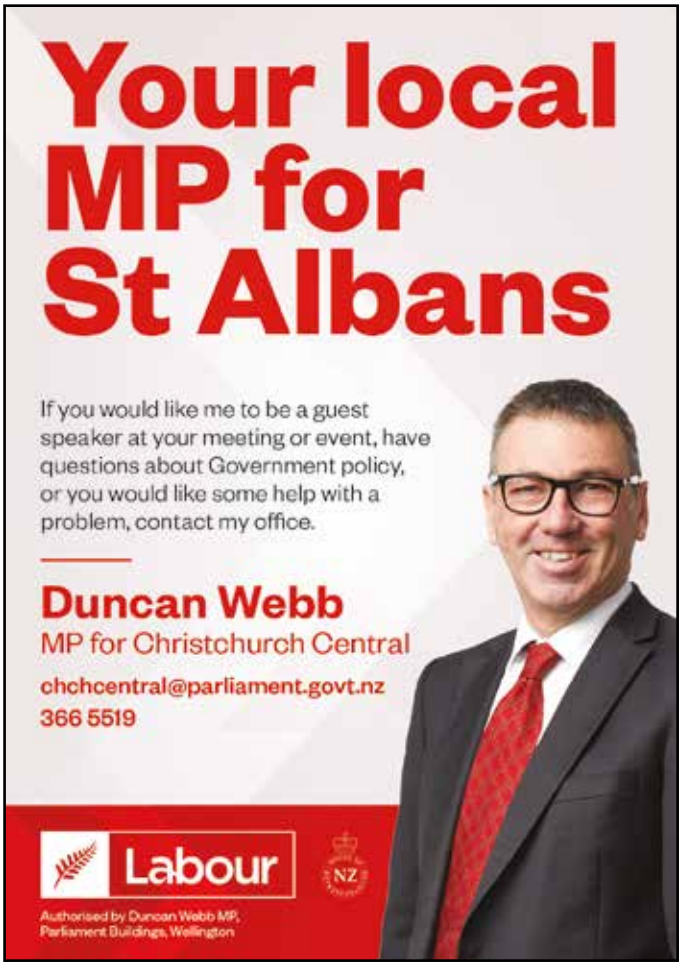
Monday	10am	Saygo
	10am	SeniorNet Mac
	4 pm	Giant Leaps
	5 pm	Universal Martial Arts
Tuesday	10am	Knitting group
	11am	Yoga with Tracey
Registration essential	11.30am	Pilates with Dee
	1pm	Neighbournet
	5.30	Pippins
	7.00pm	Yoga with Tristin
Wednesday	9:30am	Wednesday Wheelies
	10am	SeniorNet Mac
	12-1pm	Happy Feet Dance exercise
And 2nd Saturday of the month at 4pm	11am	The Corner, coffee and chat
	4pm	Giant Leaps
	7.00pm	Capoeira Angola
Thursday	9.30am	Saygo
1st Thursday of month	10am	Morning Tea
	11am	Yoga with Tracey
	1pm	NeighbourNet
	4pm	Giant Leaps
	5.00pm	Universal Martial Arts
Friday	10am	SeniorNet Mac
Saturday	1pm	Neighbournet

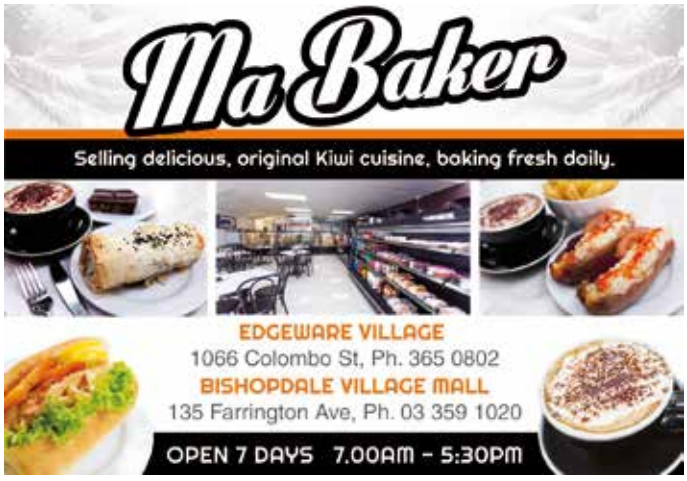
Community garden at centre market

Tidy Kiwi and recycling maven Maria Lamb chats with volunteers at the Kōhinga Mārā Community table in the hall at the community centre at the mid winter market on June 18. The group sold vegetables grown in the nearby garden as well as seeds in small packets.

Computer help offered

If you need help with your Android phone and Windows desktop or laptop drop into the community centre at 1pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays where NeighbourNet volunteers can assist. Seniornet Mac offers help with Apple iPhones and computers is available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for a couple of hours from 10am. Small charge or koha.





Sustainability

Refunds for drink bottles could return

by Belinda Carter

New Zealand Government could bring back refunds for drink containers (glass, aluminium cans, plastic bottles) if a plan by the Ministry for the Environment (Manatū Mō Te Taiao) is accepted later this year.

Producers would be required to refund purchasers on the return of the empty container. Overseas this refund has varied between 7 cents and 49 cents per item, but the Christchurch City Council (CCC) suggests 20 cents in its submission to the ministry. The practicalities need to be worked through. However, an increase in the purchase price would be required to cover the refund.

Bottles and cans dropped in the street are a major contributor to litter so CCC is enthusiastic about this proposal and would like to see it implemented as soon as possible.

More efficient kerbside recycling

The government wants to see improvements in kerbside recycling to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. Nothing has been decided yet but discussions are being held that could include:

- requiring councils to divert a certain amount of kerbside material from landfills to reduce the build up of methane emissions
- creating a standard list of materials for all household kerbside recycling throughout the country
- collecting organic waste kerbside—Christchurch already does this but not all councils do. Recycling of food scraps and possibly garden waste would divert 125,000–180,000 additional tonnes of organic waste from landfills nationwide per annum.

Separation of cardboard and glass is another possibility that could require separate bins, although a refund scheme would certainly reduce the likelihood of remnants of drink in bottles contaminating cardboard and paper rendering them useless.

Business recycling targeted

The government is proposing that all businesses separate food waste from general waste to help reduce methane emissions from landfill and assist New Zealand to reach greenhouse gas emission targets of 40 per cent below 2017 levels in just 12 years time, a target set by the Climate Change Commission.

The Ministry has looked at five options. The top three are outlined below.

Option 1 would only target businesses registered under the National Food Act, requiring them to separate food waste. Farms, cafes, hospitals, rest homes, supermarkets, factories that produce and/or sell food are likely to generate the most food waste.

Option 2 would oblige all businesses to collect food waste separately from other materials. This would be phased in with the biggest collectors first.

Option 3 would prohibit food waste from businesses going to landfill.

The Ministry for the Environment is currently working through recent submissions made in May to the Transforming Recycling Consultation Document before making policy decisions that will govern waste minimisation. Then we will find out if we need to add an additional bin to handle food scraps separately from gardening waste. Christchurch currently bundles these together and Christchurch City Council is reluctant to see that change. The document outlining government plans can be found here: https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/waste/transforming-recycling/ ⌘

ECan makes half price bus fares permanent

Environment Canterbury has dropped the fares for travelling on Christchurch buses to $1 per trip for students, those under 25, community service card and total mobility card holders to make bus travel cheaper relative to car travel and reduce emissions.

This also applies to trips from Rangiora and Lincoln, which are in Zone 2.

Metrocard holders not eligible for the $1 fares will pay $2 instead, which is also a reduced amount.

Supergold card holders (65+) can now travel for free from 9am as the charge covering 3-6pm has been dropped.

The Government introduced half price fares earlier this year, extended now till August, to help people cope with the sudden cost of living

increases. Numbers using the buses have gone up subsequently but remain about 30 per cent below pre-Covid levels.

Ecan has set its rate for the next financial year at 16.1 per cent higher than the previous year. This is billed as part of the CCC rates, adding less than $100 to the total. ⌘

Rutland St Church reopens under one roof

Rutland St Church is open again having completed quake repairs and extensions at a cost of $3.2 million.

The campus is now under one roof with a large foyer area leading to a 400 seat auditorium, an enlarged youth hall and offices for staff.

The work was completed recently, only one month beyond the expected time, and on budget.

Work on the Papanui Parallel cycleway delayed the start of the extension and repair work on the corner of Westminster and Rutland St.

Rutland St Church as seen from the car park.

The bible-based, independent church is nearly 100 years ago old, seeded from an Open Brethren Church in Armagh St which did outreach work in the St Albans area, according to its website.

The church building was erected in 1926 and extended several times. In 1986 it was turned sideways.

Rutland St Church has several hundred members, ranging from several babies to 100 year old twins. Currently shepherded by six male elders, they run religious activities for its members, including groups for women, men, children and youth on Sundays and during the week. Life groups throughout the city bring members of the congregation together in small home-based groups.

Rutland St Church viewed from Rutland St

Rutland St Church is one of 142 participating in Christians Against Poverty (CAP) which helps New Zealanders manage their finances.

More Than Music provides music and fun movement activities for pre-schoolers to assist the growth of young children.

The church is happy with the new church campus and wants to extend its engagement with the St Albans community, starting with an open day on July 2.

Find out more: https://www.rutlandstreet.church.net.nz ⌘

parris & jeanne

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Local body elections 2022

Ward boundary changes make decisions easier

Some people, particularly on the western side of St Albans may find themselves in the Innes Ward for the local body elections in October. This is because the ward boundaries were reviewed in 2021.

A review happens every six years and is based on keeping the population of each ward within 10 per cent of the others to keep representation fair. Numbers around the council table will remain the same, but the wards in community boards covering the central city, Linwood and Heathcote have been split up and joined with neighbouring community boards.

Those who were in the Central Ward, e.g. south of Canon St, will still be voting in the Central Ward but that ward is now part of the Papanui-Innes Community Board rather than partnering with Linwood and Heathcote.

The changes should make it easier for decisions to be made on matters such as the possibility of pedestrian crossings for Springfield Rd. It's a busy road with traffic heading for Cranford St and the motorway. At a Papanui-Innes board meeting recently, it was noted that the road comes under three different boards along its full length.

From October, Springfield Rd will be easier to deal with under one board. There are few crossings, if any, at key points along the street, but they are being proposed for intersections with St Albans St, Edgeware Rd and Rehua Marae. Discussions about the crossings—whether painted, using islands or signalised—will be later this year.

The Innes Ward will now cover from Bealey Ave to Innes Rd and Hills Rd to Papanui Rd (mostly) with a few roads in western parts of St Albans coming under the Fendalton Ward. ⌘

Enrol to vote

The elections for local authorities such as the city council and Environment Canterbury (eCan) are by postal vote. Voting forms are sent out to fill in in mid-September and drop back in a postbox or into a council service centre after September 16 but before noon on October 8. To vote you need to enrol first and based on where you live you will be allocated to a particular ward in Christchurch where you can vote for the Mayor, councillors and community board members. https://vote.nz/enrolling/enrol-or-update/enrol-or-update-online/

With Environment Canterbury you can vote for a councillor, depending on where you live. No more hospital elections are planned

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Have your say on the Christchurch stadium

by Belinda Carter

With yet another increase adding another $150 million to the initial $533m stadium cost, Christchurch City Council is asking residents to speak up about what should be done regarding the complex designed to replace Lancaster Park.

Te Kaha, being promoted as a multi-use arena, is to be built in the block between Madras and Barbadoes

and Lichfield and Tuam streets, It is the last of the anchor projects that were drawn up and imposed by the National Government after the earthquakes.

With 30,000 seats and a roof, it will be used for large sports events eg: rugby international test games, entertainers and concerts by touring bands.

The topic is generating a huge amount of interest from ratepayers (who could face increased rates particularly in 2025 and keen rugby fans who have been encourage to submit in large numbers. In two weeks, more than 20,000 people have made their views known on the Have Your Say webpage and submissions do not close till July 5 and even more are expected.

Options should be considered

The options include: Get building as soon as possible; take a lengthy pause to re-evaluate (possibly redesign the stadium to remove seats and the roof); or scrap the project altogether.

Perhaps the city council could look at other ways of fundraising, such as selling land surplus to requirements or even following the cheaper and quicker suggestion by an urban planner to haul the temporary stadium at Addington to the city site in time for 2023 rugby season then gradually upgrading it later.

A major beneficiary of the multi-user arena, NZ Rugby, fresh from a $200m funding injection from US firm Silver Lake, does not want to contribute funds towards the extra costs.

Government is already contributing about $220m as part of a $300m capital acceleration fund it promised pre-election and is reluctant to put more into the pot while the percentage of the total costs needing to be covered by Christchurch ratepayers continues to grow.

The Government did increase funding for the convention centre and the recreation centre after the cost of those two Crown-led projects blew out. Although the stadium project was part of the Government blueprint in 2011, the current Government says it is a council responsibility.

Christchurch City Council has been trying to persuade its partners in the Greater Christchurch Partnership to contribute. After all, Selwyn and Waimakariri residents will

Photos supplied by Christchurch City Council

benefit from the stadium but their councils are not paying a ratepayer's cent towards it.

Without additional funding from local and central governments or sports bodies stepping up, fears are the stadium replacement project could founder.

The submissions won't be binding on the council when it makes a final decision about the stadium in July.

Although the site has been cleared and work is due to start in the next few weeks, it will be at least April 2026 before it can start to operate – and inflationary construction costs could still push the total even higher. ⌘

Authorised by Reuben Davidson, 28 Cornwall Rd, Christchurch 8082

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Edgeware pool funding boosted to $3million

Continued from page 1

The council took over the management of the community-built pool in 2002 and, with the council focusing on its new indoor pools, its condition slowly deteriorated until the Council closed it in 2006. It was demolished soon afterwards. The Council later sold the land to the Pool Group for $1.

The group has worked on fundraising since then to rebuild and reopen an outdoor 25m pool and learners' pool, with a children's splash area. The project has resource consent and preliminary drawings so the next step is to fund the preliminary designs through to working drawings which can be used to put out for tender.

Chair Paul Somerville, who along with a small team of volunteers, has kept the St Albans Pool project alive since 2006, says the June 21 decision was righting a wrong done to the community 16 years ago. Protests had fallen on deaf ears for far too long, he says, but now the Council has listened and acted appropriately. "St Albans will at last have the summertime community pool once more. All going well, we could see it well underway next year and might even be open for the summer holidays."

In 2024, the community will mark the 90th anniversary of opening of the original community pool. ⌘

Edgeware Pool sign: something to look forward to in the near future. Meanwhile the pool quiz is restarting and grant funders and businesses may be approached to help raise the remaining million dollars.

St Albans School Sports Day 2005. St Albans residents could be swimming lanes again by late 2023.

The pavilion building is all that remained after the pool was destroyed but it will be removed when the new pool complex is built. The 1892 club was a predecessor of the St Albans Swimming Club which built the pool.

Pool group keen to set up op shop

No one told the 3500 residents of Kirkcudbright in Dumfries and Galloway that theirs was mission impossible, so they went ahead and built an indoor pool anyway.

The town, on the north shore of the Solway Firth in southwest Scotland, had long wanted its own pool but had been repeatedly rebuffed by the Council.

In 1988 they set up a group to investigate the feasibility of building their own and after a year they decided it was possible.

To kick start their fundraising, it was suggested they open a temporary charity shop for a week. Twenty five years on they are still running their temporary shop, providing cash for the pool's operation and to keep fees low.

The Edgeware Pool group plans to take a leaf out of the Kirkcudbright playbook and open a charity shop. They are seeking premises that could accommodate this enterprise and have a band of volunteers ready to assist. The group recently had a

stall at the Mid Winter Christmas market at Kohinga St Albans Community Centre and have merchandise ready to stock the shop.

A tale of two houses

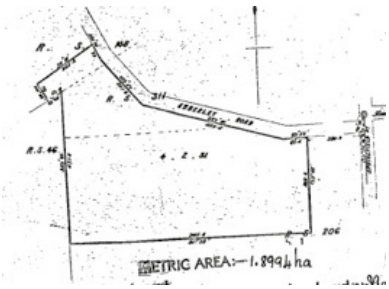
Local history writer Jonathan Allan sorts out the confusion between two houses with the same name: Abberley House.

In the book *St Albans – from Swamp to Suburbs, An Informal History* published by the Canterbury branch of the New Zealand Federation of University Women in 1989, page 171 reads:

"Abberley, now the administrative headquarters of the Foundation for the Blind. In 1863 Thomas James Maling built his residence of Abberley and laid out and planned the grounds. The property was named after the place of that name in Worcestershire, England.

"In 1878 Maling disposed of the property and from that time there were several owners of Abberley until it was purchased in 1905 by John Hobbs Kirk, who retained it until his death. A few months later his trustees offered the grounds to the Christchurch City Council. The council took possession in 1939 and converted most of the property into a public park, attempting to retain the original design of the garden as much as possible."

The original house on the property of the Blind Foundation (Blind Low Vision NZ) was also called Abberley House.



Thomas Maling purchased this plot of land in 1863 that later became Abberley Park

The inference from the photo and the text in the *Swamp to Suburbs* book is that the two-storey building in the photo *(above right)* is the residence built by Maling in 1863. This is not correct.

In the 1969 September issue of the *Chronicle: Official Organ of the New Zealand Foundation for the Blind*, an item features a photo of this building with the following comment: "On October 8th, 1955, the Christchurch Branch of the Foundation moved to 86 Bristol Street, where the administration offices are now located, in the sixty-year-old house set amidst spacious lawns and majestic trees. With Abberley Park on the one side..."

The property was purchased from its then occupier, Mr HW Shackel (Press, 10 March 1955). However, if this property was sixty years old in 1955, then it was built in 1895, about 32 years after Maling built his. Photos of Maling's house show a large two-storey building, looking very unlike that on the Blind Foundation's grounds.

The confusion between the two properties probably arose because the Blind Foundation (now known as Blind and Low Vision) also named their administration office Abberley House, perhaps because of its proximity to Abberley Park.

Maling's house was demolished soon after the property was purchased by the Christchurch City Council in 1939, and the foundation's building was demolished when a new administrative block was constructed elsewhere on their land in 1997 with the name Abberley House continued. The large tree in the foreground of the photograph in the St Alban's book still stands.

When Maling purchased his land, the area of his holding was 1.8994 ha (4.69 acres) according to the Certificate of Title. This is the same land the council purchased in 1939, described as "an area of land four acres 2 roods 37.4 perches" (Press, 22 March 1939).

A single-storey annex to the Maling house was retained and is now the Abberley Park Hall community centre. It was added to the main building by the last owner for use as a ballroom and games room for the family.

Further history of the Blind Foundation's property can be found in *More Homes of the Pioneers and Other Buildings*. In this book of pen and wash drawings by AJ Mair, with text by JA Hendry, one of the buildings is Abberley, Bristol Street. The text gives a detailed account of the history of the property and the features of the house. There is no mention of Abberley Park nor how the building came to be named. ⌘

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Letter to the Editor

Loo with a view

Dear Editor,

While we are talking about the effects of Medium Density Zoning on existing residents in St Albans how about this for an issue?

I have a friend in Purchas Street who brought it to my attention over a year ago and now I find I'm liable to be faced with it myself every time I step out onto my back veranda and casually cast my eyes north. Who else has noticed, I wonder.

From our back gardens neither my friend nor I can help seeing our neighbours standing at and sitting on their upper floor lavatories.

To me it seems funny that folk will put up 6 ft wooden fences for privacy and yet seem not to care at all about exposing themselves in their bathrooms.

Peggy Kelly

Editors note: Difficult to know what was going through the developer's head when this floor to ceiling window with slightly frosted glass was installed in this upper storey bathroom. Curtains please. ⌘

Generations share disrupted schooling

by Martin Cooney

Grandad and his grand-daughters all experienced disrupted learning during two different pandemics.

During the later COVID lockdowns, our bubble included our grandchildren. So we were part of their home schooling. I printed off the online lessons for them. And I would sit in (at a distance) on the Zoom calls—in case there were technical issues. Since the teacher was also broadcasting from home, the class—and I—got introduced to the lesson, her cat, and her baking. It wasn't a perfect learning experience with children's faces regularly disappearing from their screens, but no doubt the best that could be done to foster class spirit.

I remember a similar experience at 6 or 7 years old. It was one of the last major polio epidemics before the vaccine came in. By its end in July 1956, the number of cases notified (1485) was the highest ever in New Zealand; 925 people had been paralysed and 73 people had died. My own family was affected.

Before this epidemic, various media were used for learning when schools were locked down. Lessons were printed in daily newspapers. In the 1947 polio epidemic, schools were locked down till Easter and lessons were by correspondence, supplemented by national radio broadcasts as most people had radios.

The radio lessons began with a session between 9.30 and 10 am for Primers to Standard Two (years 1 to 4 today): The Adventures of David and June at the Seaside and The Adventures of Brian and Lois in the Country. Seniors will remember these were the days of the famous Janet and John reading books.

Lessons for older groups were broadcast later in the day. Assignments from the Correspondence School were distributed to pupils, who sent the completed work to teachers for marking. The posting of assignments was free.

By the mid-1950s, authorities were not locking down all our schools if an epidemic occurred. The focus became more on isolating individual cases. So my family was in quarantine/isolation for a considerable time with the older kids doing Correspondence School lessons.

But overall reflecting on both eras, you can see how the kids have been so positive and adaptable.

In mid 1956 the polio vaccine was introduced—two injections to be given at a three or four-week interval with a booster dose at least seven months later. (Sound familiar?)

We received our injections (and later oral vaccines) at school. Consent cards were sent to parents to fill them in. History shows that there was a 90 per cent acceptance rate in New Zealand, much higher than overseas. Our family, of course, became strong advocates for the benefit of vaccinations.

There were concerns overseas about the safety of the vaccine because of some errors made by producers leading to deaths. This led to Elvis Presley being used as an exemplar in the USA in late 1956 for the safety of the vaccine. If the King said it was safe... ⌘

St Albans parks and gardens

Abberley Park rhododendrons suffering

by P T Wallace

Abberley Park, with its green spaces and trees, is a huge asset for St Albans residents. Regular users often acknowledge the beneficial effects that being in the park has on their mental wellbeing.

But the park itself is not in good health. All around the park, rhododendron leaves are turning silver. Apparently this is caused by insect pests (thrips) sucking the chlorophyll out of the leaves, turning them silver and weakening the plant. If you turn the leaves over, you can see brown and black specks on the undersides.

The large clump of rhododendrons opposite the front of the hall used to be so lush and dense that it was impossible to see through it. Last year, one of these plants died, which has left an open gap through the whole cluster. Almost directly opposite the butterfly tree, another one is currently dying.

Back along the walk to the North Lawn, there are more signs of damage. Are we going to lose all our rhododendrons? The council doesn't think so.

Leaf litter produced by trees over autumn creates a perfect breeding ground for thrip, Regional Parks Manager Al Hardy says. So the Heritage Gardens Team has purchased a commercial leaf sucker (vacuum) unit to help control the problem. They will also fertilise selected plants in spring to help the rhododendrons recover, which they usually do.

Several of Abberley Park's Rhododendrons are dying

An insect pest called a thrip is turning rhodendron leaves brown

The Friends of Abberley Park have their fingers crossed that the affected plants recover and those that have died are replaced with rhododendrons. ⌘

Where to recycle pot plants and spectacles

Residents can take their clean, plastic plant pots (ID5) to any Mitre 10 outlet in Christchurch (nearest in Papanui) for recycling. They must be clean as the machines cannot remove dirt. Mitre 10 has partnered with Recycling Group and Pact Group to shred the pots while Zealandia Horticulture melts them into resin and remould into new pots. Pots put out on rubbish collection days end up in the landfill.

Recycling old spectacles

Got a pile of old glasses taking up space in a drawer and don't know what to do with them. They're useless because your face shape has changed and eyesight has declined. You won't ever wear them again. Take them to Specsavers for them to send to Pacific islands. The company also donates to Fred Hollows' foundation to provide eye surgery. Find out more: https://www.specsavers.co.nz/specsavers-community-program

Foil blankets for homeless

Chip Packet Project takes empty foil packets and creates survival sheets (thermal blankets) for those living on the streets throughout New Zealand. A chip packet (potato crisps) can take 80 years to decompose in landfill. Visit www.facebook.com/chippacketprojectnz to find out more information, including how to prepare the packets for collection. Take them to Riverlution Eco Hub based at 46a Vogel St in Richmond.

Craft Recycling Market
Saturday 17 September
10:00 am—12:00 noon
- Unfinished projects, supplies, tools
- Sales table hire only $20.00
- No commission charged.

Tel 355 3287 or email: info@allsouls.org.nz to book your table
All Souls, 30 Church Lane, Merivale

Greater awareness of St Albans Creek needed

Canterbury postgraduate students (and a high school student who assisted with water sampling) recently undertook research in conjunction with the St Albans Residents Association (SARA) who wanted to find out what people, particularly youth, knew about the waterway that runs through Abberley Park.

The students found the trees were in good health, with a transition to more native trees happening over time, but the creek wasn't particularly healthy. There was a high amount of sediment and it was mud knee deep in one of the two sites measured in St Albans Creek, with lower diversity of species and a higher temperature. Freshwater worms with a high tolerance of pollution and low numbers of amphipods sensitive to water quality were a sign that all was not well.

The study also indicated room for improvement in planting and making people more aware of the park ecosystem. Riparian planting (i.e. planting along riverbanks) is a recommended way of keeping pollutants out of the river and providing shading and habitation for invertebrates and fish species, but this would need more research into the best types.

The students surveyed 40 people online and interviewed five people in the park in greater depth on their knowledge of the creek and their views on things like maintenance of the park, creek maintenance and water quality. The online survey was not limited to a particular age group or gender. Most of the park users were walking in the park, with or without dogs. Nearly 90 per cent knew of St Albans Creek but less than half knew that the section in the park was St Albans Creek or details such as that it feeds into Dudley Creek and eventually into the Avon.

The research will lead to practical outcomes such improved riparian planting and education designed to increase public awareness of the waterway. This could include additional signage in Abberley Park, developed using the principles of Mātauranga Māori, concerning stewardship of the environment—a project that could involve another group of geography students. ⌘

Catch up time in winter garden

Winter solstice/Matariki is upon us. With it we see colder temperatures and a chance to catch up on garden jobs that we had less time for during the productive seasons. Leaves are abundant at the moment so gather them up in a large pile or woolsack and allow to rot into beautiful black leaf mould for use as a soil conditioner in the warmer months. Another useful job at the moment is building a cold frame, using an old window or glass door. This low, unheated structure takes up little space and is simple to make. It will get surprisingly warm, allowing you to easily raise plants, cuttings, and seedlings of tender plants, like tomatoes, to get a jump on spring growth.

You can sow peas, and plant garlic this month, as well as planting fruit trees and bushes such as currants, blackberries and blueberries. Searching out bare-rooted deciduous fruit trees for planting now or before spring is a good idea. Many excellent heritage fruit varieties are available as bare-rooted trees via mail-order, and these healthy young trees will establish quickly as they haven't had to struggle through summer in a plastic bag at the nursery.

When planting trees be sure to choose drier days and avoid compacting the soil when it's wet. Dig a generous hole at least twice as wide and deep as the root ball to give your new tree room to establish. Ensure that the crown (where the roots start forming at the base of the stem) is planted no deeper than it was previously at the nursery, usually only a few centimetres below the surface.

Winter is the time to tidy the garden, but it's important not to leave your garden too tidy. Dead seed-heads and leaves, and woody prunings can provide valuable food and shelter for the good invertebrates that keep a garden healthy, and also provide food for the birds, so make sure you leave a little habitat amongst your tidiness. ⌘

Good gardening, *Basil*

Community Notices

A Musical Variety Afternoon and a good ole sing-along! Monday 13 July, 1.30-2.30pm at the Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham St North. All welcome. Cuppa to follow. Gold coin donation. Enquiries ph 372 9224.

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: The card section meet on Mondays 12.30 – 3pm. The indoor bowls section meet Tuesdays 12.45 – 3pm. The activities group have outings for meals, social days, visit places of interest and bus trips. For further information all Veronica 383 4682 or 021 1187 360 or Beth 388 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 Kohinga St Albans Community Centre. Join us for coffee and conversation, meet others in your community. All Welcome. Koha for coffee appreciated.

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.

Edgeware 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. 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 infomation, visit cea.org.nz

Happy Feet Dancing. Movement to music. Weekly Wednesdays at 12—1 pm $2 Suit low to medium level of fitness. Kohinga St Albans Community Centre. Contact Rowena 027 404 0897

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. Numbers are limited. Gold coin donation. Enquiries ph 372 9224. Visit our website, www.lcmchristchurch.org.nz.

Knitting Group. Meets every Tuesday at the St Albans Community Centre. 10am – 11.30. Just turn up. Koha appreciated for room hire.

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

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 Edgeware Rds. $3. email: hannah@lotustrust.org.nz www.lotustrust.org.nz, FB: Christchurchlaughteryoga

Morning tea at Kohinga 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 (off Innes Rd) 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. 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 Edgeware Caledonian Roads, Tuesdays 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 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@stalbans.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; 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

Need help with career redirection or regaining life work balance? Have a disability and need support with retaining or gaining employment or commencing study? Contact Paul Barclay - Vision Without Limits on 028 461-1257 or info@visionwithoutlimits.co.nz. Experienced Employment Consultant and Professional Member – Career Development Association of New Zealand. Free initial discussion. More information at www.visionwithoutlimits.co.nz

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.

Mat Pilates Class Tuesday 11.15 am. All ages and abilities welcome. Contact Dee 0272515475 or view Facebook: Eastside Training Squad

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

Becoming You Yoga: Tuesday 4.30pm $13, Slow mindful yoga. St Albans Community Centre, Thursday 10am $15, Restorative Yoga. Suitable for all. Contact: https://www.becomingyouyoga.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, Edgeware. Same day delivery. theflowershopchristchurch.co.nz 02108355345

Personal Training - 'Fit With Babs': One on One Personal Training in a Private Studio off Innes Road. Personalised sessions structured around your goals and current fitness level. Visit facebook.com/fitwithbabs, fitwithbabs@gmail.com, 021 23 27151

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.

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

St Albans events

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

July 9, 12.30-3 pm: Sustainable St Albans Nutrition for Mental Health at Kōhinga

July 30, 12-5pm: Zonta Art Sale at Kōhinga

August 7, 7pm: Pool Group Quiz at Bailies

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
- **Kidsline:** 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

Centre and neighbourhood news

Duncan Webb cracks the whip

Central Christchurch MP (and former lawyer) Dr Duncan Webb has been named Chief Whip (enforcer) of the Labour party after the cabinet reshuffle caused by resignations from Kris Faafoi (to spend time with family) and Trevor Mallard (to become a diplomat offshore) had ripple effects. He has been junior whip to Kieran McAnulty who has moved on to take charge of emergency management instead (tsunamis, floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions etc). Whips make sure party MPs are in the debating chamber when needed and vote along party lines rather than according to what a donor might like or their own personal preferences.

Pharmacy changes

Long term pharmacist Malcolm Pearse has sold St Albans Pharmacy, on the corner of Colombo St and Edgeware Rd, to partner Doug (since 1999) and Pam Chapman. The Chapmans previously owned the Bealey Pharmacy on the corner of Colombo Street and Bealey Avenue until the 2011 earthquake. After a stint in Nelson they returned to Christchurch in 2019.

The chemist shop is the longest standing tenant in a block of shops built by Hobdays. When it opened in 1958, the block also housed a post office, grocer's shop and a drapery.

Doug is looking forward to "being part of the local community and continuing the same service that the community has been used to for the past 64 years".

Meanwhile, a generous supporter of local groups, Malcolm is not lost to St Albans, maintaining his interest in the Cranford Pharmacy at the front of the Promed Doctors' building in Sherborne St.

Wellbeing event for Matariki

Tūranga (central library) is hosting an event on the first Saturday in July called Matariki Hauora-Focus on Wellbeing. The afternoon event (1-4pm) on July 2 includes tai chi, calligraphy and mau rākau (traditional Māori weaponry). Displays, discussions and various activities focus on health and nutrition..

Metal dog tags more sustainable

Christchurch City Council is replacing colour-coded plastic dog tags that attach to the dog's collar with metal and getting rid of annual dog registration. An estimated 40,000 dogs in Christchurch and Banks Peninsula are registered so this will reduce plastic waste going into landfills and save the council around $50,000 over 10 years and lots of administration time.

Edgeware Mowers & Chainsaws

Save with our Winter Service Special On Now

FREE pick up and delivery in Christchurch area during June and July (conditions apply)

237 Westminster St
Phone: 366 3924
Book online: edgewaremowers.co.nz