

Unsightly charity box mess gets a clean up



A nearby resident alerted St Albans News to this unsightly mess dumped at the corner of Springfield Road and Abberley Crescent on private land and tumbling onto the footpath. The Christchurch City Council was alerted and the area is now looking much tidier.

Don't overstay your welcome in Edgeware Village

by Belinda Carter

Parking in Edgeware village is free if you play by the rules. Park for a couple of hours, that's okay, but more than that and it could cost you.

The car parks in Edgeware Village are owned and maintained by the owner of the Village complex. Retailers like Bailies and Crisp just rent their premises.

The automated parking scheme was introduced in August 2022 by the Village owners to help the retailers deal with people staying all day; others reportedly catching a bus to the city and making it difficult for others to shop.

Auckland-based Smart Compliance Management operates the automated parking scheme which takes photos of car licence plates as they enter and leave the park, and sends a breach notice to the car owner's letterbox.

Building manager Helen Donnithorne said that Smart Compliance personnel had been in Ma Baker's store and could see the problems they were having. She said a meeting was organised with tenants to find ways to manage parking and settled on a 60 minute limit with some 10 minute parks.

But no one expected the negative reaction. Bailies owner Richard Norton said customers were annoyed and came in waiving their breach letters demanding that he do something about it.

Bailies now asks customers to write down their plate numbers and staff can prevent them being sent breach notices and it would pay to have a chat with the manager before paying up. Loyal members only need to give their plate number once.

Drivers can also appeal to Smart Compliance.

Next door at Ma Baker, customers drop in to purchase morning tea or lunch and go away, owner Paul Garven says, and it is for them the 10 minute signs were created and it has helped, although not always get honoured by customers.

In the case of Crisp, customers can enter their own details on a screen which allows them to stay up to four hours, according to a small notice in a booth in the Real Fruit Parlour. Owner Marina Lau said she had little say in the parking system but said something needed to be done about the long stayers.

Things got heated late last year after the scheme was implemented with little notice given but improved in December 2022 after the shop owners met with the building manager and compromises were made. The retailers are happier and the system is fairer. The signs are meant to be updated to 120 minutes but still say 60 minutes.

This brings parking limits in line with Edgeware Mall, which contracts Parking Enforcement Services to physically monitor the site for vehicles parking for longer than two hours. They don't use automated systems with cameras, property manager James Webb says. Some of these parks are shared with Peter Timbs butchery, which also has parks for customers (with no time designated) adjacent to its main building.

At The Edge Café and supermarket across the road shoppers can park for 90 minutes but overstayers risk having their vehicles towed.

The days of free, unlimited parking near the St Albans shops

continued on page 6



Share Kai and Kōrero in St Albans



He ira tangata. He ira rongomaiwhiti tāu.

Our differences make us unique, and we all have things in common.

In July, SARA is hosting a series of Share Kai and Kōrero brunch events at the St Albans Community Centre on three Saturday mornings (July 1, 8 and 22) from 10am - 12 midday.

Share Kai and Kōrero is a collaboration between InCommon and Mahia Te Aroha, using food to bring people together to connect and share about themselves and learn about others. Traditional brunch dishes will be prepared by 20 cooks who call Ōtautahi home.

The idea is that prejudice and conflict between groups of people can be reduced if members of the groups interact with each other. Decades of research demonstrate how, under most conditions, our views of people different from us become more positive as we spend more time with them. This simple and inspiring idea offers solace and much-needed solidity right now.

More than 500 diners attended similar events last year in Richmond, where they tried food from Eritrea, Afghanistan, Nepal and Iran. Try some new brunch foods and experience a traditional Eritrean coffee ceremony or Nepali chai tea... and let the conversation flow.

To find out more about Share Kai and Kōrero visit the sharekai.nz page, and InCommon on Facebook or Instagram.

Volunteers are also needed to help serve meals during Share Kai and Kōrero brunches. Please contact Emma on 021 914 563 or sara@stalbands.gen.nz to volunteer for one or more sessions.

SHARE KAI and Kōrero

Come together over tasty food and share in traditional cuisines from communities that call Ōtautahi home.

Everyone welcome

Food and drinks from \$5

Volunteers wanted to help serve.

Phone/text Emma 021 914563

SATURDAY

July

1st, 8th and 22nd

10AM - 12PM

St Albans Community Centre

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Kohinga St Albans Community Centre

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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 will meet at St Albans Community Centre, 1049 Colombo St. on June 21 at 7pm.

St Albans History Group

Next meeting Monday June 12, 2 pm at the St Albans Community Centre.

Email: briangspear@hotmail.com

Wednesday Wheelies

Wednesday Wheelies meet at 9:30am, 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

Students learn about sustainable St Albans



St Albans activator Emma Twaddell speaking to university students at Abberley Park

Emma spoke about the St Albans community involvement in the park and the principles and concepts of sustainability. She covered the planning and use of urban greenspace, the green-blue initiative and the St Albans community's involvement in sustainability. The students also visited Rehua marae and the Sustainable Climate Action campus.

Writers wanted.

Please email: news@stalbands.gen.nz

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

Advertising co-ordinator wanted for St Albans News. This is a volunteer role. If you can help, please contact Lynne on 027 433 4469

History group seeks St Albans photos

The St Albans History Group is working to protect the pictorial record of people and places in our area. It may be of a building, an event or a personality. Copies of any photos relating to these topics would be gratefully received and can be dropped off at the St Albans Community Centre or a digital copy sent to the group at briangspear@hotmail.com.



Original St Albans Library in 1920

Centre closed for regal birthday

The St Albans Community Centre office (and many other city facilities) will be closed on June 5 for the King's birthday, one of New Zealand's many public holidays. Unless you are in your 80s you probably won't remember when the sovereign's birthday was marked in early June and called King's Birthday. For some later babyboomers and more recent generations, it might take some time to get used to saying Kings Birthday Weekend instead of Queens. The holiday has a long history dating back to 18th century Britain, when the George II's birthday was first officially marked in 1748. It is not the real birthday of Charles III, whose actual birthday is in mid-November.

ST ALBANS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (SARA) PRESENTS

Cafe Chat

with this month's special guest

HOLLY GRIFFIN FROM INCOMMON

Incommon is a campaign highlighting that our differences are often only skin deep and that we share much in common.

Monday June 12th

10.30AM - 12.30PM

ST ALBANS COMMUNITY CENTRE

1049 COLOMBO ST

BRING YOUR WHANAU FOR MORNING TEA | JOIN THE GUEST TABLE | GOLD COIN ENTRY

St Albans News June 2023, Vol 30, Issue 5

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.

Activities at the community centre

Weekly groups that meet at the community centre.

Monday	10am	Saygo
	10am	SeniorNet Mac
	11am	Happy Feet
Bookings essential	3.15	Giant Leaps
	5pm	Universal Martial Arts
	5pm	Yoga with Tracy
Tuesday	10.45am	NeighbourNet
	5.30	Pippins
	9am	Wednesday Wheelies
Wednesday	10am	SeniorNet Mac
	10.30am	The Corner, coffee and chat
	6pm	Head to Tail
Bookings essential	7.00pm	Capoeira Angola
	9.30am	Saygo
Thursday	10.45am	Yoga with Tracy
	10am	NeighbourNet
	3.15pm	Giant Leaps
Bookings essential	5.00pm	Universal Martial Arts
	6pm	Head to Tail
	6pm	Head to Tail
Friday	10am	SeniorNet Mac
	1pm	NeighbourNet
	6.30pm	Tai Chi Well

Ina Dunstan RIP

Page 6 St Albans News May 2023
Ina Dunstan: so grateful for a long and happy life

In 1927, my birth mother arrived in Christchurch from Blenheim, conceiving her pregnancy. I was born at the Atoll Maternity Home on July 4, 1927, delivered by midwife and nurse Mary Duncan who owned and ran the home from 1922 to 1946. My mother was single and unable to keep me, but fortunately Nurse Duncan, who already had seven other children, adopted me into her family. Her much older daughters also became like mothers to me.



Ina in the front garden of Atoll Maternity Home in the early 1930s.



Still using a scooter. Ina at Arvida in Caledonian Rd.

One of St Albans School's oldest living former pupils won't make the school reunion in September. The "wonderful nonagenarian" Ina Dunstan (nee) Duncan, who we featured in our April edition has died. Ina often expressed how grateful she was for her long and happy life. Ina died on May 18 at Arvida in Caledonian Road, where she lived happily in her final years. Her funeral was held at St Chads Anglican Church in Linwood on May 23.

ST ALBANS COMMUNITY CENTRE PRESENTS

Edgware Village CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday | June 17 | 10 AM

RUBBISH PICKUP | FURNITURE CLEANING | SIDEWALK CLEAN UP | PAINTING | GARDENING

A job for everyone. Come and lend a hand to tidy the village up before Winter and join us for morning tea at 11.30am

Sustainability

Rebate scheme for electric vehicles proves popular

If you are in a position to purchase a new car, June would be a good month to do that. New car prices are expected to rise from July 1 when changes to the clean car discount scheme come into effect.

The Government's discount rebate scheme to encourage people to purchase electric vehicles proved so popular the targets set for 2027 were reached early.

According to the NZTA website, the Clean Car Discount scheme, which imposes fees on some new and used vehicles and removes them for others for the first time they are registered in New Zealand, has been modified from July onwards with some brands facing lower discounts. The higher the CO2 emissions, the greater the fee; the lower the emissions, the greater the rebate. The scheme is self-funding and it is the fees that make the discounts possible.

The changes coming in July will see the maximum amount of the discount reduced from \$8256 to \$7150, and some vehicles are being removed from the list while others are added. Some petrol vehicles may attract higher fees because of their CO2 emissions.

Website <https://evdb.nz>, which also contains lots of useful reports on electric vehicles, analysed the stats gathered in April and found that 33.8 per cent of sales were for hybrid (petrol and electric vehicles), 4.2 per cent were PHEV, 7.3 per cent BEV (battery only), 18.7 per cent were diesel and petrol vehicles (sometimes referred to as ICE or internal combustion engine) accounted for 38.1 per cent of vehicles registered. Numbers are rising rapidly but electric vehicles remain a small proportion of the whole New Zealand vehicle fleet.

In 2022, Toyota was deemed the leading hybrid band, Mitsubishi the leading plug in brand (PHEV), while Tesla topped the list of new electric vehicles (BEV) registered in NZ. Nissan Leafs led the used, imported BEV vehicles.

*CCC is seeking a discount for E-bikes, See page 12

EDGEWARE VILLAGE
Mid Winter Christmas
MARKET

Saturday 24 June 2023
11am - 2pm

St Albans Community Centre | 1049 Colombo St

If you are interested in having a stall contact sara@stalbans.gen.nz or 031 914563. \$20 per stall

Pupils look forward to meeting former students

St Albans School pupil Julia is looking forward to meeting former pupils at the school's anniversary in September



Old and new, the new playground and the old school

As we are celebrating our 150 year jubilee this September, you have been invited back to our school to celebrate.

St Albans School is most likely very different from when you were last here. We have an exciting new playground, named Te Arawai, designed by Adrian Taylor, a father of one of our pupils.

We also have new buildings and the hubs, which is a group of classes, have new names.

We have very talented students here as you would have had as well. One group named the STAr performers is especially good at singing and dance. Others are skilled in playing music and yet more, with academics.

We probably play very different sports to when you were here. We play futsal, volleyball, and rippa rugby to name a



few. We also use a lot more Te Reo Maori than you might have. On Fridays we have a day off from normal lessons when we spend the time doing activities like art and drama.

We are excited to learn what it was like for you when you were here at our school. Was the pool heated? What was your playground like? Did you even have playgrounds at all? Did you enjoy your lessons? Did you have kind teachers?

Thank you for visiting our school again. You might not even recognise it, it must be so different.

Rere mai ai te kahui manu ki te mapuna wai, he momo rere to tena to tena, he korero, he kanga, he kura.

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Don't overstay your welcome in Edgeware Village

continued from page 1

are over, and in Christchurch generally, for that matter. The good news is that you can park in Edgeware Village as long as you like on Sundays and you won't get a nasty surprise in the mail. And you can park for longer during the week by telling hospitality staff about your car's registration number. If you do get an infringement notice take it to the venue you visited as it may be possible to waive the notice. And remember, there is no charge for parking e-bikes. Happy tenants and happy customers. ☼

Unhappy customers tell tales

Not everyone is happy about the parking regime. St Albans local Emma Twaddell admits she forgot the time and the validation scheme and received a \$65 breach notice in the mail, which she is now disputing. Her guest was also stung. She criticised the poor signage and said two weeks is not enough time to respond. She is disputing the matter with Smart Compliance and a debt collector and the amount has increased to close to \$100. Richard Norton says he could have fixed it.

Last year people attending classes at the St Albans Community Centre, oblivious to the signs alerting them to the time limit shared their distressing parking experiences with classmates, community centre staff said, and they won't be hurrying back to the village.

Pump land being cleaned up

Contaminated land around the Trafalgar Street Water Supply Station is being remediated over the winter months.

Testing of the soil has confirmed the presence of heavy metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), associated with old gas works waste, and asbestos. Prior to the 1960s the site operated as an informal landfill where all sorts of materials, including hazardous waste, were dumped.

"These contaminants don't pose any immediate risk to our water supply but PAH's can, in the long-term, degrade the polyethylene pipes that are used in the water supply network," the acting Head of Three Waters, Brent Smith, says.

"We take our artesian drinking water from a long way below where the current material is, so it's important to note that there are no current risks of these contaminants reaching the water supply. However, we need to permanently remove the soil to ensure the safety of the water supply and its compliance with the Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand."

Staff working on the site will wear full personal protective equipment, including masks and suits, for standard health and safety reasons. Exposed soils will be kept wet and stockpiles covered to prevent dust generation. As a precaution, air quality monitors will monitor air molecules. Trucks will enter the site through the access way at 43 Edgeware Rd and some traffic management will be needed around the entrance.

The contaminated material from the site will be safely disposed of at Kate Valley landfill. Decontamination work should be completed by the end of September. ☼

EQC dealing with undiscovered damage

All original claims from the Canterbury earthquakes of 2010-2011 were settled but EQC is still dealing with claims for previously undiscovered damage.

A Toka Tū Ake EQC spokesperson told St Albans News that EQC is currently managing 860 open claims. Of the remaining claims, 75 reopened claims are in the St Albans area. Of those properties in St Albans, 42 have sold to new owners since the Canterbury earthquakes.

Those 42 are not part of the Government's On-sold programme. They are still under the relevant EQC cap and part of the standard CES claims programme. The Government's On-sold programme applies to claims that had previously gone over the relevant EQC cap, and the

properties that had been sold to new owners.

Nearly 6000 homeowners applied for the Government's On-sold programme when they discovered damage but were unable to access their private insurance to repair the damage.

Around 1200 were still under the relevant EQC Cap and were therefore progressed through the standard Canterbury claims progress. Currently 971 claims are still in progress under the Government On-sold programme, while 551 have been completed. The remaining applications have not been progressed because they did not meet the criteria for the programme, withdrew their application or supplied insufficient information. ☼

Class action being taken over On-Solds

Meanwhile homeowners who bought poorly repaired properties after the quakes have been invited to join a class action against EQC being taken by lawyer Grant Shand.

According to a media release more than 50,000 homeowners bought earthquake damaged homes. Many of these homeowners subsequently found their homes had not been properly repaired and applied for the Government On-sold programme. Some homes have been found to be so badly repaired they have to be demolished and rebuilt.

If successful, the action may enable people to

access a cash payment from EQC without the stringent conditions related to the Government On-Sold programme, including required remedial work, staggered payments and legal covenants put in place over the homeowner's property. Legal fees of up to 15 per cent of any settlement monies will be deducted from the amount received.

If unsuccessful, members of the class action will have no liability for legal or court costs.

People in this position can opt into the class action until September 22. For more information visit www.eqconsold.co.nz ☼



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Million dollar homes planned for Orion site

Mike Greer Developments Limited has begun work on a series of 17 upmarket, standalone houses along the edges of Canon and Madras Sts on what is known locally as the Orion site.

Mike Greer Developments Limited owns a 14,892 sqm block of land and is building 11 homes along Canon Street and six along Madras street. Two have already sold and are currently being built. The three bedroom homes, which are valued close to \$1 million each, are standalone with double garages.

To build the homes, Richie McFerran, who is Christchurch general manager of Mike Greer Homes, said the company had cleared trees and demolished an abandoned brick house in Canon St.

Work on building two of the houses started a couple of months ago and is due to be finished late in 2023. The whole development will take several years to complete and eventually reach the boundary of the Horncastle homes built post-quake at the corner of Canon and Packe St.

Each standalone house will have two, 3000 litre, above ground water retention tanks with an overflow plumbed to the stormwater drains to gradually release water. Decisions have yet to be made on replacing the trees and other landscaping. ☼



Building has started on two of the Mike Greer homes on the Orion site. When completed later in the year they should look like the bottom image.

Commercially zoned land still up for sale

Most of the land on the Orion site has been zoned medium density for the purpose of the District Plan but there is one part is zoned commercial local as a consequence of a privately initiated hearing in 2009.

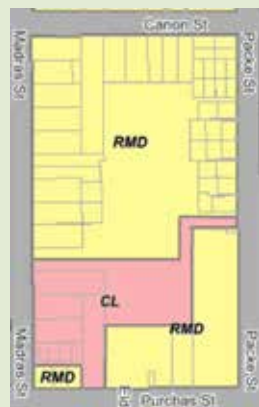
The land at 472-480 Madras St, with entrances from Madras St, Purchas St and Packe St came up for deadline sale by Colliers Commercial in June 2022 but remains unsold. Colliers agent Courtney Doig said the land was under offer earlier in the year but this has fallen through and it is still for sale.

City council consents manager John Higgins says that land zoned commercial can also be used for residential purposes. Public access needs to be provided for in the commercial areas and to a lesser extent in residential parts

of the site. Chapter 155 of the district plan outlines uses that can be made of the site, along with some of the changes proposed with the new plan. It includes a special plan for the St Albans site because of the changes being made outside the regular review of the plan.

According to realestate.co.nz website the unimproved land site at 472-480 Madras (9955 square metres) is valued at \$580,000 and it is being sold on behalf of its most recent owner Madras St Ltd, a property development company set up in 2021 by Profico Developments. Madras St Ltd is moving on to other projects.

The site has had commercial zoning since 2009 when another developer applied to change the site from L3 to Business 1 (now known as Commercial Local). ☼



A large piece of St Albans real estate

Bounded by Canon St, Packe St, Madras St and Purchas St, the Orion site is a bit of a mixed bag and so it probably should be. Most of the area in pink is owned by Madras St Ltd and up for sale. It remains to be seen what will happen there. Mike Greer Homes is developing the northwest corner along the Canon and Madras frontage. The modest Horncastle Homes that run along Packe St from Canon St have been there for half a decade and there is a small block of townhouses on the south west corner that were built even earlier. The Korean Presbyterian Church occupies land and buildings on the south east corner at the corner of Packe St and Purchas St (bottom right). The large RMD section under one title in the centre of the site is currently owned by Dragon Win Investments.

Rezoning in 2009 upset St Albans locals

by Belinda Carter

In 2008, the Orion block was zoned L3 or residential. A private developer wanted to build a supermarket with shops and a hearing was required to change the district plan.

The proposed rezoning was not well received in some quarters. The St Albans Residents Association and some neighbours objected. Bill Demeter, SARA chair at the time, was concerned about the impact the development would have on the supermarket and village shops in nearby Edgeware Rd, less than 800m away. Others were concerned about the extra traffic, noise and building heights.

The applicant at the time wanted to build a supermarket and eight smaller premises (offices or shops) and to enable this the zoning for the site in the district plan needed changing. After the hearing, a part of the Orion block was changed to Business 1 (today called Commercial Local or CL).

Then came the earthquakes. The site changed hands in 2020 but no development has taken place. The property Colliers is marketing is part of the CL zone (see Land still up for sale story).

Ken Gimblett, the commissioner hearing the zoning application in 2009 referred to the Orion site being contaminated but did not go into detail.

Anyone can find out a bit more about their property or one they wish to buy by consulting the Listed Land Use Register held by Environment Canterbury <https://llur.ecan.govt.nz/home>. It soon reveals if a site is contaminated, but

a separate request must be made to see what contaminants are listed on a title.

Not all titles on the Orion site are contaminated. For example, 466 Madras St is not listed but 472 is and it is also listed on the Ministry of Environment's HAIL database, possibly for its electrical transformers. Electrical transformers are likely to have contained PCBs, synthetic chemicals that don't burn easily and make good insulation. Machinery maintenance work would have also been handled on some parts of the site.

Ways of dealing with contaminated sites include concreting them over or removing and replacing the top layer of soil with clean soil. Putting vegetables in raised planter boxes in clean soil is recommended for affected St Albans gardeners.

It has been suggested by local residents that part of the Orion site could be used for stormwater treatment but talking to acting Three Waters Head, Brent Smith, it becomes obvious this would be an expensive undertaking, requiring pumping, and that is unlikely to happen. Stormwater flows through the site from north to south.

Swales are in use near the Horncastle homes in Packe St, and two 3000 litre water storage tanks (referred to as retention tanks) are being installed with each home in the Mike Greer development.

But a strong case could still be argued for additional greenspace in St Albans and for more trees to be planted on the Orion block to help combat climate change. ☼

Your local MP for St Albans

If you would like me to be a guest speaker at your meeting or event, have questions about Government policy, or you would like some help with a problem, contact my office.

Duncan Webb

MP for Christchurch Central

chchcentral@parliament.govt.nz

366 5519

Labour

Authorised by Duncan Webb MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

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Letters to the editor

Article captures rich tapestry of life

Congratulations to Daph Parkins on a beautifully crafted and informative article on Ina Dunstan published in the St Albans News, May 2023. It was fascinating to read about Ina's upbringing last century.

Not only did it encapsulate the social aspects of life back then (such as the role of maternity homes / adoption; school discipline, polio scare, recreation activities, to wartime measures such as air raid shelters and wardens) but it was written in such a simple, flowing and highly readable way. I can see a skilled teacher using Ina's story in a local-interest, historic context in their lessons.

The spirit of social engagement by such writing must be trumpeted. Anzac Day has just past and it again heightens the fact that most of our World War veterans have passed on and their oral histories have gone with them. For Daph to interview this wonderful nonagenarian is fantastic – Ina is a "taonga" with a rich tapestry of life experiences which need to be put in print and made available for younger generations.

Hail to the local History Group and I for one look forward to future publications of this ilk.

Best wishes, John Mitchell

Article stirs up further fear

Dear Editor

It is disappointing to see the ST ALBAN NEWS devote its entire centre pages to promoting a book entitled "Fear". The theme of this newly published work simply stirs up further fear, division and suspicion in a society already divided and fearful.

It is sad that we can no longer have open and balanced debates about differing opinions. Anyone who disagrees with mainstream thought is now labelled "far right extremist" or "conspiracy theorist" or "white supremacist". The press resorts to name-calling without any real investigative journalism. "Dangerous" is another popular adjective currently over-used. It is reminiscent of the McCarthy witch-hunts where those perceived to be "un-American" were viewed as dangerous reds under the bed.

And who now makes the imperious decision on whether something is disinformation? The government...? The media...? Or maybe a panel of funded experts...? Is there a general awareness that this recently adopted term "disinformation" actually arose in Stalin's Soviet Russia where anything which deviated from the party line was determined and criminalised?*

History repeats itself and we never seem to learn from past mistakes.

Yours sincerely, Chris Watkins

Boggy park needs fixing first

Public barbecue at St Albans? The council should look at the path and surrounds adjacent to the bowling green. It is still a bog and the path a lake days after rain. Any rain and the problem returns. It is a problem for the many walkers who enjoy the park.

It is a shame because such a good job was done relaying the ground and generally upgrading the park.

Probably the path there needs to be raised and the drainage improved.

Geoff Tait

A note from the editor

Letters to the editor should be clearly marked Letter to the Editor and emailed to news@stalban.gen.nz or dropped into the centre office during office hours. Anonymous letters will not be published and writers should supply a physical address (which will not be published). Letters may be abridged but it is a good idea to keep them under 200 words. Criticism of views expressed in articles is allowed but abuse and labelling of individuals is unacceptable. A second letter on Byron C Clark's views, similar to the letter included above, did not meet the requirements on two counts.



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Zonta's festive trail to raise funds for Christchurch Aunties charity

The Christchurch-Canterbury Zonta Club is organizing a Winter Christmas Trail in the form of a self-drive tour of houses decorated for Christmas on Sunday June 23.

The trail features floral demonstrations, yummy Christmas baking and Christmas decorations.

The event is a fundraiser for Zonta's local charity, the Christchurch Aunties, who support women's refuges throughout the city.

Tickets for adults and children aged 12 and older can be purchased from Christmas Hut in Sawyers Arms Rd.

City council listens to views on annual plan

Christchurch City Council held hearings in late April and early May based on written submissions to the annual plan. As well as attending many hours of hearings, councillors needed to read and absorb thousands of pages before attending the hearings.

The St Albans Residents Association made no submission this year but the Waipapa/Papanui-Innes-Central Community Board did and among the items they advocated for were:

- a pedestrian crossing in Springfield Rd, although not as elaborate as a crossing at traffic lights (as incorrectly suggested in St Albans News in March).
- a downloadable resource to help the community deal with flooding.
- the ongoing DEMP work dealing with the consequences of imposing the Northern Arterial linking the city to the northern motorway via Cranford St.

One thing the board did not support was a planned increase in the daily water allowance from 700 to 900 litres per day as the Waipapa board thinks the lower amount

creates more of an incentive for people to do something about their excess water usage. They also pointed out that not having all householders on separate meters was unfair as they cannot be charged for excess water usage while those on individual meters can be.

The new rates to be paid will be set at a council meeting in late June. The increase is expected to be around 5-6 per cent more than the current rates. ☞

Those on low incomes who own their own homes may be entitled to rates rebates. For the current year 2022/2023 the deadline for such applications is the end of June. Depending on the ratepayer's income, up to \$700 could be knocked off the bill for the current year or roughly 25-30 per cent. This involves a bit of form filling. Start here: <https://ccc.govt.nz/services/rates-and-valuations/reductions/apply-for-a-rates-rebate-low-income-earners>

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News from the Council

Some welcome news for St Albans

Christchurch City Council had some great news for the St Albans Pool group this week when they made the decision that the group qualifies for a rates remission on a "fair and equitable" basis. They have been paying rates on the land at 43a Edgeware Rd since they took ownership in 2018, and from now on will not need to fund raise for that, plus the Council has decided to refund payments of nearly \$7000 to date. I know the group will make good use of the funds, which will go towards reports required for their building consent. It's wonderful to see this project inching closer as the result of the hard work by this determined group.

On May 11, the Waipapa Community Board signed off our Board plan for the next three years after feedback from the community. For Innes the Boards' priorities are the downstream effects on traffic from the Northern Corridor, safety in the community, the future community facility at IO Shirley Rd, intensification issues, and flooding mitigation. The Board will continue to work closely with community groups, residents and businesses to deliver the

best outcomes for St Albans.

Anyone can attend the board's public meetings and speak for five minutes during the public forum at the start of the meeting. The monthly meetings are held on Thursday at 4pm. Contact: mark.saunders@ccc.govt.nz to let him know.



Cr Pauline Cotter.

We are well and truly into winter now and we are finding it dark when we leave for work in the morning and dark when we get home. The days are short and it's hard to get things done outside, but I've managed to clear my vegetable garden and fill it with lovely straw that will break down over the next few months and be ready for spring planting. It's great to see the Government's heating subsidy kicking in again too, as keeping a home warm is essential for our health.

Keep moving and keep warm



Chlorination is the city's future

Christchurch City Council is being forced to chlorinate drinking water that does not need it to meet the requirements of the new water reform plans, sometimes referred to as Three Waters.

The Government created nationwide standards after contaminated water in Havelock North killed four people and sickened many more in 2016. Water infrastructure is very expensive and beyond the resources of smaller district councils to install and maintain. The finer points of the new system are still being worked through.

CCC had applied for an exemption to the chlorination requirements but is being declined despite millions of ratepayer dollars were spent on new pipes and chlorination to bring drinking water up to the new standards. Chlorination will become the standard treatment of the city water from now on at the pump station in Trafalgar St and elsewhere. Stations that did not need to chlorinate will now have to do so.

This means Christchurch water, which has had a renowned reputation, may taste funny unless you add a filter. Individual households can filter out the chlorine (and other chemicals) by investing in granular activated carbon (GAC) filters, which can be added to household pipes. Talk to your plumber or visit a retailer like Plumbing World. And if you keep fish in fish tanks add some sodium thiosulfate.

Chlorine has been suspected of causing the failure of some new water cylinders, causing leaks, sometimes within a couple of years of installation. Local firm Plumbfast says that chlorine in hot water is corrosive on brass, copper, galvanized iron, stainless steel pipes and fittings. They recommend using titanium coated elements instead of copper alloy ones. <https://www.plumbfast.co.nz/chlorine-get-rid-of-it/>

For further information check out:

<https://newsline.ccc.govt.nz/news/story/chlorine-exemptions-your-questions-answered>



Voters choice

Voters aged 18+ with Māori heritage can now choose to vote in either a general electorate such as Christchurch Central or Te Tai Tonga, which covers the whole of the South Island (and a bit more of the other island). They can switch between the rolls this year as long as this is done before July 13, three months out from the general election. Previously, it required making a choice of electorates every six years.

Council to push for e-bike discount

Christchurch City Council is writing a letter to the Minister of Transport Michael Wood asking for a discount scheme to enable car drivers to change to an e bike instead of an electric car. The discount scheme does little to relieve congestion on the roads, which is just as much a problem as CO2 emissions. The idea was one of the demands made by students for climate change strike earlier in the year when they occupied the ground floor of the CCC building.

St Albans parks and gardens

Safety concerns raised about park ponding and lighting

Last year we reported on ponding in parts of the park that sickened some local dogs and caused the death of one of them. Vets warned local dogwalkers to steer clear of ponded water in the park.

But Christchurch City Council Manager Community Parks Al Hardy said they have not been made aware of any dog deaths or toxic algal blooms in the area.

This autumn nearby residents report that the areas adjacent to the playing fields, which had the drainage work done on them several years ago, are boggy and in some cases ponding. They know to wear gumboots when walking in St Albans Park.

The council is looking at planting lower (swale) areas that hold water over the winter period but the manager did not indicate plant types.

He said the area around the pathway under the tress only had residual water during periods of high rainfall.

Residents have also raised concern through personal contact and emails to SARA and StAN about the lack of lighting at the northern end of St Albans Park which is dark after 6pm at this time of year.

Before the quakes three poles provided lighting for team



Grass at the edges of St Albans Park is often boggy in autumn and winter months and left unmown because drainage pipes were limited to the fields. A nearby pathway is often under water and gumboots are a necessity in winter

practice and training that allowed teams to practice in winter after dark. These lights have not been replaced.

But Al Hardy says the city council does not supply sports ground lighting "We understand that these lights were owned by the sports club at the time. We haven't had any requests from sports groups to have lighting on the park for training purposes."



Residents urged to become backyard trappers

Residents living near Abberley Park are being encouraged to install rat traps to reduce predator numbers and help bird life flourish.

Chew cards containing peanut butter nailed to trees in the park have been nibbled and neighbours near the park are already trapping rats.

Philippa Wadsworth and several local residents, who had seen lots of rats in the Park, set up Predator Free St Albans, covering the area bounding Bealey Ave, Papanui Rd, Sherborne/Cranford Sts and Westminster St. Members can come from outside this area.

"Rats eat birds' eggs, young birds and we also think they have been eating monarch butterflies. They also carry diseases, such as leptospirosis."

It is suggested that trappers take it slowly to get rats accustomed to the supply of free food, before introducing baited traps. They are very cautious animals.

Victory Traps costing \$30 each can be purchased from Keep NZ Predator Free online shop: <https://shop.predatorfreenz.org> or purchased from the St Albans group for around \$20 each. A local mens' shed has offered to make the wooden tunnel boxes.

"We invite anyone who is interested and willing to help reduce the rat population in this area, to put a trap in their backyard. These can be obtained from Predator Free St Albans. They only need checking once a week and we are happy to help if anyone feels uncomfortable dealing with

any rats they catch. The traps are safe for children, and pets as they are placed inside a tunnel."

The predator free groups, are part of Predator Free 2050 mission to remove five of the most damaging predators from New Zealand to make the country predator-free and allow native wildlife such as birds and lizards to flourish once more. Other traps suitable for catching stoats, weasels, ferrets and possums are also available through the online store. Introduced predators such as feral cats and hedgehogs are also being targeted.

For more information visit:
<https://predatorfreenz.org> or
phone Philippa 021 0648861



Alert: text message scams.

Banks are reporting a significant increase in text messages claiming to be from NZTA, NZ Post and IRD with links to pay fees. Any text message asking you to click a link to make a payment is most likely a scam. Do not click the link but you can phone your bank or the agencies mentioned.

Community Notices

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

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

Christchurch Senior Citizens: Cards: Mon 12.30 - 3 pm. Indoor bowls: Tuesdays 12.45 - 3 pm. Activity group outings. Further information - call Veronica 383 4682 or 021 1187 360 or Beth 389 2375.

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

Coffee and conversation: Every Wednesday 10.30am - 12.30pm at Kōhinga St Albans Community Centre. Join us for coffee and conversation. All Welcome. Koha for coffee appreciated.

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

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

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

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

Edgware 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 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. No partner, contact Maureen on 021 646 123.

Family Drug Support Aotearoa New Zealand: Ph 03 21818740

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

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

Knitting & Crochet Group, meets 10am to 11.30am, every Tuesday, at The Edge Cafe. New members welcome.

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

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

NZ Japan Society of Canterbury provides understanding and goodwill between the people of NZ and Japan. Visitors welcome. Contact Jean Bell: 355 9903 or jeanpbell8@gmail.com

Predator Free St Albans: Interested in trapping rats? Ph Phillippa 021 064 8861 or see our FaceBook page

Prostate Cancer Foundation Support Group: Established support group for men, partners and family meets every third Tuesday at 7:00 PM at the St Albans Community Centre. Contact Chris Jones for more information - Phone 0 3 342 6173 or email vp@prostate.org.nz

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: mlyons747@gmail.com. Find us on Facebook, or visit rotarynewhorizons.org.nz

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

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

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

Seniornet Mac runs help sessions for those with Apple devices at the St Albans Community Centre on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10am- noon.

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

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

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

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

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

St Albans Laughter Club: Laughter yoga teaches you to breathe to release tension and stress. Sundays 11am-12pm. Scottish Society Hall, cnr Caledonian and Edgware Rds. \$3. email: hannah@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. Please email: women.in.harmony.nz@gmail.com; facebook.com/womeninharmonychristchurch

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

Community notices are free to groups operating in St Albans, Please email Lynne@advertising.gen.nz

St Albans News Classifieds

SERVICES

Having difficulty making a good decision about a family, work, relationship or legal problem? We can help you make a thoughtful and practical decision. Give me a call and we can discuss. If needed, we can then meet at the St Albans Community Centre. Bill Demeter at 027 379 3873. There is no charge for this service.

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

Singing lessons available: Experienced local tutor. All ages welcome. Please ph or text Meredith 027 696 6290

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 021 0835 5345

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.

TRADIES

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.

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

Handyman: Pete Knuiman Ltd. For all your property maintenance, repairs, painting, carpentry, fencing, brickwork, tiling work, alterations and those odd jobs. Ph Pete 021 022 53774 or 385 1718. www.peteknuiman.co.nz, pete@peteknuiman.co.nz

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Pegasus Landscapes: All aspects of landscaping, design. We do everything on the outside including planting, paving, driveways, lawns, lawn renovation, irrigation, raised timber planters, all timber work, brick and block work, full garden maintenance service. Established in St Albans in 1992. Please contact Andy Cox, ph 0274337629, email: pegasus.landscapes@gmail.com

SITUATIONS VACANT

Housekeeping. Hi we are a couple with a three year old child living in a villa off St Albans Street. We would like to find a person to clean and iron for us once a week about 6 to 8 hours per week. Good hourly rate, very flexible on day you work, as we both work. Email or call Peter on 021 345 075 or peter@profileshoes.co.nz

The Christchurch Kurashiki Sister City Committee is looking for home hosts for two adult leaders of a visiting student group from Japan from July 25 till August 7. If interested in hosting (for all or part of the time), please email Steve at whizzard17@gmail.com or phone 021 352 977

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:** Call on 027 694 5275 or email at: murray@afterhourscounselling.co.nz
- Are You OK?** Family violence helpline 0800 456 450.
- Comcare Trust:** For health or addiction issues. 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:** Contact: 021 195 6766.
- Family Drug Support Aotearoa New Zealand.** 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 Hours: 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.
- 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

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

June 12, 10.30am - 12.30pm: Cafe Chat at Kōhinga

Jun 17, 10 am: Village Clean up

Jun 18, 7 pm: Edgware Pool fundraising Quiz at Bailies

June 24, 11am-2pm: Midwinter market

Lavender Dollies
by Tessa Read

\$25 each

All proceeds to the Edgware Pool
To buy: text Peggy 027 366 3844

Spatial plan integrates housing and transport

by Belinda Carter

Christchurch City Council will be consulting with residents in mid June and through most of July over an integrated transport and intensified housing plan called the Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan.

The plan was drawn up by the Greater Christchurch Partnership, a voluntary association of Waimakariri and Selwyn Councils, the city council, Environment Canterbury, mana whenua and government agencies.

The plan integrates a mass rapid transport plan with intensified housing along routes stretching from Belfast to Hornby via the central city using Papanui and Riccarton Rds. The council is planning for the population of Greater Christchurch to reach 700,000 by mid- century, then grow to 1 million, and to do this requires decent transport.

The transit plan features a 22 kilometre key route from Belfast to Hornby, with extensions beyond that to Rangiora and Rolleston. Current city bus routes would link in. The system would be phased in, with the first section from Church Corner in Upper Riccarton to Papanui planned to operate in about five years.

A business case carried out earlier this year has recommended either light rail or buses to create a rapid mass transit system featuring buses or trains that arrive every 10 minutes or every 5 minutes at peak times. The report also looked at two other scheme using the current railway lines and the motorway but neither would have sufficient stops.

Intensification of housing eg: 3-6 storey units with limited off street and on street parking would be encouraged within walking distance (800 metres has been suggested) of the key route so people would use public transport more.

Staff working on the project think the returns on the scheme could be as much as 2.8 per dollar spent, but at the May 17 meeting Cr Aaron Keown questioned that when he compared Christchurch's low population density with Australian cities using rapid transit.

Consultations over the plan begins soon and will continue into 2024 before a decision is made in the first quarter.

Government contribution

In March, the Government announced the Greater Christchurch Public Transport Futures Bus Improvements programme to deliver 100 more buses, 470 more bus shelters, 200 more real-time display units (providing accurate information on bus arrival times) and 22 kilometres of new bus lanes, improving reliability and "encouraging more people to use public transport for their daily travel," the Minister of Transport Michael Wood said.

The Government is investing \$78 million (through Crown funding, the Waka Kotahi subsidy and funds reallocated from Auckland's abandoned Northern Pathway scheme) to accelerate the programme over a five-to-six year period. Increased use of buses should make roads less congested and safer and reduce emissions.

The budget in May has also made bus travel free for 5-12 year olds and half price for students under the age of 25. ☚

PUBLIC MEETING ON EDUCATION & IMMIGRATION

Hosted by Dale Stephens with
guest speaker, Erica Stanford MP

Tuesday 13 June, 7pm

Transitional Cathedral, 234 Hereford Street
Christchurch Central City



Authorised by Dale Stephens,
27/42 Ferry Rd, Christchurch



Dale Aotea Stephens
Candidate for Christchurch Central

Erica Stanford
MP for East Coast Bays



WINTER CHRISTMAS TRAIL

A Christmas House Tour
Fundraiser

If you love Christmas, have a fun and festive
Winter day with your family and friends.

25 June 2023

Tickets available
zontachristchurch.org.nz
Details about this event are on our website.

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A Zonta Club of Christchurch-Canterbury event for our chosen charities