

Board prefers peak time bus lane in Cranford St

by Belinda Carter

The Waipapa/Papanui-Innes-Central Community Board is recommending to Christchurch City Council (CCC) that an 800 metre stretch of Cranford St, from Innes Rd to Berwick St, remains a bus lane at peak times.

There is room for another lane: it has been used for more than two years to trial a bus lane at peak times. Council staff recommended that it become a clearway, largely because most people from St Albans, Christchurch city and beyond who made the effort to fill out the forms, and submitted them to the

council, preferred that option. Nearly half the 629 submitters supported the clearway option and the other half a bus lane.

The clearway option, recommended by council staff and T2 (which would have allowed buses and vehicles with more than one occupant access to a second lane during peak travel times) were rejected. Staff say it has not proven easy to enforce which vehicles use the T2 lane on the main part of the motorway. It is likely to be unenforceable in Cranford St.

continued on page 7

Ceremony brings Edgeware Pool closer to reality

Rev Brian Lewis on behalf of Ngāi Tūāhuriri, the hapū who holds mana whenua over this area, blessed the pool site before speeches were given by Deputy Mayor Pauline Cotter, former councillor Mike Davidson and Edgeware Pool Group Chair Lynne O'Keefe.

Deputy Mayor Pauline Cotter, who was largely responsible for securing the \$3 million dollars from Christchurch City Council needed to replace the pool, paid tribute to a number of people including frugal millionaire Martin Coffey (who like many older St Albans residents virtually lived at the old pool) whose \$50,000 donation kicked off the fundraising nearly 15 years ago.

"The new pool will fill this vacant space with laughter, fun and good times. And it will provide and support community connections, offer healthy outdoor activity and amenity... needed more than ever with all the infill housing around here."

Lynne thanked "the many people contributing along the journey", including some council and community board members, and others who have kept the plan to rebuild the pool alive after it was demolished by the council in 2006, in particular Valerie and Paul Somerville who managed to keep the St Albans Swim Club operating for as long as possible at another pool.

"Some of you may have learned to swim here and have fond memories of summers



Valerie and Paul Somerville dug the first sod after the pool site blessing, with Lynne O'Keefe's grand-daughter Bailey.

hanging out at the pool and understand why we see this project as an important contribution to our community" Lynne said.

"We want you to be part of this exciting journey with us and get involved. Once opened this will be a community facility, building social interaction that promises to offer numerous benefits to residents of all ages..."

A large group of St Albans Primary School tamariki from the Te Tikanga Rua Reo programme sang a couple of waiata before pool group supporters took turns at turning a sod.

Professionals have been assisting the group towards its goal, including the contracting of a project manager. A building consent application is being processed. It is anticipated that the outdoor pool will open for the summer swim season of 2025/2026, nearly 20 years since the old pool was demolished, and that it will be well-used by the community.

Funding for the pool is coming from CCC funds held aside for this purpose, supplemented by grants from organisations such as Lotteries, NZ Community Trust and the Rata Foundation. The focus now is on

seeking donations to outfit the complex next year. See page 5 for a story "Donations sought" about items needed, including one that will enable the pool to be heated by solar power.

Also, see how to donate to the pool on page 5



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Published by St Albans Residents Association

St Albans Photo Competition



by Emma Twaddell

The results are in for the recently held St Albans Photo Competition, showcasing the incredible talent within our community. The competition featured three categories: Parks, People, and Night. After much deliberation, the judges have selected the winners.

The winning image in the Parks category, and the overall competition, is "Sunset at Play" by Janine McIvor. This stunning photo of a local playground at sunset beautifully captures the essence of St Albans, known as the Golden Suburb, with its vibrant colours and serene composition.

Donald Beaumont's photo "Night Lights" has won the Night category of the competition. This long exposure shot beautifully captures the stunning light trails of a Friday night bus passing through the corner of Papanui and Weston Roads.

Gill Judge has won the People category with her photo "Misty Malvern". This charming image captures her son joyfully throwing autumn leaves on a misty day in Malvern Park, one of his favourite activities.

The competition attracted more than 20 entries, displaying images of local sights and life which will all be used on the new website currently being designed, St Albans Online.

The overall winner received a cash prize of \$100 and the winners of the other categories both won a \$50 cash prize.

Christmas market at Kohinga

More than 30 stalls have been booked for the Edgware Village Christmas Market at the St Albans Community Centre on December 7.

When the doors open at 11am, market goers will be met with crochet and other homemade crafts, preserves, home decorations, plants, jewellery, candles, honey, cat beds, rat traps and plenty more.

Come on down for lunch: food stalls include Filipino BBQ, Afghan food, fresh juices, and candyfloss. Some seating is available in the bountiful garden in Caledonian Rd next to the centre.

Ideas sought for St Albans Strategy

If you haven't already done so, you are running out of time to get your ideas included in the St Albans Strategy 2025-2034.

What's missing in St Albans you would like to have? How can it be a better place to live? What's important for you in the environment you live in? Submit your ideas online here: www.stalbans.gen.nz/?page_id=11217

Kōhinga St Albans Community centre will be closed from December 23 to January 13 2025.

SARA Committee

St Albans Residents Association meets bi-monthly at St Albans Community Centre, 1049 Colombo St. Next meeting is yet to be confirmed

Advertising in St Albans News

If you would like to advertise in the News, phone Lynne on 972 5534 or email advertising@stalbens.gen.nz. Please ask for a copy of our ratesheet, which specifies sizes, prices and requirements.

St Albans History Group

Next meeting: December 1 at 2pm at the St Albans Community Centre.
Email: briangspear@hotmail.com

Wednesday Wheelies

Wednesday Wheelies meet at 9am, St Albans Community Centre carpark on Caledonian Road.

The deadline for the February issue of St Albans News is January 15
Please send your articles, letters and notices to: news@stalbens.gen.nz

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](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

New planters installed at Kōhinga Mārā

by Mark Wilson

Over the last few weeks four new raised garden beds have been built at the back of our community garden, Kohinga Mara. These were built on site and designed to make use of the fence and aspect of the back of the garden. The SARA committee put a call out to Keneally Timber Products (KTP) to assist us in the next stage of the garden, doing something with the rear of the section. KTP very generously provided all of the timber (macrocarpa) at a very discounted rate.

As part of the SARA sustainability project and focus, SARA would like to see more of these planters in Medium Density Residential (MDR) backyards and along fences to help people grow veges, fruit and herbs rather than having artificial grass and concrete. In the coming months we will be looking to see how we can best utilise them, especially regarding what best to plant and where, as the planter along the fence will have reduced sunlight at certain times of the year and day, much like MDR properties with limited sun.

Though there is some cost to building a raised garden, it is certainly not as hard as it looks, and is a great addition to any backyard, even if it's for some impromptu seating in the summer.

Step by step directions on how to build the tiered planter



Additional planter boxes at the St Albans community centre garden (Kohinga Mārā) are being installed to grow more vegetables and as an educational resource.

(along the fence) will be put on our website (as soon as it is operational), and a print out copy will be at Kohinga office for a limited time. We will be filling the planters with about 8m³ of soil on Saturday 30 November. Bring a shovel, a wheel barrow, and some good weather.

Thank you again to Keneally Timber Products for supporting this project. ☘

Carol singing at Cafe Chat

There was no speaker at Cafe Chat in November due to a misunderstanding but those who turned up ate cake and watched a travelogue on Ireland. The Cafe Chat on December 1 was to have featured a community charity but has been replaced with some carol singing led by members of the St Albans Community Choir which is performing at Packe St later in the week. It will be accompanied by sweet treats, savoury bites and tea served in special cups.



Working bees

Monday and Thursday
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Send your news contributions and adverts to:

news@stalbens.gen.nz

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

Letters can be mailed to:

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

Thank you, Belinda

Belinda has worked tirelessly for many years editing the St Albans News and has been a valued and important member of the StAN team. She has been successful in getting the News to now over 7000 homes, always with great community content and always of a high standard.

On behalf of SARA, the management committee and the community that has benefitted from Belinda's efforts, we thank her immensely. But she will not be lost to SARA, as she continues to be involved in other groups, including the History Group. She may also continue to contribute to our local rag from time to time – no doubt also casting an editorial eye over future editions and offering advice when needed!

Thank you Belinda.

Mark Wilson, Chair, SARA

SARA is seeking expressions of interest from people being part of the editorial team to ensure continuity of this important community publication. ☞

Curtain makers move to Kaiapoi

The new owners of Off the Track have taken off to parts north of Christchurch. The shop, which made curtains and blinds and recycled others occupied a shop in Westminster St for many years. Under new ownership, Off the Track has opened in Williams St in Kaiapoi.

Opinion

How to reduce milk bottle waste

Charles Poynton, a lifelong quaffer of milk who also consumes modest volumes of home-brewed beer, has some ideas for reducing waste and improving milk retailing.

In the 1970s, I spent some time in Scandinavia, where the people drink nearly a litre/day of milk. This is healthier than beer, particularly if consuming skim milk. However, I still consume moderate amounts of home-brewed beer, which costs about a dollar per litre, in recycled PET bottles.

My own yellow wheelie bin contains a significant proportion of polyethylene milk bottles, of which there are 7 to 10 in each collection but no beer bottles, because I have recycled and refilled PET soft drink bottles for years. How can all the waste milk bottles be eliminated?

The 400,000 residents of Christchurch each consume about 100 litres of milk per year. This is 40 million litres in 20 million bottles. A 2-litre bottle weighs 51 grams and has a cap weighing 2 grams. Christchurch's milk bottles weigh about 1000 tonnes annually and the caps, another 40 tonnes. The uncrushed, unmelted bottles would occupy 40 million litres – 40,000 cubic metres. These could bury a rugby pitch to a depth of four to five metres or more.

How can we reduce this waste? We can all put them in the yellow recycle bin (after removing the caps). After suitable separation in a recycle plant, they can be shipped overseas and cast into plastic for non-food use. Alternatively, they could be rinsed in the kitchen, sterilized and refilled.

The energy content of skim milk is 157kJ/100ml, ie 3140kJ/2litres (265kJ for standard, full-fat milk). The energy content of the 53g of bottle + cap is 1400kJ. 31% of the energy content is in the plastic packaging. A significant amount of this energy can be saved by rinsing the bottle, sterilizing it with a small quantity of sodium bisulphite solution, and recycling it.

Milk could be retailed in bulk. Rather than bottled milk in crates being stacked in large, open refrigerators, the customer would refill their recycled containers from a refrigerated tank, supplied by a hose from a dairy truck. The bottle could be scanned, weighed and priced in the usual fashion at the checkout. The savings in packaging and labour might even be passed on to the consumer in lower prices.

And a vast amount of needless plastic waste could be kept from the environment. (I don't want to think about NZ's quantity of beer-related waste)

(The author, who has an MSc in earth sciences, has travelled the world and at 75 is retired and living in St Albans) ☞

Community can help fit out new pool

Items ranging from under \$100 to over \$50,000 are being sought to fit out the new Edgware Pool due to open late next year

Some items have already been promised eg: the SeniorNet Mac group which uses the community centre has agreed to supply a computer for the office. The Arvida retirement village residents are donating one of three picnic tables.

A number of items relate to the main pool including a painted depth indicator (\$1325), lane ropes (four at \$1650 each) and a mobile lane rope reel, a semi automatic pool cleaner, starter platforms (five @ \$3300 each) and a diving board (\$4500). The changing rooms need lockers @ \$1500 each.

If you want your name to be displayed in even bigger lights you could cover the cost of the \$50,000 solar power unit. A great promotional tool 'that you are powering the Edgware Pool'.



If you would like to donate money towards these items (and any others) contact pool group chair Lynne on 355 5868 or email swim@edgwarepool.co.nz

For those whose budgets can't stretch that far, consider exchanging a \$10 note for a 2025 calendar featuring St Albans buildings, some of which are no longer standing. Calendars are available now through the community centre and Reverie bookshop 52 Edgware Road. Just in time for Christmas. ☞

Place-based education helps local schools

A research project carried out in 2024 by university students will help teachers use St Albans to provide learning opportunities for school pupils, as St Albans Activator Emma Twaddell explains:

Place Based Education (PBE) is a concept that goes beyond classroom walls to engage student learning by providing learning experiences that a regular classroom cannot.

St Albans is home to many potential learning places for use: the local library, community centre, gardens, parks, and historical sites are all valuable learning places.

Recent research carried out in partnership with the University of Canterbury highlighted the importance of implementing localised learning for student sense of place and psychosocial benefits. Surveying teachers and parents at local St Albans schools found that both parents and teachers agree that PBE is important.

PBE is important for... (Parent question only)	Somewhat and Strongly Agree
Academic development	87%
Environmental responsibility	91%
Mental wellbeing	74%
Physical wellbeing	83%

It is important for children too...	Somewhat and Strongly Agree	
	Parent	Teacher
Know how to get to places in the St Albans community	70%	100%
Learn about St Albans history	48%	100%
Understand local wildlife and plants	87%	100%
Connect with mātauranga Māori/Māori knowledge and world views	65%	100%
Connect with people in their community	96%	86%

The research identifies learning places within St Albans that can be used, and it highlights safe routes that students can take to walk to them.

This research lays the foundation for our community to support schools and children's development by inviting them into our cherished spaces.

The report 'Belcher R, Jamison K, Mohssen H, Ross H, 2024, Place-based Education Opportunities in St Albans, produced for the St Albans Residents Association (SARA) as a part of the GEOG309 Research for Resilient Environments and Communities course, University of Canterbury, 2024, will be available early next year. ☞

Our Place 2025 Calendar

Empower Church facelift offers more space

The church previously known as Beulah has undergone renovations to add more spaces for community activities.

Belinda Carter took a closer look.



The old, stained timber church in Springfield Rd has lost its dated looks. It's still on site but has undergone a transformation to create five meeting rooms with state of art upgrades that has also encased the timber Fraemohs building in white plaster. This has made for extra thick and quake- strengthened external walls. It officially reopened on November 23.

However, to provide more meeting spaces, the development has robbed some space from the large auditorium. One space has been reserved for Conductive Education (the second such facility for Christchurch) which helps physically disabled children.

Being a wooden building was Beulah Church/Empower Church's saving grace during the 2010-2011 earthquakes as it was one of few, safe multifunction venues left in the city. It has been used consistently ever since for exams,



conferences, musical groups, and a host of other activities. The recent building work will enable more groups to hire facilities.

There are also plans to build a playground, a basketball court, and a community garden, in association with the Community Focus Trust, which fundraises for Empower Church's community activities, operates from an old wooden villa next door to the church, previously occupied by Pillars, the group helping families of jailed prisoners. It is also undergoing transformation to include a pocket gym in one room, an upgraded kitchen for cooking lessons and possibly furnishing classes. Two 40 foot containers out the back of the church site, no longer needed for the "supermarket" which has closed, will be turned into workshops, one for men and one for women.

(Thanks to Suzie from Community Focus Trust for the tour) ☘

Council consulting on dogs

Christchurch City Council is consulting on the rules surrounding dogs in the city, something it does every 10 years or so. Rules may change to limit the number of dogs any one person can walk within city streets, depending on whether the dogs are leashed or not. Dogs on footpaths may be limited to 1.5 metre leashes on footpaths and shared paths. The consultation also covers dogs in wildlife areas and community gardens. The consultation closes on December 15. Find out more and have your say on: <https://letstalk.ccc.govt.nz/dogs>

Businesses support local projects

Thank you to businesses who have supported local projects. Hells Pizza Shirley supported the St Albans Skate School earlier in the year and provide monthly vouchers to SARA to share with the community. Crisp and Fresh Choice provided vouchers to encourage participation in the university students' research (see place based education story on page 5). More recently, Keneally Timber Products and Tree Tech have helped out with materials for Kohinga Māra. (See the article about the planters on page 3).

Board prefers peak time bus lane in Cranford St

continued from page 1

Most board members see themselves as representing ratepayers and as Cr Pauline Cotter pointed out a consultation is not a voting system. Other council priorities needed to be taken into consideration such as improved public transport and reducing emissions.

The vote at the board's meeting on November 14 to recommend the peak time bus lane was not unanimous but it was clear: 6-2 for a bus lane, with the chair Emma Norrish opting for T2. Innes community board member Emma Twaddell was strongly in favour of the bus lane but the other Innes rep Ali Jones wanted a clearway as she thought two lanes of traffic would clear the congestion faster in the next few years. She suggested a a pedestrian walkover leading from one footpath to another, possibly like one planned for Brougham St. Although it would help keep school children and others safe, this would require a lot of funding to implement, and her suggestion did not get much traction amongst other community board members.

The extended meeting also gave some of those who made submissions the chance to also be heard at the same community board meeting.

St Albans Residents Association (SARA) chair Mark Wilson, accompanied by Francine Bills, spoke on behalf of local residents. SARA backs a bus lane as the best option. To make the bus service appeal to

growing numbers of commuters living in Rangiora and Kaiapoi the extra lane needs to be a bus lane in peak hours. It would also make it easier for Cranford St residents to get in and out of their driveways. Two lanes of car traffic in a clearway could encourage speeding and increase the likelihood of a pedestrian or cyclist being hit. A bus lane would make it safer for all and best for the environment.

As he told St Albans News after the meeting: "Buses will allow people other options than having to take their car... giving people the opportunity to take the bus, rather than forcing them to."

Gareth Jones, a Cranford St resident described the difficulty getting in and out of a driveway onto Cranford St, with drivers intent on getting into the city as fast as possible. Residents with utes find it difficult and driving a trailer in and out is nigh on impossible. At least a bus lane at peak times would provide some space to do so.

Harrison McEvoy, from the Greater Ōtautahi group, pointed out an extra lane given over to cars would fill up within five years. David Palmer from Redwood, who visited Curletts Rd in Riccarton, warned that Cranford St could end up the same way with no on street parking and no room for cyclists if it becomes a clearway.

A full CCC meeting will make the final decision on December 4. ☘

Council to make final decision on housing

Christchurch City Council will decide in early December on the rules that will guide housing development in the city over the next decade when it meets to finalise the district plan. Although CCC chose to include sunlight access protection as a factor in granting building consents, an independent hearing panel nixed that when it reviewed the council's PC14 plans.

The panel rejected CCC requiring developers to replace the trees they chop down, which is likely

to reduce the city's tree canopy further and the impact it can have on temperatures and climate change.

The plan will replace one that has been in place since the 2020-2011 earthquakes. It is likely to produce intensified, multi-unit, multi storey housing (three of more storeys) all over the city and not necessarily more affordable homes, because of costs like land and construction. It remains to be seen if the council ignores the panel's findings.

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Making friends at the best fish and chips shop in town

by Kate Atkinson

Our friendship started with half a scoop of chips and a simple question, 'What's your name?'

'Kiko.' She said.

'Nice to meet you. I've just moved in down the road.'

She smiled at me, her eyes crinkling behind her fogged up glasses. She wrote my order and took my money. 'About 10 minutes.' So I sat and read magazines from 2013 about fashion and gossip and who's doing what. Well, who was doing what back in the time when I barely cared about that sort of thing — content with my singlet and shorts, running freely in bare feet.

I like the nostalgia that hangs in the thick air of fish and chip shops; the old printed boards and dated magazines take me back to a childhood spent waiting on wooden benches reading posters about fish species of New Zealand as my stomach growled in anticipation of greasy food wrapped in newsprint paper. Oh it's the staple of kiwi culture I'll have you know; it's the food of summer beach trips and winter nights in, the smell of parties and pot lucks, the strongest seagull-magnets and biggest tummy fillers. It's comfort that lines the stomachs of a nation. Deep



fried potato and crumbed fish is an ode to our love for the ocean and our coastline that stretches 11 times longer than that of California's. You're never far from the sea and never far from fresh fish. And I've found, never far from a friend.

We live 200 metres from the blue shop on the corner — me and my flatmates. And Kiko has come to know all of us. 'How are you? Where's Nicole and Erika?' she'll say to me if I arrive alone. Her smile lights up most on nights we arrive together. We'll tumble through the door chatting about something before stopping to ask Kiko how her day has been, 'Has it been busy? Have you had a break?' And

she'll reply, telling us about the steady stream of people and the grey sky outside. 'Half a scoop of chips each?' 'You know us too well.'

She smiles her sky-lighting smile and the world wakes up. All will be okay.

It's been a year and a half since we met and a steady stream of chips has passed from her hands to ours and an equally steady stream of words has warmed the shop. One night, sitting in our flat we decided we should make Kiko

a present for Christmas. I brought out my sketchbook and the brainstorming began. We settled on a sign that said, 'best fish and chips in town.' The next day I set out to make it. First cutting an old piece of rimu wood into the shape of a fish, then sanding and oiling it. I drilled a hole in each end and braided a rope to hang it up by, looping it through the holes. Then came the painting, carefully outlined words filled in with blue and white paint. We were very excited. We bounced down to the shop and handed it over. Kiko's loss for words and beaming smile will always be a warm glow in my heart. She bumbled and stumbled unable to say anything. Managing only to get out that our chips were on her that night and she'd throw in a bottle of Coca-Cola, to which we tried our best to refuse, but she wouldn't have a bar of it.

It was the start of December, the start of summer when we gave it to her and we all left soon after for a few months of exploring and relaxation over the long break. When we returned in late January we made our way back for fish and chips and went inside the

shop to find a grinning Kiko who could barely contain herself, 'I've got you a present. Where have you been?' And out she pulled from under the counter a big box of chocolates which she gave over beaming. We beamed too. Our lives are enriched infinitely and indefinitely by Kiko who might not know it. Her chips and smile bring the greatest comfort on the hardest days.

So this piece is an ode to the place with the biggest half scoops and kindest owners. And it's a reminder to you to always say 'hello' and 'how are you' to people you might think are ordinary — but are anything but. Extraordinary people live in plain sight. Open your eyes. There's a whole wonderful world full of kindness out there. Maybe it's just down the road at the end of the hands who hold out your paper parcel with half a scoop of chips.

(This is a true story that took place in the St Albans Seafood shop in Cranford St last year. The talented Kate Atkinson is a Christchurch-based writer. You can read more of Kate Atkinson's writing and check out her photography and art work on <https://www.kateatkinsoncreative.co.nz>)

Our Kiwi Home features our Daph

Press readers will find in mid-December well-known St Albans resident Daph Parkins featured in the Saturday series of Our Kiwi Home. This 95 year old with a long and happy life is a proofreader who occasionally writes history pieces for StAN. She says everybody has a life story of varied interests and events, so often just kept to themselves. Daph recently had an unusual and surprise introduction to the renowned clarinetist and saxophonist and Our Kiwi Home writer Mark Walton, who grew up in Christchurch. Mark who lives in Sydney and visits his home town regularly, has a profound interest in the people and places of our community. Daph said that her interview with him was full of cheer and fun as he obviously enjoys extracting anybody's life memories.

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Comings and goings in St Albans as 2024 winds down

Kia Ora Koutou,

I can hardly believe this is the last StAN for 2024, and I want to acknowledge Belinda Carter, Editor for the past 10 years. Belinda has been an amazing roving reporter, seeking out the best local stories of interest to residents. I have seen her at many events, community board and council meetings, but she is now handing over the batten. Thank you, Belinda, for your contribution to our community.

We have just celebrated the site blessing for the new Edgeware Pool. It was a beautiful, if emotional event after 18 years of hard slog, attended by Councillors McLellan, Coker, Johansson, Templeton, myself as Deputy Mayor, and Community Board Chair Emma Norrish, Deputy Simon Britten, Sunita Gautam, and Emma Twaddell, showing their continued support. Also wonderful to have pupils from St Albans School joining in, as they, and their children's children will enjoy the benefits from the facility. Well done to the Pool Board working so hard on this for us all.

With the year winding down I feel proud that, although we are suffering some pain with all the road and pot hole repairs, it's great to see the investment in St Albans. The new Shirley Community Centre is also in planning with the Waipapa/Papanui-Innes-Central Community Board and stakeholders, and we have our beautiful parks, sports fields and community gardens flourishing.

For Christmas gifts, consider our local shops with a huge variety of options, and the pre-loved shops, offering goods in excellent condition for affordable gifts.

I want to give a shout out to all of the volunteers in the community, who give selflessly to help all of us enjoy better lives. Thank you.

Christmas is also a time for you; hopefully some down time is possible so we can head into 2025 refreshed.

Wishing you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Nga Mihi Nui
Pauline Cotter,
Deputy Mayor



Pauline Cotter owes her start in local body politics to the pool's demolition and the community action that followed. Now, deputy mayor and still part of the Edgeware Pool Group, she was a key speaker at the Sod turning ceremony on November 12.

✂

Persistence will soon pay off for Edgeware Pool

Persistence is an amazing thing. It may be 17 years since anybody swam at the Edgeware Pool, and it may be a year or more before anyone dips their toes in again – but it will happen. That is due to the persistence of many people, including Lynne O'Keefe and Pauline Cotter.

Politics is blighted by shortsightedness. In 2006 it was thought that the pool wasn't needed, and the cost to repair and operate was considered too great a burden on the ratepayer. If there had been more long-term thinking then we would have an operational pool now and a whole cohort of young people who had learnt to swim locally.

There are no votes and little thanks in projects that bear fruit in 20 years, and just like a poorly run business the easy choice is to defer maintenance and replacement until something busts. When costs go up – for whatever reason – it is easy to blame the last decision-maker for reckless spending and pull the plug.

Most of Christchurch has been fortunate to have its infrastructure upgraded or repaired to a pretty decent state in the last decade. Dunedin is not so lucky and our Cook Strait crossing is in dire peril. I wouldn't buy my kids a used car as old as the current ferries, and yet they remain our lifeline link to the North Island. More recently our presence in Antarctica has been thrown in doubt as the Scott Base redevelopment is revisited while our scientists use buildings from the 1950's.

The knock-on effects of all of this are worrying. The

construction sector alone has lost an astonishing 12,000 workers, exacerbated by a \$2 billion cut in school building projects and cancelled state house builds – including many in Christchurch, despite huge need.

The headline of this cost cutting by government is tax cuts – the largest being to landlords and tobacco companies. But the real impact is the economic scars that will be left. Many of our graduates are looking overseas for work – with more skills leaving than arriving. And while falling interest rates are good for mortgage holders, a shrinking economy means less income for everyone in the long run, and less to spend on critical services like health, education and policing.

The government has a critical role to play in keeping the economic lights on – and supporting critical sectors like construction through a downturn.

So, when I am woken by the sound of construction starting over my back fence, after I get over my grumpiness, I think there is a person starting a well-paying job early, and building a badly needed new home – that will be there for generations.

✂



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Thank you to all who have joined us and made our groups rewarding this year.

- Last Wednesday group is 18th Dec, returns 22nd Jan 2025
- Last Saturday group is 7th Dec, returns 18th Jan 2025

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and the very best for the Happy New Year. See you in 2025

Leigh Figgitt: 021 264 1485,
thecornerst.albans@allsouls.org.nz

Meri Kirihimete

Best wishes for a safe & Happy Christmas from your Deputy Mayor

pauline.cotter@ccc.govt.nz

fb.comCrPaulineCotter

027 296 8811

Who is Packe Street named after?

Packe Street in St Albans runs between Bealey Avenue and Edgeware Road but there is mystery surrounding who exactly it was named after, as Jonathan Allan found when he researched the topic for the St Albans History Group.

In the early days of Christchurch, there were several Packe relations in the city: George Packe and his wife Emma, George's younger brother William, and the brothers' nephew, Henry Vernon Anson. The Christchurch City Libraries' website says in its "Christchurch street and place names" index that the street is named after George Packe. Although this attribution is probably correct, Christchurch City Council is unable to confirm this, nor when CCC gave this street its name.



Lt Col George Packe - 1836 - 1882

George Packe was born in Twyford, Norfolk, England on 23 April 1836. He joined the British Army in October 1855, serving as a Lieutenant with the First Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers from 4 June 1858.

George married Emma Eliza De Winton in St John the Evangelist, Brecon, Wales on 1 August 1861 but there are no known children of this marriage.

Lieutenant Colonel George Packe, August George and Emma 1865, Christchurch Club emigrated to New Zealand Collection, Canterbury in 1862 aboard the Matoaka, Museum settling in Christchurch, where George joined the firm of De Bourbel and Willes as a partner and commissioning land agent in 1863. He went out on his own in 1866 but later worked in partnership with his brother William, who had arrived in New Zealand in 1867.

George was elected Captain of the Canterbury Militia and Volunteers in 1864, going on to serve as commander from 1867 until his death. He has been described as an artist, but no examples of his work are known, and he was probably overshadowed as an artist by younger brother William.

It was widely believed that the brothers had owned Raincliff Station, South Canterbury but this was not the case. Raincliff was purchased in 1868 by Henry Hoare, with the deal negotiated by the Packe brothers and John Acland as agents or attorneys. Hoare wished to keep secret the fact that he

owned the property.

George Packe died in Sumner in 1882 and was buried in St Peter's Churchyard in Yaldhurst Rd.

(Information sourced from The Raincliff Story, written by Edward Parr and David Reynolds)

Emma Packe - 1840 - 1914

George's wife, Emma, was the founding president of the Christchurch Women's Christian Temperance Union in May 1885 and National President of the Women's Christian Temperance Union New Zealand from 1887 to 1889. Her signature was on the 1885 petition submitted to the New Zealand parliament, asking to grant women the vote. (It did not succeed but the 13th petition would eight years later under Kate Sheppard's leadership).

Emma returned to England on the Aorangi, arriving in London on 30 May 1894 and died aged 74 at her home in Cornwall Road near London on 11 July 1914.

William Packe

William Packe came to New Zealand to join his brother George as a partner while in Christchurch. He returned to England and married there in 1875.

William Packe, brother of George, was an accomplished watercolourist, but his training is unknown. His paintings were first exhibited in Christchurch in 1870. He is particularly known for his sketch of Samuel Butler's Mesopotamia homestead beside the Rangitata River, currently housed at the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington, and for sketches of buildings on Raincliff Station. Canterbury Museum holds seven of William's paintings.

His story is covered on page 104 in Oliver Gillespie's book South Canterbury A Record of Settlement published in 1958.

Henry Vernon Anson - 1852 - 1914

George and William Packe's nephew, Henry Anson, was the son of Anne Jane Packe, who married the Rev. Thomas Anchtel Anson. He took over George Packe's business when George died.



Samuel Charles Louis Lawrence, active 1833-1891: Portrait of Mrs Packe. Ref: PA2-2879. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.

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Edgeware Rd

The café will be closed 23 December to 5 January 2024

Trick or treat down your street?



Some St Albans households went to town with the Halloween theme in October.

Framework for growing kai at Packe St Park

by Helen Kidd

If you've been to Packe Street Park lately, you will have seen a new artwork on the HQ shed. It depicts Hua Parakore – an indigenous system and framework for growing kai. QR codes link you to more information about this.

During the recent Christchurch Heritage Festival, Packe Street held some open days. A lot of interesting history is connected to the Park and it was good to be able to share some of that.

We recently hosted a group of volunteers from Rede Advisors for a morning working bee. They made supports for beans, turned compost, and

helped install a new picnic table. We love having these work groups to help with projects at the park, and their hard work is always appreciated.

Coming up on Sunday December 8 is the annual Christmas Carols event in Packe Street Park. The St Albans Community Choir with Heather Gladstone, and the New Brighton Silver Band will be performing and leading the carol singing. There will be live music from 4 pm, face painting and activities for kids, a free sausage sizzle, and we have invited Santa to drop in.

This is always a popular and well-attended family event, and we look forward to seeing everyone there.

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Wishing St Albans a happy Christmas and New Year

My office is closed from **Friday 20 December** and will reopen on **Monday 13 January**.

Labour

Authorised by Duncan Webb MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

Community Notices

Are you a model boat enthusiast?

Interested in sharing and comparing your models with others? Contact SARA@stalbens.gen.nz to connect with others.

Canterbury Embroiderers' Guild:

Hammersley Community Centre, Amos Pl. Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri. Contact Diane ph 021 024 36739 or Liz 022 547 7642. Email CEGstitchers@gmail.com.

Carols on Cornwall Sunday, 15 December at 61 Cornwall St, 6.30pm, free sausage sizzle, ice creams, and the singing of Christmas carols. Held rain or shine!

Chch 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. Scottish Soc Hall cnr Edgware/Caledonian Rds.

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

Coffee and conversation: every Wednesday 10.30 am – 12.30 pm at Kohinga. All welcome. Koha for coffee appreciated. Last day Dec 18, return Jan 22. All welcome.

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

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 021 30 3843

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

Family Drug Support Aotearoa New Zealand: Ph 03 21818740

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

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). More information, visit cea.co.nz

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

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

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

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

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

Musical Afternoon with Friends of Country. Monday 2 December, 1.30-2.30pm at the Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham St North. All ages welcome. Cuppa to follow. Gold coin donation. Enquiries ph 372 9224.

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? Contact: FB page, Predator Free St Albans or ph 021 0648861

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

Support The Respiratory Relief Society Canterbury Inc. runs weekly exercise classes Tuesdays from 1-00-2-15pm at St. Albans Uniting Church Nancy Ave for people with respiratory, cardiac and vascular conditions. Contact David Chamberlain 332 4471 or Helen Bush 021 230 6338.

Scottish Country Dance club, Scottish Society hall cnr Edgware/Caledonian Rds, Tuesdays at 7.30pm, December - 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 Mon, Wed and Fridays 10am- noon.

Shirley International Playgroup: a fun playgroup for mothers and under fives from any cultural background. Fridays during school term time. 9:30am 11:30am at the

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

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

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

Shirley Ladies Friendship Club meets 2nd Wednesday of the month 10.00am at All Saints Church 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 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

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

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

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

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

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

Weekend Group: Second Saturday of the month 4 – 5.30 pm at Kohinga. Meet for friendship and company. Refreshments provided. Koha appreciated (\$5 recommended). Last date Dec 7 returning Jan 18.

Women in Harmony community choir: Thursdays in school terms from 7.30-9.30pm at Kohinga St Albans Community Centre. World and popular music in 3 part harmony. Please Email: women.in.harmony.nz@gmail.com; facebook.com/womeninharmonychristchurch

St Albans News Classifieds

SERVICES

CaringStay: Do you need somewhere to stay after an operation/treatment because you live alone or have working family members and find it difficult to manage your daily routine? We provide accommodation and meals (but we cannot give medical or nursing care) in comfortable private homes hosted by caring individuals.

Book on our website: www.caringstay.co.nz or phone Kate 0211294486 for more information

Having difficulty making family, work, relationship or legal decisions? We can help you make practical decisions. Call Bill Demeter 027 379 3873. Can meet St Albans Community Centre. No charge for this service

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

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

Guitar Lessons: Jonathon Harper (weebly

website) Mairehau 027 413 6299 Learn with a long time professional concert artist, composer, singer, and band leader (AMIGOS). **Yoga Class:** Tuesday and Thursday 10:45am-12pm at Kohinga St Albans Community Centre. All abilities and ages welcome. Tracy 022 048 6949

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Door Specialist: Repairs, adjustments and installation of all doors and locks, ranch slider wheels and locks. Qualified tradesman. Ph Stewart 0800 677 262 or 021 185 4055.

Eastcoast Landscapes: Specialising in all aspects of PAVING including patios, paths, courtyards and borders. We also do lawns, irrigation, garden makeovers and general property maintenance. Commercial and residential. Small, friendly business. Quality work. Free quotes. Call Blair on 027 699 5815.

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Support Services

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

Aviva, live free from violence: Free Canterbury-based 24h support line: +64 800 2848 2669

Emergency Services: call 111

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.

Elder Abuse Response Service: 0800 EA NOT OK/0800 32 668 65 (available 24/7) Email: support@elderabuse.nz or text 5032

Family Violence Information Line: 0800 456 450 (available 9.00am -11.00pm daily)

Family Drug Support Aotearoa New Zealand. Tel: 03 2818 740. www.fds.org.nz

Hey Bro helpline: 0800 HeyBro/0800 439 276. Supporting men to be free from violence

Kidsline: For under 18s, 0800 54 37 54 (speak to a Kidsline Buddy 4pm-9pm weekdays)

OUTLine NZ: provides confidential

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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telephone support for matters of gender or sexuality, 0800 688 5463

Rape Crisis National Call Line: 0800 88 33 00

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 with multi-lingual staff. 0800 742 584

Suicidal? Phone 0508 828 865

Worried about a child: 0508 FAMILY/0508 326 459 (available 24/7) - Oranga Tamariki - Ministry for Children, formerly Child, Youth & Family

Youthline: 0800 376 633 (Free TXT 234)

St Albans events

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

December 6, 4.30 – 7.30pm: 79 Springfield Road, Carols @ the Pa

December 7, 11am – 2 pm: Kohinga, 1049 Colombo St, Christmas Market,

December 8, 4pm: Packe St Garden Carols

December 15, 6.30pm: 63 Cornwall St ,Carols on Cornwall,



Free trial week

Practical self defence confidence & fitness for kids teens & adults

Text Graeme Spinks, 7 dan, at 021 226 4100 for details

Held at the Bowling Clubrooms at St Albans Park

Susan Ross Uniforms

Clearance Sale
Closing down, lease expired

Last chance to get quality locally made school uniforms
69 Rutland St
Ph 3550605

In which, the editor has the last word

by Belinda Carter

After 10 years of editing this 31 year old community paper, it's time to let someone else take the reins, but I wanted to say how much I have (mostly) enjoyed editing St Albans News (StAN).

It's has not been an easy ride. Sometimes, getting people to write something is like getting blood out of a stone, and armchair critics prick.

My journalism career (a mixed bag of writing and editing) is nothing spectacular but involves a student newspaper (Critic at Otago University), a year at Wellington Polytech in 1980 and mostly community papers or trade publications. I have earned my Supergold card.

I did not come fresh to StAN. I had been writing, proofreading, taking photos for StAN and even did some computerised layout in 2004 when one of the founders, Douceline Wardell, was editor. My association with St Albans goes way back to 1997/1998 when I helped set up the computer help serv NeighbourNet in the old community centre. The computer helpdesk is still ticking along but not as robustly as it was before the wall fell out of the old brick building in 2010.

Highlights of the last 10 years? Well, lowlight really: a government functionary marched into the print factory we used and stopped the presses, just as the printer was ready to roll. It was late March 2020 and the world was about to be locked down to stop the spread of Covid 19.

Large papers like the Press kept going but small community papers were not deemed vital enough to print. So what did we do? We coped. The PDF sent to the printer was converted for online reading. Subsequently, a couple more issues were distributed this way with a focus on the restricted lives people were living that year.

Finally, many thanks to those who have helped along the way by writing articles or letters, taking photos, suggesting stories we could write and delivering the paper into letterboxes. Thanks too for the comments saying how much you enjoy reading StAN. These comments drown out occasional negative ones mocking the paper.

I have tried to make the writing is interesting and varied and ensure the layout is clear and easy to read by not jumping too much from page to page. In a week, where the New Zealand Herald has announced most of its community papers are about to shut down, is it an impossible dream that StAN will survive another 30 years?

Local rags are the life blood of their communities: printed A4 papers like Merivale's Chronicle, the Pink Paper in Hanmer Springs or Methven's Snowfed, sometimes black and white, sometimes printed in colour. They keep people connected but sometimes struggle to attract enough advertising. They offer a record of life at the time. The first draft of history, perhaps.

Long may StAN continue, in one form or another.

See you around St Albans.

✂

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Friday 6 December
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Hana Kōkō

Nau mai Haere mai

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03 355 5615 or admin@rehuamarae.org.nz