

Edward Ave villa owner plans to stay put

by Chris Hutching

Charles Poynton is one of a “privileged elite” according to some proponents of housing intensification in St Albans.

He owns a 100-year old villa on Edward Ave, but the retired 75-year old doesn't feel the description of “privileged” fits his circumstances.

The rating value of his house at \$845,000 is similar to the value of the apartments that are beginning to encircle his house.

A developer could demolish his home and place four or five such units in its place, he said.

“I've lived here since 2006 and I've spent money insulating the walls, ceiling and under the floors as well as installing heat pumps, double glazing and solar panels.

“So if I sold it now I don't think there would be much profit in it. The house has its problems. The floors are a bit

continued on page 5



Charles Poynton enjoys the garden space at his Edward Ave property

Planned supermarket alarms Edgeware Village supporters

by Chris Hutching

A proposed new Madras St supermarket has raised fears among some St Albans residents that it will reduce the vibrancy of Edgeware Village.

Edgeware Village supporters and St Albans Residents Association members are seeking information and planning a public awareness campaign about the proposed supermarket and associated shops development on the vacant portion of the former Orion site on Madras St.

The resource consent application by Woolworths NZ envisages a development several times larger than an 800 square metre plan floated in 2009 that was shelved after opposition from St Albans residents, and because of the effects of the 2010 earthquakes on retail trade.

The new plan seeks a 3500^{sqm} supermarket, 200^{sqm} office spaces, separate 860^{sqm} of retail tenancies, plus other spaces taking the total building area to 5303^{sqm}.

Long time resident Peggy Kelly was involved in the previous 2009 opposition and was dismayed at the revival of the plan.

“Our concerns are the same. We have a very vibrant Village where most of the businesses except the BP and St John charity shop are locally owned. Our FreshChoice is owned by a man who lives locally and who takes an interest in community activities – he is treasurer for our planned swimming pool, for example.

“That business is supported by an excellent greengrocer, butcher, baker, pharmacy, restaurants and off licence – all locally owned businesses.

“Edgeware village hangs together in a symbiotic relationship and gives strong competition to the five other supermarkets all within about 3km. A Woolworths so close would cause the commercial viability of the village to suffer,” Peggy said.

“Newcomers into our area express surprise at the good community spirit. This is because the businesses are small enough to actually get to know their regulars.

“We look at Riccarton and the empty shops and see that the sheer size of Westfield Mall has sucked the life out of Riccarton Road.”

The ability of residents to provide input into the consenting process depends on whether or not the proposal is publicly notified, which is required only if the city council decides it is likely to have adverse effects on the environment that are more than minor.

However Peggy Kelly said the area along Packe St where she lives is likely to become a round-the-block rat run, to and from the proposed supermarket's 200 capacity car park, causing a traffic hazard to users of Packe St Park and Community Garden which has existed on a quiet no-exit street for almost 30 years and whose amenity value needs to be taken into consideration too.

continued on page 6



SARA and Centre news

Te Reo Māori at Kōhinga

Starting this March, SARA will be providing a learning space at Kohinga (St Albans Community Centre) for anyone who wishes to start or further embrace te reo Māori. It's free to ensure access to all, regardless of background or financial situation and it's open to people of all ages.

Why is SARA providing this in the community?

"Te reo Māori holds immense cultural significance and plays a key role in empowering whānau through learning. This shared learning space fosters whakawhanaungatanga, strengthening community bonds and building strong relationships between neighbours," according to Innes Ward community board member Emma Twaddell.

"By honouring and revitalising te reo Māori, we contribute to the movement of reclaiming and preserving it as a thriving language. Additionally, encouraging intergenerational connection ensures te reo Māori is passed down and celebrated across generations, safeguarding its legacy for the future. We are also holding an information evening at Kohinga on Wednesday March 5 at 5.30pm."

To register your interest in learning te Reo, contact sara@stalbands.gen.nz

Pool calendar sells out

The 2025 calendar, produced as a fundraiser for the St Albans pool group to raise funds for the pool in Edgeware Rd to be rebuilt, has sold out.

Computer help available at centre

Help is available at the community centre from Tuesday to Friday to help people with their phones and computers. The Monday session run by SeniorNet Mac has been dropped and will be part of a joint windows session run by NeighbourNet on Tuesdays from 10-12. SeniorNet Mac will run sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10-12 and NeighbourNet will focus on Windows and Android devices on Thursdays. SeniorNet Mac is a membership-based community group catering for those with Apple devices and computers and there is a small charge involved. NeighbourNet asks for a small donation.

Cycling group very popular

The Wednesday Wheelies cycle group started 7 years ago after the opening of the Papanui Parallel can now have around 70 riders getting on their bikes every Wednesday. This has made it a challenge to organise group numbers, each with an experienced rider leading the 7 groups heading out. Entry to the group now will be carefully monitored so we keep it manageable and fun.

Contact Robert at wwstalbands@gmail.com for further details.

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

St Albans History Group

Next meetings: March 3 and April 7 at 2pm at the St Albans Community Centre.
Email: briangspear@hotmail.com

BBQ Trailer for hire

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

The deadline for the May issue of St Albans News is April 14

Please send your articles, letters and notices to:
news@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 bimonthly. 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>

Fun and food at Abberley Park's 85th

by Belinda Carter

The Friends of Abberley Park recently held an 85th anniversary afternoon of fun and food.

The picnic is now an annual event leading up to the centenary in 15 years, marking the date in 1940 when the Christchurch City Council opened to the public a former private estate gifted by the Kirk family.

The large trees on the site date back to the 1860s.

Residents picnicked in the grounds near the hall, feasted on sausages cooked up on the St Albans Residents Association's barbecue trailer and chatted with musician Chris Williams playing along under the park's mature shady trees on his guitar.

Children had fun with a bubble maker while adults caught up with one another, wandered the pathways or played skittles and other outdoor games.

A special guest this year was Scottish-born William Mitchell, better known as Mitch, the park's last caretaker (1973-1993). He lived next door to the park and featured in an article in the first edition of STANN in December 1993.

Children wasted no time getting to the front of the queue for a piece of the fancy anniversary cake made and iced by garden co-ordinator Nikki Staskiewicz after Mitch made the first cut.

The Friends of Abberley Park is an informal group that initially grew from local residents who chanced to meet while walking their dogs in the park after work.

One of the long time friends, Patricia Wallace, said walking every day meant that group members noticed changes and damage.

However there are improvements she would like such as replenishment of the Scented Garden.

The Friends have a public FaceBook page to keep interested parties in touch and informed.

The original homestead in the park was built in the 1860s



Mitch cuts the 85th anniversary cake.

by Thomas James Maling and named for his home village of Abberley in Worcestershire, England.

After a series of different owners, the council was offered the land in 1939 and decided to convert the property into a public park and playground, and aimed to retain the original 19th century character of the parkland style gardens.

The homestead was dismantled with one room retained to be used as a pavilion and play house. The rose garden was retained as were many original trees and shrubs but the kitchen garden and orchards were replaced with new lawn and ornamental plants. The eastern lawn, originally a horse paddock, was cultivated into lawn to provide a sports ground and playground for children. In the end, 712 trees, 5126 herbaceous and bulbous plants and over 6000 annuals were planted.

In the mid 1950s Huia Gilpin, then Director of the Botanic Gardens, designed a garden for the blind to serve the nearby Institute of the Blind hostel 'Fernwood'. This opened in 1964 and remnant elements can be seen as part of the Scented Garden today.

There are four bookable areas for events as well as the building—North Lawn, East Lawn, West Lawn and the Scented Garden. ☼

St Albans News March/April 2025, Vol 33, Issue 1

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:

1049 Colombo Street, Chch 8014

Editor: Chris Hutching

Contributors: Chris Hutching, Maria Lamb, Gary Moore, Duncan Webb, Pauline Cotter, Nigel Larson, Bill Demeter, Belinda Carter and Colin Amadeo.

Production staff: Maree Coffey, Sarah O'Keefe, and Daph Parkins

Layout & advertisement design: Maria Hayward

Advertising: Lynne O'Keefe

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



Guitarist Chris Williams at Abberley Park

Activities at the community centre

Weekly groups that meet at the community centre.

Monday	10am	Saygo - Rowena
	11am	Happy Feet
	5pm	Universal Martial Arts
Tuesday	9.30am	Zumba with JB
	10am	NeighbourNet
	5.30	Pippins
	7pm	Avon Toastmasters
	7pm	Ungu Capoeira
Wednesday	9am	Wednesday Wheelies
	10am	SeniorNet Mac
	10.30am	The Corner, coffee and chat
And 2nd Saturday of the month at 4pm	7.00pm	Capoeira Angola
	9.30am	Saygo - Daph
	10.45am	Yoga with Tracy Kells
	10am	NeighbourNet
	5.00pm	Universal Martial Arts
Thursday	7.15pm	Women in Harmony
	10am	SeniorNet Mac
	10am	Social Square Dancing
Call Centre for details	6pm	Impact Youth

The programme lists activities run at the centre on a weekly basis. One off or less frequent activities can be notified for free through community notices or the events column or through paid advertising. Please contact advertising@stalbens.gen.nz for further information.

Funding for SARA

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



Part of the city's social fabric



Michael Herman from the Methodist Mission

At the community centre's monthly Cafe Chat the Christchurch Methodist Mission's Fundraising and Communications manager Michael Herman outlined the work carried out by CMM in the community, making particular mention of the blanket bank and housing issues. St Albans Community Centre is a drop off point for people to leave clean duvets, sheets and blankets for CMM to distribute to families. The organisation, which was formed in 1939, (not to be confused with the Anglican Church's Christchurch City Mission) also offers support for long term homeless people to obtain accommodation and a fixed home address. It is not easy to find housing for this group as they may have a dog for company. However Michael said the biggest group that the Mission was helping – and this is likely to grow – is older people aged 65+ who rent because they do not have sufficient funds to purchase their own homes. CMM has built some accommodation but it is only a fraction of what is needed. To donate blankets: items can be dropped off Mon-Fri 9am - 1 pm at the St Albans Community Centre. They also work with families and children. For more information about CMM activities visit their website: <https://www.mmsi.org.nz>

March Cafe Chat: Di Lucas

At the Cafe Chat on Monday March 3, Di Lucas will outline her planting scheme which recommends trees and other plants based on their soil profile. There are three different soil profiles covering St Albans. For more information including the profiles and lists visit: <https://ccc.govt.nz/environment/land/ecosystem-map>

All talks at the event are preceded by morning tea (for a koha) served on special china and nibbles from 10.30am followed by an hour long talk and question time.

Garden talk by Nikki

Garden co-ordinator Nikki Staskiewicz who has responsibility for Packe St garden, Kohinga Mara (community centre) and also helps the Friends of Abberley Park is the speaker on April 7. Before she became involved in Packe St park she was a garden designer. This is a good topic to follow on from the March talk by landscape architect Di Lucas.

Edward Ave villa owner plans to stay put

continued from page 1

wonky. I wouldn't get overly romantic about it.

"But at my age there's no realistic opportunity for employment, so I just take a lot of pleasure in my garden, shed, glasshouse and fruit trees so I'm less vulnerable to any disastrous interruptions in food distribution."

"I don't know how people react to being cooped up in two-bedroom two bathroom box-like apartments. Some are better than others with a bit of room for a wee garden."

Charles said that if he sold it would be a hassle to find a new place and move everything. And of course he'd lose his garden.

"There's not much incentive for me to sell. I doubt I'd be better off."

His circumstance is shared by many villa owners in St Albans who not only remain in their spacious properties for lifestyle reasons but also because developers generally offer a price for the land only.

Selling might make sense for the owner of an older run down house but not for well maintained homes, according to other villa and bungalow owners in St Albans who cite the high prices of buying a new home, including apartments and townhouses.

Demolishing older character houses and trees paves the way for multiple units on the same land that generally cover most of the site with at least five development sites under construction on Edgware Rd and several others in surrounding streets.

They included a Geraldine St villa that was demolished



This Geraldine St Villa is being replaced by several modern units

over a couple of days in February.

Near the end of 2023 the Christchurch City Council adopted the Housing and Business Choice Plan Change 14 enabling higher and denser residential building.

However some neighbourhoods retain a zoning called Special Amenity Area which discourages intensive development – there are 13 locations in Christchurch shown on the CCC website, including Ranfurly St, Malvern St, Francis Ave, Dudley St and Severn St in St Albans.

St Albans Residents Association chairman Mark Wilson said that increased density was a reality for St Albans.

"We need to be able to invest in infrastructure such as improved public transport and it's better to have people living closer to town than have urban sprawl," he said.

Selling delicious, original Kiwi cuisine, baking fresh daily.

EDGEWARE VILLAGE
1066 Colombo St, Ph. 365 0802

BISHOPDALE VILLAGE MALL
135 Farrington Ave, Ph. 03 359 1020

OPEN 7 DAYS 7.00AM - 5.30PM

Wednesday Coffee and Conversation Group has returned for 2025

We welcome anyone wanting a cuppa, chat, and good company every Wednesday from 10.30am—12.30pm, Kohinga St Albans Community Centre

Come join Leigh and her host and other like-minded people for company and friendship. Everyone is welcome.

SUNDAY, 16 MARCH
10:00AM - 2:00PM

THE VILLAGE Market

FOOD TRUCKS
LOCAL VENDORS
ARTISAN PRODUCTS
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
FAMILY FRIENDLY



59 Edgware Rd, St Albans
Cafe Edge & Artisan Bakery

ST ALBANS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

Cafe Chat

GOLD COIN ENTRY

March 3 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT - DI LUCAS OF LUCAS ASSOCIATES

April 7 NIKKI STASKIEWICZ - ST ALBANS COMMUNITY GARDENS COORDINATOR

May 5 SARA TEMPLETON - CCC MAYORAL CANDIDATE

10.30AM - 12.30PM
ST ALBANS COMMUNITY CENTRE
1049 COLOMBO ST

Planned supermarket alarms Edgeware Village supporters

continued from page 1



“With increasing density and lack of personal garden space in our neighbourhood this little sanctuary and play space between two busy arterial roads needs to be treated as a community taonga. This part of St Albans has in past surveys been

acknowledged as being short of community green space,” she said.

St Albans Community Board member Emma Twaddell said it was a case of a “corporate versus community”.

“Growth in the area should be reflected in growth of community or recreational services not an unnecessary big box shopping complex,” she said.

The Woolworths application points out that trade competition cannot be used to oppose new developments... “it is acknowledged that business competition is considered beneficial and in the public interest, reinforced by the findings of the relatively recent Commerce Commission study into the retail grocery sector”, the application states.

However, the application also acknowledged that a council hearings panel may consider the effects on existing commercial centres and their vitality, amenity or vibrancy, and adverse effects on the community.

According to the Woolworths application, the proposed supermarket will have low trade competition effects on the nearest alternative supermarkets... “any short-term reallocation of sales are rapidly made up by general growth in the anticipated retail spend within the catchment within a timeframe of less than five years”.

In addition to the supermarket the proposal includes a new “community hub” with food outlets set around a village green open space. A number of new homes have recently been developed on parts of the former Orion site.

Most of the site has been vacant for many years partly due to soil contamination, which Woolworths says it will remediate. ☞



DISCOVER MAGIC AT
WHIMSY & WONDER

FIND ALL YOUR
**PERFECT
GIFTS**
**IN ONE
PLACE**

Drop in today and be amazed!
NOW STOCKING b.box

GIFTS & TOYS & BOOKS & CARDS
CNR PAPANUI & OFFICE RD

LiquorLand
Cranford St

**YOUR LOCAL
IN ST
ALBANS!**

- New extensive range of products
- Friendly & knowledgeable staff
- Convenient parking & location
- Chiller trailer and glassware hire for events
- Trade customers welcome
- Airpoints Dollars on your purchase

Get in touch with us to see how we can help with your next order!

Terms and conditions apply.
*Excludes tobacco and gift cards.

Liquorland Cranford
153 Cranford Street, St Albans, Christchurch, 8014
ph. 03 356 1405 cranford@liquorland.co.nz

liquorland.co.nz

History Group

Born in the 'Forties, by one who was

The following piece is an extract from a manuscript prepared by the late Colin Amodeo, prior to his death in Merivale on 31st January 2022. Additional material sourced from *Papers Past* and prepared for STAN by the St Albans History Group

Our house ran on coal. There was a black-leaded Shacklock coal range in the kitchen which kept going all through the winter. My father would bank it up with slow coal last thing at night and poke it alive with fast coal each morning. By midnight, you could breathe in lungful of smoky air since all the neighbouring houses were belching out rising clouds of carbon-based pollution. By the 1960s, people were calling this 'smog'. Pre-prandial coughing could be heard all along the street if you were out collecting the morning newspaper which the delivery boy had thrown across the front fence onto the lawn.

We had a fireplace in the dining room and in the lounge. It was delicious on a frosty evening to sit in front of the orange glow, listening to log fragments crackling, reading a book by the firelight and retrieving a crisp English muffin toasted on the hob to dribble it with honey since butter was scarce. Turning a sausage on a pointed stick—encouraged by survival education at the Cub Den—was also great fun except when the grease flared up, the sausage was incinerated, the heat destroyed the stick and the whole lot fell into the fire.

My mother kept a tin kettle on the hob in the latter stages of the evening to fill our hot water bottles. Electric blankets were the stuff of science fiction and we would depart for our cold bedrooms with the bottle beneath our dressing gowns and wearing thick bed socks inside our carpet slippers. On stormy nights with rain hammering on the corrugated iron roof and wind howling under the eaves, you wore a woolly hat just like your ancestors.

By six in the morning and just before the sunrise, my room with large windows on two sides was like a freezer even though it had heavy curtains. This was a Scots household and a radiant heater was an unacceptable decadence. If you wanted to be warm, you went into the kitchen or had a shower. My father had wisely instructed

the plumber to connect a large cylinder to the wet-back of the coal range and hot water was a reward much appreciated even though the tiled bathroom was as chilly as a morgue. Fortunately, winter lasted only three months.

The Coal Man came once a month. The McClatchie Company truck with its long, broad deck would be stacked with large, upright sacks of Westport coal, Ohai nuts and the dull, almost slate-like variety from a mine near Springfield in west Canterbury. The driver with his leather apron would heft a full sack onto his back, lurch along our path and let the contents crash down into the coal bin. You always knew when he had arrived and the bill would be in the letterbox.

Coal fires need wood to start them and The Wood Man came half yearly, backing his tip-truck up to our front gate. A cord of split pine or gum would slide down onto the footpath and my job, when I was big enough, was to pack this into the wheelbarrow and trundle it down to the wood shed at the back of the house. Sometimes The Wood Man delivered slabs of macrocarpa and the turpentine smell made each trip worthwhile. He could also drop off a load of rounded willow logs sawn into six-inch-long blocks with a peculiar oily smell if freshly cut.

Clip-clopping once a fortnight along Bretts Road in the late 1940s, a tired old horse pulled a cart for The Ragman. He was a relic from an earlier age and lived somewhere in Sydenham, making journeys though Christchurch to collect bottles, rags, bits of metal, anything that could be re-sold. Each time his horse obliged, he would stop, shovel up hot and steaming droppings into a smelly sack, much to the delighted ribaldry of small boys. It would be bartered later to some keen gardener.

Our home was connected to the sewer. On the back wall of the toilet and high above the pan, loomed a

continued on page 12



Do you recognise this medallion?

The St Albans History Group recently acquired this small medallion. The attraction was the engraving on the scroll, clearly “St Albans”.

While there are a number of St Albans around the world, the vendor was of the opinion that this was a local item. The difficulty now is to discover what the “S W C” engraved on the centre stands for.

A local goldsmith was unable to decipher the mint marks on the reverse side which may have helped in the aging of the item.

A number of suggestions have been offered but we would appreciate any other theories as to what “S W C” stands for in this context.

News from the Council

The year is well underway, and the Council and Community Board have hit the ground running.

Great news – Slater Street's renewal from Warden St to Shirley Rd has finally been approved! Road calming measures will help reduce antisocial behaviour. Fresh landscaping, including 31 new trees, will enhance safety and beauty at the entrance to the new Community Centre at 10 Shirley Rd. The trees selected will be varieties that will avoid conflict with power lines (as has sadly happened with the Oaks in Emmett and Riselaw Streets). The board is working with Shirley residents on a long-term plan to protect remaining trees, and ensure succession planning in Shirley. It is absolutely heart wrenching to see mature healthy canopy trees having to be removed due to the Electricity Regulation compliance rules, and at the time of writing we are still battling.

The board is continuing to advocate for a pedestrian crossing on Springfield Rd, and the transport team is reviewing options.

Council seeks feedback on rates increase

Christchurch City Council plans to increase rates by an average of 7.5% and is consulting with the community through March.

The rate is lower than anticipated in the long term plan but still well above the current inflation rate of 2.3%.

Councillors adopted the Draft Annual Plan 2025/26 at the meeting on February 12, which sets out what CCC proposes to do over the next 12 months, and how it will pay for it.

The Draft Annual Plan 2025/26 proposes spending \$735m on infrastructure/facilities and \$718m on day to day services.

The Council is also seeking feedback on other matters, including charges for trade waste discharge, policy settings for a draft Climate Resilience Fund, a \$5m grant to the Air Force Museum and increased rates for infrastructure renewals.

Public feedback on the Draft Annual Plan opens on Wednesday 26 February through letstalk.ccc.govt.nz and runs until 11.59pm on Friday 28 March 2025. The rate increases will be implemented in July.

Cotter vs Jones

Deputy mayor and Innes ward representative Pauline Cotter will face a contest for re-election in October from community board member Ali Jones who missed out by eight votes last time. Jones is running as "independent" and focusing on cost cutting and rates reduction. Cotter is a People's Choice candidate and has opposed asset sales while expressing her willingness to work with others around the council table.

Friends of Abberley Park and I recently met with Christchurch City Council's new in-house parks maintenance team to discuss some TLC for this beloved heritage park. It's great to see a direct line of communication is now established—exactly how this model should work, and we are now expecting noticeable improvements for Abberley Park.

We are closely watching the Woolworths supermarket proposal for Madras/Purchase St. If approved, it could affect Edgware Village Community hub. Council will be able to submit feedback, including St Albans residents' concerns.

Finally, the council's Draft Annual Plan opens for consultation on 28 Feb – I'd love to hear your thoughts!

Tena Koutou Katoa,

Pauline Cotter,

Deputy Mayor, Councillor for Innes.

pauline.cotter@ccc.govt.nz



Design work begins for Shirley Centre

Council staff have started the process to design a mixed-use community building for the Shirley Community Reserve at 10 Shirley Road.

Emma Norrish, Jake McLellan and Emma Twaddell will join the Working Party for the project to represent the Waipapa/Papanui-Innes-Central Community Board. Initial surveying works have already started on the site and Geotech consultants been busy.

The Shirley Community Centre (Christchurch's first community run centre) ran in the former intermediate school building at 10 Shirley Road until the building suffered a similar fate to the St Albans Community Centre in the earthquakes.

Some residents there have been pushing for a replacement but have faced opposition from other groups in Shirley and Richmond also serving the community. The St Albans Residents Association is helping support the Shirley Centre plan.

Safe speed platform for intersection

During the school holidays when traffic volumes were less CCC installed a safe speed platform south of the pedestrian crossing at the intersection of McFaddens Rd and Cranford St to slow traffic down so drivers would notice red signals and reduce the likelihood of accidents on the crossing. Drivers turning left out of McFaddens Road (heading north) sometimes fail to notice the red traffic signals while attempting to find a gap in traffic. The safety treatment resolves the issue while maintaining the flow of traffic through the busy area.

Local voice can make a difference

On the back page of this edition of STAN you'll find my full-page ad outlining my view on the fast-track legislation's ability to exclude local voices.

Community advocacy can make a difference. Recently in Christchurch the Government backtracked after a campaign spearheaded by Megan Woods, and supported by me, saw the Brougham St upgrade reconfirmed after the Government initially dropped it.

It was a victory for safety, community and common sense at the other end of my electorate, but one that Edgware and St Albans can take a bit of heart from.

In the meantime, I want to shout out to the locally owned businesses in the Edgware Village.

Our vibrant little village—because it's also local for me personally having lived nearby for many years—is a gem. Food, produce, meat, a pharmacy, a nice coffee, something to read or a cold beverage—it's all here and

deserves our support.

We are also fortunate to have the St Albans Community Centre, a strong voice in the residents' association and our own newsletter—community here is formidable.

Villages like ours are rare and while progress and competition are generally good things for consumers, the community itself should always be involved in decisions about its future. It's a balance, and one that's too easily upset with rushed decisions.

Finally I'd like to thank Belinda Carter as she hands over the reins of St Albans News and wish her a happy retirement. Keeping a community newsletter going is no small feat but it's part of what makes this part of town such a great place to live.

Ngā mihi,

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



Local artist Raymond Morris painted a number of older buildings around the city to remind people of what they looked like before the earthquakes. This painting of the old community centre, which occupied the St Albans Public Library building from 1998-2010, was presented to the St Albans Residents Association (SARA) in late 2024. SARA chair Mark Wilson received the painting along with a painting of one central city villa. The paintings hang in the new community centre.

Super Liquor

Super proud to be part of Edgware Village

- Fine wine & champagne plus local wines
- Great craft beer selection
- Premium spirits
- Shop local

Super Liquor Edgware
1067 Colombo St, St Albans, Chch
P: 03 379 4563
edgware.superliquor.co.nz

Super Liquor Cheers to that

Edgware Village: Your Local Community Market

Bringing fresh, local essentials straight to your neighborhood.
Shop Local, Shop Fresh, Shop Edgware for all your everyday needs!

Engineer Peter McCombs remembered for advocacy

by Garry Moore

Most people in St Albans will have never heard of Peter McCombs. Allow me to recall for you some of the suburb's history.

The St Albans Residents Association had fought for years against a proposal to construct a motorway through our suburb. 350 houses were to be demolished to achieve this. We needed engineering advice to present to the then Planning Tribunal the designating authority at the time. We were advised to consult Peter McCombs who ran an engineering consultancy called Traffic Design Group. I rang Peter and asked him if he would be prepared to act for us even though we had no money. Without hesitation he agreed. He sent one of his team, John Foster, to work for us and they tirelessly dedicated themselves to our cause. Our case was led by Tony Hearn QC.

Peter McCombs's family have a proud history in our city, and in our country. His grandfather was the first Labour MP for Lyttelton. When his grandfather died his grandmother took the seat and became New Zealand's first woman MP. His father was also a Labour MP and was the first Principal of Cashmere High School. So, it's not surprising with this background that Peter offered his

hand out to a struggling community group facing a vast and committed bureaucracy.

Peter taught me never to trust engineers automatically. His opinion was that all engineers must have their work carefully scrutinised. I followed his teachings all through my public life. Peter assigned John Foster from his team to work with us. John stayed at our house for the two weeks of the public hearings of the Planning Tribunal. After deliberating the Tribunal in its findings gave the local councils and Transit New Zealand (the predecessor of NZTA) five years to come up with justification substantiating a motorway, which would have cut our suburb in half. Otherwise, the designation would be uplifted.

Jan Wright (later Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment), from our residents association, was then appointed by the Government, on the recommendation of the two local MPs David Caygill and Geoffrey Palmer, to the Transit Board where she continued to challenge the engineering assumptions justifying the motorway. Eventually Transit dropped their support for the motorway. I then stood for the City Council to challenge the Ecan and CCC engineers as they fought to justify the proposed motorway. Eventually one

young CCC engineer produced a paper supposedly demonstrating that he had produced a model justifying the massive local expenditure needed to build the road. I consulted John Foster seeking his advice on how to challenge this council paper. He informed me that the model had to be peer reviewed and it turned out, quite by accident, that I was talking to the peer reviewer. As reviewer he had not seen the proposal. When the engineers were challenged by the then city manager it became apparent that that the proposed model substantiating the road didn't work. The designation died at the next council meeting and was subsequently uplifted.

So, all the residents currently living in houses which would have been demolished for the motorway, you have much to thank Peter McCombs, and his team, for their efforts for you and the St Albans Residents Association. Peter died recently and I want to honour him for what he did for our suburb. It's worth recording that we couldn't pay most of his bill and he never sent us an account rendered. Thank you, Peter McCombs, and your colleague John Foster.

Peter McCombs passed away in January 2025 (b. May 1943 – January 2025).

(Garry Moore is a former Christchurch mayor living in St Albans) ☞

Sedge weed removal

Sedge weed has become an increasing problem in St Albans over recent years and is especially evident in the open stream along Edward Ave.

Local resident Maria Hayward said the weed had overtaken the banks of the stream and was also popping up all around St Albans park and other neighbourhoods.

City council workers cleared away an infestation along the stream in early February. But a couple of weeks later the sedge had made a quick



Sedge in a local garden in St Albans

and healthy return.

Hayward said that cutting the weed was not a solution. It needed to be grubbed out because they spread via rhizomes on the roots as well as by seeds, she said.

According to information online there are several varieties of sedge weed and they are difficult to eradicate even with chemicals. They come from North and South

America but have spread around the world over recent decades. ☞

Two years of Predator Free St Albans

by Nigel Larsen

Predator Free St Albans (PFSA) was formed in 2023 in an effort to try and do something about the large numbers of rats being seen in Abberley Park and other parts of St Albans. We were concerned that the rats were killing birds and butterflies in our suburb. PFSA was given a \$780 grant from the Christchurch City Council which helped us get set up and running. Two of us also completed a DOC trapping course.

In 2024 we received a grant from Predator Free NZ (PFNZ), which is being used for equipment, materials and expanding our reach across the St Albans community. With both grants we have developed tunnels which house traps, built by volunteers at Arvida and at the Christchurch men's prison. We also carried out community engagement through articles in STAN, pick-up events, markets, fairs and targeted leaflet drops. This has resulted in the signing up of about 130 active trappers and a spread of nearly 150 traps across St Albans.

People joining our Predator Free group are encouraged to sign up with trap.nz and record their catches. Our trappers have reported 95 catches so far. Every rat eliminated gives birds and native insects more of a chance.

Rats can also cause trouble for humans too as rats have a fondness for chewing through wiring (even in cars!), and can spread diseases like leptospirosis.

Some trappers have been very successful and have had multiple catches. Others haven't been. Pesky rats have been seen running along fences but showing no interest in the traps despite tasty lures being set for them. Others have caught rats after months of waiting. The key is for people to keep being involved and keep trying—the first catch might be just around the corner.

For 2025, we aim to look at ways to keep people motivated, will carry out more leaflet drops, build more tunnels and hold further Pick-Up events at the St Albans Community Centre. We have a Facebook page (Predator Free St Albans) where people can share their successes, seek advice and provide each other with general support and encouragement.

Late last year our trappers' contributions towards "Keeping Christchurch Beautiful" were recognized by the Christchurch City Council through Certificates of Appreciation signed by the Mayor.

If you want to get a trap or seek advice, contact us through our Facebook page or phone 021 064 8861. ☞

freshchoice edgware

Convenience at Your Doorstep

For quick stops and easy shopping, FreshChoice Edgware brings the essentials to your local community

Open 7am – 9pm, 7 days
61 Edgware Road, Edgware

ST ALBANS PHARMACY **EDGEWARE AND COLOMBO**

MON - FRI 9:00AM TO 6:00PM
SAT 9:30AM TO 2:00PM

STAR Cleaning & Labour

WE BRING THE SHINE, SO YOU CAN HAVE THE TIME

- ★ PROFESSIONAL CLEANING SERVICES
- ★ FLEXIBLE, RELIABLE & HONEST
- ★ CONSTRUCTION, RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL

+64 22 549 3393 * admin@starclean.co.nz

PAULINE COTTER

Your Local Councillor & Deputy Mayor

Positively Innes

Contact: pauline.cotter@ccc.govt.nz
027 296 8811

Share Kai and Kōrero
Enjoy the traditional cuisines and music of communities that call Ōtautahi home.

Friday March 7
HOSTED BY THE ERITREAN ŌTAUTAHĪ COMMUNITY

Friday March 14
HOSTED BY THE NEPALI ŌTAUTAHĪ COMMUNITY

St Albans Community Centre 1049 Colombo St
2 COURSE MEAL \$20

Working bees

Monday and Thursday from 4 to 6pm

For more information visit our FB page:
facebook.com/packestreet

Born in the 'Forties, by one who was

continued from page 7

large steel tank activated by a long chain which ended in a ceramic handle. Pull this and a gallon or so of water would gurgle down the pipe. In those earlier wartime days, when toilet paper was in short supply, my father cut up appropriate squares of the Christchurch Press and Star-Sun which was probably an insult to journalism or a punishment for bad grammar.

However, some parts of outer Christchurch were not 'on the sewer' and received visits from the City Council night cart man, also known as 'Dan, the Lavatory Man'.

He would arrive in the late evening, announced by the smell of Jeyes Fluid or some other disinfectant, to remove a smelly can from the outhouse and replace it with an empty one. With a dray full of cans, known to our visiting Americans as the 'honey wagon', he would head north towards the Burwood pine plantation, the kerosene lamps on the cart rather eerie in the darkness. Should he be late in the morning, you could spot him from a distance by the haze of blowflies which accompanied his progress.

A further visitor was The Milkman with his metal cans. He would arrive in the early morning from the Devonvale Dairy in Belfast. Often still in our dressing gowns, my father or I would respond to the knock on the door and present our pint tin billy. The 'Milkie' would ladle the milk into it, bid us "good morning" and our daily ration went into the old Kelvinator refrigerator. Later, when milk bottles were introduced, he would leave our supply at the letter box, picking up the sixpences alongside the empties. Later still, this money became plastic tokens purchased from the grocer but, in the 1940s, you could leave money safely at the gate, at least in our street.

**Colin Amodeo, (1942-2022) was a former high school teacher and marine historian in Canterbury who wrote many books about 19th c shipping such as The Summer Ships and the Mosquito Fleet of Canterbury. The only son of Frank and Jessie (nee Cameron) Amodeo was born in May 20 1942 and lived in Bretts Rd. This abridged extract is from a manuscript Colin prepared prior to his death on 31 January 2022, showing what life was like in the 1940s and early 50s. If you would like to read the full story contact the St Albans History Group.* ☞

Volunteering

My best mistake

by Bill Demeter

Having just recently arrived in New Zealand I decided to check out the library on Colombo Street. This was in March of 2005. To my surprise, it was not a library but a community centre.

A helpful person named Douceline Wardle introduced herself and said she was the manager. She gave me a tour, explained what the community centre did and gave me a copy of the centre newspaper.

As I was about to leave, Douceline asked if I might be interested in becoming a volunteer. She said it was a great way to connect to the community and there were many activities where I could be helpful. I agreed.

Next month marks my twentieth year as a volunteer. I have been a reporter, the editor, co-chair, chair and have a service to help people solve their problems.

Volunteering here has been one of the best activities in my life. Please think of volunteering and I'd love to show you around the centre just as Douceline did twenty years ago.

Mairehau volunteers

Mairehau High School is always looking for volunteers to help run sport. Coming up in term two is winter netball and the school is looking for someone who would be interested in coaching a team. This would include running training and going along to a game.

This could be a great opportunity for anyone needing hours for their tertiary studies related to sports, or even someone looking to boost their CV and get involved in our community. "We would love to have you support us, please feel free to ask any questions," - Amy Veale, vealea@mairehau.school.nz

New STAN editor

Chris Hutching has been appointed the new editor of St Albans News, taking over from Belinda Carter who has given many years of dedicated service.

Chris and family have lived in the Edgware area since the mid-1980s and has had a career in mainstream journalism.

"I'm pleased to take this opportunity, and although I have lived here for many decades, I've been amazed at the amount of community involvement in the St Albans Residents Association.

"I'm indebted to Belinda who continues to contribute and is helping me navigate through the mysterious ways of different computer systems."

Sustainability

No Fatbergs!

The news of a Bryan Adams concert being cancelled recently in Perth was widely covered by the major news outlets, from The Sydney Morning Herald, ABC, BBC, NZ Herald (to name just a few).

The reason for cancellation was due to strains on the wastewater sewage pipes. An accumulation of fats/oils, sanitary products, wet wipes etc flushed down the standard household toilet creates the end result known as a fatberg.

A fatberg is a solid mass of fat or waste matter found in many sewerage systems, worldwide. Eventually the pressure on pipes will cause raw sewerage to discharge into the environment. Not a sight you want to witness, nor have to clean up!

Are fatbergs preventable? Yes!

Don't believe all that you read... the only thing we should be flushing down the loo is toilet paper, excrement and urine. That's it! When you add a combo of so called

"flushable products" on the market, add some oil and fat down your kitchen drain, along with the kitchen incinerator dicing your scraps... you are creating a future mess.

So peeps, take advantage of this enlightening bit of news and do the right thing. If you have expired oil to get rid off, drop it off at any of our Resource Recovery Parks for free. Check on your local council page for RRP locations near you.

Stay well clear of advertised "flushable" products and instead put used items in your rubbish bin. If you want to read more about this, simply google fatberg and you'll be well educated on the matter.

I've been talking about this for ages, trying to get the message out but, now the subject has gone viral thanks to a cancelled concert! I figured I might as well jump on the free channel and spread the news wider and further.

Cheers,

Maria aka Tidy Kiwi

☞

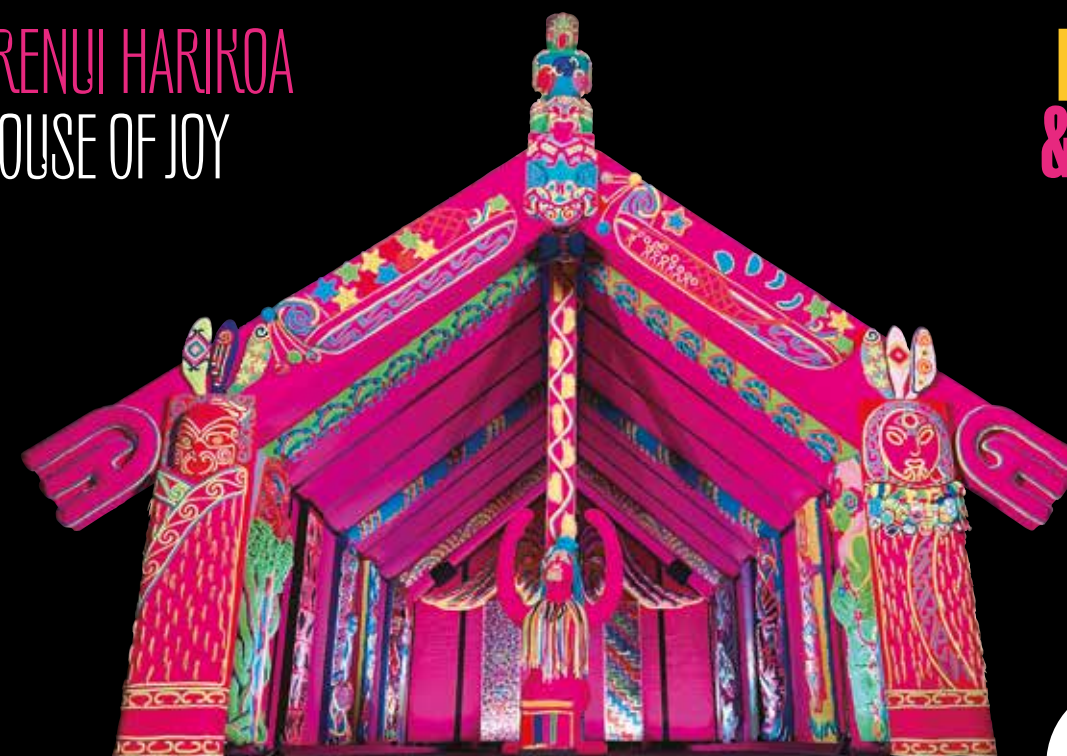
New garden co-ordinator appointed

Nutritionist and garden designer Nikki Staskiewicz has been appointed garden co-ordinator at Kōhinga Mārā (the community centre garden) where she will work alongside gardener Euan Johnston.

She will continue working at Packe St community garden and also help out with the Friends of Abberley Park group which keeps an eye on the heritage park for the St Albans community.



WHARENU! HARIKO
BIG HOUSE OF JOY



He whakaaturanga kei te tū
Exhibition on now

Free entry
Donations appreciated
canterburymuseum.com

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE AND WOOL

LISZY
& RUDI

Pop-Up
Museum
66 Gloucester
Street

Canterbury
Museum

Community Notices

Are you a model boat enthusiast?

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

Canterbury Embroiderers' Guild:

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

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.

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

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

Community Centre Talk: Robyn Casey from St Vincent de Paul, Monday 7 April, 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.

Community Centre Talk: Petronella Spicer the Guide Dog from Blind Low Vision Monday 10 March, 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shirley International Playgroup: a fun playgroup for mothers and under fives from any cultural background. Fridays during school term time. 9:30am 11:30am at the Shirley Hub, 69B Briggs Road,

Mairehau. \$2 per session or \$10 for the term. Call Shauna at Delta Trust on 03 389 0219 for more information.

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

St Albans 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@stalbands.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 Jenny 021 149 7990.

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

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

SUZUKI Piano Lessons. Beth Robinson. 021 231 4039

bhr.797@gmail.com

Reliable Cat Sitter-St Albans Area (Non-Live-in). Semi-retired woman - Mum to beloved Tortie Maisie - available to care for your feline friend. Happy to visit, feed, change litter, and provide companionship for your cat when you're away. Fee: \$20 per visit. Phone: 021 887 840.

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).

Memoir Writing Courses at St Albans Community Centre. Release the memoir or non-fiction book that is trapped inside you. More info https://bookpublishingtraining.com

Yoga Class: TThursday 10:45am-12pm at Kohinga St Albans Community Centre. All abilities and ages welcome. Tracy 022 048 6949

TRADIES

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

Floor Level Surveys. Specialist in Post-Quake building assessments. Pre-sale & Pre-purchase & EQC reviews.

Ph. Risknet 022 609 6026

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

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

OUTLine NZ: provides confidential

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@stalbands.gen.nz

March 5, 5:30pm: Te reo introduction evening at Kohinga/St Albans Community Centre

March 13, 4pm: Waipapa Community Board Meeting at Papanui Library

March 16, 10 - 2 pm: Edgware Village Market at Edgware Village

April 10, 4pm: Waipapa Community Board Meeting at Papanui Library.

WEXFIX TECH
SMARTPHONE & COMPUTER REPAIRS



Don't despair, we repair!

- Fast service repair
- Don't lose photos & videos
- Battery change in 15 minutes

420 Innes Road, Mairehau, Christchurch
www.wexfixtech.co.nz • contact us: 03 385 0597

CHRISTCHURCH JUDO SCHOOL



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

No local voice on Woolworths Edgware proposal

The Government's Fast-Track process may be coming to Edgware, which means locals won't get a say about what gets built next door.

Woolworths has confirmed a resource consent application for a new supermarket in Madras St has been lodged with the council. The Press is reporting that existing process could be overridden if it applies under the Fast-Track process which opened in February.

We love competition

Competition in the grocery sector is essential for New Zealand. When I was a Minister, I appointed our first grocery commissioner to be a watchdog in this regard. However, Woolworths (which also runs Supervalu and Fresh Choice) isn't well-known for driving food prices down.

A new supermarket plus retail complex in one of our most densely populated parts of the city (the old council site on Madras Street) is not without implications for the quality of life of residents. They deserve a say. The existing resource consent process would provide that opportunity.

Fast-Track would not. The National Government's legislation prioritises short-term profit over things like sustainability and shuts out community voices.

We need consultation

I've lived in the area for a long time, and I've been the MP since 2017. I know how strong this community's voice is – I've been on the receiving end at times! It may be that the convenience of a new supermarket and shopping centre is what locals want, but it's polite to ask!

Residents' concerns about things like extra traffic on already congested roads, long opening hours with more light and noise, and effects on other local amenities all deserve to be aired and considered.

Along with local councillor Pauline Cotter I'm advocating for this development to go through the proper existing process to allow local views to be heard.

There's no denying Christchurch is growing. But is this the right place for another Woolworths supermarket?

Under Fast-Track the complex could be up and running by the end of 2026, but residents will have to live with the changes it could bring to the community forever.

That makes it worth taking the time to hear some community views.

Let me know your thoughts – email me at chchcentral@parliament.govt.nz



Duncan Webb

Labour MP for Christchurch Central



Labour