

Ali Jones clear winner in Innes ward by-election

The only female candidate in a field of seven, Ali Jones was a clear winner in the Innes ward by-election which closed on February 17.

Those who did bother to vote (about 21.11 per cent of those eligible) opted for council experience over diversity.

Ali captured 1843 votes compared with former Papanui Councillor Mike Davidson on 637. With such a clear cut win in this provisional count, there will be no need for a recount, as happened with the councillor position last October.

After that came Mark Wilson with 383, Moazzem Hossain with 286, Mahlon Saumalu with 188, Harrison McEvoy with 89, and Garry Neale with 38. The official results will be

finalised on February 23, after St Albans News goes to print.

Ali Jones joins Emma Twaddell again on the Waipapa/Papanui-Innes-Central Community Board representing the Innes ward.

Corrections: In the February issue of St Albans News, we suggested that Ali Jones was a councillor who lost in the October elections. She was in fact at that time a community board member. The election was a close-run one with Pauline Cotter retaining her councillor seat by just eight votes after the recount.

In the community board election in October, Mark Wilson was the third highest poller behind Shreejana Chhetri, whose resignation from the board caused the recent by-election. ❧

How a dame and former mayor stymied motorway plan

Former St Albans Residents Association Garry Moore recalls the time when residents managed to stop motorway developments in the early 90s.

One night my phone rang. It was Elsie Locke. "What are you involved in right now" was the question.

This started an exercise which ended up with one of us the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, and eventually a Dame, and me as Mayor of Christchurch.

St Albans had been a textbook case of "planning blight". A plan which had taken so long that a whole suburb had been blighted in the process. A massive motorway was planned in the 1960's to go from the North of the city, through the middle, over the railway and onto the South of the city. Over the years it had gone from 6, to 4, to 2 lanes. Elsie Locke and Central City residents had fought, and won, against the central link.

The CCC and ECan engineers desperately wanted this big project.

One Sunday we called a meeting of locals. Four people turned up, Jan Wright, Muriel Soanes, Herb (a Scotsman we never saw again) and me. We decided to revive the dead St Albans Residents Association. The following day I appeared at the Planning Tribunal and announced that I was "Chairman" of the Association. I was accompanied by Jan and Muriel Soanes who had lived in her house at Forfar Street since 1918 and who had fought against the motorway proposal on her own for years.

We pleaded for time to prepare a case.



Dame Jan Wright



Former mayor Garry Moore

The Chair of the Tribunal gave us six weeks. He very aptly referred to me in his decision as the "self-appointed" chair. The literally dozens of engineers and planners at the hearing were devastated.

Over the next six weeks we engaged a QC, Tony Hearne, to act for us and a top-quality engineer, Peter McCombs. Peter's grandmother was the first woman MP in NZ. We engaged them both saying we had no money, but would they act for us. They both agreed.

Jan Wright was the person who drew up the case for the Planning Tribunal and assembled the necessary expert witnesses. My job was to form an association, draw up a committee and find some money. We tramped the streets and signed up 500 members. At \$1 for membership, it was a

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How a dame and former mayor stymied motorway plan

continued from page 1

great deal. Or that was what we told everybody.

A submission was made to CCC, and they fronted up with \$10,000 to assist our project.

We spent two weeks of our annual holidays in the Planning Tribunal. In the end the motorway designation was confirmed for five years. The decision referred to "planning momentum". The designation had been in place for 28 years when it was finally dropped. Years later I met Peter Skelton, the Tribunal Chair, at a function and he said that he was convinced that the project would not get funded within five years and would die anyway. He virtually wrote the death warrant.

We had the support of two key local NZ MPs: Geoff Palmer and David Caygill. They recommended to Cabinet that Jan Wright be appointed to Transit NZ's board, the then roading authority for NZ. Transit had the designation and Jan's task was to convince the board to abandon it. Jan ended up Chair and Transit NZ decided that the motorway was not needed and announced that they would be applying for the motorway designation to be uplifted.

There was resistance from CCC and ECan engineers and planners. They applied to the Court for the local authorities to take over the designation. The next step was for me to stand for the City Council to fight the designation at that table. That battle is a complete story on its own for another day. But we succeeded.

The designation was uplifted, and the suburb returned to normality. The then Ministry of Works owned 90 per cent of the houses needed and these were released onto the market. 350 houses were saved. Slowly the suburb revived. The St Albans Primary School had dropped to 150 pupils and was in danger of being closed. Now its roll is massive. Young families had moved into affordable housing.

So, as residents sit in rapidly appreciating homes, I challenge you think about people like Muriel Soanes who fought for so long to save hers and your houses. Think about the locals who flocked to support a community battle, often with no personal gain for being involved. Think about the lawyer and engineers who assisted us being paid a fraction of what they could have earned elsewhere. Think about those who fundraised at cake stalls and events to assist with the costs of this successful challenge. I'll never forget Betty Adank's sponges. Think about the staff at CCC who supported our suburb with time and resources as their colleagues worked equally hard to destroy where we lived. Think about the then local MPs who remained committed to assisting us in Wellington.

There are so many people who played a part in our community campaign. However right now we sit back and bask in the glory of one of our volunteer committee members being made a Dame. Well done Dame Jan Wright. We knew you had it in you. St Albans thanks you for helping to save our suburb. ☘

Advertising in St Albans News

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

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

SARA Committee

St Albans Residents Association meets at St Albans Community Centre, 1049 Colombo St. on March 15 at 7pm.

St Albans History Group

Next meeting Monday March 7th 2 pm at the St Albans Community Centre.
Email: briangspear@hotmail.com

Wednesday Wheelies

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

The deadline for the March of the St Albans News is March 13. Please send your articles, letters and notices to:
news@stalbens.gen.nz



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SARA and Centre news

Pataka kai takes front of centre spot



Kōhinga Māra gardener Euan Johnston keeps the centre's new pantry full of herbs and vegetables, grown in the Caledonian Rd garden plots. Anyone can leave fruit and vegetables for others to take home. Contributions of tinned or packaged food are appreciated but we cannot accept foods where the packaging has been opened or the product is out of date. Probably not a good idea to leave dairy items as they can go off quickly. Now is a good time to share excess fruits from good cropping trees ☘

Residents association partners with Para Kore to reduce waste

St Albans Residents Association is partnering with Para Kore in a bid to reduce waste in the community centre, the garden and the wider community.

Kaiārahi Miriama Buchanan spoke to the SARA management committee at their meeting on February 15. She is part of a nationwide organisation that offers help to other organisations to reach zero waste. She explained their kaupapa, mentioning tools that people could use at home, such as the Japanese system bokashi, which ferments compost in small-lidded containers.

This partnership or educational journey is to encourage people to do the best by Taiao or the environment we live in. It may be noticeable through improved signs at Kōhinga St Albans

Community Centre directing them to put things and possibly additional recycling.

One of these things involves finding alternatives to plastic eg: glass milk bottles or flax baskets. Plastic never goes away; it just breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces. These days, the centre is unable to collect plastic bottle tops as those who take them to make new items, such as skateboards, have too much material for their smallscale operations.

Para Kore runs local workshops and works with other organisations in Christchurch like Linwood Community Gardens. If you would like to know more, visit www.parakore.maori.nz or email Miriama at:

Miriama@parakore.maori.nz ☘

Update on centre classes

Tracy Kells runs yoga classes at 10.45am on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and Lisa Banks at 10am on Thursdays. The Tuesday evening class is no longer running and there are no Wednesday yoga classes. Contact the community centre (phone 972 5534) to obtain contact details to enrol in these classes. The centre does not handle enrolments; centre staff only deal with room bookings.

Proofreaders and subeditors wanted

Volunteers wanted to help check St Albans News. If you can spare a few hours a month please email news@stalbens.gen.nz or leave a name and phone number at the community centre.

Smaller than usual

St Albans News has made a decision with the current issue to print only eight pages, due to a downturn in advertising revenue, increasing paper prices and reluctance to increase our rates. As a consequence we regret some articles have been held over till the April edition.

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March 2023,
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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@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.

St Albans and beyond

Residents group calls for infrastructure audit

Christchurch Combined Residents associations or CRA (St Albans Residents Association is a member) want an audit to prove the city's infrastructure can cope with increased flooding, likely with housing intensification in a time of climate change.

"The audit should include three waters capability - stormwater, sewerage, water - as well as looking at whether or not our electricity and data transmission systems and transport infrastructure will cope with the level of residential density being enabled."

CRA spokesperson Tony Simons points to the massive Auckland flooding as a compelling case against uncontrolled intensification in the city and wants an immediate stop to unplanned residential intensification in Christchurch and for work on the district plan review

to pause until the audit has been completed.

The Christchurch City Council meets on March 1 to discuss a revised district plan that is likely to include a ban on building new single storey homes, increased numbers of qualifying matters (exemptions to full development) and a focus on intensification around the inner city and major public transport routes. Prompted by the CRA, council staff have also taken a closer look at the shading in winter caused by taller buildings and lower sun angles.

This process still has a long way to go, with public submissions from March 17, a hearing, followed by further summarising and submissions/hearings mid-year, culminating in its implementation in April 2024.

Government-appointed investigator John Hardie is due to present his report in late March. ☞

Council meets community

Waipapa/Papanui-Innes-Central Community Board is holding a community liaison meeting at Kōhinga St Albans Community Centre on March 7 from 1pm-2.30pm.

This drop in meeting will be an opportunity to chat with the Board about their draft Community Board plan and with council staff about the Strengthening Communities Fund which opens soon and closes at midnight on 14 April. ☞

Census on March 7

Paper census forms are being dropped off at households and other places in preparation for Census Day on March 7.

Alternatively, those who prefer doing it online can do so by visiting <https://online.census.govt.nz> using an access code.

If you need help filling out the form online, visit Kōhinga/St Albans Community Centre between 10 and 12 on weekdays when computer help is available.

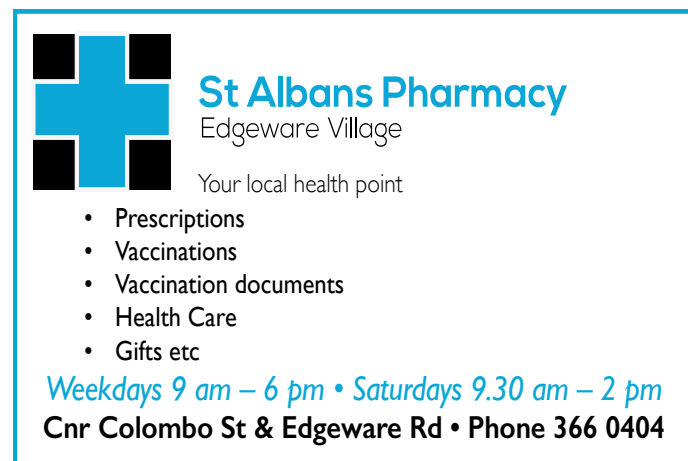


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St Albans and beyond

Bringing music to underserved adults

Music Up Close, a collaboration between Skillwise, New Zealand Chamber Music Group and dance group Jolt resulted in a two day workshop for adults with disabilities held at the community centre on February 2. An underserved group when it comes to musical activities, participants played musical games and danced to recorded and live music played on a violin and drums in the first session. Later they played real and made up instruments while the facilitators recorded the sounds of what they imagine to be South Africa. NZ Chamber of Music's Cathy Irons, who ran the programme, is originally from there.

Focus on waste management bylaw

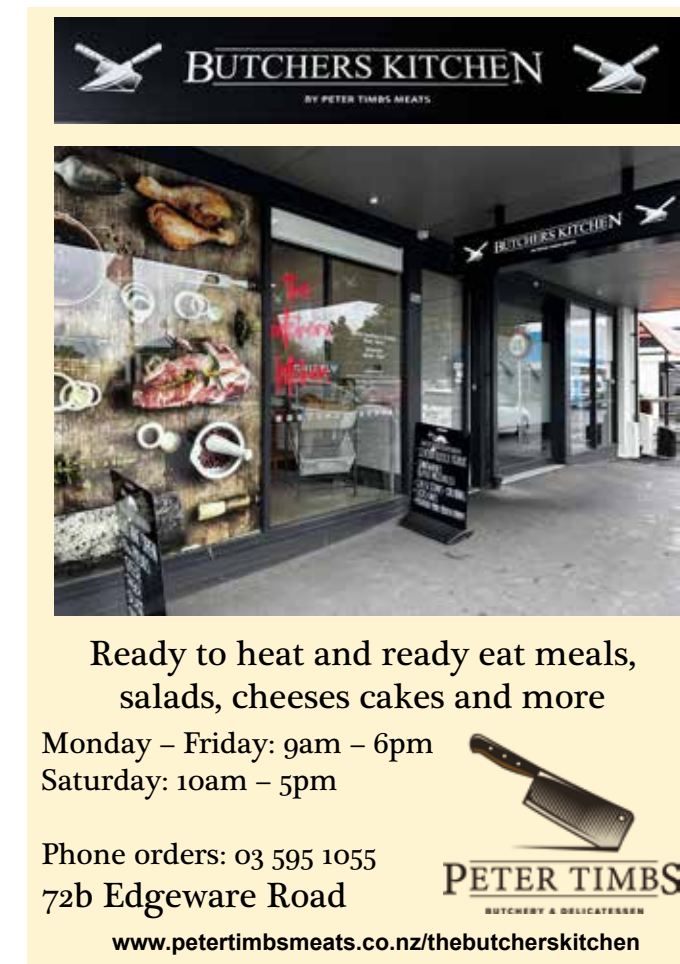
Feedback on Christchurch's new waste management bylaw has closed but the public hearings will take place in the next few months. This bylaw will cover things like allowing multiple unit developments to opt out of the council rubbish system and operate their own rubbish collection system. Events organisers will be responsible for disposing of rubbish. Advertising brochures in letterboxes could be a no go if council chooses to ban them because of the litter caused when they are dropped. For those who want to know more check out: <https://ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Consultation/2023/01-January/STR5935-Draft-Waste-Management-Minimisation-Bylaw-2023-WEB.pdf>. The bylaw will probably be implemented mid-year.

Council plans more trees for city

To make the city a better place to live in, Christchurch City Council has come up with a plan to plant more trees. Tree coverage is one of the best ways to deal with climate change. Find out more about the benefits of trees in the Urban Forest plan outlined here: <https://ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Consultation/2023/02-February/CUS5882-Urban-Forest-Plan-A4-WEB.pdf> The council intends to plant suitable trees particularly in areas of the city deficient in tree canopy, with the aim that the city can overall boast a 15 per cent tree canopy. This might not be much but in the past few years the city has been losing canopy and gaining concrete, largely as a result of intensified housing developments. Check out the Urban Forest Plan above then Have Your Say before March 6 here: <https://ccc.govt.nz/the-council/haveyoursay/show/572> or visit the service centre for a print copy.

New ministers appointed

Local Christchurch MP Dr Duncan Webb (with a background in law) has been made Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and Minister for State-owned Enterprises. These positions make him a minister outside cabinet. Also outside cabinet is Southern Māori rep Rino Tirakatene who is Minister for Courts and Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth. These appointments were made shortly after Chris Hipkins became Prime Minister.



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Community Notices

A JP service available the first three Saturdays of the month 11 am - 1 pm at Kōhinga St Albans Community Centre.

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

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

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

Coffee and conversation: Every Wednesday 11 am - 1 pm at Kōhinga St Albans Community Centre. Join us for coffee and conversation. All Welcome. Koha for coffee appreciated.

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

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

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

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

Edgware Croquet Club: Forfar Street in St Albans Park. Assoc Croquet Thur and Sat 9.30-12 and Golf Croquet 12.45 -3pm. We welcome visitors and new members. Contact Jan 021303843

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

Family Drug Support Aotearoa New Zealand: Support for family/whānau and friends impacted by alcohol and other drug misuse of people they care about. Phone: support line on 0800 337 877 or 03 2818 740 for other enquiries.

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

Free insulation: Community Energy Action (CEA) can assess your house and if eligible organise free insulation for above ceilings and under floors. Curtain bank

offering free recycled curtains (including fitting). Curtain bank is mobile so can visit your home. More information, visit cea.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.

Knitting Group meets every Tue at Edge Cafe 10 - 11 am. Ph Mandy 022 365 0745.

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

Morning tea at Kōhinga St Albans Community Centre, the first Thursday of the month at 10 am. Everyone welcome. For more information phone 9725534

NZ Japan Society of Canterbury provides understanding and goodwill between the people of NZ and Japan. Meetings include talks, video shows or other activities with a Japanese accent. Visitors welcome. Contact Jean Bell: 355 9903 or jeanpbell8@gmail.com

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

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

Rotary New Horizons meets at St Albans Community Centre every second Wednesday of the month at 6pm. Email Marg: mlyons747@gmail.com. Find us on Facebook, or visit rotarynewhorizons.org.nz

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

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

at Delta Trust on 03 389 0219 for more information.

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

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

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

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

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

St Albans Community Pre school: 20 free hours, 2 5 yr olds, casual bookings taken. 3 Thames St. Contact Odette on (03) 355 9396 or look us up on Facebook.

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

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

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

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

Women in Harmony community choir: Meets Thursdays in primary school terms from 7.30-9.30pm at Kōhinga St Albans Community Centre. Sing world and popular music in 3 part harmony. No auditions. Email: women.in.harmony.nz@gmail.com; facebook.com/womeninharmonychristchurch

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

St Albans News Classifieds

SERVICES

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

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

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

Becoming You Yoga: \$13, Slow mindful yoga. St Albans Community Centre, Thursday 10am \$15, Restorative Yoga. Suitable for all. Contact: <https://www.becomingyoyoga.com>

Yoga Class: Tuesday and Thursday 10:45am-12pm at St Albans Community Centre. All abilities and ages welcome. Tracy 022 048 6949 or 03 356 1754

Qualified Florist: Located at 201 Geraldine Street, Edgware. Same day delivery. theflowershopchristchurch.co.nz 021 0835 5345

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Rural Holidays NZ Ltd, an established and innovate Christchurch based company with considerable experience in hosting of

overseas visitors over the past 40 years, is seeking further hosts, to provide dinner only in a private home, for a regular USA tour series visiting the city. If you enjoy entertaining and presenting a home cooked meal, then this opportunity is for you. Time involved with your guests is approximately three hours. A genuine interest in meeting visitors from wide and varied backgrounds along with need to be flexible, reliable and maintain a consistent level of hospitality at all times are key factors we are seeking. A competitive industry level of remuneration is paid. To find out more, please register your interest today via email at: hosting@ruralholidays.co.nz

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

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

St Albans events

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

March 2, 10:30 am: St Albans Community Centre SARA hosts morning tea

March 7, 1-2:30 pm: Kōhinga Centre Drop in session to meet local community board

Mental Health Support

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

- **Allies online mentoring** offered by young Muslim adults to Muslim teens run by Youthline. Free text 234 or phone 0800 376 633
- **After hours counselling:** Phone counselling provided. Offer of a free introductory chat and affordable fees related to clients financial situation in these challenging times. Call on 027 694 5275 or email at: murray@afterhourscounselling.co.nz
- **Are You OK?** Family violence helpline 0800 456 450.
- **Canterbury Charity Hospital:** 03 360 2266
- **Comcare Trust:** Comcare assists people with mental health or addiction issues to live well in the Canterbury community. Tel: (03) 377 7020, Fax: (03) 961 0794, Email: enquiries@comcare.org.nz
- **Counsellors** available via text: 1737
- **Depression:** 0800 111 757 or text 4302
- **Eating Disorder Recovery Support:** Here you will find a place to: connect with eating disorder experts, find recommended resources and join a forum for families. If you would like to talk about it further, please contact: 021 195 6766.
- **Family Drug Support Aotearoa New Zealand.** Support for families impacted by the alcohol and other drug use of family members. Tel: 03 2818 740. www.fds.org.nz
- **Kidslines:** 0800 54 37 54—For under 18s, 24/7
- **Male Survivors:** 03 365 9000
- **Mental Health Advocacy Peer Support (MHAPS):** Phone: (03) 365 9479, Text: 022 370 8055, Rural Phone: 0800 437 324, Email: reception@mhaps.org.nz 9:00am-4:30pm, Monday to Friday
- **OUTLine NZ:** provides confidential telephone support for matters of gender or sexuality, 0800 688 5463
- **Rape Crisis:** 0800 883 300 for support after rape or sexual assault.
- **Sexual Assault Support Service Canterbury (SASSC):** 03 377 5402 for recent and historic cases
- **Shakti Crisis Line:** for migrant or refugee women living with family violence 0800 742 584
- **Suicidal?** Phone 0508 828 865

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