

Wednesday Wheelies cycling group bursting at the seams



At risk of attracting more cyclists to the Wednesday Wheelies group which is bursting at the seams, we would like to brag about this local group. It was one of the first cycling groups in Christchurch formed five years ago to make the most of the new cycleways opening up around the city. One Wednesday in March this year, 50 people turned up for a ride to Beckenham. They had to be divided into five groups of 10 cyclists each, so as not to overrun Christchurch city streets. A small section of the cyclists is pictured above. The group leaves from the centre on Wednesday mornings and often stops off at a cafe en route or after the ride.

✂

Public barbecue for St Albans Park?

by Belinda Carter

A free public barbecue could be installed at St Albans Park near the children's playground if the community gets behind the idea.

This sheltered area, which catches the evening sun, is popular with picnickers and would be an ideal spot, Waipapa/Papanui-Innes-Central Community Board member Emma Twaddell says.

However, it won't be happening any time soon as, according to board chair Emma Norrish, the Parks' staff say St Albans Park does not meet requirements. "Due to the significant capital expenditure and high associated maintenance costs, public bbqs are generally installed in destination parks with intensified use eg. Hagley Park, Sumner Beach and the Groynes. As St Albans Park does not meet this criteria, Parks staff are not supportive of the installation of a bbq at the park."

It costs around \$10,000 to \$12,000 to purchase and \$8000 to \$10,000 to install it while maintenance costs add just \$300 per year to the total. If a small shelter is needed to protect a barbecue from bird droppings or leaves the cost is the higher of those figures. Annual maintenance is estimated at around \$300 per annum.

A staff spokesperson told St Albans News that they work with community boards and local groups that desire to see these types

A mashup of what a public barbecue would look like if installed in St Albans Park.



of amenities installed on existing parks. When new parks are created, usually in new subdivisions, this is part of the consultation process. The spokesperson made no mention of any threshold or minimum numbers required to justify its installation.

This map shows where public barbecues (and picnic spots) maintained by the council have already been installed: <https://www.ccc.govt.nz/parks-and-gardens/bbqs-and-picnics/> They are free, cannot be booked and operate with electric ignition. BYO own food, plates, cutlery and cleaning gear. They tend to be mostly found around the city's edges.

Judging from weekend use alone, St Albans Park must be one of the most frequently used suburban parks, and certainly the busiest in St Albans.

Continued on p 2



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<http://stalbands.gen.nz>

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Public barbecue for St Albans Park?

Continued from p 1

On request, Christchurch City Council supplied some figures for sports uses at the park. A spokesperson said sports fields are allocated to regional sports organisations who in turn allocated the use of the field to their constituent clubs and schedule fixtures.

In a typical weekend in winter, when Mainland Football uses the park, 13 games are played at the weekend across the grades. There are 22 players on the field for each game and at least one reserve player. These figures don't include spectators. Then there's mid-week training for junior and youth players. This is carried out between 3-6pm (because there are no lights on the park) involving an estimated 120 kids in 10 teams.

In summer, when Christchurch Metro Cricket uses the park, around 40-50 Lancaster Park cricket club members in five or six teams (male and female) train on the park using a limited area on Tuesdays and a similar number on Thursdays. On Saturdays in summer 45 players across four teams use the park between 9.30am and 6pm. Again not counting spectators.

Apart from the sports uses of the park CCC does not collect data on the use of the playground, basketball court or petanque court by members of the public. They are open and it is not easy to gather data. Having staff on site is costly so the council relies on informal feedback when council staff are on site performing occasional maintenance work, which is usually undertaken on weekdays. Cameras are considered too intrusive and surveys are not taken.

The park is also home to flying fox and a skatepark, used mainly by younger, casual users. At weekends picnickers often make use of the park at its south eastern corner. No figures are available for these uses either.

Emma Norrish did not shut the door on the idea of a public barbecue being installed in St Albans Park. She suggested the council's 2024 long term plan (a 10 year budget) offers the opportunity to get funding for a barbecue and the board could advocate for it through that process "should we hear a desire from the local community."

If you would like to see a public barbecue installed in St Albans Park email: emma.norrish@ccc.govt.nz ☼

Advertising in St Albans News

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

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

SARA Committee

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

St Albans History Group

Next meeting Monday April 3rd 2 pm at the St Albans Community Centre.

Email: briangspear@hotmail.com

St Albans Strategy

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

The deadline for the April of the St Albans News is April 17. Please send your articles, letters and notices to:

news@stalbands.gen.nz



ST ALBANS TENNIS CLUB

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37 Dover St, off Edgware Rd



SARA and Centre news

High school group helps garden



Among the helpers at the working bee in the Kohinga Mārā on February 19 was youth group Raise Up Ōtautahi. The nationwide group is run by youth for youth, who volunteer as a way to gain leadership, events organisation and advocacy skills. Its members, aged 13-18 come from local high schools. The Christchurch crew meets on Mondays from 4-6pm at the YMCA in the inner city to plan community activities. For more information check out their (nationwide) website: www.raiseup.co.nz or email:

brittany@ymcachch.org.nz ☼

Bees might buzz off

The bee enclosure at the community centre could move somewhere else on the community garden site further away from the centre building following a complaint made about it being too close to the deck area where people sometimes sit outside to eat. It was pointed out that some people are allergic to bees and need to keep epi pens close just in case there is a close encounter. The bees forage from the garden and surrounding areas but can get a bit active on hot days community activator Emma Twaddell told the St Albans Residents Association Management Committee. The bees supplied by a Rotary group were included on the centre-operated site in 2022 with housing built by Mark Wilson from recycled materials. The bees have been busy foraging in the community garden and surrounding gardens aiding pollination that helps plants grow, breed and produce food. ☼

Pātaka proves popular

Vegetables from the plots in the community centre garden, peaches from someone's home garden, unwanted pasta, Mexican sauce, and magazines with recipes are among the items that have ended up in the pātaka at the front of the St Albans Community Centre. The pantry is also giving away bags of crushed up egg shells. A local gardener suggested that those intending to use the eggshells as a food source for the vegetables, rather than a useful deterrent for slugs or snails, should grind up the shells further with a mortar and pestle (or similar) so the plants can absorb the calcium. ☼

Defibrillator at the community centre

The community centre has a defibrillator, donated last year by the Seniornet Mac group which helps people with their Apple computers at the centre. Centre staff are being trained to use the device, which can help save the life of someone having a heart attack. Unfortunately, it will only be accessible during the hours when the centre office is staffed, from 9am to 1pm Monday to Friday. Close to the centre, other AED can be accessed at Rehua Marae, Peter Timbs and ProMed (variable hours). ☼

Digital news

St Albans News is delivered to homes in St Albans with letterboxes that don't have signs saying Addressed Mail Only. Those living outside Bealey Ave, Hills Rd, Innes Rd and Bristol St won't get home deliveries but they can pick up copies at the Fresh Choice supermarket. Send a message to news@stalbands.gen.nz to be added to the list to receive a pdf via email. StAN is also available on the stalbands.gen.nz website, St Albans News Facebook page and Neighbourly. ☼

Advertising co-ordinator

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

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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@stalbands.gen.nz

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

Letters can be mailed to:

PO Box 36687, Chch 8146

Editor: Belinda Carter

Contributor: Lisa Gold

Production staff: Lynne O'Keefe,

Sarah O'Keefe, Daph Parkins,

Maree Coffey and Judy Price

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.

St Albans and beyond

St Albans School plans reunion

Registrations open soon for St Albans Primary School's celebration of 150 years of existence from September 15-17. The organisers are looking for the oldest pupils at the school who are still above ground. They often get to cut the cake with the youngest at similar events. In the meantime, check out their facebook page, share memories of teachers or class activities and upload photos from your years at the school <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1794287834276397/>

Council seeks feedback to annual plan

It looks like traffic signals for Springfield Rd will get a green light after its inclusion in Christchurch City Council's 2023-2024 draft annual plan. It was discussed in late 2022 as a way to assist pedestrians to cross the road, most likely at Edgware Rd. It is quite a busy road, running from Bealey Ave to St Albans St with no crossing facilities for pedestrians. Other work budgeted for St Albans this coming financial year includes work on St Albans Stream near St Albans School, as well as relining the timber sides or naturalising (opening and planting) other stretches. If you want to let the Council know your views of its spending plans and the average 5.66 % rates increase covering Council operations, facilities and activities, let them know before April 10 by submitting here: <https://ccc.govt.nz/the-council/haveyoursay/show/582>

Government dosh boosts buses

In March, the Government announced a \$78 million investment in Christchurch transport that could see buses running every 75 minutes (a big improvement on the current 15 or 30 minute service if running to time). The money, reallocated from a cancelled bridge project in Auckland, would see more shelters, real time displays (such as this one in Edgware Rd), more buses and more drivers and should improve the system's reliability. Bus companies are currently struggling to get enough drivers as it is, frequently have to cancel trips, and maintaining schedules is a mission. It's part of a long term plan by the Greater Christchurch Partnership to co-ordinate intensified housing (three to six storeys) and a better public transport network linked to a dedicated public transport corridor between Belfast to Hornby via the central city. A light rail or bus service using Papanui Rd and Riccarton Rd would reduce emission but could see cars forced to seek out alternative routes (Cranford St comes to mind). Environment Canterbury's consultation about the rapid transit plan closed on March 26 but will inform a business plan for the scheme due later in the year.



St Albans and beyond

Retail changes in St Albans

The former bookshop/postshop in Edgware Mall is about to transform into a second-hand shop fundraising for Hato Hone St John (ambulance service). Run by volunteers it will stock clothes and household items.

The former Black Dice Eatery in the block on the western side of Cranford St at the intersection with Westminster St has new owners and has transformed into an Indian halal eatery called Paradise.

The newish block at 57 Warrington St is slowly filling up. An International Culinary Institute and its cafe called the White Fantail operate at no 1. They run mostly NZQA-approved online course training chefs, targeted offshore but also in-person, non-accredited short courses on topics like chocolate making and cake decorating. Kin Kin, a Thai food delivery service called Kin Kin (formerly known as Tasty Dish), serves up South East Asian cuisine from number 6. It applied for a restaurant liquor licence earlier this year. The block is filling up, with these relative newcomers joining a sports shop (new and second hand items) and Kings Bookshop, selling books, stamps for envelopes and parcels that may be of interest to stamp collectors and those who collect coins. If any new businesses are starting up in St Albans let us know by emailing: news@stalban.gen.nz

Preschool holding open day

When you walk by the rainbow-coloured fence on the corner of Westminster and Thames Streets laughter and shrieks of glee fill the air.

The not for profit preschool is holding a community open day on Saturday April 29 from 10am-1pm. A face painter, bouncy castle and much more will be there for tamariki to enjoy while parents talk to the Kaiako (teacher).

St Albans Community Preschool, which caters for children aged from 2-5 years old, has been an integral part of the community for nearly 40 years. It has a focus on play-based learning, emotional wellbeing and developing relationships.

Have your say on new housing rules

On March 1, Christchurch council passed a draft of a revised district plan that allows greater intensified housing with lots of qualifying matters (exemptions where the some rules won't completely apply to city housing). These include things like heritage areas where the multi-storey buildings cannot be built and a new one about sunlight angles to take into account that less sunlight reaches lower floors in Christchurch than in Auckland (for whom central government derived, and is imposing, these one size fits all city rules).

Large parts of St Albans, particularly those south of Edgware Village shopping area, are in a high density residential zone, while the remainder to the north and to the east are in a medium density residential zone. A developer can build three, three-storey units next door without consent (you won't even be told) in either zone but in the high density zone can go even higher, potentially up to 10 storeys with extra rules applied and a resource consent required. And if you have plans to build a single storey house in such a zone forget it as two storeys will be the minimum.

If you want to have a say about these significant changes that will alter the face of neighbourhoods for decades to come obtain a paper version at the Papanui Service Centre or visit <https://ccc.govt.nz/the-council/haveyoursay/show/531>. The website includes a link to an interactive map, www.ccc.govt.nz/growingcity, that shows what zone you live in: high density, medium density or heritage.

The resource management act is complex. If you need help filling out a form, contact Jane West CHCHPC13-14@jwest.co.nz or phone (03) 324 3324. She's part of the Friend of Submitters service funded by the Ministry of the Environment. Submissions close on May 3 and this will be followed by hearings, summaries and further consultations with a view to being implemented in April 2024.

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St Albans, 41 Caledonian Road.



Community Notices

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: Ph 03 21818740

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

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

Greater Company of Mary Associates and Affiliates Mass will be held on Saturday 1 April 2023, 10.30am at the Mary Potter Community Centre, 442

Durham Street North. Bishop Michael Gielen will be taking the Mass. All welcome, morning tea after. RSVP by Wednesday 29 March, ph 372 9224 or visit lcmchristchurch.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.

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. Visitors welcome. Contact Jean Bell: 355 9903 or jeanpbell8@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

Birse, ph 327 0193.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Community notices are free to groups operating in St Albans. Please email

Lynne@advertising.gen.nz

St Albans News Classifieds

SERVICES

Having difficulty making a good decision about a family, work, relationship or legal problem?

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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.becomingyouyoga.com>

Yoga Class: Tuesday and Thursday 10:45am-12pm at St Albans Community Centre. All abilities and ages welcome.

Tracy 022 048 6949 or 03 356 1754

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

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Mental Health Support

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

- **Allies online mentoring** offered by young Muslim adults to Muslim teens run by Youthline. Free text 234 or phone 0800 376 633
- **After hours counselling:** Call on 027 694 5275 or email at: murray@afterhourscounselling.co.nz
- **Are You OK?** Family violence helpline 0800 456 450.
- **Comcare Trust:** For health or addiction issues. Tel: (03) 377 7020, Fax: (03) 961 0794, Email: enquiries@comcare.org.nz
- **Counsellors** available via text: 1737
- **Depression:** 0800 111 757 or text 4302
- **Eating Disorder Recovery Support:** Contact: 021 195 6766.
- **Family Drug Support Aotearoa New Zealand.** Tel: 03 2818 740. www.fds.org.nz
- **Kidslines:** 0800 54 37 54—For under 18s, 24/7
- **Male Survivors:** 03 365 9000
- **Mental Health Advocacy Peer Support (MHAPS):** Phone: (03) 365 9479, Text: 022 370 8055 Hours: 9:00am–4:30pm, Monday to Friday
- **OUTLine NZ:** provides confidential telephone support for matters of gender or sexuality, 0800 688 5463
- **Rape Crisis:** 0800 883 300.
- **Sexual Assault Support Service Canterbury (SASSC):** 03 377 5402 for recent and historic cases
- **Shakti Crisis Line:** for migrant or refugee women living with family violence 0800 742 584
- **Suicidal?** Phone 0508 828 865

St Albans events

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

April 16, 7 pm: Edgware Pool fundraising Quiz at Bailies

April 29, 10am-1pm: 3 Thames St, St Albans Community Preschool Open Day

May 6, 11am-2pm: Kohinga/St Albans Community Centre Zonta preloved handbag sale



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