

Matariki celebrations at Rehua

Thousands of people visited Rehua Marae in Springfield Rd as part of annual Matariki celebrations on Saturday June 20, a hot nor'west day with record temperatures.

It was a day of fun, games and workshops featuring weaving and poi making, and performance groups including youngsters from St Albans School.

Rehua Marae is linked to Māori Affairs Trade Training, and supported by Christchurch Methodist Central Mission and Ngāi Tahu rangatira. A spring that once provided fresh water for Ngāti Mamoe and



Waitaha at nearby Puari Pā still runs past Te Whatumanawa Māoritanga o Rehua, the whare building. Carvings represent iwi that contributed to building and maintaining the marae.

A programme called Te Kaitaka Tūpuna o Rehua keeps older people physically active through cultural activities, events and outings. The marae is also available to community and educational providers and whānau.

Rehua, is the lord of kindness, a star god with power to revive the dead, heal disease and cure blindness.

Four wheels good, two wheels better

by Chris Hutching

Cycling advocate Robert Fleming says the number of cycling trips in Christchurch continue to increase and he anticipates more people taking to bikes as new pathways are opened, streets upgraded and fuel prices remain high.

Robert is one of the administrators of Wednesday Wheelies, which facilitates social slow rides around Christchurch in association with the St Albans Residents Association. Riders meet either at the association headquarters Kohinga, in Colombo St, or at English Park. A spin off group rides on Fridays, often beyond the cycleways. The aim is to enjoy some gentle exercise and socialise at a coffee shop destination. An app has been developed allowing people to book for particular rides, and help control the numbers on each ride.

"It's just a lot of fun, we have a pool of about 150 riders a month, with an average of 70 per week in good weather, and we have about 50 cafes we visit. The age range is mostly 60 to about 88. There's always someone to talk to. It's certainly given me a retirement purpose. You make so many new connections. One of my passions is the development of communities like Edgware to allow for walking, biking and scootering."

City-wide, there are now 33 cycle count detectors which can be accessed at <https://smartview.ccc.govt.nz/data/cycle-counters>.



Robert Fleming and some of the Wednesday Wheelies.

bikes and e-bikes.

The busiest route is along Antigua St with other commuting hot spots from Beckenham, to Hagley Park plus the city to Ilam university. Others include the Papanui Parallel linking to the Northern Corridor via Rutland St Reserve, while the Rapanui Shag Rock major cycleway and Coastal Path links the city to Sumner. A soon-to-be completed cycleway, City to Sea, begins at Richmond. Halswell is also well catered with cycleways.

"The increase in numbers is pretty much as predicted as people discovered the separated pathways and safer signage. There are some difficulties retrofitting cycleways into our existing streets with driveways often catering to two-car households unlike in the Netherlands where people live in apartments and tend to walk, bike or use public transport. But the new subdivision designs are excellent," Robert says.

He is hoping that a proposed Harewood Rd cycleway will eventually be built given the thousands of people who work at the airport.

✂



Activities at the community centre

Weekly groups that meet at the community centre.

Monday	10am	Saygo - join waiting list
	11am	Happy Feet
	11.30am	Tai Chi with Jan
	1.30pm	Yoga with Hamish
Tuesday	5pm	Universal Martial Arts
	9.30am	Zumba with JB
	10am	NeighbourNet/SeniorNet Mac
	5.30	Pippins
Wednesday	7pm	Avon Toastmasters
	7pm	Ungu Capoeira
	10am	SeniorNet Mac
	10.30am	The Corner, coffee and chat
Thursday	3.45	Enchanting Productions
	7.00pm	Capoeira Angola
	9.30am	Saygo - join waiting list
	10.45am	Yoga with Tracy Kells
Friday	10am	NeighbourNet
	5.00pm	Universal Martial Arts
	7.15pm	Women in Harmony
	10am	SeniorNet Mac
Saturday	10am	Social Square Dancing
	3.45	Enchanting Productions
	6pm	Impact Youth
	6pm	Impact Youth

The programme above lists weekly activities run at the centre, 03 972 5534 or communitycentre@stalbands.gen.nz for more information or hire enquiries.

St Albans events

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

July 6, 10.30am to 12 pm: Cafe Chat at Kohinga/ St Albans Community Centre

July 15, 7pm: Public Forum meeting at Kohinga

July 19, 12pm: Pack St and community garden AGM at Kohinga St Albans Community Centre

August 1, 10.30 – 12.30: Rat Chat with Predator Free St Albans, at Kohinga

August 3, 10.30am to 12pm: Café Chat at Kohinga/ St Albans Community Centre

WEIFIX 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, Mairahau, Christchurch
www.wefixtech.net • contact us: 03 385 0597

ST ALBANS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

Cafe Chat
Monday July 6

This month's speaker

SUNITA GAUTAM
CHAIR OF WAIPAPA
COMMUNITY BOARD

10.30AM - 12.00PM
ST ALBANS COMMUNITY CENTRE
1049 COLOMBO ST
Gold coin entry

**Packe St. Park
& Community Garden**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 19th July
12noon - 2pm
Kohinga St Albans Community Centre
1049 Colombo St

Guest speakers, kōrero & shared kai
(bring a plate if you can)

Packe Street
Park & Community Garden

Kōhinga Māra
At St Albans Community Centre
130 Caledonian Rd

GARDENING WORKING BEES

Tuesdays
2-4pm
(winter times)





A BEE KEEPER FOR KŌHINGA MĀRA
HOST YOUR HIVE FOR FREE.
CONTACT US TO BOOST LOCAL POLLINATION
SARA@STALBANS.GEN.NZ | 021 914563

SARA Committee

The next St Albans Residents Assoc committee meeting will be held on August 12 at 7pm. A Public Forum meeting will be held on July 15 at 7pm at Kohinga St Albans Community Centre, 1049 Colombo St.

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.

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 September issue of St Albans News is August 17
Please send your articles, letters and notices to:
news@stalbands.gen.nz

Redefining the Backyard

by Audrey Worsely

With townhouses now making up about a quarter of our housing market, Christchurch has seen a definitive shift towards smaller homes in recent years. After the boom in the early 2020's, housing lots across the city have been divided into high density housing, with each home having fewer square metres each. Though affordable housing has always been a luxury, it's clear that in recent years, shrinkflation has clearly hit the housing market.

But what has been perhaps the first to go, is the back yard. Gone are the days of parents running the lawn care like the navy, or kids planting their first flower garden behind their house. The citizens of the Garden City have slowly been losing their back yard... in their own back yard!

For teenagers growing up in Ōtautahi/Christchurch that means we don't grow up spending time kicking a ball around on the grass behind our homes, and we don't have much hope of that changing. The incentive to "get off that phone" and live in the real world is decreasing, the less



access we have to nature around us. Much of the greenery in our lives ends up coming from house plants or Hagley Park.

Because of this, community park spaces have become more important than ever. Over the next few years, larger houses with real gardens are not likely to become any cheaper, which means that we need to ensure that our city still stays green for us all to enjoy. If the classic Kiwi quarter-acre block is dead,

then our public parks must become our new communal backyards. We need urban planners and developers to start treating them as essential infrastructure for youth mental health. If we want the next generation to put down their screens and step into the real world, we have to give them a world worth stepping into. Christchurch didn't earn the title of the Garden City just because of its history; we need to fight to keep that title alive in our future.

Audrey Worsley is a 17-year old student at Christchurch Girls High School / Te Kura o Hine Waiora

Predator Free St Albans

St Albans Community Centre

Sat Aug 1, 10.30 – 12.30

- drop in for some Rat Chat
- Trap pickup or replacements
- advice and general chat

Ph Philpa 021 064 8861

Wednesday Coffee and Conversation Group

Regulars and new members are welcome every Wednesday from 10.30am—12.30pm
Come in for a cuppa, chat, and company
Saturday Nibble and Refreshments 4—5.30 pm, 2nd Saturday of month
Come join Leigh and her host for company and friendship. Everyone is welcome.
Kohinga/St Albans Community Centre



St Albans News July/August 2026, Vol 34, Issue 3

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 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, Audrey Worsely, Jonathan Allan and Belinda Carter

Proof readers Daphne Parkins, Maree Coffey

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.

Rivers and new pathways

by Chris Hutching

St Albans is an integral part of the Avon Ōtākaro river corridor undergoing transformation into wetlands and native vegetation restoration because of the number of streams feeding into it.



Community advocate, Hayley Guigletta, recently told a St Albans Residents Association Café Chat about her management of the Avon Ōtākaro Network group, and Richmond Community Trust, which has developed a community garden and café near Avebury House and River Rd. She is also involved in an eco building and café called Ōtākaro Orchard in Cambridge Tce near Margaret Mahy Park.

A new initiative is the addition at Richmond of the former Regent Theatre dome for a planetarium, acquired from Linwood Ave resident Paddy Snowdon who bought it for \$10,000 after the 2011 earthquakes.

Hayley's group has advocated for the city council's \$30 million City to Sea pathway for cyclists and pedestrians that includes three new bridges across the Avon in Dallington. The final part of the City to Sea pathway is under construction on the south side of the river while leaving room for a possible river widening to facilitate more rowing club space.

Abberley Park



Friends of Abberley Park met on Arbor day for a chat and to plant a tree.

Organiser Patricia Wallace was pleased at the additional infill planting by city council staff with ringa ringa, ferns, and other plants, as well as new edgings. A new in-house council gardening division had meant an improvement in communication and activity, she said. She still hopes for restoration of the scented garden.

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

Gardens wintering over and AGM

The Kohinga St Albans Residents Association garden at Kohinga, and the Packe St garden are wintering over and garden coordinator Nikki Staskiewicz and volunteers are doing various maintenance jobs.



The annual general meeting of Packe St Park and Community Garden will be on Sunday July 19 at 12 midday to 2pm with guest speakers Anthony Wright, park patron and director of Canterbury Museum, plus Jiabei Xu, a PhD student in landscape architecture.

"Meantime, we're looking to set up some covers to keep a few things growing over winter, increase the amount of compost we can make in sealed predator proof containers, and we have overhauled the worm farm and set up an information sheet."

Nikki has recently taken the job of Garden Coordinator at Linwood Resource Centre gardens. "I'll be working on all three gardens in the week, so working bee hours may change. Hopefully it will allow even more great collaborations and sharing to come between the three gardens."

"We have some lovely regular helpers who really do care about the gardens and have still been coming in during the cooler winter evenings. Everything is ticking along. Always planting, composting, pruning, feeding, mulching, watering, and trying to keep it fun," Nikki said.

Keep Moving says Dr Caroline

Keeping moving keeps you and your whanau healthy and well. A minimum of 20 to 30 minutes activity on most days will help - dancing, riding bikes or playing with your children.

Try starting with 10 minutes a day and build up over time. You are likely to see the staff at Edgware Health walking around St Albans Park.

There is now a new initiative through the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners in conjunction with Park Run. The closest ones are Riverlution Eco Park and Hagley Park. They offer a 5 km run or walk on Saturday mornings at 8 am. <https://www.parkrun.co.nz/>

Yoga, tai chi or pilates help strengthen core muscles in your abdomen and back. ACC offer an app known as Nymbi which is free to download for kiwis aged 50 and older. See: <https://www.acc.co.nz/newsroom/stories/keeping-your-balance-with-nymbi>

The long-term health benefits include preventing heart disease, strokes, dementia, obesity and many cancers. Mental health will also improve : <https://healthify.nz/hauora-wellbeing>

Please contact your GP practice for more information. Edgware Health is a new GP clinic, and we are currently taking new enrolments. Wait times are short. We are open 8 30 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday at 701 Barbadoes Street, Edgware. Please phone us on 03 385 1701 or visit our website on www.edgwarehealth.co.nz.

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

b.box* is now at WHIMSY & WONDER

***the essential baby box**

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

craigclery
PAINTING & ROOF COATINGS

Interior, Exterior & Roof Specialist

☎ 0210 269 2138
✉ craig@clerypainting.co.nz
🌐 clerypainting.co.nz

Edgware Health
701 Barbadoes Street

ENROLLING NOW

Dr Caroline Christie
GP Clinic

info@edgwarehealth.co.nz
www.edgwarehealth.co.nz

For updates or to register, please email us.

whittle knight
real estate

Trusted by Canterbury since 1966

For the last 60 years, our family real estate firm has proudly led the way in providing Canterbury with outstanding service in **Property Sales and Property Management.**

- Property Management
- Real Estate
- Valuations and Appraisals
- Commercial
- Competitive Selling Fees
- No Upfront Advertising Costs

Licensed Under REAA 2008

whittleknight.co.nz ✉ info@whittleknight.co.nz ☎ 03 348 4149

Pool stalwart remembered

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Valerie Somerville, a cherished member of the Edgeware Pool Board and a driving force behind the project for more than 20 years.

Together with husband Paul, Valerie was involved with the pool from when they first moved into the area and brought unwavering determination to the campaign to rebuild the pool. Valerie was also its historian, recording stories and memories of those who worked to preserve the pool.

"As we approach the opening of the Edgeware Pool, we do so mindful of the enormous contribution Valerie made," said Board Chair, Lynne O'Keefe. "While she will not be with

us to see the pool in operation, her legacy is woven into every part of it."

"She had a wicked sense of humour, even during the serious challenges of rebuilding the Edgeware Pool", said Cr Pauline Cotter. "Valerie ran the St Albans Swim Club for many years and, after the Edgeware Pool was demolished, found another venue so local children could continue swimming."

A video featuring Valerie and Paul is available on the Edgeware Pool website. ☞



Passionate Flockton advocate

Former community board member Jo Byrne, known to many St Albans residents for her fight for improved infrastructure after the Flockton Floods in 2014, died on May 19 from myeloma.

"It was a huge credit to Jo," Innes councillor and fellow community board member Pauline Cotter said. Creating a huge database and garnering media attention helped drive the creation of the Mayor's Task Force for Flooding and \$50 million in flood protection works.

"Jo was driven by her passion for equity and justice... always polite, mildly spoken and calm, never wavering from her support for those who have any form of disability. She was particularly concerned that our playgrounds include disability equipment and facilities."

Jo was also known from her work as a trained language speech therapist, particularly at Ferndale School.

Jo received a water cremation and was remembered in May at a memorial. She was 58, leaving behind daughter Harriet, son Francis, four siblings and parents Elaine and Robin.

Emma Twaddell said the St Albans community will always be deeply grateful to Jo. "Whether she was standing her ground for what she believed in or sharing a funny story, that beautiful smile was always there. It is incredibly sad to lose Jo far too early in life." ☞




ABELLA ELECTRICAL

Ben Woodward
Registered Electrician

New Builds | Renovations
Repairs and Servicing
Heat Pumps | Alarms
Security Cameras

022 019 9426 | ben@abella.co.nz
www.abella.co.nz



freshchoice

"Serving your community for nearly 60 years"

FreshChoice Edgeware brings the essentials to your local community

- Kiwibank • NZ Post • Lotto
- Uber and Doordash ultraconvenience available •

Open 7am to 8pm, 7 days
61 Edgeware Road, Edgeware



St Albans Pharmacy
Edgeware Village

- ✓ Flu shots and Covid vaccines now available
- ✓ Phone to book or drop in

Weekdays 9 am – 5:30 pm
Cnr Colombo St & Edgeware Rd • Phone 366 0404

St Albans News Classifieds

SERVICES

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

Music Lessons: Tuition at your tempo! Music lessons for all ages and stages with In Tune Music Studios NZ (027 606 4023 or nicola.intune@gmail.com)

SUZUKI Piano Lessons: Beth Robinson, 021 231 4039 bhr.797@gmail.com

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

Yoga: Monday 5:45-7pm. Mary Potter Centre, 442 Durham Street North. Join

TRADIES

anytime. Enquiries: Kerry 027-2118519

Bill Green Gardens: Mowing, weeding, pruning and tidying, Landscaping Free Quotes 022 4600 759, billgreenservices@gmail.com

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.

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

Mike's Mowing & Junk Removal: Free quotes for lawn mowing and general rubbish great rates Ph - 027 2202684

Painter: Experienced local tradesman,

interior/exterior, full repaints, fences, decks. Residential or commercial. Call now for quality painting services at competitive rates. Timeliness guaranteed. Shayne 027 214 1827

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

Roofing repairs: leaks and maintenance. Phone Richie 021 342 852

Community Notices

Community Centre Talk: Ksenija Vujnovic- Childhood memories in Yugoslavia Monday 6 July 2026, 1.30-2.30pm at the Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham St North. All ages welcome. Cuppa to follow. Donation/koha requested to help cover costs. Enquiries ph 372 9224.

Greater Company of Mary Associates and Affiliates Mass will be held on Saturday 1 August 2026, 10.30am at the Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham Street North. All welcome, morning tea after. Rsvp by Monday 27 July, ph 372 9224 or visit lcmchristchurch.org.nz.



Labour

LABOUR'S PRIORITIES:

Jobs, health, homes, and real action on the cost of living

National promised to fix the economy and lower the cost of living. Instead, they're making it worse.

Labour has a plan to build a New Zealand that works for everyone - where hard work means you can actually get ahead and where Kiwis can afford to build a future, right here at home.

Duncan Webb
MP for Christchurch Central
03 366 5519 | chchcentral@parliament.govt.nz
www.labour.org.nz

Authorised by Duncan Webb MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington



Harmony Haven

At Harmony Haven Preschool we strive to provide a nurturing, unhurried and calm environment where tamariki thrive.

Come visit us at Harmony Haven!
2 months free for all ages if you mention this flyer

Conditions apply - contact for more information

Delicious meals provided, 20 hours ECE for over threes, excursions in our community and three fantastic age and stage-based classrooms.

 **Harmony Haven**
 manager@harmonyhaven.co.nz

 **396 Manchester Street**
03 366 4307

History group

Severn the baker, and Severn the street

Tree-lined Severn St – named after a British river or a local baker? by Jonathan Allan

Joseph Samuel John Severn, (1821 – 1909) acquired a bakery business in Durham Street North, on the corner with Kilmore Street in about 1868 – a business which previously operated as “Quine and Cain”. In 1874 he sold it and moved to 7 Church Road, St Albans (later renamed Rutland St). Severn appeared to have lived at this address until his death at 88 in 1909, and was buried at Linwood Cemetery. His wife died in 1916.

The “Star” newspaper in 1926 published a series of 10 articles entitled “Smithy Tales, And Other Early Notes. How Samuel A’Court’s forge came to Durham Street North in 1864. By L.B.H.” (a pseudonym).

Sam A’Court’s forge was located on a corner of Durham Street North and Kilmore St. In chapter five of the Star articles is a reference to Severn in a caption under a photo – “MR J. J. SEVERN, Baker, later of Severn’s Road, St Albans”.

It seems the photo of Severn was included because he was a neighbour of A’Court’s smithy. This is the only known occasion where Severn is associated with “Severn’s Road”, and there is no other evidence to link him with Severn St so it must have been an assumption on L. B. H.’s part.



The Christchurch City Library’s website page “Street Names and Places” lists an entry for Severn St, stating that the former name of the street was “Severn’s Road” and that the street was “named after Joseph Samuel John Severn (1821? – 1909)”. But this claim appears to be based solely on “L.B.H.’s inclusion of Severn’s photograph with the comment: “...later of Severn’s Road, St Albans.”

The linking of J J Severn to Severn Street is likely a “red herring”, and the only logical conclusion seems to be that these three streets were named after English rivers.

In the Press on 25 February 1947 was an article entitled “Story of 700 acres of church property”. It detailed the sale of 100 acres for subdivision development begun in 1910, bounded by Westminster, Thames, and Rutland Streets, including Mersey and Severn Streets. In a later item in the Press (1 November 1958, p. 10) on Christchurch City Council’s policy on naming streets, the reporter said that Christchurch had long followed a policy of associating street names. It gave the example – “Running off Westminster St, in St Albans are Mersey, Severn and Thames streets, named for English rivers”.

⌘

Presented by

N S M
National Museum
of Singapore



Pop-Up
Museum
66 Gloucester
Street

Enter a fascinating world of wildlife, art and history

Free entry
Donations appreciated
www.canterburymuseum.com

Exhibition on now

Canterbury
Museum