

More storage tanks and swales could reduce flooding

by Belinda Carter

The intensification of housing has increased the risk of flooding in St Albans streets and this is likely to worsen with climate change.

Increased ground coverage with concrete and asphalt from multiple units has diminished the availability of soils to drain stormwater, causing it to pool and flood. Cr Pauline Cotter would like to see more done to combat these negative effects, such as the installation of swales and storage tanks on private land.

Auckland City Council's website has a Swales Construction Guide that defines them as "bioretention, filter or infiltration strips." They are usually broad (and shallow) grass channels used to treat stormwater runoff. "They direct and slow stormwater across grass or similar ground cover and through the soil."

Cr Cotter says CCC can require new subdivisions to include swales to mitigate floods and improve water quality. Swales and rainwater gardens (lots in the inner city) help manage floodwaters, but these tools are not compulsory – developers tend to want to maximise the number of units on a property rather than adding such features.

"I think if developers were to purchase bigger sites there would be a higher likelihood of being able to include swales, but they usually just purchase one site and cram as many units on as possible, as we know here in St Albans, and there's no room for swales."

"It is not easy to retrofit these onto our older urban areas as we don't have excess land to use."

"Underground tanks are already required on a case by case basis."

I know the flats at the top end of

Manchester St, on Edgeware Rd next to the stream have a tank underneath to catch the first flush of a rain event and then release it slowly after the rain. This eases the pressure on the stormwater system, and reduces flooding," Cr Cotter says.

Some properties, notably a series of units in Canon St opposite the Orion block, have above ground stormwater storage tanks instead that also release the stormwater slowly.

Flooding is appearing more frequently in areas that once had some light pooling, making walking on footpaths and grass berms in heavy rain without gumboots difficult. There are limits on what the stormwater infrastructure can do, particularly as the impact of climate change bites. However, installing swales and storage tanks on private property could make a world of difference to the quality and quantity of the city's stormwater.



A swale in Packe St

Council yet to prioritise new flooding work

by Belinda Carter

Christchurch City Council has drawn up a list of 30 problem areas in the city that need flooding fixes, including five in St Albans, but it might be a while before that list is prioritised.

Funding will be handled through the long term plan (LTP) and annual plan system.

These 30 areas are being investigated and modelled and when completed council staff will come back to councillors with a priority list and a fair way to compare projects in different areas of the city in time for the 2024 LTP.

Cr Pauline Cotter, who

represents the Innes ward, is confident they will deliver one as soon as they can. "The flood risk and mitigation is an extremely complex situation that has been exacerbated in Christchurch by the earthquakes and staff need to make sure they have correct and useful data, to be fair, and this takes time."

The Citywide Water Flooding Update Report, tabled at the council meeting on April 5, listed Edgeware Village, Francis Ave, Flockton St and Westminster St. Edgeware Rd near Champion St, which featured in St Albans News in February 2022, was also mentioned briefly in the update but has not been investigated for

potential remedial flooding work.

A new pump and stormwater extension was recommended for Edgeware Village five years ago at a cost of \$21million, benefiting eight houses and eight businesses affected by flooding from St Albans Stream. The village land, particularly the area around Peter Timbs Butchery, is at its lowest point, and sometimes the main butcher shop floods and inconveniences shoppers, requiring the use of a temporary pump.

Item 4.3 in the report said district plan controls were extended to commercial buildings "recently". St Albans News was unable to find out when a decision to

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Abberley Park to mark Arbor Day early

The Friends of Abberley Park are planning to mark Arbor Day (usually June 5) on June 2 at 12 noon by planting trees and shrubs.

St Albans Residents Association, applied on the group's behalf, to Trees for Canterbury, a not for profit trust that supplies native trees to community groups for free, and has been granted a number of small trees and shrubs appropriate for use in St Albans.

Anyone interested in the heritage park's future is welcome to help with the planting. Cups of hot soup will be served and visitors will hear more about the Friends' contribution to the park and their horticultural vision for its 100th anniversary in 2040. Check out the advertisement on page 13 for more detail.

Abberley began as a residential property in 1863. When it was purchased by the council in 1939 it included a 10 room dwelling with stables, a fowl house, garden sheds, a horse paddock, tennis court, rose garden, and a caged cherry orchard. The dwelling, now a single-room hall, is available to hire and some hundred year old trees, are all that remain of the original estate.

Before opening to the public in 1940, the city council added 712 new trees and shrubs, 5126 herbaceous and bulbous plants and 600 annuals to the heritage garden. After that initial burst of planting comparatively few new plants have been added until recent years. But this is about to change.

The Ferrymead-based tree charity Trees for Canterbury also sells native plants to local gardeners keen on offsetting their carbon emissions (from taking long plane flights, for example) or building up collections of native plants identified as best suited for their gardens. Trees for Canterbury has been operating in the city for more than 20 years.

Funding for SARA

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



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SARA Committee

St Albans Residents Association meets at St Albans Community Centre, 1049 Colombo St. on May 18 at 7pm.

St Albans History Group

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

Wednesday Wheelies

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

BBQ Trailer for hire

St Albans Community BBQ Trailer is available to hire for events. Marquee also available for hire, separately or with the barbecue, for corporate events, community gatherings or private celebrations. Enquiries to: BBQ@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 every month. If you wish to comment on stories you read in St Albans News or anything that is happening in the area, you can write a letter to the editor (and wait) or you can go to our Facebook page: [StAlbansNews](https://www.facebook.com/StAlbansNews) and post a message there immediately.

SARA on Neighbourly

SARA also has a presence on Neighbourly, a community asset owned by Stuff. Contains notices, advice, things to buy or sell and topics of interest to the neighbourhood. www.neighbourly.co.nz

SARA on Facebook

Emma Twaddell has set up a Facebook page for the St Albans Residents Association. <https://www.facebook.com/SARA.StAlbans>

SARA and Centre news

Altrusa collates distraction packs for kids



Altrusa international district 15 members were at the community centre last month packing things like coloured pencils and simple games into 100 distraction packs suitable for 3- 13 year olds.

These will be delivered to Christchurch Police so they can be given to children to distract them during emergencies involving their families. Other districts around New Zealand have created similar packs.

Items wanted for charity sale

Donations of handbags, belts, jewellery and scarves are needed for the Zonta charity handbag sale on May 6. Email fundraising@zontachristchurch.org.nz if you have items to donate.

Drop into monthly Cafe Chat at Kōhinga

Café Chat opens for the first time on Monday, May 1. The new drop in café will run monthly on the first Monday of every month at Kōhinga, the St Albans Community Centre. Organised by the St Albans Residents Association (SARA), the café will give people a place to bring friends and family for a social outing in their neighbourhood, as well as providing opportunities to join in the conversation at a monthly special guest's table.

The café will be open from 1030am to 1230pm with the special guest there from 11am to 12pm. Entry is by way of a gold coin, thanks to funding from the Waipapa/Papanui-Innes-Central Community Board. A group of local volunteers provide home-baking, including sweet vegan treats and fancy, old school favourites. Tea and coffee supplied. Everybody is welcome.

(This event replaces a morning tea that ran until recently at the centre on the first Thursday of the month - editor)

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Correction

On page 4 in the April issue of St Albans News there is a story called "Council seeks feedback about annual plan" referring to traffic lights being installed in Springfield Rd, mainly for pedestrians. This is not the case. Some kind of crossing has been discussed at community board level in the past but no decision has been made and funding has not been allocated. St Albans News regrets any errors in this item. ☹

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PO Box 36687, Chch 8146

Editor: Belinda Carter

Contributors: Daph Parkins, Maria Hayward and Duncan Webb

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

Layout & advertisement design:
Maria Hayward

Advertising: Lynne O'Keefe

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Activities at the community centre

Weekly groups that meet at the community centre.

Monday	10am	Saygo
	10am	SeniorNet Mac
	11am	Happy Feet
	3.15	Giant Leaps
Tuesday	5pm	Universal Martial Arts
	10.45am	Yoga with Tracy
	10am	NeighbourNet
	5.30	Pippins
Wednesday	7pm	Head to Tail
	9am	Wednesday Wheelies
	10am	SeniorNet Mac
	10.30am	The Corner, coffee and chat
Thursday	6pm	Head to Tail
	7.00pm	Capoeira Angola
	9.30am	Saygo
	10.45am	Yoga with Tracy
Friday	10am	NeighbourNet
	3.15pm	Giant Leaps
	5.00pm	Universal Martial Arts
	6pm	Head to Tail
Saturday	10am	SeniorNet Mac
	1pm	NeighbourNet
Sunday	5.30pm	Tai Chi Well

Sustainable and edible garden awards

The yield from aptly named Dave Gardner's garden won him an award in the Waipapa/Papanui-Innes-Central Community Board's edible and sustainable garden awards.

The St Albans Uniting Parish, which has a bountiful garden behind the church, also won for yield. During the judging earlier this year officials from the Canterbury Horticultural Society visited gardens entered into the awards to offer feedback and advice on matters horticultural, including things like companion planting, weed management and crop rotation to name but three.

The awards (in the form of certificates) acknowledge and celebrate local residents, schools and communities that are passionate about their gardens and proud of their bountiful harvests. This summer's award was funded with a \$2000 grant from the board's discretionary fund.

Sustainability

Richmond does recycling

The St Albans Community Centre is limited in what they can find new uses for – only taking can tabs, wine bottle tops, beer bottle tops, metal plus some colgate products. The centre no longer accepts plastic lids of any kinds. However, Riverlution Ecohub at 46a Vogel St (near Avebury House) in Richmond does. Clean them and remove any labels and inside seals (number 2 and 5 only). They also accept paper facemasks (remove the elastic ear straps and the metal nose strips first), potato chip packets and clean and dry razors and blades.

Take milk cartons to EcoCentral

Tetrapak milk cartons, custard and other tetrapak food cartons can now be recycled through EcoDrop. A community drop off location has NOT been set up at the St Albans Community Centre so make your way with a box load of clean and cutdown cartons to EcoCentral at Metro Place in Bromley. It is open seven days a week from 7am to 4.30pm.

Government changes tune on waste

A scheme that was part of the Government's nationwide plan to encourage recycling drink bottles came off the table when new Prime Minister Chris Hipkins took over from Jacinda Ardern. People returning bottles would have received a small payment, much like a scheme that used to run some years ago. Plans are still going ahead – but it could be 2030 before they are implemented (if at all) – for nationwide collection of food scraps. This could possibly involve a new bin, a fourth one for Christchurch, but it's a long way off being implemented so keep putting food scraps in the green bin along with grass clippings if you aren't composting these. Food scraps in the red bin will end up in landfill and help create methane (a greenhouse gas), which the government is trying to reduce.

Just Dirt builds raised gardens

For the past 12 years the Just Dirt Trust has been building raised gardens for other organisations and individuals made from timber. Visit their website for more information: <https://justdirt.weebly.com>

Council yet to prioritise new flooding work

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extend these controls was made (and any council resolution that covered that) but Acting Three Waters head, Brent Smith, said it would be at little cost to the public as any new builds (commercial and residential) in flood prone areas are required to lift floor levels at the building consent stage so the risk of flooding will be gradually reduced. To reduce ponding in Francis Ave, piping could be installed in Warrington St at a cost of \$4.5 m (in 2017 dollars), similar to what has been done in nearby Flockton St. A new pump

Building up the ground floor on new properties higher can have a negative impact on older neighbouring properties

station was recommended to over pump the Flockton invert pipework into Dudley Creek and to extend the benefits of the Dudley Creek flood protection works, at a cost of \$3.8m (in 2017 dollars).

Upgrading of pipes on Westminster Park and street drains was recommended as a way to stop pooling in Westminster St properties at a cost of \$1.3m.

Pauline said she could not say when any of the St Albans areas would receive attention but would advocate for mitigation as soon as possible. The first opportunity to include any of these projects would arise in 2024.



Flooding in Edgeware Village, July 2022

The report acknowledges engineering solutions would not resolve all this low-lying, wetland city's flooding problems but comparing costs and benefits would help determine which works should be carried out.

Some streets and properties will still flood, but hopefully not above ground floor level, and any future large earthquake, and climate change, could reduce the benefits of such flood protection work. Intensification of housing and loss of soils to drain rainwater does not help either and raising ground floor levels on new properties can have a negative impact on older neighbouring properties, as some residents living near Francis Ave are experiencing.



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"When only the best price will do"

Ina Dunstan: so grateful for a long and happy life

As told to Daph Parkins, Ina Dunstan aged 95 3/4 recalls growing up in St Albans.

In 1927, my birth mother arrived in Christchurch from Blenheim, concealing her pregnancy. I was born at Blair Atholl Maternity Home on July 4, 1927, delivered by midwife and nurse Mary Duncan who owned and ran the home from 1922 to 1946. My mother was single and unable to keep me but fortunately Nurse Duncan, who already had seven older children, adopted me into her family. Her much older daughters also became like mothers to me.

The Home at 42 Hawkesbury Avenue was a big villa. It's still standing, minus its earthquake knocked down chimneys. Everything ran on gas - the washhouse, the kitchen and bathroom appliances were paid for with shillings fed into the house gas meter.

On wet days washing was hoisted up to near the ceiling in the fire-warmed dining room. In winter a cast iron pot on the coal range was always there with soup for all. In summer the artesian well had space to cool the butter and the milk.

One outside lavatory served the whole Home until a toilet was installed inside. Maternity patients were kept in bed for two weeks so bedpans sufficed. I found the outside lavatory a great place to hide with a book to avoid kitchen duties like the dishes.

The corner section was the usual quarter acre with a front gate in Hawkesbury Avenue and a back gate in Somme Street. At the back, the veg garden had room for a walnut tree and a pear tree, which covered the meat safe, and provided shade for the



Ina in the front garden at Blair Atholl in the early 1930s.

extended family Christmas dinner. The blackcurrant bushes would ripen on Christmas eve and had to be bottled into jam, so it was always a hectic time.

When I was nearly six, Mum took me to Scotland by ship to meet her brothers, three tall policemen, before we rushed back so I could start school. In those Depression years, children had to be six before starting school. My first day in Primer 1 at St Albans School was a shock, having to learn the hard way how to behave in class. Naturally, I was talking and for that was rapped cover the knuckles with a ruler by Miss Lace.

At primary school I had no bicycle of my own and Mum did not own a car. Often a family friend who was the St Paul's Church caretaker in the city would bar me on his bike to see weddings there. In 1935, Mum's younger



Still using a scooter: Ina at Arvida in Caledonian Rd

son was killed when his motorbike was hit by a train at Glandovey Road so on Sunday afternoons, a taxi driver friend of Mum's, Mr Keith would take us to the cemetery at Sydenham with Shasta daisies for his grave, then for a drive up on the Hills for afternoon tea at either Governors Bay or Scarborough.

In 1937, we had an epidemic of polio, which in those days was called infantile paralysis, and schools were closed until March. Mum made me carry a cut onion in my pocket at all times to keep the bugs away.

Over the back fence, before the St Albans Catholic School was built, there was a derelict orchard, where we climbed trees and chewed on apples, codling moths and all.

Our milkman owned a dairy farm on Innes Road opposite Malvern Park, where he hand-milked his cows and

then delivered the unpasteurised milk by horse and cart. I loved to visit the cow shed at milking time, often to be treated to a cup of very fresh and warm milk.

Going to the "pictures" in or near the Square was common on a Saturday afternoon. I loved the scary bits of the Disney films. Knitting started when I was five and has never stopped. Playing cards started then too with lasting enthusiasm.

I finished at St Albans School with memories of Miss Lace, Miss Saunders, Mr George Martin, Mr Newbury, Mr Aitken (a favourite) and headmasters Mr Thwaites, Mr Caigou and Mr Arnold with my Proficiency Certificate, (the then current pass to high school) in 1941.

Until December 1941, when Japan bombed the US Pacific Fleet at Honolulu, the world war was mainly based in Europe. Then air raid shelters were dug at St Albans School along the edge of the playground by St Albans Creek. Many St Albans residents tried to dig home shelters but mostly the water table was too high for success (including one dug at Blair Atholl Home). Air raid wardens were appointed by the Emergency Precautions Scheme (EPS) to knock on the door of any house showing any chinks of light. Mr Badger was our warden. One night I answered the door to his knock and he demanded that the light be turned off. I ran to Nurse Duncan who put her head out the door and said sharply: "Go away little man. Can't you see I'm having a baby?" He vanished.

Daph Parkins is a member of the St Albans History Group, which invited residents of St Albans Retirement Village Arvida in Caledonian Rd to share their St Albans childhood experiences. This is an edited version of a document prepared for the History Group.



Blair Atholl today in Hawkesbury Ave

Growing up and getting older

Ina would go on to attend Christchurch Girls High School from 1941-1943. Her working life began in the showrooms of Ballantynes and Hays. For a complete change she spent two years on a sheep station in Queensland. In 1956, she married Donald Dunstan and had son John and daughter Anne. Widowed in 1980, she travelled to the United States and Britain. For 11 years she was a Nurse Maude carer and a volunteer with Meals on Wheels. While president of the Widows and Widowers Association she was active in seeking government support, and was president and later treasurer of the New Zealand Towns Women's Guild

St Albans School to mark 150 years in spring

St Albans Primary School is 150 years old this year and plans to mark this significant milestone with a weekend of activities in September.

If you would like to know more about it, join 900 others on the reunion facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1794287834276397>

Registrations are now open. Book for (free and paid) reunion events here: <https://events.humanitix.com/st-albans-school-christchurch-150th-jubilee-weekend/tickets> If you have problems with the site visit the SAS office. These will be mainly handled online but anyone not comfortable with filling in forms online can contact the school office instead, as they

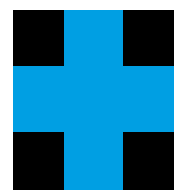


don't want anyone to miss out.

The weekend of September 15-17 has been set aside for the celebrations. It begins on the Friday with an open day at the

school, while Saturday is a day for memories, with lots of displays and decade photos being taken, culminating in the formal dinner with two past principals speaking. Sunday takes the form of an old-fashioned family picnic with games etc while current students will transform into buskers to entertain the crowd. St Albans News plans to run a special issue in August.

The school is on the lookout for the earliest enrolled pupil for some cake-cutting duties. So far, two 95 year olds (who were probably in the same class) have been located but if anyone knows of pupils who started at the school in 1932 or earlier they should contact sam.pelham@stalban.school.nz and (03) 355 9132



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Book aims to reveal New Zealand's Alt Right

Christchurch local Byron C Clark's book *Fear: New Zealand's hostile underworld of extremists*, published in February, looks at groups behind the protest in Parliament grounds in early 2022. Belinda Carter caught up with him.

He normally lives in suburban Christchurch but following discussion about his assassination on social media app Telegram, he made plans to be out of town when the book was launched. It was a 'better safe than sorry' approach. "I carry a personal alarm, and am careful about what information I reveal about where I might be, not posting photos of concert tickets to social media or anything like that."

Currently working in IT, Byron has a degree in sociology and history and brings the skills from that background into his research. He also has a tertiary teaching certificate, "I think of a lot of what I do as public education. I make no secret of advocating for social change, rather than being some sort of neutral outside observer. For that reason I try to apply a high journalist standard to the research and writing I do..."

He began by attending mid-2000's counter-protests against the National Front. Keeping watch on the alt-

Alt right — a reactionary movement that is distinct from modern conservatism

right really started from about 2015, following the refugee crisis and the #gamergate harassment campaign [which mostly targeted women].

He started making video essays on YouTube in 2019 and kept that up for three years before being approached by publisher Harper Collins. Byron had six months to write the manuscript, drawing mainly on his Youtube videos and articles. In the week ending February 25, the book reached number 5 in Nielsen's top 10 non-fiction best-sellers list.

Byron credits American white nationalist Richard Spencer's use of the term alternative right to describe his own conservative politics but Byron says he is using it in a broad sense. "Not necessarily all the groups and individuals I talk about are white supremacist, but all of them form this reactionary movement that's distinct from modern conservatism. An example of a local group would be Action Zealandia, who are white supremacist. An international group would be the Proud Boys, who describe themselves as Western chauvinists, and have been designated as terrorists in several countries including New Zealand. The Proud Boys don't require their members to be white, just to see "western culture" and "western civilisation" as superior."

He says reaction to his book has been overwhelmingly positive. "I think following the occupation of parliament

grounds last year people really wanted to understand how that happened, which is what the book attempts to do, examining the disparate groups and individuals who came together for that protest, and how they built a following during the pandemic.

"The people in the book of course aren't happy, and a few figures on the far-right who didn't end up in the book seem almost upset they didn't get the infamy. There seem to be a handful of people who would have preferred I focus on fringe extremists and not have made connections between white supremacy and colonisation, I think some of that history can be challenging.

"I think the risk comes from people who aren't necessarily affiliated with a group or are known names, but have been influenced into believing violence is justified. The

Christchurch shooter was active in Australian far-right Facebook groups and spoke of violence as perhaps being necessary, but he didn't stand out because what he was saying was no more extreme than others in those spaces.

"Politicians have seen an increase in threats (as have journalists) and I'm often reminded of the British MP Jo Cox who was killed by a white supremacist in 2016. We may think something like that couldn't happen here, but before the mosque shootings in Christchurch [on March 15, 2019] we didn't think something like that could happen here either."

Byron also pointed out that politicians who don't advocate violence themselves normalise hateful attitudes against different groups, migrants, Muslims, the LGBT+ community, that might not directly lead to violence, but may increase the likelihood of it.

"I think most people who use that kind of rhetoric aren't going to act on it, but it has the effect of normalising the idea of responding with violence, and the more normalised that is the higher the probability of it happening. People who can build an audience through stoking anger and fear run the risk of someone in that audience committing violence."

Byron thinks there is as much a risk of under-reacting as over-reacting. "I grew up in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks when countries, including New Zealand, passed anti-terrorism laws which were criticised for their impact on

civil liberties and increasing surveillance. New Zealand first saw those laws used against Tino Rangatiratanga activists and others in 2007, with all charges ultimately being dropped. The focus on Islamic extremism meant that the Muslim community was heavily surveilled. That whole anti-terrorism apparatus missed the threat of far-right terrorism because the focus was not on the far-right, who are now the greatest terror risk in the Western world."

Part of the reason there has been less focus on the far-right may be that a lot of their rhetoric is actually not that far removed from what we sometimes hear from relatively mainstream politicians and commentators, Byron says.

He would like to see more education around media literacy and critical thinking and media that really counters false narratives produced by well-funded alternative media pushing disinformation and that's not easy. "It takes a lot of resources to counter that and I'm not certain our media is equipped.

"I never advocate engaging in debate with these groups, because it gives the impression that there are two points of view that are worthy of equal consideration, when really we're dealing with fact vs falsehood. I think the best we can do is ensuring we're getting the correct information out there. If people are being put at risk of harm then there are measures that can be taken, and there are groups like the Manaaki Collective that provide support. Check out: <https://themanaakicollective.nz>

Expect to hear more from alt right groups in New Zealand in an election year. Groups from the parliamentary protest, like Voices for Freedom (VFF) for example. It started in response to the Government mandating vaccinations among certain workers, some of whom lost their jobs. They seem to be pivoting to issues like climate change (a hoax they say) and trans rights (against) and running a radio station in New Zealand (the url is registered in Santa Cruz, California).

If you want to read more about the alt right, grab a copy of *Fear* from any good bookshop. Byron says a lot of great journalism has been done recently in this area. Dylan Reeve's book *Fake Believe* looks at conspiracy theory in New Zealand and the recent *Histories of Hate* from Otago University Press looks at the history of the far-right in New Zealand. Documentaries like *Fire and Fury* (Stuff), *Web of Chaos* (TVNZ+) and *Elements of Truth* (The Spinoff) add to a wider discussion as a society.



Christchurch researcher Byron C Clark

FEAR, reviewed by Maria Hayward

FEAR offers an overview of the far right and conspiracists in Aotearoa beginning with #GAMERGATE, a harassment campaign to drive women out of video game development. While a big deal in the gaming community, it wasn't so well known outside that field, but did launch the career of Milo Yiannopoulos, an early alt right misogynist.

As someone living in Ōtautahi/Christchurch, I have been following the exploits of Kyle Chapman and the local National Front in its many guises over the years. This book not only deals with white nationalist movements in Aotearoa, but also other nationalist groups like the Hindutva movement that is now gaining some ground in the South Asian diaspora.

Views that were once regarded as extreme and rare entered the mainstream during the Covid lockdowns via social media. There are lots of subgroups who have tried, and failed, to pull together as a united front in their efforts to subvert local and national politics. The list is certainly a long one and they are all covered in this book.

The writing style is not overly academic and makes a great primer for anyone wanting to learn about conspiracy theories and violence or just to get an idea of what happened in March 2022. I'd give it an 8/10.

FACT Aotearoa - FACT stands for Fight Against Conspiracy Theories, some of which have been around for decades but have multiplied and intensified in recent years. Check out misinformation and disinformation on this site and where to report it: <https://factaotearoa.nz>.

Netsafe - Independent, non-profit online safety charity Netsafe contains some useful information on how to deal with fake news online: <https://netsafe.org.nz/fake-news-what-to-do/>

Disinformation project - The Disinformation Project is an independent research group studying misinformation and disinformation in Aotearoa New Zealand and its impact on society. <https://thedisinfoproject.org/about-us/>



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Finding ways to support people through tough times

The cost of living has been challenging for Kiwis. A drop in inflation, with economists predicting a return to normal levels by the end of the year, has brought welcome relief.

The Government will continue to support Kiwis through this time. Our measures are a mix of short-term relief, such as the April 1 boost for 1.4 million people, and long term work like changing the way supermarkets operate.

While boosts for families and superannuitants will help many St Albans residents with the cost of everyday life, many people in this suburb are under 30 – young working people often prefer to be close to town. Making Christchurch attractive to younger people is critical as our population ages.

It's important not to lose sight of the needs of this group. Current and future taxpayers are critical to sustaining the public services we've come to expect.

If we don't want to lose them overseas, we need to consider what their aspirations are.

They want to be able to afford a home, close to work

and recreation. They are concerned for the environment and want good public transport. And they want a decent standard of living, where the good things in life are not out of reach for those who work hard. So while pandemics and cyclones have, by necessity, demanded an immediate response, it's important to remember our long term goals. We've raised the minimum wage significantly, we're removing barriers to home ownership, and we're laying the groundwork for more competition in the supermarket sector so shoppers get a better deal.

We're working towards a low emission, high wage, knowledge-based economy that will give the next generation of Kiwis the same benefits that older Kiwis enjoyed, but in a very different world.

If you'd like me to speak to your group about the Government's plans, get in touch with my office.

Duncan Webb,

MP for Christchurch Central

Parties choose candidates with strong Māori ties

Both National and Green parties have chosen candidates for Christchurch Central with strong connections to Te Ao Māori.

Dale Aotea Stephens (Te Rarawa), who stood against Labour's Duncan Webb in 2020, is back again contesting the Christchurch seat for National. The former policeman is currently director of

Māori partnership for NZ trade and enterprise in Christchurch and head of Māori tourism.

Kahurangi Carter (Ngāti Maniapoto, Tainui), recently selected as the Green Party candidate for Christchurch central, works for the Ministry of the Environment and was previously with the Māori led zero waste organisation Para Kore.

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St Albans and beyond

Cranford St visibility improved

Thanks to a presentation by Dave Gardner during a public forum during the Waipapa Papanui Innes Central Community Board meeting earlier in the year, council staff have organised changes to be made to the western side of Cranford St near the Waitomo petrol station. These include removal of a car parking sign that was making it difficult for southbound cyclists to see northbound drivers turning left and for drivers to spot cyclists on the two-way cycle route approaching the car park entrance. A wooden fence has also been lowered/removed to improve visibility, signs have been installed telling drivers to look both ways and a second speed bump is slowing down vehicles exiting the car park. As a result of this work, Gardner, a cyclist, says he feels much safer transporting his young child to preschool and others have benefited.

Fundraising pool quizzes restart

The Edgware Pool group held its first fundraising quiz for 2023 at Bailies Bar on April 16. A good crowd of around 60 people turned out to test their knowledge on a large range of topics. Competition was fierce, with three teams coming first equal, requiring a tie breaker to decide a winner. \$890 was raised which will help to keep expenses, like rates, phone etc, in hand. "But it is going to take a lot of quiz nights to raise the balance needed" says Lynne O'Keefe, Board Chair, "a major fundraising campaign is currently being planned to launch in the coming weeks."



Continuing a Covid lockdown activity when visual displays appeared on fences, this street display magnifies the coloured bars that accompany medals given for service in the Defence Forces

Choir to mark 25 years

COVID uncertainty may have delayed it a year but the St Albans Community Choir, accompanied by the Christchurch Accordion Orchestra, will celebrate 25 years in May with a musical celebration. Heather Gladstone, who lived opposite Packe St park, set it up in 1997 for allcomers, rehearsing at a local primary school and later the old St Albans community centre. After the earthquakes the choir moved to St Paul's Church on the corner of Papanui Road and Harewood Road where their concert will be held on May 21 at 5pm followed by a light supper. Entry by donation.



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Contact:

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Women's refuge reaches milestone decade

In 1973 a group of young feminists living in Chippenham House in Browns Rd started discussing ways of improving women's lives and found themselves establishing New Zealand's first Women's Refuge in adjacent houses.

It was the same year that the Domestic Purposes Benefit was introduced by the government.

A Press article written in 2013 covered these early years: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/8658430/Women-exposed-dark-underside-of-NZ>

The organisation's name changed in 2013, to AVIVA to reflect a wider range of services offered including those for children and abusers. It does not always involve physical or sexual violence but can include financial and legal abuse and other forms of control.

Aviva currently runs out of offices at Eastgate Mall and

still operates safe houses at secret locations in Canterbury to protect women and children and help them rebuild their lives. They offer family violence, and sexual violence support and education programmes for adults and tamariki of all genders. Their services have broadened to include assisting with home security, financial loans, work with Pasifika aiga, and with users of violence.

Aviva marked the anniversary with an auction and dinner at Te Pae on the last weekend in March. If you wish to donate money to help Aviva run its services, the organisation is holding a street appeal to raise funds on May 5 and 6.

For more information on what Aviva does check out: <https://www.avivafamilies.org.nz>. For urgent help phone 0800 28482 669. The service operates 24/7.

Grandeers: volunteers who listen to children read

More people are needed to replenish the ranks of Grandeers to help children read at St Albans Primary School after numbers dropped during the Covid lockdown period.

The volunteers visit the school once a week for an hour to listen to a small group of children reading. The idea is to spend about 10 minutes with each child but it depends on what is happening on the day. Some children may take up the whole of the session.

"One on one attention from an adult who has the time to listen is important. Many children lack this attention.

Reading is critical to further study and finding work as an adult," co-ordinator Wendy Nuttall says.

Sessions take place on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1.45-2.45pm and Wednesday morning from 11-12am.

The scheme started 13 years ago when St Matthews had a pallet bridge across the creek into St Albans Primary School grounds.

If you are interested in volunteering contact Wendy: wendyn@xtra.co.nz or phone 3522284

Reformed Church celebrates 70 years

The Reformed Church of Christchurch set up in St Albans in 1953, initially to cater for Protestant migrants from the Netherlands who came to New Zealand in the post war years.

Ten years later, the foundation stone was laid for the church at 61 Cornwall St.

Unfortunately, in the 2011 earthquake the church was badly damaged and for a number of years the congregation worshipped in another church's building in Papanui until the congregation decided it was viable to rebuild on the site of the old church and Lampstand (housing the library) and this opened in 2016.

During the early years of

the Covid pandemic, like many other churches they turned to livestreaming (not recorded) services.

In early March, the Reformed Church of Christchurch in St Albans celebrated its 70th anniversary, with an evening of reminiscing and enjoying food from many different cultures. "Today we are a congregation of about 180 people with a very multicultural feel: almost 20 different countries are represented by our members, with many different languages spoken congregation member Liana Havelaar said.

"This is a big change from the mere handful of immigrants from the Netherlands who began the church 70 years ago."



While the church is 70 years old, its oldest member, Bert ten Cate, is 100, and its youngest member, Timothy You, is 6 months.

Reverie: Dreamy new name for paperback bookshop



Reverie Booksellers, previously known as Edgware Paperback Centre, is a boutique second-hand bookshop, located on Edgware Road. With brand new black and white signage on the building, it's hard to miss.

Third generation owner of the family bookshop Ry McGinn (pictured left) says 'Reverie' means to be lost in a blissful state of thought, which sums up what happens when we read a book.

"We've modernised the interior, enhanced the quality and range in store and implemented a customer loyalty system. There is now a dedicated website and online shop, where booklovers can

browse over 10,000 books and order online at <http://reveriebooksellers.co.nz>



St Albans parks and gardens

Layered fungi are now sprouting in the park

Gardening activity at Packe Street Park and in the community garden is quietening down now as colder weather approaches. However, there are still vegetables and some fruit available for picking, and a big crop of crab apples is waiting to be made into jam, jelly, relish, or combined with other fruits for delicious pies and tarts. Crab apples also act as a cleansing tonic in your body, and are good for your digestive system.

The Park was given another large planter box recently which is much appreciated. It has been filled with enriched soil, and will be planted after the winter.

Our small tactile garden suffered

a setback when the plants in it were removed, but it will be replanted for the benefit of our friends and neighbours who rely on touch to enjoy the garden. Also with them in mind, an area of the park is to be developed into a scented garden.

Fungi are thriving. A few brave mushrooms have popped their heads up in the grassed areas, toadstools of various kinds are to be found in damp corners, and basket fungi and spectacular layered fungi can be found with a bit of searching.

As the weather cools, layered fungi like this one appear in the garden.



Community Notices

Cafe Chat at Kōhinga. 1st Monday of the month. 10.30am to 12.30pm. St Albans Community Centre. A guest speaker each month

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

Edgeware 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

Community Centre Talk - Find out about Seniors Entitlements with Howard Jamieson from Age Concern. Monday 8 May, 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.

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 & Crochet Group, meets 10am to 11.30am, every Tuesday, at The Edge Cafe. New members welcome.

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

NZ Japan Society of Canterbury provides understanding and goodwill between the people of NZ and Japan. Visitors welcome. Contact Jean Bell: 355 9903 or jeanpbell8@gmail.com

Predator Free St Albans: Interested in trapping rats? Ph Phillippa 021 064 8861 or see our FaceBook page

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, 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 Edgeware 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 Edgeware 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).

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.becomingyoutoyoga.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, Edgeware. 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@afterhours counselling.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

May 1, 10:30am-12:30pm: Cafe Chat at Kōhinga/St Albans Community Centre

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

Jun 18, 7 pm: Edgeware Pool fundraising Quiz at Bailies



Charity Pre-Loved HANDBAG SALE

Handbags, Scarves & Fashion Jewellery

WHEN:
Saturday 6th May
11am - 2pm

WHERE:
Kōhinga/St Albans Community
Centre Hall

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Duncan Webb MP for Christchurch Central

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