

Extended skatepark finally open for use



St Albans Residents Association chair Jason Harvey was granted the privilege of cutting the ribbon when opening the eagerly awaited since 2017 and recently extended St Albans skatepark on April 30. Around 150 skaters were later given instruction in using a skateboard or took part in a skatejam competition organised by Christchurch firm Cheap Skates.

Benji Shepherd and Jason Harvey cut the ribbon to open the upgraded St Albans skatepark while Israel Harvey gets in some training on a beginners' practice skateboard.



Petition calls for rejigged city plan

by Belinda Carter

Greg Partridge is so concerned about what is happening to suburbs like St Albans and Richmond that he has organised a petition asking the council to throw out the Housing and Business Choice Plan changes to the District Plan and focus on intensifying the central city instead.

He wants to replace it with a staged plan that will focus the intensification on the city centre rather than suburbs.

Christchurch City Council's Plan proposes changes to the district plan to meet Government requirements for intensified housing. Some things have already been decided and are not up for discussion eg: the three storey triple townhouses with no off street parking required and no resource consent either.

Greg says it would push urban sprawl into the suburbs with environmental and economically damaging consequences for everyone, including removing trees and destroying the character of suburban streets, increased and more expensive and time-consuming commutes and greater volumes of greenhouse emissions would be pumped into the atmosphere.

It will also very likely result in homes being robbed of sunlight and privacy, and

householders won't even have the right to object to that.

Christchurch would be more prone to flooding in winter, and much, much hotter in summer because there is more asphalt and fewer trees to cool the city down.

"CCC can do better than create a three storey concrete jungle in our suburbs," Greg said. "The Council should abandon their proposed planning changes and go back to the Government with a better solution!"

As the council's own publicity for the consultations said "The aim of {the Resource Management Act} is to make sure your city functions well, provides for your social and economic wellbeing, as well as your health and safety. The changes also aim to promote the protection and enhancement of the natural and built environment, while providing for housing"

More room in the the inner city

There is space in the inner city but limited development is happening there. It's expensive and development has been sluggish while developments run apace in inner city suburbs like Richmond and St Albans.

The City Council should be adopting a plan that prompts thousands of residents to live, work and play within in the CBD, rather than commuting in from the suburbs.

Continued on page 7



ChairChat

Back together after COVID

It has been a while since I provided a chair chat for St Albans News. My family had its COVID encounter in March/April. From the first day of isolation to the final person in our home getting it was about three weeks. Although the symptoms were not pleasant, we seemed to get through it well and with no complications.

SARA has had its first in-person meeting back at the community centre since December 2021. We had been having all our meetings online, but it was great to get back together, around the same table, working through our meeting agenda in May.

Speaking of the community centre, we quietly celebrated the one-year anniversary of its opening in April 2021. What a fantastic community facility this is. It has been well used in its first year of opening, considering the challenges posed by the lockdowns, the alert levels, and the traffic-light framework. We thank all the users for support in these difficult times, and a big thanks to all the staff and volunteers for the work they have put in to keep things working as smoothly as possible.

More recently, SARA hosted a community meeting with Christchurch City Council staff to learn about the proposed changes to the District Plan. These are some serious changes with significant impacts on our neighbourhoods. I urge you all to take notice of these changes and express your views to the council. Even though the submissions may have closed for the draft plan changes, you can still let councillors know your thoughts.

The final draft is expected to be released for public submissions in August 2022. Also please let us know your thoughts so we can include your ideas into our future submissions. You can send an email to SARA@stalbens.gen.nz.

Stay safe and take care.
Jason Harvey
SARA Chair

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

St Albans Strategy

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

Wednesday Wheelies

Wednesday Wheelies meet at 9.30am, St Albans Community Centre carpark on Caledonian Road.

Community Centre 1049 Colombo St

The Community centre is available for hire within the Orange Traffic Light protocols. For booking enquiries please phone 972 5534 or email: communitycentre@stalbens.gen.nz or visit our website: sacc.org.nz where the centre calendar is available to view. Centre open Mon - Fri 9am - 1 pm, Mon - Thur 4.30 - 7 pm.

Advertising in St Albans News

If you would like to advertise in the News, phone Lynne on 027 433 4469 or email advertising@stalbens.gen.nz. Please ask for a copy of our ratesheet, which specifies sizes, prices and requirements.

SARA Committee

St Albans Residents Association meets at St Albans Community Centre, 1049 Colombo St. on June 1 at 7pm.

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@stalbens.gen.nz

St Albans History Group

St Albans history group meet on the first Monday of the month at 2 pm at the St Albans Community Centre, next meeting will be June 13. Email: briangspear@hotmail.com

SARA Website

Check out SARA's website on www.stalbens.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 and Centre news

Apple group moves to centre

People who use Mac desktops or laptops, or operate iPhones and iPads, will be pleased to hear that SeniorNet Mac will be operating from the St Albans Community Centre from June 3.

SeniorNet Mac will be running drop-in help sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings 10am-12 noon plus a Wednesday afternoon session. You will find them in the Muriel Soanes Room (also known as the history room because of the historical map and photos).

Make the most of the centre while you are there – it has an outdoor deck area, a proper kitchen and the hallway is a good place to read magazines and chat.

SeniorNet Mac also operates an Apple Users group for the more technically inclined, which meets on the last Wednesday in the month from 7.30pm. The organisation encourages those with Apple devices to become members – and although it has senior in its name, people don't need to be a particular age to join. Drop in for a chat or a cuppa. Workshops and courses are on the cards.

A social is held at lunchtime at the Richmond Club on the last Tuesday in the month, with interesting speakers on a range of topics (not necessarily about computers).

For more about this group, check out their website: <https://www.seniormac.org.nz>

NeighbourNet gets a reboot

Those with PCs running Windows 8-11 will be pleased to hear that NeighbourNet is returning to the community centre on June 7. NeighbourNet can also help with queries about tablets and Android phones.

Laptops are available for the public to use to access the internet or perhaps write a letter or job application. The centre has internet and wifi access.

Times have changed, with a switch to afternoon sessions on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons from 1-3pm. These are run as drop-in sessions so if you have a problem or query, just turn up at these times. You can bring your own device or use the centre's. Appointments may be possible at other times.

NeighbourNet is based in the history room but if numbers grow may use another centre room. NeighbourNet is one of a handful of groups running under the umbrella of the St Albans Residents' Association. You can contact them by emailing neighbournet@stalbens.gen.nz

Stallholders sought for market

Have you got crafty items you have made or food sensations taking up space at home? You could take up a stall at the Edgeware Village Mid Winter Christmas Market. This year it is being held at the St Albans Community Centre on Saturday June 18. If you would like to be a stallholder email sara@stalbens.gen.nz or Emma on 021 914563.

Writers wanted for St Albans News

Are you interested in writing articles for St Albans News as a volunteer writer? We have a list of possible topics that need covering or you can come up with your own ideas.



Correction

In the April issue of St Albans News, in a story about two people who have indicated they would stand for election as councillors in October we said that Pauline Cotter would be standing for Council in the Innes Ward as the People's Choice/Labour candidate. That is not the case as she has pointed out she is standing as a People's Choice/Independent candidate, not for Labour. The People's Choice is a centre-left group of progressive candidates whose values are based on social equity and justice shared with Labour who contest elections for Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury (ECan).

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The St Albans News is a free local newspaper which is produced by a team of volunteers. The social enterprise is managed by the St Albans Residents' Association.

Send your news contributions and adverts to:

news@stalbens.gen.nz

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

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

SARA and Centre news

Activities at the community centre

St Albans community centre is now operating at the orange level. Vaccine passports are no longer required but masks will be, particularly in areas like the hallway and kitchen where groups and individuals mix. The centre is limited to 200 people inside. The programme contains groups that meet weekly at the centre but if they fit we can add monthly ones as well.

Monday	10am	Saygo
	10am	SeniorNet Mac
	5 pm	Universal Martial Arts
Tuesday	10am	Knitting group
	11am	Yoga with Tracey
	11.30am	Pilates with Dee
	1pm	Neighbournet
	5.30	Pippins
Wednesday	7.00pm	Yoga with Tristin
	9.30am	Wednesday Wheelies
	10am	SeniorNet Mac
	10.30am	Dog training
	10.30am	The Corner, coffee and chat
	1pm	SeniorNet Mac
	6pm	Dog training
	7.00pm	Capoeira Angola
	9.30am	Saygo
	10am	Morning Tea
Thursday	11am	Yoga with Tracey
	1pm	SeniorNet Mac
	5.00pm	Universal Martial Arts
	6pm	Dog training
	10am	SeniorNet Mac

Recycling for Colgate only

The oral care recycling programme run at the St Albans Community Centre through Terracycle will only accept Colgate waste from June. Those with non-Colgate products will need to find alternative arrangements or use the red bin on rubbish collection days.

Drainage on side steps fixed

Edges were placed on the community centre steps leading to and from the car park after it was found they pool water when it rains. This has been fixed by making a small cut in the middle of each step to let the water drain away.

Join the centre staff for morning tea

Community centre staff are hosting a morning tea on the first Thursday in the month, starting at 10am on June 3. It will make use of the special cups and saucers donated to the centre and some home baking.

Community centre in finals for award

Kohinga is one of the finalists chosen for the shortlist in the public architecture section of the 2022 Canterbury Architecture Awards. The winners will be announced on July 8.

Open Christchurch event featured St Albans sites

Abberley House: improve don't move



Abberley House, photo by Patrick Reynolds

An architectural award-winning home in St Albans was part of the annual architecture festival Open Christchurch over the weekend of 30 April and 1 May. Abberley House in Abberley Crescent is a meeting of architecture from two different centuries, joined together, 140 years apart: a Victorian cottage from 1878 and a contemporary extension added in 2018, designed by an Auckland architecture practice, RTA Studio.

During the tours, volunteer hosts emphasised the key idea was "don't move, improve." The garden was designed by noted landscape architect, Robert Watson, a neighbour and friend of the owners. Robert conceived of the garden as a series of distinctive spaces or outdoor rooms, each of which relates to the interior rooms.

"This one-off visit demonstrated that making additions and changes to even a very old building can help you create a wonderful, functional and beautiful home and garden that resonates with age and style," Open Christchurch director Jessica Halliday said.

Kohinga: building for the future

Community activator Emma Twaddell who was on her feet all day on April 30 estimated around 300 people either attended a talk about the construction of Kohinga or had a look around and enjoyed afternoon tea in special cups the centre uses to host afternoon teas.

Emma's presentation pretty much covered the 160 year journey from Knightstown (Dover St) to Kohinga, complete with old maps and black and white photos.

Emeritus Professor of Timber Design, Andy Buchanan showed with a sample cross section of the wall how Kohinga had been constructed. Unlike the old centre made from unreinforced concrete badly damaged in the quakes there is no concrete in this unique building, just thick, engineered timber. Three layers, one of which runs in the opposite direction to the other two gives it strength to withstand major earthquakes. A small amount of steel joins the walls to the foundations.



Cross-section of Kohinga walls

Sustainability

Bees find new home in community garden

It has been an exciting time in the Kohinga Mara with the arrival of pollinators from Clever Little Bees. Chief Beekeeper Kathryn (Kat) Jer and three young (and two slightly older) sidekicks in protective beekeeping suits transferred a few thousand bees into their new home at the community garden on April 30.

The bees will benefit not only the community garden's fruit and veggie crops, but also neighbouring gardens within a 5 kilometre radius. Getting the bees settled in before winter will help produce a good flow of honey to harvest in the next year. In the meantime the bees remain dormant in the hive over winter, huddling around and protecting their queen.

Kat educated the trainee beekeepers during the moving process, and Sustainable St Albans is looking forward to collaborating and creating future learning opportunities at the community centre. For more information about Kat and her bee education programmes head over to www.cleverlittlebees.co.nz.

This project has been made possible with sponsorship from Rotary New Horizons Christchurch and Like-Minded Learning. The cost of the hive enclosure materials were covered by MSD food security funding. Volunteers Mark Wilson and Dimitri Souleliac used their DIY skills to construct the enclosure.

Witnessing the children's awe and enthusiasm when settling the bees in was a sight to behold. Initial reluctance and fear melted away as they saw the gentle nature of the bees. Kat explained their lifecycle and hive structure. Worker bees at the entrance of the hive fanned their wings to release a pheromone signalling to the other foraging bees that 'this is your hive where you belong'.

A new fence line planter constructed by volunteers is ready to be planted for the spring with bee-friendly plants and edibles.

The next two Kohinga Māra/ Sustainable St Albans meetings will be held at the community centre on Sunday June 5 and July 3 from 9am, all welcome.



Alice Holmes and her daughter donned beekeeper suits to introduce these honey bees to their new home adjacent to the community centre.

EDGEWARE VILLAGE

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Housing

Housing intensification targets suburbs

St Albans Residents Association hosted its second meeting in the community centre on the topic of the year: intensified housing on May 9.

CCC Planning Manager Mark Stevenson and senior policy planners Ike Kleynes and Emily Allan spoke first. The council outlined the things legislated by the Government that neither residents nor CCC can influence eg: allowing the development of housing three units three storeys (12 metres high) without a resource consent. Some areas surrounding large shopping or commercial areas such as Papanui have been deemed high density residential areas and could contain housing anywhere up to 20 metres tall. Before answering questions from the floor they also outlined where influence was possible and where these rules would not apply eg: "qualifying matters" such as heritage orders and areas with vacuum sewer



systems that have limited capacity, (eg: Shirley).

A panel of community members spoke next. Mark Wilson called for rights and regulations to provide a sustainable future for an increasing number of renters vulnerable to the whims of landlords. Youth advocate Cameron Bailey spoke about climate change and wanted to see better public transport developed now alongside intensified housing.

Richmond resident Greg Partridge talked about the negative impact of

cutting down trees to fit in more units has on the microclimate of the city and the quality of life of its residents. He wanted a moratorium on clear felling of sites and suggested rain gardens be installed in more streets as they are built or repaired to make up for the rapid decline in tree coverage and mitigate the effects of climate change. He opposed the council plan to levy developers for a financial contribution towards tree planting because it offers them a way to buy their way out and remove mature trees.

Francine Bills began her presentation pretending to be a developer, rubbing her hands with glee at the prospect of being able to do what she wanted: make plenty of money, build up to three (even six storeys) within a metre of the neighbour's fence and clearfell the site of mature trees and damn the consequences. She laughed at residents not being able to stick

Housing

Housing intensification

Continued from page 6

their oar in to complain. Because a developer can do these things and the council will let this happen with the proposed District Plan.

Then she switched roles to the St Albans home owner she really is, to point out the consequences of tall, cookie cutter buildings with small windows jammed in close to their neighbours in similar buildings, blocking sunlight.

Francine also showed slide of the sort of development more suited to St Albans such as current one storey homes or low rise two storey units, using materials more sympathetic to their surroundings like Brookfield. It wasn't just a matter of taste, she said, calling for better monitoring of developers' materials and actions, as they tended to use cheap materials to maximise profits.

Seems like residents have few rights regarding developments in St Albans

Petition calls for rejigged city plan

Continued from page 1

Focussing development on the inner city would:

- reduce harmful emissions and the number of vehicles clogging suburban roads
- provide the CBD with the much-needed kickstart to regenerate life and economic activity
- protect thousands of neighbourhood trees from being cut down
- Meet the needs of the community, while also ensuring the city functions well

He says the council could achieve these aims with a staged plan:

Stage 1: Stop suburban intensification and the destruction of the natural environment.

Stage 2: Push for well-designed, high density, multi-storey apartment blocks to be built in the central city eg: on of bare land between Gloucester Street and Moorhouse Avenue.

Stage 3: Once that 50 hectares of vacant central city land is filled, other disused central city light industrial land repurpose for additional high-density apartment blocks.

Stage 4: Re-evaluate housing supply levels once stages 1, 2, and 3 have successfully been completed. (suggesting that would be the right time to look at whether suburban intensification is still needed)

Consultations on the plan have closed but those concerned about housing developments can visit <https://www.change.org/p/object-to-the-christchurch-environment-and-city-centre-being-ruined-by-bad-planning> and voice their opinions. You could air your views on the St Albans News Facebook page.

Although consultations have closed, hearings are still being held. The district plan needs to be finalised by the end of August. ☞

parris & jeanne

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Labour

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REHUA MARAE
TRUSTEES PRESENT



Trees, trees, please more trees

Trees in the backyard, in the street and down at the park make for more pleasant surroundings, but trees in residential areas are in danger of bowled over with the move to intensified housing. It could take 40 years to match the canopy of these threatened mature trees. We need more not fewer of them.

CCC aims to boost tree canopy

As well as protecting significant trees the city council now has a tree policy whereby it plants two new trees on public land for everyone it removes, thereby growing the tree coverage. The canopy coverage of the city has been shrinking.

Aerial mapping and lidar measuring of the city in 2015 and 2018 showed the tree canopy of the city (including Banks Peninsula) had dropped from around 1559 to 1356, some of that caused by the Port Hills fire in 2017. Nearly 60 per cent of the trees are on private land. Of the council owned land about 20 per cent is covered in trees but only around 10 per cent of the city streets have trees in them.

You would think with a name like garden city, Christchurch would have had more trees but it is not alone in low canopy numbers. A quick online comparison – Melbourne has about 15 per cent, London and New York City are on 21 per cent. Sydney has ambitious plans to plant five million trees and increase its canopy to around 40 per cent and Amsterdam is replacing car parks with trees.

It's important because trees keep our cities cool in summer and with the prospect of climate change that will become more important in the next few decades. Increased ground cover in buildings and tarseal means the soil is not absorbing as much rainwater, putting pressure on stormwater drains, leading to higher and more frequent floods.

There is certainly room to grow more trees in Christchurch. Council is in the process of producing an Urban Forest Plan, which will be out for consultation later this year. ☼

Plant more native trees

When planting give thought to planting native trees as they provide a habitat to native birds like tui and bellbirds. There are lots of benefits listed on this website: <https://www.treesthatcount.co.nz/why-native-trees/>

Christchurch has different ecosystems. To find out the ecosystem that covers St Albans and what native trees to plant check out the map linked below then visit a native tree nursery, such as that operated by not for profit organisation Trees for Canterbury in Ferrymead. Most garden centres also supply native trees such as totara, kowhai and rata.

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/4a2df6a4560e42f6b91e42593da8630e?dgl=Plant-lists>



Ti Kouka, flowering flax and golden totara

Kowhai and St Albans

The kowhai tree with its bright yellow flowers is a spring flowering native tree that competes with the pink blossoms in spring to produce the best display. It is also the symbol for St Albans, the golden suburb.



Trees in Severn Street

What happens when council-maintained street trees become overgrown and impact on the rights of residents? A resident in Severn St with solar panels on the roof is finding that tree coverage from mature trees on the street owned by the Christchurch City Council is blocking sun from reaching their solar panels. They (details on the letter were obscured by council staff) suggested to the Waipapa/Papanui Innes Community Board that perhaps alternating the trees (removing every second one) would solve the problem. The board did not warm to that idea at its meeting in May. Could the council consider carrying out a small amount of trimming without detracting from the street's character? Severn St used to be a character area but now just the trees remain protected. ☼



Autumn trees showing off in English Park and Edward Ave

Financial Contributions Fund

As part of the current review of its District Plan, CCC is proposing a new fund that developers will need to pay into if they cannot prove they have (or will have years later when the canopy matures) a 20 per cent coverage in tree canopy.

This is a council idea for a way to at least try to make sure that there is sufficient canopy in coming years. It will not make up for all the mature trees that have already been demolished by developers clear felling sites to maximise the number of units that they can sell. Trees are slow growers: it could take 40 years to get back the mature tree canopy already lost.

Through this means, developers will have to pay a contribution to the council (the amount has not been set) if their development does not have, or will not be able to achieve a 20 per cent tree canopy coverage. Unfortunately as several submitters to the district plan have pointed out, nothing will stop a subsequent owner chopping down the trees or trees dying off with roots surrounded by all that tarseal and concrete. The fund would be used to plant more trees on council-owned land (which is limited) – to spread the benefit we need to see more street trees.

District Plan lists protected trees

Christchurch City Council keeps two list of trees that are protected and marks these on the district plan. <https://districtplan.ccc.govt.nz/> They are protected as long as Government (local or national) doesn't change the rules. A decision made in 2015 saw some magnificent specimens in Innes Rd removed. There are two lists in the district plan appendix: one involves trees on private property and the other lists trees in parks, reserves and streets owned by the council and deemed worthy of protection – Abberley Park is notable for its 36 English specimen protected trees. Trees have been chosen for the lists because they have particular botanical, heritage, amenity, landscape, ecological or environmental values. Rules govern what can be done to and near these trees eg: pruning, earthworks, plantings underneath. Sometimes a resource consent may be required. More significant trees could be added to the list but the Mayor Lianne Dalziel told a hearing on the district plan in May the council has limited funding or staff to check out trees that have been recommended (by residents or staff). The lists can be found in Appendix 9.4.7.1 and 9.4.7.2 of the District Plan. <https://districtplan.ccc.govt.nz/pages/plan/Book.aspx?exhibit=districtplan&hid=314120>

Current tree rights for property owners

If you are a property owner nothing can stop you from cutting down (or organising that to be done) on a tree that is on your own property, if it is not a protected or listed tree. So you can cut down that wilding pine, just make sure it doesn't damage the neighbour's guttering or you might end up paying for that to be fixed. This consumer article contains useful information on trees and neighbours. <https://www.consumer.org.nz/articles/trees-and-neighbours>. ☼

School's remarkable oak

Current and former pupils would agree that the magnificent oak tree on the St Albans School grounds, looms large in their memories. A gathering place for generations, It is incorporated in the school logo.



Trees with benefits

Trees, particularly mature ones with large canopies, come with benefits. They can:

- help clean the air
- Store carbon
- Battle climate change
- Limit flooding
- Shelter birds
- Stabilise soils
- Offer recreation
- Provide shade/cool cities
- And they are good for our wellbeing.



Protected tree on Brown's Road

Reconnecting with the community and the world

It's great to see New Zealand getting back to normal. I've especially enjoyed the ability to do in-person visits once more. I popped in to the community garden to see progress there and enjoyed learning about the St Albans Community Centre's initiative for hard-to-recycle objects. Thanks, Emma Twaddell, for taking time to explain it to me.

The centre itself was on show as part of the Open Christchurch architectural festival. It is a real treasure – and made of sustainable, all-timber construction. I also enjoyed meeting the Easter Bunny at Abberley Park's egg hunt.

As a St Albans resident I'm often out and about on my bike. If you see me at the supermarket or pub quiz, please don't hesitate to say hello. I'm happy to talk about the hot topics including the government's building and housing plans. Great urban design is an intrinsic part of the new rules, and some of the new houses in Edgware and St Albans are good examples of attractive and more compact living.

St Albans itself is a case study in what happens when our growing population is not catered for. Where most of the work, recreation and schooling happens, urban sprawl follows – and so do motorways, congestion and emissions. We have kicked the can down the road on climate too many times and now real action is being taken in the Budget.

As the St Albans News goes to print, I'm away with the Speaker on a cross-party delegation to Europe. My role is to connect with other parliamentarians and help get a free trade agreement with the EU over the line. It is a real privilege to be on this trip to cement the historic Free Trade deal with European trade partners.

As chair of the Finance and Expenditure Committee, I'll also visit the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) in Paris where I have been invited to give a speech on the importance of trust in government and institutions to wellbeing. Our world-leading wellbeing approach is being watched with interest overseas, with the recent news that New Zealand is among just a handful of countries to have an AAA credit rating from leading international credit agencies, showing our investment in keeping New Zealand businesses going has paid off.

It's gratifying to have international agencies interested in hearing about New Zealand's experience in what will likely be the biggest speech of my career thus far. ☼

Ngā mihi, Duncan Webb, MP for Christchurch Central



Dr Duncan Webb, MP for Christchurch Central

Trust seeks welfare guardians

The Canterbury West Coast Welfare Guardians Trust is looking for more volunteers and when it gets a minimum of four willing to do take on the role the trust can run a Saturday morning training course.

The charitable trust recruits and trains volunteers to apply to be court-appointed welfare guardians for people unable to make, or communicate, decisions for themselves. Once appointed, the trust provides ongoing support for the volunteers.

Approved volunteers are needed when a person lacks any suitable local relatives willing to apply to become their welfare guardian.

Once appointed by the Family Court, the welfare guardian can make decisions about the day-to-day care and welfare of their client. These may include decisions about

non-urgent medical treatments, accommodation and any day-to-day matters that the person would normally make for themselves but, who the court has ruled, lacks the capacity to do so.

The trust receives requests for help from various sources including family members who live outside the local area or are unable to act as welfare guardians themselves. Trust co-ordinator Tim Mulcock says they have a lot of people on a waiting list needing a welfare guardian.

The positions are relevant for anyone kind and caring but particularly interested in social work, aged care representation, family court processes and health and disability issues.

If interested, phone 020 4189 3045 or email cwcwgt@gmail.com. Or visit the website: <https://welfareguardians.nz/?canterbury> ☼

Packer Street Park and Community Gardens

Working bees
Mondays & Thursdays
2–4 pm

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Visit our website or phone
Robyn: 027 733 4315
37 Dover St, off Edgware Rd

An evening with Jolt Dance at Rehua Marae

TAKIWĀTANGA

June 21
6.30 – 8 pm

a work created by Carl Te Tone Huia, Lyn Cotton and Aleasha Seaward
79 SPRINGFIELD ROAD, ST ALBANS

Book review

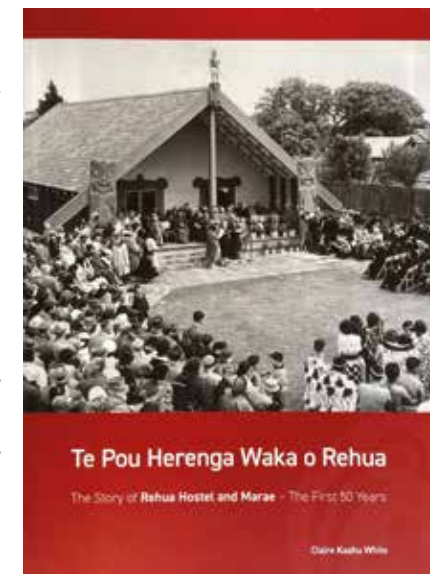
Te Pou Herenga Waka o Rehua - Rehua Hostel and Marae: The First 50 Years

This recently published work by Claire Kahu White records in great detail the establishment and development of the facility in Springfield Road.

Rehua began as a hostel for young Māori women coming into Christchurch for work. The Methodist Mission saw the need for such an establishment and it was set up at 138 Stanmore Road in 1952.

However, within two years numbers needing this accommodation had fallen and it became a pilot for a Maori trade training scheme for young Maori men who were selected as apprentices for various firms in the city.

By 1957 it was necessary to find larger premises and a property was purchased at 79 Springfield Road. Additional accommodation was provided as the roll increased.



The carved meeting house (wharehau) opened in 1960 as a multi-tribal, multi-cultural centre for recreation, worship and much more.

Dr Terry Ryan has devoted his life to Rehua since arriving at the hostel in 1966. His deep knowledge of this special place fills the book, which has been thoroughly researched and written by Claire. It contains a wealth of historical photographs and is a lovely and very human account of a significant part of Christchurch's history.

Reviewed by Brian Spear for the St Albans History Group. Copies can be borrowed from Christchurch libraries or purchased online through ngaitahu.iwi.nz. ☼

New Zealand celebrates new public holiday

by Belinda Carter

On June 24, New Zealand will, for the first time, take a public holiday to celebrate Matariki, the start of the traditional Māori Year.

Matariki (short for Ngā Mata o te Ariki) is named after one of the nine stars in a cluster whose reappearance above the horizon (after a break of 28 days) marks the start of the Māori New Year. This signifies the start of the traditional system of seasonal planting.

These stars are not just seen in the Southern Hemisphere. The ancient Greeks knew them as the Pleiades or

Seven Sisters, and in Japan the same cluster is called Subaru (yes, the car with stars in its logo).

The holiday won't be held on the same day each year: In 2023, based on the lunar calendar, it will be celebrated on July 14. However, it will always be a Friday to encourage families to spend time together over a long weekend.

Rehua Marae has planned a whanau day on Saturday June 25 with an emphasis on crafts (making poi and other things), food, and being with family. Anyone is welcome to attend the event at 79 Springfield Rd from 11am to 2pm and enjoy the

hangi and kapa haka. The marae is also the venue for an Evening with Jolt Dance on June 21, featuring an autobiographical dance piece called Takiwātanga, about autism.

Don't miss the Christchurch City Council's light festival, Tirama Mai, in Cathedral Square, which will run from June 24 till July 3, from 5-10pm, complete with food stalls.

City libraries have organised activities for kids to celebrate the Māori New Year, and staff have produced an activities booklet for children. <https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/matariki-for-kids-2/> ☼

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NAU MAI HAERE MAI!

From April 19 clinics will be once a week on Mondays 3pm - 7pm
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www.rehuamarae.co.nz
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Come & have a cuppa & kai

St Albans parks and gardens

Volunteers keep this little oasis going

by Helen Kidd

The Packe Street Park and Community Garden is holding its AGM on Saturday 18 June from 1-3 pm at the Korean Church in Packe Street and welcomes people to be involved as gardeners or in a development role on the committee.

Committed, enthusiastic volunteers keep this little suburban oasis maintained and developed for all of the community.

A lot has been happening at the park:

- Working bees at the park now operate winter hours – Mondays and Thursdays from 2 – 4 pm.
- Plant pots, seedlings, books and food continue to be left in the exchange units.
- It is looking amazing with tidy beds and new brick pathways. Thanks to volunteers Holly, Sylvia, and Chris,
- the thyme-planted pathway is an aromatic treat to walk on.
- New themed, raised gardens being developed include a herb garden and a 'tea garden'. The latter will provide plants used to make herbal teas, adding to the lemon verbena and kawakawa already in the park.
- Volunteer Henri has been busy removing damaged paintwork and filling borer holes on the weathered Billy Wilson shed prior to it being repainted.
- A small planter box is being re-furbished, and will be used to make a tactile garden. If anyone has textured plants to donate for this, the volunteers would be pleased to have them.
- Workshops on pruning, foraging, and mushroom growing are planned.



Packe St park and garden is a wonderful place to introduce toddlers to the natural world and for them to gain an appreciation for things botanical.

Lots to do in a winter garden

Winter is here but the garden is still busy, so there should still be lots to harvest in winter such as leafy vegetables like silverbeet and kale. A good stash of pumpkins should see you through to spring.

But this time of year is not just for sitting by the fire. There is still a lot you can do, such as sowing seeds of spinach, silver beet, peas and onions. Work out where to plant your garlic

for the next season: seed garlic can be purchased from Canterbury company Morton Smith-Dawe or Koanga Gardens in the North Island.

Most weed growth has slowed down but there are a couple of special characters showing up at this time of year worth mentioning: Miners lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliata*), a fantastic winter green that grows well at the Packe St Park and Community Garden,

is full of vitamin C and vitamin A.

Chickweed is another beautiful winter green in Canterbury, although globally it's thought of more of a spring green. It is also medicinal and helps reduce inflammation. Keep well in these colder and darker days, and remember that to plant a garden is to have hope for the future.

Good gardening, *Basil*

Working for you

Contact: Phil Adcock
021 909 950

phil@grassamrealestate.co.nz



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Kitchen upgraded



Abberley Park Hall's outdated kitchen has been upgraded. A new stainless bench with a double sink has been installed on one side of the kitchen and an extra bench with cabinets on the opposite side make it a more workable space.

Drainage issues have also been addressed with new spouting and downpipes. Until this work was carried out, water pooled around and underneath the building. This one-room venue can be hired (plus various areas within the leafy park) through the Christchurch City Council, by phoning 941 8999 or visiting a service centre.

Waterways surveyed



High school student Liam Speechlay and postgraduate student Josiah Millar took samples from the water in St Albans Creek at Abberley Park on May 7 to assess the creek's health. They also asked St Albans residents and Abberley Park visitors about their knowledge and thoughts on the creek.

The students undertook the research at the park as part of their Resilient Cities course, in partnership with the St Albans Residents Association, to find out the importance waterways and greenspaces play in urban areas. The survey has now closed.

Packe Street Park and Community Gardens

AGM

Saturday 18th June at 1pm

at the Korean Church on the corner of Packe and Purchas Streets

Fundraising Stall

Mid Winter Christmas Market

Clothing & Bric a brac

Sat June 18th 11 am

Kohinga 1049 Colombo St

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Community Notices

A Musical Variety Afternoon and a good ole sing-along! Monday 13 June, 1.30-2.30pm at the Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham St North. All welcome. Cuppa to follow. Gold coin donation. Enquiries ph 372 9224.

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

Canterbury Embroiderers' Guild: @ Hammersley Community Centre, Amos Place. Groups meet Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri. Contact Ros 021 108 5539, Marie 021 68 3547 or email CEGstitchers@gmail.com. Any form of stitching **Christchurch Senior Citizens:** card section Mondays at 12.30-3pm, indoor bowls Tuesdays 12.45-3pm, old time dance 3rd Saturday of each month 1.30-4pm, live band, Scottish Society Hall, Edgeware and Caledonian Rd. Visitors welcome. Phone: Veronica 383 4682 or Beth 388 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 Kohinga St Albans Community Centre. Join us for coffee and conversation, meet others in your community. All Welcome. Koha for coffee appreciated.

Computer aided, touch typing course for students 9 or older with difficulties reading, writing and spelling. Run by the Seabrook McKenzie Centre in London St. Mon, Tues 4-5pm. Further information phone 381 5383 or visit the home programme version on readandspell.com

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: Come and try Croquet, a friendly club off Forfar Street in St Albans Park. Association Croquet Thur and Sat 9.30-12noon and Golf Croquet 12.45 -3pm. We welcome visitors and new members. For more info 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 (off Barbadoes Street) Visitors welcome. Friendly club, parking. No partner, contact Maureen on 021 646 123.

Fit Beans Coffee Club: 9.30am Fridays, Reformed Church Hall, 63 Cornwall Street. Easy exercise for anyone looking to maintain or regain strength and balance. Suitable for any age or ability, sitting or standing. Led by Dee Owers, \$5 per class, followed by free tea, coffee and cake. Phone Sarah on 338-1648 or 027 758 5141

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

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

Happy Feet Dancing. Movement to music. Weekly Wednesdays at 12—1 pm \$2 Suit low to medium level of fitness. Kohinga St Albans Community Centre. Contact Rowena 027 404 0897

HOUSIE at the Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham St North, every Thursday at 12.30pm 2.15pm. \$2 per Housie card or bring a prize to the value of the card. Afternoon tea to follow. All ages welcome. Numbers are limited. Gold coin donation. Enquiries ph 372 9224. Visit our website, www.lcmchristchurch.org.nz.

Knitting Group. Meets every Tuesday at the St Albans Community Centre. 10am – 11.30. Just turn up. Koha appreciated for room hire.

Knit & Knatter Shirley: Please can anyone help with free wool for these ladies. Contact Mary 027 733 9666 or 980 0811

Laughter Yoga: The St Albans Laughter Yoga Club. Sunday mornings, 11 am – 11.45am at the Scottish Society Hall cnr Edgeware and Caledonian Rds. Contact; Hannah Airey 021 998 109 www.lotustrust.org.nz. No bookings necessary, \$3 donation.

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

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

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

Saygo Falls Prevention: Mondays 10 – 11am and Thursdays 9.30 – 10.30 am. \$2 entry. Kohinga 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 meets at the Scottish Society hall corner Edgeware Caledonian Roads, Tuesdays at 7.30pm, February through to December. A time of fun, fitness and friendship. Contact: Margaret Birse, ph 327 0193.

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.

The St Albans History Group is interested in old photos or articles about St Albans. Contact: Brian: briangsphear@hotmail.com

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

Rockers Of Ages Choir: For elders and aspiring elders (any age welcome). No auditions, music provided. Wednesdays, 2pm 4pm during term time, Forfar Courts, 95 Forfar Street, St Albans. Phone 0800 843 687 for more information.

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 Kohinga St Albans Community Centre, 1049 Colombo Street. Sing world and popular music in 3 part harmony. No auditions. Email:

women.in.harmony.nz@gmail.com;

facebook.com/womeninharmonychristchurch

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

Rutland Street Church Open Day Saturday 2 July. 10am – 1pm. Cnr Rutland and Westminster Sts. Come and have a coffee and see our rebuilt and extended facilities.

St Albans News Classifieds

SERVICES

Need help with career redirection or regaining life work balance?

Have a disability and need support with retaining or gaining employment or commencing study? Contact Paul Barclay - Vision Without Limits on 028 461-1257 or info@visionwithoutlimits.co.nz. Experienced Employment Consultant and Professional Member – Career Development Association of New Zealand. Free initial discussion. More information at www.visionwithoutlimits.co.nz

Are you having difficulty making a decision about family, work, relationships?

We can help you make a thoughtful decision and guide you to proper resources if required. There is no charge for this service. Call for further information or an appointment with Bill or Emily at 027 379 3873. We can meet at the St Albans Community Centre on Wednesdays 12:30 to 2:00. First meeting usually 30 minutes.

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

St Albans events

Events happening in the next couple of months. If you have events you would like announced here, please email: news@stalbens.gen.nz

June 13, 1.30-2.30 pm:

Musical variety show at Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham St North

June 18, 11am: Mid Winter Christmas Market at Kohinga, 1049 Colombo St

June 18, 1pm: Packe St Park AGM at the Korean Church on the corner of Packe and Purchas Streets

June 21, 6:30-8pm: Jolt Dance, Rehua Marae 79 Springfield Rd

June 25, 11a.-2pm: Mātāriki Whanau Day Rehua Marae

July 2, 9am-3pm: Zonta Hand Bag sale at Kohinga, 1049 Colombo St

July 2, 10am-1pm: Open Day Rutland Street Church, Cnr Rutland/Westminster

Mat Pilates Class Tuesday 11.15 am. All ages and abilities welcome. Contact Dee 0272515475 or view Facebook: Eastside Training Squad

ProofreadingNZ: All proofreading and editing services \$60/hour, GST incl. Contact carlaheslop@slingshot.co.nz

Becoming You Yoga: Tuesday 4.30pm \$13, Slow mindful yoga. St Albans Community Centre, Thursday 10am \$15, Restorative Yoga. Suitable for all. Contact: https://www.becomingyoyoga.com

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

TRADIES

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

Eastcoast Landscapes: Specialising in all aspects of PAVING including patios, paths, courtyards and

borders. We also do lawns, irrigation, garden makeovers and general property maintenance. Commercial and residential. Small, friendly business. Quality work. Free quotes. Call Blair on 027 699 5815.

Handyman: Pete Knuiman Ltd. For all your property maintenance, repairs, painting, carpentry, fencing, brickwork, tiling work, alterations and those odd jobs. Ph Pete 021 022 53774 or 385 1718. www.peteknuiman.co.nz, pete@peteknuiman.co.nz

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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

Mental Health Support

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

- **Counsellors** available via text: 1737
- **Suicidal?** Phone 0508 828 865
- **Kidslines:** 0800 54 37 54 For under 18s, 24/7
- **Depression:** 0800 111 757 or text 4302
- **Canterbury Charity Hospital:** 03 360 2266
- **Shakti Crisis Line:** for migrant or refugee women living with family violence 0800 742 584
- **Allies online mentoring** offered by young Muslim adults to Muslim teens run by Youthline. Free text 234 or phone 0800 376 633
- **Sexual Assault Support Service Canterbury (SASSC):** 03 377 5402 for recent and historic cases
- **Male Survivors:** 03 365 9000
- **OUTLine NZ:** provides confidential telephone support for matters of gender or sexuality, 0800 688 5463
- **Mental Health Advocacy Peer Support (MHAPS):** Phone: (03) 365 9479, Text: 022 370 8055, Rural Phone:

0800 437 324, Email: reception@mhaps.org.nz, 9:00am – 4:30pm, Monday to Friday

- **Comcare Trust:** Comcare assists people with mental health or addiction issues to live well in the Canterbury community. Tel: (03) 377 7020, Fax: (03) 961 0794, Email: enquiries@comcare.org.nz
- **Rape Crisis:** 0800 883 300 for support after rape or sexual assault.
- **Are You OK?** Family violence helpline 0800 456 450.
- **After hours counselling:** Phone counselling provided. Offer of a free introductory chat and affordable fees related to clients financial situation in these challenging times. Call on 027 694 5275 or email at: murray@afterhourscounselling.co.nz
- **Family Drug Support** Aotearoa New Zealand. Support for families impacted by the alcohol and other drug use of family members. Tel: 03 2818 740. www.fds.org.nz

Letters (preferably 150 words or fewer) can be sent to news@stalbens.gen.nz

News from St Albans and beyond

Crossing Springfield Rd

Over the next year, the Waipapa/Papanui-Innes Community Board will be looking at possible pedestrian crossings for Springfield Rd, which runs from Bealey Ave to St Albans Street. The street is a busy route through St Albans feeding through to Rutland St and Cranford St but lacks pedestrian crossings. Places in particular that could benefit from a refuge, a full crossing or signalised lights include Rehua marae, the Edgware Rd intersection with Springfield Rd (it gives access to Abberley Cres and its park) and the busy intersection with St Albans St which has no means for pedestrians to safely cross to the dairy and/or medical centre.

No more local health boards

When the local government elections roll around in September/October citizens won't be voting for district health boards. Period. The new New Zealand Health authority, which we have been told will make things more efficient and more equitable through the removal of duplication and imposition of national planning, comes into play from July 1. Along with the associated Māori health authority, it will be responsible for planning and commissioning of services while the Ministry of Health will determine strategy. The change will probably not be noticed at grassroots level, at least initially. The authority plans to consult health service users but it is not clear yet what form this will take.

Liquor licence opposed

Objections have been laid to an application by Pari International for an off-licence to sell alcohol from 565 Barbadoes St. Its premises are part of a shopping block. Objections were lodged in May and a hearing could be held soon as a consequence. The District Licensing Tribunal is likely to hold a hearing where they will consider the design, the impact of the business eg: noise, vandalism and whether the company or individuals are suitable for running the business. The St Albans Residents Association in general tends does not favour new developments like this, believing there are enough premises selling alcohol in St Albans already. Applications for new licences and renewals for off-licences (shops selling liquor) and on-licences (licensed facilities such as restaurants) have to be publicly notified. If you want to be notified about applications in St Albans when they are lodged contact the Papanui Innes service centre. <https://ccc.govt.nz/consents-and-licences/business-licences-and-consents/alcohol/objecting-to-a-grant-for-a-licence/>

Flooding solutions sought

Although nothing has been finalised to fix the repeated flooding of Edgware Village the Waipapa/Papanui-Innes Community Board is busy investigating what could be done, which is a step better than leaving it up to the retailer at the lowest point in the village to deal with it. St Albans Creek tends to pool during long hours of heavy rain near Peter Timbs Butchery. ☘

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