

St Albans School celebrates 150 years

Thousands took part in the St Albans Primary School 150th reunion over a weekend in mid-September. After the powhiri on the Friday, former pupils toured the school and marvelled at the changes in buildings, seating arrangements and uniforms that had taken place since "my school days".

On the Saturday, a fancy morning tea preceded the cake-cutting by former pupil, 96 year old Ida Clancy, who lives in Christchurch, with the help of Frankie Woods, the school's youngest current pupil. Panels around the school hall and photo walls told a long story while former pupils brought along sepia-coloured photos and hoping to bump into someone they had not seen for 60 years. Decade photos were taken starting with the 1930s pupils.

On the Saturday evening there were more speeches and catered canapes in the school hall. Sunday featured an old-time gala and families competed in old favourite games like three-legged races or sack races. The school's talented young musicians kept the crowd, roughly estimated at around 1000, entertained while they ate candyfloss, food from the food trucks or homemade picnic nibbles. Check out the photographs on the school's 150th jubilee celebrations on their facebook page. ☘



Five year old Frankie Woods and 96 year old Ida Clancy cut the cake made by Kidds Cake for morning tea.

Photographs of former pupils were taken decade by decade, including this group from the 1930s.



A gala day for families was held on the Sunday, featuring old style games like this three-legged race

Residents share information to fight city crime

by Belinda Carter

Thieves are getting more brazen by the day but neighbours in several north eastern suburbs are sharing information in response, in a bid to put the brakes on local crime.

Statistics on <https://www.police.govt.nz/crime-snapshot> show a definite increase in most crimes in Christchurch. These are reported crimes not total crimes, and people could be reporting more as apps make it easier to do so. Not every victim does (often just for insurance purposes), so it is difficult to get an accurate picture.

Former St Albans Residents Association committee member Alice Holmes, reckons street crimes are the worst they have been in the 12 plus years she has lived in St Albans. Other residents, St Albans News spoke to,

concur and it is difficult to argue with them that it is a matter of perception - St Albans is no worse than other parts of the city. In fact, according to police statistics if you dig deeper it has less crime reported than Riccarton, Eastern Linwood and Sydenham, and way less than the inner city.

Cars have been stolen from Geraldine St and Coles Place. Those householders who have a garage to lock their cars away can count

themselves lucky but garages are no guarantee against determined car thieves.

It definitely feels unsafe when people wearing dark clothing and balaclavas covering all but their eyes wander around the streets. In early September, two men wearing balaclavas were seen trying to break into cars on Knowles Street in broad daylight. Another resident approached possibly the same pair later in the day and told them to skedaddle.

However, it's not just cars on streets that are targeted. Hoses, heavy concrete planters and iron gates have been nicked from front gardens in recent years.

Like many other residents on this side of the city, Alice is a one of a growing number of members joining private facebook sites to keep a watch on the neighbourhood. Reports of thefts

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Elections
2023:
Candidates
See pages 7-11



Musical chairs at SARA

The St Albans Residents Association (SARA) has a new chair following the AGM held at the community centre on September 9. Mark Wilson has taken over from Jason Harvey who has held the position for the past two years.

Jason remains on the committee, along with treasurer Lynne O'Keefe and secretary Lynda Gill. Maria Lamb, known as Tidy Kiwi joined as a new committee member.

Lynne and Jason reported on a successful year that was not interrupted with Covid lockdowns and this enabled the organisation to clock up 3775 volunteer hours. The community makes good use of the centre and some nights it is difficult to find a room to hire. Income from the community centre helps fund SARA and its projects. SARA employs five part time employees and is a living wage employer. Recently the association received notification of two grants for its operations over the next three years.

Following the elections, Maria outlined plans for recycling more items through the community centre. Maria regularly keeps the community informed on recycling and other environmental initiatives through St Albans News.

The second speaker, Nigel Larsen spoke about the rat traps Predator Free St Albans has been distributing. The wooden tunnels containing the traps are being made by a volunteer who lives at Arvida in Caledonian Rd. All traps are recorded on the Trap.nz website. Those who have not got their traps loaded to the website are being contacted, offering help with the process. The group has already distributed 31 traps around the community and hopes to have another trap distribution evening in early November.

Keeping watch on elderly at home

Find out more about the latest home alarms that help relax anxious relatives, at Cafe Chat at the Community Centre on October 2. These connect to wifi and send information to relatives so more people can stay in their own homes instead of moving into rest homes. Cafe Chat offers a high tea experience on the first Monday of the month. It starts at 10.30am and is followed by a speaker,

The ST ALBANS MEET THE CANDIDATE

event planned for October 3 at the community centre has been cancelled due to the conflict with The Press Leaders Debate. in the Town Hall.



Advertising in St Albans News

If you would like to advertise in the News, phone Lynne on 972 5534 or email advertising@stalbands.gen.nz. Please ask for a copy of our ratesheet, which specifies sizes, prices and requirements.

St Albans Strategy

Residents needed to join local community projects. Learn about the St Albans Strategy adopted 10 years ago and the 20 projects the community came up with: https://stalbands.gen.nz/?page_id=5836. Contact SARA@stalbands.gen.nz for more information.

St Albans History Group

Next meeting Monday October 4, 2 pm at the St Albans Community Centre.
Email: briangspear@hotmail.com

Wednesday Wheelies

Wednesday Wheelies meet at 9:30am, 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

Red and blue at cafe chat

The community centre managed to persuade two busy election candidates into talking to the Cafe Chat at the St Albans Community Centre on September 1. Labour's Duncan Webb in his usual red and black swanndri and National's Dale Stephens in a bright blue vest took turns answering questions and also chatted to people over cups of tea. It was a pleasant morning with no banners and no heckling.

The Cafe Chat events feature volunteer-made goodies with tea and coffee served in fancy cups during the high tea while jazz music from the 20s and 30s plays in the background. Different speakers are invited to speak at the morning tea on the first Monday of the month. The next session is on October 2.



Have a go at SAYGO

by Peggy Kelly

'You are only as old as you feel', is a silly platitude often proffered to pensioners. How we feel depends on our hormones, our relationships and what aches where, today.

After my husband (Bill Sykes) died I pretty well ached all over and would have slipped into the slough of despondency had it not been for four things: kind people, my garden, music and SAYGO (that's my 'steady as you go' exercise class).

Now, five years on and at the age of 80, I feel optimistic enough to make a new five year plan – just for fun. This plan includes converting part of my garden into an orchard and that requires me to keep reasonably fit.

Gardening can be a hazardous occupation – you have to step over hoses and around plants and you can easily lose your balance if you are not careful. SAYGO exercises make you very aware of how to move safely.

I go to the 930 am Thursday class at Kōhinga (the Community Centre, 1049 Colombo Street) where our nonagenarian leader is truly one of a kind – inspirational! At \$2 per session, SAYGO is good value.

I'm the kind of OAP who needs the discipline and company of a class to make me do my exercises. I can't say they make me feel any younger for I've been 35 in my head for a long time now, but they do make me 'move with awareness' and they make a cheery start to the day.

(A separate SAYGO session is held on Monday mornings)



Saygo participants often use chairs in their exercises to maintain balance and strength.

Letters to the editor

To be considered for publication please mark your correspondence: Letter to the Editor. You will need to supply your first name and surname and your home address. Please keep to a 150 word limit (longer at the editor's discretion) and send it to news@stalbands.gen.nz by the deadline. The next one is October 178.

The deadline for the November St Albans News is October 17. Please send your articles, letters and notices to:
news@stalbands.gen.nz

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

Send your news contributions and adverts to:

news@stalbands.gen.nz

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

Letters can be mailed to:

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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.

Activities at the community centre

Weekly groups that meet at the community centre.

Monday	10am	Saygo
	10am	SeniorNet Mac
	11am	Happy Feet
	5pm	Universal Martial Arts
Tuesday	10.45am	Yoga with Tracy
	10am	NeighbourNet
	5.30	Pippins
	8.15	Ungu Capoeira
Every 3rd Tuesday	7pm	Prostate Cancer Foundation
Wednesday	9.30am	Wednesday Wheelies
	10am	SeniorNet Mac
And 2nd Saturday of the month at 4pm	10.30am	The Corner, coffee and chat
Bookings essential	6pm	Head to Tail
	7.00pm	Capoeira Angola
Thursday	9.30am	Saygo
	10.45am	Yoga with Tracy
	10am	NeighbourNet
	5.00pm	Universal Martial Arts
Friday	10am	SeniorNet Mac
Saturday	1pm	NeighbourNet

Martial arts



The newest Martial Arts on the planet, teaching the practical application of Martial Arts for Self Defence. Originally out of Taekwondo now version 5.0.

Taught the same way internationally with a full syllabus to 5th Degree from Monday October 2 to Saturday October 7, Australian School owners are joining Christchurch to streamline teaching internationally.

Saturday Friday October 6, 2 – 5 pm there is an open afternoon for anyone 8 and over to look and try UMA at Kōhinga St Albans Community Centre, 1049 Colombo Street. This is the last Friday of the school holidays. ☞

EDGEWARE XMAS MARKET

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Hatha Yoga class



The Hatha Yoga class led by Tracy Kells at the St Albans Community Centre made the most of a sunny day in August to do their moves out on the deck. Yoga helps create strong, flexible bodies and a relaxed peaceful mind. The group usually meets in the centre's hall on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and caters for all ages and abilities. ☞

Situation Vacant: Kohinga St Albans Community Centre is looking for a cleaner for 6 hours per week. Generally early morning, days are flexible. For further information email: communitycentre@stalbens.gen.nz or phone 972 5534

Nurse Maude Hospice Shop

Every dollar spent supports our Hospice




Our new Hospice Shop has just opened at 57 Warrington Street and it's full of high-quality clothing and accessories at a fraction of the retail price so you can shop your heart out. Donations of clean, good quality clothing, bags and shoes will be welcomed with open arms.

Labels include:
 Verge
 Paula Ryan
 David Pond
 Lemon Tree
 Max
 MacPac
 Kathmandu

Thanks for supporting the Nurse Maude Hospice.

Sustainability

Living a sustainable life

by Maria Lamb

Sustainable living is more than switching out single use disposables with alternatives.

On Saturday, I joined Forest & Bird Youth Christchurch for a tree planting session at Mugford Reserve in Bexley. People from different groups volunteered to plant hundreds of trees to protect our waterways and natural habitat. Forest & Bird Youth is a nationwide network of young people doing great mahi, protecting and restoring Aotearoa's wildlife and environment.

St Albans' Primary School celebrated their 150th Jubilee from 15–17 September. On the Sunday, an hour prior to their gala, a small team removed litter from English Park and the school surrounds, a simple action to welcome current and past school families and visitors.

It was a successful mission, as a crate of recyclables was recovered, washed and sorted. In total, five sacks of rubbish were transported to the Eco Drop.

Much gratitude to Alice Holmes, Melissa Ronayne and Euan Johnston and a shout out to Keep Christchurch Beautiful for the cleaning kit donated.

Spring is here with the cherry blossoms in full view along Harper Avenue. These warmer temps invite us to be outside amongst nature. If you don't have the space for a home garden, or lack time to manage one, connect with the St Albans Community Centre's garden, a wee gem in the heart of St Albans.



The same weekend St Albans School celebrated its 150th jubilee, volunteers were busy cleaning up St Albans Creek at English Park (top photos) and Forest and Bird volunteers planted trees in Bexley Reserve to boost tree numbers and combat the effects of climate change.



It feeds into a community food share pantry situated out the front of the centre on Colombo Street. If you have an abundance of fruit or vegetables in your own garden, consider donating some kai for others to enjoy.

Maria Lamb@www.facebook.com/TidyKiwiNZ ☞



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Hall@Kōhinga/St Albans Community Centre

Address: 1049 Colombo Street, St Albans
Entry and Carpark: 130 Caledonian Road

Contact:
Pastor Cornelius 021 258 2731
Jeanette 027 463 8367



Rehua Marae

Hauora Hui

Thursday 5th October 2023
 From 9:30am (Powhiri 10am)
 Rehua Marae,
 79 Springfield Rd,
 St Albans, Christchurch

All are welcome to join us to hear from multiple health providers for a fun informative morning followed by a shared lunch.

Mā tō rourou, mā tōku rourou, ka ora te tangata
 "Your basket of kai and my basket of kai, everyone will be well nourished."

Please email Linda (Nurse) to register your interest
Linda@rehuamarae.org.nz or call (03) 355-5615



Residents share information to fight city crime

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and car break-ins appear almost daily on the St Albans, Edgware, Mairehau and Merivale area Community Group page.

Networking and sharing information, including camera footage, works. One prolific thief was arrested in September, partly due to people banding together and sharing information on the page.

The crimes are committed mainly late at night or in the early hours of the morning and as thieves become more brazen it is even happening in broad daylight. In August, windows were smashed in two properties on Madras Street and valuables taken.

She does not want to scare people but in September, Alice said intruders were seen scoping out Bishop St, Westminster St and several other streets. "There's lots of quality security camera footage of people wandering up driveways."

If you see envelopes strewn along the footpath they probably have been pinched from a letterbox. Bank cards left in letterboxes are easily lifted, as a social media commentator on social media told readers early in September. It cost her when her bank account was also raided. If you are getting a new bank card, collect it from the bank, and get parcels delivered to NZ Post outlets to be picked up.

Businesses targeted

It's not just homes and cars being robbed; businesses are also targeted. Cranford Ale House was robbed one Sunday evening in May around 9.15pm. A vape shop in Papanui installed two

gigantic concrete blocks on the footpath to deter ram raiding and many dairies selling cigarettes have installed fog cannons. Recently, the Rutland St Dairy was raided twice in a few weeks and a vape shop in Barbadoes St (which sells a replacement product to cigarettes) was attacked.

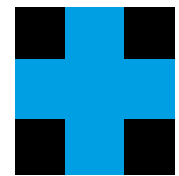
Political parties would have us believe that crime is rampant and getting worse. It's an election year and talking tough attracts party votes. ACT and National want criminals to face the consequences of their actions, with tougher sentences and controls on gangs.

The ACT party, painting the current government as soft on fighting crime, claims ram raids nationwide have increased 465 per cent in two years. Labour points out ram raids (driving cars into shop windows) have dropped from a nationwide peak of 116 in August 2022 to 35 in August 2023. The Green Party prefers a restorative justice approach that addresses underlying social causes of crime.

Police are often too busy to investigate some crimes (as one Coles Pl resident found out), leaving residents and local networks to deal with the aftermath.

The victim support and police websites have useful suggestions, such as keeping valuables and car keys out of sight of windows, putting stays on windows, fitting alarms and networking with neighbours. For more suggestions on keeping safe, research victimsupport.org.nz.

Alice and other residents would prefer more than just helpful advice, perhaps a police presence or patrol in the evenings and early mornings. And they could also keep a watch on speeding traffic while they did so. ☹



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General election 2023

Take the time to cast your vote

by Belinda Carter

The general election is fast approaching. By the time you read this early voting will have started, at council service centres and libraries, from October 2. The main voting takes place on October 14.

Take your voting card (it should be in the mail shortly) with you to the St Albans Community Centre (or another voting place). If you don't have one talk to the election staff at the entrance who can help you get one. It tells the voting officials, dressed in orange vests and seated at tables, where to find you on the electoral roll and issue voting papers.

You have two votes, one for a party and one for the electorate candidate, which could be Christchurch Central or Te Tai Tonga if you are on the Māori roll. There are 19 parties contesting the election. You can vote for a party that is different from the candidate's party. The party vote helps determine how many list MPs a party gets into parliament.

If in doubt what to do or you need help, talk to the election staff near the door. Extra help can be given to those with a disability, such as limited sight. ☹

Christchurch Central



Mark Arneil

New Zealand First Party
<https://www.nzfirst.nz>



Mark Arneil has extensive high-level management experience from New Zealand and abroad, overseeing diverse portfolios in hospitality, leisure, and events. In the United Kingdom he had a management consultancy business.

He says his skills, serving local government, corporations, family businesses and not for profits are highly transferable to parliament.

His diverse leadership skill set includes adaptability and well-balanced strategic decision-making to develop policies that address short and long-term issues.

"My negotiation expertise understands fiscal reality yet values cultural diversity, and promotes unity. A skill that will be vital in achieving positive outcomes across government departments. I constantly optimise fiscal and operational opportunities, prioritise customer and stakeholders' outcomes, while utilising transformational leadership practices.

He promises to prioritise accessibility for his constituents and collaborate with community boards and local organisations, as schedule permits. "Through my existing relationships with resident-facing council departments, I'll strengthen local-central government engagement for improved resident outcomes."

Mark says Christchurch Central residents share common concerns with all New Zealanders. They want values restored, prefer unity over separatism, crime addressed and exports boosted. They value hard work and offer hope to those doing it hard. "[NZFirst] aims to help Kiwi battlers with a hand up, not handouts, and restore balance through our common-sense policies."



Michael Britnell

Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis
Party candidate for
Christchurch Central.
<https://www.alcp.org.nz>



Not surprisingly, for a member of the ALCP, Michael Britnell's main interest is cannabis law reform. "A criminal conviction is life shattering for a herb now deemed a medicine and legal for personal use in many countries."

A member of ALCP for 27 years, this shows dedication to an issue needing resolution.

"I have a deep understanding of failure of prohibition which is a major engine of crime. It is hypocritical to continue to criminalise the cannabis community when many members of parliament admit using cannabis using their 'student licence' and denying the rights of 1.4 million kiwis who voted YES in the 2020 cannabis referendum."

He is a good listener, which is the best way to find out constituents' needs. His interests are reading, antique/curio collecting, creative thinking and problem solving.

Michael Britnell has been self-employed for more than 40 years, giving him a long-term view of needs for the economy. He is interested in environmental solutions, social cohesion, and world peace.

On a local level, he wants to see Christchurch Central look after its heritage and character. Retaining the tree canopy and planting more trees is a way to help mitigate the climate crisis. Better parking and traffic flow would help inner city businesses succeed. At the same time he would like the local council to reduce spending, as increasing rates impact on rents and contribute to the cost-of-living crisis.



Kahurangi Carter
The Green Party of Aotearoa
www.greens.org.nz



Kahurangi Carter describes herself as an environmentalist with a “relentlessly positive” outlook.

“I’ve held both governance and operations roles in public, private and not-for-profit organisations. A key strength is building relationships which create better outcomes for people and the environment.

She has dedicated her career to cutting climate pollution and waste minimisation. She wants, like the rest of the Green Party, to see a fair tax system that ensures all people in Aotearoa have what they need to live a dignified life.

She says Christchurch Central residents consistently raise the increasing cost of living and climate action as key issues. “No matter what we do or where we live, everyone should have enough to put food on the table, a safe place to call home, and live a good life. The Green Party will take bold action to cut climate pollution at the speed and scale required, and support communities to prepare for the impacts of climate change.

“I am active in the local community through arts, grass-roots community initiatives, social support services, and have regular conversations with local constituents. I love the arts and believe in supporting artists and providing publicly accessible art.

“I also love to spend time in nature. Ōtautahi is the gateway to some of the most beautiful natural environments in the world.”

Matthew Fiskien

ACT party candidate
www.act.org.nz

Unfortunately, Matthew did not respond to any requests for information. Matthew is a university student who came to local prominence because of his stance against the government’s new gun control measures. He also spoke at the 2022 Youth Parliament.



Sarah Jackson
The Animal Justice Party
Aotearoa NZ
<https://animaljustice.org.nz>



A passion for human rights has led Sarah Jackson to focus on animals.

She has immersed herself in many different cultures, religions, and demographics throughout adulthood, worked 14 jobs in four different sectors, which she says proves her adaptability and quest for finding purpose.

She has lived experience of expressing the concerns of others on issues that matter to them and this is what she has to offer “For the past two years, I have been a volunteer for advocacy groups which has led to my organiser’s role that I am currently fulfilling.”

Dale Stephens

National Party Candidate for Christchurch Central

Get Christchurch Central Back on Track

021 426 832
dale.stephens@national.org.nz
national.org.nz/dalesstephens
DaleStephensNZ

Authorised by Dale Aotea Stephens,
2/142 Ferry Rd, Christchurch

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Mark Arneil
Christchurch Central
mark.arnell@nzfirst.nz

Sarah has a four year old daughter and her hobbies include writing, volunteering, animal rescue, gardening, and outdoor adventure. “I have a deep desire for knowledge so I spend countless hours listening to podcasts relating to worldwide current affairs, personal growth, science, and health.”

“I will be present in the community and I will listen to learn. I will be guided by the core values of our party: compassion, equality, non-violence, and sustainability when combatting the issues that are troubling the residents of Christchurch Central.”

New Zealand’s newest political party advocates for animal welfare, such as promoting non-animal testing methods and banning animal exploitation in entertainment. The party wants a Commissioner for Animals to promote their rights and protect them from harm.

Aids to voting

If you want to know more about parties, policies and potential politicians, several tools on the world wide web can help. Online news source The Spinoff lists policies on its policy.nz website. TVNZ’s Vote Compass (votecompass.tvnz.co.nz) asks questions, and your answers reveal which parties you are closely align with and could vote for. Then there’s the Electoral Commission’s official Vote.nz website for everything you need to know about the general election, including information in different languages, where to vote and more.

Your local MP for St Albans

If you would like me to be a guest speaker at your meeting or event, have questions about Government policy, or you would like some help with a problem, contact my office.

Duncan Webb
MP for Christchurch Central
chchcentral@parliament.govt.nz
366 5519

Labour
Authorised by Duncan Webb MP,
Parliament Buildings, Wellington



Dale Aotea Stephens
National Party
www.national.org.nz



Many people would not know this but the National Party candidate is a competitive drummer, competing in IO world championships so far with the NZ Police Pipe Band.

But he will be calling on a wider range of skills, not all of them competitive, if he becomes a member of Parliament.

The self-described “mad sportsman” was educated in Christchurch and has several tertiary qualifications in law, business and public policy. Prior to 2000, Dale was a police officer and serious crime investigator. He currently owns a gym in central Christchurch and continues his extensive involvement in central government, the public and private sectors at senior level, often as board chair, chief executive or director.

Dale (Te Rarawa) is fluent in te reo, tikanga and culture, something he says is “hugely advantageous” when working in partnership with te ao Māori. He has been involved with Māori investment companies and as a director of Māori partnership at NZ Trade and Enterprise for many years.

Door knocking in the electorate for more than eight months, Dale has met thousands of people and built up a list of key contacts in the community, social and business sectors. He says key issues across the electorate include the cost of living, the state of the health sector, law and

Voting at Kohinga St Albans Community Centre
9 am - 7 pm
Election Day October 14



Kohinga St Albans
Community Centre
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OPENING HOURS

Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	10am - 4pm
Wednesday	10am - 4pm
Thursday	10am - 4pm
Friday	10am - 4pm
Saturday	10am - 4pm
Sunday	10am - 4pm

order and education. In certain suburbs/streets there are concerns around housing intensification, the effect of Air BnBs, roading and drainage and the city council's poorly managed public consultation processes.

And St Albans might see more of him. Apparently, a house has been purchased in the area to make it easy for six adult children and their offspring to visit, something less feasible in an inner-city apartment in a multi-storey block.



Dr Duncan Webb

Labour Party

www.labour.org.nz



Dr Duncan Webb has been Christchurch Central MP for six years. He comes from a legal background that includes teaching future lawyers and acting for earthquake-affected homeowners against insurance companies.

More recently as the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, and the Minister for State Owned Enterprises, he has managed stakeholder needs while overseeing reforms around supermarkets, buy-now-pay-later schemes and incorporated societies.

Over the past six years his Christchurch Central staff have dealt with housing, MSD, IRD and a myriad of other issues.

"People need security – somewhere to live, enough money to live on and meaningful things to do."

He is proud of the Claims Resolution Service in Christchurch, set up to deal with earthquake-related problems. "It is a great example of a way to sort out disputes early on with good assistance and advice," Duncan says. These queries disappeared almost overnight as they were dealt with fairly and promptly. The CRS is now helping those affected by the 2023 North Island storms.

The main issues concerning Christchurch Central residents are cost of living, crime and climate change. "The cost of living is hurting a lot of people. Increasing interest rates particularly hurt people with mortgages, but with inflation tracking down we expect to see those come down too," Duncan says. A raft of cost of living measures have been announced, such as removing GST off fruit and vegetables, free dental for under 30s and a \$25 per week increase to the working for families scheme.

Climate change is a major issue and the current government has acted on this, introducing the Zero Carbon 2050 legislation, appointing the Climate Commissioner, restarting the emissions trading scheme, and introduced the clean car discount. Proceeds from the emissions trading scheme have helped reduce coal use across industries although there is more work to do with farming emissions.

Te Tai Tonga



Tākuta Ferris

Te Pati Māori

<https://www.maoriparty.org.nz>



Romaine Ferris is better known as Tākuta or Doc. He's a speaker, artist and composer with the belief we can be better mō āpōpō (for tomorrow).

Takuta has worked at senior leadership level for the past 15 years in his professional mahi but longer in his hapū and iwi. His whānau links to Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Kuia, Ngāti Kahungunu and Ngāti Pōrou to name a few.

Campaigning for Te Pāti Māori is largely happening online because Te Tai Tonga (New Zealand's largest electorate

geographically) is huge, covering the South Island, part of Wellington, Rakiura (Stewart Island) and the Chathams. A hoarding featuring Tākuta has been erected in Cranford St.

The main issue people have raised with the party is the cost of living. "This is universal across Aotearoa. People cannot afford to feed their families and have to pick which bill they pay off.

"Te Pāti Māori and I will be your biggest advocates for housing, for the cost of kai, for trying to ease the cost of living and making sure no one is left behind. We will continue to make mokopuna decisions for you and our tamariki to come."

The party also wants to remove GST off kai and ensure whānau earning less than \$30,000 a year (47% of New Zealanders) pay no income tax.



**Geoffrey Karena
Fuimaono Puhi**

Independent

Geoffrey Karena Fuimaono Puhi, as he will be listed on the voting papers, is sometimes known by other names that reflect family connections.

He has strong views on the colonisation process that has left many Māori people dispossessed of their land, persecuted and mistreated by the government, settlers and society for more than 130 years. He does not hold out much hope for Māori to get what they need through the electoral system because Māori are a minority. He says his ancestors did not sign the Treaty of Waitangi and he regards it as a forgery created by the colonisers. However, he hopes the co-governance process will address the issues and meet their needs.

Some of Geoffrey's ancestors come from an area called Waitahanui, on the eastern side of Lake Taupo. His mother is Ngāti Rehia. He also has family links to the area around Kerikeri in Northland.

[Editorial note: Geoffrey did not answer the standard questions St Albans News sent to all candidates and delivered a piece that was double the word limit. His point of view is relevant to those who are enrolled to vote in the Te Tai Tonga electorate, so we have included a brief summary]



Rebecca Robin

Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis
Party

<https://www.alcp.org.nz>



A "hikoi baby", Rebecca Robin has been on marches since she was a young 'un, marching for women's rights and gay rights back in the 90s.

Rebecca's iwi is Ngāti Kahungunu Ki Te Wairoa. She has worked for cannabis law reform for 10 years, talking to people about how cannabis being illegal has affected them and helped gather signatures for the cannabis as medicine campaign that resulted in CBD being available in Aotearoa.

She wants cannabis legalised so people can grow their own and don't get penalised. Other issues that concern her

are the high cost of living and the need to keep Aotearoa clean.

Rebecca also works at events to raise funds for suicide prevention. A message of healing comes through her songs, which you can listen to on Spotify. As a singer songwriter she performs all over Aotearoa but being a parent is her greatest achievement, she says, referring to her beautiful, kind-hearted tamariki.

She connects with the people of Aotearoa mostly through social media. If you want to reach out to Rebecca follow the links:

<https://linktr.ee/rubykushmusic>



Rino Tirikatene

Labour Party

www.labour.org.nz



Rino is an experienced New Zealand politician, who has represented Māori in Te Tai Tonga since the 2011 election. He has Ngāi Tahu and Ngāti Hine connections and continues a whānau tradition as family members have been MPs for Southern Māori for 73 years (three generations). He's also Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth and Minister for Courts.

Prior to entering Parliament, he practised commercial law and for 15 years worked in Māori economic development roles, including Chief Executive of the Federation of Māori Authorities and as a senior manager for Ngāi Tahu Seafood.

"I'm on the ground across the motu working with iwi and communities, committed to building an enduring relationship with Māori that delivers on partnership, protection, and participation."

Rino identified housing, health and cost of living as issues that concern voters. He says a Labour government would continue to roll out the largest ever investment in Māori housing through Whai Kāinga Whai Oranga. The Government had also reset the health system to achieve equitable outcomes for Māori through a record multiyear investment. Its 10-point Cost of Living Plan, including the removal of GST from fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables, offers significant benefits for whānau.

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'It's time to learn self defence'

Kohinga St Albans Community Centre • 1049 Colombo St

St Albans and beyond

Tired villa rejuvenated as home decor boutique



A passion project has given new life to the old villa at 8 Cranford St in the heart of St Albans and saved it from demolition.

The paint on the house at 8 Cranford St was flaking and the interior was dated and needed rejuvenating.

It is now home to Belish Boutique, a quirky and unique homestore run by Jackie Henry after Simon Basset Smith from SBS construction transformed the old house inside and out.

"The owner of the old house,

Bronwyn Williams didn't skip a beat when I told her what I wanted to do with it", Jackie says.

Although there is further work to be done on the building, Jackie says it is great to be open and looks forward to meeting local residents to show them Belish's unique collection of one-off or limited edition furniture and other items of home decor.

The house was home to the Collingwood family between 1950 and 1990. ☼

Nurse Maude hospice shop relocates to Warrington St

Nurse Maude has moved its hospice shop, selling mainly quality second hand clothing, from Shirley to unit 9/57 Warrington Street, near the top end of Barbadoes Street. Nurse Maude is currently raising funds to build a purpose-built hospice with dedicated areas for children, ensuite rooms with garden views and areas for families to

have a break. They are currently operating the hospice (offering end of life care) from a floor in the care home. A giant thermometer in the window of their Merivale shop suggests they have raised about 60 per cent of their \$10million target. For more information about the planned hospice visit: <https://nursemaude.org.nz/donate> ☼

St Albans parks and gardens

Spring has sprung at Packe St park

By Helen Kidd

Spring is here. The kowhai is in full golden glory, the freesias, daffodils and other bulbs are out in profusion, blossom is everywhere, and the veggie garden at Packe St is showing promise of many meals to come.

Keeping ahead of the weeds is an ongoing task, as the warmer weather encourages growth in all plants. Smaller, soft weeds are left on the soil as mulch, and dug in to provide nutrients, while larger ones are chopped into small pieces and added to the compost bins.

The veggie beds are being cleared for new plantings. Broad beans are already

well established, French, and runner beans can also be sown now. Pumpkin, cucumber, and courgettes will be sown in prepared, compost-rich soil. Brassica seedlings - cabbage, cauliflower, and broccoli - have been added to the silverbeet, spinach, and lettuce already growing there.

Seedlings are growing in a warm sheltered environment created when plastic soft drink bottles are cut in half to form cloches. Meanwhile the herb garden is getting a makeover and the 'pizza' garden in the next few weeks will be planted with tomatoes and basil.

A phantom pruner has been busy recently tidying up some of the fruit trees. Thank you.

The garden always needs more hands, especially at this time of the year, and it does not matter if new volunteers lack experience as the co-ordinators will find something useful for them to do. Afternoon tea served at working bees, currently on Mondays and Thursday afternoons from 2-4pm, helps sustain the workers. Keep a watch on the noticeboard outside Packe St park and the Packe St facebook page for any changes in times. ☼

Fruit trees gifted to community gardens

Packe St Park and Kōhinga Mārā have both been gifted fruit trees from Waimea Nursery.

The trees donated to the St Albans Community Centre include two plum trees (one of which produces fruit suitable for drying into prunes), nectarine, peach and cherry. Kōhinga Mārā is now looking for large barrels or



planters for the trees and these can be dropped off at 130 Caledonian Rd.

Packe St Park and garden also received a gift of five fruit trees.

A total of 250 were gifted by the nursery to the Christchurch Community Gardens Association. These are expected to produce fruit in a season or two. ☼

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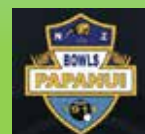
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Edgware Pool edges closer

A \$150,000 grant from the NZ Community Trust for the replacement of Edgware Pool is a big boost for fundraising.

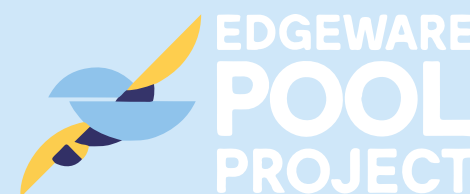
Chair Lynne O'Keefe said the pool group appreciated the support and confidence NZCT has shown by investing in this project.

Along with the \$3.3 million already raised, \$150,000 from the NZCT has increased the total to \$3,450,000. However, this funding is tagged for the construction of the pool and the immediate need

is for \$50,000, which is required to complete construction documents.

A funding campaign was launched late August for the \$50,000, with just under \$18,000 raised so far. Once the drawings are available and consent lodged, funding will be available to commence the project.

To read more about the pool project visit edgwarepool.co.nz



We urgently need \$50,000 to get this project underway

Construction costs for the pool are completely funded by grants, \$50,000 is needed to cover architect and consent fees.

Community Notices

Are you a model boat enthusiast? Interested in sharing and comparing your models with others? Contact SARA@stalbens.gen.nz to connect with others.

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: Need help? Ask us. It's a free service. Fendalton Library, 4 Jefferies Road 0800 367 222 www.cab.org.nz

Coffee and conversation: Every Wednesday 10.30am - 12.30pm at Kōhinga St Albans Community Centre. Join us for coffee and conversation. All Welcome. Koha for coffee appreciated.

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

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

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

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

Edgware Croquet Club: Forfar Street in St Albans Park. Assoc Croquet Thur and Sat 9.30-12 and Golf Croquet 12.45 -3pm. We welcome visitors and new members. Contact Jan 021 30 3843

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

Gambling Harm? Salvation Army Oasis: free counselling and support for anyone affected by gambling harm, whether it's their gambling or someone else's. Ph (03) 365 9659 or call in to 126 Bealey Ave. Website: oasis@salvationarmy.org.nz

HOUSIE: Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham St North, every Thursday at 12.30 - 2.15pm. \$2 per card. Afternoon tea to follow. All welcome. Numbers limited. Gold coin donation. Enquiries ph 372 9224. Visit website: www.lcmchurch.org.nz.

Justice of the Peace available at Kōhinga St Albans Community Saturdays 10.30 - 12.30.

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

Mary Potter Community Centre Talk: Irish dancing career and travels with Shealagh Hallissey Monday 9 October, 1.30-2.30pm, 442 Durham St North. Cuppa to follow. Gold coin donation. Enquires ph 372 9224.

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 03 342 6173 or email vp@prostate.org.nz

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

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

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

Shirley International Playgroup: a fun playgroup for mothers and under fives from any cultural background. Fridays during school term time. 9:30am 11:30am at the Shirley Hub, 69B

Briggs Road, Mairehau. \$2 per session or \$10 for the term. Call Shauna at Delta Trust on 03 389 0219 for more information.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

St Albans Uniting Church, 36 Nancy Ave. Services Sundays at 10am.

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.

Experienced Nanny seeking a part time position on a Wednesday and Friday. Excellent references. Please call or text Liz on; 027-451-6678" **Singing lessons available:** Experienced local tutor. All ages welcome. Please ph or text Meredith 027 696 6290

Yoga Class: Tuesday and Thursday

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

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

TRADIES

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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.

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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

Support Services

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

- **Aviva, live free from violence:** Free Canterbury-based 24h support line: +64 800 2848 2669
- **Emergency Services:** call 111
- **Allies online mentoring** offered by young Muslim adults to Muslim teens run by Youthline. Free text 234 or phone 0800 376 633
- **After hours counselling:** Call on 027 694 5275 or email at: murray@afterhourscounselling.co.nz
- **Are You OK?** Family violence helpline 0800 456 450.
- **Comcare Trust:** For health or addiction issues. Tel: (03) 377 7020, Fax: (03) 961 0794, Email: enquiries@comcare.org.nz
- **Counsellors** available via text: 1737
- **Depression:** 0800 111 757 or text 4302
- **Eating Disorder Recovery Support:** Contact: 021 195 6766.
- **Elder Abuse Response Service:** 0800 EA NOT OK/0800 32 668 65 (available 24/7) Email: support@elderabuse.nz or text 5032
- **Family Violence Information Line:** 0800 456 450 (available 9.00am -11.00pm daily)
- **Family Drug Support Aotearoa New Zealand.** Tel: 03 2818 740. www.fds.org.nz

- **Hey Bro helpline:** 0800 HeyBro/0800 439 276 - supporting men to be free from violence
- **Kidsline:** For under 18s, 0800 54 37 54 (speak to a Kidsline Buddy 4pm-9pm weekdays)
- **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 National Call Line:** 0800 88 33 00
- **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 with multi-lingual staff. 0800 742 584
- **Suicidal?** Phone 0508 828 865
- **Worried about a child:** 0508 FAMILY/0508 326 459 (available 24/7) - Oranga Tamariki - Ministry for Children, formerly Child, Youth & Family
- **Youthline:** 0800 376 633 (Free TXT 234)

St Albans events

If your organisation is running an event in St Albans, let us know the date, the time, the place and a little bit about the event. Send an email to news@stalbens.gen.nz

5 October, from 9:30 (Powhiri 10am): Rehua Marae, 79 Springfield Road, St Albans
October 8, 2-5pm: Kōhinga 1049 Colombo St, Universal Martial Arts open day.
October 14: 9am-7pm: Kōhinga, 1049 Colombo St. Election Day - Remember to vote

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Community Funday

Wednesday 4th October 2023
1pm - 3.30pm
St Albans Uniting Church
36 Nancy Ave

- Bouncy Castle
- Face Painting
- Sausage Sizzle
- Popcorn
- Big Games
- Arts and Crafts
- Coffee & Biscuits

Bring your friends and enjoy the entertainment

St Albans and beyond

Bin saga comes to an end

The messy clothing bin at the corner of Abberley Crescent and Springfield Rd has been removed, requiring no further action from Christchurch City Council. Although the Council has the power to have the bins removed when items flow on to the footpath, this was not needed in the end. It brings to a close a messy episode, much to the relief of neighbours.

Spellathon fundraises for playground

A spellathon run by Mairehau Primary School has raised a "gobsmacking" \$17,874.75. Most of this will be spent on refreshing the playground eg: hopscotch and 4square.

Abberley park drains upgraded

Toilet blockages at Abberley Park this summer should be a thing of the past with work carried out in early September.

Quake-broken earthenware pipes were replaced and a pump station installed. The pump station linked to the reticulated system replaces a (longer) gravity system that used to run through private property in Ranfurly St.

There was little disruption to park users during the few days it took city council contractors to do the work as they worked around events in the hall and access to the two playgrounds was maintained.

Bus service more frequent

The 28 bus now (renumbered 27) is now seen more frequently, running every 20 minutes from Northwood along Cranford and Colombo St rather than half hourly before heading to Huntsbury. To go to Lyttelton now requires a change to Bus 8 at the Interchange.

Keep St Albans free of graffiti

SARA is looking for people who regularly use local streets in St Albans and would like to help keep St Albans graffiti free. The newly-formed St Albans Graffiti Team aims to have St Albans recognized as a CCC Graffiti Clean Neighbourhood. To register the patch of St Albans you care for or to find out how you can become a graffiti volunteer contact graffiti@stalbands.gen.nz

Stalls wanted for Christmas market

The annual Edgeware Christmas market, planned for the Community Centre on December 2, is an annual market, run by the Residents' Association, giving an opportunity for local trade to offer locally-made goodies for Christmas stockings and hampers and for community groups to do a spot of fundraising. Stalls can be booked by emailing sara@stalbands.gen.nz

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