

Council keeps rates rise below inflation level

by Belinda Carter

Councillors have managed to keep the city rates rise below the level of inflation – 6.7% in March – with an average rates increase of 6.41 per cent.

The rates increase for the average residential ratepayer will be 6.60%, or an extra \$4.01 a week. The actual rates rise per household depends on the amount the valuation of houses increased in an area when carried out in August 2022, so these figures could vary.

Don't be late paying rates and excess water invoices (now allowing up to 900 litres per day) as penalties have increased from 7-10 per cent.

The Council's Annual Plan for 2023/24 includes \$605.8 million for day-to-day costs of running the city, \$190.7 million for debt servicing and repayment, and \$746.4 million for its capital programme. There is not much specifically for St Albans or the Innes ward but the St Albans Creek section near St Albans School will have its timber lining renewed for around \$210,000.

"People want us to keep rates down, improve our basic

infrastructure and maintain our community services," Mayor Phil Mauger told the council meeting on June 27. "They also have a strong desire to protect our waterways and water supplies, clean up our environment and reduce our emissions. They also told us to lift our game and deliver on these expectations."

The council has done well to keep rates down below inflation while improving infrastructure, maintaining community services, paying staff the living wage or better and allocating \$2million to a roving team of footpath maintenance crew, all the while dealing with uncertainty and some financial curve balls. Reducing the number of staff vacancies has helped keep the rates low, some unused council property is being sold, and some of the capital endowment fund has been used to offset the rate set.

The draft annual plan can be viewed here: <https://ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/The-Council/Plans-Strategies-Policies-Bylaws/Plans/annual-plan/2023-2024/Draft-Annual-Plan-2023-2024.pdf>

(with some additional reporting from CCC Newsline)



Urban forest plan deemed not ambitious enough

by Belinda Carter

Christchurch City Council's recently adopted urban forest plan has been criticised for not being ambitious enough.

Christchurch resident Greg Partridge, who has been keeping tabs on the Council's trees and intensified housing policies, described the 20% target for the tree canopy to be achieved by 2070 (nearly 50 years hence) as "disappointing". It was particularly disappointing given the achievements of other world cities, with the climate emergency, and the council's strategic priority of "meeting the challenges of climate change through every means available".

It should have been bolder

Street trees in particular, as well as providing shade, soaking up stormwater and sequestering carbon, help keep the streets cooler in summer. The cooling role street trees play was particularly well illustrated by two streets in the same Sydney suburb, which had temperatures 20 degrees apart. Check out: <https://www.9news.com.au/videos/national/powerful-illustration-of-the-effect-trees-can-have-on-cooling-down-suburbs/clev53c0900110jn4kp7on6kf>

Christchurch has been losing tree canopy since 2015, down from 15% in 2015 to 13% in 2019, mainly due to the scorched earth treatment developers have followed, clearing trees and gardens



Christchurch needs more greenspaces and trees like these in St Albans Park

to build multiple units to solve another problem, lack of affordable housing. Although recent figures are not available the figure is likely to have dipped below 13%.

Greg pointed out that places like Sydney (25%) and Melbourne (22%) had already achieved their targets and were planning to plant more trees.

The Austrian capital of Vienna, which has the accolade

continued on page 6



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Published by St Albans Residents Association

New mayor checks out centre



The Mayor, Phil Mauger, visited Kohinga in late June accompanied by Deputy Mayor and Innes ward councillor, Pauline Cotter, to admire the St Albans Community Centre's beauty and learn about its functionality with a view to possibly reusing the design for other community facilities in future.

The Mayor, who was visiting the centre for the first time, was shown around by St Albans Residents Association members who manage the community centre.

Centre staff who manage the building, pointed out some minor glitches with the building that were fixed after its opening in 2021.

The new building, which replaced the quake-damaged community centre, won a NZ Institute of Architects award a year ago. The world-leading pre-fabricated, cross-laminated timber design has made the building low carbon. The net carbon stored in the structural wood is equivalent to 179 tonnes of CO2 emissions (which equates to offsetting the emissions from driving a family car almost one million kilometres). This has contributed towards the city council meeting its climate change goals.

Phil Mauger and Pauline Cotter are pictured here with St Albans History Group leader Brian Spear, centre volunteer Lynne O'Keefe, activator Emma Twaddell and Jean Bell from the SARA committee. ☿

Funding for SARA

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



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SARA Committee

St Albans Residents Association will meet at St Albans Community Centre, 1049 Colombo St. on July 19 at 7pm.

St Albans History Group

Next meeting Monday August 3, 2 pm at the St Albans Community Centre.
Email: brianspear@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

Honey harvested from Kohinga Mārā

The bees did most of the initial work, gathering the golden brown nectar from all over St Albans and depositing it in a hive in the community garden at the back of the community centre where they are looked after by members of the Clever Little Bees organisation. Members of New Horizons Rotary have been selling jars of the food produced for the bee community, including the centre's Winter Market. The service club also meets at the community centre monthly on a Wednesday evening. For more information visit: <https://rotarynewhorizons.org.nz> ☿



Truly local honey collected from the centre beehive is available for sale. Contact the New Horizons Rotary Club.

The centre will be closed on July 14 for Matariki public holiday

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

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

SARA holds its second winter market

The weather threw a bit of a dampener on the Edgware Winter Market on June 24 held in the St Albans community centre. Sports games had been cancelled and many people were probably hibernating at home.

Those who did venture out enjoyed themselves and went home with double sided hand bags, handmade jewellery, winter jackets, potted plants, jars of honey or pickles, cushions or scarves all at recession-busting prices.

Individual hobbyists and promoters of ideas, like Tidy Kiwi's sustainability stall rubbed shoulders and chatted with anyone who passed by their stalls and a few raised a tidy sum for their cause. The next SARA market will be in early December. ☿



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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 SH*
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
Sunday	6.30pm	Tai Chi Well

*SH - School holidays observed

Free tutoring for pupils

High school students are offering to tutor year 4-8 pupils (senior primary and intermediate) in Maths and English for free at the St Albans Community Centre. The sessions run from 1-2.30pm during school terms. For further information about Study Hall phone 022 4790628 or email thestudyhall2023@gmail.com

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Sustainability

Swapouts for green living

by Maria Lamb (aka Tidy Kiwi)

Already we are well into the middle of 2023 and a timely reminder that "Plastic Free July" has once again come around. Looking globally, if all consumers could reduce their reliance on plastic imagine the result? It would have an incredibly far-reaching effect on our environment, but it relies on each of us doing something within our means.

Sometimes the smallest change, even just the one that later becomes a habit, has the most lasting effect and then before you know it, you'll be ready to make one more change. As a collective society we have the power to make a difference and decide what packaging and consumables we bring into our homes. It doesn't need to be daunting; it just needs to be looked at individually. What works for one may not work for others.

How to get started in your own household? Keep things simple and make one change only. Below are a list of ideas and swap outs that you can try out. If you're already doing one of these things, then take on another until it becomes natural beyond July.

- Keep some reusable shopping bags (that conveniently fold so easy to carry) in your bag, car and at work.
- For school lunches, use a metal drink bottle, lunch container, beeswax wraps or paper lunch bags.
- If you have a young family, look at investing in a reusable nappy system. Years ago, while visiting a baby expo we spent \$500 and wondered what we'd done, but all those liners, cloth nappies (pre-fold creases) and outer wraps were incredible. This is well before I was on my sustainable journey but curious. That \$500 investment stretched out to three children. Disposable nappies are bought in the millions, and all go to landfill – and expensive!
- Take your own container into shops when purchasing items from the deli or your local butcher. When ordering a takeaway dish, take your own container and save unnecessary waste.
- For the ladies, you could invest in peri pants or a menstrual cup to prevent needless wastage heading to landfill.
- Make your own cleaning sprays Grandma's way, with water and vinegar.

Lastly, have a Keep Cup on your office desk or in your car, or consider staying in café for that well deserved cuppa. Here in Aotearoa we throw away approximately 295 million single use cups per year. Unfortunately, many are put into kerbside collection Green (organics) and Yellow (recycling) bins where they contaminate the load. These cups are made with plastic lining making them impossible to break down if not sent to a commercially controlled compost facility. Ignore the recycling advertising, along with the "biodegradable and compostable" messaging, they can only go in your red bin – if you decide to buy one. Alternatively, put them in your own compost but be prepared to wait a long time for them to break down.

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Sustainability

Are you recycling correctly?

by Maria Lamb (aka Tidy Kiwi)

Recycling is a topic that brings much confusion and frustration. What can we recycle in our kerbside bin here in Christchurch differs from other districts and areas. While visiting Auckland you might be surprised to learn that lids can stay on bottles, they also have a glass collection scheme that separates the colours. But let's focus on Ōtautahi/Christchurch where we live.

What can you put in your recycling bin?

Plastic containers (with lids removed) numbers 1,2,5. No smaller than your hand such as a single yoghurt pottle that comes in a 6-pack. Remembering we can't recycle those either because they are a No 6. Container can be no bigger than 3 litres because it can break down the separators at the processing plant, which would be catastrophic.

Plastic bottles with the numbers 1,2, and 5 (with the lids removed and put in red bin).

- Clean cardboard that has been flattened.
- Clean paper such as what you receive in the mailbox, but no smaller than a standard mail envelope.
- Aluminium cans that are NOT squashed.
- Clear and colour glass bottles (lids removed) - no broken glass accepted.
- Metal tins (lids if still attached can be pushed into tin, but if fully removed put in red bin)
- Aerosol cans – that you would use in your home only. Anything toxic used outside, must be put in red bin.

Please remember to rinse all items before placing in yellow bin.

If you keep your wine tops, beer tops, can tabs and other metal jar lids – please separate and drop off at Kohinga, St Albans Community Centre where we have a collection station set up for these.

One thing to remember, do not put any gardening plastic plant pots in the yellow bin. This is the confusing message that trips many up. They are a No 5 Plastic. So why can't I place in my yellow bin? These pots have contained soil and do not meet the standards to be recycled into food grade plastic. Mitre 10 has a take back scheme for these, along with light bulbs, polystyrene and batteries.



In the next STAN issue, I will publish all the take back recycling schemes that I am aware of here in Ōtautahi Christchurch. Here is one tip before I sign off, you know those alternative plant-based milks and some juice brands that come in Tetrapak packaging? They cannot go in your recycling bin because they are made up of plastic, aluminium, bio plastic and cardboard. These can be accepted at the three Eco Drops in Christchurch based in Bromley, Wigram, and Styx Mill.

As the temperatures dip lower, don't forget to drink water daily and make the time for a brisk walk.

Maria Lamb is known as Tidy Kiwi <https://www.facebook.com/TidyKiwiNZ/> and organised the recycling station at the St Albans Community Centre.

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More plastic items being phased out

by Belinda Carter

From July 1 more plastic items will disappear from supermarkets and other retail stores as the Government phases out plastic items.

These include plastic straws, plastic tableware and produce labels.

Plastic straws have already been phased out in some places and now it gets serious. Some people are exempt eg: those with disabilities or health issues. Alternatives to plastic straws include metal and paper.

Tableware, like plastic plates and cutlery, is being phased out. Alternatives include items made from bamboo and even potato, paper and stainless steel, some of which have been available for a while from food stalls at city council events. By all means use what you have but you won't be

able to buy plastic versions after July 1.

Plastic produce bags are likely to be replaced with paper bags if they aren't already gone. Mesh bags are another way to carry fresh produce. Exemptions include items that come pre-packaged in plastic before they reach the supermarket eg: a head of lettuce, bags of potatoes etc.

Those annoying tiny sticky labels placed on individual items of fruit: Well they are going and not a month too soon. However, that phase out will take until 2025.

More information here: <https://environment.govt.nz/publications/plastic-products-banned-from-july-2023/>

July is plastic free month with free online seminars planned. Links to these are available here: <https://linktr.ee/plasticfreejulyaotearoa>

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Urban forest plan not ambitious enough

continued from page 1

of being the world's most liveable city, has an impressive 38.5% tree canopy coverage, no doubt due to the Urban Forest Plan that the Viennese council implemented nearly 50 years ago. The German capital city, Berlin, is renowned for its 430,000 street trees, which have earned it a reputation as one of Europe's greenest cities.

In New York, a citizen-led drive planted one million trees (about one tree for every 11 residents), proving so popular that they achieved the target well ahead of schedule. "If the Council here pushed a similar initiative, we would see about 47,000 trees planted," Greg said.

Several community groups in the city expressed interest in being involved in community-led actions to improve the tree canopy, which will remain a mixture of exotic and native trees. Submitters also wanted to see more protection given to trees and for more trees to be added to a heritage list.

Council passed the plan on June 7, following 290 public submissions, aiming for a 20% tree canopy by 2070, but will continually review this plan during annual plan and long term plan discussions.

"It's great to adopt the final version of the Ōtautahi Christchurch Urban Forest Plan 2023 today," Mayor Phil Mauger commented on June 7. We all know that trees play a vital role in our response to climate change, as well as contributing to the wellbeing and liveability of our neighbourhoods."

Priority for tree planting will be given to areas like Wigram and Hornby, where the 2019 survey showed the tree canopy was below 10%. St Albans is not among the lowest for canopy coverage, but given the property clearances, before multi units developments have been built to intensify housing density, that figure could well change in the next survey.

The full plan is available here:

<https://ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Environment/Trees/Urban-Forests/FINAL-Urban-Forest-Plan.pdf>

Clothing bin saga continues

Christchurch City Council says the clothing bin near the corner of Abberley Crescent and Springfield Rd is on private property and the bin suppliers should be phoned first on 029 230 4439 or 029 272 5501. If clothing and other items like chairs and kitchen gadgets creep over the footpath and on to the road, phone the council or use the Snap Send Solve app and the council can send a road maintenance contractor to clean it up.

Christchurch City Council Transport Operations Manager Stephen Wright said the Council can advise the property owner to deal with the matter or for more serious issues the compliance team can issue notices to the property owner or bin owner asking them to remove the rubbish due to public nuisance and creating a hazard.

Short cycleway pushed for St Albans Street

St Albans and Merivale could be linked by a small cycleway running from the Papanui Parallel in Rutland St and Merivale Mall, former local body election candidate Harrison McEvoy says.

He thinks the northside of the street would be ideal for a bi-directional route. It has only two intersections - compared to the south where there are seven - and would not require traffic lights at the intersection with Springfield Rd.

St Albans St is quite a wide road and could easily absorb a short 800 metre long cycleway. All it needs is some upright bollards and planter boxes to provide some protection from vehicle traffic. It would be a "local connector" cycleway that links into one or more of the larger cycleways, helping school students cycling to school, particularly those based in Papanui Rd.

The community board referred the matter to council staff who will look at Harrison's proposal as part of its work plan.

(Harrison spoke to the Waipapa community board during an open forum session near the start of the meeting. Any individual like Harrison or community group (as the Wednesday Wheelies did the same day) can do likewise but need to contact the council first to be added to the agenda will be limited to a five minute presentation)

Cost of sending a letter reaches \$2

Sending a letter becomes even more expensive from July 1 as state-owned enterprise NZ Post puts up the price of buying a stamp for a standard letter. It has gone up 15 per cent from \$1.70 to \$2. In June last year the cost of a stamp was \$1.50 with oversize and overweight letters costing even more. The previous increase, in 2022, was due to disruption caused by lockdowns. This time it's due to higher operational and labour costs, rising inflation, carbon emissions, new mail sorting facilities and technology, according to the NZ Post website. Limited postal services in St Albans operate from the supermarket but PO boxes and bill paying services require a visit to Parris and Jeanne gift shop/post office in Merivale. For the tax year ending June 2022, NZ Post, which also offers courier services, made a profit of \$102 million, \$70m more than the previous year.

Support group helps adoptees



A group has been set up in Christchurch and is reaching out to those who were adopted, particularly from the 1940s to 1980s. The Adoptees Support Group meets on the third Monday evening of each month from 7-9pm in the Halswell Community Hub at 381 Halswell Rd. The support group is limited to adoptees and provides a safe and confidential space to express feelings. For more information email adoptionchch@gmail.com or contact Keri on:

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St Albans teacher who became a city councillor

St Albans School teacher Ada Wells was a key figure in the fight to get women the vote and later became the first woman to be elected as a Christchurch city councillor but she was known for other things.

Ada Pike was born on 29 April 1863 at Shepherd's Green, in Oxfordshire England to William Henry and Maria (nee Beckett) Pike. She sailed to New Zealand with her parents and siblings on the "Merope", arriving in Lyttelton on 31 October 1873.

She attended Avonside Primary School in 1874-75 and Christchurch West Secondary School from 1876 to 1881. In 1882 she began studying for a BA at Canterbury College. After a period of employment at both Christchurch West and Christchurch Girls' High, she joined the staff at St Albans School in 1887 and taught there until 1892.

Aged 20, she married Harry Wells, a fellow passenger, at St Saviour's church in Sydenham. Twelve years older than Ada, Harry was the cathedral organist and choirmaster. He had a violent temper and was fond of alcohol. He was apparently a poor financial manager and Ada became the family breadwinner. She was forced to take on the teaching positions and also treated private patients for massage and healing, a technique she learned from her mother.

Following a disagreement with James Speight the St Albans School headmaster, Ada was denied leave and forced to resign her position in 1892.

She established the Canterbury Women's Institute, (CWI), an organisation similar to the Women's Franchise Leagues in other parts of the country and was its president for many years.

While Kate Sheppard was the public face of the campaign for women's right to vote, Ada was an organiser from the 1880s in the women's suffrage movement and worked within the Women's Christian Temperance Union NZ (WCTUNZ)..

From 1899 to 1906, Ada was an elected member of the Ashburton and North Canterbury United Charitable Aid Board. She was associated with the Prison Gate Mission for the rehabilitation of former prisoners. The National Council of Women was formed in 1896 and Ada was the first secretary.

Together with her involvement in these organisations, she supported the Peace movement and was anti-militarism and anti-conscription. She worked with other groups providing aid to conscientious objectors. She juggled raising and supporting her family while working for the equality of women and this demonstrated her strong character.

Ada and Harry had four children, Christabel Mary in



The suffrage memorial on the Kate Sheppard Reserve near the Worcester St bridge features women involved in the fight for women to get the right to vote. Kate Sheppard is third from the left with the petition signed by many women. Ada Wells is fourth looking over Kate's left shoulder. White camellias are placed on the memorial on September 19. This year marks 130 years since all New Zealand women received the right to vote.

When you see playgrounds like this one in St Albans Park thank Ada Wells for pushing 120 years ago for the installation of children's playgrounds so they had an open space to play in instead of "unwholesome" back yards and streets. This was one of the projects of the Canterbury Children's Aid Society which she led for a time. She was better-known for her involvement, in the campaign to get women the vote in the 1890s.



Ada Wells is the sole woman in a lineup of men in the history room at Kohinga St Albans Community Centre.

1885, Alma Lucy Blanche in 1886, Alice Cecily in 1887 and John Stanley in 1889. The family lived in a number of homes including "Merevale" in Papanui Road, 89 Mays Road (1893-1896), Office Road (Merivale Mall car park site) and Chester Street.

She was 54 and already a grandmother when she campaigned on the Labour ticket for the St Albans Ward of the City Council. The Labour Party had only been formed in 1916, and was strongly against compulsory military service during the First World War. This aligned with her anti-militarism ideals. The final outcome of the 1917 election saw Ada elected as the first women councillor. This is perhaps how she is best remembered.

Many heated discussions were had in the Council Chamber and the newspapers of the day reported on Ada speaking her mind. Harry died on 20 August 1918, and was buried in Linwood cemetery.

Ada again stood for Council in the 1919 election but was unsuccessful.

In her lifetime, Ada was a prominent and, at times, controversial public figure. She played an important role in the advancement of women and was a tireless campaigner in the fight for women's equality and economic independence. Her views were no doubt strengthened by her own marital experience.

She died in Christchurch on 22 March 1933 and was buried at Waimairi cemetery.

Brian Spear from the St Albans History Group wrote the main article, with contributions from other History Group members Daph Parkins and Belinda Carter.

Prescription charges

Most prescriptions from the chemist will be free from July 1 onwards, after an announcement by the Government that it is dropping the \$5 charge per item.

However, not all prescriptions will be free. Those from specialists and non-publicly funded prescribers remain at \$15 charged to the patient. Additional costs apply if a prescription medicine is not fully funded, and pharmacies can also charge for extra services such as medicine delivery or packaging.

Meanwhile, St Albans Pharmacy did not wait till the free prescriptions scheme came in and in May and June offered free prescriptions to support the local community. The National Party, possibly without thinking it through, has announced its intention to charge for prescriptions again if it ends up as part of the government in October.

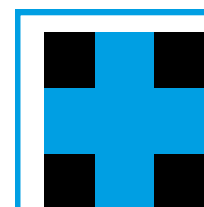


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News from Christchurch Central

Crackdown on vaping to protect kids' health

Do you remember when pubs were full of smoke, every dairy displayed racks of cigarettes and the Blackcaps played in the Rothmans Cup?

Since then, New Zealand has successfully reduced tobacco use to a point where half as many people smoke now compared with 10 years ago.

However, vaping may be the new smoking. While it is an important tool for giving up smoking, too many kids are taking it up and many parents and schools have expressed concerns.

Last month Health Minister Dr Ayesha Verrall announced new measures to curb the uptake of vaping by our young people by:

- cracking down on disposable vapes
- no new vape shops near schools or marae
- stopping kiddie descriptors like "cotton candy", or "jelly donut" flavours deliberately marketed at young people.

From August this year all vapes will need to have removable or replaceable batteries. This limits the sale of cheap, disposable vapes which are popular amongst young people.

Out of sight is out of mind - so any location within 300 metres of schools or marae will be off limits for new vape shops. This will in turn make suburbs safer as these shops are a regular target for break ins. I'm pleased that suburbs like

St Albans will benefit from extra protections, with a marae and a high concentration of schools in the area.

It's a balance between preventing young people from starting to vape, and still having them available as a cessation tool for adults wanting to give up tobacco.

New Zealand has successfully created a society where tobacco products are no longer appealing, but the same needs to apply to vaping. While vaping is less harmful than smoking, the long term effects of vaping are not well known.

Talk to your young people about the effects of vaping, which can include coughing, shortness of breath, dry mouth and throat, headaches, and nausea.

Vapes still contain a small amount of nicotine, which is highly addictive and has side effects like irritability and inability to concentrate.

If you need some guidance, there's some information and resources at these websites.

vapingfacts.health.nz

protectyourbreath.co.nz

Ngā mihi, Dr Duncan Webb, MP for Christchurch Central



Dr Duncan Webb

Vaping stores popping up all over Christchurch

Vape stores have been popping up all over the city like the once-ubiquitous corner groceries. Nationwide, there are reported to be 1290 of them, compared to 900 pharmacies.

In addition to the one in Edgware Village there is now a vape store in St Albans Street another in Barbadoes St and a fourth in Warrington St. These stores were meant to offer people wanting to give up smoking an alternative but their colours and flavours appear to be attracting more recreational users and younger vapers despite an R18 limit.

Ministry of Health statistics show the numbers of teens

smoking had dropped below 5 per cent while the number of 15-17 year olds vaping almost every day had quadrupled to 8 per cent between 2018 and 2022. A recent survey by ASH New Zealand's also showed a 209 per cent increase in vaping among 13-14 year olds. Vaping has been attracting those who have never smoked to use a product that was designed to help people give up smoking.

The Minister of Health recently announced measures to limit access to vaping products from August 2023. See Duncan Webb's column above.

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37 Dover St, off Edgware Rd

Edgware Pool Project

Fundraising quiz:
Pool quizzes on hold till springtime
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EDGEWARE POOL PROJECT

Working bees

Thursday 4 - 6 pm.
Saturday 10am - 12 noon

For more information visit our FB page:
facebook.com/packestreet

packe Street Park & Community Garden

Candidate plans to champion Christchurch

Dale Stephens, National candidate for Christchurch Central says he intends to be a strong and present MP, available when needed, turning up to as many community events as is physically possible and taking the time to listen.

"Christchurch Central has been seriously under-represented in Wellington and I'm now fully devoted to changing that by being present in the community, available when needed, and being a loud and proud champion of the city's needs and issues in Wellington," Dale says.

"I grew up in Christchurch, went to school here and Tarina and I moved back here with some of our six children to finish their education. I worked my way through school, paying my tuition fees at St Andrew's by running (literally) a milk round and working weekends at a concrete business. I joined the Police and studied part-time for degrees at university while working in the force.

"Community involvement has been fundamental to my life. These days, I help out at a social agency that helps

struggling families, with young people in Linwood to turn their life around and make good choices, and at a local food bank. This past year, under Labour, 20% more families have had to ask for basic groceries.

"At work, I've helped kick-start hundreds of innovative new businesses, led two national sports agencies, worked my way up from being a beat cop on the street to a serious-crime investigator and more recently, growing numerous fledgling Māori businesses.

"Not long before lockdown, my wife and I started an inner-city business, and we've also found it tough to keep going. We know just how hard it can be for business in this high inflation, high tax environment. All this has given me an in-depth understanding of the issues facing our communities and our small businesses – the backbone of our economy."

Dale says he's found the big rise in petty crime, with burglaries, car thefts and ramraids all on the increase, is the second biggest issue people raise with



Dale Stephens

him when he's out door-knocking.

"Where we can, we'll help these kids – there's no doubt they've come from difficult family situations. With the serious repeat youth offenders like ram-raiders, National will make sure they face the consequences of their actions but we'll also help them turn their lives around while protecting the public. Locking them up isn't the answer – they need serious help."

(Sponsored)

The main coverage of the 2023 elections will be in the September and October issues of St Albans News. Contact the advertising manager Lynne O'Keefe if you are a candidate who wants to advertise.

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Letter to the editor

Legislate or compensate

It was a lovely evening one Thursday and we were walking the 2.4km home after a special dinner in New Regent St. Springfield Rd was quiet and about 400m from home we saw a bright vertical light on a vehicle on the road. Suddenly it veered right and I thought the motorcyclist wanted to go down Eversleigh St and misjudged the turn.

Before we had time to warn each other, an e-bike charged at us along the pavement at full tilt. How we were not hit is a mysterious miracle. I was too stunned to take a photo (it was about 8.30pm)

Despite writing to my MP (who was on the legislation committee) and a previous Minister of Transport, all I received was a comment from the chairman of the committee to write to the Transport Ministry, who sent me details that basically said anyone can use the footpaths.

As a former cyclist for over 75 years, I am concerned that cyclists and electronic bikes are using the footpaths indiscriminately, without taking notice of any pedestrian. Further, they fail to audibly warn or ring a bell to advise walkers of their presence and expect us to jump out of the way.

This obnoxious culture has to stop and legislation enacted asap before there is a serious accident and who will pick up that bill? Actions speak louder than words.

Dr Peter Tillman, retired family doctor

Editor's comment: According to the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004 Clause 11.11: A person must not ride a cycle on a footpath or on a lawn, garden, or other cultivation forming part of a road. The exception is for delivering mail or newspapers etc into letterboxes. Cars are meant to give way to cyclists, so should cyclists give way to pedestrians? ☞



Cars, scooters, and e-bikes are not allowed on footpaths or grass berms. The damage is evident and will take months to recover.

Guns now need to be registered

Gun owners will have up to five years to register their guns in an online firearms registry now that it has gone live. The registry has been planned since the 2019 mosque massacres and includes firearms parts, pistol carbine conversion kits and restricted weapons. Dealers are also required to register their guns. The gun lobby welcomed the registry launch on June 24 but some owners were less than happy as they thought the scheme was targeting law-abiding licensed owners.

Teens organise pop up shop

Pre loved clothing has been sourced by local teenagers, with the help of organisation Canterbury Birthright to sell affordable clothing for 9-18 year olds. The Good Fit Pop-Up Shop will only be at the Chapel St Centre (68 Harewood Rd) for one day on July 8 from 11am to 3pm. A sausage sizzle will make sure no one goes hungry.

Matariki on its way

Rehua Marae celebrated the forthcoming Matariki with a whanau day on June 24 featuring crafts, performances, storytelling and a hangi. Look out for Tirama Mai (light festival) in Victoria Square, during the evenings, in the week prior to July 15. For activities planned at Turanga library and the Arts Centre (where the observatory is open for a spot of stargazing) check out: <https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/blogs/post/matariki-2023/> The reappearance of the nine Matariki stars around July 13, is a time for whanau to reflect and prepare the ground for the tradition of spring planting. Friday July 14 is a public holiday to mark Matariki

Edgware Mowers and Chainsaws



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*Conditions and exclusions apply. Not all areas covered in free pick up area

St Albans parks and gardens

New drains to stop water pooling in St Albans Park

New drains along the northside of St Albans park should help prevent future pooling CCC community parks manager Al Hardy says. The area where the drains have been laid has also been freshly tarsealed, which should help walkers keep their feet dry. Although park drainage was fixed a few years after the quakes, turns out it was limited to playing areas and did not include areas adjacent to the fields where spectators stand and dogwalkers take their charges for a daily walk according to a local resident. Water has had a tendency to create ponds on the edges, with gumboots a necessity for a walk in the park. One of the ponds proved fatal to a dog and sickened others in 2022 The work done should make it easier and safer for pedestrians and pooches. ☞



Pool could become a refuge in a hot climate

Edgware Pool's outdoor swimming pools could provide a "climate refuge" in Christchurch as the global temperatures rise and the climate changes, guest speaker Bronwyn Hayward told the Edgware Pool group at their AGM.

Political science professor Bronwyn Hayward, who zoomed into the meeting on June 26, described how the protest over the pool demolition in 2006 had informed her research work on youth. The protests taught a whole cohort of children how to effect change.

During research work a decade ago she surveyed young people about their needs and they wanted things like free travel so they could be independent, safe places to gather and more equitable access to greenspace. These needs still

apply. Climate change was becoming more urgent and made a pool like the one planned for Edgware a more urgent necessity.

The pool group is about to mount a serious campaign to raise the remaining funds (estimated at \$800,000) needed to install the pool and associated buildings. Christchurch City Council has already allocated \$3 million towards the project and a \$300,000 lotteries grant awarded a few months ago has been a big help. Raising \$100,000 would allow the consent process to start.

Cr Pauline Cotter told 20 people at the meeting to keep their eyes on the main prize (the building of the new pool that replaces the one demolished). ☞



VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE

CHRISTCHURCH
Pentecostal church

Every Sunday
2:30pm



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



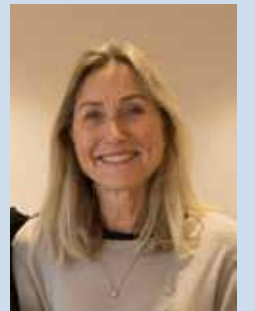
Come join in the
Wednesday Coffee
and Conversation
Group here at St.

Albans Community
Centre with Leigh and her host.

1049 Colombo Street
Main Entrance for pedestrians or
carparking is off Caledonian Road
If you would like more information, please
call Leigh on 0212641485.



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Community Notices

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

Canterbury Embroiderers' Guild: Hammersley Community Centre, Amos Pl. Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri. Contact Ros 021 108 5539, Marie 021 68 3547. Email CEGstitchers@gmail.com.

Christchurch Senior Citizens: Cards: Mon 12.30 - 3 pm. Indoor bowls: Tuesdays 12.45 - 3 pm. Activity group outings. Further information – call Veronica 383 4682 or 021 1187 360 or Beth 389 2375.

Citizens Advice Bureau: The North branch now at Fendalton Library, 4 Jefferies Road, 0800 367 222

Coffee and conversation: Every Wednesday 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

Edgeware Croquet Club: Forfar Street in St Albans Park. Assoc Croquet Thur and Sat 9.30-12 and Golf Croquet 12.45 -3pm. We welcome visitors and new members. Contact Jan 021303843

Elizabeth Bridge Club: Wednesdays 12.50 (for 1.00pm start) to 4.00pm at the Christchurch Bridge club rooms, 21 Nova Place. Visitors welcome. No partner, contact Maureen on 021 646 123.

Family Drug Support Aotearoa New Zealand: Ph 03 21818740

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

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

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

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

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

More Than Music. For families with preschoolers 9.30 every Wed during term time at Rutland St Church. Contact church office 3554101 or text Nicola on 0272831905

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Community notices are free to groups operating in St Albans. Please email Lynne@advertising.gen.nz

St Albans News Classifieds

SERVICES

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

We can help you make a thoughtful and practical decision. Give me a call and we can discuss. If needed, we can then meet at the St Albans Community Centre. Bill Demeter at 027 379 3873. There is no charge for this service.

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

Singing lessons available: Experienced local tutor. All ages welcome. Please ph or text Meredith 027 696 6290

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

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

Tracy 022 048 6949 or 03 356 1754
Qualified Florist: Located at 201 Geraldine Street, Edgeware. Same day delivery. theflowershopchristchurch.co.nz 021 0835 5345

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.

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

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

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

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

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)

Your local shops



Living in St Albans – we've got you covered



New Venue: NEC,
820 Harewood Road,
opposite Orana Park

Thursday 26th October 2023.

9.30am to 3.30pm

Tickets on sale 1st July
Early bird starting at \$10. www.thefete.co.nz

St Albans and beyond

Changes coming for elections in 2026

The Independent Electoral Review is seeking feedback on its interim report before July 17. Nearly 100 proposals have been made including changes in the following areas: Allowing all prisoners to vote and stand as candidates.

- Extending the voting age (and candidacy) to 16 and 17 year olds
- Holding a referendum on a four year (or longer) term for Parliament
- The way the elections are funded is being revised to include basic state funding for all parties registered for the elections, limiting who can donate to individuals

(not companies) and strict controls on donations and expenditure per party and candidate.

Other changes would limit what non-registered parties can do and limit the impact of disinformation and funding from international sources to prevent electoral interference. And a lot more besides.

If you plan to submit read the full document first:

<https://electoralreview.govt.nz/assets/PDF/IER-Interim-Report.pdf>.

The changes won't apply to the 2023 elections as decisions will not be made until after the elections and then be applied to 2026. ⌘

Warwick Todd Ltd reaches milestone

Warwick Todd Ltd reaches milestone. In May this year, local real estate agency Warwick Todd marked 50 years in business. Warwick Todd established his boutique real estate, property management and auctioneering business, in this colonial home in May 1973.

At the turn of the 20th century, the house at 45 Bealey Ave was built as a family home on the boundary of the borough of St Albans before it became part of the city of Christchurch. It was a much bigger parcel of land than it is now. A descendent of an early owner said its picket fence

was on what is now the medium strip of the larger Bealey Avenue. It later became a maternity hospital and a Sunday School for the Knox Church across the road. After Warwick retired in 1995, the business was sold to Graeme Woodley, a career real estate professional but kept the original name and continues till this day. There have been many changes around the suburb of St Albans over the past five decades, a period of globalisation and corporate expansion, but this business has thrived and continues to serve the people of St Albans, ⌘

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Pop in for a chat or call us 03 379 9910
Email: sally@warwicktodd.co.nz

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