

St Albans trees take on autumn colours



Pin oak in St Albans Park



Ginkgo at English Park



Rutland and St Albans Street intersection



Berry wall, Rutland Street



Tomes Road

Photos by Maria Hayward

SARA and the CCC long term plan

The St Albans Residents' Association (SARA) recently made a submission to the Christchurch City Council on its 10 year long term plan (2024-2034). The submission included the following items:

Community funding

SARA wants the Council to increase community funding in response to rising needs resulting from the current socially, economically, and environmentally difficult times.

Rates increases

SARA would prefer to see budgets met by doing things differently and smarter, rather than by increasing rates. Greater empowerment of residents should put the rates money where it is needed most.

Climate resilience fund

SARA says funding allocated for a Climate Resilience Fund needs to be increased, CCC environmental policy made clearer and greater focus put on reducing emissions alongside mitigation, adaptation and resilience.

Flooding

The flooding budget needs to include a viable solution to issues around Edgeware Village. Storm water drains throughout St Albans, especially Dudley Creek Drain and the Mairehau Drain, need to be repaired and made safe.

Shirley Community Centre

SARA wants funding for the Shirley Community Centre to be brought forward in the LTP. Lacking the focal point a community centre offers is a disadvantage to local residents. SARA will support the Shirley community to manage and operate its planned centre successfully.

Edgeware Village Master Plan Funding

SARA would like the funding tagged for

the Edgeware Village Master Plan to be kept in the plan. It has been unspent due to the financial disruption to business owners from the years of work on main sewer and water lines in the area. The upcoming opening of the Edgeware Pool will bring more people into the area and this funding will support improving safety and the identity of the heart of St Albans.

Abberley Park Paddling Pool

SARA wants some of the available paddling pool funding to be used towards refurbishing the well-utilised Abberley Park paddling pool.

Cycleways

SARA wants to see children on bikes, scooters or on foot separated from traffic. Streets should be made safer both for cyclists and pedestrians especially around schools.

Waste and recycling

SARA wants the Council to change the bin sizes so the larger size is for organics and smaller sizes reserved for red rubbish and recycling. The public needs to rethink their habits to help minimise waste.

CCC-owned properties

SARA does not want road reserves or CCC owned property to be sold in the established older areas of the inner city. These are essential green spaces in intensifying communities and will be important to the community in future. None of the five listed parks or reserves should be sold.

Trees

A plan needs to be put into place to better protect remaining mature trees in St Albans.

Roading and transport

A larger proportion of transport funding should be spent on

continued on page 2



SARA and the long term plan

continued from page 1

designing safer roads for all users. Public transport needs to be incentivised for youth, and to encourage people to use public transport, central city parking costs should be increased.

Local parks

SARA wants local residents to be involved in the on-going development of Westminster Park. "We would like to ensure the old Edgeware Bowling Club site is utilised by community and supported by the CCC to add to the offerings of St Albans Park. We would like to see the Council work more collaboratively with the Friends of our local parks."

Other matters

SARA wants to see chlorine kept out of the water supply, building protection to remain for heritage buildings and designated areas, and more events happening in the city, especially international ones. It welcomes improvement to the consultation process, but based on continual reports from residents SARA wants better monitoring of contractors' level of workmanship and for jobs to be completed before being signed off.

(This article, based on the St Albans Residents Association's recent submission to the council's long term plans, has been edited for space reasons and the pronoun "we" has been changed to SARA).

Footnote to submission

[The submission process closed on April 21. Hearings will be live-streamed through the CCC website in May and final decisions on the long term expenditure, including the rates for 2024-2025, will be notified in late June.]



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from 4 to 6pm

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

BBQ Trailer for hire

St Albans Community BBQ Trailer is available to hire for events. Marquee also available for hire, separately or with the barbecue, for corporate events, community gatherings or private celebrations. Enquiries to: BBQ@stalbens.gen.nz

St Albans History Group

Next meeting: 6 of May, 2 pm at the St Albans Community Centre.
Email: briangspear@hotmail.com

Wednesday Wheelies

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

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://stalbens.gen.nz/?page_id=5836. Contact SARA@stalbens.gen.nz for more information.

SARA Website

Check out SARA's website on www.stalbens.gen.nz. Contains digital copies of St Albans News, a calendar of events and occasional blog posts.

StAN on Facebook

St Albans News is published every month. If you wish to comment on stories you read in St Albans News or anything that is happening in the area, you can write a letter to the editor (and wait) or you can go to our Facebook page: [StAlbansNews](https://www.facebook.com/StAlbansNews) and post a message there immediately.

SARA on Neighbourly

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

SARA 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

Trust helps families get through life



Barb Whip-Ruis (pictured) from Kiwi Family Trust spoke on the topic of wellbeing at the St Albans Community Centre Chat session on April 08. She outlined the work the Trust does including parenting courses and helping young people through weekly activities, camps and mentoring to build life skills. They also run a knitting project to keep babies warm. This also gives knitters who may live

alone, a means of combating social isolation.

The trust is based at the community hub in Nursery Rd, Phillipstown. For more information about costs and potential sponsorship visit their website: <https://www.kiwifamilytrust.org> or for more up to date information Facebook is the site to check out: <https://www.facebook.com/kiwifamilytrust>

Learn more about mental health

Dr Murray Cameron is the speaker at Café Chat on May 5. He is currently running a series of free sessions at the St Albans Community Centre on Thursday evenings.

Prior to becoming a counsellor he worked in medical research and mental health. He works alongside people, makes no judgements and lets the person being counselled do most of the talking.

He will ask about the role of the Four Pillars of Health (Sleep, Nutrition/healthy eating, Activity/exercise, Pleasure/what makes your heart sing) in maintaining a healthy balance in the person's life.

His approach, which may be more relevant to others in the counselling field, uses "solution-focused, narrative and motivational interviewing approaches, with person-centered therapy as a relational foundation." In other words his counselling helps people deal with their mental health issues and get more out of life.

Find out more about the St Albans-based counsellor on his website: <https://afterhourscounselling.co.nz/about-murray-cameron>

Funder helps boost StAN pages

A \$6310 grant from the Aotearoa Gaming Trust is enabling St Albans News to return to printing 16 pages for the next six months after four months of squeezing content into 8 pages.

With more pages we can print more articles, allow for longer ones and trim less to squeeze it all in. Like many media outlets, small and large, in New Zealand we have found advertising revenue difficult to source in recent years.

We acknowledge that businesses who pay for advertising are also finding it tough going in the current climate and have less to spend. So we welcome access to grant funding that is helping social enterprises like ours keep going.

Food is good for the soul

The pātaka kai in front of the community centre is for giving and receiving food. Keep a watch on this page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sustainable.stalbens.christchurch/>

The deadline for the June issue of St Albans News is May 13

Please send your articles, letters and notices to:
news@stalbens.gen.nz

St Albans News May 2024, Vol 32, Issue 4

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

Send your news contributions and adverts to:

news@stalbens.gen.nz

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

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 - Rowena
	10am	SeniorNet
	11am	Happy Feet
	5pm	Universal Martial Arts
Tuesday	9.30am	Zumba with JB
	10.45am	Yoga with Tracy Kells
	10am	NeighbourNet
	5.30	Pippins
	7pm	Avon Toastmasters
	7pm	Ungu Capoeira
Wednesday	9am	Wednesday Wheelies
	9.30am	Zumba with JB
	10am	SeniorNet
And 2nd Saturday of the month at 4pm	10.30am	The Corner, coffee and chat
	7.00pm	Capoeira Angola
Thursday	9.30am	Saygo - Daph
	10.45am	Yoga with Tracy Kells
	10am	NeighbourNet
	5.00pm	Universal Martial Arts
	7.15pm	Women in Harmony
Friday	10am	SeniorNet

The programme lists activities that are run at the centre on a weekly basis. For one off or less frequent activities these can be notified for free through community notices (on page 14) or the events column (on page 15) or through paid advertising. Please contact advertising@stalbans.gen.nz for further information. Contact contact.news@stalbans.gen.nz if more space is needed.

Funding for SARA

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



Chip packets collected to transform into survival sheets

The collection of foil chip packets for the NZ Chip Project at the community centre has been a great success. Four full rubbish sacks weighing 4.8kg were dropped off to the Department of Corrections recently to be made into survival sheets, ground cover sheets and pillowcases for those in need. A reused basketball hoop is a handy way to keep a bag open to collect the chip packets.



Putting a stop to sexual abuse

Aviva is running a campaign in May called *Asking for it... to stop* to encourage Kiwis to take a stand against sexual violence in their communities. Businesses can also sign up for free workplace workshops. Volunteers will be collecting donations from outside supermarkets on May 17 and 18. If you need help phone 0800 28482 669 or if you are looking for more information check out the website: <https://www.avivafamilies.org.nz/Avivas-Blog/Asking-For-It-To-Stop>



Pool quiz:
May 12
6.30pm

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Sustainability

Live life sustainably to celebrate Mother Earth

by Maria Lamb

Worldwide, people recognised and celebrated International Mother Earth Day on April 22. Making a small change in your daily life to reduce your environmental footprint such as purchasing (and keeping handy for use) a keep cup/container etc rather than buying something disposable.

You can also take time to learn about the problems we're facing in the current hot climate of living with plastic in a heavily consumerist world. Participating in events such as community clean ups, adopting sustainable practices and supporting a local community garden such as Kohinga Māra adjacent to the St Albans Community Centre are ways to live life sustainably.

And as the weather cools be careful what goes in the organics bin when cleaning out log burners in preparation for some toasty indoor warmth. The ash should not go in the green bin. On a recent visit to the Organics Processing Plant at Living Earth, I learnt that arsenic levels rise over Autumn and Winter. As little as a third of an ice-cream container of ash can contaminate the contents of one truckload of collected organics waste and it could mean sending the entire collection to landfill.



On the first Saturday in May prior to Mother's Day, volunteers from 40+ organisations collect litter around waterways to celebrate mothers with a Mother of All Clean-Ups. Zac Cassells started this unique event back in 2015 after continuously seeing increasing amounts of rubbish in the Opawaho/Heathcote river next to Cassells Brewery at The Tannery.

This year, Tidy Kiwi is teaming up with the St Albans Residents Association and Keep Christchurch Beautiful. If you want to participate in this event, meet on the corner of Barbadoes Street and Oxford Tce at 10am. Park on left side of Oxford Tce and you'll see the Keep Christchurch Beautiful signage. Bring buckets, gloves, sacks, and tongs or use those provided.

To stay up to date with future events please visit the Tidy Kiwi website: <https://www.facebook.com/TidyKiwiNZ/>

Mother of all cleanups

May 4, 10am

Meet at corner of Barbadoes and Oxford Terrace

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Let's talk about mental health and wellbeing

Join local counsellor Dr Murray Cameron to upskill your personal tools and approaches to caring for your wellbeing.

St Albans Community Centre,
Thursday 16 May, 7.30-8.30pm
Discussion welcome



News from St Albans and beyond

Stewart Willis is missing

Stewart Willis is missing from his flat in Colombo St (between Bealey Ave and Edgeware Rd) and no one seems to know where he is. The 64 year old was last seen in Christchurch on July 24 last year, he's listed on the police.govt website



not because he has done anything wrong but because he vanished in mysterious circumstances. He lived on his own and kept to himself but maybe he drank at Baillies or bought his groceries at Fresh Choice. He was spotted in Te Anau in late October. Someone might know who he is and where he has gone.. The police and his family want to know he is safe so Phone IO5 if you have further information on his whereabouts.. The site also lists others who have gone missing since 1957, but Stewart is the most recent unsolved case. The reference file number is 230807/76IO.

For the Dame, a son

Golden girl Dame Sophie Pascoe, New Zealand's most decorated athlete, who St Albans News featured in March 2022 recently gave birth to a son. The 31 year old paralympian and husband Rob Samson made the announcement on Instagram.

Football club funds go missing

It's been splashed all over the news media that a former employee of the Westminster St based Christchurch Football Club is being investigated after money went missing from club funds. The situation came to light after an audit last year, but the family, who lived in St Albans, is back in the UK, leaving behind a house, a car, and two dogs in the care of boarding kennels. Police are investigating but no charges have been laid, which is why St Albans News has chosen not to name the employee.

Employee theft occurs occasionally but most organisations and companies have policies and procedures in place to prevent it from happening in the first place. Rather than going to the police after it happens, check out ways to prevent employee theft in the first place. This Government website has some tips: <https://www.business.govt.nz/news/employee-theft-how-to-prevent-it/>

Anyone for tennis, in winter?

Tennis is not just a game for summer. The St Albans Tennis Club has multiple all weather courts so tennis can also be played in autumn and winter. The club operates on Thursday afternoons from 3pm and Saturdays from 1pm. The courts can be accessed from Dover St or Coles Place where there is more parking. For more information check out the website <https://www.stalbanstennis.co.nz> or phone Robyn 027 733 4315

Residents forum on local issues

Christchurch City Council mayor Phil Mauger has begun, as promised during his mayoral campaign last year, to organise forums for residents' groups and the council to meet every three or four months to discuss local issues and concerns.

Phil Mauger wrote to the various residents' groups after the forum's first meeting saying it was great to hear first-hand from residents about the issues and concerns in their areas. He said it helped to identify issues early and for him to hear issues concerning residents sooner in the process.

Questions raised at the forum's first meeting on April 9 included a request for council slides explaining the Long Term Plan, CCC survey results and information on vacant council land.

Residents' associations hope that the forum will not take a top down approach. Emma Twaddell who attended the meeting in her role as St Albans Community Activator, alongside SARA chair Mark Wilson, wants more prominence given to what residents have to say.

The next meeting will be held late afternoon on August 6 at the council building in Hereford St.

Relief in sight for eastern suburbs

A new kerbside organics processing facility, which replaces the odorous one in Metro Place in Bromley, is to be built in an industrial area in south Hornby and will become operational in late 2026.

The new facility, like those in London and Sydney, will be fully enclosed and smells would not escape. Christchurch City Council approved Ecogas as the long term processor at their December 6 meeting. The Ōtautahi Christchurch Regional Organics Processing Facility will also process organics from adjacent councils.

In the meantime, indoor processing of organics will continue at the Bromley plant with the smelly outdoors part trucked to Kate Valley from April. Partially and fully processed compost will be not stored in Bromley. It is the outdoors processing that has caused the big stink in recent years, affecting Bromley and eastern suburbs in particular, and reaching St Albans and beyond.

The plan for the new complex in Hornby and the temporary solution to truck the second stage to Kate Valley was considered the best option, environmentally and financially. The facility will reduce emissions by 80 per cent and will not require an increase in rates.



Parking spots yield to pedestrians

Twelve parking spots in Innes Rd adjacent to Malvern Park will be removed to make crossing Innes Rd safer for pedestrians heading to the laneway that leads from Innes Rd to Weston Rd. No road markings or signs on the road indicate that there is a crossing at that point. Parking spots do not need to be removed from the northern side as visibility is fine on that side. The Waipapa/ Papanui-Innes-Central community board members agreed at the April 11 meeting that this would make it safer for pedestrians to see vehicles heading west and for drivers to see them stepping off the footpath. Board staff said there was plenty of other parking around the park.

Begging in village concerning

Innes ward representative Emma Twaddell told the Waipapa/Papanui-Innes-Central community board in March of issues being caused by a handful of individuals spending lots of time in the Edgeware Village shopping area at the top end of Colombo St and approaching passersby for money. Not all people asking for money are homeless she said. If you are interested in helping those without jobs or homes to go to, the best option is to donate to charities, such as Christchurch City Mission which experienced in helping people in this situation.

More native trees for Rutland St reserve

Rutland St reserve, where the Papanui Parallel runs through, is to benefit from the planting of additional native trees thanks to a \$8310 grant from the Better Off Fund at The Waipapa/ Papanui-Innes-Central Community Board meeting on April 11. The reserve is adjacent to the Cranford Basin, where 1400 new houses are expected to be built in the future.

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Local lad who became a rugby writer in France

Ian Borthwick grew up swimming in the outdoor St Albans Pool but ended up in Paris in France writing about another childhood passion: rugby. Belinda Carter caught up with him when he visited Christchurch recently and took a walk down memory lane.

His story begins in Shirley but when Ian was nine years old his family moved to a house in Malvern St just over the road from a park of the same name.

During the term Ian went to Paparoa St School for three years because it included standard 5 and 6 classes and his parents felt this would be less disruptive for his schooling before he went on to Christchurch Boys High School.

Natalie's boys Donald, Ian and James Borthwick kept out from under their mother's feet by playing in Malvern Park, tackling one another and practising their goal kicking skills. In the 1960s it had two sports fields, one for soccer and one for rugby, running perpendicular to Innes Rd. Like many local lads in the 60s who had ambitions to emulate the All Blacks, Ian joined the Christchurch Football Club, which in those days did not have the Westminister St facilities it has today and when older played for High School Old Boys.

Ian's father, Basil Borthwick owned a paper products manufacturing company called Kerr and Borthwick – some older residents might remember or even still have their KB jar covers. But after it burnt down he worked in admin at Christ's College.

In summer, the Borthwick brothers "lived" at St Albans pool, riding their bikes to the village to swim, splash about in the pool, and earn badges alongside many other St



Ian Borthwick outside the Trafalgar St side entrance to the old St Albans Pool

Albans youngsters who grew up in the 60s and 70s.

(The pool was removed in 2006 but is getting close to a replacement thanks to efforts of local residents plus funding from the Council and other sources)

In the 60s, people did their food shopping from corner grocery stores. What is now the Fresh Choice supermarket was once the Century Theatre, a cinema that showed "crazy westerns" that the Borthwick brothers and their friends lapped up.

He also spent time at Hobdays, the cycleshop that also sold toys; that shop no longer exists but the name is still



Cosmic Energy 2020 Paris Silenced Image courtesy Ian Borthwick and DMC

visible on the Edgware Rd frontage of the building. Ian does not remember the library, a concrete building that housed a small lending library and once stood at 1047 Colombo where the community centre now stands, but does recall borrowing books from the old city library in Cambridge Tce, now a car park next to the Christchurch City Council.

A lot has changed in Edgware Village over the decades. As a nine year old Ian thought Colombo St was the "longest street in the world", well it seemed that way to a child with numbers going up to 1067 from its beginnings at the foot of Cashmere Hill.

In France

After studying French at Christchurch Boys High School he went on to complete an MA (Hons) at Auckland

University then headed off to France "to have a look".

This was a few years before the French Government had a notion to blow up the Rainbow Warrior in Auckland harbour in a bid to stop Greenpeace drawing attention to French atomic bomb tests in the Pacific.

In France, his language skills were good enough for him to find initial work as an interpreter and later to freelance for French rugby publications in French. He stayed on and has lived in Paris for more than 40 years, writing in English and French for a range of publications.

These days Ian is winding down his writing activities. If he had stayed in New Zealand he would have been entitled to a Supergold card.

He may be following fewer rugby games closely but continues to write for rugby publications and sometimes comments in French on non-rugby topics for Le Monde or Liberation and takes on consulting work. He also writes in English.

Photographic exhibition

From time to time he visits the country of his birth. In April, he came for a holiday in the North Island, to catch up with his brothers and to launch an exhibition of his photographs, featuring an eerily deserted Paris under the Covid pandemic lockdown in 2020.

His (mostly monochrome) images can be viewed or purchased at the exhibition in Mods Hair in Merivale until the end of May. A hair cut is optional.

If you can't make it in person, the images are also viewable online: <https://www.dmcart.net/parissilenced>

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Entry and Carpark: 130 Caledonian Road

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Pastor Cornelius 021 258 2731
Jeanette 027 463 8367

More new builds embrace heritage look

Kia Ora Koutou,

While walking around our neighbourhoods I am very much appreciating the glorious autumn colours in St Albans. It's also heartening to see some of the new builds moving away from the cookie cutter shoe boxes, and embracing the replica heritage look, which is far more in keeping with our surrounds in my view. We can see great examples of these in Edward Ave, Berwick, Allard, Geraldine, Hendon Streets and more. Although many of the buildings are Brookfield products, it's great to see other companies also embracing this variation.

You will likely be aware of the child being hit in Courtenay Street a few weeks ago, and the justifiable concern around safety during school arrival and departure times. I am working with the school and the community board seeking Council staff advice on what urgent work can be done to keep our children safe. It's an adverse effect from the northern corridor work, and it needs to be addressed as part of the downstream effects project. Safety, especially for our children is a top priority for the community board and the city council.

Recently the Waipapa Community Board distributed



\$500,000 of Crown money, (part of the previous Government Three Waters programme), into the three wards. Recipients include Rutland Reserve, Edgware Pool, the Shirley intermediate pool, Petrie Park, McFarlane Park and Shirley Community Trust. These are all excellent community-led projects that will provide wonderful benefits for so many.

I am looking forward to residents coming to speak to us about our Long Term Budget, and am anticipating an interesting mix of submissions. Council will sign off the budget in late June.

Nga Mihi Nui,

Pauline Cotter, Deputy Mayor, Councillor for Innes



New Brookfield build on Edward Avenue

Duncan Webb moves to new office

Christchurch Central MP Duncan Webb has moved from an office near the old lawcourts to a more accessible office at 132b Victoria Street. With a larger meeting area and onsite parking he's keen for groups to make use of the space. Duncan is still available to talk to groups as a guest speaker and already has several talks on justice booked for this year.



Dr Duncan Webb, MP, is ready to hear from city residents

Your local MP for St Albans

If you would like me to be a guest speaker at your meeting, or you would like some help with a problem, **please contact my office:**

Duncan Webb

MP for Christchurch Central

366 5519
chchcentral@parliament.govt.nz



Duncan Webb's new office in Victoria St.



St Albans history group

When we were young in St Albans

by Daph Parkins

My playmates Betty, Billy, Margaret, Pat, Kathleen and Nancy are now all deceased but when we were young in the 1930s, St Albans Park was ours. We were all born or reared in unsealed Cornhill Street between Edgware Road and St Albans Park.

Traffic was scarce then, just the daily milkman's motor bike with side car: the weekly greengrocer's horse and cart and occasionally a beautifully groomed and harnessed City Council Clydesdale horse and dray to cart away the gutter sweepings. Only two residents owned cars: both big tourers, a Rugby and a Model A Ford so Cornhill Street was a safe space to learn to ride our neighbours' bikes.

In summer, Derry's Military band and Woolston Brass Band gave concerts in the Park rotunda (which no longer exists). In autumn, mushrooms galore sprouted in the park and we knew the spots to harvest. In winter, most years we built snowmen. In spring, we flew kites. Unable to afford nine pence (9c) or one shilling and six pence (15c) for a "Sky Raider", we copied them with newspaper and flour and water paste.



Daph (top middle) and her mates at St Albans Park

All year round we enjoyed the play equipment... a big slide, a maypole, three big swings, a horizontal bar, a rocking swing holding about 10 kids, a merry-go-round, two see-saws, three baby swings, a baby slide and by 1936 a paddling pool.

I was five and forbidden to use the big slide but I did. My sister told on me resulting in a parental hiding. When I was six I found a scruffy black kitten under the merry-go-round and took him home. Some boys

had been swinging it round by the tail and it had chewing gum behind its ears and fleas. Tibby lasted as a family favourite until I was 25 years old.

In 1948, to avoid confusion with nearby Cornwall Street, Cornhill Street became Allard Street (named after an early local resident and foundation member of the Edgware Bowling Club). Allard St is known for its beautiful blossom trees in spring and displays a necessary red and white 40kmh sign on its tarseal.

(If you have childhood memories of St Albans, no matter the decade, the St Albans History Group would like to hear from you. They meet on the first Monday of the month at 2pm)

A tale of two tennis clubs

by Daph Parkins

St Albans once had two tennis clubs: the St Albans Tennis Club in Dover St and the Edgware Tennis Club that operated beside the Edgware Bowling and Croquet Clubs at St Albans Park until 1966.

The Edgware Tennis club began after a public meeting in the Winton St Hall in 1922. Christchurch City Council granted land to lay down four asphalt tennis courts east of the croquet club in St Albans Park.

Foundation members of the club included two sons of Mr Beanland, a city builder who later became Mayor of Christchurch.

By October, a combined meeting of Edgware bowling, croquet and tennis clubs was held. Memberships were then 75, 30 and 263 respectively. Two lavatories (nightman era) were placed in the croquet section for the use of tennis players.

Drainage and financial challenges delayed the increase from four to eight tennis courts.

However, eventually leaves, acorns and roots of the



File photo from 2019

maturing row of historic oak trees on the north boundary of St Albans Park interfered with the court surfaces.

In 1966 the original wooden pavilion, built in 1926 for 300 pounds, was shifted in two sections to the Mairehau end of Innes Road for the club's new start.

Older logburners need replacing

If you heat your house with a wood burner and it is more than 20 years old it will need to be replaced with a lower emitting burner.

Under the Canterbury Air Regional Plan low-emission burners can be used for 20 years from installation, after which they become non-compliant and can no longer be used.

To keep using a burner you need to upgrade to a clean air-approved, ultra-low emitting burner and obtain a building consent from the city council. Alternatively, you can replace your burner or pellet fire with an efficient heat pump.

Environment Canterbury (ECan) has been sending out reminders to Christchurch addresses on its database and have found that St Albans has the highest number of expired wood burners of all the Christchurch suburbs. The regional council knows who has expired wood or logburners as a permit is required when it is installed. Its database may not be up to date on removals or home rebuilds so the council welcomes updated information.

Logburners are not cheap but subsidies may be available to help low-income homeowner occupiers with community



service cards (or those living in an area with a social deprivation index of 8-10) replace their expired wood burners. Financial hardship can also be considered on a case by case basis or a temporary waiver may allow the homeowner to use their expired burner for another winter. To apply for funding phone Community Energy Action on 0800 438 9276.

Tenanted properties are not eligible for funding as landlords are responsible for providing an efficient fixed heater under the Healthy Homes Standards (eg: a heat pump or compliant burner) in the living room. Burners that expired before 25 October 2016 are also not eligible for funding.

Canterbury building inspectors are being asked to include information about wood burner expiry on their building reports to inform homeowners and prospective buyers about burner compliance rules.

(The original article at <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/news-and-events/2024/expired-burner-replace-it-before-winter-bites/> on which this article is based contains hyperlinks to further information)

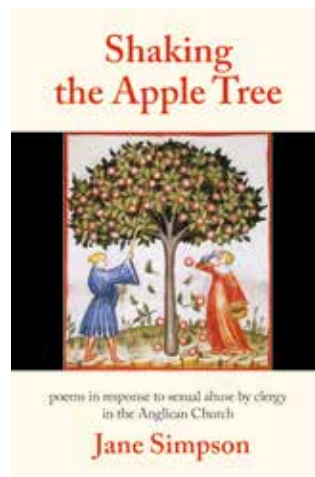
Poetry book helps deal with abuse

Sexual abuse by clergy is the unlikely subject of a new poetry collection by award-winning St Albans poet, Dr Jane Simpson.

Shaking the Apple Tree was launched by a prominent survivor, the Rev. Louise Deans, at All Souls Church, Merivale, on March 23.

On the advice of survivor advocates, she decided to publish *Shaking the Apple Tree* before the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care was due to present its final report. It is now due to be released on June 26. "They thought that poetry and other creative approaches could bring healing and needed to come first. They expected that the final report could re-traumatise many of the people who gave evidence."

The book's potential is already being recognised by ACC-registered counsellors working with people who have been sexually abused. It is available from Scorpio Books, the Transitional Cathedral Shop and from the author's website, www.poiema.co.nz/shop



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Why natives are best suited to local soils

Di Lucas explains her planting system that recommends plants based on different types of land in the city.

Ōtautahi Christchurch is located at the interface of the inland dry plains and the spring-fed wet plains of the Waimakariri delta to Pegasus Bay.

Back in 1996 we were commissioned by the community boards to provide a guide to the native plants naturally belonging in the city.

Regardless of current land cover or development, primarily from soils data, the different types of land that naturally underlie the city were identified. That is, the land types. Then, based on remnant information and extrapolations from the soil typology, our team provided a name, signature graphic and plant list for six ecosystems.

Each ecosystem list identified the soil structure and the trees, shrubs and groundcovers belonging there, plus each species tolerance to exposure, shade and dryness. We also noted if they were good food for local native birds and lizards.

The paper-based ecosystem guides were popular but have since been digitised. A few years ago we took the initiative and updated the botanical names, added further information

including flammability, digitised the maps and uploaded the guides as a digital resource on the City Council website: <https://ccc.govt.nz/environment/land/ecosystem-map>

Accessing this website you can put in an address and it takes you to that location showing the ecosystem that belongs there. In the pop-up for that ecosystem you can click on it and access the plant list and other information.

As shown in the map *above right*, in St Albans three wet plains ecosystems are recognised:

TŌTARA bellbird, matai, older plains ecosystem

KAHIKATEA kereru, mānau, lush plains ecosystem

PŪKIO pukeko, karamu, coastal peat plains ecosystem

More recently we have also uploaded our wider land typing to the web. This provides more broad-scale mapping, accompanied by landform models and charts, showing the various types of lands that naturally underlie our wonderfully diverse country. www.LandTyping.nz



Map shows the three different ecosystems in St Albans.



Find out which ecosystem your property is in and choose plants that match.

Why plant natives?

plantings is a handy way to learn about foraging.

Adrian Taylor co-founder of Botanic Landscapes Architects said it helps create local identity. There were good reasons to stick with natives as returning the landscape back to the original ecosystem means the recommended plants are suited to the soils and climate of the area. They have lower maintenance and water needs and provide a natural habitat and food source for native fauna. Many of the native plants have a value and uses in Te Ao Māori and so it is also a way to learn about the indigenous landscape.

Native plants being added to St Albans Primary School garden, November 2023



by Belinda Carter

If you want to see the system at work visit St Albans Primary School as this includes planting carried out by Botanic Landscape Architects, using the tōtara ecosystem plant list compiled by Di Lucas.

Inspired by the indigenous landscape and cultural narrative, the new planting around St Albans School enhances the school's identity and enables students to learn about indigenous ecology and cultural values. The main entrance contains specific cultural plantings to learn about the life and botanical uses of mana whenua including mahinga kai, rongoā and species used in Māori craft and building.

Also of note is the Te Arawai (which translates as water pathway) playground area. The area known as Kereru I and the U with its edible

Community Notices

Are you a model boat enthusiast?

Interested in sharing and comparing your models with others? Contact SARA@stalbands.gen.nz to connect with others.

Cafe Chat at Kōhinga. 1st Monday of the month. 10.30am to 12.30pm. St Albans Community Centre. Guest speakers

Canterbury Embroiderers' Guild: Hammersley Community Centre, Amos Pl. Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri. Contact Diane ph 021 024 36739 or Liz 022 547 7642. 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. Scottish Soc Hall cnr Edgeware/Caledonian Rds.

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

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 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). 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

Mary Potter: Bring your toe-tapping feet and be entertained by the Country Trio. Monday 6 May, 1.30-2.30pm at the Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham St North. All ages welcome. Cuppa to follow. Gold coin donation. Enquiries ph 372 9224.

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

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

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 Je

an Bell: 355 9903 or jeanpbell8@gmail.com

Predator Free St Albans: Interested in trapping rats? Ph Phillippa 021 064 8861

Saygo Falls Prevention: Mondays 10 -11am (class full) and Thursdays 9.30 - 10.30 am. \$2 entry. Kōhinga St Albans Community Centre.

Support 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.

Scottish Country Dance club, Scottish Society hall cnr Edgeware Caledonian Rds, Tuesdays at 7.30pm, May - 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 Mon, Wed and Fridays 10am- noon.

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.

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@stalbands.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

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.

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).

Women in Harmony community choir: Meets Thursdays in 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
Contributions for the community notices page should be emailed to news@stalbands.gen.nz with community notices in the subject line or left at the community centre for possible inclusion. No charge is made for these notices but they may be edited.

St Albans News Classifieds

SERVICES

Having difficulty making family, work, relationship or legal decisions? We can help you make practical decisions. Call Bill Demeter 027 379 3873. Can meet St Albans Community Centre. No charge for this service

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

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

Guitar Lessons: Jonathon Harper (weebly website) Mairehau 027 413 6299 Learn with a long time professional concert artist, composer, singer, and band leader (AMIGOS).

Piano & Theory Teacher: Experienced, registered local teacher; all ages. Please call or text Cate on: 027 300 0357

Netta Home Care Ltd: Brian is offering care in the community, Netta Home Care Ltd, can offer showers, dressing, PC, medications. For hours available ring Brian Henderson at 022 461 0855

Singing lessons available: Experienced local tutor. All ages welcome. Please ph or text

TRADIES

Meredith 027 696 6290

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

Architectural Draughtsman available now. Renovating or building your dream space? Need help with your plans for council? Contact Kris from Hooked on Architecture 027 218 3221

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

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

Senior flatmate/boarder wanted. Must be able to pay bills on time, have outside interests, honest and trustworthy and be happy to chip in. Off street parking. Reference check required. Please phone Ginny at 021 126 0129.

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)

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 you have events you would like announced here, please email:

news@stalbands.gen.nz

May 4, 10am: Cleanup meet cnr Barbadoes and Oxford Tce

May 7, 10 am: Will Workshop Rehua (see advert page 6)

May 12, 6.30pm: Pool Quiz Bailies Bar

June 22, 9am- 1pm: St Albans Community Centre, 1049 Colombo St, Winter Market and St Albans Day

St. Albans Community Hub



Join Leigh and hosts at:

Kohinga St Albans Community Centre
Wednesdays 10.30 am—12.30pm
2nd Saturday of the month 4.00—5.30pm

Friendly chat over nibbles and refreshments.
Koha/Donations appreciated, suggested \$5 p.p.

Call Leigh: 021 264 1485 or email:
thecornerst.albans@allsouls.org.nz

News from St Albans and beyond



Rachael King, Heather McQuillan and Tania Roxborough, three Canterbury writers who write novels for young people, at the launch of Heather's novel *Avis* and the *Call of the Kraken* in March.

Rachael King, former director of the Word Christchurch Festival and local St Albans resident, published her second children's book, *The Grimmelings*, earlier this year with a book launch at Scorpio Bookshop. The fantasy adventure novel published by Allen and Unwin is aimed at 9-12 year olds and brings Scottish myths to the highlands of Otago.



The Grimmelings is about a 13-year-old girl living on a horse trekking farm in a fictional part of the Southern Lakes region. Her first children's book *Red Rocks* transplanted the Celtic myth of the selkie into the windy New Zealand ie: Wellington landscape and is currently being developed for television. She has previously published two novels intended for adult readers: *Magpie Hall* and *The Sound of Butterflies*.

<https://www.rachael-king.com>

Kids learn new skills at skate skool

Armed with knee pads and elbow pads some first time skaters gingerly took to the skate park at St Albans Park during the school holidays.

Some of the children were a bit nervous but it was good to have friends close at hand and understanding teachers from Cheapskates, who also provided the boards and safety equipment, to coach the participants over three days during the school holidays.

Boys and girls were taught how to slide down the pipes,

to jump and even do handstands on the skateboards, which cannot have been easy as skateboards have four small wheels.

Emma Twaddell, whose day job as a community activator includes organising events on behalf of the St Albans Residents' Association, organised the event in record time and made sure it ran smoothly with \$1800 funding from the community board enabling it to go ahead. This is usually an event their own staff have helped run in the past.



Photos by Emma Twaddell

