

Butterflies in Abberley Park



Council's longterm plans for St Albans

by Belinda Carter

In May, the Council heard feedback on its draft longterm plan, covering the years 2015-2025. Groups and individuals told councillors to keep assets, delay anchor projects and work better with community groups.

The draft plan offers an interesting overview of what might happen in the city. A bit of digging in the hefty plan, mainly in the Proposed Capital Programme section, unearths some items relating to St Albans.

St Albans Permanent Community Centre: \$3.2 million has been allocated over three years from 2016 for a permanent community centre to replace the temporary Lions building.

St Albans Residents Association (SARA) co-chair Emma Twaddell is suggesting that the council defer the building of a permanent community centre 10 or 15 years and three buildings - the Lions building, a house owned by the council, and the ReSTART building owned by SARA - could form the centre.

This was a "surprise" to city councillor Ali Jones, who with fellow councillor Pauline Cotter, has argued for the inclusion of the centre in the longterm plan.

"We argued that our Edgware and St Albans Community have little in the way of permanent facilities and in fact the transitional community centre (Lions) ... must be replaced by a built-for-purpose community facility as soon as possible. This has been the feedback from the community on several occasions including the community conversation ..."

The community board's submission to the longterm plan is asking that the centre be brought forward

"reflecting feedback from the community and need in the community," Ali Jones said after the meeting.

Abberley Park Playground: Around \$10,000 has been budgeted in the 2015-2016 financial year to be spent on the playground with \$117,000 the following year. Nearly a million dollars has been allocated to five city paddling pools, including Abberley Park but there is some talk that it won't be replaced in 10 years time. Emma Twaddell suggested to councillors hearing submissions on the plan that perhaps communities could have a say or help looking after them.

Edgware Suburban Masterplan: more correctly the Edgware Village Masterplan, was adopted in December 2013, after community consultation with \$2.8 million was set aside for traffic improvements such as street furniture, lighting, wider footpaths, outdoor seating etc "Great to see \$2.9M budgeted for traffic improvements. Walking and cycling safety standards need to be focused on as well as ensuring the creation of a 'village' feel, Edgware Village is the heart of St Albans," Emma said.

Northern Arterial: CCC is allocating millions of dollars over the next seven years to pay for the arterial road and the four laning of Cranford St. SARA opposes the Northern Arterial and thinks the money should be put into local roads renewal instead: "take out of budget and put money into park and ride facility and rail from the north to the city," Emma said.

St Albans Park: Money has been budgeted to demolish and replace the closed toilets and pavilion at St Albans Park, at a cost of \$370,000. However, turf renewal is not planned till 2018-2020, when \$1 million has been

Continued on page 3



From the Office

There is a new face at the community centre:

Hello St Albans Community, my name is Sandra Wilson and I have not long been in the new exciting role of Community Centre Manager for St Albans Residents Association.

I originate from Durham, North East England.

My first visit to Christchurch, New Zealand was nine years ago. If someone had said to me then that this visit would change my life, I would not have believed them. We fell in love with the country, not just the breathtaking beauty of land, coastlines and wildlife but the lifestyle and people. Yes, our hearts were taken. My family and friends couldn't believe we wanted to give up our home and life to move to the other side of the world. We arrived in Christchurch on Bonfire Night, 5 November 2010 (after my friend had promised that the September earthquake was a one off). We have no regrets, Christchurch is our home and always will be.

My professional background includes experience in Administration, Management and Care Sectors.

In England, I was a company secretary for a caravan centre, where I gained financial experience with book keeping, accounts, invoicing and office work. Then I became a personal secretary to a Matron at a Neuro Rehab Centre. I observed the significant difference it can make to client/patient lives when clinical teams work together to improve their quality of life. This inspired me to embark on a social work degree, to enhance skills such as empathy, listening and assessing people's needs. I gained

experience volunteering for Victim Support in the UK to put these skills into practice.

In New Zealand, I have worked for Victim Support as a service co-ordinator, supporting victims of homicide, crime and trauma. I also supervised and supported volunteers and found this a very rewarding role. However, it was time for a change and at present I work for Children's Mental Health, CDHB as a secretary, which I enjoy immensely, as well as residential work at weekends.

I am a social person who enjoys interacting with people. I have worked as a volunteer at Orana Wildlife Park, where it was fun to interact with the public and animals. I have also volunteered for the Christchurch Charity Hospital. My passion is supporting people, this is why I volunteer, and this also flows into my work ethic as well.

The position of community centre manager gives me the opportunity to work within the community in which I live, to meet local people, but most of all, have a great sense of belonging, which is what we did miss being on the other side of the world. The trauma that everyone, who has gone through earthquakes in Christchurch, has experienced has proven to me how important it is to have a community that works together and is there for each other. We now truly feel that we have a chance to put down some roots here in the St Albans Community.

Mobile: 021 317 584

email: communitycentre.stalbans@gmail.com

5 Reasons to love living in St Albans

1. Monarch butterflies in Abberley Park over winter.
2. Treelined streets and the autumn colours before the leaves fall.
3. The St Albans Community Centre being looked after by the Residents Association, as it was before the earthquakes.
4. The anticipation of what will happen in the next few months as the council begins work on implementing the Edgeware Village Masterplan.
5. Work beginning on the cycleway that runs through St Albans to the north of the city.

By A. Resident

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Long term plan continued from page 1

allocated. SARA wants to see this brought forward so better use can be made of the, often soggy, park for sporting activities.

Cycleway: part of the “Papanui Parallel” runs through St Albans and it looks like this will get underway later this year, with nearly \$5 million allocated this coming year and a similar amount the following year.

Several other items were listed in the longterm plan with costs but without funding allocated, including \$45,000 to repair and level the creche in Thames St and \$750,000 for structural repairs to English Park.

Malvern Park: Information is circulating that

Canterbury Rugby is negotiating to lease Malvern Park, next door to Rugby Park. “Any contracts negotiated with Canterbury Rugby should include the local community,” Emma said. The St Albans community has been planning for a fitness track around the park for more than two years.

Emma also did not want community funding cut and wanted to see the council running more events at community level. “Don’t cut, find partners, do things more grassroots style. Cut the red tape for community groups to hold their own events. Allow free usage of parks.”

Information about the longterm plan is available on the Council website. The council will be making its final decision on these matters in June. ☞

Better spent on local roads renewal

by Belinda Carter

The St Albans Residents’ Association wants the Northern Arterial plan rejected and funds put into improving local roads and public transport.

This is what SARA co-chair Emma Twaddell told ECan during the consultation phase on the proposed Northern Arterial when she made a presentation on April 30 and fielded questions.

She criticised the Christchurch City Council for the lack of research on social impacts on roading plans for the area, some of which date back to the 1960s. Reports tend to be technical in nature and do not cover the social impact of these planned changes eg: health, safety, community cohesion etc.

She also criticised the council’s division of the project into parts so that the Northern Arterial and the four laning of Cranford St did not have to deal with what happens to traffic beyond Innes Road.

We know it will increase. The traffic modelling report from November 2014 estimates increased traffic by 18,800 vehicles per day (vpd), increased delays, re-routing on to local roads with increased traffic between 1300 and 2500 vpd, 2300 more truck movements. “These changes in volumes could cause potential problems for existing roads and intersections,” the report concludes.

Emma fears that the number of cars coming through will double and there will be ‘rat running’ or cars speeding down side roads to avoid congestion on main routes, making St Albans less safe. Many St Albans roads were designed during the 19th century for horse drawn traffic and are not suitable for handling 21st century traffic.

Emma pointed out that few St Albans roads were up to standard, even before the earthquakes. Money was not spent while roading was in limbo, thanks to an earlier plan for a motorway route down Madras St, a plan later abandoned, after opposition from local residents.

Adding motorways to Christchurch, or any other city for that matter, is not the answer. Building new roads only encourages more traffic. According to Asif Ahmed

and Peter Stopher of the University of Sydney in *Seventy Minutes Plus or Minus Ten*, “trying to reduce congestion by expanding capacity may succeed in the short term, but will attract additional travel in the longterm until congestion reaches or exceeds its prior level.”

Vehicle mobility has been prized over other socio-economic outcomes, with bad results. Public transport needs to be seen as a viable option, not just for the transport disadvantaged, Emma said.

There were also health concerns for people living close to motorway traffic. University of Canterbury researchers, after studying Auckland traffic, recommended a separation buffer of at least 100 metres from major roads.

Emma was annoyed at an implied threat from city council staff at an earlier hearing that if this plan did not go ahead there were things Council could do to the roads without consultation. They could for instance, put median strips down Cranford St or restrict parking, without needing consent.

There is growing resentment in Christchurch (including some city councillors) about the council being required to spend millions of dollars on roading to make it easier for those who have chosen to live in other districts (Selwyn and Waimakariri) to travel to and from Christchurch. Why should CCC ratepayers money be spent on providing this service to other districts?

It may improve the travel times for town dwellers but at the cost of those living in places like St Albans and at Christchurch ratepayers’ expense.

So what is the answer? Finding an alternative route? SARA wants Council to seek a sustainable route that does not split a 165 year old community in half, possibly taking another look at Marshlands Road, a plan rejected by the council staff because of cost and land issues.

Or should money be put into park and ride schemes or the rail corridors for light rail with money set aside for local roads renewal?

We will have to wait for the answers. The adjourned ECan hearing reconvenes some time in June. ☞

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Reverse That Thinking

In real estate you often hear people say that Spring is the best time to sell. The logic to that is sound, Christchurch puts on a shine with the blossoms and daffodils abounding. People become more relaxed and look forward to warmer days. For those that decide to sell in winter however there are many advantages that we may not think of. For a starter, there will be far fewer properties on the market in Winter. Often buyers that are looking in winter are very motivated and we see less of the 'tire kickers'. With fewer sales banks are under pressure to lend out money and thus more willing to compete through your broker to win deals. So as you see, by thinking a little differently, winter becomes a great opportunity to sell your home.



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No hands needed at the Tay St pumping station

The pumping station in Kensington Ave, known as the Tay St pumping station, has been completed and city council staff have been landscaping the site.

Lorna Szentivanyi, a Mairehau library volunteer was pleased to see the end of the disruptive works. "Access to the Mairehau Library was difficult for many users and they chose not to come thus having an adverse effect on this volunteer library's income and book issue numbers."

The council put a small building right in front of the library to house a generator, which has now been installed.

She said the station operation had been delayed when water was found after the hole was dug to seven metres deep. The sand has since been replaced with shingle.

Lorna was pleased to see the station operating manually during a heavy rainfall in April, with no surface flooding.

The council said there was insufficient flow in the drain to 'test' the system but would continue to monitor the pump station and drain over winter.

The council is confident that the pump station can pump stormwater in the event of heavy rain and an operational protocol has been put in place in case of forecast heavy rainfall.

At the moment, the operation is manual. The commissioning of the automation software is ongoing and is expected to be complete in mid-June.

The community will be consulted soon on how they would like the completion of the pump station to be acknowledged.

Jo Byrne, who took action that lead to the council investigating ways of preventing flooding in the earthquake-lowered part of St Albans and beyond, said this was a positive sign for residents anxious about flooding. However, she said the Flockton area remains at risk in large rain events but there was further work to be done.

The city council has split further work into upstream and downstream of the station. Upstream means Dudley Creek west of Petrie St. This section has been approved and according to our community sources work is likely to begin on this sometime in September. The downstream section is still being investigated (including bypass options) and consulted upon.

When completed in 2017 the flood protection works

will significantly lower flood levels for more than 500 properties in the Flockton Basin, returning them to pre-earthquake (and possibly an improvement on) levels.

For further information: www.ccc.govt.nz/floodmitigation

Increased flooding vulnerability

by Jo Byrne

Following the outcome of the High Court Declaratory judgement, EQC has begun to settle Increased Flooding Vulnerability Claims (IFV) by Diminution of Value (DOV) payments. To qualify for IFV, damaged property must meet certain criteria, both engineering and valuation. EQC's preference is to settle these claims by cash payment, as they believe it may not be possible or feasible to repair the land affected. The maximum payable by DOV is 26 per cent of the property value prior to the earthquakes. The matrix for assessing the DOV payment is available on the EQC website.

This decision affects over 10,000 properties across Christchurch and EQC plans to settle up to 300 of these claims per week. There are some legal challenges around this process. Residents with IFV land claims should be careful when signing Deed of Assignments (DOA) of Land Claims to their Insurer. When you sign a DOA you may not receive information regarding your land, as the terms of some DOA require that all rights are passed on to your Insurer. It is recommended they seek legal advice.



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What goes around comes around

by Peggy Kelly

Packe Street Park and Community Garden Inc

Before sunrise on 17 May 1997, the people of Packe Street gathered at their new park to plant two young kahikatea, donated by Trees for Canterbury. It was quite an occasion, and was supported by local dignitaries. We spread a white table cloth over bales of straw and breakfasted on fresh bread and home-made jams.

The kahikatea had a rough start in the park; they served as goal posts for a good many years. One tree was always a bit bigger than the other. In due course, much to our collective delight, the little one turned out to be female. Female kahikatea, in my opinion, have the most beautiful looking fruit in the world. For the last five autumns we have had the pleasure of watching close-up as the cones ripen to intense colours. Then, in secret, last year our Honorary Resident Botanist harvested some of the seed and asked Dave Purcell at Landcare in Lincoln if he would

germinate them. This week a pot of 30 small kahikatea were sent home to us. Steve Bush at Trees for Canterbury seemed amused to be asked if he would like the offspring of his original plants back. "Of course", he gallantly said. So we delivered them to him on 17 May 2015 – just for fun.



Meanwhile Texture Plants also had a success on our behalf, this time with our *Chaenomeles cathayensis* (West China quince). We have two kinds of quince in the park and *Chaenomeles* is the less common one; it ripens later than the European *Cydonia oblonga* and to my mind makes a very special jelly to eat with a favourite cheese. So, around about the time

that the kahikatea seedlings arrived we also took delivery of three half-metre-tall prickly Chinese quinces (with the potential to grow another two metres at least). Where could we put these precious trees? I rang Catherine O'Neill at New Brighton Community Garden who said yes, she'd be pleased to give them a home, and that in return she'd bring some vegetable seedlings for Packe Street Community Garden. So that's how we got a big tray of mixed greens to transplant the following Thursday.

By the way there is a third kind of quince in St Albans – *Pseudocydonia sinensis* (Eastern China quince) in Abberly Park. Now all the secrets are out!

The sharing between plant-people and community gardens in Christchurch is wonderfully productive. The network is strong and the next generation is joining in too; the little ABC children in Champion Street have already planted out their own broad beans in Packe Street Park. We wish them "Good harvest and good seed-saving". ☘

Bountiful garden wins community garden award

The Uniting Church in Knowles Street has a large garden at the back of the church office, the produce of which they share with parishioners and neighbours. Their large bountiful garden won them the sustainable community garden in the third Edible Garden Awards in April, and they also won it in 2014.

Shirley Papanui Community Board Chair, Mike Davidson says the Shirley/Papanui Community Board is committed to encouraging the growth of localised food production by holding the event.

"Our active and ongoing support for activities and initiatives around edible gardens and fruit forests is helping to build strong and resilient communities. We are also keen to support and grow our relationships

with local primary schools championing the next generation to grow their own food, nurture their environment, themselves and others," he says.

Uniting Church Minister Hugh Perry said vegetables are distributed at the Sunday 10am service, with leftovers given out to the Music and Movement group the following Tuesday. He said that Ruth and Peter Mears, pictured working in the garden at 262 Knowles St, were the prime force in its establishment. He also pointed out that Men's Shed members had put a timber border around the garden beds and paved the paths after this photo was taken.



Photo: Hugh Perry, Uniting Church Minister.

He encouraged neighbours to help themselves. "Since we put an honesty box at the garden neighbours have felt more comfortable picking their own vegetables and we are happy for them to also contribute with a bit of weeding from time to time," Rev Perry said. ☘

The Keepsake Singers – Mind your singing

by Jacinta O'Reilly

A new singing group is meeting in St Albans. The Keepsake Singers is for everyone who enjoys singing songs from the past in a fun, friendly atmosphere; we are particularly welcoming to older adults and to people experiencing memory loss and dementia.

The group meets weekly every Tuesday at 95 Forfar St during the school term from 2pm to 4pm. Our next holidays are the first two weeks in July - so we run until 30 June, and start again on 21 July.

You can come along any Tuesday though; there is no need to wait for a new term.

The Keepsake Singers is an initiative of The Muse Community Music Trust, with support from Community and Public Health.

The group is led by Steve Langley, an experienced musician, teacher and

counsellor. Steve has been part of the Natural Magic Pirate Band for many years as well as singing, playing saxophone and ukulele, and has a gift for leading groups where everyone can join in.

Come along on Tuesday afternoons and relax in the enjoyment of our shared treasure of songs, while connecting with others who love to sing.

The Muse Community Music Trust also runs the very popular Rockers of Ages choirs which sing songs from around the world in four part harmony. New members are always welcome.

Phone 0800THEMUSE (0800 843 687) or email: info@themuse.org.nz for more information.



Cubs help veterans

St Matthews cub scouts held an Anzac Day breakfast, fed 125 people and raised \$340 for the RSA charitable trust.

The money will be used to support veterans and service members in need.

Special thanks to Hellers, Nicci Lough, Lorraine Salter, Clark Martin, Roman Rodriguez, Alan Hinman and Gijs Hovens.

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Centre at the heart of the community

by Emma Twaddell

Situated on Colombo Street just down from Edgware Village, the St Albans Community Centre is buzzing with daily activity and is once again functioning as a drop in centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Having spent a few days down there with new centre manager, Sandra Wilson, I can see why having a face with the space is so important. Hall users can now be supported and locals have somewhere to come to share information and find out about resources in our community.

Thanks to Vodafone the community is even better connected now too, with wifi at the centre and a contact phone number, something we haven't had for almost five years.

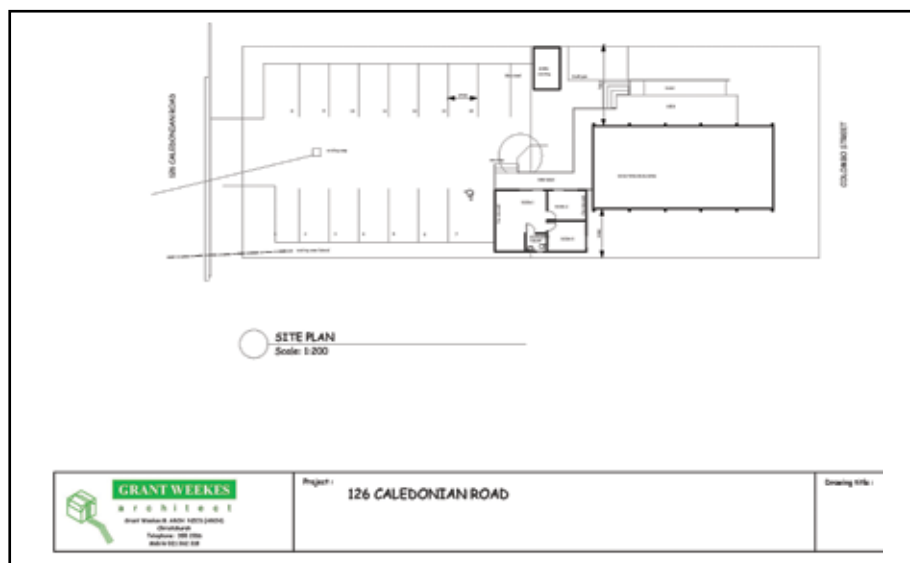
Sharing of information has also become easier this week thanks to Rotary who have donated and installed a noticeboard at the front of the centre.

The new building, donated by START Healing and moved to Caledonian Rd by Smith Cranes, is getting closer to the construction

stage and we are looking forward to having more space for groups as well as a computer room and a community office. Currently we are working with the CCC to get the necessary consents and then it will be all go.

We require a person who would like to volunteer to manage the building project for SARA. This would involve working with the architect, engineer and the tradespeople to prepare the site, construct the foundations and decking and complete the refit of the building. Please contact me at sara@stalbens.gen.nz or phone 027 288 6334 if you can help.

We are also interested in hearing from people who would like to volunteer their own or others' tradie skills, (eg. builders, plumbers and electricians) to join with others who have already pledged their time. It would be great to be able to get a team together so please let me know if you can help. ☸



SARA's ReSTART building (below) is awaiting Christchurch City Council approval to relocate to an area behind the current (temporary) community centre. This will provide more space for SARA and community groups. A plan has been drawn up (see above).



St Albans Art Group returns to the community centre



The St Albans Art Group used to base its activities at the St Albans Community Centre before the earthquakes. After several years of moving between different venues, the group is now back where they belong, in the St Albans Community Centre. The group is made up of mostly painters who use different media and paint in a variety of styles. They meet on Friday mornings and new members are always welcome.

SkillWise joins the St Albans Community Centre



Ben and Liam with the remains of the shed at 130 Caledonian Road after they dealt to it with a sledgehammer.

SkillWise, a support group for adults with intellectual disabilities, has recently begun working out of the St Albans Community Centre

Many SkillWise clients live St Albans so the organization is looking for ways to get more personally involved with St Albans community groups, businesses and residents.

SkillWise provide support options including personalised opportunities in community settings and across a wide spectrum of activities, for adults with intellectual disabilities.

They run numerous onsite activities such as cooking classes, sports teams, hobbies, arts and crafts, computers and book and film groups, just to mention a few. SkillWise also offers activities in the community, as part of their policy of integration and inclusion.

During a casual conversation with Emma of the St Albans Residents Association shortly after Skillwise arrived at the centre, she mentioned that the community centre needed an out building demolished as part

of a site clearance project. SkillWise volunteered to do this.

SkillWise's employment support co-ordinators, Roger and Sharon, who help their clients with their ultimate goal of finding paid work, suggested that this would be a great opportunity for SkillWise job seekers to help improve the local environment, while demonstrating their abilities to the community at large.

A team was soon assembled and a skip was placed on site. Then Ben, Shane and Liam and Roger dismantled the shed using large sledge-hammers. With enthusiasm and team work the job was done in a couple of mornings.

SkillWise often have people actively looking for part-time work, with support of the employment support team. If any employers have vacancies or would like to find out how SkillWise can help businesses in the area, they can be contacted via email: Roger.walker@skillwise.org.nz, by telephoning (03) 382 0350 or check out www.skillwise.org.nz on the web or on SkillWise on Facebook.



Volunteering Week

National Volunteering Week will be celebrated this year during the week of 21—27 June with theme 'There is a Place for You to Volunteer'.

One of the events planned is a panel discussion where volunteers will talk about where 'their' place to volunteer is, and why they do it.

This will be held at Christchurch Community House, 301 Tuam Street, from 2-4pm on Thursday 25 June. Annual Volunteer Recognition Awards will be presented at the Civic Offices by Deputy Mayor, Vicki Buck, on Tuesday 23 June at 2pm.

If you want to volunteer, create your own volunteering account at www.volcanmatch.com and find out details of over 250 volunteer roles currently available.

Offers of help for Packe St

Offers of help from different quarters, plus successful grant applications are getting the Packe St park community garden closer towards having its shed connected to water and for a toilet to be installed.

Among those helping recently were workers from Contact Energy who were matched by Volunteering Canterbury with Packe St park to dig a ditch or trench to connect waterpipes to the shed.

Volcan has a programme called Employer supported volunteers programme, which encourages groups of volunteers from a workplace to engage with the community.

For further information visit www.volcan.org.nz or visit their facebook page.

Remembering Mr Banfield

by Daph Parkins

Back in the 1930s, when Allard Street was Cornhill Street and unsealed, home was there midst a very friendly community of families and playmates. There were just two cars in the street, so learning to ride a neighbour's full-size bike was free from traffic hassles, but not from gravel grazes and bruises when falling off.

Although most of the street had their own kitchen gardens on their peaty sections, Mr Banfield, a green grocer with his horse and cart, called regularly. We bought anything affordable that we could not grow such as oranges or bananas, but the real bonus was his horse's contribution on the gravel road. This was eyed by Mother who hoped it would still be there for collection after dark. It was. Armed with a bucket and fire shovel, she suddenly so disturbed the silence of the night with the scraping shovel that several street blinds flew up to reveal the embarrassed claimant. Our roses certainly appreciated her effort.

My best classmate at St Albans School was Margaret. We frequently played after school at her place in Massey Street (now Massey Crescent). We were 10 years old in Standard III and her brother Gordon was eight years old.



One afternoon Margaret, who had her own roller skates, was giving me my first and only lesson on Gordon's skates. Coincidentally, Mr Banfield with his horse and cart and vegetables arrived. He took his usual basket of goodies into their home leaving his horse and produce near the gate. Gordon, without his roller skates, was at a loose end. He climbed onto the cart. When he picked up the reins the horse moved. He thought pulling hard on the reins would work like brakes. Not so! Strapped to

our skates we were helpless to follow the swift trail of buckets, scales, cabbages and apples scattering all over the road. The cartwheel scraped across the concrete gutter as he disappeared round the first bend.

Meanwhile a very worried Mr Banfield appeared with Gordon's angry and anxious mother at the gate. Miraculously, either the horse or novice driver found out how to circuit the block with left turns to arrive back to a very relieved Mr Banfield, who rescued and calmed his horse, while the terrified Gordon disappeared rapidly into his house. We eventually found him under his bed. But this was no time for a hiding, as his dear mother could now only smile and chuckle. ☘

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100 years ago in St Albans

Compiled by Brian Spear, St Albans History Group

Reading through the columns of the Press for the first week in June 1915 there are a number of mentions of St Albans.

St Albans was a bustling place. Building permits to the value of £3700 were issued for St Albans from a total of £6910 for the whole of Christchurch.

Properties for sale: NZ Farmers' Co-op listed a new bungalow in St Albans West: "The owner of this choice property is determined to sell, and has just made a heavy reduction in his already low price. It comprises a nicely designed and arranged bungalow of six good rooms and all conveniences, having a nice sunny outlook, together with fine high section of 33 perches. The situation is on a favourite street, and the locality is a very desirable one. Price £785. Terms if required.

H S Richards & Son had "An excellent corner quarter acre section close to 2d section, a bargain at £175.

Craddock, McCrostie & Co had "Three splendid building sections each of 26 perches with good frontage, priced at £95 each. Right on the two penny section, and the cheapest sections in this locality.

Smith & Bruere, licensed land brokers - £25 deposit for up to date bungalow of five rooms in St Albans. Price £650, be quick if you want this. Also £780 for five room bungalow on ¼ acre section in choice locality of St Albans.

As for rental accommodation, there was a large five room bungalow in Bealey Street (just off Bealey Avenue) for rent at £1 per week and another in Fitzgerald Street for 18/- per week.

Other News: those to "Answer the Call to the Colours" and signed up at the barracks included Norman Ralph

Harrison of 1040 Colombo Street and L Donovan, a hairdresser of Trafalgar Street and Walter Robert McCallum, a clerk of 150 Fitzgerald Street. Other enlistments included, Arthur M Gossett of Trafalgar Street and William Ernest Page of 86 Bristol Street.

With the Great War raging, news was received that driver Leonard Arthur West, had been wounded. He was a member of the No 3 Field Artillery Brigade and was the youngest son of Mr H J West of 529 Barbadoes Street. He was born in July 1892, and educated at St Albans Main School. He was a driver in E Battery and joined the Canterbury Contingent of the Main Expeditionary Force. Prior to enlistment he was on the staff of Maling and Co.

Fire destroyed the washhouse and its contents at 55 Clare Road, the property of Mr F J Flood. It was uninsured.

Bishop Averill was paying a short visit to Christchurch and preached at St Matthew's in St Albans.

Sport: Hockey and soccer were still being played at St Albans Park with the St Albans Soccer Club fielding teams in the competitions. ¶

Check out what was happening 100 years ago in The Press and other papers, some of which are no longer published, on paperspast.co.nz. Microfilmed copies of The Press are also available at the library. In 1915, St Albans was a larger area than it is today and some of the street names have changed.



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Swimming club holds tryathlon and prize giving

by *Valerie Somerville*

The St Albans Swim Club finished the end of the season recently with a tryathlon and prizegiving at Shirley Intermediate School.

The tryathlon involved swimming and cycling events. Charlie Leonard received the Dorrie Venning Trophy for winning the senior event.

Progress certificates were presented to all club members as a record of their progress during the 10 week season.

Trophies and cups, some dating back to 1930, were also awarded. These included the Brian Gardner Trophy for best effort, which went to Natalya Wastney who showed the most outstanding progress, the Blood Cup for the most promising girl, which went to Georgia Thomas and the English Cup for the most promising



boy, which went to Charlie Leonard.

A picnic barbecue beside the pool was a great way for the 70 club

Children competing in the tryathlon (swimming and cycling) on the final day of St Albans Swimming Club's summer season

members and their families to end the season.

The club recognises and thanks all parents who assisted as volunteers during the season. ❧



Computers stolen from St Albans School

By *Liz Van Halewyn*

In the third week of May, four desktop computers were stolen from the junior block of St Albans Primary School.

Deputy Principal Glen McKenzie said that it served as a reminder to the community that even good security systems are not infallible. "We thought we had pretty good security," he said, "but obviously there are people who can find ways around these things, so security will be even further enhanced."

The children's learning continued however. Teachers moved those in affected classrooms to the school hall for their morning lessons.

It was disconcerting for the school that the theft happened over the space of two consecutive nights. If any members of the public have any information or saw anything on the night of 20 or 21 May, please could they contact the Police.

Rehua Marae closed for repairs

Te Whatu Manawa Māoritanga o Rehua Trust says the whareniui and wharekai at Rehua Marae were closed for repairs and renovations from 20 April and are expected to be completed at the end of August 2015.

Te Putahinui o Rehua is the marae redevelopment project. This work is being funded thanks to insurance payouts and grant funding.

These renovations are the first stage and will see repairs carried out on the whareniui, a new kitchen, redeveloped dining hall and ablution block. The construction work is being led by Andy Ruruku (Ru-Build Ltd) and a group of former Māori Trade Training graduates from Te Kaihanga and Rehua Hostels.

Unfortunately, this means the marae and its facilities will not be available for events or tangihanga. It will not affect Te Puni Kōkiri, Wairewa Rūnanga, Mahanui Kura Taioa, Kohanga Reo Te Waipounamu Office and the Kaumātua Day Care Service. ❧

Christchurch, a diverse and festive city

by Nicky Wagner

It was great to see so many Cantabrians come out to welcome Prince Harry on his recent tour. This occasion was a great opportunity for families to come together, plus a great opportunity for hordes of young ladies in search of a proposal!

But while we have been watching the Royal Tour, plenty has been happening out and about in our community. I particularly enjoyed the 2015 Polyfest in Westminster Park back in April. This colourful, family-friendly event was a great opportunity to experience and better understand Pasifika cultures. I am always impressed by the colour and coordination of Pacific dancing and performance. In May, I attended the Scottish Society's World War One commemorative service at the Scottish Society Hall on Edgeware Road. This was a moving and well organised memorial, and I wish to thank the Society



for their kind invitation.

For many of you in the northern suburbs, the Northern Arterial Route proposal is of interest. The proposal will link in with the Western Belfast Bypass to help divert South-bound, State

Highway One traffic away from Belfast, Redwood and Papanui while the Northern will also help divert port traffic around QEII drive and down through State

Highway 74. While it has sparked a lot of discussion, this project will greatly improve accessibility to Christchurch. If you have any concerns, feel free to contact my office and join my mailing updates list for this project.

As Minister for Disability issues, I'm very excited about a local programme called Enabling Good Lives. Enabling Good Lives aims to help people living with disabilities better fulfil their own plans for the future. This programme started with a trial in Christchurch last year and I am encouraged by the results so far. Ultimately, the aim is to allow disabled people and their families

a more flexible and tailored approach when utilising current support resources in our community. As with any community, St Albans and the northern suburbs are composed of people with a variety of backgrounds, skill sets and characteristics that are best served when every member has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

With winter now settling in we are going to need to make sure we are prepared. For those people in the Flockton Basin, Christchurch City Council work will be put to the test and I feel confident that the problems that plagued 2014 will not be reoccurring as a result of the Council's good work. If you or your family are unsure about your preparedness for winter, please feel free to contact my office as I am always happy to help where possible.





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National
www.national.org.nz



Community Notices

The St Albans History Group wants to make copies of any photos or records of earlier St Albans homes, businesses, personalities or locations. Anyone who could help with this project should contact Brian Spear for further information. His email address is: brianspear@hotmail.com

Packe St Park and Community Garden Working Bee and Afternoon Tea: Thursdays 2 to 4pm.

St Albans Community Pre-school: Westminster St/Thames St Cnr. For more information contact Odette on 03 355 9396

St Albans Uniting Parish presents 'Community Comment' on the first Friday of each month @ 7.30pm. Nancy Ave/ Knowles St Cnr.

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

FREE INSULATION Warm Up New Zealand: Healthy Homes projects provide free ceiling and underfloor insulation for

low-income households occupied by people with health needs related to cold, damp housing. Available to home owners and tenants. Contact Right House 0800 744 569, EnergySmart 0800 777 111 or Community Energy Action Charitable Trust: 0800 GET WARM (0800 438 9276)

St Albans Community BBQ Trailer is available to hire for events. FREE to any St Albans resident to use for a street level event. Enquires to BBQ@stalbens.gen.nz

Highland Dancing: For boys and girls aged four years and above. Saturdays from 9.30-11am during school term at Scottish Society Hall, corner Edgeware and Caledonian Roads. For more information contact: Cushla Piesse at cp.piesse@orcon.net.nz

We're looking for volunteer writers, reporters, investigative journalists. At St Albans News, we're always striving to bring you the best articles, in depth reports and interesting facts about this great suburb that we live in. However, to do so, we are searching for more volunteer writers and reporters and

even investigative journalists.

If you think you might be a good fit as a volunteer writer, reporter or investigator send an email to news@stalbens.gen.nz

Local residents needed to lead and/or join local community projects: See the St Albans Community Strategy 2013-2023 for ideas of how you can help out in the community. Contact SARA@stalbens.gen.nz for more information.

St Albans Residents Association Community Discussion and Management Committee Meeting. Second Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Mairehau Library, Kensington Ave. All welcome.

Swim lessons. The family-friendly St Albans swimming club offers affordable swimming lessons in Shirley Intermediate School's laned, heated pool. The club often has a barbecue at the lessons. Lessons run from Monday to Thursdays, from 4-5.30pm. For more information email:

paul.valerie@actrix.co.nz

Canterbury Embroiderers' Guild, Hammersley Community Centre. 11 Amos Place, off Marshlands Road. Groups meet Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri. Workdays with projects and tutored classes held during the year. All welcome who enjoy any form of stitching at any skill level. Contacts: Kate 027 446 0138 or Lynne 382 2572

Merivale Elite6: Every Thursday at 7:30am—8:30am (Arrive 7:20am to order a drink and/or breakfast). At McDonald's Merivale, 217 Papanui Rd, Christchurch 8014. www.elite6.co.nz/merivale/

Pre School Relievers: We need casual, on call, qualified relievers. Please call St Albans Community Preschool, 3 Thames St, phone 355 9396.

Papanui Cycleway: CCC will be consulting soon for the full Papanui Cycleway route from Bealey Ave to the northern Rail path, via Colombo, Trafalgar, Rutland, Grassmere, Main North, Sawyers Arms Roads. If you would like to be involved contact Sandra at communitycentre@stalbens.gen.nz or 021 317584. Dates will be posted on the St Albans Website and facebook page when they are known.

Earthquake Support

Earthquake Support Coordinators are available to assist people navigate through the wide range of services involved in repairing and rebuilding people's homes and lives. The Coordinators work with you to access as little or as much help as you need. Earthquake Support Coordinators can meet with you anywhere you choose – your home, place of work, or other location. The assistance is free and confidential and can be contacted on 0800 777 846

Residential Advisory Service (RAS) 03 379 7027 – 0800 777 299

The Residential Advisory Service provides free, independent help to residential property owners who are facing challenges in getting their home repaired or rebuilt after it has been damaged by the Canterbury Earthquakes. For more information, go to: www.advisory.org.nz

Need help to find help? Feeling distressed and overwhelmed right now?

Call the Canterbury Support Line 0800 777 846 open 7 days from 9am to 11pm. Talking can help. Call 0800 777 846 to be referred to free and confidential advice.

New Zealand Red Cross help still available in Christchurch

Pack and Move. To assist households in greater Christchurch with limited or no insurance who are moving house because of the earthquakes. Up to \$750 per household paid directly to the moving company

Storage Grant. To assist earthquake affected homeowners and renters who have had to vacate their property and pay for storage anytime since 4th September 2010 and have exhausted other financial assistance to pay for storage. Up to \$1,000 per household

Independent Advice Grant. To assist homeowners in the Red/Green TC3 Zones or who have over \$100k of damage with obtaining assistance on what to do with the earthquake-damaged property. Up to \$750 per Household. For more information go to: www.redcross.org.nz and click on Canterbury or phone 0800 754 726

Let's Find and Fix is a CanCERN project. Call 0800 233 551. Let's Find And Fix specifically targets those homes where there are holes in external walls, the roof or floor, or plastic used as cladding. Problems with drainage where the toilet backs up, or there is raw sewerage/waste water or polluted liquefaction lying on the property. External windows or doors do not open, shut or lock properly.

In the Know is a question-and-answer based service that aims to make it easier and faster for residents to get information about the residential rebuild and repair process. It is based at Eastgate Mall until June 26, running workshops and answering questions and can be found online at: www.intheknow.org.nz or contact Leanne at CanCERN on 027 655 5665 for more information.

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

St Albans News Classifieds

SERVICES

Aakland Carpet Cleaning: Carpets and Upholstery Cleaned. Super cleaned from \$15/room. Over 25 years experience. Phone 388 3314.

Bookkeeper: Help with getting your accounts sorted for an accountant, startup, cashflow, budgeting and funding applications. Call Carole 021 264 5772

Computer Guru: Highest quality computer servicing, fixing all hardware/software problems, installations, advice and more. Servicing St Albans for five years. Callouts start at \$40/hr. Offsite repairs \$20/hrs. Phone Ron 379 3061 or 021 0243 7398 or pcguru@orcon.net.nz

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Door Specialist: Repairs, adjustments and installation of all doors and locks, ranch slider wheels and locks, garage doors. Qualified Tradesman. Ph Stewart 365 2969 or 021 185 4055

Pentax 35 mm Spotmatic film camera [body only]. To give away. Needs attention. Ph Ron 379 7434

Gardening: Ants' Lawn and Garden services, reasonable rates, WINZ quotes ph: 980 4070

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Hairdresser: Long lasting shiny hair colour, organic based ammonia free, good for you, good for the environment. Great haircuts. The Lounge Organic Hairdressing, 80 Derby St, ph 379 6368

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Talking Therapy: Registered Psychotherapists, 178 Harewood Road, Papanui,

Christchurch. Ph: 354 8045, fax: 3548042, <http://www.talkingtherapy.co.nz/>

Local Writer: Orphaned Islands (Un) poetry. Offbeat short, short stories. Funny, poignant, quirky and different. orphanedislandsunpoetry.com

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Meditative Yoga: St Albans Shirley Club 269 Hills Road. Tuesdays 10–11.30am. Gentle, enjoyable, relaxing, ideal for mature bodies, fuller figures, beginners. Phone Pauline 980-8760

Yoga Class Thursdays 10am - 11.15am Abberley Park Hall in the delightful Abberley Park - all abilities and ages welcome. Tracy 02204 86949 or 03 356 1754

Funky Boots: Group fitness training in your community. Contact Laura for more information 0211929388. www.funkybootcamps.co.nz

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