

Trial leading to possible alcohol ban in Edgeware Village

by Belinda Carter

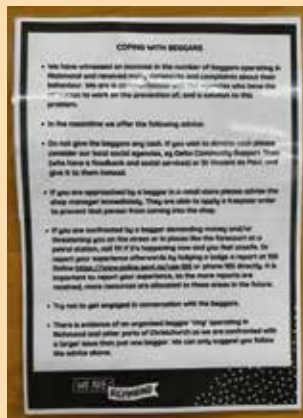
Community board staff are investigating an alcohol ban for Edgeware Village and what form that will take. The community board wants a six month trial under section 147 of the Local Government Act that will include working with agencies to address the underlying social issues in Edgeware Village.

A trial, which is still some months away, will enable time and energy to put into finding solutions that deal with aggressive begging and problematic individuals who are seen around the village. They have been demanding money from people before they get out of their cars, sleeping in the streets and urinating in the gutters and more. It has made it unpleasant for shoppers and passersby who are beginning to avoid the village, which has consequences for local businesses.

Anyone can ask for a ban but you need to provide evidence of the disorder and harm before it is considered.

A permanent solution, requiring a bylaw change by the full Council, is a possibility for sometime in 2025.

Community activator (and community board representative) Emma Twaddell was one of the people who brought the problem to CCC's attention earlier this year. ✂



Edgeware Village is not the only area of the city plagued by problematic begging and associated alcohol detritus. A Richmond residents group has also asked the city council for a ban along part of Stanmore Rd, meanwhile posting advice to residents on how to deal with the problem.

Work on Local Alcohol Policy gets a reboot

Councillors have asked council staff to recommence work on a Local Alcohol Policy (LAP) outlining how alcohol can be sold and supplied in Christchurch, following a decision at the June 5 meeting.

Christchurch City Council paused its previous efforts to implement a poorly-designed LAP in 2017, after a costly four-year process involving appeals and a judicial review. Recent changes to the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012, 2023 amendments and case law made in the Supreme Court have simplified the process for councils to develop their own LAPs and for communities to participate more in alcohol licensing decisions in their district.

Councils can develop their own LAP, in consultation with the local community, to influence factors such as the number, location, and opening hours of licensed premises.

CCC staff will report back in December with a draft LAP ready to take out to the community for public feedback in 2025. A vote to implement the policy is at least 18 months away.

Council agreed to allow liquor industry reps to be included as stakeholders so they will have a role in drafting the LAP. A deputation earlier in the meeting pointed out that Christchurch needs a vibrant nightlife and it won't get one with tough restrictions. On licences were well controlled, they said and the alcohol harm problem was mainly involved off-licences that sold items for people to take away.

The District Licensing Committee, which decides if a business can sell alcohol, takes into account LAPs and alcohol bans when making decisions on whether to grant licences, including renewals.

Deputy Mayor Pauline Cotter says the ultimate goal of any good LAP is to reflect the values of the wider community. "Ultimately, every LAP is about reducing alcohol harm in the community, she told council's Newsline. "Everyone will have the chance to weigh in with their views on how our district should treat what can be a very complex issue. The community's range of views on what's helpful and what's not will inform the final decision."

It was pointed out at the meeting that the LAP was optional and not the only tool dealing with issues of alcohol harm. Other tools include The Christchurch Alcohol Action Plan, involving the council, police and health bodies. This expired in 2021 and needs revisiting. <https://ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Culture-Community/Community-Safety/ChristchurchAlcoholActionPlanFinal.pdf>

Another tool involves limited area alcohol bans which limit bringing alcohol into named city streets for which individuals can be prosecuted – the city already has 17 different areas including the area around the University, Woolston and Merivale with varied policies and times they are in force that help control behaviour in specified areas. Edgeware Village and Richmond Village are the latest areas seeking to join that list.



Chairchat

Lending Shirley a hand to rebuild

We would like to reiterate to the community board that the St Albans Residents Association (SARA) fully supports the rebuild of the Shirley Community Centre that was lost to the Canterbury Earthquakes.

SARA has always supported investment in community facilities throughout Christchurch in an equitable fashion.

We would like to see the decade-long indecisive process regarding IO Shirley Rd end, and some certainty given to the community that a facility will be rebuilt and community groups can again form, and have a space to socialise and carry out their interests, hobbies, and passions as well as have a place to meet, celebrate, commemorate, discuss. This facility should be owned by the people, and managed by the community.

The St Albans Community Centre, Kōhinga, is now a fully-booked facility most days of the week, with other community spaces nearby, such as the very large Scottish Society hall basically next door. Kōhinga has not detracted from the use of the surrounding facilities, more so the centre has encouraged the surrounding community to become more social, at a place that is focused on community engagement and providing a space for all to enable this. SARA envisions and hopes for the same to occur with the Shirley Community Centre.

Please be assured that the St Albans Residents Association will lend its support to the community group entrusted with the running of a rebuilt Shirley Community Centre at IO Shirley Rd. The experience and systems developed in the management of Kōhinga St Albans Community Centre can be shared and oversight given in getting a management structure in place.

Mark Wilson and Lynne O'Keefe, SARA

Design work to commence soon

The proposed Shirley Community Centre rebuild was discussed at the Waipapa/Papanui-Innes-Central community board on June 13 and added requests for accessible playground equipment (for children with autism) and change facilities.

A small community centre similar in size (400sq metres) to the St Albans Community Centre is likely to be built and the rest of the reserve will be used mainly for recreational purposes.

Some sectors of Shirley would like to see the Shirley Library, currently at the Palms Mall, shift to IO Shirley Rd where it has good parking. Local feelings about that option are mixed.

Design work is likely to begin later in the year and possibly involve a community working group similar to one used for the St Albans Community Centre. Funding is being spread over four years and has been brought forward starting with the 2024/25 council year.

For further information see Pauline Cotter's column on page 10.

SARA Committee

St Albans Residents Association meets bi-monthly at St Albans Community Centre, 1049 Colombo St. Next meeting is Wednesday July 17, 7 pm.

Advertising in St Albans News

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

St Albans History Group

Next meeting: July 1, 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.

The deadline for the August issue of St Albans News is July 15
Please send your articles, letters and notices to:
news@stalbans.gen.nz

SARA Website

Check out SARA's website on www.stalbans.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

Nurse Maude shop supports daily living

by Belinda Carter

If you have an elderly relative or may have been recovering from an operation yourself chances are you will know about the helpful products on sale at the Nurse Maude Health and Mobility shop in Gasson St but not know about the full extent of what it offers.

Staff from the not for profit shop brought suitcases full of the products to the Cafe Chat session at the St Albans community centre on June 11. Its sheer variety of products that help augment personal skills was an eye opener.

These included:

- Tools made from silicon to open sticky jar lids and wine bottle tops. Cutlery such as a rocking knife makes it easy to cut things and plate guards are available for food including bowls with high or low sides
- Clothing protectors made from towelling and other materials (long enough to be used as aprons as well)
- Tube bandages available by the metre, protect lower arms and legs from scratches when gardening
- Aids to pull up and take off socks and shoe horns. Apparently they also help tuck in sheets, according to one person at Cafe Chat
- Tools for reaching things up high or picking things up off the floor, including one that has a magnet for picking up pins
- If you don't have a car boot that can be easily lifted there's a handy gadget for that. Also a belt cutter to get out of the car in an emergency
- Fingerless gloves and other garments that heat up knees or ankle joints
- Splints for dealing with RSI
- Wound care products including silicon products that are otherwise only available from a hospital
- Hypoallergenic moisturisers and barrier creams
- Foam bodywashes and softwipes that do not require water. Durable wipes, some being biodegradable
- Seal-tight protectors that can be used to keep bandaged or plastercast limbs dry while showering
- Waterproof underpants, pads and disposables in a range of sizes and strengths to absorb liquids (up to 3.7 litres) for urine or faeces, male and female options. A continence clinic is available by referral but requires a few months wait
- Chairpads and bedpads in a range of different sizes, with or without wings
- Back supports and devices that swing around to let people get in and out of a vehicle easily
- Mobility walkers, shower stools, wheelchairs (but nothing



Marilyn Vickery (left) and Josie Eccersall demonstrate some handy products

electric), elbow walkers and knee walkers are available

- Hernia belts, stoma belts and even catheters are stocked

These tools allow people to go out with confidence." You don't need to remain at home because you're embarrassed to go out" Nurse Maude's volunteer co-ordinator Marilyn Vickery said.

There are limits to what Nurse Maude stock. They don't stock electric as staff (mostly volunteers) do not have the expertise. Well known products available

on pharmacy shelves cannot be bought at the Nurse Maude shop but they have access to different brands

The shop at 87 Gasson St near the Byron St corner next to Jaycars, is open during work hours Monday to Friday and Saturday morning. If you want to purchase these products visit the shop during working hours or browse the online shop <https://www.maudesonline.org.nz>. They deliver from Rangiora to Rolleston the next day.

You don't need to disclose a disability but it enables staff to help you find the best tools. Seniors may get reduced prices through WINZ but that requires a quote. ☞

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

Send your news contributions and adverts to:

news@stalbans.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.

Weekly groups that meet at the community centre.

Monday	10am	Saygo - Rowena
	10am	Multicultural Mums and Bubs
	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
Wednesday	7pm	Ungu Capoeira
	9am	Wednesday Wheelies
	9.30am	Zumba with JB
	10am	SeniorNet
	10.30am	The Corner, coffee and chat
Thursday	7.00pm	Capoeira Angola
	9.30am	Saygo - Daph
	10.45am	Yoga with Tracy Kells
	10am	NeighbourNet
	5.00pm	Universal Martial Arts
Friday	7.15pm	Women in Harmony
	10am	SeniorNet
	6pm	Impact Youth

Yoga with Tracy back from 30th July

The programme lists activities run at the centre on a weekly basis. One off or less frequent activities can be notified for free through community notices or the events column or through paid advertising. Please contact advertising@stalbens.gen.nz for further information.

Facebook group for finding jobs in St Albans

by Belinda Carter

Volunteering Opportunities in St Albans is a private Facebook group that runs off the St Albans Community Centre Facebook page. You need to sign up as a member to the volunteering group to make or see the postings.

Most of the opportunities so far (the group is brand new) are based around things like the productive Kōhinga Mara garden in Caledonian Rd (working bee on Tuesday afternoon)

and the monthly Monday morning Café Chat, which is always looking for home bakers to produce the high tea nibbles and extra pairs of hands to set up tables beforehand and clear up afterwards.

However, it is not intended that the Facebook group is limited to the centre. Activator Emma Twaddell says this group is for people who are looking for volunteers to work together on a project and for people looking for a local project to volunteer for.

“Volunteering is a great way to gain new skills and knowledge, meet new people, and make a difference in our community... give[s] you the chance to be a part of addressing some of the world’s biggest challenges and play an active role in the global community.”

If you can’t access the page because you don’t have a Facebook account enquire at the centre office or email emma@stalbens.gen.nz



Keeping families safe from abuse

Aviva (the Christchurch part of the organisation formerly known as Women’s Refuge) now helps children and also tries to help perpetrators of family violence change their behaviour.

Perpetrators often threaten to do something nasty to the family pet as a way to control family members. Pet’s Refuge makes it easier for women and children to leave and find a safe place that will look after their pets. A pet refuge now operates in Christchurch: <https://www.petrefuge.org.nz>

A new men’s education group called Reach-out aims to reach men who may have used controlling behaviours or lived in families where violence and verbal abuse was common. <https://www.avivafamilies.org.nz/1-need-help/Reach-Out/>

If you want to know more about the work Aviva does, staff are coming to the Cafe Chat at the community centre on July 1 to talk about how their work helps end the cycle of violence.

For more information visit <https://www.avivafamilies.org.nz>

Multicultural group for mothers

A multicultural mums and bubs group is being established for local mothers and babies. The aim of this group is to provide support and companionship for new mothers and caregivers from all backgrounds. The group will meet on Mondays from 10am-12pm at the St Albans Community Centre, with the first session on Monday 8 July. Refreshments will be provided. All welcome including siblings. Contact sara@stalbens.gen.nz for further information.

Sustainability

Leaf litter plus more ideas for recycling

by Maria Lamb

Three weeks into winter and the leaves are falling fast! This is the season where litter can be missed as not always visible. One thing to be mindful of, stormwater drains tend to collect rubbish with leaves covering the top. So, if you happen to notice drains on your street looking blocked, it might pay to give them quick clean.

Plastic Free July is only around the corner and with that comes the opportunity to view our reliance on plastic. It seems more common now to see people using keep cups over disposable coffee cups. Also, carrying water bottles and refilling while out, appears to be the norm.

But what else is achievable? Taking a lunch container when out and about, can save on disposable food packaging, one of the major contributors to filling landfills. Although milk is mass-produced in plastic bottles, that can be recycled, there are some great companies delivering milk in glass bottles.

If you are someone that doesn’t like throwing those pesky plastic bottle tops in landfill, there are now four collection points for plastic numbers 2 and 5.

- Riverlution (Richmond Community Gardens) – 46a Vogel Street
- Hohepa Canterbury – 22 Barrington Street
- Canterbury Workers Educational Association (WEA) – 59 Gloucester Street
- Climate Action Campus – 180 Avonside Drive

We are continually seeing more people collecting chip packets, wine tops, can tabs, metal bottle lids and batteries. Thank you for your continued support and for separating these prior to dropping off at the St Albans Community Centre. Liquid cartons (Tetrapak) that cannot be recycled via kerbside collection, can be taken to Riverlution Eco Hub as they are now involved with the Food and Beverage Carton Recycling Scheme. The recycled cartons are transformed into saveBOARD products.

I’ll be updating my website with regular blogs throughout July, so feel free to follow me: <https://www.facebook.com/TidyKiwiNZ/>

*Kia haumaru ki te whai mana
Take care and be safe. Maria*

New trucks make clearing leaves easier

Trading rakes for specialised trucks, Christchurch City Council staff help clean up autumn leaves from May till July at a much faster rate.

One of the trucks, nicknamed The Goat, can grind the leaves into small pieces, City Streets Maintenance Manager Steve Guy said. Drivers can do more streets at the same time as it reduces the number of times they have to empty the load.

Another new truck rolling around Christchurch streets has a remote-controlled snorkel that can be used around cars parked on residential streets, but it still needs someone with a leaf blower to direct the leaves.

The latest truck, dubbed Noo Noo after the vacuum in the 90’s TV show for preschoolers Teletubbies, is much bigger than the other two and holds about three times the number of leaves.

The Council cannot sweep up all the leaves in the city – there are 980 high leaf fall areas alone – so drivers focus on areas where leaves inhibit stormwater, compromise safety and inhibit the growth of underlying plants.

Rather than calling the council asking for leaves to be collected, households can do their bit by regularly clearing leaves from the berm and putting them in their green bin (not in the gutter) or in the compost at the back of the garden where the leaves can break down and eventually become part of the soil. Don’t empty them in the gutters to be collected where they can become sticky and compressed.

“Please be patient. Our teams work hard to clear leaves



as quickly as possible, but sometimes heavy rainfall or high winds can cause more leaves to fall in a shorter period. We don’t want to receive reports of abuse when our teams are simply doing their jobs,” Steve Guy said.

Photos supplied by CCC Newsline

Pool rebuild appoints project managers

St Albans Pavilion and Pool Inc. has appointed Construction Management (CM-NZ) project managers to deliver the rebuild of the Edgware Pool.

CM-NZ will ensure a smooth transition from lodging the building consent into the construction stage.

CM-NZ CEO Paul Belcher says, "As a local living in the area, I am proud to join the group of local professionals who have committed their resources to the pool project. So much time and effort has gone into this project already. Local companies have come on board to assist in re-instating this community pool, just as happened with the original pool construction. From end-to-end it has been built by the community for the community."

The project won't rely on people with hand shovels to dig this one as they did in 1933—except for the first sod turning sometime in the next few months.

The St Albans Community Pool group has already raised

\$300,000 in cash and kind for design, resource consents, a Geotech investigation and technical support. Further fundraising will ramp up once construction begins, the St Albans Pavilion and Pool group chair Lynne O'Keefe says.

"For 70 years, the Edgware Pool was a popular summer community gathering place, where families socialised and generations of children learned to swim, life-save and train, even at national competition level. We lost the pool 18 years ago, but now at last we can begin to restore this valuable community asset. We've had a lot of support from the wider community and schools, with many school pools closed down over the years."

St Albans is still the second-fastest growing suburb in Christchurch (Halswell is faster) and having a local pool will be of huge benefit to the health and wellbeing of St Albans and the wider community.

For more information about CM-NZ, visit cm-nz.co.nz



Volunteering

Volcan matches volunteers with community groups

Do you want to give back to the community and have financial skills, or can cut people's nails. These are two volunteering (unpaid) roles in St Albans.

The small Mairehau library in Kensington Ave wants a treasurer for their committee and the Neighbourhood Trust in McFaddens Rd wants people to help those who cannot reach their toes get their nails cut at a foot spa.

These two unpaid positions are among many volunteering opportunities advertised on the Volunteering Canterbury website. Known as Volcan for short, it matches volunteers with community group vacancies.

Frequent requests are made by

community groups for people with financial skills, skills in fundraising, social media and such like for a few hours a week. Other opportunities include being a tour guide at the arts centre, working in a school garden, taking minutes, co-ordinating events, becoming a surrogate grandparent or being a companion walker.

As well as building skills and experience that can be included on a CV, volunteering enables volunteers to meet people in different communities they might not otherwise meet and to build empathy, outreach manager Glenda Martin told Plains FM Radio hosts at the Culture Galore event earlier this year.

The listings on the website were

like a "candy store" she said, there is so much choice.

Not for profit organisations seeking volunteers need to be members of Volcan. Potential volunteers can choose up to four roles at any one time, apply on line or visit Volcan at Community House, 213 Lichfield St. The process may involve filling out an application form or writing a letter, attending an interview, undergoing a police check prior to starting, some training.

Volcan also handles requests by workplaces for their employees to give back to the community by donating a day's work volunteering in the community as a group.

For more information visit: www.volcan.org.nz

Put some aroha into your mahi - Volunteer with CAB

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) volunteers come from all walks of life including Jenny* from St Albans, who is motivated by her desire to have a positive impact in the community.

A thorough training programme, incorporating a blend of face-to-face sessions and self-guided learning - covering consumer law, tenancy law, working conditions, immigration and other subjects - gave her a good grounding to help others.

Until she became confident in conducting interviews independently in person, whether it was on the phone email or chat, she was supported by a mentor. After four years volunteering she has now taken on the role of a mentor herself.

In a typical month, Jenny works 16 hours across four shifts dealing with inquiries ranging from "What should I do if I find an abandoned supermarket shopping trolley?" to "What discounts do energy providers offer?" through to - "I think someone I know is harming themselves. What can I do?"

Jenny has personally helped small business owners and large business managers, builders and their neighbours, landlords and tenants, flatmates and boarders, prisoners and homeless people, police officers and healthcare workers, non-tech-savvy older people and teenagers



Jenny is one of 120 CAB volunteers in Christchurch who typically work one shift a week, lasting two or three hours.

born with phones in their hand. Referrals to CAB also come from various government departments, community organisations, and religious institutions, reflecting the diversity of challenges out there.

Continuous learning helps her acquire know-how that she can apply right away. Jenny likes that she's not expected to have all the answers but has mastered the art of locating diverse information using CAB's website/databases or other reliable sources, then explaining the information to the client and aiding them to devise a plan. She can also

refer them to other community organisations for ongoing support.

CAB welcomes new volunteers from diverse backgrounds, cultures, experiences, and languages. Multilingual volunteers are paired with clients requiring assistance in their own language. A nationwide telephone and video interpreting service supplements local volunteers proficient in various languages.

The next Christchurch volunteer intake is scheduled for September. Mull it over, and when you're ready, email manager.cabchch@gmail.com

*CAB volunteers are known by their first name only.

To find out more visit <https://www.cab.org.nz/volunteer>

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The choirmaster who taught a nation how to sing

Many adults who grew up in Christchurch and sang in their school choir in the 60s and 70s may remember Dr Vernon Griffiths, whose name appeared on some of their sheet music, or they may even have had the privilege of being conducted by him, his nephew Brian Spear writes.

Dr Thomas Vernon Griffiths: conductor, composer, lecturer and music teacher was born on 22 June 1894 in West Kirby, Cheshire, England, to John Herbert Griffiths and Clara Augusta Isabel (nee Vernon).

Vernon, as he chose to be called, was educated at Norwich Grammar School and moved to London in 1913, where he was employed as a bank clerk. During World War I, he served as an officer in the Sherwood Foresters.

After the war, he won a scholarship to Pembroke College, Cambridge, graduating with a BA in 1921 and MusB in 1922. He was organist and choirmaster at Pembroke from 1919 until 1922 and then took up a position at St Edmunds' School in Canterbury, Kent until recruited by the Christchurch Teachers Training College.

He emigrated to New Zealand in 1926 and became Lecturer in Music at the College until financial cutbacks forced his redundancy in 1933 when he transferred to Dunedin to become the Director of Music at the Dunedin Technical College. In 1942, he was appointed Professor of Music at Canterbury College (as the University of Canterbury was known then), a position he held until his retirement in 1961.

Vernon married Daphne Spear on 10 May 1944 at the Catholic Cathedral in Barbadoes St Christchurch and they set up home in Leinster Road, Merivale. Later they moved to Bishop Street in St Albans and this remained the family home where they brought up five children.

Dr Griffiths was awarded an OBE for his services to music in 1957. On his retirement, he was made an Emeritus Professor and in 1975 was awarded an honorary doctorate that went alongside the MusD he earned in 1937.

He believed that everyone should have the opportunity to make

music and he certainly gave that to many New Zealand children and adults through his compositions and musical arrangements for community choirs and orchestras. His programmes for school music were adopted throughout New Zealand and received international recognition.

In his biography in the Te Ara Encyclopaedia of New Zealand, Vernon was described as energetic, ambitious and enthusiastic. He displayed a single-minded devotion to his career. He was genial and gracious, deeply committed to his family, students and spiritual beliefs and an unashamed Anglophile. "Some found him conservative - he abhorred the gramophone, radio music and jazz - and autocratic."

However, he mellowed in later life, even admitting that modern music did have some merit. His intention to create a nation of musical amateurs may not have been realised during his lifetime, but he set a powerful example as a teacher, music leader and innovator.

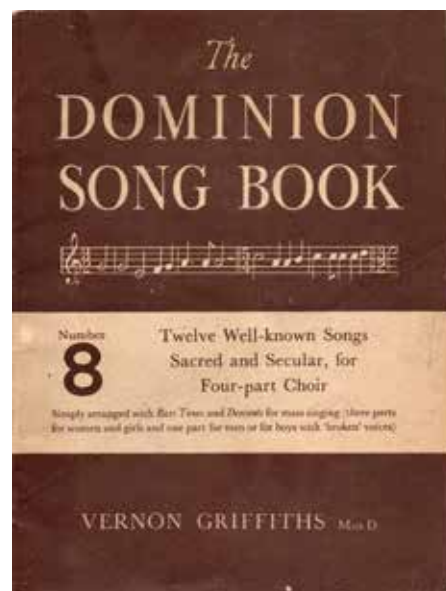
Thomas Vernon Griffiths died on 23 November 1985 at home and was buried in Ruru Lawn cemetery. Daphne died in Ashburton on 6 December 2009 and was also buried in Ruru Lawn.

(This article is based on a document prepared for the St Albans History Group by Brian Spear. For more information check out Vernon Griffiths' entry in Wikipedia and the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography on the Te Ara website. If you would like to share your memories of Dr Griffiths send an email to news@stalbens.gen.nz or come along to the next meeting of the history group on July 1 @2pm.)

Right: Bill Sutton's 1984 portrait of Emeritus Professor Dr Vernon Griffiths in the Christchurch Art Gallery Collection Te Puna o Waiwhetū



Cosy at home, in later life.



The Dominion songbook may be familiar to older residents,



Sun shines on Edgware winter market

Although promoted as a mid-winter market the sun shone on the day and market goers could sit outside on the deck in the sun to eat and drink coffee at the market held at Kōhinga St Albans Community Centre held on Saturday June 22.

The market had about 30 stalls of craft and art works, crafted by local artists or as fundraisers for

community groups.

Tastes of Afganistan and Japan were popular and a coffee cart on site satisfied the coffee drinkers. The local predator free group promoted their rat traps.

The next market will be the Christmas event on December 7.

Photos by Maria Hayward



Altrusa raised funds at the market to provide fabric hearts for Christchurch Women's Hospital Neonatal Unit.



The Paper Arts stall showed off a range of things that can be made from paper.



Yuki Wilson's stall selling Japanese food was one of several at the market offering food.



Local Druid (on left) prepares and sells wiccan herbs for spellmaking as well as the charcoal and burners needed.

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Deep disappointment over broken Budget promises

Budget 2024 was exactly what we expected from the National Party—tax cuts which were underwhelming, the shrinking of public services, and commitments they backtracked on.

People in St Albans have been quick to share their concerns about cuts to key services, and their deep disappointment that promised funding for cancer drugs did not eventuate.

It was a promise that had great appeal on the campaign trail—I3 new cancer drugs funded by cutting free prescriptions. But a key principle of Pharmac, our drug buying agency, is that Governments do not tell it what to prioritise. Many in the industry have also said announcing the names of the drugs put Pharmac in an impossible position because overseas pharmaceutical companies instantly had the upper hand in negotiations.

The Health Minister has admitted that the Government may have to go outside the Pharmac procurement process — which undermines a very successful model. It's a good illustration of why you should refrain from politicising specific illnesses. More funding for Pharmac is the key — difficult to do when you're reducing the tax take.

Unemployment is on the rise and some of our most experienced public servants are on a one-way ticket to Australia. Only a few families are getting the promised \$250 per fortnight increase. Most are finding that their \$20 per week tax cut will not cover increased costs such as prescriptions and car registration.

Home ownership has moved further out of reach with the axing of the first home buyers grant, all while landlords have been given \$2.9 billion in tax cuts. An independent economist said on RNZ on the day I wrote this: "We're not going to get richer by channelling more and more money into the housing market at the expense of the productive sector."

Yet that's exactly what the Government seems to be aiming for.

Get in touch if you'd like to talk about how this Government's policies are affecting our St Albans community.

Ngā mihi,

Duncan Webb, MP for Christchurch Central



Design work to begin on Shirley Community Centre

Kia Ora Koutou,

We have now passed the shortest day, and so from here on the sun will gradually bring more warmth and light to help us through the chilly days.

On June 13, the Waipapa Community Board made a decision about the site at 10 Shirley Road, resolving to progress plans for a new community building. This is really exciting news, and was received with hoots of joy from those in attendance, who have waited such a long time.

An alternative proposal that Council sell the library at the Palms, and rebuild it with a new centre at 10 Shirley Rd, was not accepted. There has been no large scale evidence of support through the most recent consultation. The current library sits within the Coastal ward and it would mean further consultation would be required with those residents. To pursue this complex proposal would add months or even years to any decision and the board decided that a stand-alone, new centre was the best option.

The new centre will be community-operated as this provides a sense of ownership and flexibility. The successful management of Kōhinga is an outstanding example of community capability and a well performing facility ; an excellent model to replicate. From here, the Waipapa/Papanui-Innes-Central community board and staff will be working with residents and future users of the new centre to identify the best design options together. So watch this space.

Meanwhile, stay warm and enjoy any watery sunshine we may get on the way to spring!

Ngā Mihi Nui

Pauline Cotter, Councillor for Innes and Deputy Mayor.

(See Chairchat on page 2 to find out why SARA supports the proposed Shirley community centre)



News from St Albans and beyond

Write about the city

Anyone of any age can submit writing to feature in a large-scale mural project as part of the Word Christchurch festival in springtime. Share your snapshot of Christchurch and see your words displayed within a large-scale public artwork at The Crossing as part of the Ōtautahi is Flash! project.

It could be a tiny poem, a memory, a statement, a wish or a story about the city and anyone can enter as long as it is fewer than 100 words. It could be about life in St Albans. Limited to one piece per person and it should be uploaded to the Word Christchurch website: <https://wordchristchurch.co.nz/call-for-submissions/> by 15 July.

Selected pieces will brighten up The Crossing from late August through spring and receive prizes. WORD Christchurch takes place 27 August - 1 September 2024 at venues across the city. ☼

Community board funding grants

At its June 13 meeting the Waipapa/ Papanui-Innes-Central Community Board granted \$2600 from its discretionary fund to the Edgware Croquet Club for lawn maintenance.

It also granted \$3000 to Forfar Pre-School and Nursery for heat pumps, air cushions and an outdoor play area. Both organisations are run by charitable trusts. ☼

Another fabric hearts workshop

A workshop to make and pack fabric hearts for newborn babies at Christchurch Women's Hospital Neonatal unit is being held at the St Albans Community Centre on July 27 1 - 4pm.

Fabric Hearts are part of a local project for Altrusa Christchurch. They are made and shared between mothers and babies to strengthen their bonds and provide comfort. Members take part in fundraising and supporting this ongoing local project.

Altrusa Christchurch is a non-profit service organisation that welcomes new members of all ages who want to make a difference in the community.

For more information email: president.christchurch@altrusa.org.nz or visit the Facebook page: Altrusa International of Christchurch Inc. ☼

Ecan rates not as high as expected

Earlier this year it looked like the Environment Canterbury (ECan) rates for the 2024/2025 would be as much as 24.2 per cent but the actual figure is likely to be 17.9 per cent in a decision made on June 26. This rate is added to the regular city council bill that rate payers are charged. Changes made to ECan's long term plan include a fixed fee for a consent applications that follow the regional council's direct decision pathway. ☼

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 18 July 7.30 to 8.30pm
Wardle Room
Discussion welcome

 After Hours Counselling Services


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murray@afterhourscounselling.co.nz

Corner of St Albans Park available for lease



by Belinda Carter

Christchurch City Council is inviting proposals from community groups keen to make use of a single storey building and/or associated bowling greens on the north-west corner of Albans Park. The building, which is owned by CCC has been vacant since the bowling club merged with others and moved into new premises in Elmwood Park more than a year ago.

The council is looking for groups working in the area of play, active recreation and sport. "We look forward to receiving your proposals and seeing the innovative ways you plan

to enhance our community through active use of the St Albans Park facility and area", community recreation adviser Helen Miles said.

To indicate interest in leasing the properties obtain a copy of the request for proposal document by emailing felix.r.dawson@ccc.govt.nz.

The document is quite detailed. Those seeking to make use of the building and/or the bowling greens need to have sport and recreation uses in mind and submit the proposals to lease these premises to CCC by 5pm on July 3. A decision on the lease will be made in November.

CCC sets new rates

Christchurch City Council has left it till the last week in June to settle the rates for the 2024/2025 financial year. It is expected to be a smidgen under 10 per cent. Part of the increase is due to the bills the council is facing for the construction of the stadium (Te Kaha), which will be lower in subsequent years. A dividend from the council-owned CCHL and deferring of some projects has made this possible. The new financial year begins on July

Spaceships land in Packe St Park



by Helen Kidd

A spaceship has landed in Packe Street Park – or more accurately two spaceships – and the very friendly "aliens" (aka volunteers) crewing the ship are working hard to keep the community garden healthy and productive over the winter months. Not only have they built the two spaceships – tunnel houses for nurturing winter veges, but they have planted new seedlings and protected these babies with milk bottle cloches and weighted blankets.

Composting is also a focus, with Garden Co-ordinator Nikki, the "compost queen", sharing the secrets of great composting while creating a new rich mix for the garden beds. She's also supervised the making of a delicious brew of weed tea, possibly drunk by aliens throughout the galaxy, but used at Packe Street for supporting plant growth.

Our 'fix-it' alien, Henri has made a new bin for separating out the nasties we don't want in our compost – twitch, convolvulus, and the like. The tī kōuka leaves littering the

Top left: a new rich mix for the garden beds.

Top right: new "spaceships" – tunnel houses for nurturing winter veges

Left: Volunteers renew the circular bed

Right: Baby plants await bedding down under milk bottle cloches.



park are bundled up and offered to the community as very efficient free firestarters or used for crafty projects.

Our diverse group of aliens would welcome enthusiastic newcomers, even at this uninviting time of year. We have indoor tasks and activities for the days when it's too cold and/or wet to enjoy the outdoor tasks. Our regular team consists of Nikki (Australia), Stephanie and Senan aged 5, (Ireland), Anne-Marie (Quebec), Helen, Henri and Hilary (planet H), Barbara (NZ), and in school holidays, Aura aged 6, who would like to be the boss.

We were sad to farewell Laura (Germany), Martha and Ramon (Colombia), when their stay in NZ came to an end. Other volunteers drop in on a casual basis, and we are always happy to see new people.

Sadly we have to say thank you and goodbye to one of our aliens. Anne-Marie, who has been a regular volunteer at the Park for the past few months, is blasting off to return to her home planet of Quebec. Au revoir, Anne-Marie, bon chance and we hope you'll be back one day.

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Community Notices

Are you a model boat enthusiast?

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

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

Community Centre Talk - Tayla King (Hearing Therapist) from Your Way Kia Roha. Monday 1 July, 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

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

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

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

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

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

Family Drug Support Aotearoa New Zealand: Ph 03 21818740

Free Kindergarten Enrolments: Not for profit Kidsfirst Sunbeam Kindergarten

welcomes queries and new enrolments. 13 Cornwall Street, (03) 366 7157.

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

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

HOUSIE: Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham St North, every Thursday at 12.30 - 2.15pm. \$2 per card. Afternoon tea to follow. All welcome. Numbers limited. Gold coin donation. Enquiries ph 372 9224. Visit website: www.lmchristchurch.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? Contact: FB page, Predator Free St Albans or ph 021 0648861

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 Edgware Caledonian Rds, Tuesdays at 7.30pm, July - 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@stalbens.gen.nz

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

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

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

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

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

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

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@stalbens.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

CaringStay: Do you need somewhere to stay after an operation/treatment because you live alone or have working family members and find it difficult to manage your daily routine? We provide accommodation and meals (but we cannot give medical or nursing care) in comfortable private homes hosted by caring individuals. Book on our website: www.caringstay.co.nz or phone Kate 021 129 4486 for more information

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 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

TRADIES

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.

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

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

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

Gardener wanted: Our Madras St body corp is looking to employ a gardener to care for our beautiful, tidy grounds for half a day per fortnight. With own work tools preferably and references. The work is small-scale. Might suit a retired person. If interested please phone George 0274 739 544

Lost Cat

3 Legged. Orwell is a black cat aged 6 with one missing rear leg. Escaped from Durham, Bealey and Colombo area. Ph Kevin 021 260 4375

St Albans events

If you have events you would like announced here, please email: news@stalbens.gen.nz

July 1, 10 am—12.30: Cafe Chat at Kōhinga/Community Centre

July 1, 1.30—2.30: Hearing Therapist talk at Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham St North

July 8 4—5pm: Taekwondo Kidsfest Kicker (Martial arts) at 6 Forfar Street

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

Kidslines: For under 18s, 0800 54 37 54 (speak to a Kidslines 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)

News from St Albans and beyond

St Albans residents ready to wage war on rats

Thanks to a \$5000 grant from Predator Free NZ, local group Predator Free St Albans (PFSA) is about to wage war on rats and other predators.

The group is gearing up its campaign to catch as many rats as possible in St Albans. "We want locals to join the fight. The more traps that are out there, the more rats will be caught," spokesperson Philippa Wadsworth says.

Rats and possums are notorious predators, feeding on birds, chicks and bird's eggs. They're great at climbing trees and fences. They also eat native butterflies and insects, depriving native birds of a food source. And they chew through cables and electrical wiring causing all kinds of problems.

"We've got flyers, new traps and chew cards which indicate if you have rats in your area. At present, more than 60 traps, acquired with help from the St Albans Residents Association, are scattered across the suburb.

Homes adjacent to waterways



Battling rats: from left to right Nigel Larsen, Philippa Wadsworth (front) and Maddie Jardine with one of the traps.



are the first priority. "Streams and stormwater drains are like rat highways. Rats absolutely love them. They often live near streams and of course they're an easy way for the rodents to move around the area. There have been recent sightings of possums too."

Just because you don't see them, doesn't mean they aren't there. PFSA says one new trapper was amazed to catch three big, fat, healthy rats the first three nights she put the trap out.

"The traps for rats come with a special wooden tunnel just big enough for a rat. We ask for a \$15 contribution to cover most material costs and show people how to get started," Philippa says.

If anyone wants to catch possums the PFSA can help with that too.

For more information, scan the QR code on this page with a QR reader on your phone (or on the flyer in your letterbox). It links to the PFSA Facebook page. Or do a search in Facebook for Predator Free St Albans. ☘

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



Authorised by Duncan Webb MP,
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