

# St Albans News

The Voice of our Neighbourhood

October 2011



## Highlights

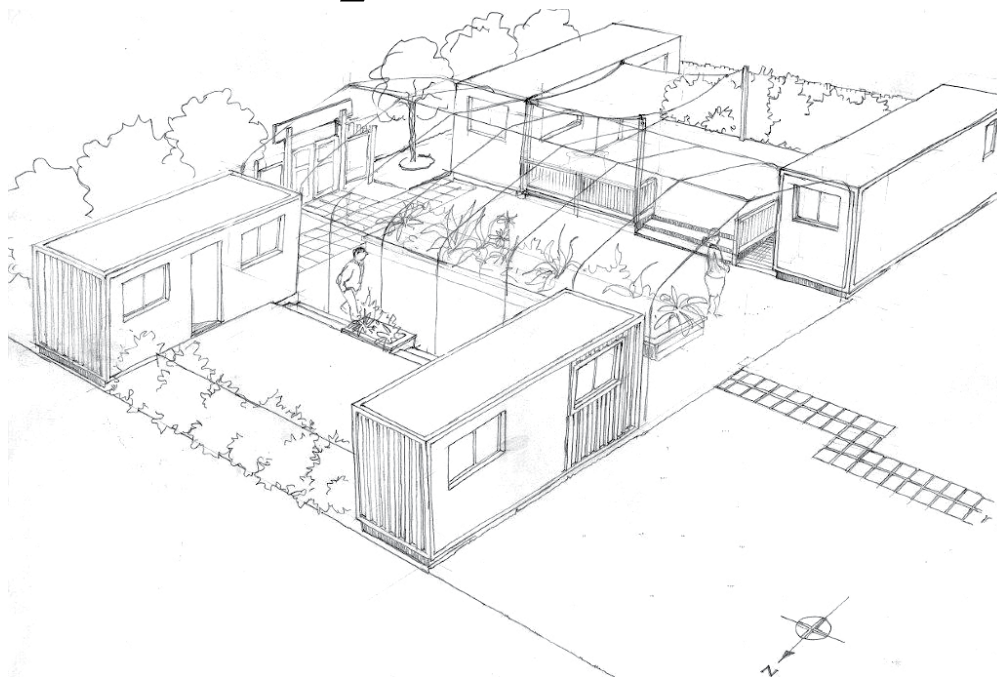
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## Can We Build It? Yes, We Can!



*by Max Feutz*

Here is an exciting concept to quickstart community recovery in St Albans. Brainchild of the fertile imagination of local resident Simon Geary, it is envisaged that a temporary community facility can be erected on the vacant lot at the top end of Colombo St where the old Community Resource Centre used to stand. Our common experience since the earthquake has shown that creating permanent solutions to the problems caused by the earthquake will take many years, but in the meantime we urgently need a new hub which the St Albans Residents Association can use as a base for its programmes, where community groups can meet as they did previously, and where people can simply come to enjoy the company of others in a tranquil, family friendly space.

The community not only can, but must bring its own energy and talent to the project if it is to succeed. But Simon is absolutely adamant that we can and will do it. He says, "We think with a little vision and the

*continued on pages eight & nine*



Warm regards to you all - the new breed of Canterbury settlers. I hope you are all starting to establish your new lives and are coming to grips with the challenges this new frontier is

presenting you.

It's been great to see communities working together in Christchurch, to support each other and form louder voices for their interests and issues. St Albans suburb is one such community.

Through my involvement in SARA and my everyday life in St Albans I have been blown away by the wonderful examples of support and encouragement I see for each other. The most prominent would have to be the residents revolt against the proposed earthquake debris recycling site in McFaddens Road. This resulted in the company withdrawing its application in response to the concerns raised by local residents.

Another example was the 50-odd residents from St Albans who gathered to air their feelings of being forgotten in the process of recovering from the earthquakes, insurance and EQC issues and to discuss

the big white elephant in St Albans, the land.

Other examples include the Edgware Village business and property owners meeting together to share their individual situations and work together to overcome some of the problems facing them now, and our school communities who are currently working together creatively to put together their yearly fundraising community events.

But maybe the most exciting for me was to hear that the St Albans Leisure Group, who I thought were finding it very difficult to meet, have in fact been meeting every second week, and loving the chance to support each other and be supported.

And what's the theme here? 'People working together for the common good.' Great work everyone.

YOU NEED TO GET OUT THERE AND SUPPORT CHRISTCHURCH NOW. I have grown weary of listening to people say they don't have time. Get off your butt and find time to do something that makes you and all those around you feel better, and I hope that as the land continues to settle, you and yours do too.

Emma Twaddell  
Chair of the St Albans  
Residents' Association

## Editorial

Many years ago, attempting to join a conversation among strangers who were discussing the St Albans News (fondly known as Stan), I fired off a remark that it badly needed to be 'tszujed'. I probably said this without even having read one cover-to-cover and certainly without fully understanding its purpose, and I was quick to regret saying it because I later found out that the person I was addressing was Kate Taylor, one of the founders of the paper, and someone whom I now admire enormously. So, here's a public apology Kate.

In those days, if I'd just been lucky enough to land the role of editor, it would have been all "new broom sweeps clean" but now it's going to be "steady as she goes," because I better understand the role of the paper and think it's doing a fine job of informing people of what's happening in the community, keeping us in touch with the history of the area and entertaining a little along the way.

Since we can only publish every second month at the moment due to financial constraints, it is hopeless trying to jump onto hot news and it is not often that we can provide you with a 'scoop.' Instead, our role needs to be one of gathering the thoughts of our community on long term issues, and at this time, especially, I think the paper can really come into its own as a forum, in conjunction with the excellent website, where local residents can

discuss what they want from the rebuild in St Albans. One way people can do this is by contributing articles on issues about which they feel passionate. Another is to write letters to the Editor. This is my favorite part of any newspaper - I'm a self-confessed junkie - and they are the first thing I read in any publication because that's where the honesty lies.

Our paper is already the envy of many other suburbs, so let's build on that.

The more readers participate, the better it will be.

*Max(ine) Feutz*

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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.*

# Abstinence To Adoration

by *Reetah Mitchell*

I have a confession. When the World Cup kicked off recently, I wasn't interested. Nope, not interested at all. Whilst the rest of you were updating your Sky subscriptions, pinning up bunting and digging out any accessory bearing a silver fern, I was going about my everyday life, ignoring the build up.

Please don't think girly apathy the root cause of my indifference, because nothing could be further from the truth. In reality, I'm a complete footy-head. I have been since I was a gap-toothed youngster. Huddling in my flannelette pajamas and sleeping bag, clutching a mug of Milo, I fondly recall squinting at a test match on a flickering television screen, in the shivery, dark hours of the early morning.

My love of the Men in Black has seen me stalk them to stadia both at home and overseas.

When on my O.E. in London, I very cleverly managed to get a boss who was a dyed-in-the-wool rugby enthusiast, with... wait for it... debenture seats at Twickenham! I got to witness some real rugby history.

I was at Twickers when Hinewehi Mohi outraged the nation by daring to sing the anthem in Māori for the first time at an international fixture. I attended the first rugby international held at Old Trafford, the home of Manchester United. My seat at that match was mere metres from the pitch - so close I could breathe in wafts of liniment from the scrum packed down in front of me! As if that was not enough to set a young woman's heart all aflutter, my aisle seat was a mere concrete step away from the seat of Sean Fitzpatrick, and beside him, Carlos Spencer, Tana Umaga and all the other benched players. My star-struck little heart did a happy thumpity-thump throughout our 27-8 drubbing of the English that day!

But the glorious moments were overshadowed by years of gut-

wrenching frustration when my band of rucking men kept failing to win that elusive golden chalice. Finally the thumpity-thump of my loyal heart turned decidedly grumpity-grump. Four bitter years ago, when our exalted footy players failed to make the quarter finals, a loud shattering noise was heard right across St Albans - the sound of my heart breaking into a million little pieces.

As the game ended, I stared at my television screen, gaping in disbelief, head shaking from side to side. Trying to make sense of how the unfathomable had happened, again.

How could the boys do this to me? After decades of screaming on the sidelines, following them across the world, all I wanted was a little silverware. It wasn't a huge amount to ask. I mean to say, it's like...their job to bring home trophies! It's what they get paid for, isn't it?

I'd been devoted. I'd been faithful. I'd blamed the food poisoning, the rotation policy and bad refereeing decisions. But a girl can only stay steadfast for so long.

Enough was enough. I could take no more. It was time for strong actions. So, I took a vow. A vow of All Black Abstinence.

I promised myself I'd not watch another game until the boys brought home the bacon, in the form of that very big, shiny Webb Ellis Trophy.

Since pledging to ignore all things oval, my self-discipline has been without reproach. Whenever the boys marched onto the field, I marched out. I read, washed dishes, filed my nails, cleaned out my linen cupboard - anything that kept me away from the sideline or television screen. Decades of disappointment kept my motivation high and my intent true.

When the recent World Cup build up started, I hardened my battered heart against the fervour and girded my loins against the mounting nationwide excitement.

However, I wasn't such a Grinch

that I could avoid the opening ceremony. Hairs rose on my neck as the haunting karanga rang out, the passion of the haka made my chest swell with pride and the little boy in Canterbury colours caused my eyes to mist.

However, observing all the other cities in this beautiful country celebrating a tournament the earthquakes robbed us of is like being pregnant at a party and watching everyone else get drunk. You understand it's for a good reason, but you can't help but feel a little dejected and forlorn about it.

After the Opening Ceremony, it got harder for me to avoid rugby. My husband, who had viewed my vow as nothing more than a four-year temper tantrum, would not hold back his own enthusiasm. Our television was on for every game. Muttering phrases like 'educational' and 'once in a lifetime experience', he garnered the support of our nine-year-old son in hijacking the remote, super-gluing it to Sky Sport One.

Our fridge has a fixture list covering it from top to bottom. Each result is religiously written in the correct spot, and father and son compare it against their pre-match predictions. Gargantuan battles are fought by my children at the breakfast table whenever a new box of Weetbix is opened, and pristine All Black cards are pulled from within. It seems every member of the household (not subject to a vow) wants to go to the Fan Zone in Hagley Park, whenever possible. All in all, not conducive to one being staunch in abstaining.

But a vow is a vow - Until it's broken. And finally, when the All Blacks played the French, I broke it.

Please don't think badly of me. I'm not usually unreliable when it comes to making declarations of any sort. If I give my word, you can normally stake your life on it. But this weekend, I succumbed.

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*continued from page three*

If it was difficult to avoid rugby within my own four walls, it proved nigh on impossible to sidestep it when attending a 'curry, beer and rugby' party. My pre-party plan had been to watch the haka and then, whilst everyone was riveted to the screen, I would sidle into the kitchen to tidy away errant rice grains and naan bread crumbs. My intentions were pure.

Kapo o Pango sent shivers down my spine and watching my boys take their place on the field, I thought another minute or two's viewing wouldn't hurt.

Before I knew it, I was whooping and hollering, leaping and jumping all

the way to half time. Once I had seen the whole of the first half, it seemed churlish to head to the kitchen – and honestly, I didn't want to. I had been ignominiously sucked right back into the vortex of All Black Adoration.

By full time, my heart again did that happy little thumpity-thump and I had the beatific grin of a slightly demented fan whose sports team had delivered the goods.

And just like that, my vow was over, done, finito. I was officially again a footy-head.

I know the boys will forgive me for my fickleness. I'm positive over the past four years they have felt the wrath

of my censure... it's what's driven them to train so hard this time.

I wondered if my daughter would be affected by my past ambivalence to games played with an oval ball. Or would the rugby gene prove dominant and nature kick nurture for touch? I got my answer this week when Milly, a seven-year-old frou-frou, girly girl to the nth degree asked me (very seriously) if she could change her name to Mils.

"Just like Mils Muliaina. Do you know him Mum?"

I sighed with resignation. I guess there's just no fighting it - it's in the blood.

## Letters to the Editor

### **It's Unustainable to Keep Talking about Sustainability** Dear Residents

My challenge to the dedicated writers in these pages is to avoid using the word "sustainable" – it means whatever anyone wants it to mean.

To a greedy producer, "sustainable" might mean draining a river of nearly every drop of water except what is required to sustain minimal invertebrate and fish life.

For environmentally-minded people this might be totally "unsustainable" with consequences such as river mouth silting, coastal erosion etc (as witness the Waitaki coast, Ashburton, Selwyn and Rakaia river mouths).

Notions of "sustainability" differ wildly. Some correspondents in recent issues have discussed self sufficiency and food supply and the need to impose a green belt to retain productive land.

The problem with constraining new housing by imposing a green belt is that it drives up the price of real estate everywhere and forces people into high density, sometimes undesirable, living environments. Hence another recent STAN report concerned about "sustainability" cites the problem of the growing number of renters in St Albans, presumably people who can't afford to buy.

Anyway, with the abandonment of Avonside/Dallington/Horseshoe Lake/Bexley maybe we will have an inner city greenbelt and we won't need to be so concerned about preventing proposed housing developments like Prestons near Burwood or at the top of Hills Road. (And some of us have kept our quarter acre paradises in St Albans where we can grow gardens).

Proponents of "sustainability" need to start thinking outside the square. But let's all try to avoid that silly word and just try to explain what we really mean.

*Chris Hutching, St Albans*

Dear Editor

With the tear down of the community centre I was wondering if anyone is staying in contact with Michael Aitkin (Mgr. Community Services) regarding the revised schedule for the re-build of the Centre. It was originally scheduled to begin in 2012 but was delayed by the earthquakes. My understanding was there would be a 18-24 month delay. If so, the start would be 2014. Could your paper verify 2014 as the start date?

*Sincerely, Bill Demeter, St Albans*

### **Prostitutes in Residential Areas**

I'm wondering if there is anything that can be done about a couple of prostitutes that have set up shop on the corner of Manchester Street and Purchas St.

They do business any time from 8pm to 2am, and the noise they create can sometimes be quite disturbing. Recently, one was off her face and yelling out to cars as they passed by and making a few simulated sex sounds. Anyway, I'm seeking help in order to see them relocated. I feel sorry for my neighbours who have them outside their letter boxes, and I know of at least one resident on one corner who has 2 young children. Luckily, I'm a distance away from the corner but even then I can hear their racket from time to time. Thank you in advance.

*M Smith, St Albans*



## Who Was Who @ 130

by *Brian Spear*

Lt Col Alexander Lean, is not a name which means a lot to St Albans residents, but he was one of the original owners of a Rural Section in the area outside the Town Belts, which by the Canterbury Association's definition was rural.

His agent had selected RS 257, which lay between what is now Springfield and Caledonian Roads. Lean was not impressed, and when he arrived in Canterbury towards

After Minchin's death in 1900, the Church Property Trustees eventually relented to public pressure and released some of the Church land for subdivision and sale.

Lot 2 DP 10803, was sold to Daniel Carpinter, who by coincidence, was a carpenter.

On 18<sup>th</sup> January 1910 a building permit was issued for Carpinter to build a house on this site for him and his wife. The value was £400.

For the next twenty years Daniel and his wife Mary Ann, lived at number 130 Caledonian Road. This is the site behind the Community Centre, on the North side of the car park.

Daniel Carpinter was born in England about 1847 and married Mary Ann about 1876. They left London on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1879, arriving on the



the end of 1851 he sold this section to Edward Corker Minchin.

Minchin was an Irishman who arrived in the Colony with his wife Sarah, and from contemporary accounts was successful in his dealings and a generous benefactor to the numerous causes which a developing settlement demanded.

By December 1862, Minchin was in a position to lease the neighbouring Rural Section, RS 243B from the Church Property Trustees. This block covered the area from Caledonian Road to Madras Street and as far North as Edgeware Road.

Minchin had already begun selling off sections from his original holding along Springfield Road and later the low lying sections along Caledonian Road. He had formed a connecting road between the two northern outlets of his block.

“Westland” at Lyttelton on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1880. He was a member of the Hope of St Albans Lodge, and also the St Matthew's Young Mens Guild.

They had a number of children and at least three of the boys took up the building trade. Mary Ann died in 1926 and Daniel in 1935.

Mrs Florence Everett lived at 130 for a short time and Mrs Pamela Kennington was another retiree who called this house her home. Joseph and Marjery Buller owned the house for over 30 years until the early 1980s.

A succession of owners followed until 2002 when the property was purchased by Mrs Thirza Bean. She was still there when, in the early hours of 4<sup>th</sup> September 2010, the walls came crashing down.

*Brian Spear is a member of the St Albans History Group*

## Celebrating 30 years of Recovery

by Helen Ross

September 12<sup>th</sup> 1981 was a significant day in the history of our nation- the third and final test of the Springbok Tour held at Eden Park, Auckland. For nearly three months – from the first game held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July against Poverty Bay - New Zealand was a country divided against itself. Images of violence and destruction seldom seen in peacetime appeared in print, over the airwaves and on the screen on a daily basis - much in the way of earthquake coverage over the last twelve months. For many of my contemporaries aged 50 plus their keenest memories of that time relate to the events, both personal and social, associated with the Tour. The arguments and debates in the homes, workplaces and social settings; the marches and protests on the streets; the matches themselves are all etched into our individual and collective memories.

I'd like to be able to say - "I was there, doing my bit to bring down apartheid and end a repressive regime" – but I can't. I'd like to but I can't because that turbulent three month period in our social history coincided with a turbulent chapter in my own history. I imagine there will be many in Christchurch who can relate to this – people whose emotional, psychological and social worlds have come tumbling down along with the physical bricks and mortar. That winter saw me spiral downwards into a suicidal depression in the wake of a relationship break-up, over-work, and an inability to practice good self-care. While others were parked in front of the TV watching Charles and Diana's wedding, I was coming round in hospital from a suicide attempt – wondering where all the nurses and patients were. The next six weeks were spent at Fergusson Clinic at Sunnyside Hospital, now Hillmorton.

That spring weekend saw an almost miraculous lifting of the Depression which had been constant and debilitating to that point. The dark cloud was there as the Cessna dropped the flares and flour bombs over Eden Park but gone twenty-four hours later. Within days I was out of hospital, back in my flat and picking up the pieces of my life. There have been a number of experiences of recovery over the years since then but none as spontaneous and

rapid. Some of these recovery experiences have been related to mental health issues like depression and its cousin, burn-out but others have been related to physical injury and illness as well as life events such as divorce, loss of loved ones, workplace bullying etc.

Sometimes recovery has been painfully protracted. I succumbed again to Depression in 1998 and this time my world remained shattered for a very, very long time. One of the things that hampered my recovery was my anger that I had got sick again. I'd thought I'd learnt enough about myself and my "condition" to prevent this. I kept saying "I want my life back," much in the same way as I have heard people say they want the old Christchurch back. Another hindrance to recovery was my belief, a belief sometimes erroneously encouraged by the Helping Professions that "they" would "fix" me. Another trap I fell into was that of "waiting" for recovery. I recall with gratitude some of the best advice I received about rebuilding my life. I was describing to the psychiatrist how it felt that my life was like a house that had come tumbling down, leaving me with just a useless pile of bricks. In my very stuck way of thinking, I was pinning my hopes on another dramatic remission of the hopelessness, helplessness and meaninglessness I was experiencing before I could make a start of rebuilding my life. He suggested an alternative to me, namely that I started to move one brick at a time into place. This way, by the time the Depression lifted I could, in his words, have built a mansion.

The building blocks of personal recovery are many and varied. Over the past 30 years I've made them something of a focus of study - using knowledge from my own experience, that of friends and family and of those I have worked with as a social worker, as well as from the literature. I'm taking the opportunity of this approaching 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary to acknowledge those that have worked for me. I'll be having a gathering for friends, family and colleagues this coming month to celebrate food, fun, family, friendship, fitness, faith and perhaps most importantly, moving forward.

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## Tangle Towers



by **Hilaire Campbell**

"The name Tangle Towers came to my first wife in a dream," says Joro Yambasef. A hairdresser since 1976, he opened a salon in a converted cottage on the corner of Berwick and Forfar St in 1996. "It was ideal. I was the primary caregiver for my boy and I wanted live-in work."

Joro says the cottage was built in 1903, with a shop front added in 1923 by the McGill family when they opened a dairy cum bakery famous for its bread. From 1923 until 1980 there was a succession of owners before Transit NZ bought the building with a view to demolishing it for the Madras St motorway. Joro says that when locals protested this was abandoned, and he bought the building in a rundown state.

Joro was born in Wellington to a father of Greek and Turkish ethnicity, and a mother from Ashburton. He says he left school at 15 to become a trainee chef. "Now hairdressing is my first passion, but I wanted a café too because I love cooking."

Soon there will be all day breakfasts, and, when he gets a liquor license, dinner parties and wine tastings and art exhibitions - because he's a people person and he wants to make the best use of the space.

Joro never advertises, and he says most of his customers are passers by - "a mix of blue and white collar workers, and pensioners from Berwick and Forfar Courts."

His second wife taught him the basic cuts: the bob, the wedge, the pageboy and firefly, worth mentioning for their names alone. Styles haven't changed much since the 70s but there's nothing Joro won't tackle - "if it's got a pulse and it's got hair I'll do it." His special god is Al Sassoon, whom he describes as the father of modern hairdressing. "The famous Quant five point geometric cut showcased his technique."

Joro never uses mirrors. "I was very overweight 16 years ago and I wasn't a pretty sight so I got rid of them. Now I find I don't need them, but there's one there for customers."

Today Joro's doing kids cuts, and all the family has gathered, but there's still room for his long haired dachshund (watch out dog), and Sharlene, a visiting colour educator who says the main thing about colour is having a stylist who knows who you want to be.

On the other hand, says Joro, too many people go to hairdressers for a quick fix. "If you've got marriage problems, a new hairdo won't do it. You need a whole lifestyle change."

Joro was christened a Moslem but has never practised. "I wear a gold cross but I'd say I'm more metaphysical than religious."

As he ages Joro finds his client base aging with him but he says that's a good thing. "You never know who you'll learn from."



*continued from page one*

support of businesses, and a few good well-run working bees we could achieve something quite unique."

So, what would be needed to pull this off?

Firstly, the project needs financial support, whether it be from large benefactors, small donations from private citizens, or the public purse. In total, it is estimated that around \$70,000 is needed to complete it.

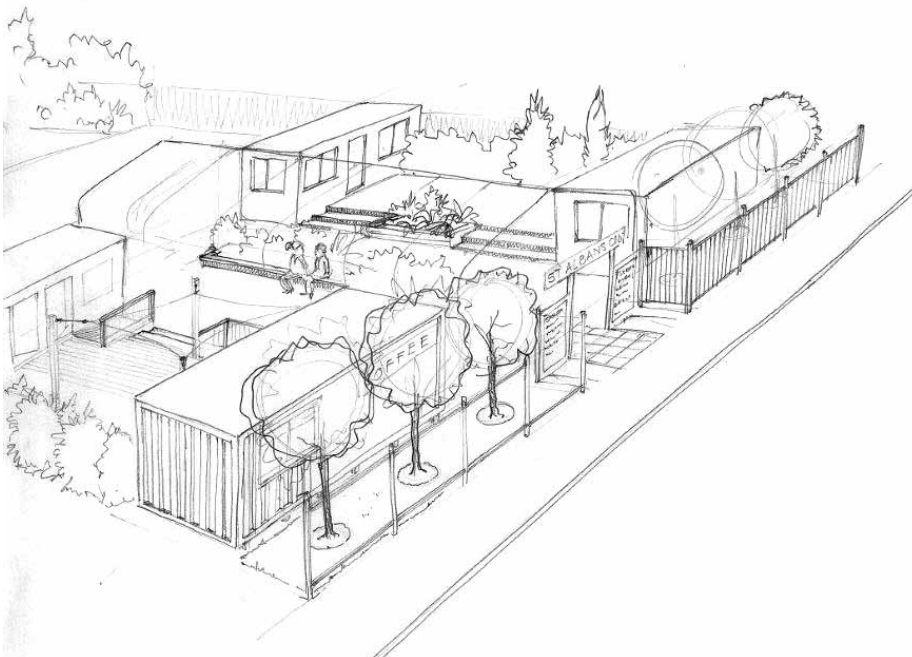
Secondly, the Christchurch City Council and Community Board will need to be formally approached and offered the opportunity to support the idea and facilitate the consent process.

Lastly, and most importantly, people will need to raise their hands to let us know they support the idea, tell us how they can help and what specialist skills, if any, they can bring to the project. (Knowing how to wield a spade is one example of a 'specialist skill!')



### **What will we see on completion of the project?**

- *A new community centre, albeit it temporary accommodation.*
- *A temporary building, being a converted 40 Ft container with power and internet facilities. (The poorer members of community found this resource and the courses proved associated with them invaluable.) This would also be accompanied by a second storage container for all the equipment needed to run the various programmes.*
  - *Temporary toilet facilities, preferably plumbed directly into the sewer.*
  - *A covered sheltered area so classes such as yoga and anti-natal classes could now be held outdoors but at least undercover.*
  - *Temporary landscaping and a larger community activity area (similar to that which organisations such as 'Gap Fillers' provides). This could be used for such things*





## School Gala attracts some interesting items for auction

At 7pm on Friday 4 November at the St Albans Catholic School Gala, an auction will be held to raise funds for the children's e-learning. The items for auction, donated by families of the school and local businesses, are quite unique.

Earlier in the year Wendy Scanlon, chairperson of the school's PTA committee, contacted parents with a plea for help. "In light of our fragile city and business community, many of the organisations that have so generously donated goods in the past are unable to do so," said Mrs Scanlon. Families and friends of the school were asked to think laterally and come up with alternative items for an auction "with a twist". The school community responded and the auction items accumulated are creative, generous and intended to attract fierce bidding.

The school Principal, Mrs. Annette Sjöberg, started the ball rolling by not only offering herself as a babysitter for an evening, but also willingly stepping down from her duties to offer the highest bidder the opportunity to be principal for the day. The school PTA is to become "meals on wheels" catering for up to twelve people in your own home. They promise to do this with a style that

will impress your friends and make you the envy of the neighbourhood.

School families followed suit and if you are looking for a builder (including \$1,000 of building materials), a doctor to complete a full skin check, a tutor to help your teenagers prepare for end of year exams or a sports coach to prepare you for the upcoming cricket season, then you are in luck. How about some help for your vegetable garden from a true gardening guru and the grand niece of Arthur Yates himself? The items that have been donated not only showcase parents' talents and skills. Some other items up for grabs include a three-day car rental, use of a holiday caravan in Akaroa, a pamper session, a signed Crusaders rugby jersey and a signed Silver Ferns netball.

The whole school is behind this exciting event and the date has been circled on calendars for a great evening of family fun for a long time. Mrs Scanlon says "It is always a fantastic night out enjoyed by the St Albans community. Our children love being part of this event and the sheer excitement that comes with anticipation is a delight – we all need some of that right now!"

Billed as an "old-fashioned" gala, there will also be live music, raffles, crafts, plants, home baking and a white elephant stall. The gala begins at 5pm and will be well stocked with good food for dinner. The children will be entertained with sponge throwing, bouncy castles and donkey rides.

This is definitely an opportunity to not only support local children's learning but maybe even grab a bargain. Come and join us for an evening of family fun – food, live music, plants & produce, crafts, cakes, face painting, donkey rides, hair braiding, chocolate wheel, white elephant and Devonshire teas not to mention handmade sustainable gifts from the pupils – soap, candles, paper and potted herbs. Plus a cookbook you won't be able to put down!

**Wendy Scanlon**

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phone - 3544 170

**St Albans Catholic School**

**49 Rutland Street St Albans**

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*as art exhibitions, community summer evening tournaments, anything the community may wish to hold so it has the ability to draw the people out of their shaken homes to express their concerns, needs, feelings and hopefully soon, laughter.*

- *Large visible signage showing who has supported the project, what upcoming events will be held on a regular basis and what courses the residents can enrol for at these temporary premises.*

Real community involvement in the recovery process is what everyone is crying out for, and is already happening in other areas where the talent of locals has been harnessed, which might account for the fact that some communities are well ahead of the rest of Christchurch in the recovery process. Local people need to do things for themselves. Here is a chance for real grass roots involvement in the rehabilitation of our own dear suburb.

*Drawings courtesy of Edward Loversridge, draughtsman*

**The St Albans News relies on your contributions. Please send your articles, letters and notices to [news@stalbans.gen.nz](mailto:news@stalbans.gen.nz). The deadline for the next issue is November 24th**

## Earthquake Green Zoners Meeting

*by Pauline Cotter*

As a result of the last St Albans Residents Association meeting, at which residents raised huge concerns about the earthquake damage, especially to land in St Albans, the Residents Association and the Shirley/Papanui Community Board organised a meeting. This was held on Sat 25 Sept at Abberley Park, and there was a good attendance of 54 people including Nicki Wagner and Brendon Burns. We were also fortunate to have Di Lucas to share her knowledge about the underground stream, springs and waterways. There are huge chunks of seriously munted land that run through multiple Green zoned properties. People who are Green

Zoned want information about how this problem is to be remediated. These are the main issues identified:

- Getting insurance when wanting to move elsewhere in Canterbury
- Resolving Claims
- Resolving gaping differences in initial and later assessments
- Resolving assessments which say damage was pre-existing when owner disputes this
- Delays in EQC payments
- Wanting access to geo tech reports on Green Zoned land
- How do large blocks of badly damaged Green Zoned land deal with rebuilding and/or repair of houses.

- No response from email queries to CERA
- Lack of communication
- Need for information on timelines for the St Albans area.
- Increased cost of land reports for resource consents

There is to be a follow-up meeting for St Albans Green and Orange Zone residents to be held at The Edgware Bowling club on Madras St. 8th Oct 11am - 1pm. There will be reps from various agencies present to address our concerns.

*Pauline Cotter is a member of the Shirley/ Papanui Community Board*

## Mounting Frustration

*by Brendon Burns*

**MP for Christchurch Central**

As we wind into year two of life quake one, it is important those with the power to respond are reminded it is not only suburbs further east than St Albans which face major, on-going and unresolved issues.

You only have to look at the size of the fenced-off sink hole on Edgware Rd – just a few metres away from the demolished shops - for a reminder that St Albans remains profoundly affected. Or visit residents in areas like Lindsay St and off Madras St who have had three bouts of serious liquefaction and flooding, yet are green zoned. Or pop into the greengrocer and KBs, still valiantly operating from temporary premises in Edgware village, uncertain about the timeframes for resuming their businesses.

Residents in St Albans and Richmond are feeling they live in a forgotten suburb. Families are living in damaged homes and not being given the geotechnical information they need to feel best able to make decisions. Some areas are orange

zoned and told it may be Christmas before they get clarity. Many in the green-zone feel unsure about the soundness of this decision. It's time to remind the authorities that your issues are also important. The meeting at Abberley Park on September 24 has provided a kick-start thanks to the work of the St Albans Residents Association and local community board member, Pauline Cotter.

We are now working with the community to bring together two meetings. The first, to address insurance and EQC issues, is confirmed for **11am – 12.30pm on Saturday October 8 at the Edgware Bowling Club**. I have now confirmed two major insurers, AA and AMI as attending. John Sullivan from the Canterbury Law Centre has also agreed to come and provide free legal advice available on dealing with insurers. EQC has been invited.

The second meeting, date yet to be confirmed, will see CERA invited to tell us about the geotechnical assessments which have deemed most St Albans homes safe to repair or rebuild.

The case for people being given the land assessments of their areas is compelling. If you don't have the information, you can't feel you've made the right decision about your home.

As your local MP, my primary task since September 4 has been to advocate for you getting the best possible information – on the basis that even if the news is not all good, at least you are able to make informed decisions. Most of you would agree, the information flow has been patchy to say the least. Recovery will take a long time. My office is helping hundreds of constituents with EQC and insurance issues. While we may not always resolve them, we usually can get things sped up – and much less stress than many of you are facing. Don't be shy about asking for help – that's what we are there to do.

Alternatively, you are welcome to approach me at or after either of the two meetings.

Let's get through this together

**Brendon Burns**

**MP for Christchurch Central**



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**Brendon BURNS**  
MP for Christchurch Central

For assistance with earthquake or other issues  
contact my electorate office:  
P 03 377 8840  
304 Fitzgerald Avenue  
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## Canterbury Ahead of Expectations

by **Nicky Wagner**

Canterbury's can do attitude is standing us in good stead.

The region has done much better in terms of its economy and in retaining jobs than was predicted after the Feb 22 earthquake. The population is on the rise, as is the number of people employed in the city.

Usually, disaster areas can lose upwards of 20% of their populations, but the vast majority of Cantabrians aren't going anywhere.

In terms of employment we have more jobs on our books than any other city in the country and our unemployment rate is 5.55% against a national average of 6.7%.

And our economy is growing - in the June quarter we grew 1.9%, whereas Auckland only grew 0.4%.

Predictions for growth in the region in the next couple of years are hitting double figures on the back of \$30 billion dollars of long term investment. I don't know when we have ever seen that sort of growth anywhere in our country so we are in for some interesting and exciting times.

Insurance and reinsurance are on the minds of many at the moment. The situation on insurance is fluid

at the moment and will continue until insurers have a clearer picture of seismic issues in Christchurch. However, most companies are committed to continuing to insure existing customers and generally continuing insurance on properties that they already insure if there is a change of ownership.

Construction insurance seems to be more difficult. Many companies don't regularly cover this risk but will guarantee insurance for the new homes they are rebuilding. And new companies are coming into this market.

After his visit to Europe to talk to the world's top underwriting companies, Gerry Brownlee is confident that insurers will stand by their existing commitments and will return to the market as the shakes subside. According to overseas commentators the Minister and his earthquake recovery team delivered a well-considered and expertly presented message on the economic and scientific facts about the real and evolving risk faced by Christchurch. This information will help keep insurance premiums down in the long term.

Christchurch is only rated 8 on

the list of most risky insurance propositions and is falling. Countries that have regular disaster events like winds and floods are much more risky than a one in 500 year earthquake. The declining risk of the faults in Christchurch will determine the speed that the insurers will enter the market and that decline curve is looking encouraging.

We are all concerned about future costs but the cost of reinsurance is only about 15-20% of the total cost so even if that jumps significantly it is only a small part of the overall cost. And when you think that Christchurch will be safer and stronger as people leave badly damaged land and that building codes are strengthened, it will be far less risky for insurers.

Minister Brownlee said that the visit with the reinsurers was very worthwhile, and gave New Zealand the opportunity to put our case face-to-face to the people who make the decisions. In the longer term, he believes that insurance companies will see Christchurch as an attractive market as our economy rebounds swiftly and strongly so they will want to continue to do business here and premiums will remain be affordable.

**Nicky Wagner National MP**  
*Authorised by Nicky Wagner MP, 222 Bealey Ave, Christchurch*

## Edgware Calendar

By **Peggy Kelly**

In the days before we needed comfort food, a few of us produced that quirky Edgware? 2011 Calendar – just to celebrate Edgware. Looking through it now from January to December it is heartbreaking to see how many of the local businesses, the Community Centre and the old Methodist/Coptic church have been affected by events – boarded up, demolished or relocated away from the village. The calendar has become a poignant souvenir. It will again be usable as a calendar in 2022! What will our village look like then?

In the meantime, if you would like a calendar or two as a memento of “The way we were,” I’d be pleased to arrange a swap – 2 calendars for 1 packet of seeds. The seeds thus collected will be distributed to the Community Gardens in and around Christchurch (including our local Packe St Park). To arrange an exchange just e-mail [kellysykes@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kellysykes@xtra.co.nz)

With careful watering this summer I’m sure we can look forward to a good harvest and to sharing some more traditional foods – food to help keep us cheerful through the coming months.

### Schroeders'

“Tomorrow’s beer today”



Come home to  
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## Access For All

*By Hine Moke*

Christchurch can be a city where disabled people achieve what they want without the restrictive physical access that was experienced in the past. It can be a city where the community values disabled people as people. Christchurch has an opportunity to become a world leading city - not only for accessibility but for inclusiveness – where all people are treated equally.

St Albans and Edgware can become an accessible, inclusive community-leading Christchurch in accessibility and inclusiveness. All it will take is everybody working together.

I am the CCS Disability Action Canterbury Access Committee Chairperson. I have been on the Access Committee for almost three years. Recently I joined the CCS Disability Action's Disability Awareness Team. CCS Disability Action is a national organisation which has been operating in the New Zealand community for over 75 years, supporting and enabling disabled people. Recently I joined the CCS Disability Action's Disability Awareness Team. CCS Disability Action is a national organisation which has been operating in the New Zealand community for over 75 years, supporting and enabling disabled people. The role of the Access Committee is to liaise with the community to ensure disabled people have the same opportunities to access business and community facilities as non-disabled people. The role of the CCS Disability Awareness team is to make all people in the community aware of what life is like for disabled people and to advise on how best to interact with us. I was born with a neurological condition called Cerebral Palsy - where the cerebral side of the brain is damaged. Sometimes my limbs get mixed messages, for example, if I ask my right leg to move, my brain may send a message to my right arm

to move. Living with Cerebral Palsy has not stopped me from being fit and healthy - I can lift 53 kgs! Everybody who has Cerebral Palsy is affected differently.

St Albans and Edgware are family-friendly communities - that was my first impression, and it has been a lasting one. I'm originally from Waltham. On 22nd February 2011, my flat spilt in two and my bedroom wall collapsed – the result of our now famous earthquake. This brought about challenges for me accommodation-wise!

I now live in St Albans, and enjoy catching up with friends at the local cafés. Sometimes the access in St Albans can be annoying. I often struggle trying to open two doors to access public places, because one door is not wide enough for my wheelchair to go through. Additionally, I have to ask a shop assistant to order or get items for me that I would be able to get myself if the building was accessible. Access in and around shops not only affects disabled people, but also parents and caregivers with prams experience the same access difficulties when entering or moving around the local shops and cafés.

I could write about access and disability all day, everyday. Consider these access milestones: in the 1970's Christchurch city put in down kerbs, improving access for people using wheelchairs and other mobility equipment, and caregivers with pushchairs; in the 1990's Christchurch was a leading city with accessible buses; in 2007 New Zealand signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, this was ratified in 2008. The implementation of the Articles within the Convention will improve the rights, lives and treatment of disabled people. From 2011 and beyond, I wonder how accessible and inclusive St Albans and Edgware communities will be? Now is the time to act before it's too late!!



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## Community Notices

### Assisi Day Of Prayer For World Peace

The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Committee for Interfaith Relations in partnership with the Christchurch Interfaith Society invite you to a Prayer for World Peace at the Peace Bell, Hagley Park, 2.00pm on the 23 October 2011

**St Albans Public Meeting:** Saturday 8th October. 11am-1pm. Edgeware Bowling Club. Cnr Warrington & Madras. A follow on meeting regarding St Albans land issues and other earthquake concerns including insurance. Organised by our local MPs and elected representatives in conjunction with the Shirley Papanui Community Board and the St Albans Residents Association. Insurance Industry representatives will be present. CERA, EQC and CCC have also been invited. Contact Pauline Cotter 027 296 8811

**St Albans Residents Association Meeting:** 11 October 7.30pm. Abberley Park Hall. We warmly invite anyone who would like to be involved in SARA, its projects, new projects and the future development of St Albans. The first hour will be a general discussion on

St Albans area and its issues.

**St Albans Catholic School Gala:** Friday 4th November, 5pm – 8pm. Family fun. Devonshire teas, classic cars, sponge throwing, donkey rides, an onsite auction and more.

**St Albans School Market Day:** Saturday 5th November, 11am – 1pm. A fun day for the community. Buy-sell-eat and play. Stalls are available for purchase from the St Albans School office. Stalls are \$20.00 for a carpark site, \$5.00 for a kids market stall.

**Mairehau Library:** Kensington Ave – open 2-4pm Mon-Fri

**Shirley Toy Library:** Hammersley Park School, Amos Place off Marshlands Road. In the Gymnasium to the right of the driveway. Wednesday 9.30am – 11.30am, 6.30pm – 8pm. Saturday 9.30am – 12 noon, 1.30pm – 3pm. Papanui Community Toy Library: St Pauls Church, 1 Harewood Rd. Wednesday 7pm – 8.45pm. Saturday 10am-12pm. 352 0579

**St Albans Leisure Group:** The Leisure Group is an older adult's recreation group that provides social contact and activities for its members. The group generally meet fortnightly and visit

many of the free and low cost events that the city offers and follow each event with coffee and a chat. If you would like to enjoy the camaraderie and social contact the Leisure Group provides, contact Wendy at [communitycentre@stalbens.gen.nz](mailto:communitycentre@stalbens.gen.nz) or 374 2465.

**St Matthews Scout Group:** If you have any questions about Scouting, or if you would like to get involved (or get your children involved) then feel free to contact our Group Leader, Stu on 960 4478, or myself (Steve) on 385 7230. <http://www.stmatts.co.nz/>

**Fletchers Earthquake Hub in St Albans:** 280 Westminster St. Tel: 03 341 9995. Servicing: Bottle Lake, Brooklands, Casebrook, Edgeware, Mairehau, Marshlands, Northcote, Papanui, Redwood, Shirley and St Albans.

**Renaissance Dancing:** Want to try something new? Something different? Fun, easy historical dancing from Western Europe. No experience, partner, or costume needed! 7pm Mondays (except public holidays) Abberley Park Hall, Abberley Crescent, St Albans \$3 to cover hall hire please. Enquires to Nicola 3771 753

### Edgeware Village Green Inc *Special General Meeting*

**30<sup>th</sup> October 2011  
4-6 pm**

At The Offices Of Care Solutions  
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*Purpose: Adoption of the  
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To be held in conjunction with a  
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Contact Helen on 3662426 or  
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Roisin Cassidy from room 23 at St Albans Primary School has been selected to compete in the Canterbury team at the gymnastics national championships, a great achievement due to many years of hard work and persistence. We are very proud of her.

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**Accountant:** Working home in St Albans. Self employed accounts, rental properties, GST & tax returns. Budgeting & business advice. Contact Susan Ayton 980 7334 or taxayton@paradise.net.nz

**Affordable Counselling:** Experienced Counsellor and Therapist Don Rowlands, is locally based at the Durham Centre, 110 Bealey Avenue. Couple, individuals and blended families. Free counselling may be available through the Disability Allowance (WINZ) or the Family

Courts. Ph. (03)365 7776 (wk) or 027 688 2061.

**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

**Counselling:** Earthquake trauma has placed considerable pressure on some relationships. As an approved Family Court Counsellor, I am able to help people to access funding to meet with me where appropriate. Website: <http://www.dianecounsell.com> or ph 386 2746, Mob 027 338 5274 Diane Counsell.

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## Potato Bread

By Peggy Kelly

It's a common experience to revert to comfort food when we feel a bit fragile or battered by events. During recent months I have gone back to a real childhood love—potato bread. This ethnic delight was brought to Northern Ireland by the Scots during the Plantation of Ulster. Whenever I see it I remember Granny Kelly and all the aunties in their busy, cosy Belfast kitchen. Most cultures have

some kind of flat bread made out of whatever meal or starch is to hand—maize, rice, wheat etc. My culture has the potato farl. A “farl” is a quarter of a flat pancake-shape—just as a farthing was the quarter of a penny. It's an old fashioned word for a traditional kind of bread.

To make potato farls you have to mash freshly boiled peeled potatoes and while they are hot add just a smidge of butter, some salt and as much sieved flour as you have the

strength to mash in. This smooth dough is then kneaded and made into rounds about 22cm in diameter. Each round is divided into 4 farls and cooked dry (without fat) on a flat hot surface until lightly browned on both sides (I use a heavy frying pan). In Ireland, we often eat this bread with bacon and eggs. Thus, we cook the farl gently (for a second time) on both sides in a little bacon fat—don't tell the health authorities—and I like the fried egg on top.



# Community Can Never Rest On Its Laurels

by *David Moorhouse*

In mid September the city council received an application from American firm Ceres to build an earthquake waste dump and processing plant in land adjacent to schools and homes on Cranford St. I was tipped off by a neighbour who is a friend of a community board member. A flurry of phone calls and emails followed as we got the word out and organised a residents' meeting for the next day.

The community met to discuss the application and delegated me and local resident George Kear to make a deputation to the Shirley Papanui Community Board. The community's concern covered four main areas.

1. Outrage that there had been no public consultation. Apart from addressing the community board, there was no opportunity for residents to find out the true nature of the proposal and for their views to be given fair weight.

2. The land in question was completely unsuitable, being soft, peaty, water-logged soil that has trouble supporting light vehicles let alone heavy machinery, trucks and rubble.
3. The nature of the proposed operation, which included concrete crushing and wood grinding, would expose the neighbourhood to noise, dust, and hazardous materials. In addition, the extra heavy traffic would travel up Cranford St and return to the CBD via Northlands and Papanui Rd. Contamination of ground water and surface water from run off would be very hard to prevent.
4. Exploiting a loophole in the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act to establish a new industrial activity. A clause that allowed a 48 hour turn around for consenting temporary construction depots, such as would be required to fix a piece of infrastructure like a sewer, was being used to ride rough shod over community concerns.

The Community Board gave us a fair hearing, listened to the arguments put forward by the applicant, and resolved to make a submission on the application opposing it. We gained valuable media exposure with an article on the front page of The Press the following day which helped alert the community. Radio NZ and Newstalk ZB also covered the story. Meanwhile, the company claimed that they would save a huge amount on demolition costs, which could impact future insurance premiums. Later analysis of those figures showed the additional costs were largely fictitious.

Residents then decided that a Community Meeting was required where we could hear from independent experts, so organised this for the week after the Community Board delegation. A flier was designed, printed and distributed to 5,000 local letter boxes over the weekend. The local school came on board and notified all parents.

Over 150 people attended the meeting, to ask questions from our experts in health, hazardous waste, planning and education. The meeting resolved to ask the chief executives of CERA, the City council and ECan to come up with a

comprehensive plan to deal with this waste in a manner that does not expose any residential neighbourhood to the hazards that are inherent in processing it. There is a very real need to process this waste so our city can get back on its feet. There are plenty of other options, such as processing it within the CBD, or using rail to transport it to a purpose built enclosed facility in an industrial area. Here, valuable materials could be separated while controlling the hazards.

This saga shows the importance of local democracy and the power of community action. It also highlights that while a strong community can fight back, we need to stay alert to stop this happening in other areas as this issue has not been resolved. Christchurch residents have had enough from mother nature without being dumped on.

*David Moorhouse is a community spokesperson for Papanui residents and is the Green Party candidate for the Christchurch Central Electorate*

## Quote of the Month

Affluence separates people,  
poverty knits 'em together.  
You got some sugar and I don't;  
I borrow some of yours.  
Next month you might not have any flour;  
well, I'll give you some of mine.

*Ray Charles*  
(September 23, 1930 – June 10, 2004)  
*Singer*

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