

March 2012



## St Albans Makes Progress

### Important Community Updates Need Your Response

#### Edgeware Village

At the CCC meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> Feb, councilors considered whether to change Edgeware, along with New Brighton, to a different rebuild category, with the title of "Master Plan." This would have resulted in council putting a lot more resources than at present into a cohesive plan for repair and rebuild, incorporating design features and a cohesive approach, rather than allowing ad hoc repairs by individuals, which is the case at present.

Sadly, the decision was deferred because some councilors are not convinced that a similar approach in Lyttelton and Sydenham has reaped results. More information is apparently required before a decision can be made. In real terms, this could mean that either nothing much will happen on the ground for a while, or worse still, business owners will go ahead and build cheaply without considering community values and ignore opportunities to improve the suburban environment.

#### A New Community Centre Building or Temporary Premises

The St Albans Residents' Association is still lobbying hard to have decisions made regarding a new Community Centre, a temporary building on the empty site, or at least a rented house, where community owned furniture and materials removed from the original building can be stored and from where SARA can run a drop-in Centre. Emma Twaddell (Chair) has been in touch with various council staff, including the CEO, and City Housing & Community Facilities Manager, Kevin Bennett, who had this to say – "We understand the concerns of the community and are keen to work with the wider St Albans community in order to

achieve a sustainable solution to the need for a community-focused centre. We are continuing to work through the earthquake related insurance claims for damaged council owned buildings and expect it to be some time yet before settlement is achieved. In conjunction with this, there is an internal council process whereby replacement/rebuild of all seriously damaged council owned buildings is considered and prioritized. The St Albans Community Centre is required to be considered as part of this process."

Obviously, this rather cumbersome process means his hands are tied when it comes to making any quick decisions. However, he did give a more positive response to the idea that the Student Army could be utilized to clear and prepare the old site in readiness for a pop-up facility. Watch this space.

Emma appeared before the Community Board on 15th and again informally on 29th Feb and expressed SARA's frustration that the serviceable 4 bedroom house at 5 Vagues Rd is slated for demolition in order for a non-urgent project for a park to go ahead.

The CCC owned house adjacent to the Community Centre car park, which was purchased for the planned extension, would make an ideal temporary facility, but is still currently tenanted and CCC is naturally unwilling to remove the tenants. Whilst being given notice would certainly disrupt the lives of one group of tenants, it is the view of SARA's board that a greater good would be achieved by allocating this house for the use of a community project (and we would help in any way possible to reduce the disruption.)

*continued on page 12*

### Highlights

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My chair chat rule - always be positive. I'm finding it a little difficult at the moment because some of the wonderful people in my life are telling me

to quit my involvement in SARA and the St Albans community and get on with my life.

I think this is a good idea. I have a good life and I have my community. A bloody fantastic community that is full and varied. One that loves and supports me and my family and cares about us.

Why do I care if other people have this support in their life or not?

I don't really know why, but I do care. I care because I think this support is the bees' knees, it's what makes people happy. And I love being around happy people. I care because St Albans is full of happy people who all make up my life.

But I don't care enough to continue to put this wider community before my own community. I have, since the destruction of the St Albans Community Centre in September 2010, pieced together what was left of SARA. Putting in 30+ hours a week of my time has enabled SARA to recover, and I want to stress that it is not recovering anymore, it has recovered.

Now it must fulfil its purpose or become another earthquake loss. Its purpose is to be a tool which the residents of St Albans can use to play a part in the development of a vibrant and healthy community.

SARA, the organisation, presently resources this through monthly meetings/discussions, and through the sharing of information in the St Albans News and on the St Albans Community Website. It is working on finding a base again and staffing the administration of the organisation.

The organisation is set up to work for this community, but what it does next is now up to the residents of St Albans.

People of St Albans - come out of your houses and join in the recovery of St Albans! You need to let the Residents' Association know you want it and believe that the involvement of the residents in the rebuild is important. The alternative is that we leave it up to the authorities to decide what is best for us.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 13th March 2012 @ 7.30pm. PLEASE NOTE THE VENUE - Mairehau Library, Kensington Ave. Or get involved in some local discussion through the St Albans website and the St Albans News.

Emma Twaddell  
Chair of the St Albans  
Residents' Association

## Christmas at Edgware

*by Jackie Rigg, Edgware Outlet*

On Saturday 17th Dec 2011, a successful Christmas Fair was held at Edgware Village with many businesses contributing. Retailers offered special prices on items and gifts and raffles were available. The bouncy castle, coffee stall, balloons and colourful planters on the pavements made this a festive season. Staff wore red Tees with Christmas at Edgware printed on them, which added to the festivities. Not forgetting special guests Santa and Mrs Christmas. Sales were increased substantially with foot traffic up after the loss of businesses due to the earthquakes. We welcome the return of retailers in due course, especially Super Value. We would like to thank Sonia Prince and Shirley Van Waverin, from Recover Canterbury, who made advertising and funding available. Also Christchurch City Council, Emma Twaddell, St Albans Residents Association and Volunteers who made this such a successful day.

A great team effort. Thankyou.



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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.*

## Letters to the Editor

### Greetings,

Re the December, 2011 issue of the magazine - I can't help but think that the caption for the photograph on p.14 is incorrect and that it should read "At the T-junction of Edgeware Road and Allard Street."

Incidentally, I have often wondered why the Edgeware in which we live has the extra 'e' whereas the original one in London is spelled 'Edgware'.

Presumably that would have been the source of the name that we live with?

Thanks, and regards,

Ron Hann.

*Editor's Note – Well spotted Ron, you are absolutely right regarding the T-junction. As for the spelling of Edgeware. I have noticed the discrepancy as well. At some point early in our history it must have been a misspelling that stuck.*

### Dear Editor,

Can someone please clarify the boundaries of St Albans?

Thank you,

Emily Walton

*Editor's Note – Thank you for your letter. This is something we would like to look into, but in the meantime would welcome comments from readers on this. Any history buffs out there who would like to take on this task?*

### Hi there,

Is the new glossy St Albans News printed on FSC certified paper?

Melissa Davies

*Editor's Note – Our printer assures us that it is. "The paper stock is called Elemental Chlorine Free, is ISO 14001 accredited and meets the forest management criteria." If you would like us to investigate this further, please let us know. We would definitely be uncomfortable using environmentally unfriendly paper.*

## St Albans and TC3 land

by Nicky Wagner

MP for Christchurch Central

One of the pressing issues St Albans residents have approached me about in recent weeks concerns CERA's new green zone technical categories for land and building foundations.

I have contacted building companies, insurance providers and geotechnical consultants about this in regard to St Albans specifically, in order to clarify some of the issues.

Building sector representatives are working hard to try and speed up the process with insurance providers to complete sign-off approval for geotechnical, site-specific testing to be carried out regardless of whether the case is a repair or a rebuild.

They want to pre-empt the process so that residents have site-specific foundation designs ready to go and can slot into the queue for repair or rebuild as soon as possible.

Insurance sector representatives have assured me they genuinely appreciate the difficulties facing TC3 property owners in particular. Land remediation decisions are vital but technically challenging steps in the process and they take time.

One insurance provider is currently trialing a pilot project on TC 3 land in south west Christchurch to gauge some of the challenges. They have sought overseas technical expertise and advice so they can broaden their knowledge and refine their techniques to assist in the repair and rebuild process.

The geotechnical expert I consulted is urging residential property owners to access the Department of Building and Housing website for their revised "Guidance on repairing and rebuilding houses affected by the Canterbury earthquake sequence," in particular pages 25- 30, for the technical descriptions of types of land damage.

Go to:

<http://www.dbh.govt.nz/UserFiles/File/Publications/Building/Guidance-information/pdf/guide-canterbury-earthquake-revised.pdf> or try [www.dbh.govt.nz](http://www.dbh.govt.nz) and search for 'guide-canterbury-earthquake-revised.pdf'

*For more information, please go to page 9*

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**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 April 24th 2012**



# The Edgeware Labyrinth

by *Helen Ross*

## What is a labyrinth?

I like to think of a labyrinth as a tool for walking meditation, a way of calming the mind so that creative thoughts are free to enter. It represents a journey to our own centre and back again out into the world.



Labyrinths have been found throughout the world and date back thousands of years. The pattern we used is that of the Cretan Labyrinth derived from the Greek myth of the Minotaur, a monster that was half-man and half-bull. According to Jim Buchanan, author of *Labyrinths for the Spirit*, "It could be that the idea of facing a ferocious monster in the centre of a labyrinth symbolizes the way we must face our own daily fears, or the collective fears of our culture."



## What is the difference between a maze and a labyrinth?

A labyrinth has one path leading you to the centre and then out again. Mazes have multiple paths and dead

ends designed to "trap and trick."

## Where?

The labyrinth has been created on council land on the car park of the old Edgeware Pool in Edgeware Rd. Access is currently easiest from Trafalgar St.

## When?

In early Spring a group of us from the Edgeware Village Green Inc (amongst them Ro Soryl, Jan McKenzie, Matt Morris, Jane Cooper and I) developed a heart-shaped garden bed at the Trafalgar St end of the site, utilising the sandbags put in place after one of the well-heads flooded on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Planting a garden for me represents Hope in a way nothing else does. My desire to create a labyrinth grew from there, having benefited from walking a number here and overseas. Providence came on board in December with an offer (via Peggy Kelly from Packe St Park) from Dr Lane Perry at the University of Canterbury to supply some American College Students and equipment for the project.

## Who and how?

On Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of January, work began by clearing the overgrown site. The pattern was marked out by two Christchurch women, Koa Minifie and Lily White, while others set about cleaning the locally-sourced bricks. A number of EVG working bees later and with the help of a number of students from Lane's Christchurch 101 paper, the task of laying the bricks was complete. A low-key launch of the labyrinth was held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February in conjunction with a visit from the National Council of the Soil and Health Association.

## Why?

One of the best lessons for me in previous recovery experiences was



realising that you can't let what you can't do stop you from doing what you can. Progress on formalising Edgeware Village Green Inc, a necessary step to be able to receive Council funding, largely came to a halt after the February quake. There was very little energy for committee meetings or dealing with bureaucratic structures. We mourned the loss of those vital meeting places in our neighbourhood like the supermarket, the local churches and of course, the Resource Centre. To my mind the labyrinth is our gift to the local community of a special place where people can take time-out from our daily troubles; reconnect with the still, strong place within all of us or with God/Spirit for those of a spiritual mind, and return again to face our various challenges stronger for the experience.

I hope that with hindsight our experiences with EQC, Insurance Companies, the Council and Builders will turn out to be a labyrinth rather than the maze the process would seem to be at this point.

The Edgeware Village Green holds a weekly working bee on Tuesday at 4 for a couple of hours. We welcome new gardeners.

Contact Helen on 366 2426 or Ro on 981 8832 or just turn up. ☘

## The Hub of the Matter

by Paula de Roeper

*Authentic Communication Ltd*

Some 18 months on since the start of the shakes, rattles and rolls in Christchurch, it can seem an endless and tiring journey towards recovery. It is important to remember that we are not walking the journey alone. A team of dedicated, committed people are working hard to make a difference for residents in the St Albans council ward area.

Fletcher EQR (Earthquake Recovery) Mairehau Hub, on Westminster Street, has so far completed more than 3,738 emergency repairs and some 399 full repairs. The Hub services Papanui, St Albans, Edgeware, Mairehau, Shirley and Richmond.

Don Hayes, Project Manager at Mairehau Hub steers an enthusiastic and committed team of 31 Fletcher EQR employees, 80 contractors and nine others from support services such as Christchurch Earthquake Temporary Accommodation Service.

“We are here to rebuild people’s



Lesley MacDonald

homes safely and cost effectively. Through doing so, we hope to help people rebuild their lives,” said Don who encourages his staff to connect to the history of the area by referring to the book “St Albans, from Swamp to Suburbs – An Informal History”.

“The book helps connect us

to the community by having an understanding of how the area has evolved. We are keen to be a part of things, so that we are walking alongside the residents we are here to assist,” he said.

Julie Barry, Community Liaison Officer (CLO) has been with the Hub from its inception in March 2011.

“Working to support this community is a truly rewarding role,” said Julie, “We are pleased to be in a position to make a difference to people who really need it and we encourage members of the public to call into the Hub for a chat. It is also possible for myself or the other CLO here, Lesley MacDonald, to make home visits for residents who may be unable to get to the Hub.”

As CLOs, Julie and Lesley work closely with the contracts supervisors in progression of repairs. Specifically, they endeavour to support members of the community in navigating their way through any issues that may arise, from understanding the claims process to suggesting who to talk to about temporary accommodation needs and generally sorting out any questions or concerns residents might have.

In the aftermath of the September 2010 earthquake that struck Christchurch and the surrounding district the Earthquake Commission (EQC) brought in Fletcher Construction Company to tackle the residential repair work for claims between \$10,000 and \$100,000. The company took up the gauntlet, created a project management structure from scratch and contracted builders to carry out the work.

It seems straightforward enough. Get the claim processed through EQC and send the builders in to make the repairs. Getting to that point, there

has been a lot of planning around how best to deliver results to where they are most needed – that is, directly to local residents in need of home repairs.

One aspect of that planning meant the Fletcher Construction EQR (Earthquake Recovery) team, initially divided Christchurch city and surrounding areas within the



Julie Barry

Selwyn and Waimakariri Districts into 11 zones. This now also spreads to Ashburton and Timaru. Twenty community-based offices, or Hubs, are located in these areas with staff overseeing the repair process of all house claims in that location.

Hubs are specifically based in the community to provide the public with a point of contact in a collaborative effort to repair Christchurch homes as quickly and efficiently as possible. The smooth running of this work relies in no small part on good communication with residents. Once claims are processed through EQC and have been handed to the appropriate Hub, a relationship with the Fletcher EQR team and the resident is readily accessible through the Hub, as well as through the people working on the repair site.

“We continue to cover the bases and work through the claims at a steady rate,” said Don. “It is our pleasure to be of service to this local community and welcome communication with residents whenever the need arises. Our door is open to you.” ☘



## Shot in St Albans

by *Hilaire Campbell*

If you follow your nose, you can't miss Ris'tretto Café at the top end of Barbadoes St. It's got the best green beans and the only roastery in town. "It's my passion," says owner Andrew Weir, who sees it as central to the operation of the café. He is dedicated to supporting Free Trade and uses only 100% Arabica organic beans. "They cost more," he says, "but we wanted a business we could feel good about."

Before he opened the café in 2008, Andrew spent more than eight months roasting, trialing, and tasting different beans from different countries to create the flavour he wanted - a rich, nutty, malty caramel. But he says the window of opportunity was small. "I'd left my marketing job with the University of Canterbury and I was a new dad. I had to make it happen or forget it."

Andrew's love affair with coffee began in 1994. He'd returned from London somewhat disenchanted by his first drinking experience – instant coffee with plenty of milk and sugar – and was getting used to filtered coffee when a waitress friend at the Tin Goose gave him an espresso flat white. "It changed my life forever," he says.

He and his wife Cath opened Bagel Heaven in New Regent St in 2003, and through training and immersion in the culture he graduated to double shot ristretto espressos. "It's the only way to go," he says. "Most cafes serve lungo, the longer pour, but we like the restricted or ristretto shot because you don't lose any of the body or flavour. It's a strong point of difference with Ris'tretto Café, hence its name." (The apostrophe is Andrew's unique tweak).

The high spot in his career came in October 2011 when he won the silver medal from 300 entries for 'best espresso' at the NZ Coffee Awards.

He has no secret recipe but says his beans are all naturally low in acidity

and require only gentle roasting. "When you have to dark roast to lower the acidity, it's like char grilling a steak. All the flavour is in the char and there's none in the meat."

Andrew says you have to have a



creative personality to be a roaster. "You're creating something unique, and that comes from within you." His mother was an artist and a brilliant cook, but Andrew says he came to coffee through his music. He managed various events at the university and has been singing in a

covers band for 10 years, Elvis mostly and the Beatles. You won't hear him playing at Ris'tretto though – "we're more get up and dance."

After the February earthquake and the big snow, Ris'tretto became a community meeting point. Since then Andrew says they've been really busy and he's proud that he's been able to employ three extra people, including one who lost her job in the CBD. His team is fairly close and they enjoy the mix of professionals, young families and others, mostly between 20 and 50, who visit the café. But the demographic has changed and it's not unusual he says, to see an EQC crowd with computer tablets or a group of displaced businessmen having a roundtable. Many of them are older but they have good appetites.

For info on the deli style cabinet food and evening meals, the roasting demonstrations and the sale of freshly ground coffee, see Andrew's website. ([www.ristretto.co.nz](http://www.ristretto.co.nz)) For entertainment and insight, read his articles – 'What's in your cup?' or 'How to make better coffee at home.' Just remember, says Andrew, "We do what we do well." ☘



# The Vintage Peddler

by Maria Hayward

The vintage bicycles collected by Stu Waddel and Ryan Charmley may have started out as a hobby, but it soon got out of hand. Then they got the idea of renting them out from their premises in High Street, where they also produced a yearly guide to mountain bike trails around New Zealand called "Chill Adventures". The bikes were popular with tourists looking for new ways to experience Christchurch.

The Vintage Peddlers collection of bikes ranges from British built from the 1950's and 60's through to the Kiwi built Healing range from the 1970's. They have just acquired a tandem and some children's bikes



as well.

I have noticed more people taking to biking since the quakes. Old bikes have been brought out of garages around the city and dusted off.

The last two months have been particularly busy with both tourists and locals hiring out bikes for weekend outings.



After the earthquakes, they moved to Montreal Street near the grocer Gordon Smith and Sons but will soon have to move again.

In the future, Stu and Ryan hope to be able to provide a mobile service with the addition of a vintage Morris van that they will use to transport the bikes to popular sites by prior arrangement ☘





# Zoned Green/Blue? Practical Advice for TC3 Land Owners

## Construction Options for Soft Ground

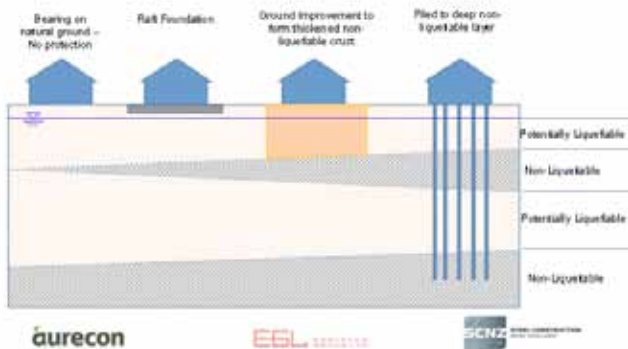
by Di Lucas

www.lucas-associates.co.nz

Built on 'wet plains', from the groundwater rising to the surface toward the coast, these city lands were previously richly clothed in kahikatea forest. Spring-fed streams meandered across the gentle surface, and wetlands abounded. Streams and wetlands have since been drained and diverted. But the fine sediments they deposited remain. As with areas to the south in the Central City, drilling St Albans sites can show a considerable depth of fine sediments, silts and sands that are liquefiable - perhaps a 25 m depth of fines. There may also be peat. Hundreds of metres of Riccarton Gravels lie below. Where zoned for residential use, the soft lands of the city have been zoned green-blue, or TC3 (technical category 3).

for reacting to future quakes. Floor joints might be designed to be adjustable, so that floors can be re-levelled if necessary. Self-levelling floors are also being designed, so that a building will automatically right itself if moved at all by a quake. Base isolation is another technique used to reduce the impact of quakes on a structure, and a more affordable method is currently being tested.

### Building Foundation Options



To re-build with a large or heavy structure, piling down to reach a layer of gravels may be recommended to try and make sure the building will be resilient in future quakes. Concrete piles down 10 or 20 metres are likely expensive. If buildings are of light-weight construction, then different approaches are possible. Lighter buildings enable options

**Strong foundation**

Light building  
Adjustment  
Strong foundation

Concrete foundation

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This diagram shows a light building on a concrete foundation. A box on the left lists 'Light building', 'Adjustment', and 'Strong foundation'. The building has red vertical lines indicating adjustable joints between the foundation and the structure. The University of Canterbury logo is in the top right corner.

**Strong foundation**

Light building  
Adjustment  
Strong foundation

Concrete foundation

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CANTERBURY

This diagram is identical to the one in the previous block, showing a light building on a concrete foundation with adjustable joints and the University of Canterbury logo.

Light-weight construction can be achieved with engineered timbers – various laminations are becoming available, for example LVL and CLT, which are very

**Strong foundation**

Light building  
Adjustment  
Strong foundation

Concrete foundation

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This diagram is identical to the previous ones, showing a light building on a concrete foundation with adjustable joints and the University of Canterbury logo.

strong and enable multi-storey timber structures. They might be supported by the recently developed hollow-centred timber piles.

Lightweight metal construction options are also available. Lightweight insulation panels can clad or form the roof and walls.

A further innovation is to extend foundations up above ground-level so that they are accessible for making



adjustments. This may involve a ground floor carport, for example, with foundations extending up to the first floor level above.

Geotech investigations for a number of sites in Peterborough Village have demonstrated how much the land varies. On one site, depth to gravel varied by 5 m in a distance of just 5 m. On some sites there is a good layer of gravels near the surface, which means buildings might need only shallow foundations. On other sites there are no gravels until a depth of 16 or 20 metres. On such sites, an option may be to have light-weight construction with adjustable floors and not pile to depth. The variability of the land in Peterborough Village certainly suggests that site by site testing is needed.

If gravels are only at considerable depth, an option may be to remediate the land, especially if involving a larger development. There are various techniques used to reduce the potential for damaging liquefaction. Investing in strengthening the land, and then spending much less on foundations, may be a viable option if people combine sites so that a decent area can be comprehensively addressed.

South of Bealey Avenue, Peterborough Village/Pita Kāik recently hosted an expert workshop to explore these construction options for re-building on their similarly soft ground. Quite a lot of geotech investigations had already been undertaken, with some data made available on the web. Geotech experts presented this and data from other investigations at the workshop. Structural engineers then presented methods to achieve an affordable rebuild on these sites. The workshop identified appropriate and affordable construction techniques, which is very heartening for the community. A DVD from the public feedback session can be viewed on the village website. ([www.peterboroughvillage.org.nz](http://www.peterboroughvillage.org.nz))

Prefabricating buildings is an option gaining popularity around the world. Prefabrication from a range of light-weight materials offers quick response, high quality, affordable solutions. At the Peterborough Village workshop, architect Chris Moller displayed his innovative Click-

## CLT - Austria



Raft building technique. It involves pre-cut laminated timber components that are easily clicked together on site to form the walls and roof. Just as with tilt-slab walls, prefabricating walls from light-weight materials reduces on site construction time and therefore reduces building cost. PreFab NZ will soon have the first of a display of sample homes out at the Addington Showgrounds. Prefab construction is now recognised as a very desirable approach. Not just little huts and granny flats are prefab these days. Multi-storey buildings can involve prefabricated walling and flooring components. These are a vastly different entity than the little old prefab bach you might have in mind. ☞



# Factors That Can Help Build Up Resilience in children, teens and adults, and in families, groups, schools, businesses, organisations and communities...

by *Skylight*

Research confirms these particular factors play a significant part in helping us to build up our resilience to cope with life's knock backs – whatever has caused them:

**Support Circle** – positive relationships with supportive family, whanau, friends, colleagues and neighbours – and making the most of them

**Self Worth** – believing in one's own value and worth – every person's life matters

**Sense of Competence** – knowing one's strengths, abilities and skills – and using them

**Life Skills** – learning and practicing skills like how to problem solve, decision make, communicate, set goals, source information and ask for help when it's needed

**Flexibility** – being able to adjust and bend a little as situations change – recognizing that it won't always be as it is now and putting up with things is needed sometimes

**Creativity** – trying to approach things in new ways and look at things with fresh eyes, or from different angles

**Sense of Humour** – being able to laugh at things, to put things into perspective at times and to relieve tension

**Perseverance** – giving things a go, and keeping on trying and working at it – despite set backs

**Self Care** – caring for personal needs as a way of building up one's strength

**A Hopeful Outlook** – looking beyond the present to a more positive future ahead – understanding things can become better.

See Skylight [www.skylight.org.nz](http://www.skylight.org.nz) or phone 0800 299 100 for a range of helpful support resources for all ages and other support services

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## Mairehau Hub

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### What's happening now?

Over 35,000 emergency repairs completed as a result of the February, June and December earthquakes. The full residential repair programme is under way. Over 13,500 winter heat installations so far.



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The St Albans Residents' Association is kindly supported by the Todd Foundation



The St Albans Residents Association is extremely grateful to ASB Bank for their grant of \$2348.00 for computing equipment



*continued from page 1*

Emma reports that she was very happy with the sympathetic hearing she received from both CCC and the Community Board and believes that rapid progress will be made on all these issues.

### **St Albans Residents' Association Adopts Pioneering New Approach to Community in Christchurch**

At their February meeting, SARA voted to adopt the 'Newlands' model of community development presented at the previous meeting, and outlined in the St Albans News.

Jarrod Coburg, Trustee of the Draco Foundation (NZ), who will mentor the Board in implementing this new approach, offers his take on the current state of affairs and how the new approach will work:

"Ask anyone in St Albans what the number one cause of problems has been since the earthquakes and they will probably say "the people in power are not listening".

For over a year the community leaders of this city have been discussing, debating and providing excellent feedback on the future of their little bits of Christchurch. But no matter how many great ideas, positive suggestions and constructive criticisms come to light, nothing seems to be getting done. If one listens very carefully on a still day, over the heavy machinery and earthworks you can make out the sound of thousands of heads repeatedly striking the few brick walls left.

St Albans Residents' Association has decided to take another approach. Rather than rage against the machine of bureaucracy we are creating our own. If you can't beat 'em, join 'em!

All of us who live in this community deserve a say in its future, and SARA is going to give it to you. In the next few months we'll be undertaking research to develop a list of 20 projects that St Albans residents want completed over the next ten years. Using a model of community development devised by the Draco Foundation – a New Zealand charitable trust that supports the work of residents' associations –

we're going to build a team of Project Managers headed by a management panel that will ensure we start seeing progress in our community.

The best thing about this is that it doesn't interfere with the Christchurch City Council, ECAN, CERA or any of the other government departments who are "here to help".

We're doing this to empower our citizens and to get the ball rolling. When the government agencies feel that it's time to start listening to communities, then we'll be in a great position to say "this is what our residents want, and this is what we've been doing to get it". Currently we're seeking expressions of interest from people in the community with senior management and project management backgrounds, who are willing to give this idea a go, and who want to be part of the future of St Albans."

If this sounds like you, contact Emma at [communitycentre@stalban.gen.nz](mailto:communitycentre@stalban.gen.nz) or leave a message on 374 2465

### **Community Response Needed**

The community needs to be made aware that, as Emma Twaddell says in her Chair Chat, more input is urgently needed from community members. It's both an exciting and stressful time. SARA is forging ahead with exciting new plans but there is a very real sense that a crossroads has been reached.

Firstly, the organization needs a far bigger team if it is not to collapse. In that regard, SARA is happy to introduce two new Board Members, Hine Moke from CCS Disability Action Group and George Abraham.

Secondly, (in the view of this writer) it needs a broader range of expertise, and additionally, members will need to allow for a greater time commitment since the Board now faces a far more complex challenge than it did prior to the earthquakes. It cannot be run from a private residence, guided principally by one person, for much longer.

There is also the question of who would run a new community project in the long term. At the Community Board meeting recently, Deputy Mayor

Ngairé Button stated that any new facility would be Council run, rather than community run as it has been in the past. This may well be a good thing, or alternatively, the community might want to keep control of its own projects.

SARA board member, George Abraham, has asked the St Albans News to pose two questions to the public:

### **1. Do you agree or disagree with Ngairé Button's statement that the CCC would be more capable of running the Centre than SARA?**

The second question involves the finances of SARA. A decision needs to be made on what to do about the remainder of the Strengthening Communities Grant from CCC, which was for \$40,000 to cover staff expenses from July 2010 to June 2011. As of Sept 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 when the centre was closed, 3 months into the funding term, 28,000 was left unused.

### **2. Should we return the unused \$28,000 or should it be carried forward for the community to use for its welfare?**

He states, "I believe people would wholeheartedly say, let SARA run the Centre using the unused grant, as the money still belongs to the Community. The Sept 4 earthquake shouldn't make any impact on that. Moreover, I would argue, the Council should come up with some additional money for the welfare of the Community, considering the impact of EQs on the Community. This is a time when people should come together and support each other by all means and the Council should contribute to that attempt in whatever ways possible."

George's is one opinion, and we would beg our readers to contact the St Albans News offering their own opinions or to attend the next meeting of SARA on Tuesday 13th March to make their views known

*Compiled by Maxine Feutz (Editor)  
N.B. Various ways of contacting us can be found on Page 2.*

## Update on Madras Street horizontal infrastructure rebuild

The wastewater pipes under Madras Street, between Bealey Avenue and Warrington Street, suffered significant damage in the February 2011 earthquake, including cracking and breakages. The Stronger Christchurch Infrastructure Rebuild Team (SCIRT) is charged with repairing this and other “horizontal infrastructure” (roads and underground pipes).

Cracks in pipes allow silt to enter the wastewater network, which can create blockages. This creates problems with flow in the network and also creates issues when the silt reaches the Bromley Wastewater Treatment Plant. In order to replace the pipes in Madras Street wastewater has to be pumped via overland pipes from manhole to manhole to allow the rebuild work to be carried out safely.

Some pipes can be repaired but others need to be replaced. Damaged pipes are removed and replaced with new, more resilient, plastic pipes. Geotextile cloth is wrapped around the pipe joints to prevent silt from entering the network. These measures make for a more robust system in the event of future earthquakes.

The programme of rebuild works will take around five years to complete and there has already been significant progress made.

### Completed works:

- Replacement of the Madras Street wastewater pipeline from Bealey Avenue to Canon Street and from Edgeware Road to Edward Avenue

### Current works:

- Replacement of the Madras Street wastewater pipeline from Canon Street to Edgeware Road. The works are due to be completed in early March
- The replacement of the Madras Street wastewater pipeline from Edward Avenue to Warrington Street. This work is almost complete, with only minor works

outstanding. The works are due to be completed by early March 2012

### Planned work:

- Repair of the brick barrel sewer that runs under Madras Street from Bealey Avenue to Kilmore Street. Work is due to start around April/May. This pipe will be accessed through a manhole and will involve very little disruption above ground
- Roading works are proposed on Madras Street from Bealey Avenue to Edgeware Road. This will involve repair of the road, footpath and the kerb and channel. A start date has not yet been determined for this work
- Roading works are proposed on Madras Street from Edgeware Road to Warrington Street. This work involves levelling, sealing and marking the road. This work will take around one month to complete. A start date has not yet been determined for this work
- Replacement of a box culvert adjacent to 547 Madras Street. A start date has not yet been determined for this work

Because this rebuild task is so large, some work is taking priority over others. Determining what comes first is complex and it is important that there is a well thought out planning process in place to drive the work programme.

SCIRT’s prioritisation process considers the following factors:

1. **Operational prioritisation** e.g. reducing wastewater flows to rivers
2. **Interdependencies** e.g. repairing downstream wastewater lines before upstream ones
3. **Key services** e.g. maintaining access to medical, emergency, education facilities and major transport routes open
4. **External factors** e.g. plans of power companies

5. **Constraints** e.g. availability of resources and materials
6. **Sense check** e.g. review the decision and consider whether it makes common sense

SCIRT’s schedule of work is still under development and should be ready in the next month or so. Information about this will be available on [www.strongerchristchurch.govt.nz](http://www.strongerchristchurch.govt.nz)

### How to keep in touch

The people of Christchurch are at the heart of SCIRT’s rebuild programme. We provide a range of different ways for you to stay informed - so keep an eye on these places:

1. **Online:** If you have access to a computer then our website is an excellent way to get up to date information about any works in your area:
2. **Log on to:**
  - [www.strongerchristchurch.govt.nz](http://www.strongerchristchurch.govt.nz)
  - Follow us on Twitter @SCIRT\_info
3. **In your community:** If you are visiting one of the Christchurch City Council libraries/service centres, look out for our distinctive SCIRT display boards. They contain fact sheets about the work SCIRT is doing. Translated fact sheets are currently being prepared. These will be available in Chinese, Korean and Samoan and will be distributed through the:
  - Rewi Alley Cultural and Education Centre
  - Aranui Community Trust
  - Christchurch Migrants Centre
4. **Newspapers:** Watch out for our regular updates in Christchurch newspapers.
5. **Letterbox:** Keep an eye on your letterbox for notification about upcoming works in your street. You can also email us at [info@strongerchch.co.nz](mailto:info@strongerchch.co.nz) or phone the Call Centre on 941 8999

**Community Notices**

**Earthquake Support Coordinators:** Call 0800 777 846 to be connected to a coordinator who can help navigate your way through earthquake issues.

**Earthquake Counselling:** Call 0800 777 846 for information and access to free earthquake counselling.

**St Albans Residents' Association (SARA) Incorporated MEETING**

Tuesday March 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30pm @ Mairehau Library on Kensington Ave and Tuesday April 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30pm @ Abberley Park Hall, Abberley Cres. The first hour of our meeting is general discussion on the issues facing the St Albans area post earthquake. We warmly invite anyone who would like to be involved in this discussion. Some of the current issues likely to be discussed include TC3 land zoning, lack of community spaces, the state of local businesses, unoccupied properties and rental properties. [communitycentre@stalbans.gen.nz](mailto:communitycentre@stalbans.gen.nz)

nz or phone 374-2465.

**SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE ST ALBANS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION. CONTACT US AND BECOME A MEMBER.**

**Mairehau Library** - Kensington Ave Open 2-4pm Mon - Fri, 10.30 - 11am Sat

**The Edgeware Village Green** holds a weekly working bee on Tuesday at 4 for a couple of hours. We welcome new gardeners. Contact Helen on 366 2426 or Ro on 981 8832 or just turn up.

**Vegetarian Youth Group:** For youth aged 10-18 years that are vegetarian or vegan, or are interested in learning more about a vegetarian lifestyle. We meet regularly to have fun, cook vegetarian/vegan dishes, and have discussion groups and educational activities on vegetarian related topics, movies, games and social nights. To find out more email: [vegeyouthcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:vegeyouthcoordinator@gmail.com), or visit our Facebook site (Vegetarian Youth), or Youth

Group page on [www.vegetarianchristchurch.org.nz](http://www.vegetarianchristchurch.org.nz) website.

**St Albans News Delivery:** The St Albans News is produced and distributed by local volunteers. We currently need approximately 5 more deliverers to keep the task manageable for all involved. Can you or someone you know help with the delivery? A delivery area takes approximately 2 hours and occurs every 2 months. This is a total of 12 hours walking a year! Please contact 374 2464 or email [communitycentre@stalbans.gen.nz](mailto:communitycentre@stalbans.gen.nz)

**Shirley/Papanui/St Albans Community Board Meeting.** If you would like to talk to a community board about a particular issue you need to request speaking rights from the relevant community board advisor at least six clear working days before the date of the meeting concerned. See <http://resources.ccc.govt.nz/files/CommunityBoardMeetings.pdf>

**Friends of the Park at 125 - 129 Packe Street Inc.**

Packe Street Park and Community Garden

**AGM**



Tuesday 3rd April 2012 at 7.30 pm  
Venue: 115 Packe Street  
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**Shirley Toy Library**

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Amos Place, Shirley

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**St Albans Art Society**



We want to increase our membership so we invite all painters and learners to join us at our rooms. We meet at:

**Forfar Courts at 95 Forfar Street, St Albans  
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**Accountant:** Working from 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

**Computer trouble shooting** and tuition Low rates. Phone Dave, 366 3020

**Separation Counselling -** The less conflict there is, the less psychological damage there will be to children. If you are struggling with issues around shared parenting you may be entitled to some funding to work through these where appropriate. I am an experienced and approved Family Court Counsellor. Diane Counsell MNZAC 027-338-5274 or 386-2746.

www.dianecounsell.com

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**Garage Sale, Mersey St,**

**28 January: HELP!** Two Chinese items sold accidentally. Pewter container with carved horses; etched tin pot with smaller pot inside. Owner would like them back, will pay accordingly. Please phone 3553547

**Handyman:** Firewood stacked, weeds wacked, trees attacked. Unbeatable prices, small jobs a specialty. Special senior rates offered. Call Sam on 356-0116.

**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.

pete@peteknuiman.co.nz

**Healing:** Energy healing, sound healing, regression healing. Ph Sunny on 374 3388. Facebook: sunnymayahealing

**House cleaning job in St Albans wanted:** By honest efficient and reliable lady on a weekly basis. \$25 per townhouse/flat. Excellent references available. Ph. Nicola 386 1118

**Painting and Decorating:** Internal/external. 22 years experience plastering. Owner operator, efficient service, locally based. Ph Mark 355 7670 or 027 434 3300

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**Drums:** Experienced & qualified teacher at well-equipped studio with two kits. Rockscool exams available. Ph Andrew at 351 5456. a.s.couper@paradise.net.nz

**Latin Baile Fitness:** Workout AND learn different styles of dance at the same time. Try and you won't regret it. Every Tuesday and Thursday from 5.30pm - 6.30pm @ Abberley Park Hall.(please arrive 5 minutes early so we can start on time) You will need a water bottle, towel and comfortable clothes. Contact Kotte 0211832540 or email at latinbaile@hotmail.com

**Yoga:** Mary Potter Centre. Tuesday 10-11.30am. Friendly, relaxing class, well suited to mature figures. Phone Pauline on 980 8760

**Zumba Fitness NZ —** Zumba With JB: Zumba Fitness NZ has extended our great range of classes. We can now provide 9 Zumba classes each week. With 4 nights and 5 daytime classes, there's something for everyone. Come and join the party! Check out our website, www.zumbafitness.net.nz or email us for more information, admin@zumbafitness.net.nz Casual classes \$10 — Concession cards available \$80 for 10 classes



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## Tara Loy

### *The Newest Member of the STAN Team*

To effectively introduce myself as a new team member, I thought it would be appropriate to share my story with all of you.

I'm originally from Arizona near the Grand Canyon, however, in the past few years I've become a real kiwi wanna-be!

In 2006 I first came to New Zealand on a student visa to study in Auckland. My boyfriend Joe followed me over from America. Together we experienced living abroad for the first time. Joe managed to gain his permanent residency.

Before going back to Arizona we did a three week loop around the South Island. We were awestruck! The North Island was great, but the South Island was spectacular!

We were particularly taken by Christchurch. Known as the second largest city in New Zealand, I expected something similar to Auckland or Phoenix. Quite the opposite. Christchurch was big in the sense that you could easily find everything you wanted close by. But there was a small town feel to the area. Walking around downtown, the architecture made you feel like you were in a quaint English village. We instantly fell in love with Christchurch. We agreed we would come back and live here someday.

After graduating from University in 2008 we came back to Christchurch. Joe worked for Renaissance as a technician and I worked for MagnumMac as a telephonist. The two companies shared a building and we were welcomed immediately into the family.

I must mention Murray Wood, who employed me despite my inexperience. Another important detail to add is that I suffer from a disabling eye condition leaving me almost legally blind. Aware of my impairment, Murray hired me. He offered to help pay for any equipment I might need to help me see.

One year later, Joe and I left Christchurch to travel Asia for a few years. We intended to return when we

were ready to start a family.

On February 22, 2011 we were in Kosumi, Thailand when we heard the devastating news of a massive earthquake that struck Christchurch. I felt mostly disbelief. What I saw on the news looked nothing like the city I had lived in. I never even felt a tremor during the entire time we were there. How could this have happened?

Through friend's Facebook updates



we discovered the reality of this disaster. Three of our friends were thought to have been inside the CTV building during the earthquake and most likely did not survive. This included Stephen Wright, Valeri Volnov and Murray. After weeks of waiting and hoping for a miracle, our worst fears were confirmed. These men will forever be missed. I cannot express how much Murray's kindness affected me during my time as a MagnumMac employee.

For months Joe and I closely monitored the clean up of our beloved city Christchurch from afar. We also got married in July 2011. We feel a very close attachment to Christchurch

and decided to follow through with our original plans. We had an unexplainable urge to get involved with the rebuild. In October 2011, we returned to Christchurch, this

time to stay.

Now I'm working on earning NZ permanent residency through partnership. Unable to work legally, I volunteer as an office administrator for SARA. This includes helping with STAN.

This position has put me right in the middle of the rebuild. I now have the opportunity to do something great for the city that has made such a big impression on me. ☘

### **An Unexpected Victory for Anti-Gambling Campaigners**

*by Sara Epperson – Problem Gambling Foundation*

In a great demonstration of leadership from the Christchurch City Council, it has been decided to keep the sinking lid on gambling venues.

Earthquake-affected venues will not be able to transfer their pokie machines to new neighbourhoods, and the machines will be gone for good. Council really grasped the opportunity to create a better city, even though individual venues have the right to ask for exceptions to the policy, and may do so. Overall, though, this is a victory for the people of Christchurch.

**The Problem Gambling Foundation is sending the Council a message of support and gratitude on behalf of the people of Christchurch and we encourage you to also send a "thank you" to your Councillor. It will be good for them to know that people in their city are pleased with this outcome.** ☘

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