

St Albans News

The Voice of our Neighbourhood

May 2013

Motorway to splice through St Albans



The St Albans News relies on your contributions. Please send your articles, letters and notices to news@stalbens.gen.nz. The deadline for the next issue is 16th June 2013

Highlights

Welcome home St Albans Community Preschool page 4

EQC page 6 & 7

Croquet Club centennial page 8 & 9

Street turns 100 page 12

The planned Northern Arterial Motorway could bring more traffic and cause problems in St Albans. Emma Twaddell looks into an issue that has resurfaced after many years and the consequences it might have for the innercity suburb.

It seems the NZ Transport Authority's (NZTA) Northern Arterial Motorway is going to be connected onto Cranford



St by the CCC's Northern The Northern Corridor (the Arterial and QEII Drive) is Arterial Extension. But a key project in the government's roads of national significance programme, announced in 2009. Map source: www.nzta.govt.nz

the detrimental effects of a motorway through the middle of the St Albans community would be mitigated.

The Northern Arterial (aka new Northern Motorway) is a new section of the four-laned, median-separated State Highway 74. It will start north of Belfast and pass to the east of Belfast and Redwood, connecting with QEII Drive near Winters Road. As part of this project, QEII Drive will also be four-laned, between Main North Road and Innes Road.

This project is to improve access to Christchurch, the central city and the Port of Lyttelton - reducing traffic on the Main North Road and Marshlands Roads. This in turn will make Belfast, Redwood and other local communities even more pleasant and accessible communities to live in.

NZTA lists one of the benefits of the proposed Northern Arterial and QEII Drive four-laning, as safer streets. "By moving heavy traffic off suburban roads, they will be more pleasant for walking, cycling and public transport."

The NZTA website continues: "The Belfast community is suffering. Having a major roadway cutting through the middle of a community is destructive - discouraging walking, cycling and restricting public transport. As traffic volumes grow congestion will worsen, and safety and public health concerns will increase."

Will the health and safety concerns and congestion simply just transfer from Belfast to St Albans when the four-laned highway meets Cranford St around McFaddens Rd, or will our street environment be more pleasant?

continued on page two

To understand what could happen to Cranford St, look at the Christchurch Strategic Rooding Network, from the Transport Strategy 2012. Judging by the colour and size of the lines on the map, Cranford St will work in the same manner as Memorial Ave, Main South Road, Brougham St and Pages Road, roads that have 60kph speed limits and cope with large daily transport movements. Around 37,000 vehicles per day use Main North Road and QEII Drive currently carries over 20,000 vehicles per day, which is projected to increase with ongoing developments.



CCC Christchurch Strategic Rooding Network. Northern Arterial Extension Presentation to Shirley/Papanui Community Board on April 17

The proposed rooding plan was first identified in the Northern Rooding Options Scoping Study (NROSS) carried out in 2001/2002. Assessment of all options available in this report has taken place and this plan has been put forward.

So although NZTA believe a motorway through a community is destructive it seems that the CCC does not hold the same beliefs. The St Albans community told the CCC loud and clear from 1966 to 1994 that a motorway through the middle of our community would not be tolerated. In its factsheets, it regards east of Cranford Street as West Shirley.

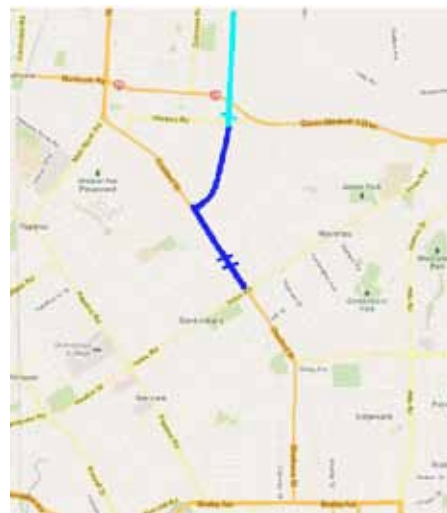
At the St Albans Community Discussion in March, the message to CCC staff was that this sort of planning belonged to the 1900s. Inner city communities will not tolerate commuter vehicle traffic being put before the lives of residents. Cycling and public transport are the only way forward and residents of St Albans do not support their rates going into unsustainable rooding plans that cut up and break down our community.

Unfortunately, none of the previous consultation has obviously been included in this planning as the 'concern' the St Albans community has 'aired' with the CCC for 47 years seems to have come to absolutely nothing. We are to be presented a plan based on a 2001 plan (NROSS) that investigated pre 2001 options for meeting the rooding network needs of north Christchurch for the next 25 years!

The CCC website (last updated 4 October 2010) states that any 'further information on the latest investigations will be released as it becomes available,' and that 'there will also be extensive opportunities for public input and comment as the investigations progress.' This has not happened.

It would seem that the motorway is planned up to the

boundaries of St Albans and there is only one way for traffic to head – down Sherborne St to a dead end at Bealey Ave – straight through the heart of St Albans! However, this section has not been included in any planning or consultation seen to date. Looks like CCC is using a tried and proven method of 'divide and conquer' to implement their 1966 plan.



Proposed capital works

Information on the Northern Arterial Extension and the Cranford St Upgrade was presented to the Shirley/Papanui Community Board on 17 April following a St Albans Community discussion in March. No decision has been made yet while the plans are subject to consultation.

Typical of the CCC consultation process, the community board was told the consultation period was starting right now. A public information session is planned for 28 May, though venue and time have yet to be decided. Keep an eye on our website: www.stalbans.gen.nz for more information as it comes to hand and let the Council or the Residents Association know your views by phone, email or social media.



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and others.

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

Dear Sir

I think consideration should be given to changing the name of the Edgeware Shopping Centre to St Albans Village or St Albans Centre, titles that are arguably more relevant, and give the area a bit more historical and cultural identity. After all, the Merivale Shopping Centre used to be called St Albans until someone thought the name wasn't twee enough.

The name "St Albans" has significant historical resonance, stretching back to the nineteenth century in New Zealand. Saint Alban was the first British saint, having been beheaded and martyred by the Romans in around 250AD. His shrine still exists at St Alban's cathedral in England.

However, in New Zealand this is probably deemed boring history, as is the fact that William Pember Reeves, one of the first great social reformers in New Zealand, was MP for St Albans in the 1890's reforming Liberal Government. This forward-thinking government gave women the vote (1893), introduced pensions and major industrial legislation (such as the Conciliation and Arbitration Act) and broke up the huge landed estates in Canterbury and elsewhere, allowing more ordinary people to buy farms. Reeves was also a good sportsman, playing rugby and cricket for Canterbury.

At that time, New Zealand was considered the 'social laboratory of the world', with many Australians coming to live here for that reason. One of them was Michael Joseph Savage (Who's that?). Not any more!

Reeves is now a totally forgotten and ignored figure in his own city and country. Pathetic really. In other countries there would be a statue, or streets and a park named after him.

The eminent New Zealand historian Sir Keith Sinclair wrote a biography of Pember Reeves because he was such an important figure in our history. Pember Reeves' father

owned the Lyttelton Times, which William edited for a short time, and the family home was Risingholme, which still stands and is appropriately used to educate people at reasonable cost. Something which Reeves would have applauded.

Ainslie Talbot

Question Mark

What has happened to the time capsule found behind the foundation stone when the St Albans Community Centre was demolished?
(Last weeks answer on back page)

Dear Yvonne Martin

I am writing about Pattie Pegler's article, entitled Your Guide to Edgeware, in Avenues Magazine, Issue 104/April 2013. I am amazed at her article and, to be as charitable as I can, I assume that she has little first-hand knowledge of our suburb.

I live in Packe Street, which is in the small area that is the subject of her introductory note and which is encircled in orange on page 46 of Issue 104. She calls this area between Madras Street and Hills Road the Edgeware suburb.

Yet in the main part of the article the name Edgeware is applied to a much larger area extending to the west, south and north of Edgeware Village. Even stranger and more inexplicable to me is the fact that apart from one or two groups where it is part of their name, such as a reference to the St Albans Residents' Association, there is no mention at all of St Albans as a name for the whole suburb except in a brief quotation from Emma Twaddell of the St Albans Residents' Association.

Those of us who live here always regard our homes as being in St Albans and one has only to go to the correspondence columns of The Press to see confirmation of this on most days. Thus, for us the suburb of St Albans extends westwards

from Hills Road to Papanui Road and northwards from Bealey Avenue to a less straightforward boundary north of Innes Road. Therefore the name Edgeware should only apply to Edgeware Village in the middle of St Albans and the section of Edgeware Road that runs between Papanui and Hills Roads, despite NZ Post's arbitrary designation!

Bill Sykes

Dear Sir

The author of the article about the workers' campus on the Orion site has repeated the positive promises of the developer, but many questions remain.

What happens to the buildings and the property at the end of 10 years? This is quite a long time for the area to become dilapidated or, alternatively, for its residents to feel a sense of permanence and a reluctance to move on.

Is it a good idea to have on-site bar facilities when there is a plethora of bars run by locals within an easy wander along Bealey Ave, or up to Edgeware Road? The notion of a gated community of workers sits uneasily with me when there may be better ways of integrating temporary or permanent tradespeople into the city fabric.

Most significantly – Why has this site remained undeveloped for decades and will it remain undeveloped? In ten years time, if there is no development plan, will there seem much point in demanding removal of the "temporary" structures that will be providing affordable housing? I understand that the reason the area has remained undeveloped is because of land contamination.

The workers' campus may be little more than a temporary solution that suits the current owner, compared with the remediation required for creation of a new sub-division that would help create the busy central city core desired by city council planners.

Chris Hutching

continued on page seven



Pre-earthquake I had issues with some of the workings of the CCC and I really wanted to see things done to a higher standard. From the maintenance of street plantings, to the consultation process to the size of my green waste bin, from city

planning to reporting, to me the CCC and our local elected representatives seemed to have forgotten that they were accountable to the ratepayers of Christchurch.

The Council is vested with a power of “general competence” for the social, economic and cultural well-being of Christchurch.

As the ‘moneyman’ (shareholders/ratepayers) we are charged with the responsibility of deciding what ‘general competence’ is, and scrutinizing that this competence is met. - making sure we are getting ‘bang for our buck.’

Based on the business model the council works on, one where market remuneration is paid then as the ‘moneyman’ we should be getting better returns every year as we are putting in larger sums of investment.

As Tony Marriot pointed out to us when he accepted his \$68K pay rise, in December 2011, “That is on the principle that I feel I should be paid the market remuneration for the job and what is appropriate for my level of performance.”

“My view is the same with all staff, I pay staff market rate for the position and they get somewhere on that scale based on their performance.”

Post earthquake, local election year ... Ask yourself 3 questions:

1. Do I as a ratepayer know what is expected of the CCC?
2. Are these expectations being met?
3. Have I as the moneyman got ‘good bang for my buck’?

Later this year we the ‘moneyman’ get to elect our board (councilors) who we charge with the responsibility to carry out our wishes. It is your personal responsibility to the collective ‘moneyman’ that you make an informed vote in October this year.

Emma Twaddell
Chair of the St Albans
Residents' Association

Keeping warm tips

Community Energy Action Charitable Trust is committed to helping people keep warm. A cold house can affect your health so seek help if you struggle to keep warm. Community Energy Action Charitable Trust runs a variety of programmes:

Insulation subsidies are available with a 60% discount for Community Services Card holders as well as landlords with Community Services Card tenants. Further grants may be available.

The Curtain Bank provides free, recycled lined curtains to Community Services Card holders.

Home Energy Checks (a comprehensive in-home energy audit) are available for free to Community Services Card holders with a chronic medical condition such as asthma, heart condition, diabetes, arthritis and more. Their Energy Advice Service provides free and independent advice over the phone and by email on all home energy matters. The Community Energy Action website offers tips on how to make your house warmer including low-cost tips as well as advice on how to make an earthquake damaged home warmer.

If you are having internal or external walls repaired, EQC will now allow wall insulation to be installed. Insulation is required to be installed by an Insulation Association of New Zealand (IAONZ) accredited organisation.

For more information call 0800 388 588 or visit www.cea.co.nz. ☘

Mairehau Hub

Servicing: Papanui, St Albans, Mairehau, Shirley and Richmond. Residential boundary areas include: Northcote Road – QE 2 Drive south.

Contact your local hub for help with:
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Mairehau Hub | 280 Westminster St, Mairehau | Ph 341 9995

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.



meet me there in Edgeware...

1066 Colombo Street, Ph 366 5159



St Albans Community Discussion for May – An Inclusive Community

Hi, my name is Hine Moke. As many of you may be aware I am a member of the Inclusive Communities Steering Group. This group brings members of the St Albans Residents Association (SARA) together with members of the Human Rights Commission to develop awareness of those living with a disability within the community.

At the upcoming St Albans Community Discussion I will be presenting an inclusive community discussion alongside BJ Clark from Barrier Free NZ Trust.

As well as this, the St Albans Inclusive Community Steering Group will present a report on what they have been working on, and will tell us more about how the Inclusive Communities Project has been working alongside St Albans Strategic Priorities 2013-2023.

We also look forward to having the Disability Commissioner from the Human Rights Commission Paul Gibson there with us.

St Albans is in the position to set an example on how communities can work alongside each other to achieve inclusion, and to set a pattern for how this can be achieved within other communities. I encourage you to share your awareness of disability. It doesn't matter if you know nothing or a lot; come along, share and engage and be a part of the St Albans Inclusive Communities Project.

The Community Discussion will be held on Tuesday May 14 at 42 Kensington Avenue, St Albans and will run from 7-8pm.



Nicky Wagner
MP FOR CHRISTCHURCH CENTRAL

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as Christchurch moves ahead*

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EQC Repairs - Helpful Hints

by Reetah Mitchell

As time marches slowly forward, more of us are finally arriving at the front of the Fletchers' earthquake repair queue. As the owner of a local accommodation provider, I've talked to many displaced homeowners whilst their repairs have been actioned. They've given me many handy hints which proved invaluable when it came time for my own EQC works to be done. I thought I'd share a few of them here:

Start Decluttering and Packing Now

It is never too soon to start getting rid of all the unwanted and unloved stuff hiding in your closets, cupboards and drawers. Packing is a nightmare process at the best of times but can reach levels of true ugliness if left until the last minute. Re-home, recycle, donate or sell everything that's not serving a purpose or you do not adore. Get yourself some boxes and start the task now. Remember not to over-pack boxes and to label them on the outside with the contents and the room they come from. After being away from their homes and possessions for extended periods of time, almost every single person I have spoken with has wished they had got rid of more stuff. Be ruthless. I promise you, you will thank me for it later!

Check Your Storage Site is Safe and Dry

If your home contents are being stored off-site, your storage company should have this well in hand. If you are using your own garage or a room in your home, make sure it is weather tight, animal/rodent proof and is lockable. There is nothing worse than all of your precious possessions getting damp, musty or peed on by the neighbourhood cat.

Clean Your House Thoroughly

I know this is probably the last thing you feel like doing when, post-quake, your home is a cracked and battered shadow of its former self. What's the point when tradesmen are going to be ripping things down and making a mess everywhere? However, once you start pulling furniture aside and you get on your hands and knees to wipe skirting boards and vacuuming in dark corners, you may well discover further earthquake damage not listed on the Scope of Works.

Go Through the Scope of Works CAREFULLY

The Scope of Works is the "bible" as far as the repairs to your property are concerned. Before repairs commence on your property, your contractor will

get you to sign a scope you both agree to. Take your time to go through this document with a fine-tooth comb. Check off each room and be aware of exactly what is covered by EQC works and what is not. If there are any discrepancies between what's on the scope and the damage in your home, advise your contractor before you sign any documentation and before works start. Whilst variations to the scope are possible after repairs have commenced, the approval period from Fletchers can take over three weeks (and this was before the recent privacy breach issues — I expect this timeframe may well now be longer.)

Take Photos Inside and Out

Whilst this may seem tedious, there is no better way of resolving a dispute than providing photographic evidence of what previously existed in your home or of subsequent damage caused by a contractor or any of his sub-contractors. We had guests staying with us whose contractor had replaced ceilings in a bedroom but had not put in a manhole that had existed previously. A heated argument ensued with the contractor adamant there had never been a manhole in that bedroom. He was forced to back down when a picture of the bedroom and manhole were presented to him!



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Contact by calling or texting Chontal 027 253 6619



Check Your Home Each Day

It's always good to "have your finger on the pulse" and to check progress and/or lack of progress each day. It's easier to pick up any obvious mistakes as they happen on-site and broach them with your contractor immediately. Often, tradesmen are not as security conscious with your home as you would be and it can be prudent to check doors and windows at the end of each day. The majority of people will treat your home and possessions with respect. However, we have dealt with people who have had tradesmen sleeping in their homes, cooking in their homes and using their laundry facilities. Regularly checking the property certainly cannot do any harm!

Secure Outdoor Furniture etc

Once your contractor's Hazard Notice has been attached to your fence, it's pretty obvious to anyone passing by that your home is a work zone and is likely to be unoccupied. Secure garden furniture and play equipment. We have even heard of opportunist thieves taking statues and plant pots! If you love it, put it away somewhere safe.

Keep a "Repair Diary"

This doesn't have to be anything fancy — just an old exercise book, or perhaps you could utilize the calendar/diary function in your phone. Keep a daily note of conversations you have with your contractor or tradesman. Note down the work being done each day and any decisions made. After several weeks, days can blur into one another and conversations can become muddled. It is invaluable to have a clear written record to use to refresh your own memory and that of your contractor if necessary.

Get Quotes for Extra Works

If you are getting your contractor to undertake extra work (ie repairs not covered by the Scope of Works), get them to give a written quotation for the extras. The majority of upset people we have dealt with have been dismayed at the extreme cost of "extras". Know up front what you are paying for and you won't get any nasty surprises. If you are able, try and get a second independent quote for the extras. We did this and in our case it was 50% cheaper to use someone else to do the job.

This list is in no way comprehensive - just advice from my own experiences or the experiences of my motel guests. If you've had friends who've already had their repair work done, talk to them and quiz them for any advice or helpful hints they can give. Knowledge is power.

If you're one of the lucky ones who've already had their works completed and you have valuable ideas on how to negotiate the bumpy ocean of earthquake repairs, please drop us a line here at news@stalbens.gen.nz, so we can share it with the rest of St Albans. ☸



Letters to the Editor, continued

Dear Sir

February 22nd, the day Mother Nature decided to destroy our city, doesn't stop us from rebuilding it inclusively. I'm a proud, born and bred Cantabrian. I grew up with the legacy of Kate Sheppard and her passion to give women the right to vote and with fellow Cantabrians standing up for the rights of others. Now it's our time to stand together — and not for the rights of others, but for ourselves.

Canterbury is a place of opportunity and equality. I've been living in the suburb of St Albans for two years now, due to the earthquakes. St Albans has grown on me. But living with a physical impairment and using a wheelchair for mobility purposes I see great opportunities to change our social attitudes towards each other.

I not only want an accessible St Albans but an inclusive St Albans. I'm currently championing an inclusive community steering group alongside the Human Rights Commission. I hope my work will help engage other suburbs in Christchurch in becoming accessible and inclusive for generations of Cantabrians to come. Don't let your past be the reason why you don't foresee the future or you might miss out.

Hine Moke

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are keenly interested in this subject and abhor NZ Post's imposition of "Edgware" on us through the 8013 postal code. Surely they can have a code without linking it to "Edgware".

Edgware has always been applied to the Village, but the Village is in St Albans. Where we live has only been designated Edgware in recent years and the name has been imposed from outside.

Peggy Kelly

Edgeware Croquet Club Celebrates Centennial

by Daph Parkins

Sunday, March 10 was a high point for the Edgeware Croquet Club as we celebrated our first 100 years of croquet in St Albans Park. Our guests included Deputy Mayor Ngaire Button, Community Board members, previous Edgeware players and friends from many other Canterbury Association clubs. Hosting this large gathering was beyond the limits of our tiny quake-damaged pavilion. Instead we were fortunate to have the use of our spacious neighbouring clubrooms belonging post-quake to the now Christchurch/Richmond/Edgeware Bowling Club.

Our croquet greens were originally set up by the men who had established the Edgeware Bowling Club in 1909. Whilst the club was for men only, they needed their wives to prepare tea and refreshments. As a result, in 1913 the ladies were rewarded with a croquet lawn on adjacent land, which the bowlers had successfully applied to the Christchurch City Council for and which was provided on a 99-year lease.

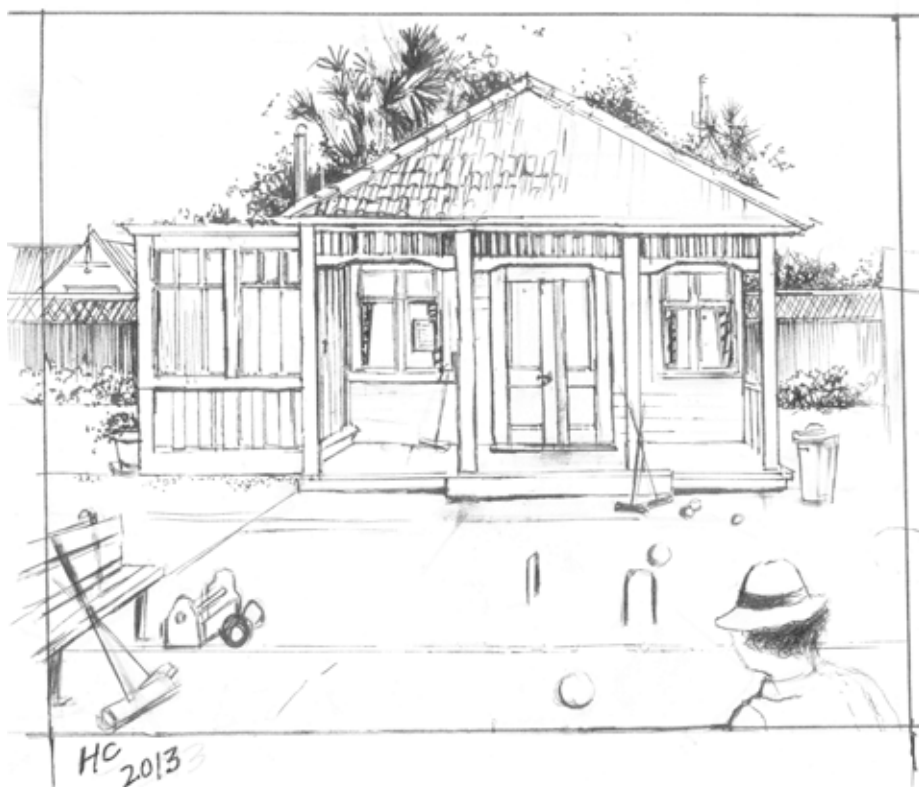
As you may know, croquet is a very old game. That is not to say it is for very old people! Those of us who might now be described as quite elderly have played for decades, enjoying the game too much to give it up. The lesson is — come and play at the earliest opportunity.

In fact, it is encouraging to observe how youthful the world's best players are today and we are proud to know that several of them belong to Christchurch.

Our pavilion was built in 1915 by John Walton Beanland. The building permit cost ten shillings and the building 100 pounds. It was fuelled by the Christchurch Gas Co and the outside lavatory was serviced by a nightman using a horse and cart.

J W Beanland (JWB) was born in 1868 and was a resident of Edgeware Road. Before his death in 1943, he made major contributions to the Christchurch community. In 1909, only six years after the establishment of St Albans Park, he was an instigator and foundation member of the Edgeware Bowling Club. In 1913 his wife, Mary Anne, was a foundation member of the Edgeware Croquet Club and their sons were foundation members of the Edgeware Tennis Club, which from the 1920s to the 1950s had seven asphalt courts adjacent to the croquet greens. The tennis club then moved to Innes Road because of problems with oak tree roots and leaves, and ground wetness.

JWB also built St Elmo Courts in Hereford Street and the Nurses' Home of Christchurch Hospital during the 1930s



Above: Pavilion sketch by Hiliare Campbell

Right: Past Presidents. Behind, Bev Tyndall (seated) are Daph Parkins, Elizabeth Steel, Shona Ward, Isabel Porter, Mary Dudson and Ted Harrall.

Below right: Some of our Edgeware players are Frances Fowler, Mary Dolan, Sue Jackson and Yvonne Webb.

Below left: Lilian Bloor was our unanimous choice to cut the cake





Above: Elizabeth Steel (President) with husband Russel

Depression. His grandson, now in his eighties, says that he was able to keep all his men in work during those hard times. Both buildings have vanished since the February 2011 quakes. The Beanlands were Mayor and Mayoress of Christchurch for 1936/38.

For more than 90 years, until the February 2011 quake, our pavilion had been regularly maintained by club members, culminating in a Shirley/Papanui Community Board Heritage Award for its preservation in 2005. It is the oldest building in St Albans Park and is a gem that deserves urgent restoration, not only as our functional club house but as a small and lasting tribute to JWB.

Opening days were grand occasions in the 1920s. The Bowls, croquet and tennis clubs combined to provide for 600 guests by hiring 100 tables and 300 chairs from A J White's. Marquees were set up by Johnson & Couzins and Rattray's provided catering at one shilling per head. For the children, 10 gallons of Cowles' Orange Smile complemented the catering. Derry's Military Band entertained and guests included the Mayor, Councillors, Chairman of Parks and Reserves and other clubs' representatives.

Fund raising has been important for our survival throughout our 100-year



history. An early example was a joint evening fundraiser run by the bowls and croquet clubs in 1920: The Caledonian Hall was booked for the evening to start at 7.00pm sharp. The ladies' committee (croquet) attended to refreshments. An MC and doorman were appointed. Musical and euchre competitions were arranged. The prizes awarded were: 1st a hot water bottle, 2nd a cup and saucer and 3rd a shaving mug. The profit recorded was 2 pounds 18 shillings and 9 pence.

After the devastating Napier Earthquake in 1931, croquet clubs throughout New Zealand were invited to donate to the Hawke's Bay clubs. Edgeware gifted one guinea, which, depending on your age bracket, you can translate as amounting to either one

pound one shilling or \$2.10. Today, it equates to \$103.80.

In our first 100 years the club has survived the Great War, the Great Depression, World War II, the Wahine storm and now the destructive and challenging earthquakes.

Since the quakes we have had the valuable support of members from other clubs and our own in removing many tons of silt from our lawns. A generous grant from Pub Charity, insurance money and our own reserves enabled City Care to completely re-lay our most damaged lawn.

As we recover from the quakes, the Edgeware Croquet Club will continue to be an asset to the community. We enjoy, as always, the support and company of our long-time players and our valued new members.

The positive restoration of our pavilion is a priority as we look to the beginning of our second century of sport and recreation, with new members, friendships and fun.

⌘

Daph is a long time member of Edgeware Club and member of the St Albans History Group.



Sunflowers at Edgeware Village Green

By *Hilaire Campbell*

Want to get children into the garden? Then help them grow sunflowers, says Jan MacKenzie, a volunteer at the Edgeware Community Garden. "Kids love anything that's bright and colourful but sunflowers have a special magic."



She knows, however, that it's not always that easy. "I was born to it, but some children aren't that lucky. They've never had their hands in the soil."

This motivated her to organise a sunflower competition at the community garden.

Helped by volunteers Pam Urch and Helen Ross and others, Jan wrote letters to 25 children

who had registered an interest in the competition at the Neighbourhood Week barbeque in the garden in October. She gave them a variety of potted-up sunflower seeds, which they grew at home.

These "seeds of hope," kindly donated by a North Island gardening club after the quakes, and others were duly labelled and planted in the community garden; fed on banana skins and guinea pig droppings, they grew rampantly until suddenly a storm wrecked them all.

Then the holidays and hot weather intervened but Jan, determined to rescue the situation, asked the children to submit a sunflower painting or drawing to be judged instead.

So five months later, on a sunny Sunday in March, here they are. Aurora and her cousin Michaela and friends, Kaiying with her aunt and baby brother, Rose Soryl and Nancy with Te Koha and Neave.

Numbers are down but there's enough to make a party. And what a party! Red delicious apples and jugs of fresh juice under beach umbrellas, home



baking and Jan's zingy pickles, all for the taking, then a treasure hunt for toys. A sharp-eyed child spots the green rabbit instantly, but the fat rubber worm is curled up in a cabbage. The boy who finds it insists it's a seahorse.

No one minds that a couple of adults want to join the search. "There's a big kid in all of us," says Jan.

Five Great Reasons to Be Living in St Albans this Autumn

by *A. Resident*

1. The bumps have been taken out of Forfar Street, Somme Street, Hawkesbury Road, Edgeware Road and Warrington Street.
2. You can get a steaming hot coffee from Meshino's and quietly wander past the gates of Rugby Park in the off-chance of spying some of our Crusaders hard at training.
3. There is an array of great (and close) venues available to hire for that special "do" — such as Abberley Park, St Albans Community Centre, ASB Football Park, Caledonian Scottish Hall to name just a few. Great now that winter seems to be closing in on us.
4. Timo Japanese restaurant has just opened up in the Edgeware Mall. Timo = yummo!
5. The new-look St Albans News is fantastic — well done all the volunteers who make this paper so successful. ☸

The highlight comes when she opens her "Pandora's box" to present prizes for the sunflower competition: some of the pictures are small and precisely drawn, others are loud and jolly. Every one's a winner. You can tell Te Koha's delighted, but he hasn't got the wind to talk, he's busy blowing bubbles.

Michaela, a 13 year old student at Avonside High, is the oldest child here. She thought there might be more her own age but she says, "I love doing art and I've had a great time. I'll be back next year."

Nancy, a local resident, enjoyed the chance to have some good old fashioned fun. "It's amazing what a few committed individuals can do to lift the spirit of a community." ☸



Who the hell is 'Wolfman' I hear you ask?

Just a local musician living in St Albans who is up for a challenge, but most importantly is a lover of good music.

Over the coming months I hope to offer you an insight into a music scene that is beginning to find its feet. Up until 'you know what' Christchurch was a leading force in all things musical across this magical land. Buildings of all shapes and sizes were bursting with local talent on any given night. Rest assured that this talent did not disappear, it was simply forced underground and into people's back rooms, garages and the like. With new venues appearing, momentum gathering and a mammoth rebuild on its way the music appears to be slowly creeping out. Here's hoping Christchurch will soon be back on top of the NZ musical pile.

This column is a space where local music will be under the spotlight. Here you'll find live reviews, albums you simply must have, and details of who is playing around town. On occasion I will also reach wider afield as there are honking albums dropped by all in sundry all of the time. It is my fervent hope that as our beautiful city continues its revival, that more and more of those artists find their way to Christchurch.

I hope you like it.....

What's Hot?

A regular feature with a 'What's Hot' feel. It could be anything, an event, a venue, relevant lyrics or even just a pretty girl.

This month we focus on a little bar called 'The Darkroom'. Don't be put off by its appearance from the outside this place is a little gem. Admittedly the diverse (sometimes eclectic) range of genres on offer does at times take an acquired taste, however a quick scan of the extensive gig guide will appease most music loving punters. With live music playing 7 nights a week and free entry every single night you can't really go wrong. A great selection of beers, friendly staff and a cosy almost lounge

What's Cool After School?

It's me, 'Tweenwolf' and each edition I am going to be talking pop. This month I picked up Taylor Swifts 'Red' album. Awesome tunes that get better every time you hear them. I get it, I rate it, and yes, as I said to my brother the other day "I knew you were trouble when you walked in". There are some super-hot tunes out there right now. Here are my top 5. Bye....

1. Impossible—James Arthur
2. Titanium—David Guetta ft. Sia
3. Take It Easy—Stan Walker
4. One Way Or The Other—One Direction
5. Beneath Your Beautiful—Labrinth ft. Emeli Sande

like atmosphere can make for a great night out with your partner or friends. So peruse the gig guide in the link below, make your choices and get on down there for a great taste of predominantly Kiwi folk, pop, country, electronica or whatever takes your fancy. Worth noting that one half of the duo reviewed below headlines The Darkroom at least once a month. <http://www.darkroombar.co.nz/> - 336 St Asaph St (between Barbadoes & Fitzgerald)

What Rocks?

This album does! Starring Marlon Williams, the 21 year old wunderkid from Lyttleton and lead singer of the recently disbanded 'Unfaithful Ways', alongside Delaney Davidson, an international touring song writing machine. The meeting of Williams and Davidson is an interesting and compelling mixture of the "sad but true" cliché, twisting and turning the concept on its head and feeding them back into the Folklore machine with a seemingly random precision.

"They spin a heady concoction of truth-seeking,

love-lorn, foot-stomping stories, accompanied by guitars, piano, the occasional banjo, bass, drums, and some beautiful pedal steel. An irresistibly honest album that's anything but saccharine. - Lydia Jenkin, NZ Herald"

Until next time, let the music in, and rock a little harder....

Wolfman



Here are some Gig highlights from around Christchurch over the coming weeks. Also don't forget May is NZ Music month. Upcoming Gig highlights:

- Luke Thompson with Lydia Cole—Wunderbar Sat 4th May
- Marlon Williams—Pomeroy's—Thursday 9th May
- The Bats—Brougham Tavern—Friday 10th May
- The Eastern—Darkroom—Friday 10th May
- David Kilgour & The Heavy Eights—Darkroom Sat 11th May
- Tommy III—Dux Live—Friday 17th May
- Tenacious D—The Bedford—Wednesday 22nd May
- House Of Mountain—Dux Live—Friday 24th May
- Optimus Gryme—Dux Live—Saturday 25th May
- Lindon Puffin—Pomeroy's—Friday 31st May
- L.A. Mitchell & Friends—CBS Canterbury Arena Sat 6th June

Ranfurly Street Anniversary Barbeque



Several houses in our street have turned 100 years old or will be soon and so we decided to celebrate this with a BBQ lunch on the 14th April.

A great time was had by all with over half the street turning up.

A big Thank You to SARA and Peter Timbs for supporting our neighbourhood.



Sunbeam Kindergarten's Market Day

By Liz Van Halewyn

Community spirit was alive and well at Kidsfirst Kindergarten Sunbeam's Market Day on Sunday, April 7.

There was a definite buzz of positivity around the kindergarten that day — everything came together well, the weather held and the sausage sizzle and raffles were made possible by generous donations from local businesses.

Head Teacher Neroli Gardner said teachers and parents were all happy with how well it went. "It was a really positive experience," she said. "Lots of the parents said how good it was to get to know each other a little better.



Photo: Miranda Wiffen (parent, stall holder), left, and Bridget McDonald (Kidsfirst Kindergarten Sunbeam teacher), right

It was also great how well-supported we were by the community and the local businesses, it went even better than we had hoped it would."

The purpose of the market was to raise funds for some landscaping, which will enrich the children's experiences at the kindergarten and help to provide an even more enticing area for their physically active play.



100% Fair Trade 100% Delicious
Come and join our CHOCOLATE party on WORLD FAIR TRADE DAY

Saturday 11th of May is World Fair Trade Day! It will be a global event involving more than 300 other fair trade organisations from all over the world, all celebrating in their own unique way!

Trade Aid are throwing a Chocolate Party to coincide with the release of their exciting new range of gourmet chocolate, and YOU are invited! Come into the shop to sample our delicious new chocolate, as well as baking and other treats (lovingly prepared by students from Papanui High) using

quality Trade Aid ingredients.

Along with the food, there will also be competitions, music, videos, story telling for the kids, and even a Fair Trade art exhibition put on by the fabulous students from Heaton Intermediate.

Trade Aid chocolate is just one of the thousands of products that have contributed to Trade Aid's success as a home-grown fair trading organisation. It is one of our most popular products, and it's no surprise considering New Zealanders eat an average of 4kg of chocolate per person every year!

The new gourmet range of chocolate will be manufactured right here in Christchurch. This means an even better deal for our producers. Farmers from the Dominican

Republic can process their cocoa to a higher level before export, so retaining a larger portion of the final price. Manufacturing the chocolate in Christchurch also enables Trade Aid to add quality fair trade ingredients - from its sugar producers in Paraguay, almond growers in Palestine and spice producers in Sri Lanka.

So come along and join the celebrations!



Saturday 11th May

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Community Notices

A volunteer reader needed for the St Albans News:

In this role you will select news articles from the paper and narrate them over the RNZFB Telephone Information Service (TIS) phone system. Requirements: Clear and concise speaking manner. Will need to be able to work from home 1 to 2 hours a month. Training and support for this role will be provided. Contact SARA@stalbens.gen.nz

Compassionate Communication:

Non-Violent Communication. This workshop offers a way of relating that supports clarity, trust and connection, in a model that is fun and simple to learn. Tuesdays 10am-12pm St Albans Transitional Community Centre, Colombo St. Starts June 4th.

Yoga, Belly Dance & Chocolate: In this 2 hour class we breathe deeply, shimmy wildly and eat chocolate. Thursdays 7-9am. St Albans Transitional Community Centre, Colombo St. Starts 16 May.

If you like a stroll round the neighbourhood and live in the St. Albans area then how about becoming a distributor for the St. Albans news? **Volunteers needed** for delivery routes in the area, various locations. For more info or to volunteer today please email:

news@stalbens.gen.nz

St Albans Community Discussions:

2nd Tuesday of every month 7-8pm. Mairehau Library, 42 Kensington Ave, St Albans. These gatherings are about discussion and action to ensure the residents of our suburb are included in the planning and decision making of the development of the area.

May 14th – Inclusive St Albans – living in St Albans with a disability

June 11th – The St Albans Community Strategy

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

Shirley International Playgroup: For mums and under fives of refugee and migrant backgrounds. Fridays 9.30-11am. Te Puna Oraka, 69b Briggs Road, Mairehau. Cost Free. Contact Shauna 3890219

Conversational English Class: Delta Community House, 105 North Avon Road, Richmond. Wednesdays 10.30am-12pm. \$10 per school term.

Richmond Market: 11th May, from 10am at North Avon Baptist Delta Trust, 103 North Avon Rd. Selling produce, products and heaps of cool stuff! Hire tables \$10 and Car parks \$5! Call now, 389 024

Personality Type in Relationships, Careers and Organisations:

A workshop presented by St Albans local Don Rowlands on Sunday 26th May. This course is one of many fantastic courses on this term at CWEA. CWEA provides education for personal growth and towards the establishment of a just and equitable society. See more info at www.cwea.org.nz or ph 366 0285

St Albans Community Notice Boards are situated in Edgeware Village and Abberley Park. A key for these notice boards is now kept at Bailies. Please ask behind the bar. The notice boards are for all to advertise local events and activities to the community.

Elections for the Mayor, Councillors and Community Boards will be held on Saturday 12 October 2013.

Gas Bottle Wanted. Do you have a spare gas bottle you don't need? We desperately require an extra.

Contact BBQ@stalbens.gen.nz

Edgeware Village Community

Gardens Inc. We have had a productive year down at the Trafalgar St site (formerly Edgeware Pool) with new vegetable and fruit tree areas being established, with some colourful raised beds being constructed by a local Scout group. However, some changes will be needed as the site is getting new water wells installed and access will be restricted, and we need input from locals about it. Come along to our AGM on Sunday, 5th May, 2pm at St. Albans Transitional Community Centre, 1047 Colombo St. Mary Rose from the Christchurch City Mission is our guest speaker, talking about post-earthquake recovery in Edgeware. There will be a plant/produce buy, sell, exchange table, and free plough mans afternoon tea. For more information or to share your ideas, please contact Ro Soryl at rosoryl@gmail.com/ ph 981 8832, 021 0225 3650 or come to the site on Tuesdays 4:30-5:30.

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

Mairehau Library: Kensington Ave – Open 2-4pm Mon-Fri & Sat 10am-2pm.

St Albans Community Preschool has returned home to the corner of Thames and Westminster Streets. Our small community preschool has been providing an early childhood education service to the St Albans community and beyond for over twenty years. Our hours are 8.00am – 3.45pm Monday to Friday and we offer the 20 ECE hours. For more information contact Carol 355-9396 (021-210-6750)



Shirley Toy Library offers a huge variety of toys for children aged 6 months to 5+ years. Flexible membership options available.

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Wednesday 9:30-11:30am & 6:30-8pm
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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 7321 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.

Be Relax Massage: Affordable relaxation massage for women, call Alice 355-7986 or email be.relax.massage@gmail.com

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

Grief Intervention Counselling is a short term counselling that supports people to find strategies for managing stress, anxiety and depression. Either face to face, Skype or email. Diane Counsell, MNZAC 027-338-5274 or dianecounsell@gmail.com.

www.dianecounsell.com

Talking Therapy Registered Psychotherapists 178 Harewood Road, Papanui, Christchurch. Ph: 354 8045, fax: 3548042, http://www.talkingtherapy.co.nz/

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

pete@peteknuiman.co.nz

Healing: Energy healing with colour therapy to help balance the whole body. Sessions currently half price. Ph Sue on 980 5363

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

Roofing Contractor-Local. Prompt, efficient service. EQC repairs undertaken. Ph Richie 021 342 852 or AH 385 6710

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

Personal Support Worker Required: I am looking for an energetic and reliable Personal Support Worker to provide support including showering. I am an independent and outgoing female in her twenties. Seven hours per fortnight (one hour per shift in the mornings) on a roster basis one week Mon-Weds and second week Thurs-Sun. Call Hine on 0211330222 for an interview

Treat your feet - treat your body - sole to soul contact. Irene Campbell-Hill RN/Midwife/reflexologist/colour/therapist. Ph 027 251 5901 for appointment

School of Music. Phone Nicola 377 1753 or 03 420 0341

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

Yoga Class Thursdays 10am - 11.15am Abberley Park Hall in the delightful Abberley Park - all abilities and ages welcome. Tracy 02204 86949 or 03 420 0341

COGS
Community Organisation
Grants Scheme



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

'ASB

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



The St Albans Residents Association is extremely grateful to the Vodafone Foundation Canterbury Fund

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Roving StAN

At the St Albans community discussion on 9 April 2013 it was requested that SARA survey the community for their views on the boundaries of St Albans.

This month StAN took to the streets to ask people about where they call home.

"Where do you live?" we asked, and **"Do you consider this to be a part of the St Albans suburb?"** We also wanted to know whether residents would support the official boundaries of St Albans being formally recognised.



"I live in Shirley/Mairehau, but I do think it is part of St Albans because the St Albans Club is right there and I'm within the St Albans Electorate boundary. I would support the boundaries of St Albans being officially recognised." **Richard Piper of Fernbrook Street.**

"I don't live in the area, and am new to working on Innes Rd but I would consider this area Mairehau. Ian from along at Flower Bazaar calls it Lower Merivale and our neighbouring resident, Bob, always says it's St Albans."

Christine Wilkinson, owner of The Vintage Cupboard on Innes Rd.

"I live in St Albans. I get mail addressed to Edgware but I don't think Edgware is a community." **Leila of Canon Street.**

"I live on Clare Road, and have lived on the corner of Cranford and Innes, and Cranford and Weston, Somme St and Hawkesbury Ave. All of these places I consider to be in St Albans. I grew up in New Brighton, moved to this suburb when I started flatting and stuck around St Albans and the central city. I don't know where the official boundaries of St Albans are, nor would I mind, or mind others recognising them. I love the mix of houses and how comfortable I find



myself." **Aliesha McGilligan, Clare Road**

We would appreciate your contributions to this discussion, so let us know your answers to the questions above at SARA@stalbands.gen.nz or St Albans News on Facebook



Question Mark Answer

Answer to last issue's question. The footpath by the new shops on Colombo and Cranford Streets is so high because the finished floor level of the new building had to be raised 200mm. Minimum floor levels for properties in river and waterway catchment areas have been updated post-quake which will help protect them from the risk of future flooding. This has also happened at the cnr of Bealey and Colombo and both areas have been described by business owners and residents as dangerous.




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