

Flockton woes resurface after fixup

Flockton St residents and neighbours in adjacent properties are dismayed at the deteriorating state of the road after six months of wastewater pipe trenching and resurfacing work.

Within a few days of reopening the street the surface began to fracture in places. Emergency sealing teams have filled many of the holes but some of them have begun to deteriorate and new fractures have appeared.

City council planning and delivery



Resident Billy Huffam says "everyone is getting pretty peeved off"

manager, Jacob Bradbury, said the location was recognised from the outset as technically challenging, due to the ground conditions. "The transport and 3 Waters teams worked together to procure a single contract to deal with both underground and roading assets, which we anticipated would reduce disruption and provide a higher quality final product. However, staff have become aware of issues with Flockton Street, we have

continued on page 7

Busy Edgeware attracts new enterprisers

by Chris Hutching

New businesses have recently set up in Edgeware Village and others have changed hands.

The significant number of new apartments and townhouses in the area made it a no brainer for Phillipa McGregor and Henry Hooker to choose Edgeware Village as the site of Dash Laundry, their second laundry business in Christchurch.

Phillipa and Henry said they wanted to do laundromats a little differently by creating spaces that felt fresh, safe and welcoming, with quality commercial machines, family spaces, and multiple payment options for busy families.

Their first Dash opened in Burnside, and after seeing the local community embrace it, they looked to Edgeware, which they felt was the right location.

"We really like the strong community feel in Edgeware. There are so many families and long-time locals here." Customers can use cash, card or phone payment, with large commercial washers and fast dryers capable of tackling the normal weekly load as well as bulky duvets, blankets and bedding. It is open 5am to 11pm seven days a week, with parking at the rear off Sherborne Street.

"You'll often find one of us popping in, cleaning, checking machines or talking to customers. We really care about creating something we're proud to put our name behind. We're incredibly grateful for the support we've had," Phillipa said.

Another nearby business has changed hands – Ma Bakers has become Edgeware Bakehouse, with the business operated by Rosha and Chenda. Rosha said they created



The new owners of Edgeware Bakery, Rosha and Chenda.

products on site, specialising in artisan breads, freshly baked pastries, savoury pies, sandwiches, sweet treats, and coffee.

The couple also operate Park Ranger Café in Riccarton which they began in 2016. "While we share the same commitment to quality and hospitality, we are a separate business with our own identity and bakery-focused menu.

The name Edgeware Bakehouse by Park Ranger simply reflects our shared ownership. Our coffee for both outlets is made using the Ranger Blend supplied by Coffee Embassy."

The former owners of the bakery, Nicky and Paul Garven, have operated several bakeries over the years and the former Ma Bakers for thirteen years. They recently also sold their other Bishopdale bakery too. They focused on everyday prices for traditional pie variations and filled rolls, custard, apple square, and apple slice.

The sale means they are looking forward to retirement and sleeping a little longer in the mornings rather than the early bakery start.

Other recent changes at Edgeware Village include the sale of Super Liquor Edgeware by Carolyn Moffat and Tim Siegert to new owner Gulshan Gulati who owns other liquor stores.

Further away in Warrington St a new wine bar-style bistro called Hayez has opened, owned by James Tully and friend Mike Blackburn. It is named after the area of London James comes from. ❧

An updated version of a story about Courtenay St is on page 13. An earlier story contained an out-of-date widening proposal



Activities at the community centre

Weekly groups that meet at the community centre.

Monday	10am	Saygo - join waiting list
	11.30am	Tai Chi with Jan
	1.30pm	Yoga with Hamish
Tuesday	5pm	Universal Martial Arts
	9.30am	Dance Fitness with Kathryn Tizz
	10am	NeighbourNet/SeniorNet Mac
Wednesday	5.30	Pippins
	7pm	Avon Toastmasters
	7pm	Ungu Capoeira
Thursday	10am	SeniorNet Mac
	10.30am	The Corner, coffee and chat
	3.45	Enchanting Productions
Friday	7.00pm	Capoeira Angola
	9.30am	Saygo - join waiting list
	10.45am	Yoga with Tracy Kells
Saturday	10am	NeighbourNet
	5.00pm	Universal Martial Arts
	7.15pm	Women in Harmony
Sunday	10am	SeniorNet Mac
	10am	Social Square Dancing
	1.30	Yoga with Hamish
Call Centre for details	3.45	Enchanting Productions
	6pm	Impact Youth

For more information call 03 972 5534 or email communitycentre@stalbans.gen.nz

St Albans events

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

Sept 19, 12 – 3 pm: Spinal Tap, St Albans Skate Park, advert pg 5

Sept 23, 6.30pm: Introduction to Transcendental Meditation, St Albans Community Centre

Sept 26, 3pm: St Albans Residents Association AGM, advert to the right

Sept 27, 3pm: St Albans Pavilion & Pool AGM, advert pg 5

October 3, 10-3pm: Zonta sale, advert pg 15

October 19, 5.30 pm: Imagined Scar book launch, Tūranga, page 12

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Monday Oct 5
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1049 COLOMBO ST
Gold coin entry

SARA Committee

The next St Albans Residents Association committee meeting will be held on October 14 at 7pm at Kohinga St Albans Community Centre, 1049 Colombo St.

Advertising in St Albans News

If you would like to advertise in the News, phone Lynne on 972 5534 or email advertising@stalbans.gen.nz

Please ask for a copy of our ratesheet, which specifies sizes, prices and requirements.

BBQ Trailer for hire

St Albans Community BBQ Trailer is available to hire for corporate events, community gatherings or private celebrations.

Enquiries to: BBQ@stalbans.gen.nz

The deadline for the October issue of St Albans News is September 14

Please send your articles, letters and notices to:

news@stalbans.gen.nz

ST ALBANS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

2026 AGM

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26 @ 3 PM

ST ALBANS COMMUNITY CENTRE
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3-5pm

125 Packe St, Edgeware

200 rat traps, possums on Rutland St

by Vicki Wilkinson-Baker

It's been a busy three years for Predator Free St Albans. Since first established in 2023 the group has handed out nearly 200 rat traps and signed up a similar number of rat trappers.

Spokesperson Nigel Larsen says he's pleased with progress especially the fact that at least 225 rats have been caught and registered.

"There's been a big flurry of interest since we set up. The challenge going forward is maintaining that momentum with people diligently re-setting their traps and recording their catches."

He says it's a good idea to vary the bait. "Most people use peanut butter but if they're not catching rats, it's worth mixing things up a bit – try apple, nuts, Nutella or even mayonnaise."

PFSA recently held a "rat-chat" event at the St Albans Community Centre which was a chance for rat trappers to seek advice, share stories and enjoy some cake and a hot drink.

One enterprising resident told them how they're successfully putting a rat trap and a mouse trap inside the one wooden tunnel. "What's happening is mice can often eat the rat bait without setting off the rat trap, but then if they move onto the mouse trap they get caught."

PFSA also has one trapper focussing on empty sections where rats often take up residence and it's also fielding more inquiries about possums.

Nigel says one possum has been photographed in Rutland

Are You Enrolled to Vote?

The Canterbury Workers Educational Association (CWEA) is encouraging Cantabrians to enrol for the 2026 General Election on November 7.

If people register by October 4 they will receive an Easy Vote card which helps staff to find their name on the electoral roll and issue voting papers faster. October 25 is the last day to enrol.

The CWEA says it is providing practical, non-partisan information about New Zealand's electoral system to ensure more people feel informed, confident, and ready to participate.

With support from the Electoral Commission, the initiative is being led by Jennifer Leahy, Civic Engagement Project Lead, who is working with community organisations, workplaces, and local groups across Canterbury. Information sessions cover enrolling, understanding the voting process, and what's changing for the 2026 election.

Key messages - Your vote does count. Register by October 4 to get an Easy Vote card. October 25 is the last day to enrol. November 7 is Election Day. Please encourage friends and whānau that live overseas to vote. For all election information, <https://vote.nz/>



Helidore eating cake at the "rat chat" event.

St, and two more have been spotted up trees.

He says PFSA has a DOC approved trap for catching possums. It is called a Flipping Timmy, and is safe to use in built up areas provided it is put higher up a tree vertically out of reach of children and cats and is baited with possum attractants that cats do not like.

The group's next move is expanding east towards Hills Road which will include Aylesford and Flockton Basin.

In the meantime, Nigel stresses the importance of registering all catches on the TrapNZ website. "It means TrapNZ can see the successes we're having which helps in terms of

funding for us. And we can monitor our part in making New Zealand predator free. "People around the country are noticing more birds and insects around, more skinks and we want to keep doing our bit to eradicate pests and give our biodiversity a chance."

If you want to help you can find PFSA on Facebook, use the QR code or phone 021-0648861. To cover costs, a contribution of \$20 is appreciated for a Victor trap and tunnel, \$25 for T-Rex traps.

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Send your news contributions to:

news@stalbans.gen.nz

<http://www.facebook.com/StAlbansNews>

Letters can be mailed to:

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The opinions expressed in this publication are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the St Albans Residents Association.

Stuck In The Comfort Zone

by Audrey Worsley

Generation Z has a problem. Between economic anxiety and constant digital noise, another subtle crisis is spreading through the youth: Generation Z has stopped trying new things. We seem perpetually stuck in an all-or-nothing trap: either excel immediately, or abandon the effort entirely. The root cause, predictably, is the internet.

Just think about it. Generation Z is the first generation to grow up with the entire world at their fingertips, access to everything online at the click of a button. We may not want to admit it, but this has made us lazy. It has weakened our internal muscle of determination, leading to an overwhelming lack of bandwidth to continue with a difficult task.

But, we cannot be without empathy for Gen Z. No other generation has ever grown up with this unique form of surveillance. Everything we do is carefully recorded, monitored, and stacked against us through social media. No other generation has grown up in a perpetual state of performance anxiety, because no other generation has been forced to constantly perform in the same way that Gen Z must.

Gen Z doesn't like to try new things because it's hard, but also because they are constantly afraid of failing in front of everyone. In a world where caring is cringe, and terrible videos can live forever on the cloud, it's no wonder Gen Z prefers to stay in their comfort zone.



Audrey acting as Marci in her year 11 drama external production of the play Almost Maine.

Audrey Worsley is a 15-year old student at Christchurch Girls High School/Te Kura o Hine Waiora who writes about the interests and hobbies of people her age



Fond memories of a community pool

"We are going swimming at the Edgware Pool today, which will be very exciting. Mr Williams will be organising us into groups to find out who is able to swim safely in deep water, who can do backstroke and breaststroke, and who are feeling rather nervous about swimming. We will leave school at 11.00 am and return at 12.30 pm, so it will be a long swimming session today." By Lily, aged 8, a student at St Albans School, January 29, 2003.

Edgware Pool is looking forward to creating a whole new lot of memories for the St Albans Community. Whether it be school visits by today's tamariki or mums, dads and grandparents who remembered learning to swim at the Edgware Pool and will now be thinking about taking the next generations along to relive the fun summer days of their childhood.

There will be opportunities for individuals and families who intend to make regular use of the facility to purchase a season key. This will make it easier for local residents to incorporate swimming into their regular routines and encourage people to make the most of having such an important facility right in their own community.

Swimming is one of the best forms of exercise for people of all ages. It is low impact, making it particularly suitable for people who may find other forms of exercise difficult,



while still providing an excellent full-body workout. Regular swimming can help improve fitness, strength, flexibility and overall wellbeing.

The Pool Group is now seeking donations to help "Fund the Future" and secure the funds needed to support ongoing operating expenses.



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St Albans Pavilion and Pool Inc AGM 2026

• Hear an update on the project
• Guest Speaker to be confirmed
• Followed by: **St Albans Swim and Lifesaving Club AGM**

Sunday September 27 at 3 pm
Kohinga St Albans Community Centre
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New digital home for St Albans Online

The St Albans community's new digital home of St Albans Online was launched on 28 August.

Designed as a central hub for local information, connections, and community resources, St Albans Online is more than just a website. It is a platform that will grow and evolve with input from the people who live, work, and participate in our community.

Residents are encouraged to visit the site on launch day, explore its features, and share feedback. Community input will play a key role in shaping future content and ensuring the website becomes a valuable resource for everyone.

Local businesses and organisations are also invited to get involved. The website includes a local directory to showcase the diverse services and groups that contribute to St Albans. Business owners and community organisations



Emma Twaddell, Community Activator

are encouraged to check their listings when the site goes live. If details are missing or inaccurate, requests for updates can be submitted directly through the website.

By helping to keep the directory current and comprehensive, local organisations can improve their visibility while making it easier for residents to discover and connect with services in the area.

"This is just the beginning," the project team says. "Together, we can build a resource that reflects the needs, interests, and strengths of our community."

Your participation, feedback, and contributions will help create a thriving online space that truly serves the St Albans community.

Emma Twaddell, Community Activator, St Albans Residents Association (SARA) Inc



St Albans park upgrades

The city council has made new additions and upgraded equipment in the popular toddlers' area in St Albans Park. A few months ago the south east boggy corner was improved with new drainage. The council manages over 400 play spaces and regularly reviews them. They include playgrounds, outdoor fitness equipment, ball courts, green spaces, skate and scooter parks, bicycle skill areas, water play areas, and natural areas.

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Letter to the Editor

Please respect our parks

Audrey Worsley's contribution to the July/August issue of the St Albans News raised an important issue. The damage caused by the 2011 earthquakes saw the destruction of many older family homes with gardens in suburbs around the city. Post-quake redevelopment rapidly escalated from rebuild to infill housing, then to higher-density development—never mind gardens, or somewhere to sit outside after work—instead, how many units can we get on that site? First thing—cut down every tree...

However, St Albans is fortunate—we do have three wonderful parks. St Albans Park is the main sports team activity centre in the suburb, located on 6 hectares of open parkland, along with children's play equipment, a basketball area, pétanque court and recently enlarged skateboard ramp. Malvern Park—has some children's play equipment, as well as four amazing pieces of static exercise equipment—suitable for people of different ages and abilities, and about 3 hectares of beautiful parkland. Abberley Park and Heritage Garden is something very unique—one of the city's eight only parks with heritage status—it has 2 playgrounds, a summertime paddling pool,



Recent damage to Abberley Park is growing out, but a perennial problem has come around again - theft of daffodils.

awesome trees and gardens and more.

But we also have some serious problems—we have a growing number of people in our community who have no respect for anything or anyone but themselves. Deliberate damage occurs in public areas—damage which the perpetrators consider to be 'fun'. One example over the past year—two adolescent males who began treating Abberley Park like a personal playground for riding hired electric scooters. Initially they enjoyed churning up the shingle pathways, then actually riding on the gardens. Over the winter they have taken to leaving deep swirling ruts in the lawns. They are not alone in this—others have followed their lead. A couple of weeks ago it was two boys on an

electric motorcycle.

Such conduct is not exclusive to the young; adults come in with metal detectors. While they replace the turf they dig up, the damage is still done. Next week, it will be people coming in to steal daffodils coming into flower.

How do we change these behaviours? Because they will have to change if people want more from the Council.

Patricia Wallace-Webster, Friend of Abberley Park.

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Flockton woes resurface after fixup

continued from page 1

identified several areas of surfacing deterioration—particularly at the Westminster Street end—some of which are quite significant."

The council, in conjunction with engineering and industry specialists, were investigating the likely cause of the surfacing deterioration. "Until this is established, we cannot provide information about the likely engineering solution or timeframes. For now, temporary repairs are being undertaken to maintain the road in a safe condition. Until that failure mechanism and response is established, any further information is likely to be limited. This is because it has the potential to impact on any future contractual and liability discussions with our suppliers.

"We appreciate that the current situation may create an unfavourable impression and that, from residents' perspective, it may appear that limited progress is being made. We also recognise that any response we provide at this stage is likely to be necessarily cautious, which may inadvertently reinforce that perception. However, we would like to assure you that the team is actively working to address this issue and is committed to identifying a solution as soon as reasonably practicable."

History group

Cranford Store in its heyday

The owner was Richard James Ecroyd, 1862-1939. He came to New Zealand in 1904 and owned the shop from 1916 to 1923. It traded as a corner dairy, although in those days local stores sold an array of goods beyond those of a modern dairy.

More recently, Christchurch artist Harriet Millar held an exhibition in the former store at 148 Cranford St featuring 12 paintings of suburban dairies. She came to an arrangement with the owner of the building, Mohan Patel. The dairy was closed in 2021 because the tenants said the business was badly affected by city council parking changes.

"The exhibition ran for a week and hundreds came through. I think people appreciated that the dairy culture is dying and we need to celebrate it before it's gone," Harriet said.



Above: This photograph shows customers and family in 1918 in front of the former Cranford Store on the corner of Westminster and Cranford St.

Left: A painting by Harriet Millar of the Springfield Discounter that was one of several at the recent Cranford Store pop up exhibition.

Bell rings out in the mountains

More than 100 years ago St Albans had its own fire station in Office Rd.

The site is now covered by the Fresh Choice supermarket within Merivale Mall but some relics were saved. They included a bell that was used for many years.

In 1955, the bell was relocated after a nationwide search for a suitable bell for the new interdenominational Arthur's Pass Chapel that was designed pro-bono by Christchurch modernist architect, Paul Pascoe (he also designed Christchurch International Airport and was the brother of the noted mountaineer, photographer and historian John Pascoe).

The Christchurch Fire Board chief fire officer of the



time had traced the disused St Albans bell through a fireman's son, and had it repaired before it was installed in the Arthurs Pass chapel's belfry built by Mr D. G. Stevens who also built the lantern above the entry, a double size copy from one of the first four ships that came to Canterbury from England in 1853.

The former fire bell was rung shortly before the chapel's opening and dedication service on April 2, 1956, which drew more than 2000 people to Arthur's Pass.

Meanwhile, the fire service moved from its Office Rd site in 1957 to a new building at 276 Cranford St, which was damaged in the Christchurch earthquakes, demolished, and the land sold.

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From St Albans to peaceful Gallipoli

St Albans resident Kate Flood shared her ANZAC biscuits with other members of her tour group on a recent visit to Gallipoli where they visited the graves of New Zealand servicemen killed in 1915 during World War I.

Before she embarked on her tour of Turkey she found the names of three men on the memorial roll of All Souls Church in Merivale, intending to lay a poppy on their memorials.

The three men were Isaac Gosset and Noel Sime both commemorated at Lone Pine Cemetery and Francis Martin at Hill 60. Kate was unable to visit Hill 60 but went to Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair, famous for the battle fought from August 6 to 10, 1915, and where 1000 Kiwis lost their lives.

"Our first stop was Anzac Cove. Seeing where the Anzacs landed and so many were killed was very sobering and emotional. On a beautiful calm, sunny day it was hard to envisage the carnage that occurred. We then went to Lone Pine Cemetery. Tour members helped me find Gosset and Sime and put poppies beside their names. We also did the same for a couple of Australian and Turkish soldiers."

Isaac Charles Gosset Private Otago Regiment N.Z.E.F. was killed in action on May 2, 1915 aged 25.

He was the son of Helen married to Archdeacon Charles Gosset, vicar of St Mary's. They lived at 61 Papanui Road. Gosset St in St Albans is named after Archdeacon Gosset.

Noel Roy Sime Private Canterbury Regiment N.Z.E.F. was killed in action on April 25, the first day of battle, aged 22, son of Janet Sime and husband William. He was living at 54 Mansfield Avenue prior to his departure.

"There are cemeteries everywhere, some with 30 or 40 graves, others with a handful and they're so well kept. It's very peaceful so hard to imagine what it must have been like," Kate said.

A number of other young men from St Albans have been honoured for the part they played in World War I.

St Albans History Group member Jonathan Allen has highlighted the duty of Henry James Nicholas, born on June 11, 1891 who lived at 35 Berry St, St Albans, attending Christchurch Normal and Christchurch East School.

In July 1918 Henry stood before King George V at Buckingham Palace and was awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest award for valour that could

be bestowed on the armed forces of the British Empire. Seven months earlier he displayed conspicuous bravery when he led an attack on an entrenched enemy position in France and succeeded in capturing the strategic strong-point. After receiving the award he returned to France and on October 23, 1918, only three weeks before the end of the war, during a battle at a bridge near Le Quesnoy, he was shot by a German patrol. He was posthumously awarded the Military Medal. There are a number of memorials to Sergeant Henry Nicholas, including the larger than life bronze statue in the Park of Remembrance on the banks of the Avon River near the Bridge of Remembrance.



The bronze statue of Sergeant Henry Nicholas at the Park of Remembrance on the banks of the Avon River near the Bridge of Remembrance

Murray Williams remembered

Murray Noel Williams, a well-known historian and St Albans resident, passed away on Sunday, July 12, 2026. His family had a long connection with Papanui High School. Murray was the second of four generations to attend the school. His father, Reginald, was the first head boy of what was then Papanui Technical College in 1936, having attended the school while living at the Methodist orphanage. Murray and Sheryl's children and grandchildren also attended the school. Murray supported numerous school activities including cricket. The school celebrates its 90th anniversary over Labour Weekend. Registrations are at: <https://www.papanui.school.nz/reunion/register/14>

Murray's seminal work Timber Town to City Suburb: an illustrated history of Papanui co-authored with Christine Grant and David O'Malley provides insights into the people, buildings and activities up to the Christchurch earthquakes and beyond. Murray's leadership of the



Papanui Heritage Group saw significant gathering, preserving, and protecting of the area's histories, often in practical ways, including the restoration of Papanui Bush and monitoring the heritage status of the 15 Memorial Avenues. Murray gave the Papanui Heritage Group a clear sense of purpose in providing assistance for interested members to carry out their research.

Although not an official residents' association, the Papanui Heritage Group, in memory of Murray, hopes that collaboration continues between our twin suburbs through the St Albans History Group and Residents' Association.

✂

Little book giveaways in your hood

by Frances Adank

St Albans has a number of great book giveaway containers if you are looking for a fresh novel, crime story, non-fiction or books for kids. Plus, you can return the favour by dropping off books you have read and enjoyed for others.

Kiwi readership of books has arguably taken a hit with phones and online videos soaking up spare time, but there is nothing quite so relaxing as looking forward to another chapter of a good story at bedtime. No headphones required!

The biggest book container in St Albans is probably Packe St Park's big book fridge, although the Book Worm on Mairehau's Fergusson Ave is pretty close in terms of size and variety.

Three of the smaller ones are also worth a regular touch base: Colombo St's Little Bookshare, between Canon and Purchas Sts, 38 Edgeware Road's metal book box and the Little Street Library on Edward Ave between Cleveland and Geraldine Sts, which has an interesting back story printed on the fence.



Charles Poynton's repurposed TV cabinet



Charles hopes St Albans locals might be enriched by his taste in reading.

Edward Ave's fence/house owner Charles Poynton got the idea from a visit to Rochester, Minnesota ten years ago, where people were putting out surplus books in boxes on the footpath. "American reading rates are very low – only half of all Americans ever read a book and very few as many as one a month," he said. "I had a problem with shelving, they were stacked two deep and needed another. Alternately I could give the books to someone else. Maybe other minds could be enriched by my good taste in reading material. I checked the Salvation Army shop in Gasson St and found a suitable TV cabinet for \$5 and modified it. A street library in every street would promote literacy in our society."

The first book fridge near St Albans was on the corner of Kilmore and



The Little Bookshare on Colombo Street



Packe Street park bookfridge

Barbadoes Sts on the Herbal Dispensary site.

There are about 1300 little book containers around New Zealand that have been mapped by Auckland woman Robyn Hoffman. A few have been set up in laundromats. Many are publicised on the Facebook page, Little Community Libraries of New Zealand. ☘



The Book Worm on Mairehau's Fergusson Ave

A Fond Farewell from Your MP

After nine years as the Member of Parliament for Christchurch Central, it is time for me to hand over the reins.

People often ask whether it is hard to leave Parliament. The truth is that there is never a perfect time. But I leave feeling grateful, optimistic, and very lucky to have had the chance to serve this remarkable community.

When I first entered politics, it wasn't because I had a grand policy blueprint tucked under my arm. It was because I had spent years meeting people still struggling after the earthquakes. I met residents living in caravans, families tangled in endless insurance disputes, and people who simply wanted someone to listen. Christchurch taught me that politics matters most when it helps real people solve real problems.

Since then, I've had the privilege of helping constituents navigate housing, health, income support, and plenty of problems nobody ever campaigned on. Often the most rewarding work never makes the news. It happens quietly, one conversation, one phone call, one solved problem at a time.

I've also learned that Parliament is a wonderfully strange place. On my first day as an MP, I spent an



evening wandering around testing my new swipe card on every door I could find, until a security guard took pity on me and gave me a guided tour. I can now confidently report that Parliament contains both democracy and, apparently, New Zealand's oldest urinal.

None of this would have been possible without the incredible people of Christchurch Central. Thank you for your trust, your kindness, your occasional blunt feedback, and your unwavering commitment to this city.

Christchurch has always been at its best when people roll up their sleeves, help their neighbours, and get on with the job. That's a lesson I'll carry with me wherever I go next.

So, thank you. It has been the honour of a lifetime. ☘

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Exhibition on now

Canterbury Museum

Local poet transforms the breast cancer journey

In the extreme isolation of lockdown, a St Albans poet started to write poems about the shocking breast cancer diagnosis she had just received.

Dr Jane Simpson has now brought them together in her fourth poetry collection, *Imagined Scar*.

They were written over a two-year period. Among the 47 poems are four prize winners in international poetry competitions.

Simpson joins the few breast cancer survivor poets who have produced a full-length collection spanning their diagnosis, surgery, treatment and family history of this disease. More than a medical journey, the book reaches beyond, to history, science and art.

"The first poems were bleak and lyrical. Then, to my surprise, I started to write quirky and humorous poems. One



was about taking a portrait of my breast from below after surgery. They made me laugh and transformed my experience. They also made others laugh," Dr Simpson says.

There have been very positive responses to individual poems by doctors, nurses, survivors and surgeons.

Imagined Scar will be launched at the Christchurch Central Library, Tūranga, at 5.30pm on October 19, International Breast Cancer Day, as part of a number

of community events throughout Christchurch in Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Ten percent of the sales will be donated to the Breast Cancer Foundation.

Note: Imagined Scar will be available from some independent book shops and directly from the author's website, www.poiema.co.nz



Learning English at Kohinga



Each week, migrants and former refugees gather at the St Albans Community Centre (Kohinga) to learn practical English for everyday life and work. Through conversations, cultural experiences and support, they build confidence, connect with neighbours and strengthen their sense of belonging. Provided by English Language Partners, the trained teachers help learners settle, participate and thrive in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Emma Twaddell, community activator.

St Albans crime rate modest

Theft makes up the vast majority of crime in St Albans/Edgeware, according to the Crimestats.co.nz website.

A first time buyer of a home in Colombo St near the community centre was recently disappointed when a thief stole the hot water cylinder on settlement day, damaging woodwork and windows.

The overall crime trend in the area has decreased, with criminal activity peaking in November 2022, February 2023, and July 2023. St Albans ranks in the top suburbs in Canterbury for safety. Most common offences were theft (55.4%), burglary (34.8%), and assault (8%).



Yarns Men golf recruitment

The Yarns Men is a Christchurch Men's charity sparking good yarns and fostering connection for men. It is relaunching its Hagley Hole-in-One community golf event in Hagley Park this spring, and is recruiting volunteers, especially recently retired or semi-retired locals, for a few social hours a month. No golf skill needed. Contact Matthew on 020 420 0185 or yarns@yarnsmen.co.nz

Health

Cough, Colds and Sneezes

Late winter and early spring is usually when there are a lot of viruses and lots of illness.

This year we have seen a lot of flu which is more severe than a common cold. Symptoms include fever, body aches, headaches, abdominal pain, cough, sore throat and tiredness. Most symptoms resolve within 7 to 10 days but the cough can last for weeks after and still be normal. The flu is most serious in people over the

age of 65 years. This is why we recommend the flu vaccine every year for this group. There are some other conditions where the flu injection is advised in younger people. Your doctor, nurse or pharmacist can provide advice.

People pass on viruses through cough and sneezes. This is why if you are unwell you should stay at home. Take plenty of fluids and rest. For fever or pain paracetamol or ibuprofen can help. Your body will fight the virus. There is no need to see the doctor in most cases. If there are any warning signs you should book to see the doctor including:

- fever and or pain that does not respond to paracetamol or ibuprofen
- shortness of breath



- not being able to hold down fluids
- confusion
- not passing urine.

If you are unwell and need to see a doctor then Edgeware Health can see you urgently. We can also write a medical certificate without seeing you. We will assess if antibiotics are needed. In most cases, antibiotics will not help you improve any faster and may even make you more

sick. Usually time and rest is the best medicine.

This is also the time of year we see hayfever. Christchurch is the garden city. When we see the yellow powder on the pavement or the blossoms this is the start of the hayfever season. In summer hayfever is often caused by grasses. Symptoms can feel like a cold but are often milder. There may be more sneezing and congestion. There may be sinus pain. Simple solutions are best such as antihistamines, saline rinses and steroid nasal sprays. Please see your doctor or pharmacist for these medicines.

For more information contact Edgeware Health on 03 3851701 or info@edgewarehealth.co.nz or go to www.edgewarehealth.co.nz



Shirley centre out of the ground

Construction of the Shirley Community Centre is well under way on its site over the road from the primary school – 15 years after the old centre was damaged in the Christchurch earthquakes. In earlier times it was the original Shirley Primary School.

Funding for the \$3.7 million total estimated cost has come mainly from the Christchurch City Council. The project has been supported by the St Albans Residents' Association.



In September 2025 the Waipapa Papanui-Central-Innes Community Board voted to enlarge the design from 180sqm to 280sqm.

The building will include a function room, kitchen, office space, two meeting rooms, external public toilets, and on-site parking. Solar panels and battery storage will also be included.

When the centre is completed in coming months the council will redevelop the grounds around the building.



Courtenay St improvements on the way

Once a modest St Albans neighbourhood street, it's now a "collector" road, commuter route, cycle corridor, school pick-up zone and high-density housing showcase, all while remaining stubbornly narrow.

It was given "collector" road status as having width of 15 metres, despite the road actually being closer to 9.5 metres. They are generally designed to operate within road reserves of 18 to 22 metres.

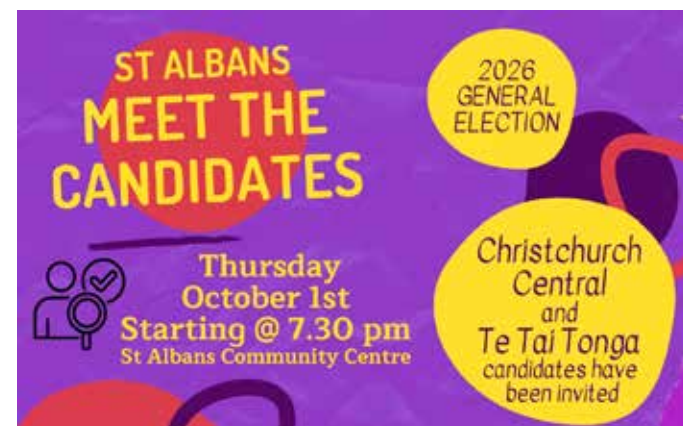
Meanwhile, traffic is increasing, townhouses are flourishing, green space is retreating, and motorists, cyclists and residents continue their daily game of

"whose lane is it anyway?"

To be fair, this isn't so much a lack of planning as the collision of several perfectly good plans all trying to occupy the same piece of asphalt at the same time.

The good news? Courtenay Street's next chapter is still being written. Residents should keep an eye out for the imminent consultation on the proposed renewal project. Find out more – letstalk.ccc.govt.nz/courtenayrenewal.

Emma Twaddell, community activator, St Albans Residents Association.



Community Notices

Canterbury Embroiderers' Guild: Hammersley Community Centre, Amos Pl. Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri. Contact Pauline 021 188 7727. Email CEGstitchers@gmail.com.

Chch Senior Citizens: The card section meet on Monday at 12.30. The indoor bowls section meet Tuesday 12.45 – 3 pm. Activities group have outings for meals, social days, visit places of interest and bus trips. For further information call Veronica 383 4682 or 021 1187 360 or Beth 388 2375 or 027 261 0493

Citizens Advice Bureau: Need help? Ask us. Free service. Fendalton Library, 4 Jefferies Rd 0800 367 222 www.cab.org.nz

Coffee and conversation: every Wednesday 10.30 am – 12.30 pm at Kohinga. All welcome. Koha for coffee appreciated. All welcome.

Coffee with friends: Meet new people, make new friends. Join us for a cup of coffee or tea and home baking at. Reformed Church Hall, 63 Cornwall St every Fri at 10:30am.

Community Bible Study: Small non denominational class. Phone Veronica 021 0229 2613

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

Community Centre Talks: *Lyn Hunter – End of Life Doula*, Monday 7 September 2026, 1.30-2.30pm and *Jocelyn Heatley – Rural School Dental Nursing in the 1950's and 1960's*, Monday 5 October 2026, 1.30-2.30pm at the Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham St North. All ages welcome. Cuppa to follow. Donation/koha requested to help cover costs. Enquiries ph 372 9224

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

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

Elizabeth Bridge Club: Wednesdays 12.50 (for 1.00pm start) to 4.00pm at the Christchurch Bridge club rooms, 21 Nova Place. Visitors welcome. No partner, contact Margaret 027 4038193.

Family Drug Support Aotearoa New Zealand: Ph 03 21818740

Free Kindergarten Enrolments: Not for profit Kidsfirst Sunbeam Kindergarten

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

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

HOUSIE: Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham St North, every Thursday at 12.30 - 2.15pm. \$2 per card. Afternoon tea to follow. All welcome. Numbers limited. Gold coin donation. Enquiries ph 372 9224. Visit website: www.lcmchristchurch.org.nz.

Judo: kids classes 4 - 5.30/6pm, different ages, different days at 4 Forfar St. Phone Graeme 0212264100 for more information

Justice of the Peace available at Kohinga Saturdays 10.30 - 12.30.

Knit & Knatter Shirley: Can anyone help with free wool for these ladies. Contact Mary 027 733 9666 or 980 0811

More Than Music. For families with under 5s at 9:30am every Wednesday during term time at Rutland St Church. Contact the church office on 3554101 or text Hayley on 0272831905

Predator Free St Albans: Interested in trapping rats? Contact: FB page, Predator Free St Albans or ph 021 0648861

Saygo Falls Prevention: Mondays 10 –11am (class full) and Thursdays 9.30 – 10.30 am. \$2 entry. Kohinga St Albans Community Centre.

Support The Respiratory Relief Society Canterbury Inc. runs weekly exercise classes Tuesdays from 1-00-2-15pm at St. Albans Uniting Church Nancy Ave for people with respiratory, cardiac and vascular conditions. Contact David Chamberlain 332 4471 or Donella Kyle, 0210 282 1565.

Scottish Highland Dancing Lessons. Saturday's 10 am – 10.45, for 4+ year olds and preschoolers to learn the basics. \$2.00 each for Saturday lessons with qualified tutors. Programme runs from 2 May to 27th June 2026. Scottish Society Hall, corner Caledonian & Edgware Road.

Scottish Country Dance club, Scottish Society hall cnr Edgware/ Caledonian Rds, Tuesdays at 7.30pm. Fun, fitness and friendship. Contact: Margaret Birse, ph 327 0193.

Seniornet Mac: Help with Apple devices at the St Albans Community Centre on Wednesdays and Fridays 10am- noon.

Shirley International Playgroup: a fun playgroup for mothers and under fives from any cultural background. Fridays during school term time. 9:30am 11:30am at the Shirley Hub, 69B Briggs Road, Mairehau. \$2 per session or \$10 for the term. Call Shauna at Delta Trust on 03 389 0219 for more information.

Shirley Rugby League: Need players to join our family club, girls and boys welcome, ages 4 to Masters age 35 yrs. Contact Rochelle 021 133 5437.

St Albans Preschool: Community not for profit preschool based at 3 Thames Street offers care for children aged 2 to 5 years. 20 hours free from 2 years old. Contact Suzy on 027 355 9396 for more information.

Shirley Ladies Friendship Club meets 2nd Wednesday of the month 10.00am at All Saints Church 305 New Brighton Road. Interesting speakers, walking group and trips are arranged. Please phone Dale 385 1133 for more information.

St Albans Laughter Club: Laughter yoga teaches you to breathe to release tension and stress. Sundays 11am-12pm. Scottish Society Hall, cnr Caledonian and Edgware Rds. \$5. email: hannah@lotustrust.org.nz, FB: Christchurchlaughteryoga

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

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

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

Social Square Dancing Group welcomes dancers who have danced Mainstream. No partner required. Contact: George Murray 0212942669 or email masakomizusawa@hotmail.com

U3A St Albans: meet at St Albans Uniting Church. Monthly 4th Thursday 9.45am, morning tea followed by speaker. Many more activities. Visitors warmly welcomed. Call Jenny 021 149 7990.

Weekend Group: Second Saturday of the month 4 – 5.30 pm at Kohinga. Meet for friendship and company. Refreshments provided. Koha appreciated (\$5).

Women in Harmony community choir: Thursdays in school terms from 7.15pm to 9.00pm at Kohinga St Albans Community Centre. World and popular music in 3 part harmony. Please Email: women.in.harmony.nz@gmail.com; facebook.com/womeninharmonychristchurch

St Albans News Classifieds

SERVICES

Having difficulty making family, work, relationship or legal decisions? We can help you make practical decisions. Call Bill Demeter 027 379 3873. Can meet St Albans Community Centre. No charge for this service

Italian language classes: all levels at St Albans Community Centre. Info on our website: www.dantechch.com

Music Lessons: Tuition at your tempo! Music lessons for all ages and stages with In Tune Music Studios NZ (027 606 4023 or nicola.intune@gmail.com)

SUZUKI Piano Lessons: Beth Robinson, 021 231 4039 bhr. 797@gmail.com

Yoga Class: Thursday 10:45am-12pm at Kohinga St Albans Community Centre. All abilities and ages welcome. Tracy 022 048 6949

Yoga: Monday 5:45-7pm. Mary Potter Centre, 442 Durham Street North. Join anytime. Enquiries: Kerry 027-2118519

TRADIES

Bill Green Gardens: Mowing, weeding, pruning and tidying, Landscaping Free Quotes 022 4600 759, billgreenservices@gmail.com

Door Specialist: Repairs, adjustments and installation of all doors and locks, ranch slider wheels and locks. Qualified tradesman. Ph Stewart 0800 677 262 or 021 185 4055.

General Junk: For residential rubbish removal call General Junk 027 313 8782

Mike's Mowing & Junk Removal: Free quotes for lawn mowing and general rubbish great rates Ph - 027 2202684

Painter: Experienced local tradesman, interior/exterior, full repaints, fences, decks. Residential or commercial. Call now for quality painting services at competitive rates. Timeliness guaranteed. Shayne 027 214 1827

Pegasus Landscapes: All aspects of landscaping, design. We do everything

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

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

FOR SALE

2 gym boxes. Do need some repairs. Cash and carry. Call Caroline 021 085 30266

Family Search

My name is Caroline Cotton. I am looking for two adult step-daughters, Nat and Trana Cotton. Both born in Oamaru, parents Ian and Sue Cotton. Would love to catch up with you.

Support Services

There are a number of places that offer free help, handy when you are having mental health or violence issues:

Aviva, live free from violence: Free Canterbury-based 24h support line: +64 800 2848 2669

Emergency Services: call 111

Allies online mentoring offered by young Muslim adults to Muslim teens run by Youthline. Free text 234 or phone 0800 376 633

Are You OK? Family violence helpline 0800 456 450.

Comcare Trust: For health or addiction issues. Tel: (03) 377 7020, Fax: (03) 961 0794, Email: enquiries@comcare.org.nz

Counsellors available via text: 1737

Depression: 0800 111 757 or text 4302

Eating Disorder Recovery Support: Contact: 021 195 6766.

Elder Abuse Response Service: 0800 EA NOT OK/0800 32 668 65 (available 24/7) Email: support@elderabuse.nz or text 5032

Family Violence Information Line: 0800 456 450 (available 9.00am -11.00pm daily)

Family Drug Support Aotearoa New Zealand. Tel: 03 2818 740. www.fds.org.nz

Hey Bro helpline: 0800 HeyBro/0800 439 276. Supporting men to be free from violence

Kidslines: For under 18s, 0800 54 37 54 (speak to a Kidslines Buddy 4pm-9pm weekdays)

OUTLine NZ: provides confidential

telephone support for matters of gender or sexuality, 0800 688 5463

Rape Crisis National Call Line: 0800 88 33 00

Sexual Assault Support Service Canterbury (SASSC): 03 377 5402 for recent and historic cases

Shakti Crisis Line: for migrant or refugee women living with family violence with multi-lingual staff. 0800 742 584

Suicidal? Phone 0508 828 865

Worried about a child: 0508 FAMILY/0508 326 459 (available 24/7) - Oranga Tamariki - Ministry for Children, formerly Child, Youth & Family

Youthline: 0800 376 633 (Free TXT 234)



The Zonta fundraising event of handbags, hats and scarves sale:

Saturday 3 October
10 am – 3 pm
St Albans Community Centre

Wednesday Coffee and Conversation Group



Regulars and new

members are welcome every

Wednesday from 10.30am—12.30pm

Come in for a cuppa, chat, and company

Saturday Nibble and Refreshments

4—5.30 pm, 2nd Saturday of month

Come join Leigh and her host for company and friendship. Everyone is welcome.

Kohinga/St Albans Community Centre

Here today, gone tomorrow, old gives way to new

by Chris Hutching

St Albans remains one of the city's hot spots for housing transformation with demolitions and new builds every month.

It's a familiar story – older homes on sections of close to 1000 square metres are removed or demolished. There are some exceptions where older homes have been renovated.

There is a stark difference between the 'character' zoned neighbourhoods to the east of Hills Rd (e.g. Slater, Petrie, Dudley Sts, Stapletons Rd) where traditional standalone villas and bungalows dominate with a sprinkling of newer post-earthquake modern houses.

The zoning on the western side of Hills Rd (Edgeware Rd, Hendon, Cleveland, Champion Sts and Edward Ave) allows intensive development and is where new developments are rapidly changing the face of the suburb from older villa and bungalows with gardens to multi-level townhouses and apartments, mostly with parking for one car on site.

There are about 12,500 St Albans residents, and nearly half of them rent the homes they live in. The average house value is about \$895,000 depending on which month statistics are analysed, and values have been steady over the past four years. The average time it takes to sell a house is 37 days, although some new homes have been on the market several months. There were 431 sales over the past 12 months, and 50 listed in the past month. Agencies and Trademe suggest there are about 120 houses currently for sale.

"The suburb has a well-educated, professional demographic and a diverse cultural mix, giving it a vibrant and inclusive feel that distinguishes it from quieter residential suburbs," according to one real estate agency. ☘



Near complete new Hendon St apartments alongside a traditional villa



A slightly different style in Cleveland St.

Kia ora, I'm George Hampton.

Christchurch is home. I was born and raised here and, together with my family, I would be proud to serve our city.

I've worked on climate and energy challenges with the UN, served as New Zealand's Deputy Ambassador working on Iran, and co-own an iconic Kiwi business, Mr Whippy New Zealand.

I'm standing to get things done so areas like St. Albans are places where families can afford the basics and more, where our hospitals can care for people when they need it, where no one has to sleep rough, where businesses have what they need to succeed, and where a generation of young Kiwis can see a future here rather than moving to Australia.

That's why I'm proud to stand with Labour because we're focused on what matters most: the cost of living, health, homes and jobs. By getting these foundations right, we can help communities like St. Albans thrive -supporting the volunteers, local organisations, parks, community spaces and sustainable transport choices that make this such a great place to live.

George.Hampton@labour.org.nz | labour.org.nz/GeorgeHampton
 /georgehamptonnz

 **George Hampton**
for Christchurch Central



Labour

Authorised by Rob Salmond, 2 Gilmer Terrace, Wellington.

