

DALLINGTON

2nd QUARTER 2011

Community News

AGM

ALL DALLINGTON RESIDENTS WELCOME

WHERE WILL YOU BE LIVING WHILE YOUR HOME IS BEING DEMOLISHED?

Guest Speaker
Malcolm MacMillan, Manager – Temporary Housing Options

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COMMUNITY RESILIENCE – Is this a lost art?

Guest Speaker
David Collins – Area Co-ordinator of Civil Defence

7pm - Thursday 30 June
at
Wainoni Methodist Church, Avonside Drive (opposite Porrit Park)

Followed by our Annual General Meeting

STAY AND CHAT OVER A FRIENDLY CUPPA & SUPPER

This Community News is published quarterly by the Dallington Residents' Association, with the help of the Shirley Service Centre.

Contributions and queries should be forwarded to the Editor:
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DALLINGTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Chairperson: Selwyn Eagle (385 6894)
Dep. Chairperson: Derek Dean (385 6161)
Secretary: Philip Haythornthwaite (385 7661)
Treasurer: Tanya Hayton (385 3478)
Members: Anton Korunic, John Mulvaney,
Beryl Starr, Mary Tamplin, Tony Winder.
Community Board Representative: Linda Stewart



BILL ALLOTT

Back in 1999 the following paragraph was printed in the *Dallington Community News* under the headline, "Dallington Community News may be lost". This item commenced, "The Dallington Community News has been well received and well supported as part of the Community Development Programme in the area. Both the newly formed Residents' Association and the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board see it as a vital information link between residents of the local community. It has also become an important forum for local groups and clubs who wish to promote their activities." There was then an appeal for someone to volunteer as editor in place of the community development research project facilitator, Andre Degreef.

Bill Allott volunteered. He had moved with his wife, Heather, into a house in Locksley Avenue in May 1998 on their retirement as Salvation Army officers. His offer was accepted and his first issue as editor was distributed in June 1999. He continued in this role until the fourth quarter of 2010.

For three years Bill had edited the Army's *War Cry* in New Zealand and was for five years Editor-in-Chief of its publications in Australia. In 1951-52 he trained as a school teacher at Ardmore Teachers' College and then graduated from Victoria University, Wellington. With his wife, Heather, he has given Salvation Army service in a variety of roles which have included teacher training and youth leadership in Nigeria and church leadership in New Zealand. For ten

years he was involved in officer training in London and New Zealand and was Training Principal when a new Training College was established at Upper Hutt. In retirement he has been involved as a budgeter, coordinator and chairperson of the management committee of the Army's Christchurch budgeting service.

"It was a huge privilege to edit the *Community News* for more than a decade," said Bill. "My primary function was to reflect and promote the activities of the Dallington Residents' Association and the Dallington Community Centre. There was also the opportunity to present the achievements of Dallington residents and to delve into local history. One difficulty faced by an editor is that there's no strong geographical focus for the area and this has been exacerbated by the loss of St Paul's Parish church and school."

In 2006 Bill was presented with a Community Service Award "in recognition of outstanding voluntary efforts and dedicated service to the Burwood/Pegasus community".

Bill's Canterbury roots are strong. He was born in Kaiapoi and traces back to great-great-grandparents who arrived in Lyttelton on the fourth and sixth migrant ships, the *Cressy* (1850) and the *Isabella Hercus* (1851). He started school in Leeston and prior to that lived in Oxford.

As for many other Dallington residents life radically changed for the Allotts in the early hours of Saturday, 4 September. Their house in Locksley Avenue was severely damaged in the 7.1M earthquake. None of their external doors would open and they had to climb out a window into a conservatory and another into their garden. Their car was marooned behind wrecked garage doors and liquefaction. One outcome was that they went to their son's home for breakfast and stayed for three months! Early on they recognized that they wouldn't be able to reoccupy their house and they were left in no doubt when it was red-stickered following further damage in the 22 February earthquake. They purchased a new house in St Albans only to have it

inundated with 5 cm of liquefaction in this latter quake. Their new house suffered minimal damage but carpet and some furnishing has had to be replaced. Their life is now gradually returning to some semblance of normal.

As they were no longer resident in Dallington Bill resigned as editor of this *News* and as a committee member of the Dallington Residents' Association. His skill, experience and in-depth research into his articles will be greatly missed. Thank you Bill.

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Sat – 9.00-4.00

BURWOOD PEGASUS

State of the Ward

We ask ourselves: "When will this be over?" Now in our 10th month facing uncertainty about our future, life feels like it will never be the same again after the earthquakes suddenly violated our lives.

The September 4th event left our ward damaged in many suburbs from South Shore in the east to Dallington in the west. Consequent events kept us alert and on edge, and the February 22nd event caused more widespread damage. Then, just as we thought it was behind us and we could look at moving from welfare to a rebuilding mode, along came the June 13th events and more uncertainty, of shovelling silt, seeking fresh water, portaloos and finding service stations and supermarkets that were open to provide the basics.

Over these 10 months all our service providers faced chaos and providing was less than needed to meet devastated communities. We worried about "how" to reach those who needed support. Many who depended on buses were left completely isolated and unable to secure basic needs; others left their homes over this time, leaving those behind to carry on as best they could – one day at a time. We know that it is the elderly, disabled and young that feel this hardship worst. We feel for those who have no power or sewerage and admire how quickly roads are worked on. The complex and serious fragility of the power network has been managed by Orion and we trust in their determination to resolve huge problems.

... what about DALLINGTON?

The Dallington Hub set up operations in a portacom at Trade Aid and did sterling work in meeting the needs of the community. Companionship, information and often a treat to have with a cuppa has done wonders for moral in the district. In any street, many people offered food and water, neighbours got to know theirs – often for the first time – and residents realised that what they had been missing for a long time was a sense of community - but where could Dallington community meet? In fine weather Burwood Park offered good aspects but, in winter months, there is nowhere to go. Dallington Residents' Association held two community

barbecues and one in conjunction with the Hub which would have been a roaring success if the weather had been better. It was a brass monkey day, sadly. There is a lot of pleasure in giving and also fun in working together that cannot be denied.

Looking to the future, the geo-technical reports will arrive soon we hope. As hard as it is, I ask you to be patient as I know you will not want three quarters of this important information. This time the survey work has been very specific so that the government can fully understand the scope of the damage, and what is the best long-term fix that is "intentional" in protecting our property equity, but there is something missing.

Protecting property equity takes more than what the government can provide. Something is missing – it is your participation in the future of your community. I'm thinking that your lovely district of Dallington has to be left better off than it was prior to these destructive events, in order to have a bright future. Some new land is available in your locality (unless you want to consider land swap of Burwood Park in housing for river reserves and parks). What could this mean? What would be left of lovely old Dallington? If you ask me, it wasn't perfect, but I will come back to that a big further on.

So it seems to me that the solution to this dilemma is also the problem and I would like to call on all Dallingtonites to be heard. This is your community, so how about you start thinking of a new Dallington.

What wasn't perfect about Dallington, I have to ask? Why isn't there a community centre? Workable retail sites that have a café, and community amenities that make a community heartbeat of people meeting people in daily life. What would it take to have a new Dallington that offers you who live here the opportunity to have an attractive community lifestyle. Would that make your existing property or your possible new property more desirable to buy in the not so near future? I'm referring to "recovered market value" of your property.

Participation is the key to this future. Consider becoming attached to your Residents' Association; provide contact details and especially your

email address. They need to know what your expectations for Dallington's future are, and you will find them to be committed to bringing community together to find out what you think has been missing or could be improved. You get one chance at participation, before the rebuilders' attention goes elsewhere, so be ready to attend, contribute your thoughts and a little of your time to building a new Dallington. Come to their next meeting and connect with a friendly bunch of Dallingtonites and join in the community looking at life in Dallington after the rebuilders have gone.

**Linda Stewart
Chairperson**

Kidsfirst Kindergarten

Kidsfirst Kindergarten is in Ajax St in the north-east area of our great suburb. The head teacher is Janette Bowen, very ably assisted by Sue, Lorraine, Marie and Michaela.

From time to time to time the centre is visited by the Education Service Manager, a fully qualified former head teacher, who provides professional assistance and resources to the Kindy and the teachers.

One way you can assist them, which would be much appreciated, is to collect up your magazines, film canisters, fabric and, when you visit the beach, collect some driftwood and shells.

They would love you to make contact with them for any information or a visit – 'phone 385.1598. If you can help them financially they would be very thankful.

GAYHURST DAIRY

The corner store on the
McBratneys & Gayhurst Roads
roundabout

Open:

Mon. - Fri. 7.30am – 8.00pm

Sat. 8.00am – 8.00pm

Sun. 9.00am – 7.00pm

Phone Kay or Queenie on 982 1723

LOCAL EVENTS

The Art group Jayne (Ph. 942 1239) has started teaching again in the last week. New participants are welcome.

The Friendship group is still operating. It is for people of all ages who want to meet up for social outings. The group meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 1.30pm at the Burwood Park Tennis Club. If you would like to find out more then please give Shirley a call on phone 385-3843, call into the Community Centre/Shop, or come along (gold coin donation).

The Community Centre Craft shop is open again. Please call into the shop or call Jan on phone 942-6825 if you are interested in exhibiting your creations or assisting with the running of the store. All are most welcome to come in for a browse, shop or just a chat and there is always tea and coffee out the back. It is a great way to meet people and make friends.

The shop at 46 McBratneys Road is being staffed by a limited number of volunteers who are doing longer shifts than normal to keep the shop open. Normally, volunteers work in shifts of either 10.30am to 1.30pm or 1.30pm to 4.30pm but with reduced supporters in the area at present some helpers are there from 10.30am to 3.30pm so if you have a free afternoon and would like to go on the roster your support will be much appreciated.

The Walking group is up and running, a little smaller as some of the regular walkers are currently out of their homes. If you would like to get out for a stroll then why not join the group for a walk or even just a coffee. You can contact Anton on Ph. 942-8692 for more information. We look forward to meeting you.

The Shirley Service Centre is still closed due to earthquake damage however Linwood and Papanui are open. For details about the Service Centres: call 941 8999.

Oscar an out-of-school care and recreation programme for five to 13 year olds is held at Banks Avenue Primary School.

If interested, please telephone Christine on mobile 027 438 2604

Scouting - The scout den in Halberg Street is the venue for the following scouting activities. New members are welcome:

Keas (6-8 yrs) Wed. 6.15-7.15 pm

Cubs (8-10.5 yrs) Thurs. 6.30-8.00 pm

Scouts (10.5-15 yrs) Mon. 7-9 pm

Venturers (14.5-18 yrs (Tue. 7-9 pm

For more details call Chris on Ph. 371 9126 (work) or mobile 027 471 5619.

Gentle Exercise Class - Due to earthquake damage to the venue this class is suspended for the immediate future.

If you have been missing your home delivery of **The Star** copies are available at local corner dairies.

Additional copies of **this newsletter** are available at the Community Shop, which is open again. Drop by and pick one up if you know of an absent neighbour or friend who would like to keep up with what is happening in their area.

WATCH THIS SPACE!!

A website is being set up for Dallington Residents' Association. This will be YOUR website for you to contribute to, or to find information from.

Avonview Retirement Village

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105 Locksley Ave
Ph: 389 7131

Action needed

The Dallington Residents' Association welcomes suggestions and invites participation in its activities. Residents are encouraged to ring committee members with suggestions or when further information is required.

Letters and items of local interest are also welcome for this publication.

Make a point of playing a part in this vibrant expression of a friendly community.

Burwood Park Tennis Club

Cresswell Avenue
Seniors: Alice 383-3876
Juniors: Viv 381-6585

Why are we the best tennis club in the city?

JOIN NOW

- We have friendly, social and competitive members, catering for all ages and abilities.
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