



Community

2ND QUARTER 2007

News

PEAK-TIME BUS PROBLEM

On a recent afternoon an elderly woman who was dependent on a walking frame, was waiting to board an Orbiter bus at *The Palms*. School was out and a number of students were milling about. The woman seemed to be near the front of the queue but when the bus drew up the driver stopped at a different spot.

By the time the woman reached the door the bus was crowded with students who had pushed on ahead of her. The driver was left with little alternative than to ask her to wait for the next bus. When we suggested this wasn't fair he replied, "Life's like that." But life doesn't need to be like that!

One redeeming feature for this elderly man was that a Marian College student gave up her seat for him.

Bus drivers are usually obliging and will often delay departure from a stop until all are seated. Kneeling buses have made it much easier for the elderly and for parents with prams, though distant kerbs can be a problem when alighting from buses. New bus shelters are well designed but why do they prove so attractive to those bent on doing wilful damage?

Gardens recognised

Community Pride Garden Awards have been presented by the Burwood Pegasus Community Board for a number of years. These annual awards are given to those who take a genuine pride in the layout and presentation of their gardens. Gardens do not need to be to competition standard. They should simply show that the gardener has given some thought and care to preparation and appearance and that the garden enhances the appearance of the street and neighbourhood. The garden also needs to be visible from the street.

This year the Burwood Pegasus Community Board introduced two new categories - one for sustainable gardens and the other for coastal gardens. The Board wished to recognise the challenges faced by keen gardeners who live in the coastal zone -

particularly where the soil is light and sandy. Criteria for coastal gardens include a well-maintained garden where there has been a good use of wind shelter, effective plant placement schemes and the selection of healthy plants. The sustainable garden award recognises gardens that promote such things as minimal use of chemicals, water conservation, organic waste practices and companion planting.

There were five awards presented for the new categories and the Board is hopeful that there will be more nominations in the future, as gardeners become aware of these criteria. There were 21 recipients of awards in the Dallington area.

Glenda Burt,
Chair,

Burwood Pegasus Community Board

DALLINGTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION Annual General Meeting

7.00 pm, Tuesday, 22 May 2007

at the Shirley Rugby Club Rooms, Burwood Park.

Committee members can be nominated from the floor while office bearers will be elected at the first meeting of the new committee.

Guest Speaker: Megan Woods

Megan is a candidate for the Christchurch City Mayoralty.

This is an open meeting and all are welcome

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 (Bill Allott), Dallington Community News, 5 Locksley Avenue, Christchurch 8006 (Tel. 389 1816).

DALLINGTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Chairperson: Richard Alderson (Tel. 386 1145)

Secretary: Beryl Starr (Tel. 385 1457)

Treasurer: Mary Tamplin. (Tel. 385 1044)

Members: Bill Allott, Anton Korunic, Barbara Seaton,
Tony Winder John Mulvaney.

Hon Lianne Dalziel MP for Christchurch East



**Contact Lianne
at the
Christchurch
East Electorate
Office**

317 Pages Rd,
Aranui
Ph. 382 0288
Fax 382 0275



Email: lianne.dalziel.mp@xtra.co.nz

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NEW
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COMMUNITY NOTICES

OSCAR

An out-of school care and recreation programme for five to 13 year olds at Banks Avenue Primary School. If interested, please telephone Christine on 0274 382 604.

Dallington Townswomen

This group meets at the Burwood Park Tennis Pavilion at 1.30pm on the fourth Thursday each month. New members are welcome. For further details ring Val (Tel. 389 4466).

Dallington Friends

A group for all ages, called "Dallington Friends", meets on the third Tuesday each month at 1.30pm at the Biddick Court Hall in Claydon Place. For more information contact Shirley on Tel. 385 3843, call in to the Community Centre or come along (gold coin donation).

Walking Group

A walking group meets outside the Community Centre/Shop every Monday at 10.00am. Walks are arranged in the local area and last about an hour. To join this group all you have to do is turn up.

Art Classes

Every Monday 1.00pm to 3.00pm at Biddick Court in Claydon Place. For more information please ring Jayne on Tel. 942 1239.

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Some additional copies of this Community News are available at the Community Centre/Shop.

Test your local knowledge

Which Dallington Street is named after these athletes?

1. He won a bronze medal for the 100 metres sprint at the Paris Olympics in 1924.
2. He was the second to break the four-minute mile barrier and later became Governor of the Australian state of Victoria.
3. In 1960 he won the 5,000 metres race at the Rome Olympics.
4. He is the only person to win the 800 and 1,500 metres at the same Olympics, at Tokyo in 1964 and was voted NZ's *Sports Champion of the (20th) Century*.
5. In the 1936 Berlin Olympics he became the first NZ athlete to win a gold medal.
6. He was the World Sculling Champion from 1908 – 12 and again in 1921.

See answers below

DALLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE/SHOP

The Dallington Community Centre sponsors friendship, gardening, walking and art groups. Inside are displayed community notices and a local history presentation.

Its Craft shop has a wonderful range of cards, knitted goods, children's clothes and uniforms, ceramics, pictures, garden signs and plants, jewellery, dolls and toys, bags, cushions, pots, dolls' clothes and novelties.

Crafts people with work on sale are willing to teach others how to do their crafts.

**For more information just
call in.**

Quiz Answers: 1. Porritt Place (Arthur Porritt), 2. Landy Street (John Landy), 3. Halberg Street (Murray Halberg), 4. Snell Place (Peter Snell), 5. Lovelock Place (Jack Lovelock), 6. Arnst Place (Richard Arnst).

Toy library provides low-cost service

It looks like a house but it's an Aladdin's Cave. There's plenty to delight children in the Burwood Toy Library at 16 New Brighton Road. This toy library started about 15 years ago inside the old Burwood book library, situated over the road from the Burwood Primary School. It took over about a third of the floor space with the remainder being used as a play centre when the book library closed. About five years ago it was recognised that the toy library needed more space and a search began for alternative accommodation. Three years ago the library moved into its current setting.

Chris Jelley, the Administrative Officer of the toy library said, "We were extremely fortunate to have a lot of help from Gail Sheriff (our local City Councillor) who helped put us in touch with Glen Percasky who partly owns the property we're in. We thank Gail for her support and Glen for making the property available and habitable for our use." The toy library leases the property from Bildeford Holdings Ltd.

There's an 18-vehicle car park behind the dark grey, stuccoed bungalow that houses the library. Access is through a child-proof gate and up a ramp to the back door.

Chris said, "We aim to provide a low-cost toy lending service to families within the area and to grandparents who may be looking after children for short periods of time. We recognise that play is extremely important in the development of children as through play they acquire and reinforce different skills."

There's an extensive range of toys and children often come with a parent to the library and "they have a ball" making a choice. Some parents prefer to surprise their children with a new toy when they wake up of a morning.

In the library there's sports equipment and construction sets, ride-on toys, puzzles and games. Toys are available to help with tactile and pretend play, and water and music play. There are items to stimulate infant development, along with edu-

cational aids, audio-visual material, craft sets and scientific equipment. Birthday party items can also be hired.

Currently there are 160-180 members and there's room for more. New members are welcome and are encouraged to come in during opening hours to look around and get a feel for the place before committing to membership. They can join up as long as they have some ID with them.

There's a basic membership fee of \$25.00 a year and it's expected that members will help with fund-raising and assist in the library a few times. Parents can opt out of these activities by paying a higher membership fee. Grandparent membership is \$15.00 for ten visits over a three-year period. Members can borrow up to four toys on a fortnightly basis and they pay \$1.00-3.00 hire fee per toy. The committee also makes available a number of sponsored memberships each year, for families who may not be able to afford the fee but would really benefit from the service offered.

To help pay the rent the Burwood Toy Library makes drawstring plastic bags for storing toys. These are used in the library and sold to parents and other toy libraries. Three fund-raising events are held each year. Recent events have been a successful movie evening and an auction at the Burwood Community Fair. Chocolates, cookies and pies have also been sold. A themed recipe book is planned for later in the year and recipes are currently being collected.

Each toy library is a separate entity and many belong to the national Toy Library Federation. Included in the Federation's operations is a toy-buying service that can provide high quality, educational toys not always available through toyshops. There's a national conference every second year with an Annual General Meeting and a small mini-workshop in the years between conferences. About 230 toy libraries belong to the Federation. There are 32 toy libraries in greater Christchurch and these are

strongly represented in the current officers of the Federation. The Christchurch City Council is very supportive of toy libraries, helping in finding venues and providing grants.

Toys are usually purchased from income derived from fees, grants and fund-raising. Occasionally people donate toys that are no longer required by their children.

An employed librarian is on duty for every session the library is open. There's also a small volunteer parent committee that helps with management and employs the librarians. Its president is Jenny Heslop-Brown.

The Burwood Toy Library is open Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 9.30-11.30am and Wednesday evenings from 6.30-8.00pm. April to November is its busiest time.

Toy Library Contact details

Burwood Toy Library,
PO Box 27 092, Christchurch

Administrative Officer:
Tel. 383 2920

President: Tel. 354 9642

Email:
burwoodtoylibrary@hotmail.com

Action needed

The Dallington Residents' Association welcomes 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. We would also like to strengthen the DRA Committee. It meets in the Community Centre on the second Tuesday of each month at 6.30 pm. Interested residents are encouraged to ring the Chairperson or to attend the AGM on Tuesday, 22 May 2007.

Buildings link back to early settlement

There's a garden shed at the back of 253 Locksley Avenue that has changed little for more than 100 years except for being moved back 25 metres in 1962. It was originally a coach house and it's still easy to visualise its coach room, stables and harness room. The ceiling of the coach room still has remnants of padding installed to protect the top of the coach. It was obviously a tight squeeze.

This coach house was probably served by a lane from New Brighton Road that can still be seen today to the east of the Discount Foodmarket. Some imagination is needed as houses now straddle the end of the lane but a projection of it leads to the vicinity of the coach house. A 1929 map shows that sub-division ended at this lane with open farmland beyond it down to the river.

The coach house belonged to a nearby house that also still exists, although it's been radically altered. This house, at 257 Locksley Avenue, is still called *Locksley*. It was built as a gabled single-story colonial house but now has a totally different roofline with the addition of a first story and an attic. It stood in grand

isolation on the bank of the Avon River (see photo below) and to its left was a small chapel. Other houses have now been built in front of it.

The *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography* notes that a Joseph Palmer sold the Avonside home, *Locksleys*, in 1866. He is described as a banker and runholder who had arrived in Lyttelton in 1856 where he was appointed manager of the Union Bank of Australia. He opened an agency of the bank in Christchurch in November 1856 and rode over the Bridle Path twice a week to service it. Palmer moved to Christchurch in November 1859 as manager of its Union Bank branch and was then appointed Chief First Officer of the bank in 1871. In 1874 he sold 120,000 acres he had acquired on the upper Rakaia River.

Palmer, who was 83 when he died in 1910, was buried in the Barbados Street cemetery. Its records say that he owned a large block of land to the south of New Brighton Road from the modern Locksley Avenue through to Gayhurst Road. In this record his home is called *Locksley* and it's noted that Locksley Avenue was named after it.

Joseph Palmer was a pillar of Canterbury Society and was careful in his financial overlordship, which put him at odds with free-spending W.S. Moorhouse, the Superintendent of the Provincial Government. Palmer held many public offices and was a vestryman at St Michael's Anglican Church.

There may be Dallington Residents who can provide further information about these buildings and the lane that may have serviced them. If so please contact the Editor of the Community News on Tel. 389 1816

Questions that still need answers are: when was *Locksley* built and by whom; is anything known about the chapel; who was the property sold to in 1866; what is its subsequent history: is the coach house the oldest surviving, unaltered building in Dallington?
WJA

This early 1900s view shows the house, *Locksley*, with its coach house on the left. At the right is seemingly a small chapel. Locksley Avenue was still unformed though a horse and gig can be seen using a track along the river.

