



Community News

4TH QUARTER 2007

Villas under construction at Avonview

The Avonview Retirement Village in Locksley Avenue is currently expanding with the construction of 10 two-bedroom villas. These will augment the 44-bed rest home and 24 serviced studios and apartments of the present village. The additional villas will be ready for occupation the first week in May 2008.

Each villa will have an internal access garage. Occupants will be able to take advantage of an emergency nurse call service and security will be ensured, including the provision of night patrols. They will also be able to enjoy, if they so desire, activities and entertainment provided by the rest home.

Manager, Grant Buchanan, says that five villas have already been sold. As with all such provision surrender terms and a service charge apply. Landscaping around the villas will complement and enhance existing gardens in a tranquil setting with views of the Avon River.

Situated at the end of Kerrs Reach these villas are in an ideal setting for observing boating and other river activity.

Avon river plants unwelcome

This is the time of the year when yellow flag irises (*iris pseudacorus*) adorn the banks of the lower reaches of the Avon River. They shouldn't be there! It may surprise some to learn that this plant is classified as an unwanted organism and cannot be sold, propagated or distributed within New Zealand. However, existing plants in private gardens don't have to be removed but gardeners are required to take special care to responsibly dispose of all such plant material.

Owen Southen, Senior Contract Manager (Land Drainage), says that yellow flag irises are so invasive that they have the potential to become a major intrusion into a waterway. Their presence on Kerrs Reach adversely affects key whitebait spawning areas and impedes recreational use. Maintenance to date has been

restricted to "topping" (removal) of flower heads and some removal of plants. Regrowth has also been addressed.

These measures have proved inadequate and within the last month resource consent has been obtained to allow a managed programme of weed eradication using herbicide on Canterbury waterways. This treatment has proved effective in dealing with yellow flag irises in Hamilton City's Lake Rotoroa.

Spraying may commence shortly in the vicinity of the rowing course but the main effort will be delayed to the autumn as that time of the year has proved the most effective for this purpose. In conjunction with the spraying programme, bank erosion issues will be addressed through toe stabilisation work and replacement planting.

Bus stop upgrade requested

The Burwood / Pegasus Community Board has supported a proposal from the Dallington Residents' Association that the bus stop at 26 New Brighton Road should be upgraded. This stop serves Orbiter, Metrostar and route 70 buses and is a transfer point for route 60 buses. With 200 buses each day this bus stop is a significant alighting point for *The Palms* for Dallington and New Brighton Residents.

It is hoped that a bus shelter will be erected and the surrounding area sealed. The existing seat may be resited at another Dallington bus stop. The Association is indebted to P. A. J. Haythornthwaite for bringing this matter to its attention.

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

Acting 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

WE HAVE MOVED



Contact Lianne
at the
Christchurch East
Electorate Office

126 New Brighton
Mall
Ph. 382 0288
Fax 382 0275



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

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NEW
MEMBER**

COMMUNITY NOTICES

SHIRLEY SERVICE CENTRE

For community information and details of City services your local Christchurch City Council Services Centre is located in the Library at 36 Marshlands Road by The Palms. Tel. 941 8999

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

SEW FINE

"I will be relocating to Belfast at the end of the year. Thank you to all the people I've met in business here."

Cath Stevens, 201 Locksley Avenue,
Dallington, Christchurch. Ph. 385 6676.
Email: sewfine@xtra.co.nz

Birchfield Gallery and Framing

45 Birchfield Avenue
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Come and view a selection of oil paintings by local artists or bring your own painting to be framed on site by an experienced framer. Layby and gift vouchers are available

Thank you to our advertisers for
their help with costs.

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

Plan to be at Festival launch

Last year a large crowd gathered to share in carol singing to launch our Festival of Lights. Plan to be present this year at 6.00pm on Thursday, 6 December. The venue is the Halberg Street Reserve and this has been a fine setting for this event.

We encourage you to attend this launching and to participate in the festival by lighting up your house or garden for the enjoyment of residents and people passing through the suburb.

There are generous prizes and entry forms can be obtained from the Community Centre/Shop on the roundabout, or by ringing Richard Alderson on Tel. 386 1145. We are grateful to the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board, Gayhurst Pharmacy, Gayhurst Mart and Bambi Drapery for their support of this festival.

Our first Festival of Lights was launched in 2000 so this is the eighth year we have celebrated in this way. Even if you don't enter the competition we encourage you to add to the festivity with lights and decorations.

For further details see the poster on the back page.

The Dallington Residents' Association Committee

meets at 6.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month from February to November. An annual general meeting is held in May each year.

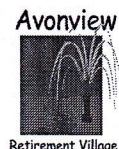
Agenda items can be submitted through any committee member and other residents are always welcome.

Avonview Retirement Village

With independent studios and apartments together with a 44-bed rest home we can provide a high level of care and security.

Come and inspect
at any time.

**105 Locksley Ave.
Tel. 389 7131**



Thirty years given to public service

It's 30 years since Don Rowlands was first elected to the Christchurch City Council as a North Ward representative. He had two terms on the Council and then had a break until 1992 while his children were young. He was then elected to the Burwood / Pegasus Community Board but decided not stand again in the recent local elections. This brought to an end a long association with Dallington.

At the age of 29 Don became a councillor in the days before they were paid a salary. Council met in the Manchester Street Civic Offices and councillors were thrilled to move into the spacious Millers building in Tuam Street. Don served as chairman of the Community Services Committee. A thing he is most proud of is the development of a policy for community-based childcare. Christchurch led the way in this and in an innovative way its council set up policies and criteria for a very professional service that provides a framework that is still in place today. He was also a representative on the Metropolitan Refuse Committee and proposed the first recycling depots at transfer stations.

Don started school at Waltham Primary and was then second on the roll when a primary school opened at St Martins. It was like a country school for the first few years with all the pupils in one class. He then went to Cashmere High School. At Canterbury University he did a master's degree in history and English, and later, a further master's degree in education, counselling and psychology. Don has taught at Christchurch Boys High School and Hagley Community College.

He and his family moved to Dallington in 1986. They lived in Belfield Street and he recalls that it was a great place to bring up children. He saw the need for a Residents' Association in Dallington and helped to establish one in 1989. He was its first Chairperson.

Don's children went to the alternative Tamariki Primary School and then his three daughters attended

Avonside Girls High School and his son, Hagley Community College and Christchurch Boys High School. Don was born in Christchurch when his family lived at Woolston. His grandfather had settled in Estuary Road, New Brighton, in 1908, and Don has now moved back to the same area to live at Southshore. He

Don Rowlands recalls his long association with Dallington and its Residents' Association

revels in the environment of his home with a white-faced heron nesting in nearby macrocarpa trees and a view of the godwits on the Estuary. He recognises that residents of The Spit need to be prepared for possible tsunamis and has been instrumental in drawing up an evacuation plan for the area.

The ocean sewerage outfall has caused some local debate but Don now feels positive about this project. "Getting the ammonia out of the Estuary was an important step in improving water quality and discharging it three kilometres out, with the diluting effect of the salt water, was a good move by Council. The fear residents had for the dig-and-lay option for the pipeline disappeared with a tunnel now well underground. It's been a superb project using great technology."

A part-time job for Don is working as a family counsellor for the Home and Family Society. This organisation celebrates its centenary next year. He works with couples and sorts out parenting agreements and says it's a privilege to be involved in the lives of people in this way.

When asked what drives him Don said, "I guess I'm an idealist. I'm driven by a vision of a better society that has good values. I've always believed in local government because collectively we can achieve far more than we can by individual effort or the free market."

His father was a great influence. "He worked for the Christchurch Drainage Board as a drainlayer. On a Sunday afternoon he used to take me to see manholes - we'd have to call them "personholes" today! While other kids went to the beach, he would show me with pride the latest project he was working on. He thought he was part of a local government operation that was doing important work. He valued his work and would check up on things even on his day off. He was part of a great tradition in a great city and was typical of the City Council staff I have been involved with over the years."

A big part of community development is to empower people to do things for themselves. Don has been involved in setting up neighbourhood cottages in Richmond, Dallington and North Beach, and when he was chairperson of the Burwood / Pegasus Community Board, he fought for the refurbishment of the North New Brighton Community Centre and the location of a Community Board Room in New Brighton. He edited the South Shore History Book and earlier in the 1970s led a campaign to stop the proposed four-lane northern motorway going through the heart of St Albans.

Don has promoted environmental issues in the district and is a past member of the Travis Wetland Trust and was a Council representative on the Ihutai Trust for the Avon Heathcote Estuary.

Community Boards in Christchurch represent a population of a medium-sized city like Invercargill or Rotorua. There are 54,000 people in the Burwood / Pegasus area. Don said, "With the Community Board now reduced to seven members its involvement is spread very thinly. There's been a change of approach from City Council in Tuam Street in terms of community development. There's less officer involvement, which is very sad, and many of the most experienced employees with local and institutional wisdom and

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Thirty years given to public service

knowledge have been lost to the Council. There's been something of a setback over the last three years but there are good new people coming through." Don feels that council standing committees need to be reinstated. He said, "It is sad to see community boards reduced to mere side-shows in district life rather than being the hub of social and environmental activity."

As Community Board Chairperson Don regarded Residents' Associations as being very important. He established a pattern for Residents' Associations to address the board each month and encouraged a representative board member to attend the regular meetings of Residents' Associations. "It's a critical partnership but it's harder to maintain with the smaller board."

In the recent election there was a major change of personnel elected to the Community Board. Don says that this is inevitable as voting patterns prove that when candidates stand for both council and board the vote is split. So any board members opting for council tend to stand down from the board with the result that good members are lost.

Having time for grandchildren is top of Don's list of things to do. He wants to make sure that he doesn't lose their growing years. He also hopes to focus more on his counselling and the mediation work he does at the Family Court. There's also a plan to do some travel writing. He and his wife, Olive, will shortly visit their World Vision child in Tanzania as guests of the Bishop of Western Tanzania.

Dallington Community Centre *Craft and Cake Stall*

Thursday, 30 November from 10.00am

"This your opportunity to buy Christmas presents and stocking fillers. We will be celebrating our fourth birthday, so come and join us"

46A McBratneys Road, Dallington

Light up Dallington Carol singing to launch **Festival of Lights**

at the Halberg Street Reserve, near the
Scout Hall, at 3 Halberg Street, on
Thursday, 6 December from 6.00pm.

Features include:

A gold coin Sausage Sizzle by and for the Scouts

The Balloon Man with a Bouncy Castle

A Linwood Salvation Army Brass Group

Sponsored by local businesses, the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board and the Dallington Residents' Association



Residents are encouraged to attend and to plan now to decorate houses and gardens this December. Entry forms for the *Light Up* competition can be obtained up to 11 December from the Community Centre or by ringing Richard Alderson on Tel. 386 1145.

The Dallington Residents' Association acknowledges, with thanks, the support of the community and wishes all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.