



Community News

2ND QUARTER 2009

Crime and recreation to be featured at meeting

In our last issue we introduced the possibility of an adult play facility in a park in our area. The Dallington Residents' Association has been encouraged by the generally positive response to its recent survey. On the strength of this support it has presented a proposal for Burwood Park to be considered by the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board.

Oversighted by Grant McLeod (Recreation Planning Advisor, CCC Greenspace) such equipment has already been installed at Wycola

Park, Hei Hei, and Grant Armstrong Park, Bishopdale. Grant has been invited to address a residents' meeting in Dallington (see promotion below) to update us concerning the success of these installations and the possibility of a placement in a setting in eastern Christchurch.

About this time last year *The Press* conducted a survey that revealed that, "compared with five years ago, 65 per cent of Cantabrians feel less safe than they used to". Our residents' meeting will also be addressed by Community Constable Keith Payne

who will talk about our local scene and answer questions.

At this residents' meeting we will also hold the Annual General Meeting of the Association. There will be a brief annual report and committee members will be confirmed and elected. Our current committee members, most of whom are willing to stand again, represent most parts of our area with the exception of the north-eastern sector. Office bearers will be appointed at the first subsequent meeting of the committee.

How safe are we?

Community Constable Keith Payne

Adults at play!

Grant Armstrong - Recreation Planner

Come and hear these interesting speakers at

The DALLINGTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Residents' Meeting & AGM

7.30 pm, Tuesday, 26 May 2009

in the O'Regan room, St Paul's Church Presbytery, Gayhurst Road

***** All Welcome *****

*****Wheelchair Access*****

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 8061 (Tel. 389 1816).

DALLINGTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Chairperson: Anton Korunic (942 8692)

Secretary:

Treasurer: Mary Tamplin. (Tel. 385 1044)

Members: Barbara Seaton, Bill Allott, Tony Winder
John Mulvaney, Phillip Haythornthwaite, Selwyn Eagle
Richard Alderson

Community Board Representative: Linda Stewart

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 in and inspect at any time.

105 Locksley Ave.
Tel. 389 7131

BAMBI DRAPERY & SCHOOL UNIFORMS

PRIMARY, INTERMEDIATE AND HIGH SCHOOL QUALITY UNIFORMS AT LOW PRICES. CAN BE MADE TO MEASURE. LAYBY NOW.

WIDE RANGE OF KNITTING WOOLS AND SEWING SUPPLIES.

WHY GO ACROSS TOWN?
CHECK WITH US FIRST.

Cnr. Woodham Rd. and
Gloucester St. Ph. 389 9583

GAYHURST MART

The corner store on the
McBratneys/Gayhurst
Road roundabout

Open seven days a week.
Phone Jim on
Tel. 385 1394.

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.

**\$150
NEW
MEMBER**

- We have friendly, social and competitive members, catering for all ages and abilities.
- We have modern clubrooms and facilities with seven courts, astrograss and plexipave.
- We have lights for nighttime tennis.

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 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.

Scouting

The scout den in Halberg Street is the venue for the following scouting activities. New members are welcome.
Keas (6-8 yrs) Wed. 6.15-7.15pm
Cubs (8-10.5 yrs) Thurs. 6.30-8 pm
Scouts (10.5-15 yrs) Mon. 7-9 pm
Venturers (14.5-18 yrs) Tue. 7-9 pm
For more details email
chris.chapman@harcourts.co.nz

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

Burwood Indoor Bowls

From April to September the club meets on Wednesday evenings at 7.15 pm in the Burwood Park Bowling Club Pavilion on New Brighton Road. For more information please ring Bob Burnett on Tel. 942 9662

Have you noticed the extension of the Avon River pathway from Avonview to the Snells Place bridge?

Thank you to our advertisers for their help with costs.

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

The Dallington Residents' Association Committee meets in the Community Centre at 6.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Residents are welcome.

DALLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE / SHOP

The Monday walking group continues to meet outside the shop at 10.00am. Anyone interested in having a walk around Dallington should contact Anton. After the walk the group calls in at the shop to share a "cuppa" and just sit and chat. This is a great way of getting to know Dallington. Participating provides the opportunity to get out in the fresh air and best of all, get some exercise.

The painting group still continues to meet at Biddick Court. We have a lovely group of mixed ages and abilities and everyone gets on just fine. The venue is really nice and comfortable and is in lovely garden surroundings. We paint mainly in acrylics but with some pastels thrown in. This term we will be having workshops using Panpastels, which are a new form of flat pastel, and instead of a brush or finger we will use sponges as applicators. The group meets on Monday at 1.00pm. If you are interested please phone Jayne on 942 1239.

The friendship group continues to meet on the third Tuesday of the month. The April meeting was a little different when folks were treated to high afternoon tea, using the best china. Shirley is the president and daughters were the waitresses. Shirley reports that her phone has been red hot with people wanting to say how much they enjoyed being pampered.

The May Friends meeting was on Tuesday, 19 May. The group went to Caddyshack City for a game of crazy golf and a lot of fun, followed by afternoon tea.

The June meeting will be held at Biddick Court and will be a popular "Soup and Bingo" afternoon. This is a wonderful way to make new friends and to meet people living in the area. The Friends group arranges lovely outings - the emphasis is on having fun and making friends. So if you are interested phone Shirley on Tel. 385 3843. **Jayne**

Plunket clinic opened in North Parade

The Royal New Zealand Plunket Society (Inc) opened a new clinic on North Parade on 4 August 2008 following 18 months of preparation that included a resource consent process and a refurbishment of the property. Plunket had previously run a small clinic in London Street, Richmond, and another larger clinic at St Albans. The work of these two clinics is now amalgamated in the new clinic in a house in the vicinity of *The Palms* that's rented from the Housing Corporation of New Zealand.

The clinic in North Parade serves families from Richmond, Mairehau, Shirley and the part of Dallington north of McBratneys Road. The southern portion of Dallington is served by a clinic in Linwood/Avonside. At the new clinic there's limited parking at the front of the bungalow style building. Inside there's a large lounge that's used for groups and parent education and other rooms that are used for smaller consultations. At the back there's a well-appointed playroom with an adjoining playground.

There are two Plunket nurses working out of the clinic, one community Karitane nurse, paid facilitators for education groups and an administrator.

Plunket is an approved provider of Well Child checks. In the first five years of life children are entitled to eight free health visits under the Government's Well Child / Tamariki Ora service. These visits aim to give children the best start in protecting against illness, detecting problems and providing support. First time parents are entitled to another four free visits with a Community Karitane or Maori Health worker.

Christine Lake is the Plunket Society's NZ Councillor for Canterbury and head of its volunteers. She says, "We estimate that about 120 families come each week to the North Parade building for Well Child checks, parent education, first food groups, support groups and volunteer-run play groups that are held on two mornings a week. Volunteers also help in pro-

viding some basic things like supplies for morning and afternoon teas. Young families are the primary focus rather than just mothers and babies. Sometimes it's the Dad that brings the child along."

The Plunket Society has two divisions – clinical services that provide the Well Child checks and a volunteer arm. Christine says, "My role is to talk about Plunket and advocate for Plunket in the community and also to make sure that the 50 or so volunteer committees in Canterbury are well run and adhere to good governance principles."

Well Child checks are funded through a contract with the Government and this provides 70% of the Society's income nationally. Other income comes through sponsorship, grants and volunteer funding activities. There's also an annual public appeal that raises \$100,000 in Canterbury. All of this money raised in Canterbury is used in the province. One of the good things about not being fully government funded is that additional programmes that are important to volunteers can be delivered. In Canterbury, for example, \$50,000 is spent each year on parenting education.

A car seat rental scheme operates from central office in Twigger Street, Addington. Christine says, "Every family from our 16 satellites has access to good, safe, low-cost car seats. Nowadays everybody recognizes that young children should be restrained. Modern research suggests that children should stay in their booster seats until they are 1.48 metres tall, which is quite a lot bigger than a five-year-old."

Plunket advocates for the introduction of universal parenting education at high school level. It has developed a Tots and Toddlers programme for year twelve level where its facilitators go into schools to give instruction on play, sleep and feeding. Canterbury schools have very good parenting programme through the co-operation of many principals and

head teachers. NZQA credits are now on offer for this instruction.

Plunket introduced a free telephone service in 1994 but government funding was withdrawn a couple of years ago. "Plunket decided that it was such an important service that we would continue to fund it, although unfortunately at the reduced hours of 7.00am to midnight each day," comments Christine. "But I am delighted to say the current government has funded the reinstatement of the 24-hour service."

Sir Frederick Truby King established the Plunket Society in Dunedin in 1907. Its objective was to lower infant mortality by providing care and information to mothers of infant babies. It was named after the wife of the then Governor General, Lady Victoria Plunket, who became the first patron of the society. She was the mother of eight. The following year a Plunket Society was formed in Christchurch so the opening of the new local clinic marks one hundred years of service to families in the City.

SHIRLEY POLICE OFFICE

On Monday, 27 April, the Shirley Police Office moved to a new setting. It is now situated in *The Palms* and can be accessed from the car park through a door under the northern overhead walkway.

**It is open weekdays
10.00am – 4.00pm.**

**The office was previously in a house at
8 New Brighton Road**

A decade of news

With this issue I complete ten years as editor of the Dallington Community News. The first issue I produced was dated June 1999 and at that point I had resided in Dallington for fourteen months following retirement from active service as a Salvation Army officer.

On the front page of that initial issue there was a report from Don Rowlands of the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board, a promotion of the Community Cottage and an announcement of a Logo Competition. We recognised the community service of Dorothy King who had been awarded a Queen's Service Medal in the New Years Honours for her service to scouting. There was also an article on the rich variety of wild life associated with the Avon River and an announcement that an art group had commenced for local artists.

Another key development, placed on record in this issue, was the formation of a steering committee on 26 May 1999 that marked the re-emergence of the Dallington Residents' Association. Three members of this committee are still actively involved in the Association. They are the first chairperson, Richard Alderson; the current chairperson, Anton Korunic; and Barbara Seaton. Other original members were Rochelle Beattie (secretary), Susan Doyle, Bee Bryant and Annette Wilks.

Over the years we have promoted the activities of the Community Centre in its various forms and settings. It operates as an independent Trust and its present craft shop is well-supported by local artists, craftspeople and volunteers.

The tyranny of the blank page is the constant challenge for a community news editor. Dallington is geographically well-defined. It's almost an island in the way it's bounded on three sides by a loop in the Avon River. However, it has no obvious focus and few strong institutions. People reside here but go elsewhere to shop, for education and to work. There's little local news. We have compensated by presenting

personal profiles and descriptions of community activities. Hopefully, this has engendered a sense of community in our readers. This News has also been a good vehicle for notifying developments and for reflecting relevant Council and Community Board interests.

As editor I have valued suggestions and contributions from residents. My only complaint is that there could be more help of this nature. Letters to the editor have never taken off and I seldom receive unsolicited copy. However a number of residents have pointed me in the direction of newsworthy stories and I am grateful for their assistance. It's been my privilege to meet many fine people in our locality. We live in a suburb we can have pride in.

Bill Allott

Endangered duck

Did you know that an endangered duck can be observed in the Dallington section of the Avon River? It's the New Zealand grey duck that's recently been added to the endangered species list. This duck is distinguished by a conspicuous black stripe from its bill through the eye on a light buff face. On its wing, and harder to observe, is a glossy green speculum with a white stripe on the lower margin (mallards have a shiny blue speculum). Male and female grey ducks look alike and are hard to differentiate.

This duck is not uncommon in Christchurch but pure "greys" could be heading for extinction in the next ten years. They are under threat from cross-breeding with introduced mallards. Limited bags can also be shot during the open season as shooters find it almost impossible to distinguish between "greys" and hen mallards.

Currently, there's no way of stopping grey ducks from interbreeding and many hybrid ducks can now be observed. Fortunately, strong populations of the species exist in other parts of the world, including Australia. There's probably little we can do about this threat but it may help if we treat surviving grey ducks with the respect they deserve.

ART GALLERY CELEBRATES ITS SIXTH BIRTHDAY

Brighton Gallery recently had an art exhibition/competition, to celebrate its sixth birthday and artists living in the Burwood/Pegasus area were invited to participate. There were 65 registrations in all and the exhibition attracted 1000 visitors who were asked to vote for the painting that they considered to be the best. There were also two independent judges who chose what they thought were the best paintings. Usually the judges and peoples' choices are totally different but this time they were identical.

Graeme Ritchie of Avondale won first prize with his *Pier Sunrise* and Steve Wells and Jayne Cummins were second equal. Steve's painting was called *Henry* and was of a rooster behind some actual netting as if he was in a hen house. Jayne's picture was called *Safe Harbour* and was of a boat in early morning light with reflections on the water and lots of grass.

Steve lives in Birchfield Ave where he and his wife, Jan, have a prize-winning garden. Steve also does picture framing and has his own studio in Birchfield Ave. Jayne has been involved at the Community Cottage since it first opened. For ten years she has also tutored weekly folk art classes that are now held at Biddick Court. Jayne is active at the Brighton Gallery and organised the exhibition.

To mark the anniversary a function was arranged for the opening of the exhibition. Don Rowlands was Master of ceremonies and Christchurch City Councillor, Chrissie Williams, and Lianne Dalziel MP cut a birthday cake.

RESIDENTS' MEETING

7.30 pm, Tuesday, 26 May 2009 in the O'Regan Room, St Paul's Church Presbytery, Gayhurst Road.

Put this date in your diary or calendar and plan to be there!