

Dallington

Community News

4th QUARTER 2010



Forty seconds that changed a suburb

The 7.1 earthquake on 4 September 2010 had a major impact on the area covered by this *News*. Fissures and liquefaction affected a large part of Dallington and a 30 kmh limit was imposed on many of its streets. Numerous portalos bear witness to a severely damaged sewerage system. The future of many houses is still to be determined. The following key components of our community will be affected for some time to come.

Dallington Bridge approach

Temporary repairs have been made to the northern approach to the Dallington Bridge. Permanent repair is unlikely to be attempted until a decision is made concerning the proposed underground retention dam that could extend along most of Dallington Terrace and on into Locksley Avenue from Dallington Bridge to Avonview Retirement Village. This dam might consist of a mixture of piles, poles and stones and be 10-20 metres wide and 5-10 metres deep.

Snells Place footbridge

A year or two ago this footbridge was reinforced to make it less vulnerable to a seismic event. It carries a 66kV power cable between the Bromley and Dallington (Coopers Road) substations. The bridge was damaged but remained secure and there was damage to its approaches at both ends. As there is a danger posed by the exposed live power cable it is closed to pedestrian traffic.

Avonview Retirement Village

After the quake the village was closed for three weeks as it did not have sewerage or water. Its studio units, apartments and independent villas were not affected and their 20 residents resumed their life in the village from 29 September. The rest

home building is unable to be repaired and will be demolished. Its 40 residents have been permanently relocated. There's a plan to rebuild this residential care facility within a year.

St Paul's School

Pupils temporarily moved to the Catholic Cathedral College on Monday 11 October, until the school is rebuilt. Most of the classrooms survived but the grounds were devastated by liquefaction. Only one building, that includes the school office, is likely to be saved. Rebuilding is expected to take up to two years and is dependent on the Earthquake Commission's geo-technical report clearing the site for use. Pupils were initially taught from a property in Champion Street. At the Catholic Cathedral College the 300 pupils of the school are using five unused classrooms, three relocatables and an old school hall. Some children are being bused to their new school setting.

St Paul's Church

There was major damage to the Church and its grounds. A demolition team knocked down the tower, on Monday, 18 October 2010. Sunday mass is being celebrated at 10.00 am at the Marian College Hall, 126 North Parade. The church office has been relocated to the school administration building on Gayhurst Road.

Cresswell Motors and Challenge Petrol Station

Petrol tanks were lifted in the forecourt and have since been removed. Buildings are damaged and may not be repaired. So it's highly unlikely that Cresswell Motors and the Challenge Petrol Station will reopen on the corner of Cresswell Avenue and New Brighton Road.

Windsor Court Motel

The motels only suffered minor cracking and some damage to plasterboard linings. The main house, that is the manager's residence and also contains the reception office, is unusable. Its piles were displaced and there is some structural damage. The motel was closed for four days until power, water and telephones were restored. There was no trouble with sewerage. Bookings were lost due to this closure and the cancellation of sporting events. The Windsor Court Motel is now fully functional.

Banks Avenue School

The school reopened on 13 September. Because of damage to the Medway Street walkbridge, that made it unusable, shuttle buses were arranged to carry pupils from Avonside Drive. They leave between 8.15am and 8.50am and return from 3.10pm. Parents were warned that it was much more challenging to drive on Banks Avenue in the vicinity of the school. Significant hazards resulted from the quake and a 30kmh restriction is in force.

Canterbury Rowing Association

The quake shut down rowing in Christchurch when training was discontinued on the Avon due to the contamination of the river. Some rowers relocated to Lake Hood in Ashburton, others to Pegasus Town north of Christchurch and some to Lyttelton Harbour, which is the only stretch of water in the city close enough for daily use by schoolchildren. Because of liquefaction issues the building shared by the Union and Canterbury clubs on the Avon River will probably be demolished and is unlikely to be rebuilt on the same site. Skiffs and oars are being stowed in back sections and sheds across the city.

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

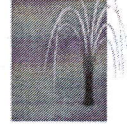
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NEW
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DALLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE / SHOP

Some years ago I painted a picture that I called "There is always hope". It was of lots of large stones with flames emerging. All this took up the whole canvas but just peeping through the stones were some little green shoots, showing that in the midst of all that heat, with no real soil to speak of, there is always a will to live and these little shoots bore witness to that.

I normally just write about the happenings at the Community Crafts Centre but felt I couldn't ignore something we have all experienced - the earthquake. It has brought a sense of unity and understanding to us. We're no longer stuck for conversation when we meet someone because we've all shared a major catastrophe and yet we have come through unharmed. It was a miracle that no-one was killed - yes a few were hurt but they were injured in the main rushing to get under a door or table (I just lay in bed and prayed that God would protect us and keep us safe - which He did). We all reacted differently to the quake - some prayed, some screamed, some shook and maybe some cursed, but even so, the experience has brought us all closer together and together we can get through all the after shocks.

Dallington has been particularly hard hit and there is talk of building a retention dam in the worst hit parts along the river. That will mean further upheaval but it's wonderful how the Government and Council are acting quickly to restore what they can. There have also been many wonderful volunteers.

We had the joy of a sewer leaking onto our pavement near the end of October. There had been a trickle for a couple of weeks prior to the big 'spill but we thought it was just water. We were left in no doubt in the end as to what it was as there was a big smelly lake of it. Once it was reported the Council were on to it like a shot and were working till 9.00pm that night, all day the next day and then they checked on it three times the following day. We were so grateful and impressed - every time our car went out it went through this lake and brought the smell back into the garage. It's all gone now and everywhere has been hosed down.

Some people have lost their homes and others have been badly damaged. They won't be fixed as quickly as our leak was but homes will be rebuilt or repaired and some with older homes will actually come off better in the end. So it just needs patience and understanding. We've none of us gone through anything like this before and our country has never experienced anything on this scale before. The quakes and shakes will stop. As a community we need to work together and keep on helping each other because we will come through this and ultimately be better for it.

In the meantime the Community Centre at the Craft Shop is open for business. As always we need more people who practice a craft to join in its activities. The Walking Group is still walking, the Friendship Group is still meeting and the Art Group is still painting. So if you would like to be more involved in this lovely suburb and get to meet the people in the area, please call in at the Craft Shop, 46a McBratneys Road OR contact one of the leaders of the activity you're interested in.

Jayne

For more information just call in at 46 McBratneys Road

**Burwood /Pegasus
Community Board Chair**
Congratulations to Linda Stewart on her election as Chairperson

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

The Dallington Residents' Association Committee meets at 7.00pm on the second Tuesday of each month at Trade Aid in Gayhurst Road.

Community the poorer without Father Miles O'Malley

Father Miles O'Malley, the parish priest of St Pauls Parish, Dallington, died at Christchurch Hospital on Wednesday, 25 August 2010. He had served the parish for 13 years.

Fr Miles was born in Christchurch in 1936 and received his schooling at Loreto and St Bede's Colleges before going on to study for the priesthood at Holy Name Seminary Christchurch and Holy Cross College, Mosgiel. In 1958 he was selected to complete his studies at the Urban College in Rome where he was ordained on 20 December 1961.

He spent his first few months as a priest in the Diocese of Rangiora. Subsequent appointments took him to Addington, to the Cathedral as secretary to Bishop Ashby, to Lincoln, to Greymouth, where he began as Police Chaplain, back to the Cathedral, this time as Administrator, to Sockburn and then, his last appointment, to Dallington in 1997.

Other roles included Membership of the Music section of the Diocesan Liturgy Commission (1969), representation of the NZ Catholic Bishops on the then National Council of Churches (1969), and membership of the National Commission for Ecumenism. In 1995, Fr. Miles spent eight months at the Holy Spirit Ukrainian Greek Catholic Seminary in Lviv, Ukraine, and a little later was appointed Episcopal Vicar for Ukrainian Rite Catholics in New Zealand. In 1997 he renewed contact with the NZ Police by accepting the chaplaincy to Canterbury District. He was also chaplain to Burwood Hospital, Marian College and St Pauls Primary School.

Back in 2000 Fr. Miles was interviewed for the Dallington Commu-

nity News in anticipation of the Golden Jubilee of St Pauls Parish in February 2001. In enunciating his vision for the church, he said, "One of my concerns is that I direct the minds and thoughts of the parishioners out into the community where we live. We have tended in the past to be a ghetto church. We have attended to the business of worship, education and the looking after our own Catholic interests and way of life. We now need to live and preach the gospel in a whole variety of forms so that the Kingdom of god is extended in this area. The missionary nature of the gospel is part of my vision. If we believe it is true for ourselves we must also believe it is true for others."

There was a most memorable farewell to Fr Miles at St Pauls church on Sunday evening, 29 August. This was attended by Bishop Barry Jones. Members of the congregation had an opportunity to tell stories about Fr Miles. The following morning his body was taken from the church and this was the final time the church was used before the earthquake happened early the following Saturday morning. Fr O'Malley's funeral at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday 31 August was attended by about 1000 people and was one of the biggest held at the Cathedral.

Graeme and Norah Southorn say, "He is sadly missed by his parishioners and many friends in the Dallington community. Fr. Miles is remembered for his priestly ministry, lively personality, hospitality, generosity and good humour. His love of the Liturgy was a special gift and St Pauls parishioners and St Paul's School children have many memories of him to cherish. May he rest in peace."

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 Mobile 027 438 2604.

Dallington Friends

A group for all ages, called "Dallington Friends", meets on the third Tuesday each month at 1.30pm at the Burwood Park Tennis Club. 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 the Burwood Park Tennis Club. 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. 6.30-8pm

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

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

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.

Message from the Editor

For 12 years we've lived in a delightful setting on the bank of the Avon River in Locksley Avenue. Our peaceful life was shattered by the 4 September quake and our house appears to be damaged beyond repair. As a direct result we will be relocating away from Dallington and it's with regret that I resign from the Dallington Residents' Association Committee and as editor of the Dallington Community News.

I've had the privilege of editing this newsletter from June 1999. I've interviewed many remarkable residents and observed a number of activities of real quality. This underlying community strength makes me confident that Dallington will surmount its current adversity and continue as a suburb to be proud of.

Exciting new ventures lie ahead for the Residents' Association as it continues to serve the community. In due course another editor will be appointed and hopefully they will enjoy the level of community support that's been mine. Thank you one and all.

Bill Allott, Editor

Dallington Carol Singing *Community* *Christmas* *Celebration*

**at Burwood Park near the Tennis Club on
Thursday, 9 December from 6.30pm.**

Features will include:

- A gold coin Sausage Sizzle
- The Balloon Man with a Bouncy Castle
- A Salvation Army Brass Group
- Face painting

Sponsored by local businesses, the Christchurch City Council and the Dallington Residents' Association



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