

# Richmond Community News

• JULY 2003 •

## Richmond Kindergarten

Russell Sears has been going to kindergarten for over 70 years. He started at Richmond Kindergarten (now Kidsfirst Kindertens Richmond) in 1933 at the tender age of two years and two months. He was allowed to attend before the usual minimum age of three as he missed his older brother and sister too much and the kindly Miss (Joy) Bartram, head teacher, relented.

Once admitted, Russell never really left. Although he progressed to school at age five (the Labour Government had just dropped the school starting age from six years), he has had an association with Richmond Kindergarten throughout his life.

One of his later places of employment was a furniture repairer and from there he would take the off-cuts of wood to kindly for the children to hammer and saw. These days, in his retirement, he continues to be a frequent visitor and reads to the children for an hour every Friday morning.

For the last few years, Russell has also been the jolly old man in red at Christmas time. Russell's friend and classmate from the thirties, Doug Spence, had done the job for years before that until he passed away. Doug had long been preparing this role: he'd played Father Christmas in a yuletide play with Russell

back when they were kindergarteners together.

During Russell's time as a student, Richmond Kindergarten operated out of the Methodist Church Hall on Stanmore Road, where it had been since its beginnings in 1911 (the fifth kindergarten to be set up in Christchurch). Russell 'graduated' in 1935 and the next year the Richmond Kindergarten moved to its current purpose-built premises on North Avon Road.

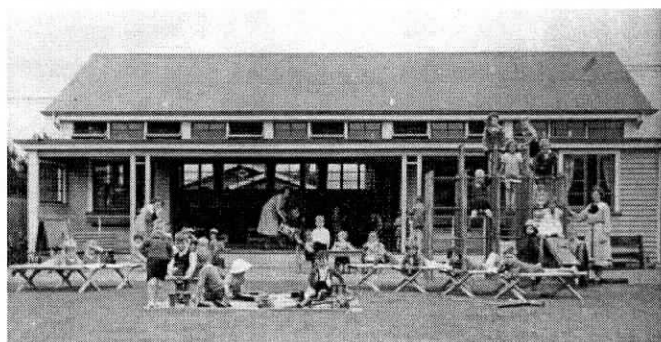
Here, the ribbon-cutting was a very grand occasion, with the building opened by the then Minister of Education, Peter Fraser (later to become Prime Minister when Michael Savage died in 1940) and all in attendance were dressed in their finery.

Miss Bartram in her role as kindly head was a well known and much loved Richmond personality. So much so that in 1992, when she was aged 80, a commemoration was held for her at the present premises. As Russell reports, there were so many former pupils in attendance (80 estimated), all wanting her attention that "all she got was half a cup of cold tea, nothing to eat and she didn't get to sit down at all".

Her recompense for the job in the 1930s was, reportedly, four pounds per month, which did not leave her much after paying the



*Russell's third birthday at the Kindergarten in 1933.*



tram fare from her home in Cashmere.

Russell Sears remembers kindergarten as regimented and strict compared to these days. Joy Bartram reminded Russell when

they met as adults of how she used to keep discipline by making all the children stop, be silent and listen to the clock ticking. There

*continued on back page*

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# Avebury in July

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**Embroidery classes** – Thursdays 10am–12noon. Calm surroundings with a patient experienced tutor. Ring Alison on 388-9377 for more information.

**Parents Group**, Monday 28 July 10- 11a.m.  
Held on the last Monday of

each month, this is an informal meeting with other parents over a friendly cup of tea or coffee.

## History and Heritage group – Wednesday 4.30 – 5.30pm

If you are interested in the history of this area in whatever form, do come and join us. Our next meeting is Wednesday 9 July.

We are interested in obtaining any old photos or information of the Richmond area for a display.

All enquiries about the facilities or programmes at Avebury House, 9 Evelyn Couzins Ave, please contact:

Lesley McMillan  
Community Worker

Phone 9425615

Or email:

avebury@paradise.net.nz

# Community notices

## Wednesday Café

Lunchtime gatherings for senior citizens.

Once a month lunchtime gatherings are held in the parish hall of Holy Trinity Church, Stanmore Road. These include a talk on some aspect of health at 11.30am followed by a light lunch at midday for a \$2 donation. The company is friendly, the hall is warm and comfortable and there is ample parking in Lychgate Close. All are very welcome. Please telephone the Parish Office (ph 389 6948) for the date of the next gathering and to book a place for you, or for you and a friend.

## Avonside Book Discussion Group

There are now a limited number of vacancies in our daytime Book Discussion Group that meets on the first Friday of each month beginning with morning tea at 10am. We use the WEA book discussion programme, so we enjoy a wide variety of books followed by friendly and stimulating discussion when we meet. Men and women of any age are welcome to join this group which meets in the Lounge at the Holy Trinity Church in Stanmore Road. Please telephone the Group Coordinator for more details on ph. 384 8396.

## Thought for the day...

*Have you ever noticed that when you are in a big hurry, the person in front of you, isn't?*

## last month's crossword solution

### ACROSS

1. Crab
5. Dared
10. Acta
14. Aida
15. Elate
16. Tour
17. Spur of the moment
20. Eel
21. Rias
22. Erodes
23. Tamer
25. Pals
26. Stewed
28. Monotony
32. Wirer
33. Waken
34. Roe
35. Agas
36. Mated
37. Diva
38. Met
39. Baits
40. Roger
41. Preserve
43. Cavils
44. Lace
45. Laten
46. Brooch
49. Gene
50. Amp
53. Red white and blue
56. Idol
57. Nerve
58. Olla
59. Gory
60. Games
61. Ayes

### DOWN

1. Case
2. Ripe
3. Adulterate
4. Bar
5. Defied
6. Altar
7. Rahts
8. Ete
9. Demeaned
10. At most
11. Coed
12. Tune
13. Arts
18. Ormer
19. Orlon
24. Awes
25. Pokes
26. Swamp
27. Tiger
28. Matte
29. Originally
30. Novel
31. Years
33. Waive
36. Marching
37. Dove
39. Beach
40. Rated
42. Slowly
43. Cannes
45. Leave
46. Brig
47. Redo
48. Odor
49. Germ
51. Mule
52. Peas
54. Tea
55. Boa

## SUN NING TAKEAWAYS

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### HOURS

Tues–Wed: 11.30am – 2pm/4.30pm – 8.30pm  
Thurs–Sat: 11.30am – 2pm/4.30pm – 10.00pm  
Sun: 4.30pm – 8.30pm Mon: Closed

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Sorry, no crossword this month! The crossword will be back in next month's issue of Richmond Community News.

## Golden Wedding

It all began with the War in Afghanistan.

Before then, my aim in life was to read Medieval Latin. But I used to wake up in the middle of the night, with itchy legs and painful knees and knew from bitter experience that the only way to relieve the pain and get back to sleep was to go out to the kitchen and write a page of music.

Then in 2001 I started to read more of my books on Islam.

I was staggered to read that in Islam no young people commit suicide. They are trained from birth to accept what it pleases God to send, knowing that they'll be judged by what they do with what it pleases God to send.

In a flash I realised that I'd been kicking against the pricks, that it had pleased God to send me in my old age a gift for composing music and that I should be *grateful*, not recalcitrant.

Since that new insight I've had no more itchy legs or painful knees, but get up in the middle of the night and go out joyfully to the kitchen to write another page of music.

However, I'm a Pythagorean and my master taught that friendship is the *summum bonum*, or

highest good. And I have many close friends who can't read music, or don't have a piano, so I engaged my great-nephew to collect sophisticated apparatus for me so I could record my new music and put it on CDs to send to my friends.

I made my first CD on March 18th 2003 and last night made my 50th.

Meanwhile I'd sent over 150 copies of my CDs to friends and relatives in Queensland, Auckland, Hamilton and Christchurch, and have the intention of sending some to our rest homes, so I can share the new music with the elderly. For my friends tell me that the new music is soothing, even uplifting.

I'm not quite sure to whom I'm married, whether to my Bluthner grand, my Behringer mixer, my Rode microphones, my Microsoft Windows XP Professional computer, or my Canon S900 printer, but we're certainly producing progeny.

So with my 50th CD made last night, this is to celebrate our Golden Wedding.

John L. Moffat  
"SOUL'S REPOSE"  
10 MAY 2003

## Avonside Ladies Probus Club Outing

On Tuesday 17 June on a beautiful, crisp, fine, sunny winter's afternoon, a busload of ladies left the Richmond Working Mens Club for a short trip to Avebury House in Richmond. This beautiful homestead in Evelyn Couzins Ave has been recently refurbished by the City Council and set up as a community facility. The house provides an attractive low cost venue for community activities and functions. At present the gardens are being replanted with masses of plants, including lots of fragrant stocks and should be magnificent in the spring. Community support has enabled this house to survive demolition – it was used

as a Youth Hostel for years – and now has a superb kitchen and ablution block and has been refurbished in modern up to date colours internally.

A beautiful afternoon tea was served in a lovely sunny drawing room – savouries, rolls, sandwiches, delicious scones with raspberry jam and cream, plus tea or coffee. Volunteers help at all times and our delightful waitresses looked rather familiar – thanks Noeline H and Kathy W. Our hostess, Lesley McMillan, gave a very informative talk about the history of the house. An absolute jewel. It was so interesting and a glorious afternoon out.

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## The Good Samaritan

From one of our older readers...

Recently I was renewing my driver's licence, when to my dismay I found I was \$7 short of the required fee. Facing with dismay the possibility of having to

repeat the lengthy process, I asked the assistant behind the counter if they would trust me for the money. No answer.

Suddenly an arm stretched over my shoulder and deposited the \$7 down on the counter. Because

of the press of people in the room, I couldn't immediately see my Good Samaritan. As I turned to leave, I picked out the gentleman who must have been standing behind me. I asked if I could have his address in order to return

the money. Smiling, he refused and told me to keep it. I kissed him on the cheek and announced loudly to the room that "it was so nice to know there are still people who will do a good deed in the world".



# Swanns Road traffic concerns

March 2003 – Informal meeting was held with Tim Barnett and Swanns Road residents to talk about traffic concerns in the area.

May – Public meeting was held at Avebury House with Tim Barnett, Jani Johanson, Dennis O'Rourke, Rod Cameron and Barry Cook (Christchurch City Council roading engineer). Approximately 40 residents from the Swanns Road, River Road and Avonside Drive area attended. A lively discussion was summarised as follows in the box by Tim Barnett.

Later in May the public meeting was followed up by a Saturday p.m. "walkabout" to look at the roads and intersections discussed.

Suggestions made include:

- Improving traffic safety at the Swanns Road/

Avonside Drive intersection with signage e.g. stop sign.

- Possibility of a traffic island on Swanns Road before the bridge to slow traffic down.
- Possibility of a cycle lane being marked out on Swanns Road to increase cycle safety.

Follow-up: June – Cycle lane meeting with roading engineer and a city councillor.

What you can do: If you are able to take down the registration number of a vehicle driving dangerously, too fast or driving a very noisy vehicle etc., you can fill in a single page form from the police station. These complaints are followed up by the police and are confidential.

Let's work together for a safe and happy Richmond!

Moir N.

## Issues raised at Public Meeting on May 12th, 2003

*(In the order in which the walkabout could happen)*

### Swanns/Avonside Drive intersection

Issues: Need for a crossing point over this part of Avonside Drive, need for clearer junction markings, Retreat/Avonside bend is effectively "blind".

### Riverside parking

Issues: Vehicles parked on riverside – unsightly/ churns up grass.

### Swanns Road

Issues: Speed of traffic, roadway wide and bleak.

Possible actions: Police blitz, speed trailer placed in road, City Council speed measurement, road calming/landscaping/ "add-ons", cycle lane, road markings, Living Streets project.

### Swanns/Stanmore Road intersection

Issues: Off-putting pavement signage, seating areas unattractive, should be Give Way rather than Stop sign.

### Medway Street footbridge

Issue: Vegetation is so high that it creates a safety risk.

### North Avon/River Road intersection

Issue: Road marking/ signage needs to be clearer.

### General matters

Possibility of a major cross-city cycle-way passing through the area.

Noisy vehicles (can be reported to the City Council).

Children being dropped off for school in dangerous places.



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# Canine creatures create chaos!

I am constantly amazed at the passion that animal issues arouse. Both the pro or anti lobby are equally vocal in their viewpoint, and equally persuasive on occasions. I think that maybe the Government has got it right in our latest package of action on dogs as both sides have been muted in their response.

In response to the horrific attacks on children by dogs in January, and to weaknesses revealed by some fast and effective consultation, the Government has announced new law focused on protecting the public. The Government has banned any further importation of various breeds of dogs, including Pit Bulls. Dogs from those same breeds already in New Zealand - breeds distinctive because reports indicate they were bred for fighting - must be muzzled in public. The Government does not want to restrict people from owning dogs, so instead the proposed law now focuses on increasing and sharpening their responsibility as a dog owner. We should all remember that, unfortunately, statistics show those most affected by dog attacks are children under 15 years.

The Government, working with local government, is developing a public education programme to provide information about the obligations of dog owners

under the Dog Control Act, particularly around children. This is because ACC statistics suggest many unreported attacks occur within neighbourhoods and families. Other proposed changes in the Dog Control Act include an increase in the maximum penalty for worst offenders to 3 years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$20,000 and a new maximum penalty of \$3000 under all other sections in the Act. (There will also be a requirement for all dog owners to have a securely fenced area for their dog allowing unimpeded access to one door by July 2006). One of Parliament's Select Committees will consider the proposals and the public can make submissions. Let my office know if you want details or check out [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz) for details.

This range of serious issues is light years away from my pleasant vision of the many responsible dog owners in Richmond walking their beloved canines through Beverley Park, particularly at my election street corner meetings there. All these dogs are well loved, well behaved and beautifully groomed. I also have been actively involved in the Hearing Dog scheme in the last few years. This trial of training dogs to act as deaf persons' ears has been particularly successful and will be ex-

panded as more trained dogs become available. Unfortunately, the cost of training dogs especially for their role as a seeing eye or a hearing ear costs over \$20,000 over 2 years.

Unfortunately, my lifestyle of living between two cities precludes dog

ownership but I regularly dog sit for friends and have even dog sat for a hearing dog in training. A finer parent you would not find!!

*Tim Barnett*

CHRISTCHURCH CENTRAL MP

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would like to help.**

News and views and items of interest are needed from you, the people of Richmond Community for inclusion in the monthly newspaper. We need your input to offer a balanced content. All contributions are treated equally and with respect. Any opinion is that of the writer only. Submissions to be sent to [avebury@paradise.net.nz](mailto:avebury@paradise.net.nz) or to *Richmond Community News*, PO Box 26-097, North Avon.

## TIM BARNETT

**Christchurch  
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## Richmond Kindergarten

(continued from front page)

was a compulsory afternoon nap, which was taken on stretchers on the lawn if the weather allowed.

There were outings, including to the bakehouse (at the time in Brew Street near Richmond School in Pavitt Street) where the children watched the bakers knead dough and work the ovens with long-handled wooden paddles. As they walked, the children were kept in a group by a clothesline encircling them which they all held onto.

The boys formed the Richmond Kindergarten Band, all kitted out in matching uniforms and most players taking a percussion instrument as would suit their junior skill level. Occasionally the children would take a trip to Lyttelton where they would watch ships dock and see the passenger train arrive.

The basics haven't changed, according to teacher Kerry Nevin, although trips these days include the Antarctic Centre and Canterbury A & P show. The children still enjoy blocks, puzzles, playdough and physically active play. She explains that the emphasis these days is on

learning through free play. She and Russell agree that kids have changed in some ways, alluding to Playstation and computers. Russell has had to look twice at children using cell phones while he's reading to them to check that they're not the real item (decommissioned, we're assured).

Attendance records, photos and various other documentation at the kindergarten have been kept, so that for occasions such as Miss Bartram's gathering and the 75<sup>th</sup> jubilee (1996) many local families were able to be invited. Often several generations of children from the same family have attended Richmond Kindergarten.

The nearly seventy years of records held make a historical community connection between the 45 morning and 35 afternoon children attending these days and the many generations of little Richmond children who went before them.

"No man completely fulfils his destiny unless he comes back at long last to the scenes of his childhood."

THOMAS CARLYLE



Russell Sears and Kerry Nevin.

## Richmond Community Crèche

Richmond Community Crèche has been open since 1985 providing quality childcare and education for children 2 – 5 years old.

The crèche is on the corner of London and Pavitt Streets in the Richmond Cottage opposite the Richmond Working Men's Club.

Session times are:  
Mon-Wed-Fri 9.00am – 12.00pm  
Fri. 12.15pm – 3.15pm  
\$7.50 per session, WINZ subsidies are available.

The crèche has a warm caring environment and offers a full range of pre-school activities. It is unique in that each 3-hour session has a maximum of 12 children with 2 qualified teachers. If you are looking for a place where your child can be given quality time and attention and where the group is small enough for the children to get to know each other well, then ring us on Ph 3811764 as there are vacancies available in all sessions.



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