

# Richmond Community News

•November 2004

Vol 2 No 10 Issue 20

## Fourth in the series of historic Richmond homes

19 Forth St.



This is an historic, turn of the century house, still owned by the original family. The builder, Mr Muschamp, hewed stone in his yard behind the Richmond Club. It is believed that he built this house at 19 Forth St from stone left over after the completion of the Christchurch Cathedral in 1904. The exterior is very ornate, six rooms but without any wooden partitions and it stands today as a memorial to a stonemason who knew his trade. There were two other Muschamp families in "Bingsland" in those early days, one in Warwick St. and one in James St. The school register 23/2/1881 to 25/1/1887 lists the name Muschamp.

21 Forth St.



This worker's cottage at 21 Forth St., built circa 1880, is dwarfed on a narrow section between two larger houses. It is thought to have been altered about 1930/1940 and at that time a Mr Woods lived here and produced pies in a bakery at the back. It was restored again in 1985 using timber and leadlight fittings from Sunnyside Hospital, it has a front porch facing South, a back verandah facing North, three small bedrooms, lounge, dining, kitchen and bathroom. This old cottage has loads of character, well-appointed restoration, an archway, ceiling roses and all the rooms have leadlight windows.

25 Forth St.



This two-stoey brick house is thought to date back to 1886. A man named Shaw lived here about 1900 and some time later -circa 1910 - the Pitcher family moved in, their donkey was well known in the district! The P.2. school register from 1906 shows a Harold Muschamp and a Jack Pitcher. There were other well-known names around 25 Forth St. in those early days; Fothergill, Harris, Smith, Walsh, McNab, Ward, McCarthy and Reddell; but sadly a lot of the original buildings have gone. The value of land in "Bingsland" in the 1960's was between £50/£60 per quarter acre and Forth St. had 17 sections. Today there are thirty-eight residences in the same area and more are infill sections are on the planning board.

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## RICHMOND HISTORY

Did you know?

The shop, now part of the house on the corner of LONDON and PERTH Streets was known as "The Old English Tea Shop" until it closed and became a private dwelling in 1983.

The original shop was owned by Joseph Free (1842-1906) and his wife Bessie Simpson. Joseph was a grocer, carter and coal merchant. When he died in 1906, Bessie sold the shop and moved to Armagh Street.

Joseph and Bessie had no children but fostered S.L.P. Free, a nephew, from 1872 to 1883. S.L.P. trained as a lawyer and was later a Magistrate in Masterton. S.L.P. lost both his feet in a mowing machine when he was five years old, but was fitted with artificial feet and became a competent horseman. He lived until 1958.



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## Last month's solution

RCN CROSSWORD No. 1312 by GWP



The solution to this month's crossword will appear in next month's newsletter

## Crossword

### CLUES

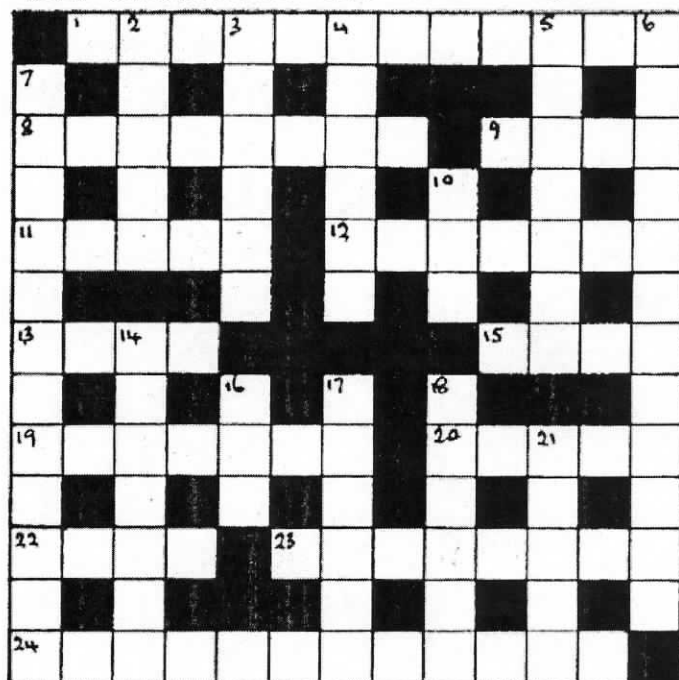
#### ACROSS

1. Accomplishments (12)
8. WW2 fighter plane (8)
9. Man's name (4)
11. Allude (5)
12. Learned (7)
13. African river (4)
15. Leer (4)
19. Bewitching (7)
20. Summarize (5)
22. Ship's company (4)
23. Outsider (8)
24. Indolence (12)

#### DOWN

2. Steep rock-face (5)
3. Notify (6)
4. Church official (6)
5. Nought (7)
6. Traders (12)
7. Immense (12)
10. Total (3)
14. Too drunk to stand (7)
16. High card (3)
17. Scolds (6)
18. Decree (6)
21. Coops (5)

RCN CROSSWORD No. 1313 by GWP



## SUN NING TAKEAWAYS

273 Stanmore Road Telephone 389-3113

CHINESE MEALS ~ FISH & CHIPS  
HAMBURGERS

#### HOURS

Tues - Wed: 11.30 am - 2pm/4.30pm - 8.30pm

Thurs - Sat: 11.30am - 2pm/4.30pm - 10pm

Sun: 4.30pm - 8,30pm Mon Closed

PHONE ORDERS TAKEN  
SMALL FUNCTIONS CATERED FOR  
SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL  
RICHMOND BUSINESSES



# Fair

**Saturday  
6th  
November  
9am — 2pm**

## Car Boot Sale

### *Features*

*Cultural  
Performances  
Mini Jeeps Rides  
Bouncy Castle  
Fire Engine  
Kids Games/Stalls  
Food Stalls  
Music/Entertainment  
Chocolate Wheel/Raffle  
Plenty of Bargains  
Top Town Races  
Richmond Idol  
Candy Floss*

36 Nicholls Street  
Richmond  
Tel: 389 3810

Dear Editor,

Please excuse my writing as I have a motor problem. I would love to know where I could get funding for a computer.

Why? Because I have several disabilities or chronic illnesses. I wonder do others live with immune diseases? Do others in our community live with lesions and adhesions? This is a problem we hear very little about. Those of us who suffer from it suffer alone in our community. Do you know what it is?

Parts of your pelvis and/or bowel stick together creating intense pain and for some of us can create a long term problem.

I am patiently waiting for one of a number of operations I have needed over the years for endometriosis and lesions and adhesions. I sit in my bed for far too many hours. I get up to do the housework. I can't go out at all, it causes too much pain.

My body is fading away as eating also causes such pain. I have a brain full and exciting and so much I'd love to do I have memories of working for refugees, Lifeline, Pillars.

Twelve years of volunteer work as a parent help in our schools.

I so try not to feel sorry for myself. But I am so sick of pain, so sick of being isolated from society and living on a low income through no fault of my own. I'm so jealous of people who have a life, who feel they belong and have a partner and a loving extended whanau (family). I cry a lot. Sometimes because of pain. Sometimes because I am so damn lonely and all my friends have left me behind.

I am writing two books, one on my health journey and one about the abusive childhood I come from and how I stopped that cycle of abuse and learned not to be a victim. That's why I'd love a computer, the operation I need. Money, lovely home baking, friends, my own home and a full life. Even, if my health will allow me, volunteer work.

Are there others who, because of health problems or other reasons, just feel so damn lonely and alone.

Just me. Arohanui.

Margaret

## What's on in November

Avebury House, situated at 9 Eveleyn Couzins Ave. Richmond, is a community-run, low cost facility which has rooms available for hire.

Situated in the midst of Avebury Park, the house, which has been refurbished, has run several open days and social events.

In addition to the amenities for hire, the following classes and activities are available:

**Gentle Exercise Class** - Mondays 1- 2p.m

(wear comfortable clothing)

Cost \$2.50

This Sit and Be Fit class is a fun and healthy way to retain mobility, independence and meet new people. Designed especially for those with limited mobility, older adults and those with health or weight problems.

Enjoy these simple and gentle classes at your pace, and enjoy a cup of tea with us afterwards.

**Richmond History Group**

Held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. No cost.

Next meeting Wednesday 10th November 4 - 5pm

History Group meets to share resources and research items of Richmond's heritage. The Richmond Room, a resource room with displays, magazines and items of interest is in the process of being set up at Avebury. These resources will be available to the public at no charge.

**Postural Mat Pilates Class**

New term will commence on Monday October 4th 9:30- 10:30 and a new class on Thursday evenings starting October 7th 7-8pm

All enquiries to Janet Ph 381-4414

**Embroidery Group**

Thursdays 10am - 12 noon

Beginners to advanced. Tuition available from a patient, experienced tutor.

Please ring Allison on 388-9377 for more information

**Shirley Brownie group**

Meets at 6pm every Tuesday at Avebury House.

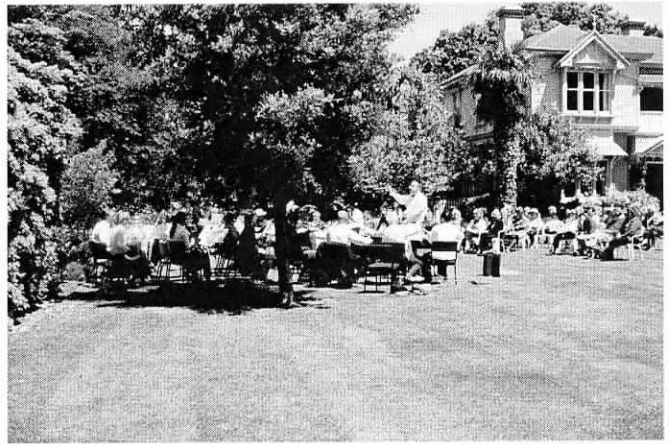
Contact Kim on 366-5434 for details.

**For further information about facilities and classes etc. please contact:**

**Lesley McMillan**

**Community Development Worker**

**Ph 942-5615**



## COMING UP AT AVEBURY

### FREE COMMUNITY CONCERT AT AVEBURY PARK

9 Evelyn Couzins Avenue, Richmond  
2pm - 4pm Saturday, 4 December, 2004

Bring along your afternoon tea and picnic in beautiful Avebury Park and enjoy a free concert from the Garden City Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Patrick Shepherd.

The programme will consist of light classical pieces and well known show tunes. Seating will be provided.

Art work from Floyds Creative Arts will also be on display.

For further details ring Avebury House  
on 942-5615.

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# Saving our pennies C21st style

In Richmond, 37% of people are in full-time work and over 2700 people are retired. In New Zealand, most people receiving State superannuation have that as their only permanent retirement income.

The Government has been looking at this situation. Literally about our futures. New Zealanders do not in general save a lot. But how can this issue be important to individuals when for too long the debate around savings levels has all been what sounds like jargon about weaknesses in our economy, gross domestic debt and our overseas debt levels? Of course, this is a problem which concerns all of us. How many of us have bank savings lower than they should be, and credit card balances higher than they should be? And how many people with a mortgage realise that having a mortgage affects the balance of payments? These three scenarios - low bank accounts, high credit card indebtedness and mortgages and hire purchases (plus student loans) affect most New Zealanders aged under 65.

The change in savings and spending patterns among New Zealanders over the past 20 years or so worries the Government because the current generation will be doubly disadvantaged in their efforts to save. Most will begin their working life with debt because of a student loan. Evidence shows that most younger people lack confidence in how to save, put off difficult decisions and get into the

habit of not saving. And New Zealand wage rates are still not high. In the Hagley Ward, including Richmond, only 8% of residents earn over \$40,000 but over 56% of residents are employed in full or part time work.

In 2004 the Finance Minister, Michael Cullen, set up a Savings Product Working Party to investigate this matter. Their recent report is being looked at by the Government. I would be interested in the comments of Richmond residents on their proposals. They recommended that:

- all working New Zealanders have money taken out of their salaries at source for savings and retirement;
- savings would not be locked-in but there would be some restrictions on access, based on frequency of withdrawals
- no tax incentives for this, as they tend to be expensive and benefit the better off, but instead "sweeteners" to encourage workers to join and stay in a savings plan.

Full details are available on [www.beehive.govt.nz/cullen](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/cullen) and [www.retirement.org.nz](http://www.retirement.org.nz) or from my office on 3778840. There seems to have been a cautious welcome for this so far - but what do you think??.

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copy and advts.  
for the Dec/Jan  
issue is Nov 22nd**

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# Richmond

## Free Methodist Church

In 1868 the Wesleyan and the United Methodist Free Churches portrayed Methodism. There was a meeting of the Leaders of the St Asaph Street branch known then as the Chief Methodist Free Church on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 1868 and a decision was made to start services in the Bingsland area. So the following Sunday being December 13, Bingsland (Richmond) held it's very own open-air church service taken by Rev T.R Fisher, Messrs. W. Tremayne, W. Fraser and W. Flesher. After the service Mr. Joseph Irvine offered a room in his house for future services.

To assist the building of a permanent church, Mr Morice Bing gave the residence a piece of land being part of rural section 41 (a hook of land). At this stage a committee had gathered together consisting of Rev. M. Baxter, Messrs. A. Ayers, G. Booth, W. Tremayne, W. Marcroft, J. Aulsebrook and J. Caygill. This committee of the Richmond Free Methodist Church was responsible for the erection of the first church building which stands as a testament to their commitment and devotion.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 1869 the very first indoor service was held in the new building which was conducted by Mr. C. R. Leadly, and Rev. Matthew Baxter. The following week Mr. G. Booth started a Sunday school.

There were no roads, no lighting, just tracks with ditches on both sides and wandering stock. People kept their best hats as well as footwear at the church for the fear of getting mud all over their good Sunday clothing. Attendance at services required true dedication and there were times services were sparsely attended. In some cases the services had to be finished before 4 p.m. so that the congregation would be home before dark.

The Sunday school was held in two sessions, one in the morning and another in the afternoon, yet there was only one worship service, which was held in the afternoon. At a later date the population increased and so did the thought of increasing the size of the church.

In those days they had numbering systems on their pews. Every quarter individuals would pay a set price for the seats they sat in; however there were a few that were left for Sunday School scholars and

for people who attended on a casual basis. A record of these payments was kept until 1919, when the now extinct envelope system was introduced.

The use of the building was not limited to church services. Alternative uses included a school, library, hall, entertainment centre for visitors. In the early days there was no organ, and a tuning fork was used to give the note for singing.

An organ was loaned to the church and when the opportunity arose to buy the organ, it was too expensive for the church's available funds, so it continued to be used on a loans basis. Eventually down the road an organ was finally picked up for a sum of £32.7s. The original organ which was bought locally is still in working condition; however it was a bellows organ, and electrified by using a vacuum cleaner! "Necessity IS the mother of invention."

The original building is the size of a small garage, barely able to hold a small car let alone 100 people with a 12 foot stud which is now covered by a ceiling. It has its own warmth and exciting atmosphere, but it is no wonder that the building was outgrown in 10 short years.

The new church was opened on 23 March 1879 and was renowned for its choir. The elevated choir stalls above the wall would vibrate with jubilant song when the choir performed.

The choir no longer exists but the original choir cupboard complete with music, filed chronologically, waits patiently.

Today the Richmond Methodist Church has no choir, but they do have a fantastic group of hand bell ringers. Watch these people shake those bells, [in time at that] and try to remember what life was like back in 1885.

Compelling to watch, a joy to listen to. I sat enthralled at a rehearsal with these dedicated people whose performances are in great demand.

Methodism has a long and rich history in music and the hand bell ringers certainly keep this tradition alive.

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*In 1945, a Victory Ball to celebrate peace was organised by the B.W.M.C. for members and their wives. "All the members had to do was roll up and enjoy themselves." The only cloud was a beer shortage because supplies had not arrived.*

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