

Richmond Community News

• August 2005 •

Vol 3 No 7 Issue 28

Twelfth in the series of historic Richmond homes



PONTICUM COTTAGE

24 Medway Street

Ponticum Cottage is rightly named after the rhododendron planted out front. This comfortable suburban house is a typical two bedrooms, weatherboard, square Victorian cottage. It is believed to be the oldest home in Medway Street, built by Mr Thomas Johnson Morrow, circa 1909.

The property was initially part of the rural estate owned by Mrs Dorothy Flesher (widow) and James Arthur Flesher (solicitor), both of Richmond. They subdivided in 1905. The land was again subdivided in 1983.

Much of the cottage has been altered over the years however original glass adorns the front windows. An elliptical ceiling piece in the hall shows fruit and

acanthus leaves and bay leaf garland while the centre arch displays oval dentils with bunches of grapes dropping onto the fascia. Original native timber doors, skirting, panelling and the occasional light switch fitting are to be found throughout the home along with Jarrah joists.

The current owner, Mrs Elizabeth Johnston (Liz) is an avid gardener. Liz purchased Ponticum Cottage in 1991 and immediately started establishing the garden. She encourages bird life with erected wooden feeders around the gardens and enjoys the pickings of herbs and flowers grown.

"I take pleasure in relaxing in the sun," says Liz, as she points to two seats, one under the rhododendron and the other on the porch. From these two spots she is able to watch the birds feed from the offerings provided and enjoy the hours of labour she puts into the garden.

Teaching embroidery has been a pastime of Liz's taking many a class in the home. The rooms display some of the beautiful work she has created. Liz's family are an important part of her life and she proudly showed family genealogy charts and photographs. She has lived in the Richmond area since 1950.

Jennifer Pope

river had a lane reserved for this reason.

Wooden bridges were common in early Canterbury.

The Stanmore Road Bridge was a substantial wooden structure when comparing it to others around Christchurch. It was built in 1878 (when according to the Heathcote and Avon Roads Boards the old bridge was beyond repair) to accommodate trams, and widened throughout 1925/26 for a price of £1093.

The Richmond and Linwood Boroughs gave the Selwyn County Council a grant to repair the bridge in 1883. Finally it was replaced in 1995 with a concrete structure. The feature of this bridge is the pillars built from stone associated with the old one. The bridge survived as long as it did because of regular maintenance and because of its sturdy structure. It was the last wooden bridge to be replaced.

Standing on the new Stanmore Road Bridge looking east along the Avon River during the 1992 big snow, was when this photo was taken.

Have you a photo of the Stanmore Road Bridge?

We would love to see it and with your permission add it to the photo collection in the History Room at Avebury House or it may be shown in one of The Richmond Community News issues.

Jennifer Pope



STANMORE ROAD BRIDGE

The first bridge built on Stanmore Road was in 1862 for £400. John Mills in his boat 'The Maid of Avon' cut away part of this bridge in 1865 to pass his steamer under. His actions resulted in a winning lawsuit as the intention of the Avon was for it to be used for steerage. Each side of the



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Original Music

How many people living in Richmond Know that they have a composer living in their midst? In days gone by Dr John set seventyfive of the Psalms for voice and piano, and all 150 of them for the organ, composed violin sonatas and trios and lots and lots of organ music. Mopre recently he has been writing new little pianopieces, 1019 of them which nobody has yet heard.

If you would like to savour this new music, ring 03-893-866 and make a time. John is home most days after 2:30 pm. And he has the best piano in the world. A Leipzig 1912 *Blüthner* studio grand. The identical model that Rachmaninoff had.

At 88, John lacks only one thing: an audience!

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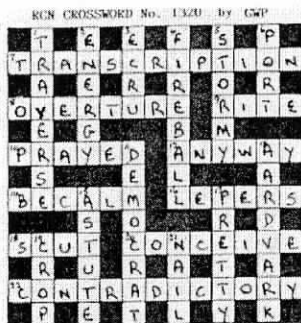
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Last month's solution



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

Crossword CLUES

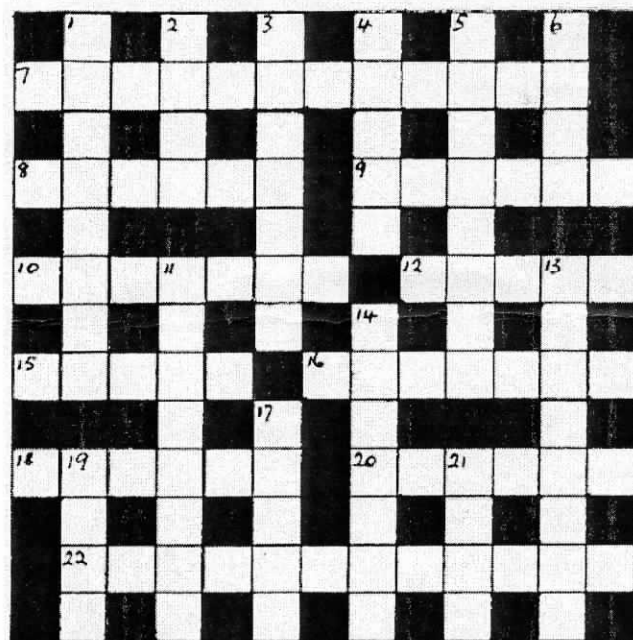
ACROSS

- 7. Proof (12)
- 8. Humiliated (6)
- 9. Tranquil (6)
- 10. Attempts (7)
- 12. Wash (5)
- 15. Spirit (5)
- 16. Halts (7)
- 18. Cot (6)
- 20. Modern (6)
- 22. Therefore (12)

DOWN

- 1. Dubious (8)
- 2. Newts (4)
- 3. Learned (7)
- 4. Insipid (5)
- 5. Tetchy (8)
- 6. Against (4)
- 11. The West (8)
- 13. Placidly (8)
- 14. Embezzle (7)
- 17. Smooth (5)
- 19. Oscillate (4)
- 21. Jargon (4)

RCN CROSSWORD No. 1321 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
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RICHMOND BUSINESSES

1930's School Picnics

When few people had cars and all the Dads worked on Saturdays, the Richmond School picnics were held on weekdays and we went by public transport. For the 1934 picnic two trams with trailers waited for us outside the old Richmond School (opposite New World) and away we went to Worcester Street then down to Linwood Avenue, Buckleys Road and so to Rawhiti Domain where races, games and a lolly scramble took place. Then back on the trams before the afternoon rush and home for tea. For a later picnic the trams had gone so we made our own way by trolley bus, then walked to the old railway station and went by train to Kaiapoi where we walked to the domain for the fun and games. Back to the station to take the train to town, a walk up Manchester Street to Cashel Street then the bus home for tea.

The great thing about these picnics was that we all arrived at the same time, travelled together, left together and could talk to our friends on the way.

Ted Harrall

In 1858 Stanmore Road was in the process of formation. This was the first coach route to Burwood and New Brighton. In 1864 a man named Lockhart owned most of the central area of Bingsland (now Richmond) and it was he who dedicated Stanmore Road. No other roads in this district were dedicated, but became public highways through usage.

In 1859 the people of Avonside and Richmond were petitioning the Provincial Council for a bridge over the Avon River at Stanmore Road. This was to facilitate the movement of through-traffic from Lyttelton to the north as a direct route and also to be used by the coach services. The bridge was built in 1861, and shortly after, a man named John Mills was bringing his new paddle steamer up river and found that the bridge blocked his way, so he promptly smashed his way through. Mills had previously built the Foresters Hotel in anticipation of catering for river traffic and he was not going to be forestalled by an obstacle in the waterway. His action brought a lot of trouble on him as public opinion went against him.

(Page 71 "OLD CHRISTCHURCH" by J Andersen)

The Richmond History Group would like any photo's from the 1930 - 1940 era, of old shops and houses on Stanmore Road between North Avon Road and Swanns Road/Draper Street.

Thank you.

Richmond Computer Net

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For further information phone 381-6615

Closing Date for copy and advts. for the
September issue is August 22nd

*Please note our change of
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What's on in August

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 2nd Wednesday of each month. No cost.
Next meeting Wednesday 10th August 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.

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

Music & Movement for Babies & Preschoolers

Wednesdays 10.15 - 10.45 from the 27 July to 21st September 2005 Cost \$3 per family
For more information ring Ursula on 332-0633 or just come along

Flax Weaving Courses with Ali Brown

Aug 6th & Sept 3 10am - 4pm. For further information and bookings Ph 329-705 Ali Brown

CAGCY "Like minds"

Gifted pre-school and home-educated childrens group
Fridays 12:30 - 2:30 Donations greatly appreciated. For more information phone Kate 386-0074

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

Lesley McMillan

Community Development Worker

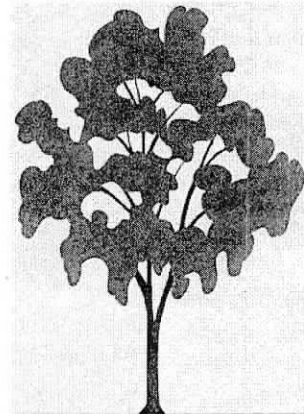
Ph 381-6615

"FOOTPRINTS CAFE"

105 NTH AVON RD OPEN NOW

Hours: 10am - 2pm Mon to Thurs

The Evergreen Club



A 'Delta Community Service' for older citizens and their caregivers.

On the 2nd August - a "Delta Community Service" for the older citizens and their caregivers opened their doors in the North Avon Baptist Church Lounge. The club will cater for a small group of older people (up to 14), who enjoy friendship, exercises and other activities in a happy "family" atmosphere. It will also provide support and relief for full time caregivers.

Initially, the club will be open on Tuesdays and Fridays, from 9am until 3pm.. There will be a varied program, hot meal at noon and transport can be provided. For more information or reservations, please ring 382- 0758 (and leave a message for Patricia Ducker)

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Make Sure What You Think, Counts!

Doesn't it always feel like each year goes faster and there is never enough time in the day to get everything done. Perhaps my mother would tell me it is a sign of getting older, however I prefer to think of it as an indication of a busy life style.

There are times when it is important to stop and take the time to reflect on the aspects of our lives that are fulfilling and working well, as well as things we would like to change. There is no better time to reflect about the aspects of not only our individual lives but as our society as a whole than during an election year, because, what you think matters. It's the time to think about who can be trusted to run a strong economy, create jobs, lift living standards, and invest back into the basics of health, education, services for older citizens and families, infrastructure, and law and order. All these aspects impact on how we are able to live our lives individually and as a cohesive society.

Richmond, unfortunately, has always shown as an area with a very low voter turn out. Election year is the one time you get to make sure what you think counts, simply by making your vote count. So are you on the electoral roll? If you are unsure, please feel free to call my electorate office and check. This year you will be able to vote early; two weeks prior to the election date, September 17, you will be able to cast your vote. Again you can check where by phoning my electorate office. Given the privilege of being elected for a third term, Labour's commitment is to keep building New Zealand's economic strength, key services, and infrastructure, and to boost family living standards and overall well being

No matter how busy you are, make sure what you think, counts.

Tim Barnett

Member of Parliament

Christchurch Central

Phone 3778840

Dealing with Peace

When the war finished, returned soldiers were given first option on joining the club, as long as they were sons of a member or living in the Richmond district, which was defined as: Cashel St, Barbados St (including Flockton St), Kensington Ave, Philpotts Rd to Styx River, Buckleys Rd.

Interest in the club was certainly running high by the annual meeting in 1946 when a record attendance of 250 members heard that the club was virtually freehold and would be in a position to consider a building programme when building restrictions eased.

But the ticklish state of the finances was underlined by the warning that though the year had produced a £1345 profit, a suggestion to reduce beer from 4d to 3d a glass would put the club into a "substantial loss".

Whisky, brandy and rum were still in very short supply; gin sherry and wines were a little better. Supplies were expected under the club's import licence but the ship had been diverted. Biscuits were "practically unobtainable".

Gambling was causing concern too -- there were reports of bookmaking, sales of tote tickets and sweeps in the club "to an increasing extent". "Something had to be done or else the club was likely to be brought into trouble". Selling tote tickets and running sweeps were prohibited, the club's phone was not to be used for gaming purposes and any person "reputed to be bookmaking or acting as an agent" was not allowed to use the phone or receive calls on race days.

TIM BARNETT
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Kia Ora,

Well it is the beginning of a very short term, only nine weeks, however we have a busy one with school swimming lessons, Richmond Idol and our International dinner. The Idol is 11 August in our school hall at 6.30 if you would like to come and see some amazing local talent. Our International dinner is on September 14 at 6pm, again please come and join our community and be dazzled by our wearable arts presentation after tea. This was a huge success last year and we would love to see you here.

We are running a reading course for people in our community so if you have a spare two hours per week that you would like to donate your time to help a child learn to read then please ring the office with your name and contact number. The children and the school really value community help which makes a difference for our tamariki. We will train you in the skills needed to be successful with your students and it is a rewarding experience for all! Please contact Tania at the office.

We are also looking for financial support to ensure our children have an opportunity to learn to swim. As a coastal nation all our children need basic survival skills in and around water and many parents simply can not afford the full cost for expert tutors. The children attend lessons at Aqua gym, they have ten lessons at a cost of \$40.00. If you would like to sponsor a child we

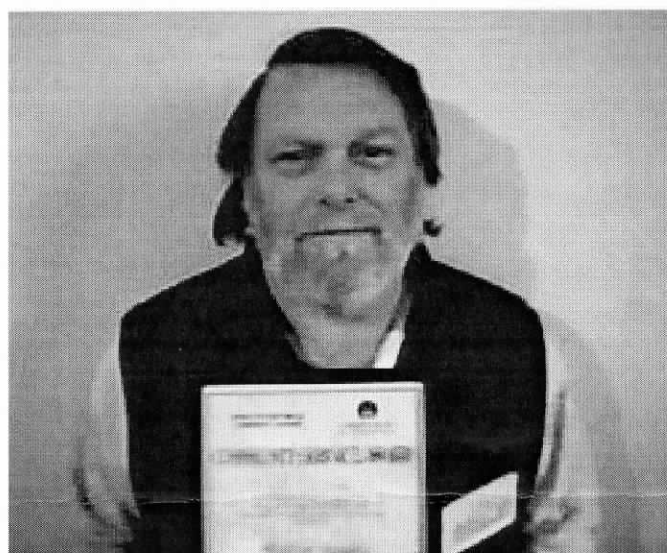
would be most appreciative, again please contact the school if you can help.

The staff had a lovely break and we all went away to Akaroa to complete planning and programmes for the next six months. The staff also worked over the school break at school but I must say it is wonderful to back at the kura with all our children. May we all have a safe and peaceful term.

Yours sincerely

Annie Bowden

Principal



Pictured above is the editor of the Richmond Community News with the Community Service Award he had presented to him on July 15th. Part of this award was for producing the Richmond Community News.

Deliverers Urgently Required

If you could help out by delivering the R. C. N. we would love to hear from you Ph Phill on 942-5615

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