

Richmond Community News

• August 2007 •

Vol 5 No 7 Issue 50

Thirtysecond in the Historical Homes of Richmond Series

85 NORTH AVON ROAD



This house is the early 1900s home of Sam and Maud Pentecost, who had four daughters and then a son, born in 1920. Sam was a Justice of the Peace and Secretary to Dan Sullivan, M.P. for the Labour Party in Christchurch. He was a coach and car painter, all done by hand, and built a very large garage (still there today) which he used as his work place. The four girls were all married on this property and eventually the house became too big and was turned into two flats, where his only son Jeffrey, wife Joan and four children lived. Jeffrey had a motor mechanic business adjoining the property, with an entrance at 13 Petrie Street, just around the corner. This is presently run by his two sons, who took over when their father died quite young. One hundred years later this large property is still owned by the Pentecost family and is currently rented out.

Next door: 79 NORTH AVON ROAD, 1922



The wedding photo of Hilda Marjory Cusack and Gordon Robert Wilson. The baby to the left of the group is Jeffrey Raymond Pentecost, held by his father Samuel Pentecost.

Photographs and information courtesy of the family.

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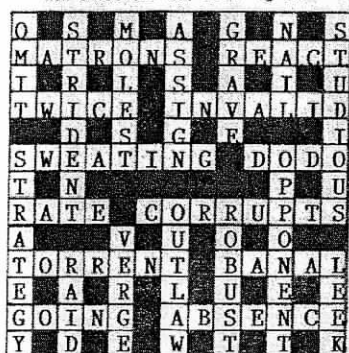
e-mail : billcornelius@xtra.co.nz

P.O. Box 21393 Edgeware Christchurch



Last month's solution

RCN CROSSWORD No. 1342 by GWP



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

Crossword CLUES

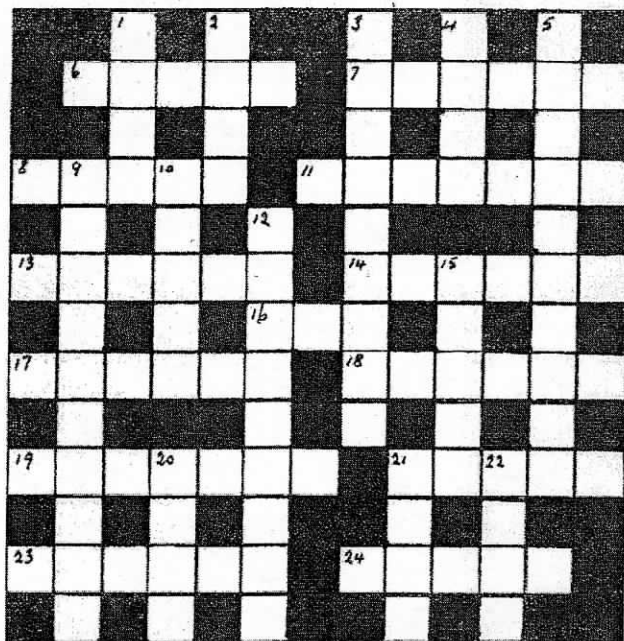
ACROSS

6. Oneness (5)
7. Rough (6)
8. Steeple (5)
11. Din (7)
13. Agree (6)
14. Pertaining to a line (6)
16. Mineral rock (3)
17. Preachers Platform (6)
18. Tranquil (6)
19. Entice (7)
21. Thick (5)
23. Develop (6)
24. Booth (5)

DOWN

1. Against (4)
2. Eyelid sore (4)
3. Innocent (9)
4. Tiller (4)
5. Young society women (10)
9. Fruitful (10)
10. Repitition (5)
12. Guarded (9)
15. Elbow (5)
20. Revolve (4)
21. Palm fruit (4)
22. Invalid (4)

RCN CROSSWORD No. 1343 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**

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- 2pm

(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 8th August 4 - 5pm.

The History Group meets to share resources and research on items of Richmond's heritage. The Richmond Room, a resource room with displays, magazines and items of interest has been set up at Avebury. These resources are available to the public at no charge.

Embroidery Group

Mondays 1 - 4pm.

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, excluding school holidays.

Contact Kim on 366-5434 for details.

Music & Movement for Babies and Pre-schoolers

This popular group meets on Fridays 11am - 12 noon, excluding school holidays. Cost \$3 first child, \$1.50 for each subsequent child.

For enrolment/enquiries ring Ursula on 332-0633 or just come along.

Flax Weaving Courses with Ali Brown

11 Aug, 22 Sept, 13 Oct, 17 Nov. 10am - 4pm.

Ph Ali Brown 329-7051 for registrations.

Hugs All Round Quilt Project

Wednesdays 1 - 4pm, enquiries to 381-6615.

Tai Chi Class – Especially adapted for older adults

Fridays 12.15 – 1.15pm. Cost \$3

Ring Avebury House for details.

Music Together of Christchurch

An internationally recognised and research-based programme; Song book and CDs included. Birth to age 5. Avebury House Thursdays 9.30-10.15am. 10 week programme. Register now! Contact Jennifer: 328-7787

director@musictogetherofchristchurch.com

www.musictogetherofchristchurch.com

Wu Tao - The dancing way

A fusion of free dance and oriental medicine.

Thursday morning 10-11.30am - Evening 6 - 7.30pm

Ring Karen Lewis for details 021-944675 or email:

wutaodance@ihug.co.nz

For further information about facilities and classes etc.

please contact: Lesley McMillan, Community Development Worker: Ph 381-6615

A couple of weeks ago I was replaced in Parliament by Emma Gin, from Avonside Girls High School.

About every three years a Youth Parliament is held in Wellington, where each MP selects a young person from their area to take their seat in the House for a few days. I chose Emma to replace me because she is an enthusiastic, bright and active young woman who was very keen to see what Parliament was all about. Youth Parliament aims to help young Kiwis understand how our democracy works and gives them the chance to express their views and opinions to politicians, the Government and the public. It also gives MPs an opportunity to see our country through fresh eyes, and consider the issues facing the next generation of New Zealanders. Youth Parliament is as real as we can make it, and parliamentary personnel and procedures are maintained as closely as possible. Last week, youth MPs debated a mock bill, held a general debate in the House, sat on Select Committees, asked Cabinet Ministers questions, and got to know their way around the parliamentary complex. Meanwhile, members of the Youth Press Gallery kept a watchful eye on what the youth MPs were up to, and reported their activities to the public. National wants to encourage more young New Zealanders to get involved and have their say. For Youth Parliament National set up a website www.youthmp.co.nz where youth MPs could exchange ideas and information: you can see an interview with Emma Gin and hear what she thought of Youth Parliament, first hand. Some of the Youth MPs told us they want to see change in how MPs connect with people who are uncomfortable contributing to the political process and I'm keen to explore ways that we can do this. If you have any ideas let me know. You can email me at nicky.wagner@parliament.govt.nz visit www.nickywagner.co.nz or pop into my office at 189 Montreal St.

Nicky Wagner

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History of the Avon River

By March 1866 Joseph Dixon had completed the *Maid of the Avon*, a small 12-ton light-draught side paddle steamer with a flat bottom. The 10 horsepower (nominal) high-pressure engine had been made locally at John Anderson's foundry, the first reversible, horizontal marine engine built in Canterbury. Anderson had also made a 40 psi tubular boiler and the *Maid* represented a triumph for the Canterbury engineering industry.

Dixon apparently built the *Maid's* frames and knees of ngaio, a timber better known in furniture making but suitable for small ship construction. She was given two open cabins fore and aft, battened on the interior and provided with awnings. She also carried a hinged funnel, designed like those in Thames riverboats, for steaming under the Avon road bridges.

In reality a motorised passenger punt, she was to be the link between Heathcote and James Mills' 'Forresters Hotel' to the west of The Bricks Wharf. Unfortunately the Stanmore Road bridge presented the *Maid* with a continuing problem through having been built too low, and on the high tide even with her funnel lowered, the paddle boxes scraped the underside of the bridge beams.

Mills threatened to blow up the bridge, arguing that Clause 23 of the 1862 Harbour Regulations stressed that navigable waters should not be impeded. Workmen cut away the centre portion, to the annoyance of local residents. A compromise was reached whereby the Provincial Council and Mills shared the cost of raising the bridge decking but, by the end of 1866, the *Maid* had proved to be more popular and more suited to the Heathcote-Sumner part of the estuary.

Stanmore Road Bridge

In Pre-European times the Avon, then known as Otakaroro, was at this point the boundary between two families within the Ngai Tahu tribe. The swampland adjacent to the bridge site provided highly prized foods for the local Maori.

In the early days of European settlement the Avon and Heathcote rivers were used as vital shipping access to the infant city of Christchurch. Bridges were regarded as a nuisance and their construction was discouraged outside of the city boundaries.

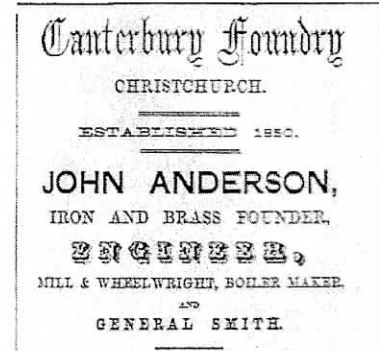
The first Stanmore Bridge was built at this site in 1862 and largely ignored ships' statutory navigation rights. As a result, in 1865 part of the bridge was cut away by Mr John Mills and his men to allow his steamer *Maid of the Avon* to pass. By 1875 the bridge was in a state of bad repair and in 1878 a new bridge was constructed with a 6ft path each side of a 24ft carriageway. This bridge was further widened and strengthened over the years. By 1995 the old bridge had reached the end of its economic life and was replaced by the present bridge. The stone facing on the wingwalls and the light support pillars are built from materials recycled from

from *The Mosquito Fleet of Canterbury*

by Colin Amodeo

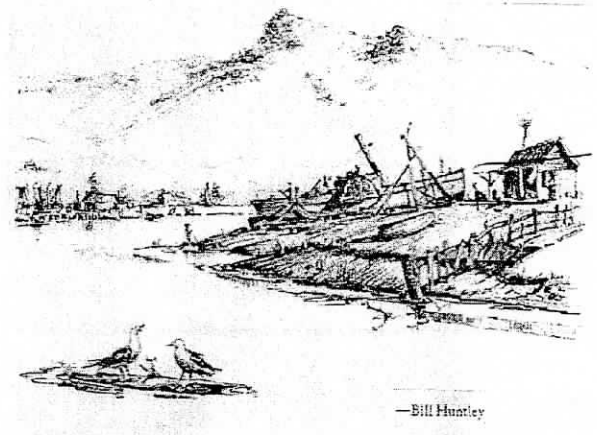
The Caxton Press 2005

The new Stanmore Road bridge plaque records the problem in 1865 of impeding a ship's progress in navigable waters.



Southern Provinces Almanac, 1863

John Anderson's Christchurch foundry helped make Canterbury's 'iron age' of marine steam technology possible. Engines and boilers required constant attention while propeller shafts and stern screw blades needed regular servicing.



The p.s. *Maid of the Avon* at the Dixon shipyard, Heathcote. The yard of the 1880s now lies beneath a restaurant carpark and a commercial area.

Closing Date for copy and advts. for the September RCN issue is 21 August 2007



Found in the toilets at Avebury Park

Some two months or so ago this little girls backpack was left in the toilets. Inside is a matching lunch container with waterbottle and a pink jacket with furry collar with the Name **Chantal Miller** printed inside. The owner can claim at Avebury House.



Richmond Base

A month on from the July article we have settled into our new base and have begun some community activities. One of the first was helping with folding and delivering this Community Newsletter last month.

We are going to be responsible for the new 'green area' at Alexandra Street cnr, to keep it clear of rubbish.

Also, when Richmond Park is tidied (as per Council assurances) we hope to keep an eagle eye on that.

Camera Club is busy out and about taking photos and our cards are available at the base for anyone to buy.

They are good value at \$1 each so call in and check them out. We also sell English 'Astonish' cleaning goods at a \$1 per item as a fundraiser. These are also available at 277 Stanmore Rd between the hours of 8am - 4pm, Monday - Friday.

VOLUNTEERS: would you like to use your gifts, talents and a small amount of time to support a person in some activities, for instance yoga, exercise, taking someone for tea or coffee, computers and/or other activities.

Phone me or come and see us at Richmond Base or alternatively ph. Kristina Grierson at 385-1422 ext 121.

CHEERS! Come and visit us at 277 Stanmore Rd or phone 389-1213.



DO YOU HAVE

CLUTTER ?

If so...

Come and find out why, and how clutter can keep you stuck in a rut.

Learn about the links between

emotional blocks and physical clutter.

Best of all, acquire easy skills to declutter, freeing you to live the life you really want.

This is a 3 session course to be held at Avebury House, Evelyn Cousins Ave on:

Tuesdays, 9.30am - 12 noon

August 14, 21, 28

Cost: \$60 total

Facilitator: Maria Dorothea.

The Clutter Coach

Contact Maria on 389-1629 to register

New public Transport for Richmond No, not in 2007 but in 1893

On 1 September 1893 the City and Suburban Tramway Company Ltd began a horse tram service from Manchester Street along Cashel Street to Stanmore Road, and to Stanmore Bridge the next day. By October 1893 the service was running along Stanmore Road, North Avon Road, North Parade and New Brighton Road to Burwood. On 20 March 1894 it was extended through open country (now Bassett Street) to follow Travis Road, then through open country again (now Rookwood Avenue) to New Brighton Racecourse (now QE II Park) then into Bowhill Road to North Beach. The route was completed along the Esplanade (now Marine Parade) to Seaview Road, New Brighton on 25 October 1894. The line was 7.5 miles (12km.) long. The journey took 55 minutes with a pair of horses for a single car and four horses for two cars. The return journey would be a day's work for the horses.

The first cars left both the city and North Beach at 7am and ran at approximately hourly intervals until 6pm, after which there were 3 trips until 10.15 pm. A late night service (5 trips) was run on Saturdays and there were 7 trips between 10am and 8.30pm on Sundays. The return fare was sixpence (5 cents), probably about half an hour's wage then, that's \$3.90 in today's money! (Who said bus fares were too dear?). The Company operated 10 double decker horse trams, six of which were saloons with open top decks and four had both decks open. (Examples of these trams have been restored by the Tramway Historical Society at Ferrymead Historic Park and are run there on busy days.) The trailers were sold to the Christchurch Tramway Board in 1906, fitted with electric lights and air brakes and were used behind electric trams for another 45 years. (Remember Show Day, race days, football matches and school picnics?).

On 15 August 1910, the horse trams were replaced by electric cars on the same route (to North Beach only) but the electric line was extended to New Brighton in 1914 when the Mayor of New Brighton, Mr J. Flesher, drove the first tram. In the late 1920s the service, which never paid its way, was cut back to Burwood for a short time. The trolley buses, via Hills and Shirley Roads, took over on 5 July 1931 and for the first few years ran to New Brighton Pier. The electric trams continued to run through Richmond to Shirley Road until they too were replaced by trolley buses on 16 Dec 1934. Some of the tram lines remain buried under the Richmond streets.

Fares Please Graham Stewart, and various Tramway Historical Society publications.

Advt

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Healthy Living

Have you always wanted to do something about the unhealthy habits that you've got into? Then you might like to join our **Healthy Living** class with people on a budget in mind.

It will include:

- Teaching good ideas for good nutrition, physical activity, budget shopping, cooking for one and other healthy living topics.
- Healthy cooking demonstrations (and eating).
- Easy exercise classes.
- Health checks.

A new course starts on Tuesday 24 July from 10am - 1pm, running for 12 weeks.

Find out more by phoning Marlys or Andrea on 389-0219.

Delta Community House, 105 North Avon Road, Richmond.

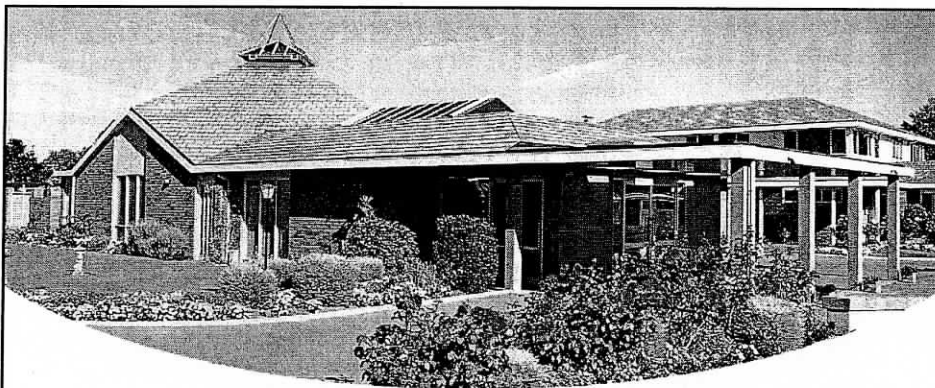
Explore!

Do you want to 'explore' your world? Discover new places? Have new experiences? Discover more about yourself and make new friends? Delta Community Support Trust would like to invite you to join us once a week for 10 weeks to broaden your life experiences through fun-filled mystery adventures! To find out more phone Marlys or Tony on 389-0192 or 389-0212. New course starts 15 August

Delta Community House, 105 North Avon Rd, Richmond

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Great Start for Free Early Childhood Education

The Richmond Kidsfirst Kindergarten, the Casa Dei Bambini Foundation School and the Barnardos Richmond Early Learning Centre are three excellent local childcare centres now offering free early childhood education for 3 and 4 year olds under the Labour government's new initiative.

The implementation of 20 Hours Free Early Childhood Education began on 1 July, and uptake by local families has been high. This scheme is an historic move - the biggest expansion of free education since the introduction of free secondary schooling by the first Labour Government in the 1930s.

Thirty early childhood centres in the Christchurch Central electorate have signed up for the scheme, offering places for around 1,300 pre-schoolers. Nationwide, more than 66,000 three and four year olds are already receiving their free hours in teacher-led centres, with big savings for parents - of up to \$4,500 a year per child.

Feedback from talking to both early childhood educators and parents in the Richmond area tells me that families are taking up the free hours and are very enthusiastic about the scheme, being especially appreciative of the financial savings. Each centre seems to have tailored the scheme to make it fit with the needs of their particular situation and, apart from some initial administrative hurdles, report that it is working out well. Only four sets of parents have approached my office complaining they cannot use the scheme. In all cases their children went to private sector centres, part of large nationwide organisations which are holding out for more money from Government. More positively, the scheme has highlighted the need for more centres, and the Government has come up with money to help this happen. Behind this great new plan sit some pretty important facts. Research has long shown that quality early childhood education has very positive effects on children and their communities. Children who attend early childhood education (ECE) have a much higher chance of succeeding in school and later in life. So this new scheme provides New Zealand children with strong foundations for life long learning. The vision behind the 20 Hours Free ECE came out of discussions with parents, the education sector and the government in 2002. That vision became the ECE Strategic Plan for Early Childhood Education, Pathways to the Future: Ngā Huarahi Arataki, which is about improving the quality of early childhood education services, increasing participation in those services and promoting working together whenever possible. So we were there! I confidently predict that, a generation on, Richmond's children (of any age) will be enjoying free childcare as of right, full-time if necessary. And we will all be better for that.

Tim Barnett MP Christchurch Central: Phone 377-8840

HUGS ALLROUND

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THIS IS A 'NOT FOR PROFIT' PROJECT

Wednesdays 1pm-4pm
at Avebury House
9 Eveleyn Couzins Ave
All materials provided

Volunteers who are not so confident with
their sewing skills are also welcome as there
is plenty help available. Ring OLG 980-1654

**Donations towards the cost of this
project would be welcomed. Please
contact Lesley at Avebury House
Ph 381-6615: Monday - Thursday**

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 Richmond School
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 Phone/Fax (03) 3897 168,
 Email: office@richmond.school.nz

Richmond School / Te Rito o te Harakeke

I look forward to Leadership to Wellington. I hope we go to Te Papa Museum. (Robbie Hutana)



Who has the most money?
 Tamariki during a math lesson.

Te Wiki o te Reo Maori

It was 20 years ago when Maori was actually recognized as a national language of Aotearoa. Please support the kaupapa and korero Maori i nga wa katoa.

We are holding an International dinner on 22 August at the school. We would love members of the community to come and attend and bring a pot luck dinner, to share. Bring a meal that represents the country of your birth. It is a wonderful night with all the tamariki performing as well. There is a koha / donation for the evening to help support our year six pupils going to Wellington to be hosted by Tim Barnett. The children get to understand and meet with members of parliament to learn and develop their own leadership skills. So come along and join the fun!



Junior children during a math lesson

Kia ora koutou,

Another Term holiday has passed and we hope all went well for you all. It's good to see the tamariki back and keen to get into their mahi.

Well the swimming season is upon us again and I would welcome the opportunity for any members of the community who would like to sponsor a child to learn to swim programme. Last year was extremely successful in gaining funding for several children to swim. The families pay \$50.00 per child and the Board of Trustees sponsor each child by \$10.00. If you would like to support a child and give them an opportunity to have paid swimming lessons with the school then please contact the office at 3897 168. The children receive ten swimming lessons over five weeks and we hire a bus to take us to Aqua-Gym for these lessons. As we are a coastal nation it is so important our children learn to swim as soon as

possible and unfortunately with the rising prices for housing, power and food many families simply can not afford the extra's like swimming. So think about how you could make a difference, and possible save a child's life from drowning. Many thanks

Annie Bowden Principal

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