

Richmond Community News

• October 2007 •

Vol 5 No 9 Issue 52

Thirtyfourth in the Historical Homes of Richmond Series



7 London Street

London Street winds its way between Bealey Avenue and Stanmore Road, following the course of an old creek. Number 7 is one of the few remaining homes in the street of the 1880 - 1980 period. It is square in shape with an iron roof of four equal facets and a lean-to across the back.

Because of the narrowness of some of these early sections, homes were often built like this one with double brick walls on the side boundaries. Known as parapet walls, they extended beyond the roof and had internal gutters. They could be built close to or even in some cases on the boundary, with the neighbour's parapet wall built up against them. These walls often incorporated the chimney brickworks. In pre-car days room was only needed for a footpath down one side of the house and homes were often built close to the street giving more useable land at the rear.

Number 7 sits on a continuous concrete foundation with concrete piles and wide rimu floorboards. It is weatherboard front and rear with unusual wooden brackets under the eaves. The two front bay windows and the front door have very attractive pink and white leadlights, but unfortunately these can only be seen to the best advantage from inside.

There have been later additions. It seems that when the M.E.D. built a substation next door it caused subsidence to Number 7 and the owners were given compensation which they used to add two bay windows and replace the front door, all with matching leadlights. Looking at the style I would date these additions to between 1915 and 1920.

The front door leads to a short hall running past the two front bedrooms to the living room which has a third bedroom off it. The kitchen, with a bathroom off it, is at the rear of the house. There are high ceilings throughout and fireplaces - some with ornate mantles - in every bedroom.

The walls and ceilings are lathe and plaster, consisting of lathes of wood (about 5 x 40mm) nailed to the studs with a 10mm gap. Plaster was applied and keyed over the lathes. This makes a house warm and draught-proof and can be painted and wallpapered, although it is messy if you do any alterations.

Walter Langford, an undertaker, owned the property from 1890 till 1924 when it was sold to Peter Jack a bootmaker and his family, who lived there for 54 years. In 1974 it was sold to John Rhind and used to house family and staff, later becoming a store.

This year it has been sold again and has since been renovated. *By Alan Williamson*

Authorised by Jane Demeter - 117 Champion St
St Albans - Christchurch 8013 - Ph 365 2398



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Christchurch North
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Last month's solution

A	B	S	O	L	V	E	S	A	B	O	T	
D	U	A	L	T	E	A						
M	O	R	O	N	E	L	E	M	E	N	T	
I	P	G	V	E							T	
T	O	R	T	U	R	E	L	A	B	E	L	
	I	O	N		R	E						
D	I	S	C	R	E	P	A	N	C	I	E	S
I	E		L	E	Q							
S	I	D	E	S	U	N	U	S	U	A	L	
D		H	S	T	E	O						
A	U	G	M	E	N	T	R	A	T	T	Y	
I	E	E	W	A	T	A						
N	Y	L	O	N	O	I	L	W	E	L	L	

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

Crossword

CLUES
DOWN

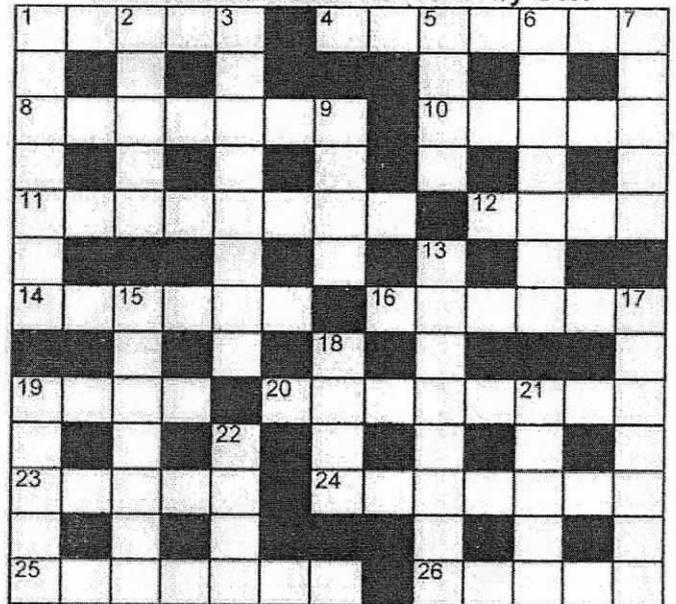
ACROSS

- 1. Inlaid (5)
- 4. Lawman (7)
- 8. Personal (7)
- 10. Vision (5)
- 11. Formal (8)
- 12. Intellect (4)
- 14. Mistakes (6)
- 16. Cleanse (6)
- 19. Drug (4)
- 20. Young horse (8)
- 23. Excite (5)
- 24. Drafted again (7)
- 25. Admire (7)
- 26. Board game (5)

DOWN

- 1. Burst inwards (7)
- 2. Rigid (5)
- 3. Public vehicles (4,4)
- 5. Depart (4)
- 6. European nation (7)
- 7. Meadow (5)
- 9. Dash (4)
- 13. Infrequent (8)
- 15. Duplicates (7)
- 17. Motors (7)
- 18. Inheritor (4)
- 19. Dismal (5)
- 21. Stupid (5)
- 22. In this place (4)

RCN CROSSWORD No. 1345 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 October

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 10 October 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

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 9.30 - 11am, Evening 6 - 7.30pm.

Ring Karen Lewis for details 021-944675 or email:

wutaodance@ihug.co.nz

Life Coaching

Free w/shops for personal and business mentoring. Starting Mon 3 Sept 7pm. For further details phone Sue 960-9389.

For further information about facilities and classes etc. please contact: Lesley McMillan, Community Development Worker: Ph 381-6615.

On September 19 we celebrated 114 years since New Zealand women got the vote. We were the first country in the world to give women the vote and the suffragette movement lead by Kate Sheppard was firmly based in Christchurch. So it is fitting that we have the National Memorial to Kate Sheppard and the women's suffrage movement in our city on the banks of the Avon between Gloucester and Worcester Streets. If you haven't seen the memorial it is well worth a visit.

Every year Christchurch women gather to mark Suffrage Day and to celebrate the hard work and courage of all women who have gone before us. Kate Sheppard and her supporters worked tirelessly to support women and have certainly opened doors and created opportunities for us.

One of my favourite stories of the Votes for Women campaign is this. A gentleman opposed to the enfranchisement of women once said at a public meeting, 'Women have never produced anything of any value to the world.' And a reply came back from the audience: 'The chief product of women has been men. I leave you to decide whether that product is of any value.'

But as a wife and a mother of two boys I don't see the valuing of women as something that needs to devalue men. I like the quote from Margaret Home Sievwright who worked with Kate Sheppard during the campaign. She says, 'What do women want? We want men to stand out of our sunshine that is all ... our request for women is only this: that she may have a fair field and no favour. And the freedom to give expression to her own powers.'
Abridged.

That is all we want – that is all we need.

The legislation to give women the vote was finally passed in September 1893, only ten weeks before the general election but women rushed to get registered and over 65 percent took the opportunity to cast their vote. It was a great achievement and something to reflect upon in light of the turn out at local body elections these days which is often closer to 30 or 40 percent.

Thanks to Kate Sheppard and her supporters all New Zealanders have the vote. We need to be sure that we use it and use it well. Don't forget to vote in the local body elections, ballot papers are being delivered very soon.

Nicky Wagner

NATIONAL PARTY MP

"I'm interested in your views"

chchoffice@nickywagner.co.nz

Ph: 03 365 8297, 189 Montreal St. Christchurch



Nostalgia

By John Nimmo, taken from *Older & Bolder* Nov. 2006

The Medway Street Weir

In its formative years, Christchurch was the wettest city in New Zealand. Underfoot that is. It was a veritable swamp. There was so much water around, that when the sewers were laid, near the turn of the twentieth century, there was sufficient ground water available, even though there was no domestic water reticulation in the city at that time.

Busy little pumps clattered away in suburban backyards supplying each household's needs throughout the year. The Avon, Heathcote and Waimakariri Rivers ensured that city flooding would become a regular fact of life. Heavy winter fogs and water-borne diseases plagued the city for many decades.

During my boyhood in St Albans, we still had our little water pump clattering away in our backyard. We could dig a hole not much bigger than a metre and it would have water in the bottom of it. I expect that the same hole today would have to be a hundred times deeper to obtain the same result.

Nearby Dudley Creek inundated parts of St Albans and Shirley until the late 1950s when a series of huge concrete pipes were laid from Aylesford St. through to Horseshoe Lake. They were very large in diameter and provided endless fun for small boys to horse around in, despite dire and colourfully articulated threats from the contractors.

The head of the creek is in Bishopdale. It wends its way into Papanui and touches the northern extreme of St Albans along Aylesford St., before passing through Shirley and then bordering Banks Ave. to its discharge point into the Avon River, in Dallington.

During flooding in the Aylesford St. area, local residents, who already had water up around their doorsteps, resented the bow waves of nose-y sightseeing motorists. They complained loudly but to little avail. In winter, Dudley Creek became a torrent. At its terminus, its waters would rush out into the Avon as if they had been ejected from generator penstocks.

The diversion changed it all. Today the creek is as much a muddy embarrassment as a blessing to many of those who built their houses on its banks to enjoy the pleasures of riverside dwelling.

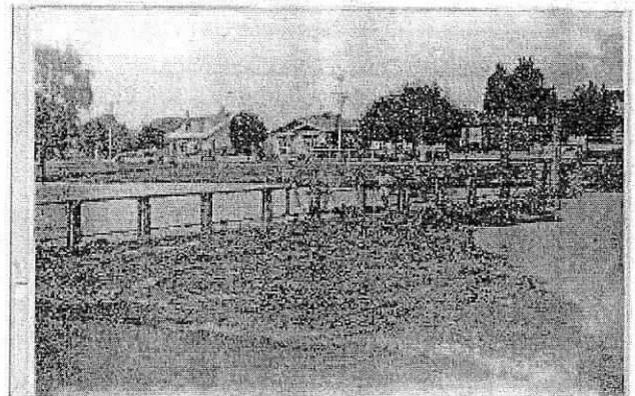
While the weir at the end of Medway St. in Richmond retained the Avon River's depth, it was a larger and deeper waterway than it is today. My rowing career started under Henry Bedford, a tiny ex-jockey, in 1960. We rowed out of the old

Union Club, just up river from the Fitzgerald Ave. bridges. It was the last local club to re-establish at Kerrs Reach. The water depth was more than adequate and we could easily pass the Christ's College boats. Their rowing shed was about 200 metres below the bridges.

It all came to an end one wet and stormy night when someone raised the weir dam in the middle of a rising flood tide. A young lad had been drowned there a short time before and it was a commonly held belief that locals had done the deed in an effort to remove what they saw as a dangerous obstruction in the river. After that, it was off to Kerrs Reach for training.

The genuine Christchurch pea-soupers of my boyhood have waned thanks to a drier city environment. Flooded streets are a rarity and the mandatory gumboots of yesteryear are almost confined to storybook fiction. In fact, the waterlogged city of the past is in danger of becoming a parched desert. We have squandered the most essential of natural resources and allowed our rural lands to be converted into water-intensive agricultural ventures.

Our earlier generations would shake their heads in disbelief if they were able to see what we have done to our once abundant water reserves today.



WEIR ON THE AVON. OPPOSITE MEDWAY ST

Closing Date for copy and advts. for the November RCN issue is 21 October 2007

What's On

Neighbourhood Week

Barbeque - Avebury House

Sat 3 Nov, 6 - 8pm

Meat provided, bring your own salads and drink.

Advt

Jennifer Dalziel, Chartered Accountant

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email: jdalziel@inet.net.nz.

Idea



Richmond Base

277 Stanmore Road
Ph 389-1213

Just a brief update this month as the photo of us picking up the *Richmond News* to fold and deliver says enough.

We had a very successful luncheon on a fabulously fine day and lots of visitors. We hope to buy a barbecue soon and will look forward to the sunny weather and lots of outdoor eating.

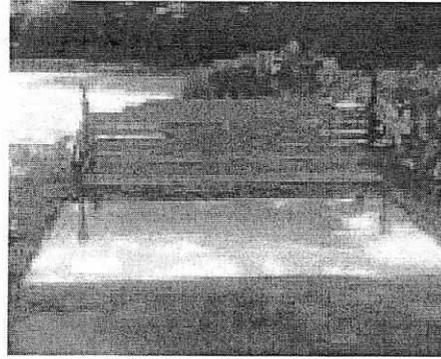
Again, you are welcome to come and see us and buy our cleaning goods at \$1.00 a pop and our fabulous cards at the same price. It is by selling these items that we will be able to give to our service users a few of the little extras at the daybase.

Cheers! Janice and the Team at Richmond

School Committees

Richmond, 10 March 1888

The monthly meeting was held on Wednesday evening: present— Mr Abercrombie (Chairman) and Messrs Anderson, Bell, Burns, Hughes and Shaw. An apology was received from Mr Petrie. The master's monthly report was read, stating that the number on the roll was 552, and the average for the last four weeks 450. The attendance was not so good as it ought to be, as there were 102 children unaccounted for. The report also mentioned some repairs that were needed and drew the attention of the Committee to the nuisance caused by larrikins visiting the school grounds at night. The Committee resolved to bring the compulsory clause of the Education Act into force in the district and to have the repairs done as asked for. It was resolved 'that the chairman should write to Constable Sturmer, asking him to take action and make an example of any persons found on school premises after 3 o'clock in the afternoon.' The Committee discussed, at some length, the retrenchment proposals of the Board and the Inspector's report. Accounts of £18 18s 4d were passed for payment.



Have you visited Avebury Park recently?

When you do, you will see a new park bench in the south-east corner near the house. This is for the benefit of the community and was gifted by the Canterbury Branch of the N.Z. Founders' Society Inc. An explanatory plaque will be added shortly.

The N.Z. Founders' Society was established in 1939 and is for descendants of early New Zealand Settlers (prior to 1865), although others with an interest in our history can become Associate Members or friends. New members are welcome.

The local branch has about six functions on Sundays throughout the year. We usually meet for lunch followed by an activity with an historical association e.g. a tour/speaker or both. If you would like further information please phone the secretary on 03 389-6787. The annual subscription is \$20.

The park bench was dedicated by our Vice Chairman at the 5th Birthday Re-opening of Avebury House on Sunday 23 September 2007.

Choices

Do you feel you have too many choices — or not enough? I offer small workshops to help you make those changes to your life.

Avebury House, Mondays 7.00 - 8.30 from 3 Sept. For further details phone Sue 960-9389 or 0276482142.

Advt

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Bill Cornelius

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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 in early 2008 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.

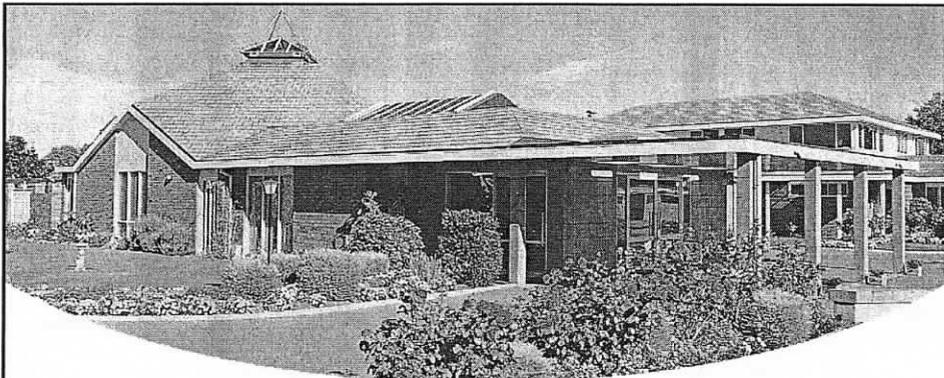
Explore!

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 early 2008.

Delta Community House, 105 North Avon Rd, Richmond

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As an MP, if I'm getting up at 5.30, it's usually to catch a plane to Wellington, or to get in early to my local office. Christchurch is normally pretty quiet at that hour but, since the season opened on 15 August, a few whitebaiters can be seen before the dawn staking out their nets, and waiting patiently on the banks of the Avon, hoping for a shoal of tiny fish. I admire their patience and willingness to be out in all weathers.

For people in cities overseas, the thought of catching fish to eat from a river in the centre of a large city would be incredible. It's great that our rivers support the diverse ecology. One of the blessings of living in Christchurch is the ready access we have to parks and waterways, particularly now it is spring, and the daffodils are blooming on the banks of the Avon. Near my home a mother duck has a brood of eleven ducklings, newly fledged, nesting in the banks of the river.

A duckling can find shelter in a river bank nest, but humans need something a bit more substantial. Shelter is the most basic of human needs. One of the most important goals of every Labour government throughout New Zealand's history has been to try and ensure that New Zealanders, especially those most in need, have secure, affordable accommodation. It's now seventy years since the first Labour Government began a programme for building state houses. The aim then, as now, was to give New Zealanders a secure base, to encourage thriving and supportive communities.

That all changed in 1991 when the National Government introduced market rents and started their sales programme – over 8 years 13,000 state houses were sold. By the time Labour took over in 1999 tenants were generally paying around 40-60 percent of their income on housing. Studies at the time showed that this left families with inadequate means for providing food, clothing and transport, let alone healthcare and schooling, and 64 percent of families in state housing were living below the poverty threshold. I still remember the desperate stories from Richmond and other areas.

Things have changed for the better since Labour came into government in 1999. We have built or leased 7500 new homes, going some way to reverse the trend. We have introduced income related and fair rents, and housing is allocated to those who most need it first.

Programmes like Working for Families have also made a difference, lifting families and children out of poverty: 3000 across Christchurch Central electorate, 100 or more households in Richmond have been lifted out of poverty. This can only be a good thing for the future.

Crucially, the rate of state housing turnover has more than halved since 1999. The stability of living in the same house is good for both families and the neighbourhood as a whole. Children do not have to keep changing schools, families build networks and there is greater community spirit. It's good to be able to get a sense of your place in the world by watching the seasons change in familiar places. It's great for kids, and adults too, to be able to plant a daffodil bulb, and see it flower months later.

We still need more houses, and improvements to the housing stock are planned, including the Whakahoia Village in Gowerton Place, which is a joint collaboration between the City Council and Housing New Zealand. The new, 20-unit complex has been designed to create a village-type atmosphere, and a strong sense of community for its tenants – exactly the aims of the original state housing projects of the first Labour Government.

From the whitebaiters to the ducks, from Richmond

neighbourhood to the new Whakahoia development, we see community growing all around us. The problems may never go away, but what a place to live!

Tim Barnett

M.P. Christchurch Central

'HUGS ALLROUND'

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FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN AGED BIRTH
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THIS IS A 'NOT FOR PROFIT' PROJECT

**Wednesdays 1-4pm
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 OLGA 980-1654

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

Advt

House cleaning job wanted by reliable, efficient and honest lady. I'll vacuum, wash floors, dust, clean bathrooms/loo. \$25 p.w. Excellent references. Phone Nicola 386-1118.

The Richmond Community News requires stories and items of local interest. If you have an item for publication please send it to: Avebury@xtra.co.nz or Avebury House Community Trust, P.O.Box 26097, attention RCN.

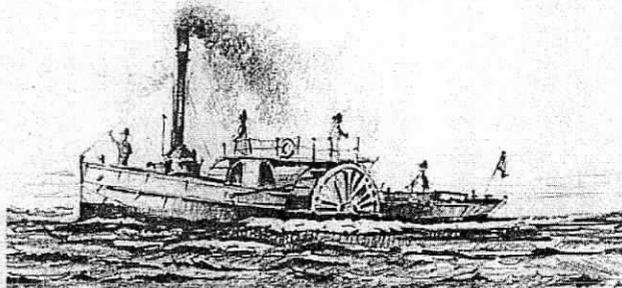
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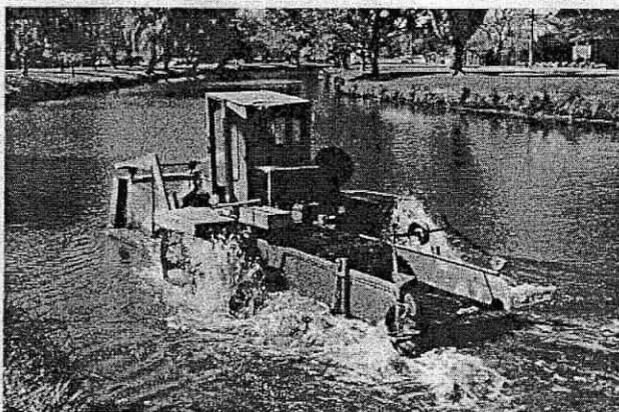
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From *The Mosquito Fleet of Canterbury* by Colin Amodeo



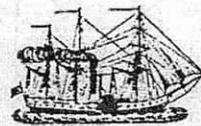
—Bill Huntley

The side paddle wheel steamer Avon, based upon a watercolour painted by Joseph Hamley on the Waikato River in 1864.



—Author

Following something of the earlier tradition, the side paddle wheel weed-cutter River Warrior working on the Avon River in 1994.¹⁸



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The above Company has been formed for the purpose of increasing the facilities of communication between Lyttelton and Christchurch direct by the River Avon, and a suitable steamer has been ordered from England for the purpose.

Persons desirous of taking shares (of which only a few are left,) are requested to make their applications in the usual way to the Secretary.

The Avon Company's first advertisement in the Lyttelton Times in August 1858.

It's hard to believe, given the state of the Avon Shoals today, that a shipping company had formed in the late 1850s to utilise the river for freight and transport.

The Avon Company did not last long. However, it did have it's own purpose-built steamer. Tidal fluctuations and mud banks forced the *PS Avon* out of business and, in the 1860s, she became the *HMS Avon*, operating as a gunboat on the Waikato River during the Land Wars.

Colin Amodeo

WHAT THEY DON'T TELL YOU

Going into business? Thinking of self-employment? Starting up now or in the future? There is more to having a business than money. Make sure you know the reality and have what it takes to 'hit the ground running' by joining a six week workshop starting October 4th.

Phone Sue 960-9389 or 027 648-2142.

Advt

Sharon Warren psychotherapist/counsellor available for consultations weekdays and some evenings.
Phone 980-0081 for an appointment.

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