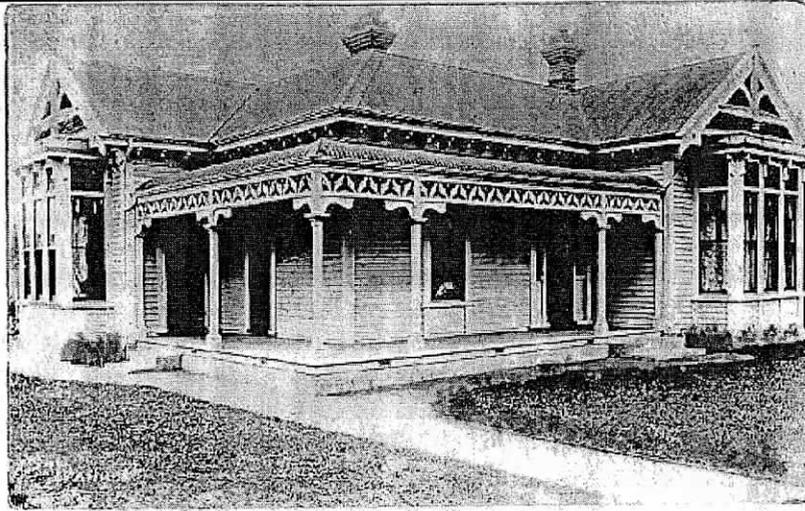


# Richmond Community News

•March 2009 •

Vol 7 No 2 Issue 67

## Fortyeighth in the Historical Homes of Richmond Series



342 Stanmore Road, Richmond

The Petrie family home at 342 Stanmore Rd. was built in 1907 by George Petrie and a team of builders he also employed to do work for the family business. This same team was responsible for the construction of several schools in the countryside around Christchurch.

The house was called “Ivanhoe” and was built in what was known as the “Teahouse Style” of which several other examples still survive in Richmond – one in Tweed St. and another in Nth Avon Rd.

The front door was wood with beautiful lead lights and sidelights and a large brass door knob in the middle. It opened to a wide hall that ran down the centre of the house. There were 11” high skirting boards along both sides of papered walls and the floor was covered in either linoleum or congoleum but was later replaced with carpet.

There were three bedrooms, a large sitting room, a living area with a coal range and a kitchen with a separate pantry. The bathroom was at the end of the hallway. One bedroom and the sitting room had doors that opened out onto the spacious right-angled verandah that ran around two sides of the house. There were three fireplaces (which June recalls being very cosy in winter) and several large bay windows with fanlights (which June also recalls being her job to clean and having to stand on the window ledge to reach the tops). At the back of the house was a concrete verandah and a laundry attached to the house.

The house was on a “standard sized” section which probably meant a ¼ acre. The back yard was given over to fruit trees and a vegetable garden. The front had two lawns with flowering cherry trees, quite a lot of tall flax bushes and rows of roses lining the path to the front door. The front fence was made of corrugated iron topped with wood but had a very ornate wrought iron gate with lovely scrolls and circles in the design. The Petrie property backed onto the Smiths which ran all the way from Stanmore Rd. down to Tweed St. and was full of orchards and glasshouses. June remembers looking out at their Peasegood’s Nonesuch apple trees over the iron fence.

June never heard about the origins of the name “Ivanhoe” but her grandparents were Scottish and had given their own home the Scottish name of “Carnach”. It was not uncommon at that time to name houses after places that had family connections or to name them after popular classical works (such as “Ivanhoe”) that might have had relevance to the family’s background or literary tastes.

*Continued on page 4*

|  |  |
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| <br>BUSINESS EQUIPMENT NZ LTD | <b>KM Business Equipment NZ Ltd</b> 68 Fitzgerald Ave P O Box10289 Christchurch<br>Phone 03 366 2217 Fax 03 366 2235 Email <a href="mailto:kmbusiness@clear.net.nz">kmbusiness@clear.net.nz</a><br><b>DIGITAL COPIERS - PRINTERS - MULTIFUNCTIONALS</b> <a href="http://www.kmbus.co.nz">www.kmbus.co.nz</a> |
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# RICHMOND

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Email: [gary.hughes@harcourts.co.nz](mailto:gary.hughes@harcourts.co.nz)

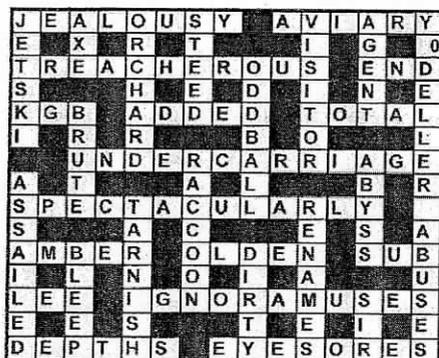
*Free market appraisal*

on your home with this copy of the  
Richmond Community News



**Richmond area property consultant since 2005**

## Last month's solution



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

## Crossword Clues

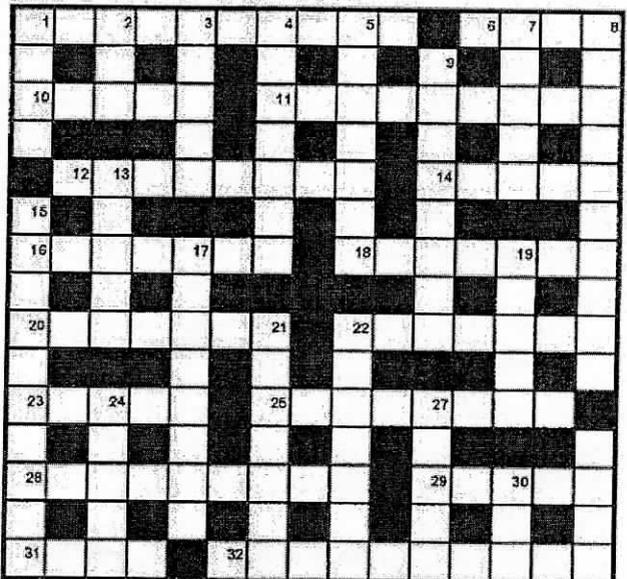
### ACROSS

- Watermelon (10)
- Nuclear particle (4)
- Golden touch (5)
- Artificial language (9)
- Sing a song of ..... (8)
- Shortland Street Dr (5)
- Blood disorder (7)
- Hillary's conquest (7)
- Author John ..... (7)
- Cricketer player (7)
- 1st Premier USSR (5)
- East/Orient, West/..... (8)
- Collectable crystal (9)
- Explorer .....Polo (5)
- Actor Geoffrey ..... (4)
- Olympic sport (10)

### DOWN

- Outdoor holiday (4)
- Actor ..... Devine (3)
- Greek fable teller (5)
- Pacific region(7)
- Tahiti capital (7)
- Opera voice (5)
- Chinese leader (3,3,4)
- Frontiersman US (8)
- ..... Newton (5)
- Garden bloom (10)
- Seafarers (8)
- 1959 Irish Pres. ....  
de Valera (5)
- Environment study (7)
- Old English palace (7)
- Musical symbols (5)
- Author Alexandre.....(5)
- Singer Diana.....(4)
- Wrist ailment (1,1,1)

### PMH 13



## SUN NING TAKEAWAYS

237 Stanmore road Ph 389-3113

Chinese meals Fish & Chips  
Hamburgers

### Hours

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

Thurs sat: 11.30 - 2pm / 4.30 - 10pm

Sun: 4.30pm - 8.30pm Mon Closed

**PHONE ORDERS TAKEN  
SMALL FUNCTIONS CATERED FOR  
SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL  
RICHMOND BUSINESS**

## What's on in March

**Avebury House**, situated at 9 Eveleyn Couzins Ave. Richmond, is a community-run, low cost facility that has rooms available for hire. Situated in the midst of Avebury Park, the house 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). Suggested donation \$3.00.  
This Sit and Be Fit class is a fun and healthy way to retain mobility, independence and meet new people.

**Richmond History Group**

Held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. No cost.  
Next meeting Wednesday Feb 11th 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 Sue on 352-5551 for details.

**Music & Movement for Babies and Pre-schoolers**

This popular group meets on Fridays 11am - 12 noon, excluding school holidays. . For enrolment/enquiries ring Jody on 352-2106 or just come along.

**Flax Weaving Courses with Ali Brown**

Mar 28 & Apr 25 9am - 4 pm.

Ph Ali Brown 326-7834 for registrations.

**Hugs All Round Quilt Project**

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

**Tai Chi Class – Especially adapted for older adults**

Fridays: Advanced 12.15 – 1.15pm. Suggested donation \$5.00

**Music Together of Christchurch**

An internationally recognised and research-based programme; Song book and CDs included. Birth to age five. Avebury House, Thursdays 9.30-10.15am.

Contact Jennifer: 328-7787

[director@musictogetherofchristchurch.com](mailto:director@musictogetherofchristchurch.com)

[www.musictogetherofchristchurch.com](http://www.musictogetherofchristchurch.com)

**Meditation Group Thursdays**

2nd and 4th **Thursday**, 7.30 - 8pm Flesher Room.

Starting February 12th (ongoing)

Simple, guided meditations for anyone and everyone.

\$20 for 8 weeks. Contact Jill 383 1843

**The Melchizedek Method**

March 20 Fri night free meditation 7 - 9pm

March 21,22,23 9am - 6pm A revolutionary new form of physical, emotional, mental, etheric and spiritual healing age reversal and lightbody activation.

Phone Makita 388-9845

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

I am delighted that National has introduced a voluntary bonding scheme for young doctors, nurses, teachers and vets. It was something available when I was in teacher training and it helped me and my generation get started, into work and to contribute to our communities.

Right now too many people who need a GP can't get in to see one. Too many mothers-to-be can't find a midwife. Too many of our communities struggle to find nurses for their hospitals, teachers for their schools and vets to treat sick animals.

Why? Because many young Kiwis who graduate with qualifications in much-needed professions see the size of their student loans and -all too often - look overseas to repay them. They take the skills they have learned here and trade them for better wages overseas. They join the brain drain to secure their futures. But we know that if we can help them financially and keep them in the country for those first vital years, they are more likely to stay, start families and build their own futures there.

We can't afford to keep losing our trained young people. National's voluntary bonding scheme offers student loan write-offs and cash incentives to graduates in much-needed professions who work in hard-to-staff communities or specialties for three to five years. It delivers on our election promises to encourage doctors, midwives, nurses, teachers and veterinarians to stay in New Zealand.

Our scheme for graduate health professionals is expected to cover 100 doctors, and 250 midwives and nurses, working for up to five years in areas with critical workforce shortages. Each year a similar-sized group will be added until the scheme covers up to 500 doctors and 1250 nurses and midwives a year.

The scheme for graduate teachers covers more than 380 hard-to-staff decile 1 and severely isolated schools. It also covers subjects with teacher shortages - chemistry, home economics, mathematics and statistics, physics, technology and Te Reo Māori. Our bonding scheme for veterinarians targets understaffed rural practices working with farm animals.

This is a great scheme. It is a win-win situation. It will help reverse the exodus of young Kiwis leaving for overseas and help to provide much-needed support and services to communities throughout New Zealand

Nicky Wagner National M.P. for Christchurch Central

### Nicky Wagner

NATIONAL PARTY MP

Available for appointments/contact my office:

[chchoffice@nickywagner.co.nz](mailto:chchoffice@nickywagner.co.nz)

Ph: 03 365 8297, 189 Montreal St, Christchurch



**National**  
www.national.org.nz



Continued from Page 1

In the years just after WW2 the Christchurch City council embarked upon a street widening project which saw many of the old homes along Stanmore Rd. lose much of their street frontage. Some, including the Petrie family, held out as long as they could against it but eventually had to give in and had their front fences set back. According to June this spoiled the look of the front of the property quite a bit as they lost many of their lovely old trees and a lot of their lawn.

The house was finally sold in 1973 when June's mother had to go into care. The person who bought it owned several more properties around Christchurch and did not seem to maintain any of them very well. The house stood empty for some time during which vandals got into it, stealing first the front door (along with all the lead lights) then everything that could be removed from the inside, ending in the roof itself being taken for the iron. After the roof was gone the weather ruined what was left and the house deteriorated rapidly to the point where the council stepped in and had it demolished.

June Wright(nee Petrie) as told to Christine Thieme

### Crossway Playgroup and Puddleducks Toy Library

Our playgroup and toy library used to be situated at the Methodist Church on New Brighton Rd, but – as mentioned in the previous Richmond News – together with other community groups, we have also moved to the North Avon Presbyterian Church (now known as Crossway Community Church) on the corner of Randall and Petrie Streets.

Crossway Playgroup and Puddleducks Toy Library are open every Thursday morning between 10.00am and noon, except school holidays.

#### Crossway Playgroup:

Are you looking for a fun and social activity for you and your child/children? The Crossway Playgroup aims to provide a safe and friendly environment for preschool children, with age appropriate activities which encourage children's physical, social and educational development through play. We also aim to provide friendship and support for parents and caregivers. Our playgroup is run by volunteers, and each parent/caregiver is responsible for the children they bring to playgroup. Parent participation – e.g. preparing morning tea, getting involved in children's play, and tidying up – makes the playgroup more successful. The children share a morning tea together at 10.30am, and there is music time at 11.00am. Cost: \$1.00 per family. For more information, contact Lynley at 3856446.

#### Puddleducks Toy Library:

Always wanted to have more toys for your children? Are your children bored with the same old toys? For just \$10.00 a year, your family can enjoy good quality toys that are suitable for babies, toddlers and preschool children. You can take out 5 toys, 1 video and 2 puzzles/games per family for a 2-week period, with hire prizes ranging from 50 cents to \$2.50. All we ask is that you volunteer for 4 (or more) duties per year in the toy library (only 2 hours). If you choose not to do duties, the yearly membership

fee will be \$20.00. If you want to find out more about it or want to become a member, visit us on Thursday mornings while the children play at playgroup, or contact Silvia for more information: 9808476, or [truussil@hotmail.com](mailto:truussil@hotmail.com).

Community barbecue at Crossway Church cnr Petrie and Randal Streets Sunday March 15th 110am — all ages games for children. 10am church service available beforehand. Enquiries: phone church office Tuesday - Thursday am only ph 385-3473

#### Sew Good for you

**Tuesdays 1.30 - 3.30 pm**

Would you like to create your own personal, original gifts for presents? If so, this is the class for you, regardless of whether you have sewn before, or are totally new to sewing and maybe have never used a sewing machine. The class is structured so that all levels of skill are catered for. In this class you can make soft toys, wall hangings, fabric brooches, pretty hostess aprons, fancy scarves, cushions, stylish bags, a smart jacket for your dog, or something of your own choosing. Sewing machines are available at Avebury House or you may bring your own machine.

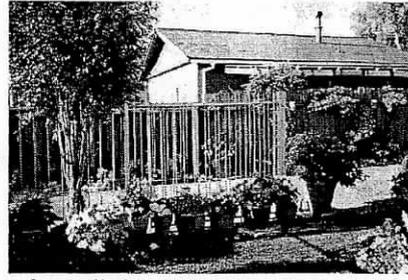
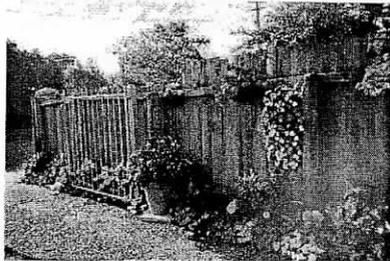
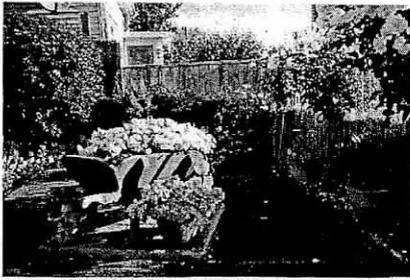
To enrol please phone Ellen Graham on 385-5976 or contact Avebury House on 381-6615.

*Bill Cornelius*  
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P.O. Box 21393 Edgeware Christchurch



We have been living at 92 Vogel Street for approximately 2 ½ years. When we first moved in there was no garden and a poor lawn coverage. We soon got to work and produced what is now an award winning garden: 2 street appeal awards.

It gives us pleasure and this pleasure is also shared by those who walk by, especially the residents of St Ives Retirement Home.

Olive & Les Henderson

### The Big Snow of '45.

by Jim McGlinn

On the last weekend of the August school holidays, 1945, the heaviest snowfall ever recorded here fell on Christchurch. It had not been snowing when I went to bed on Friday night but my sisters said that it was snowing heavily when they came in about 11pm. Before I went outside I had put my gumboots on but the snow came well above the tops and they soon filled, first with snow then water, as the snow melted. Outside the whole world was white. I went to the front gate making the first tracks on the unbroken surface. The snow on Vogel Street and Warwick Street remained, untouched; a picture post card scene and the silence seemed complete. The power lines hanging between the poles were about five centimetres thick with snow. Snow also coated the telephone wires, which hung much lower than usual, stretched under load. Some had snapped off and hung down from the poles. Later in the day we found that, if we threw a stick at the telephone lines, they appeared to fall down. However, it was only the snow that fell from them, in an unbroken line.

To me it all seemed too wonderful but for the whole of Canterbury, it must have presented real problems. Transport movements would have been near impossible, being dependent on clear the roads. There would have been no snowploughs in the city. I imagine the nearest would have been at Arthur's pass. The delivery of food, mail, newspapers, in fact anything was impossible for a few days. The number of lines that had come down drastically reduced telephone communication. Canterbury was just unprepared for a snowfall like this. After the snow the skies cleared and hard frosts set in which delayed melting. Bus lanes around the city were cleared within a few days. The snow, removed from the centre of roadways, formed continuous piles down each side of roads for some time.

Yet none of this affected me and I remember little about it. I was just wildly enthusiastic about the snow. After the novelty of snow fights and making tracks through the snow the neighbourhood kids began making snowmen. The next day a hard crust had formed on top of the snow and the Sears kids and I tried to make an igloo. The walls were easy enough. With a spade we cut two lines in the snow about 30 cm apart then chopped off a block and, with the spade, lifted and placed these blocks on top of one another as if we were laying bricks. We had marked out a circle in the snow and laid the blocks around the outside.

Turning the walls in toward each other to make a roof proved more difficult and, at the end of the day, just the walls were standing. We found next morning that the overnight frost had hardened the walls and we managed to make some progress with roofing them over but in the end it proved too difficult and we lost interest.

After the weekend, school could not reopen because roads were still blocked and we were given an extra week of holidays. My friend, Russell Sears, and I began rolling snowballs and found that we could very quickly make a roll close to a metre high. At that stage the roll became too heavy to push any further. The first one we made was on one side of Vogel Street. We went back to where we had started and rolled a second one alongside the first. The two of them together gave us the idea of building a wall so we continued until our wall stretched from footpath to footpath. Up until this time no vehicles had come along the street as the snow was too deep. At the time, I don't think the idea that we were blocking off the street dawned on us but it soon did. Within a few days, as the snow slowly melted and cars took to the road again, cars could not get along Vogel Street and had to detour around Warwick Street to get through. I don't know how it was cleared but during the following week, after we had returned to school, we came home one afternoon and it had been shifted to one side.

As the snow on the house roofs began to melt, it would start to slide down over the edge and the weight then came on the spouting, which often gave way, and many houses had bent and broken spouting hanging down. Many houses stayed like this for some time, probably due to wartime shortages of the materials to fix them and, with so many men in the services, tradesmen to do repairs were in short supply. Similarly, repairs to the telephone lines, were a long time job. The broken wires were coiled up and left hanging from the poles. I was, at this time, learning to make crystal set radios and getting copper wire was one of my problems. I saw this as an opportunity and cut down several of these coils.

The Great Snow must have caused serious disruption way beyond the city. I can remember the Avon River being very high as it melted and branches being broken off trees but not anything about wider problems. This is probably because of the wartime censorship of news. Nothing was broadcast or published that could possibly be of any use to "The Enemy".

## Delta Community Support Trust



105 North Avon Road, Richmond

Phone 389-0212

### Footprints Cafe @ Delta

Open 10am - 1pm Monday & Wednesday.

Coffee, tea and food

### Foodbank

For those living in the local area. Open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10am - 2pm

### Budget Advice

Budget advice available on Tuesdays

### Delta Inn

Come and enjoy an excellent cooked meal in a friendly atmosphere. Fridays 11am - 1pm (meal seated at midday) \$3 donation

### Craft Group

A small friendly group who meet on Monday and Thursday mornings from 10am - 12noon to chat, participate in various crafts and drink coffee!

### Empowerment Courses 2009

- **Live to the Max** - a practical goal setting course
- **Explore!** - a course for those needing to get out and about more and want to think about making changes to their lives. We spend one day a week for 10 weeks experiencing different places around Christchurch and getting to know each other and ourselves better. Starts **Wednesday 11 or Thursday 12 March**
- **Healthy Living** - a practical course designed to help you live more healthily involving setting goals for yourself, cooking classes, easy exercise and information about health and nutrition.

Phone Tony, Andrea or Marlys on 389-0212 or 389-0219 for more information or to enrol.

### Delta Community Church

Meets Mondays 7pm, cuppa available from 6.15pm. Come along to a friendly church with a difference! Phone Tony on 3890212 for more information

**Scrapbooking:** 7pm Fridays at North Avon Baptist Church, North Avon Road. Come to learn or come to crop (or both) Phone Anne on 960-8945

**Idea**

Richmond base

We have made a submission re the proposed cycle lanes as to how it will affect us.

If this proposal is implemented it will have a negative affect regarding traffic around our base.

We already have a problem with the public parking in our private parking area and this proposal will only compound the existing problems. On top of that the bus stop we use will also be going. We believe this will be a backward step and discrimination against not only us but others with disabilities and special needs.

I look forward to the response to our submission.

On a brighter note, we have entered some photos in the "Eilerslie" flower show photo competition.

It would be great if even one was chosen for display Samples below.

Janice and the team.



Group outing



Chinese festival



Above  
Cruise ship



Right  
Monach catepillers

Shirley Boys High School is proud of its Old Boys and congratulates Dr John Langley who was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) in the New Years Honours, 2009 'For Services to Education'; also to recently-elected National MP Aaron Gilmore, M.Com (Hons) who is a member of the Education and Science Select Committee; and to Roy Ferguson, MA, former Shirley Boys High School Head Boy in 1969, and current New Zealand Ambassador to the United States of America who represented New Zealand at the recent inauguration of US President Obama.

*Christchurch Star March 13 1897*

**RICHMOND AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB.—**

The final heat of this club's 100yds Handicap was decided last evening. The starters were A. B. Truscott scr, W. G. Strange and W. Simpson 12 sec, and J. L. Northey 14sec. Strange won by an inch or two after a fine race, Truscott being second a foot in front of Northey and Simpson close up. Time 88 sec. Mr G. Milne acted as starter, judge and timekeeper.

## From surplus to recession

By **Brendon Burns, MP for Christchurch Central**

As a member of Parliament's Finance and Expenditure committee, I help oversee the government's economic management. Some people ask me how we went from surpluses to recession in one year flat? And what can we each do to minimise the recession's bite?

The turn-around seemed to come about abruptly but the signals were there. Former US President George W Bush cut taxes for very rich and invaded Iraq. A US surplus quickly became a torrent of borrowing, funded largely by China; a third-world nation propping up the global superpower! Former Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan naively imagined US banks would lend the money prudently, when bank chief executives were being paid millions for delivering market share, not sound loan portfolios. The whole Wall St of cards began to collapse, changing life for us all.

Fortunately, New Zealand is acknowledged by the new National/ACT government to be well positioned to come through this recession. That's because Michael Cullen had the foresight to invest in infrastructure. Instead of giving in to incessant calls for tax cuts which he knew would boost inflation, he halved government debt, funded new hospitals, schools, roads and superannuation savings. These placed us on a firmer basis and are now crucial to helping us through.

What does this world recession mean for us in Christchurch Central and in particular for you as a Richmond resident? It's important the recession not be used to cut basic services and public service jobs. While we all want to see government money spent well, last year's Budget recognised it was the right point of the cycle to cut taxes and to stimulate the economy. The surpluses are replaced by government borrowing because businesses are contracting, so delivering less tax. Labour believes New Zealand needs a comprehensive plan rather than a "rolling maul"; the one extra state house suggested for Christchurch Central will not do much to help struggling builders. We should be employing them to insulate Christchurch homes.

It's not just recession that's changed our lives. We also need to work through the impacts of climate change, peak oil and how to preserve our quality of life. Now is the time to share ideas (from left field?) Planting fruit trees on street verges? At a personal level, Richmond families and households are reviewing budgets and reducing debt. A low income person I met door-knocking bought a Freeview box for around \$200, delivering multiple television channels with no monthly

pay-tv payments. Biking around the electorate, I see more cyclists as people save petrol money, exercise and help the planet all in one. Communities like Richmond will rally and work together through these challenging times. Myself and my dedicated electorate office staff are there to assist you.



**Brendon Burns**  
Member of Parliament  
for Christchurch Central

Contact my electorate office  
Monday-Friday, 10-4pm  
Level 3, 103 Worcester Street  
Phone: 377 8840

**Working for your future**

NEW ZEALAND  
**Labour**



### Letters to the Editor

On the proposed Stanmore Road cycle lanes you ask "what purpose?" Safety and sustainability seem very worthwhile reasons for such a change to me. Surely commitment to our great local businesses shouldn't be dependant on getting a park right outside - they're worth walking a few metres for. Safe cycleways and pedestrian access will certainly keep me supporting the Stanmore Rd area, not inconvenience me. The bigger picture is that Christchurch desperately needs to provide some safe routes around the city for cyclists and Stanmore Rd would be an excellent link for people in our part of the city. The cycle strategy is encouraging people to stay fit and help the environment, that's not a change for the worse.

Rebecca Roper-Gee  
68 Chrystal St  
Richmond

I have often biked up Stanmore Rd when I dropped kids at Kindy, visit friends and go to the shops. Every time I have wished for cycle lanes. They would make a huge difference to my willingness to venture into the Richmond area which is quite intimidating because of the lack of cycle space. We should all encourage as much active transport as possible for health and environmental reasons and cycle lanes make the space much safer for pedestrians as well as cyclists.

Steven Muir  
328 Barbados St  
St Albans

**Closing Date for copy and advts. for the  
April RCN issue is  
20 March 2009**

#### Advt

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



# TE RITO O TE HARAKEKE

## RICHMOND SCHOOL

PO BOX 25026  
North Avon  
CHRISTCHURCH  
(03) 389 7168



Whaea Jacqualene  
Acting Principal

### He Mihi

*Ko Whaka Punake te Maunga*

*Ko Ruakaturi te Awa*

*Ko Takitimu te Waka*

*Ko Ngati Kahuhgunu te Iwi*

*Ko Jacqualene ahau*

*Tena koutou katoa*

*lelelele*



Whaea Ange  
Room 5



Whaea Bronwyn  
Room 1



Whaea Paula  
Room 6



Whaea Tina  
Room 3



Whaea Sharon  
Room 8



Matua David  
Room 7

TENA KOUTOU, TALOFA, NAMASTE, BONJOUR,  
NI SA BULA, NIHAO, ANNYONG HASEYO

Kia Ora to our Richmond Community

My name is Jacqualene Mairdona and I am currently the Acting Principal of Richmond Primary School - one of the best kept secrets in our city.

We are a family-focused, small primary school, working our way towards full bi-lingual status. We expect to be the first school in Christchurch to achieve this. By keeping our class sizes very small, we are able to offer a level of personal, individualised attention and support that few other schools can match.

We have an awesome new team of teachers and leaders in place this year, and already we can see a big difference in our school. I have been visiting all our classrooms and have been very impressed with the focus on learning and the positive atmosphere that is evident in every room.

2009 has begun as a year of considerable change at Richmond School. Our Principal notified us late in January that she would need to take leave to care for her very ill parents. We therefore have a new Acting Principal, two new Deputy Principals, and a Commissioner, who has replaced our Board.

I have to say I am in awe of the team that we now have and the way they have stepped up to the challenges that presented themselves. Our team have helped us bring in a whole raft of new initiatives to improve the quality of teaching and learning in our kura. This has been an exciting opportunity for us to look with fresh eyes at everything that we do and believe. Our core beliefs have not changed, but we have found new ways to communicate and demonstrate those beliefs - based on a Harakeke model we will be sharing with our community and asking for feedback on, soon.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank our parents and caregivers, for the way they have supported us and their kura at this challenging time. We have had lots of messages of support and encouragement and this makes us feel valued and appreciated.

It would be fair to say we have heard there are some rumours going around our community with regards to us having a Commissioner. The best way to deal with rumours is to speak directly to the people concerned. So if you hear rumours, and you are feeling a little doubtful, just give us a call, drop me an email at [principal@richmond.school.nz](mailto:principal@richmond.school.nz) or call in and find out first hand. We are sure you'll be glad you did.

Our staff are viewing having a Commissioner very positively, seeing this as an opportunity to make our school better than before. We are working hard with our new Commissioner to put good systems and processes in place, and of course, some changes will take time. Our first priority however, must always be to ensure children, classrooms, and teachers are able to function to their full potential. We are very confident that our school is now on firmly on track for success.

Arohanui Whaea Jacqualene - Acting Principal

Kia Ora Whanau

I have been appointed by the Ministry of Education as the Commissioner of Richmond school. I am replacing the previous Board of Trustees, as the Board has been dissolved. My role over the next few months is to work with the school to address the issues raised by the Education Review Office in their latest report. I will be working with staff, parents and the community to improve the focus on educational achievement for all children. I have met with the current staff and find them warm, welcoming and supportive and very focused on moving the school forward.

I have over 20 years experience in Employment Relations and the Education Sector. I am familiar with the school and am confident we can put the necessary systems and structures in place that will ensure quality educational opportunities are provided for all children at Richmond School.

I am also currently a seconded member of the St Albans school Board of Trustees, and I work in a busy employment and family legal practice.

I am convinced that together we can improve what is already a vibrant and welcoming school for the benefit of the Richmond School children. I look forward to this challenge and will be available to meet with parents/whanau in the near future.

If there are any questions, praise or concerns that you may have, please contact the school and make an appointment to talk it through. I look forward to hearing from you.



David Beck  
Commissioner

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