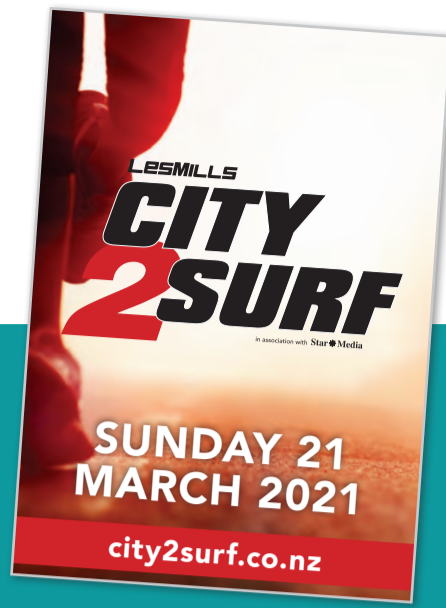


Star \* Media

# western news



**Santa's helper creates thousands of toys**  
Pages 4 & 5



**Pupils dress up as characters from books**  
Page 8

# Work starts on dangerous intersection, cycleway

By Bea Gooding

WORK TO improve one of the city's most dangerous intersections starts this month, but not everyone is happy about it.

The busy intersection of Middleton Rd, Riccarton Rd and Ilam Rd – ranked the seventh most dangerous in the city – will be upgraded to improve safety for all road users.



The junction will effectively become a T-intersection, which only allows left-turning traffic to move between Riccarton Rd and

Jonathon Reddiford

Middleton Rd. Ilam and Riccarton Residents' Association chairman Jonathon Reddiford said many residents wanted the intersection to remain the status quo.

Not only would it slow traffic down seeing as parts of the area were already reduced to 40km/h, but they also did not agree with removing access into Riccarton Rd.

• Turn to page 6



**UPGRADE:** Work to improve safety at one of the city's most dangerous intersections starts this month, in tandem with cycleway works. PHOTO: NEWSLINE

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## Star \* Media

# what's on this week

**JP Clinic**  
**Thursday, 9.30am-12.30pm, at Hornby, Tuesday, 10am-1pm, at Halswell and Upper Riccarton**  
 Hornby, Halswell and Upper Riccarton libraries

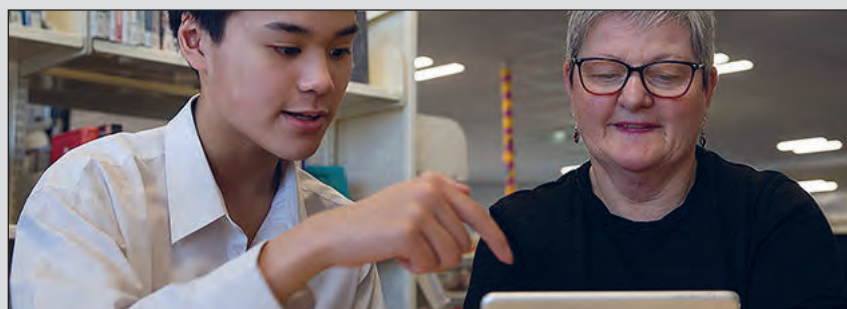
A Justice of the Peace will be available to members of the community to witness signatures and documents, certify document copies, hear oaths, declarations, affidavits or affirmations as well as sign citizenship, sponsorship or rates rebates applications. This service is free.

**Knit 'n' Yarn**  
**Thursday, 10.30am-2.30pm, Tuesday, 1-3pm, at Upper Riccarton, Thursday, 2-3.30pm, at Fendalton, Tuesday, 10am-noon, at Hornby**  
 Fendalton, Hornby and Upper Riccarton libraries

Take your knitting, crochet, stitching or any other handcraft and enjoy the company of others. Share skills and be inspired.

**Citizens Advice Bureau**  
**Thursday, Friday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 9am-5pm**  
 Hornby Library

Citizen's Advice Bureau provides free, confidential advice to everyone. They take the time to listen and equip you with information, options and support that fit your needs. Free, phone 349 5236 for more information.



**GenConnect, Thursday, 1-1.45pm, Upper Riccarton Library.** If you have questions about your smartphone or tablet, ask an expert for advice. Free, no bookings required.

**Rummikub**  
**Thursday, 1-3pm**  
 Fendalton Library

Join in on the fun and discover how to play Rummikub, an exciting strategy game for all ages. Free, no bookings required.

**Free Legal Advice**  
**Thursday, 6.15-8.15pm**  
 Hornby Library

A lawyer will be available to answer your legal questions. Take relevant documents. Free. No bookings required.

**Technology Help Drop-In Sessions**  
**Monday, 2-3pm**  
 Hornby Library

These free drop-in sessions are available to help you with specific issues including using email, searching the internet, using the library catalogue, using electronic resources and any other general computer-related queries. Go along with your laptop, tablet, smartphone or use one of the desktop computers if you need help with anything digital.

**Wā Kōrero: Storytimes**  
**Tuesday, 10.30-11am, at Fendalton, Wednesday, 10.15-10.45am, at Hornby**

Fendalton and Hornby libraries  
 Storytimes is an interactive programme including books, songs, rhymes and play. Recommended for children two-years-old and up. No bookings required.

**Family History**  
**Wednesday, 11am-1pm**  
 Upper Riccarton Library

A volunteer from the Riccarton branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists will be available to help you with finding your family history online. Meet at the Family History computer.

**Mah-jong Group**  
**Wednesday, 1-3pm**  
 Upper Riccarton Library

If you are interested in playing Mah-jong, go along whether you are a beginner or an advanced player. **Not-for-profit organisations can send their What's On listings to western@starmedia.kiwi**

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# Call for cameras after pupils hit by car

By Bea Gooding

A COLLISION between a vehicle and school pupils has prompted a call to install cameras at a busy intersection in a bid to catch drivers who fail to give way.

Sue Bennetts was driving past the Clyde Rd and Memorial Ave intersection when she saw a Cobham Intermediate School pupil lying on the ground, and another in the back of an ambulance.

The incident came as no surprise to her having lived in the area for 15 years and experienced near-misses at the pedestrian crossing closest to BP on a "weekly basis."



Eddie Norgate

Principal Eddie

Norgate confirmed the pupils were indeed hit by a vehicle but said it occurred near the crossing, not while they were on it, and that it was a "genuine accident."

Senior Sergeant Michael Jones said a young person sustained minor injuries and inquiries into the crash were ongoing.

Said Bennetts: "I moved a month ago and now drive past the spot. I used these lights every day for 15 years, and every day vehicles turning left from Clyde



**DANGEROUS:** The city council will review the infrastructure at the Clyde Rd and Memorial Ave intersection in an effort to make it safer for pedestrians.

PHOTO: GEOFF SLOAN

**HAVE YOUR SAY:** Should traffic cameras be installed at the Clyde Rd and Memorial Ave pedestrian crossing to catch drivers who don't give way? Email your views to [bea.gooding@starmedia.kiwi](mailto:bea.gooding@starmedia.kiwi)

In 2016 the city council upgraded the crossings at all four left-turn slip lanes, including raised tables and improved road markings to reduce vehicle speeds.

But installing red-light cameras as requested by Bennetts would not benefit the concerns, said Thomas.

"The crossing in question is currently a zebra crossing and is not controlled by traffic lights, hence a red light camera may not provide any benefit to this specific concern."

However, city council staff will review the existing infrastructure and if needed, will look at updating and improving signage to warn approaching drivers.

Said Thomas: "We are currently working with police for the introduction of red-light enforcement cameras in Christchurch, as we recognise and support red-light cameras as viable crash-reduction tools."

into Memorial would run red lights and drive straight through the crossing without stopping or looking.

"I have written to the council and rung police with number plates of offenders but nothing has been done. There needs to be signage and a red-light camera installed immediately."

On one occasion she followed a vehicle that nearly hit her to a nearby supermarket to take down its details for police.

Police told her they sent a letter to educate the driver and she decided not to take the matter

further.

The collision she described at the intersection was not the first.

A few years ago the city council installed "speed bumps" when another child was also hit by a car.

"It doesn't seem to have deterred anyone. It makes me nervous for these kids, we've seen the aftermath of an accident [before]."

City council transport operations manager Steffan Thomas said there have been two minor injury crashes at the crossing in the last 10 years, both involving

pedestrians.

The intersection as a whole over the past 15 years saw a total of 34 crashes – 14 of those resulting in minor injuries, but the majority involved right-turning vehicles into Clyde Rd.

Jones said police data showed the intersection in question to be of lower risk than many others around the city.

Said Thomas: "Concerns have been raised regarding queueing to turn right into Clyde Rd from both approaches, particularly during school pick up and drop off times."

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# At 83, Santa's right-hand man keeps

By Bea Gooding

IT'S WIDELY known that Santa creates his Christmas magic in the North Pole, but Malcolm Westgarth and his elves will have you believe otherwise.

Making nearly 1000 wooden toys by hand each year, volunteers at The Santa Claus Workshop Charitable Trust donate them to children across the city who otherwise would not receive a gift from Santa.

Malcolm, 83, manages the workshop at Shirley Intermediate School's technology block, ensuring the toys are in tip-top shape for their new homes in time for the festive season.

He said many of Santa's helpers were in their 60s to 80s. Like the others, a sense of joy washes over him when he hears of the impact the gesture had on children's lives.

The toys were distributed to families by organisations such as the Delta Foundation, the Mayor's Welfare Fund, the Shirley Community Trust and other charities.

"A little boy a few years ago was given a little wooden tractor; he was told he could take it home and that it was his. He just burst into tears, he couldn't



**JOY:** Santa Claus Charitable Trust manager Malcolm Westgarth and his helpers make nearly 1000 wooden toys by hand each year for needy children. PHOTOS: GEOFF SLOAN

understand it. He had never been given anything like that before," he said.

"That gets at our guys, they like to hear what happens and

the stories where things are done to help these kids."

Nearly 16 years ago Malcolm had some spare paint lying around in his garage.

He was adamant it would not go to waste. It was Resene paint, after all.

His wife instructed him to take it to the Shirley Community

Centre who knew of others who needed it and eventually connected with Santa's workshop.

The workshop has been providing Christmas joy to children since 1978 when two Richmond carpenters decided to do something new with their Sunday mornings.

They put a call out in "the local rag" for donations of broken wooden toys, which they repaired and donated to needy families in the area.

They operated out of the community centre until the February 22, 2011, earthquake damaged the building. With support from the Papanui-Innes Community Board, they relocated to the school a year later.

"I donated some paint I had in my garage to the workshop and was asked within 10 days when I was going to come by and put it on the toys."

The responsibility of painting the toys has mostly been his ever since, but Malcolm is not alone.

Twice a week for about eight hours he is joined by 15 volunteers who help cut timber and construct the toys either at the school or within the comfort of their home workshops.

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# kids happy with wooden toys

Made of full timber with the absence of medium-density fibreboard, the toys were designed to last and range from dinosaurs, animals and cars to puzzles, games and building blocks.

It costs a minimum of \$8000 to run the workshop, but large donations of timber, operating at the school rent-free, and financial support from The Lions Club of Christchurch helped the trust stay afloat.

Back then they made about 250 toys a year and has since grown to their personal best of 1300 in 2019. Last year they created 980 in spite of Covid-19 disruptions.

Because the toys aren't made of plastic like most were nowadays, the wooden toys were "better for the kids."

"They're making a comeback. These are very popular because people know they're going to last."

Malcolm encourages volunteers to make about 20 to 30 units of their favourite toys, attempting to introduce a new toy every year.

He had difficulty determining which one was his favourite to make, but things such as sewing machines and toasters were what "dumbfounded" him the most.



**MAGIC:** The trust makes a range of toys made of full timber, ranging from animals and cars to sewing machines and toasters. PHOTO: GEOFF SLOAN

More popular items included wooden chairs and cots designed for dolls, which are also supplied by the trust, including the bedding and the dolls.

The hardest part of it all was not being able to fulfil each child's request and having the time to do everything.

Said Malcolm: "We used to have a telephone permanently hooked up. We would get phone calls from children asking for this and that. A lot of these things were not on our radar and we didn't even consider making them."

"We try to give kids what they

want, but it doesn't work that way."

Malcolm may be working out of the same rooms where he learnt the art of woodworking himself as a former pupil of Shirley Intermediate, but it was not his only passion.

He grew up in the area with

his parents and twin sisters and attended Shirley Primary School.

He did not tinker in the workshop at home. Instead, he was an avid stamp collector and used to be the librarian for the Christchurch Philatelic Society for nearly 14 years.

Malcolm retired from his only job of 40 years as the sales manager for the Union Steam Ship Company, organising ferries to Wellington and cargo ships to America, India, Pakistan and North America.

He joined the trust because he wanted something to do with his time.

The trust is currently in the process of finding a new rent-free facility – about 300 sq m in size with enough storage space for a container.

More volunteers were always welcome, said Malcolm.

"The school have been very generous letting us have these rooms rent-free as they had more class room than needed, but that's not on the Ministry of Education's agenda [anymore]," he said.

"We're all getting a bit older and we need more help. We need younger people to get involved too."

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# Work to finish in October

• From page 1  
 “Some people have said it will be really good, but there has been quite a bit of feedback from others that they’re not particularly happy about it,” said Reddiford.

“Turning into Riccarton Rd is going to be quite difficult, it’ll be impossible to go anywhere.”

It will also be altered to accommodate bus lanes, access to the Field Tce and Riccarton Rd intersection will be restricted to left in, left out traffic, and a new right-turn-only lane from Riccarton Rd into Wharenui Rd will be created.

The upgrade also covers drainage work, new traffic lights and islands, and line marking.

At the same time, work will continue on the Nor’West Arc cycleway.

The new cycleway links cycling routes across the west of the city, running from The Princess Margaret Hospital to Papanui. It is a key connector for the west of the city, passing nine schools.

This section runs along Middleton Rd between Suva St and Riccarton Rd, and on Ilam Rd, between Riccarton Rd and University Drive.

At University Drive it connects to Uni-Cycle, a cycle route



**TRICKY:** The intersection of Middleton, Riccarton and Ilam Rds is being improved. **PHOTO:** GEOFF SLOAN

between Canterbury University and the central city.

Contractors are also completing stormwater, sewer and water work, including new kerbs and channels and landscaping.

City council transport planning and delivery manager Lynette Ellis said the integrated approach to the two projects “will minimise any disruption to road users.”

“We want to finish both projects by October. We will need to introduce one-way traffic in the area for short periods and

remove some on-street parking but the end result will benefit everyone,” she said.

“The new cycleway and intersection improvements will make it much safer for everyone to navigate the area and greatly improve cycling connections.

“The cycleway work is part of a lot of cycle connections being built through Riccarton with the Nor’West Arc route providing a north to south connection through the suburb and the South Express cycleway providing an east to west link.”

# New community facility brings ‘hope’ to Hornby’s heart

A NEW community facility has brought “hope” to the heart of Hornby.

Te Whare Awhero, or Hope House supports struggling families and helps new residents settle down in the city’s south-west.

It was opened by the Minister for Greater Christchurch Regeneration and MP for Wigram, Dr Megan Woods.

“Healthy communities are best served by local resources,” Woods said at last week’s official opening.

“People need help where they live.”

Te Whare Awhero grew out of Hope Church in Hornby more than 30 years ago as a response to the growing needs within the community during the upheavals of the 1980 economic reforms.

Its mission both then, and now remains the same – to bring hope to the communities in the area.

The trust provides low-cost professional counselling services to the community,

to employers through their new employment assistance programme, and with counsellors in schools, through providing a safe place for kids to be able to be before, after and during school holidays for working parents with their OSCAR Horizons programme.

They also support new residents to make connections and links with local services, and through contributing mental health support workers into primary schools, along with 12 other NGOs, into the Mana Ake programme.

Centre director Carey Ewing said people from all walks of life could drop into the house at 413 Main South Rd.

In the coming weeks, Te Whare Awhero with support from the city council will be reaching out to the community to complete a community needs survey.

This will ensure the house remains well-positioned to continue to bring hope to the communities of Hornby and the surrounding areas.



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Avonhead School held its book character dress-up day last week, with costumes of all shapes and sizes on display. A parade kicked the day off, allowing pupils to show off their amazing costumes before heading off to class. The annual event helps to encourage a love for reading.  
PHOTOS: GEOFF SLOAN



Henry Mehrtens, year 8, as 'Toothless' dragon, from the *How to Train Your Dragon* series.



Quinn Hutchinson, year 4, as DC Comics supervillain Harley Quinn.



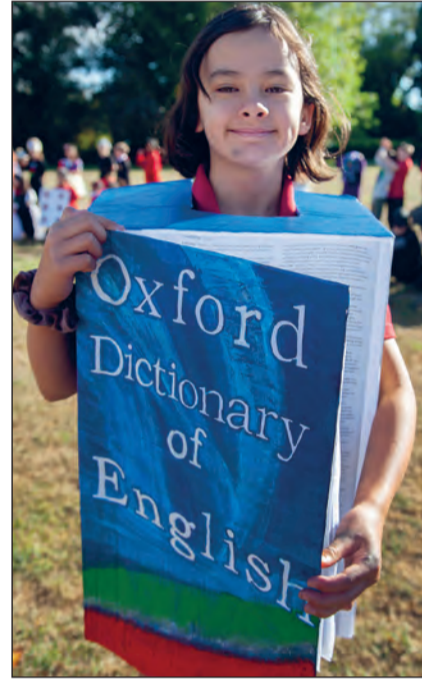
Winter Segaran, year 4, as Gangsta Granny.



Taleen Msalem, year 6, as *Cat in the Hat*.



Callum Busfield, year 7, as Stormtrooper.



Teejay Ward, year 5, as *Oxford Dictionary of English*.



Callum Henderson, year 7, as Zack Zombie from *Minecraft*.



Principal Carles Levings as Tin Man from *The Wizard of Oz*, inspects some of the costumes.

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Year 9 students at Hornby High School are taking part in the Graeme Dingle Foundation's Stars programme, designed to help strengthen young people during their transition into secondary school. The hot day was spent building rafts, climbing high ropes and other team building activities at The Groynes.



The students worked in teams to build rafts strong enough to withstand their weight on the water.



Teamwork was required to belay their peers on the high ropes courses.



The students making functional rafts as a team.



Facing fears on the high ropes courses.



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He also carries out all mechanical repairs, including cam belt replacement, suspension work, clutch and gearbox repairs, only repairing what's necessary, and without charging the earth.

He has owned the business since 2007, and over that time has established a loyal customer base – people that rely on him to give them sound advice and provide professional care and servicing for their vehicles.

Customers come from across the city, Spreydon, Hillmorton, Riccarton, Halswell and Middleton areas, and the business has received many positive Google reviews from customers. Below are some examples:

*I have been going to Parker Automotive for the last eight years and I cannot fault the service. The mechanical work has been top notch! If you want top service and value for money I recommend Parker Automotive.* – Daniel Jay

*I've had all sorts of work done here from*

*basic servicing and warrants through to major work like clutches, replacement coilovers and bushings. Kevin is a very honest guy who gets the job done in a very timely manor and he has outstanding communication. The overall service I've received is excellent.* – Lachlan Poole

*I know it's not always about price but sometimes, when it comes to vehicle repairs, you just want a perceived good deal and work carried out by someone who seems to care. Kevin came recommended by a friend, and what a great recommendation. His work was clean, efficient, fast and came in under what I thought it was going to cost. So we took my partner's car there two days later and that too was completed faster than we expected and at an almost unbelievable cost. Give Parker Automotive a shot next time you need something done. Kevin is a nice fella too, win win.* – Mark Lewis

Earlier this year, Parker Automotive moved from premises on the Lincoln and Torrens roads corner to a new site at 23B Birmingham Drive, Middleton.

**Opening hours are Monday to Friday 7.30am-4pm, Saturday 8am-12pm. So give Kevin a call on 982 4268, or pop in and he will be happy to help with all your vehicle servicing needs.**



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