



# Table of Contents

1.	Executive Summary.....	
2.	Introduction.....	
	2.1 A contextual history of St Albans	
3.	Literature review.....	
	3.1 Sense of place	
	3.2 Place attachment	
	3.3 Perceived Geographical Boundaries and Resident Defined Mapping	
	3.4 Community Stakeholders	
4.	Methods.....	
	4.1 Methodological framework	
	4.2 Sampling and measurement	
	4.3 Analysis	
5.	Results and Discussion.....	
6.	Conclusion.....	
7.	Acknowledgements.....	
8.	References.....	
9.	Appendices.....	

# 1. Executive Summary

*“How do the community and its stakeholders understand St Albans as a place and its geographical boundaries?”*

The aim of the St Albans Residents Association (SARA) Incorporated is to foster a spirit of community in St Albans. As an inner city, working-class community, St Albans has a long and well-established history. Alongside this, in recent years dispute has arisen over its boundaries and physical identity. This research project aims to identify the boundary of St Albans as perceived by its residents, and develop an understanding of how the residents create their sense of place.

Data collection was guided by two methodological frameworks: resident defined mapping, and the concept of sense of place. This incorporated online and in-hand paper surveys, a community discussion focus group with SARA, interviews, and a call for information through the St Albans News (StAN). Our findings were as follows:

- With regards to sense of place, there appears to be a weak attachment to St Albans as a place,
- There exists a reasonably clear perception of where residents perceive the boundary of St Albans to be,
- There is still widespread confusion among important community stakeholders about the boundaries of St Albans,
- There is a clear need for community facilitation throughout St Albans. Through this, the identity of St Albans can exist without a definitive boundary, and can continue to exist through its historical identity and community connectedness.
- Resident defined mapping was largely restricted by the inflexibility of the online survey format, which elsewhere allowed ease in standardising and processing responses
- Unforeseen obstacles collecting field data overruled *systematic* sampling with a mixture of *random*, *block*, and *accessibility* sampling,
- A sample size of n=82 has implications for the reliability and representativeness of the field data and results collected.

Essentially, the scope of this research could be expanded in all directions. Relationships between demographics and the boundaries chosen could be investigated further, as could the relationship between the location of the residents and which boundary they chose. In addition, further in-depth information could be gathered from a wider range of stakeholders in order to accurately account for the role they play in the creation of St Alban’s identity and boundary.

## 2. Introduction

This research was focused on identifying where the boundaries of St Albans are and how the existing sense of place can be strengthened within St Albans. The research question is “How do the community and its stakeholders understand St Albans as a place and its geographical boundaries?”. The objectives of this research was to discover where the residents and community stakeholders perceive the boundary of St Albans to be, to find how attached residents feel towards St Albans and lastly to find how residents think the sense of community within St Albans can be strengthened. The methods used were based on the key theories using the attachment scale and resident defined mapping; these will be discussed further in the report. The findings from this research are then discussed before conclusions are drawn. There have been many studies regarding sense of place, with it becoming a widely recognised theory and gaining scientific attention. However, resident defined mapping as a method of determining boundaries has been largely underused, although it is becoming recognised in association with other methods of defining boundaries.

The reason the boundaries of St Albans are of relevance to the St Alban’s Resident’s Association (SARA) is that although St Albans has a long history in Christchurch, the boundaries of St Albans are largely unclear, with multiple companies and organisations using different sets of information. However, it is worth noting the conflict Lohmann and McMurrin (2009) have identified in seeking such definitive boundaries. In the opening sentence, Lohmann and McMurrin asserted that “[N]eighbourhoods have proven to be a challenging social entity to operationalize, and therefore measurements grounded in the neighbourhood context have been presented with a variety of obstacles” (2009, at 67). From the start of this project this became apparent for these reasons. Defining a neighbourhood by well-defined, consistent borders sacrifices meaningfulness, fostered in the more schema-based, unique ‘neighbourhood’ perception held by each individual resident. The latter presents difficulties in operationally defining the term due to diverse perceptions of neighbourhood boundaries; therefore while St Albans as it currently exists as a strong community without this defined boundary, they have sought its definition. Using resident defined neighbourhood mapping methodologies can perhaps be a way of incorporating these two definitions of neighbourhood. This may be useful both in research and intervention, and will be discussed throughout this project.

The uncertainty of St Alban’s boundary has come about because of the variety of perceptions of where the boundaries are. For example New Zealand Post, the Christchurch City Council and SARA have differing views on the boundary. These are shown in the map below (Figure 1).

## Various Boundaries of St Albans

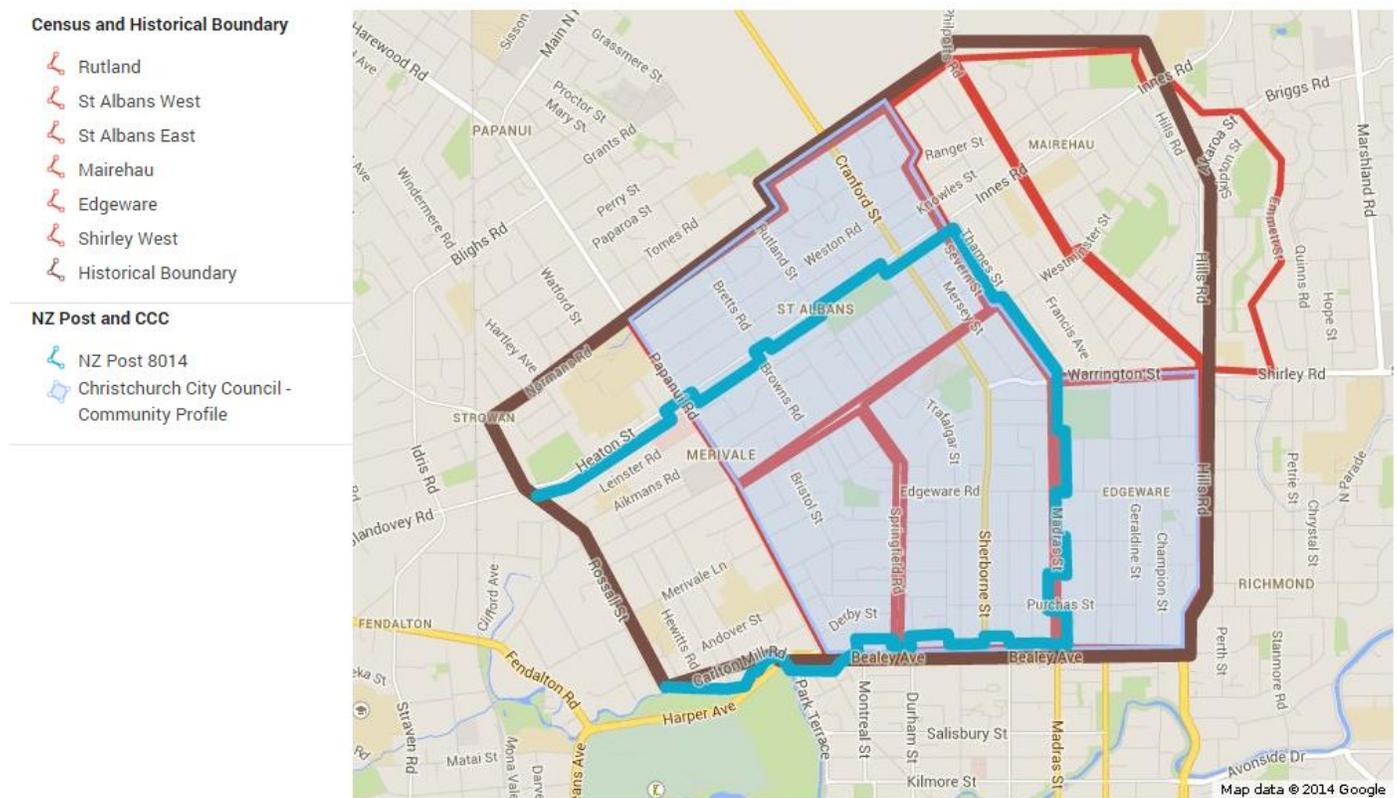


Figure 1: A map depicting the many conflicting and confusing boundaries of St Albans, including census areas, NZ Postcodes, and the Christchurch City Council Community Profile area.

To overcome this issue, the research question focused on where the residents and community stakeholders perceived the boundaries of St Albans to be. This was carried out through having a map and allowing residents to draw where they perceived the boundaries to be. SARA were also interested in how they could strengthen the sense of place of St Albans. This related to the second part of the research question. In the survey, questions were asked to name what characteristics residents identified with St Albans and how the residents felt the sense of place could be strengthened.

### 2.1 A contextual history of St Albans

The 1500 acre boundary had been historically defined by the following streets; North Belt (Bealey Avenue) and Avon River (Carlton Mill Road) to the south, Boundary Road (Rossall Street & Strowan Road) to the west, Normans Road, Mays Road, McFaddens Road, Philpotts Road (Jamieson Avenue), Innes Road, Kensington Avenue to the north, and Aylesford Street and

Hills Road to the east. This provided the initial starting point for our research area and set the context for our investigation (Spare, 2014).

From 1881 until 1903 St Albans drastically changed, going through three main phases that shaped the suburb from mostly agricultural practices to a new commercial economy. First change that occurred was the transitional period, where the St Albans Council endorsed the notion of the greater Christchurch scheme. They supported the amalgamation of St Albans, Christchurch City, Sydenham, Linwood and the Avon Road District. The creation of the City of Christchurch as one borough with four wards was effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 1903. The second change was the enforcement of new rules and regulations. After the amalgamation, the introduction of many by-laws inhibited rural activities; for example no more barbed wire fences, gorse cuttings were not allowed to be burnt on the streets without permission, and herding or grazing on the roads was not permitted. The third change was the introduction of the new business boom. By the end of the century, there was a shift from agricultural practices to a new urban economy, which attracted customers from outside the district. For example Charles Carter ran the Springfield Road and St Albans coaches, and George Pitt ran a brewery in Springfield Road (New Zealand Federation of University Women Canterbury Branch, 1989).

Today, St Albans is a large working-class community surrounded by many suburbs of mixed demographic, with Papanui to the north, Shirley & Mairehau to the east, Merivale to the west, and the Central City to the South. St Albans was not significantly damaged in the 2010 earthquakes, however the February 2011 quakes shook the community to the core, destroying houses, businesses and public facilities like the community centre. The majority has been demolished since because the cost of repair weighs out the rebuild. In recent times flooding in and around the Flockton Basin and Dudley Street area has revealed deep conceded drainage problems, which are still being repaired consistently by the Christchurch City Council (New Zealand Federation of University Women Canterbury Branch, 1989). All of these changes, both historic and recent, have contributed to the transformation of St Albans and where its boundaries are perceived to be in the present day.

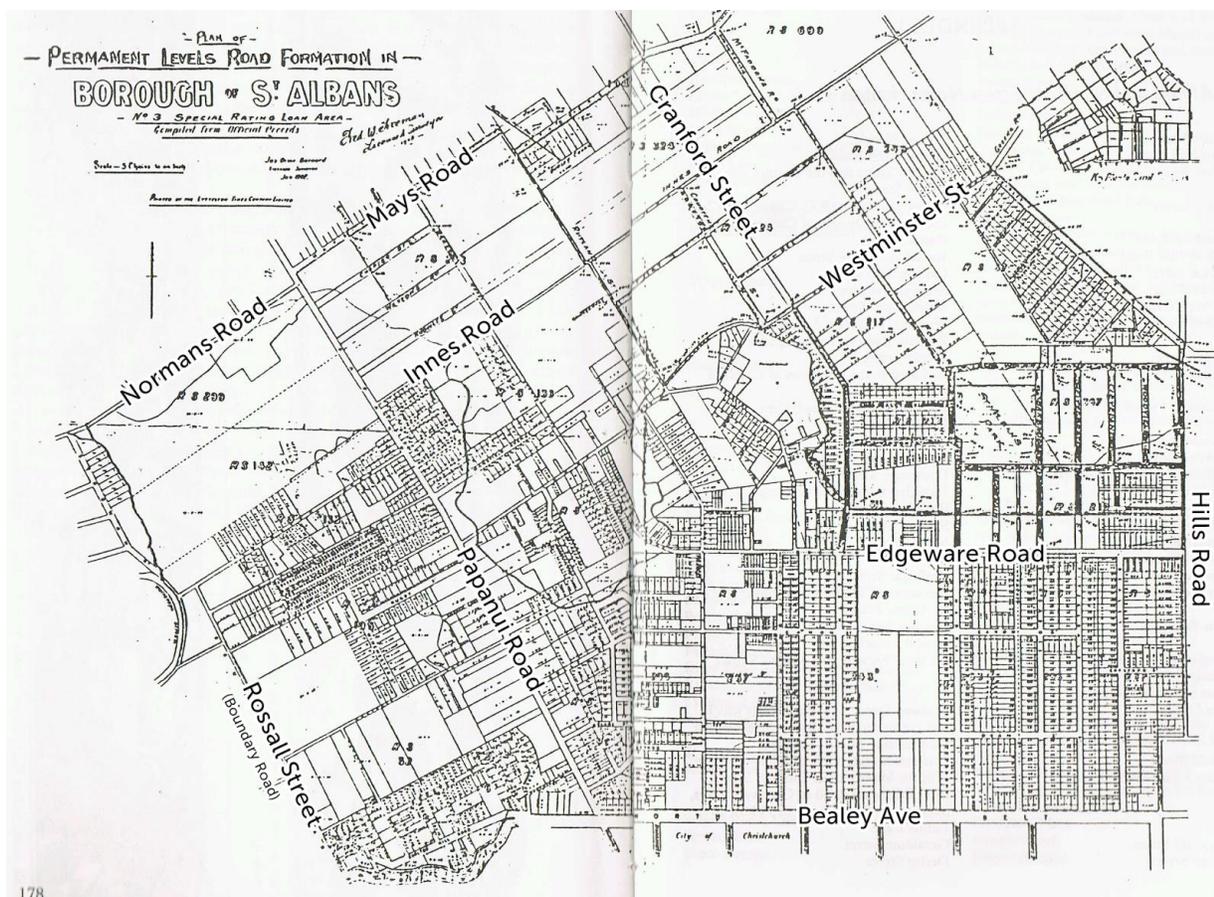


Figure 2: The borough of St Albans in the early days of Christchurch, with modern street names added (modified from 'cite Book here')

## 3. Key Concepts

### 3.1 Sense of Place

‘Sense of place’ has been recognised as a complex concept having an unclear definition. This is due to it becoming somewhat of a buzzword in recent times used to fit various purposes, and from its interdisciplinary nature (Cross, 2001). Hay (1998) examines the development of sense of place using three contexts: residential status in the place, age stage or development across the life cycle, and the development of adult pair bonds. It has commonly been found that a sense of place is developed when a person resides in a place for many years. Many different continuums have been used when measuring a sense of place. The purpose is to find the different levels of intensity that people feel towards the place where they reside. The literature on sense of place explains it as having three phases. Belonging to a place, attachment to a place and commitment to a place (Shamai, 1991). This was the continuum used to survey the residents of St Albans.

### 3.2 Place attachment

Place attachment refers to how attached someone feels to a place. Hidalgo and Hernandez (2001) found that; first attachment to neighbourhood is the weakest; second, social attachment is greater than physical attachment; and third, the degree of attachment varies with age and sex. Place attachment has been defined in a number of different ways, from a positive association or bond between individuals and their residential environment (Shumaker & Taylor, 1983), to an individual’s emotional or cognitive connection to a specific setting (Low, 1992), to an emotional connection with a place (Hummon, 1992). Place attachment is the emotional relationship that occurs between the individual and their environments creating a significant lasting bond. Gifford and Scannell (2009) have found that place attachment can be best understood in three dimensions; place, person and process, a tripartite model of place attachment. The place dimension emphasizes the place characteristics of attachment, including at the spatial level, and the prominence of social and physical elements. The person dimension refers to meanings determined collectively or individually and the psychological dimension incorporates the behavioural, cognitive and affective components of attachment. “What is common to all human societies is their need for a sense of ‘place’ – a feeling of living in an environment which has boundaries and identity” (Marsh, 1988 as cited in Hay, 1998, at 26). Sense of place is a difficult concept to empirically measure so, place attachment was turned to as a measurement tool to develop sense of place in St Albans. As will be discussed, the social element is where attention will be focused in this project, upon analysis of the findings accorded to some results.

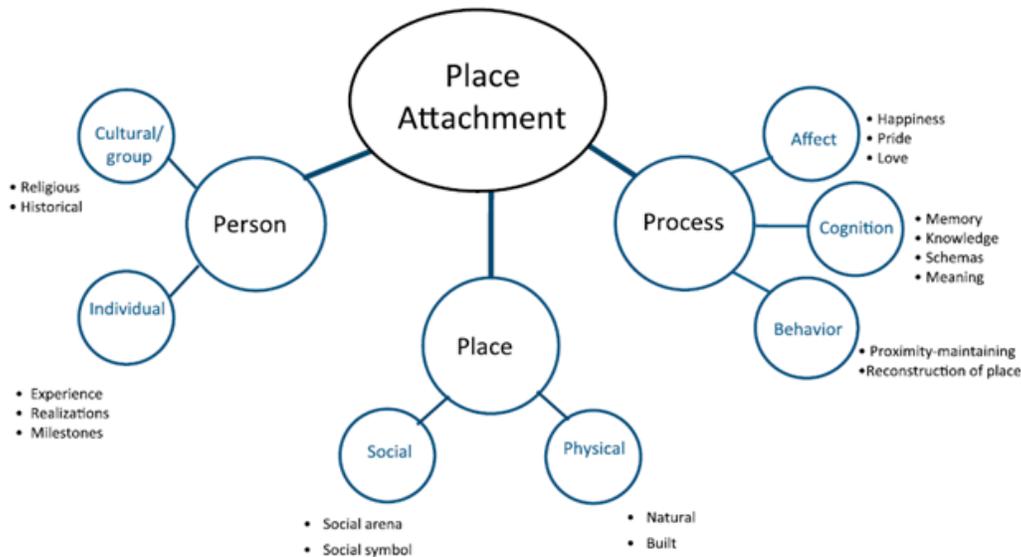


Figure 3. The tripartite model of place attachment (Scannell & Gifford, 2009)

### 3.3 Perceived geographical boundaries and Resident defined mapping

Resident defined mapping as a method of revealing boundaries has been largely underutilized in studies, with no well-established method for using resident's opinions of boundaries. Coulton, Korbin, Chan and Su (2001) argue that one source of bias when studying the effects of neighbourhoods is the differences between resident and researcher defined neighbourhood boundaries. Boundaries are generally defined through postcodes or census boundaries. However, these methods do not take into account how the people living in the area perceive their neighbourhood. Boundaries defined by the residents themselves often give differing, larger boundaries when compared to census boundaries. It has been found that perceived boundaries are influenced by a number of factors such as race, age, gender and the location of the neighbourhood. (Coulton, Korbin, Chan, & Su, 2001). It is argued that residents' definitions of neighbourhood boundaries are a useful and reliable tool for detecting phenomena at neighbourhood level and change over time (Lohmann & McMurrin, 2009).

### 3.4 Community stakeholders

The term community stakeholder is difficult to define. The term stakeholder was originally used to refer to groups who without their support the organisation would not exist (Cohen, 1996). It has further been defined as any group who is affected by or can affect the organization's achievement (Cohen, 1996) Therefore community stakeholders refer to residents, local businesses, schools, community groups, youth groups, politicians, senior citizen groups and local government. The most important community stakeholder is said to be the residents. (Anglin, 2000). Therefore St Alban's community stakeholders include the resident's, resident and business associations, businesses and schools.

## 4. Methods

### 4.1 Methodological frameworks

The methodological frameworks capturing the sampling and collection of data in this project are essentially based on two important concepts: resident defined mapping, and sense of place.

Resident defined mapping permitted the analysis of neighbourhoods or boundaries as the residents outline them, not as pre-conceived by someone outside of that area. In their opening sentence, Lohmann and McMurrin (2009) acknowledge there is inherent complexity in the measuring of neighbourhoods, thus creating difficulty for measuring a definitive boundary. In this research, the methodology itself involved participants responding through paper questionnaires, outlining on a map of St Albans where they thought its boundaries were (see Appendix 1).

The next methodology capturing the investigation process is sense of place. Questionnaires at the group forum, in-hand paper surveying, and online surveying asked respondents to identify three words that best explain the character of St Albans as a place. From this, the intention was to identify what the social root to sense of place formation is, in addition to where the suburb may be.

In an attempt to clarify the vague and confused theory of sense of place, Shamai (1991) created a three phase, empirical measurement scale for evaluating sense of place. The first phase is belonging to a place, the middle is attachment to a place, and the highest is commitment to a place. Each of the phases can be split into two levels on the following scale:

- *Not having any sense of place*
- *Knowledge of being located in a place*
- *Belonging to a place*
- *Attachment to a place*
- *Identifying with the place goals*
- *Involvement in a place*
- *Sacrifice for a place*

This scale of sense of place was employed in this study's surveying method as it appeared; a plain, layman's way of measuring an experience of feeling that may otherwise be difficult to articulate.

## 4.2 Sampling

The sample area was determined by a combination of *block* (Behrens, 1981 as cited in Vaccaro, Alden-Smith & Aswani, 2010, at 45), and *random* sampling methods. The map of the area was divided by four blocks, each quarter divided further into six blocks, inside which a street was randomly selected. On the selected streets, initially a systematic sampling method was used, choosing every third house to be surveyed. Unforeseen fieldwork obstacles such as safety and accessibility largely overruled the initial sampling methods to a form of *stratified sampling* and *accessibility sampling* methods (Clifford, French and Valentine, 2010, 238-243).

Hay (2010) identifies that “the mode of questionnaire distribution should be one of the earliest stages of... questionnaire design” (at 207), for it has significant implications in terms of design, layout, question type and sample selection. Thus, in-hand door-to-door surveying (see Appendix 2), online surveying, group forum discussion, interviews and email questionnaires were used, all of which had standardised elements to get a consistent form of responses. The online survey, constructed and hosted using the Qualtrics online survey software, allowed anyone to respond by following the link that was distributed in the St Albans News via a community mail-out email, as well as distributing paper flyers with the survey URL throughout the selected sample area. The in-hand surveys completed by door-knocking required a lot of time and effort, all while yielding a lower quantity of responses. The issues already discussed regarding accessibility and willingness to complete the survey also limited how reliable and representative the final boundary may be. The community discussion meeting provided a great opportunity to explain the underpinning theory of the investigation, and have in depth discussion about it with real time residents.

### 4.2.1 Sample representativeness

Table 1 below shows that the collected survey sample, when compared to Statistics New Zealand data from the 2013 census from the St Albans area, fairly accurately represented gender demographics. The most frequent age group was 35 to 44 with the second most common age group being 45 to 65+. There was very little representation of 17 to 25 age group when compared to the census data, while there was an overrepresentation of the 35-44 age group. Surveying was conducted on a Saturday, which has implications for the general availability of different age groups and hence the observed overrepresentation and underrepresentation of some groups. The responses collected had a good geographical distribution from across different areas of St Albans, please Appendix ‘1’ for a distribution of responses map.

**Table 1: Demographics - Survey Sample vs Census 2013 Areas**

	<b>Survey Sample</b> (Across all areas, n=82)	<b>Census</b> <b>Average</b>	<b>Rutland</b>	<b>St Albans</b> <b>East</b>	<b>Edgeware</b>	<b>Mairehau</b>	<b>St Albans</b> <b>West</b>
<b>Age</b> (years)							
<b>Under 17</b>	2.6%	17.2%	20.7%	14.8%	14.0%	23.7%	12.6%
<b>18 to 24</b>	1.3%	9.3%	6.0%	10.1%	14.4%	6.8%	9.0%
<b>25 to 34</b>	13.2%	17.6%	10.5%	19.7%	24.7%	17.3%	15.7%
<b>35 to 44</b>	27.6%	16.4%	15.9%	15.7%	14.8%	19.4%	16.3%
<b>45 to 54</b>	18.4%	13.8%	14.9%	13.0%	11.5%	12.5%	17.1%
<b>55 to 64</b>	17.1%	10.4%	11.2%	10.8%	9.6%	6.8%	13.5%
<b>65+</b>	19.7%	11.3%	14.1%	13.1%	8.1%	7.9%	13.5%
<b>Gender</b>							
<b>Male</b>	46.1%	48.2%	48.2%	47.4%	50.0%	47.2%	48.2%
<b>Female</b>	53.9%	51.8%	51.8%	52.6%	50.0%	52.8%	51.8%

### 4.3 Analysis

After responses were collected from both paper and web surveys, the data was collated into a single spreadsheet database in the form of coded values that could be analysed using the statistical software package SPSS. This allowed tables and graphs to be generated that could show the demographics of the sample, the frequency of a response on any given question, and allowing various relationships to be tested in order to see if they were statistically significant. Chi square analysis was used to explore the relationship between place attachment and time resided, but it was found that the small size of the sample prevented any statistically significant conclusions from being drawn, this also prevented meaningful conclusions from being drawn from other variables in this way.

Polygons representing the boundaries of St Albans that residents had drawn on paper surveys were also digitized as shapefiles in the GIS software ArcMap, part of the ArcGIS software package. These were then overlaid on top each other and a colour ramp applied to produce a density map that visually showed the areas where more residents chose as being part of St Albans. Google Maps Engine was used to cartographically display the frequency counts of the

multiple choice resident defined boundary from all responses, as well as mapping the distribution of street intersections closest to each respondents. In order to analyse the descriptive responses that residents provided (for example, the questions that asked how they would strengthen the community) each response was classified into several themes that were identified as being prevalent throughout all responses.

## 5. Results and Discussion

The results of this research can be placed into four categories:

- **Place attachment and sense of place**
- **Characteristics of St Albans**
- **Strengthening the community and sense of place**
- **Resident defined boundaries**

### 5.1 Place Attachment and Sense of Place

In regards to sense of place measured through place attachment, Shamai's (1991) attachment scale revealed a somewhat surprising result. Considering the long and well-established history of the area, it is reasonable to expect that residents would hold a stronger attachment to the place than is shown on the graph below. Generally, this shows a weak attachment to St Albans as a place, with the highest frequencies in Figure 4 being level three ("I belong in St Albans") and below. Shamai provides no real direction into how to assess findings correlated with the scale, but has instead reached some interesting conclusions. "Sense of place consists of knowledge, belonging, attachment, and commitment to a place or part of it," (Shamai, 1991, at 354); while this provides a neat definition it is acknowledged the complexity of the concept reaches beyond the limits of any empirical study on sense of place. This scale may appear to provide an instrumental tool in advancing research in the area; however, a reference point for understanding the findings that come from it must develop for it to be of greater use.

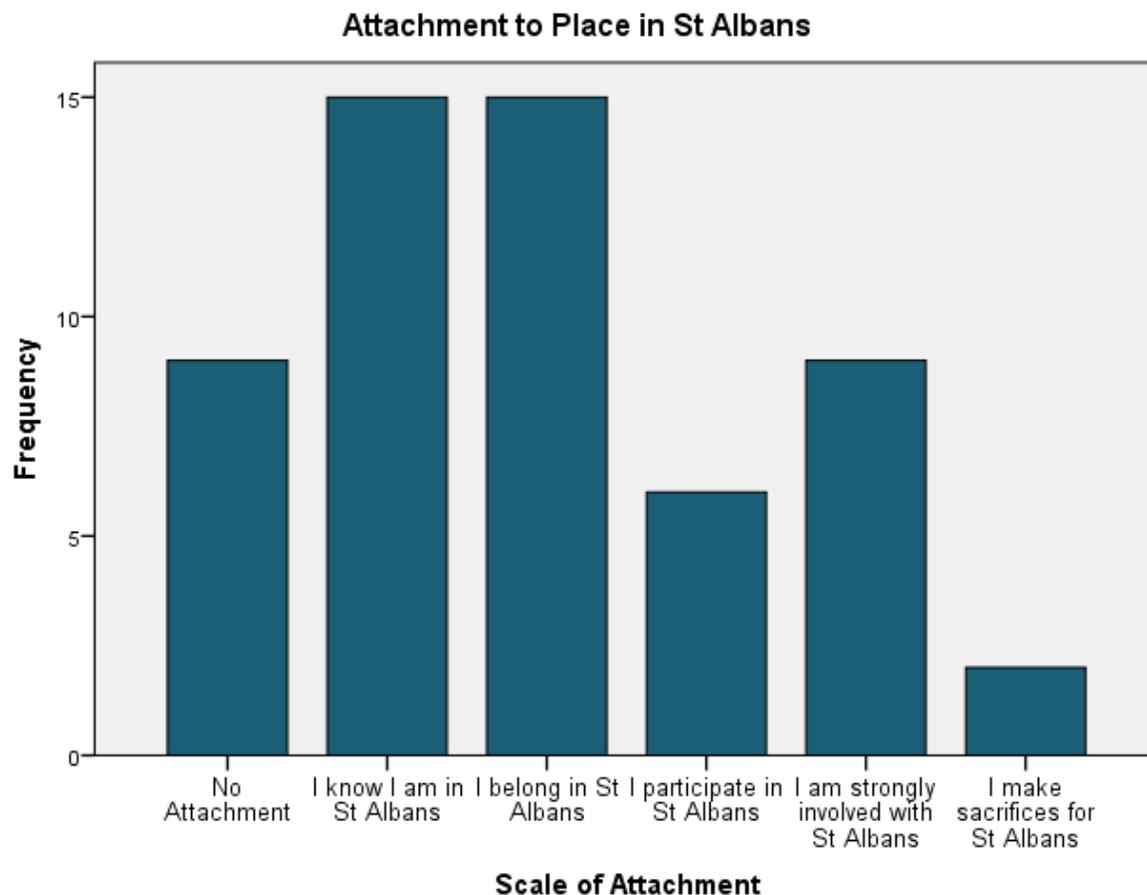


Figure 4: A frequency graph showing resident responses to the question ‘How attached do you feel to St Albans?’

## 5.2 The characteristics of St Albans

In both the paper and online surveys distributed, participants were asked to identify three characteristics of St Albans as a place. The overall aim was to identify how residents create their attachment to St Albans, either socially or physically. Place attachment goes through three different spatial levels; home, neighbourhood and city (Scannell & Gifford, 2009).

Socially place attachment, or ‘bondedness’ can occur at individual level where the character feels a personal connection to a specific place; usually this place comes with fond important memories. It can also occur at a group level; this is usually strongly connected to a symbolic meaning the place holds for the particular group concerned. For example, groups can become attached to a place where diverse cultures and religious beliefs are practiced. Certain cultures create attachment to a place through mutual chronological experiences, ideals and symbols. Religious practices create place attachment through making specific spiritual places sacred, either as a group or individually. If religious and cultural concepts are positive it can significantly strengthen attachment to a place (Scannell & Gifford, 2009). Physical place



events and activities, for the purpose of increasing social connections and interactions between the residents; suggestions made by residents included local markets and community BBQs. A few residents also felt that following the earthquakes, traffic congestion has increased and there is now a need for lower vehicle speeds. Furthermore, six residents made suggestions pertaining to Edgware village, suggesting that the shopping area needs to be modernised and made larger. A number of residents also believed that in order to strengthen the sense of community, there is a need for stronger recognition of the identity of St Albans. For example, it was suggested that clear signage on the main roads into St Albans is needed, much like Woolston Village (see Figure 6). Finally some residents suggested the St Albans community has been struggling from the recent flooding and earthquakes and that through these disasters the community have come together more.

Figure 6: An example of signage found on Ferry Road entering Woolston Village, used as an example by one resident as what they would like to see entering St Albans (image from StreetView, © Google)



The themes identified by the residents are important methods to be considered when strengthening the sense of community in St Albans. As mentioned in the theory section, social attachment is stronger than physical attachment to a place. It is through the themes identified by the residents that a focus on creating a stronger community, and facilitating community involvement has the potential to ground a greater sense of place in St Albans in social terms. In doing so, acknowledgement must be made to the variance in place attachment across demographics like age and sex (Hidalgo and Hernandez, 2001). While there is a desire to strengthen sense of place throughout St Albans, in some ways a glass ceiling will be hit where it cannot be strengthened further for these reasons. Therefore, it will be important to cater for all demographics when implementing methods to strengthen the sense of place in St Albans.

## 5.4 Resident Defined Boundaries

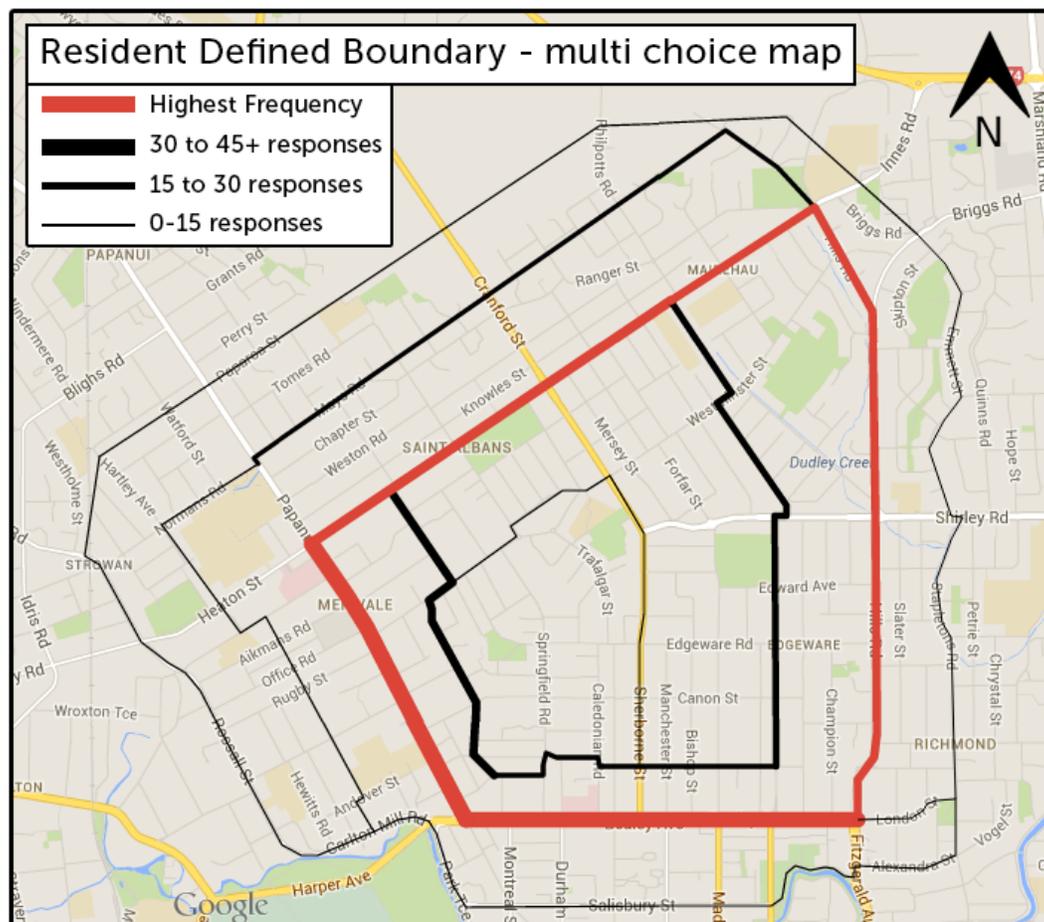


Figure 7: The most frequent boundaries as chosen by St Albans Residents, with the most frequently chosen boundary shown in red.

Two types of boundary data was collected from residents: choosing a boundary in a multiple choice question for web survey respondents and a freehand sketch map for paper survey respondents. A multichoice map that utilized the resident defined boundary of all survey responses was produced, which categorized each response into 4 options for each of the Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western boundaries of St Albans (See Appendix 3). This map (Figure 7) shows, in red, the boundary that was the most popular choice, with the thickness of the line representing how often that boundary was chosen by residents. As expected, the arterial roads to the north, south and west proved to be the most popular option, but with very little difference in the choice between Barbados Street and Hills Road in the east (as indicated by the very similar thickness of the line). While this provided one way of presenting our findings in a way that allowed responses from both web and paper sources, consideration needs to be made to the limited options that residents could choose in this format. The lack of an open ended

response format for our web survey meant that web responses could not be analysed together with the natural responses of the paper survey (Julien, 2008).

To take this limitation into account, a density map (Figure 8) was used to show the responses from our paper survey where we asked residents to sketch the boundaries anywhere on a St Albans map. As you can see here, the darker shades represent areas more people chose.

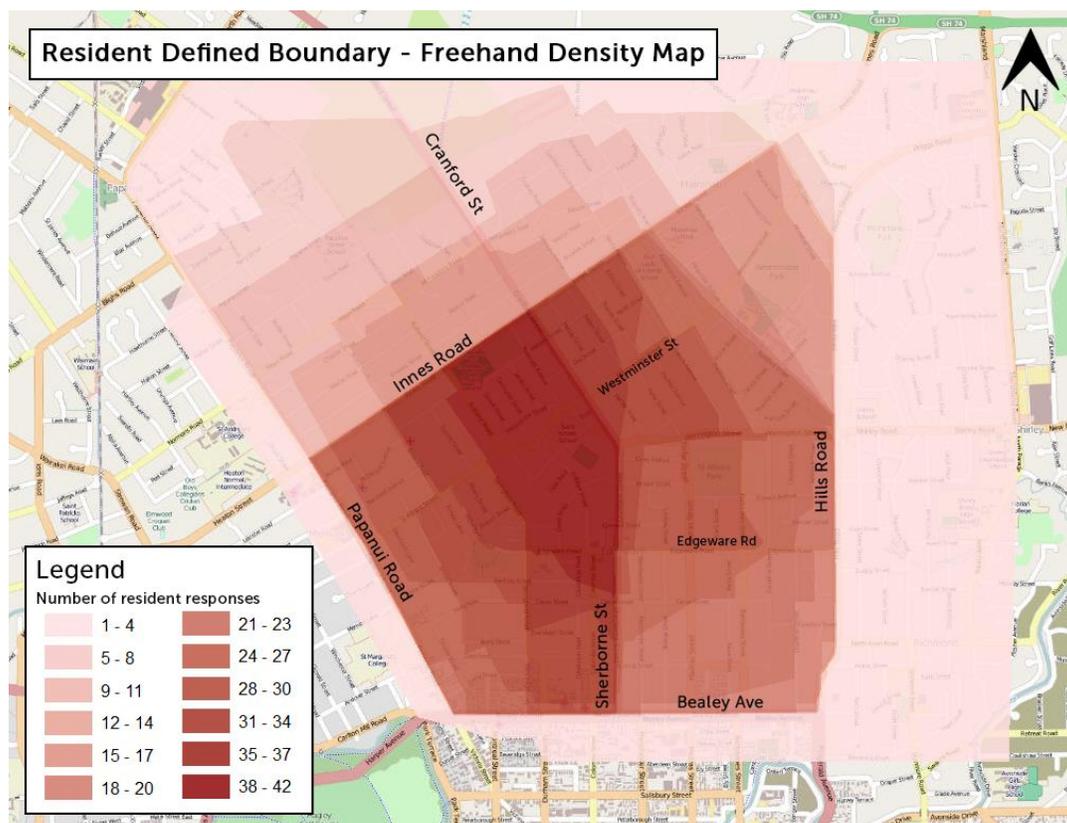


Figure 8: The interior of St Albans as defined by the freehand responses of residents, with darker colour indicating areas chosen by more people.

By overlaying the responses, the boundaries were found to be not as straightforward as first thought, but gradually became weaker from the center. Arterial roads such as Papanui Road, Innes Road and Bealey Ave all have a prominent impact on boundary perception. To the east of St Albans there is more uncertainty than in other areas, which may have contributed to the perception of Edgeware as its own suburb. When residents were asked about why they chose the boundaries that they did, we received a wide range of responses. Many people based their justification on the historical boundaries, school zones the arterial roads surrounding St Albans and where other surrounding suburbs were perceived to be, while others were unsure why.

However, what is most notable is the gradient between areas being more or less certain as being part of St Albans, a phenomenon outlined by Lohmann & McMurrin (2009) in which the spatial boundaries of communities are not fixed entities but are “spatially discontinuous”. Defining a neighbourhood by well-defined, consistent borders sacrifices meaningfulness, fostered in the more schema-based, unique ‘neighbourhood’ perception of each resident. The latter presents difficulties in defining the term due to diverse perceptions of neighbourhood boundaries, therefore while St Albans as it currently exists as a strong community without this defined boundary, they have sought its definition. Using resident defined neighbourhood mapping methodologies can perhaps be middle ground between these two definitions of neighbourhood, and may be useful both in future research and intervention.

What resulted from Lohmann and McMurrin’s study was “a method to consistently and reliably aggregate neighbourhood-relevant variables based on residents’ perceptions and definitions of neighbourhoods as they define them... an invaluable tool in neighbourhood research and assessment” (2009, at 68). This is central to the resolution of the boundary of St Albans – using the boundaries that residents have provided will provide a valuable perspective into the boundaries, while also overcoming many of the issues faced with operationalizing neighbourhood definition. This methodology has therefore opened avenues for areas of community based research not yet thoroughly examined, having pragmatic benefit for not only for this research but other areas in future.

### **5.5 Limitations**

A number of limitations were encountered during the research process, many of which have already been discussed in this report. As previously mentioned, unforeseen obstacles in the field overwrote *systematic* sampling with a mixture of *random*, *block*, and *accessibility* sampling, i.e. *stratified sampling*. A sample size of n=82 for such a large study area has implications for the quality of our data and the conclusions that can be drawn from it. Issues also arose with the survey format for the questions on resident defined boundaries, resulting in a less than ideal closed format question as previously stated. While an attempt to contact other stakeholders was made, it was ultimately unsuccessful; therefore the research findings cannot be assumed to be a complete picture of all community stakeholders. Information from the community discussion was limited in quantity as there was a low turn-out, and in the nature of the responses exclusively from members of SARA inherently with a greater vested interest in the area than perhaps the average resident.

## 6. Conclusion

This research shows that attachment to St Albans as a place is low. While it exists, there has been a clear identification by the residents that the root to the place, if any, is in a social sense. St Albans appears to have a strong identity without a real need for a boundary. The residents of St Albans have identified their sense of place, although weak, through identifying a boundary to the area they perceive to be their community. While this knowledge of place exists, perhaps considering its well-established history and the social attachment to St Albans, they do not need a definitive boundary to be a successful, thriving community. While the residents of St Albans are keen to see their suburb defined, Lohmann and McMurrin (2009) identify the conflict in what may result from doing so. Defining a neighbourhood by well-defined, consistent borders sacrifices meaningfulness fostered in the more schema-based, unique 'neighbourhood' perception of each resident. The latter presents difficulties in operationally defining areas due to diverse perceptions of neighbourhood boundaries among residents. Perhaps as concluded from these findings, the meaningfulness stemming from the strong well-established identity of St Albans need not be sacrificed by seeking a definitive boundary.

This finding of a strong identification and social attachment to St Albans was echoed by the responses to how residents think the community can be strengthened, largely calling for facilitating community involvement. Residents indicated there is a need for a community centre and community events. Further, this research showed that residents themselves have identified a reasonably clear perception of where the boundary of St Albans may be, being smaller than the historical borough but significantly larger than the community profile proposed by the Christchurch City Council and other stakeholders. The residents perceived the boundary of St Albans to be Innes Road to the north, Hills Road to the east, Bealey Avenue to the south and Papanui Road to the west.

## **7. Acknowledgements**

- St Albans Residents Association (SARA)
- Emma Twaddell, SARA Chairperson
- Residents of St Albans, including those who responded to our call for information in the St Albans News, and those who volunteered their time for interviews and surveys.
- Brian Spear, St Albans Historian
- Assoc. Prof. David Conradson

## 8. References

- Anglin, R. (2000). Stakeholder Community Development. Retrieved from <http://www.shelterforce.com/online/issues/114/anglin.html>
- British Isle Genealogy. (2014, October 06). *Harriet Mellon, Duchess of St Albans*. Retrieved from bigenealogy: <http://www.bigenealogy.com/family/harriet-mellon.htm>
- Clifford, N. J., French, S., & Valentine, G. (2010). *Key methods in geography*. London: SAGE.
- Cohen, S. (1996). Who Are the Stakeholders? What Difference Does It make? *Business and Professional Ethics Journal*, 15 (2), 3-18.
- Coulton, C. J., Korbin, J., Chan, T. & Su, M. (2001). Mapping Residents' Perceptions of Neighbourhood Boundaries: A Methodological note. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 29 (2), 371-383.
- Cross J. E., (2001) What is Sense of Place? *Department of Sociology, Colorado State University, Prepared for the 12th Headwaters Conference*.  
Retrieved from: [http://western.edu/sites/default/files/documents/cross\\_headwatersXII.pdf](http://western.edu/sites/default/files/documents/cross_headwatersXII.pdf)
- Hay, I., *Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Oxford University Press, Canada, 2010
- Hidalgo M.C.A.R.M.E.N, & Hernandez B. (2001). Place attachment: Conceptual and empirical questions. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 21(3), 273-273. doi:10.1006/jevp.2001.0221
- Hummon, D. (1992). *Community attachment: Local sentiment and sense of place* (p. 253–278). New York: Plenum Press.
- Julien, Heidi. (2008). *Survey Research. The SAGE Encyclopedia of Qualitative Research Methods*. SAGE Publications, Inc. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc.
- Lohmann, A., & McMurrin, G. (2009). Resident-defined neighborhood mapping: Using GIS to analyze phenomenological neighborhoods. *Journal of Prevention & Intervention in the Community*, 37(1), 66-81. doi:10.1080/10852350802498714

Low, S. (1992). *Symbolic ties that bind* (p. 165–185). New York: Plenum Press.

New Zealand Federation of University Women Canterbury Branch. (1989). *St Albans from Swamp to Suburbs An Informal History*. Christchurch: The Caxton Press Christchurch New Zealand.

Scannell, L., & Gifford, R. (2010). Defining place attachment: A tripartite organizing framework. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 30 (1), 1–10. doi:10.1016/j.jenvp.2009.09.006

Shamai, S. (1991). Sense of place: An empirical measurement. *Geoforum*, 22(3), 347-358. doi:10.1016/0016-7185(91)90017-K

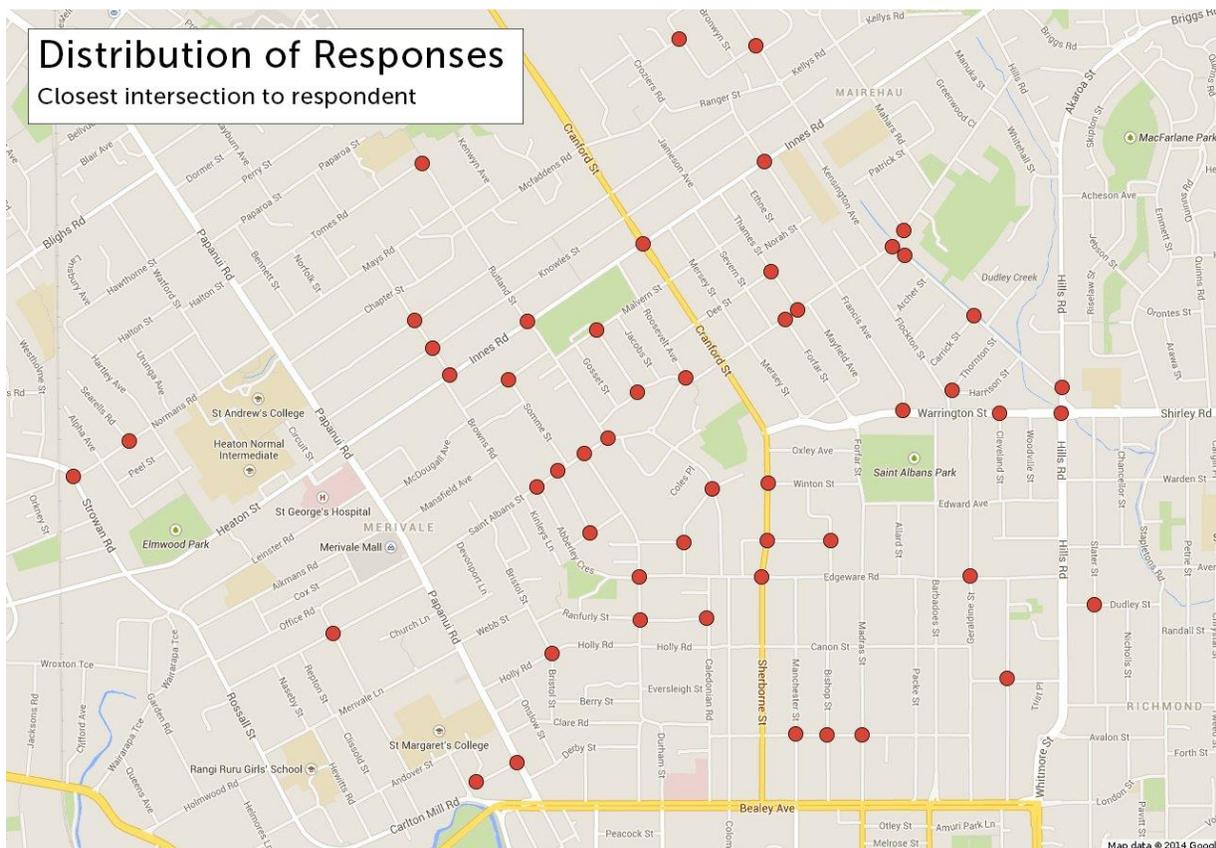
Shumaker, S., & Taylor, R. (1983). Toward a clarification of people place relationships: A model of attachment to place. *Environmental psychology: Directions and perspectives*. In *Toward a clarification of people place relationships: A model of attachment to place*. (p. 219–251). New York: Praeger.

Spare, B. (2014, August 11). St Albans Historic Group: The original Historic Boundaries. Christchurch, Canterbury New Zealand.

Tapsuan, S., Leviston, Z., & Tucker, D., Sense of Place: Perth Community Attitude Towards Places of Significance on the Gnangara Groundwater System. *Gnangara Sustainability Strategy*, 2009. Retrieved from: <http://www.clw.csiro.au/publications/waterforahealthycountry/2009/wfhc-Perth-community-attitude-gnangara.pdf>

# 9. Appendices

## Appendix 1 - Response Distribution Map



---

## ST ALBANS SENSE OF PLACE SURVEY

---



### **What defines St Albans as a place? And where are its geographical boundaries?**

These questions are currently being investigated by four geography students at the University of Canterbury, as part of a third year research project. If you are a resident, or a member of a community group or business with an interest in these aspects of St Albans, we would very much appreciate if you could fill out the survey below.

Your responses are **anonymous**, and the information you provide is **confidential**. **By completing this survey, you agree to provide consent for us to use the information you provide here in our research.** A summary of the project's findings will be forwarded to Christchurch City Council\* for their consideration as they re-evaluate the ward boundaries across the city.

If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to ask us, or you can email Alice at [afk21@uclive.ac.nz](mailto:afk21@uclive.ac.nz)

Thank you for your time,

**Alice, Amuri, Andrew and Annabelle**

University of Canterbury students

\* While we will provide summary findings to the City Council, please note that our study has been designed and conducted independently of the Council.

**[Researcher Notes:]**

**[UID:]**

**Q1: How old are you?**

- 17 and under
- 18 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 and over

**Q2: What gender are you?**

- Male
- Female

**Q3: What is the closest street intersection to where you live? We use this information to get a general sense of where in the city you are located. Please write the names of 2 intersecting streets below:**

Street 1:

Street 2:

**Q4: How long have you resided at your current address?**

- Less than 1 year
- 1 - 2 years
- 3 - 4 years
- 5 - 15 years
- 16 - 30 years
- 31+ years

**Q5: Do you consider your current home to be located within St Albans?**

Yes



**(Go to Question 8)**

No



**(Continue to Question 6)**

---

**Q6: If you don't live in St Albans, which of the following suburbs do you identify as living in?**

*Please tick one*

- Mairehau
- Merivale
- Edgware
- Papanui
- Shirley
- Strowan
- Fendalton
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Q7: If you don't live in St Albans, why do you identify as not living in St Albans?**

*Please tick all that apply to you*

- I am nowhere near St Albans geographically
- My local community/neighbourhood identifies itself differently
- My home address is not in St Albans
- My home phone number is not listed as being in St Albans
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_



**Go to Question 12**

---

**Q8: If you live in St Albans, why do you identify yourself as living in St Albans?**

*Please tick all that apply to you*

- I am geographically close to the centre of St Albans
- My local community/neighbourhood/street identifies itself as being in St Albans
- My home address is in St Albans
- My home phone number is listed as being in St Albans
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

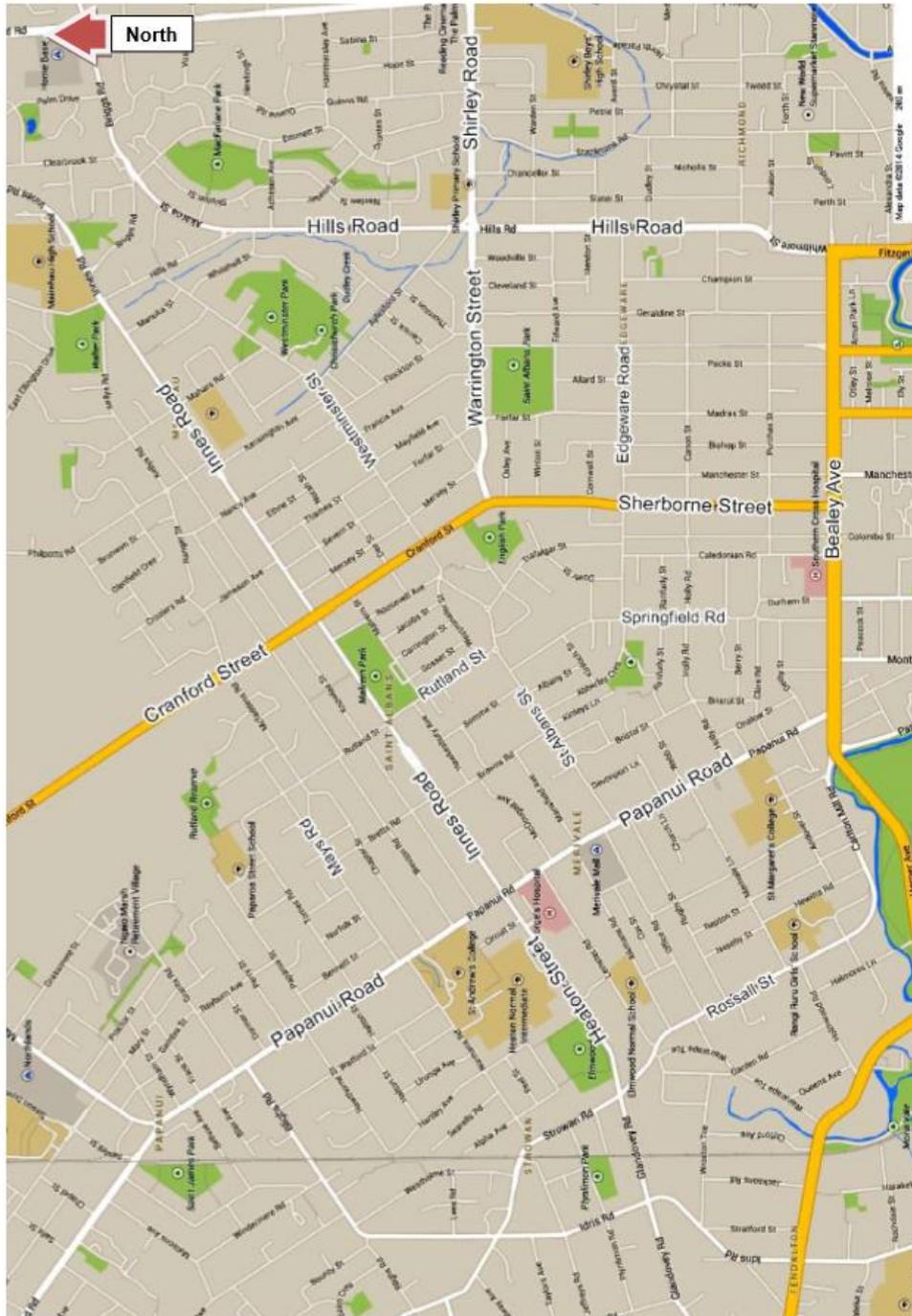
**Q9: Please write three words below which you feel describe the character of St Albans as a place.**

**Q10: With the characteristics you previously mentioned in mind, how attached do you feel to St Albans as a community?**

- No attachment
- I know I am in St Albans
- I belong in St Albans
- I participate in St Albans
- I am strongly involved with St Albans
- I make sacrifices for St Albans

**Q11: What do you think can be done to strengthen the St Albans Community?**

**Q12: On the blank map below, please draw where you think the boundaries of St Albans are. Please also mark where you think the center of St Albans is, and label any features you feel are important. (You may need to rotate the page)**



**Q13: What reasons do you have for choosing the boundaries that you did?**

**Q14: Before we finish, do you have any comments or insights into St Alban's community that you would like to share with us?**

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey, we really appreciate it!

If you have any questions or concerns, you can email Alice at [afk21@uclive.ac.nz](mailto:afk21@uclive.ac.nz)

### St Albans: Sense of Place Questionnaire

Which of the following boundaries best represents where you think St Alban's northern boundary is?

There is no right answer here, we just want to know what you think.

Choose one from the map below:

- Boundary #1: Paparoa Street
- Boundary #2: Mays Road
- Boundary #3: Innes Road
- Boundary #4: Saint Albans Street / Westminster Street
- Other (please specify one or more street names)



## St Albans: Sense of Place Questionnaire

Which of the following boundaries best represents where you think St Alban's southern boundary is?

There is no right answer here, we just want to know what you think.

Choose one from the map below:

- Boundary #1: Salisbury Street
- Boundary #2: Bealey Ave
- Boundary #3: Purchas Street / Derby Street
- Other (please specify one or more street names)



### St Albans: Sense of Place Questionnaire

Which of the following boundaries best represents where you think St Alban's eastern boundary is?

There is no right answer here, we just want to know what you think.

Choose one from the map below:

- Boundary #1: Stapletons Road / Stanmore Road
- Boundary #2: Hills Road
- Boundary #3: Barbadoes Street / Flockton Street
- Boundary #4: Cranford Street / Sherborne Street
- Other (please specify one or more street names)



### St Albans: Sense of Place Questionnaire

In the following questions, you will be asked about the north, south, eastern and western boundaries of St Albans.

Which of the following boundaries best represents where you think St Alban's western boundary is?

There is no right answer here, we just want to know what you think.

Choose one from the map below:

- Boundary #1: Rossall Street/Straven Road
- Boundary #2: Winchester Street
- Boundary #3: Papanui Road
- Boundary #4: Bristol Street
- Other (please specify one or more street names)

