



Ashhurst Village Voice¹

Informing the Ashhurst & Pohangina Communities

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<https://recap.org.nz/village-voice>
Established 1997

The Smallholders Auction—Truly a Community Event

The Ashhurst and Pohangina Lions Club is very pleased to announce that their next Smallholders Auction will be held on 28th January 2023 at the usual site of: Macdonald Farm, 685 Pohangina Road, Ashhurst.

This is a great opportunity for everyone to take part in this community event and, at the same time, clear out those unwanted items and make room for your new purchases. Weird, wonderfully odd, useful and used items will be going under the hammer. Drop off of chattels is from 1.00pm till 7.00pm on Friday, and livestock and chattels from 6.30am till 9.30am on Saturday. Auction must start at 10am Saturday.

There will be items for the home, farm and garden going under the hammer, plus ducks, chooks, sheep and small animals.

Food, coffee and ice-cream stands, arts and crafts stalls, barrel train rides and a bouncy castle for the children make this a great family day out. The gold coin donation for the bouncy castle this year will go to our local Food Bank.

The District Lions are supporting the Glob Health caravan which will be on-site to offer free health checks. Any donations on the day will be very welcome.

The Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Bridge will be on-site with their Sky Tower Team offering first aid and free advice for fire safety.

Phil Robinson, our local police officer, will

be there with the information bus, so please make sure you pop in and say hello.

All funds raised will benefit future community projects and everyone attending can support their local community, either by buying or selling. We would like to give a huge thanks to our sponsors, Yvonne Forlong from Property Brokers and Barney Erskin from Totally Vets for their support in making this auction possible, and to the local community for their on-going support and attendance.

Please give generously at the gate as the gold coin entry donation this year will all be passed on to the Palmerston North Rescue Helicopter.

Please remember that this is a dog-free event so leave your pooches at home in the shade. Unless they're for sale!!

For more information regarding our auction, to become a corporate sponsor, or to have a stall, please contact our coordinator Ron Farrugia at smallholders@aplionsclub.org.nz or 027 326 2380.

Please like and follow us on our Facebook page - Ashhurst Pohangina Lions.

If you'd like to join the team of Lions—we're always looking for new members, contact us through our Facebook page or email us at smallholders@aplionsclub.org.nz.

Ron Farrugia



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**February Issue
Submission Deadline
5.00pm Friday, 20th
January 2023**

Letter From the Editor

Hello, and welcome to the final issue of the Village Voice for the year.

I would like to extend a thank you and acknowledge the work of those who help put the Village Voice together and make it available to our community. A big thank you to our advertisers, those who write articles, especially our regular contributors. Also, thank you to our volunteers who deliver the Village Voice, especially so soon after it arrives from the printers. A big thank you to our proof-reader Kaye, and the Committee, as without their consistent work over the years, we would not have the Village Voice in our hands.

Throughout the year, Village Voice Committee Member Grey Smith, has provided articles about, and photos of, our native insects. This month, he covers our native bees. This is of interest as one of our Native Bees, *Leioproctus fulvescens*, is a nominee for the 2023 New Zealand Bug of the Year Award.

Voting commenced in November and continues over summer ending on 12th February 2023, with the winner being announced on 14th February 2023.

The voting is similar to that of the New Zealand Bird of the Year. You can choose up to three bugs and the bug with the most votes—wins!

Like the New Zealand Bird of the Year, the aim is to make people aware of our wonderful and interesting native wildlife. Unfortunately, it is very easy to overlook our native insects. I know that I was unaware of many that Grey has introduced us to throughout this year.

So, over the summer check out <https://bugoftheyear.ento.org.nz/>, read about the nominees and make your vote. You can also print out colouring pages for kids and grown-up kids to colour in.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy summer. See you next year.

Llyvonne Barber—Editor

Community Support for Food Bank

Once again you, the people of our community, have been generous in your support of the annual Food Drive and your efforts are much appreciated, especially in these uncertain times. It's a great way to 'pay it forward'.

Many thanks go to the local Lions club for organising the event, the Venturer Scouts for labelling and distributing the bags, and helpers from the Lions, Fire Brigade, Food Bank staff and members of the community on the day. We look forward to sharing the food out to our customers until well into next year.

Speaking of next year, for a period of two months, we will be conducting a trial by extending our closing time from 3.00 pm—4.00 pm on a Thursday, starting on 5th January. This will provide an opportunity for parents who work during school hours to visit us and gives our current customers extra time, should they need it. If this meets a need in our community the hours will become

permanent but if not, we will revert to our current times. Either way, the result will be published in the next Village Voice.

I would also like to acknowledge the wonderful individuals in our community who drop off items from time to time. In November we had sausages, patties, baking ingredients and milk delivered, all of which was very much appreciated by our customers. Thank you for thinking of the Food Bank and making the effort to visit.

Lastly, we are running short of egg cartons and shopping bags, so if you have any of these to spare, could you please drop them off at either the Methodist Hall in Bamfield Street between 2.00 pm—3.00 pm on a Thursday or the River Church building, 131 Cambridge Avenue on a Monday afternoon between 1.00—3.00pm or a Wednesday morning between 9.30—11.30am. The last day for dropping off at the River Church building is Wednesday, 14th December.

Marianne Crawford—Co-ordinator

Ashhurst Images Calendar 2023

Last year, we sold 300 of the 400 calendars produced (no Christmas Parade and Church Fair reduced selling opportunities!), enabling \$2,500.00 to be given to the Foodbank, with the same amount going to the hall renovation project at St Mary Magdalene's Anglican Church.

This year's calendar is now available. Again, generous local businesses have covered all of the production costs, meaning that all sale proceeds will go to the same two

organisations. We appreciate their support hugely.

Calendars (\$20.00 each) can be purchased from these local outlets:

- Ashhurst Village Four Square and Lotto Shop
- Ashhurst Dairy
- Ashhurst Post Shop
- Ashhurst R.S.A. Club
- Riverside Orchard
- The Local Backyard Cafe
- or directly from Ric Foxley 029 777 2368

Ashhurst Christmas Celebrations

The Anglican Parish of Pohangina warmly invites you all to our Christmas Celebrations throughout the month of December.

Saturday, 24th December:

Christmas Eve offers opportunities to worship together.

St Mary Magdalene Church, Ashhurst will be holding a "midnight" service starting at 11.00pm.

St Bartholomew's Church, Komako (at the head of the Pohangina Valley), will be

holding a Christmas Eve service starting at 7.00pm.

Sunday, 25th December:

Christmas Day—10.00am service at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Ashhurst—a service for all ages. Everyone is welcome.

"Son of God, Child of Mary,
born in the stable at Bethlehem,
be born again in us this day
that through us the world may know
the wonder of your love."

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Tuesday 8.30am - 5.00pm

Thursday 8.30am - 5.00pm

Saturday 9.00am - 12 noon

Wednesday & Friday evenings by appointment

141 Cambridge Avenue

Ashhurst and Districts Senior Citizens Association

Right now as I write it is getting darker and we are listening to a heavy shower of rain on the roof. In the space of an hour we have accumulated 55mm of rain and there are puddles everywhere. This is life! Is it not? Our lives are governed by the weather, by our health, by the community and by the environment, and much much more. There comes a time when we realise that we are no longer as young as we thought we were. All of these thoughts had a bearing on George Dempsey's life as he progressed through his youth and adulthood

to becoming the chaplain for the Arohanui Hospice. We did enjoy his address at our November meeting. If you weren't there – you missed a great time of fellowship and camaraderie.

Don't miss out on the 1st December meeting! Come and enjoy our Christmas celebration. A cake, a great afternoon tea, and some wonderful entertainment from Kate and Jane. I have been told that you won't be disappointed—so be there! 2.00 pm at the Methodist Church Hall in Bamfield Street.

Terry Carr—Secretary.

Ashhurst R.S.A. Update

November has seen a number of activities including the last weekly bingo, the last quiz of the year and the creation of an additional raffle for members to enjoy. The Emergency General Meeting occurred which endorsed temporary membership. Rule changes are currently with the R.N.Z.R.S.A. for ratification. This should be completed by the middle of the December and from then temporary membership will be available.

The R.S.A. has introduced crackers and cheese on Fridays, available to all who are

there. Raffles are available and these include the four Womans' Section Christmas ham raffles, Welfare meat pack raffle and the \$100 prize raffle. Jokers Wild and Members Draw are also drawn on Fridays.

Upcoming Events:

- 17th December Christmas function.
- 31st December New Years Casino night. Come and join us for the count down to the new year.

We look forward to seeing you down at the club.

Tim Cocks

Pohangina Catchment Care Group

The Pohangina Catchment Care Group has been working in the Pohangina Valley for over two years and tests water quality monthly at eleven sites on the Pohangina River and its tributaries. Our catchment group covers the entire valley (just over 55,000 ha), making us the largest catchment group currently in the Manawatu River Catchments area. Our community includes several farming stations, smaller farms, lifestyle blocks, the village of Pohangina and the town of Ashhurst. We have held several events for farmers and the community, sharing what we are doing. On November 5th we held an event specifically aimed at the lifestylers in the valley.

We had a presentation on animal welfare from Rene Corner from the Department of Animal Science at Massey University; Sarah Falloon and Ian McNabb from Horizons spoke on environmental protection and the regulations and consents that impact land

owners; Shane O'Hagan from O'Hagan Contracting Limited spoke on septic tank maintenance and upgrades; Jenna Fisher, a local lifestyle block owner talked on her "Living the Simple Life" and the aim of being fully self-sufficient - growing all their own food for her family of 4; Ian Rasmussen spoke on the Ashhurst Trap Library and the Ruahine Kiwi Project that he is driving to eradicate pests and enable kiwi to be reintroduced into our valley; Janet Wilson touched on the Ruahine Whio Protection Trust's trapping programme to protect the local whio population and Matt Carroll, chairman of the Pohangina Catchment Care Group provided updates on the water testing data.

There were also displays from Fire and Emergency NZ, brochures from FMG aimed at lifestylers and a stand supporting local businesses providing services like

JustOne Please

Thank you so much for your generous donations for last months JustOne Please. I have seen and met quite a few ladies who work at the Refuge and they are very happy with all the bin liners that were donated.

December's JustOne Please item is baby wipes.

You can drop these off at the Ashhurst Library. Contact Louise Bowe on 020 410 86128 for more information.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



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Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A. Inc

74 Cambridge Avenue, Ashhurst. Ph: 326 8296

Summer Hours

Sunday:	2.00pm—6.00pm
Monday	3.00pm—6.00pm
Tuesday:	3.00pm—7.00pm
Wednesday	3.00pm—9.00pm
Thursday:	2.00pm—9.00pm
Friday:	2.00pm—11.59
Saturday:	1.00pm—9.00pm



Manawatu Rangitikei Methodist Parish Ashhurst, Bunnythorpe and Pohangina Congregation

Ashhurst Devonport Worship and Community Centre

10.00am 1st and 2nd Sundays

Pohangina Community Church

10.30am 3rd Sunday

Contacts:

Parish Office—323 4127
Heather Fairless—326 8355



Ashhurst Bowling Club

67 Stanford Street.

Season starts end of September through to mid April.

If you would like more information on lawn bowling please call or email:

Adrienne Harding 326 8972/027 283 6317
ashhurstbowlingclub@gmail.com



Pohangina Catchment Care Group *continued*

engineering, digger hire, fencing and shearing.

This event was followed by a sausage sizzle (with real sausages) and some social time.

The next event on the calendar is the reinstated East vs West cricket match

scheduled for 11th or 12th February, to be confirmed. Please let Matt Carroll know if you are keen to be involved. Matt Carroll 027 257 1425 matthewescarroll@gmail.com.

Lynda Gray—Secretary/Treasurer

Community Comment

December is a period of last minute activity before festivities begin and a welcome summer break. It is also a time of reflection when we measure our impact upon the world and the people around us before another year ticks over on our calendar of life.

In Ashhurst, we only need to look above us to see the changes and watch the landscape being transformed as a new road is carved out of the mountains. The Ashhurst CBD is looking brighter and renewed. The Village Valley Centre was reroofed, a Health Centre renovated and opened, the church hall plastered and painted and the school quad now sheltered from the weather.

Elsewhere in our village, new footpaths have appeared, subdivisions are filled with new homes, and council maintenance keeps infrastructure operational and reserves in good order.

Looking back also reminds us that nearly three years have elapsed since COVID-19 arrived and pressed the pause button on our lives. Unprecedented times, isolation, traffic lights, RATS and boosters have new meanings to the generation of today. As

we emerge from our caves and enforced hibernation, we are better equipped to handle a pandemic with improved hygiene habits, masks and social distancing, and the ability to care for each other.

There are other pressing matters which will impact upon our lives. The cycle of inflation and high interest rates has been seen before but will be a shock for younger generations. Climate change, with its range of weather extremes will be a serious challenge in our near future. Solutions will require the combined efforts and sacrifices of many to reduce our human footprint upon the earth. Our success in preventing an ozone hole of the past from expanding and devouring life can be remembered as a training exercise for this bigger task.

There are dark clouds on the horizon at present bringing gloom and worry around the world. These will pass as we loosen the shackles and venture out into the light again. We have trudged through another year and look forward to happier times in the year ahead.

Keep safe on the roads. All the very best for 2023.

Harvey Jones



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Amlaku's Ethiopian Update

Since my last update in August, things have moved on significantly.

On the 2nd November, a comprehensive peace deal was signed in South Africa between the Ethiopian Government and the Tigrayan Peoples Liberation Front. In recent months, the Ethiopian Government forces have advanced well into Tigray, taking a number of towns, including Alamata, which is where the power line to Lalibela comes from, meaning that Lalibela now has electricity again, for the first time in more than two years.

For better or worse, this advance into Tigray seems to me to be the only way the government had to bring the Tigrayans to the negotiating table, to bring this conflict to an end, awful although some of the process undoubtedly has been. In terms of numbers of people displaced, killed or raped, this war probably way exceeds the casualties in Ukraine which has dominated world headlines for months.

Be that as it may, a peace deal has been signed, and we must now pray and hope that it holds, and that the country is able to slowly start to move forward again. The reconciliation process will be extraordinarily difficult. Humanitarian aid is starting to move into Tigray and will also hopefully soon arrive in Amhara, where Lalibela is located and where Amlaku's operations are.

Amlaku is back in Lalibela, where he has been preparing project proposals for the New

Zealand Anglican Mission Board, as they pick up responsibility for the agricultural side of the project. One is to improve the canals in Baregota Village, while the second is to start the improved seed and fertiliser process with a neighbouring village.

Thus far he has not been able to restart his soap making business, simply because of a lack of funds for raw materials. I am exploring possible new funders for this, but for the moment he is stuck. Same goes for the Reusable Sanitary Towel operation.

With all of this going on, he and Bezawit have yet to set a date for a wedding.

The villagers are about to start harvesting what looks like being a very good crop. This should help them get back on their feet after the events of the past couple of years.

The impact of war on a country has really been brought home to me through this conflict, relatively invisible though it has been to the majority of New Zealanders. Just like the Ukrainian people here in New Zealand, having to watch the disaster unfolding in a place dear to your heart, is incredibly difficult. Recovery will take years and cost billions, but people are amazingly resilient, and it will happen, bit by bit. Amlaku has the potential to play a role in that recovery process, as do the boys in Addis. Their country needs the skills they have learned through the support they have had from their New Zealand friends, and for that they are profoundly grateful.

Ric Foxley

Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway Update

Significant milestones have been reached recently on Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway, such as clocking up one million work hours, and moving more than four million cubic metres of earth since construction began.

Part of the success for achieving this earthworks milestone is due to our lab team, which tests soil to make sure it's suitable for building a road on. Over the past year our lab team has processed 11,500 tests on soil, sand and conglomerate around the site.

Having an on-site lab assists construction because our teams can get results faster than if samples needed to be tested off-site. The results help our engineers know whether the soil is compact enough to meet strict road construction specifications.

We have 20 people in our lab team—13 are out in the field and seven work in the lab testing samples.

During the 2022 and 2023 construction season, which is focused on earthworks, the field teams are conducting Nuclear Density Testing.

These soil tests are to ensure that

Steady As You Go

Steady As You Go exercises at 131 Cambridge Street Ashhurst.

If you are 65+ years and would like to take part in light exercises, call in on Thursdays 10.00am—11.00am.

Contact Age Concern phone 355 2832

Ashhurst Red Cross

Secondhand Shop, Cambridge Avenue.

Lots of Christmas items, books, and toys for the kids plus clothing and household items.

Christmas wishes and thanks to our customers and community for donations!

Last day—Wednesday, 22nd December, reopening mid-January.

Monday—Thursday 12.30am—2.30pm

Friday 10.00am—1.00pm

or when the flags are out.

Ashhurst Plunket

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*Bookings can be done via my Facebook Page

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It includes a distance vision screening test, audiometry hearing test, height, weight, dental health and child development.

Contact 0800 692 445



Strength and Balance Ashhurst

Move it—or Lose it! Join our friendly group for a gentle, low impact exercise class, (no floor exercises) with an emphasis on fun. Optional—go for coffee afterwards.

Where: Village Valley Centre

When: Monday mornings, 9.45am—10.45am

Cost: \$8 per class.

Enquiries: Maria, phone 329 4166



Ashhurst Budgeting Service

Thursday 9.30 am — 1.00 pm

Operating from St Mary Magdalene Anglican Church, 67 Cambridge Street, Ashhurst.

For Appointments Contact: Manawatu Home Budgeting Service.

Phone: 358 2279; Cell: 0800-228 343



River Church

Meet at 131 Cambridge Avenue each Sunday at 10.00am. All welcome.

Pastors Dave and Kellie Ross.

Phone 027 247 2179 or 328 4864 (evening)

www.riverchurch.nz



Ashhurst Yoga Classes

Gentle beginner to intermediate yoga classes are on every Wednesday during school term time, 9.15am—10.00am at the Village Valley Centre.

Cost is \$8.50 and bring your yoga mat.

Working to your own level we focus on mindfulness, building and maintaining strength and flexibility—you don't need to have either to start yoga!

Introducing a new class on the first Wednesday of every month—Chair Yoga, suitable for all levels, especially those with limited lower body mobility or balance, a perfect opportunity to start yoga!

Phone or Text Vanessa: 027 243 0187 or email vlbphotography@inspire.net.nz, or visit www.vlbphotography.co.nz.



Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway Update *continued*

the material is compacted correctly to specification.

The lab is about more than just testing soil – we also develop the people in our team so they have new skills they can take with them after the highway is finished.

Five of our team are currently accredited as Key Technical Persons or are working towards their accreditation under International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ). This internationally-recognised accreditation shows that a team member has appropriate knowledge of testing and the ability to train other people.

Training our lab team to improve their skills and qualifications helps us meet our commitment to creating enduring community outcomes, one of our key principles of the project.

Construction update

Earthworks continues to make good progress with 4.3 million cubic metres of

earth now moved on the project so far.

Pier One on the Parahaki Bridge over the Manawatu River has been completed with the final concrete pour done this month.

Over the river at the Eco-Viaduct Bridge, good progress is being made with six of twelve columns now complete. The first beams for this bridge are expected to arrive early in the new year.

Our landscaping teams finished planting for the season in October with 492,000 plants in the ground this season. They're now focusing on maintenance of the 800,000 plants that have been planted over the past two seasons.

Recreational Paths Fund

Waka Kotahi is now accepting applications from groups that would like to create trails that complement the shared use path on Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatu Tararua Highway.

The Recreational Paths Fund was established to create recreational and tourism opportunities for the region.

The Agency is looking for submissions for paths that connect to the highway's shared use path and provide additional access for recreational users.

Applications are open until March 2025, if not awarded prior. For details about the application criteria and how to apply, go to www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/te-ahu-a-turarua/publications.



Photo: Pier 1 has been completed on the Parahaki Bridge over the Manawatu River.

New Zealand's Native Bees

While most people in New Zealand are familiar with honey bees, which are an introduced species (*Apis mellifera*), far fewer know about or could recognize a native bee. It may surprise you to know that we actually have 28 species of native bee, 27 of which are endemic (occur nowhere

else in the world). That sounds a lot but in Australia there are more than 1,500 native bee species. Although our native bees, like the honey bee, play an important role in pollinating flowers, there are few other similarities between them.

To start with, our native species are rather small, non-aggressive, dark-coloured bees that have evolved to pollinate our native

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New Zealand's Native Bees

trees and plants. So you are not so likely to see them visiting your flower garden. They do not live in hives or produce honey; rather they are solitary bees with only one family living in each nest. The nest is usually in a burrow in the ground or in plant material such as a beetle hole or rolled flax leaf. The female bee lays one egg in each nest and feeds the offspring with nectar and pollen collected from nearby flowers. Each female native bee typically lays up to ten eggs before dying.



Our native species belong to two bee families, the Plasterer Bees and the Sweat Bees. Plasterer Bees are more numerous, especially those in the genus *Leioproctus* which nest in the ground. Plasterer Bees in the genus *Hylaeus*, also known as Masked Bees on account of their appearance, nest in plant material. Our Sweat Bees belong in the genus *Lasioglossum* and they also nest in the ground.

Photo: Left—Hylaeus species; Right Top—Leioproctus species; Bottom—Lasioglossum species.

Our native bees have an important role in many of our ecosystems because they are among the most critical and effective pollinators of native plants such as manuka, kanuka and pohutukawa.

Unfortunately, their foraging range is more limited than that of honey bees, so we can encourage native bees by growing more native plants in areas where they are currently lacking.

Grey Smith



Ashhurst Foodbank

Open 2.00pm — 3.00pm every Thursday.
Methodist Church, Bamfield Street, Ashhurst.
Contact: Zosha 027 446 7769 or Marianne 027 627 2054



Anglican Parish of Pohangina

St Mary Magdalene's Church, Ashhurst

8.00am: 4th December 2022

5th February 2023

NB: No 8am Service in January

10.00am: Every Sunday

11.00pm: Christmas Eve Service
Saturday, 24th December

10.00am Christmas Day Service
No Services during January 2023

St Bartholomew's Church, Komako

10.00am: 11th December 2022

7.00pm Christmas Eve Service

No Services during January 2023

Officiating Priests — Rev Michael Russell,
Rev Pam Barnett

Contact the Parish office for further
information on phone 326 8543 or email:

info@parishofpohangina.net

www.parishofpohangina.net

St Mary Magdalene Church—Office Hours
(subject to change at short notice):

*The Parish Office will be closed from 23rd
December 2022, and will reopen 24th
January 2023.*

Monday: closed

Tuesday: 2.00pm—5.00pm

Wednesday: 2.00pm—4.30pm

Thursday: 2.00pm—5.00pm

Friday: 2.00pm—5.00pm

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Sat 9.00am-3.00pm; Sun 9.30am-2.00pm

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Tuesdays at 6.00pm—55 minutes.
Centennial Room at the Village Valley Centre. Free first session.
Bring a mat or \$12 mats available.
“In 10 sessions you will feel the difference, in 20 you will see the difference, and in 30 you will have a new body.” Joseph Pilates
To register contact Narrelle 021 2673676

Ashhurst and District Senior Citizens Association Inc

Meet on the first Thursday of each month in the Methodist Church Hall, Bamfield Street, at 2.00pm. We invite you to come along and enjoy an afternoon of friendship and entertainment.
Contact: Terry Carr, 326 8074

Ashhurst Clay Target Club

(claybird shooting)
Meets the last Sunday of every month from 9.30 am at 651 Valley Road
Anyone welcome to join us
Queries: Ken Simonsen, Phone: 329-4800

Local Justices of the Peace

Mrs AK Rutherford

Available by appointment—027 404 8551

Mr F Saua

Pohangina Road RD 14—029 254 3206

Mr JC Culling

Pohangina Road—3294825

Ashhurst Music Club

Live original music in your back yard
Our club is open to all ages and skill levels.
Monthly meetings are about to start so keep watch on the Facebook page and in the Village Voice.

Open mic at Munch Cafe—62 Broadway Avenue. 14th—28th July and beyond.
Contact kiwifieldcrew@inspire.net.nz or phone Grant 027 432 7648

Ashhurst Genealogy

If you require assistance with Ashhurst History or Genealogy research. Phone Heather Smith on 326 9989 or email whizjoy@inspire.net.nz

Ashhurst School

Congratulations

A massive well done to all students from our recent Lamb, Calf and Craft day. It is always a pleasure being able to see the students who bring animals thrive and reap the rewards of all the effort they have put in. It was also wonderful to be able to walk around the classes and see the students wonderful creations and it felt amazing to be able to welcome back our school whanau and our local pre-schools to share the day with us.

Staffing

Last month we received the resignations of Mrs Emily Johnson and Miss Ashlee Phillips, with great sadness. We appreciate everything they have contributed to the school, and our tamariki have genuinely benefitted from their contributions both in and out of the classroom. Whaea Ashlee and her fiancé are moving to Australia and Whaea Emily and her family are heading to a new opportunity in Auckland. We wish them all the best for their new ventures.

Sports Events

Congratulations to all the Year 5—6 students who represented the school last month at the Super Six sports event in Pahiatua. Students were fabulous ambassadors for the school. It has been amazing to hear from various people that the students behaviour was exemplary and their effort during the games was outstanding. Thank you to Whaea Alicia, Pa James, Miss Lay, Pa Andre and Pa Heath for coaching the team and to all the parents and caregivers who helped with transport. The team finished second overall, a great result.

Our intermediate students have been busy and involved in two sporting events in the last month. Firstly, we headed off to our second to last Elite Sports event for the year. Students took part in Elite Sports Basketball and took out the trophy in what can only be described as an intense final. Secondly we welcomed Havelock North Intermediate for our inaugural exchange. We hope that this will become a regular entry in our sporting calendar. This event is a festival of sports and allows the opportunity for students who have yet to participate in Elite Sports events or

Aims Games to represent the school. This is another fantastic opportunity for our Year 7-8 children and was enjoyed by all who took part.

Athletic Sports

During November we held two athletic events for the year. It was great to be able to invite whanau back to support their children. We enjoyed seeing you all down at Lincoln Park. Our junior event was first and was an outstanding event. The children were incredible and can be very proud of their attitude and effort. A big thank you to the Year 7 students who supported on the day. We had some great feedback from the community about how helpful they were. Our senior event was run on the 8th of November. The children were outstanding and the day ran incredibly smoothly. Thanks to Pa Kyle for all of his organisation with this event and to the staff who pitched in the early morning to setup. It was so good to see the students all compete so well and give everything a go.

We appreciated everyone's flexibility around the change in the senior event as it clashed with Elite Sports Basketball. Unfortunately, we received the date for Elite Sports Basketball very late, but we wanted to be able to participate in all events.

P.T.A. Market Day

The Ashhurst School P.T.A. would like to extend a massive, heart-felt thanks to everyone who supported our Market Day over the weekend. This was a very successful day and we were overwhelmed with the support. On behalf of Ashhurst School we would like to thank our parents, caregivers, whanau and the “Village” community for their support throughout the year—we truly appreciate the great relationship we have. It has been fantastic to be able to run sports, cultural and other events with the full involvement of our wonderful community out here in Ashhurst. We are looking forward to more of the same in 2023.

From all of the staff and students at Ashhurst School we would like to wish you a safe and happy festive break. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2023.

Meri Kirihimete me te Hape Nu Ia

Kaz Giles—Acting Principal

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Ashhurst Medicine Depot

Hours

Monday—Friday: 7.00am—8.00pm

Saturday: 7.30am—8.00pm

Sunday: 8.00am—8.00pm

Public Holidays: 8.00am—8.00pm

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Book Review—*Remember Me* by Charity Norman

Can you see the Ruahine Ranges from your house? They are at the centre of this absorbing and atmospheric novel about the unsolved and mysterious disappearance of local girl, Leah Parata.

Dr Leah Parata, an experienced tramp, disappeared while walking in the Ruahine Ranges near Arapito in 1994 and she has never been found, nor have local police ever found her belongings and backpack. It is now 2019 and locals are still hoping that they might find her body, some still hope she could be alive somewhere else.

Emily Kirkland was brought up in the same small village, knew Leah well, they were best friends at school, and also knew each other's family. She has been living overseas for many years, but returns home after learning her ex-GP father, Felix, has dementia and is failing fast. He lives alone and is becoming incapable of looking after himself.

to a rest home but Emily is torn between wanting to return to her London home and career and doing the right thing by her father. She finally makes the decision to stay with her father in the old family home and look after him. While there, she discovers a crucial piece of information about her missing friend, Leah, which could be extremely damaging to all concerned. What should she do?

As we learn of this, we also come to know a lot about the small village Leah and Emily grew up in, the people who still live there and still talk about Leah's disappearance. Always, in the background are the Ranges with their ever-changing colours and moods and the secrets they hold.

I loved this story. It is so well-told and you can just feel the presence of the bush, rivers and ranges, all with a familiar local flavour. Very well written, probably my favourite novel this year.

Robyn Dare

Other family members want to shift Felix

Ashhurst Library

Hi everyone, looking back on the past year and reflecting on everything that has happened, can we say how aware and appreciative we are for the support we receive. We greatly enjoy talking and meeting every one of you and it is always a pleasure to be given that opportunity. We are looking to hit the ground running next year with a full programme of events as well as our normal services.

There are so many people to thank—our gardeners, our food distribution volunteers, all the kids who are so willing to help in any way, RECAP and especially Chris Love, our JPs Mr. Mills and Mrs. Thompson and so many others. So, let us just say to everyone—have a great Christmas and New Year celebration.

Thanks everyone.

Summer Reading 2022—2023

Congratulations to everyone that is registered for our summer reading programme over December—January. It

is a great programme promoting reading encouragement and enjoyment and we are very much looking forward to talking with all the kids and taking part in fun activities.

Ashhurst Mighty Kids

Ashhurst Mighty Kids is our preschool programme of stories, songs and crafts. We have one more session for 2022 and it's our Christmas party.

Wednesday, 7th December at 10.30am

Talk with Mayor Grant Smith

Tuesday, 13th December 4.00 pm—5.00 pm

Come in for an informal chat with our Mayor Grant Smith who will be available to talk to you about any issues and concerns. Refreshments are provided, you are all most welcome.

Ashhurst Library Facebook

Just a reminder that if you want to keep up to date with all our latest news, events or announcements, just visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/AshhurstLibrary> and

Ashhurst Pohangina Squash Club

Club night is Monday, from 6.00pm. Come along and give squash a go!

All members and newcomers welcome. Courts are located at the rear of the Village Valley Centre on Guildford Street. Contact Braydon on 027 390 5611, ashpohsquashclub@inspire.net.nz, or find us on Facebook.



Ashhurst Pohangina Lions

The Ashhurst Pohangina Lions meet every second Thursday of the month at the R.S.A. Clubrooms at 6.30pm.

This established and friendly Lions Club is community oriented.

Contacts:

Jack Zwart (President) 326 8958
standishzwart@gmail.com
Brent Besley (Secretary) 329 4891
brent.liz@inspire.net.nz
Mike Forlong (Memberships) 329 4741
forlong@inspire.net.nz



Reiki Group Meeting

Welcome to all Reiki Practitioners, of any level, from any lineage!

Meetings will be at 7.00pm on the first Sunday of every Month at the Ashhurst Library. (June being the exception, when it will be the second Sunday due to Queen's Birthday Weekend)

Contact: Tricia Kirkwood
Phone: 326 7279 or 022 184 1968
Email: 2activatehealth@gmail.com



Kids 'n Motion

Kids 'n Motion is now in its 20th year of providing music and movement for 0-5-year olds within Ashhurst and the surrounding community.

When: Every Friday 9.45am—11.15am during school terms.

Where: Village and Valley Centre, Guildford Street, Ashhurst.

Cost: Gold coin donation.

Contact: Cherie O'Leary, Ph: 326 9688

Check out our Facebook page and like us!

Kids 'n Motion is such a great group to come along too—see you there!



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Pohangina Rubbish Collection

Rubbish is collected every Monday. Bags out by 7.30am.

Taekwondo

Taekwondo / Self defence class for all levels and abilities, men and women, boys and girls. Tuesday and Wednesday nights from 5.20pm—7.00pm during term time at the Lincoln Park Ashhurst Pohangina Rugby Football Clubroom in Ashhurst. Come and see what it's all about.

Check out our Facebook page—<https://www.facebook.com/ashhurstkd/>



Pohangina Yoga Classes

Mondays 6.00pm—7.00pm
\$10 per class or \$50 for six classes
Suitable for beginners and those with more experience of yoga.

Contact Catherine: hauorayoga@gmail.com or 021 0270 4400, www.hauorayoga.co.nz
Facebook: Hauora Yoga



Ashhurst Playcentre

Licensed Early Childhood Education Provider. Over 50 years in your community. Spaces now available for children 0—6 years. Call 326 9270 or email ashhurst@playcentre.org.nz or Drop in for a free visit and a cuppa.

Tuesday and Thursday 9.00am—1.00pm.
118 Stanford Street, Ashhurst



Pohangina Local Christian Radio

3ABN Radio is now broadcasting in Pohangina Township on 107.7FM. Offering lifestyle radio with a difference! Broadcast 24 Hours 7 Days a week for the 'Best News Ever!' www.3abn.org Contact Rex 06 356 1141 for Free Bible Studies, Books and DVD's



Ashhurst Library *continued*

click "Like".

Our Pet Photo Board

We have a photo board going of Ashhurst's beloved pets filling up fast. If you would like to have a photo of your pet proudly on display, please email us a pic at ashhurst@pncc.govt.nz with a name.

Christmas and New Year's Hours

The Ashhurst Library will close for the Christmas / New Year's break on Thursday, 22nd December at 12 midday. We will reopen for 2023 on Wednesday, 4th January at 2pm.

Ross Meads—Ashhurst Librarian

Ashhurst Clay Target Club

We had five squads which seemed oddly quiet but heaps of laughter during the second round of incoming pairs which had clay targets flying everywhere at all angles. There are some videos of it on our Facebook page.



Club Shoot DTL:

Top Gun Winner: Brad Turner
Handicap Winner: Seth Quigley

Second Shoot

(sporting, incoming pairs, 30 targets):

Winner: Brad Turner

Karen Pawson—Secretary



Photos: Left Brad Turner; Left Seth Quigley

Ashhurst Rainfall

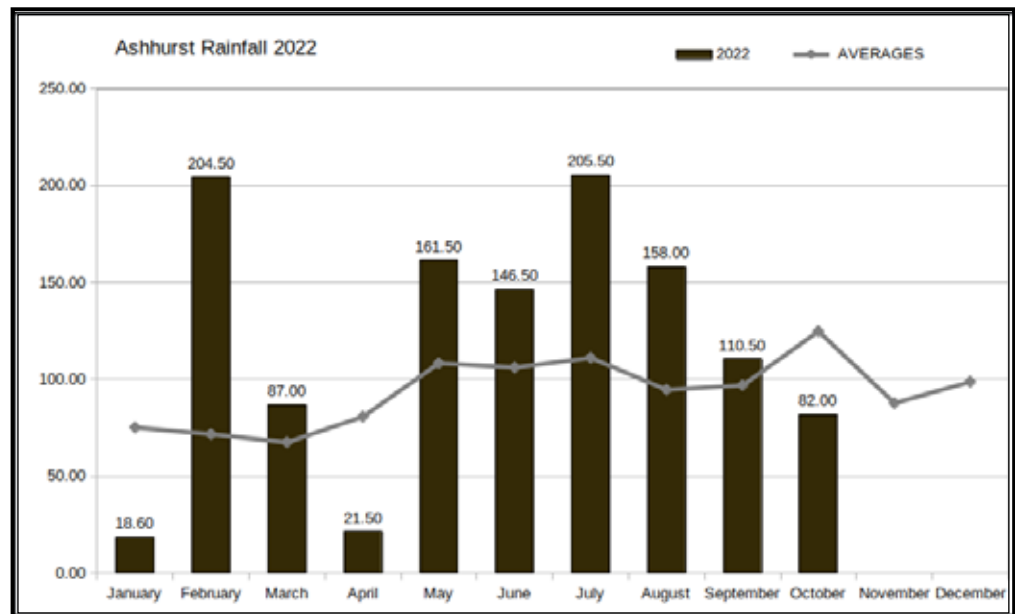
82 mm of rain fell in October, below the October average of 124.4 mm.

Rain was recorded on 16 days with the highest one day rainfall of 14 mm on the

12th October, 2022.

Total rainfall so far this year is 1195.6 mm. This is above the annual average for this period of 935.6 mm.

Quang Mai



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GLIMPSE

Mayor Grant Smith

Kia ora tātou

Seasons greetings everyone.

It was great to be able to celebrate with you during the Ashhurst Christmas parade.

The parade made its happy return in time to kick off Palmy's summer of festive events and countdown to Christmas and New Year 2023.

You're invited to see out the old year and welcome in the new with the traditional family-friendly New Year's Eve in The Square/Te Marae o Hine on Saturday December 31.

During an evening of music and entertainment there'll be a kids' countdown at 9pm, with the main countdown and New Year fireworks display at midnight.

A New Council

I introduced our five debutante City councillors Mark Arnott, Roly Fitzgerald, Debi Marshall-Lobb, William Wood, and Kaydee Zabelin and announced Debi as Deputy Mayor in last month's Village Voice column.

There's now a new committee structure in place: Strategy & Finance – chair Cr Vaughan Dennison; Economic Growth – chair Cr Leonie Hapeta; Culture & Sport – chair Cr Rachel Bowen; Community – chair Cr Lorna Johnson; Sustainability – chair Cr Brent Barrett; Rangitāne o Manawatū – co-chair Wiremu Te Awe Awe and the Mayor; Risk & Assurance – chair Mr Steve Armstrong (Chartered Accountant).

Council's Ashhurst Tiki Tour

The city also has a new CEO in Waid Crockett who took up his role in early November.

Following his arrival and as part of the post-election induction process for Councillors, we have been making Ashhurst, its council assets and services first-hand familiar to Waid and elected members.

The Ashhurst Community Library, Splashhurst, Village Valley Centre, water mains upgrade and infrastructure, parks and reserves were all part of an extensive itinerary that also took in the Te Ahu a Turanga project making great progress in the Ruahine Range above Ashhurst.

Great outdoors

The new Waka Kotahi/NZTA viewing area provides a stunning perspective on the bridgework under construction at the gorge mouth – a further reason to recommend Ashhurst for a summer 'roadie'.

Summer Reading

Once again, the Ashhurst Community Library is the focus of the popular annual Summer Reading Programme over December and January.

Encouraging holiday reading involvement and enjoyment, the programme has attracted 80 plus 4 – 10-year-olds as well as several intermediate age participants.

Please note that the library will be closed for 12 days from Friday December 23 – reopening on Wednesday January 4.

Gravel & Tar Cycle Race

Ashhurst residents are encouraged to come out in support of UCI (Union Cycliste Internationale) Gravel and Tar cycling classic, based at the Village Valley Centre on Saturday January 21.

With a reputation as Oceania's toughest single-day race on the UCI circuit, the 140km \$12,000 total prize purse event starts in Ashhurst.

The starting line, registration and post-race prize-giving will be held in Ashhurst.

Meet the Mayor

2022's final Meet the Mayor session will be on Tuesday, December 13 between 4 – 5pm in the Ashhurst Community Library.

The Council website and Facebook page will post any changes.

Meri Kirihimete me te tau hou

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Mayor Grant Smith JP



ASHHURST COMMUNITY LIBRARY

06 326 8646

Open days

Monday	2pm - 5pm
Tuesday - Friday	10am - 5pm
Saturday	10am - 1pm
Sunday	closed

NB: Christmas/New Year Hours

Thursday December 22	10am – 12noon
Friday December 23 -	
Tuesday January 3	Closed

Access the full range of library digital resources at: citylibrary.pncc.govt.nz

SPLASHHURST COMMUNITY POOL

06 350 0849

NB: The pool will be closed for maintenance from Sunday December 18, reopening on Tuesday January 10.

Normal hours

Tuesday - Friday	6am - 9.30am + 1pm - 7pm during school term. 6am - 7pm during school holidays
Saturday	8am - 6pm
Sunday - Monday	closed

Contact tracing at the pool and online: clmnz.co.nz/splashhurst

ASHHURST RUBBISH + RECYCLING

Rubbish bag collection Tuesday morning. Bags out by 7.30am. (Glass collection suspended until further notice – check pncc.govt.nz)

Recycling Bin	Glass Crate
6 December	13 December
20 December	27 December
3 January	10 January
17 January	24 January
31 January	7 February
14 February	

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Tuesday	1pm - 3pm
Saturday	10am - 4pm

(Open Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve)



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PO Box 38, Ashhurst

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Phone: 326 8075

rgcasmith@inspire.net.nz

Proof-reader: Kaye Farrugia

Letters to the Editor

Letters under 200 words are preferred. The writer's contact details are required on all letters (not for publication), including address, email and phone number. We may need to contact you to clarify minor details.

The editor reserves the right to edit, abridge or decline letters or articles without explanation. Pen names or letters submitted elsewhere are not acceptable.

If supplying images, high resolution images are required. Please feel free to contact the editor if you are unable to email images.

Advertising Rates & Information

Articles and community notices are free. Adverts can vary from a few lines in the side column to a double business card size. Conditions apply. A 15% discount is offered if you pay in advance for a full year (11 issues). A business card size advert is to be 60mm by 100mm at 300dpi and costs \$50. The costs varies proportionally for smaller and larger sized adverts.

For further information on advertising costs and payments please contact Grey Smith. For technical details please contact the Editor. Contact details above.

Advertisers, we prefer that you supply files in pdf format. Please note that files supplied in .pdf format are unable to be adjusted from our end. Adverts can be created by the Editor for a small additional cost. These can be adjusted as required.

Village Voice Deadline

Deadline for articles and advertising submissions for the next edition is:

5.00pm Friday, 20th January 2023.

We cannot guarantee your submission will be included after this date.

Ashhurst Indoor Bowls

It seems unbelievable that a month has gone by so very quickly and now that we are back into the full swing of the bowling season there is so much happening almost daily.

Elizabeth Walker is well underway with the Ashhurst ladies again almost at the top of the table—many more games to be played but going well. The Men's Skogs is also progressing well with some wins and fewer losses. This is every Tuesday and so far, the weather has been kind.

Each Thursday is Club Day and is attracting many members who have a competition based on numbers of players so it means each week there can be something different to keep things really interesting.

Twilight bowling has started and it is great to see new players who are coming and enjoying themselves hugely. Names in by 5.45pm and only flat soled shoes needed. Twilight takes a break from 21st December and recommences on January 4th. Come and have a go, lots of fun with great people.

Interclub final is 17th and 18th December and Ashhurst players are shining brightly.

The Club Championship Triples has been completed with Max, Moggy and Wayne winning both their games to be the outright winners—really well done. The Womens teams each ended up with the same number of wins and losses so the result went to a count back of ends played, with Margie, Jen and Lee being the winners. The games were played over a weekend of high humidity and heat on the Saturday and drenching rain on the Sunday. Joyce's and Jen's teams played on Sunday and the conditions were grim indeed but they donned wet weather gear and played on. The whole weekend was really



great with all, wet and dry, in high spirits.

The Tararua Quad went ahead for the second to last round and Ashhurst are currently second. The last round is at Woodville on 11th December so we are hoping to bring the trophy back to Ashhurst.

By the time of the next report the Championship 4's, the Year 1—8 Singles and Pairs, the Year 1 and 2 Singles and Pairs and the Senior Singles will have been played so a huge amount of competition coming up.

On 7th December is the Julia Wallace 2x4x2 Pairs and the field is already full for this. Again, it is an Open Tournament that attracts players from all over the Manawatu and beyond. Ashhurst does it well!!

Then on 27th December is the AEG Barbecue Triples which will again have a full green of competitive players out for a great time, great company, great food and great prizes.

25th January is the day of the Nissan Triples and again this will be a huge and successful tournament.

Advance notice of the Property Brokers Fours which is to be played February 11th and 12th.

We must include a huge thank you to our sponsors. They make these tournaments possible and without them things just would not be able to happen. While we always acknowledge them at our tournaments, a public acknowledgement and thank you is a must.

It is hard to believe Christmas and another year is just around the corner—how fast time goes by!! To all, wishes for a happy and safe time until we catch up, through the Village Voice, once again.

Adrienne Harding—Secretary



Photos: Left—Womens Triples Winners—Margie, Jen and Lee;
Right—Mens Triples Winners—Wayne, Moggy and Max