



# Ashhurst Village Voice

*Informing the communities of  
Ashhurst & Pohangina*

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April 2024

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Established 1997

## RECAP Update

Tēnā koutou katoa from RECAP.

On Thursday, March 21st, we were joined by kaumātua from Ngāti Kauwhata and Rangitāne, Ashhurst Health Care staff, tamariki from the Ashhurst School garden club, Environment Network Manawātū, community members, our wonderful librarians at Ashhurst Library, Manawātū Standard and Meridian Energy (who funded this project) to begin work on a māra rongoā (traditional Māori medicinal garden) on the Ashhurst Health Care premises.



The area we planted is along the public walkway next to the centre from Cambridge avenue to Guildford Street, so please have a wander through and keep your eye out as we transform this space into a thriving māra full of natives. There will be signage coming to provide some information on the varied plants, their history and uses (give us a minute for those though, they take some time).

Ngā mihi nui to all that attended and got stuck in planting.

We will be running a Composting

Workshop alongside the wonderful and knowledgeable Sally Pearce from the Palmerston North City Council / Environment Network Manawātū Future Living Skills courses. This will be on Saturday, April 13th, (with the 20th as a rain date) at the Olsson Community Orchard. We will cover several different composting methods, and build a single bed compost on the day. To register visit: [recap.org.nz](https://recap.org.nz)

**The RECAP Crop Swap.** Find us on the first Saturday of every month at the Ashhurst Community Library 11.00 am-1.00 pm. This is a sharing event where people can give and take freely (no need to give in order to take and visa versa). Bring produce, fruit, cuttings, seedlings, seeds and anything else gardening related.

We have Volunteer Library Gardening happening most weeks led by our wonderful deputy chairperson Suzanne. She updates Facebook/Ashhurst Chat each week with more detail, so if you're keen to get involved check there or email: [schelius@hotmail.com](mailto:schelius@hotmail.com). Everyone—all levels of experience and ability—welcome. Come along as a one-off or as a regular volunteer! We love to see new faces!

We will be running our Permaculture Garden Tour again later this year, and we're on the lookout for new gardens to showcase. Please get in touch ([info@recap.org.nz](mailto:info@recap.org.nz)) if you would like to be involved.

Our Seed Library (located within the Ashhurst Library) continues to be updated with seeds appropriate for the season. We are always looking for donated seeds—especially those grown in our area. These can be dropped off to the Seed Library station.

And finally, RECAP Community Kai continues to provide rescued and donated kai to our residents. This happens on a

*Continued on next page*

## Contents

<b>Book Review: These Precious Days</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>A.G.M Village Voice Society</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ANZAC Day Services</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2024 Christmas Hampers</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Manawatu Rural Support Services</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Community Comment</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Ashhurst Senior Citizens Association</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Weta—Our Giant Flightless Crickets</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Awahou School</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Te Ahu A Turanga Update</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Ashhurst School</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Ashhurst Library</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Ashhurst Bowling Club</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Ashhurst Rainfall</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Palmerston North City Council</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Ashhurst Clay Target Club</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Ashhurst Indoor Bowling Club</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Village Voice Contacts</b>	<b>12</b>

**Deadline for April Issue—Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

## Book Review: *These Precious Days*

By Ann Patchett

From the author of *Commonwealth*, *Bel Canto*, *The Dutch House* and many more, this is a collection of brilliant, very personal essays.

We learn of Ann Patchett's life and experiences through her great talent as a writer and her ability to convert the personal to the universal. You find, as the reader of her thoughts on many aspects of life, that there are so many relatable moments she explores and you are with her all the way.

Essays include one on her childhood spent with three different fathers, her first thanksgiving, "My Year of No Shopping", "How Knitting Saved my Life", "Sisters" and many more. Each one is a stand-alone comment on a particular phase of life, from childhood through to old age.

A stand-out is her account of meeting Tom Hanks and his assistant Sookie—an amazing story of a precious friendship that becomes so much more in Ann's life.

I cannot praise this little book enough, it's so much more than just a series of essays. You will want to pause and think carefully about what they mean to you and reread them again and again.

**Robyn Dare**

## RECAP Update

Tuesday from 3.15 pm-4.15 pm from the library back room (accessed through the garden area). Bring your own bag and select what you and your whānau will use. Please note most of what is available will be close to or past best before dates.

Please use your eyes, nose and common sense before consuming. To find out more join [facebook/RECAPcommunitykai](https://www.facebook.com/RECAPcommunitykai).

Noho ora mai

**Chris Love—RECAP Coordinator**

## A.G.M. Village Voice Society

The Ashhurst Village Voice Society will be holding its A.G.M. at 7.00 pm, Thursday, 18th April, at the Anglican Church Hall.

The A.G.M. is an opportunity to report back on the society's activity in the past year and elect its committee. This year we are also required to revise our constitutional rules in order to align with the requirements of the updated

Incorporated Societies Act. The Village Voice Society will be holding a special general meeting later in the year to approve the new rules.

If you want to know more about the Village Voice, or to provide input into the revised set of rules, then you are welcome to attend.

**Harvey Jones (Chairperson)**

## ANZAC Day Services 2024

### Dawn Service

Those wishing to march, the parade will form up at 5.50 am (0550) and step off at 5.55 am (0555). For those not wishing to march, the service will begin at 6.00 am (0600) at the Village Green. On completion of the service a breakfast will be served at the R.S.A. for a donation.

### Civic Service

Those wishing to march, the parade will form up at 11.50 am (1150) and step off 11.55 am (1155). The Service will begin at

12.00 pm (1200) at the Village Green.

Order of services can be obtained at the R.S.A. Those wishing to warm up in the morning with a little rum in their coffee, the R.S.A. will be open from 5.30 am (0530).

Keep an eye out on our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/ashhurst.rsa](https://www.facebook.com/ashhurst.rsa), for the service times for Pohangina and the cemetery.

Details for both are still been worked on.

**Tim Cocks**

## 2024 Christmas Hampers

This is the third year a group of Ashhurst organisations will be offering Christmas hampers to those in need of a helping hand and each year we are refining our processes to make the experience more efficient for everyone involved. If you would like to contribute, we have a list of items for each of the next seven months and will be letting you know what they are month by month.

The items for the month of April are soft drinks and/or tins of fruit salad and these

can be left in the box labeled 'Christmas Hampers' at the Ashhurst Library. Thank you to Ross and Jill for their support of this project. Once the hampers have been put together and distributed, anything left over will be donated to the Ashhurst Food Bank.

If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, please contact Marianne on 027 627 2054 for details.

**Marianne Crawford—Food Bank Co-ordinator**

## Manawatū Rural Support Services

The Manawatū Rural Support Services are providing the following courses.

### Staying Safe: A refresher course for older drivers

- Had your licence for decades but never refreshed your Road Code

knowledge?

- Feeling unsettled because you have a medical coming up to renew your licence?

*Continued on next page*

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Tuesday 8.30am - 5.00pm

Thursday 8.30am - 5.00pm

Saturday 9.00am - 12 noon

Wednesday & Friday evenings by appointment

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# Manawatu Rural Support Services

- Curious about what all these changes to road layout and signs mean?

Come to our free classroom-based driving refresher. It's less than an hour for every decade you have held your licence. We promise it is engaging!

Light refreshments available for free

**Where:** Northern Rural Manawatu

**Date:** Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

**Time:** 9.15am until 1.00 pm  
9.30 am start

**Enrolments essential:** Limited spaces, contact Age Concern Palmerston North and Districts (06) 355 2832

## Emergency First Aid

What can you do if someone is injured and emergency services may be a while coming?

**Where:** Kimbolton Hall

**Date:** Tuesday, 21st May

**Time:** 10.00am – 12.00 pm  
(light lunch provided)

\$6 koha

Registrations close May 14<sup>th</sup>

To register text or phone Jo 027 422 3544 or Averill 021 0823 4809

Email: [mrssincrcw2@gmail.com](mailto:mrssincrcw2@gmail.com)

# Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade

If you're anything like me you're starting to feel a slight chill in the air and the nights getting longer. That can only mean one thing: winter is coming (to quote House Stark). Hopefully those of you with fires have stacked away your wood but there's something else you need to do: sweep your chimney.

There are several reasons to sweep your chimney: it removes soot which increases efficiency as well as potential birds' nests and creosote buildup. Creosote is a by-product of burning wood and is a highly-flammable tar-like substance which builds up over time and may catch fire in your chimney, which may lead to your roof catching fire. Not cleaning your chimney

may also invalidate your home insurance.

I can just about guarantee we'll get called out to a few chimney fires when the cold sets in. If you do suspect a chimney fire please get out and call 111 immediately. Some signs of a chimney fire are: fire coming out the top, heaps of smoke and the sound of fire in the flue and the flue changing colour.

Luckily there are several businesses in and around Ashhurst (some who advertise in here!) who provide these services. Give them a bell and they'll sort you out. Take the time to check your smoke alarms too!

**Matthew Clark—Community Fire Risk Management Officer**

# Community Comment

The City Council's Long-Term Plan is due out for public consultation during April. This plan outlines the Council's proposed rates income and spending over the next ten years and is updated every three years. Combined challenges of high interest, inflation, climate change and the uncertainty of funding for Three Waters, since the scrapping of its legislation, has made this a difficult budget to create. The Council has to consider how to best distribute its income from rates and service fees to match the financial needs of infrastructure, public services, social housing and community spaces. It needs public feedback to guide these decisions on how high the rates demand can be

pushed, and where some nice-to-have projects may need to be trimmed back. Recent media articles suggest proposed rates increases over 10% for the next few years.

The Council is also considering changes from the current rates demand based upon land values, to one based on a mix of land and capital values, along with the existing services charges for rubbish and water. This should help alleviate large rates rises due to big increases in the value of land in some suburbs despite it hosting a modest dwelling. Check out the library or the Palmerston North City Council web pages for more detail on this ten year budget

*Continued on next page*

# JustOne Please

Super kia ora. Thank you all very much for the generous donations of **pegs!**

April's JustOne Please item is **colouring in pencils, pens etc.** Donations can be dropped off at the Ashhurst Library. Contact Louise Bowe on 020 410 86128 for more information.

## St. Columba's Catholic Church

St. Columba's Catholic Church would like to welcome you to join us for Vigil Mass, celebrated every Saturday at 5.00 pm.

## Ashhurst Scouting

Keas (Mon 5.30 pm-6.30 pm), Cubs (Wed 6.00 pm-7.30 pm) and Scouts (Mon 6.45 pm-8.15 pm), during school terms.

Contact Julie (Group Leader) on [ashhurst@group.scouts.nz](mailto:ashhurst@group.scouts.nz) for more info.

# WE NEED YOUR HELP!



## Calling all residents...

We're on a mission to make our area one of the safest, best prepared and friendliest in New Zealand! Whether you're a new or long-time resident, Palmerston North Neighbourhood Support is here to help you:

- Get to know your neighbours
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- Gain tips and resources, including from NZ Police
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To learn more or get involved, visit us online or contact:

### Palmerston North Neighbourhood Support

Alison Jarden JP, Manager  
06 355 4468 | 021 0248 4139  
[info@pncitysupport.com](mailto:info@pncitysupport.com)  
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**Awahou Pohangina Playgroup**

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Pohangina East Valley Road.

Drop in for a visit, enjoy a cuppa,  
morning tea and chat. Contact: Arna  
Taylor—[samnarna@outlook.com](mailto:samnarna@outlook.com)

**Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A. Inc**

74 Cambridge Avenue, Ashhurst.  
Phone: 326 8296

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-Midnight

Saturday: 1.00pm-9.00 pm

**Manawatu Rangitikei Methodist Parish—Ashhurst, Bunnythorpe and Pohangina Congregation**

Ashhurst Devonport Worship and  
Community Centre

10.30 am 1st Sunday each month

Pohangina Community Church

10.30 am 3rd Sunday

Contacts: Parish Office—323 4127  
Selina Brightwell—022 184 2337 or  
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](mailto:ashhurstbowlingclub@gmail.com)

**Community Comment**

plan.

The new bridge for Te Ahu a Turanga is about to close the gap between the first two piers. The centre pier is also extending its arms to reach out for its neighbours. The car park for walkers of the Gorge tracks will move back near to its old location on the river side of the old gorge road. This will enable construction of the highway's alignment to the new bridge. Moving the car park will entail a longer walk for access to the walking tracks and views of the bridge construction.

Damage and vandalism to property is an ongoing problem in Ashhurst. The school grounds are now locked at night. The school bus shelters, opposite the police station, are the latest targets for broken glass. Community chat suggests that a return of an Ashhurst-based police officer would help maintain law and order in the



town.

On a more positive note, RECAP and Ashhurst Health Care recently hosted a planting event of its new māra rongoā, or medicinal plant garden. The previously grassed area either side of its path has been transformed into a garden with native plants known by Māori for their medicinal qualities. The garden was funded by the Meridian Community Fund and will be maintained by RECAP volunteers. Damian

McGregor, as rongoā garden adviser, has helped to select the preferred plants and is gathering information for the bilingual signs yet to be erected, which will provide information about the plants and their uses. Representatives from the Māori community, Ashhurst Health Care, RECAP and the school garden club began the planting process, before the wider group completed the job and celebrated with shared kai at the café next door.

**Harvey Jones**



Photos: Māra Rongoā planted at Ashhurst Health Care  
School tamariki help planting garden.



**B**

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# Ashhurst Senior Citizens Association

"SENIOR"—the mnemonic for 'suitably entertained normal inhabitants of residences.' There we are—some may think that it means 'old, aged, or ancient'. Our members come from all ages beyond the teenage years and we do enjoy every month's entertainment. Why not join us and be part of a monthly satisfying afternoon. Last month we were entertained by the Ashhurst Drama Group and they did a fantastic job. Sometimes we have speakers who enlighten us as to their work in charities, public aid organisations or even business. At other times we enjoy

music singing or instrumental entertainment. And we've been part of the Ashhurst scene 50 years this July.

Surely you haven't missed out not being part of us. Come along and join us each month on the first Thursday at 2.00 pm in the Methodist Hall in Bamfield Street.

For April we are going to have the editor of the Guardian, Judith Lacy, to speak to us. There's always a warm welcome awaiting.

**Terry Carr—Secretary**

## Steady As You Go

Steady As You Go—A falls prevention programme. One hour of slow purposeful exercises for Seniors, aimed at strengthening weakened leg muscles and helping to improve balance. \$2 per session. Otangaki Lodge, 69 Oxford Street, Ashhurst

Contact Age Concern phone 355 2832 for more details.

## Wētā—Our Giant, Flightless Crickets

They may not be everyone's favourite insect, however Wētā do comprise an important part of our native fauna. In fact, the 100 or so species of Wētā in New Zealand are all endemic, meaning they are not found anywhere else in the world. They are relatively large insects but it is probably their appearance that most people find somewhat scary. Although similar insects are found in other countries, they are not called Wētā. In Australia, for example, they

are called Camel Crickets.

Most Wētā are omnivorous, meaning they eat vegetation as well as small invertebrates. Being nocturnal, they come out at night to feed. There are five main groups of Wētā, three of which are found locally. The most common group, and probably the ones that most people will have seen, are the Tree Wētā. As the name suggests, they usually live in holes or tunnels in tree trunks. They can be found in native bush as well as urban backyards,



Photos: Left-Tree Wētā; Right-Ground Wētā; Page 6-Cave Wētā.

Continued on next page

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For more information call Plunket Area Office—0800 692 445 or 06 357 4844

**B4 School Check**

The B4 School Check is the final Well Child check.

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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.

Village Valley Centre, Monday mornings, 9.45am-10.45am.

Cost: \$8 per class.

Enquiries: Maria—phone 329 4166

**Ashhurst Budgeting Service**

Thursday 9.30am-1.00pm.

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**

We 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](http://www.riverchurch.nz)

**Ashhurst Foodbank**

Open 2.30pm-3.30pm every Thursday. Methodist Church, Bamfield Street, Ashhurst.

Contact: Marianne 027 627 2054

**Ashhurst Red Cross**

Secondhand Shop, Cambridge Avenue.

Winter clothing available at the end of April + things to keep kids busy over the holidays, soft toys, books, new items put out daily!

Donations accepted when shop is open.

Monday-Thursday 12.30pm-2.30pm

Friday 10.00am-1.00pm or when the flags are out.

**Wētā—Our Giant, Flightless Crickets**

and occasionally can even enter houses. A good local example of this group is the Wellington Tree Wētā (see photo).

Another group are the Ground Wētā which, you will not be surprised to hear, live in burrows in the ground. I recently found a Ground Wētā (see photo) for the first time when I visited McCrae's Bush at night, armed with a torch. Apparently these Wētā back into their burrows so they can keep an eye out for enemies.



The third group of Wētā that are common both locally and nationally are the Cave Wētā (see photo), of which there are about 50 species. The name is somewhat misleading as most Cave Wētā live in the bush, not in caves. Usually much smaller than Tree Wētā, Cave Wētā typically have a hunched back and can have very long antennae and legs, especially those that do live in caves.

The other two groups of Wētā, the Giant Wētā and the Tusked Wētā, have not coped as well with the predators that have invaded New Zealand. While all Wētā are adversely affected by introduced predators, Giant and Tusked Wētā are the most vulnerable and are now likely to be seen only in protected areas. About 16 species of Wētā, mostly from these two groups, are considered to be at risk of extinction.

*Grey Smith*

**Awahou School**

Kia Ora from Awahou School!

We have had a great start to the 2024 school year here at Awahou School. Term 1 has been full of fun learning and adventures.

**Term 1 Highlights**

**Whānau Fun Night**—This is an annual event where we get together to catch-up with everyone again after the summer break. It's a relaxed evening, with a free sausage sizzle, inflatable obstacle course and ice cream truck.

**Himatangi Beach Trip**—This term our learning focus has been all about 'Wonderful Wai (Water)'. So in the lead up to NZ Sea Week 2024, we headed to Himatangi Beach to play, learn and explore. It was a great day out for everyone.



**Swimming Sports**—We held our own school swimming sports, which is always a fun event, with some competitiveness thrown in. Some students also attended the Kainui Schools Cluster Junior and Senior Swimming Sports. We are always very proud to see our students competing in these events, as they demonstrate so much mana and resilience.



**Weetbix Tryathlon**—We had a large group of students attend the Weetbix Tryathlon in Palmerston North this year. This is such a great event for all ages. Our students swam, biked and ran with grit and determination.

**Manawatu Tough Kids**—20 students attended this awesome event, hosted by Mt Biggs School. This event is super popular and sells out quickly, so we were so pleased to be able to enter this year.

*Continued on next page*

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# Awahou School

## Future Plans

We are hoping to have a new pump track and running in the near future. This will



go out on our school field and be connected to our soon to be revamped lime running/walking track. We are also waiting with anticipation to hear back from Meridian Energy Trust as to whether our application for a new pool heating system will be approved. So watch this space!!!

We are looking forward to what the rest of 2024 brings!

Ngā mihi nui,

**Trudi Blinkhorne—Principal**

## Te Ahu a Turanga Highway Update

Throughout the construction of Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway, a lot of the attention goes on the impressive engineering feats involved in making this major piece of infrastructure happen.

In addition to this, the project also has some exciting recreational features that will allow people to experience the region in ways they haven't been able to before.

One of those features is the Western Gateway Park, which will be built at the Ashhurst end of the project.

This area is close to where Te Āpiti-Manawatū Gorge carpark previously was before it was relocated to allow for construction of Parahaki Bridge.

The three-hectare park will include gardens, picnic areas, more than 1,000 square metres of lawn and access to the Manawatū River. It will also include a section of the Shared Use Path, which extends from Ashhurst to Woodville, and a carpark for users of Te Āpiti.

From Gateway Park, people will be able to walk or cycle up a ramp to the Parahaki Bridge viewing platform, which will extend out from the eastern side of the bridge, offering magnificent views of Te Āpiti-Manawatū Gorge.

Those who carry on along the Shared Use Path will be treated to a beautiful Wetland Experience under the Eco-Viaduct bridge.

Further along the highway will be three viewing areas connected to the Shared Use Path.

These viewing areas are not just available to walkers and cyclists – motorists will also be able to pull over so they can experience the incredible views.

One viewing area is located at Fill 9 towards the western end of the highway, providing expansive views of Ashhurst and wider Manawatū.

Another viewing area is near the midway

*Continued on next page*

## Ashhurst Yoga Classes

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

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!

Phone or Text Vanessa: 027 243 0187 or email [vlbphotography@inspire.net.nz](mailto:vlbphotography@inspire.net.nz), or visit [www.vlbphotography.co.nz](http://www.vlbphotography.co.nz).

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- ✓ Cement Bags 20kg
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Contact: Greg 027 557 8809

[greg@manawatucontracting.com](mailto:greg@manawatucontracting.com)

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

**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

**Ashhurst and District Senior Citizens Association Inc**

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

Contact: Terry Carr, 326 8074

**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—329 4825

J Wakeford

Hiwinui—022 319 0434

**Craft on Cambridge**

At the Chapman Hall, Anglican Church, Cambridge Avenue, on Monday afternoons 1.00 pm-3.00 pm and Wednesday mornings 9.30 am-11.30 am. B.Y.O. craft and the cost is \$2 each time.

A friendly, relaxed group who can help with your UFOs!

Contact: Marianne Crawford 027 627 2054

**Matwork Pilates Sessions**

Tuesdays at 6.00 pm—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

# Te Ahu a Turanga Highway Update

point of the highway, positioned at the end of a short track offering a view of the surrounding ranges and the Te Āpiti Windfarm. A third viewing area is near the Woodville end, offering breathtaking views of Tararua.

**Changes to Te Āpiti-Manawatu Gorge carpark**

Users of Te Āpiti – Manawātū Gorge walking track will notice the location of the temporary carpark on the Ashhurst side of the gorge changing soon.

From April 1, the new temporary carpark will be located on the other side of the road to the current carpark.

This change is needed due to changing construction requirements near the Parahaki Bridge part of the site.

Anyone wanting to visit Te Āpiti will still be able to access it on foot via the old

carpark area, but they unfortunately won't be able to park their vehicles there.

The new carpark location means users will need to walk 500 metres and cross Napier Road, with a road crossing and signing installed to ensure this can be done safely.

We appreciate the continued interest people have in our site and we apologise for any inconvenience these changes may cause.

**More information**

For more information about the project, head to [www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/te-ahu-a-turanga/](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/te-ahu-a-turanga/) or visit the Ashhurst Library or the Visitor's Centre at our Project Office for the latest flyover, project updates and the Drive the Highway simulator.

**Grant Kauri**

## Ashhurst School

**Finland Trip**

I have been very fortunate to be able to go to Finland as part of the well-being and professional development fund from the Ministry of Education. I selected Finland because they are regarded as the best education system in the world for student achievement (PISA Assessments). We are always looking to bring in the best from around the world to improve outcomes for our students at school. The trip consisted of classroom visits, a meeting with the Ministry of Education, and a full curriculum outline, funding, administration, and learning support.

**Sponsors for Ashhurst School**

We are looking for our local businesses to get behind Ashhurst School and take up advertising in our school newsletter or our digital sign out the front. If you are interested in supporting the school, please either contact me by email [hchittenden@ashhurst.school.nz](mailto:hchittenden@ashhurst.school.nz) or pop in and see me.

**Tech**

We are very excited to be putting on the finishing touches to our new purpose built woodwork room at the moment. We are very fortunate to have had Jenner and

Stephen Feldberg (parents of the school) donate all of the labour to accomplish this project. This has meant we have had some slight delays in getting the programme up and running but we will be fully underway in Week 8 of this term.

**GRIP Conference**

In Week Seven our Heads and Prefects attended the GRIP conference in Palmerston North. The central focus of the conference was equipping student leaders with practical ideas and skills which will allow them to make a significant contribution to our school. It was great to see our student leaders taking up the opportunity to further develop their leadership skills. Thank you to Mr Lowry for his organisation around this and supporting the children on the day.

**Mr Brosnan**

We congratulate Mr Brosnan on his achievement with Touch during the last month. Reece represented Manawātū in the open men's division and placed 8th at the Nationals. He was also selected to represent the Central Region at the Premier Touch League competition that was held recently.

*Continued on next page*



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Public Holidays: 8.00am—8.00pm

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# Ashhurst School

## Triathlon

We had a couple of new courses this year that had the students zig zagging across the field and zipping around the bike track. Our youngest students coped really well with the running, cycling, and swimming and all tried their very best. There were plenty of happy but tired students at the end of the event. In our senior event it was clear to see that there were some keen athletes out there. It was great to see that many students were enjoying themselves and giving it a go!

Thanks to all of the whānau that came down to support the event and cheer their children on - it really can boost confidence!

## Ashhurst Library

Hi everyone, as this month marks Anzac Day we will be putting all our Anzac books in a display for you all and doing an Anzac themed event during our holiday programme. Hope to see you all at the services.

### Our Most Popular Authors and Titles

Over the next few months, we will share our most read books and authors in our library. Some of the results will surprise you, some will delight you and some you will probably question. But just as a teaser, we can let you know that even in this day and age, Enid Blyton is still very very popular.

### April Holiday Programme

We are just finalising our holiday programme with lots of fun events. Included will be cooking days, craft sessions, the family quiz night and the return of Ashhurst Adventures—the family exercise that takes you around our village. Be warned—there is an advanced part of this event that if you are keen and ready, you will be tackling the Manawatu Gorge walk.

### History Volunteers

Can we say a big thank you to our history volunteers who are doing such a great job sorting all our photos, documents and newspapers. Once we have gone through everything, we will be sharing more snippets of Ashhurst's

We took our top five finishers along to the Manawātū Interschool Triathlon Champs. This was a really tough event, and the conditions were not easy—the wind seemed to be coming at the kids from all angles! We got a few top-ten and top-20 placings too. Well done to all athletes for their hard work on the course!

### Rural Games

Well done to our Year 5/6 and 7/8 teams playing Ki-o-Rahi at the Rural games in Palmerston North recently. They were amazing ambassadors for the school and provided a great spectacle demonstrating what Ki-o-Rahi is all about.

**Heath Chittenden—Principal**

past.

### After School Chess Club

The chess club is underway, thanks so much to our volunteer teachers. Just let us know if you would like to be involved.

### Moneywise Manawatu

We are thrilled to be in partnership with Moneywise Manawatu who are conducting budget sessions in our library on Thursday. If you would like to talk to their wonderful staff or need some excellent budgetary advice and guidance, just let us know or give them a call on freephone 0800 228 343.

### Ashhurst Elevenses—Every Friday at 11am during term time

Come along every Friday during term time for a cuppa and a friendly chat. Everybody is welcome! There will even be tea, coffee and the odd biscuit provided, but if you want to bring along some home baking, you are very welcome.

### Ashhurst Mighty Kids

Ashhurst Mighty Kids is our preschool programme of stories, songs and crafts. As ever, we hope to be able to have special guests throughout the year and there may be a few sessions in some very special locations.

Wednesday, 10th April 10.30 am

*Continued on next page*

## Anglican Parish of Pohangina

St Mary Magdalene's Church, Ashhurst  
8.00 am First Sunday of the Month  
10.00 am every Sunday

### St Bartholomew's Church, Komako

10.00 am 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays.  
Priest—Rev Pam Barnett. Contact the Parish office for further information:

Phone 326 8543 or

Email: [info@parishofpohangina.net](mailto:info@parishofpohangina.net)

[www.parishofpohangina.net](http://www.parishofpohangina.net)

St Mary Magdalene Church—Office Hours (subject to change at short notice): Monday: closed, Tuesday: closed, Wednesday: 9.30am-3.30pm, Thursday: closed, Friday: 1.00pm-3.00pm

### Ashhurst Pohangina Squash Club

Club night is Monday, from 6.00 pm. 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](mailto: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 6.30 pm. This established and friendly Lions Club is community oriented.

### Contacts:

Jack Zwart (President) 326 8958  
[standishzwart@gmail.com](mailto:standishzwart@gmail.com)

Brent Besley (Secretary) 329 4891

[brent.liz@inspire.net.nz](mailto:brent.liz@inspire.net.nz)

Mike Forlong (Memberships) 329 4741  
[forlong@inspire.net.nz](mailto:forlong@inspire.net.nz)

### 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.

Contact [kiwifieldcrew@inspire.net.nz](mailto:kiwifieldcrew@inspire.net.nz) or phone Grant 027 432 7648

### Pohangina Rubbish Collection

Rubbish is collected every Monday. Bags out by 7.30am



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### Kids 'n Motion

Now in its 21st year of providing music and movement for 0 - 5year olds within Ashhurst and the surrounding community.

Every Friday 9.45am-11.15am during school terms at the 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!

### 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](mailto:hauorayoga@gmail.com), 021 0270 4400, [www.hauorayoga.co.nz](http://www.hauorayoga.co.nz), Facebook: Hauora Yoga

### 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](http://www.3abn.org)

Contact Rex 06 356 1141 for Free Bible Studies, Books and DVD's.

### Ashhurst Indoor Bowling Club

Our season starts Thursday, 21st March and runs through to 26th September 2024.

We play in the VVC with games starting 7.30pm & play every Thursday.

Do come along and if you've never played before, we have members to help.

All members welcome.



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## Ashhurst Library

Wednesday, 1st May 10.30 am

### 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 click "Like".

**Ross Meads—Ashhurst Library**

## Ashhurst Bowling Club

April sees the end of the Bowling season and also the Champion of Champion events. This year almost every club member is representing Ashhurst in at least one Champion of Champion event and that is so great. The Club Championships were, in every case, exciting with many nail biting and down to the last bowl games. The Senior Singles Men was definitely such a case with the eventual winner being Pete Wackildene. He did lots of excited singing that night I have been told!!! The last competition were the Over 65 Pairs won by Wayne and Jacqui Poppleton and the Singles won by Margaret Grant who also won the Ladies Senior Singles. Best luck to everyone for their next challenges and Ashhurst will be well and truly represented by both players and supporters for their Champion of Champion battles.

The R.S.A. Triples held earlier in March was a great event as always. Great organisation done by Wayne and the R.S.A. ladies prepared delicious lunches and afternoon tea. We thank the R.S.A. for their work and the use of their facilities—always a welcoming place for a drink and a chat. Winners in the Non-Bowlers section were Ben and his team and in the A Section a team from Dannevirke. Everyone had a great time and the Non Bowlers team were certainly not push overs—they played really well.

The last open tournament for the season was the Cotton Triples played on

a chilly morning and hot afternoon. We had four teams from as far away as Waipawa and others from all around the Manawatu. This is always a most popular tournament and again we thank the sponsors Robert Cotton Funeral Directors, without your support this would not happen. The Match Committee organised it all and everything ran like clockwork. The platters organised by Kylie Cotton were fabulous and Jen worked to add to the spread for afternoon tea. Winners were from North End with a Waipawa team second.

Hugh, Max, Kynn and Brian represented the club and won the day against Johnston Park in the Tucker Badges, Dixon Cup and Manson Barr Cup. They played superbly to win 26 to 13. The next and final challenge is yet to be played so good luck guys.

We finish the season with our North versus South game on April 18th and then it is resting time and maybe playing Winter Bowls at clubs with all weather greens.

It has been a busy and successful 2023/2024 Club Season. Our club is always welcoming and provides support and competition for all players. Opening Day is usually late September.

The days are certainly shorter with cooler nights and mornings but beautiful warm days. Keep safe and happy and do lots of whatever makes you smile.

**Adrienne Harding—Secretary.**

## Ashhurst Rainfall

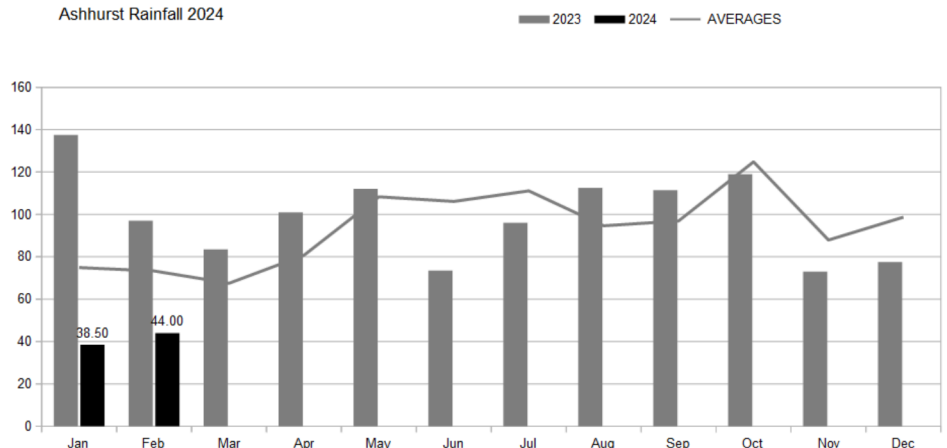
44 mm of rain fell in January 2023, below the monthly average of 73.8 mm.

Rain was recorded on eight days with the highest one-day rainfall of 23 mm on the 2nd of February 2024.

The total annual rainfall is 82.5 mm. This is below the annual average of 148.5 mm.

**Mai Quang**

Ashhurst Rainfall 2024



# GLIMPSE

Mayor Grant Smith

## Kia ora tātou

I trust you had a great Easter holiday break. It's somewhat startling to realise that nearly a third of the year has gone already, with April school holidays marking the end of term-1.

### Gorge Replacement Progress

Why did the carpark cross the road? Well, at the beginning of this month the temporary carpark for Te Āpiti – Manawatū Gorge walking track, moved downhill and over the road. This is to allow work on the approaches to the Parahaki Bridge under construction over the Manawatū River.

The new carpark area means there's a further 500 metres to walk before reaching the track or getting an elevated look over the great progress being made on the bridge.

As for the school holidays, NZTA's on-site visitor centre is open between 10am and 4pm during the week, with the exception of Anzac Day on Thursday April 25.

More details are on NZTA's Te Ahu a Turanga - Manawatū Tararua Highway website, featuring the latest project flyover. This brings a realisation of just how vast the project is, and underlines why it will continue to attract visitors to Ashhurst long after its completion scheduled for next year.

### Ashhurst Domain

Huge thanks to those who submitted on our draft plans for future management and development of Ashhurst Domain. These drafts are now out for public consultation.

Feedback so far indicates that the domain is highly valued for its scenic, environmental wilderness and recreational qualities. Catering for cycling, walking, sports, play, canine exercise, equestrian, picnics and camping, Council has been advised that any future development should maintain the current look and feel of the park.

The final plan probably won't be available for further public consultation until sometime in September.

### PNCC's Long-Term Plan

A reminder that our draft Plan for the next decade is open to public consultation this month. This three-yearly update has a number of pressing challenges to address, and we are seeking your feedback.

Foremost is how the high cost of living is impacting our residents, businesses and ratepayers. It's a difficult environment certainly, but we still need to manage growth for business and housing, while futureproofing our community amenities.

Then there's the state of our roads and transport assets to consider, along with financing the seismic upgrades needed for many of our facilities such as Central Library, Te Manawa Museum and the Council offices.

As well as climate change, we also have to address issues around Three Waters including our Nature Calls wastewater project and meeting new national drinking water standards.

So, do we need to review how we calculate rates? Council is considering a change from the current land value to a hybrid option that combines land value (70%) and capital value (30%). Would this be fairer? What do you think? We welcome your views. Find out more about at [www.pncc.govt.nz/ltp](http://www.pncc.govt.nz/ltp) We're also having a Planning Palmy Expo at the Conference and Function Centre on Saturday April 20 from 10am-1pm. We'd love to see you and answer your questions on the day.

### Anzac Day

I'm looking forward to addressing the midday Ashhurst Anzac Day service on Thursday April 25. The Ashhurst Memorial RSA is a real Village asset, while its community involvement and hospitality of members ensures this service is always well-attended, as is the 6am Village Green Dawn Service.

Other public services around Palmerston North include the City Dawn Service at the cenotaph on Te Marae o Hine/The Square, followed by the 9am Civic Service, and 10.30am services at Te Rau o Te Aroha Māori Battalion Hall on Cuba St, and at the Bunnythorpe cenotaph.

Remember that Friday April 19 is Poppy Day in support of New Zealand's military veterans, with 2024 marking 110 years since the outbreak of WWI on July 28, 1914.

### Water Use

While we've had a bit of rain, our voluntary water measures are still in place, saving us from mandatory restrictions. These have worked a treat - conserving and managing our supply to ensure there's enough to meet all our community needs. So, until further notice please continue to adhere to the odds-and-evens restricted hours home watering plan, with details on the [pncc.govt.nz](http://pncc.govt.nz) website.

### Meet the Mayor

Here's to seeing you at the Ashhurst Community Library for the next Meet the Mayor on Tuesday April 30 between 5 – 6pm. Any changes will be posted on the Council website and Facebook page.

Ngā mihi nui

Mayor Grant Smith JP



## ASHHURST COMMUNITY LIBRARY

06 326 8646

### Open days

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

Access the full range of library digital resources at: [citylibrary.pncc.govt.nz](http://citylibrary.pncc.govt.nz)

## SPLASHHURST COMMUNITY POOL

06 350 0849

### Normal hours

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

Splashhurst! online:  
[clmz.co.nz/splashhurst](http://clmz.co.nz/splashhurst)

## ASHHURST RUBBISH + RECYCLING

Rubbish bag collection Tuesday morning. Bags out by 7.30am.

Recycling Bin	Glass Crate
9 April	16 April
23 April	30 April
7 May	14 May

## MULGRAVE ST TRANSFER STATION

Recycling, green waste and general rubbish disposal.

### Open Days

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

Council's 24/7 contacts are **06 356 8199**, the **Council Facebook** page, and the **Snap Send Solve** app to quickly report anything that needs attention or fixing.



[info@pncc.govt.nz](mailto:info@pncc.govt.nz) / 06 356 8199 / [pncc.govt.nz](http://pncc.govt.nz)

## Published by The Ashhurst Village Voice Society Inc.

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rgcasmith@inspire.net.nz

Proof-reader: Vivienne Dalgleish

### 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 cost 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:

**5.00 pm Saturday, 20th April.**

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

## Ashhurst Clay Target Club

So our February shoot means it's our club championships and a successful albeit competitive day. Results were (in order first, second and third):

### A Grade:

Brendon Smith

Brad Turner

Joby Stella

### B Grade:

Andre James

Ben Ash

Alan Davison

### C Grade:

Terry Robinson

Jenny Bucknell

Phil Brooks

### Top Gun Womens:

Jenny Bucknell

### Top Gun Mens:

Brad Turner (photo)

**Karen Pawson—Secretary**



Photos: Left—A Grade winners J Stella, B Smith, B Turner; Right—Top Gun B Turner



## Ashhurst Indoor Bowling Club

Our season has started with Ashhurst also has its very popular Opening Night on Thursday, 21st Ashhurst Fours coming up on 28th March. This usually attracts 30-plus teams to our event and is the Clubs only fundraiser for the year.

Club members are looking forward to the new season. The Manawatū Centre has shifted its base to our Village Valley Centre, therefore lots of events will be held in Ashhurst, including the League series which is run from April through to September.



Photo: Storage racks being built in the Village Valley Centre to store Centre equipment.

Wishing all Club Members a happy and successful season.

**Margaret Grant—Publicity**

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