



Ashhurst Village Voice

Informing the communities of Ashhurst & Pohangina

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April 2025

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Community Comment

Our Autumn beckons with cooler nights, shorter days and leaves beginning to fall. Our farming friends will be hoping for some rain to replenish the soil and alleviate the dry period of past months. In town, we need to be wary of blocked spouting and drains, which need to be cleared of debris to work efficiently.

It is the season to sow grass seed and restore lawns. Some undergrounding of the electrical cabling on the edge of the Village Green is under landscaping restoration at present. The verge further up Cambridge Avenue is also under repair following the installation of power and a cell phone tower at its corner with Wyndham Street. Improved mobile phone coverage and 5G network capability is likely, but comes at the cost of an increased density of cell towers closer to each other.

The City Council is obliged to grant consent for this equipment under a telecommunication standard (NESTF, 2016) set by government. No notified consent processes are required, so landowners around the site were blindsided when it appeared on their skyline. Facebook's Ashhurst Chat has been active on the matter. At least the mast doubles as a host for a street light.

Work to create a turning bay at the end of Custom Street is ongoing. The large stormwater pipes are in place, but the

area is yet to be raised to the levels required, the street sealed and kerbs installed. Local neighbours are sceptical that the work will be completed by Easter after the previous estimate of Christmas has long passed by.

Consultation on the future of water management options have closed, but submissions on the Draft Annual Budget are now open for access. A big chunk of money, which had been expected in the Long-Term Plan, has been withdrawn from NZTA so budgets for roading and footpaths have been reduced considerably in some areas this year.

Ashhurst features in the Plan with funding set aside for water quality improvements, work at the Domain, and supporting Splashhurst. The Central Energy Trust Arena has some big budget items totalling over \$10 million, for a big screen and a new multi-use facility, along with other upgrades and improvements.

A civic marae and cultural centre at Te Mohu o Poutoa-ANZAC Park attracts funding of over \$10 million for the project and improved road access. The facility will include a public café, a civic marae, spaces for private events, along with a view over the river and the city.

Submission documents can be found in the library, or via the PNCC website, under its menu of 'Participate Palmy'. Closing date is Thursday, 17th April.

Rumours have been confirmed that our Red Cross shop will be closing on 24th April. After over 30 years of service to the community, the state of the building is now at a point where volunteer comfort and safety is compromised.

The Representation Commission has proposed



Photo: New cell phone tower Wyndham Street

Contents

Letter From the Editor	2
Ava and the Butterfly at Pohangina Hall	2
Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.	2
Easter Carnival	3
Age Concern: Village Valley Seniors	3
Ashhurst Classic Car Extravaganza	3
Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade	4
R.S.A. Womens Section Wins Awards	4
RECAP Update	5
Ashhurst Senior Citizens Association	6
Amlaku's Ethiopian Update	6
Moths Part Three	8
Ashhurst School	8
Ashhurst Library	9
Ashhurst Pohangina Rugby Club	10
Ashhurst Bowling Club	10
Palmerston North City Council	11
Ashhurst Clay Target Club	12
Ashhurst Rainfall	12
Village Voice Contacts	12

**Deadline for May
Issue—Sunday, 20th
April**

Letter from the Editor

Hello all, welcome to the April edition.

Last month I mentioned the Annual New Zealand Fish of the Year Awards. Did you vote? The winner has been announced.

The fish that won first place was the Blobfish. The Orange Roughy came second and the Longfin Eel/Tuna came third. The top ten were rounded out by the Whale Shark, Big-bellied Seahorse, Great White Shark, Lamprey, Spine-tailed Devil Ray, Basking Shark, and Blue Cod. Nine of these fish are considered vulnerable by conservation groups, including the Blobfish.

5,583 New Zealanders voted in Fish of the Year 2025, up from 1,021 in 2024. It is good to see an interest in our native fauna, as they tend to be hidden from our general sight and day to day life but they are interesting when you get to read about them. The site is still up, so you can read about this years nominees at <https://www.mountaintosea.org.nz/fishoftheyear/meet-the-fish>. The winner looks much different to the photo that is commonly used.

Llyvonne Barber—Editor

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Village Voice Funding

The Village Voice has a circulation of 1880 and is delivered free to households in Ashhurst and the Pohangina Valley. The newsletter is run by a small volunteer incorporated society and funded solely by our loyal advertisers. Please support these community-minded businesses. If you wish to support this publication in any way, please refer to the back page and contact Grey Smith.

Community Comment

boundary changes for Rangitikei and Palmerston North electorates. Palmerston North now closely resembles the city's regional boundaries, albeit with a truncated southern border and loss of Ashhurst in the north, but still encompassing Linton, Longburn and Bunnythorpe. For some odd reason, the

electoral planners have chosen to try and separate Ashhurst and migrate our vote from Rangitikei to the Wairarapa electorate on the other side of the mountains. Submissions to challenge this option can be lodged online by 27th April 2025. Search for 'vote.nz submit'.

Harvey Jones

Aya and the Butterfly at Pohangina Hall

Buy your tickets now! \$8 from www.pohanginavalley.nz/tickets or phone 3294 725.

Bridget and Rodger Sanders from Birdlife Productions are back at the Pohangina Hall on 8th May with a new puppet and music show. *Aya and the Butterfly* is a heart-warming, joyful story about a little girl who finds happiness through her experience of the metamorphosis of the monarch butterfly.

Designed for families and ideal for children aged three to nine years, Aya's story encourages compassion and empathy for different cultures, and helps us all become part of an important movement of change towards living together in peace, and all the while featuring plenty of magical puppet moments, music and songs, and lots of joining in! *Aya and the Butterfly* is based on a children's book by Ōtautahi/Christchurch author Dr Maysoon Salama, who wrote the story for her granddaughter Aya, after Aya lost her

father in the Christchurch Mosque attacks in 2019. Although it touches on feelings of sadness and grief, it also encourages 'letting go' and laughter, resilience building and dealing with change, all metaphorically reflected by the life-cycle and metamorphosis of the monarch butterfly.

Anyone who went to their show *The Boy with Wings* in 2023 will tell you that this is something you do not want to miss. Although designed for children the level of craftsmanship and artistry displayed make it thoroughly enjoyable for adults while giving you an echo of the joy of childhood. If you are not already convinced read these reviews from Theatreview!

<https://www.theatreview.org.nz/production/aya-and-the-butterfly/#heartfelt-storytelling-breathtaking-puppetryuniversal-themes>

<https://www.theatreview.org.nz/production/aya-and-the-butterfly/#respectful-heartwarming-and-poignant-has-childrenmesmerised>

Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.

Ashhurst and Pohangina will come together on April 25th to remember those who served and sacrificed for our nation, marking ANZAC Day with a series of commemorative services.

ANZAC Day holds a significant place in the hearts of New Zealanders, commemorating the landing of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps at Gallipoli, Turkey, on April 25, 1915. While the Gallipoli campaign was ultimately unsuccessful, the courage and camaraderie displayed by the ANZACs have become enduring symbols

of national identity. Over time, ANZAC Day has evolved to honour all New Zealanders who have served in conflicts past and present.

This year's commemorations will include:

- **Dawn Service:** 6.00 am at the Triangle, Ashhurst, followed by breakfast at the Ashhurst R.S.A. All welcome, there will be a small cost to cover expenses.
- **Cemetery Service:** 9.00 am at Ashhurst Cemetery.
- **Pohangina Service:** 10.00.am at

Continued on next page



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Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.

Pohangina Cemetery.

- **Civic Service:** Midday at Ashhurst Triangle, followed by a light lunch at the Ashhurst R.S.A. All welcome.

Residents are welcome and are encouraged to attend these services to pay their respects and remember the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women.

Another date to put in the calendar is Sunday, 13th April for the Classic car show, Market day and Karaoke at the R.S.A., this is for the whole community to come along and view the cars, find a treasure at the market, be entertained by the local talent or even take part in the Karaoke.

Peter Knight—President

Easter Carnival

Placemaking will be hosting an Ashhurst Easter Bonanza Carnival on Cambridge Avenue, showcasing cafes and local business and community, the producers and makers of Ashhurst.

Join us on Easter Saturday, 19th April on the Main Street from 10.00 am - 3.00 pm for live music, market stalls and food trucks. We have the kids covered with a Hot Cross bun hut, games, bouncy castle, face painting and more!

If you'd like to book a stall please

Age Concern: Village Valley Seniors

Age Concern Palmerston North and Districts is pleased to announce a new group we are hosting in Ashhurst called Village Valley Seniors. The group meet in the Village Valley Centre every second and fourth Wednesday of each month, commencing at 1.00 pm. We bring guest speakers to each session who talk to us about topics of interest and some new information/advice that we might not have heard about before, as well as yummy afternoon tea.

We had a great turnout on our first day,

Ashhurst Classic Car Extravaganza

Get ready to rev your engines, Ashhurst! The Ashhurst R.S.A. is thrilled to announce its Classic and Hot Rod Car Display, a day packed with chrome, horsepower, and community spirit. Mark your calendars for Sunday, 13th April 2025, from 10.00 am - 5.00 pm, at the Ashhurst R.S.A., 74 Cambridge Avenue.

This family-friendly event promises something for everyone. Car enthusiasts will be in their element, with a stunning display of classic and hot rod vehicles

contact:

Shaun Kay—021 246 8737 or shaun.kay@pncc.govt.nz, and locally, Aleisha Rutherford—aleisharutherfordnz@gmail.com.

Keep an eye out for social media, event finder or local radio for updates. On the day, keep an eye out for the Easter bunny who will be visiting with a basket of eggs and carrots.

Shaun Kay

Wednesday, 12th of March. Our guest speaker was Pauline Cooper from Hato Hone, St Johns. She talked to us about the new ICE envelopes (In Case of Emergency), the membership club and what that entitles you to receive, plus the shuttle vans and how you could benefit from their service.

Come along to one of our days and see for yourself. You'll probably know some of the other people there.

Contact Marina on 027 2008148 if you'd like more information.

from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Whether you're a seasoned petrolhead or simply appreciate automotive artistry, you won't want to miss this showcase.

Beyond the gleaming cars, a vibrant atmosphere awaits. Indulge in delicious treats from the barbecue, grab a caffeine fix from the Coffee Cart, or enjoy a refreshing beverage from the Bar. For those with a creative flair, the Craft Market will be open from 10.00 am

Continued on next page

JustOnePlease

Super kia ora. The Justoneplease item for the Safe House for March 2025 is **Spreads**. Thank you to everyone for the donations so far this year. Kindest regards.

Contact Louise Bowe on 020 410 86128 for more information.

Wanted:

A room or small hall, even a dry comfortable outbuilding, to hold Christian prayer meetings on Friday evenings and gospel meetings on Saturday evenings. Must be in or around Ashhurst, preferably out of the town a little but easy to find.

Contact Alan on 021 041 4751

Ashhurst Ladies Coffee Group

10.00 am—11.30 am at The Village Coffee & Co, 62 Cambridge Avenue, Ashhurst. A regular Thursday weekly coffee group, for ladies of all ages in Ashhurst for some social time, a few laughs and new friendships.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



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Awahou Pohangina Playgroup

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Meet every Wednesday during term
time 9.30am-12.00pm.

Location: Awahou School Hall, 518
Pohangina East Valley Road.

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

Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A. Inc

74 Cambridge Avenue, Ashhurst.
Phone: 326 8296

Monday 3.00 pm-6.00 pm

Tuesday 3.00 pm-7.00 pm

Wednesday 3.00 pm-10.00 pm

Thursday 3.00 pm-9.00 pm

Friday 3.00 pm-11.00 pm

Saturday 2.00 pm-7.00 pm

Sunday 3.00 pm-6.00 pm

Manawātū 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.

New bowlers or anyone thinking about
playing please either come along and
have a go or get more info from
Adrianne on 027 2836317.

Ashhurst Classic Car Extravaganza

Sing your heart out
and join in the fun!

This event is proudly
supported by Village
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- 2.00 pm, offering unique handmade
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As the afternoon progresses, the
spotlight shifts to entertainment.
Prepare to unleash your inner rockstar
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experience for all. For further
information, please contact
secretary@ashhurstsa.co.nz. Come
along and enjoy a fantastic day out in
Ashhurst!

Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade

Kia Ora Ashhurst, as we come out of
summer and there's a bit of rain starting
to fall and the temperature is starting to
drop, I need to remind everyone that
we're still in a restricted fire season. This
means that you can only light a fire if you
have a permit. Go to checkitsalright.co.nz
for more information and permit
applications.

I'd also like to remind you about Home
Fire Safety Visits (HFSV). Last year the
Ashhurst Brigade did the most Home
Fire Safety Visits for a volunteer brigade
in our region (which covers Wellington,
Manawātū/Whanganui, Hawkes Bay and
Taranaki). This outstanding achievement
shows how dedicated we are to
preventing fires in your home before

they start and I thank everyone who has
allowed us to visit your home and family.

A Home Fire Safety Visit involves us
visiting your home to check and install
smoke alarms, discussing escape plans
and giving fire safety advice. We will also
answer any questions you have. If you're
interested in a Home Fire Safety Visit
please go to fireandemergency.nz
to sign up for one and you'll hear from me.

Remember to check your smoke
alarms too! A house fire can become un-
survivable in two minutes so early
warning gives your family the best
chance of escape.

Matt Clark—Secretary
Fire Risk Management Officer

R.S.A. Women's Section Wins Awards

On the 16th and 17th of March 2025,
105 ladies from 31 different R.N.Z.R.S.A.
Women's Sections from around NZ
descended on Waihi for the 20th annual
A.G.M. of the R.N.Z.R.S.A. National

Women's Association.

This year for the first time, the National
Women's Association decided to honor

Continued on next page



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R.S.A. Women's Section Wins Awards

the club in each of the R.N.Z.R.S.A. Districts with the best membership over the last twelve months. Ashhurst comes under the Wellington, West Coast, Taranaki District and out of all the women's sections in that district, Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A. Women's Section won the District award. Lyn Campbell (Immediate Past President) was in attendance at the A.G.M. and proudly received the certificate on behalf of the Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A. Women's Section from District Women's Section President Lechelle Wilson. The other district winners were Waipu from the Northland District, New Lynn from the Auckland District, Waihi Beach from

the Waikato, King Country, Bay of Plenty, Coromandel District and Dannevirke from the Wairapa, Hawkes Bay, East Coast District.

The five finalists were then rejudged for the overall membership award and again the Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A. Women's Section came out on top. Lyn Campbell once again proudly received the certificate and trophy. These will proudly be on display at the R.S.A. for all to see. Congratulations Ashhurst on having just over 12% of all the new members in R.N.Z.R.S.A. Women's sections.

Lechelle Wilson

RECAP Update

Kia ora koutou from RECAP

Workshops and seminars for 2025.

We're working on some really exciting educational opportunities for 2025. Please keep your eye on our website and social media for updates as some will be announced shortly. We are raising the prices of these just a touch to properly remunerate the time, energy and expertise our teachers and facilitators put in. We will always offer a lower price for students and the unwaged, however, and please make contact if you would like to attend but the price is a barrier and we can try to work something out.

Whānau working bee

Join us for a whānau working bee as part of the Ashhurst Library's school holiday program. We'll be tending to the

soil and planting autumn/winter veggies in the raised beds at the back of the library garden. All are welcome. We love to involve local kids in the projects we look after as it gives them a sense of ownership and pride in the shared green spaces of Ashhurst. These garden beds are for the community so everything planted here can be harvested by residents. We'll teach your tamariki a little about growing food as we go and have a shared kai afterwards (do the mahi get the treats!) Older kids are welcome on their own, but younger tamariki with a caregiver, please. Wednesday April 16th 10am-noon.

Crop Swap Colouring Competition

This year the Crop Swap poster

Continued on next page

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.

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Applications for the next funding round are open until midnight on Sunday 20 April 2025.

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email community@meridianenergy.co.nz

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Do you know of a community project that's working to reduce carbon emissions? Visit meridian.co.nz and search "Decarb fund" for more information.



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Contact www.plunket.org.nz, or 027 276 8145.

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The B4 School Check is the final Well Child check.

Free for all four year old children. 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.

Village Valley Centre, Monday mornings, 9.45am-10.45am. Cost: \$10 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: Manawatū Home Budgeting Service. Phone: 358 2279; Cell: 0800-228 343.

Ashhurst Red Cross

Secondhand Shop, Cambridge Avenue.

Watch out for the signs for the “fill a bag” sale. The shop is full so NO donations accepted in April. We need more out the door, lots of budget friendly clothing, shoes, sheets, books, toys, etc something for everyone

Monday-Thursday 12.30pm-2.30pm

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

Meditation Class

Overcoming Stress and Anxiety will be held every Thursday from 10.00 am - 11.00 am followed by morning tea. Suggested donation: \$7. Join us in the lounge of the Village Valley Centre. No special clothing is required. Everyone welcome. For more information, go to www.meditateinpalmerstonnorth.org.

RECAP Update

doubles as a colouring competition for local tamariki. You can pick up a copy at the Ashhurst library. As well as the colouring you need to name as many of the vegetables, fruits and fungi as you can on the back (and don't forget your name and contact details). Drop it off at the Crop Swap (first Saturday of each month 11.00 am - 1.00 pm at the Ashhurst Library) and be in to win a prize pack which contains seasonal seeds, growing medium and biodegradable pots (and an extra surprise or two) for kids to get involved in their garden at home. We'll be running this all year.

The RECAP Seed Library

(located within the Ashhurst library)

We've just done a big refresh of the seed library which is now full of seeds for your autumn/winter garden. Please have a read of the guide to the seed library below:

Anyone can take three free packets of seeds each month (please fill in the log book).

We offer open pollinated seeds collected from people's gardens, hybrid and commercially produced seeds. Open pollinated has a green label, the others have white.

Open pollinated means you can go on to collect more seed from these plants. These seeds are acclimated to the growing conditions in this area, so they are extra special (you can not collect seeds from plants grown from hybrid stock).

We provide as much information as possible. However, we recommend a simple germination test if you are uncertain about their viability: place some seeds between a moist paper towel, put in a ziplock bag and leave somewhere warm for up to two weeks. This should give an indication of how many seeds will germinate.

We are always looking for donated seeds—especially those grown in our area. They can be left at the Seed Library station, in the Ashhurst Library. When donating, we'd love to know what they are and when and where they were harvested.

As always—volunteers are the backbone of RECAP. A huge ngā mihi to the many people in our community who offer their time and energy to our projects and services for the benefit of our residents and environment.

Chris Love—RECAP coordinator

Ashhurst Senior Citizens Association

The April meeting of the Ashhurst Senior Citizens will be held on Thursday, 3rd April, 2.00 pm, in the Village Valley Centre. Last month was our first meeting in this new venue and much positive feedback was received about the space and facilities. Our March meeting was hosted by the Ashhurst Drama group who presented a lively and entertaining variety of skits as well as a delicious afternoon tea. Many thanks to the Ashhurst Drama Group!

You do not have to be a 'senior' to come along as we love to see people of all ages and backgrounds attend. You

may meet some new people or catch up with people you already know. Membership is \$10 per year and we ask for a \$2 donation towards afternoon tea. There are raffles and a sales table also so you may find a bargain!

If you are curious but have not attended so far we strongly encourage you to give it a go—mark the first Thursday of the month in your diary. There is a different presentation each month, and don't forget that delicious afternoon tea!

Stephanie Madgwick—Secretary

Amlaku's Ethiopian Update

It's been while since I shared an update on Amlaku in Ethiopia. Our journey over the past few years has given us a rare insight into what it is like

to live in a country torn apart by not one but two civil wars, one ongoing to this day. Millions of lives have been

Continued on next page



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Amlaku's Ethiopian Update

disrupted, many thousands of people have been killed, and there are currently 4.3 million internally displaced people (IDPs, or refugees in their own country) in Ethiopia, people like Amlaku and his family, who are stuck in Addis with no way of going home to pick up their life there.

The first civil war ended in November 2022, with a peace deal signed in Pretoria. During that war, Amhari (the region that Amlaku comes from) militia forces fought with the Federal Government forces against the Tigrayan rebels from the north. In August 2023, Prime Minister Abey decided to disarm the Amhari militias, known as FANO, who, unsurprisingly, weren't keen on the idea, and so started the second civil war. Both wars have raged back and forth through Lalibela, the town closest to our village, with significant damage done to the town, to our village of Baregota, to infrastructure, and to the lives of thousands of people. Today Federal forces control the towns and cities while FANO controls the countryside. They seem to have reached some sort of exhausted stalemate.

In Addis Ababa, the capital, life is extremely difficult, especially if you are Amhari by tribal affiliation. Both Amlaku and the two boys we are caring for have experienced this. The

police there are definitely not your friends. Raids on Amhari homes are frequent, with the boys having a fairly new I-Pad smashed onto the floor a few weeks back. No compensation. Groups of Amhari young men gathering on the street are likely to be attacked and detained by the police. Unless they can show the proper papers, they can be imprisoned and even sent to the front line of the fighting as 'cannon fodder'.

Amlaku is now married to Bezawit and they have two little girls, Penny who is almost two, and a new baby they have called Amen! That pregnancy was not altogether welcomed, but 'what can you do?', so 'so be it', let's make the best of it. The word 'Amen' at the end of a prayer means exactly that—so be it! Hence the name. Love it! They live in a very small flat in Addis. Because he is Amhari, he cannot get a job in Addis, so they are totally dependent on us for the funds to enable them to live. They are also trying to provide funds to family back in the village, 15 people in all, who, while they

had a reasonably good harvest thanks to funding from Anglican Missions here, don't have money for cooking oil, spices, and other essential cooking items.

Ric Foxley—Bricks for Life Inc,
029 777 2368;
ricfoxley@gmail.com



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 for more
info.

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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 Ashhurst Village Valley Centre, at 2.00 pm. We invite you to come along and enjoy an afternoon of friendship and entertainment.

Contact: Adrienne Harding—Secretary
027 283 6317

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—027 289 5252

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

Moths Part Three

In the two previous articles I wrote about moths native to New Zealand and described a few of the species. Because we have so many moths, it is possible to cover only a small percentage of them in a brief article. In this third and final article about moths, I will discuss a few more of our native species.

New Zealand has many moth species, numbering well over 100, that belong to the Grass Moth Family. Most are an inconspicuous greyish-brown colour but one that I have photographed a number of times is called the Little Orange-spot Scoparia (see photo). The caterpillar larvae of this and most of the other species in this family are thought to feed on mosses.



A rather distinctive, though rather small, native moth is the Titoki Moth (see photo). It occurs throughout the country on its host plant, Titoki. When at rest, the moth's black wings are folded



tightly along the body, contrasting with the white head, thorax and legs. The long antennae are held against the body while the white labial palps curve around in front of the head.



One of our quite special and diverse groups of moths are the Lichen Tuft Moths, of which there are about 40 species. Most are beautifully camouflaged when resting on the lichen-covered trunks of forest trees, in part due to their colour but also due to the tufts of raised, black or brown scales on their wings which imitate the irregular surface of lichens. One of these is the Green Lichen Tuft Moth (see photo).



Another group of endemic moths, belonging to the Concealer Moth Family, are the Litter Moths, so-called because the larvae feed on leaf litter. Once again there are many species within this group, including some that have yet to be formerly described. An example of these moths is the Yellow Litter Moth (see photo). Other species of Litter Moth share the same shape but have different colouration.

Grey Smith

Top Left: Little Orange-spot Scoparia; Bottom Left: Titoki Moth; Top Right: Green Lichen Tuft Moth, Bottom Right: Yellow Litter Moth

Ashhurst School

We have loved having several external providers coming into school to support our tamariki over the last few weeks. Thanks to Bike Manawatū, Netball Manawatū and Sense Rugby for the opportunities you provide for our

children.

We have noticed that some of our tamariki are riding their bikes around the village without helmets on outside of school hours. Please encourage your child to put their helmet on if they are



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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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Ashhurst School

riding their bikes to ensure that they are as safe as possible on our roads.

We took a team of around 40 Year 5 - 8 students down to Skoglund Park to compete in the annual Interschool triathlon. The conditions were tough and students had to battle a brutal wind on the run and cycle legs. It was great to see every Ashhurst School athlete giving it their all! We had a few top ten finishers. Well done to every participant!

What a fantastic evening at Movie Night! With Inside Out 2 on the big screen, our school field was buzzing with excitement, laughter, and great kai. A huge thank you to everyone who came along, enjoyed the food, and made the night special. From slushies to bacon butties, the stalls were a hit, and it was great to see our community come together. A massive thanks to our sponsors—your support made this event

possible! We truly appreciate your generosity. To our staff, volunteers, and organisers, thank you for making it all happen. We can't wait for the next one!

Schools Onsite Teacher Training Programme: We are lucky to have three graduate students join our staff for the year as they complete their teacher training onsite at Ashhurst School. This is a new programme offered through universities around the country to give these young teachers an apprenticeship type training in teaching. These teachers will be at school in a base classroom, working alongside a mentor teacher three days a week and then complete two days of study. They will also complete two block placements, one at Ashhurst and the other at another school in the region.

Have a safe and happy Easter break.

Heath Chittenden—Principal

Ashhurst Library

Hi everyone, can we just say a big thank you to all our Village Valley Centre user groups and individuals who took part in the centre review over February. Thank you for submitting your evaluations and numbers, it was much appreciated. Just for your interest, the number of people who used the centre in February totalled 1,273.

April School Holiday Programme

At time of writing this article we are very close to putting out our holiday programme but here are some highlights, more events to come.

Super Space Craft

Tuesday, 15th April, 10.30am

Blast off with our supersonic rocket craft.

RECAP Whanau Working Bee

Wednesday, 16th April, 10.00 am - 12.00 midday

Come along to replant the library's vegetable gardens and share some kai. All ages welcome.

Farm Fun Storytime

Wednesday, 16th April, 2.00 pm

Come and meet farmer Tim Saunders

who will be reading his new picture book "The Tractor has a Wobbly Wheel". Dress up in your gumboots and bring your favourite farm book or toy.

Family Quiz Night

Wednesday, 23rd April 6.00 - 7.00 pm

Always a favourite, register your family and good luck.

Anzac Storytime and Breakfast

Thursday, 24th April 10.00 am

Come along for our Anzac themed stories and enjoy some breakfast.

Moneywise Manawatū

We are thrilled to be in partnership with Moneywise Manawatū 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

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

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

www.parishofpohangina.net

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

Monday and Wednesday: closed,
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9.30 am-12.30 pm

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, 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

Brent Besley (Secretary) 329 4891

brent.liz@inspire.net.nz

Mike Forlong (Memberships) 329 4741

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 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, 021 0270 4400, 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

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

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

Ashhurst Foodbank

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

Contact: Marianne 027 627 2054



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Ashhurst Library

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. We always have a different theme for each session and finish off with some yummy cheese toasties.

Wednesday, 2nd April 10.30am

Ashhurst Pohangina Rugby Club

The rugby season is upon us with the senior Stags having pre season games and the juniors registration open for both experienced and new players of all ages from year 0/1 to 8.

We are looking to grow our family oriented club and welcome all. If you're interested in joining our fantastic club then go to the new rugby explorer portal

Easter egg hunt

Wednesday, 30th April 10.30am

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 Librarian

to register: <https://xplore.rugby>. Make sure you follow our pages to keep up to date on both junior and senior events as there is a lot planned this year!

Facebook:

*Ashhurst-Pohangina R.F.C. Junior Rugby
Ashhurst Pohangina Rugby Football Club*

Tiffany Rogers

Ashhurst Bowling Club

It is hard to believe the season is nearing an end and it soon will be only Winter Bowls until we start again in September.

The Championships are completed with some really great battles where all players did their best with results often close. The Over 65 Pairs and Singles is a straight knock out Championship so it is game on from the very first bowl. Winners were Margaret and Max in the Pairs and Margie in the Singles. This year we entered the winning team of Tony and Donna in the Champion of Champion 2x4x2 event and so they join all our Championship winners to battle against winners from other Manawatu Clubs. These start at the end of March and go through April with the ultimate finals at the start of May. Ashhurst will, as always, be a fierce contender in all events.

Earlier in March we had our annual R.S.A. Triples and, as always, Wayne and his team did a stunning job. It started with everyone gathered for the Ode and then able to order lunch made by the wonderful R.S.A. ladies. Over to the club and a full green on a beautifully sunny day with lots of laughs and great competition. The non bowlers played amazingly and were definitely not push overs. Four games and then over to the R.S.A. for a most delicious afternoon tea courtesy of Mike and his team, what an amazing spread. Prizes were presented by Tom Romley and John Tiddy and his team were winners. Totally wonderful day and everyone is looking forward to 2026 and Wayne organising another great day.

Our final Open Tournament was the Cotton Open Triples sponsored by Robert J Cotton and we thank them most hugely for their support for prizes

and the tasty afternoon tea platters organised by Kylie. It is always a great tournament with a full green. The weather was a bit mixed but we managed to get all four games played, some in drizzle and some in warm sunshine! Some really tough competition but everyone was happy comparing shots and results back at the R.S.A. for prize giving. Winners were Colin's team from Feilding, second Takaro and third a team from North End. Again, a huge thank you to our sponsors, these tournaments would not happen without your support. The platters are always very much enjoyed, beautiful food, thank you again Kylie.

Twilight is finished for the season and sadly the last two weeks were rained off. Maybe we need to change the day in the future as Wednesday seemed to be wet and cool. To everyone who came and had a go, supported the club and tried something new, a huge thank you and well done. Special mention to Damien, Steve's grandson, who showed fantastic bowling ability. Also, Philippa who had a bit of a trek each week and played very competitively.

Elizabeth Walker and Skogs Interclub is almost over with Ashhurst having a mixed season with regard to results but a very positive social time. Next season may be ours to win.

Thankfully our greenkeeper seems to be making progress and is now walking without crutches. The jobs are still being done and everything is looking great, the green, gardens, clubroom—all great.

Until next time keep smiling, stay well and remember to keep an eye on anyone needing a bit of extra support.

Adrianne Harding—Secretary.

Kia ora!

What with Heritage Month, the New Zealand Rural Games, Central District Field Days, Relay For Life and the Holi Festival of Colours, it's been a busy old autumn so far. There's more to come following the end of Daylight Saving on April 6, as school holidays, Easter and Anzac Day stake their claims on the calendar.

Community Library

Check with Ross and Jill at the Ashhurst Community Library about the school holiday programmes on offer, not only in Ashhurst, but in the central city and at other suburban branch libraries as well.

Hot Rods & Classic Cars

The Village gets a double dose of autumn festival events this month. The first takes place on Sunday April 13 when the Ashhurst Memorial RSA holds its Ashhurst Community Day. As well as craft market stalls from 10am – 2pm followed by karaoke until 5pm, there's a feature display of classic cars and hot rods.

Easter

The second event takes place on Easter Saturday, where the city's Placemaking team will be facilitating the Ashhurst Easter Carnival from 10am – 1pm. Cambridge Ave will be blocked off so market stalls, a bouncy castle, face-painting and live music can create a family-friendly vibe in the Village centre. You're encouraged to wear your bunny ears and patronise local cafes and businesses during the three-hour event. My thanks to Property Brokers for picking up the traffic management tab.

Anzac Day

Ashhurst takes the solemnity of its memorial and commemorative services seriously and probably has more of these per head of population than any other place in New Zealand. This year marks 110 years since the landings at Gallipoli on the morning of April 25, 1915. Dawn service in front of Ashhurst's Anzac Memorial is at 6am, with the Pohangina service at 10am, and back to the Village Triangle for the Civic Service at midday, which I will attend following City Dawn and Civic services on Te Marae o Hine/The Square.

Ashhurst Domain

Public submissions on the draft reserve management plan for the Domain closed last month. Many thanks to those who made their views and ideas known. There was a hearing with elected members for anyone who wanted to speak to their submissions on March 26. After considering your input and making any adjustments, the final reserve

management plan will be adopted at a full council meeting in the near future.

Council has several transportable pop-up gyms ideal for a free alfresco full body work-out. Watch for them to pop-up at the Domain.

School Buses

Ashhurst residents turned out in numbers to February's meeting in the Village Valley Centre about the Ministry of Education's proposal to cut Ashhurst school bus services. Local community involvement has so far helped rescind Te Ara a Turanga Manawatū Taranua Highway toll proposal and now looks to have helped gain a reprieve for current school bus services – at least for the rest of 2025.

The Ministry will revisit the proposal in 2026, which is General Election Year.

Local Water Done Well

Prior to consultation on the future of the city's water management closing on March 30, a well-attended meeting was held at the Ashhurst Community Library on March 20. This was one in a series of city-wide drop-in sessions complementing online information and a printed letterbox drop outlining the options and their potential long-term costs. Thank you for your feedback.

Draft Annual Budget

We are also seeking feedback on the city's Draft Annual Budget for 2025/26. This outlines how we'll fund essential services, infrastructure, and important city projects. Further information is available at pncc.govt.nz/annualbudget and at the Ashhurst Community Library. We really do want to know what you think, but you'll need to tell us by 4pm Thursday April 17 when submissions close.

Village Valley Centre

We're also reviewing the way our nine community centres operate, including the Village Valley Centre.

A report, including public input from a recent survey, will be presented to Councillors at a meeting of the Community Committee on May 21, 2025. Findings and recommendations from the engagement process will help guide the future of these community amenities.

Meet the Mayor

The April 'Meet the Mayor' session will take place on Tuesday, April 29 between 5 – 6pm at the Ashhurst Community Library with any updated details found on the pncc.govt.nz website and Facebook page.

Ngā mihi nui

Mayor
Grant Smith JP



ASHHURST COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Open days

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

The Library will be closed Good Friday April 18 and Anzac Day Friday April 25, but open as usual on Easter Saturday. Access the full range of library digital resources at: citylibrary.pncc.govt.nz

SPLASHHURST! COMMUNITY POOL

Normal hours

Tuesday - Friday	6am - 9am + 1pm - 7pm during school term 6am - 7pm during school holidays
Saturday	8am - 6pm
Sunday - Monday	Closed

clmnz.co.nz/splashhurst

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

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

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rgcsmith@inspire.net.nz

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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.

We do not accept flyers or pamphlets for publication. Contents need to be provided as articles for publication.

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 Sunday, 20th April 2025.

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

Ashhurst Clay Target Club

February was our club championships with six squads competing.

Results were (in order 1st, 2nd and 3rd):

A Grade: Joby Stella, Blacky, Brad Turner

B Grade: Jordan Finlayson, Robin Farrell, Mark Wheeler

C Grade: Jason Nitschke, Joe McQuarters, Matthew Williams

Most Improved: Robert Jarrett

Top Gun: Joby Stella

Top Handicap: Jacob Murray

At the prizegiving Chris welcomed

everyone to the day and for the good shoot. Thank you to Lisa for doing the office, Shelley and Cam for refereeing and scoring and others for helping on a volunteer basis.

In addition to Joby's achievements above, he was presented with his 100 Badge which meant he had shot 100 clay targets in a row over four shoots.

Earlier in the month club members headed to Pongaroa Gun Club and competed against Pongaroa, Feilding and Tangimoana Clubs for a trophy—which Pongaroa won, once again.

Karen Pawson—Secretary

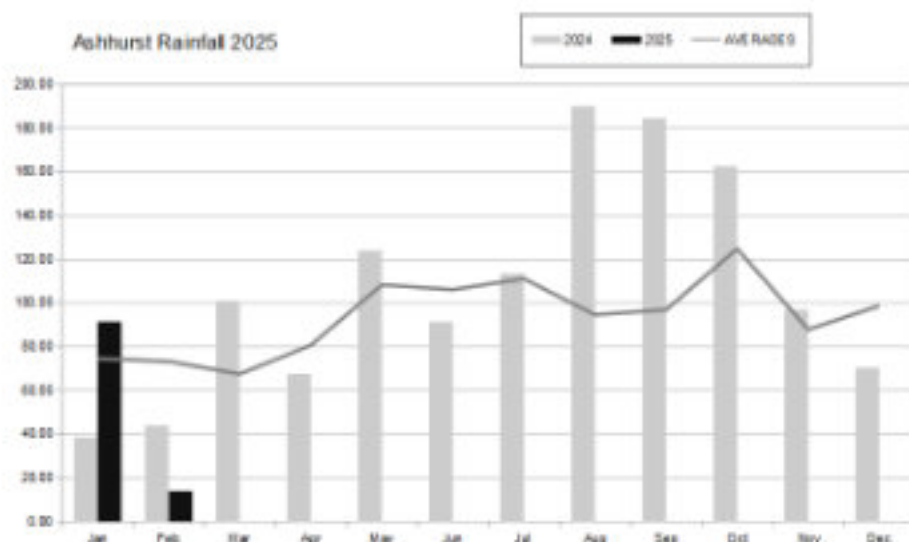
Ashhurst Rainfall

14 mm of rain fell in February 2025, below the monthly long-term average of 73.26 mm.

Rain was recorded on 4 days, with the highest one-day rainfall of 7 mm on the 26th of February.

The total annual rainfall for the period from 1st of January to the 31st February is now 105.5 mm, which is below the long-term average for this period of 147.32 mm.

Quang Mai



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