



Ashhurst Village Voice

*Informing the communities of
Ashhurst & Pohangina*

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April 2026

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Community Comment

The full length of Salisbury Street has now been resealed and eventually swept clear of surplus stone before lines were repainted. This work was funded by New Zealand Transport Agency under agreements to repair damage from the additional traffic associated with the detour of State Highway 3 through Ashhurst while the new highway was built. Similar work is underway on Tararua roads, although the Saddle Road has not yet seen any serious maintenance work.

Progress on the footpaths, kerb and channeling in Wyndham Street is not so fast. Observations and local rumour suggest that design complexities for handling stormwater is extending the time frame for completion.

The recent flood event of the Pohangina River, which prompted evacuation of residents on River Road, could have been far worse. Disaster scenarios suggested possible flooding worse than 2004, but the storm diverted south instead and hit Wellington and Christchurch. Strong river flows have changed river beds to the extent that the confluence of Pohangina and Manawatū Rivers now run parallel past the Domain and join downstream of the State Highway 3 bridge.

The Ministry of Education is refusing to budge on its school bus policy which will leave our high school students stranded with no bus service from term three. Communities across the region are scrambling to find an affordable solution. In Ashhurst, the public bus service operated by Horizons will be expanded to meet some of the demand. Parents of affected students are encouraged to check out options before these

changes take effect in the third term to ensure their youth can get to and from school safely.

The Council's annual plan is out for consultation with submissions closing on 10th April. Listed items for Ashhurst include funding for Splashhurst, Ashhurst reserves and Domain renewal. The biggest ticket item of over \$1 million for Ashhurst is for "Stormwater Asset improvement". The proposed rates increase has been reduced from its long-term planning to a more affordable 4.9% by deferring some projects and conservative budgeting. Fixed service charges for most residential properties amount to \$1474 and cover general charges, water and rubbish. The balance is now calculated on a combination of land and capital values. More detail is available from the Council web pages, libraries, or the recently delivered consultation pamphlet.

The car show and market day organised by the R.S.A. for 12th April is likely to be a busy affair. Our Central Business District will be transformed into a pedestrian precinct with traffic diverted around central Cambridge Avenue. Hundreds of classic cars will be on show in parking areas and streets to attract visitors to the market stalls. Should be a welcome event, which may grow in the future.

Cooler seasonal changes signal the start of the autumn show. While beautiful to view, the fallen leaves present a challenge for stormwater flow when it rains. Please help by clearing blocked stormwater grates to ensure rain water is cleared efficiently.

Harvey Jones

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Deadline for May Issue—Monday, 20th April 2026

Book Review: *Lessons on Living* by Nigel Latta

Lessons on Living: What to Do When You've Been Told You Only Have Months to Live? by Nigel Latta

The book was written as he was having several months of chemotherapy. It is both a reflection on his own life and a guide to living your own best life, based on his extensive work as a psychologist and his own personal experience.

Nigel is well-known as a highly respected and very down to earth author and television presenter in his field of psychiatry and the study of human behaviour.

Some of the short chapters in his book speak for themselves—

"All the good thinking has already been Thunked"

"It helps to join the right club"

"Focusing on the Things you can Control"

"My Favourite 'ist' (Pragmatist)!"

—And my favourite "Drive the Bus" - choose to respond intentionally and with purpose.

This was one of the main points I as a reader will take from his many wise and truthful words.

This book is by no means a conventional "self-help" book, it is far too realistic for that. There's nothing simplistic or "woo-woo" (his words) about it either.

So humbling to think that this was written by a man who was literally dying and often suffering, but who still could see the great point of it all. A great achievement by a great (but not perfect, he would be the first to admit) human.

Robyn Dare

Sean Kelly and the Super 8's

An intimate evening of Irish music and film is coming to the valley when Sean Kelly and Friends perform at the Pohangina Hall at 7.00 pm on the 8th May.

The show combines live traditional Irish music with a remarkable collection of super eight films taken by Sean Kelly's father, a passionate cine enthusiast who captured everyday life in and around Derry and Donegal between 1958 and 1988. Projected during the performance, the footage provides a moving visual backdrop to the music, offering glimpses of people, places and moments from a changing time in the north of Ireland.



Sean Kelly performs vocals, whistles, bodhrán and guitar, joined by Jono Lonie on fiddle and electric mandolin. Maree Limpus manages the audiovisual presentation and adds the rich sound of cello. Together they create a layered performance where music and imagery unfold side by side.

Along with the music, Sean shares stories and reflections that place the films in context, speaking about life in Derry and Donegal during a turbulent period in Irish history. The result is a show that is both entertaining and thought-provoking.

With no special effects—just authentic music and original film—the performance offers a sensory-rich experience blending sound, story and memory. Designed to both entertain and enlighten, the show aims to leave audiences with a lasting sense of wonder.

The evening at Pohangina Hall will be BYO, and supper will be provided during the interval, giving the community a chance to relax, enjoy the performance and catch up with neighbours.

Tickets are \$25 and are on sale now from pohanginavalley.nz/tickets

POHANGINA HALL

Friday, 8 May, 7:00 pm.

Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade

A few weeks ago, our brigade took advantage of the breathing apparatus (BA) training facility at the Palmerston North fire station. Picture a giant room with a multi-level maze inside of it where the instructors can kill lights and add heat and smoke.

The training scenarios were straight forward: search and rescue. Basically, enter a building and conduct a search for a casualty and evacuate them. Starting from the appliance we donned and started our BA, got checked off by the Entry Control

Continued on next page



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Sunday: 8.00am—8.00pm
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Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade

Officer (ECO) and tasked by the Officer in Charge (OIC). Upon entry a search was conducted through the maze until the casualty was found. Whereupon they were quickly removed and handed off to a crew waiting outside to perform first aid.

Good communication between BA crews as well as with the OIC and ECO outside was stressed to us and some good lessons were learnt during the training.

Operating in BA is the bread and butter of a Firefighter, which is why it's incredibly important for us to stay sharp in this critical skill. Thank you to the Palmerston North fire station for hosting us and enabling us to test ourselves in a challenging environment.

**Matt Clark—Secretary
Fire Risk Management Officer**

Ashhurst Village Voice Society Inc A.G.M.

The Ashhurst Village Voice Society Inc. is holding its A.G.M. at 7.00 pm, Thursday, 21st May, 2026, at the Chapman Hall, Anglican Church, Cambridge Avenue.

Society members and interested residents are welcome to attend.

Harvey Jones—Chairperson

Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.

Greetings to our Community,

sustainability.

As we reach the conclusion of another governance term, it is a privilege to reflect on what has been a truly standout year for the Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A. I want to start by extending my sincere thanks to our outgoing committee. Their dedication and hard work over the past twelve months have been instrumental in our success. I look forward to working with the new team.

Can You Help? Volunteer Marshalls Needed

The R.S.A. Car Show is just around the corner on Sunday, 12th April, and we need a few good people to help keep things moving smoothly. We are looking for Volunteer Marshalls to assist with directing cars and ensuring everyone gets parked safely and stylishly.

The hospitality industry has faced significant headwinds recently, with many venues struggling to keep their doors open. However, I am pleased to say that we have not only survived but thrived. This success is a direct result of the tireless efforts of our staff, the selfless work of our volunteers, and, most importantly, the unwavering loyalty of our members and community who have supported the club through various projects and events.

Our vision is to form a Community Resource—a pool of trained marshalls who can assist at any local community event. Training will be provided! Please register your interest by emailing secretary@ashhurstrsa.co.nz.

April Events: Mark Your Calendars

April is shaping up to be one of our busiest months yet. Please keep an eye on the club calendar for full details:

Property and Sustainability Updates

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our facilities and secure our future:

- Carpark Resealing: At the time of writing, work has officially commenced. By the time this reaches your mailbox, the job should be complete, providing a much smoother welcome to the club.
- Going Solar: In our ongoing mission to reduce operating costs and improve our environmental footprint, the committee has approved the installation of solar panels. This is a great step toward long-term

- Sunday, 12th April: Car Show and Market Day. 10.00am start
- Thursday, 19th April: Quiz Night (Coinciding with Food Truck Alley). Seated at 6.45 pm with a 7.00 pm start. Buy your meal and consume it in the club.
- Saturday, 25th April: ANZAC Day (See schedule below).
- Tuesday, 28th April: Super Bingo.

ANZAC Day: Saturday, 25th April

This is a day of immense significance for our community. We are honored to announce that The Devils on Horses will

Continued on next page

JustOnePlease

Super kia ora. The Justoneplease item for the Safe House for April 2026 is *Milo*.

Kindest regards.

Contact Louise Bowe on 020 410 86128 for more information.

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.

Manawatū Toy Library

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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.

Ashhurst Foodbank

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

Contact: Marianne 027 627 2054

Volunteering Opportunity: Help Us Save the Giant Maidenhair Fern

Join a group of friendly locals for an easy working bee to help preserve the environment of this endangered plant.

When: 4th Sunday of each month

Time: 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Where: Ashhurst Domain (meet in the Barbecue area by the playground).

Bring: Drinks, sun protection, gardening gloves, snacks and sturdy shoes, and perhaps a picnic to enjoy in the Domain afterwards.

NB: This is a weather dependent activity and updates will be provided via the Ashhurst Chat Facebook Group

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Pottery Workshops: Join in on a class or get your crew together for a private event—day or evening.

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Awahou Pohangina Playgroup

'A lovely country playgroup' est. 1967. 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 - 6.00 pm/when

Bingo is on 3.00 pm - 9.00 pm

Wednesday 3.00 pm - 6.00 pm/when

darts are on 3.00 pm - 10.00 pm

Thursday 3.00 pm-6.00 pm/when

food carts 3.00 pm - 7.00 pm

Friday 3.00 pm-9.00 pm/when darts

are on 3.00 pm - 11.00 pm

Saturday 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Sunday 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Hours are subject to change due to demand.

Manawatū 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: John Brock 329 4834

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 Adrienne on 027 2836317.

Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.

be joining our parade this year. Their name refers to the bond between ANZAC soldiers and their horses in the Middle East (1916-19), famously explored in Terry Kinloch's book and the recent 2025 documentary.

0550 hrs Form up at the RSA Ashhurst R.S.A.

0600hrs Dawn Parade Ashhurst Triangle

0715hrs Breakfast Ashhurst R.S.A.

0900hrs Cemetery Service Ashhurst Cemetery

1000hrs Pohangina Service Pohangina Cemetery

1150hrs

Form up at the R.S.A. Ashhurst R.S.A.

1200hrs

Ashhurst Civic Service Ashhurst Triangle

1300hrs

Light Lunch Ashhurst R.S.A.

1400 hrs

Entertainment: The Two Tones Ashhurst R.S.A.

A special thank you to The Two Tones, who are going to generously donating their performance fee to our Welfare Committee.

I look forward to catching up with you all at the club soon.

Peter Knight—President

RECAP Update

Kia ora koutou.

With a number of changes and challenges happening globally and locally, we're working on a series of workshops to help build personal/whānau/community resilience this year. At this stage we are looking to cover backyard chicken keeping, solar power, beginner/low cost food gardening, seed saving, fruit tree guilds, the social aspects of permaculture, and another Civil Defence workshop as well as a repeat of Death Without Debt. Dates and venues TBC. If you'd like to sign up to our newsletter to be notified when each of these workshops are ready to book, please contact info@recap.org.nz.

The Ashhurst School Garden Club has started the year strong, with the tamariki starting a seed library in the office area with seeds they have grown and collected.

For school whānau—you can pick up three packets per season.

The RECAP Seed Library (within the Ashhurst Library) has also been topped up with edibles and flowers to sow in autumn and winter. You are able to take three free packets per month. Many of these seeds have been collected from local gardens which means they are acclimated to our local growing conditions, and the seeds can continue to be saved from your own plants. These seeds have a green label.

Community Kai has seen an increase in customers as the cost of food continues to bite (pun sadly intended). Our donations are seeing a drop as well, with this situation likely to get worse. Bearing this in mind, we'd like to remind you of a couple of things when accessing this service: You

Continued on next page



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RECAP Update

can only take **one** bag of kai unless you have contacted us with exceptional circumstances. Please note: we may need to limit everyone to strictly one bag if donations continue to track down. And please take only what is allowed from what is on offer. Each item has a limit posted. We rely on everyone's honesty to enable this kai to be distributed fairly. Thank you.

We'd like to take this opportunity to give a huge ngā mihi to the team of volunteers—past and present—at McCrae's Bush. For those unaware, McCrae's Bush is an area of remnant native bush and wetlands which can be accessed via River Road (on the way to Saddle Road) or via some steps from The Terrace. The Olsson Community Orchard is nestled in a clearing here.

RECAP supports a team of volunteers who have weekly working bees to hand weed the invasives in this area (avoiding using damaging chemicals as much as possible), replant natives and care for the baby trees and plants that are popping up naturally throughout the bush.

Dianne McConnell began this group in 2018, after attending a Permaculture Design Course where participants were tasked with finding or creating a project in their community. One of the first participants was Margie Rogers. They were joined by Lance Fitness, Peter Todd, Veronika Naglmaier and Julie Doyle.

By late 2023, some of the long serving volunteers stepped back and Julie found

herself in the position of leading the team. There is now a new group of weekly volunteers who are doing this mahi: Margie is still active and they are now joined by Philip Prujean, Lucille Floyd, Bruce Roberts, Jill Stewart, Harvey Jones and Katherine Gibbs.

In the past few years, groups of local tamariki, student volunteers and workplace groups have participated in working bees here, always including a walk through the area and some education on the trees and plants. There has also been a revived trapping effort with Palmerston North City Council and RECAP providing more traps, which are cleared and reset by contractors and volunteers.

With the recent incidence of storms and flooding, there have been some changes to the landscape with some trees not surviving the rough weather; so, their continued efforts to care for this space and ensure its long-term viability is especially important.

The work has not only helped the local flora, but many native birds also call this bush home with fledgling ruru recently delighting local walkers and photographers.

Their dedication to this very special place is inspiring and their mahi has ensured the health of this wonderful thriving green space for our community (both present and future—human, flora and fauna!) to enjoy.

Chris Love—Coordinator

Ashhurst Senior Citizens Association

We are having new members and/or guests join each month which is wonderful to see. You do not have to be a senior to attend the monthly social meetings so why not come along and see if its something you may be interested in. Also, people are invited not just from Ashhurst but from the surrounding districts, including Pohangina, so do not feel you can't attend because you live outside of Ashhurst. The club has been running for a very long time now so come and see why for yourself. You may meet some new people or catch up with some friends or familiar faces, as well as enjoying a speaker or some form of entertainment plus a delicious afternoon

tea.

The March meeting was hosted by the Ashhurst Drama Group, fresh from their very successful showings of the play *The Pink Hammer*, so we appreciate them fitting us in after such a busy time. We were treated to a presentation of two members' trip to Vietnam and Cambodia, although our projector did have a mind of its own at first! And the words of *Country Roads* sung to us were quite heartwarming and reminded of us of what a beautiful area we live in.

Our April meeting will be right before

Continued on next page

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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.

Pohangina Rubbish Collection

Rubbish is collected every Wednesday. Bags out by 7.30am

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 Senior Citizens Association

Easter, so could be a good way to start off the Easter break.

If transport is an issue, please contact our President Trish Beattie on 06 326 8363.

We meet on the first Thursday of the month, 2.00 pm, at the Valley Village Centre. We look forward to seeing you!

Stephanie Madgwick—Secretary

Top Notch—Nigel Scrimshaw

Nigel Scrimshaw is a man who has always believed in doing a job right. Growing up in Dannevirke, he learned the value of hard work early on. After school, he spent five formative years with Morris and Bailey, a local building company, where the importance of reputation was hammered into him—a foundation that would shape his entire career. Seeking to broaden his skills, he then worked alongside his father for another five years, mastering the intricacies of the engineering trade.

Ready for a new challenge, Nigel turned to teaching. He brought his practical, hands-on knowledge into the classroom, first at various schools before settling at Feilding High School. For the past six years, he has been their technology teacher, inspiring students with real-world applications. "I love teaching," Nigel says with a genuine smile. "It gives me a great work-life balance and lets me pass on what I know."

Nigel's talents extend far beyond the

classroom. His "sideline" began in his own home, when he couldn't find anyone to clean his chimney. He tackled the job himself, then did it for a neighbour, and soon word spread. Nigel realised there was a significant local need for a reliable chimney sweep who could also handle repairs and adjustments on the spot. He even developed contacts to have custom baffle plates made for older fireboxes, solving problems others couldn't. Ever the pragmatist, he later taught himself to clean and service heat pump and air conditioning units, filling yet another gap in the local market.

When he's not teaching or sweeping, Nigel's true passions take him outdoors. He enjoys dirt bike or trail bike riding, hunting, fishing and diving—with Akitio Beach being a favourite haunt.

Throughout all his endeavours, Nigel has been steadfastly supported by his wife, Vic.

When their sons, Blake and Ryan, were growing up, weekends and school holidays were often spent assisting their dad. Those years weren't just about earning pocket money; they were about learning invaluable life skills—the same ethos of diligence, problem-solving, and integrity that Nigel carries with him from the workshop, to the classroom, to every chimney he cleans. He believes in using local tradespeople and doing a job well - "leave nothing like you wouldn't have at home".

**Ashhurst Pohangina Pony Club Update**

Ashhurst Pohangina Pony Club continues to enjoy our grounds at the domain. We remain one of the largest clubs in the region, and it has been wonderful to welcome so many new members this season.

In line with the new Incorporated Societies Act, the New Zealand Pony Club is undergoing several constitutional

changes. As of 5th April, we will transition from being part of the Manawatū West Coast Area and Manawatū Pony Club to a new structure.

The Manawatū Pony Club will cease to exist as a formal entity, and the Manawatū West Coast Area will become the Central Districts Region Pony Club.

Photo: Nigel Scrimshaw

Continued on next page

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Ashhurst Pohangina Pony Club Update

A Farewell Celebration

Knowing that many people have been part of the Manawatū Pony Club over the years, we warmly invite past and present members to our final Manawatū Pony Club Gymkhana:

- **Date:** 10th May
- **Location:** Manfeild Park
- **Time:** Gymkhana starts at 9.30 am, followed by team events in the afternoon and an afternoon tea. If you would like to join us let us know, we would love to have you for all or part of it

RSVP: For catering purposes, please email Louise Ilton at iltonlouise@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

Our riders continue to shine across all disciplines!

- **Riley Chase:** A huge congratulations to Riley, who gained her A and H certificates over January and February. These are the highest levels of achievement and require immense dedication.
- **Eventing:** In January, the Manawatū Pony Club team—bolstered by a strong contingent of Ashhurst Pohangina riders—won the Bruce Forbes Trophy for eventing at



Clareville.

- **Games and Dressage:** Manawatū also won the Area Games and Area Dressage, followed by a fantastic second-place finish at the Zone Games last weekend.

Our club remains highly competitive and continues to go from strength to strength!

Louise Ilton—Ashhurst Pohangina Head Coach



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.

Ashhurst Village Radio

Your Community FM Radio Station Broadcasting 24/7

Community notices are free. Businesses advertisements 30 second \$5.00 Free training for volunteers joining the staff.

Contact: 027 752 5077

ashhurstvillageradio@gmail.com

Ashhurst Music Club

Live original music in your back yard Our club is open to all ages and skill levels.

The first club night is the first Thursday of the month, 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm @ St Mary's Magdalene Church Hall

March—Thursday, 5th

April—Thursday, 2nd and so on.

Contact Grant - 0274-327-648 or kiwifieldcrew@inspire.net.nz

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Contact: Greg 027 557 8809

greg@manawatucontracting.com

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Call 326 9270 or email ashhurst@playcentre.org.nz or drop in for a free visit and a cuppa.

Monday 10.30 am-2.30pm
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: Stephanie Madgwick—
Secretary 021 025 99382

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

Craft on Cambridge

At the Chapman Hall, Anglican Church, Cambridge Avenue, on Monday afternoons 1.30 pm - 3.30 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

Amlaku's Ethiopian Update

Hello. It's been some time since my last update on our people in Ethiopia, so here is a brief report on their current situation.



For the past few years, the family has been stuck in a very small apartment in Addis Ababa while the war between the Amhara Militia forces, known as FANO, and the Federal forces rages on right across the Amhara region, home to about 50 million people. The FANO controls the countryside, with the Federals occupying the towns and cities, including Lalibela, near where our project is located. Recently an agreement has been reached between the two sides that they will not fight within Lalibela because of its status as one of the holiest places in the country, home to the amazing rock-carved churches. Thankfully, our villages have missed most of the fighting. Because of the support Anglican Missions here has provided to the two villages, people there have had sufficient food to maintain life, a much better situation than that faced by other rural communities, where life is extremely difficult.

With Lalibela itself more settled, businesses are slowly returning to the town. Thanks to a significant gift recently, Amlaku is planning to reopen his soap business soon. The Town Council have leased him a 4000 square metre block of land on which to eventually build a bigger factory. He has also been able to purchase a van for delivery of stock to neighbouring towns.

He has recently spent time in Lalibela with Mark Mitchell from Anglican Missions, exploring the developmental side of the project. We are hoping to have Mark report on his visit at a meeting here at 10.00am, Saturday, 2nd May, in the Chapman Hall,

Photos: Left—Amlaku, Bezawit, Penny (almost three), Amen (16 months); Right—Solomen, Baroc(4) and Soliyana(3)

next to the Anglican Church on Cambridge Avenue.

Fitsum and Lalem

Lalem is enjoying his dentistry course and getting good grades. Fitsum continues to try to make his driving work viable. Fuel prices have almost doubled in the last year, so rides are very hard to get. He keeps trying, and I take my hat off to him for his perseverance.

Solomen, Baroc(4) and Soliyana(3)

A year ago, we were able to rehouse them in a much better apartment near where Fitsum and Lalem live – Solomen is their half-brother, totally uneducated, and a solo dad. With regular funding for food and schooling, the transformation in just a year has been remarkable. The children are now healthy and doing well at a good school. Solomen is doing a driving course, with the hope of being able to get work as a minibus driver or something similar.



None of this could happen without the committed support of a relatively small group of amazing donors, who have now invested well over one million dollars into the project. Some donors are local, with others around the country and further afield. Together, we are seeing a small group of people 'over there' starting to make sense of their lives in situations that few of us can imagine. It has been a long journey 17 years now—but what a journey. It is easy to be overwhelmed by the scale of need in the world right now, just too big, just too many, but here we are blessed to have an insight into, and an impact on, the lives of a group of people who have become family to us.

If any of you wants more information, please do call me on 029 777 2368.

Ric Foxley.



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Ashhurst Library

Hi everyone, we are heading into Easter and our April Holiday Programme. If you have any questions about the upcoming events, please let us know.

Anzac Day

We hope to see as many of you as possible at our Anzac services Saturday, 25th April. We will be attending the dawn service and will ask to lay a wreath commemorating our fallen soldiers.

April School Holiday Programme

Happy Healthy Harold
Tuesday, 7th April, 10.30am

We are excited to welcome Harold and Tim to our library. Come along for some high energy fun and laughter.

Fun Fairy Salad

Wednesday, 8th April, 10.30am

Create a beautiful fairy salad out of edible flowers and learn which common flowers are safe to eat. Wear your fairy wings if you have them. Thanks to our great friend Chris from RECAP.

Family Quiz Night

Wednesday, 8th April, 6.00pm

Registrations Please

One of our favourite nights. Register your family to join in the fun and be prepared for the blindfold taste test.

Awesome Autumn Craft

Thursday, 9th April, 2.00pm

Come along for a craft session celebrating the colours and fun of Autumn.

Ashhurst Scavenger Hunt

Friday, 10th April, 11.00am

Have fun racing through Ashhurst as a family or a team collecting items and

solving codes. A big thank you to all the Ashhurst businesses and organisations who are joining in the fun.

VR Afternoon

Tuesday, 14th April, 1.00 - 4.00 pm

Come along for some virtual reality fun with some great programmes.

Andrew Wilson, Magician

Wednesday, 15th April, 2.00 pm

In the Village Valley Centre

A magical show that makes colourful and magical things happen right before your eyes.

Cake Picnic

Thursday, 16th April, 11.00 am - 1.00 pm

As a famous Queen once supposedly said – "Let them eat cake". Bring along your favourite cake, decorated and ready to share. Display, enjoy and take away a box of other cake to taste.

Brilliant Board Games

Friday, 17th April, 1.00 pm

All our board games – old and new – are coming out. Come on in for some retro fun.

Ashhurst Elevenses—Every Friday at 11.00 am 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, games and crafts. It is great fun and you are all most

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.

Contact the Parish office for further information: Phone 326 8543 or
Email: info@parishofpohangina.co.nz

Web: www.parishofpohangina.co.nz

Our office is currently not attended. Please email us if you need to contact us.

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.

Meditation Class

Overcoming Stress and Anxiety.

Every Thursday from 10.00 am - 11.00 am.

Suggested donation: \$7. Join us in the lounge of the Village Valley Centre. No special clothing required. Everyone welcome. For more information, go to www.meditateinpalmerstonnorth.org.

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Kids 'n Motion

Now in its 24th year of providing music and movement for 0 - 5 year olds within Ashhurst and the surrounding community.

Every Friday 9.45 am - 11.15 am during school terms at the Village 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 to—see you there!

Pohangina Yoga Classes

Sundays 9.30 am
\$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

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

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.



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Ashhurst Library

welcome.

Wednesday, 22nd April, 10.30am

Justice of the Peace

Wednesday 12.00 midday to 1.00 pm

We are very grateful to have Aleisha Rutherford JP available every Wednesday from midday to 1pm. Thank you Aleisha, it is greatly appreciated.

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

Ashhurst School

Kia ora Ashhurst whānau.

It seems that every week is busy and jam packed full of great learning experiences! We had students participating at inter school triathlon, Tararua starting their 'Bikes in Schools' with Manawatū Sports, Ki-o-Rahi trials, Gardening Club, William Pike Challenge, road patrol training, and our normal classroom programmes are picking up speed across the whole school.

We have had a few new whānau join our school in the last couple of weeks, so we welcome everyone into the mix.

This year, we are excited to be introducing our new house groups, names after the four awa (rivers) that flow around the Ashhurst region.

It was heartwarming to see so many of our tamariki and whānau get behind Project Manawaroa and help Support Sam Howard to run for six hours. So many of our students ran alongside him, walked the track, and cheered him on. This was our school fundraising effort for Relay for Life, raising a whopping \$1500. This is a great contribution to a cause that we are proud to get behind. "He manawa tītī—speaks of a person of great endurance, strength and stamina". This is represented at our kura as the tītī or sooty shearwater more commonly known as the muttonbird. The tītī fly the entire distance of the globe and hold the longest flight distance of any migratory animal.

Ashhurst Rainfall

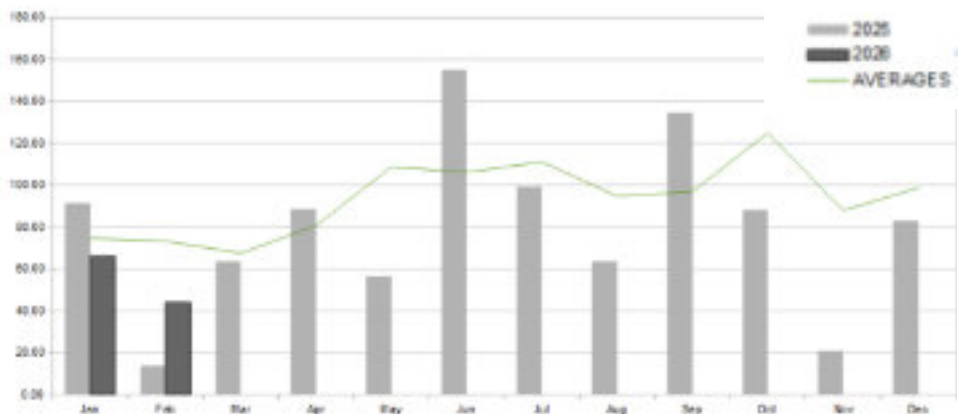
44.5 mm of rain fell in February 2026, below the monthly long-term average of 73.26 mm.

Rain was recorded on 12 days, with the highest one-day rainfall of 17 mm on the 15th of February.

The total annual rainfall for the period from 1st of January to the 28th February is now 122 mm, which is below the long-term average for this period of 147.32 mm.

Phil Pirie

Annual 2025 Rainfall



Kia ora Ashhurst!

As we head into April, I want to start with a quick thank you to everyone who got out and enjoyed our summer events programme. Explore Esplanade was a real highlight, with Victoria Esplanade turning into dinosaur country for a day and reminding us how much people value these free, family friendly events across our city.

Anzac Day is now our focus. On Saturday 25 April there will be an Ashhurst Dawn Service at 6am and Civic Service at 12pm. In the city, the Dawn Service at The Square starts at 6am and the Civic Service follows at 9am. This year carries extra significance because the Palmerston North cenotaph was opened in 1926, which means we mark its 100th year in 2026. It is a chance to pause, remember, and reflect on the service and sacrifice that shaped our country.

We know many of you are excited about the trial of soft plastics at select sites across the city from July. We're hearing from people already about saving their plastics up. Keep an eye on Council's website and social media channels, and our email newsletter Palmy Matters for more details. We're going to provide some more information to you about what will be accepted and where, shortly.

Roading wise, I wanted to thank you for your patience while there has been some resealing work underway. This was a mix of what was already planned as part of council's resealing programme, and that NZ Transport Agency funding for work on the roads that had been detours. It's been good to get it done, but I know the loose chip that remains on the road for the days following (while it beds in) can be annoying. Once it has been driven over many times, and adhering well, our contractors come back and sweep the loose chip from the gutters up. Work on Wyndham Street is going well and the project team have let me know they're still working to that mid-year timeframe. I'm sure the residents will be pleased by that.

As you're aware from my previous columns, we're still on track for Central Districts Water to be looking after your water from 1 July 2027. An independent board has now been appointed, with former Cabinet Minister Steve Maharey chairing. He's supported by directors Dr Sue Bidrose, Dave Chambers, Jon Nichols, Linda Robertson, and Pahia Turia. It's great to have such an experienced group of board members involved. I will keep updating you on these changes over the next year, but you can also stay updated at www.centraldistrictswater.co.nz For now, we continue to look after your day-to-day services, and into the future Council will own and set the expectations for Central Districts Water.

We also recently welcomed Mayor Andrea Davis and a business delegation from Missoula (Montana in the USA). Missoula has been our sister city since 1982, starting with university exchanges and growing into a relationship built on cultural links, trade visits, and shared learning. These relationships may feel a long way from Ashhurst, but they matter because they bring fresh ideas and strengthen Palmerston North's connections beyond our region. The delegation spent some time in Ashhurst exploring Te Apiti Gorge Walk and getting a tour of the new highway.

Lastly, thanks to all of you who had your say so far on the Annual Budget. Consultation closes on 10 April. Elected Members will be reviewing submissions and will be considering any changes in May.

If you have questions, please get in touch with us. And to stay up to date with local projects, consultations, events, and key decisions, sign up to our monthly Palmy Matters email newsletter on the Council website. It is an easy way to stay in the loop about what is happening in Ashhurst and across the city.

Ngā mihi nui

Mayor
Grant Smith JP



ASHHURST COMMUNITY LIBRARY

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

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Normal hours

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

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Tuesday morning. Bags out by 7.30am.

Recycling Bin	Glass Crate
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rgcasmith@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 \$55.

The cost varies proportionally for smaller and larger sized adverts.

For further information on advertising costs and payments please contact Grey Smith.

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 Monday, 20th April 2026.

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

Ashhurst Bowling Club

Well you could not have asked for better conditions, weather, sportsmanship and camaraderie for our last open tournament of the season. The Cotton Triples was played on a beautifully sunny and calm day on the 18th March. Players were treated to a green which played perfectly and after the hard work was over it was over to the R.S.A. for a stunning afternoon tea and prizegiving. The tournament was sponsored by Robert J Cotton and we thank them for not only the prize money but also the stunning platters enjoyed by everyone. Hayden and Kylie always ensure their tournament is one to remember. First place went to Margie, Wendy and Kylie from Ashhurst, second was a team from North End and third were "The Wandering Bowlers."

Ten days before this was the R.S.A. Triples and this is a hugely fun and also competitive day. Two sections—Bowlers and Non but ready to give it a go newbies. Always lots of laughing and happy chatter to be heard while playing, during lunch and at the afternoon tea at the R.S.A. Prizes were handed out by Marlene—President of the R.S.A. Womens Section. First was the team from Woodville, second team from Dannevirke and third Tony, Wayne and Jacqui from Ashhurst. The non section was won by a composite team of Harry, Benny

and Arnie. Thank you hugely to the team doing all the organizing for the R.S.A., to Mike for a stunning afternoon tea, the team who prepared and organized lunches and to everyone involved.

The last of our Club Championships have been played and again supporters were treated to some fierce competition and bite your fingernails play. Some very close results and truly excellent bowling from all players.

The Over 65 Singles and Pairs are both knockout competitions so it means the winners won every game they played. Singles winner was Eddie and Pairs Wayne and Jacqui. The Senior Womens Singles was also completed with Margie being the winner and Jen runner up. Huge congratulations to all winners and players in our Championships. Now winners represent the club at the Champion of Champion events where the competition is indeed the best of the best.

Closing Day is April 23rd but until then our Interclub Competitions continue, Club Days on Thursday at 1.15pm continue and there is usually someone at the club having a practice on fine afternoons. If interested in finding out more, do talk with someone from the club or contact Adrienne on 027 283 6317.

Again thank you to Kylie and Hayden Cotton, to everyone involved for the R.S.A. Tournaments and to all the sponsors from earlier in the season.

Till next month may the days remain warm and sunny—is this our summer at last—keep smiling and look out for each other.

Adrienne Harding—Secretary.



Photo: Margie, Donna, Joyce and Margaret who reached the Semi Finals at Champion of Champions.

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