



Ashhurst Village Voice

Informing the communities of Ashhurst & Pohangina

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August 2026

https://recap.org.nz/village_voice
Established 1997

More Than Just A Market

The Ashhurst Village Market was created with a simple vision: to strengthen our community by connecting people with local growers, makers, producers and small businesses.

In a world where it's becoming easier to shop online or travel into town, local markets offer something that can't be found on a supermarket shelf. They create opportunities to meet the people behind the food we eat, directly support the families who are responsible and help keep small communities thriving. This small choice is what shapes the fabric of our future.

Every purchase made at our local market helps keep money circulating within our region, supporting local families and encouraging more people to grow, make and create. It's also a reminder of the value of seasonal food, sustainable choices and the simple act of coming together. No chance of that being on a supermarket shelf anytime soon.

Like any new community initiative, we're still growing. With every market we're learning, welcoming new vendors and listening to feedback as we shape something that reflects the

values of Ashhurst. Our hope is that, over time, the market becomes part of the rhythm of village life—a place where people know they can find fresh local produce, unique handmade goods, friendly faces and a genuine sense of community.

Whether you come to do your weekly shop, enjoy a coffee, browse the stalls, listen to the music or simply catch up with friends, you're helping build something that belongs to all of us.

We'd love to see you at a future Ashhurst Village Market. Come along when it suits you, say hello, and be part of the journey as we continue to grow this little piece of village life together.

Every fortnight Saturdays, rain or shine, 9.00 am - 1.00 pm. We've been very fortunate to have a warm indoor space over the winter at St Mary's Church, and during the summer you can find us at the Village Valley Centre carpark. Just drive down the main road, you can't miss us!

For more information about the market and to keep up to date with our journey, follow us on Facebook @AshhurstVillageMarket.

Joshua Whitta

Community Comment

I am composing this article, while on a visit to family in Melbourne. City life here is booming, new buildings creep skyward, services work and public transport is widespread and regular. While there are plentiful parks and trees to visit, the ability to walk outside and appreciate nature in a home garden does not exist in apartment life.

Meanwhile in Ashhurst, parents are adjusting to the impact of getting their children to and from high schools. The school bus service, previously funded

by the Ministry of Education, ended with term two, to be replaced by a service operated by Horizons in addition to their normal bus routes. These new routes will deliver over 200 students to the five high schools and Intermediate Normal School in the city.

The annual cost of this new bus service is \$370,000, of which 51% will be covered by the Ministry for the 2026/2027 financial year. Horizons will fund \$131,000 from our rates for

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Deadline for September Issue—Thursday, 20th August 2026

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Community Comment

this period, while passenger fares cover the rest.

Student fares are set to \$1.30 on a Bee card or \$1.50 cash. Some parents may find that an additional \$13 per week per student is a struggle on already stretched budgets. Subsidised fares from the Ministry and Horizons will exist for a year, with the hope that NZTA and the government will provide support in following years. The government may need to realign their priorities to maintain school attendance records.

The Central Districts Water board and CEO have been appointed to provide water to residents to the combined regions of Palmerston North, Horowhenua and Rangitikei. Steve Maharey chairs the board, which was appointed by the Shareholders Committee representing the three regions' Councils. The new CEO is Chris Dyhrberg, who will lead 200 staff from existing Councils and manage all their water assets.

Limited consultation on "What

Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade

Kia Ora Ashhurst and Pohangina,

Do y'all remember me talking about our training at the school last year? As the driver/pump operator that night one of my (many) tasks was to get water to the appliance. Well... the nearest bloody fire hydrant was over 100m away! So suffice to say I was a wee bit buggered after making that

should local government look like in our regions?" concluded in late June to determine their proposal due with the government by 9th August. The coalition's Cabinet will consider all Council proposals in September this year and then tell Councils what is acceptable.

The government gave Councils across the country only three months to formulate plans for amalgamation. What started as an option to abolish regional Councils, such as Horizons, has expanded to consider wider amalgamation along the lines of the unitary authority of Auckland Council.

Besides the sharing of Council services, this may include altering Council boundaries and changing decision making systems for more efficient processes. We will have to wait and see if this so called efficiency drive will reduce rate increases and improve services. It is likely to limit our input into local democratic processes.

Harvey Jones

happen.

But in flagrant violation of my traditional course of action of not doing anything about it—I actually did something about it! I applied to the Palmerston North City Council to have a fire hydrant punched in closer to the entrance to the school. The school

Continued on next page

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Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade

with the attached Splashhurst is arguably Ashhurst's biggest strategic asset (after the bottle shop) so I felt that a closer water source was an easily justifiable request. The Council agreed and have just finished installing a hydrant in front of the office on Stanford Street.

So if you had trouble picking up your kids due to lack of parking during the

installation you can blame me for that. But now the school has a very close fire hydrant which allows us to provide quicker protection using less resources and I won't die running out the feeder again!

Talk to you later.

Matt Clark—Secretary
Senior Firefighter

Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.

Greetings to all our valued members, veterans, families, and Community friends of the Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.

As we push forward into the year, I want to take a moment to reflect on what makes our club such a vital cornerstone of the Ashhurst community. First and foremost, our mission remains unchanged since we first opened our doors back in 1927: to provide unwavering support, welfare, and camaraderie to our current and former service personnel alongside their families. With that proud history in mind, it is incredible to think that we will be celebrating our 100th centenary next year!

What's Happening Around the Club

The R.S.A. is more than just a place of remembrance—it is a thriving social hub. It has been fantastic seeing the steady turnout for our regular weekly events. Whether you are stepping up to the oche for Friday night darts, trying your luck with our Friday raffles and members' draw, joining in on Tuesday Bingo, or enjoying a casual after-work drink with friends, the atmosphere has been brilliant.

A huge thank you to our volunteers and fantastic staff who keep the wheels turning and always greet everyone with a smile.

Functions and Room Hire: If you have a family birthday, a staff party, or a community group meeting coming up, remember that our facilities—complete with full kitchen access—are available for hire. Talk to our friendly bar staff or drop us a line to secure

your booking.

Mark Your Calendars: Upcoming Events

We have an exciting lineup of entertainment and community events coming your way over the next few weeks. Make sure to round up your friends and family for these highlights:

Quiz Afternoon:

Sunday, 16th August, at 2:00 pm.

Gather your sharpest mates and test your trivia knowledge check out Facebook page to see how to register.

Looking Ahead: Win a Trip to Christchurch!

We have a massive new promotion starting in a couple of weeks! You could win an incredible trip for two to Christchurch, including airfares, accommodation, a rental car, and \$500 spending money.

The trip is locked in for Friday, 13th November, returning Monday, 16th November, perfectly coinciding with the New Zealand Cup and Christchurch Show Day. Keep your eyes peeled for entry details at the bar soon!

Community Partnerships

We are continuously strengthening our ties with our neighbours at the Ashhurst Bowling Club. The bowling season will be upon us soon, so keep an eye out on our notices and the Bowling Club for further information on how you can get involved.

To our new members who have recently joined the fold—welcome. To our long-standing members, thank you

Continued on next page

JustOnePlease

Super kia ora. The Justoneplease item for the Safe House for August 2026 is *Gladwrap*

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.

Manawātū Toy Library

200 Church Street, Palmerston North
Hundreds of toys to borrow.

Open 9.30 -12.30 Mon, Thu, Sat.

Visit our website to join, view our toys and learn more.

www.manawatuoylibrary.co.nz

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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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.

**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: 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.

for your continued loyalty and support.
Let's keep looking out for one another.

For the latest updates, and sudden
announcements, be sure to Follow us
on Facebook.

See you down at the club for a pint
and a catch-up soon!

Newsflash. Exciting good news.

The Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A. is

pleased to announce the renowned
New Zealand Army Band is coming to
Ashhurst on Saturday night 17 October
for a one off performance.

Follow our Facebook page for more
details for when they come to hand.

Peter Knight—President

Ashhurst Drama Group

The Ashhurst Drama Group
presents: *The Old People Are
Revolting*.

Written by New Zealand playwright
Devon Williamson, *The Old People Are
Revolting* is a madcap comedy where
frustrated seniors at the Sunshine
Retirement Village declare
independence from their local council.
After their rate rebates are cut, they
form an independent micro-nation,
appoint a queen, and go viral!

Rehearsals are well underway—so
book now. There are only six
performances and we usually sell out.
Performances are held at the Ashhurst
School Hall with the curtain rising at

7:30 pm. Ticket costs \$25.

Dates:**September**

Friday, 11th September—Sold out

Saturday, 12th September

Friday, 18th September

Saturday, 19th September

October

Friday, 2nd October

Saturday, 3rd October

Local community amateur theatre
aimed at giving you a great night out,
supper included, and a good giggle.

Warm regards

Richard Tankersley

Ashhurst Senior Citizen Association

The July meeting was our 52nd
birthday and was celebrated in style
with a strong turnout of members and
guests and singing and entertainment
provided by Peter and his guitar. Peter
proved lively entertainment can still be
provided even if you forget your

songbook... happens to the best of us!
It was fun joining in with him and made
the entertainment a very interactive
one.

Terry and Colleen provided a
delicious and beautifully decorated

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Ashhurst Senior Citizen Association

birthday cake that was much appreciated by all. The cake (and even a gluten free mini cake option) was accompanied by afternoon tea provided by all members, with leftovers sold at a bargain \$2 per tray at the end of the meeting. There wasn't much leftover birthday cake though!

Do not let the name fool you—the group is not just for seniors as we welcome people of all ages. Yearly membership is \$10 so why not come along as a visitor first and see if this is something you may be interested in joining. Visitors and members are welcome from both Ashhurst and the surrounding districts, including

Pohangina, so please feel welcome regardless of age or where you live.

Each month there is entertainment of some form, afternoon tea, raffle prizes and a sales table. You may meet some new people or catch up with some friends or familiar faces!

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 at a meeting sometime in the near future.

Stephanie Madgwick—Secretary

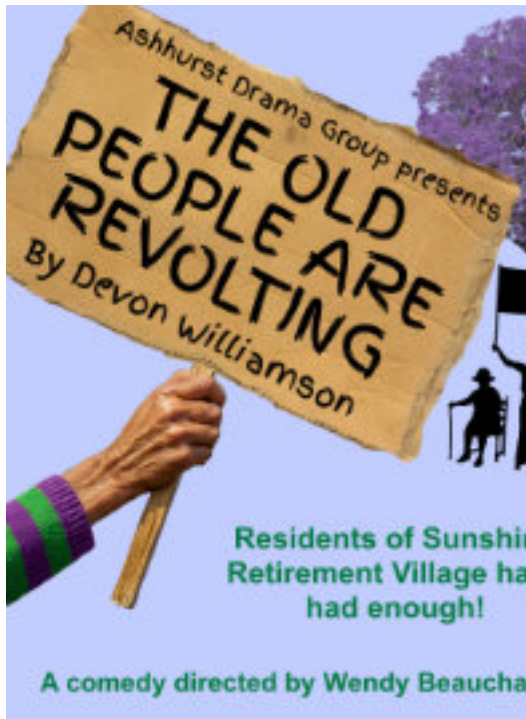
RECAP Update

Kia ora koutou

Did you know that there is a community garden on library grounds? You've likely seen the area where the Sharing Shelf lives, but around the back of our lovely local library, we have fruit trees, vegetable beds and berries. We put in some mahi earlier in the year to properly turn and feed the soil, and

planted a variety of easy pick leafy greens, spring onions, herbs and brassicas to cover the colder months. Anyone can harvest from this garden. Although we ask you only pick it if it's ready, and please leave some for others. It's a great spot to grab some lemons and a handful of greens and

Continued on next page



THE OLD PEOPLE ARE REVOLTING
By Devon Williamson

Ashhurst Drama Group presents

Residents of Sunshine Retirement Village have had enough!

A comedy directed by Wendy Beauchamp



Performances 7.30pm
2026

Fri 11 Sep & Sat 12 Sep
Fri 18 Sep & Sat 19 Sep
Fri 2 Oct & Sat 3 Oct

@Ashhurst School Hall
88 Cambridge Ave

Tickets \$25 (incl supper)
at eventbrite.co.nz
or 021 0845 5030



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info@pncitysupport.com
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Contact www.plunket.org.nz, or 027 276 8145.

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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: Manawātū 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

RECAP Update

herbs for dinner—fresh and sans packaging.

A reminder about our upcoming workshops and seminars:

A quick note that we have an older style website (upgrade in process!) So when looking to register, please stay on the home page and scroll down.

'Chooks!' presented by Phil Stevens: a beginner/intermediate level workshop on keeping backyard chickens. This is on Saturday, August 15th, 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm at the Village Valley Centre. Registrations can be made at recap.org.nz.

On Saturday, August 22nd, 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm we have both the Palmerston North City Council and Manawātū District Council Emergency Management Officers joining us to speak on Emergency Preparedness for you and your whānau. This will be tailored to the most likely scenarios for our specific area. With adverse weather events increasing year on year, we really encourage you to make time for this. It is a free seminar, with afternoon tea provided. Registrations can be made at recap.org.nz.

Death Without Debt is a national organization campaigning and educating on funeral debt 'dedicated to creating a future where the cost of dying doesn't add to the burden of grief.'

This will be our third time presenting

Operation Coverup

Once again the Ashhurst ladies have been busy knitting for Ukraine as there is still a great need in Eastern Europe.

Ruth Beale is part of the Ashhurst Craft Group and also the coordinator for Missions Without Borders - Operation Coverup (the knitting side of the work) for the Manawātū. She wishes to thank all the Ashhurst ladies who have contributed to this cause by helping to knit, sew up, collate and bagging up which is a huge job. This year from Manawātū we bailed and sent eight bales which contained 62

this material, as in both previous years these seminars have been full. This year's content will be in two parts over one day. Covering both the legal aspects (will writing, EPOA's e.t.c) and the dying process/after death/body care for your loved one.

The two seminars will be held on Saturday September 12th at the Village Valley Centre.

Seminar one:

Legalities 10.00 am-1.00 pm.

Seminar two:

Body Care 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm.

One seminar: \$10 waged \$5 unwaged.

Both: \$15 waged \$7.50 unwaged.

Morning and afternoon tea and hot drinks will be provided, but please BYO lunch if attending both seminars (we also have two wonderful local cafes you can visit).

Please note that these seminars are normally \$40+. Thank you to our varied funders who have made it possible for us to subsidise this for our wider community. For more information or to register, please head to recap.org.nz.

To be notified about our upcoming workshops, seminars and events you can sign up to our monthly newsletter by emailing info@recap.org.nz.

Chris Love—Coordinator

blankets, 121 knee-blankets, 103 jerseys, 508 hats, 343 scarves, 258 pairs of mittens, and 401 pairs of slippers. This is a total of 1789 items. Four sewing machines and a box of fabric were also sent.

Donations of wool or knitted garments would be gratefully accepted.

We are still collecting aluminum drink cans to raise money to buy wool. These can be dropped off at 6 Guildford Street.



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Ashhurst Medicine Depot**Hours**

Monday—Friday: 7.00am—8.00pm

Saturday: 7.30am—8.00pm

Sunday: 8.00am—8.00pm

Public Holidays: 8.00am—8.00pm

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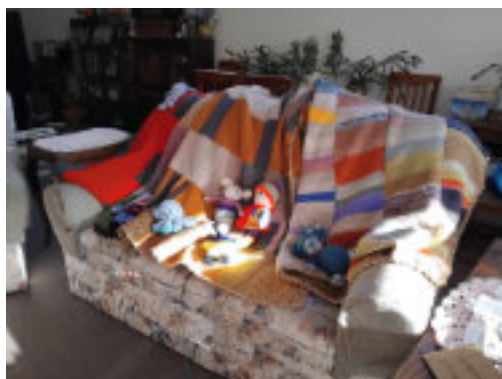
Tuesday 8.30am - 5.00pm

Thursday 8.30am - 5.00pm

Saturday 9.00am - 12 noon

141 Cambridge Avenue

Operation Coverup



The Ashhurst Craft Group meets Mondays 1.30 - 3.30pm and Wednesdays 9.30 - 11.30am at St Mary Church. A number of ladies from these groups have been knitting blankets, hats, scarves, mittens, slippers and toys as shown in the picture.

If you wish to join the Ashhurst Craft Group, please contact Marianne Crawford on 027 627 2054, or just come and join us.

Ruth Beale

Hiwinui School Intermediate Night

We are excited to offer an intermediate night on Tuesday, 18th August, at 6.00 pm. Join us at 198 Watershed Road to see our action-packed learning space.

Hiwinui School applications for out

of zone applications will open soon - please contact the school for more information office@hiwinui.school.nz or phone 063268078

Anna Hagan—Principal



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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

New meeting place and times to be advised, check our Facebook page.

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

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: Please message us on our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064928610535>

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| ✓ Topsoil (screened) | ✓ Pea Metal | ✓ Crushed Rotten Rock |
| ✓ Weedmat 1 & 2m | ✓ Crusher Dust | ✓ AP20 Top Course |
| ✓ Mulch | ✓ Builders Mix | ✓ AP40 Base Course |
| ✓ Organic Garden Mix | ✓ Nova Coil | ✓ Cement Bags 20kg |
| | | ✓ RTU 45 Min Concrete Bags 20kg |

Contact: Greg 027 557 8809

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

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.

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

Highland Home Change in Governance

Highland Home was gifted into existence by the local Forlong family and for many years managed by Melvin and Jocelyn Smith. It has a rich history in the area often hosting up to 15 schools, 20+ churches and community groups with the odd family reunion thrown in for good measure in addition to running several camps of our own predominantly for youth leadership development and children. Some of the highlights from our time here have been our first Kids Camp after lockdown (with a theme of 'Life's Great Adventure' and a lot of references to Bear Grylls) eating escargot with ember roasted potatoes and taking the children to visit the local glowworms and caves. Another favorite was a Gallup Strength-finders camp focussed on helping young adults live out of their strengths. The BreakAway single Mums camp was also a highlight—there is something very special about creating a space that blesses Mums especially when life is hard. My husband Mat and I celebrated seven years managing Highland Home on 1st June and I am feeling thoroughly blessed to be a part

of the community.

Highland Home Joins Te Maru

Fifty people came together at Highland Home Christian Camp in Manawatū to mark the welcome of Highland Home to Te Maru.

Te Maru Christian Camps are an operating company that was developed out of the camping project—a series of hui that looked at ways Open Brethren Heritage camps could be sustainably operated while keeping the gospel of Jesus Christ as Lord first and foremost.



Te Maru operational and camping staff joined CCCNZ staff, local leaders and past camp leaders, committee members and board to mark the occasion.

It was a joy to meet some of the people who were instrumental in the camp's history, including Melvyn and Jocelyn Smith who managed the camp for nearly 30 years, from 1989. Grace and Richard Print from Church on Vogel were also there, Richard served on the original committee that established the campsite in the Pohangina Valley location.

Sophia Sinclair



Photo Left: Willow Park Camp Manager Michelle Willis welcomes Highland Home to Te Maru by cutting the ribbon. Photo Right: Attendees of the Te Maru event

Book Review: *The Things We Never Say*

The Things We Never Say by Elizabeth Strout

I couldn't wait to read this new novel from Pulitzer Prize winning author Elizabeth Strout, as I have always enjoyed her previous stories, many of which are much loved and treasured books, TV series and movies such as "Olive Kitteridge", and "My Name is

Lucy Brown". This latest one did not disappoint, in fact I believe it's her best yet.

We first meet Artie Dam, 60-ish, a well-respected, kindly and a talented teacher, living with his wife of 30 years, seemingly happy and

Continued on next page

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Book Review: *The Things We Never Say*

purposeful.

But underneath he feels he is looking at a world gone mad and wondering if he really wants to continue on. "Is there such a thing as free will", he asks himself. He does not share any of his ongoing worries and thoughts with anyone, but tries to help his students cope with their own worries instead. He's very good with them, they love him.

Things come to a head in a big way when he is told a family secret that is devastating to him. Does he confide or share this secret? Well, does anyone

else in his world share their worries and fears? No, hardly ever and certainly not often enough.

We follow Artie around in his day to day life, meet his friends and family but nobody really talks about what really matters'

Beautifully written, insightful, you as a reader will find yourself reassessing your relationships with the people important to you in your life. The author writes about people's interior lives in a way that is unforgettable.

Robyn Dare

Scale Insects

For most people, the name scale insect brings to mind the tiny sap-sucking pests which are sometimes found on our garden plants and trees, and even on indoor plants. Although they don't look much like an insect, when sitting immobile on a leaf or stem, all scale insects do have mobile stages in their lifecycle. For example, newly hatched 'crawlers', which have 6 legs, will move away from where they hatched to search for fresh feeding sites.

Most of the scale insects that people may be aware of are introduced species. They are the ones that are regarded as pests because they live and feed on trees and plants in our orchards, gardens and, sometimes, indoors too. Like the scale insects themselves, these plants are mostly introduced (nonnative) species that are grown for food or ornamental reasons.

In addition to these introduced species, New Zealand also has a large and diverse range of native scale insects that have evolved here over millions of years. These native species are found almost exclusively on the native trees and plants that they evolved with. They don't often affect the growth of the host plant and are therefore not regarded as pests. In this

article, I will give a few examples of introduced pest species and, in future



articles, I will describe some of our native species.

Black Olive Scale (see photo) is a common introduced species in the Soft Scale family which, despite its name, is found on a wide range of plants, including citrus. The younger stages of this scale often have a distinct raised ridge in the shape of the letter H on their upper surface. Another introduced species, also found on citrus and a wide range of



Photos: Top—Black Olive Scale; Bottom—Cottony Cushion Scale

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.

Rev Jonathan MacFarlane

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.

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

J Wakeford

Hiwinui—022 319 0434

Mr JC Culling

Pohangina Road—027 289 5252

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

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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



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Scale Insects



other plants, is the Cottony Cushion Scale (see photo). This belongs to the Giant Scale family, so the adult female is quite large.

Oleander Scale (see photo), on the other hand, is quite small and appears as circular "fried-egg" yellow-tan spots on the leaves and stems of many plant species. Oleander Scale is a member of the Armoured Scale family

Photos: Left—Oleander Scale; Bottom—Gum Tree Scale

as it has a protective cover over it. Some species of Eucalyptus in New Zealand are affected by the Gum Tree



Scale (see photo), which is in the Felted Scale family. These are just a few examples of introduced scale insects which, in total, number about 100.

Grey Smith

Ashhurst Library

Hi everyone, a big thank you to everyone who helped us during our school holiday programme and everyone who attended the events. We had great turnouts which we are very appreciative about.

Treasures with Tania

Friday, 7th August, at 10.30 am

Our great friend Tania Kopytko will be holding this workshop celebrating Family History month. Everyone is invited to bring along a small treasure from their family and talk about why it is so precious. Keep an eye out on our Facebook page for more details closer to the date.

Most Popular New Zealand Non-Fiction Titles

Lessons on Living by Nigel Latta.

Our most popular non-fiction title from the late psychologist.

A Different Kind of Power by Jacinda Ardern.

A personal story from our former Prime Minister.

Become Unstoppable by Gilbert Enoka.

A fascinating insight into what made Enoka a secret weapon for many of our

top sports teams.

One Last Question, Prime Minister by Barry Soper.

An incisive and entertaining insight of New Zealand's political world and it's leaders.

The Valley: Crime and Punishment in a New Zealand City by Asher Emanuel.

A personal account from those who experience New Zealand's justice system up close.

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 welcome.

Wednesday, 5th August, 10.30 am

Continued on page 12

County Fayre at Pohangina

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Te Utanganui

Kia ora Ashhurst!

It's hard to believe we're halfway through the year already! As we kick off a new financial year, we're getting stuck into another busy programme of work, with projects continuing across Ashhurst and throughout the city.

The first layer of chip seal has now been laid on half of Wyndham Street. We're waiting for a spell of dry weather before sealing the remainder of the street. Higgins has two crews onsite to help speed up the final stages of the project, with work now focused on the footpaths, roadside drains and the remaining stormwater upgrades. The project remains on track for completion in late August. After the main road rebuild is finished, we'll also carry out some maintenance work at the Oxford Street and Cambridge Avenue intersections.

We'd also like to thank you for your patience last month as we worked to repair a burst water pipe between the treatment plant and reservoir. You took the save water notice on board quickly, which meant we were able to get those repairs done without needing to bring in additional water tankers. Thank you for your support.

Thanks to everyone who had their say recently on the future of local government in our region. Around 600 people gave feedback and we had about 60 people come to drop-in sessions too. We're now working through that feedback, and Councillors will consider it at a meeting in August alongside possible amalgamation opportunities identified through discussions with neighbouring councils. I'll update you in our next column.

It's also been fantastic to see the recent announcement from the Government for a loan of up to \$22.4 million, through the Regional Infrastructure Fund, to support the next phase of development at

Te Utanganui, our central New Zealand distribution centre in the northeast of the city. The centre is home to more than 80 businesses, with a plan to bring together road, rail, air and port connections to create an integrated freight and logistics centre.

The investment includes \$1.9 million for pre-construction work, including development of the business case and delivery plan, followed by \$20.5 million for construction. The business case will determine what rail infrastructure needs to be built for the first stage of KiwiRail's Regional Freight Hub, within the wider Te Utanganui precinct.

The new edition of Palmy Proud is out. If you haven't seen it yet, grab a copy at the library or from many other sites across the city. It's a great read profiling a number of awesome initiatives and people that make our city great.

There's plenty happening around our city, if you'd like to keep up to date with what's going on across Council make sure you sign up for our newsletter 'Palmy Matters' on our website, or you can pick up a copy at our customer service centre or at Ashhurst Library.

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

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

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ASHHURST RUBBISH + RECYCLING

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

August 4 week 2 glass/rubbish

August 11 week 1 recycle/rubbish

August 18 week 2 glass/rubbish

August 25 week 1 recycle/rubbish

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Recycling, green waste and general rubbish disposal.

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

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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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 Gaylene Knight (contact 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 Thursday, 20th August 2026.

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

Ashhurst Library

Wednesday, 19th August, 10.30 am

Justice of the Peace

Wednesday, 12.00 midday - 1.00 pm

We are very grateful to have Aleisha Rutherford JP available every Wednesday from midday to 1.00 pm. Thank you Aleisha, it is greatly appreciated.

After-School Chess Club

Our after-school chess club is on every Wednesday 3.15 pm - 4.15 pm.

We had a great time last term with so many enjoying the great game, all kids are welcome.

Ross Meads—Ashhurst Librarian

Ashhurst Rainfall

Only 6mm of rain fell in May 2026, which is significantly below the monthly long-term average of 92mm.

Rain was only recorded on four days, with the highest one-day rainfall of 2.5mm on the 8th of May. This is well below the long-term average rainfall days for May of 14 days.

The total rainfall for the period from 1st January to 31st May is 254.5mm, which is well below the long-term average for this period of 366mm. The total number of rainfall days for the period is 54, which is just below the long-term average of 56 days.

The long-term average annual rainfall is 970mm. Currently the rainfall we've had is below what is required to achieve the average annual rainfall.

96.5mm of rain fell in June 2026,

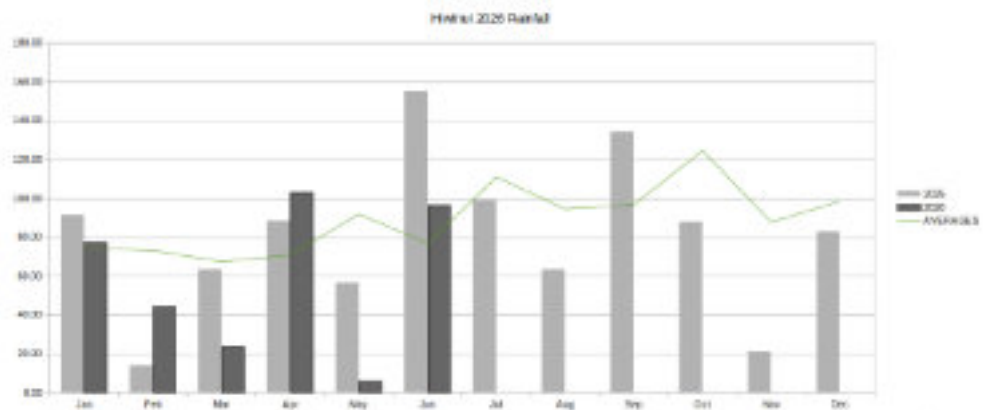
which is above the monthly long-term average of 77mm.

Rain was recorded on 20 days, with the highest one-day rainfall of 23mm on the 5th of June. This is above the long-term average rainfall days for June of 16 days.

The total rainfall for the period from 1st January to 30th June is 351mm, which is below the long-term average for this period of 443mm. The total number of rainfall days for the period is 74, which is just above the long-term average of 72 days.

The long-term average annual rainfall is 970mm. Currently the rainfall we've had is still below what is required to achieve the average annual rainfall.

Phil Pirie



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