



Ashhurst Village Voice

Informing the communities of Ashhurst & Pohangina

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Mahi for Artwork on Tararua Side of Highway

The September issue of the Village Voice described the meaning of the artworks on the western side of Te Ahu a Turanga highway. Content from NZTA, and media coverage from Stuff and RNZ have been combined below to describe the two sculptures in place on the eastern side of this key connecting highway between the Manawatū and Tararua.

The two mahi toi artworks in the eastern part of the project were designed by artist Sandy Adsett (Ngāti Pahauwera, Ngāti Kahungunu).

This sculpture at the Woodville lookout is named Manungāro (Birds of Extinction). It acknowledges the sadness experienced by the tragic loss of native ngā manu (birds) which is illustrated through the story of Uenuku. In this interpretation of the story, Uenuku fell in love with the beautiful mist maiden Hinepukohurangi. He attempts to keep



Hinepukohurangi with him on Earth, but she is destined to return to the heavens. Heartbroken, Uenuku wanders the Earth until Ranginui (the Sky Father) takes pity on him and transforms him into a rainbow. Just as a rainbow has no end, Uenuku is forever searching for a love he can never attain.

In this sculpture, the endless yearning of Uenuku is related to the loss of three extinct ngā manu species, the hokioi (Haast's eagle), the moa and the huia, which are shown travelling up Uenuku symbolising their loss and the endless yearning it created. This serves as a reminder to those living today, and in future generations, to respect and preserve what is here and to not allow any more precious taonga to be lost forever.

Adsett has named the 12-metre-high steel sculpture on the Woodville

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Photos: Left—Woodville lookout art - Manungāro; Right—Woodville roundabout art - Poutahu. Photo credit—New Zealand Transport Agency

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**Deadline for February
2026 Issue—Tuesday,
20th January 2026**

Letter From the Editor

Welcome to the final issue of the Ashhurst Village Voice for the year 2025.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Village Voice over the year. It is down to the community that the Village Voice exists. So thank you to our advertisers for financially supporting us, those who have written columns for us to read, the deliverers who hand deliver the Village Voice to everyone's letterbox, to Vivienne, our proofreader, who corrects the mistakes I have missed.

Finally, thank you to our committee who handle the organisation and administration for the society. So thank you to our Chairman Harvey Jones, Treasurer Grey Smith, Committee Members Neill Smart, Gaylene Knight, Doug Wilson and the late Mike Shepherd.

We hope the community has a safe and happy summer holiday and we will hopefully see you next February.

Llyvonne Barber—Editor

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.

Mahi for Artwork on Tararua Side of Highway

roundabout, Poutahu. This sculpture is based on the structure of old wharehau (meeting house) that had a vertical pole at the centre of the whare to provide strength to the tahuhi (ridge beam). The red, blue and yellow colours also represented a balance between Ngāti Kahungunu and Rangitāne.

Engineering limitations and weight bearing capabilities of the soil limited some designs and choices of locations

for the sculptures. The artist and construction engineers had to collaborate during the design phases to create structures which were practical to construct and long lasting.

These artworks are a refreshing addition to the brutal architecture of the past and follow international trends of adding some humanity to construction projects.

Harvey Jones

Letter to the Editor

The Ashhurst School Board of Trustees would like to respond to a letter published in the October issue of the Village Voice.

Ashhurst School is a proud part of the Ashhurst community, providing a safe and vibrant space for the children of Ashhurst, up-holding the key values of Tū Tangata, Whai Ngākau and Manawaroa.

The pump track at Ashhurst School was a welcome addition to the school premises and initially was opened for use both by the school and the public on 12th April, 2018. The construction of the pump track was solely a school funded project, utilising school funds for its construction and materials required.

There have been questions raised as to the funding of the project. Further construction of the concrete track encircling the school field was later completed with assistance from a number of streams. These included funding from various successful community grant applications, fundraising through the PTA, use of board funds and a portion of funding from Palmerston North City Council. Only 14% of the cost of the track was contributed by Palmerston North City Council. The remaining funds were tagged for the container and bikes for the children to ride. The Bikes in Schools programme is separate in both design and funding to the

construction of the pump track.

The Bikes in Schools project was opened to the school and community in February 2019. From the very outset, the intention was always for the public to use both of these key additions to the school grounds and for 5 years this is exactly what was available. In 2019, a Memorandum of Understanding was in place to help guide the management of access to the school grounds; however, this agreement has since been terminated.

Sadly though, between 2020 and 2023 the school experienced a significant escalation in activities happening on school grounds that undermined the safety of Ashhurst School students and staff.

On multiple occasions the school experienced malicious damage, instances of significant theft, regular occurrences of shattered glass on playgrounds and fields putting students at risk and concerns voiced from school staff feeling unsafe when leaving the grounds in the evening/weekends. The damages caused to the school are in the tens of thousands of dollars, that has to be redirected away from continuing to upgrade existing facilities and potential personnel increases in the school. These factors all contributed to the decision in place today. With the closure of the school gates, safety

Continued on next page



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Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade

concerns and damage to property has significantly decreased.

This was not a decision made lightly by the Ashhurst School Board of Trustees. Our primary responsibility is to ensure the safety and well-being of every student and staff member. With the gates now closed, everyone who enters Ashhurst School can do so with

confidence, knowing their safety and well-being remain our highest priorities.

We would like to wish everyone a safe and very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone in Term 1 2026.

Ashhurst School Board of Trustees.

Thank You From the Food Bank

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the Food Drive on Saturday, 22nd November. Once again, your wonderful generosity towards those in need in our community has blown us away!

Grateful thanks also go to the volunteers who pitched in to collect, sort and store all the goods. Ours is a very supportive community and we have volunteers who step up when needed, every time, so 'thank you'

doesn't say how grateful we are for your faithfulness.

In view of the increasing demand on our supplies, our next step is to implement a system that will ensure there is something available for those who need it, right throughout the year. Last year's changes are already making a difference for our customers but there is still room for improvement.

Marianne Crawford

Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade

Kia Ora Ashhurst and Pohangina,

Lately our training has been on hazardous substances spills and exposures. This focused on how to identify hazsubs and methods of containment and decontamination. This all culminated in a training scenario where a member of the public had been exposed to a toxic substance. Upon arrival at a council facility we were faced with a casualty and a spill of an unknown liquid.

Myself and another Firefighter were tasked with conducting a "snap rescue" of the casualty and then identifying and containing the spill. At the same time the rest of the brigade were setting up cordons and an

emergency decontamination process. This basically involves spraying lots and lots of water at whatever you want decontaminated! Once the casualty was cleaned and seen to by our first aiders to treat chemical burns, it was our turn for decon. To add realism my partner and I stripped off to our knickers to be blasted by cold water!

The scenario was a great way to cap off our hazsubs training and gave us some points to work on. I also apologise to my fellow Firefighters who no doubt had to call peer support after being subjected to a traumatic event witnessing me mostly naked!

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

Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.

Fantastic Afternoon with Desert Road!

A couple of Saturdays ago, the Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A. grounds were buzzing with a fantastic atmosphere as we hosted the incredible band, Desert Road, in our

outdoor area. It was truly a superb afternoon enjoyed by all!

For those who may not know, this talented band is composed entirely of veterans, and their generosity extends

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.

Have Some FUN with CLAY - right here in Ashhurst!



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

Paint-A-Pot: Not keen on getting muddy but need some relaxing/creative time? Choose a bisque-fired piece and decorate it in our lovely art space.

Have-A-Go Wheel Experiences: Give it a whirl!

Visit my casual verandah shop anytime and discover quality, hand-crafted pottery at Suzanne McAllen Pottery, 181 Oxford Street, Ashhurst

For further information, pricing or to book contact Suzanne at create@inspire.net.nz or text/call 021 163 9396

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We are a community based project run by volunteers

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-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

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.

far beyond the stage. They generously pass on all proceeds they make to support fellow veterans—a true testament to the spirit of service and mutual support that is at the very heart of the R.S.A. We thank them for sharing their talent and supporting their comrades!

Our Core Purpose: Supporting Service Personnel and Families

Recently, I had the privilege of attending the National R.S.A. Council meeting, and it served as a powerful and timely reminder of why the R.S.A. exists.

Our core purpose, as the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association (R.S.A.), is to actively support the wellbeing of all New Zealand service and ex-service personnel and their families. We achieve this through a range of vital services, including:

- Advocacy
- Financial Assistance
- Crucial Social Support

We also continue to play a key role in

Ashhurst Drama Group

The Ashhurst Drama Group is pleased to present *The Pink Hammer* in February 2026.

A New Zealand comedy-drama about four women who enrol in a women's DIY workshop led by Woody, whose wife Maggie has disappeared

commemorating our military history and honouring those who have served. This includes assisting veterans with important issues like navigating government agencies, accessing health services, and overcoming personal challenges.

We want to remind the community that anyone can join the R.S.A.—you do not have to be a service person to become a valued member and support our mission.

Upcoming Events at Your R.S.A.

Mark your calendars for these social and fundraising events at the Ashhurst R.S.A.:

- **Regular Bingo:** 7:00 pm every Tuesday Night.
- **Handle Club:** Every Wednesday.
- **Super Bingo:** Tuesday, 16th December.

As the festive season approaches, please stay safe and try to keep those stress levels in check with the run-up to Christmas!

Peter Knight—President

Continued on next page



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Ashhurst Drama Group

empowerment, friendship, and personal growth as the women navigate their individual challenges and form unexpected bonds.

Tickets available now through eventbrite.co.nz or by calling 027 654 9801.

The dates are:

December Events with the Parish

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

Annual Parish Fair

Our Parish Fair is on Saturday, 6th December, the same day as the Ashhurst Christmas Parade—come along and have a look at what we have for sale. We look forward to seeing you there.

Carols in the Triangle.

Saturday, 13th December, 5.30pm. In conjunction with River Church.

Christmas Eve

Wednesday 24th December offers opportunities to worship together.

St Bartholomew's Church, Komako

Friday, 13th February
Saturday, 14th February
Friday, 20th February
Saturday, 21st February
Friday, 27th February
Saturday, 28th February

Timothy Tankersley

(at the head of the Pohangina Valley), will be holding a Christmas Eve service starting at 7.00 pm.

St Mary Magdalene Church, Ashhurst may be holding a "midnight" service starting at 11.00 pm. See our website for more up to date information. <https://parishofpohangina.co.nz/>

Christmas Day

Thursday 25th December - 10.00 am service at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Ashhurst—a service for all ages. Everyone is welcome.

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

Smallholders 2026—Save the Date

Summer is here and a festive break ahead of us, but, before you know it the Ashhurst Pohangina Lions Smallholders Auction will be here!

Ashhurst Pohangina Lions Club are very pleased to announce that the Smallholders Auction is happening, and the date is booked in for Saturday, 24th January 2026.

What is the Smallholders Auction you ask? It began in 1979 and has run for every year since, with one year off for the Covid blip. With around 1,000 chattel items up for auction, along with sheep, chickens, ducks and much more, there is something for everyone. Located on the MacDonald farm up the Pohangina Valley Road, the site becomes a small village of several thousand people, families seeking a

fun day out. Food, bargains and adventures.

It's time for you to start thinking about what is in those sheds and cupboards that haven't been touched for ages. Yes, bring your items on the Friday afternoon 1.00 pm - 7.00 pm, or Saturday morning 6.00 am to 9.45 am.

Many clubs and volunteers help us make this a successful community event. Registrations of interest are open for Stallholders wishing to book a site. Contact the Lions via email smallholders@aplionsclub.org.nz.

Book the date now, 24th January. See you there.

The Ashhurst Pohangina Lions Club team

Community Comment

The city council has wasted little time in their effort to upgrade the footpath and street services in Wyndham Street. The residents' petition regarding the state of the road and the council's resulting migration of funding has promoted an early start for this work. Construction of the north side footpath is already underway. The total project is expected to be completed mid-year 2026.

Other footpath repairs are also

underway elsewhere in Ashhurst, as part of the city's planned maintenance programme. Broken and uneven sections of footpath are properly excavated, filled and compacted before the new layer of concrete is laid.

Community information sessions have recently been held to discuss options for heavy traffic and freight routes around the city. This business case project will identify a preferred route for a proposed regional freight

Manawātū Toy Library

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www.manawatutoylibrary.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

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



Calling all residents...

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

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Allison Jarden JP, Manager
06 355 4468 | 021 0248 4139
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Contact www.plunket.org.nz, or 027 276 8145.

B4 School Check

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: 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

Community Comment

ring road. The Ashhurst area is a key intersection of roads from Tararua, Levin, Feilding and the new rail freight hub. The Manawātū region needs a considered solution to improve freight movements in and around the city. A planned freight route will also reduce congestion elsewhere and limit damage to existing roads, which have not been built to withstand modern weight limits.

As we all head toward the closing month of the year, Christmas decorations and lights are appearing to help us celebrate the festive season. The Christmas street lights have been erected in Cambridge Ave to brighten our evening stroll. The Ashhurst food bank drive advertised itself with sirens in the streets, supported by our

firefighters and other volunteers. Our Christmas parade is another event to look forward to, and a chance to catch up with friends when the community emerges from all corners of Ashhurst to line the parade route and associated market.

A justified bouquet to the council workers responsible for the rose garden in the village green. They are now in full bloom and provide welcome colour and a light fragrance to this central green space of our village. A support crew are keeping them watered and happy with new signs installed to provide identification.

All the very best for a happy season break.

Harvey Jones

This is the Seat That Bob Built

A tribute to Bob Pollard (April 1941 – September 2025)

The closure of the Manawātū Gorge Road and the resulting detour of state highway traffic through Ashhurst and over the Saddle Road encouraged motorists to stop and admire the view. Bob and Dennise Pollard's vantage point, which overlooks The Terrace, and its mountain view, provided evidence of its popularity. Many people were seen admiring the view while having a coffee break or a picnic to break their journey.

The Covid-19 lockdown encouraged more local walkers, who also

discovered and admired this scenic spot. Bob realised a seat was needed to make the most of this view. The first bench made use of a redundant post from a past 'No exit' sign and seated two people at a time. This quickly proved to be too small and was lengthened with additional timber to become the bench seat now enjoyed by the public. The council has recently added a lime base around the seat for easy mowing.

Every fine day encourages adults, children and families to rest and enjoy the view while sitting on the seat that Bob built. Come visit the spot opposite

Oak Crescent and take time to admire the view and tranquility. It is even better now that the traffic and noise from the state highway has shifted to the new road.

Bob passed away 28th September and will be sadly missed.

Don Barrett and Pollard family.



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Ashhurst Senior Citizen's Association

The November meeting of the Ashhurst and Districts Senior Citizens was hosted by River Church who provided a lovely afternoon tea as well as a very interesting speaker. Apryl Cadman from the Manawatu Community Law Centre addressed the group on the topic of Powers of Attorney and their absolute necessity for anyone over the age of 18. Her talk was both engaging and informative. I think many members, including myself, were surprised at the importance of this document and the potential difficulties if one is not in place. Many thanks Apryl. If anyone has queries about Powers of Attorneys, you can contact the Manawatu Community Law Centre on 06 356 7974.

December is Christmas party time, so if you are not a member but are curious please come along and help celebrate this time of year. There is a

\$5 fee for guests which will go towards the entertainment provided—live music—and a generous afternoon tea. We are a friendly group who would love to see some new people from either Ashhurst or its surrounding districts.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 2.00 pm at the Village Valley Centre in Ashhurst. We re-meet in 2026 in February, which will be an outing somewhere interesting!

If you have any queries regarding the group or even transport, please phone either Trish (President) on 021 0277 3853 or Stephanie (Secretary) on 021 0259 9382.

Wishing you all a very merry festive season and look forward to seeing you in 2026.

Stephanie Madgwick—Secretary

Book Review: *Hooked Up*

Hooked Up by Fiona Sussman

Another novel in the ever-popular murder mystery genre - this is one with a delightful point of difference. If you've ever wondered just how those reality TV shows are made and what goes on behind the scenes you will find this fascinating in a very noir kind of way.

Set in Mangawhai and North Auckland, Detective Bandera and his assistant (maybe more) Hilary are

determined to solve a series of murders. All of which are seemingly related in some way to the reality dating show 'Hooked Up'.

The author has a way of "hooking" you in herself, as the mystery intensifies and the bodies add up. The crime seems to be the work of a deranged serial killer! Woven in amongst all the suspects, most of whom are either contestants in the TV

Continued on next page

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. 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

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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

greg@manawatucontracting.com

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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

J Wakeford

Hiwinui—022 319 0434

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

Book Review: *Hooked Up*

show or involved with production, are many lighthearted moments and shrewd observations of people's behaviour.

The author herself was a medical doctor and general practitioner, so we learn of different medical conditions and possible diagnoses of victims and

others involved in the murder investigations. All very interesting and this adds to the plausibility of the story.

A great read, not too heavy, with a standout backstory.

Robyn Dare

County Fayre Update

County Fayre hosted the Art Trail Manawatū during October. This exhibition showcased the work of local artists, including the children of Awahou School. The artist's work was in response to the theme of *Afternoon Tea in the Valley*, from the humble smoko to nostalgic kitchen scenes, gentle landscapes, and the warmth of friendship found in the Pohangina hills. Thank you to all the artists who contributed to this exhibition.

The weather was perfection for the day of the Pohangina Downhill Walk, which took place in November. Another very successful fundraising event for County Fayre, where every walker returning safe and exhausted from their six kilometre walk down through native bush and farmland back to County Fayre for lunch. Thank you to everyone who participated in the day, especially to all those who organized it, those who helped out on the day and those who came along to

venture on the walk. The day would not have happened without you.

If you have a small family gathering or special event coming up, and need somewhere to host it, have you considered County Fayre? We can accommodate groups of up to 40 people, and can cater for you if required. Drop in on a Sunday afternoon for a chat or contact us via countyfayre@inspire.net.nz.

The end of the year is fast approaching and is time for the volunteers to have a well-deserved break. County Fayre's last day of service is Sunday, 16th December 2025 and plan to reopen on Sunday, 14th January 2026, however we are working on upgrading the kitchen. Keep an eye on Facebook for any updates on the kitchen and our opening date for 2026.

See you at County Fayre.

Jo Morris-Kynoch—President

In the Garden

As we come into December we are officially into summer, the beginning of the driest part of the gardening year, and the beginning of summer harvesting.

In my garden I have started to pick raspberries, strawberries and red currants from established plants. Berries are a wonderful option for smaller gardens, and being perennials are a good investment, especially considering the price they are in the shops for these delicious treats. Raspberries are a particularly good

option as they will put up runners so one plant will produce several more, increasing your crop.

I also have lots of elderflowers on my elderberry trees (do not plant them if you do not want them forever). They can be eaten, but I prefer to leave them and harvest the berries—which are poisonous if eaten raw. They should be cooked before consumption. However, to ensure I get some, I will be bagging them once the fruit starts growing as the birds

Continued on next page



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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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In the Garden

inevitably get there before me. The same happens with cherries.

We are spoiled for choice when it comes to planting vegetables, if we have not already filled up our garden beds. The challenge coming up is balancing keeping the garden watered with the inevitable water restrictions which often come as we head into the hottest months with little rain.

Keep an eye on the trees planted along the verge. Many will appreciate

a drink, especially if there is a prolonged dry period.

Remember to plant for our pollinators as well. Don't forget natives like hebes are great for pollinators, especially our native bees. Putting water out for birds and insects is helpful as well but remember to wash the containers regularly to prevent disease. Include a few stones for the insects to stand on.

Llyvonne Barber

Summer Roothing Maintenance

The Palmerston North City Council is beginning its summer Road Maintenance Program. There is a priority list of roads that are planned to be resurfaced over the summer months.

The project begins with pre-seal repairs, which all of the designated roads will receive. Resealing will

depend on cost, so some resealing will be deferred. Some will only have part of the road resealed.

The following roads around Ashhurst were listed. Ashurst Domain carpark, Cambridge Avenue. Lincoln Street, Pahiatua Track, Raukawa Road, Saddle Road, Salisbury Street.

Kids Success at NZBJF Feilding Open

As coaches of the Ashhurst Martial Arts Club, we couldn't be prouder of our young team who competed at the NZBJF Feilding Open – Kids Tournament last weekend. Five of our students—Jaxon, Luna, Oscar, Braxton, and Van—represented our club with incredible heart, skill, and sportsmanship.

Between them, they brought home two gold medals and four silvers—an amazing result that reflects not only their effort on the day but also the commitment they've shown in training. More importantly, they supported each other, respected their opponents, and had a great time doing what they love.

Watching these kids grow in confidence, discipline, and camaraderie has been the most

rewarding part of coaching. The results are fantastic, but seeing their smiles and team spirit was what really made the day special.

A huge thank you to the parents and supporters who cheered them on—and congratulations again to Jaxon, Luna, Oscar, Braxton, and Van. You've made Ashhurst Martial Arts, and our community, very proud!

We're also excited to share that Ashhurst Martial Arts will be at the Ashhurst Christmas Parade and Market Day—so come along, say hi, and find out more about what we do. We'd love to see some familiar faces and meet new ones from our amazing community!

Ngā mihi (kind regards)

**Brogan and Sarah Hancock—
Ashhurst Martial Arts Club**

Ashhurst Library

Hi everyone, it's Ross here. Thank you all for an incredibly enjoyable 2025. The support and patronage we

have received has been incredible and Jill and I have been so grateful.

Once again, I must pay tribute to Jill's

Anglican Parish of Pohangina St Mary Magdalene's Church, Ashhurst

8.00 am 7th December and 1st February—No 8.00 am service in January

10.00 am every Sunday

10.00 am 25th December, Christmas Day Service

St Bartholomew's Church, Komako

10.00 am 14th December.

7.00 pm Christmas Eve

Wednesday, 24th December

No Services in January 2026.

Contact the Parish office for further information: Phone 326 8543 or

Email: info@parishofpohangina.co.nz

Web: www.parishofpohangina.co.nz

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

The Parish Office will be closed from 24th December 2025, re-opening 6th January 2026.

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.

Meditation Class

Overcoming Stress and Anxiety. Please note that the final class for 2025 will be held on 11 December 10.00 am – 11.00 am. Classes will start again on 12th February 2026. 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.



Come and see the team at Kauri Physio for all your ACC and non ACC injuries

If you are unsure please email and we will advise whether physio is the right choice for you.

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Tamsin.mafi@kaurihealthcare.nz

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Kids 'n Motion

Now in its 23rd 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

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



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Ashhurst Library

work here, and we are all missing her greatly while she has been seconded into town. She will be coming back, and we look forward to that day.

All the best for the summer holidays and Merry Christmas.

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 provided, but if you want to bring along some home baking, you are very welcome.

Our last session for 2025 is Friday, 5th December.

Summer Reading 2025-26

Congratulations to everyone that is registered for our summer reading programme over December – January. It is a great programme promoting reading encouragement and enjoyment and we are very much

looking forward to talking with all the kids and taking part in fun activities.

Ashhurst Mighty Kids – Christmas Party

Wednesday, 3rd December at 10.30am

Ashhurst Mighty Kids is our preschool programme of stories, songs and crafts. We have one more session for 2025 and it's our Christmas party.

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".

Christmas and New Year's Hours

The Ashhurst Library will close for the Christmas/New Year's break on Wednesday, 24th December at 12.00 midday. We will reopen for 2025 on Monday, 5th January at 2.00 pm.

Ross Meads—Ashhurst Librarian

Ashhurst Rainfall

Hi. I'm Phil Pirie, the new provider of the rainfall records. We have lived in Hiwinui next to Hiwinui School for 30 years and I have been recording the rainfall for over 20 years. The rain gauge is five kilometres in a straight line from the centre of Ashhurst and on the top of the ridge so the readings will be different to the previous location. Also the rainfall can vary greatly within Hiwinui due to the wind. Our average rainfall is 960mm per year and for this year we will be well below this as I don't expect there to be 300mm of rain in the next two months. Looking forward to continuing to provide the rainfall records to the Ashhurst, Pohangina and Hiwinui communities.

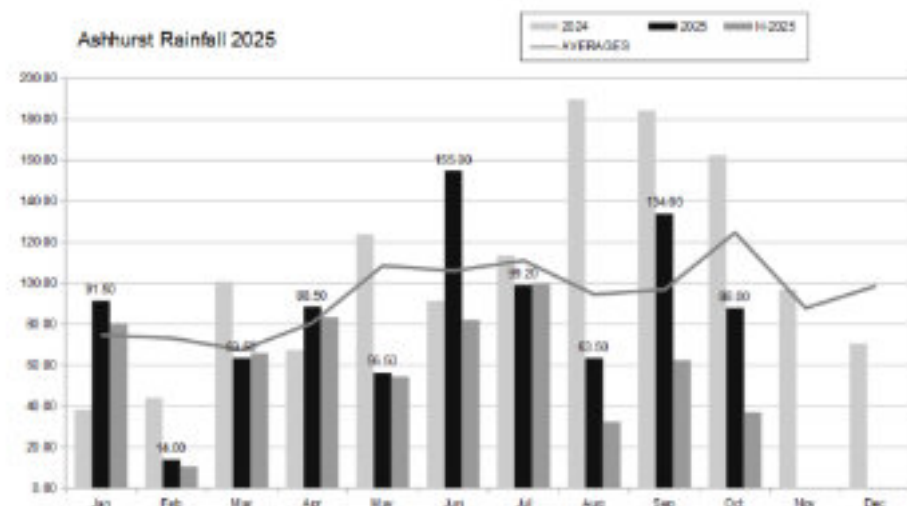
88 mm of rain fell in October 2025, below the monthly long-term average of 124.4 mm.

Rain was recorded on 24 days, with the highest one-day rainfall of 13 mm on the 13th of October.

The total annual rainfall for the period from 1st of January to the 31st October is now 853.2 mm, which is below the long-term average for this period of 935.6 mm. The total rainfall for this period according to Phil's records is 660mm.

Phil Pirie

Editor's note: We have included this year's data from Phil records to compare with the current year's data provided by our former rain data provider Quang Mai. This is to give a general idea of the difference between the locations (although rain will be different between different locations even within Ashhurst)



Kia ora!

Ashhurst has felt full of life over the past month, and it was wonderful to see so many of you at the Christmas Parade, market and community celebrations. That festive spirit carried through to our events in Te Marae o Hine - The Square as well. Looking ahead, New Year's and Waitangi Day are just around the corner, with our international Festival of Cultures and Esplanade Day also confirmed for early next year. You'll find all the event details on the Council website if you're planning your summer outings.

That same sense of community was on show at the Ashhurst Foodbank Drive on 22 November. A huge thank you to the Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade, Ashhurst-Pohangina Lions, Ashhurst Community Trust and Ashhurst Property Brokers. Your efforts are a real reflection of the strength of community within Ashhurst.

Turning to more council based matters, we also heard from many of you during our community sessions of the recent Ring Road planning. This project will play a big role in the city's future transport network, and your community, and feedback is essential as we build the business case and refine the preferred route. The project team is now working through everything that was shared, and we'll look to provide another update in early 2026.

On the ground, work on Wyndham Street continues to move along well. Higgins will take a short pause over Christmas and New Year, with crews returning in January. Residents in the construction area will continue to receive updates as the project progresses.

With the Manawatu-Tararua, Te Ahu a Turanga Highway now open, NZTA has provided some funding connected to the handover of roads used as detours during construction. We're now finalising the details and timings of when we will be able to get this work completed. We'll make sure any roads affected will receive a letter drop ahead of works, and let everyone else know through our website and Infrastructure Update which is on Facebook each Friday.

At the Ashhurst Water Treatment

Plant, the new filtration system is performing well. Before we introduce this water to homes and businesses, we'll be flushing pipes across the network to move any remaining minerals. We'll share timings with you via letter once these are confirmed.

A reminder that, as with last year, there will be no free kerbside Christmas tree collection. You can still drop real trees at the Awapuni Resource Recovery Centre free of charge from Boxing Day through to the end of January.

A big well done to the children taking part in the Ashhurst Summer Reading Programme—enjoy your books over the holidays. The Ashhurst Library team put in a huge effort each year to support young readers, and it's great to see such strong participation. Speaking of summer reading, the latest Palmy Proud magazine is now out for you to read. This edition includes a feature on a couple of well-loved Ashhurst locations—including the Domain as one of the city's best easy walks. Grab a copy, and if the weather cooperates, you might even enjoy it at the new parklet outside Village Coffee & Co. The parklet is part of Council's placemaking programme to encourage people to sit outside and catch up. It's now the tenth in the wider city area.

And lastly, if you want to stay up to date over the break, make sure you're subscribed to our email newsletter Palmy Matters. With thousands already signed up, it's becoming a helpful way to follow infrastructure updates, consultations, Council decisions and much more. You can sign up on our website www.pncc.govt.nz/palmymatters

You won't hear from me here again until February, so here's wishing you all a safe and relaxing holiday season. Enjoy the sunshine, time with whānau and friends, and remember we're here if you need anything over summer. Give us a call, email, a facebook message, visit us, or fill in the 'contact us' page on our website. We're here and happy to help.

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 |

clmnz.co.nz/splashhurst

ASHHURST RUBBISH + RECYCLING

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

| Recycling Bin | Glass Crate |
|---------------|-------------|
| 2 Dec | 9 Dec |
| 16 Dec | 23 Dec |
| 30 Dec | 6 Jan |
| 13 Jan | 20 Jan |
| 27 Jan | |

MULGRAVE ST TRANSFER STATION

Recycling, green waste and general rubbish disposal.

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

*no changes to Ashhurst collections or transfer station this holiday period

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.

PALMY
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CITY

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Contacts

Editor: Llyvonne Barber

Phone: 022 051 6315

ashhurst.voice@gmail.com

PO Box 38, Ashhurst

Advertising: Grey Smith

Phone: 326 8075; 021 175 1726

rgcsmith@inspire.net.nz

Proof-reader: Vivienne Dalgleish

Letters to the Editor

Letters under 200 words are preferred.

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

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

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

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 Tuesday, 20th January 2026.

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

Ashhurst Bowling Club

So much is happening over the next couple of months but there is still space for anyone to come along and have a go at bowling. Club Day is every Thursday—just turn up about 1.00 pm and there will be members there to help you out. Just wear flat soled shoes and you will be good to go.

3rd December is the Julia Wallace 2x4x2 Pairs tournament. As always a full green and it will be a great day.

The Club Championship Fours are to be played on the weekend of the 6th and 7th.

Club Christmas barbecue is on the 14th starting at 1.00 pm. This is always a fun afternoon and maybe the man in red will be there??

On the 27th the Ashhurst Triples is to be played. We are so fortunate to have this sponsored by both Ashhurst AEC and Village Valley Automotive.

January is also very busy with Year 1 and 2 Championships and this is a great experience for our fledgling bowlers.

On the 21st we have the Nissan Triples and this is always a hugely successful tournament—as they all are to be fair.

Then on the 24th and 25th we have the Championship Singles and the Tararua Quad Challenge begins.

February 7th and 8th is the Property Brokers Fours Tournament. This is a huge tournament and draws bowlers from near and far. It is two days of highly competitive play, lots of camaraderie and a great social event.

We thank all our sponsors so very much. Without them these tournaments could not happen as they do. We hope the players and spectators think of them when a need arises and then use

their services.

Elizabeth Walker and Skogs are continuing but have a short break in the second half of December until January 20th. Club Day carries on as long as players turn up on Thursday. Club Championships have started and there have been some great results and some excellent games.

The Mens Year 1—5 Singles Championship was won by Kevin Wood with Tony Rogers runner up.

The Womens Triples was won by Jen, Donna and Lorraine with Wendy, Lee and Jacqui runners up.

The Mens Triples was won by Tony, Wayne and Dave with Moggy, Eddie and Arnie as runners up.

The Senior Mens Pairs was won by Tony and Wayne and the Womens by Jen and Margie.

Huge congratulations to all winners and to all who played in any of these Championships.

There are lots of things to report on, including our wonderful Ladies Gala: we thank our major sponsor the Womens Section of the R.S.A. So many other Ashhurst Businesses contributed prizes or vouchers and we thank everyone hugely. The Mad Butcher in Palmerston North always gives us vouchers for prizes and our club members do a stunning job on the day and also with contributions.

More reporting in February and so just wishing everyone a safe and happy festive season. It is a time when we can all be extra aware of others who may not have family near and who would appreciate an extra smile at least. A time of happiness for all I hope.

Adrianne Harding—Secretary.





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