



Ashhurst Village Voice

Informing the communities of Ashhurst & Pohangina

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Established 1997

Lance: Crafting Heritage One Strand at a Time

In a quiet studio in Ashhurst, surrounded by drying hūe (gourds) and within arm's reach of his homegrown harakeke, you'll find Lance Fitness. A self-taught flax weaver and artist, Lance couples a humble approach with a monumental work ethic, spending thousands of hours perfecting a craft that bridges traditional artistry and practical design. With his faithful dog, Tui, by his side, this is his happy place.

Lance's work—particularly his intricate tukutuku (panels) and hīnaki (eel traps)—is a masterclass in patience and precision. An engineering background gives him a unique edge, allowing him to custom-build precise frames tailored to his complex designs. But the soul of his work comes from a deeper place. Guided by an avid love of reading and the invaluable knowledge shared by local kuia, whom he has huge respect for, Lance ensures every piece is culturally genuine and structurally correct. He is a



Lance's artwork has been recognised over the years with several awards, the most recent being an Honourable Mention from The Feilding and District Art Society.

Currently, Lance is weaving a set of hīnaki, with each unique piece requiring well over 300 hours of meticulous labor. His stunning tukutuku panels do more than catch the eye; they tell stories, often anchoring local history into the weave. He will spend hours designing the pattern, changing as

needed until he is happy, and only then will he begin crafting. Every piece he has designed, and made, is completed with love, and the knowledge it will last forever.

For Lance, the joy is in the doing and the giving. Generous to a fault, he weaves with several local groups, passionate about learning as well as sharing his knowledge, so the art form thrives for generations to come. He's quick to tell you that New Zealand is a great place to live, and Ashhurst is the ultimate friendly village. When he isn't in the studio, you'll likely spot Lance and Tui at The Local Backyard, enjoying a well-earned coffee for him, and a sausage for his loyal companion.



perfectionist in the truest sense, and has been known to travel 400 kilometres just to source a specific flax variety. His tools are usually close by, should opportunities arise unexpectedly.

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**Deadline for August
Issue—Monday, 20th
July 2026**

Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade

Kia Ora Ashhurst and Pohangina,

The annual SkyTower challenge has been and gone and once again the Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade has punched well above its weight. The results are:

First Place: the team secured the top spot in the two – five team member category.

Supreme Fundraising Brigade: this looks at the average raised per person, and Ashhurst averaged a massive \$8,956.50 each—which was over \$2,000 more than the next closest team. So out of over 660 teams, Ashhurst was #1!

Individual Fundraising Standouts: Out of 1,200 entrants, Grant finished an

incredible 6th in total fundraising with \$11,793 and Stu came in at a brilliant 17th bring in \$6,120.

The overall fundraising from all the teams, for Blood Cancer New Zealand, was over \$2.4 million. This was another record smashed.

The Team couldn't have done this without the immense support of Ashhurst and the surrounding community so a big thank you to you all for donating during this time of financial uncertainty. We're probably going to need Noel to build the brigade a new trophy cabinet!

Cheers,

**Matt Clark—Secretary
Senior Firefighter**

Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.

You may have recently seen stories in the national media highlighting how Returned and Services' Associations (R.S.A.s) across New Zealand step up to look after our veterans. While that national picture is vital, the real impact is happening right here on our doorstep.

At the Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A., a thriving, lively social culture is directly transforming into essential support for those who served. In fact, every time a local community member joins the club, buys a raffle ticket, or catches up with friends at the bar, they are contributing to a rapidly expanding welfare framework.

Over the last couple of years, local contributions to our welfare fund have experienced massive growth, driven heavily by three key pillars:

The Three Pillars of Our Welfare Growth

1. The Power of the Welfare Raffle

The club's Welfare Raffle has become a cornerstone of local support. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our regulars and guests, ticket sales have doubled over the last couple of years. This means the direct income generated has also doubled, giving our local support advisors and Welfare Trust twice the resources to help veterans with medical costs, practical assistance, and advocacy when they need it most.

2. A Growing Membership, A Growing Fund

The social side of the Ashhurst R.S.A. is booming, bringing a massive benefit to our veterans. The club operates on a community-first model where membership

Continued on next page



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Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.

growth directly feeds the welfare fund. For every member on the books, the club passes on a dedicated financial contribution based on the membership total. As more locals join to enjoy our safe, friendly environment, the foundational funding for veteran care naturally scales up.

3. The Poppy Day Appeal

Beyond weekly social events, the community's generosity shone brightly during the annual Poppy Day street appeal. This year, the people of Ashhurst and surrounding areas raised an incredible \$2,500! Every cent of this street collection is legally protected to ensure it goes directly into veteran welfare initiatives, providing an invaluable boost to our local funding.

The True Impact: What happens at the R.S.A. is a perfect cycle of community support. A lively social club creates a robust financial engine, ensuring our local veterans and their whānau (families) are never left behind. Whether you come in for a casual drink, play a game of darts, or sign up as a member, you aren't just supporting a local venue—you are actively funding a lifeline for Ashhurst's service personnel.

Join Us and Unlock Rewards

Membership is open to any community

RECAP Update

After a flurry of workshops and events in June, we're having a nice quiet month in July knowing that most would prefer to be in front of the fire/heater at home (including us!)

Introduction to Chooks

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

Are You Prepared?

On Saturday, 22nd August, 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

member of good character. Being a member of the Ashhurst R.S.A. not only gets you discounts for local services, but it also opens up a connection to over 300 other clubs nationwide through our Clubs NZ membership. As a non-profit organisation, Clubs NZ grants members access to a wide range of discounted products and services via the Clubs NZ Member Market.

What's On: Mark Your Calendars!

Come on down, enjoy the atmosphere, and support a great cause at our upcoming events:

Bingo—Every Tuesday, 7.00 pm.

Open Mic Afternoon—Sunday, 21st June, 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm.

Sports Tipping Prize Giving—Sunday, 28th June, 3.00 pm.

Rock n Roll Night—Saturday, 25th July.

Super Bingo (Extra Prizes)—Tuesday, 28th July, 7.00 pm.

The Trivia Quiz—Sunday, 16th August at 2.00 pm.

Check out our website for further information on memberships and events. We look forward to seeing you there!

Peter Knight—President

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

This will be our third time presenting this material, as in both previous years these workshops have been full. This year's content will be in two parts over one day. Covering both the legal aspects, and the dying process/after death/body care. RECAP are introducing a new service at this workshop as we received a grant to purchase a set of manaaki mats and a portable freezer to provide to the community. You can learn more at www.manaakimats.org.

Ngā mihi to Suzanne Chelius and Catholic Charities for this important mahi.

Continued on next page

JustOnePlease

Super kia ora. The Justoneplease item for the Safe House for July 2026 is **Bodywash**.

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.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

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.

**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 Adrianne on 027
2836317.

RECAP Update

We also have seed saving and fruit tree
guilds penciled in for spring. More details
to come. To be notified about our
upcoming workshops, seminars and events
you can sign up to our monthly newsletter
by emailing info@recap.org.nz.

Volunteers

It's National Volunteer Week as I write
this, so we'd like to give a huge shout out
to the RECAP volunteers who run our
services and maintain our projects.

There were a total of 2147.75 volunteer
hours in the 2025-26 financial year (we
estimate this is actually higher as
volunteers generally under-report their
hours).

This is how those hours were spent:

Green spaces (library garden, the māra
rongoā next to Ashhurst Health Care, our
private production garden, Olsson
Community Orchard and caring for
varied fruit trees in other public
reserves): 247.5 hours

McCrae's Bush: 738.5 hours

Governance, meetings and
administration: 208.5 hours

Events (workshops e.t.c): 50.5 hours

The Seed Library: 18 hours

Community Kai: 868 hours

Miscellaneous: 16.75 hours

A HUGE ngā mihi to:

The RECAP Board for 2025-26: Harvey
Jones (Chairperson), Anne van-Brunt
(Secretary), Suzanne Chelius (Deputy
Chairperson), Ellen Wansbrough, Kira Paul,
Trish Nugent and Helen King.

Our green spaces team: Julie Doyle, Jill
Stewart, Lucille Floyd, Kaye Christiansen,
Susan Oliver, Sue Pegrume, Margie Rogers,
Bruce Roberts, Phillip Prujean and
Katherine Gibbs.

Our Community Kai team: Kaye Isles,
Jane Dover, Gwendy Knight, Angela Mills,
Helen Williams, Marilyn Kearns, Jo Smith,
Dianne Bennett; and James Etuale and the
volunteers from Mission for Men.

All of the casual volunteers (of varied
ages) who have lent a hand at varied
working bees.

Thank you all so much for your
commitment and dedication to making our
community a wonderful place to be.

Chris Love—Coordinator

Ashhurst Senior Citizen Association

We are still having new members
and/or guests join our social meeting
each month which is wonderful to see.
You do not have to be a senior to
attend the monthly social meetings 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 are welcome from both

Ashhurst and the surrounding districts,
including Pohangina, so please feel
welcome regardless of where you live.

The club has been running for over
50 years now and we will in fact be
celebrating our 52nd birthday on 2nd
July starting at 2.00 pm, with
entertainment, afternoon tea, raffle
prizes and items for sale. You may
meet some new people or catch up

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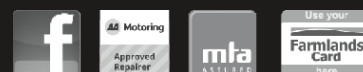
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Ashhurst Senior Citizen Association

with some friends or familiar faces!

Our A.G.M. was held at the June meeting and we would like to say a huge thank you to outgoing committee members Anne and Marion, and welcome Marleen to the committee.

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 future, or as you help us celebrate our birthday in July.

Stephanie Madgwick—Secretary

Community Comment

Ashhurst can celebrate the one year anniversary of the opening of the new highway over the hill, named Te Ahu a Turanga. It formally opened in June 2025 and immediately removed over 7000 vehicles per day from our suburban streets. One year on, and the highway's native plants and landscaping have helped heal the scars of road making machinery. The highway and Gorge car park is now surrounded by established native plants and busy with walkers and cyclists enjoying the various tracks and scenery. The New Zealand Transport Agency and the highway's construction contractors are proud to report that there have been no pot holes to repair on this new road.

One of the resource conditions of the new highway included a requirement for the shared path to extend over the river to the Cambridge Avenue/Napier Road intersection. This requires a safe bridge crossing of the Manawatu River. The existing road bridge is too narrow for safe use by cyclists and pedestrians, especially with the speed limit returning to 100kph. A clip-on structure was ruled out due to geotechnical issues of the ground supporting bridge piers. A proposed new single span shared path bridge was put on hold due to an estimated cost of over \$37

million.

The New Zealand Transport Agency has reported a new bridge to finalise the shared pathway requirements should be complete by the end of 2027. While tender details and detailed planning are yet to be completed, this new bridge is proposed to sit on seven piers, three of which would be situated in the river. The bridge will be located just downstream from the road bridge, with associated underpasses to link to the shared paths and emerge beside the Ashhurst Domain.

The City Council's proposal for a Manawatu regional freight ring road has taken another step forward by reporting a shorter list of options at each of the key traffic choke points around the city. Four options remain of the original seven presented in consultation documents for Ashhurst's connection to the freight hub near Bunnythorpe. The zig-zag route using Stoney Creek Road and Roberts Line remain, as do three routes using the Ashhurst-Bunnythorpe Road. The existing route using the humpback bridge, the roundabout and Hillary Crescent would maintain a heavy traffic presence in residential areas. The other options direct traffic out of the village, but will require investment in costly new road construction and rail/road crossings. Further investigations of cost will proceed for this limited set of options in order to determine a preferred route.

The old jockey rooms, which were moved and became part of Cafe Domain, are destined for a new life. The Council has opened consultation on what to do with the building which is falling into disrepair. Submissions close 6th July



Photos: Te Ahu a Turanga settles into native surroundings

Continued on next page

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Cost: \$10 per class.

Enquiries: Maria—phone 329 4166

Ashhurst Budgeting Service

Thursday 9.30am-1.00pm.

Operating from St Mary Magdalene Anglican Church, 67 Cambridge Street, Ashhurst.

For Appointments contact: Manawatu 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

on options for relocating or restoring the item of local history.

Arborists have made a tidy job of pruning the cherry trees on the verge of Winchester Street. They provide colour and beauty during blossom and leaf fall, but low branches have been impeding

pedestrian traffic and parked vehicles. Broken branches and questionable pruning attempts by residents prompted professionals to be called in to lift the canopy and enhance our street's usability and appearance.

Harvey Jones

Wild Nature School

Happy Solstice to everyone, we hope you are still getting outside and enjoying the beautiful winter light.

We celebrated Solstice by hand dipping beeswax candles and creating a nature mandala together. Having water back in the creek also means lots of MUD play and exploration.

We have had our annual day planting at the wetland in Ashhurst Domain—harakeke, and other natives. We had a great day of perseverance, digging, working with Jack, a fire going to cook our lunch and damper as usual and exploring the wetlands.

We are about to celebrate our third birthday—three years of nature connection and education, all here in Ashhurst. Seeing the growing resilience in tamariki, the confidence, new skills and contentment that then flows back to regular school the other four days a week is an absolute highlight for us.

A day in nature each week really can have a huge and positive effect on all of us, not just the amazing tamariki that share our days.

www.wildnatureschool.nz

Jane Evans

Ashhurst Business Group

A few of us local business people recently had a get together 'paint a pot' evening at Suzanne McAllen Pottery studio. What a fantastic opportunity to catch up, be creative and support one of our local business people! You may have been past her studio in Oxford Street and seen the fabulous array of her pottery for sale under the verandah, or seen her stall at the weekend markets. If you're looking for a fun idea to get a few friends together and enjoy an evening book a day and time in with Suzanne—she has a huge selection of plates, mugs, dishes and bowls that you can paint or stencil—take a platter and some snacks and create something unique! It was such a lot of fun, we will be booking in for another evening soon.

Suzanne McAllen is also a regular at the Ashhurst Village Market which has become

a fortnightly event for Ashhurst at the Village Valley Centre. This is such a great initiative and fantastic to have a regular village market back here!

The market has been set up by Josh Whitta who is passionate about encouraging people to shop local and support our Ashhurst businesses. He is passionate about fresh food and healthy produce so the market has everything from local growers, food trucks, stallholders, music and entertainment. It's a fresh new community market in the heart of Ashhurst and runs fortnightly on Saturdays, 8.00 am - 1.00pm—make sure you head down there and check it out—and support the Facebook page Ashhurst Village Market. Great work Josh, we all appreciate how much effort this takes, thank you!

Emma Tankersley

County Fayre Update

If you love Coffee and Desserts, then book your ticket for the 'Coffee and Dessert' evening being held at County Fayre, Pohangina, on Saturday, 8th August 2026 from 7.00 pm. There will be an array of delicious desserts, live entertainment by

Shellie Hanley and raffles tickets for sale. Tickets cost \$30.00 and numbers are limited, don't delay, contact us at countyfayre@inspire.net.nz.

Planning for our annual fundraising event, the Pohangina Downhill Walk is starting to



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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

County Fayre Update

get underway. This year marks '25 Years' of our event so **save the date**—Saturday, 14th November, 2026. This is an enjoyable family friendly event that takes in the vast views of the Ruahine Ranges from the top of Range Road and leads you on an easy walk down the Branch Road Walkway and at the conclusion, lunch at County Fayre. Prices remain the same as the past three years:

Adults \$30

Adults x 4 \$100

Children \$15 (5 to 15yr)

Family \$100 (2 Adults and 4 Children), under 5's free.

We are excited to have two new artists display and sell their wares at County Fayre. Shellie Hanley, a local Ashhurst artist whose work is based on the huia bird, is selling Greeting Cards and Tote Bags. Lyn Pollock, a Feilding artist is selling quirky one-off pottery images and fridge magnets. Come and take a look, all these items would make wonderful gifts.

The back garden at County Fayre is undergoing a remodel with new barbecue

tables secured on concrete slabs, repairs and maintenance carried out to a side fence and a new gate installed. Thanks James McGrath, for your skills to complete this work. We would also have liked replace the garden edging, unfortunately, our project funds won't stretch that far so the garden edging will be carried out at a later date. If you have any railway sleepers, old totara posts or anything suitable to use as garden edging that you no longer want or need, County Fayre would happily take these off your hands.

Need somewhere to host a small family gathering or special event, consider County Fayre. We can accommodate groups of up to 40 people, and cater for you if required. Drop in on a Sunday afternoon for a chat or contact us.

To make contact write to us at countyfayre@inspire.net.nz or send a message via our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/CountyFayre/>.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Jo Morris-Kynoch—President

New Priest in Charge Parish of Pohangina

Jono MacFarlane was installed in May as Priest in Charge in the Parish of Pohangina. We caught up with him and found out he holds a Guinness World Record.

It's not every day a new Priest in Charge also brings a Guinness World Record with him. "An interesting fact is that I used to be New Zealand's Strongest Man, and still hold the Guinness World Record for the Longest Throw of a Person," he says.

"I'm a millennial only-child who is a father

of five kids, married to the wonderful Lauren, who I met over in America."

Jono says that coming to the Pohangina Parish feels like stepping back into something familiar. "I grew up as a townie but genuinely love being around sheep and beef farming in the Manawatu, and some of our fondest memories were on our lifestyle block in the Pohangina Valley."

Jono's path into ordained ministry has taken some turns. "I came to faith in Christ

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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| | | ✓ RTU 45 Min Concrete Bags 20kg |

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greg@manawatucontracting.com

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Licensed Early Childhood Education Provider. Over 50 years in your community. Spaces now available for children 0-6 years.

Call 326 9270 or email ashhurst@playcentre.org.nz or drop in for a free visit and a cuppa. Monday 10.30 am-2.30pm

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

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

New Priest in Charge Parish of Pohangina

at 14 in the Anglican Church, then the next year moved to Auckland and promptly got baptised in a Baptist Church, went to Carey Baptist College, and became a pastor in a Baptist Church."

What followed was a mix of planning and surprise: "Lauren and I then moved to Lower Hutt with plans to church plant, but ended up being the senior minister in an independent Reformed Church in Palmerston North for almost a decade."

Those years grounded his focus. "There I developed a real heart for gospel ministry in regional and rural New Zealand, and had numerous frank reckonings with the realities of church revitalisation and planting in independent circles."

At the same time, something was shifting in the background. "Having used Anglican liturgy extensively already, I was becoming a convictional Anglican, and returned to the Anglican Church after 23 years, with the goal of pursuing ordination."

That return was influenced by the wider life of the Church as well. "A key motivator for me was watching Archbishop Philip Richardson at the

Royal Commission of Inquiry on Abuse in Care," he says. "And so it was a joy to be ordained deacon and priest by him as I served the Parish of Katikati in the Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki."

As he steps into his new role in Pohangina, Jono keeps his focus simple and practical. "My sense is that Anglicans in New Zealand need to be known for preaching the scriptures well to head, heart, and hand; graciously magnifying the goodness, beauty, and truth of Christ."

He's noticing a wider appetite for that depth. "It is constantly impressed upon me that there is a real hunger for the word to move powerfully, and that needs to be met with renewed conviction, study, and prayer."

For Jono, taking up the role in Pohangina is less about starting from scratch and more about continuing a story—returning to a place that already holds meaning for his family, and bringing with him a mix of experience shaped across different churches, communities, and seasons of life.

Neill Smart—Vicar's Warden



Photo: Rev Jonathan Macfarlane (seated) and Bishop Justin Duckworth

Stoat Trapping Update

The September 2025 issue of the Village Voice carried an article summarising the results of our stoat trapping program in the Manawātū Gorge during 2024-25. This update gives the results of trapping during the 2025-26 year.

The graph below shows the total number of pests caught each month. In April, we

caught a whopping 36 pests, which is nearly three times the monthly average for the year of 13. To some extent, this reflects the pattern of the previous year when high numbers were caught in the late summer/autumn period.

The graph shows no pests caught in July 2025 but this was because in the autumn of 2025 we'd briefly changed from monthly to six weekly trapping intervals after very low numbers of pests were caught in late 2024 and early 2025. From August onwards, the traps were again checked monthly. Over the past seven years, we've trapped a total of 2,677 pests in the Gorge.

Continued on next page



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Stoat Trapping Update

Although it is referred to as the 'Stoat Trapping' program, perhaps it should be called the 'Rat Trapping' program because rats continue to be by far the most numerous pest caught. During the past year we trapped a total of 152 pests, comprising:

- 123 rats
- 11 Stoats
- 18 other miscellaneous pests

We have a total of 109 traps spread over about 11km of the Manawatū Gorge tramping track that are checked on a monthly basis. Our team of twelve wonderful volunteers put in the hard mahi, helping to build sustainability of the fauna and flora in the Gorge Reserve. We're very grateful to the team and also for the support from Department of Conservation.

Sue Godbaz.

Book Review

one move one mouse one marriage by Beth Weir

Local author Beth has come up with an intriguing debut novel based on protagonist Jo Crawford's experience of moving to a new city and retiring at the same time.

Moving house interstate from North Carolina to Seattle for her husband Lee's work opportunity presents many challenges for Jo, who is also in the middle of her own mid-life crisis.

Previously a teacher and now jobless, Jo does not relish the thought of loneliness and isolation in a place where she knows no-one. While taking a long walk to contemplate her surroundings. Jo trips and badly sprains her ankle which means a moon boot and a curtailing of any activity

for six weeks. To add to the misery, Lee is often away on work business or is he? Suspicions are aroused about what he may be up to while away.

Things start to look up when she reconnects with old friend Heather. She finds a fascinating old book shop and makes a new friend in Crandell, the owner. A special garden plays a big part in Jo's recuperation and 'the mouse' has a big role in her return to happiness.

The author's style of writing is very witty and carefully observant in her insight into the character's behaviour, it certainly held my interest as a reader right to the end. Funny and clever, it's an enjoyable read that just romps along.

Robyn Dare

Darts Players Shine at Championships

Members of the Ashhurst R.S.A. Darts Adjunct enjoyed an outstanding weekend of competition at the West Coast North Island Darts Championships, held at Club Manawatū in Palmerston North from 12th – 14th June 2026.

Competing against some of the region's best players, Ashhurst R.S.A. members produced an impressive set of results across multiple divisions:

Ladies Singles

Mel Keegan – 5th Equal
Tracey Keegan – 5th Equal
Kelly Casey – 5th Equal

Men's Singles

Callum McManus – 2nd
Jayden Green – 3rd Equal
Rangi Wolland – 5th Equal

Men's Singles Plate

Harley Smith – 1st

Shane Baker – 2nd

Ladies Pairs Plate

Kelly Casey and Maxine Burnskey – 2nd
Tracey Keegan and Mel Keegan – 3rd Equal

Men's Pairs

Rangi Wolland and Callum McManus – 2nd
Egypt Tangitutu and Kingston Tangitutu – 3rd Equal

Youth Boys Singles

Jayden Green – 2nd

Junior Boys Singles

Kingston Tangitutu – 3rd

Special Awards

Ladies Highest Finish – Mel Keegan
Men's Most 180s – Jayden Green
Most Club 180s – Ashhurst R.S.A.
Champion Club (Highest Aggregate Points) – Ashhurst R.S.A.

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

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 Sava

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

Darts Players Shine at Championships

The championships also served as a selection announcement for the West Coast representative teams. Congratulations to the following Ashhurst R.S.A. players who earned regional honours:

Callum McManus – Men's A Team
Jayden Green – Men's A Team
Harley Smith – Men's B Team
Shane Baker – Men's B Team

Kelly Casey – Ladies Team

Congratulations to all players on their excellent performances and for representing Ashhurst R.S.A. with distinction.

Anyone interested in learning about the game or joining in the darts action, you are welcome to come to the R.S.A. on a Friday Night from 6.30 pm onward.

Ashhurst School

Our school community is buzzing this week following an extraordinary achievement on Friday, 12th June. Our Ashhurst School NFL Flag team took on the country's best at the NFL Flag Nationals in Wellington—and came away with the national title!

The team put on a masterclass in teamwork, strategy, and sheer determination. We are incredibly proud of how they represented Ashhurst School on the national stage, showcasing not only great sporting talent but also fantastic sportsmanship. A special mention to Toby Law for being named the tournament's best offensive player. This is a huge achievement!

A huge thank you to the coaches, staff, and wonderful whānau who supported the team on this journey. Congratulations, team, you've written a proud new chapter in Ashhurst School's sporting history!

Jumping June

This term, our school is excited to be taking part in Jumping June, a fun nationwide skipping challenge supporting the Heart Foundation.

Jumping June is all about getting active, building confidence, and encouraging students to give things a go while helping support heart health across New Zealand.

Over the next few weeks, students can create their own online fundraising profile through our school's official Jumping June event page with support from family or whānau. Our school's event page is <https://www.jumpingjune.org.nz/event/ashhurst-school>—Password: Ashhurst.

NZSO Schools' Concert

On Tuesday, June 9th 2026, a group of select Year 4-Year 8 students from Ashhurst School traveled to the Regent on Broadway in Palmerston North for the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra's highly anticipated Petrushka Schools' Concert. The event was attended by a thousand students from schools across the Manawātū. Prior to this day, members of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra conducted a workshop at Ashhurst school with Chris Lam Sam, their Music Education Animateur.

For a whole hour of the concert, the audience experienced Igor Stravinsky's famous piece, Petrushka. The concert was a feast of engaging storytelling, soaring music and surprises. The absolute highlight of the show was hearing the students' voices blend with the sound of a world-class symphony orchestra during the interactive singing segment.

Thank you to Whaea Racquel, Pā James, and Whaea Pip for accompanying Ashhurst School students in this unforgettable introduction to a symphony.



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Kia ora Ashhurst!

As we cross the mid-year threshold, we also start a new financial year. Thanks to everyone who had their say on Palmerston North City Council's Annual Budget – we received significantly more feedback than usual this year.

Like many households and businesses, we continue to face rising costs. We have worked hard to find savings and efficiencies while still delivering the services and infrastructure our community relies on.

Following consultation and further review, we were able to reduce the overall rates increase to 3.9%, down from the 4.9% proposed during consultation and well below the 8.5% forecast in our Long-Term Plan. At the same time, we've increased investment in footpath renewals and road safety improvements.

As part of setting the city's budget, we review fees for services where users, rather than all ratepayers, cover the cost. Some fees will increase from 1 July to reflect rising costs in those services. This includes changes to swimming pool entry, although under-fives will continue to swim free with a caregiver.

Another significant conversation has just wrapped up – community feedback on possible changes to local government structures. The Government has asked councils to explore future arrangements, including potential mergers, amalgamations, shared services and boundary changes. Your feedback will help inform discussions with neighbouring councils and the decisions your Elected Members will need to make in the coming months.

Closer to home, many Ashhurst residents will be pleased to see the upgraded Lincoln Park public toilets back open. These facilities are well used by sports clubs, visitors and local families, and the refurbishment will ensure they continue serving the community well into the future. We're also inviting expressions of interest from people who may be willing to breathe new life into the former jockey clubrooms building within the Ashhurst Domain.

If you have school-aged children, keeping kids busy during the July holidays will be on your mind. Splashhurst remains a fantastic facility right on your doorstep, or take a trip to the Lido or the Freyberg Community Pool. Wrap some education into your outing at Te Manawa, the Ashhurst Library, our Central Library, or one of our

other community libraries. If the weather plays ball, use the playgrounds map on our website to plan an adventure, or print out a Passport to Play to guide an activity. Beat the cabin fever by exploring one of the many walking tracks in and around Palmy – there's something for all abilities.

As Term 3 starts (20 July), new variable 30kmh school speed limits will come into effect across the city, making it safer for children travelling to and from school. Following consultation, Council confirmed a variable 30kmh speed limit around Ashhurst School on Salisbury St, Stanford St South, Stanford St North and Cambridge Ave.

There's also some good news on the recycling front. From this month, Palmerston North's soft plastics recycling trial starts. More details are coming on wider drop-off points, but for a start you can drop your haul at our Ferguson St Recycling Depot. This includes plastics such as bread bags, chip packets and courier bags – plastics that stay crunched when you scrunch them in your hand.

A quick reminder for dog owners that registration payments were due on 1 July. If you haven't yet renewed your dog registration, you have until 1 August before penalties apply.

Also, with the General Election coming up on 7 November, it's a good time to check that your enrolment details are up to date. If you are not enrolled to vote, you'll need to do this by 25 October (head to [vote.nz](https://www.vote.nz) online). If you want to choose between the General and Māori rolls, the cut-off date is 6 August.

Finally, the latest edition of Palmy Proud magazine is available now. It celebrates the people, places and stories that make our city special and includes features on local arts, businesses, hospitality and innovation. You'll find it at community facilities, at your favourite café and on the Council website.

As always, thank you for your ongoing interest in the Ashhurst community and the future of our wider city. If you'd like to stay informed about local projects, consultations and Council decisions, I encourage you to sign up for our residents monthly Palmy Matters newsletter through the Council website (pncc.govt.nz).

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.

July 7	week 2	glass/rubbish
July 14	week 1	recycle/rubbish
July 21	week 2	glass/rubbish
July 28	week 1	recycle/rubbish

MULGRAVE ST TRANSFER STATION

Recycling, green waste and general
rubbish disposal.

Open days

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

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

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CITY

Published by The Ashhurst Village Voice Society Inc.

Contacts

Editor: Llyvonne Barber

Phone: 022 051 6315

ashhurst.voice@gmail.com

PO Box 38, Ashhurst

Advertising: Gaylene Knight

Phone: 0274 999 647

treasurer.villagevoice@gmail.com

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 Gaylene Knight.

Advertisers, we prefer that you supply files in pdf format. Please note that files supplied in .pdf format are unable to be adjusted from our end. Adverts can be created by the Editor for a small additional cost. These can be adjusted as required.

Village Voice Deadline

Deadline for articles and advertising submissions for the next edition is:

5.00 pm Monday, 20th July 2026.

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

Ashhurst Library

Hi everyone, we have a big holiday programme outlined here, hope to see as many of you as possible.

July School Holidays

Jigsaw Art

For 8-13 years—Bookings required.

Tuesday, 7th July, 10.30 am.

Get ready to use your art skills to design a super cool jigsaw.

Matariki Celebrations

Thursday, 9th July, 11.00 - 2.00 pm.

Come along and celebrate Matariki with yummy soup and fresh bread.

Matariki Glow Disco

Thursday, 9th July.

7 years and under 5.00 pm - 6.00 pm.

8-13 years 6.00 pm - 7.00 pm.

Come and get your glow on with our big glow disco celebrating Matariki. There will be spot prizes, nibbles and we will provide the glow sticks. Thanks so much to our great DJ DFresh for providing the sounds. Gold coin entry.

Badge Making

For 8-13 years.

Tuesday, 14th July, 11.00 am - 1.00 pm.

Come along and have fun designing and creating your own special badge.

Stories at 6

Wednesday, 15th July, 6.00 pm.

Come on down to cosy up with hot chocolates and marshmallows while listening to some fun stories. The kids are very welcome to come in their PJs.

Book Making Craft

Thursday, 16th July, 11.00 - 1.00 pm.

Let's get out the fabric and have fun making your very own mini book.

Fun French Toast

Friday, 17th July, 11.00 pm - 1.00 pm.

Get ready to crack a few eggs. Come

along and make your own yummy French toast.

Village Valley Centre

Just an update for you all, keyless entry and solar panels are on their way for your community centre. More details to follow.

Get Well Packs

Just a reminder that if ever you have a sick child or children at home, we make up fun get well packs for them containing books, colouring -in and other items. Just send us a message or give us a call.

Ashhurst Elevenes

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, 22nd July, 10.30am.

Wednesday, 5th August, 10.30am.

Justice of the Peace

Wednesday, 12.00 midday to 1.00 pm.

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

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 year with so many enjoying the great game, all kids are welcome.

Ross Meads—Ashhurst Librarian

Ashhurst Rainfall

Due to technical problems, we do not have rainfall data. We hope this will be

resolved shortly.

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