



# Ashhurst Village Voice

## *Informing the communities of Ashhurst & Pohangina*

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### Te Ahu a Turanga Highway

At long last! Te Ahu a Turanga is open for business as the primary connection between Manawatū and Tararua districts. The road and its significant bridge structures are a feat of engineering which local residents have been keen to experience.

The newly constructed highway is 11.5 km long and takes just over ten minutes to traverse. The two key bridges are 300 metres long. The first bridge crosses the river and railway and is the largest of its type in the southern hemisphere. The second bridge is called the eco-viaduct and sits on deep piles over a sensitive wetland area with swamp maire, raupo and other native species.

Millions of tonnes of earth have been moved in the road's construction and includes the 55 metre cutting we can see from Ashhurst, filling of gullies, and embankments up to 28 metres high. The road surface (pavement) on Te Ahu a Turanga is made up of several layers, which, all combined, are 790mm thick. More than 1.8 million native plants have been planted around these construction areas and local farmlands to stabilise the earthworks and mitigate the ecological effects of the construction scars to the landscape. Ongoing weed and pest control will manage these plantings until they are well established.

Decommissioning work on the various construction areas is still in progress. The wetland experience, which is being developed at present under the eco-viaduct, will be accessible from the shared

pathway and will link to the Western Tracks which provided truck access from the Saddle Road during the construction phase. This work is expected to be completed later this year and will provide an additional link for cyclists and walkers.

The scenic lookout points on the highway have been busy as the public checks out the views and artworks which are now revealed. The old Gorge car park has been transformed from a bridge construction site into a landscaped reserve with native trees, plants and sculptured pathways encouraging further exploration.

Parking and toilet facilities are already in place to cater for visitors. Information panels about the artwork and bridge specifications are in the process of being installed. The shared path snakes through the reserve, loops under the bridge and rises via an easy incline or steps to emerge on the bridge with its breathtaking view into the mouth of the Gorge. Further artwork and a lookout area at the centre of the bridge across the river and railway is already complete and includes detailed information panels about the work.

**Harvey Jones**



Photo: Te Ahu a Turanga bridges and Western Gateway reserve Photo credit: Harvey Jones

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**Deadline for August  
Issue—Sunday, 20th  
July**

## Book Review: *Three Days in June*

*Three Days in June* by Anne Tyler

Just a little book but such a delight to read that you will feel disappointed when it comes to an end. If you have read Anne Tyler's books before you will know what I mean!

The story starts with Gail, middle-aged, divorced and at a cross-road career-wise. She has just had a really bad day, probably lost her job as a school-admin, insulted by the Principal, and very worried about her daughter's upcoming wedding. Then to top it off, her ex Max turns up on her doorstep with a stray cat and expecting to be her house guest for a few days. He doesn't even own a suit for the wedding.

As the big day gets close, Gail worries that her daughter is making a big mistake, but what can she do? She thinks that Kenneth, the groom, is all wrong for daughter Debbie. Not everyone agrees with her on this and many arguments and discussions take place behind the scenes.

The descriptions of the wedding toasts are hilarious, with many undertones and mixed messages from the guest speakers. Family quarrels and disagreements from the past are simmering beneath the platitudes and seemingly innocuous stories told in the speeches.

The cat, in that very manipulative way of cats, manages to play a cameo role in the proceedings, as does Max the ex in his own trademark way.

An entertaining, light read; you are guaranteed to feel good after reading this little story. Its not all hearts and flowers but it is human, truthful and moving.

**Robyn Dare**

## Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade

Kia Ora Ashhurst,

I'd like to begin with a congratulations to our SkyTower team who placed first in the 2-5 member fundraising category by raising a staggering \$16,919! They couldn't have done it without the support from this community and once again shows your fire brigade punching well above its weight nationally. Well done my dudes!

This month I'd like to reiterate some of the basics of fire safety; if you're going to burn candles, incense, sage etc please please *please* burn them under supervision and certainly don't leave the house without putting them out first! It kind of defeats the calming and spiritual aspects of the practice if

your house is smouldering on the ground.

Also remember the "metre from the heater" rule. Have a clear area of one metre around any heating source to prevent fires. Drying washing within close proximity is prevalent during these colder months so please be careful. Don't stack wood right next to your fire too. During my fire investigator course my scenario turned out to have been started by a towel draped over a heater. So, if FENZ are training its Investigators to look for this exact cause then you can assume it's a common cause of house fires!

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

## Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.

The Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A. is proving itself a vibrant and welcoming hub for the community, offering a packed schedule of events throughout the week. This "great safe community asset" has something for everyone, from classic games to social gatherings and delicious food options.

### Bingo

Bingo enthusiasts can try their luck every Tuesday at 7.00 pm, while darts players can showcase their skills on both Wednesday and Friday nights, also starting at 7.00 pm.

### Food Truck Alley

Foodies will be delighted with the offerings. Every second Thursday sees the popular Food Truck Alley set up, bringing a variety of culinary delights. Additionally, a food truck is

on-site every Friday, and patrons are warmly welcome to bring their meals inside the R.S.A. to enjoy.

Friday nights are particularly lively at the R.S.A. The evening includes the solemn reading of The Ode of Remembrance, followed by exciting Raffles, the popular Jokers Wild draw, and the Members Draw. Alongside these regular fixtures, the R.S.A. also runs ongoing regular promotions, keeping things fresh and engaging for its visitors.

To learn more about membership or to stay updated on all the happenings, be sure to check out the Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.'s website and follow their Facebook page

**Peter Knight—President  
Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.**

## Ashhurst Senior Citizen's Association

The June meeting of the Ashhurst Senior Citizens was the 2024/2025 A.G.M. and saw the re-election of current committee members with the addition of three new committee members. Welcome to Carol, Sally and Gerry and a big thank you to those members who attended and voted at the meeting. Following the business

side of things we heard a very informative update on local organisation RECAP from Chris Leigh. RECAP is certainly a very active organisation that does alot for our community. Thank you for your time Chris!

Remember you do not have to be a  
*Continued on next page*



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# Ashhurst Senior Citizen's Association

senior to come along as we love to see people of all ages and from all backgrounds attend. You may meet some new people or catch up with some familiar faces, as well as enjoying a delicious afternoon tea. Membership is \$10 per year and we ask for a \$2 donation towards the afternoon tea. There are also raffles and a sales table so you may win a prize or find a bargain.

date in your diary—Thursday July 3rd, 2.00 pm at the Village Valley centre. Entertainment will be provided by the Spring Chicks who have been very well received and enjoyed in the past. Feel free to bring a plate if you so wish and come and join in the celebrations. We look forward to seeing you on the 3rd!

**Stephanie  
Secretary**

**Madgwick—**

July is our 51st birthday! Mark the

## Ashhurst School Bus Protest

Tēnā koutou. As many are aware, central government is looking at discontinuing our high school bus service from Ashhurst to Palmerston North. We currently have approximately 185 students on six buses going to seven high schools in Palmerston North.

As I write this we are waiting on the final decision on the fate of this service at the end of term two.

Mayor Grant Smith has also been in contact with central government on our behalf, and received correspondence back last week which was not promising.

In light of this, a group of concerned parents have organized a public protest. This will take place on Friday, 11th July from 8.00 am at the Ashhurst Domain carpark (along Cambridge Avenue). So we are ready to go if the final decision is not favourable. We hope to be finished up at 10.00 am, if anyone wishes to stay on they can. We are trying to make this as accessible to working whānau as possible—if you can only get an hour off work to join us that is absolutely fine.

We are calling on as many members of our community to show up as possible. This is not something that will just affect those with high school aged kids, it will cause a number of issues for our township.

We're working on getting media there so any assistance getting the word out would also be very

appreciated.

There are a number of issues arising with the removal of these buses. The obvious one—our rangatahi will not get to school!

The big impact will be on our students from single parent/caregiver households, from low income whānau and those whose parents have disabilities that prohibit them from driving.

Parents/caregivers in work will be affected—they will now be expected to take time from their workdays to transport kids to and from school. For a sitting government that has such a strong focus on school attendance and people in employment, this is a move which will create barriers to both for our community.

The opening of the new Ashhurst-Woodville Road (Te Ahu a Turanga), which cost \$824 million to complete, has already caused traffic chaos mere minutes down the road. I'm sure many of us have experienced the increased pressure attempting to leave and enter Ashhurst via the Napier Road turnoff. At peak times this could become a massive issue. Parents having to transport students will be an increased pressure on traffic to, from and through Palmerston North as parents drop off (and pick up) students at schools. This has the potential to affect more than just our community.

*Continued on next page*

## JustOnePlease

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

Contact Louise Bowe on 020 410 86128 for more information.

## Fruit Tree Services

Pruning, fertilising and spraying of fruit trees. Over 40 years experience. Phone Phil: 326 9366

## 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.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!



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## Awahou Pohangina Playgroup

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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](mailto:samnarna@outlook.com)

## Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A. Inc

74 Cambridge Avenue, Ashhurst.  
Phone: 326 8296

Monday 3.00 pm-6.00 pm

Tuesday 3.00 pm-7.00 pm

Wednesday 3.00 pm-10.00 pm

Thursday 3.00 pm-9.00 pm

Friday 3.00 pm-11.00 pm

Saturday 2.00 pm-7.00 pm

Sunday 3.00 pm-6.00 pm

## Manawātū Rangitikei Methodist Parish—Ashhurst, Bunnythorpe and Pohangina Congregation

Ashhurst Devonport Worship and  
Community Centre

10.30 am 1st Sunday each month

Pohangina Community Church

10.30 am 3rd Sunday

Contacts: Parish Office—323 4127  
Selina Brightwell—022 184 2337 or  
326 8355

## Ashhurst Bowling Club

67 Stanford Street.

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

# Ashhurst School Bus Protest

Our public bus service will be put  
under pressure by students needing to  
use it—disrupting the commute of  
those who use this service and  
potentially cutting off those with  
disabilities and our elderly from their  
connection to Palmerston North.

This is a breach of the Ministry of  
Education's own rules around  
providing this service.

'The student must be enrolled at the  
nearest state or state-integrated  
school they can enroll at' (for us, this is  
Freyburg). They will not be providing a  
bus service to this school.

'The student must live more than a  
certain distance from the school or  
kura'

Students must be 4.8km (Years  
9-13) from their school or kura.  
Freyburg High School is a 13.7km trip

from the centre of Ashhurst.

'The student must not have access  
to public transport' We currently have  
only one public bus which travels from  
Ashhurst to the Main street terminal.  
This bus seats a maximum of 55  
people. Every school requires a  
connecting bus. This is not a suitable  
alternative.

The ministry has attempted to shift  
responsibility to Horizons regional  
council, who have categorically stated  
that they can not provide this service.  
Essentially throwing them under the  
bus (pun intended) over their decision.

In summary—this is a disastrous  
decision which will have negative  
effects on our community. Please join  
us on Friday, July 11th, to make your  
voice heard.

**Chris Love**

## RECAP Update

Kia ora koutou from the team at  
RECAP

Some stats for you from our A.G.M.:

There were a total of 1894.75  
volunteer hours in the 2024-25  
financial year (we estimate this is  
actually higher as volunteers generally  
under-report their hours). This was an  
increase of 495.75 hours from the  
previous year. This is due to a number  
of factors: we had our Permaculture  
Garden Tour, Community Kai was open  
extra days over the Christmas/New

Year period and we had a number of  
Ashhurst School seniors helping at  
both Community Kai and in McCrae's  
Bush as part of the William Pike  
challenge.

The breakdown:

**Green spaces:** 292 hours  
(library garden, māra rongoā etc)

**Olsson Community Orchard:** 133.5  
hours

**McCrae's Bush:** 564 hours

*Continued on next page*



**B**

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## RECAP Update

Governance, meetings and administration: 228 hours and Preserving with Supergrans Manawātū:

Events: 127 hours  
(workshops etc)

The Seed Library: 26 hours

RECAP Community Kai: 559.25

Miscellaneous: 28 hours

RECAP is by and for our community. We are beyond humbled that our community responds so positively to the work we do, and are so willing to give their time and energy to the projects and services we manage. Everything we do is designed to make our community stronger, healthier (across a variety of measures) and more connected and your support makes this happen for us all.

The biggest ngā mihi to all of the regular and casual volunteers (far too numerous to name at this point). You are the heart and soul of RECAP.

We have TWO new workshops coming up.

As I write this the two soap making workshops are booked up—if you wish to go on the waitlist please email: [info@recap.org.nz](mailto:info@recap.org.nz). There are still limited places available for the preserving workshop: registrations can be made at [recap.org.nz](http://recap.org.nz).

We are delighted to have the wonderful folks from Supergrans Manawātū back in our community for another Preserving Workshop.

At this workshop you will learn safe preserving practices while preserving seasonal fruit in a variety of ways to take home.

This takes place on Saturday, 19th July, 10.00 am-1.00 pm at the Village Valley Centre in Ashhurst.

### Soap Making with Kereru Natural Products:

Local Legend Bev Swanson, from Kereru Natural Products, will be running two Soap Making Workshops for us at Kereru HQ in the picturesque Pohangina Valley.

Bev has a wealth of experience—she has been running Kereru since 1988 and we're thrilled she has offered to share her knowledge on this practice.

These workshops take place on Friday, 25th July and Saturday, 26th July, 10.00 am-noon in the Pohangina Valley.

Noho ora mai.

**Chris Love—RECAP coordinator**

## Community Comment

Te Ahu a Turanga highway is open at last and Ashhurst residents can return to their quiet nights of slumber. Migration of road workers out of

Ashhurst to other projects has eased pressure on rental accommodation and

*Continued on next page*

### Steady As You Go

Steady As You Go—A falls prevention programme. One hour of slow purposeful exercises for Seniors, aimed at strengthening weakened leg muscles and helping to improve balance. \$2 per session. Otangaki Lodge, 69 Oxford Street, Ashhurst

Contact Age Concern phone 355 2832 for more details.

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### Ashhurst Plunket

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Contact [www.plunket.org.nz](http://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.

### Meditation Class

Please note that the Meditation Class normally held every Thursday at 10 am in the Village Valley Centre, is now on winter break. Classes will resume on Thursday 28th August.

### 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](http://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.

## Community Comment

the local property market. In the hospitality sector, a drop in trade may be expected as these temporary construction workers depart. However, the scenic and recreation attractions of the Gorge walks, Western Gateway reserve and shared path may provide another source of customers into and around Ashhurst.

The barrier of no shared path crossing of the Manawātū River is a problem at present. This has been compounded by last month's action to increase the speed limit on the bridge back to 100 kph without any consideration of the safety implications.

A shared path crossing of the river was a requirement of the consent process for the new highway. The proposal of a clip-on pathway to the bridge was abandoned when test bore results raised bridge stability issues if additional weight was added to one side. An initial design for a separate new shared path bridge came with a price tag of \$37 million. This was quietly shelved and a recent update from NZTA lists a revised process and timeline. A separate shared cycle and pedestrian bridge is still envisaged with detailed design to be confirmed in late 2026, and the bridge constructed and open by the end of 2027.

Current advice from NZTA suggests cyclists and pedestrians travel by motor vehicles and proceed from the new Western Gateway parking area. Motorists are advised to reduce speed to 40 kph if cyclists or pedestrians are on the bridge.

Commuters to the city or Massey will be aware of the traffic bottleneck which now exists on the SH3/ Cambridge Avenue intersection. There are calls for a roundabout or slip lanes to alleviate these congestion problems at peak times. The need to

accommodate heavy trucks from the highway to Feilding and northern destinations is a complicating factor. The price tag for another roundabout, another railway crossing and connecting highway infrastructure makes this unlikely in the short term.

Council activity in Ashhurst includes ongoing repairs to trip hazard footpaths. A tidy up of Wyndham Street and a rough seal over the infrastructure upgrades is still in progress. Resurfacing of the roundabout was completed over two days, but the work generated some traffic disruption while it was in progress.

The Ashhurst Domain Management Plan has reopened for the longer legislated consultation process of two months. Submission documents can be accessed from the library or online and close on 1st August. Simple questions ask for your views on the Domain's revised name, signage, bush and wetland development, natural burial site, and enabling licenced food trucks into the reserve.

The review of the school bus service is due to be announced. This could affect more than 200 students who travel by school bus to city schools and may now be deemed as 'ineligible' for this service. The Ministry of Education believes that public transport and parents' pockets will instead manage to deliver our youth to and from their schools. Horizons Regional Council has rejected a request to inject \$140,000 to expand their bus services to accommodate school transport needs and believe it a "cost-shifting exercise" by the government. Parents are becoming more vocal and active as they contemplate the cost and difficulty of getting their children to school. Public protest action is scheduled for Friday, 11th July.

**Harvey Jones**

## County Fayre Update

We had a very busy day recently, with a large group from the Jaguar Car Club in for a luncheon, followed by our usual

Sunday service, and finishing the day with a small gathering to say farewell to one of our committee, Amy Lennard.



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# County Fayre Update

Amy, Hugh and Artie are leaving our valley for big adventures elsewhere. Amy has been a legend to County Fayre and we will dearly miss her. Thank you, Amy, from the team.

Our Gallery has undergone a makeover and is ready again to be involved in the Art Trail Manawatū, booked for the 18th and 19th October 2025. We invite artist's to exhibit with us and welcome interpretations of our theme in any size or medium. Our theme is "Afternoon Tea in the Valley—Reflecting on the beauty of everyday connection, found in a cuppa, quiet moments, and a valley shared." To express your interest or for more information please email [CountyFayre@inspire.net.nz](mailto:CountyFayre@inspire.net.nz) or message us via <https://www.facebook.com/CountyFayre>

*CountyFayre.*

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 cater for you if required.

Contact us at [countyfayre@inspire.net.nz](mailto:countyfayre@inspire.net.nz) or <https://www.facebook.com/CountyFayre>

Our Gallery is looking all new and local artists work is back on display and for purchase, it must be time to venture to County Fayre. We are open most Sunday's, between 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm, offering delicious afternoon tea.

See you at County Fayre.

**Joanne**  
President

**Morris-Kynoch—**

## Stick Insects

Stick insects are not often seen but are actually more common than most people realise, even in urban gardens. This is because they are well camouflaged in their natural environment, with their long, thin body

shape and range of colours helping them to blend into the twigs and leaves around them. They are also nocturnal,



*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](mailto:ashhurst@group.scouts.nz) for more info.

## Ashhurst Indoor Bowling Club

Our weekly Thursday bowling has now started and ends Thursday, 25th September.

We play in the Ashhurst Village Valley Centre with games starting 7.30pm.

## 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 7525 0775

[ashhurstvillageradio@gmail.com](mailto:ashhurstvillageradio@gmail.com)

## Ashhurst Foodbank

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

Contact: Marianne 027 627 2054

**Manawatu Contracting & Drainage Ltd**

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Contact: Greg 027 557 8809

[greg@manawatucontracting.com](mailto:greg@manawatucontracting.com)

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Call 326 9270 or email [ashhurst@playcentre.org.nz](mailto:ashhurst@playcentre.org.nz) or drop in for a free visit and a cuppa.

Monday 10.30 am-2.30pm

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

### Ashhurst Clay Target Club (claybird shooting)

Meets the last Sunday of every month from 9.30 am at 651 Valley Road.

Anyone welcome to join us

Queries: Ken Simonsen,

Phone: 329-4800

### Ashhurst and District Senior Citizens Association Inc

Meet on the first Thursday of each month in the Ashhurst Village Valley Centre, at 2.00 pm. We invite you to come along and enjoy an afternoon of friendship and entertainment.

Contact: Stephanie Madgwick—Secretary 021 025 99382

### Local Justices of the Peace

Mrs AK Rutherford—Available by appointment—027 404 8551

Mr F Saua

Pohangina Road RD 14—029 254 3206

Mr JC Culling

Pohangina Road—027 289 5252

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

## Stick Insects

mostly resting during the day, in a position that reduces their visibility, becoming active at night when they do most of their feeding.

In total, New Zealand has about 25 species of stick insect but only a few of these are found in the Manawātū region. Some prefer to feed on a particular type of tree, while other species will eat the leaves of a wide range of trees, even introduced trees like eucalypts and macrocarpa. Examples of the latter are the Acanthoxyla species, such as the Prickly and Unarmed stick insects (see photos), so these are more common in people's gardens.

Stick insects of the genus Clitarchus, such as the Smooth Stick Insect (see photo), prefer to eat manuka and kanuka. This species is common in the Manawātū. But our largest stick insect, the New Zealand Giant Stick Insect (see photo), which is in the genus

Argosarchus, usually likes to eat ramarama and ribbonwood. The specimen in the photo was actually found by an Ashhurst resident in her garden and is the only one I have ever seen.

An unusual feature of stick insects is that the males are much smaller and thinner than the females, so often it is the larger females that are seen. In a few species, including those in the Acanthoxyla genus, there are no males so the females are described as parthenogenic, producing offspring that are exact copies of themselves. Mature female stick insects produce eggs continuously throughout their lives, which simply drop to the ground where they remain until they hatch the following spring. The shape of the eggs is a reliable way of determining what the species is.

**Grey Smith**



Photos. Page 7: Left—Prickly Stick Insect; Right—Unarmed Stick Insect; Page 8: Left—Smooth Stick Insect; Right—New Zealand Giant Stick Insect

## Ashhurst School

Kia ora e te whānau,

What a week it's been in Ashhurst! With the long-anticipated opening of Te Ahu a Turanga – the new highway connecting our region – we are truly witnessing history in the making. Closer to home, Ashhurst School had the privilege of hosting the Interschool Cross Country, and what a day it was! We are incredibly proud of all our tamariki who ran their hearts out and represented us with pride.

A huge thank you also goes to our

amazing student marshalls who helped make the event run smoothly. Team Ashhurst, you are awesome. Keep doing the amazing job you're doing – our kids are lucky, and so are we!

### Change in Staffing Whaea Kaz

The Ashhurst School Board would like to congratulate Karyn Giles (Kaz) on her new appointment to Kiwitea School, effective from the start of Term 3, 2025. Kaz has been appointed as their new Principal. Kaz has made a tremendous impact at Ashhurst School

*Continued on next page*



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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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Phone: 326 8014



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# Ashhurst School

over the past 19 years working at our school. She has been a passionate educator, and her effect on families and students has been significant. As significant as her contribution to our kura, is her passion and loyalty to the wider Ashhurst community. As a former student of Ashhurst School herself, Kaz has always been a strong advocate for Ashhurst and will be a significant loss to our village.

## Interschool Cross Country

What a fantastic day we had at the 2025 Year 5—8 Interschool Cross Country! The morning brought perfect running conditions, and we were lucky to dodge the rain later in the afternoon. All races ran smoothly, with students showing real Manawaroa as they gave their best on the course.

# Ashhurst Library

Hi everyone, we just firstly want to acknowledge Kaz Giles for all her work and commitment to our community for many years. Good luck in your new role as principal of KIWITEA School Kaz, and thanks for everything.

## Winter School Holiday Programme

Please drop in to collect our holiday flyer or check our Facebook page for details of our holiday programme.

## Kids' Guide to Hunting

Tuesday 1st July – 10.30 am

Come along and learn all about hunting for kids.

## Glow Disco

Wednesday, 2nd July.

7 years and under: 5.00 pm-6.00 pm.

8-13 years: 6.00 pm-7.00 pm.

Come to our groovy glow disco, we provide the glow sticks and refreshments. Gold coin entry.

## RECAP – Sensational Seeds

Thursday, 3rd July, 11.00 am

Make your own flower seed mixtures and learn about looking after pollinators.

## Brilliant Bingo

Friday, 4th July, 10.30am

Join us for a brilliant round of kid's

A huge thank you to Feilding High School for providing our lead runners (rabbits), and to our wonderful Ashhurst staff and senior students for their support throughout the day.

## Pae Tamariki

We were immensely proud of our kapa haka rōpū Ngā Tuarea ō te Āpiti as they performed at our regional festival Te Pae Tamariki recently at The Regent on Broadway. The rōpū has been working incredibly hard this year to put together a powerful bracket.

A huge congratulations to our amazing Kapa Haka group for their stunning performance—your passion and pride were truly inspiring. Thank you to our fabulous tutor Tūrehu and all the whānau who supported our tamariki; it makes such a difference.

bingo.

## Brilliant Bird Feeders

Tuesday, 8th July, 10.30am

Create your own birdfeeders for your backyard birds. Children under five will need help from a caregiver.

## Family Quiz Night

Wednesday, 9th July, 6.00 pm

**Registration required.**

Family night of trivia fun.

## Canine Friends

Thursday, 10th July, 10.30am

Come along and read to one of our beautiful dogs.

## Model Competition Prizegiving

Friday, 11th July, 10.00 am

It's model making time and the theme is Castles. Grab an entry form from the library. Entries must be in by Thursday, July 10th at 4.00 pm.

## Justice of the Peace

Wednesdays 12-1pm

We are very pleased to have Aleisha Rutherford JP here every Wednesday. If you require the services of a JP, come on down. Thanks so much Aleisha.

## Moneywise Manawatū

We are thrilled to be in partnership

*Continued on next page*

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

8.00 am First Sunday of the Month  
10.00 am every Sunday

## St Bartholomew's Church, Komako

10.00 am 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays.

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

Email: [info@parishofpohangina.co.nz](mailto:info@parishofpohangina.co.nz)

Web: [www.parishofpohangina.co.nz](http://www.parishofpohangina.co.nz)

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

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

## Ashhurst Pohangina Squash Club

Club night is Monday, from 6.00 pm. Come along and give squash a go! All members and newcomers welcome.

Courts are located at the rear of the Village Valley Centre on Guildford Street

Contact Braydon on 027 390 5611, [ashpohsquashclub@inspire.net.nz](mailto:ashpohsquashclub@inspire.net.nz), or find us on Facebook.

## Ashhurst Pohangina Lions

The Ashhurst Pohangina Lions meet every second Thursday of the month at the R.S.A. Clubrooms at 6.30 pm. This established and friendly Lions Club is community oriented.

## Contacts:

Jack Zwart (President) 326 8958

[standishzwart@gmail.com](mailto:standishzwart@gmail.com)

Brent Besley (Secretary) 329 4891

[brent.liz@inspire.net.nz](mailto:brent.liz@inspire.net.nz)

Mike Forlong (Memberships) 329 4741

[forlong@inspire.net.nz](mailto:forlong@inspire.net.nz)

## Ashhurst Music Club

Live original music in your back yard

Our club is open to all ages and skill levels. Monthly meetings are about to start so keep watch on the Facebook page and in the Village Voice.

Contact [kiwifieldcrew@inspire.net.nz](mailto:kiwifieldcrew@inspire.net.nz) or phone Grant 027 432 7648

## Pohangina Rubbish Collection

Rubbish is collected every Monday. Bags out by 7.30am



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

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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](mailto:hauorayoga@gmail.com), 021 0270 4400, [www.hauorayoga.co.nz](http://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](http://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](http://www.riverchurch.nz)



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# Ashhurst Library

with Moneywise Manawatū who are conducting budget sessions in our library on Thursday. If you would like to talk to their wonderful staff or need some excellent budgetary advice and guidance, just let us know or give them a call on freephone 0800 228 343.

## Ashhurst Elevenses

Come along every Friday during term time for a cuppa and a friendly chat. Everybody is welcome! There will even be tea, coffee and the odd biscuit provided, but if you want to bring along some home baking, you are very welcome.

## Ashhurst Mighty Kids

Ashhurst Mighty Kids is our preschool programme of stories, songs and crafts. We always have a different theme for each session and finish off with some yummy cheese toasties.

Wednesday, 16th July, 10.30am

Wednesday, 30th July, 10.30am

## Ashhurst Library Facebook

Just a reminder that if you want to keep up to date with all our latest news, events or announcements, just visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/AshhurstLibrary> and click "Like".

## Ross Meads—Ashhurst Library

# Ashhurst Martial Arts Club

Adding to the already amazing Ashhurst community spirit—the grand opening of the Ashhurst Martial Arts Club has arrived; we promise to bring more than just punches and kicks to the village. We are located not far from the centre of the village on Napier Road. The club is now open to students of all ages and skill levels, we promote a welcoming, community environment to learn, grow, and thrive through the discipline of martial arts.

We are Brogan and Sarah Hancock, passionate martial arts enthusiasts. Our goal is to empower individuals through traditional techniques, modern training and a strong focus on personal development. We have both competed in our respective martial arts disciplines; and will give our full support to any students who have goals of competing.

Classes are available for children from the age of four, teens and adults.

We will be covering a range of martial arts disciplines including Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Muay Thai, Kickboxing, MMA, No-gi grappling and Boxing as well as strength, conditioning and yoga classes. Whether you are looking to improve your fitness, learn self-defence, find a new hobby and make new friends along the way; we have something for everyone.

Interested in joining us? Find us on Facebook 'Ashhurst Martial Arts Club' or send an email directly to [ashhurstmac@gmail.com](mailto:ashhurstmac@gmail.com). Adults classes have already begun and kids classes start Term 3 (14th July).

We are so proud to be here and have the doors open to you all! Wish us luck with this new and exciting chapter in Ashhurst history. Oss!

Ngā mihi (kind regards)

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

# Suze Redmayne: MP for Rangitikei

The recent opening of the Manawatū Tararua Highway marks an outstanding milestone for Ashhurst and the wider community—and I am delighted to see this vital link restored

I'm sure many of you will have by now taken a drive on this truly incredible feat of engineering and design. Some impressive numbers—11.5km of highway, four lanes and a consistent 10-degree gradient; 6.5 million cubic metres of soil shifted; 2,500 workers inducted onto the site, who together clocked up 3.5 million hours of work.

It was fantastic to be at the official opening on 7th June with Minister of Transport, Hon Chris Bishop, and take a drive on the new road—you can see a clip of our journey on my Facebook page.

In June, we celebrated National Volunteer Week. I know Ashhurst is home to an incredible network of volunteers, many of whom regularly

feature in the Village Voice – from the local volunteer fire brigade to the numerous clubs, groups and associations whose members give their time and talents to make our community stronger, safer and more connected. They don't ask for recognition but they certainly deserve it. So, from me and from a grateful community—thank you volunteers, you are truly appreciated.

Before I sign off, I want to acknowledge a remarkable member of our community—Viliami Teumohenga - founder of the Amanaki STEM Academy (ASA). Viliami was made an Honorary Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the King's Birthday Honours for his work supporting more than 1,800 Pacific students into science and technology careers through tailored mentoring and advocacy. Congratulations Viliami, it's wonderful to see your hard work acknowledged on the national stage.



# Kia ora!

Well, the longest day has been and gone, Puanga at Matariki has been celebrated, school holidays are upon us, and the Te Ahu a Turanga Manawātū Tararua Highway is open to traffic.

Now it's full tilt towards the Local Body Elections in October - the most significant event on the council calendar in the latter half of the year.

Do make sure you are enrolled to vote and are aware of any meet the candidate events.

## Highway Hoorah

Yes, it's finally here, and the new highway is going to be fantastic for Ashhurst. While it was a long and sometimes grumbly wait, at last Ashhurst streets have respite from heavy vehicles. The new transport corridor with its feats of engineering has attracted praise from all quarters.

With impressive large-scale Mahi Toi Māori artwork by Warren Warbrick at Ashhurst's Parahaki roundabout, Sandy Adsett at the Woodville roundabout, and its other sculptural features in-between, some have described the new highway as a drive-thru sculpture park. The wind turbines add dynamic kinetic elements to the scenic experience, but once over the highway crest travelling west, the wide-screen vista that takes in Ashhurst and the Manawātū plains is breathtaking. The city lights are just as inspiring at night.

## Travelling On

Now that the Western Gateway Park beneath the approaches to the Parahaki Bridge is open to the public, be aware that on-site work is continuing. The carpark surface will eventually be upgraded from chip seal to asphalt in the coming months, while construction staff will be working in areas adjacent to the highway until later in the year.

However, residents have already noticed a change in visitor behaviour. Travellers now seem to be deliberately choosing Ashhurst as a destination instead of simply passing through. I feel the Village is perfectly poised to enjoy the best of both worlds – as a quiet residential area known for its laid-back semi-rural lifestyle but also enjoying enough visitor activity to drive additional commercial activity.

The best is yet to come with a café and discovery information centre to open at the Gateway Park. There'll also be development of the eco-walk and cycling paths connecting to the Manawātū Gorge tracks, and the possible opening up of the Old Gorge road as a walking and cycling attraction.

## Electoral Boundary Brouhaha

Aware of the huge opposition to Ashhurst's proposed inclusion in a new-look Wairarapa electorate, I'm reiterating that the Palmerston North City Council has rigorously opposed any such move. Submissions to the Electoral Commission are still in the process of being considered, with the new electoral boundaries being announced in August. As Ashhurst sits within the Palmerston North City boundary, our strongly voiced desire and preferred option, is for the Village to be part of a redrawn Palmerston North electorate, failing that, staying with the Rangitikei electorate. To call it any other way defies common sense.

## RECAP

I had the pleasure of attending last month's RECAP AGM, and am impressed with the scope of the organisation and those who have built it up as a terrific community asset based around practical growing skills and education. The meeting was well attended, and the vibe really positive.

Ashhurst is blessed with several great community organisations – among them the Ashhurst Pohangina Lions, Ashurst Pohangina Rugby Football Club, the Ashhurst Memorial RSA, the Ashhurst Community Trust foodbank, and the Ashhurst Pohangina Squash Club. All seem to have full and active memberships while contributing wholeheartedly to the wellbeing of Village residents.

## Haere Rā

After 19 years, highly respected Ashhurst School deputy principal Kaz Giles has left to take charge of Kiwitea School. Over almost two decades, Kaz built a reputation as a passionate, empathetic and dedicated educator and is bound to be greatly missed by pupils, parents and the wider community. I offer Kaz my best wishes as she embarks on this new career venture, though it's good to know that at Kiwitea, she's still within cooe.

## Meet the Mayor

As council is in recess for the month of July, there will be no 'Meet the Mayor' this month. The next regular date is Tuesday August 26, though it would pay to check that on the [pncc.govt.nz](https://pncc.govt.nz) website and Facebook page nearer the time.



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](https://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](https://clmnz.co.nz/splashhurst)

## ASHHURST RUBBISH + RECYCLING

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

Recycling Bin	Glass Crate
15 July	8 July
29 July	22 July
12 August	5 August

## MULGRAVE ST TRANSFER STATION

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

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

**PALMY**  
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PALMERSTON  
NORTH  
CITY

## Published by The Ashhurst Village Voice Society Inc.

### Contacts

Editor: Llyvonne Barber

Phone: 022 051 6315

[ashhurst.voice@gmail.com](mailto:ashhurst.voice@gmail.com)

PO Box 38, Ashhurst

Advertising: Grey Smith

Phone: 326 8075; 021 175 1726

[rgcsmith@inspire.net.nz](mailto: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 \$50.

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 Sunday, 20th July 2025.**

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

## Ashhurst Clay Target Club

And the thing with our May shoot is... it's always that in the middle of duckshooting season but hey, our club still had five squads and included some newcomers.

Our May shoot is always our Paul Jones Memorial Shoot (gun down), our club shoot and then a 15 single barrel to finish off.

Congratulations to our winners.

**Paul Jones Memorial:** Craig Hocken

**Paul Jones Memorial Handicap:** Mike Hoggard

**Club shoot 25 DTL:** Alex Hall

**Club handicap shoot 25 DTL:** Marty Boyce

**Karen Pawson—Secretary**



Photo—LtoR Craig Hocken, Marty Boyce, Mike Hoggard, Alex Hall

## Ashhurst Rainfall

56.5 mm of rain fell in May 2025, below the monthly long-term average of 108.61 mm.

Rain was recorded on nine days, with the highest one-day rainfall of 19.5 mm on the 9th of May.

The total annual rainfall for the period from 1st of January to the 31st May is now 314 mm, which is below the long-term average for this period of 405.2 mm.

### Quang Mai



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