



Ashhurst Village Voice

Informing the communities of Ashhurst & Pohangina

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June 2026

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Established 1997

Classic and Hot Rod Car Display

It was a successful Sunday in Ashhurst as the second Annual Classic and Hot Rod Car Display took over the streets. Over 5,000 attendees flooded the main street of Ashhurst, proving that the local community has plenty of passion for automotive history. Organisers confirmed it was a record-breaking day, marking the largest car show in the history of the township.

The event saw an impressive turnout with over 350 motors parked up near the R.S.A. The variety was enough to impress any enthusiast, ranging from gleaming hot rods and American muscle cars to classic British icons and Japanese imports.

Danny McKenna, the event's 'Chief Architect' and organiser, admitted the response was far greater than they had originally anticipated. "This event was bigger than we had planned," McKenna said. "People just kept on coming. By the end of it, we had over 350 cars turn up".

By the time the event concluded, the attendance was a massive 'double plus' compared to previous gatherings. Last year's effort featured 146 cars, a number that was easily surpassed before lunch today.

R.S.A. President Peter Knight expressed his pride in the "awesome turnout," noting that the day was a victory for local collaboration. "The R.S.A. was delighted to host this community event," Knight said. "It was great to see the farmers market, Palmerston North City Council, and Fire Station come in behind us".

The show was

Photos Credit: Dan Strawbridge

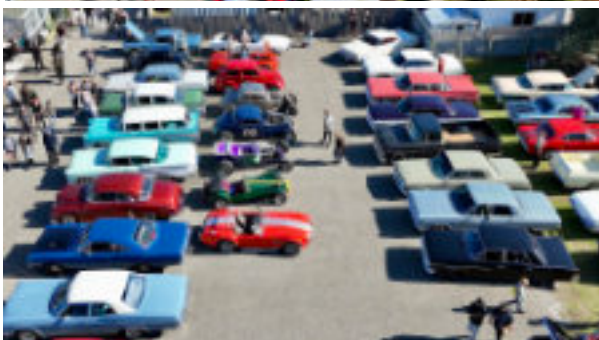
complemented by a bustling craft market and the Ashhurst Fire Station open day, ensuring there was something for the whole family. Knight added that the feedback from the community has been overwhelmingly positive, bringing many different groups together.

As the day wrapped up, many enthusiasts remained at the R.S.A., enjoying the success of the event. The organisers have already confirmed they intend to return in 2027. "We will definitely be back next year," McKenna promised.

For a town that usually enjoys a quiet pace, today was a reminder of what Ashhurst can achieve when the community comes together. It's fair to say this event didn't just meet expectations—it set a new standard for the years to come.

Ngā mihi

Liam Rutherford—Secretary



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**Deadline for July
Issue—Saturday, 20th
June 2026**

Carnivorous Plant Society

New Zealand's favourite psychedelic exotic jazz trio is coming to the Pohangina Hall for another unforgettable Arts on Tour performance on the 2nd July.

During their break from touring, the band has been busy composing new music, creating hand-drawn animations, and mastering even more instruments to craft a show that will captivate audiences of all ages.

Expect a one-of-a-kind musical journey featuring vibraphone, tuba, harmonica, pan flute, synthesisers, drums, bass and vocals, all

accompanied by mesmerising animated visuals.

Led by Finn Scholes—known for his work with Dave Dobbyn, Circling Sun, Hopetoun Brown, and his composition work on The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie—the trio creates music that tells stories and transports listeners from South-East Asia to South America and back home to New Zealand.

Finn is joined by acclaimed drummer and composer Alistair Deverick and extraordinary multi-instrumentalist Sean Martin-Buss.

Wednesday, 2nd July.

Doors open: 6.30 pm.

Show starts: 7.00 pm.

Tickets: \$25

BYO event • Supper provided during interval

Available from pohanginavalley.nz/tickets



RECAP Update

Kia ora koutou.

RECAP has a number of free and low cost workshops coming up.

Compost Workshop

We have our annual Compost Workshop on Saturday, May 30th, 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm at the Olsson Community Orchard, Ashhurst. Learn the basics on how to create healthy, balanced compost. Join us to see how

you can turn your household and garden waste into nutrient rich food for your plants.

This workshop is *free* (although koha is appreciated). Hot drinks and afternoon tea provided.

Solar Seminar

We have a Solar Seminar presented by Phil Stevens of Slow Farm. Saturday, June 6th, 1.30 pm - 3.30 pm

Continued on next page

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Freemasons Social Hall

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Hours
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Saturday: 7.30am—8.00pm
Sunday: 8.00am—8.00pm
Public Holidays: 8.00am—8.00pm

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Saturday 9.00am - 12 noon

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RECAP Update

at the Village Valley Centre, Ashhurst. Join local expert Phil to learn about options to take control of your household electricity situation and get charged up on sunshine. \$10 waged and \$5 unwaged or student. Hot drinks and afternoon tea provided.

Winter Pruning

Winter Pruning for 2026 is on Saturday, June 20th 1.00 - 3.00 pm at the Olsson Community Orchard, Ashhurst. This is a practical, hands on guide to winter fruit tree pruning for optimum next season fruiting and tree health. Join us for this opportunity to get stuck in with the loppers and secateurs with guidance and support from experienced arborists. This workshop is *free* (although koha is appreciated). Hot drinks and afternoon tea provided.

RECAP A.G.M.

The RECAP Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 10th, 7.30 pm at the Village Valley Centre in

Ashhurst. All are welcome. Join us for a cuppa and some cake and hear about what we've been up to, and what we have coming up.

Rose Pruning

Lastly—we have a bit of a treat! Hayden Foulds (president of the Manawātū Rose Society and recent president of the New Zealand Rose Society) is visiting Ashhurst to prune the newly installed rose garden in the Ashhurst Triangle (across from the library). We invite you to pop down with some gardening gloves and a pair of secateurs to learn from a local master. Hayden is a highly accomplished rosarian, having gotten his start as a student at Ashhurst School! This is a free workshop, with no registration needed. Saturday, June 27th, 1.00 pm.

If you have any questions, please contact us at info@recap.org.nz.

Ka kite ano

Chris Love—RECAP coordinator

Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.

What's Coming Up Next at the R.S.A.?

The Ashhurst R.S.A. continues to prove it is the place where the community can come together, relax, and socialise. If you missed out on the car show, don't worry—the winter calendar is packed with great events:

The TeTrivia Quiz Night is Back!

Following the massive success of our last quiz night, the TeTrivia Quiz returns on Thursday, 11th June. Bring your thinking caps and an appetite, as

great food trucks will be on-site to keep you fueled.

Rock 'n' Roll Night

Dust off your dancing shoes and get ready to twist and shout on Saturday, 22nd July, for a night of classic tunes and high energy.

For further details on timings and registration, be sure to follow the Ashhurst R.S.A. Facebook page. See you there!

Peter Knight—President

Ashhurst Business Group

The Ashhurst Business Group was set up in 2015 by Emma Tankersley and a group of business people who are based in Ashhurst.

We wanted to encourage people to support local and help support our community!

We have so many great businesses in Ashhurst and we are all dedicated to helping our community grow and thrive. We are all passionate about Ashhurst and supporting our community.

Over the last eleven years we have organised numerous events for our

JustOnePlease

Super kia ora. The Justoneplease item for the Safe House for May 2026 is *Tissues*

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

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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

County Fayre at Pohangina

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Tamsin.mafi@kaurihealthcare.nz

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.

Ashhurst Business Group

community—the Christmas parade,
Easter carnival, two night markets, a
pop up wardrobe and ladies night out,
movie in the domain, a mural painted in
Cambridge Avenue to depict the last
signing of the huia in our region,
amongst many other things.

If you would like to find out more about
the Ashhurst Business Group or to
appear in this magazine contact Emma
Tankersley at Professionals Ashhurst,
027 566 3778 or
emmat@uniquerealty.co.nz.

Emma Tankersley

Community Comment

River erosion by the Pohangina River
into the lower terrace of the Ashhurst
Domain has been highlighted by news
and social media. Walkers familiar with
this section of the river will be aware
of the dramatic changes of the river's

path with each flood event. Large
boulders and concrete slabs appear to
be successfully protecting the banks
nearby the railway bridge. However,
the river is now gouging its way into
the bank and heading towards the



Photo: River erosion at the Ashhurst Domain

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Community Comment

path beside the model flyers aerodrome. This Ashhurst Domain riverbank is under the control of the City Council. Its officers are working with Horizons to find a cost effective solution to this latest problem.

Council budgets are being trimmed in response to lower rates demands and higher fuel costs. While Palmerston North ratepayers expect problems to be fixed, we are learning that difficult decisions will need to be made on what can be maintained, or not, in these budget constrained times.

Road works and infrastructure upgrades in Wyndham Street are advancing with more kerbing laid and half of the street lowered and under re-construction. Ashhurst streets were historically built upon graded metal extracted from the gravel pit and consequently have a high crown for drainage purposes. This shape and sub-standard road foundation are not ideal for the traffic volume and weights of today.

The Council had diverted budgeted

street repairs from the city to Ashhurst after receiving a local residents' petition on the state of Wyndham Street after earlier infrastructure upgrades. The initial plan optimistically suggested completion of kerb and footpath on one side of the street by June 2026, before upgrading the other side in the next financial year. Common sense has prevailed with a more comprehensive plan taking into account stormwater control, flood events and modern road design for the full width of the street. These good things will take a little more time to complete.

Formal approval of the Ashhurst Domain Management Plan has enabled further investigation of a natural burial site at the Domain. Representatives from Rangitāne, natural burial advocates and local residents joined Council officers to view proposed sites for further investigation. The higher corner of the lower terrace remains the preferred site, but two additional options on grazed land between the Canine



Photo: Wyndham Street Upgrades

Continued on next page

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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: 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

Centre and Cambridge Avenue have been added to the mix for further geotechnical testing to guide viability for a final decision.

Contractors with diggers took little time to demolish and clear the site of the old Red Cross shop, which now lies behind security fencing. Ashhurst residents miss the opportunity for a local goodwill shop to share their unwanted goods or grab a bargain.

A sunny autumn has resulted in a long extended period of leaf fall and colours. In the tradition of Ashhurst self-help, it is wise to clear the stormwater grates of leaves and litter blockages before they become a problem in heavy rain. Contact the Palmerston North City Council help desk and make them aware of more significant problems before they escalate.

Harvey Jones

Book Review: *Raising Hare*

Raising Hare by Chloe Dalton

This is a truly heartwarming story of an unlikely friendship and so much more. Its also a journey of learning and awareness.

Chloe was, until the COVID-19 epidemic struck in 2020, a typical high-flying professional working in London, living the fast life and working long hours. Then lockdown happened, as it did for all of us, and her life changed dramatically.

She returned to her childhood home in the countryside. One day while walking in the nearby forest, she comes across a newborn hare (termed a leveret) alone and close to death. Uncertain what to do, she takes it back to her house and tries to nurse it back to health. Knowing nothing at all about hares and their habits and dietary needs, it became a journey of learning, trial and error. She studied, but never forced, intimacy on the tiny leveret. Like many of us, she had very little knowledge of hares, their behaviour, diet and needs. They are essentially wild and untameable, unlike the domesticated rabbit, and

very shy of human contact.

As the reader learns through this wonderful story, hares cannot be confined in any way. So she gives the leveret complete freedom to come and go from her country house. Hazards are many—hawks. foxes. Dogs—but in this case, the greatest danger of all is the local farmers' combine harvesters. Ploughing up the earth—anything in the dirt is brutally chopped up, including many hares and other wildlife.

Overall, the fragility of hare was brought home to the author in many ways. Her leveret became more confident and trusting with her, often choosing to sit on her knee or cuddle up by the fire with her. Never caged or confined, the young female hare kept returning home of its own accord (a few times with babies on board)! as it grew to an adult doe.

A beautiful true story, not just about the hare, but also about the relationship between humans and nature in the wild. Unforgettable.

Robyn Dare

County Fayre Update

In 1989, following the amalgamation of local authorities the Pohangina County Council moved out of the County Fayre building, and an opportunity arose. A dedicated group of local residents began working on a

community initiative to transform the old Council buildings into a community centre. Their vision was to preserve the history of the valley and support community projects, and with the use of a basic kitchen, a Tea Room was



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County Fayre Update



formed to help cover financial costs in keeping the centre running. For the past 37 years, that vision, through the work of dedicated volunteers, has continued to thrive. Minor kitchen alternations were made over time. However, after many years of saving and planning, and with assistance from the Manawātū District Council



and Central Energy Trust, County Fayre's kitchen has finally undertaken a full renovation.

During the renovation process, graffiti was discovered within the walls of the old kitchen, leading us to believe that the original kitchen was built around 1956–1957 by H. Moar and N. Funnell. We closed mid-December to allow for the renovation to take place and were back up and running on the 1st March 2026.



To celebrate our new kitchen, an afternoon tea was held on Saturday 28th March 2026. John Culling, a prominent local identity and a driving force in gaining the Council's acceptance for the creation of County Fayre, and Clare Brock, a founding member of the original group of residents who fought for County Fayre to evolve and the baker of our delicious scones, were tasked with officially opening the new kitchen.

Special thanks to our local builder Guy Rowden, his team of tradies and Villa Joinery, for an exceptional job done. To everyone who has walked through the doors of County Fayre,

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

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Community notices are free.

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Free training for volunteers joining the staff.

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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



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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>

Ashhurst and District Senior Citizens Association Inc

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

Contact: Stephanie Madgwick—Secretary 021 025 99382

Local Justices of the Peace

Mrs AK Rutherford—Available by appointment—027 404 8551

Mr F Saua

Pohangina Road RD 14—029 254 3206
J Wakeford

Hiwinui—022 319 0434

Mr JC Culling

Pohangina Road—027 289 5252

County Fayre Update

whether for Sunday afternoon delights, functions, or fundraising events, thank you. Each visit, each contribution, has helped make this new kitchen possible.

Pohangina Downhill Walk

Save the date for our annual fundraising event, the Pohangina Downhill Walk, on Saturday, 14th November, 2026, 8.00 am to 2.00 pm. Prices remain the same as the past three years:

Adults \$30,

Children \$15 (5 to 15 years),

Four Adults \$100,

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

Drop in on a Sunday afternoon and check out the new kitchen and try one of our delicious scones with jam and cream and a hot cup of tea or coffee and if you are looking for somewhere to host a small gathering or special event, considered County Fayre. We can accommodate groups of up to 40 people, and can cater for you too, if required. Contact us via countyfayre@inspire.net.nz.

Looking forward to seeing you here.

Jo Morris-Kynoch—President

Hiwinui School

It has been a busy and productive second term at Hiwinui School. Our classrooms have been settled and focused as students dive into their mid-year studies and routines.

Our annual School Cross Country was held at the Pirie Farm. The students put in a great effort tackling the paddocks and hills. We extend a sincere thank you to Phil Pirie for his

ongoing generosity in allowing the school to use his property for our weekly practices and the race day.

Our teaching staff have been engaged in professional development centered around the new Mathematics curriculum. We are using these insights alongside our Maths No

Continued on next page

Make the most of your wood this winter



DO

Use enough kindling

Burn small logs

Open air control for 30 mins when adding wood

Stack wood loosely for even burning



DON'T

Load too much wood at first

Block air to base of fire

Burn rubbish or treated wood

Damp down fire after use

For more tips to improve air quality, visit horizons.govt.nz/managing-natural-resources/air



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Hiwinui School

Problem resource to support mathematical thinking across all year levels.

In Room six, our Year 7 and 8 students have been involved in several hands-on projects this term. This includes the Evolocity programme manufacturing electric karts and bikes, the wonder project designing wind turbines to learn about renewable energy, and community service through the William Pike Challenge.

Our Guardians of the Galaxy Book Week and Character Parade saw some great creativity from the students. Thanks to our community's support, the Scholastic Book Fair achieved \$2,000 in total sales, earning our school library roughly 30% back in rewards to purchase new books.

Our senior student leaders represented the school well at the Community ANZAC service, helping with the flags and reading historical stories. We also marked Pink Shirt Day, with students wearing pink to show support for a kind and inclusive school

environment.

Thank you to Kate from Stud Construction for donating a Pātaka Kai, sharing cupboard to the school. It is located by the school gate, and families are welcome to drop off extra garden produce or take what they need.

On the sports field, our junior students represented Hiwinui at the Kainui Tabloids. We also have students participating in Winter sports throughout the term, with all players showing great sportsmanship and determination.

We have other school sporting events coming up on the calendar, including:

- Interschool Cross Country
- Rippa Rugby

We are looking forward to our Matariki breakfast to finish off our term celebrating whānau and the values of Matariki.

Ngā mihi,

Anna Hagan, Principal

Ashhurst School

As we settle into the new term, we want to take a moment to acknowledge two valued members of our teaching team who moved on to new adventures at the end of last term.

Whaea Kate has headed over to Feilding High School to continue her teaching journey. We are incredibly grateful for the energy and dedication she brought to our classrooms, and we know our friends at Feilding High are very lucky to have her join their staff.

Whaea Megan has decided to swap the classroom for a passport! She is headed overseas to travel, exploring new horizons and taking a well earned break. We look forward to hearing about her adventures and wish her safe travels as she sees the world.

are so excited for these next chapters in their lives. We will miss them both dearly and wish them nothing but the very best. Ngā mihi nui to you both!

Anzac Civil Service

We are so proud of all the Ashhurst School students and staff who marched and presented at this year's ANZAC Civil Service at the War Memorial in the Triangle on Anzac day. This is such an important part of our country's history and we are proud to be involved each year. Thank you to the RSA and all of the people who organise this service behind the scenes every year.

NFL Flag—Touchdown Ashhurst!

History was made recently as our Under11 NFL Tag team took the field for the regional playoffs! With a fully

Continued on next page

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

8.00 am First Sunday of the Month
10.00 am every Sunday

St Bartholomew's Church, Komako

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

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

Email: info@parishofpohangina.co.nz

Web: www.parishofpohangina.co.nz

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

Ashhurst Pohangina Squash Club

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

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

Contact Braydon on 027 390 5611, ashpohsquashclub@inspire.net.nz, or find us on Facebook.

Meditation Class

Overcoming Stress and Anxiety.

Every Thursday from 10.00 am - 11.00 am.

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

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

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Kids 'n Motion

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

Every Friday 9.45 am - 11.15 am during school terms at the Village Valley Centre, Guildford Street, Ashhurst.
Cost: Gold coin donation.

Contact: Cherie O'Leary, Ph: 326 9688
Check out our Facebook page and like us! Kids 'n Motion is such a great group to come along to—see you there!

Pohangina Yoga Classes

Sundays 9.30 am
\$10 per class or \$50 for six classes.
Suitable for beginners and those with more experience of yoga.

Contact Catherine: hauorayoga@gmail.com, 021 0270 4400, www.hauorayoga.co.nz, Facebook: Hauora Yoga

River Church

We meet at 131 Cambridge Avenue each Sunday at 10.00am. All welcome.
Pastors Dave and Kellie Ross. Phone 027 247 2179 or 328 4864 (evening)
www.riverchurch.nz

Village Voice Funding

The Village Voice has a circulation of 1880 and is delivered free to households in Ashhurst and the Pohangina Valley. The newsletter is run by a small volunteer incorporated society and funded solely by our loyal advertisers. Please support these community-minded businesses. If you wish to support this publication in any way, please refer to the back page and contact Grey Smith.



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Ashhurst School

paid trip to the Nationals in Wellington on the line, our crew stepped up in a massive way. We want to send a massive shoutout and a heartfelt thank you to the incredible Whaea Ash Tahiwī and her dad, Lance. Ash took on this challenge with so much passion, and having Lance there to share his wisdom and support made all the difference!

Going into our first-ever tournament, we weren't sure what to expect—but it turns out, Ashhurst can *Play!*

The Results:

- Regional Champions!
- Winners of an all-expenses-paid trip to Wellington for the National Final!

The Big Dream:

The stakes just got higher! If our

team wins the National tournament in Wellington, they'll be heading on a paid trip to San Diego, USA to represent!

We are so incredibly proud of this team and the amazing leadership behind them.

The journey to the top starts now!

Let's go, Ashhurst!



Ashhurst Library

Hi everyone, can we just start off with a big thank you to all our volunteers that we currently have helping us out. They are doing a great job and making a huge contribution to the every day running of our library.

Popular Titles—Children's

- Wings of Fire series by Tui Sutherland. Both novel form and graphic novels.
- I Survived series by Lauren Tarshis. A series of novels and graphic novels that focus on a major event in history such as the Titanic sinking and D-Day landing.
- Bluey and Peppa Pig continue to be rulers of the universe.
- But still the undisputed and long running champion is... Harry Potter. The series and spin off books by J.K Rowling are still beloved by multiple generations.

Over the next few months, we will also list our most popular adult titles.

Digits—IT Help

Just a reminder that if ever you need some help with any IT issues, please get in touch with us. We can submit a help request for you through the Digits programme which provides digital help through their representatives. A big thank you to Tama who gives such great tuition here in Ashhurst.

Ashhurst Crafting Community

Just a reminder that our great friends of the Ashhurst Crafting Community have donated pyjamas, woolly hats and little woollen slippers for anyone to come in and select some for their family.

A huge thank you to our Ashhurst Crafting Community, they are wonderful supporters of our village.

Ashhurst Elevenses

Every Friday at 11am 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, 3rd June, 10.30am.

Wednesday, 17th June, 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 1.00 pm. Thank you Aleisha, it is greatly appreciated.

Ashhurst Library Facebook

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

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

Kia ora!

As we head into a new financial year, I want to acknowledge the many Ashhurst residents who took the time to have their say during our 2026/27 Annual Budget process. Local government is always about balance – weighing up what communities need and expect against rising costs and affordability pressures facing households.

Earlier projections in our Long-Term Plan pointed to an 8.5 percent rates rise for 2026/27. That was reduced to 4.9 percent during consultation and, through careful consideration and community feedback, elected members targeted a 3.9 percent ceiling following deliberations. Because of publication deadlines, this column doesn't have the final decision from Council's June 3 meeting, but I encourage everyone to visit the Council website to see where spending has been prioritised. You'll receive an update in your next rates invoice too.

Closer to home, many residents will have noticed the recent riverbank erosion at Ashhurst Domain. Council staff have been working closely with Horizons Regional Council, and plans are underway for rock protection along the affected area, similar to work completed after Cyclone Gabrielle in 2023.

Also at the Domain, we're seeking expressions of interest from anyone with ideas to relocate and restore the old jockey clubrooms building. Vacant since 2017, the building dates back to the 1920s and has long associations with the Ashhurst-Pohangina Racing Club. Many locals will also remember it later serving as a tuck shop and café. Unfortunately, it can't remain where it is, but we'd love to see it given a new purpose rather than lost altogether. Expressions of interest close on 25 June.

On Cambridge Avenue, the former Red Cross building was demolished last month following asbestos removal. This approach was decided by Council in April.

Work also continues on Wyndham Street, where staged road closures remain in place as Higgins completes trenching and ducting works supporting future Chorus and Powerco utility installations. The project is expected to wrap up in August, with updates continuing to be shared directly with affected households.

There's also good progress on the Stoney Creek Road upgrade project. This important safety improvement has been high on the community wishlist

for years, and crews are making steady headway on drainage, road widening and road level changes between Kelvin Grove Road and Hendersons Line. Work will continue in stages throughout the year, with the next Kelvin Grove Road-related stage expected to begin early next year.

Across the wider city, our Nature Calls Wastewater feedback period recently closed. This work focuses on how Palmerston North will treat and discharge wastewater over the next 35 years. Councillors will now consider the feedback before selecting a preferred option. Council is also seeking submissions on the city's draft Stormwater Strategy designed to better prepare our city for heavier rainfall, climate pressures and future growth. Have your say on both on our website

Our Puanga Matariki Festival returns on Friday 10 July at Arena Manawatu's Pit Lane, bringing people together through kapa haka, kai, music and activities for tamariki, while recognising the significance of Puanga and the Matariki Māori New Year in our region.

You can also check out the latest edition of Palmy Proud, our free magazine celebrating the creativity, character and growth of our city. Copies are available across Palmerston North and online through the Council website.

From July, we're launching a soft plastics recycling trial in Palmy. We'll share drop-off locations soon, but you can start setting soft plastics aside at home. A simple scrunch test is a good guide – if the plastic stays scrunched into a ball, it can usually be recycled through the trial.

Finally, a reminder for dog owners that registration notices will arrive from early June. Payments are due by 1 July, with penalties applying after 1 August. Owners can now also choose to receive registration notices digitally.

As always, thank you to everyone in Ashhurst who contributes ideas, volunteers time and supports local projects – community is something we build together.

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

**Mayor
Grant Smith JP**



ASHHURST COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Open days

Monday	2pm - 5pm
Tuesday - Friday	10am - 5pm
Saturday	10am - 1pm
Sunday	Closed

Access the full range of library digital resources at: citylibrary.pncc.govt.nz

SPLASHHURST! COMMUNITY POOL

Normal hours

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

clmnz.co.nz/splashhurst

ASHHURST RUBBISH + RECYCLING

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

Recycling Bin	Glass Crate
2 June	9 June
16 June	23 June
20 June	

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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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 Saturday, 20th June 2026.

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

Ashhurst Clay Target Club

What is the last Sunday of April? It's always the last weekend before duck-shooters' season starts and for our club traditionally, we hold our main fundraiser event—Duck-shooters' Shoot or Duck-shooters' Eye Opener.

This year was another cracker of an event with a huge turnout of 143 shooters! From the positive feedback received on the day, the club reckons we could score some new club members too.

Huge congratulations to our top shooter of the day, young Cohen, with an impressive score of 96 and our top club member, Don (not so young).

Feel free to look at photos of the day on our Facebook page.

Also our club won the inter-club shoot against the Feilding Clay Target Club by a solid margin—outstanding

shooting from Blacky, Brayden, Craig, Don and Joby.

Hard work by club members, supporters and of course our sponsors—Mitchell Sports, City Honda and Bayleys Real Estate—helped make it such a success.

Karen Pawson—Secretary



Photos: Club President, Chris Mooyman presenting Cohen his prize.

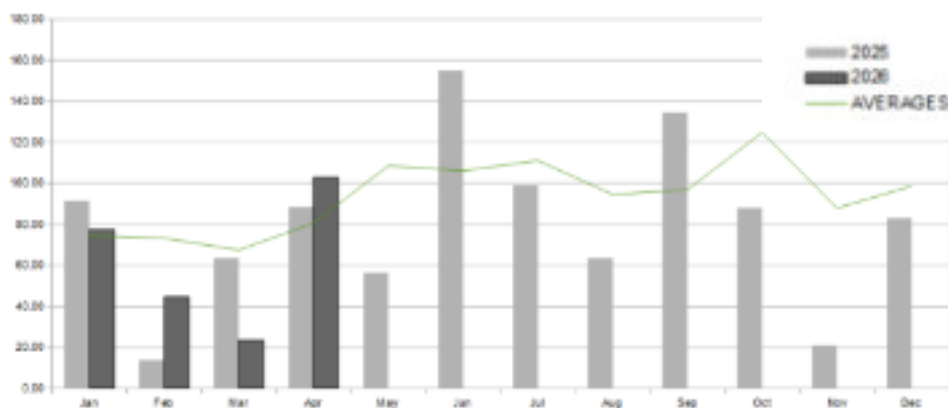
Ashhurst Rainfall

103 mm of rain fell in April 2026, above the monthly long-term average of 79.26 mm.

Rain was recorded on 18 days, with the highest one-day rainfall of 23 mm on the 20th of April.

The total annual rainfall for the period from 1st of January to the 30th April is now 248 mm, which is below the long-term average for this period of 296.59 mm.

Phil Pirie



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