



Ashhurst Village Voice

*Informing the communities of
Ashhurst & Pohangina*

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March 2024

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

Interesting Plants of the Ashhurst Domain

The four-hectare patch of native bush in the Ashhurst Domain is a lovely place to escape the heat on a hot summer day. It is also one of the best examples of original (uncleared) forest in the Manawatū lowlands. The large trees include species such as kahikatea, mataī, pukatea, tītoki, and tawa, with kawakawa the dominant understory shrub. Here I introduce some notable plant species that occur in the Domain.

Swamp maire/maire tawake.



A number of swamp maire trees grow in the swampy area on the lower river terrace of the Domain. These can be seen beside the track from the playground to the Manawatū River (there is even one labelled on the footbridge closest to the river). Swamp maire is found only in New Zealand, mostly growing in lowland swamps and along stream margins. However, it has become uncommon with the clearing and draining of swamps. A further threat is myrtle rust (the same disease that attacks pōhutukawa, mānuka and rātā) and swamp maire is particularly susceptible.

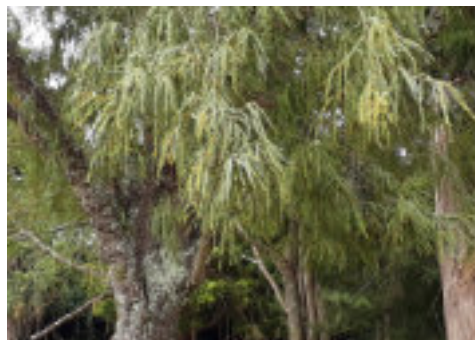
Giant maidenhair fern.

In New Zealand this large fern species only grows in the vicinity of the Manawatū Gorge. It also occurs in eastern Australia and it is believed that the plants in New Zealand grew from

spores that blew across the Tasman Sea. There is a large population of giant maidenhair fern under the shady forest towards the Manawatū River (most easily accessed from the parking area by the Manawatū River bridge), although some plants were lost with the recent erosion of land into the river.



Papa kōwhai.



There are eight species of kōwhai currently recognised in New Zealand, with papa kōwhai only described as a separate species in 2001. It grows from Te Kuiti to the Manawatū, particularly on mudstone, and there are many trees along SH1 through the Rangitīkei. The papa kōwhai at the Domain are some of the most southernmost examples of the species. Papa kōwhai grows up to 25m tall and has a weeping form and

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Deadline for April Issue—Wednesday, 20th March 2024

Book Review: Bookshop Dogs

by Ruth Shaw

Dogs and books—what a winning combination!

This is the author's follow-up story to her very popular "The Bookseller at the End of the World". If you have read that one you will know it was about her three "wee" bookshops in Manapouri, the far south of New Zealand.

Each chapter of "Bookshop Dogs" features one of the special canines who have visited her bookshop, sometimes local dogs, sometimes holiday dogs and maybe travelling dogs passing through, they have all left their mark in many ways with Ruth and other visitors.

Hunza features in many of these little stories—he was a German Shepherd adopted by Ruth and husband Lance as a puppy and became so special to them over the years. He worked alongside Ruth when she was a youth worker helping troubled teens, he was a big hit with those who had lost their way, in trouble with the law and sometimes without hope. When Hunza was there they were able to talk more readily about their problems. He had a calming influence on everyone and they felt comfortable around him.

The reader will also encounter Shady Lady, the Blue Heeler, Tui the Reading Dog, Tala the Jill Russell, Bill the Hunting Dog, Pippa the Springer Spaniel, Sam and Gem the Retired Sheepdogs, and many more. Each with their own specialities and personality traits.

Throughout this heart-warming book, there shines the love and trust of these wonderful animals—they are truly "Mans Best Friend". It is a pleasure to see them honoured in this way by a true dog-lover and read about the many delightful owners she encountered in her wee bookshop.

Robyn Dare

Interesting Plants of the Ashhurst Domain

hairy leaves. It produces its bright yellow drooping flowers, loved by nectar-eating birds such as tuī and bellbirds, from October to December. Papa kōwhai is most easily seen in the Domain down the hill from the Manawatū Canine Centre towards the Pohangina River, parallel to the railway line.

New Zealand gloxinia/taurepo.

This species is only found in New Zealand and is uncommon in the southern part of the North Island. It is the only New Zealand species in the gloxinia family and is a distant relative of the popular houseplant the African violet. New Zealand gloxinia is a small shrub growing to 2 m tall, which prefers to grow on steep hillsides, cliffs and riverbanks. Its striped orange and red flowers are some of the most striking



and colourful of our native plants and are produced year-round. Sadly, many of the birds that pollinate its flowers, such as hihi and saddleback, are now rare so New Zealand gloxinia is declining. In the Domain New Zealand gloxinia can be seen on the steep hill where the track travels from the upper to the lower river terrace near the playground.

Lara Shepherd

Staying Safe—A Refresher Course

Have you had your licence for decades but never refreshed your road code knowledge? Are you feeling unsettled because you have a medical coming up to renew your licence? Are you curious about what all these changes to road layout and signs mean?

Manawatu Rural Support Services, along

with Age Concern are holding the Staying Safe refresher driving course. This course is free, with limited spaces. It will be held on Wednesday, 3rd April at 9.15 am– 1.00 pm at the Kimbolton Community Hall. Light refreshments are provided.

To enrol, or for more information, contact Age Concern on (06) 355 2832.

Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade

Hello Ashhurst! I hope everyone had a nice relaxing Christmas break.

With the hot dry summer days we've been having the fire danger risk is steadily climbing. This can be seen by the cancellation of some fire permits in our area and the restricted fire season out on the coast and in other areas of the country. Rural firefighters have been kept very busy with fires in these tinder dry conditions.

The fire season can change to restricted or prohibited quickly and without warning. The easiest way to check is go to www.checkitsalright.nz to see what the fire danger and season are in your local area. The website gives you some safety considerations around lighting fires at this

time of year.

The website also gives you some awesome tips to being proactive when it comes to fire safety and ways to protect your property. Things like clearing wood and grass and making sure your driveway is clear and accessible to responding fire appliances go a long way to protecting yourself and your property. Rural fires can spread a long way very quickly and require huge amounts of time and resources to extinguish so please help us protect you.

Also remember to check your smoke alarms!

Matthew Clark—Community Fire Risk Management Officer

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Tuesday 8.30am - 5.00pm

Thursday 8.30am - 5.00pm

Saturday 9.00am - 12 noon

Wednesday & Friday evenings by appointment

141 Cambridge Avenue

Herb Farm Kid's Market 2024

Our Kid's Market is back for 2024!

We are hosting our next Kid's Market at The Herb Farm on Sunday, 24th of March 2024.

Children will set up their own stalls, and sell the beautiful wares they have made/planted/created and sell them at prices they have set themselves (cash only).

Come along and support these amazing kids.

Please note this event is subject to interest and is weather dependent so please keep an eye out for our updates at <https://theherbfarmeventcalendar.eventcalendarapp.com/>

RECAP Update

Tēna koutou. The RECAP team is back for 2024. We have some exciting projects, workshops and seminars coming up, so please keep your eye on our website and social media.

On behalf of the Christmas Hamper Committee RECAP is a part of (alongside the Ashhurst Food Bank and members of the Ashhurst R.S.A.) we'd like to acknowledge those who sponsored the Community Christmas Hampers in 2023: Ngā mihi nui to the Ashhurst/Pohangina Lions, Age Concern, The Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A., the R.S.A. Women's League, RECAP, The Ashhurst Food Bank, Diane Bennett, The Ashhurst Christmas Parade, Woolworths New Zealand, River Church, Sanitarium, DKSH Distribution, Tastes of the UK, Just Zilch and everyone who made cash donations, donated food items or bought a raffle ticket.

The RECAP Crop Swap has been popular, so we're hosting these monthly in 2024. You'll find us on the first Saturday of every month at the Ashhurst Community Library (outside if it's nice!) 11.00 am-1.00 pm kicking off in March. This is a sharing event where people can give and take freely (no need to give in order to take and vice versa). Bring produce, fruit, cuttings, seedlings, seeds and anything else gardening related.

Last year there was some kōrero on creating a neighborhood watch and/or community patrols in the area due to an uptick in crime. RECAP are happy to arrange a meeting with The Palmerston North/Manawatū reps for the community if interest is still there. Please contact info@recap.org.nz if you would be keen to get involved or have any thoughts or suggestions you'd like to share.

We have Volunteer Library Gardening happening most weeks led by our wonderful deputy chairperson Suzanne. She updates Facebook/Ashhurst Chat each week with more detail, so if you're keen to get involved check there or email: schelius@hotmail.com.

Everyone—all levels of experience and ability—welcome. Bring gloves and tools if you have them. Otherwise, we will provide anything you might need. The mission is keeping the garden tidy, alongside connecting and socialising. We garden for under an hour, then stop for a cuppa and cake. We are starting earlier (at 1.00 pm) this year to provide more of a time-buffer for those who have school pick-up. Come along as a one-off or as a regular volunteer! We love to see new faces!

We will be running our Permaculture Garden Tour again later this year, and we're on the lookout for new gardens to showcase. Although we focus on permaculture, anyone who grows food/flowers/natives with sustainable/regenerative methods is welcome to participate. It's a wonderful chance to meet other like minded gardeners, and as a participant you often learn a lot from the attendees. This is a fundraising effort for RECAP with proceeds going toward our many and varied services and educational opportunities. Please get in touch (info@recap.org.nz) if you would like to be involved.

We're also very excited to be running not one, but **two** garden clubs at Ashhurst school this year—one for the juniors and one for the seniors. We're looking forward to tailoring this education to each age

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.

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Palmerston North Neighbourhood Support
 Alison Jarden JP, Manager
 06 355 4468 | 021 0248 4139
info@pncitysupport.com
www.pncitysupport.com



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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

Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A. Inc

74 Cambridge Avenue, Ashhurst.
Phone: 326 8296

Sunday: 2.00pm-6.00pm

Monday 3.00pm-6.00pm

Tuesday: 3.00pm-7.00pm

Wednesday 3.00pm-9.00pm

Thursday: 2.00pm-9.00pm

Friday: 2.00pm-Midnight

Saturday: 1.00pm-9.00 pm

Manawatu Rangitikei Methodist Parish—Ashhurst, Bunnythorpe and Pohangina Congregation

Ashhurst Devonport Worship and
Community Centre

10.30 am 2nd Sunday

Pohangina Community Church

10.30 am 3rd Sunday

Contacts: Parish Office—323 4127

Heather Fairless—326 8355

Ashhurst Bowling Club

67 Stanford Street.

Season starts end of September
through to mid April.

If you would like more information on
lawn bowling, please call or email:
Adrienne Harding 326 8972/027 283
6317 ashhurstbowlingclub@gmail.com

RECAP Update

group and hoping the tamariki take this
learning to their own backyards. A big ngā
mihi to those organizations and individuals
who have donated materials and time to
the school māra over the past two years.

Our Seed Library (located within the
Ashhurst Library) continues to be updated
with seeds appropriate for the season.
Thank you to the new volunteers who have
joined us to help with this. We are always
looking for donated seeds—especially
those grown in our area. These can be
dropped off to the Seed Library station.

And finally, RECAP Community Kai
continues to provide rescued and donated
kai to our residents. This happens on a

Tuesday from 3.15 pm-4.15 pm from the
library back room (accessed through the
garden area). This is not means tested and
we ask no questions. Bring your own bag
and select what you and your whānau will
use. Some items have limits, and others
you may take freely (please check the
signage). We do not put out any items that
are well past use by dates or appear
perished, but please note most of what is
available will be close to or past best
before dates. Please use your eyes, nose
and common sense before consuming. To
find out more join [facebook/](https://www.facebook.com/RECAPcommunitykai)
[RECAPcommunitykai](https://www.facebook.com/RECAPcommunitykai).

Chris Love—RECAP Coordinator

County Fayre Update

Our Annual General Meeting was held in
January, with the outgoing committee re-
elected. If you are looking for a voluntary
role, then come and join County Fayre.
Become a volunteer to help in the kitchen
once a month on a Sunday afternoon
serving our delicious Devonshire teas, or
just become one of our friends on
Facebook ([https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/CountyFayre)
[CountyFayre](https://www.facebook.com/CountyFayre)).

Looking for an outing, come to County
Fayre in the Pohangina Village and enjoy a
Devonshire tea or coffee, an Ice Cream
Sundae or a milkshake and view the
photography work by Catherine Russ, on
display in our Gallery.

Some events planned for this year
include supporting the ANZAC Day Service
morning tea; a mid-winter feast near the

time of the winter solstice and Matariki;
plans are afoot to hold another Readers
and Writers Day and again we will be a part
of the Manawatu Art Trail; our annual
fundraiser and The Downhill Walk will
again be held in November. If you would
like to know more about any of these
events then please contact us at
countyfayre@inspire.net.nz or send a
message via our Facebook page [https://](https://www.facebook.com/CountyFayre)
www.facebook.com/CountyFayre.

At the end of each year, the outgoing
President provides a report, the following
is a shortened version.

**County Fayre Incorporated, Pohangina,
—Presidents Report 2023**

During the year the Manawatu Rural
Support Services commenced holding
Continued on next page

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County Fayre Update

their bi monthly meetings at County Fayre; we held a Pohangina Rocks painting event for local children, and hosted Pohangina ANZAC Day Services morning tea. Awahou School visited so the children could view the history of the Pohangina region and were provided scones with jam and cream as part of the experience. A Pohangina Catchment Group Farming workshop luncheon was hosted and a well-attended Gumboots and Coffee Group gathered for a midwinter "Bring a Plate Luncheon". We were a venue of the Manawatu Art Trail, with the children of Awahou School creating their own art to display. County Fayre sponsored a Spring Gathering along with the help of Paul Gange and Vicki Pask, with live music by Bullfrog Rata and Geoff, as well as Jeff and Sheree and Cole on his Bagpipes. An enjoyable well attended evening. A Coffee and Dessert Evening, with a Mid-Winter Christmas theme was held as a fundraiser, with entertainment by, 'Take Your Pick' and raffle items were donated from local business. Thank you to those business who support this event. The Pohangina Downhill Walk, our major

fundraiser was once again held and was an enjoyable successful day. This event is a huge undertaking and all our volunteers help make the day it was and run so well, thank you. During the year we also hosted many clubs varying from caravan, car and bicycle enthusiasts to chartered tours who were supplied with light luncheons or afternoon tea.

To the volunteers who continue to turn up each Sunday to serve the public, thank you for giving up your precious weekends to support County Fayre and the Pohangina community.

Thank you to every member of this community and surrounding district who has supported County Fayre over the past year in whatever shape or form. And my personal thanks and gratitude to the committee, the time and effort you have selfishly given is commendable.

Come and visit, we would love to see you.

Joanne Morris-Kynoch—County Fayre President

Community Comment

Key stakeholders with an interest in the new shared pathway associated with Te Ahu a Turanga were recently provided an update on progress by Waka Kotahi (New Zealand Transport Agency). This shared use path, which is aligned parallel to the new highway, is on schedule to be completed mid-2025 in conjunction with

the new road.

An additional sub-project is required for the shared path to cross the Manawatu River and link up to the riverside path, Ashhurst Domain, and our other pathways. Once finished, there will be a network of shared paths linking Woodville, Te Apati,

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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For more information call Plunket Area Office—0800 692 445 or 06 357 4844

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The B4 School Check is the final Well Child check.

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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: \$8 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.

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

Ashhurst Foodbank

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

Contact: Marianne 027 627 2054

Ashhurst Red Cross

Secondhand Shop, Cambridge Avenue.

Summer clothing, shoes, household items, toys and books, plenty to choose from.

Donations accepted when shop is open.

Monday-Thursday 12.30pm-2.30pm

Friday 10.00am-1.00pm or when the flags are out.

Community Comment

Ashhurst, Palmerston North and Linton into the Manawatū's Heartland cycleway.

The existing Manawatū bridge is too narrow and its railing too low for safe use by pedestrians and cyclists. The initial plan to add a clip-on to the existing road bridge had to be abandoned when costs escalated due to newly identified strengthening requirements. A cheaper option has been proposed to build a separate new bridge downstream from the road bridge to provide the necessary connection for cyclists and pedestrians.

The concept design is for a network arch bridge with the main span stretching across the main river channel and connections looping under the road bridge to the shared paths. The estimated cost of this new bridge is between \$27 and \$31 million. Detailed design work and a construction programme is yet to be determined, but it is expected that this important link for the shared use path will take 12 months to complete.

The upgrade of Custom Street to a standard sealed street with a footpath is a challenge for long suffering commercial and residential users. There are bound to

be complexities to deal with when the update of underground infrastructure includes Three Waters and Chorus communications on top of existing water supply pipes. Commuters watch with interest as the paving looks ready to seal, before being dug up yet again for another pipe, a repair, or an entranceway.

A similar scenario is appearing in Wyndham Street as stormwater and water infrastructure is upgraded to meet demand for the new residential sections. Local residents need to navigate road cones, detours and potholes galore. They may have preferred the normal heavy traffic bypass and will be looking forward to the job being completed, eventually.

The Council's long-term plan will be released for consultation in April. Double figure rates increases are being discussed and the plan will attract significant interest from ratepayers. The demise of "Three Waters" under the new government creates a huge hole in the Council budget plans regarding the proposed wastewater project. Ratepayers are struggling to meet increased cost of living and may be willing to accept the loss of nice-to-have projects in return for smaller rates increases and efficient provision of Council services.

If this dry weather continues, please care for stressed trees on street verges and reserves with some buckets of water down the irrigation pipes to their root level. Keep long grass controlled and help prevent wildfires which are plaguing other regions of New Zealand.

Harvey Jones



Photo: Ongoing road works in Custom Street

Ashhurst School

It's hard to believe we are now all back at school. We had some very hot weather over the holiday break and I hope everyone had a great holiday.

Sports Coach

A warm welcome to Mike Van Buuren to the

staff for the 2024 school year. Mike will be taking on the lead on all sports organisation and also in school coaching. Mike brings a wealth of experience from South Africa where he took this role on at

Continued on next page

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Ashhurst School

the schools he was working at leading the sports department. Mike will be working with our juniors in the pool throughout the year and many of our senior classes as well in and out of the pool.

New Structure

Our school is working with a new management structure to best meet the needs of our students, teachers and community.

A reminder if you have a concern, please raise it with the class teacher first. If you still have concerns, then see either the team leader, or Megan (Years 1-4) or James (Years 5-8) and they will be able to help. If it is severe or in the evening and you wish to speak with someone, then feel free to email or call me.

Reminders

Just a reminder that Pā Heath continues in his Kahui Akō C0-Lead Principal role in 2024. This means that some Thursdays he will be off site attending those meetings etc. A lot of the time it is just business as usual and he will be onsite. What this means for the kura is that on those days Whaea Kaz will step into that role and you will see her contributing to newsletters and dealing with anything that pops up and needs addressing. As always we are both happy to help and our doors are always open.

New Staff

A warm welcome to Richard, who is our new caretaker. Richard has come to us from Northcross Intermediate in Auckland.

Richard comes to us with a wealth of experience and we are extremely lucky to have him here keeping our kura looking stunning.

Kapa Haka

It is exciting to see our Kapa Haka Years 3-8 back in full swing. Kapa Haka takes place every Tuesday Morning from 9.15 am - 10.30 pm. Students will be able to have a go and see if they would like to be part of the Kapa Haka rōpū. After this time attendance to all practices is essential. We look forward to seeing our tamariki perform at Pae Tamariki later in the year.

P.T.A.

Our P.T.A. have been working hard to bring you an awesome movie night on Thursday, 22nd February, in conjunction with the Palmerston North City Council.

Board of Trustees news

The Board of Trustees held their meeting last night and after trialling locking the gates over the holidays period being successful in eliminating damage to the school property, the Board have decided that this will become a permanent decision. The gates will be locked from 4.00 pm each day.

Triathlon

We have set the dates for School Triathlon for 2024. The senior triathlon is on the 5th March and the junior triathlon will take place the following day, 6th March.

Ki - o - Rahi

We are excited to be able to access Chris

Continued on next page

Ashhurst Yoga Classes

Gentle beginner to intermediate yoga classes are on every Wednesday, 9.15am-10.00am at the Village Valley Centre, during the school year.

Cost is \$8.50 and bring your yoga mat.

Working to your own level we focus on mindfulness, building and maintaining strength and flexibility—you don't need to have either to start yoga!

Phone or Text Vanessa: 027 243 0187 or email vlbphotography@inspire.net.nz, or visit www.vlbphotography.co.nz.

County Fayre Pohangina
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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: Ken Simonsen,
Phone: 329-4800

Ashhurst and District Senior Citizens Association Inc

Meet on the first Thursday of each month in the Methodist Church Hall, Bamfield Street, at 2.00 pm. We invite you to come along and enjoy an afternoon of friendship and entertainment.

Contact: Terry Carr, 326 8074

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—329 4825

J Wakeford

Hiwinui—022 319 0434

Craft on Cambridge

At the Chapman Hall, Anglican Church, Cambridge Avenue, on Monday afternoons 1.00 pm-3.00 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

Ashhurst Music Club

Live original music in your back yard

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

Contact kiwifieldcrew@inspire.net.nz or phone Grant 027 432 7648

Pohangina Rubbish Collection

Rubbish is collected every Monday. Bags out by 7.30am

Ashhurst School

Swannell to work once again with our Year 5 - 8 students. They will be training weekly to participate in our regions Ki - o - Rahi tournament, as well as our Year 7 and 8 students competing in Ki - o - Rahi as a

newly introduced sport in the Elite Sport competition. This will be hosted by Ashhurst School in Week 8

Heath Chittenden—Principal

Te Ahu a Turanga Highway Update

Three years after construction began on Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway, bulk earthworks are completed, with more than 6.4 million m³ of earth moved.

This total equates to about 350,000 truck-loads of earth. The number is slightly more than the six million originally anticipated, which was due to some of the earth moved not being suitable for road building.

"Bulk earthworks" refers to moving large volumes of earth, and while this part of the programme is completed, there are still minor touch ups to be done. This includes activities like finishing works, which is making sure the top layer of earthworks is smooth and ready for pavement construction.

Overall, 320 people operated earthmoving equipment, with one operator moving a massive 260,000 cubic metres alone.

About 300 different pieces of equipment were used, with 70 per cent of the earthworks being completed using excavators (diggers) and dump trucks, with the remaining 30 per cent using scrapers.

Working closely with the earthworks teams are the drainage teams, who install the systems that keep water running away from the road.

This includes network drainage, which involves pipes under the road that carry water into treatment areas away from the highway, and pavement drainage, which ensures water drains away from the aggregate layers and into the network drainage system.

So far, 12 kilometres of pavement drainage and five kilometres of network drainage have been completed.

As earthworks and drainage are completed in parts of the highway, those sections are handed over to the pavements team to start constructing the road itself. About 6.5km of the alignment is ready for pavement construction.

Pavement construction began in June 2023, with layers of aggregate being laid on a two kilometre stretch of the highway near the western end.

As our pavement construction continues to make good progress, we are now preparing our layers for the supply and placement of the structural asphalt layers. A temporary asphalt plant is being set up on site to increase asphalt supply to the pavement crews.

New roundabouts at each end of Te Ahu a Turanga are taking shape, with the final earthworks trimming and drainage underway.

Following this, pavement crews will start to put down layers of aggregate over the next few weeks.

Bridges update

While the earthworks teams wrap up their programme, the structures teams continue to make progress on Parahaki Bridge, the 300-metre-long structure over the Manawatū River.

Using the form traveller from Pier 1, they have now completed 11 of 54 segments of the superstructure (bridge deck) and expect to connect this to the southern abutment by April.

Meanwhile, a second form traveller is being assembled on Pier 2, so more segments can be constructed at the same time.

Over the river at Eco-Viaduct, 224 of 760 deck panels have been placed on the steel

Continued on next page



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Te Ahu a Turanga Highway Update

girders, with a further hundred expected to go down over the next month. After this, concrete is poured over the panels, on which the road surface will eventually be applied.

At the Woodville end of the project, work continues on the bridge deck of Mangamanaia Stream Bridge now that all beams for this structure are in place.

Ashhurst Library

Hi everyone, we hope many of you enjoyed the Ashhurst Domain Open Day in February. Thank you to everyone who put in submissions and had their say on what they would like to see happen in the Domain in future years.

After School Chess Club

We are starting a chess club and hope to be able to introduce many kids to this great game. If you would be happy to teach chess to the kids, please let us know, we would be very appreciative.

Community Garden

Our gardens are looking incredible thanks to the work by our gardening group. If ever you would like to help, you would be most welcome. Come in anytime and talk to staff and they will put you in touch with our volunteers.

Moneywise Manawatu

We are thrilled to be in partnership with Moneywise Manawatu 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

Every Friday at 11.00 am during term time
First session for 2024 is Friday, 2nd

Ashhurst Pohangina Rugby Club

Rugby is starting back up again with registrations open for our men's, women's and juniors teams.

The Stags are currently training on Sundays at 4.30 to prepare for the upcoming season. With a few new

More information

For more information about the project, head to www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/te-ahu-a-turanga/ or visit the Ashhurst Library or the Visitor's Centre at our Project Office for the latest flyover, project updates and the Drive the Highway simulator.

Grant Kauri—New Zealand Transport Agency

February

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.

Meet with Mayor Grant Smith

Wednesday, 26th March 5.00 pm-6.00 pm

Come in for an informal chat with our Mayor Grant Smith who will be available to talk to you about any issues and concerns. Refreshments are provided, you are all most welcome.

Ashhurst Mighty Kids

Ashhurst Mighty Kids is our preschool programme of stories, songs and crafts. As ever, we hope to be able to have special guests throughout the year and there may be a few sessions in some very special locations.

Wednesday, 13th March 10.30am

Wednesday, 27th March 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

players to go along with the old heads things are looking exciting. If you are interested in joining the team please feel free to join us for a practice. Sessions will change so keep watch on our Facebook page for updates.

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.
Priest—Rev Pam Barnett. Contact the Parish office for further information:

Phone 326 8543 or

Email: info@parishofpohangina.net

www.parishofpohangina.net

St Mary Magdalene Church—Office Hours (subject to change at short notice): Monday: closed, Tuesday: closed, Wednesday: 9.30am-3.30pm, Thursday: closed, Friday: 1.00pm-3.00pm

Ashhurst Pohangina Squash Club

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

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

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

Ashhurst 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

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 21st year of providing music and movement for 0 - 5year olds within Ashhurst and the surrounding community.

Every Friday 9.45am-11.15am during school terms at the Village and 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 too—see you there!

Pohangina Yoga Classes

Mondays 6.00pm-7.00pm
\$10 per class or \$50 for six classes.
Suitable for beginners and those with more experience of yoga.

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

Pohangina Local Christian Radio

3ABN Radio is now broadcasting in Pohangina Township on 107.7FM. Offering lifestyle radio with a difference! Broadcast 24 Hours, 7 Days a week for the 'Best News Ever!'

www.3abn.org

Contact Rex 06 356 1141 for Free Bible Studies, Books and DVD's.

Ashhurst Indoor Bowling Club

Our season starts Thursday, 21st March and runs through to 26th September 2024.

We play in the VVC with games starting 7.30pm & play every Thursday.

Do come along and if you've never played before, we have members to help.

All members welcome.

Ashhurst Pohangina Rugby Club

The women's team had a gathering recently and we found Fridays weren't good for many so we will have a muster again on the 9th March at 3.00 pm. We are looking for anyone keen to join us and bring back a woman's team to Ashhurst Pohangina Rugby.

The Juniors had their first registration day and it was great seeing new and returning faces. The kids are keen to get their boots on and get running around.

There will be another registration day on the 9th of March from 1.00 pm-2.30 pm.

For upcoming events and news like and follow our facebook pages. We are hoping more of our community gets involved with the local rugby team this year and joins us in some fun. In addition, if you are keen to sponsor us please get in touch.

Tiffany Rogers—Junior Convener

Ashhurst Clay Target Club

November

Our November shoot had the annual Mario Stella Memorial Trophy shoot and Chris Higginson won this.

Club Shoot:

Top Gun: Brendon Smith (shoot off with Ken Simonsen)

Handicap winner: Paul Wheeler

December

Unsure what it is about men winning hams but it makes everything very competitive. Plus about 10 new shooters on the day. One of our past patrons and club stalwarts was there... great to see Shorty (Ian Denton).

Continued on page 12

Ashhurst Rainfall

137.5 mm of rain fell in January 2023, above the monthly average of 74.9 mm.

Rain was recorded on twelve days with the highest one-day rainfall of 65 mm on the 27th of January 2024.

The total annual rainfall is 137.5 mm. This is above the annual average of 74.9 mm.

Mai Quang

Ashhurst Rainfall 2023



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Scan this handy QR code or head to horizons.govt.nz to check out the map of new routes



GLIMPSE

Mayor Grant Smith

Kia ora tātou

Autumn already, and the year is developing its own distinct tempo. I wonder if that's a reason it's called 'March' – as the year and its activities get themselves aligned in step.

At this time of year, it's good to see people are sharing their excess garden produce through the Ashhurst Community Library and other distribution points. These kinds of endeavours are a sign of a resilient and caring community.

My commendations also to the Ashhurst-Pohangina Lions for running another successful Small Holders' Auction at the end of January, with proceeds going towards local projects.

Hi-de-hi Campers

The Ashhurst Domain campground continues to be a hit with visitors. The 2023 calendar year posted a record for stays, with the campground over this Christmas period described as 'chocka'.

However, with consistently positive feedback from campers, the opening months of 2024 have seen a similar burst of popularity, with Easter also set to be extremely busy.

Over these next few months the Domain will be getting more post-and-rail style fencing, as well as some additional signage.

Ashhurst Domain Development

Looking to the Domain's longer-term future, Council is conscious that completion of the Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatu-Tararua Highway in 2025 means that more people will want to take advantage of Ashhurst's little gem.

Planning for this potential increase in popularity needs to be undertaken now and Council staff have been working on updated management and development plans.

Last month we held a community open day for residents to make known their views on its future and bring along any ideas they might have for its enhancement. The feedback we received is that most people want the Domain to stay as it is.

While we appreciate this, both draft plans will go out for public consultation in April. Please bear in mind that when the new highway opens in 2025, the transport environment will change significantly, heightening Ashhurst's role as a gateway to the city and wider Manawatū region.

While submissions on the draft plans have now closed, I'm still keen to hear your thoughts at the next Meet the Mayor in the week before Easter.

Long Term Plan

Our draft LTP for the next decade will also be open to the public for consultation during April.

We welcome your views, and you can find out more about the LTP, the feedback and submissions process, and how to sign up for LTP updates on the pncc.govt.nz website.

Wyndham St

Thanks for your understanding over the comprehensive stormwater and freshwater infrastructure upgrade along Wyndham St. The work is due to finish this month and the road reopened to two-way traffic. I'm aware of the disruption and we appreciate your patience.

Skytower Challenge

Fundraising and fitness training for the Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade's annual May clamber up the steps of Auckland's Skytower for Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand is underway.

Last year, the local Skytower Challenge team raised \$26,500 for the charitable cause - the seventh highest total out of 216 teams and the top Manawatū contingent.

There's been a carwash and stalls as the campaign builds steam, and residents are asked to look out for other opportunities to support the firefighters in their 2024 quest for Skytower glory.

Recycling

A reminder about the new national recycling standards which now excludes lids, caps or aerosol cans from your orange wheelie bin. Please check the pncc.govt.nz website for particulars.

Voluntary Water Restrictions

Remember also you should only water home gardens between 7pm and 9pm every second day, with even house numbers on even days and odd numbers on odd days. Abiding by Council's voluntary Summer Water Use Plan gives us a better chance of seeing summer through without having to impose stricter conditions.

Meet the Mayor

The next Meet the Mayor is on **Tuesday March 26 between 5 – 6pm** at the Ashhurst Community Library. Any changes will be posted on the Council website and Facebook page.

Ngā mihi nui

Mayor Grant Smith JP

PS: Don't forget the free-to-enjoy New Zealand Rural Games on Te Marae o Hine/ The Square **March 8, 9, 10**. The following week - March 14, 15, 16 there's the Central District Field Days at Manfeild in Feilding.



ASHHURST COMMUNITY LIBRARY

06 326 8646

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

06 350 0849

Normal hours

Tuesday - Friday	6am - 9.30am + 1pm - 7pm during school term 6am - 7pm during school holidays
Saturday	8am - 6pm
Sunday - Monday	closed

Splashhurst! online:
clmnz.co.nz/splashhurst

ASHHURST RUBBISH + RECYCLING

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

Recycling Bin	Glass Crate
12 March	5 March
26 March	19 March
9 April	2 April

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, and the **Snap Send Solve** app to quickly report anything that needs attention or fixing.



info@pncc.govt.nz / 06 356 8199 / pncc.govt.nz

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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.

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.

For technical details please contact the Editor. Contact details above.

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

Village Voice Deadline

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

5.00 pm Wednesday, 20th March.

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

Ashhurst Bowling Club

After our club shoot there was the annual side-by-side shoot and everyone gave it a go, with some impressive scores.

Club Shoot:

Top Gun: Joby Stella (24 score), then Aaron from Western Lakes and Mike Romley

Handicap winner: Jenny Bucknell, then Alan Ives and Ken Simonsen

Side-by-Side Shoot:

Winner: Brad Turner, then Phil Brooks and Ken McDonald

January

A couple of shooters from Pongaroa Club are usually at our shoot but this month they sent a team to compete for the Four-Way Club Challenge against our Ashhurst club, Tangimoana and Feilding clubs. Pongaroa won it (first time Ashhurst haven't won it since its inception).

Karen Pawson—Secretary

Ashhurst Bowling Club

It is so hard to realise we are so far through the bowling season and most of the championships are fought and won, or lost. After the final big events in March we start on the Champion of Champion Centre events and, as always, Ashhurst will be there playing to represent our small but highly successful club.

March sees the Over 65 Years Singles and Pairs and this is always hotly contested. Very fierce competition because it is a loss and you are out system, rather than the two-life system we have for the other championship events. The Singles is over the 7th and 8th March and the Pairs is the 14th and 15th.

March also sees the very popular Ashhurst R.S.A. Triples tournament on the 10th and this is again a really big event this time for the R.S.A. Entries are to Wayne on 021 409983. All welcome.

Our last Open Tournament for the season is the Ashhurst Cotton Triples sponsored by Robert J Cotton. This is filling up quickly and as always will be a time to come and watch some really competitive players.

Skogs and Elizabeth Walker finish this month and there have been some great

days of play. While not the cup winners this year, it has been fun, competitive and great to mingle with players from other clubs.

The final night of Twilight is March 6th and there will be prize giving and a social time after the bowls.

The highly successful two day Ashhurst Property Brokers Tournament was on the 10th and 11th February and what a weekend it was. A huge thank you to our wonderful sponsors and Emma was there to hand out the prizes and goodies on the Sunday—a special thank you Emma. The teams enjoyed good weather, fabulous food courtesy of Mike and his team, great organisation by the Match Committee and a green that played really well so thank you to all the helpers. The first day winners were Pete and his team—well done to Ashhurst players and then on Sunday there was an A and B section. A section was won by the team from Foxton Beach and Palmerston North won the B section.

So a busy time behind us and ahead. Until next time stay safe and happy. May the weather stay pleasant but we could do with more rain at night. Keep smiling.

Adrienne Harding—Secretary.





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