



# Ashhurst Village Voice

## *Informing the communities of Ashhurst & Pohangina*

ISSN 2324-5468 (Print)  
ISSN 2324-5476 (Online)

**March 2025**

[https://recap.org.nz/village\\_voice](https://recap.org.nz/village_voice)  
Established 1997

### Community Comment

Ashhurst's ability to support a strong protest at a public meeting has not diminished. More than 150 people from Ashhurst, Pohangina Valley, Rongotea, Shannon and other school bus routes in the region turned up to voice their concerns to Ministry of Education officials. Tangi Utikere, Member of Parliament for Palmerston North, had organised the meeting to hear the concerns of parents and caregivers threatened with loss of school bus transport for their youth.

Utikere opened the meeting with a brief overview before speakers from Palmerston North City Council, Horizons and high schools expressed their concerns. James Meffan, the Ministry's manager of school transport defended the review process which has now begun in the Manawātū. There are 25 bus routes serving 15 schools in this review. The Ministry's policy is to provide a bus service only where public transport is not available, and only for students to their closest school. Public questions and heart-felt statements followed.

In Ashhurst alone, there are eight buses moving over 150 students to schools in the city. If the service was to be cut, the public transport does not have capacity, and of more concern, their teenagers would be dropped off at the central bus terminal beside the law courts. Any cost increase of bus services would be passed on to users and ratepayers.

No decisions have been made as yet, but any loss of school bus routes can only result in reduced school attendance and more costs for parents.



Photo: Attendees at the school bus route meeting

The upgrade of the road surface around the Napier Road – Cambridge Avenue intersection is almost complete with extensive traffic control and delays required. On the other side of the Gorge, the new Woodville roundabout will be stitched into local roads over the next five weeks. Associated road closures will require heavy traffic to take the detour over the Pahiatua Track and should bring some peace and quiet to the Ashhurst streets.

New Zealand Transport Agency is following government demands to consult on raising speed limits on New Zealand roads. Napier Road, from the edge of the city to Whakarongo is proposed to be raised from its existing 80 kph to 100 kph. This would include the dangerous intersection at Roberts Line, James Line and beside the school at Stony Creek Road.

Of greater concern to Ashhurst, is the proposal to increase the speed to 100 kph across the Manawātū bridge below the Domain. Pedestrians and cyclists have a narrow shoulder on the bridge with inadequate handrails and must compete with cars and trucks on this highway. By mid-year Te Ahu a Turanga will be open for business and 10,000 vehicles a day (!) will be using the route. In addition, the shared path will introduce a route to attract more walkers and cyclists to use this short one km stretch of highway.

While most of us can foresee the problems ahead, it appears that New Zealand Transport Agency will need to hear your views via their consultation portal before stopping this madness. A web search for 'New Zealand Transport Agency speed consultation Manawātū' will direct you to the short survey to lodge your concerns by the deadline of 13th March.

Of course, a new shared path bridge over the river, as required under the

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**Deadline for April  
Issue—Thursday, 20th  
March**

## Letter from the Editor

Hello all, welcome to the March edition.

Most of us are familiar with the Bird of the Year competition which gains international attention and was held in September last year. Last month was the third annual Bug of the Year competition. It is designed to bring awareness of our amazing and unique invertebrates. This year's winner is the Ngāokeke or Velvet Worm, of which there are actually many species in New Zealand, perhaps as many as 30. These amazing creatures spray a sticky substance that dissolves their prey so they can eat it. They are a very ancient order of invertebrate as they have remained largely unchanged for the last 500 million years—which dates back to the Late Cambrian/Early Ordovician Period.

This month you have the opportunity to vote for the New Zealand Fish of the Year. To find out which New Zealand fish have been nominated, and to find out more about them, head to <https://www.mountainstosea.org.nz/fishoftheyear>. Voting opened 1st March and closes on the 16th March.

There is also a colouring in competition. Check out the above address or head down to the Ashhurst Library to pick up the images to colour in. You can also scan your work to send in at the library as well.

**Llyvonne Barber—Editor**

### Ashhurst Village Radio

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Contact: 027 7525 0775

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

### 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.

## Community Comment

construction conditions of the new highway, would alleviate these problems. Provisional costs and new government directions have stalled further work. An New Zealand Transport Agency spokesperson advised that they are "working on a delivery programme for the procurement, design, consenting and construction of the Shared Use Path." This could take over two years to complete. New Zealand Transport Agency is working with Councils to mitigate any safety concerns.

### Late news: Palmerston North City Council consultation on the future management of Palmy's water

Palmerston North City Council has opened the consultation process on how the city's water infrastructure is managed

in the future with a closing date of 30th March 2025. Their preferred option is "a water organisation jointly owned by Palmerston North City Council, Horowhenua, Manawātū and Kāpiti Coast District Councils". Other options are the status quo, or a larger regional entity involving up to six Councils. The new organisation would manage the water services of all involved regions and could take on a greater debt burden than is possible at present. A 'user-pays' system informed by water meters may be introduced to fairly spread the costs. More details and consultation options are available from the Palmerston North City Council site, under the menu option of 'Participate Palmy', or at your local library.

**Harvey Jones**

## Exhibition: Woven in Ashhurst

I am a weaver and fibre artist who shares a studio with my father, rural artist Graham Christensen, on a farm just outside of Ashhurst. I currently have a solo exhibition of contemporary weaving called Slow Woven showing at the Feilding and District Art Society.

My exhibition showcases deliciously-soft wool x mohair throw-blankets and 100% wool wraps that have been woven using yarn which I've hand-dyed in the colours of Aotearoa's native plant life. I have also designed, woven and made a range of woman's bags, which are as



beautiful as they are sustainable.

The exhibition runs until the 31st of March at the Feilding and District Art Society, 104 Manchester Street, Feilding. Open weekdays 10.00am – 4.00pm, Saturday and Sunday 10.00am – 3.00pm. I will be onsite at the gallery to meet people and demonstrate weaving each Sunday throughout the

exhibition.

See my website for more information:  
[www.slowwoven.co.nz](http://www.slowwoven.co.nz).

**Natasha Christensen**

## Be Kind to Your Mind With Julia Grace

Kia Ora Whānau. You are warmly invited to join us for a free community event, featuring Julia Grace! This will be held at 7.00 pm on Saturday, 15th March, at the Village Valley Centre, Guilford Street.

Julia Grace is a uniquely qualified Mental Health Speaker and author, a Tui award-winning recording artist, and was named Educator of the Year. Julia has toured worldwide, presented on five continents and is a Mental Health First Aid instructor who lives with a diagnosis

of clinical depression and anxiety.

Don't miss this chance to hear from Julia Grace in person! Learn practical tools and tips for improving mental health. Ideal for anyone from teens onwards who is looking for tools and tips on dealing with life!

Please see this video for more information—<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=AV5DO71iEik>

Mark your calendars! We hope to see you there.



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Saturday 9.00am - 12 noon

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# Ashhurst R.S.A. Annual General Meeting

Notice of Annual General Meeting.

9th March, 2025.

The A.G.M. will be held on 30th March 2025, at 1.00 pm at the R.S.A., located at 74 Cambridge Avenue, Ashhurst.

Put your name forward for the committee. Nominations can be put forward at <https://tinyurl.com/ashhurstrsa>. Nominations will close on

The Returning Officer is Lynne McDonald. Proxy Votes can be submitted on:

Friday, 7th March 5.00 pm-6.00 pm  
Wednesday, 19th March, 5.00 pm-6.00 pm, and  
Thursday, 27th March, 5.00 pm-6.00pm.

## Football Registrations Open

Do you want to play football?

The Ashhurst Pohangina Football Club is looking forward to another great season, we'd love you to join us!

Registrations are open until the 20th March. Just jump into sporty.co.nz to register.

We've got some awesome stuff planned for 2025, and some seriously cool merchandise available check it out

## Bricks for Life (Ethiopia Project) A.G.M.

This will take place on Saturday, 22nd March at 2.00pm in the Anglican Church Hall on Cambridge Avenue, Ashhurst.

Mark Mitchell from Anglican Missions (not the Police minister, also Mark Mitchell) will speak about the agricultural side of the work in Baregota Village in Ethiopia.

Ric Foxley will give an update on how

on <https://www.sporty.co.nz>.

And those of you who put your hand up to coach or manage, your kids get to register for free!

Again—just hook into sporty, or email us for more info at [ashhurstjuniorfc@gmail.co.nz](mailto:ashhurstjuniorfc@gmail.co.nz).

Early bird registration is only \$60.

Check us out on Facebook

the folk we are supporting there are managing in an ongoing civil war situation. There will also be a couple of video clips from the guys over there.

Do come and learn more about this fascinating project, now into its 15th year.

A plate of something tasty for afternoon tea would be appreciated.

For queries - call Ric on 029 777 2368.

## Food Bank Update

Further to the last article, I omitted to thank our funding donors for the alterations at the Methodist Hall. Sincere thanks go to Meridian Energy for funding the storage cabinets and the Ashhurst Pohangina Lions Club for funding the building alterations. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

The Hamper Group did a great job last year, distributing 27 Christmas hampers to families nominated by members of our community. To raise funds for this, RECAP held a stall and raffles—at various locations—raising just under \$700; the Otangaki Lodge donated \$100 and the Ashhurst Pohangina Lions Club gave \$1,000. Woolworths NZ also donated \$500 worth of gift cards. These donations, combined with about \$300 of the remaining funds from last year,

allowed us to give each family food for a good Christmas Day meal and extra for the week following. Recipients were extremely grateful and I trust everyone had a wonderful time on the day.

It gives our volunteers great satisfaction knowing the food given out at the Food Bank is nutritious and adds to a well-rounded diet. While our stocks are limited to non-perishable food, we are occasionally able to supplement this with perishables such as milk, eggs and meat but this doesn't happen often enough. If you are able, would you please consider giving a regular amount to the Food Bank so we can make a greater impact on the health of the people of Ashhurst? The bank account name and number is: Ashhurst Community Trust - Food Bank a/c no. 06-0729-0611295-003. Please

## JustOnePlease

Super kia ora. Thank you everyone for your generous donations. The Justoneplease item for the Safe House for March 2025 is **Body Wash**, all sizes. Kindest regards.

Contact Louise Bowe on 020 410 86128 for more information.

## Meditation Class

Overcoming Stress and Anxiety will be held every Thursday from 10.00 am - 11.00 am followed by morning tea. Suggested donation: \$7. Join us in the lounge of the Village Valley Centre. No special clothing is required. Everyone welcome. For more information, go to [www.meditateinpalmerstonnorth.org](http://www.meditateinpalmerstonnorth.org).

## 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.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!



### Calling all residents...

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

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Alison Jarden JP, Manager  
06 355 4468 | 021 0248 4139  
[info@pncitysupport.com](mailto:info@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](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

**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: 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  
Adrianne on 027 2836317.

**Food Bank Update**

put your surname and initial in the  
'particulars' field, MEM in the 'code' field  
and your contact phone number in the  
'reference' field. The ACT is currently  
applying for charitable status so when  
this happens, we will need to contact you

for further information.

Thank you for making a difference in  
our community.

**Marianne Crawford**

**RECAP Update**

for 2025

Kia ora koutou from RECAP

We're back at it for 2025. As always -  
keep your eye on our website and social  
media pages for updates on workshops  
and seminars throughout the year.

**Crop Swap**—The RECAP Crop Swap  
continues in 2025 on the first Saturday of  
each month. This is an open, sharing  
event; where you can give and/or take  
freely. Join us at the Ashhurst  
Community Library 11.00 am—1.00 pm.

**Volunteer Library Gardening** happens  
most weeks led by our wonderful deputy  
chairperson Suzanne. She updates  
Facebook/Ashhurst Chat each week, so  
if you're keen to get involved you can get  
in touch there or email:  
[schelius@hotmail.com](mailto:schelius@hotmail.com). Everyone—all  
levels of experience and ability—  
welcome. Come along as a one-off or as  
a regular.

**Ashhurst School Garden Club**

The kids are back in the garden with  
Mondays for juniors and Thursdays for  
seniors. If your tamariki are keen on  
garden club (and you wish to keep their  
uniform shirts clean) please feel free to  
pack an old tee shirt—we do tend to get  
a bit muddy!

**Updated Community Kai Information**

We provide free rescued kai to people  
in the Ashhurst/Pohangina area each  
Tuesday from 3.15 pm-4.15 pm from the  
back room of the Ashhurst Library.

If the weather is good—please queue  
outside. If it is raining you are able to  
queue inside the library.

Depending on donations, some weeks  
we are able to serve anyone who comes  
no questions asked. On weeks where  
donations are low we need to see a  
current community services card to  
access kai. We post on Facebook/RECAP  
Community Kai at approximately 2.30 pm  
Tuesday to let you know.

You are able to come through and pick  
up what you need from what has been  
donated that week. Some items have  
limits so please read the signage.

Unfortunately we can no longer set  
aside bags for a later pick up. And only  
one bag per whānau, please. We can also  
no longer offer more than one bag for  
those picking up on behalf.

Kids and teenagers are not allowed to  
pick up kai unless a parent or caregiver  
has contacted us (you only need to do  
this once and we will note their name  
down) and on the weeks where a



**B**

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## RECAP Update

community services card is needed you will need to send a photo of this. You can email this to [chris@recap.org.nz](mailto:chris@recap.org.nz).

Please note that as this is rescued kai—many of the items will be past their best before date. We dispose of any items that we deem unfit for human consumption, but many items past best before are still good to eat. Please note, however, that this is at your own risk. Please use your eyes, nose and common sense if you are unsure. Please also note that use by dates are stricter than best before dates, so if an item says 'use by' this will need to be consumed asap. We

will endeavor to let you know if items have been previously frozen or can be frozen.

Please be respectful of everyone else collecting kai and our volunteers. And please be honest when taking kai and do not exceed any limits that are on the signs—we are trying to be as fair in the distribution of this kai as possible.

Ngā mihi nui to our donors and volunteers, without whom we could not provide this service.

**Chris Love—RECAP coordinator**

## Ashhurst Drama

We're Back!!

After a year with no performances, Ashhurst Drama is putting on a comedy called "Looking" by Norm Foster on the 2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th, 16th and 17th May.

Looking is the story of four middle aged singles who are seeking relationships while navigating life's pitfalls. Andy and Matt are long-time buddies looking for surefire ways to meet women. Val and Nina are best friends forever, looking to meet men. Two of

them agree to meet at a bar, and coax their friends to accompany them for support. Their relationships progress through the following weeks, setting off laughable plot twists and an unexpected hook-up.

We are delighted to bring this funny and insightful play to our audience, along with some new cast members. Watch our Facebook page "Ashhurst Drama Group" for updates.

## County Fayre Update

County Fayre held its A.G.M. on 28th January 2025, reopening to the public on 12th January. The election of officers was filled by myself, Jo Morris-Kynoch as President, Val Browne as Secretary and Kim Archibald as Treasurer. Welcome and thank you to the committee of 2025. If you are interested in becoming a part of

our committee, don't wait for the next A.G.M., make contact and express your interest or become our friend on Facebook.

We were pleased to host the Ashhurst Senior Citizen's group during February,

*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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**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.

**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.**

Happy New Year, from the Ashhurst Red Cross shop.

We have summer clothing, shoes, school uniforms, books, DVD's and treasures.

Come on in to get your bargains at our low cost shop, something for everyone.

Monday-Thursday 12.30pm-2.30pm

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

**No clothing donations** accepted at this time. Other items gratefully accepted **only** when the shop is open.

# County Fayre Update

gathering midweek for an enjoyable afternoon tea. Thank you to the volunteers on the day. Do you belong to a group or club or are looking for a place to have a small but pleasant gathering, whether it be mid-week or the weekend? Make contact, we may be able to help.

Come and visit us, we are in the Pohangina Village. Check out our gallery, where artists local to the district have the venue and opportunity to show their work. Sandra Douglas, new to County Fayre, is a talented and creative artist and has work on display in our gallery for viewing and purchasing. You will also find Dave's Bees honey and Kereru Natural Products, amongst other hand crafts, for sale.

Along with Devonshire Tea/Coffee (scones with jam and cream), we also offer muffins, milkshakes and ice cream sundaes. Come for a visit, we would love to see you.

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

**Presidents Report for 2024**

To the Committee of 2024, your dedication and effort you put into County Fayre never fails to astound me. It fills me with pride knowing that you are a self-sufficient and committed team and will step in, when and where needed, to ensure we continue to operate. You each bring unique skills and talents that have greatly benefited County Fayre. Thank you so much.

I would also like to express my gratitude to our other volunteers, those who generously dedicate their time on Sundays or step in whenever extra help

is needed. Your invaluable support and willingness to share the load make the committee's work much easier and more enjoyable.

Claire Brock, your scones are just the best, thank you for continuing to supply County Fayre.

Thank you to all of you for what you do.

The number of events hosted during the year was less than previous years however we still engaged the community and continued to keep County Fayre running. Along with Manawātū Rural Support Services we hosted a First Aid First Responder session, we supported and hosted Valentines, ANZAC, Mothers and Fathers days. The Art Trail Manawātū weekend was held here once again and the County Fayre Readers and Writers Festival took place, and what a great success that was. We finished the year with the Annual Pohangina Downhill Walk, and although a version different to years past it was still an enjoyable and successful event.

Our objective is to provide a vibrant platform for showcasing local crafts, fostering social and community connections, and preserving the rich historical knowledge and records of the Pohangina region. Together we succeeded in doing this.

I would like to extend my congratulations to everyone who was involved with County Fayre in any way over the past year. Your presence, dedication, and efforts have truly paid off.

Well done to all of you.

**Joanne Morris-Kynoch—President**

## Ashhurst School

**Celebrating Success**

We are incredibly proud of our past students who are now in leadership roles. Congratulations to our Ashhurst School alumni, Monson Brown, on his appointment to a prefect role at Palmerston North Boys High School.

Congratulations to Madden Chittenden for being selected for the Feilding Men's Pennant golf team. Madden has recently

Kia ora e te whānau, Welcome back.

A special welcome to our new students and their families and our new staff, who were all welcomed on the first day with a very special pōwhiri.

We welcome Miss Stacey Alston, Mr Birkin, Whaea Paige, Mrs Parry, Whaea Racquel and Pā Damian. We also welcome a group of teachers who are training onsite with us all year.



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# Ashhurst School

competed in the Men's Feilding A grade Team vs Manawatu.

Congratulations to our very own fantastic teacher aide, Pip Rolton. Pip recently finished her piano teacher training, which has earned her a provisional membership as a Piano Teacher with the Institute of Registered Music Teachers New Zealand (IRMTNZ).

## Support Our AIMS Games Team—Become a Sponsor!

We're seeking sponsors to support our athletes heading to the AIMS Games!

Your business will gain great exposure with your name/logo featured on our team uniform, in our school newsletter, and on our noticeboard.

This is a fantastic opportunity to promote your business while helping our students achieve their sporting dreams. If you're interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact the office.

Thank you in advance for your support!  
**Heath Chittenden—Principal**

# Ashhurst Senior Citizens Association

The March meeting of the Ashhurst Senior Citizens will be held on Thursday, 6th March at 2.00 pm in our new venue of the Valley Village centre. Come and join us for entertainment from the Ashhurst Drama Group followed by a delicious afternoon tea.

You do not have to be a 'senior' to come along, we would love to see people of all ages attend. You may meet some new people, or catch up with people you already know. Meetings are held on the

first Thursday of the month and each month we have a different group or organisation making a presentation that is always enjoyable and informative. And don't forget that delicious afternoon tea!

Membership is \$10 yearly, and we ask for a \$2 donation towards afternoon tea. If you are curious but have not attended a meeting to date we strongly encourage you to come along and see what is on offer. Look forward to seeing you!

**Stephanie Madgwick—Secretary**

## Book Review: *Here One Moment*

*Here One Moment* by Lianne Moriarty

Ait was an ordinary domestic flight from Hobart to Sydney. What happened? No it didn't crash, nothing unusual happened to the plane but for those in economy class life would never be the same.

For those passengers unexpectedly had their future deaths predicted by a

seemingly ordinary elderly lady flying with them. They had been told when they would die and what they would die of.

This story is all about destiny and how we react to events in our lives. How would you react to such predictions? And

*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.

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

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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: Adrienne Harding—Secretary  
027 283 6317

**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 1.00 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

**Matwork Pilates Sessions**

Tuesdays at 6.00 pm—55 minutes. Centennial Room at the Village Valley Centre.

Free first session. Bring a mat or \$12 mats available.

"In 10 sessions you will feel the difference, in 20 you will see the difference, and in 30 you will have a new body." Joseph Pilates

To register contact Narrelle 021 2673676

## Book Review: *Here One Moment*

can you change the course of your own life if you are forewarned of how you will die? Even more important, is Cherry—the self-styled clairvoyant—to be trusted and believed, or is she simply a little demented?

Cherry herself tells of her younger self and what led her to become the person she is now. We also hear how her fellow passengers (some children) try to get on with their normal lives after the flight lands in Sydney. One woman is told she will die of ovarian cancer at 38 (her next birthday), another that her 4 year old son will soon die by drowning. A man is told he will die in a pub brawl at age 30 (very soon) and others are given a predicted long life.

The predictions cause one man to change his job, another to avoid going to the pub, many others will feel compelled to change their environment and situation in order to cheat their predicted fortunes. Many start off with denial but

as time goes on feel the need to have more control over their lives or to forestall possible bad fortune.

Social media gets involved through the press and Cherry becomes known as "The Death Lady". Things then start to really hot up and get nasty for her. Why did she do these bizarre readings and will any of them come true?

This novel is very well-constructed and also very funny in parts. You will want to find out what happens to Cherry's fellow passengers and what her motivations were. Author Lianne Moriarty (she wrote *Big Little Lies* and many others) has great insight into how people might react to being told when they will die and how and what they may do to change future events.

A great read, you will find it hard to put down and the ongoing effects of one person's actions will linger in your thoughts long after the story ends.

## Te Ahu a Turanga Update

It's going to be a busy month at both the Ashhurst and Woodville ends of Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway, as construction teams start to connect the new roundabouts to the existing roads.

While the roundabout at the Ashhurst end is largely complete, the tie-ins to Fitzherbert East Road (State Highway 57) and Napier Road (State Highway 3) need to be completed before it can be opened to traffic.

This will mean some disruption for those travelling on those roads over the next few weeks while this work is completed, with stop/go traffic management in place for periods of time.

This is because parts of those roads that link to the roundabout first need to be removed and rebuilt to ensure a smooth transition to the new road.

After this work is completed in early April, traffic will start using the roundabout, which will replace the existing corner at Fitzherbert and Napier Roads.

Meanwhile at the Woodville end, a full

road closure began in February on parts of Woodlands Road and Vogel Street (SH3) while the team completes the tie-in to the eastern roundabout.

There are detours in place for light vehicles (Saddle Road) and heavy vehicles (Pahiatua Track), however vehicles up to 30 tonnes in weight can use the Saddle Road detour as they are able to travel across the weight restricted bridge on Oxford Road in Woodville.

The town of Woodville remains open during the closure, so if you're planning to visit family or friends, or stop at one of their businesses, you can do so.

After this work is completed by late March, traffic will start using this roundabout, which will give motorists a taste of driving the new highway. However, they will have to wait a few more months to drive the full alignment.

The project is on track for opening mid-2025, with more than 98% of the structural asphalt completed.

On top of this goes a final surfacing layer called stone mastic asphalt, which



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Saturday: 7.30am—8.00pm

Sunday: 8.00am—8.00pm

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# Te Ahu a Turanga Update

is 30% complete and on track to be finished by early May.

Most of the earthworks were completed by early 2024, but there is one small 100-metre section between Parahaki Bridge and Eco-Viaduct that is still being completed.

This section involves building a GRS (geo-synthetic reinforced slope) wall, which is a type of retaining wall. Once this is completed about mid-March, the pavements crews can complete the road surface for this section.

Teams working on the major bridges are busy completing the finishing works, which are the minor features such as barriers and balustrades. At Eco-Viaduct, the team are expected to finish installing these by early April.

On Parahaki Bridge over the Manawatū River, the team is completing the viewing platform, which sits on the eastern side and offers stunning views down Te Āpiti - Manawatū Gorge.

They're also starting to remove the temporary bridge that was installed in early 2021 to allow construction of the structure.

The finishing works on Parahaki Bridge are on track for completion by May.

## More information

For more information about the project, head to [www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/te-ahu-a-turanga/](http://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.

## Ashhurst Library

Hi everyone, its Jill here, hope you are all well. I would like to say thank you to everyone who helped and supported me through February while Ross was away, I really appreciated it.

### 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.

### Ashhurst Elevenses

Every Friday at 11.00 am during term time

This is a great opportunity for a cuppa and a friendly chat. Everybody is welcome! There will 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 hope to be able to have special guests throughout the year and there may be a few sessions in some very special locations.

Wednesday, 5th March 10.30 am

Wednesday, 19th March 10.30 am

Digits

### Moneywise Manawatū

A reminder that we have the wonderful skills of Moneywise Manawatū available to us. They are available for budgeting sessions in our library on Thursdays. If you would like to talk to their wonderful staff or need some excellent advice and guidance, just let us know, or give them a call on freephone 0800 228 343.

### Local Water Done Well

Early this year, we'll be asking you to share your thoughts on how Palmerston North's water services should be managed in the future. This will be one of the most important decisions for our city, and it's essential everyone has their say. There are local drop-in sessions scheduled, with the one at Ashhurst Library on Thursday, 20th March 5.00 pm-6.00 pm. Come along for more information or to give feedback.

### Canine Friends

Does your school-age child want to read to one of our cute and friendly Canine Friends dogs? These dogs are

*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](mailto:info@parishofpohangina.net)

[www.parishofpohangina.net](http://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](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



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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](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

super friendly, well behaved and have lovely handlers to help guide your child's session. Here in March we have:

Tuesday, 4th March, 3.00 pm—Liz and Daisy

Wednesday, 12th March, 3.00 pm—Jan and Bob

Tuesday, 18th March, 3.00 pm—Liz and Daisy

### Crop Swap

The first Crop Swap of 2025 was at the Ashhurst Library on Saturday, 1st March, and from thereon will be the first Saturday of each month from 11.00 am-1.00 pm. This is a great opportunity to

bring any excess home-grown produce as well as baking and home preserves, and a great place to have a chat and share information. Come along with or without produce, everyone is welcome and anything on the table is available to take free of charge.

### 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".

**Jill Turner—Ashhurst Librarian**

## Ashhurst Bowling Club

The fairly steady hot weather has meant great conditions for bowlers and we have not had to cancel anything on the programme except one game of Elizabeth Walker Interclub. At times it has been too hot, but these bowlers are a hardy lot.

The weekend of our Property Brokers Fours was extremely hot with players drinking copious amounts of iced water and lemon drink. The barbecue on Saturday was very welcome and a big thank you to the Lotto Four Square people who "did a deal" and so everyone got ice blocks on the Sunday. Of course, on both days we had our usual fantastic afternoon tea and we were welcomed at the R.S.A. for a drink and prize giving. Our sponsor for this huge event is Property Brokers and major thanks goes to Emma who always ensures we are well supported. She presented the prizes to all the winners. It cannot be stressed enough just how vital sponsorship is. Without this support things could just not happen. The overall winner was Colin Carter's composite team. Teams from North End, Palmerston North and Takaro were also in the lineup. The most popular team, as voted by all players, was from Dannevirke. It was a hugely successful weekend and everyone had a really fantastic time. Thank you again Emma.

Twilight Bowls has been ticking along with new players joining in for a fun time learning something new. We play every Wednesday until March 12th so come along. You only need flat shoes, we have all the gear. No fee and we thank Bowls New Zealand as they have sponsored Twilight Bowls this year. Names in by 5.45pm and we play for about an hour. There are prizes!!

Elizabeth Walker and Skogs teams have had some successes and always a great time playing at a range of clubs and catching up with fellow bowlers.

The Women's Championship Triples final was played on a fine warm morning and congratulations to Wendy, Adrienne and Lee with Jen, Margie and Jacqui

being runners up. Some really stunning bowls was played and kept the spectators totally interested. Well done.

A new Championship for us is the 2x4x2 and while we often play this cool game, it is a first at this level. Played over two days with some fantastic shots seen and some really close results. The eventual winners were Donna and Tony. They played an absolutely stunning game to win. The runners up were Margaret and Max. Congratulations to all. It was really great to see a mix of very new bowlers playing with those with more experience—jolly well done.

The Senior Womens Singles was finally won by Margaret and Peter took out the Mens.

The only championships left to play are the Over 65 Singles and Pairs. They will be hotly contested. Being a knock out Championship everyone is raring to go from the first bowl.

The 9th March is the date for the R.S.A. Triples and again this is hugely supported. A full green and everything is organised through the R.S.A. Wayne is the go-to man for this and he and his team work to make it the major success it always is.

Then on 19th March we have our final open tournament for the season. The Cotton Triples is always well supported and there are multiple entries in already.

The next major event after that is the Champion of Champion event for all those who played and won at club level. These battles are always highly intense with really competitive play.

At the moment our greenkeeper Wayne has a major injury to his leg and so many people are doing all they can to help and keep things working smoothly. We are a hugely supportive club—wonderful people.

It is hard to believe we are already well into 2025 and time seems to absolutely rush by. Do take the time to enjoy things and support each other. Smile lots.

**Adrienne Harding—Secretary.**



# GLIMPSE

## Kia ora,

The year is getting well into its stride, with the city's summer events programme in full swing. We've enjoyed Lunar New Year, Waitangi Day and the annual Festival of Cultures at Te Marae o Hine/the Square, as well as Explore Esplanade Day and Summer Shakespeare in the Victoria Esplanade.

March is Heritage Month and City Library are organising and presenting a week of talks, walks, tours, recollections and exhibitions along with other heritage-related events taking place throughout the month. This includes a talk on the Ashhurst cemetery with local historian Leanne Hickman on Central Library's second floor on Tuesday March 11, 1-2 pm. Further details are on the [citylibrary.pncc.govt.nz](http://citylibrary.pncc.govt.nz) website.

The NZ Rural Games descended on Te Marae o Hine/The Square over March 7, 8, & 9, while Central District Field Days will be a big draw at Manfeild from March 13 -15.

For the last event on the March calendar, it's back to The Square for the Holi Festival of Colours on Friday March 21. Then, the end of Daylight Saving on Sunday April 6 officially brings the curtain down on summer. I hope you managed to get out and enjoy some of these mostly free outdoor activities.

## Ashhurst Domain

During December and January, the Ashhurst Domain camping ground catered for well over 700 visitors. These numbers are down on the previous year, but this is probably due to the less than friendly camping weather over much of the earlier months.

In the meantime, public submissions on the updates proposed in the draft reserve management plan for Ashhurst Domain closed during the first week of March. The existing plan has been in place for 30 years, and the update outlines activities, management, bush restoration and the Domain's future development. This includes a stronger partnership with mana whenua Rangitāne to be reflected in a name change to Ōtangaki-Ashhurst Domain along with the introduction of a natural eco-friendly burial area on the lower terraces.

Thanks to all those who turned out to the Domain open day last month, with a good number of written submissions received by the close-off date. Your feedback and ideas are appreciated.

## Speed Limit Changes

Consultation about the reversal of speed limits that will affect Ashhurst folk are taking place with NZTA. Any changes will come into effect on July 1, and will specifically affect a kilometre length of highway across the Ashhurst Ōtangaki Bridge and a section at the city end of Napier Rd. It's proposed the speed limits be increased from 80kph to 100kph. Submissions about these proposed changes close on Thursday March 13.

## School Buses

There is understandable community concern around the Ministry of Education's proposal to cut Ashhurst school bus services. This could affect some 380-odd Ashhurst intermediate and secondary school students, who would then have to rely on a Horizons public commuter service that has neither school-friendly schedules nor the capacity to cope with such numbers. A well-attended public meeting with city MP Tangi Utikere and city councillors was held about this last month at the Village Valley Centre, while a petition aiming for 1000+ signatures protesting the proposal is available on the [change.org](http://change.org) website.

## Council Consultations

This month there will be two major consultations. The first is on the future of managing the city's water, with us proposing a joint council water organisation. This is a decision that will affect you for decades so make sure you have your say at [pncc.govt.nz/localwater](http://pncc.govt.nz/localwater) by 4pm March 30. The other consultation is our submissions on our 2025-26 Annual Budget. Details about the submissions should be on the [pncc.govt.nz](http://pncc.govt.nz) website by now.

## Summer Water Use

After an indifferent start, it's been a hot old summer so far. For the fifth year, we've implemented our successful voluntary Summer Water Use guidelines as a way of avoiding mandatory water restrictions and promoting voluntary conservation measures.

The guidelines encourage residents to use water responsibly during the summer months by watering lawns and gardens only every second day between 7pm - 9pm, with odd house numbers irrigating on odd days and vice versa. Thank you again for your cooperation. It means we've avoided any tougher restrictions so far.

## Meet the Mayor

Welcome along to the March 'Meet the Mayor' session on Tuesday, March 25 between 5 – 6pm at the Community Library. Confirmation can be found on the [pncc.govt.nz](http://pncc.govt.nz) website and Facebook page.

Ngā mihi nui  
Mayor  
Grant Smith JP



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| Sunday           | Closed     |

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|------------------|---|
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| Saturday         | 8am - 6pm   |
| Sunday - Monday  | Closed  |

[clmz.co.nz/splashhurst](http://clmz.co.nz/splashhurst)

## ASHHURST RUBBISH + RECYCLING

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

### Recycling Bin

11 March  
25 March  
8 April

### Glass Crate

4 March  
18 March  
1 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, [pncc.govt.nz](http://pncc.govt.nz) and the **Snap Send Solve** app to quickly report anything that needs attention or fixing.

**PALMY**  
PAPAIOEA  
PALMERSTON  
NORTH  
CITY

[info@pncc.govt.nz](mailto:info@pncc.govt.nz) / 06 356 8199 / [pncc.govt.nz](http://pncc.govt.nz)

## Published by The Ashhurst Village Voice Society Inc.

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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 \$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 Thursday, 20th March 2025.**

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

## Ashhurst Clay Target Club

We had an awesome Sunday at the end of January, with five squads. There were some new faces there too, who we always make welcome.

There was a 4-way shoot-off for top gun: Tyler Ives, Craig Hocken, Joby Stella and Peter Bidlake who all shot 24. Well done you guys. But of course Chris Mooyman did shoot a 25—however he had to leave early!

The incoming pairs was a fun shoot with a lot of positive feedback.

Congratulations to our winners

**25DTL:** Peter

**Club Handicap:** Terry

**Incoming pairs:** Jack

At the Masters Games recently, Peter Bidlake, Robyn Farrell, Chris Mooyman, Jenny and Tony Bucknell all won a good haul of medals for clay target shooting.

**Karen Pawson—Secretary**



Photo: Masters Winners

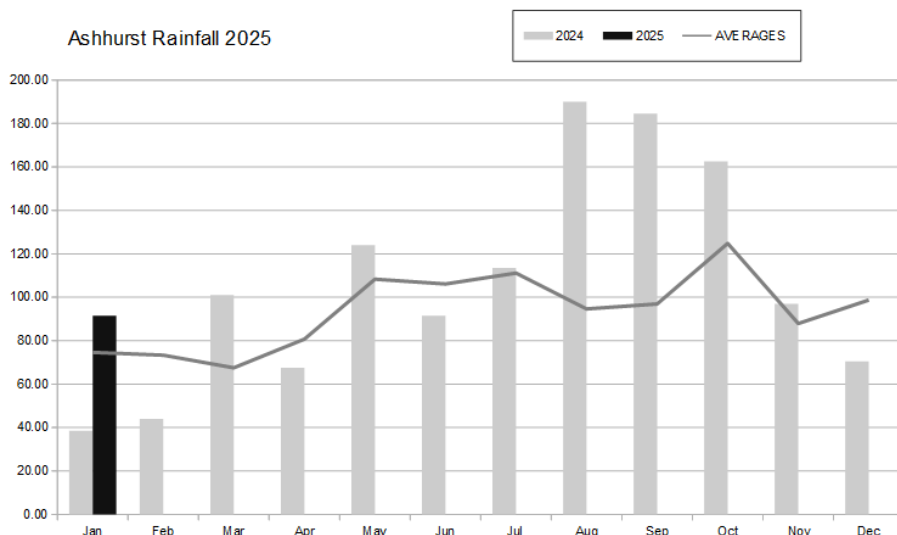
## Ashhurst Rainfall

91.5 mm of rain fell in January 2025, above the monthly long-term average of 74.06 mm.

Rain was recorded on 11 days, with the highest one-day rainfall of 22 mm on the 3rd of January.

The total annual rainfall for the period from 1st to 31st January is now 91.5 mm, which is above the long-term average for this period of 74.06 mm.

**Quang Mai**



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