



Ashhurst Village Voice

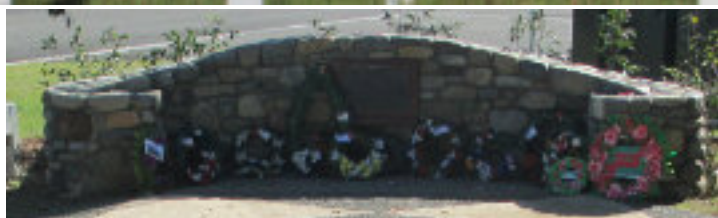
*Informing the communities of
Ashhurst & Pohangina*

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May 2026

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ANZAC Day 2026



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**Deadline for June
Issue—Wednesday,
20th May 2026**

In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,*

In Flanders fields.

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow*

In Flanders fields.

John McCrae

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Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade

Kia Ora Ashhurst and Pohangina,

Right on the heels of my last article on BA training—Ashhurst was part of the huge response to the structure fire on JFK Dr. We responded with four BA wearers and an OIC and were put straight to work as soon as we got there.

I personally worked alongside crews from Bunnythorpe and Rongotea and due to the training I talked about last month we were able to work seamlessly as a team even though we'd never met. My BA partner and I had some good wearings—being committed to internal fire attack on several occasions.

Our Chief was first an Entry Control

Officer, then the Safety Officer—making sure everyone on the fire ground was safe and protected. Our Station Officer was acting in her role as the Fire Investigator but also provided critical support and encouragement to us.

The building structure and the fuel loading inside made the overall situation very challenging. After being released and refurbishing at the Palmy station we got redirected to a false alarm scrub fire just to make the night even longer! I walked in the door at home exactly twelve hours after we first got called. She was a busy night!

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

Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.

Kia ora Koutou

It is shaping up to be an incredible 2026, and the energy around the R.S.A. is higher than ever! We have a packed calendar ahead, and I am thrilled to welcome Richard and Paul to the committee. I'm personally looking forward to having their help and enthusiasm as we navigate a very busy season.

If you've visited lately, you'll notice the smooth new carpark surface. The massive project of sealing the carpark and driveway is complete. This couldn't have been achieved without the incredible support of The Alliance Group (the team behind the new

Manawatū Gorge replacement road) and Bernie Higgins of HiRock. The feedback has been nothing but positive!

Recent Highlights

We recently had our ANZAC Day Service, attending the parade was the Anzac Mounts, with six horses. The background to the Mounts is they utilise the calm, willing and accepting nature of their horses to deliver a programme that focuses on building trust, open communication, and resilience.

Their activities are centred around the caring and joy of being with an

Continued on next page



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Sunday: 8.00am—8.00pm
Public Holidays: 8.00am—8.00pm

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Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.

animal that in turn gives immediate feedback—the way we know animals do. These learnings are powerful and allow an individual to reflect, adapt and try again—the growth in positive mindset is immeasurable.

The Anzac Mounts are a small but dedicated team delivering an equine therapy programme aimed at men and older boys suffering from mental health difficulties, especially those suffering from Post Traumatic Stress after serving in the military.

We recently hosted a stellar Quiz Night where over 60 people joined us for a night of trivia and a great dinner. The atmosphere was electric!

Congratulations to Adrian, the lucky winner of our recent "Petrol Container and Fuel" promotion. This draw actually caught the eye of Heineken in

Amsterdam! They spotted the promotion on a DB site and reached out to commend the Ashhurst R.S.A. on such a creative idea. Who knew Ashhurst would be trending in the Netherlands? Coincidentally on the night of the draw, we had a Netherlands visitor inhouse, who drew the promotion for us.

A Note of Gratitude

It truly blows me away to see the level of support we receive from our community, supporters, and tireless volunteers. Whether it's a global brand like Heineken noticing us or a local business helping us pave our way, your contribution is what keeps the heart of the Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A. beating.

See you at the Club!

Peter Knight

Ashhurst Village Voice Society Inc A.G.M.

The Ashhurst Village Voice Society Inc. is holding its A.G.M. at 7.00 pm, Thursday, 21st May, 2026, at the Chapman Hall, Anglican Church, Cambridge Avenue.

Society members and interested residents are welcome to attend.

Harvey Jones—Chairperson

Ashhurst Senior Citizens Association.

We are having new members and/or guests join each month which is wonderful to see. You do not have to be a senior to attend the monthly social meetings so why not come along and see if its something you may be interested in. Also, people are invited not just from Ashhurst but from the surrounding districts, including Pohangina, so do not feel you can't attend because you live outside of Ashhurst. The club has been running for over 50 years now so come and see why for yourself. You may meet some new people or catch up with some friends or familiar faces, as well as enjoying a speaker or some form of entertainment plus a delicious

afternoon tea.

The April meeting was treated to a very interesting talk from Mr John Higgins, a Food Technologist who spoke about the use of collagen in medicine and surgery, and his involvement in that field. Thank you John, our members were fascinated by your talk!

If transport is an issue, please contact our President Trish Beattie on 06 326 8363.

We meet on the first Thursday of the month, 2.00 pm, at the Valley Village Centre. We look forward to seeing you hopefully at our May meeting.

Stephanie Madgwick—Secretary

RECAP Update

Kia ora koutou

RECAP has a number of workshops open now as part of our 2026 Resilience Series. Registrations can be made at recap.org.nz.

Kicking off with Broke Gardening: a beginner's workshop on growing vegetables with as little money as possible. Saturday, May 16th, 11.00 am - 2.00 pm (postponement date is May

Continued on next page

JustOnePlease

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

Kindest regards.

Contact Louise Bowe on 020 410 86128 for more information.

Steady As You Go

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

Contact Age Concern phone 355 2832 for more details.

Manawatū Toy Library

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Visit our website to join, view our toys and learn more.

www.manawatutoylibrary.co.nz

Ashhurst Ladies Coffee Group

10.00 am—11.30 am at The Village Coffee & Co, 62 Cambridge Avenue, Ashhurst. A regular Thursday weekly coffee group, for ladies of all ages in Ashhurst for some social time, a few laughs and new friendships.

Ashhurst Foodbank

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

Contact: Marianne 027 627 2054

Volunteering Opportunity: Help Us Save the Giant Maidenhair Fern

Join a group of friendly locals for an easy working bee to help preserve the environment of this endangered plant.

When: 4th Sunday of each month

Time: 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Where: Ashhurst Domain (meet in the Barbecue area by the playground).

Bring: Drinks, sun protection, gardening gloves, snacks and sturdy shoes, and perhaps a picnic to enjoy in the Domain afterwards.

NB: This is a weather dependent activity and updates will be provided via the Ashhurst Chat Facebook Group

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Awahou Pohangina Playgroup

'A lovely country playgroup' est. 1967.
Meet every Wednesday during term
time 9.30am-12.00pm.

Location: Awahou School Hall, 518
Pohangina East Valley Road.

Drop in for a visit, enjoy a cuppa,
morning tea and chat. Contact: Arna
Taylor—samnarna@outlook.com

Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A. Inc

74 Cambridge Avenue, Ashhurst.

Phone: 326 8296

Monday 3.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Tuesday 3.00 pm - 6.00 pm/when

Bingo is on 3.00 pm - 9.00 pm

Wednesday 3.00 pm - 6.00 pm/when

darts are on 3.00 pm - 10.00 pm

Thursday 3.00 pm-6.00 pm/when

food carts 3.00 pm - 7.00 pm

Friday 3.00 pm-9.00 pm/when darts

are on 3.00 pm - 11.00 pm

Saturday 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Sunday 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Hours are subject to change due to
demand.

Manawatū Rangitikei Methodist Parish—Ashhurst, Bunnythorpe and Pohangina Congregation

Ashhurst Devonport Worship and
Community Centre

10.30 am 1st Sunday each month

Pohangina Community Church

10.30 am 3rd Sunday

Contacts: John Brock 329 4834

Ashhurst Bowling Club

67 Stanford Street.

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

RECAP Update

23rd) at 14 Wills Crescent, Ashhurst.

This workshop will cover lasagne
gardening (how to build soil with free
and cheap materials), site analysis
(the best spots to start your garden
and common mistakes to avoid),
seasonal planting, companion
planting, natural homemade fertilisers
and pest control, easy vegetables to
grow, direct sowing seeds vs
seedlings, container gardening and
more.

Cost is \$10 waged and \$5 unwaged
or student. Hot drinks and some
snacks provided, but please feel free
to bring a packed lunch.

We have our annual Compost
Workshop on Saturday, May 30th, 1.00
- 3.00 pm at the Olsson Community
Orchard, Ashhurst. Ever wondered
why your homemade compost is all
slimy and smelly? We can help you fix
that! Learn the basics on how to
create healthy, balanced compost to
really get your garden growing. Join us
to see how you can turn your
household and garden waste into
nutrient rich food for your plants.

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

We have a Solar Seminar presented
by Phil Stevens of Slow Farm.
Saturday, June 6th, 1.30 - 3.30 pm at
the Village Valley Centre, Ashhurst.

Energy is on everyone's mind these
days and it's easy to feel overwhelmed
by rising costs and talk of shortages.
Join local expert Phil to learn about
options to take control of your
household electricity situation and get
charged up on sunshine. We'll talk
about the basics of on-grid and off-
grid systems, talk about size and
optimisation, panel and battery
options, load shifting, and more.

Cost is \$10 waged and \$5 unwaged
or student. Hot drinks and afternoon
tea provided.

Winter Pruning for 2026 is on
Saturday, June 20th, 1.00 pm - 3.00
pm at the Olsson Community Orchard,
Ashhurst. This is a practical, hands on
guide to winter fruit tree pruning for
optimum next season fruiting and tree
health. Join us for this opportunity to
get stuck in with the loppers and
secateurs with guidance and support
from experienced arborists. We
welcome those who have attended
before and would like a refresher.

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

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

Ka kite ano

Chris Love—RECAP coordinator

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Community Comment

The City Council has begun its latest consultation on its latest 'Nature Calls' plans for wastewater disposal. A wider set of options has been presented in the past, including a mix of river and land dispersal. Ashhurst wastewater is included here as our waste is partially treated locally before being pumped to the Totara Road treatment plant on the far side of Awapuni.

Recent regulatory changes at a national level have led to only two options for consultation. The first option, at an estimated cost of \$290 million, would discharge to the river beside the Totara Road plant. The second option, at a cost of \$370 million, is a combination of discharge points into the Manawatū River at Totara Road or via a pumped pipeline to Opiki at low river flows. These two outfall options have differing river bed composition of stony or sandy bottom, and their associated ability to cope with wastewater discharge. Both options require enhanced and adaptive treatment management. Pumping to Opiki has inherent additional costs, but helps to preserve the health of the river. Consultation documents are available on the Palmerston North City Council web pages or at your local library. Consultation is expected to begin on the 29th April and closes at the end of May.

The Sport and Recreation Committee of Palmerston North City Council received an update report on plans for a loop track, which would link the Domain, Ashhurst's Terrace walkway and McCrae's Bush to Te Apiti Manawatū Gorge reserves via the Saddle Road or Manawatū bridges. A railway overbridge on nearby Pembroke Street is already in the long-term plan at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million. A shared path crossing over the Manawatū River is a required condition of the highway, but we are yet to hear of a cost effective solution for pedestrians and cyclists to cross the river.

New Zealand Transport Agency had established a Recreational Pathways Fund as part of the highway project. Our Council was successful in securing \$156,000 for investigation into the choke points of this loop path. The Saddle Road bridge is not compatible with a clip-on path for shared path use, but a separated narrow walking facility is possible at a cost of \$3 million. The Council report reveals some progress on the remaining choke point from the Terrace walkway at Wyndham Street down to McCrae's Bush.

Long-term residents may remember the bridle path which used to exist, but which slipped down the bank due to stormwater complications. Existing council property on this embankment is too steep for an affordable shared path from Ashhurst down to the reserve. However the Council has completed a land purchase deal with a neighbour to use an existing farm



Photo: Farm track route: Wyndham Street to McCrae's Bush

Continued on next page

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Calling all residents...

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Move it—or Lose it! Join our friendly group for a gentle, low impact exercise class, (no floor exercises) with an emphasis on fun. Optional—go for coffee afterwards.

Village Valley Centre, Monday mornings, 9.45am-10.45am.

Cost: \$10 per class.

Enquiries: Maria—phone 329 4166

Ashhurst Budgeting Service

Thursday 9.30am-1.00pm.

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

For Appointments contact: Manawatu Home Budgeting Service. Phone: 358 2279; Cell: 0800-228 343.

Pohangina Rubbish Collection

Rubbish is collected every Wednesday. Bags out by 7.30am

Ashhurst Pohangina Lions

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

Contacts:

Jack Zwart (President) 326 8958

standishzwart@gmail.com

Brent Besley (Secretary) 329 4891

brent.liz@inspire.net.nz

Mike Forlong (Memberships) 329 4741

forlong@inspire.net.nz

Community Comment

track as part of a zig-zag shared path down to McCrae's Bush, and then onward to River and Saddle Roads for access to the new tracks on the eastern bank of the Pohangina River.

Conditions of sale require some modification of fencing and culverts, which is expected to be completed by the end of July.

Harvey Jones

Mandy Smith—The Power of Being Heard

Mandy's professional journey has been varied and didn't start in a boardroom; her singing started under the spotlights of the China Inn. When Danny pushed her into running the karaoke for the evening 30-minute notice, he didn't just start a 26-year music career—he taught Mandy the power of being heard.

In April 2021, Mandy took that confidence in performance and redirected it toward protection. After earning her Financial Advisor, Level 5 accreditation, she realized that navigating the financial world is a lot like music: if you don't have the right arrangement, the harmony is lost. Her personal life experiences taught her that being "heard" by an insurance company is often the hardest part of the process. She has a passion to fight for those who aren't familiar with the

maze of protection options available, be that personal cover, business covers, private medical and assists in explaining the impact of Wills and the impacts of ACC and levies as examples; Mandy is the in betweener that challenges insurers on your behalf when the response is to defer acceptance. Ultimately, she knows there is a solution, it just takes tenacity to find it! She loves a good chat, to find your needs, is flexible and her time is free. And Mandy is discreet.

While the rest of Ashhurst is sleeping, Mandy is at work. Starting her day at 4.00 am, she clears the administrative *noise* before the sun comes up. This discipline ensures that her day can then be balanced between family, home life (her office is also her home address), and work, and when she meets a client face-to-face, she isn't distracted by paperwork—she is 100% focused on their story and how best to structure your plan to suit your needs.

To balance her work life, a particular love of Mandy's, is singing. That on its own is not a surprise, as she is well known as a singer, and more recently has begun writing her own songs. She is also one of three founders of Next Wave Music, which gives kids a free platform for rangitahi to sing in public and work on their performances. She loves the transformation in each kid as they blossom when they sing.

"I run furiously from mediocrity." For Mandy, 'good enough' insurance isn't enough. It has to be the right fit, every time.



Photo: Mandy Smith

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Ashhurst Scouts—Come Join the Adventure

If you've ever wondered what Scouts in Ashhurst are up to, the short answer is... a lot! From outdoor adventures to learning new skills and making great friends, our group is full of energy, laughter, and opportunities for young people to grow.

We've recently had some fantastic support from Meridian Power, who gave us a grant to purchase new tramping gear. This is a huge win for our group. It means more of our youth can get out and explore the outdoors safely and comfortably—whether it's a bush walk, a day hike, or something a bit more adventurous. We're incredibly grateful, and the kids are already excited about putting the gear to good use!

Another big thing on the horizon is Jamboree at Mystery Creek at the end of this year. This is one of those truly special Scout experiences—eleven days of adventure alongside Scouts from all over the country. Think activities, challenges, new friendships, and memories that will stick with them for life. Our Scouts are already counting down and doing what they can to be part of it.

To help make these opportunities possible, we're running a simple (and very useful!) fundraiser. We're selling stock feed-sized bags of pinecones for \$10—perfect for kindling as the weather cools down. It's an easy way

to support the group while getting something handy for your home.

We'd also really love to welcome some new faces into our Scout family. If you've got a young person who could benefit from getting outdoors, building confidence, and making new friends, Scouts is a great place to start.

And just as importantly—we need leaders too. If you enjoy the social side of things, meeting new people, and being part of a supportive, fun community, this could be a great fit. You don't need any prior experience, just a bit of enthusiasm and a willingness to support our youth (and try something new!). There's plenty of training available, and you'll be joining a really awesome team.

Ashhurst Scouts is all about community, adventure, and giving young people opportunities they might not otherwise have. Whether you're buying a bag of pinecones, signing up your child, or thinking about becoming a leader, you're helping make that happen—and we'd love to have you involved.

Keen to get involved or find out more?

Get in touch with Julie, our Group Leader—we'd love to hear from you!

Email: ashhurst@group.scouts.nz

Mobile: 021 213 0326

St. Columba's Catholic Church

St. Columba's Catholic Church would like to welcome you to join us for Vigil Mass, celebrated every Saturday at 5.00 pm.

Ashhurst Scouting

Keas (Mon 5.30 pm-6.30 pm),
Cubs (Wed 6.00 pm-7.30 pm) and
Scouts (Mon 6.45 pm-8.15 pm),
during school terms.

Contact Julie (Group Leader) on
ashhurst@group.scouts.nz for more
info.

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ashhurstvillageradio@gmail.com

Ashhurst Music Club

New meeting place and times to be
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Contact Grant - 0274-327-648 or

kiwifieldcrew@inspire.net.nz



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| ✓ Mulch | ✓ Builders Mix | ✓ AP40 Base Course |
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| | | ✓ RTU 45 Min Concrete Bags 20kg |

Contact: Greg 027 557 8809

greg@manawatucontracting.com

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Monday 10.30 am-2.30pm
Tuesday and Thursday 9.00 am-1.00 pm. 118 Stanford Street, Ashhurst

Ashhurst Clay Target Club (claybird shooting)

Meets the last Sunday of every month from 9.30 am at 651 Valley Road. Anyone welcome to join us
Queries: Please message us on our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064928610535>

Ashhurst and District Senior Citizens Association Inc

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

Contact: Stephanie Madgwick—Secretary 021 025 99382

Local Justices of the Peace

Mrs AK Rutherford—Available by appointment—027 404 8551

Mr F Saua

Pohangina Road RD 14—029 254 3206

Mr JC Culling

Pohangina Road—027 289 5252

Crane Flies

Crane flies, with their long, spindly legs and a single pair of wings, are poorly understood by most members of the public. Although they can fly, it is not their strength, often appearing rather gangly in flight. Known by a variety of names around the world, they are sometimes called “daddy longlegs” but that is also the name used for those long-legged spiders that like to inhabit our homes. Crane flies are true flies and are totally



unrelated to spiders. They are, in fact, one of the oldest known groups of flies, having first appeared about 245 million years ago (Triassic Period).

There are more than 60 known species of crane fly in New Zealand and in excess of 15,000 species worldwide. The Māori name for them, *matua waeroa*, means ‘king mosquito’ but unlike mosquitoes, crane flies cannot bite you. The adults typically

Continued on next page

Photos: Left—Large crane flies; Top right—Lesser crane fly ; Bottom right—larva of one species of large crane fly.

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Crane Flies

live for only a few days or weeks, just long enough to mate and lay eggs. During their short lives as adults, they typically don't eat at all or may just sip some nectar.

Crane flies in New Zealand belong to one or other of two families, one known as the Large Crane Flies and the other as the Lesser Crane Flies. Examples of Large Crane Flies are shown in photos one and two, and an example of Lesser Crane Flies is shown in photo three. These were all

photographed locally. The wing vein patterns are important when identifying the different species.

Female crane flies typically lay their eggs in moist soil, leaf litter, rotting wood and other decomposing plant material. The larvae, which are commonly called leatherjackets, feed on organic matter and the microbes it contains. Photo four shows a larva of one species of Large Crane Fly.

Grey Smith

Tradescantia at the Ashhurst Domain

In June of 1901, the Ashhurst Domain was lawfully brought under the control of a publicly voted Domain Board, made up of several local citizens, all determined to create a recreational space for the betterment of the town and its townsfolk. This year, without fuss, that Domain quietly reached 125 years of existence.

This stand of bush has seen thousands of years of upheaval, changes brought about naturally, and unnaturally. Even in the small time that the Domain became sanctioned, it has seen several major floods, changing the course of the twin rivers, this creating the wetlands, which used to be part of the course of the Pohangina River.

It was gouged again badly in the 2004 floods; a large stand of willows now needed as an unnatural band-aid between the bush and the Manawatu River. And quietly, another less dramatic, but equally devastating disaster has been unfolding, Tradescantia Flumensis.

A quiet killer, Tradescantia now afflicts the majority of the Domain, yes there is a group that tries to remove the weed away from the native giant maidenhair, but it is greater than this. Tradescantia takes no prisoners, quietly smothering everything in its path, ground ferns, emerging seedlings, left alone, in time, there would be little left of the Domain as we know it.



A group of very friendly, and very dedicated volunteers, remove Tradescantia from the bush. In the three years of our existence, a very noticeable area on the top part of the Reserve is now looking as it should again. And we are determined to carry on, so on that note, anyone willing to lend their hands for a couple of hours, once

Continued on next page

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

8.00 am First Sunday of the Month
10.00 am every Sunday

St Bartholomew's Church, Komako

10.00 am 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays.
Contact the Parish office for further information: Phone 326 8543 or
Email: info@parishofpohangina.co.nz

Web: www.parishofpohangina.co.nz
Our office is currently not attended.
Please email us if you need to contact us.

Ashhurst Pohangina Squash Club

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

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

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

Meditation Class

Overcoming Stress and Anxiety.
Every Thursday from 10.00 am - 11.00 am.

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

Craft on Cambridge

At the Chapman Hall, Anglican Church, Cambridge Avenue, on Monday afternoons 1.30 pm - 3.30 pm and Wednesday mornings 9.30 am-11.30 am. B.Y.O. craft and the cost is \$2 each time.

A friendly, relaxed group who can help with your UFOs!

Contact: Marianne Crawford 027 627 2054

Matwork Pilates Sessions

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

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

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

To register contact Narrelle 021 2673676

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Kids 'n Motion

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

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

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

Pohangina Yoga Classes

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

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

River Church

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

Village Voice Funding

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



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Tradescantia at the Ashhurst Domain

a month, we meet at the barbecue area on the fourth Sunday of every month. We can all make a difference.

In recent months we have had strong volunteer representation, including Massey University students from Ferguson Hall and Ashhurst School. And a big thank you to Jack and Charles!

Thank you all very much for the Mahi!

Everyone very welcome, and the more the merrier!

Photos: Page 9—*Tradescantia ridden*; Above—*Tradescantia removed*



Book Review: *The Hollows Brothers*

The Hollows Brothers by Peta Carey

A story of three brothers and the fiordland deer recovery era.

This true story of the helicopter deer recovery is told to the author through the words of the three Hollows brothers, Gary, Mark and Kim and others involved in the helicopter industry at the time. The operations were at their peak in the 1970s/80s.

There was a lot of money to be made at the time from deer recovery and the competition was fierce. Many people will not have known about this era in New Zealand history, an industry that will never be repeated in the same way and which, from today's perspective, will seem both foolhardy and dangerous,

We learn about the often fatal experiences of the helicopter pilots and their engineers and assistants (mostly young and many inexperienced.) The tragedies and serious accidents all mount up as we read about the wrecked machines and

broken bodies. It is also a tale of young men intoxicated with the adrenaline of the dangers they are undertaking, the long hours and the toll it takes on them and their families. Dare-devils without fear.

That is not to undermine the skills and mastery of the pilots and helpers in their handling of the helicopters and difficult terrains, they were young men who needed challenge and danger in their lives.

This is an often sad, but very absorbing book which is all the more interesting when the author uses transcripts of the actual words of the pilots and their families and friends. She does a great job of linking their personal stories with the history of deer recovery in New Zealand.

"*The Hollows Boys*" is nominated for a non-fiction award for the 2026 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards in May.

Robyn Dare

Ashhurst Library

Hi everyone, can we just say a big thank you to everyone who attended our April holiday events, we had such great turnouts. A big thank you to Bella-Kate, Jess and Lily for helping with our events, it was greatly appreciated.

Ashhurst Elevenses

Every Friday at 11.00 am during term time

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

are very welcome.

Ashhurst Mighty Kids

Ashhurst Mighty Kids is our preschool programme of stories, songs, games and crafts. It is great fun and you are all most welcome.

Wednesday, 6th May, 10.30 am

Wednesday, 20th May, 10.30 am

Justice of the Peace

Wednesday, 12.00 midday - 1.00 pm

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

Continued on page 12

Kia ora Ashhurst!

One thing I always appreciate about this community is how engaged you are. You back local events, you look out for each other, and you speak up when something matters. I too am a follower on Ashhurst Chat!

As autumn settles in, it is also a good time to think about how we reduce waste at home. Fallen leaves can go straight into your compost, along with food scraps and garden waste, turning what would have been rubbish into free, nutrient rich compost for your garden. If you do not yet have a compost bin, you can pick up a 400L bin from the Ferguson Street Recycling Centre for \$55. It is a simple step that can make a real difference, especially at this time of the year when gardens are still producing plenty of green waste.

If you have bigger waste reduction ideas, we want to hear about that too. Our Resource Recovery Fund is still open for applications and is there to help good local ideas get off the ground. We are keen to support projects that focus on reducing, reusing, or recycling. That could be a small pilot, a community event, an education programme, or research. The fund has already helped bring great initiatives to life, including the Repair Cafe and other projects that are keeping useful materials out of landfill. Funding is available until it is fully allocated or until 30 June 2026, so now is a good time to take the next step if you have been sitting on an idea. You can find out more on our website.

An important piece of work now coming up is the next stage of consultation on Nature Calls, our project looking at the future treatment and discharge of the city's wastewater. Through the Long Term Plan consultation, many of you told us the option we were pursuing was not affordable. We heard that clearly. Since then, we have taken another look, and we also now have the governments new wastewater standards to work with.

The two options we are consulting on are both considerably cheaper than the previous one. I encourage you to have your say while feedback is open through May, and to come along to a drop-in session. This is an important long-term decision for the city and your feedback matters. More details on our website.

Closer to home, work continues on Wyndham Street. All new stormwater improvements have now been installed and kerbing construction has started on site, helping shape the outline of the widened road. Utility service upgrades and footpath construction are coming up next, and service providers will in touch directly with affected residents. The expected completion date is now August 2026 due to unforeseen works, but Higgins will maintain single lane closures as much as possible for the duration of the project. Thank you again for your patience while this important work continues.

Thank you to everyone who attended the recent Anzac Day services in Ashhurst and around the city. Looking ahead, we will be celebrating Puanga Matariki on Friday 10 July in the Pit Lanes at Arena. This will be the final event of our 2025/26 events season, and it will be a special way to mark the Māori New Year together. Keep an eye on our website for more information as plans are confirmed.

If you have any questions about these projects or any of the consultations that are open at the moment, please get in touch with Council. And to stay up to date with local projects, events, and key decisions, sign up to our monthly Palmy Matters email newsletter on the Council website. It is an easy way to stay in the loop about what's happening in Ashhurst and across the city.

Ngā mihi nui

Mayor
Grant Smith JP



ASHHURST COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Open days

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

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

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Saturday	8am - 6pm
Sunday - Monday	Closed

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19 May	26 May

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and the **Snap Send Solve** app
to quickly report anything that
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Letters to the Editor

Letters under 200 words are preferred.

The writer's contact details are required on all letters (not for publication), including address, email and phone number. We may need to contact you to clarify minor details.

The editor reserves the right to edit, abridge or decline letters or articles without explanation. Pen names or letters submitted elsewhere are not acceptable.

If supplying images, high resolution images are required. Please feel free to contact the editor if you are unable to email images.

We do not accept flyers or pamphlets for publication. Contents need to be provided as articles for publication.

Advertising Rates & Information

Articles and community notices are free. Adverts can vary from a few lines in the side column to a double business card size. Conditions apply. A 15% discount is offered if you pay in advance for a full year (11 issues). A business card size advert is to be 60mm by 100mm at 300dpi and costs \$55.

The cost varies proportionally for smaller and larger sized adverts.

For further information on advertising costs and payments please contact Grey Smith.

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

Village Voice Deadline

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

5.00 pm Wednesday, 20th May 2026.

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

Ashhurst Library

Ashhurst Library Facebook

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

After-School Chess Club

Our after-school chess club is on every Wednesday 3.15 pm - 4.15 pm.

We had a great time last year with so many enjoying the great game, all kids are welcome.

Solar and Battery Installation at Ashhurst Village Valley Centre

As you may be aware, the VVC has a designated Civil Defence role. Having

on-site solar panels and battery storage would support the centre to operate essential services for longer in the event of a power outage, making it a more resilient hub for the surrounding community. The Ashhurst Village Valley Centre has been selected for this and we anticipate that the physical installation on site would take approximately four days. Works are due to take place in May and June 2026. Any works would be carefully scheduled to avoid disruption to existing bookings and regular activities.

Ross Meads—Ashhurst Librarian

Ashhurst Rainfall

23.5 mm of rain fell in March 2026, below the monthly long-term average of 70.01 mm.

Rain was recorded on 7 days, with the highest one-day rainfall of 9 mm on the 26th of March.

The total annual rainfall for the period from 1st of January to the 31st March is now 145.5 mm, which is below the long-term average for this period of 217.33 mm.

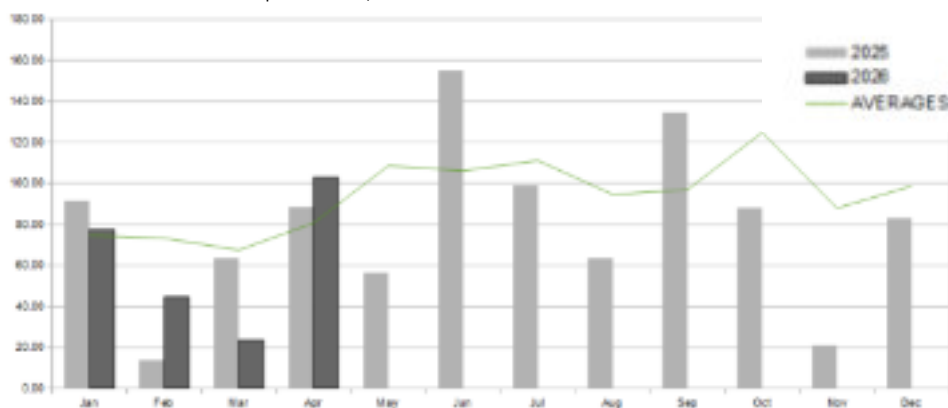
103 mm of rain fell in April 2026, above

the monthly long-term average of 79.26 mm.

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

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

Phil Pirie



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