



Ashhurst Village Voice

Informing the communities of Ashhurst & Pohangina

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November 2025

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Community Comment

Concerned parents continue to battle for an ongoing bus service to transport their high school students to and from their preferred school. The Ministry of Education's transport policy limits bus transport to students attending the nearest school, and when no public transport is available. The Ministry will provide one term's notice of any changes to the existing service.

Horizons' Councillors have again rejected Ministry pressure to expand services to meet additional demand if school buses are lost to the Ashhurst community. The estimated year one cost of \$120,000 to Horizons would need to be recovered from a targeted Palmerston North rate and student fares. A chartered bus service is estimated to cost \$400 a term per student. The Ministry has floated the concept of sharing the costs for the first year, but there are no ongoing guarantees this would continue.

The standoff continues, while family budgets are stretched and the government targets a goal of increased school attendance figures. Additional transport costs, whether by bus or private transport, will limit Ashhurst's appeal for families with teenagers, who will need to carefully manage their budget and time to meet these new demands.

Final results of local body elections



Photo: School buses waiting to take students to school

have been announced. Voter turn out for the city increased to 42%, the highest since 2010. Mayor Grant Smith has returned for a fifth term and a majority of almost 10,000 votes. Councillor representatives of the city remains largely the same. Hayden Fitzgerald replaces retiring Councillor Pat Handcock. Bonnie Kuru is a new Councillor in the Māori Ward and replaces Roly Fitzgerald, who was not re-elected. Palmerston North has also voted to retain Māori Wards by a significant margin.

The New Zealand Transport Agency has reached an agreement with local Councils on its funding of repairs to regional roads damaged by the additional heavy traffic while the Manawātū Gorge diversion was in place. Maintenance and repairs to the Pahiatua Track, the Saddle, and various connecting roads and urban streets will occur in the summer months over the next two years. The New Zealand Transport Agency will fund the work, which will be carried out by respective Councils. Streets named in Ashhurst include Salisbury Street and Cambridge Avenue. Traffic on the Saddle Road has reduced from 6000 vehicles per day to 150, since Te Ahu a Turanga opened.

The ability of Ashhurst residents to publicly express their views has pressured the City Council to revise their street maintenance plans. Wyndham Street residents petitioned the Council in August about the state of their street following

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**Deadline for December
Issue—Thursday, 20th
November**

Letter From the Editor

Welcome to the November issue of the Ashhurst Village Voice. We have one final issue this year before we take time off over the summer.

A reminder that if you know of events happening over December, January and early February, please get them in to me for next month's issue. The deadline is 20th November. You can email me at ashhurst.voice@gmail.com.

We have heard from many of our readers that you appreciate the Village Voice and its contribution to our community. The last few years have been financially tight for local businesses and families. Increasing costs have impacted the Village Voice too, such that our advertising fees no longer fully meet the expenses of the newsletter, which is distributed free to more than 1800 households in Ashhurst and the Pohangina Valley. The Village Voice is reluctant to increase advertising costs to community-minded businesses who support us. We appreciate the recent community grant from the R.S.A. which will help maintain publication of the newsletter. The Committee is pursuing other options to keep us afloat in coming years. If you wish to make a donation to the Village Voice Society to help cover ongoing costs, please contact Grey Smith on 326 8075 or 021 175 1726.

Llyvonne Barber—Editor

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

infrastructure work which disrupted their lives for months. Problems included pot holes, no parking, inadequate lighting and footpaths, and safety risks for cyclists, children and those with mobility issues.

Council has delayed work elsewhere in the city to prioritise Wyndham Street upgrades. Work will begin on

the northern side of the street between Oxford Street and Cambridge Avenue to install footpaths, kerbs and stormwater control before work proceeds on the other side next year. The street will operate as a one-way road during construction. This work is hoped to be complete by June 2026.

Harvey Jones

Ashhurst Food Drive

Mark your calendars for Saturday, 22nd November, 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm, when the Ashhurst Food Drive will be happening!

Labelled bags will be delivered to each household in the next two weeks (courtesy of Emma and her Property Brokers team) and it would be awesome if you could fill it with non-perishable necessities. Ideas for what is needed come from your own pantry and diet - what do you eat for breakfast and lunch? What is your favourite meal to have at night in the winter and in the summer? What snacks do you put in your children's school lunches? The answers to these questions will be what we need, to help those who are trying to stretch their food budget in these challenging times.

Categories from our customer order form are: tins (baked beans, spaghetti, soups, fish, vegetables, fruit, black beans, chilli beans, lentils, chickpeas, pasta sauces), cereals, rice, pasta, desserts (custard powder, jellies, mousse), baking needs (flour, baking

powder, dried fruit, sugar, baking mix), spreads, snacks, biscuits, and drinks (tea, coffee, chocolate drinks, powder sachets for cold drinks). Other things that can stretch the budget but are not food are toilet paper, cleaners (washing liquid, toilet cleaner, washing powder) and toiletries (soap, handwash, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, sanitary items).

Once again our local Fire Brigade will be supplying a fire truck and manpower, joined by the men and women of the Ashhurst Pohangina Lions Club, and a van from ICONA, to collect your donations in style!

Your donations are truly appreciated by our customers and, while demand is increasing, I am so encouraged by people like you who are rising to the challenge of making sure no one in our community goes without this basic necessity. Whatever you can give, small or large, makes a difference. Thank you so much.

**Marianne Crawford—Co-ordinator
Ashhurst Food Bank**

Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade

Kia Ora Ashhurst,

In September, the Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade was thrilled to celebrate Deputy Chief Fire Officer Josh Casey's Gold Star, marking an incredible 25 years of service to the Ashhurst and Pohangina Valley communities. Josh has dedicated countless hours to training, responding to callouts at all hours, and

supporting our community over the past quarter-century. A huge congratulations to Josh on this remarkable milestone—well done!

We marked the occasion with a fantastic evening of dinner and drinks at the Manawātū Golf Course, joined by distinguished guests including Mayor Grant Smith, the Manawātū

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Saturday 9.00am - 12 noon

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Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade

-Whanganui Fire District Commander, and the Vice-President of the United Fire Brigades Association. It was a perfect chance to let our hair down, enjoy delicious food (thankfully not ham...) and toast Josh's achievement alongside other brigade successes.

We were also proud to announce Matt Marshall as our Brigade Member of the Year, recognized for his outstanding dedication and tireless

commitment. Awesome work, Matt—it's an honour to serve alongside you!

Thank you to our community for your ongoing support of the Brigade. As the end of the year comes racing up you'll see us out and about training and participating in other community events.

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

Carols at the Village Green

On the 13th December, River Church and St Mary Magdalene's Anglican Church are hosting "Carols at the Village Green", at 5.30 pm. Everyone is

welcome to come and sing the traditional carols with us. Bring your picnic, chairs or a rug, and your own beverages.

Village Voice Special General Meeting

The Village Voice Society Inc. will be holding a Special General Meeting to present and adopt a revised Constitution which adheres to the requirements of the amended Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

Existing and prospective members are invited to attend to discuss and approve the revised constitution. Copies of the existing and new

constitution can be supplied on request to the Village Voice Editor (ashhurst.voice@gmail.com) or can be viewed at the Ashhurst Library.

Time: 7.00 pm - 8.00 pm

Date: Thursday, 20th November, 2025

Place: Chapman Hall, Anglican Church, Cambridge Avenue, Ashhurst

Shades of Shakti Performing in Pohangina

Arts on Tour is bringing another great show to the Pohangina Hall on Wednesday, 5th November. Shades of Shakti is an intercultural ensemble based in Aotearoa New Zealand, bringing together the rich traditions of Indian classical music with the improvisational energy of jazz and the refinement of Western classical music. Their performances are a masterclass

in musical dialogue—intricate, propulsive, and deeply connected. Drawing on traditions from across the globe, the group's sound resonates with audiences through the mesmerising interplay of melody and rhythm, igniting a shared experience that transcends culture and genre.

The group performs a dynamic repertoire of original compositions, reimagined Indian ragas, and arrangements inspired by iconic East-West collaborations such as Ravi Shankar's East Meets West and John McLaughlin's Grammy-winning Shakti, from which the ensemble draws its name and early inspiration.

At the heart of Shades of Shakti is a belief in music as a meeting ground—a

Continued on next page



JustOnePlease

Super kia ora. The Justoneplease item for the Safe House for November 2025 is **Washing powder for a top loading washing machine**. Thank you to everyone for the donations so far this year. 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.

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We are a community based project run by volunteers



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-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: 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.

Shades of Shakti Performing in Pohangina

place where tradition, experimentation,
and human connection come together.
The group's work not only bridges
musical worlds but also serves as a
platform for cultural exchange,
education, and artistic innovation.
They have captivated audiences with
their intricate musical interplay,
dynamic improvisation, and deeply
connected stage presence.

Tuss and Dermott are bringing their
Thai food truck to the hall before the

show. There will be tables and chairs
set up on the hall lawn. This is a rare
opportunity to experience some of
Aotearoa and India's finest musicians
bridging cultural and musical worlds
with powerful artistry and passion.

Show starts at 7.00 pm

Doors open 6.30 pm

Supper provided

Tickets \$25 from www.pohanginavalley.nz/tickets

Parish Christmas Fair and Services

The Anglican Parish of Pohangina
warmly invite you all to our Christmas
Celebrations throughout the month of
December.

Annual Parish Fair: Our Parish Fair is
on Saturday, 3rd December, the same
day as the Ashhurst Christmas Parade.
Come along and have a look at what
we have for sale. We look forward to
seeing you there.

Saturday, 24th December:
Christmas Eve offers opportunities to
worship together. St Mary Magdalene
Church, Ashhurst will be holding a

"midnight" service starting at 11.00 pm.

St Bartholomew's Church, Komako
(at the head of the Pohangina Valley),
will be holding a Christmas Eve service
starting at 7.00 pm.

Sunday, 25th December: Christmas
Day—10.00 am service at St. Mary
Magdalene Church, Ashhurst—a
service for all ages. Everyone is
welcome.

*"Son of God, Child of Mary, born in
the stable at Bethlehem, be born again
in us this day that through us the world
may know the wonder of your love."*

Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.

The Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A. invites
all community members to join in
commemorating Remembrance Day
on Monday, 11th November, 11.00 am,
a day of profound significance that
honours the service and sacrifice of all

who have fallen while serving New
Zealand.

Remembrance Day marks the
anniversary of the signing of the
Armistice Treaty, which officially

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Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.

ended World War One. Following World War Two, New Zealand, along with other Commonwealth Nations, changed the name from Armistice Day to Remembrance Day to be more inclusive and pay tribute to all who have died in service across all conflicts and deployments.

Honouring Our Fallen

You have two options to observe this solemn occasion:

- **Ashhurst Local Service:** A short, poignant wreath-laying service will be held at the Triangle in Ashhurst.
- **Palmerston North Service:** A full commemorative service will take place in The Square, Palmerston North.

Get Ready for the RSA Pre-Christmas Community Market!

Mark your calendars for an exciting, fun-filled, pre-Christmas community event at the Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A. on Friday, 8th November!

It's the perfect opportunity to have a belated spring clean, make some extra cash, and enjoy a day out with neighbors.

Event Highlights:

- **Market Stalls** (10:00 am - 2:00 pm): Browse a variety of local market stalls to find unique items or get a head start on Christmas shopping.
- **Entertainment:** The popular local band Desert Road will provide musical entertainment in the

afternoon.

- **Outdoor Bowling Challenge:** Test your aim in a friendly outdoor bowling competition with prizes up for grabs!
- **Hot Food:** Delicious hot food will be available for purchase throughout the day.

Bring Your Own Boot Sale - Register Your Spot!

Looking to clear out some clutter and make some cash before the holidays? Bring your car loaded with household items you wish to sell! This is a no-charge opportunity for community members to sell their pre-loved goods.

Boot Sale Registration Plan:

To secure your space, all sellers must register their car with the Ashhurst Memorial RSA in advance.

- **Contact:** Email secretary@ashhurstrsa.co.nz.
- **Provide Details:** Give your name, contact phone number, and car registration number.
- **Setup:** On November 8th, sellers will be directed to a designated area upon arrival. Please arrive early to ensure a smooth setup.

We look forward to seeing the community at both the Remembrance Day commemoration and our special pre-Christmas market event!

For more information, please contact the Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.

Peter Knight—President

Gravel and Tar

For the ninth year, the Gravel and Tar Classic event will be held over the beautiful roads of the Manawātū region.

The Gravel and Tar (Men's Classic and Women's La Femme) is considered one of the toughest one-day cycling events in the Oceania region.

Comprising approximately 75% sealed and 25% gravel roads, it provides riders with the opportunity to test all their skills against other elite and promising cyclists on a variety of

surfaces.

Now in its ninth year, the 2025 Gravel and Tar, will be run in the beautiful Pohangina region

The Gravel and Tar will be held on Sunday, 16th November, starting and finishing in the village of Ashhurst. This year will also be seeing the introduction of a Team Time Trial on the Saturday, 15th November

For more information go to <http://www.gravelandtar.com>.

RECAP Update

Kia ora koutou

This month we are thrilled to share that the Civic Award nomination we submitted for our long serving chairperson Harvey Jones has been successful.

Harvey not only chairs RECAP, but he also chairs the Village Voice committee, was one of the founders of

Ashhurst Action Group and Environment Network Manawātū and spent over 20 years in the Tertiary Education Union at Massey advocating for staff and students (among other things).

Harvey has spent decades volunteering in various roles both in

Continued on next page

Manawātū Toy Library

200 Church Street, Palmerston North
Hundreds of toys to borrow.
Open 9.30 -12.30 Mon, Thu, Sat.
Visit our website to join, view our toys and learn more.
www.manawatutoylibrary.co.nz

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

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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- And much much more, all for FREE!

To learn more or get involved, visit us online or contact:

Palmerston North Neighbourhood Support
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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: 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

RECAP Update

Ashhurst and the wider region, and we are so happy he is being recognised for all his efforts for both people and our environment.

Congratulations, Harvey!

Death Without Debt

We are repeating our most popular workshop from last year: Death Without Debt.

These workshops are usually \$40 per person, but RECAP is subsidising this to make it more accessible. The cost for the Ashhurst workshop is \$10 waged and \$5 unwaged. Saturday, November 8th, 10.30 am - 3.00 pm (with a break for lunch) at the Village Valley Centre, 21 Guildford Street, Ashhurst. Registrations are essential and can be made at recap.org.nz. Hot drinks and snacks will be served. B.Y.O. lunch. Thank you to our varied funders who make this possible.

Death Without Debt is a national organisation campaigning and educating on funeral debt 'dedicated to creating a future where the cost of dying doesn't add to the burden of grief'. And where 'everyone in New Zealand has the right to an affordable and dignified funeral process.'

Workshops cover:

- Funeral planning, wills, Enduring Power of Attorney, Advanced Care Plans, probate
- After-death paperwork requirements and avoiding professional service fees
- Care and transport of the body

Water-Based Exercise

At Ashhurst Health we recommend physical exercise as an important part of any healthy lifestyle and for the management of many medical conditions.

Activities like walking, cycling and swimming are examples of aerobic exercise which have many health benefits including improved

- When you need a coffin and when you don't.
- The pros and cons of cremation vs burial. Alternative and environmental technologies.
- The politics and history of funerals
- Community initiatives and collective action for funeral reform
- And much more . . .

Presenters are Suzanne Chellius, Rachel Rose and Melissa Hemi.

Ashhurst School māra kai - iti.

Well done to all the tamariki who participated in the garden section of Lamb and Calf day. This is a project we worked on with the school to encourage more kids to grow their own veggies, herbs, berries and flowers.

Bunnings sponsored some of the tamariki by providing flexitubs and potting mix so that anyone could have a go.

We were so happy to read the garden journals and see the learning the kids had done and read about how much they enjoyed the process and watching their plants grow.

Congratulations to all the place winners.

As always—ngā mihi nui to the wonderful volunteers across all of our projects and services (including our dedicated volunteer board). Team work makes the dream work!

Chris Love—RECAP Coordinator

cardiovascular health, weight management and enhanced mental well-being.

I would like to focus in this article on water-based exercise.

There are many benefits of water-based exercise whether you are swimming laps, participating in

Continued on next page

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Water-Based Exercise

aquarobics classes or simply walking in the water.

Water helps support our body weight so the impact on joints is low making it ideal for those with stiff, painful joints or rehabilitating from injury. The supportive environment allows a greater range of joint movement improving flexibility and balance.

Working against the resistance of the water helps to build muscle strength and improves endurance. Water-based exercise has been shown to lower blood pressure and improve cardiovascular health.

The energy expenditure of swimming effectively burns calories and can be an important part of managing weight.

Swimming can also be a great support for our mental health. A relaxing, enjoyable activity which promotes social interaction is of great benefit to manage the stress of

everyday life along with other conditions like anxiety and depression.

Swimming is of benefit for people of all ages but can be especially helpful for maintaining fitness as we age, during pregnancy and for those with any joint or muscle problems.

In Ashhurst we are very fortunate to have easy access to a great local facility—Splashhurst. Situated beside the school with its friendly, helpful staff it is an ideal place for exercise throughout the year. Open from 0600-0900 and 1300-1900 during the week (term time) and 0800-1800 on Saturday (closed Sunday and Monday) it offers the opportunity to swim laps, exercise in the water and take part in the popular aquarobics classes.

So we encourage you to try it out and make water-based exercise a part of your healthy lifestyle year round. It's fun and it's good for you.

Paul Cooper—G.P.

Ashhurst Senior Citizen's Association

The October meeting of the Ashhurst and Districts Senior Citizens was a 'member hosted' session that included jokes, stories and even Housie! There were a lot of laughs particularly at some of the experiences shared by some members... you know who you are and thank you for sharing some of your embarrassing moments that gave us a

good laugh!

A reminder you do not have to be a member or a senior to attend the monthly social meetings. Come along and see if its something you may be interested in. Do not feel you can't attend if you live outside of Ashhurst! The club has been running for over 50 years so we're doing something right -

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 for more info.

Ashhurst Indoor Bowling Club

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

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

Ashhurst Village Radio

Your Community FM Radio Station Broadcasting 24/7

Community notices are free.

Businesses advertisements 30 second \$5.00

Free training for volunteers joining the staff.

Contact: 027 752 5077

ashhurstvillageradio@gmail.com

Ashhurst Music Club

Live original music in your back yard

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

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

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| ✓ Organic Compost | ✓ Lime | ✓ 20mm Washed Stone |
| ✓ Organic Lawn Mix | ✓ Pea Straw | ✓ Kaikoura White Chip |
| ✓ Topsoil (screened) | ✓ Pea Metal | ✓ Crushed Rotten Rock |
| ✓ Weedmat 1 & 2m | ✓ Crusher Dust | ✓ AP20 Top Course |
| ✓ Mulch | ✓ Builders Mix | ✓ AP40 Base Course |
| ✓ Organic Garden Mix | ✓ Nova Coil | ✓ Cement Bags 20kg |
| | | ✓ RTU 45 Min Concrete Bags 20kg |

Contact: Greg 027 557 8809

greg@manawatucontracting.com

Hours: Mon-Fri 7.30am-5.00pm; Sat: 9.00am-3.00pm; Sun: 9.30am-2.30pm

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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: Ken Simonsen,
Phone: 329-4800

Ashhurst and District Senior Citizens Association Inc

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

Contact: Stephanie Madgwick—Secretary 021 025 99382

Local Justices of the Peace

Mrs AK Rutherford—Available by appointment—027 404 8551

Mr F Saua
Pohangina Road RD 14—029 254 3206
Mr JC Culling

Pohangina Road—027 289 5252

J Wakeford

Hiwinui—022 319 0434

Craft on Cambridge

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

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

Contact: Marianne Crawford 027 627 2054

Matwork Pilates Sessions

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

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

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

To register contact Narrelle 021 2673676

Ashhurst Senior Citizen's Association

you may meet some new people or catch up with some friends or familiar faces, as well as enjoying a delicious afternoon tea and hearing live entertainment, speaker sessions etc.

We are still in need of a new Treasurer so if you are at all interested, or just curious as to what this may entail, 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. Our November meeting will include an information session from Manawatū Community Law as well as our usual agenda and afternoon tea. Then December is our Christmas party and live entertainment is booked. We take a break in January and our first meeting in 2026 will be in February and consist of an outing, details next month. We look forward to seeing you!

Stephanie Madgwick—Secretary

Book Review: A Beautiful Family

A Beautiful Family by Jennifer Trevelyan

This debut novel by Wellington author Trevelyan captures the essence of a ten year old girl's holiday experience with her family somewhere on the Kāpiti Coast; it's a summer holiday none of the family will ever forget.

We share her thoughts on her 15 year old sister's rebellious behavior, her mother's strange absenteeism and her father's vagueness. She makes friends with a boy of the same age and together they team up to try and solve the historic murder of a local girl whose body was never found.

During the course of the three week holiday strange coincidences and peculiar things happen on or near the beach. Her sister Vanessa nearly drowns but is rescued by a neighbouring holiday-maker. Who is he

and why is he always staring at their rented bach?

The body of a woman is discovered in the nearby lagoon, who is she and what has led to this new tragedy? Many things are not what they seem and their summer holiday will probably change the 'Beautiful Family's' dynamics forever. The story expresses the thoughts of a ten year old well and the interpretations she puts on unexpected events beyond her control. For her, this summer interlude will both enrich her life experience and question her trust in adults in general.

A great insight into how the behaviour of adults can confuse and disappoint an observant child. It is well written and a story well told of one child's loss of innocence and one family's destruction.

Robyn Dare

In the Garden

It is now November. Labour Weekend, the traditional beginning of the garden season, has come and gone and it is time to start planting. This year Labour Weekend was horribly cold and wet—not ideal weather for planting out tender seedlings, so wait until the weather warms up slightly.

Now is the time to plant our tender summer fruit and vegetables. Tomatoes are a summer favourite.

Growing your own means that you have access to a wide variety of shapes, sizes and colours, which make a great addition to salads. I find flavour is also much better than bought.

Potatoes can also be planted now. Different potatoes are suited to different purposes so choose varieties that suit your cooking and eating styles—mashing, roasting, boiling.

Continued on next page



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Ashhurst Medicine Depot**Hours**

Monday—Friday: 7.00am—8.00pm

Saturday: 7.30am—8.00pm

Sunday: 8.00am—8.00pm

Public Holidays: 8.00am—8.00pm

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In the Garden

Last year one of the most productive plants I had was a zucchini plant. It fed me all summer, with excess going to my neighbour. They require regular picking and I did miss the occasional zucchini and ended up with a few marrows, which ended up in a Thai

curry. Other cucurbits also go in now—pumpkins, cucumbers and melons.

Don't forget to plant flowers as well to attract pollinators and for pure enjoyment.

Llyvonne Barber

Hiwinui School

I couldn't be more excited to join the Hiwinui School community as their new Principal. It's a genuine privilege to be starting my principalship journey here at Hiwinui. I've heard wonderful things about the students, the staff and parent community and I will be spending this term listening, learning, and getting to know the unique heart and soul of Hiwinui. I'm especially looking forward to our upcoming Pet Day on 1st November. What a fantastic way to meet many Hiwinui community members.

This term is packed with incredible opportunities to live out our energised value, particularly for our senior students.

A huge thank you must go to Pou Allannah for coordinating our Term 4 sports programmes.

- **Athletics Coaching:** On Mondays for the last three weeks, Kelly Sports has been working with our three senior classes, focusing on athletics coaching.
- **Football Sessions:** On Fridays for five weeks, we have been lucky to have Boxy from Central Football here to run football sessions for students in Rooms 3, 4, 5, and 6.
- **Kapa Haka:** Continues on Wednesdays with Pou Emma and Pou Holly.

School Band

Our Epic music classes kicked off this term again, and I was thrilled to see our school band "Sweet Harmony" in action. Their original song, based on our school values, was an absolute treat to hear! Our band performed two

songs at the *epic* Battle of the Bands in Palmerston North and placed 2nd place overall. It was an amazing night watching talent from schools across the Manawatū.

Plant to Plate Programme

This term, Rachel and the volunteer team from "Plant to Plate" spent the day with Room 5. It was wonderful to observe the students fully engaging in the gardening and cooking sessions. The knowledge they gain about where our food comes from and how to prepare it, gives them essential life skills.

William Pike Challenge

We love that out year 7 and 8 students are participating in the William Pike Challenge, an exceptional Education Outside The Classroom (EOTC) programme designed to unlock the full potential of our students. This year our students have been working towards completing their challenges. These include Passion projects, Community Service and Outdoor Activities.

The Challenge pushes students in ways that simply can't be achieved within the four walls of a classroom, leading to countless positive outcomes: such as boosting self-esteem, improving physical and mental wellbeing and developing a sense of purpose by encouraging students to give back to others.

The final term is always a busy one, full of awesome learning, sports, and those end-of-year celebrations. A great way to finish to 2025!

Anna Hagan—Principal

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

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

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

Ashhurst Pohangina Squash Club

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

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

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

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.



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

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Kids 'n Motion

Now in its 23rd year of providing music and movement for 0 - 5 year olds within Ashhurst and the surrounding community.

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

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

Pohangina Yoga Classes

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

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

Pohangina Local Christian Radio

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

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

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



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Ashhurst Library

Hi everyone, by the time you read this, Jill will be in her new position as a cataloguer in the Central Library. This is a secondment so she will be back. We are going to miss her greatly over this period and wish her all the best in her new role.

Summer Reading 2025-26

The Summer Reading Programme is a free and fun programme that supports and encourages the enjoyment of reading, and there has been a great history of kids doing the programme in Ashhurst. It is for children 4-10 years and is great fun for both keen and reluctant readers. Kids earn prizes along the way and we finish with a big celebration party.

There is also the iRead intermediate reading programme for 11-13 years. This involves a series of events over the summer mixed with sharing book reviews.

Registration for both programmes start on Monday 17th November through our Facebook page or coming into our library to register by forms. Please feel free to come in and talk to us about the programme any time.

Popular Titles

Our most popular titles currently are:

- *Nourish* by Chelsea Winter
- *Nadia's Farm Kitchen* by Nadia Lim
- *Lessons on Living* by Nigel Latta
- *The Unlikely Doctor* by Timoti Te Moke
- *The Secret of Secrets* by Dan Brown

And still anything with the following words in the title—Pig, Bluey, Patrol,

Peppa, Paw.

You can reserve these at any time or just ask us to.

Library Gardens

We are heading into the warmer months and our gardens are starting to look incredible again after an incredibly wet Spring. Just a reminder that you can come on down any time to help yourself to a variety of herbs, vegetables and fruit when in season. The plum tree should be out in full force by Christmas. A huge thank you to our incredible volunteers for the job they do, it is so appreciated.

Ashhurst Elevenses

Every Friday at 11.00 am during term time

Our community morning tea is a wonderful chance to meet new people and enjoy some very yummy food and drink, all are welcome.

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".

Ashhurst Mighty Kids

Ashhurst Mighty Kids is our preschool programme of stories, songs, games and crafts. We hope to be able to have special guests throughout the term and always finish off with some yummy cheese toasties.

Wednesday, 5th November, 10.30am

Wednesday, 19th November, 10.30am

Ross Mead—Ashhurst Librarian

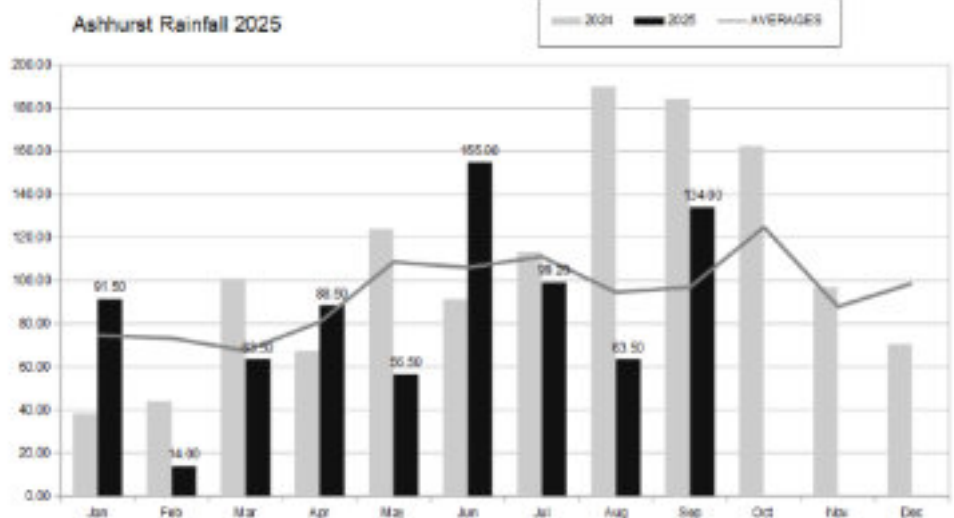
Ashhurst Rainfall

134.5 mm of rain fell in September 2025, above the monthly long-term average of 100.56 mm.

Rain was recorded on 15 days, with the highest one-day rainfall of 29 mm on the 24th of September.

The total annual rainfall for the period from 1st of January to the 30th September is now 765.2 mm, which is below the long-term average for this period of 821.55 mm.

Quang Mai



Kia ora!

I want to thank you all for taking part in the recent elections. I'm truly honoured to have been re-elected as your Mayor for another term. Serving this city is a privilege I don't take for granted, and I'm really looking forward to continuing to work alongside Councillors, our community, and local groups to keep us moving forward.

While voter turnout across the country was lower than many had hoped, ours actually went up this time. That shows how much people here care about their community and its future. I know many of our Ashhurst residents are among those who never miss an election, and I want to acknowledge you for taking the time to have your say.

This new Council term brings together a mix of familiar faces and some fresh ones too. It's a strong, diverse group, and I'm confident we'll work well together to represent you and make good decisions for Palmerston North.

Wyndham Street upgrade underway

After years of planning, work on the Wyndham Street upgrade is now underway. This long-awaited project will bring improvements to the road, footpaths, and stormwater system along the 450-metre stretch between Oxford Street and Cambridge Avenue.

Higgins is carrying out the work, starting from the Oxford Street end. The project will run through until mid 2026, with crews working carefully to maintain access for residents and to keep one side of the road open while work progresses.

Thank you for your patience as this important upgrade takes shape, and for your strong community advocacy that helped bring it forward in our programme. It's been a long time coming, and it's great to finally see progress on the ground.

Palmy Matters newsletter – launching now

We've heard from many of you that you'd like more regular updates about what's happening in our city. In response, we're launching a new monthly email newsletter called Palmy Matters.

Each edition will share straightforward updates about upcoming infrastructure projects, consultations, council decisions, events and much more.

You'll still see my updates here in print

too, but if you'd like even more news direct to your inbox, you can sign up now at pncc.govt.nz/palmy matters.

Everyone who subscribes before 15 December goes in the draw to win a double pass to both nights of the New Zealand Superstock Superstock Teams Champs 2026 at CET Arena.

This local event draws people from around the country and is always a sold out event, so these tickets will be highly sought after.

Community events

The Ashhurst Foodbank Drive is coming up Saturday 22nd November. Over the next few weeks, you'll receive your food bags that will be collected on the day. This is a wonderful event that shows the true community spirit of Ashhurst.

A big thank you to the Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade, the Ashhurst Pohangina Lions, the Ashhurst Community Trust and Ashhurst Foodbank, Emma Tankersley – Property Brokers and all the community volunteers for their wonderful work in making this happen.

And on the topic of upcoming events, keep an eye out for information about the Small Holders Auction in early 2026. Once again the Ashhurst Pohangina Lions will put on one of the most popular events in the region – thanks again for their efforts.

And of course, the Ashhurst Christmas Parade and Market is coming up on Saturday 6 December, proudly sponsored by the Ashhurst Memorial RSA. It's always such a fun way to celebrate the season and catch up with friends and neighbours.

As always, if you'd like to get in touch or share feedback, please reach out to Council online, by phone, or at our Customer Service Centre.

Ngā mihi nui

Grant Smith JP

Mayor of Palmerston North City



ASHHURST COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Open days

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

Access the full range of library digital resources at:

citylibrary.pncc.govt.nz

SPLASHHURST! COMMUNITY POOL

Normal hours

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

clmnz.co.nz/splashhurst

ASHHURST RUBBISH + RECYCLING

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

Find your alternating recycling and glass collection days on our website

pncc.govt.nz/recyclingdays

MULGRAVE ST TRANSFER STATION

Recycling, green waste and general rubbish disposal.

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

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

PALMY
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CITY

Published by The Ashhurst Village Voice Society Inc.

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Proof-reader: Vivienne Dalgleish

Letters to the Editor

Letters under 200 words are preferred.

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

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

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

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

Advertising Rates & Information

Articles and community notices are free. Adverts can vary from a few lines in the side column to a double business card size. Conditions apply. A 15% discount is offered if you pay in advance for a full year (11 issues). A business card size advert is to be 60mm by 100mm at 300dpi and costs \$50.

The cost varies proportionally for smaller and larger sized adverts.

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

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

Village Voice Deadline

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

5.00 pm Thursday, 20th November 2025.

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

Ashhurst Bowling Club

Another season has begun and although the weather has caused hassles, some of our programme has been completed.

Opening Day was a huge success and after our new President, Lee Slack, officially welcomed everyone and our Patron, Brian Durham, put up the first bowl, teams were sorted and games were played. A successful day with everyone having the opportunity to catch up and some great bowling.

Our Drawn Triples was played in windy conditions with the eventual winners being Margaret, Margie and Jacqui who won all four games—really great play.

The Championship Senior Pairs has been completed by the Women with winners Jen and Margie. Runners up Margaret and Donna. The Men are yet to play the final between Tony and Wayne against Rick and Kynn. Well done to all players and especially the winners.

Skogs and Elizabeth Walker is yet to happen—the weather has just been so bad on Tuesdays but hopefully settling soon.

Club Days are on Thursdays, names in by 1.15 pm. If you are interested in having a go at bowls do come along. We have sets of bowls for newbies to use, plenty of members to provide support and all you need are flat soled shoes. You will be most welcome.

Our first Open Tournament is the Ladies Gala on 12th November. The field is already full and this, really well attended event, is always great. We have an auction of, usually plants and trees. We have a Sales Table and of course there are the raffles. We thank our sponsors, The Women's Section of

the R.S.A. is especially thanked. It will be, as usual, an awesome day.

On 8th November the R.S.A. is holding an open day with lots happening there and the bowling club will also be ready and waiting for those wanting to have a go. Please come and join us for some fun.

On 3rd December we have the Julia Wallace 2x4x2 Pairs and again this will be well supported.

Our Tournaments are always highly successful. We have great sponsors which ensures sought after prizes, a fantastic green, top hospitality and always sumptuous food.

There has been a huge amount of work done in the club-rooms to make everywhere look awesome. So many club members have worked exceedingly hard to ensure the end result is fantastic. Lew's Creative Flooring donated the new carpet and help getting it down. Things have been moved and the foyer is now a workable, attractive space. Outside is equally showing the results of hard work. We have a wonderful club with so many who work hard to ensure things are always top notch.

We have decided to give Twilight Bowls a miss this year so if you are keen to try bowls come along to Club Day, join us on 8th November or give Adrienne a ring on 027 283 6317 to sort a time that maybe works better.

Looking forward to some settled, pleasant weather. Keep safe, happy and maybe we will see you on the Bowling Green. A warm welcome awaits you.

Adrienne Harding—Secretary.




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