



Ashhurst Village Voice

Informing the communities of Ashhurst & Pohangina

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October 2025

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Community Comment

High school students and their parents have some good news at last, with a decision that the school bus service will remain... for now! The Ministry of Education has been reviewing the bus service which ferries the majority of an estimated 250 students to the city's high schools each day. The 100-year-old transport policy for education appears out of step with reality. It is being used to claim that existing users are ineligible because a public bus service exists, despite its inability to meet demand. Five existing bus services between Ashhurst and the city's high schools will remain for now as a transitional service. An updated final decision is forecast to be released in Term 1, 2026. A combination of ongoing public opposition, and political fallout in an election year may extend these transitional arrangements.

The City Council has adopted the revised management plan for the Otangaki—Ashhurst Domain which has been under consultation in past months. The public have generally supported ongoing development of the Domain, while retaining the 'off the

beaten track' nature of this reserve. Some of the existing leased grazing land may be reclaimed for community, or ecological development initiatives. There was overall support for a natural burial site on the high ground of the lower terrace. A more detailed site investigation of the proposed burial site is required, with alternative locations added if needed.

Development of the campground area is ongoing. Improvements of drainage and vehicle tracks have reduced damage to the grass, which turned wet and muddy in the wet season. The formal campground area has been extended to the look out point which views the wetland, river, railway bridge and mountains. A new native planting has been added on this point with seating to enjoy the view. Raised gardens have been installed to delineate the camping area from the car park. Cooperative activities of Council officers, Domain staff and campers has established a productive vegetable garden here to support those with tight budgeting constraints.

Don't forget your vote in local body elections. There is a polling station at the Ashhurst Library in which to deliver your vote. Voting deadline closes midday, Saturday 11 October.

The café in the Gorge Quarter is now open for business to serve those visiting the newly developed Western Gateway on the site of the old Gorge car park. Further business opportunities for

Continued on next page

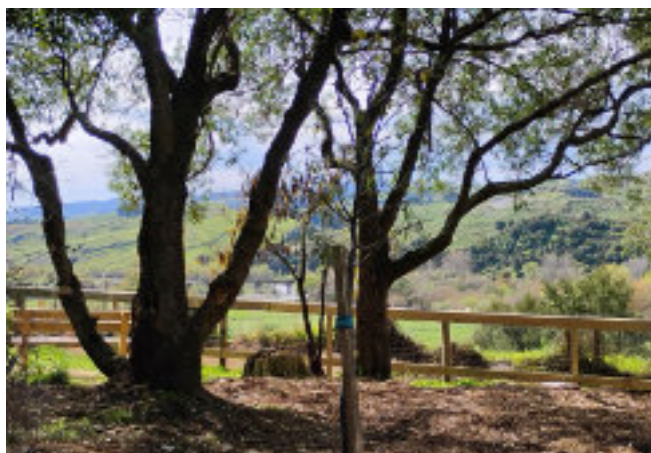


Photo: Ashhurst campground lookout and seating; Right: Garden beds at campground

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**Deadline for November
Issue—Monday, 20th
October**

Changes to Our Rainfall Data

For the past few years local resident Quang Mai has been collecting our monthly rainfall statistics.

Unfortunately, he is now moving away, so we are looking for another volunteer to collect and record rainfall data. Are you able to assist in this regard? You will not need to create the graph.

The Village Voice Committee would like to thank Quang for his time and contribution over the years and we wish him well in his future endeavours.

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

Ashhurst can be expected as visitors discover this natural attraction in the Manawatū and more features of the Te Apiti Masterplan take shape. If full funding of this ambitious plan can be achieved, a loop trail would connect

the Domain to Pembroke Street via a railway overbridge to the Ashhurst terrace walkway, then drop down to McCrae's Bush and the Saddle Bridge. The construction track for the new highway from the Saddle Road will link



Photo: Garden beds at campground

to the wetland park experience at the base of the new Parahaki Bridge with access back to Ashhurst over the bridge and then to the Domain via a yet to be constructed shared path bridge beside the existing road bridge.

Harvey Jones

Letter to the Editor

I am writing today as a parent and proud resident of our wonderful village.

I want to talk about a fantastic asset that currently sits locked away: the mini bike pump track at our local school.

This track is a brilliant facility, designed to get our kids outside, active, and building skills. It wasn't just a school project; it was a community project, funded by all ratepayers. We all pitched in with the shared vision of creating something special for our children.

Now, that vision is only partially fulfilled. With the gates locked outside of school hours, the track is unavailable to the wider community during evenings, weekends, and school holidays, precisely when

families have the time to enjoy it together.

It's about more than just bikes and scooters; it's about creating shared memories and strengthening our community bonds. Our village has so much to offer, and this track is a perfect example.

This facility was paid for by the community, and it should be available to the community.

I urge the school board to work with residents to find a practical solution for public access. Let's open the gates and let this community-funded asset be the vibrant hub of activity it was always meant to be.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Resident and Parent

Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade

Kia Ora Ashhurst,

I've been asked by a few people to comment on the new road and its impact on our Brigade. Early on in the construction it was noted that the "cheese grater" barrier had no breaks in it. This meant we can't change direction without going all the way

over to the Woodville roundabout. So our tactics changed. Now if there's an accident of any description Ashhurst and the Palmy rescue tender come from the west and two Woodville trucks come from the east. This weight of resources ensures a safer scene with the right equipment no

Continued on next page



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Thursday 8.30am - 5.00pm

Saturday 9.00am - 12 noon

141 Cambridge Avenue

Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade

matter what lane(s).

Driving the road can be challenging too, 2-tonne of water in the back drags our speed right down going up and makes safe braking a huge consideration going down!

Not to jinx us but we have seen our callout numbers drop. Last year we had 40 motor vehicle accidents across our entire Area of Operations. At time of writing we're sitting at 19 for the

year, three since the new road opened in June with one being on the new road.

The walking track next to the road is another consideration which we're ready for. Access points and helicopter landing sites have also been noted for any future incidents too.

Matt Clark—Secretary
Fire Risk Management Officer

The Tōtara Reserve Whānau Challenge

Kia ora koutou,

Due to an unforeseen road closure, The Great Tōtara Reserve Whānau

Challenge Day has been rescheduled to Sunday, 19th October. All other event details remain unchanged.

Pohangina Hall Quiz Night

Looking for a great night out?

Come along to Pohangina Hall Quiz night on Saturday, 11th October, 7.30pm (doors open from 7.00pm).

A light supper will be provided, but please bring your own drinks.

There will be spot prizes. There will also be raffles and an auction, so

please bring cash for that.

Organise your teams of six (maximum number)—\$60.

You can register your team at PohanginaValley.nz/tickets or phone Julie Ann on 329 4725

Be in quick, numbers limited—no door sales

The Wild Ruahine Fundraiser Calendar

Do you know that the duck that features on our \$10 note, the Whio (or Whistling Blue Duck), lives in the upper reaches of our lovely Pohangina River. Volunteers work hard trapping stoats in rugged conditions to protect the Whio who make our local rivers home. Found only in New Zealand, there is only an estimated 3000 birds in existence and they are always under

threat from stoats.

The Ruahine Whio Protection Trust's annual fundraiser is their "Wild Ruahine" calendar—if you would like to support a good local cause and buy a limited edition calendar for 2026, email jwilson@inspire.net.nz. Calendars are \$20.00 each and can be delivered for free in Ashhurst. Postage in an extra \$5.50.

Afternoon Tea in the Valley

County Fayre Pohangina warmly invites you to: *Afternoon Tea in the Valley*.

This is a group art exhibition showcasing local artists and their creative responses to the humble smoko, the quiet moments and life shared all with the surrounds of the



stunning Pohangina Valley.

Opening on the Art Trail Manawatu weekend, 18th—19th October from 10.00 am—4.00 pm, and continuing until the 30th of November during County Fayre's normal hours (Sunday from 1.00 pm—4.00 pm).

County Fayre, 976 Finnis Road, Pohangina.

JustOnePlease

Super kia ora. The Justoneplease item for the Safe House for October 2025 is **Tomato Sauce**. Thank you to everyone for the donations so far this year. Kindest regards.

Contact Louise Bowe on 020 410 86128 for more information.

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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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or Email countyfayre@inspire.net.nz

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.

Ashhurst Senior Citizen's Association

At the September meeting of the
Ashhurst and Districts Senior Citizens,
John and Robyn White from Feilding
entertained us all with song and
guitar—many thanks to John and
Robyn.

We are having new members join
each month which is wonderful to see.
A reminder 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 51 years so we're doing something
right! You may meet some new people
or catch up with some friends or
familiar faces, as well as enjoying a
delicious afternoon tea.

We are in need of a new Treasurer
still 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. We look forward to seeing you!

Stephanie Madgwick—Secretary

Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.

What a fantastic month it's been!
The spirit of our community was on full
display at the recent joint casino
fundraising night we held with the
Ashhurst Pohangina Rugby Club. The
event was a massive success, and we
want to extend a huge thank you to
everyone who came out to support us.
It's a great reminder of what we can
achieve when we work together. We're
proud to be part of such a wonderful,
collaborative community.

Looking ahead, we've got a great
lineup of events planned, and we hope
to see you all there!

- Regular Bingo continues every
Tuesday night at 7.00 pm. Come
on down and try your luck!

- Get ready for some German-
inspired fun! Our Oktoberfest
celebration is scheduled for
Saturday, 18th October.

- Mark your calendars for Saturday,
8th November. We're hosting a
community market and car boot
sale. It's the perfect opportunity to
clear out your garage and find a
few treasures. The fantastic band
Desert will be performing from 1.00
pm, and you can also try your hand
at outdoor bowls.

Remember, the Ashhurst Memorial
R.S.A. is here for everyone—our
veterans, service personnel, first

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Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.

responders, and all members of our community. Your support helps us continue to provide a welcoming

space for all.

Peter Knight—President

RECAP Update

Kia ora e te whānau

Upcoming Workshops:

We have our annual Composting Workshop on Saturday, October 11th 10.00 am—noon at the Ashhurst Library Community Garden.

Building your own healthy, balanced, nutrient rich compost is one of the best things you can do to have a thriving garden. It not only saves money spent on compost, but also lessens the cost of 'waste' removal from your property by turning it into a valuable resource. Win win!

Hot drinks and morning tea provided. Registrations are essential and can be made at recap.org.nz. This workshop is **free**, but koha is appreciated.

We are also 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, 8th November, 10:30am - 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 served. BYO 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
- 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: Suzanne Chellius, Rachel Rose and Melissa Hemi.

Melissa Hemi was born and raised in Levin by her single mother, with the loving guidance of her kuia. Surrounded by Kaumātua from a young age, she developed a deep passion for supporting them on their journey through later life—whether that be navigating financial matters, improving health literacy, or planning for the inevitable. For the past four years, Melissa has worked with Rangitāne in the Kaumātua space and with the Older Persons Assessment and Liaison team at Mid Central, where she combines her love for education and her dedication to Kaumātua to uplift and empower her community.

Rachel Rose is a writer, editor and community organiser who lives in Whanganui. Her experiences supporting her parents before, during and after their deaths led to her work with Death Without Debt. She is an advocate for natural burials.

Suzanne Chelius is trained as an End of Life Doula; her passion is bringing the skills and knowledge around death back to communities. She serves as Deputy Chair on the board of RECAP in Ashhurst, and she also works as a Senior Tutor in Academic Writing at Massey University.

Ashhurst School Lamb and Calf Day—Māra kai - iti.

We're working with the school on an activity to get more tamariki participating in the garden section of Lamb and Calf Day. Called 'māra kai - iti', it is a small, portable garden created in a short, oval flexitub. 28 whānau registered which is fantastic. A huge ngā mihi to Bunnings Palmerston North for providing ten tubs and bags of potting mix to get some of the kids started. RECAP were also able to sponsor four kids. We're hoping to do this each year if it goes well and whānau are keen. Ngā mihi to Paula, James and Becs at Ashhurst School and Sophie at Bunnings.

And lastly—as always—ngā mihi nui to the wonderful volunteers across all of our projects and services (including our dedicated volunteer board). You are so valued and appreciated by both RECAP and your community.

Chris Love—RECAP Coordinator

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

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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

County Fayre Update

Afternoon Tea in the Valley – A Group Art Exhibition.

October 18th and 19th, 10.00 am—4.00 pm at County Fayre, Pohangina. Then every Sunday, 1.00 pm—4.00 pm until 30th November.

Step into a celebration of rural connection, quiet moments, and the simple beauty of a shared cuppa. This lovingly curated exhibition showcases the work of local artists along with work from the children at Awahou School, responding to the theme of "Afternoon Tea in the Valley", from the humble smoko to nostalgic kitchen scenes, gentle landscapes, and the warmth of friendship found in the Pohangina hills.

The Annual Pohangina Downhill Walk

Book your ticket to an enjoyable family friendly day out at 'The Pohangina Downhill Walk', Saturday, 8th November, 2025, 8.00 am—2.00 pm.

A shuttle bus delivers you to the top of Ridge Road to the Branch Road Walkway. Walk down through six kilometres of native bush and farmland back to the Pohangina township and lunch at County Fayre.

You must book and prepay.

Buses will leave County Fayre every 45 minutes at 8.30 am; 9.15 am; 10.00 am; 10.45 am and 11.30 am.

Book Review: Stone Yard Devotional

Stone Yard Devotional by Charlotte Wood.

This is the story of one woman's flight from everyday life after a marriage breakup and her own emotional breakdown. No. it's not especially miserable or depressing but it will make you ponder on what is important in life—What is forgiveness and can anyone be truly good?

Abandoning her city life, she returns to her childhood town to join a religious community hidden away in

Please note: The track is unsuitable for wheelchairs, prams, strollers and mountain buggies. Dogs are prohibited.

Adults \$30,
Children \$15 (5 to 15yr),
Family \$100 (2 Adults & 4 Children),
Under 5's free.

Contact us at countyfayre@inspire.net.nz or <https://www.facebook.com/CountyFayre>.



If you have a small family gathering or special event coming up, and need somewhere to host it, have you considered County Fayre? We can accommodate groups of up to 40 people, and cater for you if required. Drop in on a Sunday afternoon for a chat or contact us via countyfayre@inspire.net.nz.

See you at County Fayre, 976 Finnis Road, Pohangina.

**Joanne Morris-Kynoch—
County Fayre President**

Monaro. She has no religion herself but finds herself living in this reclusive place alongside the resident nuns.

Grief plays a large part in her emotional state and while staying there she often thinks of her mother, whose death preys on her mind. The retreat is not without its own dramas—a plague of mice causes lots of damage and it is a constant battle to get rid of the infestation. A visitor to the monastery turns out to be

Continued on next page

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Book Review: *Stone Yard Devotional*

someone from her past who brings about long forgotten feelings of regret and guilt.

Days are spent cooking, cleaning, feeding animals and generally helping the nuns run the retreat. She does not take part in prayers and other religious or church activities but she observes

and is respectful of the everyday prayers and services. These daily rituals are healing and help with her reflections on the past and the grief she has been dealing with.

I found this a meditative and very moving book by one of Australia's best loved writers. Highly recommended.

New Zealand Bird of the Year

The votes have been counted and the results are in. The winner of Bird of the Year 2025 is the Kārearea—the New Zealand falcon. A bird of prey that is capable of flying at speeds of up to 200 km/h, and can catch prey larger than itself.

The New Zealand Falcon is classed as being *in serious trouble*. That means it needs our help.

We are lucky in Ashhurst in that there have been sightings in our Village, with a family being seen in the Ashhurst Domain. They are usually ground nesting, so are at real risk of predation from introduced predators.

We are coming up to nesting season. Last year my dog was dive-bombed in the Domain by a falcon, so she was

quickly put on lead. I found out there was a nest so she was protecting her young. So, if you walk your dog in the Domain, keep an eye out for falcons, and keep your dog on lead when in their vicinity.

You could also put a post up on Ashhurst Chat, to let other dog owners know to be careful, and also let the photographers know where they might get photos.

If you are lucky enough to see a falcon in our area, report the sighting on the Wingspan website—https://www.wingspan.co.nz/report_new_zealand_falcon_sighting.html (under 'What we do').

Llyvonne Barber

Peripatus: The New Zealand Velvet Worm

Earlier this year it was announced that the New Zealand Velvet Worm, also known as *Peripatus* or Ngaokeoke, had been voted the Bug of the Year 2025. This is a very

unusual organism that actually looks more like a caterpillar than a worm, with about 15 pairs of stumpy legs. But it is neither a caterpillar nor a worm. It

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



Ashhurst's LANDSCAPE SUPPLY YARD

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| ✓ Topsoil/Compost Mix | ✓ Bark Nugget | ✓ 5mm Screened Sand |
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Call 326 9270 or email ashhurst@playcentre.org.nz or drop in for a free visit and a cuppa.

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

Peripatus: The New Zealand Velvet Worm

has been called a living fossil, as it has changed little in the last 500 million years (Cambrian Period).



There are actually around 200 species of *Peripatus* worldwide, with up to 30 of those being native to New Zealand. However, less than a third of the New Zealand species have been officially described. Although rarely seen, they can be found in forests throughout much of the country. Interestingly, different species may vary in terms of the number of legs they have, either 14, 15 or 16 pairs. I have twice found specimens in the Ashhurst Domain forest (see photos) but it is not known what the species is in this area.

Peripatus are typically around 20-50 mm in length and have velvety skin (hence the name Velvet Worm) that is



Photos: *Peripatus*



prone to drying out. Because of this, they are mostly found in cool, shady, moist environments, such as in rotting wood or under leaves and other debris on the ground. *Peripatus* are predators, hunting at night when conditions are cool. When they sense suitable prey nearby, they squirt jets of sticky fluid that immobilises the prey.



An unusual feature of most *Peripatus*, including all those found in the North Island, is that they give birth to live young. However, a few species found in the South Island ranges are known to lay eggs. Females are thought to produce around 10-20 offspring each year. Unfortunately, populations of *Peripatus* in New Zealand are thought to be declining, probably due mostly to loss of suitable habitat.

Grey Smith

Book Review: Jacinda Ardern

Jacinda Adern: A New Kind of Leader by Madeleine Chapman

First published in 2020 beforewe

fully understood how COVID-19 changed the world, this extensively

Continued on next page



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Saturday: 7.30am—8.00pm

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Book Review: Jacinda Ardern

researched study of our Prime Minister is packed full of political highlights and personalities.

Jacinda Adern never wanted to be prime minister and didn't consider it seriously until the possibility was only seven weeks away, in 2017. Most of us are glad she did and it seems the Labour party wanted her to lead before she actually wanted it for herself.

She certainly has become a new kind of leader, kind being part of her "signature" style. First elected in 2008, she was the youngest sitting MP and was to become our youngest serving Prime Minister at 37. The fact that she also became the first Prime Minister to give birth in office, shortly after election, was another groundbreaking event.

This bio does give us some interesting facts on Jacinda's early life growing up in Murupara and Morrinsville as a child. She shone at school and on the School Council showed early signs of political leanings. At Morrinsville College she was voted the girl most likely to become Prime Minister.

The Adern family were Mormons and their two daughters were brought up

in that way of life, but Jacinda was eventually to move away from the church, her beliefs were not compatible with the traditions of that church.

I would have liked to learn more of the real person in this bio, and maybe a little less of the political details, but even so there is much of general interest to the reader. In particular, a chapter on the Christchurch shooting tragedy in March 2019 and the extraordinary events that followed. This terrible event turned out to be a highlight of Jacinda's leadership and her response to it was admired worldwide.

A chapter on Working Motherhood was one I really enjoyed, with a focus on her partnership with Clarke Gayford and the birth of Neve. No-one in the Labour party press team had experience in handling of a Prime Minister's pregnancy because no Prime Minister had ever been pregnant while in office before.

"Adern has become as global icon of empathetic leadership, both a credit to her and an indictment on her international peers"—says the author and I don't think many would disagree.

Robyn Dare

Ashhurst School

What a busy term we have had! Our Winter sports have now wrapped up and our students have enjoyed a wonderful sports season once again. Great to see all of the participation and results—and to the parents for taking your children to these events and games—you are the ones who make it work!

Our Year 7 and 8 students had an incredible time away at Tui Ridge Camp in Rotorua, building friendships, challenging themselves, and making lifelong memories. There were some very tired and weary kids on Friday afternoon! Thanks to all who helped

make this camp an extremely successful event.

We had two groups of dancers participate and perform at DanceNZ Made at the Regent. These dance groups have been working almost all year to prepare for this performance. The Year 5/6 group won 3rd Runner Up with their number Boogie Shoes. The Year 7/8 group performed a beautiful contemporary number Rescue You and placed 4th Runner Up in a very tough category. Congratulations to you all for your mahi, dedication, and awesome attitude! During the day, all

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

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.



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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 School

dancers got to participate in workshops across different genres to learn and showcase dance skills. Thank you to Miss Grace for the wonderful job you did getting these groups performance ready! We would like to make a special mention to Robêrt Embroidery for coming to the rescue and sponsoring over 50% of the cost of the t-shirts for our dancers for Dance NZMade this year. The outfits looked amazing!

Daffodil Day: A fantastic effort from everyone who dressed in yellow, bought daffodils, cupcakes or lemons. We raised \$1088.70 for the Cancer Society! Well done everyone!

EPro8 Challenge: Our students had the exciting opportunity to take part in the EPro8 Challenge—a nationwide engineering and problem-solving competition. Working in teams, students were given real-world challenges that required creativity, teamwork, and critical thinking to solve. It was fantastic to see the collaboration, perseverance, and innovative ideas on display as our tamariki designed, built, and tested their creations. A huge well done to all who took part—we are so proud of your efforts!

On the 11th September we hosted

the Ashhurst School Speech Finals. All of the students did an amazing job and the quality of speeches were exceptional. The Whārite students delivered speeches on the topic Breaking Barriers: What Holds Us Back—and What Pushes Us Forward? The Tararua Team delivered on the topic Voices for Change: Can One Person Make a Difference? A great night showcasing the hard work our students have done preparing for their topics.

Ashhurst School is one of many schools to receive new uniforms for the 2025 Touch season. This is a token of gratitude, from The Highbury Whānau Centre, to the community and to those who have contributed their time and energy to the success of their kaupapa and the many connections between our groups. We appreciate being selected and can't wait to see the teams on the touch field next term. The new uniforms will be issued to the U10 and U12 grades.

We are looking forward to a busy but exciting Term 4—we have camps happening for our years 0 - 6 and of course our lamb, calf, craft and competition day! A great way to finish 2025.

Heath Chittenden—Principal

Ashhurst Library

Hi everyone, thanks to everyone who attended our holiday programme events and an especially big thank you to all those volunteers who supported our events, it is greatly appreciated.

Top up Together: Mental Health Awareness Week

Friday, 10th October, 10.00—11.30 am

Join us here at the Ashhurst Library to celebrate Mental Health Awareness Week. We have a Creative Wellbeing Session here on the above date and time. Take part in creative activities to explore new and different ways to boost your wellbeing. There will be fun activities that get you thinking creatively, as well as art/craft activities with a focus on mental wellbeing

Summer Reading 2025-26

Our Summer Reading programme which promotes reading enjoyment will be back in the summer school holidays. This involves talking with kids on the programme about what they have been reading and other reading interests. It is great fun and has been running for over 25 years. Each participant receives incentives through the programme and we finish

with a big celebration party. Keep an eye on our Facebook page over the coming weeks for details.

Justice of the Peace

Wednesdays, 12.00 pm—1.00 pm

We are very pleased to have Aleisha Rutherford JP here every Wednesday. If you require the services of a JP, come on down. Thanks so much Aleisha.

Ashhurst Elevenses

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 and crafts. We always have a different theme for each session and finish off with some yummy cheese toasties

Wednesday, 8th October, 10.30am

Wednesday, 22nd October, 10.30am

Ross Meads—Ashhurst Library

Kia ora!

Spring has well and truly arrived, made all the more special in Ashhurst thanks to Jack and Charles from our Parks team planting daffodils around the Domain. They also teamed up with local Year 7 students to plant kowhai, flax, pittosporum and ribbonwood. The students' enthusiasm was infectious, with one even offering to come back after school to water the plants. Maybe a future Parks and Reserves star in the making!

It's also been wonderful to see so many people exploring Te Ahu a Turanga - Manawātū Tararua Highway. Whether by vehicle, foot or bike, the views and sculpture art along the way are a real treat. Amy Anderson (nee Shannon) has opened her Gorge Quarter business, and we encourage you to get out and support her. It's a fantastic initiative with exciting long-term plans, and we can't wait to see them come to life. A big thank you to DOC for completing the Tawa Loop Track ahead of summer — another great way to enjoy the outdoors.

You may remember we've been working on a new water filtration system for the Ashhurst Bore. The switch was flicked on in August, and over the next month we'll be flushing pipes to clear out minerals. This sets us up to use the new system to its fullest potential. Staff are also reporting back to Council on options for Wyndham Street Roothing improvements this month. We'll keep you posted.

Thanks to everyone who gave feedback on the Ashhurst Domain Management Plan. Council has adopted it, with changes to allow flexibility for possible future projects such as restoring and relocating the historic Ashhurst Pohangina Racing Club jockey changing rooms (est. 1891). It's exciting to think this heritage building could one day be brought back to life in a new spot in the Domain.

Congratulations to Deputy Chief Fire Officer Josh Casey, who received his 25-year Gold Star award at the Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade Awards last month. Mayor Grant Smith attended and said it was a fantastic night celebrating the incredible work of our local volunteers.

Looking to volunteer? Central Energy Trust Wildbase Recovery is seeking helpers to care for wildlife and welcome visitors. No experience needed, just a big heart and a couple of spare hours. Get in touch with the team to find out more.

A couple of dates to add to your calendar. Council's annual Diwali Mela Festival is happening Saturday 1 November from 5.00 pm to 10.30 pm in Te Marae o Hine - The Square. This free, family-friendly festival will be packed with colour, music and dance, delicious food, market stalls, face painting, rangoli art and more, finishing with a laser light show. While Emma from Property Brokers is on the lookout for stalls for the Ashhurst Christmas Parade and Market. Lock in Saturday 6 December for that one. Thanks again to the Ashhurst Memorial RSA for sponsoring this annual event. Get in touch with Emma if you'd like to book a spot: emma.t@pb.co.nz.

And finally, local Council elections! Only a few more days to vote. Make sure you get your vote in before 12 noon, Saturday 11 October. We'll update you next month, but otherwise keep an eye on Council's website and social media to see who your new Council is.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Council at our Customer Service Centre, by phone, online or through our social media channels. We're here to help!

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 and recycling collection is on Tuesday mornings. Put your items out by 7.30am.

Recycling Bin	Glass Crate
7 Oct	14 Oct
21 Oct	28 Oct

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.

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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.

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 Monday, 20th October 2025.

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

Ashhurst Clay Target Club

The day before our August shoot, the club had a working bee to tidy up outside and inside the clubrooms. Thanks for those who came and helped and Chrissy for providing some food for the workers.

And it just gets better and better. At our August shoot we had eight squads and this, on a day, when it was pouring with rain. Apparently before 9.00 am the couple of committee members there thought the whole shoot would be "over rover" by late morning with maybe two squads.

Then the vehicles started turning up—churning up in the paddock's parking area—and yes, eight squads

which again included people there for the first time.

One of our great club members, Craig Hocken, shot his first ever "possible". Remember, that's shooting 25 out of 25 straight. This was in the Gary Wright Memorial Shoot (single barrel on handicap) which incidentally Craig won last year too.

Gary Wright Memorial Shoot:

Craig Hocken

Club 25 DTL

Joby Stella

Club Handicap

Nick Piper

Karen Pawson—Secretary

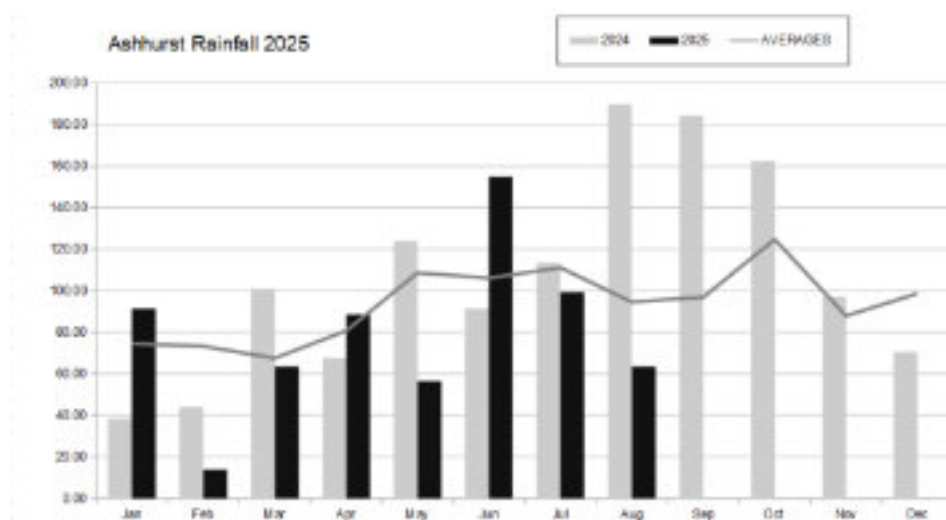
Ashhurst Rainfall

63.5 mm of rain fell in August 2025, below the monthly long-term average of 98.34 mm.

Rain was recorded on 14 days, with the highest one-day rainfall of 23 mm on the 31st of August.

The total annual rainfall for the period from 1st of January to the 31st August is now 631.7 mm, which is below the long-term average for this period of 721 mm.

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