



Ashhurst Village Voice

Informing the communities of Ashhurst & Pohangina

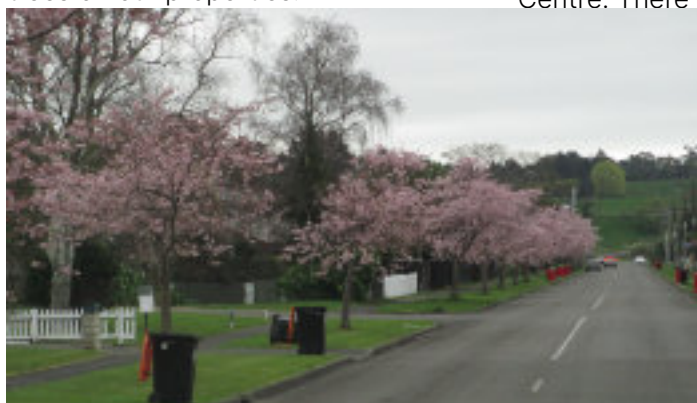
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October 2026

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Community Comment

The birds and the bees are happy at work and play, making the most of the abundant blossom in the kowhai and cherry trees around us. The showing in Winchester Street is stunning at this time of year. Flowering trees in residential properties also reveal how lucky we are to have space for mature trees on our properties.



Good news for Wyndham Street residents as the long upgrade to road and underground infrastructure finally comes to its conclusion. The road cones and signs are being picked up and last minute jobs completed. New grass and landscaping is mostly complete, road markings are in place and normal traffic flow has resumed. The transfer of power lines to

underground pipework is a pleasant surprise. Overall, this is a decent upgrade we can be proud of, in a street needing attention for some time.

Observant residents will have noticed the new solar panels installed on the roof of the Village Valley Centre. There are now 56 solar panels installed, with a total output capacity of 26 kW at peak production. The bank of twelve battery modules and a 25 kW inverter will enable this Civil Defence Centre to continue operation in the event of an emergency, even if the power goes out. It has the added benefit of reducing electricity costs during normal day to day use.

The expected annual generation output is over 35,000 kWh, with an annual cost saving of more than \$5,000. The centre's switchboard is to be fully upgraded to handle the generated power and connection to the electricity grid. This will also include a three-phase generator connection point for improved resilience during an emergency.

Combined funding for this project totalling \$78,000 came from the Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority (ECCA) and the Low Carbon Fund.

Construction of the new 'Woodshed' beside the Village Valley Centre is



Contents

The Tempestuous: A Shrew'd Comedy	2
Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.	3
Hiwinui Lamb and Calf Day	3
Ashhurst Senior Citizens Association	3
The Ashhurst Pop-Up Op Shop	4
Book Review: Sophie Standing There	5
Business Profile—O'Leary Tree Services	6
Market Memories	6
Free Shake Out Events in October	7
Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade	8
In the Garden in October	8
Ashhurst Clay Target Club	9
Ashhurst Library	10
Palmerston North City Council	11
Ashhurst Rainfall	12
Village Voice Contacts	12

Deadline for November Issue—Tuesday, 20th October 2026

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"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

Community Comment

proceeding at pace. The roof is in place and external cladding is being added as this article is being composed. The facility will be a welcome addition to the village and is likely to create another meeting place for those with idle hands and a creative spirit.

The three year cycle of government



elections is now in play with prospective candidates keen to get your vote. Billboards have popped up for display on fences and candidate meetings are ongoing. A reminder that the majority of Ashhurst residents are now listed in the Wairarapa electorate, despite strong opposition from our community during boundary change consultation processes. This electorate is one to watch, with strong candidates from major parties on the campaign trail and party vote swings in past elections. Election day is Saturday, 7th November. You must be enrolled by 25th October to vote. Check out the website of 'vote.nz' to enrol, or update and check your details.

Harvey Jones

The Tempestuous: A Shrew'd New Comedy



Ashton is heading out on her sixth Arts on Tour odyssey in October, sparking 13 characters into life in this Elizabethan tale of magic, meddling and puffed bull's puzzles.

Sicily's beloved King Enzo is dead. Now Princess Rosa, a stropky spinster, must navigate the tempestuous waters of belching Step-Fathers, lusty suitors, popping cod pieces and menopausal witches, to face her destiny.

Award-winning comedian Penny Ashton is back, and this time is skewering the Bard himself. The brains behind Promise and Promiscuity, Olive Copperbottom and Austen Found,

Continued on next page

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The Tempestuous: A Shrew'd New Comedy

Pohangina Hall

Tuesday, 3rd November, 7.00 pm

Tickets \$25

Book: pohanginavalley.nz/tickets

"Incredibly clever, the script is just so smart."—Radio NZ

"Masterful 'shrewd comedy' a

tempestuous triumph...a phenomenal play."—The Post

"Surely at some point we get to call Penny Ashton a national treasure?"—Flat City Field Notes

"Phenomenal energy, vivacity, versatility, inventiveness and humour."—Theatreview

Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.

The Ashhurst R.S.A. is hosting an extraordinary evening of world-class music and community support on Saturday, 17th October 2026.

The internationally acclaimed New Zealand Army Band will take the stage at the Ashhurst Village Valley Centre at 7.00 pm. Renowned for their precision and dynamic stage presence, the ensemble will present an energetic performance spanning traditional brass, modern pop hits, big band swing, and classical favorites for all ages.

The celebration continues from 9.30 pm to 11.30 pm at the Ashhurst R.S.A. with a live performance by local favorite band Euphoria.

Ticketing and Details for the New Zealand Army Band:

- Dinner and Show Package: \$60.00
- Show-Only Ticket: \$30.00 (Discounts available for Ashhurst R.S.A. members)
- Bookings: Available online via

Humanitix (strictly limited capacity).

All net proceeds directly benefit two local causes: the Ashhurst RSA Welfare Fund, supporting veterans and families in need, and the Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade for their upcoming Stair Climb Challenge.

Tickets available now via Humanitix.

Upcoming Ashhurst R.S.A. Events Calendar

- Every Tuesday: Bingo
- Every Friday: Regular Club Nights featuring Raffles, Members Draw, Joker's Wild, and the Ode of Remembrance
- Saturday, 17th October (7.00 pm): New Zealand Army Band Concert (Tickets open now)
- Sunday, 15th November (2.00 pm): TeTrivia Quiz
- Tuesday, 15th December: Super Bingo

Peter Knight—President

Hiwinui Lamb and Calf Day

Our annual Lamb and Calf day is being held on Saturday, 17th October.

We welcome members from the community to come along and share in this special occasion. Judging of Lambs and Calves starts at 10.00 am.

We will have a bake sale and cake

auction thanks to the Friends of Hiwinui School committee and our Enviro students will have a plant sale onsite during the day. We look forward to seeing you there.

Ngā Mihi

Anna Hagan—Principal

Ashhurst Senior Citizen Association

The Ashhurst and Districts Senior Citizens meeting is held every month except for January. We have been seeing new members join over the last few months and I'm sure there are plenty more people out there who

wonder about coming along, so why not pay us a visit just to 'get a feel' for the meetings. There will be no expectation or pressure for you to join, just a warm welcome. Do not let the

Continued on next page

JustOnePlease

Super kia ora. The Justoneplease item for the Safe House for October 2026 is **Kitchen Bin Liners**

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.

Manawātū Toy Library

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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.manawatuoylibrary.co.nz

Ashhurst Ladies Coffee Group

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

Ashhurst Foodbank

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

Contact: Marianne 027 627 2054

Volunteering Opportunity: Help Us Save the Giant Maidenhair Fern

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

When: 4th Sunday of each month

Time: 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

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

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

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



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Awahou Pohangina Playgroup

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9.30am-12.00pm.

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

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

Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A. Inc

74 Cambridge Avenue, Ashhurst.

Phone: 326 8296

Monday 3.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Tuesday 3.00 pm - 6.00 pm/when

Bingo is on 3.00 pm - 9.00 pm

Wednesday 3.00 pm - 6.00 pm/when

darts are on 3.00 pm - 10.00 pm

Thursday 3.00 pm-6.00 pm/when food

carts 3.00 pm - 7.00 pm

Friday 3.00 pm-9.00 pm/when darts are

on 3.00 pm - 11.00 pm

Saturday 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Sunday 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Hours are subject to change due to
demand.

**Manawatū Rangitikei Methodist
Parish—Ashhurst, Bunnythorpe and
Pohangina Congregation**

Ashhurst Devonport Worship and
Community Centre

10.30 am 1st Sunday each month

Pohangina Community Church

10.30 am 3rd Sunday

Contacts: John Brock 329 4834

Ashhurst Bowling Club

67 Stanford Street.

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

Ashhurst Senior Citizen Association

name fool you—the group is not just
for seniors as we welcome people of
all ages. Afternoon tea is \$2 and yearly
membership is \$10. Visitors and
members are welcome from both
Ashhurst and the surrounding districts,
including Pohangina, so please feel
welcome regardless of age or where
you live.

Afternoon tea leftovers are sold at a
bargain \$2 per tray at the end of the
meeting and a sales table and raffles
are also available each month. Raffles
are \$1 and items on the sales table a
gold coin.

Each month there is entertainment

of some form, maybe a speaker, a
performance of some type, a party on
our birthday and at Christmas, and an
outing for our February meeting. You
may meet some new people or catch
up with some friends or familiar faces!

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

We meet on the first Thursday of the
month, 2.00 pm, at the Valley Village
Centre. We look forward to seeing you
at a meeting sometime in the near
future.

**Stephanie
Secretary**

Madgwick—

The Ashhurst Pop-Up Op Shop

The Ashhurst Pop-Up Op Shop
would like to say a huge thank you to
everyone who shopped and supported
it on Saturday, 5th September.

The day was a huge success and
raised money to establish a foundation
for the Ashhurst Op Shop. Future
funds will go towards the Ashhurst
Food Bank and other local
organisations.

"We were thrilled with how
successful it was and showed us that
Ashhurst clearly has a need for a
permanent shop in our community,"
says organiser Marianne Crawford.
"We had a big selection of items
donated—clothing, toys, games,
books, household items and gardening
equipment."

The Pop-Up Op Shop was organised
by a group of Ashhurst local women
who are passionate about our
community, with everyone chipping in
to set up the event.

The market is now set to become a
regular monthly event until the Op
Shop finds permanent premises and is
set to coincide with the produce
market wherever possible.

For those wanting to donate clean
clothing or household goods they can
be dropped off at the rear entrance
to the River Church building(opposite
the Valley Vets in Guildford Street)
between 4.30 pm and 6.30 pm on
Tuesdays.

The Op Shop is also looking for

Continued on next page

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The Ashhurst Pop-Up Op Shop

volunteers so if you're keen to help out please get in touch with Marianne Crawford by email ashhurstpopshop@gmail.com or phone

027 627 2054.

Keep an eye on the group's Facebook page (*Ashhurst Op Shop*) for updates and news.

Book Review: *Sophie Standing There*

Sophie Standing There by Meg Mason

Sophie is a huge book-lover and a lover of famous authors and their books. She looks after 'The Talent' at Literary Festivals, checks on their mics and cables and their seating arrangements while they are on stage. As a tech, she is nearly 'invisible' to the famous authors but essential to the running of these Readers and Writers events. The only time the techs are noticed is when the Talent getst snippy.

Sophie herself has just been through an horrific marriage breakup. Her husband Paul had suddenly announced one day when she was in the shower that he was leaving her. Not only that, she finds herself cut off from friends and family—her only

support is her brother Laurie who lives some distance away.

Sophie is a very lonely person and is starting to live her life in another more friendly world, a world where she meets her Favourite Author and becomes her best friend. She is smitten.

It so happens that the Favourite Author is due out to visit New Zealand to give talks on her new novel "Human Beings" and she is to attend the very event where Sophie will be one of the techs on stage. It seems like the dream has come true!

Things seem promising at first, Lilac (the adored author) is friendly and appears to seek her out for company and conversation, much to Sophie's surprise. She learns more about the

Continued on next page



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Contact 0800 692 445

Strength and Balance Ashhurst

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

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

Cost: \$10 per class.

Enquiries: Maria—phone 329 4166

Ashhurst Budgeting Service

Thursday 9.30am-1.00pm.

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

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

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

Book Review: Sophie Standing There

author and her life, or so it seems.

thinking?

The author makes a big effort to find out about Sophie's life and seems fascinated to hear she was brought up in a Sect as a child. When it is suggested she may write about her life in the Sect, questions arise as to motivations and the importance of trust.

What is real and what is just wishful

A very readable novel and I found the background info on Literary Festivals fascinating from a sound technician's perspective. The writer's understanding of the effect of isolation and loneliness on any one of us is very impressive.

Robyn Dare

Business Profile—O'Leary Tree Services

O'Leary's Tree Services has been operating in Ashhurst since 2003 and is a regular advertiser supporting the Village Voice. Craig and Cherie run the business from their home base in River Rd. Their services include trimming and pruning of trees and hedges, along with full tree removal, even in constrained areas. Chipping of the waste material and stump grinding provide options for landscaping improvement.

They employ four staff, including two of their sons, along with access to another three contractors when required. Many of the staff are qualified arborists up to tradesmen level. As a result, the company is able

to support and teach apprentices learning their trade. This includes supporting apprentices from other smaller companies, besides their own staff.

Most of their work is in the Manawātū area, but can extend to Tararua and Horowhenua. Arborist work is generally for maintenance reasons or to regain space from oversized trees. However, the extensive storm damage after Christmas has dented their response time as they catch up after dealing with the higher priority of dangerous trees and risks of further property damage.

Market Memories

We've been having so much fun at the Ashhurst Village Market, and it's been awesome to see the market continue to grow!

Following the incredible support for our Night Market, we've welcomed some new faces into our regular Saturday markets. Willsum Food has joined us with authentic Korean dishes, Vere's Artisan Collection

brings an amazing selection of homemade goods from pickled onions to lemon curd, and Megan has joined us with a range of homeopathic tinctures and remedies.

It's great to keep adding something new while seeing so many of our regular vendors and familiar faces return each fortnight.

Continued on next page



Ashhurst Op Shop

Pop up shop

Saturday 14 November

9am to 1pm

River Church Cambridge Ave

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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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Tuesday 8.30am - 5.00pm

Thursday 8.30am - 5.00pm

Saturday 9.00am - 12 noon

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Market Memories

This Month

October is a big one! We have markets on 3rd, 17th and 31st October, and on the 31st we have something pretty special planned... **A Halloween Night Out!**

For one night, the Ashhurst Village Market will transform into a spooky Halloween village, with Trick or Treat, Halloween activities, costume prizes, food, local vendors and plenty of surprises.

Free Shake Out Events in October

Earthquakes, floods, storms and other emergencies can strike at any time, but being prepared can make all the difference.

That's the message behind a series of free events being hosted by Palmerston North City Council this October to help residents understand local hazards, prepare emergency plans and build confidence in responding when disaster strikes.

So, how prepared is your whānau? Come to one of our free public talks and take part in the nationwide Shake Out drill:

6th October:

7.00 pm, **Palmy's local hazards**—Central Library.

21st October:

1.30pm, **Nationwide Shake Out drill.**

7.00 pm, **NEMA presentation on catastrophic events**—Conference and Function Centre.

Start your Halloween at the market from 4.00 pm–8.00 pm, grab some dinner, get the kids involved, dress up and enjoy the festivities before venturing out into the darkness for a classic Ashhurst Halloween.

Saturday, 31st October—4.00 pm–8.00 pm

This Halloween, start your night at the market!

Josh Whitta

29th October:

7.00 pm, **The Next Big One** by scientist Kate Boersen—Conference and Function Centre

Whether you're creating your first emergency plan or looking to strengthen your existing knowledge, these opportunities will give you practical information and expert advice to help you be ready. While we can't predict when the next emergency will happen, we can take steps today to be ready for it.

The programme begins on 6th October with a free public talk about the natural hazards Palmerston North faces and what they could mean for your home and family. 'Don't wait for the woah! Natural hazards and your home' will be held at the Central Library at 7.00 pm, with experts from the Natural Hazards Commission and our Emergency Management team. It's

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 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

New meeting place and times to be advised, check our Facebook page.

Contact Grant - 0274-327-648 or

kiwifieldcrew@inspire.net.nz

Ashhurst Clay Target Club

(claybird shooting)

Meets the last Sunday of every month from 9.30 am at 651 Valley Road. Anyone welcome to join us

Queries: Please message us on our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064928610535>



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| ✓ 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

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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

Meditation Class

Overcoming Stress and Anxiety.

Every Thursday from 10.00 am - 11.00 am.

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

Craft on Cambridge

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

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Contact: Marianne Crawford 027 627 2054



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Property Brokers

Free Shake Out Events in October

a chance to learn more about the risks in our region, ask questions and better understand what an emergency could mean for our city. There will also be games and fun activities for the kids.

Preparedness isn't just about knowing the risks, and the national Shake Out drill is about practising what to do in an earthquake. On 21st October at 1.30pm, schools, businesses, organisations and households are encouraged to take part in New Zealand's nationwide ShakeOut earthquake drill. By registering and participating, you'll have the chance to practise the lifesaving "Drop, Cover and Hold" action and make sure everyone in your workplace, school or home knows how to respond during an earthquake. Sign up on the Get Ready website now!

Later that evening, at 7.00 pm, the Conference and Function Centre will

host a public talk on catastrophic events, presented by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). This session will provide valuable insights into major emergencies and disasters, helping attendees understand the challenges communities can face and the importance of preparing before a crisis occurs.

To round out the month, The Next Big One: In this together is a talk by Kate Boersen from Illuminate Science and will be held at the Conference and Function Centre at 7.00 pm on 29th October. Her engaging presentation will explore what to expect in a large earthquake or tsunami, and plan how to look after each other.

All events are free to attend. Visit the Palmerston North City Council website for full details and registration information.

Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade

Kia Ora Ashhurst and Pohangina,

Last month our brigade was visited by FENZ's Operational Assurance team as part of a wider district skills audit. Basically, this team goes around the country and tests Firefighters and brigades on skills and knowledge we should know and recommend improvements.

Selected at random—we had to demonstrate tasks like erecting a ladder, working at heights and starting up our breathing apparatus. I was the driver/pump operator of a crew selected to demonstrate our response to a house fire with persons reported. The auditors then threw in a mayday procedure (Firefighter down) to *really* test us!

Suffice to say we knocked it out of the park! We were praised for our

knowledge, confidence and professionalism while executing the tasks and commended for our general morale during it too. Our Senior Station Officer was one second off the national record for starting up BA too! Of course there were some points to improve on but our training plan has already pivoted to cover them and dial us in.

Callouts for Aug/Sept:

- 3x motor vehicle crashes
- 2x various false alarms
- 2x fire alarms
- 1x grass fire
- 1x car fire
- 1x medical

Catch you next time.

**Matt Clark—Secretary
Senior Firefighte**

In the Garden in October

It is a very busy time of year in the garden at the moment. Spring flowers are blooming and now is the time, if you haven't already started, to be

sowing your summer garden—or at least get a head start.

Traditionally, October still has the odd

Continued on next page



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In the Garden in October

frost so only plant hardy vegetables and flowers out at the moment. For vegetables that means brassicas, leafy greens, like spinach, lettuce, kale, peas and many root crops like parsnips, carrots, beetroot and alliums. The traditional day for planting summer vegetables out is Labour Day, 26th October, of course, if the weather is bad, leave it another week or so.

Summer crops such as tomatoes, capsicum, cucurbits (zucchini, melons, pumpkin), beans etc are tender, so while you can start growing them, they still need to be protected until the threat of frost is gone. There is still time to grow these from seed. The advantage of seed is that you can try some wonderfully different varieties than the standard varieties available through the shops. I have found some varieties of tomato that have outstanding flavour that is definitely missing from shop bought versions. My two favourites are Ramitode de Dulce, a currant tomato that fills your mouth with flavour despite its size, and Lemon Drop which has a lovely acid flavour. There are also varieties that have a different nutritional profile—such as the tomatoes from the Heritage Food Crops Research Trust which have high levels of nutrients like tetra-cis-lycopene and zeta-carotene.

I have on several occasions tried to grow aubergine (also known as eggplant) unsuccessfully. Last year I was successful by growing the plant in a pot in the greenhouse. This year I

plan to grow them under cover again. I also plan to do the same with capsicums and chillis as I have never managed to get any to colour up in the garden beds.

I find that including a zucchini plant is a great option. They are heavy producers and one - two plants will provide enough for a family throughout summer—although you do need to check them every day otherwise you may end up with a marrow.

Also remember to plant a few flowers. They draw the pollinators in and thus pollinate your fruit and vegetables. These can be plants with an abundance of small flowers like allysum, or open flowers with easy access to nectar.

There is also the bonus of enjoying both sight and scent, with the option of picking to bring inside for the vase. Sweet peas can still be sown. I still have flowers blooming on one plant that was sown last year. Remember to check which flowers are hardy (frost tolerant) and not. Hardy can be planted in the ground now, tender plants need to wait until the end of the month. Even though it is usually safe to plant tend crops after Labour Day, remember that rogue frosts can still occur, so be prepared to cover your garden beds if there looks like a frost could happen.

All the best for your endeavours this growing season.

Llyvonne Barber

Ashhurst Clay Target Club

Despite challenging weather conditions – very cold and someone likened it to shooting in a wind tunnel – our August shoot ended up with a great turn-out with six squads. At one stage it appeared that many members were missing but they were discovered around the other side of the clubrooms to escape the wind, until they had to shoot. Not to say it wasn't warm and dry in the actual

clubrooms for the sensible ones.

This shoot had a meaningful element. Not only was it the annual Gary Wright Memorial Shoot but it marked the inaugural Simo Memorial Trophy (25 Bird Point Score) which was Simo's favourite shoot). Simo had been a stalwart and legend of the club and a Life Member and had passed

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.

Rev Jonathan MacFarlane

Contact the Parish office for further information: Phone 326 8543 or

Email: info@parishofpohangina.co.nz

Web: www.parishofpohangina.co.nz

Our office is currently not attended. Please email us if you need to contact us.

Ashhurst Pohangina Squash Club

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

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

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

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

J Wakeford

Hiwinui—022 319 0434

Mr JC Culling

Pohangina Road—027 289 5252

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Kids 'n Motion

Now in its 24th year of providing music and movement for 0 - 5 year olds within Ashhurst and the surrounding community. Every Friday 9.45 am - 11.15 am during school terms at the Village Valley Centre, Guildford Street, Ashhurst. Cost: Gold coin donation.

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

Pohangina Yoga Classes

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

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

River Church

We meet at 131 Cambridge Avenue each Sunday at 10.00am. All welcome.

Pastors Dave and Kellie Ross. Phone 027 247 2179 or 328 4864 (evening) www.riverchurch.nz



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Ashhurst Clay Target Club



a w a y
s u d d e n l y
earlier in the
year.

Our club
m e m b e r
B l a c k y
Shannon was
"on fire" that
S u n d a y ,
coming away
with winning

the Club 25 after a close shoot-off against Joby Stella— but carrying that form onto winning the Simo Memorial Trophy after another close shoot-off against Craig Hocken.

Results were:

Gary Wright Memorial: Tony Bucknell

Club 25 High Gun: Blacky Shannon

Club 25 Top Handicap: Andrew Turner

Simo Memorial: Blacky Shannon

Karen Pawson—Secretary

Ashhurst Library

Hi everyone, by the time you read this, we are charging into our holiday programme. A big thank you to Beth who is running most of the sessions.

School Holiday Programme Week Two

Cooking with Chloe—for 8-13-year olds

Tuesday, 6th October—10.00 am - 12.00 midday

Come spend a session learning skills and tips from our great friends and chefs—Chloe and Paige.

Rock Painting

Wednesday, 7th October—11-1pm

Come along to paint and decorate your own colourful rocks.

Sewing Craft

Thursday, 8th October—10.00 am - 1.00 pm

Get creative with fabric and thread. Make your own cute plushie using a sewing machine, or try your hand sewing a fun bag tag.

Faux Stained-Glass Craft

Friday, 9th October—11.00 am - 1.00 pm

Use card and cellophane and so much glue to create your own mosaic artwork. Stained -glass craft without the shards of broken glass.

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. Please contact us with any queries.

Ashhurst Elevenses

Every Friday at 11.00 am during term time

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

Ashhurst Mighty Kids

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

Wednesday, 14th October—10.30am.

We are thrilled to have as our special guest—Kori, our penguin mascot from Splashhurst and our Splashhurst friends.

Wednesday, 28th October—10.30am

Justice of the Peace

Wednesday, 12.00 midday to 1.00 pm

We are very grateful to have Aleisha Rutherford JP available every Wednesday from midday to 1.00 pm. Thank you Aleisha, it is greatly appreciated.

Ross Meads—Ashhurst Librarian



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Kia ora Ashhurst!

It's encouraging to see some important projects and conversations moving forward for Ashhurst and the wider Manawātū community.

For a long time, the Ashhurst community has advocated for a safe walking and cycling connection across the Manawātū River to complement Te Ahu a Turanga, the Manawātū Tatarua Highway – and it's something Palmerston North City Council has strongly supported.

So I'm really pleased to see the Ashhurst to Western Gateway shared use path taking another important step forward. The NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) is planning to start construction of the new pedestrian and cycling bridge later this year, with completion expected by the end of 2027.

This will be an important connection for Ashhurst, providing a safer option for people walking and cycling between the village and the Western Gateway. It is also part of the wider transport network planning that will help shape how our city grows and connects in the years ahead.

It's great to see local businesses making the most of the growing recreation activity around Te Āpiti – Manawātū Gorge. Congratulations to Gorge Quarter on reaching its first year in business. Turning a former farm shed into a café and store has created another great reason to stop, catch up and enjoy the area – particularly after earning that coffee or ice cream on the trail!

Speaking of the Gorge, the Te Āpiti Manawātū Gorge Traverse running and walking event is another wonderful example of people getting out and enjoying this special part of our region. Events like this showcase the natural beauty on Ashhurst's doorstep and bring visitors into our communities and local businesses. I hope everyone involved has a fantastic day.

On the planning front, Council is preparing our 2027-37 Long-Term Plan, with consultation coming early next year. We need to have the plan adopted by the end of June 2027, and there are some significant decisions ahead. One of the challenges is that we may not know until around September 2027 which transport projects NZTA ultimately intends to fund. That makes planning more difficult, particularly when we are trying to understand the priorities and costs for the next decade.

The Government is also proposing limits on council rates increases, with the current proposal for councils to work towards a target range of 2 to 4 per cent. The new system is expected to begin influencing long-term planning from July 2027 and take full effect from July 2029.

Council is already working within this parameter because, like households and businesses, councils need to live within their means. We will keep challenging costs, prioritising carefully and looking for external funding wherever we can.

There's another important transport conversation happening this month, too. Council has agreed to full community engagement on the shortlist for the Manawātū Regional Freight Ring Road Business Case. Many of you contributed when we talked about the long list last December. That work has now been narrowed down, and we are seeking views on the options that remain.

We know this is a topic Ashhurst and the wider community care deeply about. There will be opportunities to talk with our team in person, ask questions and understand the information before providing feedback. I encourage you to take part – particularly if transport, freight movements, safety and the growth of our communities are important to you.

Finally, it's fantastic to see the improvements on Wyndham Street coming together. The upgraded road is an important investment in Ashhurst's local infrastructure and will make a real difference for people who live, work on and travel through this street.

I know many of these projects and decisions will have a direct impact on the village and the way people move around and enjoy this part of our city. Thank you, as always, for the passion and commitment Ashhurst residents continue to show for their community. Your advocacy makes a difference.

Ngā mihi nui

**Mayor
Grant Smith JP**



ASHHURST COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Open days

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

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

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.

6 October	week 1	recycle/rubbish
13 October	week 2	glass/rubbish
20 October	week 1	recycle/rubbish
27 October	week 2	glass/rubbish

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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PALMERSTON
NORTH
CITY

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Letters to the Editor

Letters under 200 words are preferred.

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

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

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

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

Advertising Rates & Information

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

The cost varies proportionally for smaller and larger sized adverts.

For further information on advertising costs and payments please contact Gaylene Knight (contact above).

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

Village Voice Deadline

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

5.00 pm Tuesday, 20th October 2026.

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

Ashhurst Rainfall

Hi, I have started recording the minimum and maximum temperatures from the 18th August which may be of interest to readers. The minimum temperature is that of the previous night as the coldest temperature is usually in the early morning hours.

25.5mm of rain fell in August 2026, which is well below the monthly long-term average of 90mm.

Rain was recorded on 17 days, with the highest one-day rainfall of 11mm on the 12th of August. The number of rainfall days is the same as the long-term average for August.

The total rainfall for the period from 1st January to 31st August is 421.5mm, which is well below the long-term

average for this period of 630mm. The total number of rainfall days for the period is 105, which is about the long-term average of 107 days.

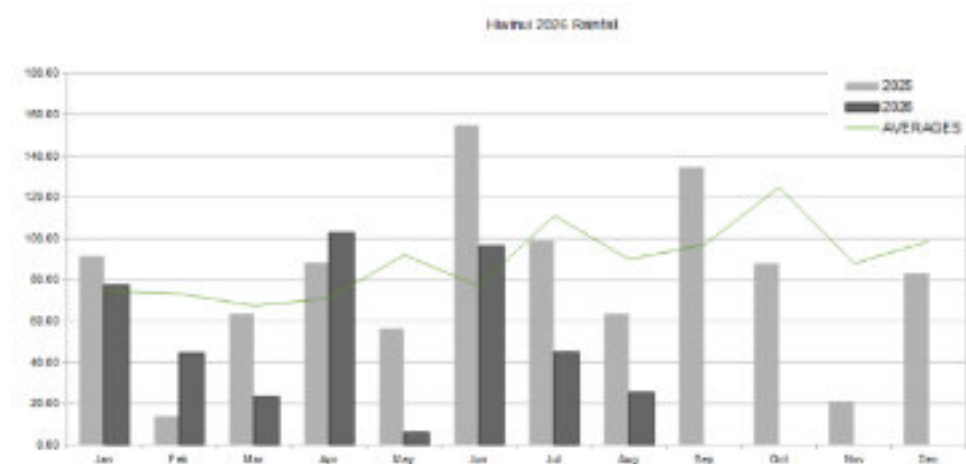
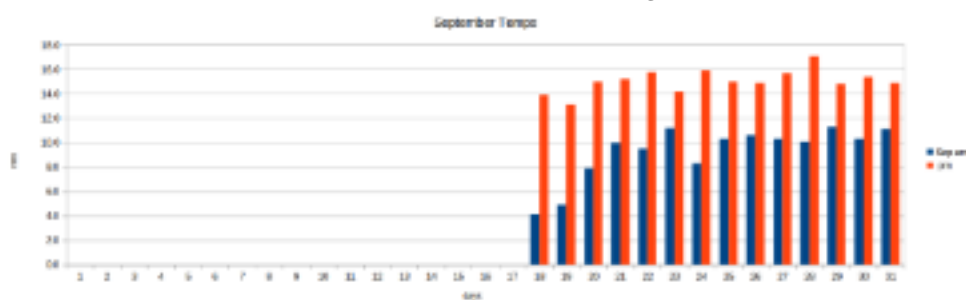
The long-term average annual rainfall is 970mm. Currently the rainfall we've had is well below what is required to achieve the average annual rainfall.

The average minimum and maximum average temperatures for the second half of August 2026 were 9.3° and 15.1°.

The lowest temperature of 4.1° was on Friday morning of the 18th.

The highest temperature of 15.9° was on Monday 24th.

Phil Pirie



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