



Ashhurst Village Voice

Informing the communities of Ashhurst & Pohangina

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September 2025

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Established 1997

Art and Sculpture on the New Highway

The interpretive signage has now been installed at various locations on Te Ahu a Turanga Highway to help explain the art and sculptures on the roundabouts and lookouts. Take some time to detour off the highway to the Western Gateway car park to check out progress. There is an easily accessible path for access to the Parahaki Bridge, its viewing area into the Gorge, and an overview of the art beside the highway.

The artists' explanations and meanings related to these artworks on the western side of the highway have kindly been provided by staff from this NZTA project and consortium.

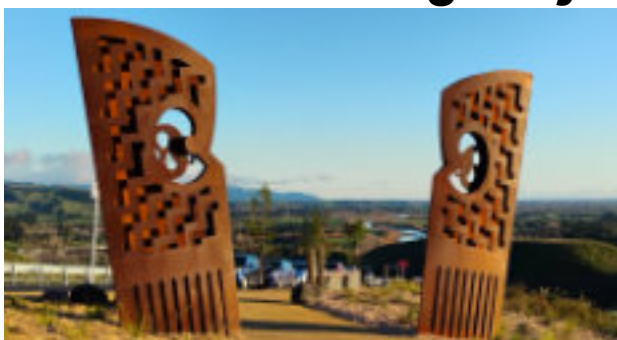
The three main pieces of mahi toi on the western side are: the roundabout sculpture (Hine-te-iwaiwa), the aurei pin on Parahaki Bridge (Tuia Te Maunga), and the heru sculptures at the Ashhurst lookout (Tuia Te Tangata).

The overarching cultural concept of the mahi toi on the highway is he aho tangata. He aho tangata, which can be translated as the human threads that bind us, brings together the idea of relationships between people, and the physical act of traditional weaving.

Hine-te-iwaiwa



Photos: Left: Turuturu on the Western Roundabout; Right: Heru Sculptures on Ashhurst Lookout



The turuturu on the Western Roundabout is named Hine-te-iwaiwa and has been created by combining two different traditional forms—a tokotoko (orator's staff) and a manaia.

A manaia sits atop a tokotoko facing skywards, looking to the Hine-te-iwaiwa star. Hine-te-iwaiwa governs over all things female, including the arts pursued by women such as raranga and whatu (weaving).

The spiral design in the groundwork is inspired by a four-part spiral carving at a Rangitāne whare, Ngā Tau e Waru Marae at Te Ore Ore, built in 1878. This spiral, named Aputa ki Wairau, has been designed to acknowledge the iwi partners and the Parahaki Trust involved in the highway project.

Tuia Te Maunga

An aurei is a large cloak pin, designed to bring two edges of the cloak together.

They were traditionally made from whale ivory or bone. When an aurei fastens a cloak, it keeps the wearer warm. As ngahere (forest) on the Tararua and Ruahine Ranges keeps the maunga warm, they can be thought of as a cloak.

Considering Te Āpiti - Manawatū Gorge as the place where two edges of a cloak

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Deadline for October Issue—Saturday, 20th September

Correction

The email address for The Hair Lab and co in the August Issue was incorrect. The correct email is TheHairLabandco@gmail.com.

We apologise for any inconvenience this has caused

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

Pohangina Rubbish Collection

Rubbish is collected every Monday. 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

Manawatū Toy Library

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

www.manawatutoylibrary.co.nz

Ashhurst Ladies Coffee Group

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

Art and Sculpture on the New Highway

come together, the symbolic aurei on the Parahaki Bridge can be thought of as joining a cloak together. The name of this aurei is Tuia Te Maunga.

Tuia Te Tangata

Rangitāne o Manawatū and Ngāti Kauwhata have shared whenua, histories and whakapapa, including significant marriages between the two iwi. These relationships are still strong today.

Two heru, named Tuia Te Tangata, symbolise the relationship between

Rangitāne o Manawatū and Ngāti Kauwhata. They also express the mana of the Ruahine Range.

Heru (hair combs) are a statement of mana. They were traditionally only worn by rangatira, by men and women of high rank who had pūtiki (topknots). Heru hold pūtiki in place and were of a sign of their rangatiratanga. Heru are traditionally made from whalebone or wood, or from wooden teeth bound together with fibre.

Harvey Jones

Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade

I'll start with the bad news. New Zealand has recently ticked over a horrible milestone: in the last 12 months 17 people have died in avoidable house fires. That's our worst year in ten years. Fire and Emergency see a spike in house fires due to cooler temperatures and it reinforces the points I constantly nag about to you—have working smoke alarms, plug heaters directly into the wall (no multiboards) and don't dump hot ashes directly in the bin.

Now onto some better news, recently we had a big training scenario at the Ashhurst school. The scenario involved a smoke-logged building where our firefighters had to perform search and

rescue, triage and manage medical issues and ultimately extinguish the fire. Having actual students, teachers and parents playing roles added realistic pressure to the crews with myself having to manage pump operator duties and placate distraught parents at the same time! Suffice to say it was challenging but reinforced our strengths and gave us some things to work on.

Thank you to the school staff for allowing us to train there as well as to the students and parents who added realism to the scenario.

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

Understanding Menopause

Understanding Menopause - Mind, Body and More will be held on Friday, 19th September 2025, at the Village Valley Centre. Doors open at 6.00pm, with the event starting at 6.30pm.

Aimee Perrett will present What the Heck is Going On? Making sense of perimenopause and menopause.

Rachel Claire will present The Role of Naturapathy in Menopause.

Tickets are \$10 and every ticket goes in the draw to win a menosupport gift basket from the Herb Farm. Scan the QR code to book your ticket.



This event is bought to you by The Lash Studio

Ashhurst Senior Citizen's Association

At the August meeting of the Ashhurst and Districts Senior Citizen's, Lynn Kirkland from the Herb Farm spoke to members and guests about her writing and life experiences. Thank you Lynn for your time and for an interesting and

engaging afternoon.

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

Continued on next page



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Ashhurst Senior Citizen's Association

interested in. Also, people are invited not just from Ashhurst but from the surrounding districts, including Pohangina, so do not feel you can't attend because you live outside of Ashhurst. The club has been running for over 50 years 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—

The Tōtara Reserve Whānau Challenge

Horizons Regional Council invites you to explore Tōtara Reserve for the first ever Whānau Challenge Day on Saturday, 18th October 2025 from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm.

Horizons biodiversity, biosecurity and partnerships manager Craig Davey says "after two years running an open day style event, we are wanting to change it up a bit."

"We hope this event will encourage a greater appreciation for Tōtara Reserve, and how the community can use it."

"To participate, put together a team of up to four people, and for just \$5 per team you can spend a day at Tōtara Reserve completing challenges and learning about the region's environment."

"Your team of four can be made up of friends, family or a mix of both."

"There are ten challenges that teams will need to complete during the day, with spot prizes up for grabs."

Tōtara Reserve Advisory Board Chair

Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.

A Note from the Team

We've been incredibly busy at the R.S.A., and we're looking forward to an even more exciting few months ahead. Thank you for your continued support and for being a part of our community.

Wrapped in Remembrance

This year's Wrapped in Remembrance project has been a huge success. The Ashhurst Craft Group knitted beautiful scarves and poppies for veterans, and

thank you to Chris our outgoing treasurer for his work to date. Chris will hand over and 'train' the 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, 2.00pm, at the Village Valley Centre. We look forward to seeing you!

**Stephanie Madgwick—
Secretary**

Fiona Gordon says "the goal for the event is to bring friends and families together to explore Tōtara Reserve in a new fun way, all while learning about what Horizons is doing across the region."

"This is the perfect opportunity to explore our beautiful Regional Park, and enjoy a free barbecue lunch, provided by Awahou School."

"Horizons will also be providing free bus transport, with buses from Palmerston North, Feilding and Ashhurst."

"When registering for the event, you can select your pickup location to secure your spot."

To register your team head to www.eventfinda.co.nz. Team registrations are limited to the first 50 teams.

Tuia te taiao, tuia te tangata. Connecting the earth to the people, and the people to the earth.

we have been busy distributing them both locally and nationally.

A special thank you to the Hon Chris Penk MP, Minister for Veterans, who arranged for some of our scarves to be given to Vietnam veterans attending a service on Vietnam Veterans' Day in Wellington. We have heard that the veterans were truly touched by this gesture, and we're so grateful for the

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JustOnePlease

Super kia ora. The Justoneplease item for the Safe House for May 2025 is **Breakfast Cereal**. 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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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.

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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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 Memorial R.S.A.

opportunity to share them. It's
heartening to know that scarves made
right here in our community are reaching
veterans across the country.

We're hoping to continue distributing
scarves at future events like this one.
Thank you to everyone who has
contributed their time and talent to this
project. Your generosity means so much.

Upcoming Events at the Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.

Mark your calendars! We have a
fantastic lineup of events coming up for
everyone to enjoy.

- **Regular Bingo:** Join us every
Tuesday at 7.00 pm for a fun night of
bingo and prizes.
- **Casino Night:** Try your luck at our
Casino Night on Saturday, 20th
September.
- **Oktoberfest:** Prost! Celebrate
Oktoberfest with us on Saturday,
18th October.

- **Market and Car Boot Sale:** Find
some treasures and listen to great
music from the band Desert Road on
Saturday, 8th November.

We can't wait to see you there!

Stay safe and roll on summer.

Congratulations

- Hugh Akers who won a trip to
Melbourne including airfares
accommodation and spending
money in our recent promotion.
- Two teams under Ashhurst R.S.A.
went to the R.S.A. National indoor
bowls last weekend at Te Aroha and
both teams qualified and ended up
first and third.
- Recently the R.S.A. darts group have
won National titles in the youth and
open competitions.

Stay warm, stay safe, and I look
forward to catching up with you all soon.

Peter Knight—President

RECAP Update

RECAP: Notice of Special General Meeting

RECAP is an Incorporated Society,
registered as a charitable entity under
the Charities Act 2005. Amendments to
the Incorporated Societies Act 2022
require all incorporated societies to
revise their constitution rules and have
them formally approved by their
membership at a General Meeting. The
approved Constitution is then required
to be lodged with the Registrar of

Incorporated Societies by 5th April
2026.

RECAP will be holding a Special
General Meeting to present and adopt a
new Constitution (or Rules) as a result of
changes in the Incorporated Societies
Act 2022.

Time: 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm

Date: Thursday, 2nd October

Place: Ashhurst Village Valley Centre

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B

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RECAP Update

Reason: To discuss and adopt a new Constitution (or Rules), which adhere to the requirements of the amended Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

We invite all who have signed up as RECAP members, and those who wish to join. Please contact info@recap.org.nz for access to the existing and proposed new constitution rules.

Upcoming Workshops.

More details to come, but we have penciled in our annual Composting Workshop on Saturday, 11th October at the Ashhurst Library Community Garden. Keep an eye on our website (recap.org.nz) and socials for the registration information which will be up soon.

We are also repeating our most popular workshop from last year: Death Without Debt. This will take place on Saturday, 25th October. Again, keep an eye on our website and socials for the registration information which will be up soon.

Death Without Debt New Zealand is 'dedicated to creating a future where the cost of dying doesn't add to the burden of grief' and is designed to guide people through the financial challenges surrounding death.

Facilitated by Suzanne Chelius—a local Ashhurst resident who serves on the board of RECAP and is trained as an End of Life Doula. Her aim is to empower people on the individual level to make optimal choices around end of life as well as on the societal level, to change the way we approach, talk about and plan for death.

Join us to talk freely about the financial, legal, practical but also emotional aspects of death and dying in a relaxed and friendly environment.

Community Kai update: Just a quick

message to clarify a couple of things relating to the Community Kai service.

At this service we are distributing rescued food. This means the food shared is deemed 'unsellable'. There are a multitude of reasons for this: some items simply have damaged packaging, but some items are too close to, or past, best before or use by dates.

Just for your peace of mind: when items are collected or delivered we assess them. We check the dates, if it's been frozen, what state it is in and what ingredients it contains. We do dispose of items if we believe they pose a risk if consumed or used.

I (Chris) worked in commercial kitchens for many years and was required to keep a hygiene certificate up to date. One of our volunteers is a retired nurse and her husband is a food scientist. Between us we have a very good understanding of what's safe to consume. We've even contacted manufacturers in the past to confirm the safety of certain items.

Our motto is 'If in doubt, throw it out.' And I personally don't put anything out that I wouldn't happily consume myself.

That being said, always use your own eyes, nose and common sense before consuming.

Please read the signage on the items when you pick up. With some items it is 'take at own risk' (homemade preserves and such).

Over the past five years we have only had a very small number of people who have reported back to us that an item was inedible. If you **do** notice something is wrong with an item you've collected at this service, please contact us so we can let others know.

Chris Love—RECAP Coordinator

Stoat Trapping

It was with great sadness that our founding leader, the wonderful Mike Shepherd, died suddenly on 3rd April 2025, aged 82. Mike had a huge farewell in Palmerston North where Harley and Scooter, two of our long standing

volunteers, gave moving obituaries for their friend and mentor. A tribute to Mike was published in the May issue of the Village Voice. Mike will be sorely missed by us all.

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.

Stoat Trapping

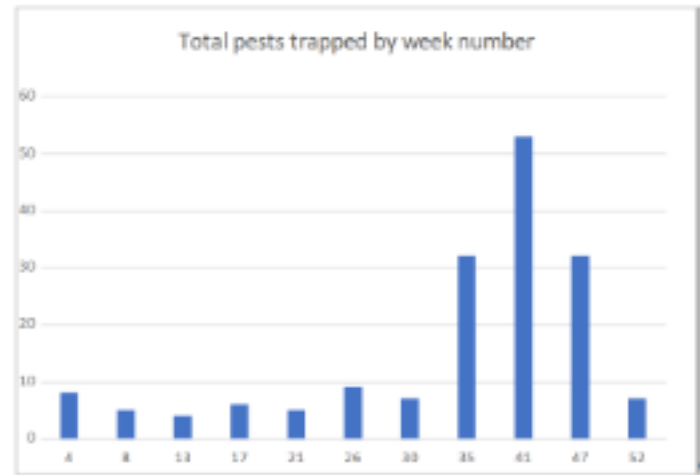
Mike started the Ashhurst Stoat Trapping program in 2009, in conjunction with the Department of Conservation, to reduce the levels of mustelids (ferrets, stoats and weasels), rats, mice and other small pests in the Manawātū Gorge Track area, located between the Manawātū River and Tararua wind farm. DoC has provided the traps and eggs while our group has checked all 109 “DoC-200 traps regularly, removing any pests caught and replacing the eggs. Following Mike’s funeral, the group met with his wife Jan, to reflect on his full and active life and what we each appreciated about him. We all agreed that Mike would want the trapping to continue. Five of us have now become signatories to a new agreement with Department of Conservation which will cover the next five -ten years.

The graph below summarises the pest numbers found caught in the traps during the 12 month period from July 2024 to June 2025. The total number caught was 168, similar to the average annual

catch of 159 (range 111-212) in the previous 15 years or so. However, the unusual feature of the 2024-25 results, as is obvious from the graph, was the big spike in numbers at weeks 35-47 (late summer/autumn). Although the traps were checked six-weekly over this time, instead of four - five weekly, that does little to explain such a big increase in numbers.

Department of Conservation pays contractors to manage other pests such as possums in the same bush reserve. Our group is passionate about investing time for predator control so that the taonga of our native fauna and flora can be restored to how it was meant to be.

Sue Godbaz



Community Comment

The Electoral Commission has read and heard your submissions and decided to proceed with the transfer of

Ashhurst voters to the Wairarapa electorate. Despite 18% of all

Continued on next page



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Community Comment

submissions on boundary changes within New Zealand coming from Ashhurst opposing this exile, it was determined to be too hard to move boundaries elsewhere to make it work. Media reports, and a recent visit to Ashhurst to meet local residents, suggest that Celia Wade-Brown, as a Green list MP living in Wairarapa, will include Ashhurst in her coverage of governmental duties. Members of RECAP guided Celia around the village projects and provided some background to Ashhurst's place in regional and national democracy.

This change will only affect who we can vote for in national government elections as we migrate from Rangitikei to Wairarapa electorate. Our voting in the upcoming local body elections, such as for Palmerston North City Council or Horizons, will remain unchanged.

Nominations for local body elections have now closed. Postal voting in these elections open on 9th September and close 11th October. The Palmerston North City Council elections have four nominations for Mayor, 37 nominations for 13 Councillor positions in the general ward, and three nominations for two Councillor positions in the Māori ward. Voting papers should be in your letter box in early September.

Local residents presented their petition to repair the road works following infrastructure upgrades in Wyndham Street. The result is a holding pattern with no specified budget for

work, but they will consider options for the future.

It is a similar pattern as concerned parents of high school students await a decision on school bus transport. The key oppositions activists are also getting no updates from authorities, who will likely be scrambling to find a solution. Horizons Regional Council, who operate the public transport bus network, have ruled out adding new bus routes to service this need and have rejected using ratepayer funds to service Ministry of Education transport costs.

The Manawātū Gorge's Tawa Loop Track is now partially open, although maintenance and upgrades are still ongoing. The track is now accessed from the base of the new Parahaki Bridge and takes a zig-zag path up the hill, past the temporary car park and up the hill to Tom's Lookout. Sadly, the old path which began next to the highway and weaved its way up the banks of the creek is now closed from access. The upgraded track is expected to be completed by the end of 2025. Upper sections of the track are muddy and slippery during wet weather, so be prepared.

Meanwhile, the work on the Western Gateway Park continues below the eco-viaduct on the far side of the Parahaki Bridge. New nature walks are under construction and will be accessed from the new shared pathway, or via the construction road accessed from the

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 7525 0775

ashhurstvillageradio@gmail.com

Ashhurst Foodbank

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

Contact: Marianne 027 627 2054

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& Drainage Ltd

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| ✓ Weedmat 1 & 2m | ✓ Crusher Dust | ✓ AP20 Top Course |
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| | | ✓ RTU 45 Min Concrete Bags 20kg |

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greg@manawatucontracting.com

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Licensed Early Childhood Education Provider. Over 50 years in your community. Spaces now available for children 0-6 years.

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

Community Comment

Saddle Bridge. The site is being transformed from its construction zone back into its natural environment with new plantings and tracks to experience the birdlife and ancient trees in this conservation area.

Year two of the daffodil display at the entrance to the Ashhurst Domain is about to bloom following a late cold spring. These bulbs have multiplied and will likely be flaunting their colours soon.

Harvey Jones

National Poetry Day

I don't know if you knew but it was National New Zealand Poetry day on Friday, 22nd August. The National Radio did a competition in which you had to use these six words within a six line poem: windscreen, sanctuary, flax, return, audio and ultraviolet. I didn't enter the competition but it inspired our family to pen some poetry and share them at a family birthday party. Someone suggested I should share it for the Ashhurst Newsletter. Maybe it could

inspire poets in the community?

Roadtrippers return to the beat of radio audio

Descending from Bunnythorpe along flax-flanked road

Ultraviolet rays of a comforting rainbow Framing Te Ahu a Tūrangā in the windscreen

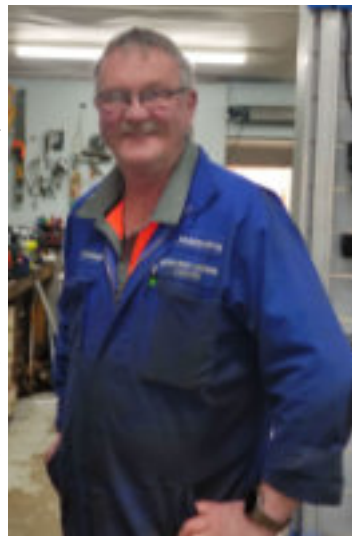
Back to our Ashhurst sanctuary Our Good Haven

Robyn Good

Business Focus: Ashhurst Mower Centre

The face of Ashhurst Mower Centre Ltd: Rex, known to many locals as the go to man for anything related to small outdoor power equipment.

Rex was born and bred in Palmerston North. He completed his schooling there and began his love for anything with an engine by sweeping floors at Lawn Mower Services (now The Stihl Shop) in the early 1980s. He did his mechanics apprenticeship there in 1982, and in 1989 moved to Townsville, Australia, for nine months to follow his dream of racing speedway bikes. The lure of the mighty Manawātū enticed Rex back, this time to work as a tow truck driver, working with his brother Ivan, then for Keith ("Ole") Olsen, then Sam Lynn as a labourer. During 1993 a bad bike injury forced Rex to give up racing bikes, but hasn't dampened his love of them. About 1995 he moved to Harts Mower Centre as a mechanic, later to become the workshop foreman, where he remained for six years before moving to Mower and Engine Warehouse. A few



years later he took the leap to become self-employed, working together with his brother Ivan for about eight years. They worked from Rex and Kims' shed at home, in Ashhurst. After three years, and encouraged by his suppliers to increase his business profile, he purchased the old Ashhurst Butcher Shop, from Gordon Gray, and has just completed 20 years in the blue building, we all now know as the Mower Shop. Although primarily Husqvarna, Rex is also an agent for Jonsered, Lawnmaster, Masport, Briggs and Stratton and Kohler and Honda. He not only sells, but services all small outdoor power equipment from lawn mowers to chainsaws and pretty much anything in between.

Rex has continued sharing his love of small engines with Ryan Denby, another local lad, who began working for Rex in 2021 and completed his apprenticeship.

Rex met his wife, Kim, (at The

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

Pravin & Padmini Patel welcome you at

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Business Focus: Ashhurst Mower Centre

Commercial, according to Rex!), and together they raised their five kids in Ashhurst, made some great friends, and continue their local support. With just a few who have received support being Ashhurst School, Ashhurst Pohangina Rugby Football Club, as well as Massey University Varsity Rugby. He was a local

volunteer fire fighter for ten years, rising up to be senior Fire Fighter.

In his downtime, Rex enjoys his family, motorbikes, sea fishing, cycling, and spectator rugby, in particular son Reeces' Varsity A team. Oh, and he does love a good yarn.

Bird of the Year and Bee Month

September marks the beginning of spring and also the month where the country, and the rest of the world, gets to vote on the New Zealand Bird of the Year. 2025 marks the 20th anniversary of this competition, the goal of which is to bring awareness of our amazing native birds and to highlight the fact that many are at risk of extinction.

There have been many controversies of the years, but it is an event that everyone can take part in. Voting opens at 9.00 am on Monday, 15th September and closes on Sunday, 28th September, with the winner being announced the following day.

To vote and find out more about our

native birds, check out www.birdoftheyear.org.nz/.

September is also Bee Awareness Month. This is an educational campaign run by Apiculture New Zealand to raise awareness of bee health and how you can contribute by planting for bees, use sprays safely and buy local honey. To find out more go to <https://apinz.org.nz/bee-aware-month/>.

While the focus is primarily on the honey bee, New Zealand also has native solitary bees. We can support them by planting native flowering plants. Find out more here www.fortheloveofbees.co.nz/native-bees.

Llyvonne Barber

Ashhurst School

Kia ora e te whānau,

Somehow we've blinked and arrived at Week Five already - halfway through the term! Even with the mix of sunshine, showers, and chilly mornings, our tamariki have been full of energy! It's such a joy to see our students embracing learning, trying new things, and showing manawanui to one another. We have had a lot going on at school recently with sports, school excursions

and school camp.

Raumai Stream Study Trip—Taranua Team

The Taranua students had a fantastic time at Raumai Reserve recently, getting their hands (and feet!) wet as they became environmental scientists for the day. As part of our Science unit, each class worked in groups at the

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.

YOU DECIDE OUR CITY'S FUTURE



This council election, you're choosing the mayor and councillors who will lead our city - and deciding the future of Māori wards.

Your vote shapes Palmy for you, your family, and future generations - from the parks, roads and facilities we all use, to how Māori are represented at the Council table.

Be heard. Be part of it.

VOTING FROM 9 SEPT TO 12PM, 11 OCT

Find out more at pncc.govt.nz/vote



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

Pohangina River, actively monitoring the health of the stream and its surrounding habitat.

The students' enthusiasm and engagement were wonderful to see. They collected data and made some exciting discoveries. The stream proved to have excellent water clarity, a good water temperature and pH level, and a great variety of macro-invertebrates living in it; all signs of a healthy waterway! This education outside the classroom experience gave students a deeper understanding of the importance of protecting our local waterways, and it's clear that we have some budding scientists in the making!

Ki-o-Rahi—Year 7/8

Recently, our Year 7/8 Ki-o-Rahi teams competed in a tournament with some

good results. Pā Reece's team went through to the semi finals with strong wins against Monrad, Pahiatua, and Huia Range. They eventually lost in a very close game against Mana Tamariki 14-15.

Pā James' team performed really well also, however lost to Mana Tamariki, and Monrad, but ended with a solid win to finish off pool play.

Hockey

A massive congratulations to the Year 7-8 Ashhurst Sticks hockey team who won their Division Two Finals recently. The team had a great season, starting with a draw and a loss, then going on to win the rest of their games and also ending a five year drought by beating Cornerstone two weeks before the finals.

Ashhurst Library

Hi everyone, as we are heading into Spring you are all most welcome to walk through, enjoy our gardens and help yourself to some of the produce when ready. Our volunteers do an incredible job and we are very appreciative of their efforts, thanks so much gang.

Local Body Elections—Early Voting

Early voting can occur on Saturdays during the voting period within the usual library opening hours—10.00 - 1.00 pm (except on the last day, 11th October, voting closes at 12.00 pm).

Special voting is for people who haven't received their papers by post, need physical assistance, are on the unpublished roll, or whose papers have been lost/destroyed. This is also for anyone who isn't enrolled yet. They can enrol and cast their vote at the same time.

Popular Titles

Our most heavily requested items currently include the following:

The Unlikely Doctor: From Gang Life and Prison to Becoming a Doctor at 56 by Doctor Timoti Te Moke.

After enduring a horrific childhood, gangs and prison, he then became a doctor. An incredible story.

The World's Worst Superheroes by David Walliams. Self explanatory

Wholesome by Sarah: Family Food by Sarah Pound

This cookbook focuses on easy weeknight dinners whether you're short on time, a beginner cook or feeding fussy eaters (of any age!).

The Surrogate Mother by Freida McFadden

Her latest that tells a story of monstrous and dangerous motherhood.

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.

September School Holiday Programme

Our next school holiday programme will be out in a few weeks, please just check our Facebook page closer to the time. Ross will be having the first week off and Jill will be away for the second so it may be a slightly smaller programme.

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, 10th September, 10.30am

Wednesday, 8th October, 10.30am

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".

Ross Meads—Ashhurst Library

Kia ora!

Wyndham Street upgrade back on the table

Thanks to those who joined us in our Council Chamber last month to present the petition regarding upgrades to Wyndham Street, including resealing the road, installing kerb and channel, footpaths, and drainage. Our elected members appreciated hearing your views and understood your frustration at the earlier decision to delay the upgrade following changes in government funding.

In response to the petition, elected members voted to restart the procurement process for the Wyndham Street upgrade. Council will receive a report in the coming months outlining programme and funding options. Staff will investigate whether any other projects can be delayed or re-prioritised to allow this work to happen. Elected members will vote on the next steps at that stage. We'll keep you informed through this column.

Elections updates

Ashhurst residents will vote in the Wairarapa electorate at the 2026 general election, despite 105 submissions from people wanting the village to remain in the Rangitikei electorate or be included in Palmerston North. While the proposal proceeded despite your feedback, it was encouraging to see so many of you participate and share your views with the Electoral Commission.

This decision applies only to national elections. Local body elections happening this October will still see you voting for your Mayor and city councillors. Voting papers will arrive in your mailbox this month. Candidate information, including short videos, is available on our Council website now. The council-run Mayoral Candidate Debate will be held on Wednesday 17 September, 6.30–8.30pm at the Globe Theatre and will be livestreamed. Community-organised candidate meetings are also happening across the city.

Testing of water filtration plant

Work on the new \$1.7 million filtration plant at the Ashhurst water bore is nearing completion. It's designed to remove natural sediment such as iron and manganese, which can sometimes cause discoloured water. Specialist sand for the filters has arrived, and we're beginning testing by running water through the system while completing all electrical and instrument checks. This testing is separate from your supply, so you won't notice any changes. Once operational, we'll clean sediment from the wider Ashhurst pipe network and reservoir over a few months, after which you can expect clear water year-round. We'll keep you updated.

Palmerston North adopts milestone water plan

Council has adopted its joint Water Services Delivery Plan, developed with Horowhenua and Rangitikei District Councils, who we're partnering with to set up a jointly owned council controlled organisation responsible for water services. The plan outlines how the three councils will deliver drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services safely, reliably, and sustainably. It is now being submitted to Government for approval under its Local Water Done Well legislative requirements. All councils will continue to deliver services locally while working together on governance arrangements. Read more on our website.

Te Āpiti carpark hours / Tawa Loop

Thanks to the Department of Conservation for their work in reopening the Tawa Loop. The track is now open again, with some ongoing maintenance, fully reopening the Gorge Walk. We've installed signage at Te Āpiti carpark so visitors know the hours: gates will be locked overnight from 9pm to 5am during warmer months (October–April) and from 7pm to 6am during colder months (May–September).

That's the highlights for this month. Please get in touch with Council if you have any questions. With spring upon us, we hope you find time to enjoy the beautiful flowers in our city parks and reserves.

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.

Open days

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
PAPAIOEA
PALMERSTON
NORTH
CITY

Published by The Ashhurst Village Voice Society Inc.

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ashhurst.voice@gmail.com

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Advertising: Grey Smith

Phone: 326 8075; 021 175 1726

rgcsmith@inspire.net.nz

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 Saturday, 20th September 2025.

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

Ashhurst Clay Target Club

It was a great day for the competition, with seven squads—which is a very good number. The weather was also great—sunny and warm with no wind.

Thanks to our new shooters and visitors that came along—so good to meet interested, potential new members.

The competition was a Club 25 DTL (down the line) and then what we call a Random Five Gun where shooters use a different gun at each station (under-and-over, pump action, semi-automatic, side-by-side and single barrel).

Congratulations to our winners. Alan Ives, Joby Stella and Mike Hoggard.

Karen Pawson—Secretary



Photo—Joby Stella

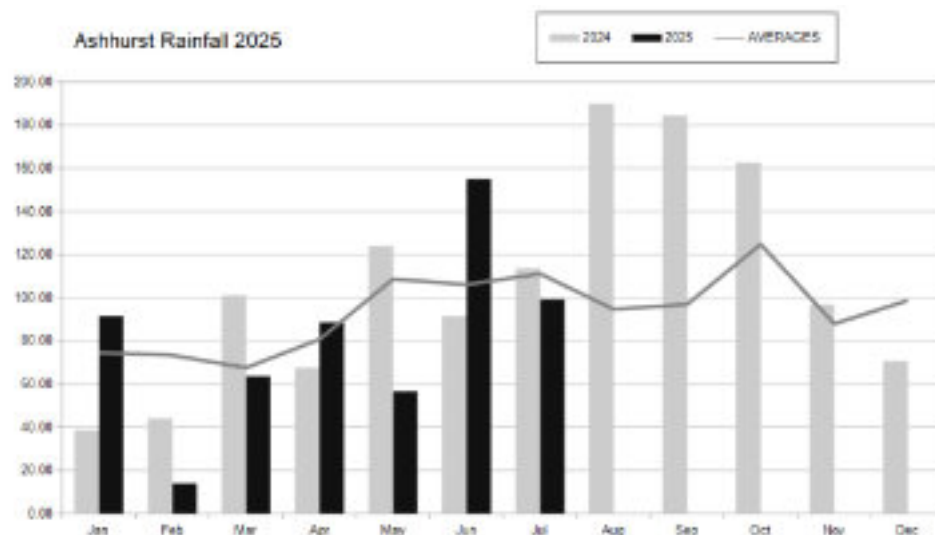
Ashhurst Rainfall

99.2 mm of rain fell in July 2025, above the monthly long-term average of 111.39 mm.

Rain was recorded on 11 days, with the highest one-day rainfall of 27 mm on the 3rd of July.

The total annual rainfall for the period from 1st of January to the 31st July is now 568.2 mm, which is below the long-term average for this period of 622.65 mm.

Quang Mai



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