



Ashhurst Village Voice

Informing the communities of Ashhurst & Pohangina

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September 2026

https://recap.org.nz/village_voice
Established 1997

The Woodshed

The Woodshed will be a new community space for Ashhurst and Pohangina. The concrete has been poured, and work is beginning.

If you haven't seen it yet, The Woodshed will be located behind the Village Valley Centre, beside the Fire Station.

The vision for The Woodshed is to create a safe and welcoming place where people from Ashhurst and Pohangina can come together, share knowledge and skills across generations, and have the opportunity to restore, create and build together.

And The Woodshed won't just be about working with wood. We hope it will provide a space for Toi Māori, including pounamu, wood carving, and bone carving, as well as other creative and practical activities identified by our community.

Keen to be involved?

As The Woodshed takes shape, we're looking for people who would like to

help bring it to life.

We'd love to hear from:

- Craftspeople, tradespeople and retired teachers who are interested in sharing their knowledge and skills in a teaching or mentoring capacity.
- Community members interested in joining the Management Committee and helping guide the future of The Woodshed.

The Woodshed is being created as a place for our community, shaped by our community. If you have skills to share, ideas to contribute, or simply want to be part of making it happen, we'd love to hear from you.

If you are interested please contact:
Sally Darragh

sally.darragh202@gmail.com

Ashhurst Community Trust



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**Deadline for October
Issue—Sunday, 20th
September 2026**

Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A.

The Ashhurst R.S.A. is buzzing: over 400 members strong and hibernation is officially cancelled!

If you've popped into the Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A. lately, you'll know it's harder to find a spare seat than a quiet toddler on Christmas morning. Our bumper turnouts for the quiz afternoons, Friday night raffles, and Joker's Wild have been nothing short of fantastic. And the absolute cherry on top? Our membership has officially soared past 400—yahoo!

Amidst all the lively banter, clinking glasses, and lucky ticket calls, we never lose sight of the heart of our club. We proudly remember those who fought for our country. When we say "Lest we forget," it means exactly that: "it should not be forgotten" or "so that we do not forget." It's a solemn, heartfelt plea and a reminder to keep past sacrifices, hardships, and our shared history alive in our minds.

Of course, honoring our community also means making the most of the present. If your social calendar is looking a little bare, we have plenty of action lined up to keep those winter

blues at bay:

- Every Tuesday: Bingo nights to test your lucky streak.
- Saturday, 12th September, 3.00 pm: Mid-term Sports Tipping Catch-Up and Happy Hour.
- Sunday, 13th September, 4.00 pm: Bowling Club Horse Racing at the R.S.A.
- Tuesday, 15th September, Super Bingo—dust off your best threads for the Black and White theme!
- Sunday, 4th October, 2.00 pm: Te Trivia Quiz.
- Saturday, 17th October, 7.00 pm: A special visit from the sensational New Zealand Army Band at the Village Valley Centre.

So, by the time this little note makes it into your hands, it's high time to crawl out of hibernation. Peel yourself away from those trusty flannelette sheets, swap your slippers for your going-out shoes, and come on down to socialise at your friendly, safe, and community-supportive local. We can't wait to see you there!

Warm regards,

Peter Knight—President

Ashhurst Senior Citizen Association

The August meeting was an afternoon of games and shared anecdotes.

Afternoon tea leftovers were sold at a bargain \$2 per tray at the end of the meeting and the usual sales table and

raffles were operating. Raffles are 50c and items on the sales table a gold coin.

Do not let the name fool you—the group is not just for seniors as we

Continued on next page



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Centennial Room at the Village Valley Centre.

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Ashhurst Senior Citizen Association

welcome people of all ages. Yearly membership is \$10 so why not come along as a visitor first and see if this is something you may be interested in joining. 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.

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 Madgwick—Secretary

RECAP Update

Kia ora!

Just a short update from RECAP this month—we hope you are all keeping warm and well.

Our Death Without Debt seminars are open for registrations now.

Death Without Debt is a national organization campaigning and educating on funeral debt 'dedicated to creating a future where the cost of dying doesn't add to the burden of grief.'

Please note that these seminars are normally \$40+. Thank you to our varied funders who make it possible for us to subsidise this. To register, please head to recap.org.nz.

This year's content will be in two separate seminars over one day: Saturday, September 12th, at the Village Valley Centre.

Seminar one: Business
10.00 am-1.00 pm

Seminar two: Body
2.00 pm-5.00 pm

One seminar: \$10 waged \$5 unwaged

Both: \$15 waged \$7.50 unwaged

Business: details local options for burial, cremation, and natural burial, as

well as the paperwork required. We also cover Advanced Care Plans, Wills, EPOAs, and probate.

Body: focuses on the dying process, unexpected death, post-death priorities, body care, cooling the body, shrouding and coffins, as well as transport.

Morning and afternoon tea and hot drinks will be provided, but please BYO lunch if attending both seminars (we also have two wonderful local cafes you can visit).

And a quick reminder about the RECAP Seed Library. This is located within the Ashhurst Library and anyone is able to take three free packets of seeds per month. We've been very lucky to receive a generous donation of heritage seeds from Heritage Food Crops Research Trust in Whanganui (thanks, Mark!) so right now we have a number of different heritage tomato varieties available. These are orange tomatoes which are studied for their taste, productivity and health benefits so are really some of the best tomatoes around. Please make use of this resource, it is open to all.

Noho ora mai

Chris Love—RECAP coordinator

From the Ridge to the River Exhibition

The County Fayre Gallery in the Pohangina Valley has been hosting artists for the Art Trail Manawātū for a several years now. This year, the

theme we are working on as individuals reflects any combination of ideas such as the seasons of land and

Continued on next page

JustOnePlease

Super kia ora. The Justoneplease item for the Safe House for September 2026 is a *Can of Food* 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

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.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

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

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

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

Ashhurst Memorial R.S.A. Inc

74 Cambridge Avenue, Ashhurst.

Phone: 326 8296

Monday 3.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Tuesday 3.00 pm - 6.00 pm/when

Bingo is on 3.00 pm - 9.00 pm

Wednesday 3.00 pm - 6.00 pm/when

darts are on 3.00 pm - 10.00 pm

Thursday 3.00 pm-6.00 pm/when food

carts 3.00 pm - 7.00 pm

Friday 3.00 pm-9.00 pm/when darts are

on 3.00 pm - 11.00 pm

Saturday 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Sunday 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Hours are subject to change due to
demand.

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

Ashhurst Devonport Worship and
Community Centre

10.30 am 1st Sunday each month

Pohangina Community Church

10.30 am 3rd Sunday

Contacts: John Brock 329 4834

Ashhurst Bowling Club

67 Stanford Street.

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

From the Ridge to the River Exhibition

river, family connection or quiet
moments on the range or near the
river. Together we'll tell our story of
this valley and ourselves through our
art. Think Ridge to River and think of
us.

We have an impressive line-up of
artists producing a wide variety of
work from the very tactile weaving,



pottery or stitched work through to
paintings, photography and mixed
media wall art.

The Art Trail Manawatū 26 runs across
the weekend of 17th and 18th of
October, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

If for some reason you can't come to
County Fayre that weekend, there is

an opportunity to view
our work on Sunday
afternoon 1.00 pm - 4.00
pm on the 11th or at
Drinks and Nibbles on
Friday evening the 16th
October, 5.30 pm to 7.30
pm.

That's four dates only,
get them in your
calendar! We'd love to
see you!

Community Comment

The unusual sequence of cold frosty
mornings have hopefully departed.
Trees and bulbs which began to bloom
got a shock and went into hibernation
again. Spring has emerged again with
cherry blossom and daffodils flowering
to brighten our days.

A bouquet to Palmerston North City
Council staff who have planted the
multitude of daffodils around the trees
in the Village Green. These bulbs,
along with those at the Domain will
continue to multiply and lift our spirits
on an annual basis. They join those

planted by Ashhurst Action Group on
the mound near Napier Road over 20
years ago.

The long-suffering residents in
Wyndham Street will be pleased to see
their street upgrade is almost
complete. The closure of the Gorge
diverted heavy freight traffic down this
street, created pot holes and damaged
the road structure. A residents'
petition to Palmerston North City
Council demanded a fix, along with
footpaths, kerb and channels up to

Continued on next page

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Community Comment

normal residential standards.

This project was costed at \$1.9 million, but soon ran into problems. The Higgins contractor discovered that underground services for Three Waters, power, gas and fibre were not situated in their mapped locations. Dealing with stormwater and future flood events in this area added further complications. The City Council recently approved an extra \$300,000 to finish the job. This money was diverted from an underspent budget for roading on the western end of Pioneer Highway.

The final stretches of footpath and driveways are being laid and landscaping of the street's verges are underway. Street lights are in place and underground power connections are being completed. A final layer of seal should then complete the job for a street which Ashhurst can be proud of.

The detours in place to accommodate these road works have created problems elsewhere. Worcester Street was not constructed with these loads in mind and its road edge is crumbling away with soft patches and pot holes forming. I expect these will be repaired once traffic flow returns to normal. Perhaps the soft patches on the eastern side of Wyndham Street will also be repaired at the same time.

Harvey Jones



Photo: Final touches on Wyndham St upgrade

Ashhurst Drama Group presents

THE OLD PEOPLE ARE REVOLTING

By Devon Williamson

Residents of Sunshine Retirement Village have had enough!

A comedy directed by Wendy Beauchamp

The Play Bureau

Performances 7.30pm 2026

Fri 11 Sep & Sat 12 Sep
Fri 18 Sep & Sat 19 Sep
Fri 2 Oct & Sat 3 Oct

@Ashhurst School Hall
88 Cambridge Ave

Tickets \$25 (incl supper)
at eventbrite.co.nz
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info@pncitysupport.com
www.pncitysupport.com

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B4 School Check

The B4 School Check is the final Well Child check.

Free for all four year old children. It includes a distance vision screening test, audiometry hearing test, height, weight, dental health and child development.

Contact 0800 692 445

Strength and Balance Ashhurst

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

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

Cost: \$10 per class.

Enquiries: Maria—phone 329 4166

Ashhurst Budgeting Service

Thursday 9.30am-1.00pm.

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

For Appointments contact: Manawatū 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

The Journey

Kristie's passion for hairdressing started at just 16 through her school's Gateway work experience program. Recognizing her natural talent and drive, the salon offered her an after school job, which quickly turned into a full apprenticeship.

Life changes, and with that, Kristie's number one focus was now her young family, although her love of animals also meant a small menagerie was built. She stepped away briefly from hairdressing to complete a year of Vet Nurse training. However, the pull of the salon and more importantly the strong connections with her clients, brought her back to her true passion—hairdressing.

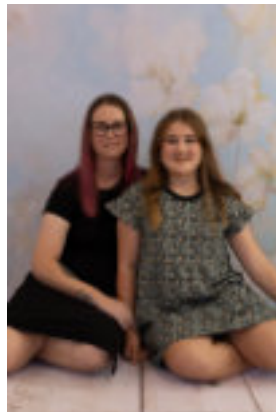
In 2019, the opportunity arose to buy Hair Flair. Further life skills and business skills were added to Kristie's busy life, and the flexibility of being an owner operator gave her the

freedom to "work smarter, not harder" whilst still being first and foremost, a Mum. For all those school events, sport practises, important functions Kristie has been able to be there. Since then, Kristie has relocated the business to her parents' local property, a move made possible by the unwavering support of her mum and dad, for whom she is deeply grateful.

Outside of work life and family life, Kristie has teamed up with friends who enjoy running. After completing

several 10kms runs, the half marathon scene is now in her sights. She loves this time to mentally relax, regroup, and keep herself healthy.

Running her own business gives Kristie the ultimate flexibility to put family first, balancing a thriving salon with life as a mum, runner, and animal lover. Life is good.



The Upcoming Pohangina Downhill Walk

This year marks 25 Years of the annual Pohangina Downhill Walk, so save the date—Saturday, 14th November, 2026.

This is an enjoyable family friendly event that takes in the vast views of the Ruahine Ranges from the top of Range Road and leads you on an easy walk down the Branch Road Walkway

and at the conclusion, lunch at County Fayre. Prices remain the same as the past three years:

Adults \$30,

Adults x 4 \$100,

Children \$15 (5 to 15yr),

Family \$100 (2 Adults and 4 Children), under 5's free.

Consultation on Homekill and Recreational Catch

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is seeking feedback on the 28-day rule and the consumption of homekill and recreational catch.

The 28-day rule for homekill: should we retain, reduce, or remove the requirement for animal owners to have cared for an animal for 28 days before slaughter by a listed service provider?

Consumption rules: should we retain existing rules on who may consume homekill and recreational catch or remove restrictions, enabling broader

access?

Labelling: should we require listed service providers to label homekill and recreational catch products to provide more information to consumers?

Discussion document is here—
<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/options-for-homekill-and-recreational-catch>.

Submissions are open until 5th October 2026.



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Sunday: 8.00am—8.00pm

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Saturday 9.00am - 12 noon

141 Cambridge Avenue

Ethiopian Update

On 22nd May, Penny and I left for a month overseas, primarily to spend time with our older daughter, Rachel, who lives in Dorset, England, but also, while on the way, to spend four days with our Ethiopian 'family'. For Penny, this was her first time to visit the developing world, so quite an experience for her. I was last there in 2017, so a big gap for me. Because of the ongoing civil war we stayed in Addis but were able to see the various people we have been partnering with for all these years now.

It was a brilliant visit. We stayed in a



Photo: Meal prepared at Fitum and Lalem's

good hotel that served western food so not too much of a culture shock for our tummies.

First, we visited Solomen and his lovely kids in their apartment, taking with us beautiful quilts made for them by Nicola from our church.

The kids are doing well at school now, and are fit and healthy, such a contrast to the way they were living 18 months ago.

We spent the rest of the day with Fitsum and Lalem, the two brothers we have supported for a number of years now. Solomen is their half-brother.

They, helped by their wonderful maid, Asnaku, had prepared a substantial traditional Ethiopian meal for us. It was a real treat to spend time with them, because unlike Amlaku and Bezawit, who I have met over the years, we had never actually met these guys, apart from on WhatsApp, before. They made us so welcome.

The following day we spent with Amlaku and Bezawit and their two little girls, Penny and Amen. They too made us so welcome, with their main room covered with rushes on the floor with rose petals everywhere. Beautiful traditional food, plus a huge cake with fireworks-type candles. More quilts for the girls too.

Penny meeting little Penny! Such a

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.

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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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| | | ✓ RTU 45 Min Concrete Bags 20kg |

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greg@manawatucontracting.com

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Monday 10.30 am-2.30pm

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

Meditation Class

Overcoming Stress and Anxiety.

Every Thursday from 10.00 am - 11.00 am.

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

Craft on Cambridge

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

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

Contact: Marianne Crawford 027 627 2054

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Ethiopian Update

joy to be with them.

The four days passed very quickly, before it was time for us to board the plane for Gatwick, and t h r e e w o n d e r f u l weeks with Rachel and her husband

Jules.

For anyone who would like to see more pictures of our time in Addis, along with a brief look at our time in England—some stately homes, wonderful gardens, and lots of big animals of the wild variety—we are planning a presentation for 10.00 am Saturday, 26th September, at the Chapman Hall on Cambridge Avenue. Please contact me on 029 777 2368. for details.

Thanks,

Ric Foxley



Photo: Penny with her namesake Penny

Book Review: *The Five-Star Weekend*

The Five-Star Weekend by Elin Hilderbrand

The ideal “summer beach read”, but mid-winter you can imagine you are baking in the hot sun on your deck chair!

Prolific author Hilderbrand has written a witty little story of Hollis who is a “media influencer” with a strong following. She is a popular blogger and shares her great recipe and home design ideas. She also has a cooking show on TV with a huge following.

But Hollis’ life is suddenly changed when her husband Matthew dies suddenly in a road accident near home. She is struggling to cope and is estranged from her daughter Caroline, who believes her mother has always put her career ahead of her family.

Hollis hears of the idea of a “Five Star Weekend” and sets about inviting friends from different eras of her life to

share a weekend in her beautiful beach house in Nantucket. She chooses one friend from five different phases of her life—teenage, twenties, thirties and mid-life. The fifth chosen guest is an enigma, but one of her favourite follows—Gigi.

She has never met Gigi and knows nothing about her, but is keen to have her join the others for the weekend. There is something about Gigi that resonates with her and she is keen to get to know her.

Everything is planned to perfection (as always). But, of course, nothing goes to plan as the weekend and special events run its course. Secrets are revealed, friendships tested to the limit, and who the hell is Gigi?

Easy to read, very amusing at times and ideal if you just need a light-hearted escape to a summer retreat.

Robyn Dare

Hiwinui School

It has been an action-packed term here at Hiwinui School, with our students actively engaged in a wonderful variety of cultural, sporting, academic, and community experiences. Our students represented us with great pride at Kainui Manaaki, taking the stage to showcase their weekly Kapa Haka

learning.

On the sporting front, students demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship across multiple codes, including Kainui Football, the Kayla Whitelock Hockey Tournament for Years 5 and 6, and Kainui Netball - where Hiwinui proudly served as host

Continued on next page



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Hiwinui School

at Vautier Park and our Year 7/8 team placed 1st overall in their pool! A group of senior students also took part in Kind Hearts Day, spreading positivity and giving back to the wider community.

Our Year 7 and 8 students have had an exceptional term filled with unique opportunities that highlight everything Hiwinui offers for senior primary learners. Room 6 recently enjoyed an epic day out on the slopes for their biannual Mountain Trip, building resilience, teamwork, and outdoor leadership skills in a breathtaking setting. Our two senior teams also demonstrated their mathematical knowledge at the local Mathex competition. We were also pleased to host an Intermediate Night, giving prospective families a firsthand look at our dedicated Year 7/8 pathway - highlighting our hands-on technology programmes, community service initiatives like the Hiwinui Ridge Award,

leadership roles, and supportive environment designed to transition students seamlessly into high school.

We have some fantastic whole-school events on the horizon that our students are hard at work preparing for:

- The Kids Sing: Our school choir is polishing their repertoire and getting ready to perform on stage alongside other regional schools.
- School Production - "To The Top": Thursday, 10th September at the Regent Theatre! Our staff and students are putting tremendous effort into rehearsals, and we cannot wait to share this showcase of music, drama, and dance with our community.

Thank you to our dedicated staff, parents, and wider community for your ongoing support in creating these rich experiences for our students.

Ngā mihi,

Anna Hagan—Principal

Ashhurst School

The New Zealand U11 NFL Flag team recently returned from Australia. The itinerary was packed from the moment the team arrived in Australia: honing mechanics at a Raiders NFL Flag Clinic, fitting in a quick trip to Movie World, and running a warm-up match against a top local school.

Every moment built toward the main event—a showdown with Australia. Coached by Whaea Ash and Pā Lance,

the squad went through final walk-throughs before heading to Cbus Super Stadium, on Saturday. As the venue filled for the Warriors vs. Titans clash, a strong contingency of supporters packed the stands early to cheer on Team New Zealand.

The team came out firing, and after several determined defensive sets, Australia eventually found a way to

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 Sava

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 School

level the scores. New Zealand responded with a huge bomb pass into the end zone before Australia answered back once again. With victory in sight, Australia completed a long pass into the end zone on the final play of the game to tie the match. It was an exciting contest from start to finish, with both teams showing outstanding skill, teamwork and sportsmanship.

School Production

Tickets will be available soon via The Regent on Broadway and Ticketek.

Book Battle

A massive congratulations to our incredible reading warriors who represented our school at the recent Book Battle! Facing off against tough competition, our teams brought their A-game, deep literary knowledge, and unmatched team spirit to the event.

Our Year 7 and 8 team delivered an outstanding performance to claim a fantastic fourth place finish, narrowly missing the podium in a high-stakes, fast-paced competition. Not to be outdone, our Year 5 and 6 teams showed incredible poise and teamwork to secure brilliant eighth and ninth place spots—a remarkable achievement in a massive cohort of 30 competing teams!

Ashhurst Library

Hi everyone, as we are heading into Spring you are all most welcome to 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.

September/October 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 away for most of the holidays so a big thank you to Beth who will oversee most of the programme.

Ooshies

Behind these impressive results was weeks of relentless preparation. Our students poured hours into memorizing intricate plot details, dissecting character arcs, and quizzing each other on a massive stack of books. That hard work and dedication paid off on the big day. Beyond the final scores, it was a fantastic, fun-filled event where our readers celebrated their shared love of books, supported one another, and made our school immensely proud

DanceNZMade

Each year, Ashhurst School sends a couple of groups to DanceNZMade to participate in dance workshops and to also perform their items that they spend more than half of the year practising and polishing.

We are lucky to have a talented dancer on staff, Miss Grace, who has imparted so much of her knowledge and skill to develop high paced, energetic dance moves to slow and purposeful actions. Well done to the Year 5/6 team who won a fourth place. Congratulations to Mercedes who won a Golden Ticket that is her invitation to She Shines On, and the chance to win \$1000!

Well done to everyone who completed their sets with our ooshie swap basket and a big acknowledgement to all the parents and grandparents who came in with their lists and strict orders from the kids

After-School Chess Club

We have had a wonderful year with the chess club, the last session for 2026 is Wednesday 23rd September. Thank you to all the kids who have taken part, it has been a real highlight of the year for us.

Ashhurst Elevenses

Every Friday at 11.00 am during

Continued on page 12

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Kia ora Ashhurst!

There is plenty happening around the village, with improvements under way at Ashhurst Domain and some exciting plans taking shape. Horse riders may have already spotted the new step through horse stiles at the Domain entrance near Cambridge Avenue. We have also installed a wider pedestrian gateway that is easier to use while mounted. The new layout provides more room for larger ponies and should make access safer and easier for younger riders.

Over the coming weeks we're going to form a shared pathway along The Terrace, from Mulgrave Street to Wyndham Street. This will create an easy access route that walkers, horse riders and visitors can enjoy. We will begin with widening some of the narrower fenced sections and moving fences back, and we'll contact neighbouring property owners before work begins.

There is also progress on plans for natural burials at Ashhurst Domain. Testing found that the preferred site on the lower terrace was unsuitable because of the soil conditions. Manawatū Natural Burial and Rangitāne o Manawatū are now working together on a community proposal for an area on the upper terrace, on land that is currently grazed. The proposal will go to the Community Resilience and Sustainability Committee in September.

Another date to mark is 19 September, when the Te Āpiti Traverse will bring runners and walkers across the ranges between the Manawatū and Tararua districts. It is a fantastic opportunity for people to experience the views, challenge themselves and discover more of our region. We look forward to welcoming participants and showing visitors what makes Ashhurst and the surrounding area so special.

Thank you as well to everyone supporting the soft plastics recycling trial. Since it began in July, the response has been outstanding. In the first four weeks, you helped fill 217 large bags of soft plastics, weighing 1,200 kilograms. That is a brilliant effort and shows what we can achieve when our community gets involved.

At our Council meeting on 5 August, we also made an important decision about the future of local government in the region. We decided not to submit a formal proposal to the Government. Instead, Palmerston North City Council and Horowhenua District Council wrote jointly to the Minister for Local Government. We support the direction of reform and want to help shape it, but decisions of this scale need more time, clearer information and strong community involvement.

We will continue working with neighbouring councils, iwi and our communities to explore the best options. We have also made it clear that Palmerston North does not support one new council covering the entire Horizons region. Our city has stronger connections with communities in the Manawatū River catchment, particularly if councils are expected to take on regional council responsibilities. We will share more information once the Minister responds.

If you have questions about any projects or Council decisions, please contact us by phone, online or at our Customer Service Centre. You can also sign up for our monthly Palmy Matters email newsletter through our website for updates on projects, consultations, events and decisions.

Ngā mihi nui

**Mayor
Grant Smith JP**



ASHHURST COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Open days

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

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

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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.

1 September	week 2	glass/rubbish
8 September	week 1	recycle/rubbish
15 September	week 2	glass/rubbish
22 September	week 1	recycle/rubbish
29 September	week 2	glass/rubbish

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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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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 Sunday, 20th September 2026.

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

Ashhurst Library

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 2nd September 10.30am

Wednesday 16th September 10.30am -

we are thrilled to have a visit from School Community Officer Nate

Worthington for this session. Constable Nate will talk about his gadgets, bring some dress-ups for the kids and bring colouring -in and stickers. As an added treat, the kids will be able to jump in his police car and have a siren burst.

Justice of the Peace

Wednesday 12.00 midday - 1.00 pm

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

Ross Meads—Ashhurst Librarian

Ashhurst Rainfall

45mm of rain fell in July 2026, which is less than half the monthly long-term average of 98mm.

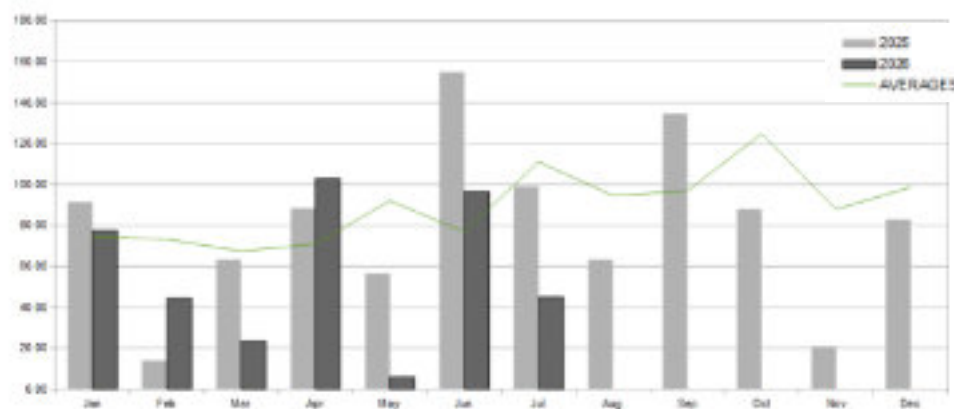
Rain was recorded on 14 days, with the highest one-day rainfall of 13mm on the 8th of July. This is below the long-term average rainfall days for July of 18 days.

The total rainfall for the period from 1st January to 31st July is 396mm, which is below the long-term average for this period of 541mm. The total

number of rainfall days for the period is 88, which is about the long-term average of 90 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, despite having the average number of rain days. In summary, we've had a very dry winter.

Phil Pirie



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