

# What's Happening . . .

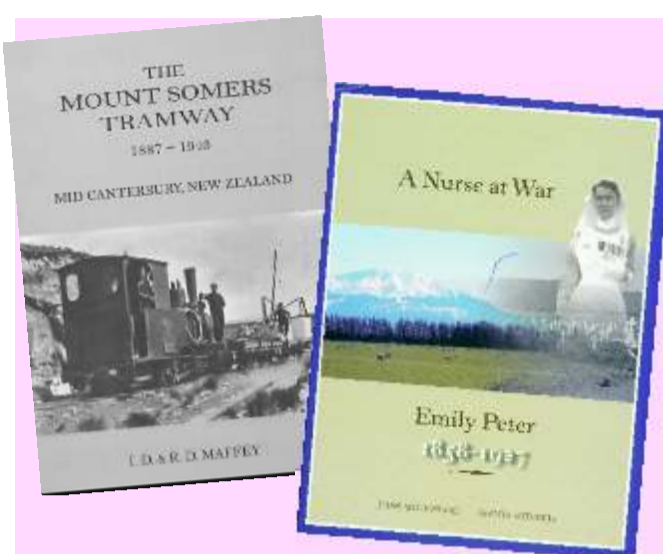
## At the Museum . . .

Two books have recently been added to the range of Mid Canterbury history books the Ashburton Museum has for sale.

The first is *The Mount Somers Tramway 1887-1943*, a much-expanded version of a book published in the 1970s. The original book sold out very quickly, and because of continuing demand Richard Maffey, son of Dale Maffey, the author of the original book, decided to carry out more research and republish his father's book, but with considerably more information and many new photographs.

Like the original book, this publication is selling fast. It would make an ideal gift for anyone with an interest in railways or a connection with the Mount Somers area.

Also out in time for Christmas is another book with a foothills connection, *A Nurse At War*, the story of Emily Peter, a woman from



Anama who trained as a nurse in London, served in South Africa during the Boer War and in Egypt and Serbia during World War One, before retiring back to Mid Canterbury.

Authors Joan Woodward and Glenys Mitchell have researched extensively, especially in Emily Peter's diaries and letters held at the Ashburton Museum, to create a very readable and well illustrated biography of an amazing woman.

Some of her diaries and other material are currently on display at the museum.

These two books join a large number of other Ashburton District publications the museum has for sale.

Coming up later in the year, probably late in October, will be the official opening of our new timeline display that shows how items used in everyday households, particularly timepieces, means of communication and entertainment items, have changed over the

150 years since the first Europeans came to live in what was to become the town of Ashburton.

This display is virtually complete, although the finishing touches will be left for the opening. It marks not only the 150th anniversary of settlement in the town of Ashburton but also the 50th anniversary of the Ashburton Museum and Historical Society, which operates the Ashburton Museum.

## At the Art Gallery . . .

Niki Hastings McFall — Polysynthesis — August 23-September 28, 2008

Opening and Artist's Talk Saturday, August 23 1.30pm

"I am a Pakeha-Samoan or Afakasai (Samoan transliteration of 'half-caste'). I was born here in Aotearoa and raised by my mother's

any Western notion of furniture. Another interesting thing that caught my eye was the 'mile-a-minute' creeper that wound and twisted its way through the forest, smothering, covering and colonising the trees." Niki Hastings-McFall (with thanks to Milford Galleries).



Niki Hastings McFall —

parents (the pakeha or palagi side) who were to all intents my mum and dad. I didn't meet my Samoan family until I was over 30.

"Through my work I investigate the similarities and differences between the two cultures that constitute my make-up. On my last trip to Samoa whilst travelling through Upolu and especially Savai'i I frequently noted fales (homes without walls) that were clear of furnishings, save for maybe a wooden pillow or (in one case) a TV on a beer crate, the fales were clear of clutter or

paintings Townwatch — a contemporary look at the Ashburton township over the past two years. From her East Street studio Digby has surveyed the rooftops. Some of the works focus on careful observation while others appear vibrant, loose and fragmented into jagged glimpses of her urban landscape. Digby's work documents and evaluates the social and physical structure of Ashburton's township from both a historical and contemporary perspective.

Digby's work is both challenging and experimental as she casts her eye over the township and delivers a series of works that move between figurative and abstract depictions. One senses a tension here between the historical and the contemporary

Margaret Digby — Town Watch — August 23-September 28, 2008

Opening and Artist's Talk Saturday, August 23, 1.30pm

Margaret Digby has completed the series of



Margaret Digby

both physically and conceptually. Works featuring the Ashburton Railway Station and the Somerset accentuate this concern.

MUKA Youth Print Exhibition — Young People Buy Art: No Adults Allowed — Wednesday, September 17, 2008 12 noon-6pm

A display of original contemporary art exclusively for young people aged 5-18. This event gives young people the opportunity to purchase original lithographs for a fraction of the normal price. It is the intention of the artists that the works will become the exclusive property of the purchaser.

A number of well-known artists from all over the world have been invited to produce small original lithographs. The works reflect the normal concerns of the artists; there is no patronising or "talking down" to children. Visitors to the show can buy a maximum of three lithographs for themselves, not for adults. All works are sold at a uniform low price to enable accessibility to their intended audience — children.

## Library Week August 18-24

Library Week has been running for more than 35 years. The week-long celebration of libraries and librarianship takes place in public, school, tertiary and special libraries all over New Zealand.

This year's theme — What's Your Story? Nou te kero — aims to highlight the individual reasons why people use libraries, be it to hire a DVD, research their family tree or use the library's internet services.

The Ashburton Public Library will be holding a number of Library Week events in keeping with the What's Your Story? theme.

Morning tea with Howard: On Tuesday, August 19, at 10.15am enjoy coffee and cake while listening to local author Howard Andrew share some of his stories. At the completion of this session everyone is welcome to join a tour of the library.

New Zealand's Biggest Storytime: Here at Ashburton Public Library we will join with libraries across New Zealand for NZ's Biggest Storytime on Wednesday, August 20, at 10.30am. Gareth, from Ashburton's Classic Hits, will be reading Diana Neild's wonderful book Piggity-Wiggity Jiggity Jig (Scholastic).

Discovering your family's story: On Thursday, August 21, at 10.30am we will be running a session on Local and Family History resources when people can discover the treasures available in the local history and newspaper archives collections.


Members of the Ashburton Family History Group will also be available to share their specialist knowledge and provide assistance with the Ancestry Library Edition database available through the library's on-line catalogue.

In addition to this, anyone interested in learning how to use the library catalogue and online resources can arrange a time for one-on-one assistance.

And of course, we'll also be running all our usual services. There has never been a better time to visit the library, with the dropping of new book charges and lots of new books to choose from.

For more information call in at the Ashburton Public Library on the corner of West and Havelock Streets, phone 308-7192 or visit the library's website at [www.adc.govt.nz/libweb](http://www.adc.govt.nz/libweb).

The library is open Monday to Friday 10am to 8pm, Saturday 10am to 1pm, and Sunday 1pm to 4pm.

 **Ashburton Public Library**

**Cnr Havelock and West Streets, Ashburton**

**Phone: 308 7192**

**Email:**  
[library@adc.govt.nz](mailto:library@adc.govt.nz)

**Website:**  
[www.adc.govt.nz/libweb](http://www.adc.govt.nz/libweb)

**Hours**  
**Monday – Friday**  
**10:00 am – 8:00 pm**

**Saturday**  
**10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

**Sunday**  
**1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

Clip me out and keep me!

