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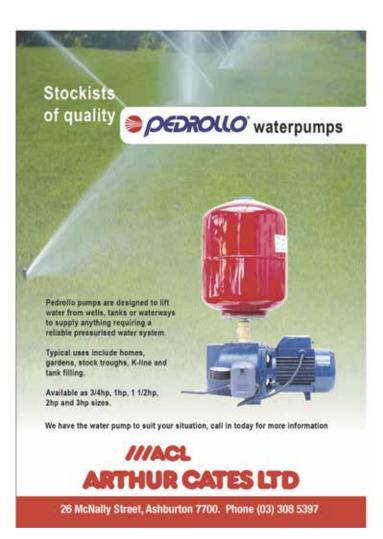




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ANAMA RURAL WOMEN

For our November meeting we meet at the Ashburton Race Course to listen and see how Kia for Kids works . We were blown away how a few volunteers and some paid staff manage to prepare over 800 meals five days a week. Obviously dedicated staff . The meals are delivered to Hampstead , Netherby and Chertsey schools and some go to other schools were the need is. They also cater for special diets. The meals we saw being prepared looked appetising and healthy.

Charlene the operations manager wants to "help nourish young minds and empower learning". If anyone wants to donate to support Kia for Kids she can be contacted at email. kitchen@kiaforkids.org.nz. They are grateful for support from the community along with government funding. Three days a week they collect unsold bread rolls from supermarkets and add spaghetti and cheese which are then given out at College to those who are hungry.

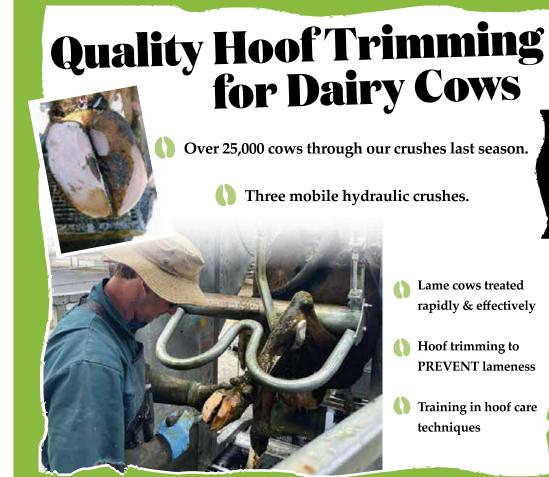
A most interesting visit.

If anyone wants to join us contact Kay 027 3339 513 or

Betty 027 6222 031

Meetings third Wednesday of the month 10am.





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Mayfield and Districts Lions Report

Club Highlights - November

The Mayfield and Districts Lions Club has had an action-packed November, filled with events that showcased the best of our community spirit. From fundraising to environmental initiatives and inspiring stories, the month has been a fantastic success for everyone involved.

30 Years of Community Legacy: The Charity Golf Match

A major highlight this month was the annual Mayfield Lions Charity Golf Match, held on November 7th at the Mayfield Golf Course. This event, which began 30 years ago, continues to thrive as a proud legacy of community support and generosity.

On a scorching hot day, 72 golfers from around the district arrived ready for a day of fun, friendly competition, and a great cause. The event featured raffles, an auction, and the ever-popular "Top Hole" challenge, where players could wager on their shot predictions.



Thanks to the incredible generosity of participants, spectators, and local sponsors, a record-breaking \$40,000 was raised, all of which will go to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter.

As always, a special shoutout goes to the ladies in the kitchen, whose efforts kept everyone fueled and happy – earning them MVP status for the day (and maybe even a better score than some of the golfers!).

Afternoon Tea with Friends and an Inspiring Guest Speaker



The "Friends of Mayfield" social group gathered at the Mayfield Golf Clubrooms this month for a delightful afternoon tea. The event was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends, enjoy a delicious spread, and hear from a truly inspiring guest speaker.

This month's speaker was Andy Bryant, who shared his remarkable story of donating a kidney to his university mate, Nathan, who was in urgent need of a transplant. Andy's selfless act of friendship gave Nathan a new lease on life and highlighted the incredible impact one person can have on another. His story, filled with courage and kindness, left everyone moved and reminded us of the importance of compassion and community.

Planting for the Future: Native Wetland at Surrey Hills

Earlier in November, Lions members joined forces to plant a native wetland block on Surrey Hills, an area that will eventually be managed by the QEII Trust. This was a collaborative effort with support from ECAN and other local sponsors who generously provided the plants. The project is a wonderful step towards preserving our local environment for future generations.

Firewood Sales to Support the Community

As always, Lions members have been hard at work chopping firewood, with proceeds going to support those in need within our local community. For anyone wishing to purchase firewood, please note there is now a new contact number: 027 232 6851. Please use this number instead of Ron Cross's. As one of the directors of the Mayfield Lions Club, I am proud to share these highlights and celebrate the amazing efforts of our members and supporters. Whether it's through fundraising, sharing stories, or lending a helping hand, November has truly shown what makes our district so special.

Here's to another month of making a difference together!







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The Old Post Office Library



We have come the full circle for the year and now it is the last newsletter for 2024.

The library is still as strong as ever and full of new books waiting to transport you to a different world for a short time. So if you are having a holiday at home this Christmas and New Year, remember you can travel wherever you like through the pages of books and not spend any money at all.

I have read some fabulous books this year, here are some favourites:

'Maurice and Maralyn' bySophie Elmhirst

'Life of Dai' by Dai Henwood

'The Coast Road' by Alan Murrin

'The Shepherd' by Frederick Forsyth

'Tell Me Everything' by Elizabeth Strout

'The Liar' by Mary Chamberlain

'Open Throat' by Henry Hoke

'Shy Creatures' by Clare Chambers

'The Silence In Between 'by Josie Ferguson

'The Women' by Kristan Hannah

'The Optician of Lampedusa' by Emma Jane Kirby

'Fire' by John Boyne

All these books are in our Library.

Maybe because 'Fire' was the latest book I've read, it is the one book I keep thinking about. It is so very cleverly written, only 160 pages but what a punch it has! Described as 'a chilling, uncomfortable but utterly compelling psychological journey to the epicentre of the human condition.....nature v nurture?????

I am going to read it all over again, just to fully appreciate how all the ends tie in, and try to understand how Boyne so cleverly gets across to the reader how really horrible the story is. It becomes a slow dawning as to what is actually

Mt Somers Community Christmas Morning Tea

Thursday 12 December 10.30 at 62 Ashburton Gorge Road everyone welcome.

Please bring a small gift and a small plate to share.

Contact Ro Findlay 021 295 3640

happening in the book and I just could NOT put it down.

His next book, the final in this Elements series, it called 'Air', due out next year and continues the story of one of 'Fire's' characters. I can't wait.

The other books in the series are 'Water', 'Earth' and then 'Fire'. They are all linked in a remote way so can be read in any order. We have other books by this author too, usually shelved in the section by the couch.

Other new books added recently:

'I Was Anastasia' by Ariel Lawson ('The Frozen River'). A reimagining of the tragic story of the Romanov family and of the woman who has maintained she is the sole remaining member and survived the murder. Based on fact.

'This Other Eden' by Paul Harding

Set in 1912 on a small island off the coast of Maine where the residents were forcibly removed from their homes.

'The Long Water' by Stef Penney

Set in Nordland, a valley in the Norwegian Arctic Circle where Daniel, a popular teenager in this remote valley, had gone missing. This author also wrote 'The Tenderness of Wolves' which was enjoyed by many.

'The Prime of Miss Brodie' by Muriel Spark.

An oldie but a goodie! A short book about a female teacher with rather unorthodox teaching methods, comes into conflict with the school authorities.

'The Benefit of Hindsight' by Susan Hill.

Another one that's been around for a while and now reprinted. A short book by a master of crime and ghost tales. Susan Hill.

And two other books that could appeal to readers, although not brand new additions. I imagine they will be both out of print by now.

'Consider the Lilies' by lain Crichton Smith. A Scottish classic. It is set in the time of the Highland Clearances between 1790 and 1850 mostly in Sutherland, where land was taken from the crofters and they were evicted to the western coasts of Scotland . They were told to become fishermen although they had no knowledge of such. This is an old woman's story of how this troublesome time affected her. If you have Scottish ancestry, or even if you haven't, a very worthwhile read.

'Spring Sonata' by Bernice Rubens.

A highly entertaining author of very quirky books. We have a couple of her books already in the library, they are hard to find now as Ms Rubens died a few years ago. I have her autobiography if anyone is interested.

Steady As You Go (SAYGO)

You could save yourself from a fall by attending **SAYGO** classes. *SAYGO improves:*

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- Falls are the most common cause of injury in older people
- One third of people over 65 fall each year
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- Falls are not a natural part of ageing and are almost always associated with weakened leg muscles and poor balance

So come and join us for an hour. Classes every Wednesday, Staveley Hall 1.30pm. For enquiries, phone Annette Syme 3030 803 Saygo will finish on the 11th December and start again on the 5th February.

Celebrate Christmas

With the Mid Canterbury Choir and guests Friday 13th December at 12 noon and 5pm Baring Square Church, Ashburton

Entry \$5

Plus a Christmas treat gift of non-perishable food for the Salvation Army foodbank.

Musical Director: Kathy McKimmie
Accompanist: Deborah Sloper
Guest: Maddie Webb
(Mt Hutt College Scholarship winner)
Samuel Dyer (Ashburton Christian School)
(Alan Bower (Cello)

Join us to get into the spirit of Christmas.

Some of the Christmas Carols will be familiar.

(Away in a Manger, O Holy Night, Silent Night,
The First Noel) – you will even get the chance to
sing along with Joy to the World!

Carol Gunn MCC Manager 027 287 2468

This book centres around 'Buster', a gifted child violinist, with his greedy family already disagreeing about his future...... and he is not even born yet!! A fun read.

Thank you to all who have used the library this year and helped keep it relevant and as always, a huge thank you to our library volunteers. You are doing a real community service in helping keep all our brains in working order. Mr Google tells me that autopsies in people over 89 who have been avid readers experience on average, 30% less memory loss. So if you need an excuse to be reading whenever and whatever you like, that is a fairly compelling one.

A happy festive season to everyone, and keep reading!!! AC.







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MID CANTERBURY COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SERVICE REACHES A MILESTONE!

Since starting in July, 2021 the amazing volunteer drivers of the Mid Canterbury Connector community transport service have done over 660 trips, averaging around 30,000 km a year, taking people who don't drive/no longer drive into Ashburton Township from around the District for hospital, medical/dental and government appointments, to see family and friends, shopping, and to take part in community activities.



The Connector is operated by the Mid Canterbury Community Vehicle Trust. The Trust recently partnered with the Rakaia Community Association to take Rakaia and Methven locals into Ashburton utilizing the new Rakaia community vehicle.

Mid Canterbury Community Vehicle Trust Chair, Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan commented "Our initial research told us that other agencies Like St John were active in taking people into Christchurch for hospital appointments. As our



District has no public transport service, a key need identified was people being able to access services in our main town. It was also important that people, particularly our older folk, can be part of the community and not be isolated. The service has become a lifeline for many of our customers, who enjoy the trip out and the contact with our volunteer drivers as much as their destination! We're thrilled to have done over 660 trips over the last three years and look forward to the service growing as more people know about it".

The service closes for the year on Friday 20th December and resumes on Monday 6 January, 2025.

To find out more and make a booking please call 03 928 8164.

Queries - please contact Lesley Symington, Safer Mid Canterbury, lesley.symington@safer.org.nz phone 027 586 6556



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Mount Somers Springburn School Board has identified a number of spaces available in Years 1-8 as being available for out of zone student enrolments for the 2025 school year. We invite you to contact our school office on (03) 303 9892 for an enrolment pack or to express your interest and arrange a tour of the school.

Applications for out of zone enrolments are open now and will close on 18th December 2024. Should the number of applications be greater than the number of spaces, acceptance will be by way of ballot following the Ministry of Education guidelines which are available on their website.

Tui

A couple of weeks ago I spotted this gorgeous bird feeding in a large Chilean fire bush in my garden. He hung around all day singing and feeding. Edith Smith from Forest and Bird reported sightings from people in Ashburton so hopefully this is another one and means all the local pest and predator work locally is paying off with native birdlife making its presence felt. Well done to all those volunteers.

Pam Annand











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2-3 hares eat the equivalant of 1 stock unit and reproduce up to 10 young each year. Night shooting is the most effective method of control.

Hospice Mid Canterbury

A Reflection on the Year

As 2024 draws to a close, we reflect on another busy year at Hospice Mid Canterbury (HMC). As always, the most rewarding aspect of the Hospice year is the people we have been able to support at one of the most challenging times of their lives.

Some of the key activities and themes for the year include:

Don't leave it too long to ask for help

A particular focus for the support team this year has been to debunk the common misconception that HMC is only for very late-stage illness when in fact it can provide support for those with a life-limiting illness from the time



The Hospice team getting into the Christmas spirit (From left) Nicole, Fiona, Janis, Shannon, Janelle, Sarah.



of diagnosis. From first referral to end-of-life, HMC walks alongside the client and the caregivers, working hard to match what the person needs with the services it can offer.

Kowhai House

This year, the Board decided to rename our beautiful Havelock Street home Kōwhai House. The name was chosen because the kowhai flower is the nationally recognised symbol of Hospice. This communicates more clearly our purpose in providing a caring, welcoming environment for people facing life-limiting illness and bereavement.

Keeping it Local

A key focus for the Ashburton Hospice Shop this year is to encourage locals to keep it local. The Tancred Street shop is an easy and convenient way for locals to contribute to HMC. Goods can be dropped off or collected, or workplace bins arranged. This year estate clearances have been a useful addition to the services the shop offers, benefitting families and HMC at the same time. All money raised by the shop goes directly to HMC services.

Wishing everyone a peaceful and relaxing Christmas and all the very best for 2025.

If you or someone you care about has a life limiting illness and would like our support, contact us on 307 8387, or 027 227 8387 or email manager@hospicemc.nz.

See also our website www. hospicemc.nz and look for Hospice Mid Canterbury on our facebook and Instagram pages.



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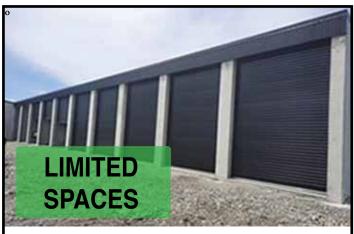
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Mount Somers Staveley Playcentre

The end of the year is just around the corner and Christmas has come early at Mount Somers Staveley Playcentre.

Our tamariki had a fun time decorating the Christmas tree for the festive season and are very excited to have a visit from Santa in a few weeks

With the days being warmer the kids are outside enjoying themselves in the sandpit and water trough. Messy play is fun play!

We're all excited for the Christmas Market that is coming up on December 1st. We will have a stall with baking and plants for sale as well as face painting. It will be a fantastic day out so make sure you come along!

We also want to say a big thank you to Mayfield Parish Church for their very kind donation. It means so much to us to have support from local groups.

If you want to join the fun at Mount Somers Staveley Playcentre, we're open Tuesday and Thursday 9am - 12pm. We do close for school holidays after Tuesday 17th Dec but will be back in 2025 for another year of play!







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Wow Christmas is on us already. Where did the year go??

It's been an amazing year for the driving programme with two road code courses completed and lots of successful license tests. At the time of writing, we have achieved 35 learners and 46 restricted / full licenses, with many more tests booked before the end of the year. Full credit goes to our amazing volunteers who put a lot of time and effort into their students. Our professional instructors Allan Baird and David Leadley are fantastic and our excellent pass rate shows that professional lessons are money well spent.

The Ashburton Learning Centre have once again delivered the road code courses with fantastic results. Our child minding volunteers have been a great help with bringing the ladies into class and dropping them home again, as well as looking after the children. We are very lucky to live in a such a generous community who give so much of their time to help our newcomers settle into life here in New Zealand.

Our sponsors have continued to fund us and we are very grateful to The Lion Foundation for supporting us in the latest funding round.

So, as we come to the end of the sixth year of the driving

programme we are thankful for what we have been able to achieve this year, and look forward to building on our successes next year.

We wish you a merry Christmas, and a happy New Year. Keep safe on the roads over the holiday period and take some time out for some rest and relaxation.

If you would like to be part of this amazing programme, as a student, driving mentor or to volunteer in other ways, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Wendy Hewitt on 027 611 3301 or wendy.hewitt@safer.org.nz

We are also on Facebook, just search for the Mid Canterbury Rural Driver Licensing Scheme.

The Mid Canterbury Rural Driver Licensing Scheme is a partnership with the Mid Canterbury Rural Support Trust and is proudly sponsored by Waka Kotahi, Advance Ashburton Community Foundation, Ashburton District Council, The Lion Foundation, COGs and Community Trust Mid & South Canterbury.

Wendy Hewitt

Rural Licensing Co-Ordinator

Safer Mid Canterbury

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MAYFIELD MT SOMERS ANGLICAN PARISH

So we have come to my last article for the Nor'wester. It has been an absolute privilege to have served in the Anglican Parish of Mayfield Mt. Somers over the last quite a few years. To walk beside those who are grieving a loved one, to officiate at weddings, and to baptize babies as well as officiate at ordinary Sunday services.

I guess the highlight of each year has been the Christmas service for the young ones. I have worked with these amazing young people for all these years. We hear so many stories about the way society has degenerated but I have certainly not seen that in the young people who have taken part in our young peoples' Christmas service. I have loved working with them. From our own experience when our children were young I have never forced practices on these young

At St. Aidan's Church, Mt. Somers CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE Sunday December 15th at 10 a.m.

Would your children like to participate in the Christmas story pageant? If so, we would love to see you at St. Aidan's on Sunday Dec 15th. We would ask that you arrive about 9.30, so that we can dress up the children ready for the 10am service.

Also at this Service

Annette & Harvey's official farewell will take place. If you would like to make a donation towards a thank you / farewell gift, please make your donation into the Parish bank account 03 1903 0031603 10

PARISH CONTACTS

December: Rev Annette Eggleston

Email: harann000@gmail.com 3024 006 January: Rev Sage Burke 027 3753 966 Email: rev.sageburke@outlook.com

Warden: Pauline Hewson 027 2412 041

Warden, Secretary / Treasurer: Marion Jacobson 027 3607 180

Email: marion.i.jacobson@gmail.com

ones. I have always felt there was enough pressure and tiredness at the end of the school year without me imposing more. So they have turned up on the day and everything has just happened.

We have met Sage Burke and he is full of enthusiasm for the job ahead of him. He has just been ordained a Deacon so until probably this time next year he will not be able to officiate at weddings. I will still hold a Bishop's licence so that I can help out where there is a need in Mid Canterbury.

I would like to thank you all for your support over the years. I wish you a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year and if you are on the road during the festive season, safe travelling.

Blessings, Annette Eggleston

ANGLICAN SERVICES

St Aidan's, Mt Somers

Dec 1 10 a.m. Holy Communion

Dec 15 10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers Children's Christmas Service Farewell for Annette & Harvey

Dec 25 10 a.m. CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST
Followed by refreshments &
Christmas Cake – All Welcome

Jan 19 10 a.m. Worship Service Feb 2 10 a.m. Holy Communion

Jan 26 4:30 pm Archdeaconry service at All Saints Methven with 3 Peaks Presbyterians. Bishop Peter: preside. Worship leader: Sage. Preacher Abi Trevathan, Convenor of Three Peaks Mission Development Unit. BYO picnic tea.

CRISTCHURCH CITY MISSION - MEAT & FOOD DONATIONS (especially meat)

Please contact Harvey & Annette Eggleston on 3024 006 if you have donations

Three Peaks Mission for Christmas special

Three Peaks Mission - Upcoming Special Services
4.30pm 24th December Combined Christmas Eve Service in Rakaia
Coffee and mince pies to follow the service
Christmas Day Services combined with the Anglican Church
at Methyen and Mt Somers.

Mount Somers Springburn School Pet Day





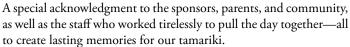






The sun was shining brightly, setting the perfect scene for the MtSS Pet Day. With a fantastic turnout from our community, attendees were spoilt for choice with an array of animals on display. From classic favorites like sheep, calves, ponies, and dogs to more creative entries such as sheep dressed as The Hoff's sidekick, ponies with fairy wings, and a miniature Highland cow channeling William Wallace, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

Adding to the excitement were dazzling farm-inspired creations, ranging from animal replicas to miniature ranches. True to MtSS tradition, the day was crowned by the ever-popular Wheat Head competition, with participants adding unique touches to give their entries human-like characteristics.













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Kia ora, Talofa, Mālō e lelei, Namaste, Ni Hao, Bula, Hola, and Namaste - greetings everyone.

The festive season is upon us, and Mayfield School is buzzing with activity! We've had a wonderful few weeks filled with events, learning, and fun, and it's hard to believe the year is coming to a close.

On the 31st of October, our Home and School group hosted a spook-tacular Halloween-themed disco at the Mayfield Hall. The hall was transformed into a magical space filled with ghouls, witches, pumpkins, skeletons, and monsters! The event was a huge success, with highlights including the entertaining Dad Dance-Off and the ever-popular limbo stick competition. A massive thank you to our incredible Home and School team for their effort and creativity in making this event so memorable for our tamariki.

It's been camping season at Mayfield! Our two senior classes recently returned from Living Springs on Banks Peninsula, where they had an amazing time. Highlights included tree climbing, the Escape Room activity, and go-cart making—plus much more! We even celebrated a couple of birthdays with cakes, adding to the excitement.

This week, the Lismore class will be heading to Timaru for their activity day, visiting Chipmunks and Caroline Bay before having a sleepover at school. I'll be joining them for this adventure and crossing my fingers that my air mattress hasn't developed a hole since its last use! Meanwhile, our two younger classes are planning a trip to Caroline Bay in the coming weeks, and we know they're in for a treat.

The Primary Enterprise Programme (PrEP) is well underway, teaching our tamariki valuable lessons in budgeting, pricing, and running a small business. Each class received a \$200 start-up grant, which they've been carefully managing to create products for our Christmas Market on Monday, 9th December. The goal is to pay back the grant and use any profits as they see fit, encouraging creativity and smart financial decisions.

I've had a sneak peek at some of the wonderful items being made, including stress balls, fridge magnets, scented candles, bath bombs, colouring books, and tie-dyed T-shirts—plus much more. Be sure to save the date and join us at school to support their hard work and entrepreneurial spirit.

Our end of year prize giving will be held in the Mayfield Community Hall on the 19th of December at 1 pm. We welcome all whanau and friends to join us in celebrating the successes and achievements of our tamariki.

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Craig Moverley to the Te Puketai Tahi class, where he will be teaching until the end of the year. Mr. Moverley brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the role, ensuring continuity and support for our tamariki during Miss McCloy's absence. We wish Miss McCloy all the best as she focuses on her recovery, and we are grateful to Mr. Moverley for stepping in to guide the class through the remainder of the term.

As we approach the end of the year, I also prepare to say goodbye. After an incredible journey here at Mayfield School, I will be moving on to take up the position of Principal at Temuka Primary School. My time at Mayfield has been immensely fulfilling, and I feel privileged to have worked alongside our amazing staff, students, and the community.

Together, we have achieved so much, and the relationships we've built will always hold a special place in my heart. I am deeply grateful for the opportunities and experiences I've had here, and I'll carry these memories with me as I move forward. Thank you all for your support, kindness, and trust during my time as Tumuaki.

Mere Kirihimete me te tau hou - Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year.

Aroha StewartTumuaki | Mayfield School

New Enrolments

Here at Mayfield School we welcome all visitors and anyone wishing to enrol their children. We also welcome children of any age to be pre-enrolled. If you would like your child to attend our wonderful school please pop in to see me or email me at principal@mayfieldschool.nz or phone 03 3036214

We would love to welcome you here. Nga mihi mahana kia koutou - warm Aroha Stewart (Tumuaki/Principal)















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PRICE REDUCTION



» 1 Gleniffer Place, Methven



Priced:

\$795,000 Reference: RX4254921 Sat 30 Nov Open Home: 11:00-11:30am



» 56 Memorial Crescent, Methven



Priced: Reference:

\$295,000 RX4230558



» 10C Burbank Place, Methven



Deadline Sale Closes 10 Dec

RX4129841 Reference: Sat 30 Nov Open Home:



» 46 Memorial Crescent, Methven





Deadline Sale Closes 12 Dec Reference: RX4348644 Open Home: Sat 30 Nov 1:15-1:45pm

NEW LISTING



» 11 Orr Street, Netherby



Deadline Sale Closes 13 Dec RX4353382 Reference: Sat 30 Nov Open Home:

2:30-3:00pm

NEW LISTING



» 23 South Belt, Methven









Deadline Sale Closes 12 Dec Reference:

RX4355599 Sat 30 Nov 10:00-10:30am Open Home:

NEW LISTING



» 17 Hekeao Road, Surrey Hills



Deadline Sale Closes 13 Dec Reference: RX4365880

Open Home: Sat 30 Nov 4:00-4:30pm



» 44 Memorial Crescent, Methven











Deadline Sale Closes 12 Dec Reference: RX4345000 Open Home: Sat 30 Nov 12:30-1:00pm

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PART OF THE ANDCO GROUP ANDCO MEANS MORE

REALT

Rifle Club Centenary

Last weekend the Mt Somers Rifle Club celebrated a century of Smallbore Target shooting. Memories were shared, stories told, and around 50 people attended. Club members also enjoyed a clay bird shoot hosted by Andy Oram and the Methven Clay Bird club on Saturday afternoon before the evening celebration. Our guest speaker Martin Fleming shared his fullbore shooting trip to South Africa. A big thanks to all who came and also the Rugby Club for hosting us during the evening.



Left to right: John Sandrey, Brian Sandrey, Neil Hydes, Mike Donnelly. Front row: Alf Wightman, Bruce Harper, Les Huggins: 1960-1980 members



Wayne Tubby our Patron presenting Izaac Huggins with the Junior Trophy.



There is a ink to access issues in colour of the Nor'Wester on
Ashburton District
Council's website,
it is:

https://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/ community-facilities/ashburtoncommunity-directory/nor-west-newsletter



JPs in the Foothills Area

Mayfield

Jannet Cross 0274 347 958 Pauline Hewson.03 3036 397. Grant Early.0215 141 56 Alistair Morrison. 0276 024 927

Mt Somers

Robert Schikker.0211 866 107. Anne Marie Allan.0272 843 013. Anne Parnham. 0277 676 056. Wendy Millichamp.027 459 1277

Springburn

Robert Withers.0273 030 138.

Walk Kaikoura

Two Full Days Kaikoura Coastal Walk













Walk Mt Fyffe
Six of us made to the summit Mt Fyffe 1602m



All photos supplied by Sanae Hydes







Christmas with Ruralco

SHOP ONE DAY ONLY DEALS AND BE IN TO WIN!



A COMMENT:

The final issue for the year, Christmas comes along but once a year but, those years appear to be shorter and if fact getting shorter as the years go by, there's not much we can do about that, it's just a factor of aging, for a child Christmas is an eternity away and they can't wait for it to come along.

My younger brother was always a curious lad particularly in his early years. We shared the same room, what was known as the boy's room. This was an add-on to the original three-bedroom house our parents had built when they married. My elder sister occupied the front porch a sunroom, my next sister the middle room and then the boy's room was added to the back of the dwelling joined to the house by a back veranda. My brother was almost two years younger than me, this was not a problem, in many ways I enjoyed him but not at all times. He was bright and witty and quick off the mark. He was resourceful and a real ideas fellow.

But in those early years and approaching Christmas his curiosity got the better of him, on Christmas eve he devised a trap! Not so much as to catch Santa-Clause but to awaken himself so he could see this so-called Santa at his work. I was not concerned about Santa, after all we hung our stockings as we went to bed, we would wake in the morning to find them filled with a variety of items. But my brother wanted to know just how this Santa got around and found his way intoa our bedroom and perfected this task.

A device was set up at my brother's bed, a string from the stocking to a shelf above his bed this in turn was fastened to a weight being a portion of a brick. The plan was that as Santa fill the stocking the brick would come down waking the boy allowing him to observe Santa at work. However, it backfired to some degree. I was woken at some late hour to my brother crying rather loudly and our mother there comforting him. However, I think in hindsight the mystery of Santa-Clause was solved. I never heard my brother discussing the issue ever again. This boy played with all manner of electronic devises and sort of inventions of his own. His high ability and high school

exam marks led our parents to send him off to Nelson College and later to Canterbury University. It was the time when computers were new and exciting devises, He excelled in computer science and spent the rest of his working life with his head in a computer, I should add amongst other things.

I am about to set off on a journey, basically my annual leave, this will take me to Nelson via Greymouth. I have always found the West Coast interesting and a delight to visit, the scenery, the weather and the people; The people are the real delight. But my coast visit will this time be a short one. I'm asked by family members to investigate our Great Grandfathers grave, an unmarked grave in the Presbyterian portion of the Greymouth cemetery! But it is no longer unmarked as of the last three months it is now marked, my cousins some more distant thought it's time this ancestor had a head stone. After intensive enquiries and with the help of the local monumental mason the grave was identified. This man Laban Brown who deceased in 1879 and according to county records was buried in plot 202, but then in around 1950 another gentleman was buried in that same plot! This makes the mind boggle. Many years back possibly about the 1950's era an uncle found this cemetery heavily infected with blackberry and other things, that is what happens to an unmarked grave after a time, and I guess being unmarked it is of no concern. However, the family with financial help from me and with help from the monumental mason have now laid a head stone for Laban and his infant son James flat on the concrete of this 1950 grave. I wonder what the descendants of the 1950 man would think, that is if he has descendants! I gather the grave was in a poor state of repair, I will see it for myself, that is if I can find it.

For now, I'm best to bring this writing to a close. I have a 9 year birthday party this afternoon, and I have to be packed up and ready to go on my way in good time tomorrow. I look forward to the drive over Arthur's Pass and to settling into Greymouth for the night; I wish all our readers a very merry Christmas and rich and prosperous New Year. Regards Denis

Rural Natives

Rural Natives is a Methven based company that specializes in plant sales, planting and the ongoing release spraying of Native shelterbelts and riparian strips. Established 6 years ago by Anne and Mike Mckenzie the business has been growing every year.



Spraying in the Rakaia Gorge area. **ISSUE NINETY THREE**



Flynns Rd Riparian planting.

"We saw a real opportunity to help a farmer out who was unsure of what species of native to plant, where to plant them and in a lot of cases they don't have the time, we can come in and do the lot." Mike says.

"We find it hugely rewarding to assist a farmer in establishing an area of natives, they normally have a picture in their head of what they want to create and to see it come to life after a couple of years is very satisfying for them" Mike says.

Regular Release spraying around the newly planted plants is hugely important as weeds can quickly take over and kill a plant.

There is a large variety of natives available to suit any planting situation and Mike and his team can offer a free consultation and quote to get you underway. Phone Mike on 027 204 2022 or check out our website www.ruralnatives.com

THE NOR'WESTER



Letter to the Editor

Fireworks

To the inconsiderate yobbos in the middle of Mt Somers village, the letting off of your fireworks should have happened weeks ago. Instead you have chosen to carry on randomly letting off loud ones and rockets in small amounts when it gets dark most following weekends. Do you have any thought for the young and not so young people around you? Do you even put your small brain to thinking of the many animals living nearby? I have heard reports of some very stressed wee dogs and this is not good enough. A few years ago some very stressed nearby cattle escaped their paddock onto the main road at night thanks to fireworks. There is a time and place for them and randomly doing what you are doing may well be the demise of fireworks sales. Think about it...

Fired Up

Malcolm McKay

Marg, Aymie, Ross, Rachael and Families would like to say thank you for all the support, meals, baking, flowers and cards received.

We were overwhelmed by the generosity from the MtSomers;
Domain Board, Fire Brigad and Rugby Club and also the ladies serving the refreshments.

Please take this as a personal acknowledgement from the family.

Thanks Marg McKay

A Psalm of Life

What The Heart Of The Young Man Said To The Psalmist.

Tell me not, in mournful numbers, Life is but an empty dream! For the soul is dead that slumbers, And things are not what they seem.

Life is real! Life is earnest! And the grave is not its goal; Dust thou art, to dust returnest, Was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow, Is our destined end or way; But to act, that each to-morrow Find us farther than to-day.

Message from the Editor

Well the end of another year approaches and what a year it has been. Politics with the coalition government, Ukraine, Gaza, now Syria again. The world seems to be in continual chaos.

But at least while things are not perfect in NZ we seems to be able to box on in a reasonable fashion.

I wish to thank firstly all the good people who supply their editorial stories every month and keep the Nor'Wester very much involved with the going-ons in the foothills area. This is what the first editor of the paper hoped to do when it was started over eight years ago. I much appreciate your efforts and input. Without that there would be no local paper.

I also wish to thank all the advertisers who support the Nor'Wester each month. I very much appreciate your continued support as without you the paper could not continue.

It was about eight years ago that the previous editor resigned and she requested someone to take over the publication. I approached the then Chairman of the Mt Somers District Citizens Association Andy Annand and said I could take over as editor until they found someone to do the job permanently. You would think that I would have had enough brain to realise that I would be locked in seemingly for ever. But no. I'm still here.

I am not getting any younger and I do not know how long I will be able to continue doing the editing so if there are any aspiring newspaper folk out there who would like to get involved in the production of the Nor'Wester and take it on to greater heights I would be very happy to hear from you. I am quite willing to assist that person until such time as they feel confident to progress on their own.

So to everyone out there, have a great Christmas and holiday break, go safely and I hope the New Year brings you all that you wish for.

Jeremy Hunter Editor Art is long, and Time is fleeting, And our hearts, though stout and brave, Still, like muffled drums, are beating Funeral marches to the grave.

In the world's broad field of battle,
In the bivouac of Life,
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!
Be a hero in the strife!

Trust no Future, howe'er pleasant! Let the dead Past bury its dead! Act,— act in the living Present! Heart within, and God o'erhead!

Lives of great men all remind us We can make our lives sublime, And, departing, leave behind us Footprints on the sands of time;

Footprints, that perhaps another, Sailing o'er life's solemn main, A forlorn and shipwrecked brother, Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing, With a heart for any fate; Still achieving, still pursuing, Learn to labor and to wait.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Mayfield Playcentre

These warm, sunny days have brought plenty of opportunities for water play, with the hose on and lots of fun around our blue water table and the rivers in the sandpit. It's wonderful to see these moments of play and connection happening across all the days we hold sessions.

Earlier this month, we held our annual AGM, where we were delighted to welcome two of our life members, Sonya Spencer and Anna McKeown, to the evening. We've had some changes in roles this year, and we'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to outgoing President Erin Doyle for her dedication and leadership. A warm welcome goes to our new President, Deb Gilkison! Deb is a passionate and dedicated Playcentre parent, and we're thrilled to have her take on this role.

With the festive season fast approaching, the children have been busy creating beautiful Christmas-themed crafts. We're sure there will be some stunning Christmas trees in the community this year! In the coming weeks, we're looking forward to our parents' Christmas evening, the children's Christmas party, and perhaps even a trip to Caroline Bay!

Our final session for the year will be on Wednesday, December 18th, 2024. If you've been considering joining Playcentre, we'd love to see you! Sessions run on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9:15 AM to 12:15 PM.

THANK YOU

- on behalf of the Glasson families

Ian, Brent, Trish, Wendy, and Stephen and families would like to thank friends and family for the lovely flowers, Messages cards and meals extended to them on the Passing of their Wife and Mother.

Thank you for attending the funeral service of Hazel; to help celebrate her life, it was very appreciative by Ian and family for your support.

Thank you to Annette Eggleston for taking a lovely and fitting service for Hazel.

Wendy Millichamp for the lovely flowers she did for Hazel. Pattersons Funeral Home for the support of us as a family during this time.

Thanks to the Mt Somers community for their understanding and care of Hazel over the last few years. And to the local ladies who helped with the refreshments after the service.

Radius Millstream for the care they gave Hazel and our family for her stay the last twelve months.

Please accept this as a personal thank you from us all. Hazel will be sadly missed.













Tamar Party in the Paddock

Tamar Party in the Paddock was held on Saturday night and was a fantastic day/night catering for all ages. Plenty for everyone with a laid-back relaxed atmosphere but plenty of music everyone knew and lots up dancing the night away. Kids entertainment was provided by Wanderlust Amusements from Geraldine with bouncy castles, mini jeeps, reverse bungees and more. Food trucks offered a variety of tastes too. A massive bonfire added both ambiance and heat for a fairly chilly night. The onsite campsite proved a very popular option for many.

The line up of musicians included some very talented locals – Muzza & Mates, Morgan & Mates and Landgirls (Anna Munro and Abbey Mackenzie). Bryce Wastney from Nelson entertained before the Brad Staley Trio got everyone up and dancing. Jason Kerrison and The Treble Makers wound up the night with lots of NZ Classics.

Feedback has been extremely positive with everyone hoping this becomes an annual event.











