

St. Aidan's 125th Anniversary

St. Aidan's church in Mt. Somers was full on Sunday 24th August as past and present members, as well as people from the wider community, gathered to celebrate 125 years of 'the church on the hill'. The day was full of thankfulness, memories, and the odd tear. It began with morning tea in the old Sunday School room, before an anniversary service which included elements representing the past and the future; readings by people representing generations of families in the area, the younger generation, and the past clergy of the parish. The sermon spoke about the legacy of St. Aidan and asked the question - what would we like the legacy of St. Aidan's in Mt. Somers to be? The day finished with lunch at the Mt. Somers Tavern where there were speeches, further memories shared, and of course a 125th birthday cake (lemon in case you were wondering).

St Aidan's was built in 1900 by Baker Brothers of Ashburton, to plans drawn by Clarkson and Ballantyne. Much of the cost of the church and nearby vicarage was generously funded by local Alfred Edward Peache, of Mt Somers Station. The land had been donated in 1882 by James Aitken and Frederick Chamberlain. Mr Peache's foresight and design oriented the main parts of the church to the sun, and he also ensured it was anchored down on its North West end, against the strong prevailing Nor'wester. The anchors remain, alongside a small and functioning bell tower. The memorial lychgate was added in 1928. St. Aidan's has several stained-glass windows, of which many are memorials to people or families of the parish.

St. Aidan's, named after Aidan of Lindisfarne, was officially consecrated and opened on 30th August 1900 by Bishop Churchill Julius then Bishop of Christchurch and is the only church in the area, of any denomination, still in use as church.



Gathering for morning tea in the grounds of St Aidan's Church.



St Aidan's was consecrated by the Bishop Churchill Julius, with 300 people present. The opening was followed by a luncheon and speeches. 30th August 1900.



Rev. Annette Eggleston, Rev. Sage Burke and Lara Burke

continued over leaf

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The service to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of St Aidan's Church was held on August 24th.

The very first service held at St Aidan's was on August 30th 1900, so it was fitting to have the 125th anniversary as near to that date as possible.

The day was very successful - the sun was shining, the mountains looked stunning and the church was full. The congregation was made up of locals, those who had once lived in the area, and many who had family connections, were married, baptised or attended Sunday School at St Aidan's.

The foresight and determination of the early pioneers was remembered, as was the hard work of many over the years who have maintained the grounds and the building, cleaned and supplied flowers for services. All have played an important role in the life of this beautiful church.

The readings were done by Alf Wightman (representing the past), Felicity Burke aged 8 (for the future) and Harvey Eggleston (the clergy).

After the service, most adjourned to the Mt Somers Tavern for lunch and more fellowship.

Rev Sage Burke supplied a delicious cake which was shared amongst those present.

Since 1900 life has changed and adapted to all new ideas and technologies. But St Aidan's is still there, on the hill. Some things never change. It has weathered the nor west gales, the snow storms, the joys and the tragedies of life.

It is now the only church left in the district. Let's all continue to show support and keep it there for at least another 125 years.

Pauline Hewson



Meeting at Mt Somers Tavern for a cooked lunch and cutting of the cake at 12:00 noon



My thanks to Pauline Hewson and Marian Bellamy for their help in providing photos and context for this story.

Editor

Marian Bellamy and Pauline Hewson

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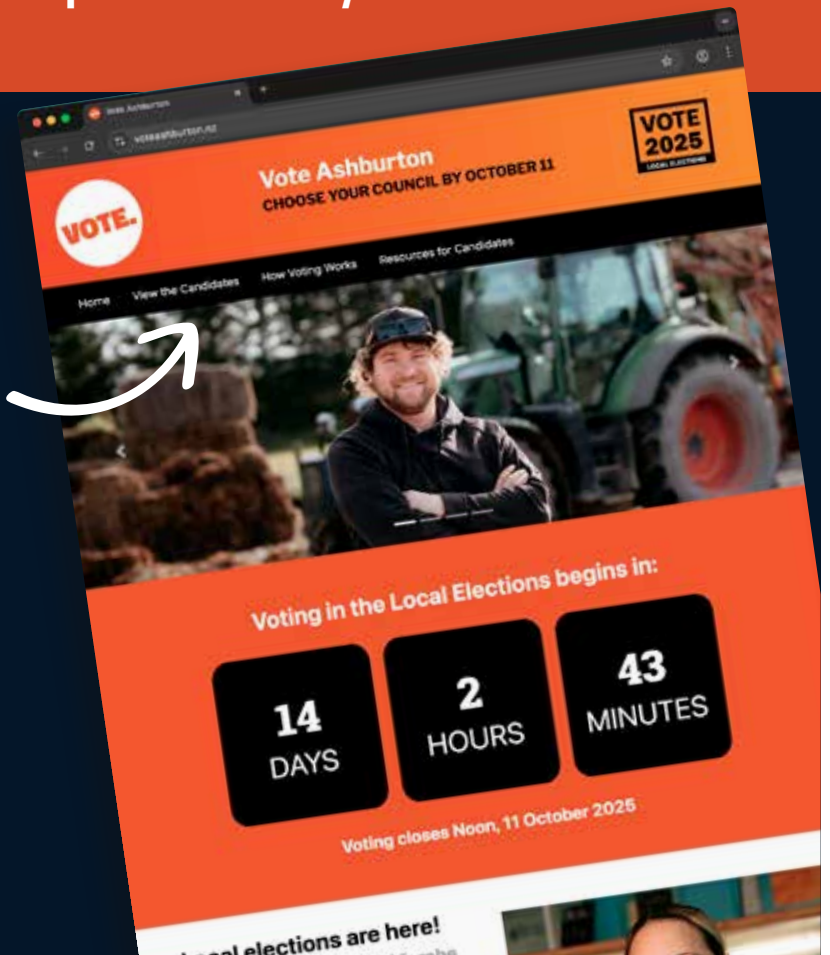


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The Old Post Office Library



It's spring!!!! Nearly.

lambs , calves, daffodils, fresh green buds on trees, grass growing, blue skies, dawn chorus starting, rhododendrons deep in bud or flowering, the promise of warm days and sunshine is in the air. Here's hoping it lasts and we don't get blasts of Antarctica to remind us winter could still be lurking.

And Mt Somers is looking good!! After a couple of months up north, it was looking especially good to come home to. A village to be proud of and a welcoming air.

We are delighted to announce that an anonymous donor has come forward and helped us with our power dilemma, and made a generous donation to cover the bill for a couple of years. Thank you so very much Anonymous Family who have a real fondness for Mt Somers and this was their way to support the community. It is so very much appreciated

And thank you again to the Mayfield Lions Club whose generous donation has paid our Electraserve account which covers the new fluorescent lighting and extra power points.

The Citizens Association has made a generous donation to help us with the general running costs of the library building. eg shelving, general repairs and maintenance, some painting touch-up jobs, etc. and we thank them over and over again . It means we can now deal with minor calamities as they happen rather than putting tasks on the back burner.

Our Book Grant from the Ashburton District council has also been approved, which means we can now purchase new books.

And I've already started doing just that!!

This grant money can only ever be used for new purchases, rather than general maintenance.

And a reminder that the Ashburton Bookarama is at the end of September so if you are cleaning out old books in good condition, just drop them into the donation bins in town. Please don't leave Bookarama books at the library.

NEW BOOKS.

'Raising Hare' by Chloe Dalton

This is an absolutely charming non-fiction book where a woman finds a baby hare (leveret) hiding in the grass in the English

landscape. Unsure what to do about it, she eventually decides to give it a chance of life and takes it home to rear, only till it can return to the wild.

I have learnt so much about this species and will look at the loping creatures moving across the paddocks with different eyes. This book is excellent reading and should appeal to anyone who likes non-fiction tales and enjoys learning something in the process.

'Sewing Moonlight' by Kyle Mewburn

A New Zealand book centred around Central Otago, namely the Millers Flat Roxburgh area. It tells the story of a young German man who in the early 1900s sails up the Clutha River landing just south of Roxburgh and makes his home there on a small piece of inherited rough land. He tries to make a living and a home amongst largely suspicious neighbours (he is German after all), the book excellently capturing his struggles in this new land . I rated it excellent.

'Julia Eichardt' by Lauren Roche.

We have seen this author's books before with her non-fiction 'Bent Not Broken' and 'Life on the Line' , both of which are non-fiction and memoirs tracing her journey from a young runaway prostitute to medical doctor and a practising GP in the North Island.

This latest book is a novel set in Queenstown in the mid 1800s. Most of us have heard of Eichardts Hotel , a fine stone building in the centre of Queenstown, and this is part of its early history when a young Irish woman settles in Queenstown in the midst of gold fever. This is a true story about one very determined courageous woman who survived in a world dominated by men. She was an influential figure in the burgeoning hospitality industry even in those early days. Very inspiring and an enjoyable read with plenty of history as well.

'No, I Don't Get Danger Money For This' by Lisette Reymor

Most of us will be familiar with this attractive New Zealander who has been a major focus on our screens for a number of years. A national news correspondent covering such events as the war in Ukraine, Royal events, in fact anything and everything happening overseas. This is her 'take' on her career so far, told in a chatty, easy, familiar manner , just as her news reports are. She has an amazing ability to report on awful happenings with a mixture of professionalism and empathy. And then the happy events are there too with her smiling face ever ready to break into chuckles and informality. She is a treasure on our screens in my opinion and very accomplished. I look forward to her story, another Non- Fiction book.

'Broken Country' by Clare Leslie Hall

Another excellent read.

The story explores the entwined lives of Beth, a farmer's wife. and her neighbour Gabriel, a celebrated author, and the ignition of old passions and secrets long buried which threaten Beth's marriage and the stability of the community.

'When the Cranes Fly South' by Lisa Ridzen.

A new book set in Sweden about an elderly man whose days are punctuated by visits from his care team and his son. He also has his

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beloved dog Sixten for company and phone calls from his best friend Ture.

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This book was an instant bestseller in Sweden and won Book of the Year. Also the winner of best fiction of the year, and has become an international bestseller. And now it's on the shelves in Mt Somers Library!

These new books along with others will be appearing on our shelves shortly. New books generally are placed on the coffee table, or scattered throughout the library in prominent places. It's a bit like a treasure hunt!! So make sure you scan the shelves carefully.

If you think you would like to offer your services as a volunteer at the library please contact us.

Similarly, we would love it if some person would open up the library an extra day other than Thursday and Sunday afternoons. The village is looking so smart with

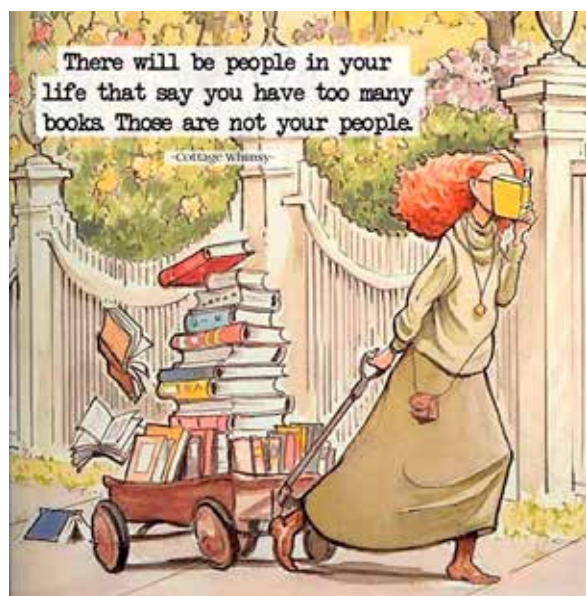
the changes to the store, the new Information Station on the village green, a new seating area and of course the Library. There seems to always be people wandering around and it would be wonderful if they could go inside the library and set what we have to offer. Maybe two people could share the days week about.

Contacts

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BOOK OF THE MONTH – MT SOMERS LIBRARY

Title: 'not her real name – and other stories'

Author: Emily Perkins

Publication year: 1996

A review by Elles Smallegoor

It's calving time on farm, which means work-eat-sleep-repeat for weeks on end. So, not a lot of time for reading. Just before we hit the ground running, I managed to drive up and down to the Mt Somers library and pick up a collection of stories by Emily Perkins called 'not her real name'. Published in the late 1990s, it was the New Zealand author's first published book and I have never read anything by her, so I thought her first work might be a good place to start from. I have only managed to read 1 out of the 12 stories so far(!), so I might spend next month's review on the 11 others to shape an overall picture of the entire collection and do Perkins' debut proper justice. For now, I will do a bit of close reading to highlight some of the characteristics of Perkins' early writing.

The first 45-page story carries the same title as the book and focuses on Cody, the main female character, and her (rekindled) love interest in Francis, a young man she used to work with. The first paragraph starts powerfully as it is unusually written in the second person and asks of the reader to focus: "Nine years later, you're leaving a bar with a friend and you see him across the wet road, getting on to a bus. From then, from

the restaurant. Francis." (p. 1). The scene is set and the next paragraph immediately switches the reader back in time, talking about the "you" as "a fifteen-year-old girl" (p. 1). Perkins does not make things straightforward and easy; the reader has to do the maths: 15 plus 9...that would make the "you" a 24-year-old now. The next paragraphs reminisce about those early days and introduce Cody's friend Thea, who will feature prominently throughout the story as Cody's best friend. Perkins highlights the comforts of female friendship as well as the typical teen behaviour from the perspective of the older Cody: "You were not your usual self around Francis. None of the cackle, the shrieking, the tough-girl acts that you and Thea lurched around school and town with. You shrank, you backed off, you revealed nothing. [...] . The only freedom you allowed yourself was imaginary. [...] You thought maybe your daydreams would be strong enough that he could read your mind, would look at you, know, love you. [...] This never happened of course. You were fifteen. Nothing ever did." (p. 2).





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This introductory section ends with Cody's family moving to Auckland and the writing is interrupted by a letter (printed in smaller and different font) written by teenage Thea to Cody, telling her how much she misses her at school and sharing some typical high school gossip in typical teenage language. From here, the narrative voice switches to third-person: "It took Cody two weeks to answer Thea's letter." (p. 4). A page later, there is a poem. Most small sections have title headings. There is dialogue too. It is clear from the start that Perkins creatively plays with style and language in order to make her readers active, present and alert. This happens throughout the story, when Cody and Francis meet up again in Wellington and eventually become flatmates, occasionally sharing the bed but never confidently knowing themselves or each other and never truly becoming the romantic figures to each other that the younger Cody fantasised about. They are both at that age where they should be mature but refuse to act accordingly. At the end of the story, the last paragraph switches to the second person again, making it come full circle. This time, though, the "you" is Francis: "Later, you can't sleep. You don't care. You reach over to Cody for a cigarette." (p. 44).

'Not her real name' is a bold first story in the similarly named book, in which Perkins introduces herself as a powerful narrator pulling the strings, adopting a variety of voices and genres, shifting in time, and using realistic dialogue that brings out the age and lifestyle of the main characters. It reminds readers to come into this collection with an open mind and an active brain. It's enticing, so I will definitely make time in between the farm work to read the rest.

ANAMA RURAL WOMEN

July was our AGM and we are lucky to have people taking positions of Secretary Pat, Treasurer Betty and I continue as President. This last year we helped raise money for leptospirosis research and also donated to the flood appeal in Nelson along with supporting the groups our local speakers came from.

In the holidays three of our members helped tutor at the cook and eat which is run by Provincial in the school holidays. This holiday programme teaches children to be able to prepare a healthy family meal.

Mid- Canterbury Provincial is holding a movie fundraiser with funds supporting Life education and our yearly scholarships. The movie is Downtown Abbey. Some tickets still available for September 14th at 4pm.

In September we will celebrate 100 years of Rural Women NZ with a gathering at Panthers Rock.

If anyone would like to come to any of our meetings, they are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 10 am, just message me Kay 027 3339 513.

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At Mayfield School, Term 3 is off to a lively start with plenty of opportunities for our Tamariki to shine both in and out of the classroom.

A special thank you goes to the Mayfield Lions Club, who once again supported our annual school speeches – Festival of Spoken Word. The Lions continue to give our students a fantastic platform to develop their confidence in public speaking, and we are grateful for their encouragement and generosity. It is always impressive to see the courage and creativity our young people bring to their speeches.

In the classroom, our learning focus for the term is science. Students are busy exploring, questioning, and experimenting as we bring hands-on science into everyday learning. This builds their curiosity and problem-solving skills, while also giving them opportunities to share their discoveries with whānau and peers.

Beyond the classroom, our clubs are well underway and proving very popular. From arts and crafts to sports and games, clubs give our children the chance to try new things, strengthen friendships, and find joy in learning together.

Our winter EOTC (Education Outside the Classroom) special outing this term was our Swim and Soak Day at the Staveley and Opuke pools. A huge thank you to Staveley Ice Skating who funded our kura/school to have a fun morning of ice skating. This was a fantastic experience for our students, combining water confidence, fun activities, and time to relax together as a

through an itinerant music teacher, Janet Glassey. These lessons are already inspiring students to develop their musical skills and enjoy the joy that comes with learning an instrument.

We have been lucky enough over a couple

of weeks to have Heather, a professional photographer, to lead a 'Inside Stories' photography programme for some of our senior school students. The Inside Stories programme included two workshops about the importance of photographing stories, communities, and environments and basic photographic principles and a photography exhibition showcasing the students' work. Students learn about the art of photography, document changes happening in their community and environment and talk about their photography and stories with family, friends, and the wider community. Things to note. This programme is designed specifically for Tamariki in rural and small regional centres which is an amazing opportunity for Mayfield students.

This month, the immigrant families of our kura/school, representing our 'Home and School' hosted two unforgettable fundraising dinners for the Mayfield Lions and Mayfield Ladies Dinner Club. Each was a vibrant celebration of our many cultures at our school, generosity and connection. Whānau cooked the meals, with many contributing ingredients, time and a lot of aroha/love. Each dish told a story from our homelands, and the guests were delighted to try new flavours based on traditional dishes. These are the fundraisers we love because our schools cultures are often shared through kai/food.

As always, we are grateful for the continued support of our families and the wider Mayfield community. Your encouragement and involvement help create the rich learning environment we are so proud of at Mayfield School.

Ngā mihi,

Emma Hewett

Tumuaki/Principal, Mayfield School



school community. Days like these help strengthen the bonds between students, whānau and staff while creating lasting memories.

This term we have also been fortunate to offer private music lessons



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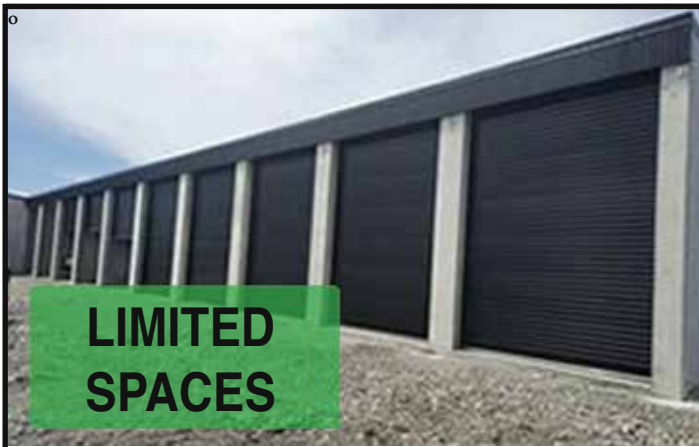
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We are nearly at the end of our second road code course for the year and have already had one successful license test completed. The classes have been full on, with nearly all of the ladies needing transport to class and child care during the session.

Where would we be without our amazing volunteers? Neroli and Claire have been there for us right from the beginning of the programme and never let us down. They drive all over the district doing the pick-ups and are amazing with the children while their mothers study. We have a wonderful stash of toys

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Kesaia Selala & Adi Vakaoba practicing intersection technique.

for the children and there is always something to keep them busy.

We have been lucky to have Angela from NZTA visit us in class with some wonderful resources. Learning the road code is fun and a lot easier when we can act out different scenarios with road layouts and toy cars. Our next intake for the programme is March next year, when we start another road code course. We have already had referrals for this course, which shows the need is still there. So thanks to our sponsors, volunteers and training partners for making it possible for us to run this programme and help our newcomers to become independent and successful in their journey to settle here in Mid Canterbury. 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 NZTA, Advance Ashburton Community Foundation, Ashburton District Council, The Lion Foundation, COGs and Community Trust Mid & South Canterbury.

Wendy Hewitt
Rural Licensing Co-Ordinator
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255 Moore Street, Ashburton 7700
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ISSUE ONE HUNDRED & ONE

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Winter Fun at Mayfield Playcentre

Winter might bring frosty mornings and chilly days, but at Mayfield Playcentre the fun is still going strong! Our tamariki have been busy indoors with all sorts of messy play — painting, playdough, water play, slime, and plenty of arts and crafts. It's a chance for little ones to explore, get creative, and learn through play... and the best part for parents is that all the mess stays at Playcentre, not at home! Of course, when the weather clears, we make the most of it by heading outside. Kite flying has been a real favourite this season, with bright colours filling the Mayfield skies. There's been plenty of laughter as kids (and sometimes parents!) chase kites across the field and celebrate when they finally take off.

Playcentre isn't just about the activities though - it's a place where families connect. Parents and caregivers get to meet others in the community, share a cuppa, and enjoy being part of a supportive group while their children play and learn. With kids aged 0–6 all welcome, every session is filled with different ages and stages learning alongside each other, just like an extended whānau.

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Strategies for Growing in Grief

Loss is an inevitable part of living. Hospice Mid Canterbury (HMC) deals with the grief of loss on a daily basis, from diagnosis of a life-limiting illness to the loss of a loved one.

You can do more than just cope with loss. Grief can help you gain insight and change your mindset.

Build on what works for you

We all have strategies that helped us manage challenges in the past. They can be useful now. For example, keeping to regular routines may be reassuring for you. Others find it useful to walk or exercise to lift their mood. Sometimes you may have to reframe your previous strategies so that they suit your current situation. Your spirituality or personal values also can be a comfort.

Use your support systems

Your family and friends can be of great help. Some may be good listeners while others are good at helping in more practical ways. You can also find support in others who have had similar experiences. The Good Grief café at HMC may be useful for this.

Remember the continuing bond

The people you love never fully leave you. You retain a bond with them through your memories, and the ways they influenced you as a person. Focus on positive memories. Sometimes it helps to have something to reinforce those memories such as putting together a photo collection or a journal to keep those memories alive.

Focus on growth

Be patient with yourself. The journey with grief is uneven as you learn to live a different life without a person you loved. As you grieve, expect both good and bad days. Some days you may be more productive than others. That, too, is part of the journey.

Now and then, think about how you have changed as you journey with grief. What new insights have you developed? What skills have you gained?

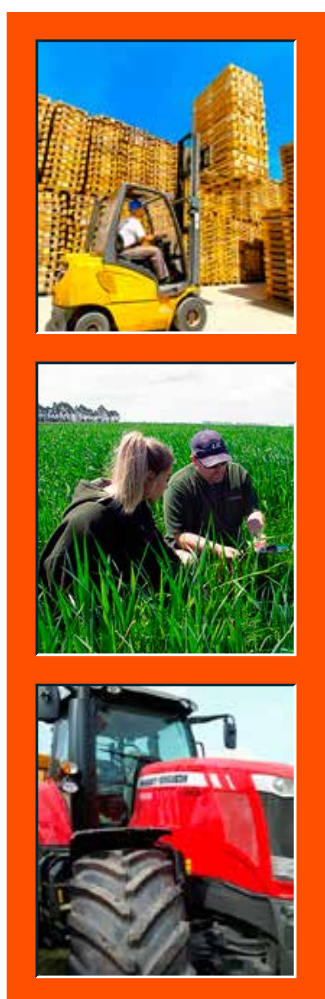
HMC offers free counselling services for those who have lost a loved one.

Remain hopeful

Life after loss will be different. If you always focus on the sadness of loss, you reinforce that sadness. But as hard as it may be to believe now, it can still have joy and happiness. Remember that while we have no choice about loss or the grief that follows, we do have choices about how we grieve. Think of the small changes you can make each day to improve your mindset.

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. We welcome new referrals.

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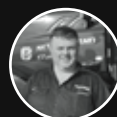


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Mayfield Pool Fundraiser

The Mayfield Pool Committee is excited to announce a new project — we're fundraising to heat the Mayfield Pool! The pool is an important community facility, enjoyed by local families, schools, and visitors, and heating it will make it more accessible and enjoyable for everyone.

We're now seeking support from the community in the form of sponsorship. Sponsorship starts from as little as \$1,000, and every contribution will help us take a big step towards making heated swimming in Mayfield a reality.

For more information or to discuss sponsorship, please contact Deb Gilkison at deborah.gilkison@gmail.com or phone 027 461 3833.

If you'd like to support the project with a donation, you can deposit directly into the pool committee's account: Mayfield Pool #02 0836 0299460 000. Donations over \$500 will be recognised on a community sponsorship board at the pool. Together, we can make this dream happen for Mayfield!




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Mt Somers Rugby Club



Mt Somers Rugby Club held their Trophy night recently the following were awarded trophies.

Presidents Cup ---- Byron McGowan, Forward of the Year --- Logan Marshall, Back of the Year -- Scott McFadden, Most Points --- Jamie Milne, Players Player of the Year --- Logan Marshall, Supporters Cup -- Murray Aymes, Jack Smith Memorial Trophy -- Ian Claridge.

Congratulations to all.



**Mt Somers RFC
Golf Tournament**
Fundraising for Field lights

When: 11am Friday 17th October
where: Mayfield Golf Club
what: Ambrose Teams of 2

\$60 entry per person
lunch and dinner provided with prize giving and auction to follow

to enter a team contact Jasmine Darragh : 0272969692

We are looking at upgrading our lights and have a couple of fundraisers planned a Golf Match at Mayfield on Friday 17th October for more information contact Jasmine on 027 2969692 and a Calf Rearing Scheme contact Scott McFadden 0276322271 or Dylan Forde 027 255 4627 for more information. Two great events to get involved in.

The Golden Oldies are holding a 80s theme Social on Saturday 27th September at the clubrooms, so hunt those clothes out from the back of the closet and come along for a night of music and fun. \$20 door entry.



Calf Donations

- We welcome donations of calves for pick up mid November
- 'Virtual' calves are also an option if preferred

Mount Somers Rugby Club is incredibly grateful for the amazing support we receive from our local farmers and community.

Thanks to you, we can keep our club thriving, support our players, and look after our grounds.
We couldn't do it without you!

To discuss your donations please contact:
Scott McFadden : 0276322271
or Dylan Forde: 027 255 4627

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Ashburton District



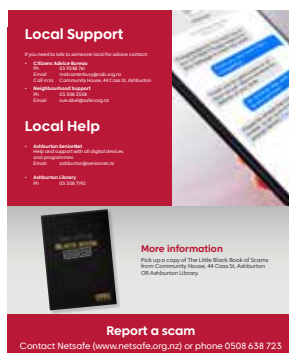
There is a new flyer to promote scams and fraud awareness, which a group of local agencies have got together to produce for our Ashburton District residents.

Safe Communities, Neighbourhood Support, Te Whare Whakare (Ashburton Library), CAB and Senior Net have joined forces to produce an information flyer on Scams and Fraud. The flyer contains information on keeping safe from being scammed, top tips to keep yourself safe, LOCAL support and help, further information and where to report a scam.

Anyone of any age can be scammed, but older people are particularly vulnerable. And people can be embarrassed and not sure who to talk to and what to do if they think they have been scammed.

There's a lot of confusing information out there, so our flyer aims to assist Ashburton District residents to get the information and support they need.

Copies of the flyer (and The Little Black Book of Scams) are available at Te Whare Whakare (Ashburton Library) and the CAB (Community House, 44 Cass St, Ashburton), and will be soon available at the Mt Hutt Memorial Centre in Methven and the Rakaia Four Square.



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JPs in the Foothills Area

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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.

Mount Somers Staveley Playcentre

August has been a busy month here at Mount Somers Staveley Playcentre.

We've been plagued with all the ills and chills around the area and have had to close some days due to illness. We apologise if new families have turned up on these days.

We had a lovely day ice skating at Staveley Ice Rink, with the children and parents having a blast. Thank you to the Ice Rink Committee for putting on such a great day for us.

The next day we were shown around our local fire station and even went on the fire trucks. It was a real highlight for the children and I think they all want to work in the fire service when they grow up.

We also had our annual Playcentre Open Week which allows any families who want to have a no obligation visit to see what happens at our rural Playcentre. However, we are open to anyone at any time of the year, so feel free to pop in to see if playcentre is right for you - open 9am-12pm every Tuesday and Thursday.



Clearance/ Garage Sale

13 September 2025,

10.30am to 1.30pm

at the

Mayfield Presbyterian Church

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A COMMENT:

The world is almost at war! But we could well ask just why this situation is going on in what appears to be a never-ending saga. I have a feeling of frustration; Lives are lost innocent men women and children suffer and die, and lands and property are destroyed / vandalized. Why, why we may ask. I refer largely to the Israeli Palestinian situation in the Middle East. To me it is cruel it appears so pointless, yet it goes on. Israel is supported / backed by the rich Unites States of America, Palestine appears to have no useful backing, should Palestine have a strong sponsor I guess we would have a worldwide war on our hands. What do I know about this desperate situation, I read some magazines and the daily paper and then I am left feeling more frustrated than ever.

I googled and spent an evening or at least most of an evening studying the Nation of Palestine, what did I learn? Palestine is a very old nation or is it a civilization, they go back hundreds of years but at least for the past hundred or so years they have struggled. But, they have tried and been frustrated, they have been successful with a number of their neighbours, but then came the end of the WW2 the USA President at the time President Truman gave the Jewish folk the right to settle in This Middle East area know as Israel, This I gather is what the Jewish folk had desired for a very long time. So, the Jewish tribe at least those that had survived the Holocaust and were seeking new lands in which to settle moved into this land of Israel in large numbers. They believed this was their promised land and proceeded to settle there and make new lives. There appears to have been no great effort to live alongside the current inhabitants but rather drive them the Palestinian people from the land they were settled on. Then of more recent times fence them into certain areas which the Jewish folk the people that then called themselves the Israelites proceeded to police this land in a very strict manner. They certainly failed to live in peace with these Palestinian people.

There is no easy solution, it is a frustrating situation shells are continuing to be fired people continue to be slaughtered there is no end in sight.

A Palestinian Doctor by name Izzeldin Abuelaish wrote a book titled "I Shall Not Hate" his three daughters and sister were killed when an Israeli shell was fired at his house. This man worked as a physician and infertility expert as a senior researcher at the Sheba Medical

Centre in Tel Aviv that was before his three daughters were killed in 2009. Dr Abuelaish now lives with his family in Toronto where he works as an associate professor at the University of Toronto. Stricken by the tragic death of his daughters at the hands of Israeli soldiers he did not seek revenge or sink into hatred but rather called for the people of the region to start talking to each other. His deepest hope is that his daughters will be "the last sacrifice on the road to peace between Palestinians and Israelis."

Sadly, his wish hasn't come true.

Perhaps the real tragedy was in 2006 when Hamas won the election in Gaza and become the ruling party, it appears they were more of a military power rather than a negotiating party.

A more pleasant subject:

This morning Monday 25th of August I had a very pleasant morning with help of four Mayfeild Lion Club members we had the task of judging a speech contest at the Carew Peel Forest school. We had I think 20 plus speeches to listen to and judge, the pupils were 10/11-year-olds. They were on a variety of topics from how to annoy your siblings to sport, dairy farming or farming generally and what they thought of schoolteachers. This is the third year running that I have been to Carew for this purpose, it is a wonderful small school. Twenty-nine pupils, a vibrant school with class's 1 to 6, underlining values being – community, achievement, responsibility and environment.

Cheers Denis

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MAYFIELD MT SOMERS ANGLICAN PARISH

As I write this, we've just concluded the celebrations for the 125th anniversary of St. Aidan's Church in Mt. Somers. A big shout out to everyone involved for making it such a great day. In the sermon on Sunday I talked about the legacy of Saint Aidan of Lindisfarne who our church is named after. I also spoke about the generations of people who have been a part of our church in Mt. Somers and their legacy here. Then I asked the question what would we like the future of St. Aidan's in Mt. Somers to be? If you have any thoughts on that question, you're welcome to let me know. On Sunday 21st September I'll be back at the Mt. Somers Tavern from 4pm if you'd like to come and have another Pint with a Priest.

Rev. Sage Burke
ISSUE ONE HUNDRED & ONE

THE NOR'WESTER
22

SEPTEMBER 2025

CHURCH SERVICES

St Aidan's, Mt Somers

September 21 4pm 125th Pint with a Priest at Mt.
Somers Tavern.

PARISH CONTACTS

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Web: www.midcanterbury.org
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Walk Dorie Community Walkway

13 August. Return walk to Dorie and the sea

All photos supplied by Sanae Hydes



Walk Awa Awa and Scotts

Saddle 20 August

3 walked Scott's Saddle and 8 walked Awa Awa Rata Reserve



*All photos supplied
by Sanae Hydes*



Walk Adventure Park

Christchurch 23 July

Walked in the Adventure Park and got down free on the bike lift.



All photos supplied by Sanae Hydes



Walk Peel Forest 6 August

Nice and easy walk in Peel Forest



U3A



Series: Current Issues of War and Peace Tuesday 26th August, 2nd & 9th September at 10.15am (doors open at 9.30am for FREE hot drink) at the Ashburton Event Centre on Wills Street. Casual visitors \$10 cash at the door.

Tuesday September 2nd Abolishing the Military-Arguments and Alternatives

The nations of the world are currently undertaking a major rearmament, at great cost, and there is an increase in interstate military conflict. The belief in the necessity of military power to maintain security and resolve conflict has never been stronger. Assessing the evidence and arguments, there is a compelling case to abolish the military.

Professor Richard Jackson holds the Leading Thinker Chair in Peace and Conflict Studies at Te Ao o Rongomaraeroa – the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Otago.



Tuesday 9th September Why I am a pacifist today – influences from history, context and conviction

What does it mean in our volatile world to be committed to the pursuit of justice and peace rejecting the use of violence? Indrea shares what it means to her to be a kiwi Christian pacifist today - a product of time, place, whanau and faith. She reflects on non-violent resistance to evil and injustice, with reference to Aotearoa New Zealand's non-violent peace-making traditions and their international connections, and inspirational pacifist figures.

Indrea Alexander is an Anglican, a priest, a Christian pacifist, the current secretary of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship in NZ, vicar of Ashburton, Archdeacon of Mid Canterbury and deputy Vicar General of the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch. Before being ordained in 1995, Indrea was a journalist for the Evening Post in Wellington.

Background about U3A:

U3A began in Ashburton in 2013 and is one of 60 groups nationwide. Monthly speakers are informative, stimulating and insightful and provide members with new discussion and learning opportunities.

U3A aims to provide a broad spectrum of themes for meetings and speakers who are leaders in their fields. Short seminar series and special interest groups also meet – from books to geology, men's discussion and music.

To become a financial member, speak to one of our committee at any meeting – or anyone can attend any session and pay a \$10 casual fee (cash please).

Carol Gunn U3A Marketing 027 287 2468

DEADLINE DATE FOR OCTOBER ISSUE 2025

ISSUE	DEADLINE	DELIVERY
October 2025	25 September	30 September



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