



Celebrating Student Success and Community Connections at Mayfield School

It has been a busy and exciting term here at Mayfield School, with plenty to celebrate!

Last week, we had the privilege of hosting the Opuke Kāhui Ako Festival of Cultures. The day was a celebration of the diversity within our wider community, featuring music, dance, and international food stalls. Our tamariki/children loved stepping up to host this year's festival as we carried on the highly valued event as they took part and experienced the rich cultural flavours and performances on offer. These events aren't successful without planning and passion. The Mayfield School staff ensured our students were well prepared with their performance items and took time to ensure the festival was a success. A big thank you to all Mayfield School whānau/families that supported us on the day. A special mention needs to be made to the Mayfield Lions for their support with traffic management, Paul at Smith and Sons Ashburton for setting up the stage and Lushingtons for the loan of plants. Mayfield School appreciates all the community support. We are incredibly proud of Saskia Blake, our Year 8 student who placed second in the Rotary speech competition. Delivering a well-crafted and engaging speech in front of a large audience takes courage, and this result reflects her hard work and confidence as a speaker.

Our budding scientists also shone at the Midlands Science Fair, bringing home several prizes across a range of categories. Their curiosity, creativity, and perseverance in investigating real-world questions really impressed the judges and highlighted the strength of science learning at Mayfield School. Congratulations to Ty Austin, George Waddell, Charlotte Willians, Maddison Taylor, Fergus Morrow and Lochie Harrison.

These moments strengthen our school culture and provide opportunities for our students to shine beyond the classroom.

Enrolments are open for our 2026 school year. We welcome you, or someone you know, to come and visit our amazing kura/school as your child either begins their school journey or is transferring from another school. Enrolments are being taken for years 0-8. For those looking at options for Year 7 and 8 why know come and check us out. We offer an inclusive learning environment for the intermediate school years, where your child will learn through a personalised learning approach and will be involved in a wide variety of additional programmes aimed at assisting, extending, and supporting your child.

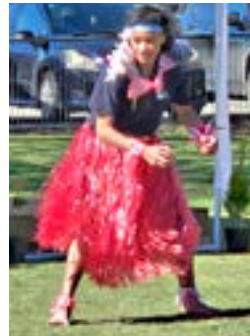
Ngā mihi,

Emma Hewett Tumuaki/Principal, Mayfield School

IMPORTANT NOTICE

A meeting is to be held at the Mt Somers Hall on Thursday, 16th October at 7.30 to discuss the winding up of the Mt Somers and District Citizens' Association.

Robert Schikker, Chairman



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Results of the Mayfield Scout Group Keas section raffle drawn on 1st September 2025

Prizes:

1st – 1 nights accommodation at Top Of The Plains
donated by Sarah and Craig Clucas \$410.

Winner-Jenny Lansdown

2nd – Opuke Hot Pools Voucher
donated by Crichel Downs Potatoes \$150

Winner- Chilton and Mayne

3rd – A cord of wood donated by Mayfield Lions \$325

Winner- Kyle Watson

4th – New World Voucher donated by Cross Contracting \$100

Winner- Rodger Lake

5th – Heaps of Scratchies Tickets donated by
Quigleys Contracting \$150

Winner- Otto Rivs

6th – Produce Pals Voucher donated by
Clemens Contracting \$100

Winner- Craig Clucas

7th – Panthers Rock Voucher donated by Base Fertility \$150

Winner – Johnny White

8th – Netherby Meats Voucher donated by Cates Grain and
Seeds \$150

Winner- Dave Whillans

9th – Gift basket donated by Midlands Seeds \$100

Winner- Gaye Roulston

Raffle drawn by Grant Early, JP.

All funds raised to be used for Keas activities and to assist
in the repairs needed to the Mayfield Scout den.

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The Old Post Office Library



We have been having another tidy up in our library and making use of the fact that Bookorama is upon us again..... a very good time to sort older books and also books which haven't been read very often. A collection of these books is reserved for the outside shelves as 'giveaways' and many of the older books are off to new homes through Bookorama and making some money at the same time for charity. We are buying new books every month and need the shelf room to display them. This month's additions are:

'Unforgetting' by Belinda Robinson.
A New Zealand memoir by one of Bruce Mason's daughters. Belinda's mother was a well known obstetrician and doctor in Wellington, and her Dad, Bruce, the well known author of many plays, poems, and stories. His most celebrated play was 'The End of the Golden Weather' which is still being performed many years later. Belinda and her siblings were brought up by their nanny and this experience dominates the first part of the book. Hidden from their parents, cruel abuse occurred and the siblings kept their secret for years. Eventually the truth was told and nanny was promptly 'down the road', but not before psychological damage had caused harm that would resurface over the years. This book held my interest, learning about early Wellington during university years of the Mason children, as well as life in a family of bright academics. My early childhood was on a farm and I couldn't help but compare these two very different upbringings.

"Saving Elli" by Doug Gold.
This is the third book in a series written by Timaru author Doug Gold. He was recently interviewed on TV about this book and how it came about. This is Elli's story, a young Jewish girl hiding in Amsterdam during the war, her father had been executed and her mother was fleeing for her life. However a resistance couple had taken Elli into their home and concealed her in their ceiling. And meantime they continued their resistance

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movements against the Nazis, continually outwitting the enemy, but how long can they keep that happening? High suspense and a true story. The absolute bravery of the resistance workers during wars amazes me.

'The Elements' by John Boyne.
This rather big book is a collection of his latest four books... 'Water', 'Earth', 'Fire', and 'Air' all in one volume of 500 pages. We also have copies of the four books as separate books which are much easier to handle, at approximately 150 pages each. This is a superb series, it is like a giant jigsaw where all the characters in each book are part of an overall tale. I can't recommend it highly enough. This latest book 'Elements' is essentially four books in one, so unless you are prepared for 'quite a read' (challenging in parts) it would be better to take one book at a time. We would like 'Elements' to circulate quite quickly and not be in one reader's hands for weeks on end. It can happen!!

'The Women are not Fine' by Hope Reese
This slim volume has been described as 'a moving story of desperation, violence and survival' and 'an enthralling account... fascinating'. At the turn of the 20th century in a small village of Nagyrev in Hungary, a midwife known as Auntie Zsuzsi was a caregiver and confidante of the village women. As she helped the women give birth and assisted them with abortions and all things womanly, she became aware of their unbearable lives with drunk and abusive husbands. Her solution was arsenic. And over the next few years the quiet village became the epicentre of one of the most deadliest poisonings of the century.

This is a true crime story and is a haunting exploration of what can happen when women's suffering goes unanswered. Some unknown history..... I certainly have never heard of it.....

'The Unlikely Doctor' by Timoti Te Mike.
More non-fiction. And this book is a top seller in NZ, even knocking Jacinda's book off the number 1 spot. It's the story of becoming a doctor in NZ at 56 in spite of a gang life, and then a time of being in imprisonment. I have not read it, but have only heard glowing reports about it. Pretty amazing.... just to study for Med school at 56 alone, never mind such a challenging background. I hope this becomes a well read book and interests many of our readers.

'The Secret Book Society' by Madeline Martin
A tale of sisterhood and empowerment set against the background of Victorian England in 1895. Three women form



a secret book club, these being the times when women were not encouraged to read other than instructive texts on how to be better wives to their menfolk! Books for pleasure were thought to make them contrary and develop opinions that differed from their husbands. And possibly cause 'hysteria', a fairly loose description of any woman who had said too much, criticised her husband, or generally 'overstepped the mark', and was very quickly removed to the local asylum. The asylums were full of women suffering from the effects of menopause but hidden away so life could be more comfortable for the men in their lives. This book has been well researched and is based on fact. It can be found in the section with other books based on fact, in a separate bookcase beside the office door or in the non fiction shelves. All our books purchased by the library have a 'dot' system.... A red dot on the spine denotes the year of purchase. The yellow dot is to represent a literary read or more 'thoughtful' read as opposed to popular fiction. These books are in alphabetical order starting from the shelves immediately behind the counter and continue around to the couch area. The silver dot at the top of the book spine signifies a crime read.

Grazing Wanted

Do you have grazing suitable for store lambs? Grass preferred but other options considered.

Please phone Ian 0272 302 188

We have various collections by the same author... eg John Boyne, Rose Tremain. Deborah Challinor, Elizabeth Strout, Lisa Genova, and these can be found grouped together in various shelf positions throughout the library. Literally a treasure hunt!! We have some belated and ongoing thanks to make.... in no particular order... Fletcher... forever being called upon for his willingness to pass on his expertise and skills, and likewise Peter who helps us out regularly. There is always something to do that seems to require male brawn or brains, and it is wonderful that we have a good supply of such menfolk. Thank you so much! And to all other members of the community who will lend a hand when needed and do so willingly. We are all very proud of the library and the envy of book readers, but it takes a community to keep it being the success it is. Thank you again to our volunteer librarians who keep the doors open. Phone for more information. Annie 021 1264310 or Pam 0274 363736.

Mayfield Reserve & Hall Board

Triennial Meeting



27 November 2025

7.30pm in the Mayfield Hall supper room

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All Welcome

Contact David Greenslade 027 333 6835.



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Our sixteenth group have now finished the road code course and we are having great results with their learners license tests already. The next step for them is to get out on the road with our great volunteer driving mentors. So once again, we are on the hunt for more volunteer driving mentors. If you have a few spare hours twice a week and are keen to help a newcomer gain independence, we would love to hear from you.

The role is very rewarding and always a lot of fun. It's a great way to see the countryside while learning about another culture. Our driving students are very grateful for the opportunity to learn to drive alongside an experienced mentor, and it is life changing for them. We have students dotted all over the Ashburton District from many different cultures just waiting for a driving mentor to come available. If this is something you would like to be part of, give me a call.

If you are a Facebook user, have a look at the video on our page (Mid Canterbury Rural Driver Licensing Scheme) featuring the wonderful Johnston Brothers who put a lot of money into the community. There is an interview with one of our past students who talks about how her life has changed since getting her drivers license. This video is also on Advance Ashburton Community Foundations Facebook page. Have a look. The generosity of these men is amazing. They have helped so many people over the years and they are so humble. We are very grateful that they have supported our programme right from the beginning.

If you would like to be part of this amazing programme, as a



Mercedes and her student Lis getting ready for a drive.

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 NZTA 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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What’s happening at the Museum

The museum committee has been like ducks on a pond, smooth on top but busy underneath!

We have partially emptied the museum to allow carpet to be installed in the next few weeks,

And with the money that the Mt Somers District Citizens Association granted us we have commissioned two cabinets to be made to measure for better display of items.

Outside we have been spreading wood chips for our garden area and have put some lime chip down so that we can bring back the potato Digger and Winch and place them in a prominent position.

We now have a computer and scanner (via grant from the Ashburton District Council) so we can start to catalogue photos etc to keep a record of items within the museum.

We look forward to catching up with everyone at the Mt Somers Xmas Market where we will have a sausage sizzle.

We are open to suggestions for fund raising, helping with Catering at events etc.

From Two ducks on the committee

Margaret Cook Secretary and Wendy Grigg President.

Ph:021 161 6763 & Ph: 0274 288 084

Mt Somers Village Working Bee

Again we will try and enthuse any local residents who would like to come and help us to tidy up the village green before Labour weekend and rapidly approaching Xmas! Our newsletter’s namesake has caused quite a bit of havoc with some of the plantings.

The worst of this will have been cleared up but there are always weeds (Bryan Humm has done extensive spraying tho’) and those dreaded cabbage tree leaves to gather up. Some major tree pruning may also happen on the day. So please if you can spare a couple of hours bring along your favourite gardening tools and come help. TUESDAY 14th October at 3 PM. Thankyou so much to Barry Kerr who has been our lawn mower for many years. He is now retiring from this role and we are grateful to have the expertise of Wendy Cullen taking over so ably from Barry. We are fortunate to have this lovely area in the midst of our tidy wee village so please help us to keep its good name. Pam Annand. 021 1264 310 (ring if any queries)



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Walk Tinwald

We walked around the old and new areas of west side of Tinwald. Morning tea at the Tinwald Domain and lunch at the Lushingtons.



ANAMA RURAL WOMEN

This month we had a special lunch at Panthers Rock Mayfield to celebrate 100 years of Rural Women NZ .Ladies from Anama branch were joined by representatives from local groups which had closed.We welcomed ex members from Christchurch, Wanaka and Oxford.There was plenty of chatter and reminiscing. Once there was a group in Montalto, Mayfield, Ruapuna, Lismore, Westerfield and Anama.



Rural Women was originally called Women’s Division of Federated Farmers started by a group of women seeing the

support their husbands got from belonging to a group and wanting something similar. It has always been there to support and advocate for rural people.

At the moment they are running a survey which can be done by googling Rural School Transport and Education Access Survey, run by Rural Women NZ.



If this applies to you, you can do the survey . Our next meeting will be October15th, anyone wishing to join us contact Kay 027 3339 513.

The “Stuff” of 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.

It is tough to deal with the “stuff” of grief: the possessions, clothes, and other belongings of the person who has died. Once the instructions of the will have been dealt with, dealing with the remaining belongings may feel overwhelming. If you are tackling this task, the following may be useful.

There are no rules

When dealing with the stuff of grief, there is no right or wrong way. You can make your own decisions on what to keep or what to give away. There is no timetable. You only need to tackle this task when you are ready.

Even when you do decide to clear out some of the belongings, there are no rules. You may need to go slowly, perhaps alone, stopping at times to sit with your memories. Or you may welcome the support and assistance of friends or family members who want to share in the process.

Sorting stuff

However you do it, having a system can help, such as dividing the “stuff” into categories.

- The first category is special items, in particular those you know you want to keep for yourself. It is comforting to have items that hold the memories of your loved one close.
- A second category is for things you may be unsure about right now but may want to consider keeping. You may find with some items that you can’t decide right now. In the midst of grief, some decisions just need to wait.
- The third category are items that can be given to others or sold. This could include items of sentimental value gifted to family and friends. Other items may be saleable or will be welcomed by charity stores for those in need. The estate clearance service offered by the HMC shop can assist with this.
- Finally there are things that clearly could be discarded. These items have no value to you, emotional or otherwise, and many people find this the easiest to deal with. By clearing some of this “stuff”, you clear space and get a real sense of progress.

Remember that this is a tough task for many. Take your time and reach out if you need help.

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.

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



Mayfield Playcentre

At Mayfield Playcentre we’ve had a busy and exciting term and are looking forward to the warmer months ahead. Together with our tamariki, we’ve enjoyed messy play, painting, baking, building, and plenty of outdoor adventures (muddy boots included!).

We’ve been hard at work upgrading our play spaces and planning new activities to keep our sessions fresh and fun. It’s been a great reminder that Playcentre is about parents and children learning alongside each other, and about building friendships that go beyond the preschool years.

We always welcome new families, whether you’re new to Mayfield or have been here a while. Come along, join a session, and see what we’re all about - we’d love to meet you!





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12 Sep · 📍

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Book of the Month – Mt Somers Library

Title: ‘not her real name – and other stories’

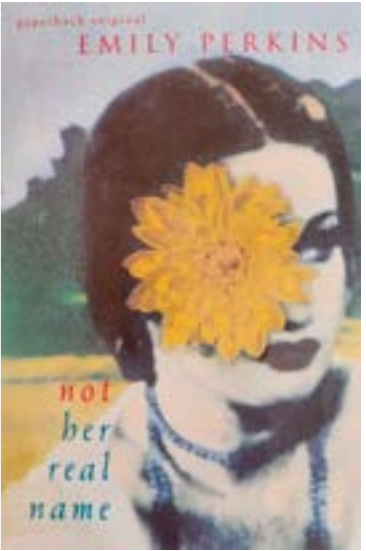
Author: Emily Perkins

Publication year: 1996

A review by Elles Smallegoor

Last month I promised to get back to Emily Perkins’s collection of short stories – all twelve of them this time. The first story followed 20-somethings Cody and Francis and almost all other stories focus on the lives of young adults like them, trying to figure out themselves, life and love – usually with limited success. The reader gets a brief peek into their urban lives which mainly consists of personal and professional soul-searching, drinking, (unhealthy) sex, romantic self-delusion and some pretty narcissistic and self-destructive behaviour. There is Billy in “barking”, who dreams of becoming an actor like Marlon Brando but he is only at the start of this journey – he has joined a local theatre group. Unwilling to be vulnerable and not yet confident and mature enough to laugh at himself, he screws this first step up miserably. There is Dorothy in “you can hear the boats go by” who we find at the supermarket freaking out about seeing her ex Edward, and, instead of just having a – slightly painful - wee chat with him, goes into her anxiety-ridden head and displays some pretty unusual behaviour. There is Kate, who is suddenly confronted with the suicide of a friend. There are Marcelle and Diana, best friends who support each other in their difficult journeys into creative work – or do they? Perkins is great at creating these troubled twenty-somethings. The characters feel real and the reader is instantly drawn into their worlds. Reading the collection as a whole, however, leaves the reader with a sense of a young Kiwi generation that is pretty frustrated and dark-minded. Luckily, in most stories, Perkins provides humour and wit to offset the bleakness. Billy, for instance, is disgusted by his upbeat, life-loving female drama teacher who wants them to “Find Their Clown”. Perkins offers the reader Billy’s long inner monologue thrashing his teacher and his fellow students in language that I won’t repeat here but is so hilarious it made me laugh out loud. Perkins superbly manages to keep you as a reader on Billy’s side, seeing the absurdist and slightly silly nature of the clown exercise, and then suddenly smashes a rip into this reader-character identification by relating his subsequent act as Dog the Clown, aggressively barking at the group and upsetting

the positive improv atmosphere and ultimately giving up on his whole dream too easily. One story in the collection, “a place where no one knows your face”, forms an exception and is told from the perspective of a young boy who sits in the back of his parents’ car with his sister, on their way to their holiday camping ground. It is almost a relief to suddenly be put in the mind of a young kid whose world is just the car and who quibbles with his sister, enjoys an icecream and tries to eat a ripe peach without spilling the juice, as his mother told him to. The juxtaposition of this story with the others throws the heaviness of the subject-matter of the entire collection (confronting and/or embracing reality, maturity and responsibility) into relief. Although, on second reading there are some parallels to be found as well. Perkins’s debut is somewhat bleak but powerful in its rendering of voices, characters and settings. A good place to start if you wish to dive into her work.



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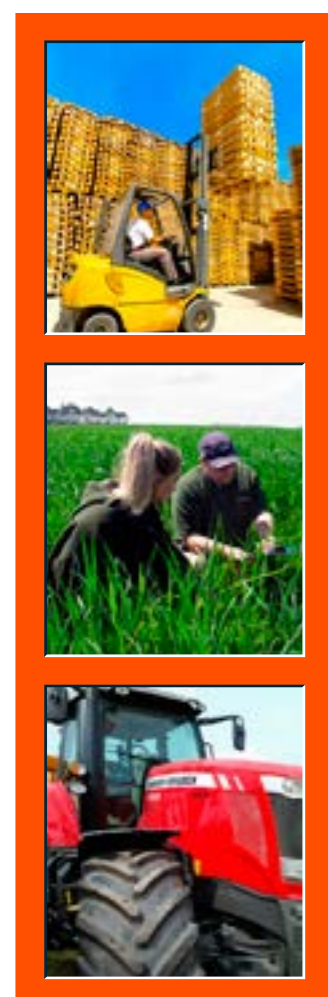


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Gambling Venue Policy

Gambling is enjoyed by many, but it needs to be managed responsibly.

It's time to review our Gambling Venue Policy and we want your feedback on a few proposed changes.

- ✓ Introducing a cap on the number of gambling venues allowed in the district.
- ✓ Retaining the current cap of five pokies per venue.
- ✓ Allowing existing venues to relocate to an alternative site if they meet certain conditions.
- ✓ Restricting venues from opening in or relocating to low socio-economic areas.

Have we got the balance right?

Have your
Say!



Help decide
what's right for
your community.



Read more and have your say!

ItsOurPlace.nz

Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policy

Under the Building Act, Council is required to make sure that existing buildings in our district are safe and hazards are dealt with.

We're reviewing our Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policy and proposing some minor changes, and we want to hear what you think.



Read more and have your say!

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Feedback closes on Monday 27 October



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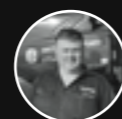
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A COMMENT:

Not my original intention but I feel duty bound to mention the passing of Roy Wilson.

Roy passed away about mid-August. I had visited him some time possible late July, he discussed his health which was unusual for Roy, he had been diagnosed as having prostate cancer and was about to proceed with chemotherapy which he was not looking forward to.

I regret I had not visited him further but as I traveled to visit in late August I was to learn before I reached his residence that he had passed away some ten days earlier. I felt sad and a little guilty that I had failed to call on him in what could have been a time of need, but now I believe that was as Roy would have wanted it to be. He was a very private person and certainly did not seek the limelight.

Over the years I had visited Roy from time to time, we were good friends, but did not see a great deal of each other, perhaps it was that we had a good understanding of each other.

Roy first became a Mt Somers citizen some thirty to forty years ago when he purchased an empty section on Patten Street and proceeded to develop this land into a park like garden with flower beds and trees. At the time he had resigned from his employment and was spending time in Dunedin where he cared for his ageing mother. A short while later he bought the house in Pattern Street behind the large hedge, the hedge he developed the lettering on. This house was on a one-acre title which Roy really enjoyed, and he developed the land into a garden of significance, it is an absolute credit to him. He had a type of flat built at the back of the house for his mother to live in on her visits to Mt Somers.

I do not know the family history of this man, I know that he had traveled to Australia visiting a sister and brothers also to the North Island on family visits, he had nieces and nephews. Roy himself was a single man, age possible late 70s or early 80s a very private individual.

Roy had accompanied me on several four-wheel drive trips into the high country, he very much appreciated these outings. The real outing was when my generous family had shouted me a three-hour flight with Philip Todhunter over the Southern Alps. I was able to take two or three passengers with me, my immediate family appeared not available except for daughter-in-law Ruth. I invited Roy, he was little reluctant at first, on second thoughts he considered it an opportunity not to be missed. The flight took place on the twenty fourth of December 2023. A very calm successful flight over the Whitcombe pass along the west side of the Alps around Aoraki Mt Cook and returning along the East side of the Alps. When I look back on that day now, I'm so pleased that I had invited Roy to come along with us.

Roy was the gardener of Mt Somers, his hedge with the carefully shaped word-ing, a tourist attraction, the wording now gone! Roy felt that no other person would want to or have the time to maintain such a unique work of art. He was in his quiet

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way something of an artist, his collection of paintings gathered from op shops. Perhaps more significant was the collection of ceramics which he was proud of. They were Germain ceramics produced between a certain group of years, an interest he had developed over time. A somewhat unique collection of items.

But Roy has passed on, what word best describes this man? Could it be a 'horticulturalist' one with the art or practice of garden cultivation and management. Perhaps he was more of a botanist he had an impressive knowledge of botanical species, with the common name and the botanical names of many plant species. He was without doubt a well-educated man.

Rest in peace Roy, your time as a resident of Mt Somers village has been appreciated, long may the remnants of your gardens continue to grow and flourish bringing pleasure to those who are privileged to observe these gardens and smell the flowers.

"Nothing beautiful in this world is ever really lost..."

Those we cherish will always live on in memory"

with regards, Denis.

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Mayfield Hall & Domain Update September

Spring is here and the wind lately has certainly let us know. It was a quiet end to winter with no bookings in August, however July wrapped up with the group of campers from the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association using the hall and domain facilities over a fabulous long weekend. On the Saturday they enjoyed their lunch prepared by the Mayfield School parents of students fundraising for their Stewart Island Camp. The NZMCA group had a great weekend in Mayfield, making the most of the winter sunshine.

Some maintenance work has recently been completed in the domain. The trees along the boundary between the tennis court and Panthers Rock had to be removed, as their roots had begun to lift the court surface.

During the school holidays, the Wellbeing Opuke Holiday Program has been back in the hall, providing activities for local children. It's always great to see the space being used.

Looking ahead, the Mayfield A & P Show Association will be hosting a Centennial Celebration Fundraising Dinner on Friday, October 3rd. It's shaping up to be a great night and well worth supporting if you are around.

Lastly, the Triennial Meeting for the Reserve Board is scheduled for Thursday, November 27th at 7.30pm in the hall supper room. All welcome.



For all hall booking enquiries, please contact Aafke Baxter on 027 463 9728

For any other correspondence or if you're keen to get involved, please contact David Greenslade (Chairman) on 027 333 6835.

By Aafke Baxter, on behalf of the Mayfield Hall and Domain Committee



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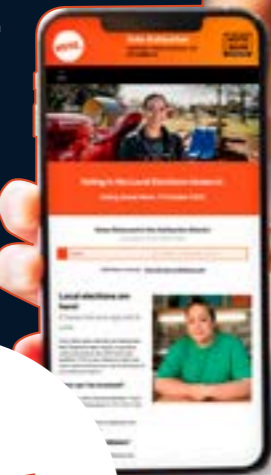
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No voting pack?

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Mt Somers Playcentre

Spring is here! The children are very excited to be enjoying warmer weather for outside fun, particularly some splashy water play. Playcentre was badly hit by the big winds that came through Mount Somers and we want to say a big THANK YOU to the neighbours who helped contain the impact. A few of the mothers had a busy night making dinner as a fundraiser for the Mayfield Lions Club. We're planning to put this money towards scooters and musical instruments for the kids. As always we hope it was a nice meal out for the lovely Lions! We're now in school holidays but as soon as term 4 kicks off we will be back, ready for plenty more fun in the (hopefully) sun! Feel free to pop in to see if Playcentre is somewhere you would like to be with your children. 50 Pattons Road, every Tuesday and Thursday 9am-12pm.



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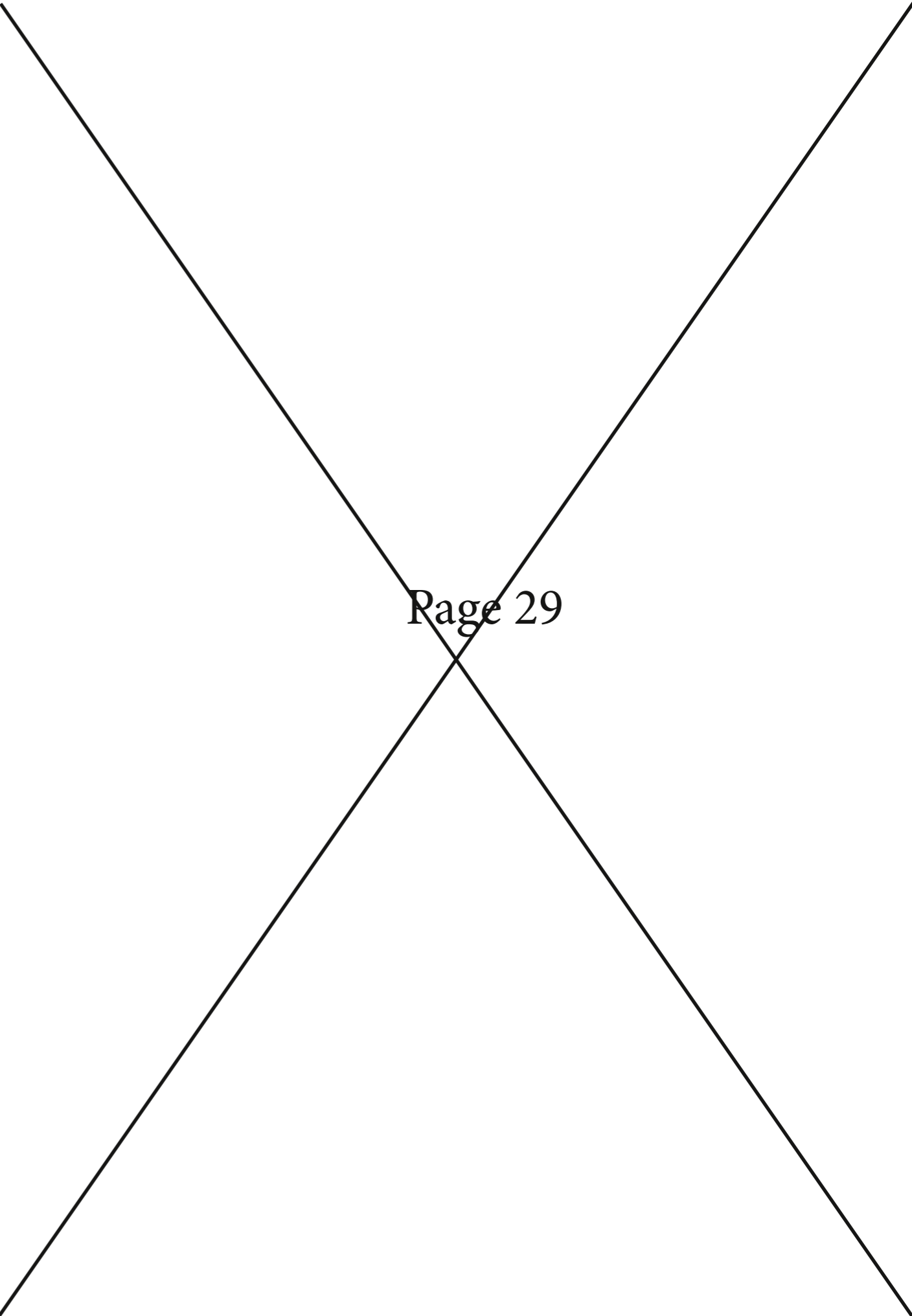


DEADLINE DATE FOR NOVEMBER ISSUE 2025

ISSUE	DEADLINE	DELIVERY
November 2025	25 October	30 October

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