

Dick Hansen – the friend that Mount Somers didn't really know it had.

When we began planning the construction of the Information Station on the Village Green we faced the challenge of how we could best turn the architect's vision into reality, given that we had modest funds at our disposal.

The building itself – although it looks deceptively simple, had a number of challenges. It was not a straight forward task – the builder had to organise a collection of unskilled volunteers, recycled roof trusses from the Christchurch Earthquake, donated timber, flooring materials and coordinate with local contractors and District Council as well.

One name came to mind immediately – Dick Hansen, a retired builder from Ashburton who had some connections to Mount Somers already, having built or renovated a number of buildings in the area over the years. He was a regular visitor to the Mount Somers Rugby grounds firstly as a player for Allenton and later as a coach. In my last year playing rugby for Mount Somers I played against Dick and his Allenton team three times. We were evenly matched – so much so, that the two teams shared the Senior Reserve Trophy that year.

Dick agreed to help us with our project. He said that he always felt really at home in the district and was excited by the concept and plans.

He put together a budget for us to accompany our fundraising applications. When these were successful we were finally able to make a start.

As the build came to an end, we had received no accounts for all Dick's time and travel. When we enquired, we were told he had no intentions of charging us, he was just happy to do it.

To go some way to thank him we were planning to give Dick and his wife Lorraine, a very special weekend in the district – including flights over the mountains with Philip Todhunter at Lake Heron Air, 4WD trips in the hills, a night in the new hut at Inverary, and a celebration dinner at Stroneschrubie.

Sadly this was never able to happen. As the build and subsequent interior fit out came to an end in late August and early September, Dick told us he had been received an advanced cancer diagnosis and



Robert Schikker Dick Hanson and John Chapman

the future was bleak. Despite this he carried on and finished the project. About six weeks later in mid October Dick passed away. The Information Station was designed as a celebration of Mount Somers history and it will service that purpose magnificently. At the same time, we can see the building as a beautifully constructed reminder of a highly skilled craftsman with a wonderful community ethic and an enormously generous personality that he did his best to conceal.

John Chapman

My apologies to all the Walking Group Ladies.
I have simply run out of space to include all your great photos
of your various walks. I will try to make up for it next month.
Editor

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local community at a grass roots level.**

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Mt Somers Springburn Shines at Athletics Day

The sun was shining — and so was the Mt Somers Springburn spirit — as our students, staff, and families took to the track and field to represent The Mount with pride and heart!

It was a day filled with personal bests, podium placings, and plenty of smiles. The energy was infectious as tamariki gave it their all, cheered on by an enthusiastic crowd of parents and supporters.

Adding to the fun, we even had two parents' teams join in on the action, showing that the MtSS competitive spirit truly spans generations!

A huge thank you to everyone who participated, supported, and helped make the day such a success. Once again, Mt Somers Springburn School has shown that when we come together as a community, we can achieve great things — both on and off the field.



MAYFIELD MT SOMERS ANGLICAN PARISH

It's coming up to a year since I started in the role of Rural minister for Mid-Canterbury. It's been a very full on first year in the role, but I hope everyone will agree a very successful first year with a lot of highlights — including the 125th anniversary of St. Aidan's church and trying out the Pint with a Priest, and some scammers apparently thinking I'm important enough to impersonate (in case you're wondering I'm not in American and I don't need any iTunes vouchers). Looking forward to next year, for a moment, the official International Buy a Priest a Beer Day is the 9th of September. If it's almost a year since I started, then it's also about time for people to start saying things like "I can't believe it's almost Christmas." Looking back on the first sermon I gave at St. Aidan's I mentioned how the shops seem more eager to start Christmas than the churches. This year looks no different; the last time I went into town The Warehouse and Kmart seemed to want to start celebrating Christmas in September. But before we get to Christmas we have the season of Advent, which starts at the end of November. Advent is the beginning of the church year, and is marked by a spirit of expectation, anticipation, and preparation.

Throughout Advent we reflect on the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love; things it seems the world desperately needs. As always, you're welcome to join us any time.

CHURCH SERVICES

St Aidan's, Mt Somers

- November 23rd 4pm Pint with a Priest at Mt. Somers Tavern.
- December 7th 6pm Traditional 9 Lessons and Carols at All Saints' Methven
- December 11th 4pm Pint with a Priest at Mt. Somers Tavern.
- December 22nd 11am Mayfield-Mt. Somers Christmas Service — carols and communion at St. Aidan's Mt. Somers (followed by shared lunch)

PARISH CONTACTS

Phone: 302 8254
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Mayfield Scout Group

The AGM of the Mayfield Scout Group will be held on Tuesday 18 November, at 7.30pm at the Mayfield Scout Den. Enquiries to secretary. We are looking for a cub leader/assistant leader so we can offer the next level of scouting to our keas. Cubs are 8-11 years, boys and girls. If you have an interest in scouting activities, and young people, and some spare time, please contact me.

Our scout den is having it's 50th birthday this year! To celebrate this, we are embarking on a programme of repairs. The most pressing issue is weathertightness of the building. We are not financially able to do what we would like to, so will be seeking community grants and support.

A Fleming
Group Secretary
Ph 027 2746 690

Mayfield Reserve & Hall Board Triennial Meeting

27 November 2025

7.30pm in the Mayfield Hall supper room
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The Old Post Office Library



There should not be any cobwebs left in Mt Somers!

I have never known such a relentless wind that is just going on and on. Most unpleasant for humans and stock alike. Please could we have some peaceful days and just get on with springlike weeks to let the spring gardens do their thing.

Thankfully the winds do not stop us reading, just as well as new books keep coming:

‘The Irish Goodbye’ by Heather Aimee O’Neill. I quote “A finely crafted novel exploring what it means to be a family and what we owe ourselves and each other.” Three adult sisters meet up at their childhood home on Long Island for Thanksgiving weekend and each of them carries a heavy secret. Old tensions boil over and new truths emerge, a very real portrait of what can happen when families aren’t on their best behaviour. I’m partway through reading this book and look forward to my reading times with it. Each chapter is in the voice of one of the sisters so easy to keep track of the story. This will be on the shelves in November as will all of the following.

‘The Last Living Cannibal’ by Ariana Ngarewa. This is the third book by this author (‘The Bone Tree’.....’Patea Boys’)

He was born and raised in Taranaki and is a schoolteacher of Ngati Ruanui, Nga Rauru, Ngaruahine descent.

Some background.....Set in the 1940s and the Maori men of Taranaki will not join the Maori battalion because they had already lost too much. In 1865 the Crown confiscated 1.2 million acres in Taranaki, taking land from Maori both loyal to the Crown and those deemed rebels. Although the Crown justified the confiscation as punishment for insurrection, Maori regarded these seizures as land theft disguised as colonial law.

This book centres on Koko, the oldest man in the village and a legend who has lived through the land wars and then imprisonment in Dunedin. There is a whisper of him as the Last Living Cannibal. This book looks very interesting and topical

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especially with all the latest ructions with the Te Pati Maori Party etc.

‘Mad Mabel’ by Sally Hepworth.

Alongside the title of this book is ...‘they called it murder, she called it justice’.

In 1959 at 15 years of age, Mabel Waller became the youngest Australian in history to be convicted of murder. In 2025 an elderly man is found dead by his neighbour 81 year

old Elsie Fitzpatrick. No one suspects foul play until they discover Elsie’s past.

In the 1950s she was called Mabel.....

This book scored very highly on the Goodreads scale, always a good sign!

‘The Naked Light’ by Bridget Collins.

I bought this book on the strength of her other books in the library.... ‘The Binding’, ‘The Betrayal’, ‘The Silence Factory’..... all excellent. So here’s hoping this one is too. It is certainly in the genre of her previous books. quote.... ‘haunting gothic tale of ancient darkness and a love that defies convention’. Looking forward to that one too.

‘Buckeye’ by Patrick Ryan.

I have heard such good things about this book. Simply put, it is an emotional roller coaster of two couples told over four decades in small town America.

I overheard a bookseller recommending it to a customer, and couldn’t resist buying it for the library. It is already in circulation so should be available sometime this month.

We have made Joyce Grieve’s scrapbooks of yesteryear more accessible, now next to the couch. These are such a valuable resource of the Mt Somers area, all meticulously cut out and glued into time zones. Unfortunately they cannot be removed from the library, but provide hours of reading for those who want to sit a while on the couch or in the sun.

And the former telephone booth has a new life as a history nook where older books, Mona Anderson, Peter Newton, David McLeod, etc are to be found along with Mt Somers’ history.

Some interesting facts about the Mt Somers’ Library:

It was originally founded in 1883 in a room in the first Accommodation House of A Peache and J Hood on the Ashburton Gorge Road.

In 1921 the old school became the first library building.

It was demolished with the old school in 1965, and then became kept in cupboards in the local Memorial Hall.

In March 2012, the old Post Office next to the General Store became its new home.

And there it resides, very comfortably in the midst of Mt Somers, lending approximately 1500 books annually and providing the township (and others) a constant supply of free books on ‘the outside shelves’.

A Library to be proud of, with many thanks to the volunteer force who keep it functioning.

For more information please phone 027 4363 736 or 021 1264 310. Open Thursday and Sunday 2-4pm or whenever the sign is out.





Mayfield and Districts Lions Report

Mayfield At our last tea meeting, the speakers were Gerard and Claire Rushton. They gave a very powerful speech about their daughter's journey with Meningitis and the work that Gerard does with being Chairman of Meningitis NZ.

This leads on to our annual charity golf match on the 20th of November. Last year, we gave \$40,000.00 to the Westpac chopper appeal. This year we hope to raise the same amount and give half to Meningitis NZ and the other half to the local Hospice.

On the 2nd of November, we are hosting the friends of the district at the Staveley Hall, Alan Totty is going to speak to them, and the Lions will cater for everyone.

On the 12th of October, a group of Lions and partners went to the Ashburton event center to watch Mark Hadlow do his one-man show called GOMIL (grumpy old men in lycra). A very entertaining show with a strong message about depression in older men. This was followed by a meal at Cleavers Corner.

A reminder to the public to buy your firewood early, so it's dry for next winter, and to beat a possible price rise.

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Robert Schikker

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A Big Thank You

Thankyou to those of you who turned up to our Mt Somers village green working bee. We had Marion and Wendy C who came a few days earlier and spent a few hours working.

A visiting gentleman approached Marion and commented that the area was beautiful and he really appreciated it being here with a clean toilet handy.

There were 5 committee members and also Peter, Selina and Daralyn helping. A huge Thankyou as we cleared out 6 big trailer loads and several Ute trays full of weeds, cabbage tree leaves and tree and shrub trimmings.

Still have a small length of garden to do but after our efforts it looks so much more cared for. Ice creams were shouted all round to finish the couple of hours. The information station has stood up well to those horrific winds.

Pam Annand.

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Mayfield A &P Association Centennial/ Fundraising Dinner

On Friday 3rd October, Mayfield A&P Association hosted a Centennial/Fundraising Dinner and raised \$26000 additional funds to complete the Produce shed and mark our upcoming 100 show.

126 tickets were sold, our MC for the evening was John Harrison. 4 local guest speakers Graham Linton, Hayden Tasker, Anna McCormick and Mark Morrow entertained us with memorable show stories from the past. Mick Withers was our Auctioneer for the evening.

We sincerely thank everyone for attending this evening, a lot of fun was had.

A Special thanks to our Donors
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We look forward to seeing you all on March 14th for our 100th Show.



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Mayfield Playcentre

A blustery start to Term Four! When the weather allows, our tamariki have been making the most of the outdoors from the sandpit and swings to obstacle courses and enjoying kai time together. The strawberry patch is starting to come to life, and our vegetable pods have been planted up for spring. The tamariki have loved being part of the whole process from planting and watering, through to harvesting and, of course, tasting the results!

We've also been incredibly lucky to receive the Ballance Self-Serve Silo donation, which will be well used to upgrade and add to our collection of musical instruments. A big thank you to Ballance for their generous support.

It's shaping up to be a busy and exciting term, with Christmas crafts just around the corner.

Our annual AGM will be held on Thursday 20th November at 7pm at Panthers Rock, we'd love to see any new or previous members come along.



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A COMMENT

I now settle down in front of the computer to write yet another 'A Comment'. I have little idea as to how many A Comments I have written, and I guess it really does not matter, since writing my first comment I have seldom missed an issue although I must have failed to write for the occasional issue. I did write before Jeremy became the editor, and I must comment on what a great job he has done over many years of editing the "Nor wester" and getting it out to the folk of the Foothills. It has been a great link that helps so much to bind the people together and serves the community well. A much-needed publication.

Only two days ago I return from a time away, something I appear to do about twice a year. I'm very happy at my home with my cat Nick and dog Leo. Leo has got to be quite well known in the neighbourhood. Some of the school children call out hello Leo as they pass by on their bikes or more commonly scooters. Leo had his six-monthly hair cut or groom as they call it, he had got to be very hairy, I'm able to trim him to some degree but when it comes to his legs and more particularly the paws I'm certainly not allowed. So, to the vet where he gets sedated and very professionally groomed, I won't mention the price! He no longer carries twigs and sticky weed into the house, also when he chooses to swim in the stream, he certainly dries much better, but his hair will grow, and I guess in six months he will have to return to the vet clinic once more.

My time was spent traveling and in Nelson where time was well spent visiting my aging sister, a cousin and the widow of a cousin. It was a change, and I enjoy the area, so very different to Ashburton and surrounds.

On my return home I spent a night at my old hometown of Murchison, it is different but only a little different, the streets are the same, no change of names there, there is a new supermarket although it looks a little like a cowshed a low building with a flat roof, I thought it lacked imagination, it is a nice shiny new building a big step up on the previous Four Square. There is to be a 150-year celebration at Easter next year, I thought I should attend, three days of it if you please. I learnt at the museum that I had to go to the school office to register. The school is very much the same as when I attended in the late 1940s finally leaving rather abruptly in 1956. I had just finished what was known as form 2 and I had turned 15 years of age. There was little point in me returning to school in the new year, I was not a student and never had been, I remember finding the High School head a Mr. Preston. I classed him as a good teacher, he politely said they would miss me! I wondered why! I was born left-handed I was instructed to write with my right hand, I must have obeyed that instruction, as at no time did I get hit over the knuckles for using the wrong hand. But to get back to Mr. Preston (nick named old Press-to). This wise teacher I remember him suggesting that I may be better writing with my left hand, the only teacher with such a suggestion. My mother was very opposed to left-handed writers making comments about such folk and stating that they look very awkward! In her view every person should write with their right hand. Times have changed I now have one son left-handed and two grandchildren likewise and I believe the rest of the world is not concerned these days.

I left Murchison for Arthurs Pass, the Lewis had closed the day before with a bad wash-out, I traveled almost in a convey of vehicles to Reefton where for me it was time for a rest stop, there I had coffee and some nourishment at the Reefton Bakery and scored a long conversation with a Mr. Tony Fortune, a man I had not previously met. We found plenty to talk about, a JP who had been to Ashburton recently to a JP conference. After discussing Murchison and the West Coast in general.

Having left the Buller Gorge I had escaped a bright yellow Ford Mustang with a black top, a convertible. This car followed me at close quarters in due course I pulled over and let him pass, then I found myself close behind him. He was what I would call an erratic driver, accelerating fast and braking hard he turned left at Inangahua Junction as did I enroute to Reefton. On the first straight he overtook other cars in grand style, I thought good I will not see you again, then as I approached Reefton, I met him traveling at high speed coming toward me, I guess he had taken the wrong turn and found Reefton instead of Westport!

I had a very pleasant drive over Arthurs Pass although a long wait at roadworks toward Otira.

The journey home was uneventful and soon after my return my friend Liz arrived with Leo who was exceedingly excited to find me at home as was Nick the cat.

Cheers Denis

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It's been a busy and exciting start to term 4 at Mayfield School!

Our Junior students recently enjoyed a fantastic trip to the river, exploring the local environment and learning about river safety, habitats, and caring for our waterways. The day was filled with discovery, laughter, and muddy boots — just as great learning should be!

Music lessons have also struck a chord with our tamariki this term. It's been wonderful to see so many students growing in confidence as they learn new instruments and share their talents during class performances. Mayfield School Music Lessons are held on a Wednesday morning at school with Janet Glassey. Janet teaches guitar, singing and keyboard groups, where students learn to play their instruments to a high standard, learning a variety of music genres depending on the instrument. Students also have performance opportunities within the school. Janet welcomes new students into the groups and enjoys helping them discover their musical talent and carry on in their musical journey. For more information contact Janet Mobile: 027 865 9060 Email: janetglassey@yahoo.com Facebook page: J Glassey Music Tuition Or Janet Glassey on messenger.

Our senior students have been getting creative through photography, capturing moments from around our school and community as part of a photo exhibition project. Heather, a professional photographer based in Christchurch came to Mayfield School to run a programme called 'Inside Stories'. This programme included 2 workshops about the importance of photographing stories, communities and environments and how to use basic photographic principles. Students learnt about the art of photography, documenting changes happening in our community and environment and talked about their photography and stories with family, friends, and the wider community. The programme is designed specifically for tamariki in rural and small regional centres and the results have been impressive, showing thoughtful perspectives and a real eye for detail.

Earlier in the term we were excited to host the **Science Alive** team from Christchurch, who ran hands-on workshops with the whole school. Students learnt about atoms, neurons, and even got to take part in some pretty amazing experiments. We loved seeing science in action.

Now that the much loved sandpit has been shifted away from the turf, there are several businesses that we would like to thank for their generosity of supplies, sand removal, or building materials for our brand new sandpit – Hobbs and Banks, Mayfield Transport, Placemakers, Cross Contracting and Duncan King (for overseeing the project). It's already a hit with our learners, providing endless opportunities for imaginative play and teamwork.

ISSUE ONE HUNDRED & THREE

THE NOR'WESTER

11



Mayfield School continues to be a place where learning is active, connected, and community focused, we're grateful for the support of everyone who helps make that possible.

Ngā mihi,
Emma Hewett
Tumuaki/Principal, Mayfield School

NOVEMBER 2025

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Wild weather played out

Our forecast red wind warning arrived on cue and caused quite a bit of damage around our district. Thought I would send these photos from a farm at Staveley. The sheep was on a mission to get out of the wind choosing an abandoned dog kennel!! The harder bit was trying to get her out again.



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ANAMA RURAL WOMEN

October saw eleven members meeting at Jeannette's for friendship and social gathering over a cuppa. As Wednesday 15th October happened to be International Day of Rural Women I read a comment from Nicola Grigg's Facebook page. Her message to Rural Women is to back yourselves as you are an integral part of New Zealand's prosperity and future. This advice is for all women living rurally.

We were then given a talk by Carolyn about the children's Bike Skills Park which is going to be established in the Ashburton Domain. It will be a safe place where children can learn road skills, using traffic lights that will be solar powered, railway crossings and pedestrian crossings.

RURAL@HEART DINNER GROUP you can follow their Facebook page.

NOVEMBER 26th they are having a dinner with guest speaker Lucy Gilbert from Fern and Feta, demonstrating how to make a grazing platter then it will become the meal. It is being held in the Winchmore Hall \$30 a head. Everyone with Rural at Heart is welcome to attend for more information see the Facebook page.

Rural Women continue to advocate for rural services, school buses, postal services and health care.

As a note of interest in 1940 in one month members raised enough money to buy a Spitfire for the war effort.

We are always open to welcoming new members.

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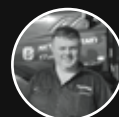


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Mt Somers and District Citizens Association

After 23 years the MSDCA has voted to be wound up.

The association has in the past had a lot of interaction with the council and it has also been the umbrella group for the Village Green and the Hakatere Heritage committees and the Nor'Wester newsletter.

The Nor'Wester will carry on its own. The Hakatere and Green committees have achieved most of their goals and can carry on with a bit of maintenance. Thanks to all those who have supported us over the years.

Robert Schikker
President

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Safer Mid Canterbury
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Together we're safer • Me uru kahikatea

Wow, Christmas is coming up so quickly that you wonder Where the year has gone

It's that time of the year when the famous Nor wester's make their presence known. These winds bring with them some very challenging driving conditions - trees down, debris on the roads and wind gusts that can push you all over the road. This year the Nor westers seem particularly strong, so take care on the roads and drive to the conditions.

We look forward to getting year nine underway in the new year. We will be starting intake Seventeen in March and registrations are open for the road code course. To be eligible for this course you need to not already hold a NZ driver's license. So anyone still driving on an overseas license (and haven't started the conversion process) or those with no license at all are welcome to apply.

The programme is still very popular with quite a long wait time for the practical driving sessions with our mentors. This shows the need is there, and if we had more volunteers available we could help more people. Because the programme starts with the learners license, people who join the road code course are first in line for a driving mentor. This means those who already have a learners license can only be helped once a mentor comes available. That could be a long wait.

So, if you or someone you know would be interested in teaching one of our learner drivers to drive, we would love to hear from you. Our drivers are all adult newcomers living throughout the Ashburton District.

One again, many thanks to the Community Trust Mid & South Canterbury for funding us for another year. We are so grateful for the support of our sponsors as we can't run the programme with out them. Once again, thank you very much.

If you would like to be part of this amazing programme, as a student, driving mentor or to volunteer in other ways 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

255 Moore Street, Ashburton 7700

Ph: 027 611 3301

wendy.hewitt@safer.org.nz

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Sabina Thapa starting the journey with mentor Jenny McDonald.

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Five ways to talk to a child about death

When you lose a family member or close friend, one of the most challenging aspects is to explain this to a child. At a time when adults are living with their own grief, children dealing with the loss of a loved one may be experiencing unfamiliar emotions and looking to adults they love to try to learn how to respond to them.

Here are a few tips for talking about death with children:

1. Be calm, honest and straight forward. Use simple words like died, death, cancer. Euphemisms can confuse children.
2. Encourage children to talk about it and how they feel. Check their level of understanding and repeat key information as needed.



3. Invite questions. Listen then answer, based on their age and stage. Bite sized pieces of information work best.

4. Reassure them that they are safe and it's not their fault. Help them identify people they know who are supporting them and will continue to support them.

5. Involve them in family events such as gatherings or memorial services. Encourage their contribution, however small.

If you are dealing with children in a similar situation, Hospice Mid Canterbury has a selection of books available for children and parents.

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.



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Book of the Month – Mt Somers Library

Title: 'The Butterfly Man'

Author: Heather Rose

Publication year: 2005 (this Allen & Unwin edition 2025)

A review by Elles Smallegoor

A new edition of Australian author Heather Rose's 2005 novel 'The Butterfly Man' has arrived in the library. It is a sensitive and subtle imaginative work that grew out of a handful of historical facts, the London murder of Sandra Rivett on 7 November 1974 and the disappearance of the Earl of Lucan, also known as Richard John Bingham, a day later, being the two most prominent ones. In the novel Bingham finds himself accused of violently murdering Rivett and flees the country. With the help of some influential individuals he takes on a new identity on the African continent and reinvents himself as the ordinary and slightly rough loner and builder Henry Kennedy. A few years later, he emigrates to Tasmania where he starts a new life.

It is here the reader first meets him. The book opens in the late 1990s and Henry is bed-ridden because of a developing brain tumour. His Vietnamese partner Lili, her recently returned daughter Suki and her grandson Charlie all live under his roof. His ability to speak is affected and his thinking confused. He has just had a stroke:

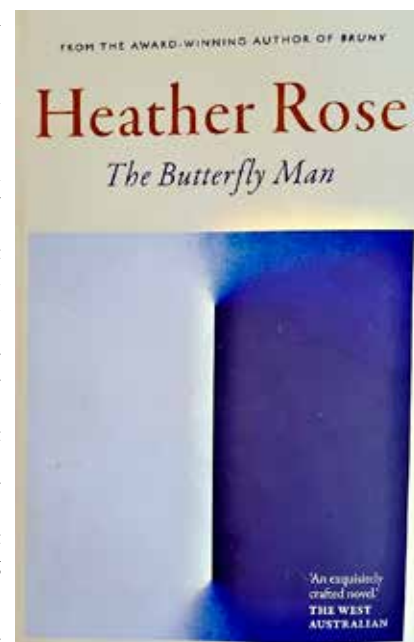
"I wake to find a young woman sitting beside me. She is Asian. Japanese. Chinese. I don't know. 'Hello, Henry,' she says, smiling and taking my hand. I try to take it back but it doesn't respond. 'It's Suki, Henry.' She has on a red shirt. She has earrings too. Large Indian earrings that move and sparkle. 'I'm sorry, young lady, but I am not Henry.'" (p. 1).

With the unravelling of Henry's mind and strict control over his life, his old identity as the Earl of Lucan clearly begins to re-emerge. A first chapter can often be a clue to a novel's themes. One of the novel's main occupations is to examine how the past can catch up with people, and the first few pages clearly hint at this. As the story progresses, Lili, Suki, and, to a lesser extent, Charlie, will turn out to have some secrets of their own too.

Rose begins her narrative with mystery and suspense; in the first few chapters, the reader still has no knowledge of Henry's – and the others' – chequered past and must wait patiently for their entire stories to be told. In the mean time, while she uses this suspense to compel the reader to keep reading, she

creates an intimate picture of a household of humans who live in a small, beautiful Tasmanian mountain community, and who love each other but who also struggle with their own demons while trying to lead a normal working and family life. She introduces Henry's best friend Jimmy, who has not only his own past to deal with but also that of his Aboriginal and Viking (!) ancestors. There is Henry's business partner Stan, who is in a wheelchair but has managed to become a successful architect. Most characters in the novel have reinvented themselves after trauma. Most have done so in a new place. Rose has a great ability to create understanding and compassion for the ways in which they strive to make a new home and identity for themselves, however fraught their relationships sometimes are. She also reveals that the ability of the mind and body to store memory makes any reinvention process highly complicated.

While inspired by real-life events, "The Butterfly Man" is more philosophical than historical. The novel deals with the big themes of life, death, the passing of time, race, nature/nurture, memory and human imperfection. It does so seriously, but throughout the book Rose makes sure there is light-hearted humour as well. Moreover, while it certainly is a contemporary realist novel in many ways, it also leaves room for mystery and magic. We never get to know the full truth about the characters in the novel and there is, especially towards the end, an otherworldly spirit to the book that comforts and heals. If you are looking for a beautiful read in the next few months, this should certainly be on your list.



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Mt Somers Rugby Club

AGM. Wednesday

26th November 2025

7pm in the clubrooms.

**Apologies and enquiries
to Secretary at
stanley007@xtra.co.nz.**

Mayfield Pool Heating Project Making Great Progress

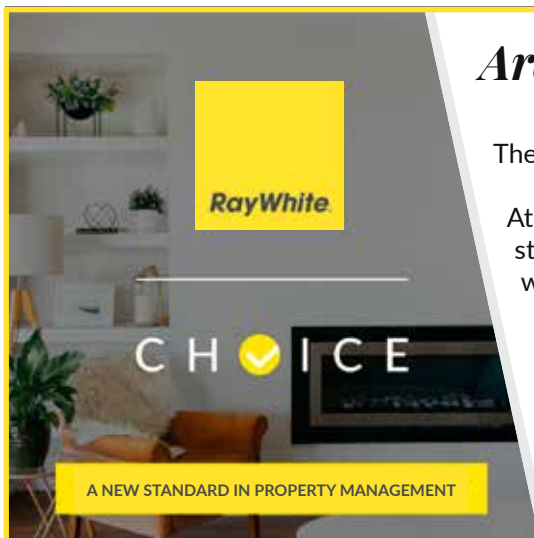
The Mayfield Community Pool Committee is well underway with its pool heating project, and we're excited to share that real progress has been made.

A huge thank you to our generous Gold Sponsors - the Baxter Family and Mount Rivers Farm (Victoria and Jared Clarke) - and to our Bronze Sponsors - Panthers Rock and Valetta Farms (Simon Roy). Your support means so much to our community and will go a long way toward making this project a reality.

We also want to give special thanks to The Lion Foundation and the Braided Rivers Trust for approving a \$60,000 funding grant toward the project. This is a massive step forward in helping us move closer to our goal.

But this is still a big project, and we're on the lookout for more sponsors and supporters to help get us across the line. If you'd like to be part of this community effort, please contact Deb on 027 461 3833 or deborah.gilkison@gmail.com.

We'd also love to see as many of you as possible at the Mayfield Pool Committee AGM on 21 November at 6:30 pm, held at Panthers Rock. All welcome!



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DEADLINE DATE FOR DECEMBER ISSUE 2025

ISSUE	DEADLINE	DELIVERY
December 2025	25 November	30 November

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