



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

At Mayfield School, every culture adds value to our school identity. We work hard to ensure that all our Tamariki/children feel seen, heard, and valued. From learning basic greetings in multiple languages to celebrating cultural festivals like Diwali, Matariki and Lunar New Year, our calendar reflects the people who make up our school.

Our students share their traditions proudly—whether it's a favourite dish, a song from their home country, or stories from family life. These experiences build empathy, curiosity, and respect among peers.

Mayfield School is putting the work into fostering connections with their immigrant, migrant and refugee families. We are actively reaching out. Our focus has certainly been on whānau engagement. Many parents come from educational systems based on different values and measure of success, so navigating Aotearoa New Zealand's approach can feel unfamiliar. Mayfield School have teamed up with Ashburton District Council and will be part of the Community Learning Hub initiative. This hub will give our Filipino migrant families a chance to hear about our New Zealand education system and begin to learn more about how we teach, learn and assess in our classrooms. With support from staff and the Ministry of Education parents will be invited to attend workshops and information sessions on a variety of topics.

Our senior school continues their mahi with Kanuka Trust. This has led to students starting to plan for their science fair competition. In term 3 the Midlands Science fair, hosted by Hakatere Kāhui ako is happening for the 4<sup>th</sup> year at the Sinclair Centre in Ashburton. This will be the first year Mayfield School will enter.

Along with carrying out an investigation, Mayfield students will have the opportunity to continue their connection with resources in the community such as Environment Canterbury and connections made through the Kanuka Trust.

Our Jnr school is also busy learning about our rivers through the science curriculum. They are identifying what a river is, why the Hinds River is important to us in Mayfield, What a Braided river is and where does the water come from. Learning through an inquiry approach helps our students become curious about the world around them.

Earlier in the term we had our cross country. It was a fantastic day as our students showed their Mayfield School HEART values. A huge thank you to all who came to Mt Somers to support our children. Well done to Annabel Carr, Saskia Blake, Maddison Taylor and Lochie Harrison who represented us this week at the Counties Cross Country.

Ngā mihi

**Emma Hewett (Tumuaki/Principal)**



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## ANAMA RURAL WOMEN

ANAMA Rural Women has been going for 90 years this year. At first they were called Women's Division of Federated Farmers.

It is quite an achievement for an organisation to have lasted that long.

In the early days each rural district had a group. We will celebrate in June although our numbers are declining we are still an enthusiastic group and enjoy meeting monthly.

Sometimes with a speaker but other times just a social get together.

Visitors always welcome.

During May Provincial Rural Women had the movie The Salt Path as a fundraiser for Leptospirosis and this was well supported.

An interesting movie based on a true story about a couple over coming the challenges they faced and not giving up.

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## Safer Mid Canterbury Hakatere Haumaru

Together we're safer • Me uru kahikatea

Road code class has come to an end and we are having great results on the learners license tests so far. It's always fun in class and such a joy to see new friendships developing. We miss it when it's over but it's so exciting to see our ladies out on the road with their mentors. Our next road code course is nearly full already, and we don't start until July!!

June is a busy time of year in a rural community with many farmers on the move. Some of our participants are moving away and we are sad to see them go, but always pleased to have got them as far as we can in their journey to a drivers license. And of course new people come to the district and they too need our help. It's always a pleasure to meet new people and see the growth in them as they progress through our programme.

Not only are farmers on the move, but so too are their cows, tractors and gear. So be extra careful on the road over the next few weeks and throughout the winter period as farmers tend their herds at their winter grazing blocks.

There are many other hazards over winter – black ice, low sun angle, rain, frost and even snow in some areas. All situations our learner drivers need to learn to handle. Our diving mentors are amazing as they guide them through every possible scenario.

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](mailto:wendy.hewitt@safer.org.nz)

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

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

Wendy Hewitt

Rural Licensing Co-Ordinator

Safer Mid Canterbury

255 Moore Street, Ashburton 7700

Ph: 027 611 3301

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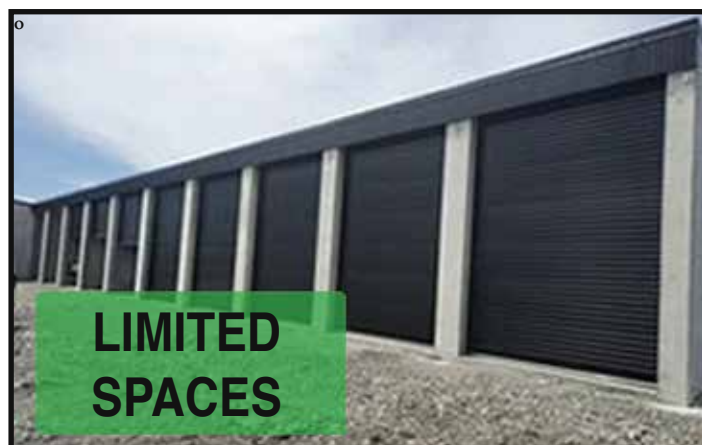
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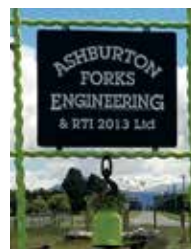
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# The Old Post Office Library



We have had quite a cleanup in the library this last few weeks. So far this year we have added 100+ new books to our shelves (that is, books we have purchased) which means finding space for them so they can be displayed well and not crammed in amongst older books. So we have culled 100 books but only to the outside shelves so people still have a chance of reading them. The majority of shelved books are now less than 20 years old which makes a huge change from when the library first started and making do with donated books or discontinued editions from various libraries.

## Important!!

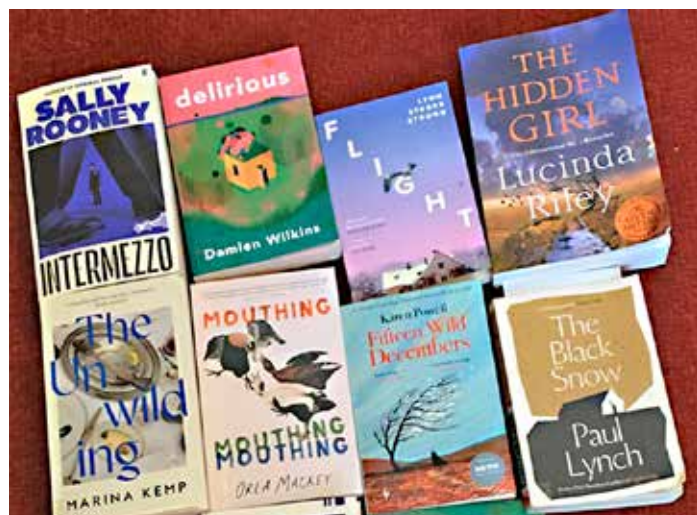
We have two more books which seem to have disappeared or can't be accounted for.

**'FIRE' by John Boyne** and **LADY-IN-WAITING by Anne Glenconner**. The former is very new to our shelves, in the last six months, but can't be found. Do you have it???? Please check your piles of books for both these titles. We want them back!!! They do not seem to have been entered in our red recording book always left on the counter..... please make sure any borrowed books are always recorded in that red book. The books are then traceable and it would save much time on our part to keep track of what is where.

## New books continue to be added:

**'The Book of Guilt' by Catherine Chidgey**. If this book is in the same calibre as 'The Axeman's Carnival' and 'Pet', her last two books, this will be very popular indeed. I have no idea what it is about (deliberately) as I want to be surprised! She is a brilliant writer so I'm very sure I will love it.

For those who have enjoyed **Lars Mytting's** other three books... 'The Sixteen Trees of the Somme', and the two linked Sister Bells books, we now have the last book of the trilogy. **'The Night of the Scourge'**. Although it completes the story, the book can stand on its own if you haven't read the others. They are in the library... 'The Bell Lake' and 'The Reindeer Hunters'.



**'The Remarkable Truths of Alfie Bains'. By Sarah Clutton.** Described as "unforgettable, funny, life-affirming, and deeply moving"

The story of one Irish boy Alfie who discovers a family he didn't know about, back in Tasmania. And he travels out there from Ireland to meet them. Well recommended by the reviews.

**'Kingmaker' by Sonia Purnell**, who has also written 'A Woman of No Importance'. (in the library). Her latest book is about Winston Churchill's daughter-in-law Pamela Churchill Harriman. He engaged her at age twenty as a 'secret weapon' during WWII to seduce Americans over to the British cause against Hitler. She went on to influence such figures as the Kennedys, Frank Sinatra, Nelson Mandela, Truman Capote, and many more. There is practically no-one in the twentieth century politics, culture and fashion whose life she did not touch in some way according to the blurb on the back page of the book.

So she certainly earned this biography.

Her life seems to have been one of seduction, intrigue and power.

I am nearly finished reading one of our NZ classics, **'Denniston Rose', written by Jenny Patrick**. I am loving it! If you haven't read it, I certainly recommend it: about a little girl, daughter of a prostitute, who grows up on the Denniston Plateau high above Westport on the West Coast.

Recently while on holiday, I walked all around that area and just couldn't imagine that a thriving town once stood in such a desolate place. It is a real coal mining tale and awe inspiring to learn about the incredible hardships the residents endured, particularly the women. It was the time of diphtheria outbreaks



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so there were plenty of deaths as well as coal mining accidents for the hard working women to deal with, while managing their large families in this desolate rough atmosphere.

**The Ockham Book awards have been announced and Damien Wilkens' book, 'Delirious' won the main prize for fiction.** It is in the library. I have already reviewed it but want to say again how much I enjoyed the story. It is about a couple who move to a retirement village. Don't be misled..... there is a lot more to this book than one imagines.....

Happy reading as these nights get darker for longer..... nothing is nicer than tucked up beside a fire with a favourite book. And please check your book piles for 'Fire' and 'Lady -in -Waiting'. We have readers waiting to borrow both books! AC.



## Mt Somers Rugby Club



The Senior Rugby is nearing the end of their 1st round of competition with some our Snr B team having some great wins. They will be playing at the Mount on Saturday 7th June against Hampstead, then Saturday 14th against Methven. This is our Country Day with all our JABs playing at home plus our newly formed Womens Team will play a friendly game against Celtic at 12.30pm. The Snr B team will play at 3pm.

Come along and enjoy a great day of Rugby. This is also a day the club thanks all our Life Members and Sponsors for all their support for the club over the season.

On Sunday 15th June our Golden Oldies Team "Tussock Crawlers" will take on a team from Temuka at the Mt.

We are looking for people to work in the Bar and Kitchen at Home games. This is a paid position, if anyone is interested or would like to find out more information please contact Colleen Stanley 027 4975 868.



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**When it comes to our changing climate,** Council has a responsibility to look after our district by building resilient infrastructure, helping people understand what to expect and finding ways to deliver services more sustainably.

From reducing waste to investing in nature-based solutions, the draft Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy contains 80 actions that will help look after the places we love.

How should we all be planning for the future?

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## Mayfield and Districts Lions Report

Another busy month for the club, plenty of fire wood deliveries plus more logs delivered to Ron's yard for next year's fires. Graeme has been cutting and splitting logs through the processor with Ian's help loading the machine.

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But, while the name has changed, Chantel and the team are still here at Farmfirst Mayfield to look after all of your farm and animal health product needs.

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We have been cutting and splitting the bigger logs most Friday afternoons, weather permitting. The heap is slowly growing .

**Our newest club member Bev is already getting involved with the wood chops by supplying afternoon tea, which is very much appreciated .** Club members along with other volunteers delivered meals on wheels, three days last week. A big thank you to all concerned for making time to help out with this very worthwhile cause.



*Lion Roger Lake inducted our new member, Bev Tasker to our club. Pictured here with her sponsor Les Smith .*

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## High Country News – Neighbourhood Support

We hope this message finds the foothills community well. Mt Hutt has received a good dusting of snow—Autumn seems to be having a tug-of-war with Spring. Despite the trees beginning to shed their leaves, everything remains surprisingly lush and vibrant.

Crime appears to be easing across the District, with 57 reported incidents of theft, burglary, and wilful damage in April. In the Methven/foothills area, there were 3 incidents:

Ashburton Lakes/Hakatere Potts Road – theft from a vehicle

Methven Highway – theft from a vehicle

Pudding Hill/McLennans Bush – theft of a bike

Please stay vigilant. Make sure vehicles are locked and all valuable are taken out or hidden out of sight. Engraving kits are available from Neighbourhood Support to mark valuable items like boats, trailers, machinery, and bikes. Record your driver's licence number in a secure place and mark it on items if possible. If stolen property is recovered, this helps Police return it to the rightful owner.

Unfortunately, scams are on the rise—whether by text, email, or phone. Some are sophisticated, but most still rely on catching us off-guard or hoping we ignore our instincts. Even genuine emails can feel suspicious these days. When in doubt, I always call the organisation directly—but using a number I find myself, not the one they provide. It's a simple step that can prevent a lot of trouble. Keep an eye on your bank statements. I recently noticed a \$8.30 monthly charge after making an online purchase—it turned out to be a hidden subscription. I called the bank immediately. They stopped the charges and helped me cancel the card and issue a new one. It was inconvenient, yes—but absolutely worth it to protect my account.

In the meantime keep safe and vigilant.

**Sue Abel**  
**Neighbourhood Support**

## Drop-in session at Mt Somers on 17 June, re the Stoney Creek intake.

Council is holding a drop-in session for the public to be part of the discussion about the future Stoney Creek stockwater intake.

Council is planning to exit its stockwater delivery service by June 2027 and is considering the future of 17 stockwater intakes from rivers and streams. Those who pay for stockwater are being surveyed about their future stockwater needs, while the public is also being given a chance to have its say.

The drop-in session for the Stoney Creek intake will be held at the Mt Somers Hall on Tuesday 17 June, 4-5pm. Group Manager of Infrastructure and Open Spaces Neil McCann said property owners who pay for stockwater from the Stoney Creek intake were currently being surveyed about their needs, and the wider community would also be able to give feedback on that intake in a separate survey.

Council is currently surveying the wider public on the Bushside intake, and that survey will be open until 4 June. Visit [itsourplace.nz](http://itsourplace.nz) for more information and to take the survey.

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# A Comment:

(June 2025)

It is now definite and not before time that Ashburton will have a second bridge, this is great news. Ashburton is a reasonable sized town divided by a river of some size, relying on just one crossing is scarcely a good thing. The bridge has been a topic of conversation for many years, for it to be confirmed that the building of this second bridge will commence next year is great, although we have yet to learn when we can expect this major project to be completed, although, it has been stated that once started construction will not take long, whatever not long means! But it is progress at last let's hope this project doesn't take too many years. Once achieved it will certainly be something to really celebrate.

I think I should move away from local issues for the moment although bridges and roading are matters of great interest. From time to time I get the odd visitor, some are odd to say the least! Just yesterday as I finished my breakfast there was a knock on the door, it was Zamba six year old Zamba from next door, he was dressed rugby style and appeared ready for rugby, or more 'ripper' I think, I learnt that he was to play at 12.00 at the Allenton rugby field, but first he was, with his sister and mother to go to the Warehouse shopping, he reported to me that they could spend no more than \$25 very limiting I considered, this lad can, at time be a sweet we boy, I found a \$2 coin and gave him to help him with shopping, I also presented him with a chocolate he then requested another chocolate for his sister I thought that a reasonable request and handed it over, although I doubt that the chocolates got as far as his home! Today

he reappeared. I assured him I had nothing to give him today, he appeared happy with that, I guess he had been told not to expect handouts, his rugby went well, he won so he said, and he scored 10 tries very good I assured him!

To get back to bridges and roading on my recent trip to Nelson I was informed that the road over the Hope Saddle is about to change and the road is to be re-routed over what has always been known as the Little Hope. It is strange that this should be considered now. My father, when involved in local body politics, was certainly of the opinion that the road was originally built in the wrong place. The little Hope was a much easier route. That route is still there, the current road has been well formed and improved over the past 150 +years. It would seem strange to re-route the road now, the cost would be huge, it surely would entail 10 to 20 km of new roading, the cost would probably make the building of a second bridge at Ashburton small in comparison. There would continue to be a hill but a much lower one. Through the latter 1940s and fifties the road from Murchison to Nelson was a trip to dread! Gravel, winding, dusty, and slow, so much so we were car sick sometimes. I well remember those trips to Nelson to the dentist that was after we became too old for the dental nurses of the day to handle us. That would have been the late 1940's early 1950's. It was in the 1950's that a dentist set up business in Murchison. He travelled from Motueka sometime by Jagua car and sometimes by private airplane, this was a major improvement. There is no dentist in Murchison today, that man Mr. Hay was his name, he retired and donated his dental chair and equipment to the Murchison Museum. Times change and nothing is forever.

I guess you have gathered by now that Murchison was my hometown, I was born in the Murchison Cottage hospital as were my two sisters and my brother, my father was born in 1897 at Murchison probably at their farmhouse such as it was, my grandfather was born 1868 possibly at Taylorville or about there.

You now have a little of my family history, I do not intend to write a book on the subject.

Cheers Denis

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## Book of the Month – Mt Somers Library

**Title:** 'Rhine Journey'

**Author:** Ann Schlee

**Publication year:** first published 1980,  
this new edition 2024.

**A review by Elles Smallegoor**

Ann Schlee's book 'Rhine Journey' was reprinted last year, with a foreword by Lauren Groff included, which provides a brief but broad introduction to this sensitively written historical novel set in Germany in the summer of 1851. As Groff explains, it is only a few years after the restless, revolutionary year of 1848 which saw the European continent beset with uprisings and calls for political and economic reform. The consequences of this unrest are initially hardly palpable in the novel, which centers on the leisurely holiday of an English middle-class family. Reverend Charles Morrisson, his wife Marion and daughter Ellie and his sister Charlotte are on the continent for Marion's health, which is fragile in a way familiar to readers of nineteenth-century novels. Marion has vague complaints, needs to sniff the occasional bottle to revive her spirits and easily suffers from headaches when things do not go her way. Charles is patriarchal, serious and devout and keen to spread God's word. Ellie, in her late teens, finds herself at that awkward time of life where one is no longer a child but



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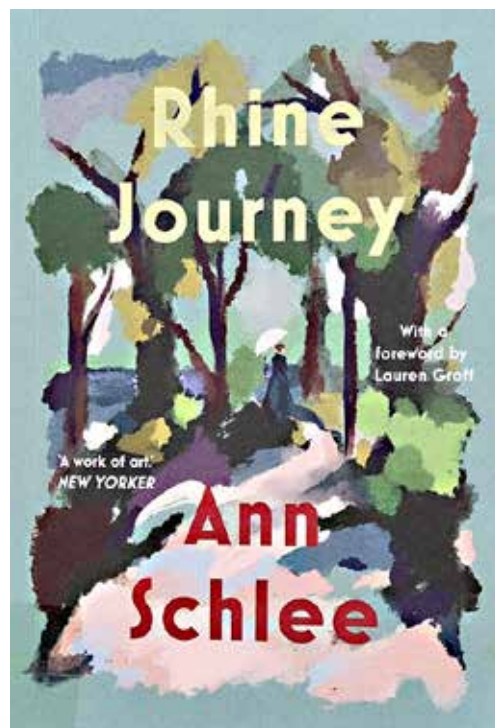


not yet an adult either. The centre of the novel revolves around Charlotte, whose “quiet self-effacing nature” (p. 13) gradually undergoes a subtle but profound transformation for which the reader must wait until the very end.

The first trigger for change comes when Charlotte, on-board a boat on the river Rhine, sees a face in the crowds on the quay that she initially mistakes for Desmond Fermer’s, the miller whom she fell in love with as a fifteen-year-old, but was not allowed to marry by Charles and his wife (who had adopted her into their household) because the match was considered unsuitable. The memories of this emotionally turbulent period enable Charlotte to look back on the past, see what she has become in the present and to question what she wants for herself in the future. As of late, she has inherited a little money from an elderly man she used to look after, and, for the first time in her life, she is no longer a dependent. This material change has come sudden; this time away from home provides distance and adjustment. Her mental state is formed into being of service to others, into being invisible. She has trained herself to have no desires or wishes for herself. In a sense, the plot line can be seen as her inner self gradually catching up with her new, outer self. Or rather, finding this new self.

The man who she thought was Desmond turns out to be Mr Newman, an Englishman also travelling the area with his wife and two sons. To Charlotte’s dismay, he becomes the object of her (sexual) desires and much of the narrative is dedicated to her inner world, in which she, as a woman of propriety, struggles to contain her fantasies yet is also drawn to them. The projections of her female desire onto this man allow her to revisit her past disappointments regarding Fermer, and, ultimately, figure out who she is without her family and what it is that she really wants.

As Groff mentions, Schlee is adept at creating the Victorian world of politeness and restraint, in which dialogue is meaningful in the sense of all that is hinted at, or unsaid. The author also covers familiar themes of Victorian novels, which often focus on self-delusion, misinterpretation, personal growth, and the tension between reason and passion. In addition, these novels often reveal how the larger context of political and economic history touch the lives of the individual in profound ways. The twentyfirst-century reader will be tested in this novel, as the plotline lacks pace and action and the atmosphere is somewhat stifling. But patience is rewarded with beautiful poetic prose and a suspense gradually building into an ultimately satisfying climax.



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## Walk Bridle Path 23 April

14 ladies walked Bridle Path. Lunch in Lyttelton at the vegetarian cafe "The Shroom Room" then walked back to Christchurch.



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## Capturing Special Moments

**Tegan Clark –  
Hospice Mid Canterbury Photographer**

Hospice Mid Canterbury (HMC) volunteers bring their own special skills to the work they do, and this is especially true for Tegan Clark, a professional photographer. For six years now, she has been capturing precious images of clients and their families, creating a lasting legacy for them.

Tegan is passionate about the portrait sessions she offers: “I wanted to provide this service for Hospice clients because I think it’s so important. We want to remember those that we love and photos are something that become very dear to us when our loved ones are no longer with us.”

So why a portrait session when everyone has a camera on their phone? Tegan points out that although we all have a plethora of images on our devices, quality photos of loved ones, particularly with family around them, are not as common. The session provides an opportunity to remind people that they will be remembered for who they are and that they are much loved.

Tegan works hard to make the sessions as manageable as possible. “I provide a guide so they know what to expect and we will come up with a plan to work with any limitations that they might have.” Sessions can be at home or often the domain, and sometimes with family if they are going to be in town. Tegan is flexible about timing because sometimes a client may need to postpone if they are not feeling well.

**We will be in the area soon and are taking bookings.**

**Contact Rob Palmer  
Telephone 027 217 5577**







Putting people at their ease is an important part of the process. "I try to keep these photo-shoots light. We all know why we are there, but we don't need to be sombre or focus on that too much."

When asked about how she deals with the challenge of working with Hospice clients, Tegan says: "It can be hard knowing that I'm working with people nearing the end of their lives, particularly if they are young or have young children. But it's important and meaningful to people so I find it very rewarding."

Those of us within HMC who are privileged to see Tegan's photos on a regular basis are in awe of her ability to capture the essence of each person and family.

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](mailto:manager@hospicemc.nz).

See also our website [www.hospicemc.nz](http://www.hospicemc.nz) and look for Hospice Mid Canterbury on our facebook and Instagram pages.



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**027 3143 491**  
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2-3 hares eat the equivalent of 1 stock unit and reproduce up to 10 young each year. Night shooting is the most effective method of control.

28TH JUNE 2025

R18

# *Mt Somers* WINTER BALL



Tickets on sale 1st May at Mt Somers General Store  
and Mt Somers Bar and Cafe.

## DOORS OPEN 8PM

*Theme*  
**SPARKLES**

*Band*  
**NICK  
& DAN**

*Tickets*  
**\$70**

**NO BYO - CASH BAR & SUPPER PROVIDED**

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**DEADLINE DATE FOR JULY ISSUE 2025**

**ISSUE**  
July 2025

**DEADLINE**  
25 June

**DELIVERY**  
27 June



Nor'Wester Newsletter  
is published by the  
Mt Somers District  
Citizens Association.

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## Mount Somers Staveley Playcentre

May has come and gone and we've had a month of celebrations here at Mount Somers Staveley Playcentre.

Mothers' day meant making crafts for all our hardworking Mums - even if they ended up making most of them themselves!

A big Ka Kite to Lewis who has turned five and is off to school. We will miss his leadership and cheeky smile but are sure he will flourish in school.

We have our Matariki evening coming up to celebrate Maori New Year. This will be held at Playcentre on June 19th from 5pm. Anyone is welcome! If possible a shared plate of Kai would be appreciated.

It is always lovely to have new families at playcentre so if you would like to come and see what's going on, please do! Open every Tuesday and Thursday 9am-12pm.



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rentals2.ashburton@raywhite.com





## Walk Little Mt Peel 21 May

2 ladies walked Denistoun Loop Walk and 19 ladies headed to Little Mt Peel. The weather was perfect and the views were fantastic from the summit.



All photos supplied by Sanae Hydes



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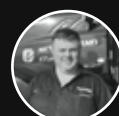


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## Mayfield Playcentre

Term 2 is flying by!

The tamariki have been loving these crisp Autumn mornings—jumping in leaf piles, splashing in the water play area, and soaring on the swings. With Matariki just around the corner, there's been a buzz of creativity as the kids decorate stars to hang in our nursery space. We're also gearing up for our much-loved annual Matariki evening—an awesome chance for whānau to come together, share some kai, and experience the magic of Playcentre by night.

We've got a little change coming up in June—our Monday sessions are wrapping up, and we're kicking off on Thursdays instead, still running 9:15am–12:15pm. We're hoping this wee shift might bring some fresh faces through the gate!

Mark your calendar: Saturday, June 15th is our first ever Open Day! We're so excited to open our doors and show off what makes our centre so special—whether you're new to Playcentre or one of our awesome alumni, we'd love to see you there.

A special shout-out this term to Kelly Doyle, who graduated recently. This also marks the end of the Doyle whānau's time with us. A huge thank you to mum Erin, whose mahi and leadership—especially during her time as president—made a big difference. All the best to Kelly as he heads off on his next big adventure at school!

Thinking about giving Playcentre a go? Pop in on a Tuesday, Wednesday or our new Thursday session, 9:15am–12:15pm—or come along to our Open Day on June 15th. We'd love to meet you!

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## Walk Staveley Hill & Sharplin Falls

25 ladies met at the Sharplin Falls carpark. Some walked to the falls and the rest walked Staveley Hill.



*All photos supplied by Sanae Hydes*





## Mount Somers Lot 4 62 Ashburton Gorge Road



### Mt Somers - Prime lifestyle

We are pleased to offer this well positioned 4045 sqm lifestyle section situated in the idyllic Mt Somers village. Sections of this quality and value range are hard to find in the locality and offers the buyer the opportunity to secure a building platform to plan, build and develop your own unique lifestyle property. Positioned for all day sun and great mountain views to build your dream home and base.

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3 1 1 2

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**Greg Jopson**  
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## Mayfield 2313 Arundel Rakaia Gorge Road



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### Walk Mystery Lake 7 May

19 ladies had a long walk to Mystery Lake.  
Despite the gusty wind we had a fun outing.



Photos supplied  
by Sanae Hydes

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