



The Information Station

We have recently completed the structural phase of the building. It is a striking building which in the original design notes of the architect David McBride from Timaru, "draws its inspiration from the nearby mountains and the three steeply roofed churches in the village".

We have a lot of landscaping planned – large bridge timbers to provide seating around the building, more native planting to settle the building the ground and be a part of it. We also will have some sleepers and lines leading to the entrance of the building which will be a nod to the original railway that travelled through the middle of what is now the village green

Clearly displayed too are the striking trusses reclaimed from an earthquake damaged building in Christchurch. We are also working on the design for the internal fitout. It was difficult to plan until the building was completed and we could appreciate what the space offered and various constraints. We would like to see it completed now but the design and construction phase is going to take a little time. It will be worth it.



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The Old Post Office Library



This month we have some big thanks to some special members of our community.... all men !!!

Namely Andy who has changed the library door lock for us. This lock has been the cause of much angst amongst our library volunteers. Me included. I love the library but hate that lock and it seemed there was no rhyme or reason as to why the key might turn easily one hour and refuse to turn the next.

So thank you Andy, for making sure that the key just slips into place and no longer is a dreaded task.

Second thanks to Peter for his plumbing skills with the hand basin. Little jobs can become big ones if left unrepaired , and it is so appreciated when local handymen just give generously of their time and expertise to fix what we women can't.

And then there is Murray who has seen some much needed pruning to be done on the west side of the library building. Thank you Murray.

And these are true signs of a community working together for the greater good, and why our village and surrounds are the envy of many.

The new art books(3) are now in the library and provide great browsing time. If you do borrow them ,enjoy them, and then return after a week or so which makes them then available to other art lovers. Even if art isn't your thing, there is a wealth of history and knowledge about our country which makes for very interesting reading.

Other good library reads that I have enjoyed this year.....

'Time of the Child ' by Niall Williams. I haven't read any of his other books so his writing was a surprise to me. He also wrote the well known 'This Is Happiness' which I will buy for the library when I come across it. He writes so well.

'Time of the Child' is set in a fictional Irish village called Faha. From reading the blurb on the back page I learnt that an abandoned baby was found near the church in the village. The first 100 pages I was waiting for the child to turn up, and it didn't!! The writing was quite beautifully descriptive so I persevered and I was amply rewarded. The child arrived in a simple sentence on page 110!! Phew.

And then I could not put that book down. It held me captive! So I thoroughly recommend the book and hope that other readers will be equally captivated. It is fine writing . The first 100 pages require some concentration but then it just flows along.

If I'm struggling with a book I think it is only fair to give it 100 pages and then put aside if it's not for me. I am very thankful I applied this technique to this book although I went to 110 as that was when the chapter ended.

'Fifteen Wild Decembers' by Karen Powell. This book tells a fictionalised version of the Brontë sisters. I loved it. It is a very pleasant non demanding read and held my attention throughout as well as learning plenty of facts about these brilliant writers' lives. For instance, I did not know they all initially wrote under male names so they were more likely to be published. In their



day, male authors were recognised, but not so much female authors. I now want to read Charlotte's 'Jane Eyre', and reread Emily's 'Wuthering Heights', but need the larger print versions!

'The Unwinding' by Marina Kemp.

Another very good read, told in alternate chapters by Zoe and Nenomy. The book follows these two women as power and desire and family secrets take over their lives. Zoe is an writer in awe of the great author Don Travers and eventually meets him, and Nenomy is Don's daughter. Well worth reading.

'Down the Rabbit Hole' by Shaeden Berry.

I haven't read this book but it looks interesting.... a tale of three women all linked by a young girl who goes missing seven years ago. Her best friend at the time is still grieving for her ,the girl's mother seems to have been involved, as does her teacher. And can the best friend Hannah make the links between the three?

It gets good reviews.

There are always new books appearing in the library , either just purchased or donated. A big thank you to those who donate their new books after reading, it keeps our books up to date . They can always be reclaimed if necessary.

We have had plenty of visitors to our library: just in this last week a Convenor of a Canterbury book club had her first visit inside the building and was amazed! She is very keen to make her next book group's meeting at Mt Somers Library . A nice story....

Not long till daylight saving finishes which means longer nights for more reading. I'm looking forward to it! AC.

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So come and join us for an hour. Classes every Wednesday, Staveley Hall 1.30pm. For enquiries, phone Annette Syme 3030 803

Saygo will finish on the 11th December and start again on the 5th February.

ANAMA RURAL WOMEN

The February meeting was held at Mayfield with Jess from The Hippy Programme talking. This is an excellent programme for 2 to 5 year olds in Rural communities where parents can't always get to preschool. The facilitator visits in the home and assists the parent. Jess had a variety of books and educational equipment. As a group we were most impressed with the whole programme and Jess's presentation. She can be contacted on 027 2841 209.

On another side February is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. This is New Zealand's deadliest women's cancer. Be aware of your body and changes and learn the symptoms.

RWNZ in Wellington continues to meet with MP's advocating for the rural community, school buses and many other issues.

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL AGAIN BE HELD AT MAYFIELD CHURCH SUPPER ROOM STARTING PROMPTLY AT 10am ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 19th WHEN ROBYN SEWELL WILL TAKE US THROUGH SOME EXERCISES TO REMAIN ACTIVE. THIS AGAIN IS AN OPEN MEETING AND ALL ARE WELCOME

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Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund



We love seeing young people involved with local sport, however in rural areas, the cost of travel can become a barrier to participation.

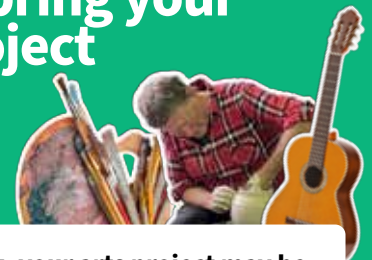
The Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund is designed to help subsidise travel expenses for rural sports clubs and rural school teams for travel to sporting competitions.

If your club or school team has young people aged between 5 and 19 years, we encourage you to apply.



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Mayfield and Districts Lions Report

February has been a busy month for Mayfield Lions.

We took our noddy train to the Shear for Life event at Hinds. The train was a very popular ride with the children along with the other entertainment provided. It was a well organised event which raised \$150,000 for the Cancer Society and Hospice. We must give big thank you to Canterbury Motorcycles from Rakaia who supplied us with a side by side vehicle to tow the noddy train on the day.

A trip to Erewhon station was a popular outing for members and wives and partners. It was a fine day, fantastic scenery, with a very enlightening presentation by Erin Cassie about the running of the station and training and work done by the Clydesdale draught horses. We had the opportunity to ride in the large wagon pulled by an eight horse team. This gave us the chance to experience life when these large animals helped us the work the land. We were amazed by there size and gentle demeanour. They were very well trained and disciplined.

We finished our day at Mt Potts restaurant with some social time and a delicious meal followed by a short meeting.

On Thursday the 20th Mt Somers village turned on a beautiful sunny day for our guests from Idea Services Ashburton, they were treated to rides in the Mt Somers fire truck, tractors, classic cars and vintage cars . The year 7 and 8 children and teachers from Mt Somers school joined us for the day. Everyone joined in for a game of cricket and the usual Tug of War!

We provided a barbeque lunch for all attending and there were hand massages and manicures provided for those that were interested.

There were many happy faces at the end of the day.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make this day a happy and successful event.

Kevin McNab



Erewhon Clydesdales



Barbecue lunch for Idea Services day



Noddy train at Shear for Life.



Variety of vehicles giving rides on Idea Services day

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

Contact Rob Palmer

Telephone 027 217 5577



Book of the Month – Mt Somers Library

Title: 'All the Beauty in the World:

A Museum Guard's Adventures in Life, Loss and Art'

Author: Patrick Bringley

Publication year: 2023

A review by Elles Smallegoor

After his college graduation, Patrick Bringley lands a prestigious job at the New Yorker magazine. While initially excited to be part of the team, he gradually starts to feel uninspired and claustrophobic, spending his time in a skyscraper behind the computer, meeting frantic deadlines and never really being able to relish calmly the literature he is writing about. When his older brother Tom dies of soft tissue cancer, he hits rock bottom and realises he needs radical change: "My heart is full, my heart is breaking, and I badly want to stand still awhile" (p. 12). He finds a job as a museum guard in the grand Metropolitan Museum of Art (aka the Met), which allows him the stasis he is seeking for, both literally and figuratively. Having been raised by parents who had a love of art and music, Bringley returns to the comfort and familiarity of his youth, and gives himself the opportunity to take in "all the beauty in the world" (the title of his book), dealing with his grief and his life. Bringley's memoir of a decade of museum work is deeply sensitive and vulnerable at times, while lightly humorous and educational at others. It also puts in the spotlight a profession that many people hardly ever think of.

Bringley's lucid and somewhat poetic prose is able to convey the complex emotions one can have while observing true human-made beauty. For example, in one of the earlier chapters, he recounts how he discovered "the peculiar power of art" as a young teenager, watching old master Pieter Brueghel's painting *The Harvesters* (1565):

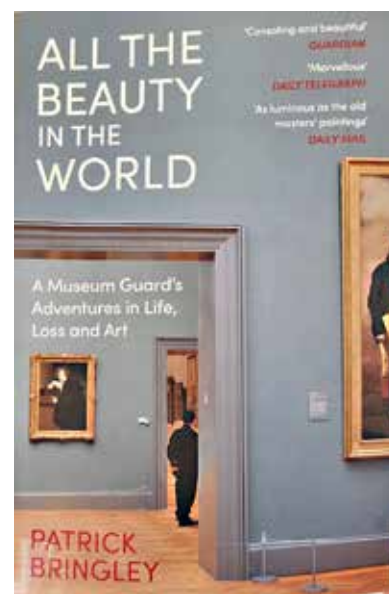
Namely, I experienced the great beauty of the picture even as I had no idea what to do with that beauty. I couldn't discharge the feeling by talking about it – there was nothing much to say. What was beautiful in the painting was not like words, it was like paint – silent, direct, and concrete, resisting translation even into thought. As such, my response to the picture was trapped inside me, a bird fluttering in my chest. (p. 10)

Brueghel's painting is a window to another world and the boy is transported to another reality and another time. But by viewing one of the old master's paintings, he also discovers something new in himself that cannot be put into language. He is so touched, it is almost a spiritual transcendence, and, yet, also deeply physically felt ("fluttering in my chest"). As such, art has enormous and "peculiar" power to convey the human experience in all its facets.

This notion reoccurs in adulthood in the Met. Many times in Bringley's first year as a museum guard, he and his colleagues are the first to arrive in the building, when there are no visitors and it is "church-mouse quiet", giving them the privilege to be alone with art from all over the world and from different

times in human history. A funny fact is that Bringley, over the years, counts the people in the paintings in the Old Master's Wing and starts seeing the space as a little village with "almost nine thousand painted inhabitants" (p. 15). When recounting his conversations with museum visitors, who ask many questions, he records his answers to them and thereby also enlightens the reader.

When writing about the Egypt wing, for instance, he explains that the Egyptians had different notions of time, thereby transferring knowledge that (potentially) kindles our interest. The following chapters reveal how Bringley's long-term work at the museum helps him find his path after his loss. By sharing his experiences with us in "All The Beauty in the World", he powerfully reminds us there is solace to be found in art. We can turn to it when faced with turbulent times or when we tend to forget what it is that connects, rather than divides, us as humans. And gosh, do we need it right now. Reading his book and vicariously visiting the Met certainly was a balm to my soul after reading too many news headlines this month!



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Mount Somers Staveley Playcentre

The year is under way again here at Mount Somers Staveley Playcentre. We've had a lovely few weeks of sun and play to start 2025.

We had a party for our Destinee who has turned 5 and is starting school. This is a bittersweet as Destinee and her Mum, Samantha, have been a huge part of playcentre but it is so rewarding to see our kids growing up.

We have also received an extremely generous donation from Paul and Sarah Grigg after they hosted the NZ Rolls Royce and Bentley Club through their farm. We are very lucky with the supportive locals in our community.

Next week (3-7 March) is the nationwide Messy Play week for Playcentres. There will be gloop, slime, water, playdough and much more for our tamariki to explore their messy side. Tactile learning through messy play



is a big part of early childhood development and this is a week dedicated to encouraging it!

If you would like to be a part of our playcentre please come along. We are open every Tuesday and Thursday 9am-12pm and always welcome new families.



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Rata Class Shines at IDEA Services Fun Day

We are incredibly proud of Rata class yr 7 & Yr 8 for the way they represented our school at the IDEA Services Fun Day, hosted by the Mayfield Lions. This event brought together 45 members of IDEA Services (Intellectual Disabilities Education & Advocacy Services) and our tamariki, creating a day filled with connection, laughter, and community spirit.

It was heartwarming to see our students fully embracing the opportunity to engage with others, sharing smiles, high fives, and great conversations. The day was packed with fun activities, including games, a tug of war, and even hand massages, followed by a shared lunch where everyone came together as one.

This was a fantastic chance for our students to get out into the community and demonstrate our MOUNT values in action which is all part of our Te Kie Kie learning challenge—showing respect, kindness, and unity. Events like these highlight the importance of inclusivity and the power of connection.

A huge thank you to the Mayfield Lions Clubs for organising such a special event and for inviting us to be part of it. Ngā mihi nui—well done, Rata class! You made us all proud.



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Mt Somers Rugby Club



JAB Rugby Muster

Sunday 16th March,

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Registrations are now open for all JAB
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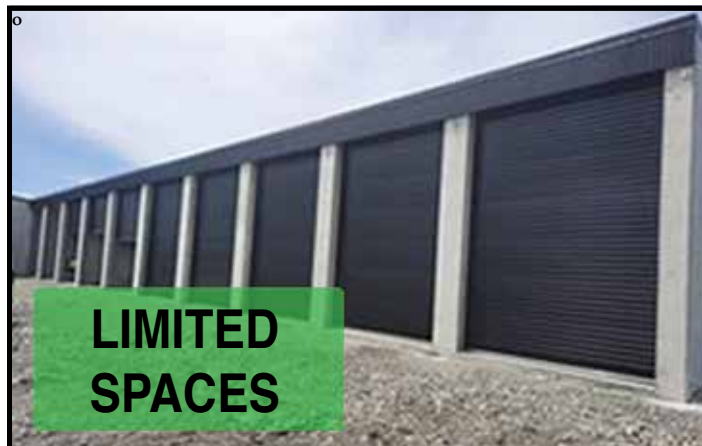
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Living Well with a Terminal Diagnosis - Part 1

As the initial shock of a terminal diagnosis wears off, the challenge is to find ways of managing the new normal.

Do things one step at a time

Post-diagnosis, the first days and weeks can feel over-whelming, but you may be able to make it feel less so by thinking about it as smaller “pieces.” Decide on some small achievable goals to help you manage. This could be something like finding out what support is available in the community, talking to a counsellor or just making small changes to your daily routines to make them more manageable. It’s about managing your energy levels, both physically and emotionally.

You can still think about bigger issues, such as putting your affairs in order, but don’t feel that you need to tackle everything at once.

Living with Uncertainty

Knowing that you have a life-limiting condition inevitably leaves you living with uncertainty. You will probably have questions to which there are no definite answers, such as how and when your body is going to change, the effect this will have on your independence and how much time you may have left. Learning to accept uncertainty may not come easily for some. Hospice Mid Canterbury counselling services can provide strategies for managing this and help build resilience.

See our next article for further ways to “Live well with a Terminal Diagnosis”.

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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become like
their mothers.*

*That is their
tragedy.*

*No man does,
and that is his.”*

Oscar Wilde,
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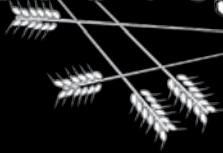
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EA Networks announces \$5 million Consumer Discount

EA Networks is giving back to its customers, announcing a total consumer discount pool of \$5 million for 2026 - a \$2 million increase over 2025's discount of \$3 million that is set to be paid to customers this April.

Chief Executive Onno Mulder says the decision to raise the discount in the next financial year will help ease the impact of upcoming transmission and distribution price increases taking effect across the country on April 1, 2025.

"As a locally owned cooperative, our priority is always to our community and customer shareholders. We know this increased discount will help offset some of the impact of rising electricity network costs," says Mulder.

Regulated electricity network companies across New Zealand will soon be increasing their network charges. Mulder explains that rising funding and operational costs, alongside the need for ongoing network investments, are key drivers of the price changes that EA Networks will apply.

"We have set new prices in-line with regulatory limits to ensure that we recover our operating costs and remain financially sustainable now and into the future," he says.

As a result, from the beginning of April, the change in network charges could increase household electricity bills by approximately \$15 per month, but this will depend on how retailers choose to pass on the transmission and distribution price increases.

To ensure local customers benefit most, EA Networks is providing the higher discount rather than lower network charges.

"By giving our customers a higher discount paid directly to their power account, we make sure the financial benefit goes only to them and is not absorbed by other parts of the industry."

Customers can expect their share of this years \$3 million discount to be paid to their power accounts during April 2025. Customers will be individually notified of their discount next month.

In addition, EA Networks will be increasing its efforts to support households experiencing energy hardship. Mulder says the company is working closely with local social agencies and advocacy groups to ensure vulnerable customers get the support they need.

"This is about balancing affordability today while building a reliable and resilient electricity network for the future."

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

As we embark on another academic year, as the new principal of Mayfield School, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our incredible community. Although I am just beginning my journey with the Mayfield community, it was noticeable from the start that the community support, involvement, and encouragement make all the difference in the lives of our tamariki. Whether it's attending events, sponsorship, volunteering your time, or simply cheering on our students, your contributions help create a nurturing and inspiring environment. Thank you for being such a vital part of our school's journey. Together, we can continue to shape the future and foster a love of learning.

On Friday 31st January, we held a Mihi Whakatau to officially welcome our new staff, students and their whānau to Mayfield School. We had a number of new entrant children and others throughout the year levels to welcome including myself and Mr Craig Moverley, our new Teacher. It was a lovely way to meet the whanau of all our new students. Staff members, Miss Alana McConnell and Mrs Lindy Barrett performed the karanga (call of welcome), and our tamariki sang, it truly was a heartfelt occasion. Afterwards the adults shared morning tea



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together with whānau in our staffroom. It was a lovely way to connect and make our newest Mayfield whānau feel welcome. A Mihi Whakatau will be held each month for all new students and their families.

At Mayfield School, we believe in nurturing leadership qualities in our students from a young age. This year, we are proud to introduce our student leaders who are stepping up to make a positive impact within our school and the wider community. Students have been chosen for their dedication, positive attitudes, and willingness to lead by example. With support from our staff, student leaders take on various responsibilities, including organising school events, leading assemblies, and supporting younger students. They play an active role in promoting our school HEART values: Honesty, Empathy, Achievement, Respect and Try our best. We are particularly excited about our plans to strengthen community ties through initiatives such as Kanuka Trust, Kōia te Mātauraka, Mayfield Show, Sports Canterbury and the Ōpuke Kāhui Ako. These connections help our students develop essential life skills while giving back to the community that supports them. We are confident that these young leaders will continue to grow and inspire others, both inside and outside the classroom. We invite our local community to celebrate and support our student leaders as they take on this important role. Keep an eye out for their involvement in upcoming events and initiatives throughout the year.

As we strengthen our Physical Education programme, our students have been privileged to have a weekly sports session with Claudia from Sports Canterbury. Using the Movewell PE programme, staff and students have benefited from this weekly support. This week we have a number of students competing in the cluster swimming sports and many have signed up for the Rippa Rugby tournament. The benefits of being active for young people are well understood – beyond improving physical fitness, to promoting mental health and wellbeing. At Mayfield School we have a special interest in making sure that kids can keep motivated – with a programme known as PALs (Physical Activity Leaders). Next week, our student sports and house leaders will participate in training for PALs in Ashburton. It is a workshop designed to develop young mentors and inspire coaches of the future. PALs is a leadership opportunity for primary aged children. They learn how to activate their playgrounds as an inspiring space, and create new opportunities for younger students to engage in play. Children learn to rely on each other, building trust amongst peers and leading by example. PALs is aligned to the community coaching framework and can be the start of their coaching journey. PALs, for many years, have been a win-win – for families and for schools.

Here at Mayfield School we have welcomed 9 new students to our kura. We are super excited to know our community recognise what a fantastic centre we are for learning. all visitors and anyone wishing to enrol their children. We also welcome children of any age to be pre-enrolled. If you would like your child to attend our amazing kura/school please email us at office@mayfieldschool.nz or phone 03 3036214.

We would love to welcome you here. Nga mihi mahana kia koutou - warm greetings.

Emma Hewett (Tumuaki/Principal)



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Something I love about being a minister is the massive variety of people I meet, the activities and events I'm involved in and all the things I learn (formally and informally) along the way. Recently I've been involved with baptisms, weddings, and funerals, all standard stuff one would assume for a minister. I also do pastoral care and counselling which requires training in counselling, behavior etc. Preparing Sunday services involves music, studying the bible and its history, original context and language, making children's activities, and also some arguing with Powerpoint. I help with an after school programme, and I'm planning for a pancake race and AGMs. Being a minister means studying things like history, languages, philosophy, neuroscience, trauma, community development, relationships, ethics, and evolution. Sometimes, it means trimming the hedges and mowing the lawns at the church. Because I'm an Anglican minister my job is based on the ancient theory that the minister is here for all for the people in the community regardless of church affiliation.

So, I take all of those experiences, and learnings and try to turn them into something useful and meaningful for the people I meet. We are part of an ancient faith, shaped by centuries of tradition, and living in the modern world. The tradition bit

grounds us and connects us to millions of other people. The modern word bit gives us the creativity to meet the current needs of the people and focus on local Cantabrians. To make sure we're doing this you will notice some of this tradition and creativity at St. Aidan's church; we want this to be a place you want to come. From Sunday 2nd March our service will move to 4.30pm starting with a light tea. I try to make sure there's enough tradition and creativity for everyone and there will be activities for children. If you're a regular church person or if you haven't been for a while or if you've never been before, I'd like to encourage you to come and check it out. Everyone's welcome.

Rev. Sage Burke

CHURCH SERVICES

St Aidan's, Mt Somers

March 2	4.30pm	Worship Service
March 16	3.30pm	AGM.
	4.30pm	Communion
April 6	4.30pm	Worship Service

PARISH CONTACTS

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<https://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/community-facilities/ashburton-community-directory/nor-west-newsletter>

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Mayfield Playcentre

The First Month Has Flown By at Playcentre!

What a fantastic start to the year we've had! It's been wonderful to welcome our families back and hear all about their summer holiday adventures. Over the break, our tamariki have grown and developed new interests—baking has been a standout favorite! They've even been harvesting zucchini from our garden to whip up a delicious (and nutritious!) zucchini brownie.

With our holiday clean-up came a fresh new layout, and it's sparked a wave of creativity in our little artists—just in time for the A&P Show! There's been a lot of excitement as the tamariki put their hearts into their entries. Be sure to check them out in the Produce Shed on show day, and don't forget to stop by our stand to say hello!

If you're new to the area or curious about Playcentre, we'd love to meet you! Playcentre is all about exploring, discovering, and learning together—but did you know there are also opportunities for tamariki to attend sessions without a parent? (Conditions apply.)



Safer Mid Canterbury Hakatere Haumarū

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The year has started off with a bang for the driving programme. We have already had nine successful license tests and five new mentor student teams out on the road. We have also filled our March road code course which is really exciting. We are looking forward to being back in class and seeing new friendships forming while they learn. It's always fun for myself and the volunteers to go all over the district picking up the ladies for class. Its such a pleasure to get to know them while we travel around our beautiful district. Often for the ladies, this is the first time they have had an opportunity to see the area they have chosen to live in. Our driving programme is not just about driving, and the road code course is a great way to get to know other newcomers who are also rural, and isolated. We learn by completing a lesson plan which covers all of the rules of the road and ending with quizzes to test our knowledge. As part of the course we have a road safety session with our amazing traffic police, then a road craft session with a wonderful

professional driving instructor. This ensures our students are well prepared to get out on the road. We can't wait to get started and see what exciting things happen this year.

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

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

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

Wendy Hewitt
Rural Licensing Co-Ordinator
Safer Mid Canterbury
255 Moore Street, Ashburton 7700
Ph: 027 611 3301
wendy.hewitt@safer.org.nz

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Mayfield Show Gift Lamb for 8th March.

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JANE & SHERHATA

"Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it."

— Steve Jobs

A Comment:

“I Shall Not Hate” A story of one man’s experience, A man of Palestine A Palestinian through and through. Izzeldin Abuelaish the author of this very moving story, today a highly skilled doctor of medicine.

After studying medicine in Cairo where he gained a doctorate in medicine, from there to Saudi Arabia where he studied obstetrics and gynecology. His wife did not enjoy Saudia Arabia so soon returned to Gaza their traditional family home. From Gaza he took up a position at the Soroka Medical Centre in Beersheba, Israel. This was undoubtedly a challenge as he had to travel over the Gaza border each day to practice at this hospital, he met this challenge although some nights he was unable to return home to his wife and eight children.

The conflict between Israel and the Palestinian people is as we all know a very long-standing issue, one that started in 1948 when US President Truman cleared the way for Jewish folk displaced as a result of WW2 were to be admitted to Israel. This may well have been a wise move, but did it lack something, such as supervision, guidance

and possibly most importantly boundaries and rights over ‘Real Estate’. The basic problem there are two different peoples that have failed to work and live as one. This has been a tragedy, creating frustration which has led to bloodshed, loss of life, and extensive damage to property. The Palestinian folk, the people of Gaza have been the victims. As in any dispute there would be faults on both sides. Izzeldin would have good reason to express his grievances, earlier he had lost his wife to a severe type of leukemia, he was left as a sole parent to eight children, 2009 the Israeli army made an unprovoked attack on his residence Firing two shells at the bedroom where his children slept, This killed three children and wounded several others, no apology from the Israeli army they believed there were Humus solders sheltering there. Was Izzeldin angry, disturbed by this attack, I’m sure he was but his statement – “If I could know that my daughters were the last sacrifice on the road to peace between Palestinians and Israelis, then I could accept it.” A brave remarkable statement: Izzeldin stands by his word, “I Shall Not Hate.”

Izzeldin struggles for what he deeply believes in. He is dedicated to improving the environment he lives in by his own means, which is medicine. Albert Schweitzer, for example, may not have been the



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most acclaimed physician of his time, but through medicine he alerted the world to the suffering of Africans. He forced people to look at the African continent from a different angle and to understand what suffering is. Florence Nightingale is another example. She devoted her life to nursing and to improving medical care for the poor, and she demonstrated what the humanitarian role of medicine is. It was her that showed that caring comes before curing. The writer of the forward to this unusual and dynamic book believes that Izzeldin has shown compassion and dedication to bettering the human condition so that this alone makes him an extraordinary physician. For Izzeldin medicine is the tool to help people better understand the problems of one another. His many Israeli colleagues with whom he shared stressful situations in a busy clinical setup, his superiors and peers – all have encountered in Izzeldin a Palestinian doctor from a Jabalia refugee camp who treats his patients with professionalism and compassion, a man who is equal among equals, and who has become a friend. The Palestinian patients who come to Soroka have encountered Israeli doctors and nurses who treat them with compassion, in keeping to their medical condition and not their origin. This is how medicine bridges the divide between people.

Sometimes anger can be important, and people must be able to get angry. But Izzeldin directs his anger in a focused way, never spreading it wide and letting the anger overwhelm and distract from where he should be going.

Under very tragic circumstances, Izzeldin has been pushed into the international spotlight. He has been interviewed by major newspapers, appeared on well-known TV shows, and met and talked to the leaders of the world. What is amazing it hasn't changed him at all.

Having lost his daughters, how can he still speak about peace and love and keep his Israeli friends? His vision for coexistence is deep, strong, and consistent.

Izzeldin is now concentrating on creating a foundation named after his deceased daughters, aimed at promoting relationships between Jewish and Palestinian girls and contributing to their education. Wherever he goes, whomever he talks



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to these days, his main quest is finding ways to bridge the divide in this troubled middle east region.

I would wish him well, there surely is a solution to be found and implemented somewhere! As the writer of the notes I have worked from stated: if there is a single person who can make this happen, Izzeldin is that person. One can only hope that he succeeds.

Notes for this comment by Dr. Marek Glezerman, chairman of the Hospital for women and deputy director of Rabin Medical Center, Israel.

The book "I Shall Not Hate" A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity. Izzeldin Abuelaish (available in Library's, book shops and on Amazon)

Cheers Denis

Welcome to our first Newsletter of the Year

I hope you all had a good break over the holiday period and that you all enjoyed time with family and friends.

Neighbourhood Support is all about connecting neighbours and neighbourhoods. We do this because we believe that a more connected community is a safer community with values and outcomes that promote welfare and support.

Below is our report on crime activity within the district. We encourage all residents to remain vigilant about home and community safety and to look out for any unusual or suspicious activity. If you observe anything concerning, please do not hesitate to dial 111 to report it to the Police. Additionally, if you prefer to discuss any concerns privately and confidentially, you are welcome to contact me at Neighbourhood Support. Together, we can foster a safer and more secure community for everyone.

To clarify the difference between theft and burglary, theft is when someone takes something from your property without permission, burglary is when someone breaks and enters to gain access to the house or property in order to take something.

Crime Information

63 reported crimes relating to burglary, theft, shoplifting, graffiti and wilful damage for the period of January 2025 in and around the District. A large majority of these were over the last week of January.

Scams
Scams continue to impact our daily lives, often affecting trust and communication. Some individuals become overly cautious when receiving phone calls or interacting with others, while others may struggle due to a lack of understanding or unfamiliarity with fraudulent tactics.

To help address these concerns, we are organizing a series of informative talks throughout the district. Our goal is to provide valuable information and support tailored to the needs of our community.

To ensure we offer the most relevant guidance, we kindly ask you to take a few moments to complete this questionnaire. Your responses will help us understand the specific challenges faced by the community and allow us to provide the most effective resources. Please rest assured that all responses will be kept

strictly confidential. We do not ask for names—only insights into how scams impact our community and the type of information that would be most beneficial.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Your participation is greatly appreciated, and together, we can build a more informed and protected community.

Fire and Emergency

If you would like a free smoke alarm check please contact Neighbourhood Support. We work with FENZ to ensure households are kept safe. Please complete the attached form and return to Neighbourhood Support. This will be forwarded to FENZ who will contact you to arrange an appointment.

General

Database – we are currently migrating to a new database. It is called CommBase and has been updated for easier use and application. For those street co-ordinators that have used this to update their group details, you will find it inactive at the moment. Once we complete migration I will let you know and there may be some training for it as well.

Welcome to some active groups over the month:

John McDonough – Buchanan Place resurrection of the old Neighbourhood Support group

Tom Sutton – Harrison Street – update of new residents

Kaylene Donaldson - Hakatere Huts – BBQ

Liz Gellatly – update of Torbay Ave residents

Thank you all for your work in building community relationships. Lastly, if you are interested in joining Neighbourhood Support or starting a group in your area, please feel free to contact me using the details below. Building connections with those around you and fostering a supportive community can greatly enhance safety and well-being for everyone.

In the meantime please keep safe.

Sue Abel

Ashburton District Neighbourhood Support Manager

c/o Safer Mid Canterbury

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