

The Homegrown Garden Tour – Thank you!

The Homegrown Garden Tour committee wish to say a huge thank you to everyone that brought a ticket to this year's tour and enjoyed our gardens!

The event ran very well, and we received many lovely comments on the day about what a wonderful day people were having and also afterwards about how much the gardens were enjoyed along with all the stalls at the market at Amberside. The four gardens all looked stunning and we are very grateful to the garden owners who provided their gardens for the benefit of Mayfield Playcentre. We wish to send a heartfelt thank you to: Helen and Charlie Rapsey, Karen and Wayne Gregory, Sharon and Gordon Duthie, Annie and Athel Price. The Homegrown Garden Tour would not have happened without you!

Every ticket purchased was a step towards keeping our local Mayfield Playcentre open and operating for another year so our tamariki and whanau can enjoy the joy that is watching our children 'learning through play' – the heart of the Playcentre philosophy.

Here are some photos taken throughout the day by Jo Cook – thank you Jo for the photo library you have started for us.



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Neighbourhood Support



We have received the accompanying document calling for help with Meals on Wheels.

If anyone has some time to volunteer and work with this service please contact Lina on the attached number to offer your services.

You may be a group in which case you could share duties or you could be an individual who is happy to help.

Ashburton and Rural Health Services look forward to your call.

Contact Lina on 021 120 9097

Regards

Sue Abel

Ashburton District Neighbourhood Support Co-ordinator

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Good Afternoon All

Firstly let me introduce myself, I'm the Co-ordinator of Meals on Wheels for Ashburton Health Services (Ashburton Hospital). A couple of groups from our Meals on Wheels service has suggested I contact you to see if anyone might be interested in becoming involved with Meals on Wheels deliveries. I'm not sure if you know anything about this service which is to provide meals by the hospital to senior citizens in our community, so on to a bit of background information on the process of Meals on Wheels delivery. The town is divided into seven zones (10-15 meals per zone) and are delivered Monday-Friday. Each zone needs a driver and a runner, although some/most people are happy to both drive and deliver the meals. We have salvation army and Red Cross involved in this service and would love to get more organisations involved.

Our Meals on Wheels group weren't able to deliver on the 21st-25th November and to have the involvement group of people like you to support the service would be great. Please let me know if anyone is free to help and to contact me for more information. Your help would be gratefully received. Please contact Ashburton Hospital at 307 8450 ext. 28491

Ngā mihi nui

Lina

Fololina Mareko (she/her)

**PA to Brenda Close, Kaitohu Whakatapuhi |
Director of Nursing
Ashburton & Rural Health Services
Waitaha**

waea pūkoro: 021 120 9097 | imēra: Fololina.Mareko@cdhb.health.nz

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Mayfield and Districts Lions Report November Meeting

Members helped man the gates at the Mayfield Playcentre recent garden walk fund raiser.

We entertained our Friends of the District at the Mayfield Golf Club. John and Ro Acland gave a wide and varied account of their life centred around Mt Peel Station.

Our annual charity golf match was held on the 17 November. A full field of players played a stroke round raising \$30,000 with proceeds going to StJohn and Haven Housing, half each. A big thank you to all the players and especially the businesses that supported this event. The sponsors vouchers and products were auctioned off with all raising more than their value.

Remco Steihower, from Canterbury Flower Bulbs Rakaia, was our guest speaker at our last meeting.

Graeme Dickson was awarded Loyd Morgan Life Membership, recognising his outstanding service to our club. Caterers for the meeting were the Mt Somers Playcentre.

We have next year's firewood available, Pine \$325 cord, Bluegum \$400/ cord, Oregon \$350/ cord.

Contact Ron Cross, 021347958.

We are looking for individuals, 18 years and older, interested in participating in the 8 day Berwick Experience, (similar to Outward Bound).

Contact Richard Wright 0274532087 for more details.



Graeme Dickson receiving his Loyd Morgan award.



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The Old Post Office Library



This is the last library blurb for the year so that means Christmas must be just around the corner. It doesn't feel like it, a few Christmas decorations in shops and a bit of sparkle here and there, otherwise the towns look the same. But once we hit December it will all ramp up I'm sure. And time to think about Christmas presents. Just think BOOKS, and it will be so easy, all done in one shop, and can cover all ages. There are plenty of brochures around the bookshops with great suggestions so you can have it fairly sorted before leaving home on your shopping mission. I have spent some wonderful hours amongst the new books and have quite a collection for our library. They will be appearing on the shelves over the next month, and hopefully something for everyone.

'Straight Up' by Ruby Tui.

I'm sure everyone knows Ruby Tui by now, she's had plenty of TV exposure with the Black Ferns and with the bright red flame in her hair, she would be hard to miss. She has quite a following by young girls (and not so young) and is inspiring the next generation in the art of women's rugby. This book tells her story and it's an incredible tale of how she has survived abuse, drugs, and tragedy to become one of the most successful women's rugby players in the world.

'The Stolen Child' by Diney Costelloe

I really rate this book. It is an excellent read, nothing too demanding, just flows along and held my interest throughout. A great holiday read actually, and based on a true story. It is set during the war in Plymouth England, and tells how a baby was inadvertently left behind

in his house while his family races to the safety of an air raid shelter.

But a kind policeman heard his crying later that evening and on investigation found the baby boy and took him home to his wife fully intending to report his find the next morning. But sadly he met his death before he could set the record straight and his wife decided to keep the child. Read the book to find out what happened.....

'The Trial of Lotta Rae' by Siobhan MacGowan. another great read, I can thoroughly recommend it. Set in London in 1906, a young working class girl is attacked and raped by a wealthy gentleman. She seeks justice with the help of her barrister William Lindin who she believes to be her ally and has complete trust in him. (silly girl!).

It is a sweeping heartbreaking quest for justice and told with an ominous beauty. Once again, an easy read that really grips your attention and might mean you have a late night in order to finish it. There is a strong thread of the Suffragette Movement running through the tale and I learnt so much about the struggles of these brave courageous women and also men. An excellent read.

'Exiles' by Jane Harper.

Many of our readers are great fans of this author's previous books, (The Dry, The Lost Man, Force of Nature, The Survivors) so I expect this newbie will be well received. The back cover says..... 'Aaron Falk returns in this masterful novel of intrigue'.... so I presume Aaron has been a character in a previous book. Once again the story is set in Australia, this time in the wine country of South Australia. Be in early for this one as I imagine it will be popular, Jane Harper seems to have quite a following in our readers.

'Our Missing Hearts' by Celeste Ng.

This author has also been popular, her previous two books have been well read.... 'Little Fires Everywhere' and 'Everything I Never Told You'. She normally writes about family dynamics in a contemporary setting.

'The Librarian Spy' by Madeline Martin.

This novel was inspired by the true history of America's library spies of World War 2. According to one reader, it 'follows the struggles of two very different courageous women operating in lesser known theatres

Mayfield Playcentre AGM

Friday 9th December 2022

7.30pm

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'Haven' by Emma Donahue.

The same author as 'Room' and 'The Pull of the Stars'. An island, a priest, and two monks and thousands of birds in the Atlantic Ocean. A novel about survival, isolation, obedience and self-preservation told in a haunting and moving way, with psychological intensity. (This is from the blurb on the back cover). Sounds full of promise for a riveting read. Set in seventh century Ireland.

'Hawke Mountain' by Conner Habib.

A fast-paced story of obsession and suspense. This is a debut novel and has a reputation for a 'dark adrenaline rush'. Not for the faint-hearted I suspect, nor would it qualify for a 'nice' read. Beware!!

Finally a new magazine called **'Shepherdess'** for women on the land. If enough readers enjoy this lovely magazine full of interesting articles we could look at buying it regularly so please give us some feedback. (0274 363736). If you have any magazines of any sort, and would care to donate to our outside shelves that would be very appreciated. They are always popular.

We were hoping to hold a village morning tea in the library but once again have decided to put it on hold until this latest Covid surge dies down. Covid is still in the district apparently, and as the library is such a confined space, we will leave a gathering of Mt Somers readers until the 'coast is clear'. It will happen eventually!!

A very happy Christmas to everyone and we look forward to continuing to supply Mt Somers Community with new interesting books in 2023. AC

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Funding boost supports Mid Canterbury catchment groups

The newly-established Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective (MCCC) has been awarded close to \$1million from Government to support catchment communities working together to improve environmental issues including water quality, biodiversity and soil health.

Minister of Agriculture Damien O'Connor confirmed the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) funding last month at the NZ Landcare Trust National Conference, but the MCCC committee wanted to wait until they completed a strategic review workshops and had a full team ready to support farmers before announcing.

MCCC Chairman Duncan Barr says MPI funding will allow the collective to champion a dedicated Mid Canterbury commitment to catchment groups, built on collaboration and trust.

"We've developed an integrated framework from an inside-the-farm gate perspective which looks at water, biodiversity, soil, people and green house gases."

"From this we were in a strong position to put forward a funding proposal to MPI which focused on supporting catchment communities to build capacity and problem-solving capability from the ground up."

The funding will run through until year-end June 2025, with \$950,000 committed to supporting Mid Canterbury to establish an integrated framework – championing the 'local people local solutions' approach. Catchment group success is widely recognised across New Zealand, with environmental award-winning groups such as Pomahaka Water Care Group leading the way in terms of farmer-to-farmer solution-focused change. Since becoming an Incorporated Society in December 2021, MCCC has seen an exponential increase in enquiries and interest from rural groups. Three catchment groups have been set up under the MCCC umbrella (Hekeao Hinds Hill Country, Hekeao Hinds Lowlands and Foothills groups) and two long-standing catchment groups already exist in the Rangitata and Rakaia Gorges.

"We anticipate development of new catchment groups as things evolve. It's exciting how receptive our community is to getting together to create positive change," says Mr Barr.

In March this year, MCCC received \$30,000 seed funding from the Ashburton Water Zone Committee for a coordinator, someone to link-up all the good work happening across our district. Hinds author, communications expert and facilitator, Angela Cushnie, was appointed to the inaugural coordinator role.

A passionate believer in the power of communities to enable environmental change, Mrs Cushnie grew up in the Hinds area and says water quality has become a concern for Mid Canterbury residents over the course of her lifetime.

"MCCC see these challenges as an opportunity and my new role is all about supporting communities to create positive environmental changes in a way that is sustainable and inter-generational. Often it is just a matter of connecting diverse groups of people who are looking for the same outcomes so we can avoid duplication and make the best use of our resources, time and energy."

Mrs Cushnie says the pace and volume of change is rapidly increasing with new environmental regulations being launched simultaneously which places huge pressures on landowners and the wider community.

"One of our main objectives is to acknowledge and celebrate the good work that is already happening inside farm gates while continuing to improve our environmental footprint, support catchment group initiatives, and champion community wellbeing.

Ashburton Zone Committee Chair Bill Thomas is a supporter of the catchment group approach.

"If we can bring together people at a catchment level to drill down and focus on the significant issues, then we can do more. If everyone works together, we can achieve positive environmental outcomes, especially in a diverse area like Mid Canterbury which covers land and people from the mountains to the sea and everything in between."



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Book of the Month – Mt Somers Library

Title: 'Wild Places'

Author: Sarah Baxter

Illustrator: Amy Grimes

Publication year: 2022

A review by Elles Smallegoor

The library just obtained a copy of the most recently published book from the Inspired Traveller's Guide series, called 'Wild Places'. Written by British travel writer Sarah Baxter (who also wrote 'Spiritual Places', 'Literary Places', 'Hidden Places' and 'Mystical Places' for the series and has 'Cinematic Places' lined up to be next) and beautifully illustrated by Amy Grimes, this book takes you all across the globe, to 25 untamed or rewilded spots, from the Ennerdale Valley in England to the semi-underground pools in Yucatán, Mexico.

Baxter introduces and explains the history of each place in two or three pages, whether it be a vast expanse such as the South Island of New Zealand, a small group of islands such as St Kilda in Scotland, a massive intertidal wetland such as the Dutch Wadden Sea, or the highest unclimbed peak in Bhutan. Its brief chapters and its colourful one- or sometimes even two-page illustrations make it excellent bedtime reading, especially because, as Baxter argues in the introduction, "A wild place is somewhere that speaks to us on a different level. [...] A place where we're not in charge, not really." (p. 6). A bit like a dream.

She also, in these times when the doom and gloom of climate change is the talk of the day, provides some hopeful stories of re-wilding projects or nature regenerating itself: "Because, no matter how much we screw up this planet,

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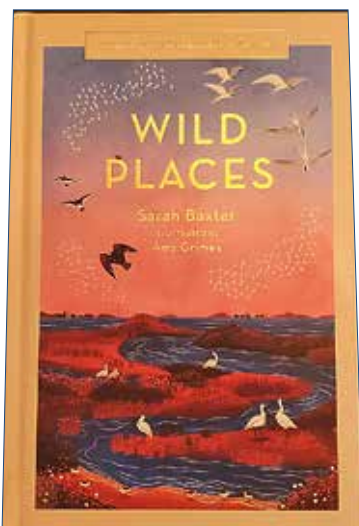
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Mother Nature finds a way” (p. 8). One example is the German Green Belt, a 1,400 km long corridor stretching from northern Europe towards the Black Sea. Once heavily militarised and dividing the socialist east from the capitalist west, this unusual, uninhabited and bleak place was for many years a refuge and breeding ground for several mammals and bird species. The absence of any normal human activity allowed nature to thrive. After the reunification of Germany, conservationists helped sustain it.



Baxter's short, but rich and informative chapters and Grimes's accompanying illustrations feel like appetisers – they make you want to travel to all these wild places. I guess that is one of the book's functions. But in this day and age, when travelling is getting more and more expensive and flying long-haul for fun is getting frowned upon more and more, reading and fantasising about them is certainly the next best thing.

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THE ART OF FOOD *by Jen Dearborn*

This scone recipe doesn't include any butter, so it is quick and easy to whip these up for visitors during the holiday season. It seems that everyone loves a scone and these are extra good with cheese and bacon in the mix. You will see I've also added a few chopped sultanas – this sounds strange, but I usually add something sweet to my savoury foods for a better depth of flavour. You could replace the sultanas with a tablespoon of jam or sugar for a similar effect. No-one will know it's there, but they will know they are good. I use tasty cheese in my scones but just use whatever cheese you have in your fridge. Enjoy your summer and stay safe out there



SAVOURY SCONES

Preheat your oven to 200 degrees fanbake

In a bowl mix:

3 cups flour

6 heaped tsp baking powder

½ tsp salt

½ tsp white pepper

1/8 tsp or a pinch of cayenne pepper

Stir the dry ingredients together thoroughly and add:

1 ½ cups (150 grams) grated cheese

½ onion diced

5 slices (100 grams) streaky bacon roughly chopped

1 tbsp finely diced sultanas or golden raisins

Stir again and then add:

1 ½ cups milk

Mix with a butter knife just until the dough forms a ball but **DON'T OVERMIX**

Tip ¼ cup flour onto a baking tray and spread it out a little.

Tip the scone dough onto the floured tray and turn it over a couple times before forming the dough into a square about 3cm high

Brush the top with 1 tsp milk then cut into 12 or 16 scones, place them well apart on the tray and then top each scone

with a small slice of cheese and a thin slice of tomato

Bake at 200 degrees fanbake for about 15 minutes or until they are nicely browned

Serve hot or cold with lashings of butter. Enjoy!



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Village Green Christmas Spruce Up



Yes it's time for a quick pre-Xmas tidy up of our Village Green in Mt Somers by the community. Please keep Wednesday 7th December free for an evening working bee. You as a community are called on once a year for this and as only 4 people turned up last year we have changed the time to 7.00pm. start.

Please try and come along with your gardening tools. Forks (big ones) and grass edging shears if possible. Lots of weeds to pull out and cabbage tree leaves to pick up.

This is a good opportunity to meet other locals and maintain a space we should all be proud of in the village.

I was at our cemetery a few weeks ago and was amazed to see the lovely painted rock creations on most of the graves. What a super idea and the person/persons behind this must be congratulated for making this area such a caring thoughtful space.

If the weather is inclement on that night we will postpone to the following Wednesday.

Any queries please contact Pam Annand 021 1264 310.



Mt Somers Christmas Morning Tea

Tuesday 13th December
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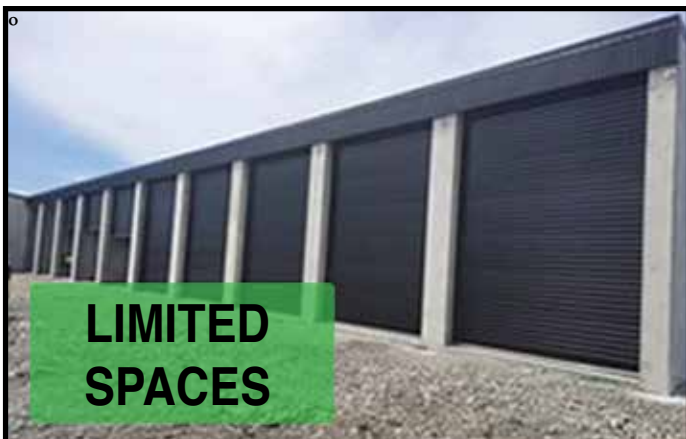
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“You can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas lights” –Maya Angelou

I know many of us say it every year, but where has the time gone? As I write this, it is 30 days until Christmas. It only seems like yesterday that I was packing away the tree from last Christmas, and here I am planning on dragging that box from the garage once again to have a fight with the string of lights that I’m sure will be in a mess once more.

For many people, this time of year can bring a range of mixed emotions: excitement, joy and gratefulness to anxiety, grief and loneliness. Sometimes many emotions at once. With the lead up to the festive season being one of the busiest times of year for many people; school activities, Christmas shopping, social events and everything else in between, it’s really important that we stop, breathe and take some time for ourselves.

If, like me, you find the build up to Christmas insanely busy and quite frankly stressful at times, it’s vital you pay attention to your mood, energy and stress levels; and try to make some time for something you enjoy. This could be doing something creative, watching a movie, or simply going for a walk; even better if you can make time to do this with a friend.

For some, Christmas can be a lonely time. If you think this might be the case for you or someone you know, reach out. Talking to a friend or family member, in any way you can, is encouraged. It can be very hard but talking about feelings can help put things into perspective and may help lift the mood. If you don’t have family or friends close by, or don’t think there’s anyone to talk to, you are never alone. Make a note of these numbers that you can call for free 24 hours a day:

call or text the Peer Support Line on 1737 any time for a chat or support from a trained counsellor

call 0800 111 757 or text 4202 to talk to a trained counsellor about you are feeling

call Lifeline on 0800 543 354 or text 4357 for free confidential support from a volunteer counsellor, whatever the issue.

So as we sign off from what has been a busy, disruptive and crazy year for all; myself, Juanita and our wonderful trustees: Michelle, Megan, Connie and Peter would like to take the time to wish you all a safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to hosting a Give it a Go series in Mayfield in the new year and hope to meet more of you there.

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Walk Scotts Saddle

9 November: All 14 members, slow and fast walkers, enjoyed lovely views from the Scotts Saddle.



House required to rent in the Mt Somers area for one of our workers

Preferably long term, required early January

Phone Bob 021791655



Thank You and Best Wishes from the Hospice Team

The Hospice team would like to extend warm Christmas wishes to all clients and their families. Thank you for allowing us to make some small difference in your lives. Thank you as well to all the incredible volunteers who dedicate their time, skills and energy, enabling hospice to offer support to those in the community facing a life limiting illness and to their caregivers. We truly couldn't do this without you. To our generous donors and sponsors, from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your contribution. Your support goes a long way towards helping people to live every moment in whatever way is important to them. And thank you to everyone in the community who donates to, or buys from the amazing hospice shop. Every dollar makes a difference to someone's life.

Wishing everyone a peaceful and happy Christmas season.

The Hospice Base at 70 Havelock Street will be closing on December 22nd and will reopen January 9th 2023.



The Hospice team getting into the Christmas spirit (From left) Janelle, Sarah, Fiona, Laura and Bronie

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 support@hospicemc.nz.

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

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 Don't just take, give.
 Don't just see, feel.
 Don't just dream, do.
 Don't just hear, listen.
 Don't just talk, act.
 Don't just tell, show.
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Neighbourhood Support – November

I am loving this weather and the rapid growth of my vegetable patch as I strive to beat the escalating cost of food at the moment. \$5.00 for a head of broccoli – outrageous! I also strive to beat the pesky birds as they seem to delight in digging everything I have just planted so low line tunnel houses have been deployed and so far so good.

I have been sharing these joys with my neighbours, mint a neighbour has grown sourced from a stream in Central Otago and it is gorgeous, cabbages from another garden and I have been sharing sprouting broccoli. It gives us a chance to talk, to share and to enjoy the sunshine while we natter. It seems a veritable amount of the world's problems can be solved with a good chat. It fits in with Neighbourhood Support's theme – creating safe, resilient and connected communities.

And talking of safe communities - reported crimes for Methven/foothills area from October total 9 – they include: Entering an agricultural property with intent, burglary of property, disorderly behaviour and theft. We work hard to obtain assets and valuables and having someone else decide they like them better is not on. Lock doors and windows when not at home, think seriously about security camera's on farms and marking property. Having a connected group in your area to "keep an eye" on things certainly helps. They are the ones that will know if there is a suspicious car

in the area or whether someone entering your property would normally be that person. This can apply to farms who have their own "in-house community of workers".

Scams continue to be of concern. I received an invite to join a Zoom meeting at Parliament last week, headed by Greg O'Connor and Chris Hipkins. They were joined by Netsafe, Crime Stoppers, ZX security and Jordan Alexander who has written a book on Romance scams from her own personal experience. Advice – if it seems to be too good to be true, it probably is. Don't react or be persuaded into acting immediately on a decision on the phone, text or email, take a moment to think, ring back on a number known to you or decide not to respond. Do not give your pin number to anyone, check your bank statements regularly and do not provide money to people who ask without understanding who you are actually talking to. My experience was a solar company who contacted me after I had made some enquiries. I had assumed it was one of the company's I had spoken to and they were very keen on me signing up. After checking my correspondence, it became clear that I had not contacted this company and couldn't find them anywhere.

Key contacts:

Police on 111 if someone is in immediate danger

For anything else 0800237869 (Cert NZ) to report an issue

Crime Stoppers – can be contacted

anonymously on 0800555111

Or your bank if you suspect anything fraudulent.

Keep safe and take care.

Sue Abel

District Neighbourhood Support Co-ordinator



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A COMMENT:

George Fairweather Moonlight: the name sounds interesting; Moonlight came to New Zealand seeking his fortune in the gold fields.

When I visited my cousin in Blenheim two months ago he lent me a book his family had presented to him, Tavern in the Town by author James McNeish I was interested in the chapters that covered Murchison the place of my birth and where I lived for the first 42 years of my life. Chapter 19 drew my attention, 'The Yank Who Couldn't say No'

McNeish wrote a chapter on George Fairweather Moonlight.

There have been numerous attempts to write up the story of this man's life, McNeish describes him as a Yank he claims he spoke with an American accent. My understanding of Moonlight was that he was Scottish born, he became a sailor and jumped ship at California to join the gold rush there, later with his brother Tom and mate Jack Tarrant he moved to the gold fields of Australia and then still later to the gold fields of Otago where they worked in the Shotover area. I don't know what happened to his brother Tom, but it appears Jack Tarrant was in close contact throughout Moonlight's life.

It was Moonlight's story although it doesn't exactly add up, George did have a good story as to where he emerged from and how he gained this name. George would tell the story that he was of no parentage; if asked his heritage his version was that he was a 'Foundling', A policeman picked this almost new born baby up off the street I guess he was taken into care and had to be named, He became George as the policeman's name was George, his next name was Fairweather since it was a fine night and his final name or family name became Moonlight as it was a moonlight night, So as the story goes this foundling baby became George Fairweather Moonlight. When I follow up on Google I get a quite different answer Parents are listed and born 5th of August 1832 at Newmill, Glenbervie, Kincardineshire, Scotland. It remains a good story as to how he was named fascinating to many listeners over the years I have no doubt.

George was a tall strong individual he proved to be a very successful gold prospector having success in the Shotover river of Otago followed by the Grey Valley where a stream carries his name then later in the Rivers of the Murchison area, the Matakaitaki, Maruia and the Mangles. Having found good gold fields Moonlight would let the word out and then set up and establish stores and liquor outlets to supply the desperate diggers.

On the 28th of February 1865 George Moonlight at Wakefield married Elizabeth Gaukrodger of Foxhill. Two children were born to them before 1870. They settled for a short time in Richmond, but before long, Moonlight went by boat to the new Grey River diggings. There, on the 7th of April 1865, he made one of the most spectacular discoveries, on a tributary to the Grey river still known as Moonlight Creek, near the small township of Atarau (Māori for moonlight). The Pessini nugget, officially the largest found in New Zealand, was discovered in 1917.






Moonlight moved to the Maruia and with the help of his lifelong friend Jack Tarrent built a guest house complete with stables and associated buildings. From there he moved to Murchison then known by the former name of Hampton. Here he built a hotel which he named the Commercial Hotel, the Buller river encroached, he was forced to move to higher ground on the sight of the present Commercial Hotel. Misfortune came his way in 1882 his wife died of typhoid and soon his business began to fail, he went into voluntary liquidation and his property was sold. To recover his fortunes, he went prospecting near Lake Station in the Howard River area. As was his custom he went alone. When he failed to return, Jack Tarrant raised the alarm and a search was underway. It was two months before Tarrant found Moonlights body near Glenhope. It is not precisely known when George Moonlight died, official records give the date as 17 July 1884 and that he died in a natural way.

The final chapter of what can be called an official biography states: George Moonlight was tall and exceptionally strong; he dressed like an American Digger and spoke with an American accent. He was a man of strange contrasts. Genial and friendly, he obviously enjoyed company, was fond of children and generous to a fault, yet his journeys were always made alone. For him, the thrill of gold was locating it, not in accumulating wealth. His recreation was in solitary tramps. He loved the rugged country, the hills, bush, and streams among which he died.

Have a great Christmas and New Year Denis

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CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE
Sunday December 18th at 10 a.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY
SERVICE
10 a.m.



PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest - Rev Annette Eggleston
Email: harann000@gmail.com 3024 006
Church Warden – Pauline Hewson 3036 397
Church Warden, Secretary / Treasurer
- Marion Jacobson 027 3607 180
Email: marion.i.jacobson@gmail.com

Hi Mums and Dads. Are you starting to get a bit frazzled? Kids getting tired and excited, well maybe not quite yet. Probably a bit soon for them to have started the countdown to Christmas, but they are getting tired, as they near the end of the school year. And having been a parent, in pre-daylight saving times as well as post, I definitely think daylight saving doesn't help.

But maybe that amazing event of two thousand years ago, does warrant a bit of excitement. The story told over and over again, down through the centuries, must surely be something worth celebrating. If not, why hasn't it simply died and been forgotten? All around the world, special services will be held and we are no exception, here in this small, numerically, parish of Mayfield/Mt. Somers.

Our young peoples' service is being held on Sunday, 18th December at 10am at St. Aidan's Mt. Somers, and we don't mind how many angels and shepherds we have on the day! In fact the more the merrier. Everyone is welcome. But we would just ask that you arrive as soon after 9.30 as possible, so that we can dress the children. It can get a bit chaotic if we have too many arriving at the last minute! There are no rehearsals, just turn up on the day.

I wish you all a very blessed Christmas and in the meantime during all the buildup, please don't forget to be kind!!

Blessings,
Annette Eggleston

ANGLICAN SERVICES

Priest: Rev Annette Eggleston
Holy Communion

Dec 4 10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers

Dec 18 10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers
Children's Christmas Service

Dec 25 10 a.m. St Aidan's
Mt Somers

CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST

Jan 15 10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers

Jan 29 10 a.m. All Saints, Ruapuna

Feb 5 10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers



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NEWS FROM PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

Last month I said I would report on the AGM, this significant meeting took place as advertised on the 30th of October. This was a very quiet annual meeting. There was nothing controversial, there was no election and very little in the way of questions. In the area of Governance Council members For Mayfield Denis Brown chose to stand down the three Mayfield representatives are now Kevin Taylor, Annette Syme and Kay King. For Methven, Alex Wright elected to stand down leaving Elsa Hydes, Allen Redmond and one other to be appointed, for Rakaia Liz Depree, Isobell Benny and Fay Cuttriss. The Parish clerk position is jointly held by Liz Depree and Annette Syme. Miranda Addis is the Administration Officer. The treasurer is now under the care of an outside organization known as "CATAS" The accounts are worked through Zero accounting and the administrator Miranda enters the details into Zero and pays the accounts. This is a big change in the accounting for Plains Parish, I am confident that all accounting will be performed in a very professional and accurate manner. Currently the parish is without a minister, this is a concern.

Alpine Presbytery established what is called a Ministry Settlement Board (MSB), this board has met and had discussions, their first duty was to review the parish. This they appear to consider they have done; governance Council do not consider what they did was a review as all that appears to have been done is a building inspection, they have not met with the people who are the real church, Buildings are but buildings, buildings are not the Church. My opinion Denis.

Interim Moderator Rev Johanna Warren

Parish Clerks, Annette Syme Ph 303 0803

Liz Depree Ph 021889341

Parish Contacts:

Kevin Taylor ph 303 6392

Kay King ph 303 6033

Website plainspresbyterian.co.nz

Facebook.com/ PlainsPresbyterianParish

WORSHIP SERVICES December / January 2023

Sunday 4th Dec ST JOHNS METHVEN 10.30

Café service

Sunday 18th Dec Staveley Carol Service 7.00 pm

Sunday 24th Dec Trinity Mayfield Carols and readings 7.00 pm

January 2023 Methven services alternate with

All Saints Anglican Parish 10.30 am

Sunday 22nd Jan Staveley 10.00 am

Paster Paul Eden

Continuing to support families in Rangitata

25 November 2022

Jo Luxton, MP for Rangitata

As we head towards summer here in the Foothills, I can't help reflecting on the past year. Personally, I have recently been through a tough time with the passing of my dear mother, I want to pass on my thanks for the support and messages I have received.

It's been a busy year for the Government, as we've continued to support New Zealanders through a challenging period while making progress on some of the biggest issues facing our community. Reflecting on the economy, I am pleased to note that thanks to our careful management of the books, our economy is in a strong position – and faring better than many other countries. However, we know global issues like rising inflation have had a real impact here at home, and many people are feeling the pinch. That's why, to help ease the pressure on families, we've rolled out a significant package of cost of living support.

With the war in Ukraine driving up petrol and diesel prices, we cut fuel tax and reduced road user charges. We also provided extra support to help people with their bills through the Cost of Living Payment and the Winter Energy Payment.



Alongside measures to provide immediate relief, we've continued our work to lift incomes and reduce cost pressures over the long term. In April, we boosted Superannuation, student allowances, the family tax credit and main benefits, providing extra income for thousands of households. To ensure New Zealanders pay a fairer price at the checkout, we've progressed work to hold supermarkets to account.

We know things are still tough for many here in Mid Canterbury but together, initiatives like these will help to ease the pressure and make life a little easier.

With summer almost here, the return of international tourists has been welcome for local tourism and hospitality businesses, and I know many here in Mid Canterbury are gearing up for a busy season. To ensure businesses can get the workers they need for the summer and beyond, our Government has streamlined immigration settings and expanded places for working holidaymakers, as well as continuing to upskill Kiwis for jobs. We've now supported 20,000 people into jobs through Flexi-wage, and more than 200,000 people through free apprenticeships and trades training.

These are just some of the things we've achieved this year. There's a lot on the horizon for next year, and I'm looking forward to continuing to work hard to support people in Rangitata. Although it feels a little early to be saying this, I understand this is the last issue of the year, so, I wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a fantastic summer!



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Tree Planting at Mount Somers

Energy and Enthusiasm of W.D.F.F. members Mt Possession Station has notable Forestation Record "With the visit of Mr St. Barbe Baker to Christchurch, many people will be particularly tree-conscious this week," says Miss Margaret J. Scott, of Mount Somers, in a letter to the Editor of 'The Press'. She has supplied an article about wayside planting at Mount Somers and tree planting at Mount Possession run, and this is printed below.

The great natural forests on either side of Mount Somers, Peel Forest and Alford Forest were recklessly exploited for their timber by the pioneers, after being cherished by the Maori people who came from Arowhenua and Kaiapoi to renew their food supplies by pigeon spearing, rat catching and bird snaring. The remnants of these forests may still be visited at Staveley, where the skating rink has a perfect back-cloth of native bush, and at Peel Forest where there is a reserve of several hundred acres of virgin and regenerated forest. European and Australian trees which the pioneers placed about their homesteads are now providing splendid memorials to their efforts, and more people are becoming tree-conscious, as local domains, school grounds and war memorial plots show.

From 1951, the Women's Division of Federated Farmers in Mount Somers has included tree-planting in its annual programme.

Here is the record.

1951. W.D.F.F. planted 40 ornamental trees along the Mount Somers-Methven highway to commemorate the foundation of the branch of the W.D.F.F. and as a centennial memorial. Black Poplar grew. Golden Ash and Red Ash were unsuited to the wind-swept position.

1952. Four dozen flowering apples were planted in Village and Gorge Road, one dozen Silver Birch at the south approach by the cemetery, and one dozen flowering apples along Price's road.

1953. Eight Silver Birch and six Eucalypts were planted at the south approach to Mount Somers on the Surrey Hills side of the bridge over the South Ashburton river. The Eucalypts did not grow.

1954. One dozen flowering apples were planted along Buccleugh road, one dozen flowering apples in the village and 14 flowering apples along the Ashburton Gorge road. Fourteen Poplars along the main road to Methven.

(The scheme is to extend to Bowyers Stream). Six Silver Birch and four Poplars were planted on the Public Works plot by the irrigation channel, Price's road.

Acknowledgements to Stuff Ltd copyright owner for the Press and Christchurch City Libraries

A Word of Thanks

It seems as though it was only last month that I sat down and typed a message of thanks to all the people who have so diligently each month written their reviews, researched their recipes, put their thoughts to paper, (or, more accurately, their computer), informed people of their meetings, sports results, and whatever was going on in their world in the Foothills area.

Without their input there would be no stories to print as I do not have the time to become the resident reporter and probably neither do I have the skills such a job requires.

So here we are almost at the end on 2022, another year gone and what looks as though a rather troublesome year to come.

I don't think it is too much of an exaggeration to say that the world seems to be going from one crisis to another at frightening speed. Covid is still around, the Russians are becoming both a dangerous and seemingly totally unpredictable and uncaring, country not only of their own people but also the rest of the world in their attempts to wipe Ukraine off the map.

There is one word which seems to have become the most over used word in the recent two or three years and that is the word 'unprecedented'. You hear it all the time on TV and in the news. We appear to be trying to cope with so many things that have never been a problem in the past, or at the very least were manageable.

So I personally, am happy to say goodbye to 2022 and I sincerely hope that 2023 might be the harbinger of better times to come.

I would also like to express my thanks to all the advertisers who have continued to support the Nor'Wester. I do hope that they gain much benefit from their participation in the publication.

Finally I would like to mention that in the past I have read articles in other publications about things that have been or are going to happen in the area and I have had no information supplied to me even though it has taken place at our back door.

It does not cost clubs or people who are planning some event to supply me with some details and perhaps photos that I can run in the paper to help their efforts.

Now I want to wish you all a very happy and safe Festive Season. Enjoy your time with family and friends, try to relax and also enjoy the fact that summer is coming.

My thanks and best wishes to you all.

Jeremy Hunter
Editor



Mt Somers Staveley Playcentre

December is already here, where has the year gone? The children have been getting into the festive spirit by making christmas decorations and even painting giant gingerbread men!

We had a lovely visit to the Plains Museum and meeting other families from Longbeach and Mayfield Playcentres. The children loved seeing all the displays and machines.

Our final session for 2022 is Thursday 15th of December with our end of year party planned for Friday 16th of December, here's hoping the weather isn't wet for the third year in a row! We will also be saying goodbye to Tahlia Huggins and her Mum, Amy at the end of the year. Have a fantastic time at school Tahlia! Amy, you have been such a huge part of Playcentre we will be so sad to see you go! If you've been considering coming along to a session to see what Playcentre is like, feel free to pop in on a Tuesday or Thursday morning, we'd love to show you around. Our 2023 sessions begin Tuesday 31st of January.

We'd like to wish all of you a wonderful and safe festive season and a big thank you to everyone who has supported our great little playcentre throughout the year. We are so appreciative.



Walk Jack's Point Timaru

16 November: It was nice finding a new walking track with the help of the ladies in Timaru. Treated ourselves to a nice lunch at Robert Harris cafe.



*All Walk photos
courtesy of
Sanae Hydes*

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- ☐ Expect every shift to be different from the other and be challenged every time you are on the road or at an event
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Jo Luxton MP for Rangitata

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75 Harrison Street, Ashburton



Labour



Authorised by Jo Luxton MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington



DEADLINE DATE NO JANUARY ISSUE

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1 February



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Just a Reminder

The Ashburton District Council has agreed to reinstate a place on their website for the local area papers such as the Nor'Wester to be featured each month. So anyone can log on and view the current or past editions in glorious technicolour starting with the September 2022 issue.

And the link to get you there is:

<https://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/community-facilities>

Scroll down to:

Ashburton Community Directory

and you will find the Nor'Wester on the right.

Isn't that just great ! ! ! !

Editor

JPs in the Foothills Area

Mayfield

Jannet Cross 0274 347 958

Pauline Hewson.03 3036 397.

Grant Early.0215 141 56

Alistair Morrison. 0276 024 927

Mt Somers

Robert Schikker.0211 866 107.

Anne Marie Allan.0272 843 013.

Anne Parnham. 0277 676 056.

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