

Bringing you the News from Carew in the south to Alford Forest in the north and all places in between.

Summer time on the Village Green

Well done to the PlayCentre team for staging a very successful fete using the village green in Mt Somers in early December. It was extremely well organised with good car parking and helped hugely by a stunning hot day. Until the impending Southerly hit with a hiss and a roar just after lunch. Most stall holders packed up early but by the looks of the earlier happy crowd everyone thoroughly enjoyed their morning. Thankyou for using this great space in the midst of the village and hope it gets used again for community events as it certainly suits such gatherings. Pam Annand



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Mayfield and Districts Lions Report

Firewood Supplies have been given a significant boost with the donation of approximately 120 cubic metres of split firewood by John Chapman of Inverary Station. Half the proceeds will go to Mt Somers village green improvements and the other half to be used at the Lion's discretion

We would like to also thank Narin Stewart, who help shift the wood with his truck and trailer unit.

Mayfield and Districts Lions visited the Ashburton Aviation Museum and held their Christmas function and donated \$1000 to their building project.

The firewood raffle at the village green Fete raised just over \$500 in an hour and a half, the funds going to the Mt Somers Playcentre, thank you for the support.

Hope you had a good Christmas and New Year.

Chris Olley Mayfield and Districts Lions



Owen Moore speaks at the Lions Christmas Function about the history of the Aviation Museum and Fundraising for future expansion

**Anglican Parish of
Mayfield Mt Somers**

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL
GENERAL MEETING**

SUNDAY 11th February 2024

7.30 p.m. at All Saints, Ruapuna

The purpose of this Special General Meeting is to put the Motion "That All Saints Anglican Church is surplus to Parish requirements and that the building be sold."

At this meeting all members on the Parish Roll are entitled to speak and vote.

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Marion Jacobson 027 3607 180**



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The Old Post Office Library



Happy New Year to our readers and library friends..... even although the first month of the year has nearly gone by. Summer is definitely here but these last couple of days remind us that autumn isn't far away. I have been in Central Otago this week and was amazed to see fresh snow (and not just a skiff) on the mountains, particularly in the Maniatoto.

I called into 'Petronella's', a small bookshop just as you enter Tekapo. If you haven't visited it, you need to! It is a delightful space and I always manage to find books I haven't seen before. I purchased two of them for the library so they will appear on our shelves shortly.

'Prima Facia' by Suzie Miller. This book has strong recommendations from Jane Harper ('The Dry'), Anne Funder and Magda Szubanski, plus the owner of Petronella's.

It seems it is about a young female barrister from a working class background who finds herself in the position of countless women, the victim of a rape. Will she take the stand to testify about her rape fully aware the system has not been built to protect her?

Drawn from an internationally acclaimed play, 'Prima Facia' is a raw look at the price victims pay for speaking out and the system that sets them out to fail. Look out for this one.....

'War Bride' by Patricia Fenton.

Is there a collective sigh... 'not another war book'?

But this one has a difference.

It is written by a New Zealander and although the book is fictional it was inspired by the real-life experiences of the author's late parents-in-law: a



Welsh girl and a Kiwi boy who would never have met if it wasn't for Hitler. It is described as.....' both grim and uplifting and funny, this fictionalised family saga weaves memories and historical records stemming from real-life stories....

I'm looking forward to hearing some reviews of this tale.

'Hello Beautiful' by Ann Neopolitan

This was a Christmas present from a fellow reader who raved about it..... initially I didn't, although I did enjoy it and find I am returning to the story more and more. There are some quite special observations in it that I had to read over again. Essentially it is a family saga about four sisters, their mother and father and grandmother. There are mentions of the old classic 'Little Women' and I wonder if this book is just a modern version. An easy read and doesn't require too much effort, but held my interest throughout.

Two great reads.... both picked up secondhand and I have passed them both 'on loan' to the library. I loved both of them.

'Learning to Swim' by Clare Chambers

I chuckled my way through this novel, written like a memoir, and enjoyed every moment. She has also written 'Small Pleasures' recently. And it is in the library too.

'The Last Four Days of Paddy Buckley' by Jeremy Massey. Full of black humour and highly improbable, it really is a great escape just when you need one! Written by an Irishman of course who was an undertaker. And the book is about an undertaker and his misadventure. Highly recommended.

'Learned by Heart' by Emma Donoghue of 'Room' fame and 'Pull of the Stars'. This book is quite different in that it is about an actual person, Anne

Lister, who in the early 1800s attended Manor School in England where she met Eliza Raine, a part Indian girl from Madras. They became very very close friends which had a disastrous end.

The tale of Anne Lister was fictionalized in the TV series 'Gentleman Jack' which was a popular series about the times of England when a female property owner and business woman was unheard of. But this is the story of her first love.....a schoolgirl crush.....

Another new book 'Bright and Shining.... how grace changes everything' by Julia Baird. This book plus an excerpt, was written up in 'The Press' earlier in the month.

It is catalogued as an inspirational book on mind body and spirit. Something quite different for our library but hopefully will appeal to some readers.

Finally, but importantly... we are missing one of our beautiful reference books.....

'Agates of New Zealand' By Malcolm Luxton.

This book focusses strongly on the Mt Somers region. PLEASE check to see if you have it, and if so, return as soon as possible.

It is quite a big book so not easy to tuck away where it can be accidentally forgotten. We really need it back on our shelves where it belongs.

And a reminder: if you borrow a book out of hours from the library, it must be recorded in the red book with the name and author of the book plus YOUR name and phone number and date. The red book is always left on the counter by the crime section.

The library is run on a trust system for the community, so any book borrowed carries the trust that it will always be returned.

And thank you as always to our volunteers who keep our library functioning, especially over this holiday period. Happy reading! AC




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Every year, we provide funding for community groups and projects that help make Mid Canterbury a great place to live.

From community libraries and pools, to local events and native planting, grants are available for all sorts of activities. We're now seeking applications for the next round of funding. So, if you have a project or group that would benefit, apply now!

✓ **Community Project Grant**

Funding for projects that help enhance quality of life for our residents.

✓ **Community Agency Grant**

Helping community organisations with their operational costs.

✓ **Community Events Grant**

Funding to launch new community events or build the capacity of existing events.

✓ **Trail Maintenance Fund**

Grants to support the maintenance of local walking and cycling tracks.

✓ **School Holiday Programme Grant**

Support for school holiday programmes that cater for children aged 5-14 years.

✓ **Heritage Grant**

Support for the preservation or restoration of a heritage building or item.

✓ **Biodiversity Grant**

Funding for projects that will protect, maintain or restore biodiversity.

✓ **Community Library Grant**

Support for independently operated community libraries to purchase new reading material.

✓ **Community Infrastructure Grant**

Support for the development and maintenance of memorial and community halls, and reserve board infrastructure.

Applications close
29 February



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Mt Somers Water Restrictions

Council is closely monitoring water use on the Mount Somers water supply, which is currently on restrictions.

Declining water levels at the intake to the supply and high consumption have been causing concern, and Mount Somers residents are urged to sign up for free text alerts so they can keep up to date with changes.

Level 3 hosing restrictions came into force on 11 January and these were raised to Level 5 restrictions (conserve water notice) on 22 January.

Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces Neil McCann said consistent high consumption had caused the restrictions to be raised, but they were lowered to Level 4 on 24 January.

“We observed that some properties were consuming significantly more water than usual, and levels were dangerously low, so we had to act quickly. Council contractors knocked on doors to remind people to use water for essential activities only.

“We then saw a reduction in water use, which was really pleasing, but we can only reduce water restriction levels if those consumption levels remain under control going forward.

People should keep up with changes on our website, or text their postcode to 4196 to receive free text alerts when water restrictions change.”

Level 5 restrictions mean no non-essential water use is permitted at any time and households connected to the supply should limit their use of water to essential domestic, commercial and industrial use only. Essential use includes drinking, washing and cooking but does not include watering plants, washing vehicles or filling pools.



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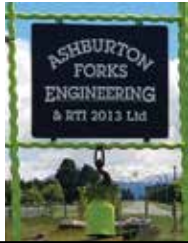
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At Level 4 restrictions, there is a hosing ban and people can water gardens by hand using a bucket or watering can.

Level 3 restrictions allow hand-held hosing between 6pm and midnight on alternate days.

Mr McCann said tankers had carted loads of water to the township's water treatment plant in early January to replenish reservoirs, after staff monitoring the supply had noticed unexpected high use.

"We'll be continuing to keep a close eye on things as this summer will be hot and drier than normal because of the El Nino conditions. It is up to everyone to use water wisely."

He said work on the new Mount Somers Water Treatment Plant was on track and would raise reservoir capacity from 125 to 180 cubic metres when completed in a few months' time.

"Our smaller Council water supplies usually come under pressure during summer when residents use more water to maintain gardens and lawns, but these supplies are not designed to accommodate watering like that.

"We ask that Mount Somers residents abide by any restrictions that are in place so that water is available to everyone and that the supply lasts."

Council's Long Term Plan will include proposed budget in Year 2 to investigate other sources for the Mount Somers water supply.

He said it was also a good time for property owners to check for water leaks.

"This is as simple as checking your water meter last thing at night, and then first thing in the morning, to see if any water has been used. If there has been unexpected water use, there might be a leak in the system somewhere and fixing that could save water because this hot summer is set to continue."

Council has tips for using water wisely on its website ashburtondc.govt.nz

Mount Somers residents can sign up for free text alerts and water advisory notices from Council by texting their post code to 4196.

"Travel isn't always pretty. It isn't always comfortable. Sometimes it hurts, it even breaks your heart. But that's okay. The journey changes you; it should change you. It leaves marks on your memory, on your consciousness, on your heart, and on your body. You take something with you. Hopefully, you leave something good behind."

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- Who can refer?
- Anyone can refer:
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- Family or friends
- Health professionals or other support organisations

How do I make a referral?

- Make a referral online at www.hospicemc.nz
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- Contact Hospice Mid Canterbury at 03-3078387 or 027-227-8387 or email manager@hospicemc.nz



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Safer Mid Canterbury
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As another year rolls around, it's a good time to reflect on the year that has been.

Once again we held two road code courses. The courses include a road craft session with our driving instructor, and a road safety talk by the Ashburton Police.

Thanks to the Ashburton Learning Centre for running the courses.

Over 2023 we achieved 20 learners license and 38 restricted and full licenses, which is a great result for a small programme like ours. Of course we can't do it without the tireless work of our amazing volunteers. Our driving mentors are fantastic, and the child minders and drivers who help us during the road code courses are invaluable. These volunteers give their time freely to help our newcomers become safe and confident drivers.

Our driving instructors Allan Baird and David Leadley continue to support our mentors with professional lessons. This ensures our students are driving safely and are ready for their test. Our high first time pass rate reflects the importance of being well prepared. Our aim is to do it once, do it right and the professional lessons ensure this happens. Many mentors have commented on how the professional lessons have had an impact on their own driving, making them think twice about their own driving habits. So it's a win-win situation all round and it's amazing what you pick up sitting in the back seat during a lesson.

Of course we must acknowledge the support of our very generous sponsors. Without their financial support we can't have a programme. There are many costs associated with a driving programme and our sponsors are always willing to come to the party to keep the programme going. Thank you so much to Waka Kotahi, Advance Ashburton Community Foundation, Ashburton District Council, Lion Foundation, COGs and Community Trust Mid & South Canterbury.

It's always exciting to start a new year, and this year is no exception. So let's see what 2024 has in store for us. We look forward to breaking down barriers to getting a driver's license for our students. We're excited to bring more success stories, to connect up mentors and students, and see more friendships develop among our new students.

Our first course of the year looks to be full already, and we have a waiting list for all stages of the programme. That is the price of being successful.

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 proudly sponsored by Waka Kotahi, Advance Ashburton Community Foundation, Ashburton District Council, The Lion Foundation, COGs, Community Trust Mid & South Canterbury and The Mid Canterbury Rural Support Trust.

Wendy Hewitt Rural Licensing Co-Ordinator
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Letters to the Editor

My husband and I bought our first piece of land in Mt Somers over 35 years ago. We then purchased another piece a few years later. At that time we got told that our land would be sought after as they were the last pieces in the village that could go on the town water supply as the supply was at capacity and could not provide to anyone else.

People struggled to build on land as they couldn't get on the supply. We have, as far back that I can remember, always had to be put on water restrictions and there have been constant leaks. Community members have constantly highlighted the need for a more plentiful, reliable water source, and have provided suggestions where to get it from, but has this never been looked into.

It has been very disappointing and confusing as to how, after so many years, the council have turned around and agreed to allow subdivisions and housing to happen which have been put onto the same water supply that was already at full capacity.

I want to make it clear that this is of no fault to the sellers or the buyers of this land. We welcome you with open arms.

The fault comes down to the council, who have truly let us all down, without looking at the infrastructure of Mount Somers and the consequences that have come from it. Where is the money that all of these sellers and buyers have paid to go towards the infrastructure? Isn't this where the money should have been used?

The council have said that certain owners are using more water than they should. But what about the leaks that continue to happen, and it sometimes takes days to fix them.

I will say thank you to council for finally having a new treatment plant built. This will help us to not go onto a boil water notice. It will be able to process more water which is fine, but where is it going to come from? Changing water ways in this day and age is not that simple but should have been thought about a long time ago.

We aren't even really into our dry season and we have been already on a Level 5, the highest level that I can remember, which is proving how much strain the water supply is on. And there are still houses ready to be built.

We cannot keep getting the blame for this, and landing us with the guilt of using too much water, and that water has had to be trucked here to help us. This should never have happened. Someone has to take responsibility for the infrastructure not being put in place before any decisions were made.

The long term plan is coming out for Mid Canterbury. I advise everyone to have a look at this and put a submission through. We need to make sure that we are going to be looked after for now and the future of our beautiful community.

Rhonda Huggins

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Book of the Month – Mt Somers Library

Title: 'Birnam Wood'

Author: Eleanor Catton

Publication year: 2023

A review by Elles Smallegoor

After the enormous success of 'The Luminaries' many readers have been keenly waiting for Eleanor Catton's new novel which was published last year by Te Herenga Waka University Press. 'Birnam Wood' is an altogether different read than her Booker Prize winner in the sense that it takes only a few minutes to get fully immersed in its fictional world. 'The Luminaries' was dense and challenging in its structure and context, and was therefore, at least for me, a book that was put down every now and then, to do an online search for better understanding the subject matter or to have a mental breather. To be fair, this new novel also leaves you breathless, but more because you just have to keep reading.

'Birnam Wood' is set in contemporary New Zealand but the South Island town and rural area which provide the setting for the story (Thorndike and the Korowai Pass respectively) are fictional. In the first chapter we learn that earthquakes have created a landslide in the Pass and have isolated Thorndike and its surrounds, at least for a few winter months. One of the main characters, Mira Bunting, leads a younger-generation gardening group together with her somewhat subservient friend Shelley Noakes. It aims to operate outside the confines of capitalism: its members secretly plant veges in backyards, paddocks, or abandoned places and, once they have harvested their yields, use them and give the rest away. When Mira learns that Owen Darvish, one of Thorndike's farmers, will temporarily leave his farm, she decides to have a large-scale "guerilla-gardening" project on his property. Once there, however, she bumps into multi-millionaire tech giant Robert Lemoine and the American has his own plans with the property. He seems to be one of those "preppers" that buy up New Zealand land (the Darvishes had their

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land up for sale until the earthquakes happened) in order to prepare for the apocalypse, but as the novel develops, we learn that his intentions are far darker and far-reaching in consequence.

Catton's novel is divided into three sections but when it comes to plot and character development the book provides two different kind of reading experiences. In the first half the reader is gradually introduced to all the characters and offered a lot of food for thought. Through elaborate description

and dialogue, we learn about their personalities, their relationships, their values and their ambitions. Even though 'Birnam Wood' is a reference to Shakespeare's Macbeth, the ways in which Catton deftly uses narrative voice to immerse us into her characters' thoughts and feelings directly reminded me of Jane Austen's novels. The addition of a word here and there completely clarifies a character; some word choices provide wit, satire or compassion. The smooth transition between one character's thought to another's allow the reader to see how people can misunderstand each other. The addition of the narrator's voice gives us room for distance. Take, for instance, the description of Mira Bunting's envy of Owen Darvish's status as a rich, white male baby-boomer landowner:

"Like all self-mythologising rebels, Mira preferred enemies to rivals, and often turned her rivals into enemies, the better to disdain them as secret agents of the status quo. But because this was not a conscious habit, she experienced only a vague feeling of righteous defiance as, unable to dismiss Owen Darvish, she told herself instead that she disliked him." (p. 8)

Austen's novel 'Emma', with its theme of deception (of self or others), reverberates through this passage. Emma's friendship with Harriet also echoes that of Mira and Shelley – the latter, like Harriet, gradually finds her own voice and values, separate from that of her more dominant friend. 'Birnam Wood', though, is a real twenty-first-century novel; the smart phones, drones, internet, email correspondence and surveillance technology that are all-prevalent in the novel play a pivotal role in the plot and add a whole new dimension to the word "deception". Catton grounds her work fully in our modern age.

While the first half of the novel is slow-paced and deep in its focus on psychology, ideology and intellectual thought (there is talk of climate change, political philosophy, sustainability, generational conflict, etc), the second half of the novel reads very much like a fast-paced Netflix thriller. Halfway into the book there is a pivotal scene in which Shelley makes some really bad choices that result in tragedy. Suddenly there is action, drama, intrigue and horror and the faster you read, the more bizarre the plot gets, culminating in a final scene that is both unbelievable and yet somehow, in this twenty-first century, somewhat plausible. So, in a way, to use a car analogy, the book is a bit like a diesel. It gets going from the start, but it gradually warms up, and, once it goes, it goes with full force and speed.

Catton adapted 'The Luminaries' for television and it would not be a great surprise if 'Birnam Wood' ends up on the screen in the near-future as well: it is clever, unsettling and immensely captivating.



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Mayfield Playcentre

Welcome back to 2024! Over the holidays our families have been doing a few jobs around Playcenter to ensure it is all clean and ready for our Tamariki to start the term. We have had our floors polished along with deep cleaning and resetting of our different play areas to ensure they are welcoming and inviting for the children to interact with. The garden is really starting to take off, and I'm sure the tamariki will be excited to see all the growth over summer and a few eagle eyes will be into the strawberry patch and peas!

2023 ended on a great high with the running of our "Win Christmas" raffle, thank you to everyone for supporting our fundraiser. We are looking forward to putting the funds raised into some fun new upgrades for our outdoor area. We were also very lucky to have some tadpoles, the tamariki loved checking on them each week to see them making their changes into frogs. This was a wonderful learning opportunity with physically being able to track the changes in the tadpoles and discussing their living environment.

Our playcenter is an inviting and interactive place where we love messy play and regular outings to grow and nurture our young tamariki's development. We always welcome new families to come and check out what we do, with weekly sessions 9:15am- 12:15pm Monday's, Tuesdays and Wednesday's. Our first session for 2024 will be Monday the 29th of January.



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Walk Lake Clearwater

17 January Our first walk of 2024.

14 ladies had a great time catching up with each other while walking around the lake.



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Mt Somers Staveley Playcentre

Well we are now already in February 2024, and Term 1 has just begun for us here at Playcentre. We are looking forward to a great year ahead, with plenty of fun and learning in store for us all.

Our final session of 2023 had us saying farewell to Scott and Em, two wonderful 5 year olds, now off to school. We will miss the two of you and your cheeky smiles, as well as your amazing families.

We had a fun Christmas Party with some past Playcentre families joining us as well, it was great to have so many of us all together to celebrate the festive season with a BBQ, drinks, and even a special visit from Santa on a tractor!

Speaking of the festive season, we need to send out a huge thank you to everyone who supported our Mt Somers Christmas Market. We have had great feedback from the community and we are very grateful. It was a beautiful and successful day, a shame about that crazy southerly towards the end though. There is a good chance we will hold another one this year so stay tuned!

If you've been considering paying us a visit to see if Playcentre might be something you and your kids would enjoy, what are you waiting for? Come and say hi! We're open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 until 12. Find us at 50 Pattons Road, Mt Somers.



MAYFIELD MT SOMERS ANGLICAN PARISH

ANGLICAN SERVICES

Priest: Rev Annette Eggleston

Holy Communion

Feb 4 10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers
Feb 14 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service
St Aidan's, Mt Somers
Feb 18 10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers
Mar 3 10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers

Happy New Year to all of you and I trust you had a wonderful Christmas.

One of the highlights of Christmas for me, was the response to my suggestion that you might like to donate either Christmas presents or festive food to the City Mission. We took the boxes left at church up to the City Mission, during the week before Christmas. On arrival, a young man, a volunteer I presumed, came forward to help unload our car. He peeped into one of the boxes that was left at St. Aidan's. His face lit up as he saw baby clothes and knitted toys inside. These he said, I will give to our social worker. She sometimes has mothers who have walked away from a violent man, with nothing but the clothes she and her children

are wearing. These will be great for the babies and children.

I was reminded of Ebenezer Scrooge, in Dickens book, and I thought about how that miserly old man was transformed by what he did for Tiny Tim's family. Yes, I thought it is certainly more blessed to give rather than receive.

Blessings,
Annette Eggleston

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday 14th February 2024
7 p.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers

CHRISTCHURCH CITY MISSION - MEAT & FOOD DONATIONS (especially meat)

Please contact Harvey & Annette Eggleston on 3024 006 if you have donations

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

NEWS FROM PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

A new year, are we in need of a new start?

As a new year begins, we would be wise to think about relationships. Our interpersonal relationships. The spiritual journey is not one we are meant to walk alone. God intends us to travel in the company of other people. For some this is a wonderful arrangement; for others it is not so wonderful. People can be helpful, or they can be hurtful; they can bless us, or they can blister us.

The question we must start to think about is how we deal with relationships, because the way we deal with difficult relationships will determine whether we advance or retreat on the journey of life. Some may live by the words of Ernest Hemingway, who said, 'We have to distrust each other; it is our only defense against betrayal.' God does not call us to live in distrust, but to live by faith in Jesus Christ. We are disciples of the One who knows what it is to be betrayed. And through his grace we can be victors, and not victims.

Father, may I grasp this truth that I cannot act in isolation, for I am bound up with my redeemed brothers and sisters. Help me experience an ever-growing consciousness of this important fact. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Interim Moderator Rev Eric Mattock
Ph 307 7024

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 February 2024

Sunday 4th Feb St Johns Methven 10.30 am

Sunday 11th Feb At All Saints 10.30

Rev Annette Eggleston

Sunday 18th Feb St Johns Methven 10.30am

Rev John Titlow

Sunday 25th Feb Trinity Mayfield 10.00 am

Paster Paul Eden



Volunteering is a work of heart

We are looking for volunteer tutors to support students in Literacy at Mayfield School.

BOOST literacy initiative is a unique and locally funded program to support primary students who need a 'boost' to achieve success in literacy. We are in 19 schools in Mid Canterbury and support 200 students in our region who need the additional support of one-to-one tuition to help them make gains.

- We supply all the resources, training and support you need to make a difference to our children's futures.
- BOOST runs from March to November at school in the mornings during term time - 30 week program.
- 2hrs of tuition, twice a week.
- The BOOST program supports the school literacy program.
- As a volunteer, if you need time away, we will organise cover.
- BOOST is free to students and schools.
- We use a research-based structured literacy approach called StepsWeb (coursebook and online program) - www.stepsweb.com

Join a wonderful local volunteering group where you see gains in your student's core literacy skills and develop positive relationships with your students.

Thank you to our generous funders - Advance Ashburton Community Foundation, Mackenzie Charitable Foundation and Heartland Bank

If you would like to become a BOOST tutor or need any further information, please contact:

Helen Breach (BOOST Coordinator)
(m) 027 507 1633
(e) helenboost@hotmail.com



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Mt Somers
Rugby Club



2024 season is fast approaching. Our Snr B coaches are Tom Kearney and Simon Chapman. Team Manager is Michael Donaldson. Pre Season training will begin for new and existing players on Thursday 8th February at 7pm. All welcome.

Our annual Bark Up is on Saturday 10th February at the clubrooms. Entries can be done online on Rugby Club Facebook page.

The club has conventional bales of hay for sale \$8 pick up or delivery by negotiation. For orders please PM Hayden Reveley. Our clubrooms are available for hire.

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The Mid Canterbury Choir

is holding open rehearsals on Monday 12th and 19th February at 7.15pm at St Stephens Church Hall, Park Street, Ashburton.

This is a great opportunity to see if choir singing is for you! Please contact Carol Gunn to book a place. thegunnclan@xtra.co.nz or 027 287 2468

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A COMMENT:

It is now just over seven years that I have lived in town, moving from a farm at Mt Somers for me it has been a novelty living in a town, Something I had never done before. Moving off my small farm and leaving it to the tender care of one of my sons appeared to be the correct thing to do, the time had come to retire from farming and move into an easier type of lifestyle. To date I have enjoyed my move, the summer school holidays are always a treat, my section backs onto Mill Stream a reliable stream with generally a good flow of water, I appreciate the schoolboys trying their hand at fishing in the stream, they are very regular and generally very good at their fishing, trout (brown trout) can be caught as can perch these lads tell me not to mention the odd eel. A week or so back on entering Argyle Park from Farm Road I came upon two Māori boys working at skinning an eel they had caught about there; I was impressed it was slit open and they were working on peeling the skin off. They had scissors that appeared to me to very like surgical scissors, although they assured their father wasn't a doctor or a surgeon and they had two knives both of which I thought looked fairly useless. I looked for my pocketknife to offer them but discovered I had no knife, I then suggested to be careful to not cut their finger, the wrong thing to say as almost immediately one lad cut his finger, but not badly. I admired their ingenuity and moved on leaving them to it. Some days later I met them once more at the bridge onto my section, I enquired of the eel they were skinning and as to how they had cooked it. It was cooked on the stove in their kitchen, and it was good eating. I thought how wonderful these resourceful lads are learning to live off the land, I knew there are eels in Mill stream as there are other fish species, and I certainly encourage young people to fish in this lovely and often clear stream.

But things can go wrong; on Wednesday the 20th of December the stream ceased to flow, A blockage or something had happened near or at Three springs about half-way to Methven. The council office assured me the matter was under control but may take twenty-four hours for the water to commence flow near me. My first observation was the schools of trout of various sizes milling about near my area, they swam off for a bit but soon returned, I had never seen behaviour like this, I left the scene and returned an hour later only to discover that those trout or most of them had died – gone belly up as trout do, it was at that point I rang the council as I have mentioned the report was that this matter was under control, also that I was the tenth call they had received re the state of Mill Stream. I regret that I didn't research the matter further it would have been interesting to have tested the temperature of the water. It was my immediate assumption that the water had heating in the dormant stream, trout are a cold-water fish, I since then have been informed they may have suffocated as the still water would lack oxygen, perhaps it was a mixture of the two. What was unfortunate that the stream failed to flow on the hottest day of the season to that day, it so happened to be a 30% day. Perhaps I may have learnt something, another

time I could set the garden hose flowing into the stream this may cool the stream near me a little and if the water tumbles in then it could tend to oxygenate the stream near me.

There is a very large eel that appears to live about my area. He looked a little ill when the stream failed I untangled debris from him, on checking later he had disappeared, I think he too was suffering from the state of the stream. Some days later I found several young boys gather boulders on my bridge, I enquired as to their mission and learnt that the aim was to drive this large eel upstream and bomb it with rocks from my bridge, I discouraged them, and they obediently return their rocks to the bank of the stream.

I could write about the Tucker Street boys – as I call them although perhaps I had better not; The two ring leaders come from one house probably a housing NZ property. Although I haven't witnessed it I'm lead to believe that a police car calls in the morning and delivers those two to their school, truancy appears to be a problem. As I see them they appear well fed, well dressed but unfortunately not well spoken, they visit me in my garden I tell them firmly they are not to swear in my garden or on our street, I would judge them of average intelligence, well capable of keeping up with school work, I'm warned not to visit the house and I guess I don't need to as the police do just that. This situation brings to mind the statement I have heard 'That it takes not just parents to bring up a child but in fact a whole village.' These lads will need help, they need to be taken out into the hills, taught to catch a fish, to skin a rabbit, skin an eel and cook it. They need introducing to the great out-doors an Outward-Bound course would be great in a few years' time, for now they need to attend school on every school day to take advantage of the education that is freely available to them, and that they will certainly need in the days that are before them.

That's enough about fish and what have we for now,
Cheers Denis



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Neighbourhood Support



Wishing everyone a Happy New Year and great start to 2024 from Neighbourhood Support.

Nothing to report on crime and prevention in the area for January and no reported thefts or burglaries in the area. The boiled water notice driven by rain and high water levels has subsided and back to normal.

I hope everyone had a nice Christmas and good break although for some it will continue to be busy with harvesting. Just a reminder during this hot period to keep areas clear of rubbish, check machinery is in good working order, with clean belly pans and that motors are free of oil, grass, straw, etc. Ensure hedges, trees, etc. are clear of power lines, keep paddocks around the buildings well grazed and bale and stack hay when its dry. Welding and grinding should only take place in clear areas and ensure fire equipment is maintained and working.

Keep Safe

Sue Abel

Ashburton District Neighbourhood Support Manager

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So come and join us for an hour. Classes every Wednesday, Staveley Hall 2pm. For enquiries, phone Annette Syme 3030 803

DEADLINE DATE FOR MARCH ISSUE

ISSUE	DEADLINE	DELIVERY
March 2024	25 February	31 February



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

Editor: Jeremy Hunter
8 Bruces Road,
Mt Somers, RD1,
Ashburton 7771
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Email: graphic@netaccess.co.nz

There is a new link to access issues in colour of the Nor'Wester on Ashburton District Council's website, it is:

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

Mayfield School



Board Chair Duncan King



Jo Petrovics



Tamariki 2023



Whanau 2023

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

On the 18th of December 2023 we celebrated our schools end of 2023 Prize Giving at the Mayfield Community Hall with our whanau, friends, and wider community. This prize-giving ceremony was more than just a celebration of our award recipients; it was a heartfelt recognition of every child's efforts and achievements. While we proudly honoured those who received awards, we also took a moment to acknowledge and celebrate the countless other students who, without formal recognition, consistently shone and worked diligently throughout the entire year. Their commitment and enthusiasm are equally valued, contributing to the vibrant spirit of our school community.

We farewelled several students and their whanau, as they either moved from the district or onto new schools. We also bid a fond farewell to Jo Petrovics who has worked at Mayfield for a great number of years as a cleaner then as a teacher aide. The whole prize-giving was a lovely celebration of all the learning and events that took place in the 2023 school year. A huge THANK YOU goes out to Miranda Sinton and Sophie Duff from Lushingtons who kindly provided plants and flowers for the stage and roses for our departing whanau.

Our Award recipients are listed as follows....

MAYFIELD SCHOOL HEART VALUES AWARDS	
<u>WESTERFIELD CLASS</u>	
Honesty	<i>Hudson Hird</i>
Enjoyment	<i>Frankie Fielder</i>
Achievement	<i>Sophia Schlager</i>
Respect	<i>Christopher Quigley</i>
Try Our Best	<i>Isabella Harris</i>
<u>LISMORE CLASS</u>	
Honesty	<i>Nana Filiai</i>
Enjoyment	<i>Hunter Chard</i>
Achievement	<i>Tilly New</i>
Respect	<i>Nellie Crowley</i>
Try Our Best	<i>Rhianne Vinluan</i>
<u>TE PUKETAI TAHI CLASS</u>	
Honesty	<i>Fergus Morrow</i>
Enjoyment	<i>Iya Barroga</i>
Achievement	<i>Charlotte Whillans</i>
Respect	<i>Gabrielle Lagmay</i>
Try Our Best	<i>Taylor Hart</i>
<u>TE PUKETAI RUA CLASS</u>	
Honesty	<i>Cedie Barroga</i>
Enjoyment	<i>Maddison Taylor</i>
Achievement	<i>Ella Mungcal</i>
Respect	<i>Suita Siale</i>
Try Our Best	<i>Sam Serrano</i>
<u>RUAPUNA CLASS</u>	
Honesty	<i>Clyde Carr</i>
Enjoyment	<i>John Kurt Lamangin</i>
Achievement	<i>Andrea Williams</i>
Respect	<i>Indi Chard</i>
Try Our Best	<i>Andre Royguard</i>

OTHER AWARDS	
Nordqvist Family Cup for Effort and Cooperation	<i>Isabella Harris</i>
Chamberlain Cup for Diligence in the Junior School	<i>Billie Aubrey</i>
Montalto Cup for Cooperation and Excellence	<i>Walter Sinton</i>
Lismore Cup for Cooperation and Excellence	<i>Ash King</i>
Miss Knight Cup for Excellence in Writing	<i>Iyla-Lee Mort</i>
Rogers Cup for Excellence and Diligence	<i>Angus Whillans</i>
Citizenship Cup	<i>Indi Chard</i>
Maths Cup	<i>Andrea Roygard</i>
<u>SPORTS</u>	
Girls Sports	<i>Charlee Chard</i>
Boys Sports	<i>Ryan Harrison</i>
Howden Tennis Cup	<i>Angus Whillans</i>
Woodvale Swimming Cup for Most Improved Swimmer	<i>Angus Whillans</i>



2024 On-Farm Heifer Competition

Judging to be held in the afternoon on the 6th and 7th of March 2024

Prize Giving will be on the 9th March 2024 at the Beer tent on show day Time to be confirmed

CLASSES:

1. Rising 1 year old Dairy Heifers born after 1 July 2023
 2. Rising 2 Year old Dairy Heifers born after 1 July 2022
 3. Rising 1 and 2 year old Beef Heifers born after 1 July 2022/2023 (subject to entries)
- Please note this year Owners and Graziers will be judged in the same classes

Name: _____

Email: _____

Cellphone: _____

Class no:	No. of heifers in line	Breed	Location – Please include rapid number, road name, and farm/farm owner name
1			
2			
3			

Please email your entry form to either Jon Dampney jonabbo@hotmail.com 021 22 33 683 or Suzy King suzyking@yahoo.com 027 491 5632. Entries close Wednesday 28th February 2024.

ENTRY FEES: Members \$20 / class Non Members \$25 / class

Annual Membership to the Mayfield A & P Association is \$20 and can be paid with your entries.

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Please put your name and heifer competition as reference.

The Treasurer, Lynley Mackenzie, R.D. 8, Ashburton 7778, mayfieldshow15@gmail.com.