

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

## Mayfield 98<sup>th</sup> A&P Show

Saturday 9th March

This is a fantastic day out for the whole family and will once again continue to have all the popular events like the Tractor Pull, Pig Racing, a Pet Tent so you can get up and close to the animals, horse events, trade and craft sites, a digger competition with local contractors and many more family events to interact with.

This year will be a focus on mental health with Rural Support Trust bringing ambassador Matt Chisholm to our show in conjunction with the nationwide Time Out Tour. We are really chuffed to have him here on the day.

President Ben Morrow has been working hard along with the fantastic committee to bring the show together. We are very lucky to have such a great community who are willing to help and give up many hours of their time to make this day a great day for the wider community to come and enjoy. Entry off Arundle Rakaia Gorge Road. Tickets \$15.00 and children free. Cash Entry please.



**Mt Somers Staveley Playcentre**

**OPEN DAYS:**  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>  
March  
9:00am - 12:00pm

50 Pattons Road, Mt Somers | [mtsomers.staveley@playcentre.org.nz](mailto:mtsomers.staveley@playcentre.org.nz)

## Mt Somers Foothills Museum

**A BIG THANK YOU-** from the Mt Somers Foothills Museum Committee.

We have successfully moved the 'old Dental Clinic/ Library from the Mt Somers Springburn School early December to its new site in the Mt Somers Domain.

All this great work takes effort, time, and money. The Museum committee wish to thank the following for their efforts. Reserve Board, Nathan Huggins, Mt Somers Springburn School Committee and those who sponsored a "pile"

We are now at the second stage of the project, making the building suitable for use.

BBQ-Market Day – thanks to everyone that supported us by purchasing a sausage, and giving extra on the day.

Special thanks to Happy at Mayfield Service Centre for the donation of the bread and sauce.

Big thanks to:

Kane Brown, Mid Canterbury Crane, GDC, ACL, Joseph Builders, Mid Canterbury House Movers, Victory Lime for the help on move day and those who purchased a pile.

K.M.Lewis, I. Claridge, B.Humm, Waihi Crossing, B.Kerr, L.James, J. Stoddart, Tamar Farming, R&M McKay, A&D Chilton, C.W& M.R Bellamy, Glasson family, Paddy Gifkins, Pannett family, P J Annand, B.W Carter, Palmer Resources, Huggins family, J Hunter-Letham, J.M Webb, G& M Cook.

My apologies if I have left anyone off the list.

The next stages: Building ready for use, Cataloguing and Presentation.

Many thanks: Mt Somers Foothills Museum Committee.



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## A COMMENT:

Land use has developed into something of a controversial subject. Some years back in Canterbury and elsewhere there was quite a swing from cropping and fattening to the activity of deer farming, this in many ways proved successful. Then the centre pivot irrigators started to appear and with them came the swing to large scale dairy farming, this proved successful particularly with the help of migrant labour. Not many years have passed, and we hear of concerns, Nitrate leaching, cows producing methane affecting or hurrying the ongoing problem of global warming. It matters little what one does with one's land there will arise circumstances or results which some will find unpalatable, and particularly if the activity or change of use proves to be highly profitable to those carrying out that particular change.

To date the land use change to dairying in Mid Canterbury appears to be very successful, and one would expect this to continue as long as there is centre pivot irrigation and an ample water supply. The plains have benefited from the grazing of dairy stock thereby minimizing cultivation by growing a strong turf pasture and helping to illuminate the risk of wind erosion and fire. The dairy industry has been of great benefit to this area. However, given time it may be that another form of land use may appear at some time.

In the north of the South Island dairy farming has given way to horticulture, and nearer Nelson particularly to the growing of hops for the brewing industry, Tapawera – Tadmor areas there are now large areas solely in hops. This change has brought about the closure of the Brightwater dairy factory with milk now being trucked to Darfield.

In the Murchison area a large dairy herd in the upper Matakiki has been replaced with a very large hop growing enterprise including large buildings for the purpose of drying and processing the annual harvest. It is surprising that hops are grown on a large scale in this area, the farm concerned was known as Mt Ella this mountain being the start at the northern end of the Spencer range. The mountain is adjacent to this property which traditionally was a well-managed sheep and cattle property. There continues to be a large dairy property next to Mt Ella which I understand runs a herd of fifteen hundred cows. It is managed by a local man by the name of Peter Brooks, my knowledge of Peter is as a small boy, I did know his father and grandfather. But hops always did grow in Murchison although not on a commercial scale, my grandmother's house a large old villa with a long back veranda facing due west, hops were grown along a portion of the veranda creating welcome shade in summer and helping keep the driving rain at bay.

At Murchison and I guess on the West Coast generally there is yet another land use pending, one almost unique to that district and one that would never arrive in Canterbury and that is the harvesting of gold. The area at Murchison known as the Four River Plain forty years ago contained some fifteen dairy farms of more recent times this may have reduced to nearer seven, with dairy herds of seventy to ninety cows. My understanding is that all but one of these farms has been sold to an individual with the intention of dredging this area for gold. Assuming there is sufficient gold on this plain the proposal is possibly a practical one. Modern dredging methods appear

to be the dredging method of using large excavators rather than floating dredges as was the way in the 1930 / 40 error. This plain is adjacent to the Buller River so a good water supply should not be a problem, in this age the resource consent may be a problem. Water is required to wash the huge quantity of stony material that would be excavated from deep down. A floating dredge as they were sixty or seventy years back and the particular one I new a little of known as the Matakiki Gold Dredge required at least seven feet of water to float. It had a large steam engine to power the chain of buckets and other working parts then a second steam engine to power the winches I vaguely remember there being some seven winch drums, there purpose was to pull the dredge into line and into the face of the digging. That particular machine had worked its way up the East bank of the river until it could progress no further on account of the huge 1929 earthquake slip. Unfortunately, it did not stop there but did a left turn with the intention of returning downstream along the river working new ground back toward Murchison. The turn it took led this thing deeper into the property my family farmed ruining some very good alluvial soil. For the dredging company it was also a disaster as it appeared the earnings of gold were poor, and the company soon went into voluntary liquidation.

I have no memory of that dredge operating but have very vivid memories of it sitting there where it had been winched out of the water leaving what we new as "The Dredge Pond" about a quarter of an acre of water, it never dried up, there must have been a spring feeding it and I guess would be to this day.

The dredge was gradually dismantled as buyers arrived seeking parts of it. The final remnants being sold as scrap metal, that was some years later our understanding it was being exported to Japan.

This dredge just left boulders in its wake, the good topsoil was wasted down the river, a dredging operation today will be different, regulations have changed, topsoil will be saved and the heavy stone will, I hope be buried deep with finer stone nearer the surface and the productive topsoil finally being returned to the surface, what a shame it wasn't done that way all those years ago. If this plan to dredge the Four River Plain transpires, I hope regulations will ensure that the land is left as good or better than when they started.

Cheers Denis

**Walk Mt Little Peel** 24 January:  
Fabulous weather. It's worth sweating for. All were happy.



Photos supplied by Sanae Hydes



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## Complementary Therapies on offer at Hospice Mid Canterbury

### Massage, reflexology, reiki and relaxation therapy

Hospice Mid Canterbury (HMC) is known as a “no beds, no meds” community hospice. That means it isn’t about clinical palliative treatment but about providing complementary care and relief when people are dealing with a terminal diagnosis.

Some of the most well-used supports at HMC are the complementary therapies which can be used alongside conventional treatments. These include massage, reflexology, reiki and relaxation therapy, and are provided by independent therapists.

The complementary therapies HMC offers – free for clients and caregivers – aim to provide some relief from the physical symptoms and stress that can come with illness. As well as this, they can support and nurture mental and emotional well-being. Sarah McAvoy, Support Coordinator, says, “The power of touch is truly remarkable.” Massage therapy is highly valued by both clients and caregivers. Rebecca Perkins, who also offers lymphedema massage, notes that clients often tell her that they feel more mobile after treatment. “Both clients and caregivers also find massage very good for managing stress,” she says.

Reiki is a form of gentle touch, that can bring comfort and relief. According to Annie Rhodes, reiki practitioner, clients have commented that it helps them “let go their overthinking mind”, promoting better sleep and calm rest.

Reflexology is a relaxing, holistic treatment given via the feet, hands, ears or face. Each treatment is tailored to the individual needs of the client. It can assist with sleep and digestive health as well as supporting the immune system and helping with pain management. Our reflexology practitioner says that “treatments provide a pause and an opportunity to rest, which allows a period of respite.”

Relaxation therapy, provided by Cherie Summers-Wight, incorporates a variety of techniques including Bowen therapy and

Emmett techniques for body balance and muscle release. Relaxation therapy can help overcome anxiety, stress, panic attacks and sleeplessness.

Sarah McAvoy finds that for Hospice clients and caregivers, complementary therapies not only provide some relief from the physical impact of their conditions but also nurture the person’s emotional wellbeing.

If you or someone you care about has a life limiting illness and would like our support, contact us on 307 8387, or 027 227 8387 or email [manager@hospicemc.nz](mailto:manager@hospicemc.nz). We welcome new referrals.

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



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**Walk Washpen Falls** 14 February:  
We added an extra walk, Snowy Peak, today. It's great addition to the normal route.



Photos supplied by Sanae Hydes

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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.**

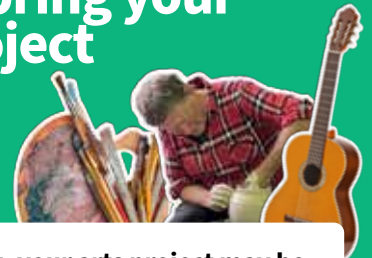
The Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund is designed to help subsidise travel expenses for rural sports clubs and rural school teams for travel to sporting competitions.

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



## Looking to bring your creative project to life?

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**Whatever your planning, your arts project may be eligible for Creative Communities Scheme funding.**

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- ✓ Increase opportunities for local participation in the arts
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Applications open until 31 March.



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# The Old Post Office Library



I am writing this latest edition for the 'Norwester' sitting in the library amongst all our beautiful books and what a peaceful calm place to be. I highly recommend it, so if ever you're looking for an escape from life, this is it. Phone one of our volunteers to find out how to get into the library, and leave it as you find it. Just a reminder..... if you wish to borrow a book you MUST enter it in our red book on the counter with your name, name and author of the book, the date and most importantly your contact details. As mentioned in our last newsletter, our library is based on a trust system and we want to keep it that way. Incidentally our copy of 'Agates of New Zealand' has not been returned. This is a worry!!

It is a beautiful book with many entries pertaining to our area and we so want it back... please!! Check your shelves or coffee tables. It is a large book and not easy to misplace. I suspect it has gone out to some trustworthy person who has then forgotten to return it. I will include a photo of it to jog someone's memory.

We are once again short of good quality reading books either fiction or nonfiction for our outside shelves. These shelves are so well used and we need to keep them replenished, so if you have any spare books around, we could certainly do with them. We always go through the donated books and keep some for the library shelves if suitable and the rest are free for the taking. And we really appreciate if the locals read the book(s) and then replace them back on those shelves for others to enjoy. It is a great service for campers to the area as well as locals. However I would encourage the locals to visit the library inside..... the selection is marvellous and you will be amazed at what's on offer.

## New books this month:

### 'The House of Longing' by Tara Calaby.

This is an historical tale set in Melbourne in the 1890s, and centred around a reclusive daughter of a bookshop owner. It is basically a romance but with a difference: and as numerous readers steer clear of so-called romances, I hesitate to label

## Steady As You Go (SAYGO)

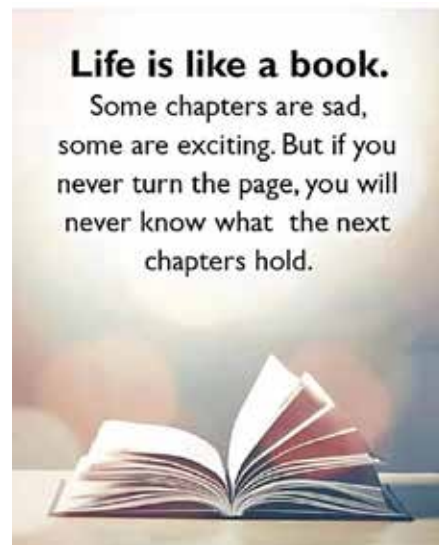
You could save yourself from a fall by attending SAYGO classes.

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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



## Life is like a book.

Some chapters are sad, some are exciting. But if you never turn the page, you will never know what the next chapters hold.

it as such. I really enjoyed it as a well written novel that isn't quite the 'light' read it sets out to be.

A good example of how entwined love (of all kind) and grief are intertwined, and how the latter especially was dealt with in the 1800s. Thank goodness we are better informed these days.

### 'Hush Little Baby' by R H Herron.

.... described as 'a dark twisty totally modern thriller, very hard to put down'.

And ....'a deftly plotted thriller, delivers an unflinching meditation on womanhood, motherhood, and sisterhood.'

It sounds really good! We need someone to read it and leave a comment.

Speaking of which.... if you read one of our books and love it, it would be very much appreciated if you were to leave a comment on a sticky note on the cover. Sometimes when confronted with a library of books waiting to be read, a comment or two attached to a book can help make up our minds.

### 'Head On' by Carl Hayman.

Our male readers are really enjoying this nonfiction book. And 'Straight Up' by Ruby Tui is another popular read with both male and female.

Our excellent selection of high country books continues to grow and for the young shepherds in the district, they are volumes of information about places they have worked on as well as places they dream about working on. Well worth a visit on a Sunday afternoon 2pm-4pm.

Finally, if you would like to help out in the library as a volunteer, we'd like to hear from you. It only involves very light menial duties, such as sweeping the porch etc and then manning the desk as people come and go, borrowing and returning books. It is one way to get to know the locals in a comfortable peaceful atmosphere and at the same time helping the community.

There will be a morning tea at the library from 10am for the locals and especially the newcomers to the district on Thursday MARCH 21st. Mark it on your calendar now as there won't be another newsletter before then. Please come and meet the community and check out our library shelves as well. Just bring yourself and a neighbour perhaps. See you there.....

Anne 027 4363 736, Pam 3039 150,



# Mt Somers Rugby Club



The Senior B season kicks off early April.

Training is on a Thursday night 7.00pm.

New and existing players welcome.

The team has two Pre Season games lined up Sunday 17th March vs McKenzie 2.00pm played at Fairlie for the High Country Cup then on Saturday 23rd March they take on Union at Mt Somers 2.30pm.

Come along and support the boys.

The club has bales of peastraw for sale.

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So the new year has started on a high note with thirteen successful license tests, and another thirteen new students and mentors out on the road already. It looks like thirteen is our lucky number because our thirteenth road code course is starting early March, and is already full. We haven't advertised it because referrals just keep coming and we are limited to twelve people per course.

It's nice to have past programme participants, Plunket nurses, NZ Police and workplace employers referring people to us. Along with Facebook and our newspaper articles, we are never short of people wanting to join our programme. So the courses fill up really quickly.

The really interesting thing is seeing where our people come from. Over the past six years we have had students from twenty one different cultures. And looking at the dots on the world map, they are coming from all over the globe. It's just fascinating to work with so many people from vastly different backgrounds. We get an insight into another culture and make new friends over the course of the programme, which is a win-win situation for all.

The programme begins with a nine-week road code course, which prepares our students for their learners license. Those students are then matched with a volunteer driving mentor who works with them until they are ready to sit their restricted license. We have some amazing volunteer driving mentors who do a wonderful job preparing their student for the driving test. Some of our mentors are past students who have offered to mentor a new student. This is a fantastic way for them to give back to the community while keeping their driving skills on point.



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

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

The Mid Canterbury Rural Driver Licensing Scheme is 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

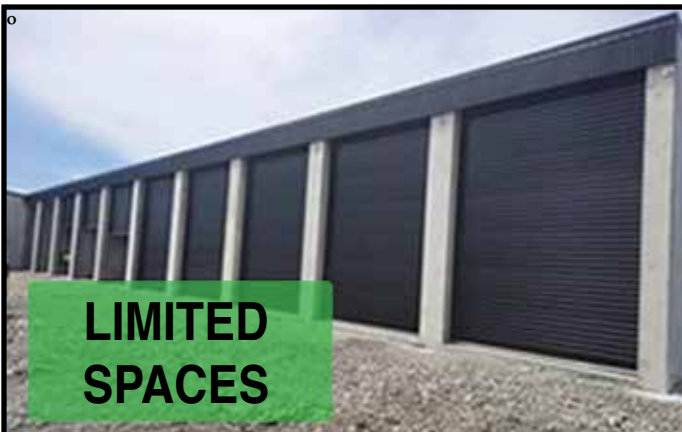
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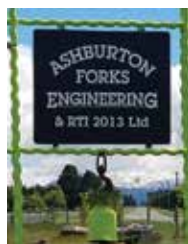
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## Mt Somers Rifle Club 2024

Mt Somers Rifle Club is underway from the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in March 7.00pm start. We are located in the Mt Somers Domain beside the Rugby Clubrooms, this is a sport for all.

Familys welcome, we are a club affiliated to Target Shooting New Zealand and the Ashburton Association.

We shoot 10 shot matches and operate range officers for all shooters. Only smallbore .22 target rifles are used on our range. For a small fee you are given ammunition, target and rifle to complete your match. All gear is provided.

Coaching/training/Firearm safety is also provided. This sport is great for concentration and discipline and can be taken to all levels.

Come along and give target shooting a go. All Welcome.

Contacts Julian Evans 021 2957 676  
Kevin Fews 021 1856 503  
Dave Millichamp 027 4345 882

## Public Transport Survey for the Ashburton Township

A survey is currently being run by Safer Mid Canterbury and Ashburton District Council regarding the viability of Public Transport needs in the Ashburton Township.

It's purpose is to understand public transport needs/demands in order to design potential solutions.

We would appreciate your time in either completing the online survey otherwise hard copies can be picked up from Ashburton District Council, Ashburton Library, Ashburton Community House, Safer Community House or Age Concern. There will be a drop box at these places for you to leave your survey.

This is the link to do an online survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Ashtransport>

Survey closes 8 March 2024

Sue Abel Ashburton District Neighbourhood Support Manager

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## Mt Somers Rugby Club



### JAB Rugby Muster

Friday 15th March,  
5.30pm - 6.30pm

Held at the Mt Somers  
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## Book of the Month – Mt Somers Library

Title: 'Diddly Squat: A Year on the Farm'

Author: Jeremy Clarkson

Publication year: 2021

A review by Elles Smallegoor

Jeremy Clarkson is known by most as the Top Gear presenter who also writes columns about cars. Some think he is a politically incorrect buffoon; others enjoy his old-school humour and love to read his work. While not everything he writes is my cup of tea and I certainly do not have any interest in cars, I can tolerate him pretty well. A few years ago I was especially interested in his attempt to farm his "thousand-acre spread in Oxfordshire" (p. 11), which he bought in 2008 and had, for years, been managed by somebody else. It was the time of Covid and there were no car shows to attend. So this seemed like a good time for Clarkson to have a go at farming himself and write about it. The people of Amazon thought it was a hilarious idea and made a TV programme out of it. I never got round to watching it (not having a subscription for the right channel), but it was quite successful and stirred a lot of debate about the role of the farmer in modern UK society. His Sunday Times columns about his farming project were bundled in a book called 'Diddly Squat' – the name of the farm because that's how much money it makes. I had forgotten all about Clarkson until I saw the book in the library the other day and thought it'd be a fun read. It most certainly was.

New Zealand  
**Dairy** Careers

## Need Staff For Your Farm?

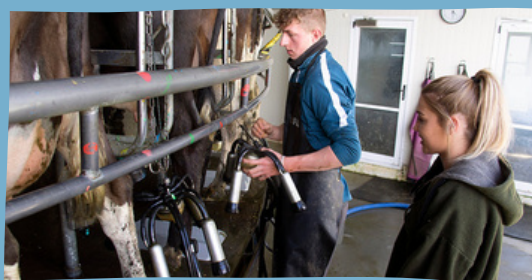
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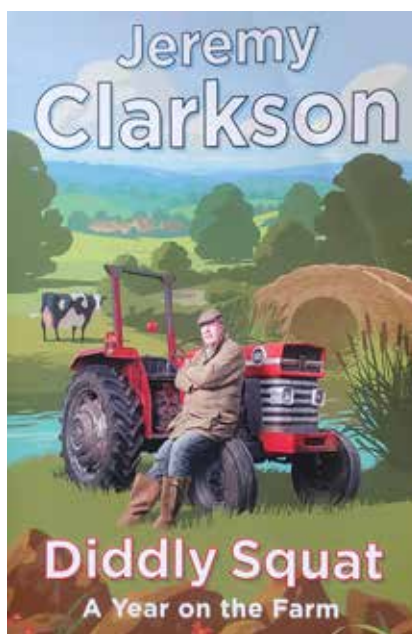
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**Email:** [kathryn.haddow@nzdairycareers.co.nz](mailto:kathryn.haddow@nzdairycareers.co.nz)





Each column comprises a chapter and they are divided along the months in a year and the four seasons, illuminating what a (mostly) arable farmer does in spring, summer, autumn and winter. This particular edition is in large print and some pages contain light-hearted, fine-pencilled illustrations of all things agriculture: lambs, tractors, pigs, combine harvestors, Jeremy in a beekeeper suit or Jeremy with an arm up a pregnant sheep. The whole book, from front to cover, is designed to be easily accessible and easily read. Clarkson has a certain writing style – he uses self-deprecating humour often. He uses exaggeration for comic effect. He likes to adopt a persona that makes fun of ‘lefties and ‘greenies’. He loves to come up with inventive comparisons and images, or, in his own words, “I like sitting at my laptop, dreaming up similes and metaphors” (p. 3). With regard to the latter, an example is the following: “you put a chainsaw in the hands of Nicholas Witchell and immediately he becomes as masculine as Schwarzenegger biceps” (p. 34). Most of his references are British, of course, so you might need to use the internet at times to get the jokes. Because the book is a bundle of columns and I read it in quick succession, his writing style can become a bit predictable and repetitive. But he had me laughing nevertheless. Mostly because he has knack for showing in a humorous and absurdist way how incredibly hard farming is.



And he gives most things a go: farming sheep, growing vegetables and crops, beekeeping, fattening pigs, running a farm shop, managing woodland, and more. His column about the behaviour of sheep called ‘Sheep are vindictive. Even in death’ was particularly amusing: his sheep are naughty, jump walls, escape, open hen houses and make Jeremy run about. He concludes that they are basically “woollen teenage

boys” (p. 27). One paragraph (in which he deliberately uses the wrong plural for sheep) goes as follows:

“Sheeps know that human beings are squeamish. As a result, they never die of something simple, such as a heart attack or a stroke. no. A sheep’s death has to be revolting. So they put their head in a bit of stock fencing and then saw it off. Or they decide to rot, from the back end forwards. Or they get a disease that causes warts to grow in their lambs’ mouths. A sheep’s death has to worthy of a Bafta. Remember Alec guiness at the end of The Bridge on the River Kwai? Well, it’s that. With added haemorrhagic enteritis.” (p. 24)

While being fairly flippant in tone about his whole project (buying expensive machinery and then wrecking it, for instance, is not a big issue for him), he definitely has a serious message about farming. It is not only incredibly challenging - physically, mentally and financially - but also important and worthwhile. And deserving of a bit more respect. And that in order to respect it, you have to be informed about what farming actually is. I think his low-threshold, light-hearted and informative book is a great way of creating an interest in a professional field that many urban readers are far removed from nowadays.

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Just 15 minutes from Geraldine, tucked in at Peel Forest, is a grass roots preschool that offers a unique, intimate learning environment for children aged 2-5 years. Peel Forest Preschool is a community-based centre with four amazing teachers and is licenced for 18 children.

Term 1 has seen our children develop a fascination with insects, bees, spiders, butterflies, moths, webs, and all things 'bug' related! We have been exploring our natural environment to see what we can find and then doing some identification using books and good old Google. Recently the children discovered a black beetle on the shoe shelf. Alongside kaiako they investigated by looking through one of our bug books and decided it wasn't any of the bugs in the book however they did think it was a beetle that lived in New Zealand. So, they then searched 'New Zealand beetle' online to find that it was a Burnt Pine Longhorn beetle that love to live on pine logs! It was decided that the beetle probably came from our preschool neighbour, Farmer Tom's firewood logs and it was then set free. The children have also been doing plenty of bug related arts and crafts – Check out our huhu beetle artworks, cicadas (after hearing them in our trees!) and our bumblebee paintings. This focus is still very popular with our tamariki currently, I wonder what we will find next...

At Peel Forest Preschool we empower children to be independent thinkers, adventurous risk takers, effective communicators as well as great decision makers and contributors. We do this by taking full advantage of the expansive natural environment that is right on our doorstep. We are very fortunate to have a huge amount of space around us for exploring and discovering. Plenty of time is spent interacting with nature and doing all the wonderful things that country kids can do! Each day we provide opportunities for free play, arts and crafts, music and movement and 'School Time' for those children wanting to extend on the skills that will be useful when they transition to school. Peel Forest Preschool would love to welcome new families into our preschool community and encourage you to come and see our amazing wee spot! Our opening hours are 8.30am – 3.30pm Monday – Wednesday and 8.30am – 3pm Thursday– Friday. Please get in touch with our Centre Manager Casey on (03) 696 3740 or email [peelforestpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:peelforestpreschool@gmail.com) if you have any questions or would like to come and see what we are all about.



**We will be in the area soon and are taking bookings.  
Contact Rob Palmer  
Telephone 027 217 5577**





# MAYFIELD SCHOOL FARM

It has been a busy few months at the Mayfield School Farm. 20 Hectares of kale has been planted and 20 calves were kindly donated and sold at market.

Due to the tremendous support from our local community, the School Farm this week donated \$48,000 directly to the school to help fund an extra teacher to cover three programmes for the coming year, namely Agri-Education, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM) and Sports.

The committee would like to thank the following companies and individuals who have helped us in providing these funds to the school.

## Kale Sponsors and Services

Carrfields, Johnny Doyle and Logan Tasker (Carrfields Agronomists), Corteva Agriscience, PGG Wrightson Seeds, Victory Lime, Mayfield Transport, Fert Solutions, PGG Wrightson Mayfield, Ravensdown, Ballance, Farmlands, Riverslea Ag (Hayden Mackenzie Contracting), Quigleys, James McCormick, Ben Morrow, Jared Clarke, Johnny Harrison, Athol New, Eric Duff, Tom Waddell

## Calf Donations

George and Tom Baxter, David Greenslade, Wayne and Steve Schmack, Bernie Doyle, Matt Sinton and Richard Scott, James Murdoch, Hamish Fielder, Anna and Cole Harris, Brad and Ash Chard, Hazlett Limited, Andrew Sherratt (Hazlett Stock Agent)

Thanks to everyone, we couldn't do it without you all.

Reon Blake, Matt Sinton, Ricky Taylor and Hamish Fielder  
(Mayfield School Farm)

*Richard Goldie (PGG Wrightson Seeds) and Mackenzie Doyle in front of our sponsors board at Anama.*



**Mike English of Riverlea Ag  
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# Mayfield Playcenter

March! Wow the first few months have been flying by. The Tamariki have been enjoying the hot days and the hose has been frequently going, with water slides, sandpit rivers and watering our gardens. The gardens have been producing well with plenty of peas, tomatoes and strawberries being consumed during sessions. With the Mayfield A & P show just around the corner, there has been lots of creativity with the arts and crafts as the Tamariki get their show entries completed. There a few field trips coming up between now and the end of term which we are all looking forward too, including Peel Forest and checking out the new Library in Ashburton. Its a busy term for us to start the year but this offers so many learning and development opportunities for our growing Tamariki. We are an inviting and inclusive center and welcome any families to come and visit, sessions run Mon, Tues, Wednesday 9:15am-12:15pm.



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## Mt Somers Staveley Playcentre

We are back into the swing of things here at Playcentre! We have had some wonderful days already for Term 1 with lots of fun and learning taking place. We have welcomed some new families and a new addition to a current family as well.

After a productive meeting this past month, we now have a plan in place for some much needed upgrades to our outside areas. The Mayfield and District Lions deserve a big thank you for their contribution towards this.

Thank you also to Pam Annand for your kind words regarding our Christmas Market in last months Norwester, we are so glad the community enjoyed it!

Playcentres annual Open Week is taking place next week. If you've been considering visiting Playcentre to see what we're all about, please feel free to pop along to our Open days on Tuesday 5th and Thursday 7th March for some fun! Of course, if you can't make it on those days, we welcome you to attend any Tuesday or Thursday morning, 9am - 12pm at 50 Pattons Road in Mt Somers Village.



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## Mayfield School

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

I want to start this newsletter with gratitude; gratitude to the many of you who have helped our school community in one way or another in the past and recently. In particular, I want to mention the following companies for their sponsorship to our school over the years - Euro Agri Imports, DR & KD Love, Hydraulink, ANZ Bank, Wholesale Seeds, FMG, Four Seasons TreeCare, Honda Country, Fert Solutions, Quiggles Contracting, Drummond and Etheridge Ashburton, Juice Signs, Bayleys, Omagh Suffolk Stud, Foothills Engineering, Farmlands, Tarbottom, Carrfields, PLacemakers Ashburton, Canterbury Woodchip, myMilk, Vet Ent, Farm Source, Hayden McKenzie Contracting, Talley's, Ashburton Crane hire, Seales Winslow, Winnhill Ltd, McEwan Farming Limited, RC & TS Cockburn (Ridge Farm), RC & TS Cockburn - Anama and our parents who helped with the recent Working Bee, the Home and School group for their incredible fundraising efforts and for providing free sausage sizzles, and ice creams for our tamariki. Please know that your kindness has touched the lives of many. Thank you for your support over the years – it takes a village to raise a child and run a school!

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On Monday 19 March we held a Mihi Whakatau to officially welcome our new staff, students and their whanau to Mayfield School. We had quite a number of new entrant children and others throughout the year levels to welcome and Miss Becky Bradley our new Teacher Aide. 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 'Haere Mai - it was a beautiful occasion. Afterwards the adults shared morning tea together with whanau in our staffroom while the Year 8 leaders handed out biscuits and fruit to the children. It was a lovely way to connect and make our newest Mayfield whanau feel welcome. We will hold a Mihi Whakatau in week 1 of every term for all new students and their families.

On Wednesday a group of 11 students went to the EA Networks pool in Ashburton where they competed against Hinds, Carew, Longbeach and Mt Somers Springburn Schools. They were accompanied by Mr Ryan Greenslade who was very proud of them all and of the effort they put into the competition. On Tuesday we will hold our school swimming sports at the local Mayfield Swimming Pool starting at 12 pm. Our swimming sports will be a fun competition, celebration and display of the learning the children have had so far this year and we look forward to sharing with our whanau.

Earlier this week one of our parents and board member, Reon Blake donated a copy of his book 'The Foothills Fallen' to our school. This book is about 110 men from the Mid Canterbury Foothills who were killed at war. It is a beautiful book and brings to life the names of those who feature on the memorial walls in our area. I have had a read of the first few pages and recognise a few family names from within our school. As a mother and step mother of young men in their mid to late twenties, it tears at my heart to see their photos, and to read their stories! Right now, across the world, there are wars and ongoing conflict and I feel it is important now, more than ever, that we remember what they did for us. Let us not take for granted the ultimate sacrifice these young men and many thousands of others across the world have given to bring peace to the world.

**New Enrolments**

Here at Mayfield School we welcome 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 wonderful school please pop in to see me or email me at [principal@mayfieldschool.nz](mailto:principal@mayfieldschool.nz) or phone 03 3036214.

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

Aroha Stewart (Tumuaki/Principal)



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## NEWS FROM PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:

This is an annual event which has been functioning for many years, an annual event a time of prayer coming from a different country and this year from Palestine with this service arranged and set out by the Christian women of that land. It is always something a little different to what we are accustomed to there by shedding a fresh light on the needs and problems of that part of the world.

As you well know within the people of Palestine there are serious problems at this time, Palestinian folk have experienced trouble for a very long time.

The world population of Palestinian people is close to 12 million, of that number some 4.4 million live in Palestine itself, the remainder are scattered about various countries, mostly in the Middle East area. In Palestine they are almost incarcerated on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank areas. It is a sad and uncomfortable situation for those people. Their religion is predominating Muslim, Christianity has a strong minority at slightly over six percent of the population.

It will be interesting to follow and share in this World Day of Prayer service, prepared and written by the Christian women of this very disturbed land. They certainly deserve our sympathy, and prayers that they may be, before long able to live together with the other people occupying that land and live in peace and tranquility.

Interim Moderator Rev Eric Mattock  
Ph 307 7024

Parish Clerks,  
Annette Syme Ph 303 0803  
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### **WORSHIP SERVICES March 2024**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March World Day of Prayer  
service St marks Rakaia 2.00 pm**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March World Day of Prayer  
St Stephens Ashburton 10 am**

Sunday 3rd St Johns Methven 10.30 am

Communion Rev John Titlow

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March at All Saints 10.30

Rev. Heather

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March St Johns Methven  
10.30am Rev John Titlow

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March Staveley 10.00 am  
Paster Paul Eden**

**31<sup>st</sup> March Easter Sunday services TBA  
(To be arranged)**

## MAYFIELD MT SOMERS ANGLICAN PARISH

I have heard it said on several occasions over the years, that the church is not the building, the worshippers are. All Saints, Ruapuna has run out of local Anglican worshippers. The last couple are now unable to attend, due to health issues. That and the fact that tens of thousands of dollars are needed to upgrade the church, which is presently under earthquake safety standards, has necessitated the need to close the church. The motion was put and carried, that this be done. We were most grateful that Bishop Peter, the Diocesan manager and two members of the Church Property Trustees and our Archdeacon, who chaired the meeting, were able to attend. Also, to all interested parties who came along and filled the church. What a pity Sunday worship services didn't attract as many!

We have struggled to maintain services at All Saints, for at least ten years. We would like to thank all those who have attended. In particular, Anglicans from our neighbouring parish, those who have travelled from the north end of the parish, from Mt. Somers and Staveley, and to the Presbyterians who have supported our services. This support has been most appreciated.

We are nearly into March, as I write this and before the month is out we will have celebrated Easter. Easter service times follow. May I wish you all a Happy Easter and a safe one if you are travelling.  
Blessings, Annette Eggleston

### **ANGLICAN SERVICES**

**Priest:** Rev Annette Eggleston  
**Holy Communion**

Mar 3 10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers

Mar 17 10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers

**Mar 29 GOOD FRIDAY  
10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers**

**Mar 31 EASTER DAY  
10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers**

Apr 7 10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers

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### **PARISH CONTACTS**

Parish Priest - Rev Annette Eggleston  
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Church Warden – Pauline Hewson 3036 397  
Church Warden, Secretary / Treasurer  
- Marion Jacobson 027 3607 180  
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# Hakatere/Ashburton



## “Lifelong Learning”

Ashburton Event Centre, Wills Street,  
Fourth Tuesday of every month.

Casuals \$10 at door.

Carol Gunn 027 287 2468

March 26th

Judith Coullie

Dickens Early Works

Ms Coullie is recently retired from the University of Canterbury. Her lecture will explore key events in Dickens' childhood and youth; we sample selections from some of Dickens' stories in his first solo publication, viz., Sketches by “Boz”.

April 23rd

Roger Sutton

Our Electric Future

Mr Sutton has just finished as CEO of Electricity Ashburton. His lecture will focus on how much electricity will be need in the future and where will this come from – all based on research.

May 28th A G M

Barry Maister

Olympic Committee

Mr Maister was part of the NZ Hockey team in the 1970's, which won at the Olympics. He has held the roles of Secretary-General and President of the New Zealand Olympic Committee. Barry now resides in Methven.

June 25th

Prof Anthony Robins

Artificial Intelligence

A lecturer at Otago University. (Sorry no synopsis of his talk available yet)

July 23rd

Glenn Vallender

Six sons and seismograph

Glenn is a life member of Hakatere/Ashburton U3A, now residing in Rolleston. He taught Science at Ashburton College for many years with a special interest in geology. This lecture will be the story of a pioneer seismologist and educator and his 1898 seismograph. A story of tragedy and triumph.

### Walk Mt Nimrod

21 February: A beautiful day to enjoy the loop track.



Photos supplied by Sanae Hydes



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**Walk The Coal Mine** 7 February:  
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*Photos supplied by  
Sanae Hydes*

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# Mayfield and Districts Lions Report

This month saw Mayfield and Districts Lions host the Idea Services and the Senior Class at Mayfield Primary School.

Tractors, vintage cars and a fire engine gave rides and were enjoyed by all. Painted nails and hand massages were available for the less mobile. A Barbeque lunch was prepared by lions. The day finished with more rides, a game of cricket and the customary tug of war.

Lions host the outing once a year and the visitors look forward to the day with great anticipation.

Thanks to the many who helped make this day such a great success. At our tea meeting earlier in the month our speaker was Phillip Oldfield, a past New Zealand Champion and representative blade shearer.



Phil has been blade shearing sheep all his working life and provided a demonstration of blade shearing. He also showed us how to prepare and sharpen the shears to get them working properly, an art in itself.

**Mayfield Lions currently have firewood for sale.**

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