

A COMMENT:

The extraordinary Travels of Harry Head; This mans name appears to be or should I say he is referred to as Harry Head, his full title being Harry Head Alexander. In the accounts I have studied of his rather extraordinary life he is constantly referred to as Harry Head his family name of Alexander having been dropped.

During the time I lived and farmed on Banks Peninsula on the property known as Fisher-man's Bay I had heard the name Harry Head or it may have just been the name Head. A short time ago in a shop at Little River I came upon this book "The Extraordinary Travels of Harry Head" author Steve Lowndes. Steve was the curator of the Akaroa Museum and then of recent times the Chairman of Ecan. I soon realized that this book as Written by Steve would be of interest to me. Harry Head I was to learn was the first occupier of Fishermans Bay and Paua Bay. He had built a whare at Paua Bay built with help from Joseph Narbey probably the very first French man to take up land on the Peninsula. I remember Kit Grigg saying that a man by the name of Harry Head was the first land owner at Hickory Bay.

Harry never appeared to settle for any length of time, he was a traveller, born to a family of printers and publishers at Malmesbury England in his early to mid-teens he traveled to London to The Great Exhibition held in an elegant glass house known as the Crystal Palace. This experience appeared to start his lifelong desire to travel.

It was in 1852 that he boarded ship in the company of two uncles and sailed for Melbourne Australia. This was a major adventure where they tried their hand at gold digging, after some failures they were directed to an area known as Sheep's Head where gold was found, they gained £300 which in todays terms would be about £40,000 of todays pounds, it appears Harry did not enjoy the lack of comfort, flies, skeeters, heat and dust were not to his liking. They returned to Melbourne by Christmas and Harry being flush with confidence then booked himself a steerage passage on the Barque Selima to Wellington New Zealand. When Harry arrived in New Zealand the country was in its infancy, with the population estimated to be 60,850 Māori and some 29,600 Pakeha.

Harry appeared to be a man that could put his hand to almost any trade he appeared to travel a lot and work a bit here and there. He was born England 1835 and died in Melbourne Australia 1925 at the good age of 90 years. At a time when the average man only lived to the mid-fifties. He had many interests and made friends very readily having made good contacts in many different countries. It is claimed that he traveled around the world seven times in the 1800s. He mixed



Mayfield and Districts ANZAC Parade and Service

25 April 2024

9.30 am	Assemble at Mayfield – Panthers Rock carpark.
9.45 am	Parade leaves for the Memorial Hall
10.00am	Service commences in Mayfield Memorial Hall
	Service taken by Josh Rushton - Celebrant
	Guest Speaker - David Pitkethley
	Ashburton Silver Band in attendance
	Pictorial Roll of Honour for our fallen
	Collection for Breast Cancer Foundation
11.00 am	Artillery Gun Salute in Mayfield domain
	Morning tea to follow, a plate is appreciated
12.00 noon	Golf match at Mayfield Golf Club. 12.30pm start

well with indigenous folk in New Zealand, Canada, and America. As part of his travelling kit he carried with him a small steel mill he was able to mill wheat separating the chaff in a sieve.

He often travelled on his own although there is some record that he had companions on some journeys. He used all modes of transport, ship, train, horse and carriage and to a large extent he walked or tramped, he must have been blessed with a very good pair of legs, he was not afraid of long distances on foot. On one occasion he arrived by ship in Dunedin and was aiming at getting to Lyttelton, the ship was to be delayed at Dunedin for some time so Harry decided to walk the 300 miles to Lyttelton, this he did, not being deterred by the large unbridged rivers where often people would ferry him across although there are accounts where he swam.

Harry had written many notes and diaries, many of which have been lost, he states that if all he wrote and recorded were published it would extend to many volumes. At the end of the First World War Harry remained domiciled in South Melbourne and became a well-known character in the tea rooms and book shops of the area.

Continued on Page 14

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

The Mayfield A and P Show has come and gone, and what a massive success it was! I take my hat off to all the people who worked so hard behind the scenes (for many months leading up to it) to ensure that it ran as smoothly as it did! When a community pulls together, anything can be achieved, and this is a classic example of exactly that! It was a fabulous family day out with many of our parents involved with running events, helping with stalls, animals, and stewarding. We are grateful to you all and thank eachone of you for going above and beyond to put together such an amazing community event. Our school had a tent there and ran a scavenger hunt and did some face painting. Our children also entered the art and floral arrangement sections which looked stunning! It was a fabulous day, and we all look forward to 2025!

I know I have mentioned before the old adage, 'it takes a village to raise a child'. It is a true concept and here at Mayfield it is alive and well, with the whole community having a role in supporting our school so we can provide those many extras for our tamariki/children. Today I would like to thank David and Rebecca Whillans, Carrfields, Duncan and Tracy King, James McLeod, and Ricky and Rebecca Taylor, for growing sweetcorn for Mayfield and Carew Peel Forest Schools. This delicious sweetcorn (I know, I've tried it) can be picked at 10 George Ross Road, Ruapuna for \$5 a bag (there will be a sign out). Money can be deposited into the Carew Peel Forest School account or Mayfield School Account 03 08550467829 00.



Agri-Education is in full swing. The children have been learning about soil and its main components. They have enjoyed learning how to conduct a fair test, as well as creating their own ways to test components of soil such as; compaction, drainage, colour, and aeration. A couple of weeks ago, they entered two teams in the Winchester Agri-Kids competition run by students from Geraldine High School. They took part in a range of practical activities such as; putting up electric break fences, measuring dog food, identifying different plant families, using strops to tie-down a trailer plus much more. It was a great way for this group to undertake the practical side of this alternative class. They have purchased and set up a worm farm which is almost ready to go, and are in the process of getting worms. They have also worked hard to put together a hen house and get chickens! A huge thank you to Dolma Eggs for kindly donating 5 chickens to our school. The chickens will be in their new home on Thursday next week.

Continued on Page 5

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Continued from Page 3

Here at Mayfield, we prioritise catering for the needs of our gifted students within their classroom through targeted, differentiated teaching. We also offer MindPlus YourSchool to our Gifted learners. MindPlus YourSchool is a one day a week withdrawal programme based onsite. It is run by Miss Alana McConnell and follows the MindPlus curriculum established by NZCGE. It is currently available for students in Years 5-8 who have been identified as gifted. So far this year, our children have been learning about 'Power' and have explored the concept of power within society and asked the following questions -

What does social power look like? What about political power, physical power, or natural power? How do all these forms of power affect our communities and who we are as individuals? As you can imagine, these questions are promoting some deep and meaningful discussions!



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 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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The Old Post Office Library



Autumn is here!! It seems to have come with a bit of a rush but most welcome ; hopefully no more hot norwesters and sizzled lawns. And soon we will be back to some lighter mornings, these dark starts to the days are a bit confusing. It's actually later than it looks!

By the time you read this we will have held our morning tea at the library.... I hope we had a good turnout, it is a chance for locals to visit the library and see what we are about. Lately while I've been working some extra days there, visitors to the area have ventured through the door and have been very pleasantly surprised about the selection of good quality books we have.

We have created a new section in the narrow bookcase by the couch. These books come from all sections of the library and all share the fact that they are stories based on truth. Some are war stories, some are set in different centuries, and some are crime stories. All of them share an element of history of some kind. If you are looking for something different, try this section. We will keep adding to the selection, there are plenty of other books in the same genre scattered throughout the shelves, this is just a tryout to gather them in one place to see if it is popular. Let us know what you think.....

New books this month:

Kate Quinn, a favourite author of such books as 'The Huntress', 'The Rose Code', 'The Alice Network', has coauthored a new book called 'The Phoenix Crown'. Her fellow author is Taiwanese who has actually lived in NZ at some stage. I haven't read it as yet but look forward to doing so soon . It is set in San Francisco at the time a devastating earthquake rips the city apart, and centred around two very different women: a Chinatown embroiderer trying to avoid

an arranged marriage and Gemma, an opera singer trying to reignite her career.

Described as 'impeccably researched. magnificently rendered, and breathlessly paced'..... just sounds very similar to her other books!

Two new crime reads both by well known authors.....

'Has Anyone Seen Charlotte Salter' by Nicci French. And

'The Night She Fell' by a very good NZ author, Eileen Merriman. She also wrote the very popular 'Silence of Snow', on our shelves already. Her new book is set in Dunedin where Merriman studied at Med School. A very accomplished writer.

And some NZ history in 'The Space Between' by Lauren Keenan.

This one is set in Taranaki in colonial times around 1860s and is based on fact. Two women: a London spinster jilted by her husband to be, and his wife, a proud Māori woman, soon meet and both must find the courage to fight for what is right even if it costs them everything they know. The back page blurb says it is a story of 'the transformative power of hope, the unbreakable bonds of whenua and family, and the discovery of love in the least likely of places'

Finally 'The Secrets of the Huon Wren' by Claire van Ryn.

I really don't know how to describe this book without it sounding messy! I'm sure it isn't, it has great reviews, set in Tasmania, and moves between the present day and the 1950s. And it involves two women, one a resident in a nursing home with dementia, and the other a journalist writing for a magazine. It sounds so intriguing.

These new books are in the library now. However we will have had a book group meeting in the library after the morning tea, and some may have been borrowed. But they'll be returned and you can always reserve a book to be assured of it being in the library when you want it.

A reminder..... we love receiving your books for our ever

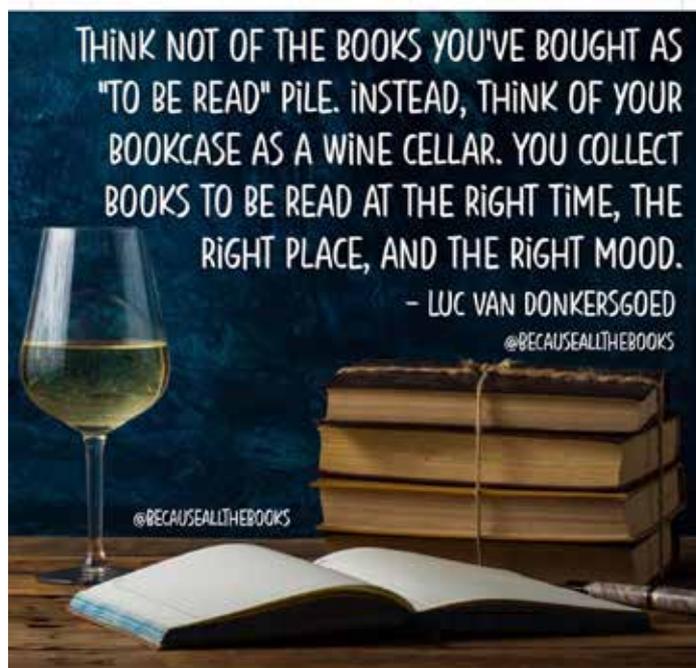
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popular outside shelves, but please don't leave childrens books, puzzles, or DVDs in the library porch. We only have to dispose of them. Good magazines are wonderful and are always first to disappear to new homes.

Happy reading and a very Happy Easter. Let's hope it's a fine warm one. AC.

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Wow, Autumn is on us already. It won't be long before daylight saving ends, bringing shorter days and longer nights. While this brings opportunities to practice night driving it also brings challenges to our learner drivers. Driving in fog, rain, low sun angles and frosty windscreens can all make driving practice a bit more challenging. But our learner drivers need to practice driving under all weather conditions so once they get their license they are safe whatever the weather. Having a good mentor beside you when driving in bad weather makes all the difference to how well the student copes with what the weather throws at them.

Autumn is also a good time for us to invite our friendly traffic police in to talk to our students about keeping safe on the road. It's always a good presentation and it's nice for our students to meet the police in an educational way rather than an enforcement situation. Sargent Burgerhout talks about road safety and how not to come to the attention of the police. He focuses on RIDS – Restraints, Impairment, Distraction and Speed as well as driving to the conditions. By getting the basics right, that is wearing your seatbelt, not being impaired in anyway (which includes some prescription

medicines), avoiding distractions (including phones and passengers etc) and keeping to the speed limit (temporary and permanent) then our roads will be much safer.

We are always on the lookout for more volunteer driving mentors. We have a lot of people needing help with their driving. It's a very rewarding role and it makes a huge difference to our students.

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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5 for our future

Our Place | Our Plan

Have your **Say!**

OUR LONG TERM PLAN 2024-34

Have your say on five key decisions and help shape our district over the next 10 years!

The draft Long Term Plan provides a roadmap for the projects and services we intend to deliver over the next 10 years.

It lets you know what we'll be doing, how much it will cost and how we intend to pay for it.

We have five key decisions that we think are important, but we welcome your feedback on any part of the plan.

1 What should our **kerbside green waste** collection look like?

2 If we invest in **water-based leisure**, where should it be?

3 What should we do with **Balmoral Hall** and the old **Polytech land**?

4 Should we get out of providing **stockwater**?

5 Should we extend the **EA Networks Centre stadium**?

Community Events

Learn more about the topics in the Long Term Plan, ask questions and chat with councillors at these upcoming events.

Saturday Sausage Sizzles

Sat 20 April 10am-2pm Methven iHub

Pop-up Events

Wed 10 April 12pm-2pm Methven Four Square

Community Meetings 7pm-8pm

- Tue 9 April Mount Somers War Memorial Hall
- Mon 15 April Hinds Community Centre
This meeting will focus on the key stockwater decision
- Wed 17 April Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Community Groups

Tue 2 April Mayfield Lions Monthly Meeting

We'll also be popping up elsewhere around the district, check [ItsOurPlace.nz](https://www.itsourplace.nz) for an event near you.



Scan the QR code to view the consultation document.

[ItsOurPlace.nz](https://www.itsourplace.nz)



Photos of the new Mt Somers water treatment plant under construction in Gorge Road.

Photos courtesy of Ashburton District Council



Mt Somers Rugby Club



The Senior B team have had 2 pre-season games against Methven and Union both games went in our favor. Well done boys these games have been a great warm up leading up to the start of the competition on April 6th when we take on Collegiate at home. April 13th away to Allenton. April 20th Rakaia at the Mt. Make sure you come along and support the boys.

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The club still has hay for sale please contact H Reveley 021 209 4210 for orders.

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>

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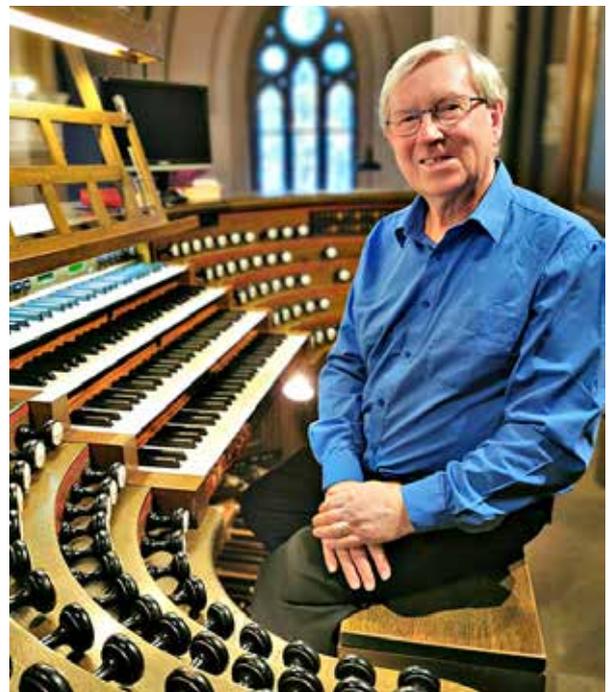
Martin Setchell, organist of Christchurch Town Hall, New Zealand (recently called ‘New Zealand’s most widely travelled concert organist’) is an international organist who believes in promoting entertaining and enjoyable music to a wide audience.

He was born and educated in England where he was awarded his Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists with both the Limpus and Shinn prizes. After serving for over 40 years on the staff of the University of Canterbury School of Music, in 2014 he resigned his role as Associate Professor of Music to freelance as a performer, writer and music editor, conductor speaker and teacher.

Over the last 20 years he has given many concerts in New Zealand, Australia, America, Canada, Europe, the UK and the Far East. Highlights include the Spreckels organ in Balboa Park, San Diego, the Mormon Tabernacle Organ in Salt Lake City USA, the Hill organ in Sydney Town Hall, Australia, Oliwa Cathedral in Poland, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, the Oriental Arts Centre in Shanghai, the Esplanade Concert Hall Singapore, Musashino Civic Cultural Hall Tokyo, Birmingham Town Hall, St Paul’s Cathedral, London, St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, the historic Gabler organ in Weingarten Abbey, Regensburg Cathedral, and the Bergen International Festival.

Martin has served Christchurch as the city’s Town Hall organist and curator since the Rieger organ was opened in 1997. He oversaw the organ’s preservation and restoration as part of the Town Hall rebuild and gave the re-opening concerts in March 2019. In 2008 he was honoured by the City of Christchurch, receiving a Civic Award for services to music in the community and the Town Hall organ in particular, and in 2022, a special commendation to mark his 25 years of service.

Martin has described the restoration of the Baring Square Church Organ as top class – with it’s vast tonal resources, modern playing aids and features like the illuminated tabstops, it is an absolute pleasure to play.



**The Organs of Baring Square
Methodist Church, Ashburton**

The first organ in the church was manufactured by the Positive Organ Co. of London and was opened with an organ and choir recital on 12 February 1914, the organist being Mr H Moore of Timaru, and the Church Choir led by Mr H. A. Humphreys.

In 1952 the church ordered a new pipe organ from the Hele company of Plymouth, England. The existing Positive pipe organ was sold to Clarence Street Methodist Church, Riccarton, Christchurch, where it served the church faithfully until it was closed in 2006. (The organ was overhauled by South Island Organ Company in 1992 and now graces the home of Trevor Lord in Christchurch.)

The new Hele organ, with two manuals, pedal board and 800 pipes, was designed and installed by James Cuthbert Pearce, and dedicated on 18 May 1953.

Through the generosity of a local donor, it has recently been significantly expanded by the addition of electronic ranks from the new Makin ‘Windermere’ digital organ console and sample sets, and now boasts 45 stops on 3 manuals. The work was a collaboration between the South Island Organ Company, Clarity Audio Visual and Keyboard Music Systems. With its expanded tonal resources, modern playing aids and features it is currently the only hybrid organ in Ashburton and possibly the most successful hybrid organ installation in the country at this point.

Careful attention has been given to restoring the pipe organ and regulating the dynamic and tonal properties of the pipes and digital sounds to each other and to the room. The barrel vault ceiling, newly levelled floor, hard carpet and comfortable seating, appropriate heating, ventilation and lighting establishes the venue as an attractive choice for community musical events, especially those requiring organ accompaniment.



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Continued from Page 1

In the coda to one of his notebooks he wrote:

"I have written of these trips for the main reason that you may have some idea of me as you must know that I am an old man and one who has done a lot of work on land and sea from the stoke hole and bunkers to bush whacking and logging, road making, gold mining and coal trimming and as I've been seven times around the world I should know about things even if I can't tell you. Some old Greek said nothing can be known but even if any one can attain a certain amount of knowledge, he cannot tell it to another or put it into language nor can any from language, know exactly what the first one meant to teach. Then why write a book? Well, I think that I have somewhat to say and that it's of great import to everybody and if I am a bit long winded, please excuse me, as you may now see it's no easy task.'

This book is a masterpiece of 19th century literature, I have found it very good reading and will study this story further, this is a great credit to Steve Lowndes for the time and patience he has put into reconstructing the life of this compulsive traveller. I found this book for sale at the Little River Gallery no doubt further copies can be sourced there, also available from Steve Lowndes lowmo@xtra.co.nz

A final from Harry Head:

'I have been told that my continual rambling life is a selfish wasted one, and so it may be but what sort of life is a clerk's or a merchant's, A banker's or a timber sawyer's a carpenter's or a tailor's. Why don't some of these scribes write their lives? As for mine I could spin it out to many volumes, for what? That's just it. What is it all for?'

This is a much deeper philosophical question and who knows the answer.

Enough from me Denis.

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Ashburton District Neighbourhood Support

Crime information for February show 6 reported crimes - 3 commercial theft, wilful damage, house burglary and an attempted theft of a bike/scooter. Commercial theft costs businesses thousands of dollars a year. This impacts on provision, cost, profitability, time and stress on business owners. Effectively it is illegal to steal. A famous saying – “The petty thief is imprisoned but the big thief becomes a feudal lord. But there are some things you can steal - freedom from the tyrant”.

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Mt Somers Staveley Playcentre

March here at Playcentre has been wonderful, we have spent time outside, held our annual Open Week and welcomed lovely new families. We had previous Playcentre mums, Sophie and Liz, come and do some harvest themed crafts with us for the Mayfield show, which they then made into an amazing display for us. Thank you ladies!



We catered a meal for the Mayfield Lions Club. These are always a great fundraiser for us, we hope the men enjoyed their pulled beef burgers and lemon cheesecakes!

Symon Bell has been tidying up parts of our outdoor areas and playground for us. It will be great for some of the tired wood to have a new lease of life. As always, feel free to pop in during a session to see what Playcentre is all about. Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 50 Pattons Road in the Mt Somers Village.



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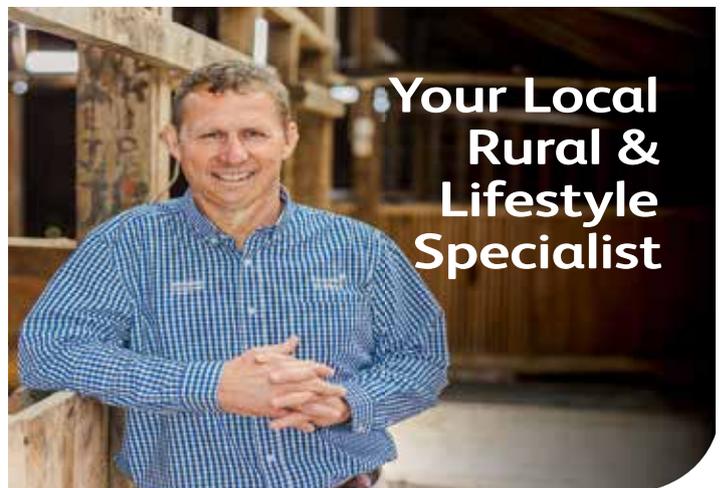


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Mayfield A & P Show On Farm Heifer Competition

Thursday 7th March we held the Mayfield A&P Association On Farm Heifer competition. We were thrilled with the number of entries and we would like to congratulate the winners and place getters! Our judges, Russ Young and Victor Schikker, were very impressed with all lines of stock.

The day started off with an 8am departure from the Mayfield pub heading towards Mt Somers and up to Castle Ridge and over to Arrowsmith Station before making our way back down to Inverary station and out the back to Monalto and back up to Ruapuna and down to Arundel before heading back to Mayfield to finish off the day.

The Competition this year was very close in all classes with some tight results. Prize giving this year was held at the Mayfield A&P Beer tent.



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Results

Class 1

Rising 1 year old Dairy Heifer born after 1 July 2023
1st J Murdoch
2nd Dara Downs Farm
3rd equal J McDonald and A Broomhall

Class 2

Rising 2 year old Dairy Heifer born after 1 July 2022
1st A Broomhall
2nd equal Dara Downs and J Murdoch
3rd J McDonald

Class 3

Rising 1 or 2 year old Beef Heifer born after 2022/2023
1st Castle Ridge Station
2nd equal Inverary and Tenahaun
3rd Arrowsmith station

Overall winner was

James Murdoch



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Mayfield Playcentre

Farewell Fiona Peck 2007- 2023

This term we farewell a special life member and facilitator, Fiona Peck.

The Peck family started at Mayfield Playcentre in 2007. For the majority of the 16 years Fiona Peck has been at Mayfield Playcentre, she has been a valued teacher and in recent times awarded a life membership in acknowledgment of the huge contribution she has made to the centre and all the families that have attended during her time there.

Fiona has supported the learning of numerous Mayfield children and parents, who all absolutely adore her. Fiona is completely in-tune with each child and follows through with activities that cater to their individual interests and different areas of play that they enjoy most. Messy play is more often than not a part of Fionas sessions and the children have an absolute ball – and many changes of clothes!

Mayfield Playcentre has been so lucky to have Fiona, not only is she a great facilitator for the children, she also welcomes all new families to the centre and is the essence of what small rural communities are about. She is caring, concerned and goes above and beyond to make Playcentre the magical place it is for our children, and the refuge it can be for parents after a sleepless night.

Every Playcentre needs a 'Fiona', and we are all extremely grateful for the huge effort and time Fiona has contributed in making this centre one of the many great beating hearts of the wider Mayfield community.

Fiona, Thank you.

Erin Doyle President, Mayfield Playcentre



Mayfield A&P Association Show Lambs Results

Name	Tag	Weight kg	Grade	Value 4/hd	Place
James McCormick	1	20.6	YX	111	
Dave Thatcher	2	20.6	YX	111.24	
Andrew Sheratt	3	20.1	PX	108.54	
Andrew Sheratt	4	24.9	TH	134.46	1st
Eric Duff	5	22.2	FH	115.44	
Eric Duff	6	23.6	TH	127.44	
Craig Clucas	7	24.2	PH	130.68	2nd
Jimmy Carr	8	19.3	YX	104.22	
aSue Rankin	10	19.8	YX	106.9	
Mike Carr	11	20.5	YX	110	
Johnny McDougal	12	25.5	FH	110.9	
Julian Yeatman	13	14.9	YM	80.46	
Kev Taylor	14	18.6	YX	110.4	
Duncan King	15	13.1	YL	66	
Fraser Mckenzie	16	19.4	YX	104	
Ben Morrow	17	23.2	FH	120.6	
Gawler downs	18	22.8	PH	123	
Johnny Clemens	161	16	YM	86.4	
Dougal Reith	19	16.8	PM	90.7	
Dave Neeson	20	21.5	YX	116	
Norm Carr	21	22.2	PH	119.8	
Martin Busch	22	17	PM	91.8	
Barry Daly	23	23.6	FH	127.7	
Boxer Mcdowell	24	17.2	YX	91.8	
Dave Greenslade	27	16.6	YM	89.4	
Tim Penno	28	21.3	PH	115	
Hamish and Blair Gallagher	27/23	21.7	YX	117.18	
Tim Penno	29	20.8	YX	112.3	
Johnny Harrison	30	19	PX	102.6	
Okawa	31	17	PM	91.8	
Okawa	32	16	YM	86.4	
Surry Hills	33	19.4	YX	104	
Patrick Stack	34	24.1	PH	130	3rd
Ben Mclachlan	35	17.9	PX	96.6	
Ben Mclachlan	36	16.8	YM	90.7	
Simon Roy	37	20.5	YX	110	
Glen Tait	38	24.7	FH	128.4	
Dean Gallagher	39	22.2	TH	119.8	
Harvey Egelston	40	23.6	YX	127.4	
Bert Oliver	41	17	YM	91	
Mt Somers	42	13.8	YM	53	
James Wright	43	16.1	PM	86	
Average				106.04	
Rabobank contribution \$20/hd					126.04
Total				5419.72	

MAYFIELD MT SOMERS ANGLICAN PARISH

ANGLICAN SERVICES

Priest: Rev Annette Eggleston
Holy Communion

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 HARVEST & PARISH A.G.M.
Apr 21	10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers
May 5	10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers

What a shock it was to wake, halfway through March, and see the grass white with frost, and then two or three days later another white out. We came to live close to the foothills in North Canterbury in 1969, and later shifted to inland Mid Canterbury, where we were until 2014, and as far as I can remember we have never experienced frosts as early as those two recent ones. But amazingly there has been little damage done in the garden. Is this early start to Winter a sign of global warming?

I am writing this as I prepare Easter services. Surely Easter must be about as early as it can ever be this year, because our younger son has his birthday this year, before Good Friday. That doesn't happen very often.

Palm Sunday falls on a Presbyterian Church service day this year and they have kindly allowed us to bless and distribute the Palm Sunday crosses at their service.

I have been googling up about the customs in various churches throughout the world and it has been interesting to read about these.

Whilst palms are widely used in most countries, as they were on the road to Jerusalem, over two thousand years ago, in some of the cold European and Eastern European countries, Pussy Willow branches are used. The use of red in churches for that day, symbolizes the shedding of blood and is therefore used on Palm Sunday, when Christ entered Jerusalem to prepare for His death.

I guess Easter is also the start of school holidays, so happy and fun holidays kids and their families.

Blessings, Annette Eggleston

**Sunday 7th April 10 a.m. Service at St Aidan's
HARVEST THANKSGIVING
Followed by the PARISH A.G.M.**

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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

Change is about to happen whether we like it or not.

The Parish weekly newsletter has clearly spelt out the message of pending change.

There are now four church buildings in the parish with only one anywhere near the standard required for earthquake safety as required by the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand. St Johns Methven at 100% of new building standards Staveley satisfactory being small and of timber construction. Carew building has been sold and removed from the sight, St Andrews Rakaia and Trinity Mayfield require considerable strengthening to bring them to the 76% of new building standards that is the figure established by the central church.

Further to that attendance at services of worship has been declining for some time, A fact that is not unique to this area.

There is little doubt that the proposed changes will result in the sale of some property.

A Proposal will be put to congregations in the coming weeks, basically that is to close the parish as it is, and it be placed under Alpine Presbytery control. **Largely to follow through on a parallel dream that has emerged in conversations, to actively pursue crafting a new mission seedling based in Methven.**

A copy of the full proposal will be available at services of worship as from this coming Sunday, or by contacting one of the Parish councilors.

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 April 2024

31st March Easter Sunday St Andrews Rakaia, Rev John Titlow Parish Service
Sunday 7th April St Johns Methven 10.30
Sunday 14th April at All Saints 10.30
Sunday 21st April St Johns Methven
10.30 am Paster Paul Eden

**Sunday 28th April Mayfield 10.00 am
Paster Paul Eden**

Reflections on the meaning of ANZAC Day

November 2023, Wendy Millichamp, who has been living in Mt Somers for the past 29 years, was invited to join the Mayfield and Districts Red Poppy Society Committee. This followed recent interest from some of the fellow residents in having more to do with the Anzac Celebrations. It would be great for locals to let Wendy know if they have any ideas to promote Red Poppy Events. It's important for our people across the foothills, to have a sense of belonging and connectivity with these celebrations. It would be wonderful to see more folk from the area attend this service on Anzac Day 25 April in the Mayfield Memorial Hall. This is the address Wendy wrote for last years' service, in her role as a Lay-Minister.

Red Poppy Day Service
Address by Wendy Millichamp
Bible Reading Luke c10 v 25-37

ADDRESS

**They came from field and factory
from desk and fishing fleet,
from shearing shed and foundry
from hill and plain and street;**

**Kin of the old sea rovers,
Sons of that stubborn strain
That swallowed all invasions,
Saxon & Norse and Dane**

**Men of the far young countries
New won by their father's toil
Taut from an endless striving
Sons of the sea and soil;**

**Little they knew of warfare
Their lesson was all to learn
These men of the golden wattle
These lads of the silver fern.**

These young NZ & Aussie lads most in their teens travelled from one side of the world to another... for what? an old-fashioned slant on the OE... I think not.... for many unknowingly in their hands a one-way ticket.

Were they caught up in the fantasy of what they thought it may be like, the idea of comradeship; being with their cobber's?

For many was it for the love of their country armed with the knowledge that there was a need & they could help. They had a perceived duty to fulfil.

And let's remember to the women; for around 550 NZ Nurses and 2000 Australian nurses served overseas caring for patients in clinics and hospitals on the battlefields.

Whatever their motive for going, it cannot be denied they were brave, they were selfless.

Yes, they would have been scared but the pack mentality of excitement and adventure no doubt would have kicked in. The feeling of being connected to a larger group of men; a company and for the women an apron of nurses. There is strength in numbers physical and mental.

Then once in the raw action of war, down in the trenches in the mud watching these new comrades and familiar faces fall bloodied in the name of Duty. I'm sure for many they cried out to their mothers to God, as they lay dying or carrying a mate to a safer death bed floundering for words of comfort words of peace words

Our Father who art in Heaven hallowed be thy name Give us this day our daily bread,

The Lord is my Shepherd ye thou I walk through the trenches through the valley of death I will not be afraid For thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.... surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life & I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever.....

Some familiar words of a song made famous by the Hollies. "He Ain't Heavy he's my brother" go like this...The road is long with many a winding turn that leads us to who knows where? But I'm strong, strong enough to carry him.

He ain't heavy, he's my brother so on we go, his welfare is my concern, no burden is he to bear...

Maybe the writers based this popular song on that old story in the bible in the book of Luke 10 the road from Jerusalem to Jericho was a notoriously dangerous road; narrow and rocky passes and had sudden turnings which made it a happy hunting ground for highwayman and bandits ... thugs.

The man who ended up helping in this story, didn't merely feel sorry for the traveller, he showed compassion by his actions and got help for his physical needs. He went the extra mile so to speak or kilometre...

And we read also in the scriptures John 15 v13

" There is no greater love than this to lay down one's life for his friends".

God's love goes far beyond what we could understand or imagine. He certainly raised the bar in the love stakes by sending Jesus Christ to this earth to live among people and offer his teaching as a viable lifestyle option to all who choose to believe to this very day.

In celebrating ANZAC, red poppy day, we are not wanting to glorify war, for in many ways war is futile. It is however the day set aside to give thanks for those who have laid down their lives for us and to come alongside and pray for those who bear the costs of war both physically and mentally. The compassion shown by and still shown today in war-torn countries by people who serve on the frontlines is commendable and these services and peoplepower need our prayers.

**They came from field and factory,
from desk and fishing fleet,
From shearing shed and foundry,
from hill and plain and street**

**..their names shall live forever
In the Halls of Memory
They gave their lives as ransom
that we who live be free.**





Mayfield and Districts Lions Report

Our guest speaker this month was John Wright, who spoke of his trip to Uzbekistan advising on irrigation. The irrigation scheme was originally set up by the Soviet Union, infrastructure and technology had become outdated. John advised directly to the Minister of Water Resources

and his talk included photos of infrastructure, cities and countryside, all in a period when the world was immersed in the covid pandemic.

John also spoke of his own personal medical emergency that brought him back to New Zealand in the middle of the covid pandemic.

His photos also included a number of hilarious pictures of Lada cars being used to transport various loads, some successfully, some not.

A very nice meal was supplied by the ladies from the Mt Somers playcentre as a fund raiser for their group.

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Ladies from the Mt Somers Playcentre and President John Rushton.



From left to right Alistair Morrison, John Wright, John Rushton.

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What's on offer at the Hospice Base

It would be easy to think that the Hospice Base in Havelock Street was a sombre place, but most days it hums with activities designed to help clients and caregivers make the most of every day. One client says: "When you're unwell, it's harder to go out to events because people don't always understand and it can be stressful. At the Base, I feel welcomed and part of a safe inclusive group."

Every month there is a wide-ranging monthly programme tailored to clients' needs and interests. For those who want to work on their mobility, there are exercise therapy classes every week as well as monthly chair yoga. There are also several options for those interested in arts or crafts and other activities include the popular Armchair Travel presentations and pamper nail sessions. Socialising with others who are going through the same journey is an effective way to lower stress and build social connections.

HMC knows how important caregiver wellbeing is and Sarah McAvoy, Support Coordinator, has recently started a breakaway café for caregivers. This is an informal support group held monthly which enables caregivers to pop in and chat with other caregivers. If required, HMC can arrange volunteers to sit with clients so that caregivers can come to these sessions.

HMC also has a well-stocked library with books for all ages, on topics such as caregiving, resilience, dementia, end-of-life and grieving. All the books in the HMC library are available to borrow, free of charge.

It's a lonely business, not being well, and HMC aims to provide friendly support and activities to make the journey easier.

If you or someone you care about has a life-limiting illness and would like our support, contact us on 307 8387

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