

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

Mayfield School Farm

The Mayfield School Farm was set up approximately 6 years ago by a number of farming parents who had children at the school. The purpose was to generate income that could be donated directly to Mayfield School to assist with extra teachers, resources and equipment. Over the last 5 years we have donated over \$120k to the school. The school farm currently leases 22 hectares on the outskirts of the Mayfield township and heavily relies on parents with children at the school, local businesses and community support to keep their costs down so that maximum profit can be donated.



Linda – Store Manager
Mayfield PGG Wrightson

This month we have been spraying out ex Kale ground with kindly donated chemical from Mayfield PGG Wrightson, sprayed on at a discounted rate by local spraying contractors Clemens Spraying and Mayfield Spraying Limited and new Kale seed donated by Corteva and Carrfields and kindly drilled by Quigleys and Riverlea Ag Limited.



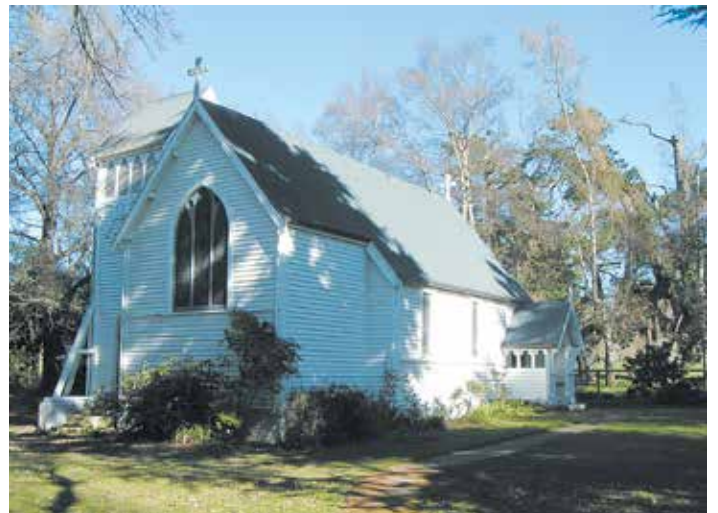
Quigley Contracting drilling kale 16 Nov 2023

We hope with the latest bits of moisture, freshly sown kale will get its best start. Another fundraising arm of the farm is a calf drive that is currently taking place. If anyone has a 100kg calf they would like to donate to the school please get in touch with me below. Finally on behalf of those involved with the Mayfield School Farm we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those that help during the year and we hope you have a very Merry Xmas and New Year.

Reon Blake reon_blake@hotmail.com

Can You Help

Do you have an hour to spare to volunteer for an annual church cleaning roster for St Aidans Church, Mt Somers? Our roster has depleted to 1-2 people. St Aidans Church remains an asset to our village, with visitors from various districts of NZ and around globe coming to view it. Services are held fortnightly; therefore, a monthly roster would require on average two duties annually. If you can help or have further enquiries, please contact Robbie Martin: 03 303 9767 or 027 440 1699



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Mayfield and Districts Lions Report



The annual Mayfield and Districts Lions Golf tournament was again a great success with \$32,000 in funds being donated. \$16,000 was donated and presented to both Aimee Cosgrove from the Mid Canterbury Cancer society and Amelia Davis from Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's NZ. Golf committee chair Greg Cook and Lions Club president John Rushton are also in the photo.

Induction of new members.

A busy month for Mayfield Lions with the friends of the districts event and the golf tournament.

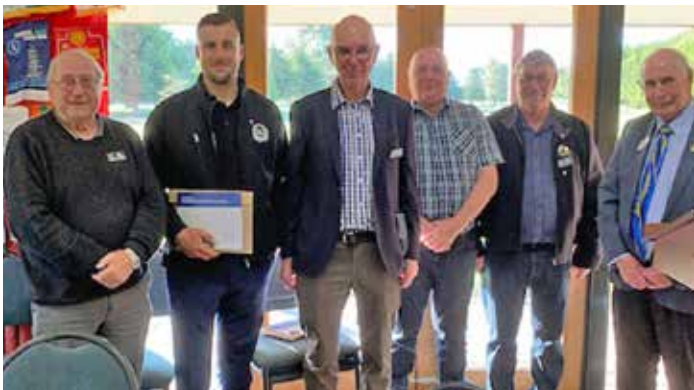
The friends of the districts events saw two guest speakers, Les Vincent spoke about the Lime Kilns his Grandfather set up to make slack Lime (or hydrated Lime) which was either used as fertiliser or used in the freezing works fellmongery to remove hair or wool.

Les Vincent's Grandfather ran the Vincents Lime works and kiln from 1940s to 1960s.

The second speaker Rob Schikker spoke of the development of the new Sharplin Falls track and took us through the track development, bridge construction and funding. The afternoon finished with a lavish afternoon tea.

Two new members joined this month, A J Hesketh and Victor Schikker

Cheers Chris Olley



Left to right Neil Blake, A. J. Hesketh, Robert Schikker, Victor Schikker, John Rushton, District Governor Garth Bateup.

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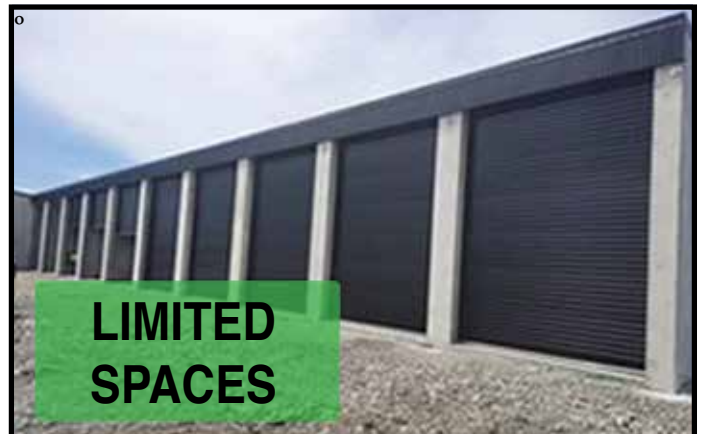
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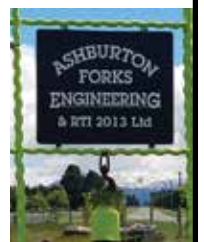
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Hospice Mid Canterbury

Managing a different sort of Christmas

Christmas gatherings are typically filled with celebration and joy, but it can be a stressful and emotional time if you or someone close to you is dealing with an illness. The first step in coping with this new reality is accepting that these holidays will be different, and you may have to make changes to make life easier for everyone. And that this is okay.

Here are a few suggestions which may help:

- Modify your expectations and traditions. Don't expect that everything will be the same this holiday. Work out what gives you enjoyment and comfort and focus on these things. Find simpler ways to keep your family traditions going. Christmas dinner with all the trimmings may not be an option this year. A pot-luck lunch may be more manageable.
- Don't overload your diary. Try not to commit to too much, especially if you're making plans in advance, as you don't know how you'll feel on the day. Don't over-fill your diary or feel pressured to commit to every event. Think quality over quantity when it comes to time.
- Ask others to share the load. If you need help buying or wrapping gifts, cooking or decorating, ask others to lend a hand. It's also fine to skip things like presents if you don't feel up to it.
- Consider including some quiet activities. Watch a movie or listen to music. These things require little physical exertion and remind everyone that there is still joy to be found in Christmas.
- Share favourite family memories and stories. Encourage everyone to share a favourite memory or story. Family visits and laughter can provide a sense of normality and comfort for the person who is ill.

- Communicate your plans. Let others know what you'll be doing and what to expect this Christmas.
- Be flexible. It's fine to change your plans during the day if needed.

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 .

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



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The Old Post Office Library



This is the final library news for this year. I hope you've been enjoying the new books on the shelves and found something to your liking. As we near Christmas, the bookshops seem to be overloaded with fabulous looking books all promising great reads. There are a few I'm waiting on, for instance.. John Boyne's new one (he of 'Boy in Striped Pyjamas' fame). It is supposed to be out this month but haven't spotted it yet. If you would like it in your Christmas stocking, it is called 'Water' so maybe you could make a few hints! But we will be getting it for the library.

This months new books.....

'Absolutely and Forever' by Rose Tremain..... a story of a first love and so much more. It is a short novel, not quite 200 pages, and a wonderful snapshot of 1950s-60s. I loved it and can recommend it. And it is an easy read.....

'Stone Yard Devotional' by Charlotte Wood.

Another very well written novel, where nothing much happens! The 'I must keep reading' is about the way it is written, and the numerous phrases that stick in the mind. It is the story of a woman who leaves her everyday life and marriage to end up in a small religious community not far from where she was brought up. It takes some time before she can adjust to the rhythms of monastic life as she doesn't believe in God. She faces some deep personal questions and as a result, the reader can do so too. I think it was this aspect that kept me wanting to read more. Recommended.

'Stealing' by Margaret Verble, a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. This is the novel of a Cherokee child removed from her family and sent to a Christian boarding school in the 1950s. It is a powerful coming-of-age tale, and how meeting a kindred spirit while so young can influence your life there on. A great read.

'Rambling Man, My Life on the Road' by Billy Connolly.

Sir Billy is a much loved Scottish comedian, musician, presenter, and actor. He now lives in America.

This book will appeal to many, and is described as a 'joyful' book. Billy firmly believes that being a rambling man is more than just travelling- of which he's done plenty- it's a state of mind. He has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, and in true Billy style, makes plenty of jokes about it. A funny, and serious book.

'The Covenant of Water' by Abraham Verghese.

This is quite a tome! All 724 pages of it!!!!

But don't be put off by the size of this book, it is a true saga and covers 3-4 generations of Indians living in the beautiful south of India, Kerala. Having visited Kerala twice, this book is so evocative of this part of the world,so much so, I could almost smell the stunning waterways. The author's former book, 'Cutting for Stone' is also a weighty read, set in Ethiopia. It is equally fabulous.

I am on the finishing pages of 'the Covenant of Water', and am dreading leaving all the characters and their lives behind. I know it has to finish.... And then I remember the wise saying.....'the book only finishes where it does because that's where the author chooses.' So I can dream of what happens next.

'The Night Always Comes' by Willy Vlautin

A small book but packs a powerful punch.

Lynette looks after her brother Kenny between attending night classes and juggling a number of jobs. And she is soooooo tired.

And then ,after years of trying to scrape together enough for a mortgage her plans are once again thwarted. The whole book is set over two days and nights, and (quote) 'holds up a mirror to a society that leaves too many people only a step away from ruin'.

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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

‘The Bee Sting’ by Paul Murray.

It has just been announced this book is now shortlisted for the Booker Prize for this year. I haven't read this, however my daughter has and said it is the best book she has read all year. A fairly good recommendation, plus the fact it is on the Booker short list.

I don't know how to describe it except that it is about the Barnes family and they are in trouble!

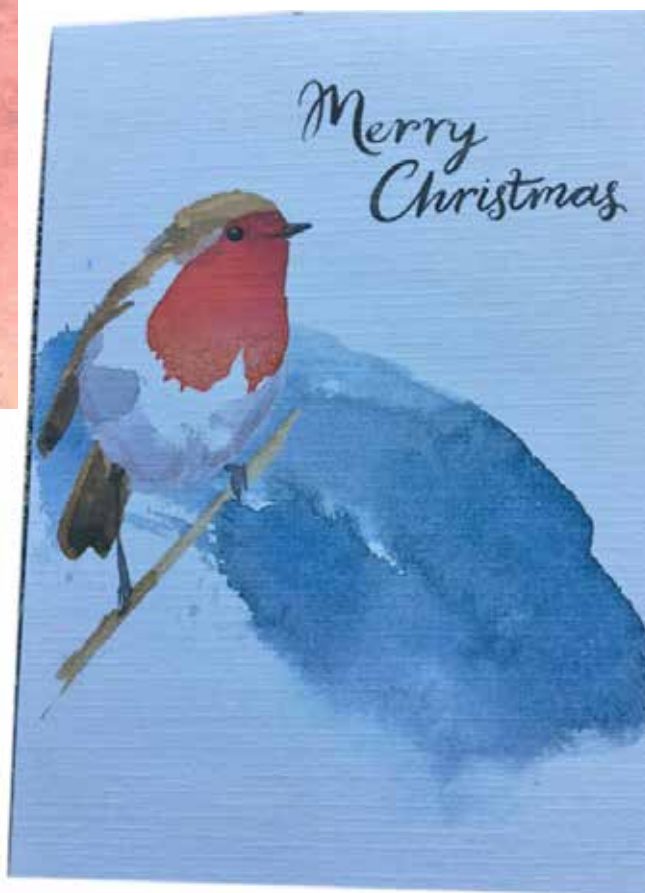
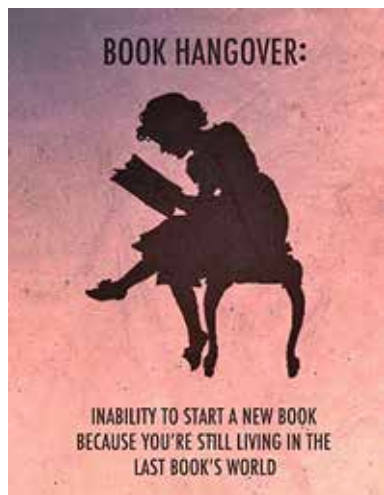
‘Mothers’ Instinct’ by Barbara Abel.

Described as a dark intense domestic thriller about next door neighbours whose close friendship is upended by a tragic accident. It has now been made into a major motion film.

The author Barbara Abel has been called the ‘queen of Belgian thrillers’ and has written 14 novels. This the first to translated into English.

Happy reading, happy Christmas, and happy holidays. Thank you for being part of our library family in whatever capacity.... Readers, volunteers, maintenance, general dogsbody,, and we look forward to another year of splendid books. And a reminder..... there is a donation box on the library counter. You could always show your appreciation of the library and its contents by dropping a note or two, or a gold coin into the said box. We would love it!

Just to help with running expenses.



Thank you all so much.AC.



NEIL BROWN
MAYOR

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays, and hope that you enjoy this time with family and friends.

- Council closes at 1pm on Friday 22 December
- Urgent and afterhours inquiries, contact 03 307 7700
- For full operating hours of all Council facilities over the holidays, visit ashburtondc.govt.nz



RUBBISH & RECYCLING

There is no kerbside rubbish and recycling collection on Christmas Day so Council will be emptying everyone's wheelie bins one day later than normal that week.

Collection day moves to:

- Monday 25 → Tuesday
- Tuesday 26 → Wednesday
- Wednesday 27 → Thursday
- Thursday 28 → Friday
- Friday 29 → Saturday



Kerbside collection services are as normal from Monday 1 January, even though it is New Year's Day. Please ensure all rubbish and recycling is placed at the kerbside by 7.30am on collection day.

RESOURCE RECOVERY PARKS

- **Ashburton Resource Recovery Park** will be closed on Monday 25 December 2023, Tuesday 26 December 2023 and Monday 1 January, 2024.
- **Rakaia Resource Recovery Park** will be closed Monday 25 December 2023 and Monday 1 January 2024.
- **Methven green waste dropoff** will be closed Sunday 24 December.

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Mayfield Playcentre

Time has flown and here we are almost at the end of another year! The Christmas tree is up at playcentre and we are starting to feel festive. We are all looking forward to our centre Christmas party, and of course all the crafts and activities that come with it.

The Tamariki have been enjoying getting out into the sunshine, with lots of water play, sandpit rivers and gardening happening. We have planted up our vege garden and the kids have been enjoying checking on the progress and watering the plants.

We have also recently had a field trip to the enchanted forest walk in Methven, which was a lot of fun for both kids and adults. The Tamariki loved exploring the walkway and spotting all the doors and fairy houses.

Reflecting back on the year makes us proud of what we have achieved at Mayfield playcentre, we have completed an internal re-vamp with



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lots of new spaces and resources for the children. This was possible because of all the support from the Mayfield community and beyond with our fundraising efforts, big ones this year being mushroom compost and our Win Christmas raffle. Thank you to everyone who has supported us in any way!



We are lucky to have welcomed lots of new whanau to our centre, as well as lots of new pepe, our centre is thriving and such an asset for Mayfield and surrounding areas. We also have a number of children turning 5 over the holiday period, so we will be farewelling some families, but we know the kids will all love school!

We have sessions Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9-12 throughout the school term and welcome any visitors to come and check out what we are up to!



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2/2023/17

A COMMENT:

My very latest reading the book "Wavewalker" Breaking free. This is the story of a family the two parents and two preteen children who purchase a sailing boat and leave England to follow the third voyage of captain Cook around the world. The aim to mark the 200th anniversary of Cooks final voyage. This was a very ambitious plan. A sea going sailing yacht was found and purchased, extra crew taken on and eventually they sailed from Plymouth on the first stage to Rio de Janeiro. This was relatively calm compared with what was to follow.

From Rio they set sail for Cape Town with a brief stop at Tristan da Cunha where they were able to restock with supplies before sailing for Cape Town. At which place they were made very welcome, restocking, and carrying out repairs, the south Atlantic had been rough sailing. The voyage across the Southern Indian Ocean proved to be very rough, the yacht suffered serious damage when they struck what must have been a rogue wave. Wavewalker was badly damaged with broken planks and constant water leaks, the author then seven years old was thrown from her bunk and suffered severe head injuries. They were sailing for Freemantle, but Sue had serious injuries and the yacht was in a bad way. They had no choice but to aim for a small island by the name of Ile Amsterdam which was occupied by the French where there was a weather station. The risk was that they may sail past without sighting this very small island. It was sighted they landed, and the family where allocated a house to spend time at, there was a resident doctor who was able to attend to Sue's injuries having to operate on her brain but without aesthetic as he did not have the correct product. This was particularly traumatic for Sue and no doubt painful, after several operations over several days the

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Contact Rob Palmer
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doctor declared he was finished, and Sue had no further headaches. Her life was saved. The yacht was repaired as best they could although it continued to leak. The French and the British declared that the yacht was not safe for the children and mother to sail on to Fremantle leaving the three men to make the voyage. Arrangements were made for the children and Mary the mother to travel on a passing container ship. The problem was getting onto the ship which rises the equivalent of a six-story building above the sea, a ladder was lowered over the side they were told to just keep climbing and not look down, Sue said she did look down. They all got on board and experienced a very comfortable voyage to Melbourne and had to take a flight back to Fremantle and wait for Wavewalker to arrive.

Their adventure continues sailing Fremantle to Melbourne, then to Sydney, joining in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race, they completed the race being the last boat to arrive, but then they did arrive numerous yachts had withdrawn due to rough seas.

It was then Hobart to New Zealand a short stop at Queen Charlotte Sound a visit to Wellington then to Auckland where they had their engine rebuilt. At each main stop they had a change of crew which were paying passengers and were expected to help in manning the yacht, some were very good, some otherwise, some complained of the food served, Mary had to inform them this was not a luxury cruise liner. Leaving Auckland with a new crew they sailed into the Pacific Ocean visiting and revisiting numerous islands. With changes in paying passengers. Then to Australia and back to the islands, returning to Australia where the parents gained employment to earn much needed money and for Sue and her brother Jon to attend school at last.

Sue had a very strong desire for education and like her father was very determined, she was a very conscientious student studying on correspondence and gaining very high marks. She felt somewhat imprisoned on the boat being very dominated by her father and not getting along very well with her mother. The reader can learn how to catch frogs and dissect them on the kitchen bench when mum is out, all part of her biology course sending her findings back to her tutor in Australia.

So that is "Wavewalker" the name of the book by Suzanne Heywood and the name of the Yacht that she together with her brother Jon and their parents sailed the world and had many adventures. This book is recommended reading available at bookshops and Fishpond or Amazon. Next time I may write about Waiuta a ghost town not far from Reefton. I feel I need to visit there before writing. There was the Waiuta mine and the Prohibition Mine with a shaft descending nearly 900m going well below sea level. Waiuta was the richest and most productive of the area's gold mines, with around half of all the gold mined on the West Coast coming from this one mine.

Until next time Denis.

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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Contact John on 0210 246 1321 or 03 3036 144

DEADLINE DATE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE		
ISSUE	DEADLINE	DELIVERY
January 2024	25 January	31 January

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

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Mt Somers, RD1,
Ashburton 7771
Telephone: 03 3039 722
Email: graphic@netaccess.co.nz

Mt Somers Staveley Playcentre

Here we are, the final issue of the Norwester for the year! We don't have many Playcentre sessions left before we close for the summer holidays!

November has absolutely flown by, we've been busy enjoying the warmer weather, going on excursions and organizing the Mt Somers Christmas Market!

Come along to the Village Green between 11am and 3pm on Sunday the 3rd of December for great stalls, yummy food, coffee, bouncy castles, horse and cart rides and more. We will have a stall there with face painting, a Christmas raffle, things to purchase and free fruit for the kids! Running alongside the market is a car boot sale - there are a few spaces left for this so please email mtsomers.staveley@playcentre.org.nz if you'd like to secure a spot, the cost is \$10.

We were lucky enough to be invited to Wendy Millichamps beautiful garden for a fun teddy bears picnic, what a lovely morning, thank you so much for having us Wendy.

Willowbank was another fun excursion, the children loved feeding the animals and seeing all the baby ducklings, piglets, even a joey! We spotted Kiwi, watched monkeys play and celebrated Scott's 5th birthday!

Our last session for the year will be Thursday, 14th of December. We will be celebrating two graduations too, Scott and Emily, who are off to school next year, it will be so sad to see them go.

To all the foothills community, have a wonderful festive season and a safe and happy summer. We will be back for Term 1 2024 on Tuesday 30th January. Follow us on Facebook to keep track of what we are up to: @mtsomersstaveleyplaycentre



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Walk Orton Bradley Park

15 November

We did this walk a first time. There are more than few walks to do so we separated in to two groups for different walks.



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ANZAC SERVICE 2024

The Mayfield and Districts Anzac Service held every year at the Mayfield Hall on the 25th of April is organized by the Mayfield and Districts Red Poppy Society. The society is made up of approximately 10 members of the Mt Somers, Montalto, Mayfield and Carew Communities. We meet 3-4 times a year and are always interested in having new people join. Over the last year we have been working on several projects.

‘The Foothills Fallen’

This book covers the lives of 110 servicemen who have died from serving in any overseas war starting with the Boer War through to Vietnam. The men came from the area that our Anzac Service covers, being Alford Forest in the north, Westerfield, Maronan to the east, Carew to the south and the Ashburton Lakes to the west.



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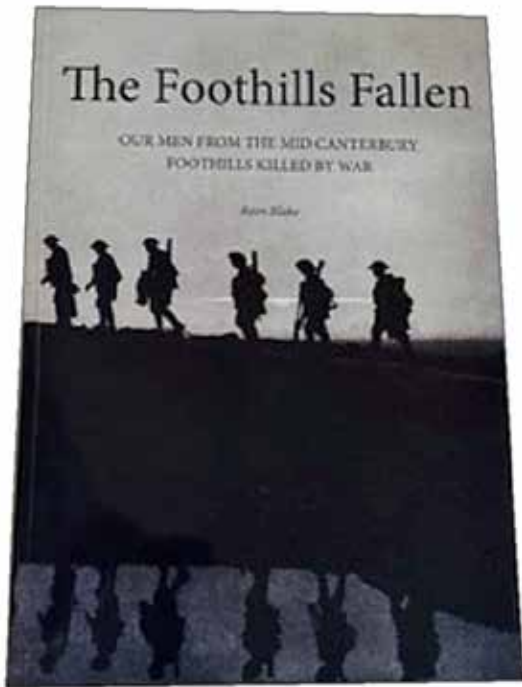
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This coffee table book is being sold as a fundraiser with 100 percent of the proceeds going back to our society. Books can be purchased from the Staveley Store, Paper Plus Ashburton and Joosh in Geraldine. Alternatively, you can email myself and I will organise delivery. Books retail for \$75 and would make a great Christmas gift.



Potential Dawn Service – Mt Somers Hall

There have been some suggestions from parts of the Mt Somers, Alford Forest community to have a dawn service in Mt Somers prior to our main service at the Mayfield Hall on Anzac Day. The society is seeking expressions of interest from the community. If this was going to take place, then it would heavily rely on extra volunteers to assist. My email is below if you would like to email me to have your say and whether you could potentially help if you wished this to happen.

War memorial plaques

Part of the Societies other objectives other than organising our Anzac services is to maintain and improve our many war memorials within our region. One of our members is currently collating all public and private war memorial plaques and wishing to make contact with those that either know of them or assist in their upkeep. If you know of any plaques other than the Memorial Halls, can you please make contact with me below and I will forward your details on to update the list.

Many thanks,
Reon Blake

President – Red Poppy Society
reon_blake@hotmail.com

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Walk Mt Alford 22 November

It's a hot day. 3 groups walked different distances and we all had a great fun.



Photos supplied by Sanae Hydes



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Walk Peak Hill 8 November

Only 6 ladies turned out. It's a cloudy day but we had a great day walking.



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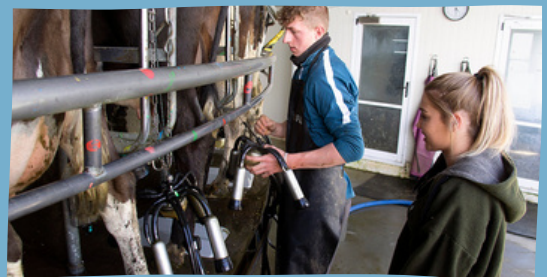
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“We are pilgrims on a journey, and companions on the road; we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.”

Above is a familiar verse known to many. We have sung this hymn many times over in worship, in fact, some might add, too many times. But the question to ask is, how much of its word do we take to heart? Do we really see ourselves as brothers and sisters in the Lord? And if so, what does it look like?

Each and every one of us are accountable and responsible to look after one another. It is our Christian duty to do so by caring for those who are struggling, helping in the work of the church, to encourage fellowship and prayer with one another. To sow the seed of the gospel. We are encouraged, Our Plains Parish is a combine Parish. By attending combine worship ONCE a month. Offers an opportunity to gather and encourage and pray for each of our areas of ministry. This too, is our calling and responsibility to help and serve one another. **1 Peter 4: 10-11**

“¹⁰Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. ¹¹Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belongs the glory and the power forever and ever. 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 December 2023
Sunday 3rd Dec St Johns Methven 10.30 am
Rev Laurence Ennor. Parish service
Communion
Sunday 10th Dec At All Saints 10.30
Rev Annette Eggleston
Sunday 17th Dec St Johns Methven 10.30am
Rev John Titlow
Sunday 17th Dec Staveley Carol service 7.00 pm Combined with Methven
Sunday 24th Dec Trinity Mayfield Carol Service 10.00 am

MAYFIELD MT SOMERS ANGLICAN PARISH

All at St. Aidan's Church, Mt. Somers
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE
Sunday December 17th at 10 a.m.
Do you live in or near Mt. Somers? Do you have children who would like to participate in the Christmas story with a modern twist? If so, we would love to see you at St. Aidan's on Sunday Dec 17th. We would ask that you arrive about 9.30, so that we can dress up the children ready for the 10am service.
CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE 10 a.m.
Followed by refreshments and Christmas Cake. All welcome

I was out in the garden this morning picking a bunch of Sweetpeas. The plant is self sown and the flowers are purple. They reminded me that very soon we will be in the Church season of Advent. The church colour for this season of four weeks before Christmas is violet, purple. I hope the plant continues to flower at least until Christmas, so that I can pick them for the vase as a reminder that we are in preparation time for Christmas.

My mind wandered on, as minds have a habit of doing, and I thought about the old rhyme that we used to chant as children. "Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat. Please put a penny in the old man's hat. If you haven't got a penny, a half penny would do. If you haven't got a half penny, then God bless you."

The young ones of today have probably never heard that wee rhyme. Maybe that is a pity, because it gives us a timely reminder, as we rush about making preparations for Christmas, that there are those for whom Christmas is not a joyous time for various reasons. Maybe the loss of a loved one during the year and a first Christmas without

that loved one; maybe dire financial situations, that mean no money for the extras that are normally a part of Christmas.

So the thinking ran on and I thought maybe some of you might like to give either presents [unwrapped] or food to the City Mission. If so, you could leave anything you might like to donate, in the porch of St. Aidan's, before the 17th of December and we could take the gifts up to Christchurch during the following week. I would ask the local members of our congregation, to keep an eye open and place anything left there into the church.

In the meantime, we wish everyone a joyful and safe Christmas, a Happy New Year and peace of the Baby Jesus born two thousand years ago in a manger on the other side of the world.

Blessings, Annette Eggleston

From the Burial Register: Maureen F Pinfold

ANGLICAN SERVICES
Priest: Rev Annette Eggleston
Holy Communion
Dec 3 10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers
Dec 17 10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers
Children's Christmas Service
Dec 25 10 a.m. St Aidan's Mt Somers
CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST
Jan 7 10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers
Jan 21 10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers
Feb 4 10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers



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

Mid Canterbury Choir Christmas Concert

Sunday 10th December 2023 at 2pm
St Stephens Church
Park Street, Ashburton
Entry by programme at the door \$15

The choir is excited to welcome Martin Setchell, world-renowned organist, to share their Christmas Concert this year. Martin will be playing Christmas music from around the world as well as accompanying the choir and playing for audience Christmas Carols. The choir will be singing some favourite Christmas songs under the direction of Sylvia Watson who has returned to lead us in this concert. Carolie Andrew is accompanist.

Get into the groove of Christmas in an afternoon of enjoyable music.

Afternoon tea will be served after the concert.

Note, this is a deviation from our usual Friday lunchtime and teatime concerts to make the most of Martin's availability.

Carol Gunn
Mid Canterbury Choir Manager
027 287 2468

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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.

His CDs on the Christchurch Town Hall organ are regularly heard on Radio New Zealand Concert FM.



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

Here we are at the end of week 7 and the smell, sounds, tastes, look and feel of Christmas draws ever so near! The children and their teachers are busy getting their wares ready for our Christmas Market which we will be holding here at our school on Friday the 15th of December.

We have had Cornelius Grobblor working at our school one hour a week since August on a programme called 'Champions Begin'. This programme is designed to motivate boys to develop personal excellence. He has also been focusing on teaching them to respect those around them, and to understand and care for their own bodies and increase their fitness. Unfortunately for us, and other schools in our area, Cornelius is leaving New Zealand for the shores of Australia, so a few weeks ago he invited the group he has been working with and all our senior boys for a fun session at his gym. He gave the boys a taste of the different activities they offer at the Boxing Academy. The boys had a lot of fun but were certainly challenged by the fitness activities and obstacle courses. It was sad to say goodbye to Cornelius and we wish him the very best for his new life in Australia.

I had the pleasure of being able to go up to Waipara to spend a couple of days with the Ruapuna class for their camp. So much fun was had and everyone made the most of their time to build relationships and stretch their capabilities. Camps are only made possible by our teachers spending many hours in preparation to ensure everyone has a great time. A massive THANK YOU to Mrs Kate Moore and Alana McConnell for giving up so much of their own family time to provide this awesome experience for our tamariki. We are also very appreciative of our parent helpers, Emma and Brad who also volunteered their own time. THANK YOU both so very much! The children absolutely enjoyed the whole experience.

Next week our three junior classes are having their EOTC experiences with

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the older students having a sleepover in the Te Puketai Tahi classroom. They will be visiting the Orari Farmyard and Geraldine skate park on Thursday and the Sharplin Falls on Friday. No doubt there will be some very tired wee poppets come the weekend.

The term has been flying by and we are now getting ready for our prize giving. This will be held in our community hall on Monday the 18th of December at 1.30 pm. We look forward to welcoming all whanau and friends to come along to celebrate the achievements and success of all our students.

Wishing our school whanau and wider community a very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe new year.

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.

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The Staveley Hall Society and Ice Skating & Curling Rinks project team would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with wonderful memories!

We can't wait to see everyone back at the Rink for the 2024 season! Now a guarantee thanks to everyone below plus more!



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A Very Big Thank You To All Of You

Well, here we are again at the end of another year. New Zealand has survived the downfall of the Labour government and, only just in time, the creation of the first three party coalition government.

The Chinese have a proverb. “May you live in interesting times.”

I think that we are certainly doing that. The poor people in the east coast of the North Island and around Auckland with endless rain and floods and the average family in NZ having a struggle to keep their heads above water financially. It can only be hoped that there will be a marked improvement in things over the coming new year.

I would like to thank all the people involved in doing their bit to help me in producing the Nor’Wester. Firstly the good folks who sit down each month at their computer (and in one case I know of) send all their text to me on their phone. I can’t believe their patience.

I struggle to even answer my mobile phone. My grateful thanks to you all. Without your input there would be no Nor’Wester News.

Secondly, my thanks to all the advertisers who have stayed loyal to the publication over many years. I hope that you get good responses from your participation in the newsletter. And lastly to the printers and posties who get all the magazines out and into peoples letterboxes.

I do have one comment I would like to make. I have over time seen articles in other local papers about happenings in our area which I have not been informed about. It costs nothing for anyone to promote their events in the Nor’Wester and it keeps the locals informed of what is going on in their neck of the woods.

Finally I would like to wish everybody a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year holiday period and I trust that the new year will bring you everything you hope to achieve even if it means some hard graft to get there. Thank you to you all.

Jeremy Hunter
Editor Nor’Wester



Mt Somers
Christmas Morning Tea
Wednesday 20th
December 10.30am
Kath Schikker’s place
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