

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

Staveley Ice Rink Update

The Staveley Hall Society AGM was held on the 24th of May. Reports were given from the Chair, the Staveley Museum and the Rink project team. Special mention goes to Ivan Symes who has been the Ice Rink Manager for over 20 years and has retired this year.



The Hall Society would like to thank Ivan for his massive contribution to our community over the last couple of decades plus! We will miss seeing his truck head up to the rink each morning over winter, waiting tentatively to find out if there is enough ice. Ivan will still be around and we are looking forward to a toast and sharing a wee dram when curling seasons starts.

It was also good to see the museum has been very popular, the team is on the

lookout for new volunteers to help with the Sunday afternoon opening at the museum. If you would like to help give Allan Totty a message on Facebook. We have had another amazing couple of weeks at the rink with loads of working bees and our volunteers are also working hard to set up booking for the rink, and we might be able to do a few curling sessions too.

Lights are up!. Please note we will be running a booking system for the rink this year due to the overwhelming response we have had to date. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates on this. we also hope to have a website ready for booking in the next few weeks.

We are still working hard but don't have the opening date set in stone just yet.



We are getting close, hopefully mid June! Keep an eye on this page for updates! Fundraising has again blown us away over \$30,000 over the last couple of weeks.

We are getting sooo close you can almost smell the ice crystals

To donate:

Our bank account is Staveley Hall Society BNZ 02 0836 0027887 00 reference "ICE"

Another quick and easy way is to donate a load of pipe for \$1,300 and get that 33% tax back just message us for an invoice.

Or you can pop over to our give-a-little page.

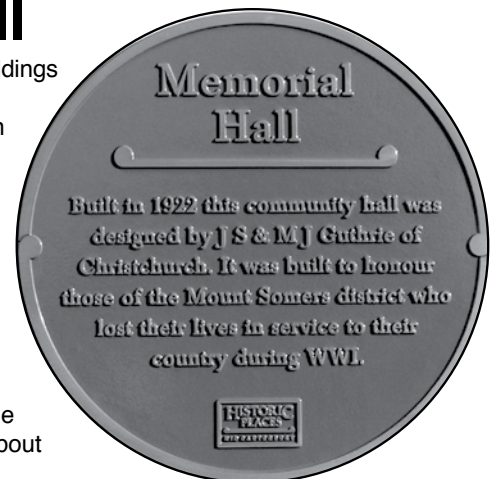
Recognition for the Mt Somers Hall

The new blue plaque for the Mount Somers Memorial Hall adds to the number of heritage buildings in Mid Canterbury which have been recognised with a heritage plaque.

Historic Places Mid Canterbury (HPMC) developed the blue heritage plaques programme in 2017 and have so far produced 14 plaques for the Mid Canterbury region. The scheme is also stretching further afield with 26 similar plaques in other locations around the country. The purpose of the plaques is to identify the building as an important piece of local built heritage and to tell the story of why the building is historically significant. The initiative aims to increase the prominence of these important heritage buildings and to raise awareness of the value of retaining and maintaining our heritage spaces and places, as well as fostering greater public understanding and appreciation of our cultural heritage. The project is entirely voluntary and is intended as a bottom-up, 'grassroots' approach to local built heritage promotion and protection, with the community and local heritage groups leading the way. We see it as a great way for local heritage organisations to positively engage with their local communities and to produce a tangible, long lasting educational message about the value our local built heritage and the importance of preserving it.

Nigel Gilkison, New Zealand Heritage Plaque Co-ordinator, Historic Places Aotearoa.

Deputy Chair, Historic Places Mid Canterbury



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Mayfield Playcentre

This month at Mayfield Playcentre has been a busy one with a few new families joining our playcentre whanau, as well as some field trips which are always fun. We also had Mothers day to celebrate and the kids enjoyed getting creative decorating cards.

We joined our friends at Ashburton Playcentre for a poi workshop which was great fun! Learning about maori culture alongside learning new craft skills was rewarding for children and adults alike. With the weather cooling down a trip to an indoor soft play day in Ashburton was also popular. Working on balance, co-ordination and teamwork while having lots of fun is great for the tamariki, burning off of energy while keeping warm inside was an added bonus!

We've been lucky enough to have several new families join playcentre over the past few weeks, which is great for the children as well as parents. It is so wonderful to see the children making new friends and the social aspect and support that parents and caregivers give each other really is special. We have sessions Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9-12 throughout the school term and welcome any visitors to come check out what we are up to!



Draft Economic Development Strategy

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Winter is on us, and being a farming district we will see lots of farming related activity on our roads. May 31st is the end of the dairy season and cows head to winter grazing for June and July. What does this mean to drivers?? Cows are on the move, so there are more hazards to be aware of on our roads.

We could come across cows walking to grazing, accompanied by farmers on bikes with a vehicle in front and behind. Maybe followed by a dog or two. And sometimes even a farmer on horseback. There might be more stock trucks on the road as well as tractors and feed out wagons. Animals can be unpredictable and easily frightened. If you come across a herd of cows on the road, slow down and follow instructions from the farmer. It won't take long and they'll be out of your way.

Other hazards to expect in winter is fog, ice, rain and low sun angle. So slow down, drive to the conditions and take care. Check your tyres are in good conditions and have enough air. Defrost your windscreen. Pull over and wait if the sun angle is low. It won't take long for the sun to drop enough for you to see. Sunglasses and clean windscreens help too. Beware of icy roads. Black ice is particularly hard to spot but it's usually found in shady areas especially where there are hedges on the side of the road. So take care on the roads this winter.

Would you like to pass on your amazing driving skills to a learner driver?? We are always looking for volunteer driving mentors to help our adult students learn to drive. It's a lot of fun and incredibly rewarding.

If you would like to be part of this amazing programme, either 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 MPI, Waka Kotahi, The Lotteries Commission, Advance Ashburton Community Foundation, The Ashburton District Council, Braided Rivers Community Trust, The Lion Foundation, COGs, Community Trust Mid & South Canterbury and The Mid Canterbury Rural Support Trust.

Wendy Hewitt
Rural Licensing Co-Ordinator
Safer Mid Canterbury
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Mt Somers Staveley Playcentre

This month has simply flown by and winter is now here! We are still making the most of the nice weather when we get it, the children absolutely love playing in the sandpit and zooming around on bikes and trikes. Our outside areas have had a good tidy up with a working bee last weekend, a big thanks to everyone that was able to lend a hand. Our new Session Facilitator, Kelly and her gorgeous kids have settled in wonderfully and we are so happy to have them with us. We have welcomed a couple of other new families to our centre as well, it's great to see their smiling new faces on session. Our roll is looking very healthy at the moment, even with two graduations happening this month!

We're off on a fun excursion to Chipmunks Playland in Timaru next week, something the tamariki always enjoy and when we're not away on excursions or zooming around outside, there has been plenty of painting and messy play happening inside, we even had some pyjama days complete with pancakes and waffles!

Want to join in the fun? Pop along to a session and see what we're about! Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am-12pm, 50 Pattons Road, This month has simply flown by and winter is now here! We are still making the most of the nice weather when we get it, the children absolutely love playing in the sandpit and zooming around on bikes and trikes. Our outside areas have had a good tidy up with a working bee last weekend, a big thanks to everyone that was able to lend a hand.

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The Old Post Office Library



Hello to all readers and intending readers! I have just read a sign in Christchurch stating:

'Leaves are falling. Books are calling'.

So true as our days get colder and darker, and sitting somewhere in the warmth with a book is very tempting.

I've been tempted this last month by

'The Maiden'..... by Kate Foster.

This is very good historical fiction set in and around Edinburgh in 1670s. The author is a new writer and this, her first book, has already won the 'Bloody Pitch Perfect 2020' prize for new writers. It is essentially a murder story where Lady Christian Nimmo (real person) was accused of being an adulteress, a whore, and a murderess. In those days the only treatment for such a woman was 'to meet the Maiden'..... in other words the guillotine.

How she came to this predicament is described in such a gripping manner, to the extent that the reader is really on her side and wants her to escape.

I was, anyway!! I couldn't put it down and when it finished, I felt cheated it ended so soon. It finishes with a beautiful sentence, 'I watch it all, fluttering above it, light as a sycamore key, at the mercy of the wind'. Recommended very highly and it all really happened!!

Kate Foster is a journalist and has researched tirelessly for this book. I heard recently that an author only uses approximately 15% of the amount of research he/she has done to write a book, so what a painstaking task. I appreciated this book even more after hearing that, and will think of that figure from now on whenever I read historical fiction.

'The Forest of Vanishing Stars' by Kristan Harmel.

This riveting book is another based on fact, so more learning for me. The author used as resources for this book the film 'Defiance' and the 1993 nonfiction book by Nechama Tee of the same name, on which the film is based.

So.... what is it about?? The blurb on the back of the book reads... 'raised in the unforgiving wilderness of Eastern Europe, the woods are all Yona has ever known. So when she discovers a group of Jews fleeing the Nazis, she is stunned to learn about the horrors of the outside world. Vowing to do all she can to help them survive, they, in turn, teach her how to open her heart after years of isolation. But then Yona is betrayed, and past and present come together in a shocking collision that changes everything....'

From Heather Morris, 'powerful story of survival and resilience. Once I started reading it, I didn't want to stop',; and I felt the same way.

The damaged book 'Harbouring' by Jenny Patrick has been replaced so if you are looking for a fascinating tale by a NZ author, this is the book. Set

in and around Wellington in 1840s, and with the following written on the opening page.... much has been written about the colonial settlement of Wellington, mostly from the point of view of the leaders— the Wakefields, the government, the landowners, the tribal chiefs. This novel attempts to imagine the lives of those at the bottom of the heap at that time— both the Maori and Pakeha.

Some great NZ history presented in an easy to read entertaining novel.

The Pain Tourist by Paul Cleave. Published in 2022, I presume this is his latest. Crime at its best, the story of James Garret who wakes up from a coma to discover he's being targeted by his parents killer. A chilling, twisty thriller from this 3-time Ngaio Marsh award-winner. If Crime is your genre, grab this one when next in the library.

Martha Hall Kelly of 'The Lilac Girls' fame, has a new book out..... 'The Golden Doves'. This is an unforgettable story inspired by true events, about the fates of Nazi fugitives in the wake of WWII, and the unsung female spies who brought them to justice.

So many of the new books in the last few years have wars as their background or base, I do not deliberately choose the book because of this, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to find really good fiction and historical fiction where a war of some kind doesn't feature somewhere in the book! 'The Golden Doves' is in the library now.

'Signal Fires' by Dani Shapiro

A car, three drunk teenagers, an accident, a doctor..... all woven into a deeply felt novel of family and a testament to the human capacity to experience love and loss.

And a huge thank you and farewell to Keith and Louise Hawke of the village. Keith has been a wonderful volunteer and very generous with his books too. Hope you have fond memories of us all, and you will be missed. When you are next down this way, please call in and give us your Tasman news.

Did you know that readers experience a slower memory decline in later years than non-readers?? In particular, readers have a 32% lower rate of mental decline compared with their peers. So keep reading!!!!!!



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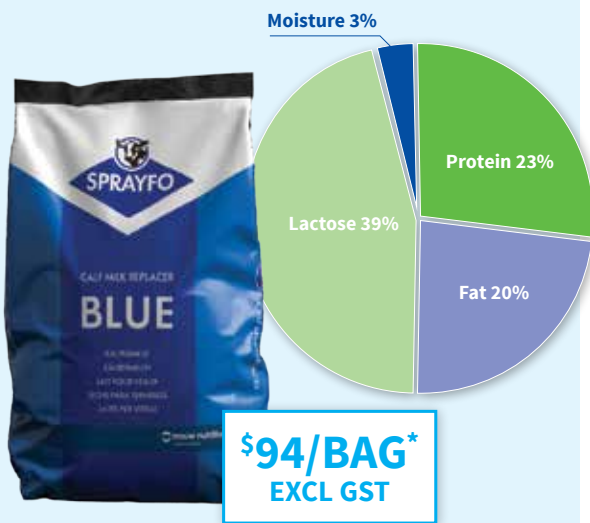
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A Comment:

At long last I have had a trip away; all be it the duration of one week and I journeyed to the North Island. This was a wonderful break; at the start I had planned for two weeks away but circumstances got in the way. This brought my departure date forward and reduced me to just one week. It has been said that all the best plans of mice and men can often go astray, this I have often found to be the case. In fact, when I think back it well and truly has been the story of my life. And this long-anticipated journey was no exception.

My original idea was to cross on the ferry and explore a little of the North Island. Aiming at the Western side. Taranaki – New Plymouth was completely unknown to me. Due to the Inter Island ferries appearing to not want passengers or freight I settled to fly to Palmerston North and hire a car from there.

I was able to spend one night with my seldom visited sister before driving further north. The highway north toward Taranaki led me through the rich farmland of the Manawatu. After about one hour I found myself driving into Whanganui, a small city built around the mouth of the Whanganui River there I checked into a motel for two nights.

I had passed at least two towns that had seen better days, empty shops large timber buildings that once were hotels, now derelict, empty, and unmaintained, sad but some towns do outlive their time, I guess thriving once upon a time but today with faster transport and very different communications, times have changed. There were towns well up with the play, Bulls would be one as would Hawera both with an air of prosperity and moving forward. At Hawera where the main road bypasses the town which is just as well as the main business area is well congested with car parks at a premium, a town living off the wealth of the dairy industry, taking a right turn from there I was led into Whanganui once the leading town of the Taranaki area but been on the decline for some time and now moving forward once more. Whanganui was the main port for that West Coast region. Being a natural river harbour able to handle ships of all shapes and sizes of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Come the 1970's and onward and containerization came into being plus the development of a rail system and modern road transport, ports like Whanganui were no longer required.



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I walked along the riverbank meeting numerous other walkers often with dogs, I joined some on park benches and was well informed about the past and the present of the city. I mentioned that I had decided which way the river flows, I was then informed that if I waited around two hours, I would find the river flowing the opposite way since it is tidal, and the tide extends twenty-five miles up the river. I observed the historic paddle steamer not sailing this weekend but there in well restored condition with its paddles on each side and the large smokestack. I visited Drury Hill where the area was formed as a war memorial to the 500+ men that lost their lives in WW1. A tunnel leads you into the hill then a historic lift takes you to a new height, from there I climbed the memorial tower 104 feet from ground level to the top 176 steps in a spiral and well worth the climb.

I drove around the mountain (Mt Taranaki) on the main route the inland side and soon found myself in the city of New Plymouth. A city of grand gardens, lakes and waterfalls as well as a very well-developed waterfront. A busy and prosperous place, with many cafés and restaurants. I looked for the mountain, where was it, or was it really there, certainly it is there but is reputed to be covered in cloud much of the time, I looked later in the day I looked early morning, I drove to Egmont village and along Egmont Road which leads well into the base of the mountain. This was a beautiful drive winding and climbing into a National Park Where DOC have a base selling many souvenirs type of items but not freshly made coffee many cold drinks. From there I viewed a little of the mountain as the cloud drifted about, the wildlife I observed were but two rabbits one black. I took a right turn near Egmont village and arrived at Inglewood, where I was able to find a very good café for lunch. From there I took yet another highway which led me to Lepperton and through several small towns



where schools are placed and not much else, and I got to Waitara and the mouth of the Waitara River. I drove passed rich farmland green and lush paddocks, I noted the absence of irrigators, no occasion to irrigate in that climate, many dairy farms and hedges of hawthorn, gorse almost unheard of in that country. The hedges were very well kept and appeared to create very good divisions between paddocks and farms.

New Plymouth has several parks I visited only two Pukekura Park possible the largest containing a Racecourse, a Bowling green, a Zoo, a Stadium and a very well used café. There is a lake manmade I think and a waterfall also manmade. I walked past and found a gushing flow cascading down a short while later it was only a trickle on examining it more closely, I found a switch to press which set the waterfall in motion once more. I did see Mt Taranaki on my last day, I crossed the Te Rewa Rewa Bridge, the bridge constructed to resemble the ribs of a whale, on turning to my right there was the mountain in all its glory. I think the cloud had not so much lifted as it dropped revealing this beautiful sight.

Next day my time in New Plymouth was up. I checked out of my motel and drove south following the coast. I had enjoyed four wonderful rain free days, it was time to leave the heavens opened up the rain thundered down,



I was unconcerned, My experience of the West Coast is that you don't leave because of rain as often a short while later the sun will burst forth, as it was by the time I reached Opunake the rain had stopped the sun wasn't to be seen but warm and no rain.

Cheers Denis



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Another raining Wed but it didn't put off 12 ladies to have fun in the rain.



All photos supplied by Sanae Hydes

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Authorised by Jo Luxton MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

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Book of the Month – Mt Somers Library

Title: 'The Magician'

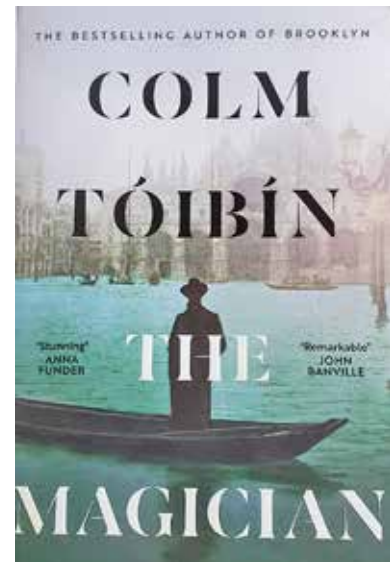
Author: Colm Toibín

Publication year: 2021

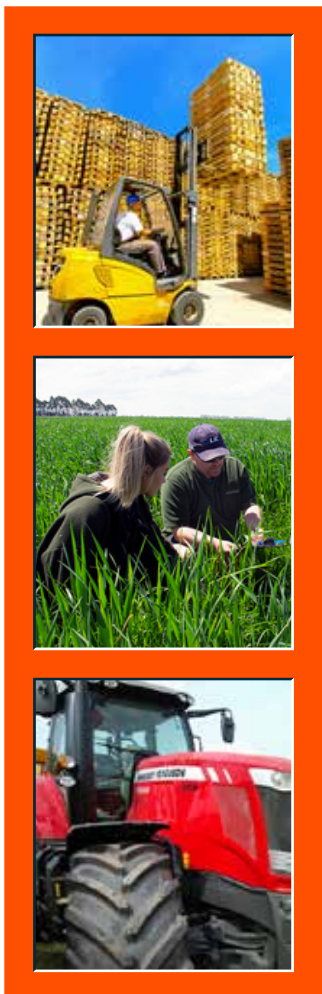
A review by Elles Smallegoor

Colm Toibín's latest novel 'The Magician' is a fictionalised account of the life of Thomas Mann, one of Germany's most admired authors. Spanning from Thomas's younger years in the Bavarian merchant town of Lübeck in the 1890s to his final year in Switzerland in the mid 1950s, the book is ambitious in scope. The two World Wars loom large in this novel and the reader witnesses Mann's journey through these turbulent times, conflicted by feelings of patriotism on one side and the slowly building realisation that Germany has truly lost its way after the rise of Hitler on the other.

As a prominent writer of the old world and the husband of a Jewish wife, Mann is forced to spend years of his life in exile, mostly in the US. While Toibín explores Mann's struggles as a public figure (many people at home and abroad want him to speak out about the Nazi regime), he is mostly interested in imagining the writer's private life: his role as a husband to his liberal and perceptive wife Katia, as father of six colourful and outspoken children, as brother to fellow author (and rival) Heinrich, as an individual with repressed homosexual desires, and, finally, as a creative mind who each day experiences his life as a valuable source of art.



Toibín deals with all of these intimate matters in a respectful and delicate way, but is not afraid to nudge the formidable Mann off his pedestal: great minds live in the real world too. The book is full of passages in which the reader first gets to spend some time alone with Mann and then gets to witness him in company. We get to know his inner thoughts, his daydreams, and his private assumptions about others close to him. Then, suddenly, we switch to dialogue or the narrator's voice and reality kicks in. He often finds out, for example, that his wife knows more than he thinks, or he gets confronted with frustrated sons and daughters. Such passages create tension or humour.



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They also reveal something about Mann's personality: his tendency to be somewhat detached. A good example can be found in Chapter 8, which opens with the Reichstag fire in 1933, the day the German parliament building burned down and basic constitutional protections (freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, etc) were suspended. Mann and his wife are on holiday in Switzerland:

"Each day, they heard further news of mass arrests and attacks on people in the street. When the National Assembly elections took place a week later, Thomas's first instinct was to return to Munich as soon as possible to make sure that the house would not be ransacked. If it became necessary, he thought, they could make plans to rent the house, or even sell it, and quietly remove their assets to Switzerland.

He was shocked to hear Katia tell a fellow guest in the hotel that they could not go back to Munich." (p. 173).

Of course, his shock and disbelief also exposes his rational, civilised nature and contrasts it with the brutality of Hitler's regime. But Mann is like this in many other situations in the novel and overall, his detachment from others or from day-to-day life make it hard to connect to him as a character. As he is the central figure of the book, it also makes reading the novel challenging at times. Toibín, however, still manages to hold your attention until the last page by making good use of the other (more passionate and engaged) characters in the novel. Overall, 'The Magician' offers a caring insight into the life and times of a great German author.

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Volunteering Mid & South Canterbury need Volunteers to knit peggy squares for World Knitting in Public Day - 10 June

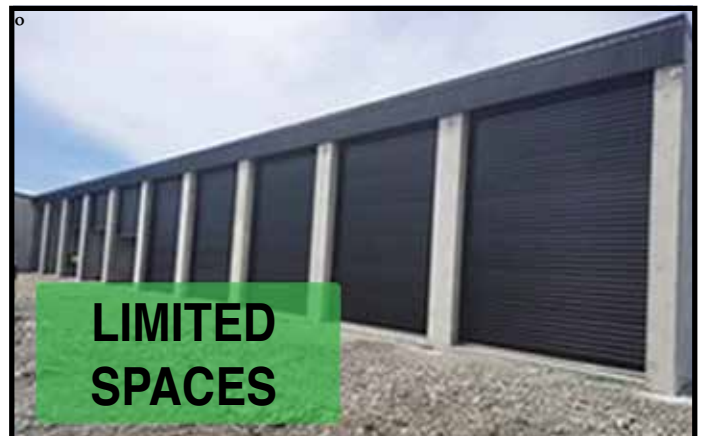
Peggy Squares need to be 15x15cm. Cast on 30 stitches wide, knit 60 rows garter stitch, (knit every row) cast off 30 stitches, knit in double knit wool, on size 8 needles. We would like, if possible strips of squares- 8 squares long

Join other knitters at the Ashburton Public Library on Wednesdays from 10am-12 & Saturday 9th April, 14 May & 10 June from 10.30am-2.30pm

The rugs will be given to community organisations to give to clients

Completed squares/strips can be dropped off to Community House, 44 Cass Street by 29th May

Contact Dellwyn - Manager Mid Canterbury
Volunteering Mid & South Canterbury
ph 3081237 ext 240, email manager-midc@vmisc.org.nz



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Supporting households with the cost of living

Hon Jo Luxton,
MP for Rangitata



At the heart of Budget 2023 is a cost of living package designed to ease the pressure on households. I've been out and about making sure people hear about this cost of living support and I wanted to share a bit more information here too. My new role as Minister of Customs, and Associate Minister Education and Agriculture, has me travelling across our great country representing the Government. But at the heart of it all I am still your local Member of Parliament for Rangitata.

Budget 2023 provides practical cost of living support across some of the core expenses facing Mount Somers families, like childcare and healthcare. Millions of people will pay a little less as a result.

We're helping with health costs by removing prescription charges for medicines. Removing the \$5 co-payment will mean that around three million Kiwis will no longer have to worry about the costs of collecting their medication. This will make a real difference for Mount Somers households, particularly those who have multiple prescriptions to fill on a regular basis.

We're significantly reducing the cost of early childhood education for parents by extending 20 hours ECE to two-year-olds, adding to the existing three- to five-year-olds.

We're also reducing power bills by making Kiwi homes more energy efficient. In addition to the Winter Energy Payment, we're helping to reduce power bills by hundreds of dollars a year through the Warmer Kiwi Homes programme. We're nearly doubling the existing retrofit programme that has reduced electricity use by on average 16% over the winter months. These initiatives help households now, while also delivering long-term education, health and climate benefits. They're win-win.

Hon Jo Luxton,
MP for Rangitata

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Walk Dorie Community Track

Due to overnight rain, the track was wet and slippery. Easy 4 hours return walk including tea & lunch break to the South Rakaia Hut & sea.



All photos supplied by Sanae Hydes



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Mayfield and Districts Lions Report May Report

Our speaker for our May meeting was Ross Steele General Manager of Te Pae the new Christchurch Convention Centre. Members were again well fed by the Mt Somers caterers with funds going to the Mt Somers School.

Our Swede stalls at Mayfield and Mt Somers are up and running again with local swedes and export onions for sale. Swedes @ \$2 each, onions 5 kg bags @ \$10

Due to wet ground conditions, our proposed Trail ride around Surrey Hills had to be cancelled.

Over the last 4 years our club has distributed close to \$270,000 to local and other charitable organisations .

We still have plenty of pine and a fair bit of Bluegum firewood for sale. It's all seasoned, the pine has been split for at least 6 months and the Bluegum for 2 years. It is all stored outside, so is subject to the rain, so best stored in a shed for a couple of weeks before burning at this time of year. Pine is \$325/ 3.6 cubic meter and Blue gum is \$400/ 3.6 cubic meter. All money raised goes into our Lions charitable trust and is distributed annually to local charities and those in need. The wood is cut, split and delivered on a voluntary basis by a great team of local Lions, your support is and has been greatly appreciated, with over 110 loads delivered in the last 5 months.

Contact Ron Cross by phone or text on 021347958 and I'll organise a Lion to deliver your order.

We are also collecting old batteries, contact any Lion member or our in- coming Projects Director Bill Baldwin 0274838768 for collection arrangements.

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Mt Somers Rifle Club

Target Shooting is underway, we are a rifle Club affiliated to Target Shooting New Zealand and Ashburton Association. Some good scores have already been shot.

Come along and give the sport of target shooting a go, like all sports, target shooting is great way to develop concentration and determination. The club has jackets, rifles and ammunition, for a small fee a 10 shot card is shot.

We are located in the Mt Somers Domain beside the Rugby Club rooms. We Shoot on Monday Nights starting around 7.00pm.

Familys welcome, and we enjoy the family rivalries especially when one of the younger members beats us older members.

Contacts Dave Millichamp 0274345882
Julian Evans 0212957676
Kevin Fews 0211856503

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Mt Somers Springburn School

We are now half through and there has been plenty of action happening around MtSS.

Mr Platt has been busy in and out of classes to build a connection with the children. Mainly to get a voice from the children as they begin to plan a school wide working bee. Plenty of ideas have been generated from the children with the main focus being developing the gardens.

If you are in the area, please feel free to pop in and see the team. It is always great to connect with our wider community and continue to build our relationships.

Kick the day off at the Theatre

NZ Playhouse is one of the country's busiest theater companies. They perform in almost a quarter of the country's schools (and a much smaller fraction of Australian schools!)

Each year they write a brand new comedy show, three actors will turn up at school and set up the show in the hall (or whatever space we have available), they give our students and staff a roaringly good (and inspiring) time

This year it was Pirates! Parrots! Peglegs!

What more could you want in a rollicking tale of high adventure on the high seas?

Oh yes, of course... buried treasure! And lots of it!

When a cantankerous old sailor named Billy Bones comes to stay at her mum's inn, young Ginevra Hawkins, 'Ginny' to her good friends and 'Gin' to her best friends, knows something strange is afoot.

Thank you to the cast for their high energy performance especially at 9:00am!

Cross country 2023

2023 was definitely a show of resilience and it was great to see that the rain didn't dampen any of our MOUNT values.

We are extremely proud of everyone that took part in the Cross Country - there we many hurdles



to overcome - the hill, navigating through muddy patches or blasting right through them, wet grass plus much more. It definitely had all the elements of a classic kiwi cross country.

We had a number placings so our next step is to develop our team that will be representing MtSS at the Counties Cross Country.

Thanks to MtSS Home and School for the warm kai which was staple for our supporters and runners.

Great to see so many members of our MtSS community! A special mention to David Acland for allowing us to host the Cross Country on his picturesque farm. Ut really made it a true NZ Cross country run for our children.

Festival of Choirs Thursday 1st June at 7pm Ashburton Event Centre

The concept for this festival came from Kath Woodley who leads both the Mid Canterbury Choir and Mt Hutt College Choir, as a way of supporting the Phoenix Chorus and Mt Hutt College Choir - both performing at the Big Sing Regional in Christchurch on Friday 9th June so this is their opportunity to shine in their local community.

Not only is this concert an opportunity for Phoenix and Mt Hutt choirs to polish their repertoire, and shine in their wider community, but also for the voices of our region to join together in celebration and song. It will be an absolute treat for any choral lover.

These two school choirs are ably supported by;

- The Mid Canterbury Choir
- (bolstered by members of the MSA Men's Choir),
- Decibelles (women's choir from Variety Theatre)

- The Canty Boys (4 young men with amazing voices)
- Rolleston College Vocal Group.

The programme is rich and varied with each choir performing 3-4 of their own songs and joining together for 3 massed items – over 100 voices.

This is a perfect opportunity for you to enjoy uplifting choral music right here in Ashburton.

Tickets are now on sale at the [Ashburton Event Centre Website](#) or at their ticketing office. Excellent pricing thanks to our sponsors [Patersons Funeral Services](#), [Nelson Building Society](#) and [Plains Rotary Group](#).

The festival is being organised by Carol Gunn Mid Canterbury Choir Manager who is happy to be interviewed.

More information about individual choirs is available on request. Carol 027 287 2468

Pam's view - "Hospice is a lifeline"

Hospice Mid Canterbury (HMC) became part of Pam's life three years ago. While she has lived with illness for a long time – she's had a brain tumour for 21 years – when she learnt that she had cancer of the throat, she knew it was getting serious. Fortunately, the volunteer serving her tea at the hospital also volunteered for Hospice. As well as giving her a hug, she was able to tell Pam about the Hospice services available and help with a referral. From this starting point, a strong relationship has formed.

Pam can't speak highly enough of HMC. When the hospital said they



would operate, "I went a bit haywire," said Pam but HMC staff and volunteers kept in regular contact, talking things over with her and helping where needed. "They were my first visitors. I hadn't even got out of the ambulance, before they arrived. They were marvellous, absolutely marvellous."

Pam is now in a wheelchair at home and on a mobile scooter when out and about, accompanied by her beloved support dog Pippa. However, it's not



always easy. Some days she doesn't want to go out. "It's very easy to sit down and say I don't want to do anything... You can get into a bad place... but HMC makes you want to get up and go." The warm welcome and a varied Hospice activity programme encourage her to make the effort: "If it was anybody other

than hospice I would have said, I can't go out today."

She enjoys the entertainment and social contact that the activity programme provides. She attends art therapy sessions, the knitting group, the summer strollers club, Housie, armchair travel and pamper nails. She also benefits from the complementary therapies including reiki and reflexology, as well as counselling and she appreciates the ongoing home visits by volunteers which is where it all started.

Even when there's no activity session, Pam loves to pop into the Base, have a natter, a coffee and a slice. "They do make good coffee!" For her, it's a safe place to be.

Pam stresses that anyone with a life-limiting illness needs support. "Whatever the illness, whether it's cancer, Alzheimers, whatever, you need the support." For her, HMC has provided that support. "It has been a lifeline."

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



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A SPECIAL INVITATION:

Plains Presbyterian invite all interested to attend a service on Sunday the 11th of June, to be held at 2.00 pm to decommission the Carew Presbyterian Church. The service will be followed by afternoon tea in the Carew Hall.

The church is located at 820 Trevor’s Road, Cnr Trevor’s and Ealing Montalto Road. This service will be led by the Rev Phyll Harris moderator of Alpine Presbytery and the Rev Martin Stewart executive officer Alpine Presbytery.

This church has faithfully served the Carew area of our Parish since 1927 when local folk came together to build the church on land donated for this purpose. This is an opportunity to celebrate what the church has stood for over many years, and to give thanks to the people of the district who have supported its mission.

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

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WORSHIP SERVICES April 2023

Sunday 4th June ST JOHNS METHVEN 10.30

Sunday 11th June Carew 2.00 PM a special service to Decommission the Carew Presbyterian Church.

Sunday 18th June Methven 10.30am

Sunday 25th June Trinity Mayfield 10.00am

MAYFIELD MT SOMERS ANGLICAN PARISH

Recently a meeting was held in Ruapuna, to gauge the feeling of the community about the future of the church. It is below earthquake standards and cannot be used as a public building for much longer, and will also not be insured, unless it is brought up to standard. Discussions toward a decision are ongoing.

Has Summer finally ended? It seems incredible that it wasn’t until last week that the dahlias in the garden were finally cut by frost. I certainly have never known a season like it. It should make for a short Winter, unless of course Winter keeps going a lot longer at the other end, and we have a very late Spring. But whatever happens, it is totally out of our hands. In the meantime, I for one am happy to have had an extended Summer.

I see some of the dried off cows have already gone to Winter grazing and it won’t be long before the great change around of people and animals is at its peak. I hope for those who are relocating, that your shift goes well and that your new jobs are all that you hope they will be.

Blessings, Annette Eggleston

Vestry Meeting Thursday 15th June at 2 p.m. at St Aidan’s, Mt Somers

ANGLICAN SERVICES

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Holy Communion

June 4 10 a.m. St Aidan’s, Mt Somers

June 18 10 a.m. St Aidan’s, Mt Somers

July 2 10 a.m. St Aidan’s, Mt Somers

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Church Warden – Pauline Hewson 3036 397

Church Warden, Secretary / Treasurer

- Marion Jacobson 027 3607 180

Email: marion.i.jacobson@gmail.com

DEADLINE DATE FOR JULY ISSUE

ISSUE	DEADLINE	DELIVERY
July 2023	25 June	29 June



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

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8 Bruces Road,
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Walk Rakaia Gorge Walkway 17 May

A beautiful sunny day to enjoy walking, chatting and admiring the views of Mt Hutt and Rakaia River.



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Thought I'd go for a walk.....

I thought I would go for a walk. Not just any walk; not around the farm or anywhere local. Time to venture further afield and go exploring. I had heard about the Great Ocean Walk in Victoria, Australia. It was, and may still be, an annual run of 110km. But along came covid, and the event was postponed, and postponed again. Doing it in one day appealed to me, as no carrying heavy packs.

But I decided on the next best thing- a guided walking tour, where someone else carries the gear and sorts the food and accommodation. So, in March, I was on a plane to Melbourne and off to meet my 12 fellow walkers and 3 guides for 105km walk over 7 days, and hoping they spoke some kind of English that I could understand! Eleven Aussie walkers, 3 guides and me. One of the guides was a Scotsman who came to visit Australia 17 years ago, and forgot to go home.



The walking track is closer to the coast than the Great Ocean Road which is a popular drive from Melbourne. We saw few people along the walk, until the 'Twelve Apostles' where it seemed half of Melbourne had come for a weekend drive.

Our bus took us from Melbourne south to Apollo Bay where the walk commences. Our first day eased us in with a 5km walk on

the beach and track.

Next day was getting more serious with 22km walking which took us inland through the mountain ash forest of Great Otway National Park, following a 4-wheel track most of the way. The bush was quite different from NZ, and unlike our beautiful beech trees. Manna gum trees are home to koalas, but we saw very few koalas the whole trip.

Day 3 took us along turbulent ocean beaches, clifftops and stunning coastal scenery to Cape Otway Lighthouse. We climbed the lighthouse, and saw the remains of the "Otway," which came to grief on the 2.7km reef that extends out from the lighthouse. This coast has claimed over 600 shipwrecks, and thousands of lives due to the many reefs and ocean currents. Most ships were from England, coming around South Africa, and oblivious to the hidden underwater rocks and the currents as they neared Australia.

Our accommodation for 2 nights was at Bimbi Park, with the kangaroos, wallabies, and koalas. No roughing it though- awesome cabins and once again, more food than we could eat.

Day 4 :- The coastal track was up-and -down all day; the only flat sections were walking on sandy beaches. "Never turn your back on the sea," said the guides. Good advice. Shipwreck remains litter the coast. We took in the spectacular coastal views and the long white sandy expanse of Johanna Beach. Lots of sandy beach walking today, which was rather hard work!

Day 5, and more beach walking, and up and downs along the clifftop track, which took us to The Gables Lookout, perched on one of the highest sea cliffs in mainland Australia.

Day 6, the track continues through a grove of casuarinas to Wreck Bay (no prizes for guessing where that name came from) where two shipwrecks can be checked out at low tide. Then as we reached our 20km for the day, around the next bend, and the next and, there it was...the Twelve Apostles. These landmarks are spectacular limestone formations, although considerably less than 12 in number. They are being rapidly eroded with the sea swells.

The last 2 nights were in Port Campbell, a fishing and tourist town on the coast.

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Day 7, and we visited the scene of the wreck of the Loch Ard, in Loch Ard Gorge. A nearby cemetery was a grim reminder of the many lives lost. There were only 2 survivors from this tragedy in 1878.

Then it was all over, and time to say goodbyes, and head home to plan the next adventure.

I thoroughly recommend this walk. Plan to walk 20km a day, and get fit so you can enjoy it. The weather was cloudy and about 20 degrees every day, which is perfect for walking. We only saw one snake- a tiger snake, and some unfortunates in our group had encounters with leeches. I was expecting more creepy crawlies than we saw. Quite a few wallabies were hiding in the bush, watching.

A physical challenge, excellent walking conditions, interesting people, great food and accommodation- this trip ticked all these boxes, as well as exploring somewhere new. So what are you waiting for? Go for a walk!!



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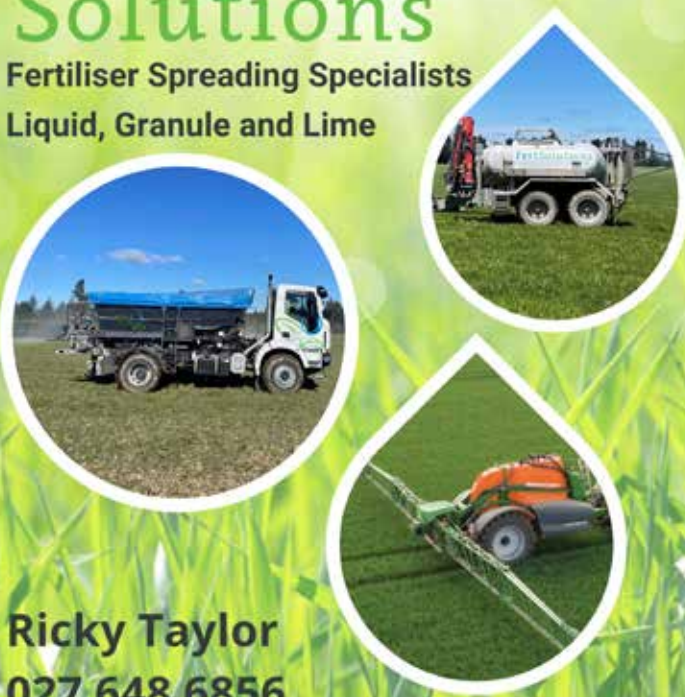


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**Kia ora, Talofa, Mālō e lelei,
 Namaste, Ni Hao, Bula, Hola, and
 Namaste - greetings everyone**

What a busy term we are having! I am five weeks in and feel like I am already part of the place. I have learned many children's names and am getting better at recognising parents and knowing who belongs to them! I've discovered that it doesn't matter where you go in the world, you will always find gorgeous children and here in Mayfield, we have plenty!

On Thursday the 18th of May, we participated in the interschool Cross Country at Mt Somers station where our tamariki competed against Mt Somers, Long Beach and Hinds School children. The weather didn't play its part but our wee troopers accepted the challenge of a slippery course, rain and a steep hill start! Throughout the race, they kept their legs speedy with one or two slipping over in the mud but the whole time their spirits were high and the smiles never left their faces! They breed them tough around here!

Our Year 5-8 students have had two afternoons of STEM fun with the EPro8 kits. The EA Networks kindly paid for six kits valued at \$360, to be hired by our school and used in an 'Internal Event'. For the internal event we had teams of 4 to 5, carrying out a series of challenges. These challenges involved building a contraption that served a fictional hypothetical purpose, such as building a moving carriage with a waving arm, used to assist the 'King' with greeting crowds, (to save him having to do all the waving himself). The kits contained rods, joiners, wheels, cogs, nuts and bolts, axles and pulley systems. The students were required to apply their thinking and reasoning skills to make the contraptions, and needed to follow the instructions, which is a huge challenge in itself. We were very happy with the way the groups worked together and impressed by their out of the box thinking! From this internal event, we picked eight children to make up two teams of four. They will go to the Mid Canterbury event to compete against other schools next week.

Our senior social leaders have organised for the whole school to participate in Pink Shirt Day tomorrow. By participating in Pink Shirt Day we aim to reduce bullying in Aotearoa and to be inclusive of all people. While all people can be the target of bullying, some groups or individuals experience more bullying than others. Funds raised from this worthy event will go towards this anti-bullying campaign. I'm excited to be learning that in the winter months, skiing is a normal part of the curriculum here at Mayfield School. Already I have had a number of parents query me about whether or not the 'Skiing Clubs' programme will continue. I drive to Mayfield from Geraldine everyday and on clear mornings I can see the twinkle of lights up on the mountain which I am told is Mt Hutt ski field! How lucky are we to have this right here on our doorstep! So the answer to that is, yes of course! I look forward to seeing how it all works.

We also have a group preparing for a dance competition and another preparing for a choir performance. I was lucky enough to be walking past the Lismore class at break the other day and saw the dance group in action. They were meticulously going through their routine, perfecting every step and movement under the watchful eye of their student instructor Saskia! I was most impressed and look forward to watching them perform soon. As for the choir group - my goodness! Mrs Moore has been working really hard with this group of songbirds. On a visit to the Ruapuna class, I was treated to hearing them perform 'Rattlin Bog'. Not only did it sound amazing but they were able to keep up with the tempo and remember the order of all the words! I also look forward to hearing them participate in the Music Festival soon.

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2-3 hares eat the equivalent of 1 stock unit and reproduce up to 10 young each year. Night shooting is the most effective method of control.

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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Walk Adventure Park Chch 26 April:

Climbed walking trail gently from carpark to top of the hill. Then ride down to the carpark by free chairlift.



All photos supplied by Sanae Hydes

To log on and view the current or past editions of Nor'Wester in colour the link is: <https://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/community-facilities>. Scroll down to: Ashburton Community Directory and you will find the Nor'Wester on the right.



Keeping Vehicles Safe and Secure

Protect Your

HOME VEHICLE TOOLS

from
THEFT/BURGLARY

Pick up a Flyer from:

- Community House • Ashburton Library
- Ashburton District Neighbourhood Support

Ask for a Speaker to talk to your community group

Contact:

Neighbourhood Support
03 308 3558 or 027 296 1006

The majority of car thefts and break-ins happen in broad daylight. Vehicles are 86% more likely to be broken into or stolen during the afternoon.

Vehicles are often targeted when valuables (such as handbags, laptops, or wallets) are visible inside. Most thefts are opportunistic so you can help protect your vehicle by:

- Parking in a visible location, or off the street if possible.
- Windows & sunroof closed.
- Valuables removed from vehicle or stored safely out of sight.
- Vehicle locked & keys taken with you.
- Keys and key chains do not display names, addresses, or license plate numbers.
- Number plates secured with anti-theft screws (avail. at car accessory stores).
- Alloy wheels secured with fit locking, anti-tamper wheel nuts.
- Car ownership information stored at home, not in vehicle.
- Vehicle fitted with anti-theft device, such as steering wheel lock or alarm.
- If vehicle is key-less, 'keys' (or entry device) kept a safe distance from car, away from doors & windows so signal cannot be interfered with.
- Get to know neighbours & their vehicles so you'll know if you see something that doesn't seem right.

Reporting Car Crime:

- Dial 111 if a crime is happening.
- Dial 105 if the crime has happened.

