

## Fiordland or Staveley?

Recently on a 4 degree morning I went for a walk to do the new track into Sharplin Falls. Could've sworn I was in Fiordland with the bush and birdlife. The river was roaring as NW rain had raised the water level. The huge rocks in the rivers look just like the ones in Fiordland. I saw two robins, masses of bellbirds and waxeyes. This track makes it easy to look about while walking as no tree roots or rocks to trip over. Even some nice seating to sit on after going uphill and down dale! Plenty of pest trapping going on too so well done to the team of volunteers maintaining this great asset to our district. If you haven't done this walk right on your doorstep, I'd highly recommended it and only takes 30-40 minutes one way.

Pam Annand



## McClimont's Green – Information Station

Last month we confirmed that a start would be made on the information building on our village green.. None of that would be possible without the huge voluntary commitment from local people and businesses

Part of the strengths of a small district is that we can call on people with a wide variety of skills who willingly give up their time and expertise to help us. During the initial construction we were given a huge amount of free assistance from local contractors that provided digging equipment, transport of shingle, rocks, culverts, cranes that lifted the biggest rocks into place, farmers that provided the landscaping materials – rocks, shingle, and soil and a landscape architect from a local family that developed the landscape plan.

Already that trend continues as we look towards the final phase – all the timber we require has been milled on local farms and donated to the committee. Limestone from earthquake damaged buildings in Christchurch has returned to its original home waiting to be used in the building

Following that local trend too, we are delighted that James Harmer, now a graphic designer in Sydney is going to provide his expertise as we develop the information panels for inside the building. James is part of a well known family in the district and you will probably be aware of some of his previous work for the community. He designed the blue mountain logo for the Mt Somers Springburn school

Let us not forget the ongoing commitment of local people to maintain our beautiful space – Barry Kerr for the lawn mowing, the ongoing garden maintenance spearheaded by Pam Annand and the many others that weed, spray and prune.

Next month we will start the discussion on what the community would like to see covered by the information panels

John Chapman



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## Draft Reserve Management Plan

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reserves**  
across the Ashburton  
District?

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We want to ensure these spaces are protected, maintained and able to be enjoyed safely by everyone. So, with the help of the community's feedback, we've drafted a combined plan for how our parks and reserves will be managed.

 **Have we got it right?**



View the plan and  
have your say at  
***ItsOurPlace.nz***

Feedback closes  
Sunday 4 August

 **Ashburton**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL



# VOCAL ABOUT LOCAL

Representation Review 2024

**Have your say on  
proposed changes  
to how you're  
represented in the  
Ashburton District.**

Have your  
**Say!**

Do you agree with extending the Ashburton ward boundary and the Methven Community Board boundary to accommodate for growth?

Do you agree with reducing the number of elected Methven Community Board members from five to four?

**Tell us what you think of our Initial Proposal.**



View the proposal and  
have your say at  
***ItsOurPlace.nz***

Feedback closes  
Sunday 21 July

 **Ashburton**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL





# Ruralco Instore Days – staying local for 30 years



Ruralco's flagship annual event, Instore Days is celebrating it's 30th anniversary this year – a huge milestone for the local farmers' co-operative.

"It's especially significant for Ruralco as we continue implementing our local strategy which sees us return to a strong local focus on our farmers, with our emphasis on being based in Mid Canterbury, serving the Canterbury region," says Ruralco CEO, Tony Aitken.

"We have been creating more touchpoints with our farmers over recent months, and our Instore Days is a very important part of that process." He says since the launch of the renewed local focus, the feedback from farmers and merchants had been overwhelmingly supportive.

"We are very fortunate to have such a loyal and parochial support base. Our size and local focus gives us opportunities that many others do not have – that is to be very connected and responsive to our farmers. Instore Days is one of the ways we do this well." Since its inception, Instore Days has grown into a two-day event, celebrated at the co-operative's three stores (Ashburton, Methven and Rakaia), online, and through its merchants.

"We have many local businesses and merchants who have been very loyal supporters of our Instore Days – some even date back to the original Instore Days. We welcome the opportunity to continue working with them to support our farming community, and we want to continue strengthening those ties," says Tony.

This year's Instore Days will take place on 4 and 5 July, and as always will showcase what's new and innovative in the agricultural sector, as well as delivering great specials and deals for co-operative members. "We're expecting over 80 site holders at our Ashburton premises, with plenty of expertise on hand to help with a range of farming needs, from farm supplies, seed, fertiliser, fuel, energy, and agricultural services."

This year there will also be a new Ruralco Hub featuring advisory and advocacy support from industry organisations and representatives. There will also be some great prizes up for grabs. Members can accumulate entries to win up to \$15,000 worth of travel from House of Travel and there will also be 30 special Instore Day prize draws. The event is always a wonderful opportunity for local farmers to come to town and to meet and mingle with each other. "Ruralco and its local farming community has achieved a lot together over the last 60 years. We were established in Mid Canterbury 60 years ago to support local farmers who were looking to lower input costs for their farming operations and that remains our focus as we look to the future," says Tony.



**Emma Hintz of Neumanns, with Ruralco's Tony Aitken & Jason McKenzie.**



# RURALCO INSTORE DAYS 2024

## 4-5 JULY

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**Walk Methven Walkway** 29th May  
All of us enjoyed an easy fun walk in Methven.



### Walk Orari Gorge

We negotiated the muddy and slippery track well.  
Enjoyed hot drinks at the Woodbury Cafe afterwards.



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## Safer Mid Canterbury Hakatere Haumaru

Together we're safer • Me uru kahikatea

Another month ticks over and the further into winter we get. These frosty mornings are a reminder that road conditions are changing all the time. Make sure you allow time to fully defrost the windscreen before you leave home. We need good visibility at all times, and a wee patch of clear glass surrounded by frost on the windscreen is not what we would call good visibility. So starting the car up five minutes early with the windscreen defrost on could save yours or another road users life. It could also save you a \$150 fine. Money best spent elsewhere.

Exciting things have been happening in the driving programme lately. We have purchased a car which is available to our mentors and students for driving lessons or just for transport for the mentor to get to their student. It's a Mitsubishi Mirage, garnet in colour, which is a red/purple. Very pretty and has a five star safety rating.

We are about to start our next road code course are looking forward to being back in class. The road code course is the first step in our programme. We often get enquiries from people who already have a learners or restricted license, but we can't always accommodate them as our mentors are busy with the people who have completed the road code course and gained a learners license with us.

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

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

The Mid Canterbury Rural Driver Licensing Scheme is proudly sponsored by Waka Kotahi, Advance Ashburton Community Foundation, Ashburton District Council, The Lion Foundation, COGs and the Community Trust Mid & South Canterbury

Wendy Hewitt

Rural Licensing Co-Ordinator

Safer Mid Canterbury

255 Moore Street, Ashburton 7700

Ph: 027 611 3301

[wendy.hewitt@safer.org.nz](mailto:wendy.hewitt@safer.org.nz)

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Regina Aligo and John Speedy and the new car.

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# The Old Post Office Library



Anne is having some well deserved time off from writing her monthly library report on her cell phone. I'm not so clever and need my iPad screen so can see my spelling mistakes!! Now into the depths of a cold raw winter I hope you are using the library. The heat pump is very efficient in now warming up what used to be a freezer room! Now you can spend longer browsing and choosing your next exciting read. We thank the Ashburton District Council hugely for our recent generous annual grant. Anne met the council grants lady at the library one evening and she was most impressed with our little gem. Anne does a huge amount of work behind the scenes to keep our library to the standard that it is. From reviewing then choosing and buying all our books; doing the library blurbs for the NorWester monthly; and sorting all books on our inside and outside shelves regularly. All to keep our 20 regular library volunteers and 5 relievers busy to issue books to you, our readers. These volunteers are ably rounded up by Kath Schikker who does our roster. Want to join us?? Ring me (Pam) And it seems our 4 legged canine friends also need an appropriate library. Whilst recently visiting Wanaka I spied this priceless, tale wagging little library. Very well used by the amount of teeth marks on the sticks!!

I am reviewing only one book this month although we have many new books on offer.



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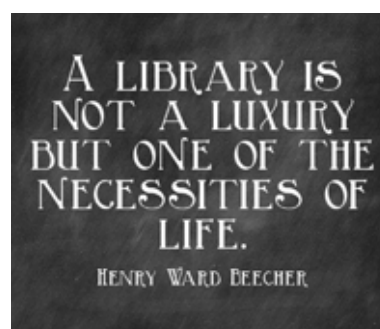
**So come and join us for an hour.** Classes every Wednesday, Staveley Hall 1.30pm. For enquiries, phone Annette Syme 3030 803

## Memories of a Happy Happy Home and Childhood.

**N.B Grigg**

This little book was kindly donated to us by Christie Wright (Tamar Farms) who is the granddaughter of Nancy Harper, the author of these happy memories. She began writing them in April 1979 and they weren't found until 40 years later when they were turned into this delightful book.

Nancy and her sister and mother initially lived at Marrandellas on the inland Kaikoura road but a change in circumstances saw them move to their uncles rural property called Steventon at Whitecliffs. Her memories of growing up there invoke many of my early country living and that of my mothers high country up bringing and stories that I could well identify with. The childhood mischief of Nancy, her sister and their two female cousins of similar age were quite hilarious.



This decade plus of diary and letter writing has left a great legacy to her descendants and is well worth reading.

**Library hours-** Thursday and Sunday afternoons 2pm - 4pm.

or whenever our sign is out. Come visit....

**Pam Annand**



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## A Café for Caregivers

Caregiving is a job that no one is ever prepared for - it is often an unrecognised part of end-of-life care – and one of the important things Hospice Mid Canterbury (HMC) does is support caregivers.

From inception, HMC has always supported caregivers with services such as counselling and massage, as well as volunteers giving caregivers a break by sitting with clients. However, Sarah MacAvoy, Support Co-ordinator at HMC, recently established a “Breakaway Cafe” at the Hospice Base (Kowhai House) so caregivers can meet with others in a similar situation. The friendship and mutual support generated by these sessions provides comfort and encouragement during a very difficult, and sometimes, lonely time.

One of the most valuable parts of the cafe is that it provides a safe, non-judgemental setting where caregivers can share what is happening for them and their loved ones. Tears and laughter are all part of the process. One caregiver who attends says that going to the cafe is a welcome change and she enjoys the companionship of others who understand what she is going through.

It is all too common for caregivers to become overwhelmed by the 24/7 nature of caregiving. When this happens, it's hard on both the caregiver and the loved one and can mean that tough decisions need to be made about long-term care options. By providing support with such initiatives as the Breakaway Cafe, HMC is aiming to avoid caregiver burnout. As one caregiver said: “It's important to take care of ourselves so we can take care of them.”

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

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



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## Mayfield and Districts Lions Report

This month we had two speakers at our June tea meeting. The club sponsored Chintamani Hesketh to sail on the "Spirit of Adventure". She reported back to us on her experiences. Our second speaker, Craig Wiggins spoke of his journey to becoming a rural communicator, mental health and wellbeing coach.

Mayfield and District Lion's board approved \$6000 towards the Mt Somers village green project.

The evening meal was prepared by the Mt Peel Playcentre as a fundraiser for their group.



Chintamani Hesketh

Chris Olley  
Mayfield and District Lion's  
Publicity and Community Concern



John Rushton and Craig Wiggins



Mt Peel playcentre ladies with President John Rushton

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

This past term has been filled with inspiring events, achievements, and preparations for future endeavours. Here's a snapshot of the happenings in term 2:

On June 5th, some of our Kaitiaki leaders had the incredible opportunity to attend the National Young Leaders Day in Christchurch. They were inspired by an impressive lineup of speakers, including William Pyke, Brooke Neal, Te Kahukura Boynton, Nate Wilbourne, and the talented singer Yahyah. Our leaders returned with a renewed sense of purpose and motivation to make a positive impact in our community.

On June 11th, our Year 7 and 8 students took part in COSARs (Connecting Small and Rural Schools). This event brought together students from different schools to learn karate and build connections before high school. It was a fantastic experience for our students, fostering friendships and a sense of unity. Our Year 6-8 students showcased their musical talents at the Heartland Choir event held at the Ashburton Events Centre. It was a wonderful evening of song, with our students performing beautifully alongside peers from other schools. We are immensely proud of their hard work and dedication.

We are proud to share that Ollie Baxter will be representing us at the Zones Cross Country in Christchurch on June 26. He has been training hard to ensure he is in tip top shape for this event and we wish him the very best of luck and know he will make us proud!

Dance Champs practice has begun with Miss McConnell, with the event set to take place in Week 4 of Term 3 on August 12 and 13. Our students are eagerly preparing their routines, and we can't wait to see their performances. Our senior classes (Lismore and Ruapuna) are busy practising for the Opuke Cultural Festival. They are learning a variety of multicultural songs and waiata, preparing to share their cultural heritage with the community. It promises to be a vibrant and enriching event.

Last week I was lucky enough to spend the morning with our Agri-education group for a visit to Laggan Farm (Mr. Ryan Greenslades family farm). This group of keen farmers had been studying sheep, hoggets, dairy cows, R1's

and R2's and learning about how much they should be eating over the winter period with the focus being on fodder beet and kale. Using very complex maths, they showed me they were able to calculate how many kilograms of feed in the paddocks and how many metres of feed the different animals needed to eat per day! It was a fabulous morning of hands-on learning. They even got to help move the break fences. Thank you to Ryan's dad, Mr David Greenslade and Dylan Kirk for hosting our keen group of young farmers.

It is with mixed emotions that we announce the departure of two valued staff members. Alana Turnbull is leaving us to take time out for herself before deciding on what her next adventure will be! Don't worry - she is still keen to do some relief teaching and we have her on speed dial! We wish her all the best and thank her for everything that she has done in the 2 and half years she has been at Mayfield School. Katherine, our dedicated Finance Officer is also leaving us. She will take up a full-time role at a rest home in Ashburton. We thank Katherine for her invaluable contributions and wish her all the best in her new role.



*Visiting Mr Greenslade Farm.*

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**Meeting William Pyke.**

teaching in the junior room at Our Lady of the Snows in Methven. We look forward to welcoming Sonia to our school.

We have three exciting mufti days coming up:

- On June 25, Iyla-Lee will be principal for a day. She has said this will be a mufti day and Instead of bringing a gold coin, she has requested that children bring a tin of food for the Food Bank.

- On June 26, we invite tamariki to wear blue and white sports colours or any sports clothes to support Ollie at the Zones Cross Country.

- As part of our Matariki celebrations, we are inviting our tamariki (and staff) to come to school in their pjs on Thursday, June 27. From 8:30 am, we will enjoy breakfast together before watching our Agri-ed class put down the hangi which we will eat later in the day.

We are excited about these activities and the sense of community they bring to our school.

Our Home and School group are selling baking paper, foil, cling wrap for \$30/roll. These are available throughout the year. Email: [homeandschool@mayfieldschool.nz](mailto:homeandschool@mayfieldschool.nz) or contact the office 03 3036214. Pay online - 02 0836 0227619 001

**A massive NGA MIHI - THANK YOU** to Quiggleys Contracting for donating 40 safety vests to our school. These help to keep our tamariki safe especially for those who need to wait at the side of the road for the bus on these dark winter mornings.

We thank our school community for their continued support, and we look forward to sharing more news in the future!

#### **New Enrolments**

Here at Mayfield School we welcome all visitors and anyone wishing to enrol their children. We also welcome children of any age to be pre-enrolled. If you would like your child to attend our wonderful school please pop in to see me or email me at [principal@mayfieldschool.nz](mailto:principal@mayfieldschool.nz) or phone 03 3036214

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

**Aroha Stewart (Tumuaki/Principal)**



**Trying their fodder beet.**

Looking ahead, our Ski Club is set to commence in Term 3, with sessions on July 23, 25, and 30, and August 6 as a backup day. A teacher will accompany the skiers, ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience. Additionally, we are planning a whole school ice skating and ski day for later dates, promising more fun on the slopes for everyone!

In term 3 we welcome Sonia McCloy who will join our teaching team as the new entrant teacher. Sonia is an experienced ECE teacher and has spent the past 2 and a half years



**Ollie practising for Cross Country.**

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## Mayfield Playcentre

Goodness the year is flying, almost half way through the year already! A few rainy days have kept the Tamariki under cover, but our covered porch gives us that bit of extra space and some fresh air. We've had a soft play obstacle course set up, which everyone has been enjoying and Jazz has had some great music sessions. With Matariki coming up the Tamariki have been working hard on some arts and crafts while learning about the stars and the meaning behind this public holiday. To celebrate this holiday we have a fish and chip evening planned at the Centre. This is for all of our families to attend and it's always a lovely occasion to see dads and older siblings (many of whom are Playcentre graduates).

Only a few more weeks until the school holidays and then term three will be knocking on our door. We have some field trips planned for next term, which is a great way to broaden and expand our Tamariki's learning and development.

If you'd like to visit and see if Playcentre is for you, we have sessions Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday's 9:15am-12:15pm.



# It's doggy rego time!

It's time to register your four-legged friend.

Look out for the information pack in your mailbox or visit the website to register online.

**All dogs over the age of three months need to be registered by 31 July.**

[ashburtondc.govt.nz/dogs](https://ashburtondc.govt.nz/dogs)

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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.

## **Mt Somers Staveley Playcentre**

Winter has arrived! We headed to Staveley this past month with a few other Mid Canterbury Playcentres to go Ice Skating - What a wonderful morning!! We are very keen on making this an annual excursion and enjoying this great asset so close to us. Thank you so much for opening for us Staveley Ice Skating and Curling Rink. We have been focusing on Matariki crafts lately and looking forward to our Matariki Family Night on Thursday the 27th of June. If you're a past or present member of our Playcentre whanau, or are thinking of joining, you are welcome to join us for a shared meal, toasted marshmallows and more from 5pm. Just bring a plate of food to share for tea.

The school holidays are approaching, so our last session for Term 2 will be Thursday 4th July. Term 3 sessions will start on Tuesday 23rd of July. Thinking about coming along to Playcentre? Just flick us an email [mtsomers.staveley@playcentre.org.nz](mailto:mtsomers.staveley@playcentre.org.nz), message us on Facebook or just pop on in, Tuesday or Thursday mornings between 9am and 12pm. 50 Pattons Road in Mt Somers Village.



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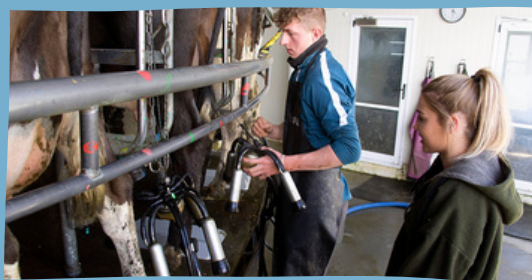
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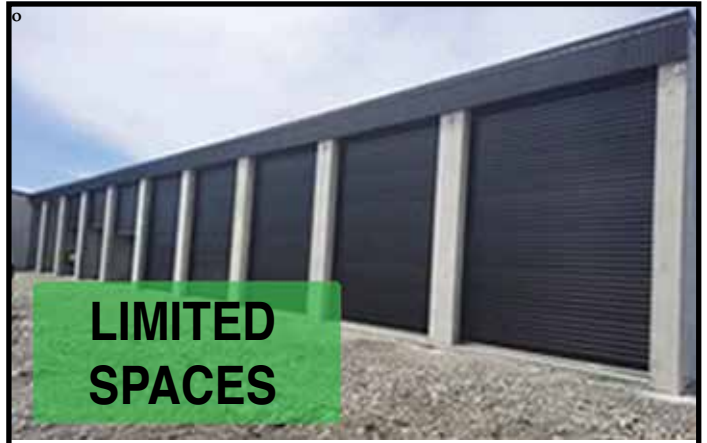
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**Visit:** [www.nzdairycareers.co.nz](http://www.nzdairycareers.co.nz)

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### DEADLINE DATE FOR AUGUST ISSUE

ISSUE	DEADLINE	DELIVERY
AUGUST 2024	25 July	31 July



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## Book of the Month – Mt Somers Library

**Title: ‘The English Understand Wool’**

**Author: Helen DeWitt**

**Publication year: 2022**

**A review by Elles Smallegoor**

New Directions Publishing is offering solace to readers whose day-to-day life keeps distracting them from their pile of unread books: Storybook ND, a “new series of slim hardcover fiction books [that] aims to deliver the pleasure one felt as a child reading a marvelous book from cover to cover in an afternoon” ([www.ndbooks.com/series/storybook-nd](http://www.ndbooks.com/series/storybook-nd)). I literally had this pleasure the other day when I snuggled under a blanket on the couch and read American novelist Helen DeWitt’s 69-page novella ‘The English Understand Wool’ in one brief sitting. The book was a gift from family but, with the approval of the gifter who is also a book-lover, I have put it in the library for now, so those with little time on their hands can still pick up a book and enjoy a good read.

The novella opens with the narrative voice of 17-year-old Marguerite who is writing her life story. Then a publisher’s voice interrupts the narrative in the form of letters of critical response to the writing. Marguerite has only recently discovered that her name is, in fact, Marguerite. More importantly, she has discovered that her formidable French mother and her elusive English father are not her real parents; they abducted her when she was a baby because she was the heir of an immense family fortune. Raised in Morocco but often residing in fashionable overseas cities with her mother during Ramadan, she is now abandoned and all alone in a New York hotel room. Suddenly she finds herself surrounded by pensive criminal investigators, meddling journalists, greedy publishing agents and



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the frantic wider public, who are all trying to make sense of her sensational story.

The only one who seems unperturbed by it all is Marguerite herself. For years, “maman” has taught her how to live: one can only become an accomplished person by relentlessly avoiding bad taste, or, as the French call it, “mauvais ton” (p. 8). So naturally, one must go to Britain for wool, to Ireland for linen, to Thailand for a seamstress (“Only an incurable optimist would look to a

French modiste to realise one’s fantasies.” (p. 9)); one should not let the servants work during Ramadan; one should serve meals formally; one should be the master of several languages in order to manage each occasion; one should learn bridge as “one must be prepared to make up a party” (p. 23)...and so on. Each and every aspect of life must be approached through the lense of taste. It is all a matter of rational consideration and discipline. Impeccably trained in an isolated world of outrageous luxury, cultural snobbery and emotional detachment, Marguerite is matter-of-fact and simply takes life as it is each day, reading the social signs around her and acting accordingly. She is both fascinating and repugnant.

Every one else thinks her dry demeanour is the result of trauma, especially her publisher Bethany, who has signed a book deal with the girl. She keeps telling the girl to let her emotions in. DeWitt creates a cynical world here, however. Bethany is more driven by book sales than by empathy: “If you don’t talk about your feelings there is nothing to engage the reader and keep them turning the pages” (p. 24). In a conventional novel of manners, the young girl who enters the unknown, wide world on her own is often placed in a vulnerable position. DeWitt certainly plays with this literary genre. However, readers are usually invited to sympathise with the main character and find a moral centre in the heart of the novel. DeWitt offers us no such thing. She does, however, entertain us with shrewd depictions of human behaviour, brilliant satire and a triumphant turn of events for the young Marguerite. ‘The English Understand Wool’ is refreshing in tone and approach and a great choice for those time-poor readers who wish to have their brains tickled.

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## Medium Scale Adverse Event (Mid Canterbury)

Support is available to help farmers and growers to get through this dry and financially strained time. This fact sheet provides a summary of some of the support available, but if you are not sure where to turn then please get in touch. Rural Support is a free and confidential service.

### Communication

It is a good idea to check your budget and talk to your accountant/bank manager/farm advisor (if applicable) early and often. Some helpful questions you could ask include:

#### Accountant:

- Moving from wages to drawings to reduce tax. Can employed family members take a drawing instead of a wage?
- Is this the time to move stock from the herd scheme over to the National Standard Cost?
- What is involved in pulling out funds from the income equalisation scheme. Is now the time to do it?

#### Bank:

- Understand how the cashflow will play out over the next 12 months.
- Do we need to extend the overdraft or capitalise working capital to term debt?
- What are the options around short term fixing?

#### Advisor:

- What are the alternative stock finance options?
- How do we best utilise our carbon credits?
- How can we rationalise our fertiliser spend?
- How does my winter feed budget look – how do we set up to capture the spring potential?

*\*This is intended as a suggestion only and not as financial advice.*

### Tax Relief

On 21 March 2024, Minister for Agriculture, Todd McClay, declared a medium-scale adverse event for the Canterbury region.

The drought will affect farmers and growers income for the 2024 income year. At this time, the income equalisation scheme may help with cashflows. For the Income Equalisation Scheme, IRD have the ability to determine a 'class of case' that qualify for a late deposit or early refund for affected customers in the drought regions.

For more information, please contact the IRD helpline:

**0800 473 566** or email Charles at:  
[christchurchadvisoryrequest@ird.govt.nz](mailto:christchurchadvisoryrequest@ird.govt.nz)

### MSD Support

**Help with living expenses** - If you or an employee need something urgently, or get an unexpected bill, and can't afford to pay for it right now, we might be able to help you even if you're not on a benefit. It might be for things like medical costs, bedding, food, rent, power bills, repairs or replacing appliances. You may have to pay the money back depending on your situation.

[www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/living-expenses](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/living-expenses)

For all other assistance head to Work and Income's 'Check What You Might Get' - [www.check.msd.govt.nz](http://www.check.msd.govt.nz)

#### Work and Income Contact Details:

Call MSD general enquiries team on **0800 559 009**

- Monday to Friday, 7am to 6pm
- Saturday, 8am to 1pm.

### What other support is available?

**The Rural Support Trust** are freely available. We can provide 1-to-1 support to help you map challenges and develop plans, link you with rural professionals and other support and services available. Regular RST local initiatives are also active. Support can be over the phone, or at a place and time that suits. Get in touch with the Mid Canterbury Rural Support team on **0800 787 254 (option 3, option 4 then option 2)**

Watch out for notices on our website and on our social media pages for updates and community events:

<https://www.facebook.com/rstmidcanterbury>

<https://www.rural-support.org.nz/Regions/South-Island/Mid-Canterbury>

### Keeping Livestock Fed

Federated Farmers have relaunched the Feed Coordination Service to help connect those who have surplus feed with those who need it most. Please note this service is only intended to connect buyers with sellers – all transaction costs, including transportation, are to be organised privately between the buyer and seller.

For further information phone **0800 FARMING (0800 327 646)** or visit [www.fedfarm.org.nz](http://www.fedfarm.org.nz) and click on the link to register for "Feed Available" or "Feed Needed"

### Rural Women NZ – Adverse Events Relief Fund

The Rural Women New Zealand Adverse Events Relief Fund provides financial assistance to rural individuals, families or groups with a particular emphasis on (though not limited to) supporting women and children. Grants are available to rural individuals, families and households where there is an identified urgent need due to personal hardship, as the result of a recently declared adverse event or a state of emergency.

[www.ruralwomennz.nz/our-funds-and-grants/](http://www.ruralwomennz.nz/our-funds-and-grants/)

### ECAN

For information on consents, regulations and where to get advice.  
[www.ecan.govt.nz](http://www.ecan.govt.nz)

### Feed budgetting tools

link where feed budgets and other calculator/tools can be found - for all farming types. [www.dairynz.co.nz/tools/](http://www.dairynz.co.nz/tools/)





## Industry Support and Sector Groups

### OSPRI Contact Centre

Phone: 0800 482 463

### Federated Farmers

David Acland

Phone: 021 388 379

Email: david@mountsomersstation.co.nz

### Beef+Lamb New Zealand

Minna Wilson

Phone: 027 553 1226

Email: minna.wilson@beefandlambnz.com

### Dairy NZ

Alex Perrott

Phone: 027 379 8069

Email: alex.perrott@dairynz.co.nz

### Deer NZ

Phone: 04 473 4500

Email: nzdfa@deernz.org

### Foundation for Arable Research

Phone: 03 345 5783

[www.far.org.nz/contact-us](http://www.far.org.nz/contact-us)

### MPI Animal Welfare Line

0800 00 83 33

### ECAN

0800 324 636

### Rural Women NZ

Phone: 04 473 5524

Email: enquiries@ruralwomennz.nz

### Farmstrong

info@farmstrong.co.nz

[www.farmstrong.co.nz/contact-support](http://www.farmstrong.co.nz/contact-support)

## Regional and National Support:

### Mid Canterbury Rural Support Trust:

#### Rural Support 24/7

0800 787 254 (option 3, then option 4 then option 2)

#### Wellness Coordinator - Frances Beeston

Phone: 027 648 8379

Email: frances.beeston@ruralsupport.org.nz

#### Chair - Josh Dondertman

Phone: 021 869 212

Email: josh.dondertman@ruralsupport.org.nz

#### General Enquiries - Georgie King

Phone: 027 383 8937

Email: georgie.king@ruralsupport.org.nz

#### MSD

##### Shannon Meynell

Phone: 029 650 0544

Email: shannon.meynell002@msd.govt.nz

#### MPI On Farm Support

##### Samuel Rademaker

Phone: 022 100 1535

Email: samuel.rademaker@mpi.govt.nz

#### Ashburton District Council

03 307 7700 (24 hours)

#### IRD

Phone: 0800 473 566

Email: WellingtonAdvisoryRequest@ird.govt.nz

#### National Helpline

Free call or text 1737 any time for support from a trained counsellor.

  
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Rural people helping rural people



## A MESSAGE FROM PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

### A MESSAGE FROM REV MARTIN STEWART Moderator of Alpine Presbytery. *Negotiating our way ahead*

Ever since my teenage years I have liked the Sydney Carter song 'keep Me Travelling Along with You.' There are a few lines in it that have reminded me about how to cope with and manage change (and there's been a lot of it for all of us, eh!!). The obvious line is the chorus: 'It's from the old we travel to the new, keep me travelling along with you.' But Sydney Carter sends the net out wide: 'As I travel through the bad and good...' 'Give me courage when the world is rough, keep me loving though the world is tough...' and the idea of God being 'ever old and ever new' – always inviting us into new things lest we stagnate, or our God becomes too small.

But what has sustained me the most is the image he presents of God leaping and laughing in all we do. God's delight in us.

I wonder if, as we settle into the decision that has been made to close and embark on a new thing, we can lean into God's delight in us, in the people around us, and in the possibilities before us, even though we travel through the bad and the good.

Let me introduce to you Abi Trevathan – Abi will chair the Development Unit and work closely with the local team. Abi has been on the staff of Presbytery for 6 years working in the Resourcing area.

To meet Abi read page 3 of the 'Plains Presbyterian Bulletin.' The bulletin is sent out weekly and can be sourced on line at 'PlainsPresbyterian.co.nz' to subscribe to the bulletin email [plainsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:plainsoffice@gmail.com) or phone Miranda 021 024 14085 – (This message retyped by Denis.)

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](http://plainspresbyterian.co.nz)

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#### **WORSHIP SERVICES July 2024**

Sunday July 7<sup>th</sup> St John's Methven 10.30 am

Rev Laurence Ennor

Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup> St John's Methven 10.30

At All Saints.

Sunday July 21<sup>st</sup> St Johns Methven 10.30 am

Rev Laurence Ennor

**Sunday July 28<sup>th</sup> St John's Methven**

**Paster Paul Eden**

## MAYFIELD MT SOMERS ANGLICAN PARISH

We are past the shortest day, but we all know that the worst of winter is still to come. It will probably be the best part of a month before there is any noticeable lengthening of the days. In the meantime we are fortunate to have nice warm homes and good nourishing winter food to sustain us. Many in this world of ours do not.

It is now six weeks since my knee operation, a long six weeks of pain and frustration. We are so fortunate that our elder daughter is still with us, running the house in my place. But I have to admit that I am not very good with pain or being reliant on other people. Maybe there is a wee message in there for me.

A message about humbleness and thankfulness. Being humble about accepting help as well as thankful that so many people, as well as our daughter, have shown how they care. We have had so many visitors over these last few weeks.

I am again reminded of the words from Ecclesiastes, that there is a time for everything under the sun.

Maybe these last few weeks have been a time for me to learn to push aside some of my independence and be thankful.

Blessings, Annette Eggleston

### **ANGLICAN SERVICES**

**Priest:** Rev Annette Eggleston

#### **Holy Communion**

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

July 21 10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers

Aug 4 10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers

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### **PARISH CONTACTS**

Parish Priest - Rev Annette Eggleston

Email: [harann000@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:marion.i.jacobson@gmail.com)



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## A COMMENT:

Last month my subject was the Lake Coleridge Power Station. I guess I can add a little more having now studied the book written by Rosemary Britten. The full title being 'Lake Coleridge, The Power, The People and the Land. This book is available at the Ashburton Library – that is when I return it.

This was very much a pioneering project. There was much debating and discussion as to where to build a hydro power plant to supply the City of Christchurch. In November 1910 the Public Works Department survey party arrived on the shores of Lake Coleridge. The drought horses had taken 14 hours to pull their heavily laden spring cart the 64 km from Darfield. The decision had been made and by 1912 the Coleridge area was busier than it had ever been or was likely to be again. Construction was carried on every where at the same time, the place swarmed with workmen.

Although electric power generation commenced in 1914 there were teething problems which caused some initial problems. The intake from the lake required modifications, and without doubt there were numerous other issues some small and others not so small. The intake sucked in too much shingle and rubbish including some a metre long, it was hard and messy work to clear them from the surge chamber. To overcome this problem a new intake was constructed and set in place in 1925. A double steel cylinder of some 5 metres internal diameter with space between its wall was towed into the lake and sunk into place at the appropriate position, the space between the walls was then filled with concrete. A lengthy and difficult tunnel was dug to meet with the original intake tunnel. The new tunnel was skilfully designed to have six curves making the length 2315 metres,

more than 200 metres longer than the first tunnel. It was difficult country to tunnel through, on an early shift on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 1925 a calamity occurred without warning support timbers gave way hundreds of tons of shingle and mud fell into the tunnel where nine men were working the early shift. Four were far enough from the fall to escape, five men were missing. Rescue work began immediately, a small iron pipe was driven into the fall by 4.30 pm rescuers were able to speak to two men. A larger pipe was driven, and food and water were able to be passed down. Rescue work continued and the two men were reached after they had been standing in icy cold thigh deep water for 40 hours, the bodies of the other three were recovered over the next two to three weeks having been crushed under timber, mud and shingle.

Work resumed after nearly a month spent in the dogged rescue. The tunnel, 3.36 metres high, was horseshoe-shaped like the first one and concrete lined throughout, it was a job for remarkably strong men. The tunnel was completed in 1926 water was first admitted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June. Leakage was bad the tunnel was drained and relined at the outlet end. Still not satisfactory it was drained again in October for further grouting.

I noted that it was reported that businesses and industries were quick to convert from steam or gas to electricity, but domestic consumers were reluctant. When houses were wired for electricity, it was usual to install light fittings only in main rooms, and one power point, 'the ironing point'. Electric irons did become popular as they saved the labour of heating heavy irons on a coal range, but housewives were not keen to cook by electricity. They knew how to control the familiar coal range. Most women did not believe that a washing machine would get cloths clean as boiling them up in a

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copper did. A vacuum cleaner was not a necessity before the days of wall-to-wall carpet. Damp tea leaves sprinkled before sweeping kept the floors clean, and rugs could be hung over a line and beaten with sticks.

Lawrence Birks was not only an able engineer and administrator, but also proved to be a splendid salesman. He travelled about Canterbury as far south as Timaru demonstrating the advantages of electric power for household use. He had built an all-electric cottage at Lake Coleridge, a cottage without a fireplace. Mr Birk would take visitors through this cottage, flicking the switch to boil the kettle and make afternoon tea. He also lost no time in demonstrating to the women present the mysteries of electric cooking utensils.

Certainly, it may have taken a while, but electricity proved a real winner. At the family farm where I started life, I'm certain my father and his workers were more than happy to push their steam engine aside and make the change to electricity, that was in 1922.

Cheers Denis

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