

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

Big Little Theatre Company Earn Their Stripes

It's not often a show comes to Mt Somers so when I saw The Big Little Theatre Company's production "There's an Element of Risk" was coming to the War Memorial Hall I immediately booked tickets.

And I loved it! The play grew out of The Big Little Theatre Company's annual week-long Summer School in January 2022. Devised by the senior youth of the company it was written with great insight into how it was for those who went to war and those who had to hold the fort back home. I was impressed with the script's humour and emotional intelligence – I had tears twice! The lads in the trenches were both funny and vulnerable, as were their women/families back home.

I thought the concept of taking us backstage on a production was clever. And the music was a genius touch adding a provocative dimension – once again both entertaining and emotive. The Andrews Sisters were polished and Maddie Webb's solo "The White Cliffs of Dover" was exquisite.

A big thank you to The Big Little Theatre Company for bringing quality theatre to us right here in Mt Somers. I look forward to the next show!

By Deb Stanaway



Mount Somers Village Flooding

A draft plan to seek commitment from Ashburton District Council and E-Can to commit to work to mitigate the impact of flooding on the Mount Somers Village.

Overview

- In the last 18 months there have been several flood events that have severely affected homes, property, roads, sheds, the local school and businesses ability to open.
- The same issue has come up each time with flood water coming down from the high country/Ashburton Gorge farms, flooding stock water races, breaching banks and flowing through the village from the North West end, as well as at the Rakaia Arundel Gorge Road turn off.
- These events have had a severe impact on people in the Mount Somers Village. There have been tens of thousands of dollars of damage (insurance claims) and extensive disruption to peoples lives.
- Ashburton District Council (at the request of the Citizens Association) attended a meeting in Mount Somers on 11 August

2022. This meeting was attended by Liz McMillian (Deputy Mayor), Chrissie Drummond (Infrastructure Services Support Lead), Andy Guthrie (Asset Manager), Jeremy Lambert (Roading Engineer North) and members of the Mount Somers Citizens Association. Several ideas for channeling the water from Ashburton Gorge Road around the back of the village and straight out to the North Branch of the Ashburton River were discussed.

- When asked, the officials were not able to provide information about options, budget for the work, timing for anything, process for consenting through E-Can for the channeling or how the required easements may be done on the private land that may be required for this channel.
- The Citizens Association discussed next steps with ADC and highlighted that in the absence of a plan, or information about how to progress this, or allocated budget, that we would follow up with an open letter to ADC, Councillors, E-Can, relevant Ministers, and the local MP.

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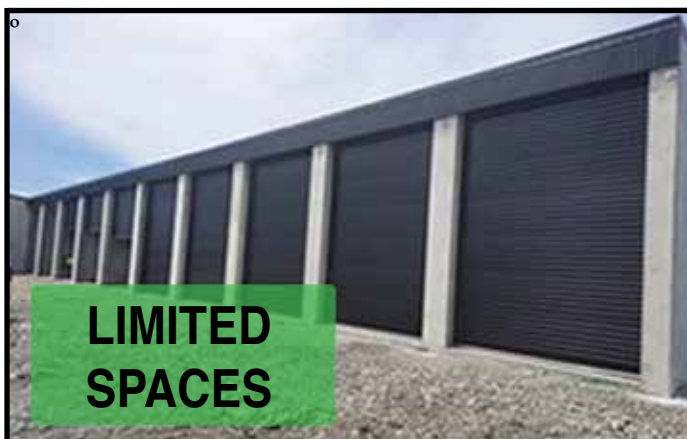
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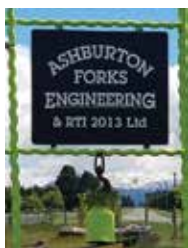
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Staveley Ice Rink update

It has been an up and down winter at the rink this year. We started winter of with some really good frosts just not enough of them! Just as fast as the ice built up this year it's melted away. So we've now closed for the season, sadly without even opening!

But the good news is... the guys have emptied the rink for the project to start! Yes that's right! The old buggers want to be Curling before they can't lift the 20kg curls, so better get it sorted now!

We are still in need of sponsorship, if you have a spare few \$\$ our bank account is below. Or if you don't mind \$1,300 of pipe added to your ATS account flick Carl Shannon a text with your ATS/Rural Co acc number: (027 4361 051) all support will be very much appreciated!

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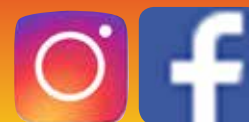
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Fairer deal at the checkout for Kiwis

25 August 2022

Jo Luxton, MP for Rangitata

I have been keeping an eye on the devastating flooding in the Nelson Tasman area and want to pass on my thoughts to everyone who has been impacted by these severe weather events. The weather has caused considerable damage and been extremely disruptive.

I wanted to give an update on our Governments next steps in our work to make sure Kiwis pay a fair price at the supermarket till. We have announced changes that will force supermarkets to sell groceries to competitors at set prices, if they don't open up fair access voluntarily.

This is an unprecedented shake-up of the grocery sector and will see the supermarket duopoly forced to sell groceries to their competitors at set prices, if they fail to adequately wholesale market voluntarily.

Our plan will give a leg up to the likes of smaller retailers and may pave the way for new market entrants. It means other retailers outside of the current duopoly will now be able to source and sell a wider range of groceries at better prices.

Under these changes the existing duopoly will be required to negotiate wholesale offerings to their competitors on commercial terms. However if those prices are not what we would expect in a competitive wholesale market the new Grocery Commissioner will be able to impose additional regulation to force fairer prices.

The new system will incentivise the major supermarkets to play fair. But if they don't, the Commission will be able to use powerful new tools to make them do so.

Our Government is working to address the systemic lack of grocery competition in New Zealand. This announcement is just the latest in our plan to deliver a fairer deal at the checkout for Kiwis.



SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY 5th NOVEMBER 2022

The Homegrown Garden Tour

Get a group together, block out your diary, the date is set and it's not to be missed. The best garden tour yet, 4 wonderful gardens in the Mayfield District and carefully curated artisan vendors set to create an amazing day out.

This is the fifth, biennial Homegrown Garden Tour organised and presented by the families of Mayfield Playcentre. After a disappointing cancellation due to our COVID restrictions last year we are very excited to be launching into the best garden tour yet!

We are very grateful to the wonderful people who are opening their beautiful private gardens this year, especially for this event. The names of these gardens are soon to be released. As well as being able to wander and explore the gardens, there will be entertainment, great food and refreshments to be enjoyed AND the opportunity to shop from artisan vendors.

This is Mayfield Playcentre's major biennial fundraiser and all money raised from the event go towards providing quality early childhood education within our own district - if you buy a ticket and attend the event you will be supporting a great cause. Tickets go on sale very soon and will be available online. Visit www.humanitix.com and search Homegrown Garden Tour.

Keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram pages @thehomegrowngardentour for ticket releases, exciting sneak peeks into our four beautiful gardens and wonderful prizes as we prepare to showcase our incredible district.

Any enquires please email: thehomegrowngardentour@hotmail.com or contact us through our Facebook and Instagram pages.



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Book of the Month – Mt Somers Library

Title: 'A Little Life'

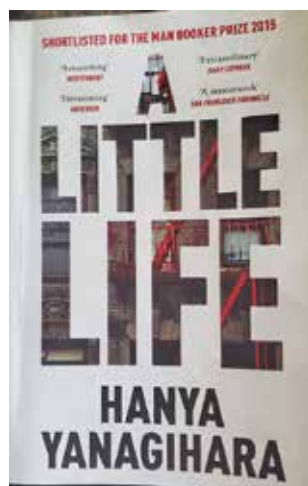
Author: Hanya Yanagihara

Publication year: 2015

A review by Elles Smallegoor

This month I'd like to introduce a book I've chosen to review but haven't finished reading yet. It's calving time on farm and in the five years that I have been farming in this spot, it has not been this challenging. Mud and water. Mud and water. Pretty much everyday. Each spell of sunshine and warmth is a major blessing. Yet we prize ourselves lucky: we have enough staff, calving is going well, the cows and calves are fine and, even though we've had new lakes and streams forming in the paddocks, we can still see the paddocks and have dry and warm houses to return to every night – unlike some. But all the extra hours and effort put in took time away from reading and as I did not have time to drive to Mt Somers to pick up a book, there was only one book to take off the shelves at home as I know the library has it. But yeah, it's 720 pages long...ha! Jen Dearborn gave it to me once, and I'd like to say, thanks Jen, as I have been hooked from page 1. I'm reading 'A Little Life' by Hanya Yanagihara and I think it's going to be a treasure.

The contemporary novel is set in New York and follows the lives of a group of four male friends: artist JB, architect Malcolm, lawyer Jude and actor/waiter Willem. They've known each other since college and are now in their late twenties, pretty much always broke (apart from Malcolm who still lives at home with his rich parents) and



living in sad-but-at-least-somewhat affordable apartments. In the first few chapters, Yanagihara allows us insight into their close friendship through dialogue and uses different techniques of narration to introduce us to each individual, and does so with great empathy and skill.

We learn, for example, that gentle and handsome Willem grew up in rural Wyoming and always had a difficult relationship with his Scandinavian-born parents. They have lost three children and seemed to have turned off their emotions, making life hard for the last

remaining son, who wants them to show something, anything, that resembles feelings: "he needed to feel that something lay beneath their imperturbable calm, that somewhere within them ran a thin stream of quick, cool water, teeming with delicate lives, minnows and grasses and tiny white flowers, all tender and easily wounded and so vulnerable you couldn't see them without aching for them (p. 50). The imagery she comes up with here, using detailed descriptions of a pretty and fine aquatic landscape, is very unusual but so fitting to convey the poignancy of Willem's situation. Willem wants to see love but is faced with stony silence. We feel for him as a reader, but also get enough information from the narrator to feel empathy for the parents as well – or, perhaps not so much empathy as understanding. It's really well-written and I can't wait to read more. Next month I will write a proper review and let you know how the story evolves. Until then, may lots of sun come your way.



St John
Here for Life



Garden Fete

Thursday 13 October 10am – 4pm

Rakaia Gardens, 282 Awaroa School Road, Dorie, RD 11, Rakaia,
the home of Sue & Ted Rollinson

**Come and join us for a great day – 100+ stalls, live music, food and 6 acres of
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*Tickets available from Mayfield PGG, Ashburton Paper Plus, St John office (241 Tancred St), St John
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Tickets now available \$15 (\$20 on the day at the gate), children 5 yrs+ \$5
Pre-booked lunchbox \$15. ATM & EFTPOS available onsite

Raising funds for Mid Canterbury St John

The Old Post Office Library



Another month has flown by but hopefully the rain events will leave us alone and we can now enjoy some spring sunshine. Lovely to see the down country new lambs appearing, daffodils and crocuses flowering, and rhodos and camellias colouring our grey days.

The library has undergone changes too! A massive thanks must go to the community funded grant that Ashburton District Council gifted us for our new heat pump. Thank you to Jacky at Smith and Church for giving us some discount off the unit so we could work within our money allowance. Hamish and his offsider from ElectraServe very ably installed it on a freezing morning at the end of July. This heating now gives us a nice toasty library if used correctly! Amazing how many of our volunteers do not own or have never operated a heat pump!! Anne and I have also had a major sort out of books. We have at least 10 cartons for bookarama. Over the past couple of months 115 brand new books have been purchased for our shelves and this isn't counting good donated and bought second hand ones.

Daralyn has completely sorted the YAF (young adult fiction) and childrens section in the toll booth. These books have been either kept by us, gone to bookarama or donated to our local school. In the toll booth shelves now hold some yaf and childrens books but mainly the Stack books which are good books but often too many to display in the main library area. So do check out that wee room.

Fiction, Crime, and Contemporary fiction sections of shelving have all been alphabetically labeled with the authors surnames first letter. Should make finding your favourite author a little easier and help volunteers put returns away.

Our sincere condolences go to Joyce Grieves family. Joyce was a well known identity within our local area. She had a full and interesting 96 years and our little library has been lucky to have all the books she has written as well as her large scrap book collection. Over many years Joyce had painstakingly cut out and glued into, any local newspaper items etc into these scrap books. They are well worth browsing but must be done within the library. Thankyou Joyce for all your foresight! Over the past year we have issued 1200 books out to our readers many

A Wet July

Two of our local weather experts got their heads together recently to compare notes and see if this was the wettest July ever.

Kay Allen and Bruce Ahearn have been collecting weather data for many years. Bruce recorded 325mm near the bush for July and Kay recorded 266mm in the village. But is that a record? According to Bruce in 1963 at Staveley they received 300mm.

The wettest winter was in 1925 for June July and August when they recorded 512mm. So far this winter Kay has recorded 374mm with August still to go. Bruce has 408mm for June and July alone.

The driest winter was in 1993 when after the worst winter ever in 1992 (two large snows) Bruce recorded 59mm for the three month winter period.

of whom travel up from Ashburton, Methven, Rangitata, Carew and Mayfield.

I am not telling you about any of our new books (mainly 'cos I've rambled on enough) so do pay a visit on a Sunday or Thursday pm or when the sign is out. It's all free.

Please remember anyone donating books to our outside shelves, we DO NOT want encyclopaedias, gardening and cooking books, DVDs or CDs, or any old untidy books. We want to give visitors nice quality reading books or magazines to pick up.

Thank you.

Pam Annand

Daralyn's Picks for the Month

Skallagrig by William Horwood
The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart by Holly Ringland
The Huntress by Kate Quinn
The Alice Network by Kate Quinn
Rose Code by Kate Quinn
Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
White Chrysanthemum by Mary Lynn Bracht
The Survivors by Kate Furnivall
Sparks like Stars by Nadia Harshimi
The Terrible Kindness by Jo Browning Wroe



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So come and join us for an hour. Classes every Wednesday, Staveley Hall 2pm. For enquiries, phone Annette Syme 3030 803

Looking positively, Spring is just around the corner.



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Mayfield Playcentre

You may have noticed a bit of a trend with our updates over the last months. We LOVE messy play!!! This week was Playcentre Aotearoa's messy play week which as a parent sounds terrifying and as a child sounds like hours of fun!

There are so many benefits of messy play.

It stimulates creativity and curiosity fueling imaginations and gives new outlets for self expression. Different tools challenge little minds and through exploration and experimentation helps build children's confidence and self esteem. As children explore and try out these different tools and skills they are developing their fine motor skills and hand eye coordination.

Above all the shrieks of laughter and friendships created around the paint troughs and muddy puddles are the best measure of success!

For parents the opportunity to provide these valuable opportunities through messy play at playcentre instead of home is a huge win!

Behind the scenes the Mums have been working hard at fundraising to keep our Playcentre open and full of opportunities!

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A huge thank you to all of you in our community who brought raffle tickets recently. The money is being spent very soon on an exciting refurbishment of our centre!

We are very excited to announce the return of The Homegrown Garden Tour.

After the disappointing cancellation of last year's tour we are in the midst of organising an incredible tour around four beautiful local gardens.

Book us in your diaries for Saturday the 5th of November.

Keep an eye on our Homegrown Garden Tour facebook and instagram pages for updates, giveaways and ticket sales!!!

As always we are loving welcoming new families to our centre and our doors are always open for more!

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Mid Canterbury Rural Driver Licensing Scheme

Our tenth group of Road Code students are well through their course and nearly ready to sit their learners license. We had a great road safety talk from the Ashburton Police recently. We heard all about RIDS – Restraints, Impairment, Distraction and Speed. These are some of the things our traffic police are looking for while patrolling the roads. Most of it is common sense, but not always followed. We heard about the Five Star Vehicle Safety Rating and got a chance to look up our vehicles on the website rightcar.govt.nz. This was very interesting, you should check it out. Thanks Sgt Burgerhout for keeping us safe on the road and showing us that our police are very helpful, friendly and not to be feared. They're not like that in some of the countries our students come from.

As the student's progress through their learners tests we will be looking for more driving mentors. Have you considered volunteering? This is a great way to help a newcomer become independent. It opens up a whole new world for them and for you. It's very rewarding for the mentors to see their student grow into a safe, confident driver. You will find your own driving improves too, and it's a great opportunity to learn about another culture.

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, 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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A message from David & Wendy Millichamp 50 Hoods Road Mt Somers

David & I are delighted to say that we have recently sold our businesses that run from our Mt Somers Property.

We have really enjoyed the 27 years of mail-ordering bulbs to gardeners across NZ. We are grateful to you, our local community, for your support over this time, many of whom have worked for us and become good friends and vice versa. In 2001 we purchased a North Island Business that we shifted on paper, which enabled our boutique operation to expand into retail outlets, such as Mitre 10 stores, Garden Centres, Foodstuffs and Woolworths Supermarkets around our beautiful country.

The new owners Tessa and Wayne McIntosh from Ashburton are shifting the business to their property near Lake Hood. They are called Lilyfields Hakatere.

We are so happy as they are an enthusiastic, passionate family with lots of new ideas and energy. Please support them when you see them at the Ag Shows and Garden Fetes etc. They can be contacted on lilyfields@xtra.co.nz 08002545437

David and I will be able to enjoy more time with our families, friends and doing what we love but wait it's not all over for this silver-haired couple!! We have rebranded and will still be offering something special other than bulbs and paeonies to our customers. Watch out for the October reveal.....

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NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT



Overall August has generated some bad weather and even more weather events. With lambing and calving this makes it a hard one.

I watch my neighbours paddock water logged and in need of some more grass. We all know when it's feeding time and the straw is distributed as there is a frenzied noise of excited animals followed by some quick movement as they all head in the same direction for that never ending stock of food. The lambs and calves remain resilient and seemed to have coped with a very wet and cold winter.

As have our neighbours and hope those in the surrounding areas this news edition reaches are well and coping with all the extremities life has thrown at you this month. Neighbourhood Support has been sending out alerts and messages through Ashburton Civil Defence so those of you joined up to Neighbourhood Support and the Gets Ready programme will have been receiving any updates we can get out to you. Snap Send and Solve app can be downloaded to your phone and used to identify anything on the roads Ashburton District Council should be aware of e.g. potholes, roads washed out etc.

Weekly reported crime incidents for August show no happenings in the Foot Hills area. If you do have issues or looking for security/prevention advice, then please contact Neighbourhood Support to discuss. Drones are being used to scout areas for burglary and scams on invoices are prevalent. If you get an invoice that you think you have already paid or don't think you have used that service for the month, ring the company and check.

FENZ remind residents to switch off appliances when not in use, don't leave cell phones charging on cushions or pillows, lithium batteries heat up very quickly and placed in or on something that holds heat encourages the battery to heat up more than usual. Check smoke alarms are working. Stay well, stay warm and hopefully Spring and some warm weather is just around the corner.

Sue Abel Ashburton District Neighbourhood Support Co-ordinator
M: 027 296 1006



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Ngā Tohu Whakaora e 3 3 Steps for Life

Hato Hone St John is on a mission to empower communities with the '3 Steps for Life' to help save lives and improve Aotearoa New Zealand's cardiac arrest survival rates.

Cardiac arrest remains one of the leading causes of death in New Zealand, with only 25 percent surviving hospital arrival and 11 percent leaving hospital alive.

The good news is survival rates can double with a little community help. The quick actions of bystanders to initiate the 3 Steps for Life, or to Call, Push, Shock, to deliver CPR and use an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) within the first few minutes can mean the difference between life and death for someone in a cardiac arrest.

An AED is a lightweight, portable device that analyses the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, administers an electric shock, known as defibrillation, to restore the heart's natural rhythm. For someone in cardiac arrest their survival chances decrease by 10 percent for every minute without defibrillation, which is why Hato Hone St John believes that as many organisations as possible should have access and the confidence to use one.

The models provided by St John are user-friendly and designed to be used with little or no training. If you can use a cellphone, you can use an AED. They provide both visual and voice prompts to guide users through an emergency, ensuring that everyone who needs to use one feels comfortable and confident to act.

St John is taking registrations of interest for any community organisation or workplace who would like to get AEDs or find out more about '3 Steps for Life'. To book a **free** 3 Steps for Life awareness session please make sure you've got a group of 10 or more and register your interest with full name and contact information by emailing 3stepsforlife@stjohn.org.nz

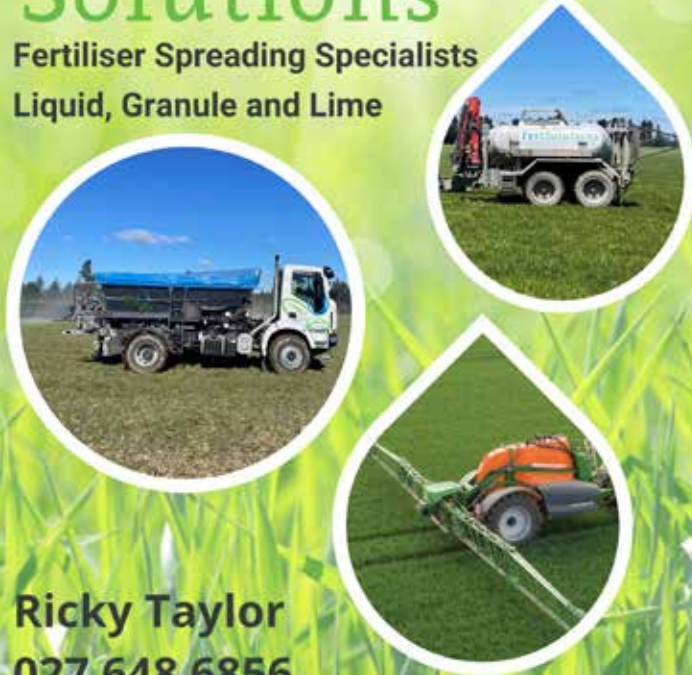
Congratulations to local St John volunteer Alex Quigley, who recently gained his Emergency Medical Technician authority to practice. This is a fantastic achievement as Alex studied towards this whilst continuing to farm, spend time with family plus volunteer for local St John team in Mayfield. Cushla Murdoch 027 4312 282



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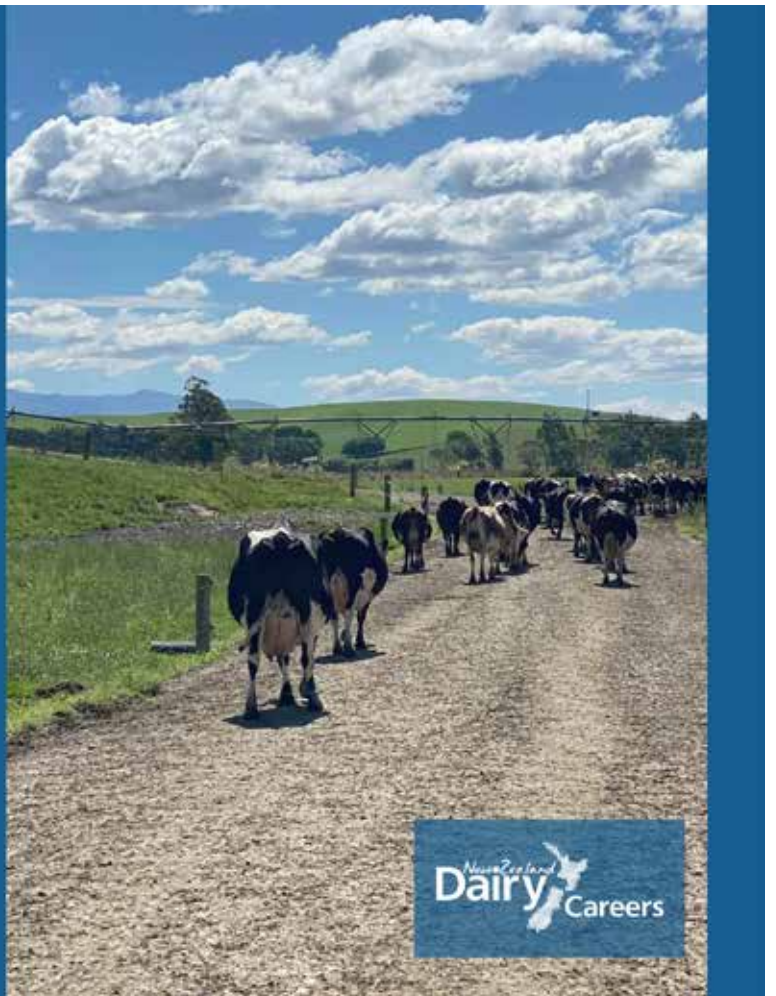
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THE ART OF FOOD by Jen Dearborn

This is another recipe that is inexpensive, easy to make and very tasty. Paneer is an Indian cheese that is often described as being like cottage cheese, but I think it's more like haloumi. It comes in a firm block and when fried, it browns and doesn't melt. I think it's delicious – especially in this recipe. You can buy it at our local supermarkets now.

The other ingredient you may need to seek out is fenugreek. This is a mild spice/seed that has a unique almost sweet flavour, and it enhances any curry. They don't sell it at our local supermarkets, but it is available at the new Bel Air Supermarket (an interesting shop to have a look around)

If you have a block of paneer in your fridge you can whip up this delicious meal in less than half an hour



MATAR PANEER

(Paneer with tomato and peas)

In a heavy bottomed pot heat:

2 tablespoons oil

When the oil is just beginning to smoke

Add:

300 grams of paneer cut into 1cm cubes

Cook over a medium heat until brown on one side and then turn regularly until the cubes are browned on two or three sides

Add:

1 medium onion diced

2 cloves garlic finely diced

1 tsp grated or finely diced fresh ginger

Stir until the onion is starting to brown and add:

Another splash of oil if needed

½ tsp chilli flakes

1 tsp fenugreek (if you have it)

1 tsp mustard seeds

1 tsp garam masala

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1 tsp ground coriander
 Stir for a minute to let the spices cook a little before you add:
 1 400 gram tin diced tomatoes
 ½ cup water
 1 ½ tsp salt
 1 tsp sugar
 1 cup frozen peas
 Bring to the boil and simmer for 10 or 15 minutes uncovered
 Serve with rice
 Serves 4

The SHW72 Ladies Dinner Club

would like to warmly invite anyone new or old in our community who may be interested in joining us. This club has been operating for over 30yrs. We aim to catch up 5 times/year for a lovely dinner/dessert at Stronechrubie, with a very interesting speaker for each night. This is a friendly casual environment and all are welcome.

If you would like to find out more then please contact Kate Oliver on bertkate8081@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

DEADLINE DATE

ISSUE	DEADLINE	DELIVERY
October 2021	25 September	3 October



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Mt Somers Rugby Club



Our Rugby has now come to an end with all teams having a awesome season.

The Snr B,s made the semis and ended up 3rd in the competition, a fantastic effort well done guys.

All our JAB teams had a super season with our U10,s winning the Shield in the U10 7 a-side tournament. Well done.

Congratulations to all the players selected for the Mid Canterbury Development and Colts teams. It's good to see Country Players recognised, also to our JAB players who were selected to play in the Country Team against Town. Well done.

We held our Awards Evening recently and the following Trophies were awarded to.

Forward of the Year	Simon Northcote
Back of the Year	Johnny Bukholt.
Player of the Year	Simon Northcote.
Players Player (Chosen by the Players)	Simon Northcote.
Supporters Cup	Aidan & Wendy Flett.
Jack Smith Memorial Trophy	Bryce Vreugdenhil.
Claridge Cup (Top Scorers)	Jack Holland & Arthur Chapman Cohen.

Dale Stanley was presented with his 100 game Blazer, and along with Hayden Reveley and Colleen Stanley they were all made Life Members of the Club. Congratulation to them and all the award recipients.

Our Golden Oldies Team the Mount Somers Bull Tahrs hope to have their first game in the not to distant future. We will keep everyone posted.

The club would like to **Thank all our Sponsors** and everyone for their continued support throughout the season and hope to see you all back next season.



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Helping Hospice Clients to Live Well

It's the real-life stories from clients that shows Hospice Mid Canterbury is making a difference. Here's Ruth's story.

For Ruth, Hospice has been a lifeline. In fact she says that Hospice has really become a whole new family since her diagnosis two years ago. Because she lives on her own, she can't easily call on family to help, and she really appreciates that she can attend activities and call on volunteers when needed.

Ruth regularly attends Armchair Travel, and thoroughly enjoyed the recent presentation on Rachel Roadley's marathon through Mongolia. She can no longer travel, even to Christchurch, so an armchair look at what other travellers are doing is a welcome break.

Ruth has also been coming to the Pamper Nails session with Philippa Hanrahan, who volunteers her time once a month to give hospice clients a hand massage and pamper. She enjoys chatting with all the ladies who attend, and the hand massage and beautiful nails are a wonderful bonus.

She has regular lymphoedema massage with therapist Rebecca Perkins, to assist with the symptoms of chemotherapy, and she finds this gives a lot of relief. She has also enjoyed music therapy with Moyra and Chair Yoga with Tildy.



Ruth is determined to maintain her independence for as long as possible and Hospice is helping her do that, one day at a time.

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 support@hospicemc.nz.

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



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The Scouts are coming to town

January 2023 will see around 950 campers descend on Mayfield. The 15th New Zealand Venture - ignite'23 will draw Venturer Scouts from all over New Zealand and Australia to this triennial event.

"Venture is an event designed for the 14 to 19 year old age group within Scouting (Venturers). The programme provides adventure, challenge, skills development and social activities which reflect and underpin the values of Scouts Aotearoa, as detailed in our Law and Promise" explains Wendy Eyles, Event Director.

Mayfield Domain and A&P Showgrounds will be transformed into a small town with a medical centre, catering facilities, cafe, activities and transport hub. Starting in Christchurch on December 29th the event will run through to January 8th.




A number of the Organising team will be presenting an outline for ignite'23' in a public forum on September. As well as a lot of activity on the site and around Mayfield, there will be a number of vehicle movements and many local facilities and services involved. Wendy Eyles says, "we want to take the opportunity to engage with the local community, fully inform them and share this

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exciting event with them. We've had a tremendous response from those we have had contact with so far but want to make sure everyone feels informed about what we will be doing on those 11 days and how we intend to manage things"

All local residents, businesses and interested parties are invited to this presentation at the Domain Hall on September 21st at 7pm.

Contact - Wendy Eyles
wendy.eyles@ignite23.scouts.nz
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**Wellbeing Ōpūke Community
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How do you connect?

One of the 5 ways to well being is about connecting -being there, feeling connected and available to talk, listen and be heard when needed.

Winter has been a great time for planning and we have got a lot lined up leading into spring and summer across the wider area and hopefully something for everyone to connect in with.

We have created a group on our Wellbeing Ōpūke Facebook page that is a place for individuals and groups who want to connect outdoors for walks called Wellbeing Walks. Its as simple as posting up your intentions such as day, time, location and allowing others to join you. We are already collating some active walking groups and we are more than happy to help get others started if there is a need. This will work both urban and rurally so please jump on board and lets make this work for everyone to connect across Ōpūke. We also have a fortnightly Coffee Connections starting on a Friday at 2pm initially in Methven at Topp Cafe but we plan to make our group as mobile as possible so happy to have recommendations of days and times to make this happen in other locations on a monthly basis.

Maori Language Week is coming up and we are running another pepeha session on Tuesday the 13th of September in the Methven Library at 11.30am with shared kai to follow; everyone is welcome to come along to this at no cost.

Mental health awareness week runs from September 26th – October 2nd and this years theme is “reconnect” so we are hosting some outdoor activities at Awa Awa Rata and Boyers Stream around this time and leading into the school holidays to bring people together for fun family based activities. See our facebook page and school newsletters closer to the time.

There will again be a Methven and Rakaia based school holiday programmes which will have a variety of organisations providing activities on the day (Methven Tuesday 4th of October and Rakaia Thursday the 6th) with the theme being “Spring Fling”, everyone is welcome to one or both of these but must register for numbers – again check out our facebook page for more details.

Last but not least we are getting ready for “The Great Seedling Swap” - this will be hosted in a variety of locations and we encourage you to think about getting ready for this by planting some seedlings soon to swap with others in October. A great way to get kids interested in home gardening, or reconnecting to your own childhood memories.

Keep an ear out for other upcoming activities to get involved in and reach out to Jess or myself if you have any thing coming up we can support via email: wellbeingopuke@gmail.com



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NEWS FROM PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

From the retired Parish Clerk: I resigned as parish clerk before the AGM a year ago but as there was no immediate replacement I was obliged to carry on, I have now been replaced by two very astute ladies, Liz Depree from Rakaia and Annette Syme from Staveley. The treasurer Gill James also put in her notice a year ago but kindly carried on for the next year now ended. Miranda Addidis took up the position of executive officer and is now also parish treasurer in conjunction with an outside accounting organization known as Cactus. A church-based group which undertakes to offer accountancy services for church groups and possible others. These people will undoubtedly be highly efficient but as may well be expected they come at a cost. This change has created a lot of work for our two parish clerks.

We have a concern with ageing congregations a concern shared by nearly all church's, there is a real need for new initiative's new ideas from new people. The church in the current society could and should be an exciting place to be. The church is not buildings but people, The Christian message is understanding fellowship, life, living and love, the greatest of these being as always, has been LOVE. Blessings Denis

Interim Moderator Rev Johanna Warren
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Liz Depree Ph 021889341
Parish Contacts:

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WORSHIP SERVICES July 22

Sunday 4th Sept ST JOHNS METHVEN 10.30
communion

Sunday 11th Sept St Johns Methven 10.30 am
Rev Silvia Purdie Worship leader

Sunday 18th Sept St Johns Methven 10.30

Sunday 25th Sept Staveley 10.00 am

Combined with Methven

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MAYFIELD MT SOMERS ANGLICAN PARISH

We have had quite a busy month. Harvey competed in the Indoor Charity Dog Trials at Waimumu, near Gore. It was an opportunity to catch up again with our daughters.

Unfortunately, the Rev. Helen Wallis was unable to take the service at St. Aidan's because of covid, but fortunately Charles had returned from Scotland and was able to take a service of Morning Prayer. Thank you Charles.

Now we have just had our elder daughter staying with us for several days. She has just celebrated one of those significant birthdays that end with a zero. Sadly the timing wasn't good for our younger daughter and youngest grand-daughter who are in Brazil at the moment and our elder son wasn't able to come from Western Australia. But my sister who was planning to come down from Auckland at some stage, decided to coincide her visit with the birthday. Sandy had been one of her flower girls and there had always been a close bond between them. And there was our younger son, daughter-in-law and their four daughters. But then things became complicated, when our eldest grand-daughter's hockey team was in their grade hockey final, the night of the birthday. So we went up to Christchurch to watch the hockey game and nearly froze to death, and then had a meal at Halswell. Last night they then came down for another meal together at our place. This morning Sandy left for home and this afternoon my sister returns to Auckland. But what a great few days we have had.

Sometimes as we get older and families spread out, it becomes more difficult to

arrange these special family times. I like to think we are making memories. The bible provides a number of stories about family and friends coming together to share meals. I guess it was a lot easier for them because they would more often than not, have lived in close proximity to one another. But I presume it was thought to be important, this gathering together, or the writers wouldn't have bothered to mention these times. And after all, are we, as Christians, not referred to as, the family of God. One of the disadvantages, maybe of living in this modern world, where families are often scattered about all over the world, is that there are fewer shared meals and times together.

Blessings, Annette Eggleston

ANGLICAN SERVICES

Priest: Rev Annette Eggleston
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Sept 4 10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers
Sept 18 10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers
Oct 2 10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers

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A COMMENT:

Sir William Connolly CBE is a Scottish actor, retired comedian, artist, writer, musician, and presenter. He is sometimes known, especially in his homeland, by the Scots nickname the Big Yin.

Born: 24 November 1942 (age 79 years), Glasgow Scotland.

Height: 1.83 m

I have been reading Billy Connolly's autobiography "*Windswept & Interesting*."

I was gifted this book probably last Christmas or was it last birthday.

Finally, I have taken it up and now very nearly have read this interesting autobiography.

At first, I did wonder whether I would bother reading this hefty book, soon after making a start I was to realise that it became a difficult book to put down.

Billy starts off, "It's the first time I have done this," 'Other people have written about me – or for me – but this time it's my own life in my own words.' And it certainly is. This book this famous entertainer has written about himself other than being *Windswept and interesting* it is frank, honest and very straight forward, Billy has written a wonderful record of his life experiences from early childhood to almost the present day. Now suffering from Parkinson's Disease, he continues to be all go, he is not allowing anything to hold him back.

His mother left the family to live with another man leaving Billy and his sister to be brought up by two spinster aunts, who appear not to care for him or express any love in his direction, I think his sister fared slightly better.

Billy appeared to take control of his own life from an early age, He was orphaned at about the age of four, abused and beaten both at home and at school, plus being sexually abused by his father over what appeared to be a long period of time. As he made his way through primary school, he upped his game gaining better marks to ensure entry into the type of secondary school he desired to attend.

His first employment on leaving school was in a ship building yard on the river Clyde where he became a welder. For the first time in his life,

he found himself alongside older people who actually were friendly and helpful, at the same he also was of the opinion that helping build large ships was not his life's calling. His popularity in the shipyard was his ability to have fun play tricks on fellow workers as well as to be accepting when tricks and jokes were against him. He discovered what living life really was. On departing from the shipyards, he soon became a success on stage with his banjo and his unique ability as a singer, and comedian entertainer. It was his ability to spin stories, tell jokes and hold an audience in the palm of his hand that truly set him apart. In his early days as a comedian Billy broke all the rules. He was fearless and outspoken – willing to call out hypocrisy wherever he saw it. He was full of warmth, humility, and silliness. His startling, hairy 'glam-rock' stage appearance – wearing leotards, scissor suits and banana boots – added to his appeal.

Billy's stand-up comedy shows were to continue for over 50 years. Disease brought his remarkable live performances to an end when he was diagnosed with both cancer and Parkinson's disease. Since then, he has continued making TV shows, creating extraordinary drawings – and writing. His earlier book *Tall Tales & Wee Stories* was a number 1 bestseller.

Sir William Connolly, CBE born 1942 in Glasgow and now lives in America.

Cheers Denis



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Mt Somers Staveley Playcentre

This past month we've really had it all haven't we? Those rare crisp, sunny days are perfect for fun outside, rainy days are a great excuse for creativity inside and we even had snow to experiment with!

The children are loving our new construction supplies with real hammers and nails and it is awesome watching them build vehicles, towers and other amazing things.

Playcentre Aotearoa's Messy Play Week took place in August. Messy play encourages creativity, communication and social skills and helps promote physical development. Another benefit for us parents having messy play at Playcentre is it's not at home! Although there is an official week for it, there is plenty of messy play to be had all the time at our centre, from painting and playdough to turning real snow all kinds of different colours!

Come along and join in the fun, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am - 12pm, 50 Pattons Road. No obligation to enrol with the first three sessions free. It is a great way to meet other families in our wonderful community.



A Walk on the Wild Side

Harley and Neroli Davies kindly allowed us to walk in their farm. 14 ladies walked approx 11 km farm track from their residence to the Hinds Gorge. The weather was perfect.



It's a cold morning. 15 ladies including 3 regulars from Timaru walking group had a lovely walk in Ashburton town.



18 ladies enjoyed 2 hours walk around the Caroline Bay in Timaru.





Mayfield and Districts Lions Report

At our last meeting our speaker was Neil Brown, Ashburton District Mayor. He spoke to us on his journey to becoming Mayor and topics like the high build up of shingle in rivers, state of our county roads and the proposed new bridge. These topics drew some stimulating questions for Neil.

The Mayfield Swimming Club were our caterers for the night, providing us with an excellent meal.

We now have a swede and onion stall at Mt Somers, situated across the road from the shop. This is getting good support with steady sales. A special thanks must go to Eric and Sophie Duff for donating the swedes and Gregg Lovett for giving us the onions.

Part of our Lions Motto is 'We Serve' and having a good project creates camaraderie among fellow Lions, who enjoy the sense of purpose that working bees create.

If you know of a worthwhile project for us to consider, please contact Ron Cross : 021 347 958.

Office Bearers for 2022-23

President; Rab McDowell.

1st VP John Rushton;

2nd VP Roger Baxter;

Treasurer Michael Rushton;

Secretary Grant Early;

Tail Twister Andrew MacKenzie;

Lion Tamer Paul Bailey;

Bulletin Editor Michael Salvesen;

Greeter Les Smith;

Committee Directors;

Programme and Social Andrew McDonald;

Projects Ron Cross;

Publicity Information and Community Concern John Milne;

Membership & Convention Aubrey Aitken;

Youth Activities Morris King;

Golf Convenor James Murdoch

The young Speechmaker contests have been held in the Mayfield and Mt Somers Schools today 25 August. Our judges were very impressed with the high standard of speeches and the interesting topics presented by children.

The top two from each section of the two schools will go on to compete in the Finals on Thursday 1st September.



Stocking the Mt Somers stall with swedes and onions

Here are the School Speech Final Results for Mayfield School



Year 4

1st Ryan Harrison - Cheetahs

2nd Iyla-Lee Mort - Wolves

3rd Mariah Saxelby - Birds



Year 5&6

1st Charlie Greenslade - Why we need farmers

2nd Angus Whillans - Carbon Credits -
The good the bad and ugly

3rd Inshirah Hasan- My Culture



Year 7&8

1st Harriet Phillips - World Hunger

2nd Flynn Carr - How to drive your parents crazy

3rd Louise Greenslade - Are these creatures real?



Here are the School Speech Final Results for Mt Somers Springburn School



Mt Somers Springburn School

Year 4

Photo of the other contestants and the
Mayfield and Districts Lions Judges.



Year 5&6

1st Izaak Huggins-Jessett
2nd Violet France
3rd Felix Bruce



Year 7&8

1st Layla Singleton
2nd Rose Chapman
3rd Sylvie France



RESIDENTS' OVERALL SATISFACTION INFLUENCED BY BATTERED ROAD

Almost all residents that took part in the Annual Residents' Survey for Ashburton District Council perceive that the District is about the same or better as a place to live than it was three years ago.

Although Council's provision and maintenance of recreation and leisure activities and facilities, opportunities for grants and funding, community events, social services and economic development continue to be very strong areas of performance, satisfaction levels around the roading network decreased significantly.

Council's overall performance dipped by eight points to 66 per cent in 2022 compared to 74 per cent in 2021.

Chief Executive Hamish Riach said it was disappointing to see a drop in overall satisfaction.

"But we can see a clear link between how people feel about roads and our overall performance, and we're committed to addressing the issue of our battered and ageing roading network.

"Council has allocated \$1.7 million from the forestry reserve to a work programme which will allow us to rehabilitate key roads, rather than trying to hold poor sections of pavement together with short term repairs."

Satisfaction with sealed roads decreased 14 points to 24 per cent satisfaction and unsealed roads by seven points to 46 per cent over the past year. "Too many potholes" was stated as a main concern of those surveyed.

"Not only is our roading network the fifth largest in New Zealand, but it is heavily used. When you add the increasing frequency of extreme weather events into the mix, it leaves us with a hefty challenge," Mr Riach said.

The issue isn't just confined to the Ashburton District.

"Adverse weather events are badly affecting roading networks right across the country. Water is the enemy of roads and having some of the wettest months on record is certainly taking its toll."

According to Key Research, who produced the Residents' Survey, councils across New Zealand have seen overall satisfaction levels trend downward over the last year. Satisfaction with the Ashburton council's building services and council staff also dipped.

Mr Riach said those drops were likely related to the current building boom, with staff struggling to meet timeframes for consents, and council's mandates around Covid-19 and vaccination.

Overall, residents were most satisfied with the public library service, cemeteries, and Ashburton Domain, with a significant increase noted in satisfaction with playgrounds.

Satisfaction with rubbish and recycling has improved with more than eight in 10 residents (85%) satisfied.

The 2021/22 Annual Residents' Survey was conducted on a representative cross-section of the community and was carried out in four stages throughout the year, both online and in hard copy. The sample size of the survey was 871 people across the the district with a margin of error of +/- 3.32%.

The Annual Residents Survey can be viewed on the Council website.



Local Justices of the Peace

Mayfield area

Jannet Cross	0274 347 958
Pauline Hewson	03 3036 397
Grant Early	0215 141 56
Alistair Morrison	0276 024 927

Mt Somers area

Robert Schikker	0211 866 107
Anne Marie Allan	0272 843 013
Anne Parnham.	0277 676 056
Wendy Millichamp	0274 591 1277

Springburn area

Robert Withers	0273 030 138
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TAKE A STAND **VOTE**

LOCAL ELECTIONS 8 OCTOBER 2022

**Vote for
your future**

Voting packs arrive in mailboxes from 16 September.

**Make sure you vote by October 8
Find out more at voteashburton.nz**



The local people who feature in our advertising are not standing in the 2022 Local Elections.

