

SHARPLIN FALLS TRACK

Cultural Significance:

People over the centuries have enjoyed the beneficial effects of connecting with nature especially in a forest environment with the added feature of a stream and a waterfall.

Such as Māori groups travelled along the fringes of the Alford Forest either on food gathering trips or just passing by the forest on journeys. Discovery of evidence of ovens and tools indicates temporary habitation. The first permanent residents near Sharplin Falls were the bushmen who settled around the edge of the forest from the mid-1850s onward. They made a living supplying the runholders with timber, fencing materials and firewood in return for basic food supplies, tools and cash. These men were a mix of British, Scandinavians and Frenchmen.

As the population in the Ashburton District increased, residents set out to discover the inland parts of the district and the waterfalls on Bowyers Stream became a popular destination.

Many organisations and businesses held their annual picnic at Sharplin Falls. Train excursions came as far as Springburn and local transport took visitors past the Staveley Store as far as Mr. Flynn's property.

Prior to the Dept. of Conservation closing the track in 2017, several thousand visitors used the track each year.

History

Originally Crown land, Rural Section 22070, which includes the waterfalls was first purchased by Francis Digby Spencer Neave, a Christchurch businessman, in 1874. This land was then sold to Everard Strangways Neave, a Captain of the Bengal Native Cavalry. Henry Havelock Sharplin purchased this land from Neave's estate in 1906. Even before Sharplin bought the land, trampers were exploring the area.

Encouraged by the number of trampers wishing to visit the falls, Henry Sharplin realized the scenic values of the falls and adjacent bush and wanted it brought under the notice of the Scenery Preservation Commission. Sharplin received enthusiastic support for his proposal from groups visiting the falls, and in November 1908, Mr. E C Gold Smith, Commissioner of Crown Lands in Canterbury inspected the falls and surrounding area and recommended that the area be acquired as a Scenic Reserve.

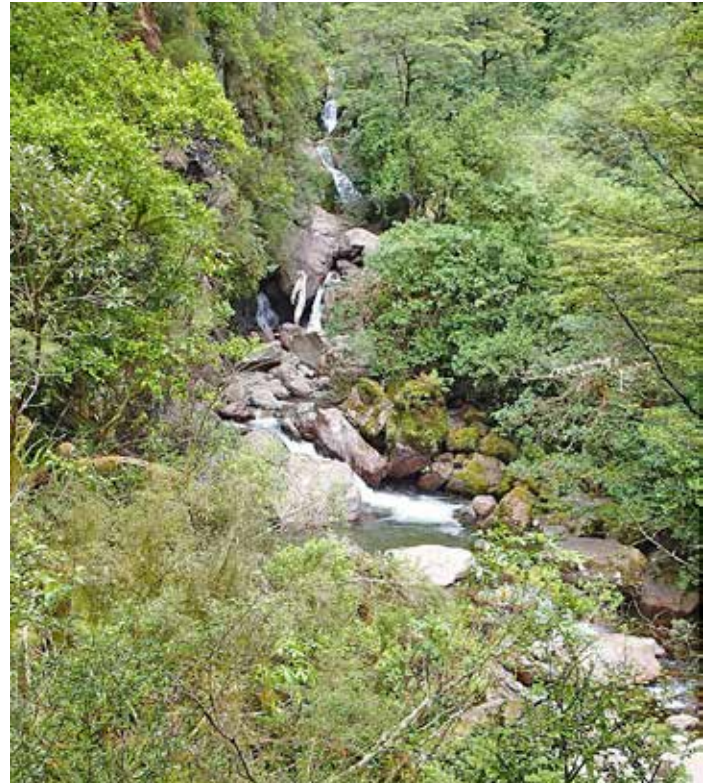
By the 1920's people were wanting to be able to drive their cars closer to the falls but there was no road. 'Advance Staveley Association' a local group, was formed in 1936 to promote better access to Sharplin Falls.

Lands & Survey surveyed an extension of Flynn's Road and vested Sharplin Falls scenic reserve, now extended to 65 *hectares*, with the Ashburton County Council. Ten years later and the Ashburton County Council is still promising to form a road.

Locals fed up with Council inaction, took action themselves and in 1951 the Staveley Ice Skating Rink Coy built a road through the swamp on

the surveyed road. Stones were carted and drains placed in the swamp just past Flynn's house. One working bee had eleven farmer's trucks and tractor drawn trailers carting shingle for the road.

After the road had been formed and the drains put in, the Ashburton County Council took it over and extended it to the Sharplin Falls track carpark.



What you will see from the viewing platform on the new track

Lands and Survey built a 6-wire swing bridge and a track to the falls in the 1950's.

In 1987 the area became the responsibility of the newly formed Department of Conservation. DOC replaced the swing bridge with a modern steel truss bridge in 1992.

Taskforce Green workers built the toilet and shelter facilities at the carpark in 1991/92.

To make the track more accessible and safer a gantry was erected around a rocky bluff in 1990. After several rockfalls resulting from the 2010 earthquake, this was dismantled in 2017 and the track was declared closed.

continued on page 25

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Mayfield and Districts Women's Dinner Club

is marking its 21st birthday this year. To celebrate 21 years of dinners, meeting new friends and having a catch-up, hosting guest speakers and supporting our community's catering groups, we are hosting a party at Terrace Croft, Ashburton, on October 18, from 6pm. \$40.



We have invited our founding committee members to join us to mark this special occasion and we hope former members will join us too. We would have marked the occasion last year, but covid-19 disruptions meant it wasn't possible. If any former dinner club members would like to attend, please contact Sonya Spencer (027 477-5997) or Cate Hogan-Wright (021 555-629) to book your place.

Mid Canterbury Rural Driver Licensing Scheme

As we move into spring and daylight saving there becomes a little extra time available for driver training. Which is perfect now that we have another group with learners licenses ready to hit the road. This means we are on the lookout for more driving mentors, so always keen to hear from anyone who would like to join us as a volunteer driving mentor.

We are grateful to Waka Kotahi who have come on board as a new funder. Did you know revenue from the sale of personalised number plates goes to funding community programmes like ours? Thanks to those who have personalised number plates, it's good to know who in the community benefits from your purchase.

And thanks to COGs for their ongoing support for another year. It's great that our sponsors see value in what we are doing, and see the difference their contribution makes to the lives of our newcomers. We encourage the public to continue to support community organisations who fund us, and to continue buying personalised plates, because we can't run our programme without our sponsors. Getting a license in New Zealand can be a daunting prospect for anyone, especially for a newcomer for whom English is a second language. A big part of what we do is supporting and guiding our clients through the process of booking the test. This can include visits to the AA office for the learners license, booking the practical test online through the NZTA website and accompanying them to their test at VTNZ if the mentor isn't able to do so. All great practical support that means so much to them. This programme really is a team effort. From our volunteers, road code tutors and driving instructors, to our sponsors, we couldn't do it without you.

If you would like to be part of this amazing programme, either as a student, driving mentor or to volunteer in other ways, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Wendy Hewitt on 027 611 3301 or wendy.hewitt@safer.org.nz. We are also on Facebook, just search for the Mid Canterbury Rural Driver Licensing Scheme.

The Mid Canterbury Rural Driver Licensing Scheme is proudly sponsored by MPI, Waka Kotahi, The Lotteries Commission,

Methven Aged Person Welfare Assoc. Inc. (Operator of Methven House)



Annual General Meeting

Monday 10th October 2022 at 7.00pm
All Saints Anglican Church

Members will be posted an agenda

Annual financial reports will be available at the AGM.

Apologies for the AGM to Lynley Pluck -
officeadmin@methvenhouse.co.nz
or phone 03 302 8528 ext 3

New Society Member would be very welcome -
Subs are \$10



From left to right : Qin Wang, Lyza Sarzuelo, Romina Ellul,
Ravneet Kaur & Michael Tamondong.

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
44 Cass Street, Ashburton 7700
Ph: 027 611 3301
wendy.hewitt@safer.org.nz

Office hours - Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm

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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Application rate weekly*	1

*Weekly application and dose can be increased in case of elevated moisture level and pathogenic load.

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- product has no effect, + product has little effect, ++ product has some effect, +++ product has strong effect, ++++ product has very strong effect

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Using alkaline agents in animal housing will further increase the pH of the bedding and accelerate the production of ammonia from urine. Increased ammonia concentration further increases the pH of the bedding. The resulting high alkaline environment will break down the animals' protective sebum layer, making them more susceptible to infection.

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The Mt Somers and District Citizens Association (MSDCA) is having their AGM on Thursday 27th October at the Mt Somers Hall at 7.30pm.

We were set up by council many years ago as a link between the district and council. Lately council has been represented by Liz McMillan (deputy mayor) Rodger Letham and Clare Harden. We discuss issues around the village and district and they keep us up to date with going ons at council. We also administer the newsletter which has been very successful over the years. The meetings are fairly laid back and generally everyone can have their say. The current big issue is flooding in the village. We have had one successful meeting with council staff and all agree that there is a problem, but we didn't come up with a solution as it involves peoples private property and ECAN. It could take quite a while to sort out especially with ECAN's consenting. What we do need is more people on the committee. There are a lot of new families who have moved into the village and district recently so don't be put off by being new. We need new faces and ideas so turn up to the AGM smile and you could get nominated.

Robert Schikker
Chairman

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Spring has sprung!!! Thank goodness. We are all more than ready for the warmer days with more sunlight and birds chirping. The spring gardens look wonderful compared with a couple of months ago, and along that vein, if you are a volunteer at the library over these next few months, it would be so appreciated if you could pick a bunch of colour for our library desk. It is such a nice touch and certainly brightens up the room. It need only be a vase full of fresh green leaves, anything to remind us that spring has arrived. Thank you. We have plenty of new books to add to our shelves and the following titles will be added in the next few weeks so keep coming in to see what is new.



'The Other Side of the Coin'

Firstly, in memory of Queen Elizabeth, we have purchased this stunning book written by her great friend and dresser, Angela Kelly. It is well illustrated and shows many previously unseen photographs, as well as giving a rare glimpse into the demands of supporting the Queen over the last 20 years or more, in both her wardrobe and personally. I'm sure it will be of great interest to many readers whether a royalist or not.

'The Little Wartime Library' by Kate Thompson.

This intriguing tale is based on true events and tells the inspiring tale of Clara Button who created England's Underground Library in 1944. While war raged in the country there was a little library in East London built over the tracks of the disused Bethnal Green tube station. Here, a whole community survived with thousands of bunk beds, a nursery, cafe, and a theatre and of course, the library. Reputed to be a gripping and heart wrenching page-turner.

'The Colony' by Maggie Magee.

This book was shortlisted for the Womens' Prize for Fiction. It is the story of two men who end up on the same island to study: one studying the old Irish language in order to preserve it, and the other who is there to paint the unique landscape and light. But the inhabitants of the island have their own views on what is being recorded, what is being taken from the islanders and what is given in return. Eventually the visitors head home, but there is a reckoning. Quite a flick in the tale.

This story weaves in and out of 'The Troubles' of Northern Ireland and is set in 1979. The writing and descriptions are brilliant, the whole book reads like a painting, but interspersed with the violence and hatred of the IRA. I learnt so much about this ugly war.

'Sons of a Good Keen Man' by the Crump Brothers.

We all know who Barry Crump was..... or do we??? Here is the true story of Barry Crump, the man, the myth, the father, as seen by his own sons: Ivan, Martin, Stephen, Harry, Erik, Lyall, and the strange shadow he cast over their lives. Published 25 years after Barry's death, this book offers straight and true anecdotes as each son writes frankly and movingly about how they navigated life both with and without Barry. He was seen as a rugged outdoors man and the quintessential Kiwi bloke as well as an unscrupulous brute, womaniser, alcoholic, and absentee husband. An interesting read for both men and women alike who would like to understand this iconic New Zealander more.



Garden Fete

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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 Signs of Life' by Stephen Fabes..... to the end of the earth with a doctor.

Stephen Fabes left his job as a junior doctor and set out to cycle the world, but as he crossed the continents and overcame the challenges of life on the road, he found himself administering medicine to many of the people he encountered. This included crumbling sanitariums, refugee camps, city dumps and war torn wards. The book is quoted as being an inspirational journey of humanity and humility.

'Blue Hour' by Sarah Schmidt.

This author also wrote 'See What I have Done' and on the strength of that tale, I pounced on this, her latest book. Incidentally we do have the other book in the library and I can recommend it most highly.

This new book is set in Australia and is the story of (1936) Mother Kitty, and then (1973) her daughters story, Eleanor. It is a powerful study of the fractures between mother and daughter and reveals the brutal cost when we allow grief and trauma to reach down through the generations.

This book will most likely be found in the Crime section, where her other book is. I haven't read it as yet but look forward to it.

'The Reluctant Carer' by ?????? Anonymous??

I cannot find an author for this book, an autobiography of a man caring for his ailing parents. It is humorous in parts and sad in others. And also quite scary of what can happen as we and our parents age... not so much in the physical afflictions but how they affect other people whom we care about. Both my parents have died, but I could relate to many segments of this book. It is cleverly written, sometimes a bit too clever which detracted from the sadness by bringing too much humour to the situation. But maybe the author needed that to get through the days. Overall, plenty to think about and learn from.

'Braemar Station' by Duncan and Carol Mackenzie.

Another iconic Mackenzie country station book, this time written by the family that owns it. Once again well illustrated and informative and certainly has a rightful place amongst our other high country books. Both Carol and Duncan wrote this book as a project over the Covid lockdown in 2020. Fortunately Duncan had kept daily and accurate diaries for over 50 years and Carol had kept detailed captioned photograph albums. These became the prompts for the memories and stories. On the shelves now.



'In the 'Clearing' by J P Pomare.

Another crime story by this popular crime writer. It is centred around a cult We are hearing plenty about this sort of life with the furore around the Gloriavale Centre and subsequent court proceedings in Christchurch, so perhaps it's relevant to have a new book about this very topic.

Be in quick to get the pick of these books which will be appearing on the shelves in the next week or two. A good way to relax after some time spent in your garden.....

Happy reading! A C

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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.

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Ashburton District Neighbourhood Support

September News

It is hard to believe it is now September and Spring. As I contemplate the growing season and what round of plants to sow next, weather events over the winter and changing weather patterns require consideration towards some critical thinking around whether I invest in some cover for them. Messages from Civil Defence express the same thoughts with the heavy rain and the effect this has had on our water ways around the Ashburton District. Ashburton District Council and Civil Defence confirm that while everything is wet it is difficult to fix the ground and subsequent roads. Some drier weather and drier roads should start to see pot hole repairs cranked up. The app Snap, Send and Solve allows you to take photos of problem areas around the District and residents are encouraged to use this and upload pictures to Council.

August reports on crime show 44 reported incidents including wilful damage, stolen vehicles, burglary, theft and shoplifting. There has been one report of a stolen vehicle and one report of wilful damage and one burglary throughout the foothills area. Security cameras around a property ensure that you can monitor what is going on. Steering wheel locks, car alarms and ultimately immobilisers can effect an outcome on thieves believing vehicles are easy prey. It can take from 5 seconds to 1 minute for a thief to gain access to a vehicle.

Fire and Emergency suggest it is a good time to remove dead or fallen trees as well as overhanging branches around power lines or entrance ways.

Our scam campaign continues to be popular and we have booklets and leaflets on where to go if in doubt. There are not many people in the community who have not been affected one way or the other. If in doubt stop and hang up or unplug your device until you can seek professional assistance or you can contact Neighbourhood Support 308 3558.

The strength of neighbours support the resilience of Communities.

Keep safe
Sue Abel

Ashburton District Neighbourhood Support



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Your Ashburton Neighbour Support Newsletter

Welcome to our October Newsletter

Our Board

Veronica Rabbitt (Chairperson), Rae Magson (Secretary and Treasurer), Jim Henderson (Civil Defence, ADC), Steve Ochsner (Fire and Emergency), Pup Chamberlain (Safer), Roger Lake, Noel Batty, Kaylene Donaldson, Sue Norton, Neroli Cross, Fiona White, Sue Abel (Co-ordinator)

Spring and September are here and it is hard to believe that both have reached us in what seems to be another year that has flown by. At Neighbourhood Support we have been working hard behind the scenes on a number of projects that we hope will help you as Neighbours and ultimately link to the resilience of this Community. I would just like to acknowledge the work of our Board members who have initiated some outcomes that will see

Neighbourhood Supports growth in both initiatives and awareness.

Crime Report

Reported crimes in Mid Canterbury over August totalled 44. This included wilful damage, burglary, stolen vehicles, theft, shoplifting, arson, graffiti, disorderly behaviour, theft from vehicles. Please ensure that valuable items in cars are removed. Those with trade vehicles a shrouded or titanium lock on a lock box makes it hard to get into, items that are marked with your driver's licence number or business name and address make it easier for Police to return, roughing tools up such as painting handles orange make them harder to fence, especially if it has your driver's licence number or business name on them as well. Homes can be protected with marker kits and the Menzshed will engrave items/tools. Rural areas are encouraged to purchase at least one good security camera on a known "hotspot" and display that knowledge with a sign so that any would be burglars can be deterred.

Scams are our current campaign. We have the Little Black Book available which talks about different scams and what to do to protect yourself. We also have flyers which highlight local numbers to ring if you need to talk to someone or want advice. Neighbourhood Support 308 3558, Citizens Advice Bureau 03

9288 761 who also have a digital tech guy who can assist with devices, Ashburton Library 308 7192 who also do classes with digital devices. If unsure stop and hang up or unplug your device from the wall and take to a computer technician. For bank scams contact your bank immediately. One such scam is Phishing. This is a type of email scam, where the sender pretends to be a trustworthy organisation — like a bank or government agency — in an attempt to get you to provide them with personal information, like your internet banking login details.

Check the email address, normally it will have a "co.nz" or "org.nz" at the end. Use the above numbers if not sure.

Fire and Emergency (FENZ)

Steve Ochsner from FENZ came to talk about Fire Safety around the home and keeping safe. Advice is to check Smoke Alarms. If they are done on the date of day light saving it is a good reminder and a date easily remembered when you need to check again. Those with power lines — check trees and shrubs. Anything overhanging should be pruned back to a safe size.

Civil Defence

Civil Defence continue to observe weather patterns and performance this time of year. Potholes and roads can be reviewed once roads and the ground underneath dry out. If you see anything that needs attention use the app - Snap, Send and Solve. A picture can be taken and uploaded to the Ashburton District Council site.

The strength of neighbours supports the resilience of Communities.

Keep safe

Sue Abel

Ashburton District Neighbourhood Support Co-coordinator

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Authorised by Jo Luxton MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington



With October we continue with our Connect theme- check out all the below options to connect in with others.

School holiday activities options are endless in week 1 with an activity based in Methven each day between 10am – 12pm (all free to attend) with scavenger hunts, the spring fling at the hall where multiple activities are available including Lego, seedling pot making, St John youth activities and much much more with the Ashburton Library and Museum and Eco Educate once again supporting this day. YMCA are coming to town with their bubble balls and Sue Duff is hosting Kids Art in the Garden – so much to do your kids cant get bored. Check out the Wellbeing Ōpūke Facebook page for more details and to register for the Spring Fling on the Tuesday.

Coming up on Sunday the 9th of October we are co-hosting the Hakatere Hope Walk and Lets Chalk About Mental Health family fun walk in Argyle Park Ashburton starting at 11am and we wish to invite you all to join in on this day to walk in unison to empower those who may feel alone or simply need place to connect in to. We have Wild Brew Coffee house joining us, Pacific Tribal is our local band for the event and there is a free balloon and sausage sizzle for the kids – no need to register just show up!

This year we are organising the great seedling swap – this idea is to inspire families to plant some vegetables in their own yard to help ease the load of rising food prices. So when you plant your own seedlings (a great time to do this at the start of the holidays and teach the kids or grand-kids to look after them and watch them grow) you do a few extra then bring them along to the Mt Somers Green on Wednesday the 19th of October from 3pm to swap them with others ready to get them in the gardens in the coming weeks – Labour Weekend or Canterbury Anniversary Day is often a great time to get the kids involved. We are also hosting the seedling swap in Methven on Friday the 21st if this date suits better or you are more than welcome to come to both. Hammer Hardware are offering prizes for the best looking plants, best variety and most unique seedling pots.

Wellbeing Ōpūke and Hammer Hardware bring to you:

The Great Seedling Swap

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Some regular features will continue such as Coffee Connections and our Wellbeing Walks and we are more than happy to also take suggestions if there is a need in your area to offer a time or place for people to connect. Keep an ear out for other upcoming activities to get involved in and reach out to Jess or Juanita if you have anything coming up we can support via email: wellbeingopuke@gmail.com

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Draft Interim Speed Management Plan

The way we deal with speed on New Zealand roads is changing.

We want your feedback on a new plan that proposes three key principles for how we approach speed management on Mid Canterbury roads.

1. Keeping our kids safe by lowering speed limits around all schools in the District.
2. Having the flexibility to lower speeds around the fringes of our towns as they grow and become more developed.
3. Lowering speeds in areas where we have a lot of active users, such as walkers and cyclists.

Feedback closes 5pm, Sunday 16 October

Have your
Say!



We want to hear from YOU!
ashburton.govt.nz/haveyoursay



Draft Use of Footpaths for Alfresco Dining Policy

We want to provide a pleasant environment for businesses and people to enjoy outdoor dining.

We also need to make sure public footpaths can be safely used by our community. We're proposing a few changes to our current policy and would like to hear your feedback. Find out more and read the consultation document on our website.

Feedback closes 5pm, Sunday 23 October



We want to hear from YOU!
ashburton.govt.nz/haveyoursay



THE ART OF FOOD by Jen Dearborn

This recipe was introduced to me by my mother who is a big fan of Annabelle Langbein. This is a variation on her Orange Lightening Cake. I had a big bag of lemons given to me, so I used them in the cake and it works well. It is called lightening cake because it's so fast to make. You blend everything in a food processor, and you will have the cake assembled by the time the oven has heated up. It's too easy. This is a very simple cake that isn't iced but I like it with a bit of butter for afternoon tea. It also goes well with yoghurt or cream for dessert. The whole lemon keeps the cake soft and tender for up to a week or it can be frozen.

LEMON LIGHTENING CAKE

Preheat your oven to 160 degrees. Grease a 20cm diameter cake tin and line with baking paper.

Cut 1 large or 2 small lemons into quarters and remove all the pips. Whizz the whole thing – skin and all in a food processor until finely chopped

Add to the food processor:

1 tsp baking soda dissolved in half cup milk

1 cup sugar

2 cups flour

2 eggs

1 tsp vanilla essence

125 grams butter softened

Whizz until just smooth and combined and then add:

1 cup sultanas or golden raisins

½ cup chopped walnuts

Pulse once or twice or mix in by hand or they will break up

Pour the mixture into the prepared cake tin and bake for one hour or until a skewer inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean



DEADLINE DATE

ISSUE

November 2022

DEADLINE

25 October

DELIVERY

1 November



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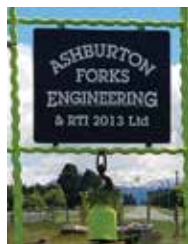
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Matt Chisholm has signed on as Ambassador for the Rural Support Trust

and he's on a nationwide tour talking to rural communities about mental wellbeing. With the support of the regional Rural Support Trusts across New Zealand and our proud partners, we are looking forward to bringing Matt to a rural venue near you.

Date: Thursday 20 October 2022

Time: 7pm

Venue: Ashburton Hotel

11 Racecourse Road, Ashburton

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your tickets at
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Time-Out-Tour](http://rural-support.org.nz/Time-Out-Tour)

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Self-described as “a very normal, very average bloke”, it's Matt's engaging, warm and curious personality that has stood him in good stead throughout his illustrious career in television journalism learning about the stories of others. As his documentary series *Man Enough* and *Like a Man* demonstrate, Matt is not averse to delving into the deep issues of mental wellbeing and navigating dark times. While familiar to many from his work on screen, Matt is no stranger to rural New Zealand, having grown up on the land and made the return, along with his family, to his rural roots in Otago. Matt's love for the country, coupled with a passion for helping others be proactive about their wellbeing, makes Matt a great fit as an Ambassador for the Trust. For Matt, “sharing works”. Tough times are normal; they affect all of us. And there is always a way through. The Time Out Tour is an excellent opportunity for Matt to start those conversations in a way that resonates with rural communities and brings hope to those reaching out and reaching in. Through captivating storytelling, Matt shares the good, the bad, and the questionable experiences he's faced on his unpredictable journey to date, and the little things he's learnt along the way.

Frances Beeston

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A major milestone for Mid Canterbury 25 September 2022

Jo Luxton, MP for Rangitata

I first wanted to acknowledge the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. As New Zealand's Queen and much loved Sovereign for over 70 years, it is appropriate that we mark her life of dedicated public service with a State Memorial Service and a one-off public holiday, on Monday 26 September. Queen Elizabeth attended over 21,000 solo engagements in her time as Monarch, a true marker of a life lived in dedicated service. I want to convey my deepest sympathy to the members of the Royal Family, Rest in Peace Queen Elizabeth II.

Here in the Foothills, we've been through a lot together in the past few years. We've stayed home, made sacrifices, and changed our everyday lives to control COVID. While it hasn't always been easy, we've pulled together – now we're in a position to move forward with greater confidence and certainty. We've removed the COVID-19 Protection Framework, commonly known as the traffic light system. Mask wearing requirements have been removed, except in healthcare and aged care settings. We've also changed the requirements around isolation, so it's now only people who test positive that need to isolate. For the first time since 2020, Mid Canterbury can look forward to summer with certainty, a summer where events won't be cancelled because of COVID and our borders



are fully open. Not only is this great news for families and friends, it will also make a real difference for our local businesses, particularly in the tourism and hospitality sectors. New Zealand's economy is set to recover faster from the pandemic than it did from the Global Financial Crisis – with near record low unemployment, wages outstripping inflation, low debt and record exports. However, there's no question that it's been a difficult few years for Mid Canterbury. Moving on safely from the traffic light system and welcoming back the world is going to help to drive greater economic activity. This is an exciting step for us here in the Foothills, and it's taken a team effort to get to this point. So thank you for your hard work and sacrifices over the past few years. These efforts have made a real difference.

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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

Last month I introduced the novel I started reading for the newsletter review but hadn't finished yet: 'A Little Life' by Hanya Yanagihara, a contemporary novel set in New York and following the lives of a group of four male friends (and their larger group of friends and family): artist JB, architect Malcolm, lawyer Jude and actor/waiter Willem. When the novel starts, they are in their late twenties and broke, still figuring out what to do with their lives now that university life has ended; by the time the novel ends, it is thirty years later.

It is an admirable piece of writing. It is epic both in size (700-plus pages long) and subject matter, and Yanagihara skillfully and sensitively brings all four characters and their evolving friendship(s) alive on the page. However, because the novel centres around Jude and the self-destructive behaviour and thought patterns he has adopted after having suffered the most horrific child abuse in the first fifteen years of his life (information about which the reader gradually gets fed more and more graphic detail), it also makes for a heavy and harrowing read. While it celebrates the healing power of friendship, love, loyalty and professional success, it also reveals that some things in life cannot be undone and that such healing has its limits in some situations.

While many of the chapters make for beautiful reading as you get to experience their life and work alongside them through the decades, in their twenties (lots of fun, no money), thirties (long-term relationship or not, ambition or not, kids or not), forties (more money, more responsibility) and early fifties (ageing), you really need a stomach for some of the bleaker chapters, which multiply as the book progresses. Faced with Jude's history,

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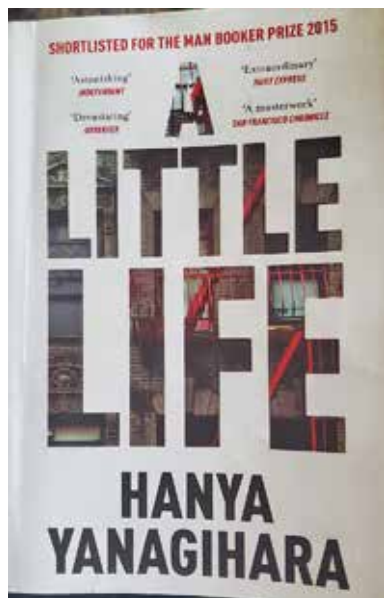
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the reader can feel like Willem, who, after many years of silence from his friend, finally hears of all the things that happened to him in his youth: "He will listen to stories that are unimaginable, that are abominable; he will excuse himself, three times, to go to the bathroom and study his face in the mirror and remind himself that he has only to find the courage to listen, although he will want to cover his ears and cover Jude's mouth to make the stories cease" (p. 535). I had to put the book aside a few times and consider whether I really wanted to read it all.

Most striking to me about the book is Yanagihara's decision to create detailed and rewarding professional lives for the four

characters she has created. The book's timespan allows her to show their years of study, determination, hard work and stubborn belief in following their passion and doing what they love and are good at (which, ultimately, pays off). She also includes lovely passages where the friends support each other's careers, are proud of each other's accomplishments, use their friend's expertise or see their friends in a completely light when visiting them in their work environment. And we, as readers, get to learn more about litigation, building designs and materials, the blood, sweat and tears that can precede art exhibitions, and the mixed blessings of being a famous actor. In its detailed imagining, it is quite unique and written with tenderness.

This novel is not for the faint-hearted and not recommended unconditionally. However, 'A Little Life' is certainly a powerful achievement.

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Mayfield and Districts Lions Report



At our last meeting we had the pleasure of having Barry Maister, Olympian and International Olympic Committee (IOC) member, as our guest speaker. The IOC is a not for profit independent international organization that is committed to building a better world through sport. Barry gave us a great insight into the inner workings of the committee.

Our caterers for September were the Mt Somers School who were raising funds for their school camp. It was good to see the school pupils helping to prepare and serve the food.

Lions members will be delivering Meals on Wheels for 2 days early in October.



Mayfield and District Lions would like to say a huge "thank you" to all those who have helped with the running of the speech competition. The high calibre of the speeches meant that the judges had quite a difficult, but enjoyable, job to do.

We appreciate the generosity of all our sponsors who supported us by donating prizes financially and with products.

The final competition was held at Mayfield School, the children all enjoyed presenting their speeches again. Last week Carew held theirs. I would like to thank all the Judges and Sponsors

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Mayfield / Mt Somers-Springburn Schools Speech Final, 1st September.

Year 5/6

1st Violet France – Why All Cats Should Be Shot.

2nd Angus Whillans – Carbon Credits- The Good the Bad and the Ugly.

3rd Izaak Huggins-Jeset- Signs from a Child's Perspective.

4th Charlie Greenslade- Why We Need Farmers.

Year 7/8

1st Layla Singleton- Critical Thinking

2nd Rose Chapman-To Board Or Not to Board.

3rd Harriet Phillips- World Hunger.

4th Flynn Carr- How to Drive your Parents Crazy.

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Successful pupils from Carew Peel Forest School:
 Year 5 Left to right
 Breanna "Why having siblings is a good thing" Highly commended
 Rosie "Why dogs make the best pet" 3rd
 Violet "Why every school needs a garden" 2nd
 Senuthi "My country Sri Lanka" 1st



Year 6 Left to right...
 Millie "Why everyone should be original" 3rd
 Casey "Why I think year 6 students should be allowed to attend a gym." Highly commended
 Wintrow "Why the world needs to take action on Climate Control." 2nd
 Fletcher "Why School Teachers deserve a pay rise." 1st



HOMEGROWN GARDEN TOUR
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MAYFIELD MT SOMERS ANGLICAN PARISH

We are probably all familiar with the saying, "We reap what we sow." It is a biblical quote and comes from Paul's letter to the Galatians. And recently we saw that saying played out, at the funeral of a wonderful lady of the foothills. She had lived most of her nearly ninety years, on or near State Highway 72, between Alford Forest and Mt. Somers. She had worshipped in the Southern part of our parish, for most of those years.

Her first choice of venue for her funeral had been St. Aidan's Church, but was discarded, because she didn't think the church would hold all those who would attend. At the time the Mt. Somers hall was under repair, so the Alford Forest hall was used. The residents of Alford Forest did her proud. The hall was decorated with branches of native beech and vases and vases full of daffodils. Extra seating was brought in., as was the keyboard from the Staveley Presbyterian Church. As I watched all the packing up afterwards, I noticed how nobody looked grouchy, all the work was done with a willingness that was great to observe.

It was payback time for this loving giving lady. We reap what we sow. Well done good and faithful servant.

And well done all the local people from Alford Forest and Staveley for your contribution and in so doing, honouring this faithful servant of our Lord.

Blessings, Annette Eggleston

From our Registers:

Burial Register: Lois Lorna Moody

ANGLICAN SERVICES

Priest: Rev Annette Eggleston

Holy Communion

Oct 2	10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers
Oct 16	10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers
Oct 30	10 a.m. All Saints, Ruapuna
Nov 6	10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers

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Parish Priest - Rev Annette Eggleston

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Church Warden – Pauline Hewson 3036 397

Church Warden, Secretary / Treasurer

- Marion Jacobson 027 3607 180

Email: marion.i.jacobson@gmail.co

NEWS FROM PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

The manse Mayfield has been rented out for a good number of years. Recently there has been a change of tenant, Donald and Kay Love have gained the tenancy intending to have the house occupied by workers, particularly seasonal workers. The property and the renting of is operated through B & N Properties Ltd a company dedicated to the renting and supervision of residential properties.

The manse was designed and built for the purpose of housing a resident minister in Mayfield; however, times and requirements change and currently there is no way the Presbyterian cause in this area could finance a minister either full time or part time. As a dwelling it is a large house, comprising four bedrooms, a meeting room and a study and could be classed as a six-bedroom dwelling. We hope, in the near future to have work completed in the section involving tree removal and pruning in general a well overdue tidy up, the house is basically in good repair, it is a well-constructed and designed building and should only require general maintenance for years to come.

Interim Moderator Rev Johanna Warren

Parish Clerks, Annette Syme Ph 303 0803

Liz Depree Ph 021889341

Parish Contacts:

Kevin Taylor ph 303 6392

Kay King ph 303 6033

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WORSHIP SERVICES July 22

Sunday 2nd Oct ST JOHNS METHVEN 10.30

Sunday 9th Oct St Johns Methven 10.30 am

Rev Silvia Purdie Worship leader

Sunday 16th Oct St Johns Methven 10.30

Sunday 23rd Oct Trinity Mayfield 10.00 am

Worship leader Paster Paul Eden

Parish AGM St Johns Methven 30th Oct

Rev Johanna Warren worship leader

AGM followed with shared Lunch

Walk 24 Aug: Geraldine

Timaru members led us on a lovely Geraldine walk and we finished off with a nice lunch at the Farm Shop Cafe.



Mt Somers and District Citizens Association

AGM

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Helping Hospice Clients to Live Well

(part 2)

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

Thomas* knows a great deal about life-limiting illness – he has 26 years of experience as a nurse in the cardio thoracic unit of a Perth hospital – and now he's a client at Hospice Mid Canterbury, dealing with his own health issues. When his illness meant he could no longer work as a nurse, he returned to New Zealand and settled in Ashburton.

Every Friday morning, at least half an hour before his exercise class begins, Thomas arrives at the Hospice base, warmly greeting the staff before heading to the kitchen and putting on the jug ready for the rest of the class to arrive. It's now a well-established ritual that the men sit down with a cuppa and a catch-up before they start the class.

When asked what he enjoys about the class, another of the class members immediately says, "fraternity". And Thomas agrees. "It's good to be part of a community," he says, "but when you're unwell, it's harder to go out to events and take part in group activities, because people don't always understand, and it can be embarrassing." At hospice, nobody minds if you can't do an exercise. Matt, the instructor, will always come up with an alternative for you if it's too hard.



The class keeps Thomas active and moving too, which is important for his mobility. Thomas appreciates the company and he's grateful for what HMC offers.

** Name changed to protect identity.*

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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➔ **PACK** **2**

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➔ **POST** **3**

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VOTE 2022
LOCAL ELECTIONS

Voting closes noon, Saturday 8 October
Find out more at **voteashburton.nz**

continued from page 1

The Project:

Mt Somers Walkways Society, a group of 25 members, many of whom have long ago retired, will soon build a new track to view Sharplin Falls. It will have been entirely funded and built by Ashburton people. The Department of Conservation declined to rebuild a track, despite there being almost no other short nature walks easily available to the public of Ashburton. Their main reason for refusing to consider a rebuilt track was inadequate Government funding. The Mt Somers Walkways Society led ably by Charles Ross, wanted a track for locals to enjoy and took on the onerous task of obtaining a Concession Agreement from DOC.

The new track which is expected to be completed by the end of 2022, will be 1.2 km long, it avoids areas of potential rockfall, crosses Bowyers Stream twice on steel truss foot bridges and ends at a viewing platform from which the three levels of the Sharplin Falls can be seen. The \$470,000 project will be owned and maintained by the Society who also do maintenance on all existing Mt Somers tracks as well as weed and pest control on the mountain.

Henry Havelock Sharplin

Sharplin moved his family and sawmill from Oxford to Staveley in 1890. When his first sawmill had cut out the surrounding forest, he set up a new sawmill at Bushside in 1906. It was a family business with his brother-in-law, brother, nephew and 5 sons involved in the business at various times making up the 50 something workers at peak production. Sharplin was concerned for the welfare of his employees and encouraged sporting activities as an alternative to the hard drinking culture of the time. He also encouraged the setting up of the Staveley Dairy Company as a replacement industry when the sawmill was about to close. He was involved in public affairs and other businesses in the district including farming and the coal and lime industries.

Naming the Track

The Department of Conservation Concession document states that MSWS has to work with the local Iwi to establish a culturally significant name for the walking track. In 1911 the falls were given the name 'Tahekerua' but locals preferred to call it Sharplin Falls.



Taking a break from a walk to Sharplin Falls in 1904 are Monsignor Thomas Hanrahan (left), his brother Frank Hanrahan and John Cullen. The three take the opportunity to absorb the majestic beauty of the area at the foot of Mt Somers.

A group of locals at the Falls approx 1912



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A COMMENT:

There have been several events and or happenings of recent times. The long lasting "covid 19" pandemic comes to mind of one of the significant events then there is the continuing war in Ukraine which appears to be ongoing with a tragic loss of life and infrastructure, and after several months of battle it all appears to be going nowhere. As in all wars it has been said there are no winners only losers. The Ukrainian army and people appear to have fought valiantly to retain their country against the Russian invasion, one could but wish them well, the cost and the suffering must be hard to endure.

Then our Queen has died after seventy years of loyal service as our Monarch and all commonwealth countries plus Great Britain and Northern Island at the great age of ninety-six years. The funeral broadcast from Westminster Abbey was a great occasion and a fitting memorial for a queen who fulfilled her calling in serving her kingdom.

Elizabeth succeeded to the throne at the early age of twenty-six years and proved to be a loyal and faithful servant to the people of Great Britain and the Commonwealth. Charles now becomes King Charles III and our new Monarch, in contrast to his mother Elizabeth he commences his reign at the very mature age of 73 years. Given longevity should Charles follow his mother and live well into his ninety's he could well reign as King for twenty plus years. In comparison to his Great Grandfather George V who followed the long reign of Queen Victoria becoming King in 1910 at the age of 45 years died 1936 at age 70 years having reigned for 26 years. I'm guessing Queen Victoria succeeded to the throne at an early age, or did she give birth to George at an early age!

The next issue that will be debated would be that of should we do away with the Monarchy and become a Republic? This is a big question and surly there would be many pros and cons. For a republic a president would need to be elected and as can be observed from other countries this can be difficult, cumbersome and costly. A Monarch by comparison where there is succession the system can and has worked well offering stability and providing a clear path to follow. A Republican with an elected President may well create more problems than it could solve.

The predecessor to Queen Elizabeth was as you know was King George VI, I well remember the announcement of his death 1953. The announcer on the radio stopped whatever was on and said there was a special news announcement, my mother rushed to turn up the volume on the old Philco radio we had at that time with the words what has happened now? We learnt that King George VI had died in his sleep. The adult discussion was who would be the Monarch now? The thoughts appeared to be that perhaps Elizabeth was too young. The young Elizabeth handled what must have appeared a formidable task in a confident and brave manner with the loyal help of her husband Prince Phillip the Duke of Edinburgh by her side. The system of Monarchy by succession has worked well for a long time, it does give stability to Great Britain and the Commonwealth countries it may well be worth continuing with a system that is proven and works.

If our readers would like to study the way or possibility of ways to appoint a president, then I would recommend if you haven't already done so grasp a copy of the Christchurch Press Wednesday September 21st 2022 and read the contribution from Joe Bennett titled "A rig-resistant republican plan." This may give the reader food for thought. And, you could be sure there is room for a great many alternate suggestions.

Cheers Denis

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	027 459 1277

Springburn area

Robert Withers	0273 030 138
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Walk 7 Sept: Halswell Quarry/Kennedys Bush Track
Some of them walked further to the Bellbird or to the peak for a great view.



Walk 14 Sep: Kettle Gate/Peter Range
A beautiful crispy day. 11 walked to the Kettle Gate and 8 walked further to the Peter Range loop track.



Mt Somers Staveley Playcentre

This past month has been full of fun! We had a trip up to Mt Hutt to play in the snow for our last winter session, what a wonderful time we had! Aren't we lucky to have this right on our back doorstep? Spring has now thrown everything at us from snow to sunshine so of course we make the most of it all! The children are back out enjoying the sandpit, swings and bikes, there has been painting and baking and all sorts happening inside too.

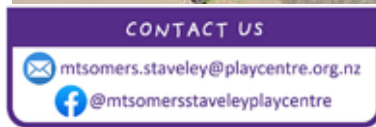
Kirsty from Mid Canterbury Rugby came out to teach us a bit about Rippa Rugby, a great way to introduce the kids to sport, we really enjoyed ourselves so she is coming back in Term 4 to do it again!



September saw two of our children turn five and graduate, we hope you're both having fun at school Malakai and Aroha!

We have the delicious Fairlie Pies for sale in October, check out our Facebook page, flick us an email or chat to a Playcentre Parent for more info. Orders will be due 19th of October with delivery before the end of the month.

So just like that term 3 is over! Term 4 begins Tuesday 18th October. Sadly we will be starting term 4 without our precious Session Facilitator, Kim. After being with us for over a year she is moving on and we are going to miss her terribly. All the best Kim!



Walk

31 Aug: Miners Track & Rhyolite Ridge

18 members split into two groups. 8 walked Miners Trail to Woolshed and 10 via Rhyolite to Woolshed Creek.

