

A COMMENT:

A new year and a new start to this New Year. So, just what is new! There is our own Prime minister who has chosen to reshuffle the parliamentary cabinet and add a new portfolio, a minister of the South Island. That sounds good news for the South Island, although now that it appears confirmed that Ashburton will get its long campaigned for second bridge. I am certain there are several other issues to pursue which could bring substantial benefit to this Island of ours. What about the Cook Strait ferry conundrum! 1962 the first roll on come rail ferry went into service, the Aramoana a 4000-ton vessel which proved a great success, it crossed in all manner of weather, never seemed to break down and was in its time a revolution. It was built for the purpose and achieved that purpose over its lifetime on Cook Strait. By contrast the current fleet of vessels being castoffs from other countries. They are much larger now 22,000 tons and more, faster I guess, but regulations prevent faster travel in the Marlborough Sounds.

They travel what I would describe as an indirect route. But that is the only way to get from Wellington to Picton. An alternative landing point in the South has been suggested but that is as far as it has got. Clifford Bay near Seddon on the East Coast surely is an obvious choice. A ferry terminal would have to be built, once established this would be a great freight and passenger landing point. The ferry journey would be considerably reduced and the road journey south reduced by 52 km or 43 minutes. Is this worth pursuing, I would think so, what a wonderful issue for our member of parliament and South Island representative James Meager to get his teeth into. When I Googled this issue, I noted other suggestions, for example a bridge! Or maybe a tunnel, I doubt that either would be likely to happen; perhaps the Chinese could build something like that for us, after all Mr. Trump tells us they run the Panama Canal. They just may have the expertise required. But for now, I would pursue the Clifford Bay option. It would be a good subject to discuss with our MP James Meager.

My summer reading has been yet another Ken Follett historic novel. Like many if not all his other novels it is described as

'The No. 1 International Bestseller.' The title 'The Armour of Light' and set in the fictitious industrious town of Kingsbridge England. The story covers that period of English history from 1792 to 1815. This was the long period of war that was largely between England and France, what is often described as the 100 year war, although it had lasted for something like 23 years, a very long war. England was short of soldiers and the latest method of recruiting other than just grabbing was for the courts rather than hang a criminal send him to war where frequently they perished as poorly trained and equipped soldiers. This book ends in 1815 which is the Battle of Waterloo, the final battle of the French wars and Napoleon Bonaparte's final battle.

The French had largely moved on from Napoleon I as Emperor of France. He had been heavily defeated in his war with Russia. Although discarded by his people he was successful in reforming an army and taking the French to war against the British and Prussians, allies. As history tells us Britian, and their Prussian allies were successful in defeating Napoleon's army. The British marched into Paris, Napoleon Bonaparte abdicated for the second time and was imprisoned this time on the remote mid-Atlantic Island of St Helena just two thousand miles west of Cape Town and two thousand five hundred miles east of Rio de Janeiro.

Nepoleon lived out his days on the island of St Helena he died on 5th of May 1821 at the age of fifty-one. Eventually in 1840 his remains were returned to France and laid to rest in Paris.

I researched Napoleon a little wondering if there was any comparison to Donald Trump. The historians have described Napoleon as a very motivated leader very capable when the issue was to assemble large armies and take them to war. He had notable success in extending the boundaries of the French empire. That was until he took on the Russian empire. He had gathered an army of 800,000 men and horses when entering Russia, he was not so much defeated but was more outwitted by the military power and wit of Russia. Napoleon was described as very intelligent; does he compare with Trump? I don't think so, we are comparing very different times in history, perhaps this is a comparison we should not attempt.

Cheers for now Denis

VICTORY LIME
NOT ALL LIME IS CREATED EQUAL

Talk to us today about your requirements
Contact us on:

☎ 0800 303 980

✉ admin@palmerresources.co.nz

📍 Peaches Rd, Mt Somers, RD 1, Ashburton 7771

www.vlime.co.nz

The Old Post Office Library



The first newsletter for the year, 2025.

Very gratifying to report the library has been well used over the last two months, thanks to our band of volunteers who have kept the door open on our library days.

And those outside shelves have been hard to keep full. So many books are taken from there, and people can be seen browsing regularly. I notice that visitors to the area particularly buy an icecream at the shop, wander over to the Village Green, and then before they leave Mt Somers they venture back to the library and spend time looking at the give away books. And of course if the library is open, they will venture in. Needless to say, all are impressed with our small library and think it most charming as well as very well stocked with something for everyone.

So if you ever have a free afternoon and fancy a sit down on a comfortable couch while fulfilling a community service, open up the library and meet some new people. Ph Annie 0274363736 or Pam 021 1264310 for particulars.

Over the Christmas holiday, the library received a wonderful donation of 4 boxes of amazing books from a Christchurch couple who are trying to downsize! And we are the lucky beneficiaries.

We will add these to the shelves in time, but to start with are three art books:

'Women Who Read are Dangerous' by Stefan Bollmann and a foreword by Karen Joy Fowler.

'Bloomsbury South... the arts in Christchurch' by Peter Simpson
'The Suter'.....People, Places, and Perspectives'..... Artworks from the collection of the fabulous Suter Art Gallery in Nelson.

These three books make for wonderful browsing if you have any interest in the Arts, and even if you don't..... the last two are so informative about New Zealand's early developing artworks up to the present day and make for superb reading.

'Delirious' by Damien Wilkens.

I really enjoyed this new book about an elderly couple deciding to move into a retirement village. Mary has a bad ankle and knee and Pete has a bad hip and tachycardia. It all sounds a bit familiar and maybe that is why it held my interest, as these two navigate their way through selling their house, family input, buying into a retirement village. Recommended.

'Dusk' by Robbie Arnott. Set in the highlands of Tasmania. For a start it seemed a little far fetched. A puma named 'Dusk' is roaming the distant highlands and killing shepherds. !!

I thought this was highly improbable but the book explains how this could have come about. It could be feasible. After all, we in Mid Canterbury have the Black Panther.

The other story running through this book is about out of work twins who decide to hunt this cat down in return for the bounty on its head. It held my interest.

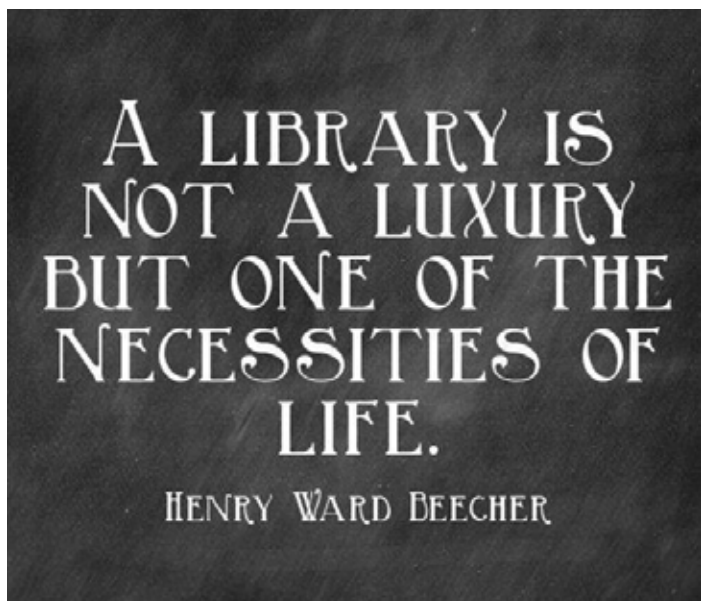
'The Arsonist' by Sue Miller. New to the library but it has been around a while. I enjoy Sue Miller's writing and we have a few in the library. She tends to write about families in everyday situations and in this book she tackles dementia, as well as other family happenings. And houses keep burning down. The small town is full of suspicion

and anger. But there is some romance as well which keeps one turning the pages.

If you have any used magazines (not too out-of-date) we would love to add them to our outside shelves. They are always popular. Even copies of the 'Listener' as there are some fabulous articles between their pages as well as book reviews, film appraisals and music recommendations. And everyday New Zealanders commenting on life 'in the long white cloud'

And we've seen plenty of that these last few weeks! Let's hope for a cloudless February and warm summery days before those early morning frosts creep in.

Meantime, enjoy your library and a big thank you to all who help run it. AC



Steady As You Go (SAYGO)

You could save yourself from a fall by attending SAYGO classes.

SAYGO improves:

- Balance & leg strength • Flexibility • General fitness & well-being
- Falls are the most common cause of injury in older people
- One third of people over 65 fall each year
- Half of people over 80 fall each year
- Designed for men and women
- Falls are not a natural part of ageing and are almost always associated with weakened leg muscles and poor balance

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

Saygo will finish on the 11th December and start again on the 5th February.

Ensor & Co delivering outstanding results **everytime.**



» 18A McMillan Street, Methven



Deadline Sale: 30 January
Reference: RX4402274
Open Home: Sat 1 February 10:45am-11:15am

FEE ENSOR ANDCO REALTY 24 LTD LICENSED REAA 2008



» 13 McMillan Street, Methven



Deadline Sale: 30 January
Reference: RX4404592
Open Home: Sat 1 February 10:00am-10:30am

FEE ENSOR ANDCO REALTY 24 LTD LICENSED REAA 2008



» 46 Memorial Crescent, Methven



Offers Over: \$975,000
Reference: RX4348644
Open Home: Sat 1 February 11:30am-12:00pm

FEE ENSOR ANDCO REALTY 24 LTD LICENSED REAA 2008



» 28 Peter Street, Ashburton



Priced: \$595,000
Reference: RX4345000
View By Appointment

FEE ENSOR ANDCO REALTY 24 LTD LICENSED REAA 2008



» 11 Orr Street, Netherby



Offers Over: \$395,000
Reference: RX4353382
Open Home: Sat 1 February 1:00pm-1:30pm

FEE ENSOR ANDCO REALTY 24 LTD LICENSED REAA 2008



» 56 Memorial Crescent, Methven



Priced: \$295,000
Reference: RX4230558

FEE ENSOR ANDCO REALTY 24 LTD LICENSED REAA 2008



» 17 Hekeao Road, Surrey Hills



Offers Over: \$720,000
Reference: RX4365880
Open Home: Sat 1 February 2:15pm-2:45pm

FEE ENSOR ANDCO REALTY 24 LTD LICENSED REAA 2008



» 7 Wayne Place, Methven



Reference: RX4416284

FEE ENSOR ANDCO REALTY 24 LTD LICENSED REAA 2008

Fee Ensor
021 705 014 | 03 423 2460
fee@ensorandco.nz | ensorandco.nz

PART OF THE ANDCO GROUP **ANDCO MEANS MORE**

Ensor & Co
REALTY

Book of the Month – Mt Somers Library

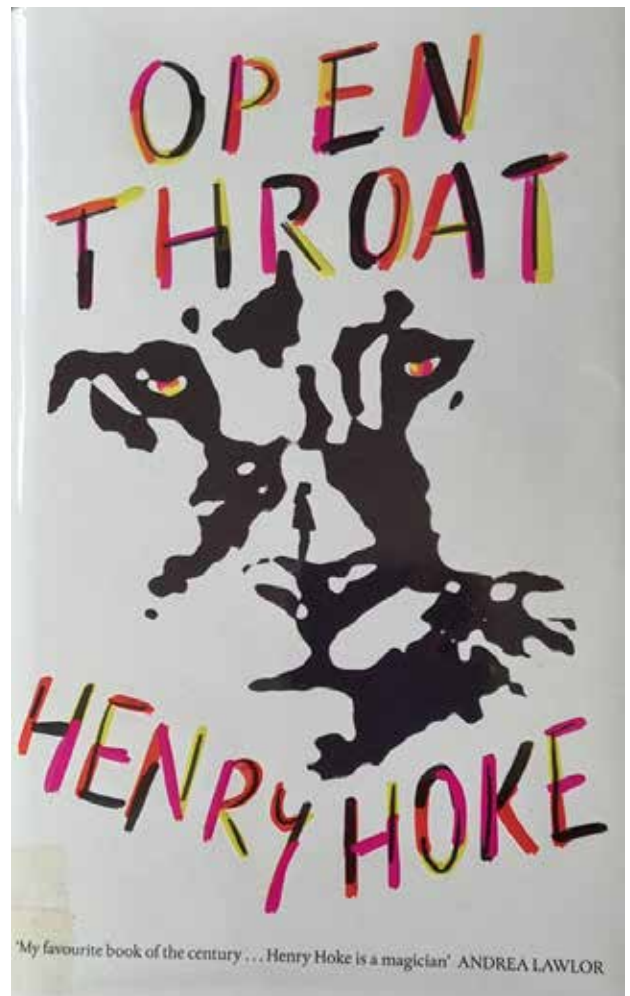
Title: 'Open Throat'

Author: Henry Hoke

Publication year: 2023

A review by Elles Smallegoor


The Mayfield area has its black panther. For over a decade, the Hollywood Hills in Los Angeles had a mountain lion. A bit less elusive than its New Zealand counterpart, the lion was often spotted in the hills by locals and, after caught and released by wildlife researchers, named P-22 and given an electronic neck collar. He lived in the hills until his death in 2022, when he was euthanised after suffering from health issues (source: [en-wikipedia.org/wiki/P-22](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/P-22)). Famously captured on camera under the Hollywood sign by a National Geographic photographer, P-22 became incredibly loved and popular in American culture and inspired songs, television series and



- Tracks & Lanes
- Dairy Lane Capping
- Tree Removal
- Logging/Forestry Work
- Farm Conversions
- Water Storage
- Dairy Shed Foundations
- Underpasses
- Irrigation Mainline Installation
- Project Management
- Commercial/Domestic Building Foundations
- Driveways

Free Quotes and Great Advice. Call Today!

0275 099 710

info@jackocontracting.co.nz Find us on Facebook 


books. One of these is Henry Hoke's 'Open Throat', a book that is not quite a novella nor a book-length poem, but more a hybrid of the two. In the acknowledgements, Hoke writes "This book is for P-22, who walks beside me in dreams" (p. 160).

The lyrical story is written from the perspective of a big cat-like creature, and from the first page, the reader falls straight into his thoughts: "I've never eaten a person but today I might" (p.3). His thicket is in a place the humans call "ellay" and he shares his day-to-day experiences and observations with us in short sentences or brief paragraphs, often quoting hikers, whose conversations in the Hollywood hills give LA its character. When two men set fire to a homeless encampment in the bush that functioned as the lion's safe haven to get water and food scraps, and the fire turns into a huge blaze, he flees his natural surroundings of thickets and caves and enters the urban, human world of highways (or "long deaths" as he calls them), houses, zoos and frightened people. His only friend there is Jane, a frustrated teenager who identifies him as female and adopts him as her

goddess. From here, the story enters the realm of fantasy and surrealism and the boundaries between the animal and the human world start to fade, opening up a space for us to ask some serious moral questions about identity and the human impact upon the natural world. Who is the prey and who the predator? What is good and what is bad?

Each page of the book looks like a poem, and some of the lion's phrases are beautiful and confronting when printed on the page in isolation. After overhearing a series of superficial conversations by passers-by he says: "I want to devour their sound/I have so much language in my brain/and nowhere to put it/I spend half the night dragging my deer up the hill to the cliff top/ to find some quiet" (p. 51). None of the sentences start with capital letters or end with full stops, adding to the sense that this is a creature communicating to us a world that is shared but yet differently inhabited. By choosing P-22 (or someone like P-22) as the protagonist, Hoke enables us to look at the encounter between the natural and the human world in a fresh manner.

JACOB HOLDAWAY CONTRACTING



**For all your straw
baling requirements
call Jacob today**



Jacob Holdaway Contracting Ltd

0274 225 464

www.jholdawaycontracting.com



"Do it Once, Do it Right"

Over 30 years experience servicing and supporting the local community

Earthworks

- Any type of Earthmoving



Laneways

- Lime capping



Ploughing

- Cable + Waterpipe Installation



Directional Drilling

- Trenchless Technology



Utility Detection Services

- Find it first



Demolition

- Residential and Commercial



Call us today for an obligation free quote.

GDC

Greg Donaldson Contracting Ltd



Office 308 8479 Mob 027 433 8003

Free Phone 0800 432 583 (GDC LTD)

Web www.gdc.net.nz Email office@gdcgroup.nz

2 Fords Road, Ashburton • 106 Hilton Highway, Timaru

How to Manage a Terminal Diagnosis

Coping with the news

Learning that you have a life-limiting illness is one of the most distressing and difficult events that can happen. Managing your feelings in those first few weeks can be challenging, and the suggestions below may help you and your loved ones navigate this minefield and move forward.

First Reactions

There is no right or wrong way for people to feel when they receive such a diagnosis. Hearing that your illness cannot be cured can be a frightening experience – and at first, it can be difficult to take everything in.

Give yourself the time to take in what is happening. You might want to be on your own. Or you might need to spend time with your partner, family or friends, to help you process the news. You may experience a range of emotions from fear and anger to relief and acceptance. This is normal.

As hard as it can be, try not to push your emotions aside completely. At some point, it's better to acknowledge your feelings, even if it's uncomfortable and hard to cope with.

Telling others

Sharing the news with others is not easy. Think about who you want to tell about the diagnosis. The first people you talk with are often those you are emotionally close to.

Tell who you want or need to tell, and don't feel pressured to tell anyone else. Remember too that you don't need to share all the details of the diagnosis with everyone. You can tell them as much or as little as you wish.

At some stage, you will need to inform those people who will help you "put your affairs in order" – your lawyer, financial advisor, accountant and healthcare providers.

See our next hospice article on "Living well with a Terminal Diagnosis."

If you or someone you care about has a life-limiting illness and would like our support, contact us on 307 8387, or 027 227 8387 or email manager@hospicemc.nz.

We welcome new referrals.

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



ANAMA RURAL WOMEN

It's been quiet with Rural Women. December saw us all get together with husbands for a meal catered by some members. January we don't meet and the next meeting is in February Wednesday 19th at 10am, when we will have a speaker talking on The Hippy Programme. This is a programme which benefits rural families. If anyone is interested in attending they are most welcome. Location hasn't been confirmed but possibly Mayfield. If you are interested contact me nearer the time and I can confirm. Nationally Rural Women in Wellington continue to advocate for the Rural community.

We are also celebrating 100 years of Rural Women this year and have a rose for sale. The description is decadently fragrant, soft lilac clusters on a bushy plant that is repeat flowering and grows to about one metre. If you would like to order one contact me. Kay. If anyone would like to join our group contact Kay 027 3339 513 or Betty 027 6222 031 we would love some new members.



2300 Methven Highway

Tamar Beef Maize Maze is Back !

Opening Sunday 9 Feb
1pm—4pm
and every Sunday
until 9 March

Check Tamar Farm
Facebook page for details
of Horror Maze nights

All proceeds to Hato Hone St John



Jeff Donaldson

In the world of real estate, finding an agent you can truly rely on is essential. Someone who embodies honesty, reliability, integrity, and trustworthiness coupled with a hands-on approach. Look no further than our esteemed real estate agent, Jeff Donaldson.

Market knowledge is key to making informed decisions.

Contact Jeff Donaldson today for a confidential chat around your next move.

Your rural and lifestyle specialist.

Call Jeff Today!

Jeff Donaldson

Rural & Lifestyle Sales Consultant

M 027 265 1290 | E jeff.donaldson@pggwrightson.co.nz



Check out my Facebook Page for all my latest listings www.facebook.com/JeffDonaldsonPGGWRE/

Mt Somers Rugby Club



Another season is upon us and preparations are underway to enter a team in the Senior B grade again this year. If you are interested in joining the team please contact Matt Johnson (Club Captain) Ph 027 2401 888 or Michael Donaldson (Manager) Ph 022 0179 088.

Coaches for the 2025 season are Tim Perry and Tony Bryant.

On Saturday 22nd February we are holding a Speed Shear at the clubrooms so come along and join the fun. All welcome.

As fundraising is always needed the club members are available to do crutching, carting hay/peastraw etc. please contact Shaun Flett. Ph 027 672 4017.



**Mt Somers
Rugby Club**



Rifleman Pest Control

FARMS WANTED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Providing a **free service** from Mayfield to Methven that's carried out by a local farmer. References available.

All carcasses utilised.

I collect all animals shot and also provide other services like possum trapping and larger game animal control.

**Text/Call Laurie Aitken
027 3143 491
riflemanz@gmail.com**



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

New Zealand Dairy Careers

Need Staff For Your Farm?

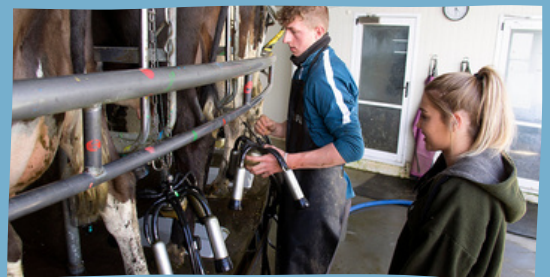
Talk to Kathryn today!

We have a pool of candidates including career changers, trainees, experienced dairy assistants, herd managers etc. from New Zealand and overseas

Call: 021 502 646

Visit: www.nzdairy careers.co.nz

Email: kathryn.haddow@nzdairy careers.co.nz



Stockists of quality 



Pedrollo pumps are designed to lift water from wells, tanks or waterways to supply anything requiring a reliable pressurised water system.

Typical uses include homes, gardens, stock troughs, K-line and tank filling.

Available as 3/4hp, 1hp, 1 1/2hp, 2hp and 3hp sizes.

We have the water pump to suit your situation, call in today for more information

///ACL
ARTHUR GATES LTD

26 McNally Street, Ashburton 7700. Phone (03) 308 5397



**Safer Mid Canterbury
Hakatere Haumaru**
Together we're safer • Me uru kahikatea

Happy New Year. We at the Rural Driver Licensing programme are really looking forward to seeing what 2025 brings. We are excited to build on the successes of last year and have got off to a great start already.

There is still a lot of need in the rural migrant community for help to get a driver's license and our March Road Code course is already full. We haven't had to advertise as word of mouth and social media have promoted the programme very well. A lot of referrals have been from past programme participants who have enjoyed the benefits of learning through a structured programme where safety on the road is a big focus.

Our mentors and professional instructors are excellent at getting our students up to test standard, with road safety at the front of their minds.

It's great to see the wait times for test slots has all but disappeared. There has been four testing officers on duty in Ashburton and we are now able

Quality Hoof Trimming for Dairy Cows




 Over 25,000 cows through our crushes last season.

 Three mobile hydraulic crushes.


BEST PRICES FOR:

- Top quality knives
- Claw blocks
- Hoof rasps and cutters
- Hoof trimming crushes



 Lamé cows treated rapidly & effectively

 Hoof trimming to PREVENT lameness

 Training in hoof care techniques



0800 4 COWCARE
0800 4 26922
office@cowcare.co.nz

to get a test slot pretty much straight away which is fantastic.

We start our next intake in March and are looking forward to seeing this group progress through the programme. They will be our fifteenth group and we are entering into our eighth year of the programme. How time flies!!

If you would like to be part of this amazing programme, as a student, driving mentor or to volunteer in other ways, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Wendy Hewitt on 027

611 3301 or wendy.hewitt@safer.org.nz

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

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



Wendy Hewitt
Rural Licensing Co-Ordinator
Safer Mid Canterbury
255 Moore Street,
Ashburton 7700
Ph: 027 611 3301
wendy.hewitt@safer.org.nz

Office hours - Monday to Friday
8.30 am to 4.30 pm



Good Property Management doesn't cost, it pays!



Call our Property Management team today or drop into our office for a no obligation chat about current demand, values, legislation changes, or a general 'investment health check' on your rental portfolio.

Let Ashburtons only REINZ accredited Property Management team take care of your investment property.

Professional Property Management

Janene McDowell and Carey Von Lubke

Janene McDowell
027 287 3388
rentals2.ashburton@raywhite.com

Carey Von Lubke
027 697 6948
rentals.ashburton@raywhite.com





Fertiliser Spreading Specialists

- Liquid
- Granule
- Lime




RICKY TAYLOR
 027 648 6856
 ricky@fertsolutions.co.nz
 www.fertsolutions.co.nz

Mt Somers Staveley Playcentre

It's a new year and the Mount Somers Staveley Playcentre children are excited to start back. We hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season.

We ended last year on a high with the Christmas Market going so extremely well. We want to thank all the organisers, stallholders and customers for making the day so amazing. The weather could not have been better either! Was rewarding to see the support of the community.

This term we are looking forward to having some trips away and, as usual, lots of fun on site. If you would like to join us at Mount Somers Staveley Playcentre we are open every Tuesday and Thursday 9am-12pm. New families are very welcome.

We all want Mid Canterbury to be a place with clean air, clear waterways and protected for future generations to enjoy.

However, to protect the places we love, we have some work to do.

We're starting on a climate change and sustainability strategy and we want to hear your ideas for what should be included.

- How can the district become more sustainable?
- How do we work together to address the challenges that climate change will bring?
- What areas should the Council focus on?



Find out more and have your say!

ItsOurPlace.nz





Mayfield and Districts Lions Report

Our club as well as our community has suffered a huge loss in the death of Chris Allen.

Chris had been a member of Lions for more than twenty years, and was to become our President this year. We were looking forward to his humour and clear thinking leadership. His passing will not only have a lasting effect on his family and friends, but also the wider community and the many groups and committees Chris was involved in. He was such an important advocate for many groups both local and national.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to AnneMarie and the family at this very sad time. We know the memories of Chris will be a great comfort.

Up coming events for February

Helping out at the shear for life event at Hinds

Day trip to Erewhon station and dinner meeting at Mt Potts restaurant

Idea Services day at Mt Somers 20th February.

Kevin McNab

Local vets, Nationwide support

We have everything you need at
VetEnt Mayfield.

Pop in and see Chantel
for all your farm and
animal health supplies.

VetEnt Mayfield
1984 Arundel Rakaia Gorge Rd,
Mayfield
P: (03) 303 6042



Painter Available

Spruce up and protect your
property with a coat of paint!

Interiors, exteriors, roofs
and weatherboards.

Pressure washing, airless spraying,
and a first-rate finish.

Friendly, professional service, good
rates, excellent local references.

Call Wolfie for a free quote.
Distance no problem.

Ph 0279 624 841 or 03 693 9803



Mt Somers Excavation Ltd



- GENERAL FARM MAINTENANCE
- ALKATHENE PIPE LAYING
- IRRIGATION MAINLINE TRENCHING
- 8, 14 & 20 TONNE DIGGERS
- TIP TRUCK & TRAILER
- GRADER
- SCREEN SHINGLE SUPPLIES
- TREE REMOVAL

Alistair Parris Owner / Operator - 20 Hinds Gorge Rd RD 8 Ashburton 7778
Ph: 027 434 7278 | E: mtsomersexcavation@xtra.co.nz | www.mtsomersexcavation.co.nz

MAYFIELD PLAYCENTRE PEA STRAW FUNDRAISER

Support our tamariki while stocking up on quality
pea straw! Perfect for your garden 🌱

Prices

- ✓ Pre-order Bales: \$6 each (pick up from the paddock) or \$6.50 on the day
- ✓ Delivered within 20 minutes of Mayfield: \$135 for 21 bales
- ✓ Pick Up Discount: \$110 for 21 bales

 **Free Delivery:**
Available for orders of
21 bales or more

ORDER NOW

 mayfield@playcentre.org.nz
027 4282 511 Sarah



**Hurry—limited
stock available!**

**Special thanks to Andrew and Sonya
Spencer for the pea straw donation,
Carr Contracting for baling & Sloane
Excavation for loading**

GORSE SPRAYING



ROSS BROWN CONTRACTING LTD

Registered Chemical Applicator
with 30 years experience

0274819190

www.gorsespraying.co.nz

email: gorseman@hotmail.com



STOP BIRDS

hail, leaves, snow & vermin from
blocking & damaging your spouting

Quality materials: BHP Colorbond steel mesh with unique patented louvre will even keep out pine needles. Will not rust or sag with age or load. 10 year warranty, range of colours Proven in Australia & New Zealand over the last 15 years.

**FOR SAFE, PURE DRINKING WATER
FROM YOUR ROOF.**

NOW AVAILABLE : STAINLESS STEEL MICRO MESH

Call Rohan anytime Mon-Sat for
a no-obligation assessment & quote

0800 486532



www.gumleaf.co.nz



**24 HOUR ON-CALL
EMERGENCY SERVICES**
Phone: (03) 693 9060

*Servicing Mayfield, Mt Somers, Hinds and South
Canterbury.*

Independent and locally owned.
Large and small animals.
Delivery service for all farm supplies.

Cnr Woodbury / Main North Rds, GERALDINE

Phone: 03 693 9060

Email: clinic@gatewayvets.co.nz

**COMPUTERS
FIXED
FAST
FIRST TIME**

Rural

03 308 3400
www.mypc.nz
144 Moore Street, Ashburton



**Computing
Solutions**

Cross Contracting Ltd

Experienced operators with over
45 years local knowledge



For all your digging requirements

- Stock water race cleaning
- Irrigation race cleaning
- Disposable pits
- Soak Pit • Trenches
- Gorse fence & shelter belt removal
- Irrigation mainline trenching
- Shingle screening bucket
- Tip truck hire
- Tree stump removal & root raking
- Operating three diggers
- On farm shingling – laneways, stockyards, water troughs
- Pipe line installation & repairs
- Cow lane cleaning

Grader and 20 ton digger available on request

Phone Ron

021 347 958 or 303 6067

2003069

MAYFIELD SPRAYING LTD

Family
owned &
operated



For all your agricultural spraying and liquid fertiliser needs with competitive rates phone Tony today.



MAYFIELD SPRAYING LTD

Tony 027 248 7045
mayfieldspraying@gmail.com



202517

If

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;

If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;

If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;

If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;

If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!
Rudyard Kipling

Ashburton Crane Hire Ltd.

24hr Service

0274 192 554

ashburtoncranes2015@gmail.com

"Reaching
New Heights"



*"If you can do what
you do best and be
happy, you are further
along in life than most
people."*

—Leonardo DiCaprio



For a
first Rate job
call us

Rates

PLUMBING & DRAINLAYING
CRAFTSMAN PLUMBER / REGISTERED DRAINLAYER

Phone: 03 693-8512 • Mobile: 0274 373 158
33 South Terrace, Geraldine

- NEW HOUSING
- REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE
- ROOF REPAIRS
- RENOVATIONS



- DRAIN CLEANING
- LOGFIRE INSTALLATIONS
- CONCRETE CORING
- BACKFLOW TESTING

LIVE MUSIC EVENTS 2025

AT PANTHERS ROCK, MAYFIELD



9
FEB

THE LAND GIRLS
4PM

JAZZYLICIOUS
3PM

23
FEB



8
MARCH

NICK & DAN
8PM

For more info visit
www.panthersrock.com

MAYFIELD MT SOMERS ANGLICAN PARISH

Every place has two stories, the story that's written and the story that everyone knows. As the new Rural Minister for Mid-Canterbury I hope I will be able to learn the story that everyone knows, to become a part of the community and learn the history and know the people, to understand the way of life here and what's important to the community.

With Rev. Annette Eggleston's last official service at St. Aidan's Church on Christmas day I stepped into the new role of Rural Minister for Mid-Canterbury. That leaves the question what is a Rural Minister for Mid-Canterbury? In some ways it's one of those 'figure it out as you go' roles, in other ways it's a simple definition: my role is to be here for the people of rural Mid-Canterbury, that involves some churchy stuff but it's mostly about supporting the communities and people, whether you're a church person or not. The first step is for me to get to know the community. In a 'figure it out as you go' role sometimes the best way is to just get stuck in and see what happens.

I have a family with primary age children, my work background is varied, a times I've been a landscaper, a driver, a bouncer, and a social worker/counsellor; I studied science and theology at university. My hobbies include fishing, hunting, hiking, and martial arts. I enjoy cold beer and good banter, and I have far too many skeletons in my own closet

to ever be a 'judgy kind of Christian.' So getting stuck in and seeing what happens is pretty much all I've known.

Pretty much anywhere you go there will be two historic features of the community, the church and the pub, the last church in Mt. Somers' is 125 this year so we should probably celebrate at some point. I hope you will share the story of this place that everyone knows with me (please do actually have a chat with me sometime soon), you don't have to wait for a christening or a funeral to get in touch with the minister, feel free to anytime.

Rev Sage Burke

ANGLICAN SERVICES

St Aidan's, Mt Somers

Feb 2 10 a.m. Holy Communion
 Feb 16 10 a.m. Worship Service
 Mar 2 10 a.m. Holy Communion

PARISH CONTACTS

Rev Sage Burke 027 3753 966 or 302 8254
 Email: rev.sageburke@outlook.com
 Warden: Pauline Hewson 027 2412 041
 Warden, Secretary / Treasurer:
 Marion Jacobson 027 3607 180
 Email: marion.i.jacobson@gmail.com
Web: www.midcanterbury.org,
facebook.com/MidCanterburyAnglican

RURAL NATIVES

www.ruralnatives.com

Mid Canterbury based company specialising in the establishment and ongoing maintenance of native shelterbelts and riparian strips. From plant selection and design consultation right through to planting the last plant.



FREE
CONSULTATION



PLANTING



ONGOING
MAINTENANCE

We will help you achieve your vision on your land.

Contact ■ 027 204 2022
 Mike McKenzie ■ ruralnatives@gmail.com



There is a link to access issues in colour of the Nor'Wester on Ashburton District Council's website, it is:

<https://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/community-facilities/ashburton-community-directory/nor-west-newsletter>

Annabel Lee

by Edgar Allan Poe
(published 1849)

It was many and many a year ago,
In a kingdom by the sea,
That a maiden there lived whom you may know
By the name of ANNABEL LEE;--
And this maiden she lived with no other thought
Than to love and be loved by me.
She was a child and I was a child,
In this kingdom by the sea,
But we loved with a love that was more than love--
I and my Annabel Lee--
With a love that the winged seraphs of heaven
Coveted her and me.

And this was the reason that, long ago,
In this kingdom by the sea,
A wind blew out of a cloud by night
Chilling my Annabel Lee;
So that her high-born kinsman came
And bore her away from me,
To shut her up in a sepulchre
In this kingdom by the sea.

continued on the next the page



LIMITED SPACES

Ashburton Forks Storage Units

9 and 6 metre deep units with **Extra Height** to accommodate Boats, Motorhomes, Caravans etc.
24/7 monitored security. Power and lights in each unit.

To check availability contact Daisy on 03 3030 802 or message 021 212 3181

Check out our webpage storage-ashforks.co.nz/home/

1807 Ashburton Staveley Rd (AshForksEngineering)



Community Grants & Funding



Apply now!

Every year, we provide funding for community groups and projects that help make Mid Canterbury a great place to live.

From community libraries and pools, to local events and native planting, grants are available for all sorts of activities. We're now seeking applications for the next round of funding. So, if you have a project or group that would benefit, apply now!

- ✓ **Community Project Grant**
Funding for projects that help enhance quality of life for our residents.
- ✓ **Community Agency Grant**
Helping community organisations with their operational costs.
- ✓ **Community Events Grant**
Funding to launch new community events or build the capacity of existing events.
- ✓ **Trail Maintenance Fund**
Grants to support the maintenance of local walking and cycling tracks.
- ✓ **School Holiday Programme Grant**
Support for school holiday programmes that cater for children aged 5-14 years.
- ✓ **Heritage Grant**
Support for the preservation or restoration of a heritage building or item.
- ✓ **Biodiversity Grant**
Funding for projects that will protect, maintain or restore biodiversity.
- ✓ **Community Library Grant**
Support for independently operated community libraries to purchase new reading material.
- ✓ **Community Infrastructure Grant**
Support for the development and maintenance of memorial and community halls, and reserve board infrastructure.

Applications close 28 February



Find out more ashburtondc.govt.nz/grants
grants@adc.govt.nz | (03) 307 7700



continued from the previous page

HEYBROOK BUILDING LTD



Heybrook Building is part of the New Zealand Certified Builders and offers the Halo 10 year guarantee for peace of mind building for your next project.

Servicing the Mid Canterbury foothills for over 10 years, phone Thamis for all your building needs

022 354 6524

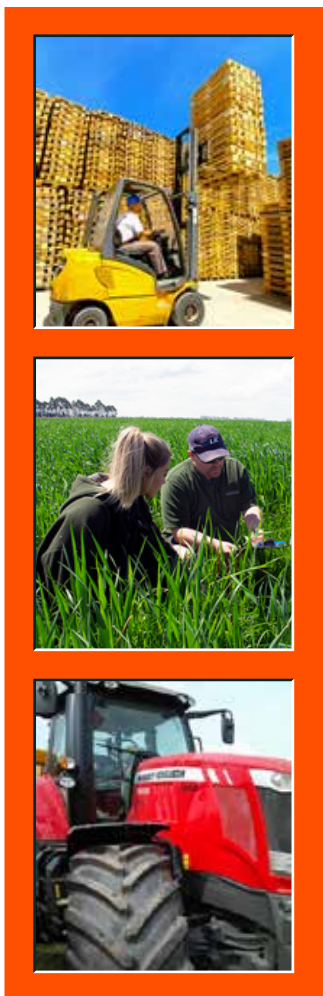
heybrookbuilding@gmail.com



The angels, not half so happy in Heaven,
Went envying her and me:--
Yes! that was the reason (as all men know,
In this kingdom by the sea)
That the wind came out of a cloud, chilling
And killing my Annabel Lee.

But our love it was stronger by far than the love
Of those who were older than we--
Of many far wiser than we--
And neither the angels in Heaven above,
Nor the demons down under the sea,
Can ever dissever my soul from the soul
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee:--

For the moon never beams
without bringing me dreams
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;
And the stars never rise but I see the bright eyes
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;
And so, all the night-tide, I lie down by the side
Of my darling, my darling, my life and my bride,
In her sepulchre there by the sea--
In her tomb by the side of the sea.



agstaff®

Good Buggers You Can Trust

Job Vacancies Available Now:

- Field Staff
- Factory Workers (days, nights, w/e or weekday shifts)
- Labourers
- Truck Drivers
- Farm Assistants
- and more...

Full-time | Part-time | Contract

Apply Online: agstaff.co.nz | Phone: 0800 247 8233



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

Principal's Farewell Message

This will be my final contribution to the Nor'Wester as the principal of Mayfield School. It has been an absolute privilege to serve this incredible school and community over the past two years. I am leaving Mayfield to take up the position of principal at Temuka Primary School, and as I prepare for this next chapter, I reflect on my time here fondly and with gratitude.

These past two years have been incredibly rewarding. I have deeply valued the connections and relationships I've formed with my colleagues, staff, tamariki, whānau, Board of Trustees, Ōpuke Kahui Ako, and the wider community. The journey has been full of learning opportunities, challenges, and unforgettable moments. I am truly thankful for the support, kindness, and collaboration that have made my time at Mayfield so special.

I am delighted to share that Mrs Emma Hewett has been appointed as the new principal of Mayfield School. I have every confidence that Emma will lead the school into an exciting future, building on its many strengths. She inherits an outstanding staff, wonderful tamariki, and an exceptional school community. Mayfield is in very capable hands, and I wish Emma and the school all the very best for the years ahead.

As part of this February edition of the Nor'Wester, I am proud to share the results of our 2024 Prize Giving. These awards celebrate the remarkable achievements of our tamariki and highlight the hard work, talent, and dedication that define our school.

MAYFIELD SCHOOL HEART VALUES AWARDS

TE PUKETAU TAHI CLASS

Honesty Annabelle Sinton
Enjoyment Lincoln Callagan
Achievement Spencer New
Respect Arlo Beswick
Try Our Best Hunter McLauchlan

TE PUKETAU RUA CLASS

Honesty Beau Baxter
Enjoyment Maite Perez
Achievement Janat Kaur
Respect Charlotte McCormick
Try Our Best Arthur Duff

LISMORE CLASS

Honesty Rajveer Singh
Enjoyment Annabelle Carr
Achievement Matilda New
Respect Elicora Sacay
Try Our Best Alaska Wright

MONTALTO CLASS

Honesty Elah Mungal
Enjoyment Taika Blake
Achievement Emma George
Respect Cedie Baroga
Try Our Best Nisi Filiai

RUAPUNA CLASS

Honesty Brandi Lynch
Enjoyment Mariah Saxelby
Achievement Ilya-Lee Mort
Respect Andre Roygard
Try Our Best Laura Scott

OTHER AWARDS

Nordqvist Family Cup for Effort and Cooperation Caroline Carr
Chamberlain Cup for Diligence in the Junior School Frankie Fielder
Montalto Cup for Cooperation and Excellence Maddison Taylor
Lismore Cup for Cooperation and Excellence Fergus Morrow
Miss Knight Cup for Excellence in Writing Saskia Blake
Rogers Cup for Excellence and Diligence Andrea Williams
Citizenship Cup Saskia Blake
Maths Cup Ariki Temarama

Whaea Aroha Manaakitanga Awards

Celebrating kindness, compassion, and care:

Ako Iti (Junior) Fergus Morrow
Ako Nui (Senior) Antonella Perez

SPORTS

Girls Sports Charlee Chard
Boys Sports Siuta Siale
Howden Tennis Cup Cedie Barroga
Woodvale Swimming Cup for Most Improved Swimmer Saskia Blake
Winning House Somers
Senior Speech Cup (Year 6 - 8) Saskia Blake
Donnelly Cultural Cup (Kapa Haka Trophy) Siuta Siale

It has been an honour to contribute to the legacy of Mayfield School, and I will always carry the memories and experiences of my time here with me. Thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey.

"Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini."

My strength is not as an individual, but as a collective.

**Ngā manaakitanga
Aroha Stewart**



DEADLINE DATE FOR MARCH ISSUE 2025

ISSUE	DEADLINE	DELIVERY
March 2025	25 February	28 February



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

Editor: Jeremy Hunter
8 Bruces Road,
Mt Somers, RD1,
Ashburton 7771
Telephone: 03 3039 722
Email: graphic@netaccess.co.nz

Supporting Our Youngest Learners: The HIPPY Programme

As the local coordinator of the HIPPY (Home Interaction Programme for Parents and Youngsters) programme, I'm excited to tell you about a wonderful opportunity for you and your child. If you're a parent or caregiver with a child between the ages of 2-5, HIPPY is here to help give your little one a head start in their educational journey—and the best part? It's completely free!

What is the HIPPY Programme? HIPPY is a fun, home-based programme that's designed to help you become your child's first and most important teacher. It provides simple, engaging activities that you can do with your child at home, focusing on building literacy, numeracy, problem-solving, and social skills. The activities are easy to follow and are meant to be fun for both you and your child—no prior experience needed!

As a parent, you're already your child's biggest influence. HIPPY helps you build on that by providing the tools, confidence, and support you need to prepare your child for school and beyond.

For many families, HIPPY can be a real game-changer. By making early learning accessible and enjoyable, it helps children build confidence and key skills for starting school, while empowering parents in their essential role as their child's first teacher.

Why HIPPY Works Finding time for early learning activities and navigating the education system can be tough. But that's where HIPPY comes in—it's designed to fit into your busy life, wherever you are.

- **Flexible and Convenient:** HIPPY is perfect for busy families. The programme works around your schedule, so you can do the activities whenever it fits best.
- **ECE and School Preparedness:** Transitioning your child to ECE or school can feel like a big step. HIPPY supports parents in preparing their child by introducing key literacy, numeracy, problem solving and social skills that help them succeed in group learning settings, making the transition easier for both parent and child.
- **Support for Migrant Families:** HIPPY can help you navigate the education system, improve your English, and feel more confident in your role as a parent.
- **Building Connections:** Rural areas can sometimes feel isolated, but with HIPPY, you'll connect with a supportive network of families who share the same goals.

A Local Mum's Experience

Geani, who lives in Mayfield and is originally from Chile, is participating in the HIPPY programme with her 2-year-old son.



"I enjoy having many new activities to do with my son and sharing time together. It's amazing to see how he learns and shows me new skills every week. I'm also learning new words and songs, which is helping me improve my English too. HIPPY is not only helping my son—it's helping me grow as a parent and learn alongside him."

Geani's story highlights the dual benefits of HIPPY for both children and parents, especially for those navigating life in a new country. The programme is also helping Geani prepare her son for Early Childhood Education by building essential foundational skills.



Activities Geani is providing for her son to help develop the fine motor muscles in his hand whilst following instruction. These activities are developing his sensory skills, expanding his learning about the natural world and vocabulary in relation to parts of the body through bathing some toys.

How Does It Work?

Each week, you'll receive a set of fun, easy-to-follow activities to do with your child at home. These activities are designed to engage your child in learning, helping them build important cognitive and social skills.

You won't be doing it alone—your trained HIPPY tutor will visit you at home to provide support, guidance, and encouragement. These tutors understand the realities of family life and will help you adapt the programme to suit your needs.

How to Get Involved

The HIPPY programme is available free of charge to families with children aged 2-5. If you're interested or would like to learn more, please don't hesitate to reach out. You can contact me on 027 284 1209 or jessica.wilson@greatpotentials.org.nz.

Let's work together to support our young learners and build a brighter future for all families.

Jess Wilson



Love Agricultural Contracting



CULTIVATION

- Cultivation
- Reversible ploughing
- Sumo trio
- Heva discs & rollers
- 8.5m Sunflower cultivator
- 6m leveller
- 6m Allen Drill, direct & conventional, seed & fert
- 6m Vaderstad Tempo fodder beet & Maize drill, fert
- 6m Horsch Pronto DC drill
- seed & insecticide boxes for cultivated ground.

FORAGE HARVESTING

Complete forage harvesting service. Mow, rake, chop, cart, stack & weighbridge

MAIZE

Talk to us about buying/selling maize

WINDROWING

MacDon tractor units
Variety of Mower, Auger & Draper fronts

BALING

- 4x3, 3x3 square bales
- Round bales
- Mow, mow-condition
- Tedder, rake, bale, tube & individually wrap & cart

STRAW & BALEAGE SUPPLY

Contact us for Customised Deals for straw delivered at harvest time so you can get the best quality straw at very competitive prices



email office@loveag.nz



Dan Collins
Baling & Silage
Ph **021 069 9926**



Robert Love
Cultivation, Windrowing
& Feed Trading
Ph **027 304 8837**



new builds - renovations
restorations - design
rural - residential
commercial - compliance



03 303 9830 0800 500 564
josephbuilders@xtra.co.nz



www.josephbuilders.co.nz

JPs in the Foothills Area

Mayfield

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

Mt Somers

Robert Schikker.0211 866 107.
Anne Marie Allan.0272 843 013.
Anne Parnham. 0277 676 056.
Wendy Millichamp.027 459 1277.

Springburn

Robert Withers.0273 030 138.

MAYFIELD A & P SHOW

SATURDAY 8th MARCH

Mayfield A&P Showgrounds, from 8am

TRACTOR PULL, PET TENT,
SHEEP, HORSES, SHEARING,
KIDS SCAVENGER HUNT, RIDES,
CRAFT, FOOD, TRADE STALLS,
HELI FLIGHTS & MORE!

Live Entertainment All Day

Have a great day in the country
at our Community Show!

Adults \$15, School Age Kids FREE



See our
WORLD FAMOUS
Racing Pigs!!

