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



Join the air rescue crew for Back to Base Challenge

This August, the crews of the Canterbury Westpac Rescue Helicopters are challenging the Mid Canterbury community to walk, run, ride, or ski their way to support the life-saving choppers.

Crew Chief, Rick Knight says the Back to Base Challenge is about getting winter fit and boosting mental wellbeing, while directly supporting the critical training and equipment the rescue helicopters depend on.

"The Back to Base challenge is a golden opportunity for our community to rally behind the Rescue Helicopter Service. We need your help, and with each mission costing on average \$5000, every dollar counts.

"Whether it's hitting the gym, the golf course, or the great outdoors, this challenge is a chance to push limits and show creativity," he says.

"Our message is to sign up, start training, seek sponsorship, and support the crew to get Back to Base in August."

Choose your challenge

To take the challenge, people can pick one of the suggested distances that reflect the trips the helicopters cover regularly.

From a 9km challenge - the equivalent of travelling from the Christchurch Hospital helipad back to base at Christchurch Airport - right through to the 155km from Timaru Hospital to Christchurch Hospital and back to base.

"For those who frequently visit the mountains or have seen the team rescuing injured skiers on the TV show Mt Hutt Rescue, the 97 km journey from Mt Hutt to Christchurch Hospital and back to base is an excellent choice. This distance can even be completed through regular ski days this winter," Rick Knight says.

"Or, for a mid-range option, the 49km from Akaroa to



Christchurch Hospital and back to base is a trip we regularly take to save patients from the long, winding roads."

Intensive Care Paramedic, Adrian Hurst says staying in peak physical condition for is vital for helicopter paramedics.

"For us, participating in the Back to Base virtual challenge is a fantastic way to maintain our health and mental wellbeing. Every day we need to be fit enough to swim in rough seas if we're involved in a sea rescue or climb up hills and through bush to find a patient who's been injured out tramping. Even being winched from the helicopter means we need to be really fit. It's an intense kind of job."

"This challenge mirrors the dedication and endurance required in our roles, and I'm excited to be a part of it. It's a wonderful opportunity to support our mission while keeping fit and focused," he says.

The Westpac Rescue Helicopter and ROA Mining Rescue Helicopter teams respond to nearly 1000 missions each year, delivering the speed and expertise that save lives. The Trust is set up to ensure patient care and outcomes are the very best, by funding this world-class service, pilot and crew training, and the latest equipment. It works with the service operator, GCH Aviation, to support initiatives that improve patient care.

Back to Base Challenge participants who fundraise more than \$100 will receive a free medal to mark their achievement.

Everyone is invited to sign up online and get sponsored for the Back to Base Challenge here: www.airrescue.co.nz/back-to-base

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Each year, Council helps fund community projects that make Mid Canterbury a great place to live.

We're seeking applications for the August funding round, so if your project would benefit, apply now!

- ✓ Heritage Grant Support for specialised maintenance that preserves or restores the heritage state of a building or heritage item.
- √ Trail Maintenance Fund Funding to help maintain or enhance local walking and cycling trails.

Looking to bring your creative project to life?



Whatever your planning, your arts project may be eligible for Creative Communities Scheme funding.

We're seeking applications for projects that:

- √ Increase opportunities for local participation in the arts
- √ Support the diverse artistic expressions of our local communities
- √ Enable young people to engage with the arts

Apply today and make a difference through the arts.



Applications open until 31 August.



Apply now!

Find out more ashburtondc.govt.nz/grants



Village Green What stories should we tell in the **Information Station?**

We are currently working through the building programme with our builder and the council for our anticipated spring time start. We haven't yet confirmed a date but one suggestion we are considering is to time our build to coincide with the school holidays - Saturday 28 September to Sunday 13 October - to minimise disruption to traffic and parking

As mentioned last month – we are seeking your views on what we would like to cover on the information panels. There is so much information that we are probably going to have more of a problem about what we have to leave out!!

Here is a summary of what we would like to cover – let someone on the committee know your thoughts -John Chapman, Pam Annand, Robert Schikker, Sarah Stanaway or Brian Humm

History Maori history use of the district

> Early exploration and pastoral settlement Early village history - bakery, butchery,

school, saddler, hotel etc

Volcanic origins of Mt Somers Geology

Glacial origins of the valleys

Earthquakes - including fault line on

the current village green

Formation of the local mineral deposits

Minerals Lime - agricultural use, building material, sculptural

Coal - including the miniature railway

 old railway tracks to lead into building Silica sand - Crown crystal glass ware and modern

industrial use

China clay - Temuka Pottery and Crown Lynn

domestic ware

Gemstones - Agate, amethyst, fossilised wood

Unique and threatened species of insects and birds Flora &

Fauna Introduced animals - deer, tahr, chamois, fish, birds

Unique plants and ecosystems

Information Services and amenities including regional map

DOC information including walking track maps

Recreational

Hunting and fishing, skiing, skating, hiking, mountaineering, boating Use Hakatere Conservation Park,

Mt Somers Sub Alpine Walkway and Te Araroa Trail Lord of the Rings- film site for village of Edoras

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 RURAL FIRE UNIT Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 13th August 2024 at 7.30pm at the Mayfield Fire Station

Members and New Members Welcome Jan Clucas Secretary 0274730892







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A COMMENT:

Mill Creek or is it Mill Stream? The latter appears to be the present-day name, as many of you possibly know my property is bound by this creek. I guess this stream was directed this way many years ago.

A man by the name of Alfred Saunders established a mill in 1873 for the purpose of grinding wheat into flour. Mr Saunders mill was water powered, I imagine the sighting of it on what is today West Street where it was adjacent to this creek was deliberate move to gain the water power. It was common in those early times to drive a mill by waterpower, wind was used in several European countries, but they may well have lacked a good reliable water supply. I read of one in Ukraine where the owner had abandoned wind in favour of steam power.

So Mill Creek as it was then known become an important water way for the powering of Saunders flour mill, I gathered that at one time there was two flour mills powered by this creek and Crumbs brick works drew water off the creek also. Its source appears to be well toward Methven where I assume it is fed by a reliable spring, then studying a map it also appears there may well be a feed from the North Ashburton River. I guess I'll get some feed-back when this comment gets read, I can then expect to be well informed.

Today, this stream continues to flow, in early morning I observe folk walking their dogs or perhaps just walking, then again later and late in the day dog walkers appear to be out in force. At the present time the water appears a little murky, for this I blame the ducks or is it the council workers upstream cleaning the channel! I rather blame the ducks of which there appear to be plenty. As the days get longer I would expect to find school children out with their fishing rods, the stream was well stocked with brown-trout and perch, and there has been some limited success at eeling on at least one occasion at night with very bright torch's and numerous boys, there was good success on that occasion as next day there was numerous smelly dead eels littering the banks and for the next few days. I have a good bridge over this stream which is popular with some young folk as some have attempted to drop the odd heavy boulder to bomb the unwary eel, I may add I believe with no success, but they make a good splash!

Just yesterday I had two very alarmed girls approx. ten/elevenyear-olds, one had lost her shoe, it had gone down the stream, the shoes had cost \$109, and Dad would be mad if they can't find it! That won't do we can't have dad going mad I said. So, I put my gumboots on and found the garden rake and after a little searching down-stream the shoe was found and retrieved, so Dad didn't have to go mad after-all.

I added a photo of my crab-apple tree with its normal heavy crop of crab-apples, I like that tree as the fruit stays there most of the winter and I observe the birds feeding freely off it. I welcome these birds making good use of this fruit. I think these birds are Silvereye, and at times there would be a dozen or even more there, I don't think they will show in the photo, but you may see a single Blackbird in the top of the tree, the fruit is more or less golf ball size.

A book I recommend; 'Mount Somers Memories' A Rural Childhood in the 1950s By Olive Sandrey.

Olive, born 1945 was the forth child in a five girl family. Her father was George Sandry he farmed very near the Mt Somers village, the girls rode their bikes home from school at lunch time. This was a very functional family, Olive talks of their friends, the Roundtree's of Alford Forest, the Urquharts of Cairndhu, the Robertson's in Anama and the Cinnery's of Edendale to name just a few.



The Crabapple in my garden feeding the birds.

The father would have loved to have had at least one son, but five daughters it was, her father rather philosophically said that was cheaper, as with daughters he had only to pay for weddings with sons he may well have had to buy a farm each for them, which would have cost many times more.

That's me for now DENIS

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There is an exciting pile of new books in the library so make a point of a visit in the near future to see what our latest book grant has bought us.

MAURICE AND MARALYN by Sophie Elmhirst.

Unputdownable is how I'd describe this book. It is the true story of a whale, a shipwreck, and a love. The tale centres around an English couple who really couldn't be more different....he is as cautious and awkward as she is charismatic and forceful. Unlikely as it seems , their relationship works. But Maralyn is bored with life and they decide to sell their house, build a boat and sail to New Zealand. But it all goes horribly wrong..... in the middle of the ocean their small boat is struck by a whale and sinks leaving the couple adrift in the middle of the Pacific Ocean on a tiny life raft.

This book is based on their story recorded in a diary, and by numerous interviews. It is a book to suit many people whether or not they find sailing interesting. It is more about a relationship surviving or not , in a very tiny space fraught with danger in every direction. And also the survival of the human body in such dire circumstances.

ON CALL by Ineke Meredith.

I seem to have a nonfiction theme running here.... This book is a 'ruthlessly honest and viscerally beautiful' (Emma Espiner) memoir of a young Polynesian general surgeon, daughter and Mother. She works in both NZ and Paris and has an interest in breast cancer and reconstruction, research, and is the founder of a canine skincare company 'Fur Love'.

This book will be enjoyed by anyone interested in medical tales all of which are true and have happened to this amazing woman. It certainly gives some insight to our current Medical Crises and the stress and strains our doctors and surgeons are experiencing. I recommend this book highly.

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BEST BOOKS OF THE 21ST CENTURY

Lucy's Ballott



A Little Life Hanya Yanagihara



Still Life Sarah Winman



Hamnet Maggie O'Farrell



Sing, Unburied, Sing Jesmyn Ward



The Luminaries

Eleanor Catton



Traitor Stephen Daisley



The Snowfly Joseph Heywood



Olive Kitteridge Elizabeth Strout



The Little Friend Donna Tartt



Demon Copperhead Barbara Kingsolver

NELL by Penelope Todd

This is the only book I have ever seen with a 5/5 rating from 'Goodreads' book reviews! So I was very intrigued to see why it had been reviewed so highly. I can honestly say this book deserved that rating totally. I loved it! An easy read about Nell, born in 1897, and raised in the South Island high country. Well known New Zealand author Fiona Farrell writes :.....' the richly observed detail of one woman's life from childhood to youth and love, marriage, childbirth, loss and the consolations of friendship, a garden, and the wide vistas of Otago's high country'. And that sums it up. It is a gem and could appeal to both men and women. Penelope Todd is a Dunedin author and this book seems to be inspired by her grandmother, Eleanor Preston.

THE PEAKS AND PASSES OF J.R.D.... From the notebooks and letters from the life of James Robert Dennistoun born in 1883 who farmed at Peel Forest, and developed a love of mountaineering and exploring .

This book was first published in 1999, and I found a new copy while in Nelson recently. I'm sure many of our readers will find it to be fascinating reading, It is beautifully illustrated with photographs and the cover is from a painting by Ben Woollcombe of Geraldine.

Continuing the mountain theme

SO FAR SO GOOD A Three Month Traverse of the Southern Alps. By Craig Potton.

A beautifully illustrated copy by the landscape photographer Craig Potton.

Thirty five years ago the author completed a 3 month traverse of the Southern Alps which began near Milford and finished at the Nelson Lakes. In this book he recounts the experience of the mountaineering and tramping adventure with 3 of his close friends.



This book is a beautiful read for anyone with an interest in tramping and mountains and wild places.

OLIVE KITTERIDGE by Elizabeth Strout.

We have been missing this popular book for some time from our shelves so I have replaced it. It is the prequel to 'Olive Again' also on the library shelves in the contemporary section .(by the couch)

WITH WINTER COMES DARKNESS by Robbi Neal

Set in Australia, this book is another one hard to leave alone once started. Psychological suspense and family drama meet between the pages of this heartrending novel. You have to read it!!

WHOSE HIGH COUNTRY?...A history of the South Island high country of New Zealand. By Roberta McIntyre.

I found this copy in a secondhand bookshop on my travels and have loved flicking through the chapters, with familiar names and properties. Although written in 2008, it is still pertinent to today's problems with farming and conservation in the high country. I hope the farmers amongst our readers will find it interesting and informative.

THE LAST SECRET AGENT By Pippa Latour.

A memoir based on Pippa Latour's recollections of her life behind Nazi enemy lines. She recently died at 100years plus ,

She never told her husband or children about her spy work, saying only she was a balloon operator in the war.

This is the outstanding true story of one of the last female special operations agents in France to get out alive after its liberation in WWll.

The New York Times has just released their list of the best books of the 21st century. I was eager to see how many of them we have in the library.....our Mt Somers Library has all bar one. Not bad for a little volunteer country library!!!!

Happy reading over winter, it will pass the time! AC.

Mid Canterbury Rural Support Trust TRUSTEE POSITION

The Mid Canterbury Rural Support Trust has had an eventful and busy time in recent years supporting our rural community through the many highs and lows of farming in our region.

The Trust is seeking new members, particularly those who have governance experience.

Please forward your CV and expression of interest to Jo Cook by Monday August 12th

Jo.cook@ruralsupport.org.nz 0276839832





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Two \$10,000 scholarships are available for leadership and governance study from Advance Ashburton Community Foundation.

Applications open now and close 23 August 2024.

Advance Ashburton Community Foundation is pleased to support the growth of leadership and strong governance within Mid Canterbury and invites applications for the annual Advance Ashburton Leader's Scholarship and Jan Early Memorial Scholarship.

The Advance Ashburton Leader's Scholarship aims to enhance the leadership skills of an outstanding Mid Cantabrian through a recognised leadership or personal development course, project, or experience of the applicant's choice. Applicants need to be able to demonstrate leadership, provide a clear vision of their future goals, and show an ongoing commitment to the district.

The Jan Early Memorial Scholarship, first awarded in 2023 to Lorna Humm of Mt Somers, aims to enable an outstanding woman from Mid Canterbury to grow skills in governance and enhance their capability of creating a better Ashburton District for all. This scholarship, made possible by the family of the late Jan Early, celebrates the potential of women as strong governors and encourages diversity across Board tables in our region and beyond.

Both scholarships are worth up to \$10,000. Applicants must be aged over 25 and reside in Mid Canterbury.

Application forms are available on the Advance Ashburton website – www.advanceashburton.org.nz, and enquiries can be directed to Carolyn Clough, Executive Officer, on 307 5902 or 021 886 087.

The Advance Ashburton Leader's Scholarship and Jan Early Memorial Scholarship will be awarded at the Advance Ashburton Annual Celebration to be held on 16th October 2024 at the Ashburton Event Centre.





Our popular road code classes have started again with a full class. This is our fourteenth group to go through the road code course and once again it's a nice mix of cultures, which shows what a diverse community we live in. We do two road code courses each year and this is the second one for the year.

These classes are where our journey begins. We are funded to do licenses for each stage of the NZ graduated license system, so learning the road code is where we start. The great thing about our classes is that we learn the rules before we do the quizzes. A lot of people like to learn using apps which are solely quizzes. The problem with this is they then don't know how the road rules work and once in the car it gets very confusing for them. This is why we like our students to learn the road code with us. Safe driving starts with a thorough understanding of the road rules.

This year we have had fifty one successful license tests already, twenty five learners and twenty six restricted / full licenses. A great result considering we are just over half way through the year. Looking forward to seeing what the rest of the year brings.

I would also like to acknowledge our wonderful sponsors who have given us grants in the latest funding rounds. Many thanks to the Ashburton District Council and Advance Ashburton Community Foundation - Johnston Brothers Fund. We are so grateful for their support as without them we wouldn't have a programme.

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

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Mayfield and Districts Lions Report

The month of July is the Changover meeting for Mayfild Lions Club, where the old committee retires and the new President and committee are sworn in for the year.

The Club has had a very successful past year lead by President John Rushton, with a number of new members joining the club over the year. It continues to be a group that enjoy spending time together in fellowship, while helping to support people and other organisations in our local and wider community.

During the year we have had some very interesting speakers at our monthly dinner meetings, where local fundraising groups are paid to supply our dinner. We have also had visits to the Stavely Ice skating rink, the newly refurbished Sharpland Falls track, Landlogic Hydroponic site, Greg Lovetts packing shed, and Andrew Donaldsons machinery collection. Club members and partners have also enjoyed shows and outings.

Fundraising has been very successful this year, with the club gifting back to the community \$81,000, the largest in the club's history.

This was achieved from large amounts of firewood being sold and our local golf match, along with our swede and onion sales at Mayfield and Mt Somers. We also had scrap metal sales, Mayfield show activities and the Maize maze on Richard and Chrissie Wrights farm, to name just a few.

Two of our members received Lloyd Morgan awards at our Changeover meeting.for service to the club and community.

Michael Rushton joined Lions 20 years ago,, during this time he has served as President, and then held the office of Treasurer for 7 years. He has been a member of the Board for 18 years as well as being Bike Race convenor for a number of years.

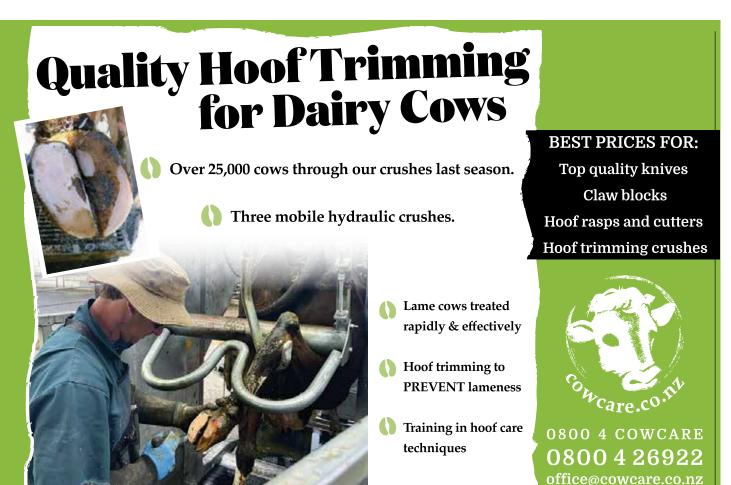
Grant Early joined 20 years ago, he served as President and then as Secretary for 7 years. He is also a long serving Board member and on our Golf fundraising committee for 18 years.

Past President John Rushton wished incoming President Roger Baxter and his new Board all the best for the coming year.

John Fleming

Sadly John passed away recently. He was a charter member of our club, and a member for 46 years. John has been very active in Lions with a 100% attendance record and in recent years could be relied upon to provide afternoon tea at our Fire wood cutting. Arriving with chairs from the hall, fruit cake, sandwiches, and tea and coffee, all supplied by John and Val.

During the year he mowed the domain and hall and rugby grounds at Mayfield, and often any roadside verges in and around Mayfield, keeping the village looking tidy/





The Changeover meeting where outgoing President John Rushton is pinning the President's badge on the incoming President Roger Baxter, and Neil Blake, past District Governor, who officiated the change of Officers.

He will be sadly missed by Mayfeild Lions and the Mayfield District, and we offer our sincere condolences to Val, Martin and family



TENDER FOR LAND AT MOUNT SOMERS



Council is calling for tenders on land on behalf of the Mount Somers Reserve Board. The tender is for a five-year licence to occupy on 37 hectares off Tramway Road, Mount Somers (as outlined).

Tenders must be received by Ashburton District Council on or **before 4pm on 12 August**. The licence to occupy would begin 1 September.



Please contact *commercial@adc.govt.nz* for a tender application form or for more information, visit *ashburtondc.govt.nz*





Mt Somers & Staveley Playcentre

We are back open for term 3! Most of July was quiet on the Playcentre front due to the school holidays but we still managed to have a fun holiday Disco!

A wonderful night was also had at our Matariki evening at the end of June, with a shared meal, toasted marshmallows, a wishing tree, music, and lots of pretty lights!

We waved goodbye to the Rebotton family and celebrated Abigail's graduation before they made the move back to France. We were all very sad to see them go and wish them all the best.

So what is to come in Term 3? Plenty! We're planning a sandpit upgrade, some fun excursions and our AGM towards the end of Term. It will be spring before we know it!

If you're sitting at home on these chilly days with young kids and are are looking for something to do, come and visit us! At the monent we have children aged from 5 months right through to 5 years old, there is something for everyone here at Playcentre. Sessions run 9am - 12pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 50 Pattons Road, Mt Somers.













ISSUE EIGHTY NINE THE NOR'WESTER AUGUST 2024

Assessors and their vital role at HMC

Approaching Hospice Mid Canterbury (HMC) for help is a huge step and clients often get nervous when Support Co-ordinator Sarah MacAvoy tells them that an assessor will be in touch. However, the assessors are the vital link for clients and their families to ensure that they get the right supports at the right time.

All of the assessors at HMC are, or have previously been, health professionals - mainly nurses as well as occupational therapists and physiotherapists, and they bring their

skills, knowledge and experience to the role of assessor. They spend time getting to know the client and family, and explaining how HMC may help. Alison Grant, an HMC assessor, comments that "it's a privilege to go into people's homes at such a difficult time."

Assessors continue to have regular contact with clients and caregivers, checking with them to see how things are going and whether their needs have changed. All the assessors emphasise that the earlier people ask for help the better.

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HMC assessors travel throughout Mid Canterbury but they acknowledge the additional challenges faced by those living out of town. Lynda Steele, another HMC assessor, says that "Any country referrals have the obvious difficulties that rural people all face - the sheer distance that people have

While some services are provided at Kowhai House, HMC's Havelock Street base, services such as biography and some of the complementary therapies can be provided at home, including in rural areas. Every situation is different and the assessors pride themselves on providing supports that suit the current needs of the client and their family.



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HMC Assessors Lynda Steele (right) and Alison Grant (left) with Support Co-ordinator Sarah MacAvoy (centre)

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.

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Neighbourhood Support Ashburton District



Foothills News July 2024Five reported crimes in and around Methven and the Foothills for July. This includes burglary, theft, theft from a vehicle and a stolen vehicle. In general, high commodity items are vehicles, in particular utes, building sites, in particular wiring. Theft from vehicles is often opportunistic so please remember to take valuables out of vehicles, and ensure vehicles are locked. Car alarms are a good deterrent as well.

Scams continue to plague us driven by technology and its ability to lure us into trust. If you are asked to pay for something with an itune card or Paysafe card then it will be a scam. Money on these cards is preloaded by the person being scammed. You will then be asked to confirm the number on the card which then gives the scammers access to the card and any subsequent monies. Once this is transferred to a bank account the money has effectively disappeared. If you are asked to pay for something by itunes or Pay Safe DO NOT. Recommendation is to notify Police and report to Netsafe 0508 638 723 as soon as possible.

Neighbourhood Support encourages Neighbours to work together and keep vigilant. Working together helps our community to stay safe.

Sue Abel

Ashburton District Neighbourhood Support











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Mayfield Playcentre

What amazing weather we've enjoyed to start Term 3! The end of Term 2 saw our popular Matariki night at the Centre, a delightful evening for families who attend on different days to come together. We had special arts and crafts, including lantern making and toasted marshmallows, which the tamariki adored! This term is busy for many of our families with calving, this often leads to Tamariki getting to showcase Playcentre to grandparents and other extended family members. We have several field trips planned, which are always fun and enriching for our tamariki's learning and development. A warm welcome to our new families and those returning with new additions. Our sessions are on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9:15 to 12:15, and we warmly invite community families to join us.







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Greg Jopson M 027 447 4382 Greg Jopson M 027 447 4382

ISSUE EIGHTY NINE

MAYFIELD MT SOMERS ANGLICAN PARISH

I am writing this on a lovely sunny morning and how great it is to see the sun. We seem to have had a lot of murky, overcast days. The appearance of the sun just seems to lift our spirits. The days are certainly lengthening a little. So that is a positive too. And slowly, slowly my operated on knee is improving. Last Sunday I was able to get myself right up behind the altar to prepare for communion. I have not yet, however, negotiated the steep little steps that go down into the vestry. I have been saying for some time that the earlier built Anglican churches, were not built with elderly vicars in mind!

Maybe, sometimes it is good for us to have something happen, that slows us down and gives us more time for thinking. Not that I see a knee replacement as being some sort of punishment, but it does give us more time for contemplation. And despite the pain, there is also the thankfulness that in our time we are able to have these operations to correct and repair worn out bits of our bodies, where once we would have remained crippled and in pain until the end of our lives. Progress.

But on the other hand, some things never seem to change, in fact maybe we regress. Did you know that there is more persecution of Christians going on in the world at the moment, than at any other time in history? We still have some terrible trouble spots in the world. On one hand we have learnt so much to improve our lives. On the other hand we have allowed mankind, to persecute so many innocent peoples. My mother talked about man's inhumanity to man. I call it greed.

In the meantime enjoy this busy season of calving and lambing.

Blessings, Annette Eggleston

ANGLICAN SERVICES

Priest: Rev Annette Eggleston Holy Communion

Aug 4 10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers Aug 18 10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers Sept 1 10 a.m. St Aidan's, Mt Somers

CRISTCHURCH CITY MISSION - MEAT & FOOD DONATIONS (especially meat)

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PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest - Rev Annette Eggleston Email: harann000@gmail.com 3024 006 Church Warden – Pauline Hewson 3036 397 Church Warden, Secretary / Treasurer - Marion Jacobson 027 3607 180 Email: marion.i.jacobson@gmail.com

A MESSAGE FROM PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

My whānau were fortunate enough to be able to spend part of the last week of the school holidays down in Mackenzie Country. It is a beautiful part of the country, but dangerous too. The road between Tekapo and Twizel has proved particularly so of late, no doubt you will have seen the news reports of the numerous crashes that have occurred in a short space of time down there.

Driving necessitates awareness. We are mindful of weather and road conditions and of others who share the road with us - whether they are in vehicles or not! The way we drive can be influenced in both positive and negative ways by these outside factors. One of the things I find most stressful about driving is being tailgated - yet this is something that I am equally as guilty of doing when I am in a hurry to get somewhere! The speed at which it feels like we are moving is also dependent on perspective. If I am running late, everything feels like it is moving too slow. Plains Presbyterian is no longer an entity in its own right. But worship services are still ongoing and, for now, we are located in the same places and spaces. There may be some small changes that emerge as we find our way

forward - but in many aspects, it is currently business as usual.

One of the areas that we are wanting to move quickly on, is towards an appointment of a ministry leader for...whatever this is. (We have yet to settle on a name and welcome ideas, please!) This is where it may feel like we are moving at speed to some, particularly since it has only been a month since the parish was closed. However, we are aware of needing to keep things moving forward in this area, especially since there has not been settled ministry in the region for a reasonable period of time. At the time of writing, we have interviewed a potential candidate and are in the process of conducting reference checks. If you are interested in knowing more about this, please get in touch with Abi in the first instance (resourcing@alpinepresbytery.org) or 027 339 6006.

Services for August as follows:

4th August - St John's Methven - Rev John Titlow 11th August - St John's Methven with All Saints 18th August - St John's Methven - Rev Paul Eden 25th August - Mayfield and Foothills - Rev Paul Eden

Mt Somers Winter Ball

Once again the grand old lady (War Memorial Hall) was dressed up and dripping sparkly lights and balloon baubles for the annual Mt Somers Winter Ball.

A great turnout - although less than last year due to it being a long weekend - \$1500 was raised for the Mt Somers Museum and \$1000 for the Mt Somers Staveley Playcentre.

This annual institution is proving itself a valued fundraiser for our community, and much-needed dance party in the depths of winter as Nick, Dan & Ben (the band) set the dance floor on fire, giving us another high energy fun night.

A big thank you to Kristin Stace for organising the Ball. Thank you to those who helped decorate and clean up, and thank you to Mayfield Lions on bar and security.

The ongoing success of the Mt Somers Winter Ball fundraiser rests with us attending it. See you next year, June 28th theme – Formal Sparkles!

by Deb Stanaway









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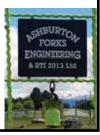
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Matariki at Peel Forest Preschool

Just before the school holidays we gathered with children, teachers, parents and whānau to celebrate Matariki at Peel Forest Preschool. Matariki is the Māori New Year and is a time to reflect on the past year, celebrate the present, and plan for the year ahead. Matariki is about reconnecting with your home and whānau or family, so it was lovely to have everyone together. The full meaning of Matariki can obviously be a little tricky to explain to our preschoolers, so we have been focusing on specific stars and what they represent. This has meant looking at our natural world and making connections between the food we eat and where it comes from as well as how we can prepare and share kai with others.

Our children have been practicing action songs in both Te Reo Māori and English to perform in front of our friends and whānau. Kaiako Abbey was on the guitar, and everyone did a fabulous job! We then came together to share some soup made by Abbey, bread made by one of our fantastic parents, Grace (Briar's Mum), and star biscuits which were made and decorated by the children. It was then time for facepainting and toasting marshmallows

over the fire. We are very lucky to have the environment we have at Peel Forest Preschool as we have plenty of open space and are able to really explore and form a special bond with our natural environment.

If you like the look of our nature focused, communitybased preschool, we are currently welcoming new families at Peel Forest Preschool and encourage you to come and see our amazing wee spot! We are licensed for 18 children, have 3 qualified kaiako as well as an amazing part time administrator/ kaiako. Our opening hours are 8.30am - 3.30pm Monday -Wednesday and 8.30am - 3pm Thursday - Friday. Please get in touch with our manager Casey on (03) 696 3740 or email peelforestpreschool@gmail. com if you would like more information.

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