



Ashhurst Village Voice

*Informing the Ashhurst
& Pohangina Communities*

March 2011

<http://ashhurst.org/voice>
Established 1997

The Ashhurst Inn Ashhurst/Pohangina Lions Apiti Scamper 2011

After last year's success of The Apiti Scamper Charity Motorcycle ride for Wellington Ronald McDonald House, Lance and Marsha Shearman have decided to run their second Apiti Scamper Charity Run. The idea originally coming from Lance, and with the support of Marsha, The Ashhurst Pohangina Lions Club and many Sponsors, 2010 saw them hand over a cheque for \$7,000 to the house.

2004 saw Lance and Marsha's lives change when their first child, Portia was born 13 weeks early and they were flown to Wellington Hospital spending six months based at Ronald McDonald House. From here they have worked on ways to help the house raise more funds needed to build a new house to further help families like their own. Ronald McDonald House not only became their house, but their home and the people in it became family.

This year Wellington Ronald McDonald House hits the headlines with the news of its demolition due to it being leaky and unable to house families. It has highlighted the importance for the likes of Lance and Marsha's fundraising efforts. Families now in a situation like they were in 2004 will not have a house to stay in until the new house is up and ready for use.

The ride will be held on Saturday, 2nd April and will start at the Ashhurst Inn, circles the Apiti loop which is known to a lot of local riders, ending up back at the Ashhurst Inn for lunch. A Cash Auction follows with some fantastic donated items by generous businesses, from food hampers to weekends away, Interislander tickets and much more. The cost of \$20 per person includes lunch and 100% raised goes to the house. Last year the Auction proved popular with people taking home items for great prices and what better way to do that, than knowing that all the money you bid goes to such a great cause. Classic Hits are one of the sponsors this year and there is going to be a chance to win a ride on a Harley Davidson through the week prior to the event.

This ride is very dear to Lance and Marsha as Portia unfortunately did not make it, but they both feel she has given them so much, and have a huge desire to help give something back to Ronald McDonald House.

If you would like any other information regarding the ride you can view the website www.apitiscamper.co.nz or contact Lance or Marsha directly flynnshouse@xtra.co.nz or 063267203.

Lance Shearman

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Council Community Meetings

7.30pm

Anglican Church Hall

Tuesday, 7th June 2011

Tuesday, 2nd August 2011

Tuesday, 8th November 2011

Apologies to those who were confused regarding the February meeting, however the information regarding the venue was not available to us before we went to print.



Photo of the bikes and riders from last years event

TASC Force Fundraiser Scrap Metal Drive

Sunday, March 6th from 1pm

Just leave any unwanted items at the gate for collection.

Looking for bikes, fridges, batteries, car parts etc .

For larger items please contact Greg Baker to arrange for collection.

Mobile: 027 2296077

Email: greg.s.b@xtra.co.nz

Anglican Parish of Pohangina

St Mary Magdalene's Church, Ashhurst

10.00am every Sunday

9.00am every Thursday

8.00am First Sunday of the month

St Bartholomew's Church, Komako

10.00am 2nd and 4th Sundays

7.00pm Third Sunday

Messy Church

St Mary Magdalene's Church Hall,
Ashhurst

4.00pm including a meal

Ash Wednesday

9th March, 7.00pm

St Mary Magdalene's Church

Contact Rev Julia Budd

Phone: 3549574

Email: budds@xtra.co.nz

www.parishofpohangina.net

Letters to the Editor

A Thankful Appreciation

On Saturday 18th December the people of Ashhurst demonstrated that they have a big heart in helping the food bank in its provisioning.

The collection and storing away of goods was completed within two and a half hours due to the efficiency of the Fire Brigade, Ashhurst

Pohangina Lions and families. A big thank you to all.

Eddie Chapman

Convenor

A budgeting service is available locally by ringing 0800 278 343 for an appointment.

The Bucket List

I would like to extend a big thanks to Ron, Ralph, Niff, Mike, Clayton, Dave and their Harley Davidsons for helping Helen fulfill one of the goals on her bucket list on her hen night before she tied the knot to Ken Pratt on the 22nd January.

Also a big thanks from the other ladies who also had the opportunity to enjoy a ride. You guys helped make it a special night.

Thanks

Wendy

A Big Thank You

We would like to give a big thank you to all who have shown us support and commiseration over the past few weeks after the break-in and vandalism of our business.

The support the community has shown has

been amazing and means a lot to us, more than we can say.

Thank You

Greg and Debbie McQuillan

Request for Local Information

The Department of Conservation would like stories about the community and history of Ashhurst in relation to the gorge for a community panel in the kiosk at the Ashhurst end of the track.

If you are able to help in this regard, please

contact Kelly at kstratford@doc.govt.nz or ring 3509700.

We appreciate your help.

Kelly Stratford

Department of Conservation

Suggestion from a local regarding the Village Voice

My husband and I purchased a house in Ashhurst with our young daughter this past April.

I enjoy reading your publication as it is very informative of our local community.

The one aspect I thought lacked was an interactive side where the reader could obtain information from the resources you appear to have. For example, I thought a "how to" column from your Supergrans would be incredibly interesting. The day to day issues we have with removing stains from carpet, the dos and don'ts of pruning roses, how to get rid of pests and rodents without the use of toxic chemicals. These are only a couple of examples and of course many people would be interested to hear information on aspects outside of housework.

I just thought being able to submit a query

would be very helpful as these ladies can often have the most inventive and effective solutions. I also look forward to reading a column that readers submitted to how to rectify issues around the house/car/family that is unique.

I am a full time working mother and I know I would find this interesting, informative and possibly humorous depending on the author.

Many thanks

Dana

From the Editor - I love suggestions and would appreciate any communication from the public regarding articles or information they would like to see in the Village Voice.

Questions for Supergrans are welcome and a short, hopefully humorous, article on gardening from Supergrans is on page in this issue.

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Letter From the Editor

Hello all

It was sad to see the reports of vandalism in our local community. I was absolutely shocked when I went and saw the damage done at the StayUpright building. The needless destruction of property and the mess created was appalling. We definitely need to get the message out that this behaviour is just not acceptable. It's also a crime which not only affects the owners of the property, but also the community as a whole as we all pay for it through increases in rates, insurance and goods and services right across the board.

It was good to hear that the local community has rallied round and that the culprits were caught quickly due to information from members of the public.

On another subject, I was pleased to see an email making a suggestion for the Village

Voice. I am always thrilled to hear feedback from the community about what we put in the Village Voice. Please feel free to email me, or drop off an article at the Library.

I would also like to hear from community and sports groups about what they do, who is involved, events that are happening as well as successes both large and small.

Anyone can submit an article to be printed in the Village Voice, and I will do my best to include the article in the month it is supplied. You can email the article in or drop it off at the Library. Please include your name and phone number, just in case I need to contact you to clarify any points.

I look forward to hearing back from the community.

Llyvonne Barber
Editor

Library News

Hi everyone,

It's hard to believe that I have been Branch Librarian for an entire year. Thank you to all the families and children who have made me feel so welcome. Ashhurst is a great community and I am looking forward to many more good years together.

Magazine Collection

We're in the process of assessing our current magazine collection so if you have any titles you would like to recommend give me a call or drop by.

Summer Reading Programme – The Big Bush Read

What a fantastic time we had over the summer holidays. We enrolled 30 families who participated in the 2010-2011 Big Bush Read. The meeting room was decorated to the theme and the children enjoyed their report-ins while checking out the stuffed birds kindly lent to us by the Department of Conservation. The grand finale which we celebrated at the Esplanade along with the Central families saw 29 children complete the program. Congratulations to all the children and big thanks also to the many

parents who supported their children in the Big Bush Read. Thank you also to the Eastern and Central Community Trust who fund this programme.

Summer Fun

As part of the Summer Reading Programme we were treated to a number of special guests. It was awesome to have Zappo the Magician, Mary Kippenberger and Craig Smith author of the Wonky Donkey. These events were well supported by our community and we certainly had a super time with each guest.

Jumping Jellybeans

Stories, craft and music for preschoolers. Fortnightly Thursday at 10.30am during term time. Dates for this term are 24th Feb, 10th March, 24th March and 7th April.

Well that's all the news for March, I look forward to catching up with you again some time soon.

Rebecca Smith
Ashhurst Branch Library

Ashhurst Market

Every 2nd Sunday 9am to 1pm
StayUpright building,
77 Cambridge Avenue, opposite
the Ashhurst School.

For stall enquiries contact Debbie
Phone: 326 9606

Email: markets@stayupright.co.nz

Next market Sunday, 6th March



Ashhurst Library Opening Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10am - 1pm and 2pm - 5pm

Tuesday, Thursday
2pm - 5pm

Saturday
10am - 1pm



Ashhurst Plunket Coffee Group

Contact Liz Jessup
Phone: 358 9201.



Before School Checklist

Before School Checklist for 4 to 4 1/2 years growth development and hearing check.

Contact Jackie or Barbara
Phone: 357 4844

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Recycling Collection

General Recycling (Bin)
 Tuesday 8th March
 22nd March
 5th April

Glass (Crate)
 Tuesday 1st March
 15th March
 29th March



Rubbish Collection

Tuesday
 (bags out by 7.30)



Ashhurst Christian Fellowship

Meet in the Village Valley Centre
 each Sunday at 10am.
 All welcome.

Contact: Richard Tankersley
 Phone: 326 9034 or 326 8446

www.act.org.nz

Ashhurst School

I hope everyone has had a happy holiday season. The school year has started strongly and the children are all very keen and motivated and ready to do their best. A special welcome to our new families this year. We hope you are enjoying being part of our community.

Term one has lots happening both inside and outside the classroom including swimming, athletics, triathlon, a school-wide Marae visit to Woodville and student testing. It has been five years since the school's last Marae visit and we look forward to this being a special and educational time for our children. We are very grateful to several of our parents who are helping us with the process.

Our heads of school this year are Kate Lewis and Christian Berrett. Kate and Christian will be excellent role models and we look forward to supporting them in their new positions.

This year we have two new staff members, in fact I don't know if new is quite the right word. Dave Smith and Lauren Chappell have both returned to Ashhurst School. We are

really pleased to have them back with us and they are enjoying working with our Year three and four children in the Turanga team.

Over the next few weeks we will have several international visitors coming to see our school; including some Korean teachers and a group of 18 Japanese students. This is a fantastic opportunity for our children to work alongside these people.

Our school inquiry learning topic for this term is entitled "Walking in my Shoes". This has a Social Studies focus and children will look at other people points of view and learn to put their own perspective on things.

On a health and safety note, please remember dogs are not allowed in the school grounds for obvious reasons. There have been numerous deposits found around the school over recent weeks. Added to this a local cat had to be put down after being attacked by a dog in the school grounds at the weekend.

Regards

Nick Reed
 Principal

Ashhurst and Districts Senior Citizens Association

Our December Christmas party was a happy occasion with 33 members attending. The Hostesses were the Women's Section of the Ashhurst RSA who provided a lovely afternoon tea of sandwiches, savouries and dessert. Entertainment was provided by the Ashhurst School Kapa Haka Group, a very talented group and enjoyed by all. The afternoon concluded with a cuppa and a slice of Christmas Cake, made by member Mrs Joan Curtis.

Our Annual Picnic was again held at the Palmerston North Esplanade. Approximately fourteen of us sat around in deck chairs under a shady spot, chatted, and some wandered around to enjoy the colourful gardens, followed by afternoon tea at the Café Victoria. Hostesses for the March meeting will be the Ashhurst Women's Institute.

Rosemary Pinkney



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 1 Pembroke Street, Ashhurst
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Susan Woolnough AREINZ

Mary Laycock

Your Local Identities in Ashhurst.

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 commitment is to you.

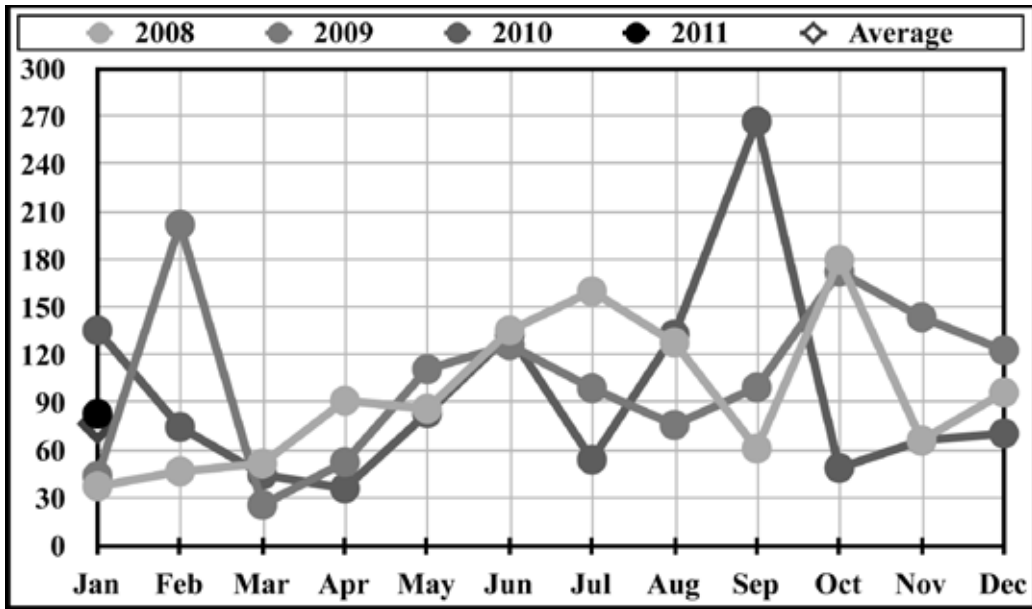
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Ashhurst Memorial RSA

74 Cambridge Avenue,
Ashhurst
Phone: 326 8296

Opening Hours

Monday to Thursday
4pm - 7.30pm

Friday
4pm - 12 midnight

Saturday
11am - 7.30pm

83.25mm of rain fell in January 2011. This is above the average of 77mm.

Rain was recorded on 11 days with the highest one day rainfall of 49mm on the 23 January 2011.

Total rainfall to January 31st 2011 is 83.25mm. This is above the average of 77mm.

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Meridian Te Āpiti Community Fund

Meridian recognises the special contribution local communities make to our hydro and wind operations, and to the country's electricity sector.

The Community Fund gives your community a say on what local initiatives are supported and funded by Meridian. The Fund, managed by a panel of community members and Meridian staff, is about working together to help bring about community outcomes of value.

The Meridian Te Āpiti Community Fund is for the communities of Ashhurst and Woodville, and will provide \$100,000 to help community projects in this area over three years.

TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

The next closing date for Community Fund applications is 12 April 2011.

For more information on the Community Fund, or for an application form, please visit www.meridian.co.nz or email community.fund@meridianenergy.co.nz

You can also call us on 03 357 9732.

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Kids in Motion!

A preschool music and movement session. Every Friday during the school term.

9.45am Village Valley Centre
Gold coin donation.

Come along and have some FUN!

Contact: Anne Tankersley
Phone: 326 9034



Ashhurst and District Senior Citizens Association Inc

Meet on the first Thursday of each month in the Methodist Church Hall, Bamfield Street, at 2pm.

We invite you to come along and enjoy an afternoon of friendship and entertainment.

For further information
Contact: Rosemary Pinkney
Phone: 326 8590



Ashhurst Foodbank

Open 2-3pm every Thursday.
Methodist Church, Bamfield Street,
Ashhurst.
Eddie Chapman, Convenor.

Ashhurst Police

Unfortunately we have been busy here over the last few days with the Burglary to the Stay Upright building on Cambridge Avenue on Friday night, 11th February.

We have identified three local teenagers who were responsible for the break in. It has been very sad to see local youths responsible for such a devastating attack to a local business. A relatively new business in town, the Stay Upright owners have taken the step of moving to a higher profile location in Ashhurst and have unfortunately been faced with a large bill to fix the damage caused by these three.

Aged 16 years, 14 years and 14 years, the three boys entered the property late at night/early in the morning and caused extensive damage to a vehicle in their attempt to steal it.

They stole a large quantity of electrical equipment including laptops, cell phones and a GPS unit. They spray painted obscenities throughout the building and also ended up taking a scooter, helmets and



clothing. They then rode the scooter around town, causing extensive damage to the bike before dumping it.

A large amount of the property has since been recovered but the laptops and cellphones are still outstanding at this time. This has been an extremely disappointing situation for us to deal with due to the ages of the boys and the lack of thought they displayed in carrying out their actions. The one big positive that has emerged is the response from the community in helping us identify the boys and in recovering a large portion of the stolen property. The owners of the business have also received great support from other members of the community and this has helped lessen the blow. I know they are very grateful for the support and this is a true reflection on the Ashhurst Community.

On a happier note, we wish everyone well for the remainder of the summer which has been a hot one and we look forward to catching up with you all soon.

Mark, Darrell & Patrea



Photos of the damage done to the StayUpright building and area and items within. Photo: Llyvonne Barber



Vandalism at the Raumai Reserve

With Raumai Reserve recently featuring in this newsletter following the shooting of seven native pigeons, it is disappointing to record now the partial destruction of the refurbished toilet block by vandals.

Verandah posts have been torn from their mountings in an effort to collapse the weather-sheltering entrance. A complete wall has been pushed off its foundations. The toilets are unusable. Yellow tape surrounds the building "Out of order" – "Closed due to Vandalism".

It is hard to understand the mentality of those who get satisfaction from destroying public amenities such as this.

During the holiday period, as many as fifty cars could be counted along the river bank. In the grass areas families were picnicking under the trees. Freedom campers are regular users of the reserve.

Toilets are essential in these circumstances and it is to be hoped that the District Council will be able to reinstate the toilet block soon. Ratepayers of course will have to foot the bill.

A small group of locals keep an eye on the area but it cannot be a 24 hour one. We hope that reserve users and locals who pass by will keep a weather eye open and report any suspicious activity. Here's hoping.

Don Bowen

Cafe Domain Arson Attack

As last month's Village Voice headed off to the printer, our Café Domain became a victim of another arson attack early in the morning. The building in the Ashhurst Domain was gutted and firemen could do little but protect the neighbouring office and trees.

Café Domain was a product of Stuart Whitten's imagination, drive and determination. It was originally the sexton's cottage and nestled quietly between the cemetery and camping ground. The building was moved to its present site and was extensively renovated and set up for the

business to open in 2005.

Following Stuart's death in a car accident in 2006, the business was sold to Wayne and Leah Rickards. Their livelihood, along with the employment of 10 staff is lost as a result. Ashhurst has lost a landmark venue and a bit of history with this senseless act. Police have few leads and would welcome any information on 351-3600.

The future of the business is in doubt despite its location and wonderful views.

Harvey Jones

Photo Credit: Harvey Jones



Ashhurst Scottish Country Dance Club

Meets Wednesday from 7.00pm to 10pm at the Whakarongo Hall, Stoney Creek Road, beginning March to the end of November. All Welcome.

Scottish Country Dancing is fun and helps with fitness and agility.

It is social dancing usually danced in groups of eight, not to be confused with Highland dancing.

Tutors teach steps and dance formations.

Bring a friend, or come by yourself. Dress is casual with soft sole shoes.

Weekly door charge: \$3

Annual subscription: \$15

For further details please contact:

Anne: 357 1832

Gae: 357 6564

POHANGINA VALLEY ESTATE VINEYARD GARDEN PARTY

Get a group together and enjoy an afternoon of wine, food and jazz.

This is a fund raising event for Project Crimson and will see the release of our new wine

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a unique pinot gris/pinot noir blend.

26 March 2011 1pm - 4pm

In the private house gardens of the vineyard
1034 Valley Road, Pohangina (left at the Waterford)

Tickets are \$45 and includes a glass of wine on arrival, picnic box lunch and music. No gate sales.

Tickets are available through

Website: www.pohanginavalleyestate.co.nz

Email: info@pohanginavalleyestate.co.nz

or Phone: 354 7948

Music by Ema Ferry, renowned jazz artist

Picnic lunch by Not Now Jane

Wine by Pohangina Valley Estate



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For an appointment please

Phone: 358 2279

For cellphones: 0800 228 343



Ashhurst Ukulele Orchestra

Come along and enjoy the fun! We are playing alternate Sunday afternoons, in Ashhurst.

If you are a beginner, lessons are available...A couple of them will get you up to speed.

For info please phone:

Jane: 326 8223



Ashhurst Indoor Bowling Club

The Indoor Bowling Club meets every Thursday from 7.30pm at the Village Valley Centre.

New members are welcome to the game and if you have not played before, we have coaching available.

We invite secondary school students to come along and enjoy this fun and challenging game.

For further information,

Contact Jill: 326 8778

A Greener Way 2011 Sustainable Living Field Days

A Greener Way, Sustainable Living Field Days has evolved from Mai Farm Naturally, a one day field day and festival, to this years two day event to be held on Friday, 1st April and Saturday, 2nd April at the Ashhurst Domain.

This affordable, family friendly event provides a multitude of activities, information and cutting edge technology.

The workshops, exhibits and speakers have been selected for their quality and ability to educate and inspire. Dynamic Kids Zone, featuring Junk and Disorderly, Ecolnovations, The Horizons Green Rig plus many more fun and educational activities offer an exciting environment for the greater public to connect with sustainability.

Speakers are both national and international and include Jerry Brunetti, Hugh Lovel, Mike Daly, Glen Atkinson, Ewan Campbell, GE Free New Zealand and Shabari Lovel. Both Jerry Brunetti and Hugh Lovel will be holding two day seminars after the event as well.

A Greener Way is not just for the green at heart and those already environmentally savvy. The event is definitely for all, in particular those starting to realise they

are having an impact on the environment and interested in how they can take steps towards sustainability themselves and those just wanting to have an enjoyable day. All attendees will learn something new and be able to apply it to everyday life. A Greener Way will also be a genuine zero waste event.

All of the profits of A Greener Way 2011 go towards sustainable projects in the local community. The Restore Raumai Hill project is thriving as a result. With the support of the He Tini Awa Charitable Trust, McDonalds Wetlands is well into its stages of development and already an impressive site to see (*photo below*). The community and local schools will be encouraged to get involved with the plantings once the fencing is finished.

A Greener Way 2011 would like to be able to support other community based sustainable initiatives, and other projects raising awareness around sustainability.

For more information check the website www.agreenerway.co.nz

Reuben Mai



Ashhurst Volunteer Fire Brigade

The Brigade attended an unusually high number of call-outs in January. The dry weather meant that two vegetation fires broke out, and rubbish and car fires were a concern. Seven calls for medical assistance also kept the fire fighters busy, along with two motor vehicle accidents.

The arson attack on the Domain Cafe contributed several calls - the Brigade attending the original 111 call, and also returning to damp down hot spots after the

fire investigators had completed their work.

The Fire Brigade will be on site promoting Fire Safety at Stay Upright's Sunday market. Smoke detectors will be on sale for a donation of \$10. Ideally the Fire Service would like at least one smoke detector in every home. Take the opportunity to discuss your family's fire safety and make an appointment to have a fireman come to your home to install a smoke detector.

Lisa Loach

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Council Corner

Road works on Cambridge Avenue around the hump back bridge have concluded for now. These safety improvements for cyclists were discussed at the Council community meeting in February. Some local residents voiced concerns about the new changes.

We also had an update on the long running saga of the Mulgrave Street paper road to the river. There is now an official sign reporting its status as a paper road, after a series of hand painted versions appeared and disappeared.

An alternative access to the river is being considered, which would also complete the walkway system for Ashhurst from the Saddle Road to the Ashhurst Domain. This route, which is proposed to run from Mulgrave St, along the base of the terrace and railway embankment to link to the Domain below the railway bridge, is yet to be discussed with the landowner. The funding options for this walkway and the beginning of the Ashhurst – PN cycle/walkway are being considered by Councillors for the annual plan process. Supporting submission from the public will be needed too at Annual Plan time.

There has been some ongoing maintenance work in the Domain. The office has been repainted and the old shelter by the BBQ and junior playground now has a new roof.

It is hoped that new storm water pipes will be installed in Worcester Street to ease flooding problems and stagnant water from the drain beside the walkway to Lincoln Park. New subdivisions have stressed the legacy system presently in place due to their additional run off. The occasional storm water problems on a couple of Napier Road properties are still being investigated.

The review of the District Plan is continuing and consultation on the residential section of the plan closes 25 February. The rural/residential section is due for review soon and may be of interest to some of our readers. Possible boundary changes between Manawatu District and PNCC may make this more pertinent to those outside current city boundaries. However, a suitable mix of rural and residential zones can provide the best use of local food growing land and its environment, while satisfying the housing needs of city residents. Do make a submission and have your views heard.

Content updates and better navigation of the PNCC web site was requested at the community meeting too. We hope to see progress on all these listed there soon.

Harvey Jones

Splashhurst Swim School

Lessons and Squad training began this past week and it's very rewarding to see so many excited learners beginning their swimming lessons. We do still have a few places left if you are wanting to join – our fees are \$72 for the term, with payment due upon enrolment unless other arrangements are made. Contact Laura on 021 876220 for any queries regarding Swim School.

Triathalons

One more to go! For these 6+ year olds that want to have a go, the final Triathalon for the season is on Saturday, March 13th at 12pm, Ashhurst School Grounds.

Age group: 6-8 years, 9-11years and 12+ years.

Cost \$5 per child (plus a free swim after the event)

Contact Jo on 326 8297 or email ashhurstpool@yahoo.co.nz.

Finally, we have had a number of responses following our last article in the Village Voice and I would personally like to thank you for your thoughts and suggestions. We are trying hard to secure funding, for upgrading equipment and for resources such as the aqua run mentioned in the last article, and also to continue to provide a variety of activities for our community.

We truly appreciate all of the effort that many do on our behalf.

Jo Doyle

Strength and Balance Ashhurst

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Every Monday 10am to 11am at the Ashhurst Village Valley Community Centre.

Cost \$6

For more information, phone:
Maria: 329 4116



Ashhurst Pohangina Lions

The Ashhurst Pohangina Lions meet every second Thursday of the month at the RSA Clubrooms at 6.30pm.

This upmarket and friendly Lions Club is community oriented.

Contact

Tom Shannon
Phone: 326 8628
Greg Brown
Phone: 326 8102



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An Invitation from Girl Guides

Local girls are being offered a very exciting opportunity, to participate in fun activities, make new friends, and try new things.

Following the hugely successful launch of the Guide Club in Pohangina, GirlGuiding Manawatu is keen to establish a further Guide Club in Ashhurst. Guide Clubs cater for girls aged between 5 and 14 years old, offering stimulating and interesting programmes which are relevant to today's girls, in a supportive environment.



The Pohangina Guide Club started last year, and currently has 18 girls, who very much enjoy their weekly session. GirlGuiding Manawatu is keen to repeat the same success in the community of Ashhurst.

"There's a great opportunity for us to provide an awesome adventure for the girls of Ashhurst" says Kat Laird, District Co-ordinator. "GirlGuiding is all about preparing girls for making the most of life ahead, and helping them to discover their potential. Our aim is to help girls develop skills, knowledge, values and a sense of adventure through a "hands-on" programme"

Regional Co-ordinator, Kathy O'Neill says "It's a great time for girls to be joining

GirlGuiding, as a Jamboree (National Camp for older girls) is being held in January 2012, in Rotorua. That's a fantastic opportunity for girls to experience a wide range of activities, and have an amazing experience."

A 'Give Guiding a Go' activity afternoon is being held at 3.30-5.00pm, on Thursday 10 March at venue

For further information about the Ashhurst Guide Club, contact Kat, ph 355 5201. Enquiries regarding Pohangina Guide Club to Beth, ph 329 4191.

Kathy O'Neill

Splashhurst Pool Hours

Public Swimming

Wednesday: 3pm - 5pm

Sunday: 1pm - 5pm

Lane Swimming

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
6am-7.30am and 5.30-7pm

Aquafit

Monday, Thursday 6-6.45pm

Costs

Child (16 and under) \$1.50

Adult (17 and over) \$2.50

Aqua Aerobics \$4.50

Concession

Child (10 visits) \$12.00

Adult (10 visits) \$20.00

Aqua Aerobics (5 visits) \$20.00

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From the Lions' Den

The last Saturday in January has become, for some of us, the best Saturday in January and this year was no exception, sure the rain came down in short sharp showers and the wind just came and came again but that didn't stop almost three thousand people coming to the 32nd Small Holders Auction.

Highlights of the day were as always the livestock sales, with over 200 lots of chickens, ducks and other assorted fowl being sold to new admiring owners. Cattle, sheep and even alpaca graced the pens and reached good prices, throw in a few pigs, some pups and a pony and you can see the sort of day we had.

The sale of chattels was very busy though slightly down on previous years but again a few outstanding pieces, which to some were not very attractive items surprised everyone, notably a child's hobby horse which exceeded all expectations.

Each year the Lions Club raises funds through this and other projects, all monies raised through public events such as this are redistributed back to the community either as grants to our young people to assist with trips and events or to various charitable groups who operate in our area.

Lions receive assistance from many individuals and organisations around the district and we would like to acknowledge the support they give us which in turn allows us to carry out the projects we undertake.

As with any organisation, it takes team work to make things succeed and Lions are a great team of guys, we meet second Thursday of the month normally at the Ashhurst RSA for fellowship and supper, If you would like to know more about what is involved please feel free to give me a call on 326 7227.

Doug Wilson

Supergrans: In the Garden

When I was a kid, we didn't have a vegetable garden but my grandmother did. It was a great treat to go to Nana's and have silverbeet for dinner. (My mother is allergic to silverbeet so we could never have it at home).

A few years ago, I decided to try my hand at gardening. I bought \$60 worth of seed (I saw the Kings seed catalogue and went nuts), sowed them all and lost the lot to damping off. Many would have probably given up thinking "I just don't have a green thumb". Not me. Thanks to the Ashhurst Garden Group and Supergrans I now have a garden that produces vegetables. I am also now a Greenfingers mentor helping others not to make the same mistakes I have. So far, so good.

Gardening Advice from Sian

February and March are critical times to set up your winter garden. It always seems a little out of sorts when the days are hot and you have to choose winter crops to plant. This is the same in the cold months of August and September when you prepare for your summer garden; so it's just something to get used to.

Plant your root crops direct in your garden as soon as you can now. You can keep planting throughout the year but once it starts to cool the crops will slow down in their growth.

Carrots and beetroot planted now should be a good size by June and can sit in the garden through winter for you to harvest as you need them. Parsnip is a little late now. The seed takes a long time to germinate and the plants take a while to establish their roots.

The leafy crops you can plant en masse through March. This includes lettuce, silverbeet, spinach, celery, spring onions and all your brassicas such as cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli. There are so many interesting varieties available; so look out for other types that grow well through winter. I am putting in fennel and kohlrabi and celeriac. Lovely grated for salads.

Note; A preserving workshop will be held at the Ashhurst Village Valley Centre on Saturday, April 16th.

To book a place, ring 354 3804 or email admin@sgmanawatu.org.nz.

**Llyvonne Barber and Sian Cass
Supergrans**

Ashhurst Village Voice Advertising Rates

Articles are free, as are community notices.

Advertising rates vary from small 2-3 lines to half a page, and vary in price accordingly. Advertising rates are calculated per square cm with a business card advert costing \$50.

A 10% discount is offered if you pay in advance for 10 issues.

Please contact the Village Voice team at

ashhurst.voice@gmail.com for further information.

Advertisers, we prefer that you supply the files in greyscale and in either .pdf or .eps format.

If you are unable to supply in this format please contact the Editor prior to the monthly deadline.

Please note that files supplied in .pdf format are unable to be adjusted from our end.

Adverts can be created by the Village Voice team for a small additional cost. These can be adjusted as required.



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Councillors' Columns

Cr Bruce Wilson

Kia ora to Village Voice readers. I'm routinely starting my morning run with the street lights still on. March brings the autumn equinox and most of us are well aware that the end of daylight saving comes on 3rd April. So there'll be a period of daylight runs again before winter turns up.

The weather continues to mystify me. I certainly don't remember a previous year when we found the total fire ban in place from early January, and then lifted before mid-February. Maybe it'll be back before we get to autumn.

During February councillors continued to work on the preparation of the budget for 2011/2012. By the time you read this we'll have finished the debate on the draft which is sent out for community consultation – right now I can't even guess what the likely rates rise will be, but there is a determination especially from newer councillors for keeping it low. The Draft Annual Plan will be included with The Tribune on 30th March, inviting citizens to comment on what they like or don't like, and what they would change by deleting some things or adding other things. I encourage you to tell us how we should plan for the future of your City.

The normal cycle of monthly Council Committee

meetings is underway. During February items of note which were discussed included a re-development of the Events and Festivals Strategy, sending a review of the Traffic and Parking Bylaw out for community consultation (have your say – the submission period closes at 4pm on Monday, 14th March), and a submission on behalf of the City Council to the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Alcohol Reform Bill. Another item was the proposal to re-zone 45 smallish pieces of land, mostly for recreational or conservation purposes. This will trigger two rounds of public consultation followed by a public hearing.

There will be a Community meeting in Ashhurst on 5th April, from 7:30pm, where the Draft Annual Plan will certainly be one topic on the table. Submissions will close about 29th April, with hearings being held in the week 12-17 May.

Remember that the City's Call Centre staff (356-8199) can give you information about many things in the Council's ambit, and will quickly pass on to the appropriate person anything (for example a blocked stormwater drain) which needs prompt attention.

Email: bruce.wilson@pncc.govt.nz

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Letters to the Editor

Letters under 200 words are preferred. The writer's contact details are required on all letters (not for publication), including address, email and phone number. We may need to contact you to clarify minor details.

The editor reserves the right to edit, abridge or decline letters without explanation. Pen names or letters submitted elsewhere are not acceptable.

Please keep email attachments under 2MB.

If supplying images, high resolution images are preferred. As these can take some time to upload (especially on dial-up) please feel free to contact the editor. CD and pen drives are fine and a card reader is available.

Deadline for articles and advertising submission for the next edition is:

Monday 21st of March 2011.

We cannot guarantee your submission will be included after this date.

Cr Duncan McCann

Warm greetings to everyone,

March looks to be the month of big decisions with the Draft Annual Plan making its way through the council process. This plan indicates how much the council will spend and on what. Ultimately, this determines our rates so keep an eye out for the consultation process and have your say.

But first I'd like to start by mentioning some other big decisions.

In December 2008 Environment Minister Nick Smith announced that due to the national significance of the wind farm proposal at Turitea, a Board of Inquiry chaired by an Environment Court Judge would be formed to decide whether or not the wind farm should be permitted to proceed.

It's now 2011 and the Board of Inquiry has delivered its draft decision effectively striking off a significant number of controversial turbines on Bryant Hill and in the reserve area.

Of significant impact to the inquiry has been the work of the Tararua-Aokautere Guardians Inc and the Friends of Turitea Reserve who have dedicated an enormous amount of time and effort to fighting the Mighty River Power proposals. Therefore, I'd like to acknowledge TAG President Mr Kevin Low and all the members who gave their time and resources to fight for their environment and

community.

The draft decision is available for viewing on the Ministry for the Environment's website: <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/call-in-turitea/> at the PNCC Customer Centre, the Ashhurst Library, the Linton Library and the City Library.

Speaking of other big decisions, the bid for the Velodrome looms large and, and in March, we will know if Palmerston North makes the shortlist. It's worth noting that with the proposed Ashhurst extension to the Bridle Track looking likely to be supported in the current Annual Plan; it would make the Velodrome accessible to the Ashhurst community without the need to travel on a road thanks to Bridle Track linkage to the Massey Cycleways.

One last thing to leave you with. The council has put together an "A to Z" of recycling to help residents recycle as much as possible and help us truly become the most sustainable city in New Zealand so check it out on the home page of the PNCC website. Don't forget that Ashhurst will be leading the way in promoting sustainability with the A Greener Way Sustainable Field Days to be held in the Ashhurst Domain on April 1st and 2nd.

Email: duncanmccann@ashhurst-fitzherbert.org.nz. Phone: 06 3544229.



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