



Community Magazine

Summer 2024



Cycleway enthusiasts, Leo Harris 13 and a local 93 year old, out to save our cycleway.

A Summer Message from our Community Coordinator

Christmas is a busy time in New Zealand, in the southern hemisphere, as we prepare for schools and businesses closing for the summer holidays. Thrown in the midst of this we also celebrate Christmas on the 25th December, originating from the far off northern hemisphere winter solstice. Many years later this morphed into a Christian tradition celebrating the birth of Jesus.



Jocelyn de Kort

Not all people celebrate Christmas, but most certainly indulge in the warmth of summer holidays and our Kiwi tradition of enjoying some time off from the busyness of modern daily life.

This year I'm blessed with having the whole multicultural clan together, from different countries around the globe, celebrating the summer holidays and Christmas at Honeysuckle Cottage, the family home here in the Heathcote Valley for the past forty-five years. It's certainly a very Christmassy change of pace for me as Santa Claus ('Jultomten') arrives all the way from the northern hemisphere to spread his festivities around the valley.

The biggest wish from my little four year old granddaughter is to see Father Christmas in his red



surfy bathing suit on the beach handing out ice blocks to keep cool. If anyone in the valley knows of this Santa be Claus, please let me know!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful volunteers that support our community, making the valley feel nurtured, with lots of support. There are the monthly community meetings, local concerts, native vegetation plantings, sports and

games clubs, community library and book club, craft and spinning groups, morning coffees at the community centre and school coffee cart, local businesses and cafes, the local diary and Valley Inn, the riding school, Aromaunga Baxter Flowers, Ferrymead Historic Park, the pump track, golf course and the community email and Facebook connections keeping us in the know.

In response to increasing concern about the amount of crime in our neighbourhood, the Heathcote Valley Community Association facilitated a community hui in October. Our aim was to understand where we are at and to come up with some proactive solutions going forward. This meeting at the community centre was well attended with some positive outcomes. Read more on page nine in the magazine.

One of the highlights of the month was visiting the Lyttelton Emergency Preparedness Expo. It was well attended with some excellent presentations and interesting displays. I met Elissa Smith from Neighbourhood Support and Rachel Hunt from Civil Defence. Both knowledgeable and passionate advocates in their specific roles.

Read about all these events and more in the magazine. Thank you to all our contributors

As the warmth of summer sun spreads across the Heathcote Valley this December, let's welcome the celebration of Christmas, and summer holidays, remembering some people that may feel alone or in need with a kind heart.

With loving Christmas wishes to all,

Jocelyn

Heathcote Valley Tote Bags

For sale \$15.00

We have a limited quantity of tote bags with the Heathcote Valley logo available. Great as a shopping or carry bag, either for yourself or as a Christmas gift.

Available from Jen at the Community Centre. Get in quick while they last!

Email: hvcc.bookings@gmail.com



HEATHCOTE COMMUNITY VALLEY ASSOCIATION

The Power of Positive Collective Action: Heathcote's Response to the Expressway Threat

When the Heathcote Expressway faced the threat of closure, our community responded with strength and unity. Rather than accept the proposal as inevitable, a small group of local residents, supported by the Heathcote Valley Community Association (HVCA), took immediate action. They organized submissions to the council, spread awareness, and rallied the community for a protest ride. Over 250 cyclists joined in, sending a strong message of support for the cycleway and a desire for action.



Sooze Harris
Co-chair HVCA

Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

This rings true for Heathcote, where our positive collective action has led to real change—whether it's securing the future of our cycleways or addressing other challenges in our community. When we act together, we make a difference.

Our recent experience reminds us that we are capable of more than just complaining or commenting online. Positive action, big or small, creates tangible change and strengthens the bonds that hold us together.

This same spirit of action is needed as we continue to navigate larger societal issues, such as the current nationwide conversation and action relating to Te Tiriti o Waitangi (The Treaty of Waitangi). The Toitu te Tiriti movement offers an opportunity to learn, engage, and take positive steps toward a more inclusive future. We encourage everyone in Heathcote to stay informed and get involved—whether through resources like the *Te Tiriti Course* by Network Waitangi or the *Becoming Te Tiriti* podcast series.

At HVCA, we believe in the power of positive collective action—whether in response to local issues like the expressway, or larger questions of justice and inclusion. The Heathcote community has always shown resilience, creativity, and unity, and together, we can continue to face challenges with hope, connection, and positive change.

Speak up about your ideas, seek out our support to make them happen, and let's keep building this positive, proactive, amazing community.



Locals turn out to protest the cycleway closure.

The outcome? KiwiRail paused the closure, allowing for further discussion, and our community grew closer through this shared effort. This is a powerful reminder of what we can achieve when we come together to make our voices heard. As I wrote in *Heathcote: The Upside*, "As a community, Heathcote has responded to adversity with positivity and courage... We have seen an emergence of creativity, innovation, and initiative" (*Heathcote: The Upside*, p.12).



Te Tihi o Kahukura

Heathcote Valley School

Kia ora Heathcote Valley members.

I hope everyone is enjoying the warm weather!

Term 4 is always a very busy term, here is what we have been up to at HVS lately.

On the 29th to the 1st of November we had book week.

Over the week we had a librarian come in and show us some good book recommendations and an author came in and showed us the process of writing a book. We also had teachers from different classrooms reading to us. On Friday we had book character dress up day, it was awesome to see everybody (even the teachers) dressing up as a book character and thank you to the student librarians for organising this event.

We had athletics on the 22nd of October and it was a great day. We had six activities: shotput, discus, long distance, sprints and high jump. It was really good to see everyone joining in and giving it a go.



Zia Knight Baré

Congratulations to all the people who got into zones on the 5th of November and congratulations to the people who managed to make it into Canterburys!).

On the 25th of October we had the Christchurch school musical festival! The Christchurch schools music festival takes place over a week and is held at the town hall. Most of the school choirs in Christchurch participate in it so different school choirs are on each night. Our school choir has been learning a collection of about 10 songs all relating to the music festival theme this year: E Tū hand in hand. Some of the songs we sang were: Try everything (from Zootopia), Climb every mountain (from the Sound of Music) and Anthems (a medley of different national anthems). Congratulations to Franklin for having a successful audition for the orchestra for the past three years.

Our inquiry focus this term is the HVS Oscars. Everybody was split into teams of around four and then had to make a short film (around three minutes) relating to a topic in their class. As an example our year 7-8 team's theme is a dystopia that they had learned about last term. Our team's learning will be showcased at our HVS Film Festivals at the end of the term.

Touch has started up again, as it does every summer. This is a good opportunity for kids to play



Students shooting a film for the HVS Oscars

an outdoor summer sport and be in a team. We have lots of people this year signed up for touch.

Our tamariki have been working with Emma Planicka from Digital Learning PLD during Term 3 and 4 and learning about using different apps (like keynote animation, sketches school etc.). Our Year 7 & 8 tamariki were also fortunate to have a visit from the New Zealand Broadcasting School to show us some of their filming equipment and share the process they work through.

On the 6th of November we had our annual music soiree which is an event to showcase everyone's instruments. We had students play instruments such as guitar, piano, clarinet, saxophone, singing, drums, ukulele, the HVS school band and the HVS rock band the Valley Vibes, everyone played one or two songs in a group or a solo. It is a very cool evening to see what people have been learning. A big thank you to Nicki Clay (the year 2-3 teacher) for organising this event and a congratulations to all the people who performed in front of a big crowd!

Our year 5-6 team went to Living Springs from the 12th to the 14th of November for their camp! They had a fun filled three days of activities from archery to waterslides to rock climbing! In their free time they can also go on the monorail and zipline.

I have really enjoyed being the community liaison this year but I am also happy to be passing the role on to another amazing student at HVS. Have a great summer and a excellent new year!

Twinkle Tots

Song and dance activity for pre-school children, up to 4 years.

Starting again in Term 1, 2025.

For more information contact:
Suzanne Stewart Ph. 027 285 1843



Joy

The sound of joy is a chorus
Not sung by a choir,
sheet music in hand
conductor-controlled,
slick entries, crisp exits
tight harmonies
Though that does make joy rise
in the singing, the hearing
Makes tears spring in eyes' corners
and shivers scale spines

The sound of joy is a chorus
played by the gradually unveiling dawn
Full-throated songs lifted by the
arriving sun
Solos, ensembles,
instinctive. unscripted
Announcements and boasts,
declarations, reproaches of note
And the silent presence felt
of those who once walked alongside
The sound of joy is a chorus
unconfined

By Grant Shimmin

This was published earlier this year by Poetry Catalog, a US-based poetry website, but it reminds me of mornings in the valley at this time of year.

What's on at Your Community Centre?



I absolutely love this time of the year – the longer and warmer days, the thought that we'll soon be swimming in the sea, the fresh Summer produce (asparagus, strawberries and cherries) and the blossoming pohutakawa, all spark joy. And I have to confess that I even enjoy a wee bit of cheesy Christmas music on the side.....

I also love that the community centre positively hums in the lead-up to Christmas, with back-to-back community groups and events, classes, workshops and all sorts of fun private functions. It is wonderful to drive past and see people enjoying themselves and connecting with others.

Craft group, community morning tea, te reo classes and the library book club are all going strong and we are so lucky to have such an amazing spot to meet up with friends. Our sliding doors open to the deck and domain and the view of the hills is unbeatable.

We've had some fabulous workshops running recently including quilt-making with the very talented Kirsten Featherstone, and on Saturday 7th December, Anna from Honey and Moss is offering her popular Festive Wreath Workshop (check out www.honeyandmoss.co.nz for all the details).

The last two months have also seen some excellent community events. In October the Heathcote Valley Community Association hosted a hui to

address safety and security concerns in our neighbourhood. This was an insightful evening - we heard from our local MP, Vanessa Weenink, and from Police Superintendent, Lane Todd, and discussed some proactive strategies that we can take both as individuals and as a community.

In November we were treated to an amazing Friday night performance by our very own talented guitarist and vocalist, Chris Lake. Chris, who performs under the name CAROUSE, generously put on a show for the



Carouse in concert

community and wowed us with a mix of original songs and covers. Be sure to support Chris with a follow on Instagram - @carouseofficial – from there you can check out his music on YouTube and Spotify.

Throw in our amazing array of wellness classes and there have been plenty of activities for you to choose from to help you stay mentally and physically connected and healthy.

Next year is looking like another bumper year with lots of people continuing to use our space. Our website will be updated as tutors and groups confirm their classes and workshops, but our regular schedule is below.

Don't forget, the community centre is also available to hire for your private events and celebrations. Our calendar fills up quickly so now is the time to book in for 2025 – just pop me an e-mail with any enquiries – hvcc.bookings@gmail.com.

Meri Kirihimete, Jen x

Our regular schedule includes:

Craft Group

Mondays 10am-12pm. Charge \$2 per session. Enjoy knitting, crocheting or sewing with a wonderful group of people each Monday. Great company guaranteed.

Please contact Judy (judyastack@gmail.com or Ph 027 491 6476) with any questions.

Tradie Yoga

Mondays 6pm-7pm: Keep your body and mind healthy with this great yoga class designed for tradespeople (and anyone else interested!).

Contact Michele (mlaingphysio@gmail.com)

Te Reo Classes

Tuesdays 3.30pm – 5pm. Contact Ali Baré for more information and an up-to-date schedule (alison.bare@gmail.com)

Santosha Yoga with Breeze

Tuesdays 6pm – 7.30pm: Small group yoga designed for all ages and stages. Connect with your body, de-stress and get stronger and more flexible.

Contact Breeze (yogawithbreeze@gmail.com)

Community Morning Tea

Wednesdays 10am – 12pm: Come and join us for a cuppa, some home baking and plenty of good company. Everyone is welcome, come alone or bring a friend. No charge.

Contact Jen (hvcc.bookings@gmail.com)

Please note that the last community morning tea for 2024 will be on Wednesday 18th December. The first morning tea for 2025 will be on Wednesday 29th January.

Yoga with Lucy

Wednesdays 6pm – 7pm AND Fridays 9.15am-10.15am: These classes are suitable for all levels of experience, and a wide range of ages. The focus is on linking the breath with our practise, flowing and stretching through a mostly simple range of asana

(poses) the outcome of which brings you into a good alignment with your centre.

Contact Lucy (lucydolankang@gmail.com)

Heathcote Valley Community Association Meetings

Held on the first Thursday of each month from 6.30pm. If you would like to hear about what is happening in our community, then come along to one of our meetings held at the Heathcote Valley Community Centre.

The Committee meets at 6.30pm to address Association business, and from 8pm we discuss wider community ideas, issues and actions.

Everyone is welcome to attend from either 6.30pm or 8pm. We ask that if you have something you'd like to specifically speak about from 8pm, that you email Jen hvcc.bookings@gmail.com or Jos heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com prior to ensure we can reserve a speaking slot.

Movement Rewired with Nicky

Fridays 11am – 12.30pm: These are gentle floor-based lessons that will help you to improve your overall well-being. They utilise gentle movement, mindfulness and breathing approaches which are suitable for all age groups and all levels.

Contact Nicky (nickywoodwardnz@gmail.com)

Puppy / Dog Training with Hear The Dog

Friday evenings and Saturday mornings by appointment: If you are looking for some awesome and effective training strategies then contact Adele adele@hearthedog.co.nz



The Heathcote Valley Community Association committee wishes all local residents a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thanks to everyone who supports our local community and makes Heathcote Valley such a great place to live!

Sara's Message

Kia ora koutou,

It was just fantastic to see such broad support for keeping the Heathcote Expressway Puari ki Kahukura cycleway open last weekend. Young and old, upright and recumbent, walking, scooting, biking and even a mobility scooter – our community and others led such a positive rally for this amazing community asset.

As I write this, KiwiRail have backed off while they work with staff and reconsider their position – hopefully by the time you read this they'll have confirmed it can stay open until level crossing upgrades can be done – fingers crossed!!

The Port Hills Road and Tunnel Road intersection, with its speeding heavy vehicles and on/off



*Sara Templeton
City Councillor*

ramps has been a focus for safety concerns for many years and the desire to have a cycleway to avoid it was talked about when I was chair of the HVCA over a decade ago – and it is still an issue that needs addressing. A lot of people are heading to Avoca Valley, Opawa, Cashmere or further afield during the day and need to cross the off-ramp.

There are 3000 vehicles a day coming from Lyttelton down onto Port Hills Road, 18% of which are trucks and a couple of years ago I took someone from Waka Kotahi/NZTA for a ride through. He agreed it wasn't good, but said that there was no funding for improvements – it's probably time that we started that conversation again.

In the meantime – it feels good to be heading into summer. The central city is humming and there's lots on – have a happy Christmas and a great summer break.

Ngā Mihi,

Sara

Sara Templeton

Councillor for Heathcote



Neighbourhood Support aims to help you keep your homes, streets, neighbourhoods and communities safer places to live and work in.

We encourage neighbours to get to know each other, look out for each other and take collective responsibility for safety and well-being by forming into committed groups.

Neighbourhood Support Groups are a great deterrent against opportunist crime. Groups have also shown to be more confident to cope in emergencies.

Anyone can start a Neighbourhood Support Group either as an individual or as a small group of neighbours.

Neighbourhood Support is working in the Heathcote Valley over the coming months to rejuvenate existing groups or set up new groups.

Being a member of Neighbourhood Support means you are provided with updated safety information from the emergency services either through newsletters or attending specific events. This increases your ability to be prepared when problems occur.

Neighbourhood Support is a free service. Let us know if you would like to start a group with your neighbours or if you are in an existing group and need new stickers and signs.

For more information – email admin@canterburyns.net, text 0272 300 272 or phone 03 353 8729.

Managing Crime and Creating a Safer Community

In response to increasing concern about the amount of crime in our neighbourhood, the Heathcote Valley Community Association facilitated a community hui in October. Our aim was to understand where we are at and to come up with some proactive solutions going forward.

Our guests included Vanessa Weenink, our local MP (Banks Peninsula electorate), Lane Todd, NZ Police Superintendent and Metro Commander of the Canterbury District, and representatives from the Community Patrol.

We had a fantastic turnout and some very insightful and open conversations ensued around crime, and the community, police and government response. Topics included –

- The crime rate in Canterbury – overall this is slightly lower than it was pre-covid (less violent crime), however there has been an increase in the theft of cars (and from cars) and retail crime
- The relationship between crime and poverty.
- The planned increase of police numbers (a government directive)
- The time that police currently spend dealing with mental health issues in the community and the shifting of this work to more appropriate professionals (therefore freeing up police time for 'core business')
- The increase in youth crime and the justice system response to 'underage' offenders. Although it sometimes seems like young offenders don't get dealt with, there is a good system that works and that means less recidivist crime.



The community hui was well attended by concerned locals

The latter part of the hui was spent discussing how we can all be proactive in keeping our community and our personal property safe. Key takeaways included –

- ALWAYS report any crime. Even if you don't receive an immediate response, the reporting helps direct resources and will be followed up. Ring 111 for any life-threatening situations or 'crime in action'. Ring 105 or go to www.105.police.govt.nz to report any suspicious activity or a crime that has already happened.
- CONNECT with your neighbours. Support and look out for each other. Consider setting up chat groups (eg Messenger or WhatsApp) for your street. Let your neighbours know if you'll be away, mention suspicious activity, collect each other's courier packages etc.
- PROTECT – Offenders will always choose the softest and easiest options. So... be sure to always lock your car and house, consider using steering locks on vulnerable vehicles (Toyota Aqua are currently targeted), never leave valuables in your car, consider using GPS trackers for cars/trailers etc. (Apple AirTags or similar),

and install security lights and cameras if possible

- VOLUNTEER – The City to Sumner Community Patrol covers Heathcote and has great systems and infrastructure and communication lines to the police. Their presence has been proven to reduce crime. The more volunteers they have the more patrols and cars they can run and volunteers only need to commit to four hours a month. We had a number of community members sign up at the meeting. If you are interested please either phone Peter Chiverton 021 0277 6756 or e-mail citytosumnercpnz@gmail.com.

A big thank you to those of you who came along on the night and for your willingness to be open and proactive. A special thanks to Sooze Harris for her facilitation, Amalia Harris for leading the karakia and to both Vanessa Weenink and Lane Todd for their insights into crime and their openness and support of our community.

Online Mat Pilates Classes



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Heathcote Valley Food Forest

Birdsey Reserve, Bridle Path Road.

**WORKING BEES:
3-5pm, 1st & 3rd
Wednesdays and
2nd & 4th Thursdays
of the month.**



**To go on our monthly email/weekly text list,
contact heathcotevalleyfoodforest@gmail.com**



Rachel Hunt, Community Resilience Coordinator

Christchurch Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM), Christchurch City Council

As a Community Resilience Coordinator for Christchurch CDEM at Christchurch City Council, my role involves delivering public education sessions and supporting communities to develop response plans. I regularly work with community groups and often attend public events as part of my role.

I met Jocelyn de Kort from Heathcote Village Project at the Lyttelton Preparedness Expo which was held at Lyttelton Fire Station on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th November. This event was organised by a community group in Lyttelton who have done lots of great work helping to get their community prepared for emergencies.

Jocelyn told me that she had been thinking about improving Heathcote's resilience to emergencies which I was very happy to hear. It's great to see communities looking out for one another, especially during times of emergency. We spoke about the different hazards we can experience in Ōtautahi Christchurch, including earthquakes, tsunamis, storms, floods, landslides, and wildfires.

Jocelyn and I also discussed different ways to introduce Christchurch CDEM into the Heathcote community, and we are thinking of holding a community meeting in the new year. The date, time, and venue for this session will be advertised closer to the time in Heathcote Magazine's autumn edition.

The community meeting will involve a presentation on the role of Christchurch CDEM, the different hazards we can experience, how you can prepare for these hazards, and where to find information during emergencies. There will be plenty of time

for questions and general discussion about what community resilience looks like for Heathcote.

In an emergency, you may be stuck at home for three days or more, it's a good idea to figure out what supplies you and your household will need. Food, water, and medication are the most important items you will need



at home. Make sure you have enough for everyone in your household and for your pets.

During some emergencies, you may have to leave your home, think about the items you may want to take with you in a grab bag if you have to evacuate. As well as food, water, and medication, think about including personal items and important documents, and have warm waterproof clothing and comfortable shoes ready to go.

Make a plan and discuss it with your whānau and friends to make sure you all know what to do during an emergency. Every household's plan will be different. Think about whether you are likely to need support during an emergency or if you could offer support to your neighbours and community.

Thank you to Jocelyn for initiating the discussion around community resilience in Heathcote. I look forward to meeting with the Heathcote community in the new year.

Get prepared for an emergency

Work out what supplies you need at home

Whiriwhiria ngā rawa ka hiahiatia



- ✓ Water for 3 days or make sure you have at least 9 litres of water for every person
- ✓ Long-lasting food that doesn't need cooking and food for pets

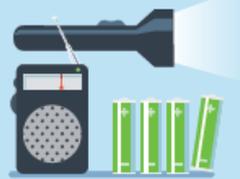


- ✓ Toilet paper and large plastic buckets to make an emergency toilet if needed.
- ✓ Dust masks and work gloves.

If you need to leave home, you may need to take these items with you



Food and water



Torch, radio and spare batteries



Warm, waterproof clothing and comfortable shoes



Personal items



Medications, prescriptions



Know your neighbours

Your neighbours may be your first source of support in an emergency, it's important to get to know them. Knowing people on your street will help to:

- ✓ Make sure everyone is looked after, especially those who might need extra help
- ✓ Share resources and skills, three families cooking on one BBQ uses a lot less gas than three families cooking by themselves
- ✓ Support each other through difficult times



For more information go to getready.govt.nz or contact your local council.

News from the Church of St Mary

By The Reverend Mark Sullivan, Vicar

Someone said to me the other day that the “Silly Season” was upon us. I didn’t take much notice until I heard that the Auckland City Council had spent over one million dollars on a Christmas tree. Kerre Woodham made a comment that this was a strange symbol of Christmas probably dating back to European times. In fact, the modern Christmas tree originated in Germany, where families set up a paradise tree in their homes on December 24, the religious feast day of Adam and Eve. They hung wafers on it (symbolising the Eucharistic host, the Christian sacrament of salvation).

I suppose Christmas trees are indelibly marked into our Christmas celebration as Father Christmas, whose modern appearance was created by the Coca Cola brand to promote its product during the yuletide period.



Mark Sullivan, Vicar

acknowledge that our society finds its place because of Christ’s presence in our world 2000 years ago.

Our year denotes the period since Christ’s birth. The laws we have are based around Christ’s own representation of the goodness of God and the festivals and relaxation that we enjoy were actually provided to allow time for people to leave their work in order to worship God. The very word holiday has its routes in the two words Holy and Day.

Even though (regardless of our beliefs) Christianity is deeply engrained in our lives and society, the faith is so often maligned and criticized for its apparent non-worldly views and associations. As a priest in this world, I wonder what the Church has specifically done to make the act of belief in God so misunderstood and suspiciously unappreciated. Each week preachers encourage congregations to offer respect, care, understanding, charity, peace, kindness and faith (amongst other things). And as a parent, are these not the things that we attempt to instill in our children?

Christmas Services at St Mary’s

Christmas Carol Service

7pm, Sunday 8 December

Children’s Christmas Service

10am, Sunday 22 December

Christmas Eve Service

10:30pm Tuesday 24 December

Christmas Day Service

9am Wednesday 25 December



Auckland City’s 1.2 million dollar Christmas tree.

The reality is that the secular world has created its own ideals of Christmas. Today few appreciate that the celebration is actually one of the principal feasts of the Christian calendar. Yet while we live in a world where Christian values and tenets are often criticized and scorned, we actually forget to

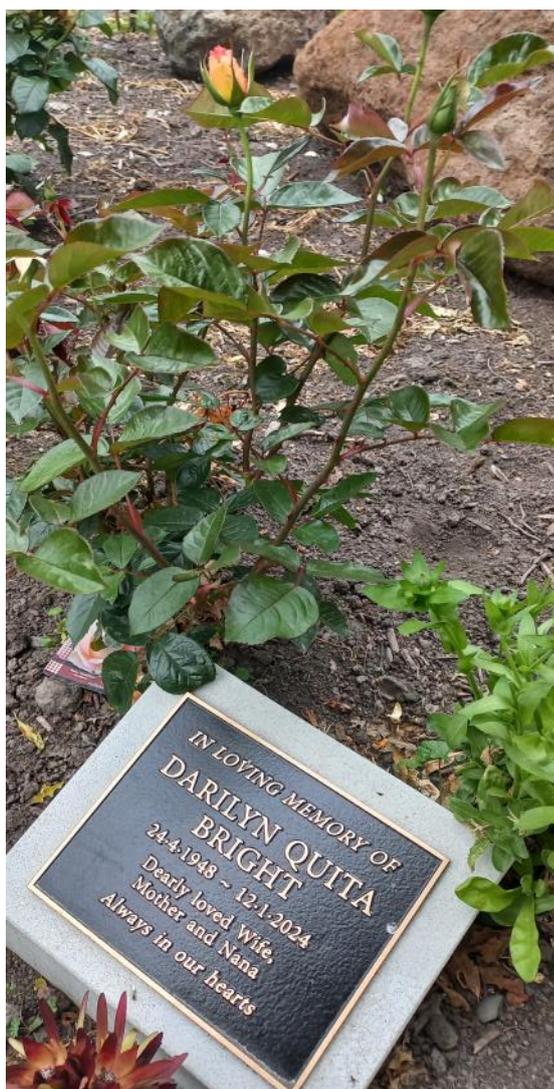
As I prepare for Christmas worship at our little church in the Valley, I am buoyed by the fact that regardless of people’s religious affiliations or appreciations, we will all set aside time to brighten the lives of others by offering presents, good-will and love to those around us. This society still

jealously guards the Holy Days that surround the mystery of Christmas and children still delight in the joy that the days bring.

So, is this really the silly season? The reality is that it's the time when we all, regardless of our religious associations, take time to bring a little happiness into the lives of others. And this one hope is the very representation of Jesus Christ. But Jesus encourages us to extend this good will for not only on one day each year, but in all days.

And by the way, most of us won't be spending \$1.2m on our tree; in fact, for \$30 you can purchase one from our church garden in Truscotts Road.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from your Valley Church. Enjoy the Holy Day!



The new Comemory Garden at Heathcote St Marys Church, created in memory of Darilyn by her husband Bernie Bright.

Heathcote Valley Bumper Stickers



You may have noticed a few local vehicles sporting the new Heathcote Valley bumper stickers. They look great, don't they! Would you like one too? Just donate to the community association, then send Jen at the community centre an e-mail hvcc.bookings@gmail.com and she will organize a sticker for you.

Heathcote Valley Online

Keep an eye on these Facebook pages for updates and local events:



Heathcote Valley Community

Heathcote Village Project

Support Local—Heathcote Valley

You can find out about happenings at the Community Centre and make enquiries about venue hire here:

www.hvcc.org.nz

For back copies of the Heathcote Valley Community Magazine and general information about Heathcote Valley, visit:

www.heathcotevalley.nz



HEATHCOTE COMMUNITY SPORTS CLUB INC



The Heathcote Community Sports Club was fortunate to have a brilliant day for our annual Open Day on 10 November. Members and visitors enjoyed games of bowls, pétanque and table tennis, and a delicious barbecue lunch. We were pleased to welcome visitors from as far away as the UK (on holiday in Christchurch), as well as Heathcote locals. Thanks are due to our enthusiastic members for making it a special day and to CCC for subsidising the lunch through 'Summer with Your Neighbours'.



The Club Open Day is an annual event, but visitors are welcome at any time that the grounds are open. We are a friendly, non-affiliated sports club, with the focus being on having fun, keeping active, and making friends, so in addition to sport we also have regular social events. And, our clubrooms are also available for hire. A great place for a workplace or



family party in our well-equipped clubrooms with the opportunity to play one or more of our sports.

As we are not affiliated to any national organisations, our annual fees are extremely reasonable at just \$100 for full membership (October to September), or \$25 for social membership. Alternatively, non-regulars can Pay'n'Play for just \$5 per session, all equipment supplied.

Our current sports of lawn bowls, pétanque and table tennis are each offered at least twice per week. On the first Thursday of each



month (except January) we hold an indoor games evening (board and card games) which anyone can attend for a gold coin donation. Our current craze is Mexican Train. We are also open to suggestions of other sports and activities that we might offer given sufficient support and enthusiasm.

If you are interested in knowing more, see the notices around the Valley for playing times, email us at heathcotecommunitysportclub@gmail.com or telephone/text Zella Askew, Club Secretary on 021 521 707.

The Club will be closed over the Christmas-New Year period, Monday 23 December to Saturday 5 January. Best wishes to everyone for a wonderful Christmas and New Year.



Heathcote Cricket Club

is at the heart of the valley

By the numbers

- 145 registered adult members
- Nine adult teams
- 30 women and girl cricketers – adult team, junior team, and Friday Smashies
- 137 juniors
- Seven junior teams

Junior cricket

The domain is teeming with children on Friday nights as our Junior coach Rhys Watson-Webb and Junior Club Captain Josh Jones run proceedings.

It really is the highlight of the week as parents, picnic blankets and toddlers fill the slope in front of the community centre. Josh's post-cricket barbecue is quickly gaining a strong reputation in the valley.

If you have primary school-aged children and you're local or just love coming to the valley, check it out. Fridays at 5.30pm. Bring a picnic!

In another junior cricket initiative, we hosted the Canterbury Cricket Year 5 & 6 Cricket Festival at Heathcote Domain in partnership with Sumner Cricket Club.



Juniors give it a "smash" on a Friday at Heathcote Domain.

Dozens of young cricketers from Heathcote Valley School, Mt Pleasant School, and Redcliffs School filled the domain for the event held in September. This was a follow-up to school visits from Canterbury Cricket's game development officers and was a chance for the children to practise cricket skills and have a mini tournament.

Overseas players

This season, we are hosting four overseas players. Matt McGladdery is back for another season and has brought his brother Adam with him. The lads from Manchester are playing in the 2nd XI where Matt dons the gloves and Adam opens the bowling.

Finlay Testa has arrived, also from Manchester, and brought with him some serious pace. He's not big, but he bowls quick.

Another pace bowler, Finley Dixon, has come from Canada completing an international bowling attack.

Our Dutchman, Philippe Boissevain, is back for a

third season in the valley.

This time he's staying. Philippe has made the Canterbury Cricket squad and secured a high-performance visa.

The leg spinner has been a top performer for the club over the past two seasons, picking up 56 wickets in his first season and 36 in his second.



Philippe Boissevain bowling while representing his native country, the Netherlands.

Pitch extension

Under the careful eye of groundsmen Roger Georgieff and Kit Chambers, the pitch block at Heathcote Domain has been extended. The work, which began in the off-season, has taken place to create extra training wickets.

Our grounds staff are all volunteer club members with Marsyle Scott, Marek Bungard, Natalie Wiki-Arapeta, Allan Stack, and Ken Lomax assisting Roger and Kit. What a team.



Kit Chambers (left) and Roger Georgieff ponder the season ahead.



Pitch block extension under way at Heathcote Domain.

Join the club

If you like the sound of our club, join us. We cater for all ages and cricketing abilities. You don't even have to play cricket. Join as a social member to benefit from the great social atmosphere and community environment.

Standout on-field performances

While it has been a challenging start to the season for many of our adult teams, there have been some excellent individual performances.

- Josh Jones clocking his first 100 for the club, playing for the 2nd XI in the Championship grade.
- Finley Dixon picked up a 10-wicket bag for the match in a two-dayer for the 3rd XI in Division 2.
- Opening bat Caleb Donaldson has notched up a couple of 50s and leads the early run-scoring tally for the 1st XI in the Premiership.
- And who can go past Ben McIntosh's brutal 91 for the Alley Cats in Division 4?



(From left) Premiership players Tyler Lortan, Harry Sinclair, and Will Hocquard react in the cordon.

Follow/contact us

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Website: Heathcotecricket.co.nz

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Garden to Table

By Bruce Ellison, Tumuaki

In 2022 the school was approached by the Community Garden Association, looking for a new home for their gardens. As a part of this collaboration the school was very fortunate to be gifted several garden beds. Our valley is lucky to have so many people who are keen gardeners. Tamariki learning about gardening; planting, nurturing and harvesting is something that is really important to their whānau. The school was then looking at ways to realise the community's aspirations for the learning of our tamariki and how to utilise the great garden resources that it had acquired. That's where the idea to become a Garden To Table School started.

The Garden To Table education programme aims to take learning out of the classroom and empower Kiwi kids to grow and cook their own fresh, seasonal, and environmentally sustainable kai. The programme is highly practical and child-centric, supporting students to learn to work together. The theme of "kids doing everything" is a key component of the sessions; skills are not watered down for tamariki and they learn to operate in the kitchen and garden as they would at home, with careful observation and guidance.

We also aim to teach children to nurture, share, and manaaki guests, whilst building awareness of individual and collective responsibility to manaaki te taiao - care for our environment.



Children's health and wellbeing is also a central component of the programme, and celebrating the preparing and sharing of great food fosters community connectedness.



John Marks watches on as students enjoy yummy kai fresh from the garden.

Melissa Smart and Leona Starkey, our lead GTT kaiako, took up the wero / challenge and began trialling Garden To Table with their Year 5 & 6 and Year 2 & 3 classes earlier this year. It quickly became evident that our tamariki enjoyed the practical hands-on nature of the learning experience. Enjoying yummy kai together at the end of the session was another highlight for them. Parents commented that their children were talking about the GTT learning experience at home and becoming more adventurous with what they would eat. With the positive outcomes we needed to look at a way of sustaining this teaching long term. We needed some garden and kitchen experts.

We are very fortunate that Jan and John Marks, and Yvonne Lum-Filipe, who live locally in the valley, have come on board as our experts. A typical session will involve a class being split into two groups, one group working in the garden with John, while the other works in the kitchen with Jan and Yvonne. John helps teach children about preparing and maintaining.



A big **Thank You** to Aromaunga Baxters Flowers for their very generous support of the Heathcote Valley Community.

It is very much appreciated!

Aromaunga Baxters Flowers
116 Bridle Path Road
Ph. (03) 384 8296
www.aroflowers.co.nz



The Food Forest is looking for small quantities of household green-waste to compost; trialing a "swap-a-bucket" system.
Email heathcotevalleyfoodforest@gmail.com for full details.

Riding School News

I'm writing this after Guy Fawkes night, firstly a huge thank you to the majority of residents in the valley who did not have fireworks at home this year, it really does make a huge difference. It's sad that some very loud bangs were heard quite near the paddocks and even sadder that this has continued for over a week, some after midnight. It's very difficult to stay vigilant watching for trouble in the paddocks when fireworks happen so long after the day. Thanks again for those who refrained, we are very grateful as are all animal lovers and farmers.

Exciting news for this term is that as well as Emma, the manager, taking her own horse to the Horse of the Year Show next year, one of our riding school ponies, Larry, has also qualified. Larry will be ridden by Anna, one of the riding school volunteers. A picture of Anna and Larry is attached to this article. Good luck Emma, Amara, Anna and Larry, hope you will do us proud.

Muna, our Kaimanawa pony, has settled really well into the riding school herd and is now regularly handled. Emma will start his formal training later in the year when she gets time.



Muna with Emma

Last of all Bowie who was the cover star a couple of editions ago is weaned from his mum and now making a nuisance of himself everywhere he goes! If you are looking over the fence he is the smallest pony and is always on the go, playing around and annoying the older ponies.

Have a great summer!

Dear Heathcote Valley Community,

One year ago, I made a big move from Vancouver, Canada, to the beautiful, cosy Heathcote Valley area.

In that time, I've had the privilege of turning my dream into a reality, by setting up a Pilates fitness studio, at the 'Subud' building on 105 Bridle Path Road. Over the years, I've built up a strong local Pilates community, met some wonderful local people, and have really enjoyed being a part of this special place.

Recently, I attended the Wednesday morning coffee and scones morning, at the Heathcote Valley Community Centre (the cheese scones are "to die for"). It was such a pleasure to meet with the locals, and chat about the weekly Pilates classes available to them.



It's been wonderful to build connections here, and share my passion about contributing to the health, fitness, and wellbeing of this community. The Heathcote Valley has such a cool community vibe.

I offer weekly Mat Pilates classes for adults and seniors. Your first class is offered free, so that you can come along to check out the Pilates style of fitness, and get to feel the benefits of keeping fit, mobile and active in your daily lives.

For further details check out my website: www.movewithalina.com

Contact me by email at: info@movewithalina.com, or by phone 022 159 7199.

I look forward to seeing you on the mat soon, at the Subud Centre, 105 Bridle Path Road.

Warm regards,
Alina
MOVE WITH ALINA

Halloween in the Valley



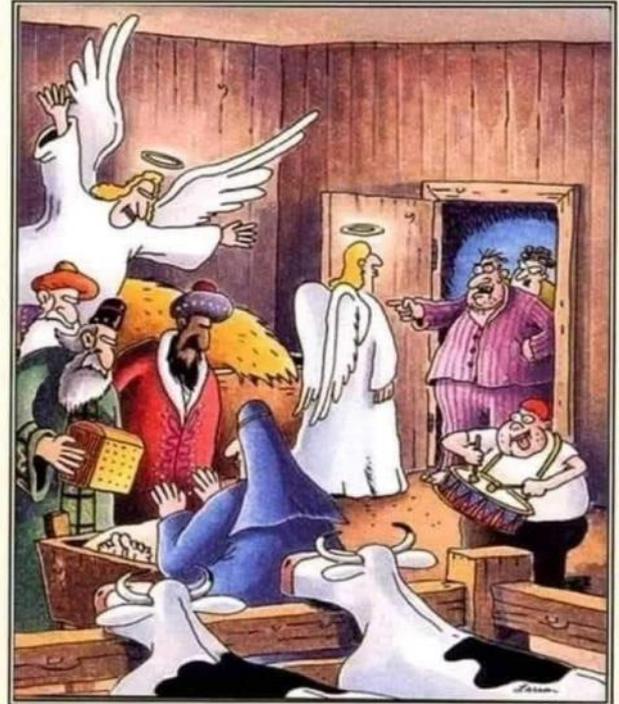
New Neighbours?

Do you have new neighbours? We have the perfect gift for them, so you can introduce yourself and give them a warm welcome to the valley.

We have available some very nice tote bags with local goodies for you to add to as desired to give to your new neighbours.

If you would like a welcome pack for a new neighbour, you can get one by contacting Jocelyn, our Heathcote Valley community coordinator at:

heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com



"Look, buddy, we live next door, and all night long we've been puffin' up with the singing angels, the crying baby, the stinking frankincense, and that big bright star. But I tell ya, that damn pa-rum-pa-pum-pumming has gotta stop."

Heathcote Valley Library

Your local library, located at the Community Centre in Bridle Path Road, is staffed entirely by volunteers and is an important part of our close and thriving Heathcote Valley community.

A huge thank you to everyone who came to our book, craft and baking sale on 6 October. We are grateful for the support of the wonderful Heathcote Community Centre team who sold delicious baking. We had a great response which enabled the purchase of new books including by local Heathcote author Barrie Cameron, Ian Rankin, John Grisham, Lee Child, Paula Hawkins, Rachel Joyce, Jo Nesbo and more.

ATTENTION KIDS!

Coming in the New Year

A chance to win **\$25 book vouchers**

Watch for details in early 2025

At the Heathcote Valley Library

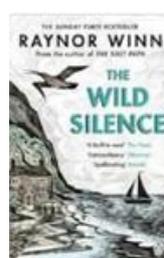
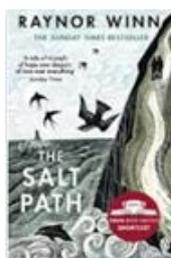
On the Valley noticeboards

On the Heathcote Valley Facebook page

Or join the Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/heathcotevc>

Librarian's Choices . . .

The Salt Path by Raynor Winn. Imagine your husband has a rare neuro-degenerative disease and you've lost your home. It happened to this middle-aged couple in the UK. They decided to pack a tent and walk the south-west coastal path from Somerset, through Devon and into Cornwall. This wonderful book is the story of that epic walk, the homeless people they met and the changes it brought to them. Raynor Winn is a talented writer and the library also has her two following books, "**The Wild Silence**" and "**Landlines**". The Salt Path has been made into a movie and was recently completely booked out in cinemas during Christchurch's British Film Festival.



If popular books are out on loan, you can order them. Just call in to the library

Membership & children's books free. Book hire: New books \$1, other adult books 50c, sale books \$1.

Best wishes to all our members and the Heathcote community for Christmas and New Year

Christmas Hours: CLOSED 24 December - 2 January

The Thursday Book Club resumes 30 January

Library Hours

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Wed	11.00am - 12noon
Sat	10.30am - 12noon
Closed on Sundays and public holidays	



Recipe

How to Glaze a Christmas Ham



Ham on the bone is always a Christmas favourite. You can serve it hot or cold and there's usually some left over to enjoy during the holiday season. To make your ham extra special, try this recipe for the best-ever glazed ham. It's easy to prepare and your family and guests are sure to enjoy it.

Glazing involves infusing the outer fatty layer of the ham with a tasty, caramelised coating. This recipe combines brown sugar with maple syrup and honey, to form a beautiful glossy top. Add to this the tangy mustard to offset the sweetness, some whole cloves for warm, spicy flavour, and your ham will be wonderfully delicious.



METHOD

Step 1 - Make the glaze

Stir the sugar, maple syrup, honey and mustard in a bowl until the sugar dissolves.

Step 2 - Prepare the oven

Line a large baking dish with two layers of non-stick baking paper. Place an oven shelf in the lowest position and remove any other shelves. Preheat oven to 170°C.

Step 3 - Prepare the ham

Use a sharp knife to cut around the shank (hock) of the ham, about 10cm from the end. Run a knife under the rind around edge of ham. Gently lift the rind off in 1 piece by running your fingers between the rind and the fat.

Score the fat in a diamond pattern, about 5mm deep. Stud the centres of the diamonds with cloves. Simply push the stems in until just the bud shows.

Transfer to prepared dish, with the scored surface upwards.

Step 4 - Glaze your ham

Brush one-third of the glaze over the ham. Bake, brushing with glaze every 25-30 minutes, for 1 hour 30 minutes.

Step 5 - Serving

You can serve your ham hot or cold. Only carve what you think you will need as ham stores better on the bone. Store leftover ham in the refrigerator covered with a clean tea towel.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (about 8kg) whole leg ham, on the bone
- 100g (1/2 cup, firmly packed) brown sugar
- 80ml (1/3 cup) maple syrup
- 80ml (1/3 cup) honey
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- Whole cloves (you will need about 70-75 depending on the size of your ham)

How to Carve Your Ham

- Place the ham on a flat surface or suitable serving platter with the glazed surface uppermost.
- Start at the hock end and, using a sharp carving knife, remove a wedge of meat down to the bone. *(This first piece is not for the serving platter—it's for you, the cook, as a reward for all your hard work!)*
- Begin to slice on a slight angle, cutting all the way to the bone. Keep the knife at right angles to the bone, removing suitable size slices for serving.
- Always slice across, rather than along, the meat fibres.

A Sunny Little Enclave

By Barrie Woods

When they hear the name Captain Morgan most people will be more likely to think of dark Jamaican rum than a sunny enclave on the eastern slopes of Heathcote Valley. But for the wiser of us Heathcote locals, the name Captain Morgan might have a different association. Morgans Valley, you see, takes its name from one Captain Morgan, also a Welsh sea captain, but not the privateer and raider of the Caribbean after whom the rum is named – rather, a pious Wesleyan teetotaller.



Morgans Valley, 2024

Our sea captain is Captain William Morgan, master of the barque 'Bangalore' an 877-ton barque built in 1843 on the Channel Island of Jersey. The Bangalore was, for a time, a convict ship which transported British and Irish prisoners to Australia. She made two such voyages under Captain Morgan's command, one to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) in 1848 and then another to Moreton Bay in 1850. 1851 saw a change for the Bangalore when she transported new immigrants to New Zealand as the 12th ship of the Canterbury Association (some records say the 11th), arriving at Lyttelton on 21 August 1851.

We don't know a great deal about Captain Morgan's early life, other than that he was born in 1802 in Wales. He was married to Mary (nee Williams), and had three daughters, Mary Ann, Amy and Martha. William Morgan was a common name, and so too was Mary, making it difficult to trace the origins of the family, and there were a number of other Captain Morgans as well, just to make things more complicated.

Perhaps we can assume that when William arrived in Lyttelton he was nearing an age where he was ready to leave his life at sea and may have been inspired to acquire land in the new colony. Or it could have been a misfortune which occurred in July of 1852 whereby the Bangalore was totally wrecked at 'The Cape' on its passage home from India, with Captain Morgan in command. Fortunately, the captain and all on board were saved. Whichever it was, William made the decision to move his family to New Zealand where he purchased the plot of land that was to become known as Morgan's Valley. (We don't know for sure that Captain Morgan did not continue at sea after the loss of the Bangalore, and several mentions in shipping news of the time could refer to him or others of the same name. I suspect he captained the Egmont which arrived at Lyttelton from London in July 1862.)

Cwm House

William Morgan built a house for his family on his land in Heathcote Valley, where it stood until 1938.



Cwm House, 1910

The house, which was prefabricated in Wales and shipped to Lyttelton, was constructed of Baltic pine and large 3ft by 4ft slabs of Welsh slate. It was known as 'Cwm House', which can have a double meaning; 'cwm' being the Welsh word for 'valley', but also an acronym for Captain William Morgan.

According to Charlotte Godley, who had a reputation as being rather acid-tongued and was fairly frugal with her compliments, Captain Morgan was a "very nice little man." She was probably correct and there's nothing to indicate he was anything other than an upstanding and generous member of the community. Unlike many other immigrant families, Captain Morgan and his family did not feature significantly in the social news of the day, and do not appear to have been involved in any scandals or controversy worthy of report.

Captain Morgan was elected unopposed in 1856 for the Lyttelton seat on the Provincial Council which Henry Sewell had vacated. He stood again in 1862 but did not put in an appearance on nomination day and gained only four votes. (Perhaps he had lost interest.)

As the Heathcote settlement began to grow, there was a need for schooling for local children, so in 1860 the Morgans made a room in their house available as a schoolroom. This was a temporary arrangement until a proper schoolhouse was opened in 1864.

In the early days of the Ferrymead railway, the Morgan farm was a favourite picnic spot for Christchurch school children and on one occasion in the early 1860s some 300 pupils from St Michael's and St Luke's schools took the train from town and gathered in Heathcote for a day out.

The land in the valley was productive and in 1862 a newspaper report described "a splendid apple, grown by Capt. Morgan in the Heathcote Valley, the weight of which is exactly 1¼lbs. It is a beautiful colour and a very handsome specimen of the variety known by the name of the Emperor Alexander". It's interesting what trifles found their way into the newspapers of the day.

Sheep were run on this side of Heathcote Valley and on Mt. Pleasant. In later years, prior to the modern housing development, the old Morgan property was noted for its bright red-painted farm buildings and tall eucalyptus trees. Today there is little reminder left of the early days.

A Good Methodist

In keeping with his Welsh heritage, William Morgan appears to have been a good Methodist and gave land in Hills Road for the first Methodist church in Heathcote. He was a member of the Canterbury Auxiliary Bible Society and was chair of the Kaiapoi committee in his later years.

Apparently, Cwm House was used for the first meeting of the Christchurch Total Abstinence Society, though later meetings were held in the Town Hall. William became a trustee of the Wesleyan Church in Kaiapoi and in August 1870 he had the honour of laying the foundation stone for the new church building.

Accident Prone

In November of 1858 William Morgan found himself in the news when he was thrown from his horse on the bridle path and sustained severe injuries. He recovered at home and the accident was reported in the newspapers. It seems he may have been accident-prone as far as horse-drawn

conveyances were concerned as he was in the news again in 1866 when his horse bolted in Ferry Road, throwing him off. Then again, in 1866, The Lyttelton Times reported:

We regret to have to record a serious accident which occurred to Captain and Miss Morgan, of Kaiapoi, whilst driving from Kaiapoi to Christchurch on Saturday last. When about two miles from Kaiapoi, the horse in the trap shied at a wagon which was passing at the time, and bolted at a furious pace towards the Waimakariri bridge. Captain and Miss Morgan retained their seats for some time, the latter using every endeavour to arrest the further progress of the horse, but without avail, and, after proceeding some distance, both were thrown with terrific force into the road. They received severe injuries, Captain Morgan breaking his collar-bone, and Miss Morgan, besides other injuries, receiving a slight concussion of the brain. The horse continued his career at undiminished speed until on nearing the bridge he was captured by Mr. Joseph Felton. The injured parties were immediately conveyed to Kaiapoi, where Dr. Dudley was speedily in attendance and rendered every assistance in his power. We understand this is not the first time that the same horse has committed a like act, for on the evening of the late Avon election, whilst returning from Christchurch to Kaiapoi, Capt. Morgan and his wife were capsized into a ditch, but fortunately received no serious injuries.

Family

Records show that the Morgans' second daughter, Amy, was the first person to be married in the temporary Heathcote Valley Church, on Wednesday 1st June, 1859. She married James Dowling Rogers, Esq., of Marouen Station (near Hinds). It was an unfortunate marriage as James died by suicide in 1866, leaving Amy with two sons and a daughter. His undoing was said to be as a result of alcoholism and a £1200 gambling loss (massive for the day). Amy Rogers moved to

Opunake to be near her sister, and lived to the ripe old age of 95 years, dying on 16 June 1932.

The Morgans' youngest daughter, Martha, married Samuel Breach, a farmer from Opunake. Martha and Samuel died within a few days of each other in June 1915 and are buried in Hawera.

Mary Ann, the oldest daughter, remained a spinster and lived with her father until his death. In 1876 she was called as a witness in a very public scandal where the Rev Hubert Carlyon of the Kaiapoi Church of England faced twelve charges brought by the church hierarchy. He was found guilty on six and subsequently returned to England. Sometime after this, Mary Ann moved to Ballarat in Australia, where she died on 1 February 1905.

Property Investor

William Morgan purchased a considerable number of properties over the years, in Lyttelton, Heathcote, and later in Kaiapoi. He probably made a good income as a speculator and also a landlord as many of his properties were advertised to let over the years. Possibly he engaged in some level of farming on his own behalf, though this does not appear to have been his main occupation, which was simply recorded in his later years as 'gentleman'.

Around 1863, the Morgans moved from Heathcote to live in Kaiapoi and leased Cwm House. The advertisement for the lease of Cwm House described it as follows:

The property of and now occupied by Captain Morgan, containing drawing room 22 ft x 13, dining room 18 ft x 13, four bedrooms, kitchen with new range and every convenience, servants' room, pantry, wash house, dairy. The outbuildings consist of a three stabled stable and hay loft, with man servant's room adjoining; coach house, cowshed, pigsties. The house is surrounded by a very fertile garden, abundantly stocked with fruit trees in full bearing, and about 85 acres of land, part of which is laid down in English grass and lucernes. There is

also included two cottages, let at a rental of £45 per annum. This house was built and the grounds laid out by Captain Morgan for his own occupation, and affords an opportunity for a family obtaining a comfortable and most agreeably situated dwelling house near Christchurch, rarely to be met with.

In Kaiapoi, William built a substantial house at 232 Williams Street, where he lived with his wife and eldest daughter, Mary Ann. Mary (William's wife) died on 17 May 1872 at 64 years of age. After William's death from apoplexy three years later, on 11 April 1875, Mary Ann stayed at the house for a few more years, before selling it to sawmiller, John Simms, in May 1881. This is probably when she moved to Australia. The house still stands and has a heritage listing, though the land was subdivided in later years.

William was an early investor in the Spinning and Weaving Company (later to become the Kaiapoi Woollen Mills), holding 50 shares. The business initially struggled to make money and likely offered William a poor return. He appears to have fared much better with his property investing, holding a considerable portfolio. After his death in April 1875 Captain Morgan's numerous properties were sold and the proceeds were divided between his three daughters under the terms of a somewhat complicated will, with five pages of handwritten instructions.

Though I can find no obvious trace of them, Captain Morgan very likely has living descendants through the Rogers and Breach family lines, however the Morgan name did not endure past his generation. Except, however, through the sunny little enclave that caught his eye when he first arrived in New Zealand, which we now know as Morgans Valley.

The Cacophony Project in Morgans Valley

Over the past two years, the Cacophony Project has been testing its DOC AI Thermal Camera in Morgans Valley. The DOC AI Thermal



A DOC AI thermal camera

Camera is a cutting-edge technology designed to enhance wildlife management and conservation efforts. Building on this camera testing, we are now progressing to the next phase of our initiative by trialling our High Catch Rate traps. These traps will be placed in the treeline above the water tank and are aimed at controlling of possums and rodents.

Local residents involved in the trapping group will oversee the management of any animals captured by these traps, ensuring that they are dispatched humanely and efficiently. We understand that there have been previous concerns regarding the potential capture of domestic cats. To address this, our traps are equipped with live capture cages designed to safely contain and release any non-target animals, including cats, without harm. The welfare of all animals in the area remains a top priority, and we are committed to ensuring that our methods are both effective and ethical.

We appreciate the community's support and patience as we continue to refine our technology and approach to wildlife management. This testing phase represents a significant step forward in predator control. We look forward to sharing updates on the project's progress and welcome any questions or feedback from residents.

www.cacophony.org.nz

Castle Rock

By Ted Shields

This is the most attractive of the rock outcrops on the Port Hills, more especially when viewed from the north-west side.

In modern times it has been a popular place for rock climbers on the west face where there are many challenging climbs, all of which are named. It is of solid rock presenting good climbs in most grades making Castle Rock the most popular crag in Christchurch prior to the earthquakes. However, since the Christchurch earthquakes the area is now out of bounds due to the danger of rock-fall so Witch Hill and other locations have become popular instead.

Many years ago, access was usually gained by tramping up the ridge dividing Horotane Valley and Heathcote Valley or directly off the Summit Road where access is flat and an easy walk to reach the area above the cave but not down to it. About 25 years ago, a group known as the Eastenders formed a track starting from the hairpin bend on the Bridle Path then up to Castle Rock where the track branched to the left and went to the Summit Road whilst the other branch went to the right and joined the original western track from the Summit Road which connected to the cave.

The Eastenders were a group of men, most of whom were retired, who maintained the Port Hills tracks between Godley Head and Sugar Loaf. About 25 years ago, a memorial seat was built about 40 metres below the Castle Rock cave in recognition of the work done by that group. The seat is in a sheltered L-shaped rock alcove and to the uninitiated it would be unknown to be there.

There is a bronze plaque fixed to the stonework supporting the seat. It reads:

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WORK OF
THE EASTENDERS
GUARDIANS OF THE PORT HILLS
SUMMIT ROAD SOCIETY INC



The bronze plaque attached to the seat



Memorial seat built in recognition of the Eastenders

About 1988 the Christchurch City Council built a “Room with a View” on the west side of Castle Rock to cater for the heavy use people were making of the Rock. They also built one at the Bellbird. The little building was known as a “Rotoloo second generation composting toilet” and was helicoptered to the site piece by piece and re-assembled adjacent to the track. These toilets were described as “ecologically desirable” on sites where water is not available. The building was an



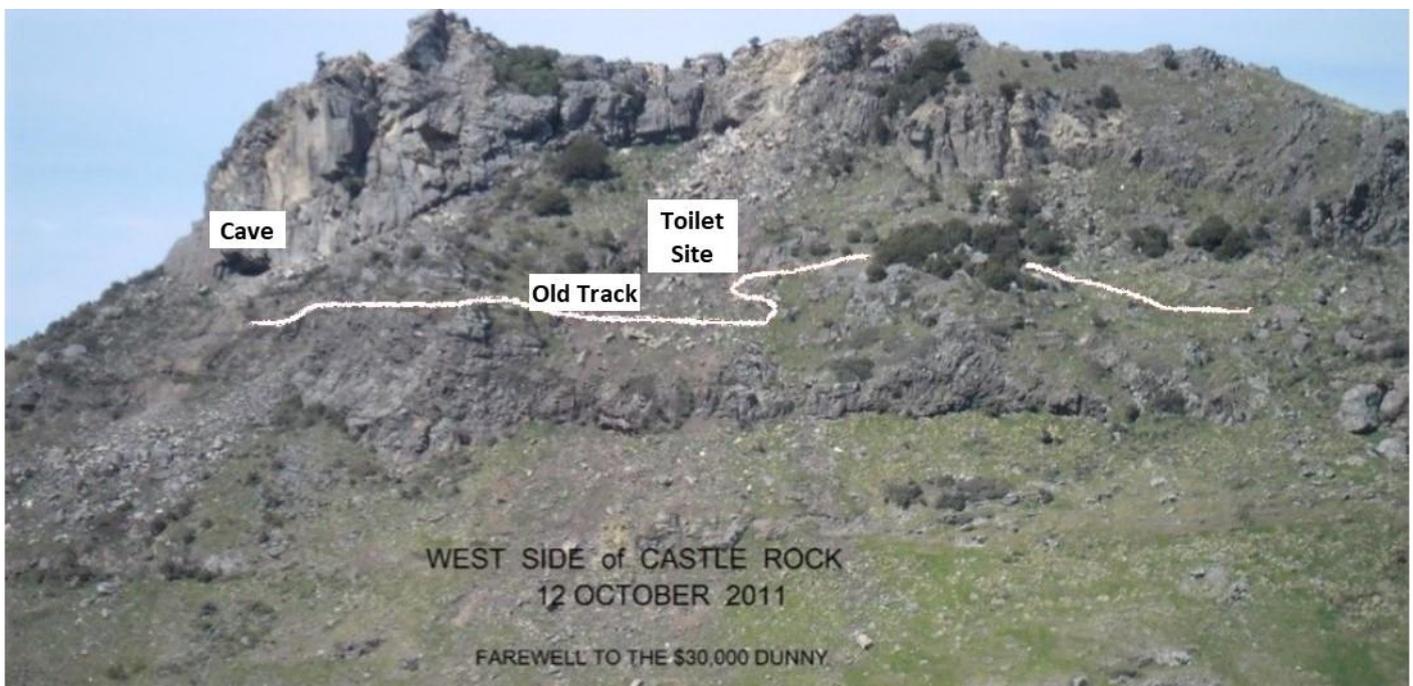
'Room with a view'

architecturally designed chalet style building and fitted into the environment quite nicely but unfortunately was destroyed by the earthquake. Upon inspection after the earthquake there was nothing of it to be found at the site or down the hillside

where the fallen rock had travelled.

Shortly after being built, a local woman, Margaret Smith, nee Collier, wrote to the Press claiming the design of the new toilet is an "absolute disgrace" because of its siting and the use of the incompatible building material. However, it was generally accepted that it was an asset disregarding that criticism.

The composting unit had a solar panel facing directly north which was often the subject of reports of a suspected vehicle having left the road. At certain times of the day the reflection from the panel appeared to be that of a crashed vehicle's window and could be seen whilst travelling on the Tunnel Road.



The site of the building was situated below the rockfall in the centre of the picture. It was built away from the road to reduce problems associated with vandalism.

In retrospect it was fortunate there was nobody in the cave when the earthquake occurred because it was a favourite place for trampers and others to have morning tea or lunch break whilst tramping in the area.

Do you have a story to tell?

Articles are invited for the next issue of the Heathcote community magazine, which will be the summer edition.

We are looking for stories about happenings, people, environment, or local history. Poems and photographs are welcome. In fact anything with a local connection and that you think your neighbours will enjoy.

Deadline for articles is:

Wednesday 12 February 2025.

Enquiries and contributions should be sent to:

heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com

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Mob: 027 200 1590**

Services

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- Installations: Doors, trim and more

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We have an in-house team of:

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BATHROOMS AND KITCHENS

Heathcote Valley Trades and Services Directory

Please support these businesses that support our local community.

Beauty Therapy Thalgo facials, waxing and eyelash tinting, eyebrow shaping and tinting. Open over holiday period (not stats). Stockist of Thalgo Marin skincare.

www.margsbeautyspot.co.nz Ph. 027 464 7477

Beauty, Laser, Injectables Caci Ferrymead offers a range of beauty services, laser hair removal, cosmetic injectables and skin rejuvenation. Contact Monique at 03 925-9422 or email enquiries-ferrymead@caci.co.nz to book a free consultation.

Dentist Dr. Sally Woods BDS (distinction), Dental on Kilmore (note the new name), 128 Kilmore Street. All aspects of general dentistry. Certified Invisalign provider. We work hard to deliver the best patient experience. Book online at www.dentalonkilmore.co.nz or Ph (03) 379 6766

Lawns and Gardens At Lucas Lawns and Gardens we offer expert services to help you prepare for any season. From lawn care and hedges, to seasonal upkeep, our team is dedicated to creating a garden that is vibrant and inviting. Ph. Lucas 027 522 1010

Painting Brush Hour Painting. Your local painting pros. Unlock 10% savings with this Heathcote Valley ad referral. Ph 027 685 6741 www.brushhour.co.nz

Pest Control Essential Pest Control Limited. Commercial and domestic pest control. Local family owned company . Over 35 years experience in all types of pest issues. Rodent proofing and advice. Call Darryl on 027 770 2102

Property Maintenance and Lawn Mowing. Hi my name is Thomas and I'm the owner/operator of Thomas's Support Service. I do general maintenance and lawn mowing. I also collect and share about foraging plants. Phone 022 089 4966

Real Estate For buying, selling or confidential advice, contact Vicki at Vicki Tahau Paton Real Estate, licensed agent REA 2008. Ph./text 027 457 8351. Email vicki@vicki.co.nz

Window Cleaning Gleaming Window Cleaning Ltd. Your local window cleaner for residential and commercial window cleaning with 7 years of experience. Contact us for a free quote.

Ph: 021 067 2392 Email: nouman@gleaming.nz Web: www.gleamingwindowcleaning.co.nz

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