



Community Magazine

Winter 2024



*The Aotearoa New Zealand Histories Mural
at Te Tihi o Kahukura Heathcote Valley School*

A Winter Message from our Community Coordinator

I've been thinking about writing this little winter intro for a while now, but the past few days have been rather uninspiring, grey and dismal, but today there was an early morning frost followed by beautiful clear blue sky. I love these days, which bring a spring to my step. A few years ago when I worked on the Mobile Library, a colleague mentioned that he'd love to bottle that euphoria. When I figure out the recipe I'll happily share it with you all.



Jocelyn de Kort

Early in April we had our Free Cycle day which was thoroughly enjoyed by many, with loads of recycled goodies put out for all to explore, collect and connect with locals. The Bay Harbour News also got in on the act and did a little story about the event which was lovely to see. I'm thinking of having the next community free cycle event in September.

April also saw Anzac commemorations and an early morning service at the Heathcote war memorial on the corner of Flavell, Marsden and Rollin Streets and Bridle Path Road. After the service, accompanied by a solo bagpiper, we respectfully made our way to the Heathcote Valley Inn, who put on a heart warming cooked breakfast in exchange for a gold coin donation. A huge THANK YOU to the wonderful owners and staff at the Heathcote Valley Inn, for their generous support and involvement with our community.

Over the last couple of months I've been on a couple of mini excursions. On Easter weekend I went on a roadie up to Mokihinui, stopping along the way, sleeping on a cosy mattress in the back of my car, supporting family with Coast to Coast training runs and bike rides in preparation for the next event in February 2025.

Then again on Mothers Day weekend I drove up to Kekerengu, which is between Kaikoura and Blenheim, where my youngest son and partner have been working at 'The Store' and catching their breath after walking Te Araroa from Bluff to Picton.

It's a beautiful area, right on the beach where I met a few other travellers setting up camp for the night in the hope of viewing the electrical cosmic storm that was expected to hit the skies at night. It certainly was very dark but unfortunately it was a cloudy evening so there was no sign of the spectacular Aurora which many observed over Heathcote and around the country. Thanks to many people around Heathcote and further afield sharing their stunning pictures of the event, I didn't feel too bereft.

We are very blessed here in Heathcote with so many adventures right on our door step. We are surrounded by the Port Hills full of tracks to explore, bird life to listen to and observe. Read about some of these experiences in the article, 'Adventures with Nature', which shares some wonderful stories of locals that have a passion for our biodiversity, including one of a rock climber who abseils down rocky bluffs over the Port Hills and Horotane Valley, cutting out invasive weeds from rock cracks and crevices. Read more in the articles written by our local nature enthusiasts, who would love to encourage community involvement with native planting and pest eradication days, also listed in 'Adventures with Nature'.

Our historic local St Mary's Heathcote church has been making some big landscaping changes over the last few months, opening up the church site to make it more inclusive for the community. In Mark Sullivan's article he has listed some cool community activities, including a biking group.

Last Monday I was invited to attend the Heathcote Valley school cultural narrative tour, hosted by a triplet of well informed students. I learnt the history and significance of our valley, the school and surrounding landscape. The Principal of Heathcote Valley school, Bruce Ellison, has kindly contributed an article sharing these stories for us all to enjoy and learn from.

The Heathcote Community Library and Heathcote Sports clubs are also adding some fun extra events to their schedule which could be a great way to connect over the winter months.

I would like to thank everyone who has kindly contributed articles for this winter magazine edition. It's awesome to receive your stories,

especially by the due date, which makes everything run smoothly and fall into place on time.

Articles for the spring 2024 magazine are due in to me by the 12th of August. All community related articles are welcomed. Send them to me at: heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com

If you are so inclined please remember to send in your community donation (\$15) which helps to keep this magazine in circulation. You'll also get a Heathcote Valley bumper sticker if you email Jen (see below) or visit her at the Community Centre.

We have also decided to accept offers of local advertising for the next edition of the community magazine. For more information please send an email expressing your interest to: [adverts@heathcotevalley .nz](mailto:adverts@heathcotevalley.nz)

Keep in touch and keep warm.
Kia hari te panui, happy reading.

Jocelyn

Heathcote Valley Bumper Stickers



We were very lucky to have Jimirah Baliza (www.jimirahstudio.com) on our committee until recently and she kindly donated her time and skill and did an incredible job designing some new Heathcote Valley branding. As part of her project she has designed some awesome Heathcote Valley bumper stickers and you could be one of the first to get your hands on one! Just donate to the community association then pop me an e-mail hvcc.bookings@gmail.com and I'll organize a sticker for you. Cheers, Jen

Silos Knitting



The Silos knitting / crochet group is aimed at those working during the week who are unable to get to the well-established Monday morning group. The new group is the idea of valley residents Eliz Rayner, her sister Frances and Anne Mortimer. All three friends wanted to meet somewhere locally on a Saturday where they can easily walk to for a couple of hours of social knitting.

The group already has several regulars who meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month 1-3pm to share their latest creations, share wool and pattern tips and inspire each other. Being part of a group encourages you to step out of your comfort zone and to be inspired to stretch your skills. We welcome all ages and abilities and no regular commitment is required. Find us on Facebook as the Heathcote Valley Knitting Group or in Silos Café.

Important!

The Community Association now has a new bank account number. It is:

ASB 12-3147-0553279-01

Please update your records and don't use the old number.

Thanks heaps! 😊

HEATHCOTE VALLEY ASSOCIATION

Sooze Harris, the HVCA chairperson, is away on adventures, so is not able to contribute her usual piece. Instead we have decided to include a short introduction to each of our committee members. Read on to discover who we are...

Sooze Harris is currently the chairperson of the Heathcote Valley Community Association. She is passionate about supporting people and communities to become more connected through finding deeper purpose in the community. She loves seeing people realise their unique contribution, recognising their strengths, and developing their capacity to go beyond what they previously thought they were capable of.

John Marks is the secretary for the Heathcote Valley Community Association. He has lived in the valley for just over five years and since then has been involved with various things, such as the community gardens. Being the secretary keeps him very hands on and he really enjoys the role.

Jen Saunders is the Heathcote community centre manager. She has lived in Heathcote for just over 20 years. In her early years her attention was more with the school, but as her children have grown, she has become involved more in the wider community. Her passion is creating a welcoming space at the Heathcote community centre and opportunities for people to connect.

Zia Baré is the Heathcote Valley School community liaison student, so her role is to connect the school with the community. She enjoys guitar, singing and reading.

Ali Baré has been in the valley for around five years. Over the last few years she has taken an interest in learning te reo and learning more of our local history. She is enthusiastic about the te reo group and liaising with the Rapaki Marae and also with Ferrymead.

Hannah Watkinson has lived in the valley for about three and a half years and absolutely loves it here.

She is interested in finding ways that people can connect to their community better and things they can do to support each other, so the community association is good to be involved in.

Jackie Foulkes moved into the valley on the morning of the first earthquake in September 2010. Her children were 1 week old and 18 months old, so it was a quite full-on introduction to Heathcote. Jackie worked as community facilitator for a number of years, and while she has now moved to Mt Pleasant, she still values her ongoing connections with the valley.

Jan Marks is treasurer for the Heathcote Valley Community Association. Her role involves paying the bills and keeping the accounts correct. She has lived in the valley for around five years and really loves it. She enjoys her family, especially helping her granddaughter and her two great grandsons.

Jocelyn de Kort has lived in the valley for over 45 years. She brought her children up in Heathcote where they went to school. Now she has grandkids also at Heathcote School. After the earthquakes she was involved with drawing the community together and facilitating Epicentre forums that were held to discuss the future of Heathcote. In recent years she has taken the role of community connector and loves connecting with people. One of her passions is the quarterly Heathcote magazine.

Barrie Woods has lived in the valley for about 20 years. He became involved in community activities through the Heathcote Village Project shortly after the earthquakes. For the past few years Barrie has helped with layout of the community magazine, which he sees as a great way of connecting locals with their community through the printed word.

Sue Henery and **Nicholas McCauley** are also members of the Heathcote Valley Community Association but were not available at the time of writing.





Te Tihi o Kahukura

Heathcote Valley School

Kia ora,

Kia ora Heathcote Valley community members.

Term 2 always brings lots of big events and activities for the tamariki of Te Tihi o Kahukura to get involved in.

On the 30th of May our weekly winter sport started up again.

Winter sport is where everyone that is year 4 and up goes to Hagley Park and plays a sport that they choose. This year we have netball, rugby, hockey and football. It is a good opportunity for kids to play a team sport even if they haven't played it before.



Zia Knight Baré

We celebrated Pink Shirt Day on 17th of May. Pink Shirt Day is an annual event against bullying, held in Canada and New Zealand. We took part in this day by learning about bullying and its impacts, and everyone dressed up in pink!



Recently we had the Cross Country at Ferrymead Park and we shared our day with Lyttleton and St. Annes schools. This year we ran an optional competitive cross country in the morning that almost 90 of our students got involved in from Year 4-8 and then a 1 kilometre fun run for everyone to get out and be active. We then had lots of cool games in the afternoon run by the PALs (physical activity leaders).

On the 13th of May three of our year 8 leaders gave community members a short tour of the school where they shared information about our school's cultural narrative. Lots of the community joined to hear about the stories of our place.

Our very first Garden to Table session occurred on the 1st of May. Two of our year 3-5 teachers split their classes in two, with one group in the school gardens learning about soil health, planting, nourishing and harvesting while the second group was in the kitchen learning about preparing a meal. Both groups sat down together to enjoy a meal and dessert which included some ingredients from the gardens. It sounded like lots of fun!

I hope everyone has been wrapping up in this chilly weather and keeping cosy inside!

Zia

Sara's Message

Kia ora Koutou,

I was lucky to visit Zealandia Wildlife Sanctuary in Wellington recently. It's a fully fenced reserve close to the heart of the city and is home to many native species including endangered birds like takahe and the amazing tuatara.



*Sara Templeton
City Councillor*

It's been three decades in the making to get to this point and was community-led from the start. The predator-proof fence has been in for over 25 years and the halo effect with birdlife around Wellington has been remarkable.

It got me thinking about how important the work by the local volunteer groups is in Heathcote and wider Ōtautahi – planting native species and trapping predators. It's a long game and while efforts have been ramping up in recent years, we can see glimpses of how our hillsides could be at places like Birdsey and Drayton Reserves.

While the Port Hills and Banks Peninsula have a distinct grassy landscape now, it wasn't always the way, and when European settlers arrived the Peninsula was still cloaked in lush, green bush and full of birdlife. It can be again and landscape scale projects such as Hinewai or Te Ahu Pātiki Mt Herbert are steadily regenerating due to the amazing efforts of many people.

So take this as a call to action this planting season – there are many planting events on, locally and across the city. Or, head to a trap making session with Predator Free Port Hills and make a rat trap for your backyard. Together, we can make a real difference for nature.

As always, feel free to contact me about any local issues and follow my Facebook for information on local and city-wide issues, consultations and events. www.facebook.com/saratempletonchch

Ngā Mihi,

Sara

Sara Templeton
Councillor for Heathcote

OH NO, I'VE STEPPED IN ONE AGAIN!



A plea to all dog walkers in the valley, please pick up after your dog! Most people certainly do that, but the few who don't, spoil it for all of us who wander around choosing to look at our wonderful

scenery rather than at our feet all the time. All our streets need to be easy to walk on, and also down Truscotts Road and around the ponds... just because there is grass doesn't mean you can look away. And the playing field is all the more important for the sportspeople rushing around.

Never a bad idea to carry a bag in your pocket, to offer to those who have "forgotten" to bring one.

(From a Valley resident who enjoys walking in our beautiful area.)



Te Tihi o Kahukura / Heathcote Valley School

Cultural Narrative Tour - Community Magazine



Acknowledgements

Te Kura o Te Tihi o Kahukura / Heathcote Valley School is very grateful to the support of Te Hapu o Ngāti Wheke and Ngai Tuahuriri for gifting us our Cultural Narrative. We would like to especially thank Dianne Robinson for the hours of research she put into creating our naming document that directly connects the spaces at our kura / school with significant landmarks of our local area, and therefore helping connect us to the early Māori history of this area.

Our Pou Whenua



The Te Aka Māori dictionary defines a Pou Whenua as a post marker of ownership, boundary marker, land marker post, land symbol of support - post placed prominently in the ground to mark possession of an area or jurisdiction over it.

Our Pou Whenua were created by two former tauira / students Jakooby and Diaz.

The pou on the left represents the iwi progression of this rohi; Waitaha, Ngāti Mamoe, and Kai Tahu / Ngai Tahu. Jakooby has Ngāti Mamoe whakapapa.

The pou on the right represents Te Rakiwhakaputa, who brought his whānau and supporters to Whakaraupō and established the kainga of Rapaki. The name Rapaki came from when he placed his rapaki, or loin cloth, on the beach to claim that place. The full name for Rapaki is Te Rāpaki o Te Rakiwhakaputa.

Our Aotearoa New Zealand Histories Mural

In 2023 we all learnt about how early Māori survived and then thrived here in Aotearoa. The Year 6 class researched the resources that were here in our local area before the first people arrived and created some mural designs from this.

A graphic artist Rodrigo Rozas

(<https://www.chileonenz.com/about>) then drew

up these design ideas to create this visual mural

depicting some of the plants and animals that were here when the first Māori arrived.



On the left of the design is a Moa, followed by a Tui on a Kowhai tree branch and Raupō in swampland. In the middle is a Kahikatea tree, followed by a Jewelled Gecko, a Tī kōuka tree, an Eel, and Harakeke on the right-hand side.

Te Tihi O Kahukura



Te Tihi o Kahukura, means the citadel of Kahukura or the pinnacle of the rainbow. It is the original name for Castle Rock, and has been gifted as a name for our kura by Ngai Tahu.

A literal translation of Kahukura is red garment and the rainbow is the celestial embodiment of Kahukura in our skies.

Kahukura is also referred to as a mokopuna of Rakinui (sky father) who came down with Tūterakiwhanoa and Marokura after Aoraki and his brothers perished. Tūterakiwhanoa helped create the mountains, valleys and plains around us from Aoraki's broken waka. Kahukura was responsible for planting the trees and freeing the birds and animals, while Marokura carved out bays, inlets and estuaries and populated them with fish.

Tauhinu and Korokio

Tauhinu and Korokio are contractions of the name Tauhinukorokio which is the highest point directly above the community of Lyttelton, that is known as Mount Pleasant. It is named after the tauhinu (cottonwood) and korokio (corokia cotoneaster) native shrubs that were once plentiful in the area.

A Ngāti Māmoē pā was situated on Tauhinukorokio.



Tauhinu is a native tree with greyish-green, small leaves with fine white hair underneath and curled edges. Flowers are cream and in clusters and occur throughout summer. It is fast growing, reaching two metres in height and is found in both the North and South Islands from coastal to lower montane shrubland and grassland.

Korokio is a native shrub with small silvery-grey leaves on black wiry stems (as tough as wire netting) that are covered with a soft silvery white felt underneath. The shrub flowers profusely from October to January with bright yellow star-shaped flowers, and the red, orange, or yellow drupes ripen in late summer or autumn.

The hard wiry wood from its intertwined branches was fashioned into fish hooks, and also made into knives to pierce the skin in treating injuries. Ngāti Tahu used fine twigs of korokio as tinder when making a fire. The leaves of korokio were also boiled and when cooled, the liquid was drunk as a treatment for stomach complaints and ulcers, which some sources said gave instant relief.



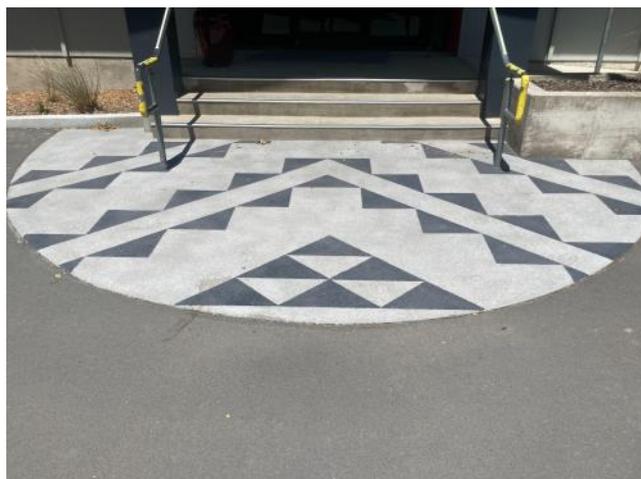
Te Heru and Entranceway Design



The heru is worn by chiefs as an adornment (to affix their tikitiki, top knot of hair) Te Heru shortened from “Te Heru o Kahukura” refers to the comb of Kahukura, an important traditional figure related to the forestation and stocking of resources of the land. Te Heru o Kahukura is also known as Sugarloaf.

These paving designs are inspired by traditional Māori patterns on whāriki, and have been designed by Fayne and Dianne Robinson, to tell our story.

The paving in the entrance into Te Heru depicts the shadow of Te Heru o Kahukura, as we stand in the shadow of the mountains around us. It also represents the many aspects of our natural environment; the birds, the trees, the insects, the plants, all coming together as pieces in these squares, all having equal importance to the balance of nature.



Te Puna (Te Puna o Harakeke)



Te Puna is an abbreviation of the name Te Puna o Harakeke which refers to the headwater springs in the Avoca Valley, used for the cleansing of houī (lacebark) while preparing garments.

Te Puna means ‘the spring of water’ so the names of the internal spaces have taken on this theme.

Parirau (Parirau o Marama)



Parirau is an abbreviation of the name Parirau o Marama which refers to the bluffs on the steep (west) side of Horotane Valley (Avoca) which look like grass skirts in the moonlight.

Rau means many or hundred, Pari means cliff and Marama means the moon, so Parirau o Marama literally translates as ‘The many cliffs of the moon’.

Parirau also means ‘wing’ so the names of the internal spaces have taken on this theme.

Pātengi



A pātengi is a storehouse, usually built on stilts to protect the food stored within it from kiore, or rats. It also is the name for a storage pit for kūmara.

Here at HVS it is the storehouse for our teaching resources.

Te Korowai and Entranceway Design



Korowai (tasselled cloaks) developed from pake (rain capes). Pake were covered with flat leaf strips that had a practical purpose – to channel rain off the cloak and keep the wearer dry. Innovative weavers transformed these practical strips into elegant tassels. Korowai take their name from korokoro (loose) and wai (water, or flowing). Distinctive hukahuka (tassels) cascade down these garments, rippling and swaying with the wearer's every movement.

Much as a rainbow adorns the sky, a korowai adorns the wearer. A chief who wore a korowai, would likely have worn a Heru also. This links the theme of adornments of Kahukura, Te Heru and Te Korowai.

Entering into Te Korowai, the paving patterns are influenced in the same way as those used as we enter the school; the shadow of the mountain peaks, and the beauty of nature. To make a korowai one needs feathers from the birds, the muka from the harakeke plants around us, the bark from the tall trees on the mountains used to dye the muka, and these natural elements are depicted in these designs to link into our school narrative.



Our Oak Tree

Our school's history starts with an enterprising sailor, Captain W. Morgan, who settled in Heathcote. In 1860, he started to use a room in his home (Cwm House) as a school room.

In 1861, work started on the Heathcote Valley end of the Lyttelton tunnel, and with it came a significant increase in the local population. The residents' campaign for an adequate school for their children was granted and eventually built on the southern half of the current site.

The oak tree, which is a special feature of the school, was planted in 1911 to honour the coronation of King George V. The school gates were constructed then as well and were likely placed where the drinking fountain now is, but have since been relocated to the Station Road entrance.

Bibliography

Beattie, Herries. (1939). *Tikao Talks*. Christchurch: Cadsonbury Publications

Cowan, J. (1923). *Maori Folk Tales of the Port Hills*. Auckland: Whitcombe & Tombs.

O'Regan, H. (2001). *Ko Tahu, Ko Au*. Christchurch: Horomaka Publishing.

Tuahiwi Education Team <https://www.tuahiwieducation.co.nz/>

Te Hapu o Ngāti Wheke <https://rapaki.iwi.nz/>

Kā Huru Manu <https://kahurumanu.co.nz/>

Ōtamahua - a link with the past Quail Island, Ōtamahua Quail Island Restoration Trust

Robilliard, B., & Pauling, C., on behalf of Te Taumutu Rūnanga, Ngā Matapuna o Ngā

Pākihi Cultural Narrative

Winter Recipe

Sweet and spiced winter lamb chops

Serves 4

Prep time: 10 mins

Cooking time: 30-40 mins

INGREDIENTS

- ◆ 2 tbsp liquid honey
- ◆ 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- ◆ 2 tbsp Moroccan spice mix
- ◆ 8 parsnips and/or carrots, cut in quarters lengthwise
- ◆ 200g block feta, room temperature
- ◆ ¼ cup natural yoghurt
- ◆ 8 lamb shoulder (or loin) chops, room temperature

METHOD

-1- Preheat oven to 220°C. In a small mixing bowl, whisk together the honey, garlic, 1 tbsp spice mix and a good glug of olive oil.



-2- Place the vegetables on a lined baking tray, drizzle over the honey mix and toss to coat. Sprinkle with salt and pepper and place in the oven at 220°C for 25-30 minutes until the veggies are tender and golden brown.

-3- While the veggies are cooking, make the feta whip. Place the feta and yoghurt in a bowl with a drizzle of olive oil and whisk until smooth. Set aside.

-4- Sprinkle the remaining spice mixture all over the lamb chops and season with salt and pepper. Add a drizzle of oil to a large frying pan over high heat and cook the chops for 3 minutes each side. Once cooked, leave to rest for 3 minutes.

-5- To assemble, place the whipped feta on the bottom of a large serving platter, top with the vegetables, sprinkle over the chopped dates and top with lamb chops.

What's on at Your Community Centre?



Brrrr! Did we skip Autumn and go straight from Summer to Winter? It can be really hard to muster motivation and get out and about when the days are shorter and colder. Thank goodness we have a lovely warm and modern community centre to help us out!

In the past few months we have had some great one-off community evenings and events including a session from Fire and Emergency NZ on preventing and preparing for wildfires and a wonderful talk by Dr Joyce Yager about small marine animals in Whakaraupō Lyttelton Harbour. It was lovely to learn some new things and to connect with others in the community at these events.

Going forward, we have plenty of wellness classes on offer to keep your mind and body healthy, and, if you're feeling a bit flat, then there are some great community pick-me-ups available too. Why not pop along to the Craft Group on Monday or the Community Morning Tea on Wednesday. Always lots of friendly and welcoming faces and a hot cuppa (and cheese scones on Wednesday!) waiting for you.

As well as our weekly classes and groups we also host community Te Reo lessons and a number of interesting workshops (from quilting to floristry

and more). Keep an eye out on Facebook, our website, your local noticeboards and the e-mails from Jos for information on these.

And, don't forget that the community centre is a lovely venue for your own celebrations and events. It is frequently booked for birthday parties, baby showers, memorial services and family get-togethers. If you are interested in using the community centre please e-mail me (Jen, hvcc.bookings@gmail.com). It always pays to book well ahead.

Craft Group

Mondays 10am-12pm: Enjoy knitting, crocheting or sewing with a wonderful group of people each Monday. Please contact Wendy (chamberskw26@gmail.com) 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 Class

Tuesdays 3.30pm – 5pm. Contact Ali Bare (yogawithbreeze@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)

Yoga for Teens

Wednesdays 4.30pm – 5.15pm: This nurturing class will support both the mental and physical well-being of teens, building self-awareness, autonomy and confidence. Contact Lucy (lucydolankang@gmail.com)

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 last 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.

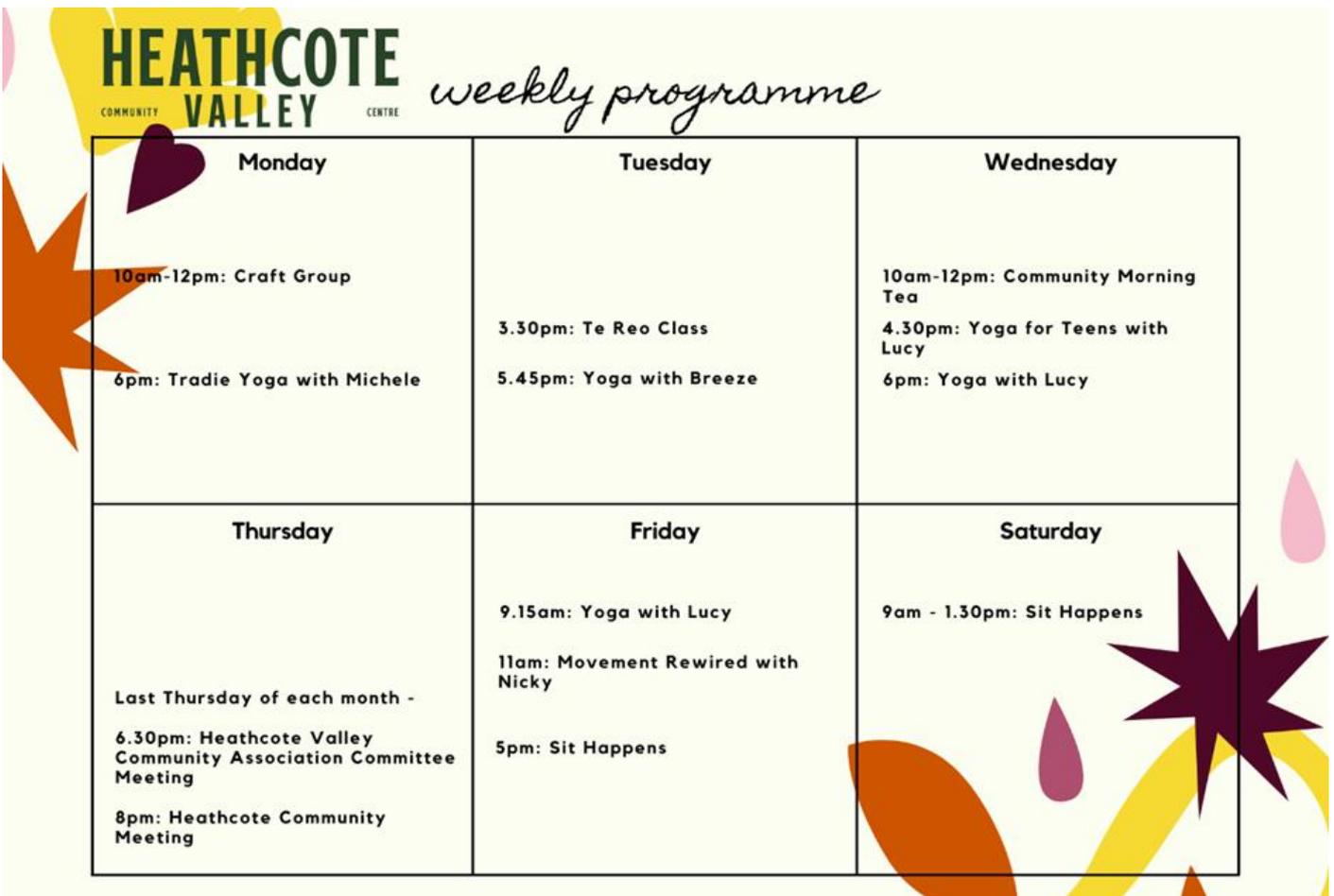
Everyone is welcome to attend from either 6.30pm or 8pm. We ask that if you have something you'd like to specifically speak about from 8pm, that you email Jen hvcc.bookings@gmail.com prior to ensure we can reserve a speaking slot.

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 Sit Happens

Friday evenings and Saturday mornings by appointment: The Sit Happens team are passionate about dogs so if you are looking for some awesome and effective training strategies then head over to <https://www.sithappens.co.nz/> or contact Vicki (admin@sithappens.co.nz)



The poster features a grid layout for the weekly programme. The title 'HEATHCOTE VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE' is in bold green and black text, with 'weekly programme' in a cursive font. The grid has six cells for the days of the week. The background is light yellow with decorative elements like a purple heart, orange starburst, and pink teardrop shapes.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
10am-12pm: Craft Group 6pm: Tradie Yoga with Michele	3.30pm: Te Reo Class 5.45pm: Yoga with Breeze	10am-12pm: Community Morning Tea 4.30pm: Yoga for Teens with Lucy 6pm: Yoga with Lucy
Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Last Thursday of each month - 6.30pm: Heathcote Valley Community Association Committee Meeting 8pm: Heathcote Community Meeting	9.15am: Yoga with Lucy 11am: Movement Rewired with Nicky 5pm: Sit Happens	9am - 1.30pm: Sit Happens



HEATHCOTE COMMUNITY SPORTS CLUB INC



With winter now upon us, the Heathcote Community Sports Club bowling green is resting for the next few months and indoor bowls is the order of the day. A lively group of bowlers meets every Tuesday evening for fun, conversation, and some pretty riveting games. Anyone is welcome to join them, whether experienced or not.

Just as enthusiastic are the petanque players on Thursday and Sunday mornings who come along hatted and gloved against the cold – but only to start. We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful location for our Club grounds which capture any sun and are sheltered from most winds, making play enjoyable on all but rainy days.



The petanque group aim for the jack.

Indoors on Sunday mornings the table tennis players get a good workout, and we are willing to offer a session during the week if people are interested in playing on a regular basis.

As we are now in the second half of the subscription year, a reduced fee will be offered to anyone joining over the next few months. If you are interested in applying for membership or in coming along to play on a casual basis, please

email us at

heathcotecommunitysportclub@gmail.com for more information, or contact the Club Secretary on 021 521 707.

On 19 May we held a Special General Meeting to approve a new constitution and by the time of publication the Club will be re-registered under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. Also approved at the SGM was the election of Allan Simpson to Life Membership in recognition of outstanding service to the Club over many years. Congratulations and thank you, Allan.



Members enjoy a game of table tennis

The Heathcote Community Sports Club is a friendly, non-affiliated club, with a focus on having fun, keeping active, and making friends, so in addition to sport we also have regular social events. And, our facilities are available for hire.

Times of play over winter are as follows:

Indoor bowls: Tuesday 7pm

Petanque: Sunday and Thursday 10am

Table tennis: Sunday 10am

Adventures with Nature

Rewilding in Morgans, Heathcote, Horotane and Avoca Valleys

Winter 2024 Update

Autumn to Winter Ramble

By John Marsh

ramble — /'rambl/ verb; Talk or write at length in a confused or inconsequential way. Walk for pleasure in the countryside.



Kuruwhengi – Australasian shoveller



Persimmon



Royal spoonbill

There's an interesting man from Mt Pleasant who spends time abseiling down rocky bluffs in Horotane Valley... all over the Port Hills I believe... he's cutting out invasive weeds that are hard to get at... boxthorn, broom, spur valerian and gorse... he travels the world doing this sort of thing... a while back he was on South Georgia in the Atlantic Ocean chasing weeds on icy bluffs... last month he was in Ireland hanging down cliffs trapping and eradicating rats that are endangering puffins!! This month he's checking out loose rocks in Avoca Valley. So many interesting opportunities for "Adventures with Nature" out there these days. If I was leaving school some training in conservation and biodiversity would seem an obvious way to go for an adventurous career.

Now-days a quiet ramble in Heathcote Valley is enough....gather some walnuts in the school, get a bag of apples from that old tree opposite the school, some sweet chestnuts from Duncan Park,

mushrooms down near the Ferrymead ponds..... extreme adventure.

On a Mother's Day ramble recently I started counting the bird species I came across... up Scrutton's Road, through the paddocks, along the Heathcote River track and round to the ponds in the valley floor... species number 20 was a *kahu* or harrier hawk hunting in the long grass for mice or lizards near the new cycleway. The really interesting one though was number 16 on the ponds.... a cluster of *kuruwhengi* or Australasian shoveller happily mingling with Canada geese, mallards, scaup, pied shag and swallows... a scene of pure avian bliss on a warm sunny morning. With a casual glance you might think they were just another duck but have a closer look and see the white flash on its face and that lovely extended bill... maybe it should be bird of the year. What I didn't see on that occasion though was the royal spoonbill... Now there's a real bird... there are a

few that visit the ponds....I even spied one feeding at a pond at the bottom of Horotane Valley a couple of months ago....the resident pukeko family that hang out there didn't seem perturbed so it would be nice to see the spoonbill settling in.

Funnily... or maybe not... my chooks lost all their head feathers over the summer... moulting is one thing but this is odd... totally bald just like some old buzzards or turkeys, or maybe turkey-buzzards... you can see their little ears... they are getting cod liver oil with their breakfast to snap them out of it... after all, who want's to see chook's ears... there's been a weasel round the chook house too, one of those mustelid beasts... the weasels are the small ones with a short tail not much bigger than a rat... the neighbour's bad-cat fortunately dispatched it before it did any damage... cats can be handy occasionally.

The persimmon tree is absolutely dripping with fruit...what a crop... silvereyes and starlings are up there getting at the top fruit so it's time to get the ladder... this is a reliable sign that winter is here.

This also means reveg. planting season is upon us again... it's been such a dry autumn there's almost no moisture in the soil... makes for hard digging... no good for getting new roots settled in either... by the time this is published we hope the rains have delivered on this.

Below is a calendar of dates for planting days you might want to join in on over the next two months

in Avoca Valley and up the Bridle Path. There are other options also in the mix at Birdsey Reserve or Horotane Valley so keep a watch on the community noticeboard for when these are happening.

Below are some progress reports on the rewilding of our neighbourhood valleys. If you want to get involved with any of these please get in touch with the co-ordinators. There are lots of trees to plant or needing releasing this winter.

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### **MORGANS VALLEY - Bush + Bird Regeneration**

*By Rachel Wells*

While we are waiting for the rain to soften the soil for planting, our group and others in the community have been tending the young plants over the summer and watering where possible. We are experiencing the 'squeeze' on native plant supplies this autumn as more and more planting projects get underway!

We have been fortunate to get support from Sumner Bays Union Trust who are a charitable trust that is set up to work with community groups like ours. Along with the Te Awa Kura Barnett Park Re-greening Group who are working with CCC and growing native plants from seed. Te Awa Kura are starting to supply us with small quantities of trees, surplus to their planting project in Barnett

| <b>2024 REVEGETATION PLANTING DAYS - CALENDAR</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup></b> 12.30pm – 4.30pm. <b>Linda Woods Reserve</b> – Meet at end of Avoca Valley Road.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Sunday June 16<sup>th</sup></b> 9.30am – 12.30pm - <b>Linda Woods Reserve</b> – Meet at end of Avoca Valley Road.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Saturday July 27<sup>th</sup></b> 12.30 – 4.30pm - <b>Linda Woods Reserve</b> – Meet at end of Avoca Valley Road.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <i>The above 3 events are organised by The Summit Road Society. Volunteer planters are encouraged to register on their website at <a href="https://www.summitroadsociety.org.nz/">https://www.summitroadsociety.org.nz/</a> so that plant numbers supplied at each event matches planters attending. You can also be contacted for any last minute weather updates on the day.</i> |
| <b>Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup></b> 9.30am -12.00 noon. <b>Bridle Path Track</b> – Meet at foot of Bridle Path Track for instructions to the planting site, a 5 minute walk up the hill. Wear gloves and good boots. Tools provided but bring your favourite spade if you prefer. For more info contact <a href="mailto:tamsin.page@gmail.com">tamsin.page@gmail.com</a>            |

Park. With this support and TKK (Te Kakahu Kahukura project), future years are looking more promising for getting plants to put in the ground in Morgans Valley.



*Morgans Valley looking towards “Field of Dreams Track”. Young plantings emerging in the foreground.*

For the upcoming planting season, we have not planned any community planting days yet mainly due to low plant numbers. However, we are hopeful that the Tui Corridor who have been our main providers of plants will provide some at some point. Callum Templeton will be holding a planting day at the Field Of Dreams so keep an eye out in Heathcote Valley community emails for future planting day dates.

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AVOCA VALLEY

Linda Woods Reserve - Summit Road Society

What’s going on in Avoca Valley?

By Jane Radford

Trapping – Birds - Tracks

The trapping lines continue to be monitored at least once a month. The new AT220 traps for possums are proving to be very successful, and have on occasions caught possums two nights in a row. Last winter there was a marked decrease in the number of hedgehogs caught in the traps higher up the valley, this is their hibernation time.

There was over 8mm of rainfall in the most recent lot of rain (May 8th/9th) and the plants will benefit from this. The thistles have died back and walking on the tracks is far more pleasant than a couple of

months ago. Many piwakawaka are to be seen, and the bellbirds are in full song.



This little creature (Western European Little Owl) was sighted on one of the walking tracks, enjoying our valley



Bioblitz action

Bioblitz – Citizen Science. Over the past three months Jasmijn Baptist, a research student from The Netherlands has been working with members of the Summit Road Society and University of Canterbury staff gathering data about Avoca Valley biodiversity. Jasmijn organised a “Bioblitz” with Avoca Valley residents and fellow students in April. This was part of a global day of “nature” data gathering. In a two hour period 340 observations of plants, birds and insects (plus an egg) were made and 83 species identified. This was to gather

baseline data about “wildlife” populating a portion of the Avoca Valley Stream catchment.

Long term, ongoing research will measure biodiversity changes as native bush habitat re-grows. This will have particular relevance to an ephemeral stream. The “Bioblitz” is a valuable way of gathering information and is likely to be repeated in the future.

We are heading into the planting season and planting dates planned for Avoca Valley are in the “2024 Planting Days Calendar” above. Some of these may already have happened.

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## **HOROTANE VALLEY**

### **Linda Woods Reserve - Summit Road Society**

Planting of 4500 native plants ranging from totara to harakeke is planned in Horotane this season. This is funded by “Trees that Count” (an organisation that funds revegetation projects throughout NZ) and the Mundy family of Horotane Valley. These will be planted by a mix of locals and business groups in regular sessions on Friday afternoons starting in late May. If you would like to be involved in the work at this site, please get in touch with John Marsh on 0274 310 182 or [jmarshtree@gmail.com](mailto:jmarshtree@gmail.com).

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HEATHCOTE VALLEY

Bridle Path Track Re-vegetation site

This is a Heathcote community initiative assisted by the City Council on reserve land. A Conservation Volunteers group spent a morning with us at the start of the year and we weeded all 900 trees planted over the last three seasons. They are mostly very healthy, considering the dry autumn, but growth has been slow....not a bad thing when establishing resilient plants. This site is alongside and just above the beginning of the BP Track. There are still 50 trees to plant in here to finish it off this year and then we have another 200 flax to

plant along the Bridle Path Stream on the opposite side of the track, shown in the photo below.



Bridle Path Stream site

Preparation is now underway to set out and pre dig tree spots allowing moisture to penetrate the soil before our community planting day on Sunday June 23rd.

If you would like to be involved in the planting or prep work at this site, please get in touch with Tamsin Page (tamsin.page@gmail.com or 0276423555).

Birdsey Reserve Revegetation Project

Planning is afoot for another 300 trees in here this June/July with Heathcote Valley School students and local Girl Guides providing much of the people power.

If you can help with the work at Birdsey Reserve, and/or would like to be involved in the planting, please get in touch with Tamsin Page (tamsin.page@gmail.com or 0276423555).

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*Adventures with Nature is compiled by  
John Marsh*

# The Garden City Model Railroad Club

The Garden City Model Railroad Club Inc has been located at Ferrymead Heritage Park in Christchurch since 1981. As an integral part of Ferrymead Heritage Park, our clubrooms are open to park visitors every day of the year



(except Christmas Day), where they can view our permanent layouts and museum displays that present the history of model railways through the ages. We also provide interactive layouts where visitors can view model trains running and operating with the press of a button, which is a real hit with visitors of all ages.

Our club facilities provide an opportunity for like-minded people to get together to participate in and enjoy the hobby of model railways. The Club has its own extensive clubrooms, which are home to several permanent layouts, covering multiple modelling disciplines. There are three main layouts - the 16.5mm HO/OO Gulf Columbus and Midland layout, the N Scale layout and the Taylor Memorial layout (OO Scale). These are continually being developed and enhanced.

Our layouts are amongst the largest club layouts in New Zealand and offer a great opportunity for club members to run their own trains on large club layouts. Both analogue DC and digital DCC operation is catered for.

Our club members operate a variety of scales, including both N Scale and HO/OO Scales (16.5mm gauge), along with modelling several different prototypical railways, be it New Zealand, USA, UK, European or International originals. This is also

reflected in the 16.5mm layout which has separate sections for USA, New Zealand and Australian scenes.

The club meets regularly every Monday evening for club nights, modelling workshops and clinics, regular running

sessions and work nights. Club members are also entitled to free access to Ferrymead Heritage Park for themselves and their immediate family, as well as the opportunity to attend model train shows around the South Island as representatives of the club.



*Local Heathcote resident Norm Hamilton (centre) running trains on the Garden City N Scale Layout*

As an incorporated society and registered charity, one of our goals is to foster an interest in the hobby of model railways and to promote the hobby to others.

New members are always welcome. Membership offers a great opportunity to enjoy and grow their

interest in the hobby of model railways in a supportive environment and in the company of others who share the same passion. Whether it is operating trains on the club layouts, or learning new skills in the hobby, such as electronics, layout construction or landscaping, or passing on their own skills to others.



*Local Heathcote resident Norm Hamilton running trains on the Garden City N Scale Layout*

Our club members cover all age groups and are from a diverse range of backgrounds, bound together with a common interest in model railways. There is a wide variety of the type of modelling interests pursued by our members and this is reflected in the variety of layouts the club has and the projects that we undertake.

If you'd like to further your interest in the hobby of model railroading, simply contact us to arrange a visit.

Website: [gcmrc.nz](http://gcmrc.nz)

Club Secretary: Arthur Redditt

[gcmrc.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:gcmrc.secretary@gmail.com), Ph 0274 547 543

## How to Support Your Community Association

The Heathcote Valley Community Association (HVCA) depends on grants and residents' donations to fund its activities, including the creation and distribution of our printed magazines, support of community events and the maintenance and operation of community facilities such as the community centre and noticeboards.

You will see all sorts of events held at the Community Centre that you can come along to, and we encourage you to come along. Most community events are free of charge, but they do cost money to run.

Please consider showing your support and ensuring our work continues by making a donation to the association. ANY financial support is welcome, however for 2024 our suggested donation is \$15 per household per year. You can donate by cash or direct credit. We will not send a receipt unless you specifically request one.

**Cash:** Post or drop off your donation to: Jan Marks, Treasurer, Heathcote Valley Community Association, Villa 61, Maltworks Villas, 60 Port Hills Road, Heathcote Valley, Christchurch 8022.

Please remember to include your details (name and address) in the envelope.

**Internet Banking:** The Heathcote Valley Community Association's bank account number is: ASB 12-3147-0553279-01

Please use the following codes:

Particulars: Donation

Code: Your family name

Reference: Your address

**Please note the association has a  
new bank account number!**



# Heathcote Cricket Club

I'm excited to share the latest update from the Heathcote Cricket Club.

Our season wrapped up in April, and we had some fantastic results over the summer. Here are a few highlights:

**Premiers:** Finished a very respectable 3rd. Tyler Lortan had an outstanding season with the bat, breaking the premiers run-scoring record. His performance has certainly caught the eye for potential Canterbury selection.

**Championship Side:** In their first season since being promoted, they excelled and worked hard to secure 3rd place overall.

**Division 2:** With an influx of young players, they struggled early on but found their rhythm after Christmas, climbing up the leaderboard to finish 3rd overall.

**Division 4 Red Wolves:** Had a stellar season with both batters and bowlers leading the grade. Despite a brief collapse in the final, they bowled brilliantly to win and gain promotion to Division 3. Outstanding effort from the lads!

We also said goodbye to our overseas players who have returned to their home countries. They will be greatly missed.

On the junior front, our Friday night "have a go" sessions were well-attended, and our junior teams and coaches did an excellent job of developing their skills and growing as players.

Looking ahead, we have some exciting developments with the Heathcote training pitches being extended towards the clubrooms. This will allow more of our teams to have grass training

sessions throughout the season. Just a friendly reminder to stay off the cricket block over the winter.

We look forward to another successful season starting in October.

Thanks for your continued support!

David Stack

Recruitment and Media Liaison

## Twinkle Tots



Twinkle Tots meet each Friday morning, during school term.

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

St Mary's Anglican Church Hall, Corner of Martindales Road and Truscotts Road.

Children must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

We meet 10.30am to 11.15am and then have a relaxed break for morning tea/ coffee or water and something to eat – children can play safely.

Free to all, regardless of faith or creed. Gold coin donation.

For more information contact:  
Suzanne Stewart 027 285 1843

# News from the Church of St Mary

*By The Reverend Mark Sullivan, Vicar*

We are the Church of the community.

The reinstatement of the Christchurch Anglican Cathedral seems to have consumed a great deal of the talk-back radio time in the past two months. And most of the advice offered



*Mark Sullivan, Vicar*

by callers is that the Church should spend its money helping people, not building a cathedral. It is interesting to note that the reason the Anglicans voted to reinstate the cathedral in the first place was due to the hue-and-cry from Christchurch citizens at the initial decision to demolish the complex. This reinstatement agreement followed a very public and expensive, legal challenge that was brought against the church by several influential Cantabrians.

As one of the largest non-government – organizations in the country, we need to pause for a moment and consider the work of the Anglican Church and what it has been responsible for. Lifeline, Youth Line, Citizens Advice Bureau, all began through Anglican initiatives. The City Mission, that feeds, clothes and accommodates many thousands of people each year, is an Anglican initiative. Today the huge amount of the volunteer support to run the Mission comes from Anglicans throughout the city.

But that's not all; many institutions such as drug and alcohol rehabilitation services, schools, hospitals, old people's homes, half way homes, and yes, even orphanages are being organized and operated under the Anglican Church's umbrella.

Interestingly all of these services, many of which date back to the earliest of times in our city, have their heart in parish ministry. And your parish church of Heathcote and Mt Pleasant has been part of this since its inception in 1860. The work began by our forebears; those innumerable, forgotten people (some of whom are noted in our street names) walked these streets just as we do today. And this Church activity continues.

Let's take a look at our regular community programs organised by the parish. Anyone can attend and take part, without expectation or commitment.

Sunday 10am

Sunday worship at the Church of St Mary  
First Sunday of the month Sunday School

- Monday 8am  
Parish swim group meets at Aquagym
- Tuesday 10:30am  
Parish coffee at a different local café each week
- Wednesday 8am  
Parish Swim Group meets at Aquagym
- Wednesday 1:30pm  
MahJong in the Centennial Centre
- Thursday 8:45am  
Parish cycling group meets at the Church of St Mary
- Thursday 4pm  
Traditional worship service in the church
- Thursday 5pm  
Dinner at the Valley Inn
- Friday 8am  
Parish swim group meet at Aquagym

- Friday 9am  
Walking group meets at the Maltworks entrance
- Friday 10am  
Tiny Tots pre-kindergarten program in the Centennial Centre
- 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month 7pm  
Card evening in the Centennial Centre
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month 7pm  
Dessert bakeoff challenge

We also have a memorial garden which is available for ash interment for local residents, an annual Christmas tree project, a modern Parish Centre with quality appointments that is available for hire and we house the local Aikido Club in what was our hall. We also host a number of organizations who make use of our facilities which are available for hire at very reasonable rates.

In terms of ministry, we offer weddings, funerals, baptisms, naming ceremonies and support services free of charge.

Each day the Vicar is available to assist with any need and now with our regular presence in the valley once again, the church is open part of every day for rest and refreshment. Interestingly, no other group in the country (other than the Church) offers such a range of services so readily without expectation or reward.

So, if you are at a loose end, if you have time available or if any of our activities interest you, please come along and join in. While we are a church, we are also a community organization and your presence amongst us is quite welcome. For further information or assistance, please see our website [www.heathcote-mtpleasant.org.nz](http://www.heathcote-mtpleasant.org.nz), our Facebook page or call 027 475 9946

## New Neighbours?



If you have a new neighbour or know of someone new coming into the valley please contact me for a wonderful locally made tote bag with local goodies for you to add to as desired to give to your new neighbours. It's a great way to make new friends and welcome newcomers into the community.

Jocelyn de Kort  
Community Facilitator

Email: [heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com](mailto:heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com)

## Do you have a story to tell?

Articles are invited for the next issue of the Heathcote community magazine, which will be the spring 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, but please, no politics or contentious issues—there are other forums for that. Please note the editor decides what gets published and some articles may not be suitable. Please ask if you would like more info.

Deadline for articles is:

**Monday 12 August 2024.**

Enquiries and contributions should be sent to:  
[heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com](mailto:heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com)

# Early Years in Horotane Valley

*By Ted Shields*

My father, Cecil Shields, settled in Horotane Valley in 1922 after serving as a machine gunner in Egypt during WW1. His brother, Henry, had settled on the adjoining property a year earlier and he too had returned from WW1 after serving in the Australian Army as a cavalry man.



*Ces Shields. Machine Gunner Training*

Shortly before the war, the valley was subdivided and planted out with fruit trees. Following the war, the blocks of land were settled by returned soldiers, many of whom would spend their entire working lives in the valley. It was some years after the Second World War that some of the properties were subdivided and more people came into the valley.

I was born early 1935 and have spent my life on the family property which was originally six acres including a two-acre block on the hillside where our draft horse "Jock" grazed.

There were very few children in the valley when I was a child. Those of my decade were Alison and Lola Stow, Gordon, Ruth and Susan Ogilvie, Trevor, June and Douglas Roberts, June and Molly Lane, Neill and Bevan Bickerton, Peter, Frank and Jean Curtis, Cousins Tony and Mary Shields, Lester, Jack and Suzanne Vincent and my sister Brenda. Most

of us attended Heathcote Valley School initially but with the wartime shortage of teachers a lot of us moved to other primary schools. We were taught by returned servicemen who were strict disciplinarians.

My uncle Henry lived in a tent for about twelve months while his house was being built, whereas my father lived in a stable which had been built by a previous owner. The stable was gradually added to and when my sister Brenda arrived it was added to again.



*The Shields' Farms, circa 1922 [note tent beside shed]*

At the bottom of the valley, some of the properties had a mix of outdoor tomatoes and orchards whereas at the top it was mainly orchards due to it being relatively frost free. Our property had 500 fruit trees and my father grew 24,000 outdoor tomatoes and 2000 glasshouse tomatoes with most of the produce being marketed in either Christchurch or Dunedin.

The work involved on these properties was labour intensive prior to mechanisation and many boys and girls of my generation would ride their bikes from afar to spend the school holidays harvesting the fruit or making the wooden fruit boxes etc.

In later years, a contractor would be employed to do any cultivation on our property which was done

by horse and plough. If I knew “Jack the Ploughman” was working on our property I would race home from school and spend hours walking in the furrow behind him smelling the freshly turned turf. He would talk to his horse as well as me although I was too young to engage in much of the conversation. I can still imagine the sound of the harness and chains rattling as the horse changed direction.

Some servicemen who returned from the Second World War settled here with their families, many of whom had different backgrounds as opposed to those earlier who were “people of the land”. Those who settled after WW2 were Doug Mann, Bill Winchester Snr, Tony Burnett, Bill Reeves, Don Gunn. Ron Bickerton, Reg Arnold, Todd Curtis, Russell Closey and Lionel Vincent. They in turn were followed later by Peter McGrail Snr, Peter Jarvis, Neville Holt, Rex Mundy, Peter Dawson, Len Whittaker, John Wisker, Russell McKenzie, Keith Bate, David Caddie and Ray Summers. Some of those people have family still living in the valley.

Typical of those who lived off the land, the wives were also involved with the physical work and it is likely a lot of the growers would not have managed without their wives’ input.



*My Wife Dawn “pulling her weight”*

For my generation, the valley was Utopia with the Port Hills at our backdoor for tramping, rabbits and hares to shoot and mushrooms on the flats to gather.

Our life on the land was simple. We had a cow, pigs and chooks and were virtually self-sufficient and with a comprehensive vegetable garden.

When I finished secondary school I took on an apprenticeship as a carpenter. It was during this time that I did my Compulsory Military Training {CMT} in the Signals Corps. The day I finished my five-year apprenticeship I started my own building business building houses, shops and factories. We did quite a bit of “country work” also which involved farm buildings etc.

I later retired from building and grew tomatoes for nine years until the Australian imported tomatoes killed the industry. The importation of tomatoes from Australia changed the land use here entirely, so much so, that the majority of the properties are now “lifestyle” blocks and non-productive. Those who are still producing have embraced modern technology.

My spare time was taken up with deer stalking and yachting. My father was a lifetime yachtsman so I was bred into it. It was my father who enticed my cousin Tony into yachting where he made a name for himself, both locally and nationally.

In later years I played bowls as also did my wife Dawn and then substituted hunting with tramping with The Over Forties Tramping Club where I served as secretary for a three year term. Membership was about 550 members at the time which was the largest tramping club in NZ. Membership was an even balance of men and women.

I am quite attached to Horotane Valley where our family also shared the joys of living here.

# A Difficult Path

*By Barrie Woods*

Imagine this, if you will...

It is 10am on Monday, December 16, 1850. The Charlotte Jane, the first of the First Four Ships bringing the Canterbury Association's first settlers has just anchored at Lyttelton. Once brought ashore the passengers are mustered together to be briefed on the journey they would shortly make on foot, across the Bridle Path, which would take them to the new settlement of Christchurch, waiting for them on the other side of the hills.

This image of new settlers traversing the Bridle Path en masse, dressed in their Sunday best, to take up residence in their new Christchurch homes is how many of us picture the arrival of the city's first pilgrim founders. However, it is actually far from the way it really was.

In December of 1850, when the first four ships arrived, Christchurch did not yet exist. There was only one building in the area where the city would eventually be built, a surveyor's hut – no streets, no houses, and definitely no cathedral to mark the centre. Instead, the new arrivals were to stay in Lyttelton. Four immigration barracks had been built in Lyttelton in preparation for the arrival of the settlers. With 750 new arrivals they were cramped, so many of the younger single men camped out or built temporary huts nearby. Many of the cabin passengers preferred to stay on board their ships in more comfortable conditions.

To understand the greater picture, it is helpful to know a little about the first settlers. They came as two discrete groups: 'colonists' and 'emigrants'. The colonists had sufficient money to buy land, and they travelled as cabin passengers. Emigrants were mainly skilled workers and their families and travelled as steerage class passengers. For most, their passage was subsidised, either by the Canterbury Association or their prospective

employers in the new land, as their labour was needed to help build the settlement. Whether colonists or emigrants, they all came with a sense of adventure and hope for a better life.



*A painting of Lyttelton in 1850 by J. Gibb showing the immigration barracks*

The settlers arriving on the first four ships were not the very first to arrive. Lyttelton (Port Cooper) was already established and families such as the Deans and Gebbies had already begun farming on the plains. Some preparations for the building of Christchurch had started, but there was still much to be done.

Land was not allocated to the colonists until February 1951, so it was a while before they could start making plans, let alone commence building. The town sections in Lyttelton were actually the most desirable and there was certainly more opportunity for work in Lyttelton for the immigrants, so for a while Lyttelton was the place to be. Christchurch on the other hand was still largely swamp land and with much development work needing to happen. Many of the first buildings were V-huts, which were small temporary shelters that were used until proper houses could be built.

The Bridle Path was intended as a temporary route over the hill until a road could be completed via



*V-huts at Riccarton, 1864*

Evans Pass. Due to a shortage of labour and funds, it was not until 1857 that the Sumner (Evans Pass) road was completed, and even then it was a tortuous route. The Bridle Path was therefore the main access by land to the plains for some time.



*This 1881 etching, based on a drawing by William Fox, is of the view early settlers would have seen before descending to Heathcote.*

In her letter home to her mother dated 26<sup>th</sup> November 1850, Charlotte Godley wrote: "...about £300 has been devoted to making a bridle path, over the hill, immediately above the port; which is about two miles shorter than the line of the road, but will only be meant for horses. When we went up there was still a bit at the top where no one can ride; man and horse must climb over rough stones and rocks, and on the other side the descent is steep enough to make most people prefer walking, too, until the path is completed."

Having to dismount one's horse and lead it by the bridle gave rise to the name Bridle Path.

No doubt sooner or later the first arrivals made the trek, at least to the top of the Bridle Path to survey the view. For many, after weeks at sea, it would

not have been an easy feat. It proved too much for 41-year-old baker, John Williams, a passenger from the Randolph (one of the first four ships), who was found dead on the path from a stroke.

In its early days the Bridle Path was not only used as a route to take people between Lyttelton and the plains, but it was also used for moving stock animals such as cattle and sheep. Larger items were taken by ferry, across the Sumner bar, and landed at the Ferrymead wharf.

On the Heathcote side, on a clear day, travellers would have been greeted by magnificent views across the plains to the mountains, and little to no sign of human habitation. The Heathcote Valley was relatively sparsely vegetated, with mostly grass and tussock, but few trees or bush. For those travellers in the summer of 1850, it would have been hot and dry, and the grass would have been brown, much as we see it in summer today, except there would have been no gorse or broom.

On 17<sup>th</sup> March 1857, the first vehicle crossed the Port Hills - a spring cart pulled by bullocks negotiated the Bridle Path. It is perhaps surprising that it took that long to form a track which could be safely negotiated by a cart, which gives testament to the roughness of the track at the time. Even after the Sumner road was opened, the Bridle Path remained an important route across the hills, until the rail tunnel was opened in 1867. The original route ran from Norwich Quay to Ferrymead and was named Bridle Road. In fact, to this day the Bridle Path is still a legal road which, in theory, could be used by motor vehicles, though this would be considered inappropriate given its popularity as a walking track. The lower parts of the route, at both ends, are now sealed roads bearing the name Bridle Path Road.

Today the Bridle Path is a popular walking track which follows the footsteps of the early settlers. The Canterbury Pioneer Women's Memorial is located at the top of the path and was unveiled on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 1940 to mark the

centenary of the founding of New Zealand and the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. Most celebrations at the time focussed on the pioneering spirit of the first European settlers, but the place of the Treaty of Waitangi or Māori in these celebrations was less obvious. An interesting and obscure fact – the memorial has its own street address: 915 Summit Road, though I'm not so sure that NZ Post delivers there.



*The Canterbury Pioneer Women's Memorial*

While we are on the subject of facts, the Bridle Path reaches an altitude of 333 metres. The present-day track starts from the Gondola carpark at the Heathcote end and finishes near the Lyttelton portal of the road tunnel. The route is 2.4Km long and takes around one and a half hours to walk depending on your level of fitness. It's certainly a steep climb and a rest or two may be needed along the way to catch your breath. In fact, there are seven stone seats along the way where you can stop for recovery and take in the views as you do so. Most of these were built for the Canterbury centenary celebrations in 1950.

A Wayside Memorial Cross was erected in 1856, at the request of Charlotte Godley, to mark the site of a small spring where she rested and drank the water. The first cross was made of white stone and erected near a water-tank on the path, but by July 1857 it had fallen over and was in pieces. The cross, having been vandalised numerous times, was replaced in 1864 and again in 1898. It was eventually destroyed in the 2011 earthquakes.

In December of 1950, to mark the Canterbury



*A large crowd turned out in 1950 to re-enact the arrival of the First Four Ships.*

centennial, there was a re-enactment of the arrival of the First Four Ships where some of the descendants of the Canterbury Pilgrims dressed in period costume and walked over the Bridle Path. Historians seem to think that this event, together with photographs taken at the time, gave rise to the myth that the new arrivals disembarked their ships and immediately marched over the hill to Christchurch, as the re-enactment appeared to portray.

If you feel like an adventure culminating in coffee at Lyttelton, or other liquid refreshment as a reward, then a Bridle Path excursion may be just the ticket. And talking about tickets, you can catch the bus through the tunnel back home to Heathcote again, unless you want to walk the track over again. Another option for the less physically fit is to take the Gondola to the top, then walk along the Summit road to the Bridle Path, and take the downwards route, either to Lyttelton and coffee or back to Heathcote (and coffee). Choose a fine day and you will be treated to some spectacular views.

# Heathcote Valley Library

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

## KIDS BOOK VOUCHERS PROMOTION, HELD IN APRIL

We'd like to thank the children who borrowed books in April and qualified to go in the draw to win book vouchers. The lucky winners were Ethan Stack and Louie Alheit seen here with library Chair Felicity Backhouse. **Congratulations** boys – great to know you are keen readers!



Ethan won the \$50 voucher

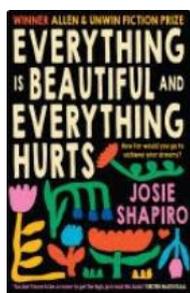


Louie has a \$20 voucher

We were thrilled to welcome infants and teachers from the Montessori Pre-school to the library for weekly storytelling for the first time in April. Thank you for your wonderful support. **It doesn't end here.** The library needs young readers and will be focusing on attracting more kids through the doors. Watch this space!

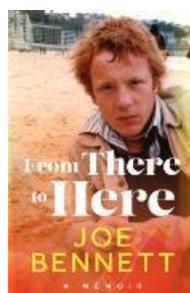
Meantime, if you have an idea to bring us child members (or any new members), please feel free to drop us a note (pop it into the green returns box outside if the library is closed). All ideas – however crazy – will be considered.

## Librarian's Choices . . .



### Everything is Beautiful and Everything Hurts by Josie Shapiro

Mickey Bloom is a loner – shy, dyslexic, awkward, with a life full of insults and regrets. Until she discovers running which turns out to be the one thing she can do.



### From There to Here by Joe Bennett

A memoir and great read from award-winning Lyttelton columnist, teacher and international bestselling author.

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

**Membership** is free. **Book hire:** New books \$1, other adult books 50c and children's books free.

## THURSDAY BOOK CLUB

A chance to chat about your favourite current read, meet up with old and new friends, enjoy a hot drink. Meet at the library first Thursday of each month 2.30pm-3.30pm. All welcome!

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### Library Hours

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

Outside these hours, books can be returned via the green dropbox at the Community Centre carpark.

# 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. Pamper yourself to a Winter 60-minute nourishing facial \$110 with free Eye trio. Value \$170

[www.margsbeautyspot.co.nz](http://www.margsbeautyspot.co.nz) Ph 027 464 7477

**Beauty, Laser, Injectables** Caci Ferrymead offers a range of beauty services, laser hair removal, cosmetic injectables & skin rejuvenation. Contact Monique at 03 925-9422 or enquiries-

[ferrymead@caci.co.nz](mailto:ferrymead@caci.co.nz) to book a free consultation.

**Dentist** Dr. Sally Woods BDS (distinction), Chris Richmond Dental, 128 Kilmore St. All aspects of general dentistry. Certified Invisalign provider. We work hard to deliver the best patient experience.

Book online at [www.crdental.co.nz](http://www.crdental.co.nz) or Ph 03 379 6766

**Event planner** I'll take the stress out and make your event one to remember, whether it be a birthday, wedding, romantic night, any event I can help. Call Bridget 021 256 4457

**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](http://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

**Renovations** Evoke Bathrooms Kitchens – a family owned and operated business in Christchurch. We design, build and install your renovation with our team of qualified tradespeople. Contact Anthony: 022 242 4262 [www.evoke-reno.co.nz](http://www.evoke-reno.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. Phone: 021 067 2392 Email: [sclean04@gmail.com](mailto:sclean04@gmail.com)

Would you like your business to be included in the next issue?

The cost is \$30 per issue or \$110 per year (4 issues)

Please email: [adverts@heathcotevalley.nz](mailto:adverts@heathcotevalley.nz)

Interior & Exterior Painting  
 Commercial & Residential  
 Plastering & EQ Crack Repairs  
 New Housing  
 Specialist & Roof Spraying



**YOUR LOCAL PAINTING PROS**

[WWW.BRUSHHOUR.CO.NZ](http://WWW.BRUSHHOUR.CO.NZ)

**027 685 6741**

**UNLOCK 10% SAVINGS WITH THIS HEATHCOTE VALLEY AD REFERRAL!**



Have you thought about painting your house?

**THIS IS YOUR SIGN.**



## Livesley Plumbing

We are a family owned and operated plumbing company, located in Heathcote Valley. We offer a discounted rate for Heathcote Valley residents, and look forward to meeting new customers. For all your plumbing needs, contact Shane and the team at Livesley Plumbing. Phone: 027 3028 744



Renovating your bathroom or having extra people to stay? Ask us about our luxury portable bathrooms for hire.



For further details visit [www.portablebathroom.co.nz](http://www.portablebathroom.co.nz) or contact our team at [office@portablebathroom.co.nz](mailto:office@portablebathroom.co.nz)

Your advert could be here

Email [adverts@heathcotevalley.nz](mailto:adverts@heathcotevalley.nz)

To enquire about the next issue

## Support Your Community Association

Currently the Heathcote Valley Community Association (HVCA) depends on grants and residents' donations to fund its activities, including the creation and distribution of our printed newsletters, support of community events and the maintenance of community facilities such as the community centre and noticeboards.

We would love it if you could show your support and ensure our work continues by making a donation to the association.

Any financial support is welcome, however our suggested donation is \$15 per household per year.

You can donate by direct credit (details below). We will not send a receipt unless you specifically request one.

### Internet Banking:

The Heathcote Valley Community Association's bank account number is: **ASB 12-3147-0553279-01**

Please use the following codes:

Particulars: Donation

Code: Your family name

Reference: Your address

Queries: [heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com](mailto:heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com)

**Please note the new bank account number!**

### COMMUNITY MORNING TEA

ENJOY TEA OR COFFEE, HOME BAKING AND GREAT COMPANY AT  
THE HEATHCOTE VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Each Wednesday 10am - 12pm during school term time

Everyone welcome, come alone or bring a friend

No charge



## In Case of Emergency... Local Defibrillators



Although we hope you never need one—it's good to know there are some about.

- Heathcote Valley Community Centre  
45 Bridle Path Rd. Access 24/7
- Lyttelton Road Tunnel Control Room  
10 Bridle Path Rd. Access 24/7
- At the top of the Gondola
- The Valley Inn—open every day 10am to 11pm
- See <https://aedlocations.co.nz> for more locations around Christchurch.

## 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

## Snap Send Solve

*Snap Send Solve* is the Christchurch City Council's smartphone app to help make reporting issues easy.

It works by identifying the location the photo is taken using the phone's GPS data. It sends an email to the Council from your email address, including the incident type, notes, address of incident, photo, and contact details. The report is then allocated to the relevant Council department.

The more information provided, the better they can help isolate and investigate the issue.

You can download the app to your Apple (App Store) or Android (Play Store) phone and have it ready to use at any time.

You can still report issues online, at a service centre or by phoning 03 941 8999. Urgent issues should be reported by phone.