

Community Magazine

Autumn 2024



Bowie, Heathcote Valley Riding School's newest Shetland foal.

A Summer Message from our Community Coordinator

As autumn subtly creeps upon us, it always surprises me how quickly the summer has whizzed by. I expect it's because I love the long sunny days, holidays, beach life, picnics and living with all the doors and windows open wide.



Jocelyn de Kort

Autumn proffers a sense of preparing for the colder months ahead. Harvesting and bottling the abundance of fruit, berries, vegetables and walnuts in the valley. When it all gets to be a bit too much I share the excess with my neighbours, friends and of course there's always the share table on Station Road, where the overflow of produce can be shared around the community.

I have a special friend in the valley who shares the most delicious berries from her magnificent gnarled, and ancient mulberry tree. I've heard it said to reap the fruit from heaven of the mulberry tree, it should be planted before you turn 40.

There's been a lot happening in the community since the last summer edition of the community magazine. A few weeks ago a FENZ (Fire and Emergency New Zealand) representative spoke at the Community Centre about the recent Port Hills fires and how to keep our environment and homes fire safe. On page seven there is check list on how to make your house fire safe.

Sea week from the 2nd to the 10th March, saw another very interesting, well attended event on "Small marine animals in Whakaraupo, Lyttelton Harbour", at the community centre.

We've added a council pamphlet about the recent bin recycling changes and as a request have also added some information on rates rebates. All these

pamphlets and forms will be available for your convenience, at the Heathcote Community Library, next to the community centre.

If you haven't already seen the new community garden situated in the school grounds, next to the school swimming pool, come and check it out on Thursdays around 3pm and maybe share some ideas or support with the students and volunteers helping out.

Amongst other general business and innovative ideas, the Heathcote Valley Community Association, is thinking that it would be a good idea to support our local businesses, by offering a space for advertising in the Heathcote Community Magazine. We are still in the process of writing up a plan and hope to offer space for the June winter edition. If you are interested or know of anyone that would benefit from placing an advert here, send me an email to

heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com

As always thank to all the amazing contributors with their articles, publishing skills, proof reading, printing, coordinating and deliverers.

All your wonderful articles for the next edition are required by the 12th of May to give us time to collate and edit all the pages by the 12th of June. Share a local story, past or present, a poem, news, event or experience in some way relating to the Valley. We look forward to hearing from you.

If you are keen to be a part of the team and get some exercise in the process we could definitely benefit from a few more deliverers. If you're interested end me an email to

heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com

Enjoy the Easter celebrations.

Kia hari te panui, happy reading.

Jocelyn

HEATHCOTE

COMMUNITY VALLEY ASSOCIATION

New year. New journeys.

Ngā mihi nui koutou
Heathcote whānau.
(Greetings to the big wide
family of Heathcote
Community)



Sooze Harris
Co-chair HVCA

How has your year started?
Are you in your rhythm yet,
or are you still playing catch up? And how are you
feeling about our new government? How are you
feeling about the media reports lately about how
this government is tackling some of the issues of
our nation? And how about the fires?

So, fires first.... What a challenging time it has
been for many of our fellow Port Hills residents,
and for the services supporting them and tending
to the fires. It's a stark reminder to us all of the
risks of where we live, and there is irony in the
fact that we had planned for a fire education
session through FENZ to be run the very same
week. This needed to be postponed but was held
a fortnight later with great attendance. If you
missed it, be in touch to find out information. Also
keep an eye out for posts from Jen and Jos with
great advice re how to minimise the risk of fires
and the damage they bring. Of course, the fire
prevalence is also a pertinent reminder to many
of us to continue to consider what personal
choices we can make to give our world and the
changing climate the best possible chance.

And now, Waitangi Day and Te Tiriti / The Treaty
– how do you feel about it? Confused, offended,
fed up, hopeful, ignorant, hopeless? These
variety of feelings can make us start to feel the
gap opening up between us and our family,
friends, neighbours etc.

I want to take the opportunity to reiterate some
of the things I wrote mid last year after the first
official celebration of Matariki. In much of our
lives we can easily retreat to those who think like
us and there is a comfort and validation in
this. However, living in a community like
Heathcote where people don't tend to live in
their own isolated lives but seek out connection
and community is a gift. It forces us to continue
to connect with those who are different from us,
who we wouldn't naturally be friends or come in
contact with, who we think differently from. If we
are bold enough to do this, it may be a little
challenging, and may cause some transitory
discomfort, but I can say from much experience -
that if we step towards others who see the world
differently from us with a foundation of the value
of each person and shared humanity that binds
us all, we reap the benefits. We stretch ourselves
and learn and are enriched.

I also want to encourage you to be curious and
learn. In the words of a colleague of mine Gwyn
John, a Pakeha and Te Tiriti educator,

“We have multiple generations of people who
have grown up here who have never learnt



just the basic facts of what happened in our history. ...Yes we have to have a conversation about Te Tiriti, about our history, about how we got to be where we are at. This is really important but we must have an informed one. We must know the information. ... It is not Māori responsibility to educate Pakeha about our history. This is my responsibility. This is our responsibility to educate ourselves, to educate each other so that we all have the same information.”

So if that's you, and you realise you'd like to be more informed, here are some resources and opportunities you might like to explore:

- Podcast: Rourou Conversations: Becoming Tangata Tiriti by Fiona Deehan and Gwyn John. This is a six episode series packed with information and reflections.
- Website, resources and training opportunities: Network Waitangi Ōtautahi <https://nwo.org.nz/> have been working in this space for a long time. I can recommend both their two day workshops as well as their many free or cheap resources including the 'Questions and Answers' booklet.
- In person education: Tuahiwi Education <https://www.tuahiwieducation.co.nz/> This is one of our local marae and iwi, Ngāi Tuahuriri. They run excellent single day workshops at Tuahiwi Marae.
- More indepth: If you're looking for something more indepth there is an excellent online opportunity coming up and you'll find the info at <https://www.tiritibasedfutures.info/> This is a series of online speakers and workshops run between 16th and 25th March. Heaps of amazing speakers and sessions.
- Finally, there is a growing group of local Heathcote residents interested in exploring these issues – if you'd like to be part of the

conversation and opportunities do be in touch.

On a lighter note, alongside considering how we as a committee can support this community to navigate some of the realities of our lives with courage, kindness, and togetherness, we also continue to offer heaps of ways to get involved through the awesome work of our Community Centre Activator, Jen Saunders, and our Project Support, Jos De Kort. Check out the Heathcote Valley or Heathcote Village Project Facebook pages, the noticeboards, get yourself on the emailing list, check out the community centre website or simply be in touch.

Sooze Harris
(Co-Chair HVCA)

Avoca Valley Bioblitz

27 April, 2pm—6pm

Discover the hidden treasures of Port Hills' biodiversity and take part in the City Nature Challenge.

Come be a part of our exciting BioBlitz event in the Linda Woods Reserve, nestled in Avoca Valley.

As the Summit Road Society transforms this area from farmland to a thriving podocarp forest, join us in documenting the rich array of plants, animals, fungi and insects.

With the iNaturalist app and expert guidance, let's explore, record, and celebrate the flourishing life within this regenerating landscape together.

All you need is a pair of walking shoes and a smartphone with the iNaturalist app downloaded. This is a free event.

Meet at the driveway of 79 Avoca Valley Road and we will walk from there.



Te Tihi o Kahukura

Heathcote Valley School

Kia ora,

I am Zia and I am the community liaison for 2024.

In my free time I like to sing and play guitar. I wanted to be a community liaison because I already have lots of connections to the community. I like to go to Birdsey Reserve every Wednesday and my Oma is in the HVCA.



In week 2 the choir and kapa haka got underway, Our newest teacher Whaea Bryony is leading the kapa haka with Whaea Kath. In choir we are kicking off with some fun songs such as Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy to learn how to use our voices properly with Mr Grenfell and Miss Lumsden.

Our school swimming sports was held on the Tuesday and Wednesday of week 4, many of the year 4-8 students participated in either the competitive or non-competitive races. There are 15 students who have qualified for the Zones competition in week 7 and will be hoping to then be able to qualify to compete in the Canterbury swimming sports in week 9.

In week 4 Primary Sports Canterbury came to our school and hosted a fun event for years 4 and up. The event meant that everyone could come to school in their house colours. At the last block of the day, we were put into random groups and did fun teamwork activities where in some of them we got wet! A big thank-you to Renae from PSC who hosted the event and all of the parents who helped out.

In week 5 all of our Year 8 students went to Pioneer Stadium to participate in the PALs

workshop. Here they learned how to run games for other students, about the different ways that you can modify games as you are playing them. We look forward to them getting out in the playground and running movement based activities.

Week 5 was also the first trip for many of our Te Puna students who went to Ferrymead Heritage Park as part of their inquiry into technology and toys. Each space has been focused on a different area of technology but all looking at the technological process and problem solving, the Year 7/8s have even made their own soap and bath bombs.

The enviro leaders have organised a walk and wheel to school week in week 6. It is to encourage more people to take their bikes, scooters, skates or skateboards into school rather than take the car. Our enviro leaders will be stamping the "Walk and Wheel" passports of every student who participates to possibly win some prizes.

In week 7 as part of our sports, the Year 7/8s will be going to Sumner School to play an ultimate frisbee tournament and at the same time the Year 5/6s will be going to Ferrymead Park to play turbo touch.

In week 9 our 7/8 team is going to Orton Bradley for their school camp. Some of the activities they will be doing are: kayaking, coasteering, teamwork challenges, raft building, abseiling and lots of other fun things. In the senior team we plan recipes, do a shopping expedition and on the day, cook our meals! We are put into groups of four for each night each person makes their own meal. On the first night they are even allowed to cook dessert. For quite a few of our students it is the first time they have slept out in a tent so it is always exciting.

Week 11 will mark the end to our technology inquiry and over this week we will be sharing lots of our learning after school.

I am really looking forward to connecting the school to our community and bringing lots of news of all the exciting things we are getting up to at Te Tihi O Kahukura!

Bake Sale

By Andy, Franklin, and Leo

On the 3rd of March, we did a bake sale at the war memorial on the corner of Martindales and Bridle Path Roads. We did our bake sale from 10am until 12pm. As we were doing it we had multiple people come up to us and complement us on our baking. The baking we had was brownie, toffee apples, cookies, slice, anzac biscuits, hokey pokey, fruit, shortbread, and cake.



We made about \$270 toward camp. We were fundraising for our school camp at Orton Bradley Park. It is on Monday 25th to Thursday 28th of March. We are going to do kayaking, raft building, coasteering, abseiling, hiking and much more!

We also may do another bake sale soon so keep an eye out for other bake sales and help support us for our camp!

Sara's Message

Kia ora Koutou,

The latest Port Hills fire is a reminder that our increasingly hot, dry and windy summers mean that we must be prepared for emergencies ahead of time, and so it was great to attend the Fire and



*Sara Templeton
City Councillor*

Emergency NZ presentation at the Heathcote Community Centre last night. There was a good turn out of locals and some from neighbouring suburbs and it was really informative for all.

The two biggest takeaways for me were that it's human factors that start fires 99% of the time (careless use of equipment etc) and that planting low-flammability natives on your own property is really protective against any wildfires in the surrounding area.

The City Council's Long-Term Plan – our 10year proposal for levels of service and budgets – is out for consultation from 18 March- 21 April. It's fair to say that it's a challenging and difficult one and Cr Vicky Southworth (Ecan) and I will be hosting an information evening to help people understand and submit on it. I'll post details about it on my Facebook page and send it through the Google Group once dates and times are confirmed.

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

Make Your Home Fire Safe

Use this checklist to spot risks or hazards that might cause a fire.

SMOKE ALARMS AND FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- Install hard-wired or long-life photoelectric smoke alarms in every bedroom, living area and hallway.
- Use a heat alarm in your kitchen, bathroom or laundry. Smoke alarms in these locations are prone to false alarms.
- Test batteries every month.
- Dust or vacuum around smoke alarms regularly.
- Replace expired alarms. The expiration date will be on the underside or side of the alarm.
- Get a fire extinguisher or fire blanket and learn how to use them. Ask Fire and Emergency for advice

APPLIANCES

- Turn off appliances when not in use. If practical, unplug them at the wall as well.
- Second hand appliances should be tested and certified as safe by an electrician or gas fitter.
- Avoid overheating. Make sure there is good airflow around electrical equipment.

LEADS AND CORDS

- Plug in no more than one appliance per wall or multi-board socket.
- Never plug an adaptor or multi-board into another adaptor or multi-board.
- Make sure leads and cords are in good condition and not frayed.
- Never put extension cords under carpets or mats. Don't use them if they are tightly coiled.

HEATING

- Use the 'heater-metre rule.' Keep furniture, curtains, clothes and children at least one metre from heaters and fireplaces.
- Use a fireguard or spark-guard with open fires.
- Dispose of ashes in a metal bucket with a lid, then douse with water. Ashes can stay hot enough to start a fire for up to five days.

MATCHES, LIGHTERS AND CANDLES

- Always keep matches and lighters well out of reach of children.
- Use a candle stick holder, never leave lit candles unattended and keep them away from anything flammable.

KITCHEN & LAUNDRY

- Ensure the clothes dryer is in a well-ventilated location. Clean the lint filter after every use.
- Clean fats and burnt foods from stovetop.
- Clean range hood filters.
- Know how and when to use your fire extinguisher or fire blanket if you have one.
- Never leave cooking unattended.

ELECTRIC BLANKETS

- Replace electric blankets every five years.
- Replace worn blankets or have an electrician check them.
- Lay electric blankets flat on the bed and ensure the controls or cords are not twisted.
- Roll, don't fold, electric blankets for storage.
- Never leave the electric blanket on when you go to sleep.



An easy Easter treat that can be made by the kids, with the kids, or for the kids.

Bring some spice to the season with this recipe for Ginger Bunny Paws Biscuits. Perfect for Easter, these sweet treats are prepared and out of the oven in less than an hour. Hop to it!

Prep time: 30 mins

Cook time: 20 mins

Servings: 16

INGREDIENTS

Plain flour - 2 cups

Brown sugar - 1 cup

Ginger, ground - 2 tsp

Baking soda - 1/2 tsp

Butter - 150 g

Egg - 1

Vanilla essence - 1/2 tsp

Golden syrup - 1 Tbsp

Egg white - 1

Icing sugar - 1 cup

Dots of pink food colouring

Recipe Ginger Bunny Paw Biscuits

METHOD

Step 1

Preheat the oven to 180°C (160°C fan-forced).
Line two baking trays with paper.

Step 2

In a kitchen processor, place the flour, sugar, ginger, baking soda and butter, blitzing together. Add the egg, vanilla and golden syrup, mixing again until the dough forms.

Step 3

On a lightly floured bench, bring the dough together. Divide the dough in half, it is easier to roll it in small lots. On one of the trays lined with paper, roll it to a half centimetre thick. Using cutters to make paw prints, cut and assemble the paws. Re-roll the cutoffs. Repeat with the second ball of pastry.

Step 4

Place the trays into the oven for 20 minutes.
Remove and cool completely.

Step 5

For the icing, whisk the egg white with a fork until fluffy. Add the icing sugar, stirring to combine. If making pink paws, divide the icing in half and add a couple of dots of colouring to one bowl to get your desired colour. Place small spoons of icing onto each paw.

Step 6

Allow the icing to set before storing them in an airtight container.

Why learn Te Reo Maori?

By Mike and Ali Baré

We have lived for quite a few years in Southeast Asia where learning the local language was an essential part of being part of the community. It took plenty of effort and application but the outcome of closer relationships and better understanding was well worth it.

Returning to Aotearoa has given us a fresh appreciation of the unique cultural heritage we share. We certainly acknowledge that our history has certainly had its ups and downs and in terms of Te Reo, there is a generation of Maori still alive today who grew up being punished if they spoke the language of home at school.

To be reminded of the sobering statistic that between 1930 and 1960 the percentage of Maori who communicated in Te Reo dropped from 96% to 26% is to realize how much was lost. Since the 1980s however, there has been a significant turn around. Today, 40 years later, things are in a much better place but there is still plenty room for growth.

We, like many others, have been inspired by the simple but profound words of Dame Whina Cooper: “The seed I would like to plant in your heart is a vision of Aotearoa where all our people can live together in harmony ... and share the wisdom from each culture.”

Respect and humility are key parts of the journey towards developing a shared Kiwi identity. When it's all said and done, Maori and Pakeha have more in common than what separates us. We think it is fair to say that today, more than ever before, there is a growing desire to work together to move towards our full potential as a nation.

As part of that process, we want to be able to have simple conversations in Te Reo and be comfortable with it being increasingly a part of the national conversation. We are happy that we are finding others in the community who are walking the same pathway.

A group of us meet on Tuesday afternoons at the Heathcote Valley Community Centre. Contact Ali Baré – alisonbare@gmail.com or 0212519440.



WE'RE HARVESTING!

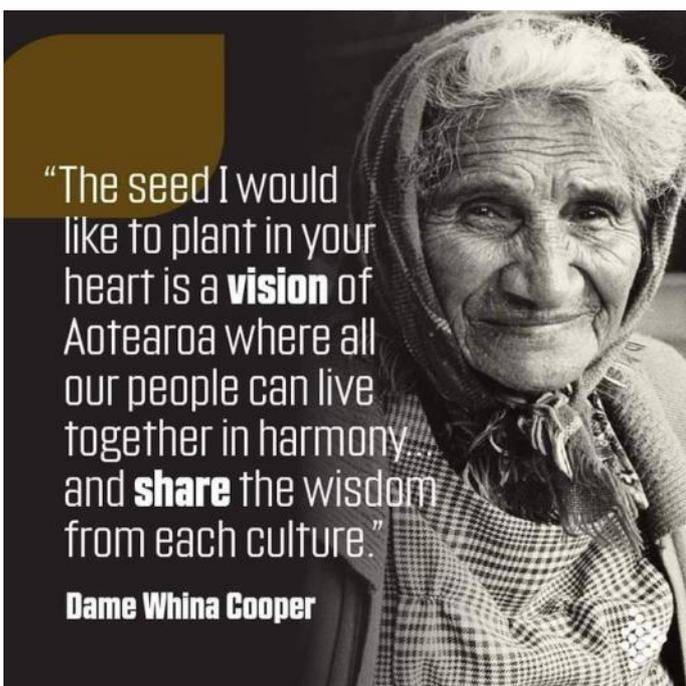
COMMUNITY FRUIT HARVESTING

HEATHCOTE VALLEY
COMMUNITY FRUIT HARVESTING

Have excess fruit you'd like donated to those in need? Get in touch!

pickfruitheathcote@gmail.com
Call/text 021 02330407

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK



What's on at Your Community Centre?



Make 2024 the year to try something new, learn something new or come and make some new friends at the Heathcote Valley Community Centre.

All of our favourite groups and classes are back and up and running plus we have plenty of exciting new options and opportunities. We would love to have you along!

Adding to our fabulous line-up of well-being classes, we now have Pilates on Monday and Wednesday mornings run by Christine from Pilates Lane, Yoga for Kids on Monday afternoons and Yoga for Teens on Wednesday afternoons. Yoga is incredible for young people, supporting both their physical and mental well-being amongst a busy world.

We also have some excellent workshops and talks coming up. Alice Tabak will continue to run her very popular Peri-menopause Workshops and Workshop for Girls throughout the year (don't miss out on booking for these ones!), Anna from Honey and Moss will be hosting her fabulous floristry workshops and we have recently held well attended free community presentations on Fire Preparedness and a special Sea Week talk on Macroinvertebrates of the Lyttelton Harbour.

 <i>weekly programme</i>		
<p>Monday</p> <p>6.30am: Pilates with Christine</p> <p>10am-12pm: Craft Group</p> <p>3.15pm: Yoga For Kids with Jo</p> <p>6pm: Tradie Yoga with Michele</p>	<p>Tuesday</p> <p>3.30pm: Te Reo Class</p> <p>5.45pm: Yoga with Breeze</p>	<p>Wednesday</p> <p>6.30am: Pilates with Christine</p> <p>10am-12pm: Community Morning Tea</p> <p>4.30pm: Yoga for Teens with Lucy</p> <p>6pm: Yoga with Lucy</p>
<p>Thursday</p> <p>Last Thursday of each month -</p> <p>6.30pm: Heathcote Valley Community Association Committee Meeting</p> <p>8pm: Heathcote Community Meeting</p>	<p>Friday</p> <p>9.15am: Yoga with Lucy</p> <p>11am: Movement Rewired with Nicky</p> <p>5pm: Sit Happens</p>	<p>Saturday</p> <p>9am - 1.30pm: Sit Happens</p>

March also sees us host a brilliant workshop called the Staying Safe Refresher Driver Course. This will be run by Age Concern (supported by Waka Kotahi / NZTA) and is designed to help support older drivers.

All of these events will be advertised on our Facebook pages as well as via our community e-mail and our noticeboards so...watch these spaces!

Of course in between our regular and community activities the community centre is available for private hire. So if you have something to celebrate, or need a versatile space to meet in, then don't hesitate to contact me (Jen) any time with enquiries – hvcc.bookings@gmail.com.

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### **Pilates**

Mondays AND Wednesdays 6.30am – 7.30am: Twist, stretch and breathe your way into a healthier and happier you. Contact Christine 027 687 5829 / [pilatesreforminglane@gmail.com](mailto:pilatesreforminglane@gmail.com)

### **Craft Group**

Mondays 10am-12pm: Enjoy knitting, crocheting or sewing with a wonderful group of people each Monday. \$3 per session and morning tea and great company provided. Please contact Wendy ([chamberskw26@gmail.com](mailto:chamberskw26@gmail.com)) with any questions

### **Yoga for Kids**

Mondays 3.15pm-4.15pm: Fun yoga for kids aged 5-12 years. Equip kids with the tools they need to feel a greater sense of well-being. Mats / props provided. Contact Jo 0800 YOGA 2 U / 021 193 3275

### **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](mailto:mlaingphysio@gmail.com))

### **Te Reo Class**

Tuesdays 3.30pm – 5pm. Contact Ali Bare ([alison.bare@gmail.com](mailto:alison.bare@gmail.com))

### **Santosh 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:lucydolankang@gmail.com))

### **Heathcote Valley Community Association**

#### **Meetings**

Held on the last Wednesday 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](mailto:hvcc.bookings@gmail.com) or

Jos [heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@sithappens.co.nz))

## **Heathcote Valley Bumper Stickers**



Limited first run now available!

We were very lucky to have Jimirah Baliza ([www.jimirahstudio.com](http://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 and I'll organize a sticker for you, cheers, Jen

## **Keep your eyes peeled for potentially toxic algae in Christchurch waterways**

Every summer the toxic algae cyanobacteria appears in our waterways, and the recent bout of hot and dry weather has made it more prevalent than usual.



Christchurch City Council Head of Three Waters Brent Smith says the potentially toxic algae has been confirmed in at least one pond and could be present in others.

“Animals can get very sick if they ingest the algae, and dogs are naturally drawn to investigating its musty smell. If dogs lick or ingest the material it can be quick acting and fatal.”

“Potentially toxic algae has recently been seen in Wigram Pond, but it’s important to remember that it can be present in any freshwater waterbody so learn what to look out for, and if in doubt keep your dog away from the water,” Mr Smith says.

The algae typically presents in rivers as dark brown or black mats, with a slimy or velvety texture and a musty smell. The algae can make water look cloudy, discoloured, or like it has small globules in it.



HEATHCOTE COMMUNITY  
SPORTS CLUB INC



Like many thousands of incorporated societies around the country, the Heathcote Community Sports Club has begun the procedure to re-register under the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022. Club members approved this step at a well-attended Special General Meeting held in December, followed by a potluck lunch greatly enjoyed by all. A small but dedicated sub-committee is working hard on redrafting the Club's constitution to conform to the new Act, with the intention of presenting this to members at our Annual General Meeting in June and of having re-registration completed soon after. We wish other societies well in their re-registration journey!

In the meantime, it is business as usual! We continue to offer lawn bowls, petanque and table tennis, although the very warm weather has prompted us to change some times of play to a cooler time of day. By the time of publication, the lawn bowls season will be drawing to a close, replaced by indoor bowls.

Through autumn and winter times of play will be as follows:

- Indoor bowls: Sunday 2pm, Tuesday 7pm
- Petanque: Sunday 9am, Thursday 9am (this start time may be subject to change in winter, so if you haven't been before please contact Zella on 021 521 707)
- Table Tennis: Sunday 9.30am, Wednesday 7pm

The Heathcote Community Sports Club is a friendly, non-competitive 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.

Our annual membership fees are extremely reasonable at just \$70 for full membership (October to September). Alternatively, non-regulars can Pay'n'Play for just \$5 per session, all equipment supplied. We welcome new members and visitors.

If you are interested in knowing more, email us at [heathcotecommunitysportclub@gmail.com](mailto:heathcotecommunitysportclub@gmail.com) or telephone the Club Secretary Zella on 021 521 707.

## 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.

**Sessions have now started for 2024.**

For more information contact:  
Suzanne Stewart 027 285 1843



# Adventures with Nature

## Rewilding in Morgans, Heathcote, Horotane and Avoca Valleys

*Autumn 2024 Update*

### Summer to Autumn Ramble

*By John Marsh*



There are a few scattered remnants of *ti kouka* (cabbage tree) in the upper slopes of Horotane Valley. Wonderful resilient trees that have survived the hardest of times. There is one very old (they can live to up to 400 years old) and dominant cluster of gnarled trunks that must have provided a *pou* to guide travellers down the valley over the years. The source of Horotane Stream, seeps out of the rocks nearby. Just a dribble sustaining rushes and *miki miki* in the gully below before drying out. Other smaller *ti kouka* come into focus as you climb higher amongst scrambling *matagouri* and *muehlenbeckia*. They are all flowering or bearing prolific seed heads. They will each have thousands of seeds. Maybe this year it does mean a dry autumn.

It's mid-February, high summer on the Port Hills, frazzled golden brown-grass with nodding seed heads, gliding harriers, fast skins, dry valleys, drier spurs and rocky ridges. The long hot spell that they forecast is here. How long will it last, is the question?

As I write there are a dozen or more helicopters and several hundred fire crew fighting an out of

control fire on Worsley's Spur and its neighbourhood. It seems that these fires are mostly the result of human activity. That's us....sometimes by accident and sometimes, surprisingly, intentional. We need to be extremely careful and vigilant if venturing up the hill this season as we are the big problem.

The sooner we can get a buffer of broad leaved native bush growing up there the better. The problem is that as our summers heat up and get longer, the less chance there is of establishing this kind of bush.

This late summer period is the real test for all those young trees we have been planting. In theory, if you plant the right species at the right time of year, and choose favourable planting locations to match the species you should have a reasonable chance of success. This means eco-sourced natives, planted from late May to late August in deeper soils, gullies, more shaded south facing sites or adjacent to other shading trees. A good deep mulch and watering allows you to extend the season in easy access sites. We don't always have such optimal conditions on this side of



*Avoca Valley February 2024 – they are hard to see but there are approx. 6000 young trees emerging on the nearer slopes in this image.*

the hill so when the long hot summer arrives results can be varied. The last two summers have been miraculously moist, but this year it is bone dry up there.

Below are 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 coordinators, there are lots of trees to plant this winter.

## **Heathcote Valley**

### **Bridle Path Track Native Re-vegetation site**

A dry nor west facing site this one...hard going but getting there slowly. There is lots of releasing to do right now.

Soon we will be preparing for the final batch of planting east of the track, which should happen late May. This will be followed by a smaller planting in the juvenile bush area opposite and to the west of the track.

If you can help with the work up at this site, and/or would like to be involved in the planting, please get in touch with Tamsin Page ([tamsin.page@gmail.com](mailto:tamsin.page@gmail.com) or 0276423555).

### **Birdsey Reserve Revegetation Project**

Lots of releasing been going on here this summer and some really good 3 or 4 year old

plantings establishing. The new mown walking track parallel and east of the road plus gates/stiles from the car park installed by council rangers before Christmas are making the reserve much more accessible.



*Mown track through the reserve alongside Bridle Path Road*

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](mailto:tamsin.page@gmail.com) or 0276423555).

## Horotane Valley and Avoca Valley

### Linda Woods Reserve—Summit Road Society

#### Walking Tracks and Signs

This reserve, while privately owned, is open to the public and anyone is welcome to go walking up there. One of the problems people have experienced is knowing where to go. This is gradually being rectified and signs have recently been installed at the main access points - at the top of Duncan Park, off Rapaki Track, at the Horotane Road entrance and on the Summit Road.

A walking track map is being developed and will soon be displayed on signs at these entrances making it a lot easier for walkers to use the reserve. There will also be more track signs. We hope to publish the track map in the next newsletter. There are several established routes through the reserve and these are being added to by the work party as time allows, in between releasing of planted areas, trimming fire buffer zones and weed control.

#### Revegetation Planting

While the last three years plantings are slowly appearing above the grass in Avoca Valley, plans are advanced for continued planting this winter. 5600 plants will be planted in Avoca Valley and 4500 plants in Horotane Valley.

There will be opportunities for those wanting to lend a hand on weekend volunteer days in late May, June and July, and these dates will be advertised from April onwards. The ultra-competitive Friday Afternoon Planting League in Horotane will be aiming to start as soon as there is a bit of moisture in the ground.

Check out [www.summitroadsociety.org.nz](http://www.summitroadsociety.org.nz) for further information, if you would like to join the volunteer work party or to contact new manager, Bill Martin.



*Emerging three year old bush above Lower Avoca Valley.*

#### Predator Trapping Lines

Avoca resident Ross Radford has recently taken on the volunteer role of- co-ordinator for Avoca Valley trapping lines. He reports:



*Entrance sign on Summit Road above Avoca Valley.*

*With the successful planting of thousands of native plants in Avoca Valley, funding was obtained to set up the first trapping line in the Valley some 18 months ago. Checking of the traps by locals from the Heathcote community has proved very successful. Over the past year there has been a total of 20 weasels, 18 hedgehogs, six possums and three rats caught. More traps (eight DOC200s and two rat traps) were installed in November of last year in the lower part of Avoca Valley just above the residential area. In the two months the new traps have been in action they have caught weasels and rats.*



*A weasel caught in a rat trap on peanut butter in Avoca Valley.*

*It has been thought-provoking to see just how many weasels are out there in the countryside as the lack of sightings in the community give no clue to the extent of their numbers!*

*More funding has been received for AT220 traps. These traps are designed to catch possums. They are battery operated and are designed to reset automatically after catching a possum. It is hoped that they will be installed over the next few months to add to the success of the trapping programme.*

*Locals in the valley have been thrilled to see kereru arrive and settle here in the last few*

*months so hopefully it's the start of creating an environment more conducive to the native wildlife.*

*We also encourage all residents in Heathcote to get a trap through Predator Free Port Hills, our backyard and community trapping programme [www.predatorfreeporthills.org.nz](http://www.predatorfreeporthills.org.nz)*

*Ross Radford*

## **Duncan Park**

### **Walking Tracks**

With the Linda Woods Reserve (LWR) above it, Duncan Park has the potential to be one of the key recreational gateways from the city to the top of the Port Hills, providing alternatives to the Bridle Path Track and Rapaki Track. The route through Duncan Park will take you through regenerating bush (and retreating gorse) up to the new LWR pedestrian gate on the ridge. Here you then have a choice of heading east to Horotane Valley (20 minutes), south west to Rapaki Track (60 - 80 minutes) or straight up the ridge to the Summit Road (30 minutes hard walking). You then have to walk back of course unless you want to find your way back on another track. There is always the 30 – 40 minute circuit of Duncan Park to do and stay local. The city council is contemplating some new track signs here.

### **Planting**

Just a lot of releasing and weeding keeping us busy here but progress is being made. The plan is to hold off on much further planting to allow trees planted over the last seven years to fill out and spread their own seed. This is already happening. At the same time we will be trying to keep invasive weeds in check.

Anyone interested in spending some time helping out in Duncan Park please contact John Marsh ([jmarshtree@gmail.com](mailto:jmarshtree@gmail.com) or 0274 310 182).

# Riding School News

Summer holidays are over and it's back into the new term at the riding school. We are usually cutting hay at this time of year but the water lying on the paddocks over the last two winters killed a lot of the grass and let the weeds in. Instead, we are allowing our ponies to clear the weeds and obtaining hay from elsewhere. We get it cheaper by collecting it ourselves from farms around the plains so it's all hands on deck for some exhausting days in the heat. It's good to see the barns filling, makes it all worthwhile.

Our wild Kaimanawa horse, Muna, is not wild any more; he's in with the main herd and enjoying life chilling out with his friends. Instead of being scared, he is now very interested in people and goes out of his way to interact. This may seem minor but many wild horses never lose their fear of humans. His formal training will start in the autumn after the latest crop of young horses finish training.

Good quiet ponies are very expensive so we have bred our own over many years. The level of calm tolerance required for a riding school horse is very high and they are trained for quite a long time. Some of our ponies in their twenties were bred on the property and it's great to see them come through from leggy foals to quiet oldies, plodding around patiently with tiny children on board.



*Poppy with her new foal, Bowie*

Our black Shetland pony Poppy had a wee foal on the first day of our summer camp which was an amazing thing for the kids to see. He is very tiny, not much bigger than a labrador and has been named Bowie as he has one blue eye and one brown. He can be easily seen from the car park if anyone needs a dose of cuteness.



*Bowie with his mum, Poppy*



*Muna with Em*

## The Crown

The morning bleeds blue through  
the cotton candy cresting the hill  
Pushes the steep slope further from its nearer  
neighbour  
Dunks it in a pool of deep blue green  
So that if you were standing  
on the brow of that closer rise  
beside that stand of trees  
you'd be looking down on aquatic pines  
and sheep swimming among succulent sea  
grasses  
Though the depths are deeper there than your  
hill is high  
So you'd soon be washed down the valley

It perches, malleable but mostly unmoved  
That cotton candy crown shot through with  
sapphire  
Till a breeze buffets its watery edges  
shaping breakers against the backdrop of blue  
And it waits, braced  
for the wind and the sun  
to lift it and lighten it and let it go  
To draw the hills back together  
and let the sheep graze unfazed  
by the fear they might go floating away

*By Grant Shimmin*



### **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! 😊

# 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!**

## 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 winter 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:

**Wednesday 12 May 2024.**

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



## RATES INVOICE

Rating year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

Area 2 Instalment 3, Tax Invoice

# Council Rates Rebates for low income earners

There has been much talk lately about increases in City Council rates. With big increases in the cost of living across the board higher rates payment will put additional stress on many people.

Do you know that you could get a rates reduction as part of the government's rate rebate scheme, which provides rates assistance to low income earners? You may be eligible for a rebate of up to \$750 of your rates under the rebate scheme, depending on a combination of your income, the amount of rates you are charged, and the number of dependents you have.

### Eligibility

To qualify for a rates rebate:

- you must be living in the property at the start of the rating year (1 July), and
- your name must be on the rates bill.

Eligibility is based on a calculation, and you may be eligible for some amount even if your income is too high to qualify for a full rebate. The application form has a table showing what level of rebate is available for a range of incomes and rates charges.

Your income is based on the tax year preceding the current rating year. For example, for the 2023 to 2024 rating year, the preceding tax year is from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. It includes your spouse's income but does not include the

following:

- disability allowance
- cash grants/capital payments
- war widow's or war disablement benefits
- medal or honour payments
- grants for funeral expenses
- prizes and winnings
- family support

To find out if you may qualify, you can visit one of the City Council service centres (the friendly staff are really helpful and will guide you through the process) or phone 0800 800 169. There is also an online calculator at the Department of Internal Affairs website.

Rating years run from 1 July to the following 30 June each year. You can apply for a rebate at any time during the rating year, but your rebate cannot be back-dated to previous years.

The rebate gets applied to the current year's rates. Any outstanding balance from the previous rating year will still be due.

Even if you already get a rebate, you need to re-apply each year. You should receive an application form with your first instalment rates invoice in July. Please allow one week for processing your application prior to your instalment due date.

# News from the Church of St Mary

*By The Reverend Mark Sullivan, Vicar*

On Wednesday 14 February, the Church celebrated Ash Wednesday. Today, Ash Wednesday doesn't have the significance as in past years. It is the day that the Church sets aside to acknowledge the beginning of the liturgical season of Lent. And Lent is the 40 days leading up to Easter Day.



*Mark Sullivan, Vicar*

But Easter is more than 40 days away, I hear us calculate. That is true, Lent is a period in which Christians are encouraged to prepare for the Easter Celebration. In essence we walk with Jesus Christ through this most difficult of times as he faced his trial and crucifixion. Christians are encouraged to “fast” during this time or to add things into their lives to assist our preparations for the resurrection for Jesus Christ. Traditionally we “gave things up for Lent”, but I prefer to say, let’s add something into our busy lives, thus the less important things might drop off. Sundays are not considered “fast” days so when we add the actual days, then subtract the non-fast days, we arrive at 40 days.

Recently I was asked why Easter changes its date each year. This is a good question.

The date for Easter is calculated as follows: It is the first Sunday following the first full moon following the autumn equinox.

Easter is calculated to coincide with the Jewish Passover celebration. Passover is the day the Jews set aside to acknowledge God’s saving grace amongst them. Jesus was arrested and committed for trial following the Passover meal he celebrated

with his disciples. Passover is calculated to coincide with the first full moon of the Jewish calendar.

So in reality, while Easter is typically a Christian festival (or “feast” as we call it in the church) it occurs at a significant time for the Jewish religion as well as the Christian one. As Christianity is a religion that shares many of the Jewish traditions and beliefs, we find ourselves transported toward something much bigger than either of the religions. In this way, we find God continually offering and inspiring hope within and amongst us.

Conversely, we must also remember that the three predominant religions that encircle the globe all acknowledge the same God. The God the Muslims call Allah is the same God the Jews call Yahweh and the same God we call God Almighty. In this we seem only separated by a relatively small space in time. Might this in itself provide an opportunity for the peoples of the world to focus upon international unity? As a Priest in Christ’s Church, I continually wonder how we might find both celebration in our diversity and hope for our commonality.

In my mind, Easter could well be the vessel that leads us to greater appreciation for our diversity and indeed hope for the future.

As we ponder how this Lent will affect us, I guess the courage is in trying to set aside time to consider how we might provide an opportunity for world peace and understanding to enliven us.

As we journey through this period of preparation, let us consider the state of our world and the tenuous nature of the peace that we enjoy in “Godzone” and in our Valley. And if you want assistance in determining your journey, then

attending or contacting us in your Valley Church, might well be the first step.

My God be with each and every one of you during this Lenten and Easter seasons.

Fr. Mark Sullivan  
Vicar

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Services at your Village Church this Lent and Easter

Each Sunday, 10am

Holy Monday, 25 March, 7pm

Holy Tuesday, 26 March, 7pm

Holy Wednesday, 27 March, 7pm

Maundy Thursday 28 April, 7pm

Good Friday 29 March, 10am

Easter Day, Sunday 31 March, 10am

Heathcote Cricket Club

At the Heathcote Cricket Club the senior side of the club is rocketing along as usual. With our top three teams performing very well in their respective grades.

In the last couple of weeks, we have had the one-day competition semis and finals.

Heathcote Premiers made the one-day semi-finals, where they had a tough loss to Lancaster Park. The premier side sit till currently third overall. Only a few points off second place. It must be said that the prem player/coach Tyler Lortan has amassed a huge amount of runs this season and is going to smash the metro cricket record runs in a season. He is having a heck of a season.

The Championship side made one day semi-final where they came up against a tough Riccarton, it was a tough day for them also bowling out in the semi-finals. Champs have been very consistent and are also sitting in third overall .

Full of fresh faces Heathcote's young Division 2 side got past the semis to make one day final, they came up against a very seasoned Merivale side and were beaten. Division 2 sit 4th overall and will definitely look to build on this next season.

Overall, generally the rest of the senior teams are performing well. The Blazers and Hustlers are in red hot form now along with the Red Wolves. The junior side of the club has lost some player numbers over the Christmas period and most teams across the age groups could do with a couple more players. If you know a junior who might like to try out cricket or get back into it please give our junior club captain Rhys a call. 027 654 3028 He would be happy to hear from you.

David Stack
Heathcote Cricket Club Recruiter and
Media Liaison.



UPCYCLE

Freecycle Day

Mark your diary now!

**The autumn Freecycle day will be on
Saturday 6th April**

Freecycle day is a great opportunity to pass on good but unwanted items to a new home. Simply place them at your gate in the morning for people to pick up. Anything left at the end of the day you need to please remove.

If you are looking for the ultimate bargain (i.e. great stuff for free) then check out the Heathcote streets on the 6th.

Heathcote Community Garden Update

By John Marks

The great news is that the Community Garden has been very productive over the last few months. The children at the school have been active with their contributions to the gardens and have also received some tuition from Rachel about the new fruit trees that are thriving in the location next to the swimming pool. The New World "Little Garden" seedlings have been managed under the watchful eye of Karen and have produced some good crops for harvesting. Some are still producing at the time of writing. All the relocated community raised beds have been cropping well and have been harvested regularly by the volunteers. Some landscaping work is currently under way which will improve the looks and access around the beds. This is a slow process with limited labour available. The new irrigation system is also gradually being installed.



Sadly, we bid farewell to one of our longtime, faithful volunteers and friend, Kate, who with her husband are leaving the valley and will no longer be active in our garden. Kate has been a great asset to our operations in rejuvenating, rebuilding and re-locating this garden over the last few years. She will be greatly missed but we wish her and Grant well for the future.

We have recently had the offer of a new volunteer, Mark, who will be joining us on Thursday afternoons. The school involvement is expected to be boosted with the enthusiasm of Melissa and

Leona of the Enviro Lead role at Heathcote Valley School for this year. They hope to have input into the way the garden is managed to include the students and parents of the school. We look

forward to working with them in the coming weeks.

To the future, we are always on the lookout for willing volunteers who can assist with gardening activities on a regular basis, tackling tasks such as weeding, watering, offering expertise, planting and generally keeping the garden in productive condition. In return, volunteers benefit from fresh produce that the garden yields, and great camaraderie. Also, to add to the garden experience, we will be establishing a tunnel house for the purpose of raising seedlings for the gardens and to help the school children understand where their food comes from.

This should be up and running for the lead up to spring planting.

The Heathcote Community Garden is a registered charity and is also a member of the Canterbury Community Gardens Association and benefits from the expertise of other members in the organisation.

Please consider taking up the challenge to join us. Visit us at the garden on a regular "working bee day" every Thursday at 3pm or contact the coordinator, John, phone 027-229-0847 or EM at john.marks47@outlook.com for further information.

Happy Times in Horotane

To friends and neighbours and the community of the Valleys...

I lived in the Horotane Valley for 35 years, until 1998. We had a market garden at the bottom of the valley.

You would have known me as Flo Chung. My husband Norman Chung, passed away in 1997. My name is now Flo Jenner.



Flo Chung Jenner

Prior to coming to the valley in 1964, I lived my first 20 years in Sumner. My dad, Peter Elliot, worked at the Maltworks in the 1950s. I recall as a teenager being taken through the Maltworks complex with a maze of silos, mountains of grain and huge processing vats, creating a warm malty odour. I found the whole experience fascinating with a sense of intrigue.



Chung's Market Gardens, 6 Horotane Valley Rd.

During the 1960s I worked at 'The Radley Brothers Fruit and Vegetable Produce Market' on the corner of Lichfield and Madras Streets. There I met Norman Chung as a customer in 1962. We were soon engaged and after two years, married in 1964 to start our market garden life in the Horotane Valley. While working at the Radley Brothers Market I also met many of the local growers from Heathcote, Horotane and Avoca

Valley as customers, who later became our wonderful friends and neighbours.



Norman Chung



Charles and Johnathan Chung

I've just completed my autobiography, which is now at the printers. Hopefully it will be ready in the next two to three weeks.

I am looking forward with anticipation and excitement to receiving my first 100 copies. The book is in hardcover format with 162 pages and over a 100 photos.

The title is:

**"The Three Seasons of Helen"
By Flo Helen Chung - Jenner**

My email address is:
dovetailnz@yahoo.com

Heathcote - Gateway to the World

By Barrie Woods

Things could have been very different in our part of the city. In the early 1930s, when the authorities were looking for a suitable site for a commercial airport for Christchurch, one seriously considered plan was to reclaim land in the estuary and flatten the sand hills towards Bromley. Remarkably there was quite strong support from some locals including Cr C Flavell of the Heathcote County Council. This plan would have seen not only a land runway, but also a seaport for seaplanes. The availability of cheap land and the proximity to the city were seen as favourable factors, as well as close access to fuel from the nearby port. However, in the end the current location at Harewood was selected. Thank goodness, you may well say!

Since the early days of course, Heathcote has been an entry point to the city. First with the Bridle Path and the ferry wharves at Ferrymead, and then soon after with the railway tunnel. Perhaps it should therefore come as no surprise that Heathcote was selected as the location for the city-side portal of a new road tunnel. However, there is a lengthy and convoluted story, spanning 110 years, about how that came about.

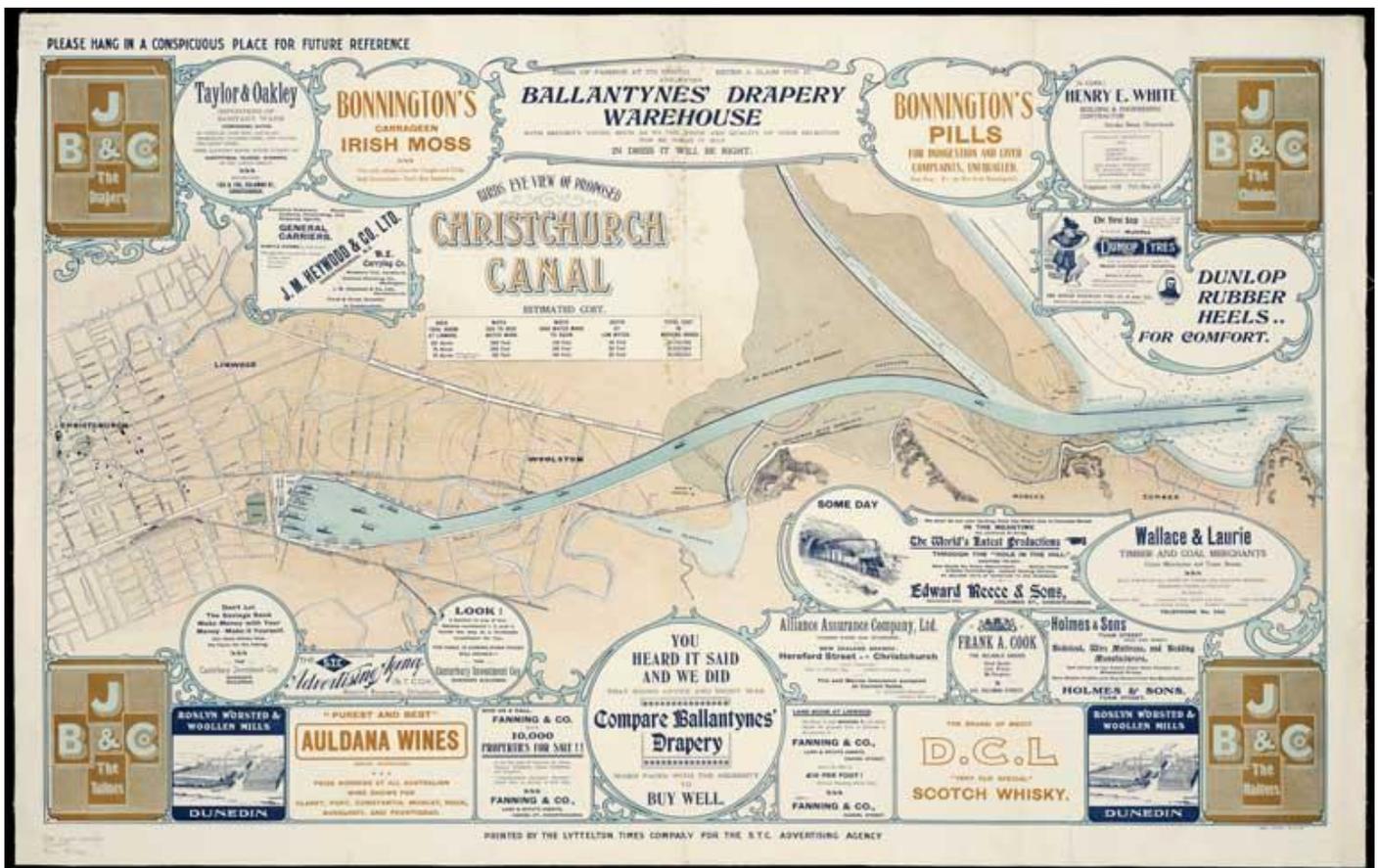
Way back in 1851 a Select Committee was formed to investigate the best way for the new residents of Christchurch and farmers on the Canterbury Plains to access the sea (for transport rather than swimming). There was a suggestion of a tunnel under the Port Hills which was seriously considered and rejected, one reason being that horses would catch cold coming from the hot plains into a cold tunnel. To me this sounds like an urban myth, except it is recorded in the official papers of the day. I can only assume the people of that era knew

much more about the sensitivities of horses than most people today, especially me.

Rather than building a tunnel, it was agreed to construct a road to reach the city via Evans Pass and Sumner. The route however turned out to be impractical for transport of heavy goods via wagons, which instead had to be taken from Lyttelton via ferry to Ferrymead. Before long however, a tunnel was dug through the hill, but for the new railway rather than road traffic. This was effective in facilitating the transport of goods to and from the port, but as the province grew it soon became limited in its capacity.

Before long two more road routes were built between the harbour and the plains: Dyers Pass to access the city and Gebbies Pass to access the plains to the south. Both are steep routes and were difficult to traverse in icy or wet conditions during winter. Remember roads were not sealed back in those days. Consequently, there continued to be pressure to find a more efficient way to transport not only goods but people between the port and plains, especially after the introduction of motor vehicles.

For a long time there had been efforts and plans to improve sea access for ships to the Avon and Heathcote rivers. You may have heard of the 'canal reserves' which were intended to provide navigable waterways as well as draining the swamps upon which the city was being built. Work was started on one of these 'canals' which you can still see along the Humphrey's Drive end of Linwood Ave. If work had continued it would have joined the Avon River at the other end of Linwood Ave, or another variation on this plan would have seen a dock established in Woolston.



Birds eye view of proposed Christchurch Canal, Lyttelton Times Company for the S.T.C. Advertising Agency, [1906]

Around 1922 the Christchurch-Lyttelton Tunnel Road League was established to push for the building of a road tunnel. At the same time another organisation, the Port Christchurch League, advocated for the development of a seaport in Christchurch, within the Avon Heathcote estuary. The two organisations each pushed their own agendas, selling the merits of their respective plans and exposing the follies of the opposing side. Public opinion swung between the two options and the newspapers were kept busy for more than a decade.

These days we tend to forget that, in days gone by, Ferrymead used to be a busy little port in its own right. There were plans to expand its capacity by dredging the estuary and river, and also the sand bar at Sumner to allow access by larger ships. Had the Port Christchurch League got its way (and this was a very real possibility at the time), we may well have been living alongside a busy port as well as an airport! I expect the city would have taken a

very different shape had either or both these proposals proceeded.

In the 1930s the Canterbury Chamber of Commerce also began to campaign for a road tunnel. They were successful in getting the ear of Prime Minister Michael Savage and eventually convinced the government to allow the Ministry of Works to draw up concept plans. At that time, it took an average of eight days for freight arriving at Lyttelton to reach Christchurch and there was often no space at Lyttelton to store arriving goods, so it would need to be held in the railway yards in Christchurch. The port facilities were constantly backed up due to the limited capacity of the road and rail links, and perishable goods would often spoil, so there was clearly a need for better transport to facilitate trade.

Despite hold ups due to the Second World War, in 1943 the Minister of Works, Bob Semple, met with proponents of both the tunnel and the Port Christchurch proposals so both schemes could be

considered. He deemed that the port scheme, estimated to cost £5,000,000, had no hope of success, but was favourably impressed by the tunnel scheme, which was, at that time, estimated to cost a mere £750,000.

There was little more progress until 1953, when Prime Minister Sidney Holland, also MP for Fendalton, sponsored the Christchurch-Lyttelton Road Tunnel Bill in Parliament. This was eventually passed in October 1956, and led to the establishment of the Road Tunnel Authority, to construct and control a new road tunnel.

The Ministry of Works was appointed to design the project in conjunction with the Civil Engineering Department of Canterbury University. They estimated the cost to now be around £2.515 million, somewhat more than pre-war estimates. The tunnel itself was proposed to be 37ft (11m) in width, which included a roadway of 24ft (7.3m), and a 5ft 6in (1.68m) cycleway along each side. The cycle tracks contributed around £500,000 to the cost and needed to be dropped from the final design to contain costs within an acceptable budget.

It was proposed that the new tunnel would be paid for by means of a loan, which would be repaid from tolls charged to users of the tunnel. In 1959 the Road Tunnel Authority applied to the Local Authorities Loans Board but was turned down. The reason given was that there would be insufficient freight moving through the tunnel in its early years to generate enough revenue to service the loan. They obviously had an accountant on their team.

At the same time there were plans to extend the harbour facilities in Lyttelton, but they were not yet finalised. After a deputation from the Road Tunnel Authority to the Prime Minister, Walter Nash, and the Minister of Finance, Arnold Nordmyer, agreement was reached that a loan could be raised on the condition that the tunnel would not be completed prior to the harbour

upgrades. The government would guarantee the loan as it was seen as essential overcome the ongoing problems with accessing sea transport in and out of Canterbury.

By the time final designs and specification were completed in 1960 the estimated cost had risen to £3,500,000. In January 1961 tenders were received from seven bidders, with the successful party being a 60/40 joint venture between New Zealand-owned Fletcher Construction and Kaiser Engineers and Constructors from the USA.

Work on the tunnel began in August 1961, though it was not until a month later, on 9 September, that the official ceremony was held to acknowledge the start of the project.

Not without controversy

The idea of a road tunnel to Lyttelton had been mooted for decades, but when plans were finally approved they were not popular with everyone, particularly many Heathcote locals.

The preferred route had always been via Heathcote Valley, mostly because the railway tunnel was already there and the geology of the hills was well understood, but alternatives were suggested and considered. One route would have gone from around the Cracroft area, through to Governor's Bay. This would have provided a direct route from the Canterbury Plains and would have been readily accessible from the industrial areas in and around Hornby. Another route would have been slightly west of Heathcote, from Bowenvale to Rapaki, but there were no particular advantages over the Heathcote route. Both alternatives would have been more difficult in terms of property ownership as access roads would need to go through established residential areas, and so were unpopular choices.

The Heathcote route, perhaps through good town planning, or maybe by chance, would have the least impact on residential ownership as most off

the land needed for the Tunnel Road had a rural zoning. A Gazette notice authorising the construction of a motorway to the proposed Heathcote portal was issued as early as 1949 with a survey of the land requirements being completed in 1952. At the Lyttelton portal several houses needed to be demolished, but they were mostly older places which had been earmarked for the route for a very long time.

At the Heathcote end, residents lobbied for an underpass from the north tunnel portal through to Bridle Path Road and were successful in having this added to the plan. Horotane Valley landowners were unhappy about access to their properties and also needed to lobby for plan changes. There was quite a bit of talk amongst Heathcote residents about disruptions due to road works and increased traffic noise. These concerns were not unfounded and certainly the latter causes a level of angst even today, particularly with heavy vehicles grinding up the hill, or using engine brakes on the way down. This problem has only increased over the years with increased traffic and heavier vehicles.

Cycle access has also been a concern since the beginning. There was no strong lobby group for cycling at the time, so travel by pedal-power was not given much priority. Perhaps it was a pity that the cycleways through the tunnel were dropped from the final plans but maybe including them could have caused safety issues with the high levels of traffic the tunnel carries today. Also, cycles were not well considered in the design of Tunnel Road. Not just with cyclists not being permitted on the road itself, but also the narrow passages under the overpass that must be shared with heavy vehicles. The more recent changes to move cyclists to the footpath have been largely unsuccessful as most still take the easy route on the road, much to the annoyance of many a truck driver with enough else to keep eyes on.

Construction

Construction of the tunnel started on 9 September 1961. Although this was the official date some work had already been under way for at least a month with some 55m having been excavated.

Often, tunnel construction is undertaken from both ends simultaneously so faster progress can be made, however the Lyttelton tunnel was worked from the Heathcote end only. In total around 150,000 cubic metres of rock was removed from the tunnel workings and this was used in building Tunnel Road.

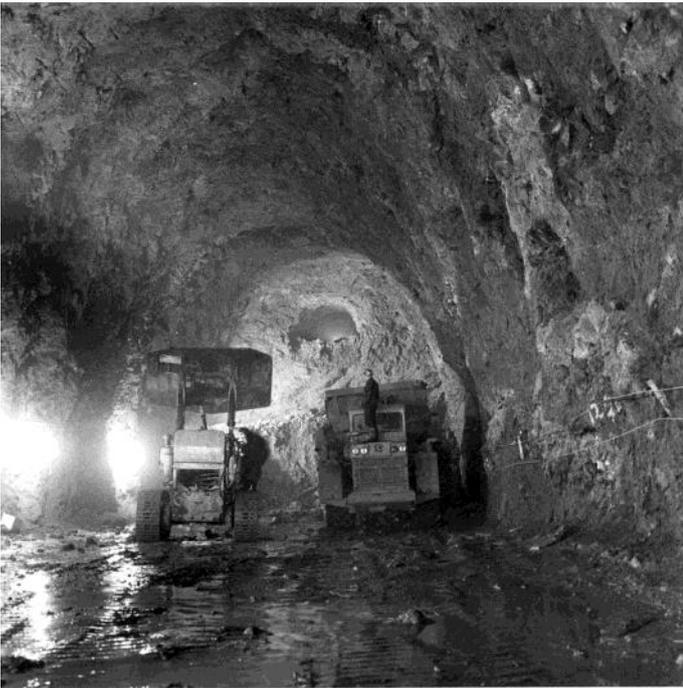


Work at the tunnel entrance, Winter 1961

Work progressed at around 7.1m per day. Tunnellers worked three shifts each day for six days per week. Their basic wage was 7s 2d per hour. Work was mostly carried out using explosives and light machinery. No petrol driven equipment could be used and diesel machinery had to be fitted with exhaust scrubbers. There were no giant tunnel boring machines such as would be used today.

Dust from the explosives and manual work at the face was a problem and when tunnelling was about 60% complete there were issues with effective ventilation which hindered work. To

solve the problem a small ventilation bore was put through to the Lyttleton portal and with additional fans this seems to have been effective.



Removing spoil from the working face. Note the ventilation drive at the top of the tunnel.

The tunnel is supported by steel mesh and sprayed concrete for most of its length. In some places steel support frameworks were needed and in other areas rock bolts were used. In total some 1400 rock bolts were used.



Steel support frameworks were used to support areas of unstable rock.



Forms being used to place the concrete lining along the walls.

Excavation was completed on 18 August 1962, on time and on budget. Once this stage was complete work moved to finishing the interior of the tunnel.



Tunnel interior showing the ventilation shafts above the roadway.

The tunnel is lined with reinforced concrete which is overlaid with ceramic tiles. The concrete was supplied by Certified Concrete Ltd. from a mixing plant set up on a temporary rail siding. The sand, shingle and cement required for the concrete arrived by rail. In all, 35,405 cubic metres of concrete were placed in the tunnel and another 3,440 cubic metres was used on works outside the tunnel.

Above the ceiling of the tunnel are ventilation shafts which are used to remove exhaust fumes and supply fresh air. Services such as water, electricity and more recently sewerage from the harbour area, are carried through the ventilation shafts.



Preparing the ceramic tiles on the ceiling panels.

Lining the tunnel walls with 1,250,000 glazed white ceramic tiles made in the NZ Insulators factory in Temuka, and another 250,000 yellow roof tiles imported from England, took longer than the groundworks to create the tunnel itself. These tiles were all positioned by hand and fastened using a newly invented epoxy glue made specially for the task by one of the Fletcher subsidiaries. The tiles were chosen over painted concrete to reduce the cost of long-term maintenance. A white, non-reflective glaze was needed for good visibility inside the tunnel. Incidentally, you may have noticed the tunnel curves slightly at each end, which is a design feature to aid vision adjustment when entering and exiting the tunnel. For the same reason the lighting also changes in intensity depending on the time of day or night. Also, in case you hadn't noticed, the tunnel slopes downwards towards Lyttelton, with a fall of 1 in 38. Be careful not to speed when heading south!

When it opened the tunnel was equipped with advanced technology for the day, including



The control room at the time the tunnel opened in 1964.

carbon monoxide monitors, air visibility detectors, ventilation controls, lighting controls, traffic lights, fire extinguishers, and emergency telephones and backup generators. Monitoring of the tunnel was done from a control room at the Heathcote end. No doubt there is even more advanced technology in use today and in recent years fire deluge systems and warning alarms have been installed. Tunnel Control can even broadcast advisory messages onto your car radio!

The tunnel was originally operated by the Road Tunnel Authority. The staff, who were responsible for traffic control, toll collection and emergency response, were employed by the authority, but they were also warranted traffic officers. That meant they could give drivers a ticket for traffic offences, some of which, such as following distances and carrying of dangerous goods, were unique to the tunnel. Their jurisdiction also covered all of Tunnel Road.

When it opened a toll of two shillings and sixpence was charged for a motor car, and one shilling for a motorcycle. Buses and trucks paid more depending on their size. Tolls were collected at booths at the Heathcote portal and needed to be paid in cash. The tolls were used to finance the construction of the tunnel and it was predicted it would take 54 years to pay off the loans. The tolls were scrapped in 1979, 15 years after the tunnel

opened but I haven't been able to find out if the loans were repaid early, though this date corresponds with the dissolution of the Tunnel Road Authority. Being old enough to have paid the tolls, I remember the booth operators much preferred you to have the correct change and would grumble if you handed over a large note.

On 23 February 1964 the tunnel, which had come in under budget at £2.7 million, was opened for pedestrians to experience walking along its gleaming length. The official opening ceremonies on 27 February began with the arrival of the Governor General Brigadier Sir Bernard Ferguson, announced by a fanfare of trumpets. The elaborate welcome was followed by addresses by Prime Minister Keith Holyoake and other dignitaries. Afternoon tea was then held at the Upham Memorial Garden, with the Lyttelton Marine Band playing the march "Lyttelton", composed especially for the occasion.



The toll booths with the tunnel control building award-winning tunnel administration building on the left. Architect Peter Beaven took inspiration from ships at berth in his design .

Ten thousand vehicles christened the tunnel free of toll charges on that day, with the queue to enter the tunnel from the city side stretching all the way to Moorhouse Avenue.

Today the tunnel is operated by Waka Kotahi and carries around 11,000 vehicles each day. It was originally designed for a capacity of 2,400 vehicles,

so it now carries more than four times that number. Up until 2017 the Lyttelton Road Tunnel was the longest road tunnel in the country at 1,970 metres, but the Waterview Tunnel in Auckland now holds the record. The tunnel itself stood up well to the Christchurch earthquakes in 2010 and 2011 with minimal damage. However, the canopy which used to cover the toll booths, and the control building were extensively damaged. A new control building was opened in 2014. Though the 60-year-old tiles may no longer be quite as sparkly white as they once were, the tunnel is expected to serve us well for many more years to come.

This year, on 27 February, marked 60 years since the Lyttelton Road Tunnel was officially opened.

Silos Knitting



A new knitting / crochet group has started up in Heathcote Valley 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 new 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.

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.

Local Government NZ (LGNZ) online headline, March 2023

“Research reveals libraries are huge contributors to community wellbeing. Public libraries are vibrant community hubs that enhance community wellbeing and social cohesion.”

<https://www.lgnz.co.nz/news/news-insights/research-reveals-libraries-are-huge-contributors-to-community-wellbeing/>

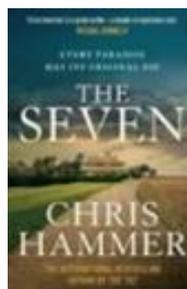
Libraries are an easy target in tough times. We appreciate and look forward to the continuing support of the Heathcote community.

While your local Heathcote Valley Library can't be a full-service Public Library, we do have Christchurch City Council leaflets on neighbourhood support, pools, trams, cycling, camping, bins, plant guides and more. And a GREAT range of adult fiction, non-fiction (including crafts) and wonderful children's books.



In the lead-up to **Anzac Day**, we have a large range of beautifully illustrated **children's books** which tell Anzac stories. These will go out on the shelves in late March.

Librarian's Choices . . .



The Seven by Chris Hammer

Australian author Chris Hammer's detective Ivan Lucic is in Yuwonderie, where seven founding families have grown ever more rich and powerful. But now one of their own is found dead. Could the murder be connected to the execution of the victim's friend thirty years ago, or even the long-forgotten story of a servant girl on the brink of the Great War?



The Paris Daughter by Kristin Harmel

The Paris Daughter is set in Paris, 1939. Elise and Juliette are both young mothers -to-be. Elise must flee the Nazis and she entrusts Juliette with her young daughter. But Juliette's world is destroyed when a bomb falls on the neighbourhood of her small bookshop. Elise returns after the war to reclaim her daughter . . .

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!

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.

Bin good

Tips to help you get it right!

NEW

New Zealand has some new rules around waste, which means most Kiwis can now sort their recycling, organics and rubbish in the same way. Find out about changes for our district.



NEW

Tip 1 | Empty pizza boxes, cardboard and paper

You can place empty pizza boxes in the recycling bin. This means that you should remove all food scraps, but it's OK to leave oil in the box.



Tip 2 | Clean plastic bottles and containers #1, 2 and 5

Only clean, lidless, hard plastic bottles, containers numbered 1, 2 and 5 and clear meat trays can go in the yellow bin. They must be larger than a yoghurt pottle or smaller than 4 litres. Don't squash these or put them into bags.



Tip 3 | Food and drink tins and cans

Food and drink tins and cans are the only metal items that can go in your yellow bin. Make sure they're clean (rinsed) and loose (not bagged) in the bin. You can drop off other metal items for free, including tools, kitchen pots and pans, and household appliances, at one of our three EcoDrop Recycling Centres, otherwise they must go in your red bin.



NEW

Tip 4 | Food and garden waste

Only food and garden waste can go in your green bin. This is due to the new national standards for kerbside bins, and will help us make great quality compost. Visit ccc.govt.nz/kerbside-changes for more.



NEW

Tip 5 | Aerosol cans

Aerosol cans go in the red bin. If they're not completely empty, aerosols can explode under pressure and cause fires at recycling facilities. Some aerosols contain poisons such as insecticides and automotive sprays. Staff at recycling facilities may be exposed to these when aerosols are damaged or crushed for baling.



NEW

Tip 6 | Shredded paper, paper towels and food soiled cardboard

Shredded paper, paper towels and food soiled cardboard go in the red bin. For example food soiled pizza boxes, fish and chip paper, paper towels, tissues, receipts, shredded paper and all paper smaller than a standard envelope. From 1 February 2024 new national standards were put in place to help with how we compost in New Zealand. For more information head to ccc.govt.nz/kerbside-changes for more.



NEW

Tip 7 | Tea bags

Tea bags also go in the red bin.



Tip 8 | All bags, packets and wrappers

Soft plastics go in the red bin. This is any plastic you can easily scrunch or bend – plastic bags, cling film, courier bags, bubble wrap, chip packets, frozen food bags, biscuit trays, sushi trays, bread bags, chocolate bar wrappers and plastic ties.



Tip 9 | All lids

Bottle tops and lids of ANY size or material go in the red bin. They're too small or flat to be separated by machinery at recycling plants, and will contaminate the recycling if they go in the yellow bin.



Tip 10 | All biodegradable and compostable packaging

Compostable packaging, including biodegradable plastics and packaging products, go in the red bin. Due to a lack of national standards for compostable packaging, we cannot guarantee that these products will fully break down into plastic-free compost. They must go into the red bin.



Not sure what bin to put your item in?

Look up 100s of items with the Christchurch Bin App or use the tool on our website to find out which bin your item goes in or where to take items that don't go in your bins at home.

ccc.govt.nz/lookupitem

INF6793 Jan 2024

Christchurch
City Council 

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

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 (Apps 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.