

Heathcote Community Magazine

Winter 2023



New Cycleway on Truscotts Rd.—Photo Jen Saunders

A Winter Message from our Community Coordinator

Welcome to winter!

Winter is a time to slow down after the busyness of autumn. Cleaning roof gutters, raking leaves, turning the compost, preparing the winter garden, planting garlic, pruning unruly trees and sorting all the autumn produce including an infinite abundance of feijoas in the valley. Feijoa wine, feijoa jam and pickles, feijoa cake, cookies, bottled feijoas, dried feijoas and zillions of feijoa preserves and recipes.



Jocelyn de Kort

During winter as a child, I remember frozen ice flowers on the insides of windows and thick stalactite icicles suspended from the once dripping taps outside. In the evenings we would roast peanuts, still in their husk, on the side bricks of the open fire. On special occasions my mum would make a watered down version of mulled wine with cinnamon sticks, orange peel, cloves and soaked raisins, also kept warm by the fire while we snuggled up for a Saturday night movie on the TV. I'm still inclined to slow down and snuggle up with a good book on cold winter evenings.

Over the past few months, dare I say, there have been lots of road disruptions around central Heathcote. It's certainly kept me alert as to which way the detour arrows are directing me. I've found that the secret of managing these disruptions is to start out a little earlier, so that I'm not feeling stressed with the delays. On the positive side, I'm excited and looking forward to feeling safe, using the new cycle ways that are being created, connecting our community with other suburbs, our city and keeping fit along the way.

The Heathcote free cycle day was enjoyed by many, with lots of recyclables out on the curb side for the community to explore with enthusiasm for new goodies to adopt. I'm thinking of having another free cycle day around the middle of September to inspire all the spring cleaners out there, to continue recycling our excess stuff.

Last month we commemorated Anzac Day with a service at the war memorial to remember and give thanks to all those who have served and passed over the years, especially during the futile and horrific Gallipoli war. Heathcote has been extremely blessed to have Felicity

Backhouse and her entourage of extended family and friends including Valley Inn owners, Dean and Genaea Calvert, for helping with and organising the Heathcote Anzac Day service and the amazing community breakfast at the Valley Inn, over the past many years. A huge heart felt THANK YOU is given from us all, who have enjoyed connecting at the Anzac memorial service and later, walking together down Flavell Street, led by a bagpipers call to the Heathcote Valley Inn for a heart-warming breakfast of bacon, eggs, sausages and a tot of rum.

The Anzac Day event is just one of the multitude of undertakings that Felicity Backhouse is involved with. In 1981 Felicity initiated the Heathcote spinning group which is still going strong today on Thursday mornings, 10am to 12pm at Heathcote St Marys Church. She is also president of the Heathcote community library, 45 Bridle Path Road, in the community centre building, which is well stocked with lots of new and popular books for all ages. It's well worth checking out with family, neighbours and buddies, big, in between and little, to choose some exciting reads for the winter months. Felicity is co-manager of the Wool and Yarn Boutique at the Tannery. President of the Christchurch Guild of Spinners and Weavers, also at the Tannery. Alongside her husband, David Backhouse, together they run a raffle at 5pm every Saturday night at the Valley Inn of which the proceeds are donated to the Heathcote Valley School.

What more can I say. Felicity is a wonder woman, quietly serving and supporting the community with her passions, in turn passing on so much in her modesty. Again words don't fully express our thanks and gratitude

I would like to thank everyone who has kindly contributed articles for this winter magazine edition. It has been awesome to receive all the articles on time which makes my task flow with ease, to have the community magazine out to you all in good time. Due date for the spring magazine is the 12th of August. Thank you.

All community articles are welcomed. They could be a story of your time in the valley, interests, events, famous locals, past and present. Local artists, musicians, literature, sports and more. Send them all to me at: heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com

Kia hari te panui, happy reading

Jocelyn

Winter Mulled Wine



INGREDIENTS

- 750ml of red wine
- 2 small oranges
- 1 lemon
- 6 cloves
- grated nutmeg
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 1 inch piece of ginger, peeled and cut in two
- 3 tablespoons of sugar
- 1 tablespoon of honey
- 1 dried bay leaf

METHOD

1. Grate the zest from one of the oranges, and then juice the orange.
2. Stick the cloves each into the other orange and cut into quarters.
3. Quarter the lemon.
4. Place all the above into a large saucepan.
5. Add the wine, honey, sugar, cinnamon sticks, ginger and nutmeg.
6. Place the pan over a low heat. Heat the mixture to just below simmering for 20 minutes.
7. Remove from the heat and let cool a little.
8. Use a large spoon to place the oranges and lemon in the bottom of a punch bowl (any large glass serving bowl will do).
9. Pour the wine onto the fruit through a sieve to remove the cinnamon sticks.
10. Ladle the wine into mugs or heatproof glasses and serve warm.

TIPS

- Don't let the wine boil as this will remove the alcohol and can cause the spices to become bitter.
- Don't use an aluminium pan as the wine will react with the metal to produce an unpleasant taste.

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**





HEATHCOTE VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

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

The days have certainly gotten colder and it has been a treat, as always, to watch the Valley be enveloped in Autumnal colours, rugged up in a big scarf on my brisker dog walks! With the changing of the leaves also inevitably comes blocked drains - and I've been watching from afar and being thankful that we have not been experiencing the same levels of rainfall that Auckland and parts of the North Island continue to receive.

It has been incredibly heartening to hear people talking about their continued support of our local businesses, especially in light of the effect that roadworks have had on their access. In fact, some locals have mentioned that they've 'doubled down' on ordering Indian from Spice Hub for their nights off cooking, and Silos is often very busy on a sunny Winter day! Have you called past our shops to say hello lately? We're so lucky to have these friendly faces keeping us sustained so close to home - and I think our dairy must have some of the cheapest milk in town.

While the roadworks have been incredibly frustrating for all involved, the future will ensure infrastructure



Hanna Watkinson

which can withstand the demands we put on it as a suburb - and the new cycleway will allow safer access via bike to further afield. I'm looking forward to the easy access to The Tannery, and for many it will allow the school commute to be carbon-free and out of harm's way.

If there is an issue that you would like to have discussed at a Community Association meeting, we aim to hold the space for connections to be made, voices to be heard, and collective responses to be created. One of our local association members (graphic designer), Jimirah Baliza, has been working on a new look and feel for the Association to take us in to the future. We're really excited to share this with everyone soon!

We still have themed hui in the works (more information will follow through our communication methods – Google Group, Facebook, and/or noticeboards) as well as our monthly meetings which are open to anyone. Look out for more details if you'd like to be part of this conversation, or contact the Association to ensure we can make time to hear your thoughts at our next meeting. Contact information for Jen and Jos, who channel these requests, are frequently shared through the aforementioned channels.

Ngā mihi and stay cosy,
Hannah Watkinson
(Co-Chair on behalf of HVCA committee)





Te Tihi o Kahukura

Heathcote Valley School

Kia ora koutou

Some of you may have been down at the war memorial on Anzac Day for the dawn service to remember those who gave everything for their country including their lives to hear some of our student leaders read the poem "Why Wear a Poppy" and lay the wreath. It was a lovely morning and the service ran smoothly finishing with a tasty breakfast.



Lauren McCauley

This week the classes in the school have gone on trips to Rapaki Marae to learn about the history of Banks Peninsula and the Port Hills and a trip to the beach at Rapaki to see what we could see including flipping over rocks looking for crabs and crouching over rock pools looking at starfish and other marine life.

On Wednesday the 3rd and Thursday the 4th of May the year 7/8 team went on a cultural narrative bike tour to hear stories told by Mr E on how the classes in our school were named. It was a long and fun day biking along the Summit Road and we were all very tired when we got to the end.

Winter sports starts soon for years 5, 6, 7 and 8 who are interested in playing a sport every Thursday this term at Hagley Park. Options include netball, soccer, touch rugby, tackle rugby and hockey.

This term we have been looking at Māori history including having the pop up museum to come into school and show us some Māori tools and equipment that kids could feel and try and guess what they were. We have also been making some harakeke rope by harvesting the fibres from the leaves of the harakeke and twisting them together to make the rope.

On Thursday the 30th of March the student leadership team and the baristas held a sausage sizzle and hot chocolate day to fundraise for Omaha School in the North Island near Hastings. They are in a poor community and were badly hit by cyclone Gabrielle. Altogether we raised \$1428 for Omaha School plus classrooms had the option to write letters to the students at Omaha School.

On Tuesday the 4th and Wednesday the 5th of April we had a whole school art soiree in the school hall where we celebrated all of the children's artistic talents by putting up their art in the hall for parents and caregivers to come and look at all the fantastic art we have been doing throughout term one.

Last term on Tuesday the 14th of March years 7/8 went on a trip to Lyttelton to see the site where the Sail GP was being held with a behind the scene tour of where the boats were being put together and repaired by crew members and mechanics and also fun activities like making boats out of fibreglass and putting marbles in them to see how long they would hold.

WE'RE HARVESTING!

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?



Winter is nearly here and it can be hard to 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! 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 celebration days for girls). Keep an eye out on Facebook, our website, your local noticeboards and the e-mails from Jos for information on these.

All this said, I would love to hear of anything else you would like to see happening at your community centre – storytime for toddlers perhaps, board or card games, lectures/presentations, tech sessions - please let me know if there is something you would find interesting or supportive. Feel free to pop me (Jen) an e-mail anytime with ideas – hvcc.bookings@gmail.com.

Don't forget that the community centre is also 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. It always pays to book well ahead.

Our regular weekly schedule includes:

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) with any questions

Tradie Yoga

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

Contact Michele (mlaingphysio@gmail.com)

Te Reo Classes

Two separate courses -

Monday evenings 7.30pm – 9.30pm. Contact Sondra Pawhau-Bunt (sondrapawhau-bunt@hotmail.com)

Fortnightly on Tuesdays 3.30pm – 5pm. Contact Ali Bare (alison.bare@gmail.com)

Santosha Yoga with Breeze

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

Contact Breeze (yogawithbreeze@gmail.com)

Community Morning Tea

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

Contact Jen (hvcc.bookings@gmail.com)

Yoga for Teens

Wednesdays 5pm – 5.45pm: 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 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 or Jos heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com prior to ensure we can reserve a speaking slot.

Movement Rewired with Nicky

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

Contact Nicky (nickywoodwardnz@gmail.com)

Puppy / Dog Training with 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)

Celebration Day for Girls:

Alice Tabak runs these amazing one-day workshops that educate and empower girls about their menstrual cycle, body literacy, health, self-care and well-being. At this stage the next workshop at the Heathcote Valley Community Centre will be on Sunday 25th June. Groups are kept small so be sure to book your daughter in soon.

Contact Alice (cdg.alicetabak@gmail.com)

Sara's Message

Kia ora koutou,

When I first joined the Heathcote Valley Community Association many years ago, one of the ongoing issues was the safety of pedestrians and people cycling under Tunnel Road, especially with the off-ramps. So, it's exciting to see progress on the Heathcote Expressway major



Sara Templeton
City Councillor

cycle route that will provide safe travel options for those biking to The Tannery and central city. There's a footpath down Truscotts Road and a shared path from there in behind Ferrymead and I'm getting loads of positive comments from locals who are looking forward to it being complete. There will also be access from Scruttons Road, so children living down that end of the Valley will be able to hop on and bike safely up to school.

On another note – please support our local shops on Port Hills Road. It's been a really tough few years with disruption and roadworks and making an effort to use them will help enormously.

As always, please feel free to contact me or other community board members on issues.

Ngā mihi,
Sara.

Christchurch
City Council 

We would like to extend our thanks to the Christchurch City Council for their support in printing this magazine. This has helps us continue to support Heathcote, strengthen our relationships, remain a strong connected and engaged community.

Celebrating Matariki

By Liz Calvert

Heathcote Valley School - Te Kura o Te Tihi o Kahukura

Heathcote Valley School will be celebrating Matariki on Thursday 20th July from 5.30 - 7.30pm, and will involve shared kai (soup and bread), a range of Matariki related activities, and the opportunity to come together as families within our wider school whānau. This event is a collaboration between our Heathcote Valley whānau and the staff. Please contact Liz Calvert at lizc@hvs.school.nz if you would like to be involved as we have our Matariki planning hui coming up soon.

What is Matariki?

Matariki is the Māori name for the star cluster known as Pleiades. The full name is “Ngā mata a te Ariki Tawhirimātea – the eyes of the God Tawhirimātea”. It is also the name for the Māori New Year celebration. Matariki travels through the night skies during the year until the cold months when it disappears from the night sky for about 28 days. When it reappears, it is a signal that the Māori New Year has begun.

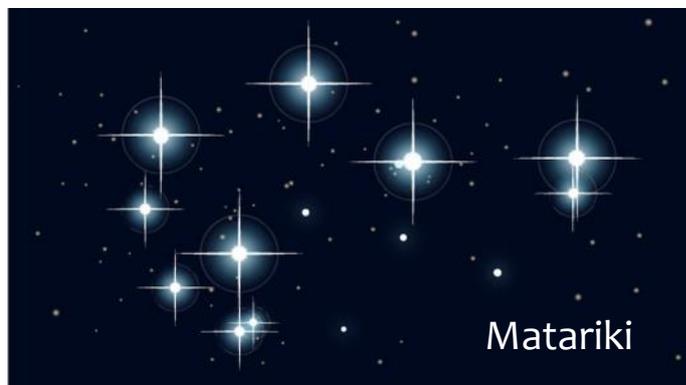
Matariki is a celebration of people, culture, language, spirituality and history.

Matariki occurred at the end of the harvest season. It was a time when storage houses (pātaka kai) were filled with food, and the land was at its most unproductive.

People gathered together during Matariki to survive the winter months, to remember the past and plan for the New Year. Matariki is a time for whānau, to remember those who came before us and the legacy they have left behind, and also to learn more about whakapapa (genealogy).

During this time songs were composed, tribal traditions and teachings were passed from one generation to the next, and plans were made for the approaching season and upcoming events.

Matariki was, and still is, a time to foster unity and the importance of family.



Different tribes celebrate Matariki in different ways.

In the past, it was a time to:

- ✦ Finish storing up food for the winter
- ✦ Create new woven clothes and baskets
- ✦ Remember our ancestors and listen to old tribal stories
- ✦ Learn about the natural world
- ✦ Learn to play string games
- ✦ Celebrate the coming year
- ✦ Make, decorate and fly kites

Some things we might do now at Matariki include:

- ✦ Have a celebration with friends and whānau
- ✦ Learn or do some weaving
- ✦ Learn about stars and see Matariki through a telescope
- ✦ Talk to people in our family about our family history and stories
- ✦ Fly kites
- ✦ Watch kapa haka performances.
- ✦ Learn about Māori origin stories and culture
- ✦ Give respect to the whenua (land) on which we live
- ✦ Learn more about how we can care for our Mother Earth Papatūānuku

Matariki Recipe

Grated Kumara Topped Chicken Bake



Take your oven bake to a new level with this Grated Kumara Topped Chicken Bake! Full of winter vegetables, this hearty dish is also an easy recipe, prepared and cooked in an hour.

Prep time: 10 mins

Cook time: 50 mins

Serves: 4

Ingredients

- 2 Tbsp butter
- 1 Tbsp oil
- 1 large orange kumara, grated
- 1 leek, bottom half, sliced thinly
- 4 cloves garlic, sliced
- 2 skinless chicken breasts, cut into 2cm pieces
- 2 tsp dried tarragon
- ¼ cup flour
- 1½ cups chicken stock
- 3 cups shredded silver beet
- Salt
- Pepper
- ½ cup grated Parmesan

Note: use gluten-free flour to make gluten free, use oil instead of butter to make dairy free.

Method

1. Preheat an oven to 180°C (160°C fan-forced).
2. Melt 1 tablespoon of the butter in a frying pan. Add 1 clove of the garlic and the grated kumara, cooking for 10 minutes until softened and lightly browned.
3. In a large pot, melt the remaining butter with the oil. Add the leek and remaining garlic, cooking slowly for 10 minutes.
4. Push the leeks to the side of the pot and add the chicken and tarragon, cooking for 5 minutes.
5. Stir through the flour for 2 minutes.
6. Add the stock, cooking until the mixture starts to thicken, then add the silver beet to wilt. Season mixture with salt and pepper.
7. Spoon the mixture into an ovenproof baking dish. Top with the browned kumara and sprinkle over the cheese.
8. Bake for 25 minutes until golden on top and bubbling hot.

Heathcote Community Sports Club



Having put the green 'to bed' for the winter, indoor bowls are now in full swing at the Heathcote Community Sports Club, and petanque continues in all weathers, barring torrential rain and snow!

Tuesday evening indoor bowls runs from 7-9pm, replacing twilight bowls. And, this year we are trialling Sunday afternoon indoor bowls for those who like to relax and spend time with friends alongside a little good-natured competition. We would love to welcome visitors and potential new members – as well as old members who we haven't seen for a while.

Petanque is proving increasingly popular, too, both on Sunday and Thursday mornings with record numbers attending, and enjoying a chat over tea and biscuits afterwards.

The Club's AGM is coming up on 11 June

Current playing times

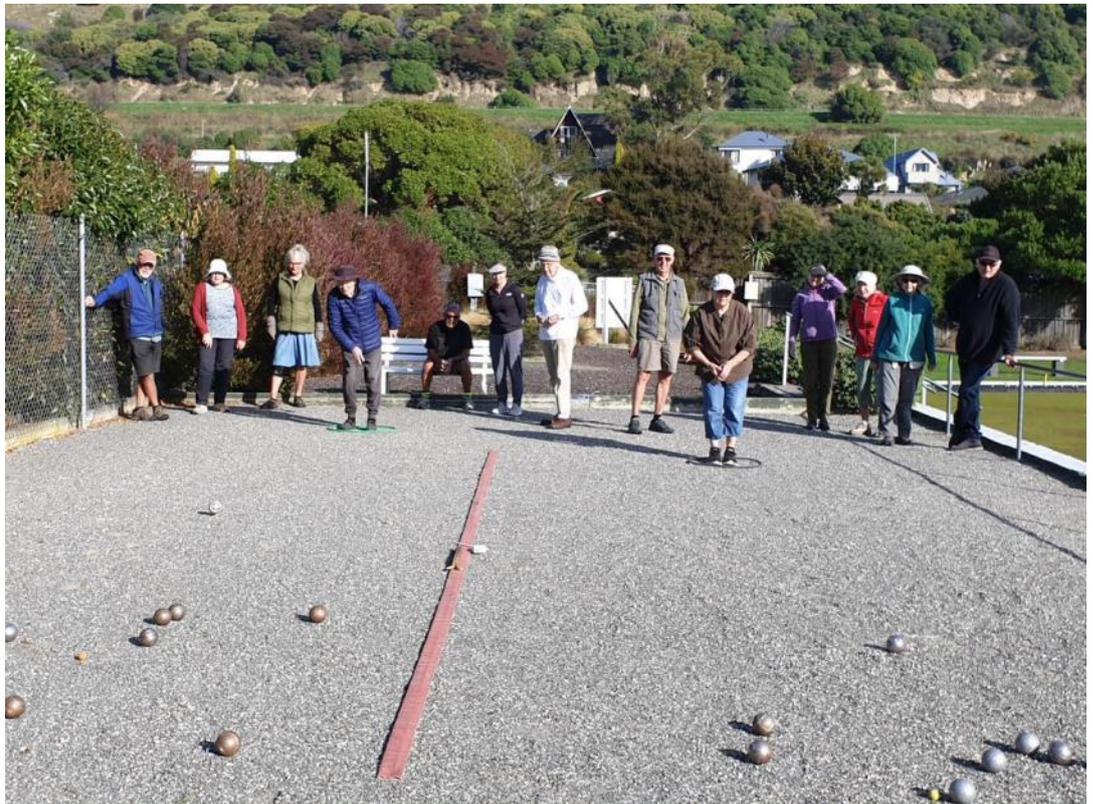
Indoor Bowls: Sunday 2pm to 4pm; Tuesday 7pm to 9pm

Petanque: Sunday and Thursday mornings 10am to 12 noon year round

The new member fee is currently at a reduced rate through to the end of September – now just \$45; social membership is \$20; or Pay and Play for only \$5.00 per session. All equipment is supplied and, if you are new to either game, there are experienced players on hand to give some coaching.

Please email the Secretary, Zella Askew, at heathcotecommunitysportclub@gmail.com with any inquiries, or telephone 021 521 707 (evenings).

Heathcote Community Sports Club, entrance off Bridle Path Road next to the Community Centre.



Heathcote Valley to Avoca Valley

Adventures with Nature

Green Projects— Winter 2023 Update

The following article by Malcolm Long first appeared on the Opawaho Heathcote River Network (OHRN) website – www.ohrn.nz May 2023. The theme of Malcolm’s article, “Port Hills Erosion” was something we alluded to in the last Heathcote newsletter. He further explores this topic below.

Port Hills Erosion

What would happen if Christchurch experienced a rain event such as that which Auckland or Gisborne recently endured? And what lessons are there to be learnt about Port Hills erosion?

It’s late February 2040. Residents of Christchurch have endured a miserable beginning to the year – it has rained so often that the hills are oozing water like a full sponge and the plains are pooled with storm water. And then, the forecast brings more bad news. An atmospheric river of rain is deflected by a blocking area of high air pressure and makes landfall over Christchurch. It drops five hours of rain over the already sodden Port Hills at a rate of over 50mm per hour.

The consequences are not pretty. On the upper slopes of the Port Hills, the highly erodible loess soils, already sodden, turn to porridge and begin to slide down the hill; slips merge and large parts of the slopes flow, overwhelming and blocking storm water facilities. Storm water, unable to be contained by its normal drains and pipes, breaks out new paths, flowing swiftly, worsening the erosion and finding the most direct path down the hill. That direct path is often through properties and even through houses themselves. House foundations not pinned to

underlying rock are undermined and the massive force of debris-reinforced mud pushes some of these houses down the hill onto adjacent and newer homes. Cars are swept into the melee to add to the weight and pressure of moving material.

At points on the lower slopes of the hills, the accumulation of storm water, mud, building materials, fences, bins and cars descending the steeper slopes causes a complete nightmare of piled-up and churned mud, wood, plant matter, metal, rubbish and random plastic objects.

The retention ponds in the headwaters of the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River, already half-full from recent rain, exceed their capacity within the first hour, the overflow causing the river to burst its banks. Before long, houses nearer the river are flooded, with rescues and retreat soon happening on a wide scale.

Before high tide slows the escape of waters into the estuary to back up the flood waters, let’s turn off the imagination: the picture is pretty clear.

This is an all-too-realistic scenario. But can the results of such a deluge be avoided? That will depend on what we do in the next fifteen years, always hoping that we have that long before we experience this. If we do



What large volumes of swift moving water can do to roading (Nelson 2022) or houses (Muriwai 2023)

nothing to lessen erosion risk on the hill, this is what will happen – we have already seen it happen in parts of the North Island.

While such a rainfall event will always have poor outcomes for many, at least some of the consequences could be mitigated by actions that are within our capacity if we act now.

- Through appropriate revegetation of the hills, we can reduce exposure of loess soils to overland water flows
- We can investigate, identify and armour likely overland flow routes, making sure that such flows will avoid buildings and critical infrastructure
- We can change land use to lessen exposure of loess soils
- We can make changes to and enforce higher building standards to reduce the impact of stormwater from residential homes and subdivisions on the hill
- We can improve the provision and capacity of stormwater infrastructure, and maintain it to higher standards so that is better able to cope with anticipated high rainfall events
- We can improve general awareness amongst residents of the hill suburbs so that each can contribute appropriately to the on-going maintenance and readiness of stormwater facilities, many of them privately owned and maintained



Participants in a recent workshop on erosion on the Port Hills discuss possible actions.

Everyone has a role to play but there needs to be motivation for action; recent rainfall events in the North Island have given us a poke and there are conversations now taking place. Just last week, sixty people representing a wide range of interested parties – iwi, Council, ECAN, Water Zone Committees, landowners, community groups and the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network – workshopped possible next steps to tackle the issue of erosion on the Port Hills.

One of the most important next steps that came from that workshop is for the City Council to take the lead in developing a Port Hills Plan – a plan that urgently draws together the combined knowledge of those who are already making a difference on the Port Hills. A Port Hills Plan will need to bring together the threads of revegetation/regeneration, erosion control, three waters, roading, biodiversity, pest management, forestry, farming and recreation. The plan will need adequate funding and urgency to be collaboratively written and then adequate funding and urgency for its implementation.

If the high rainfall scenario above eventuates, then having a fancy stadium and a rate rise below that of inflation will be something of a sick joke as we gaze on the visible remains of a silt-filled city wondering if it is possible to move it out of the swamp.

Malcolm Long

Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network

Malcolm is the secretary of the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network. He and his wife, Genevieve, also organise a community group looking to restore Farnley Reserve in Beckenham. Malcolm is a retired primary school teacher and administrator. He works tirelessly with the other members and groups of OHRN to promote the restoration of degraded biodiversity along the Opawaho Heathcote River.

Port Hills Erosion is one of the key reasons we are promoting planting projects in our valleys. Below are a number of opportunities to get involved with volunteer projects this season. Our vision is to restore continuous native forest to the eroded slopes and see healthy waterways and wetlands flowing in the valley floors.

If you would like to get involved with one of these projects just get in touch with the contact persons to see how you can best fit in or check out the planting days calendar below.

Bridle Path Revegetation Planting

Heathcote Community and CCC

by Tamsin Page

The last two years' plantings at the Bridle Path site are flourishing! This is so promising, with plenty of plants starting to get their heads above the surrounding weeds. This is in no small thanks to the awesome work and dedication of a couple of dedicated regular weeders/releasers – thank you, thank you!

It would be amazing if we could get some more people committed to giving an hour or two per week of their time to ongoing maintenance up at this site. We are adding 300 trees per year, so there is almost always a need for some tree 'releasing' – clearing the grass and weeds from around the planted trees, and laying them around the tree's base as a mulch – reduces competition from the weeds/grass, and helps retain moisture to the roots. You just need a small pruning saw, or a flax cutter/traditional Japanese garden cutter, to cut the grass/weeds at ground level. If you've been involved in planting these trees, you know where they are. If not, please get in touch and I can give you directions.

We have another 300 plants ordered for planting this winter. At this stage, pencil in the **2nd and 8th July** as planting days for this site – I'll confirm closer to the time.

Those involved in planting up here in the past know that planting on the steep site is made significantly easier by the pre-prepared planting spots. A huge effort is put in over the couple of months preceding planting, to prepare each spot – scraping away the grass and weeds, benching to create a flat spot, and loosening of the soil. Although this is very labour-intensive, it ensures most people, including children, are able to plant the trees successfully, meaning we have had really, really good survival rates up at this site.

This prep work is pretty physical, so definitely for the reasonably fit and strong, but an hour or two is an awesome work-out – great upper-body strengthening if you're a middle-aged woman like me! I made a start yesterday, and hope to fit in a couple of sessions per week if I can juggle it. We could definitely do with some

CALENDAR

Local Planting Days

Winter 2023

Sunday 28th May 9:30am-12.30pm

Linda Woods Reserve, Avoca Valley

Access through Duncan Park car park

Sunday 18th June 1:30pm-4:30pm

Linda Woods Reserve, Avoca Valley

Access through Duncan Park car park

Register via Summit Rd Society website for the above dates so we know how many people are coming and we can keep you posted on any changes.

<https://www.summitroadsociety.org.nz/reserves/linda-woods-reserve/avoca-valley-restoration/>

Saturday 24th June 1:00pm

Morgans Valley Reserve benching day.

Saturday 1st July 1:00pm

Morgans Valley Reserve planting day.

Sunday 2nd July Time to be confirmed

Bridle Path site planting day

Saturday 8th July Time to be confirmed

Bridle Path site planting day.

help with this (will be trying to do Birdsey Reserve as well, so around 600 spots to prep!), so if you can help, please get in touch. A mattock is the best tool for this job.

If you can help with the ongoing 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 or 027 642 3555

Birdsey Reserve

Heathcote Valley School - Sumner Girl Guides.

by Tamsin Page

The last couple of years' plantings across Birdsey Reserve are mostly doing well. A LOT of trees have been planted across this site over the past few years though, so keeping up with managing the grass and weeds around the trees, so they don't smother them, is a bit of a challenge. A local rangatahi has been quietly chipping away at this every week for the past year, as part of her Duke of Edinburgh community service component, but more hands would be helpful. Get in touch if you could help, or if you have or know of a local young person doing their Duke of Ed and need an idea for the community service component – this is a good one!

The City Council has agreed to install a pedestrian gate to the reserve, opposite Heathcote Valley School (HVS), as well as an additional stile to facilitate pedestrian access to the different areas of native re-generation without having to climb fences. This should make more regular visits to the Reserve by tamariki from HVS much easier.

We have approximately 300 trees ordered for planting at Birdsey this winter, and we are organising planting dates with the school – probably early in Term 3.

Parent help with these planting days is always appreciated, so keep your eyes out for notices if you are an HVS parent.

We will also be trying to do some planting spot preparation – scraping away the grass/weeds, benching a flat area, and loosening the soil – over the next couple of months. This makes the planting significantly quicker and easier for the tamariki, and consequently increases survival rates for the plants. It's physical but reasonably straightforward work – a good workout for an hour or two, and any help with this would be awesome – please get in touch.

If you can help with the ongoing 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 027 642 3555

“Field of Dreams” - Morgans Valley

by Callum Templeton



The last three months have been busy on the “Field of Dreams”. Releasing and watering plants has taken up most of the time. Finding plants in extremely tall grass has been a bit of a mission. In some places the original bamboo stakes have been replaced with taller orange tipped timber ones to make it easier to locate the plants.

The tall grass had smothered a few plants but once they were released, they have recovered and are continuing to grow, a few of the donated transplanted plants have died and have been replaced with other plants.

Most of the plants planted on our first planting day in March 2022 have doubled in size, these have had new cardboard weed suppressors put around them with more mulch to inhibit the grass from smothering them and allow the moisture to be retained.

The weather has been kind with a mix of hot and rainy days which has allowed the plants to thrive but also the weeds. It seems that within a week of releasing plants the weeds are back even stronger especially the fennel.

We will be looking to have a working bee soon to release some more plants, add cardboard suppressors and mulch.

It's great to see the plants peeking up amongst the grass and to see the piwakawaka flitting from tree to tree

If you are interested in helping at Morgan's Valley – Field of Dreams then please contact Callum Templeton by email - mngcallum@hotmail.com or cell phone 021 024 19742.

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## Duncan Park

*by John Marsh*

The regular Friday afternoon team will be planting approx. 450 new plants in Duncan Park this winter, but will spend most Friday afternoon sessions planting kanuka in Horotane Valley for the Summit Road Society. A number of corporate groups will help out on some of these days.

Anyone who is happy to spend a couple of hours on a Friday afternoon planting or weeding around our new plants, please contact John at [jmarsh@tree@gmail.com](mailto:jmarsh@tree@gmail.com) . If Fridays don't suit there will be other days we can arrange times to fit

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Morgans Valley Reserve

by Rachel Wells

It's that planting time of year again and we have started making plans and sourcing plants for Morgans Valley. Many thanks to the people who have watered and weeded over the warmer months. The plants are looking strong and beginning to grow above the long grass.

We have generously been gifted plants from **Tui Corridor** projects – a partnership between Meridian Energy and The Christchurch Foundation - and this year, Meridian Energy staff are involved in planting some of the trees.

We will be holding a community planting day on **Saturday 1st July** with the 'benching' preparation day the week before. The benching work is physically harder, and the ground is hilly and uneven so not for everyone.

If you would like to get involved we would welcome your support and please get in touch with Rachel Wells. rachel.wells.nz@gmail.com or 027 4 83 8026

Saturday 24th June - 1pm

Benching (preparation) of plantings sites

Saturday 1st July - 1pm

Community planting day – meet at Morgans Valley Reserve, 200m on left as coming into the valley. *Spade, gloves and drink bottle required.*

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## Heathcote-Ferrymead Saltmarsh

*Compiled from notes by Andrew Crossland - CCC*

The coastal bush plantings are looking good along the bund.....congratulations on all those who put the hard work in planting and releasing these.

In the new tidal flooded area, the natural regeneration and expansion of indigenous short-turf salt meadow is progressing. It's nice see that



Ake ake



Karamu



Fivefinger



Harakeke

*Young one or two year old plantings in Morgans Valley and Duncan Park.*

following the initial spread of *Sarcocornia* and *Cotula*, there's now a bunch of other plants colonising, especially *Selleria*.

It's also great to see the colonisation of estuarine snails, mud crabs, little flies, etc. A couple of eels were also seen venturing into the feeder channels.

Birdlife is fairly limited - herons, spur-winged plovers, pied stilts occasionally and kingfishers. That will improve over time. A lot of the bird action will occur at night - bittern, marsh crake, night/feeding waterfowl, etc.

A planting day was planned recently for the 31<sup>st</sup> May with local volunteers and the Conservation Volunteers Group to extend plantings along the bund at the saltmarsh edge.



*Salt marsh meadow 3 years on from first tidal inflow.*



*Edge plantings on the bund.*

## Linda Woods Reserve

*By Marie Gray – Summit Road Society.*

### Avoca Valley Planting Days

Our new plants at Avoca Valley are thriving. We are on track to plant a further 15,000 plants this year. By the end of this year, we expect to have planted a total of 50,000 plants since 2021! If you were helping us out with planting last year you need to come and check out how good they are looking.

Please join us for public planting days this winter on **Sunday 28 May and Sunday 18 June**. Register via our website so we know how many people are coming and we can keep you posted on any changes.

<https://www.summitroadsociety.org.nz/reserves/linda-woods-reserve/avoca-valley-restoration/>

Be prepared for a steep site.

### Horotane Valley Planting

We will be planting 3000 kānuka in Horotane Valley this year too, to help contain the gorse and lay the foundation for future plantings. These plants have been generously donated by Tim and Rachel Mundy, long term residents of Horotane Valley, keen to see bush revegetation in their valley keeping up with the Avoca neighbours. Kānuka is unpalatable to sheep so it is one of the few native trees that can be planted where sheep graze. The Summit Road Society's long term vision includes restoring native vegetation to the gullies of the Port Hills including wetlands, shrub lands and broadleaf-podocarp forest. Reforestation of the gullies will create ecological corridors, provide habitat for native fauna, reduce erosion and sedimentation, improve freshwater values, enhance community wellbeing, improve resilience to extreme weather events, sequester carbon and restore mahinga kai.

### Wednesday Work Party

A hardworking bunch of regulars meet on a Wednesday morning to undertake plant maintenance, planting, weed control and track work in the reserve. If you or your friends are interested in volunteering a few hours

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on a regular basis in return for fresh air, great views and camaraderie then please contact Graeme Paltridge, phone 384 3592 or graeme_sue@slingshot.co.nz



Gorse cover has gradually increased in Horotane in recent years.



The work party track building in the wilds of Avoca Valley.

Biodiversity Monitoring and Predator Trapping

With support from University of Canterbury students and ECAN, we are setting up a citizen science monitoring programme to monitor improvements in the stream corridor over time. We are also ramping up our predator control programme. Predator monitoring undertaken prior to Christmas showed moderate numbers of possums, hedgehogs, stoats and weasels. We will be progressively installing trap lines throughout the reserve. 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

Predator Free Port Hills Heathcote Valley

Have you seen media items about keen people around NZ trapping predators to protect biodiversity in their communities, and wondered how you can get involved? Perhaps you've seen some pests around your own property, and you'd like to get rid of them? Or maybe you just love seeing and hearing native birds when you're out for a walk, and you'd like to see more of them in your local neighbourhood?

Predator Free Port Hills can help, by providing you with a trap and advice to start trapping predators in your own backyard. This is an initiative of the Summit Road Society, and covers the urban fringe of the Port Hills, and the Lyttelton harbour basin. So far 1549 households have joined the project, 2134 traps have been deployed, and 10,396 pest have been caught! The Summit Road Society has a range of subsidised traps available for residents in the project area, targeting possums, stoats, weasels, rats, mice and hedgehogs.

If you'd like to get involved, sign up on the Predator Free Port Hills website (<https://www.predatorfreeporthills.org.nz/>), and contact Myles Mackintosh (heathcote@predatorfreeporthills.org.nz or 0211280113) for advice and trap purchases. If you're already trapping predators in your backyard, and not yet registered with Predator Free Port Hills, please sign up on the website. It's very quick and easy, and there are also lots of great resources and helpful tips for trapping. Once registered, you can map your traps and record your catches. This allows coordinators to see where people are trapping, and what they are catching, in order to identify areas that need additional effort.

Thanks, and good luck with your backyard trapping.

News from the Church of St Mary

By The Reverend Mark Sullivan, Vicar

The Christian Church, A Changing Landscape.

One thing the Christchurch earthquakes did, was to have us question our ongoing effectiveness as a Church of Jesus Christ. Initially the aims and objectives were to get up and running as soon as we could to ensure some semblance of order. (No doubt this is a familiar story as our family, private and business lives continued.)



Mark Sullivan, Vicar

One of the problems (and I think this was once again reflected in the COVID19 pandemic) is to determine what normal is? Life changing events do not allow us the certainty of a return to this normality that we often crave during times of disaster. I think many organisations (and the Anglican Church can be clearly identified in this) acted immediately without planning or considering what a new normal might be like.

Last week was Easter and of course, the principal Feast of the Church, the Feast of the Resurrection. Whether one follows the Christian truths (or not) humanity cannot deny the huge impact that this event nearly 2000 years ago had upon humanity. At the time of the first Easter, those closest to Jesus throughout his ministry, (the Apostles and Disciples) found that there was a new normal that disrupted the very understanding of what the previous normal was.

The Parish of Heathcote and Mt Pleasant owns two properties, one in Major Hornbrook Road and the other in Martindales and Truscotts Road corner. The Church of St Mary in Heathcote was marginally damaged by the quakes, whereas the Church of the Ascension in Mt Pleasant (and the Vicarage beside it) was severely affected. The Mt Pleasant site upgrade required (and this continues to this day) the parish to divert many thousands of dollars, beyond the insurance payout to ensure the ongoing viability and usability of this

premises. I think that in its haste to return to normal, little consideration was given to explore what a new normal might be.

It's easy to write with the glory of hindsight (although it may seem that's what I am doing) and suggest what might have been a better way forward. I congratulate the Parish Wardens, the Vicar and the Vestry of the time for their fine work and probably had I been the Vicar, I would have supported all the initiatives. However, we are several years down the track now and as the spiritual leader of the parish, it is timely that I lead us to re-evaluate all of our past performances, not just the disaster response.

As an example, I stopped saving my past sermons because after reading through a couple, I wondered how I could ever subject such good people to the amount of rubbish that I was presenting. However, my sermons are political, meaning that I pick up on what's happening in our daily lives to present a message of here and now. Looking back two or three years, we have all changed and I can no longer remember the environment that led me to preach such a message. Also, as I grow older, the family grows up, parochial decisions change as do our church lives and circumstances, we face new challenges and of course our understanding of God as represented through Jesus Christ changes also.

Such is the changing landscape of not only the Christian Church, but our lives as well. And the Church isn't stuck in a time warp. A journey into our worship services sees us using modern biblical translations that are deciphered from the oldest surviving texts; the liturgies that began from 1662, are continually being revised to reflect our identity as a People of Aotearoa/New Zealand. (I smile when people speak about themselves being Church of England (C of E). New Zealand stopped being C of E on 13 June 1857 when the constitution of the New Zealand Church was signed on the Altar in the Chapel of St George in Judges Bay in Auckland.) The

New Zealand Anglican Church was the first to ordain women to the priesthood, we were the first church to appoint a woman Bishop and we lead the Church world in supporting changes to LGBTQ issues.

When I was appointed Vicar of this parish, one of my remits (set by the congregation) was to lead the parish into this next part of the 21st century. This was quite a task. Clearly change was needed if we as an Anglican Community were to reach the 22nd. From the first AGM that I chaired came a motion that we rationalise our resources in Heathcote. This eventually saw us sell the vacant land beside the Church and invest the money into property. A couple of AGMs later, a motion was raised that we once again rationalise our resources to better represent the Church that the community needs, and that we sell one of our premises.

Both of these initiatives saw me receive some very hateful anonymous correspondence, the defacing of our signage and theft of our property. Yet both initiatives were well advertised before any decision was made and when finally put to a count, both were welcomed by 97% of our parishioners.

Having vacant land and buildings used every fortnight within 3km of each other in lieu of a vibrant community facing church, was not the intention of the early pioneers and parochial architects responsible for the formation of this parish. It is interesting that a call to re-evaluate our position and effectiveness in the community, came from the same group who saw to establish the community in the 1850s (Church of St Mary in Heathcote) and the 1920s (Church of the Ascension in Mt Pleasant). Not from the clergy, but from the people. And as the appointed leader, I am not able to undermine the very wishes of parishioners.

This year our Mt Pleasant property, the Church of the Ascension, the vicarage, the vacant land and the car park will be sold and we will focus our administration of the parish, from Heathcote. Moneys will be allocated into initiatives that will see this parish supported to reaching the goal of making the 22nd century. Community facing events, community leadership, community support and the furthering of the Christian Church in Heathcote and Mt Pleasant will continue in an unprecedented, vibrant and exciting way.

I can't speak for those who set the foundations for this church of St Mary (originally located on Bridle Path Rd), but I'm sure it was to build a premises that showed the world that God is present in this community, not one where the social needs of the community are lost to initiatives to pay insurances, compliance costs and ongoing maintenance of buildings. And this is what 97% of the people who worship here regularly, requested.

The Disciples gathered together in secret after the Resurrection, to try and understand what the new normal might be, and to make changes to accommodate that. This is the challenge for us in this parish of Heathcote and Mt Pleasant. Our haste is not to throw away that which is honoured, adored and accepted, but to build new foundations for the future. We are your Valley Church, and we are your Hill Church. We welcome your input as we act to hold on to that which is good and to look to what we might become.

As I alluded to earlier, there is clearly some confusion as to what we are trying to achieve and the way in which we are proceeding. If you are concerned and wish to know more, please contact me.

I invite you all to join us for worship on Sundays; 1st and third Sunday's in Heathcote and 2nd and 4th Sundays at Mt Pleasant. Services begin at 10am and are followed by refreshments at 11am.

The Reverend Mark Sullivan
Vicar Ph 027 475 9946

Craft Group

Heathcote Valley Craft Group meets on a Monday morning 10 am – midday at the community centre. We are a friendly group of women (we would welcome some men) who all enjoy doing some type of hand craft. We have a laugh, share a coffee and admire the talent of the folk who attend. There is always room for newcomers (first session is free). We pay \$3 weekly for hire of the centre and tea/coffee costs.

Come and join us!

Judy and Wendy

The Wonderful Stories and History of 112 Bridle Path Road

By Lyn Benfell

We purchased 112 Bridle Path Road in 1984 in this beautiful Heathcote Valley and have discovered its many stories.

Edwin Mouldey aged 9 arrived with his family aboard the Cressy in 1850. He became a successful speculative builder, confectioner, merchant and land dealer. In the early 1870s in bought a four hectare property on the eastern side of Heathcote Valley. There he built a house, planted fruit trees, plums, apricots, pears, peaches and grapevines.

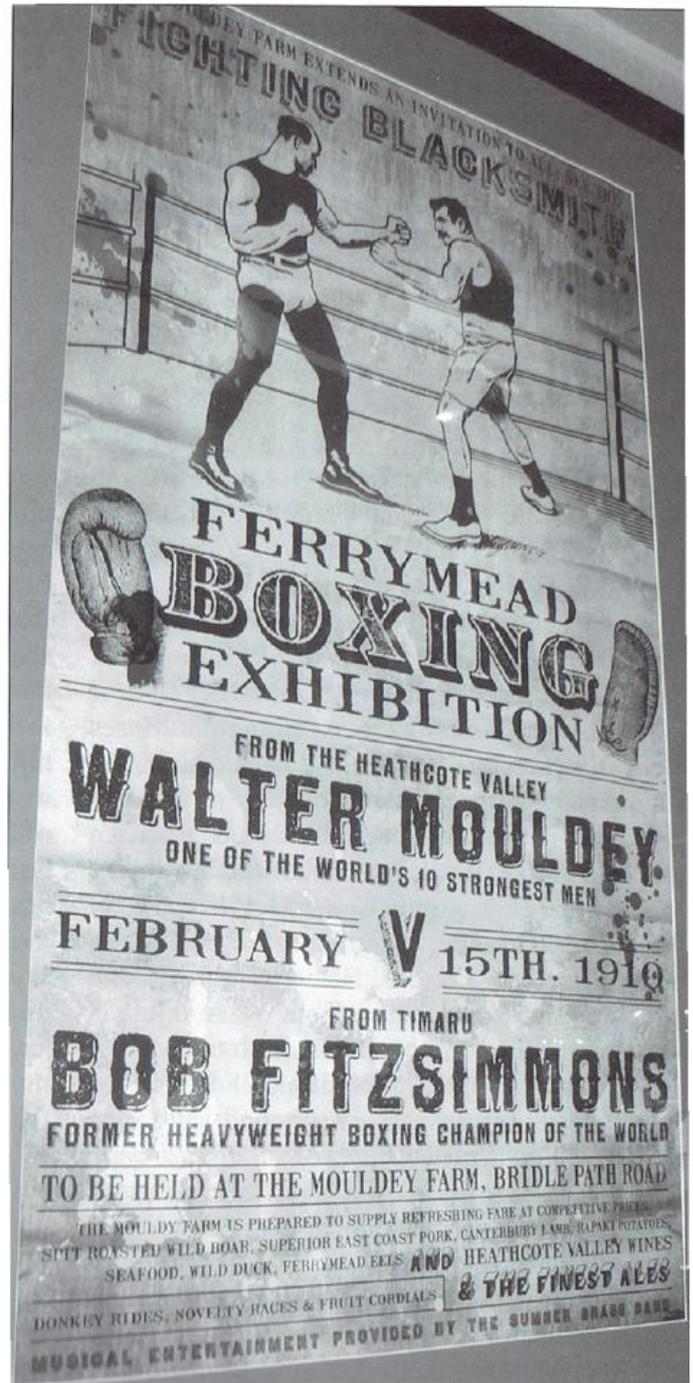
By 1872 Edwin was selling fruit wines from his Christchurch shop, the fruit being sourced locally. In 1878 he married Jessie Lander. They had five children including Walter. Prior to WW1 the vineyard became an important industry and its distillery was the only one in the South Island and remained until 1939. The equipment was then transferred further up the valley to Villa Nova owned by the Meyer brothers.

The orchard thrived and the fruit was packed and taken by dray to the Heathcote station and sent by rail to the market. The packing shed was a hive of industry; the fruit was packed mainly by women with the boss keeping a close eye on things. The pickers worked tirelessly to get the fruit picked while it was at its peak. Walter helped run the family farm.

Walter Mouldey was one of the World's 10 Strongest Men. He maintained his fitness by swimming against the current in the Heathcote river and running up and down the Bridle Path. Boxing held a fascination for him. He built a gym on the farm. It had all the equipment and visiting boxers trained there including Bob Fitzsimmons, former Heavyweight Boxing Champion of the World.

In 1910 Walter Mouldey and Bob Fitzsimmons staged an exhibition fight on the Mouldey Farm.

The Mouldey farm, determined to make it worthwhile, prepared an amazing selection of food at competitive



prices. Spit roast wild boar, East Coast pork, Canterbury lamb, Rapaki potatoes, seafood, wild duck, Ferrymead eels, and of course Heathcote Valley wines and finest ales. Walter probably supplied the wild boars turning on the spit as he hunted wild pigs on Banks Peninsula and the Port Hills. The Sumner Brass band was engaged

to supply the music. By all accounts it was a very successful day.

Even the children were catered for with donkey rides, novelty races and fruit drinks.

Walter wrote four books under the pseudonym of Main Royal. Most of the stories are



of his experiences at sea during what was the transition period of sail to steam. After lengthy periods at sea he would return to the valley, carry out work on the farm and scour the slopes, rock crevices and caves for Maori artefacts.

Water was always a problem as the farm relied on rainwater. This was stored in large concrete tanks one of which, although incomplete, remains up the hill. At times water had to be carted for stock and the household.

On the valley floor water could be found at a shallow depth. An old well digger said he thought water could be found and encouraged Walter and his Dad to give it a shot.

There were many sceptics, Doubting Thomases in the valley.

The well was to be six foot square with the sides boarded up. It was all pegged out and digging began. Walter and his mate were soon six foot down through the soft soil and clay. A windlass was then rigged up with a very substantial brake. A ten gallon drum was lowered on a rope, filled and hauled up. Two men manned the windlass. Well digging stopped at 5 pm. As always there were farm chores, after which a hot shower was welcome.

The diggers were exceedingly pleased with their two days effort but found the cramped working area hard to get used too. Regular trips to the top for a smoke and eats helped with this. The Mouldey women were

all good cooks. The first setback the diggers encountered was a large rock. Fortunately it was able to be broken up into manageable pieces. Excitement when reaching 20ft with the discovery of fossilized moa bones, four pieces leaving a puzzle. Where were the rest of the bones?

The digging continued until a large rock blocked the way. This one required blasting. Once the smell of the explosion dissipated they discovered the shot had done a great job.

It was not all digging. Periodic days were spent in the vineyard and winery. At certain times of the year the distillery was in action under the supervision of the local custom authorities. When in operation it was a day and night job lasting about a week. The distilled spirit was 58-60 overproof run into casks and put in the custom bond attached to the distillery and sealed.

It was recognised that to finish up the job in a fit and proper manner all hands should shout for one another and anybody else who happened to be about. There was a great selection of wines, old, mature, medium, young, red and white, sweet and dry. Each person selected a wine and everyone had one with them. As selections progressed so did the moods happy, gay, earnest until "don't give a damn" stage. At this stage Walter became a Māori chief with a huia feather tied round his head (which came from a turkey). His mate was a Roman emperor with a small wine funnel upturned on his head with a white lily sticking out of the top (the sign of a blameless life). The engineer was a cross between a Beefeater and a Mexican bandit. The other member was just himself with his eyes popping. The last drink was to be one on the house of the lately distilled spirit 60 overproof. A toast was performed to one another and down it went. It was said it would make a gargle for a rhino. High jinks then occurred and it was decided to inspect the well a Māori chief, a Roman emperor and a Mexican bandit. It was agreed more refreshments were required but it came from a different source. The family were bringing down tea and edibles. Four silly looking mutts, a Māori chief, a Roman emperor and a Mexican bandit were all having a day off. The Roman emperor decided it was up to him to pour the tea. Although a lot of cups were spread out, where he poured there were none. Later

all wandered off—one down the drive, the Māori chief to his boyhood tree hut and the Roman emperor to a tent beside the Matipo trees.

After the high jinks of the day before well digging recommenced. Have to wonder what their heads felt like. Just about knock-off time moa stones were discovered. No skeleton bones only the stones. The moa swallowed these small stones the same as a hen swallows grit. The Moa bird a most intriguing study. Bones were found 20ft from the surface then stones another 20ft down. How many million of years had gone by between the bones and the stones?

Interest was shown by the villagers who would come by to watch the operation, most believed water would not be found. One person who came by was an old well digger, Jimmy. He suggested the use of a small donkey engine which made the work much easier for the men on top. After observing for a day or two Jimmy noticed moisture in the contents of the buckets coming to the top. His advice to the diggers was to dig a small hole as deep as possible in the middle and leave it till tomorrow. Jimmy had been a bare-knuckle fighter in his day and had lots of stories to entertain the diggers after they finished for the day. All were up early to see the results but Jimmy had beaten them, there was water in the hole. Now, as Jimmy said, it would be two buckets of water to one of mud. A very hard day for the diggers. They were covered in mud and occasionally a bucket of water cascaded down on them. Walter then had an idea: why not tunnel the job at the bottom? So they worked under the sides of the well making a reservoir.

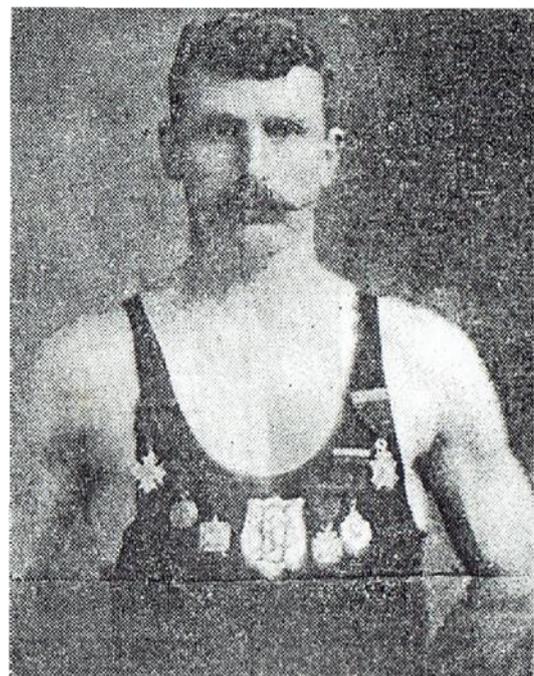
The news was heard in the village, most of the comments were “its only a fluke”. The Mouldley family were delighted and even Walter’s dad didn’t object to a little drink. The next job was to box the sides in. This was done with jarrah timber which will stand indefinitely under water. Cages were made and lowered on top of one another until the sides were completely boarded in. The artesian well sinker who loaned the donkey engine was sure that artesian water would flow to the bottom of the well. It would not rise higher. If this was so the farm would have an endless supply of water. A pipe was driven down 150ft from the diggings where a stratum of water was found. A pump was fixed immediately over the water and a 13 horse

power Campbell engine was used to pump the water to the top tanks to be gravity fed to the land below. There was now a continuous supply of water for the distillery when in action. The well diggers were given a well earned holiday.

Shortly before 1914 the orchard was sold to the Booths, Joseph and his son Cyril. They planted more stone fruit and sold it on to Fredrick Taylor. During these changes Walter leased the winery.

When the First World War broke out New Zealand didn’t enter the fray swiftly enough for Walter. He paid his own way to the UK and joined up there serving with the Lancashire Fusiliers. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant but was badly gassed in France. He was shot through the chest and also suffered leg injuries from shell splinters. Only his superb physique and dauntless spirit saved him. He was twice mentioned in despatches for “gallant and distinguished service in France” before being invalided home.

Walter continued to produce wine for blending from Californian grapes until 1939 when he retired. Such an amazing man, an orchardist, a wine maker, a well digger, a boxer, a sailor, a soldier and last but not least a writer whose books are now collectors items I am told.



Heathcote Valley Library

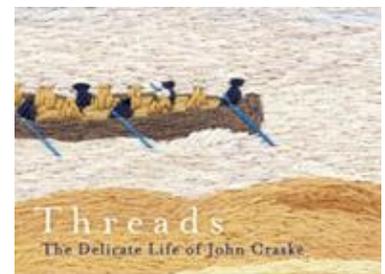
Located at the Community Centre, Bridle Path Road

Tamariki, Children, Kids, Nippers We have children's books to suit all tastes. Enlarge their vocabulary, enhance their learning and fire their imagination. There are no downsides to books. The library has a large collection of children's fiction and non-fiction for ages 0 - 12. Bring the kids in, join them up if they're not currently members. Membership and book loans are free!! We'd love to see them and bring the magic of books to your family.



Librarian's Choice . . .

"Threads" by Julia Blackburn. An exquisitely written memoir of the author's own journey while searching for memories of, and embroideries and paintings by, John Craske, a Norfolk fisherman who suffered prolonged periods of "stupor" who created now almost forgotten works of art. A moving and elegiac read.



If popular books are out on loan, you can order them.

Just call in to the library

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

The Battle of Hillsborough

By Barrie Woods

This started out as an article about how Butts Valley came to be named, but along the way I discovered a rich history of military activity in our area. In fact, I learned that back in 1865, on December 20th, a battle between 400 soldiers took place in Avoca Valley. On that day men clambered across the slopes, volleys of rifle shots rang out across the valley and the air was filled with the acrid tang of powder. Who would believe it!

We'll get to Butts Valley soon, but first I need to tell you about what happened at Avoca Valley. Known as the 'Battle of Hillsborough' the confrontation was widely reported in the newspapers of the day and reminisced about by the participants for many years to come.

The 'battle' was actually part of the 'Christmas Encampment', an exercise for volunteer soldiers from the local districts. It was held on the property of George Holmes, the proprietor of Holmes & Co, the company which held the contract for building the Lyttelton Railway Tunnel. He owned most of the land around Avoca Valley at the time.

Around 350 volunteer soldiers took part in the 'Christmas Encampment' which began on December 18th. This was the second such event, another having been held the previous Easter and was reported as the 'Easter Encampment'. The Easter Encampment was very much a social affair and was paid for by the volunteers themselves, whereas the later Christmas Encampment was funded by the provincial government and became a regular occurrence for a number of years.

The was camp set up in the lower reaches of Avoca Valley, towards the west. On the east side was Mr George Duncan's farm (now Mary Duncan reserve). The area had been sown in meadow and was most suitable for the erection of tents. A large mess tent capable of

accommodating up to 400 men was erected, along with a number of other buildings for officers' accommodation, sanitation, equipment storage, stables and a powder magazine. The exercises mostly took place the upper part of the valley with rifle targets being erected on the steep flanks to the west.

At the time this was a major event in the town and many of the locals turned up to watch the war games. In fact, a public holiday was declared. On the Friday afternoon there was a parade through Christchurch to the railway station, and the various companies were



The 1865 Volunteer Encampment

transported by train to the Hillsborough Station. This station was a platform especially erected for the occasion and was located at what is now Chapmans Road.

Heathcote sent the No 8 Rifle Volunteer Company to the encampment. George Holmes was the captain of the No. 8s and many of the men were tunnel workers. Their guns had not yet arrived, so instead they used metal fence standards as mock weapons.

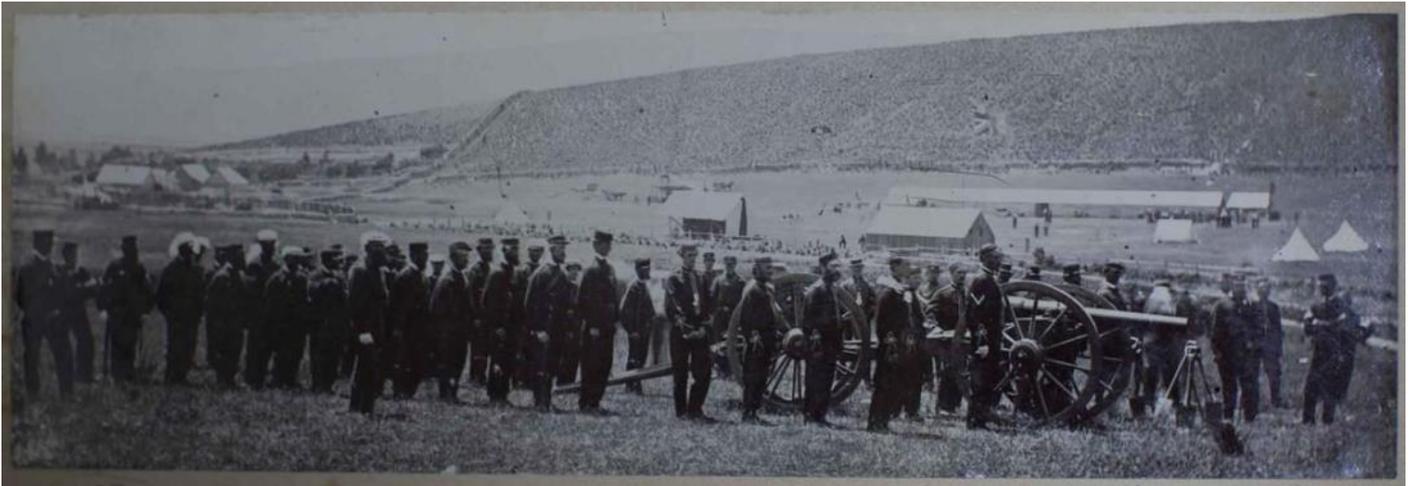
The exercises began at daybreak on the Saturday morning with an energetic drill followed by various rifle

shooting competitions throughout the day, for which monetary prizes were awarded. The Heathcote Regatta was also held on this day and a number of the men left the camp for the day to take part in activities organised at the river.

Sometime after lights out on the Saturday night the alarm bugle was suddenly sounded. The camp was under attack. Rockets were fired lighting up the night sky and every man was roused from bed to defend the

arriving soon after 10am. There was some doubt as to whether this would eventuate as an important part of the gun (the vent-piece) had been lost and prevented firing, but fortunately a replacement was found in time.

The Armstrong gun was the showpiece of the Lyttelton Battery. It was the largest of its type in the district and received much attention at practice shootings. Earlier in the year, on May 24, the battery fired a Royal Salute



The Lyttelton Volunteer Artillery Battery with their Armstrong 12-pounder

camp. Rifle fire was exchanged with the enemy (blanks of course) and eventually the attackers were sent packing down the road towards Christchurch. It turned out the attackers were from Engineer Company and had withdrawn from camp under cover of darkness to carry out a well-planned night attack.

Sunday, as was the custom at the time, was observed as a day of rest. There was a church parade in the morning and the Anglican Bishop (Bishop Harper) came out from town to solemnise at Divine Service, then after lunch a Congregationalist minister (Rev. J W Habens) took another service. It seems the weather was hot and there were several cases of fainting in the ranks. On top of that, the water supply was not good, and several cases of diarrhoea were reported. During the rest of Sunday, the troops were entertained by their various bands, military music being an important part of the tradition.

On Monday a mock battle was planned. The Lyttelton Volunteer Artillery Battery hauled their 8 cwt (400 Kg) Armstrong 12-pounder (a 3-inch rifled breech-loading field gun) all the way from Lyttelton, via Evans Pass,

to mark Queen Victoria's birthday. Then the gun was returned to the safety of the Drill Shed, but about 9pm that evening, Lyttelton was rocked by a loud report. The drill instructor and another member of the battery, who had been celebrating, had taken the gun out of its shed and fired a shell which hit the barque Catherine, lying at anchor. The shell damaged the vessel's bulwarks, passed through the cabin and narrowly missed the captain. Court appearances and dismissal from the service followed promptly.

There was great fanfare as the gun arrived at the Hillsborough camp, complete with a tumbril for the ammunition and a team of horses. The Battery were dressed in an elegant uniform consisting of a blue Garibaldi jacket with a scarlet collar and silver braid, blue trousers with a scarlet stripe, white buckskin gloves, Wellington boots and a pillbox hat. They must have looked impressive.

After its arrival and appropriate ceremony, the gun was taken high up onto the western side of the valley where the Engineers Company were charged with building a protection for it.

The Engineers and No. 3 Company joined with the Lyttelton Artillery to defend the gun, and the rest of the men were to form an attack. Soon after 1:00 the troops were given their orders and combat was commenced by the Engineers who sent out two companies of skirmishers to open fire upon the Cavalry, who were then ordered to charge. Battle was under way!

In all there were almost 400 men taking part on the Sunday, so you can imagine the 'battle' was quite spectacular. Guns were fired, fence stakes pointed, prisoners taken, and bugles blown, along with much cheering and jeering. The grass on the slopes was slippery and many a man took a tumble. All the time the artillery kept the Armstrong firing, keeping a volley of a round every 14 to 20 seconds, putting on a great show for the spectators who had turned out to watch. Eventually however the gun was 'taken', and the battle won.

"Three cheers were then given for the Queen, and three for Major White, and the Companies were marched to their quarters, where three more cheers were given for the officers commanding companies."

The event was however not without incident or injury. The next day the Lyttelton Times reported:

"We regret to state that several casualties happened during the review. The men were so impetuous that nothing would restrain their ardour. The skirmishers were driven in by the Cavalry as if it were a duty to ride over them; the skirmishers in return poured in blank cartridge, as if they were defending their lives with musket balls; the charges were made with the bayonet, as if the enemy were really to be mown down out of the way; and prisoners were captured by main force, and even resisted capture, as if it were not in orders that they were to be defeated. With all this, a pretty list of casualties was soon run up. We can state the worst of them."



An Enfield rifle similar to those used by the NZ Volunteers.
Enfield Pattern 1856 Rifle Musket (2-Band), circa 1860, Enfield, by Royal Small Arms
Factory. Gift of Walter L Buller, date unknown. CC BY-NC-ND 4.0. Te Papa

A number of the casualties resulted from wads from blank cartridges being shot at short range and there were several twisted ankles along with various cuts and bruises. Some of the injuries were more serious.

"Private Lloyd, of the Engineers, received a very bad cut across the lips, which laid one open, and knocked out some of his teeth. This is a serious wound, on account both of the actual damage done, and of the disfigurement."

Private Mackenzie, of No. 2 Company, sustained a very peculiar accident. His lower lip was cut across just above the chin, with a wound about two inches long and three quarters of an inch deep. From this was extracted a bent piece of sheet brass or copper, about the same size as the cut."

The Lyttelton Times summed up the injury toll thus:

"It was a singular circumstance that not a single man among those hurt seemed to care the least about his injury, but professed a perfect willingness to do it all over again. Drs. Nedwill, Fisher and Frankish, who are, or have been, attached to the Volunteer 1 Corps, were on the ground, and gave their attendance assiduously to the different cases. We have rather dwelt upon these accidents, because they form a feature in a field day which the Volunteers will do well to omit for the future. They will be wise to moderate their ardour in pursuit and defence."

I'm not so sure that Private Lloyd or Private Mackenzie would have agreed, but maybe they were in no fit state to give their opinion. I can't imagine such a toll being tolerated at an exercise these days, but times were very different then. It appears however, that there was a fair measure of enthusiasm amongst the men that had not been anticipated, and consequently things got a little out of control.

Several other encampments were held at the Hillsborough site in subsequent years, until George

Holmes sold his land. None, however featured a battle of the likes of 1865, the over-exuberance of the day was not to be repeated. In the time between the camps the targets were used for rifle practice and competitions, and the land was used

for grazing. Mr Duncan, the neighbouring farmer, had issues with his stock being shot on occasion and this may well have limited the use of the property outside of the encampments.

In 1871 the Canterbury Rifle Association leased a portion of land in Horotane Valley from Major Hornbrook. The lease continued under a new owner, Mr R N Morten, after Major Hornbrook went bankrupt and was forced to sell. The Rifle Association set up their butts and targets in time for their annual Easter meeting in 1871.

The shooting area was at the bottom half of the valley, on the east flank. This portion of the valley therefore became known as 'The Butts' due to the location of the shooting butts, and in later years has become known as 'Butts Valley', though in effect it is really a portion of the larger Horotane Valley rather than a valley in its own right. A better name might have been 'Butts Spur'. So that is how the name 'Butts Valley' originated – there was no 'Mr Butts' for it to be named after, and no association with bottoms whatsoever.

The Rifle Association was credited with contriving a special target known as "The Coming Man". It consisted of a caricature of a man which could be moved by means of pulleys and ropes. Apparently, the target could be rotated into view at which time marksman needed to aim and shoot as many rounds as possible before it disappeared again. Competitors would pay one shilling for a one-minute turn and those who managed six points or more would take a share in a prize pool at the end of the day.

When the Avoca Valley site was no longer available for the volunteer encampments, they moved to Horotane Valley for a few years. These events utilised a much larger part of the valley. For longer ranges (900 yards) the marksmen would shoot from Harrison's farm across Port Hills Road, and red flags would be flown to stop any traffic. The 1890 encampment attracted a total of 464 men, so these were big affairs for the time.

The Butts Valley rifle range was used up until 1898 when the land was acquired by the crown to build the Pawaho Village, which was to be a housing development for Lyttelton workers (as it was close to the railway line). The last volunteer camp was probably in 1894. After that the Volunteer Movement petered

out and in 1909 was replaced by the territorials. The Heathcote No. 8 Company was officially disbanded in 1910 although the Canterbury Rifle Association continued on as a social sporting association and moved its base to a range at Redcliffs. There is still a Canterbury Rifle Association in existence to this day.

As you can imagine, with so many rounds being fired on a regular basis, there were a large number of spent bullets and casings to be found in both the Avoca and Horotane valleys. In the early years no doubt many young boys enjoyed fossicking for them and quite possibly there are still some to be found today.

If you are interested in finding out more, check out the chapters about Horotane and Avoca valleys in Gordon Ogilvie's book "The Port Hills of Christchurch". Although out of print, the local City Council Libraries have several copies available to borrow.

Sources for this article:

Papers Past

Christchurch City Libraries

Te Ara—The Encyclopaedia of New Zealand

The Port Hills of Christchurch, Gordon Ogilvie

Te Papa Tongarewa—Museum of New Zealand

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 **Saturday 12 August**.

Enquiries and contributions should be sent to:
heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com

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: 03-1369-0182187-00

Please use the following codes:

Particulars: Donation

Code: Your family name

Reference: Your address

Queries: Heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com

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.

- 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.