

Community Magazine

Autumn 2025



The cusp of autumn in a Heathcote garden

An Autumn Message from our Community Coordinator

Over December and January I enjoyed a wonderful family oriented summer holiday and became accustomed to the joys of my grandchildren waking me early, exploring the beaches and local walks, adventuring on the west coast, tramping in the rain and swimming in remote rivers. The joys of summer holidays.



Jocelyn de Kort

As I look at my family all together, I feel proud of them and can sit back, relax and learn new ways from the next generation, grow from that and enjoy life. Sounds idyllic, which it is but as in nature there are seasons. I am slowly adjusting to the transition from the season of summer into autumn, and beyond holiday mode to the present.

Here in Heathcote, autumn is beginning to occupy a rhythm into the days, as nature transitions to shorter daylight hours. The mornings are darker and the weather is cooler, amongst some crazy super hot days of 31 degrees.

Autumn is a wonderful time of colour change from bright vibrant colours, to the more subdued greens, yellows, rust reds and browns, which are beginning to show on many of the trees in the Heathcote area.

Our community and personal gardens are at their peak, and ready for their abundance of fruit and vegetables to harvest. My pear tree was laden with a massive amount of fruit, this year which in the past, would have been bottled, but this season I have been putting the excess fruit onto the community share table at Station Road, next to our local art gallery shop. I've also taken the liberty of collecting courgettes, lemons, black peaches and other organic goodies from the share table. Thank you so much to the community for sharing, and to Andrew Lyons who had the original idea, about twelve years ago, and made it happen. It's a great asset to the community.

If you have some community ideas or concerns, come along to one of the Heathcote Valley Community

Association meetings, held on the first Thursday of each month at the community centre on Bridle Path Road. Everyone is welcome and it's always great to have fresh creative and new ideas.

Feel free to contact me for more information at - heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com or Jen at - hvcc.bookings@gmail.com

There are many other local events on the go at the moment at our local community centre such as te reo classes, yoga, craft group, puppy and dog training sessions. On Wednesday mornings there's a free community coffee catch-up for everyone, with the most delicious homemade hot cheese scones. I've become a little addicted to those lavishly buttered cheese scones, alongside meeting some wonderful, talented and interesting locals in the community. It's a great way to connect and make a few new buddies.

Some other great connections and gathering spots are at our local St Mary's Church with a regular Sunday morning service, the sports club with monthly games evenings, petanque and both outdoor and indoor bowls. There's also the Heathcote Riding School, Pilates, the Valley Inn, UpShot and Silos Cafe, the local dairy and Spice Hub, the Indian food outlet.

We also have a fantastic community library, stocked full with up to date and interesting reads. At the moment there is a kids' event to colour or design a library poster, running until the 31st March. Winners will be notified by the 11th April, the prize being a \$25 book voucher. Check out further details on a poster in this magazine and on all the school and community notice boards.

Alongside this there are lots of green fingered hard working volunteers very busy planting and nurturing native regrowth on the local hills, valleys, riverbanks and foreshores, making our community and natural environment a better place for us and native wildlife to inhabit.

Thank you so much to you all. The fabulous magazine contributors, all the incredible community volunteers and wonderful community as a whole.

Enjoy the read and stay in touch.

Jocelyn

HEATHCOTE COMMUNITY VALLEY ASSOCIATION

For this magazine I've decided to give a summary of what we've been up to in the Heathcote Valley Community Association.

Much of what we do is behind the scenes, and what we love most is to support you, our amazing community to connect, get involved, and make things happen that are important to you.

That said, it's important we give you a window into what we're up to now and again.

Our vision is to promote the individual and collective wellbeing of the people in the Heathcote Valley, and to build resilience in the face of challenges. The HVCA does this by facilitating opportunities for all those living in Heathcote to be an engaged, connected, and an empowered community with a strong sense of belonging.

There are eight objectives that guide what we do, which I'll outline below. Under each I've given an example or two of what we've done recently.

1. The Heathcote Valley Community Centre is a hub for community connection

Many of you know our amazing Jen Saunders. She does amazing mahi creating many opportunities to connect, engage, and learn at our fabulous community centre. You'll find some details of what's in the regular schedule later in this magazine, and can keep up to date with the huge range of events via our google group email site, or facebook page.



*Sooze Harris
Chair HVCA*

Additionally this space is available for you to use. Whether it's for a community orientated gathering, personal event, or a work event. We have different payment schedules for each purpose, so get in touch with Jen for more information. hvcc.bookings@gmail.com

2. The Heathcote Valley community is always kept well informed of relevant news and we can quickly connect if urgent need arises

This is an ongoing priority for us. It's hard to connect as a community if we can't communicate. Early on in our evolution as a committee we set up a bunch of different ways for you all to communicate. Jocelyn de Kort, our community connector, works to keep these different methods up to date and relevant. Currently you can find out what's happening on six community notice boards around the valley, via the Heathcote email group, on facebook, and of course via our quarterly magazine. To join the Heathcote information email group contact Jocelyn at heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com

3. The Heathcote Valley community is supported and empowered to take action

As I said earlier, we work hard to support and facilitate you to take action about what you want to see or have a voice on in our community. A recent example is the cycleway protest action late last year. I wrote about this in the last magazine, but here's a peel back to show you a little of what we were doing behind the scenes.

The HVCA committee beavered away in the background to liaise with Sara Templeton, our

local City Councillor, to work out what would be the most effective community action. Together we organised a dedicated verbal submission space to get our voice in front of the council, coordinated a group of adult and student residents to speak and facilitated the group to prepare effectively for their submission, scoped out interest in a cycle protest, worked closely alongside a couple of residents to support them to take a lead in the process of making the cycle protest happen, supported with background administration including online, written coms, advertising and a petition and liaising with media outlets to increase profile of the protest ride.

4. The Heathcote Valley Community Association is financially solvent at all times

This is an ongoing challenge for any community organisation and two of our committee members work hard on this. We rely on funding from council, and a range of philanthropics.

5. The Heathcote Valley Community Association honour our tangata whenua and Te Tiriti o Waitangi

This is an area we've been investing in over the last few years. We've done a lot of work to upskill and increase our knowledge as a committee, supporting ongoing learning opportunities for te reo in the valley. We look for ways to inform and equip you with knowledge, through the way we facilitate community meetings and through articles in our magazine. This year we are in the process of organising some opportunities for people to learn more about the history of this country and of Te Tiriti, something that most of us over the age of 25 or 30 won't have received a lot of in our schooling years. We are also actively developing a relationship with Rāpaki Marae as our closest geographic marae.

6. The Heathcote Valley Community feels prepared and confident in our ability to

respond to unplanned events and emergencies

We have taken quick action and offered information and support over the last few years when we have had unexpected events such as fires, covid, and of course the earthquakes, where we coordinated significant community connection and action under the name Heathcote Village Project. And as we all know, this community is so fabulous that people just get on and help each other when needs arise.

This year as a committee we want to prioritise developing our community emergency preparedness. At this stage it is likely we will build on previous evening education sessions we've facilitated, around fire safety, and crime safety, especially about such things as AF8 - the 'alpine fault magnitude eight' preparedness. Additionally we are looking to gather residents together who are interested in looking at what specific actions we might take to prepare for and respond to emergencies. This might look like investing in neighbourhood support, looking at what resources we have available in the valley, considering where and who might run a drop in, informal centre for people displaced from their homes needing support, or needing resources in an emergency. If you are interested in being involved please be in touch with Jen at hvcc.bookings@gmail.com or Jocelyn at heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com

7. Community groups are connected and work for a common good

As need arises we look at how we can actively support the many groups and organisations that create amazing opportunities in our valley. In the last few weeks we organised and facilitated an evening to celebrate and thank all the many people working in 'greening the hills' space, both in Heathcote and around the hills to Sumner. We arranged for Green MP Lan Pham to attend an evening to hear from these individuals and groups, and encourage and

connect them with the wider national narratives around the environment. We had a fabulous turn out of around 20 people, and were inspired by their amazing mahi. Many new connections, sharing of information and resources were seeded, over a lovely spread of drinks and nibbles.

8. **All community members feel seen, cared for and have a sense of wellbeing**

There are a range of things we do in this space to Manaaki, 'to care for, cherish, welcome, support and encourage our community'. One of the most obvious ways we do this is by providing beautiful welcome bags with a bunch of goodies in them to new members of our community. As I said at the start, we're not about making it all about us, but instead are all about wanting to see you make connections with each other, and feel belonging and cared for. So, the idea with the welcome bags, is that you obtain them from the community connector, Jocelyn, add some flowers, vegetables, baking or the like, then you give the filled bag to your new neighbour as a little token of connection and welcome, to develop your link with them.

Updating and developing the 'share table' is also on our agenda as we realise how challenging it is for some in our community to make ends meet. Please get in touch if you're interested in developing this.

Finally, thank you to our fabulous volunteer committee who weave together all the mahi above. You are very much appreciated, John Marks, Jan Marks, Ali Baré, Sue Henery, Jackie Foulkes, Barrie Woods, Hannah Watkinson, Jocelyn de Kort, and Jen Saunders.

Ngā mihi nui,

Sooze Harris

Chair of HVCA committee

HEATHCOTE VALLEY

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Heathcote Valley Community Association committee is updating our constitution to keep in line with the requirements of the new legislation of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. There have been a lot of changes since the 1908 Incorporated Societies Act. The new constitution does not change the general feelings of the constitution but adds some new layers of legal requirements.

Because of this, there are changes to the membership requirements of the Association. The new act requires us to have a membership register. Minimum membership numbers are required by the Act to keep our association eligible to continue as an Incorporated Society.

This also means that only registered members are eligible to vote at any Association meeting or able to be nominated to be an officer of the committee at the AGM.

To facilitate this requirement an Application for Membership form will need to be completed by any individual wishing to apply for membership. Copies of membership details are kept confidential. This information will only be used so the Association can keep members informed of important meetings or updates that members need to know about and is not shared with any other party. There is also no financial requirement or subscription to become a member of the Association.

Copies of the **Membership Enrolment and Consent Form** as well as the **Nomination and Consent Form for Election to the Committee** are available by contacting the Secretary at hvcc.bookings@gmail.com. Any other questions are also welcome.

It is strongly suggested that if you are wanting to become a registered member of the Heathcote Valley Community Association, act as soon as possible so you are eligible to vote at the AGM due to be held July/August 2025.

John Marks, Secretary, HVCA



Te Tihi o Kahukura

Heathcote Valley School

Welcome everyone to a new year and a new term at Te Tihi o Kahukura! We are the new student council at Heathcote Valley School, what used to be known as the Student Head Leadership Team.

Kia ora, ko James toku ingoa. I am part of the new student council of 2025. I love to do drawing, climbing, gaming, and coding. During the holidays I went to Wanaka for one and a bit weeks and then went to Kaiteriteri for a week with my mum and sister. I have one sibling, Abi, who is almost 16. I am looking forward to this year.

Kia ora, ko Maya Swann toku ingoa. I am a part of the new student council of 2025. I love horse riding and baking at home with my mum. I have two siblings Harry (younger) and Jack (older). I have a kitten and a puppy. And hopefully a horse (please mum!). My favourite things to do in my spare time is spend time with my friends and horses.

Kia ora, ko Amelia toku ingoa. I am part of the student council this year. I enjoy reading, gaming, art and baking. I have a younger brother called Carter and a chihuahua called Olaf. During the holidays I went to Twizel for two nights, Wanaka for three nights, and Hanmer for a day. I am looking forward to an awesome year at HVS!

Kia ora ko Macy toku ingoa. I am a part of the student council of 2025. I am so excited for another year at Heathcote Valley School and I hope this one will be great. I love to do netball, baking, skiing, running, and biking with my family. I have an older sister and seven pets including four chickens and three sheep. In the holidays I went camping with my family at Lake Kaniere and Gentle Annie's for two weeks and I am so happy to be back with my friends for school. I am looking forward to a great year of fun at HVS.



*Te Tihi o Kahukura Student Council
Back Row (Maya, James), Front Row (Amelia, Macy)*

In Week 1 we had the hauora interviews on Tuesday and Wednesday, and the Mihi whakatau began school on Friday.

In Week 2 there is girls' cricket on Monday where all of the girls in the school got to have a session with some cricketers from Canterbury Cricket. The Years 7 and 8 started their weekly journey to tech at the Te Aratai Tech Center as well as young writers, where students learn to make their writing more creative, starting up on Friday as well.

Week 3 we present our first learning celebration of the year on Friday which was run by our Year 7/8 Student Council to celebrate being back at school and the really successful start to the year.

In Week 4 is the Canterbury Triathlon on Tuesday and then the PALs workshop on Wednesday where our new Physical Activity Leaders will get together with other schools and work together to learn about being positive leaders and role models. Thursday our tamariki will compete in the pool in a competitive and non-competitive swimming sports

across all the usual swimming strokes, freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke.

In Week 5 the Years 7 and 8 are on camp at Omaka for three nights! Sleeping in tents, sailing, river crossing and paddleboarding it will be a water activity fest.

In Week 6 we have our walk or wheel week run by the enviro leaders, Melissa, and Leona encouraging people to get out of their cars and use economical ways of travelling. We also have the Police Competency Test on Monday with a Year 7 and Year 8 team going to compete against other schools to see who can best do the test that police must pass to become officers.

In Week 7 those who qualified during our school swimming will go to the South East Zones Swimming Sports at Jellie Park. Then there is cycle safety for the Year 6s.

In Week 8 we have orchards in schools visit us to help trim back and tidy up our fruit trees.

In Week 9 there is the Canterbury swimming sports for those who qualify through zones.

Our final day of the term will be the 11th of April where we will get to recharge for a new term after Easter.

We also have two new staff joining us as well as so many new tamariki for 2025. Olivia is with the Year 3/4 class and Whaea Bryony as she studies to be a teacher herself. We also welcome Claire who is going to be working with the tamariki in Melissa's class as a learning assistant.

We hope you all have an awesome 2025!

Signed by yours truly,
the AWESOME! Head leaders.



Community Noticeboards

Do you know that there are five noticeboards around our local community where you can post notices? Here you can advertise local happenings, items for sale, services offered, etc. Please note however that the noticeboards are not to be used for political advertising or statements, or for any material that others might find offensive.

Because space can fill up quickly, the maximum recommended size for notices is A5. It is suggested that you put your notice in a plastic copysafe sleeve to protect it from possible dampness.

The locations of the noticeboards are:

- Station Road by the share table
- Truscotts Road outside St Mary's church
- Bridle Path Road by the riding school
- Port Hills Road by the Domain, near the playground
- Port Hills Road, north side between Mauer Drive and Fredrica Lane

To place items on the noticeboards please contact Jocelyn, our community coordinator, email: heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com

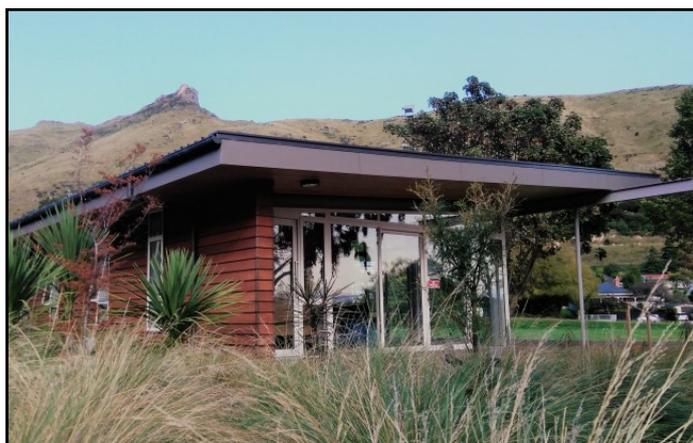
Remember

Daylight Saving ends

Sunday 6th April



What's on at Your Community Centre?



I hope you have all had a lovely Summer and a fab start to 2025. Why not make this 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 have some excellent workshops coming up including a St John / Hato Hone Three Steps for Life class in March and a Staying Safe Refresher Driver Course run by Age Concern (supported by Waka Kotahi / NZTA) in May.

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!

If you would like to connect with others in the community then you are always welcome to pop along to the craft group on Mondays or community morning tea on Wednesdays. Both have a wonderful group of friendly faces ready to welcome you.

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.

Weekly Programme

Craft Group

Mondays 10am-12pm: Enjoy knitting, crocheting or sewing with a wonderful group of people each Monday. Great company guaranteed. Please contact Judy (judyastack@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

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

Santosha Yoga with Breeze

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

Contact Breeze (yogawithbreeze@gmail.com)

Community Morning Tea

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

Contact Jen (hvcc.bookings@gmail.com)

Yoga with Lucy

Wednesdays 6pm – 7pm AND Fridays 9.15am-10.15am: These classes are suitable for all levels of experience, and a wide range of ages. The

focus is on linking the breath with our practise, flowing and stretching through a mostly simple range of asana (poses) the outcome of which brings you into a good alignment with your centre.

Contact Lucy (lucydolankang@gmail.com)

Heathcote Valley Community Association Meetings

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

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

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

Movement Rewired with Nicky

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

Contact Nicky (nickywoodwardnz@gmail.com)

Puppy / Dog Training with Hear The Dog

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

HEATHCOTE VALLEY CENTRE

regular weekly timetable

visit www.hvcc.org.nz for more details

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Monday | 10am - 12pm: Craft Group 6pm - 7pm: Tradie Yoga with Michele |
| Tuesday | 3.30pm - 5pm: Te Reo Class 5.45pm - 7.15pm: Yoga with Breeze |
| Wednesday | 10am - 12pm: Community Morning Tea 6pm - 7pm: Yoga with Lucy |
| Thursday | First Thursday each month 6.30pm: HVCA committee meeting 8.00pm: Heathcote Valley community meeting |
| Friday | 9.15am - 10.15am: Yoga with Lucy 11am - 12.30pm: Movement Rewired with Nicky 5pm: Hear the Dog |
| Saturday | 9am: Hear the Dog |



Heathcote Valley Library

KIDS WIN \$25 book vouchers!

Entries must be on entry forms- ONLY available at the library.

Runs until 31 March



Ages up to 8

Colour a library poster

Ages 9-12

Design a library poster



Open to child members of Heathcote Valley Library borrowing books

Two \$25 book vouchers per age category to be won. Winning and other posters will be used by the library to advertise

Full Terms and Conditions on the entry form

Not already a Library member?

Membership is FREE!

We have a great selection of children's books
FREE to borrow

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. Entry to Hall from 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



UPCYCLE

Heathcote Freecycle Day

Mark your diary now!

The autumn Freecycle day will be on
Saturday 12th 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 12th.

Heathcote Valley Food Forest

Birdsey Reserve, Bridle Path Road.

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



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

Adventures with Nature

Rewilding in Morgans, Heathcote, Horotane and Avoca Valleys

Autumn 2025 Update



South Island tomtit - *ngirungiru*



Swamp harrier - *kahu* chicks in upper Avoca



Wood pigeon - *kereru*

Autumn Ramble

By John Marsh

On a drizzly Saturday morning in January I was rambling up the south slopes of the Port Hills somewhere near Rapaki... a bushy gully that I had often viewed from a distance and wondered what was up there. Well there's lots of trees....kowhai, kanuka, mahoe, karamu, totara, manatu, houhere broadleaf, supplejack, ferns. And naturally, where there are well established trees there are lots of birds. This is elementary ecology of course... plants are there for birds and insects to live in. There were bellbirds, warbler, fantail, a wood pigeon and the real surprise was a tomtit. I mentioned this to Andrew Crossland, the CCC's ornithological guru and he says: *"The recolonization of the Port Hills by the tomtit has been a nice success story. They self-colonised and are spreading east. We hope to do a translocation of brown creeper and riflemen in the near future. CCC eventually hope to introduce fernbird too."*

While this is exciting news and great progress over in the harbour basin, it is also a sign that if we are

able to establish corridors of comparable bush up our dry northern valleys, these bird species will find their way over here as well. There was evidence of significant predator control work in the gully that morning, indicating how important predator trapping is to the return of a rich bird population.

What are being seen more often over here on the north side are wood-pigeon. A few kereru are regular visitors (or have settled) in Avoca, Horotane and Morgans Valley. The distinctive swish of their wings beating in the upper tree canopy is a welcome sound.

And while on the subject of birds...the Linda Woods Reserve volunteer work party were busy doing track clearing and weed control up at the top of Avoca Valley in November and came across a freshly hatched trio of swamp harrier or kahu vulnerable to any passing stoat or hedgehog in their exposed nest down in the grass. With a bit of luck and fierce protection by their parents they survived the last three months to get airborne and are now among those we see gliding on the air

currents preying on mice and rats. The NZ swamp harrier is actually the largest of the 16 species of harriers found worldwide. It is one native species whose numbers have benefitted from widespread forest clearance as it prefers open grassland and wetland habitat.

Summer got off to a dry start for local revegetation plantings and City Council rangers were warning not to use any gear or machinery that could cause a spark as early as mid-December. The hills and pasture were parched. Newly planted trees on dry slopes struggled to survive at this time. Then the week before Christmas it cooled and there was rain on and off over the festive season. Now in late February the hills are showing a green tinge already with bursts of rain every few weeks. Good news for planters. Planning is now underway for this winter's planting season. Following are some progress reports.

~~~

### **City Council Revegetation Work in Heathcote**

City Council rangers are managing some of the bigger reveg. projects in our area. These are:

**The Ferrymead saltmarsh** along the Opawaho - Heathcote River.... the 12000 plants planted following removal of ancient pines last spring are looking very healthy.

Robbie Hewson, ranger in charge reports that they intend planting a further 5000 coastal shrub-land



*Restoring Ferrymead saltmarsh*

plants this year, expanding into the paddocks in the north west corner along the Tunnel Road.

He also says "The Tunnel Road saltmarsh is starting to look really amazing 4+ years on with establishment of salt meadow/saltmarsh including the natural recovery of some threatened species like *Thyridia repens*, a native musk." This was a site initially planted by our community volunteers led by local Rachel Barker.

**Castle Rock Reserve** above the Tunnel Road on the east facing slopes. This was planted with 17,000 kanuka in 2023. These are now starting to emerge in the long pasture and have been intentionally grazed by sheep. Di Carter CCC ranger managing this site says they plan on fencing these areas from stock in preparation for inter-planting the kanuka with a full range of species in 2026. Probably another 18,000 trees are planned on these slopes. The purpose of this work is to prevent erosion and sediment yield to the Heathcote River and estuary, and long term to work towards a forested connection to Whakaraupo (Lyttelton) Harbour.

These are significant steps to the rewilding of our valleys. It would be great to be here in 20 years to see the results of all this mahi.

~~~

Linda Woods Reserve Horotane and Avoca Valleys

Summit Road Society

There are now three volunteer groups working in Linda Woods Reserve through the year.

Wednesday morning work party – a group of 10 to 14 men and women meet from 9.00am till 12.00noon every week through the year and are involved in planting, releasing/weeding, track clearing, installation of track signs and any other tasks that the SRS manager can think of. This work is accessed from Rapaki Track, along the Summit Road or from Horotane Valley or Avoca Valley

Road. If you would like to be involved in working with this group please contact Graeme Paltridge on 021 0825 3931 or graeme_sue@slingshot.co.nz .

Friday afternoon work party – between March and November a core group facilitate planting by corporate teams, schools, etc to plant in Horotane Valley. If you would like to be involved in working with this group please get in touch with John Marsh on 0274 310 182 or jmarsh@tree@gmail.com

Predator trapping group – A team of six to eight have been developing a predator control program for Avoca Valley over the last year. To date this has targeted Avoca Valley but will expand into Horotane Valley as more people and resources are available. If you would like to be involved with this group please contact co-ordinator rossradford90@gmail.com . See report from Jane Radford below.

~~~~

### **Avoca Valley Predator Trapping Group**

*By Jane Radford*

Our dedicated group of residents continue to carry out the monitoring and trapping that has been put in place for the upper part of Avoca Valley. Additional traps have been installed over summer and are proving very successful.

Weasels and hedgehogs however are still well established and widespread throughout the reserve. A family of four weasels were recently spotted playing around one property that borders the reserve. needless to say traps were moved close to that area!

Opportunities to discuss trapping results and consider ways of improving outcomes are always welcome. There is regular discussion amongst the trapping team and a discussion with Marcus King, who shared a wealth of knowledge with us, has brought some new ideas to trial.

Marcus is a conservationist and former engineer who turned his hand to pest control in a personal bid to bring back more native birds.

He's the creator of the "LureGuard" - a new trap design targeting egg-stealing stoats that recently had media exposure on RNZ and in the 'The Press'. We are fortunate to have Marcus as part of our Wednesday work party.

The dry conditions in the Reserve have proved a challenge for the kanuka that were planted during the 2024 winter. It is encouraging to see some of them showing some new growth.



*Yellow crowned bellbird.*

The sighting of a bellbird with a bright orange crown had residents scratching their heads. This has been a good season for harakeke flowers. This particular bird must have been making the most of the flowers.

~~~~

Wednesday/Friday Work Parties

By John Marsh

Tracks - Walkers through Linda Woods Reserve will have come across new track signs at the three entrances off Rapaki Track, at the top of Duncan Park and on the north ridge of Castle Rock. The work party has been installing these over the summer in between weeding and removing tree protectors from young plants.

This is in an effort to make the reserve more accessible and easier to navigate for first time visitors. The main tracks at present are “Jacks Track”, “Ridgeline Track”, “Harakeke Track”, “Kahu Track” and “Kotare Track”. There are more tracks planned.

By going to Google and typing in “Summit Road Society LWR Track Map” you can access the full map of the reserve and see where these signs will lead you.

Best views are from Summit Viewpoint just off the top of Ridgeline and Kahu Tracks where you can get a 360 degree panorama from Lake Ellesmere to the Kaikouras on a fine day.



Track sign gang in Avoca Valley

Planting – We have recently been successful in getting CCC and ECan grants for stock fencing in Horotane Valley so our planting programme can move ahead. Stock fencing allows us to plant a full range of species instead of being limited to only kanuka, which stock find unpalatable. Two gorse gulleys south of Duncan Park and a paddock at the top of Horotane Valley Road will be planted in 4500 trees this winter, ranging from harakeke to totara. Another 2800 trees will be planted at the top of Avoca Valley by contractors, Wai-ora Landscapes.

Trees have been funded by Trees that Count, a CCC grant and the Mundy family, as well as 500 trees from the Cashmere High School “Eco Action Nursery”

The work party will be preparing these sites over April/May ready for planting to start in June. Last year’s kanuka plantings have done well on these sites too, many of them getting up to a metre tall.

Tree protectors- Approx 40,000 Corflute (plastic) tree guards were used by contractors in the main plantings through the reserve between 2021 and 2023. We are now busy removing these as the trees establish and bundling them up to be sent to a plant in Blenheim where they are turned into fence posts. In future plantings we intend using cardboard guards.



40,000 plastic tree guards being recycled

~*~

Heathcote Valley Reserves

Bridle Path sites

These CCC managed sites, planted by Heathcote community volunteers, are coming along slowly but surely. The ‘slow but sure’ approach is often better than the sudden burst of vegetation as it usually means the roots are adapting to a hard site and the trees will take off once the roots have a firm hold remaining resilient in drier years.

In December we had a group from NZ Conservation Volunteers as well as the Linda Woods Wednesday work party combine to weed/ release all the stream site plants and cart piles of

mulch in to spread around the plants. This was a great effort and many thanks to those groups.

This year, one weekend in July, we will continue to plant dry-tolerant species amongst the silver tussock and also more flax and cabbage trees up the stream.

Contact person - Tamsin Page

(tamsin.page@gmail.com or 0276423555)

Birdsey Reserve Revegetation Project

The city council have had contractors controlling fennel in the reserve over summer. This will make it easier to establish kanuka in the south paddock (which is already 30% planted) before introducing a full range of species in a couple of years. We plan to plant a further 300 kanuka with the Heathcote Valley School enviro group this winter.

Contact person - Tamsin Page

(tamsin.page@gmail.com or 0276423555)

Adventures with Nature is compiled by John Marsh

New Neighbours?

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

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

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

heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com



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

News from the Church of St Mary

By The Reverend Mark Sullivan, Vicar

When the Charlotte-Jane arrived in Lyttelton at 10am on 16 December 1850, the settlers arrived to eight weeks of hot, dry nor-westers. Those passengers disembarked, made their way over the Bridle Path and spent their first few days in the valley as they waited for transport across the estuary. (The same chap that transported the people from the ship to the shore, was the chap who rowed around to the estuary and transported them across.)

Interestingly enough, the roads they travelled are still called by the same names. As they skirted around the water, they walked along the track that led to the Bridle Path, hence the name Bridle Path Road. When they crossed the estuary, they walked from the ferry to the new town, that road of course is Ferry Road.

Those settlers, set up camp in our valley. In some cases, many held up here for several weeks. In 1860 your valley church was built but, in all likelihood, services of worship continued weekly from 1850. The families who made their first tentative steps in the new colony were all Anglicans. Christchurch was an Anglican settlement and to even get a passage on one of those four ships, one had to have letter from one's priest attesting to their faithful commitment.

As the local Vicar, I am finding it good for the parish headquarters to be resident in Heathcote again. In many ways, after a hiatus of 60 years, it's been a journey home to where the story of the parish began.



Mark Sullivan, Vicar

Jill Straker lives in the valley and with her husband, worships with us each week. Jill (and Clive) immigrated from South Africa. She has gifted the church some of her garden kiwis and has distributed them throughout the gardens around the premises. Her challenge is for everyone to stop as you pass by, to see if you can find them. Furthermore, if you have a kiwi that you might want to donate to the garden, please feel free to do so. Our aim is to make the gardens something of a kiwi sanctuary; a place where anyone can come and enjoy looking for our most famous native bird amongst the trees and shrubs.

Those early settlers who set up camp in Heathcote would have slept in tents and make-shift accommodation. No doubt they heard noises that were foreign to them, especially after several months on a ship. And probably some of the cries they heard were of that flightless and rather plain-looking creature that scuttled around in the undergrowth, foraging for food amongst the new, New Zealanders.

While the kiwis in the church gardens might not cry out their shrill squawks, certainly the mystery that Jill has created (and is inviting you to be part of) enables us in some small way to share in a journey of discovery, just as those early settlers did at Christmas in 1850.

An advertisement for a free community workshop. The text on the left side of the image reads: "HEATHCOTE VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE", "FREE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP", "Hato Hone / St John 3 Steps to Life", "Learn what to do if someone has a cardiac arrest", and "Thursday 27th March 7pm - 8pm Heathcote Valley Community Centre". The right side of the image shows a group of people kneeling on a paved area, participating in a workshop. A yellow sign with the "3 Steps to Life" logo is visible in the background.



HEATHCOTE COMMUNITY SPORTS CLUB INC



The summer has been a busy one for the Heathcote Community Sports Club, with a number of groups using our facilities and playing bowls. These have been both small (and not so small) private functions and larger functions for workers from Lyttelton Port. We are pleased to see people making use of the green – which is in great condition following intensive work over the last six months by Steve Street and Carey Brown.

In more good news, we have been successful recently in obtaining two grants. Thanks to CCC for funding the purchase of three sets of bowls and a new table tennis table. The bowls are smaller and lighter than our older ones – and brightly coloured so no mistaking who is closest to the jack!

Also, a generous grant from Aotearoa Gaming Trust has enabled us to replace and extend the concrete at the club entrance, with improved accessibility into the club rooms and a larger area for holding barbecues. Our sincere thanks go to both these organisations for their support.

With our improved facilities, the club is keen to host both private and community groups of up to 40 people. If you are part of a group – or have a birthday coming up - and would like to do something a little different, please contact Zella to inquire about availability. All equipment is supplied and set up for you, with some tuition if you haven't played before. We also have a barbecue for hire, and our costs are very reasonable.

As we come into autumn, we are pleased to announce that Sunday afternoon bowls will be continuing right through the rest of the year (weather permitting). As the days draw in, Tuesday Twilight Bowls will be replaced by Indoor Bowls, which is just as much fun, so do come along and try

it. If you are a visitor, first session is free.

Our current timetable is as follows:

Bowls

Sunday 2pm; Tuesday 7pm
(Indoor Bowls starting 6 April)

Petanque

Sunday 10am; Thursday 10am

Table Tennis

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am

Indoor Games (board and card games)

First Thursday of the month 7pm

For any further information, please contact the Club Secretary, Zella on 021 521 707 or email heathcotecommunitysportclub@gmail.com.

We hope to see you at the club soon.



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 \$20 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

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



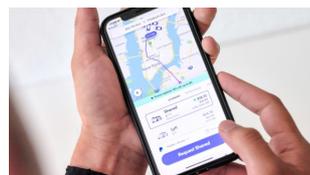
In Case of Emergency...

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
- Maltworks Village clubhouse
60 Port Hills Rd.
- See <https://aedlocations.co.nz> for more locations around Christchurch.



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.

Autumn

The Canterbury Plains in autumn's hold,
fields of amber, kissed with gold.

Mountains rise with crowns of white,
framing the land in softer light.

The Waimakariri flows cool and clear,
a mirror to skies that autumn cheer.

Rows of poplars, their leaves cascade,
a golden path that nature's paved.

In Hagley Park, the leaves descend,
where walkers and bikers find their bend.

The crisp air whispers, serene and bright,
a tranquil balm in the fading light.

From braided rivers to ocean's edge,
autumn weaves its quiet pledge.

A season of grace, of beauty profound,
in Canterbury's heart, it's always found.

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.

The ideal format for text is as a Word document, and for photographs .jpg files are preferred.

**Deadline for articles for the next issue is:
12 May 2025.**

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

Heathcote Valley Bumper Stickers



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



Heathcote Valley Online

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



Heathcote Valley Community

Heathcote Village Project

Support Local—Heathcote Valley

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

www.hvcc.org.nz

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

www.heathcotevalley.nz

Recipe

Potato and Pepperoni Pizza

Pizzas make a great quick meal, to feed a big family or just for one with some left over for the next day. They are fun to make and you can even get the kids to help. This recipe is a variation on the traditional pizza base, and can easily be made gluten free.

Serves four



INGREDIENTS

1 tbsp butter, plus extra for greasing pan
All-purpose flour for dusting (can be gluten free)
5 cups diced potatoes (suitable for mashing)
2 garlic cloves (crushed)
2 tbsp chopped mixed herbs (fresh is best)
1 egg, beaten
6 tbsp canned tomatoes, strained
2 tbsp tomato paste
50g pepperoni slices
1 green bell pepper, seeded and cut into strips
1 yellow bell pepper, seeded and cut into strips
2 large mushrooms, sliced
¼ cup pitted black olives, cut into quarters
125g mozzarella cheese

You can easily customise the toppings to suit your taste. Maybe add some sliced spring onions, spinach, slices of brie, some shredded chicken, bacon, or whatever favourites you enjoy.

METHOD

1. Cook the potatoes in a pot of boiling water until cooked through. Drain and mash until smooth. Allow to cool. Transfer to a bowl and stir in the butter, garlic, herbs and egg.
2. Grease and flour a 23cm pizza pan. Spread the mixture onto the pan. Cook in a preheated oven at 220°C for 7-10 minutes, or until the pizza base begins to set.
3. Combined the strained tomatoes and tomato paste and spoon it over the pizza base, to within 1 cm of the edge. (You can use a premade pizza sauce if you wish.)
4. Arrange the pepperoni, bell peppers, mushrooms and olives on top of the tomatoes.
5. Sprinkle the mozzarella cheese on top of the pizza. Return to the oven for 20 minutes, or until the base is cooked through and the cheese has melted on top.
6. Slice and serve hot.



Heathcote Valley Library

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

"The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library."

Albert Einstein (1879-1955) Theoretical physicist

"The Library didn't only contain magical books, the ones which are chained to their shelves and are very dangerous. It also contained perfectly ordinary books, printed on commonplace paper in mundane ink. It would be a mistake to think that they weren't also dangerous, just because reading them didn't make fireworks go off in the sky. Reading them sometimes did the more dangerous trick of making fireworks go off in the privacy of the reader's brain."

Excerpt from Soul Music, by Terry Pratchett

OUR LIBRARY MAY BE SMALL...

BUT IT'S CRAMMED WITH WONDERFUL BOOKS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN.

COME ON IN AND HAVE A LOOK, WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU

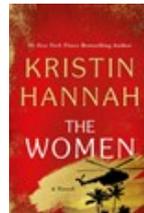
Librarian's Choices . . .



Welcome to Glorious Tuga

By Francesca Segal

London vet Charlotte Walker has gone to tiny South Atlantic island of Tuga de Oro to study the endangered gold coin tortoises and to investigate her belief of a connection to this remote and eccentric community. She is inconveniently attracted to the new island doctor. Then there's the island's dogs, goats, and donkeys (and human inhabitants). A very enjoyable, light and slightly quirky read with a lot of home-made cakes.



The Women

By Kristin Hannah

"Women can be heroes". Twenty-year-old nursing student Frances "Frankie" McGrath, raised in the sun-drenched, idyllic world of Southern California and sheltered by her conservative parents, has always done the right thing. But in 1965, the world is changing, and she suddenly dares to imagine a different future for herself. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows.

NEW BOOKS NOW IN!

David Baldacci – *To Die For* ✦ Catherine Lea – *Better Left Dead, The Waters Deep* ✦ Rosalie Ham – *Molly*
James Patterson & Brendan Dubois – *Count Down* ✦ Chris Whittaker – *All the Colours of the Dark*
Denzil Meyrick – *The Death of Remembrance, No Sweet Sorrow* ✦ Fleur McDonald – *Out in Nowhere* ✦ Evie Woods – *The Story Collector*
Ann Cleeves – *A Day in the Life of Dorothea Cassidy, Killjoy* ✦ Quintin Jardine – *Secrets and Lies*
Patricia Wolf – *Opal* ✦ Pip Drysdale – *Close Up* ✦ Kristin Hannah – *Night Road* ✦ JP Pomare – *17 Years Later*
Benjamin Stevenson – *Everyone This Christmas Has a Secret* ✦ Fiona McIntosh – *Blood Pact, The Sugar Palace*

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

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

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 (and competition entry forms) can be put into the green dropbox at the Community Centre carpark.

13 Acres of Gorse

The Story of Duncan Park

By Barrie Woods

You may have read about the revegetation work in Duncan Park fronted by one of our locals, John Marsh, or perhaps you have enjoyed a walk around the tracks, or you may even be involved with the Ferrymead Pony Club which is located in the park. In this article we explore the history of Duncan Park and how it came to be. But firstly, I'll explain a little about the park in case you are not familiar with it.

The entrance to Duncan Park is located on Port Hills Road, opposite Chapmans Road. In fact, there are two entrances. The one to the west is the entrance to the Pony Club and is technically part of Vega Place (as a paper road), the other end of which you will find further west. This is a public access-way and you can use it to enter or exit the park. The other entrance is just a little further east and is signposted as the entrance to Duncan Park. There's room to park a couple of cars by the gate and a space for a couple more across the bridge if the gate is open.

The late Mary Duncan bequeathed Duncan Park to the Christchurch City Council in 1947, for the purposes of a public reserve. Duncan Park consists of 23.4 hectares extending east from the Avoca stream over a steepish spur and down into Horotane Valley. The north boundary is on Port Hills Road and the south boundary adjoins rural/horticultural properties higher up Avoca Valley.

Our story begins in 1851 when the ship *Isabella Hercus*, the sixth to bring new immigrants, arrived at Lyttelton. On board were George Duncan, a 31-year-old agricultural labourer, his wife Jean, aged 25, and their first daughter, Catherine. George was born at Woodhead in Perth, Scotland, and Jane was from nearby Horsfield Farm.

To begin with they took up residence on the lower section of the Bridle Path where George undertook farming work in partnership with a relative, Robert Duncan. Records suggest that they worked on a farm owned by Rev. E Puckle, which was in the area currently occupied by the riding school. George Duncan is reputed to have been the first settler to have turned a furrow in Canterbury soil. Presumably this was on Rev. Puckle's land in Heathcote Valley. For many years George was an active member of the Canterbury Agricultural and Pastoral Association acting as a judge for ploughing matches and stock exhibits, particularly horses.

After a few years George took the opportunity to purchase land of his own at Earn Valley. Never heard of Earn Valley before? Neither had I, but that's not surprising because today we call it Avoca Valley. The name Earn Valley was given by George Duncan, but Avoca Valley, a more recent name given by landowner William Robinson around 1921, seems to have displaced it in common and official usage. Earn Valley, also known as Strathearn, is a river valley in Perthshire, Scotland near to where George grew up, so he saw fit to use a familiar name from his home country for his new estate. I haven't been able to find the exact date when the Duncans purchased Earn Valley, but the first mention of the property in the newspapers is in 1864, so it was some time prior to then. Over the years the farm has been variously described as part of Heathcote, Hillsborough and Opawa.

George and Jean built a house at Earn Valley, which they named Earnbank. It was a two-storey residence built mostly of pit sawn kauri and consisted of eight rooms and a sun porch. An advertisement for sale of the house in 1928



Earnbank Homestead.

From the Wenmoth and Harrison Collection.

described it as being 'papered throughout, wardrobe and cupboards built in, water laid on, range, scullery, washhouse, windmill and tank'. On the farm they bred horses and ran dairy cattle.

Back in Scotland George had undertaken some work under the direction of George Stephenson, the civil and mechanical engineer of steam engine and railway fame. The skills he had learned proved valuable in building a road at Earn Valley that local engineers had deemed to be quite impractical due to the boggy nature of the ground. Apparently, this road now forms part of Port Hills Road.

George Duncan, in good Scots tradition, was a staunch supporter of the Presbyterian church. He was instrumental in bringing the first Presbyterian minister, Rev. John Moir, to Canterbury 1853 and walked over the hill to Lyttelton to greet him on his arrival. However, Rev. Moir did not stay long before moving north to Wellington. He was replaced by Rev Charles Fraser in 1856. George Duncan, along with other notable early Presbyterian pioneers such as Mr John Deans and Mr Ebenezer Hay, was instrumental in establishing the St Andrews Kirk in Christchurch. George Duncan was elected as one of the first elders of St Andrews when it opened in 1857.

As well as serving the church, George was a member of the Heathcote School Committee, and then later was one of the founders of the

Hillsborough School which opened in 1872. The school was renamed as Opawa School in 1880.

Another snippet I discovered is that George Duncan was a first cousin to Andrew Duncan, the third Mayor of Christchurch (1869-70).

Jean Duncan shared the toils of running the farm at Earn Valley. With Lyttelton being the natural market for produce in the early days, she made frequent trips over the Bridle Path with products from the homestead and returning with supplies from the port. It was the custom for many local properties to accommodate travellers from Lyttelton overnight and Mrs Duncan would frequently offer a bed to people she had met along the Bridle Path. One of her guests was none other than the infamous James Mackenzie, a suspected sheep thief after whom the Mackenzie district in South Canterbury is named. He apparently arrived at her door hatless and shoeless, and left soon after in a similar state when he realised the law officials were closing in on him.

During her later years at Earn Valley, Mrs Duncan established a Sunday School in her Earnbank residence for the benefit of Presbyterian families in the vicinity. This later moved to St Peters church in Opawa, which was on the corner of Ferry and Aldwins Roads.

Earn Valley was at one time used as a shooting range and as a base for military exercises. An earlier article titled "The Battle of Hillsborough" discusses these activities. Please ask if you would like a copy.

The Duncans attempted to sell the Earn Valley property in 1878, perhaps because George was ready to retire, or maybe because the property was not paying its way. Records show that it was heavily mortgaged at the time of George's death. It seems the sale was unsuccessful and instead the farm was leased out. In 1883 one block on the west side was sold to William Neighbours who wished to expand his brickmaking enterprise, but

the greater part of the Earnbank estate remained with the Duncans. George and Jean moved to a smaller house at Railway Terrace (now part of the Brougham St expressway), in Opawa.

George and Jean had two sons and five daughters. Their oldest son Peter, worked on the farm for a time and described himself as a Cattle Dealer. He was bankrupted in 1881. He was still at Earn Valley in 1894 when he applied for a slaughterhouse licence. The younger son, John, moved to Petone where he worked as a carpenter. The daughters were Catherine, Janet, Isabella, Agnes and Mary. Agnes was the only one to marry.

George Duncan died on 2nd March 1894 at the age of 74, leaving his entire estate to his wife. Jean lived another five years, dying on 29 January 1899. Her estate was left to her seven surviving children, with daughters Isabella, Janet and Mary as trustees. Her instructions were for the property holdings to be sold, debts repaid, and residual funds distributed.

Sadly, the daughters could not reach agreement on the sale of the property. In 1908 the matter ended up in court and at first resulted in Mary being removed as a trustee. It seems she was refusing to sell a portion of the property due to what she perceived as difficulties with a right of way and inconsistencies with the title. The judge stood Mary down and instructed Isabella to sort out the title as soon as possible.

A year later, the matter was again before court, with Janet applying for the removal of Isabella as a trustee and asking that the Public Trust office be appointed as a replacement. Her reason for bringing the case was that Isabella was holding out for what she (and Mary) considered to be an unreasonable reserve price of £110 per acre. Furthermore, during the time since their mother's death Catherine had died (1906) without seeing any benefit from the estate, and the estate was unable to keep up with interest and rates payments, meaning the capital was being eaten

away. The judge suggested that those who wanted a higher price for the property could buy out the parties who would accept less. Otherwise, the property was to be sold at auction and Mary was reinstated as a trustee.

What happened next is unclear, but later in 1909 the property went up for auction, presumably at the behest of the court. The purchasers were Misses Mary and Janet Duncan and they paid the princely sum of £35 per acre. Who knows what the family relationships were like at the time, but in light of the prolonged court action and a low sale price it is likely they were less than perfect. Mary and Janet must have got along with each other and records indicate they lived together at Earnbank.

1928 we find Miss Mary Duncan in possession of the property and offering it up for sale. By this time her siblings, including Janet, were all deceased, so full ownership presumably passed to Mary. It seems however that the property didn't sell in 1928 and remained in Mary's possession.

Let's now take a look at Mary Duncan and find out a little about her life. She was born in Christchurch in 1872. She attended Opawa School (then called Hillsborough School) from 1878. In those days the school was on the corner of Opawa and Garlands Roads.

In 1884 we see Mary teaching at Opawa School where she spent much of her career. She trained as a teacher through the teacher-pupil scheme, whereby older pupils learned to teach younger students. In 1885 Mary was called as a witness for the defence in a court case where one of her fellow teachers was accused of assaulting a seven-year-old boy. Her testimony indicated the boy had quickly recovered from his punishment. Given other evidence the teacher admitted losing his temper and flogging the boy more than intended. He was fined £2 and kept his job.

Mary went on to become headmistress at Opawa School, then later at Papanui School. In 1914 she became the first principal at the new Blighs Road

School (now Waimairi School), which was an offshoot of Papanui, where she stayed until 1919.

Mary was a foundation member and active supporter of the Canterbury Women's Club, and a member of the Canterbury Pilgrims' and Early Settlers' Association. Like her father, she was a staunch supporter of the Presbyterian Church.



*CANTERBURY PILGRIMS' ASSOCIATION. —The eighty-fifth anniversary of the arrival of the First Four Ships at Lyttelton was commemorated by a garden party held by the Pilgrims' Association on Saturday afternoon at the home of Mr and Mrs R. E. McDougall, Papanui road. Mr Richard Evans and the Rev. F.G. Brittan were the only two present of the pilgrims still living. Period dresses were worn by several women members of the association. In the group are Mrs Lovell Smith, the Rev. F. G. Brittan (Sir George Seymour), Mrs Whitehead, Mr Richard Evans (Cressy), and Miss **Mary Duncan**.*

Mary decided to retire from teaching in 1919, perhaps to look after Janet who was described as being dependant on her. Janet died in 1921 and left her estate to Mary. I can't find much about Janet's life, but in her will she gives similar instructions for Earnbank to be given to the city if Mary predeceases her.

In 1923 Mary left to travel overseas for a world trip, planning to be away for two years. She was in Milan in 1924 and lost her handbag when on the train to Venice. In the handbag was an address book, which contained her address. It was somehow discovered in 1930 and returned to her in New Zealand by his Majesty's Consul General at Milan. How's that for service!

Mary did not return to live at Earnbank after her travels but instead took up residence with a friend

in Sumner. She attempted to sell Earnbank in 1928, but presumably no buyer was found.

As the last surviving member of her family, and with no descendants, Mary bequeathed the Earnbank estate to Christchurch City when she died. She asked that the reserve should be known as "The Duncan Park" and be kept to perpetuate the memory of her parents, George and Jean Duncan, and her sister, Janet Duncan. She asked that two oak trees and an ash, planted by her father to commemorate the wedding of Princess Alexandra and the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) in 1803, be preserved.

In her will Mary suggested the land might be used for "all or any of the following purposes: forestry, the planting of native trees and shrubs, botanical and ornamental gardens, and for preserving or furthering historic and educational interests".

The gift to the city caused something of a bureaucratic dilemma as the property was outside the city boundaries of the time, instead within the Heathcote County. There was no budget or desire to develop a property outside the city, so as a result, the land continued to be leased as a dairy farm for a while, and the Earnbank house was effectively abandoned. It was not until the 1960s that the City Council gave attention to the possibility of preserving the house, but by that time it had deteriorated to the extent that restoration was not practicable. During this time a large portion of the land was also neglected, and a City Council report described it as "infested with noxious weeds", and "an estimated 13 acres of gorse". Thanks to the hard work of John Marsh and his team, that situation has now considerably changed for the better.

The Duncan Park has been leased to the Ferrymead Pony Club since 1962 in an arrangement that preserves public access to the area. It's a fitting use for the park given George Duncan's keen interest in horses.



Livesley Plumbing

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



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



Portable Bathroom Hire

For further details visit www.portablebathroom.co.nz or contact our team at office@portablebathroom.co.nz

Your award-winning local pool and spa care experts!



- ✓ See us instore for DIY pool and spa chemicals or
- ✓ We come to you - call for a quote



Poolwerx Christchurch
03 926 2988
Corner Gasson & 49 Coleridge St, Sydenham, Christchurch, 8023

poolwerx
for healthy pool people

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



YOUR LOCAL PAINTING PROS



WWW.BRUSHHOUR.CO.NZ



027 685 6741

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

Have you thought about painting your house?

THIS IS YOUR SIGN.



Herb Nerd NZ



Your local herbalist

We have kawakawa, medicated creams, herbal teas, magnesium & so much more!

Check us out at
www.herbnerdnz.com
 Instagram or Facebook

Free delivery for locals

10% OFF PAINTING COUPON!

**REUBEN
 ELLIS
 DECORATING**



- INTERIORS
- EXTERIORS
- WALLPAPERING
- FENCES
- DECKS
- ROOFS

DISCOUNT COUPON
10% OFF
 PAINTING
T&CS APPLY



WWW.REDECORATING.CO.NZ

PH: 0277779543



Expert Bathroom and Kitchen Renovations in Christchurch

We have an in-house team of:

- Plumbers
- Electricians
- Plasterers
- Project Managers
- Kitchen Designers
- Tilers
- Builders
- Painters



Ready to renovate but not sure where to begin?

We offer a free, no-obligation consultation to help get your project off to a stress-free start. Simply give us a call, or complete our online form to get started on creating your dream home today.

5% discount with this Heathcote Valley ad referral!

www.evoke-reno.co.nz

5 Clothier Street, Linwood, Chch, 8022

021 242 4262

evoke.
 BATHROOMS AND KITCHENS

Heathcote Valley Trades and Services Directory

Please support these businesses that support our local community.

Beauty Therapy Contact Marg's beauty spot for all your skincare, waxing and tinting. Book a 60 minute Thalgo marine facial and receive a complimentary lash tint (value \$35).

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

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

enquiries-ferrymead@caci.co.nz to book a free consultation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please email: adverts@heathcotevalley.nz

Larger advertisements are also available—please enquire