



Community Magazine

Autumn 2026



A rare kōtuku (white heron) recently spotted in the Ferrymead wetlands. Photo: Jen Saunders

An Autumn Message from our Community Coordinator

Heathcote is definitely in the zone of Autumn with all its beautiful trees and leaves transitioning from lush summer greens towards more rusty reds with different hues of yellow, orange and browns. As a child it was such a joy playing in the huge piles of raked up leaves as we collected them for mulch around the garden. I love observing these transitions as I walk around the valley.



Also while walking around the Heathcote Valley lakes, I have been privileged to observe an elegant white heron feasting on critters in a stream entering the Heathcote lake, fed by the estuary and Heathcote River. Just seeing this bird felt as if it might be special, but I never realised just how special. In Maori it is known as kōtuku and symbolizes prestige, grace and high rank, a living treasure. We are very honoured here in Heathcote because this regal bird is very rare in New Zealand, with only one small breeding colony of about 200 birds in Whataroa, South Westland. After breeding there they disperse around the country to feed at coastal freshwater wetlands before returning to Whataroa annually for the breeding season.

This season I have been somewhat delayed with getting the magazine out to the printer on time, which I must apologise for. I have recently sold my home of many years and have been preoccupied with downsizing, packing and zenning the property in preparation for a lovely young couple who are

super excited to soon own Honeysuckle Cottage and move into our lovely valley.

In this autumn edition you can read about some great events that have already taken place at the community centre. Our next community hui will be the 7th of May centred around emergency preparedness in the valley. This should be a goody and well worth attending.

As the Heathcote community grows and evolves, one of our superstars is stepping down, to take on a full time position. Jen Saunders is an absolute wonder woman, super charged with a joyous sparkle that assimilates through the community, both as a person, and in her role as the Heathcote Community Centre Facilitator. Jen will still be involved in the community and the Heathcote Valley Community Association. Thanks for everything Jen. Have fun in your new role.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in this role please let them know. You will find an advertisement for the position on Page 20.

Thank you for everyone's contributions, and all the support from volunteers that continue to make this magazine come to life.

Please remember to have all your stories, poems, pictures and local news into me by the 12th May. I'll aim to send out a reminder by the 1st of May so that the magazine can be ready on time. Life should have calmed down somewhat by then so all should be back on track for the winter issue.

Kia hari te panui, happy reading.

Jocelyn

Email: heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com

HEATHCOTE COMMUNITY VALLEY ASSOCIATION

This edition we're mixing things up a bit! After hearing from me quarterly for the last several years, I've invited some of my fellow community members and HVCA committee to contribute also. This edition we have Lizzie Lewis - a newcomer to the HVCA, bringing fresh ideas, energy, and professional expertise and passion for exploring the world through the lens of history. Thanks Lizzie! Ngā mihi nui, Sooze Harris, co-chair.

Kia ora Heathcote whānau. Ko Lizzie tōku ingoa. It was my pleasure to join the HVCA committee following our August AGM last year and spend the latter half of 2025 getting to know the awesome team who contribute so much to our wonderful community.



Lizzie Lewis

As a newcomer to the Valley, I have been particularly struck by this community's connection with the land, its gorgeous noticeboards full of such a range of activities and its awesome local businesses, and I'm so grateful for the warm welcome I've received from my neighbours and the HVCA.

You might recognise my name from the Heathcote Valley Community Facebook group, where I've been posting recaps of our regular HVCA committee meetings. I will continue to post these wrap-ups on what we've been up to throughout 2026. This year, as Sooze wrote about last issue, we will also be focusing on bringing you a topic-guided community hui

every third month. Our first hui, Living in Aotearoa, was a great success, and we were thrilled to connect with so many locals and engage in thoughtful discussion around what it means to be Tangata Tiriti in Heathcote Valley. Our next community hui will be on 7 May 2026 and will be centered around emergency preparedness in the valley.

While the HVCA committee doesn't meet in January, we have had a busy summer season out in the community. We ran a stall at the wonderful Christmas markets at Heathcote Valley School in December, where we were thrilled to connect with new and old faces, and share Heathcote Valley themed goodies including bumper stickers, tote bags and locally published books. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to everyone who stopped by our stall and especially those who purchased a bumper sticker or tote bag as a donation to the HVCA and our work.

And, as a personal highlight, I have had the pleasure of collaborating with Christina Freeman to launch local fundraising efforts for the Ferrymead pump track.

This super exciting project to build a new asphalt pump track at Ferrymead Park is now fully underway. We hosted a fundraising launch at the Heathcote mountain bike jumps in January to kickstart our GiveaLittle page and celebrate the project with a sausage sizzle and mountain biking demonstrations from the experts! The Ferrymead pump track will be a fun, inclusive and enduring recreational space for all ages and abilities and will be situated

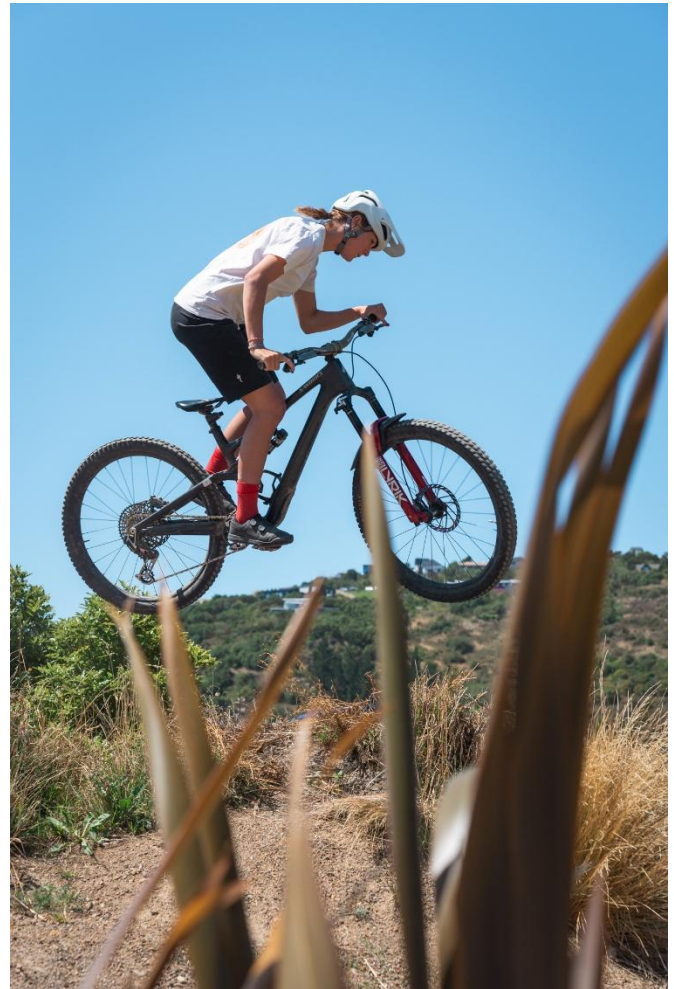
by the Ferrymead football / athletics clubrooms.

The site has already been secured, concept and landscape designs completed, and a significant portion of the required funding has been raised. Community support is now crucial to help bridge the remaining gap and turn the vision into a lasting asset.

Make your contribution to the pump track project here:

<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/httpshvccorgnz>

or scan the QR code below.



Fun was to be had at the Heathcote mountain bike jumps for the pump track fundraising launch on 31 January.



Scan here for the Pump Track Givealittle page





Te Tihi o Kahukura

Heathcote Valley School

Student Council - Term 1, 2026

We would like to introduce you to the new Heathcote Valley School student council for 2026. The students have each written a short biography which you can read below.



HVS 2026 Student Council
Back Row: Jaxon and Tyler
Front row: Stevie, Mahia and Fleur
(Maddie absent)

Jaxon

Tena koutou kua huihui mai nei
E mihi ana ki nga mana whenua
Ko Te Tihi-O-Kahukura te maunga e ru nei taku
ngakau
Ko Waimakariri te awa e mahea nei aku
maharahara
Ko Ngai Tahu taku iwi
Ko Aleisha rarau ko Matthew oku matua
Ko Jaxon toku ingoa
No reira, tena koutou katoa

Greetings to everyone gathered here.
I acknowledge the mana whenua.
Castle Rock is the mountain that speaks to my heart.
Waimakariri is the river that alleviates my worries.
Ngai Tahu is my iwi

Aleisha and Matthew are my parents

Jaxon is my name

Thus, my acknowledgement to you all.

Hello, my name is Jaxon William Austin-Vlietstra and I am one of the new Student Council members of our school Te Tihi Kahukura. As a student council representative, I help plan out whole school events, and even the little ones. Not only am I a student council member, but also I am a barista so you may see me in the library during Mondays at 8:30 to 9:30, maybe even on Thursdays serving coffee! Not to mention I am only 12 years old pushing the big 13 on the 30th of August, so please wish me a happy birthday. I have some hobbies, some of them are sport, sketching (mostly anime or fictional characters), watching movies/shows (HIGHLY RECOMMEND WATCHING It; Welcome To Derry BECAUSE MAN THE ACTING IS SO GOOOOOOOOOOOD), baking, cooking, doing barista, gaming, listening to music (my top 3 are: 3. Daniel Caesar, 2. Frank Ocean, and 1. Malcolm Todd). And that's about it, well other than me wanting to become an actor when I grow up. So now you know a little bit about me!

Mahia

Hi my name is Mahia. My birthday is the 25th of September 2013 which means I am 12 years old and this is my last year of this school.

I am a part of the student council of 2026, and my role is to represent the school as a leader and in organising events. I also am a PAL (physical activity leader). My role is leading games for little ones and helping with the house colour days. I am also kapa haka

kaihautu which means I lead the kapa haka and the karakia in the mornings.

My hobbies are gymnastics. I am in a team called CSG. I also play netball at school and love athletics. My favourite school subjects are art and sport. In my spare time I like to hang out with my friends, do gymnastics and draw.

Fleur

Hi my name is Fleur. I'm 12 years old, I was born on 29th of January 2014. I am also a Christian, and go to South West Baptist Church.

I am a part of student council 2026. In student council we work alongside the teachers of this school and help organise events. I am also a PAL which stands for physical activity leader and we plan and organise games for the little ones and the students in our school. And I'm kaihautu. We start and end karakia and support with kapa haka as leaders.

This is my last year of Heathcote Valley School. I have loved this school, one thing I love about this school is there is always someone to help you when you need it, a duty teacher, classmate or even a fellow student in school.

I have a mum and dad called Luke and Renee, two brothers, a 6 year old called Lance, a 9 year old called Ranger and a dog called Xena who is 9 months old.

I enjoy playing sports like football, netball, touch rugby, swimming, and aerial skills. I also play musical instruments like guitar, drums and piano. I love singing and listening to music.

I am very sad to leave this school because I have been here my whole school life but I am looking forward to leaving my mark and helping others in my final year!

Tyler

Hello, My name is Tyler! I am 12 years old and I love baking. People also know me by my nicknames. Here are some for example Tylenol, Tyler ronic acid.

My favourite subjects would probably be art or literacy because I can express myself. I like watching tv shows and anime, I like gaming and hanging out with my friends. My all time favourite anime would have to be Frieren: Beyond Journey's End.

I am a part of the 2026 student council with five other members. Their names are Mahia, Stevie, Jaxon, Maddie and Fleur. I am looking forward to the challenge!

Stevie-Jane

Hi my name is Stevie-Jane and people call me SJ or Stevie. I'm 12 years old and my hobbies are cheerleading and football. I am a part of the 2026 student council and I'm so grateful for it.

Our role in this school is to help organise events, speaking in assembly and getting involved across the school in activities. I'm also a PAL so I organize sports/spirit events and show people how to play games and sports. My favourite subject in school is literacy because I can express myself in words when I can't say them out loud.

Maddie Matthews is also a member of our student council team. She is currently in Italy during the Winter Olympics with her family! Super jealous!

This year we have two new teachers that we would love to introduce to you, our wonderful community.

Whaea **Jordy** is working with year 2 this year at HVS.

This is her first year as an official teacher but was working at Diamond Harbour as a teacher aide and has worked in the prison's school.

So far, she is loving her class, says they are lovely and super keen on learning, which is great - she clearly likes being a teacher!

Whaea Jordy has a fiancé named Alex and a son called Matiu. He is 21 months old.

She also has three sisters and one brother. They love to go four wheel driving and camping together. She loves cooking and baking. Her favourite foods to make are sourdough and cakes. She also loves gardening and flowers. Her favourite colours are pink and orange.

Make sure you come and say hello when you are next in the school!

Mrs **Beryl Hughes** is also new to HVS this year and she is working in a Year 3/4 class. She is 36 and has been teaching for six years, but with a gap when she had her two children.

Her oldest is Benji. He is eight years old. Benji likes to play cricket and is joining rugby. Her youngest kid is Jessie. She loves art and is very creative. This year she will be joining netball. They both go to HVS now! Mrs Hughes' husband, Mr Hughes, also helps us out as a reliever meaning her whole family is a part of the school!

In her own time she likes to swim at the beach and surfing. She also likes skiing and snow boarding. Her favourite colour is red. She says

“thank you for the warm welcome and I’m excited to meet all the parents and family.

The biggest event for Term 1 is Orton Bradley Camp for Year 7/8, four days, three nights, tenting in Orton Bradley Park and cooking dinners. Abseiling, high ropes, coasteering, kayaking, bush challenges and a walk are the key activities. We really want to just throw a shout out to all the parents who have given up their time to help us make this camp happen, including lending gear and especially coming on camp with us!



Is your health impacting your work? We can help.

Here Toitū is a **no cost** support service provided by Pegasus Health in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development.

Here Toitū Responding Early supports people who are:

- Aged 16-64 years
- Currently in work
- **Managing a health condition or disability that is impacting their work or placing their job at risk**

This support can include:

- Working with you to improve your health and well-being
- Advocating for health needs within the workplace
- Attending employer meetings as a support person
- Utilising MSD products and services
- Searching for alternative employment if required

Talk to your GP or contact us:
Toll Free Phone: 0508 437 786
Email: HereToitu@pegasus.health.nz
Website: www.pegasus.health.nz



Nathaniel's Message

Local: A Bumpy Bridle Path Road

Kia ora everyone

The end of 2025 saw many residents suffering sleepless nights as diverted trucks rattled along Bridle Path Road to reach Lyttelton Tunnel. The cause? NZTA maintenance work had closed the Scruttons Road onramp. Despite clear instructions for port-bound trucks to detour through Evans Pass, many chose local roads instead.



*Nathaniel Herz Jardine
Councillor for
Heathcote*

With the help of residents, I pushed NZTA to make improvements for the next closure. Initially they offered to change their signage and get police to monitor speeds and truck types - better than nothing. But more recently, I was pleased to hear that instead of a detour, trucks will be allowed through the tunnel using a traffic light system. So far so good - but the closure brought to the surface deeper concerns among residents about speeding along Bridle Path Road, and safety for cyclists, pedestrians and schoolkids.

I'm curious to hear more from residents: have you had issues on Bridle Path Road? Would you support changes, from reduced speeds to safer crossings?

Ward Wide:

Our Community Board's Draft Three-Year Plan will soon be open for consultation. I was thrilled to get some key projects included in our priorities:

- Support for pest trapping along the Heathcote River
- A community-led co-design of a village centre project in Waltham Park
- Advocacy for better bus connectivity in the hills

The plan will be available for feedback from 2nd March at letstalk.ccc.govt.nz/community-board-plans-hub.

Feel free to contribute there, or get in touch with me directly:

Nathaniel.herzjardine@ccc.govt.nz

UPCYCLE

Freecycle Day

Mark your diary now!

**The autumn Freecycle day will be on
Saturday 11th 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 11th.

What's on at Your Community Centre?



Our community centre has been positively humming since the start of the year with all sorts of fabulous events, workshops and classes going on. And, of course, we have hosted a wonderful array of private celebrations from weddings to birthdays to baby showers.

All of our favourite groups and classes are back and up and running for the year including wellness classes, craft group and community morning tea. We are very excited to welcome some new options too.

Our **Te Reo** class has been so popular that we are adding a second class for beginners on a Tuesday at 4.30pm. This will be friendly, welcoming and run by locals, so a great chance to connect with others and learn at the same time.

And, after two fun evenings already this year, we are pleased to announce that our **games night** will be a regular monthly event. Scott is a brilliant games-master and he brings along a selection of his own games so you are welcome to try something new or bring your own favourite. We have called it a tabletop games evening – this just means anything that can be played on a table – board games, card games, dice, fantasy games. Everyone is welcome, come alone or invite your family or friends. Great company and lots of laughs guaranteed.

We had two excellent community evenings in February – ‘Living in Aotearoa’, a wonderful open conversation about what it means to be Māori and non-Māori in New Zealand, and another evening called ‘Got Issues’ where we discussed the best way to approach any concerns that we have as individuals or as a community. We have more events in the pipeline including a talk around **disaster preparedness** on Thursday 7th May.

Other upcoming events include workshops run by Becky Collett from Rehumanise called **From Calm to Chaos**. These will give you a deeper understanding of your own stress patterns as well as practical tools for helping you to feel more regulated, grounded, and at ease.

In May we are offering two workshops aimed at our older folk – a talk around **Healthy Ageing** and a **Staying Safe Refresher Driver Course**. The latter is run by Age Concern (supported by Waka Kotahi / NZTA) and is designed to help support older drivers feel confident on the road.

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

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

Jen x



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.

Te Reo Classes

Tuesdays 3.30pm – 4.30pm AND now also Tuesdays 4.30pm – 5.20pm. 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, Fridays 9.15am-10.15am AND now also Saturdays 8.30am-9.30am: 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)

Games Evening with Scott

Held on the third Thursday of each month from 7pm. A super fun evening where you can bring your own favourites or try new games – board games, card games, dice etc.

Everyone (all ages) welcome, a great chance to connect with friends, old and new. Contact Jen (hvcc.bookings@gmail.com)

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 Bumper stickers



The last batch of bumper stickers sold out, but we now have some more. Would you like one? Just send Jen at the community centre an e-mail

hvcc.bookings@gmail.com and she will organize a sticker for you. The cost is \$10 per sticker, with any profits supporting the community association.

Riding School News

By Jenny Bradley

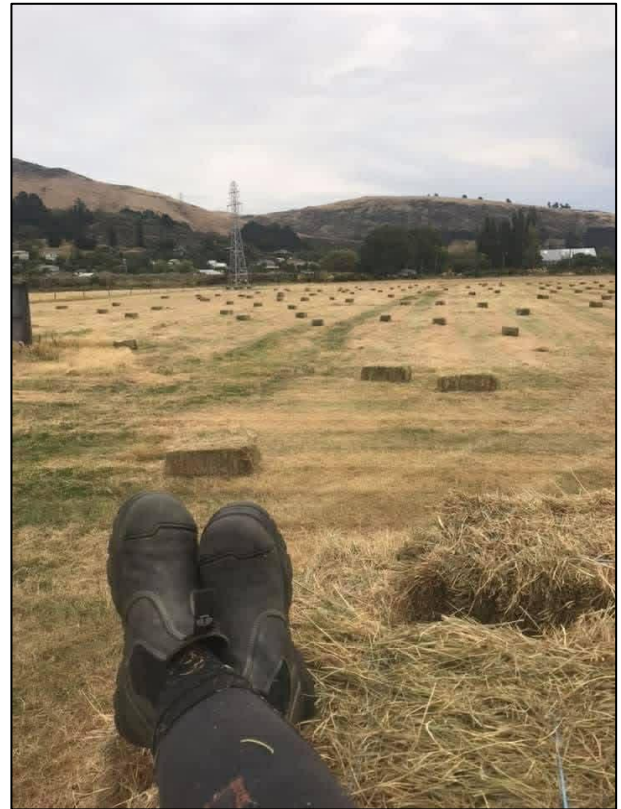
At the riding school we have been cutting our own hay for over 40 years. Years ago, before the Cooks Lane subdivision, there was a lot more to cut and we would draft in lots of volunteers, everyone connected to the riding school in any way was involved, even the children, who loved riding on top of the hay trucks and trailers in those cheerful pre health and safety days.

Now the hay crop is smaller, not just because we have less land but because wet winters and springs kill the grass which then takes longer to get away and grow in summer. We finished this year's baling in February, still with lots of help from our wonderful volunteers who worked until gone midnight.

After the hay is cut the horses enjoy the freedom of being together as a herd in the larger paddocks. They spend a lot of time playing and bonding when they are all together and their individual personalities really show.

Hopefully we will not get another wet winter. Our paddocks are very low lying, so we do get a lot of mud. The horses get lots of hay and feed during this time and are moved around during the day so they can all get out of the mud some of the time. In addition, they are all rugged against the weather, so they are toasty and have full bellies.

Some breeds of pony can't deal with NZ's rich grass at all and these ponies need to be kept off the grass paddocks and fed hay or they become quite unwell. Many wild horse and pony breeds come from areas that have sparse natural feed and far worse weather



Freshly cut and baled hay.

than ours, so for them a Christchurch winter is a breeze.

Last winter several reports were made to MPI from people concerned about the welfare of our horses; each time MPI visited and found no problem. If you have any concerns about the horses, please ask at the riding school rather than bother MPI who have better things to worry about than our very privileged ponies and horses.



Adventures With Nature

Rewilding in Morgans, Heathcote, Horotane and Avoca Valleys

By John Marsh

Autumn Ramble



Shining spleenwort



Hounds tongue



Shaggy ink cap

I like a good plant name... and there's no better name than "shining spleenwort" if you are really wanting to roll a name round on the tongue. Even better, its botanical name is *Asplenium oblongifolium*, stretch out those lovely vowels, one syllable at a time... say it five times and you may remember it, but don't worry about that, just say it slowly and enjoy it. And, by the way, it's also called *huruhuruwhenua* in te reo. The best way to remember it though is to plant it. It's exactly what you need for that shady south side or under a taller tree. Luxuriant, glossy fern foliage from deep in the bush. Plant a whole lot of them, and then just when you've remembered the name, plant some "hounds tongue" or *Phymatosorus pustulatus* amongst it... a ground hugging fern also with more glossy tropical leaves... slow to start but great once established. Unfortunately... or maybe not... this wonderful name has been supplanted in the scientific world by *Microsorium pustulatum* and then by *Zealandia pustulata*... so might be best to stick with "hounds tongue".

Drifting into the fungal realm I thought I should share this shaggy ink cap... aka shaggy mane or lawyer's wig, that was standing guard on the Duncan Park track last week. Something of a punk rocker in some respects....it seemingly collapses into an inky dishevelled mess shortly after appearing on stage. However, it's another interesting name to drop into the conversation or on the menu even, botanically known as the fruiting body of the fungus *Coprinus comatus*.

I expect the third week of February 2026 will be remembered for a few years around Banks Peninsula for its remarkable downpour of rain. Close to 350mm over two days in Akaroa and Little River, 260mm at Coopers Knob, 160mm on Summit Road at top of Rāpaki Track. The flooding and slips experienced in the more southerly areas missed our valleys this time with a comparatively dry 52mm recorded in Bridle Path Road over the same period.

Still, 52mm is a solid downpour, particularly following earlier rain events of 16.5mm, 56.5mm, 23.4mm and 18.6mm since the beginning of the year and the valley waterways have been babbling away cheerfully near the Bridle Path, Horotane and Avoca.

The rain shadow effect on the north side of the Port Hills usually keeps these waterways dry and dusty till late May but this year the hills are showing a tinge of green already and there are obvious signs of young trees planted over the last few years appearing above the grass below Castle Rock, and in Avoca and Horotane Valley. I wonder if this is what climate change means for our future summers? More rain? Good for the trees!!

Horotane Valley and Avoca Valley Linda Woods Reserve - Summit Road Society

Reserve Work Party - Through spring and summer our regular Wednesday volunteers have worked relentlessly on weeding the trees planted last winter. This work is never quite finished, but we are seeing progress in many areas now especially with solid rainfall events since Christmas providing great growing conditions. The team has grown to around 15 members on good days, so seems the work, fresh air and contact with nature is proving reward enough. Please join us if you have a free Wednesday morning once in a while and enjoy some green therapy.

The team has also been working on extending the track network in Avoca Valley and maintaining existing tracks, though this is always another work in progress. This will form another

Maybe in not too many years we will see some shining spleenwort and hounds tongue establishing in the shade as the forest returns!!

In the meantime, there is still work to do... revegetation planting season is not far away.

Below are some progress reports on the rewilding going on in our neighbourhood valleys and reserves. Many thanks to those who have driven these events along. If you want to get involved with any of these please get in touch with the co-ordinators. Community planting events will soon be advised on the local e-notice board.



The Linda Woods work party team on a hot Wednesday morning.

“loop track” when completed from the gate at the top of Duncan Park.



Revegetation monitoring photo-points... take a photo.

Revegetation Photo Points. There are now 10 camera photo point sites (as seen in the image above) located in the reserve. If you are regularly walking the tracks up there, please take a photo through these every so often and send to the email noted. Over time we will form a clear picture of the change gradually taking place.

Pest Trapping. A team has been working in Avoca Valley now for two or three years trapping possum, rats and mice, mustelids and

hedgehogs on a regular basis. One man band Tim Mundy has now made a start on pest eradication in Horotane Valley, reporting between 65 and 70 possums trapped since October 2025.

Planting Days 2026. Planning has been underway for this year's planting season and buoyed by generous grants (and trees) from CCC, Transpower, the Mundy family, Te Kakahu Kahukura and Trees that Count we are aiming to plant close to 5000 trees in the reserve this year. New fencing has recently been installed by contractors to protect the planting from stock and volunteer groups will start planting in May.

If you are a business owner and would be interested in a staff team building - planting day this season, please get in touch and join the other seven or eight groups that have been involved over the last 10 years.

Contact John Marsh on jmarshtree@gmail.com or 0274 310 182 if you would like to get involved in this volunteer work or learn where the walking tracks are.

Heathcote Valley Food Forest

Birdsey Reserve, Bridle Path Road.
WEEKLY WORKING BEES on Thursdays @ 3pm



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

Bioblitz 2026

Christchurch City Council Nature Challenge

<https://www.citynaturechallenge.org>

The Summit Road Society is holding a “*Bioblitz*” in the Linda Woods Reserve, Horotane Valley - Sunday April 26th from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm.

A **Bioblitz** is an event where plants, insects, fungi, and birds found within a certain area are documented. An app called iNaturalist is used. There will be a team on hand to help you get started with iNaturalist and guide you on the day. The location will be in a recently planted area of Linda Woods Reserve at the end of Horotane Valley Road.



Grab your walking shoes and a smartphone with the iNaturalist app, and help document all the plants, animals, fungi, and insects in the area.

Whether you're a nature enthusiast or just curious, this is a fun way to explore local biodiversity together.

Meeting point: At the Linda Woods Reserve entrance at the end of Horotane Valley Road.

This is a great community event for all ages — no experience needed!

More information will be posted on the Summit Road Society and Heathcote Community Facebook pages closer to

the date. In the meantime if you have any queries contact Brigid 021 615 637 or email us at manager@summitroadsociety.org.nz



Brigid Casey



The Food Forest is accepting household green waste for composting through our “swap-a-bucket” system. Email heathcotevalleyfoodforest@gmail.com for details.



Have you got a family get together coming up? Planning a work do? A large gathering of friends?

Over the last few months, the Heathcote Community Sports Club has welcomed many such groups, from a couple of hours to a full day or evening, including Christmas Day. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. One extended family group enjoyed the day so much, they intend to book for the same day for the next few years!

For a function with up to 40 people, our Club offers something a little different at a very reasonable price. Most groups opt to play lawn bowls, but there is something for everyone, including the younger ones in a group. No experience is needed as our wonderful volunteers set up the games and give instructions on how to play. In addition to full kitchen facilities, a barbecue is also available to hire.

For more information or to inquire about date availability, email the Club Secretary, Zella, at heathcotecommunitysportclub@gmail.com.

In the meantime, our regular playing sessions continue.

Lawn Bowls

Sunday – 1.00pm

Tuesday – 7.00pm (until Easter)

Indoor Bowls

Tuesday – 7.00pm (from Easter until end of October and on wet days)

Petanque

Sunday – 10.00am

Thursday – 10.00am

Table Tennis

Please contact the Club Secretary on 021 521 707 for session days and times

Board & Card Games

All ages and non-members are welcome. First Thursday of each month (except January) – 7.00pm. Entry by gold coin donation plus small plate for shared supper

For any inquiries, suggestions, or requests for additional playing times or sports, please contact the Club Secretary, Zella, by emailing heathcotecommunitysportclub@gmail.com

QR Codes

In this magazine issue you will notice we have started using QR codes to link to various websites. We plan to incorporate more of these in the future to save you having to type in the web address, especially if you are reading the printed magazine.

A QR code is basically a tiny, scannable 'puzzle' made of black and white squares that you scan with your cell phone camera. Your phone will recognise the QR code and read the data encoded in the pattern. This should work with most smartphones. You simply tap on the screen to be taken to the website coded into the pattern.

Try it now with the code below and see where it takes you!



Conflict in Our World

By the Reverend Mark Sullivan Vicar of St Mary's Anglican Church

Each Sunday, we lift up prayers for those caught in conflict across the war-torn regions of our world. Recently we were reminded that the war in Ukraine has entered its fifth year. More than 1.5 million Ukrainians have lost their lives in that conflict, and it is likely that a similar number of Russians have also perished. To grasp the scale of that loss, it is as though the entire population of New Zealand's North Island were wiped away.

Fighting also continues in the Middle East, arguably the most significant lands which hold the traditions of the world's major religions—where conflict now stretches across multiple fronts. In the Gaza Strip alone, nearly 80,000 lives have been lost. Yet the roots of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict do not lie merely in recent years, but reach back centuries. Now the United States has joined the fray, in Iran, probably to defend the land that was carved off by the United Nations to form the new Israelite community after World War 2. Whatever one's perspective, today's violence is shaped by events far removed from the lived memory or understanding of the present generation. The same may be said of the conflict in Ukraine.

On April 25, many in our community will gather at dawn to mark ANZAC Day, remembering the young men who gave their lives in the First and Second World Wars. The original ANZACs volunteered to serve in lands far from home, defending people and territories they scarcely knew, for causes they may not have fully understood. At Gallipoli, in an ill-fated campaign



Mark Sullivan, Vicar

on foreign shores, more than 130,000 lives were lost—11,488 of them ANZACs.

War has marked the human story since its earliest chapters. What is striking is that even in this post-modern age—an age of science, technology, and unprecedented access to knowledge—many who fight and suffer still have little understanding of how or why conflicts began.

When we gather at 6am this ANZAC Day, may we pause to reflect on the futility of war and the countless lives caught in its machinery. So often, wars are conceived and directed by leaders far removed from the battlefield, while young men and women bear the cost in blood, injury, and grief.

ANZAC Day carries our prayers for peace beyond the walls of the church and into the heart of the community, beside the cenotaph. One cannot help but wonder what our world might look like if the leaders of warring nations paused regularly to confront the human toll of their decisions and the immeasurable weight of lives lost.

This ANZAC Day, let us also pray for our children—some of whom may one day hold positions of authority and influence. May the young lives entrusted to us grow into leaders who seek peace, pursue reconciliation, and act with greater wisdom than generations past. May they have the courage to lay down hostilities rooted in histories they neither began nor fully understand.

When Jesus Christ was asked which commandment was greatest, he replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your strength, and with all

your soul.” And he added, “Love your neighbour as yourself.” For two thousand years, the Christian church has offered these words as a vision for humanity. May they at last take root—finding fertile ground in the hearts, minds, and souls of the young people we nurture today—and bear the fruit of peace our world so deeply needs.



Heathcote Valley Online

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

- Heathcote Valley Community
A public group where anyone can post
- Heathcote Valley Community Association
The community association's page where notices of meetings and events are posted
- Support Local—Heathcote Valley
Primarily a page where local businesses are promoted

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

New Neighbours?

The local real estate agents have been busy of late, which means quite a few of us have new neighbours. Here's a great way to introduce yourself and make them feel welcome.



The Heathcote Valley Community Association has welcome packs available for you to give to your new neighbours. These are a smart calico tote bag with some goodies inside.

Welcome packs can be obtained from the Community Coordinator, Jocelyn de Kort. You can contact her by email at:

heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com

RECIPE

ANZAC Biscuits

The Anzac biscuit is a sweet biscuit, popular in Australia and New Zealand, made using rolled oats, flour, sugar, butter (or margarine), golden syrup, baking soda, boiling water and desiccated coconut. Anzac biscuits have long been associated with the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) established in World War I.

It is thought that these biscuits were sent by wives and women's groups to soldiers abroad because the ingredients do not spoil easily and the biscuits kept well during naval transportation.

The origin of Anzac biscuits is contested between Australia and New Zealand. The first known recipe for the biscuit significantly predates the formation of the ANZAC Corps. In New Zealand, a 1919 recipe for Anzac Crispies in the eighth edition of the St Andrew's Cookery Book had similar ingredients to modern Anzac biscuits.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1 cup desiccated coconut
- 1 cup plain flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 125 g butter
- 2 tablespoons golden syrup
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 tablespoons boiling water



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 180°C (350°F) and line baking trays with baking paper.
2. Combine butter and golden syrup in a small saucepan over low heat until melted and smooth.
3. Mix baking soda with boiling water and stir into the butter-syrup mixture; it will bubble.
4. Combine dry ingredients (oats, coconut, flour, sugar) in a large bowl.
5. Add wet mixture to dry ingredients and stir until fully combined.
6. Shape the biscuits: roll tablespoons of mixture into balls, place 5 cm apart on trays, and flatten slightly.
7. Bake:
 - For chewy biscuits: 12 minutes
 - For crunchy biscuits: 15 minutes

Tips

- Use rolled oats, not quick-cooking oats, for the best texture.
- Spray your measuring spoon with a little oil to prevent golden syrup from sticking.

A Learning Journey

By Ali Baré

We have lived in Heathcote Valley around eight years but my history here is much longer. My great great grandfather William Ems Ivory arrived on one of the early ships, the Cashmere in 1850. He got off that boat and walked over the Bridle Path, carrying his feather mattress and settled in Rangiora. My mother grew up on Rapaki Road and taught for a year at Heathcote Valley School.



Ali Baré

My husband Mike and I have lived in South East Asia for more than 20 years, mainly in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. Our hearts were firmly embedded in Asia and had little interest in New Zealand.

We were very aware of the long-term effects of colonisation with the British in India, the Dutch in Indonesia and the Spanish in the Philippines. While I can sort of understand the mindset of those Western nations who thought they were helping by bringing 'civilisation', I still struggle to get my head around the long term outcomes of that process.

It took me a long time to see that the same thing had happened in New Zealand. This became a turning point for me. We did a paper on biculturalism which opened our eyes to a different view of history from what we had learned at school. I wanted to get involved in our local community and also to learn Te Reo locally. This is our third year learning together.

We have previously learned several languages and needed those to survive in the local culture. Te Reo is different. I don't need to use it to buy food, get a haircut etc. Initially I was frustrated but gradually I'm realising that the language is just a part of understanding the world of Māori.

There are times when the marae at Rāpaki asks for help. Two of us from Heathcote Valley Community Association went to visit and asked if there was some way we could help or support them. They suggested we take care of their garden beds. This involves growing vegetables, mainly for their kaumatua.



The garden at Rāpaki Marae

From this I now pick the veges and join in with the kaumatua exercise group each week. To me, this is a great privilege and joy. I can't believe the hospitality and open hearts extended towards me.

It's too easy to live in a very comfortable Pakeha world, but I want to understand the broader context of our country. What was it like here before settlers arrived? How can we uphold our part of Te Tiriti o Waitangi? How can Māori and non-Māori live together well, respecting, honouring and learning from each other?

The last few years there has been a lot of push back against Māori. I notice that maybe this has had the opposite effect. Last year's hikoi had tens of thousands of Māori and non-Māori walking together. There is an unprecedented number of Māori and non-Māori learning Te Reo. Schools are embracing Māori history, culture and language.

Let's open our eyes, our ears, our hearts and learn....

Position Available

Activate and manage our local community centre so that it is a fully-functioning community development facility that supports a connected, engaged and empowered community.

This part-time contract role has flexible hours and is home-based / community-centre based. Tasks include organising, supporting and running events at the community centre as well as managing private bookings and ensuring the centre is well-maintained.

Please email Jen, hvcc.bookings@gmail.com for a full role description or if you have any questions. We will be interviewing candidates as applications come in and anticipate a lot of interest so we recommend applying early.

Wheelie Bin Clips

Isn't it annoying when your wheelie bin blows over in a strong wind and the contents spill over the road and get blown everywhere? Or do you have a large inquisitive dog (or other sneaky animal) that tries to access the smelliest contents and is not concerned about the mess it leaves or the dangers of eating rotten garbage?

Well, there is an easy answer. The Christchurch City Council has easy to fit bin clips (also called latches) available from their service centres to secure the lids of rubbish and recycling wheelie bins. The cost is \$5.00 per latch. Find out more at:

<https://ccc.govt.nz/services/rubbish-and-recycling/mybins>



Scan here to visit the website



The Early History of Heathcote Valley School

By Barrie Woods

Schooling in Heathcote Valley can trace its origins back to an advertisement placed in the Lyttelton Times on May 28th, 1859. It read:

Wanted – A mistress, a member of the Church of England, for a mixed school of boys and girls to be held temporarily in the Heathcote Valley parsonage.

It is presumed that this signalled the first formal school lessons in the valley, though the official date recognised for the establishment of the Heathcote Valley School is 1860, when lessons commenced at the house of Captain William Morgan (Cwm House).

Captain Morgan's house was in the area now known as Morgan's Valley. He generously made a room in his house available for lessons until a proper schoolhouse was built.

The schoolroom was described in an 1863 report of the Education Commission as being 15½ ft (4.7m) by 11½ ft (3.5m), with no fireplace and poor ventilation. It was one of four rooms in the house and was leased to the Education Commission for £30 per year. At the time of the report, the school had a roll of 28 pupils, though they most likely did not all attend at the same time.

Prior to the arrival of the First Four Ships of the Canterbury Association in 1850, most of the first European settlers had little or no formal education, so little priority was given to the establishment schools. In January 1851 Rev. Henry Jacobs opened a boy's school in two rooms of the Lyttelton Immigration Barracks. This was the first school in Canterbury. He only had twelve pupils, and it cost two guineas to

enrol. In April 1852, the school made the move over to Christchurch, initially setting up its base at Christ's Church (now St Michael and All Angels) parsonage, before moving in 1857 to its own building on what is now the Christ's College site.

Initially schools for settlers' children were mostly run by churches or private teachers and were for the more well-to-do families who could afford to pay, but within a short time the provincial councils also became involved, often on a collaborative basis. Eventually this arrangement would give way to the state schooling system we know today.

When Henry Sewell, later to become an MP, visited Heathcote Valley in 1853 he is said to have been so impressed by the valley that he recommended it as the site for the establishment of Christ's College. How different our area may have been if his recommendation had been followed.

In Heathcote, work had commenced on building the railway and tunnel to Lyttelton in 1861, resulting in a significant population increase locally. There was insufficient space for the growing number of pupils at Cwm House and a group of local residents began to petition the Bishop of Christchurch for the building of a proper schoolroom. The Lyttelton Times of 8 March 1862 records their meeting, which was convened by Rev H Fendall:

The meeting, which was very numerously attended, resolved that "the proper course was to erect as soon as possible a commodious school room on the half-acre of land offered to

the district for that purpose by Mr. Lee. That a plan of the proposed building should be laid before the Bishop of Christchurch for approval, and on that being obtained, that subscriptions be raised for carrying out the object in view."

It was predicted that space would be needed for around 100 pupils. Local landowner Mr George Lee agreed to provide a suitable plot of around ½ acre of land for the building at "a very advantageous position at the meeting of the bridle path and Hills Road" (now Port Hills Road).

In March 1862, Bishop Harper gave his approval of the plan of the proposed school building but stated that owing to the very small allowance made by the Provincial Council for educational purposes, he would not be able to give any monetary assistance to the building fund. The local community subsequently resolved to open a subscription list for the building and asked that the "landowners and all parties interested in the district be requested to cooperate to raise the necessary funds".

The School Committee, was also made aware of Clause 23 of the Education Ordinance of the Provincial Council, which effectively said that if the local committee raised one quarter of the estimated cost of the buildings", the Council would provide the rest of the required money.

By May of 1862 the School Committee had already raised their portion and wrote to the Provincial Council seeking funds to complete the project but approval was not immediately forthcoming. The timing of events is a bit vague, and it is possible that the ordinance was still in draft form at this stage as it does not appear to have been formally adopted and published until 1864. Nonetheless, the school committee

appears to have used the intent of the ordinance to make their case.

In December 1862, the Heathcote parson, Rev. GJ Cholmondeley, wrote to the Provincial Council on behalf of the School Committee bemoaning the inadequacy of the current schoolroom, reminding them of the gracious offer of a suitable site, and making a case for funds sufficient to erect a new schoolroom and master's house.

Just like today, bureaucracy had to be negotiated, and letters were exchanged between the Education Board, the Provincial Council and the School Committee. Eventually, in December 1862, the Provincial Council agreed to provide a sum of £350 towards the building of a school in Heathcote Valley. In addition, they bargained Mr Lee for the provision of an additional half acre of land, making the total site just over one acre.

While this was happening, Captain Morgan was wanting to terminate the lease on the room at Cwm House as he intended to move his residence to Kaiapoi. He granted quarterly extensions for a while, then gave notice that the lease would not be renewed when it expired on 18th October 1863. This would leave the school without a room and the schoolmaster without a home as he lived in a cottage at Captain Morgan's property.

Plans had already been drawn up for the building and George Holmes, the engineer responsible for the railway tunnel, was engaged to complete the work. It seems however that the schoolroom was well down his list of priorities and work was slow to start.

On 24th August Rev G J Chomondeley wrote to the new Education Board to complain that work

had not yet commenced, reminding them that the lease at Cwm House was soon to expire. It appears that the Education Board may have addressed the delay by sacking the schoolmaster (Mr William Martin), it being recorded on 28th September that “the duties of the Heathcote Valley Schoolmaster have been brought to a conclusion”. There may be more to that statement than meets the eye, and perhaps they were keen for the schoolmaster to move on anyway. We can only speculate.

The chairman of the Education Board, Henry Tancred, then became involved and advised the School Committee that the management of the new building would be subject to the Board of Education Ordinance. He went further by returning the proposed plans to the Provincial Council along with a number of recommendations for changes. Then ensued a debate about the design of the school building and it was back to the drawing board.

After much to-ing and fro-ing a revised design was finally decided upon with Mr Holmes being given the final design on 6 October. However, due to his commitments to the tunnel work, he was not prepared to make an immediate start, much to the annoyance of local parents and the Education Board.

Then, to make matters worse, it appears there was trouble with the title for the land, which had been designated as part of the new railway reserve. The locals wanted building to commence regardless, leaving the title issues for later resolution. The urgency was probably understandable as it's likely school lessons were by now suspended.

Exactly what transpired is uncertain, but it's highly likely pressure from Heathcote parents

played a big part. On 14 November an advertisement in the Lyttelton times advised:

MR. WILLIAM DEMPSTER having received the appointment to the above school from the Education Board, will resume its duties on **MONDAY**, the 16th instant, at 9 a.m., when parents would oblige by having their children in attendance, so as to facilitate the arrangements for forming the classes.

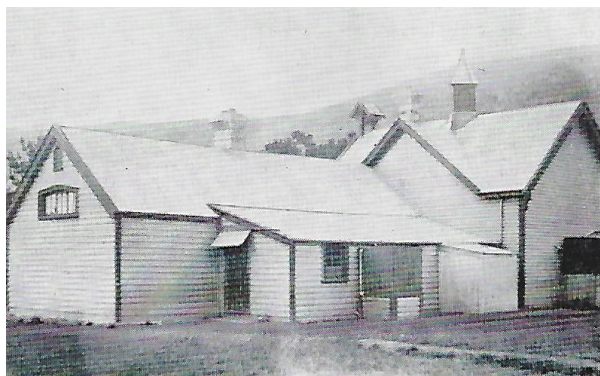
There must have been somewhere for the classes to commence as work on the new schoolroom had not yet been started. Perhaps an extension of time was agreed at CWM House, or an alternative room was located elsewhere for school lessons. Mr Holmes was urged to get on with the building work, and at last the schoolroom was completed sometime in 1864.

The school room was effectively just a large wooden shed 30ft (9m) by 18ft (5.5m), with one door, some windows and a fireplace. No insulation, electricity or plumbing, let alone an Internet connection! George Holmes, whose company built the new schoolroom was elected as the chairman of the School Committee. He only served for one year and was replaced by Mr William Dunlop.

Heathcote Valley School gained mention in the March 1867 Annual Report of the Board of Education, and what they had to say was not particularly favourable:

“In one case alone, that of the Heathcote Valley School, the Board found itself compelled to exercise its power of withdrawing a part of the annual grant. The repeated warnings given by the Board having failed to produce any effect, no alternative remained. The inefficiency of this school was partly owing to a want of proper supervision on the part of the Local Committee,

and partly to the remissness and unskilful management of the master. The Local Committee has since been completely reorganised, and a new master appointed, the result being that the work of the school is now performed in a much more satisfactory manner.”



An early photograph of the new schoolhouse - late 1800s

In April 1868 the school advertised for a new teacher:

WANTED a TEACHER for the Heathcote Valley School. A married man, whose wife could assist in the school, preferred.

Applications and testimonials to be sent in on or before the 15th May next. **WILLIAM DUNLOP**, Chairman of Local Committee, 6317 Heathcote Valley

Can you imagine an advertisement today seeking a married man with a wife expected to assist, presumably for no extra pay? Times have certainly changed! The new teacher appointed was Mr Ellenton Mitchell. He became popular for running singing lessons for the locals at the school.

Here's another interesting fact, in December 1868 the school advertised places for 'a limited number of boarders' for the next school year. Who knew that Heathcote Valley School once had boarders? It appears this was only for a few

years as the last advertisement for boarders was in 1870.

It was not long before the school needed to expand and more land was thought to be needed. In 1871 the School Committee proposed moving the school site to 'a more central location'. There wasn't a strong consensus for the suggestion, which appears to have been abandoned. The school committee began raising funds for an additional schoolroom and construction of a master's house as one had not been approved in the first funding allocation when the first schoolroom was built. As before, the committee needed to raise a portion of the money and the Provincial Council would provide the rest.

In February of 1871 tenders were called for the construction of the master's house. Prices ranged from £190 to £267, with the lowest tender being accepted. Construction did not commence however, as a spat erupted in relation to the money that the school committee had raised. There had been a change of chairman and the previous chairman (Mr Dunlop) refused to release £44 that he was holding. His reasoning was that the money was donated under the assumption that the school would be moving to a new site. With that plan abandoned, some of the donors would likely choose to send their children to Opawa instead, and should therefore expect the return of their money. He was worried the donors might sue him for its recovery. The matter went to court and the magistrate agreed with Mr Dunlop. The new chairman (Mr Smith) asked the Board of Education if a portion of the school committee payment could be deferred until after the building was completed, but the request was declined. He then suggested that only the schoolhouse be built, and not the master's

house and even offered to loan the school committee money so the project could proceed. In the end the school committee did take out a loan, possibly from Mr Smith, and in August 1871 tenders were called for the construction of a new schoolhouse and master's house, though the Education Board was unhappy with the cost and construction was once again delayed. Approval was finally given in March 1872 and the buildings appear to have been completed by 1873.

On 11 September 1873, The Press published a letter to the editor regarding the Heathcote Valley School, which read in part:

...on looking round the piece of ground the house stands on I often see cattle, pigs, goats, and fowls in abundance. Speaking to some friends of mine, I find that none of the above named things belong to the schoolmaster, but the committee allow him to be annoyed by other people's cattle, &c. ; not even a flower can grow in the verandah, even the perambulator has to be taken inside for fear of the mountain deer. I made some enquiries respecting some stumps of trees which are to be seen, round the school ground, and was informed that they were all that remained of the previous committee's work. The present committee are all Peabodys...

('Peabody' was a term used to describe vain or self-important people in those days.)

On 27 September there was a response:

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PRESS. Sir,—
Having seen a letter in the " Press " respecting the state of our school grounds, signed " Visitor," —and— being a resident,- I paid a visit to the ground to see what mischief the mountain deer had done, and to my surprise not one tree is growing out of the

three hundred planted. Now, if the Government are to go on finding trees for no other purpose than to have them destroyed in such a manner, the sooner they cry " a go " the better, for it must be understood that the country is at a great expense in raising such things. ~ I was glad to see that the Board of Education has given instructions to have the ground properly fenced, which may prevent a recurrence of the same. But what about the present chairman of committee trying to fence off a piece of the ground for one of his workmen. It looks just like "I pall you, and you pall me." But thanks to the Board of Education for the notice which they have given to the present committee. By what they have done they have "conferred upon the district the greatest possible benefit.
Yours, &c., A RESIDENT.

The Education Board funded a fence, but all was still not well. There was another letter to the Press:

Perhaps some of your numerous readers would like to know how we manage matters at home, as after reading such a comprehensive and enlightened report I have no doubt they will think us a model worth imitating. We never trouble ourselves about such trifling matters as looking after the schoolmaster, school, or school grounds. That we consider no part of our business. A paternal Government, through a little influence we possess, fenced in two sides of our school grounds in a very substantial manner, without asking us for a shilling towards the cost; but we leave the other side open, as the grounds grow good grass, and it is very convenient when our cattle get on the public road, as they are sure to go into the grounds, and often save us from getting into

the hands of the police. We also keep a tenant on the grounds, which brings us in 2s a week ; thus enabling us to draw 10s a week, from the Board, without I needing to tax ourselves in any way. We are thinking of dismissing our teacher, not on account of his want of teaching power—that I we know nothing about—but he actually had the impertinence to complain to the Board that our tenant (whom we value highly, and are very proud of) made him uncomfortable. If our out-offices blow over, with roof off and bottom upwards, as ours did a few weeks ago, close to the master's house, why we let it lie as beneath our notice. What is the master's comfort or convenience to us?...

...The Board are of opinion that we should remove our tenant, but we think differently ; so we have elected the same committee and they have pledged themselves to fight it out to the bitter end, and they have not a doubt but that we will be successful; and to show our utter contempt for the Education Ordinance we have this year elected one of our committee as auditors.

It sounds a little tongue-in-cheek, but there's a serious note to it. There are various other instances of tensions between the School Committee and the Education Board over the years, and the relationship seems to have been an ongoing power struggle.

In the late 1800s the newspapers record a number of 'treat' days at the end of each year for students, with games, food treats and a prizegiving. It was a celebrated event in the valley.

In 1880 a large classroom was added to the eastern end of the school and in 1900 a new library was opened with 78 books being gifted

to the school. These buildings were still standing when the school celebrated its centenary in 1960.



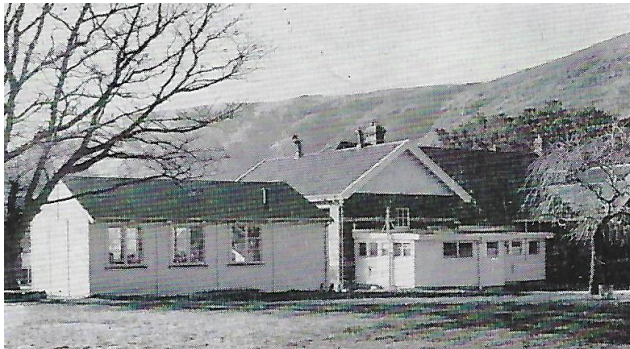
Patriotic flag raising for the Boer War, 19 June 1901

In 1911, the old 1873 classroom was demolished and a brick replacement built with a further addition in 1921. These buildings, along with prefabs added later would serve the school for more than 50 years. Also in 1911, an oak tree was planted in the school grounds to mark the coronation of King George V. It still stands today providing welcome shade for students.

Of interest is that Station Road used to extend further south than it currently does, before making a right angle turn to the east to join Bridle Path Road. To begin with this road, to the south of the station, was known as Short Street and was originally just a track from the railway station that served as a shortcut to the bridle path. Over time a few houses were built along

You may be interested to learn that the portion of Station Road running east to west (that was previously known as Short Street) still exists as a paper road through the middle of the school grounds, under which runs a water main.

Short Street and in 1950 it was incorporated into Station Road.



Heathcote Valley School at the time of its centennial in 1960

Around 1971 seven properties at the southern end of Station Road were acquired under the Public Works Act so the school grounds could be extended northwards, and the houses were removed. In 1974 the Canterbury Education Board called for tenders for 'the erection of a 2800 sq. ft classroom block, 900 sq. ft library and 240 sq. ft of additions to the existing administration block'. This marked the beginning of a major redevelopment of the school site. The new classroom block was of an open plan design, incorporating three classes separated by screens.

I have tried to focus on the early years, so I will finish my account at this point. There's obviously a lot more to tell than will fit in the space the editor has allowed me! Paul Corliss's book *In the Shadow of the Rock* contains a much more detailed history of the school. It's well worth a read if you are interested in learning more and is available from the public library.

Sources for this article include:

- *Papers Past, National Library of New Zealand*
- *Archives New Zealand*
- *Digital NZ <https://digital.org>*
- *Heathcote Valley School Centenary 1860 -1960, booklet by centennial committee*
- *In the Shadow of the Rock, book by Paul Corliss*



Do You Have a Story to Tell?

We hope you enjoy reading this magazine and the local stories and articles within. Many of those stories come from people just like you, so if you would like to contribute something for the next issue, please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you!

We are keen for articles about local people and happenings, poetry, artwork and photography, that are relevant to the greater Heathcote area, including Heathcote, Morgans, Horotane and Avoca valleys, and also Ferrymead.

No political or contentious issues please – we try to keep the magazine apolitical, and positive in nature.

If you're not a writer yourself, but you have a great idea for a story or article, please let us know and we'll see what we can do.

The deadline for articles for the next magazine, which will be the Winter 2026 issue, is **Tuesday 12 May 2026**.

Enquiries and contributions should be sent to Jocelyn at:

heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com

Heathcote Valley Library

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

A couple of quotes for you to consider . . .

Studies have shown that reading for fun is the **single biggest predictor of a child's future life chances** – more than a family circumstance, parent's educational background or income. It improves academic results, mental health, wealth, communication skills, ambition and happiness.

National Library Trust, Book Ownership in 2024, November 2024



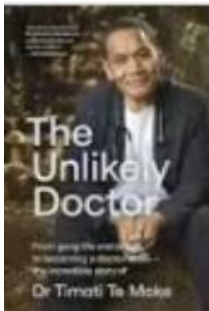
And here's a quote from a Cambridge University (UK) study:

Reading changes neural plasticity in the brain, which in turn helps to build “cognitive reserve”, says Christelle Langley, a cognitive neuroscientist at the University of Cambridge. She cites one study from 2011 that found that reading enlarges the hippocampus region, which is important for learning and memory and one of the first to show neuropathological changes caused by [Alzheimer's disease](#). “It is possible that by not reading we are more susceptible to the changes of decline in ageing,” she warns.

Big words, but they boil down to this - “above all things, READ”. (NZ Author Dame Ngaio Marsh)

Heathcote Library has a great range of children's and adults' books

Reader's Choices



The Unlikely Doctor

The extraordinary true story of Dr Timoti Te Moke, a gifted child who endured a violent childhood, gang life, stints in prison, and an unsupported manslaughter charge who became a doctor at the age of 56 and is a staunch advocate for Māori. This wonderful, powerful book will challenge perceptions and may change you.



The Nightingale
by Kristin Hannah

Based on a true story, this is about two sisters in France during World War 2 and their struggle to survive the German occupation. A story of bravery and resistance, this is a story about humanity and strength, narrated by an elderly woman who is remembering.

Library Hours

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 2.00pm - 4.00pm Wed 10.45am - 12noon Sat 10.30am - 12noon

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



Please Support Your Community Association

Please consider making a donation to the Heathcote Valley Community Association. Your donation helps support many great initiatives in our community, including: running the community centre and website, publishing this magazine, holding community hui, hosting weekly community morning teas, maintaining five noticeboards around the streets, maintaining two AEDs, and much more...

Annual donations can be made each year before March 31st. Or why not consider setting up a monthly contribution by direct credit. The equivalent of a price of a coffee each month would make a huge difference to our outcomes!

We realise that everyone's situation is different, so please give what you can.

How to make a donation

Our bank account details are as follows:

Heathcote Valley Community Association
ASB 12-3147-0553279-01

Please use the following codes

Particulars: Donation

Code: Your family name

Reference: Your address

Please note: We will not send a receipt unless you specifically request one.

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
- Maltworks Villas, 60 Port Hills Road.
Located on the Clubhouse wall.
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.

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.

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Authorised by Tracey McLellan MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

Heathcote Valley

Trades and Services Directory

Please support these businesses that support our local community.

Beauty Therapy Marg's Beauty Spot. Escape to paradise with our 1-hour Thalgo Koh Tao facial. Experience ultimate relaxation with a gentle cleanse, exfoliation, hot towel steam, loong massage and nourishing marine mask designed to hydrate, soothe, and bring out your natural glow. Book this luxurious, rejuvenating island-inspired ritual for your skin today! \$125 includes free eyelash tint. Ph 027 464 7477

Dentist Dr. Sally Woods BDS (distinction), Dental on Kilmore, 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

Indian & Mexican Restaurant. Spice Hub serves authentic Indian curries, tandoori and naan alongside Mexican favourites like tacos and burritos. Dine-in or takeaway. Friendly service at 66 Port Hills Rd. Order online at www.spicehub.co.nz or Ph (03) 260 0438

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, control and advice. Call Darryl on 027 770 2102

Swimming Pools & Spas Poolwerx Christchurch offers professional advice around servicing and equipment. We'll keep your pool sparkling clean and safe all year round. Cnr Gasson & 49 Coleridge Streets, Sydenham or Ph: (03) 926 2988

Window Cleaning Gleaming Window Cleaning Ltd. Your local window cleaner for residential and commercial window cleaning with 7 years of experience. Contact us for a free quote. Ph: 021 067 2392 Email: nouman@gleaming.nz
Web: www.gleamingwindowcleaning.co.nz

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

Please email: adverts@heathcotevalley.nz

Larger advertisements are also available—please enquire