



Community Magazine

Spring 2025



Are you for real?

A Spring Message from our Community Coordinator

It's another one of those glorious, much enjoyed sunny spring days!

I've even heard bellbirds whistling their stunning tunes as they flit through the fresh blossoming kowhai flowers, creating such a feeling of joy and renewed energy.



I love the springtime.

Daylight saving starts on Sunday 28 September at 2am. The clocks go FORWARD to 3am, so there will be more light in the evening and less in the morning. Maybe it's time to scrub up those barbecues and invite your neighbours over for a yummy shared meal.

Some years ago, I listened to a heart-warming interview on the radio about two elderly friends. Both were living alone in the same village and informally began sharing weekend evening meals together. On Saturday Sylvia would cook, and Fred would come over to her home around six o'clock. The following evening Fred would cook and Rosa would visit his cottage. After enjoying the meal together, they would share the chore of washing-up and putting away the dishes. Then they relaxed with a cuppa or glass of wine to play a game of cards, chess, scrabble or watch an interesting movie on the telly. Around nine-thirty, a goodbye was said, and the visiting friend wandered back to their own home. They simply enjoyed the friendship of a platonic companionship. It was energising and created change in the day to day routine. Above all it warded off a sense of loneliness.

Perhaps we could do something similar, with our neighbours and buddies, especially those living alone.

Apart from enjoying the fresh energy that spring offers, I have been enthusiastic about discovering a recycling station at Mitre 10. There are bins for old batteries, light bulbs (including fluorescent tubes), polystyrene, coffee pods and clean plastic seedling pots. Check out more details on page 27.

Thanks to Lesley Seyb, an eco-conscious local, I was introduced to another innovative recycling hub, located at the Richmond community gardens, called the Riverlution ECO recycling centre. There, I was introduced to Mogen, the centres' manager who offered her support and expertise to set up something similar here in the Heathcote Valley.

I have made this my next community project alongside revamping the book exchange fridges on Martindales Rd - watch this space!

There are lots of interesting stories and poems in this spring magazine edition, including a delicious mushroom risotto recipe on page 16 and Sooze Harris's overview of the community showcase evening held last month at the community centre. Sue and Chris Stewart have written about weaving a tukutuku panel (one of eleven) at St Marys Church with some local volunteers. The finished work will be hung in the newly completed youth hub on Salisbury Street. Read more on page 20.

Thank you for everyone's contribution, and all the wonderful volunteers helping out in the background. Your support is always very much appreciated.

Keep in touch, and if you'd like to join the Heathcote community email list, get in touch with me via email -

heathcotevillageproject@gmail.com

The summer edition of this magazine will be out around the 12th of December, so all articles will need to be emailed to me by the 12th November.

Kia hari te panui Happy reading

Jocelyn

At this time of year, our HVCA committee is in transition. We wrap up the past 12 months by:

- Reflecting on and celebrating what has been,
- Gathering together as a new committee,
- And looking ahead to the coming year with fresh plans and energy.



*Co-chairperson,
HVCA Sooze Harris*

Reflecting and Celebrating

As a committee, we often work quietly in the background, contributing in a variety of ways toward our shared vision:

To promote the individual and collective wellbeing of the people of Heathcote Valley, and to build resilience in the face of challenges.

The HVCA supports this by creating opportunities for all residents to be part of an engaged, connected, and empowered community, with a strong sense of belonging.

We choose to stay behind the scenes because it's not about us — it's about supporting *you* to be the change in our community. So, it was a real joy to come together late last month to celebrate some of the many amazing initiatives, activities, and energy that locals are leading.

If you missed our **Community Showcase** on Thursday, July 24th — you missed a fantastic night!

Highlights from the Night

We kicked off with updates from **Jen** (our Community Centre Activator) and **Jos** (our Project Support Facilitator). These two put countless hours each week into ensuring our

community is rich with opportunities to connect, learn, and grow. A huge thank you to Jen and Jos!

Liz from the Library brought great energy, sharing about new projects like a book club and a beautiful partnership with the local preschool.

Three amazing **student council reps** from Heathcote Valley School shared updates on a wide range of school-led projects. Even if you don't have a direct connection to the school, you're warmly welcome to stop by for coffee when the coffee cart is open (Mondays and Thursdays, 8:30–9:30 AM — bring cash!).

We also heard about the **community and school gardens**, and the launch of the *Garden to Table* project, driven by local legends **John and Jan Marks** alongside school staff. It's an incredible initiative that always welcomes volunteers!

Next up, **John Marsh** and **Tamsin** shared about exciting environmental projects in and around the valley — from rewilding and greening spaces to food growing efforts. Planting is happening all along the hillsides of Morgan's Valley, Birdsey, Bridle Path, Horotane, and Avoca. Look up as you drive through — the transformation is visible! John also shared progress on the **Birdsey Food Forest**, which continues to thrive and expand.

Mark from St Mary's spoke about their diverse range of community activities, including regular group bike rides. Meanwhile, **Zella from the Sports Club** enthusiastically invited us to join in all sorts of activities — from bowls to board games and more. Membership is super affordable and a great way to meet others.

Sue shared a wonderful initiative at St Mary's — creating a large *tukutuku* panel for display at the new Youth Hub in town. **Ali** spoke about emerging opportunities to explore our shared identity under *Te Tiriti*, including volunteering in the vegetable gardens at **Rāpaki Marae**.

To wrap things up, we heard from **Christina**, who's working on a large-scale project to build a high-quality **pump track** right here in Heathcote - think Bexley, but local! We also welcomed the **new managers at Ferrymead Heritage Park**, who are bringing fresh energy and exciting plans to the space, including more music gigs. Stay tuned!

And just to top it all off, **Mahla and her Zumba crew** (who run sessions Mondays and Wednesdays at the Heathcote Valley School Hall) got everyone up for a spontaneous dance session! The evening ended with nibbles, mulled wine, and a deep sense of community connection.

We left the evening feeling truly grateful for the vibrant, welcoming, and generous community we live in.

Heathcote Valley is filled with fabulous people doing fabulous things.

There's always space for more — so if you have an idea or passion project you'd love to see happen, **get in touch**. We'd love to support you to bring it to life.

Gathering Our New Committee and Looking Ahead

We're stoked to welcome two new members to our committee: **Susanne Schildbach** and **Lizzie Lewis**. Both bring fresh ideas, energy, and perspective. Though newish to the area, they've already shown the skills and enthusiasm we're lucky to have on board. Welcome, Susanne and Lizzie!

Looking forward, we'll continue to work toward our shared vision guided by our **Strategic Plan**. It keeps us intentional and focused on how we serve the community. We're proud of it — and if you'd like to read a copy to see what we're up to, feel free to get in touch:

✉ sw.sl.harris@gmail.com

Let's keep building this amazing place together.

— The HVCA Committee

The Stairs



There is a right-of-way that runs between Port Hills Road and Flinders Road. The locals either call it Ellis Track or 'the stairs', depending on who you talk to. It even has its own address: 47 Port Hills Road.

Aside from being a right of way, it also provides a route for a water main and storm water drain. The little shed at the Port Hills Road end houses water supply equipment.

Ellis Track is quite steep, which makes it popular with people wanting a quick burst for their fitness regime. Are you game to try it?



Te Tihi o Kahukura

Heathcote Valley School

Student Council - Term 3, 2025

Hello, we are the student leaders for 2025. We are super excited for another year here at HVS and we can't believe we're already in term 3! The year feels like it has flown by and there's some things that happened last term and at the start of this term that we want to update you on.



Epro 8

Epro8 is a competition focused on STEM- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. This is done in teams of four. Last week the senior team of Heathcote Valley School were put to the test to solve challenges to score points within a time frame. This included making an iron man suit using metal rods, axles, and wing nuts and bolts. We held a final for both years 5/6 and 7/8 where students had to make choices between three challenges and could switch between them. We had to make a ball thrower machine, a shoe weighing scale and a jack in the box contraption! We have been super lucky to have the support of Powell Fenwick and our PTA who have sponsored our very own Epro8 kit to use. The top two teams got to compete in the inter-schools competition against 10 other teams. They had to choose between things like a foosball table, a barrier arm, a shopping cart, and

more. The two teams came 11th and 5th in the competition, and it was amazing to see their creative minds come to life.

Techfest

Techfest is a time where the seniors get to spend two days exploring technology and our local history and pūrakau in the town library, Turanga. This is an event that includes all of the schools in the Aupaki cluster where we can make new friends and be creative and learn some awesome skills. They do workshops like controlling robots, Minecraft, animation, stop motion, and more. The final projects go onto the Techfest website so parents can see. This was such a great opportunity for the seniors to try new types of learning with their peers.

ANZH - Aotearoa New Zealand Histories

In term 2 our school explored ANZH. The year 7 and 8s began by recapping our prior knowledge around the way early Māori lived followed by the impact of European arrival. This included a bike tour in the Port Hills revisiting our local purakau and stories of our history in the valley and early Christchurch. We also learned about the changes of land ownership and changes in ways of life for Māori and European. Across the school, students were able to learn about our place back in time and show off their learning in creative ways. The seniors were able to choose an area of interest and create models, interactive boards, movies, diary entries etc. The years 5 and 6 made board games and models of waka to show their

learning. Year 4 made info sheets about te raki whakaputa and a movie where they acted the story. Years 2 and 3 created mini movies. Years 0 and 1 acted in a short film to show their learning about te raki whakaputa.

Inquiry

This term our science focus is on wai or water. So far the seniors have done a lot of observations on water focused experiments and on how hot and cold water interact. They have been also learning about how water freezes by looking at pre frozen ice. At the end of the term we will be having a science fair focused on our inquiry.

We also have the Canterbury duathlon coming up (the duathlon being running, biking, running). The winter tournament is soon, we have teams from years 5 and 6 and years 7 and 8 competing in netball and football. This competition is in week 4 and we all are super excited to see how everyone goes.

Other students work to share from Korokio (only if it fits and works for you!)

Context: We are working on a theme study that centres around overcoming challenges. Students were given free rein to write a poem that describes fear.

Heart beating rapidly
Cheeks turning red
Feeling your body aching
Adrenaline rushing through your veins
Light headed, feeling dizzy
Feeling like everyone is staring at you
Wanting to just run away
Wanting to hide myself from everyone
Walter Goldbach

Fear is horrible
He is waiting for something
He knows it is coming

George Calvert

Fear is a layer of ice
Freezing over your body
Your heart hammers
Head whirls
Stomach lurches
You shiver and shake
Waiting for it to be over
Trapped in a dark grey bubble
Fighting to get out
Fear is
An overwhelming bull
Charging at you

Maddie Matthews

Fear
Gloomy empty road
Thick air, hard to swallow
Extreme sickness like a punch to the stomach
Something isn't right
Regret lurks over me
I freeze
Hollow sounds scream over the valley
Dry mouth throbbing
Fear

Finn Rodgers





Do You Have a Story to Tell?

Calling all writers, poets and storytellers.

Articles are invited for the next issue of the Heathcote community magazine, which will be the summer edition.

We are looking for stories about happenings, people, environment, or local history. Poems and photographs are also welcome. In fact, anything with a local connection and that you think your neighbours will enjoy, but please, no politics or contentious issues—there are other forums for that. Please note the editor decides what gets published and some articles may not be suitable.

If you have a good lead or idea for a story but are not a writer yourself, please let us know so we can follow it up.

Please ask if you would like more info.

Deadline for articles is:

Wednesday 12 November 2025.

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



UPCYCLE

Freecycle Day

Mark your diary now!

The spring Freecycle day will be on

Saturday 20th September

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 20th.



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 meeting 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

What's on at Your Community Centre?



Spring is almost springing! I'm feeling very excited and energised from having a few warmer days, seeing the blossom emerge, hearing the new lambs and enjoying earlier sunrises.

This is a great time of the year to get motivated and try something new. Why not pop along to your community centre and take one of the fabulous wellness classes, register for a workshop or come to craft group or community morning tea.

The craft group on Monday is a very friendly bunch, and anyone is welcome to attend. There are all sorts of clever people working on interesting projects including knitting and crocheting, along with a ready cuppa and great conversation.

Likewise, community morning tea on Wednesday is relaxed and friendly. There is nothing better than a hot cheese scone or gran's fruit loaf, good coffee and great company. Anyone is welcome – come alone or bring a friend – and there is no charge. The library, also in the community centre, is open from 11am – 12pm on Wednesdays too so you can pop in and borrow some great books at the same time.

And if you have something to celebrate in the coming months then don't forget that

you can hire the community centre for private events. We have a full kitchen, a ceiling-mounted projector, and tables, chairs, beanbags and a whiteboard for you to use. If you are interested in using the centre just pop me (Jen) an e-mail:

hvcc.bookings@gmail.com

For the latest happenings at the community centre and updates keep an eye out on Facebook, our website, your local noticeboards and the e-mails from Jos.

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 – 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, Fridays 9.15am-10.15am AND now also Saturdays 8.30am:

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

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

Fun fact: There were 365 days between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025. On 337 of

these days, we had one or more groups booked in to use our function room. On 355 of these days someone walked through the doors of the community centre to either visit the library or go to an event or class in the function room. We estimate that approximately 4500 individuals made 12,000 visits in that time. This is awesome! Our community centre belongs to the community, and we want it to be used and enjoyed by everyone.

Community Morning Tea



Enjoy tea or coffee
home baking and
great company at the
Heathcote Valley
Community Centre

Each Wednesday, 10am – 12pm

Everyone is welcome. Come alone
or bring a friend. No charge.

**You can find the
Community Centre at
45 Bridle Path Road**



Heathcote Cricket Club

Gears Up for Another Season

As winter's grip loosens and the playing surfaces begin to firm up, excitement is building at Heathcote Cricket Club as the new season approaches. The club's morning grade men's teams have already commenced pre-season training, while administrators work diligently behind the scenes to ensure everything is ready for what promises to be an exciting campaign.

Senior teams ready to compete

The club has successfully retained its competitive men's squad, with some promising recruits in the pipeline to strengthen the roster further.

In a significant leadership change, player-coach Tyler Lortan will step aside from the 1st XI captaincy, passing the reins to fast bowler Marek Bungard. The appointment of Bungard, a homegrown talent, who has progressed through the junior ranks at Heathcote, represents the club's commitment to developing local players into leadership roles.

Hunter Rowe will continue his successful tenure as 2nd XI captain in Championship Grade, bringing valuable experience and stability.

The 3rd XI has set an achievable target this season – secure promotion from Division 2 to ensure Heathcote has teams across the top three competitive grades.

While the departure of the Red Wolves to neighbouring Sumner Cricket Club initially

raised eyebrows, Heathcote has turned this into opportunity. The club will field a brand-new team in Division 3 which, unlike the Red Wolves, will be “open” and integrated with the club's player selection process.

Junior and youth cricket flourishing

Ben McIntosh has stepped into the role of Junior Club Captain, working alongside returning junior cricket coordinator and coach Rhys Watson-Webb.

Families interested in junior cricket should mark Sunday 14 September in their calendars for the Junior sign-up day, starting at 2pm at the clubrooms in Heathcote Domain. This is an opportunity to meet coaches, learn about the various age groups, and register for the upcoming season.

The popular Friday “Have a Go” cricket returns on October 10 from 5.30pm to 6.30pm. These sessions provide a relaxed introduction to cricket through fun games and activities, while parents can enjoy the social atmosphere with the bar open and BBQ running.

The club is actively seeking coaches and team managers for the junior programme – a rewarding way for community members to contribute to local cricket while watching young talent develop.

With strong senior teams, expanding junior participation, and excellent facilities, Heathcote Cricket Club is well-positioned for another successful season.



At the Heathcote Community Sports Club, we are looking forward to spring, warmer weather, and the beginning of daylight saving so that twilight bowls can restart.

In July we held our Annual General Meeting and revealed our new logo and posters. The 2025-2026 committee line up is:

President – Linda Gray

Secretary – Zella Askew

Other officers – Diane Noble, Lisle Irwin, Max Robertson

Lawn bowls

The boards around the green have been replaced and by the beginning of October the green will be in top condition for play.

Sessions will be:

Sunday – 1.00pm

Tuesday – 7.00pm

Indoor Bowls

Tuesday – 7.00pm until October and on wet days

Petanque

Sunday – 10.00am

Thursday – 10.00am

Table Tennis

Monday – 9.00am

Wednesday – 9.00am

Thursday – 9.00am

Friday – 4.00pm



Board & Card Games

Not as physical as our other activities, but these can get competitive! 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

The Heathcote Community Sports Club is a community-focussed, non-affiliated club with low membership fees. In addition to sport we also have regular social events and our facilities are available for hire at a very reasonable cost. Club Open Day this year will be held in November; look out for a notice in your letterbox. Everyone is welcome.

For any inquiries, suggestions, or requests for additional playing times or sports, please contact the Club Secretary, Zella, by ringing or texting 021 521 707.



Thank you to the Christchurch City Council for a grant to support the printing of this magazine. We were fortunate to receive a discretionary grant to help cover a portion of the costs following the loss of previous City Council funding. It's a big help!

Printing costs have increased so we are still reliant on revenue from advertising and your donations as well. If you would like to help with costs it would be much appreciated. Check out Page 28 for bank details.

Adventures with Nature

Rewilding in Morgans, Heathcote, Horotane and Avoca Valleys

Spring 2025 Update



House sparrow - male



House sparrow - female



Dunnock



Red poll

SPRING RAMBLE

Just thinking about passerines and I expect most people reading this will have thought about passerines a long time ago... after all, they have been a constant resident around our valleys for 150 years so it's not as if they just arrived. And then there are the native one, the tom tits and wrens and creepers that must have been here forever.

Passerines are the largest order of birds on the planet with approximately 5700 different species. Mostly those smaller songbirds we all know. I knew about the goldfinches, chaffinches, yellow hammers, greenfinches and starlings. I had seen them flying in masses up in the hills, or solitary like the pipits or skylarks.

But in my ignorance I always thought that any small brown bird hanging round the garden was a sparrow, just an old house sparrow, sometimes with a dark head... the males... and sometimes not... the females. Then I started reading about dunnocks and redpolls... what are these? It seems that sometimes I was looking at these other guys and not noticing the difference. And to add to the confusion... a red poll is also a cattle breed... not that I have noticed any of these

on the back lawn lately. Further confusion for me was that red or pink are not too different from brown or grey when I see them, so the red head on the redpoll wasn't going to be much help to me personally. It seemed, after an in depth survey of at least two people, that many others were also unsure about this vital subject.

So I did some research on sparrows and dunnocks. The key differences exist in their beaks, social behaviours, and typical habitats. Dunnocks have a slender, pointed beak, while sparrows have a thicker, more triangular beak. Dunnocks tend to be more solitary or found in pairs, while sparrows are social and often seen in flocks. Dunnocks are also more likely to be found foraging in undergrowth or on the ground, while sparrows are comfortable in open spaces and at bird feeders. The dunnock is also known as the "hedge sparrow".

The common redpoll is a small finch with a distinctive red patch on its forehead, introduced to New Zealand from Britain. They are now common in hill-country areas, especially during the breeding season, and can be seen in flocks with other finches in the lowlands during winter. They primarily

feed on small seeds, often hanging upside down on seed heads or tree cones. From a distance these do look similar to a female house sparrow.

So just in case you were also wondering about passerines, take a closer look next time you think it's a sparrow... it might just be a dunnock!!

Revegetation planting season is pretty much over again.

Below are some progress reports on the rewilding of 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, there is lots of work still caring for the new trees over the summer, then more planting next winter to look forward to.

John Marsh

Heathcote Valley

Bridle Path Track Native Re-vegetation site

Having completed the planting at the Bridle Path triangle site last year, this year we have continued with planting further up the Bridle Path track at the Bridle Path Stream site. This is located uphill of the big concrete reservoir.

We started planting at this site last year. This year we continued, again with a focus on harakeke (flax) and tī kōuka (cabbage tree) along the natural water/stream channels that run down through the site. We also planted some more dry-tolerant species amongst the tussock in the space between the two water channels.

Thanks again to the trusty group of amazing planters who turn up every year for planting at these Bridle Path sites. Another 270 or so

plants in the ground in a jiffy on an early July Sunday – ka mau te wehi (amazing stuff)! It would be awesome to see some new faces joining us next year – keep an eye out for dates.

For more information or to get involved with either of the Bridle Path sites, please get in touch with Tamsin Page tamsin.page@gmail.com or 0276423555.

Birdsey Reserve Revegetation Project

At the start of Term 3 we had three stunning winter days when two classes of years 5/6 ākonga (students) from Heathcote Valley School and then a group from the local Girl Guides once again planted around 300 plants at Birdsey Reserve. This continues the on-going work to revegetate this area with native trees and shrubs.



Thanks to John Marsh for spotting an opportunity and joining the dots to facilitate Green MP Lan Pham joining the Heathcote School ākonga on their second planting day, talking to them in the classroom then mixing with them on the site. A little bit of Parliament-to-Paddock in the Green space!

Although the local school students do the annual planting at Birdsey, there is lots of ongoing maintenance/releasing of plants

needed at this site. Please get in touch if you could help out at Birdsey – local people investing in their local spaces is a successful formula!

Tamsin Page tamsin.page@gmail.com or 0276423555

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

Our native planting this year has been on the west flanks of lower Horotane Valley where two eroded and gorse filled gullies have been planted in 3500 trees. These are the spots on the hill you might notice when heading south on Tunnel Road. These areas have been prone to slips and in heavy rain events were causing gully erosion and siltation in the Lower Heathcote River. A further 1000 trees were planted off the end of Horotane Valley Road adding to the 3000 planted last year.

Rather than holding mass planting events we prefer to take things slowly which we believe gives better results long term. Numerous groups have joined in on this from mid-May. There were the community planting days over several weekends in June, business teams on Fridays, and then sometimes just two or three planters getting 80 plants in quietly on an afternoon. The Linda Woods Reserve work party (see illustration) has also been chipping in on Wednesday mornings with regular weeding and planting sessions. Their work will carry on through the spring and summer, installing signs and maintaining tracks as well as weeding.

Monitoring changes in the biodiversity is a valuable part of revegetation work. To record the gradual re-emergence of native bush

through the site we will be installing ten “photo point” brackets through the reserve very soon to encourage visitors to take photos and then forward them to the Summit Road Society, just one method of recording change in the landscape. We are also installing a ‘cacophony device’ to record new birds visiting the reserve.



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

Many thanks to all those volunteers, CCC, ECan, Trees that Count, and the many other contributors to this great project.

Contact John Marsh jmarshtree@gmail.com or 0274 310 182 if you would like to get involved in this volunteer work.

Morgans Valley

In Morgans Valley there were two revegetation sessions this year. Rachel Wells and her team planted 500 plants in late May, including a small forest of podocarps (totara and matai) then the second push came in July.

Field of Dreams

We have been busy up on the hills prepping for our recent planting day, as well as regular work releasing trees from the long grass that were planted in the previous years. Also staking anything that is tipping over.

The area is hilly, with grass waist to shoulder high and the usual suspect weeds, including our favourites, gorse, broom and fennel.

Gorse is starting to make its presence felt, especially in the gullies, and the plan is to plant around it and restrict its growth and prevent it spreading further down the valley.

Temporary paths were cut (using a weed whacker) into this year's planting area to allow easier access on planting day and for weed spraying and plant layout. This area prior to the earthquakes was section 64.



July planting in Morgans Valley

We had a large turnout of people on the day and almost 500 plants were planted in about three hours. All the mulch on site was used, and we had rain to bed in the plants within a couple of days.

In October we will hold a releasing and mulching day to prevent the plants being smothered and devoured by the grass that surrounds them.

Ka Pai to everyone who turned up on the day to help, your mahi and enthusiasm was appreciated.

Callum Templeton

Ko te whiro ō ngā moemoe - Field of Dreams track.

Ferrymead Regional Park Stage Two Planting is Underway

If you travel along Tunnel Road, you may have noticed that some new planting work is underway on the east side of the road. This is stage two of a plan that aims to establish appropriate native forest types and work towards restoring a coastal wetland environment along the lower Heathcote Ōpāwaho River. Over the next few years, the long-term goal is to expand the native plantings across the paddocks in this area that were previously used for grazing. The \$1.4 million project is expected to be fully implemented by 2030.



Christchurch City Council Park Rangers and their team at work planting the new plants.

Heathcote Valley Food Forest – Birdsey Reserve

The Food Forest

This has been steadily developing over the past six years with regular work sessions by dedicated, greenish locals. There are now over 80 fruit and nut trees, along with berries, currants, vines, and beneficial companion planting extending along Bridle Path Road, opposite the Domain and Community Centre.

Our Vision

To grow an organic, productive Food Forest while fostering learning, sharing, and connection. This is slowly taking shape, and we aim to create a beautiful, welcoming space for the whole community to enjoy. We have recently signed an agreement with the Christchurch City Council (CCC) to formalise the arrangement, which allows us to carry on the work as kaitiaki of this area. We appreciate CCC Parks Ranger Hannah Murdoch's assistance in getting this sorted.

The Springtime Season

This is one of the most satisfying times of year at the Food Forest, when dormant buds burst into action and everything suddenly starts growing. This is especially satisfying after a cold winter when mulching, composting, pruning, planting, and weeding have been the main mahi.

We hope, by the time this is published, to have added more trees to our walnut grove, as well as apricots in the stone fruit section and more citrus. These will take a few years to reach full production, but some of the earlier apples, feijoas, and peaches have already provided a worthwhile harvest, which will improve as the trees grow.

Composting Project

Our swap-a-bucket green waste scheme has been a success—turning kitchen scraps into compost for the Food Forest. The kitchen



Enjoying the rope swing at the food forest.

waste, mixed with wood chips/bark, horse manure, prunings, and grass clippings, is producing wonderful compost.

Interested in joining up? Contact Amelia for a bucket and instructions. Buckets can be dropped at the Red Shed or picked up by arrangement.

Harvest Time

Look out for Facebook posts on the Heathcote Valley Community page and signs about what's been harvested and can be collected at the Red Shed.

Get Involved

New faces are always welcome—just bring your gardening tools and enthusiasm! We meet twice a week, from 2.30pm in winter/spring:

- 1st and 3rd Mondays
- 2nd and 4th Thursdays
- Every Saturday 10am–12:30pm

Meetings are casual - come when you can!

heathcotevalleyfoodforest@gmail.com

Contact Amelia on 021 205 8685

Spring Recipe

Mushroom Risotto



Spring is an in-between time when it comes to the garden. The summer salad veges are not yet quite ready, and there are only so many ways to cook pumpkin. So, if you're looking for something a little different, not too complicated, yet just a bit special, then how about a risotto? It makes the perfect light meal for springtime, either for lunch or dinner.

INGREDIENTS

1 medium brown onion, finely diced
2 cloves garlic, crushed
1 stalk celery, very finely diced
2 tablespoons olive oil
100 ml dry white wine
2 cups arborio rice (or other risotto rice)
500 g mixed mushrooms, sliced
(portabello or swiss brown mushrooms both work well)
1 – 1.25L hot chicken or vegetable stock
zest of 1 lemon
50g butter, cut into small cubes
50g finely grated parmesan cheese
sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
3 tablespoons finely chopped parsley
4-6 sprigs fresh thyme

SERVES 6

METHOD

- In a large pan heat 1 tablespoon olive oil and add the onion, garlic and celery. Sauté until the onion becomes transparent, about 3-4 minutes.
- Add the rice and stir for another couple of minutes until the rice is shiny and well coated with the olive oil.
- Add the stock gradually, a ladleful at a time, stirring frequently and adding more stock, along with the wine, as all the liquid gets absorbed by the rice.
- Meanwhile, in a non-stick pan over high heat, cook the mushrooms with the remaining oil and a couple of sprigs of thyme until golden. Season well with salt and pepper and set aside.
- After about 15 minutes the risotto should be almost ready, and nearly all the stock used. It needs to have just a little left and be a bit soupy in consistency.
- Turn off the heat, and stir through the butter, parmesan and parsley. Cover tightly and let sit for a couple of minutes.
- Call the family to the table and then just before serving stir through the mushrooms and adjust the seasoning, if necessary. When serving, scatter a little lemon rind and the remaining thyme over each serve.

This risotto is great with a good white wine – perhaps a Riesling.

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



NO CHANGE? No worries . . .

BUY OUR \$10 PRE-PAY CARD

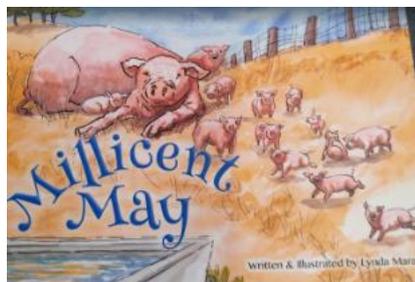
You can borrow up to 20 books (depending on whether they are a 50c or a \$1 loan)

When full you'll get one FREE BOOK LOAN, regardless of cost

We hold the card at the library, so you don't have to worry about losing it

We don't carry change at the library, so if you are able to bring in a \$10 note to buy your card, we would really appreciate it, thank you. Or you could buy two \$10 cards with a \$20 note 😊

Talented Heathcote author and illustrator Lynda Mara has kindly donated her beautiful (true story) children's book "Millicent May" to the library. Thank you Lynda.



Keep an eye on Facebook for updates on new books coming into the library. Our book buyer loves her job and makes great choices! And we support local writers - we have a wonderful selection of NZ authors.

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

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

Library Hours

Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Wed 11:00am – 12 noon

Sat 10:30am – 12 noon

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

Spring in Heathcote

A Time for Growth, Inside and Out

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

In just a few days, on 1 September, we'll officially welcome the arrival of spring. At home, the cherry trees are already in blossom, fresh green leaves are appearing, and the daffodils are out again—early signs that winter's grip is loosening. There's something hopeful in the way the drab tones of winter shift into the vibrant greens of a new season.



Mark Sullivan, Vicar

Interestingly, while nature has closed down for the past few months, the church has just spent the same period in a season of *growth*—Pentecost. Pentecost Sunday (50 days after Easter) marks what many call the birthday of the Church. It was on this day that the Holy Spirit appeared to the disciples of Jesus, launching the Church into life.

During this time, church vestments and decorations turn green—a symbol of spiritual growth and flourishing. Yet, for us in the Southern Hemisphere, this spiritual season often contrasts sharply with the weather outside! The Church calendar was shaped in the Northern Hemisphere, where Pentecost falls during their summer months. So, while they're soaking up sunshine and green fields, we're bracing against frost and drizzle.

Despite the seasonal mismatch, there's something quite beautiful happening here in Heathcote. Our local church community is growing and active—even in the depths of winter, a time when church attendance often

dips. This winter, however, we've seen new energy and involvement. One standout event was the collaborative creation of a *tukutuku* panel for the Youth Hub—an initiative led by parishioners (and Heathcote locals) Sue and Chris Stewart. Their vision helped bring this project right into the heart of our suburb, with many locals lending a hand. [See the separate article about crafting the *tukutuku* panel.] The Youth Hub, built on donated Anglican Church land is located between Salisbury and Peterborough Streets and will be a valuable asset for Christchurch youth.

As your local vicar, I've also had the privilege of representing your parish at the Heathcote Valley Community Centre AGM. It was inspiring to hear about all the vibrant activity happening right here in our valley. With St Mary's standing as the oldest building in the area, offering regular worship for nearly 180 year, we're proud to still be an active part of the community when so many other early institutions have long since moved on. (Even the railway is a newcomer by comparison!)

Following ANZAC Day, I looked back through our church records and discovered that 85% of the local families who lost sons in the World Wars appear in our baptism, marriage, or burial registers. These archives speak to the deep roots St Mary's has in this community. And let's not forget how, after the earthquakes, the church remained open, hosting the BYO pub nights, supporting the community garden, and providing a gathering place when many others were closed.

Today, St Mary's is still here, still welcoming, and still growing. While many provincial churches around the country face challenges, it's heartening to be part of a parish bucking the trend. We're proud to be part of Heathcote—a suburb with a rich past and a vibrant, forward-looking spirit. There's nowhere quite like it.

So even as some of us are still hugging our heaters and keeping the slippers on a little longer, let's not miss what's blooming all around us—both in the garden and in the community.

Happy Spring, Heathcote!

Community Activities hosted by the parish

Sunday

Holy worship and morning tea @10am

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Mornings - Swimming at Aquagym @ 8am

Tuesday

Café Crawl @10:30am

Wednesday

Mahjonnig @ 1:30pm

Thursday Friday

Heathcote Spinners @ 9:30am

1st Thurs: Holy Communion @ 4:30

2nd Thurs: Mt Pleasant Home group @ 3:30

3rd Thurs: Evensong @ 4:30pm

4th Thurs: Heathcote group @ 3:30.

Every Thursday, dinner @ Valley Inn from 5:30pm

Please see our website for further details.

www.heathcote-mtpleasant.org.nz

Twinkle Tots



Twinkle Tots meet each Friday morning, during school term.

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

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

Children must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

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

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

For more information contact:
Suzanne Stewart 027 285 1843



St Mary's Anglican Church, Corner Martindales and Truscotts Roads, Heathcote Valley

Locals Craft a Tukatuku Panel

By Sue Stewart

As a Parish group St Mary's church paid a visit to the new Youth Hub in Salisbury Street to see the facility that has been built by Drs Sue and Philip Bagshaw on land donated by the Anglican Church. While there, we were told the Hub was looking for groups to make a poutama style tukutuku panel by weaving cord in a cross-stitch design.



Some of the team at work on the panel

We thought it was something we could do with the help of people from the Valley who had a love of knitting and craft and were used to looking at patterns then interpreting how to make them.

The kahikatea plywood panel came with the pattern of holes pre-drilled and several spools of coloured cords to weave a design depicting

the land's foliage, berries and birds. It also came with instructions and blessings. Over three weeks, we pushed and pulled the cords through the holes using a variety of cable needles, forceps, a specially created copper wire 'needle', and best of all, bodkins - blunt needles with big eyes. We had a team of two people working at each end simultaneously and sometimes another in the middle. Six weaving at once! We worked together weaving (and sometimes, unpicking) laughing and exchanging information and experiences, and we felt a sense of contributing to something bigger than what was in front of us. It was an honour to do something for the young people seeking help from The Hub.

The panel has now returned there to be hung with eleven others in a huge artwork in their foyer. The finished work will measure over 8 metres high and over 3 metres wide. On the opposite wall will hang the other panels representing water.



The completed panel

The Lizard Man

By Gail Zing

1.

In times of crisis, there are those who dart about,
frantic,
those who bury their head in the
proverbial, and those in your backyard
who do the heavy lifting,
moving heaven
and

2.

The lizard man observes the *Poa cita*,
Carex buchananii and *tetacea*'s new growth,
orange fingers stretched in glee towards
the giving sky, and he nods.

The lizard man slashes boxthorn
and weeds gorse.

The lizard man picks out polystyrene pieces,
bottle tops and foil packets
left over from the specious development
next to the Heathcote river. He places them
in his threatened 'single-use' plastic bag
each time he bow-legged walks
the length of the track
he built with a friend.

The lizard man rubs his weather knee.
The lizard man studies *Muehlenbeckia astonii*,
Coprosma rotundifolia and other complex
berried shrubs on his aging
laptop. The lizard man plans a planting list

for the grass skinks of Canterbury

he carries heavy stones
to build homes.

3.

The poet owns she holds
the lizard man in her hand. For an instant
when she lifts the rock –
a wriggle.

A flash
of nourishment
for times to come.

Gail Zing is a poet and creative writing teacher living in the valley. She also teaches at Write On School for Young Writers and another of her jobs is as creative-writing teacher at Heathcote Valley School - she has a class there once a week.

Her poem, called 'The Lizard Man', is about her husband, Mick Ingram, who was the brainchild of our local lizard sanctuary area along the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River adjacent to Calder Green Forest and Bird Reserve. Along with another friend, he also built the track under the Lyttelton tunnel-road bridge that continues around to Kennaway and he runs the community and volunteer planting along those areas.

The poem was inspired by the story of someone running up to him while he was working down there and saying, 'Oh, you're the lizard man!'



Mick, the 'Lizard Man' at work in the Lizard Sanctuary

A Tale of Two Pipes

By Barrie Woods

Every so often I receive a letter in the mail from Mobil, the well-known international fuel company. Rather than marketing the latest petrol deal, this one is headed up “Living and working near the



Lyttelton to Woolston Fuel Pipeline”. The letter goes on to give ‘safety information about the pipeline for families, businesses and the community’. I’ve received these letters on a regular basis ever since I have lived in Heathcote, and I have often thought I should find out more about the pipeline, just for interest’s sake. So, I started doing some digging, though not with a shovel as that’s something the letter gives strong warnings against. Fortunately, my tools for this exercise were a little less risky.

One of the first things I discovered is that there are two separate pipelines in Heathcote: one for oil/petroleum products (which is the one my letter was about), and the other for LPG. They follow different routes and were built at different times, but they both culminate at depots in Chapmans Road.

I was surprised to learn how old the oil pipeline is. It was first proposed back in 1951 and began carrying its first oil in 1956, so it’s just slightly older than me. The proposal for the pipeline was made by Vacuum Oil Proprietary Ltd, an American company with international interests founded in 1866. Vacuum Oil would go on to become the global fuel entity we know today as Mobil (full name ExxonMobil since the merger with Exxon).

Vacuum Oil requested permission from the Lyttelton Borough Council to ‘run a main from

the company’s depot in Godley Quay, up Voelas Road and thence up the hillside to the borough boundary at the hilltop.’ The proposal added that electric power for pumps of 50 to 100 horsepower would be required from the borough.

At the same time a separate request was made to the Heathcote County Council for the section from the hilltop to the distribution installation in Woolston (also known as the Heathcote farm property). The route had been carefully chosen to avoid, as far as possible, unnecessary obstruction on public or private property.

The project was planned by the Vacuum Oil Company’s engineers and overseen by the parent company in New York. It would utilise heavy grade pipe and would incorporate many of the latest developments including ‘accurate and sensitive meters, instruments, control and particularly safety equipment’. The report stated that ‘special telephonic communication equipment will be installed at each end of the line to maintain instant contact, and specially trained operators will be on duty at all times while the pipeline is used for transferring the product’.

Getting approval for a project such as this was relatively easy in 1951 compared to the hoops required to be negotiated today. There were some objections by nearby residents concerned about safety, and possible increases in their insurance rates. Cr F Barrett of the Lyttelton Borough Council voiced concerns that the pipes might break, and the Mayor, Mr F G Briggs, advised that although two thirds of the residents in the area had signed a petition against the pipeline, the council could not stop it being constructed. It could only dictate conditions governing the construction. The outcome can be summed up by the words of Cr

L Shuker, who said, “No matter what this council does, that pipeline will eventually go over the hill. You can’t stop progress. You might as well grant permission.” On the Heathcote side the school committee raised an objection to the pipeline going through school property, but the proposal was otherwise unchallenged, and the County Council gave its approval without much ado.

The need for the pipeline was to address the



An inquisitive visitor explores the pipeline over the hill. Photo by Jen Saunders

increasing need for fuel oils in Canterbury, which had to be either transported by rail through the tunnel, or trucked across Evans Pass. This was inefficient due to multiple handlings and did not provide sufficient capacity to meet the anticipated growth. When approved it was noted that this would be the first installation of its type in New Zealand and

Australia, though similar projects were common in the United States.

The pipeline was constructed with little fuss or bother, following a 7km route across the hill more or less adjacent to the Bridle Path, then alongside the railway line to the depot in Chapmans Road, by the intersection of Cumnor Terrace (where the big tanks are). If you walk the Bridle Path you will be able to see the pipeline, and maybe even stand atop it. You’ll also see the advisory signs alongside the cycleway/expressway, but the pipe is underground in that section. The total cost of the project amounted to £100,000.

By March 1956 the line was ready for testing and was pressurised to 2,000 psi for a period of two days and two nights with no leaks detected. It was designed to withstand pressures of up to 7000 psi, but operating pressures were much lower, in the region of 600 psi. A specialist engineer came from the USA to oversee the testing. He commented that New Zealand must be a grand place to sell oil as he had never before seen so many oil leaks on city pavements!



The tank farm in Chapmans Road.

The first fuel flowed in the new pipeline on 19 March 1956 at a rate of up to 20,000 gallons (~75,000 litres) per hour. Almost 70 years later the same pipeline is still in use. It conveys petrol, diesel and other fuels on a regular basis. Some fuel, such as jet fuel, is still transported by road, but the bulk of our petrol and diesel comes over the hill via the pipe.

In April of 1968 it was discovered that somebody had drilled a hole in the pipe and inserted a tap to steal fuel. Though there were suspicions a Heathcote local may have been responsible, there is no record of the thief ever being caught, nor of how much fuel was stolen. I note that Mobil's latest letter contains a short section on preventing pipeline product theft, so it must still be a concern today.

In the late 1970s the world suffered an 'oil crisis' as a result of conflict in Iran. Prices skyrocketed, increasing by a factor of around seven for crude on the international market. Retail prices rose rapidly in New Zealand and there was a severe shortage of supply. The government attempted to reduce demand by introducing 'carless days' whereby vehicle owners would not use their car for one day each week. Open road speed limits were reduced to 80 km/hr and petrol sales were banned on weekends. Realising the country's vulnerability to international oil supplies, the government looked to alternative fuels, such as compressed natural gas (CNG) and liquid petroleum gas (LPG).

Around the same time the Christchurch Gas Works closed. The old and tired plant relied on coal, was highly polluting and was located right in the centre of the city. Coal gas was definitely not a 'cool' gas by any stretch of a greenie imagination! There was also environmental pressure on industry to move away from coal for energy, and likewise large buildings such as hospitals, office blocks and schools were encouraged to shift to cleaner fuels for heating. For Christchurch and the wider Canterbury area, the solution was to be found in LPG, which would provide a clean energy source for industry, commercial buildings and for transport. (CNG was fairly much limited to the North Island.) People of my generation will remember LPG conversions for cars, which were popular for several years. Blue Star Taxis were

early adopters and converted their fleet of Holdens to run on LPG.

The government actively promoted LPG as a clean fuel, setting the price to be around 70% that of petrol. There was a problem however – there was little to no infrastructure to distribute LPG, and the demand far exceeded supply capabilities, particularly as industries were forced away from using oil and coal. This was a crisis problem that needed addressing with urgency and is where the second pipeline through Heathcote enters the picture.

New Zealand's LPG was sourced from the Maui and Kupe gas fields near New Plymouth in Taranaki, and to a lesser extent from Australia. The only viable means of transporting it to the South Island in sufficient quantity was by sea. Initially this was in transportable tanks, each holding 10 tonnes, which would then be transferred onto trucks for distribution from the ports: Lyttelton in the case of Canterbury. Trucking the LPG tanks was inefficient and could not meet demand by a very large margin. It was anticipated that demand would exceed 10,000 tonnes per year, equating to around 2,000 truck movements between the port and city and back again. The trucks would either need to come via Evans Pass, and through Sumner, or otherwise use the tunnel. However, for safety reasons that tunnel would need to be closed to other traffic whenever an LPG shipment travelled through. Furthermore, there were insufficient tanks, ships and trucks available.

A company called Liquigas was set up in 1981 to handle LPG distribution throughout the country. It was a consortium partly owned by the government (Petrocorp had a 25% shareholding) along with other energy industry shareholders. Liquigas commissioned the construction of a \$16 million tanker ship, the Tarihiko, to transport LPG around the major New Zealand ports, one of which was to be Lyttelton. The Tarihiko was built in Scotland and

could carry 1,000 tonnes of LPG in three pressurized tanks.

It was anticipated that the Tarihiko would offload LPG at Lyttelton on a regular schedule approximately once a month. There was a problem however in that there was insufficient spare land to safely build an LPG storage depot in Lyttelton, and furthermore the locals wanted no part in having large quantities of such a dangerous liquid stored nearby. In 1980 Liquigas came up with a unique proposal: an LPG pipeline across the hills to Hillsborough, no doubt inspired by the oil pipeline already operating very successfully for several years.

Three possible routes were considered for the LPG pipeline: one alongside the existing oil pipeline, another routed through the ventilation shaft of the road tunnel (ruled out as being too high a safety risk, as was the rail tunnel), or a new route up across the hills from Cass Bay, then down the spur between Horotane and Avoca Valleys. This latter route was chosen as it involved less disruption to existing services and traversed only sparsely populated residential areas. It was somewhat unique in that a portion of the pipeline was to run under the seabed from Naval Point, across Corsair Bay and Cass Bay, to the spur separating Cass and Rapaki Bays. The project would also involve building two tunnels, one 100m long between Naval Point and Magazine Bay, and the other 230m long between magazine Bay and Corsair Bay. Unlike the oil pipeline, the LPG pipe would run underground for its entire length.

If there was resistance to the oil pipeline in the 1950s, it was nothing compared to the furore created by the proposed LPG pipeline. Lyttelton and Cass Bay residents banded together to oppose the scheme, and the Lyttelton Environmental Protection Society was formed to make a formal objection. The Lyttelton Borough Council undertook a survey of residents and 94% of respondents were opposed. Surprisingly there appears to have

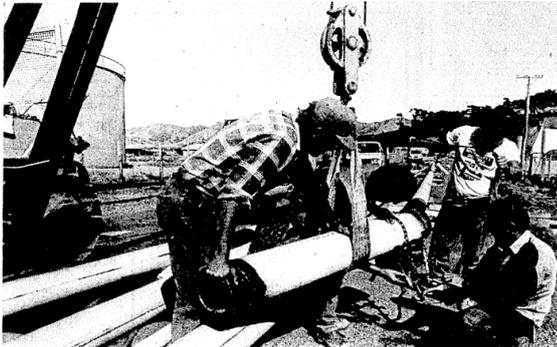
been less resistance from our side of the hill, either from Heathcote or the wider Christchurch area, though concerns were raised about the safety of having a large quantity of pressurised gas stored at Chapmans Road.

Due to the strong opposition from Lyttelton, the government decided to set up a Commission of Inquiry to explore the issue and make a recommendation. The Lyttelton Borough Council decided to spearhead the fight against the scheme and held a public appeal to raise funds so as to be 'properly represented' at a forthcoming inquiry. It took until June 1982 for the Commission of Inquiry to begin meeting and it would take six months for all submissions to be heard and considered. The Lyttelton Harbour Board (now the Lyttelton Port Company), though having concerns for safety, was also worried about possibly losing valuable business to Timaru, which would be the nearest alternative port. Alternative proposals were suggested, such as building a dedicated LPG terminal at Quail Island, away from the populated part of Lyttelton, or even an offshore mooring in Pegasus Bay, with a pipeline to land near Bottle Lake Forest.

In the end the National government of the day held the important cards and argued the project was essential for the development of Canterbury, where unemployment was running high and industry suffering from high energy prices. This pressure led to the commission recommending, in December 1982, that the pipeline scheme be approved, albeit with a number of quite stringent conditions to address safety concerns.

After a prolonged approval process, tenders were finally called on 8 April 1983 for the construction of a 250mm welded steel pipeline. However the project was further stifled with a slow start due to union pressure around wages, which were at the time restrained by a government wage freeze. Work was scheduled

to start in October but did not commence until December.



Work under way on the LPG pipeline at Lyttelton, 1983.

Once under way, work progressed quite rapidly, and in May 1984 the first two sections of the pipeline were ready for testing. The pipes were filled with water and pressurised to 15,400 Kilopascals (~2250 psi) and monitored for 24 hours. It would take until September for the rest of the work to be completed, including the \$16 million storage depot at Chapmans Road, with the official opening being held on 26 September 1984.

The design of the Chapmans Road depot needs mention as it was unique at the time. It consists of four sets of five underground tanks holding a total of 2000 tonnes of LPG (100 tonnes per tank). Each set of five tanks is covered by a mound of sand and then topped off with gravel.



An aerial view of the LPG depot in Chapmans Road showing the gravel topped mounds covering the tanks.

This design is intended to control temperature and also reduce the risk of fire or explosion in the event of a leakage.



The LPG depot on Chapmans Road.

Reliance on LPG for automobiles turned out to be relatively short-lived, though it filled an important place in alternative fuels during the years of petroleum shortage. Although LPG is a relatively clean fossil fuel, the emphasis on energy production has moved to renewables, especially over the last two decades. LPG prices have increased significantly in recent years too and it is no longer as competitive in the energy market as it once was. Unfortunately, this has forced some industries to return to oil as a viable and affordable energy source.

Despite the changes, the LPG pipeline continues to carry gas between Lyttelton and Christchurch today. LPG's primary uses are now in home heating, water heating, and cooking, especially in commercial kitchens. And let's not forget the 9Kg LPG bottle for our backyard barbecues.

Sources for this article include:

Papers Past

Mobil NZ

Liquigas

Christchurch City Council

Christchurch City Libraries

Digital NZ



Recycle with

MITRE 10

Jocelyn, our Community Coordinator, recently spoke with Ash Hansen, Customer Experience Manager, from our local Mitre 10 about the recycling services they offer. Here is what he had to say:

Mitre 10 offers a wide range of recycling.

Battery Recycle - Ferrymead only

You can recycle your used household batteries for safe and proper disposal.

Please note: We do not accept damaged or modified batteries, vape batteries, solar batteries, e-waste (including computer batteries), or electric vehicle (EV) batteries.

Pot Recycle - all Mitre 10 stores

We accept CLEAN plastic ID5 plant and seedling pots for recycling

Most councils don't accept garden pots in kerbside recycling due to dirt contamination, so we are closing the loop to keep plastic plant and seedling pots out of landfill.



Lightbulb Recycle - all Mitre 10 stores

When you're in-store buying replacements, drop off your old bulbs in the lightbulb recycling box. We'll send them to our recycler. Up to 100% of the lightbulbs are broken down to be used again as raw material for other products.

Polystyrene Recycle - Selected Mitre 10 stores including Ferrymead

Mitre 10 has teamed up with EXPOL to help solve a waste challenge - finding a responsible way to dispose of expanded polystyrene (EPS). EPS is commonly used as packaging to protect fragile goods and appliances, and

while effective as packaging, recycling it can be challenging, as it's not accepted by councils in kerbside collections. This partnership is focused on creating practical, scalable recycling solutions to keep EPS out of the waste stream and give it new life as insulation and other building products.

What do we accept? There are two types of polystyrene (plastic ID code 6). The recycling cubes are for EPS expanded polystyrene only. The EPS we take looks like white boards made of little beads. The programme does not collect polystyrene foam, which is smooth in texture. We take:

- Clean EPS (no dirt, food waste or residue, no stickers or tape)
- White and black EPS only

Non-commercial use only

The recycling cubes at Mitre 10 stores are for domestic use only. They may not be used for commercial polystyrene waste. Anything more than two rubbish bags in a single drop-off needs to be managed through EXPOL, who also operate a commercial recycling service. Please call: 0800 86 33 73 to discuss your requirements and any applicable costs.

Coffee Pod Recycle - Ferrymead only

We accept any brand coffee pods. We send them back to Nespresso to be processed.



Our lightbulb, battery and coffee pod recycling centre can be found in our entrance way. Pot recycling station is in the Garden Centre, and the polystyrene recycling is inside the store by the checkouts.



Support Your Community Association

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

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

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

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

Internet Banking:

The Heathcote Valley Community Association's bank account number is:

ASB 12-3147-0553279-01

Please use the following codes:

Particulars: Donation

Code: Your family name

Reference: Your address

Queries: hvcc.bookings@gmail.com

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

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.

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.



Nathaniel Herz Jardine Candidate for Heathcote

I grew up along the river and hills of the Heathcote Ward, and I love it here. With a strong track record of community advocacy, I pledge to support the planting and community-building work that makes this place special.

Let's Talk Soon.

Facebook: nathaniel4heathcote

Email: nathanielherzjardine@outlook.com

The People's Choice. 

Content authorised by Paul McMahon
tpc@paulmcmahon.info



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



Tracey McLellan

Labour List MP based
in Banks Peninsula

03 376 4512

Tracey.McLellan@parliament.govt.nz

642 Ferry Road, Woolston

[f /TraceyMcLellanLabour](https://www.facebook.com/TraceyMcLellanLabour)



Sign up to Tracey's
newsletter here



Labour

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 Spring is time to get back into your regular waxing, have a facial to help your skin adjust to a new season and tint the lashes and brows. Special for Sept/Oct Half leg bikini & underarm, Lash & brows tint and shape plus 1 hour Thalgo facial \$200 normally \$265 Contact Marg's Beauty Spot 0274647477 to make your appointment.

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, 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

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

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