

# POHANGINA VALLEY NEWSLETTER

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## THE VALLEY IS NOW ON THE WEB

Many hours of labour by Sam Etheridge and Julie Ann Bolton have delivered a very snazzy website for the Valley - an easy-access summary of all things local and community.

[pohanginavalley.nz](http://pohanginavalley.nz)

Take a look. If you have feedback, or ideas for additions, then please email [newsletter@valleynews.nz](mailto:newsletter@valleynews.nz)

Big thumbs up and thanks to Sam and Julie Ann. We've needed something like this for years, and it's a beautiful, professional piece of work - well beyond expectation.

-Dave Roberts

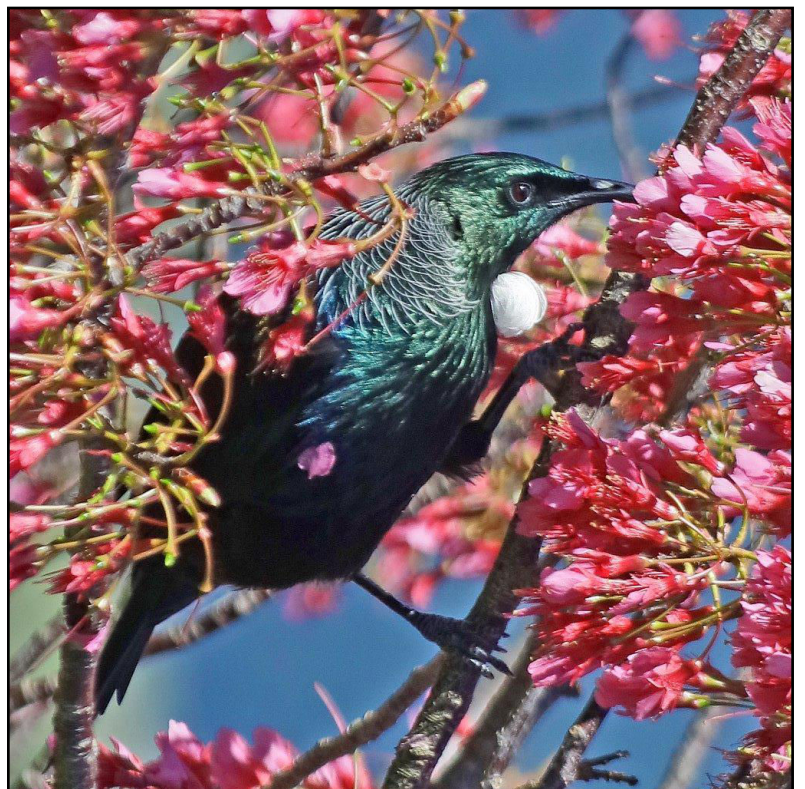
## Old School AGM

The Pohangina Complex Users Group would like to announce an AGM for Thursday, October 21 at 7pm at the Old School House at the corner of Finnis and Kuku Road. We have old and new business to discuss concerning school usage and summer opening of our community pool as well as election of officers for the coming year. Hope to see you on the 21st.

## DATES TO DIARY

This is a summary of the dates mentioned in this news letter. Please refer to relevant articles for details

Nibbles and drinks	15th Oct
Crop Swap	16th Oct
Old School AGM	21st Oct
Berm Gardening	23rd Oct
PCCG workshop	2nd Nov
Downhill Walk	13th Nov
Bulk Rubbish	13th Nov
Nibbles and Drinks	19th Nov
Chat with the Mayor	4th Dec

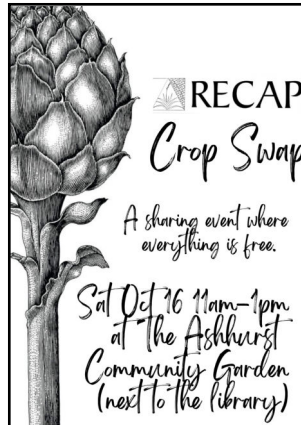


## Tēnā koutou katoa from RECAP

It's been another period of uncertainty for us all as we navigate the alert levels again. For those who have registered for workshops that have been postponed, we very much appreciate your patience and we're doing our best to keep our community services ticking along. We hope you are all keeping as well as can be with the ever moving landscape.

We've been working with Just Zilch to bring rescued kai out for Ashhurst and Pohangina residents. This is distributed from the back room at the Ashhurst Community Library every Tuesday from 3:30pm-5pm. While at level 2 we ask that you are masked, signed in, and observe a one in out rule. This is free to anyone who may need it for whatever reason. Bring your own bags and help yourself, but please make sure you leave some for others. Pass this on to any whānau, friends or neighbors who could use it and if anyone is unable to pick up, a food parcel can be delivered to them. Please contact Chris on 021755314 to request one. Any excess food will be taken to the wonderful folks at the Ashhurst Foodbank, and we'd like to give a big ngā mihi to Marianne and Doug who put in a lot of mahi to help people via the foodbank over levels 4 & 3. It was a pleasure working with you!

Our next Crop Swap will be back in the Community Garden (next to the Ashhurst Library) on Saturday October 16th from 11am-1pm. Bring your excess produce, seeds, seedlings, preserves, baking, anything else gardening related, or just yourself! This is more of a sharing event than a swap, where you do not need to give in order to take (and vice versa) and



everything is free. There's usually a lot of good gardening kōrero happening at these, so feel free to just come for a chat.

We have a beginners/berm gardening



workshop available on Saturday October 23rd, 10am-1pm, facilitated by the wonderful Beth Lew of 'Growing Gardens and Communities - Manawatu' & Suzanne Chelius from RECAP/PNCC Sustainable Living Programme. This is one for those just starting out, with some info on best practice on berm gardening (now allowed without permission from the PNCC). This will be a

hands-on workshop where you will help create raised beds, with some easy growing seeds and seedlings to take home to start your own māra kai (food garden). If you've wanted to grow your own but don't know how to get started, this one's for you! We'll be covering: general site analysis and the importance of tracking sun/wind/water, using your berm to garden, the benefits of a no-dig garden bed/raised bed, soil health, building soil, seasonal planting/companion planting and more. Registrations will open soon, but if interested please contact [chris@recap.org.nz](mailto:chris@recap.org.nz).

Our seed library (within the Ashhurst Community Library) continues to hum along. We have been updating the Spring/Summer crops and have a selection of tomato seeds via Heritage Food Crops Research Trust in Whanganui. Once you sign up (which you can do at the library) you are free to take 3 free packets per month. If you save seeds yourself, and are able to donate them to be distributed to others please contact: [info@recap.org.nz](mailto:info@recap.org.nz). Community participation with the sharing of seeds promotes the development of seeds acclimated to our specific area, which is building a valuable long term resource for us all.

Pest Traps are still available for Ashhurst and Pohangina. These are specialty traps which are free for residents. If you would like a trap, please contact Ian Rasmussen at [irassy64@gmail.com](mailto:irassy64@gmail.com) to find out more.

To keep informed, you can follow us on facebook (ResilienceAshhurstPohangina) & Instagram (recap\_ashhurst\_pohangina) Or visit our website: [recap.org.nz](http://recap.org.nz)

Noho ora mai - Chris Love.

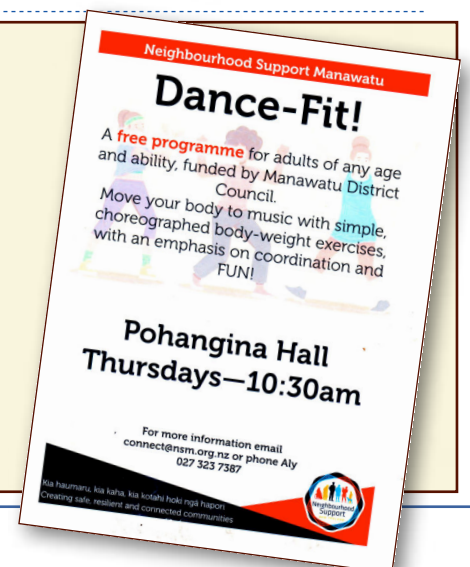
## Low attendance may force Dance-fit cancellation

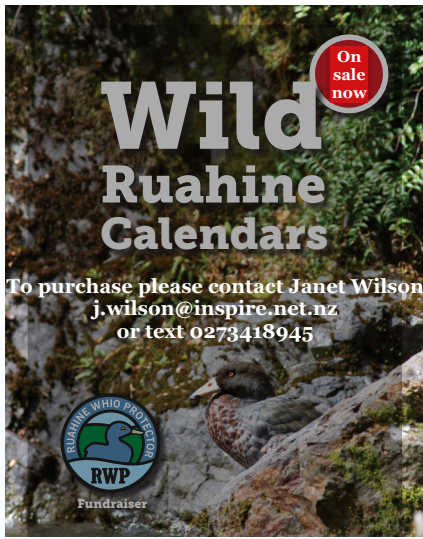
*We re-launched our Dance-fit classes at Pohangina hall post-lockdown, but we've since had really low attendance. If this continues, we'll be unable to continue the service in Pohangina.*

*Please come along to Dance-fit before the end of October, if you want it to continue, and tell your friends or family!*

*Our Dance-fit classes are free to attend and are funded by Manawatu District Council. You'll move your body to music with simple, choreographed body-weight exercises, suitable for all ages and abilities, with an emphasis on FUN! We hope to see you there!*

*Aly Thompson  
General manager M: 027 323 7387*





## Calendars on sale now

For those who live in the Pohangina Valley the Ruahines are “our hills”, our backyard or, our special view” and for some of us, where we go to tramp, hunt, fish and also volunteer for conservation projects, in particular the Oroua and Pohangina Blue Duck - “Whio” - Protection Projects.

The Ruahine Whio Protection Trust have produced a 2022 “Wild Ruahine” featuring photos taken in the Ruahines - all photos and design are by local photographers and volunteers and it is printed in NZ. Cost is \$20.00 + pp.

If you would like to support our work and get a copy for yourself or perhaps to give as a special xmas present, contact valley resident Janet Wilson by email at [jwilson@inspire.net.nz](mailto:jwilson@inspire.net.nz) or text 0273418945

## Kia ora from Awahou School!

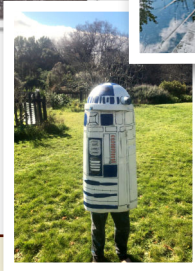
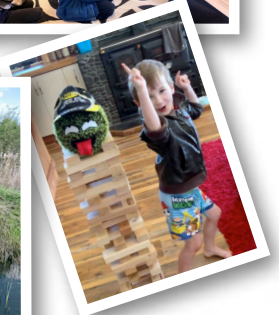
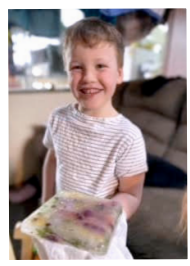
Well, it was a bit of a bumpy term, but we all got through it together and had some fun! Unfortunately, a number of events were cancelled or postponed this term due to COVID-19 Alert Levels. However, during lockdown the students completed some awesome challenges and kept up the great work they usually do at school, but at home. Here are pics of their Lockdown adventures...

This term we also had the pleasure of a visit from Jill Walcroft from Cartwheel Creamery to do some art with our students for the upcoming Art Trail Manawatu (Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th October). The students' artwork will be displayed at County Fayre. We would also like to thank Vicki Pask for organising this for us and the County Fayre committee for donating the art supplies to us!



We are all looking forward to some warmer weather in Term 4!

Nga mihi,  
Trudi Rei



## Councillors Report

Thank you to all those that sent in submissions – all 2500 of you! A fantastic result and confirmed exactly where all members of Council saw the decision.

Our Representation review is next off the blocks and Council has received 63 submissions on this, we heard from two of these today and will make a decision at the next Council meeting later this month. We are very lucky in the Manawatu that all councillors stand and support all ratepayers interest rather than pushing their own political barrow. Having said that over the last twelve months there has been a couple of topics that have split the Council and this has resulted in some tense discussions and decision some are still not happy with.

I have approached the roading team in regard to the Branch Walkway still being a paper road and is there a responsibility for Council to still have some input, especially when the locals are using the outstanding feature for public access and fundraising opportunities. I will keep you posted.

The new toilet at County Fayre looks great and I'm looking forward to seeing the ramp completed into the Library.

Please come back to me with any topics you would like me to follow up on.

Nga mihi  
Phil Marsh  
0273234058



## Pohangina Valley Community Committee Report

The Pohangina Valley Community Committee held its' October meeting at County fayre. It was good to have two face to face meetings in a row. Our December meeting will be held via Zoom on the 2nd December at 7.00pm. If you would like to attend online then contact one of the committee to organise an invite. Members of the public are welcome to all meetings and we'd love to hear from you regarding anything you'd like to do to enhance our beautiful valley.

It was a well attended meeting with Jo and Kim from County Fayre updating us on their recent upgrades and successes. The PVCC receives most of its funding from the MDC and they hold funds on our behalf for current and future projects.

We have two major projects underway - the signage for the valley welcoming visitors to our area and the Pohangina Recreation Reserve. You may have noticed the recently (nearly)

completed yards and the next phase is establishing a shared pathway around the area currently grazed. This will require fencing, more planting and path establishment. We will let you know of any opportunity to contribute to this exciting project work.

Ade Walcroft who looks after the swimming pool in the village updated us on the progress with the revamped changing rooms and advised that they aim to have the pool open in December.

There has also been a break in at the Old School so keep an eye out for any unusual behaviour when you're out and about or coming home at night time.

The meeting closed around 9pm.

Let us know if there is any matter you would like addressed and we can add it to the agenda for the December meeting.

*Yvonne Forlong - Secretary PVCC*

## POHANGINA LIBRARY - UNACCOUNTED FOR OR OVERDUE BOOKS

LARGE PRINT	JUNIOR BOOKS	ADULT BOOKS
Flesh & Blood	Dinosaurs in Action	The House with no rooms
Touching the Sky	The Word Witch	Meryl Streep Movie Club
A Gull on the Roof	Love Your Rabbit	Beach House Memories
The Shopkeepers Daughter	Daddies are great	The Mothers Tale
The Fall & Rise of Lucy Charlton	What's that Mittens	A Walking guide to NZ Long Trail – Te Arora
In the Wolfs Mouth	Star the magic sand pony	Single Serve, tasty everyday meals for 1
The Final Detail	Fancy Nancy – Poet	Bitter River
Venetia	Marley goes to School	Clicker Training for Equines
	Batman "66" Vol 1	In the memorial room
		Cometh the Hour
		Annabel Langbein Great Food for Busy People
		War Cry
		Money to Burn
		Great Tails from Rural NZ
		Kahurangi Calling
		How to make Sourdough
		The Theory of Death
		Battlefields of NZ Wars

Are you aware we have a Library in Pohangina, its located at County Fayre, on Finnis Road in the Pohangina Villiage. Its open to all Pohangina residents and is currently available during County Fayre's opening hours however if you would like to have access anytime, then email [Countyfayre@inspire.net.nz](mailto:Countyfayre@inspire.net.nz) to arrange for your own key.

The following are overdue or unaccounted for books, it would be great to see these located and returned, if you find you have one in your library then please drop them into County Fayre or email [countyfayre@inspire.net.nz](mailto:countyfayre@inspire.net.nz) to enquire if these could be collected or dropped at another location. All overdue charges have been cancelled.

Thank you and happy reading - Jo Morris Kynoch.



# COUNTY FAYRE

Spring has arrived and it was intended that County Fayre would resume opening both Saturday 2:00pm to 4:00pm and Sunday 1:30pm to 4:30pm, however Saturday opening has been temporarily put on hold due the current COVID crisis and to low volunteer numbers. We rely fully on volunteers, people who generously give up their time to ensure that our historical, creative, social and information hub in the Pohangina district continues to function and strive. Come and be part of County Fayre by volunteering, just one afternoon once a month. Come along to one of our "BYO Community Drinks & Nibbles" evenings to find out more, these are held on the 3rd Friday of each month, our next 2 evenings are planned for the 15th October and 19th November,

the door opens at 5:00pm. Alternatively come out on a Sunday for a delicious Devonshire Tea and chat with those

volunteering on that day, you could also email [Countyfayre@inspire.net.nz](mailto:Countyfayre@inspire.net.nz) to let us know you are interested and check out our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/CountyFayre>. It is our intention to commence Saturday opening sometime in November.

County Fayre is once again a venue for the Art Trail Manawatu which is being held on the 16th & 17th October 2021. County Fayre we will be open from 10:00am to 4:00pm on both days. Here is your opportunity to meet, see and purchase from 2 local artists, Jill O'Brian and Jill Walcroft whose stunning art will be on display. In addition, art work created by



Awahou students will be on display following the guidance given to them by Jill Walcroft with the art supplies donated by County Fayre.

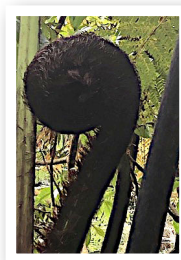
The Pohangina Sharing Shelf has been moved from the front of County Fayre and is now located next to the Bus Shelter on the corner of Finnis Road and Pohangina Road. If you are fortunate enough to have extra produce then please share it with your community and make use of this.

The Branch Road Walkway has been walked, checked and cleared and is ready to go for our infamous "Downhill Walk". This is schedule to go ahead

on Saturday, 13th November 2021, running from 8:00am to 2:00pm.

Adults \$30, Children \$20.00 (5 to 16yr), under 5's free. A shuttle bus will take you to the top of Ridge Road for an easy walk down The Branch Road Walkway through 6kms of

beautiful native bush and farmlands back to the Pohangina township and to County Fayre. There you will be provided with a delicious light lunch and a place to rest (all included in the price). Buses leave County Fayre every 45 minutes at the following times: 8:00am; 8:45am; 9:30am; 10:15am; 11:00am; 11:45am; 12:30pm; 1:15pm and 2:00pm. YOU MUST BOOK and PRE-PAY for this event. Please advise which bus time you prefer when booking, we will try to accommodate you. NO Dogs or Pushchairs/Prams allowed on the track. Book your ticket email: [countyfayre@inspire.net.nz](mailto:countyfayre@inspire.net.nz). Full refunds will be offered if the walk is cancelled due to COVID restrictions. Thank you to those who volunteered to undertake the



task of walking and clearing the Branch Road Walk and our local councilor Phil Marsh for his photos.

A "Chat with the Mayor" session with Manawatu District Mayor, Helen Worboys is planned for Saturday, 4th December from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. If you have anything you would like to raise with Mayor Helen, come along for a cup of tea and a chat.

Over recent months County Fayre has been undergoing a number of improvements. Inside, our toilet facility has undergone a full transformation and is now complete, the hallway has taken on a bright new look with a fresh coat of paint with carpet soon to be installed and history returned to the walls. Replacement of the front Fence is underway and the front garden has been cleared of overgrown and unwanted



plants in preparation for new planting. All that is left is for the Library entrance to be fashioned with a new deck along with a ramp which will allow for easier access to the building. I would like to pass my grateful thanks to those volunteers and trades people who have helped tirelessly to ensure all these improvements progressed to completion. A special opening to share our upgrades with the community is planned and will take place at the next BYO Drinks and Nibbles evening on the 15th October 2021.

An early notice for our Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, 1st February 2022 at 7:00pm.

If you wish to make any enquiries then please email [countyfayre@inspire.net.nz](mailto:countyfayre@inspire.net.nz) and check us out and become our 'Friend' on Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/CountyFayre> for updates and announcements.

Looking forward to your visit.  
Joanne Morris-Kynoch  
County Fayre President





## Three Waters Media release

*Manawatū District Council is not convinced by the government's proposed Three Waters Reform Programme, following overwhelming opposition from community feedback.*

In a written submission to the Minister of Local Government Nanaia Mahuta, Manawatū District Mayor, Helen Worboys, outlined the reasons for the Council's position.

"This Three Waters Reform Programme, which is government's preferred model of service delivery, is not in the best interests of the Manawatū Community. This is based on feedback that we have received from our community, our own calculations, and the view of Council" says Worboys.

The community feedback received by 5:00pm on Wednesday 29 September saw 94 percent of respondents opposed the government's proposal out of a total of 2540 responses.

Council's three waters assets have an estimated current market value (optimised replacement cost) of \$329M and these have been paid for by the community. The Department of Internal Affairs dashboard classifies MDC's operating performance for three waters as "exceeding expectations". Our three waters infrastructure and service delivery is not broken and does not need fixing, is the view of Council and our community. Ongoing renewals, maintenance and upgrades are budgeted in our 10 Year Plan and 30 Year Asset Management Plans.

"The community of the Manawatū have told us that they want our three water services to be owned, managed, built and operated locally, by people who understand our district," says Worboys. "We need to be able to be nimble, and make three waters planning decisions in conjunction with roading planning, district planning and with a local economic development lens."

While the removal of associated three waters debt is highlighted as a benefit of the proposal, Worboys says that "any additional borrowing and interest expense would still need to be recovered from ratepayers", which potentially means ratepayers are worse off once their water entity bill is factored in.

The rural community also highlighted issues around the ownership and management of rural water schemes and raised doubts that committees that manage these schemes would see their current cash reserves reinvested into their assets.

Council suggested that while Iwi/Māori have an increased presence under the proposed governance model, Council believes that local Iwi/Māori may lose their voice and influence over three waters decision making in the same way as council would under this proposal. The community had considerable criticism of the cumbersome governance system, and the lack of democratic accountability.

Mayor Worboys has said that the council's preferred position is to retain the status quo. However, they are prepared to re-look at and further investigate a regional service delivery model for three waters infrastructure.

"Preliminary groundwork on a regional model has been undertaken and was progressing. This was put on hold awaiting government direction from the Three Waters Reforms. MDC intends to explore a collaborative regional service delivery model in more detail, including what form and function it will take, and to provide this to government during the formal consultation phase for this Three Waters Review," says Worboys. "There are other better ways to address the deficit of investment in three waters infrastructure in some parts of the country."

Council has also highlighted the need for strategic alignment of Three Waters reform, Resource Management Act reform and Local Government reform which has just commenced. "The Government has the cart before the horse. It is too late to review what the future of Local Government should be after it has taken about a third of what Councils do away from Councils," says Worboys.

For more information contact:  
Communications Officer on 027 223 4933  
or [ben.caldwell@mdc.govt.nz](mailto:ben.caldwell@mdc.govt.nz)

Website:  
[Manawatū District Council Three Waters Reform](#)



## Covid-19 Vaccination Locations near Pohangina Valley

Many doctors/general practitioners are offering vaccinations - for details contact your own medical practice. The following public locations can be booked on the website [bookmyvaccine.covid19.health.nz](http://bookmyvaccine.covid19.health.nz) or by simply phoning 0800 28 29 26:

### Palmerston North

Unichem Terrace End Pharmacy  
WW Clinic on Grey  
City Health Pharmacy  
Palmerston North Central  
Drive Through Arena  
PN Arena 2  
Cook Street Pharmacy  
Best Care (Whakapai Hauora) Charitable Trust (iwi provider)

### Pahiatua

Medical Centre (Saturday)

### Dannevirke

The Hub

From time to time there are also "pop-up" vaccination locations or events, usually publicised in the media. Wherever you go, vaccinations are free of charge. While you are there they will make an appointment for you in three weeks' time for your second vaccination. The staff are very friendly and helpful, and will answer any questions you may have.

## Local Covid-19 vaccination rates lag

On 8th October, vaccination rates by suburb/local area were released.

In the area called Pohangina - Apiti, 729 people, which is 73.2% of the eligible population (those 12 years of age and older) had received at least one dose.

447 people, which is 44.9%, had received two doses.

Across the country on that same date, 80% of the eligible population had received at least one dose.

50% had received two doses.

Of course by the time you receive this newsletter more of us will probably be vaccinated, but this is the latest information just at the moment.

Thanks everyone for getting it done as soon as you can!

Mary Nettle (source: [nzherald.co.nz](http://nzherald.co.nz))

## HISTORY SNIPPETS

### Fire at Raumai: Hotel Completely Destroyed 100 Years Ago

"A brilliant glare in the sky in the direction of the Pohangina Valley last evening drew the attention of Palmerston North people to the fact that a serious outbreak of fire had occurred in that vicinity. Later, this was confirmed when the "Manawatu Times" correspondent at Raumai reported over the 'phone that, shortly before ten o'clock a disastrous fire had occurred at Raumai, when Gray's Hotel was completely destroyed. Mr and Mrs Gray left the hotel about 7.30 to go out for the evening, and no-one was on the premises when the outbreak commenced. The blaze was first discovered by Messrs T. Spelman

and Balmer, who, in company with Mr Len Foord, whose store adjoins the hotel, valiantly set to work to extinguish the flames. The three men were later joined by others but in spite of their united and energetic efforts they could save nothing. The whole building was razed to the ground. Sparks from the fire caught the grass on the hill-side at the back of the building, but the blaze was prevented from extending far in that direction. Fortunately the wind was blowing in a favourable direction, or the neighbouring premises might have suffered also. As far as could be discovered last evening, the outbreak started in the kitchen, but its origin is not known. The insurance on the property was not ascertainable."

from the *Manawatu Times*, 07 October 1921, p.5.

### Rabbits in the Pohangina 100 Years Ago

"Rabbits are becoming quite numerous in the Pohangina district. Several settlers informed a Manawatu Standard representative that they had never seen the pest so numerous in the district as at the present time. This is to be deplored when one recalls the destruction wrought in Central Otago pastures by bunny. There it is on record that

the rabbits ran several big run-holders off their land, including two ex-Cabinet Ministers. The result is that today many thousands of acres of pastoral land which formerly carried thousands of sheep have been given over almost entirely to 'brer rabbit'."

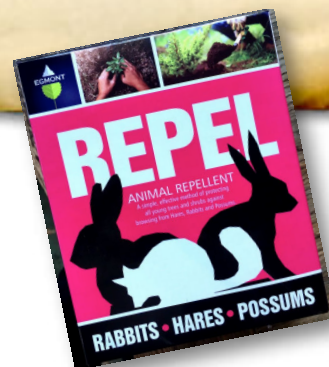
from the *Manawatu Evening Standard*, 16 November 1921, p.4



The vaccine keeps us together

Covid19.govt.nz  
New Zealand Government

Unite against COVID-19



100 years later we are still besieged by rabbits. This product seems to work - a mixture of resin and egg powder. Not to be used on vegetables.

## CONTACTS

### Dance-Fit

10.30am Thursdays in the Pohangina Hall  
Aly Thompson  
027 323 7387

### Pohangina Valley Community Library

The library is in the County Fayre building in Pohangina Village. Open during Country Fayre hours.

### Hauora Yoga Studio

Weekly classes in the Yoga Barn.  
Mondays, 6pm - Hatha Flow  
Tuesdays 6pm - Yoga for the Not-so-bendy  
Contact Catherine on 021 0270 4400 or email [hauorayoga@gmail.com](mailto:hauorayoga@gmail.com)  
website: [www.hauorayoga.co.nz](http://www.hauorayoga.co.nz)

### Gumboots and Coffee

We meet on the last Wednesday of the month. If you are interested in joining please contact:  
Liz Besley on 329 4891 or Raewyn Moar on 329 4745

### Pohangina Valley Community Hall

Available for hire for all functions, great acoustics! Email: [pohanginahall@outlook.co.nz](mailto:pohanginahall@outlook.co.nz)

### Pohangina Old School Reserve

For information on bookings contact Kim on 329 4150 For swimming pool key contact Ade on 329 4789

### County Fayre

Contact County Fayre at [countyfayre@inspire.net.nz](mailto:countyfayre@inspire.net.nz)

### Awahou Playgroup

We meet every Wednesday at Awahou School Hall 9.30am-12noon. All welcome. Contact: [amiemelody13@gmail.com](mailto:amiemelody13@gmail.com)

### Manawatu Rural Support Services

The Manawatu Rural Support Service St Bartholomew's Church in Komako on the last Tuesday of each month between 10.30am – 1.30pm.  
Aevryl Jestin and Tima Simms  
06 323 7191  
021 0823 4809

## Pohangina Catchment Care Group update

The PCCG has been reasonably quiet the last few months since Land Owners Field Day on July 13th. Monthly water testing has continued at the 11 sites throughout the valley except for August when Covid lockdown kept us at home. Water levels were reasonably high during the September testing which caused some interesting results.

Local farmers, residents and community groups continue to fund the cost of water testing which PCCG is very grateful for. It is recommended to continue water testing for 3 years to gain a trend and then either continue to test quarterly or take a break for 3-5 years before starting

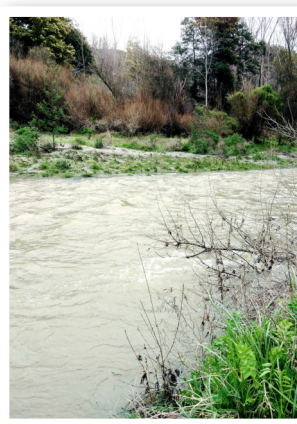
another 3-year cycle. The impact of any projects that have been implemented may then be measured.

The group has a Strategy and Operational Workshop planned for November 2nd facilitated by Richard Parkes. Funding for this has been provided by MPI through the Manawatu River

Catchments Collective and aims to identify future projects within the valley that PCCG may be able to receive additional funding for.

Anyone who is interested in being involved, please get in touch with either Lynda Gray [kinross575@inspire.net.nz](mailto:kinross575@inspire.net.nz) 0275648003 or Matt

Carroll [matthewescarroll@gmail.com](mailto:matthewescarroll@gmail.com) 0272571425



Coal Creek at confluence



### From the editor

Articles for the newsletter are very welcome and are accepted at any time. The next deadline is 1st December. Anyone is welcome to subscribe to our newsletter. Just go to [www.valleynews.nz](http://www.valleynews.nz) and

enter your email address. Past issues are also available from the site at the bottom of the sign up page. Thanks to John Brock for the mist and tui photos and to Mary Nettle for the history items.

Don't forget to check out our [Facebook](#) page. Julie Ann