# geraldineneus

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Community board spokesperson and Go Geraldine promotions co-ordinator Janene Adams says, "It's about making sure the community's well-informed." PHOTO: Jan Finlayson

# Life in a global pandemic: we can do this, Geraldine



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With the involvement of the Geraldine Community Board, the Geraldine Buy Sell Swap & Community Notice Board (Nz) Facebook page is being used to help the local community navigate what COVID-19 means for day-today life in the area.

"It's about making sure the community's well-informed," says community board spokesperson Janene Adams. "We don't want to replace the official channels. We go to them for the proper information and this'll be the glue between that official stuff and the

Janene says the official channels include the Ministry of Health, the Timaru District Council, the South Canterbury Chamber of Commerce and Aoraki Development.

"Any group that has a role to play can get in touch with the council, the community board, Go Geraldine... It's a great opportunity to have people joining neighbourhood support."

Janene says sharing information with people who are not connected to the internet, or on Facebook, is down to the community. "If people aren't online, we'd like people to share the information with their neighbours. We're relying on people to share the information verbally."

the Geraldine News and by phoning the resource Support, contact coordinator Betty-Ann Smart centre's Kerry Stevens on 03 693 7442 or 021 on 027 668 8114. JAN FINLAYSON 043 6651 or email kstevens@xtra.co.nz

The community board's Facebook posts will be genuine updates - "as and when needed. We're not going to post heaps of stuff because that would add to online noise. The buy sell swap noticeboard is the best place to find immediate messages; it has the biggest membership of any Facebook page in Geraldine."

Facebook protocols mean that posts are made by Janene, personally, rather than an official community board mechanism.

Follow Geraldine Community Board updates on the Geraldine Buy Sell Swap & Community Notice Board (Nz) Facebook page. To get in The same information will be available in touch with South Canterbury Neighbourhood





SEE MCKENZIE HEALTHCARE SPECIAL FEATURE INSIDE

# gnews 6



### Don't panic

"Don't panic," was the catchcry of the fictional Lance Corporal Jack Jones of *Dad's Army*. Unfortunately, shouting "don't panic", often causes exactly that. We find ourselves in a new normal, "a marathon not a sprint" as has been said. Panic is unhelpful and unsustainable. After all, the human race has faced worse things with fewer resources.

As a newspaper, we will face the challenge of there being less activity to report on, and of our reporters needing to keep their distance from other people, too. Nevertheless, we aim to be a source of information and encouragement as we all navigate our way through this unfamiliar state of affairs.

If you know of anything interesting happening, please let us know - we can't be out and about sniffing things out as before. Expect us to interview you by phone or indeed Skype, Zoom or similar rather than face-to-face. More than one person has said that *GNews* will be an important community resource in the weeks ahead - but it will depend on the community to make it so.

Congratulations to all the people already working to help us adjust to life in a pandemic. Garry and his team are to be congratulated on keeping their shelves filled, as well as their sense of humour. We would do well to shop normally as we have been encouraged to and continue to support one another and show kindness, even if it has to be at a distance.

We have included some bits of information in this issue but things are moving so fast it pays to keep checking. There is a lot of 'noise' circulating, some helpful, some not. The best sources of information are the health department website **health.govt.nz** and our council **timaru.govt.nz**. If elderly friends without online access are worried, please share upto-date information from these sources with them.

Keep well and stay safe. **HUGH AND FI** 

### Nada te turbe, nada te espante; Quien a Dios tiene, nada le falta

ST TERESA OF ÁVILA

Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you; all things pass away: God lacks nothing.

### **ADVERTISING & NEWSDESK**

**NEWSDESK:** Current events notwithstanding, where possible please contact *GNews* at least two weeks ahead with your story or details of your event.

EMAIL: hugh@gnews.co.nz | PHONE: 027 920 8751 SUBMITTED STORIES:

Text and photos must be received by **5pm Friday** 

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**CLASSIFIED LISTINGS: 12pm Monday** 

COST: 53c/word; drop into Resource Centre or email us EMAIL: ads@gnews.co.nz | PHONE: 027 899 0703

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**HOW TO PAY:** Accounts will be sent via email. They may be settled either by online deposit or by cash payment to the Geraldine Resource Centre.

AGENTS: Geraldine Resource Centre, 5 Peel Street
EMAIL: geraldinecentre@xtra.co.nz | PHONE: 03 693 7001

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Talbot Street eerily quiet in stark contrast to the usual hubbub of the CBD. PHOTO: FI McCafferty

# COVID-19 alert level-four response: lockdown

Earlier this week, this article was a list of events and activites that had been closed or postponed - rest homes limiting visitors, church services suspended, the Geraldine Farmers' Market shut down for the season and Anzac commemorations cancelled

But even as this article was being written, things kept changing. New Zealand is now at the level-three response to the Covid-19 pandemic and progresses to level four from 11.59pm Wednesday, for the next four weeks.

The assumption is that there is already community spread of the disease; therefore, we must isolate ourselves to halt its spread.

Speaking on Monday, our prime minister said, "New Zealand is fighting an unprecedented global pandemic and it

will take a collective effort of every single New Zealander doing the right thing to give us our best shot at curtailing community outbreak."

From the health department website, the restrictions are:

- People instructed to stay at home
- Educational facilities closed
- Businesses closed except for essential services (e.g., supermarkets, pharmacies, clinics and lifeline utilities)
- Rationing of supplies and requisitioning of facilities
- · Travel severely limited
- Major reprioritisation of healthcare services

Supermarkets and pharmacies will remain open, and supply chains are assured. The only shortages are those we create ourselves by panic buying.

Geraldine is a robust community. Previous experiences of the big snow and floods tell us we have the resilience to see this through. Elsewhere in this paper you will find resources that may be of help.

Perhaps one of the saddest cancellations is that of the Anzac Day commemorations. Geraldine RSA president John Bray says he hopes individuals will take the time to pause by the memorials during the day and pay their respects. Poppy Day is also deferred.

Meantime: be kind, look out for one another and use the phone or social media to keep in touch.

HUGH MCCAFFERTY

# A beginners' guide to homeschooling



A month at home with the kids could prove to be a challenge for some. PHOTO: shutterstock  $\,$ 

As we come to terms with a month-long confinement to our homes, let us think of the parents suddenly faced with not only entertaining but educating their children with stricter than usual regulations.

An online letter to these parents, from a school principal and teacher, addressing their particular predicament has already gone viral. *GNews* thought it worth sharing:

"Dear parents with school-aged children. You might be inclined to create a minute -by-minute schedule for your kids. You have high hopes of hours of learning, including online activities, science experiments and book reports. You'll

limit technology until everything is done. But here's the thing...

"Our kids are just as scared as we are right now. Our kids not only can hear everything that is going on around them, but they feel our constant tension and anxiety. They have never experienced anything like this before. Although the idea of being off of school for weeks sounds awesome, they are probably picturing a fun time like summer break, not the reality of being trapped at home and not seeing their friends.

"Over the coming weeks, you will see an increase in behavior issues with your kids. Whether it's anxiety, or anger or protest that they can't do things normally - it will happen. You'll see more meltdowns, tantrums, and oppositional behavior in the coming weeks. This is normal and expected under these circumstances.

"What kids need right now is to feel comforted and loved. To feel like it's all going to be ok. And that might mean that you tear up your perfect schedule and love your kids a bit more. Play outside and go on walks. Bake cookies and paint pictures. Play board games and watch movies. Do a science experiment together or find virtual field trips of the zoo. Start a book and read together as a family. Snuggle under warm blankets and do nothing.

"Don't worry about them regressing in school. Every single kid is in this boat and they all will be ok. When we are back in the classroom, we will all course correct and meet them where they are. Teachers are experts at this. Don't pick fights with your kids because they don't want to do math. Don't scream at your kids for not following the schedule. Don't mandate two hours of learning time if they are resisting it.

"If I can leave you with one thing, it's this: at the end of all of this, your kids' mental health will be more important than their academic skills. And how they felt during this time will stay with them long after the memory of what they did during those weeks is long gone. So keep that in mind, every single day."

FI MCCAFFERTY



The girls behind Geraldine COVID-19 Help: Katie Moginie, Lia Roberts, Bella Keeley, Saskia Finlayson-Hood and Christine Bendsen. Group members not pictured are Leah Boase and Abbi Collins. PHOTOS: Jan Finlayson

# Friends are ready to help

Helping older generations and others who need to take extra care in the present viral outbreak is the focus of Geraldine COVID-19 Help, a Facebook page set up by seven Geraldine High School friends.

"There are a lot of senior citizens here," says group member Christine Bendsen.

Bella Keeley says, "And young people are least affected [by Covid-19], so we want to help people who'll be most affected."

Katie Moginie says, "We're offering a platform so people can help themselves and each other ... We'll help people get grocery shopping done and do daily errands." Christine says, "We can walk dogs," and Bella says the year 11 girls "will be walking or biking".

To ensure inevitable contact between parties is hygienic, "we're going to be following Ministry of Health guidelines", says Saskia Finlayson-Hood.

The girls welcome other helpers to come on board and will collaborate with businesses. Katie says, "We'd like the community to help ... We can work with the supermarket and other local businesses to get deliveries done."

And what about those who don't have internet connections or Facebook? Saskia

says, "If you're reading this and don't know how to access us, chat to a friend or family member and have your request put through."

Lia Roberts says it's about "looking at the situation in as good a way as possible".

Katie says, "We want to use our age as an advantage."

To get in touch with Geraldine COVID-19 Help, go to their Facebook page or ask someone who has access to Facebook to enable that contact on your behalf. Alternatively contact Kerry Steven on 021 043 6651 or kstevens@xtra.co.nz.

JAN FINLAYSON



The doors might be closed but Geraldine Museum volunteers are still available to answer queries. PHOTO: Jan Finlayson

## Museum still available for enquiries despite closure

Geraldine Museum took the decision to close last Saturday in order to protect its volunteer workforce, many of whom are seniors and thus deemed vulnerable to COVID-19.

"We're on code two [of the government's four-stage COVID-19 alert system] now and that emphasises we've made the right

decision," said Geraldine Historical Society secretary Margaret Chapman, at the time.

"Most of our volunteers are over 70 and we wanted to be proactive, rather than reactive, over their safety.

Now that the government have declared stage-four protocol, the museum's decison proves to have been the right one.

People will still be able to get in touch about museum business. "If anyone has queries, artefacts, research or memorabilia, they can leave a message or email us; we'll be checking regularly."

To contact Geraldine Museum, leave a message at 03 693 7028 or email gdemuseum.xtra.co.nz. JAN FINLAYSON

# Snews G



At COVID-19 alert level four, self-isolation and social distancing are the new normal. IMAGE: covid19.govt.org

### **COVID-19 community hub**

Key Geraldine organisations are prepared to help those in our community who most need it, including the elderly.

The co-ordinating body for Geraldine will be the Geraldine Community Resource Centre (GCRC), who will work alongside the Geraldine COVID-19 Help group of young students who have stepped up in recent days to offer their help.

The Geraldine Community Board, Go Geraldine and other relevant organisations will also provide support as is relevant and required.

Having a single point of contact will ensure that our community is well supported and that resources can be effectively deployed as needed, within government guidelines.

Please contact the GCRC if the following applies to you or someone you know:

- You wish to volunteer your services to help in some way (please advise what skills you are able to offer)
- You or someone you know is in need of help during this time

The GCRC Peel Street office is now closed, but contact can be made through the centre's manager, Kerry Stevens:

#### PHONE: 03 693 7442 or 021 043 6651 EMAIL: kstevens@xtra.co.nz

It will take some time to clarify what support is needed, and what support is able to be offered, but in the meantime it will be very useful to create a database of volunteers and of people who need support. Now is the time to check on your neighbours and friends, to touch base and show support and caring. KERRY STEVENS



## GERALDINE COMMUNITY HUB FOR COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- Do you need help to self-isolate: shopping, phonecalls, medical supplies, etc?
- Are you able to volunteer to help people in self-isolation?

Please phone or email the Geraldine Resource Centre with your details and we will connect requests for assistance with suitable volunteers.

GERALDINE COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE
OFFICE CLOSED PHONE: 03 693 7001
WEB: geraldine.nz/resource-centre
EMAIL: geraldinecentre@xtra.co.nz
OPENING HOURS: Monday-Friday, 9am-4.30pm







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Souvenirs are now available for the best Geraldine Ukefest that never was. PHOTOS: Fi McCaffert

## Geraldine Ukefest moves forward 12 months

As with many other local and national events. Geraldine Ukefest is cancelled for this year. Organisers Hugh and Fi McCafferty - aka The Ukulele People - have contacted the performers and the intention is to hold the same programme next year: 22 to 25 July 2021.

They are aware that this will be a disappointment to many; however, in a meeting with front-of-house volunteer co-ordinator Elaine Taylor, the decision was made that they are unable to ensure that participants, volunteers, performers and townsfolk will be safe at this time. Subsequent government directives have confirmed this view. The Ukulele People extend their sympathy to all the businesses that have supported them in the past.

Many messages of support have been received from ticketholders, who will be receiving a full refund. Most intend to be back next year, with some already having re-booked their accommodation. Regular participant Catherine Gossage, of Kerikeri, says, "Sad for you and the people of Geraldine, but we shall remain loyal and return in 2021."

To cheer everyone up, The Ukulele People have designed a T-shirt featuring the Monty Python foot, as a way of celebrating the ukefest that got away. For those interested in collectors' items, buttons and stickers for this year's event are being given away.

GUF20 T-Shirts available online at redbubble.com/people/fimccafferty/shop. For GUF20 stickers and badges email fi@ukulelegeraldine.co.nz or call Fi on 027 899 0703. THE UKULELE PEOPLE

# Daring daylight robbery at FreshChoice



Aaron Sheed, of Geraldine FreshChoice, says at 7am Monday, just after the store opened, two men entered and stole two trolley loads of groceries, exiting through the fire escape.

"The public were very supportive; with our CCTV footage and help from the public, we had identified them both before Monday lunchtime."

He says neither of the men are local residents; however, "they have been here before".

Constable David Bray will be visiting and taking fingerprints. If anybody has information, they can dial 105 to report it. HUGH MCCAFFERTY

Aaron Sheed says he is thankful for the public's support leading to the swift identification of the offenders. PHOTO: Hugh McCafferty





Constable David Bray, Christine Stewart from Timaru Community Patrol and Betty-Ann Smart from South Canterbury Neighbourhood Support present to the recent community patrol meeting. PHOTO: Debbie Oliver

# Geraldine Community Patrol: "tailor-made for the community"

Around 30 local residents attended a meeting last Wednesday night and heard how a community patrol group in Geraldine could be "tailor-made for the community" and the "eyes and ears for the police", according to Constable David Bray.

Betty-Anne Smart (South Canterbury Neighbourhood Support) and Christine Stewart (Timaru Community Patrol) joined David to explain how a community patrol works and the requirements to be a patroller, and to answer any questions.

"I came from Whangarei, where there was a great community patrol, and it has always been something I have wanted to help establish in Geraldine since moving here. Community patrols work with the police as volunteers, reporting suspicious activity or identifying crime hotspots. They can help us when we can't be everywhere at the same time," says David.

"Anyone interested needs to be police vetted and have a clean police record. You then would do some training, which can be easily done online in a matter of hours," says Christine. "In Timaru, there is a community patrol car that is used -

a dashcam is installed. Cell phones are available and welfare checks are carried out on the patrollers regularly. You would never go out on your own; there must always be two or three patrollers at all times. Safety is paramount."

When asked what the patrol radius would be, David says he knows Geraldine's rural community is affected. "Knowing your community and knowing when events are on is important. People have a lot of trust in Geraldine, but times are changing. We all need to be wary of our security."

Christine says a community patrol isn't always about bad things. "In Timaru, we assist with meals on wheels, we help monitor the Timaru street cameras and we generally make people feel safer by being seen." Jerry Fletcher, a relatively new resident in Geraldine, says, "I would love to see a patrol here in Geraldine, but it must be visible to the public - a patrol car of some sort is a must. Flexible hours are also something to be considered; daytime patrolling is important, too. A patrol should be able to cover the village at any time."

Karen Pace was treasurer of Geraldine's previous patrol, which was established four years ago but ceased operating due to the lack of members. "We still have money available to assist the re-establishing of a Geraldine community patrol - grants were received for certain things, such as a dashcam and money to go towards hiring the community car to use as a patrol car," she says. "Last time we operated the community patrol, it was established due to a bad spate of crime in Geraldine. Now is a great time to re-establish it. As they say: be proactive not reactive."

Many attendees left contact details showing their interest in establishing and operating a new patrol. David Bray acknowledged the "great response" to the meeting.

If anyone was unable to attend but would like to be involved, please contact David directly or email Janene Adams, info@gogeraldine.co.nz. For more information on community patrols, visit www.communitypatrols.org.nz.

DEBBIE OLIVER

# is a community patrol car that is used - at any time."

How to stay safe online during a crisis



Times like our current situation not only bring out the best in us but the worst in us, too. Netsafe is circulating information that includes the following:

Online safety tips to protect New Zealand as global pandemic takes hold:

1. Be wary of unusual requests for your personal information or financial details

2. Report spam text messages to 7726 for the Department of Internal Affairs to investigate

- 3. Use your critical thinking skills to determine what's fact and what's fake
- 4. Check out CERT NZ's tips on how to stay secure when working remotely
- 5. Visit netsafe.org.nz or call them on 0508 NETSAFE for free online safety advice and expertise seven days a week

Stop and think if you receive unusual texts, emails or phone calls.

HUGH MCCAFFERTY

# Snews FROM OUR COUNCILLOR



### **GAVIN OLIVER**

# Geraldine, New Zealand and the world face a challenging time at present

Geraldine, New Zealand and the world is facing a very challenging time at present. Even as I write, things are changing quickly, but I know that we are a strong and caring community and we will get through this together, while probably growing more resilient from the experience.

That said, I want to encourage everyone to look after themselves - physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. As someone said to me today, this is going to be a marathon, not a sprint. With that in mind, we all need to be able to sustain ourselves for as long as it takes to reach the other side.

Our whole community will be affected in some way; however, I wish to make special mention of our business community, who need our support more than ever.

Our local businesses are there for us day in and day out, providing unique products, excellent customer service, a laugh and a smile, as well as much needed sponsorship for our many clubs and community groups.

Each Geraldine business contributes to our economy and provides important employment opportunities. Geraldine already enjoys a culture of supporting local businesses, which is fantastic, but now is the time to take that up another notch.

Business owners need to look after one another, too - share the load, be honest with one another and talk through your fears. Ask for help, advice and assistance from official channels, such as the chamber of commerce and Aoraki Development, to tap into relief options.

Our businesses are the lifeblood of our town and we want them to continue to thrive, so that Geraldine remains the very special place that we all enjoy. Back your backyard by supporting our local businesses.

Keep well and stay safe. GAVIN OLIVER



DEVELOPING AND PROMOTING THE GERALDINE DISTRICT

CONTACT: JANENE ADAMS 027 555 6524 www.geraldine.nz | info@gogeraldine.co.nz

# news ETTERS TO THE EDITOR



### **GNews** digital edition

Hi Hugh and Fi, Since it's getting difficult now for me to hold newspapers etc, I have just tried your online version. It's brilliant! Beautifully done. Thank you. It exactly fills my iPad screen and moves so easily. You guys are doing a great job. Thank you so much and bless you heaps. With love, PAMELA ATKINS

### Thanks to FreshChoice

How lucky we are with our local supermarket in these troubled times. The convenience of online shopping is priceless and the ladies organising the orders are treasures indeed. The staff have remained cheerful and polite under considerable stress and could all be awarded a service medal. The shelves have been re-stocked regularly and none of us are going to go without food. Thanks FreshChoice, you are choice indeed. LESLEY FALLON

### Litter found on bike tracks

Great to see the mountain bike tracks being made in the forest, (I am not a biker). They look really challenging and gives enthusiasts a chance to pick up skills and speed off the main walking tracks. But I was disappointed to see the large amount of discarded wrappers and packets left in your developed area. You will know who you are: be responsible and keep the forest clean of litter. NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

Upgrade to **LED Downlights** 



Cushla Flannery with her entries in the Winchester and Mayfield shows, including the knitted scarecrow tea cosy that took out first place at both shows. PHOTO: Debbie Oliver

# Cushla's creativity is in her genes

Geraldine resident Cushla Flannery says her love of crafts came from her mother. "Mum was always doing craft work and, with a large family of 12, she also made all our clothes."

"Mum always made calico toys, animals, teddy bears... When Mum got too unwell to continue making them, I took over and then picked up more crafts myself."

Some of the first items she made to sell at local craft markets were little clowns on a swing that hung on the wall. "They really took off, with the tourists buying them to take back overseas. I remember they were taken back to China, the USA and Canada."

Over the last 19 years, Cushla has regularly entered craft items in the Temuka Geraldine A&P Show and won many

tea cosy gained first place at both the Winchester and Mayfield shows. "People are loving it: I have already sold some of them and have been requested to make another three. I love knitting, either the tea cosies or the knitted toys. Knitted toys are always a great seller."

Cushla has been involved with many groups and clubs over the years and, after 20 years on the Geraldine Arts and Plants Festival committee, she was made a life member. Although now retired from the committee, she still helps with setup for the art and photography display and continues to be a regular stallholder at the event.

The Geraldine Creative Fibre group has enabled her to try new crafts, including felting. Recently, they assisted Woodbury prizes. This year, her knitted scarecrow schoolchildren with a fabric craft item **DEBBIE OLIVER** 

for the school's annual flower and craft show. "It was great to be able to help kids learn something new. I really enjoyed showing my love of crafts to the children and being able to help them make an item." Cushla has recently taken up photography and also participates in the Geraldine Craft Creators group.

While she has some favourite items she makes, she is always looking out for new ideas. "You are busy getting stock made for upcoming stalls, but it is good to have something new to try. I didn't know how to crochet. Someone tried to teach me, but I just couldn't pick it up, so I went to a class at The Pin Tin and learnt from there. That would be my advice for anyone wanting to start a craft: ask for help, take a lesson and then enjoy."





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# MCKENZIE HEALTHCARE MODERN EXTENSION OPENS SOON









CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Now complete, construction of the McKenzie HealthCare extension began in December 2018; light, airy colours enhance the new rooms, which have views to the gardens; the new café provides a place to gather over a cuppa; the comfortably furnished quiet room provides a place of tranquillity, PHOTOS; Ian Moore

# The highest standards of care delivered in a modern setting

McKenzie HealthCare's new extension will be opening for business soon. The \$5.4M redevelopment increases bed numbers at the facility by nearly 50 per cent and includes two extra-large palliative care rooms, a family room, café, hair salon, administration area and a formal entranceway.

"McKenzie HealthCare (MHC) has always been proud to deliver the highest standards of care in a safe and homely environment for those assessed for hospital, palliative, rest home, rest home-dementia level of care and day care," says manager Kim Entwhistle. "We are delighted that our new building extension will ensure we can continue this tradition and enhance our services into the future.

"Our residents are drawn from the Geraldine and wider South Canterbury area, and we also partner with our sister organisation, McKenzie Lifestyle Village, to provide end-to-end care for our senior citizens from active retirement in the village through to hospital-level care, here at MHC, if needed.

"We look forward to working in the new areas and to welcoming our residents there."

#### LIGHT, AIRY AND STATE-OF-THE-ART

The changes at McKenzie HealthCare are obvious as soon as you pull up to the new doubleheight covered-portico entrance and walk into the welcoming reception, which is light, spacious and tastefully furnished. A feature wall, depicting a local mountain range, brings the outdoors inside and celebrates the local area.

The new 24-bed hospital wing extends the building footprint to 71 rooms, featuring spacious hallways and views out to the surrounding gardens and courtyards. The landscaped grounds are cared for by gardener Jeni, who enjoys creating inviting spaces that reflect the changing seasons, for the pleasure and enjoyment of the residents.

The private rooms have been tastefully decorated with a light, airy colour palette and are thoroughly future-proofed with overhead lifting systems installed, private ensuite bathrooms, smart TVs and an electronic documentation system. An onsite hairdressing and therapy room will allow for practitioners with meals that are nutritious and easy to visit the facility and serve the needs of to prepare." their clients.

Dining and lounge areas flow out to a barbeque terrace bathed in north-facing sunshine, offering an engaging setting for social occasions

between the residents and their guests.

A family/whānau room and quiet room complete the additions and, with a delightful café and ample car parking now available, it is easier than ever for friends and family to visit.

Kim is looking to the future, with plans for MHC to produce and sell frozen meals suitable for people stilling living in their own homes to purchase and heat. "We want to extend our services out into the community ... One way we can ease the burden on people is assisting

A formal opening and public open day will take place in due course.



Welcome to caring in our community







The original site, known as The Pines, was purchased in 1946; the official opening of Geraldine Maternity Home in 1960. PHOTOS: Geraldine Historical Society

## Purchased for general hospital, site instead utilised for maternity unit

The site of McKenzie HealthCare hospital, originally known as The Pines, was initially purchased in 1946 for a planned 20-bed general hospital at the cost of £2,575. In 1955, plans for a general hospital were withdrawn and substituted with plans for an eight-bed maternity hospital on this site, to complement the already existing 16-bed Rawhiti House.

For the cost of £57,000, the Geraldine Maternity Hospital was completed in 1960. Rawhiti House ceased as a maternity hospital

and became a geriatric home. For 26 years, the Geraldine Maternity Hospital was run under the leadership of Sister Mary Oram, a name still well remembered by many in the district. Sister Oram retired in 1986 and was succeeded by Sister Shirley Garnett.

Annual births were between 65 and 109, before dropping after the post-war baby boom. Many residents living in Geraldine utilised the services, and several of MHC's current staff were born there.

As Geraldine's reputation as a retirement destination grew, so, too, did the need for a geriatric facility. In 1988, the hospital and nurses' accommodation were turned into a 24-bed geriatric hospital known as The Pines. The caring role of the building in the community had come full circle.

In the late 80s, Anne Whitaker bought The Pines from the organisation that is now the South Canterbury District Health Board. Under Anne's enthusiastic and dedicated ownership,

McKenzie Lodge, as it became known, grew.

In 2007, a shareholder group, McKenzie, became the next owners and what you see today is the vision of this forward-thinking company. **McKenzie Lifestyle Village** was born and is testament to the growing needs and wishes of our greater community. It made perfect sense to extend the hospital, dementia and rest home services, too.



Horrell Construction are proud to have worked with HPA to build the MHC Ho







People are at the core of the guiding philosophy of McKenzie Healthcare (MHC). Manager Kim Entwistle describes McKenzie HealthCare as "an important part of the Geraldine community. Our residents can't always get out into the community, so we encourage the community to come to us. Our residents love having visits from local school and community groups and in the future we hope to grow those connections."

The facility is also a pathway of care for the residents of McKenzie Lifestyle Village (MLV), MHC's sister organisation, located right next door. "MLV residents are assured of a continuation of service as their life circumstances change, with MLV offering both independent living and assisted care options, and MHC providing a higher level of care if individual needs require it."

As part of those strong connections between the sister facilities, MHC produces meals for the residents in the assisted-care apartments at MLV.

#### SERVICES FOR THOSE IN NEED

MHC offers hospital, palliative, rest home, rest home-dementia level of care and day care, in a safe and homely environment, for those who have been assessed as in need.

"We understand that most people prefer to remain in their own home and offer respite care for short periods to give caregivers a break, but when home is no longer the most practical option, we have rest home and hospital levels of care," says Kim.

Respite care for short periods to give caregivers a break can be booked through the NASC team or arranged privately.

Additionally, The Pines secure-care dementia unit (D3) offers care in a homely and calm atmosphere.

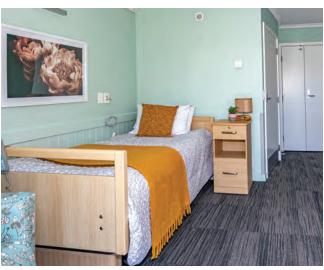
After opening, day care will once again be offered. MHC's diversional therapists ensure an engaging programme of activities is provided for all residents.

#### LOOKED AFTER BY THE VERY BEST

The MHC philosophy of putting people first is not limited just to the residents. Manager Kim Entwistle, says that they strive to be an employer of choice, not just in the area but in the industry.

With a staff group of 66 and growing, Kim reports that everyone is supported to continue their education with regular training and learning opportunities for the registered nurses, healthcare assistants and support staff, who all hold NCEA qualifications from levels 1-4, ensuring the care delivered to the residents is of the highest quality.

The staff pride themselves in being friendly and caring, which is certainly borne out with the smiles and welcomes as you move through the building on a visit. Palliative care, which requires a high level of sensitivity, is a speciality for MHC and accolades are generous when family talk about the experiences at MHC.









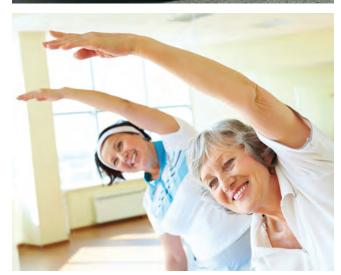
















McKenzie Lifestyle Village offers a combination of freedom and security. The villa or apartment that you occupy is your home, with the freedom to come and go as you please, while external maintenance of buildings and grounds is taken care of. Village residents also have access to the McKenzie Leisure Centre, an expansive communal area offering many resources. PHOTOS: Supplied

# End-to-end care at McKenzie Lifestyle Village and McKenzie HealthCare

McKenzie Lifestyle Village is a modern development of 113 architecturally designed independent villas, along with 10 one-bedroom apartments/suites (single and double), welcoming those aged 55 and over, who seek a simplified, secure lifestyle.

A modern \$4.5 million leisure centre, with resort-style facilities (gymnasium, indoor swimming pool, spa, library, hair salon, media room and large entertaining lounge), is the heart of the village and

the hub of frequent social events.

The outdoor fixtures of lawn bowls, croquet, pétanque, mini golf, putting green, BBQ entertaining and garden allotments offer plenty of leisure activities, to do as little, or as much, as you like.

Twenty-four-hour security allows for a lock-and-leave lifestyle, along with immediate response in the case of an emergency.

Between the lifestyle available for

residents of McKenzie Lifestyle and the services offered by McKenzie HealthCare for those in need, Geraldine has everything needed for those planning their retirement years.

Two- and three-bedroom villas are available, priced from \$340,000, and outgoing fees are fixed for life upon entry. Villas and apartments open to view by appointment. For more information, call 0800 845 524 or visit mlv.org.nz.



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## gnews LOL CORNER





The writer with Pūkeko (right) in happier times; Pūk, the \$345 chook, recovers in isolation. PHOTOS: shelley Iñón

# The case of the \$345 chook

Our neighbours will attest that I've had a very difficult week, with the loud wailing and sobbing that they have been forced to endure. It wasn't the children, but my own lungs that produced such a racket.

You are probably thinking, dear reader, that I'm not taking this pandemic well; but I can assure you I haven't even realised how dire the situation is, simply because I've been too traumatised by the wellbeing of our prized chook.

Don't get me wrong: she hasn't won any prizes (and nor is she likely to), but she is invaluable. My husband and I have often opened our wallets to purchase bright and flashy plastic things to appease our kids. Things that have been cherished for four full days before being retired to the back of a cupboard for the rest of forever.

In contrast, we grabbed loose change when we bought the chooks. And - far from being forgotten - they are always luring the kids outside away from the cartoons. When we first brought Pūkeko, Kākāpō and Kiwi home, they looked atrocious. They'd spent 18 months of their life in a cage together. So nude of feathers, that I felt like I should avert my eyes when I was around them, just to protect their modesty. Their beaks went off in comical angles and their combs

were as pale as their skin.

My youngest didn't care about their appearances. He proclaimed them to be "princesses", and singled one out for all of his sloppiest kisses: Pūkeko. As her feathers grew back and her beak sharpened, she was being constantly lugged about the lawn as both boys introduced her to magical things like worms, slaters and porridge. There were awkward moments, like when I caught my oldest with a hose filling up her latest dust bath. He looked at me in confusion: "But all baths need water, Mummy." Pūk was in the middle of the muddy puddle looking baffled.

The thing that has made Pūkeko the best pet in the world is also the thing that nearly killed her: wherever we are, there

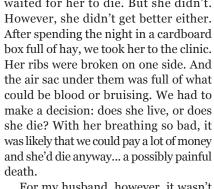
Last week, when I was moving some pallets, she was right there, beside me, brazenly eating the grubs I'd uncovered. An unsteady pallet fell on top of her and Kākāpō. While I was quick to lift it, she'd taken the weight. So much - in fact - that it had popped an entire egg out of her, which Kākāpō, after standing up and ruffling her feathers, set upon eating with delight.

Pūkeko's beak was wide open and the way she was lying was so unnatural and corpselike. So, we grieved and, since it

was too late to take her to the vet, we waited for her to die. But she didn't.

For my husband, however, it wasn't a tricky decision. The chook needed a chance. And if that cost us \$345, so be it. You see, without her we'd have to do a lot of that thing that some parents are forced to do: entertain our kids. We waited to see how she would fare after a shot of antibiotics and some strong painkillers. The next morning, we woke up to find her with her beak closed and her breathing normal. A day later, she was standing for short periods of time.

The battle isn't over for Pūk... But, even if we lost the \$345 chook today, she would have been worth every penny. I can't say the same for the bright and flashy plastic toys lurking in the kids' wardrobe. SHELLEY IÑÓN





PHILIPPA WILSON'S EXHIBITION OPENED AT THE MCATAMNEY GALLERY LAST SATURDAY Carolyn McAtamney, pictured here with "Rain", a work inspired by Hone Tuwhare's eponymous poem, says three of the 12 canvases exhibited have already sold and others are creating significant interest. "In the interests of safety, we did not serve refreshments. People kept their distance from one another, but there was a steady flow throughout the day. Philippa went back to Dunedin and did not give her talk, but we read the poems of the two poetry-inspired pieces." The exhibition has now been extended until the end of May. HUGH MCCAFFERTY



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Amy Carpinter's award-winning images; Amy with her Winchester show ribbon and a photography club trophy. PHOTOS: Supplied

# Local photographers shine at A&P show

The overall winner for Winchester A&P show's photography section this year was Amy Carpinter, who received a trophy and ribbon. Amy is part of the Geraldine Photography Club.

winners were Paul Barcham, Suzanne Barcham, Cushla Flannery, Elaine Marriet, Donna Shaw and Diane Wakefield. Well done to everyone.

If you would like to improve your Other Geraldine Photography Club photography skills, call Donna Shaw on

021 027 56332, or come to the Geraldine Information Centre on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. It is a friendly group, with a lot of learning and trips out. SUBMITTED



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Esther Paddon's second book, Oodles of Oomph, recounts many of her overseas adventures. PHOTO: Hugh McCafferty

# The adventures of an octogenarian

Budget traveller Esther Paddon launched her second book, Oodles of Oomph, on Friday 13 March at the Geraldine High School library. The Rev Tony Kippax said he took great pleasure in introducing Esther as a "a remarkable person: hopeful, attentive and grateful ... and humbly obedient to her God".

In her talk, Esther recounted anecdotes of hostel life in far-flung places, tales of communication "across the bridge of linguistic incomprehension" and a few serendipitous encounters with some interesting people.

Esther travels light. At one point, she discovered wheeled suitcases and relinquished her customary backpack. European cobbled streets and Chinese staircases led to the suitcase's demise and she now travels again with 7.5kg on

Apart from a few clothes (washed every night), she carries a medical kit assembled by her doctor sister, a silk liner for sleeping and a New Testament or other devotional reading. She says, "A cellphone is a handy gadget, but I don't consider it essential." Indeed, she describes persuading a group

of young folk in a hostel to look up from their devices and engage in conversation, "as we used to"

On the cover of the book Havden Paddon, Esther's grandson, is quoted: "It's a little in the Paddon blood that we can't sit still for long; that's why Nana has so many fascinating stories and life experiences to tell. I'm proud to call her my nana and hope I can be half the person

Oodles of Oomph is available for sale from The Page and Post Booksellers and Stationers. HUGH MCCAFFERTY



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New water pipes ready to install at Huffey and Talbot streets ahead of the major Talbot Street works. PHOTOS: Gavin Oliver

# Talbot Street upgrade to start early

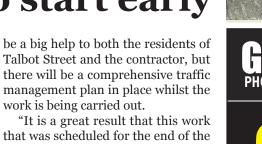
Councillor Gavin Oliver says two different jobs are happening on Talbot Street. Prior to the main work, a pipe has been laid under Talbot Street to drain excess water from the back of the museum, the Top 10 park and the sports field.

"We hope this means more sport can be played on the grounds in winter."

once this is done. "With the addition of some new funding from NZTA, the road will now be dug up and a new subbase laid down. This is so the crown in the road can be lowered to give residents easier access to their properties. This will take longer than the original milling of the road.

"Once the work gets underway there will be some delays on traffic movements. year has now been brought forward." The main Talbot Street job will start I believe there will be no detours in place during the repair work. Obviously, limiting your use of Talbot Street will

"It is a great result that this work that was scheduled for the end of the **HUGH MCCAFFERTY** 





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GERALDINE WOMEN'S GOLF CLUB: Tuesday 17 March: E E Scott Eclectic R 3 and PSRB Stableford; Ist S Dwyer 94 27 67, 41, 2nd P Goodman 93 21 72, 37, 3rd L Cook 86 13 73, 35, 4th by lot M Bolton 96 22 74, 35, Liz G 92 18 74, 34, M Gregan 100 26 74, 34 . NTP Sec Shot No 15, L Cook, Twos, S Dwyer, Nett Birdies No8 M Gregan, C Jopp. Nine Hole Results: 10 March LGU R2: Ist E Gunn 60 27 33, 2nd D Sandrey 58 24 34, J Chisholm 59 22 37, G Gibson 68 28 40.

GRANDE VUE GOLF CLUB: Sunday 23 March: Stroke Round 1st M O'Malley 78-18-60, R Ramsay 82-19-63, A Muff 77-14-63, M Lang 82-16-66, J Rate 85-16-66, Giles Patrick 79-12-67, C Seaton 91-21-70, G A Patrick 91-21-71, T Kerr 88-16-72 S Gately 78-4-74



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GERALDINE CRIBBAGE CLUB AGM Due to the current situation, the AGM will be postponed until further notice. Any queries please contact either Jack 03 693 8019 or Sandra 021 0860 4282.

VINTAGE PLANTS AND COLLECTABLES FOR SALE 30A George Street, Geraldine - back section. Green flag at gate when open.

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## geraldinecommunitydiary

APRIL 2020

As our community faces lockdown for the next month, clubs and group activities are in hiatus. We hope you all find entertaining and useful things to do to fill in your time. If you finish all those puzzles, read all those books and complete all those chores, then here's a fun creative drawing exercise to help ease the boredom. FI MCCAFFERTY

#### **THIRTY CIRCLES**

#### TOOLS:

Thirty circles for each participant Pens or coloured pencils

#### **PARTICIPANTS:**

Solo or family groups. vou could even do it with friends online

### TIME:

Three minutes HOW TO:

### Draw recognisable

objects in as many circles as possible. That could be a pizza, clock, apple, etc. Set the timer for

three minutes.

Once the time has ended, think about the outcome or discuss the with the other participants.

> How many circles did you fill up?

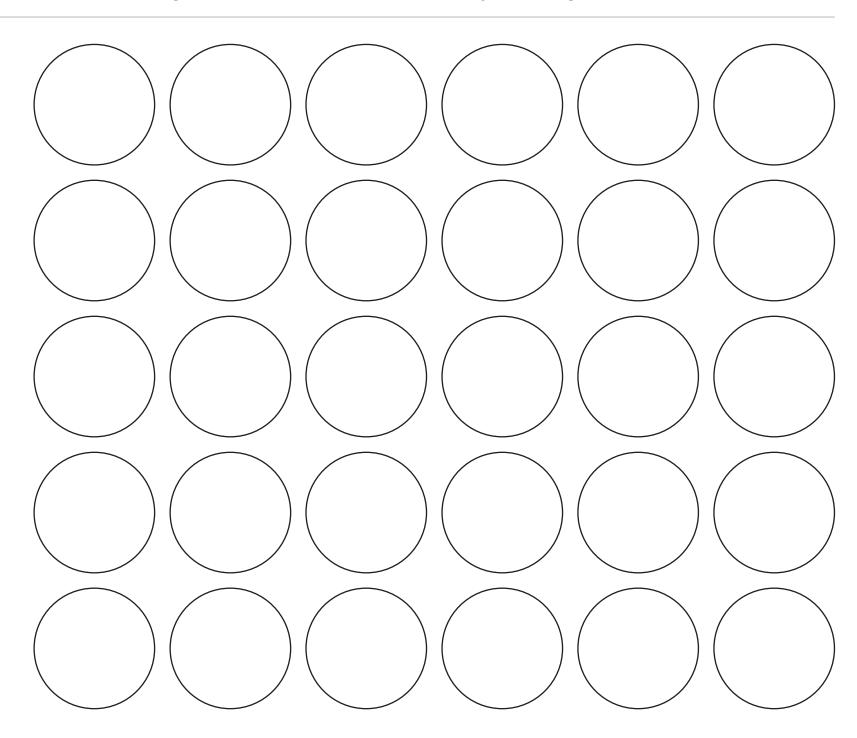
Are there any or are any of the ideas related, e.g. several planets or different sport balls?

> Was the task challenging?

Did you or someone else 'break the rules' by combining circles or using them in an unexpected way?

Play again with different time limits, or set a theme to see how different the results are next time.

If you need more circles go to GNews Facebook page for a printable file, plus there's a link to find more creative activities.



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