



Arapuni Village

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Arapuni Whānau

Welcome to the latest edition of the AVCA Newsletter, where we share stories of community spirit, initiatives, and updates from our wonderful village.

Stay Connected

Join our Arapuni Village Grapevine on Facebook for real-time updates, discussions, and community bonding. Together, let's continue making Arapuni a thriving and close-knit community.

Contact AVCA

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Thank you for your support. Your involvement and enthusiasm make our village a better place for all.



Rides, Slides, and Smiles

The Arapuni village community came together on the 9th of March for a fantastic family fun day at the local hall and grounds, celebrating what felt like the last day of summer. It was a wonderful opportunity for people to catch up with old friends and neighbours, creating a true sense of community.

Families relaxed and enjoyed the wide range of activities on offer. Pony rides and an exciting water slide delighted both the young and the young at heart, while the bouncy castle kept the little ones entertained for hours.

With 200 attendees, the event had a real buzz, and local market stalls offered great bargains. The coffee cart and free sausage sizzle kept everyone fuelled up throughout the day.

The event was made possible with funding from the Arapuni Village Community Association and a grant from the Tindall Rural Community Event Fund. Special thanks to Bromac Construction Limited for their generous donations of prizes and raffle items and to our talented water slide artisans, Heather & Matt Cheer, for the very popular water slide.



Give your support

Want to make Arapuni Village even better? Arapuni Village Community Association (AVCA) is all about boosting our community spirit and well-being!

We put on awesome events, run helpful workshops, and kick off cool projects – all to bring us together. Did you love the spirit of the Family Fun Day? Do you enjoy the novel reads in the street Book Libraries? Have you shared and enjoyed the fruits or the Pātaka Kai sharing shed? These are all AVCA initiatives.

Your ideas, suggestions, and participation make a significant impact on the success of our community projects. Joining AVCA is your gateway to contributing to the growth and well-being of Arapuni.

You'll have the opportunity to participate in community initiatives, events, and decision-making.

Plus, we work hard to get funding for these things and make sure your voice is heard by the local council. Join us and be part of the fun and positive change! By becoming a member, you support these goals.

Become a member and tell us what you'd like to see happen. There is a small annual fee of \$10 per person. Not really a joiner? That's okay, we're happy to take donations (bank details on the same page)! Our membership form is now online:

<https://arapunivillage.nz/join>



Who gets your vote?

It is that time again: local body elections. You get to vote in the people who make decisions on your rates, roads and services like water, libraries and pools. Voting takes place from 9 September – 11 October. Keep an eye out for a Meet the Candidates session in Arapuni in September. AVCA will be inviting candidates to speak about their vision for our village. So think about what questions you want answers to, and come along. And make sure you are enrolled to vote!



Residents at Rhubarb

Bringing some community warmth to the winter months with a coffee and catch-up at the Rhubarb Cafe. New(ish) to the village or an old-timer, come say hello at this informal gathering. Meet at 1.30pm on the second Sunday of the winter months: 8 June, 13 July and 10 August at the cafe. Reminders will be posted to Facebook.

A hundred years ago

In 1925, while the country focused on the massive undertaking of the Arapuni hydroelectric power scheme – the largest civil engineering project in New Zealand at the time – a much smaller but vital (and beautiful) structure quietly began to take shape: the Arapuni Suspension Bridge.

Though it didn't attract much media attention back then, the bridge played an essential role in connecting the Top Camp, the hub for workers and the future site of our village, with the western side of the gorge, where key construction activities were happening. The bridge is believed to have been shipped in prefabricated form from England, supplied by British firm Armstrong and Whitworth, who also held the main contract for the power station. Work on the bridge began in earnest in May 1925 with the laying of its concrete foundations. By December, the steel tower stood tall over the gorge, though the bridge itself was far from complete. Even by April 1926, the steel cables and decking were still being installed. The bridge was finally completed sometime between then and mid-1926 – but without fanfare or formal opening. Despite its understated arrival, the suspension bridge served a crucial function in linking the workforce to the heart of one of the country's most ambitious infrastructure projects.

Also in May 2025, the Roman Catholic community in Arapuni began plans for the construction of a new church. Materials were ordered, and local residents pitched in through working bees to help with the labour (pre-AVCA). The community also started a series of monthly dances, the first of which took place on May 15. Mesdames Donnelly and Keggarty were entrusted with overseeing the supper arrangements. Our Matariki Community Potluck Dinner continues in this tradition!



NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AT ARAFUNI.
Photograph taken just after the opening service, which was conducted by Bishop Cleary.
—B. J. Darby.



You're Invited to a

Matariki Community Potluck Dinner



28.06.2025

4.30pm

ARAPUNI HALL

Bring a plate to share
Dessert bar supplied by the AVCA
Dinner served from 5pm
BYO Drinks
Movie for the kids

