

Square ready for Christmas cheer

Ashburton's giant Christmas tree returns to Baring Square East this festive season and will come to life at Light up the Night on Saturday 30 November.

Ashburton Mayor Neil Brown said the tree would be assembled in the square in the week ahead of the event and would be lit up at 9.15pm.

"Hokonui is running a competition to find the person who will press the button and we're all looking forward to seeing the tree sparkling and back in the square."

The tree was on East Street for several years while the CBD and square were revitalised. In the square, it will be positioned in front of Te Whare Whakaterere, the new library and civic building that opened this year.

Mayor Brown said Baring Square East had proved a popular location for the Hakaterere Noodle Festival earlier in the year and would be ideal for Light up the Night on 30 November.

"It's a great place to put down a blanket and have a bit of a picnic, and the free Christmas celebration will have some live entertainment and other fun, plus a visit by Santa himself."

Roads around the square will be closed on the Saturday (except Havelock Street) and the event starts at 6pm. One Ninety Nine café will be open into the night, and food trucks will add to the atmosphere and include Bangkok Wok, Azteca Taco, Hungry Potato, The Little Honey Co and more.



A stage will be erected for live music and dance performances, and the evening will be compered by Luke Howden from Hokonui.

Mayor Brown said Light up the Night was becoming an annual tradition that kickstarted the festive season in Mid Canterbury.

"I can think of no better way to connect as a community and reflect on the year, while

also looking ahead with excitement to Christmas and New Year and the summer in general."

Eco Educate will be onsite with a waste station to encourage people to recycle; they are also urging people to bring their own clean containers to hold food.

Light up the Night is sponsored by Hokonui and the Ashburton Courier. More information is at lightupthenight.co.nz

CE Hamish Riach

Annual report reflects completion of big jobs

Like any big business, Council produces an annual report to let our community know how we performed against our budget and work programme.

The report for 2023-24 was adopted by Council last week and it reflects a year where we got a lot of work done – not quite everything we planned to achieve, but that outstanding work has rolled into the new financial year.

The 2023-24 year was marked by the completion of major projects, like Te Whare Whakaterere, which opened its doors to an excited community in January. We also completed a new water treatment plant for Methven, using membrane treatment technology, and began construction of a smaller plant for Mount Somers (completed in August this year).

Our district continued to grow, reflected in the ongoing demand for our regulatory and planning services – our building team issued 502 building consents, 187 resource consents, approved 78 subdivisions plans and processed a significant number of Kainga Ora housing redevelopments.

Fixing potholes continued to be a priority and our annual residents' survey saw a significant increase in the satisfaction of both sealed and unsealed roads.

The annual report essentially considers if Council did what we said we would do, if we met budgets and generally improved wellbeing in the district. If you like looking at balance sheets, you'll see Council's total revenue was about \$105 million (\$11m above budget mainly because of Government

subsidies and grants we managed to secure for different projects), and our total expenditure was \$94m.

Our financial performance must always focus on prudence, stability, service and planning for the future and while that is mostly about good and reliable infrastructure, it is also about community and connections through events like Glow in the Park, and the coming Christmas events.

Before the annual report was adopted by Council last week, it was scrutinised and signed off by Audit New Zealand and that process is a very robust one.

Ultimately, the work of council involves not only staff, but elected members, contractors and many volunteers, who bring their hard work, expertise and commitment.



SHORT AND SWEET

DOMAIN MOVIE

To celebrate 160 years of the Ashburton Domain, Council is putting on an outdoor screening of the family movie *Inside Out*, at the domain on Saturday 23 November. Bring your picnic, your blanket or bean bag and settle in for the evening, with food and coffee available from a food court. Pre-show entertainment includes a quiz about the domain, so do your homework! Join us from 5pm. Proudly supported by the Ashburton Guardian.

PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a proposal to temporarily close roads to ordinary vehicle traffic to enable the holding of a community event – **Ashburton Car Club Standing Quarter Mile Sprint Meeting.**

Road proposed to be closed:

Somertons Road from Coplands Road to Jamiesons Road

Period of closure: From 9am to 4.30 pm on **Saturday, 14 December 2024.**

This proposed closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 – Schedule 10 (11 (e) and will be considered at a Council meeting on 20 November 2024.

Any person objecting to the proposal should lodge a notice of their objection and grounds for their objection in writing by post or email to the Council, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton by 4pm, **Monday 18 November 2024.**

NEIL MCCANN
Group Manager Infrastructure Services

CANTERBURY ANNIVERSARY DAY RUBBISH & RECYCLING

Rubbish and recycling

There is no change to kerbside rubbish and recycling collections and the collection on Friday 15 November will take place as usual, with residents to have their wheelie bins out by 7.30am. Remember to use your windstrap, whether it's windy or not.

Resource Recovery Parks

The Ashburton Resource Recovery Park will be open Friday 15 November from 9am until 5pm, Saturday from 9am-6pm and Sunday from 9am-5pm.

The Methven green waste dropoff will be open Sunday from 12pm until 4pm.

The Rakaia Resource Recovery Park will be closed on Friday 15 November.

Bike skills park making progress

Plans for a new bike skills park in the Ashburton Domain are progressing, with a charitable trust formed to seek funding to build the facility.

A working group consisting of Councillors, Council staff, Sport Canterbury and Safer Mid Canterbury staff, and representatives from local service clubs has been meeting for the past 12 months to plan the project.

Spokesperson Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan said a concept plan had been drawn up and will be finetuned over the next two months.

“Funding the bike skills park is the next phase and our charitable trust will be seeking grants from organisations like the Lion Foundation and Lotteries.

“Once we have a final design, we’ll be working through the costs with a quantity surveyor so we can provide plenty of accurate information to those funding providers.”

The bike skills park is forecast to cost about half a million dollars, with construction not funded by ratepayers.

Council has recently granted resource consent for the project, needed because developing the park would result in an increase in the impermeable surfaces at the domain.

Ms McMillan said the park would be an



A concept plan for the new bike skills park in the Ashburton Domain.

important facility to teach children and newcomers the bike skills they needed when moving around town, in particular the many schoolchildren who cross the main highway and railway crossing twice a day to go to school.

“It will have traffic lights and a railway crossing, as well as give ways and stop signs, a roundabout and pedestrian

crossing. There’ll be most things that cyclists will encounter in the Ashburton district.”

Once funds are secured, the project will be let to a contractor rather than have the work done by service clubs – that is because of the health and safety complexities of undertaking construction in the domain, which is a public space.

Draft stockwater plan before working group

Stockwater users and others interested in how Council will exit its stockwater delivery service by 2027 are being invited to sign up to receive regular email updates about progress of the work.

A Stockwater Transition Plan tab on the home page of Council’s website ashburtondc.govt.nz links to a form asking people for their name and email address, so they can stay up to date.

The first draft of the Stockwater Transition Plan was viewed by the newly-formed Stockwater Transition Working Group last week, and it includes an intake-by-intake strategy, with scheduled engagement with property owners, irrigation companies, Environment Canterbury and Arowhenua and other stakeholders.

Chair of the group, Councillor Richard Wilson, said the transition plan proposed the way Council would deal with each stockwater intake and the races they fed.

“We know it’s going to be a complicated process and Council has to be flexible in its approach.

“Some intakes and races will present issues we didn’t know about but talking with those affected is important and engagement with stakeholders could help find solutions.



“If a particular race network also provides a critical stormwater function, Council may consider declaring the race a drain for example.”

Cr Wilson said Council did not have money for any new infrastructure.

“There will be no capital contributions to solutions, Council’s role in this would only be to advise and provide good information about alternative water sources.”

Council’s consultant John Wright will work with people to identify alternative stockwater solutions and affected parties.

Following last week’s meeting, the transition plan will be refined and it is expected to go to Council to be adopted in December.

WORKS NOTICES

Beach Road East - Closed in parts until 13 December for road rehabilitation. The work will be done in two stages and the first closure will affect Beach Road East between Trevors Road and Nicholls Road. The later closure will be between Trevors Road and Milton Road South. Detours are in place and signposted.

Baring Square East - Three roads around Baring Square East will be closed from 7am until 9.30pm on Saturday 30 November for Light up the Night. Roads affected are East Street, Cameron Street and Baring Square East Street.

Walnut Avenue - Closed from Oak Grove to West Street from 10am-2pm on Saturday 7 December for the Santa Parade. Creek Road will also be closed from Walnut Avenue to Queens Drive.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are at Hine Paaka (Council Chambers), 2 Baring Square East, unless specified.

Meeting agendas are online at ashburtondc.govt.nz

Wednesday 20 November, **Council Meeting**, 1pm (live-streamed)

Tuesday 26 November, **Ashburton Water Zone Committee**, 1pm

Wednesday 27 November, **Council Activity Briefing**, 9.30am (live-streamed)

Wednesday 27 November, **Council Audit and Risk Meeting**, 1pm (live-streamed)

PUBLIC NOTICE

ASHBURTON DISTRICT PLAN CHANGE 6

Pajanti Limited has applied for a Private Plan Change to the Residential Zones and Subdivision Chapters of the Operative District Plan (2014). The change covers the following areas:

The rezoning of a 1ha property at 259 Alford Forest Road from Residential D to Residential C and to adopt the operative provisions of the Residential C Zone onsite.

Full details of the proposal and the accompanying evaluation report in accordance with Section 32 of the Resource Management Act (1991) are available for inspection at the Council Offices at 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton; or at www.ashburtondc.govt.nz

Council wishes to invite further submissions on decisions received during the initial statutory consultation.

Further submissions may only be lodged by the following persons/organisation:

- Any person representing a relevant aspect of the public interest; and
- Any person that has an interest in the proposal greater than the interest that the general public has; and
- The local authority itself.

Further submissions must be limited to matters either in support of or in opposition to the submissions and must be in Form 6 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

A summary of these submissions and further submission forms are available from the ADC website: <https://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz> or can be sent on request.

Further submissions may be:

- Posted to: Planning Team, Ashburton District Council, P.O. Box 94, Ashburton 7740
- Delivered to: Council Offices at 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton
- Emailed to: info@adc.govt.nz

Further submissions must be received by the Council no later than 5pm, Thursday 21 November, 2024.

If you make a further submission, a copy must be sent to the person/s who made the original Submission no later than 5 working days after a copy is provided to Ashburton District Council.

Following the close of further submissions, a report will be prepared on the proposal and a hearing date will be set and notified to all submitters and further submitters who wish to be heard.

Ian Hyde
Group Manager – Compliance and Development

COUNCIL OFFICE

2 Baring Square East
Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 8.30am-5pm
Thursday 9am-5pm

ASHBURTON LIBRARY

2 Baring Square East, Ashburton 7700
Mon & Fri 8.30am-6pm, Tue-Thu 8.30am-8pm
Sat & Sun 10am-4pm

EA NETWORKS CENTRE

20 River Terrace
Mon - Fri 5.45am-9pm (pools 8pm Mon & Tue, 7pm Wed-Fri; gym 8pm) Sat & Sun 7am-7pm (pools 6pm, gym 6pm)

ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

327 West Street
10am-4pm daily (late night Wed)