

Fun things to do this summer

A holiday guide jam-packed with ideas for fun activities around the Ashburton District has just rolled off the printing press and is being distributed to Council facilities this week.

The 20-page guide sets out more than 40 different activities that are happening at the Ashburton Library, EA Networks Centre and the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum, as well as sharing the locations of some favourite outdoor spots.

Ashburton Mayor Neil Brown said some of the activities were Christmas themed, but others were regular events hosted by Council facilities all year round.

“We have so many things for children and families to do, many of them free. Families can pick up a copy of the guide at any Council facility or from Te Whare Whakatare, or go onto our website and look at a digital version there.”

Activities include sewing your own festival bag, making a Christmas T-shirt or a Christmas tree bauble, or taking part in a summer reading challenge.

You can also join the Great Santa Hunt, attend a Wriggle and Read Christmas



special, or watch a family film.

The guide also has details of an inflatable roadshow, which sees EA Networks Centre take its inflatables to community swimming pools at Mayfield, Mount Somers, Hinds and Rakaia.

Mayor Brown said there was also information about outdoor places like

the jumping platform at Lake Hood, skateparks and the local walking tracks.

“Whether you have energy to burn, or are seeking a quiet time, there’s a lot of free activities you can do in our district.”

You can see the online copy of the guide here, or scan the QR codes that will be popping up on posters.

Community board delivers cheer

The Methven Community Board has granted some early Christmas cheer to three local groups.

At their meeting this week, community board members approved \$737 to the Methven Toy Library, \$1000 to the Methven and Foothills Walking Festival and \$1807 to the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall.

The Methven Toy Library will use the grant

to buy new shelving units, making it easier for families and caregivers to browse, select and return toys.

The Methven and Foothills Walking Festival was seeking funds for costs associated with the running of the 2025 event, which will be held from 17-22 April.

The annual festival showcases the district and promotes health and wellbeing by

getting out into nature, and the event is in its third year.

The community board agreed the festival brought visitors to Methven, and was an event that involved the whole community.

The Mt Hutt Memorial Hall board will use its grant to repaint the supper room and the art gallery at the facility.

Mayor Neil Brown

Wise words from the past

It’s hard to believe that nearly a year has passed since Te Whare Whakatare opened its doors, and the new library and civic building has been embraced by all those who visit or work there.

While Council buildings need to be functional, there’s no reason they can’t be aspirational, so it was a pleasure to read the letter of a former mayor, extracted from a time capsule sealed in the foundation of the old civic building.

Here are the wise words of D. O. (Darcy) Digby, mayor of Ashburton in 1974:

“To generations yet unborn, may God give you the courage and conviction to strive for the betterment of mankind in your time, as we who have gone before

have endeavoured to do in our small way.

To you this building may not grace the surroundings of your ‘city’ or represent much, compared with the developments of your era, but to us it is the culmination of the efforts of Mayors, Councillors and Citizens past and present from 1852 to 1974.

We look back with pride and admiration on the first settlers of Ashburton who in 1852 lived in sod houses and suffered the privations and hardships of founding a new land, in their struggle to provide for their children and posterity.

We are conscious of the efforts and achievements of our forebears, which have provided for our good standard of living and the development and progress

that has evolved from man’s ingenuity and search for an “El Derado”.

Whatever you may achieve during your lifetime, greater things will be done by those who supercede your decade and so on to the end of time.

I am confident that the future is in safe keeping and that the march of time will show that we of this generation are respected in the knowledge that we have contributed to posterity.

“Be ye Builders, Vital doing, architects of life and fate, ever striving and preparing for a higher nobler state. Not in sighing, ageing, dying is the measure of a man. But in growing, living, building. Life fulfils a master plan.”



SHORT AND SWEET

SANTA PARADE

Saturday morning sees Santa come to town, for the annual Christmas parade. Walnut Avenue, between Oak Grove and West Street, will be closed from 10am-4pm, as well as Creek Road from Walnut Avenue to Queens Drive. The parade starts at 12.30pm.

NEW PLAYGROUND

Work is under way on a new playground at the historic Barrhill village. The new playground is in the reserve area behind the hall and will feature two new seesaws and a swing set. Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said the old playground did not comply with modern safety standards and was at the end of its life. “So we talked to the Barrhill community about the best spot for a new and work has begun. We hope to have it finished by Christmas.”



CONGRATS GRADS

Thirteen graduates who have completed study while working to improve or gain new skills were recognised for their accomplishments at the Ashburton District Industry Training Organisation Awards recently. Mayor Neil Brown handed out certificates to those working in the health care, automotive engineering and retail industries.

XMAS RUBBISH & RECYCLING

There is no kerbside rubbish and recycling collection on **Christmas Day** so Council will be collecting everyone’s wheelie bins one day later than normal that week. December 25’s collection moves to Thursday, and Thursday’s collection to Friday, and Friday’s collection will take place on Saturday. Kerbside collection services are as normal for the week beginning Monday 30 December and bins will be emptied on Wednesday 1 January, even though it is New Year’s Day.

Christmas vibes in Baring Square

Baring Square East was the place to be on Saturday night, when Ashburton's giant Christmas tree came to life in a sparkly way.

Light up the Night is Council's community event to usher in the Christmas and New Year season and about 7000 people came along to see the show.

Ashburton Mayor Neil Brown said the square was packed. "It was great to see families sitting on blankets with their picnics, and there were lots of excited children running around.

"Everyone got into the Christmas spirit counting down to the moment when the lights in the tree were switched on, and the whole community can now enjoy them for the next four weeks or so."

The night began about 6pm with food trucks and entertainment, and master of ceremonies Luke Howden kept the crowd enthused and introduced seven-year-olds Tanner and Marecza, who had the honour of pushing the button that lit up the tree.

Mayor Brown said the event had a really good, positive vibe.

"The crowd really got into it and we think moving back to Baring Square East worked well. It was nice to see people enjoying themselves."

A full gallery of photos from the night can be viewed at lightupthenight.co.nz



GRAZING TENDER

Council is seeking tenders for the grazing of sheep at Ocean Farm, on approximately 282ha of grass, during the months of April to August each year.

The contract period is for three years on a 1+1+1 basis, commencing on **1 March 2025**.

The tender document and associated forms can be found on Tenderlink: portal.tenderlink.com/ashburtondc. To access these documents, you will need to register at: portal.tenderlink.com/adcentre/editsupplier

Only tenders submitted via Tenderlink will be accepted. Tenders close at 4pm on **Friday 20 December**.

ALCOHOL LICENSING

Mount Somers Hospitality Limited has made application to the District Licensing Committee at Ashburton for a new ON licence in respect of the premises situated at **70 Hoods Road, Mt Somers**.

The general nature of the business conducted under the licence is: Tavern.

The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is sold under the licence are: Monday to Sunday; 7am to 2am.

The application may be inspected at the office of the Ashburton District Licensing Committee at 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton. Objections should be filed in writing with: The Secretary, Ashburton District Licensing Committee, PO Box 94, Ashburton.

Objection period closes 24 January 2025.

ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of road closures for the following events:

ASHBURTON SANTA PARADE

Roads to be closed:

- **Walnut Avenue**, from Oak Grove to West Street
- **Creek Road**, from Walnut Avenue to Queens Drive

Period of closure: From 10am until 4pm on **SATURDAY, 7 December**.

ASHBURTON CAR CLUB'S STANDING QUARTER MILE SPRINT

Road to be closed:

- **Somerton Road**, from Coplands Road to Jamiesons Road

Period of closure: From 7am to 6pm on **SATURDAY 14 December**.

This notice of closures is made under the Local Government Act 1974 - Schedule 10 (11 (e)). It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under the authority of an authorised permit to use the roads/streets for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure.

Neil McCann, Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces

TINWALD RESERVE BOARD LAND FOR TENDER



On behalf of the Tinwald Reserve Board, Council is calling for expressions of interest in a licence to occupy land at the Tinwald Domain. The tender is for a five-year licence to occupy for 6.9 hectares of land known as "The West Paddock" and located at 62 Maron Road, Tinwald (outlined in red).

The tender commences on **1 February 2025**. Expressions of interest must be received by Ashburton District Council on or before 2pm on **20 December 2024**.

For a tender document or for more information, please contact Council by email commercial@adc.govt.nz

COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Meeting agendas are online at ashburtondc.govt.nz

Wednesday 18 December, **Council Meeting**, (livestreamed), 1pm

WORKS NOTICES

Beach Road East - Closed between Trevors Road and Nicholls Road until 13 December, for road repairs. Detours in place.

Chertsey Kyle Road - Closed between McCrorys Road and Buckleys Road until 20 December for road maintenance. Detours available.

Dobson Street West - Closed between Kermode Street and Robinson Street from 6-10 December so contractors can install a water main.

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)