

## Heat is on, so use water wisely

Ashburton District people are being urged to use water wisely or face restrictions, as water consumption climbs along with the summer temperatures.

Ashburton's seven-day rolling average daily water use has been above 22,000 cubic metres three times in the past weeks and Council is considering bringing in water restrictions.

Mayor Neil Brown said households needed to use water sensibly.

"That means not using water excessively and using it in a smart way. If you want to water your lawn, then please do it early in the morning or late in the evening, or even set a timer to water it during the night. It's when everyone is using water at the same time that we see pressure levels drop and problems being reported."

Council has been monitoring consumption over all its community water supplies and household water use has been rising.

Group Manager of Infrastructure and Open Spaces Neil McCann said managing demand was important.

"We have not applied water restrictions on the Ashburton scheme for a number of years but we're concerned right now about levels of service and complaints about low pressure.



"The time period from 5pm to 9pm is typically when demand increases significantly partly due to people watering their gardens and lawns. We also see people watering their lawns in the middle of the day, which is also not a good time as most of the water evaporates.

"We would like people to conserve water through smart use, so everyone has the water they need."

Ways to conserve water outside the house

include watering roots or plants rather than the leaves, not watering paths and using a sprinkler with a timer.

Inside the house, water can be conserved by taking shorter showers and checking for leaks on your property. If your property has a water meter, check it last thing at night and then first thing in the morning to see water use.

Council has other water conservation tips on its website.

### CE Hamish Riach

## Reflecting on a busy year, with plans for a big 2025



**The end of the year always brings a little opportunity for reflection and, while there is still much to do, there is plenty to acknowledge, and in a good way.**

It is almost a full year since the opening of Te Whare Whakatere, the new library and civic building, and this beautiful building has exceeded expectations in terms of a workplace and a place for the community to call their own. Baring Square East has also gained a new lease on life as an event space and we look forward to new offerings in 2025.

The new water treatment plant at Mount Somers was officially opened in September and, much like Methven's new plant, it will end the need for boil water notices on the village supply after a heavy rain. Water quality is important for all and Council continues to spend millions ensuring what comes out of your tap meets the high bar of national standards.

Water will be a hot topic this summer,

with dry conditions forecast, so it is on everyone to use water wisely. For example, try to water your lawn first thing in the morning or late at night, not in the middle of the day when so much water just evaporates and is wasted.

Progress continues on fixing potholes and repairing roads, and rehabilitation on seven sites is on track to be completed by Christmas. In the New Year, we will tackle Maronan Road and Seafield Road; the second bridge also remains on our radar.

While these are big projects, there are plenty of smaller ones and the day-to-day operation of council business that is equally important. Every day of the year we aim to deliver good quality and reliable services around drinking water, wastewater, stormwater and rubbish collection.

If we don't get that right, we expect to hear from you – and there's a high chance you'll ring or message us on social media to report an issue or bin

not emptied. Our Customer Service team is one of the best in the business, consistently rated in the top 10 of the 70-plus Councils in the country.

We still have quite a few workshops on the calendar for this year, and the final full Council meeting will be next Wednesday 18 December.

Work in the new year will focus on preparing an annual plan for 2025-26 and there is already plenty of work happening on draft budgets and ensuring we have the necessary resources to get the work done.

Another meaty topic will be the Local Water Done Well reforms and we'll be having a conversation with the community on how Council best sees water services being delivered for the Ashburton District.

Later in the year there'll be Local Body Elections, so if January gets you thinking about challenges, then perhaps you might consider standing for council.

## SHORT AND SWEET

### CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Come along to the Ashburton Library on Tuesday 17 December, at 10.30am, for a Christmas version of Wriggle and Read. The weekly session for babies and children will be held in the event space for this session and feature some Christmas songs alongside favourite songs and rhymes.

### MAKE A SANTA HAT

Drop into the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum next week, between 10am and 4pm, and get into the Christmas spirit by making a Santa hat. Or check out the Lost Luggage exhibition and then make a special suitcase tag, so your own luggage doesn't get lost this summer.



### RECORD A SPECIAL XMAS GREETING

Feeling the Christmas spirit and want to sing about it? The library's AV studio is holding sessions for you to record a rendition of your favourite Christmas carol with your family, friends or solo. We have backing tracks to choose from, so come on down and sing. You must be a library member to do this activity, and bring your own USB storage device. Groups of up to six.



### PUT YOUR EARS ON

If you're visiting the Ashburton Domain, keep a lookout for five sound points installed to celebrate the park's 160th birthday. Simply use your phone to scan the QR code and listen to a short story about the domain's past. Sound point locations are posted in the info billboards at the domain.



# Blast into new year with a book

Ashburton Library has launched two reading challenges just in time for the summer school holidays.

“Blast into 2025” is a space-based reading adventure for those aged 5-12, while “Be a Blockhead”, offers a Lego-inspired challenge for teens.

Both are free to enter and offer prizes for reaching reading milestones. Those who complete the challenges go into the draw for a big prize, one of 10 \$25 Whitcoulls vouchers for kids or a Lego Dancing Groot set for teens.

Library Manager, Jill Watson, said the reading challenges were popular each year and a great way to keep kids engaged with their reading over the summer break.

“We’ve found that young people really enjoy visually tracking their progress on our challenge forms and are excited to share their progress with us when they visit.

“With our online library, it’s also easy to



take ebooks or audiobooks on the road with you.

“You can load them up on your device and

keep making progress as you travel.”

Entry forms are available from Ashburton Library or online at [ashburtonlibrary.co.nz](http://ashburtonlibrary.co.nz)

## Methven seeks ideas for town plan

The Methven Community Board is encouraging people to submit their ideas on a new community plan for the town before submissions close next Sunday.

Board chair Kelvin Holmes said as of Monday, they had received just over 40 submissions and hoped to hear from more people over the next week.

“We’re really impressed so far with the quality of the submissions and it’s clear that people are passionate about Methven’s future.

“We’ve also held two community

workshops and captured a range of exciting and practical ideas that will help us develop this community strategic plan.”

The last community plan was developed 15 years ago and led to improvements such as the establishment of the skate park and new advanced equipment for Methven’s water supply to protect the quality of the water.

Mr Holmes said the town had changed a lot over the previous decade and it was time for a fresh plan.

“Methven serves an essential role within

Mid Canterbury, it’s a service hub for the agricultural sector, a gateway for the district’s tourism and recreation opportunities, and it continues to experience new residential growth.

“There’s lots of opportunity, a few challenges too, and we’re keen to hear from anyone who has an interest in seeing Methven continue to thrive.”

Everyone who placed feedback will go into the draw for a scenic hot air balloon flight. People can share their ideas online at [itsourplace.nz](http://itsourplace.nz) before submissions close on Sunday 22 December.



The very popular Great Santa Hunt is on again at the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum these holidays.

Opening night is **Wednesday December 18**, 5pm-7pm, so come along with your torch to find all the sneaky Santas in hiding! Or come back during the day from 19 December to 25 January and have a go at finding them.

**Stay informed, go to:**  
[ashburtondc.govt.nz/news](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz/news)

### CHRISTMAS-NEW YEAR RUBBISH & RECYCLING

There is no kerbside rubbish and recycling collection on Christmas Day so Council will be emptying everyone’s wheelie bins one day later than normal for the rest of that week.

Collection day moves to:

Wednesday 25 → Thursday

Thursday 26 → Friday

Friday 27 → Saturday

Kerbside collection services are as normal from Wednesday 1 January, even though it is New Year’s Day.

Please ensure bins are out by 7.30am on collection day.

Keep your kerbside recycling ship shape: Plastics 1, 2 and 5, newspaper, cardboard and clean tins. No lids of any size or shape.

The **Ashburton Resource Recovery Park** will be closed Wednesday 25 December, Thursday 26 December and Wednesday 1 January.

The **Methven green waste dropoff** will be closed Wednesday 25 December and Wednesday 1 January.

The **Rakaia Resource Recovery Park** will be closed Wednesday 25 December and Wednesday 1 January.

### 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 Maronan 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](mailto: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](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz)

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

### ROAD CLOSURE

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

#### 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**

### WORKS NOTICES

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

**Beach Road East** - Closed between Trevors Road and Milton Road South until 13 December for road rehabilitation. Detours are in place.

NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY WORK:

**SH1/Longbeach Road corner** - Traffic management will be in place until 20 December while a right-hand turning bay and street lights are installed.

### STOPPING OF ROAD

Public notice was given pursuant to Section 342(1)(a) and Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 1974 that the portion of **Alexander Street, Chertsey**, described in the schedule to this notice was to be stopped and retained by Ashburton District Council for utilities (water treatment plant) purposes. No objections were received and, as the time limit for objections has now expired, this road is declared to be stopped.

SCHEDULE

#### Canterbury Land District

704m2 adjoining or passing through Part RS 16213 (Record of Title CB21A/733) and Lots 121 & 123 DP 200 (Record of Title C24A/961) shown as Section 1 on SO Plan 605276

**Hamish Riach**  
Chief Executive

### 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)