

## Domain soaks up jazz vibes

Sunshine, jazz music and good company combined for a successful Live on the Lawn event at the Ashburton Domain.

Several hundred people, armed with blankets and deck chairs, pulled up a spot on the Long Lawn off West Street and enjoyed the afternoon.

Live bands The Curio Club, Swing 42 and Garden City Combo provided the vibes, and several food trucks were planted around the grounds selling treats.

Staff will now consider feedback from lawn-goers, with a view to making it an annual event - featuring different music genres.

Group Manager of Compliance and Development Ian Hyde said it was great that the weather had played ball and that had encouraged people to come out and enjoy the afternoon.

"It's a great platform for future events and we hope everyone that came along had a good time."

The next free Council community event is Glow in the Park, which is sponsored once again by EA Networks.

Glow in the Park will be at the Ashburton Domain over King's Birthday weekend and promises to be another great event.



## SHORT AND SWEET

### WOMEN SWIM

The next women's swim night at EA Networks Centre is on Wednesday 9 April. These sessions are held regularly on the second Wednesday of the month, from 7pm-8.30pm and are for women only and children 10 and under. Come for a soak in the spa, do some lengths or spend time with the kids in the water. Adults pay \$5.

### TREVORS ROAD

Trevors Road will be one lane only between Beach Road and Wellington Street for the next 10 weeks while contractors rebuild and widen the road for a new lifestyle village development. Only the north-bound lane will operate while the work is in progress. Traffic management will be in place, but access for residents remains.

### SAND COURT OPEN

The outdoor sand court at EA Networks Centre is now open and people can bring their own beach volleyball or hire one if they want to play on it. The court is covered, but just pop in to see staff and they will open it up. Members of the Ashburton Warriors and Councillors played a fun game on the new court last week to mark its opening.



### LAKE HOOD

Health New Zealand has issued a health warning for Lake Hood after potentially toxic blue-green algae was found. People should avoid contact with the lake water, and animals (in particular dogs) should not be allowed near the water until the warning is lifted.

### PADDLING POOL

The paddling pool in the Ashburton Domain closes for the summer on Friday, 4 April. We hope you've all enjoyed dipping your toes in the water, but now it's time to prepare for cooler temperatures.

## Mayor Neil Brown Big decisions for our water services



There's a very big piece of Council work open now for feedback, and it's about services that we mostly take for granted.

Local Water Done Well is a Government-led programme aimed at ensuring that councils around the country all deliver the same high quality drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services to their communities.

When it comes to pipes and plants, we're in good shape compared to other areas of New Zealand. Water services have historically been done well here in the Ashburton District - those people on urban schemes can happily drink water from the tap knowing it is safe, and happily flush their toilet knowing the wastewater is properly treated and disposed of.

So there's a chance that when the consultation documents arrive in your letterbox, you might think we're already doing a good job and not open the pack. I urge you to open it - these decisions required by Local Water Done Well are the biggest decisions Council will make in many, many years, so it's important to hear your feedback.

Council is proposing an inhouse stand-alone business unit to deliver water services in the future, partly based on what residents have told us over recent years about the need to retain strong Council control over this work and ownership of the asset.

Despite our good work this far, we know that further investment will be needed in water services to meet future regulation and Council must do the very best it can to achieve compliance. The reality is ratepayers will pay more for these water services in the future.

Going online and having your say is the easiest way. If you don't want to comment, then at least reading the document will give you an appreciation of the infrastructure and money involved in the smooth operation of our water services.

Another piece of important work, especially for Methven, is in its final week of consultation. We want to hear what people think about the proposed Methven community strategic plan, which sets out the town's aspirations for the next 10 years.

Learn more about both of these consultations at [itsourplace.nz](https://itsourplace.nz).

## What's On: April guide

The April school holidays are nearly here, and Council has put together a What's On guide with 19 ideas for family-friendly activities at its facilities.

From Easter egg hunts to 3D printed sharks and time capsules in bottles, the activities are mostly free and happening at the Ashburton Library, EA Networks Centre and the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum.

Some activities have Easter themes, and others relate to Anzac Day, and they are pitched at teens and younger children.

People can pick up a copy of the guide at any Council facility or from Te Whare Whakarete or go onto our website to download a digital version.





# Reception spaces to merge at AAGM

The Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum will close for two weeks after the April school holidays to combine two reception areas into one on the ground floor and create new exhibition space on the upper floor.

While the facility is closed to the public, staff will be busy helping with the renovations and installing four new exhibitions in the upstairs space.

Facility director Shirin Khosraviani said the post-holiday period was usually quieter and so it was the ideal time to do the minor renovations, which were approved as part of the Long Term Plan 2024-34.

“We’ll create one shared reception and retail space for both heritage and art functions on the ground floor and convert the retail space upstairs into a fourth exhibition space, which will be a permanent home for art and objects from our local civic and pictorial collections.

“Then we’ll be re-opening on Saturday 10 May and looking forward to showing off the new space to our regular and new visitors.”

The renovation project will cost around \$60,000 and staff have reduced costs by designing the new space inhouse and doing some of the painting work.

“We’re very used to repairing and repainting the exhibition walls every time there is a new display and so we’re looking forward to using our skills in a wider



capacity. Interestingly, the original design of the building was for four exhibition spaces upstairs and it will be great to have some of our collection pieces on show alongside temporary exhibitions.”

The art gallery and museum facility opened 10 years ago, running as separate operations by separate organisations. Both are now Council controlled and operate as one, and there are 14 staff and 35 volunteers who work there.

Ms Khosraviani said having just one reception at the ground entry point would improve the experience for visitors and make staff more visible.

“This will make the whole facility more welcoming and visitors will get a better insight into all the exhibitions, upstairs

and downstairs.”

Bench tops and shelving from the facility is being sold or repurposed where possible – with some going to the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall.

The Ashburton District Family History Group that operates from the facility will also close for the two-week renovation period, though members of the public can still contact them on ashdfhg@gmail.com or through their website www.ashdfhg.co.nz

Bradfords and other local subcontractors have been awarded the contract for the renovations.

The closure period is from Monday 28 April to Friday 9 May.

## PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a proposal to temporarily close roads to traffic to enable the holding of a community event - **Ashburton Car Club's standing quarter mile sprint.**

Roads proposed to be closed:

- **Blands Road, from the intersection of Dip Road to Methven Highway**

Period of closure: **From 9am until 4.30pm on Saturday, 17 May 2025**

This proposed closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 – Schedule 10 (11 (e) and will be considered at the next **Council meeting on 16 April 2025.**

Any person objecting should do so in writing by post or email to the Council, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton, by 4pm on **Monday 7 April 2025.**

**NEIL McCANN, Group Manager Infrastructure & Open Spaces**

## LAND TENDERS

Council currently has two land tender opportunities open to the public.

- 1. This tender is for a 5-year Licence to Occupy for 5.6863 hectares Lot 1 DP 28415 and 2.5104 hectare portion of Lot 2 DP 28415 of land on Rakaia Highway, Ashburton.** The Licence to Occupy commences on 1 June 2025.
- 2. This tender is for a 3-year Licence to Occupy for 0.2 hectares of land at 1975 Arundel Rakaia Gorge Road and 1 hectare of land at 1971 Arundel Rakaia Gorge Road.** The Licence to Occupy commences on 1 May 2025.

Tenders must be received by Ashburton District Council on or before 4pm, 10 April 2025. Please contact commercial@adc.govt.nz for a Tender Application form or for more information.

## WHAT'S NEXT FOR OUR WATER

# Info packs are posted, send in your feedback

Keep an eye on your mailbox for an important letter from Mayor Neil Brown about the future delivery of drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services in our district.

The biggest changes in years are on their way because of the Government's Local Water Done Well legislation and everyone in the Ashburton District is being invited to have their say on what happens here.

The mayor's letter will arrive with a consultation document outlining how Council proposes to deliver its water services – we've used plain language to describe Council's proposal, which is for an inhouse stand-alone business unit.

This model is an enhanced model of how Council already delivers three waters services, and will be ringfenced financially – meaning money collected from ratepayers for water services is kept separately from other Council work and spent only on water services work.

The information pack also describes an alternative option, a Water Services Council Controlled Organisation – which would be like ACL, but for water services.

A CCO would operate independently with



its own governance and management structure, with Council as its shareholder. A board of directors would need to be appointed and set up costs would be slightly more than the enhanced inhouse model.

Urban areas will receive their letters this week, and rural areas next week, but if you don't receive one, then call into the Council building for a paper copy or view it online at itsourplace.nz. The itsourplace.nz website also has a place for frequently asked questions and answers.

Feedback closes 27 April.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

- **Methven**

Tuesday 8 April, 6pm, Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Theatre

- **Ashburton**

Wednesday 9 April, 6pm, Te Whare Whakare Event Space (this meeting will be livestreamed on our Facebook page and YouTube channels)

## PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a proposal to temporarily close roads to traffic to enable the holding of a community event - **the Ashburton College Ball.**

Road proposed to be closed:

- **Wills Street - from 211a Wills Street (the Ashburton Event Centre/Cass Street end) to 197 Wills Street (Neumann's Tyres/ East Street end)**

Period of closure: **From 7pm until 9.30pm on Friday, 6 June 2025**

Any person objecting should do so in writing by post or email to the Council, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton, by 4pm on **Monday 14 April 2025.**

**NEIL McCANN, Group Manager Infrastructure & Open Spaces**

## 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)