

Roading calendar races ahead

Fine weather has helped contractors seal the first road rehabilitation job of the new roading repair season.

Just over 500m of Ashburton Staveley Road near Walkhams Road has had failed areas dug out, a new layer of pavement constructed over the existing, and was last week sealed by contractor Fulton Hogan Ashburton.

Group Manager of Infrastructure and Open Spaces Neil McCann said it was part of a tender for rehabilitation on five sections of road.

“The contractor was able to get going early and the fine weather has given us a great headstart.”

Two other sites on Ashburton Staveley Road will be rehabilitated, along with one on Forks Road and another on Pudding Hill Road. In total, 4115m will be improved.

Mr McCann said ACL as subcontractor to Fulton Hogan was just starting work on Forks Road, where 1.2km is to be rehabilitated.

“This will take six or seven weeks, as long as the weather stays fine. Over 40 per cent of the area needs to be dugout and replaced with strong gravel.”

No detours will be in place, though traffic through the work zone will be controlled by temporary traffic lights.

Fulton Hogan is also starting work this week on 1.3km of Pudding Hill Road, either side of the intersection with Dip Road and Longford Road.



The first rehabilitated section of Ashburton Staveley Road has been sealed, ahead of schedule thanks to fine weather.

Mr McCann said the slippery bend would be reconstructed and signage upgraded to improve safety.

“Again, this project will be six or seven weeks, with fine weather.”

Second contract awarded

Council has recently awarded a \$1.4 million rehabilitation contract for two sites on Beach Road East, one site on Seafield Road and one on Maronan Road.

“The tender was awarded to Fulton Hogan and it will be completed this summer,” Mr McCann said.

The two sites on Beach Road East are scheduled to be completed before Christmas, while Seafield Road and Maronan Road are to be completed by April 2025.

Detours will be in place for each site so the work can be completed as efficiently as possible.

Mr McCann said sites chosen for rehabilitation had more sections of failures or potholes than others in the district.

“Our aim is to make these roads better and safer for all who use them.”

Mayor Neil Brown

Council building projects for all stages of life

It was my pleasure on Friday to declare Ashburton’s new library and civic centre officially open, even though I’ve had my feet under the desk here since the start of the year.

Te Whare Whakaterere is a building that first became a concept back in 2004 and there have been many people along that way that helped bring it to life. It is a building for the community that has exceeded our expectations, and we’re thrilled.

Every day I see visitors and staff using the library and public spaces for all sorts of activities, meetings and business get-togethers. During the school holidays it is even busier – on Monday this week there were 90 children taking the free opportunity to learn some rudimentary science and make bouncy balls.

On other days there are knitters who gather in one space, migrants practising their English in another, tourists looking for information, and yet others meeting for coffee and a bite to eat.

I’ve enjoyed seeing how Baring Square East has become connected to Te Whare Whakaterere, and how people are using this outdoor space to each lunch, or meet friends. The whole square was a great venue for the Hakatere Noodle Festival recently and I look forward to seeing its Christmas face for Light up the Night in late November.

This building will be an anchor for our community for decades.

It was good to visit another Council building project recently that is in its very early stages – I’m referring to the rebuilding of 16 new affordable housing units for the elderly at Friendship Lane.

Eight duplexes (two units in each)

that were built in the 1970s have been demolished and eight new ones are under construction. When we visited the site recently, the boxing for the floors was nearly complete, and the first concrete pours under way; the framework will go up quickly next.

This project will be a real boost to the quality of stock of elderly persons housing units in Ashburton and it has also qualified for a Government grant from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development. The whole rebuild is expected to cost around \$4 million, and 43 per cent of the final cost will be covered by the grant, so we really appreciate the contribution.

Council’s aim is to get the Elderly Persons Housing portfolio to the stage where it is self-funded by the rents people pay. Our part is to ensure those housing units are warm and healthy well into the future.



SHORT AND SWEET

CABINET ART

It’s the last chance this week to submit designs for five Chorus cabinet boxes in Ashburton. The cabinets to be painted are at 62 Belt Road, on Mona Square, outside the old Briscoes building on Tancred Street, on Cass Street near the Triangle café, and on the corner of Cross and Elizabeth Streets. Council will pick the winning designs later this month. Full details ashburtondc.govt.nz

SOLID RESPONSE

Nearly 60 people have had their say on a draft bylaw for how waste is managed in our district. The bylaw regulates everything from kerbside recycling to industrial waste and proposed changes include requiring events on public land to have waste management plans. Submissions will be considered on Wednesday 16 October.

DEATH & ADMIN

On 17 October, the Ashburton Library will be hosting a Death and Paperwork workshop. Starting at 5.45pm, it will address things like enduring power of attorney, lawyers and what you can do yourself. Register via the library.

FOREVER STAR

A special piece of art has been installed in the Ashburton Domain and you can see its best side on windy days. The Forever Star is on the edge of the Royal Lawn at the western end of the central car park and is a metre-high star made of metal, that turns in the wind. It was made by local artist Charlie Jaïne, who passed away in March 2023. The Forever Star was gifted to Council by Mr Jaïne’s family and it is part of the civic art collection.



Library and civic centre heralded

Ashburton's new library and civic building, Te Whare Whakaterē, was officially opened by MP James Meager on Friday in front of about 100 invited guests, many involved in its concept and development stages over the years.

Former elected members and council senior staff who first highlighted the need for a new civic building were in attendance, along with current councillors and those representing neighbouring councils and local iwi Arowhenua.

Mayor Neil Brown said it was a great occasion to formally acknowledge and thank all those involved in the creation and development of the new building, which had become a modern and well-used community space.

Photo Joanne McCloy



Te Whare Whakaterē was officially declared open by Rangitāta MP James Meager and Mayor Neil Brown.

Prefabs up for \$1 sale

Council has sold two of the four relocatable buildings it had up for tender, and is now offering community groups a chance to buy three older prefab classrooms at the former Polytech site on Cameron Street for just \$1 each.

There is a catch to the cheap price tag though, tenderers must be able to pay to remove the old prefabs, and Council will decide the successful bidders on the basis of the proposed benefit to the community.

Tenders opened Wednesday 2 October and close at 12pm on Wednesday 13 November. The prefabs need to be removed by 14 March 2025.

The buildings failed to attract conforming tenders when Council put several relocatable buildings up for sale recently.

Mid Canterbury Rugby Union bought the former council chambers for \$130,000 +GST, and Talley's bought the former staff tearooms for \$30,000 +GST.

Chief Executive Hamish Riach said there were a range of tender prices submitted



for these two buildings and after a full consideration and debate Council selected the highest bids in both cases.

"Now we are selling the three older prefab classrooms to community groups for \$1 each, though there are conditions that they must be able to relocate them. Two of the prefabs are joined so must be sold together, and one can be sold separately."

As part of the Long Term Plan 2024-34, Council decided to demolish or relocate the buildings on the old Polytech site at Cameron Street, and redevelop it as an unsealed gravel car park.

Council has signed up Property Brokers agent Hamish Niles to sell the former council administration building.

Holiday fun at library

School holiday activities in the Ashburton Library have been jam-packed. Come along and join in!

Teen activities:

- 8 Oct, 2-3.30pm - Mini gardens
- 10 Oct, 1-4pm - Make a felt hat

Younger children:

- 7 Oct - Minute to win it games
- 9 Oct - Origami frogs
- 11 Oct - Make a FrankenToy

The event space at Te Whare Whakaterē will host a spring-themed movie on the big screen at 2pm on Sunday 6 October.

The Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum will also have an array of holiday fun for youngsters, including its Clever Crustaceans exhibition, being toured by Te Papa and NIWA.

NIWA scientists will be running a build your own crustacean workshop at 1pm on 7 October, for children aged 5-12 years.

Fake news? No, thanks!

Looking to boost your online safety?

Join our comprehensive five-week course starting 8 October at Ashburton Library.

From 2.30-4pm, we'll cover essential topics such as password management, identifying scams and phishing attempts, responsible online behaviour and tackling disinformation and fake news.

This is an interactive workshop with plenty of time allowed for questions.

Sign up at the library or call 308-7192.

Staying Safe

a refresher course for older drivers



TOGETHER WITH
WAKA KOTAHU
NZ TRANSPORT
AGENCY



Friday 11 October 2024

10am - 2pm

Ashburton Senior Centre

Phone: 03 308 6817

This FREE classroom based course will help you re-familiarise yourself with traffic rules and safe driving practices.

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COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Meeting agendas are online at ashburtondc.govt.nz

Wednesday 16 October, **Solid Waste Bylaw submission hearings**, 9am (live-streamed)

Wednesday 16 October, **Council Meeting**, 1pm (live-streamed)

Thursday 17 October, **Civic Awards**, 10am

Monday 21 October, **Methven Community Board**, 9am at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Tuesday 22 October, **Ashburton Water Zone Committee**, 1pm (live-streamed)

Wednesday 23 October, **Council Activity Briefings**, 9.30am (live-streamed)

Wednesday 23 October, **Audit & Risk Committee**, 1pm (live-streamed)

Wednesday 30 October, **Council Meeting**, 1pm (live-streamed)

STATE HIGHWAY POTHOLES

Potholes on State Highway 1 and State Highway 77 can be reported to New Zealand Transport Agency by calling 0800 44 44 49.

WORKS NOTICES

Gardiners Road - Closed between Pendarves Rakaia Road and Kyle Road until 31 October.

Reynolds Road - Closed between State Highway 77 and Ledgerwoods Road until 26 October.

Acton Road - Closed between McLachlans Road and Gardiners Road until 8 October, for maintenance.

Back Track - Closed between Highbank Cairnbrae Road and Woods Road until 19 October. Contractors are carrying out road maintenance. Detours are available.

Dromore Methven Road - one-way closure, no entry from State Highway 1 until 12 October. Contractors are carrying out road maintenance. Detours available.

Dromore Methven Road - Closed between Pole Road and Winchmore Lauriston Road until 12 October. Contractors undertaking road maintenance. Detours available.

Full road closure details are available at ashburtondc.govt.nz

ADC VALUATION ROLLS

The Valuation Rolls for Ashburton District Council have been revised by Quotable Value Limited and are open for public inspection, free of charge, at the Council's offices at 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton, until **25 October 2024**.

Objections to the revised valuations must be lodged, in writing or online at www.ratingvalues.co.nz, no later than 25 October 2024.

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)