

MAYOR Neil Brown

## Looking ahead to exciting 2025 projects



**Another year is drawing to a close and it's pleasing to look back and see some big and small projects that have been ticked off.**

Moving into the new library and civic building Te Whare Whakaterere last January remains the highlight of 2024 for me – every day I see visitors and staff enjoying the space. It has exceeded our expectations and continues to surprise those who are coming to the library or using meeting rooms for the first time.

Looking out of my window to Baring Square East, I can also see that green space now being used daily by people lunching or meeting others, and for community events like Light up the Night and the Hakaterere Noodle Festival.

Council hoped that Te Whare Whakaterere would be a wonderful addition to the town, and it has proven to be exactly that.

Our other completed projects don't quite have the same high profile, but they are equally as important. We have upgraded several water treatment plants, renewed many parts of our

water and wastewater networks and spent millions more on improving our roads.

When we hear the Government telling councils to stick to this core business, we can genuinely say that has been our focus for a long time and that we have been consistently delivering safe drinking water, responsibly dealing with wastewater, and disposing of rubbish on behalf of our community.

As well as planning on how to keep all that infrastructure in good condition, we need to add more for population growth.

As Councillors, it's always a balance of what we have to do to meet community and Government expectations and what we can afford to do, with the occasional project that's not strictly essential but makes the district a place that helps attract and retain people with the skills we need to continue growing our economy.

As 2024 ends, I also think about the good people we have lost. Their passing is sad not only for their family and friends, but for this district, and we honour their memories by carrying on

their good work.

It's been tough, but the green shoots of a more positive year are on the horizon. I know all those around the Council table are looking forward to 2025 and some exciting projects, including progress on the second bridge.

As a council we'll also be talking with the community about how we provide Three Waters services, as per the Government's reforms. This is an important conversation and we'll help you understand the next steps when the time comes.

For those of us around the Council table, it's time to consider our plans for the next term, as Local Body Elections will be happening next year. It is a rewarding role, though sometimes a challenging one, and I encourage anyone thinking about standing to come along to our Council meetings, ask questions, and be informed.

I'm looking forward to spending time with family on Christmas Day and then refuelling with some summer days in the sun. I hope you can recharge your batteries too.

## Next step for welcoming plan

**Ashburton District Council has been recognised as an Advanced Welcoming Community, one of the first councils in New Zealand to achieve the status.**

Ashburton joined the Government's Welcoming Communities programme in 2017 as a pilot Council and has progressed to stage three accreditation, with each of the four stages requiring increased levels of commitment. The accreditation from Immigration New Zealand comes as Council prepares to adopt a new Welcoming Communities Plan.

Group Manager for Democracy and Engagement Toni Durham said the updated 2024 plan would lay out a work programme for the next three years.

"We've been talking with the different parts of our community for a while now so we could update the plan to reflect the current community and its needs.

"We're absolutely thrilled to receive advanced accreditation and our whole mission is to make sure newcomers feel welcomed and included when they come to live in the Ashburton District."

She said accreditation was an advantage



for Ashburton in attracting, supporting and retaining newcomers, who played an important part in the district's economy by working and using their skills.

"But being a welcoming community is about more than a job, it's Council and the community welcoming new people and building relationships to create positive social benefits for us all."

In the past 10 years, Ashburton's population grew by 11.26%, with 27% of people who took part in the census

identifying themselves as an ethnicity other than European.

The population growth has been driven primarily by the strong local rural economy, which has created a demand for labour in the agricultural and manufacturing sectors.

Mrs Durham said Council's Welcoming Communities advisor Mercedes Walkham would ensure activities in the plan provided ways for the community to get involved and work together.

## SHORT AND SWEET

### WHAT'S ON?

Looking for fun and free things to do with the kids over the holidays? Check out our What's On summer activities guide by heading to ashburtondc.govt.nz, or simply scan the QR code below.



### SECOND EXIT LANE

A second exit lane is being created at EA Networks Centre, so visitors leaving the facility can choose from separate left and right turning lanes as they exit onto River Terrace. The work will begin 6 January and is being done by Tarbotton Land & Civil.

### HAMPSTEAD POOL

Freshen up with a swim at Hampstead Pool in January. Lifeguards from EA Networks Centre will be on duty at Hampstead while the centre's aquatic area is closed for repairs and maintenance. The Hampstead Pool will be open 1pm-6pm daily, weather permitting.

### NEW EXHIBITION

The Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum opens a new exhibition at the weekend featuring a selection of artworks from the Ashburton Art Gallery Collection and the Ashburton District Council's Civic Art Collection. Both collections have grown over the years as works have been purchased and donated. The exhibition will run until 21 February.

### INFLATABLE FUN

Jump into the stadium at EA Networks Centre during January, when the inflatable will be up and running on these dates: January 5, 7, 9, 11 and 14. Price of admission is \$6.25 per child for a two-hour session.



# What's open Christmas-New Year?

Here's a summary of Council services over the Christmas and New Year public holidays 2024-25 – there are a few temporary changes to operating hours at some facilities.

The customer services counter at Te Whare Whakaterere, Baring Square East, will only be closed on the public holidays this year. The service desk will be open on Friday 27 December, Monday 30 December, Tuesday 31 December and Friday 3 January.

You can still get in touch with us by phone at any time over the holiday period if you have a problem or urgently need to contact us, as the afterhours service will be operating 24 hours-a-day - please phone 03 307 7700.

Looking for something to do with the kids? Check out our summer activity guide.

## Rubbish and 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. Wednesday'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.

Keep your recycling sorted correctly: Paper, gift wrapping and flattened cardboard can be put in the yellow recycling bin, but metallic, plastic or foil wrapping, bows and ribbons aren't recyclable and need to go into the rubbish.

Try the tear test - if you can't easily rip it, it's likely to have a plastic coating so chuck it in the red bin, along with plastic toy and gift packaging. Still not sure, check it out on binitright.nz.

Remember to have your wheelie bins out by 7.30am on collection days and use your windstrap, whether it's windy or not.

## Resource Recovery Parks

The Ashburton Resource Recovery Park will close at 12pm on Tuesday 24 December, and be closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. It will be open and operating usual hours from Friday 27 December to Tuesday 31 December.



The resource recovery park will also be closed on New Year's Day, Wednesday 1 January. The facility will be open on Thursday 2 January and resume normal hours thereafter.

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

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

## EA Networks Centre

The centre will close at 3pm on Tuesday 24 December and be closed on 25 and 26 December. It will open from 10am-5pm on Friday 27 December, Saturday 28, Sunday 29 and Monday 30. It will close at 3pm on New Year's eve.

The centre will be closed on 1 and 2 January.

Normal hours resume for the gym and stadium from 3 January, but the aquatic area is closed for scheduled maintenance from 3 January until 2 February. The Hampstead Pool will be open, with lifeguards on duty.

Keep an eye on the centre's Facebook page for other holiday activities, and Hampstead pool opening times.

## Ashburton Library

The Ashburton Library will close at 1pm on Tuesday 24 December, and be closed all day on 25 and 26 December, and on 1 and 2 January. The library will be open 9am-5pm on weekdays and from 10am-4pm on weekends during the holiday break.

## Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum

The Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum will be open 10am-4pm every day except Wednesday 25 December and Thursday 26 December.

There's always a host of activities, including the great Santa Hunt when visitors try to find all the sneaky Santas in their hiding spots.

Watch out for details on Facebook for the facility's daily activities during the holidays.

## Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

The Mt Hutt Memorial Hall at Methven will be closed on 25 and 26 December and 1 and 2 January. Operating hours on other days are 10am-2pm.

## Customer Services

Council's customer services counter at Baring Square East will be closed 25 and 26 December, and 1 and 2 January. It will be open on Friday 27 December, Monday 30 December, Tuesday 31 December and Friday 3 January, from 9am-5pm for administration inquiries.

If you have a problem or urgently need to contact us, then the afterhours/24 hours-a-day telephone service will be operating - please phone 03 307 7700.

Public toilets around the district will be open daily as usual, and Open Spaces staff will be on deck to keep our parks and reserves looking ship shape.

All services will return to normal by Monday 6 January.

## 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)

# Milestone at Friendship Lane build



Work on 16 new elderly persons housing units at Friendship Lane hit a milestone last week, with tradies and Councillors invited to a roof shout.

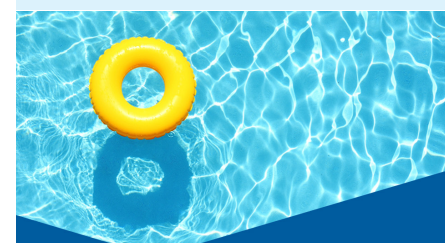
All the new units now have a roof and are in various stages of construction. Units 15 and 16 at the southern end of the site are having gib installed, while Units 1 and 2 at the northern end are still at the framing stage.

Ashburton Mayor Neil Brown said the \$4 million project was on time and on budget, and looking good.

"It's great to hit this milestone ahead of

Christmas and it's obvious that a lot of work has been done since our last visit in October. We can see the size and layout of the new homes, and how the site will be landscaped with new pathways and by using the existing trees and grass."

Eight duplexes built in the 1970s were demolished to make way for the new homes, which are among 51 elderly housing person units in Friendship Lane. The project qualifies for assistance from Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, with 43% of the cost to be covered by an Affordable Housing Fund grant.



## Keep your whānau safe this summer

BUILDING PERFORMANCE

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT  
HIKINA WHAKATUTUKI

## 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)