

Pools set to make big splash

The main swimming pools at EA Networks Centre are on track to open early on Monday 3 February, after major repairs and maintenance in the aquatic area.

Centre manager Richard Wood said staff were looking forward to seeing their regular pool users back at the much-enjoyed facility.

“Our regular fitness swimmers and competitive swimmers and many other pool users will be keen to get back in the water, and we’re also ready to launch straight into our after-school swim classes that cater for just over 1100 youngsters learning to swim.

“We’re still waiting for the arrival of new parts from the UK for the sand filtration system for the leisure pool and splash deck, so this area is now likely to open on 13 February, but otherwise we are raring to go.”

Contractors have been busy this week making sure the hydro pool, learners’ pools, spa pool and steam room are ready for 3 February. The leisure pool area opening later includes the lazy river, splash deck and toddlers’ pool.

Richard said swimmers would immediately notice some changes, including a colourful new non-slip deck in the toddlers’ pool.

“The material is recycled rubber and certainly adds a splash of colour. The splash deck area also has new non-slip flooring in a bright blue colour.”

Steam room users will find the wooden cedar seats, installed when the facility opened 10 years ago, gone and replaced by tiled seating.



Hundreds of other tiles across the various pools have been hand scrubbed during the shutdown, while 150 square meters of new flooring and 620m of new silicone joints have been laid.

Already completed is the modified driveway entrance from River Terrace, where traffic leaving the centre can now choose from separate left or right-turning lanes. Speed humps in the carpark to keep traffic slow have also been widened.

Work continues on the new multi-purpose room, which will have a spongy vinyl floor and be a new room for some group fitness classes (like yoga), special populations classes and the holiday programme. New fitness and wellness offerings for the community are also being investigated.

Richard said the new multi-purpose room would likely be ready by the end of February and then open for bookings.

“Our Sports House tenants will be in their new space by early February, and our own staff are also looking forward to their new space at the western end of the building where they can take their breaks, whether they have come straight from the pool or gym.”

The space for Eat Café has been slightly reduced and one wall will feature a large-scale image from Council archives of swimmers at the Ashburton Domain.

Richard said the cost of the renovations was around \$620,000, but reconfiguring the space and re-newing highly-trafficked areas was essential after a decade of solid use by the community.

“Most pools need this sort of major work between six and eight years, but we’ve carefully managed all areas at the centre and looking forward to our 10-year anniversary in May.”

CE Hamish Riach

Big variety in Council life

Nothing speaks to the variety of Council business more than our regular Activity Briefings.

This is where Council staff report directly to Councillors on every aspect of what we do and you can hear about everything from our global credit rating to potholes, building consents and how to get free internet.

The sessions are live-streamed, which means you can watch on demand via our Facebook and YouTube channels.

To show the breadth of what we cover during these sessions, some highlights from this week included:

- Staff are working on a community facility booking system, so people can reserve any bookable Council space online, from community halls to open spaces. Staff are also working hard

in the Information Systems space to ensure Council is more resilient to cyber attacks.

- The rebuild of 16 elderly persons homes at Friendship Lane is on track to be completed by the middle of the year. Some of the units have been fully bricked, others are gibbed and insulated. Council has 86 other elderly persons homes and they are all occupied, with 34 people on the waiting list.
- Staff are waging a war against weeds around the entire district, after some spring-time growth in the middle of summer. The flying fox in the Ashburton Domain remains heavily used and had to have its cables retensioned recently and a new brake installed.
- Thirty-two building consents were issued in December (compared to 26 in

December 2023) and they were all processed inside the required 20 working days. Of the 554 buildings tagged as potentially quake prone after the Canterbury earthquakes, just 21 remain on the list of those needing strengthening.

- Staff have met with members of the cycling community to progress the idea of a circular cycle track in Mid Canterbury. The track could be constructed in segments, overseen by a volunteer group.

The agenda for the Activity Briefing runs to about 100 pages and the scope of day-to-day work and special projects always reinforces how much Council impacts the lives of its residents and the great responsibility we have to deliver our services well.



SHORT AND SWEET

WE AIM TO FIX IT

The Ashburton Library and Keep Learning Mid Canterbury are teaming up to offer Ashburton's first Fix It Fair this **Saturday 1 February**. Pop along to the library between 10am and 1pm and you'll find volunteers from local community groups able to fix your items or help you make a plan for where to get the item fixed.

NEW FOOTBRIDGE

A new pedestrian bridge is being installed alongside State Highway 1 at Tinwald, so people walking along the grass roadside can more safely cross over Carters Creek. The road reserve, known as the green, is a popular route for pedestrians or people walking dogs in Tinwald, and they've previously crossed close to the busy highway or close to the railway tracks. The wider area is to be replanted.



NEW TOILETS

New public toilets are on their way for the picnic ground at the Ashburton Domain. The old toilet block and kiosk is being removed and the new three-cubicle block, costing about \$228,000, should arrive at the end of February.



INFLATABLE FUN

Our inflatables will be at the Rakaia community pool this weekend, so come on down and join the fun. There is no charge for the inflatables, however normal pool admission charges apply. **Rakaia Pool** - Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 February (12.30-3.30pm).

Council services on Waitangi Day

The Waitangi Day public holiday on Thursday 6 February 2025 will see temporary changes to operating hours at some Council facilities and to some Council services.

The Ashburton library and administration building, Te Whare Whakaterere, will be closed but you can still get in touch with us at any time if you have a problem or urgently need to contact us - the afterhours service will be operating 24 hours-a-day, please phone 03 307 7700.

Rubbish and Recycling

There is no change to kerbside rubbish and recycling collections on Waitangi Day, Thursday 6 February. If Thursday is your usual collection day, please have your bins out as normal by 7.30am, and please use your windstrap, no matter the weather.

Resource Recovery Parks

The Ashburton Resource Recovery Park will be open on Waitangi Day from 8am-6pm.

EA Networks Centre

The centre will open on Thursday from 10am-5pm.

Fitness classes on the day are Virtual Bodypump at 12pm, Virtual Body Balance at 1pm and The Trip at 3.30pm. There will be no learn-to-swim lessons on Thursday, Waitangi Day. Check EANC's Facebook page for extra activities.



Ashburton Library

The Ashburton Library will be closed on Thursday, Waitangi Day.

Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum

The Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum will be open 10am-4pm on Waitangi Day.

Two exhibitions are in their final weeks at the facility - In View, which features a selection of artworks from the Council's civic collection and from the gallery's own collection; and Bridging the Chasm, which features the history of the Great Southern Railway through the district 150 years ago.

Customer Services at Te Whare Whakaterere

Council's customer services at Baring

Square East will close at 5pm on Wednesday 5 February, and re-open at 8.30am on Friday 7 February.

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

Emails, Snap Send Solves and website requests will be cleared when the office opens for business as usual on Friday.

Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

The hall will be open 10am-2pm.

Public toilets around the whole district will be open daily as usual.

All services will return to normal by Friday 7 February.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Meeting agendas are online at ashburtondc.govt.nz

Monday 3 February, **Biodiversity Advisory Group**, 1pm, Wakanui Room

Wednesday 5 February, **Council Meeting**, 1pm (live-streamed)

Wednesday 12 February, **Three Waters Committee**, 10.30am (live-streamed)

Wednesday 12 February, **Audit & Risk Committee**, 3.30pm (live-streamed)

Wednesday 19 February, **Council Meeting**, 1pm (live-streamed)

Thursday 20 February, **Council Agencies 6-month reports**, 9.30am (live-streamed)

Tuesday 25 February, **Ashburton Water Zone Committee**, 1pm (live-streamed)

Wednesday 26 February, **Budget Workshop**, 9.30am

ALCOHOL LICENSING

Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act: Notice of Hearing

The Ashburton District Licensing Committee will hold a public hearing to consider an application by **Alexandre Limited** in respect of the premises known as Flashbacks.

The hearing will be held on **Monday 17 February**, in the Wakanui Room, Te Whare Whakaterere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton, at **10am**.

Licensing Committee Members: Commissioners Robin Kilworth, Simon McDonnell and Tracy McIlraith.

WAITANGI DAY RUBBISH & RECYCLING

There is **no change** to kerbside rubbish and recycling collections on Waitangi Day, Thursday 6 February. If Thursday is your usual collection day, please have your bins out as normal by 7.30am, and please use your windstrap, no matter the weather.

Ashburton Resource Recovery Park will open on Waitangi Day from 8am-6pm.

WORKS NOTICES

Seafield Road - Closed between Morris Road and Ashburton Airport, until 12 April for road rehabilitation. Detour available.

Maronan Road - Closed between Swamp Road and Simpsons Road (no access through Barford Road) until 31 March. Road rehabilitation work in progress.

Mainwarings Road - Closed between Griggs and Gardiners Road for daytime works until 24 February (the closure is 6am-7pm daily, with the road re-opened at the end of each day). Contractors will be doing road maintenance. Detours available.

Full details of all road closures and upcoming closures are on our website

Application for Resource Consent

The Ashburton District Council has received the following application for resource consent:

- Applicant: Haven Housing
- Address for Service: c/o David Harford Consulting LTD, 2 Queens Drive Ashburton 7740
- Application Number: LUC24/0113
- Location: 10 Cambridge Street, Ashburton
- Legal Description: Lot 3 DP 24021

Details for the proposed activity and type of consent:

Land use consent at 10 Cambridge Street to address the non-compliances associated with the construction of ten single residential buildings (five conjoined dwellings), Zoned Open Space A. The application site is 1,715m² and contains an existing weather monitoring station. The ten units will consist of five attached dwellings. Each unit will contain a bedroom, open plan kitchen and lounge, a combined bathroom and laundry, and a porch. Each attached set of units will be 124.3m².

Full details of the application and supporting documents can be viewed at:

- Ashburton District Council website, ashburtondc.govt.nz
- Ashburton District Council, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton

If you have any queries about the application, please contact the Ashburton District Council on 03 307 7700 and ask to speak to the Planning Team.

Making a submission:

Any person may make a submission on the application. You may do so by sending a written submission to Ashburton District Council, P O Box 94, Ashburton 7740, Attention: Planning Team or via email at: info@adc.govt.nz stating "LUC24/0113 Resource Consent Submission" in the subject line. Visit our notifications page on the Council website for more information about making a submission and for a copy of the submission form.

Note: A copy of the submission must also be sent to the Applicant at the "Address for service" stated above.

Submission closing date:

Ashburton District Council must receive your submission no later than 5pm on Friday 28 February 2025.

Brad Thomson, District Planning Manager



How do we work together to protect the places we love?

We're starting work on a climate change and sustainability strategy and we want to hear your ideas.



Find out more and have your say!

Have your Say!

ItsOurPlace.nz

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)