

Practising for times of disaster

Council staff and volunteers are preparing to take part in a major civil defence exercise on Thursday 7 November.

The national exercise, called Pandora, is about training people and practising for an emergency and this year's scenario will be set three days after a big alpine earthquake.

Compliance and Development Group Manager Ian Hyde said roleplaying a scenario was one of the most important tools in the emergency management training toolbox.

"It enables us to test our systems and staff to practise their roles as if in an actual emergency and during Pandora, councils and hundreds of staff across Canterbury will activate and respond to a large, regional emergency.

"The exact details of what we will be facing remain a closely guarded secret, so participants need to be ready to adapt to changing circumstances and unexpected developments, just like a real emergency.

"What we do know is this year's exercise will be set three days after a major rupture of the Alpine Fault and that's a scenario that's guaranteed to test us."

During Pandora, the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) at Te Whare



The Emergency Operations Centre during the floods of 2021.

Whakatere will become a hive of activity. It will also be the first large-scale test for the newly-built facility.

Staff and volunteers will need to confirm and evaluate information from various sources, develop action plans for the response, coordinate evacuations, establish welfare centres and keep the community updated.

Behind the scenes - adding realism and twists for participants - experienced Civil Defence staff will be adding further tests through regular "injects" of new information or developments. In the past, these have included sudden weather

changes, reports of a missing tour group, and dealing with misinformation spreading across social media.

Mr Hyde said the alpine fault is Canterbury's single biggest risk as a region.

"We've spent significant time preparing and planning for when it ruptures and exercises like Pandora are essential for our preparation, and allow us to see what's working well and what may need improvement."

Council's partners in emergency agencies, such as NZ Police, Hato Hone - St John, and Fire and Emergency NZ will also be involved in exercise Pandora.

Mayor Neil Brown Preserving our past and boosting biodiversity

Next time you enter the Ashburton Library from Havelock Street, cast your eyes low down to the right and you will see our recently-sealed time capsule has begun its 50-year wait.

An engraved wooden box was built by Roger Paterson especially to hold the stainless steel time capsule, and you can now see its decorative face behind glass. The capsule was sealed recently after copies of the Ashburton Guardian and Ashburton Courier, featuring coverage of the formal opening of our new building, were added to the collection of precious images and information.

It was a thrill to be able to help our museum archivist Connor Lysaght manoeuvre it in place this week and then fix the glass panel in place. There's a good chance Connor will be around in 50 years when it is opened, but I don't think I will be!

The opening date on 2 August 2078 was chosen to mark the 200-year

anniversary of the former Ashburton borough and county councils. It will be interesting to see what the citizens of the future think of the contents we so carefully chose to preserve.

With the old civic building at Baring Square West now on the market, we recently retrieved a time capsule from a different era that was encased behind a plaque laid by the borough mayor Darcy Digby when that building was constructed in 1972.

It's a lot smaller than the time capsule we have just installed at Te Whare Whakatere, but it will be just as interesting when we open it. It's currently on ice at the museum, as part of the decontamination process before it is opened.

Another part of my work this week was to attend a meeting of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee. The committee is a joint committee with Environment Canterbury and its members over the past 10 years or so have been dedicated to understanding the particular

challenges of water in our district.

The committee also helps fund community biodiversity projects and this week decided on funds for six groups undertaking pest or planting work.

Thousands of native plants are being put into the ground at projects all around our district to boost biodiversity, but pests are a problem. Some of the groups seeking funds were planning long-term pest control to deal with stoats, possums, hares and other pests.

The Ashburton Forks Catchment Group was looking for money to buy 15 automatic traps, that will significantly reduce the manual labour involved in pest control. These auto traps don't have to be checked every day, they reset themselves and only need recharging every five or six months.

To bring back the biodiversity and birdsong, we first have to deal with a few bad actors.



SHORT AND SWEET

OUTDOOR MOVIE

Celebrate 160 years of the Ashburton Domain with a free outdoor movie that the whole family will enjoy on Saturday November 23. Bring your blanket and picnic, or buy a treat from the food court! Arrive early to enjoy our pre-show live entertainment and claim your spot. The movie will be announced soon. The action starts at 5pm when the food court opens, pre-show entertainment starts at 5.30pm, and the movie at 6.30pm.

ROAD SAFETY

Road safety is everyone's responsibility, and so we've added some handy tips and tricks to the road safety page on our website. They're messages reinforced by our road safety partners, including police, New Zealand Transport Agency, Fire and Emergency. There's information about how to deal with distractions, fatigue and flush medians, as well as advice for young drivers.

LABOUR DAY RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

Rubbish and Recycling

There is no change to kerbside rubbish and recycling collections and Monday's collection will take place as usual, with residents to have their wheelie bins out by 7.30am. Remember to use your windstrap, whether it's windy or not.

Resource Recovery Parks

The Ashburton Resource Recovery Park will be open Saturday from 9am-6pm, Sunday from 9am-5pm, and Monday from 9am until 5pm.

The Methven green waste dropoff will be open Sunday from 12pm until 4pm. The Rakaia Resource Recovery Park will be open on Saturday from 9am-3pm, but closed on Monday.



Council services on Labour weekend

If you're planning to spend time on an indoor job this Labour weekend, then you'll be able to take all your waste to the Ashburton Resource Recovery Park, which is open every day over the long holiday weekend.

The Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum, and EA Networks Centre, will also be open every day over Labour weekend, though the public holiday on Monday 28 October will see temporary changes to some other Council services and facilities.

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EA Networks Centre

Swim, put up some hoops or work out in the gym every day of the long weekend



as the EA Networks Centre will be open as usual on Saturday and Sunday, and from 10am-5pm on Monday.

Gym classes on Labour Day include Aquafit at 10.15am, Revolution at 12.15pm and The Trip at 3.30pm.

There will be no swim school lessons on Monday 28 October.

Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

The Mt Hutt Memorial Hall at Methven will be open Saturday and Sunday from 10am until 4pm, and from 10am until 2pm on Monday.

Ashburton Library Te Kete Tuhinga

The Ashburton Library will be open Saturday and Sunday from 10am-4pm and closed on Monday.

Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum

The Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum will be open 10am-4pm on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Drop in and learn something about the clever crustaceans that inhabit our seas, or peruse a timeline of highlights for the Ashburton Domain over 160 years.

Customer Services

Council's Customer Services counter at Te Whare Whakarewa will be closed Saturday, Sunday and Monday, re-opening on Tuesday 29 October at 8.30am.

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

Emails, Snap Send Solves and website requests will be cleared Tuesday morning.

Grant for new markets

The Methven Community Board granted \$2000 this week to help advertise a new arts and growers market in Methven.

The first market is planned for this Sunday, 27 October, and the operators intend to open the market every fortnight until April next year. It will be situated at 34 Methven Chertsey Road.

The community board's contribution will help promote the markets.

In her application to the board, organiser Jennifer Lalor said some of the stall holders were from Methven and the Ashburton district, and others from further afield, including Timaru, Amberley and Blenheim. The aim is to grow more

Methven vendors.

She said a regular Sunday market would attract people to Methven outside of the ski season and have benefits for other Methven businesses. There would also be places for community groups.

The board approved \$2000 from its discretionary fund be granted to the market organiser, on the proviso it be used for promotional and advertising purposes.

The Methven and Foothills Birdsong Initiative Trust was granted \$9200 by the board to help pay for the development of a landscape concept plan for the birdsong project.

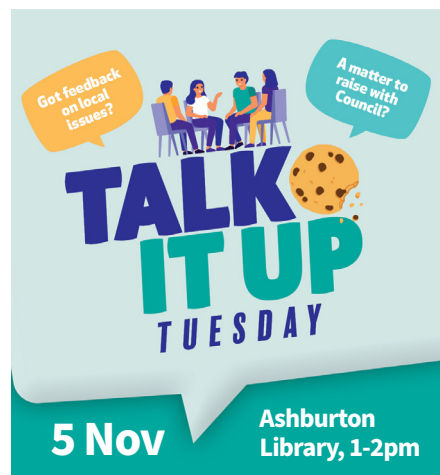
Methven Primary School was granted \$100 for its annual prizegiving.

Trim for Oak Grove trees

Contractors will be trimming trees on Oak Grove next week and road users may find themselves having to detour.

The work is being carried out by The Tree Guys and should take three days, weather permitting, starting Monday. The arborists will be working between Walnut Avenue and Alford Forest Road, in sections and on both sides of the road.

Road users are being warned that detours may be needed, depending on the location of the tree trimming machinery.



PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED STOPPING OF ROAD

Proposed Stopping of Road: Part of Alexander Street, Chertsey, Ashburton District

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Section 342(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 1974 and the Tenth Schedule thereto the Ashburton District Council proposes to stop the road described in the schedule to this notice.

SCHEDULE

Canterbury Land District

Description: 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 (Part Alexander Street, Chertsey)

The road when stopped will remain in the name of Ashburton District Council and will be used for utilities (water treatment plant) purposes.

A copy of SO Plan 605276 is available for inspection at the office of the Ashburton District Council, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton, during normal office hours. Any person objecting to this proposal is called upon to lodge an objection in writing at Ashburton District Council, PO Box 94, Ashburton 7740 on or before **11 December 2024**.

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)