

Join us for Light up the Night

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, now that Ashburton's Christmas tree is sitting proudly on display in Baring Square East.

If you find setting up and decorating your tree at home a big job, then spare a thought for the team from EA Networks who needed a full day with a cherry picker to assemble the town's six metre tree, adorned with around 600 baubles.

Mayor Neil Brown's office overlooks the tree, and he says it's great to see it back in its original home in Baring Square East.

"It looks absolutely fantastic in our newly redeveloped Baring Square against the backdrop of our clocktower and the new Library and Civic Centre.

"It gives our town that true festive feel and sets the stage beautifully for the Light Up the Night celebration, where we'll all gather to see it light up."

Light Up the Night is taking place this Saturday from 6pm around the town tree, it will be an opportunity to welcome in the festive season with an evening of music, live entertainment, and food.

Santa and his elves will be mixing with the crowd and posing for photos, there will also be free face-painting and balloon twisting for the kids. Those visiting are encouraged to dress festively and capture the moment with some free snaps in iHeart Radio photo booth.

There will also be plenty of tasty food on offer, with a food court and 199 Café in the library staying open late.

On the stage, the Christmas spirit will be well and truly alive, with a lineup of local talent including Libby Higson, Murrin Carter-Buller, the Decibels Choir and performers from Life Dance Academy.

Mayor Neil Brown says that evening will culminate with the lighting of the tree at around 9.15pm.

"Hokonui has been running a competition



to find the lucky young person that will join me on stage to push the button and light up the tree."

"We hope to see everyone there, it's going to be a great night for the whole family and

a chance to celebrate Christmas together as a community."

The event is proudly supported by the Ashburton Courier and Hokonui. Find out more at lightupthenight.co.nz

SHORT AND SWEET

TALK IT UP TUESDAY

Our final Talk it up Tuesday session will be at the Ashburton Library on Tuesday 3 December. This is a chance to drop in and have an informal chat with one of our elected councillors. So if you have a burning question, or a great idea, then stop by between 1-2pm.

METHVEN MEETS

The first of two workshops for Methven people to share their ideas about a strategic plan for Methven is being held at the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall tonight, at 6.30pm, and everyone is welcome. The second workshop will be this Sunday 1 December at 3pm.



NEW SEATS

New seats are being installed at Turton Green, Braebrook and Patching Street parks.

CARPARK REPAINT

Parts of West Street carpark may be blocked off early Friday morning as contractors repaint the lines. Fewer parks may be available than normal. Work will stop when the carpark gets busy and be completed on Sunday morning.

CE Hamish Riach

Time to put Santa on the agenda

The giant Christmas tree in Baring Square East is a lovely, if scary, reminder that the end of the year is nigh – and there is still much to do in the next four weeks.

There are two full Council meetings, plus meetings of the Stockwater Transition Group and the new Three Waters committee, as well as the day-to-day business of collecting rubbish and recycling, providing water and roads, and dealing with sewerage.

Those are core services, administered largely by staff in Te Whare Whakaterere, but the summer holidays are also a

busy time for the Ashburton Library, Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum, Open Spaces team and EA Networks Centre. So busy, that we have put all the different activities into one holiday booklet that will soon be available in printed form and on our website for instant access.

It's 12 pages of crafty fun, physical adventure and Christmas festivities that are happening in December and January, and many of the activities are free.

There are old favourites, like the Great Santa Hunt at the gallery and museum – this has been running for more than a

decade and opening night is quite the occasion, with the facility in darkness and kids of all ages armed with torches and trying to find the different Santas.

There are new activities too, like the jumping platform at Lake Hood, which was very busy this last Monday night when the weather was hot. You'll also see when we are visiting some of the district's outdoor swimming pools with our inflatables.

So call into any of our Council facilities next month and grab a brochure, or click on the link that will be on the front page of our website and you can see all the activities online.



Our Customer Service desk has traditionally closed over the Christmas and New Year break, but it will be staffed this year on December 27, 30 and 31 and on January 3. This also coincides with the Ashburton Library opening hours over the break.

All Council departments will be back on deck on January 6, looking forward to another busy year.

See you all at Light up the Night on Saturday!

\$2.33m for sewer main renewal

The final piece of work in a major project to upgrade Ashburton's wastewater system will get under way early next year, when a new trunk main is installed between Trevors Road and Milton Road.



The old trunk main is almost at capacity and the new pipe will be larger, and relocated to a paper road that runs parallel to the Ashburton River.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said the \$2.33 million project was awarded to Ashburton Contracting Limited and work would begin early in 2025.

"We expect the project to be completed by June and the new pipeline will run underground from an existing chamber near Trevors Road to Milton Road, where it will connect to the new pipe that crosses under the river and on to the treatment ponds at Wilkins Road.

"The new location of the pipeline means it will no longer cross private farmland and it can be largely built offline before being connected. Residents should experience no disruption to their usual services."

The old trunk line will be decommissioned and removed.

Mr McCann said Council had been strategically renewing the wastewater network over the past few years.

"The town's original network of sewer pipes was established in the 1920s and we still have a few earthenware pipes, though they are being systematically renewed. This last big project really futureproofs the system and allows for residential growth."

This new pipeline will collect wastewater from the central area of Ashburton, including Hampstead. A new wastewater main was installed from Bridge Street to Wakanui Road and Milton Road in 2021, to handle residential and commercial growth in the north-east.

Mr McCann said the Ashburton wastewater scheme was made up of about 130km of pipes, with connections to 7600 properties, and it was Council's job to ensure the scheme ran safely and effectively.

"We contract ACL to manage day-to-day operations, repairs and maintenance and as there are very strict rules for dealing with human waste, all our community wastewater schemes are heavily monitored."

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are at Hine Paaka (Council Chamber), 2 Baring Square East, unless specified. Meeting agendas are online at ashburtondc.govt.nz

Monday 2 December, **Methven Community Board**, 9am, Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Tuesday 3 December, **Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee**, 9.30am, Wakanui Room

Wednesday 4 December, **Council Meeting**, (livestreamed), 1pm

Thursday 5 December, **Three Waters Committee**, (livestreamed), 1.30pm

Wednesday 18 December, **Council Meeting**, (livestreamed), 1pm

WORKS NOTICES

Beach Road East - Closed between Trevors Road and Nicholls Road until 13 December, for road repairs. Detours in place.

SH1/Longbeach Road corner - Traffic management will be in place until 20 December while a right-hand turning bay and street lights are installed.

ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a road closure for the purpose of a community event, the **Ashburton Santa Parade**.

Roads to be closed:

• **WALNUT AVENUE**, from Oak Grove to West Street

• **CREEK ROAD**, from Walnut Avenue to Queens Drive

Period of closure: From 10am until 4pm on **SATURDAY, 7 December**.

This notice of closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 - Schedule 10 (11 (e)). It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under the authority of an authorised permit to use the roads/streets for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure.

Neil McCann, Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces

SOLID WASTE BYLAW

Public notice is given that on 20 November 2024, Ashburton District Council adopted amendments to the **Ashburton District Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2018**. The amended bylaw comes into effect on Friday 29 November 2024.

The amended bylaw may be inspected and copies obtained at Te Whare Whakaterere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

The bylaw is also available on Council's website ashburtondc.govt.nz.

Hamish Riach
Chief Executive

Movie-goers wrap up for domain event



A good crowd braved the cold to attend the Family Movie Night in the Ashburton Domain last Saturday.

The event celebrated 160 years of the domain and included a live show from Rollicking Entertainment before a screening of Pixar's Inside Out.

A heritage trail has also been installed to observe the anniversary.

Visitors can hear stories of the domain's past by using their phone to scan five QR codes at sound points scattered around the area.

Feedback sees changes

Council adopted the revised Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw last week, following public consultation that resulted in 58 submissions and a number of changes based on the feedback.

Events on public land that are unlikely to generate waste or attract many people are excluded from requiring a waste management and minimisation plan. Council will take an educational approach to construction waste site, and will supply local builders with information about recycling options.

Other topics raised by submitters included the new "green" kerbside bin from 2026, Council's ongoing recycling bin audits and difficulties using rural drop-off bins.

WHAT DO YA RECKON, METHVEN?

Share your ideas for Methven's future!

Complete a short survey and be in to win a scenic balloon flight!

Provide your feedback at ItsOurPlace.nz

MCB METHVEN COMMUNITY BOARD

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)