

DECEMBER - FEBRUARY 2025

FAMILY GUIDE

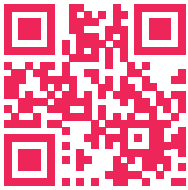
# WHAT'S

ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

ASHBURTON LIBRARY

EA NETWORKS CENTRE

# ON



# December to February

## What's on this holidays

*Nau mai, haere mai,  
tauti mai.*

### Welcome to our summer guide of family-friendly activities.

Whether you want quiet time or have energy to burn, there's loads of (mostly) free stuff to do at our Ashburton District Council facilities.

Don't forget our beautiful outdoor spaces to explore.

Relax on our forest bathers in the Ashburton Domain, or bike around Lake Hood. From skateparks to gardens, walking tracks to playgrounds there's something for everyone to do in Mid Canterbury.

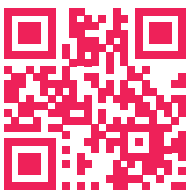
ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

ASHBURTON LIBRARY

EA NETWORKS CENTRE

HOSTED BY EA NETWORKS CENTRE

OTHER LOCATION



[ASHBURTONDC.GOVT.NZ/EVENTS](https://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/events)

📍 Lake Hood Drive, Huntingdon, Ashburton

## Lake Hood jumping platform

🕒 All summer, daylight hours

Gather your mates and show off your best manu at the Lake Hood jumping platform, any time during daylight hours.

**Rangatahi/young adults**  
**Confident Swimmers only**

FREE



📍 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

## Make a wreath of paper hands

🕒 1-14 Dec, 10am-4pm

Gather your family and make a DIY handprint wreath to celebrate 2024. Write on each of the handprints someone or something you are thankful for, grateful or blessed about that happened in 2024. Also include your favourite exhibition, moment or event in the Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum. Inspired by Esther Deans' work of ideas.

**Whole whānau/family**

FREE



📍 Ashburton Library

## Sewing creation

🕒 1 Dec 10am-2pm

🕒 6 Dec and 24 Jan, 2pm - 5pm

🕒 12 Dec, 12 and 16 Jan, 10am - 2pm

Come along and create a small 'festival' bag from recycled fabric for young adults 16 - 25 years old. Bookings essential, four people per session.

**Rangatahi/young adults**  
**See page 19 for booking details.**  
*(four spaces per session)*

FREE



**📍 Ashburton Library**  
**Christmas T-shirts**

**📅 2 - 13 Dec**  
**Mon - 3pm-4pm**  
**Tues - 11am-12pm**  
**Wed - 2pm-3pm**  
**Thurs - 11am-12pm**  
**Fri - 10am-11am**

Bring along a t-shirt and choose a design to press onto it, to create your own Christmas tee.

It's \$5 per print.

**Ages 12 - 18 years**  
**Rangatahi/young adults**  
**See page 19 for booking details.**



**📍 EA Networks Centre**  
**Active adventures**

**📅 4 and 18 Dec, 10.30am-12.30pm**

Join us for exploration play for toddlers.

A space for toddlers and parents to come and play with balls, sensory toys, balance beams, bikes and foam blocks.

Child-led, adult-supervised play session for under fives.

**Pēpi and tamariki / Babies and children**  
**\$3 per child**



**📍 EA Networks Centre**  
**Sensory swim session**

**📅 8 December, 8am-9.30am**

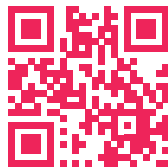
The learn to swim pool will have various equipment for people to explore the water and their senses. The music and water features will be turned off, lights dimmed and other stimuli minimised.

Standard pool prices apply. Caregivers for people with Community service/Hāpai access cards swim free.

**Whole whānau/family**




[ASHBURTONDC.GOVT.NZ/EVENTS](https://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/events)



 *Ashburton & Methven*

## Skateparks

 **All summer, daylight hours**

Hit the rails, decks and pipes with your skateboards, skates, scooters, rollerblades, ripsticks or BMX at our two skateparks.

**Whole whānau/family**

**FREE**




 *EA Networks Centre*

## Christmas carols at EANC

**FREE**




 **10 Dec, 11.45am-12.15pm**

Join us for carols in our foyer, as primary school children and the Mayor hang a decoration on the tree.

**Whole whānau/family**

 Ashburton Library

**Bauble creation**

 10 and 12 Dec, 5.30pm-7.30pm


Think your family Christmas decoration's need an upgrade?

Come along and add your own creative style with some colourful Christmas trinkets or bring along something small to add to a bauble to gift or cherish.

**For ages 12-18 years.  
Rangatahi/young adults  
See page 19 for booking details.  
(15 spaces per session)**

**FREE**



 EA Networks Centre

**Women's swim night**

 11 December, 7pm-8.30pm

Whether you want to come for a soak, do some lengths, spend time with your children or try an aqua fitness class, we have something for you.

\$5 per adult (special price) and kids are free. Boys under 10 allowed.

**Wāhine and tamariki / Women and children**



 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

**Exhibition openings of Wesley John Fourie & Michael Greaves**

 14 December, 6pm-8pm

Join us for the opening of two new exhibitions:

*Falling if not Flying* by Michael Greaves, and *with his kiss i became a braided river* by Wesley John Fourie.

Nau mai koutou katoa! All are welcome.

**Whole whānau/family**

**FREE**







 Ashburton Library

## Kids' summer reading challenge

FREE



 14 Dec to 22 Jan

Rocket into the Ashburton Library this summer for this season's kids' summer reading challenge. Complete the challenge and be in to win one of 10 Whitcoulls gift vouchers valued at \$25.

**All tamariki/children**

 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

## Celebration tree activity

FREE

 15 Dec - 5 Jan, 10am-4pm

Inspired by Wesley John Fourie's series of work that explores ideas of love, labour, the natural world, spirituality and time. Help us create a community recycled 3D tree where we can celebrate your culture and all the holidays that are happening over the summer.

**Whole whānau/family**



 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

### Travel suitcase tags activity

 15 Dec - 5 Jan, 10am-4pm

Where in the world is home for you? Inspired by our exhibition *Lost Luggage*, design a travel suitcase tag so your luggage does not get lost this summer.

**Whole whānau/family**

**FREE**



 Ashburton Library

### Christmas i-spy

 December/January

Can you find all the hidden items in our Christmas themed i-spy display?

**All tamariki/children**

**FREE**



 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

### Jar of emotions poster activity

 15 Dec - 25 Jan, 10am-4pm

Create a beautiful poster with all the different emotions represented as jars that live inside us.

Fill the jars with different colours and materials that speak for your emotions. Inspired by Michael Greaves who tests how memories and ideas about the things of the world can be translated compellingly onto the painted surface.

**Whole whānau/family**

**FREE**





 Ashburton Library

## Family film time

 15 Dec, 1pm

Enjoy a magical film with the whole family. The movie will be on the big screen in the event space.

**Whole whānau/family. Max 100 people**

**FREE**



 Ashburton Library

## Wriggle & Read Christmas Special

 17 Dec, 10.30am

Come along and enjoy some of our favourite songs and rhymes along with a few Christmas songs to enjoy in the event space.

**Pēpi and tamariki / Babies and children**

**FREE**



 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

## The Great Santa Hunt

 18 Dec (Opening night), 5pm-7pm

 19 Dec - 25 Jan, 10am-4pm

The Great Santa Hunt is back these school holidays. Get your torches ready for our Late Night Hunt on 18 Dec, then come back when the lights are on and search for any your missed on opening night – or have a go at finding them all again, it may trickier than you think! Expert Santa-hunters who can find them all will earn a badge and go in the draw to win a special prize, so good luck and happy hunting.

**All tamariki/children**



**FREE**

 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

**Make a Santa hat**


 18-24 Dec, 10am-4pm

Let's get into the Christmas spirit by making Santa hats.

*All tamariki/children*

**FREE**



 Ashburton Library

**Christmas paper craft**

 18 Dec, 10.30am

Cut & colour your way into Christmas festivities. Get crafty with us at Te Kete Tuhinga.

*All tamariki/children*

**FREE**



 Ashburton Library

**Teen summer reading challenge**

 1 Dec - 24 Jan

Have a bricktacular summer with our teen reading challenge.

Drop in and pick up this summer's reading challenge for 12-18 year olds.

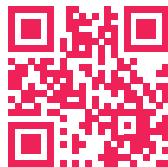
Complete all four challenges and claim a free choccy fish!


Complete them twice and go into the draw for an awesome Dancing Groot Lego!

*Rangatahi/young adults*

**FREE**





 EA Networks Centre

## EANC holiday programme



 19-24 Dec and 6-31 Jan, 8.30am-5pm

Need fully-supervised childcare for your under-13 school-aged child?

Book in for games, sports, field trips, Christmas crafts, rest home carol singing and more!

**Tamariki/children aged 5 - 13 years**

**See page 19 for booking details.**

**Day \$40, Full day \$50**

 Ashburton Library

## Christmas story time

 19 Dec, 10.30am

Come along and enjoy some fun Christmas stories and songs.


**All tamariki/children**

**FREE**



 Ashburton Library

## Laser Cut Tic Tac Toe

 20 Dec, 10.30am & 2pm

Make your own Christmas themed laser cut Tic Tac Toe game.

*All tamariki/children*

*See page 19 for booking details.*

**FREE**



EA Networks Centre

## Schools Out Stadium Inflatable and Pool Movie

 21 Dec, 9am-5pm

Bounce in and try our stadium inflatable!


Toddler session 9am-10.30am, regular sessions 11am-12.30pm and 1pm-2.30pm finishing with a movie in the pool on the big LED screen 3-5pm.

Inflatable costs: Under five \$3, ages five+ \$6.25, inflatable and pool combo \$8.

Standard pool prices.

*All tamariki/children*



 Ashburton Library

## Waffle cone Christmas trees

 23 Dec, 10.30am

Book in to make a tasty and edible waffle cone Christmas tree.

*All tamariki/children*

*See page 19 for booking details.*

**FREE**



📍 Hosted by EA Networks Centre  
**Hampstead pool swimming**

📅 3 Jan - 2 Feb, 1pm-6pm

Freshen up with a swim at Hampstead Pool over summer!

Lifeguards from EA Networks Centre will be on duty.

Public swimming / Adult \$4.50 Child \$3.50

**All tamariki/children**



📍 EA Networks Centre  
**Stadium inflatable**



📅 5, 7, 9, 11 & 14 January

Jump in on Jan 5 and 11 for three two-hour sessions 10am, 12.30pm, and 3.30pm. Other weekdays one session 10am-12pm


Price \$6.25 - 2 hour session.

**All tamariki/children**





ASHBURTONDC.GOVT.NZ/EVENTS

 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

**DIY paper train activity**


FREE



 6-25 Jan, 10am-4pm

Learn how to make a delightful DIY paper train using just coloured paper, glue, and a black marker pen! This simple and fun craft project is perfect for kids and adults. Inspired by our exhibition *Bridging the Chasm – 150 years of Ashburton District Railway*.

**Whole whānau/family**

 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

**In View walk and draw activity**

 6-25 Jan, 10am-4pm

Walk and draw in our exhibition *In View: Reflections of Whakatere Ashburton's Unique Artistic Treasures*. Walking and drawing, without any complex thinking or creating, is a great mindfulness exercise to help you be both creative and present and enjoy all the beautiful pieces on display from these collections.

**Whole whānau/family**



FREE



 Hosted by EA Networks Centre

## Community pools inflatable visits

-  **Mayfield Pool**  
Sun 5 Jan
-  **Mayfield and Ruapuna Pools**  
Wed 8, Sat 11 and Sun 12 Jan
-  **Mount Somers Pool**  
Wed 15, Sat 18 and Sun 19 Jan
-  **Hinds Pool**  
Wed 22, Sat 25 and Sun 26 Jan
-  **Rakaia Pool**  
Wed 29 Jan, Sat 1 and Sun 2 Feb

Inflatables will be set-up and, in the water, 12:00-5:00pm on Wednesdays and 12:30-3:30pm on weekends (*dates and times may vary due to weather and supervision requirements*).

Jump in to our inflatable roadshow in Mayfield, Ruapuna, Mount Somers, Hinds and Rakaia.

Keep an eye on the EA Networks Centre Facebook page for times and locations.

Normal pool entry charges apply.


**All tamariki/children**




*Inflatable for Rakaia and Hinds Pool*



*Inflatable for Mayfield, Ruapuna and Mount Somers Pool*

 EA Networks Centre

## Teen Bootcamp

 **13 - 27 Jan, 2pm**

Stay fit over summer these holidays at bootcamp!

Mondays and Wednesdays at 2pm from 13-27 Jan. 45 mins sessions.


Activity for ages 11-16  
\$5 per session or part of gym membership (only eligible for ages 14+)


**Rangatahi/young adults**



 Ashburton Library

**Games on the green**

 17 and 20 January, 4pm-5:30pm

 27 and 31 January, 3pm-5pm

Come along and enjoy some light hearted fun with some backyard games like cornhole and ring toss!

**Rangatahi/young adults**

**FREE**



 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

**Te Reo scavenger hunt**

 26 Jan - 9 Feb, 10am-4pm

Discover the wonders of Te Reo Māori with our fun and educational Te Reo Māori Rapu Hamu (Scavenger Hunt) in the lead up to Waitangi Day! Learn and explore new words as you search for items. During the scavenger hunt you'll also learn about Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

**All tamariki/children**

**FREE**



 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

**Marae making activity**

 26 Jan - 9 Feb, 10am-4pm


Making your own marae is a fun and engaging way for kids to understand the Māori view of wellbeing - Te Whare Tapa Whā. Use this as a way to kōrero on Te Whare Tapa Whā with whānau or friends.

This resource covers the four dimensions of wellbeing developed by Sir Mason Durie and the fifth dimension - whenua.


**All tamariki/children**

**FREE**



 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

## Kōwhai Mums

 5 Feb, 10.30am-12pm

Kōwhai Mums is a monthly art group that caters to ethnic and migrant mums/carers, as well as newcomers to Whakatere Ashburton.

While this group has an emphasis on engaging with newcomers, any mums/carers with children aged five years and under are welcome.


Sessions provide a safe and fun environment for mums/carers to relax and socialise whilst children explore their world through sensory play, imaginative materials, and art activities.

Delivered in partnership with Mid Canterbury Newcomers Network.

***Wāhine and tamariki / Women and children***




FREE

 Ashburton Domain

## Paddling Pool



 All summer, daylight hours

Make special memories with your littlies at our lovely paddling pool. Shade available as well as toilets and changing rooms.

***Whole whānau/family.***


FREE

 Ashburton Domain


## Flying Fox

FREE



 All summer, daylight hours


Race down the flying fox with a loved one under the trees in the Ashburton Domain.  
**Whole whānau/family.**

 McLennens Bush Road, Mount Hutt, Methven

## Awa Awa Rata Reserve

FREE



 All summer, daylight hours

Enjoy the gardens, take a picnic and a short stroll, or a longer walk on nearby tracks for magnificent views across the Canterbury Plains.

**Whole whānau/family.**



# Bookings

## Ashburton Library

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### **Bauble Creation**

[events.humanitix.com/bauble-creation](https://events.humanitix.com/bauble-creation)

### **Christmas T-Shirts**

[events.humanitix.com/christmas-t-shirts](https://events.humanitix.com/christmas-t-shirts)

### **Sewing Creation**

[events.humanitix.com/sewing-creation](https://events.humanitix.com/sewing-creation)

### **Laser Cut Christmas Tic Tac Toe**

[events.humanitix.com/laser-cut-christmas-tic-tac-toe](https://events.humanitix.com/laser-cut-christmas-tic-tac-toe)

### **Waffle Cone Christmas Trees**

[events.humanitix.com/waffle-cone-christmas-trees](https://events.humanitix.com/waffle-cone-christmas-trees)

## EA Networks Centre

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### **Recreational Activities**

[eanetworkscentre.co.nz/bookings](https://eanetworkscentre.co.nz/bookings)

### **School Holidays Programme**

[enrolmy.com/eanetworkscentre/](https://enrolmy.com/eanetworkscentre/)

## Follow us on social media

 [@ashburtonpubliclibrary](https://www.facebook.com/ashburtonpubliclibrary)

  [@ashburtonartgallery](https://www.instagram.com/ashburtonartgallery)

 [@ashburtonlibrary](https://www.instagram.com/ashburtonlibrary)

 [@AshburtonMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/AshburtonMuseum)

  [@EANetworksCentre](https://www.instagram.com/EANetworksCentre)

## Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

327 West Street, Ashburton

All activities free

[ashburtonmuseum.co.nz](http://ashburtonmuseum.co.nz)  
[ashburtonartgallery.org.nz](http://ashburtonartgallery.org.nz)

## Ashburton Library

Te Kete Tuhiinga,  
2 Baring Square East, Ashburton

Most activities free

[ashburtonlibrary.co.nz](http://ashburtonlibrary.co.nz)

## EA Networks Centre

20 River Terrace, Ashburton

Enquire regarding fees

[eanetworkscentre.co.nz](http://eanetworkscentre.co.nz)

Ashburton  
**Library**

ASHBURTON  
GALLERY

ashburton  
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 **Ashburton**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL