

Fix It Fair shares repair skills

Ashburton Library and Keep Learning Mid Canterbury are teaming up to offer Ashburton's first Fix It Fair on 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.

Library Manager Jill Watson said the Fix It Fair was a free event, and people could pop into the library at any time during the event with their broken items, like a shirt with a missing button or a necklace with a broken clasp.

"We'll have people there with the knowledge to fix things or offer advice, or help you fix them yourself, and there'll be no cost.

"There are several aims of this event, the first being to reduce things that are thrown away into landfill. Fixing something that is broken saves money and the earth's resources.

"The fair is also a great way for people to connect to community groups, share their knowledge and learn repair skills."

Who's going to be there?

CanBead will be on hand with all the tools needed to fix jewellery. They can help with



things like fixing clasps and shortening.

Digital Waitaha will be there to fix gaps in your knowledge when it comes to working out how to use your phone, tablet or other digital device. They can't fix faulty devices but often problems are with the user not the device itself, so come along and get support and answers to your questions.

Menzshed members can help assess your items and show you what types of things they can fix down at the Menzshed, where

they have all the equipment to fix almost anything! Please bring photos of your items, rather than the items themselves.

Mid Canterbury TimeBank members and other community volunteers will be available to offer simple repairs to household items - bring it with you and try your luck. They can also mend or alter your clothing so you can get more wear out of it, including fixing missing buttons, tears, holes, hemming. There'll also be help to troubleshoot your garden woes.

CE Hamish Riach

Game on: Keeping focus on essential business



It's quickly back to business as the new year gets under way, with a full schedule of Council meetings and workshops planned, from budgets to biodiversity.

The Annual Plan determines next year's rates and charges and sets out how we'll deliver services and capital projects. It should largely align with Year 2 of the Long Term Plan, adopted last year.

At the workshops on January 29 and 30, Councillors will go through the proposed budgets of the different Council departments line by line and give direction. It is always a juggling act as Councillors balance work that needs to be done against what also would be nice to do.

The workshops are being held in the Council Chamber, at Te Whare Whakare, and will be open to members of the public who want to observe. If you're thinking about standing in the Local Body Elections later this year, then these workshops are

a great opportunity to see how Council ticks at budget time.

While the formal part of the budget process doesn't start until the end of January, you can be sure 2025-26 will have a work programme heavily dedicated to providing the essential services that our community wants and needs - services like maintaining and improving our roads, safe drinking water and wastewater disposal, running high demand Council facilities, effective management of our domains and open spaces, and efficient rubbish collection.

Doing this core work well requires consistently good planning, maintenance and effort - every day of the working week.

It was great to end 2024 with the announcement by Transport Minister Simeon Brown that Government would pay for Ashburton's second urban bridge, with Council paying for the connecting roads.

The cost of building the connecting

roads is most likely to be more than the \$7.5m Council has set aside in its Long Term Plan, but we'll have a more accurate estimate after the detailed design is done.

Council will work with New Zealand Transport Agency during the design phase to make sure we have a connected and cohesive road and bridge, that works best for the community.

The Methven Community Board has its first meeting of 2025 in the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall on 27 January and they will no doubt be talking about the community's response to their proposed strategic plan for the town, which sets out what they want to achieve over the next 10 years.

It is an exciting opportunity for the community board, which is leading the project with the help of Council, and there have been almost 100 responses so far, including submissions from Methven primary school students.

SHORT AND SWEET

LEARN TO SIGN

There's a beginners' class for sign language starting at the Ashburton Library on 11 February. The class is every Tuesday at 6pm for 90 minutes and will run over eight weeks; it is run by a New Zealand sign language tutor.

DROP IN AND CHAT

Would you or someone you know like practise their English? Then come along to this free two-hour drop in session which is held every Friday morning at 9am in the Ashburton Library. First session of the year is 7 February.

SPIN TOGETHER

Bring your spinning, knitting or weaving to a weekly craft session in the event space at the Ashburton Library, starting Wednesday 23 January at 5.45pm. Join in this group for friendship, sharing and inspiration. Or, if you want to learn how to spin, come along and members of Ashburton Creative Fibre will teach you.

BOOKS ON WHEELS

Books on Wheels is a free, fortnightly delivery service for readers who are housebound or find it difficult to get to the library. It is offered to any reader who lives in the Ashburton urban area. The reader specifies the types of books they like to read, and each fortnight library staff select up to eight books for delivery. The deliveries are made by the Altrusa Club of Ashburton who then return the previous selection to the library.

INFLATABLE FUN

Our inflatables will be at the Mount Somers 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. **Mount Somers Pool** - Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 January (12.30-3.30pm). **Hinds Pool** - Wednesday 22 (midday-5pm), Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 January (12.30-3.30pm). **Rakaia Pool** - Wednesday 29 January (midday-5pm), Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 February (12.30-3.30pm).

New school speed signs roll out

Council will soon begin installing about 80 new signs, advising motorists that 30km/h speed limits outside schools will become variable speed limits only enforceable at the beginning and end of the school day.

The 30km/h limits will apply from 8.30am to 9.30am and from 2.30pm to 3.30pm on school days. New signs will be installed below the existing speed signs which were installed in May 2023 after new Government legislation; the signs are typically about 150 metres from school entrances.

Group Manager of Infrastructure and Open Spaces Neil McCann said that legislation had been amended by the new National government in the Setting of Speed Limits Rule 2024 that came into force on 1 October 2024 and Councils were now required to have variable rather than permanent speed limits outside schools.

“While the variable limits apply in the morning and afternoon on school days, motorists should always be cautious near schools.”

Mr McCann said there was a largely



positive response when the 30km/h limits were put in place.

“A lower limit around schools gives drivers more time to react to hazards and the main complaint was that the 30 km/h speed limit was permanently in place. The change to a variable speed limit will

mean outside of school days and the peak morning and afternoon periods, the speed limit will be the same as surrounding roads.”

Council’s roading maintenance contractor HEB will be installing the signs leading up to 27 January 2025.

Does your project qualify?

Community groups in the Ashburton District are being encouraged to think about projects that could qualify for a Council grant when funding applications are called for at the start of February.

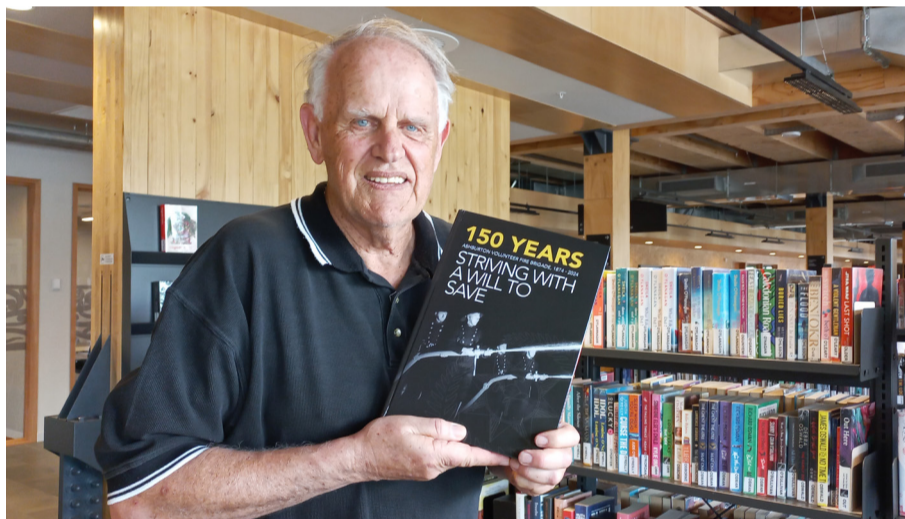
Council grants about \$300,000 annually, and last year’s recipients included a rugby club renovating its bathroom facilities, a women’s group teaching kids how to cook and a rural school pool in desperate need of repair.

Group Manager Democracy and Engagement Toni Durham said projects could be as small as buying a heat pump or as large as replacing carpet in a well-used community hall, and groups should start thinking now about projects that might qualify.

Grant applications will be accepted throughout the month of February and community groups and project organisers are encouraged to check and see if they meet the criteria.

“Many of the grants Council gives are on a smaller scale, but they make a huge difference to the people seeking them, while the more substantial grants have the ability to help get major projects off the ground that benefit of the whole district,” she said.

See the grant categories and read the full story at ashburtondc.govt.nz/news



The Ashburton Volunteer Fire Brigade was granted \$5000 last year to help write a book about the history of the brigade. Fire Chief Alan Burgess shows the finished book.

KIDS DUATHLON TRIATHLON

SUN 23 MARCH

\$40 entry fee per child
25% early bird discount if booked on or before 19 January

REGISTER AT EANETWORKSCENTRE.CO.NZ

COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Meeting agendas are online at ashburtondc.govt.nz

Monday 27 January, **Methven Community Board meeting**, 9am, Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Tuesday 28 January, **Council Activity Briefings**, 10am (live-streamed)

Wednesday 29 January, **Budget Workshop**, 9.30am

Thursday 30 January, **Budget Workshop**, 9.30am

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)

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

PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURES

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of proposals to temporarily close roads to ordinary vehicle traffic to enable the holding of two community events.

The proposed closures are made under the Local Government Act 1974 – Schedule 10 (11 (e)).

Any person objecting to the proposals should lodge notice of their objection and the grounds for their objection in writing by post or email to the Council, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

Ashburton Car Club Gravel Sprint

Road proposed to be closed:

- **Upper Downs Road – From Quarry Road to 518 Upper Downs Road**

Period of closure: From 8am to 6pm on **Saturday, 15 February 2025.**

Objections should be lodged by 4pm **Monday 27 January.**

EA Networks Centre Kids Triathlon

Roads proposed to be closed:

- **Smallbone Drive, at the intersection of River Terrace**
- **Robinson Street, from Dobson Street West to Watson Street**

Period of closure: From 7am until 2pm on **Sunday, 23 March 2025.**

Objections should be lodged by 4pm on **Friday, 31 January 2025.**

NEIL McCANN
Group Manager Infrastructure & Open Spaces

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 closed in January)
Sat & Sun 7am-7pm (pools closed in January)

ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

327 West Street
10am-4pm daily (late night Wed)