

Funding quest for bike facility

Detailed concept plans have been developed for a new facility in the Ashburton Domain that will help teach bike and road safety skills.

The Working Group driving the bike skills park project will use the plans when they apply to funding organisations like the Lottery Grants Board for contributions to cover the estimated \$500,000 cost of construction.

Project spokesperson Lesley Symington said resource consent had been granted for the project and the funding quest was under way.

“It’s now about securing funds to make the project a reality. The concept plans have been drawn up by our landscape architect and they provide a really good visual about what we are trying to achieve.

“We’ll be using the existing pump track, as well as creating a new asphalt network with road signs, and a small off-road loop through the existing trees.



“We’re using the natural trees and landscape to develop an area that will be well used as people of all ages learn about riding or driving on our roads.”

The area will include a railway crossing, cattle stop and solar-powered traffic lights.

Council will maintain the facility after it is built.

Staying safe: Refresher for older drivers

Finding the traffic moving a little faster these days? Or that you’re not so confident behind the wheel?

A refresher course aimed at Ashburton’s older drivers is all about helping you stay independent and driving for as long as possible.

The course is being run by Age Concern, and supported by Council, on 21 March, from 10am until 2pm.

Group Manager of Infrastructure and Open Spaces Neil McCann said the free course was about helping older drivers to develop strategies to remain confident on the road.

“It’s important our older drivers maintain their licences, especially because there’s no public transport available in the district.

“The refresher course is a theory-based session, with lots of helpful tips along the way and it covers common issues, like who gives way at roundabouts and other tricky

intersections.

“This is an opportunity for people to re-familiarise themselves with traffic rules and safe driving practices in a friendly and relaxed environment with other older drivers.”

Drivers wanting to take part in the refresher course should contact Age Concern Ashburton by phoning 03 308 6817 or emailing ageconcernashburton@xtra.co.nz.

CE Hamish Riach

Serious food for thought

A poster in the staff lunchroom caught my eye this week – it featured comedian Josh Thomson dressed as a stalk of broccoli.

It was one of a number of eye-catching posters promoting Love Food Hate Waste’s nationwide campaign to encourage Kiwis to meal plan, instead of letting food spoil in their fridges and end up in landfill.

Most households do some sort of basic meal planning, yet the average family still throws away \$1510 worth of food a year. Not only is this a waste of money, but it’s bad for the environment as four per cent of our total greenhouse gasses in New Zealand come from food waste.

In fact, if food waste was a country, it would be the third largest producer of carbon emissions behind China and the United States.

We heard at Council last week about a food rescue service that operates in our district under the wing of Safer Mid Canterbury, and involves supermarkets and food wholesalers donating food that is nearing its best-by date to local foodbanks and other charity organisations.

That food is redistributed to vulnerable families, and in the past six months about 34 tonnes has been recycled in this good way.

Safer Mid Canterbury is one of the bigger agencies that Council provides operational funding to and every six months they report back to us about what they’ve achieved.

The funding provided by Council gives Safer Mid Canterbury a strong base to run a robust organisation that can access Central Government funding to itself run a huge range of programmes

that support the people of Mid Canterbury, and many of these are based out of Community House.

Other agencies that reported back to us last week were the Ashburton Event Centre and Ashburton Performing Arts Theatre Trust, Sport Canterbury and the local Citizens Advice Bureau – these are always informative and interesting presentations, and I want to acknowledge the good work that is done by paid staff and volunteers in these organisations.

This week Councillors return to the chamber to continue their Annual Plan and budget discussions and this draft document will be refined and debated over the next months, shared with the community, and then finally adopted on 18 June.



SHORT AND SWEET

IMMIGRATION

Do you have a problem or a question about immigration? Drop into a free immigration advice clinic, run by the Citizens Advice Bureau, at the Ashburton Library on the first Wednesday of the month (5.30pm to 7.30pm). The service is free, confidential and available to all. **Next drop-in is Wednesday 5 March.**

TRAVEL, CREATIVE GRANTS AVAILABLE

Looking to bring your creative project to life? Or does your junior sports team qualify for a travel grant? We’re here to help by administering local funds on behalf of two national schemes, the Creative Communities Scheme and the Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund. Applications open 1 March, so head to our website to find out more and apply: ashburtondc.govt.nz/grants



IRD CLINIC

Need to do business with the IRD and would like a face-to-face meeting? The Ashburton Citizens Advice Bureau organises a monthly IRD clinic in Ashburton on the **second Tuesday of the month**. Bookings are essential, so call 03 9288760 or email info.midcanterbury@cab.org.nz

DROP-IN ADVICE

Do you have a problem or a question about your rights or obligations? Then drop into a Citizens Advice Bureau session at the Ashburton Library on **Wednesday evenings** (5.30pm to 7.30pm). The service is free, confidential and available to all. The CAB is also open Monday-Friday 10am-1pm at Community House.

Pudding Hill intake in spotlight

Methven community members who came along to a public meeting about the future of the Pudding Hill stockwater intake are being encouraged to take part in Council's online survey about the intake.

The survey is part of Council's work programme to exit the stockwater delivery service by 2027.

Chair of the Stockwater Transition Working Group Cr Richard Wilson said about 60 people attended the Methven meeting last week, where they could ask questions about the stockwater exit transition plan.

"Council is considering each stockwater intake separately and this meeting was for the wider community to tell us their thoughts on the Pudding Hill intake.

"There were a lot of people from Methven who were interested in keeping an amenity flow in Mt Harding Creek, which is partially fed by the Pudding Hill intake. I encourage them all to have their say via the public survey so we can capture their feedback."

The Pudding Hill intake wider community survey is open until **Tuesday 4 March**.

Property owners who pay for stockwater from the intake have already been surveyed as part of the process, and the next step involves ecological, cultural and archaeological assessments.

Cr Wilson said these assessments were being undertaken by experts and would



The Pudding Hill stream intake has supplied council's stockwater network.

be taken into account when deciding the future of the intake.

"Council staff will also be investigating the role of stormwater management in relation to the stockwater network in and around Methven and that report will also feed into the final decision."

There are 17 intakes in total to be considered and the next one on the list is Methven Auxiliary. Affected property owners connected to this intake have until **Monday 3 March** to complete their survey and then the wider community will be invited to have their say mid-March.

Cr Wilson said the work programme was the same for each intake.

"First we'll survey affected property owners who pay for the stockwater from that intake, then we'll survey the wider community, then we'll get the assessments.

"It's important that people who want to be part of the process respond when it is their turn, and they can keep up to date by signing up for email updates.

"We want to make sure everyone who still needs stockwater has advice about an alternative option."

Maronan Road line marking

Road marking is planned at two sites on Maronan Road on Friday. Asphaltting was completed at the Maronan Road Bridge and Maronan Valetta Road intersection last Sunday, and at the Maronan Road/Winslow Westerfield Road intersection on Monday.

Road marking will complete the work, which has happened over the past two months. A new vehicle turning bay was created at the Maronan Road/Winslow Westerfield Road intersection.



Hosing ban for Methven

Council has implemented a hosing ban on the Methven and Methven Springfield water supplies from Wednesday 26 February to allow maintenance on one of the reservoirs at the Methven water treatment plant.

The water restriction means no hosing is permitted at any time during the maintenance period. Residents may water gardens by hand using a bucket or watering can. The reservoir needs to be fully drained to enable the work, which is expected to take about two weeks.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Tuesday 4 March, **Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee**, 9.30am in the Wakanui Room

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

Monday 10 March, **Methven Community Board**, 9am in Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

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

Thursday 20 March, **Annual Plan Workshop**, 9.30am

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

Wednesday 26 March, **Three Waters Committee** (live-streamed), 9.30am

Wednesday 26 March, **Audit & Risk Committee** (live-streamed), 11am,

Wednesday 26 March, **Council Activity Briefings** (live-streamed), 1pm

PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a proposal to temporarily close roads to traffic to enable the holding of a community event - **Anzac Day ceremony**.

Roads proposed to be closed:

- **West Street (SH1) from Havelock Street to Cameron Street**
- **Havelock Street from Park Street to East Street**
- **Cameron Street from West Street to Park Street**
- **Baring Square West from Havelock Street to Cameron Street**

Period of closure: From **6am to 8.30am**, and from **10am to 12.30pm** on Friday 25 April.

Any person objecting should do so in writing by post or email to the Council, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton, by 4pm on **Friday 14 March 2025**.

NEIL McCANN, Group Manager Infrastructure & Open Spaces

COUNCIL LAND TENDER OPPORTUNITIES



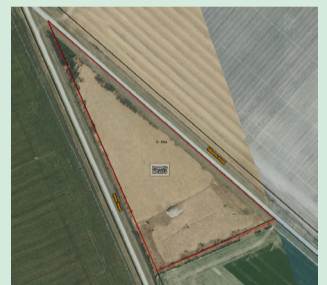
1. The tender is for a 6-month Licence to Occupy for 3.0199 hectares of land at 58 Carters Terrace, Ashburton. The Licence to Occupy commences on the 1 April 2025. Tenders must be received by Ashburton District Council on or before 4pm 12 March 2025. Please contact commercial@adc.govt.nz for a Tender Application form or for more information.



2. The tender is for a 6-month Licence to Occupy for 1.2 hectares of land at 61 Carters Terrace, Ashburton. The Licence to Occupy commences on the 1 April 2025. Tenders must be received by Ashburton District Council on or before 4pm 12 March 2025. Please contact commercial@adc.govt.nz for a Tender Application form or for more information.



3. The tender is for a 5-year Licence to Occupy for 2.0234 hectares of land at 1384 Stanley Road, Ashburton. The Licence to Occupy commences on the 1 August 2025. Tenders must be received by Ashburton District Council on or before 4pm 12 March 2025. Please contact commercial@adc.govt.nz for a Tender Application form or for more information.



4. The tender is for a 5-year Licence to Occupy for 2.0234 hectares of land at the intersection of River Road and Gibsons Road, Ashburton. The Licence to Occupy commences on the 1 April 2025. Tenders must be received by Ashburton District Council on or before 4pm 12 March 2025. Please contact commercial@adc.govt.nz for a Tender Application form or for more information.

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)