

## What's on the menu? Noodles!

It's just two weeks until the Hakatere Noodle Festival, a celebration of National Welcoming Week and Te Tiriti-based Multicultural Day, and a chance to experience flavours from around the globe.

Ashburton District Council's Group Manager of Democracy and Engagement, Toni Durham, says the event is a way to acknowledge the contribution of people who move to Mid Canterbury and to make them feel welcome.

"When you move to a new place, even as a New Zealander, you leave life as you know it behind. This can mean starting everything from scratch without the help of your usual support system.

"This is why being a welcoming community is so important, because if we can help newcomers feel valued, respected and supported, it will encourage them to stay and further enrich our community with their skills and knowledge."

Council launched its Welcoming Community pilot programme around six years ago with the aim of fostering connections between Government agencies, community organisations, schools, employers and local migrant groups.

The programme has developed tools like the recently-released Welcoming Guide, a website where those new to Ashburton can find information to help make the settlement process smoother and tackle common challenges such as gaining a driver's licence or accessing healthcare.



Welcoming Communities co-ordinator Mercedes Walkham and her husband Thomas are looking forward to this year's noodle festival.

However, Toni says that the biggest obstacle many newcomers face is feeling isolated and struggling to connect with others on a deeper level.

"This is where we all have a role to play, and it can be as simple as talking to someone who doesn't look like you.

"We have wonderful community organisations like the Hakatere Multi Cultural Council (Newcomers Network), Wellbeing Ōpuke and TimeBank that organise events for people to connect. So, try attending one of them, sit next to someone you don't know and start a conversation."

The Hakatere Noodle Festival also celebrates Te Tiriti-based Multicultural

Day. Toni says there's a broad range of nationalities and cultures that make up the Mid Canterbury community, including Nepalese, Filipino, Indian, Sri Lankan, Afghani and Pacific island nations.

"Many countries incorporate noodles into their traditional dishes, so the noodle festival is a really fun way for people to taste another culture's food, celebrate our district's diversity and connect with each other."

The Hakatere Noodle Festival is hosted by Ashburton District Council, Hakatere Multi Cultural Council and Welcoming Communities. The event will see around 20 food vendors and live entertainment converge on Baring Square East from 3pm to 9pm on Saturday 7 September.

## SHORT AND SWEET

### ROAD REHABS

Work started this week on the first of five road rehabilitation projects, with a section on Ashburton Staveley Road at the head of the queue. Two other sites on Ashburton Staveley Road will be rehabilitated, along with one on Forks Road and another on Pudding Hill Road. The tender for the work (a total of 4115 metres) was awarded to Fulton Hogan Ashburton, at a price of \$1,050,000.

### CABINET ART

Council is looking for artists to add colour to their neighbourhood by beautifying Chorus cabinet boxes. Chorus has \$3600 to paint five cabinets in Ashburton and is calling for artists who want to showcase their work. So, whether you paint for a living or as a hobby, here's your chance! Go to our website for details, ashburtondc.govt.nz/news



### CIVIC AWARDS

Nominations will soon be sought for the 2024 Community Honours Awards and if you have someone in mind, then we'd love to hear about them and their work. The awards recognise individuals and/or organisations who have quietly gone about making a difference in our district, without asking for payment or recognition. Nominations will be open from 26 August to 13 September. More info is at ashburtondc.govt.nz

### BOLLARDS TO GO

Council has approved the trial removal of 31 bollards from the Upper Hakatere Reserve, to allow vehicles onto the picnicground. Council has also reconfirmed that camping is not permitted on the upper reserve and will continue to monitor for illegal camping. Camping is permitted on the lower reserve.

## Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan Pushing for a better driver licensing system starts now

Our Council meeting this week was held a day early so that the Mayor, CE and two councillors can attend the Local Government New Zealand conference and at the AGM, the Mayor will propose a remit on the graduated driver licensing system.

The proposal is that LGNZ advocate for changes to the fee structure for driver licensing, better preparing young people for driver licence testing, and greater testing capacity in key locations throughout New Zealand, in order to relieve pressure on the driver licensing system and ensure testing can be conducted in a quick and efficient manner.

A driver's licence, especially for our youth, is really important for getting to work and for independence.

Our Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) has also been helping our youth with driver licences, with 123 gaining licences over the past year. This includes 36 getting their forklift licence.

Another project that the MTFJ team has been working hard to put together is the Career Fest, which will be held at the Hampstead sports grounds this Saturday from 10am till 2pm. So, if you are thinking about your career options, then come along and meet some of the local employers in our district.

Water is also a subject that is at the forefront of councillors' minds and last week we held a workshop on the state of Lake Camp.

Staff from Environment Canterbury, DoC and Fish and Game were invited along to present on the low lake levels and the diversion that had been in place

from the Balmacaan Stream.

We were able to ask questions and get more of an understanding of what is happening up at the lakes.

I had taken a drive up to see the lake to get a better idea of how the old diversion worked and at our Council meeting this week, Council asked for a report from staff to understand the costs and implications of an application for consent to divert the Balmacaan Stream.

On a sad note, the district has lost some good community men and women over the past couple of weeks. I would like to acknowledge Roger, Victor, Sally-Ann, Colin and Tom, who all made an amazing contribution to our district over the course of their lives.



# Drinking water upgrades under way

The first phase of work in a \$10 million upgrade of 10 of the district's drinking water treatment plants is about to get under way.

The first package of work involves the Hinds, Mayfield and Dromore water supplies and Council has chosen civil contractor ARC Projects to construct the buildings that currently house treatment equipment for these three schemes.

The work involves construction of new buildings at each site and the supply and installation of cartridge filtration, UV disinfection equipment, and associated instrumentation. The Dromore site will also get additional tanks to increase the reservoir storage.

The contractor will have access to the sites from later this month with all work expected to be complete by April 2025. The tender price accepted was \$1,799,981 plus GST.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said the work was necessary to meet Council's obligations under the Water Services Act 2021, and to comply with various parts of the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules.



"Under these rules, Ashburton, Methven and Rakaia are considered to be level 3 supplies, and have the highest level of rules to follow. Hinds, Mayfield and Dromore are level 2 water supplies and now need a filtration step, a UV disinfection step and a chlorination step.

"So on these level 2 supplies, we'll be installing cartridge filters and UV disinfection equipment, and we already have the necessary chlorination equipment."

Upgrades are planned later in the year for Chertsey and Rakaia, and for the four

treatment plants on the Ashburton supply (Ashburton Domain, Bridge Street, Argyle Park and Tinwald).

The Ashburton and Rakaia supplies will also need UV disinfection equipment. Methven and Mount Somers do not need upgrading because they have just got new membrane treatment plants.

Tenders for the Ashburton, Rakaia and Chertsey upgrades will be advertised later this year.

The upgrades to the physical buildings include things like upgrading transformers, generators and switchboards to handle the extra power requirements, and optimising plant layouts so that the new equipment doesn't result in access problems or complicated pipework arrangements.

"In some cases, especially the Ashburton plants, retrofitting large equipment into the existing buildings is not possible, and since the buildings are in sensitive locations the modifications are not straightforward, raising the project costs," Mr McCann said.

"We look forward to getting the upgrade package under way with this initial work at Hinds, Mayfield and Dromore."

## Work for Rakaia wastewater plant



Work is about to begin on the construction of 12 sludge-drying beds at the Rakaia wastewater treatment plant.

Sludge is a by-product of the treatment process and it is currently being irrigated onto land at the Rakaia plant. Once the beds are built, sludge will be dried and removed to landfill.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said the Rakaia facility was commissioned in 1999 but had faced compliance challenges in recent years

around how sludge was applied to land.

"Environment Canterbury eventually issued an abatement notice for the discharge of sludge at the site but granted us time to investigate alternative ways of dealing with it. Council looked at several different systems and opted for the drying beds. A contract has now been awarded to Grant Hood Contracting for \$1.23 million to build the beds and this work will get under way in early September."

See the full story at [ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz)

## Date set for official opening

Mayor Neil Brown has announced Friday 27 September as the official opening of Te Whare Whakaterē, Ashburton Library and Civic Centre.

A formal ceremony will be held at 2pm on Baring Square East, with Rangitata MP James Meager officiating on behalf of Prime Minister Christopher Luxon.

The Mayor said the building was living up to its expectations as the civic and community heart of the district. "It represents our collective strength as a district and has served its community well during its first winter."

The unveiling of a plaque and the installation of the time capsule will be main items in the order of proceedings.

## Councillors seek report to assist lake decision

**Ashburton District Councillors have directed staff to prepare a report to understand the costs and implications of pursuing a consent to divert water from Balmacaan Stream into Lake Camp.**

The lake currently has low levels and hutholders are concerned, saying the lake was once topped up by a diversion consent held by Fish and Game but that had been relinquished.

Environment Canterbury and the Department of Conservation say nature is taking its course, and low water levels are the result of an extremely dry period, with no rain.

Hutholders want Council to apply for a new consent, but councillors decided on Tuesday they wanted more information

before going down that path.

Mayor Neil Brown said the report would help councillors understand the ramifications and risks of pursuing a consent, before making any decision.

"We expect it will take staff about a month to do the report, and it will reference costs and information we would likely have to supply to support any consent application.

"We know Ecan would expect hydrological reports and DOC has said a permit would be needed to rebuild the diversion, which is partly on their land. At our workshop last week, we also heard the area could be home to a rare skink, so a lizard management report could be needed.

"Lake Camp is an area we all value, and the report will help council decide its next step."

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Meeting agendas are online at [ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz)

Tuesday 27 August, **Ashburton Water Zone Committee**, 1pm (live-streamed)

Tuesday 3 September, **Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee**, 9.30am (Wakanui Room)

Wednesday 4 September, **Council Meeting**, 1pm (live-streamed)

Thursday 5 September, **Reserve Management Plan Hearings**, 9am (live-streamed)

Monday 9 September, **Methven Community Board**, 9am (Mt Hutt Memorial Hall)

Wednesday 11 September, **Council Activity Briefings**, 9.30am

Wednesday 11 September, **Audit & Risk Committee**, 1pm (live-streamed)

### PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURES

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of proposals to temporarily close roads to traffic for the following community events.

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

#### RIDE THE RAKAIA

Road proposed to be closed:

- **Rakaia Barrhill Methven Road, from Baker Road to West Town Belt**

Period of closure:

- **From 6am until 3pm on Saturday 26 October 2024**

Objections by 4pm, **6 September**.

#### ASHBURTON MARKET DAY

Roads proposed to be closed:

- **East Street, from Moore Street to Havelock Street**
- **Tancred Street, from East Street to Cass Street**
- **Burnett Street, from East Street to Cass Street**

Period of closure:

- **From 6am until 6pm on Monday 23 September 2024**

Objections by 4pm, 27 August.

#### TE WHARE WHAKATERE OPENING

Road proposed to be closed:

- **Baring Square East from Havelock Street to Cameron Street**

Period of closure:

- **From 12pm to 4pm on Friday 27 September 2024**

Objections by 4pm, 30 August.

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

**NEIL MCCANN**  
Group Manager Infrastructure Services

#### 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)