

## Exploring the district's backyard

Make memories in your home district and explore your own backyard this summer. There's so much to see and do in Mid Canterbury that we couldn't possibly list it all, but here's 10 activities to get you started.

### 1. Explore Lake Hood

Enjoy a walk or bike ride, swimming, diving from the new platform, fishing, kayaking, paddleboarding, or simply relax lakeside with some good food and beverage options.

### 2. Hike or bike the Ashburton Lakes area

Discover stunning alpine landscapes with trails suitable for all levels, including hikes around Lake Clearwater and Lake Heron. On your return, step into a local bar or restaurant to recharge your batteries.

### 3. Cycle the Inland Scenic Route 72

Take in breathtaking views of the Southern Alps and the rolling countryside on this iconic route. This road is ideal for both leisurely rides and serious cycling. Discover many charming towns and settlements on the way.

### 4. Visit the Rakaia Gorge

Experience jet boating, fishing, or walking the Rakaia Gorge Track, known for its incredible geological formations and turquoise waters.

### 5. Picnic at the Ashburton Domain

Relax in this beautifully maintained park with lush gardens and shaded picnic areas complete with BBQ facilities. The kids will love the playground and paddling pool.



### 6. Discover the Methven Walkway

Meander through scenic farmland, rivers, and bush areas, and afterwards, reward yourself with an alfresco lunch at one of Methven's fine eateries.

### 7. Attend Local Summer Events

Check out local markets such as Ashburton Farmers' Market held weekly on Saturdays. Catch an outdoor concert or a show hosted at the Event Centre. There's also a dynamic lineup of great exhibits at the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum.

### 8. Uncover our Heritage at the Plains Vintage Railway and Historical Museum

Step back in time with a ride on a vintage steam train and explore the many fascinating displays of Mid Canterbury

history. Don't miss the open days on 19 January and 9 February.

### 9. Soak in the Hot Pools

Visit Ōpuke Thermal Pools & Spa and enjoy some adults only time with the swim up bar or a luxurious day spa treatment, or bring the kids along and let them practice their bombs in the discovery pools.

### 10. Relax at Awa Awa Rata Reserve

Take a picnic and enjoy a stroll amongst the colourful gardens, or tackle a longer walk via the nearby tracks for magnificent views across the Canterbury Plains.

There's plenty more action, exploration, and indulgence to be had in our district! Find more at [midcanterburynz.com](http://midcanterburynz.com)

## SHORT AND SWEET

### WHAT'S ON?

Looking for fun and free things to do with the kids over the holidays? Check out our What's On summer activities guide by heading to [ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz) or scanning the QR code below.



### DAMAGED TREE

Recent poor weather saw a large tree located near the flying fox in the Ashburton Domain extensively damaged. Arborists were unable to save the tree and it was removed to ensure public safety. A new tree will be planted in same spot.

### HAMPSTEAD POOL

Freshen up with a swim at Hampstead Pool in January. Lifeguards from EA Networks Centre will be on duty at Hampstead while the centre's aquatic area is closed for repairs and maintenance. The Hampstead Pool will be open 1pm-6pm daily, weather permitting.

### SMART WATERING

While the cooler weather and recent rain has provided a reprieve to high demand on the district's water infrastructure, residents are still encouraged to use water wisely. Watering the lawn or garden is best done before 7am or after 9pm.

### ELECTION YEAR

The local body elections will be held this year in October. Local voters will be asked to elect a new Council, Methven Community Board and a representative for the regional council, Environment Canterbury. Those thinking about standing for election or wanting to know more can visit [votelocal.nz](http://votelocal.nz). A candidate information evening will be hosted later this year in Ashburton.

## The stories behind lost luggage

Whether travelling by rail, bus, ship or airline, mishandled baggage and lost luggage have always been an unfortunate part of the travel experience.

Now, an exhibition at the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum has recreated the feel of a historic railway station filled with an assortment of 'lost' items.

The items span a range of dates and subjects, and while commonly lost items such as umbrellas and walking sticks are depicted, Art Gallery & Museum Director Shirin Khosraviani says more unexpected items also appear on the shelves.

"Reading through the lists of lost luggage printed in old newspapers, you come across the occasional odd finds such as a pair of bellows or a horse's bridle.

"It's fascinating to ponder the story behind the item and the person who lost it."

Luggage with no claimant was forwarded to the nearest city to be advertised and auctioned. Goods were sold as found - cases unopened, boxes and bags sealed,



meaning the contents could be trash or treasure for those brave enough to bid.

"There was a charge for storing lost luggage, so in some cases, those who didn't want to pay a hefty fee after a long period, would attend the auction and bid on their own suitcase in an attempt to pay less."

To complement the exhibition, Shirin says the Gallery and Museum will be hosting a talk by Maryann and Olivera from Air

New Zealand in which they will share the airline's history with lost luggage.

"They'll also be discussing the concept of lost luggage, how to avoid it impacting your holiday, and share their tips on how to get your bags back as soon as possible."

The one-hour talk will be held on Wednesday 15 January at 5.30pm.

*Lost Luggage is on display until 16 March at the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum.*

# Second phase of rehab under way

A 1.4km section of Seafield Road will be reconstructed in a three-month project beginning in January and costing about \$430,000.

The section of road to be rehabilitated is between Morris Road and the Ashburton Airport and it will be done in two stages, with the road closed from mid January.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said the closure was challenging because it would affect workers travelling to and from the ANZCO meat works on Seafield Road as well as people going to the airport.

“Our contractors have been informing all those who live in the area, as well as the meat works and airport users, including the aviation museum, about the rehabilitation work and the detours that will be in place.

“The first stage will be between Morris Road and Milton Road, and the second stage from Milton Road to the airport. The detours will be well signposted and contractors will be doing their best to keep the project on schedule.”

He said the project was challenging because of the volume of traffic that used the road – more than 2000 a day use the section that will be repaired.



“This is an older sealed road, so the failed areas will be dug out and a new layer of basecourse placed to better cope with the volume and weight of traffic that uses it today.”

The project is scheduled to be completed by early April.

A 1.2km section of Maronan Road is also being rehabilitated from 6 January. The segment under construction is between Lills Road and Lovetts Road and the project is scheduled for completion by 31 March.

Mr McCann said rehabilitations involved a lot of work but resulted in much-improved roads.

“This summer Council is spending \$2.4 million rehabilitating about 8.5km of roads and that’s in addition to the \$8.2m being spent on resurfacing and maintaining other sealed and unsealed roads.

“Our contractors finished a chunk of rehabilitation work before Christmas, thanks to some great weather for roading repairs, so we’re hoping the weather plays ball in the new year too.”

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

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

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

Wednesday 28 January, **Council Activity Briefings**, 9.30am (livestreamed)

## WORKS NOTICES

**Seafield Road** - Closed between Morris Road and Ashburton Airport, until 12 April for road rehabilitation. Detour available.

**Maronan Road** - Closed between Swamp Road and Simpsons Road (no access through Barford Road) until 31 March. Road rehabilitation work in progress.



## Keep your whānau safe this summer

Own a pool?

Even if it’s a temporary pool, make sure you know the safety requirements.

[building.govt.nz/PoolSafety](http://building.govt.nz/PoolSafety)

BUILDING PERFORMANCE

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT

# Fresh signage enhances river trail

Local user groups of the Hakatere Ashburton River Trail have been working with Council to add new location signs along the trail, with the first section completed last week.

In total, 20 new signs have been installed between the coastal Hakatere village and the State Highway Bridge over the Ashburton River.

Hakatere Ashburton River Trail committee member Kaylene Donaldson said they contain information for visitors, including

a scannable QR code linking to further information about the area.

“Our goal is for walkers, cyclists, visitors, and residents to have easy access to accurate information about their location including the nearest exit and entry points.

“The signs are great in that if you only wish to bike or walk one section you can see the distance,” she said.

“They can also make it easier to know your exact location if you need to share it with emergency services.”

The new signs replaced the older wooden signs that had deteriorated.

Kaylene said that many volunteers look after the river trails with different groups responsible for various sections.

“We hope that people look after these signs and they last a long time, as our river trail is a real asset.”

Council is continuing to work with the user groups on further signage to cover the south-eastern side to Lake Hood, and further west on both sides of the river.

# Inflatables arrive at community pools

Inflatables will be popping up at the district’s community pools over the summer, while the aquatic area at EA Networks Centre undergoes maintenance.

The inflatables will be available between midday and 5pm on Wednesdays and 12.30pm to 3.30pm on weekends.

There is no charge for the inflatables, however normal pool admission charges will apply where applicable.

Dates and times may vary due to weather and so visitors should check the EA Networks Centre Facebook page for any changes. The inflatables will be at:

**Mayfield and Ruapuna Pools**  
Wed 8, Sat 11 and Sun 12 January



**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

## 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](http://EANETWORKSCENTRE.CO.NZ)

## 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)