

New Fairton pipe set for hookup

Two short water shutdowns are planned for the Fairton supply on 12 July and 17 July to allow contractors to connect Fairton to the main Ashburton town water supply.

The bore that supplies Fairton township is being retired and a new pipeline has been installed from Ashburton along Company Road to Fairton.

There will be no water in the Fairton network on Friday 12 July between 10am and 2pm, and again on Wednesday 17 July between 10am and 2pm.

People are encouraged to store water for drinking, or have buckets of water that can be used to flush toilets during the shutdowns. A water tanker will be also parked outside Fairton School for the community to access water if needed.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said the shutdowns had been planned for the school holidays so the school would not be affected.

“We’ve split the shutdowns over two days so that the period without water is just four hours, and our contractors will be working as quickly as they can to do the work.

“Water won’t be available during the shutdown periods, and residents should store what they need for drinking or other uses, like flushing of toilets.”

The \$470,000 project to install the new 2.5km pipeline is on track to be completed by the end of August. It has involved laying 180mm diameter polyethylene pipe along road sides to the existing Fairton water



treatment plant, where booster pumps will deliver it into the Fairton pipelines.

Mr McCann said the pipeline had been fully constructed and was currently at the commissioning stage.

“We’re now ready to link the two water networks and it’s likely that Fairton and Ashburton people will notice no difference

in terms of levels of service once Fairton is connected to the town supply,” Mr McCann said.

“We will be retaining the pressure pump system at Fairton to ensure the township gets the same pressure and flow they’ve always had, and we’ll repurpose as much of the old water treatment plant as possible at other sites.”

CE - Hamish Riach

Water works gather momentum

It’s good to see the new Fairton water pipeline project tracking to a successful conclusion and the township connected to the main Ashburton water supply in the next few weeks.

The well on Fairfield Road will be retired and the several hundred people who live in Fairton will have their potable water delivered from deep bores in Ashburton, now connected via a new pipeline.

As well as delivering water of a higher quality, this project has some good financial wins. The original estimated price for the work was \$975,000 but it has been carried out for about \$470,000, thanks to a competitive tendering process.

The new connection means that a planned upgrade of the Fairton water treatment plant to make it compliant with new national drinking water

standards will now no longer be necessary.

The combined savings will be used elsewhere in the water assets area, as other water treatment plants need upgrading to meet the new standards, which require more stringent monitoring and real-time water quality testing, as well as UV treatment.

Another water project that is also flowing successfully to completion is the new Mount Somers membrane water treatment plant, which will be fully operational soon and end the need for boil water notices that were often issued after heavy rain events.

An official opening day, with time for the community to visit the new facility, is planned for 29 August.

It is the most significant improvement on the Mount Somers water supply in 20 years and, with the new extra storage reservoirs, will make the supply more resilient.

Resilience, in the form of a second bridge

over the Ashburton River, was also a theme for the Prime Minister’s visit to Ashburton last week, when he pledged support once again for the project – it is just the funding that needs to be confirmed now.

To that end, Council has applied to the Government’s new Regional Infrastructure Fund, for money to progress the second bridge, which is a vital backstop should flooding in the Ashburton River shut down the existing State Highway 1 bridge. As we’ve seen in flooding events of the recent past, a second connection is crucial for not only Ashburton and Tinwald, but for freight carriers that travel the whole of the South Island.

The project is ready to roll, and we’ll keep you updated on the application’s progress.



SHORT AND SWEET

SEE THE STARS!

The last of the Ashburton Astronomy Club’s free Matariki public viewings at Argyle Park will be held this Saturday, 13 July. Weather permitting, the rising star cluster will be visible from 5.45am until 7am.

DOG-GONE!

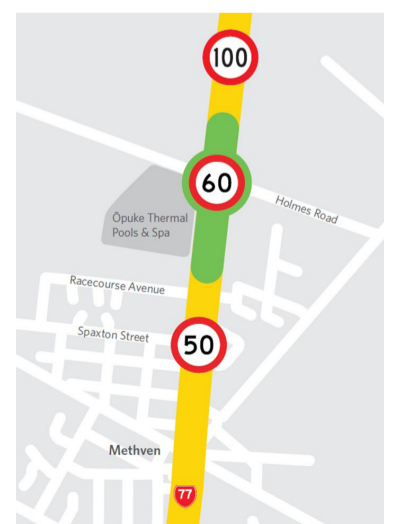
July is dog registration month and dog owners are certainly on the ball, with about 2500 dogs registered so far. There are about 6855 known canines in the district, and they needed to be registered by the end of July.

SOLAR FARM WORK

Stage two of the Lauriston solar farm cabling project began this week, with new road closures and detours at Lauriston township. This stage involves digging an open trench from Church Street and across Lauriston Barrhill Road all the way to the electrical joint pit at Line Road intersection. Stage three is due to begin on 18 July.

NEW SPEED LIMIT

The new 60km/h speed limit for Methven (State Highway 77 north of Methven township to just past Ōpuke Thermal Pools) goes live on Friday 19 July. Work to install the signs should result in minimal disruption to residents and highway traffic. In the days leading up to when the new speed limit applies, VMS (Variable Message Signs) on the roadside will display the ‘go-live’ date and Police will be in the area in the days following to remind drivers of the change.



Tenders called for surplus buildings

Council is calling for tenders from people, groups or businesses interested in buying surplus relocatable buildings, including the former temporary Council Chamber on Havelock Street.

The temporary chamber, the Council staff tearoom and 10 garages associated with the old civic building at 5 Baring Square West are up for tender, along with three relocatable classrooms at the old Polytech on Cameron Street.

At the same time, Council is looking for a real estate agent to sell the former three-storey civic building and land, which consists of four separate titles, with a total land area of 5059 square metres.

Chief Executive Hamish Riach said Councillors had approved the tender process to sell the relocatable buildings and a deadline sale process for the former civic administration building and surrounding land.

“The money raised will help offset the cost of building Te Whare Whakare at Baring Square East.”

Mr Riach said the tender process for the surplus relocatable accessory buildings should encourage a wide range of interest.

“The successful tenderers will ultimately be decided by Councillors, so that means a community group hoping to use one of the buildings for a good cause will have as much opportunity as a business wanting it for a commercial purpose. Both will be able to make a case for why their bid should be selected.

“Council will then review the offers made and make a decision.”

Tenderers can submit a tender for one or more buildings, and successful tenderers will enter into an agreement with Council, setting out the terms of the purchase and removal. The tender document asks if the buildings will be purchased for commercial, personal or community use, and to outline how the proposed use benefits the community.

The tender documents for the relocatable buildings are on Council’s website, with a closing deadline of 12pm on 23 August. It



is hoped that all the buildings and land will be sold by the end of the year.

Real estate agencies interested in selling the former administration building and land need to go to Council’s tender portal to access the request for proposal (RFP) documentation. Agencies will need to provide relevant information and experience by 7 August, and a successful agency will then be selected following the tender evaluation process.

The property would ideally be on the market by mid-September with a deadline sale end date in November.

Other details of the surplus relocatable buildings:

1. The former temporary Council chambers and civil defence office was

built by Des Millar Construction in 2018 and is 208 square metres. Chattels include heat pumps, floor coverings, blinds and a water heater.

2. The 10 garages are able to be relocated in pairs and have a total area of 282 square metres.

3. The former staff tearoom is 104 square metres and includes heat pumps, a ceramic cook top, oven, hot water cylinder, steriliser, floor coverings, blinds, a boiling water unit and extractor fan.

4. The three prefabs at 258 Cameron Street, on the old Polytech site) are approximately 352 square metres collectively, and include a covered connecting walkway.

Threshold increases for rates rebates

Low-income households are being encouraged to apply for a rates rebate after increases to the qualifying threshold came into effect at the start of July.

The Rates Rebate Scheme is run by Government and applications are processed by Ashburton District Council staff. From 1 July, the maximum rebate increased from \$750 to \$790 and the income abatement threshold rose from \$30,100 to \$31,510.

Council’s Business Support Group Manager Leanne Macdonald said the changes would help low-income homeowners, including superannuitants and those on supported living benefits.

“The level of rates refund will also depend

on whether there are dependants living in the household, so if you’re not sure if you qualify, please get in touch with our Customer Services team.”

In the 2023-24 financial year, Council processed 1023 residential rate rebates to the value of \$678,692.12, as well as 76 retirement village rebates of \$51,199.42. Homeowners have to apply each year.

Mrs Macdonald said people having difficulty paying their rates were strongly encouraged to talk to Council before it became a problem. “Staff are more than happy to help ratepayers enter into an agreed payment plan to spread the cost of their rates over the year.”

There is a rates postponement scheme for homeowners 65 and over, giving them the option of postponing payment for their

estate to take care of.

Rates remission is also possible for some not-for-profit or sports organisations.

Ratepayers who own one or more properties with a shared boundary and use them jointly as a single unit may also be able to apply for their rates to have “contiguous” status. Common examples include a house with a large garden, or farming land all used for the same farm.

On a contiguous property, Council will apply the same rates that would have applied if they had been rated as a single unit. For example, the Uniform Annual General Charge would only be charged once on the main rating unit.

Information and applications forms are available on Council’s website.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Meeting agendas are online at ashburtondc.govt.nz/council/agendas-and-minutes

Ashburton Water Zone Committee, Tuesday 23 July, 1pm (live-streamed)

Methven Community Board, Monday 29 July, 9am, Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Council Activity Briefings, Wednesday 31 July, 9.30am

Audit & Risk Committee, Wednesday 31 July, 1pm (live-streamed)

WORKS NOTICES

Walnut Avenue - Kerb and channel renewal from Oak Grove to West Street. Traffic should not be affected, but watch for temporary changes.

Grace Ireland Drive, Methven - Closed for subdivision development until 31 August.

Full closure details on our website ashburtondc.govt.nz

BURTY CHALLENGE

Looking for something to do with the kids during the school holidays? Have a go at our mid-winter Burty Challenge.

Grab a challenge card from any Council facility and do the tasks - you can earn a free swim at EA Networks Centre and go into the draw to win a prize!



Challenge runs 6 - 21 July 2024

ROAD CLOSURE

William Street, between Burnett Street and Tancred Street, will be closed from Monday 22 July to Friday 25 July, for work associated with wastewater renewals.

Detours will be in place but access for residents remains.

FREE ICE SCRAPERS

Need one of these? Pick up a free ice scraper from our Customer Services team so your windscreen can be frost-free!



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 6am-9pm (pools 7pm, gym 8pm)
Sat & Sun 7am-7pm (pools 5pm, gym 6pm)

ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

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