

## New channel to boost lake flow

Contractors will soon begin building a new channel to divert water from the existing Ashburton River intake channel to the Lake Hood extension, as part of work to improve water flow through the whole lake.

Council has budgeted \$250,000 for water quality improvements in the 2024-25 financial year and the new channel is its first project.

Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces Neil McCann said no extra water was being taken from the river, and water from the existing water-take consent would be taken through the existing river intake, then split between the new channel and the canal into the original lake at the northern-end beach.

“We hope the channel work will be under way in the next month and water will run into the lake extension near to where the jumping platform is located. The idea is that water will help flush the canals on the western side of the lake.

“We’ll be monitoring water flows to determine if additional work will be required to get the water where we want it. This is just the start of our work to improve water quality at Lake Hood and Council is committed to investing in long-term solutions.”

Council also wants to make improvements at the river intake and is continuing discussions with Environment Canterbury



about river water.

Since 1 July, ACL has been managing the lake for Council. The company has a five-year contract for the work, which includes the operation of a weed harvester, which will start in spring.

Mr McCann said the Lake Extension Trust Limited had previously managed the lake

and surrounds for Council.

“We’d would like to thank the Trust for all the work it has done for Council over the years and we look forward to continuing to work with them as a developer.”

The trust has recently bought 10 hectares from Council to undertake stage 15 at the lake.

### Cr- Tony Todd

## Big numbers, library bustling over winter school holidays

It’s been great to see the stream of photos and hear about how busy the Ashburton Library has been these school holidays.

From dragon wings to masks, and even an escape room, the library has been bustling, and that’s alongside all the books and other items that have been checked out too.

The escape room, which was a free activity, was booked out well ahead of time and there was plenty of family fun as young and old worked together to solve clues to a Matariki-themed puzzle.

I’m looking forward to seeing the library’s final number of issues for the 2023-24 year because at the end of April they were tracking at nearly 20,000 issues more than the previous year. Membership numbers too are rising, as people join up so they can use the technology and make the most of the new facility.

Foot traffic at the end of April was about 130,000 for the year, compared to 80,000 at the same time last April, so I look forward to seeing those end-of-year totals too, bearing in mind the library was shut for several weeks while it moved to Te Whare Whakatere in January.

The list of regular activities never fails to impress me – there’s craft and chatter, the book club, the knitting group, Lego clubs, sound studio training, Wriggle and Read and Next Chapter, which is a monthly programme of literacy-based activities designed for those living with dementia. And that’s only a fraction of the list.

It’s great to see Te Whare Whakatere also being used for community learning sessions and workshops, in spaces booked by outside agencies and organisations. It is, after all, a community and communal space.

A room that councillors have spent a lot of time in and is up for tender, is the

temporary former Council chamber on Havelock Street. The chamber doubled as a civil defence headquarters in times of crisis and so has some extra amenities like a kitchen, store rooms, a shower and several toilets.

It’s a building with a lot of life in it yet, and is one of four relocatable buildings up for tender.

The tender process offers equal opportunities to both commercial and community groups, and councillors will weigh up bids against the intended use of the building.

The process is very similar to when the Mid Canterbury Aero Club acquired the former iSite building on the East Street green and relocated it to the airport, where it was renovated and became a new administration base.

I’d encourage any community groups who might have a good use for one of these buildings to take a closer look and consider placing an offer.



## SHORT AND SWEET

### A STITCH IN TIME

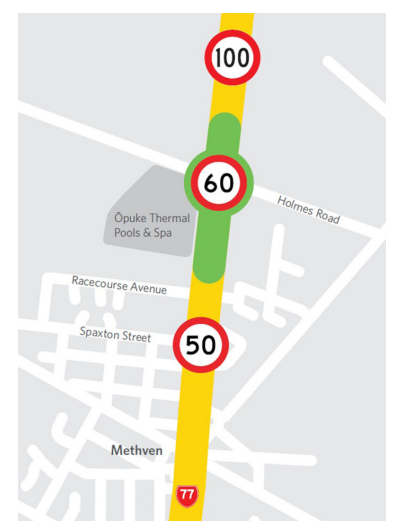
The Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum is running a clothing repair skills workshop on 8 September, to teach people how to fix rips, sew on buttons and mend holes in knitted sweaters. The workshop is open to those 16 years and over but limited to 15 people, who can bring items of their own clothing to work on. The workshop, from 1.30pm-4pm, will run as part of the annual Embroiderers' Guild exhibition. Email AAGM@adc.govt.nz to book.

### VOCAL ABOUT LOCAL

It's the final week of consultation for our representation review, which looks at how councillors are elected, plus ward boundaries and the Methven Community Board. Council is proposing to increase the Ashburton Ward and Methven Community board boundaries. It is also proposing to reduce the number of elected community board members from five to four. Have your say by 21 July, at [itsourplace.nz](https://itsourplace.nz)

### NEW SPEED LIMIT

The new 60km/h speed limit for Methven (State Highway 77 north of Methven township to just past Ōpuke Thermal Pools & Spa) 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.





# Exercise to help improve mobility

People with Parkinson's are being encouraged to come along to a new exercise class at EA Networks Centre, starting 8 August.

Parkinson's Play will run every Thursday, at 1.30pm, and is aimed at improving mobility. The cost is \$10 a class (or it is included in your gym membership if you have one).

Sport and Recreation manager Richard Wood said the first class in the pilot programme was on 8 August and would be free, so people could get a taste of what the class was offering.

"People with Parkinson's often experience mobility issues such as stiffness, tremors, balance problems, and slow movement.

"We know that exercise can improve flexibility, strength and overall mobility, so those issues are less of a problem. Exercise also makes you feel good, which is great for dealing with depression and anxiety, which are common in Parkinson's patients."

Mr Wood said EANC staff had been working alongside Exercise As Medicine specialists in Christchurch to get the class off the ground in Ashburton.

"It's based on exercise proven to help



those diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, and includes aerobic and flexibility activities and strength training. Activities like walking, dancing and yoga are also very helpful."

Support people and helpers are welcome to accompany people with Parkinson's coming to the new class.

"Exercise also offers social benefits and

getting together in a group can be a real boost to morale."

EA Networks Centre has mobility parking close to the main entrance and wheelchair-friendly surfaces.

If you are interested or want to know more about Parkinson's Play, please email [eancs@adc.govt.nz](mailto:eancs@adc.govt.nz)

## 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](http://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 continues from Oak Grove to West Street. Traffic should not be affected, but watch for changes.

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

**William Street** - Closed between Burnett Street and Tancred Street, from Monday 22 July to Friday 25 July, for work associated with wastewater renewals. Detours will be in place but access for residents remains.

**Tucker Street** - Closed between property numbers 5-13 from 22-26 July, so contractors can install sewer laterals and a manhole.

**Lauriston Barrhill Road** - One-way traffic from 18-25 July, between Line Road and Church Street, while electricity cables are installed.

**Peter Street** - Intersection of Peter and William Streets will be closed all day on 29 July while a power pole is decommissioned and removed.

**Graham Street** - Closed between SH1 and McMurdo Street on 29 July for road crossing repairs. Detours available.

Full closure details on our website [ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz)

# LIMs hold important property info

People buying property, including bare sections, are being encouraged to get a LIM (Land Information Memorandum), which will alert them to important information about the land, including confirming that everything onsite is legal.

A LIM will also tell them if the water and wastewater connections have been paid for, as well as any other Development Contributions owing.

Group Manager Jane Donaldson said a core part of Council's business was

to provide the water, wastewater and community infrastructure needed by a growing community and Development Contributions helped pay for that.

"Development Contributions are a funding tool that enables Council to recover a fair share of the cost of building and upgrading that infrastructure from people who are undertaking development."

Council adopted a new Development Contribution for Mount Somers as part of its Long Term Plan recently, meaning people building on land serviced by the new Mount Somers water membrane

treatment plant will have to pay a contribution.

Ms Donaldson said many people thought that buying a "serviced" section meant the connections had been paid for.

"However, that is not usually the case in the Ashburton District because Council charges for these connections when the building consent is issued."

She said anyone looking to buy a property, whether it was a bare section or a house and section, should do due diligence so they were aware of any risks.

## TENDER FOR LAND AT MOUNT SOMERS



Council is calling for tenders on land on behalf of the Mount Somers Reserve Board. The tender is for a five-year licence to occupy on 37 hectares off Tramway Road, Mount Somers (outlined above).

Tenders must be received by Ashburton

District Council on or before 4pm on 12 August. The licence to occupy would begin 1 September.

Please contact [commercial@adc.govt.nz](mailto:commercial@adc.govt.nz) for a tender application form or for more information.

**It's doggy rego time!**

Have you registered your four-legged friend yet?

All dogs over the age of three months need to be registered by 31 July.

[ashburtondc.govt.nz/dogs](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz/dogs)

Ashburton DISTRICT COUNCIL

## 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)