

SHORT AND SWEET

WIPE OUT COMING!

EA Networks Centre is excited to be hosting the inflatable Wipe Out waterpark course at its pools 4-6 October. It is the biggest water adventure the facility has hosted and tickets are selling out fast. Book via wipeout.co.nz

SCONES A HIT

Road safety and council staff promoting rail safety handed out about 100 scones on Monday morning to mark the start of Rail Safety Week. Take a good look both ways when you're crossing tracks in Ashburton town.

BE LITTER FREE

Litter-free Ashburton is looking for helpers on Saturday 21 September to take part in a special event during Keep New Zealand Beautiful Week. The event will run from 10am until 1pm and helpers can meet in the West Street carpark.

FREE ICE SCRAPERS

Frost got you down? Call into our Baring Square East office and grab a free windscreen ice scraper.

Mount Somers' new plant all go



Members of the Mount Somers community are being invited to come along and see their new water membrane treatment plant when it is officially opened on 29 August.

The plant will be opened by Ashburton District Mayor Neil Brown in the morning and then it will be open to the community from 2-4pm the same day.

The \$4.6 million plant has been supplying membrane-treated water to the township for two weeks and is in the final stages of commissioning.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said he hoped Mount Somers residents would come along and see the new plant in action.

"This is a huge improvement for the water supply and we're excited to see it finished and operating."

He said construction had gone to plan and the treatment plant would be operated by Council contractors ACL.

"It's essentially a smaller version of the membrane treatment plant we built at Methven and ACL will oversee its operation. Water volumes and plant functions are continuously monitored remotely, though staff will be regularly onsite to make sure everything runs smoothly."

About 150 properties are connected to the Mount Somers drinking water supply and before the new plant was built, heavy rain meant turbid water and frequent boil water notices.

The new membrane technology filters the raw water to a much higher degree than the old treatment plant, which allows it to be UV treated and disinfected to meet the high criteria set by national drinking water standards.

Mr McCann said the new plant was built about 50 metres west of the old plant on Ashburton Gorge Road.

"As well as improving the way we treat drinking water, we've also doubled the volume of water stored in reservoirs, with eight new tanks able to hold 240 cubic metres of potable water."

The new treatment equipment is housed in a new building beside the reservoir tanks and new soakage fields and settling ponds.

Water is sourced from the confluence of Woolshed Creek and Stony Creek, and piped about 4km to the plant for treatment.

Mr McCann said Council also had plans to further improve the supply in the long term by investigating other intake sources for the township's drinking water supply.

Mayor Neil Brown

Tune in to our Lake Camp water workshop

Elected members, including myself, are back on deck this week after a short break - it's straight back to work with a Council meeting and plenty of issues to discuss.

A couple of items that I've been keeping an eye on are residents' concerns at the low levels at Lake Camp and Environment Canterbury's proposed new representations, which tentatively would put the Ashburton district into a South Canterbury ward.

Council wants to know more about the Lake Camp situation and has invited scientists from Ecan and the Department of Conservation to come to a workshop next week where we will talk about the issues, what needs to be done and who will do it.

The workshop on 14 August will be open to the public and live-streamed, because we know people all around the district and beyond are interested. This way, everyone can get the facts from the scientists about what is going on.

Is it a natural thing in such a dry year? Can anything be done to alleviate residents' concerns about the low water level?

Managing the lake is not strictly an Ashburton District Council job, but we do look after the district and the people who live in it. If there is strong support from residents for us to do something, when we will consider what we can do.

But first, let's see what facts are. Tune in at 12.30pm on 14 August, or watch the recorded workshop at your leisure, via our Facebook and You Tube channels.

Environment Canterbury's proposed

new ward boundaries, as part of its Representation Review, have been rolled out for public consultation. There are changes planned for the Ashburton District, which has previously been part of the Mid Canterbury Ward that included us and Selwyn.

The proposed changes would see Ashburton become part of a wider South Canterbury ward.

Our Council already submitted during the initial stages of the review process - we did not support any of the options being presented on the basis that none would guarantee effective or fair representation for the district.

We will submit again in the public consultation stage and I encourage you all to look into the changes and let Ecan know what you think, before 2 September.



On a sad note, I want to acknowledge the passing last weekend of Roger Tasker, a man who made an enormous contribution to the civic life of this community in his 82 years. Roger was a long-time elected member of the Ashburton County Council, and then the Ashburton District Council (after the county and borough councils merged in 1989), and he also represented Mid Canterbury as a Canterbury Regional Councillor. He was later appointed as a commissioner for the Environment Court.

He had a great partnership with his wife Bev, who was also a district councillor for six terms.

Our thoughts are with the whole Tasker family as they mourn, but also celebrate, Roger's achievements.

Career Fest aims to inform, inspire

A careers event in Ashburton later this month is aimed at showing many of the different industries and jobs that are available in the district, to inspire those looking for work or to upskill or find a new job.

Career Fest will be held at the Hampstead sports grounds on 24 August, from 10am-2pm, and organisers hope it will be a game-changer for some.

The event is a collaboration between Ashburton District Council, the Mayors Taskforce For Jobs and the Ministry of Social Development.

Council Group Manager Jane Donaldson said at least 20 local businesses had registered to have displays at the event, which was free to attend.

“Our Mayors Taskforce co-ordinator Sharon Watson has been encouraging local employers to come along. In her role she matches young people with employers, and saw an opportunity for a jobs event that raises wider awareness in



the community of the jobs that drive our district.

“We hope families will come along and see all the work choices that are available, then talk about the merits of going to university or getting into further study, or learning on the job. This event is for workers of all ages, from those just leaving school to those looking to upskill and change.”

Businesses will get a chance to showcase what they do and the different skills they

are looking for, or willing to teach.

Ms Donaldson said Mid Canterbury had a diverse business base, including leaders in the agricultural and manufacturing industries.

“The knowledge and passion of our business people always impresses me and they need people to do all sorts of jobs, from installing new tech to driving trucks and doing mechanical engineering.

“Having a job that you enjoy, with people that support your growth, is important and this Career Fest is a great first step to making that happen.”

A barbecue, with meat supplied by ANZCO, and food trucks will be onsite at the Hampstead sports grounds and there'll be activities for younger family members.

People who complete a feedback form about their experience at the Career Fest will go into a draw to win two \$200 grocery vouchers (with help from Talley's).

Are you a business that wants to attend? Contact Sharon.Watson@adc.govt.nz

Learn about our rates support

With rates invoices for the 2024-25 year arriving in mailboxes, Council is reminding people about the different payment options and support schemes available.

Council Group Manager Business Support Leanne Macdonald said that just like many households, Council had been affected by inflation, interest rates and higher insurance premiums, which had contributed towards an average 11.8 per cent rates rise.

“We know that there are people in our community who are having a tough time financially right now and could find any increase challenging.

“One small thing that can help is having a direct debit set up in a frequency that works for you. Whether it be weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly, paying by direct debit will safeguard you against any late penalties.”

Mrs Macdonald also recommends that low-income households check whether they qualify for any rates support.

The Government's Rates Rebate Scheme provides a subsidy for low-income homeowners on the cost of their rates, with the threshold lifted earlier this year.

Households with an income of under \$31,510 may be eligible for a rates rebate of up to \$790 annually. Those who received a rebate last year will automatically receive a new application form in the mail over the next week.

People can find out more about rates payment options and support schemes at ashburtondc.govt.nz/rates.

Resident survey results

Residents' satisfaction with Ashburton District Council's overall performance continues to increase, rising from 66 per cent in 2022 to 67 per cent in 2023, and now reaching 70 per cent in 2024.

Chief Executive Hamish Riach said he was pleased to see satisfaction with local infrastructure continue to show improvement year-on-year and in some cases remain steady.

“Drinking water, roads and waste services is what Council continues to focus on and that's where most of this year's rates increase is attributed to.”

Satisfaction with the standard and safety

of sealed roads has increased by six points to 32 per cent and unsealed roads nine points to 55 per cent.

Council's drinking water supply received a significantly higher satisfaction score of 85 per cent, five points higher than 2023.

Satisfaction with the Mayor and councillors has also increased from 86 per cent to 89 per cent, while satisfaction with council staff rose from seven points to 90 per cent and advocacy by four points to 86 per cent.

The survey results were presented to Councillors this week and will be available online at ashburtondc.govt.nz

Looking to bring your creative project to life? We can help!

Whatever your planning, your arts project may be eligible for Creative Communities Scheme funding.

We're seeking applications for projects that:

- ✓ Increase opportunities for local participation in the arts
- ✓ Support the diverse artistic expressions of our local communities
- ✓ Enable young people to engage with the arts

Apply today and make a difference through the arts.



Apply now!

Find out more ashburtondc.govt.nz/grants

COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Meeting agendas are online at ashburtondc.govt.nz

Lake Camp workshop, Wednesday 14 August, 12.30pm (live-streamed)

Council Meeting, Tuesday 20 August, 1pm (live-streamed)

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

WORKS NOTICES

Walnut Avenue - Kerb and channel renewal continues between 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.

Aitken Street - Closed between East Street and Cass Street from 7am on 6 August until 6pm on 9 August, for trenching for wastewater. Detours are available.

Full road closure details are available at ashburtondc.govt.nz

PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a proposal to temporarily close roads to ordinary vehicle traffic to enable the holding of a community event, the **Hakatere Noodle Festival**.

Roads proposed to be closed:

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

Period of closure: From 2pm to 11.59pm on **Saturday 7 September 2024**

This proposed closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 - Schedule 10 (11 (e)).

Any person objecting to the proposal should lodge a notice of their objection and grounds for their objection in writing by post or email to the Council, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton by 4pm, Friday 9 August 2024.

NEIL MCCANN
Group Manager Infrastructure Services

TALK IT UP

Every Tuesday: 1pm - 2pm
Ashburton Library
Chat with a councillor - no booking required

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)