

Library drops overdue book fines

The Ashburton Public Library is hoping to see more users now it has scrapped fines for overdue books.

The library dropped fines for overdue books borrowed from the children's library in 2019 and this month it dropped overdue fines for the adult library.

Council Community Services Group Manager Steve Fabish said overdue fines had been reducing in recent years as more borrowers took advantage of online services.

"Council was happy to drop the overdue fines, as members can easily renew a book online now anyway to avoid fines.

"But this is more about removing barriers for some users. Nervousness about incurring fines has been keeping some people away, especially when they are busy and with the cost of living rising, as it is now."

The decision to remove the overdue fines was made by Council as part of setting the Annual Plan for 2022-23. It brings the Ashburton Public Library into line with many other libraries around New Zealand and the world, which have become fines free.

"Library fines particularly affect those who cannot afford to pay and then those people stop using the library. We're hoping that by removing fines, we're removing a barrier to using our libraries," Mr Fabish said.

"We are looking forward to welcoming back anyone who has stopped using the library because of the fear of accumulating fines."

He said income from fines was not significant.



Library manager Jill Watson returns books to the shelves in the now fines-free library.

"When you put it against the whole library budget and the investment that council makes, it's a small amount of money really, and staff no longer have to have those negative and often time-consuming conversations with members."

Borrowers who do not return overdue books will be sent an account for items lost. If books are not returned, then Council will seek to recover the amount owing.

"Borrowers will receive email reminders well before this happens and should renew their books when prompted by email."

The library is asking that members ensure their email addresses are up to date, and advise of any changes. Details can be

updated by emailing library@adc.govt.nz, with name/s, borrower number/s, and email.

Among those that have also removed overdue fines are Auckland Libraries, Central Hawkes Bay District Libraries, Rangitikei District Council Libraries, Masterton District Library, Upper Hutt Libraries, Selwyn District Libraries, Nelson Public Libraries, Waimakariri Libraries, Timaru District Libraries and Ōpotiki Libraries.

The new policy for the Ashburton library took effect on 1 July, so fines outstanding prior to that date will remain on borrowers' accounts and need to be paid.

Ash trees coming down on East St



Eight unhealthy Ash trees on the East Street green opposite Farmers will be carefully removed by contractors on Thursday 21 July.

The trees to be removed are between the footpath and the paved shared path for pedestrians and cyclists. A line of older Ash trees on the western side of the shared path will remain.

Community Services Group Manager Steve Fabish said the trees had been a lovely feature of the green for years, but had been deteriorating.

"Our specialist tree staff have nurtured them for as long as we can but the trees look noticeably poorly and it's time for them to go. They've had a long life and been enjoyed by visitors and locals alike, either walking along the green or seeking shade while having lunch.

"We will replace them with a species of Oak trees called *Quercus ellipsoidalis*."

Contractors are aiming to remove the trees in a day, and will be managing traffic on East Street while work is in progress. Parking along the western side of East Street in the area will also be affected.

The felled trees will be taken away for disposal.

Neil McCann, Infrastructure Services Group Manager Keeping our essential services in shape

Our infrastructure teams were on alert this week when MetService issued orange heavy rain warnings for parts of the district.

When notified about such events, council staff and contractors immediately prepare by clearing drains and sumps at known flooding spots, and reducing flow in stockwater races.

During the event we closely monitor our water, wastewater, stormwater and stockwater networks and respond to issues as they develop, which can sometimes be overwhelming in severe rain events, as in May 2021.

The Council Infrastructure Services Group is responsible for the management of drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, stockwater, roads and waste minimisation (rubbish and recycling).

This past year, we have ticked off some significant projects for the district.

The CBD upgrade, at around \$18 million, started just before covid struck and despite some pretty big challenges, including two lockdowns and maintaining access for businesses and their customers, the project finished on time and within budget. The only outstanding issue is the installation of the parking sensors, as they are currently held up overseas due to supply chain disruptions.

The upgrade was important as a vibrant CBD is essential for the town and Council is doing its part alongside building owners and businesses to encourage more people into the CBD.

The \$10m Ashburton Relief Sewer project was completed recently, and is already taking wastewater (sewage and grey water) from the eastern area of

Ashburton under the Ashburton River to the pump station and treatment facility at Wilkins Road.

This kind of infrastructure will help Ashburton town cope with the anticipated population growth over the next 50 years, and if the demand for more development continues, we will certainly need it.

Our roads continue to be a big focus with an extra \$1.7m put into this year's budget for improvements. Water is the enemy of roads, and last year's big flood and rain like this week can lead to more potholes and failures of the road surface. When potholes open up at this time of the year, we temporarily repair them until we can permanently repair them in the warmer months.

As a result of consultation on our Annual Plan, Council added some new footpaths to the roading programme.



One is a grit path alongside State Highway 77 from Methven to the new Opuke hot pools, and the other is a grit path on Racecourse Road, from Charlesworth Drive to Allens Road. This latter path won't be sealed until EA Networks has completed undergrounding their electricity network in the area, but will provide safer passage for pedestrians in the meantime.

Key projects for us in the water space include the Methven and Methven Springfield combined water treatment plant, the Mount Somers water treatment plant, a second bore for Rakaia, and a host of sewer main renewals and relining work.

Excitement grows for Glow in the Park

A tethered hot air balloon will add to the atmosphere at Glow in the Park at Tinwald later this month.

Methven's Graeme Church from Adventure Balloons will be inflating a hot air balloon on the Saturday night of the three-night lighting event, which is being held to celebrate 100 years of EA Networks providing power to the district.

Ashburton District Council is partnering with the electricity lines company to host the activity, which will feature a trail of special effects light installations around the Tinwald Domain and the Plains Vintage and Railway Museum.

The show will run on 22, 23 and 24 July, beginning at 5.30pm.

Council Community Services Group Manager Steve Fabish said there was high excitement about the event, which was supposed to have been held last year but was postponed by covid.

"We're hoping to see hundreds of families walking around the open space at Tinwald and enjoying some pretty special lighting effects.



A hot air balloon from Adventure Balloons will join the Glow in the Park celebration.

"The hot air balloon, on Saturday, will bring a different sort of glow and we're thrilled to add Adventure Balloons to the line-up."

The trail of lights will include interactive displays and there will be places for selfies.

Information panels will also tell EA Networks' story, from its beginnings as the Ashburton Electric Power Board to

the present day as a provider of electricity lines and fibre-optic cables for internet.

Food trucks will also be onsite.

Mr Fabish said that the event was timed to coincide with the last weekend of the July school holidays and with a start time of 5.30pm, it would be dark enough for the lights to be at their best but not too late for young children to be out and about.

New garden under way at Ashburton Domain



Regular visitors to the Ashburton Domain will have noticed a new garden under construction.

A 70-metre strip along on the eastern edge of a path from the water feature to the domain playing fields has been dug up, composted, and rotary hoed ready for planting.

The garden will mirror plantings on the western side of the path and serve to create an avenue entrance into this area of the domain. Buxus, hydrangeas, dahlias and delphiniums will be planted.

The picnic area and tables adjacent to the path is referred to as the Royal Lawn and is well used throughout the year, with access from the carpark, or via the domain's path network. The area features a Tilia (European Lime) tree, planted on 4 August 2000 to celebrate the 100th birthday of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

The domain itself was planned when Ashburton was first laid out in 1864 and over the years it has been developed into a beautiful open space, accommodating trees and gardens, as well as swimming pools and a multitude of sports.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ALCOHOL LICENCES

Council has received the following applications for new alcohol licences.

The applications may be inspected at the office of the Ashburton District Licensing Committee at 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton. Objections must be notified to The Secretary, Ashburton District Licensing Committee, PO Box 94, Ashburton by the date specified.

No objection to the renewal of a licence may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in Section 131 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

METHVEN RESORT - public notice of application for a new OFF licence.

The Methven Limited has made application to the District Licensing Committee at Ashburton for a new OFF licence in respect of the premises situated at 51 Main Street, Methven

The general nature of the business conducted under the licence is Remote Sales. The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is sold under the licence are: Sunday to Monday 9.00am to 8.00pm

Objection period closes **26 July 2022**.

KRUNG THEP THAI STREET FOOD - public notice of application for a new ON licence.

Thai Express Limited has made application to the District Licensing Committee at Ashburton for a new ON licence in respect of the premises situated at 96 Harrison Street, Ashburton.

The general nature of the business conducted under the licence is Restaurant. The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is sold under the licence are: Tuesday - Sunday; 11.00am - 2.30pm and 4.00pm - 9.00pm.

Objection period closes **20 July 2022**.

ASHBURTON LIQUOR CENTRE - public notice of application for a new of an OFF licence.

KD Kumar Investments Limited has made application to the District Licensing Committee at Ashburton for a new OFF licence in respect of the premises situated at 160 Tancred Street, Ashburton.

The general nature of the business conducted under the licence is Bottle Store. The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is sold under the licence are: Monday - Sunday; 9.00am - 9.30pm.

Objection period closes **20 July 2022**.

These news pages are created and published by the Ashburton District Council. For more information and the latest news, visit our website ashburtondc.govt.nz/news

TAKE A STAND

STAND FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

VOTE 2022
LOCAL ELECTIONS
voteashburton.nz

Interested in standing in local elections?

DON'T MISS OUR CANDIDATE INFORMATION EVENING

Tuesday, 19 July at 5.30pm | Council Chambers, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton

COUNCIL OFFICE

5 Baring Square West
Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 8.30am - 5pm
Thursday 9am - 5pm

ASHBURTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

180 Havelock Street, Ashburton 7700
Mon - Fri 9.00am - 8.00pm
Sat 10am - 1pm | Sun 1pm - 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 & ASHBURTON MUSEUM

327 West Street
10am - 4pm daily