

## Snaps of unique past go online

More than 1000 photographs and records of the Ashburton District over the past 100 years and earlier will soon be online for people all around Aotearoa New Zealand and the world to discover.

The photographs and records are from the Ashburton Museum and Historical Society's collection and Council's historical archives. They will be available online after the collections website is launched on **Sunday 5 May at 2pm**.

Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum director Shirin Khosraviani said the launch was part of the Ashburton Museum and Historical Society's bi-monthly meeting and the public were welcome to attend.

"The collection will be known as the Whakatere Heritage Collections Online and many more photos and records will be added over time. You'll be able to access the collection through our museum website.

"The launch event will include tutorials on how to search our collections website effectively, and we'll be hearing from those involved in the project. Cataloguing has come a long way at the Ashburton Museum since the days before computers and collection management software, and we'll look forward to being able to make our online collections even more accessible in future."

In most cases, images on the site are available for sharing and personal use as long as the Ashburton Museum and Historical Society is credited, as there are no known copyright restrictions. However,



Left: The first pipe placed in the Rangitata Diversion Race at Surrey Hills in 1940. AM&HS collection, ref. 04.1997.0146

Below: A Halma & Co. Studio portrait of The Gay Galateers' a local entertainment group who performed all around the county to raise funds for Ashburton Labour Day Galas, 1926. AM&HS collection, ref. 01.1980.0098.



researchers will also be able to purchase high-resolution images for publication or other commercial purposes.

One of the photos in the new online collection is of the first pipe placed in the Rangitata Diversion Race at Surrey Hills on 19 October 1940 – it shows the Minister of Public Works at the time, Robert Semple, and key workers standing inside the big concrete pipe.

The photo is one of a series capturing the pipe placement and comes from the collection of the Ashburton Museum and Historical Society, which has a special partnership with the gallery and museum.

The museum looks after the Society's collection of photographs, archives and objects unique to Whakatere Ashburton.

Council's historical archives include Ashburton County Council and Borough Council eras, meeting minutes, property and cemetery records.

Ms Khosraviani said museum staff, interns and volunteers had been working hard to get the records and images ready for the website.

"We'll keep adding more, and we're looking forward to sharing the collections we care for with a wider audience who might not be able to visit us in person."

## CE - Hamish Riach Big reading role ahead as council absorbs feedback

Council's draft Long Term Plan passed a milestone on Sunday when consultation closed and the massive job of reading and analysing submissions began.

It has been a busy past month with councillors and staff attending about 30 events, from town meetings to club gatherings and informal barbecues. But the feedback generated is important in planning for the future, from maintaining or improving essential services like roads and water, to investing in things like pools and halls.

We've had over 1500 submissions and now staff and councillors are busy reading through them all ahead of hearings that start on 13 May and are expected to run over three days. At this stage, 119 people have indicated they want to speak to their submissions, so we will make more time if needed.

Deliberations, when councillors debate and decide the final form of the Long Term Plan, start on 20 May. The final plan will be adopted in June.

The key topics that attracted the most feedback were the green waste kerbside collection and the water-based leisure investment, with more than 1300 giving feedback on each of those topics.

Early indications are that most submitters support a larger green waste bin that would take food scraps and lawn clippings and prunings. As with all the key decisions, councillors will look at the feedback, read all the supporting material supplied by staff and make a decision – in this case between adding a small bin just for food waste or a large green waste one to the kerbside rubbish and recycling collection.

Working through the key decisions and spending priorities proposed in the

draft Long Term Plan takes time and careful consideration, because any changes (doing more or less), affect the rates you pay.

The doors of Hine Paaka, the Council chamber, will be open to the public during deliberations and I encourage anyone interested in drop by and listen. The deliberations will also be live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook for the public to see and hear the discussion if you can't get into the chamber.

Another, but completely different, event that has also attracted a lot of attention lately is Glow in the Park, planned for the Ashburton Domain on King's Birthday weekend. This will be Council's third Glow in the Park and, as in the past, the event will be free. This year the domain turns 160 and its stunning natural beauty will be the perfect spot to experience the magic of light.



## SHORT AND SWEET



### PUPDATE DETAILS

Annual dog registration is rolling around again and owners are being encouraged to update their contact and pet details. If your pet has passed away, or you have a new pet or your address has changed, please log into our E-Services and update your details before doggie registration starts on 1 July.

### SOLAR FARM

Mayor Neil Brown attended the sod turning of the Lauriston solar farm last week. The solar farm will use the district's sunlight to generate 90 megawatts of clean, renewable energy for businesses and households across the district.

### SH1 DELAYS

Ashburton people travelling to Christchurch at night need to build in some extra time, with delays at the SH1 Selwyn River bridge from 7 May until 30 July. NZ Transport Agency will be undertaking bridge maintenance, and traffic management will be in place from 7pm-5am. Full bridge closures will be needed on some nights, with 30-minute delays, but these will be advised two days in advance.

**TALK IT UP TUESDAYS**

Every Tuesday: 1pm - 2pm  
Ashburton Library  
No booking required.

# Ashburton Domain ready to glow

Glow in the Park in the Ashburton Domain over King's Birthday weekend is shaping up to be bigger and brighter, with more lights, more rides and more food.

With just 29 days until the lights are switched on, organisers are finalising the entertainment and food vendors and preparing to set the stage for thousands of night-time visitors to the domain.

Group Manager Compliance and Development Jane Donaldson said the domain was turning 160 this year and its natural beauty would make a stunning stage for the illuminated light show.

"This will be the third time Council has run this event and we're looking forward to it. Thanks to our generous sponsors, entry continues to be free and we hope people will come along with their family and friends."

A new feature of the event is a low sensory session on the Sunday evening.

"This is an opportunity between 4.30pm and 5.30pm for children or others with sensory needs to come along when noise volumes will be lower and there will be fewer people. It's also a good time for people with mobility issues and we're inviting rest home groups to come along then."

Glow in the Park operating hours are:

- Friday 31 May, 5.30pm-9pm



- Saturday 1 June, 5.30pm-9pm
- Sunday 2 June, 4.30pm-5.30pm (low sensory session) and 5.30pm-9pm (general admittance)

If you're planning on coming, then bring your big appetite because a huge selection of food vendors has been lined up.

About 20 are registered so far and they include mobile vendors selling a variety of Asian dishes, as well as burgers, hot chips and donuts. Among those confirmed so far are Bangkok Wok, Jaeju, Riri's Food on Wheels, Mr Indian Kitchen, Tracey's Grub on Hubs, Smoke Ashburton, Loaded and Purple Dragon.

Ms Donaldson said past glow shows had attracted thousands of visitors and the roads around the domain would be busy.

"There will be suggestions for finding parking on the Glow website, but we encourage locals to consider walking instead."

Glow in the Park is sponsored by EA Networks, Event Hire, Juice Signs, Anzco, Talley's, Level Electrical, St John, Fulton Hogan and the Mid Canterbury Children's Trust, with More FM and the Ashburton Courier returning as media partners.

Ms Donaldson said other local businesses were also supporting the event and volunteers were being recruited to help manage the flow of expected visitors.

## Submissions pass 1500, hearings set 13-16 May

More than 1500 submissions have been received by the Council in response to its Long Term Plan 2024-34.

Consultation on the 10-year plan closed last Sunday, and at 9am on Wednesday 1 May the total of online, hand-delivered and posted LTP submissions numbered 1525.

Mayor Neil Brown said he was thrilled by the response from the community, which was asked to consider five key decisions and priorities for spending.

"It's not just the total number of submissions, but the broad spectrum of people we've heard from. We've received feedback from all age groups and from many people who don't typically engage with Council consultations."

There have also been 68 submissions on the proposed 30-year master plan for EA Networks Centre, which Council hopes to develop into a sporting hub for the district.

Mayor Brown said the number of LTP submissions was three times as many as in 2021.

"All five key decisions for this plan enjoyed a large number of submissions, but the questions around what our kerbside green waste collection looks like it and where we should invest in water-based leisure were



Mayor Neil Brown with some of the submissions received on the draft Long Term Plan.

neck-and-neck in terms of feedback, each attracting over 1300 responses.

"In addition to those five topics, roading, the second bridge and Council's spending priorities also emerged as popular discussion points."

He said councillors had been reading through the feedback as it arrived and about 100 people had indicated that they would like to speak to their submissions at the hearings, which are scheduled for 13-16 May.

Deliberations on the final plan begin on 20 May.

## Lake Hood water quality update

The Ashburton Water Zone Committee has recommended that Environment Canterbury agree to fund a biochar trial in Carters Creek to see if phosphorus can be filtered from the water before it empties into Lake Hood.

High levels of phosphorus are thought to be contributing to an algal bloom in the lake, which has been under a Te Whatu Ora health warning since early January.

The zone committee recommended ECan grant \$10,483 to fund the trial, which involves laying mesh bags of biochar (a granular form of carbon) across the stream before it runs into the lake. The application was made by the Ashburton Aquatic Park Charitable Trust, which is working with the Lake Hood Water Quality Taskforce and Council on potential solutions to the cyanobacteria problem.

The Water Quality Taskforce is gathering information about phosphorus concentrations to help decide on actions to reduce the risk of algal blooms at the lake. Total phosphorus levels have been highest in the Carters Creek inflows and lake intake.

Read the latest update, and a report from NIWA on lake management options, on Council's website [ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://ashburtondc.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)

**Activity Briefings**, Wednesday 8 May, 9.30am

**Audit & Risk Committee**, Wednesday 8 May, 1pm (live-streamed)

**Ashburton District Biodiversity Advisory Group**, Monday 13 May, 1pm

**Council meeting**, Wednesday 15 May, 1pm (live-streamed)

**Ashburton Water Zone Committee**, Tuesday 28 May, 1pm (live-streamed)

## WORKS NOTICES

**Seafield Road** - Work is planned for Seafield Road, between Christys Road and Stanley Road, from 12 February to 19 May. Traffic management will be in place and will include detours from 4 March.

**Netherby Roundabout** - The roundabout at the intersection of Walnut Avenue, Chalmers Avenue, Albert Street and Bridge Street is fully closed while contractors lay a new asphalt surface. Detours are in place, access to shops and parking remains.

**Blands Road** - Blands Road, between State Highway 77 and Thompsons Track, will be closed on 18 May for the Ashburton Car Club's Standing Mile event. The closure period is from 7am-6pm. Detours will be available.

For full details of road closures, see our website [ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz)

## RECYCLING STICKERS

Help keep your kerbside recycling in good shape by referring to the handy sticker on the lid of your yellow recycling bin - it has some helpful information about what can go in the bin and what can't.

If your sticker has faded over time, you can drop into Customer Services at Te Whare Whakaterere and grab a new one.



## RECYCLING CALENDAR

Have trouble remembering your recycling day? Come and grab one of our rubbish and recycling calendars - they are available at the Customer Services desk and online. Check the sticker on the side of your bin to see if you are Week 1 or 2.



### 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)