

Local Olympic legends on show

With the Olympic Games in Paris under way, Mid Canterbury's own sporting stars of the past have been given pride of place at EA Networks Centre.

Larger-than-life images of 10 local sporting legends, including seven Olympians, have been fixed to the western side of the indoor stadium, and there's room for more.

Sport and Recreation manager Richard Wood said Council had been working with Sport Canterbury on the special project to publicly display the sporting legends.

"One or two legends are inducted each year, as part of Sport Canterbury - Mid Canterbury's annual sports awards, and their images are on pull-up banners displayed only at the awards. We wanted to have these sporting champions on permanent display to celebrate the district's sporting greatness."

The 10 include Olympians Hayden Roulston (cycling), Lauren Ellis (cycling), Duncan Grant (rowing), Kieren O'Grady (hockey), Paul Ackerley (hockey), Stacey Carr (hockey) and Ann Shurrock (archery), Commonwealth Games participant Trevor Cochrane (athletics) and Silver Fern Angela Mitchell (netball), and All Black Jock Ross (rugby).

Sport Canterbury legends criteria includes they have given significant service to their sport, represented at an international



level and have been retired for at least five years.

Sport Canterbury Community Advisor Alice Breeding said Sport Canterbury had immense pride in the inducted Mid Canterbury sporting legends.

"It is a real privilege to honour and celebrate the inducted athletes at our annual sports awards evening, and it is always a highlight. We not only celebrate their immense success but acknowledge their commitment and dedication to their chosen sport.

"Being able to have the sports awards legends showcased permanently in a

facility that so many of our community's young tamariki and rangatahi step foot in regularly, is a fitting home. I hope that their presence within the stadium not only adds to the prestige of their induction but also stands to inspire all the young athletes in our community to dream big."

Mr Wood said the new display of legends was creating lots of conversations among those visiting the sport and recreation centre.

"It's inspiring for people to know about the local sports men and women who have performed on the world stage. We're proud to have them on show."

Rail safe week starts with free scones!

KiwiRail and TrackSAFE are urging people to take a good hard look for trains when approaching any rail level crossing during Rail Safety Week 2024.

Ashburton District Council will support the campaign by setting up an information station on the open footpath area near the East/Burnett Street pedestrian railway crossing on Monday 5 August at 8am.

It's hoped that the station will attract workers who have just crossed the pedestrian railway crossing after parking their car in the West Street carpark, says Neil McCann, Group Manager infrastructure and open spaces.

"These workers are crossing the railway by foot quite often, so we want to do our best to reach them with safety messaging. At the station they will be able to speak with elected council members and staff about rail safety, enter a competition and pick up some giveaways while taking advantage of some free scones."

It's timely for Ashburton since trains stopped moving slowly through town when train shunting moved to the



Fairton Freight Hub in April, he said.

"It is important for people to recognise that most trains will now be travelling a lot faster, so extreme caution is advised when entering the rail corridor."

In the year to 30 June, 40 vehicles or people collided with trains across the national rail network and there were 305 near misses.

At public level crossings alone, there were 11 collisions and 192 near misses. Near misses at level crossings have

steadily increased since a low of 150 in 2021. All of the collisions at level crossings and 77 per cent of near misses were at crossings that already have active protection.

KiwiRail Chief Executive Peter Reidy said 10 people had lost their lives in collisions with trains over the past year.

"The average freight train weighs well over 1000 tonnes and cannot swerve to avoid a person or vehicle or stop quickly. Our locomotive engineers can blow the horn and put on the emergency brakes, but there is often little else they can do.

"It's also deeply troubling to see that all of the collisions and close to 80 per cent of near misses at level crossings were at crossings that already have flashing lights, bells or barrier arms.

"For this year's Rail Safety Week campaign, we're promoting a simple behaviour that will keep people safe, taking a proper look in either direction, a steely stare and not just a fleeting glance, when you approach a level crossing."

Rail Safety Week runs from Monday 5 August to Sunday 11 August 2024.

SHORT AND SWEET

ROADING ROUNDUP

Our roading crews have been busy in the past year. Work completed in 2023-24 includes: 16,277m² of sealed road digouts, 3443m² of sealed road stabilisation repairs, 6262km of unsealed grading, 35,684m³ of maintenance metal placed, 50.1km of reseals placed, 9.7km of sealed road rehabilitation construction, 120% of the maintenance budget and 98% of renewals budget spent.

DOMAIN TALK

The Ashburton Domain turns 160 years old in 2024 and the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum is hosting a special three-month exhibition to celebrate the milestone. This Sunday, 4 August, at 2pm, our open spaces manager Ian Soper will speak about the domain and work to keep developing it. On 22 September, at 2pm, there will also be a drawing workshop, inspired by different locations within the domain. The museum exhibition will run until 3 November.

BETTER TOGETHER

Roadside alcohol breath tests in Methven and Ashburton were among 45,088 breath tests conducted in June as part of an initiative involving Council, Police and NZ Transport Agency. Better Together was a joint project to remind drivers of the life-changing consequences of driving impaired; police also conducted additional vehicle checks and driver education across Canterbury.

WATCH THE GAMES

If you'd like a big-screen experience to watch highlights and replays from the Olympic Games in Paris, then pop along to the Ashburton Library, which has non-stop games coverage in the event space.

YOUTH FORUM

A youth forum has been scheduled for 23 September in the Council chamber. An invitation has been extended to all schools in the district to take part and send 2-3 students to talk to Council.

Final days for feedback on parks

Locals are being encouraged to "love their parks" by having a say on the draft Reserve Management Plan before feedback closes this weekend.

The draft sets out how the district's 121 parks and reserves will be managed, operated and maintained, and includes everything from small neighbourhood parks to the Ashburton Domain.

Democracy and Engagement Group Manager Toni Durham says the draft plan consists of five volumes and while that might sound daunting, people don't need to read every word.

"We'd encourage people to start by looking up their local park or perhaps a reserve that is special to them and examine the policies and issues that have been identified for that area.

"Another great way to give feedback is using the interactive map at itsourplace.nz which allows you to simply drop a pin on the park you'd like to comment on."

As of Tuesday morning, 135 submissions had been received.

People can view the draft and submit their feedback at itsourplace.nz, submissions close Sunday 4 August.



Short shutdown for Hinds supply



The Hinds water supply will be shut down for two hours from 3pm on Tuesday 6 August for electrical work.

During the shutdown, council contractors will make repairs to the power supply to the Hinds water treatment plant.

Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces Neil McCann said equipment monitoring power to the water treatment plant had indicated there was a problem.

"So we investigated and then arranged a

short shutdown so repairs can be made. During the shutdown, the plant will not be treating and supplying water to any connections on the Hinds supply.

"We've notified Hinds School and residents so they can set aside some drinking water, or water to flush toilets. We're sorry for the disruption, but it's a necessary part of keeping the community water supply in good order."

A water tanker will be parked on Isleworth Road for those needing to fill up water storage containers during the shutdown.

Drawing in the tourists

Influencers and travel writers are among guests to the Ashburton District in the next six weeks.

Visitor promotion also includes the launch of the Winter Campaign on Experience Mid Canterbury social media channels, and the printing of a Mid Canterbury Visitor Guide brochure.

Council staff have been working with

the travel industry to host a Taiwanese You Tuber on a flying visit, an Australian snowboarder and journalist, and a New Zealand influencer. Their itineraries include destinations like Mt Hutt skifield and Opuke Thermal Pools and Spa, and activities like heli-skiing and ice skating.

An ongoing awareness campaign continues on social media.

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!



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 for a tender application form or for more information.

TENDER FOR RELOCATABLE BUILDINGS



Council is calling for tenders from people, community groups or businesses interested in buying surplus relocatable buildings. The temporary Council chamber on Havelock Street, the former staff tearoom and 10 garages associated with the old civic building at Baring

Square West are up for tender, along with three relocatable classrooms at the old Polytech on Cameron Street.

Tender documents are on Council's website, with a closing deadline of 12pm on 23 August. Go to ashburtondc.govt.nz

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)

COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Meeting agendas are online at ashburtondc.govt.nz

Biodiversity Advisory Group, Monday 5 August, 1pm, Wakanui Room

Representation Review Hearings, Wednesday 7 August, 10am (live-streamed)

Council Meeting, Wednesday 7 August, 1pm (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.

Lauriston Barrhill Road - One-way traffic until 2 August, between Line Road and Church Street, while electricity cables are installed.

Bullock Street - Closed 5 and 6 August, between Millar Avenue and Cross Street for contractors to install new connections. Detours are available.

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.

Tucker Street - Traffic management in place between Belt Road and Turton Street until 9 August while sewer laterals are installed at 5-13 Tucker Street.

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