

## Winter work ahead for road crew

Council is tracking the number of potholes it repairs and will have contractors patrolling known trouble spots over the coming winter months when more are expected.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said 613 potholes were repaired around the district in June.

“That actually compares well with June in 2023, when 1206 potholes were repaired. We’ve made a big effort in the past two years to rehabilitate or repair problem spots and it’s paying off.

“For the whole of 2023, we repaired 8406 potholes around the district, compared to 12,607 in 2022.”

Most of the potholes are on rural roads and Council’s maintenance contractor HEB undertakes regular patrols of areas where potholes are most likely to develop or be reported. Potholes are patched and permanent repairs scheduled for the warmer months when dry weather is needed for the materials to bond.

Mr McCann said some of Council’s sealed rural roads were formed and sealed at a time when there was less traffic and heavy vehicles.

“We are rehabilitating and repairing these roads as funding allows, digging out the failed areas and constructing a new pavement on top of the existing road. This lessens the chance of potholes in the future.

“We maintain one of the largest roading networks in New Zealand, with 1515km of sealed roads, 1102km of unsealed roads and 186 bridges, and if people see potholes on them, they should report them to Council or use the Snap Send Solve app to bring them to our attention.”



Council also maintains just over 230km of footpaths, adding to the network as the residential areas grow.

A new footpath on Racecourse Road in Ashburton is ready for the final sealing stage, while a newly-reformed footpath linking Geoff Geering Drive and Braebrook has been completed recently and is open to the public.

**ABOVE: A newly-reformed footpath connects Braebrook to Geoff Geering Drive.**

**BELOW: The new footpath along Racecourse Road is programmed to be sealed next week.**



## Deputy Mayor - Liz McMillan Looking ahead with enthusiasm

The end of the financial year triggers a host of annual reports, but before we begin rolling out work planned in Year 1 of the Long Term Plan I want to thank all those who helped shape this key document.

Thank you for taking the time to provide us with your feedback. We received 1522 submissions during consultation and we’re grateful to see such a show of enthusiasm and commitment for the future of our district.

We read and considered each and every submission, both from individuals and organisations, and your input was important in helping Council

make decisions around the important issues now and in the future.

We’ve ended up with sensible and forward-looking Long Term Plan that serves the best interests of the district.

The best interests of the district are also uppermind as staff consider Government’s most recent 40-point action plan and how it affects our work programme.

Sixteen of the 40 points directly affect Local Government, including:

- The Local Water Done Well Bill requires councils to deliver plans for financially sustainable water services.
- The new speed limit rule will reverse the previous blanket speed limit reductions.

- Cabinet plans to introduce legislation to tighten controls on teen vaping.

- Reforms of the Resource Management Act.

These are just a few of the actions that we need to keep abreast of and provide input on, and consider how they will affect the people in our patch.

School holidays, and an important rugby test, are on the horizon this weekend and if you are travelling on the roads then please take care.

If you're staying at home in Ashburton, then best plan for some congestion.



## SHORT AND SWEET

### SEE THE STARS!

The first of the Ashburton Astronomy Club's two free Matariki public viewings at Argyle Park will be held this Saturday, 6 July. Weather permitting, the rising star cluster will be visible from 5.45am until 7am. The second viewing will be the following Saturday, 13 July.

### ASA ART SHOW

The Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum is hosting the annual Ashburton Society of Arts exhibition, which features 444 works. The exhibition is always popular and will be open to the public until 26 July. It is the society's 60th show. The gallery and museum is open 10am-4pm daily, with a late night on Wednesday.



### NEW EVENT FEES

Council has introduced an application fee for events on public land. The new fee was introduced as part of the Long Term Plan and it is designed to help cover the costs of staff processing the applications, which can take considerable time. There is a discounted rate for non-profit and small community events. See the new fees and charges on our website ashburtondc.govt.nz

### ALL BLACKS

Traffic delays in Ashburton are likely this weekend, as school holidays begin and people travel to Dunedin for the All Blacks' rugby test against England on Saturday night. It's the first time England has played in Dunedin in 10 years and up to 30,000 people are expected. NZTA's traffic and travel pages will have all the latest information for those hitting the roads.

# Grants benefit community groups

Eighty-seven community groups and sports teams will receive a little over \$308,000 when Council distributes its community grants this month.

The grants were approved as part of the Long Term Plan adopted by Council last week.

The recipients include rural libraries, agencies like Hospice Mid Canterbury and the Ashburton Toy Library, and groups running projects, community events, biodiversity projects, improving infrastructure like halls and heritage buildings and providing school holiday programmes, and sports teams travelling for regular competition.

The biggest category was community agencies, where 17 groups received a collective \$77,750.

Deputy mayor Liz McMillan said it was always a pleasure to be able to help groups in the community with money to keep their good work going.

“This funding might be to help kickstart a project or support operational costs or wages. Some groups are upgrading buildings like community halls and



swimming pools, or making them nicer for users.

“The Fairton School pool is in desperate need of repair, so \$10,000 was allocated to them, and \$10,000 was also granted to the Ashburton District Neighbourhood Support to support the wages of those helping keep our community connected and safe.

“Most of the grant categories were oversubscribed this year and it would have been nice to help everyone. We

see the great work being done by many volunteers and they all help make the Ashburton District a better place to live.”

Grant recipients have been advised and the full list will be available soon on Council’s website.

A second round of grants will open for applications from 1 August. Funding will be available for Creative Community projects, heritage projects and trail maintenance.

## 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 from Oak Grove to West Street. Traffic should not be affected, but watch for temporary changes.

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

**Lauriston Barrhill Road** - Closed between Church Street and Methven Chertey Road until 12 July. The work is being done in five stages to allow the installation of electrical cables from the new solar farm to the sub-station on Line Road. Detours are in place.

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

# Focus on core work in next 10 years

Council has struck its rates for the 2024-25 financial year, following adoption of the Long Term Plan last week.

Chief Executive Hamish Riach said rates collected helped fund Council business, which included providing water and wastewater services, as well as roads and facilities like EA Networks Centre, the Ashburton Library and the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum.

In the next 10 years, the focus will be on core infrastructure - about \$50 million will be spent on new water projects, \$43m on new wastewater projects and \$115.9m on roads.

“The Long Term Plan outlines what we will be doing, the key projects and issues, the costs, and how we plan to pay for it. Developing it required a balance between increases to rates and other Council charges while keeping our district moving forward.



“The average rates rise for this new financial year is 11.8 per cent, which is a balance between affordability, delivering essential services and doing work that our residents have asked for.

“I’d like to thank everyone who took the time to provide feedback, including the 1522 who made submissions. Your input was critical for this plan, which is a key

planning document.”

One of the major decisions was to introduce a kerbside greenwaste collection in 2026. Another was for Council to exit its stockwater service by 2027 and a Stockwater Working Group will be set up to assist with the transition and monitor progress.

“The Long Term Plan also includes significant investment in our infrastructure, spending millions annually on roads, water supply, wastewater and stormwater. It looks to the future, by getting out of the stockwater service and expanding the EA Networks Centre stadium in later years,” Mr Riach said.

“Other challenges for the future will be funding the second Ashburton River bridge and Government’s Local Water Done Well programme, which will determine how our water services are delivered.”

New fees and charges came into force on 1 July.

## ELECTRICITY ASHBURTON (EA) SHAREHOLDERS

**Council is looking to appoint two committee members to the Electricity Ashburton (EA) Shareholders committee.**

This is a community-focused role where you can influence at a Governance level, and work with our local electricity sector.

It is a paid part-time appointment, with approximately 10 meetings per year.

The members will represent Council’s interests on the Electricity Ashburton Shareholders Committee for a term of 3 years. The committee will also include four other Shareholder Committee members who have been directly elected by rebate shareholders (Consumers).

Interested? Please email [hr@adc.govt.nz](mailto:hr@adc.govt.nz) or visit Council’s website.



**Enjoy puzzles and cracking codes?**

Grab your friends and family for an escape room adventure with a Matariki theme. The escape room will operate 8-13 July, and is a free activity. Bookings are essential.



Scan the QR code or head to our website to make a booking.



**MID-WINTER BURTY Challenge**

Challenge runs 6 - 21 July 2024

Pick up your challenge card today!

AVAILABLE FROM OUR FIVE LOCATIONS:

- Ashburton Library
- ASHBURTON GALLERY
- ashburton museum
- EA networks centre
- Ashburton

### 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)