

Meter data helps pipe renewal

Council will prioritise water pipe renewals in Methven, as part of its response to data gathered from water meters installed in the town 18 months ago.

The 1,213 meters have highlighted water losses in Council's 22km pipe network and in private connections, according to a report to Council.

Council's Group Manager of Infrastructure and Open Spaces, Neil McCann, said the information from the meters is valuable in helping manage water supply and demand in the future.

"The losses can be more accurately described as unaccounted-for water, and will include leaks in the private and public pipe network, or unmetered connections, faulty meters or illegal connections."

Data from the water meters is showing the difference between water leaving the reservoirs at the treatment plant and water measured by the water meters.

"At the moment that's showing that three-quarters of the unaccounted-for water is on the public network, so we will be bringing forward pipe renewals in Methven, particularly on older parts of the network."

The original Methven water pipe network was installed around 1925, but has been renewed over time and only about 2.8km of the original pipes remain; another 1.7km was installed prior to 1980.

Mr McCann said the 3.7km trunk main from the water treatment plant to Methven town was installed in 1967 and new bulk flow meters at the town end would help identify any issues on that part



of the network.

"They are big pipes, and have the potential for big leaks, leaks that could also affect the whole town's water pressure."

He said information from the water meters had helped identify leaks on private connections too.

"Fixing those private leaks can also prevent waste or damage to driveways and foundations.

"Had we not done the trial, we might have been focusing on the wrong areas, but Council can now focus on certain parts of its network to repair or replace pipes. Renewing pipes is only part of it though, because fittings, joins, valves and hydrants can all develop issues over time, especially in roads where they're under load.

"So, water meters are a big help, but we still need regular leak detection to spot new problems as they arise."

The report that Councillors received on Wednesday said Methven was chosen for the trial as the Council scheme had the highest reported water loss.

The data helps measure daily demand and understand typical household consumption, as well as flag leaks and burst pipes.

The following pipelines were already planned for renewal within the Long Term Plan, but as a result of this metering pilot trial additional pipelines may be identified for replacement:

- Spaxton St (Carr St to Main St)
- Cameron St (Alington St to South Belt)
- Jackson St (Alington St to South Belt)
- Farquhar Place and Talbot Place
- Bank Street (McMillan Street to Main Street)

Cr Phill Hooper Steering clear of negative drift

Over the last couple of months, we have asked our community for their feedback on the Long Term Plan proposal. Now I have another ask of our community, or a small part of our community.

When you are Council bashing on social media, please be mindful that there are real life human beings on the end of your bashing.

I'm not for one second saying don't comment at all, but why not try and make it constructive?

As a Council we worked a lot of hours on the Long Term Plan trying to get to the right decisions. Hours of reading, talking to the public, listening to submissions and then deliberating.

I can understand people's frustrations when we didn't decide in their favour. We didn't all agree with each other

around the table either, but that's democracy.

We got accused of not listening to the people around the Tinwald Pool, but only 31% of submitters wanted it to be kept. That means 69% of submitters wanted something else. To me that is listening to the people.

We got slammed around our decision regarding the Balmoral Hall. In fact, two regular commenters said: "I think our council needs demolitioning"!!! (excuse my spelling, but I do want to quote them accurately) and "You bring the sledgehammers and I'll bring the pry bars and shovels, we can do it"

I wonder if those two people watched us debate for over three hours on the Balmoral Hall decision? Can I suggest to the two people in question, don't worry about your sledgehammers and shovels, just bring your nomination forms for the local body elections next

year.

I'd love you to join us around the table and show us the error of our ways.

I want to continue keeping an eye on social media to gauge some community feeling on what we are doing, but I fear I may drift down the same path as others and stop doing it because "it's just so negative all the time". And trust me, getting slammed constantly is not good for one's mental health.

I urge you to continue having your say, but please read the full story before you do and don't just react to a headline. Also please remember we are just 10 humans doing our community service and trying bloody hard to do the best we can for everybody in our region.



SHORT AND SWEET

DOGS ARE GO!

More than 1150 dog owners have registered their pets, before the official registration period begins on 1 July. There are about 7000 registered dogs in the district and their owners must re-register them annually. Have you got your rego pack in the mail yet?

ANNUAL ART SHOW

The Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum is gearing up to host the annual Ashburton Society of Arts exhibition. Tickets are sold out for the opening night on 1 July, but the exhibition will be open to the public from 10am on 2 July until 26 July. It is the society's 60th show and our team says this year's selection of art works is looking fantastic.

LOVE YOUR PARK?

Council is encouraging residents to provide their feedback on a draft plan for managing Ashburton District's 121 parks and reserves. The Draft Reserve Management Plan sets out how local parks and reserves will be managed, what activities they'll cater for and what facilities will be provided. The plan has five volumes, each focused on a particular topic or area, ranging from general principles to specific policies for individual reserves. Submissions close 4 August.

MATARIKI SERVICES

Some Council services and operating hours at facilities will change over the long Matariki weekend. The Ashburton Library will be closed on Friday, as will the Customer Services at Te Whare Whakatere. There's no change to rubbish and recycling collections. Go to our website for the full service details this long weekend.



HERE BE DRAGONS!



A Matariki-themed escape room and dragon play will add to the fun at the Ashburton Library during the July school holidays.

The escape room is great family fun and bookings (via the library website ashburtonlibrary.co.nz) are essential because the free activity will only run during the first week of the holidays, from 8-13 July.

There are loads of fun craft activities planned for children and teens throughout the two weeks, plus movies. You can make your own wearable dragon wings, or a dragon key chain.

The dragon theme is because 2024 is the Year of the Dragon and it is 50 years since the game Dungeons and Dragons was created.

The children's holiday sessions run for an hour, from 10.30am and no booking

is required. The programme features:

- **Monday 8 July** – Make your own dragon from a paper cup
- **Wednesday 10 July** – Make a polymer clay dragon key chain
- **Friday 12 July** – Make your own wearable dragon wings
- **Friday 12 July** – Watch a dragon movie at 4pm
- **Monday 15 July** – Make your own laser-cut 3D dragon
- **Wednesday 17 July** – Create dragon-inspired watercolour art
- **Friday 19 July** – Colour in a beautiful dragon picture
- **Friday 19 July** – Watch a dragon movie at 4pm

The teen sessions include making dragon masks and heroic quests. The programme includes:

- **Tuesday 9 July, 2pm-5pm** – Make a full dragon mask that you can wear like a helmet
- **Thursday 11 July, 4pm-5pm** – Assemble a dice tower and decorate it with decals (charge \$5)
- **Tuesday 16 July, 2pm-4pm** – Make an adventure journal
- **Thursday 18 July, 6pm** – Watch a movie with us

Library staff are also encouraging teens to book in for a learning session at the AV studio, where they can bring their favourite fantasy reading to life, with immersive audio.

Ash and Burty also return with a mid-winter challenge – collect stamps after completing four activities on the special challenge cards available at any of our facilities, and go into a draw to win a prize.



1000 books

The Ashburton Library was abuzz with readers of all ages this week, for the launch of 1000 Books Before School, a fun programme encouraging reading to babies and toddlers in the years before school.

Register for the programme and receive a booklet to track your progress to 1000 books. If you read one a day, then you'll hit the target in three years!

For more information, go to ashburtonlibrary.co.nz

Rural recycling sites ring changes

Council has made some changes at its satellite recycling sites, aimed at reducing contamination and encouraging good recycling habits.

Metal bars have been fixed to the large recycling bins at Mt Somers, Willowby, Pendarves, Hinds and Methven, so that the lids only open a small distance. This should stop people putting large bags of rubbish into the recycling and contaminating it.

It should also encourage those who bag up cans or plastics for recycling, to take them out of the bags before recycling and

flatten any cardboard. Items in bags can't be processed by the sorting machines.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said Council operated 13 satellite sites in rural areas, where people can drop off their recycling and glass in bulk bins. "We have found that some people are dumping large non-recyclable items or large bags of waste into the recycling containers, which contaminates everything in the container."

Ultimately it means that load of recycling will be rejected at the plant and ratepayers have to pay to take it to landfill."



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)

RUBBISH & RECYCLING ON MATARIKI

Kerbside Rubbish and Recycling

Council's kerbside collection service will not be affected by the public holiday on Friday 28 June, so people whose bins are normally emptied on a Friday should put them out for collection as usual by 7.30am.

Resource Recovery Parks

The Ashburton Resource Recovery Park will be open Friday, from 9am-5pm. It will be open its usual hours 9am-5pm on Saturday and on Sunday.

Rakaia Resource Recovery Park will be closed on Friday.

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

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.

Windermere Road - Closed during the day between Poplar Road and Lower Beach Road from 26 June to 3 July while tree felling is in progress.

Lauriston Barrhill Road - Closed between Church Street and Methven Chertey Road until 12 July. This is stage one, of five stages, to install 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

MATARIKI VIEWING

The Ashburton Astronomy Club will be holding two free Matariki public viewings (weather permitting), at Argyle Park to celebrate the rising of the star cluster.

The events will be on **Saturday 6 July and Saturday 13 July, and run from 5.45am until 7am.**

Matariki is the Pleiades star cluster and the rising marks the beginning of the new year in the Māori lunar calendar. The public holiday to mark Matariki is on Friday 28 June.