



### From the Mayor



Prospects for 2003 are looking good for the Ashburton District. The district is buzzing with activity following some excellent Christmas and New Year holiday weather.

As I write this in the first week of February, we are continuing to have wonderful weather conditions, excellent for summer and recreation activities and importantly, great harvest conditions. Most sectors of farming are enjoying better times and this year's harvest is shaping up to be a good one. It is certainly putting

welcome the challenges that we face and the benefits that these will bring.

The Ashburton District Council is committed to being a very strong partner to ensure the necessary infrastructure is in place to cater for our community's economic and social development. Reflecting on the New Year resolutions and priorities my thoughts soon turn to water, water, water.

Quality, quantity and the wise management of this resource is one

# A District on the move — let us get on with it

pressure on associated businesses, which is a good problem to have. There is economic growth across most sections of our community which augurs well for our future. This district is on the move and will continue to grow in wealth. We

that we all must share responsibility for, as it is an essential ingredient in determining the future wealth of Ashburton District.

The Barrhill Chertsey Irrigation scheme must proceed.

Storage in the Ashburton Gorge must proceed.

The Rangitata River Management must proceed only on the basis of a successful allocation plan that has been in place for a long time.

Importantly this management regime was supported by the findings of the Special Tribunal in the consideration of a Conservation Order. Good input was provided by our community on the management criteria finally brought down by the Special Tribunal, recognising the

wealth of information that had been presented. Interference from outsiders with little knowledge is unacceptable.

I express special concern that our Regional Council (Ecan) is putting considerable resources into submitting against the Tribunal decision, which is again putting our community to unnecessary uncertainty, anxiety and financial cost.

Watch carefully their performance on the renewal of water consents for the RDR being heard at present. Practical common sense must prevail in the social, economic and environmental interests of our community.

It must not be allowed to become bogged down in bureaucracy and academia.

# Vandalism costs you money



Vandalism to signs in the Ashburton District is costing you, the ratepayer, a huge amount of money.

At the moment the figure to repair District Council signs is about \$4000 each month — almost \$50,000 a year. And that equates to about half a percent of the total council rate take. The only way the council can find the money to repair the damage is by asking the ratepayers to pay.

The financial aspect is bad enough. But if a missing or damaged sign was to cause an accident, or prevent emergency services from reaching someone needing help, the cost could be far, far

greater.

Recently a woman in the Ashburton District had to leave her seriously ill husband in the care of their 11-year-old son in the middle of the night while she chased an ambulance that had taken a wrong turn because of a missing road name sign. That case had a happy outcome, but the next might not.

Some sign damage is accidental and some is caused by wind, but that is a very small part of the total problem. Most is caused by idiots who think it is fun to blast a sign with a shotgun or to prove their bull-bars are tough enough to break a piece of wood.

The damage is costly, but when vandalism of about \$30,000 in the district's parks and reserves, damage to council-owned properties of about \$6000 a year and sums spent on prevention measures are added to it the amount reaches really significant proportions.

There may be no easy answer, but until people who witness these incidents report them, quickly and with details such as registration numbers, there will be no answer at all and the ratepayers will face an ever-increasing bill for repairs.

The message is simple — dob in the vandals or be prepared to pay for their "fun".

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# What's On

## ASHBURTON LIBRARY NEW BOOKS

### Fiction

Deadly embrace, by Jackie Collins  
 Matthew Flinder's cat, by Bryce Courtenay  
 Q is for quarry, by Sue Grafton  
 Hidden talents, by Erica James  
 The murder book, by Jonathan Kellerman  
 The Janson directive, by Robert Ludlum  
 The October horse, by Colleen McCullough  
 No angel, by Felicity Price  
 The babes in the wood, by Ruth Rendell  
 Fox evil, by Minette Walters

### Non-fiction

African visions, by Mirella Ricciardi  
 Beyond belief, by Barrie Allom  
 The dirty decade, New Zealand in the 1980's, by Stephen Stratford  
 50 years on track, by Sandy Myhre  
 Heritage, by Paul Verdon  
 The history makers, adventures in New Zealand biography  
 Jamie's kitchen, by Jamie Oliver  
 Rolling with the Stones, by Bill Wyman.  
 Star Guest, a life on stage, by Rob Guest  
 Think pink, by Tricia Guild

## ASHBURTON ART GALLERY

### Ewan McDougall: Let there be Bright. Exhibition: 1 February—16 March

Let there be Bright is an exhibition of 20 religious paintings by Dunedin artist Ewan McDougall based on the coloured lithographs illustrating McDougall's Grandmother's 200-year-old Bible. McDougall considers this exhibition to be important as it encapsulates a new development in his work, that is a veering away from the previous leering Art Brut 'party animals' toward primitive impastoed stickmen which might have been found on a 60,000 year old psychedelic cave wall.

### Out of the Blue. Exhibition: 05 February—09 March

This year the annual Something Small, Something Local gets a revamp with a new size, format and title. Out of the Blue showcases a variety of small paintings by our talented local artists from the Ashburton district. The theme Out of the Blue is open to each artists own interpretation and the exhibition provides a forum for both established and emerging artists to exhibit and sell their work. All the works are for sale providing the general public the opportunity to purchase original works of art at a reasonable price.

### Zonta Youth Award. Opening: Friday 14 March. Exhibition: 15 March—30 March

The Zonta Club of Ashburton once again presents this special art award for young Mid & South Canterbury artists aged between 16-19 years. This exhibition aims to promote excellence in youth art and encourages young artists to continue to develop in this field. The exhibition includes a wide variety of media and highlights the great depth of talent emerging from our secondary schools. Entry Forms are available at the Gallery and close on 24 February.

### Marian McGuire: Etchings and Lithographs. Exhibition: 03 April—07 May

This series of etchings and lithographs, by Christchurch printmaker Marian Maguire, are based on imagery from Greek vases. The lithographs explore the contrast between decoration and subject, while the etchings are narrative and more character based. Maguire has taken Greek myths, such as Achilles and Ajax, and given them a New Zealand context. By extracting the figures from the vases and placing them in a New Zealand environment, she has altered the perceived intent of the players and our interpretation of the drama, and shortened our distance from the drama.

### Entry free

**Opening Hours: Tuesday to Friday 10am-4pm, Weekends 1-4pm, closed Monday and Public Holidays**

## ASHBURTON MUSEUM

We have had a good response from the South African and Japanese communities for the continuation of our 'Celebrating Our Immigrants' units.

These will take place of the recent Dutch and Vietnamese displays. A group of Dutch tourists were delighted to find their homeland featuring our museum and made a special point of telling us so.

Research inquiries are continuing to come in at a steady rate and recently we were gratified to receive a very sincere appreciation from an Australian we had spent some time doing research for. It is always pleasing when someone remembers to say thank you for our efforts.

Last month Don Rickard sent us the transcript of a talk he presented to a Historical Society Conference in Ashburton in 1986. The subject was water in the development of the Canterbury Plains, a topical issue at the moment.

Don was at the Winchmore Irrigation Research Station for many years until recently when he shifted to Christchurch.

We thank the Rotary Club of Ashburton who have granted us funds to purchase a light box for viewing the negatives in our collection, which we are in the process of purchasing. It will be of great assistance when trying to select a specific shot on a roll of negative film.

In January Rita dressed in period costume and read early immigrant letters to residents at Coldstream House and this has led to three more requests to do the same elsewhere.

### Entry free

**Opening Hours: Tuesday to Friday 10am-4pm, Weekends 1-4pm, closed Monday and Public Holidays**

# It's rural fire season again



With the rural fire season upon us again it is timely to consider a few points in relation to vegetation fires in rural areas.

It is the responsibility of any person lighting a vegetation fire to first determine the current fire season status. If a Restricted or Prohibited Fire Season is in place then it is very likely the fire may not be allowed, or if it is allowed a permit will be required from the Rural Fire Authority, which is most likely your local council. The information on fire season status may be obtained from any local authority, and in the case of the Ashburton District Council a 24 hour information line is available at 03 308 5137. The information is also advertised on 10 fire danger level indicator boards located strategically throughout the District.

It is also worth bearing in mind that all fire suppression costs incurred in fighting an escaped fire lie with the person responsible for the fire. These costs can be substantial and figures in excess of \$100,000 are not uncommon for large fires. Additional to the suppression costs the person responsible for the fire could also be exposed to the possibility of legal action with a fine upon conviction of up to \$1,500 or 2 months imprisonment if they have contravened fire regulations.

For anyone wanting to burn vegetation during the summer months they should first ask themselves these questions:

- Is it really necessary?
- Is there any other way of disposing of the material?
- Must it be disposed of immediately or can it wait until the fire danger level falls and restrictions are lifted?
- Can it be done safely without endangering their own or their neighbour's property or inconveniencing others?

These are all factors that will be considered by the Council when making a decision on permit issue.

Where fire permits are issued a number of conditions will be imposed relating to such things as weather conditions, particularly wind strength, constant supervision, firebreaks, water on hand, time of day etc. These are all simple common sense precautions but the number of people who continually flaunt the regulations through their ignorance or arrogance is disturbing.

By being more aware and responsible the community can considerably reduce the incidence of avoidable rural fire callouts and loss of property. This will also reduce the demands on our volunteer fire fighters who so willingly turn out at any time of the day or night for no reward other than the satisfaction of providing an invaluable community service. We should all be more considerate of these people, their families and their employers.



Not the way to do it

## PROMOTE ASHBURTON — New group dedicated to promoting Ashburton

Ashburton is soon to have a new organisation dedicated to promoting the town itself outside the district.

Promote Ashburton is being set up to fill a gap that was seen in the marketing of Ashburton, its facilities and events held in the town, to the wider Ashburton community and to the rest of New Zealand.

Organisations in other parts of the district were doing an excellent job for their own communities, and the results were showing, spokesperson Nancye Pitt said. But the same was not happening for Ashburton.

The existing Ashburton Information Centre provides information about Ashburton and facilities such as accommodation and events to visitors, and the new organisation would not be involved with that role, Mrs Pitt said. It would be instead a co-ordinating organisation, not organising complete events but helping other groups with their basic organisation, finding event organisers and promoting events and the town outside the district.

Promote Ashburton would co-ordinate an Ashburton Event calendar, market the Ashburton brand and market events being organised by individual organisations.

The Ashburton District Tourism Board was an umbrella group covering the whole district, she said, and had agreed in consultation with the Ashburton Business Association to take a lead role in developing a new stand-alone organisation.

A steering committee has been appointed to set up the new organisation. Once an establishment plan is adopted a board will be elected with representatives of key groups such as tourism, hospitality, sports and recreation, as well as the Ashburton Business Association, Ashburton Trust, Enterprise Ashburton and district council agencies.

Membership will be invited from all sectors of the community, with membership funds gathered from a wide cross section of the community ensuring financial stability for ongoing activities and the ability to attract funds from other sources for specific events.



Chris Redmond and Nancye Pitt, two Ashburton Business Association members on the Promote Ashburton steering committee, discuss plans for the new group

## Mt Somers focusing on issues

The community of Mount Somers is focusing on the way it wants its town to develop in the future.

Through a series of community meetings a draft community plan has been developed. It is all about the community identifying the issues confronting it and dealing with them as a community.

Three key focus areas have been identified through the process. The first is to set up a liaison group to establish ongoing communications with the District Council, Environment Canterbury and the local member of Parliament.

The group would become the voice of the community concerning issues related to the development of Mt Somers.

Among issues identified were town planning, identification and beautification, tourism and enhancement of the water system.

The existing citizens Association was seen as the most logical organisation to perform the liaison task.

The second focus area was seen as a plan for the village, evolving under the umbrella of the liaison organisation, and through consultation with the rest of the community.

The third focus is on identity and promotion. It would include setting up and maintaining an information website based on the theme that the Mount Somers district is a great place to live and work as well as the recreational opportunities available.

Other ideas included a catch-phrase for the district and an entrance icon on Highway 72. The idea of a district newsletter has also been raised.

The draft plan was recently accepted by a community meeting and will be put before the Ashburton District Council for its approval on February 27. Once that has been obtained a full community meeting will be held to put the process in motion.

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# A healthy attitude to water

## Water restrictions are an essential tool

Recent hot weather has brought the issue of water conservation to the fore in the Ashburton District.

Ashburton and most of the district's townships have seen restrictions imposed on garden watering.

Restrictions are an essential management tool, council water services manager Andrew Guthrie said. They allow demand on the system to be managed, and let schemes that are operating near their capacity to operate longer before having to be upgraded.

If housing was to be included in the peak demand of any scheme its capacity would have to be considerably larger, and in the present environment it is unlikely resource consents would be granted to allow that to happen. Efficient use of water is a test applied to consent applications under the Resource Management Act.

People have expressed concern over the time of day they are allowed to water when restrictions have been imposed, Mr Guthrie said. There is a sound reason for it, as it moves the demand on the system imposed by garden watering away from other peak demand times, which are basically meal times.

The council adopted a policy in 2001 that allows it to impose restrictions at any one of five levels. The levels commonly applied restrict demand by allowing only half the properties on a scheme to water each day. If level 2 is applied the time of day watering can be carried out is restricted to 7pm to midnight, and if level 3 is imposed hand held hoses only is permitted.

There are a number of things homeowners can do to minimise the effects of restricted watering on their gardens.

Using a good mulch on a garden can reduce the amount of evaporation by up to 70 per cent, and is one of the cheapest and easiest ways to make the most of water applied to the garden. Watering at night, which is the only time permitted when restrictions are imposed, also reduces evaporation significantly and allows



plants to make more use of the available moisture before the heat of the day dries it up.

Removing weeds from the garden removes competition for the water and leaves more there for your precious plants.

When it comes to actually watering the garden, water the roots, not the leaves. Watering the leaves in no way helps the plant but does increase the amount of water that simply evaporates.

If you grow a lot of plants such as annuals or ferns a micro-spray system is a good idea as the water is applied to the soil at a rate it can absorb, reducing any losses as runoff.

If you are using a conventional sprinkler, consider using a timer. A forgotten sprinkler can use more than 100 litres of water an hour but a timer will let you put the right amount of water in the right place.

Other ways garden watering can waste water are by setting sprinklers so part of the water falls on paths and drives; and by letting children play with the hose. An open hose wastes around 1000 litres of water in an hour.



# Plugging the leaks

Late last year the District Council employed a contractor to find leaks in the water reticulation system in Ashburton.

This came about after usage figures showed the amount of water being used during the night was far higher than it should have been for a town the size of Ashburton.

Up to 44 litres was being used per connection per hour when in other similar towns figures of between four and eight litres were more common.

The first stage of the detection programme at present. When completed the contractors recently approved additional funds to cover the repair work.

will return for stage two of the leak detection programme, this time looking for leaks that were masked by the sound of louder leaks the first time around. These are more likely to be pinhole or seepage leaks.

The council is budgeting on a further 30 leaks being uncovered in stage two.

With the number of leaks found being more than double the anticipated number the council's services and operations committee recently approved additional funds to cover the repair work.

# Changes on the way for wastewater disposal

Most people will be aware that a major revamp is planned for the system used to dispose of waste water from Ashburton, but the details of what the revamp entails and how the system will work may not be so familiar.

At present waste water (sewage) is piped from the whole town to two oxidation ponds at the end of Wilkin Street. A pipeline under the river takes all material from the town side of the river to the Tinwald side.

At the oxidation pond a screening process removes solids before the waste water enters the oxidation ponds. The purpose of the ponds is to slow the speed at which the water moves through the system. This gives time for natural biological and chemical treatment to take place.

At the other end of the system the treated water flows from the ponds into the Ashburton River. This may have been satisfactory in the 1970s when the scheme was installed, but since then the town has grown in size, and along with it demands on an ageing system have grown.

It is a situation that could not be allowed to continue, and the discharge into the river also would definitely not have gained the necessary consents to continue.

### New system

The new system will build on what already exists. The two ponds at Wilkin Street are in parallel, meaning they are used alternately. They will be re-organised into three ponds and a fourth pond, equipped with aeration, will be built. The four ponds will be in series with waste water passing through each of them in turn, receiving further treatment as it passes through the system.

Then comes the big change. Instead of discharging into the river the wastewater will be piped in a 12 kilometre pipeline to Ocean Farm, a farm bought for the purpose near Ashton. At Ocean Farm it will pass through a fifth pond, termed a "polishing" pond, where it will receive further treatment. The pond will also provide some storage to allow for efficient disposal onto the land through an irrigation system, after passing through two gravel filters and an ultraviolet disinfection plant.

By the time the water is ready to irrigate the 260 hectares of farmland



One of the existing oxidation ponds

its standard will be equivalent to the standard set for water for swimming in. Once on the land further treatment occurs naturally in the soil and through cropping systems.

Solid set irrigation systems will be used to give good control over application rates and control over spray drift, although some irrigation guns may be used on the lower levels of the farm. During summer the amount of wastewater available may not be sufficient to maintain production and supplementary water will be obtained from an irrigation bore.

### Capacity

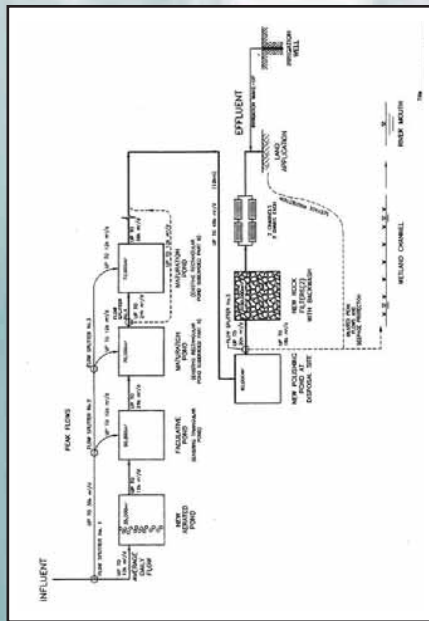
The Wilkin Street ponds are designed to deal with 48,000 cubic metres of water a day, slightly above the highest flow ever recorded in the existing system. The first 12,000 cubic metres will receive full treatment through all four ponds. This is about three quarters of all recorded daily flows. If the level rises above that flow splitters will cut in, progressively bypassing ponds to prevent them from becoming overloaded.

While bypassed water will receive less treatment, that is balanced by the fact that as the volume of wastewater rises the concentration of contaminants declines. Even at peak flow the system will provide much more treatment than the existing ponds.

At Ocean Farm the system is designed to take up to 30,000 cubic metres a day. That daily rate has only been exceeded once, in August 2000, during one of the wettest periods Ashburton has experienced since records began in 1927. If flows exceed that level wastewater is diverted from the polishing pond to a wetland channel running the full length of the farm. Further natural treatment will take place in the channel before it discharges into the river, which is likely to be in flood at any time peak flows in the system are high enough to bring the channel into operation.

### When will it all happen?

After several years of consultation and planning a milestone was reached on December 20 when the District Council applied to Environment Canterbury for the 11 different resource consents. Work will commence on the new wastewater disposal system once the consents have been obtained.



# Retrospect

## — a time for entertainment



The District Council sponsored street party to usher in the New Year attracted a crowd estimated at about 7000, as big as any that has attended the event before.

With three street parties behind them council staff now have planning down to a fine art, and it showed on the night with the whole event going off like clockwork.

The council has gone out of its way to promote the street party as a family affair, starting with the Kids Karnival during the afternoon, moving onto the Young Entertainers competition in the early evening followed by music and entertainment for adults through to the early hours of the morning. It was noticeable that many people who came to the party intending to stay for the early part only enjoyed themselves so much that they stayed on for the whole event.

The formula has proved successful with Ashburton being one of the few places that has not imposed a total alcohol ban for its event.

The annual street party has gained a momentum of its own and appears to have become a fixture on the Ashburton calendar.



Finalists in the Young Entertainers competition held during the New Year's Eve street party were: Casey Reddington, Rose, Sugar; Sarah



Templeton, Imagine,

Never Walk Alone; Haylee Campbell, Honey I'm Home, Doo ron ron; Courtney Holmes, Hopelessly devoted to you, My heart will go on; Sarah Hart, There you'll be, Eternal Flame; Rhys Patea, I'm like a bird, Walking Away; Kristy Hitchens, If we hold on, Any dream will do; T K Paul, Words, Hey baby; Lydia-Beth Disseveld, I'm a believer, Crazy little thing called love; Daniel Hitchens, I'm a believer, You say it best.

The winner was Sarah Hart (right) with TK Paul (left) second.



Everything came together to make this year's annual Concert in the Park on February 9 one of the most successful yet.

A large crowd enjoyed the music of locals Sarah and Anna Cresswell from 4pm, followed by Christchurch group Dateless 'n' desperate, Pat Kearns as Elvis and feature act Les and Dick E. Vague-as — the Vague-as Brothers — who had hundreds up dancing in front of the stage by the end of the concert.

The crowd, estimated at 7000, enjoyed brilliant weather that forced many of them into the shade of the trees surrounding the oval.

Proceeds of a collection taken up during the concert, amounting to \$3600 went to St John and the Salvation Army.



Children from Netherby School helped introduce the Christmas season when they sang Christmas carols at a ceremony to turn on the lights of Ashburton's official Christmas tree at the Library.



The group Vague-As Brothers performing at the Concert In The Park

## Programme for work to be carried out this financial year

### PARKS AND RECREATION

#### Cyclic Renewals

Upgrade tree plaques \$2039  
upgrade park benches \$6423

### CAPITAL WORKS

#### Domain

New tree plaques \$5098

#### Township beautification and sportsgrounds

Rakaia beautification (town centre redevelopment) \$30,587  
Urban reserve beautification Ashburton River Bank Development \$10,731

#### Rural Beautification

Canterbury Highway 2000 planning \$5110

### BRIDGE MAINTENANCE

Maori Lakes Bridge (Hakatere Heron Rd) \$41800  
Blacks Bridge (Rakaia Double Hill Run Rd) \$37370

### STREET LIGHTING

Continuation of upgrade of existing street lights to high pressure Sodium in Ashburton and rural towns \$45000

### MINOR SAFETY WORKS

Wills St, close proximity of Park St. traffic calming measure (urban threshold) \$4340

Thresholds at main rural roads at town perimeter (Hinds 2) \$6510

Thresholds at main rural roads at town perimeter (Rakaia 3) \$8490

Oxford St in front of Hampstead School, to shorten crossing area (pedestrian crossing bulge) \$6510

Elizabeth St at Hospital (pedestrian crossing bulge) \$8650

Farm Rd/Harrison St intersection splitter islands and widening (intersection improvements) \$16,270

Elizabeth Ave/Railway Tce East/Chapman St mini roundabout \$27,120  
Maronan Rd/Mayfield Rd (Clucas cnr) lights and signs (intersection improvement rural) \$13,020

Arundel Rakaia Gorge Rd at Ashburton Gorge Rd (seal widen/turning bay) Seafield Rd/Buckleys Rd intn (seal extend through cross roads) \$6510

Sawmill Rd safety issues — unsealed bridge approaches (improve visibility onto approaches) \$5420

### SECTIONS BASED ON ELECTRICITY ASHBURTON

#### UNDERGROUNDING PROGRAMME 2001/2002 (streetlight

upgrade undergrounding) \$27,120

New street lights, various sites (new streetlighting Rakaia) \$3250

New street lights, various sites (new streetlighting rural) \$5420

## Kerbside recycling is working well — but there are a few things to watch

The official prepaid bag system and the kerbside collection of recyclables have now been in place for over six months and, in general, are running smoothly. There has been a noticeable decline in the amount of rubbish bags placed at kerbside, indicating that the community as a whole is recycling more. Just a few reminders though:

- Please put your official refuse bag beside your recycling bin on the kerb, not inside it. There are two separate collections, one for recycling and one for refuse. Placing an official refuse bag inside the recycling bin slows the contractor down
- Please do not overfill your bin. When the wind gusts anything sitting above the top of the bin tends to move with it and add to litter around the town. If you have flattened your cardboard and plastics, placed your paper in a plastic bag on top, and your bin is still overflowing additional bins may be purchased from the Council at a cost of \$9 each

Official refuse bags are available from the Council administration building, most supermarkets, post shops and dairies. Please contact the Council if you require a list of retail outlets.

## Contracts awarded recently

### Contracts Awarded (past two months)

C365 - Professional Services for Contract Administration and Site Observation for Utility Cyclic Renewals 2002/2003, Connell Wagner Limited, \$25,600.00

C367 - Mill Creek Realignment, Brucefield Avenue, Ashburton, Sicon Ltd, \$91,632.50

C369 - Ashburton Water Leak Detection Programme 2002/2003, Detection Services Limited, \$24,200.00



Work under way recently to replace stormwater mains in Victoria Street

## Local Government Act brings changes to way councils operate

The new Local Government Act, passed by parliament shortly before Christmas, will bring some interesting changes to how Council operates.

Council will in future operate from a strategic plan known as a "Long Term Council - Community Plan" (LTCCP), which will be developed in consultation with the community. This plan will lay out Council strategies and financial forecasts for 10 years and will be reviewed every three years.

The Long Term Plan will replace the existing Strategic Plan and Long Term Financial Plan. The consultation process that was used in the past will continue with the new plan.

The guiding principles of the Long Term Plan will be a set of "Community Outcomes" which are goals the community sees itself developing towards. Once again these will be developed in consultation with the community. Council will then look at how it will contribute to achieving these goals.

"We are all looking forward to the changes and the challenges they bring to Local Government", said Council Projects Officer, Gavin Thomas. "We will be working much closer with the people and the other agencies in the community to create a vision for the future of the District."

Ashburton District Council is working towards having its first Long Term Council-Community Plan in place for the year beginning July 2004. Mr Thomas says, "We are working together with the other Canterbury Councils so that we all follow the same timeframes and can share resources and information."

"While we will be working with the other councils to develop this programme, the Long Term Plan for Ashburton District will be unique to our region and will reflect the needs and priorities of Ashburton District", said Mr Thomas.

If anyone would like to know more about the new Local Government Act and the changes it will bring they can contact Gavin Thomas at the Ashburton District Council offices.

# Six hours of AWESOME ENTERTAINMENT

Six hours of awesome entertainment.

That's what's in store for Ashburton's young people on Saturday March 1 when Rock On Rubicon, Ashburton's annual concert for young people, is held in the Ashburton Domain oval.

Starting at 3pm and running to 9pm the concert features a mix of local and out of town bands. Topping the bill is Auckland group Rubicon with lead singer Paul Reid (Marshall of Shortland Street fame). Standout performers from the last concert, New Damage, are back again this year after a recording stint.

Winners of last year's Smokefree Rockquest Phoenix Rising will also be performing.

Returning again this year is Alpha Cast with Michael McLeod. Local performers include the four-piece band Picture, Clear Cut with the Proffitt brothers Blair and Kyle.

Tickets for the concert are on sale now at the Regent Theatre in Wills Street or through Ticketek. They cost \$15, with gate sales on the day costing \$18. These prices should allow the costs of the concert to be covered.

The concert venue is licensed for the duration of the concert, meaning no alcohol can be brought into the grounds but it can

be bought there. Those over 18 would be wise to bring ID with them if they intend to buy alcohol.

Food will be available with Cactus Jacks and a sausage sizzle catering for most tastes. There will be strict security and St John and Acads will also be present at the venue.

Organised by the Ashburton Youth Council the concert is Ashburton's Big Day Out, an opportunity for awesome full-on entertainment.



New Damage  
returns this year



## New faces at the council



**Chris Ralston is a new regulatory support officer with the Ashburton District Council. He started early in January, coming from a background of working in the building industry in Ashburton.**



**Len Schimanski started with the council as a regulatory support officer early in January. He has worked for more than 20 years in the building industry in Christchurch and is currently planning to relocate to Ashburton.**