



## Councillor comment

with Ashburton District Councillor Derek Glass



I was totally surprised and mystified when the council's corporate services' manager John Rollinson invited me to write "something" for the District Diary.

I quickly reminded him that very few people would be interested in the views of a backbencher but he did his best not to be patronising and said that the system was hierarchical, wherein all the important councillors had already written an editorial and now they had decided to give the "minnows" a chance.

I have to confess that the scripture about "the meek inheriting the earth" ran across my mind and maybe this could be the first step on the rung of the ladder to accomplish that conquest — but to his credit, John persisted.

In my opinion one of the best pieces of parliamentary legislation in the last three decades was the Resource Management Act introduced by the Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey Palmer. This legislation has captured my attention since its introduction.

My interest in the RMA had its initiation when a family member was employed on a Waikato dairy farm as a pre-requisite to attaining a degree in agriculture. This off-spring was of right wing political views and hitherto believed that ownership of property instilled a "right" to do almost anything on that property.

We received a phone call and with it came an outburst "these people are washing down their dairy sheds and allowing the effluent into the drain which flows into the Waikato River . . . it's criminal!"

"Well," I replied, "what is wrong with that? The Waikato River will flow into the sea. Think of all the extra plankton that will be provided for the fish population."

For me this call was out of character — like receiving a call from an alcoholic saying they had gone "tea total!"

History, I'm certain, will proclaim the RMA as a hallmark of environmental responsibility to be held in esteem by the western world.

The administration of this Act is largely in the domain of regional and district councils and, in my opinion, the Ashburton District Council and its planning staff can stand tall and be proud of the manner in which it has handled that responsibility.

There is a down side though in the administration of this Act and that is the ever growing number of resource consultants and lawyers who see this Act as a "gravy train" to make a buck.

In the case of a recent application for renewal of a consent, I got offended when I received numerous letters in the mail from RMA consultants wishing to help me apply for my renewal, and pointing out that this was

to page 2

Ashburton's parking wardens have recently seen a leap in technology in their job, with the introduction of hand-held units to record details of parking infringements. Tickets are printed out on the spot using a small printer worn over the shoulder. The tickets are on a plastic material so they are not affected by weather or torn easily by angry motorists



### 'Hi-tech tickets' arrive!

# Survey paints positive picture of the District

Each year the Ashburton District Council surveys a sample of District residents asking questions about a number of aspects about life in the District.

This year the survey painted a positive picture of life, with most people who took part being satisfied with the general standard of services provided and the quality of life in Ashburton District.

Satisfaction levels were generally fairly similar to those of 2004, with some variations for different services.

Of particular interest was the fact that 58 per cent described their quality of life as being very good, while out of the 400 surveyed not one described their quality of life as poor.

People were asked if they thought Ashburton was a better or worse place to live than it was three years ago, in relation to the standard of those amenities the council could influence. Forty-six per cent said it was better, 42 per cent said it was the same and only 5 per cent said it was worse.

Forty per cent said community spirit was very good, 49 per cent good and only 3 per cent said it was not very good. Older people were more likely to say it was very good, as were people who had

lived in the District more than 10 years.

Safety was another issue surveyed, with people being asked if they thought Ashburton District was generally a safe place to live. Forty-seven per cent answered with a definite yes, 50 per cent said it was mostly safe and only 3 per cent said it was not really safe. Rural people were less definite in their response than those living in town.

#### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

When it came to public involvement in council decision making, only 16 per cent were very satisfied. Fifty-six per cent were satisfied and 9 per cent dissatisfied, the remainder having no strong feelings. Males and those with lower household incomes were more inclined to say they were not satisfied.

Most, 58 per cent, felt the overall quality of life was very good, 37 per cent good, 4 per cent fair and 1 per cent did not know if it was good or poor.

The increasingly diverse nature of the lifestyles and backgrounds of people living in the Ashburton District was seen as making the district better by 38 per cent while 15 per cent said it made it much better. Thirty-eight per cent had no strong feelings and 7 per cent said

it made it worse.

A new question relating to the environment was asked this year. People were asked if they were satisfied with the way the natural environment was being preserved and sustained for future generations. Fifty-seven per cent were satisfied, 22 per cent very satisfied, 8 per cent dissatisfied, 2 per cent very dissatisfied and 10 per cent with no feelings either way. Long term residents and those with lower household incomes were more likely to say they were very satisfied.

Another new question related to health, with people being asked if they were satisfied with the district's health services. While 15 per cent were dissatisfied, the satisfied and very satisfied categories combined totalled 72 per cent. Satisfaction increased with age and those with lower incomes were also more inclined to be satisfied.

The final question was about education and asked people to rate their satisfaction with local services. Thirty-one per cent were very satisfied, 42 per cent satisfied and 8 per cent either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. Ratepayers were more likely to say they were satisfied than non-ratepayers were.



Building consents, do you need one? . . . . .	Page 2
Ashburton's best read books . . . . .	Page 2
New faces at the council . . . . .	Page 2
Changes to our voting . . . . .	Page 3, 4, 5, 6
What's on at the Museum . . . . .	Page 7
What's on at the Art Gallery . . . . .	Page 7
Recent book purchases by the Library . . . . .	Page 7
Portable signs are covered by a by-law . . . . .	Page 8
Food scrap collection on trial . . . . .	Page 8
Time running out for honours' nominations . . . . .	Page 8



### Ashburton District Council

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## Councillor comment

from page 1

public information and whilst my renewal was not due for another few months it could be a drawn out process, they would "like to help".

They also pointed out that the costs involved would range from \$4000 to in excess of \$100,000 depending on how professionally the application was processed (hopefully in the lower end if they were involved!)

In the end, I managed it all by myself for the cost of the application fee (\$700). Now the only highlight those poor consultants will have is to look forward to Cullen's \$2 tax break in two years' time!

In a recent consent hearing of which I am aware, a landscape consultant was employed to look over the area (why the blazes that was escapes me).

He would probably have known more about the placement of garden gnomes than the rugged terrain to which he had been sent. This was all borne out when the poor guy got "bushed" for four hours and then had the audacity to put in his invoice for \$85 per hour for all the time he was lost. All would be borne by the applicant, of course!

I thought that getting lost on the way to work was something that went with the territory and should be borne by the worker just like the cost of getting a "flatty" on his bike would be.

His consolation, of course, is that he found another use for his 4X4 other than parking on the footpath when shopping for his groceries. . . But a photograph of it, including its coating of rural excrement would be a good talking point at the next wine party. No doubt he will include an executive car wash receipt with his next lot of expenses. It is all part of being on the RMA gravy train!

Nevertheless, in a serious vein, it is a reminder that the RMA, in the words of its author, was to be "an enabling legislation" and in that respect, although it may not be obvious, I believe it is very successful.

## New car park to be established in Burnett Street

A new public car park is to be established on a vacant council-owned section adjacent to the Ashburton fire station. The decision was made at the recent services and operations committee meeting to develop the area with a fully sealed surface for parking between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Saturday.

A two-hour parking restriction is to be imposed Monday to Saturday on the south west side of Burnett Street for a distance of 55 metres south east of the Cass Street intersection. The move was in recognition of recent changes to retailing in the area.

## Do you need a building consent?

**B**uilding a silo? Installing a new fuel tank? What about a fertiliser silo? Do you require a building consent?

The short answer is yes.

The Ashburton District Council is wanting to clear up a few misconceptions about some specialist types of buildings, such as silos and tanks.

All structures with a floor area greater than 10 square metres require a building consent, and that includes

silos that are fixtures.

Historically speaking silos were exempt but the Building Act now requires a consent for anything above the minimum size that has a foundation.

In fact, it's easier to list the types of buildings and work that are exempt than it is to list those requiring consents.

Anyone who is unsure whether the structure they intend building needs a consent can call the inspectors'

department at the council to check.

While the council does not want to get heavy by quoting the penalties in the Building Act for proceeding without a consent (up to \$100,000 plus \$10,000 a day) it does point out that the real penalty for building owners could come if there is a fire or other event that results in damage to a structure.

Insurance companies could quite legitimately use the absence of a consent as a reason for declining a claim.

## Best reads

An Ashburton Library advertisement in The Courier asking Ashburton's book readers to nominate their favourite books and authors drew an enthusiastic response from more than 200 people.

Librarian Dianne Haslett said people were asked to list their five favourite fiction books, the intention being to come up with a list of the 10 most popular authors and titles as the library's contribution to marking Celebrate Library Week. Several books tied for the different spots, so the list had grown somewhat, she said.

The list was an incredibly diverse one, ranging from Pride and Prejudice to Harry Potter and including books such as Wuthering Heights.

Those who entered went in a draw for a \$50 book voucher, the winner being H. Robertson.

The lists of most popular books and authors were— 1st equal: **The Da Vinci Code**, Dan Brown; **Jessica**, Bryce Courtenay; **The Other Boleyn Girl**, Philippa Gregory. 4th: **The Power Of One**, Bryce Courtenay. 5th Equal: **Circle Of Friends**, Maeve Binchy; **Brother Fish**, Bryce Courtenay; **Cross Stitch**, Diana Gabaldon; **Sarum**, Edward Rutherfurd; **The Lovely Bones**, Alice Sebold. 10th Equal: **Into The Wilderness**, Sara Donati; **The Stand**, Stephen King; **My Sisters Keeper**, Jodi Picoult; **Monsoon**, Wilbur Smith; **Lord Of The Rings**, J.R.R. Tolkien.

Favourite Authors — 1st Bryce Courtenay; 2nd J. K. Rowling; 3rd Dan Brown; 4th Maeve Binchy; 5th equal Dick Francis, John Grisham, Edward Rutherfurd, Philippa Gregory; 9th Equal, Stephen King, Jodi Picoult, Wilbur Smith, Danielle Steel; 13th Equal: Patricia Cornwell, J.R.R. Tolkien.

## New faces

Christine Sampson has recently taken up the new position of Secretary to the Environmental Manager. Christine started with the council at the beginning of October and has found the work to be quite a change from her previous position with Ashburton Hospital.

Frank Clausen is in charge of the help desk in the information systems department. The work is varied and includes sorting out both hardware and software issues and virus checking. Frank started with the council late in September. Originally from the UK, he has been in New Zealand a only few months.

Elsie Sargent is a cashier and typist. She started in the position in mid-August, travelling each day from her home in Methven.

Recent internal appointments include Jule McLaren as Library Assistant; Robin Johnstone as Senior IT Systems Administrator; Debbie Thompson as IT Systems Development Officer; Kaye Chapman as Customer Services Officer in the Operations Department.



Elsie Sargent



Frank Clausen



Christine Sampson

## 50 per cent more off licences

**T**here are now 50 per cent more off licences in the Ashburton District than a year ago, the number having moved from 18 to 27.

In the present deregulated environment the number of licences is determined by the market. If an applicant meets the criteria in the Act and District Licensing Agency Policy, then the DLA must approve the application.

Time will tell if there is sufficient demand to sustain this number of new licensed premises.

The sale, supply and consumption of liquor is controlled by the Sale of Liquor Act 1989.

The intent of the Act is to establish a reasonable system of control over the sale and supply of liquor.

An off licence permits the sale of liquor (unopened) for consumption off the

premises.

An off-licence may be held in respect of a tavern, a bottle store, supermarket / grocery and some other types of premises- e.g. a tourist / souvenir shop where specific items may be sold.

Supermarkets / grocers are eligible to apply for off licences to sell beer and wine if they meet the criteria, as beer and wine are considered an accompaniment to the sale

of household groceries.

Off sales for other liquor (spirits) are, with a few exceptions, confined to bottle stores.

Supermarkets are bound by the same rules as other off-licence premises with regard to having a duty manager at all times when the premises are open for the sale of liquor, and ensuring that liquor is not sold to minors or intoxicated persons.

# REPRESENTATION REVIEW

Once in six years all councils are required to examine their political structure.

They are required to consult with their communities before they make decisions on the various issues.

To help determine council representation and the make-up of any wards we are seeking your views on:

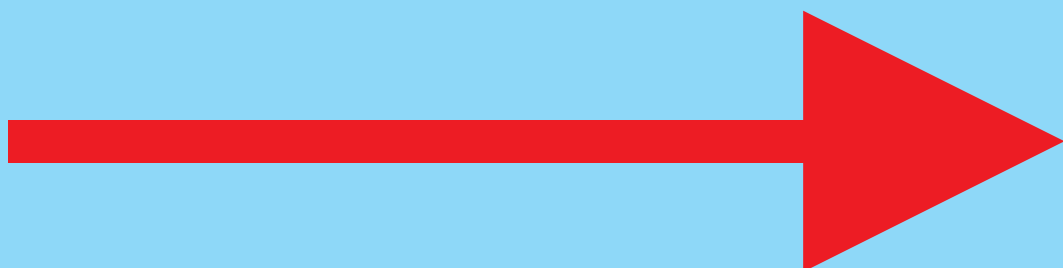
- The total number of elected members.
- Whether those members should be elected on a ward basis, by the whole District or a combination of both.
- If you want to retain wards, how many should there be, what should their boundaries be based on and the names of those wards.
- The number of members per ward (remembering the population criteria/ratios as indicated)
- The structure of any community boards, their boundaries (communities) and number of members.



## WHAT'S THE COUNCIL DOING ABOUT IT?

The next election may be two years away, but the review process has started already in Ashburton.

Council has agreed on its preliminary proposals and the options available are discussed in the following pages.



## What do we have now?

### Ashburton District Council

- A Mayor elected by all voters in the district (this does not change)
- 12 councillors elected by voters in three wards
- The existing wards are:
  - Ashburton (six members)
  - Rakaia (two members)
  - Methven Hinds (four members)

### Methven Community Board

- The Board has seven members
- Five elected by voters in the Methven Township, two Ashburton District Councillors elected by voters in the Methven Hinds Ward are appointed to the Board by the Council.

See map for existing ward boundaries.



## Can we stay with what we have?

No — representation is now determined by the Local Electoral Act 2001. Under the Act, ward boundaries and representation **must** be set on the basis of population alone.

Factors like communities of interest and fair and effective representation can only be taken into account once the population requirement is met.

The only exceptions — based on Local Government Commission criteria — are in cases of isolated and island communities, and they don't apply in the Ashburton District.

## How is the new population requirement applied?

The Act establishes a population based formula to determine the number of members per ward.

Using the formula, the population of each ward divided by the number of members for that ward, must produce a figure that is no more than 10% greater or smaller than the population of the district divided by the total number of elected members.

Under the current representation arrangement the population formula is not met in two of the wards in the Ashburton District (see figure). This means that council cannot continue with the existing electoral structure and representation distribution.

Figure 1: Ashburton District Council existing representation.  
Ratio limits as per the population formula:  
Low limit: [-10%] 1:2003. High Limit [+10%] 1:2447

Area/Ward	Population as per updated figures	Current Membership	Ratio
District	26,700	12	1:2225
Methven/Hinds Ward	7536	4	1:1884
Rakaia Ward	4628	2	1:2134
Ashburton Ward	14,896	6	1:2483

# Question 1: How many councillors?

6 8 10 12 14  
22 24 30

**CONSIDER THIS—**

It is preferable to have an even number of councillors to avoid a casting vote.  
The size of our District means a number of councillors close to the status quo is necessary for adequate representation.  
Having fewer councillors would increase individual workloads and make the job less attractive to would-be candidates.

**Options:**

There can be any number of councillors between six and 30.  
If there are 17 councillors one of them may be a Maori representative — to be decided by poll.

**THE FACTS:**

- Residents opted for 12 in the recent NRB survey
- The number makes no difference to total salary - the same amount is allocated regardless of number
- Population based rules mean that in a 12 member council there can be only five councillors representing rural areas
- There are 12 councillors at present

**At Present**  
**12** (6 urban, 6 rural)  
**+ the Mayor**

**Preferred option**  
**12** (7 urban, 5 rural)  
**+the Mayor**

# Question 2: Should councillors be elected from wards, or from the whole district?

**At Present:**  
**Two Rural & one Urban**

**Preferred option:**  
**Two Rural & one Urban**

**CONSIDER THIS:**

Any councillor elected at large increases the chance that parts of the district — urban and rural — will not be represented.  
At large appointees are similar to the Parliamentary list candidates in that they are not accountable to any particular community.  
It is possible that people voting at large would give unreasonable weight to where candidates live (i.e., in their particular township, rather than the quality of the candidates).

**Options**

Possible options for wards plus at large representation are:

URBAN	RURAL 1	RURAL 2	AT LARGE	TOTAL
6	2	2	2	12
5	2	1	2	10
5	2	1	4	12
3	1	1	7	12
3	1	1	5	10
3	1	1	3	8

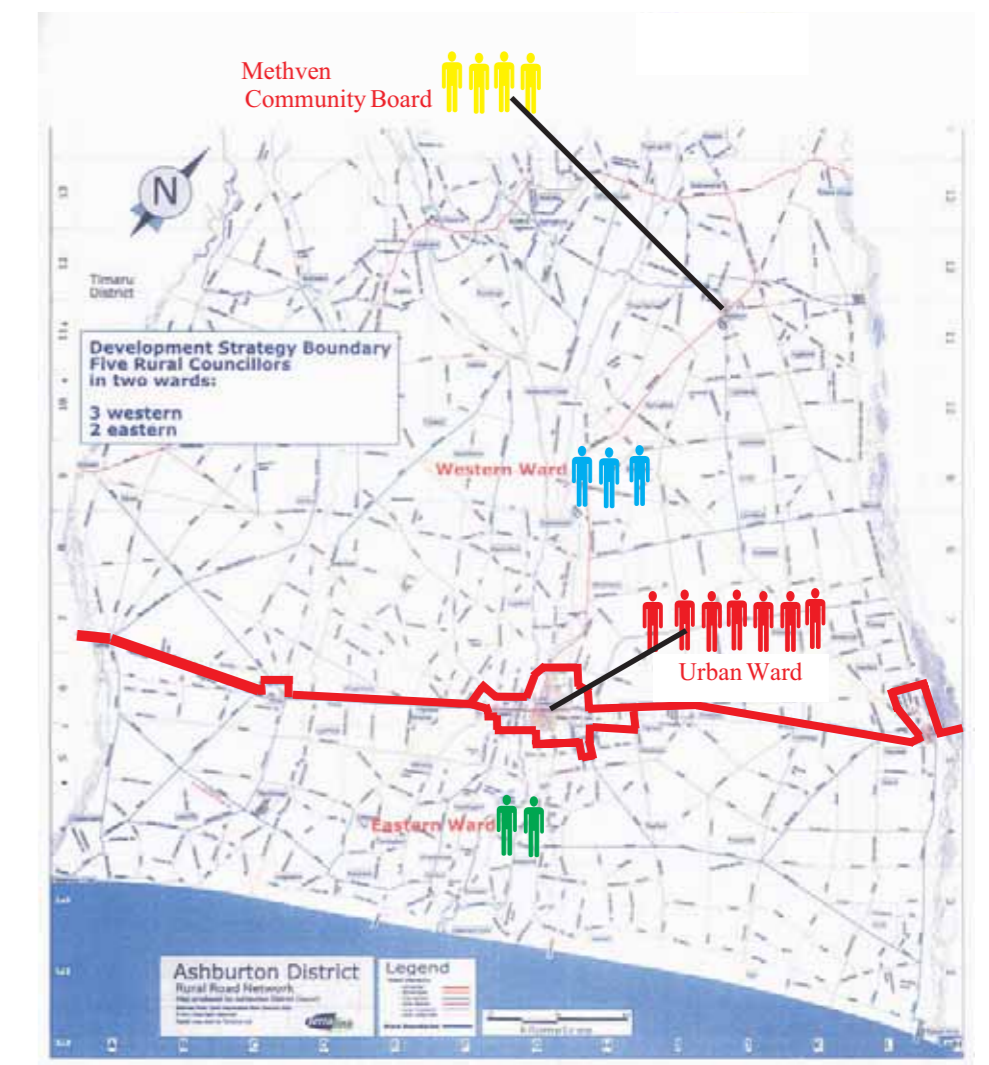
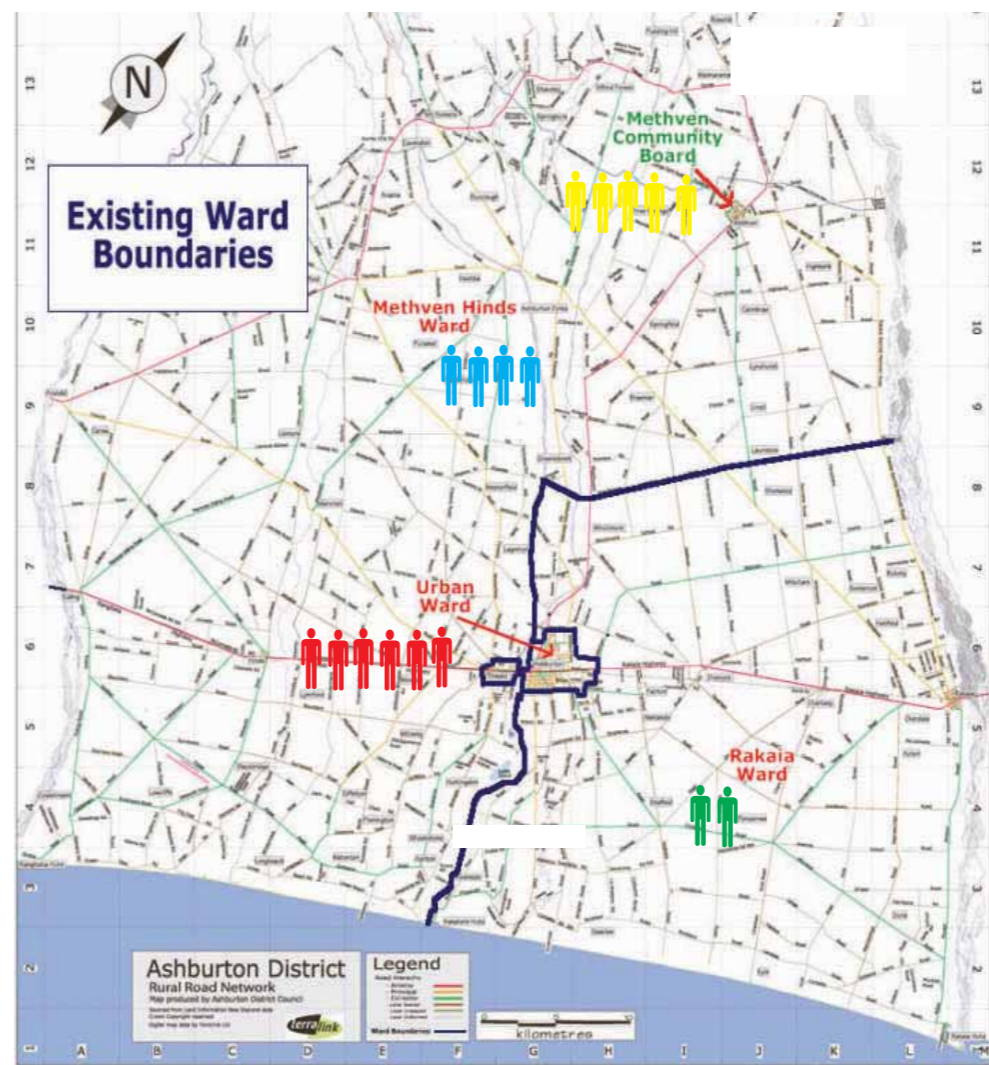
**THE FACTS:**

- Three wards is the most effective representation of three reasonably diverse communities.
- Residents opted for a ward system in the recent NRB survey.
- The District is considered too large for any councillor to expect to represent the whole electorate equally.
- There will be a greater probability of an even rural/residential spread.
- The district is very large and a single rural ward would increase the risk of councillors not living in or being familiar with parts of their electorate

# Question 3: If there are wards, what should they be?

**At Present:**  
**Rakaia**  
**Methven Hinds**  
**Urban**

**Preferred option:**  
**Rural East**  
**Rural West**  
**Urban** (with altered boundaries)



**THE FACTS:**

- Present urban boundaries do not include all Ashburton's developed areas.
- The number of councillors is dictated by a compulsory formula.
- State Highway One is a logical east-west boundary line.
- Consequently the bigger and more populous rural area is the western ward meriting representation by three councillors, with two representing the eastern ward.

**CONSIDER THIS:**

There is agreement that there should be one urban ward and two rural wards. Consideration was given to dividing Ashburton town, however it was agreed that any split would be artificial — that there are no clear distinguishing areas within the town and services are intertwined.

The urban boundary needs to be extended to accommodate planned growth and the Development Strategy should provide the basis for the new ward boundary.

Any rural boundary should recognise the different communities of Methven and Rakaia. The proposed boundary puts Methven and Mount Somers into an inland ward and the towns of Rakaia and Hinds into a seaward ward, the whole rural area being divided for the most part by State Highway One.

Common issues are likely to arise along the coastal areas related to services and water supply issues.

**Options**

Two wards — one urban, one rural

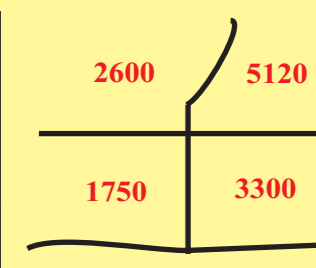
URBAN	RURAL	TOTAL
7	5	12
6	4	10
5	3	8

Three wards — one urban, two rural

URBAN	RURAL 1	RURAL 2	TOTAL
7	3	2	12
6	2	2	10
5	2	1	8

The possibility of a division of the rural area based on the Ashburton River was considered. Using the North Branch and State Highway One as boundary lines the rural population gives approximately the following result:

Area	Population
SOUTH WEST	2600
SOUTH EAST	1750
NORTH WEST	5120
NORTH EAST	3300



# Question 4: Should there be community boards? What should be their makeup?

**At Present: Only Methven has a Community Board**  
(Five elected members and two councillors)

**Preferred option: Only one Community Board (Methven)**  
(four elected members and two appointed councillors)

- THE FACTS:**
- Community Board members have argued strongly for the status quo
  - Residents favoured retaining the board when surveyed in 2000.

**CONSIDER THIS:**

Methven township has particular interests such as tourism, infrastructure and town development which require representation.

Board members believe the boundary should be extended to recognise new developments in the community. There has not been a strong interest in standing for the board since 1998 and there is a case for the number of locally elected members to be reduced to four.

**Options:**

Ratepayer and Resident Associations in other areas provide effective representation for their communities and the possibility of not having a community board in Methven is open for consideration.

It may be that other communities such as Rakaia and Mount Somers believe they would be more effectively represented by a community board.

## Hear some more and have your say



## PUBLIC MEETINGS:

- Rakaia Community Centre, 7.30pm, Tuesday November 15
- Mount Hutt Memorial Hall, Methven, 7.30pm, Wednesday November 16.
- Hinds Community Hall, 7.30pm, Thursday November 17.
- Mount Somers Memorial Hall, 7.30pm, Tuesday, November 22
- Hotel Ashburton, 7.30pm, Thursday November 24

Your comments on any issue relating to the Representation Review are welcome. Just write them in a letter or on this form and drop them into the council office in Baring Square, fax to 308 1836 or post to P.O. Box 94, Ashburton before Friday November 25. Comments can also be made through the Council website, [www.adc.govt.nz](http://www.adc.govt.nz).

Your name.....Address.....

Phone: Bus.....A/H.....Fax.....email.....

Would you like to be involved in discussions on the Representation Review if they are required following the public meetings? Yes No

Your Comments.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

# What's On

## ASHBURTON MUSEUM

Present displays are:

### Triangle

**Ashburton Museum & Historical Society history —  
We will be 50 in 2008!  
125 years of daily publication from Ashburton  
Guardian**

We are hoping to mount a display to coincide with 125 years of Catholic education for Labour weekend. If anyone has photographs of the Sacred Heart or St Joseph's classes we would be keen to borrow them.

**Our next family in the A to Z series is the Andersons. The Andersons settled first in the Ellesmere area before coming across to Flemington in 1878.**

At our annual general meeting on 24th November we have Joan Woodward & Glenys Mitchell from Christchurch coming to speak about their forthcoming biography of Emily Peter of Anama. Miss Peter was a nurse in the Boer War and also served in Serbia during W.W.1 She has a fascinating history and Joan & Glenys have made use of much of the Peter family material held in the museum as well as doing many hours of research elsewhere so we are looking forward to the finished product.

**Sunday 30th October is Children's Day so we are going to highlight children's life on board the early immigrant ships.**

## ASHBURTON ART GALLERY

### Mid Canterbury Schools Exhibition 11th-29th October 2005

This exhibition includes art work from preschools, as well as primary and secondary schools in the Mid Canterbury area. Come along and show your support for the creative endeavours of Ashburton's youth.

### Muka Youth Print Exhibition

#### Young People Buy Art — No Adults Allowed

Tuesday 18th & Wednesday 19th October 12-6pm

A display of original contemporary art exclusively for young people aged 5-18. This event gives young people the opportunity to purchase original lithographs for a fraction of the normal price. It is the intention of the artists that the works will become the exclusive property of the purchaser.

### The Music of Carousel

On Saturday the 5th of November at 6pm the gallery will be hosting an Arts on Tour NZ event featuring the music of Carousel. "Carousel is the meeting point of jazz, classical and Celtic defectors whose music evokes the

gypsy fairground, the carnival and circus. Intriguing instrumentation combines cello, violin, mandolin, guitar and vocals in a style influenced by bluegrass, eastern European and Russian folk music." Tickets will be available at a cost of \$20 or \$18 to Friends Of The Gallery from the gallery's reception.

### Grahame Sydney : Graphic Works 10th November-18th December 2005

Opening Wednesday November 9th 6pm

Artists' Talk : Saturday 19th November 1.30pm

A collection of etchings and lithographs organised and toured by the Eastern Southland Gallery. Born and raised in Dunedin and a graduate of the University of Otago and Christchurch teachers college, Grahame Sydney's working life commenced at Cromwell High School in Central Otago. His love for landscape, augmented by private study under New Zealand landscape painter HV Miller (1907-1986), brought about his first solo exhibition in Dunedin in 1972. After a study trip to Europe in 1973 he embarked upon a full time painting career which has seen him divide his time between the Maniototo, MacKenzie Basin, Dunedin, the Canterbury Plains and latterly Antarctica. A former Francis Hodgkin's Fellow at the University of Otago, Grahame has been the subject of major solo exhibitions at the Dunedin Public Art Gallery, the Auckland City Art Gallery and is represented in many public and private art collections in New Zealand.

### Free-range : Creative Arts and Health In Association with Aoraki Polytechnic, Ashburton

9th November-4th December 2005

Artists' Talk : Saturday 26th November 2pm

A showcase of student's work for 2005. Come and see the exciting developments and range of subjects and styles from beginners through to the more experienced. Let these students inspire you to give creativity a go! Available for viewing until November 24th. Followed by Nectar, an exhibition in which tutors Heather Welsh-Sarin and Julie Lowe have collaborated to bring you an exciting new experience of colours, style and accessories to inspire and compliment you and your surroundings. Available for viewing from November 26th to December 4th.

## ASHBURTON LIBRARY

### Recent Library Purchases

Fiction—

*Angels And Demons*, by Dan Brown. The prequel to Dan Brown's famous *The Da Vinci Code*, which has become a cult novel with many spin-off titles. This book introduces Robert Langdon, who first discovers in this novel the continued existence of the Illuminati, a secret brotherhood reborn after four hundred years.

*Close Case*, by Alafair Burke. Another crime novel

featuring Deputy District Attorney Samantha Kincaid, who leads a far more exciting life than most federal lawyers, one suspects. An investigative journalist is murdered while covering the controversial police shooting of a suspect, an act which has led to civil unrest in Kincaid's hometown, Portland, Oregon. She starts digging for evidence, and finds some disturbing connections between drug dealers and the police.

*Lord Of The Silver Bow*, by David Gemmell. The first in a new trilogy, set in the tragic city of Troy, and based on the characters of that epic story.

*The Lighthouse*, by P.D. James. The latest Adam Dalgliesh and Kate Miskin police mystery. Combe Island is a pricey private retreat off the Cornish coast. A high-profile guest is murdered, and Dalgliesh's special unit for "sensitive" crimes becomes involved.

*Legends*, by Robert Littell. A former CIA agent now working as a private investigator finds himself swept back into his life in espionage, and loses his identity in the labyrinth of "legends" of created personalities he has been assigned in order to fulfill CIA missions. More psychological than the standard thriller, but a fascinating insight into life as an agent. Don't do it!

Non Fiction—

*Jimmy Stewart, The Truth Behind The Legend*, by Michael Munn. There's just something about that laconic lost-boy style. Good biography of the ultimate slow-walking, slow-talking Hollywood hero.

*Magical mystery tour, my life with the Beatles*, by Tony Bramwell. Tony Bramwell was childhood friends with three of the Fab Four before they became famous. As they rose to fame, he came along for the ride, as a trusted super-roadie. Lots of photographs taken by the author, and insider details for the Beatlemaniac.

*My Property World*, by Bob Jones. In 1976 Bob Jones released what many still believe was his best book, *Jones on Property*. It was a runaway best seller, and inspired many fortune hunters to enter the property market. As he remarks, the operating climate has changed enormously over 30 years. This book is his new take on investment property — less advice this time and more quirky opinion, but that's Bob Jones for you.

*Places from the pages of the New Zealand Listener*. No, we're not in it. But this is still a fascinating collection of 27 articles about New Zealand places and events, from the takahe rediscovery of 1948, through the building of the Christchurch Town Hall in 1972, Kumara races 1985, Kaikoura, Kaikohe, and Karangahape Road.

*Olives, The Life And Lore Of A Noble Fruit*, by Mort Rosenblum. The author began his enthusiasm for olives when he bought a plot of land in Provence and its 200 ancient olive trees. This is not a how-to book, but a wide-ranging look at olive lore and the modern olive industry around the world. Great background information for growers, and an interesting book for foodies as well.

# Show some courtesy with your litter

There is nothing more offensive than a pile of decaying and smelling rubbish. Imagine you are out walking with a friend or your dog alongside the river and you come across a heap of drink bottles, disposable nappies, empty packets and food scraps

Disgraceful as this sounds some people are too thoughtless and lazy to properly dispose of rubbish.

Instead they unload their household rubbish in public areas — by roadsides, at picnic spots and beside rivers.

People walking and driving past while enjoying the rural

beauty and tranquillity have to endure objectionable sights and smells akin to an uncontrolled refuse tip

Council's Litter Control Officer spends a lot of time following up complaints and doing litter reconnaissance.

When a suspected offender is identified legal action is considered and an infringement notice with a \$100 fine is imposed

Sometimes rural folk not on a regular Council collection circuit drop bags of rubbish on the street outside houses in urban collection areas. This is actually an offence under Council Bylaws. Refuse in official

Council bags may be disposed of free of charge at the Ashburton Resource Recovery Park. You may even be able to arrange to leave your official refuse bag outside your friend's property.

Also it is not legal to dump household rubbish at street or park litter bins. Parks and Reserves staff are not contracted to collect household rubbish.

A plea is made to the Ashburton Community to dispose of rubbish legally. Please show consideration to the environment and courtesy to other people



# By-law for portable signs needs to be adhered to

The Ashburton District Council allows the use of portable display boards on the side of streets to advertise businesses but it has a set of rules, in the form of a by-law, which they are required to adhere to.

However, some businesses have been disregarding the rules and the council has recently received a series of complaints.

Council environmental services manager John McKenzie said it was an area the council either had to administer and enforce totally or not touch at all.

The time is fast coming when the council would have to pay attention to non-complying signs, especially in Tinwald where it had received complaints from Transit New Zealand, and in the Ashburton Central Business District, he said.

One of the major issues is that signs are not displayed outside the businesses they are advertising but are often some

distance away. The by-law states they must be immediately outside the premises.

The by-law also stipulates that signs should be placed within 600mm of the legal boundary of the business or the adjacent kerb, but that in all cases a clear pedestrian access way of not less than two metres must be maintained.

Mr McKenzie said that was another area where some businesses were not complying with the by-law.

Signs are not to be more than 1.2 metres high or more than 650mm wide and must not interfere with the opening of vehicle doors.

The council can take action against businesses with non-complying signs by giving 24-hours notice requiring removal of signs. If they are not removed the council can impound the signs and release them on payment of a \$50 fee. If there is repeated non-compliance the council can seize signs and retain them.



## Food scrap collection on trial

Now what great recyclers we are in Ashburton.

Now that we've got the green kerbside crates it's so convenient to put our recyclables out at the gate.

But what about food scraps?

Lots of people are home composting and worm farming but we don't all have the time or space.

Food scraps and garden waste are bad news in a landfill. They go rotten and turn into a poisonous liquid called leachate. They also give off methane which is a harmful greenhouse gas.

So how can we keep all the food scraps out of the hundreds of black rubbish bags that we

send away to the new landfill in North Canterbury every week?

A six week trial is now underway in Ashburton.

Participating households in Hugh, Nelson and Rapley Streets have been supplied with a kitchen compost basket, a roll of small cornstarch bags/liners, (average family uses 3-4 bags per week) and 6 large corn starch collection bags.

The kitchen compost basket is kept handy on the kitchen bench to put all food scraps in.

It will not smell because the bag inside is made of corn starch and it naturally breathes.

When the bag is full it is placed in the large white compostibles collection bag

along with organic waste.

The bags are put out for weekly collection alongside the recycling bin.

Princes Court Rest Home is also participating in the trial by separating food waste, tea bags, serviettes, etc. These are put into 20 litre buckets lined with corn starch bags with two collections per week.

The cornstarch bags full of food waste are taken to Wastebusters composting site where they are then mixed with shredded green waste and beneficial bacteria, EM, and take 5-10 days to be processed at high temperatures through the Rotocom In vessel Composting Unit.

all other

The food waste trial is an important step for Ashburton as the results will help determine whether we go ahead with a town-wide weekly food waste collection and take the next step towards zero waste.

More than 600 kilograms have been collected and processed in the first 3 weeks of the trial.

By separating our food waste and compostibles for collection we can reduce our rubbish and ideally use less rubbish bags.



Supported by Ashburton District Council, Zero Waste NZ and Andar Holdings Ltd — Working together towards zero waste

## Time running out for community honours' nominations

There's only three days left to nominate someone for a Community Honours Award. The awards publicly recognise voluntary work in the community of Ashburton people. Nominations are confidential and should be made on the form available from the Council office or on the council website, [www.ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz). They should be accompanied by letters of support from individuals or community organisations.

While the permission of the person being nominated is not required at nomination stage, they will be approached by the council prior to an award being made.

However, nominations close on Friday (October 21) so there is not a lot of time left. If you know of someone who has put a lot of voluntary time into the community or a club or other organisation you may consider they deserve a reward of some kind. The Community Honours Awards are the ideal way to recognise voluntary work, so move quickly, get information about the person together and fill a form out.

## Rates privacy

Recent legislation has changed the rules about the inclusion of owners' names and addresses on the Council's rating information database.

The database contains all information the council holds in relation to each rated property. Up until now the names and postal addresses of owners were required to be excluded from the database, but the Government has now required that they be included.

The Act requires the council to advise all owners each year that they have the right to ask the council, in writing, to withhold their names and postal addresses from the public database.

The Council has included an information sheet with the October rates accounts, asking those who want their contact details removed from publicly accessible records to let them know.

## Loo start 'imminent'

Construction of a new public toilet block in central Ashburton is "imminent".

Council property manager John Rooney said the new block, to replace the existing Exceloos, would be starting any day.

The toilets will have restricted opening at night with only two unisex wheelchair accessible toilets being open for 24-hours, in an attempt to minimise after-hours vandalism. The remainder of the facilities would be locked off with a security grille after hours.

## Library adds Print Disability Collection

A recent addition to the services provided by the Ashburton Public Library is the Print Disability Collection.

While similar to the existing Talking Book collection owned by the library, the Print Disability Collection consists of 50 talking book cassettes or CDs supplied by the National Library of New Zealand and changed monthly.

Library members borrowing from the collection can have up to three book cassettes out at a time. Use of the collection is for adults, young adults and children who are unable to independently read, hold or turn the pages of a standard print book for any one of a number of reasons ranging from visual impairment to perceptual disabilities, and including disabilities or situations that make handling a normal book difficult. Those using the collection have to sign a declaration that they have one of the listed disabilities.

The collection supplements the library's own talking book collection, chief librarian Jill Watson said. It includes mainly popular recent works, both fiction and non-fiction, although the bulk of the collection is adult fiction.

If people are unable to come to the library staff are happy to select books that are likely to suit their tastes, or if they are at the library but are unable to read the information on the books staff from the desk will help them make their selection.