



# ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL District Diary



October 10, 2006

Issue 43

## Councillor comment with Ashburton District Council deputy mayor John

For the last couple of years there has been sustained buoyancy in the local economy seldom seen in the last two decades.

It would be very easy to get carried away with the new valuations we have all just received, with the number of new houses being completed (almost one every working day, presently) or the expansion of our retail sector.

Demand for residential building sites remains high, rationalisation and expansion in the Central Business District is obvious and there is strong demand for new industrial land. Farmland is still trading at high levels despite concerns of future irrigation availability. There is plenty of work available with over fifty job vacancies advertised in the District every weekend for workers with all skill levels.

For the Mayor and Councillors, these are exciting times but they are also very challenging times. For council staff the workload is huge.

Upgrades of drinking water supplies are at least 80% complete across the District

with only some of the smaller rural supplies yet to be completed, and the wastewater upgrade on track to be completed in 2007. The combined cost to ratepayers will be in excess of \$20 million for these upgrades. Meeting the more stringent requirements of Ecan's Natural Regional Resources Plan will see money being spent on storm-water upgrades to enhance environmental standards.

If we are to maintain and improve the quality of the District's roads this also will require more money. One of the downsides of the current buoyant economy is the negative impact on the subsidy available for roading from Transfund. A policy the Council continually but unsuccessfully challenges through Government.

Not only is Council mindful of its core infrastructure requirements but it is conscious also of its social, economic and cultural obligations under the Local Government Act. Quite clearly we must liaise with and assist where possible, all manner of projects that keep Ashburton



the way we want it to be.

If we are to attract and maintain young people to work in the many skilled and unskilled jobs currently available, we must provide the social climate and facilities needed to

keep them here.

Ashburton has so much to offer, ample work opportunities, affordable housing, close proximity to an international airport and city, great sporting facilities and a very supportive community spirit.

In the next year, major decisions will need to be made by those in public office as to what new facilities this District should put its money toward. The best outcomes will be achieved if as many people as possible take part in the decision making process. Legislation requires "significant" projects have full community consultation. Council is committed to giving everyone the opportunity to have their say.

Will it be a new \$100-300 million combined hydro irrigation project, a new \$20 million dollar stadium, a

heritage – grain centre at Methven, or some other entrepreneurial venture?

For those of us lucky enough to have travelled, there is no doubt that Ashburton is a great place to live and return to. What we all need to do is to promote our District at every opportunity we get. Ashburtonians are good at many things – unfortunately we are not great at showing pride in our own community.

I remain confident that with sustainable and environmentally sound development of our abundant natural resources, together with complementary industrial growth, we can achieve most of the goals we have set.

Growing pains – in the form of financial commitment from our residents, are inevitable if we are to maintain expansion and cater for the expectations of a younger workforce.

I would urge everyone to avail themselves of the opportunity to be involved in the consultation process that will assist in making these decisions. Ultimately "The Council" is really all the people of the District.

# Council rates highly in annual survey

The Ashburton District Council has received its best results ever in its annual resident's survey. Mayor Bede O'Malley said it was a fantastic result and gratifying to see just how well the community regarded the performance of the Council over the past year. He was especially pleased to see how well Ashburton District Council had performed in comparison with other councils around the country. "This Council is starting put daylight between its performance and the performance of both similar councils and the average of all councils in New Zealand, he said.

The survey has been carried out each year since 1993 to provide data for audit purposes and performance targets, and, more importantly, to provide feedback on how the community views the performance of Council. Held this year from 9 June to 18 June, a cross-section of 403 residents over the age of 18 responded to the telephone survey.

The Mayor and Councillors performance rating almost matched the highest approval rating ever, scored last year, and Council staff recorded their highest approval rating ever. Of the individual activities Parks and the Domain again scored close to the perfect 100% resident satisfaction and Roading jumped a massive 11% in resident satisfaction compared to 2005, to record its highest ever satisfaction level.

### Peer Group Comparison (32 like councils)

Ashburton District Council achieved as well as or better than its peers in all but one of the categories in which comparisons have been made. The community rated the Council as significantly higher (15% higher or better) than the peer group average in roads, footpaths, water supply, landfill and recycling, rubbish collection, and animal control.

Ashburton District achieved better than the average of all councils surveyed throughout New Zealand in 11 of the 15 activities compared, with roads and cemeter-

ies both rating 16% higher resident satisfaction in Ashburton District than the national average. Overall Council achieved 21 of the 24 targets set in the 2005/06 Annual Plan, the best results ever.

SERVICE/FACILITY	ASHBURTON	PEER GROUP AVERAGE	NATIONAL AVERAGE
	2006 %Very/Fairly Satisfied	2005 % Very/Fairly Satisfied	2005% % Very/Fairly Satisfied
Roads	87	69	71
Footpaths	76	61	71
Stormwater Services	67	56	70
Water Supply	79	58	80
Tourism Promotion	84	72	74
Landfill & Recycling	79	62	78
Rubbish Collection	89	67	83
Library Service	82	87	90
Sportsfields & Playgrounds	94	89	89
Parks & Reserves	98	88	94
Cemeteries	83	76	67
Employment/Business	70	58	58
Rates Spending	78	69	74
Public Toilets	64	64	64
Dog/Animal Control	81	66	71

Note: Peer Group and National averages were last collated in 2005.

Ashburton V Peer Group/National Averages - Service/Facility Satisfaction Questions ("All residents" figures. "Don't Knows" included) to page 2

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**Ashburton District Council**

P.O. Box 94, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton

[www.ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz)

phone 3077 700, fax 308 1836

# Council rates highly in annual survey

## Mayor, Councillors and Staff

The rating of the performance of the Mayor and Councillors maintained its upward trend with best ever figures of 81% in the Very / Fairly Good assessment range surpassing the previous best of 78% set in 2005 and well above the 59% average of similar councils. Excluding "Don't Knows" lifts the satisfaction level to 83%. Approval rating in the rural wards rose 6% on last year but remained highest in the urban area (82%) against 78% in the rural area.

Year	Very/ Fairly Good %	Just Acceptable %	Not Very Good/Poor %	Don't Know %	Rating - D/K excluded %	Goal Achieved
1995	76	20	4	2	-	-
1996	77	16	2	5	-	-
1997	72	21	4	3	-	-
1998	73	21	3	3	75	70% ✓
1999	71	21	3	5	75	70% ✓
2000	66	27	4	3	68	70% ✗
2001	66	21	6	8	71	80% ✗
2002	54	31	9	6	58	80% ✗
2003	53	34	8	5	56	80% ✗
2004	71	22	4	3	73	80% ✗
2005	78	13	3	6	84	80% ✓
2006	81	12	4	3	83	80% ✓
Peer Average	59	23	10	8		
National Average	54	26	13	7		

## Satisfaction with the Performance of Mayor and Councillors

### Council Staff

Staff performance ratings for 2006 are the highest ever recorded with 81 percent of respondents rating the performance of council staff as very/ fairly good. With "Don't Knows" excluded the staff performance rating again was the highest recorded with 87% giving a very/ fairly good rating. This has Ashburton District Council staff 19 points above the peer group average and 20 points above the national average.

Year	Very/ Fairly Good %	Just Acceptable %	Not Very Good/Poor %	Don't Know %	Rating D/K excluded %
1995	84	10	3	3	-
1996	73	14	3	10	-
1997	79	15	2	4	-
1998	73	15	4	9	-
1999	71	21	3	5	75
2000	69	21	4	7	74
2001	71	17	4	8	77
2002	59	22	5	14	69
2003	56	22	7	15	66
2004	78	9	6	7	83
2005	74	13	4	9	81
2006	81	10	2	7	87
Peer Average	62	17	9	12	
National Average	61	21	8	10	

## Satisfaction with the Performance of Council Staff.

### Essential Services

Council's essential services all met or exceeded resident satisfaction targets. Roading is at its highest level of approval ever, rising 11% from last year to 87% satisfaction and comfortably achieving its target of 80% resident satisfaction. Rural resident satisfaction with roads rose 12% to 86% and urban satisfaction rose 10% to 88%. Satisfaction with the District's roads was strongest from those aged 18 – 39 and from residents who lived in the District less than 10 years.

All Residents (Don't Knows excluded)	Goal	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	+/-
Roading	80	75 ✗	76 ✗	87 ✓	+11
Footpaths	75	79 ✓	75 ✓	79 ✓	+4
Stormwater/Drainage	75	75 ✓	73 ✗	75 ✓	+2
Cemeteries	80	99 ✓	98 ✓	97 ✓	-1
Landfill/Recycling	80	91 ✓	93 ✓	89 ✓	-4

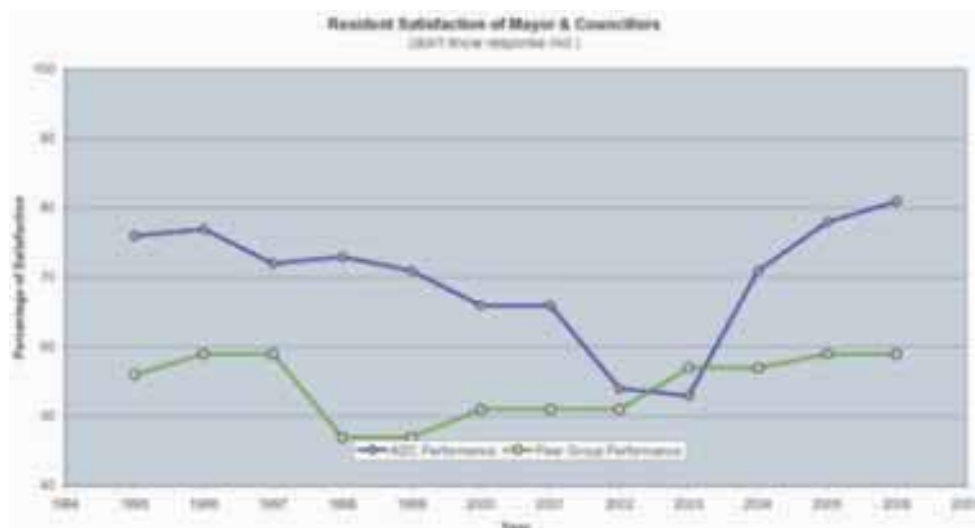
## Resident Satisfaction with Essential Services.

### Environmental Services

Environmental monitoring and planning activities both recorded steady results, despite not achieving the target of 100% resident satisfaction. Parking enforcement eased back 6% in resident approval, but is still comfortably over its 80% satisfaction target. Satisfaction with animal and dog control has risen 6% this year to an all time high of 87%. Building regulation has maintained an 87% resident satisfaction rating despite another very demanding year driven by high building activity and the introduction of a stricter building regulation regime.

All Residents (Don't Knows excluded)	Goal	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	+/-
Environmental Monitoring	100	83 ✗	85 ✗	85 ✗	-
Planning Activities	100	82 ✗	84 ✗	88 ✗	+4
Building Regulation	80	91 ✓	87 ✓	87 ✓	-
Parking Enforcement	80	93 ✓	93 ✓	87 ✓	-6
Animal Control	80	84 ✓	81 ✓	87 ✓	+6

## Resident Satisfaction with Environmental Services.



## Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation activities all recorded high levels with variations from last year being well within the margin for error and all are comfortably above target satisfaction levels.

All Residents (Don't Knows excluded)	Goal	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	+/-
Parks & Reserves	90	99 ✓	98 ✓	99 ✓	+1
Ashburton Domain	90	99 ✓	100 ✓	99 ✓	-1
Rural Reserves	90	97 ✓	97 ✓	97 ✓	-
Reserves & Camping Areas	80	98 ✓	96 ✓	99 ✓	+3

## Resident Satisfaction with Parks and Recreation.

### Community Services

All activities in the community services area have maintained resident satisfaction levels above 90% and comfortably above their targets. Resident's satisfaction with Council's performance in communication and advocacy has recorded small rises and both functions are steady in the mid-eighties. Satisfaction with the way rates are spent has remained remarkably constant at around 80%.

All Residents (Don't Knows excluded)	Goal	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	+/-
Arts & Culture	80	94 ✓	93 ✓	94 ✓	+1
Social Services	85	81 ✗	93 ✓	93 ✓	-
Community Events	90	97 ✓	96 ✓	93 ✓	-3
District Library	85	98 ✓	96 ✓	94 ✓	-2
Communication	No Goal		86	88	+2
Advocacy/No Goal		83	86	+3	
Rates Spending	80	80 ✓	80 ✓	81 ✓	+1

## Resident Satisfaction with Community Services.

### Community Participation

Residents have again been keen to use or participate in Council facilities, events and services this year. Interestingly, for most activities there is little difference in participation patterns between urban and rural residents, despite many of the District facilities being located in the urban townships. Around one in three residents attended the New Years Street Party and/ or the Concert in the Park. The library is used by close to three quarters of the residents in the district with urban and rural usage rates being almost identical.

Activity	Used / contacted / taken part	Urban	Rural
Contact Mayor or Councillor	23%	21%	25%
New Years Eve Street Party	29%	33%	24%
Concert in the Park	35%	46%	22%
Museum / Art Gallery	44%	48%	38%
Camping Grounds and Reserves	28%	29%	27%
Ashburton Domain	87%	91%	81%
Rural Reserves	51%	47%	56%
Sportsfields / Playground	77%	75%	80%
District Library	71%	71%	70%

## Resident Participation/ Usage Rates – Community Facilities and Events.

### Economic Development

Resident satisfaction with the Council's performance in Employment and Business Development and in Tourism Promotion remains high, with little change from the previous year. Council's Water Resources activity has not met with the same level of community satisfaction, however, with just 61% of residents being satisfied with the current performance, a 6% drop from last year.

All Residents (Don't Knows excluded)	Goal	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	+/-
Employment/Business Development	80	95 ✓	89 ✓	88 ✓	-1
Tourism Promotion	80	94 ✓	92 ✓	93 ✓	+1
Water Resources (Community Water Trust)	80	60 ✗	67 ✗	61 ✗	-6

## Resident Satisfaction with Economic Development.

The full reports can be viewed on the Council website at [www.adc.govt.nz/survey](http://www.adc.govt.nz/survey)

## Community Award nominations

Once again the Ashburton District Council is seeking the names of citizens who have carried out exceptional voluntary community service in the Ashburton District.

Nominations are currently open for this year's community honours awards, closing on Friday, November 3. Any person who has carried out meritorious voluntary service to the community may be nominated.

Nominations are confidential, and the council asks that the person being nominated not be advised of their nomination. Their permission is not required at nomination stage but all nominees are contacted by the council after nominations close and are asked if they are prepared to accept a nomination.

The council has no fixed number of

awards to be made in any one year.

People who have been unsuccessfully nominated previously may be nominated again, but people who have previously received national or royal honours are generally not eligible unless there are special circumstances.

The awards are for voluntary service and service through paid employment will not be recognised.

The council is prepared to consider making posthumous awards provided application is made within 12 months of the nominee's death.

All inquiries about the Community Honours Scheme should be directed to Glenys O'Leary, chief executive's secretary, at 307 7762. Nomination forms are available at the council office or from the council website.

## Council visits Arowhenua Marae



Councillors and senior council staff recently spent half a day visiting Te Runanga o Arowhenua at the Arowhenua marae, south of Temuka. Council usually makes at least one visit of this type to the marae each term of Council and this was the first during Mayor Bede O'Malley's current term as mayor.

Arowhenua's rohe (tribal boundaries) include all of Ashburton District and the Runanga is tangata whenua in the District. Consequently the Runanga and Council have many areas of shared interest and work closely together on these issues.

This is particularly the case with issues covered by the Resource Management Act and the Local Government Act.

Councillors and staff were welcomed on to the marae and given an overview of maori history of the central South Island by Upoko (tribal leader), Joe Waaka.

Mayor Bede O'Malley acknowledged the status of Arowhenua as tangata whenua in Ashburton District and welcomed the opportunity to come to the

marae to discuss the issues the two organisations have in common.

Council received an update on the Runanga's environmental consultancy business, Aoraki Environmental Consultants, from Richie Smith. This business has been established to provide Councils and other individuals and organisations working within the Resource Management Act with environmental and cultural advice and expertise.

Discussion then turned to other matters of mutual interest including the future review of Council's District Plan, Ecan's Natural Resources Regional Plan, the condition of the District's rivers and issues around consultation with tangata whenua and maori included in the Local Government Act and in Councils Long-term Community Plan.

At the conclusion of the meeting Upoko Joe Waaka and Mayor Bede O'Malley both reiterated their commitment to continuing to work together on issues of mutual interest and to continue to develop the relationships between the Runanga and Council.

## Liquor and minors — the rules

Who can purchase liquor and supply it to a young person under 18-years-old? A brother or sister? Work boss? Workmates? Sports coach?

No. Under the Sale of Liquor Act, only a parent or legal guardian may purchase liquor for supply to a minor (under 18 years old). By allowing parents to take their youngsters to licensed premises, or supply liquor for consumption at home, the lawmakers intended that youngsters would learn to drink responsibly in a safe environment. Unfortunately, however, some parents supply large quantities of liquor for youngsters to consume in unsupervised environments.

Persons purchasing liquor to supply to minors can find themselves in court facing hefty fines, and being trespassed from a licensed premises. In 2004 an 18-year-old South Canterbury youth who purchased beer and spirits for 14 and 16 year olds found himself in court with a hefty fine. The youngsters he had supplied with liquor had drunk themselves into a coma, and required hospitalisation.

Similarly, it is illegal for underage sports teams to be supplied liquor by coaches or other players.

Duty managers in licensed premises are trained to be on the look-out for persons purchasing for underagers, and also underagers attempting to purchase

liquor. Underagers face prosecution for attempting to purchase liquor from licensed premises.

A Controlled Purchase Operation - CPO - is one form of monitoring carried out by the agencies involved in licensing - District Licensing Agency, Police and Public Health - to check whether licensed premises are being vigilant in ensuring that they are not selling to minors. A CPO involves underage youngsters under the direction of a Police Officer, attempting to purchase liquor from licensed premises. Our District has a better record in CPOs than many other areas, in that the three CPOs held prior to July this year resulted in no sales. Unfortunately, the CPO in July this year resulted in sales at two of the 11 premises visited. These premises and duty managers face suspension of their licences.

In the past two years the Ashburton District has seen a more than 50 per cent increase in the number of Off Licence premises, and there is currently an application from the Warehouse to establish a "store-within-a-store" liquor store. Some underagers will no doubt continue their attempts to obtain liquor from off-licences. The community needs to support the efforts of licensed premises by refusing to purchase liquor for underagers or supply it to them.

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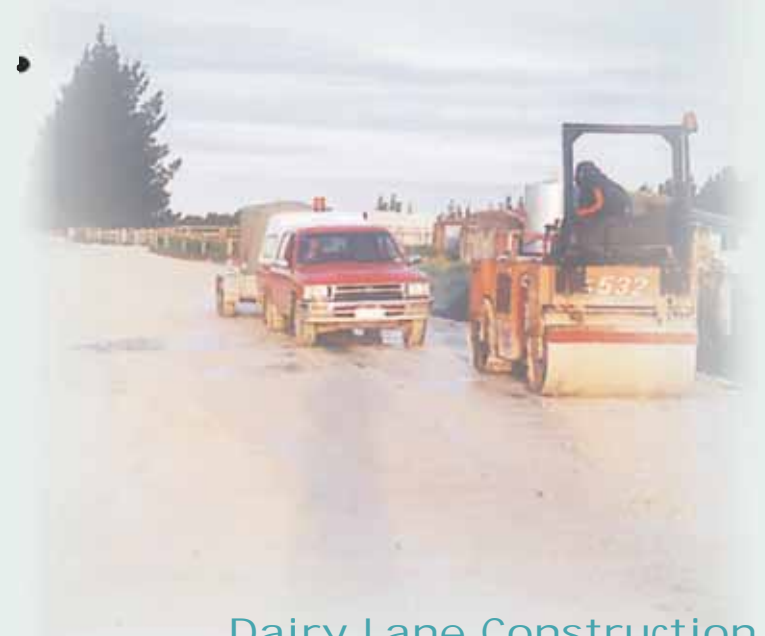
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Dairy Lane Construction

# Ashburton's gardens in the spring

Once again, Ashburton is looking a picture this spring as bedding plants come into full bloom in the town's public gardens. The following listing of plantings is provided to allow people to identify the plants in individual beds.

## Ashburton Domain

### Main Entrance

North Entrance Bed No 1, Pansy Ultima Salmon Yellow, Tulips Toronto, Edge, Pansy Ultima Morpho.

Entrance Beds No 2 & 3, Pansy Ultima Apricot Shades, Tulips Toronto, Edge, Pansy Ultima Morpho.

### Gate and flag beds

Gate Bed No 1, Planted in the **Red Cross Emblem**; Cross - Pansy Carmel Clear Scarlet, Tulip Red Cross Ile de France, Edge, Pansy Carmel Clear White

Gate Bed No 2, Myosotis Royal Blue, Tulip Temples Favourite, Edge (Double), Pansy Majestic Giants Sherry.

Flag Pole, Myosotis Royal Blue, Tulip Temples Favourite, Edge, Pansy Majestic Giants Patricia.

### Cedar Beds

Cedar Bed Nos 1 & 2, Polyanthus C A Wood Special Antique Shades, Tulip Daydream, Edge, Pansy Carmel Clear Orange

### Aviary & Bowling Club

Carpark Border, Polyanthus Supernova Mixed, Tulips Oxford Elite

### Sundial Beds

Sundial Bed No 1, Pansy Carmel Desert Sunset Blend, Tulip Donna Bella, Edge Pansy Carmel Clear White.

Sundial Bed No 2, Pansy Carmel Fiesta Blend, Tulip Orange Toronto, Edge Pansy Carmel Clear White.

Sundial Bed No 3, Pansy Carmel Daffodil Blend, Tulip Boutade,



Edge Pansy Carmel Clear White  
Woodland Beds & Point

Woodland Bed No 1, Polyanthus Red & Bronze Shades, Tulip Temples Favourite, Edge Pansy Buttermilk.

Woodland Bed No 2, Polyanthus Red & Bronze Shades, Tulip Temples Favourite, Edge Pansy Buttermilk.

Point Garden, Polyanthus Rumba Yellow Improved, Tulip (through Blue Poly), Francoise, Polyanthus Supernova Blue.

### Southern Beds

Southern Beds 1 & 2, Stock Legacy Mixed, Edge Pansy Carmel White.

West Street Wills Street & Layby

West & Wills Nos 1 & 2, Polyanthus Waikato Improved, Tulip London, Edge - double - Viola Carpet Lemon Wing Yellow.  
Layby, Myosotis Royal Pink, Tulip Purple Prince, Edge Pansy Fama Dark Eyed Lemon.

## Baring Square

**North End**, Pansy Carmel Total Mix, Hyacinth Jan Bos, Edge Myosotis White Surf.

**Back Centre**, Bellis Pominette Red & White

**South End**, Myosotis Royal White, Stock Legacy Mixture, Tulips (in myosotis) Ballade, Edge Myosotis Ultramarine.

**Front of Cenotaph**, Pansy Ultima Baron Mahogany, Groups of Pansies, Pansy Carmel Blotch Yellow; Pansy Carmel Blotch Blue; Pansy Carmel Clear White; Pansy Carmel Clear Scarlet, Hyacinth King of the Blues.

**Footpaths**, Calendula Touch of Red Mixed.



**Baring Square East**, Calendula Fiesta Gitana Mixed.

## Netherby

**Roundabout**, Polyanthus C A Woods, Special Antique Shades, Tulips Hocus Pocus, Edge, Polyanthus C A Woods White.

**Bulge**, Polyanthus C A Woods Pink & Apricot Shades, Tulips Francoise.

## Turton Memorial

Turton Memorial No 1, Viola Hobbit Froddo Baggins.

Turton Memorial No 2, Viola Carpet Yellow Heart Blue.

Turton Memorial No 3, Viola Carpet Antique Blue Wing

Turton Memorial No 4, Viola Angel Terracotta

Turton Memorial No 5, Viola Hobbit Poppin Tock.

## Carparks & Oak Grove

Oak Grove / Harrison Street Roundabout Pansy Carmel Scarlet, Tulip Il de France (planted in a Red Cross), Edge Myosotis White Surf.

## Walnut Ave / West Street

**Roundabout No 1**, Pansy Carmel Clear Orange, Tulip Orange Toronto, Edge Myosotis Ultramarine  
**Roundabout No 2**, Pansy Carmel Clear Yellow, Tulip Donna Bella, Edge Myosotis Ultramarine.

**Roundabout No 3**, Pansy Buttermilk, Tulip Boutade, Edge Myosotis Ultramarine.

**Bulge North**, Myosotis Royal Pink, Tulip Ballade - Lily type, Edge Pansy Majestic Giants 11 Patricia.

**Bulge South**, Myosotis Royal Blue, Tulip Queen of Sheba, Edge, Pansy Majestic Giants 11 Sherry.

**Wall**, Myosotis Royal White, Tulip Spring Green, Edge Pansy Majestic Giants 11 Patricia.

## Walnut Ave / East Street

**Roundabout No 1 & 2**, Bellis Habanera Mixed, Edge - Double, Bellis Habanera White with Red Tips.

**Racecourse**, Pansy Fiesta Blend, Tulip Monsella, Inner Edge Pansy Fama Silver Blue, Outer Edge Viola Hobbit Blushing Blue.

## Church Triangles

**Methodist Church Triangle**, Polyanthus McMillian Ruffled Mix, Tulip Golden Parade, Inner Edge Pansy Carmel Clear Yellow, Outer Edge, Viola Carpet Yellow Heart Lavender.

**Catholic Church triangle No 1**, Pansy Carmel Clear Mixed, Tulip Orange Toronto, Edge - Double Viola Angel Tiger Eyes.

**Catholic Church triangle No 2**, Pansy Contessa



Ruffled Mix, Tulip Pinnocchio, Edge Viola Hobbit Cream Yellow Lip.

## Archibald Street

**Semi-Circle (Red Cross planting)**, Polyanthus Red and Bronze Shades, Tulip Il de France (planted in a Red Cross), Edge Polyanthus C A Wood White.

**Service Club signs**, Calendula Fiesta Gitana Mixed, Tulip Golden Parade, Edge Pansy Carmel Blotch Blue.

**Welcome sign**, Myosotis Royal Blue, Tulip, Kees Nelis, Edge - Double, Polyanthus Yellow Improved.

## Methven

**Raised Bed No 1**, Pansy Contessa Ruffled Mixed, Hyacinth Gypsy Princess, Edge, Viola Carpet Gold Eye Cream.

**Raised Bed No 2**, Pansy Majestic Giants 11 Sherry, Hyacinth Gypsy Princess, Edge Viola Carpet Gold Eye Cream.

**Raised Bed Nos 3 & 4**, Iceland Poppy Wonderland Mix, Edge, Viola Hobbit Pippin Tock,

## Rakaia



**Roundabout No 1**, Bellis Habanera White with Red Tips, Tulip Oxford Elite, Edge Pansy Carmel Desert Sunset Blend.

**Roundabout No 2**, Viola Carpet Lilac Wing Yellow, Hyacinth Mixed, Edge, Viola Carpet Yellow Heart Lavender.

## Ashburton Hospital

**Ward 1 No 1**, Poppy Iceland Springsong Mixed.

**Ward 1 No 2 & 3**, Polyanthus Supernova Mixed, Tulip Golden Parade

**Main Entrance**, Pansy Carmel Clear Mixed, Hyacinth Blue Jacket, Edge Viola Hobbit Cream Yellow Lip.

**Out Patients**, Pansy Carmel Daffodil Mixed, Hyacinth, King of the



Blues, Inner Edge Pansy Carmel True Blue, Outer Edge, Pansy Carmel Clear Orange.

**Administration**, Stock Legacy Mixed, Edge Bellis Habanera White with Red Tips.

**Chapel**, Pansy Contessa Mixed

**Courtyard**, Polyanthus Waikato Improved Dentist Beds No 1 & 2, Calendula Fiesta Gitana Mixed, Tulip Temples Favourite, Edge Pansy Carmel True Blue

**Corner Bed**, Polyanthus C A Wood Red & Bronze Shades, Tulip planted in Red Cross Il de France, Edge Polyanthus C A Wood White.

## Tuarangi Home

Pansy Carmel Total Mixed, Tulip Il de France, Edge Pansy Carmel Blue Blotch.

# Council's gambling policy to be reviewed

Gambling, in one way or another, affects most people from the sports club using a Charitable Trust grant to buy equipment to the owner of a top class galloper, from a Saturday night session on the pokies, almost everyone is affected in one way or another by some form of gambling. There can be, however, more harmful impacts from gambling, with some people developing problems which affect themselves, their families and the community.

The Council is required by the Gambling Act 2003 to have a policy which states how applications for new gaming machine (pokie) or stand - alone TAB venues will be treated, and how any proposed increases to current machine numbers will be dealt with. This policy is an opportunity for residents to have some say on how gambling venues are regulated within their community.

Ashburton District Council has started a process to review its current Gambling Venue Policy. Information on gambling within the District has been sought from

Trust's operating pokie machines, venue operators, the racing industry and from organisations providing problem gambling counselling within the District. This information will be used to update the "Report on the Social Effects of Gaming Machine Gambling in Ashburton District" and to review the Policy itself.

A sub-committee of Council comprising councillors Kilworth, Burgess, Glass, Lowe and Tasker has been formed to undertake the review process. A draft reviewed policy is due to be completed by 19 October and will be available for community consultation from 24 October to 24 November.

Currently the Council's Class 4 Gambling Venue Policy limits the number of machines at new venues to a maximum of 5 and prohibits Class 4 gambling venues from being established in residential zones.

The "Report on Social Effects" and the draft reviewed Gambling Venue Policy will be available at the Council offices and on the Council web-site during the consultation period.

# Cyclists have responsibilities

Owning a cycle is similar to owning a car. Cyclists have a responsibility to ensure their cycle is a safe form of transport, to know and follow the road rules, and own and use the correct safety equipment when cycling.

The start of daylight saving on October 1 has seen an increase in cyclists and pedestrians on our roads due to longer warmer days.

It is recommended that cycles should be checked regularly. These checks should include the tread and pressure of the tyres, the front and back brakes, and that the wheel spokes are in good condition. The bike needs to be fitted with a front light and a rear reflector, and reflectors on the pedals. When riding at night, or where visibility is poor, these lights and reflectors should be visible from 100metres. It is also important that the seat and handlebars are fitted and adjusted correctly.

Correct safety equipment means wearing an approved helmet, that is correctly fitted and in good condition including the straps. Make sure you can be seen - wearing bright coloured clothing. Even on a sunny day, this will

make it easier to be seen by other road users, particularly motorists.

Know your road rules. Hand signals are the only way you can let other road users know what you intend to do. Give a good clear signal, at least three seconds before you make a stop or turn. Always look for other vehicles before turning, especially from behind.

In the period 2001 to 2005, cyclists made up 16% of all road user casualties in the Ashburton urban district and 1% of all road user casualties in the Ashburton rural district. Nearly 45% of the 17 cycle crashes recorded in the district were children between 5 and 14 years, with the balance of crashes being evenly distributed over the other age groups from 15 to 60 years.

Cycle checks, in conjunction with the police, have been arranged by the district road safety coordinator. These will take place in October and November. These checks will concentrate on various aspects of cycle safety and will not only focus on child cyclists, but all cyclists.

*Ngairé Tinning,  
Road Safety Co-ordinator*

# Early start to fire season

The June 12 snowstorm may seem a distant memory for some, but the reality is that after less than four months, there is still a large cleanup to be done, especially on rural properties.

Ashburton District Council emergency management officer Don Geddes said the time was fast approaching when that cleanup in itself could cause problems, in particular the cleanup of branches from snow-damaged trees that are being disposed of by burning.

The fire season has started early this year, with an unusually dry spring and nor-west gales coming with greater frequency and strength than in many recent years.

It is incredible how quickly the countryside has dried out, he said. There have

been a number of smaller fires already, started by a variety of causes. One in the Waikari Hills in South Canterbury and seen from as far away as Ashburton was started by a lightning strike.

However it was controlled fires such as those burning branches that were currently causing concern. People need to make sure they were properly supervised and if the wind increased, or even if strong wind was forecast, to make sure they were properly extinguished.

While there were no restrictions at present people still had a duty of care to act safely and not to cause a nuisance to neighbours.

When a fire brigade had to attend a fire those responsible for it were still liable for suppression costs, Mr Geddes said.

## Council helps fund upgrade for Rakaia sports facilities

Several sports groups based in the Rakaia Domain are to have a major upgrade of their facilities, thanks in part to a \$22,500 boost from the Ashburton District Council.

Rakaia Reserve Board chairman Bruce Perry said the domain's courts were unsafe for netball and tennis to be played on them and were dilapidated. Hockey teams had to travel to Ashburton for practice.

The project, estimated to cost almost \$150,000, would see two tennis courts surfaced with synthetic turf enabling tennis matches to be played on them, as well as hockey practice on what was essentially a half-sized hockey pitch. The remaining two tennis courts would be realigned and resurfaced in asphalt for both netball and tennis teams to practice and to play matches. The lighting system for the entire system would be upgraded and the existing fence removed and replaced with a new three-metre fence.

It was planned to commence work soon and complete it over the summer months.

The sports clubs involved will contribute funds to the project and the Rakaia Lions Club had made a substantial contribution. Other contributions will come from trusts, the reserve board and the sale of naming rights.

The reserve board was grateful to the council for its contribution. Mr Perry said.

## Pleasing response to plastic recycling changes

From July 1 the types of plastics able to be recycled in Ashburton changed from only numbers 1 and 2 to all grades of plastics.

The response to the change has been pleasing, with the volumes increasing each month from 1055 kg collected in June to 2561 kg in August.

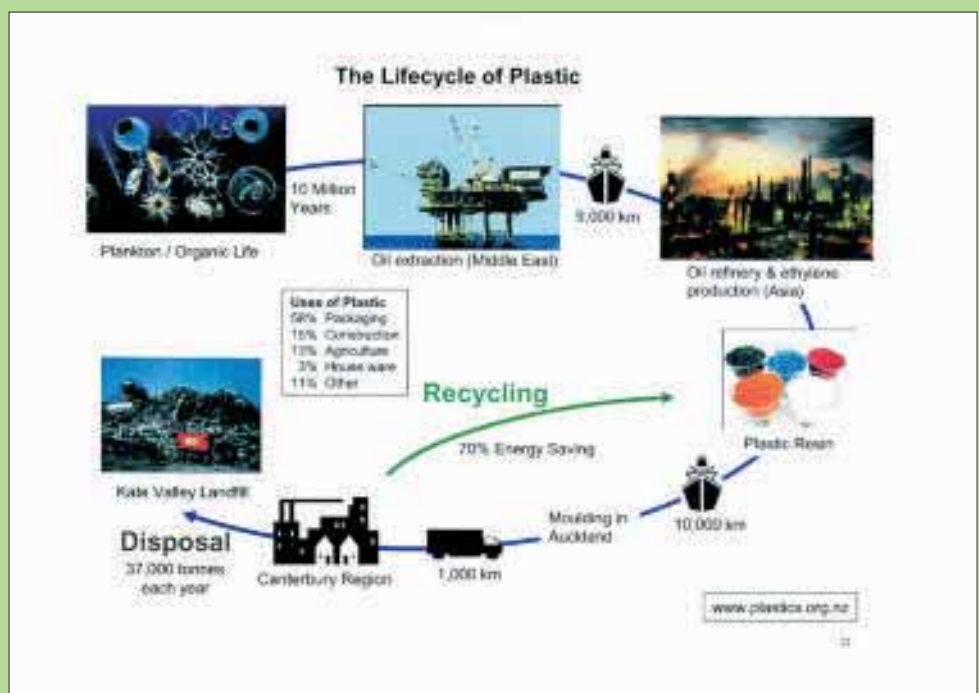
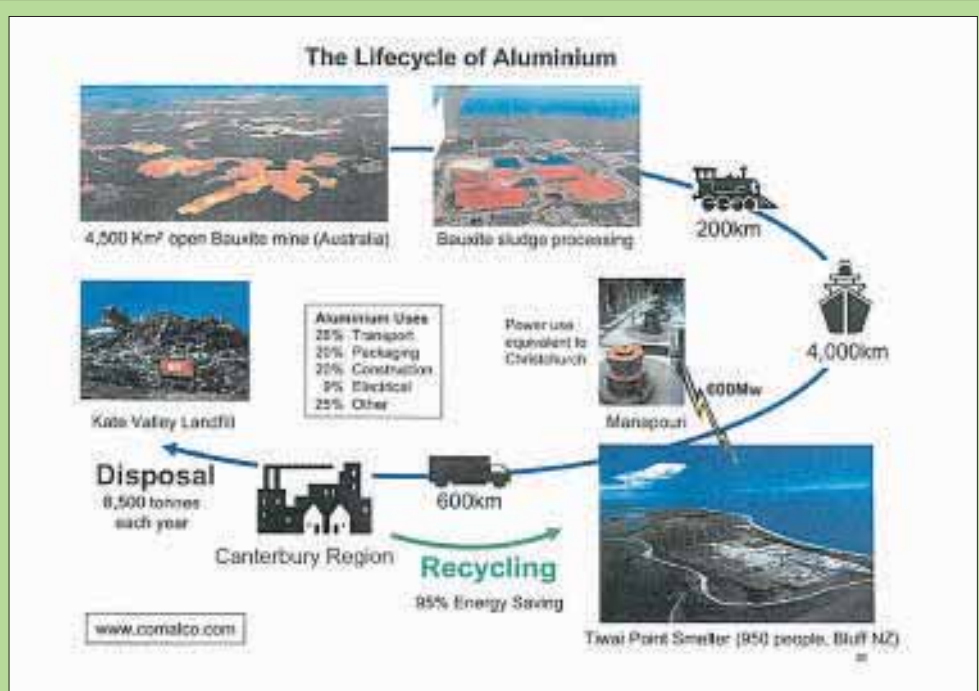
The types of containers now able to be put in your recycling crates include yoghurt pottles, ice cream containers, margarine containers, all cleaning product bottles, shampoo and deodorant bottles as well as the milk containers and soft drink bottles as in the past.

It is essential that all plastic containers put out for recycling be rinsed and the tops removed from the bottles. The lids from ice cream, yoghurt and margarine containers can be put in the recycling crate.

Supermarket bags and bread bags are recyclable but cannot be placed in your recycling crate. Please take these directly to the drop off area at the Resource Recovery Park.

Polystyrene packaging and meat trays are not recyclable even though they may have a recycling symbol on the back. Please continue to place this material in your black rubbish bag.

If you have any queries regarding plastic or any other recycling please phone Wastebusters hotline 308 9966.



# Hampstead courts to be resurfaced soon

The Hampstead Tennis Club will soon have three freshly surfaced courts, thanks to a number of community grants including two from the Ashburton District Council.

Spokesperson Ruth Humphrey said three of the club's six courts in Digby Park were resurfaced about 10 years ago, but the remaining three were currently in a poor state and were becoming unplayable.

The club had been fundraising for about a year to raise the more than \$72,000 the project was expected to cost.

The club had more than 70 members and the courts were used every Saturday morning for junior competition as well as three days a week by social players. They were also used as an overflow when the Oak Grove courts were fully occupied. At other times they were open to the public, with a donation box available to help cover costs.

A major grant from the Ashburton Trust Charitable Foundation had been the cornerstone of the fundraising, she said. The District Council had contributed \$4500 a year ago and a further \$18,000 after a submission was made this year to the council's Community Plan.

Until the old surface was removed it was not possible to tell what work would be involved in replacing the foundation, so the Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury had been flexible with a grant it had made, although it had set a maximum figure.

Digby Park on Chalmers Avenue between Havelock and Cameron streets, where the courts are situated, is owned by the council, with the courts being leased by the club. The park was once the site of the Ashburton Brewery, but in later years became the lower sports grounds for the Ashburton Technical School, with athletic sports being held there. The school's swimming



pool was located on the site of the brewery buildings, where the Silver Band Hall now stands. The Hampstead Tennis Club was formed more than 50 years ago, carrying on from the Technical Old Students Tennis Club.

# Sealed road network to be extended

For the first time since 2001 the Ashburton District Council will be sealing some of the shingle roads in its network in the coming year.

Council Roding and Street Services Contracts Engineer Tony MacPherson said the council as looking at doing about seven kilometres of seal extension this financial year. Since 2001 funding had been used for area-wide pavement treatment of shingled roads, allowing about two and a half times the length of road to be upgraded. That allowed heavy-duty upgrading of roads that otherwise would not have had a sufficiently high benefit to cost ratio (BC) to attract a subsidy. Land Transport New Zealand requires the benefits obtained across a whole range of safety and operational issues during the life of the upgrade to be about four times the cost of the upgrade. If that figure is met, a subsidy of

about 48 per cent of the cost of the work can be obtained.

With the foundation work having been carried out through the heavy duty upgrades, the seal extension is possible at a lower cost and is more likely to achieve the required BC. This approach will result in significant cost savings.

A provisional list of roads for seal extension was included in the council's Community Plan, but the BC for each one had yet to be approved by LTNZ. Until that happened the actual roads to be sealed could not be named, but it was hoped to have a contract awarded before the end of the year.

There were some roads that could be sealed even if they did not attract a subsidy as councillors appreciated the work would have benefits to their communities

that would not necessarily translate to achieving a satisfactory BC.

Meanwhile a \$2.8 million contract had recently been awarded to ACL for the resealing of 122 kilometres of council's sealed road network, Mr MacPherson said. The work involved pre-seal repair as well as re-sealing work.

The contract figure was considerably over budget as a result of recent increases in the price of bitumen, a petroleum-based product, Mr MacPherson said. That was a factor that was likely to affect other sealing work.

The council had an ongoing strategy to upgrade its roads to deal with the drastic increase in weight and volume of heavy traffic. Many of the district's roads were never designed to deal with loads in excess of 40 tonnes.

## ASHBURTON LIBRARY

New Titles  
Non-fiction



# What's On

**Affluenza, when too much is never enough**, by Clive Hamilton. Forget bird flu, if you can. An Australian economist decries modern society's unhealthy obsession with discretionary spending. He believes that we are sacrificing happiness to a drive to acquire bigger and better homes, more and more consumer items, and to fund an "ideal" lifestyle out of touch with reality. Debt, overwork, buyer's remorse, lack of time for family and friends. Sound familiar?

**Berlin Games: how Hitler stole the Olympic dream**, by Guy Walters. An overview of the 1936 "Nazi" Olympics, where Jack Lovelock won a gold medal for New Zealand, and was presented with the oak seedling which has since populated South Canterbury with German "Lovelock Oaks". With hindsight, portents of the coming war and vicious Nazi oppression can be clearly seen. The drama of the games and the experiences of the athletes themselves are also well described, so the book retains interest on several levels.

**Fair chase**, by Andy Lyver. Andy is a woman, however unladylike her chosen pursuit. It is pursuing wild deer and pigs with deadly intent. Having married into a keen hunting Hawkes Bay family, Andy had to learn to shoot or stay by the stove. She decided to join in, and has enjoyed many hunting expeditions with her husband and equally keen children. I would have said that a "fair chase" was one in which the pigs and deer were armed too, but it seems not.

**The life and times of the Thunderbolt Kid**, by Bill Bryson. Best known for his hilarious travel books, Bill Bryson travels back in time to his own 1950s' childhood in Des Moines, Iowa.

**My darling Heriott**, by Jane Brown. A historical biography by one of the most scholarly of garden writers, Jane Brown, who has also written about Lutyens and Vita Sackville-West. Henrietta (Heriott) was born into the aristocratic St John family in eighteenth century England. Her stormy life was touched by political, financial and personal scandal, but ultimately it was the garden she loved which gave satisfaction and meaning to her existence, and for which she is remembered.

**Pension panic**, by Gareth Morgan. Tough talk on sorting out your finances indeed. Surprisingly humorous in places, too, even if the laughter is somewhat rueful. As an investor, are you more motivated by greed, or fear? According to Morgan, we fall into one or other category, and he should know.

**Perspectives, Mid-Canterbury**, by Bill Irwin. Who knew we looked this good? A most beautiful book of Ashburton landscapes photography, by a local man with an eye for the land. It's not my job, but this would make a great Christmas gift for the ex-pat Ashburtonian. They'll be home in a flash.

**A season in red, my great leap forward into the new China**, by Kirsty Needham. The author, a journalist, was sent to cover an international trade fair in Beijing in 1997, and found China fascinating. She returned as a tourist, then landed a job as a "Foreign Expert" on the China Daily newspaper. This is her experience of coming to terms with this land of contradictions.

**Sir Peter Blake, an amazing life**, by Alan Sefton. This is the first authorized biography of the famous ocean racer. The author was a close friend of Blake as well as a business and sporting associate, so the book is full of personal insights and knowledgeable comment on his many achievements.

**Somme, the heroism and horror of war**, by Martin Gilbert. 90 years ago the most ghastly conflict in the history of warfare was raging in France. The Battle of the Somme ran from July to November 1916, and 310,459 soldiers lost their lives. When the battle was over, the objectives set for British and French forces for even its first day had not been achieved. Martin Gilbert is a historian who can do justice to the tragedy and the heroism. Poetry and photographs support his text – one significant image of a Silesian military hospital group shows the wounded Adolf Hitler.

### Fiction.

**Whitethorn woods**, by Maeve Binchy. Rossmore needs a bypass, and the proposed route is through Whitethorn Woods, a local beauty spot with a holy well. Locals are divided on the question, which threatens to split the community apart.

**Traitor**, by Stephen Coonts. Al Qaeda has replaced the Cold War as the favourite bogie for espionage thriller

writers. In this one, foiling one huge terror threat many mean losing the chance of completely destroying the world's biggest terrorist organization.

**Tied to the tracks**, by Sara Donati. Miss Zula Bragg, famous black writer and academic, is about to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of her graduation from Ogilvie College, a select campus in Georgia. A documentary crew arrive in town, and the frontwoman discovers that the new Chair of the college is an old flame.

**What came before he shot her**, by Elizabeth George. Fans of Inspector Linley will still be reeling at the shooting death of his wife, Helen, in George's last mystery novel. This prequel is a Linley and Sergeant Barbara Havers free zone. It is an account of the life of the young Jamaican who is implicated in Helen's murder, and how he and his siblings fell into the power of the criminal underclass. An interesting social essay, but not a mystery thriller if that's what you like to read. George's keen readers will want to read it anyway.

**Helen of Troy**, by Margaret George. Another retelling of the old story of Paris, Helen, and the fall of Troy.

**Murder in the dark**, by Kerry Greenwood. A further Australian murder mystery in the series featuring the 1920's upper class heroine Phryne (say "Fry Knee") Fisher. Phryne is invited to the Last Best Party of 1928, hosted by the Golden Twins, a glamorous brother and sister duo famous for their lavish entertainment. In a crumbling mansion in the country, kidnap and murder stalk the assembled guests.

**Rose Alley**, by Audrey Howard. Despite the name, Rose Alley is a Liverpool slum. Nineteenth century mother and daughter Queenie and Gillyflower Logan are determined to improve their lot in life and escape from Rose Alley. Gilly opens a dressmaking shop, and hopes to marry well, but it isn't easy to escape the past.

**The second horseman**, by Kyle Mills. A professional thief is sprung from gaol by the F.B.I. He soon wishes he was back there, as the task they have in mind for him involves stealing \$250 million to flush out the crime organization which is auctioning nuclear warheads.

**A stain on the silence**, by Andrew Taylor. James finds out that a teenage affair with the stepmother of his best schoolfriend resulted in the birth of a daughter, now grown up. And pregnant. And accused of murder. He desperately tries to avoid caring about his daughter, but finds he must become involved, and remember that summer long ago.

## Ashburton Children's Library

### Picture Books

**Augustine** by Melanie Watt. Augustine moves from the South Pole to the North Pole. She faces all the problems associated with adapting to another school and making new friends. Augustine is a shy young penguin but the story has a happy ending.

**I love our earth** by Bill Martin jnr. and Michael Sampson. Photos by Dan Lipow. Stunning photography combined with simple but beautiful text.

**It's so unfair!** Written by Pat Thomson with illustrations by Jonathan Allen. When Mrs Prout chases the cat outside the hens all agree that it's so unfair. Somehow, as the story is passed around the farmyard, the cat admits to a longer and longer list of sins. Then we reach the greatest sin of all!

**The mixed-up rooster** by Pamela Duncan Edwards. Pictures by Megan Lloyd. Ned the rooster just isn't a morning bird. When he sleeps in yet again a new rooster takes over as the alarm clock, but Ned finds his own special role.

**A particular cow** by Mem Fox. Illustrations by Terry Denton. Cow's usual Saturday morning walk becomes a little unusual when she finds herself 'on the wrong side of a particular pair of bloomers...'. This is one of those stories that just keeps on getting more and more outlandish.

### Chapter Books

**Abduction!** by Peg Kehret. Bonnie always meets her little brother, Matt, at the school bus. Then one day he just isn't there. A mystery story with lots of suspense and a nail-biting ending.

**Hunted** by Anthony Masters. Two boys fight for survival in wolf country after they are involved in a plane crash. The plot may have been used before but the characters

show convincing strengths and weaknesses during their tense ordeal.

**The mummy with no name** by Geronimo Stilton. An Egyptian mystery for Geronimo, editor of The Rodents' Gazette.

**Rising Star** by Sue Lawson. Mickey Farrell's two sisters are sports stars but she just wants to be a singing star. The Diva competition is her big chance. An easy read for all those who dream of being 'New Zealand's Idol'.

**Toes** by Tor Seidler. The story of a cat with seven toes on each foot, and of his friendship with a musician called Sebastian.

### Non-fiction

**Electric guitars**; the illustrated encyclopaedia by Tony Bacon. 787.87

**The good, the bad and the just plain ugly** – guitars beloved by rock groups and musicians over the last seven decades. Lavishly illustrated.

**How to give a wedge!**; and other tricks, tips, and skills no adult will teach you by Dave and Joe Borgenicht. 030. The title says it all!

**Karate in action** by Kelley MacAulay and Bobbie Kalman. 796.8153

**A basic guide to the ancient Japanese method of self-defence and self-discipline**. Great illustrations and clear text.

**Mega structures** 030. The big, the bold and the strange - structures from the Egyptian pyramids to the London Eye. These include the largest tractor and the longest car.

**Real beauty**; 101 ways to feel great about you by Therese Kauchak. 158.1. Easy suggestions for building values and self-esteem in those almost-teenagers.

### Teen Reads from the Young Adult Section

**Billy the Kid** by Theodore Taylor. A novel based on the life of the real 'Billy the Kid'. Nineteen-year-old Billy is one of the fastest gunslingers in Arizona. When a train robbery goes wrong Billy goes on the run from the law.

**I will plant you a lilac tree** by Laura Hillman. 940.5318. Hannelore was a teenager when she became one of the many Jews deported from Germany. She spent three years in labour and concentration camps. A harrowing story but history needs to be told if it's not to repeat itself.

**On thin ice** by Jamie Bastedo. A novel set in an Arctic Inuit community. The polar bears are starving, their environment altered by climate change. Are they responsible for the death of a teenager?

**Shooting the moon** by V M Jones. A novel about a 14 year old boy, Philip (or Pippin), who lives in his own little world, unaware of what is really going on around him. He is always looking for attention from his father but his father only seems to notice his brother, Nick.

**Write your own CV** by Paula Stenberg. Revised edition. 650.14. Good, practical advice about preparing the CV that stands out from the rest of the pile.

**Is the study situation looking grim?** Check out the Y/A section for NCEA subject guides.

## Ashburton Museum

Welcome to Spring, the gardens everywhere are looking very colourful and a delight to be in.

If Gardens and Museums are your great interest or just having an enjoyable afternoon out in the country, mark your calendars now — Sunday November 26, the Ashburton Museum is hosting a "Wear a Hat" Garden Party at Beverley & Sam Keatings' home and Museum on Longbeach Road, 1-4pm. Tickets will be on sale from the beginning of November at the Museum in Baring Square. We look forward to seeing you there.

Here is a brief outline of new displays coming up over the next three months. W.H. Collins & Co will our second display in our series of "Ashburton Businesses - old names that have survived"; the 1920s will feature in the next wedding dress display from mid-October. "Birds eye view" will feature aerial photos of Rakaia to coincide with Rakaia's 150th Celebrations in November. The Red Cross will feature from 12th October for three weeks to be followed by a Rakaia memorabilia display featuring items from our Museum collection. Over Labour weekend we celebrate the Organ Club Conference with a musical display. All in all a busy few months, we hope you will find something of interest amongst our displays on offer. As always we are open for research and general enquiries and we look forward to seeing or hearing from you.

Regards Rita and Maryann  
Mark your calendars now folks

## New faces at the council



Ross Bragg is a new gardener with the Ashburton District Council's parks and reserves department, working around the town. He started early in September, after nine years working at Canterbury Flour Mills.



Robert Banks is the new general inspector for the Ashburton District Council.

His responsibilities fall into three main areas — resource management including resource consent and district plan monitoring, with some enforcement aspects; administering the council's building warrant of fitness system; and general inspector including by-law inspections and backup for the people doing such things as water inspections.

With a background of eight years as a builder and a time designing trusses he will also be standing in for the council's building officers at times.

Another task will be to pull together a state of the environment report for the council.

The building warrant of fitness work is expected to take about three days out of each week and much of the remainder of his time will be involved with consent monitoring as the council moves to monitor about 30 per cent of consents each year.



Adrian Humphries is the Ashburton District Council's new senior Environmental Health Officer, starting in his new position on August 7.

The position is aimed at enhancing the environmental health of the whole district, with a focus at the present time on food safety — everything from restaurants to barbecues.

Among other issues covered by Adrian are housing standards, particularly in relation to some of the district's older properties, air quality and other pollution issues including illegal dumping. It will mean working closely with other agencies, he said.

Adrian has come to New Zealand from England where he held a similar position with the British Army, his last posting being in Germany. He and his wife had been in New Zealand on holiday in 2000 and decided it was where they wanted to be. His Army contract finished earlier this year and he quickly found the Ashburton position through a recruitment company.

One attraction with New Zealand was that people were more community focused than in Britain, he said. He could see massive potential and his new job gave him the chance to help maintain and improve the country's clean green image.

## More money for rural sports teams, but applications delayed

Money provided to the Ashburton District Council by SPARC to enable travel costs for rural sports teams has been increased this year.

Council administration officer Sharon Robinson said the amount available this year had increased by \$2000, plus an additional \$750 that has been returned from last year's grants because it was not used, giving a total of \$9312 to distribute.

In previous years money from the fund has been made available in October, but this year the council has decided to delay applications until February 2007 so both winter and summer codes can have an equal opportunity. The previous timing had been because the council received its funding from SPARC in October.

The fund was created after councils raised concerns about the lack of participation in sport by young people living in rural communities.

It is targeted at young people aged between five and 19 and is designed to subsidise travel for junior teams participating in local sports competitions.

Allocation of funds to councils is based on a formula that takes population density into account and is for communities that have a population density of less than 10 people per square kilometre.

Applications can be made by rural sports clubs and rural school teams with members aged between five and 19 who require subsidies to assist with transport subsidies to local competitions.

Applications for travel to out of district tournaments are not eligible for subsidy.

Applications will be called for in February, but enquiries about eligibility should be directed to Sharon Robinson, administration officer at the District Council.

## Tenders called for new SH1 intersection project

Tenders close next Tuesday (October 17) for the realignment of the State Highway One/East Street intersection at the north end of Ashburton. Transit New Zealand South Canterbury Regional Engineer Colin Hey said the estimated price of construction work was \$830,000 with an additional \$100,000 to \$150,000 budgeted for other work such as relocating railway signals and crossing alarms.

The time allowed for construction was 18 weeks, with completion expected about the end of April next year.

One final hurdle had to be cleared before Transit could guarantee the work would proceed, Mr Hey said. Once tender prices were in, confirmation the funding was available had to be obtained from Land Transport New Zealand. That would happen the day after tender prices were available.

Ashburton District Council Roadway Services Contracts Engineer Tony MacPherson said the project would see State Highway One becoming a straight-through road onto West Street without the present islands and give way.

The intersection with Racecourse Road would remain a T-intersection as at present but the existing rail crossing would be closed and replaced by a new rail crossing further to the south, where trees had already been removed and transplanted.

Northbound East Street traffic would face a gentle bend across the railway to a T-intersection with West Street. East Street north of that intersection would become part of Bremners Road.

The road would be widened at the intersection with Seafield Road and a right-turn stacking bay installed.

## Rising valuations don't mean automatic rate increases

All ratepayers in Ashburton District will have recently received a new valuation for their property from the Council and for most the news has been good. Capital values for properties in the District have lifted an average 61 per cent while land values have risen an average 78 per cent. This spectacular growth is the result of a strong national property market and a strong local economy.

Tempering this good news, however, has been the myth that rising property prices automatically means rising rates. Although rating is a complex issue it can generally be said that:

Providing the Council funding requirement remains constant, only those properties that increase in value by more than the district-wide average will pay higher rates.

Council's funding requirement depends on how much of total Council spending for the year needs to be funded from rates. In the current year 48 per cent of total Council income is from rates. The remaining income comes from government subsidies, investment returns, user charges and fees. Because of fluctuations in the value of each funding source and in the total amount of Council spending each year the

funding requirement varies from year to year, with Council endeavouring to keep rises to a minimum.

The amount each property pays towards the Council funding requirement is partly dependant on the value of each property as a percentage of the overall property values in the District. Therefore, providing Council spending remained constant, if your property value has increased by more than the district-wide average your rates will rise and if your property value has increased by less than the district-wide average you will pay less rates than before. Any increase or decrease is, however, likely to be small.