



ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL District Diary



August 8, 2006

Issue 42

Councillor comment with Ashburton District Councillor Michael Urquhart

With Ashburton District Councillor Michael Urquhart

Some years ago the well-known comedian-satirist John Clarke (alias Fred Dagg) sung the words "we don't know how lucky we are".

Last year an Ashburton Guardian editorial reinforced those sentiments by proclaiming the details of a Nation wide Consumer survey of all Local Bodies in New Zealand with the result that the Ashburton District was rated as the best area in the country to live and do business.

The survey showed Ashburton scored top marks in four of the five categories surveyed (including having low, if not the lowest, rates in the country).

In the fifth category we came in on an average mark, which

related to water and sewerage systems. The local water aspect has already been almost completed by the various water bores to replace the old gravity scheme.

Extensive remedial work has commenced on the sewerage system update.

The population of the District presently is approximately 27,000 and is anticipated to reach some 32,000 by 2021.

In days gone by the trend was a movement away from the smaller districts to the cities.

That trend is most certainly not always the case now as far as this District is concerned.

Many people are now initially settling in to this District



(and many people are returning, including my family). They

are doing so for employment purposes and to enjoy the benefits of living in a smaller but very progressive centre that can boast an array of tremendous facilities for cultural, educational and sporting pursuits, to cover all tastes. These amenities are the envy of people who live outside the District.

These facilities and pursuits include Flying, Religious, Musical, Dance and Cultural groups. These aspects include the Museum and Art Gallery, the Society of Arts, the Community Pool, Tennis Centre with all weather courts and night lighting, the adjoining Hockey pitch with again an all weather surface and night lighting. Both the

latter two have hosted International competitions. The magnificent Ashburton Domain again with its abundant sites to encompass Soccer, Athletics, Bowls, Children's play areas and Croquet. This list is far from exhaustive and there are many others.

Also catered for are Rugby, Squash Rackets and others and world quality Golf courses and the Mt Hutt Ski Field.

The effects of the June snow are passing, the sun is shining again, we are living in a beautiful part of the World, we have no male Councillors who attend to Council business dressed in Women's clothing like a well known prominent gentleman in Wellington.

All that being so I agree with the phrase "we don't know how lucky we are".

Environmental focus for new subdivision

The first four sections have been put up for tender in an environmentally friendly subdivision planned by the Ashburton District Council.

Tenders for the four sections fronting Albert Street closed on August 1, with one tender being received. The council is to decide later this month on its acceptance.

The four sections are the first stage of a much larger subdivision. The next stage will contain 21 sections with a further 31 in the final stage.

All buyers will be covenanted to build new family residences on the sections. All residences must be equipped with solar powered hot water, double glazing on all exterior windows and on-site rainwater storage of at least 5000 litres for garden irrigation. Ceilings are to be insulated with a minimum of R3.6 batts and walls to a minimum of R2.6. All houses must have concrete floors.

Another requirement is that buyers of sections must not sell them, except back to the council, until all the conditions are met. Provided the sections are still bare land the council will buy them back at the price paid, less five per cent.



Open farmland now, but this land will soon be an environmentally friendly subdivision

The covenants will be registered against the titles for the sections.

Council property manager John Rooney said the council's reasoning behind the creation of the subdivision was to put some affordable sections on the market. The covenants were to put up-front the council's interest in encouraging sustainable development.

"By putting the covenants in place the council recognises the initial cost of

building may be slightly higher but that the ongoing benefits will pay that higher cost back."

On today's prices the additional cost of construction would be paid back in five or six years, a period that would be shortened if energy prices continued to rise.

Tenders received for the first four sections would give an indication of the market's expectation having regard to the covenants and would provide a

benchmark for pricing the rest of the subdivision.

The scheme was believed to be a first in New Zealand, Mr Rooney said, although a similar scheme encouraging energy conservation but not covenanting it was being looked at in Waitakere. In Australia it was a requirement for all new housing in Victoria to have either solar powered hot water or on-site water storage.

The council would look at the possibility of a reticulated gas supply in the subdivision if there was sufficient demand, Mr Rooney said. There was no requirement for the homes to use gas as the backup water heating but if it was used the payback period dropped dramatically.

Another idea being pursued was the possibility of solar powered street lighting. He was currently waiting for a prototype light to be costed and supplied for a trial. It was a system that was used in parts of Australia but there was a need to evaluate the costs to make sure energy savings and saving on cables were sufficient to offset the additional capital costs.

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Ashburton District Council

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Alan Grieves and Craig Arnold of McMillans Water Wells pump testing Rakaia's new town supply well recently

The well, drilled to a depth of approximately 115 metres, was producing about 400 gallons per minute under test, well in excess of the required capacity.

A new approach to funding growth

When you apply for a Building Consent there may be new charges you will need to know about

Development Contributions and Financial Contributions.

As our District grows and new houses and businesses are built there are benefits we can all enjoy. We can afford better community facilities as costs are spread across more people.

New opportunities arise and we get to take advantage of the benefits of being a slightly bigger community.

But there are also costs associated with providing services for these new homes and businesses. New pipes have to be laid, more treatment of water and wastewater provided, and there is increased demand on our community's facilities.

Previously Council relied on headworks levies on new subdivisions in Ashburton and Methven to fund some of the growth requirements related to water and sewerage schemes in those towns. The new Local Government Act has, however, provided the opportunity to better fund a wider range of services and facilities throughout the District.

With this in mind the Council on June 29 adopted a Policy on Development Contributions and Financial Contributions as part of its 10-Year Council Community Plan, with the policy taking effect from July 1.

The key changes resulting from the new policy are:

- A new development contribution for new water connections to the Ashburton, Methven, Rakaia, Hinds, Fairton and Chertsey water supplies.
- A new development contribution for new wastewater connections to the Ashburton and Methven sewer schemes.
- The introduction of a development contribution for community infrastructure, which will fund the growth-associated costs of the library, civic building, and community projects such as the

proposed stadium and the art gallery and museum. This contribution will be paid for all new residential, commercial and industrial units throughout the District, including rural properties.

One of the major effects of the new policy is to move some of the charges for new developments from the subdivider to the building developer.

People building houses or commercial or industrial buildings from now on need to be aware there is likely to be a cost associated with that, which in the past was normally paid by the subdivider.

Developments which have already paid headworks levies will not pay the development contribution for that particular service.

The funding taken for development and financial contributions must be used for the purposes it has been taken.

This is especially important for some of the smaller water schemes in the District, where the additional costs of providing for new connections could otherwise add significantly to the water

rates currently being paid.

Council staff can calculate Development Contributions payable on a Building Consent to assist ratepayers in identifying these costs in advance.

More information is available from the Ashburton District Council offices or at www.adc.govt.nz/devfin

Schedule of Development Contributions

	Water (per household equivalent)	Wastewater (per household equivalent)	Community Infrastructure	Total (per household equivalent)
Ashburton	\$970	\$2,168	\$734	\$3,872
Methven	\$1,152	\$112	\$734	\$1,998
Rakaia	\$2,382		\$734	\$3,116
Hinds	\$5,769		\$734	\$6,506
Fairton	\$1,80		\$734	\$2,539
Chertsey	\$677		\$734	\$1,411
All other			\$734	\$734

All charges are stated exclusive of GST.

Charges are stated for a single household equivalent. For developments which are other than a residential dwelling a proportional charge based on the type of development will apply.

Important Note – These contributions replace the former headworks fees. If appropriate headworks fees were paid at the time of subdivision or are required to gain resource consent, a development contribution for water and waste water will not be charged.

We need your help

to protect the environment

If you see any individual or organisation harming our environment, please call

Environment Canterbury 24 Hour Pollution Hotline:

0800 76 55 88

Environmental harm can include the following: Polluting in streams • Offensive smoke and odours • Dumping of hazardous materials • Unauthorised irrigation • Earthworks and disturbance in river beds • Drainage of wetlands

Help us to protect Canterbury's environment by calling the 24 Hour Pollution Hotline. The Environment Canterbury pollution response team is standing by 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to take your call.



Most plastics now accepted for recycling

The increasing price of fuel has had a positive spin-off in Ashburton, with the District Council now being in a position to accept almost all types of plastic through the kerbside recycling system, instead of just types 1 and 2, which were the only types accepted until recently.

There are a few exceptions. Expanded polystyrene, the type of material that is used in packaging, cannot be accepted because as yet there is market available for it.

Larger plastic items such as chairs and large toys cannot be accepted at the kerbside but will be accepted at the resource recovery park. This is because of a lack of space on the collection vehicles.

Similarly, quantities of supermarket bags will only be accepted at the resource recovery park, not at the kerbside. The reason is that people

NOT ACCEPTED

- ✗ Expanded polystyrene
- ✗ Dirty containers
- ✗ Cling film

ACCEPTED AT RESOURCE RECOVERY PARK ONLY

- ✓ Large plastic items
- ✓ Quantities of supermarket bags

often leave pieces of packaging and paper in the bags that play havoc with processing machinery. There is insufficient time to check the bags on the pickup vehicle for that sort of material.

Cling films, such as Glad Wrap will not be accepted because it is difficult to clean.

Other than those exceptions all plastics may be put out for kerbside

collection.

All that is necessary is to make sure they are rinsed and where possible that small containers are placed inside larger ones. The types of containers that will now be collected include ice cream, margarine and yoghurt containers

The change has come about because of the escalating price of oil. Eight per cent of the world's oil production is used to manufacture plastics, but with the price having risen to the extent it has, it is now economically viable to reform used plastic into new products.

It is estimated about 25 tonne of plastics additional to that already being collected will come in each year thanks to the new policy. While there will be additional collection costs, they will be partly offset because of savings on the cost of transport to Kate Valley and the cost of disposal there.

Fluoride survey set down for September

Next month the Ashburton District Council will be surveying a representative sample of residents who receive their water from one of the district's public potable water supplies.

People will be asked if they wish to have fluoride added to their supply.

This preliminary survey to gauge the level of community support follows a submission made to the council's 10-year Community Plan from Community and Public Health asking the council to consider fluoridating the district's water supplies.

Up until 2002 water supplies in Methven and Ashburton both had fluoride added. Requests from sections of the Ashburton community led to the practice being discontinued in Ashburton in 2002, but the Methven supply is still fluoridated.

As there has been no submission made in connection with Methven, the survey to be undertaken next month will look only at the Ashburton and other district water

supplies that are currently not fluoridated.

Council corporate services manager John Rollinson said fluoridation was a contentious issue with people on both sides of the debate often having very strong views. For that reason, it was right for the council to take a lead from the community.

If the initial survey showed sufficient support for a change the proposal would be included in the council's 2007/08 Annual Plan. That would enable full community consultation through the Annual Plan process and provide an opportunity for all local residents to comment through submissions to the plan.

Next month's survey will involve a telephone survey of a representative sample of residents who draw their water from the Ashburton water supply and a postal survey of those residents who are connected to the smaller water supplies throughout the district.

Cleanup keeps chipper busy



Since the June 12 snowfall, crews from the District Council's Reserves Department have been busy tidying the damage caused to trees in parks and along road reserves, as well as at Rakaia and Barrhill.

The work has included removing broken branches from trees and chipping all the smaller branches. The chips are stockpiled at the Ashburton Cemetery for use later in the year as mulch on gardens in council reserves.

As of the beginning of August about half the work had been completed.

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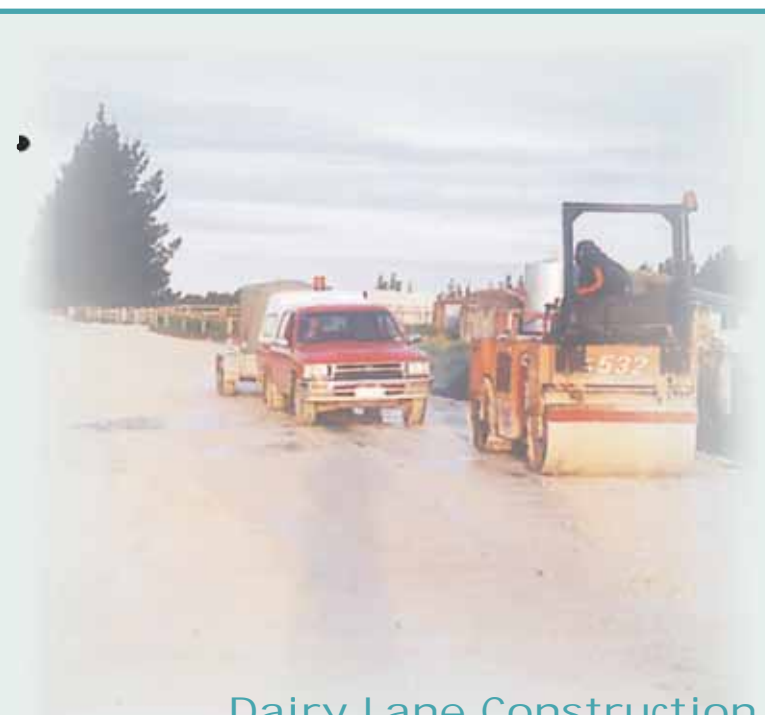
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Dairy Lane Construction

How the community reacted to the snow

Ashburton was hit by heavy rain on the night of Sunday June 11 turning to snow between 2am and 3am on Monday morning.

David Robertson, Roading & Street Services Manager, was contacted at 3.45am by the roading contractor, Fulton Hogan to advise that road clearing operations to clear district roads was being set into action.

It was evident very early that the snowfall was not going to be a short-term event, and action was taken immediately.

Road clearing commenced in accordance with the pre-determined road clearing hierarchy where principal roads in the district need to be cleared within the first 24 hours.

Event Contact with radio stations commenced at 5.30-6am.

Snow depths at 7am were approximately 150-200mm in Ashburton. Heavy snow was falling over the entire district.

Snow continued to fall through to about 2pm.

Snow depths in the district were recorded as follows:

Ashburton, 30-35cm; Methven, 35-40cm; Ruapuna area and Mt Somers, 45-50cm; Back country, 30-40cm; Toward the coast, 10-20cm

The depth of snow in and around Ashburton far exceeded previous snowfalls in 2002 and 2003 and were considered more serious than the snow of 1973.

Police and Fire Service were on site early in the day.

The total length of roads in the district is 2600km, the third longest network in New Zealand.

By midday Monday the contractor had 19 graders, 2 snowploughs and 6 loaders operating throughout the district.

Access to the hospital, St Johns, Police and Fire station was cleared as top priority.

By 5pm Monday, all priority 1 roads had been cleared as well as a number of priority 2 roads were cleared sufficiently to allow safe passage of vehicles)

Three water supplies were by then operating on fixed generators (including Ashburton).

Four gravity water supplies were operating but without treatment

Seven water supplies were not operating. Later in day two of these water supplies were powered up for one hour with portable generators.

A precautionary "boil water" notice was issued on the first radio advice for all supplies except Ashburton.

In excess of 4000 connections were without power.

Public information included a report for assistance with stock recovery.

Mt Hutt Helicopters commenced checking high country stations once weather cleared.

The Mid Canterbury Emergency Relief Committee was activated, responding to a piggery building collapse and worsening conditions.

Tuesday June 13

Road clearing continued. By the end of the day all priority 2 roads were completed and priority 3 road clearing was underway.

Plant in use at this stage was 21 graders, 2 snowploughs and 6 loaders.

Footpath clearing commenced in Ashburton, Methven and Rakaia.

Snow removal from Ashburton CBD and West Streetcarpark.

Welfare manager contacted over an issue with St John Home Alert pagers being activated. Welfare volunteers on standby.

Key CD Sector Wardens were contacted with a request for anyone requiring assistance to contact Council.

One water supply was operating normally; two water supplies were operating on fixed generators (Rakaia & Hinds), four gravity water supplies were operating without treatment and seven water supplies were not operating. Five of them were powered up for one hour with portable generators.

The precautionary "boil water" notice remained in place for all supplies except Ashburton.

Telecommunication landlines were beginning to fail due to backup batteries running down.

Wednesday June 14

Clearing at all school frontages started.

Snow was removed in the Ashburton CBD and East Street and suburban shopping areas, Methven and Rakaia.

Footpath clearing continued.

Access to all rural water supplies



provided/confirmed.

A decision to clear snow from unsealed roads was made and this work commenced.

Plant used, 22 graders, 22 loaders, 4 snowploughs and numerous tractors attending to private driveways.

Priority 1 roads were cleared full width.

A small number of welfare issues were dealt with by staff.

Seven water supplies operating normally; Two water supplies were operating on a fixed generators (Rakaia and Hinds); two gravity water supplies were operating without treatment and four water supplies were not operating but were powered up for one hour with portable generators.

The precautionary "boil water" notice remained in place for all supplies except Ashburton.

Additional power crews were called in from other districts through a network conference call Wednesday evening.

Contact was made with Telecom to express the urgency of reinstatement of landlines using generators/replacement batteries.

Thursday June 15

Grading of all roads with at least one pass on unsealed roads was completed to all 2620km of roading.

Priority 2 roads were widened and access to blocked driveways was cleared for welfare access.

Work to clear road frontages, footpaths and access paths to schools was

completed. The decision on whether schools should open was left to principals.

A Welfare call centre was set up in Council offices. Local volunteer response teams were working around town clearing driveways for those unable to do their own, also dealing with other welfare issues.

Response teams were requested from Waimakariri and Christchurch through Group ECC.

Eleven water supplies were operating normally; one gravity water supply was operating without treatment; two water supplies (Mayfield and Hakatere) were operating on portable generators.

The precautionary "boil water" notice remained in place for some supplies)

Additional power repair crews were operating doubling Electricity Ashburton's workforce)

The council was involved with establishing co-ordination between power and telecommunications.

The council established a call centre for power outages and welfare.

Volunteers called for local welfare issues including pathway/driveway clearances.

Friday June 16

Final clearing of footpaths. All streets had at least one path clear, many with two paths clear.

Thaw at Hinds caused flooding in the Hinds River - Three bridge approaches were lost. The Hinds township had substantial surface flooding.

All snow clearing plant was stood down.

Rural visits and welfare issues were received and attended to.

Emergency response teams were deployed (15) including teams from Waimakariri District and Christchurch City Council.

A radio communication centre was set up at the Council office.

All 14 water supplies were operating normally and the precautionary "boil water" notice was lifted for all supplies except Montalto.

A WINZ hotline was requested to deal with financial assistance issues.

Saturday June 17

Council offices remained open (EOC). Minor surface flooding in Hinds township and area east of town.

Rural visits and welfare issues were received and attended to.

Sunday June 18

Council offices open (EOC). Road and footpath work complete.

Welfare issues received and attended to.

Monday June 19

Thaw continued with surface flooding problems in Hinds being addressed.

Welfare issues ongoing.

Tuesday 20 June

Planning resources for potential snow event forecast for Wednesday pm. Two welfare issues.

Wednesday June 21

Forecast for more snow to low level.

Sector Wardens advised.

Welfare organisation put on alert.

Contractor commenced snow grading in northwest area between Arundel and Mt Somers following snow falls starting in this area.

Thursday June 22

75-100mm snow in western parts of the plains.

Offer put out to community of hot meals and showers for anyone still without power.

Meals provided at Hotels & Taverns around the district.

Following snow fall, snow clearing continuing in northwest area, Arundel to Methven to clear snow. 6 graders and 2 snowploughs working. Completed by late afternoon.

Friday June 23

Hot meal and shower offer repeated.

Saturday June 24

Issue at Hinds with high water table causing raw sewage to spill out of septic tanks. Seven portaloos were delivered to affected properties in the township.

Hot meal and shower offer ongoing.

Sunday June 25

Hot meal and shower offer ongoing.

Monday June 26

Hot meal and shower offer ongoing.

Tuesday June 27

Hot meal and shower offer ongoing. Approximately 100 food parcels delivered to people still without power.

Wednesday June 28

Hot meal and shower offer ongoing.

General

In excess of 100 calls requesting welfare assistance were received and attended to.

The welfare response would not have been possible without the assistance of a large number of volunteers out in the field and working in the EOC (Council office).

There was good liaison with the Police and New Zealand Fire Services.

The Mid Canterbury Emergency Relief Committee was activated on Monday and recovered 14,000 sheep over a four-day period. The group also provided assistance outside the district commencing late in the first week of the event.

Standby power for water supplies is essential. A lack of water can also affect people's ability to provide heating (wet backs on log fires).

Had good liaison with Electricity Ashburton.

Telecommunications was an issue during the event.

Council offices have been open everyday since the event started.

A recently established private VHF network linking the majority of our high country stations also proved invaluable in assisting with contact with station owners with regard to needs.

It has been necessary for Council to purchase generators to respond to urgent welfare issues.



Some tips for being prepared

Many different events can cause disruption to everyday life and essential services, among them floods, snowstorms, strong winds, major disease epidemics and earthquakes. There are a number of things you can do to ensure you are self-sufficient for at least three days should your home become isolated.

KNOW WHAT TO DO

* Read the final pages in your Yellow Pages. They tell you what to do in different types of emergency and where to find your Civil Defence sector posts.

WATER

* If possible have a supply of water stored in a surface tank that can be accessed without pumping.

* Otherwise, have three days' supply of water in containers enough for at least three litres per person per day.

* If you rely on a pressure pump, make sure your generator has enough capacity to start the pump under pressure.

* Submersible pumps in wells are hard wired. Special provision has to be made to power it from a generator.

ELECTRICITY

* Treat fallen lines as live until you are told otherwise.

* Have a generator large enough to supply essential needs such as keeping food frozen.

* Know how to start the generator and to connect appliances to it.

* Have spare generator fuel stored in a safe place near the generator.

* Do not operate a generator in a closed space.

* Be careful not to damage extension cords and connectors used with your generator. In particular, keep them dry.

* If you are using candles for light, use them only in a broad-based candlestick to avoid the risk of them tipping over.

HEATING

* Make sure your firewood supply can be reached in an emergency.

* Be careful disposing of ashes — there's only one place — outside.

* Don't use your wetback if the water supply is cut.

* Make sure gas bottles for heating are kept topped up through the winter.

* The risk of fire is greater when makeshift heating, lighting and cooking facilities are in use. Your battery smoke alarm will still work, but only if you have kept the batteries up to it.

* Have a fire extinguisher nearby when temporary heating, lighting and cooking arrangements are in use.

* Gas hot water heating, many gas heaters and pellet fires rely on an electricity supply. An inverter will supply the small amount of electricity needed from a 12-volt battery through the cigarette lighter socket in your vehicle.

FOOD

* Have a good supply of canned and dry food on hand. Make sure some of it is food that can be eaten without any form of cooking.

* Your stove is unlikely to be able to be powered

from a generator unless you have made special arrangements, so before winter, have your barbecue gas bottle topped up.

* Getting a power supply to your freezer is a priority.

* If you rely on gas for cooking, don't let your gas bottles run low over winter, as supplies are likely to be disrupted. You can make arrangements to have an extra one on hand if you have concerns.

* Basic food hygiene is just as important as under normal circumstances.

COMMUNICATIONS

* Most important — get to know your neighbours.

* Portable phones rely on electricity to transmit, so will be dead as soon as the power goes off.

* Make sure you have at least one phone that requires no electricity.

* Even so, conventional phones may be out of action if lines are down or exchange batteries run flat.

* Cell phones rely both on their own batteries and power supply being maintained to cell towers. Priority is given to restoring supply to towers, but you should conserve your own phone battery.

* Cell phone batteries can be charged from your car battery using a car charger.

* Emergency messages are broadcast on local radio stations. If you only have a mains radio or your radio batteries are flat, use your car radio.

* If you use your car for these purposes, you may need to run the engine to charge the battery. Don't do this in a closed shed.

* Make sure you know the frequencies of all local radio stations.

Neighbourhood Support

Know your neighbours — in an emergency they may be the only means you have of getting help, or you may be the only person who can help them.

That's the message from Neighbourhood Support following the June snowstorm that isolated most houses in the Ashburton District for varying periods.

Co-ordinator Rodger Herriott said the message applies as much in town as it does in the country. In an emergency it is very likely your neighbour will be nearest help, and if something like a pandemic strikes, they may even have to be your ambulance driver.

In rural areas people are normally good at checking up on neighbours, although sometimes rented cottages are overlooked. People going any distance to visit neighbours should also remember not to put themselves at risk. The rule is to look after yourself and your family first and then go further afield.

In urban areas people should make sure a Neighbourhood Support group is operating in their area and the get to know the families in their group. They should have an idea what materials and resources each other has and be prepared to use them to help each other.

The recent emergency had made some people think about their groups and had brought some back to life, he said.

Record numbers become New Zealand citizens



Ashburton Guardian photo

The citizenship process

July 20 saw a first for the Ashburton District Council, a citizenship ceremony held as a stand-alone event instead of being held during a council meeting.

The reason was the number of people who were to swear allegiance to the Queen — 37 people representing seven different nationalities, the largest number ever at one time in Ashburton (photo above).

Mayor Bede O'Malley said citizenship ceremonies are one of the highlights of his position as mayor. He looked forward to all the people involved spending many years in the district.

The Department of Internal Affairs is the government department responsible for handling citizenship applications. A department spokesman said people applying for New Zealand citizenship had to be resident in New Zealand for at least five years, have a level of proficiency in English and must be of good character.

They were all requirements in the Citizenship Act, he said. Fluency in English was not required, simply a level of proficiency. Assessment of character normally involved checks such as police and court checks.

People applying for citizenship were required to answer a detailed questionnaire and make a declaration. They could also be required to attend an interview in a main centre where, among other things, their level of understanding of English could be assessed.

The application process normally took eight months but could take longer if the correct supporting material was not put forward with the application.

The reasons people from other nations applied for New Zealand citizenship were

varied, but included a desire to have a New Zealand passport. New Zealand was one country that allowed its citizens to hold dual citizenship, but not all countries did that, and some others put a time limit on how long dual citizenship could be held.

Sometimes individual organisations required people involved with them to be New Zealand citizens. That was the case with many representative sports teams, and people in that situation should be aware the process took some time and they should not leave their application too late, he said.

The final step in the process was the citizenship ceremony. Simply receiving the official letter saying citizenship had been granted was not sufficient. It was an essential requirement that all people attend a ceremony at which they either affirmed their allegiance or took the oath of allegiance to the Queen as head of New Zealand. Which form they used was their own personal choice. If an oath was sworn it was not necessary that it be on a Bible — the Koran was being increasingly requested. However, either English or Maori must be used.

Citizenship ceremonies were normally public events, organised jointly by the department and the local authority, he said, but there was provision for private ceremonies in such cases as illness.

In the last nine months there had been a significant increase in the number of people applying to become citizens. They came from most countries in the world but there were large numbers from Britain, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Asia, with increasing numbers from Eastern Europe and other African countries.

Some people's stories

Some of the people who became new New Zealand citizens recently told District Diary why they had made the decision to apply for citizenship. No two of them have the same story, although most have similar reasons for choosing New Zealand.



Rekhaben Desai came to New Zealand from India three and a half years ago, settling for two and a half years in the North Island before coming to Ashburton where she and her husband own a retail business.

In India Rekhaben was studying for a Bachelor of Science degree and her husband worked for a dairy company. They chose New Zealand, she said, because it was a beautiful land. They loved everything about it, even the weather during the winter, she said.

Mary Buckland came to New Zealand from Britain in the 1950s at the age of four, but only this year did she become a New Zealand citizen. Her parents had wanted a better life for their children than post-war Britain provided. Her father had been in the British army during the war, serving for a whole year in Australia and stopping for one day in Wellington on the way home. That one day was enough to convince him that this was the place he wanted to be. Her parents had been citizens for a long time, but it was something she had never done herself. Each time she went overseas she felt like she was coming home, but legally that was not the case. Two years ago, returning from Japan, she decided it was time to make the change. It took some time to get all the paperwork together, and 10 months before Internal Affairs were able to process her application, but last month her citizenship became official.



Mircea (Mike) Tataru, his wife Violeta and their son and two daughters came to New Zealand from Romania in September 2002, looking for a better life. They are among an estimated 60 Romanian families in the Ashburton District.

Mike holds a bachelor of engineering degree and Violeta is an accountant. Their family are all studying at Canterbury University.

Their sole reason for leaving Romania was to find somewhere where there were better opportunities for their children, Mike said. They chose New Zealand because they had learned a lot of good things about the country, the fact it was clean and ecologically friendly.

Anne Martin grew up in New Zealand but did not have New Zealand citizenship because she was born in the United Kingdom, coming here with the rest of her family when she was aged three. She grew up in the Whakatane area but when she was 19 she went on her big OE, arrived in the United Kingdom and stayed there. However, when it came to education for her three children, Samantha, Robert and Jessica, Anne felt the British system was not delivering the type of education she remembered from New Zealand, and she returned in 1997 bringing the children, then aged two, four and six, with her. She now lives with her husband on a dairy farm at Carew with their three-year-old Jamie and Anne's own family lives in North Otago.



Ashburton Art Gallery

Ana Terry — Terminal Eden — July 25 to August 27 —

"The project Terminal Eden is a response to the escalating ecological and biological issues surrounding e-waste which acknowledges the conundrum we face that technology is inextricably and seductively woven into the daily fabric of our lives. Technology is presented to the privileged end user as a means to end to labour intensive, repetitive, tedious and dirty work. However, the rote work of electronic parts assembly and disassembly continues. The dismantling and recycling of obsolete technology is undertaken in developing parts of the world where cheap labour is readily available. Wealthy western countries send redundant technology for recycling off shore in order to protect their own environments." Ana Terry

Rainy McMaster — A Short History of Right Now — July 22 to August 27 —

Rainy McMaster is a text installation and photographic artist. One of McMaster's major thematic concerns is language and dialog - especially digital-age communications. She often opens up a conversation with the viewer, using text to communicate directly to them, or allowing them into her world through diary-esque style works. This mode of communication, seeming at first candid and transparent, has a subtle but undeniable aura of loneliness and secrecy.

James Robinson — God and Death — July 29 to September 10—

"I've played and experimented with the organic and physical here to make abstract landscapes that also open up into cosmic vortexes of energy roaring through the universe and in a microcosm of this universal through us. They can be read as landscapes or disaster scenes... cosmic astrophysical speculative dreamtime narratives or however the viewer can draw images out of with their mind and feelings. The meaning is for the viewer to find for themselves. I just offer an element of what goes on inside me...and share it in my art. God and Death is about portraying the tensions of life, the state of being alive in the universe and the wonder of the sheer complexity of the metaphysical concerns of being in an abstract sense. The words god and death are symbolic words used to approximate the relationships between the universe and my being... and the inspirations in the contemplation of these core concerns of my practice." James Robinson

Kirsten Lovelock — The Show — September 9 to October 6 —

(Artist talk Saturday September 30, 1.30pm)

The Show features a series of narrative paintings that celebrate the shows, fetes, races and hunts of early South Canterbury society. This is Kirsten's third solo exhibition in New Zealand and her first in Canterbury. Since she began painting professionally she has won three art awards, the first place in the Fortune Art Awards, first place in the DIAL Awards and most recently second place in the South Island wide Hope and Sons Competition and Exhibition. The works in The Show offer an imaginative response to the early period in Mid and South Canterbury but also provide an insight into the foundations of contemporary New Zealand identity.

COMING SOON...

Muka Youth Print Exhibition — Young People Buy Art — No Adults Allowed Wednesday September 20—

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

What's On**Ashburton Children's Library**

New Books from the Ashburton **Children's Library**

Picture Books

Football Crazy by Colin McNaughton. Bruno finds new friends and is allowed to join their team as a spare player. Then his moment arrives – can he stop the goal and win the game? This has all the tension of a World Cup final.

Greedy Cat and the sneeze by Joy Cowley. Nurse Katie gives Greedy Cat more food to make him strong. But sometimes more is just too much...

Kestrel by Mark Svendsen. A small boy and his Grandfather build a boat together.

Special Cecil by Errol McLeary. Cecil the seal has a special smile but he just can't swim. Another great New Zealand picture book.

Where's The Dragon by Jason and Richard Hook. An interesting combination of story, clever use of texture and a chance to hunt for hidden dragons on each page.

Chapter Books

Girlzrock! New titles in this jazzy series for girls who have just started reading chapter books. Check out the matching Boyz Rule series for boys.

If wishes were horses by Bernadette Kelly. The first in a new pony series called RidingHigh.

Monkey Undercover by Gabrielle Lord. Rescuing an ill-treated bull terrier from a bikie gang leads to trouble – big trouble. Plenty of action for both boys and girls, 10+ age group.

The Search For Sunken Treasure. A new one by Geronimo Stilton.

Non-fiction

Avoid Exploring With Captain Cook. Historical facts dished up with funny pictures, hints and details.

Garry Fleming's Animals. This is based on a stunning selection of paintings of rare and endangered animals. Includes some animal facts too.

Gross Animals. Have you ever wanted to know how big an elephant's poo is likely to be? If so, this must be just the book for you.

How To Draw Deltora Dragons And Other Creatures. Step by step help for those of us who really can't draw.

I wanna make my own clothes. Good practical instructions for making, re-cycling or just dressing up your wardrobe.

Holiday Competition – Your favourite authors

Winners of our lucky draw were Arabella Bonifant and Tyler Pereira. Congratulations girls and thank-you all for your entries.

Your most popular author was Jacqueline Wilson, followed closely by Margaret Mahy, Lemony Snicket, Joy Cowley, J. K. Rowling and Roald Dahl.

Other authors who received more than one vote were:

Erin Hunter, Paul Jennings, Emily Rodda, Paul Stewart,

Brian Jacques, Bonnie Bryant and Lynley Dodd.

Teen Reads

Chew On This by Eric Schlosser. A close look at the fast food industry. You may never eat junk food again (at least until next week).

Flash Flood by Chris Ryan. Another fast moving survival adventure from this author and SAS hero.

Shadows In The Mirror by Cameron Nunn. Thriller set against the background of

a boys' private school. A secret lies hidden behind the facade of the school's rugby culture.

Song of Magdalene by Donna Jo Napoli. A fictional account of Mary Magdalene's teenage years. Donna Jo Napoli's previous books include the brilliant story of Italy during World War 11, Stones in water.

Spiked by Sandra Glover. Who spiked Debra's drink and why?

Ashburton Library**Non Fiction**

Designing And Creating A Mediterranean Garden, by Freda Cox. Liberate yourself from the lawn! This book is full of suggestions for paving and groundcover solutions for a low maintenance garden. And of course many Mediterranean area plants are suitable for our long dry summers and cold winters.

Easing The Pain Of Arthritis Naturally, by Earl Mindell. Exercises, diet tips and natural health remedies to lessen the painful effects of arthritis.

Easy Peasey: People Skills For Life, by Allan and Barbara Pease. A short course in making other people feel important, which according to the authors is the primary human need. You may not agree, but there is a lot of good advice here. Who can argue with a book that has a chapter on "How to say Thank You"?

Heartlands, New Zealand Historians Write About Where History Happened. Fifteen of our best known historians write about the historical significance of places close to their hearts. Most are New Zealand places - Dunedin, Stewart Island, Petone Beach, Oamaru Harbour. The blend of personal history and national heritage sites adds depth and interest.

Lancaster Park, An Illustrated History, by Don Neely and Joseph Romanos. Now known as Jade Stadium, this famous Christchurch stadium has had a variety of uses since it became a sports ground in 1881. As an enclosed space, it assisted sports groups by allowing them to more easily charge for admission. Athletics, trotting, cycling, Highland sports, fetes, and a balloon ascension crowded its early years, along with the more usual rugby and cricket. Illustrated with hundreds of photographs, this is a fascinating sporting record.

Settling Near The Styx River, by Dennis and Helen Hills. A detailed local history of the Belfast/Marshlands/Styx area north of Christchurch, including histories of local settler families.

The State Of Africa, A History Of Fifty Years Of Independence, by Martin Meredith. Understanding Africa is like trying to eat an elephant. This is a popular introduction to the recent, often tragic history of this frankly scary continent.

Strangerland, A Family At War. The true story of the Gascoyne family, who exchanged military life in India in the 1830's for emigration to the new colony of New Zealand, settling in Nelson. As if the rain and toil of bush-clearing weren't enough, the Gascoynes also faced marital upheaval when an attractive governess joined the family circle. Worse was to come, as members of the family became caught up in the Land Wars, a nephew, Bamber Gascoyne, and his entire family being massacred.

Tobruk, by Peter Fitzsimons. An Australian view of the Battle of Tobruk in 1941, when 15,000 Australian troops were engaged against Rommel's Afrika Corps.

This is a huge book, with good photos and a racy text that shows the author's journalistic background.

A Year In The World, by Frances Mayes. By the author of the bestseller Under the Tuscan sun. This is the story of journeys to twelve special places, including Andalucia, Capri, Fez and um, the Cotswolds. Not just a travelogue, but full of interesting detail and background about each destination.

Fiction

To Have And To Hold, by Anne Bennett. Carmel Duffy leaves an abusive home life in Ireland to train for nursing in Birmingham. She falls in love with a young doctor, and all seems set fair. But the Second World War disrupts her idyllic future, and she must struggle to reclaim happiness.

The Lords Of The North, by Bernard Cornwell. Uhtred is a Saxon Northumbrian who must fight to win his land back from the Danes. Set in the reign of King Alfred, this is another excellent historical novel from the author of the Sharpe series.

The Cold Moon, by Jeffrey Deaver. A particularly sadistic murderer nicknamed the Watchmaker stalks New York. He leaves a clock in view of his slowly dying victims as his trademark. Lincoln Rhyme, quadriplegic detective, has to think himself into the head of this perpetrator to stop him. Rhymes' assistant Amelia Sachs provides the necessary legwork.

Twelve Sharp, by Janet Evanovich. Another in the series about Stephanie Plum, the most unlikely bounty hunter in Trenton, New Jersey. For the fans, this one's got a lot about Ranger in it.

Angels Fall, by Nora Roberts. Reece Gilmore is traveling to forget the trauma of a shooting at her restaurant. Her car breaks down, and she signs on as a temporary cook in a small town café. She comes to enjoy her life there, until she witnesses a murder. This is romantic suspense, so we can hope for a happy conclusion involving the town's unattached mystery novelist.

Shalimar the Clown, by Salman Rushdie. An influential and wealthy ex-ambassador to India is murdered in Los Angeles. He is killed by his own chauffeur, a Kashmiri who called Shalimar the Clown. The clue to the mystery lies in the past, and revenge sought for a wrong done years before in Kashmir. This is Salman Rushdie, no-one expects a happy ending.

Young Bloods, by Simon Scarrow. Traces the early years of the rivals of Waterloo, Napoleon Bonaparte and Arthur Wellesley. The first of a series which will end with their eventual meeting on that battlefield as the Emperor Napoleon and the Duke of Wellington.

Politics 101, by Anna Smith. A nostalgic novel set in 1970s' Wellington. A group of students immerse themselves in the political activism and social change of the day.

ASHBURTON MUSEUM

The Ashburton Museum is looking forward to a busy year of planning for the proposed additions to the building. It will be such a relief to eventually get proper storage for most of our artifacts and have a more spacious and separate workroom and research area.

The Nish family, Toys of Yesteryear and the Johnston-MacKay wedding displays are all to finish the first week of August.

Pheobe Totty's wedding gown and another from the early 1900s, aerial photographs of Ashburton area and a family yet to be decided will then be displayed.

In the series "Businesses of Ashburton - Old Names That Have Survived" we have Higgins Print featured so do come and see the invitations, posters, programmes of the past before it finishes on September 8. W.H. Collins will take its place.

New faces at the council



LEFT: Andrea McMurray started at the Ashburton District Council in mid-July as an administration assistant. Previously she had worked for a Christchurch freight company.



RIGHT: James Linney started as the Ashburton District Council's assistant rates officer in June, coming from a retail position.

Council's phones to be answered round the clock

The need to call the District Council does not always happen conveniently in office hours.

In the past people needing to make out of hours calls have become used to calling a contractor but that has caused problems, so a new system has been introduced.

The problem, said corporate services manager John Rollinson, was that contractors could change from time to time.

The message now is to always call the council on its normal number, 307 7700, no matter what time of day or day of week you encounter a problem, he said.

During office hours calls will be answered by the council's receptionist who will put the call through to the appropriate person to deal with it.

Out of normal hours calls will be answered by TAS Answering Services in Timaru where qualified people will take the calls, assess them and either arrange for the appropriate contractor to call as soon as possible or, for less serious calls, log them for attention on the next businessday.

The company answering the calls is already experienced in answering after hours calls for local authorities as it does similar work for the Timaru, Waimate and Mackenzie District Councils, Mr Rollinson said.

The system would also provide an improved method for the council to keep track of incoming calls, as after-hours calls made direct to contractors did not always end up in the council's system.

New coins mean changes for parking meters

As a result of changes to New Zealand coinage from August 1, Ashburton's parking meters have to be re-calibrated. There will no longer be any 5c coins in circulation and the new 10, 20, and 50 cent coins are smaller and lighter than what has been in use. Ashburton's meters have electronic sensors set up to recognize the size, weight and metal content of coins and to allot the amount of time paid for. However, putting several coins not the meter will not necessarily give you more time. If the time limit is 30 minutes you can't "dial up" more time than that no matter how much money you put in.

On East Street the time limit is 30 minutes on the shops side but it is 60 minutes on the railway side, except between Cameron and Wills Street on the railway side where it is 30 minutes.

On Cass Street between Mona Square and Tancred Street the limit is 60 minutes but between Tancred and Burnett it is 120 minutes and then back to 60 minutes between Burnett and Cameron and 120 minutes again on the "Farmers" side of Baring Square.

For the week of Monday August 7 to Friday 11 **only**, money will not have to be put into any meters in Ashburton.

During this time meters will be re-set and new charges will be calibrated. Timed parking areas without meters will be patrolled as usual and the amnesty does not apply to these signposted, timed parking areas.

From Monday August 14 only new coins can be used in Ashburton meters.

The new charges are: 10c for 6 minutes; 50c for 30 minutes and \$1 for one hour.

WHAT IS THE FIX-A-GRAM SERVICE?

The Ashburton District Council is always looking for ways to improve communication between district residents and staff. We know it is not always easy to find the right person or the right department, and even if you do there is no guarantee the officer will be there. The FIX-A-GRAM is an easy to use form listing a number of common concerns. All you have to do is fill the form and post it off.

You can also phone a FIX-A-GRAM into the council office on 307 7700.

FIX-A-GRAM

A handy way of advising your council of any problem

To complete the coupon, please;

- Fill in the details of your name, address and phone number so we can keep you informed.
- Tick the box which best describes the problem.
- Tell us the location of the problem.
- Cut out the coupon and post FIX-A-GRAM to Ashburton District Council, Private Bag 94, Ashburton, fax it to 308 1836 or drop it into the ADC office.

NOTE: Urgent matters should be phoned straight away to the Council at 307 7700

FROM:

Name..... Phone..... Mobile:.....

Address..... Date:

TYPE OF PROBLEM:

<input type="checkbox"/> Pothole	<input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism/Damage	<input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Trench	<input type="checkbox"/> Litter/Rubbish	<input type="checkbox"/> Blocked Gutter/Drain
<input type="checkbox"/> Grading	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Trees	<input type="checkbox"/> Road Safety Issues	<input type="checkbox"/> Playground Safety
<input type="checkbox"/> Loose Manhole	<input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> Street Light Issues	<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Signs Damaged	<input type="checkbox"/> Excessive Noise
<input type="checkbox"/> Broken Kerb	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor Road Marking	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Leaks	<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Signs Obscured	<input type="checkbox"/> Dog Nuisance

Other problems or details:.....

Location of Problem (Street or Road).....