



Anyone can be a councillor — why not you?

As we get older time moves faster (or so it seems). In a year's time the next local government elections will be held and it feels like only yesterday that we had the last one. By reading the local letters to the editor, and some of the comments that are made about our elected members – most of them in the negative, it would make you wonder why anyone would give up their time, put their businesses on hold, or manage them in the time they have left after the Council meetings they attend on behalf of their constituents.

The advantage that Councillors have over the general public is that, when we make a decision, we have all the relevant information given to us, have the professional people to answer questions that need to be clarified, and then are able to make a decision that is in the best interest of our district and the majority of our constituents. There are

always going to be some people who don't like our decisions and judge us on that. If these people think they can do it better, then I urge them to consider having someone to nominate them in about nine months' time and let the voters make their decision; and when elected, let them govern without harsh criticism. We call this democracy. Criticism is okay, but let it be constructive.

Newspapers don't report all that is said at a Council meeting; they don't have the space in the paper, as the headline takes most of it. Instead, they pick out the parts that make good reading. Those who want to get the full picture would learn much from attending Council meetings – they are advertised in the local paper and agendas are on the Council's website 2-3 days before the meeting.

Some decisions are made behind closed doors for



**Councillor
comment
with Neil Brown**

various reasons but the majority of those decisions come out for public consumption shortly afterwards, or when appropriate.

Council is currently working on several projects of significant importance to the future of our district.

Consultation will commence later this year on the site selection for the new aquatic centre and stadium complex. Part of this process will be for the public to have their say. This will be carried out in the same way as the consultation that asked the public whether they wanted this facility or

not – and the majority of submitters said yes.

Many sites have been considered by the Stadium Complex Trust and all discounted for various reasons, with the exception of the Domain and A&P Showgrounds sites which have been recommended to Council for consideration and further consultation.

The new art gallery, museum, genealogy and archives building is moving forward at a slower pace than one would like. This project was consulted on and agreed upon and, until recently, was making good progress. This project will

get back on track to provide facilities for these organisations that are practicable and fit for purpose.

The review of the District Plan is well underway with some consultation already carried out through meetings held in various halls throughout the district. The Plan will be formally notified in June next year followed by consultation and hearings at the conclusion of which the Plan will become operative. The life of the District Plan is 10 years or so, therefore it is important that the public become involved in the process, after the notification, so that you can help shape the district as you would like it to be for the next 10 years.

Lastly, the Barrhill Chertsey Irrigation (BCI) scheme is about to get underway, as the lapsing date for the consent, if it is not made use of, is mid September 2010. This will be made possible by the use

of three cumecs (initially) into the RDR, and distributed from there. The Acton stock water race system will be made bigger to accommodate up to three cumecs of water which will be made available to farmers in the Dorie / Pendarves area. This will take the pressure off the underground water resource which they currently use.

The BCI scheme will be pivotal in the ongoing growth of the Ashburton district to create an economic boost to the local economy, with the creation of more jobs that will flow through to more services being required for all that live here and also for those who are yet to come. These new people will all utilize the services I have already discussed earlier to make them even more affordable and create a bigger pool of people to select our leaders from.

So, the key message is to get involved, constructively,

Community approach to water management

The Strategy is the outcome of a community approach to find a better way of managing Canterbury's water resources. It is an initiative taken by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, the collective of local government Mayors and Chief Executives and the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Regional Council.

Stage 1 of the process identified that there was sufficient water in Canterbury to meet all reasonable future demands. When we talk of all reasonable future demands, we mean environmental, social and cultural, as well as economic.

Water is the lifeblood of the Ashburton District, so the Ashburton District Council has been a keen supporter of the Strategy development. That strong support has also reflected in contributions made to the Strategy from many people with varying backgrounds and interests within our district.

It has been widely accepted that the current system of water allocation, based on the Resource Management Act, is not delivering the best results. This process looks at individual resource consent application, and the effects of that application, in isolation. The current process is also very expensive and adversarial. There is no big picture.

Current water schemes are based on user pays. Users, understandably, look to meet their needs on a less cost basis, focusing on the current operating environment. There is no community approach which means schemes may not be operated at the highest level of efficiency. Small scale investment can lead to sub-optimal results.

Further development of irrigation will lead to

greater prosperity for our district, our region, also our nation. To achieve this however, we need to stocktake the effects of abstraction, whether it be from surface water or ground water. To this end, Fundamental Principles were developed to ensure our environment, our social needs, our cultural values and our existing investment, are protected and where feasible, enhanced. These Fundamental Principles will guide project development, and will measure outcomes. The Strategy has detailed many targets to be accountable against, as well as timelines for their achievement.

These outcomes can only be achieved, however, if we as a community share the vision, and collectively work towards them. A key recognition in the Strategy is that these can best be achieved through local people making the decisions that affect their community. Local people have the knowledge, the investment and the focus to make things happen. The Strategy identifies ten Zones in Canterbury with the Ashburton District being one Zone.

The local, or Zone, Committee will need a regional and national framework to work within. The Strategy identifies this, and will support the Zones through tools such as regional and national policy statements and environmental standards. It is also recognised that while local decisions will provide the optimal solutions, major rivers have a wider effect and will need regional input, as well as major investment will require regional and national support.

The Strategy development has received support and endorsement from Central Government. This is



essential to ensure the document, when finalised, is enabled through Statute. Central Government has recognised that the current system is not providing optimal long term decisions and investment and will be looking to the Canterbury initiative to show the way.

The Strategy is currently in draft form being released in August this year. Feedback has been sought and will be considered this month, for the Strategy to be finally adopted at the end of October 2009.

Council would like to thank those in the community who have contributed to this project over the last few years. Our community knows better than most the value of water, and appreciates the need to get our decisions right, not only for the current generation, but also for the next generation.

**In this
issue**

Lake Hood Development	page 2
New Faces	page 3
Enforcing bylaws	page 3
Ashburton Business Estate.....	page 4

Keep your water race clean.....	page 5
What's Happening	page 6
New Books	page 7
Trade waste bylaws.....	page 8

Council to progress development

Ashburton District Council is working with the Ashburton Aquatic Park Charitable Trust to have Council take responsibility for the current and future development of Lake Hood.

The lake facility has been successfully developed by the Aquatic Park Trust and is now an integral part of the district's recreation and lifestyle mix.

The Trust recently enlisted the assistance of the Council to help take the project to its next stage. Together they have looked at finding the best way forward for the ongoing development of the facility. As a result, there is agreement to work towards the transfer of the Trust's assets to Council.

In assessing the best course of action to take Council has looked to ensure the lake and surrounding open space becomes a community owned recreation and reserve asset. In taking responsibility for the facility Council will be able to develop this space to best suit the district's current and future requirements.

The first step in this process is for the Council to provide \$3.7 million in loan funding to the Trust sufficient to clear its outstanding debt, in return for security over the Trusts assets. The loan will only be in place for as long as it takes to arrange the transfer of the Trusts assets to Council.

The Trust's debt relates primarily to the construction of Lake House facility and the development costs of stage 5 of the residential subdivision. These costs have been compounded by section sales all but halting in the past year.

There will be a short term cost to Council in providing the loan funding as Council will pay the interest costs on the loan. This will amount to approximately \$100,000 per year. In the short term this will need to be funded from Council reserves. In the longer term this money will be recouped through the sale of the



remaining sections at Lake Hood.

Council will also purchase two lots within the Lake Hood development suitable for reserve purposes. This will provide the Trust with the necessary funding for it to continue its maintenance operations at the lake and to cover day to day expenses until the transfer of assets can be completed. Funds in excess of the Trust's cash flow requirements will be paid back to Council to reduce the Trust's existing \$1.3 million advance from Council. This purchase will be funded from Council's Reserve Purchase and Improvement account.

The Council will assess its potential involvement in the lake extension project over the next few months.

Any decisions regarding the future ownership of the Lake House facility will be made based on obtaining the best return and outcome for the community. This will mean either retaining ownership of the facility and leasing it to a suitable operator or selling the facility.

Any future role for the Aquatic Park

Trust will be negotiated as part of the hand-over process.

Mayor Bede O'Malley said "With the Lake Hood facility now a key part of the district lifestyle Council is keen to ensure the continued development is in the best interests of the whole community."

"We have reached something of a crossroads in the development of the lake and now is the time for the community to assume responsibility for the future."

"Lake Hood is a magnificent facility that everyone in the district can rightly be proud of. The community owes a great deal to the vision and tenacity shown by a small number of people who have put their hearts and souls into ensuring we have the Lake and the land around it to enjoy for generations to come. There is now an opportunity to develop Lake Hood in ways that probably would not be possible if Council did not own the assets"

"Council is comfortable with the path it is taking and is confident that

in the longer term the costs will be recovered – perhaps with some additional return to the community. In addition the community will have ownership of an iconic asset."

Council Chief Executive, Brian Lester, said he was hopeful the transfer of assets could be completed with minimum delay. "Transferring the assets of the Trust to Council is a fairly complex process and will take some time to work through" he said. "We are confident it will run smoothly with both parties committing to ensuring it was done expeditiously."

Mr Lester said he was excited by the opportunities Council ownership of the facility would open up. "With the lake facility coming into Council ownership the community can have a real say in how we develop the lake and its surroundings in the coming years.

"In the past there has been some reluctance for Council to invest in facilities on land it does not own. That will no longer be the case."

"Yes, there will be a cost to Council and the community in the short term but I am certain Council assuming ownership of the facility will result in a significant pay back to the community for decades to come," he said.

Chairman of the Ashburton Aquatic Park Charitable Trust, David West, said he is excited to confirm the Trust's commitment to the partnership with Council to further enhance Lake Hood and the park areas for the recreational use and enjoyment by the community into the future.

This partnership will result in a strong business plan with the community as its beneficiaries. The Trust believes it is time to move away from what has, for several years, been a totally voluntary commitment from Trustees and committee members. Mr West said they look forward to working collaboratively with the Council to ensure the continued

Migrant report launched at marae

A comprehensive report into the needs and issues relating to migrants and newcomers to the Ashburton District has been released.

It was launched at Hakatere Marae and sets out ways the Mid Canterbury Newcomers Network can be expanded to best support the needs of migrants and newcomers to the district.

The report was instigated by a range of key agencies and service providers in the Ashburton district, and prepared by researcher Sarah Wylie.

It was funded by the Ashburton Trust Charitable Foundation and Ministry of Social Development, with support from the Ashburton District Council and Department of Internal Affairs.

The research was done between 2007 and May this year and was sought to provide a sound basis on which newcomer-focused initiatives could be targeted and the needs of newcomers, and of the Ashburton district in relation to these newcomers, could be met.

The findings show that the number of permanent and long-term arrivals has increased steadily, although not markedly, over time, that a third of all overseas-born residents in Ashburton in 2006 had arrived in the three years prior, and that newcomers tended to reflect a younger population structure than the district population in general, with new migrants predominantly under 40.

It also showed that the majority of Pacific people to come to Ashburton were mostly born in New Zealand, and many were here to work in meat plants.

The exception was the Fijian population, who were more



Visitors are brought onto the Hakatere Marae for the launch of the newcomers and migrant report.

likely to have been born overseas.

Methven was shown as the area with the greatest proportion of newcomers from overseas.

Research showed that while many newcomers had settled readily into their new life in Ashburton, feedback from newcomers, migrants, employers, schools and service providers identified a range of issues, many of which were entangled.

The strongest themes to emerge were social isolation, lack of information, working conditions, impact of work on daily

life, difficulties accessing early childhood care and education, cross-cultural understanding, and access to services and health care.

From that information a plan has been prepared to address the issues concerns, with an early project being a driving course for female newcomers.

Raewyn Barclay, under the umbrella of the Safer Community Council, is co-ordinating a range of projects to address the issues identified in the report.

New faces at the council . . .



Laura Trudgeon took up her assistant property officer role four weeks ago. She fields general property enquiries, as well as looking after tenant enquiries from residents in the council run elderly people housing. The former Ashburton College girl is just finishing her final paper at Lincoln University and will shortly walk away with a bachelor of commerce degree, majoring in property valuation and management. Outside of work Laura enjoys travel, family time and the odd game of twilight netball. She is in her fixed term role for five months.

Jo Naylor recently took on the fixed term role of community services officer. Jo's job organises the processes behind grant distributions, road closures for commercial events and citizenship ceremonies. She also takes minutes at Methven Community Board and Youth Council meetings, as well as the Events Centre and Children's Day committee meetings. Born and raised in Ashburton, Jo has held a number of administrative roles both in Ashburton and Dunedin over the years, including a stint at Dunedin City Council. The mother of two enjoys camping and fishing.

Julie Overton is the new business systems analyst at council. In her role Julie will assist in the upgrade of the rates system and will be involved in testing, documenting and supporting the upgrade. She was previously employed as a licence process officer in the environmental services department. Prior to her role at council, Julie worked in a number of local government roles in England. The Yorkshire born native has two children and prior to motherhood was a keen tramping and cyclist.

Bryan Ching has taken on the new role of Ashburton Business Estate Construction Supervisor. During his 12 month contract he will supervise the day to day running of the project, manage job programmes and ensure that plans and specs are followed. Bryan has spent 35 years in the contracting industry, has been a self-employed contractor and for the last 16 years the manager of a the local branch of a large construction firm. He is a sea fisherman, big sports fan and local events enthusiast.

Enforcing district bylaws

Ashburton District Council is now able to issue infringement notices to enforce its bylaws.

Historically, bylaws were found to be difficult to enforce as each case required a prosecution to be brought under Summary Proceedings, and that was found to be expensive in time and money.

In turn, this led to very few prosecutions being taken to enforce bylaws.

The council sought legal opinion to examine the legitimacy of issuing infringement notices under the Bylaws Act 1910 and the Local Government Act 2002. The opinion indicated that infringement notices could be issued provided that:

Council passed a resolution for the level of fine for a particular breach of a bylaw, and the fine did not exceed \$500 unless associated legislation allowed for greater fines.

A workshop was held in September to examine the need for bylaw infringement notices, and to set fines, and those fines have now been confirmed.

Accused parties still have the right to a District Court hearing if they dispute the infringement.

If deemed necessary, offenders can still be prosecuted through summary proceedings rather than the use of an infringement notice.

Bylaw Chapter or Clause	Specific Offence	Penalty Fine
206.2	Temporary signs on power poles and fences	\$100 – 1st offence \$250 – 2nd offence \$500 – 3rd offence
Chapter 3	Nuisance caused by Stock, Poultry and or bees in an urban area	\$100 – 1st offence \$250 – 2nd offence \$500 – 3rd offence
307 605	Encouraging nuisance by feral animals Exceeding number of dogs permitted in an urban area	\$100 \$250 – 1st offence \$500 – 2nd offence
609	Dogs Fouling in public	\$250 – 1st offence \$500 – 2nd offence
703 703.1 1017 1050 1051	Fire in open air – urban areas Fire in open air – hazard or nuisance Heavy Traffic Driving Stock Dairy Cattle on Roads	\$300 \$300 \$500 \$500 \$500
Chapter 11 1121 1430(e)	Public Places Breach of Liquor ban Water Supply	\$100 \$200 Ashburton and Methven \$100 – 1st offence \$250 – 2nd offence \$500 – 3rd offence
1510 1602(b)	Protection of Stockwater races Hazardous waste	\$500 \$100 – 1st offence \$250 – 2nd offence \$500 – 3rd offence
1613	Misuse of litter bins	\$100 – 1st offence \$250 – 2nd offence \$500 – 3rd offence
18	Parks & Gardens	\$100 – 1st offence \$250 – 2nd offence \$500 – 3rd offence

Grants distributed

Forty seven applications were received for the \$50,000 available through the Ashburton District Council grant scheme.

The Council working party recommended the following grants be allocated for the 2009/10 financial year:

- Fairton Hall Society \$3319,
- Alford Forest Reserve Board \$1100, Hinds Community Centre \$2061, Tinwald War Memorial Hall Society \$5000, Longbeach Swimming Pool \$2847, Ruapuna Hall Committee \$4000, Ardamine Hall Dorie \$1878, Greenstreet Ashburton Forks Community Hall \$1000, Methven United Club \$2000, Ashburton Museum and Historical Society Inc \$4000, Ashburton Budget Advisory \$1000, Rakaia War Memorial Community Centre \$1500, Ashburton Mackenzie Community Group Inc \$500, Methven Lawn Tennis Club \$500, No. 24 (Ashburton)
- Squadron Air Training Corps \$1000, Presbyterian Support (Upper South Island) \$400, Ashburton Trust Swim Team \$1000, Newcomers Network Mid Canterbury \$2000, Ashburton Indoor Bowls Association \$1000, Methven Bowling Club \$1000, Ashburton Toastmasters \$750, Methven Plunket \$3000, Rakaia Rugby Club \$1500, Ashburton Branch, NZ Historic Places Trust \$2000, Mid Canterbury Cricket Association \$2000, Staveley Hall Society \$638, Hinds Lions \$2000. Total amount requested, \$166,619. Amount granted, \$49,993.
- School holiday programmes (\$3000 available):
Birthright Ashburton \$300, St David's Union Church \$750, Sport Mid Canterbury \$1500, Methven New Life Church \$250. Amount requested, \$3965. Amount granted, \$2800.

Rate rebates

Since 1 August 2009, more than 600 people have applied to the Ashburton District Council and been granted a rates rebate.

The Rates Rebate Scheme is funded by the Government through the Department of Internal Affairs and was established to provide a subsidy to low-income homeowners on the cost of their rates.

People may be eligible if their income is low, they pay the rates on the address they live at, they were living at that address as at 1 July 2009, and their name is on the rates bill. The maximum amount of the rebate is \$550.

The income limit for a full rates rebate for the 2009/10 year is \$21,910 and is increased by \$500 for each dependant child in the household. Although a ratepayer's income might exceed the income threshold a rates rebate could still be available, depending on the amount of the rates and number of dependants.

A rebate is not payable for farms, businesses or rental properties.

Ashburton District Council's Customer Services Manager, Joe van Noord, encourages those who think they may be eligible to phone the Council on 307 7700 and ask for a rates rebate application to be sent to them.

Land sales point to brighter future

Two significant land sales by Ashburton District Council may be a pointer that better times are looming in Mid Canterbury.

Council has confirmed a further land sale in the Ashburton Business Estate. The sale of 1.11 hectares of land has been negotiated with an Ashburton company looking to expand its operations in the future.

Projects to get services such as water, wastewater and roading to the 85 hectare development are nearing completion and road widening and intersection upgrades required to enhance traffic flows to and from the site have been completed in recent months.

Contracts have recently been signed to provide services within the development footprint. Work at the site has begun and is expected to take 9 – 12 months. Council has also employed a local site supervisor to oversee construction on the site.

Council Chief Executive Brian Lester said it was especially pleasing that the first sale had been to a locally based company looking to expand its operations. "Seeing local companies looking to expand and to use the Ashburton Business estate to do this is exactly what we were looking for in undertaking this development. This shows the local economy is strong and just needs the right opportunities for growth to really get cracking" he said.

Council has also sold the first section in the next stage of its award winning Albert Street residential eco-subdivision in Ashburton. Council's Property Manager, John Rooney says the sale shows there remains demand for sections in the quality subdivision.

All homes in the Albert Street development must conform to environmental standards designed to promote sustainable housing. This includes having double glazing, solar hot water, high spec insulation and rain water harvesting tanks. Mr Rooney says



Above: The sign is up, and work is underway at the Ashburton Business Park. Below: Trees and soil to form part of the buffer zone at Ashburton new 85-hectare Business Park north-east of Ashburton.

"while this adds a little cost at the outset it makes the homes much more environmentally efficient leading to significant savings in electricity and other costs over the life of the home."

Mayor Bede O'Malley said the sales were a strong pointer that the recession was past its worst and the district was on the way back up. "Ashburton District hasn't suffered as much as many other parts of New Zealand or other parts of the world," he said. "This is one of the benefits of having a local economy based on the productive sector and that delivers quality goods and services that the world is crying out for," he added. "These are positive signs for the future".



Keep your water race clean

Stockwater — race pollution

Council wishes to remind stockwater customers that races are to be kept clean and free of pollution at all times.

Pollution of water races can result from:

- the activities of stock in and around water races in particular cattle and deer. In these cases, it is recommended that the races are fenced off and defined "drinking bays" are established to allow access for drinking only and prevent damage to the race and the associated pollution;
- discharges (accidental or otherwise) from other activities on farm; i.e. irrigation runoff; ploughing, spraying; well-drilling etc. These activities may require special management to ensure that contaminated water does not enter the race network.

Council regards race pollution as an urgent issue and will respond quickly to any reports received. By-law Enforcement Notices will be issued to property owners or occupiers where the cause of the pollution has been identified.

Please consider your property now and attend to any activities that have the potential to cause pollution. If you are asked by Ranger staff to address a pollution issue on your property, please attend to the request as soon as possible (within 2 hours).

Stockwater — race maintenance

Council wishes to remind stockwater customers that races are to be kept clean with water flowing at all times. In the lead up to summer, Council water rangers are closely monitoring the standard of race maintenance in the network.

Please attend to any requests from ranger staff to clean races in a timely way. By-law Enforcement Notices may be issued for races that do not comply maintenance requirements of the Stockwater Bylaw.

The responsibility for maintenance is as follows:

- For "local" stockwater races on private property or on the property road frontage, these are responsibility of the relevant property owner.
- For "main" stockwater races and road crossings, these are the responsibility of Council.

If you have any queries regarding the stockwater network, please contact Kaye Chapman on 307 7766.



www.ashburtondistrictevents.co.nz

View Events • Add an Event • Event Assistance

Event	Date	Venue
Ashburton Speedway	1 Nov & 6 Dec	Ashburton Speedway
Raceway Market	1 Nov & 6 Dec	Ashburton Racecourse
Books 'N' Bubbles Evening with Kerre Woodham	6 Nov	TBC
Methven Community Fireworks & Hangi Evening	7 Nov	Methven Racecourse
Methven Farmers' Market	8 & 22 Nov & 6 & 20 Dec	Methven Square, Main Street
Age Concern Ashburton House & Garden Tour	8 Nov	Various
Ashburton Farmers Market	14 Nov & 12 Dec	West Street Carpark – Northern End
Market Central Ashburton	14 Nov & 12 & 26 Dec	West Street Carpark, Ashburton
Ashburton Art Gallery - Art Studies	14 – 29 Nov	Ashburton Art Gallery
Methven Multi Sponsored Golf Tournament	21 – 22 Nov	Methven Golf Club
Christmas Crack Up	26 – 28 Nov	Ashburton Trust Event Centre
South Island Half Ironman	28 Nov	Lake Hood
Market Central Ashburton	28 Nov	West Street Carpark, Ashburton
Teva Big Day at the Office Race	28 Nov	Race starts at Holmes Road
Ashburton Farmers Market	28 Nov	West Street Carpark – Northern End
ATS Longbeach MTB Coastal Challenge	29 Nov	Longbeach Estate
Ashburton Racing Club	4 Dec	Ashburton Racecourse
Ashburton Art Gallery- Champions Exhibition	5 – 7 Dec	Ashburton Art Gallery
Ashburton Art Gallery- The Word Witch Exhibition 5 –	14 Dec	Ashburton Art Gallery
Classic Hits Xmas in the CarPark	11 Dec	Harvey Norman/ McDonalds CarPark
Ashburton Santa Parade	12 Dec	East Street, Ashburton
Methven Christmas Festival	13 – 20 Dec	Methven
Methven Races	13 Dec	Mt Harding Racecourse – Methven
Canterbury U15 Boys Regional Cricket Tournament	14 – 17 Dec	Ashburton Domain

What's Happening . . .

At the gallery . . .

Ashburton District Schools Exhibition

10th October - 25th October 2009

An annual favourite in the Gallery's programme, this exhibition displays the creative work of the Ashburton's youth. Painting, drawing, photography, pottery, sculpture and an array of mixed media work all feature in this exciting and colourful exhibition.

Aoraki Polytechnic Art Studies Exhibition

7th - 29th November 2009

Award Ceremony Saturday 7th November 1.30pm

"Aoraki Polytechnic Art Studies Exhibition 2009 showcases the best of two years work from the students in the part-time Art Studies programme at the Aoraki Polytechnic in Ashburton. This is the first time Level 4, Certificate in Art has been run and I am sure you will be interested in seeing the wonderful development of these year 3 and year 4 students. Also showing are works from the first and second year Level 3 Introductory Art Studies. This innovative programme encourages the students to express their own individual style while developing a thorough understanding of the principles and techniques of quality art." Heather Sarin

NZTrio

Sunday 15th November 2pm

Tickets \$20, Friends of the Gallery \$18

Available from Ashburton Art Gallery

Innovative repertoire, dynamic interpretations of both traditional and contemporary classical music, and sheer musical chops set this threesome apart.

Violinist Justine Cormack, cellist Ashley Brown and pianist Sarah Watkins first joined forces in 2002 and were Ensemble in residence at The University of Auckland from 2004-2009. During this time they have continued to impress music lovers throughout New Zealand, Brazil, the US and UK, China, Korea and Indonesia.

The trio actively commissions works by leading new Zealand composers, and collaborates with musicians of diverse musical styles. In the past 12 months their commitment to commissioning and performing new music has expanded to include emerging and established composers from China, and their 2009 concert season will feature works by Chen Yi, Musheng Chen and Mike Yuen.

The making of the Word Witch - The poetic & illustrative magic of Margaret Mahy & David Eelliot

An Ashburton Art Gallery Touring Exhibition Curated by Kathryn Mitchell

5th December 2009 - 14th March 2010

Opening & Artists Talk Saturday 5th December 2009

When publisher Harper Collins agreed with me in 2007, the year after Margaret Mahy won the prestigious Hans Christian Andersen Medal, that there should be a book bringing together her many achievements as a writer of verse, there was no question that first, it should be lavishly illustrated and second, that Dunedin's David Elliot was absolutely the right artist for the task.

We were delighted when David, normally booked up by both New Zealand and international publishers for years ahead, accepted the challenge. The completed book, published in October 2009, is

testament to our faith in his talent and professional skill but especially his imagination, perfectly complementing Margaret's in its lightness of touch, originality, whimsicality, poignancy and humour. Each of the book's sixty-six poems is illustrated, sometimes by a single telling image, other times by the storyboard approach matching the narrative of the poem. As with Margaret's verse, the range of styles and emotions is impressive, from tender and teasing, to quirky and sometimes, quite dark.

An additional challenge was provided by the fact that many of Margaret's verse texts, particularly the longer ones like Dashing Dog, Down the Back of the Chair and Bubble Trouble were already familiar to Mahy fans as classic children's picture books. How would the artist find his own, different visual language for these familiar verses? How do you approach the text of award-winning picture books like A Summery Saturday Morning or 17 Kings and 42 Elephants and come up with something completely new and fresh?

This exhibition is a remarkably honest, 'warts and all' look at David's path to the finished book, complete with its trials, tribulations, false starts and wrong turnings. Above all it is intended as a window into the magical world of imagination, a celebration of the creativity that, along with a good deal of hard work, lies behind a handsome book that will undoubtedly become a children's classic. In this spirit Margaret has allowed the display of some of her earliest writings, in which the acclaimed Mahy magic is already clearly evident. The warmest thanks are due to her for this generous support. This exhibition will not only delight visitors, child and adult alike, but equally, encourage all of us to explore our own potential in images or words - or both.

Jessie Casson - Champions: New Zealand Winners

12th December 2009 - 7th February 2010

In Champions Jessie Casson celebrates many of New Zealand's winners and local heroes with marvellous photographs. From an award-winning jam-maker to a rodeo cowboy and a 'universe'-straddling drag queen, more than 40 individuals from the length and breadth of the country are brought together in a loving tribute to the unsung New Zealand achiever. Although rarely publicised outside of their home towns, each winner is testament to the passion and determination of the people of New Zealand.

The portraits are the fruit of Jessie Casson's desire to capture the dedication, self-belief and good old kiwi 'can-do' attitude that make New Zealanders who they are.

"When I look at the portraits I feel a warm kinship with every one of them. And from doing the interviews I discovered that everybody has a story, it just needs to be searched for. I have a greater understanding of why people pour so much time and energy into something when the gain is not about money or wealth. I have realised it is about dedication and passion. It is about belief in oneself and a drive to do better and better that becomes integral to who you are as a person. In a world where consumerism and monetary success have a huge role, I now know that there is a lot to be learnt from the individual champion. I hope that my portraits and text do justice to the subjects". Jessie Casson.

At the museum . . .



We're into collecting stories.

Everyone has a story to tell, even though they mightn't think so.

At the Ashburton Museum we are interested in collecting a selection of these stories in the form of oral history recordings.

Recently one of our staff, Moya Sheriff, has put a lot of work into training and preparing to do this work. We also have some other people who are training to do recordings as volunteers. We have bought the specialized recording equipment and are about ready to start.

Our need at the moment is for more people to train. A training course is being held at Menorlue on Saturday November 7 - probably the last such course before Government subsidies are removed. If there is sufficient interest we may look at running a follow-up course at the Museum next year.

If anyone is interested in helping us with this work, please contact Moya at the Museum, 308 3167.

We are also interested in hearing about people who have interesting stories. Generally, they will be older people, but not necessarily people who have done big things or been involved with major events. We are very

interested in recording peoples' memories about everyday happenings - their schooldays, their work, household chores and similar things. Until we have more people trained we will not be able to handle great numbers, perhaps one or two a month, but we will need names so we can choose a good cross section of the community. Once again, contact Moya.

On another subject, recently all our efforts have been directed at starting to prepare items in our collection for the move to the new building which at the moment is planned to take place in 2011.

It is time-consuming work, involving checking catalogue records and re-packing all the items we have in storage, so they can be safely moved and readily accessed when they are required for display purposes.

Over the next 18 months or so we would appreciate it if people did not bring new items in to us unless it is absolutely necessary. It is not that we don't want to see what you have and possibly consider adding it to the collection, it is just that we really don't have the time to process new material at the moment.



Moya Sheriff with the tape recorder used for oral history recording.

New Books at the District Library

FICTION

Sidney Sheldon's Mistress of the game, by Tilly Bagshawe — A sequel to the 1980's bestseller Master of the game, by Sidney Sheldon. It continues the story about the Blackwells a powerful business dynasty and supremely dysfunctional family.



Remarkable creatures, by Tracy Chevalier — Elizabeth Philipot and her two sisters move to genteel poverty in Lyme Regis in 1804 when their brother marries and sells their London home. Needing a hobby and accepting she is ineligible for marriage, Elizabeth becomes interested in the fossils found on the cliffs, and befriends a local tradesman's daughter who is an expert collector. The story is told from both major character's viewpoint.



An echo in the bone, by Diana Gabaldon — The long awaited Book Seven of the Outlander saga, about the time travelling lovers Jamie Fraser and Claire Randall. The year is 1777, and the American Revolution is about to begin. Meanwhile, in the 20th Century, their daughter Brianna follows their adventures in their letters



Duchess by night, by Eloisa James — Harriet, the Duchess of Berrow, is bored with her respectable widowed existence. Aged 27, she decides to do something daring. Dressed as a young man, she crashes a house party at Fonthill, the country house of Lord Strange, one of the most notorious rakes in England. The cross-dressing romance is an old theme, but done well as it is here, makes for a charming Regency romp.



The brightest star in the sky, by Marian Keyes — Number 66 Star Street in Dublin is a house in four flats. We meet the tenants on each of its floors, seen through the eyes of a guardian angel who concerns himself with their hopes and heartaches.



The white raven, by Robert Low — The final book of the Oathsworn trilogy about Orm Ruriksson and his band of Vikings. They go on a quest through a dread winter to recover the hoard of silver from Attila's tomb. The greatest of all their many dangers are the formidable Amazons who guard the tomb's treasures. We all know how keen girls are on jewellery.



House and home, by Kathleen McCleary — When Ellen Flanagan's marriage breaks up, the family home, a charming Cape Cod cottage, has to be sold. Ellen loves the house dearly, and has years of memories attached to it. She becomes obsessed with buying back the house, striking up an acquaintance with the new owners and trying to persuade them to sell. A moral tale about what is really important in life.



Fever of the bone, by Val McDermid — Forensic profiler Dr Tony Hill and police detective Carol Jordan investigate the brutal murder of a teenaged girl outside Worcester. It becomes apparent that she was stalked through the social networking site RigMarole, by a killer who hid their online tracks carefully. It's not long before the killer finds the next target the same way. The questions become, are the victims linked, and why must they die?



A corpse in shining armour, by Caro Peacock — An early Victorian mystery starring society investigator Miss Libery Lane. London is in the grip of an enthusiasm for the costumes and sports of the Middle Ages, as preparations are made for the Eglington Tournament. Liberty is asked to verify the parentage of the heir to a peerage and substantial fortune. Both the heir and his younger brother are set to joust at the Tournament, and the appearance of a servant's dead body in the contested family suit of armour is the first sign that the dispute is going to be deadly.

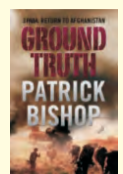


NON FICTION

The AA explorer guide to Canada — By popular demand. It's taken a while, but Canada seems to have been discovered as a desirable holiday destination. We also have new travel guides to Vancouver and Toronto.



Ground truth, by Patrick Bishop — The title is a military term, meaning how the situation really is "on the ground", compared with how it has been envisaged before the operation began. The author presents the reality of the British deployment in Afghanistan from the viewpoint of the soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, Paratroop Regiment, their experiences in combat and their thoughts, fears and anxieties about the progress of this controversial conflict.



Cleo, how an uppity cat helped heal a family, by Helen Brown — Columnist Helen Brown was living in Wellington with her husband and two young sons in 1982 when her elder boy, nine year old Sam, was killed in a road accident. Soon after his death, a kitten he had persuaded his mother to let him have arrived at their home. Initially not wanted, Cleo distracts the family from their grief and introspection and slowly teaches them to enjoy life again.



A labour of love, an autobiography, by Anne Geddes — Multiple babies dressed as lawn daisies, butterflies or angels, or propped up in flower pots are trade mark images from Anne Geddes. You either love this stage of her work or find it slightly sinister. She has now moved on to a more simple and lyrical style. In this beautiful book Anne Geddes talks about her life and work, and gives both practical and philosophical insights for other photographers.



Twisting throttle America, by Mike Hyde — Mike Hyde is from Christchurch. He describes himself as "a middle-aged Kiwi biker on a budget", and his first Twisting Throttle book was about his solo ride around Australia in 35 days. This time his aim was 50 American States in 60 days, beginning with the easy one, Hawaii. A breezy writing style makes the journey enjoyable for the reader, and there are some humorous incidents. In one, the author turns into the main street of Deadwood and finds his motorbike at the middle of a re-enactment of the shooting of Wild Bill Hickok.



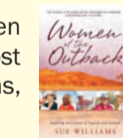
High crimes, the fate of Everest in an age of greed, by Michael Kodas — An expose of the industry and criminal activity that now surrounds attempts on this iconic mountain. Sir Edmund Hillary has condemned the heartlessness of those climbers who have left people to die. The story gets worse: in some cases those abandoned have been clients, left by the guides to whom they have paid thousands of dollars to help them achieve a safe ascent. The author himself is a mountaineer, who has personally experienced the theft and extortion climbers risk from those to whom they entrust their lives on Everest. He turned back from an attempt on the summit in 2006, certain that his guides would let him perish.



Dark lover, the life and death of Rudolph Valentino, by Emily W. Leider — Valentino's father was a veterinarian. That came as a surprise, on page one, and there are many more throughout this hefty volume about the willowy tango-dancing sheikh-impersonator. True to the legend, Valentino (not his real name, unsurprisingly) first made his living in America as a "taxi-dancer" piloting bored wives around dance floors at afternoon tea dances. This is the story of his rise to fame and tragically early death.



Women of the Outback, by Sue Williams — Pen portraits of fourteen brave and enterprising women who have struggled against one of the most inhospitable climates in the world to create and sustain successful farms, businesses, families and communities.



New Books at the Children's Library

Picture Books

The bus to the zoo by Mary Murphy. Illustrated by Josh Lee — The bus to the zoo pulls up and the animals climb aboard. At each stop the bus gets more crowded and everyone has to squash up to make room for the newcomers. The endpapers help to identify each animal. The story flows along with the journey, with a break in rhythm each time the bus pulls up. More funny details pop up each time you look at the illustrations.



Tiny Miss Dott and her dotty umbrella by Michelle Osment. Illustrations by Sarah Nelisiwe Anderson — Miss Dott, busy working at the local charity shop, doesn't realise that her umbrella is being borrowed by a parade of people. It has ingredients that make it a good read-aloud - memorable characters, some repetition, and text presented in different size fonts, making it easy for the reader to put the emphasis in the right place.



Non fiction

The Great Barrier Reef book; solar powered by Mark Norman — Solar powered has information about the Reef, and also some of its individual species such as the Clownfish, made famous by Nemo. Perhaps you didn't know that the Parrotfish makes a 'snot sleeping bag' each night so that predators can't track their scent? Then this is just the book for you. It finishes with information on the effects of climate change and suggests websites for further research.



The surfing scientist: 40 super human body tricks by Ruben Meerman — The surfing scientist comes up with lots of fun science experiments involving the body and its reactions. Perhaps more importantly he explains the reasons behind the results. Why does sugar taste sweeter if it's dissolved in hot water rather than cold? How do optical illusions work? He also suggests some good practical jokes to try on your teacher, such as the fake broken nose.



Chapter books

Enemy attack! By Joe Miller — Meet the bug buddies - Zap (a clover seed weevil), Lurch (a dung beetle), Crunch (a stag beetle), and Buzz (a ladybird). Life would be perfect in their Wood if it wasn't for Spinner, the evil spider. The four friends are left in charge of the Wood for the day but can they foil Spinner's sly plan? This new series proves that even beetles can be heroes.



Umbrella summer by Lisa Graff — Annie Richards is being careful, very careful. Careful not to catch typhoid, or food poisoning or chicken pox. Since the death of her brother, Jared, she has become a worrier. We all deal with grief in a different way. This is the story of Annie and her family as they come to terms with the gap in their lives, and learn to keep on living. Umbrella summer is a sensitive story about a caring community and a warm, feisty heroine.



Young adults

First Strike by Jack Higgins with Justin Richards — Read this new adventure with the Chance Family. While in London Jane, Rich and John Chance find themselves being asked for help by a crime boss from Eastern Europe. Before they have a chance to find out what he wants he's shot. Thus begins an adventure that leads the Chance family into a Chinese war zone, hunting for some warheads that have gone missing.



Foot Free and Fancy Loose by Elizabeth Craft and Sarah Fain — Four young women Harper, Sophie, Kate and Becca all have different dreams and ambitions. So when Harper doesn't get in to the college of her dreams she convinces her three best friends to depart on a year of dreams. With each woman striving for what they want and for one of them finding out that her happiness isn't reliant on her parent's, and that life is what you make it.



ASHBURTON TRUST
event centre
 UPCOMING EVENTS



"Those were the days"

18/19th October

Margaret Jackson, Susan Spencer and Jenny Beach have again come together pooling to produce and direct another fantastic musical.

A song and dance show featuring nostalgic music of the 50's and 60's and where you, the audience, can also join in, in some old fashioned sing-a-longs.

Sit back and enjoy! "Those were the Days" will have you reminiscing the good old days.

Shows: 18th October 1.30pm + 4pm and 19th October 1.30pm

Shirley Valentine

31st October

This play is a bit naughty...adult if you like...both men and women will enjoy the humor. From Playwright Willy Russell (Educating Rita and Blood Brothers), made into an award winning film in the late 1980s featuring Pauline Collins.

L'Estro Armonico Strings

Sun, 1st November

Directed by Oleg Kotorovych, L'Estro Armonico Strings is a group drawn mainly from Christchurch Symphony Orchestra players and includes most of the principals of the string sections. They gave their first concert in 2000 and have since performed not only in Christchurch but also Nelson, Dunedin, Ashburton, Hokitika and Timaru.

Level Three

Saturday, 21st November

This is one of Canterbury's premier 16 piece bands. They have performed to sell-out crowds at numerous venues in Christchurch and we have secured them for one night only. Groove the night away on the dance floor. Great sound, incredible lighting.

Christmas CrackUp

Thu - Sat, 26th- 28th November

From the comical mind of Gavin Templeton comes another hilarious night out.

A jam-packed comedy show full of great music and hilarious sketches. Created by Gavin with assistance from Brian Taylor and Sarah Templeton. A full night of entertainment that pokes a stick at all things Christmas.

Table seating with Gourmet Platter and waited table service or theatre seating and bar facilities available.

Public's views heard at open days

The council has held a series of open days throughout the district on the emerging District Plan that will control the future use of land and development in the district over the next 10 years. The open days have provided an opportunity for the public to view draft boundaries for different zones (that determine the type of activities that can occur in an area and reflect what is being sought e.g. quiet low scale development of a residential area), the proposed changes in each town and village, and the intended uses for each zone in the District Plan. Councillors, Council staff and consultants have been at the open days to discuss people's concerns and answer questions with a good turnout at most of the open days.

Open Days have been held for the following towns and villages –

Methven	29th July
Rakaia	5th August
Hinds	13th August
Mayfield	20th August
Barrhill/ Lauriston	26th August
Mt Somers	2nd September

Hut Settlements
 Chertsey
 Ashburton

11th September

16th September

24th September

Some key issues have been raised

including the –

* ability for towns and villages to expand and the need for a reliable water supply and sewerage network ;

* impact of zoning changes on existing and future landowners and their ability to subdivide and develop land.

For example, the draft zoning boundaries propose that some areas currently zoned Rural A become Rural B and this would not allow landowners to subdivide or construct a dwelling without resource consent;

* type and density of residential development the Council allows on the edge of settlements;

* need for land for business and commercial uses and the future location of business;

* provision of sufficient open space;

* need for elderly persons housing;

The Council has taken on board the issues raised and will be considering

these comments further in discussion with councillors.

The next steps are to meet with key stakeholders late this year/ early next year to discuss the issues of concern and explain the proposed changes to the District Plan in more detail. From this the District Plan will be refined and taken back to councillors.

In the first half of next year the council will publicly notify the District Plan, which will allow the public to make formal comments supporting or opposing specific parts of the plan, which will be following by a further period of consultation when the public can comment on submissions made by others. The council will then consider the comments received and hearings will be held to decide on the issues raised.

The council invites you to make written comments at any time before the District Plan is notified so we can consider your views and where appropriate, incorporate them into the plan at an early stage.

If you have any questions please contact Mark Stevenson, Senior District Planner on 03 3077750 or marks@adc.govt.nz

Concept plan for CBD

The Council is developing a plan for a Town Centre that we can all be proud of.

The Ashburton Town Centre Concept Plan provides a starting point for future development of the town centre and describes what can be done to make the town centre a more attractive place to live, work and visit.

The Concept Plan sets a direction for improvements in the town centre that will involve new projects and co-ordinate existing work. Further planning for redevelopment of Baring Square is to happen soon and we want your ideas on how to make this happen.

By having a blueprint the

Council and key stakeholders can take a co-ordinated approach to any works that take place. This can minimise the amount of disruption to traffic flows and increase people's enjoyment of the centre.

The Concept Plan was prepared in consultation with the public and stakeholders, and it seeks to address the concerns raised. These include the need for better connections and access between parts of the town centre and areas beyond (Domain and the river) as well as the importance of having high quality public spaces and facilities for the public to use.

There are a number of key projects identified in the Concept Plan including but not limited to:

* Creating links between Baring Square East and West and making the squares more attractive

* Improving pedestrian walkways through the town centre and creating new lanes

* Enhancing public spaces such as the Triangle (Victoria and Cass Streets) and Mona Square

* Encouraging high density residential development within the town centre and

* Strengthening the existing core retail areas in the town centre

Some of these can be achieved through changes to the District Plan that identifies areas for different land uses. However, the majority of projects require funding and will take time to implement. The Concept Plan is a long term project and for each individual project identified it will be important to get your views before designs are prepared and work starts.

Further information on the Town Centre Concept Plan will be available on the Council's website very soon. Otherwise, please contact Mark Stevenson, Senior District Planner on 03 3077750 or marks@adc.govt.nz.

Confirmation of trade wastes bylaw fees

Council has reviewed its Trade Wastes Bylaw and the associated fees businesses are required to pay following several complaints from local business owners. The bylaw has been developed to ensure the costs of processing contaminants discharged into Council wastewater systems are met by those who make the discharge. It also prohibits some discharges being made into the wastewater schemes where pollutant levels are too high for the system to effectively treat or where the discharge may cause damage to the wastewater network.

The bylaw was developed last year and included the community consultation process councils must follow when developing bylaws. The fees came into effect from 1

July 2009. All businesses in the district are required to be registered. Seventy-seven percent of businesses are now registered and more have been visited for classification on request.

Council's Chief Executive Brian Lester said "The aim of the bylaw is to ensure protection of the district's wastewater network and environment and to ensure costs are met by those responsible for discharging the trade wastes."

"By registering all our businesses, this allows us to monitor activities that could put our systems at risk, and allow us to assist the business operators," Mr Lester added.

Sources of contamination can include -

1. Chemicals from a

manufacture process, chemicals used in clean up or from an accidental spillage on site

2. Fats, oils and greases from food preparation and clean up in the food service industry

3. Grit, dust and other solid wastes such as hair or fibres

4. Impact from high temperatures

5. Very high or low pH levels

Councillors undertook a review of the implementation of the bylaw and fees at a workshop on 1 October and confirmed the need for the bylaw, and the current charges to cover operating costs.

Fees and charges will be reviewed next year as part of the Council's Annual Plan review.



Council chief executive officer
 Brian Lester