



## From the Mayor



### A community-owned business in a sound financial position

Recently there has been some media attention describing Ashburton District Council's escalating debt. I will make some comment on this and explain why Council has debt, and also that our debt is at a prudent and manageable level.

Debt is a way of getting on with necessary development as well as managing inter-generational equity and keeping rates on an even keel rather than having major fluctuations.

We have two major projects at the moment

¾ The \$9 million upgrade of the town sewerage to land disposal, a significant improvement to the present system which has outfall directly to the Ashburton River. This structure will be a huge step forward in improving the environmental standards of the river, being a useful resource in itself, and providing infrastructure for growth of the town.

¾ This is also the case with the \$4 million town water supply upgrade. The sooner the failing gravity main is made redundant the better, providing a more reliable and better quality of supply.

These two projects, totalling \$13 million, will benefit present and future generations. Because of this inter-generational benefit, it is quite fair and reasonable that payment, which is made by the users of the schemes, should be spread over a period of years.

Ashburton's population continues to grow on the back of a buoyant economy. A record number of houses are being built along with new businesses and existing businesses expanding, demonstrating confidence in the future of our district. This is in line with Council's hopes and aspirations for the district in its 15-year strategic plan 1995-2010. We must ensure the infrastructure is in place to meet both the needs and expectations of our community.

Present Council debt is \$8.2 million and will increase \$5.9 million during the next 12 months to approximately \$14.1 million. This is forecast to rise to \$20.5 million in the year 2010 when it is expected to peak.

On the other side of the ledger, Council currently has \$18 million in cash reserves. This is down from \$23 million three years ago, but by the year 2010 is budgeted to be \$20 million. Council also has some considerable property assets, some forestry and company shareholding which could be called "family silver". Even though the content of the silver may alter, it must be retained for its revenue earning capacity that allows us to have rates which are lower than the national average.

Council is now funding depreciation on its infrastructure assets which is important to ensure sound finances in the future for ongoing renewals of infrastructure. Our total assets are valued at over \$430 million.

This is a community-owned business that is in a solid, healthy financial position.

*Murray Anderson*

Murray Anderson  
Mayor

## Final call for art funding applications

All clubs, groups or individuals providing art and cultural activities to the Ashburton District community are invited to apply for assistance from the Creative Communities Ashburton District scheme.

The scheme is administered by the Ashburton District Council on behalf of Creative New Zealand. It exists to provide funds to support local arts and cultural activities that will increase participation in the arts, increase community-wide interest in the arts and enhance and strengthen the local arts sector.

Ashburton District Council administration officer

Sharon Ching said the scheme was Creative New Zealand's way of making arts and culture happen at a local level.

"The scheme is a partnership between Creative New Zealand and the Ashburton District Council, with Creative New Zealand providing the money and setting the criteria and the council making decisions about where the money goes."

This year \$10,500 is available for community projects and programmes, with applications closing on Friday (October 17). Further information, application forms and guidelines are available from the council office.

## Youth Council provides link with young people

The Ashburton Youth Council came into being as a way of giving the District Council a feeling for the way the district's young people were thinking on various issues, although its role has expanded since then.

Councillor Robin Kilworth was one of those involved with its establishment, and regularly attends its meetings.

The council became aware about five years ago there was a whole group of people it was not reaching in terms of consultation on how they felt on some of the bigger issues facing the council, or on facilities for the town, she said. The only thing heard was negative comments about youth, but there was no avenue to find out their collective view on District Council issues, or what they wanted the council to advocate on their behalf.

With authority from the council she worked out a process with Cr Rod Beavan and a staff member and took it back to council, which approved the setting up of a youth council.

Up until now the youth council has been involved with organising a number of social activities, with district council assistance, but the consultation requirements of the new Local Government Act are likely to see it play a bigger role. A lot of comment on all sorts of issues is likely to be sought from the Youth Council, Cr Kilworth said.

### Information gathering

Youth Council chairman Luke Sutton said the youth council had been involved in gathering information for the District Council. The latest example was a proposal for a burnout pad that the Ashburton Car Club was asking the District Council to put money into. Youth Council



Youth Council members

members conducted a survey among young drivers that established a large number of them would use a burnout pad.

The Youth Council forms a link between the district's young people and the District Council, he said.

Membership of the youth council consists of two people from Mount Hutt College, two from Ashburton College and others from the community who are interested. It covers the 14 to 25 age group (the Ministry of Youth Affairs age range), but currently all members are 21 or under. New members are appointed in April every year, with all but three of the present council being new to the job this year.

The Youth Council gets good support from the District Council, Luke said. There are usually two district councillors at meetings as well as a staff member as secretary. A lot of staff time is also put into the administration of youth council events.

Quite a few events have been organised in response to the common complaint that there is nothing for young people to do, Luke said. The Rockin' Vegas alcohol-free disco nights, usually held at the Celtic clubrooms have proved to be very popular. The Youth Council has also organised the Miss Ashburton competition.

Major music events have been organised for the past two years but one was hit by bad weather and the other by poor attendances. The Youth Council is looking at organising another major event for next year, but this time is looking at something different.

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# Challenge your family to read all summer

**Did you manage to keep up the reading in your household over the holidays?**

**Get library cards for everyone in your family.** The first step in encouraging family literacy is to visit your library and sign everyone up for library cards. You'll be amazed at the books, magazines, videos, talking books and DVDs available to both you and your child in the library. A summer reading programme with prizes that encourage children to read is run by the Children's Library every Christmas holidays.

**Read aloud with your child.** Reading aloud to your child is a great way to help him build vocabulary, visualization and reading skills. Read daily with your child this summer and keep in mind that it's never too early (or too late) to start. If your child thinks he's too old to have a story read aloud to him, suggest that he read to you, a sibling or a grandparent.

**Read anywhere.** Show your child that books are good companions and that reading is not just school homework. Take a book wherever you go and pack one for your child too. Show him its fun to read at the pool, at the beach, waiting for a ride, before bed, in a tent, under a tree or at the playground in the park.

**Try something different.** Some children get discouraged with reading because they tried one book and thought it was too boring, too hard or too long. Expose your child to a wealth of reading materials, including children's magazines, poetry, short stories, choose-your-own adventure books, maps, recipes, cereal packets, signs, song lyrics, letters, instructions and directions. Read everything you can together.

**Pick out age-appropriate books.** Children don't want to do something they're not good at, and reading is no exception. Your child may not like reading because the books he's choosing are too hard. Use the five finger method to help find books that match his reading level.

When a child shows you a book he likes, put up five fingers and ask the child to read any paragraph in the book. Every time the child stumbles on a word, put down a finger. If all five fingers are down when the child finishes the selection, the book is too hard. Two fingers left indicates a challenging read, three fingers shows the book is about right, and four or five shows that the child should have no problem.

**Read the same books.** Try reading the same book before or after your child, and then ask him which parts he likes best. Asking your child about what he is reading is as easy as asking the book's name, what it's about and who his favorite character is. This sort of discussion helps with their comprehension skills and often helps the child understand why they are reading.

**Challenge your family to read all summer long! And don't forget the Summer Reading Programme coming up at the Children's Library next holidays.**

## What's On

### Ashburton Museum

A vibrant display on Peru and an interesting collection of material from Greece currently occupy the 'Celebrating Our Immigrants' display cases. However, the Greek unit is to finish 5th October.

Two young Romanian lasses are eager to present an exhibit about their country and that will run from 20th October until the end of November. This will replace the Greek display.

A puzzling, persistent and potentially damaging leak in the north east corner of the museum means that one of our display areas is out of action until the source of the incoming water can be traced. Our storage area leak also continues to cause concern but we have made very sure that all stored material is well protected and in no danger of any damage.

We are planning some bus trips to the Mt. Somers, foothills area which will be led by David Howden so if anyone is interested in learning more of the fascinating history of that district please contact the museum Ph 3083167 for more details.

### Ashburton Library

#### New books at the Ashburton Library

##### Non-fiction

**The Dambusters**, by John Sweetman. New book on the 1943 Dams Raid, one of the most famous bomber operations of WW2. Many photographs, and a modern day RAF attempt to recreate the mission. Except no one was shooting at them, of course.

**Edith Wharton: a house full of rooms: architecture, interiors and gardens 1862-1937**, by Theresa Craig. This famous American novelist (The age of innocence, The Buccaneers etc) was a great collector of houses and gardens in many countries. Fascinating book from travel, history, writing, interior decorating and gardening angles.

**Elmer McCurdy**, the misadventures in life and afterlife of an American outlaw, by Mark Svenfold. Mummified as a side-show exhibit following his shooting for train robbery in 1911, Elmer was re-discovered in 1976 in a horror-house ride at a Los Angeles amusement park. This book outlines his short and unlucky life, and longer career in public entertainment.

**Floyd's India**. Travel and food fest. Lavishly illustrated with photographs of our Panama hatted hero whipping up something tasty in exotic locations. Clear recipes, interesting text.

**Get rich, stay rich**, by Martin Hawes and Joan Baker. Lively advice on reaching financial independence. Cut up those credit cards. All of them.

**Honga Hika: warrior chief**, by Dorothy Ulrich Cloher. New biography of the renowned early nineteenth century Nga Puhī chief. He was notable for using muskets against his more traditionally armed enemies to devastating effect. The first New Zealander to go on the Big O.E., Honga Hika visited England in 1820.

**Into the darklands**, unveiling the predators among us, by Nigel Latta. A New Zealand forensic psychologist talks about his work with violent offenders. He believes that focusing on the specific nature of the crime is the best indicator of the character of the perpetrator. He also believes that violent criminals are more common-place people than we may think. **Modern military aircraft anatomy: technical drawings of 118 aircraft 1945 to the present day**. Just assembled a Starfighter in the back yard? Got some parts left over? You need this book. Detailed diagrams and specs for most modern day warbirds.

**On blue ice: a not very brave journey to Antarctica**, by Kim Griggs. A layperson's account of an eight day trip to Scott Base on a media representative ticket. Lively writing, good photographs. Save us going there ourselves.

**30 days, a month at the heart of Blair's war**, by Peter Stothard. A topical book by a Times journalist given permission to shadow the British PM during the Iraq invasion crisis.

##### Fiction

**The elder gods**, by David and Leigh Eddings. A stand alone fantasy novel by this successful duo.

**The probable future**, by Alice Hoffman. A young clairvoyant finds herself mixed up in murder in Massachusetts.

**Songs of the humpback whale**, by Jodi Piccolt. This author is very popular. This is a complex family theme involving a trip through America, without a whale in sight.

**Monstrous regiment**, by Terry Pratchett. A Discworld novel to join the many already delighting Pratchett's keen fans.

Last summer in Arcadia, by Deirdre Purcell. Comfortably-off Englishers abroad run into a little local difficulty which overthrows their ordered and civilized lives.

**The family**, by Mario Puzo. About the Borgias, the ultimate dysfunctional family. They make the Corleone clan (from The Godfather, Puzo's famous novel) look positively benign.

**A question of blood**, by Ian Rankin. A Detective Inspector Rebus mystery, with the usual Edinburgh setting.

**Naked prey**, by John Sandford. Nasty killers, this guy dreams up.

**Blindfold**, by Lyndon Stacey. A pretender to the Dick Francis title. A good read, but without the menace of the Master (or Mistress, for those who suspect Mrs Francis held the pen).

**Johnny Angel**, by Danielle Steel. A heart-warming family story from the author of fifty eight bestsellers

### Ashburton Art Gallery

#### John Edgar: Calculus

**Exhibition: 30 August – 16 October**

Special touring exhibition featuring 100 altered stones from Auckland sculptor John Edgar. This intriguing exhibition reflects 20 years of 'altering' mainly greywacke stones. Laid out in mathematical formulas, the intercut glass, jasper, lapis lazuli and marble stones glitter in the light creating an altogether new stone. Others, with sandstone and argillite implanted in mathematical equations create a warm glow which draws the eye. Accompanying the small stones are five altered boulders or 'touchstones' which invite the viewer to run their hand over the smooth surface. Calculus is toured by the The Dowse, Lower Hutt.

#### The Bible Miniature Art Exhibition

**Exhibition: 11 September – 16 October**

This exhibition of 137 pieces by 34 artists celebrates stories from the Old Testament. The works reflect strong connections to the land and history of Israel and utilise many different media. Curated by Dr Moshe Liba of the Israeli Miniature Society, this presentation is touring New Zealand museums with the support of the Embassy of Israel, Canberra.

#### Mid Canterbury Schools Art Exhibition

**Exhibition: 19 October – 2 November**

A perennial favourite in the Gallery's schedule of shows, this exhibition showcases the creative and colourful art work of Mid Canterbury's preschool, primary and secondary school children. Painting, drawing, photography, pottery, sculpture and an array of mixed media work all feature in the exhibition. Don't miss this opportunity to see the work of our young up and coming artists.

#### Sally Papps: Paranoia

**Exhibition: 6 November – 7 December**

Exhibition of paintings by Nelson artist Sally Papps. Small utilitarian houses are a predominant theme in Sally Papp's work. They first appeared as a symbol representing the heart of our lives but now represent life itself, and have assumed human characteristics. They have become their own species, with their daily rituals and experiences recorded in her paintings.

#### 19th Century Art Video Month

**Screenings: 6 November – 7 December**

This series of art videos features some of the great impressionist painters of the 19th century such as Degas, Pissarro, Cezanne, Toulouse Lautrec and Seurat. The videos will play over a four week period and at the same time each day. Each video is approximately an hour long, is entertaining and informative, and offers insights into the working methods and creative process of these major artists.

#### Muka Youth Print Exhibition

**Exhibition: 11 & 12 November, 12-6pm**

This special 'children only' event gives children (5-18 years) the opportunity to purchase original art for a fraction of the price. The collection features 20 original lithographic prints by well known New Zealand and international artists. Entry to the exhibition is free, any young person is welcome and there is no pressure to buy. All works are \$50 and the exhibition is an 'adult-free' zone.

**20:20 Sight Specific: An Exhibition of Contemporary Pacific Art**

**Exhibition: 20 November – 18 January**

Group exhibition of 20 contemporary Pacific artists that raises questions about culture and perception. The exhibition is about sight, specific to how the artist sees from a Pacific perspective. Included in the exhibition is the work of acknowledged artists such as Ani O'Neill, Fatu Feu'u, Michel Tuffery and John Pule.

# Appeal to halt drug spread

Mayor Murray Anderson has issued a plea to the Ashburton community to help stamp out the use of methamphetamine drugs before they become rife in the community.

"There is no place for them in our district — they are soul destroying, health destroying and carry huge social cost implications.

Ashburton Community Alcohol and Drug Service general manager Jere Bunn said methamphetamines, often know by names such as crank, ice or 'P', were already in the Ashburton community, but not yet at North Island, especially Auckland, levels.

"Don't get comfortable about that, it will get here," he said. "Historically, whatever Auckland has dribbles down."

P is a devastating drug, stripping people raw before they seek help.

"It is fast acting and quickly has people spending money like crazy."

While it is being seen in younger age groups, that aspect has not been picked up yet in Ashburton.

"Alcohol is still our number one drug, and cannabis number two. Others come and go in waves, but alcohol and cannabis stay there. In the '60s the saying was 'speed kills'. P is a greater refinement of speed, and the next wave is ice."

## If you are concerned . . .

Anyone with concerns about the use of P, or any other drug, should contact:  
**Ashburton Community Alcohol and Drug Service (ACADS), 308 1270**  
 Or  
**The Drug and Alcohol Helpline, 0800 787 797 10am to 10pm every day.**

The community can help by being alert for changes of personality in people, and seeking help when they are noticed. Changes associated with the use of P typically centred around violence, hostility and anger.

Education, keeping young people aware, is another important way the community can help.

"Don't try to think your way through it. It is better to talk to someone rather than to try to sort it out yourself. Don't be too proud to pick up the phone."

Ashburton Safer Community Council manager Tony

Henderson reinforced the message.

It is not in Ashburton schools yet, but it is in Ashburton and like any drug, it will affect increasingly younger ages, he said.

People with concerns should either contact ACADS or the Drug and Alcohol Helpline.

Mr Anderson said a recent international survey had shown New Zealand was now the third highest user of methamphetamines per capita in the world.

"What is wrong with us, how stupid can we be. I always gave New Zealanders credit for having more common sense."

Auckland mayors had recently told him some horror stories related to the realities of the drug, Mr Anderson said. It was not confined to any one age group, but was certainly targeted more at younger people.

"I am confident it is not widespread in our district at this stage, so let us nip it in the bud. We should not just accept that it is part of modern lifestyle living, rather the reverse. Anyone with knowledge of people using the drug or knowledge of supply line contacts should make sure the information is passed on to the appropriate agency."

No one agency or organisation could be successful without support and awareness from the community, Mr Anderson said.

## Awards recognise voluntary work

Keep an eye out in the media over the next week or so for information about how to nominate people for the annual Ashburton District Council Community Honours Awards.

The awards were instituted several years ago to recognise the voluntary service of individuals in the community.

"It is nice to recognise the value of voluntary contributions in a tangible way," Mayor Murray Anderson said.

## Heritage to the fore at Barrhill

February 29 next year, that date that happens only once in four years, will see heritage coming to the fore at historic Barrhill Village on the banks of the Rakaia River.

The occasion is the Barrhill Village Heritage Fair, a day of fun and entertainment for all the family being organised to raise awareness of heritage and to celebrate 150 years since the first European settled in the Ashburton District.

Old fashioned stalls and entertainments will be a feature of the fair, with many stallholders wearing period dress and selling the type of item that were popular at such events in the past.

Barrhill Village was developed in the 1870s by a neighbouring land owner, John Cathcart Wason, as a village for his farm workers. Today the school, church and schoolhouse survive of the original buildings.

They are set in tree-lined avenues, each

named after the type of tree growing on them.

The village is controlled by the District Council, which is making a contribution towards the running for the fair. Councillor Robin Kilworth, one of three councillors on the organising committee, said the council had a growing appreciation of heritage as one of the things that was important to people. The council now had in place a heritage policy as well as giving protection to certain items under the district plan.

"Where we are now reflects where we have come from. Things that reflect values are important to preserve," she said.

The council had contributed \$5000 from its heritage budget and was also making practical assistance available as a further indication of the recognition it was giving to heritage and to help people promote heritage values..

## Recent contracts awarded

Contract C377, Road reseal and pre-seal repairs 2003/04, Island Ashphalts Ltd, 28/08/03, \$2,159,581.19, 6 tenders ranging from \$2,159,581.19 to \$2,748,825.58, engineer's estimate \$2,384,716.25.

Contract C384, Minor Township Maintenance, Methven 2004-2007, D Isherwood, 30/9/03, \$105,139.80, Negotiated Tender, engineer's estimate \$102,525.00.

Contract C387, Footpath Maintenance Ashburton District 2003/04 – 2005/06, Fulton Hogan, 28/8/03, \$240,522.90, Negotiated Tender Engineer's estimate \$127,000 for 1 year.

Contract C389, Hinds Water Supply Upgrade – Bore Drilling, McMillan Water Wells Ltd, 27/8/03, \$69,805.00, Negotiated Tender, engineer's estimate \$45,000.

Contract C391, Professional Services for Stormwater Design, Ashburton 2003/04, Glasson Potts Fowler, 26/8/03 \$18,400, Negotiated Tender, engineer's estimate \$31,667.00.

Contract 392, Utility cyclic renewals Ashburton 2003/04, Bond Contracts Ltd, 2/10/03, \$692,775.19, 4 tenders received ranging from \$692,775.19 to \$1,087,524.28, engineer's estimate \$852,148.96.

Contract C394, Supply of O&M Services for Ashburton District Council Water Supplies, Wastewater and Stormwater Utilities 2003/04, Ashburton Contracting Ltd, 28/8/03, \$535,977.00, Negotiated Tender.

Contract C396, Footpath Resurfacing, Ashburton District 2003/04, Fulton Hogan, 28/8/03, \$233,812.98, 2 tenders received ranging from \$233,812.98 to \$235,674.45, engineer's estimate \$257,863.

Contract 39, New and replacement kerb and channel Ashburton, Rakaia and Methven 2003/04, Ashburton Contracting Ltd, 2/10/03, \$375,803.82, two tenders received, \$375,803.82 and \$392,457.00, engineer's estimate \$369,131.75.

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# Check out those garden beds

## Main Entrance Domain

Entrance bed (north side): Pansy Ultima Apricot Shades, bulbs Tulip Orange Toronto, edge Pansy Buttermilk; entrance bed 2: Pansy Carmel Blotch Yellow, bulbs Tulip Orange Toronto, edge Pansy Fama Silver Blue; entrance bed 3: Pansy Carmel Blotch Yellow, bulbs Tulip Orange Toronto; edge Pansy Fama Silver Blue.

## Gate Beds

Gate bed (near office): Myosotis Royal White, bulbs Tulip K Nelis, edge Pansy Ultima Baron Mahogany; gate bed 2: Myosotis Royal Blue, bulbs Tulip Temples Favourite, edge Pansy Carmel Clear Orange; gate bed 3: Myosotis Royal Pink, bulbs Tulip Hocus Pocus, edge Pansy



Beacon Bronze, edge Myosotis Ultramarine; sundial bed 3: Poppy Springsong, Pansy Apricot Shades, edge: Myosotis Ultramarine.

## Woodland Beds & Point Garden

Woodland beds 1 & 2: Polyanthus Waikato Improved, bulbs Tulip High Society, edge Pansy Ultima Beacon Bronze.

## Southern Beds

Southern beds 1 & 2: Polyanthus Rumba Yellow, bulbs Tulip

Pansy Watercolour; Layby: Polyanthus Crescendo Mix, bulbs Tulip Parade, edge Myosotis White Surf.

## Baring Square

North end: Poly CA Wood Pink & Apricot, edge Pansy Beacon Bronze; back centre: Polyanthus Orient Star, edge Pansy Ultima Salmon Yellow; south end: Pansy Contessa Ruffled Mixed, bulbs Hyacinth Koh-I-Noor, edge Pansy Carmel Frost Lemon.

## Baring Square Cenotaph

Front cenotaph: Polyanthus Waikato Improved, bulbs Tulip White Dream, edge Pansy Fama Dark Eye Lemon.

## Baring Square / Oak Grove

Roundabout — Trees: Pansy Baby Bingo Autumn Blaze; Footpaths: Stock Legacy Mixed; Oak Grove Roundabout: Polyanthus Rumba Scarlet, edge Bellis h White with Red Tips.

## Netherby

Roundabout: Poly a. Ernst Benary Show Mix, edge Pansy Carmel Rumba White, bulbs Tulip Oxford Elite; bed 2: Polyanthus Rumba Scarlet, bulbs Tulip Daydream; bed 3: Polyanthus Rumba White, bulbs Tulip

## Turton Memorial

— Bed 1: Polyanthus Rumba White, bulbs Tulip Oxford Elite; bed 2: Polyanthus Rumba Scarlet, bulbs Tulip Daydream; bed 3: Polyanthus Rumba White, bulbs Tulip

Monsella, edge Pansy Fama Dark Eye Blue; southern bed 3: Polyanthus Waikato Improved, bulbs Tulip Orange, edge Pansy Ultima Salmon Yellow.

## West/Wills & Layby

— West & Wills 1: Pansy Carmel Daffodil Blend, bulbs, three rows, Hyacinth Blue Giant, behind Hyacinth Dr Strassman; edge, double Pansy True Blue; West & Wills 2: Pansy Carmel Daffodil Blend, bulbs Hyacinth Blue Giant, edge Pansy True Blue,

Oxford Elite; bed 4: (closest to memorial) Polyanthus Rumba Scarlet, bulbs Tulip Francoise; bed 5: Polyanthus Rumba White, bulbs Tulip Oxford Elite.

## Walnut Avenue / West Street

Roundabouts: Pansy Accord Arabian Sunset,

pansies, Pansy Carmel Blotch Yellow, Pansy Fama Silver Blue, Pansy Flambe Mixed; Raised bed at Blue Pub: Pansy Carmel Total Mix, edge Myosotis Pompador; raised bed 2: Polyanthus Crescendo Mix, bulbs Tulip Kees Nelis, edge Pansy



band Pansy Carmel Clear White; bulge north: Pansy Carmel Fiesta Blend; bulge south: Pansy Carmel Fiesta Blend; wall: Polyanthus Rumba Cream, bulbs Tulip Francoise, edge Pansy Ultima Beacon Bronze.

## Walnut Avenue / East Street

Roundabouts: Pansy Banana Sundae, edge

Fama Silver Blue.

## Rakaia

Roundabout 1: Polyanthus Benary Show Mix, edge Pansy Ultima Salmon Yellow; roundabout 2: Polyanthus Benary Show Mix, edge: Pansy Ultima Salmon Yellow.

## Ashburton Hospital

— Ward 1: Wallflower Peace



Pansy Buttermilk; racecourse: Polyanthus Cresendo Mixed, bulbs Tulip Oxford Elite, edge Pansy Carmel Clear White.

## Churches

Methodist Church triangle: 2 rows Myosotis Royal Pink, Pansy Watercolours, edge Viola Sorbet Lavender Ice; Catholic Church triangle: Polyanthus CA Wood Formula Mix, bulbs Tulip Oxford Elite, edge Pansy Fama Silver Blue.

## Archibald Street

— Semi-Circle: Iceland Poppy Springsong, edge Pansy Carmel Clear White; service club sign: Wallflower Peace Yellow, edge Viola Jewel Bicolour; welcome sign: Poly Ernst Benary Show Mix, bulbs Tulip Monte Carlo, edge Pansy Carmel Frost.

## Methven

— Medical Centre: Drifts of

Yellow, bulbs Hyacinth Blue Giant, edge Viola Baby Face Ruby & Gold; bed 2: Stock Legacy Mixed; bed 3: assorted stock; main entrance: Pansy Ultima Silhouette Mix, bulbs Hyacinth Dr Strassman, edge Pansy Fama Dark Eye Lemon; outpatients: Drifts of Mysotis, blue, white and pink, edge salmon yellow; administration: Pansy Imperial Antique Shades, bulbs Tulip Orange Toronto, edge Pansy Buttermilk; chapel: Pansy Clear Orange, edge Viola Sorbet Lavender Ice; courtyard: Polyanthus, Pink & Apricot Shades, edge Viola Antique Shades; dentist bed 1 & 2: Ornamental Kale, Peacock Red; corner bed: Wallflower Prince Primrose, bulbs Hyacinth Blue Star, edge x 2 Viola Baby Face Ruby & Gold.

## Council's role sometimes misunderstood

The District Council's annual survey of residents contains many comments people have made to interviewers.

Predictably, some are positive, some are negative, but one factor that comes through is that many people do not understand just what the council's areas of responsibility are and how it operates.

Council chief executive Brian Lester said this was surprising, particularly in view of the fact the council scored very highly in the area of communicating with the district. More than 86 per cent of people surveyed were satisfied with the amount of information they received about happenings within the district. Only 8.7% were dissatisfied.

It was natural there would be dissatisfaction — councils always have competing demands and deal with complex and sometimes contentious issues. A lot of discussions took place over a period of time, involving several meetings, and people not at those meetings could find it difficult to keep up with progress.

The council was not always faultless. People mainly contact the council when they have a problem, but it was not always possible to solve problems immediately or the way people wanted. That should be explained to them, or they should be referred to someone who could help them.

With the number of requests for service the council received it was inevitable one or two would slip through the net, in spite of the council attempting to provide a high level of service.

Communication is a key but the comments may show people are hearing what they want to hear, Mr Lester said.

It raised a concern about where things were going, with the new Local Government Act requiring a higher level of consultation. That process was in its early stages, with a list of 78 groups being consulted on a region-wide basis. Other groups would be consulted locally in the course of preparing the council's Long Term Community Plan, required by the new legislation.

The process was set out in the new Local Government Act, involving people who may be involved in establishing long-term values. It recognised that the council was only one part of the community.

If everyone shared the same sort of vision, the same values, the greater were the chances of achieving it. The new plan in a sense replaced the council's long-term strategic plan. It looked at the life of the district under a number of headings, such as health, electricity, telecommunications, Transfund and Transit, government departments, education and water. It would contain a statement of community outcomes and priorities with priorities for each.

The council becomes the co-ordinator of facilities from a whole range of agencies, Mr Lester said.

However, in light of the lack of understanding some people had now, as shown in the survey, he said he had real concerns for the new system.

# Survey looks at residents' opinions of council

The annual survey of Ashburton District residents was held this year from June 3 to June 23.

The survey has been conducted since 1993, primarily to both provide objective data to Audit New Zealand relating to the achievement of targets set in the Annual Plan, but also to provide feedback on how the community views the conduct and performance of Council activities.

In this year's survey additional questions were asked covering three community issues — district branding, the library service and the proposed Ashburton indoor stadium and pool complex.

402 residents over the age of 18 were sampled using a random selection method. Statistics New Zealand Census figures were used to determine the proportion of interviewees to draw from each ward — Ashburton 232, Methven-Hinds 100, Rakaia 70.

An even number of men and women were interviewed. The margin of error is 6.9 per cent, which means that if the same study was repeated using an entirely different randomly selected sample, the answers would most likely fall close to those obtained in this survey, but with increasing likelihood vary by up to 6.9%.

The following is a summary comparing previous years and highlighting

significant results.

### Summary

**Peer Group (32 like councils)** — This Council achieved better than its peers in 9 of the 13 categories in which comparisons have been made. Ashburton residents are particularly satisfied with Council's management of the Landfill and Recycling (21% greater) and Employment/Business activities (19% greater) and Water Supply (12% greater).

Other activities which rate above other councils are Footpaths (6% greater), Stormwater (10% greater), Sportsfields and Playgrounds (6% greater), Parks and Reserves (7% greater), Rubbish Collection (8% greater) and Tourism Promotion (6% greater). Rates spending also finds favour locally, being 13% higher than the peer group average.

Roads (4% less), the Library Service (7% less), Sports and Playgrounds (2% less) and Cemeteries (2% less) were the underachievers in this area although still recording satisfaction in the 60% - 90% range.

### ASHBURTON vs PEER GROUP/NATIONAL AVERAGES

Don't Know answers have been included unless otherwise stated. The Peer Group for Ashburton is other like rural councils. There are 32 in this group.

**Service/Facility Satisfaction Questions** (All residents figures. Don't knows included) Shaded denotes exceeding peer group and/ or national averages

SERVICE/FACILITY	ASHBURTON	PEER GROUP AVER	NATIONAL AVER
	% Very/Fairly Satisfied	% Very/Fairly Satisfied	% Very/Fairly Satisfied
Roads	61	65	73
Footpaths	67	61	69
Stormwater Services	65	55	69
Water Supply	67	55	76
Tourism Promotion	79	73	74
Landfill & Recycling	76	55	62
Rubbish Collection	70	62	81
Library Service	80	87	89
Sportsfields & Playgrounds	88	90	90
Parks & Reserves	97	89	94
Cemeteries	76	78	68
Employment/Business	70	51	52
Rates Spending	75	62	72
Public Toilets	45	68	63
Dog/ Animal Control	70	67	69

### MAYOR, COUNCILLORS AND STAFF

Both of these groups have slipped slightly below the ratings for last year, although this change is still within the margin for error of the survey. The current approval rate for elected members is 53% and for staff is 56%.

With the "Don't Knows" excluded the elected representatives' performance improves to 56%, still well outside the

target of 80%, and staff performance improves to 66%.

78% of people surveyed who had contacted the Council offices over the past year were satisfied with the overall service they received.

This disparity continues to suggest that general impressions of the community at large are significantly different from those who have had direct contact with the council.

### Performance of Mayor and Councillors

	Very/ Fairly Good	Just Acceptable	Not Very Good/Poor	Don't Know	Rating with D/K excluded	Goal Achieved
	1993	73	19	5	3	-
1994	63	25	10	2	-	-
1995	76	20	4	2	-	-
1996	77	16	2	5	-	-
1997	72	21	4	3	-	-
1998	73	21	3	3	75	(70%)
1999	71	21	3	5	75	(70%)
2000	66	27	4	3	68	(70%)
2001	66	21	6	8	71	(80%)
2002	54	31	9	6	58	(80%)
2003	53	34	8	5	56	(80%)
Peer Aver.	57	24	14	5	-	-
National Aver.	56	27	13	4	-	-

	Performance of Council Staff				Rating with D/K Excluded
	Very/ Fairly Good	Just Acceptable	Not Very Good/Poor	Don't Know	
1993	70	15	5	10	-
1994	79	13	4	4	-
1995	84	10	3	3	-
1996	73	14	3	10	-
1997	79	15	2	4	-
1998	73	15	4	9	-
1999	71	21	3	5	75
2000	69	21	4	7	74
2001	71	17	4	8	77
2002	59	22	5	14	69
2003	56	22	7	15	66
Peer Aver.	58	24	8	10	-
National Aver.	54	20	6	16	-

### Works and Services

Satisfaction with the standard and safety of roading has continued to slide from the previous year, dropping back to 61% and continues to be considerably below its

target level of 80%.

Other services, however, have rated consistently with recent years or improved slightly as shown in the following table.

All Residents (Don't Knows excluded)	Goal	2001/02	2002/03	+/-
Roading	80	66	61	-5
Footpaths	75	71	70	-1
Stormwater/Drainage	75	70	72	+2
Cemeteries	80	95	99	+4
Landfill/Recycling	80	81	85	+4

### Urban and Rural Water Supplies

Both the urban and rural water supply satisfaction levels have dropped to 67% (including don't knows), a drop of 14% and 10% respectively. This drop in satisfaction can probably be attributed in some part to this year's low rainfall resulting in several water schemes suffering supply difficulties. While this is disappointing, the satisfaction rating is still 12% higher than the peer group average.

Water supply upgrading is a priority for council over the next five years and it can be expected that satisfaction levels will increase as work progresses.

The drop in stockwater user satisfaction is likely to be a result of similar continuity of supply problems.

Sewerage and rubbish collection satisfaction rates remained steady with sewerage significantly above its target satisfaction rating and rubbish collection just 1% below the target.

Users only (Don't Knows excluded)	Goal	2001/02	2002/03	+/-
Water Supply (Urban)	80	81	67	-14
Water Supply (Rural)	80	77NA	67	-10
Sewerage	80	97	98	+1
Stockwater	70	64	53	-9
Rubbish collection	90	89	89	-

# Regulatory Responsibilities

Approval of council's role in monitoring the environment (oversight and enforcement of such issues as noise, smell and litter controls, and licensing and regulating food and other outlets) has declined quite sharply — by 11% and is now 10% below the target of 85% approval. This could, in part, be due to the continuing debate regarding licensing and associated issues in the Ashburton CBD.

Parking enforcement continues to be viewed favourably with a 90% satisfaction level. The animal control function fails by just 4% to achieve its target figure of 80%, which is an excellent result considering the extensive and emotive coverage given to this issue in the national news media over the past year.

### Parks, Reserves, Sportsfields, Playgrounds etc

The district is justifiably proud of its many outstanding parks, reserves and sportsfields and, as in other years, these recreational areas are easily the chart toppers in the survey.

The satisfaction levels for this year in two areas, the Ashburton Domain and Sportsfields/Playgrounds, have remained almost constant at 99% and 98% respectively.

**Council Decisions: Dislikes** — Roading maintenance/ upgrading/

workmanship/ closures/ design has become the most disapproved of action or decision of council for the current year, attracting a 9% disapproval rating.

Council expenditure for the current year features in a 7% criticism aimed at wasting money/overspending/allocation of funds. This is around half the disapproval level of the previous year.

The only other issue to gain 5% disapproval or more is water supply issues at 5%.

Significantly 51% of those surveyed had no dislikes they could think of, up from 40.5% the previous year.

### Council Decisions: Likes

Improvements / beautification/ tidying up of towns was the most popular choice for council decisions respondents approved of with a 7.1% rating. Water supply issues were approved of by 5.4% and roading issues and Lake Hood by 4% each.

Again, significantly, 56.6% of respondents did not have a specified area of approval, up from 48% last year.

### Summary of Target Achievements

Council has achieved 15 of the 28 applicable targets set in the 2002/03 Annual Plan and is within the margin of error (6.9%) on a further 6 targets.

# New property valuations issued

The 2003 rating revaluation of Ashburton District Council, carried out by Beca Valuations Ltd, has reassessed the Capital Value and Land Value of all properties in the area and replaces the last revaluation, which was carried out in 2000.

The effective date of the new rating valuations is 1 July 2003 and they will remain valid for the next three years. If you are a property owner you will receive your new valuation this week (week beginning 13 October).

Changes made in 2002 to the Rating Valuation Rules require that land with separate titles have separate valuations. This means that if you own property with more than one Certificate of Title, you will receive more than one valuation notice.

The process carried out by Beca began with a detailed sales analysis of the Ashburton District property market. This involved the assessment of property sales and consultation with vendors, purchasers and property professionals.

Using statistical methods, the sales analysis was applied by way of a complex set of indices to the previous valuation. The resulting values were then checked for accuracy and property visits were carried out by Beca's valuers who assessed any change in condition.

The Office of the Valuer General then independently audited the new values to ensure that they met with the standards set out in the official Rating Valuation Rules.

### Rural property

Overall there has been a significant increase in the values of all land types. Sales during the 2002-3 year were consistently above the 2000 rating valuations. Strong primary product prices and the trend towards growing higher value vegetable crops on arable land have

contributed to the rise. The high numbers of dairy conversions over the last three years have also put upward pressure on land prices. In addition, properties that have had irrigation systems installed since the previous revaluation are showing higher increases in land sale prices.

### Pastoral Property

The foothills pastoral property have shown an increase of 65% with land sale prices being \$5,000-\$6,500/hectare. The plains pastoral properties have shown stronger increases due to the added versatility of the land, the potential for irrigation and the low relative price per hectare compared with dairy and arable properties. Land sale prices on the plains were \$6,000-\$13,000 per hectare and increased up to 160% on 2000 levels.

### Arable Property

Arable property has risen strongly with land sale prices rising up to an average of \$13,000 to \$15,000 per hectare for the stronger soils. Purchasers have been paying a premium for lower valued flat land in the light of increasing land costs and in many cases this type of land has more than doubled in value since 2000.

### Dairy Property

Dairy property has also risen strongly with land sale prices up to between \$13,000 and \$16,000 per hectare and price per kilograms of milk solids in the \$12-\$20 range.

The issue of DDT is still significant for dairying, but has not impacted greatly on price, as farms with higher DDT have also sold well due to increased demand for non-dairy land. Land values have increased approximately 65% since 2000.

### High Country

The high country properties of Ashburton

District have increased in worth due to the strong demand by both overseas and local purchasers. Land prices have increased by approximately 75% since 2000.

### Residential property

There is a moderate demand for residential property in Ashburton District. New residential subdivisions are meeting the demand for new building sites and over the last three years residential sections have increased on average 20% since 2000. The highest movements in residential property were in Methven with Capital Values increasing 18% and land values at 60%. In Ashburton Capital Values increased at around 12% since 2000.

### Lifestyle property

There is a moderate to strong demand for lifestyle properties with higher value shifts for larger lifestyle blocks, greater than 5 hectares. Land values on small lifestyle properties increased up to 35% while those greater than 5 hectares increased up to 60% since 2000.

### Commercial property

The market for commercial property has improved markedly over the last three years. In 2000, vacancies were high and rents were declining particularly in the Ashburton central commercial area. In 2003 there are few vacancies and rental levels have increased. There is high confidence in the property market and investors are jostling for the few properties that are placed on the market. The high demand and low supply has put pressure on prices. Commercial property in central Ashburton has increased in value between 20% to 30% since 2000.

### Industrial property

In the current buoyant property market there is high demand for industrial property

and this has resulted in strong increases in value over the last three years. Prices for land in the Ashburton industrial park near the river have increased by 300% over the last three years while other industrial land throughout the district has increased between 50% to 180%. In addition, industrial businesses that directly service the rural sector are trading well and this has put pressure on the availability of suitable property and the rental levels. Capital Values for industrial property have increased by approximately 30% since 2000.

### Objection Process

Valuation notices will be posted to property owners in the week beginning 13 October 2003. Beca valuers will be available for public enquiry during office hours on 0800 423 22 825. The objection period closes on 13 November 2003. We recommend property owners talk to one of the valuers before submitting an objection. Objections can be made on the official objection form available from Council offices or email: ratingvaluation@beca.co.nz

### In conclusion

In general, the 2003 Ashburton revaluations will bring good news for property owners. The 2003 valuation roll is open for inspection free of charge, at the Council offices for the duration of the objection period, which closes on 13 November 2003.

We reiterate that rating valuations are primarily undertaken to allow the Council to determine rates.

Due to possible movements in the property market after the effective date of valuation, rating valuations are not the best tool for identifying the value of a property for sale or securing a loan.

## Ashburton District Council Revaluation 2003

### TOTAL VALUE

	Capital Value	Land Value
2000	\$3,709,113,017	\$1,907,422,454
2003	\$5,378,557,980	\$3,393,712,225
% Increase	45.0%	77.9%

### CAPITAL VALUES BY PROPERTY CATEGORY

	Capital Value 2000	Capital Value 2003	Percentage Increase	Percentage Total Value 2000	Percentage Total Value 2003
Rural	\$2,040,778,800	\$3,498,763,270	71.4%	55.0%	65.1%
Residential	\$847,243,600	\$948,973,800	12.0%	22.8%	17.6%
Commercial	\$112,988,500	\$130,568,600	15.6%	3.1%	2.4%
Industrial	\$106,444,200	\$127,647,500	19.9%	2.9%	2.4%
Lifestyle	\$231,466,800	\$266,107,750	15.0%	6.2%	4.9%
Other	\$370,191,117	\$406,497,060	9.8%	10.0%	7.6%
				100%	100%

### LAND VALUES BY PROPERTY CATEGORY

	Land Value 2000	Land Value 2003	Percentage Change
Rural	\$1,429,065,650	\$2,780,371,441	94.6%
Residential	\$284,297,650	\$342,033,700	20.3%
Commercial	\$33,937,500	\$51,896,000	52.9%
Industrial	\$21,830,200	\$40,261,000	84.4%
Lifestyle	\$96,240,300	\$130,349,050	35.4%
Other	\$42,051,154	\$48,801,034	16.1%

### RURAL BY PROPERTY TYPE

Rural Type	No.	2000 Capital Value	2000 Land Value	2003 Capital Value	2003 Land Value	% Increase Capital Value	% Increase Land Value
Arable	1035	\$884,200,250	\$653,281,850	\$1,543,378,150	\$1,268,052,800	74.6%	94.1%
Dairy	281	\$454,788,100	\$311,818,500	\$668,940,400	\$504,226,300	47.1%	61.7%
Forestry	252	\$8,666,800	\$7,694,550	\$12,556,500	\$11,510,700	44.9%	49.6%
Horticulture	38	\$11,654,000	\$5,173,100	\$13,824,700	\$7,343,800	18.6%	42.0%
Mining	120	\$977,220	\$620,550	\$1,048,350	\$691,801	7.3%	11.5%
Pastoral	1189	\$604,534,830	\$410,134,000	\$1,145,051,270	\$913,858,240	89.4%	122.8%
Specialist	181	\$75,957,600	\$40,343,100	\$113,963,900	\$74,687,800	50.0%	85.1%

### RESIDENTIAL BY TOWN

Town	No.	2000CV	2000LV	2003CV	2003LV	%CV	%LV
Ashburton	6865	\$691,242,000	\$245,720,900	\$771,570,400	\$290,730,700	11.6%	18.3%
Methven	764	\$75,947,400	\$17,592,500	\$89,900,100	\$28,076,600	18.4%	59.6%
Rakaia	478	\$33,881,000	\$8,877,500	\$38,572,000	\$9,881,600	13.8%	11.3%
Mayfield	330	\$11,407,900	\$1,642,100	\$11,408,600	\$1,641,800	0%	0%
Hinds	136	\$5,572,700	\$777,000	\$5,834,900	\$778,100	4.7%	0%

### ASHBURTON RESIDENTIAL BY SUBURB

Suburb	No.	2000CV	2000LV	2003CV	2003LV	%CV	%LV
Allenton East	787	\$100,554,000	\$35,169,500	\$115,468,000	\$41,003,000	14.8%	16.6%
Allenton West	519	\$62,113,000	\$24,605,500	\$71,411,500	\$27,143,500	15.0%	10.3%
Allenton South	531	\$59,210,800	\$24,041,000	\$67,369,500	\$26,990,500	13.8%	12.3%
Allenton North	683	\$76,952,000	\$29,164,500	\$84,160,000	\$33,796,000	9.4%	15.9%
Ashburton West	560	\$63,828,500	\$27,137,000	\$70,633,000	\$28,922,000	10.7%	6.6%
Ashburton Central	466	\$38,951,300	\$13,755,000	\$42,362,000	\$17,966,000	8.8%	30.6%
Netherby	648	\$53,287,100	\$17,061,700	\$58,740,500	\$24,168,500	10.2%	41.7%
Hampstead East	822	\$66,019,100	\$24,047,600	\$73,989,100	\$31,598,100	12.1%	31.4%
Hampstead South	661	\$51,732,900	\$17,666,100	\$57,267,100	\$24,326,100	10.7%	37.7%
Tinwald North	624	\$68,647,000	\$19,472,000	\$75,374,000	\$21,014,000	9.8%	7.9%
Tinwald South	564	\$49,946,300	\$13,601,000	\$54,795,700	\$13,803,000	9.7%	1.5%



### AVERAGE HOUSE PRICE

Town or Suburb	2000 Average House Price	2003 Average House Price
Methven	\$134,413	\$156,267
Rakaia	\$88,143	\$100,499
Mayfield	\$40,991	\$40,994
Hinds	\$60,529	\$63,524
Allenton East	\$145,946	\$167,757
Allenton West	\$134,519	\$154,715
Allenton South	\$121,862	\$139,862
Allenton North	\$129,435	\$141,178
Ashburton West	\$146,365	\$163,120
Ashburton Central	\$92,799	\$103,859
Netherby	\$88,374	\$97,213
Hampstead East	\$89,168	\$99,862
Hampstead South	\$84,877	\$95,361
Tinwald North	\$121,506	\$133,723
Tinwald South	\$92,531	\$101,844

# News in brief from Council meetings

## District Council, August 7

### Stopbanks

Consent applications for stopbanks on the Ashburton River had been lodged in July. They should be finalised before Christmas, chief executive Brian Lester said, and work was expected to begin early in the new year.

### Argyle Place

Cr Kelvin Holmes asked when soak holes were to be dug in Argyle Place to relieve storm water problems. It had been reported two weeks earlier that the work was to be done. Chief executive Brian Lester said the staff were doing further design work to make sure soak holes were the answer. Pumping may be needed instead. The matter was being treated with urgency, he said.

### Racecourse Corner

Little progress has been made on a meeting with Transit about Racecourse Corner. Operations manager Rob Rouse said Transit had requested a copy of the council resolution that had asked for a strong letter to be written. It did not give them any comfort, he said, and they had replied saying they would continue with their planning. Initiating physical works was on hold and a workshop would be held about October.

### Museum liaison

Councillors Kilworth, Wright and Marshall were appointed to extend the role they already hold with the Ashburton Art Gallery to the Ashburton Museum. Cr Leadley, who currently assists the gallery in its dealings with the council, was also appointed to the group.

## Methven Community Board, August 18

### Subdivisions

Chairman Philip Wareing said members were happy with explanations received about subdivision rules in the District Plan, following a visit from planning and regulatory committee chair Robin Kilworth. She had suggested that the board make contact with the district council's new planning manager.

### Town Centre trees

Board members are to meet with council parks and recreation manager David Askin to decide on the placement of larger trees in the town centre.

### Kerb damage

Unco-ordinated snow clearing and the efforts of some helpful volunteers had resulted in damage to kerbs following the recent snow, Mr Wareing said. The council contractor was in charge, and employed other contractors, but 'well wishers' had also become involved. In some cases they had heaped snow up and the council had to pay to cart it away.

All practical steps were done. The main concern was damage to kerbs, and that was mainly done by volunteers.

### Sundial.

Methven's town centre sundial is to be repaired. The meeting was told the blade had been missing from it for several weeks.

"We haven't got a town clock, so we need the sundial working." One member said.

### Gateways.

Members were concerned at the delay in creating 'gateways' at the entrances to Methven, to slow traffic entering the town. Beverley Anderson said members had been called to an urgent meeting almost three years ago, but nothing had happened.

It appeared to have fallen through the cracks, Mr Wareing said. While it was probably a funding issue the point needed to be made that nothing was in place.

## Services & Operations, August 28

### Water contract

In a special full council meeting held before the committee meeting a negotiated contract worth \$535,977 was let to Ashburton Contracting Ltd to supply operations and maintenance services for the council's water supply, wastewater and stormwater systems for the coming year. The contract was a re-negotiation for 12 months of a three-year contract that had expired on June 30, operations manager Rob Rouse said. The sum was identical to that tendered for the first year of the contract with fluctuations added to allow for material and labour price movements, as well as a number of items to include new work.

### Footpaths

Fulton Hogan Ltd was successful in tendering for a contract worth \$233,812 to resurface footpaths in Ashburton, Methven, Rakaia and Mount Somers. The work includes removal of the surface on some footpaths and overlay on others as well as rebuilding vehicle crossings. All footpaths are to be finished with asphaltic concrete to give a smooth finish.

### Completed projects

Almost all work programmed for the last financial year had been completed by the end of the year — a satisfying situation, Cr Bev Tasker said. There were 92 programmed projects, many with a number of elements to them. The only ones not completed were the upgrading of some intersections, which had been started late in the year, and the Ashburton water and waste water upgrade projects, which were ongoing.

### Racecourse corner

There has been no contact from Transit New Zealand over improvements at Racecourse Corner, Mr Rouse said. He had been in touch twice recently, once to inform Transit there had been another accident, but Transit had still not forwarded information requested weeks ago. The matter would be taken up at a higher level, he said.

### Snow clearing

The operation to clear snow after the July 4 fall went well and swung into action when required, mayor Murray Anderson said. However he had concerns about the costs of gritting roads (\$143,000). A direction had been indicated after last year's snowfall because of safety dangers the grit itself caused, and yet the cost of grit this time was three times that of last year. It was easy to respond to requests, but the council had to strike a balance, he said.

### Tree shading

Shading of roads by trees in plantations and shelter belts meant more grit had to be used on roads after the July 4 snow, Mr Anderson said. It was another example of the cost of trees to the roading system. The council had to find a better way of ensuring its policy on trees was carried out, he said. Cr Bev Tasker said large amounts of grit had not been applied in rural areas and the cleanup was minimal. Cost was not the only factor, she said. "We have to have communities as safe as we can make them."

### Bridges

Two new bridges were scheduled for completion within three weeks. Bradford Construction Ltd has completed making pre-cast sections for the Maori Lakes outlet stream bridge and the Double Hill Stream No 2 Bridge and are expected to install them within three weeks.

### Argyle Park bore

Preliminary analysis of water from the second well drilled in Argyle Park for the Ashburton water supply upgrade has returned favourable results, with no E. coli or faecal coliforms and chemical properties to the two earlier deep bores. The concentration of iron at 0.1 milligrams per litre was similar to the other bores and expected to decrease with use. It was well below the recommended figure of 0.5. If iron and magnesium proved to be a problem it may require treatment in the future, Mr Rouse said. If that became necessary the cost would be quite significant. The well reached a depth of 113 metres and is being deepened to allow a six-metre screen to be fitted.

### Hinds water supply

Drilling of a new well to supply water to the Hinds township is scheduled to start in October and is expected to take four weeks. A tender of \$69,800 plus GST has been let to McMillan Drilling Ltd.

### Mobility scooters

Council staff are to check if crossings for pedestrians are too close to roundabouts, especially in Chalmers Avenue. Cr Gavin Marshall said there had been some near misses for elderly people crossing busy roads on mobility scooters too close to roundabouts.

### Hakaterere weather station

An automatic weather station has been established at a site on Hakaterere Station in the Ashburton Gorge. The station fills a gap in the network of fire weather stations in the Canterbury region. Information from the station will be used to determine fire danger levels and to assist in predicting fire behaviour.

### Traffic safety

Ashburton police had 33 road crashes reported to them between May 7 and August 23. Driver inattention or lack of concentration was a contributing factor in 16 cases while fatigue was a factor in four, in most cases in combination with alcohol. Other contributing factors included fog, bright sun, wandering stock, black ice and medical conditions.

## Regulatory and planning, September 4

### Building figures

The Ashburton District Council issued 139 building consents worth almost \$6.5 million during July. The figures are very similar to those for July, 2002, when 121 consents worth \$6 million were issued. Consents were issued for 21 new houses, 11 new farm buildings, 19 domestic fire places, 10 domestic garages and 23 building alterations.

### Technical School building

Discussions have been held between the Ashburton District Council and Aoraki Polytechnic about possible use of the former Technical School building in Cameron Street. Council chief executive Brian Lester said that while discussions had been held no firm proposal in respect to the polytechnic using the building had been put forward. "No doubt within the three month period they will come back to us," he said.

### Passing lanes

The meeting approved the alteration of the designation on land alongside State Highway One at Winslow to allow the installation of passing lanes. However, in response to concerns of adjacent landowners the committee also agreed to ask Transit NZ to install a full width pull-off bay to allow trucks to wait for the road to clear before turning into a resident's property.

### Liquor licensing

An out-of-town observer engaged to report on the operation of licensed premises late at night and in the early mornings has visited Ashburton twice and Methven once. Full reports with details of premises visited have been submitted to the licensing agency and an agency representative, together with the police, is to interview licensees who have issues to address.

## Finance and Corporate Services, September 11

### Library grant

The Ashburton Library has received a \$1250 grant from the Win Skellerup Library Trust to purchase popular fiction. Librarian Jill Watson reported it was the fourth such grant received from the trust.

### Pottery purchases

Two items of pottery were bought by the council's art acquisitions committee at the recent Ashburton Pottery Society exhibition. They were works by guest artists Sally Connolly and Kumiko Black, and cost \$235. They will be displayed in the library and council chambers.

### Library figures

Almost 13,500 people visited the Ashburton Library in August, about the same figure as last year. With 143 new members in August, membership stood at 13,154, an increase over last August's figure of 12,808. The number of books issued during the month fell against last August's figure, from 32,991 to 31,458. Issues for the year to date are also down, from 68,364 last year to 65,540 this year.

### Airport

Work is proceeding on a development plan for Ashburton Airport. The siting of new hangars has been decided and a meeting with the Airways Corporation confirmed aerials at the east end of the airport will not be needed after 2010, clearing the way for land in that area to be used after that date.

### Camping Ground

The Rakaia Gorge Society has been successful in again obtaining the lease of the Rakaia Gorge camping ground. Its tender of \$1000 per annum was accepted, a reduction from the \$1500 paid currently. A condition of the lease is that the society will build a kitchen/ablution/toilet block that will revert to council ownership at the end of the tenancy without compensation. The society will contribute \$15,000 to the building and the council will lend the remainder.

### Rifle Range

A consent application for the relocation of the Ashburton rifle range to Ashton Beach is under way with consultants.

### Basketball hoops

The Ashburton Youth Council has asked that basketball hoops be installed in the netball court area at the Ashburton Domain, and that markings be painted on the courts. It was reported the parks' manager had agreed to the request.

### Youth Council

The Ashburton Youth Council discussed its relationship with the district council. Members felt they received little feedback from the district council and they were not often given the opportunity to present their views on relevant issues such as the state of streets in the CBD during weekends.

### Corwar Lodge

Repairs to the roof of Corwar Lodge following storm damage earlier in the year had cost less than the \$2000 excess on the insurance policy, property manager John Rooney said. \$800 had been paid from the amenities' budget, with local people meeting the remainder. He had asked the local group responsible for the building to supply him with budget requirements. He asked for the \$800 to be reimbursed from the heritage fund.

## New faces at the council

Tracey Marvin is the Ashburton District Council's new Environmental Services Manager. Her role incorporates into one area the council's planning and regulatory functions. Tracey, who lives at Leeston, started working for the council at the end of August.



Jacquie Campey began working for the council in October as a parking warden.

Bev Hendry started in mid August as receptionist and telephonist.



## Karaoke competition heralds New Year's eve

Some of Ashburton's best singing talent has entered for this year's Karaoke Competition, and are already giving of their best.

Presented by the Ashburton District Council and the Ashburton Club and MSA, the heats of the competition are already under way, with the second heat being held at the MSA at 6pm on Friday (October 17). The semi-finals will be held at the MSA at 6pm on Friday November 14 (Christchurch show day).

The final, as in past years, will be held at the annual New Year's Eve street party in East Street, where the finalists will compete for a first prize of \$500 and a travel voucher sponsored by Conway United Travel in each of two sections: nine to 16 years and 17 years and up. Second prize in each section will be \$100 cash and third prize \$50.

The final of the karaoke competition is only part of a great afternoon and night of entertainment planned for December 31.

The day starts off with the Kids' Carnival for the younger folk at 2pm, featuring a Noddy Train, megaslide, merry-go-round, Balloon Man, face

painting, Super bounce and Kiddie Cars.

The Karaoke final starts at 6pm. At 8pm it's back to the future as the first of the bands, Fab 3, is on stage with the best of the '60s, '70s and '80s. Fab 3 was hugely successful on the night of the millennium concert and will be playing items from The Beatles, Village People, Elvis and the characters from Grease, with the '80s being represented by Funky Town and Miami Vice.

Next up is headline band Lucre, very popular in Ashburton, about 11pm, with Harry Beach as lead guitar and vocalist, Tor Sutton lead vocalist and percussion, Sam Beach vocals and drums and Marcel Bramao, vocals and guitar. With their songs made up of pop and classic funk tunes with a bit of Tom Jones and Stevie Wonder thrown in, they never fail to get people up and dancing.

In the middle of their performance there will be the traditional pause at midnight to see 2004 arrive in style.

Comper for the night is John Byrne, who will continue the concert with popular disco music from 2am to closedown.

## More recognition for heritage

Recent changes to the Resource Management Act have given a greater recognition to heritage issues.

Councillor Robin Kilworth, who chairs the council's regulatory and planning committee, said councils are now required to have regard to historic heritage values when considering consents for subdivisions and other development.

The move raises heritage to a higher level than before August 1, when it came into effect.

Heritage values, including the history and uses of sites, are now required to be documented in conjunction with Historic

Places Trust or local heritage groups.

The amendment to the RMA refers specifically to the buildings listed in the heritage buildings schedules of the council's district plan, Cr Kilworth said. However, if something not known about when the plan was prepared was involved there was a requirement to have regard to heritage values.

The council was required to list heritage buildings in its district plan. The lists that had evolved captured the aims and aspirations of local people and gave the council a sensible guideline as to their thinking on the matter.

# DOWNTOWN COUNTDOWN

to

# NEW YEAR'S EVE

is on ...

There's something for  
**EVERYONE**

**WEDNESDAY  
31 DEC. 2003**

**East Street, Ashburton**



In association with



**ASHBURTON  
CLUB &  
M.S.A.**  
Established 1885

Presents **NEW YEAR'S EVE** .....

### 2.00pm - KIDS KARNIVAL

- Noddy Train - Megaslide - Merry Go Round
- Balloon Man - Face Painting - Supa Bounce
- Kiddie Cars - Food Stalls

**6.00pm to 8.00pm**

### Finals of The Karaoke Competition

**8.00pm to 2.00am**

### Non-Stop Entertainment

With **Fab 3 and Lucre**

**NO GLASS ALLOWED**



For further details contact the Ashburton District Council