

Draft Annual Plan Summary 2011/12

What's Inside?

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A copy of the full draft Annual Plan 2011/12 can be obtained from:

- www.ashburtondc.govt.nz
- Contacting Council Offices:
5 Baring Square West,
Ashburton
Phone: (03) 307 7700
Email: info@adc.govt.nz

Message from the Mayor and Chief Executive



Welcome to the 2011/12 Draft Annual Plan Summary for the Ashburton District Council.



The draft Annual Plan proposes an overall rate increase of 4.6% on last year, significantly lower than the 6.1% forecast for the 2011/12 year in the Community Plan 2009-19.

Over the three year period of the current Community Plan Council has looked to achieve a balance between providing for a growing district, meeting the community's demands and expectations of Council facilities and services, while tempering this with the need to ensure we continue to be an affordable district to live and do business in.

The Christchurch disasters of September 2010 and February 2011 resulted in tragic loss for individuals, the region and New Zealand as a whole. Christchurch is faced with the daunting task of rebuilding their city and the lives of its residents. Ashburton District Council will be working to assist Christchurch in the recovery from the earthquakes in any way practicable. With previous planning and investment, we are well placed to do this.

A strong foundation has been laid by the community over the past ten years, through strong population growth and a growing economy. This provides us with an outstanding platform from which to continue to meet the needs of future generations of Ashburton District residents.

Our communities continue to look confidently toward the future and Council has a number of key projects that reflect the determination to make Ashburton District an even better place to live, work and play.

The continuing progress of the Riverside Sports Centre, the new art gallery and museum facility, and the completion of stage one of the Ashburton Business Estate are testament to a strong and confident community.

The coming year is shaping up to be extremely important for our district with respect to our most important natural asset – water. The Ashburton Zone Water Management Committee will deliver its implementation plan that will look to give effect to the goals of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy at a local level.

Protecting and enhancing the value we collectively get from our water resources is vital for Ashburton District. We must ensure our river environments are healthy and support the range of ecosystems we have grown up with. We also need to ensure we use our wider water resources efficiently and effectively to maximise the benefit provided to our communities while protecting this precious resource for future generations. The work done in the coming year will lay the foundations for this to happen.

Please take the time to consider and have your say on the proposals in this draft Annual Plan. Your comments help us to ensure that we are meeting the community's needs and expectations.

Angus McKay
MAYOR

Brian Lester
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Key Issues and Projects for 2011/12

What is the Annual Plan?

The Annual Plan provides an update to the plans and budgets for the 2011/12 year as contained in Council's Community Plan 2009-19.

The Plan also highlights any significant variations for the coming year from what is included in the Community Plan, and provides reasons for these variations.

This is a summary of Ashburton District Council's proposed plans and the required budget for the 2011/12 year.

In this summary, you will find information about some of the things we are proposing to do across the district in the coming year.

You can make a submission to Council on the draft Annual Plan. This gives you the opportunity to tell us what you think of our proposals for the 2011/12 year. Please refer to the last page of this summary for information on how to have your say.

What's Happening and When?

28 March	Consultation on Ashburton District Council's draft Annual Plan 2011/12 begins
4 -12 April	Community Meetings
29 April	Consultation closes at 5pm
17-18 May	Council hears submissions
Mid - Late May	Council considers submissions
23 June	Annual Plan is adopted by Council
July/August	First rates bill for 2011/12 is sent out.

Images in this document courtesy of Ashburton Online, Ashburton District Tourism, Don Boyd, Crissie Drummond, Don Geddes, Amy Hughes, and Grow Mid Canterbury.



New Aquatic Centre and Indoor Stadium

Council is continuing to progress the Riverside Sports Centre project. Following a community consultation process in September 2010, reserve land on River Terrace, Ashburton was confirmed as the site for the facility.

The focus for the Ashburton Stadium Complex Project Group in the coming year will be on working with user groups to identify the preferred features and design of facility. SGL Group has been engaged to undertake leisure planning and funding functions for the project.

The Project Group is currently looking to engage planning and design providers to undertake site master planning and concept design work.

In the 2011/ 12 year it is expected concept design will be complete and detailed design will be undertaken. Planning and applying for resource consents will also be undertaken in the coming year.

Composting Operation at Rakaia Resource Recovery Park

The Rakaia Resource Recovery Park does not currently hold the required resource consents to operate its organic waste composting activity, though this has been carried out at the site for a number of years.

Following discussions with the community organisation operating the facility, Council is proposing full composting operations continue at the Rakaia Resource Recovery Park. This will require significant site development and resource consents to be obtained. The total budgeted cost of physical works and obtaining the required consents is \$148,000, which is proposed to be loan funded.

Ashburton River Second Bridge

Work on the proposed second Ashburton River bridge has progressed in the past year with detailed technical assessments investigating various route options undertaken.

Council resolved at its meeting on 17 February 2011 not to progress the project further until it receives firm commitment from the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) with respect to funding and its role in future consultation. Council considers the second bridge to be primarily a responsibility of NZTA.

Council is proposing to provide budget provision of \$300,000 for the 2011/12 year to enable planning to continue should NZTA confirm the level of their involvement in the project. Council has met with NZTA to discuss this position, and a response is expected in the near future.

Ashburton Business Estate

Sections in the Ashburton Business Estate are now for sale. This project is budgeted to be rate neutral as property sale income, which has been budgeted at a modest level, is forecast to cover debt servicing costs.

New Art Gallery and Museum

Progress is continuing on a new purpose-built Art Gallery and Museum facility. The working drawings for the construction of the building have been finalised, and Council is awaiting confirmation of resource consent being granted for the facility to be sited on Council owned land on West Street.

The Community Plan 2009-19 showed funding of \$2million from the sale of the current building in Baring Square East. The proceeds of the sale were planned to offset the cost of a new facility on West Street.

The agreement to sell the current Art Gallery and Museum property has lapsed, and the purchaser has withdrawn from the process. The funding that would have come from the sale is now shown as being loan funded.

In light of this change in funding, the new Council has decided to evaluate options associated with this project.

District Plan Review

Council is continuing the review of its District Plan. The District Plan provides rules that enable Council to manage future use and development of resources throughout the district and the effects of this on the environment.

The review of the plan is expected to be complete in the 2012/13 year. The majority of rules contained in the Plan will have legal effect from the date decisions are released. The operative date of the Proposed District Plan will be subject to appeals received.

Building Regulation Fees

The cost of providing building regulation services has increased primarily due to increased statutory monitoring and reporting required of Council as a Building Consent Authority (BCA). The increase in cost is proposed to be funded through both an increase in building regulation fees and charges and additional general rate contribution to the building regulation activity.

Christchurch Earthquakes

The tragic events in Christchurch of September 2010 and February 2011 are likely to have some impact on Ashburton District and on Council's future work programmes and budgets in particular.

Ashburton District Council will assist in the recovery of Christchurch in any way practicable. This may require decisions and actions not signalled in the Annual Plan. Council will make any decisions required within the requirements of applicable legislation and with the best interests of our residents and those of Christchurch and the wider Canterbury region. Council will keep the Ashburton District community informed of decisions it makes in response to this disaster.

Note: At its meeting to adopt this draft Annual Plan, Council proposed that a provisional sum of \$120,000 be added to the Employment and Economic Development activity for this purpose. The financial information contained in the Annual Plan does not include this figure. If adopted, this would increase the overall rate requirement by approximately 0.5%, bringing the overall rate requirement to 5.1% above the previous year.

Council will consider this matter as part of its consideration of submissions to the draft Annual Plan.

Rates and Expenditure Savings in 2011/12:

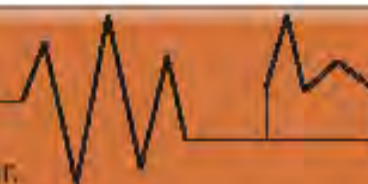
Lower Rate Requirement than Forecast in the Community Plan 2009-19

The overall increase in the rate requirement for the 2011/12 year is 4.6%. The Community Plan 2009-19 forecast an increased rate requirement for the 2011/12 financial year of 6.1%.

Expenditure Savings in 2011/12

Council has carefully assessed proposed expenditure and levels of service, and in some areas this has seen projects deleted or deferred. Examples of where savings in expenditure are proposed are outlined below:

- ◆ No new footpaths or kerb and channel work is proposed to be undertaken in 2011/12 year, a total saving of \$224,500.
- ◆ Development of Public Health Risk Management Plans for the Montalto and Dromore water supplies are proposed to be deferred, saving \$16,000 from the budget in 2011/12.
- ◆ Funding available to the community through the Major Community Project Grant scheme is proposed to be reduced from \$100,000 to \$25,000 for the 2011/12 year.
- ◆ Council is proposing not to fund its annual provision of \$5,000 for art acquisition for the Council collection in 2011/12.
- ◆ Grant funding to assist with community events, administered by Ashburton District Tourism is proposed to be reduced by half, to \$20,000 for the 2011/12 year.



Proposed Revenue and Expenditure



Percentage of Council expenditure funded from rates in 2011/12 = 55%



Total Proposed Rates Spend for 2011/12 = \$23,810,000



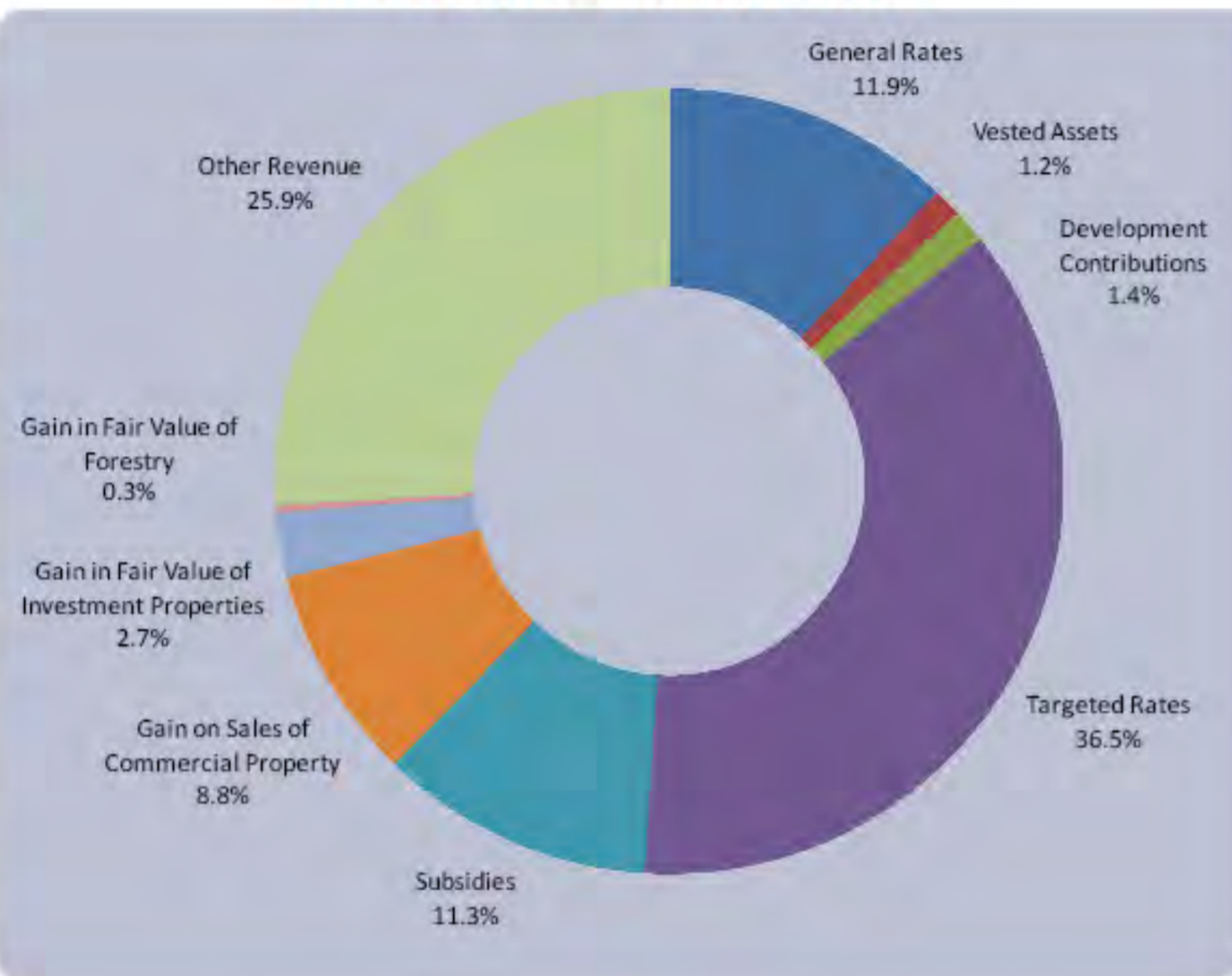
The proposed overall rate requirement for 2011/12 = 4.6% above the 2010/11 year.



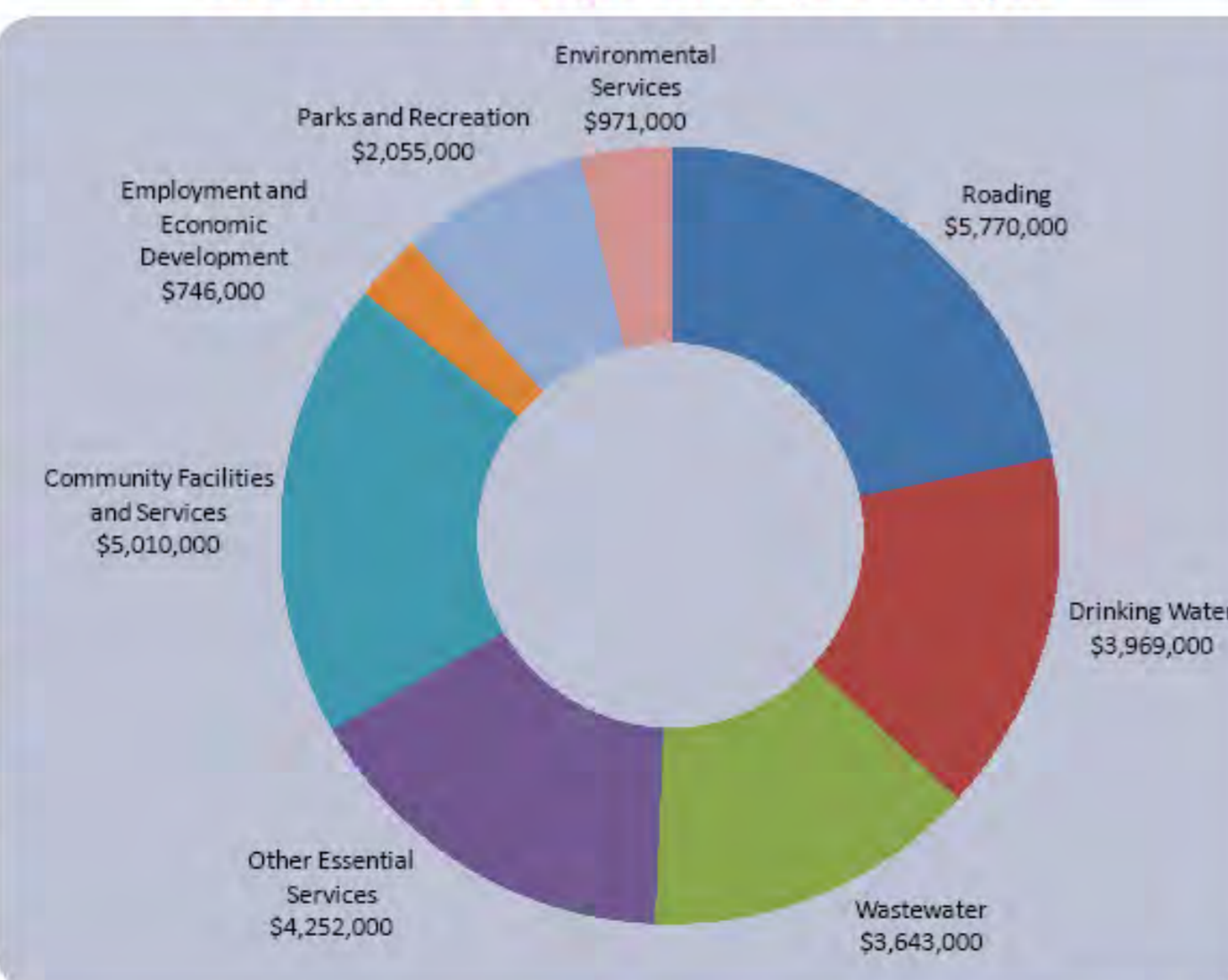
This is less than the 6.1% increase projected for the 2010/11 year in Council's Community Plan 2009-19.



Council's Proposed Revenue for 2011/12



How Your Rates Are Proposed To Be Spent in 2011/12



Rates by Area

Ashburton Residential	
Capital Value	\$255,300
Proposed Rates 2011/12	\$1,508 (+7.7%)

Fairton Residential	
Capital Value	\$200,000
Proposed Rates 2011/12	\$1,054 (+2.0%)

Ashburton Commercial	
Capital Value	\$1,190,000
Proposed Rates 2011/12	\$4,609 (+1.4%)

Hakatere Residential	
Capital Value	\$166,500
Proposed Rates 2011/12	\$955 (+6.4%)

Ashburton Commercial (Inner CBD)	
Capital Value	\$1,190,000
Proposed Rates 2011/12	\$5,473 (+2.9%)

Hinds Residential	
Capital Value	\$222,000
Proposed Rates 2011/12	\$1,000 (+2.8%)

Ashburton Commercial (Outer CBD)	
Capital Value	\$1,190,000
Proposed Rates 2011/12	\$4,969 (+3.1%)

Mayfield Residential	
Capital Value	\$222,000
Proposed Rates 2011/12	\$1,373 (+2.3%)

Methven Residential	
Capital Value	\$255,300
Proposed Rates 2011/12	\$1,483 (+5.9%)

Chertsey Residential	
Capital Value	\$200,000
Proposed Rates 2011/12	\$876 (+5.7%)

Methven Commercial	
Capital Value	\$892,500
Proposed Rates 2011/12	\$4,381 (+3.4%)

Mt Somers Residential	
Capital Value	\$222,000
Proposed Rates 2011/12	\$1,059 (+1.7%)

Rakaia Residential (Lump Sum Paid)	
Capital Value	\$255,300
Proposed Rates 2011/12	\$1,496 (+8.4%)

Lake Hood Residential	
Capital Value	\$610,500
Proposed Rates 2011/12	\$1,607 (+5.6%)

Rakaia Residential (Lump Sum Not Paid)	
Capital Value	\$255,300
Proposed Rates 2011/12	\$1,788 (+7.2%)

Dromore	
Capital Value	\$2,840,000
Proposed Rates 2011/12	\$4,693 (+5.8%)

Rakaia Commercial (Lump Sum Paid)	
Capital Value	\$595,000
Proposed Rates 2011/12	\$3,109 (+11.1%)

Winchmore	
Capital Value	\$2,840,000
Proposed Rates 2011/12	\$5,025 (+0.6%)

Rakaia Commercial (Lump Sum Not Paid)	
Capital Value	\$595,000
Proposed Rates 2011/12	\$3,401 (+10.2%)

Rural	
Capital Value	\$7,100,000
Proposed Rates 2011/12	\$6,801 (+5.3%)

Please note:

- All rates calculations given are based on average capital valuations from 2009 when properties were re-valued. To find out an estimate for rates on your property, please visit our website www.ashburtondc.govt.nz and use the online rates calculator.
- Rates shown do not include stockwater rates.

Have Your Say...

Council Invites You to Have Your Say on the Draft Annual Plan 2011/12

Local communities have an important part to play in deciding what kind of place their area is to become. Council needs feedback, regardless of your point of view, on this plan.

Council has scheduled a series of community meetings throughout the district to discuss the draft Annual Plan. You are invited to attend the meetings to be held at the times and locations shown to the right.

To comment on the Plan, please complete a submission form, available at the locations listed below, or online from Council's website.

If you would like to be heard by Council about your submission, please indicate so on the submission form and you will be contacted to arrange a time to speak to the Council. These hearings are scheduled for 17 and 18 May 2011. Please note that as a general rule, you will be allocated ten minutes to speak to Council.

Copies of the draft Annual Plan 2011/12, the summary, and submission forms are available from:

- Ashburton District Council website - www.ashburtondc.govt.nz
- Ashburton District Council offices - 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton
- Ashburton Public Library - Havelock Street, Ashburton
- Hinds On the Spot - Peters Street, Hinds
- Mayfield Udder Dairy - State Highway 72, Mayfield
- Methven i-SITE - Main Street, Methven
- Mt Somers General Store - Pattons Road, Mt Somers
- Rakaia Mobil - State Highway One, Rakaia

Submissions on the Draft Annual Plan 2011/12 will be received until 5pm 29 April 2011.

See Council's website www.ashburtondc.govt.nz for further information or to download additional submission forms.

Draft Annual Plan 2011/12 Community Meetings

Methven

Methven Heritage Centre

Monday 4 April, 7.30pm.

Ashburton

Hotel Ashburton

Tuesday 5 April, 7.30pm.

Rakaia

Rakaia Community Centre (Supper Room)

Wednesday 6 April, 7.30pm.

Mayfield

Mayfield Memorial Hall (Supper Room)

Thursday 7 April, 7.30pm.

Hinds

Hinds Community Centre (Supper Room)

Monday 11 April, 7.30pm.

Hakatere

Lower Hakatere Hall

Tuesday 12 April, 7.30pm.



What's Happening . . .

At the gallery . . .

Zonta Youth Art Awards

19th March - 10th April

Artwork from youth aged 16-19, normally resident in Mid or South Canterbury.

Zonta Club of Ashburton promote excellence in youth art, with up to 70 entries this year all from emerging young artist within our community.



Film Society Screening

Wednesday 30th March 5.45pm All Welcome
Tickets \$10 from Regent Cinema

Join us for a coffee and a discussion following 'Get Low'
'Get Low' is a magical and moving blend of folk tale, fable and real-life legend. Spun in the southern storytelling tradition, It is about the mysterious 1930's Tennessee hermit who famously threw his own rollicking funeral party-while he was still alive.

Film Society Screening

Wednesday 27th April 5.45pm All Welcome
Tickets \$10 from Regent Cinema

Join us for a coffee and a discussion following 'Oceans'
Incredible state-of-the-art-underwater filmmaking will take your breath away as you migrate with whales, swim alongside a great white shark and race with dolphins at play. Filled with adventure, comedy and drama, 'Oceans' is a fascinating and thought-provoking experience you'll never forget.

'Face Value'

Saturday 16 April - 12th June

'Face Value' compels us to be drawn into the everyday space and profound moments before, during, and after the intensely personal process of Maori facial tā moko, (tattoo) as seen through the eyes of photographer and multi-media artist Serena Giovanna



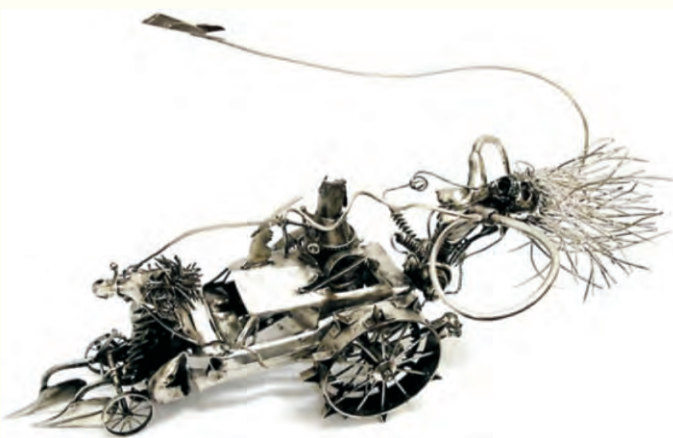
Stevenson.

'Mustang Sally'

Wheels Week
Exhibition
Saturday 16th April
- 12th June

The Ashburton Art Gallery is hosting an exhibition in celebration of Wheels

Week 2011, with work submitted from the general public, local artist's, collectors and enthusiasts, all revolving around the common theme - the wheel! If you are interested in participating in this event we would love to hear from you.



At the museum . . .

COMING EVENTS

Ashburton Museum members, at times like to get away from Ashburton to explore the heritage of other areas.

Another opportunity for this is to happen on Sunday May 1, when the Museum has organized a bus trip south to visit the Heritage Museum at Fairlie and then spend some time looking at all the work that has been done recently at the historic village of Burkes Pass by the local heritage trust.

This trip is open to the public, so if you would like to take part, visit the Museum or call on 308 3167 for a booking form.

Another event coming up on Saturday June 11 is a workshop about caring for your family photos. Many people have piles of photos or albums kept in less than ideal conditions. We will be showing how to care for them so they will be available and useful for future generations, what materials to use and where to obtain them. The afternoon will be spent working with photos those taking part have brought along.

Once again, if you are interested in taking part, please get in touch.

EDUCATION

Heritage education has been to the fore recently, with several classes from Hampstead School visiting as part of the school's 125th anniversary. Our heritage educators Wendy and Keeley, based at South Canterbury Museum, visited for several days and set up an old time school, giving the children a taste of schooling in their grandparents' day. The children enjoyed it, the parents enjoyed it and the school principal tells me he also enjoyed being caned.

The educators are going to be working with another Ashburton school soon when those children visit them in Timaru.

We are going to lose this Heritage Education Service about the middle of the year as the Ministry of education has withdrawn funding for it to operate in Mid Canterbury. At the moment we are operating it on a small grant received last year from the Ashburton District Council.

However, we are still able to assist schools and other groups celebrate their reunions and similar events. A recent example is the time spent by our archivist, Kathleen, at Wakanui School helping the

children prepare a time capsule to go in the new buildings there. She was able to advise on what type of items should go in a capsule, and how to prepare those items so they should be in good order when the capsule is opened.

NEWSPAPERS

Anyone who has done historical research of any type will know just how valuable newspapers are for information. Some people say "Front page news today, wrapping fish and chips tomorrow," but when it comes to locating stories from the past they are invaluable.

Many will be aware of the Papers Past website that allows many old papers to be searched. Someone has to have the old papers before they can appear on the website and that is where Museums and Libraries come in. We have recently been working with The Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington to supply them copies we have of three early Ashburton newspapers, The Evening

Echo, the Ashburton Herald and the Ashburton Mail, so they can microfilm them and eventually get them onto Papers Past.

EXHIBITIONS

Our Collectors Corner has proved to be very popular. It gives Ashburton people who collect items of any type the chance to display what they have.

We have had whistles, miniature sewing machines, carnival glass and, coming up next, coronation souvenirs of the kings and queens of Britain.

In time for the Royal wedding at the end of April we will be putting on a special exhibition from our own collection of other Royal souvenirs down the ages, produced to mark weddings, coronations, jubilees, royal visits and the like.

Also about to appear is an exhibition called Childhood Memories, again featuring nursery items from the Museum's collection.

And watch out for our great Easter Eggcup hunt, following on from the success of the great Santa Hunt at Christmas time. Watch the media for details about date and time. The lights will be out again and you'll be looking for glow in the dark eggs and their eggcups..



Heritage education teacher Wendy Hurst was a recent visitor to the Ashburton Museum.

ASHBURTON TRUST
event centre
UPCOMING EVENTS



Fri, 1 April
NZ Ballet

2011's TOWER Tutus on Tour is all about families. Featuring a new production of Pinocchio and a sparkling classical showpiece, it's the perfect ballet for young and old to enjoy together.

Tue + Wed, 5+6 April
The Butler

Written by Joe Bennett, performed by Loons Circus Theatre Company (includes the Twisty Twins)

Performed by the actors and acrobats of the Loons Circus Theatre Company, The Butler has drawn sell-out audiences and rave reviews in venues throughout New Zealand and toured to London in July 2010.

Wed, 6 April

Songs my Mother taught me

In Association with NZ Arts on Tour

Naomi Ferguson tours with Graham Wardrop and Alex van den Broek

Sat, 16 April

Cage Warrior 5

Championship live, Combat Sports in conjunction with Port FM

The fastest growing sport in the world today popularized by the UFC promotion. Featuring some of NZ's up and coming Combat Athletes from a variety of Martial Arts fighting codes at NZ's premier Mixed Martial Arts and Muay Thai Kickboxing, Cage Fighting Show.

Tue, 10 May

Black Grace – leading NZ Dance Company

Verses is the highly anticipated collection of new short works by Black Grace's Founder and Artistic Director Neil Jeremia. With music ranging from hip-hop to country.

Sat, 14 May

Father Chris Skinner with the Mid Canterbury Choir

Held at St Stephens Church, Park Street, Ashburton

In Remembrance: Hope and Peace

20-22, 24-28 May

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Brought to you by Variety Theatre Ashburton

In this retelling of the Biblical story, Joseph is a handsome young man who is his father's favourite child, able to interpret dreams, and the bearer of an amazing coat.

Plan shows council constraint

The 2011/12 draft Annual Plan preparation process started for councillors in early 2011. Having a number of new Councillors meant they had to learn quickly to gain an understanding of what is a complicated process.

Councillors were faced with balancing the community's wishes and aspirations with the reality of what the budget will allow. There were many things to consider from the beginning of the process, including the September 4 Christchurch earthquake, high oil prices, rising inflation and national and global recession. Added to this, the February 22 Christchurch earthquake struck halfway through budget considerations.

The decision was made to hold all levels of service to the status quo, with this reflected in the resulting budget. While the 2009/10 Long Term Council Community Plan anticipated a 6.1% rise in rates revenue for the 2011/12 financial year, this projection could not have foreseen the shape events would take. Having taken this into account, the draft budget now reflects a projected rates revenue rise of 4.6%.

Projects that are proposed to be cut back for the coming year include:

- Reducing the major community projects grant from \$100,000 to \$25,000



Councillor comment

Neil Brown

- Halting new footpaths and kerb channel, while continuing with existing maintenance plans
- Reducing grant funding to assist with events in the district by half

Projects are proposed to proceed include:

- Planning and design of the Riverside Sports Centre
- Stormwater planning for Ashburton
- Continuing the District Plan review

Roading is the big ticket item in the Ashburton District and no funding reductions have been proposed in this activity. The rapid increases in oil prices, which we are all aware of, are a direct contributing factor to increased costs in this area. Ashburton's rural community is

largely thriving and continuing to maintain a high standard of road network is critical for continuing to facilitate this. Roads are the lifeline of our rural community.

Forestry is an area that is doing extremely well, emerging from several years of poor returns. A new budget contribution of \$300,000 reflects this success, which is equivalent to around 1.5% of the total rates required.

Also key is that Council provides assistance to Christchurch after the February earthquake. At the Council meeting held to adopt the draft Annual Plan it was decided a proposal to set aside \$120,000 for earthquake related initiatives for the coming year be included. This has not, at this stage, been included in the financials for the draft Annual Plan.

The exact form any initiatives might take is not year clear, but will take shape in the coming months. The Ashburton District must be able to help Christchurch to rebuild their lives and businesses as soon as is practicable. If Council agrees, through the submissions process, to lock this expenditure in the rate requirement for the coming will increase by half a percent.

Finally, the year ahead will be entered with some caution and tight budget constraints. Council would like the community to take the opportunity to comment on this budget through the submission process.

Residents urged to move to Clean Heat

Mayor Angus McKay is encouraging Ashburton residents to continue with their Clean Heat conversions despite the added time signalled by the government for compliance.

"We still need to keep working on our winter time air quality, it's just as important as when we first started" said Mr McKay. "There is an attractive government subsidy available through the Warm Up New Zealand scheme of up to \$2500, but only for the next two years", he said.

The Environment Canterbury clean heat rules in Ashburton remain unchanged despite the government signalling its intention to extend the date for towns to comply with the national environmental standards for clean air to 2020.

Environment Canterbury has retained rules in its Air Plan regarding banning the use of open fires and wood burners over 15 years old in Ashburton. Environment Canterbury has indicated it will undertake a communications campaign to alert Ashburton residents to the requirements during the 2011 winter and will enforce those requirements from 2012.

Ashburton District Council would be asking Ecan to adjust its targets to better match the new government timeline but there is no guarantee this will produce any changes for Ashburton residents.

Mayor McKay has written to Ecan asking them to reassess the clean air targets in Canterbury in light of the government changes. "We will keep advocating for a relaxing in the timeline to comply with clean heat requirements, but in the meantime residents should carry on with converting to clean heating" said Mr McKay.

Ashburton District Council environmental services manager, John McKenzie, says Ashburton residents should be aware the Ecan rules remain in place for the time being.

"We advise residents to make the switch

to approved heating appliances while there are incentives available," said Mr McKenzie.

Heating conversion assistance programmes are still operating in Ashburton through the Ecan "Clean Heat project" and the government's "Warm up NZ" programme.

Mr McKenzie says these assistance programmes are unlikely to be around in the longer term and residents should take advantage of them while they are available. "The Ecan Clean Heat programme has been stopped in Christchurch and may stop in Ashburton," said Mr McKenzie.

The government's Warm up NZ programme has budget provision for another two years but nothing committed after that. "I would say get in and convert your heating now while these programmes are still in place," said Mr McKenzie.

The government's proposed revised timetable means Ashburton will have until 2016 to have no more than 3 wintertime exceedences of the national clean air standard per year and must be fully compliant with no exceedences by 2020. Last winter Ashburton exceeded the standards on 11 days.

Under Environment Canterbury's Air Plan, however, the target date remains 2013. Failing to meet the standards would see no new commercial resource consents for discharge to air granted in Ashburton.

Ashburton mayor, Angus McKay is concerned about the possible consequences of not meeting the Ecan target. "No new commercial consents would be a significant handbrake on our ability to grow the business sector in the town, and in my view is not an option," said Mr McKay.

More information on clean heating assistance programmes can be found at www.ecan.govt.nz or at www.energywise.govt.nz

Hearings to begin

Hearings on the Proposed District Plan will recommence on the April 12, 2011 with the introduction and chapters on Signs, Hazardous substances and the Aquatic Park (Lake Hood) being heard on this date.

The hearings will provide the opportunity for submitters, who indicated in their submission that they wished to be heard, to speak in more detail about their submission. Those submitters who requested to be heard will be advised in writing of the date they need to attend at least two weeks in advance of the hearings.

More information on the hearings and review of the District Plan is available to view on the Council website (click on 'Proposed District Plan' on left hand side of www.adc.govt.nz) or by calling 03 3077700 or emailing districtplanreview@adc.govt.nz

New face



Dave Hampton is council's new Property Maintenance Officer. In the role he will look after any maintenance work involving all council buildings, liaising with contractors and trades people and undertaking some work himself. Dave previously spent 30 years as an electrician with local company 100% Stewart and Holland, joining them straight from school. The born and bred Mid Cantabrian is a family man and has two children. He's keen on his sport and enjoys coaching junior hockey. Dave's also a keen and regular tennis player. He started in his new role last week.