

New Mayor, councillors voted in

Ashburton's new mayor Liz McMillan is on track to be sworn into office at the end of the month, alongside her newly-elected district councillors and the Methven Community Board.

Final results of the Local Elections are expected at the end of the week, but in the preliminary results Mayor McMillan received 5898 votes, nearly 4000 votes clear of her rivals.

The mayor elect said she had been humbled by the support of family, friends and the community.

"I want to thank them for their faith in me and I'm really excited to lead this district for the next three years. I've learned a lot in my time on council and it was a privilege having Neil Brown as a mentor.

"My job now is to bring this new council together and make the most of the skills and passion they bring to the table, as we're all in this together.

"We've got the new three waters unit to embed, roads and essential council services to maintain, and a second bridge to bring home."

Elected in the Ashburton Ward were Phill Hooper, Carolyn Cameron, Tony Todd, Russell Ellis and Julie Moffett. The Western Ward councillors are Jeanette Maxwell and Deb Gilkison; the Eastern Ward councillors are Richard Wilson and Phill Everest.

The Methven Community Board members elected are Faye Barrand, Megan Fitzgerald, Robin Jenkinson, Richie Owen and Simon Wareing.

Chief Executive Hamish Riach said there were about 200 special votes to be added



Ashburton Mayor Liz McMillan settled into her new office at the Ashburton Library and Civic Centre this week.

to the voting tally, once they were checked and declared valid.

"We know that there was quite a last-minute rush to vote, with just over 700 envelopes in the ballot bins in the 24 hours up to voting closing at noon on Saturday. The voter return is sitting at 45.78 per cent, which is down on the previous local elections."

The new mayor has met with councillors and Mr Riach this week, and elected members were to attend an induction workshop, to give them an overview of council business and a chance to talk about the governance structure.

Next week, Mayor McMillan will attend a mayors' hui in Wellington while new councillors will attend a Local Government

induction in Christchurch.

The inaugural council meeting is tentatively planned for Wednesday 29 October, starting at 1.30pm; it will also be livestreamed.

Preliminary results -

Mayoralty: **Liz McMillan 5898**, Russell Ellis 1971, Rob Mackle 1605, Jeff Ryan 908.

Ashburton Ward: **Phill Hooper 5011, Carolyn Cameron 5006, Tony Todd 4485, Russell Ellis 4112, Julie Moffett 2609**, Steph Poole 1917, Jeff Ryan 1607, Dolf van Amersfoort 940, Leonard Cojocar 687.

Western Ward: **Jeanette Maxwell 1181, Deb Gilkison 942**

Three waters projects ticking over

The Dromore community drinking water supply will be shut down on Wednesday 22 October from 9am until 2pm as part of preliminary work to replace the main pipeline that distributes water to households on the rural supply.

During the shutdown, contractors working for council will replace valves and flowmeters where the pipe connects to the water treatment plant.

The wider project involves renewing 5.1km of pipe that distributes water to households and contractor Fulton Hogan has already begun trenching work to install the pipe underground.

Group Manager of Infrastructure Neil McCann said the old watermain was more than 50 years old and needed replacing.

"Replacing the water main is one half of an upgrade for the Dromore water supply, with work also underway to build a new water treatment plant to house UV equipment.

"The new valves and flowmeters being



The new wastewater main on Line Road.

installed next week will enable easier connection to the new water treatment plant when it is finished, hopefully by the end of the year."

Mr McCann said many rural households on the supply had their own storage tanks and would not be affected by the shutdown.

"Households without storage should fill

some containers with water they might need for drinking or cooking during the shutdown, and fill a bucket with water to flush the toilet if needed."

Meanwhile, two water services projects in Methven are also wrapping up.

A new wastewater pipe has been installed on Line Road to take used household water and sewage to the Methven wastewater facility, and a new polyethylene pipe now connects the town's drinking water intake gallery on the Ashburton River to the water treatment plant on Longs Ford Road.

The old pipe from the gallery was more than 50 years old and ran across farmland. The new, larger one has been laid along the roadsides, in a project costing about \$767,000.

Contractors at Line Road have sealed the road after installing 800m of new wastewater main over the past two months, and road line markings will soon follow.

New water mains are also being installed at Talbot Place and Farquhar Place.

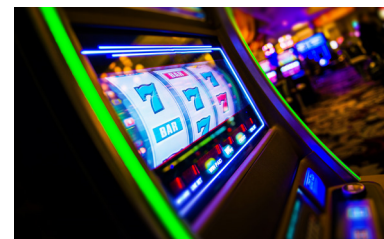
SHORT AND SWEET

LIFEGUARDS AWAY

The aquatic area at EA Networks Centre, including all pools, will be fully closed this weekend (18 and 19 October), while pool staff retrain for a new international lifeguard qualification. Usual hours of operation resume on Monday 20 October.

PUSH ON POKIES

There's just 10 days left to give feedback on our Draft Gambling Venue Policy and Draft Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy. The gambling venue policy is proposing a cap on the number of gambling venues allowed in the district, and the buildings policy is being updated to meet new Building Act requirements. The consultation period ends on 26 October. More information is available at itsourplace.nz



PUBLIC NOTICE

ASHBURTON DISTRICT PLAN CHANGE 7

Coniston Park Limited has applied for a Private Plan Change to the Residential Zones and Subdivision Chapters of the Operative District Plan (2014). The change covers the following areas:

The rezoning of a 16.3202 ha property at the corner of Farm Road and Racecourse Road, Ashburton, from Residential D to Residential C and to adopt the operative provisions of the Residential C Zone onsite.

Full details of the proposal and the accompanying evaluation report are available for inspection at Council's offices, or at ashburtondc.govt.nz

Further submissions must be limited to matters either in support of or in opposition to the submissions and must be on Form 6 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Further submissions

Further submissions must be received by Council no later than 5pm on Monday 3 November 2025.

See the full copy of this notice at ashburtondc.govt.nz

Minigolf features taking shape

Ashburton’s new minigolf course is coming to life, hole-by-hole at the EA Networks Centre.

Ten of the 18 holes have been created by play-space specialists Creo at their Oamaru factory and carefully transported to Ashburton for installation.

People and Facilities Group Manager Sarah Mosley said the holes were being installed onsite by Grant Hood Contracting and the project was on target for a late November opening.

“We’re really pleased with progress and you can see the outdoor course coming to life on the four levels. Earthmoving work has involved excavation and the construction of retaining walls, and the first asphalt is on track to be laid early November.”

The minigolf course is being built on the north side of the carpark at EA Networks Centre. It will be free for golfers who bring their own equipment, or a low-cost activity if you need to hire a putter and balls at the centre.

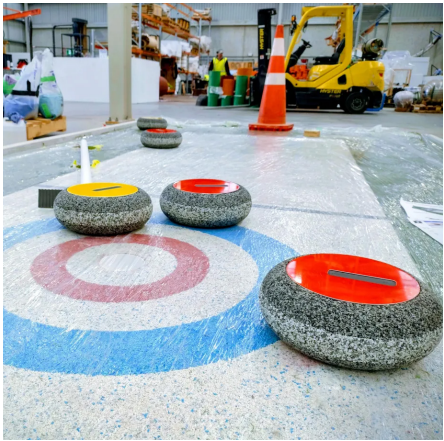
An online booking system will enable players to book tee-off times to limit congestion.



Ms Mosley said construction began on the higher terraces and would finish on the flat area with holes 1-9.

“All the holes have Mid Canterbury themes that people will recognise. The putting surfaces include synthetic turf and recycled rubber and resin-set pebble, suitable for the range of weather you get in the outdoors.

“When construction moves into the final stages and a conclusion date confirmed, we’ll open booking slots for the first day of community use.



The famously-long Rakaia Bridge (left) and the Staveley ice rink have provided inspiration for two of the minigolf holes.

"We’re expecting this minigolf course to be really popular over summer and look forward to seeing lots of families and young people testing their skills and having a great time."

Carparking at the EA Networks Centre is largely unaffected during the work, and the steps from River Terrace also remain open for pedestrians – and offer a great view of construction.

PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURES

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of proposal to temporarily close roads to traffic to enable the holding of the following community events:

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Roads proposed to be closed:

- **Baring Square East, from Havelock St to Cameron St**
- **Cameron Street, from East St to Victoria St**

Period of closure: **From 6am to 10.30pm on Saturday, 29 November 2025**

Any person objecting to either of the proposals should do so in writing by post or email to the Council, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton by 4pm, **Friday 24 October 2025.**

ASHBURTON CAR CLUB'S QUARTER MILE SPRINT

Road proposed to be closed:

- **Somerton Road, from Jamiesons Rd to Coplands Rd**

Period of closure: **From 9am to 4.30pm on Saturday, 29 November 2025**

Any person objecting to either of the proposals should do so in writing by post or email to the Council, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton by 4pm, **Friday 24 October 2025.**

ASHBURTON SANTA PARADE

Roads proposed to be closed:

- **Walnut Avenue, from Oak Grove to West Street (SH1)**
- **Creek Road, from Walnut Avenue to Queens Drive**

Period of closure: **From 10am to 3pm on Saturday, 6 December 2025**

Any person objecting to either of the proposals should do so in writing by post or email to the Council, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton by 4pm, **Friday 31 October 2025.**

NEIL McCANN, Group Manager Infrastructure & Open Spaces

ROADING NOTICES

Fairfield Avenue - Closed in parts until 24 October while contractors install new water pipes. Resident access remains.

Fords Road - Closed between Griffiths Road and Wheatstone Road from 29 September until 30 October, while Grant Hood Contracting undertakes road maintenance. Local restrictions apply, access for residents remains.

Grove Street - Closed at Wilkins Street intersection while new watermain are installed by Rooney Earthmoving. Road closures and detours expected until 31 October. Resident access remains.

Barnswood Road – Closed between Trevors Road and Hackthorne Road from 20-27 October so Fulton Hogan and BR Jones Contracting can install a new stock underpass. Access for residents to be maintained.

Trevors Road – Closed between Ealing Montalto Road and Withells Road from 15 October to 14 November while HEB carries out road maintenance on behalf of Council. Access for resident remains.

Paws, let's talk dogs

Thinking about getting a dog? Or already have one and want to learn more about caring for them?

Join us for a relaxed and friendly Dog Ownership Workshop on Tuesday 21 October, from 6pm-7.30pm in the event space in the Ashburton Library.

There’ll be a panel of dog experts, including a local vet and a dog trainer, who will share lots of great information.

The Paws and Learn event is organised by Keep Learning Mid Canterbury and Council. It's free to attend and people can register via humanitix.

Group Manager of Compliance and Development Ian Hyde said there were about 6700 dogs in the district and almost all were registered.



“Registering your dog is the first step in being a responsible dog owner, but there’s lots of other things to know about owning a dog and this free event is a great starting point, whether you are thinking about getting a dog or already have one.”

The doggy workshop will cover food and exercise for your dog, basic training and behaviour tips, managing aggression and barking, vet care and dog etiquette in public places.

Cultural Whānau Fun Day

A day of free and fun activities for the whole family! Come along and learn about the services available in our community and connect with our emergency services!

Free BBQ and other ethnic food, plus prizes and games

18 October, 11am-3pm / **Hampstead Sports Club**

TRIENNIAL MEETINGS FOR RESERVE & HALL BOARDS

The new term of Council also signals a new three-year term for the volunteers who sit on the district's hall boards, reserve boards and domain boards. Over the next couple of months, boards will be advertising their triennial meetings and looking for new members.

- 5 November - **Tinwald Memorial Hall Board** - 7.30pm, Tinwald Memorial Hall meeting room
- 11 November - **Mt Somers Reserve Board** - 7pm, Mt Somers Memorial Hall supper room
- 17 November - **Tinwald Reserve Board** - 7pm, Tinwald Memorial Hall meeting room
- 18 November - **Pendarves Reserve Board** - 7.30pm, Pendarves Fire Station
- 20 November - **Hinds Reserve Board** - 7.30, Hinds Fire Station meeting room
- 27 November - **Mayfield Reserve Board** - 7pm, Mayfield Memorial Hall supper room
- 1 December - **Rakaia Reserve Board** - 7pm, Rakaia Recreation Centre

GOT THE WIND UP?

We've seen a few missed collections lately due to bin placement, so on windy days:

- Place your bins at the kerb (not next to your fence), by 7.30am
- Use the wind straps (let us know if you need some)
- Our collection team will have extra staff to sort out bins if they get blown about.



COUNCIL OFFICE

2 Baring Square East
Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 8.30am-5pm
Thursday 9am-5pm

ASHBURTON LIBRARY

2 Baring Square East, Ashburton 7700
Mon & Fri 8.30am-6pm, Tue-Thu 8.30am-8pm
Sat & Sun 10am-4pm

EA NETWORKS CENTRE

20 River Terrace
Mon - Fri 5.45am-9pm (pools 8pm Mon & Tue, 7pm Wed-Fri; gym 8pm). Sat & Sun 7am-7pm (pools 6pm, gym 6pm)

ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

327 West Street
10am-4pm daily (late night Wed)