

Final call for BOYA entries

Businesses across the Ashburton District are being encouraged to get their entries in for the ANZ Business of the Year Awards, ahead of the close-off on Friday 31 October.

The awards recognise and celebrate excellence in local enterprise and are open to organisations of all sizes and sectors.

Organisers say entries for the 2026 event are tracking well, with the Emerging Business, Excellence in Community Impact and Retail and Hospitality categories enjoying the most entries to date.

They are encouraging entries in the Tourism and Export categories.

Ashburton District Mayor Liz McMillan said the awards provide an important opportunity for businesses to be recognised for their innovation, resilience and contribution to the community.

“The district’s economy and community depend on the innovation and determination of local businesses, and we want to encourage them.

“If you’re thinking about entering, please do, as these awards really help shine a light on the amazing work our local businesses do.”

Matt Turner, General Manager of Ōpuke Thermal Pools & Spa, says the awards increased the visibility of their business following their win in 2024.

“We were honoured to receive four ANZ Business Awards then, and also the prestigious Supreme award.

“This recognition not only elevated our brand visibility but also gave us a valuable opportunity to reflect on our journey and celebrate the dedicated team behind our



Ōpuke Thermal Pools & Spa director James McKenzie (left) and General Manager Matt Turner, with their Business of the Year 2024 awards.

continued success in delivering exceptional customer service.”

Ōpuke Thermal Pools & Spa were praised for their world-class visitor experience and commitment to sustainability.

The judges commended the organisation’s vision and the wider impact it has had in supporting tourism in Methven and surrounding areas.

In 2022, the Supreme Award went to The New Zealand Sock Company.

The recognition brought increased public awareness and reinforced the business’s leadership in sustainable manufacturing and product development.

Business of the Year key details:

- **Entries close:** Friday 31 October 2025

- **Eligibility:** Businesses must be based in the Ashburton District and have been operating for at least 12 months
- **How to enter:** Visit businessoftheyear.nz to view categories and submit an application online
- **Awards Gala:** Finalists and winners will be celebrated at a formal event in February 2026, held at the Ashburton Aviation Museum’s Superhangar

Event partners for 2026 are ANZ, ANZCO Foods, Abbott Insurance Brokers, Canstaff, Catalyst Performance Agronomy, Crest Clean, Croys, Experience Mid Canterbury, Fox Peak Dairy, Mt Hutt, Naylor Love, New Zealand Bed Company, Spark, Talley’s, Tavendale + Partners.

Mayor Liz McMillan

We're training to be match fit too

It was great to head to Mayor School in Wellington this week with an extra spring in my step, after Mid Canterbury won rugby’s prestigious Meads Cup at the weekend.

The Hammers’ win over Thames Valley is good for local rugby, and for the district as a whole, and I was proud to be part of such a big crowd at the showgrounds united in cheering them on.

There was not the same fanfare at Mayor School, but I came away feeling I was part of another team, also facing some big challenges – like keeping rates affordable for our communities while delivering the services they want.

Mayor’s Induction is run by Local Government New Zealand and is affectionately referred to as Mayor

School. New mayors like me, and returning mayors from all around New Zealand get together after the local elections for a two-day conference.

It is a chance to meet other mayors, form connections and prepare for the new triennium. Mayors work closely with their CEOs and fellow councillors, but peer support is important too.

All the topics were aimed at helping us nail the role of mayor, from politics to governance, and from funding to building a new team.

Our new Ashburton council team spent time last week getting to know each other and our first induction session was all about what council does, why we do it and how we do it.



This week there’ll be another induction session, focusing on governance and decision-making, and things like meeting procedure. We’ll also be talking about the relationships we have with other agencies and groups, like iwi and Local Government NZ.

Our four new councillors will be attending a session for newly-elected councillors in Christchurch on Friday.

The inaugural council meeting will be held next Wednesday on 29 October and all elected members, including the Methven Community Board, will be officially sworn into office.

The first real business meeting of council will be on 5 November and we’ll all be ready to pack down a good scrum.

SHORT AND SWEET

ROAD REHAB

Council has awarded a \$1.55 million contract for road rehabilitation on three high-use roads to local company Fulton Hogan. Four sections of road will be reconstructed – two on Thompsons Track, one on Fairfield Road and one on Seafield Road. Group Manager of Infrastructure Neil McCann said Fulton Hogan will head to Thompsons Track first, with the aim of getting two sections completed before Christmas. The Fairfield and Seafield Road sites will be completed in the new year. Contractors are making steady progress on repairs to Fords Road, Trevors Road and Pole Road.

PUSH ON POKIES

There’s just a few 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 **27 October**. Have your say at itsourplace.nz

SERVICE HOURS

The Ashburton Library and Civic building will be closed on **Labour Day** on Monday, but most other council services are unchanged over the long weekend. See full hours at ashburtondc.govt.nz/latest-news

LABOUR DAY WEEKEND RUBBISH & RECYCLING

Kerbside Collection

There is no change to kerbside rubbish and recycling collections on Labour Day, 27 October, and Monday’s collection will take place as usual, with residents to have their wheelie bins out by 7.30am.

Remember to use your windstrap, whether it’s windy or not.

Resource Recovery Parks

The Ashburton Resource Recovery Park will be open Saturday from 9am-6pm, Sunday from 9am-5pm, and Monday from 9am until 5pm.

The Methven green waste dropoff will be open Sunday from 12pm until 4pm. The Rakaia Resource Recovery Park will be open on Saturday from 9am-3pm, but closed on Monday.

Trial pile will test Chalmers Ave ground

Contractors working for NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi plan to drill a trial pile at the end of Chalmers Avenue, as part of preliminary work for the second Ashburton Bridge.

From Wednesday this week, the work area near Robilliard Park was to be fenced off and a gravel pad laid for the crane and piling rig.

Access to the Mania-O-Roto scout park and the Collegiate Squash Club remains, and people will still be able to access the river track.

Council’s Group Manager of Infrastructure Neil McCann said the actual piling work was planned for the week from 3 November.

“The hammering part will be loud at times but the noise won’t be constant as there will be pauses for welding and equipment changes. Residents who live closest to the site have been informed by letterdrop and we’ve also met with the scouts and the squash club so they know what’s happening.

“Council will also have a contractor working in the southern part of Chalmers Avenue for the next month installing new water pipes, so there’s a lot going on and temporary traffic management in place. The new water pipes will eventually take water over the new bridge too.”



The piling work involves driving a large steel pipe (1500mm in diameter) about 20 metres into the ground, using a crane-mounted hammer. After the pipe is installed, the material inside it will be drilled out and a concrete plug inserted; the plug will be hammered down inside the pipe to test ground strength.

Mr McCann said the trial pile was the closest piling work to residents in the entire project.

“The trial pile will help the bridge builders understand how the ground behaves so the right piles can be designed to safely support the new bridge.”

Three pine trees on the Robilliard Park side of the avenue will also be removed, and the wood donated to the scouts.

For more information about the second Ashburton Bridge project, you can sign up for email updates at nzta.govt.nz/2AB

DIA accepts inhouse unit for water services

Council’s water services delivery plan for an in-house business unit to deliver water services for the district has been accepted by the Department of Internal Affairs.

The delivery plan was required by law as part of reforms to drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services for all councils.

Chief Executive Hamish Riach said he was pleased to hear from the Secretary for Local Government Paul James this week that Ashburton’s delivery plan had been assessed and accepted.

“This plan is no small document and sets out in detail how Council intends to provide water services for its communities,

while meeting new national water quality and Commerce Commission requirements. There was overwhelming support from the community for an in-house business unit when we consulted about how water should be delivered in the future, and we’re pleased that the community’s preferred position has been accepted by the DIA.

“Work now turns to implementing the plan, which will be operational by July 2027.”

Developing the plan, Council had to assess its water infrastructure and how much it needed to invest in improvements, and how it planned to finance and deliver water services.

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

ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of temporary road closures to enable the holding of the following community event:

RIDE THE RAKAIA

Road to be closed:

- **Rakaia Barrhill Methven Road, between Baker Road and West Town Belt**

Period of closure: **From 6am to 3pm on Saturday 25 October 2025**

It will be an offence under the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965 for any person otherwise than under authority of an authorised permit to use the roads for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure.

NEIL McCANN
Group Manager Infrastructure

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 event:

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

ROADING NOTICES

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.

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.

Talbot Place and Farquhar Place – Closed until 3 November while Rooney Earthmoving carries out water main installation and maintenance upgrades on behalf of Council. Access for residents to be maintained.

Chalmers Avenue - closed in places between Dobson Street and Robilliard Park until 28 November while new water pipes are installed.

Pole Road - Closed between SH77 and Springfield Road East, until Monday 10 November for road maintenance.

Lilley Place and Macphail Place - Closed from Monday 27 October to Friday 14 November while new water pipes are installed.

SH1 Rangitata - There will be no access to SH1 from Withells Road and Ealing Road from 29 September to 31 October while NZTA contractors complete shoulder widening and resurfacing work on SH1, north of the Rangitata bridge.

SH77 - Rawles Curve (just west of Digby's Bridge) is being reconstructed until 7 November. Daytime stop/go, with 30km/h speed restrictions. Expect delays of up to 15 mins.

Full details of local road closures are on our website, ashburtondc.govt.nz

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
- 6 November - **Ruapuna Reserve Board** - 7:30pm, Ruapuna Tennis Pavilion
- 11 November - **Mt Somers Reserve Board** - 7pm, Mt Somers Memorial Hall supper room
- 18 November - **Pendarves Reserve Board** - 7.30pm, Pendarves Fire Station
- 20 November - **Hinds Reserve Board** - 7.30, Hinds Fire Station meeting room
- 24 November - **Tinwald Reserve Board** - 7pm, Tinwald Memorial Hall meeting room
- 27 November - **Mayfield Reserve Board** - 7pm, Mayfield Memorial Hall supper room

USE YOUR WINDSTRAP

It's been pretty windy lately, so:

- 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 MEETINGS

Council meetings are held in Hine Paaka, the Council Chamber; agendas are online at ashburtondc.govt.nz

Wednesday 29 October, **Inaugural Council Meeting** (livestreamed), 1,30pm

Wednesday 5 November, **Council meeting** (livestreamed), 1pm

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)