

## New trees to be planted on Oak Grove



A row of trees on the edge of the Ashburton Domain along Oak Grove is being removed this week.

The trees are a mix of *Milus trilobata* and *Betula pendula*, and Council Community Services Group Manager Steve Fabish said they had deteriorated to a point where it was better to remove and replant.

“It’s a shame as they have always provided a great show of autumn colour over the years, but we need to do this work now.”

Replacement trees will be planted over winter, with the variety chosen for autumn colour and to provide shade for sports events in the area.

Arborists started work on Tuesday and

expect to take several days to cut down about a dozen trees between Walnut Avenue and the tennis courts. The stumps will be ground out at a later time.

People walking, cycling and driving along Oak Grove should exercise caution and follow signs put out by contractors around the work zone.

## Awards will recognise youth volunteers

Volunteering Mid & South Canterbury and Ashburton Youth Council have worked together to recognise the work of youth volunteers through a new awards event.

Manager of Volunteering Mid & South Canterbury Dellwyn Moylan said young people gave their time across a diverse

range of roles and the awards would recognise their inspiring and selfless work.

There are three categories that organisations, workplaces and schools can nominate young people in: Community and Social service, Cultural and Environmental and Sport volunteering. The young person must be aged 25 or under at the time of nomination.

Nominations for the awards will be accepted until 14 May and an evening to present the awards is planned in June.

Nomination forms are available from Community House Mid Canterbury, 44 Cass Street, Ashburton, and Methven iHub, 160 Main Street, Methven, or by emailing [manager-midc@vmcsc.org.nz](mailto:manager-midc@vmcsc.org.nz).

Have your  
**Say!**

**2022-23  
DRAFT  
ANNUAL  
PLAN**



**We’d like feedback  
on two main topics:**

### TOPIC ONE

**Should we review our  
day-to-day levels of  
service?**

### TOPIC TWO

**Should we use \$1.7M  
from our forestry  
reserve to pay for major  
roading repairs?**



**Find out more and  
have your say at  
[itsourceplace.nz](https://itsourceplace.nz)**

## Carolyn Cameron, Councillor

## Local government is worth fighting for

**Over the last few years, local government has had a reducing say in the communities they serve - primarily driven by government ideology but also through necessity, due to Covid-19 management policies.**

The most obvious example is the mandating of the new legislation surrounding the management of our drinking, waste and storm water (three waters). Historically, this has been one of the roles of local government.

This Government has mandated that the management and control of three waters be passed over to one of four large water entities, thereby reducing oversight from a local perspective. How will we (locally) influence decisions around the management of our waters?

Soon, District Health Boards will be replaced by Health New Zealand and a Māori Health authority. These large corporations have been established to minimise “postcode” health (ie the quality of your care depends on where you live) and also address health inequities.

They will design, deliver and commission local health services. This may or may not be good for people in Ashburton, we don’t know, many questions need to be answered. What we do know is that we have to ensure that we will have access to quality health care in a timely fashion.

We can go on: The RMA is being reviewed - over the years millions of dollars have been spent on developing District plans, will these be irrelevant in the future? Waka Kotahi – the latest round of funding showed Ashburton

received a significant reduction in roading funds, despite having one of the largest roading networks in New Zealand and having sustained significant damage in the floods of 2021. How do we (again from a local level) influence this?

This is a long-winded way of bringing me to my point. The role of local government is also under review. What will it look like in the future? Will the role of local government be removed or reduced? Will local government also be “cut back” so that we are more removed from decision makers and lose the right to choose how we invest in our community, lose the ability to make decisions as to how we want to live locally?

Local government ensures there is a conduit to how we can influence decisions that impact us in our

community, and our community has a strong and accessible local government.

We all need to protect it, to participate in decisions and have our say. This means participating fully in consultation, giving feedback and comment to your council representatives and making sure they reflect your concerns.

The Annual Plan is out for review. This is a great opportunity to make sure we understand the direction you want for the Ashburton District and to exercise your right to contribute to the management of the Ashburton District Council.





# Litter-free crew sets sights on Melrose Rd

Litter-Free Ashburton is holding a special pick-up litter day in the school holidays and hopes families will join them on a mission to clean up a section of Melrose Road by the Ashburton River.

The group meets on the second Thursday of the month to pick up litter around town but is organising an extra collection on Thursday 21 April to tackle Melrose Road.

Litter-Free Ashburton spokesperson Bev Skates said families with school-aged children had asked if they could help the group. “These families said they could help during the school holidays so we have organised this extra mission.

“We know Melrose Road is a popular



spot for illegal dumpers, and household rubbish and garden waste is often dumped amongst the blackberry and undergrowth. There’s also the rubbish that results from impromptu parties or picnics, where people have just tossed their bottles and food wrappers on the ground.”

Mrs Skates said the layby area where rubbish was a problem is at the end of Melrose Road near the river.

“We would like to clean up this spot and we’d love to see lots of families come and help us in the school holidays.”

Community Services Group Manager Steve Fabish said Council was pleased to support Litter-Free Ashburton, whose good work contributed to the image of the town.

“They are a volunteer group making a great difference, with the added bonus of getting people out in the fresh air and making new friends while doing a community service.”

People wanting to help should wear solid footwear and meet at the river end of Melrose Road at 1.30pm on Thursday 21 April. Litter-Free Ashburton will provide bags and gloves.

## New closing times for EA Networks Centre pools

EA Networks Centre is introducing new closing times for its pools and aquatic area, to help reduce operating costs for ratepayers and better reflect patterns of use.

From Tuesday 26 April, the pools, sauna and spa will close two hours earlier at 7pm on weekdays and 5pm in the weekends. Closing times for the stadium will remain the same, while gym hours are also under review and could change in the future.

Ashburton District Council Chief Executive Hamish Riach said Covid-19 had changed the way people exercised and the facility needed to ensure it ran cost-effectively by matching its services with community demand. Recent data had shown that only a small handful of people were using the facility in the final hours of the day.

“Like many other businesses and recreation centres around the country, Covid has had a big impact on the EA Networks Centre and put pressure on our budgets. Closing slightly earlier makes good financial sense, while retaining a high level of service for the majority of visitors and our community.”

The new hours will require some reshuffling, with evening aquacise classes moved to an earlier timeslot. The swim school will be unaffected by the changes and the pool will be able to stay open late for event bookings and swim meets.

“Despite inflation, we’ve managed to hold



our charges steady for many users, but the centre is supported by rates so we need to be practical about how it operates.”

Mr Riach said EA Networks Centre members had been emailed about the new hours and advertising was under way to update casual customers and visitors.

“We appreciate it will take time for people to get used to the change, and there will be a grace period over the first week so we can talk to customers who prefer to visit later in the evenings.”

He said the centre remained an important asset for the district and staff were excited about the possibility of introducing some new programmes during the day.

“We’re also preparing a detailed business and marketing plan for the facility to support growth in the future, react to new trends and attract new users.”

Pool, Spa and Sauna hours from 26 April 2022:

- Weekdays – 5.45am to 7pm
- Weekends – 7am to 5pm

## Holiday crafts hit the road

Council’s popular school holiday outreach programmes, this time involving painting and propagating, will run in Rakaia and Methven in the second week of the school holidays.

The programme involves the Ashburton Public Library, Ashburton Museum and Art Gallery, Eco Educate, Forest and Bird, and Wellbeing Opuke - people will be able to give kowhai propagating a go, make a gratitude box, paint on a collaborative canvas and even make their own pet toy

out of recycled materials.

More than 115 children and 30 adults have taken part in the outreach programmes in past school holidays.

The Rakaia session will be at the Rakaia Community Centre on Thursday 28 April, from 10am until 1pm. The Methven session will be at the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Methven on Friday 29 April, from 10am until 1pm.

Bookings can be made through the library or via Wellbeing Opuke’s Facebook page.

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a proposal to temporarily close roads to ordinary vehicle traffic to enable the holding of a community event – **Ashburton Car Club “Street Sprints”**.

Roads proposed to be closed:

- **SMALLBONE DRIVE, from RIVER TERRACE to ROBINSON STREET**
- **ROBINSON STREET, from SMALLBONE DRIVE INTERSECTION to McNALLY STREET**
- **WATSON STREET, from RANGE STREET to ROBINSON STREET**
- **McNALLY STREET, from RANGE STREET to the end of the street**
- **RANGE STREET, from ROBINSON STREET to WATSON STREET**

Period of Closure: **From 7.30pm, Friday 6 May 2022 until 8pm, Sunday 8 May 2022**

**RANGE STREET: From 6pm Friday 6 May 2022 until 6am, Sunday 8 May 2022**

Detours will be available on adjacent streets and these will be signposted.

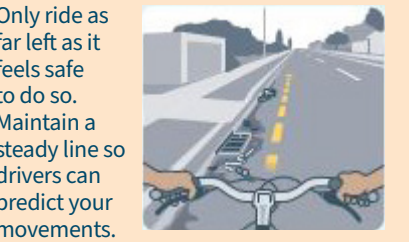
This proposed closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 - Schedule 10 (11 (e)) and will be considered at the COUNCIL MEETING on **20 April 2022**.

Any person objecting to the proposal should lodge notice of their objection and the grounds for their objection in writing by post or email to the Council, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton by 4pm, **Friday 15 April 2022**.

**NEIL McCANN**  
Infrastructure Services Group Manager

### COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**Bike tip: Position yourself to be seen.**  
Ride in a position where you can see others and others can see you. Keep a steady line and avoid blind spots.



### UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are at Council Chambers, 137 Havelock Street, unless specified

**Council meeting**, Wednesday 20 April, 1pm (livestreamed)

**Ashburton Water Zone Committee**, Tuesday 26 April, 1pm

### RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

#### EASTER, ANZAC DAY

**Kerbside collections** – Easter Friday collections will be collected on Saturday 16 April. No other collections will be affected over the Easter and ANZAC Day period.

**Rakaia Resource Recovery Park** – Closed 15 April, 16 April, 18 April and 25 April (ANZAC Day).

**Methven Green Waste drop-off** – Closed 17 April.

**Ashburton Resource Recovery Park** – Closed 15 April and 18 April.

#### NO GAS BOTTLES AT THE KERBSIDE, PLEASE

Gas cylinders cannot be put into yellow wheelie bins for recycling, or left alongside any wheelie bins at the kerb for collection. Gas cylinders can be dropped off at any resource recovery park for free.



### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

Pursuant to the Local Government Act 1974 and the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is hereby given that the Ashburton District Council and NZ Transport Agency, for the purpose of allowing Ashburton Returned and Services’ Association to hold **ANZAC Day** services, proposes to close the following roads to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated hereunder.

Roads proposed to be closed:

- **HAVELOCK STREET, from Park Street to East Street intersection**
- **BARING SQUARE WEST, from Havelock Street to Cameron Street**
- **SH 1 (WEST STREET), from Wills Street to Burnett Street**
- **CAMERON STREET, from West Street to Park Street**

Periods of Closure: **From 6.00am to 8.30pm and 10.00am to 12.30pm on Monday, 25 April 2022.**

Any person objecting to the proposal is called upon to lodge notice of their objection and grounds thereof in writing or email to Council by 4.00 pm, **Friday 15 April 2022.**

**NEIL McCANN**  
Ashburton District Council  
Infrastructure Services Group Manager

**MARK PINNER**  
Waka Kotahi NZTA System Manager

#### COUNCIL OFFICE

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

#### ASHBURTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

180 Havelock Street, Ashburton 7700  
Mon - Fri 9.00am - 8.00pm  
Sat 10am - 1pm | Sun 1pm - 4pm

#### EA NETWORKS CENTRE

20 River Terrace  
Mon - Fri 6.00am - 9.00pm  
Sat & Sun 7.00am - 7.00pm

#### ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & ASHBURTON MUSEUM

327 West Street  
10am - 4pm daily. Closed Public Holidays.