

High praise for new streetscape

Ashburton's CBD revitalisation project has been highly commended at local government awards that celebrate the creation of special places.

Ashburton Mayor Neil Brown said the \$17 million project finished late last year and had been intended to help breathe new life into the town centre, attracting businesses as well as people.

"We are really proud of the new streetscape and we thank local businesses, their staff and customers for their patience while the work was done. It was not always easy, especially with the added challenge of covid lockdowns, but this is now an attractive space that will serve the town well for years to come."

The CBD renewal project was highly commended in the Beca Award for Placemaking, which is part of the Taituara awards for local government. The category recognises projects that shape or promote the local economy and foster positive social outcomes.

Judges said they liked the holistic approach of the project, which was about upgrading infrastructure as much as providing a vehicle for retail.

Ashburton District Council Chief Executive Hamish Riach said the judges recognised it was a significant project for the town.

"This project has also been significant for staff and our contractors, Tru-Line Civil. Congratulations to the many people who took it from conception and early planning, through to the design and delivery.

"It was always focused on achieving the



best outcome for our community so to have that acknowledged at a national level is rewarding, particularly as the project had an amount of stress and tension because of covid pressure and disruption."

Part of the CBD entry in the local government awards was a video showing before and after shots of the CBD. People can see the video on our website and on social media channels.

The new streetscape features wider footpaths and roads, landscaping and outdoor furniture, and a new slower centre, where the speed limit is now 30km/h for vehicles.

Mr Riach said the space needed to be vibrant and viable for businesses and their

customers, and it had been future-proofed by ensuring underground infrastructure was renewed, and cables and power lines were relocated.

The project was completed to its original programme, despite some of the challenging work and the impacts of Covid-19, which struck just months after the work began in early 2020.

Contractors started on Cass Street then spread street by street through the CBD, working on Moore Street, Havelock Street, East Street, Tancred and Burnett Street. Big changes have included Tancred and Burnett Street becoming one-way, with angle parking.

CBD history panels ready to be revealed

The community is being invited to a special event in the CBD on Tuesday 7 June, when four street plaques telling stories of Ashburton's business past are unveiled.

The plaques are a collaborative history project involving the Ashburton District Council, Historic Places Mid Canterbury, the Ashburton Museum and Historical Society and people representing the community.

Galvanised steel frames, powder-coated with red paint, are already in place and the plaques will be fixed on them prior to the unveiling.

Community Services Group Manager Steve Fabish said Mayor Neil Brown would be doing the honours, and special guests and members of the community were being invited along.

"The event will get under way at 10.30am on the East Street green, opposite the clock tower and will involve an unveiling, and a tour of the panels to hear more about the stories told in each one. We hope many people will join us.



"This work puts a final touch to our revitalised CBD and as covid prevented any official opening of the new space, the unveiling of the plaques will be the first public event there and we are really looking forward to it."

The four plaques will be positioned on East Street across from the clock tower, and at the Burnett, Tancred and Moore Street intersections. They contain historical notes about the buildings and businesses that once happened on those streets.

"There are many people who have helped this project come to fruition and we look forward to thanking them and recognising them officially," Mr Fabish said.

"The CBD has had quite a colourful history and we hope people will gain an appreciation for Ashburton's history over the past 100 years or so."

The content on the plaques is the result of work by the Heritage Mid Canterbury working group, whose members include Councillors Diane Rawlinson and Carolyn Cameron, historical society president Glenn Vallender, David Stewart, Julie Luxton of Historic Places Mid Canterbury and Council staff, including Mr Fabish, and Connor Lysaght and Danielle Campbell of the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum, and the Open Spaces team.

Locations and streets or talking points were decided on by the group, and then concept panels were developed and researched, before the final text and photographs chosen.

Members of the Ashburton Menzshed made the frames, which are already in place awaiting the panels.

To keep the interest alive in our historical past, the working group plans to develop four more signs that will be installed on the frames and exchanged every six months.

Hamish Riach, Chief Executive Businesses take the limelight

The inaugural ANZ Business of the Year Awards last weekend

were a wonderful celebration of our district's business community and Council was proud to be a part of it.



We all know it has been a tough road for those in the retail and business sectors over the past two years, but local businesses have done well through this difficult time by adapting and finding new ways to excel in their different fields.

Mt Hutt Memorial Hall was packed on Friday night for the gala function where winners were announced. The awards evening had been postponed because of Covid-19, so it was great to see hundreds of people in their finery, celebrating our business community. The memorial hall was also dressed for the occasion and looked spectacular.

The judges had a tough job, with finalists whittled down from 70 entries and winners of the eight categories spread across both new and established businesses. The supreme winner was Ashburton's NZ Sock Co, who are well-known for the research and development they put into their products.

Comments from the judges highlighted our business people's commitment to their teams, their customers and to their products and services. The role innovation and technology had to play was obvious, and the back stories of the finalists spoke to the importance of hard work and vision.

Remarkably, two categories were won by groups of people who volunteer their time, energy and passion – the Ashburton Aviation Museum won the tourism category and the Methven Lions Club won the not-for-profit category.

The Council partnered with Ri Ra Events to host the awards and we were delighted with the enthusiastic support from businesses both as entrants and sponsors. We're now looking at feedback from the event and we hope to see it return bigger and better in the future.

Flood recovery puts focus on resilience

It has been 12 months since Ashburton’s big flood event and Mayor Neil Brown says the anniversary is an appropriate time to reflect on the work of those involved in the successful emergency response and celebrate the recovery.

“It was a crisis that tested us but people in this district are a resilient bunch, and we know how to look after each other.

“The emergency services, like FENZ and police, were a huge help as things were unfolding, and on the recovery side Rural Support Trust, iwi, MPI, the Insurance Council, Waitaha Health and Federated Farmers were vital partners.

“Each brought their own strengths to the table and when we were all able to work together we achieved so much more for our community.”

He said generous donations to the Mayoral Relief Fund were received from around the district and New Zealand, and distributed to those most affected.

The Mayor said that over the past year, Council has been focused on repairing damaged roads and building resilience against future big floods.

“The 2021 floods were a first-hand example of the impact of a changing climate on our community and that extreme rainfall cost our district.

“Damage to local roads took over six months of work and \$4 million to fix,



The Ashburton River was in full flood 12 months ago.

and also highlighted the vulnerability of the lower South Island when the State Highway 1 bridge over the Ashburton River was damaged and closed to traffic.

“We have been told by Government that there is money to contribute to a second bridge to make sure the island is not cut off again but there have also been things we have done as a Council to improve resilience.

“We are making improvements to Methven’s drinking water supply and once complete, they shouldn’t have to deal with boil water notices again. We are also spending more on improving our roads so they are less vulnerable to water damage.”

Some 540mm of rain fell at Mount Somers in May 2021, resulting in record flows in the Hinds and Ashburton Rivers and leading to the Mayor declaring a state of local emergency. Around 1500 people living

in Allenton and Netherby were warned they might need to evacuate but this was avoided when the Ashburton River breached further upstream and relieved pressure on the river closer to town.

Many living beside the Ashburton River, and the Hinds, self-evacuated and in total nearly 280 properties were affected, with uninsurable damage up to \$14m.

Mayor Brown said planning for extreme weather events was important at local and national levels, and Council would this week be considering its submission to a draft national plan to help the country adapt to climate change.

“We have our own climate change policy in this district and are developing a resilience action plan, but we believe Central Government must be a partner and co-funder in improving that resilience.”

Contract let for membrane filtration gear

A \$3.395 million contract for the supply of membrane equipment for Methven and Mt Somers’ new water treatment plants was been awarded to Masons Engineers (NZ) Ltd.

The new membrane filtration systems are part of a \$13m upgrade to the Methven and Mt Somers drinking water supplies and Ashburton District Council Infrastructures Services Group Manager Neil McCann said the upgrades should end the need to issue

boil water notices on these supplies after heavy rain events.

“The membrane equipment provides a barrier that removes turbidity, among other things, and that means people on the Methven, Methven-Springfield and Mt Somers schemes will have continuous safe drinking water provided to them.”

The membrane water plants use ultrafiltration membrane technology and consultants Beca are now working with

Masons to finalise the design and building layout, with construction expected to go out for tender early September 2022.

The new treatment plants should be operating by winter 2023.

Contractors have also begun assembling one of two new steel reservoirs at the Methven water treatment facility and have been undertaking new underground pipe connections. The reservoirs are on track for commissioning in August 2022.

What's happening at the Ashburton Library?



Winter, with its cooler days and long nights, is the perfect time to cosy up with a good book. So why not tackle that want-to-read list, step out of your genre comfort zone or try a new author?

This winter, reading could even win you a book voucher! The Ashburton Library is running an adult winter reading challenge in June, July and August – readers can tick off six challenges to go into a draw for a \$25 book voucher or tick off 12 challenges to have a chance at a \$50 book voucher.

There will also be a bonus prize of a \$50 book voucher for the top reader in the district. Choose books from the library’s

physical book collection to read or read and listen through the library’s online apps BorrowBox and Libby.

The challenge card has 12 categories that include: Based on history, favourite author, armchair travel, translated novel, New Zealand author, published in 2022, recommended read, book to movie, award winner, less than 200 pages, biography or autobiography, learn something.

Challenge cards can be collected from the library or downloaded from the library’s website and printed at home. Readers should return their completed challenge card to the library by **Tuesday 6 September** to go into the draw.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY
MONDAY 6 JUNE 2022

RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

There will be **no changes to the kerbside collection** on Monday 6 June, so put your wheelie bins out as usual by 7.30am.

The **Ashburton Resource Recovery Park will be closed** on Monday 6 June.
The **Rakaia Resource Recovery Park will be closed** on Monday 6 June.

ASHBURTON LIBRARY

Open Saturday 10am-1pm, Sunday 1pm-4pm. **Closed Monday 6 June.**

ASHBURTON ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM

Open Saturday, Sunday and Monday 10am-4pm.

COUNCIL OFFICE

Closed on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.
Afterhours 24 hours-a-day, please phone 03 307 7700. Emails, Snap Send Solves and website requests will be cleared Tuesday morning.

EA NETWORKS CENTRE

Stadium will be closed all weekend for a netball tournament. The rest of the facility is open Saturday and Sunday 7am-5pm, Monday 10-5pm.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are at Council Chambers, 137 Havelock Street, unless specified
Submission hearings (Play, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy), Wednesday 8 June, 9am (live-streamed)

Methven Community Board, Monday 13 June, 10.30am at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Annual Plan deliberations, Wednesday 15 June, 9am (live-streamed)

Council meeting, Wednesday 15 June, 1pm (live-streamed)

Dog Registrations 2022/23

Dog Registration fees from 1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023 are as follows:

Rural zone owners (1 st and 2 nd dog)	\$63.00
Rural zone owners (per subsequent dog)	\$30.00
Penalty fee for late registration - rural	\$30.00
Urban zone owners	\$95.00
Penalty fee for late registration - urban	\$44.00
Desexed dogs in urban zone	\$63.00
Responsible dog owner - per dog	\$58.00
Licence to keep 3 or more dogs (urban area)	\$51.00
Renewal of licence to keep 3 or more dogs	\$26.00
Dangerous dog - urban	\$142.00
Dangerous dog - rural	\$95.00

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 6am-9pm (pools 7pm, gym 8pm)
Sat & Sun 7am-7pm (pools 5pm, gym 6pm)

ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & ASHBURTON MUSEUM

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