

## Pothole eliminator busy on Forks Road

Fine weather on Tuesday provided the perfect opportunity for Mayor Neil Brown and Councillor Stuart Wilson to see the pothole eliminator at work on Forks Road.

Council added \$300,000 to this year's roading repair programme to have an extra stabilising machine work in the district. It is focused on potholes.

The stabiliser mills the top layer of the road; cement is added and then the road compacted ready for chipseal.

Mayor Brown said while the process looked simple, it relied on experienced crews testing the road base, milling it to the right height and then adding the required volume of cement.

"The extra \$300,000 is being used to stabilise around 8000 square metres of road in the Ashburton District. Repairing it now, before winter, will stop these roads further deteriorating and lengthen their life."

Council is planning to spend around \$18 million on its roads in the next financial year and is looking for community approval in its Annual Plan, out now for consultation.

The \$18m covers road maintenance, renewals, stabilisations and repairs, as well as reseals of some footpaths and roads.

Mayor Brown said Council planned to use \$1.7m from a forestry reserve fund to help pay for the work.

"Our Annual Plan asks residents what



they think of using the reserves to give our roading repairs programme a boost. Last May's rain and floods did a lot of damage to our network and we need to catch up because roads are vital for people to get to work or school, and take our farming produce to market.

"We know that increasing numbers of big trucks on our roads over the past years are also taking a toll. Roads built 30 years ago were not subject to the same volumes of freight and weight."

Mayor Brown said this was coupled with

a reduced amount of money coming from Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency to maintain roads. "So we will also be lobbying the decision-makers in Parliament to ensure districts like ours get more of a share of the road user charges and petrol excise duty that they collect."

Ashburton District has one of the biggest roading networks in the country and its roading contractor HEB has had two pothole repair crews, each with a special road stabilising machine, working in the district while the weather is still warm.

## Community provides feedback on Annual Plan

Ashburton District residents have a little over two weeks remaining to have their say on Council's Annual Plan.

Councillors have taken their plan to the community via three town meetings and an online presentation, and submissions will be accepted until 5pm on Friday 6 May.

Mayor Neil Brown said while they would have liked to see more people attend the public meetings, the quality of questions and discussion had been very good.

"Some of the more common questions have been around the state of our roads, which we are proposing to improve with a \$1.7m boost from forestry reserves, and about how the new library and civic centre building is tracking.

"The new build is a few months behind schedule because of Covid-19 lockdowns and supply chains issues, but it is still within the budget and its contingency. Fair to say, though, that we are keeping a close eye on it.

"We encourage residents to have their say on this Annual Plan, which spells out what we aim to do in 2022-23 and how we will pay for it.

"There have been some obvious challenges, like record-high inflation and Covid-19, but the work we plan to do is all about maintaining current levels of service and meeting Government compliance for things like drinking water."

The overall effect of the Annual Plan is a 9.4 per cent average rates rise.

Mayor Brown said people could use the online rates calculator to see what the result would be for their individual properties. "Bear in mind too that property valuations have also gone up much higher for urban people compared to rural areas."

Residents can find out more about what's proposed and have their say online at [itsourplace.nz](https://itsourplace.nz). They can also watch a replay of the online meeting and find explanations of what's planned for Ashburton, Methven and Rakaia.

All submissions received will be discussed by Councillors following hearings on 24 and 25 May.

## John Falloon, Councillor

### The importance of reserves

**As part of the Annual Plan process, Council is currently consulting with the community as to whether or not \$1.7 million should be taken from the forestry reserve and used for repairing the district's roads.**

Reserves form an important part of any balance sheet, for Councils, businesses, or any organisation undertaking significant works. In Ashburton's case, on behalf of the community, the Council holds a number of reserves with a total value of \$65.6 million.

The forestry reserve is a relatively small part of that, with a balance of \$5.1 million, which has been built up over time from the sale of Council-owned forestry and forestry land.

By far the largest component is the property reserve, now standing at \$27.1 million, which is funded from a mix of capital gains on Council property sales and depreciation.

Depreciation is the amount by which

Council's assets reduce in value each year. Each group of assets is written off over a certain number of years, depending on the type of asset.

For example, if a building costs \$1 million, and is expected to have a lifetime of 50 years, then for Council's accounting purposes that building will be depreciated at \$20,000 per year.

The monies received from rates and other sources to cover this cost will be placed in a reserve in order to have a fund to cover its eventual replacement. It is a requirement of councils to cover the depreciation of their assets by the amount they charge for rates.

A number of years ago the Queenstown Lakes District Council did not rate for depreciation, which, although leading to lower rate increases for a period, led to a rundown in reserves, and eventually a higher cost when those assets needed replacement.

But the importance of reserves goes beyond just having cash stored for asset replacement in the future. In the



short term, they can be borrowed internally to fund other Council projects, particularly, as is often the case, where the cost of borrowing is greater than the reserves are earning in term deposits or other investments.

Major projects such as the recently completed CBD redevelopment was partly funded from reserves such as the footpaths and roading reserves, with the balance being funded by external funding.

This is the case with most infrastructure developments which are funded by a mix of reserves and new borrowing, unless we can obtain central government funding as we did recently for the relief sewer from Bridge Street to Milton Road.

### Have your say!

Submissions close 6 May





# Colourful author shares recipes, life stories

Colourful caterer and former deputy mayor of Queenstown, Margaret McHugh, will talk about her autobiography and cookbook, *The Real McHugh*, when she makes a special visit to the Ashburton Public Library on Wednesday 4 May.

The author's talk begins at 7pm and is free; she will present her recipes and talk about her adventures as the daughter of a Winton dairy farmer who moved to London and rubbed shoulders with some interesting characters before returning home to Queenstown and becoming the contract caterer on the TSS Earnslaw.

Queenstown in the 1980s and 1990s

produced some rollicking stories and McHugh's book details encounters with the local police, tourists and how she came to be a local body politician.

She makes no apologies for her "rough edges".

She now lives in Picton and is a regular at the local farmers market. She and husband Bill run a luxury bed and breakfast.

Her book is a collection of recipes, life stories and opinions that have more than a serving of hot sauce and spice.

People who want to come along to the event in the Ashburton Public Library should phone 308 7192 to reserve their space, or email [library@adc.govt.nz](mailto:library@adc.govt.nz).



Margaret McHugh has written an autobiography and cookbook, *The Real McHugh*.

## Mayors take alternative three waters plan to MPs



Ashburton Mayor Neil Brown joined Mayors and CEOs representing the 32 member councils of Communities 4 Local Democracy He hapori mō te Manapori (C4LD) in Wellington recently to present politicians with a 10-point plan for three waters reform that could gain wide support. Mayor Brown said people in the Ashburton district had given a clear message they were not in support of the Government's reform model and wanted the process stopped.

## ANZAC Day traffic plans



Baring Square West was receiving some special attention from Open Spaces staff this week, ahead of Anzac Day services at the Cenotaph on Monday 25 April. Roads around the square, including State Highway 1, will be closed for services on Anzac Day and traffic will be detoured.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

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

**Methven Community Board,** Monday 2 May, 10.30am at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

**Ashburton District Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee,** Tuesday 3 May, 9.30am

**Council Meeting,** Wednesday 4 May, 1pm (live-streamed)

**Council Activity Briefings,** Wednesday 11 May, 9.30am

**Audit & Risk Committee,** Wednesday 11 May, 1.30pm (live-streamed)

**Council Meeting,** Wednesday 18 May, 1pm (live-streamed)

**Annual Plan Submission Hearings,** Tuesday 24 May, 9am (live-streamed)

**Ashburton Water Zone Committee,** Tuesday 24 May (live-streamed)

**Annual Plan Submission Hearings,** Wednesday 25 May, 9am (live-streamed)

## We need a facility cleaner

**Hours:** From 6am-10am Monday to Friday, two hours on a Saturday morning.

**Location:** Council buildings.

Must be physically fit and fully Covid-19 vaccinated.

Apply now to [hr@ashburtondc.govt.nz](mailto:hr@ashburtondc.govt.nz).

Job details are at [www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/work-for-us](http://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/work-for-us)

**WE'RE HIRING**



### RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

#### ANZAC DAY

**Kerbside collections** – No kerbside collections will be affected over the ANZAC Day period.

**Rakaia Resource Recovery Park** – Closed 25 April (ANZAC Day).

**Ashburton Resource Recovery Park** – Open.

#### 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

#### ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a road closure for the purpose of allowing the Ashburton Car Club to hold "Standing Quarter Mile Sprint" (with the exception of emergency vehicles) for the period indicated hereunder.

Road to be closed:

- **WINSLOW WILLOWBY ROAD, from the Longbeach Road intersection to approximately 500 metres from the intersection of State Highway 1**

Period of Closure: **From 9am until 5pm on Saturday, 23 April 2022.**

This notice of closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 - Schedule 10 (11 (e)). It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under authority of an authorised permit to use the roads / streets for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure.

**NEIL McCANN**  
Infrastructure Services Group Manager

### COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**Bike tip: Communicate your intentions**

Use arm signals to let other people on the road know what you're doing, so they can anticipate your movements and give you space. Always check to make sure the traffic around you has seen and understood your signals before you move. If in doubt, pull over and wait.



#### 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.