

Street art projects win creative grants

Two street art projects designed to add life and colour to Ashburton are among projects to receive funding from the national Creative Communities Scheme.

Seven groups were granted just over \$13,000 for various projects in the district.

Triangle precinct developer Justin Skilling was granted \$5000 for a large mural, similar to others in the area that he has commissioned from internationally recognised artist Wongi Wilson.

He is keen to promote the Triangle for its street art and cultural appeal and says the existing murals have been well received and well photographed. More murals would further enhance the area and town.

Some \$2300 was granted for an art programme to paint EA Networks' roadside cabinets. EA Networks and Ashburton District Council will be partners in the programme, which is similar to the Chorus cabinet art programme.

It has been found that cabinets that have been painted with murals do not generally get tagged as much as non-painted cabinets. Two suitable cabinets have already been identified at Hinds and Rakaia, and artists will be invited to create and submit designs, which will be chosen by a panel including Mayor Neil Brown.

The artists will be paid a fee for painting the cabinet and have their material costs reimbursed.

A community art project at the Staveley



A Wongi Wilson mural in the Triangle has plenty of fans.

Campsite was granted \$2000 for the first phase of a project to create site specific art and forest sculptures, helping people reconnect with nature and encouraging them to be interested in the native forest that surrounds the camp.

The CanInspire Charitable Trust was granted \$2087 to help run seven CanBead workshops. The workshops are free for people experiencing illness, trauma or personal loss and people are taught basic jewellery and beading skills to make a necklace, bracelet, earrings or other beaded craft.

Other grants included \$500 to Arts

Canterbury for an annual booklet promoting galleries and artists, \$390 to the Ashburton Writers' Group to run a short story competition for children and adults, \$740 to Kristen Dunne to run creative art classes for the general public, and \$1650 to Rakuto Kurano to include an Ashburton venue in a national violin quartet tour in July.

An Ashburton assessment committee decided the successful grant recipients last week and another round of funding applications will open on 1 August 2022. Go to our grants and funding page for more information.

Do you qualify for a rates rebate?

Ashburton District Council is concerned some low-income ratepayers in the district are missing out on a rates rebate, which could cut up to \$665 off their rates bill.

The Government's rates rebate scheme provides a partial refund for people who pay rates to the council and around 800 people received a rebate for the previous financial year.

Chief Executive Hamish Riach said the deadline for rebates in the current financial year was approaching and ratepayers had until the end of June to apply.

"We are getting down to the last few weeks and encouraging ratepayers who receive superannuation or other Government assistance, or are on low incomes, to check if they meet the income level required to qualify.

"The level for eligibility varies, depending on income, the amount of rates you pay and dependants, so some people might qualify for the full rebate or for a lesser amount. If you're not sure, then call our Customer Services team on 3077700 or drop in to the Council office and find out."

See our website rates page for more info.

Gym hours are changing

EA Networks Centre is closing its gym and fitness facilities an hour earlier from Monday 23 May, as another measure to help reduce operating costs.

Ashburton District Council Chief Executive Hamish Riach said the facility had been reviewing operations so it ran as cost-effectively as possible and visitor data showed only a very small number of people had been using the gym and fitness facilities in the final hour of the day.

"Like many other recreation centres around the country, Covid-19 has had a big impact on the EA Networks Centre. Closing the gym an hour earlier will help ease pressure on its budget and while it will need to be confirmed in our Annual Plan, we're proposing to keep memberships at their current prices."

Fitness classes won't be affected by earlier closing time and stadium hours remain unchanged.

Gym hours from 23 May 2022: Weekdays – 5.45am to 8pm, Weekends – 7am to 6pm.

Stadium hours: Weekdays – 5.45am to 9pm, Weekends – 7am to 7pm.

Pool, Spa and Sauna hours: Weekdays – 5.45am to 7pm, Weekends – 7am to 5pm.

Lynette Lovett, Councillor

Taking a stand against online trolls

It helps to have broad shoulders when you are elected to public office.

As a Councillor, you must have time, energy and passion for the district. In making decisions that affect the lives of residents, you also need to balance a range of views and needs, and consider things like affordability, sustainability and wellbeing. So it helps to have an inquiring mind too.

However, as this year is a local body election year, I feel that good people might hesitate to put their hand up for council because of the increasing vitriol of keyboard warriors. Perhaps now is the time for those warriors to stand themselves!

There's a raft of information about what constitutes harmful digital communications, but having been the subject of some myself, I would like to offer my thoughts to those who attack from behind the safety of the screen: Before you press the send button, please re-read and think about

what you are saying to that person, or organisation that you are about to attack.

Is what you are about to post true? Will it affect that person or group's wellbeing? Do you know the full story, or the facts and figures? What is your personal agenda?

I invite you to put yourself in your victim's shoes. How would you feel?

And would you be willing to follow words with action, and stand yourself for public election?

While the job can be rewarding, it's not as easy as it first may appear. As councillors we have to balance up a wide range of views, needs and wants, against what's affordable, practical and sustainable, and determine how it will affect the wellbeing of our district.

Behind the scenes, there are rules and regulations we have to abide by, and we are accountable to regional or central Government. It's a complex system and as councillors we spend many hours reading, visiting, and going



through facts, before we debate the issues around the council table. This is our job and we are expected to ask the hard questions, both for and against, before any decision is made.

You personally may not like the decision, but at the end of the day we are here to represent the whole district, not sections of it.

We all want the Ashburton district to be a great place to work, live and play. Yes, we should hold our elected members accountable, but we need to encourage good people to put their hand up for our local elections, without fear of being torn down.

Big Mill Creek clean-up nears finish line

The big clean-up of Mill Creek should be complete next month and the waterway will be given an annual spring clean thereafter to ensure it stays in good condition.

Contractors working for the Ashburton District Council have been manually clearing the creek and its edges, using hand tools and weed eaters, to ensure the creek bed is not disturbed.

Water in Mill Creek is mostly stockwater, though the creek also conveys stormwater as needed.

Infrastructure Services Group Manager Neil McCann said the creek was an important part of the town's water infrastructure, but it was also home to small fish and watercress grew in parts.

"The work has taken a bit longer than expected because of Covid-19. Every time a worker tested positive progress slowed, but we have gained good momentum in the past two months and the clean-up is on track to be finished in June. It's not easy working in water all day."

Parts of the creek that have been completed so far include the entire section in Braebrook, and Turton Green through to the bridge at Pages Road. Work continues along sections of the creek through Argyle Park.

Grass and weeds, tree branches and other organic waste removed from the creek are taken to a disposal facility.

Mr McCann said access to the creek was a



Crew from contractors ACL have been working in Mill Creek.

challenge at times, particularly as so many residential properties backed onto the waterway.

"We have really appreciated those residents who have kept their creek boundaries free of rubbish and well maintained, and it makes it easier for the annual maintenance going forward."

Annual maintenance will be in spring, when contractors will return to the creek with hand tools and weed sprayers.

Some areas of Mill Creek underwent major stabilisation and enhancement works between 2009 and 2017, to stabilise banks and improve the flow capacity during flood events.

The waterway has had a long history in the Ashburton township and surrounds, and served several functions (as a water source for use at a flour mill and stockwater race). The creek has been managed for flood control and drainage since the late 1970s.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

Pursuant to the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is hereby given that the Ashburton District Council, for the purpose of allowing Ashburton Event Centre to hold the **Ashburton College Ball**, proposes to close the following road to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated hereunder.

Road proposed to be closed:

- **WILLS STREET, from 211 Wills Street (Event Centre - Cass Street end) to 197 Wills Street (Neumanns Tyres - East Street end).**

Period of closure: From 7pm until 9.30pm on Thursday, 23 June 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 4pm on Friday 3 June 2022.

NEIL McCANN
Group Manager Infrastructure Services

ALCOHOL LICENSING: HEARING CANCELLED

The public hearing scheduled for 19 May 2022 to consider an application by **Teghveer Enterprises Limited** for an Off Licence at 175 Alford Forest Road, Ashburton, has been cancelled.

The application has been withdrawn.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

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

Ashburton Water Zone Committee,
Tuesday 24 May, 1pm (live-streamed)

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

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

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

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

Council Activity Briefings,
Wednesday 22 June, 9.30am

Audit and Risk Committee,
Wednesday 22 June, 1.30pm (live-streamed)

Ashburton Water Zone Committee,
Tuesday 28 June, 1pm (live-streamed)

Council meeting, Wednesday 29 June, 1pm (live-streamed)

These news pages are created and supplied by the Ashburton District Council. For more information and the latest news, visit our website ashburtondc.govt.nz/news

What's happening in Civil Defence?



EMERGENCY MOBILE ALERT NATIONWIDE TEST

Expect to hear your smartphone beeping loudly sometime between 6pm and 7pm on Sunday 22 May when the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) tests the emergency mobile alert system.

Emergency mobile alerts are messages about emergencies sent by authorities to mobile phones. The alerts are designed to keep people safe and are broadcast to all capable phones from targeted cell towers.

The alerts can be targeted to areas affected by serious hazards and will only be sent when there is a serious

threat to life, health or property, and, in some cases, for test purposes. It is the same system that has delivered important Covid-19 protection messages over the past two years and was used locally during the May 2021 floods.

NEMA regularly tests the emergency mobile alert so it can evaluate the system, cell towers, and the ability for mobile phones to receive the alert. The test also helps to familiarise the public with what an emergency mobile alert looks like and how their phone presents the message.

Want to know more? visit www.cdemcanterbury.govt.nz

BIKE SAFETY TIPS

Bike tip: Scan for risks - learn to anticipate situations where the clear path ahead might suddenly change.



Where possible ride at least a door and a bit clear of parked vehicles to avoid being hit by car doors. Scan ahead in queues of parked cars for clues that someone might be about to get out - lights, movement or silhouettes are all good warning signs.

Wherever you
PAY RATES
you can
VOTE

Do you live in one area and pay rates on a property in another? Then you may qualify to vote in both areas at the local authority elections this October.

For more information phone toll free

0800 54 8683

0800 LG VOTE

Enrol now – the Ratepayer Electoral Roll closes on 12 August 2022.



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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)
Sat & Sun 7am-7pm (pools 5pm)

ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & ASHBURTON MUSEUM

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