

## Historical snippets grab attention

Did you know that Burnett Street was once the “Fleet Street” of Ashburton where newspapers and printers plied their trade? Or that Tancred Street was the entertainment part of town?

Snippets of Ashburton’s colourful past have been brought to life on history panels unveiled for the public this week.

The panels are a joint project involving the Ashburton District Council, Historic Places Mid Canterbury, the Ashburton Museum and Historical Society and others representing the community.

Mayor Neil Brown said it was a great collaboration that ensured some of the district’s history was on permanent show.

The four history panels are on East Street, one opposite the clock tower and the others at the intersections of Burnett, Tancred and Moore Streets. They have been designed to capture the attention of pedestrians.

Ashburton Museum and Historical Society president Glenn Vallender said the organisation had collected the town’s history for decades and was pleased to see some of it on display this way.

He said Baring Square East development had been led by construction of the railway in 1874 and the town had many stories to tell.

Each panel also has a QR code that connects to the Ashburton Museum’s online materials page.

The panel at East and Burnett Street talks about Burnett Street’s base for newspapers. The town’s first paper was the Ashburton Mail, which started in 1877;



Helping put our history on show (from left) Dave Stewart, Connor Lysaght, Danielle Campbell, Glenn Vallender, Diane Rawlinson and Mayor Neil Brown.

the street is still home to the town’s news media.

Tancred Street was once home to a general store, two boarding houses and a restaurant, while Moore Street was where the Wakanui Road Board and other early forms of local government did business.

Council Community Services Group Manager Steve Fabish said the Heritage Mid Canterbury working group that decided on the final content for the signs spent a lot of time discussing stories that would capture interest.

“Hopefully everyone who walks past these signs will stop and learn something about their town. We hope many will scan the QR

code and discover even more.

“This has been a great collaborative project and many people have given their expertise, which we really appreciated.”

Those at the unveiling received a special guided tour of the panels yesterday, with commentary from the museum’s Connor Lysaght; he described a fire that raged on the block between Burnett Street and Tancred Street in 1892 and a tornado that ripped through Tancred Street in 1903.

There are plans to produce four more panels that can be exchanged on a regular basis, to keep up interest.

The panels are fixed onto frames made by the Ashburton MenzShed.

## New rules limit fatberg potential

Ashburton District residents are being thanked for confining their flushing to just the three Ps - pee, poo and toilet paper.

Flushing anything else, like baby wipes or wet wipes, has the potential to cause blockages that are expensive to clear, and now there are new rules in New Zealand and Australia that set standards for what can and cannot be flushed.

Council Infrastructure Services Group Manager Neil McCann said that unlike other councils, Ashburton generally had few issues with non-flushables causing blockages.

“But wipes and other non-flushables can be a major cause of blockages in pipes and contribute to things like fatbergs and environmental pollution through sewage overflows.

“The new rules mean manufacturers now have to label items that can be flushed and it will be an offence to label a product flushable if it does not meet the new standard.”

He said Council continued to urge people not to flush anything other than the three Ps. “If there’s no flushable symbol on the packet then don’t flush it, bin it.

“When we have blockages, we can isolate an area and send letters to households about what they can or can’t flush.”

Mr McCann said this was the case recently when nappies were being flushed.

## Angus McKay, Councillor

## Healthy water for all is the ultimate goal

**A newspaper article written in 1881 formed part of our background reading for a Council meeting item recently on the future of the Pudding Hill stockwater intake.**

The story told how County Councillors of the day travelled three hours by train and then in horse drawn carts to the Pudding Hill stream, where a dam had been built across the river to supply a new network of races that would take vital water down the plains.

Officially opening the supply, County Council chairman W. C. Walker said it was important work and one which would confer a benefit on the land through which the water intended to flow.

Some 141 years on this intake is still running.

But to meet present-day regulations, this water take from the Ashburton River system has to be fish screened, at a cost of between \$300,000 and \$600,000. This cost would have to be paid by the 181 ratepayers whose property the race system runs through.

This might not be much of a cost to some. But let us remember that the majority of the area serviced by this intake now has alternative water, and those properties without alternatives could very easily be supplied with some minor alterations to present systems.

Over the years, why have people that can, moved away from the system opened in 1881 with much fanfare? The main reason is people want to drink and wash themselves in the cleanest and healthiest water possible.

As a young person I drank water sourced from the house roof. Every so

often my father would climb into the drinking water tank to clean out the bird dirt that had been washed in during heavy rains and when it did not rain for a while the water race water was pumped in and allowed to settle for a day or so before we started drinking again.

At bath time one would know exactly what color the water race was.

My father went to great expense to connect all the shed roofs into a large concrete underground tank that allowed the family to drink and wash in much cleaner water - yes, the bird dirt was cleaned manually from the tank when it was low enough.

I can clearly remember with great celebration in the early 1980s when a new council piped scheme arrived on our property and finally we had clean, healthy water.



What I find very interesting today is the cleanliness of the water required for stock to drink and to wash dairy sheds and vegetables before they go off the market. People also rightly demand the best water quality.

For many years people in Ashburton have wanted more water in the river and for many years I have argued that water-takes like Pudding Hill should be closed. It is well recognised that less than 10% of the water taken is used for its intended purpose.

Maybe the cost of installing a fish screen will ultimately relegate the old intake to history and some people will end up with cleaner water as a result.



# Recyclers help kickboxer's trip to Ireland

If you've recycled a chest of drawers or a bicycle at the Ashburton Resource Recovery Park's re-use shop recently, then chances are you have helped Ashburton man Ford Gerbes get to the world kickboxing champs in Ireland later this year.

Ford needs to raise \$6400 for his trip with the New Zealand kickboxing team, and was recently donated \$2000 from the re-use shop, which is operated by EnviroWaste Services Limited as part of its solid waste management contract with the Ashburton District Council.

It is the first of three \$2000 donations the re-use shop plans to make to good causes this year.

Items that are brought into the re-use shop for recycling are sold to the public; items include household furnishings and wares like glasses and mugs which are still in good condition. There are also bicycles, sports equipment and coats.

Ford's name was put forward for consideration as a recipient after his selection and fundraising efforts were highlighted in the Ashburton Courier community newspaper.

He said he was delighted to accept the money, which was a big boost to his fundraising account.



ADC's Justin Bloomfield (left) with Ford Gerbes and EnviroWaste's Glen Sole.

Ford rises most days at 3.30am to train before going to work; he trains again later in the day, after spending time with his family. He competes in regular events.

As well as kickboxing, he competes in mixed martial arts, boxing and maui thai, which is often referred to as Thai boxing.

He also set up a Fight-Fit Fitness gym at the Hampstead Rugby Club grounds two years ago, offering basic fighting drills and circuit fitness training for others. Recently he has started a class for juniors.

Ford said his own gym work prepared his body for the lateral and explosive movements needed for the sport, which was also about mental toughness.

He has been doing kickboxing for 11 years and considers himself lucky to be able to compete, especially after surviving a serious car crash.

People interested in applying for a donation should inquire at the re-use shop at the Ashburton Resource Recovery Park.

## Ready to enrol in local body elections?

With Local Body Elections on the horizon, now's the time to make sure you're ready to vote, by enrolling or updating your details on the Electoral Commission's [vote.nz](#) site. You can also visit the Ashburton Public Library, with staff happy to help with the forms if required.



Everyone who's already on the electoral roll will be sent an enrolment update pack in the mail in the first week of July, but if you're not on the roll then you need to enrol online or pick up an enrolment pack at Council's Customer Service desk or the Ashburton library.

People can also enrol online via [vote.nz](#) or by calling 0800 36 76 56.

When you receive your enrolment pack, check your details are up to date, including your address. If they're correct, you won't need to do anything further.

If they are incorrect, you should update your details by 12 August. You can do this online using your driver's licence, passport or RealMe identity.

Local Body elections use a postal voting system with voting packs due to arrive in letter boxes in mid-September. Voting is open from 16 September until 8 October.

It's also a good time to start thinking about either standing for election or encouraging someone you know to stand.

Nominations for Ashburton District Council and Methven Community Board will open on 15 July and Council is planning a candidate information evening on 19 July. Nominations close on 12 August, with candidate lists confirmed shortly after.

A pre-election report, covering opportunities and issues facing the Council and the district will be released later in June, to provide critical information for candidates.

## What's happening in our Open Spaces?



Seven commemorative trees will be planted in the district's domains this month to mark the platinum jubilee year of Queen Elizabeth II.

Mayor Neil Brown will be planting London plane trees (*Platanus acerifolia*) at seven domains on Monday 27 June. The deciduous tree species has a long life, grows up to 35 metres high and should last several hundred years.

Each tree will have a commemorative bronze plaque with details of the occasion.

The Mayor will start the Royal planting

tour at Tinwald at 9am, then move on to Hinds for a 10am planting, Mayfield at 11am and Mt Somers at 12pm. The planting continues in Methven at 2pm, Rakaia at 3pm and finishes at the Ashburton domain at 4pm.

People in the various domain communities are welcome to join in.

The Queen has had three other major jubilees: silver in 1977, marking 25 years on the throne; golden in 2002, when Princess Margaret and the Queen Mother passed away; and diamond in 2012, when she became the second UK monarch to reach that milestone.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

**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)

**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, field trip

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

### RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

#### WINDSTRAPS ON

Wind straps aren't just for windy days! Make a habit of popping on your windstraps every time you put your wheelie bins out - if your bin gets knocked over, then the contents of your bin stay in.



#### NO LIDS, PLEASE

The automatic sorting machine at the recycling factory can't pick up lids, they're just too thin or too small. So please keep lids of all shapes and sizes, and all materials, out of your yellow recycling bin.



### BIKE SAFETY TIPS

**We're all human: No matter how we're travelling, we can all make mistakes.**



Slow down on shared paths and give people around you space.

Wear a helmet to protect your brain.

Be kind, be patient and be prepared for people to make mistakes. Stay alert and ride with care.

#### 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.