

MAYOR Neil Brown

## Events that help us shine bright like a diamond



**I'm encouraging everyone who has an opinion on the State Highway 1 speed limits north of Rakaia township to share their thoughts with NZ Transport Agency.**

The government agency is currently consulting on the stretch of highway that includes the Rakaia River bridge and the overhead rail bridge and asking people if the speed limit should be the new 80km/h or the old 100km/h.

You may remember that the speed limit dropped to 80km/h last year, at the same time as the speed limit through Rakaia township dropped to 50km/h. The new National government wants to revisit these speed limits.

The agency has a survey open until 13 March on the north Rakaia speed limit

and it wants to hear from lots of people. There's a link to the survey on NZTA's Facebook page and on its website, so I urge you to have your say.

As far as the township speed limit is concerned, the agency says it has already received lots of feedback on this too and will advise next steps soon.

Comments on social media posts will not be taken into account, so if you want NZTA to hear you, then please take the online survey.

There were plenty of events generating traffic in our district this past weekend, when the temperature hit the national high of 32 degrees on Sunday.

The Ashburton River trail was awash with runners on Saturday, while the Ashburton Domain was flooded with hungry visitors looking to try foods from

our many different cultures at the Multi Cultural Bite.

For those with 4WD, the Methven Lions Club held a fundraising drive through Glenfalloch and Lake Heron Stations, and the weather was perfect for a day out in the high country, with some amazing scenery.

Trott's Gardens hosted a women's health expo in their magnificent grounds on Sunday, while across the bridge in Tinwald, the local dahlia circle hosted a blooming good show and the Tinwald Plains hosted the annual Children's Day event.

These events took a lot of organising and the thousands of visitors who turned up left happy.

It's great to see this district shine.

## SHORT AND SWEET

### HOSING BAN ON METHVEN SUPPLIES

Council currently has a hosing ban on the Methven and Methven Springfield water supplies to allow maintenance on one of the reservoirs at the Methven water treatment plant. The water restriction means no hosing is permitted at any time during the maintenance period, which is expected to be two weeks. Residents may water gardens by hand with a bucket or watering can.

### TRAVEL, CREATIVE GRANTS AVAILABLE

Looking to bring your creative project to life? Or does your junior sports team qualify for a travel grant? We're here to help by administering local funds on behalf of two national schemes, the Creative Communities Scheme and the Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund. Applications are open, so head to our website to find out more and apply: [ashburtondc.govt.nz/grants](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz/grants)



## Stockwater race need a clean?

**Stockwater users still need to keep their water races clear, even though Council has begun a programme of work to exit its stockwater delivery service.**

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said the exit work is scheduled over the next two-and-a-half years, but stockwater races will run as normal until property owners are advised otherwise.

"We are working through the future of each separate stockwater network on an intake-by-intake basis, getting in touch with affected property owners when it is their turn. But until the future of each intake is decided, people with races need to continue to keep them clear so that water can flow."

Reduced river flows and hot weather can also result in declining flows in the race network.

## Rakaia: Have your say on SH1

**Do you want to keep the current 80km/h speed limit on SH1 north of Rakaia over the bridge, or see it revert back to 100km/h?**

NZ Transport Agency wants to know what you think and is asking people to take a short survey on its website: [nzta.govt.nz/speed-reversals-and-consultation-transitional-changes-in-2024-25/canterbury/](http://nzta.govt.nz/speed-reversals-and-consultation-transitional-changes-in-2024-25/canterbury/)

Consultation closes on 13 March.



A free afternoon of jazz,  
groove and funk  
**SAT 29  
MARCH  
12PM-3.30PM**

### CODING CLUB

The Ashburton Library's coding club meets on Monday afternoons, from 3.30pm until 4.15pm. The club is for those age nine years and over, and if you'd like to learn how to code your own video game and more, then Microbytes is the club for you! To find out more and book, email [library@adc.govt.nz](mailto:library@adc.govt.nz)

### HINDS BRIDGE

NZ Transport Agency is planning to close SH1 at the Hinds River Bridge next Thursday and Friday nights (13 and 14 March) to undertake resurfacing work. The bridge will be closed in both directions from 8pm to 6am on those nights. Detours will be in place. HPMV and over-dimension vehicles will be allowed briefly through the site at 12am. Please plan your journey.

# Honouring war efforts of locals

On 4 September 1939, the newspaper headlines declared: “THE EMPIRE AT WAR”. This was the beginning of the Second World War for the people of Ashburton.

More than 2000 local men saw active service overseas, and a considerable number of Army nurses went with them. The Home Front was just as busy. During the first half of the war, over 1700 locals had enlisted in the Home Guard, and the Women’s Land Service also saw considerable interest.

An upcoming exhibition at the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum tells the war stories of a bicycle shop apprentice, a private nurse, a farm labourer, and a hospital office clerk, all from the Ashburton district.

Director Shirin Khosraviani said the gallery and museum wanted to honour this year’s Anzac Day by shedding light on the lives of locals.

“These people put themselves in danger during the Second World War, to aid and to fight for the freedom of others.”

The exhibition Land, Sea and Air will explore the lives of:

- Arthur Noal Wilson, a motorcycle dispatch rider in the North African campaign
- Alan Charles Bray, an RNZAF pilot seconded to the RAF in England
- Thyrsa Margaret Whillans (nee Whiteside), an Army Nursing Service, who served in North Africa and Italy
- Mervyn Beauvais, Navy, who served aboard the HMNZS Gambia

Included in the exhibition are items of clothing, photographs, and other items of interest from the military service of these four locals.

“Each experienced the Second World War in their own unique way, while sharing a common ideal that they were contributing

## Land, Sea and Air will be on display at the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum from 15 March until 25 May



This image is from the photograph album of Arthur Noal Wilson, WW2, which is now part of the AM&HS Collection. Photo reference: 07.2021.0052.3.12.

positively to defending their country, their allies, and the countless innocent lives that were endangered by the Axis threat,” Shirin said.

There will be a **free public opening event for the exhibition on Sunday 23 March at 2pm**, featuring a talk by Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum archivist and exhibition curator, Connor Lysaght. This event will coincide with the opening of another exhibition Sharing Histories: Gifts of 2024.

On Anzac Day, Friday 25 April at 2pm, the gallery and museum will be hosting a special Anzac Day talk with Sarah Johnston, titled “With the Girls Overseas” – the voices of World War II New Zealand nurses.

Sound historian Sarah Johnston is

researching recordings made between 1940-1945 by New Zealand’s mobile broadcasting units, which travelled overseas with our forces. The units reported on the fighting and recorded the voices of New Zealanders at war. These recordings were sent home to be played on a popular radio programme, “With the Boys Overseas”, which aired several times a week during the war.

In this Anzac Day talk Sarah will shed light on recordings the broadcasters made of New Zealand nurses. Courtesy of RNZ and Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision, she will play some of these 80-year-old recordings and talk about the men and women who we hear in them.

**Land, Sea and Air will run from 15 March until 25 May**

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are at Hine Paaka (Council Chamber), 2 Baring Square East, unless specified.

- Monday 10 March, **Methven Community Board**, 9am in Mt Hutt Memorial Hall
- Wednesday 19 March, **Council Meeting** (live-streamed), 1pm
- Thursday 20 March, **Annual Plan Workshop**, 9.30am
- Tuesday 25 March, **Ashburton Water Zone Committee** (live-streamed), 1pm
- Wednesday 26 March, **Three Waters Committee** (live-streamed), 9.30am
- Wednesday 26 March, **Audit & Risk Committee** (live-streamed), 11am,
- Wednesday 26 March, **Council Activity Briefings** (live-streamed), 1pm

## PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a proposal to temporarily close roads to traffic to enable the holding of a community event - **Anzac Day ceremony**.

- Roads proposed to be closed:
- **West Street (SH1) from Havelock Street to Cameron Street**
  - **Havelock Street from Park Street to East Street**
  - **Cameron Street from West Street to Park Street**
  - **Baring Square West from Havelock Street to Cameron Street**

Period of closure: From **6am to 8.30am**, and from **10am to 12.30pm** on Friday 25 April.

Any person objecting should do so in writing by post or email to the Council, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton, by 4pm on **Friday 14 March 2025**.

**NEIL McCANN**, Group Manager Infrastructure & Open Spaces

## COUNCIL LAND TENDER OPPORTUNITIES



**1. The tender is for a 6-month Licence to Occupy for 3.0199 hectares of land at 58 Carters Terrace, Ashburton.**

The Licence to Occupy commences on the 1 April 2025. Tenders must be received by Ashburton District Council on or before 4pm 12 March 2025. Please contact commercial@adc.govt.nz for a Tender Application form or for more information.



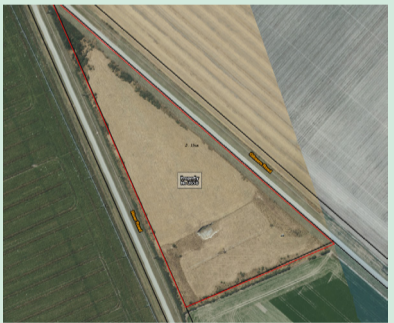
**2. The tender is for a 6-month Licence to Occupy for 1.2 hectares of land at 61 Carters Terrace, Ashburton.**

The Licence to Occupy commences on the 1 April 2025. Tenders must be received by Ashburton District Council on or before 4pm 12 March 2025. Please contact commercial@adc.govt.nz for a Tender Application form or for more information.



**3. The tender is for a 5-year Licence to Occupy for 2.0234 hectares of land at 1384 Stanley Road, Ashburton.**

The Licence to Occupy commences on the 1 August 2025. Tenders must be received by Ashburton District Council on or before 4pm 12 March 2025. Please contact commercial@adc.govt.nz for a Tender Application form or for more information.



**4. The tender is for a 5-year Licence to Occupy for 2.0234 hectares of land at the intersection of River Road and Gibsons Road, Ashburton.**

The Licence to Occupy commences on the 1 April 2025. Tenders must be received by Ashburton District Council on or before 4pm 12 March 2025. Please contact commercial@adc.govt.nz for a Tender Application form or for more information.

### COUNCIL OFFICE

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

### ASHBURTON LIBRARY

2 Baring Square East, Ashburton 7700  
Mon & Fri 8.30am-6pm, Tue-Thu 8.30am-8pm  
Sat & Sun 10am-4pm

### EA NETWORKS CENTRE

20 River Terrace  
Mon - Fri 5.45am-9pm (pools 8pm Mon & Tue, 7pm Wed-Fri; gym 8pm). Sat & Sun 7am-7pm (pools 6pm, gym 6pm)

### ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

327 West Street  
10am-4pm daily (late night Wed)