

Language app designed to help spread the word

A te reo Māori app developed for Ashburton District Council staff is to be shared with the community, so others can learn more about local Māori language and protocols. The app also covers Tagalog (the primary language of the Philippines) and Samoan.

The Tūwhana app came about after Council piloted a te reo Māori course for staff in 2019 to improve cultural competency, and it has been a joint project between the Welcoming Communities, People and Capability, and Strategy and Policy teams.

People and Capability Group Manager Sarah Mosley said while the pilot course was great, participants still felt whakamā (shy) about their pronunciation of te reo Māori.

“So we looked at what other councils, Government departments and corporations such as Air New Zealand were doing, and came across app developers Kiwa.

“We liked that they could customise the content to our local Ashburton community by working closely with Te Rūnaka o Arowhenua, and members of the Filipino and Samoan communities.”

The app uses three different learning styles, touch, sight and sound, and people can practise pronunciation on demand.

Mrs Mosley said the app was a great way to provide information to a wide cross-section of people throughout



Council, especially those wanting to gain more confidence with basic greetings, vocabulary and customs.

“Then we realised the community could use it too, as it would be free to download.”

The app was used by Keep Learning Mid

Canterbury recently for 34 people taking part in an online te reo Māori course.

Tutor Kate White said the Tūwhana app was especially useful for course participants when they were looking at pepeha (introducing yourself) or mihi (greetings).

She said the online course, via Zoom, allowed people to participate live, or catch up with a recorded lesson if they were sick or had a work meeting at the time of the lesson.

“I teach te reo Māori at Ashburton Borough School and people are always asking me about adult te reo courses in Ashburton, so I knew there was a hunger for this type of learning.”

She said the Tūwhana app helped people learn to pronounce Māori words correctly, and contributed to the success of the course.

The te reo Māori learners themselves said the course made them more confident about using and understanding Māori greetings, and found the learning environment fun, engaging and supportive.

Keep Learning Mid Canterbury is planning another course starting on 8 June. It will be run on five consecutive Wednesdays from 11am to 12pm and people can register at <https://bit.ly/tereojune>

Features of the Tūwhana app include waiata, how to prepare for a visit to a marae, and pronunciation tips; it uses the southern Kāi Tahu dialect of te reo Māori, recognisable by the use of the distinct “k” sound instead of the more commonly heard “ng” sound.

You can search for the app at both Android and Apple stores. It is free.

Links are also available from the online story, at ashburtondc.govt.nz.

Neil Brown, Mayor

Sadly, war is not confined to the past

Anzac Day provided a sobering reminder about the enduring impact of war and conflict, and it was humbling that hundreds of people around our district attended services to pay their respects to the men and women who have served to defend New Zealand.

We honoured the ultimate sacrifice of our district's citizens, who are immortalised on 520 white crosses, and we hope that our own sons and daughters will never know the first-hand horrors of war.

Our courageous service personnel have served in times of war and peace, and left our shores with no guarantee of a safe return. Sadly, we only have to see what is happening in Ukraine to know that war is not confined to the past.

I was proud to see many people returning in person to Anzac Day services, and others who honoured the spirit of the day with poppies and flags

on their front fences.

Another sombre note this week was the release of the coroner's report regarding the tragic collision at the intersection of Hepburns and Mitcham Roads three years ago that claimed three lives. We know this report will bring that sad event back into focus for the family, and our thoughts are with them through this tough time.

We welcome any recommendation that will help keep people safe on our roads, rural or urban. The give way sign at this particular intersection was changed to a stop sign following the incident, and additional warning signage installed. We're now reviewing other similar intersections across the district.

It's also a reminder to those of us who travel along rural roads, that while many of our intersections are not busy places, we must always be vigilant and approach them with caution.

At Council, the business of consulting on our Annual Plan continues, with submissions accepted up until 5pm on



Friday 6 May.

We are asking for your feedback on work we plan to do in the next financial year and at the start of this week, more than 30 people had made submissions. All the details about what Council is planning, and what other people have said so far, is available at itsourplace.nz.

Specifically we are asking if you want a reduction in the levels of some Council services, to reduce a planned 9.4 per cent rate rise, and if we should be using \$1.7 million of forestry reserves on more roading repairs.

Have your
Say!

**2022-23
DRAFT
ANNUAL
PLAN**



TOPIC ONE

Should we review our day-to-day levels of service?

TOPIC TWO

Should we use \$1.7m from our forestry reserve to pay for major roading repairs?

**Details, submissions
at itsourplace.nz**

Creating spaces for our active community

The Council is asking for feedback on a draft Play, Active Recreation and Sport strategy that will help ensure people have access to the activities and places they need to be happy and healthy.

Community Services Group Manager Steve Fabish said being active – through play, sport and all sorts of active recreation – fostered connections within the community and had many positive spin-offs.

“When we do these things, we interact with other people in our community and with our environment, so Council needs to support the sector and help keep people active, no matter their age.

“We’ve already talked with local sports clubs, teams and organisations about their key issues and priorities which has helped us to draft the new strategy. Now we want people in the wider community to take a look and tell us what they think.”

The previous strategy focused on the



development of the EA Networks Centre, which opened in 2015. Mr Fabish said it was now time for a new plan with a community focus.

“We now have the facility and spaces to support physical recreation, but we need to use those spaces to their full potential and encourage high levels of active participation into the future.”

The vision of the draft Play, Active Recreation and Sport strategy is “everybody included, having fun, being active” and goals include removing participation barriers and encouraging the

whole whānau to be involved.

Mr Fabish said four key challenges had emerged from discussions with local groups and organisations.

“They told us that Covid-19 had changed people’s routines and habits, and reduced active participation.

“They also said it was important to maintain opportunities for older people to keep active and socially connected, that digital technology was increasing the sedentary lives of young people and that the cost to participate was a key barrier for organised sport.”

The Play, Active Recreation and Sport consultation document can be viewed online at ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay.

Copies will be distributed to sports and active recreation groups and can also be requested by contacting Council on 03 307 7700 or submissions@adc.govt.nz.

Submissions will be accepted until 5pm, Sunday 22 May, 2022.

Reset for Ashburton Glow in the Park

Save the dates: Ashburton Glow in the Park has been rescheduled to 22, 23 and 24 July.

There’s also been a change of venue - the three-night light show will now be held at the Tinwald Domain, including The Plains Vintage Railway & Historical Museum area.

Community Services Group Manager Steve Fabish said the special effects light show is looking to double in size, compared to the original event planned last August, but postponed by Covid-19.

“We are assisting EA Networks to run this event, to celebrate their 100 years of serving the community as an electricity co-operative, but are hoping to make it bigger and better than the original plan

and we think people will be keen to join in, given all that has happened in the past 12 months.

“The Plains Vintage Railway & Historical Museum offers great old buildings that will be lit up in interesting ways, and the domain and lake provide plenty of natural settings for some of the lighting installations.”

Mr Fabish said the event was being held as a walk-through, though it could be modified to operate as a drive-through if more restrictive Covid-19 protection measures were imposed.

“As well as creating a trail of light features, we are working on a podcast or audio giving people a guided history tour of the Plains area.”

The special lighting effects will be provided by Spectrum Lighting and information panels will also tell EA Networks’ story, from its beginnings as the Ashburton Electric Power Board to the present day as a provider of electricity lines and fibre-optic cables for internet.

Food trucks will also be onsite.

Mr Fabish said that the event was timed to coincide with the last weekend of the July school holidays and with a start time of 6pm, it will be dark enough for the lights to be at their best but not too late for young children to be out and about.

“We will be releasing more details of this free event soon, and we hope people will save the dates.”

Clearing Camp of wilding pines



Around 35 volunteers converged at Lake Camp on Saturday to help eradicate wilding pines and rowans. Both tree species compete with natives and removing them from the landscape gets rid of the seed source.

Over 1000 weeds were pulled and while the event was a boost for Council’s

biodiversity and pest management programme, it also fostered collaboration and social networking among community members and council staff.

Volunteers included members of Forest and Bird, the biodiversity working group, Lake Camp Hutholders Association, plus Council staff and their families.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

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)

PUBLIC NOTICES

HEARING FOR RESOURCE CONSENT

Application number: LUC21/0103

Applicant: AK Tech Services Limited

Address: Acton Road, Rakaia

Legal Description: LOT 5 DP 456684

Description of the proposal:

Land use consent at Acton Road, Rakaia to address the non-compliances associated with construction of agricultural workshop and storage for farm implements and machinery, zoned Rural A.

Hearing details:

- **Date:** Thursday, 12 May 2022
- **Time:** 10am
- **Location:** Ashburton District Council Chambers, Havelock Street, Ashburton

Notification: The application was limited notified on 26 October 2021, and submissions have closed.

For further information, please contact ADC at 03 307 7700 and speak to Nicholas Law (planning@adc.govt.nz) from the Planning team.

IAN HYDE
Planning Manager

ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of road closures for the purpose of allowing the Ashburton Car Club to hold “**Wheels Week Street Sprints**” (with the exception of emergency vehicles) for the period indicated hereunder.

Roads to be closed:

- **SMALLBONE DRIVE**, from RIVER TERRACE to ROBINSON STREET
- **ROBINSON STREET**, from SMALLBONE DRIVE INTERSECTION to MCNALLY STREET
- **WATSON STREET**, from RANGE STREET to ROBINSON STREET
- **MCNALLY STREET**, from RANGE STREET to the end of the street
- **RANGE STREET**, from ROBINSON STREET to WATSON STREET

RANGE STREET: From 6.00pm, Friday 6 May 2022 until 6.00am, Sunday 8 May 2022

Period of Closure: From 7.30pm, Friday 06 May 2022 until 8.00pm on Sunday 08 May 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

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

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.