

## New Fairton rail hub on track for joint success

The first dirt has been turned in a project that will bring big changes to the way goods and produce are moved out of the Ashburton District to market.

Rail will be doing the heavy lifting, taking containers from a new hub at Fairton to ports and other destinations.

The new rail hub is a joint effort between local and central government, and state and private enterprise, and spearheaded by Fairfield Freight Hub (part of the Wareing Group); it will cost about \$14 million.

Ashburton District Council has given \$2.33 million as its share of the project and agreed to loan another \$3m; Government has given \$2m.

Mayor Neil Brown said relocating the rail hub to Fairton would see the end of trains stopping in the town's CBD and blocking crossings while wagons were shunted into place.

The mayor had the honour of turning the first spadeful of dirt last week at the new site, which is near the old Fairton freezing works, now owned by Talley's.

"I've waited for this day for four years, from



Breaking ground at the site of the new Fairton rail hub were (from left) Mark Wareing, Alan Piper from KiwiRail and Ashburton Mayor Neil Brown.

the first phone call asking for assistance to get the yard moved," he said.

It was Mark Wareing who phoned him to outline plans for a collaborative venture that would have wins for the whole district.

"Mark had a vision to get trucks off the highway and more containers onto rail. The concept ticked so many boxes ...

trucks off roads, the shunting yard out of the CBD, and reducing carbon emissions.

"It will also complement Council's north-east business park, which is just over the road, and give those businesses there an option of using rail as it will be on their doorstep."

The mayor said the group then enlisted

the help of Rangitata MP Jo Luxton to bring the Ministry of Transport on board.

Fairfield Freight currently operates the rail hub in Ashburton and container movements have grown from 2000 a year to 6000 a year. The target is 20,000 a year from the new location.

KiwiRail Executive General Manager Sales and Commercial Alan Piper said those containers would carry produce from farms and businesses to the port in a more efficient way, for all the district's farms and businesses.

Rail would be doing the heavy lifting after trucks brought the containers to the terminal.

"This is an outstanding example of central government, local government and private and state enterprises working through a problem and it is really great. It is really the future of how we can add value to our community."

It would be similar to the rail siding built at Synlait.

Mr Wareing said it would be great for the local economy and the district would soon be able to compete with Rolleston's business park.

## Full steam ahead for our roading rehabilitation teams

Roading contractors are wrapping up the reconstruction of a 2.3km section of Arundel Rakaia Gorge Road between Mount Somers and Staveley, with three other roading projects also due to be completed before Christmas.



Infrastructure Services Group Manager Neil McCann said: "That project has pretty much run to schedule and we also have HEB working on another section of Arundel Rakaia Gorge Road south of Mayfield. There remains about 1.6km

to reconstruct and seal there, and that should be completed in the week before Christmas."

Work began recently on another section near Pudding Hill which should be finished mid-December.

ACL has also just started reconstruction of a section of Ashburton Staveley Road, east of Ashburton Forks and that should be finished around the first week of December.

"All sites were programmed to be completed before the Christmas holidays and we're pleased to say we are currently on track to meet this deadline. This means that a number of our most potholed sections of road will be fixed in time for the Christmas holidays, when traffic volumes increase significantly," Mr McCann said.

"When you add it all up, a total of 6.7km of road will be done before Christmas, at a cost of around \$1.9 million."

### Neil Brown - Mayor

## Managing progress is delicate business

Good things take time – I remind myself of that line from the cheese advert from time to time.

These past seven days though have seen big moves on some projects that Council is involved with and this has been cause for celebration.

The Walnut Avenue traffic lights were switched on last Friday and brought an end to a construction job spanning a bit over a year on one of our busiest roads, that intersects with State Highway 1. The toots of support from vehicles passing by the official celebration were music to the ears of Waka Kotahi, KiwiRail and the contractors who have worked hard to get the job done.

It did create considerable inconvenience to locals, but that is over now and lessons learned from the project will no doubt be applied to Waka Kotahi's next road safety project in the Tinwald corridor, where more traffic lights are planned at the intersection of SH1/ Agnes Street/Lagmhor Road.

Also last week, another important project began – the relocation of the rail container terminal from the middle of Ashburton to the old Fairton freezing works, where an existing rail siding will be re-engineered.

That project is another that has taken many meetings to bring to fruition, and it will pay dividends for the district.

This past month my calendar has been

full of meetings with people planning work that will add value to our district, and I've represented Council at many events that highlight the positive vibe and potential of our people.

We are indeed the district of choice for lifestyle and opportunity ... but that can only happen on a solid platform of infrastructure, like roads and water and sewer pipes.

So while we still have some major projects ahead in the next few years that will change the face of Ashburton (I'm thinking the second bridge), it's just as important to keep the platform of infrastructure well maintained.

You will have seen our roading contractors working at many sites

around the district now the season for roading repairs has arrived, and around Ashburton we have some contractors working on an extension of the wastewater network at Allenton and others are about to renew wastewater pipes on William Street.

All this platform work has to be done in a way that still allows people to go about their lives and business as usual, so it is a fine balance keeping disruption to the minimum and everyone happy with progress.

You can find details about our forward works programme and special projects on our website [ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz)





# New sewer mains for William St

A \$270,000 project to renew wastewater pipes on two blocks of William Street is about to begin.

Old underground pipes between Burnett and Cameron Streets are being replaced with larger ones to handle increased volumes of wastewater.

Infrastructure Services Group Manager Neil McCann said council had a regular planned programme of wastewater pipe renewals to ensure its infrastructure worked as it should.

“This work on William Street is part of our ongoing work to improve and maintain our wastewater system, for the health and safety of the community and the environment.

“Pipes fail due to age or condition, and we aim to replace them before that happens.”

The work involves traffic management and temporary road closures in and around Williams Street where it intersects with Burnett, Havelock and Cameron Streets.



People who live in the area will be notified and the contractor, ACL, will work with them to allow access in and out of their properties.

Mr McCann said the first stage of the project would involve William Street, between Burnett and Havelock Street.

“We will have signs out alerting pedestrians and road users to the fact that stretch is closed, though residents will still have access. The second part of this first stage

involves the intersection of William and Burnett Street, which will be closed and detours put in place during construction.

“We thank everyone in advance for their patience while we undertake this important maintenance work.”

The first stage of the project should be finished before Christmas, with the second stage from Havelock to Cameron Street to be done in January.

## Elves busy preparing for nights of Christmas fun

The choir is practising its festive songs and the dancers are limbering up for our Nights of Lights festival which gets under way in a week!

Light up the Night kicks the festival off on Friday 2 December and East Street will be closed to traffic so people can enjoy some Christmas entertainment then gather to watch the giant Christmas tree be officially lit when darkness falls.

Bring a blanket and deck chair, so you can see all the action in comfort.

We have food trucks lined up, plus three separate areas for kids to have fun - the library will be running craft activities and the sporty crew from EA Networks Centre will also have games to share along the green.

On the entertainment front, the Samoan Christian Congregational Church will have its Ashburton choir on stage, along with performers from the Life Dance Academy.

The elves are working through final details of a festive walk that will include some spectacular lighting displays.

We can now also reveal that the film to be screened on Saturday 17 December for the Christmas movie night will be Home Alone, the original version first released in 1990.

The first film in the Home Alone franchise, the film stars Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern, and is rated PG. Culkin plays Kevin McCallister, a boy who defends his suburban Chicago home from burglars after his family accidentally leaves him behind on their Christmas vacation to Paris.

Community Services Group Manager Steve Fabish said the Christmas comedy was a fun family movie that had remained



popular over the years.

“We’ll be screening the movie outdoors at the Ashburton Domain, in the picnic area off Elizabeth Street, so watch out for more details the closer we get.

“We think our community is well and truly ready to come out and enjoy themselves and our team of elves has been working hard to ensure it is a great night.”

The movie is free but movie-goers will be encouraged to bring along an item of food for a collection for the community foodbank.

“We appreciate Christmas can be a tough time for some, so the team from Hokonui will be there to accept your food donations and pass them on.”

The Nights of Lights festival also includes buskers, who will be in the CBD on Friday 23 December and Saturday 24 December between 10am and 2pm.



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### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST TO LEASE LAND

The Ashburton District Council seeks expressions of interest to lease some, or all, of land described below;

- 15-35 Bryant Street, Tinwald**  
Area: Approximately 1 hectare
- 20 Bryant Street, Tinwald**  
Area: Approximately 1.3 hectares

Both sites contain a number of sheds, as well as yard space. A lease of up to 2.5 years will be offered to the successful tenderer/s.

Interested parties are welcome to contact Council officers to arrange an inspection of the land and buildings prior to lodging a tender.

Interested parties may express their interest by completing the appropriate tender documentation which may be obtained from **Council’s Commercial Property Team** at 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, by phoning Council on 03 307 7700 or by e-mailing [commercial@adc.govt.nz](mailto:commercial@adc.govt.nz).

Tenders are to be enclosed in an envelope labelled “**Bryant Street Lease Tender**” and are to be either delivered or posted to reach Council by **closing time of 4pm, Friday 18 November 2022**. Address for tenders: Bryant Street Lease Tender, The Chief Executive Officer, Ashburton District Council, PO BOX 94, Ashburton 7700.

The highest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.  
**Officer for enquiries – Michelle Hydes, Property Advisor: 027 573 0265**



**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, late night Wed to 7pm