

Beehive bridge meeting ends on positive note



Ashburton Mayor Neil Brown

Ashburton Mayor Neil Brown says a meeting with Transport Minister Michael Wood at the Beehive this week has left him feeling optimistic that funding for the town's second bridge can be found, despite pressure on the national land transport programme following Cyclone Gabrielle.

"It was a good, positive meeting and the minister is well aware of our plans for the second bridge and the detailed business case that has already been prepared. He also understands that it's important to the resilience of not only

Ashburton, but the whole of the South Island.

"There will be an ongoing conversation now about how the bridge can reasonably be funded, and we'll all be exploring options or innovative ways to make that happen."

Mayor Brown said the warning bell had been sounded loudly when major flooding in the Ashburton River in July 2021 damaged the State Highway 1 bridge and forced it to close. The town was cut in half and the main freight route south was severed.

"A second bridge is a priority for us and Tuesday's meeting with the minister

confirms that Government is positively engaged in the conversation too and thinking about how it could be funded.

"He made it clear though that the national land transport fund would not likely have enough money to fund all the needs across New Zealand, especially after Cyclone Gabrielle caused such significant damage to bridges and roads in the North Island.

"All parties, including Waka Kotahi, are now exploring funding options that could make our bridge happen."

The detailed business case put the cost of the second urban bridge and supporting roads at \$113.6 million.

Sharing science to be quake-ready

The award-winning AF8 (Alpine Fault magnitude 8) roadshow is returning to Ashburton, with a public presentation on 9 May, followed by a workshop with Ashburton College students on 10 May.

The AF8 Roadshow: The Science Beneath Our Feet shares Alpine Fault hazard science with communities to improve understanding of the risk and encourage conversations on how to be better prepared.

AF8 programme manager Alice Lake-Hammond said the roadshow played a critical role in raising awareness and preparing for the next large Alpine Fault quake.

"By sharing the science with communities in a context that is relevant to them we can support informed decision-making at a local level. It's about understanding how our landscape moves, so we can be better prepared to move with it."

The Alpine Fault has a remarkably regular history of producing large earthquakes. On average it's estimated to rupture around every 300 years, with the last significant quake occurring in 1717. Research indicates there is a 75 per cent chance that an Alpine Fault earthquake will happen in the next 50 years, with a four out of five chance that it will be a magnitude 8+ event.

Ashburton District Council's Compliance and Development Group Manager, Jane Donaldson, said the Alpine Fault was one of the largest natural hazards facing Mid Canterbury, but the message for residents was to be prepared rather than frightened.

"We know that a major earthquake along the Alpine Fault will create difficulties across the whole district. Our towns and communities would likely lose power and communications, and some roads would



AF8 programme manager Alice Lake-Hammond presents a roadshow school session.

be unpassable.

"However, the more we know about the possible impacts of the Alpine Fault, the more prepared we'll be and the better we can get through it as a community."

Toka Tū Ake EQC Chief Resilience & Research Officer Dr Jo Horrocks said that recent weather events had shown how important it was to be prepared for natural hazards.

"Cyclone Gabrielle and other recent storms have shown how much our lives can be turned upside down by natural hazards. A significant event on the Alpine Fault has the potential to impact the entire South Island and beyond, so it's so important that we're well-informed and doing all we can to build our resilience now."

Associate Professor Caroline Orchiston, the AF8 Science-lead, said while scientists

couldn't predict when earthquakes will occur, research had shown that the Alpine Fault had a history of generating regular, large earthquakes.

"The next major Alpine Fault event is likely to occur within our lifetime, and we must take steps now to prepare."

The roadshow is sponsored by Toka Tū Ake EQC, with events hosted by the six South Island Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups and supported by world-leading earthquake research and science experts. The AF8 Roadshow will stop at 22 South Island towns over April and May, and last visited the Ashburton District in 2021, with a public talk in Methven.

The free AF8 public science talk be held on Tuesday 9 May from 7pm in the Ashburton College Auditorium. View the Facebook event for more details.

Tinwald traffic lights tender out

Ashburton District Councillors will sit down with Waka Kotahi on 4 April to see the final design of new traffic lights at the intersection of State Highway 1, Lagmhor Road and Agnes Street, at Tinwald.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has called for tenders to do the work, which is part of the New Zealand Upgrade Programme. The Tinwald corridor improvement project includes traffic lights, a new rail level crossing and improved pedestrian and cycling facilities.

Chief Executive Hamish Riach said Waka Kotahi would present the final design, an explanation of the background to the project and a description of the key elements.

"This meeting is about sharing information about the project, not about Council endorsement or consultation. It will be a chance to understand the final design and answer questions."

The lights should make it safer to access SH1 from side streets and construction is expected to begin mid-2023.

Traffic from the Lake Hood area will be encouraged to use McMurdo Street and the traffic signals at Agnes Street as the safest route for turning right onto the highway. Agnes and Thomson Street will be promoted as the safest route to Tinwald Primary School.

The current northbound highway cycle lane will be removed and the centre flush median widened to make right turns from local streets easier and safer.

To subscribe for updates about the project, or to see more information, see Waka Kotahi's webpage.

Dry feet for dog walkers

The Ashburton Dog Park was back open for business this week after contractors laid new shingle paths in the small dog and all dog areas.

Contractors also laid the groundwork for new agility equipment, which will be installed later in the year.

The dog park has undergone a major transformation since it was devastated by floodwaters in July 2021. A new carpark and entrance has been created at the back of Kmart, off Cass Street, and the park has been fenced into areas for small dogs and all dogs.

A drinking fountain has been installed at



the entrance, where you can also find poo bags.

The new paths mean people walking their pets in wet weather or when the grass is dewy will be able to keep their feet dry while their dogs enjoy the freedom.

Asphalt drive for cemetery

People visiting the Ashburton Cemetery won't have access to the main shingle driveway in the new lawn section while contractors lay a new asphalt surface.

Smaller driveways on either side of the main drive, and cross roads, will still be open for vehicles though.

The work begins this week and the new asphalt drive will run from Bremners Road down and around the RSA flagpole, and then link up with the asphalt driveway in the recently developed Seafield Road cemetery extension.

The job is expected to take about a month.

Council is also in the process of sourcing a



computer to be located in the Ashburton Cemetery historic sexton's office.

During business hours, this will allow members of the public access to the cemetery database to locate plot and block details of those interred, in all Council operated cemeteries.

Property diligence pays off

If you are looking to buy a property, or a bare section, it's strongly recommended that you thoroughly investigate the property and make sure you are aware of any risks that you are taking on.

Compliance and Development Group Manager Jane Donaldson said it was still apparent that many people were skipping some important steps in due diligence when purchasing properties.

Council staff have observed that increased demand, including the rising cost of building and finance, had encouraged some to start building before titles are issued. However purchasers need to consider that there are things which may not be apparent from a high level review of a section in a new subdivision and there might be changes from the initial plan to when engineering designs for services like wastewater and drinking water are finalised.

"In most cases this is not a problem, but sometimes things need to change from the concept plan presented by the developer at resource consent stage. It may be that a geotechnical report identifies a soil issue, or a pipe needs to be laid in a different direction and an easement through your section is required.



"Final services designs are about protecting the town's entire infrastructure networks on behalf of ratepayers. If an issue arises, we do our best to help, but section owners need to be aware that this is a risk and that they should do their own due diligence."

Council staff met with local lawyers and real estate agents recently to talk about property issues, including the number of section buyers that had begun building work before land titles had been issued.

Ms Donaldson said getting a Land Information Memorandum (LIM) was strongly recommended when making a purchase and this view was supported by the legal profession.

Find out more about LIMs and property information at our website ashburtondc.govt.nz

ROAD WORKS NOTICES

Barford Road - current to 14 April. Barford Road from Tinwald Westerfield Mayfield Road to Timaru Track is closed for road surface upgrade and widening. Detour available.

Mayfield Valetta Road - current to 6 April. Mayfield Valetta Road between Tinwald Westerfield Mayfield Road and Anama Valetta Road is temporarily closed during the day for rehabilitation. Resident access remains, detour available.

Holmes Road - current to 21 April. Holmes Road between Mt Hutt Station Road and Barkers Road is closed for a full road reconstruction and drainage installation. Detour options available.

Thompsons Track - current to 28 April. Thompsons Track, between Methven Highway and Ashburton River Road, is closed for rehabilitation work. Detours are available; resident access remains.

Allens Road - Sections of Allens Road between Middle Road and Harrison Street may be closed over the next few weeks for watermain renewal. Detours are available.

Forks Road - current to 6 April. Forks Road between Ashburton Staveley Road and Arundel Rakaia Gorge Road, is closed for roading upgrades. Detours are available.

Railway Terrace East, Rakaia - current to 26 May. Railway Terrace East from Rolleston Street to Bridge Street SH1 will be closed while Waka Kotahi contractors work on a weigh bridge project.

View a map of all current and upcoming road closures in the district by going to our website ashburtondc.govt.nz

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a proposal to temporarily close roads to ordinary vehicle traffic to enable the holding of a community event - **Ashburton Car Club's Street Sprint Meeting**.

Road proposed to be closed:

- **Smallbone Drive - Robinson Street - Range Street - McNally Street**

Periods of Closure:

From Friday 12 May 7pm to Sunday 14 May 8pm 2023.

This proposed closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 - Schedule 10 (11 (e) and will be considered at the next COUNCIL MEETING on **3 May 2023**.

Any person objecting to the proposal should lodge a notice of their objection and grounds for their objection in writing by post or email to the Council, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton by 4pm, **Friday 14 April 2023**.

NEIL McCANN

Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held in the Council Chambers, 137 Havelock Street

Ashburton Youth Council - Tuesday 4 April, 5.30pm

Council Meeting - Wednesday 5 April, 1pm (live-streamed)

Council Meeting - Wednesday 19 April, 1pm (live-streamed)

SAVE THE DATE!

2 - 4 June

King's Birthday Weekend
Tinwald Domain

ASHBURTON GLOW

in the park

This popular free family event is returning bigger and brighter!

Don't miss the chance to experience Tinwald Domain and the Plains Vintage Railway & Historical Museum under the colourful glow of breathtaking lighting displays.

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 9am - 8pm
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