

Bring the popcorn, it's movie time

We've placed an order for sunshine on Saturday, when the Ashburton Domain will host an outdoor movie to help celebrate its 160th birthday.

The Disney Pixar movie Inside Out will be on the big screen at the grassed area near the paddling pool on the corner of Walnut Avenue and West Street/SH1.

The evening of entertainment will start from 5pm with the opening of the food court. Live pre-show entertainment will begin at 5.30pm and include a special quiz for the kids that will test their knowledge of the domain, with a green-thumb hamper for the winner.

The movie will start at 6.30pm and it's one that will appeal to both adults and children. People are encouraged to bring a picnic blanket or fold-up chair with them, and while the forecast is for fine weather, a warm coat would be a good idea in case the evening gets chilly.

Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan said the domain was truly a gem in the town's crown, and loved by the community and all those who visited it regularly for sport or a nature fix.

"If you want to know a little about the domain's past, to prepare for the pre-movie quiz, I suggest people find some of



the special sound points that have been installed around the domain recently and listen to stories about its past."

There are five sound points that people can access by using their phone to scan QR codes; they will be able to listen to three-minute stories that include ice skating carnivals, giant grazing cattlebeasts, sporting occasions and trees planted to commemorate special people.

Open Spaces Manager Ian Soper said the domain had packed a lot into its 160 years.

"It was once known as the Grange and described as a bit of a wilderness, but

over the years it has been developed and improved to the place we know and love today. It is an important place for the local community and visitors, and the Open Spaces team takes a lot of pride in managing it for the enjoyment of future generations."

New points of interest include a conifer collection, a new herb garden and the expansion of the butterfly and wildflower garden. The butterfly garden was the domain's aviary until 2021, when the birds were relocated and the area repaved and replanted to encourage butterflies and other biodiversity.

\$2.75m water upgrades in pipeline

The second package of work in a \$10 million upgrade of the district's drinking water treatment plants has been awarded to Ashburton Contracting Limited.

This package involves upgrades of plants on the Rakaia, Chertsey and Ashburton supplies and the tender price accepted was \$2,750,775, plus GST.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Manager

Neil McCann said the work involved constructing three new buildings and installing UV disinfection equipment and associated instrumentation at Rakaia, Chertsey and Tinwald.

"We need to confirm the programme of works with ACL, but it's likely we'll get under way at Tinwald during December, followed by Rakaia and Chertsey in the new year."

A third package of work is planned at other

water treatment plants.

Mr McCann said the upgrades were necessary to meet Council's obligations under the Water Services Act 2021, and to comply with various parts of the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules.

"The Rakaia and Tinwald water treatment plants will have new buildings that will house UV disinfection equipment, while a whole new water treatment plant is being built at Chertsey."

SHORT AND SWEET

FIRE STATION

One lane of Burnett Street, outside the Ashburton Fire Station, will be temporarily blocked on Saturday for a celebration to mark 150 years of the Ashburton Volunteer Fire Brigade. Please watch for more pedestrians than usual if you are travelling through the area.

RALLY STOP-OFF

The Mayfield Domain is the place to be around lunchtime on Monday 25 November. Participants in the Silver Fern Rally will be stopping off to eat lunch and service their vehicles during the rally, which moves from Greymouth to Timaru on Monday and includes a series of gravel sprints in South Canterbury.



NEW FREQUENCY

From Thursday 28 November, Ashburton Airport will adopt the new Ashburton Common Frequency Zone (CFZ) 119.4 MHz, enabling pilots to use a single VHF frequency when operating in our zone. From the effective date, 119.1 MHz will no longer be used as the frequency for the aerodrome.

Mayor Neil Brown

Thanks for your service, firefighters

It will be my pleasure this weekend to represent our district at the Ashburton Volunteer Fire Brigade's 150th celebrations.

Our volunteer firefighters are a special breed, and a skilled force that we rely on more than 400 times a year - to respond not just to fires, but also to vehicle crashes and medical events and other types of emergencies.

These firefighters are supported by their families and by their employers, who graciously give them time off family duties and work to respond when the alarm goes off.

They also deserve the respect and support of our community for keeping us safe, and so I thank them for their outstanding service and hope they can enjoy the weekend's celebrations without the siren going off.

Council business this week involves work on the home front, and in Wellington.

Wednesday's full council meeting will be preceded by a visit to EA Networks Centre, where councillors will informally discuss the longterm vision for the sports centre, and be updated on work to install a mini golf course at the centre.

After this week's Council meeting, there will be just two more full meetings before the end of the year, plus the inaugural meeting of Council's new Three Waters Committee.

This committee will oversee the district's three waters services and infrastructure in a way that promotes the current and future interest of the community, and its key job will be considering and reviewing matters of compliance, the work programme, service delivery and forward planning.

I will be joined by CE Hamish Riach and deputy mayor Liz McMillan on my trip to

Wellington later in the week, where we will be attending the combined Provincial and Rural sector group meeting of Local Government.

This is a chance for us to network and share information with other councils whose communities hold similar demographics and priorities. Local government is faced with enormous challenges and opportunities right now, so gathering information to inform our own decisions is vital.



Slice of '70s freed from capsule

A commemorative coin from the 1974 Commonwealth Games and a letter from former mayor D’Arcy Digby were among items found in a time capsule retrieved from the former Council headquarters on Baring Square West recently.

The time capsule was located behind a plaque marking the laying of the foundation stone for the building in 1972. The building, built for the Ashburton Borough Council, was opened in 1974 and became home for the district council when the borough and Ashburton County councils amalgamated in 1989.

Chief Executive Hamish Riach said the time capsule was opened carefully last week by Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum archivist Connor Lysaght.

“Connor invited deputy mayor Liz McMillan and myself to be present at the opening, which was a really interesting exercise.

“The time capsule was actually a sealed PVC pipe, which was cut open very carefully and inside were four items, including the Commonwealth Games coin and a beautifully-worded letter from D’Arcy Digby, who was mayor at the time.”

Also in the capsule was a page from the Ashburton Guardian, which had stories covering the laying of the building’s foundation stone and other Council news. There was also a visitor promotion



Chief Executive Hamish Riach and deputy mayor Liz McMillan check out the 50-year-old contents of the time capsule retrieved from the former district council building.

pamphlet, with a front page photo of people fishing on the banks of what is thought to be the Rakaia River.

Mr Riach said the items were well preserved, though there was some minor deterioration of the letter and some of the pages of the pamphlet were stuck together.

“The newspaper page was also fragile and the coin showed some signs of corrosion, but all in all, in fairly good order given 50 years has passed.”

Mr Riach said the items would be displayed at Te Whare Whakatare, Council’s new library and administration building on Baring Square East.

A new time capsule has recently been sealed and installed in the new building, with instructions to be opened in 2078.

“I hope people of the district will be just as excited to open the new one, in time, and see a slice of how we lived in 2024.”

The former administration building is in the process of being sold.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are at Hine Paaka (Council Chamber), 2 Baring Square East, unless specified. Meeting agendas are online at ashburtondc.govt.nz

Tuesday 26 November, **Ashburton Water Zone Committee**, 1pm

Wednesday 27 November, **Council Activity Briefing** (livestreamed), 9.30am

Wednesday 27 November, **Council Audit and Risk Meeting**, 1pm (livestreamed)

Monday 2 December, **Methven Community Board**, 9am, Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Tuesday 3 December, **Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee**, 9.30am, Wakanui Room

Wednesday 4 December, **Council Meeting**, (livestreamed), 1pm

Thursday 5 December, **Three Waters Committee**, (livestreamed), 1.30pm

Wednesday 18 December, **Council Meeting**, (livestreamed), 1pm

WORKS NOTICES

Gardiners Road - Closed between Pendarves Rakaia Road and Kyle Road until 30 November, for roading repairs. Detours in place.

Beach Road East - Closed between Trevors Road and Nicholls Road until 13 December, for road repairs. Detours in place.

[NZ Transport Agency work](#)

SH1/West Street - The south-bound lane of East Street, from Bremners Road to West Street, will be closed on 27 November (no access from East Street to SH1/West Street), while contractors install service connections to a residential property opposite the intersection on West Street.

SH1/Longbeach Road corner - Traffic management will be in place until 20 December while a right-hand turning bay and street lights are installed.

SH1 near Dromore - Night works planned 24-29 November. Stop/Go traffic management will be in place between 7pm-9am, with delays of up to 10 minutes expected.

Full details of local road closures are on our website.

BIN IT RIGHT

Too much rubbish for your red bin? If your red bin is not meeting your needs, we can offer additional wheelie bins.

These additional bins are charged to the user, rather than through rates, and are extra to the bins and crate already provided. They are available in three sizes - 80 litre, 120 litre and 240 litre.

Surplus rubbish (including cold ashes) and recycling can also be taken to the Ashburton Resource Recovery Park, which is open seven days a week. Charges for rubbish will apply.

Not sure? More info is on our website.

So what do ya reckon, Methven?

Methven residents are being asked to share their ideas for the area’s future as the Methven Community Board begins work on a new community strategic plan for the township.

Board chair Kelvin Holmes said previous plans had been a resounding success and led to improvements such as the

redevelopment of Main Street and beautification of the town centre.

“However, our last plan is now around a decade old and it’s time to take a fresh look at what we want to achieve as a community over the coming 10 years. There’s plenty of untapped potential here in Methven, and this is a community-led plan that will be developed by Methven, for Methven, so it’s really important

that we hear from those who live and work here about what they see as our opportunities and challenges.”

The community board is holding two community workshops, on Thursday 28 November and Sunday 1 December, and seeking people’s feedback through a short survey. Feedback closes 22 December.

For more information about Methven’s strategic plan, go to itsourplace.nz

160
YEARS

Celebrating 160 Years
of the Ashburton Domain

FREE
EVENT

Family
MOVIE
Night

THIS SATURDAY

Ashburton Domain
(next to paddling pool)

Disney PIXAR
INSIDE
OUT

Proudly supported by
ASHBURTON
Guardian

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)