

## New compactor in crushing form

A new rubbish compactor is being installed at the Ashburton Resource Recovery Park this week.

The new \$350,000 compactor, made in Dunedin, will crush solid waste from the pit face and push it into containers to be transported to the regional landfill at Kate Valley.

Group Manager of Infrastructure and Open Spaces Neil McCann said the old compactor was 23 years old and in its twilight years, after a faithful and hard-working tour of duty.

“Compacting is an all-day, every-day activity at the resource recovery park and the old one should have been replaced after 15 years, given the workload. We’ve been keeping it going with maintenance and some specific repairs, but that is getting too expensive to continue.”

The new compactor has a more powerful hydraulic ram, which means more solid waste can be crushed for transport.

There are between 50-60 truck and trailer trips each month to Kate Valley, with a monthly volume of about 1200 tonnes. An average of four containers are filled a day.

Mr McCann said each trip cost about \$1400 in transport fees, and the new compactor would allow more solid waste to fit inside each container.

“So we’ll see fewer trips to Kate Valley,



Above: The new compactor being installed. Right: The old compactor after removal.

which will be a saving, and have a compactor that will not be regularly breaking down. Installing this new machine is quite a major event in the life of our resource recovery park and we’re looking forward to seeing it operating.”

The old compactor crushed its last load on Sunday, and it was then disconnected and removed.

The new compactor should be commissioned by Friday.



## New water pipe goes in ahead of SH1 project

The intersection of Kermode Street and SH1, and the intersection of Kermode and Dobson Street West are currently closed while Council contractors renew a watermain in the area.

The closures are expected to be lifted by 6pm on Friday 14 March. Businesses in the area are still open and detours are in place.

The 110-year-old watermain that runs

along SH1, in front of Mitre 10, is being replaced before NZ Transport Agency's major asphaltting project on the highway gets under way at the end of March.

Short sections of pipe that will be under the new road surface at either end of the new watermain were also being renewed.

Drivers and pedestrians may find temporary road restrictions and changes

in the area for the next two weeks and we thank everyone in advance for their patience.

NZTA's big asphaltting project will run from 30 March to 9 May, with crews working at nights from 8pm to 6am.

Detours and delays are expected - details are on our website under Latest News.

## CE Hamish Riach

# Walk through time and good service

I had my fingers crossed for good weather on Wednesday afternoon because members of the Heritage Mid Canterbury working group had planned a walking tour.

The group is a mix of Councillors, representatives of Historic Places, Ashburton Museum and Historical Society, the wider community and Council staff, and all have a passion for our district's heritage.

This week the walking tour was taking in some historic spots around Ashburton that are to be included in an official Town Walk, the details of which will

soon to be revealed to the public. Without giving away too much, there are two walks that will feature in two separate brochures.

The group always has interesting projects on the go and in the past couple of years, it has co-ordinated the time capsule for Te Whare Whakare and overseen the installation of interpretive panels along the East Street green.

A major project has been under way this week at the Ashburton Resource Recovery Park, with the installation of a new compactor. Impressively, the old compactor was installed in 2002 and has worked hard seven days a week

since then - it's been nursed along with some careful repairs in recent years, so overall not bad for a piece of equipment expected to last 15 years.

The new compactor is more powerful and can pack more solid waste into the transport pods, meaning fewer trips to Kate Valley with the solid waste we can't recycle, reuse or compost. Next time you are dropping waste over the pit face, look right and you will see the bright teal blue hopper and compacting gear.

The Methven Community Board's strategic plan has also reached a milestone stage, so if you are heading to the Methven A&P Show stop by

their tent to give some feedback.

Another major piece of work is the Annual Plan for 2025-26 and there will be a Council workshop on 21 March to enable Councillors to further progress the budget for the next financial year.

Council budgets are complicated documents that have to meet many legislative requirements, but Councillors have been firm about keeping rates as low as possible but still delivering the core services that residents want and expect.



## SHORT AND SWEET

### 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)

### METHVEN HOSING

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 another week. 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)



# See you at the Methven Show!

Feedback is now open on the draft Methven Community Strategic Plan and residents are being asked if they support the document's proposed vision for Methven's future.

Methven Community Board Chair Kelvin Holmes said the actions in the plan were based on the feedback and ideas that the community submitted during the "What do ya reckon, Methven?" campaign last year.

"We had over 80 responses to our survey, we held two community workshops and we also received ideas from students at local primary schools.

"From that feedback, we saw themes emerge, such as diversifying the range of outdoor activities that Methven offers, beautifying the town entrances, improving pedestrian accessibility in the town centre and planting more natives."

The draft plan contains 26 objectives, which range from investigating the possibility of kayaking on the RDR to developing a helipad for emergency medical transfers.

Previous plans had led to exciting improvements such as the skate park and redesign of the town centre.

Kelvin says members of the community board will be at the Methven A&P Show this Saturday to talk to visitors about the draft plan.



Methven Community Board members look over feedback from Methven school children to the board's strategic plan.

"We always value talking to people face-to-face, so if you're coming to the A&P show, please swing by our site and have a chat about the plan.

"We'll be displaying feedback we received, asking people which actions they're supportive of and it's also a good chance

to see if there's anything missing from the plan."

Feedback on the draft Methven Community Strategic Plan is open until Sunday 6 April.

Read the full draft and have your say online at [itsourplace](https://itsourplace.govt.nz).

## Why Wikipedia matters, especially now

**Why Wikipedia Matters: A special talk at the Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum, Sunday 16 March at 2pm**

Wikipedia, now over 20 years old, has been described both as one of the greatest human achievements and the last good thing remaining on the Internet.

How did a volunteer-written encyclopaedia, widely ridiculed when it was first launched, become such a crucial part of the world's store of knowledge?

At a special talk with Dr Mike Dickison, we'll explore how Wikipedia works, what happens behind the scenes, and what 250,000 amateur Wikipedians do to keep it alive and accurate.

We'll also look at the threat posed by AI-generated text, which has rapidly polluted the world's information ecosystem but so far has yet to make inroads into Wikipedia, and why



the world's richest man hates an online encyclopaedia so much.

Christchurch-based Dr Mike Dickison, a former museum curator and digital librarian, is the grant-funded 2025 Aotearoa Wikipedian at Large focussed on Banks Peninsula.

He has been working with Ashburton District Council to improve the coverage of the Ashburton area.

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

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

Friday 21 March, **Annual Plan Workshop**, 9.30am

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

Tuesday 2 April, **Council Meeting** (live-streamed), 1pm

Monday 14 April, **Methven Community Board**, 9am at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Wednesday 16 April, **Council Meeting** (live-streamed), 1pm

### WORKS NOTICES

**Seafield Road** - Closed between Morris Road and Ashburton Airport, until 12 April for road rehabilitation. Detour available.

**King and Alexander Streets, Chertsey** - Closed until 13 September while a new water treatment plant is built. The road closure will not impact Chertsey School access.

**Walnut Avenue** - Parts of Walnut Avenue near the Ashburton Intermediate School will be closed 24-26 March for tree maintenance.

**Works Road** - The Works Road railway crossing will be closed for maintenance 24-28 March.

**Kermode Street** - The intersection of Kermode Street and SH1, and the intersection of Kermode and Dobson Street West are closed until 14 March while water main renewal is under way.

### 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 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)