

New reservoir ready to boost storage

The filling of the first of Methven's new drinking water reservoirs this week marks a milestone in major work to upgrade the town's water supply.

About \$9.6 million will be spent boosting storage and building a new membrane treatment plant by the time both projects are finished next year.

Methven residents were asked to conserve water during the reservoir filling and commissioning process, but Infrastructure Services Group Manager Neil McCann said it would be the last of the conserve water notices connected with the upgrade work for a while.

"We've had to ask Methven residents several times in the past few months to use water conservatively and we thank them for their efforts. We expect this will be the last one until we commission the second new storage tank in February next year."

The two new storage tanks will replace Methven's old concrete reservoir. Once the first new tank is commissioned and tested, the old reservoir will be drained and structurally inspected to see if it can be safely used for additional storage in the future.

The contractor will now focus on constructing the second new steel and glass tank, with parts on their way from the United Kingdom.

The two new tanks will have a combined capacity of 1,140 cubic metres and help manage peak demand on Methven's drinking water scheme.

Conserve water notices over the past months have allowed contractors to lay underground pipes linking the existing



The first of Methven's two new drinking water reservoirs is being filled this week.

treatment plant and the future membrane plant, which will include improved pre-treatment and then filter the water to a much higher degree.

"The membrane plant is designed to provide effective treatment even under very poor weather conditions and should remove the need for boil water notices on the Methven scheme in the future," Mr McCann said.

"We are aiming for the new plant to be up and running by the middle of next year."

Commissioning the new tank this week will entail gradually filling it with water to test bolted joints and ensuring there are no leaks. The tank's metal framework, basement and foundation will also be monitored.

Water from the new reservoir will be incorporated into the reticulation system next month.

The newly-elected Methven Community Board will be visiting the work area in November to see progress on the upgrade.

Voting papers arrive in local letterboxes

Ashburton District residents have been receiving their voting papers in the post this week for the local elections, but if yours haven't arrived then it's still possible to have your say.

Those who have received their papers are encouraged to vote, pack and post their voting document back by 4 October. Simply drop your papers into a NZ Post post box or into special orange voting bins at the Ashburton Public Library, at the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall or at Council's Baring Square West offices.

If your papers don't arrive, are damaged or you forgot to enrol to vote, you may be able to cast a special vote.

You need to be on the electoral roll to request a special vote and you can do this by visiting vote.nz, or call 0800 36 76 56, or freetext your name and address to 3676.

You will need to cast your special vote at Council's offices. See our voteashburton.nz website for more information about special votes.

All votes need to be received by the deadline of noon on Saturday 8 October.



Jane Donaldson - Group Manager Strategy & Compliance

Responsible dog owners register their pets

The annual dog report was before Council this week and it was pleasing to see a good drop in the number of dogs impounded.

In the 12 months to 30 June 2022, 79 dogs were impounded, one euthanised and 11 re-homed; that compared to 107 dogs impounded in the previous 12-month period, one euthanised and 12 re-homed.

While the report has lots of figures around compliance and regulation, one that is of the most interest to us is around dog registration – it's been our experience that dog owners who register their pets are also pretty responsible about ensuring their dog is well-behaved and contained.

So of the 82 infringement notices we issued for the period, most were for failing to register a dog. For the record,

we had 6919 dogs registered, up from 6728 in the previous 12 months.

Council recorded 602 complaints about dogs, up from 591, and about two-thirds of these were from residents reporting wandering, barking and lost dogs.

Dog registration fees collected by Council are used to fund our animal control work and this is done by both Council staff and a contractor. The contractor covers all dog control callouts 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Unfortunately we still receive and investigate reports of attacking or rushing dogs and these are assessed carefully, before appropriate action is taken.

We see education as a key part of our dog control work, but persistent

and serious offending can result in infringements, prosecution or fines. The vast majority of dog owners though love their pets and keep them under control, and we thank them.

Work at the Ashburton Dog Park has made good progress following the damage by floods last year. It has been held up recently by wet weather, but there's just a gravel path to lay and some agility equipment to install before it's officially finished. Council has received lots of positive feedback already from people using the new exercise areas there and the new carpark off Cass Street (by Kmart).

Another work in progress has been the Lakes Camp and Clearwater 30-year plan, adopted by Council on 17 August. We have been working on the first action points – which include protecting the sensitive southern side of Lake

Camp by restricting 4WDs and ATVs.

This area is home to special flora and fauna but has been ripped up by larger vehicles, which are now prohibited. Visitors to the area will see signs advising of the new rules and Council is producing information to help spread the word about what sort of behaviour is expected.

This plan is a collaborative effort with the Department of Conservation, Environment Canterbury and Lake Clearwater hut-holders and we have a solid work plan aimed at protecting this special area and improving water quality in the lakes.

We'd like to think that everyone who enjoys spending time there will be on board too.



Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Day changes

The public holiday on Monday 26 September for New Zealanders to mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth II will see temporary changes to some Council services and facilities.

A state memorial service will be held in Wellington that day and Ashburton District mayor Neil Brown will be among civic leaders attending; our New Zealand flags in Baring Square West will fly at half-mast up to and including the memorial day.

Rubbish and recycling

There is no change to kerbside rubbish and recycling collections and Monday's collection will take place as usual, with residents to have their wheelie bins out by 7.30am. Remember to use your windstrap, whether it's windy or not.

Resource Recovery Parks

The Ashburton Resource Recovery Park will be open Saturday and Sunday from 9am until 5pm, and closed on Monday.

The Rakaia Resource Recovery Park will be open on Saturday from 9am-3pm, and closed on Monday.

EA Networks Centre

The EA Networks Centre will be open every day during the long weekend. The gym will be open Saturday from 7am until 6pm, on Sunday from 7am until 6pm, and on Monday from 10am-5pm.

The pool will be open Saturday and Sunday from 7am until 5pm, and from 10am-5pm on Monday.

The stadium will be open Saturday and Sunday from 7am to 7pm, and from 10am



The book of condolences for Queen Elizabeth will remain at the public library until closing time tomorrow, Friday 23 September.

until 9pm on Monday to accommodate previously-booked sporting competitions.

Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

The Mt Hutt Memorial Hall at Methven will be open Saturday and Sunday from 10am until 4pm, and from 10am until 2pm on Monday.

Ashburton Public Library

The Ashburton Public Library will be open Saturday 10am-1pm, Sunday 1pm-4pm and closed Monday.

Art Gallery and Museum

The Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum will be open 10am-4pm on Saturday and Sunday, and closed Monday.

Administration building

Council's administration building on Baring Square West will be closed Saturday, Sunday and Monday, re-opening on Tuesday at 8.30am. If you have a problem or urgently need to contact us, then the afterhours/24 hours-a-day service will be operating - please phone 03 307 7700.

Emails, Snap Send Solves and website requests will be cleared Tuesday morning.

Public toilets around the district will be open as usual during the long weekend.

All facilities will return to normal hours on Tuesday 27 September.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ROAD CLOSURE

Pursuant to Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is hereby given that for the purpose of allowing Ashburton Market Days to hold **Ashburton Market Day**, the following road(s) will be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic (with the exception of emergency vehicles):

Roads to be closed:

- EAST STREET, from Moore Street to Havelock Street
- TANCRED STREET, from East Street to Cass Street
- BURNETT STREET, from East Street to Cass Street

Period of closure: From 7am until 6pm on MONDAY, 26 September 2022.

It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under authority of an authorised permit to use the roads for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure.

NEIL McCANN
Infrastructure Services Group Manager

RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

QUEEN ELIZABETH II MEMORIAL DAY

There is no change to **kerbside rubbish and recycling collections** on Monday 26 September and the kerbside collection will take place as usual. The **Ashburton Resource Recovery Park** will be open Saturday and Sunday from 9am until 5pm, and closed on Monday. The **Rakaia Resource Recovery Park** will be open on Saturday from 9am-3pm, and closed on Monday.

ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

Please join us for the opening of two new exhibitions at the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum on **Wednesday 28 September at 6pm**.

The Wind of The Homeland presents faithfully documented scenes of the Canterbury region by local landscape painter **Henry Lowen-Smith**. Opening at the same time is Capturing People and Places, which explores the life, career and photographs of one of Ashburton's earliest female photographers, **Bobbie Barwell of Barwell Studios**.

The event is free and light refreshments will be served.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held in the Council Chambers, 137 Havelock Street, (unless otherwise advised).

Council Activity Briefings - Wednesday 28 September, 9.30am

Audit & Risk Committee - Wednesday 28 September, 1.30pm (live-streamed)

Council Hearings (Stormwater Bylaw) - Thursday 29 September, 9.00am (live-streamed)

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

Check out our human books this Sunday

Twelve interesting people who call Ashburton home will share special stories about their lives as part of the Ashburton Public Library's human book event on Sunday 25 September.

Local Lives is an event that will bring interesting, inspiring and insightful stories from members of our community and people can book a 20-minute session to talk one-on-one and connect with them.

The event is being offered during Mental Health Awareness Week and is a collaboration between the library and Keep Learning Mid Canterbury.

Community Services Group Manager Steve Fabish said it offered residents a chance to connect with people they might not otherwise meet.

People can book through the Council's website, for time slots between 1.30pm and 4pm on Sunday 25 September, and reserve time with more than one of the

human books. You are also welcome to call the library to book on 03 308 7192.

Among the human books is Haider Ahmadi, who works for the Refugee Settlement Support Service in Ashburton. Haider, who is originally from Afghanistan, can talk about his failed attempt to reach Australia 21 years ago, in a perilous journey by fishing boat.

He was rescued by the Tampa container ship and detained on Nauru Island, before being able to settle in New Zealand.

Time to spring clean your stockwater races

Spring is a great time for checking and cleaning any stockwater races on your property.

For all users to have access to the water, no matter where they are on the network, it is important that a clear and continuous flow is maintained – plastic buckets, baleage wrap, weeds and other debris can all block races and result in overflows or water being wasted on land or roads.

If you have a stockwater race running through or adjacent to your property, you are responsible for cleaning and maintaining that race to keep it clear and the water flowing.



Make sure hedge trimmings don't end up in races and that plastic and drench containers can't make their way there either.

Culverts or bridge crossings on your property must also be monitored and

maintained to ensure they are in good condition. Please check they are big enough for the normal water flow to pass through or under them, and that they are not damaged or broken.

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