

## Roading contract out for tender

Council has released its road network operations and maintenance contract to the market for tenders.

The contract is worth about \$9 million over five years and the document is expected to attract the interest of large national companies as well as some local contractors.

Group Manager of Infrastructure and Open Spaces Neil McCann said submissions of interest in the tender are due by 25 July.

“Then Council will begin a price and quality evaluation process with the aim of awarding the contract by 18 September.”

He said the evaluation would place equal value on price and quality.

After initial scoring, tenderers will then be invited to provide presentations to clarify and highlight aspects of their submission, and the tender evaluation team will be able to ask questions.

A report for Council will be prepared, with a recommended contractor.

Mr McCann said the community had been clear about wanting a high standard for its roads, both sealed and unsealed.

“Our roading network is one of the largest in the country, but parts of it are quite old. Council’s job is to use rates carefully to rebuild some roads and repair others until they can be permanently improved.

“That means we do a lot of communicating with our contractor about providing the best level of service possible



with the funding that is available. On our sealed roads especially we have to prioritise our repairs and hold some longer than we would like.”

The new operations and maintenance contract will begin on 1 December 2025.

Separate tenders will be released for reseal and rehabilitation work (capital expenditure) on the district’s roads in the new financial year from 1 July. That work is traditionally undertaken in drier months.

The forward works programme is available in map form on Council’s website

and includes:

Rehabilitation (major work totalling about \$2.44 million) – Thompsons Track, Ealing Montalto Road, Seaford Road, Longbeach Road, Fords Road.

Reseals and heavy maintenance (totalling about \$4.1m) – Coldstream Road, Isleworth Road, Beach Road, Fairfield Road, Frasers Road, Cracroft Maronan Road, Maronan Valetta Road, Mainwarings Road and Pendarves Rakaia Road.

Council also aims to lay 48,000 cubic metres of gravel on unsealed roads during the next financial year.

## CE Hamish Riach Winter is the word, for road crews and librarians

Winter has definitely arrived and while the snow last weekend was great for Mt Hutt, the freezing temperatures did present challenges for some road users around the district.

Council maintains one of the largest roading networks in the country, and so when the temperature plummets our roading maintenance contractor is out early in the morning laying grit on patches of road we know turn treacherous and icy.

We can’t grit everywhere, and we still expect drivers to drive to the conditions. Warm your car up on freezing mornings, make sure your windscreen is clear and take it slower than usual; put your headlights on and increase your following distance.

While NZ Transport Agency closed the highways that were the worst affected by snow last weekend, Council

also closed Ashburton Gorge Road beyond Mount Somers. Despite the closure, which was advised on a large, permanent road sign, we heard reports that vehicles ignored the signage and drove to the snow.

That’s a problem because it’s illegal to drive through a closed road and it puts you and other people at risk. Hazards are not obvious when they’re coated in a layer of snow, or under water and that is why the road closed signs go up.

Winter driving means being prepared for all conditions, from rain and fog through to frost, ice and snow, and conditions can change quickly.

Winter is also the theme of a new What’s On Guide being prepared for the July school holidays.

Teams from the Ashburton Library, the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum and EA Networks Centre are planning a huge range of activities for the holidays,



and they are mostly inside and not affected by the cold.

One activity I’ve been told about is a piece of family theatre called The Snow, which will happen in the library’s Event Space on Sunday 6 July at 1.45pm. A Matariki-themed escape room is also happening.

The guide is off to the printers soon, and will be online too – make sure you get a copy to help survive the holidays.

The Event Space will host an evening next week for adults, and it’s an opportunity for those interested in standing in the local elections to come along and learn about the election process and what would be required of them as a candidate.

Local democracy is important, so come along on Wednesday 18 June and see what it takes.

## SHORT AND SWEET

### ALLENTON WATER

Residents in Allenton may notice reduced water pressure on Tuesday 17 June when contractors shut down the Argyle Park water treatment plant for four hours from 9am. The work is related to the installation of new UV disinfection equipment at the plant.

### STONEY CREEK

Council is holding a public drop-in session about the Stoney Creek/ Mount Somers stockwater intake at the Mount Somers Hall on **Tuesday 17 June**, from 4-5pm. All are welcome. Views from the wider community are now being sought for Stoney Creek and you can find the survey online.

### PUP-DATE DETAILS

Dog registration month is coming in July. If your dog’s registration details have changed, such as a new address, ownership or they are now deceased, you will need to contact Council by email or phone, and staff will update your changes before you can then re-register your dog online. Dogs that have not been registered with council before are classified as a new dog.

### BRIDGE UPDATES

NZ Transport Agency is about to begin drilling test bores in the river off Chalmers Avenue and Carters Terrace, as part of preliminary work for the second Ashburton bridge and connecting road. Track users on either side of the river should not be affected. The agency has created a webpage for the project and is encouraging people to sign up for email updates: [www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/second-ashburton-bridge](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/second-ashburton-bridge)

### TINWALD WATER

The Tinwald water treatment plant remains offline while contractors commission new UV equipment at the plant, and Council is advising residents that the work has potential to temporarily affect water pressure. Tinwald is being supplied water from Ashburton plants in the meantime. The new UV equipment is part of an upgrade for the plant to comply with national quality assurance rules.



# Mayor encourages locals to stand

Mayor Neil Brown is standing down in October after 21 years on the Ashburton District Council and says local government is about making sure the district thrives.

The local farmer remembers his first term and says he learned the art of listening, talking when needed and getting to grips with meeting procedure and Local Government rules.

“You need to build confidence around the Council table but not be afraid to ask questions.”

He is encouraging anyone interested in standing in the coming local elections to come along to Council’s candidate information sessions – the first is at Te Whare Whakatare on Wednesday 18 June, at 5.30pm and the second is in the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall at Methven on Tuesday 24 June, at 7pm.

The sessions are being hosted by Chief Executive Hamish Riach and potential candidates can learn what is expected of them during the election process, and ask questions or seek more information.

Mayor Brown said the information sessions were a great way of seeing what is involved in being a mayor, district councillor or community board member.

“These are governance roles, with the aim of making sure the district thrives and that Council runs efficiently.



Mayor Neil Brown with Council archivist Connor Lysaght.

“It helps if you have a good knowledge of the district and what makes it tick. Council itself is like a big ship that changes course by a few degrees at a time, and so councillors who campaign on one particular issue are sometimes disappointed when they realise they are only one vote among 10 at the table.

“As a team we respect each other and while we don’t always agree, we work together to provide the services our community needs.”

Mayor Brown said the role was challenging at times, but brought satisfaction and presented opportunities for professional development and learning via Local

Government training modules.

“Local democracy requires good people to want to stand and commit to being part of this district’s local decision-making, so if you think that sounds like you then come along to the information evenings and find out more.

“Another way to learn more about the role is to come along to a Council meeting or watch one on our social media channels.”

In the Local Elections, local voters will select a new mayor, nine district councillors and a Methven Community Board. Nominations open on 4 July and voting is by post from mid-September.

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are at Hine Paaka (Council Chamber), 2 Baring Square East, unless specified. Agendas can be found on our website.

Wednesday 18 June, **Council Meeting** (live-streamed), 1pm

Tuesday 24 June, **Stockwater Transition Working Group**, 1.30pm

Wednesday 25 June, **Three Waters Committee** (live-streamed), 9.30am

Wednesday 25 June, **Audit & Risk Committee** (live-streamed), 1pm

Thursday 26 June, **Council Hearings Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy** (live-streamed), 9am

## WORKS NOTICES

**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.

**Trevors Road** - One way (northbound traffic only) between Beach Road and Wellington Street from 7 April to 27 June for work related to lifestyle village development.

**Nicholson Street** - Closed between Belt Road and Davidson Street from Monday 9 June to Friday 25 July while contractors install utility mains to supply a new development. Access remains for residents.

Full details of local road closures are on our website, [ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz)

## ICE ON YOUR WINDOW?

There have been a few frosty mornings this week and if you park your car outside, then ice on your windscreen may be an issue. Drop into our Customer Services counter at 2 Baring Square East and grab a free ice scraper.



# Images help share refugees' journey



This photo is called Fear Begins.

The Afghan former refugee youth of Ashburton have been working on a photography project over the past six months and will be sharing it with the community during World Refugee Week.

Their photographs will be on display from **16-22 June** in a special exhibition called Pixel Realm on the first floor of the Ashburton Library.

The aim of the project was to use photographs as a medium to visually express their experiences and feelings of settling in New Zealand, and to have a voice and an opportunity to show and

discuss with each other what is significant to them.

Council Group Manager of Democracy and Engagement Toni Durham said Ashburton was proud of its status as a refugee resettlement town and she encouraged people to view the exhibition.

“Refugees are ordinary people facing extraordinary circumstances. This photography exhibition is a way for young people to tell their story to the wider community and help them look forward, in a safe space.”

### Have your Say!

## Draft Water Races Bylaw 2025

We are reviewing our Water Races Bylaw, with minor changes, and want to hear what you think.

Submissions close 29 June

View the draft and have your say at: [ItsOurPlace.nz](http://ItsOurPlace.nz)

### Have your Say!

When it comes to our changing climate, Council has a responsibility to look after our district by building resilient infrastructure, helping people understand what to expect and finding ways to deliver services more sustainably.

Find out more and have your say! Feedback closes 18 June

[ItsOurPlace.nz](http://ItsOurPlace.nz)

## 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)