

Save the date: Lights festival is back

Put a ring around Friday 2 December on your calendar, it's the night Ashburton's Christmas tree will be officially lit up.

Council has begun preparing for the annual Nights of Lights Festival, which begins with Light Up The Night on 2 December. The Christmas tree will again be positioned on the East Street green opposite Burnett Street and be able to be enjoyed by all those in the central business area throughout the festive season.

The Christmas festival will also include a movie night on Saturday 17 December and buskers in the CBD on Friday 23 December and Saturday 24 December.

Community Services Group Manager Steve Fabish said it would be Council's sixth year running the event and it was great to be planning a large community celebration without the worry of Covid-19 restrictions.

"Light Up the Night will be all about connecting as a community, with lots of entertainment and Christmas carols. We are looking forward to our rejuvenated CBD really being a festive and welcoming place this Christmas."

Council staff are also working towards the first citizenship ceremonies that will happen in the post-covid traffic light environment.

Mr Fabish said ceremonies were planned to take place at the Ashburton Event Centre on 12 October and 6 December, and invitations had been sent out to 30 new citizens from 2022 and to people who



Ashburton's Christmas tree will be on the East Street green again this year, and will come alive with lights and colour on Friday 2 December.

did not attend a ceremony in 2021.

"The Department of Internal Affairs removed the requirement for new citizens to attend ceremonies during Covid-19, and as a result 147 people did not attend a ceremony. Many were disappointed at being unable to attend so the events team has invited them too.

"They already have their certificate of citizenship but will be presented with a gift from the mayor welcoming them as a citizen.

"We're really looking forward to seeing

everyone as this is an exciting, and often emotional, step in their journey to becoming Kiwis."

Another large group event will be the annual apprenticeship ceremony in November. This recognises members of our community who have successfully completed an apprenticeship in the past year.

Mr Fabish said Council was also pleased to be attending other big community events, including as an exhibitor at the Ashburton A&P Show on 28 and 29 October.

Time running out to vote in local election

If you're planning to vote by post in the local elections, you have only a few days left to get your envelope in a post box so it can be delivered before the voting deadline of noon on Saturday 8 October.

Voters are being asked to post their voting papers no later than Tuesday 4 October. Voting papers need time to be collected from postboxes and delivered to Christchurch, where they will be processed by Electionz.com.

After 4 October, you can still deliver your voting papers to one of the district's ballot boxes – located at the Ashburton Public Library, at the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall in Methven and at Council's Baring Square West offices in Ashburton. These orange ballot bins can be accessed during each facility's opening hours, and all three will be open up until noon on the last day of voting, Saturday 8 October.

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.

Hamish Riach - Chief Executive Tracking our voter turnout

The countdown is on for our local elections and judging by early voting trends, the Ashburton District is on track for another good voter turnout.

At 4.30pm on Tuesday, the district was showing 18.45 per cent of eligible voters had returned their papers by post, slightly less than in 2019 when the eventual turnout was 55.4 per cent – that compared to a national turnout of 42 per cent that year.

It is good to see people are keen to have a say in electing those to represent their voice in decisions for our community.

Councils and community boards have a critical role to play in supporting the resilience, lifestyle and prosperity of our district, so get out there and vote, pack and post.

Daily voting returns are being advised by Electionz.com and these are votes that have been returned by post for processing in Christchurch.

If you intend to vote by post you need to do so no later than Tuesday 4 October - that leaves time for the orange envelopes to be collected from postboxes and sent to the processing centre.

You can also hand deliver your voting papers to Council by the deadline of noon on Saturday 8 October.

We have special orange ballot bins at the Ashburton Public Library, Council's offices on Baring Square West and the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall in Methven, and all three facilities will be open on the last day of voting, up to the noon deadline.

If you haven't yet received your papers, you may be able to cast a special vote at Council's Ashburton offices – the details are all on Council's voteashburton.nz website, along with information about the candidates.

Another important process that is connected to the local elections is the formation of our 12 local reserve and hall boards, and you can expect to hear

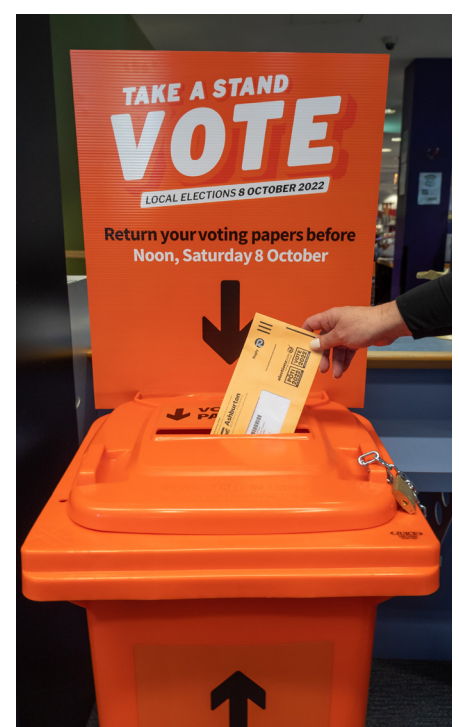
more from Council about this soon.

We are one of a few councils that operates these boards, and while they don't have the same profile as a Council or community board, they are hugely important to our green spaces and community halls in local communities.

The 12 boards we have are made up of volunteers with a passion for helping their communities, and they run local domains and reserves, and local halls, and they play a major role connecting with Council to keep those facilities going.

The boards are disbanded before local elections every three years, then members are re-elected for another three-year cycle once the new Council has been sworn in.

So keep an eye out for boards when they advertise their triennial election meetings and consider what you could do to help.



These news pages are created and supplied by the Ashburton District Council. For more information and the latest news, visit our website ashburtondc.govt.nz/news

New rules help protect sensitive lake areas

Action to protect sensitive areas at the Ashburton Lakes is under way, with recreational driving in 4WDs and ATVs now prohibited on the southern boundary of Lake Camp.

Camping is also prohibited on the southern boundary.

Compliance and Strategy Group Manager Jane Donaldson said signs advising of the bans were going up in the area, which was well used by visitors and Lake Clearwater hut-holders.

“This is the first action to come out of the Lakes Camp and Clearwater 30-year development plan, which was adopted by Council this month and developed after some quality submissions from hut-holders and others who use the area.

“We receive frequent reports, often with photographic evidence, of people in 4WDs driving through mud on the fringes of Lake Camp’s southern boundary and causing damage to the land, and the flora and fauna that live there.

“Both lakes are part of a very special area and we needed rules to protect it from the damaging behaviour of some.”

Council is working with Environment Canterbury, the Department of Conservation, takata whenua, hut-holders and other interest groups to manage and improve the area for future generations.

There are concerns about water quality in Lake Clearwater and long-drop toilets



A brochure for visitors will outline the protections in place for the lakes area.

at the huts have already been removed to exclude them as a source of water pollution.

Council is producing a brochure that will be available in paper form and online, advising visitors of the new rules. It also points out that dogs are not allowed, where public toilets are located, where

camping is welcome and ways to deal with rubbish and recycling.

Ms Donaldson said the brochure was aimed at day-trippers, campers and other visitors, and Council would be working with hut-holders separately on ways they could help biodiversity in the area.

Local artists nab spots on Chorus calendar

Artwork on two Ashburton Chorus boxes has made it into the national Chorus calendar for 2023, much to the delight of our local artists.

January features Kiwis Can Fly, by Georgette Thomas, which she painted on a Chorus box on Seafeld Road, near the Ashburton Airport.

During World War II, the airport was a training base and housed up to 50 Tiger Moth planes. The artwork shows a Tiger Moth soaring above a patchwork of green Mid Canterbury fields.

September features the Human Seasons, by Amalia Worsfold. This Chorus box is on Bremners Road, and shows the



progression of age through four seasons.

The two were among 12 designs chosen for the popular calendar; the 2023 edition will be given away to industry, government and local government stakeholders. The



artwork will also be made into jigsaw puzzles.

The artists also supplied information about themselves, to feature at the back of the calendar that showcases their work.

Changes planned to outdoor dining policy

Council is asking for feedback on a draft alfresco dining policy, which looks at the use of public footpaths for outside dining.

Strategy and Compliance Group Manager Jane Donaldson said the policy was about creating vibrant places for the community and local businesses to enjoy outdoor dining.

“It’s also about making sure our footpaths are safe and easy to use for pedestrians and people parking nearby.

“The changes are fairly minor, however

we’re looking at introducing zones with different levels of requirements which means some businesses that currently have tables on the footpath might need to apply for a licence in the future.”

Ms Donaldson says the introduction of zones would help ensure that the use of public footpaths was consistent across the district and accessibility for pedestrians was protected.

The draft policy is out now for consultation, with documents and submission forms on Council’s website and also available in paper form.

Ms Donaldson said the Council had also clarified and updated some sections of the old policy, including the wording around smokefree areas to specifically include vaping and e-cigarettes.

“It also clarifies ownership, like who owns the footpaths and who owns structures on a footpath, like a windbreak.

“We are contacting relevant restaurants and cafes across the district to make sure they know about the draft policy and proposed changes.”

Submissions close on Sunday 23 October.

PUBLIC NOTICES

WALNUT AVENUE RAIL CROSSING CLOSURE

Waka Kotahi has advised that the railway section of Walnut Avenue, between West and East Streets, will be closed to traffic for seven weeks until Sunday 13 November.

A pedestrian crossing will operate at the site on school days from 8am until 5pm, but outside those times pedestrians will need to use the rail footbridge about 600m south of the work area. The pedestrian crossing at Walnut Avenue will not operate during school holidays, 3-14 October.

For the duration of the seven-week closure, a temporary pedestrian refuge will be in place opposite the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum to assist crossing State Highway 1.

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 – **Light up the Night Christmas Event**.

Roads proposed 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 1.00pm until 12.00am on **FRIDAY, 02 December 2022**.

Any person objecting to the proposal should lodge notice of their objection and the grounds for their objection in writing by post or email to the Council, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton by 4.00PM on FRIDAY, 14 October 2022

NEIL McCANN
Group Manager Infrastructure Services

RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

MONDAY 24 OCTOBER, LABOUR DAY

There is **no change to kerbside rubbish and recycling** collections on Monday 24 October and the kerbside collection will take place as usual.

The **Ashburton Resource Recovery Park** will be open from 9am until 5pm, but the **Rakaia Resource Recovery Park** will be closed.

Please use your windstrap, no matter the weather!



COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

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

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