

Mayfield leads plant upgrades

New filtration and UV disinfection equipment came online at Mayfield's drinking water plant this week, in a seamless transition for the community.

Mayfield's water comes from a 119m bore and under new drinking water quality assurance rules it needed extra filtration, UV disinfection and chlorination.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said although the water from the deep bore had been safe to drink, Council was required to meet new national rules.

"Over the past few months our contractors have built a new building to house the new filtration and UV equipment and it will be fully operational as part of the treatment plant on Monday."

There was no disruption to Mayfield's water supply, which delivers drinking water to 68 households in the township.

Mr McCann said the project had been delivered on time and on budget by contractors ARC Projects.

"Our operations and maintenance contractor ACL will take over the running of the UV equipment after it has been commissioned. The instrumentation and control equipment at the plant talks remotely to Council and ACL, so it is monitored 24-7."



Mayfield's water treatment plant has a new building to house new filtration and UV disinfection equipment.

Mr McCann said Council was spending about \$10 million upgrading other water treatment plants around the district with UV and filtration equipment.

"At some plants we've had to construct new buildings to house the equipment and at others we'll be able to extend existing buildings to accommodate the UV

and filtration. All the work is on target to be complete by the end of this year."

The Hinds water treatment plant needed a new building and that upgrade is nearly complete. Upgrade work at water plants at Argyle Park, Tinwald, Rakaia, Chertsey, Ashburton Domain and Bridge Street is under way.

Mayor Neil Brown

Keep up the water services feedback, it's so important

Thank you to all those people who have given Council feedback on its plan to deliver water services in the future.

As at Wednesday morning, 90 submissions had been received and I hope more are coming, as this is one of the biggest decisions Council will make.

The future model for delivering drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services has been driven by Government's Local Water Done Well programme, and that is aimed at ensuring Council infrastructure up and down the country is fit for the job.

These are matters Ashburton council has done sensibly in the past and we think we've made good decisions, providing the pipes and plants our district needs.

One question that I have been asked during this consultation process is about the privatisation of water services.

Government is committed to keeping

water services in public ownership, prohibiting councils and water organisations from privatising them (selling them off). We think the Stand-Alone Business Unit we chose as our preferred model is similar to the inhouse way we have run water services in the past.

Council would still own assets and manage water services and set water rates, and elected members would still oversee everything. The SABU model adds on the requirement to develop and implement a Water Services Strategy, comply with regulators and ringfence finances so that water revenue collected is only spent on water services.

If you have questions about this work, then I urge you to go to itsourplace.nz and look at the Frequently Asked Questions, as there's a lot of information there too.

Water of a different kind was on my mind this week too, when the national water-skiing champs got under way at a private lake. This event had been

planned for Lake Hood but high cyanobacteria levels led to a health warning and the lake being closed. It was gutting for everyone.

Environment Canterbury continues to test water from the lake and we will advise the community of any change. One thing we know is that once cyanobacteria becomes established in a lake it is hard to get rid of, but it is a naturally occurring thing and something we will have to manage going forward.

It's been great to see lots of grandparents coming into Te Whare Whakareta this week, the first week of the school holidays. They're heading to the Ashburton Library for an Easter egg hunt or to play road trip bingo – there are also plenty of activities happening in other Council facilities, like the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum and at EA Networks Centre.

If you're caught short of ideas in wet weather, check out the What's On guide for April!



SHORT AND SWEET

GIANT EGG HUNT

The Ashburton Library has been invaded by Easter egg hunters this week, all hoping to win a giant chocolate egg. All you have to do is find 10 eggs hidden around the library, match their numbers with images on an official entry form and pop it in the prize draw box. The winner will take home a 1.2kg chocolate egg! Don't forget to check out the What's On holidays guide.



BRIDGE UPDATES

With the second Ashburton bridge and connecting road out for tender later this year, NZ Transport 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

SCHOOL SPEED ZONE

Council is extending the variable speed limit zone outside Tinwald School to include Graham Street, which means traffic must travel at 30km/h between 8.30am and 9.30am and between 2.30pm and 3.30pm on school days. The zone comes into force from 28 April.



MAKING A WREATH?

With Anzac Day approaching, Council is asking that groups and individuals making wreaths for the Cenotaph or other war memorials ensure they use colour-fast or non-leaching paint if making a wreath at home. Wreaths are traditionally left in place at the memorial for a week following Anzac Day so they must not leach colours into the stone.

Council services over Easter, Anzac

The public holidays over Easter and Anzac Day 2025 will see temporary changes to some Council services and facilities.

Rubbish & Recycling

Ashburton’s kerbside collection service will not operate on Good Friday, 18 April, so people whose bins are normally emptied on a Friday should put them out for collection on Saturday 19 April instead.

Bins will be collected as normal the week beginning Monday 21 April.

Anzac Day is on Friday 25 April and there will be no change to kerbside collection that day; put your bins out as normal.

Resource Recovery Parks

The Ashburton Resource Recovery Park will be closed Friday 18 April and closed Anzac Day Friday 25 April. The park will be open its usual winter hours 9am-5pm on Saturday 19 April, Sunday 20 April and Easter Monday 21 April.

Rakaia Resource Recovery Park will be closed Friday 18 April and Monday 21 April, but open on Saturday 19 April.

The Methven greenwaste facility will be open Sunday 20 April.

Ashburton Library

The Ashburton Library will be closed on Easter Friday and Easter Monday, 18 and 21 April; it will open on Saturday and Sunday 10am-4pm. Normal hours resume on Tuesday 22 April.

The library will be closed on Anzac Day.

Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum

The Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum will be closed Friday 18 April, but open for the rest of the Easter holiday break, which offers a great chance to check out the latest exhibits.



Children play road bingo at the Ashburton Library during the holidays.

The facility will be open on Anzac Day, 1-4pm and is inviting people to join them for a special Anzac Day talk with Sarah Johnston, at 2pm.

Sound historian Sarah is researching recordings made between 1940-1945 by New Zealand’s mobile broadcasting units, which travelled overseas with our forces.

She will shed light on recordings the broadcasters made of New Zealand nurses. Courtesy of RNZ and Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision, she will play some of these 80-year-old recordings and talk about the men and women who we hear in them.

EA Networks Centre

EA Networks Centre will be closed on Friday 18 April. It will be open 7am to 7pm on Saturday and Sunday, 19 and 20 April (though pools and gym close an hour earlier at 6pm), and open on Easter Monday 21 April from 10am-5pm.

On Anzac Day, it will be open from 1pm-7pm (pools and gym close an hour earlier

at 6pm).

Come down and try the new outdoor sand court – pop into the centre’s reception area and they will roll off the covers. Bring your own beach volleyball or hire one!

Customer Services

Council’s Customer Services counter at Te Whare Whakatere, Baring Square East, will close at 5pm on Thursday 17 April, and re-open at 8.30am on Tuesday 22 April.

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 when the office opens for business as usual on Tuesday.

Customer Services will be closed on Anzac Day, Friday 25 April.

Public toilets around the district will be open daily as usual over Easter and on Anzac Day.

Open fire season status

The inland high country zones of Mid-South Canterbury have moved to an open fire season status.

Ashburton Lakes, Rakaia Gorge and Rangitata Gorge had been in a restricted fire season status but that was revoked on Wednesday 16 April.

That means the whole of the Mid-South Canterbury district is in an open fire season and fire permits are not required.

The Geraldine Forest Zone and all public conservation land remains in a permanent restricted fire status and permits are still required for open air fires in those areas.

LAND TENDER AT RAKAIA



Council is calling for tenders on land on behalf of the Rakaia Reserve Board. The tender is for a five-year licence to occupy 2 hectares of **RES 2986 Michael Street, Rakaia** (outlined left).

Tenders must be received by Ashburton District Council on or before 2pm on 12 May 2025. The licence to occupy would commence 1 June 2025.

Please contact commercial@adc.govt.nz for a tender application form or for more information.

RUBBISH & RECYCLING EASTER AND ANZAC DAY

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COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

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

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

Wednesday 7 May, **Council Meeting** (live-streamed), 1pm

Wednesday 14 May, **Three Waters Committee** (live-streamed), 9.30am

Wednesday 14 May, **Audit & Risk Committee** (live-streamed), 1pm

Wednesday 21 May, **Council Meeting** (live-streamed), 1pm

Monday 26 May, **Methven Community Board**, 9am, Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Tuesday 27 May, **Water Zone Committee** (live-streamed), 1pm

Wednesday 28 May, **Council Activity Briefings** (live-streamed), 1pm

ANZAC ROAD CLOSURES

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a temporary road closures to enable the holding of a community event - **Anzac Day ceremony**.

Roads 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.

NEIL McCANN, Group Manager Infrastructure & Open Spaces

ROAD CLOSURES

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a temporary road closures to enable the holding of a community event - **Ashbueton Car Club Street Sprints**.

Roads to be closed:

- **Smallbone Drive from River Terrace to Robinson Street**
- **Robinson Street from Smallbone Drive to McNally Street**
- **Watson Street from Range Street to Robinson Street**
- **McNally Street from Range Street to Robinson Street**

Closure period: From 6pm on Friday 25 April 2025 to 8pm on Sunday, 27 April 2025

Additional closure: Range Street will be closed on Saturday, 26 April from 6pm to Sunday, 27 April 6.30 am only.

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)