

## Soil booster for rose gardens

The rose gardens at the Ashburton Domain are getting a makeover and moving to a new management model that will eliminate the need for regular spraying of fungicides and pesticides.

Staff say the “no-spray” result will be better for the environment and they’re happy to share their tips for healthy roses with the community.

All the roses were removed last week and 40cm of soil dug out and replaced with a blend of compost and mulch, and Trichoderma, which is a soil-borne friendly fungi.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said some of the older, healthy roses would be replanted along with new roses.

“The philosophy is that a healthy soil means healthier plants and roses in high health can naturally combat the general pests and diseases which usually afflict them.

“It will be better for the environment and for staff, who won’t have to spray them with chemicals. From a garden management perspective, it may require the annual culling of non-performers and we’ll weed out those varieties that are



naturally weak or display poor vigour and are susceptible to problems.”

The makeover is being done by staff and contractors and should take about a month. The work zone will be cordoned off during that time.

The in-bed irrigation system will also be reinstated, and the grass paths relevelled and resown.

Mr McCann said the project would cost about \$11,000 and was work detailed in

the domain’s asset management plan and in Council’s Long Term Plan 2024-34.

“The rose gardens have always been a special place for visitors to the domain, and this new high health approach will be great for the roses themselves. Come spring, it should be a place of colour and beauty.

“We know the gardens are enjoyed by the community so we encourage people to stop by and have a look at the work as it progresses over the next few weeks.”

## More work planned at Argyle Park

Parts of Allenton, between Allens Road and Farm Road, could experience low water pressure next week as part of work to upgrade the Argyle Park water treatment plant.

The work from 7-11 July will involve connecting the existing bores with new pipework and UV equipment.

Group Manager of Infrastructure and Open Spaces Neil McCann said this is one of the most critical parts of the project, but it has the potential to create low water pressure in the Allenton area.

“With the Argyle Park water treatment plant shut down, the Allenton area will be serviced by other treatment plants on the network but that may still affect water pressure in selected areas. Water from the tap remains safe to drink.

“We’re expecting the job to go to plan and thank residents for their understanding if pressure is affected. The upgrade project is an important milestone in a year-long programme to add UV disinfection at all Council drinking water supplies around the district.”

The new UV equipment is on track to be commissioned by November.

## 10km of water pipes to be renewed this year

About 10km of community drinking water pipes will be renewed in the next seven months as part of a \$4.2 million package of work awarded to Rooney Earthmoving recently.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said the pipes to be renewed were aging and in some cases over 50 years old.

“The biggest project amongst this package of work is replacing the watermain along State Highway 1 from Johnstone Street to Hassal Street. That’s about one kilometre of pipe and the work will be on the western side of the highway on the road reserve, so traffic disruption should be minimal.”

Part of the pipe was installed under Lagmhor Road last year when the new traffic lights were installed.

Other water pipes will be renewed in Ashburton, Methven, Rakaia, Fairton and Hinds, with work programmed to start mid-July and run until 30 January next year.

Watermains to be renewed include:

Ashburton: Philip Street, Tancred Street, Mason Place, Grove Street,



Chalmers Avenue, Archibald Street.

Methven: Talbot Place, Farquhar Place, Lilley Place, Macphail Place, Spaxton Street.

Rakaia: Elizabeth Avenue East, Elizabeth Avenue West, Railway Terrace West.

District-wide: Fairfield Avenue (Fairton), David Street (Hinds).

Mr McCann said a separate \$1m contract was awarded to Fulton Hogan and would include rural watermain renewals, at Longs Ford Road (Methven) and at Taverners Road (Dromore).

Council operates 10 community drinking water supplies, providing safe drinking water to 70 per cent of the district’s population.

## SHORT AND SWEET

### CITIZENS ADVICE

Do you have a question about your rights or obligations and not sure where to go for help? Drop in to the Citizens Advice Bureau at the Ashburton Library, every Wednesday, 5.30pm-7.30pm. The service is free, confidential and independent, and available to everyone.

### SNOW SHOW

The Snow family theatre production is coming to the Ashburton Library this **Sunday 6 July** at 1.45pm. The play is about the tiny village of Kishka, which is imprisoned by an epic snowfall - and how they escape. Bookings are essential and can be made at [ashburtondc.govt.nz/events](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz/events)



### MATARIKI VIEWING

The Ashburton Astronomy Club is holding free public viewings of the Matariki star cluster, at Argyle Park on 5 July and 12 July. You’ll need to get up early and wrap up warm, as the viewings are from 5.45am-7am (weather permitting). All welcome.

### WHAT'S ON

School holidays are here, so arm yourself with a copy of our What's On guide so that you can keep the kids happy. There's an activity for everyone at any of our facilities, from making a snow globe to taking part in a scavenger hunt or learning about paper quilling. Scan the QR code to download a digital copy of the guide and get busy.





# New wastewater pipes locked in

Council has contracted Tru-Line Civil to carry out 2.2km of wastewater pipeline renewals in the district.

The \$2.57 million contract was awarded recently, with work programmed to start within the next two weeks.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said the condition of Council’s wastewater pipes was regularly assessed using CCTV and that helped inform the renewal works.

“We have just over 200km of wastewater pipes in our Ashburton, Methven and Rakaia schemes and a lot of good information about their condition. The pipes we are replacing are at least 50 years old.”

Renewals are planned on Line Road at Methven; Philip Street, Saunders Road and Tancred Street in Ashburton; and Catherine Street at Tinwald.

Mr McCann said the Line Road job was the biggest of the renewal projects, with a new main being installed between Methven’s wastewater treatment plant on Line Road and the Methven township.



Installation of the 375mm diameter pipe is expected to take two months.

“Sometimes we also opt to reline sewer pipes rather than renew them, to extend the life of the pipes. We have awarded a separate \$1.1m relining contract for West Street in Ashburton and South Belt at Methven, and that work should be

completed in September.” Council wastewater systems collect used water from homes and businesses, including what is flushed down toilets, and greywater from sinks, shower and washing machines. There are treatment plants at Ashburton, Methven and Rakaia.

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Wednesday 30 July, **Three Waters Committee** (live-streamed), 9.30am

Wednesday 30 July, **Audit & Risk Committee** (live-streamed), 1pm

Wednesday 30 July, **Council Activity Briefings** (live-streamed), 3pm

## PARVO WARNING

Dog owners in the Ashburton District are being urged to make sure their pets are vaccinated, as the presence of Parvovirus also known as parvo, has been confirmed locally.

Parvo is highly contagious and vaccination is the key to protecting dogs.

The vaccine costs about \$40 to administer and most puppies are vaccinated against parvovirus at six weeks of age. A booster every three years is recommended.

Parvovirus affects a dog’s gastrointestinal tract and initial symptoms include lethargy, lack of appetite and fever.

This usually progresses to vomiting and bloody diarrhoea; it can be fatal.

# Nominations kick off

The nomination period for the 2025 local elections kicks off Friday 4 July, and people wanting to stand have about a month to return their nomination forms.

Voters in the Ashburton District will choose a mayor, nine councillors, a Methven Community Board, six Braided Rivers Community Trust members and two Environment Canterbury representatives.

Nearly anyone can represent their community, as long as they are over the age of 18, a New Zealand citizen and enrolled on the Parliamentary

electoral roll. Candidates can find useful information about the election process and campaign rules at [voteashburton.nz](http://voteashburton.nz)

The website also has nomination forms and maps of the ward boundaries.

Nominations close at noon on 1 August and candidates are urged to complete their forms early, so they can be checked for errors well before the deadline.

Local candidates will be listed at [voteashburton.nz](http://voteashburton.nz) once their nominations are processed.

Keep up to date with Council news and notices at [ashburtondc.govt.nz/latestnews](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz/latestnews)

# Short shutdown for Rakaia water supply

Rakaia residents are being asked to conserve water on Monday 7 July when new UV disinfection equipment at the town’s water treatment plant is being commissioned.

The supply will be shut down completely between 8am and 9am and while water will be available for the rest of the day, residents are asked to use it conservatively.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said the water supply would only be briefly interrupted and residents may experience no water for 15-30 minutes during the hour-long shutdown period.

“Service should return to normal shortly after 9am, and then Rakaia’s two reservoirs will supply the town for the rest of the day.

“There will be enough water in the reservoirs if people use it conservatively. They can still have showers and flush toilets but should minimise activities on Monday that would use large amounts of water.”

Contractors have constructed a new building at the water treatment plant to house the UV equipment which is part of a \$10 million package of work adding UV steps at Council community water supplies around the district.

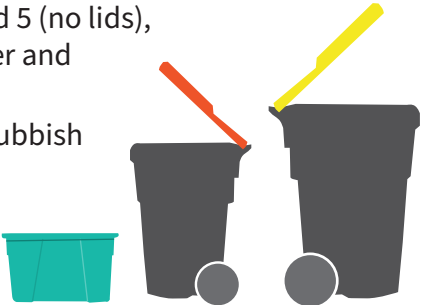
The commissioning phase involves making sure all the pipes and electrical components of the new UV step are incorporated properly into the water treatment system.

Text message reminders about the shutdown will be sent to Rakaia residents subscribed to Council’s free text alert service. Text your postcode to ‘4196’ to sign up for alerts.

## VISITING OUR DISTRICT?

Here’s how we roll when it comes to recycling:

- Clean glass bottles in the green crate
- Clean hard plastics 1, 2 and 5 (no lids), and clean cardboard, paper and tins in the yellow bin
- Food waste and all other rubbish in the red bin





It's doggy rego time!

Register your four-legged friend before 31 July

[ashburtondc.govt.nz/dogs](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz/dogs)

### 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)