

## NW wastewater extension under way

Work begins this week on a nine-month project to expand Ashburton's wastewater pipe network into the north-west part of town.

The \$3.285m project involves laying 2km of pipes and building a pump station that will pump wastewater to Middle Road, where it will enter the town's existing wastewater system.

New pipes will run along Carters Road, Farm Road and Allens Road, and the pump station will be built on Allens Road, near Mill Creek.

Infrastructure Services Group Manager Neil McCann said the contract for the work had been awarded to Tru-Line Civil, who were ready to start work this week.

"Public traffic through Allens Road between Turton Street and Racecourse Road will be affected at times and traffic controls will be in place, however residents will always have access during the course of the work. Our contractors will keep residents updated as the project moves through five different stages."

The stages of work will require traffic management on the following roads:

- Allens Road, between Turton Street and Racecourse Road – 7 September to 11 October
- Carters Road, between Allens Road and Farm Road – 12 October to 8 December
- Farm Road, between Carters Road and Racecourse Road – 9 December to 17 January 2023
- Farm Road, between Carters Road and Middle Road – 18 January 2023 to 1 March 2023
- Allens Road, between Carters Road and Middle Road – 2 March 2023 to 29 May 2023



**Above: The first phase of work will be on Allens Road, between Turton Street and Racecourse Road.**

Full road closures will be required at times because of the depth of the new wastewater line (up to 4.2m) and the size of the line (up to 300mm in diameter).

Mr McCann said the roads may be closed temporarily to all vehicles and pedestrians, except residents.

"This has to be done to protect the crews working on those deep trenches and also to protect the general public and vehicles. Residents on the closed sections will be contacted directly by the contractor prior to works beginning and they will be kept up to date about restricted access by the crews on site.

"We will be doing our best to ensure people are not unduly inconvenienced. We know there are also many people in the wider community who use this area for recreation so we are asking them to also

be prepared for disruption to their usual routines."

The new wastewater line will enable more residential development in the area, which is mostly zoned Residential C.

Mr McCann said there were currently about 50 properties in the area that would be serviced by the new network, but over the next 10 years another thousand new sections could be created.

"The new pipes will also allow some people to decommission their septic tanks."

Anyone wanting to be kept informed of updates on the project should sign up for free notifications at [ashburtondc.govt.nz/ashburton-district/projects](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz/ashburton-district/projects).

Council's website will also carry regular updates about the project.

## Playground poplars to be removed

Access to the Ashburton Domain children's playground and nearby carpark will be restricted next week when arborists take down two poplar trees.

The trees are scheduled to be removed on Thursday 15 September and Friday 16 September and the area will then be replanted and extra picnic tables installed.

The poplars are between the playground and the access road, and the area will be closed to cars while the arborists work. The operating area will be roped off and under supervision, but walkers can still access all other parts of the domain and car parking is available on Walnut Avenue.

Community Services Group Manager Steve Fabish said poplars were known to cause problems when they reached old age.

"While these two trees are still relatively young, long term they really are the wrong tree in the wrong place. Removing them now will make way for us to plant trees that are better for shade.

"It also provides an opportunity to make that side of the playground more connected and accessible to the whole site, as noted in a recent report."



## Leanne Macdonald - Group Manager Business Support From Central Otago to Ashburton

**Council has recently welcomed Leanne Macdonald as the new Group Manager of Business Support, which includes the finance, information systems, communications and Council property teams:**

I'm really pleased to be living here in Ashburton and getting to know my new community. Since arriving a few weeks ago, I've been focused on meeting my teams and learning about some of the key pieces of work that will fall under my scope over the next few years.

The Business Support group is wide-ranging, with people responsible for communications, finance, Council property, information systems and legal counsel.

And three big things that I can already see on the list of upcoming work are funding for the proposed second bridge, the move to the new library and civic building and the 2024-34 Long Term Plan, planning for which has already started.

I feel very proud to be working for the Council and pleased to have the opportunity to lead the group - there is much to learn and I am enjoying getting stuck in.

My husband has also secured a job in Ashburton, and we have bought a house and already feel quite settled. Our two fur-babies have joined a doggy day-care, so the entire family has settled in well to this very warm and welcoming community.

I am chartered accountant by trade

and have a history of local government that started with the Palmerston North airport, before I moved to a regional council and then onto district councils. For me the district councils are very special as we (the staff) are very much part of and within the community, supporting our community.

While I initially hailed from the North Island, I am very much a South Island girl at heart. I have spent the past three years with the Central Otago District Council, looking after similar corporate services (excluding property) and really enjoyed the role, and the district, especially the lakes, the rocks and the trails.

That being said, we love the diversity of the scenery here in Ashburton from the rolling green pasture through to the



beautiful snow-covered alps, and of course the beautiful Mt Hutt.

My husband and I are really looking forward to exploring the Ashburton District and the wider region on our gravel bikes, and simply enjoying the countryside with our two dogs and generally getting to know what Ashburton has to offer.

So if you see me out and about please feel free to say hello. I love meeting new people, especially in the community that I am here to support.



# Local election voting packs arriving soon

It's just over a week until voting packs for the local elections start arriving in mailboxes around the Ashburton District.

Aside from the mayoral race, nine councillors will be elected to represent three wards, as well as five Methven Community Board Members and six Braided Rivers Community Trust members.

Ashburton District Council Chief Executive Hamish Riach said people looking for more information about the candidates have several options.

"There will be information about candidates in the voting packs, but voters can also go to our [voteashburton.nz](http://voteashburton.nz) website now and browse through the candidate profiles to easily see who is standing in their ward."

The profiles include contact details for the candidates as well.

Mr Riach said there were several meet the candidates events being organised and he encouraged voters to go along and do their due diligence before ticking the box on their voting papers.

The first event is on this Sunday at the Ashburton Event Centre, at 2pm, and people can find more details on the main page of [voteashburton.nz](http://voteashburton.nz). An event has also been organised at the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall in Methven on 13 September, at 7pm.

For those wishing to dig in a bit deeper,



Above: Retiring members of the Methven Community Board (from left) Dan McLaughlin, Sonia McAlpine and Ron Smith.

Policy.nz (hosted by The Spinoff) has given all candidates standing in local elections the chance to share their thoughts on various areas of policy. Not all candidates have contributed, but for those who have, it's a good way to see what they think about topics such as rates, our local economy and climate change.

Mr Riach said it was also timely for council this week to thank three long-serving members of the Methven Community Board for their contributions over many years.

Dan McLaughlin, Sonia McAlpine and Ron Smith attended their last community board meeting on Monday – the three are

not seeking re-election.

Mr McLaughlin was elected in 2010 and has been chair since 2016, Mrs McAlpine was elected in 2013 and has been deputy since 2016 and Mr Smith was completing his second term after being elected in 2016.

"Their contribution to the board and the Methven community is greatly appreciated. They have been great ambassadors for Methven," Mr Riach said.

Voting in all the local elections starts on 16 September and closes at noon on Saturday 8 October. Find out more at [voteashburton.nz](http://voteashburton.nz)

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE: RAKAIA SCHOOL 150TH JUBILEE

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 – **Rakaia School 150th Jubilee.**

Roads proposed to be closed:

- **MACKIE STREET**, from Elizabeth Avenue to Dunford Street
- **DUNFORD STREET**, from Cridland Street to Mackie Street

Period of closure: **From 10am until 11.30am on SATURDAY, 22 October 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 ([info@adc.govt.nz](mailto:info@adc.govt.nz)) to the Council, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton by **4pm on FRIDAY, 16 September 2022.**

**NEIL McCANN**  
Group Manager Infrastructure Services

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

**Council Agencies (six-month reports)** - Wednesday 14 September, 9.30am (live-streamed)

**Council Hearings (Ashburton Airport Development Plan)** - Wednesday 14 September, 1.00pm (live-streamed)

**Council Meeting** - Wednesday 21 September, 1.00pm (live-streamed)

**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)

## DON'T GO STRAPLESS!

Remember to put your windstrap on whenever you put your wheelie bins out, no matter the weather! The strap helps keep lids shut on windy days, and when bins are blown or knocked over. They're specially designed to be undone as the bin is picked up and emptied.

Haven't got a windstrap? Go to our website [ashburtondc.govt.nz/services/rubbish-and-recycling](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz/services/rubbish-and-recycling) and request one.



# Park 'n' bark: Check out our new car park

People exercising their pooches at the Ashburton Dog Park can now use the new 20-space car park at the facility, with access off Cass Street next to the new Kmart development.

A sloping path leads from the carpark to the entrance to the dog park, which has separate areas for small and all dogs. The entrance also has plastic poo bags and a water foundation for both dogs and humans.

Community Services Group Manager Steve Fabish said there was still work to do on the new dog park entrance but people

could begin using the car park.

"Staff will be installing rubbish bins and there's also agility equipment to put in, as well as a shingle path and more plants. We'll be planting extra trees inside the exercise areas for shade."

The dog park has had a big makeover, following the floods of May 2021 when it was mostly under water after the Ashburton River burst its bank, taking out fences and depositing shingle and debris around the park.

It has been rebuilt 50 per cent bigger, with new fences, new dog play equipment and

a new entrance off Cass Street.

"As well as undertaking the repair work, we have removed trees, recontoured the bank to make it easier to mow and maintain, and increased the overall area by quite a lot. It's getting great use and we've had lots of positive feedback," Mr Fabish said.

"The new car park has room for 20 vehicles and lighting, and we encourage people use this space rather than the old car park at the end of William Street."

The dog park is a designated area where people can exercise their dogs off the leash.

## Hear about our Māori history

Join us at the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum next Wednesday (14 September) at 6pm during Te Wiki o te Reo Māori for a special event from the Tāngata Ngāi Tahu authors and researchers. The team will be presenting the lives and contributions of various Ngāi Tahu people associated with the Hakatere Ashburton District.

The connected Kā Huru Manu exhibition, which provides an insight into the Ngāi Tahu history of our district, runs until 18 September.

## Draft Stormwater Bylaw

**Our stormwater network does the essential job of collecting and carrying rainwater away from buildings and roads.**

We've drafted a new bylaw to manage our stormwater infrastructure and help protect both the environment and public health. We'd like your feedback!

**Have your Say!**

**We want to hear from YOU!**

Visit [ashburton.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://ashburton.govt.nz/haveyoursay) or scan the QR code to view the consultation documents and share your feedback by 5pm, Sunday 18 September 2022.

