

## Richard Wood: In his sporty element

EA Networks Centre's new manager Richard Wood loves his job, and sometimes it takes an hour for him to make it to his desk after coming in the front door.

This is important time to personally connect with some of his 100 staff or with regular swimmers, gym-goers and others using the four-court stadium.

Their unfiltered feedback is a constant reminder that the aquatic and recreation centre is the heart of a vibrant community where people are tending their physical, mental and social health.

Richard has always been passionate about sport. He was a sporty kid who went to Ashburton Borough School, Ashburton Intermediate and Ashburton College, then studied coaching, exercise and sport management at the New Zealand Institute of Sport.

He was a high level competitive water skier and pursued the sport in the United States before returning to Ashburton and becoming a personal trainer, working with high performance athletes, those wanting to get fit or lose weight and people recovering from serious injury or accident. He started out as the sports facility assistant manager in 2014 when the EA Networks Centre first opened, and is now relishing the opportunity to take charge of the \$35m complex.

The centre caters for a range of swimmers and a wide range of sports, from basketball and badminton to walking netball and futsal; it also offers a modern gym and special classes for people recovering from illness or injury, or after having a baby, and runs school holiday programmes and adventure time for toddlers.

Richard said the growing range of



*Richard Wood is enjoying being at the helm of the EA Networks Centre.*

programmes aimed to match community interest and demand, which had changed because of covid.

"The pandemic has changed our perspective on wellbeing and we know that feeling connected and being physically as well as socially active is so important. Our team here has both energy and experience, and I'm lucky that they are also invested in building on their relationships in the community."

Community Services Group Manager Steve Fabish said it was great to see Richard progress in the organisation to become manager of the facility.

"We really value his knowledge of both the centre and the people who visit and work in it. He knows how our community ticks and is proud to be a part of it. It's also great for others in the sport and recreation industry to see the pathways available to management level."

An important project that Richard is currently working on is a utilisation study to look at the EA Networks Centre, council's swimming pools and some of the district's green sports fields to see how they are used.

Mr Fabish said the study's findings would inform development at the EA Networks Centre in the future.

"There are some interesting recreation trends emerging post-covid and we see this as an opportunity to refresh what we do.

"This is a community facility and one of our strengths is that we have great partners to work with, such as Sport Canterbury and Mid Canterbury Netball. Working on the Play, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy recently reinforced that those strong relationships with our user groups are so vital."

## Celebrating the works of Ngaio McKee

Join us at the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum this Sunday 30 October to celebrate the opening of a new solo exhibition by local artist Ngaio McKee.

This free public event starts at 2pm and all are welcome.

Ashburton artist Ngaio McKee has maintained a creative practice since the mid-1970s, and is a versatile artist with a love of local landscapes and floral studies.

She works across a variety of media, such as pastel, acrylic, oil, and especially watercolour, in which she excels.

This exhibition presents a selection of works from throughout Ngaio's artistic career, many of which are treasured pieces on loan from the homes of family and friends.

Together, they demonstrate that she is an artist who finds immense satisfaction in the act of capturing a scene's beauty through colour and light.



## Neil Brown - Mayor

## Business rolls on, with a budget on horizon

**This is a week devoted very much to tradition and process.**

Today, the full council will be sworn in at its inaugural meeting. All elected members including the Methven Community Board, Councillors and myself, will be required to declare that we will do our best to perform the duties of office. Cr Leen Braam will be absent, but will make his declaration at the 8 December meeting.

Chief Executive Hamish Riach will then run through the legislation we need to be aware of, from the Local Government Act, to the Crimes Act, Public Records Act and the Health and Safety at Work Act.

The Local Government Act spells out our purpose and powers, which in a nutshell is to enable democratic local decision-making and promote the

social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of our community, now and for the future.

The Chief Executive will also talk about standing orders and a code of conduct for councillors. Our standing orders are contained in a rather imposing 81-page document, but they're really important, as they ensure the orderly conduct of our meetings. There's no pop-quiz on the matter, but we're all expected to know meeting procedure and behaviour, which ultimately comes down to common-sense and showing respect around the table.

At the inaugural meeting I will also appoint a deputy mayor and once again I'm recommending Cr Liz McMillan, who has so ably filled the role in the past three years.

We'll then appoint councillors to a host of other committees, organisations

and decision-making bodies. Many people may be surprised to learn that in total there are 65 committees, groups, organisations and meetings that councillors are required to attend in addition to regular council business. Examples include the Ashburton Airport Authority, the road safety co-ordinating committee, the local Seniors Centre, the Mayfield Reserve Board and the Lower Hinds river rating group.

We'll also discuss the pay for elected members, which has already been independently set by the national Remuneration Authority, and adopt a schedule for meetings and workshops until the end of the year.

Too early to be talking Christmas? Definitely not, as it's crucial to ensure all those services you might take for granted (turning on the tap, flushing the toilet and driving your car on a road)

continue over the holidays. So, one of the first reports we'll receive as your newly-elected council will look at how Council services will be provided over the Christmas period.

There is some meaty work for the councillors on the near horizon too, as Council staff have begun the Annual Plan 2023-24 process and are looking at budgets and the projects they want to accomplish during the next financial year.

Councillors' first get-together in 2023 will be a budget workshop and we're looking forward to discussing these topics with our residents further in the New Year.

The business of Council rolls on!





# Domain loses golden elm to wind damage

Open Spaces staff are planning the removal of a mature Golden Elm from the Ashburton Domain, after its trunk split during high winds and efforts to save it failed.

Community Services Group Manager Steve Fabish said the elm could be well over 100 years old, and possibly an original planting in the 37ha domain.

“We’re disappointed we couldn’t save this tree, but our arborists have carefully assessed it and it needs to come out. They’ve taken some branches off already to make it safe and it is likely to be removed towards the end of November, after the nearby tulip garden has passed its best.”

The elm has two trunks that have grown together and during high winds earlier this month, staff found a 15cm gap had developed. The tree was taped off and some branches removed so a full evaluation of the tree’s structure could be safely made.

Mr Fabish said the split likely developed over time and was made worse because of the high winds and extra weight on the branches as sap travelled to emerging flowers.

“This tree would have caused a lot of damage in the surrounding area if it had come down, not to mention it would have been a danger to domain users if allowed to remain.”

Earlier this month consultant arborists also began a project to assess all trees in the domain – each tree is being officially identified, its location mapped by GPS and its growth and condition assessed.



**A golden elm in the Ashburton Domain needs to be removed after its trunk split in high winds.**

“We’re doing everything from the little maples to the large Wellingtonias and one of the comments we have already had back from the assessors is that we have a number of trees that are over mature.

“That means they are coming to the end of their natural life and more susceptible to the elements. Trees are living things and become fragile in their twilight years, but that is part of the cycle.

“We will create a longterm plan to replace these trees, as that keeps with our philosophy of continuous planting ... one tree out, one tree in.”

The domain celebrated 150 years in 2014 and is based on an English/European theme, with many of the original trees imported. Some have already been replaced.

Mr Fabish said the general feel of the

domain would not change as over-mature trees were replaced over time, though the odd new species would be introduced as appropriate.

“Trees are like livestock and sometimes you also get dead or diseased stock. A good example of that was on Oak Grove, where a line of badly decaying Malus Trilobata (Lebanese crabapple) was removed and some new trees put in. The art of managing trees means that your plans don’t often see a result for 30 or 40 years so you have to be able to visualise well, and these trees on Oak Grove will provide great shade and colour in the future.

“Because our trees grow in such public areas, we always try to communicate any major work to residents as widely as possible as part of our health and safety obligations.”

## Meet Robbie and our new councillors at the show

An exercise machine that simulates cross-country skiing and a robot called Robbie will be among attractions in the Ashburton District Council’s marquee at the Ashburton A&P Show on Friday and Saturday.

The ‘ski erg’ is usually found inside the gym at EA Networks Centre, but facility staff are bringing it outdoors and encouraging people to test their fitness and have a go. It’s designed to mimic the movements required for cross-country skiing and there will be prizes for the best or perhaps, most hilarious performances.

Council’s building team is also bringing Robbie the robot along. Robbie is deployed to undertake underfloor inspections and see into places that humans just can’t fit. He uses thermal imaging to send back important information to his minder and will be showing off in the marquee.

The team from Eco Educate will be on hand both days to discuss recycling and sustainable living – with plenty of great practical advice and ideas for minimising waste. On Saturday, library staff will be hosting an area for the younger attendees with lego play and colouring in.

A family pass to the Ōpuke Thermal Pools



and Spa will also be up for grabs. Members of the Economic Development team and the youth council are asking people to take part in a five-minute survey about living in Mid Canterbury.

Questions will be about what people think makes our district a great place to live, work and play and those who take part will go into the prize draw.

Our district’s newly-elected councillors will also be at the marquee at various times, so drop by for a chat with the people who will be representing you over the next three years.

Council staff will be using tablets to show off the free Tūwhana app, which can help residents learn more about Maori, Filipino and Samoan languages and cultures. They have also helped ethnic leaders create a Cultures of Our District display in the show president’s tent, so don’t forget to check out that exhibit too.

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### ROAD CLOSURE

Pursuant to the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is hereby given that for the purpose of **Mission Mt Somers**, the following road will be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic (with the exception of emergency vehicles) for the period indicated below.

Road to be closed:

- **SYMES ROAD**

**Period of Closure:** From 5am until 5pm on **SATURDAY, 29 October 2022.**

It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under authority of an authorised permit to use the roads for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure.

**NEIL McCANN**  
Group Manager Infrastructure Services

### ALCOHOL OFF LICENCE

#### NOTICE OF HEARING

The Ashburton District Licensing Committee will hold a public hearing to consider an application by KD Kumar Investments Limited for an off licence under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

**Date:** Friday 4 November

**Venue:** Council Chambers

**Time:** 10am

**Committee members:** Robin Kilworth (commissioner), Greg Clapp (member) and Tracy McIlraith (member).

Any person who claims an interest in the proceedings must:

- Advise the committee of the grounds of that interest (if not already notified)
- Advise if they intend to make submissions or give evidence at the hearing
- Provide **four** copies of typed statements of the evidence and submissions to be tendered.

All parties are required to provide all documents that will be produced as evidence to the licensing committee by close of business on **Thursday 27 October**. Documents must also be provided to all other parties within the same timeframe.

**RICK CATCHPOWLE**  
Secretary, District Licensing Committee



### TRIENNIAL MEETINGS

**Rakaia Reserve Board** - Monday 31 October, 7.30pm at Rakaia Bowling Club

**Ruapuna Reserve Board** - Tuesday 1 November, 7pm at Ruapuna Hall

**Mt Somers Reserve Board** - Tuesday 8 November, 7.30pm at Mt Somers Hall (supper room)

**Tinwald Memorial Hall Board** - Wednesday 9 November, 7pm at Tinwald Hall

**Methven Reserve Board** - Wednesday 23 November, 7pm at Methven Rugby Club

### FLUSH YOUR TAPS

Some plumbing fittings have the potential for small traces of metals to accumulate in water that has been in the fitting for several hours.

Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends you run a mugful of water through your drinking water tap each morning before use to remove any metals that may have dissolved from plumbing fittings.

We recommend this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.

**NEIL McCANN**  
Group Manager Infrastructure Services

#### 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, late night Wed to 7pm