

Contractors tackle winter road jobs



Council's roading contractors are turning their attention to winter jobs, including shingle road maintenance and high-pressure water cutting on some sealed roads around the district.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said repairs and reconstruction of sealed roads happened in warmer months.

"Now our contractors are re-shingling our unsealed roads where needed, as well as doing some general maintenance."

Several sites around the sealed network are programmed for water cutting in the next month, to improve the road surface.

"That work involves using a high pressure water treatment to remove excess bitumen from the surface to improve skid resistance."

Council's roading network includes some 1102km of unsealed or shingle roads and these can be tricky for inexperienced drivers at any time of the year.

Mr McCann said it is important to lower your speed on shingle roads, especially at corners, to make it easier for drivers to react to the unexpected.

"The shingle is also usually thicker on the shoulder of the road and the slope can pull you towards the edge. If your car skids, don't overreact and hit the brakes – steer in the direction you are travelling,

and when you've recovered adjust your speed."

Winter driving also includes hazards like black ice, icy roads shaded by trees and sun strike.

"While modern cars come with lots of safety features, the most critical element is the driver behind the wheel. You should always drive to the conditions and allow greater following distances on frosty and wet days.

"We do our best to keep the network as safe as possible, but drivers need to play their part too."

Another hazard is a frosty windscreen and Council has free ice scrapers available at its Customer Services counter.

Spruce-up for Methven playgrounds

A light spruce-up has commenced at Spaxton Street playground in Methven, with plans to tidy up the Methven Railway Reserve playground also afoot.

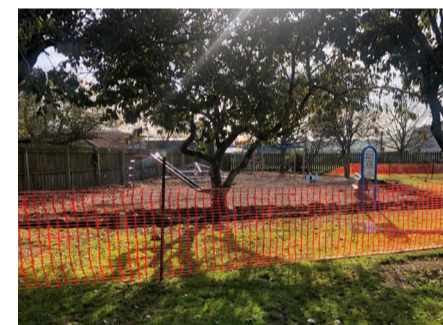
The work involves a repair and repaint of the beloved tractor and some safety enhancements to the rocking horse and general playground.

New equipment will also be installed to complement the existing features.

Methven railway reserve playground is next on the list to be groomed along with safety enhancements to the existing equipment.

"These upgrades were identified as part of an audit of district playgrounds in 2022," Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said.

Enhancement work on the playgrounds shouldn't take any longer than three weeks, all going to plan.



Neil Brown - Mayor

Proud to be backing our district's teams

Together Everyone Achieves More. If you take the first letters of those four words you get TEAM, and this district has plenty of team players and teams to be proud of right now.

This week Methven-born-and-raised Dallas McLeod was named in the All Blacks' Rugby Championship squad, reward for a stellar season with the Crusaders and testament to his hard work ethic and personal growth in the game.

Dallas is a product of Mount Hutt College, leaving the district in his Year 13 to attend Christ's College to further his rugby dreams. Up until then, he could be found in the black and white hoops of the Methven Rugby Club and in the combined Ashburton College/Mount Hutt First XV playing in the Crusaders region secondary school competition.

He has achieved many of his rugby dreams and now has a golden chance to

book a ticket to the World Cup in France later this year.

Dallas joins an elite group of All Blacks who hail from the Ashburton District, including the likes of Jock Ross and Tim Perry, and will be an inspiration for the current local combined first XV, which is back in the secondary school competition this year and doing well.

First though, will be the Crusaders-Chiefs Super Rugby final in Hamilton on Saturday and I hope to see our red and black rugby machine in top gear once again, with Dallas playing his part.

Not all of the star performers in this district play sport and two that I have written to personally in the past month were recognised in the recent Queen's Birthday honours (it will be known as the King's Birthday honours from next year).

Ron Smith and Richard Lemon were both awarded Queen's Service Medals for services to their communities and interest groups.

I got to know Ron Smith during his term on the Methven Community Board, and Ron's medal was for services to the community and Search and Rescue.

He joined the Methven land Search and Rescue in 1989 and has changed the local and national organisation for the better, introducing training for volunteers.

He has also been an instrumental member of the Methven Lions Club, a service group that lends practical support to all manner of projects around Methven, including the well-used Methven walkway.

Richard's was for his services to the agriculture and pastoral industry.

Richard was wearing his A&P hat when he spoke to Council recently about the association's plans to enhance the Ashburton showgrounds and he will be an asset in helping the group realise this project.



He has been involved in A&P show events in Canterbury and Ashburton since 1976 and served on committees and in key organising roles, equally at ease talking with Princess Anne, or local cattle-breeders or townies watching the live birth of a lamb in the sheep tent.

Richard is a proud member of our district's farming team.

Another high performer on the farming team is Hamish Marr, a fifth-generation Methven farmer who has just been appointed New Zealand's Special Agricultural Trade Envoy. Hamish grows high-quality seeds for export and his new role will see him work with our trading partners to tell the story about how New Zealand is moving towards a sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural sector.

\$5m Tinwald SH1 contract awarded

The construction contract for the SH1 Tinwald Corridor Improvements project, on the south side of Ashburton, has been awarded to Fulton Hogan with a tender price of close to \$5 million.

The Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency project was included in a \$45 million package of rural intersection upgrades in Canterbury funded through the Government's NZ Upgrade Programme (NZUP).

Traffic signals will be installed at the SH1/Lagmhor Road/Agnes Street intersection to help to create more regular gaps in the traffic and improve safety for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists.

"The aim of the project is to make it safer and easier for people in Tinwald to cross between east and west residential areas and to visit local businesses. The improvements will also make getting on and off SH1 easier at peak travel times," Waka Kotahi Director of Regional Relationships, James Caygill, said.



Traffic signals will be installed at the intersection of SH1/Lagmhor Road/ Agnes Street to create regular gaps for side street traffic.

The SH1 Tinwald Corridor Improvements is one of 20 major projects Waka Kotahi is delivering for the government's NZUP programme.

It is the third and last project included in

the rural intersection upgrade package in Canterbury to get under way.

The project is expected to take around 10 months to complete, with work starting in the coming month.

Pests outnumbered by joint effort

The Council has joined forces with local volunteers to control pests at Awa Awa Rata Reserve and surrounding native forest from this weekend.

Several groups of volunteers together with the Awa Awa Rata Reserve Society have been using traps targeting small pest mammals to reduce numbers and protect the native forest health.

This work will continue supported by an experienced and approved Council contractor who has been undertaking pest control work around cemeteries and the Ashburton Lakes.

Council's recent survey using trail cameras at night discovered a high number of pest species within the area.

Neil McCann, Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager said, "The trail camera findings gave us clues into what we need to do to save one of our remaining native forests in the district".

"We had ten trail cameras in place and they exposed a much wider variety of pest animals than we expected."

All pests pose threats to native forest and conservation values by significantly disturbing the health of regenerating plants.

If pest populations are left uncontrolled, they take over more area, creating further damage.

The joint project will occur every quarter until pest populations have reduced.

Game shooting at the reserve and the surrounding native forest remains closed at all hours of the day and night.

This is to ensure safety of the community using this popular network of walking tracks in and around the vicinity of this reserve.

For inquiries or concerns, please contact the Council Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor on biodiversity@adc.govt.nz.



Help us create our new Reserve Management Plan

Love Your Parks

We want to know what you love about your parks.

- What do you value about our parks?
- What activities should they cater for?
- And how should they be protected?

Share your thoughts at ashburtondc.govt.nz/parks

Talk with the team

This Saturday, 9am-12pm
Ashburton Farmer's Market
West Street Car Park

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

Council Meeting – Wednesday 28 June, 1pm (livestreamed)

WORKS NOTICES

Melcombe Street – current to late June. Contractors will soon be laying new water pipes along Melcombe Street, between Compton and Shearer Streets, during this time. Expect traffic management including temporary lane closures, detours, parking and speed restrictions.

Chalmers Avenue - current to 30 June. Contractors are laying new water pipes along Chalmers Avenue, between Wellington and Dobson Streets. Traffic management is in place on the south-bound lane. Detours are available for heavy vehicles; resident access remains.

Allens Road - current to July. Allens Road is temporarily closed between Carters Road and Turton Street to allow contractors to install a pump station that will complete the North West Ashburton wastewater extension. Detours in place.

RECYCLING: NO LIDS

No lids please (of any size, shape or material) in your kerbside recycling bin. Lids jam the automatic sorter.

FREE BARK CHIPS

Need woodchips for your garden?

Council's Ashburton Resource Recovery Park, on Range Street, has a mountain of woodchips to give away – all you need is a truck or trailer, or bags, to put them in.

The woodchips have been deposited by local arborists and have been used around the recovery park on areas of native plantings. There are so many woodchips left over that residents are being invited to come along and take a free load.

If you want a large quantity, our loader driver can put a scoop in your truck or trailer.



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 9am - 8pm
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