

Historic foundations uncovered

Contractors working at the Ng King community heritage park on Allens Road have uncovered foundations of an historic building at the former Chinese market garden settlement.

The brick floor of a space thought to have been used for hay storage and kennels was discovered by a GDC digger driver removing a layer of grass and topsoil to create an all-weather surface for visitors to the park, which will officially open to the public in February next year.

A collection of buildings has already been preserved on the site, which was declared archaeologically significant in 2019 after Council and the Ng King families had been working together to restore parts of it.

Council's heritage consultant Arlene Baird said the brick floor was a fantastic find this week.

"We knew from historic aerial images that there used to be a building in the area but we thought it had a dirt floor like many of the other buildings, so finding the pad intact is amazing."

An edging will be built around the brick floor and the discovery able to be seen by all visitors. The story of the market gardens run by the Ng King Brothers partnership in Ashburton from the early 1920s will be told in interpretive panels that will also be erected around the wider site.

"We want to keep the floor exposed so it helps to tell the story of what was here before," Ms Baird said.



Council staff and contractors inspect the brick floor.

"The panels tell a bigger story about not just the Ng King partnership, but also of Chinese immigration to New Zealand and the market garden business."

Landscaping work to be completed before the official opening in February includes creating a shingle path in the form of the figure eight around the park, as well as an entrance from Turton Green. The 2.5 hectare site will also be planted out and the security fencing eventually removed.

Ms Baird said there would be places to sit and places to play, and she hoped visitors would take the opportunity to learn about the importance of the site, which was regarded as the last intact example of a 20th century Chinese market garden

settlement in New Zealand.

"This restoration project has been 16 years in the making and wonderful acknowledgement of the contribution early Chinese settlers made to our history."

The official opening is a private event at 11am on Sunday 25 February involving Council, Heritage New Zealand and the descendants of the Ng King settlers. The park will be open to the community after that.

Restoration work has been funded by Council, Heritage New Zealand and a grant from the Chinese Poll Tax Heritage Trust.

Neil Brown - Mayor Slow down, people make mistakes behind the wheel

Council's roading contractors are busy upgrading stop and give way signs at many rural intersections – signs are bigger, there are more of them, and some have white backgrounds designed to make them even more visible.

No-one sets out to die on our roads, yet mistakes happen and sadly we have had people killed at some of our intersections in the district. So, as Christmas fast approaches, please drive safely.

That message is spread year-round by the Ashburton District Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee, which meets every three months and includes representatives from emergency services, road and transport advocates and agencies like ACADS who have been out in the community talking about not driving if you've been drinking.

This week's meeting agenda had nearly

100 photographs of improvements to some of our rural intersections. They showed new, larger stop and give way signs, and additional signs warning drivers that the new, larger stop and give way signs were coming up.

We also heard about an impactful video being filmed by the South Canterbury road safety team that will be available to our district next year. It deals with young people and the effects of dangerous and impaired driving, though that is a subject for all ages.

Speed is another matter for all drivers and we are expecting Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency to adjust the speed limit through Rakaia township down to 50km/h in the new year. This will be very welcome by those who live there and who have been asking for a lower limit for years.

The speed over the Rakaia River bridge is eventually expected to drop to

80km/h and drivers will also have to adjust to slow-moving heavy traffic pulling out of the new weigh station that is under construction on the northern side of the river.

Some decisions Council has no say in, but we can monitor the consequences and push for improvements.

We continue to hear unfavourable feedback on the permanent 30km/h speed reductions past local schools and we will be reviewing that decision in February. Variable speed signs, with limits during school time only, may be the best solution at some schools on busier arterial roads but these will cost a whole lot more.

Stay safe on the roads these holidays - drive to the conditions and slow down, because people make mistakes.



SHORT AND SWEET

CHRISTMAS MOVIE

The countdown is on for Arthur Christmas, the free family movie being screened outdoors at the Ashburton Domain picnicground on Saturday. Entry is off Elizabeth and Grigg Streets, with the venue open from 6pm. The Youth Council will be giving away free popcorn for the movie, which starts at 7pm. If the weather is poor, keep an eye on Council's Facebook page for notice - the postponement date is Saturday 16 December. The event is part of Council's Light Up The Night Christmas festival.



DISC GOLF OPENS

The new disc golf course at the Tinwald Domain opens this Sunday, at 3pm, and local golfers are invited to check it out. The nine-hole course has been designed by Zac Taylor, of the Christchurch Disc Golf Club, who has been working with the Tinwald Reserve Board to make it happen.

TALK IT UP

Council's Talk It Up Tuesday sessions at the Ashburton Library will come to an end for this year on Tuesday 12 December. Councillors welcome residents who want to talk about the good, or not-so-good aspects of life in the district, between 1pm-2pm. The regular Tuesday sessions will restart in the new year from Te Whare Whakatere, the new library and civic building on Baring Square East.

BOOK CLUB READS

The next Book Club meeting at the Ashburton Library will be on Thursday 21 December at 1.30pm. Books in the spotlight include Souvenirs, the Fine Art of Uncanny Prediction and Postscript.

Business awards finalists revealed

The finalists have been shortlisted for the ANZ Business of the Year Awards and the all-important judging round will soon get under way, amid much excitement.

When entries to the event closed last month, organisers counted 122, which is a huge jump from when the Ashburton District awards were first held in 2022.

Council is partnering with Ri Ra Events to host the awards and Ri Ra marketing director Colm McGrath said the final count had exceeded both the target and expectations.

“We’re thrilled with the number and quality of entries, and they represent a great cross-section of our business community. We’ve seen a mix of established businesses, who’ve been doing well for a number of years, and some relative newcomers and start-ups, so we’re thrilled. We’ve shortlisted nearly 50 in the various categories, and some appear in more than one group because of their many talents.”

The next phase of the awards involves judges meeting with the shortlisted businesses to talk more in depth about what they do and what they have achieved. Winners will be announced at a gala evening at the Ashburton Aviation Museum superhangar on Friday 23 February - the aviation museum was a winner in the inaugural awards in 2022, taking top spot in the tourism category.

The gala evening is open to all businesses to attend, and tables and tickets for the evening have just been released for sale at www.businessoftheyear.nz

Category winners are eligible for the supreme business excellence award, which will be decided by Mayor Neil Brown.

The finalists are –

Excellence in Primary Industries: Agricultural Consulting Services



Checking out the Ashburton Aviation Museum ahead of the ANZ Business of the Year Awards gala are (from left) Mayor Neil Brown, the museum's Owen Moore and the ANZ's Michael Royston.

(Canterbury) Ltd, Potato Seed Co-op Ltd, May Brothers Contracting Ltd, Veterinary Enterprises Group Ltd (VetEnt).

Excellence in Customer Experience: Big Al's, The Dog House, Escape Adventures NZ, Opuke Thermal Pools & Spa, Wrights Drycleaners Ltd.

Excellence in Workplace Wellbeing: Jan Maree Cleaning Services Ltd, Juice Signs + Design, RX Plastics Ltd, Tavendale and Partners Ltd, Veterinary Enterprises Group.

Excellence in Community Impact: Kai for Kids Charitable Trust, Safer Mid Canterbury – Hakatere Haumarū, Staveley Ice & Curling Rink, Mid Canterbury Rural Support Trust.

Excellence in Professional Services: Chilton + Mayne Architecture Ltd, Crispin Design, Rushton Marketing, Tavendale and Partners Ltd.

Excellence in Tourism: Escape Adventures NZ, Hemsworth Estate, Opuke Thermal Pools & Spa, Staveley Ice & Curling Rink.

Excellence in Manufacturing: RX Plastics Limited, Smith Attachments Ltd,

Cullimore Engineering.

Excellence in Technology & Innovation: Agricultural Consulting Services (Canterbury) Ltd, Baskville Ltd, Cullimore Engineering, Diesel-Tech Machinery, Opuke Thermal Pools & Spa.

Excellence in Export: Hemprino, Quigley Feeds NZ, Creepers Socks, RX Plastics.

Excellence in Environmental Sustainability: Jan Maree Cleaning Services Ltd, Hemprino, Opuke Thermal Pools & Spa, Wrights Drycleaners Apparelmaster.

Emerging New Business: Berry Beauty Co. Ltd, Fern and Feta Platters, Opuke Thermal Pools & Spa, Quigley Feeds NZ.

Emerging Business Leader: A Team Construction, Berry Beauty Co. Ltd, Cullimore Engineering Ltd, Opuke Thermal Pools & Spa.

Excellence in Retail/Hospitality: Berry Beauty Co. Ltd, Big Al's, Cleavers Corner Gastro Pub, Stronechrubie Restaurant & Accommodation, Triangle Espresso.

Excellence in Business Leadership: To be announced at the awards evening.

WORKS NOTICES

Lagmhor Road/SH1 Tinwald/Agnes Street – Waka Kotahi is installing traffic lights at this intersection so expect traffic management and delays over the coming months. The Lagmhor Road crossing will be closed for two months from 25 September.

Willow Street - Willow Street from Suffolk Street to Beach Road is closed until 21 December so contractors can install new services to a housing project. Detours are in place, residents still have access.

William Street - current until 21 December. William Street and intersections of Kermode and Dobson Streets, will be closed to undertake wastewater upgrading. Residents will still have access and detours will be in place.

Elizabeth Street (hospital end) - current. New water and wastewater pipes are being installed in this area and some roads are temporarily closed. Elizabeth Street, between Grigg and Walker, is currently one-way (west to east) and no street parking is available on this section. Access to Ashburton Hospital remains; resident access remains.

Thompsons Track - current to 21 December. Thompsons Track, between Braemar and Pole Road, will be closed for road rehabilitation. Detour in place; resident access available.

Elizabeth Street - current to 12 December. Elizabeth Street, between Cross and Allison Streets, is closed for the first stage of a wastewater upgrade. Detour in place; no entry from Baker Street. Resident access remains.

Kermode Street - from 30 October to 8 December. Kermode Street, between Mona Square and East Street, is closed for a wastewater upgrade.

Cameron Street - Cameron Street (between SH1 and Park Street) is closed until 21 December, while wastewater pipes are replaced.

Tinwald Westerfield Mayfield Road - current until 20 December. Tinwald Westerfield Mayfield Road is closed between Westerfield School Road and Valetta Westerfield Road while contractors carry out road rehabilitation. Detours are available.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are at Council Chambers, 137 Havelock Street, unless specified. Meeting agendas are online at ashburtondc.govt.nz

Budget Workshop, Wednesday 13 December, 9am

Biodiversity Strategy hearings, Thursday 14 December, 9am

Budget Workshop, Tuesday 19 December, 9am

Budget Workshop, Wednesday 20 December, 9am

Council Meeting, Wednesday 20 December, 1pm

For Council news, visit us at ashburtondc.govt.nz/news

PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a proposal to temporarily close roads to ordinary vehicle traffic to enable the holding of a kids' duathlon and triathlon at the EA Networks Centre.

Roads proposed to be closed:

- **McNally Street (from Robinson Street to McGregor Lane)**
- **Partial closure of Robinson Street and Smallbone Drive**

Period of Closure: **From 6am to 1pm on Saturday 27 January 2024 (postponement date 3 February).**

This proposed closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 – Schedule 10 (11 (e) and will be considered at the Council meeting in January 2024, if required. Any person objecting to the proposal should lodge a notice of their objection and grounds in writing by post or email to the Council, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton by 4pm, **Friday 29 December 2023.**

NEIL McCANN
Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces

VOCAL ABOUT LOCAL

Have your Say!

Have your say on how Council is elected and how you're represented

Submit your feedback online.

ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay

Ashburton
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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 & MUSEUM

327 West Street
10am - 4pm daily