

Try digital, library urges members

Staff at the Ashburton Public Library are encouraging people to try out the growing range of eBooks, eAudio and digital resources as the facility prepares to close for three weeks to move into the new library and civic centre, Te Whare Whakare.

Library Manager Jill Watson says it's the perfect time to make use of the digital library, which is already proving popular with members.

"It just keeps growing each year. We've issued over 10,000 eAudio titles in 2023, which is a 20 per cent increase over last year, and our eBook issues have also lifted by 17 per cent."

Jill attributes the growth in engagement to effective use of platforms such as Libby, BorrowBox and Hoopla.

"These digital avenues play a crucial role in connecting our community with an expansive collection of literary content, all from the comfort of the home and you can borrow them at any time, 24/7."

For most people, accessing the library digital services is as simple as installing an app and having their library card handy. However, for those new to the world of eBooks and eAudio, Jill says the library



Library assistant Stacey Broadbent and other library staff are happy to talk about eBooks and eAudio books.

hosts eBook sessions every Tuesday between 2pm and 3pm.

"If you can't make it to a session, you can always bring your device into the library and one of our staff will be happy to help you get started."

Alongside the new library building, work has also started on a new library website.

"We have this wonderful new facility with a huge amount to offer the community, and we want to make sure our online

presence reflects that," says Jill.

"The refreshed website will allow people to more easily find out what's happening at the library and access our growing range of digital resources."

The library will be closed from 1 January until 22 January when it reopens in the new building at 2 Baring Square East.

To browse the library's range of eBooks, eAudio and digital resources, visit ashburtondc.govt.nz/digital

Hamish Riach - Chief Executive Challenges ahead as next Long Term Plan shapes up

A large piece of work that kicks off for Councillors this week is the Long Term Plan 2024-34.

Council staff have been working on it for several months already, looking at projects under way or future projects that will improve core infrastructure, especially our roading network. This next phase involves Councillors signalling work for the next decade and asking the community what they think.

In the last Long Term Plan, Council committed to work aimed at increasing the resiliency of our district, and that's important because it shapes our future and who wants to live here. There'll be more work to consider in this Long Term Plan and, as always, Councillors must weigh up expenditure against rate rises.

We've heard clearly from the community that they want the district's roading network improved and we are looking to include a big lift in the roading budget. Budgeting for a big lift in the state of our roading network is not straight forward because the condition of our roads is influenced by things out of our control, like weather (including flooding), and there are fluctuating costs of labour and materials, and Government subsidies.

We are doing our best to carry out maintenance and renewals in the most cost-effective way to meet the standards our community expects.

We continue to work on or plan future work on our drinking water, stormwater and wastewater networks – the careful decisions of past Councils means this district has good and safe community drinking water supplies and we aim to keep them that way through regular renewals, maintenance and expansion.

In this Long Term Plan we'll also be looking at the potential to introduce an organic waste collection, water meters, plus the future of stockwater in our district and outdoor water play options.

It will be a difficult budget as New Zealanders everywhere face rising costs, whether they are buying food at the supermarket, or petrol at the gas station. We're watching other councils grappling with the same issues and some are proposing reduced levels of services, others higher rate rises.

The usual factors are having an influence on the budget: Inflation, interest rates and Government regulation.

It is important that residents give

feedback during the consultation phase, as that helps Councillors make their decisions. Your early input via our Take 10 for the Future survey has been valuable already and we'll let you know when the final draft plan is ready for comment.

There are formal and informal ways to express your views to Councillors and this year we have been running regular Talk it Up Tuesday sessions at the public library where residents can talk to councillors. Last week Council also accepted a petition from members of the public wanting to save the Tinwald Pool and, in the public forum part of their meeting, heard the views of a man on disabled access at EA Networks Centre.

Looking back, we've achieved a lot in the past three years, from renovating the CBD and building a new water treatment plant at Methven, to constructing a new library and civic centre that is nearing its completion – and all that on the back of a covid pandemic.

I encourage you to take the opportunity to help shape your place again.



SHORT AND SWEET

REPRESENT ME

Time is running out to have your say on the first stage of the Council's Representation Review. We want feedback on how council is elected and how the community is represented around the Council table. If you think the current arrangements are working well, then we'd like to hear that too. Vocal about Local is the name of the early engagement document and it's available at ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay until Sunday 17 December.



PETITION RECEIVED

The hundreds of people that signed a petition to save the Tinwald Pool are being encouraged to also make their views known when Council considers the district's outdoor swimming options during the Long Term Plan process. Several swimming outdoor options, including at Tinwald, are proposed for the draft plan, and the community will be asked for their say during consultation early next year. Council formally received the Tinwald Pool petition last week.

BIRDSONG IS BACK

Have you heard about the Methven Lions Club's Birdsong Initiative? Come along to a free community workshop at the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall at 5pm on Thursday 25 January, and find out about eliminating pests in your back yard to help bring back the birds.

XMAS SERVICES

There is no kerbside rubbish and recycling collection on Christmas Day so Council will be emptying everyone's wheelie bins one day later than normal that week. Find all the details of services over the Christmas break online at ashburtondc.govt.nz/news

Movie draws big crowd

Council's free Christmas family movie attracted about 1100 people to the Ashburton Domain last Saturday, when the character Arthur Christmas was the star of the show.

Movie-goers were asked to bring a can of food for the Salvation Army foodbank and several hundred cans were amassed for the good cause.

The movie was one of two Light up the Night Christmas festival events organised by Council, with support from Hokonui and the Ashburton Courier.

People who came to the movie were also treated to free popcorn, kindly supplied by the Regent Cinema.



Great Santa Hunt on again

The Great Santa Hunt is back on at the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum these school holidays with a special late night opening event on Wednesday 20 December, so get your torches ready!

All the lights will be turned off, so you'll need your torches for the late night opening hunt to find the sneaky Santas in their new hiding spots across the museum.

The Santas will be hiding all summer until 31 January, so you can come back during opening hours while the lights are on and search for any you missed on opening night – or have a go at finding them all again, it may trickier than you think!



Public Notice Adoption of Local Alcohol Policy 2023

Ashburton District Council advises that, following a review of the Local Alcohol Policy and two separate community consultations, Council has approved the adoption of the amended **Local Alcohol Policy 2023**. This notice serves to meet the requirements of section 90(1) of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

Council advises that at its meeting on 6 December 2023 it was resolved to bring the entire policy into force on **14 March 2024**, acknowledging the required three-month period following the public notice.

The Local Alcohol Policy and the process followed in its adoption may be viewed on Council's website. The policy may also be viewed at all Council offices and the library during ordinary opening hours. If you would like any further information please contact info@adc.govt.nz or 03 307 7700.

Jane Donaldson
Group Manager Compliance and Development



ashburtondc.govt.nz

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

COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Plan Change 5 hearing, Monday 18 December, 10am (TBC)

Budget Workshop, Tuesday 19 December, 9am

Budget Workshop, Wednesday 20 December, 9am

Council Meeting, Wednesday 20 December, 1pm

CHRISTMAS-NEW YEAR RUBBISH & RECYCLING

There is no kerbside rubbish and recycling collection on Christmas Day so Council will be emptying everyone's wheelie bins one day later than normal that week.

Collection day moves to:

Monday 25 → Tuesday
Tuesday 26 → Wednesday
Wednesday 27 → Thursday
Thursday 28 → Friday
Friday 29 → Saturday

Kerbside collection services are as normal from Monday 1 January, even though it is New Year's Day.

Please ensure all rubbish and recycling is placed at the kerbside by 7.30am on collection day. Keep your kerbside recycling ship shape: Plastics 1, 2 and 5, newspaper, cardboard and clean tins. No lids of any size or shape.

The **Ashburton Resource Recovery Park** will be closed Monday 25 December, Tuesday 26 December and Monday 1 January.

The **Methven green waste dropoff** will be closed Sunday 24 December.

The **Rakaia Resource Recovery Park** will be closed Monday 25 December and Monday 1 January.

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.

PENSIONER UNITS

One elderly pensioner single housing unit at Methven has become available.

If you are in need of housing and meet the criteria please contact Council for an application form.

Applicants shall:

- Be eligible for Government National Superannuation
- Not be in full time employment/business
- Be able to care for themselves independently
- Show a housing need which cannot be met adequately elsewhere
- There is a total assets criteria (contact Council for more info)

Please phone 03 3077770 or email info@adc.govt.nz

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