

Drink drivers put us all at risk

We're continuing to get behind the wheel after drinking, with alcohol being a major factor contributing to deaths and serious injuries crashes in the Ashburton district.

Between 2014 and 2023 in the Mid-South Canterbury Area, alcohol contributed to at least 14% of road deaths and serious injuries, which is higher than in Canterbury Rural and Christchurch Metro.

Alcohol was a contributing factor to 32.6% of all death and serious injury crashes (DSIs) in the Mid-South Canterbury area. These DSIs occurred mostly on medium and minor rural roads.

A high number of these DSIs were young people (aged 20 to 24 years) and were more often males than females. A high number of DSIs happened between 9pm Saturday to 3am Sunday, with another peak on Saturday between 6pm and 9pm.

In response, Council is joining Police and NZTA this June to collectively target people in Mid Canterbury who continue to think it's okay to drink and then drive. Other councils in Canterbury are running similar joint campaigns.



People will be reminded of the consequences through education and advertising, backed up on the ground by Police vehicle checks, enforcement and driver education.

Mayor Neil Brown said the community must not tolerate drink driving.

"Together, we need to shift the attitudes and behaviours of our drink drivers so they see themselves the same as drunk drivers.

"For a long time there has been plenty of

information available on how to arrange a safer ride home. There's just no excuse now. This June, Council is joining forces with road safety partners to target people who continue to drink and drive and put us all at risk."

Drink driving has a significant impact not only on the driver themselves, but on passengers and people using the road around them. Around 40% of people injured in crashes involving alcohol were not the drink driver behind the wheel.

Biodiversity strategy launched with pride

The community's first biodiversity strategy, Our Natural Place, was officially launched by the Ashburton District Biodiversity Advisory Group this week, with pride.

The strategy has been drafted, consulted on and finally adopted by Council, with digital copies available online and paper copies from the Customer Service counter at Te Whare Whakatere.

Mayor Neil Brown officially thanked members of the advisory group, staff and

stakeholders who had put in lots of work to make the strategy happen.

"It's a great document, a community document led by Council, and now we work to implement it. Council has a leadership role to play but our district's biodiversity needs all parts of the community to work together. Putting words on paper is easy, implementation is everything."

Biodiversity is a short term for biological

diversity and describes the variety of different species (micro-organisms and fungi trees, plants and animals) and their ecosystems. The Ashburton District is home to indigenous plants and animals like limestone rocks, costal dongas, wetlands, lakes and braided rivers.

The strategy is mostly concerned with the protection and management of these and lists short-term, medium-term and long-term goals.

Cr Russell Ellis Hearings highlight our common goals, challenges

A large part of our week has been spent in Hine Paaka, the Council chamber, listening to nearly 100 people talking to their submissions on the draft Long Term Plan.

It is interesting and informative, and at times challenging, but it is clear there are many passionate people living in the Ashburton District and who want it to progress.

We are all on the same page about that and we share many common goals – it will be our job to balance essential work, like water, rubbish and roads, with making sure our district is an attractive

place to live.

We want all those people seeking new lives in rural Canterbury to put the Ashburton District at the top of their list for affordability and amenities.

Each day of submissions brings a variety of topics, most about the five key decisions that we consulted on: A future greenwaste service, the future of Balmoral Hall, the Tinwald pool and other water-based leisure facilities, the future of stockwater and expanding the stadium space at EA Networks Centre.

Submitters share their bright ideas, their life experiences, their complaints and their hopes for the future – for that is

what long term planning is all about.

There are about 3000 pages of submissions and documents that Councillors will have read by the end of this week, and that is hours and hours of reading.

Our deliberations begin next Monday, 20 May, and after four days of some robust debate we will have a more final version of the Long Term Plan and it will be adopted at the end of June.

Thank you to all those who submitted and engaged at our many gatherings, whether you expressed an opinion or stopped for a sausage at our barbecue.



SHORT AND SWEET



SH1/RAKAIA SPEED

Speed changes on State Highway 1 through Rakaia come into force on Friday, with the township to become 50km/h and the bridge to Weavers Road a variable 80/60km/h. The speed reductions are in conjunction with the new Commercial Vehicle Safety Centre becoming operational on Monday 20 May.

ROAD SAFETY WEEK

Ashburton's clock tower will glow yellow next week for Road Safety Week. This year's theme is "be a road safety hero" and there'll be colouring-in and activity sheets for children available on the ground floor of Te Whare Whakatere.

RESTRICTIONS OFF

Restrictions on the Mount Somers Water Supply have been lifted. The supply's intake source is now running at more comfortable levels after a very dry summer.

FREE ICE SCRAPERS

Winter has arrived, and with it Jack Frost. Pop in to see our Customer Service team at Te Whare Whakatere and grab a free scraper so you can clear the frost from the windscreen and windows of your car if it's parked out overnight.

ROAD CLOSURE

Pursuant to the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is given that the following road will be closed to traffic during the **Ashburton Car Club's Standing Quarter Mile Sprint Meeting**.

- **Blands Road**, from Dip Road to Methven Highway (SH77)

Period of closure: **From 9am until 4.30pm on Saturday 18 May 2024.**

NEIL McCANN
Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces

One-stop info shop for newcomers

Newcomers to the Ashburton District can now find all the essential information they need in a new online Welcoming Guide.

Council Democracy and Engagement Group Manager Toni Durham said the guide was for people moving to the district from other parts of New Zealand or from overseas.

“Being digital, the guide can be updated regularly and it will also be available in different languages.

“Newcomers will be able to find out about health, education, driver’s licences, employment, sports, things to do and services that are available. It’s pretty much a one-stop shop for information.”

Mrs Durham said the Welcoming Guide could also point people to other helpful sites, like the Citizen’s Advice Bureau and their community directory, and the Hakatere Multicultural Council, which looks after the Newcomers Network, the Migrant Centre and Ethnic Leaders forum.

“This is the first digital guide we’ve developed and it is work that was led by Welcoming Communities. We talked with community organisations, newcomers, migrant groups and employers and they all said it would be great to have essential information all in the one place.”



The Welcoming Guide can be accessed through Council’s home page (ashburtondc.govt.nz), and by clicking the New Here? button.

The Welcoming Communities advisor will be visiting schools, employers, medical centres community and government agencies to share posters and pamphlets for their newcomers. These materials have a QR code and the link where people can access the guide and save it as a favourite webpage.

“If people have problems accessing the site, they can email us on welcoming@adc.govt.nz and we will send them the link directly,” Mrs Durham said.

Council is part of the Welcoming Communities programme, led by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, and as part of the programme, Council works with newcomers and the district in general to develop the tools needed to make the settlement process as smooth as possible.

New kerb and channel for Walnut Ave

Contractors working for Council will soon begin renewing the kerb and channel on Walnut Avenue, between Oak Grove and West Street/SH1.

HEB Construction are programmed to start work on Monday 20 May and the work will take about six weeks.

Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces Neil McCann said the old kerb and channel was broken in places and overdue for renewal.

“The new kerb and channel won’t be as deep as the old one, but the new kerb will be higher than a standard kerb to make it difficult for vehicles to be able to drive up onto the Ashburton Domain, which



is a community green space we want to protect.”

The work will be carried out in three segments, starting at the Oak Grove end.

“Traffic flow on Walnut Avenue should not be affected, and we are planning that parking spaces will still be able to be used, as the road is quite wide. The contractors will be fencing off work zones as they move east towards SH1,” Mr McCann said.

“We’re aware that Glow in the Park is scheduled for King’s Birthday weekend so the contractors will move big machinery out of the way so people can still angle park along Walnut Avenue.”

During the first couple of weeks of the project, the give way left turn from Walnut Avenue into Oak Grove will not be available.

The kerb and channel project will cost about \$200,000.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are at Hine Paaka (Council Chambers), 2 Baring Square East, unless specified. Meeting agendas are online at ashburtondc.govt.nz/council/agendas-and-minutes

Long Term Plan deliberations, 20 May (live-streamed)

Ashburton Water Zone Committee, Tuesday 28 May, 1pm (live-streamed)

Council Meeting, Wednesday 5 June, 1pm, (live-streamed)

Methven Community Board, Monday 10 June, 9am, at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

It's doggy rego time

Dog registrations are on the way, so it's time to tell us if your details have changed.

- Have you got a new dog?
- Has your pet passed away?
- Have your address or contact details changed?

Visit ashburtondc.govt.nz/do-it-online or call us on (03) 307 7700

WILDING PINE CONTROL

Ashburton Forest and Bird is running a wilding pine control operation at Lake Heron this **Sunday, 19 May**, and looking for volunteers to join them.

Wilding pines are trees which have self-seeded and are threatening native ecosystems and landscapes. Sunday's working day is about removing them, so a reasonable level of fitness is required.

Volunteers should wear working gear and sturdy footwear, and bring loppers or small saws and gloves. They should also bring their own lunch, snacks and drinks.

Meet at the Ashburton courthouse at 9am, or at the Mt Somers domain at 9.30am or at the Hakatere Heron Road carpark at Lake Heron at 10.15am.

For more info or to let Forest and Bird know you are coming, please contact Edith Smith on 021 131 4931.



Public Notice Rating Information Database

The Rating Information Database of the Ashburton District Council is now available for inspection on our website ashburtondc.govt.nz at any time.

Any other queries regarding the Rating Information Database can be made by calling our office on (03) 307 7700, emailing info@adc.govt.nz or visiting the Ashburton District Council at 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton, during our office hours (Monday to Wednesday, 8.30am – 5pm, Thursday 9am – 5pm, Friday 8.30am – 5pm).

The Rating Information Database contains information required by Council to set and assess rates on each rating unit within the Ashburton District. Details include the name and postal address of the owner of the rating unit, rating valuation, services available or connected to the rating unit, the legal description, and the area of the rating unit.

This is as per Part 2 Section 27 and Section 28 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, and the Local Government (Rating) Amendment Act 2004.

Hamish Riach
Chief Executive

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Glow in the Park 2024

This community event is returning bigger and brighter on King's Birthday weekend and we need your help to make it a success.

Last year, we had over 17,000 people attend and we need around 30 volunteers each night to help with safety, directing visitors and answering questions.

The following sessions are available:

- Friday 31 May: 5.30pm – 9pm
- Saturday 1 June: 5.30pm – 9pm
- Sunday 2 June: 4.30pm – 9pm

Volunteering at Glow is fun and a great way to give back to the community. Hot food will be provided.

For more info or to register your interest, email hr@adc.govt.nz



COUNCIL OFFICE

2 Baring Square East
Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 8.30am-5pm
Thursday 9am-5pm

ASHBURTON LIBRARY

2 Baring Square East, Ashburton 7700
Mon & Fri 8.30am-6pm, Tue-Thu 8.30am-8pm
Sat & Sun 10am-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 (late night Wed)