

## Farming ideas for changing climate

How farming might adapt to a changing climate is the subject of a special presentation being hosted this month by the Ashburton District Council.

Industry experts and 27 farmers, many from Mid Canterbury, shared their thoughts for a research project called Supporting Land Use Adaption for a Climate Changed Future and the findings are now being shared at a free public presentation at the Hotel Ashburton on 12 December, starting at 7.30pm.

Council's agricultural portfolio advisor Richard Fitzgerald led the project, which aimed to improve farmers' knowledge of a changing climate and enhance their ability to apply that knowledge to action on the farm.

Council Chief Executive Hamish Riach said the project identified how industry could engage more effectively with farmers on the topic of a changing climate and what sort of information they needed at their own farm level.

"In a climate changed future, the growing conditions for plants and animals will be different. There will be different weeds, pests and diseases and our farmers may need a different approach.



**Richard Fitzgerald will present a research project about land use in a climate changed future.**

"For example, if it gets hotter and drier, would farmers need to shift their lambing dates or grow different crops? If so, that will have a flow on effect."

Mr Riach said farming was heavily influenced by the climate and focus groups were created to accurately capture farmers' views.

"They challenged the view that farmers were slow to change and said they were

constantly adapting their businesses and making investments in things like irrigation to cope with cycles of the weather and climate."

The project was funded by Our Land and Water and offers several recommendations for enhancing farmer engagement with climate change.

For instance, climate change data is usually presented at a regional and national level, but having localised data was seen as having huge value.

If farmers better understood how frequently extreme rainfall events would occur in a changing climate, they might change their farm set-up and infrastructure like bridges, culverts, flood protection and drainage.

Mr Riach said Council was pleased to be part of the research project as agriculture was an important part of the district's economy.

"Anyone who is interested in changing land use in the future should come along to the presentation on 12 December and hear Richard speak about what could lie ahead."

Tickets can be reserved at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/supporting-land-use-adaption-tickets-474384405527>



## Knit one, pearl one, natter some

**The Ashburton Public Library has introduced a new activity that combines handicraft and socialising!**

Its new Craft and Chatter group is run on the second Saturday of each month and people are invited to bring along their craft projects and have a cuppa and chat while they work.

Library manager Jill Watson said people were encouraged to come along with their knitting, macrame, embroidery or other craft work and enjoy a cup of tea and a chat with others doing their own craft work.

"This is a great way to connect with others, but also a great way to share skills and learn some new ones.

"If you don't have a craft to bring along, that's no problem as people are welcome to come and do an activity set up by the library staff."

The Craft and Chatter group runs from 10.30am until 12.30pm, with the next gatherings on Saturday 10 December and Saturday 14 January.

**Save the date: The art of gift wrapping, at the library on 15 and 22 December (an event for teens).**

## New flying fox will be soaring in new year

**Council's Open Spaces team is preparing a summer surprise in the Ashburton Domain – two new flying foxes that will run side-by-side.**

The 50m flying foxes will be installed on the eastern side of the walkway that runs from the central carpark to Walnut Avenue and work will begin soon on the

necessary infrastructure, which includes a soil mound at the southern end with a long ramp for accessibility. Softfall material will be added underneath.

Council is spending about \$100,000 altogether on the site.

The old flying fox, on Walnut Avenue, was taken down in 2020 and the new one is

part of a 30-year development plan for the domain.

People using the domain over the next few weeks will notice earthworks and construction at the site, and the installation team is working flat out to try and have it up and running early in the new year. Fingers crossed!

### Carolyn Cameron - Councillor

## Think local in the leadup to Christmas

**How good to see the giant Christmas tree installed on East Street and ready for its big role in Light up the Night.**

It is quite magical to drive on East Street or walk along the green at night and see the fairy lights twinkling in the trees and the Christmas tree taking pride of place at Burnett Street. It's hard to believe a year has gone by since the CBD renovations were finished and good to see the vibe of the town centre returning.

Light up the Night, the first of Council's three free Christmas events for the community, provides a chance for us all to get together and usher in the festive season with some Christmas carols and family fun. So, bring a deck chair and a blanket, and get comfortable for

the night as there'll be something for everyone, and not a covid restriction in sight.

As a practising pharmacist and a retailer, I can certainly say that the pandemic has left its mark – but we have also learned new ways of keeping ourselves connected with friends and family, and doing business. These are new times.

So, I urge you to shop local this Christmas – it will be appreciated by a business community that has sweated blood and tears in the past couple of years, and continues to invest money and energy into your town.

If you are coming to the free Christmas movie on 17 December, I also urge you to bring along an item for the foodbank – these will be collected on the night and donated to organisations helping

families doing it tough at this time of year.

It's been great to welcome new faces to the Council table for the 2022-2025 term, and we are settling into our work. On the agenda last week was a presentation from Waka Kotahi, largely outlining the process that needs to be followed for our second bridge to make it onto the national land transport programme for 2024-2027.

The cost of the bridge has gone up, not surprisingly, and a fair amount of discussion will be still required between Council, regional leaders, Government and Waka Kotahi to align the planets on this project.

You can be sure that we will be pushing hard for the project, and a fair share of funding and resources.



Another big issue discussed at the same council meeting resulted in our Council re-affirming its opposition of the Three Waters reforms, as they are currently proposed.

This is fast becoming a political battleground with Councils like ours that have invested well in drinking water, wastewater and stormwater over the years, caught in the middle.

Clearly, we will continue to represent the views of our community on this issue.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and safe holiday period.



# Tinwald pool opens this Saturday!

The Tinwald pool opens on Saturday, ready for another summer of outdoor swimming and water fun.

The pool, in the Tinwald Domain, will be staffed by lifeguards and will be open every day of the week, except public holidays, until about March.

Weekend hours are 12pm-7pm, and 4pm-7pm weekdays during term time, moving to 12pm-7pm during the week once school holidays kick in.

The facility has two pools – one 25 metres long and 1.2 metres deep, and a smaller shallower pool about 13 metres long for smaller children to play in. A wall in the middle divides the two pools.

The pool is an arm of the EA Networks Centre and centre manager Richard Wood said staff had been flat out preparing it for another summer.

“There’s been a pool in the Tinwald Domain for well over 100 years and the current one was remodelled in the 1950s. We’ve been able to keep her ticking along with some regular TLC and people really



enjoy swimming there because it’s an outdoor pool.

“Another bonus is that we don’t completely rely on the sun and we heat the water a bit, so it’s a very pleasant swimming environment whether you’re doing a few laps or just splashing around having fun. We’re really looking forward to seeing everyone.”

Swimming at the Tinwald pool costs

\$3.50 for a child (5-17 years) and \$4.50 for an adult. Swimmers can also buy a concession card, which reduces the cost over 10 swims - \$31.50 for a child and \$38 for an adult.

The pool also has picnic areas that border the pool deck, so families can bring their own food if they want, though the pool shop is fully stocked with a range of drinks and snacks and aquatic accessories.

## Follow our trail of lights through the Arcade

Several buildings in the CBD and the Arcade will be glowing with special lighting effects for Light up the Night this Friday.

Before gathering to watch the giant Christmas tree on East Street light up, people are invited to go on a festive walk along Burnett Street, the Arcade and Tancred Street to soak up the twinkling atmosphere.

The Arcade shops will also be open for business.

Light up the Night, kindly sponsored by Hokonui, is the first of Council's three free Christmas events and Friday's line-up will also include music and entertainment, as well as special kids' zones.

Acts appearing on stage include Life Dance Academy, Netherby Kapa Haka Group, Court Jesters and returning favourites, the

Samoan Christian Congregational Church Ashburton Choir. MC for the event will be Hoops from Hokonui.

Remember to bring a deck chair and blanket so you can park up and enjoy the occasion in comfort.

A small amount of drizzle won't dampen the Christmas spirit, but keep an eye on Council's Facebook page for any notice of cancellation if the weather turns sour.

### Light up the Night



Fri 2 Dec  
6pm - 10pm  
Ashburton CBD

### Christmas Busker Days



Fri 23 & Sat 24 Dec  
10am - 2pm  
Ashburton CBD

### Family Movie Night



Sat 17 Dec  
6pm - 9.30pm  
Ashburton Domain

## Hall board seeks new faces

The Mt Hutt Memorial Hall board is holding its triennial meeting on Monday 5 December and is hoping to see a few new faces around the table.

The board manages the running of the hall which includes the iHub, events and the ski and agriculture encounter.

The hall was built in 1957 and underwent

a major transformation in 2011, and it is an important function centre for the community, and for the visiting public.

The board currently has seven members and meets every six weeks.

Monday’s triennial meeting is to elect a new board to manage the facility for the next three years. The meeting will get under way at 9.30am, in the meeting room at the hall.

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Council Meeting – Wednesday 7 December, 1pm (live-streamed)

Methven Community Board – Monday 12 December, 10.30am at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Council Meeting – Wednesday 21 December, 1pm (live-streamed)

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### ROAD CLOSURES

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of road closures to allow Council to hold its Light up the Night event:

Stage One - Closed from 1pm to 5pm Friday, 2 December 2022

- East Street, full closure between Havelock and Burnett Street
- One-way closure for traffic heading north from Tancred Street

OPEN: Burnett Street from Cass Street heading west then turn left onto East Street.

Stage Two - Closed from 5pm to 11.59pm Friday, 2 December 2022

- East Street full closure between Havelock and Moore Street
- Tancred Street full closure from Cass Street to east Street
- Burnett Street full closure from Cass Street to East Street

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a road closure for the purpose of allowing the community event of the Ashburton Santa Parade.

Stage One - Mona Square

Road to be closed from 10.30 am to 11.59am Saturday, 3 December 2022

Mona Square from Cass Street to Kermode Street

Stage Two - East Street – Kermode Street - Moore Street – Tancred Street – Burnett Street – Havelock Street – Cameron Street – Victoria Street.

Period of Closure: From 11.30am until 2.30pm on Saturday, 3 December 2022

- MONA SQUARE, between Cass Street and Kermode Street
- KERMODE STREET, between Mona Square and East Street
- EAST STREET, between SH1 South and Cameron Street
- MOORE STREET, between SH1 and Cass Street
- TANCRD STREET, between Cass Street and East Street
- BURNETT STREET, between Cass Street and East Street
- CAMERON STREET, between East Street and Victoria Street
- VICTORIA STREET, between Cameron Street and Cass Street

These notices of closure are made under the Local Government Act 1974 - Schedule 10 (11 (e)). It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under the authority of an authorised permit to use the roads/streets for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure.

NEIL McCANN  
Infrastructure Services Group Manager

### TRIENNIAL MEETINGS

Mt Hutt Memorial Hall - Monday 5 December, 9.30am at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Tinwald Reserve Board - Monday 12 December, 5.30pm at Ashburton Vintage Car Club

Hinds Reserve Board - Tuesday 13 December, 7pm at Hinds Fire Station

Highbank Reserve Board - Thursday 15 December, 7pm at Highbank Hall

Ealing Hall and Reserve Board - Monday 19 December, 7pm at Ealing Hall

Rakaia Memorial Hall - Wednesday 1 February

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