

Busy road to be stronger, wider

Nearly 2.5km of Thompsons Track, one of the busiest roads in the Ashburton District, is being rehabilitated to make it wider and stronger.

The work is being done in two sections, between Braemar Lauriston Road and Braemar Road, and is on track to be completed by 11 April.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said the pavement in those sections was at the end of its life.

“The weak spots are being dug out and replaced with stronger material, and the seal on both sections will be widened from 7m to 8m.

“Thompsons Track is one of our busiest roads and carries local and regional traffic, including heavy traffic and lots of tourists and skiers heading to Methven and the foothills.”

The rehabilitation is costing around \$850,000 and the contractor for the job is Fulton Hogan.

Mr McCann thanked regular road users who were affected by traffic management at the two work sites.

“We know those who use Thompsons Track and people who live off it are affected by this work and thank them for their patience. It’s really important that we continually improve the standard of our roads around the district when we can afford to as many were built decades ago and not designed for the heavy loads that now travel on them.”

The section between Braemar Lauriston Road and Pole Road is planned to be sealed on 22 March, and the section between Pole Road and Braemar Road is planned to be sealed on 11 April.



SHORT AND SWEET

ROAD CLOSURE

Parts of three roads in the Wakanui area will be closed on Sunday 17 March so the Ashburton Car Club can hold a sealed autocross event. The roads to be closed are Bonningtons Road (from Fitzgerald Road to Seaside Road), Seaside Road (from Bonningtons Road to Fitzgerald Road) and Fitzgerald Road (from Seaside Road to Bonningtons Road). The closures are in effect from 8am until 6pm on 17 March.

METHVEN FUNDS

The Methven Community Board allocated \$11,550 from its discretionary fund this week to local groups needing financial help with their projects. Mt Hutt College was granted \$3000 to upgrade their indoor rock climbing wall, the Methven Fire Fighters Support Group was granted \$3000 to help repaint the roof of their building and organisers of a hot air balloon and laser festival were granted \$5000 to advertise the event. The Methven & Foothills Walking Festival was also granted \$550 to help with its Easter event.

GRANTS ROUND

Council is currently accepting applications for grants from the Creative Communities Scheme and the Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund. Creative Communities helps groups involved in the different forms of the arts, and the Rural Travel Fund helps sporting teams that have to travel long distances to take part in their regular sporting competitions. Applications for both funds close at the end of March.

LAKE UPDATE

Environment Canterbury continues to monitor water quality at Lake Hood weekly, and Te Whatu Ora’s public health warning remains in place until further notice. The Lake Hood Water Quality Taskforce is awaiting advice and recommendations from NIWA and is meanwhile progressing on options to increase water flow in the lake. A weed harvester is on its way and should be ready to use in time for the next growth cycle in Spring.

Cr Carolyn Cameron Have your say on the direction of our district

Council business has a seasonal rhythm and so the years can whizz by quickly with annual reports and plans - but we are currently working on an important plan for the future and will soon be looking for your feedback.

It’s the 10-year Long Term Plan, looking in detail at what we want to achieve for our district in the next 10 years. Simply, what we’ll do, when we’ll do it and how we’ll pay for it.

It’s operational but visionary, with strategic goals and priorities, and it has to balance needs and wants with affordability. It requires a lot of conversing with staff and with you, the community that elected us.

Public consultation begins on 27 March and we’ll be looking for your feedback on the 10-year plan, as well as some other documents, like the 30-year masterplan for EA Networks Centre.

As a council, we’ve spent the last six months developing the Long Term Plan and debating the district’s spending priorities. Views around the council table differ, just like in the community, that’s why it’s important to know your views on what we think is the direction our district will take over the next decade.

It is an incredibly important time for us all as this is when future plans are put in place and spending investment is agreed upon.

Please don’t feel limited to commenting on the five key issues highlighted in the draft. The purpose of consulting with everyone is to collect a wide range of opinions on all aspects of life in the district.

For example, Safe Communities have commissioned research into the provision of public transport in Ashburton - do you have a view on this?

Does council have a role in supporting healthcare in the district?



Does the Ashburton Domain meet your expectations?

Do we do a good job managing elderly persons housing, how can we do better?

The role of council seems to be expanding as central government asks more of us. The cost of providing a high level of service is also increasing. We need to know what you are willing to support financially and what you feel is less important.

Please share your thoughts - if you don’t want to jot things down in writing then come to any number of the 30 events we are running and tell us directly if we are on the right track.

You can also drop into the new Ashburton Library any Tuesday between 1pm and 2pm to chat with a councillor, or alternatively give us a call (our contact details are on the council website).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Old pipes dismantled to clear river fairway

A chunk of Ashburton’s drinking water history was dismantled recently when 132 metres of steel pipe and eight supporting concrete piers were removed from the north branch of the Ashburton River, near Melrose Road.

From 1964 to the early 2000s, water for the town was primarily sourced from a gallery adjacent to the south branch of the Ashburton River at Greenstreet. Big concrete pipes brought the water about 10km by gravity from the intake and then across the north branch to Farm Road via concrete-lined steel pipes.

Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces Neil McCann said the pipeline was decommissioned 20 years ago, but remained in place until last month when the steel span was removed by Greg Donaldson Contracting.

“All up, 11 12m pipes were taken down and eight concrete piers that held the pipe up over the river were removed. The piers had been collecting a build-up of debris during storm events and one of them was damaged in the 2021 floods. Removing them, and part of the old pipeline, means the river is clear of obstructions.

“Trees had grown up around some of the piers on the banks, showing just how long they had been there. This was a piece of infrastructure that was designed and built to last and it did its job well as the Greenstreet intake was the main source for the town.”

The Greenstreet supply used natural gravity to generate pressure for the town



supply; it was supplemented by several bores.

Mr McCann said Council’s Assets team constantly checks and reviews the condition of the drinking water network to identify ageing pipes and programme replacements.

“Managing a large supply involves regular maintenance as well as expansion, and our team is responsible for making sure drinking water is always safe and reliable. There’s a lot of work planned in the next 10 years to meet new compliance standards and that means installing equipment that can monitor and test water quality and quantity in real time.”

Decommissioned pipes are sometimes left in the ground for other utilities to use, for things like electrical ducting, or removed and disposed of. Council worked with Environment Canterbury to schedule the removal work in the river bed.

New signs encourage better recycling options

New signs at the Methven recycling drop-off facility are helping residents make better decisions about what they can leave for recycling or re-use.

The station had previously been dealing with unwanted items like soiled mattresses and other items not able to be recycled or re-used, so new signs were ordered and installed.

The transfer station does have CCTV cameras operating so those leaving non-recyclables can be tracked down if necessary, but the facility has also been staffed recently to help residents dropping off items.

The facility accepts flattened cardboard, paper, aluminium and steel cans and glass. There are also bins for plastics 1, 2 and 5, which are rigid plastics like milk bottles and ice cream containers.

Large household whiteware, like fridges and ovens, can be dropped off for recycling, as long as they are in a tidy



condition. There is also a drop-off area for reusable household items, but they must be in a tidy and reusable condition.

The Methven facility does not accept electronics, nor items that are broken, dirty or smelly.

Methven’s Red Cross is also asking the town’s residents to think carefully about what they are leaving at the Red Cross shop for recycling, as volunteers are dealing with more rubbish than usual.

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 community event, ANZAC Day Services.

- Roads proposed to be closed:
- **West Street (SH1), from Havelock Street to Cameron Street**
 - **Havelock Street, from Park Street to East Street**
 - **Cameron Street, from West Street to Park Street**
 - **Baring Square West, from Havelock Street to Cameron Street**

Period of closure: **From 6am to 8.30am, and 10am to 12.30pm on Thursday 25 April 2024.**

Any person objecting to the proposal should lodge a notice of their objection and grounds for their objection in writing by post or email to the Council, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton by 4pm, **Tuesday 19 March 2024.**

NEIL McCANN
Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces

WORKS NOTICES

Tinwald viaduct/SH1 Tinwald Corridor Improvements - Contractors working on this traffic lights project for NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi have been granted an extension for traffic management on the highway and side roads until 30 April. The viaduct is currently closed.

Seafield Road - Work is planned for Seafield Road, between Christys Road and Stanley Road, from 12 February to 19 May. Traffic management will be in place and will include detours from 4 March.

Thompsons Track - Closed between Braemar and Pole Roads until 11 April for road rehabilitation. Detours in place.

Elizabeth Street - Elizabeth Street outside Ashburton Hospital is one-way (traffic running west to east), while contractors install new water and wastewater pipes. Hospital access remains.

Maronan Road - Traffic management is in place on Maronan Road while contractors rehabilitate a section between the Hinds River and just north of Swamp Road.

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

- Council meeting**, Wednesday 20 March, 1pm (live-streamed)
- Ashburton Water Zone Committee**, Tuesday 26 March, 1pm (live-streamed)
- Council Activity Briefings**, Wednesday 27 March, 9.30am
- Audit & Risk Committee**, Wednesday 27 March, 1pm (live-streamed)
- Heritage Mid Canterbury Working Group**, Wednesday 27 March, 3.30pm, Banded Dotterel Room

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 the **Ashburton Car Club's Street Sprints**.

- Roads proposed to be closed:
- **Smallbone Drive, from River Terrace to Robinson Street**
 - **Robinson Street, from Smallbone Drive to McNally Street**
 - **Watson Street, from Range Street to Robinson Street**
 - **McNally Street, from Range Street to Robinson Street**

Period of closure: **From 7pm on Friday 26 April 2024 to 8pm on Sunday, 28 April 2024.**

Additional closure: **Range Street will be closed on Saturday 27 April from 6pm to Sunday 28 April 6.30am only.**

This proposed closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 – Schedule 10 (11 (e) and will be considered at the Council meeting on **Wednesday 20 March 2024**. Any person objecting to the proposal should lodge a notice of their objection and grounds for their objection in writing by post or email to the Council, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton by 4pm, **Friday 15 March 2024.**

NEIL McCANN
Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces

TALK IT UP TUESDAYS

Drop by for a biscuit and a chat with a Councillor, and let us know how we can better serve our community.

Got feedback on local issues?

A matter to raise with Council?

Every Tuesday: 1pm - 2pm
Ashburton Library
No booking required.

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)