

Shows combine for art reveal

The Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum has been a whirlwind of activity leading up to the opening of four new exhibitions this Saturday evening.

The cultural centre has been closed for nearly two weeks while builders reconfigure the reception area on the ground floor, and that has given staff time to prepare and install the new exhibitions.

The doors will reopen at 6pm on Saturday and the community is invited to come along for a special look.

Items from the civic art collection and Ashburton Art Gallery Incorporated's collection will feature in a new exhibition space on the upper floor, in the area that previously housed the gift shop and gallery reception area.

Gallery and Museum Director Shirin Khosraviani said the new exhibition space would resonate with locals, who would be able to see paintings and items special to the Whakatere Ashburton District.

"Many of these items have been bought by Councils and committee members of the past or donated by artists, and the scenes and themes are of places we know well."

All four exhibitions will open on Saturday evening, with words of welcome from the artists and gallery and museum staff.

Shirin said her team had been busy



Art curator James Hope hangs striking artwork by Michael Armstrong.

preparing and painting the exhibition walls, as well as installing the artworks.

Timaru-based painter Michael Armstrong will be familiar to regular visitors and his exhibition Paintings of Ruined Mythic Phantasies addresses themes of social justice, politics, the environment and the misuse of power.

Inventory, by Marie Le Lievre, is about relinquishing control. In her paintings, paint is poured onto the canvas and manipulated by hand in an intuitive process that allows the medium to take its own course.

The fourth exhibition is Enmeshed: Feminist modes of information sharing. Artists Julia Holderness, Areez Katki, Erica van Zon, Ana Iti, and Claudia Kogachi each tell stories rewritten from new perspectives and challenge how we organise and share knowledge.

The gallery and museum returns to normal opening hours 10am-4pm from Sunday (with a late night Wednesday).

The Ashburton District Family History Group resumes its usual hours from next week.

Ground testing for second bridge project

Over the next few months, as part of the Second Ashburton Bridge project, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi will be doing testing which will provide information on existing ground conditions.

The testing involves digging holes in the existing roads and paddocks, which will be

refilled as testing is completed, and drilling holes in the river area.

Testing will take place on South Street and Chalmers Avenue north of the Ashburton River and at several locations both on and off road south of the Ashburton River.

The new bridge will cross the river at Chalmers Avenue and a new road on the Tinwald side will connect to Grahams Road.

For information about the project and to sign up for future updates, go to www.nzta.govt.nz/2AB

SHORT AND SWEET

WOMEN'S NIGHT

The next women's swim night at EA Networks Centre is on Wednesday 14 May. These sessions are held regularly on the second Wednesday of the month, from 7pm-8.30pm and are for women only and children 10 and under. Come for a soak in the spa, do some lengths or spend time with the kids in the water. Adults pay \$5.

CARTERS CREEK

The Carters Creek Catchment Group is hosting a community planting day at Melcombe Street, Tinwald, on Sunday and looking for volunteers to help put 1200 plants into the ground. The planting plan was created by Cr Leen Braam and is designed to protect and shade the creek, which flows under the railway line next to SH1 all the way to Lake Hood. Start time 10am, with a free BBQ lunch to follow.

ROAD SAFETY WEEK

Ashburton's clock tower will light up in yellow for national road safety week, 12-16 May. The theme of the week is Be a Road Safety Hero, recognising everyone who helps make our roads safer - from school crossing patrols to emergency services and road workers. Join the road safety team on Tuesday for an ag-themed breakfast at Farmlands Ashburton, from 8.30am.

Mayor Neil Brown: Power of a positive compliment

We sometimes take for granted the things that are good about the Ashburton District - from our stunning high country to our Council facilities and basic services.



I was delighted to hear from our Customer Services team that a woman who spent Anzac weekend in our district had phoned to thank Council for creating a great place to visit.

She spent time at the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum, the Ashburton Library and the Ashburton Domain, and enjoyed being able to walk everywhere in what she described as a tidy and friendly town.

Receiving a message like this is good for the soul, as Council often deals with complaints or is the subject of misinformed criticism on social media.

The smooth running of core services like drinking water, wastewater, rubbish collection, roads and outdoor spaces requires dedicated and persistent good effort 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

Genuine compliments create their own positivity, whether you are shopping at the supermarket, buying petrol or enjoying a community facility.

It was great to see the huge numbers of young people taking part in school holiday programmes recently, and I'm

sure further fun is already being planned for the July school holidays!

A headline about the best hidden road trips in the country also caught my eye this week, and I was proud to see Lake Heron featured. Our high country and Hakatere Conservation Park was seen as a magical spot.

Last week's rain was not so magical for some, though the district seems to have got off lightly compared to our neighbours to the north - our early estimates of roading damage are between \$100,000-\$150,000.

It was the first big rain event for the new Mount Somers water treatment plant too.

In the past, Council would have issued

a boil water notice after such a big rain event, but the new membrane filtering technology did its job well and there was no interruption to the township's water supply.

It was the same for Methven's new membrane treatment plant, which opened 18 months ago.

In the past week I've also been seeing local data from the Mayors Taskforce For Jobs programme, which helps young people not in training or education into jobs. It's a nationwide programme supported by mayors up and down the country, and our local programme has had a lot of success.

If you're keen to come on board as an employer, please get in touch.

EA Networks Centre turns 10!

EA Networks Centre is planning a fun day of free community activities to celebrate its 10th birthday this Sunday.

Over four million people have visited the stadium, pools and gym facilities over the past decade and Council chief executive Hamish Riach said a celebration was in order to mark the 10-year milestone.

“The EA Networks Centre is hugely popular and some of our regular users have been visiting from day one. The free activities organised for this Sunday the 11th are across all the spaces and we hope people will come along and join in.”

Here is what's on offer:

- Community breakfast at 9am-10.30am
- Gym: Free open access to tour and use equipment, 9am-2pm
- Pool: Free entry from 9am-2pm (pool alone policy still applies). Movie screening in the pool area at 12pm
- Stadium: Free entry from 9am-2pm with a variety of sports set up for the community to try, including basketball, pickleball, badminton, volleyball and toddler play area with bouncy castle
- Back-to-back group fitness classes
- Adult swim lessons from 10am-11am: Advanced (10am-10.20am), Intermediate (10.20am-10.40am) and beginner (10.40am-11am). Free, but bookings are required with limited spaces



Mr Riach said the facility played an important role in the life of the community and was well supported.

“The next 10 years promise to be just as exciting, with the new mini golf course coming soon and a proposed stadium extension in the Long Term Plan. Many of our valued sponsorships are also reaching completion and we'll look again to build partnerships with local businesses.”

Centre manager Richard Wood said staff were looking forward to the community celebration day.

“Ten years has passed quickly and the centre has firmly established itself as a great sporting hub for locals, as well as regional and national events.

“We've had the Tall Ferns play against a

Japanese basketball team, we've hosted the national secondary schools netball champs and the Crusaders and Hurricanes came for a post match session.

“We love our locals just as much, and enjoy seeing their enthusiasm when they make progress on a health goal or catch up with friends for a class and then coffee. They are here when we open the doors at 6am and when we close them at night, and we love being part of their lives.”

Mr Wood said the centre was proud of its track record delivering high quality sport and events for the community.

“And there have been hundreds of these, from launching stadium inflatables to opening a new sand court recently. We look forward to the next exciting 10 years.”

Pipe work planned at Tinwald water plant

Council is planning to temporarily shut down the Tinwald water treatment plant on Thursday, and households south of the Ashburton River will receive water from the Ashburton drinking water supply instead.

The Tinwald plant will be closed from Thursday 8 May until Monday 12 May, while contractors pre-assemble and weld pipes in preparation for a new concrete block building that will house UV disinfection equipment. Council is upgrading its drinking water supplies



to include a UV step, as required by the national quality assurance rules.

Group Manager of Infrastructure and Open Spaces Neil McCann said the pipe work at Tinwald needed to happen before the

installation of the UV equipment.

“There's a good chance people in Tinwald won't notice any change, but there is the potential for low pressure during peak demand periods so that's why we are letting people know the work is being done.”

The Tinwald bore and existing treatment plant is at the Tinwald Domain and the well is one of eight on the Ashburton community supply. Pipes connected to the underside of the SH1 Ashburton River bridge regularly convey water from Ashburton to Tinwald.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are at Hine Paaka (Council Chamber), 2 Baring Square East, unless specified.

Wednesday 14 May, **Three Waters Committee** (live-streamed), 9.30am

Wednesday 14 May, **Audit & Risk Committee** (live-streamed), 1pm

Wednesday 21 May, **Council Meeting** (live-streamed), 1pm

Monday 26 May, **Methven Community Board**, 9am, Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Wednesday 28 May, **Council Activity Briefings** (live-streamed), 1pm

WORKS NOTICES

King and Alexander Streets, Chertsey - Closed until 13 September while a new water treatment plant is built. The road closure will not impact Chertsey School access.

Trevors Road - One way (northbound traffic only) between Beach Road and Wellington Street from 7 April to 27 June for work related to lifestyle village development.

Blands Road - Closed on 17 May from 9am until 4.30pm for the Ashburton Car Club's standing quarter mile sprint. Detours available.

Eliza Way (Rakaia) - Closed between No 6 and No 17 from 12 May until 15 May so contractors can construct vehicle access for a new development.

SH1 to Moore Street - NZTA is undertaking a major asphaltting job on this section of road, detours and traffic management will be in place from 4 April to 15 May. Delays expected.

Full details of local road closures are on our website, ashburtondc.govt.nz

ICE ON YOUR WINDOW?

There have been a few frosty mornings this week and if you park your car outside, then ice on your windscreen may be an issue.

Drop into our Customer Services counter at 2 Baring Square East and grab a free ice scraper.

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 Officer

LAND TENDER AT RAKAIA



Council is calling for tenders on land on behalf of the Rakaia Reserve Board. The tender is for a five-year licence to occupy 2 hectares of **RES 2986 Michael Street, Rakaia** (outlined left).

Tenders must be received by Ashburton District Council on or before 2pm on 12 May 2025. The licence to occupy would commence 1 June 2025.

Please contact commercial@adc.govt.nz for a tender application form or for more information.

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 5.45am-9pm (pools 8pm Mon & Tue, 7pm Wed-Fri; gym 8pm). Sat & Sun 7am-7pm (pools 6pm, gym 6pm)

ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

327 West Street
10am-4pm daily (late night Wed)