

Former refugees share mayoral lunch



Ashburton Mayor Neil Brown invited some special newcomers to lunch last week to hear how they are finding their move to Ashburton.

Thirty-five men, women and children who fled Afghanistan and resettled in Ashburton over the past year were invited to share food with Mayor Brown, deputy mayor Liz McMillan and Councillors Leen Braam and Diane Rawlinson.

It was an occasion to celebrate their new beginnings.

Refugee Settlement support team leader Kathy Harrington-Watt said the latest arrivals had only been in Ashburton a few days, and another 22 were due in the coming months.

“They all originate from Afghanistan but have had to leave for fear of persecution or other frightening reasons. They are loving living in Ashburton and say the community has been very welcoming.”

She said many refugees spent years after fleeing Afghanistan in countries like Malaysia or Iran, waiting to be resettled.

“Now they are here, they are keen to improve their English, for their children to go to school and to learn new skills that will secure them jobs in our local community.

“The biggest reason why they are flourishing in Ashburton though is because the community is so supportive, generous and accepting.”

The resettlement service finds homes

for the newcomers and a recent plea for bicycles resulted in about 200 being gifted.

Mayor Brown said the shared lunch was an important part of helping the former refugees adapt to their new lives.

“It is good for them to understand that in New Zealand, the local mayor and local government politicians are people they can approach and trust. Their experience of authorities in other countries may not have been so positive.

“They should have no reason to be fearful living in our district and I know many members of our generous community have gone out of their way to show kindness and hospitality. We look forward to them taking the next step and joining community groups and the local workforce.”

Late surge of Annual Plan submissions

Council was delighted to receive a flurry of last-minute submissions during the final week of consultation on the draft Annual Plan, with a total of 131 people having their say before the deadline.

Staff are now processing the feedback, however roading is already emerging as a hot topic. Some submitters have indicated they want to speak to their views in-person when Council meets on 24 and 25 May to consider the submissions. These hearings and the Council deliberation process will be livestreamed.

Council is proposing an average 9.4 per cent rate increase, driven by a range of challenges including high inflation. People were also asked for their views on using \$1.7 million from forestry reserves to do more roading work and whether the Council should further review its day-to-day services.

Strategy and Compliance Group Manager Jane Donaldson thanked submitters for taking time to read the consultation document and provide feedback.

“The number of submissions doubled in the last week and they contained a range of views about the work we have planned for the next financial year. The next step is for Councillors to consider that feedback and make decisions on the final form of the plan, which will be adopted at the end of June.”

You can read what people had to say about the draft Annual Plan at itsourceplace.nz.

Rodger Letham, Councillor Do it right and keep it local

We are almost starting the run-up to the next Local Body Elections, which are due to be held in October. Where has the last three years gone?

It has been a busy three years with some big projects completed or still under way, plus you can throw in Covid-19, the Three Waters Programme, Local Government Reform and Resource Management Act review.

This is on top of our completion of the CBD upgrade, with the new Library and Civic Building under construction and the further development of Baring Square East planned, plus a new bridge on the horizon.

In the midst of all this Council still has to run and maintain the everyday activities of the district. Our staff

are under extreme pressure but are holding the line well. But first things first.

Three Waters is going to be the biggest challenge we have seen for decades and it has not started well. No one denies that a massive investment in water infrastructure is needed throughout the country.

Space does not permit me to give a full run-down of events, or my opinions, but suffice to say Councillors, whoever they are, will need to be wary, watchful and focused in ensuring we get the best deal for our ratepayers.

The Government has not given us confidence in their performance so far. The programme has been poorly researched, badly presented and has cost millions of dollars in childish propaganda to try and sway the public to their point of view.

On top of all that, the Minister blatantly mandated the new entities before the end of the agreed time for study and questioning by councils. In my previous life, if a person broke a contract in that manner they would have been promptly marched into court. I am not even going to start on “co-governance” but it appears that ideology is getting in the way of practical commonsense.

However, it has, to a greater or lesser degree, always been thus. We are a resilient community which has over the years withstood floods, snow, gales, drought and storms. At times of disaster, we pull together and get through and we will do so again. All these things will pass and we will face different challenges.

We have some of the best soils in the world, the most successful farmers and business people that are the envy of



many. We have good educational, cultural and sporting facilities. The enquiry for building sites both residential and commercial is huge, which indicates a positive future.

In light of all that is happening around the world, I am privileged to live, work and play in this district. A place where mothers can take their children to the playground in peace and safety, where our children can walk safely to school. Where we can gather and socialise in comfort and safety as and when we wish (except during covid lockdowns).

Long may it last.

Tight contest for People's Choice award

Just one vote separated the top two in the ANZ Business of the Year Awards People's Choice in Retail Category and the winner will be announced at the awards' gala evening on Friday 27 May.

Members of the public decided the winner and just over 500 votes were cast in the voting period last year. The finalists in the category (in no particular order) are Big Al's, The Stork Network, Stoked Cycles, Hyundai Mid Canterbury and Garage Gym.

Ashburton District Council is partnering with ANZ and Ri Ra Events to host the inaugural awards, which aim to recognise and promote local business excellence.

Council Community Services Group Manager Steve Fabish said was great that people had voted for their favourite business or outlet.

“There were 11 businesses in the category and they were a real variety, all with good voting support. We’re looking forward to honouring the finalists and winners of all the different categories at the awards evening.”

The awards evening in Methven was to have been in February but was delayed by Covid-19. Tickets to the event, and information about all the finalists, are available at businessoftheyear.nz.

ANZ BUSINESS OF THE YEAR CATEGORY FINALISTS

EXCELLENCE IN PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
(sponsored by *Catalyst Performance Agronomy*):

Agricultural Consulting Services - Align Farms
- Bio Oils - Carrfields - Midlands Apiaries

EXCELLENCE IN MANUFACTURING
(sponsored by *HEB Construction*):

Kaipak - Mount Hutt Pods - NZ Sock Co -
Transalpine Honey

EXCELLENCE IN TOURISM
(sponsored by *NZ Ski*):

Adventure Balloons NZ - Ashburton Aviation
Museum - Bella Vista Motel - Brinkley Resort
- Southern Cross Lodge

EXCELLENCE IN NOT-FOR-PROFIT
(sponsored by *Naylor Love*):

Ashburton Aviation Museum - Ashburton Trust
Event Centre - Bike Methven - Methven Lions
Club

EXCELLENCE IN EXPORT
(sponsored by *Croys*):

Midlands Apiaries - NZ Sock Co - Tranzalpine
Honey

**EXCELLENCE IN TECHNOLOGY AND
INNOVATION**
(sponsored by *Lynda Stevenson Chartered
Accountants Ltd*):



Agricultural Consulting Services - Carrfields
Irrigation - Kaipak - Mt Hutt Aviation - NZ
Sock Co

**BEVAN RICKERBY FUTURE BUSINESS
LEADER AWARD**

(sponsored by *Sheep Milk New Zealand*):

Anna Johnson - George Wilson - James
Hannon - Justin Skilling - Kirsty Naish

PEOPLE'S CHOICE FOR RETAIL AWARD
(sponsored by *MediaWorks*):

Big Al's - The Stork Network - Stoked Cycles
- Hyundai Mid Canterbury - Garage Gym

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are at Council Chambers,
137 Havelock Street, unless specified

Council Meeting, Wednesday 18 May,
1pm (live-streamed)

Annual Plan Submission Hearings,
Tuesday 24 May, 9am (live-streamed)

Ashburton Water Zone Committee,
Tuesday 24 May, 1pm (live-streamed)

Annual Plan Submission Hearings,
Wednesday 25 May, 9am (live-streamed)

PUBLIC NOTICES

METHVEN WATER WORK

Methven residents are being asked to
conserve water on **Friday 13 May** during
planned work on the Methven drinking
water supply.

Contractors will be doing underground
pipe work at the water treatment plant
so no water will be flowing into the
plant, however there will be enough
water in the reservoir to service the
town if people use it conservatively. **The
work will begin at 8am and should be
complete by mid-afternoon.**

Infrastructure Services Group Manager
Neil McCann said it made sense to do
some underground work for a new
treatment plant while two new water
reservoirs were under construction at
the site. People are asked to conserve
their water use where possible to avoid
draining the reservoir. **"People can
still have showers and flush toilets,
but minimise activity that would use
large amounts of water during Friday
morning."**

The work is being done by ACL and
Reliant Solutions.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ALCOHOL LICENSING: NOTICE OF HEARING

The District Licensing Committee will
hold a public hearing to consider the
proceedings set out below:

Date: Thursday 19 May 2022

**Venue: Council Chambers, 137
Havelock Street, Ashburton**

Time: 10.00am

Committee members: Robin Kilworth
(commissioner), Simon McDonnell
(Member) and Tracy McIlraith (Member)

IN THE MATTER of the Sale and Supply
of Alcohol Act 2012, **AND**

IN THE MATTER of an application by
Teghveer Enterprises Limited for an OFF
licence pursuant to the Act in respect of
premises situated at **175 Alford Forest
Road ASHBURTON.**

RICK CATCHPOWLE
District Licensing Committee
Secretary

APPLICATION FOR ON LICENCE

**Staveley Store: Public notice of
application for an ON licence.**

The **Station Farmshop Limited**
has made application to the District
Licensing Committee at Ashburton for
an issue of an ON licence in respect
of the premises situated at **2 Burgess
Road, Staveley.**

The general nature of the business
conducted under the licence is
restaurant.

The days on which and the hours during
which alcohol is sold under the licence
are: **Sunday to Thursday: 9.00am
- 5:00pm, and Friday to Saturday
9.00am to 9.00pm.**

The application may be inspected
during ordinary office hours at the office
of the Ashburton District Licensing
Committee at 5 Baring Square West,
Ashburton.

Any person who is entitled to object
and who wishes to object to the grant
of the application may not later than
15 working days after the date of
publication of this notice, file a notice in
writing of the objection with:

The Secretary, Ashburton District
Licensing Committee, PO Box 94,
Ashburton.

No objection to the issue of a licence
may be made in relation to a matter
other than a matter specified in Section
131 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol
Act 2012.

Objection period closes 24 May 2022.

RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

UNWANTED CHEMICALS?

Unwanted or expired agrichemicals
in your shed? Agrecovery is running a
chemical collection event in Canterbury
in June and people who want to dispose
of unwanted chemicals need to book in
by 27 May. Book via agrecovery.co.nz or
by calling 0800 247 326.

Testing regime keeps close tabs on drinking water

Ashburton District Council monitoring officers travel hundreds of kilometres every week taking samples from water treatment plants and bores around the district to check water quality.

Samples are collected regularly from water supply networks and water treatment plants including the Ashburton, Methven and Rakaia townships as well as nine other smaller community supplies.

The frequency of testing ranges from daily on the Ashburton supply, twice per week at Methven and Rakaia, and weekly on the smaller supplies – all as required by standards set by the drinking water regulator Taumata Arowai.

The water is sampled for E.coli and Total Coliforms and field readings are collected for chlorine, pH and turbidity. Additionally, regular chemical samples are also collected, including monthly nitrate-nitrogen samples from all supplies.

The E.coli and Total Coliform samples are tested in the council's in-house laboratory; this test involves samples being placed in an incubator for 24 hours, meaning results are available the following day. Any positive result is investigated to see what caused the problem, and fixed.

Chemical samples which are less time sensitive are sent away to an external lab for testing. Currently Council uses the Eurofins Rolleston lab for this analysis.

At the time of E.coli sample collection, field



readings for chlorine, pH and turbidity are also taken. These are collected using portable field instruments and confirm the treatment process and water networks are performing as expected.

While the focus on water quality has historically been testing after it leaves the bore or plant, new online technology to be installed in the coming year will automatically test raw bore water and treated water, and send the results electronically to Council. Any issues will be picked up in real time, not the next day.

Council operates 12 water supply schemes, servicing about 70 per cent of the population. The Ashburton scheme is the biggest, with more than 200km of pipe supplying about 19,000 people. Methven's supply is the next largest, with 1700.

Infrastructure Services Group Manager Neil McCann said ensuring the safety of drinking water was an important job and part of Council's duty to comply with standards, ensure adequate supply and monitor scheme performance.

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)
Sat & Sun 7am-7pm (pools 5pm)

ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & ASHBURTON MUSEUM

327 West Street
10am - 4pm daily. Closed Public Holidays.