



Mayoral taskforce for local jobs

Ashburton Mayor Neil Brown is a member of a nationwide network of mayors working together to help young people under 25 into employment, education, training and other positive activity in their communities.

The Mayors Taskforce For Jobs (MTFJ), in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development, has set up a Rural Community Resilience programme and Ashburton District Council is running a pilot programme for six months.

Ashburton has been funded to employ a youth employment coach and to work with local businesses to place youth into employment.

Mayor Brown said it was a great opportunity to help youth not in employment, education or training, as well as other young people or those living with disabilities.

“We know there are already good programmes in our district helping some of these young people and the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs programme is about boosting what is available.”

Mayor Brown hosted a local breakfast last week to promote the programme to employers in the district, and about 90 people were in attendance.

The programme will be managed by Council’s Economic Development team.

Nominations open Thursday 16 February in the by-election for the Western Ward seat on the Ashburton District Council.

Nearly anyone can represent their community, as long as they are over the age of 18, a New Zealand citizen and enrolled on the Parliamentary electoral roll.

Ashburton District Council Chief Executive Hamish Riach said the by-election was necessary after the passing of Cr Rodger Letham in December. Western Ward councillors also sit on the Methven Community Board.

“Now is the chance for people to step up, share their ideas and help lead the district. We’re looking for candidates of all ages and backgrounds, all you need is a passion

to serve your local community.”

A candidate information handbook will be available on the voteashburton.nz website from Thursday and nominations will be accepted until noon on Thursday 16 March.

Nomination forms will be available online and in paper form at Council’s Baring Square office, the Ashburton Public Library and the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall.

Voting will not be needed if there is only one candidate but if there is more than one, then eligible voters in the ward will be asked to vote by post for their preferred candidate.

Now is a good time to check if you are eligible to vote, especially if you’ve moved since the Local Elections last year or didn’t get a voting pack in October.

Preliminary electoral rolls can be inspected at Council’s office and at the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall, and electors may enrol or amend their details online at www.vote.tz, or by calling 0800 36 76 56.

Council’s voteashburton.tz website also has information for voters, including maps showing ward boundaries and Frequently Asked Questions.

Candidates cannot nominate themselves and they must be nominated by two people, who are over 18 and enrolled to vote in the Western Ward.

Mr Riach encouraged candidates to complete their nominations early, so they can be checked for any technical errors well before the deadline.

Candidates will be listed at voteashburton.tz once their nominations are processed.

Neil Brown, Mayor

We're lucky to hit the ground running

Images of the carnage caused by Cyclone Gabrielle have dominated our news feeds this week and our thoughts go out the people and authorities who have been battered by the winds and rain.

Recovery will be a long process, and will take a financial, physical and mental toll. We are lucky in the Ashburton District not to be seriously affected, though of course we can recall our own flooding event 18 months ago.

With extreme weather events escalating, it is time for central government to co-invest in flood protection work because our changing climate is a national issue and ratepayers cannot be expected to shoulder all the bill for critical work.

We’ve hit our dry ground running in 2023, with a budget, a by-election, and a big breakfast that I hope will create

opportunities for our young people in terms of jobs and training.

Councillors and Council staff have had a first and thorough run through the budget for 2023-24 and we will work hard to keep the average rate rise as low as possible. Our Long Term Plan indicated a 5.5 per cent rise and it will be a real balancing act to achieve that given inflation has been running at just above 7 per cent.

We’re very aware the rising cost of living is a big issue for many households in the district and so our focus for the budget is a stick-to-the-basics, no frills one.

That means delaying some projects, like plans to create a lovely new entrance for the Ashburton Domain, but we need to prioritise wants against essential work, especially when it comes to our roads.

The by-election for the Western Ward is

officially under way, with nominations open today for candidates. There’s plenty of information on the voteashburton.tz website for both potential candidates and voters.

Nominations close on 16 March and if a postal vote is needed, that will happen in late April.

Three Council events within 24 hours last week also served to remind me of the wide range of activities that come with this job.

On Wednesday 8 February, Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan and I attended the NZ Chinese Association’s New Year celebrations in Christchurch, along with a number of MPs and councillors from Christchurch City.

This was a good opportunity to connect with the Chinese community and the MPs that were also there, and the food was amazing!

Then on Thursday morning I launched



a programme to local business people that sees Council partnering with the nationwide Mayors Taskforce for Jobs to get more young people into jobs, education or training.

After the breakfast, councillors and I visited Fonterra’s Clandeboye plant for a tour of the factory, where milk from our Ashburton farmers mainly goes.

Fonterra farmers in our district collectively get paid \$1.2 billion, which those farmers then spend on goods and services. Ashburton’s GDP is \$2.6 billion, so this makes up a reasonable amount of our GDP.

Fonterra wants to connect with us more closely going forward and is looking to invest in community projects. This has to be a positive for our district and we will take up the offer.

Volunteers help our town to sparkle

Volunteers supporting Litter-Free Ashburton had their first get-together of the year recently, collecting 20 bags of rubbish from around the town and its boundaries.

Council Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann met with the group's organiser Bev Skates and volunteers before they headed off to pick up cans, takeaway wrappers, coffee cups and cigarette butts commonly discarded on the ground.

Cans are recycled and the bags of rubbish collected by Council staff and disposed of.

Mr McCann said the litter-free group did a great job on its monthly outing and helped keep the town looking clean and tidy. Council provides bags and visibility vests for the volunteers.

"We really thank them for what they do. It is great to have citizens like them that help and are happy to assist."



The group gets together from 1.30pm-3pm on the second Thursday of the month, meeting outside the Ashburton Public Library before dispersing to spots all over town.

ABOVE: Litter-Free Ashburton volunteers gather for their monthly mission picking up rubbish.

Tinwald Pool hours for the rest of summer

Tinwald Community Pool will open Friday to Sunday afternoons for the rest of summer, ending the season with a free swim from 1-6pm on Sunday 5 March.

The free swim and longer hours align with a Mid Canterbury Children's Day event being held in the Tinwald Domain that same day.

"We're putting in every effort to staff the pool on weekends and support the Children's Day event," said Sarah Mosley, Group Manager People and Facilities.

On Fridays for the rest of the season the pool will be open from 4-7pm, and on Saturdays and Sundays it will open from 2-5pm. Mondays to Thursdays the pool will be closed, and from Monday 6 March the Tinwald Community Pool will be closed for the season.

The Tinwald pool is staffed by Council's EA



Networks Centre based team, and they are seeking new part-time lifeguards to join them. "Our lifeguard team consists of six full-time permanent staff and 14 part-time employees with hours that vary between 4-30 hours every week depending on their other commitments," Ms Mosley said.

"If people are interested in a lifeguard position but are unsure about whether they can meet the requirements, we're

always happy to arrange a time to answer questions or conduct a no-obligation swim assessment."

Lifeguards receive full on-the-job training and can continue to expand their knowledge to gain NZQA level 3-5 qualifications. Applicants need to be 16 years or older, physically fit to pass the swim test (8 lengths in under 6 minutes), be willing to hold a first aid certificate and enjoy working as part of a team. A vaccine pass is not required.

Tinwald Pool Hours February/March:

Monday-Thursday: Closed

Friday: 4-7pm.

Saturday and Sunday: 2-5pm

To learn more about the pool and admission prices, visit the EA Networks Centre website, eanetworkscentre.co.nz, or check out EA Networks Centre Facebook page for any changes.

Public Notice Western Ward By-Election 2023

A by-election is required to fill an extraordinary vacancy for a councillor for the Western Ward. If a voting process is required, it will be by postal vote closing at midday on Friday 12 May 2023.

Nominations open **Thursday 16 February** and must be made on the appropriate nomination form. Completed nomination documents must be received by the electoral officer no later than 12 midday on **Thursday 16 March**.

Preliminary electoral rolls for these elections can be inspected at the district council office, Ashburton Public Library, and Mt Hutt Memorial Hall. Electors may enrol or amend their details online at www.vote.nz or by calling 0800 36 76 56.

Applications for registration as a ratepayer elector are to be made on the non-resident ratepayer elector enrolment form, also available online. A full version of the Official Notice of By-Election can be found on Council's website.

Anthony Morton, Electoral Officer – Ashburton District Council
PO Box 3138, Christchurch 8140
ashburtondc@electionz.com | 0800 666 048

For more by-election information, go to voteashburton.nz

voteashburton.nz

ashburtondc.govt.nz



COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Council Agencies (6 month report presentations) - Wednesday 22 February, 9.30am

LAKES OPEN DAY

A public information day focusing on the water quality and health of Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lakes, will be held on the waterfront of Lake Clearwater on **Saturday 25 February 2023, 11am-2pm**.

The event will help share the work under way to address water quality issues within the lakes and give people the chance to ask questions and learn more.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a road closure for the purpose of allowing the Ashburton Car Club to hold its Gravel Sprint Meeting.

- **Upper Downs Road**, from Quarry Road to Hinds Gorge Road

Period of closure: From 8am until 6pm on **Saturday, 18 February 2023**.

This notice of closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 - Schedule 10 (11 (e)).

It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person other than under the authority of an authorised permit to use the roads/streets for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure.

NEIL McCANN
Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces

ROAD WORKS NOTICES

Thompsons Track – current to 31 March. Thompsons Track between Winchmore Lauriston Road and Line Road is temporarily closed for roading maintenance and reseal works. Detour available.

Mayfield Valetta Road – current to 6 April. Mayfield Valetta Road between Tinwald Westerfield Mayfield Road and Anama Valetta Road is temporarily closed during the day for rehabilitation. Resident access remains, detour available.

Holmes Road – current to 17 March. Holmes Road between Mt Hutt Station Road and Barkers Road is closed for a full road reconstruction and drainage installation. Detour options available.

Railway Terrace East (Rakaia) – current to 28 February. Railway Terrace East from Rolleston Street to Bridge Street SH1 is temporarily closed for work associated with Waka Kotahi's weigh station project.

Allens Road - current until 9 April. Allens Road between Carters Road and Turton Street will be closed while the North West Ashburton wastewater system is extended and connected to the town network. Detour available.

Arundel Rakaia Gorge Road - current until 10 March. Arundel Rakaia Gorge Road will be closed between Mayfield Klondyke Road and Moorhouse Road to enable roading repairs. Detour is available.

William Street/Cameron Street intersection - current until 27 February. This intersection will be temporarily closed for a sewer main upgrade. It is part of a wider sewer main upgrade along William Street.

View a map of all current and upcoming road closures in the district by going to our website ashburtondc.govt.nz

TRIENNIAL MEETINGS

Mayfield Reserve and Hall Board - Tuesday 28 March, 7.30pm at the Mayfield hall

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