

## Fur-get plastic: Metal tags for dogs

Council is doing away with plastic dog registration tags and dog owners who register their pets from July will receive new longer-lasting metal tags.

The tags are printed with numbers that match each dog's registration details, and owners will no longer need new tags every year.

Compliance and Development Group Manager Jane Donaldson said the metal tags were a welcome replacement.

"We expect them to last a good long while, and they'll only need to be replaced if the numbers wear off. Metal is a much better option and we think our dog owners will approve of us reducing our use of plastic."

Dog registration and control fees and charges for the 2023-24 year were adopted by councillors at their meeting last week and come into force on 1 July.

Councillors had already discussed and agreed to a small fee increase during annual budget discussions earlier in the year, to allow for inflation.



## Library hosts Immigrant Journeys

The Ashburton Public Library is preparing to host a national exhibition telling the stories of recent immigrants to New Zealand and their new lives.

Immigrant Journeys will feature photos and storyboards, with QR codes that take visitors to a video story, and is part of a project funded by the Ministry of Ethnic Communities and Rata Foundation.

It will be set up in the main public area of the library and run from 1 May until 26 May.

To coincide with the exhibition, the library will also run a Saturday morning talk for people to learn about the hijab (headcovering).

The library and Hakatere Multi Cultural Council have organised a conversation with members of our community who wear hijabs and who are happy to talk about their stories. It will run from 10am-11.30am on Saturday 13 May.

Immigrant Journeys aims to share the rich diversity that our most recent immigrants have brought to New Zealand.

Through their skills, cultural backgrounds and experiences, they strengthen and add immense value to this country and help shape its future.

The exhibition is an original idea of the Lady Khadija Trust in collaboration with Telling Lives and Janneth Gil Photography.

## Temporary changes to pool opening times

The EA Networks Centre pool area is opening at 8am instead of 5.45am on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and closing one hour earlier on Fridays at 6pm over the next five weeks, due to staff shortages.

All other operating hours remain unchanged. The change is effective over the five weeks from this week until Sunday 28 May.

People and Facilities Group Manager Sarah Mosley said while the change was not ideal, it was necessary due to the ongoing impact of staffing shortages and would help provide more certainty for the centre's customers.

"Over recent months, opening hours have been adjusted on short notice depending on staff availability, which can be frustrating for our visitors. This change

allows us to offer a more consistent level of service to the community while we resolve staff shortages and allow our staff time to recover from illness."

There is a shortage of lifeguards around New Zealand since Covid-19 hit and many pools have had to reduce hours. Ms Mosley said that meant recruitment was ongoing at the centre and jobs were still available.

## Hamish Riach - Chief Executive

### Keeping polystyrene out of our landfill

Polystyrene is a problem in our recycling and rubbish streams and Council has an idea for a national plan to help deal with the cheap but commonly-used plastic.

Councillors have decided to prepare a remit for the Local Government New Zealand conference in Christchurch in July, and if that gains support LGNZ will advocate for a national plan to deal with polystyrene.

The plastic is a problem because it is hard to recycle and usually ends up in landfill, where it takes hundreds of years to decompose.

In the Ashburton District, you can't put polystyrene in your kerbside recycling bin, but you can take clean, white household polystyrene to the Ashburton Resource Recovery Park,

where it is collected on behalf of Expol, who reprocesses it into things like underfloor insulation and bean bag beans.

Commercial polystyrene, used in the building industry, is not currently collected separately at the resource park and is often sent to landfill – it doesn't weigh much, so there is no incentive to keep it out of the rubbish stream.

Our councillors discussed polystyrene at a recent workshop and decided a national plan to deal with it was a good start. That would also link in nicely with Government signalling it wants national kerbside recycling standards by 2026, where all councils recycle the same way.

A national plan for polystyrene could look at a stewardship programme,

where producers, retailers or consumers who use polystyrene essentially take responsibility for it when it hits the waste stream - like the stewardship scheme for tyres, which keeps them out of landfills and includes a fee on tyres imported or made here.

The first step in progressing the remit is for staff to prepare a report and for Council to seek the support of five other councils for the remit to make it onto the agenda at the LGNZ conference.

Often, local authorities are tasked with implementing the law as set by central Government, but the remit process through LGNZ is one way for us to influence laws they make.

Voters in part of our district are currently having an influence on who

sits around our own council table by voting in the Western Ward by-election. Voters who are on the Parliamentary electoral roll should have received their papers in the mail by now, but if you have not then please contact our Customer Services team on 307-7700 or info@adc.govt.nz.

Voting papers can be posted back or dropped into the orange ballot boxes at the Methven iHub, the Ashburton Public Library or Council's administration building on Baring Square West.

Voting closes at midday on Friday 12 May and the preliminary outcome should be known later that that day. The new councillor will be sworn in at a Council meeting on 17 May.





# Paying tribute on Anzac Day



Above: Ashburton Mayor Neil Brown speaks to a large crowd at the civic service at the Ashburton cenotaph on Anzac Day. Below: Wreaths and poppies laid at the cenotaph.



# Water supplies comply with national nitrate standards

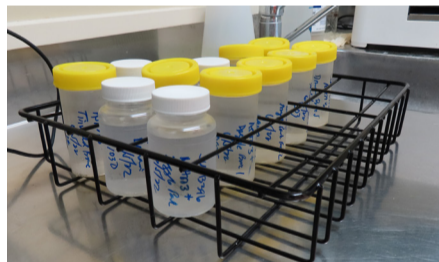
Ashburton District Council is assuring residents connected to its public drinking water supplies that the water is safe to drink, and that it complies with nitrate levels in the national drinking water standards.

Drinking water in the Ashburton district was the focus of a Greenpeace report earlier this week, which called on the Government to address nitrate contamination.

Council Chief Executive Hamish Riach said the general level of nitrate in groundwater in Canterbury was well documented by Environment Canterbury and Council constantly monitors and tests its 12 community water supplies to ensure none were exceeding the maximum allowable nitrate level as set out in the Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand.

“These Council supplies service about 70 per cent of the district’s population and draw mostly from deep 100m bores. We test for a number of things, including nitrate, to look for any trends and to ensure the levels are safe and that the supplies are compliant with nitrate levels in the national drinking water standards.”

Council does not monitor the water quality of people who have their own water supply, however people can find



information on Council’s website about safe and healthy private water supplies and information about the risks from nitrates in groundwater, as well as links to accredited laboratories that can test water samples.

Mr Riach said private bore owners were encouraged to monitor their water quality periodically and seek advice from a water quality professional if they had worries.

“We’re aware of the concern around nitrates in drinking water and think everyone should have access to safe drinking water. We are also constantly looking at our drinking water infrastructure and areas of population growth to assess projects that could be included in our long term planning.”

Environment Canterbury also has information on its website about the work it is doing around reducing nitrate leaching in the district ([ecan.govt.nz](http://ecan.govt.nz)).

## Dog Registration Fees for 2023-24

Rural zone owners (1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> dog)	\$66.00
Rural zone owners (per subsequent dog)	\$31.00
Penalty fee for late registration - rural	\$31.00
Urban zone owners	\$99.00
Penalty fee for late registration - urban	\$46.00
Desexed dogs in urban zone	\$66.00
Responsible dog owner - per dog	\$60.00
Licence to keep 3 or more dogs (urban area)	\$54.00
Renewal of licence to keep 3 or more dogs	\$27.00
Dangerous dog - urban	\$148.00
Dangerous dog - rural	\$99.00

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

**Methven Community Board Meeting**, Monday 1 May, 10.30am at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

**Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee**, Tuesday 2 May, 9.30am  
**Council Meeting**, Wednesday 3 May, 1pm (live-streamed)

**Alcohol Control Bylaw submission hearings and deliberations**, Thursday 4 May, 9am (live-streamed)

**Biodiversity Advisory Group**, Monday 8 May, 1.30pm

**Council Activity Briefings**, Wednesday 10 May, 9.30am

**Audit & Risk Committee**, Wednesday 10 May, 1.30pm (live-streamed)

**Council Meeting**, Wednesday 17 May, 1pm (live-streamed)

**Transportation and Parking Bylaw and Revenue and Financing Policy submission hearings and deliberations**, Wednesday 31 May, 9am (live-streamed)

TAKE A STAND  
**VOTE**  
 WESTERN WARD BY-ELECTION 2023

Vote in the  
 Western  
 Ward

Voting closes at noon,  
 Friday 12 May.

Find out more at [voteashburton.nz](http://voteashburton.nz)

SAVE  
 THE DATE!

2 - 4 June

King's Birthday Weekend  
 Tinwald Domain

ASHBURTON

GLOW

in the park

This popular free family event is returning bigger and brighter!

Don't miss the chance to experience Tinwald Domain and the Plains Vintage Railway & Historical Museum under the colourful glow of breathtaking lighting displays.

### 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 9am - 8pm  
 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