

Masters target world swim records

World records will be on the line when EA Networks Centre hosts the South Island short course masters championships this weekend.

It is an important event for the masters swimming community and a world record attempt will be made in the 800m freestyle.

The Ashburton event is one of only two sanctioned masters meets in New Zealand this year and the only meet in Canterbury offering the opportunity to swim for New Zealand and world records.

About 80 swimmers, between 20 and 90 plus, and their partners and families, are expected in Ashburton for the weekend.

Sport and Recreation Manager Richard Wood said it was a great opportunity for the pool to host what promised to be an exciting event.

“There will be at least one attempt on a world record and the meet offers a chance for swimmers from all over the country to compete against each other, to set personal best times and have a go at some records.

“It will also have a positive economic impact on the district as all our visitors dine out and shop in the local shops.”

The technical director for the meet is Ashburton district’s Helen Tait, a qualified New Zealand swim national referee, while the Ashburton Swim Team will assist with other duties and timekeeping.



Most swimmers will arrive in Ashburton on Friday, with racing sessions on Friday night, Saturday morning and Saturday night. Swimmers attend a dinner at the Hotel Ashburton on Saturday night.

The meet is held annually and will be in Christchurch next year.

Mr Wood said Ashburton hosted the

championships a few years ago with great success.

“It is a fantastic pool for competitions, with 10 lanes and capacity to host at least 100 swimmers and we look forward to some great swimming over the weekend.”

This event received \$2000 from the Mid Canterbury Regional Event Fund.

Richard Wilson - Councillor Balancing the books for longterm wellbeing

The cost of living affects us all, whether it is balancing your household budget, a business forecast or the council’s budget.

Our long term plan is how we prioritise spending when we undertake the four wellbeings: economic, social, cultural and environmental.

So what are wellbeings?

Social – this refers to people’s basic needs, such as education, health, security and the strength of our community networks.

Economic – this helps drive our economic growth. If we get this right, better jobs and higher economic growth help us to satisfy the other wellbeings – a good example is our north-east Ashburton Business Estate and the new rail hub at Fairton.

Cultural – this is our diverse community and their ability to express and preserve their identities. The building of Te Whare Whakatere and our involvement

in Community House and Safer Mid Canterbury are examples of this. Supporting last weekend’s Night Noodle Market is another.

Environmental – this is our natural environment and its ability to sustainably support us, and it covers water, air, land use and pollution.

All these wellbeing things cost lots of money. We are lucky in Ashburton that previous councils have been prudent and have maintained our assets to good levels. However, as society develops, expectations of what is acceptable change ... and rightly so, what was okay 20 years ago is not okay today.

Drinking water quality is a good example of this and council has a big work programme to ensure it continues to comply with new national standards. Methven’s new \$10m membrane treatment plant means boil water notices will be at thing of the past for that supply and the facility is due to be fully commissioned later this month.



We have just started our work to review the long team plan and went out to the community for some initial feedback that will help us develop a draft long term plan that will go out for consultation early next year.

Due to there only being so much money to go around, we will have the difficult task of deciding what council can and can’t afford. We must all remember that the more we want, the more rates have to increase and so a balance has to be achieved.

Finally, congratulations to Mt Hutt on reaching 50 years, which is a magnificent milestone.

It is one of our longtime local attractions only made possible by some visionary residents of the Ashburton district.

It only takes one person with vision to make things happen and Ashburton has proven to have an amazing ability to get behind these visions and make them happen. What’s your vision?

SHORT AND SWEET

METHVEN WATER PLANT OPEN DAY

Residents of Methven will soon be able to see inside their new water membrane treatment plant at an open morning on Saturday 7 October from 9am-12pm. People will be able to see inside the new facility and find out more about how it operates. The \$10m plant will be officially opened by the Council, Methven Community Board and other invited dignitaries the day prior to the community event. The new equipment is expected to see the end of boil water notices.

REPRESENTATION REVIEW UNDER WAY

Work has commenced on the six-yearly representation review, with a session held with Council. This reviews representation arrangements for the Council including the makeup of the Council, Māori representation, boundaries, the number of elected members and Community Boards, and how they are elected.

ALL BLACKS BENCH

Council staff have completed the installation of the park bench seat, donated to the Methven community by the All Blacks. This is a nice bespoke macrocarpa seat located outside the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall in the courtyard area.

RDR HERITAGE PIPE

Council staff are working with Rangitata Diversion Race staff and liaising with Heritage New Zealand about proposed improvements to the Historic Pipe behind the Gardens of Harmony as it has a Historic Places Category 1 Listing.

TWO O’CLOCK TOUR

Join us at the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum at 2pm on Sunday for a tour of the Forest and Bird local photographic display. The display celebrates 100 years for the conservation charity.

For the latest Council news, visit our website ashburtondc.govt.nz/latestnews

Ooodles enjoy noodles by night

Crowds of hungry noodle-lovers thronged to the West Street car park on Saturday to sample a range of global flavours at the district's inaugural Night Noodle Market.

The event was hosted by the Mid Canterbury Newcomers Network and Ashburton District Council to observe the start of Welcoming Week and Multicultural Day.

Mercedes Walkham, Coordinator for Mid Canterbury Newcomers Network, said she was thrilled with the community's support of the event.

"It was such a wonderful way to say 'nau mai rā, glad you're here' to the people who have made Ashburton their home. With the wide range of nationalities taking part, I think the event gave people more appreciation of the rich mix of cultures that make up our Mid Canterbury community."

Council said the event was hugely successful, with organisers estimating that around 4000 to 5000 people attended over the course of four hours.

Group Manager Compliance and Development Jane Donaldson said it wasn't just the street vendors who were busy on the night.

"The five restaurants participating in the noodle market had a lot of customers through their doors, but we also saw diners spill over to other local restaurants as well, so we consider that a real win-win for Ashburton."

Event organisers say it's too early to say



how and when the Noodle Night Market might return, but they'll be considering feedback from the event over the next few weeks.

"We've already had people asking us about when the next Night Noodle Market is going to be," Mrs Walkham said. "We'd probably need to make any future event quite a bit bigger and invite more vendors, but having to cater for large crowds is a really good problem to have."



Taskforce looks at lake water

Proactively getting ahead of algal blooms has prompted the formation of the Lake Hood Water Quality Taskforce.

Representatives from the Ashburton Aquatic Park Charitable Trust, the Huntingdon Park Property Owners Association, Lake Hood Extension Project and Ashburton District Council have come together to improve water quality at the lake. This follows a one-off algae bloom at the lake in March.

Taskforce chair David West said the aim was to prevent further algal blooms, using

scientific expertise to better understand conditions that encouraged algae growth.

"We want to make sure Lake Hood remains a premier recreational destination for visitors and locals. Algae blooms are becoming more prevalent worldwide and the taskforce wants to be proactive and act early so we won't see a repeat this summer."

Six aeration diffusers have already been installed, to help clean the water.

Property owners around Lake Hood are also being encouraged to support efforts to improve water quality.

WORKS NOTICES

Cass Street – current. Contractors are working in the south-bound lane of Cass Street (from Walnut Avenue to Cox Street) over the next weeks installing new water mains. Traffic may be disrupted.

Lagmhor Road/SH1 Tinwald/Agnes Street – Waka Kotahi is installing traffic lights at this intersection so expect traffic management and delays over the coming months.

Chalmers Avenue - current until 30 September. The southbound lane, between Wakanui Road and Grey Street, will be closed while contractors install new water mains. Detours in place.

Maronan Valetta Road - from 4-29 September. Maronan Valetta Road between Westerfield Lismore Road and Timaru Track Road will be closed for improvements.

Princes Street - from 4 September to 7 November. The section of Princes Street from Brucefield Avenue to Bridge Street will be closed for water main renewals. Resident access remains.

Wills Street - 4 September to 13 October. Wills Street from Walker Street to Oak Grove will be closed for new water and wastewater pipes to be installed. Resident access remains.

For the latest Council news, visit our website ashburtondc.govt.nz/latestnews

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 – Ride the Rakaia.

Road proposed to be closed:

- **Rakaia Barrhill Methven Road from Baker Road to West Town Belt**

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE ACCESS TO THE RAKAIA DOMAIN

Periods of Closure: **From 6am to 3pm on Saturday, 21 October 2023.**

This proposed closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 – Schedule 10 (11 (e)) and will be considered at the next Council meeting on 4 October 2023.

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, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton by 4pm, Friday 22 September 2023.

NEIL McCANN
Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are usually held in Council Chambers, located at 137 Havelock Street.

Council Activity Briefings, Wednesday 13 September, 9.30am

Audit and Risk Meeting, Wednesday 13 September, 1pm (live-streamed)

Council Meeting, Wednesday 20 September, 1pm (live-streamed)

Ashburton Water Zone Committee Meeting, Tuesday 26 September, 1pm (live-streamed)

Council Agencies, Wednesday 27 September, 9.30am (live-streamed)

KEEP NZ BEAUTIFUL DAY

Ashburton's Keep New Zealand Beautiful day is set for **Saturday 16 September**, 10am-1pm. Meet at 10am in the West Street carpark, opposite Subway, for a brief safety chat, and to collect bags, gloves, vests.

Even if you can spare just an hour, you are very welcome to meet our Litter-Free Ashburton team and EnviroWaste personnel. You'll be assigned an area to clear and haul it all back to the base.

October's monthly event is on Thursday 12 October, meet library corner, 1.30pm.

ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

A unique experience on Saturday to engage with taonga puoro (traditional Māori instruments) and experience live music, alongside the new Ngā Hau Ngākau exhibition.

Bob Bickerton and Ariana Tikao, two of the artists featured in the exhibition, will be sharing stories about the exhibition and playing some instruments in a live performance.

Saturday, 9 September, 2-4pm, free for all ages.

Enter your business now!

businessoftheyear.nz

This event is being produced and managed by Ri Ra Events Limited, on behalf of Ashburton District Council.

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 & MUSEUM

327 West Street
10am - 4pm daily