

Library relocation pushed back

Construction delays have pushed back the Ashburton Public Library's move to the new library and civic centre, though about 120 non-library Council staff will still relocate as planned by the end of the year.

Chief Executive Hamish Riach said it had become clear in recent days that some parts of Te Whare Whakaterere would not be ready for business by Monday 18 December.

"So we are setting a new date for the library's relocation and expect it to be open in the new building on 22 January. The construction site shutdown over the Christmas and New Year break has had a knockon effect and while we're really disappointed, we have to be realistic.

"Our whole project team knew that getting everyone in by the end of the year was an important milestone and the effort over the last couple of months has been commendable, with more than 200 staff on site each day trying to get everything finished.

"The top floor where most staff will work, and level one, will be complete as scheduled by 18 December, but our builders will still be putting the finishing touches in the public areas on the ground floor past that date."

The old library will now stay open until



The public opening date for Te Whare Whakaterere is 22 January.

early January. It will then close for three weeks to allow more than 60,000 books and other new resources to be relocated.

Council's customer services team will continue to operate from the old administration building until the ground floor is finished and the new library opens on 22 January.

Staff working from Te Whare Whakaterere from 18 December include the regulatory, roading, assets, finance, information management, strategy and policy, and human resources teams, but there will be no public visitors or meetings there until the whole building is ready.

Mr Riach said to have most staff working

from the new building was positive and a dawn blessing of Te Whare Whakaterere would continue as planned in December.

"Our 24/7 phone centre continues to operate as usual and residents who want to pay bills or talk to customer services staff face to face will still be able to do that at our old Baring Square West building until the public opening of Te Whare Whakaterere on 22 January."

The delay is not expected to add to the cost of the building, which was forecast earlier this year to overrun its \$56.75 million budget by about 10 per cent. The cost of the build will be offset by a \$20m shovel ready project grant from Government.

Neil Brown - Mayor Honouring the past can take many different forms

Memorial projects have been on my mind this week, since laying a wreath at the RSA on Saturday as part of Armistice Day commemorations.

The 11th of November is marked each year as the day the fighting stopped in World War One and we remember those who lost their lives during the hostilities – the war affected nearly every family in our district at the time and although the generation which lived through that war is no longer with us, their legacy lives on in the memories of their children, and following generations.

In Baring Square West I have watched with interest the relocation of the Boer War Memorial; it once sat in Baring Square East but was moved last month, first offsite for cleaning and restoration, and then for reassembly.

It now sits on a new concrete base, looking quite at home alongside the other war memorials opposite council's administration building. All that remains to be done in terms of physical work is for a footpath to be built around it.

Moving memorials is a sensitive thing and we have worked with the local RSA, heritage experts and the New Zealand Defence Force on the Boer War Memorial project. We are still thinking about the best way to rededicate the memorial once all the work is finished.

A living memorial was also on my agenda this week, when I attended a regular biodiversity meeting that includes people from Council, Ecan, DOC, Forest and Bird and other groups working hard for the environment.

The group wants Council to investigate making the eastern end of Plantation Road, a paper road between Maronan Road and Ferrimans Road, an insurance site – a site that would be a backup to the Harris Scientific Reserve and conserve indigenous plants that once covered the whole of the plains but are now rare.

The Harris reserve is a dryland area vulnerable to drought and fire, and Plantation Road would be an insurance site in case of disaster. A survey of Plantation Road in 2012 recorded 10 indigenous species already there,

including clematis marata, matagouri and native broom – you might not think these are special, but they are fast disappearing remnants of our past.

The group's recommendation will come to Council in the future and councillors will make a decision on it.

It's been good to see residents engaging with staff during consultation on our draft Biodiversity strategy. There were lots of good discussions had at the Ashburton A&P Show and last Saturday at the local farmers' market.

The strategy is all about protecting and enhancing our natural environment and the strategy document sets out where we are at the moment and action plans for the future. Some of these actions are because of new laws, but others feel right for our district and are Council's wishes.

Feedback on the strategy closes on 26 November, so head to ashburtondc.govt.nz and have your say.



SHORT AND SWEET

HISTORY HEADLINES

An article written by Danielle Campbell, our deputy director at the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum, has been printed in the New Zealand Journal of Public History. The article is about the life and legacy of photographer Bobbie Barwell, who was the subject of an exhibition in 2022. Danielle's article highlights the value of small museums telling stories that tie into wider national narratives.



HIGHWAY WORKS

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency started its state highway resealing programme this week with jobs on SH77 between Methven and the Rakaia gorge. Three sites are being resealed with the work zones under stop/go traffic management; expect delays. Other highway work is under way at Hinds.

THINK JAPAN

Interested in learning more about Japanese culture and social protocols? Come along to the next Cultural Awareness workshop showcasing Japan, at the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum on 24 November. It is the seventh of a series of workshops organised in partnership with Hakatere Multicultural Council and Volunteering Mid and South Canterbury. The workshop starts at 10.30am and will be led by Chiyo Hunt, a member of the Japanese community in Ashburton.

BIODIVERSITY DATES

The Ashburton District Biodiversity Advisory Group will meet four times next year - 12 February, 13 May, 12 August and 11 November. The group includes Council, Ecan and community groups working together for the environment; it provides a forum for discussion and community-wide promotion of biodiversity.

Services over anniversary weekend

Canterbury Anniversary Day on Friday 17 November is a public holiday that will affect some Council operations.

Council services and operating hours at some facilities will temporarily change over the long weekend, but there will be no change to kerbside rubbish and recycling collections on Friday.

If you're travelling, take care on the roads; there's plenty to do around the district if you're staying home, including swimming at the EA Networks Centre and visiting the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum. If you are planning a big weekend in the garden, then green waste can be taken to the Ashburton Resource Recovery Park.

Rubbish and recycling

There is no change to kerbside rubbish and recycling collections and Friday's collection will take place as usual, with residents to have their wheelie bins out by 7.30am. Remember to use your windstrap, whether it's windy or not.

Resource Recovery Parks

The Ashburton Resource Recovery Park will be open Friday from 8am-6pm, Saturday from 9am-6pm and Sunday from 9am-5pm.

The Methven green waste dropoff will be open Sunday from 12pm until 4pm. The Rakaia Resource Recovery Park will be closed on Friday 17 November and open on Saturday from 9am-3pm.

EA Networks Centre

Swim, put up some hoops or work out in the gym every day of the long weekend as the EA Networks Centre will be open Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The centre's operating hours on Friday will be 10am-5pm. There will be no swim school lessons on Friday, though lessons on Saturday will be happening as normal.

Usual weekend hours apply for the rest



There is no change to kerbside rubbish and recycling collections on Friday.

of the weekend - the gym will be open Saturday and Sunday from 7am until 6pm, the pool will be open Saturday and Sunday from 7am until 5pm, and the stadium will be open Saturday and Sunday from 7am to 7pm.

Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

The Mt Hutt Memorial Hall at Methven will be open on Friday from 10am until 2pm, Saturday and Sunday from 10am until 4pm.

Ashburton Public Library

The Ashburton Public Library will be closed on Friday, but open Saturday 10am-1pm and Sunday 1pm-4pm. Come in over the weekend and fill your boots, or bags, with books ahead of the library's three-week shutdown when it moves to the new civic building, Te Whare Whakatare. Books issued now won't have to be returned until 10 January 2024, so it's fine to stock up!

Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum

The Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum

will be open 10am-4pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The Two O'Clock Tour on Sunday takes in two exhibitions in the gallery space and if you're a fan of embroidery, textiles and poetry, you won't want to miss this tour. We'll be talking about Saskia Bunce-Rath's work, Eating stars together at Dusk, and Iain Cheesman's The River, which features on the foyer wall.

Administration building

Council's administration building on Baring Square West will be closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday, re-opening on Monday at 8.30am. If you have a problem or urgently need to contact us, then the afterhours/24 hours-a-day service will be operating - please phone 03 307 7700. Emails, Snap Send Solves and website requests will be cleared Monday morning.

Public toilets around the district will be open as usual during the long weekend.

All facilities will return to normal hours on Monday 20 November.

WORKS NOTICES

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. The Lagmhor Road crossing will be closed for two months from 25 September. **Night works for two weeks from 12 November.**

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

William Street - current until 15 November. William Street and intersections of Kermode and Dobson Streets, will be closed to undertake wastewater upgrading. Residents will still have access and detours will be in place.

Elizabeth Street (hospital end) - current. New water and wastewater pipes are being installed in this area and some roads are temporarily closed. Elizabeth Street, between Grigg and Walker, will be one-way (east to west) from early November. No street parking will be available on Elizabeth Street, between Grigg and Walker. Access to Ashburton Hospital remains; resident access remains.

Thompsons Track - current to 21 December. Thompsons Track, between Braemar and Pole Road, will be closed for road rehabilitation. Detour in place; resident access available.

Elizabeth Street - current to 12 December. Elizabeth Street, between Cross and Allison Streets, is closed for the first stage of a wastewater upgrade. Detour in place; no entry from Baker Street. Resident access remains.

Kermode Street - from 30 October to 8 December. Kermode Street, between Mona Square and East Street, is closed for a wastewater upgrade.

Cameron Street - Cameron Street (between SH1 and Park Street) is closed until 21 December, while wastewater pipes are replaced.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are at Council Chambers, 137 Havelock Street, unless specified. Meeting agendas are online at ashburtondc.govt.nz

Methven Community Board, Monday 27 November, 10.30am at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Ashburton Water Zone Committee, Tuesday 28 November, 1pm

Council Activity Briefings, Wednesday 29 November, 9.30am

Audit and Risk Committee, Wednesday 29 November, 1pm

Council Meeting, Wednesday 6 December, 1pm

RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

There will be no change to kerbside rubbish and recycling collections on **Canterbury Anniversary Day, Friday 17 November**. Please put your wheelie bin out as usual, with the wind strap on. The Ashburton Resource Recovery Park is open 8am-6pm on Friday.

Light up the Night
Sat 25 Nov - 6pm
Ashburton CBD

Join Santa and his elves as we light up Ashburton's giant Christmas tree!

Family Movie Night
Sat 9 Dec - 6pm
Ashburton Domain

Spread Christmas cheer with a special outdoor screening of a classic Christmas movie!

Proudly supported by **hokonui** and **Ashburton Courier**

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