

Recyclers start year on good note

Keep up the good recycling, that's the message from auditors checking kerbside recycling bins in the first weeks of 2023.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said the auditors travelled ahead of Council's rubbish and recycling collection trucks to ensure non-recyclable items did not end up contaminating a whole truck-load of recycling.

"Early reports are that Ashburton District residents are recycling with our basic messaging in mind. They are putting out clean glass bottles and jars in their green crates, and sticking to hard plastics 1, 2 and 5, and cardboard and paper for their yellow bins.

"People also seem to have got the message that they can't recycle leftover food or food in takeaway containers. It's a good day when the auditors don't find any maggots in their recycling checks."

The most frequent recycling issues are pizza boxes with leftover food in them and container lids, of any size or shape.

"Neither of these can be recycled in kerbside collections. The pizza boxes are contaminated by the leftover food and the lids jam the automated sorting machine in Timaru, where our recycling is separated and processed," Mr McCann said.

Persistent kerbside recycling offenders are put on a watchlist and offered educational material to help improve their knowledge



of what can and can't be recycled - Council's education contractor works hard to raise awareness and encourage good habits.

"We have people going into schools to help students learn about the importance of recycling and sustainability, and we hope they take that message home to their parents because when rubbish contaminates recycling it means the whole lot has to go to landfill, which in turn costs ratepayers more money."

Ashburton Resource Recovery Park is open seven days a week - 8am to 6pm on weekdays, 9am to 6pm Saturdays and 9am to 5pm Sundays.

Rakaia Resource Recovery Park is open Mondays 10am to 12pm, Wednesdays 3.30pm to 5.30pm, Fridays 2pm to 4pm and Saturdays 9am to 3pm.

The Methven Recycling Drop-off Facility is open 24 hours for the free disposal of recyclables. Methven also has a greenwaste facility open Wednesday 12.30pm to 2.30pm and Sundays 12pm to 4pm.

Rural recycling drop-offs are available at 12 other sites around the district.

Need more info? Read our Bin It Right booklet, or see Council's rubbish and recycling webpage.

This is Bob,



Bob is a sober driver,
be like Bob.

GET HOME SAFE

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Hamish Riach, Chief Executive

Recharging the batteries ahead of a busy budget and planning period

It's great to see people recharging their batteries during the holidays and there is certainly plenty to do locally if you have decided to stick close to home.

You can picnic in our beautiful parks and reserves, find the perfect mountain bike track, or take the kids for a swim at the Tinwald pool. The Ashburton Public Library, the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum and EA Networks Centre also have plenty of interesting activities on the go, including a special event about space exploration.

Spending time with family and friends, and recharging the batteries was an essential part of my Christmas and New Year break because we are straight into budget mode when Councillors and staff are back on deck this month.

Council is a big business, with just over 300 people employed in full or part-time work and an annual income of about \$90 million, with

about half of that derived from rates. Like all territorial authorities, we have a continuous cycle of work and budgeting that affects your daily lives in many ways - from flushing the toilet to driving on roads and dealing with noise complaints or wandering dogs.

It works out that soon as we officially tick off one annual plan, we start work on another. The Annual Report for 2021-22 was adopted by Council last month after it had been scrutinised and approved by the auditors - the report looks at how we performed against our budget and work programme. Did we do all we said we would, did we meet budgets, did we contribute to improving the overall wellbeing of our district?

You'll be pleased to know we met our financial goals, which are to ensure Council spends prudently, keeps rates and fees to a reasonable level, and has money to cater for growth. On the wellness front, resident surveys

showed 91 per cent of residents felt a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood and 91 per cent were satisfied with local community facilities.

The 2021/22 year was notable, not only for the ongoing impact of Covid-19 - we completed the CBD streetscape renewal and the Ashburton Relief Sewer, progressed the new library and civic building despite covid challenges, and continued to operate safe drinking water and wastewater networks for a big majority of the district's residents.

The quality and condition of our large roading network continues to be a source of frustration for many in the community, but despite this, we graded 10,216 km of unsealed roads, resealed 70km of sealed roads and filled thousands of potholes. And in the 2022-23 year, Council increased its roading works programme to keep the improvement going.



We are about to begin work on the 2023-24 Annual Plan, and that will be adopted this June ahead of the new financial year in July.

So you can see we have a continuous stream of work auditing what we did, checking we are on track at the moment, and planning for the future.

Councillors and staff spend a lot of time balancing the work that is needed in the district against the impact it will have on rates, and having good conversations with the community about expectations.

The first big budget workshop is on 26 January, and there will be plenty of energy spent over the next few months to make sure we are all spending sensibly in 2023-24.

Giant weta sets scene at Mayfield pool



Around 700 venturer scouts who camped at the Mayfield Domain recently have helped create two colourful murals at the Mayfield swimming pool, as part of a service project to the small rural town that hosted the big event.

The venturers, plus about 250 supervisors, lived in a temporary tent city in the domain for 10 days and took part in all sorts of adventures around the district. Ignite '23 attracted venturer scouts (14-19 years) from all over New Zealand and Australia, and event director Wendy Eyles said they had a lovely time at Mayfield.

“We’re very aware we are a big group and can make a bit of noise, but we had great

Venturer scouts work on one of two new murals for the Mayfield swimming pool.

support from locals and the public. It’s been a lovely experience and the pool murals will be a lasting, colourful reminder of our adventures there.”

As part of the camp’s programme, scouts were asked to contribute designs for two murals to be painted on the changing rooms at the Mayfield swimming pool, which the group has been using. Two scenes, one featuring a giant weta, were selected based on the theme “Nature’s back yard”.

The project was supported by a \$576 grant from the Ashburton District Council via

the New Zealand Creative Communities Scheme. Watty also provided discounted paint for the work.

Organisers of the large-scale scout camp also worked with the Mayfield Reserve Board, the Mayfield A&P Show committee, Mayfield playcentre, the Mayfield Swimming pool, Mayfield Squash Club, Mayfield tennis club and the local rugby club.

People can access public toilets in the Mayfield Domain again and temporary public toilets in the Panther’s Rock carpark have been removed.

Road works in Triangle while new power lines laid

Traffic flows around the Triangle will be disrupted for a month or so from the end of January while new underground power lines are laid along Cass Street and Victoria Street.

The work commissioned by electricity lines company EA Networks is being carried out in several stages and involves digging up parts of both roads and some footpaths. It will start on Cass Street, near Wills Street, and move south towards Cameron Street, with the final stage on Victoria Street.

Traffic management in the area will include detours and partial or full road closures, with signs controlling where vehicles can go. The first stage will take place between **Monday 23 January** and **Monday 30 January**, and involve closing the northbound lane of Cass Street, between Victoria Street and Peter Street.

EA Networks chief executive officer Roger Sutton said the new power lines would replace a part of the electricity network that was more than 50 years old and had little capacity remaining.

“The new lines will help futureproof the



Triangle business area and be able to deliver more electricity to existing and new businesses, including a new restaurant that is currently under construction on Victoria Street.

“We’re conscious the work will disrupt traffic for a few weeks and apologise for the inconvenience, but it allows us to meet the growth we see coming in the area.”

Roading contractors for Council will also be resealing part of the northbound lane on Chalmers Avenue from 13 January and traffic will be asked to detour around the site.

You can check Council’s website for details of all road closures around the district.

Waitangi Day will be busy

Waitangi weekend looks like being a cracker in Ashburton, with several big events planned, including the return of the Multi Cultural Bite festival.

Multi Cultural Bite was cancelled last year because of covid, but is back in 2023 with plans to hold it in the Ashburton Domain on Waitangi Day, Monday 6 February.

The festival is an opportunity for the district’s different ethnic groups to showcase their culture, through performing arts and food stalls selling bite-sized portions of national dishes.

Also at the domain will be the Waitangi Day Market and the Amazing Dinosaur Discovery show.

The dinosaur show will operate over the course of a week and people can book a 90-minute session that lets them explore and learn all about the prehistoric world of dinosaurs. There’ll be over 30 lifelike dinosaurs, including crowd favourite Tyrannosaurus Rex, a Brachiosaurus with a 12m long neck and robotic raptors.

Ashburton Airport is also scheduled to host an informal fly-in over Waitangi weekend, so the skies will be busy too.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a proposal to temporarily close a road to ordinary vehicle traffic to enable the holding of a community event, **Gravel Sprint Meeting**.

- **UPPER DOWNS ROAD**, from Quarry Road to approximately #518 Upper Downs Road

Period of closure: From 8am to 6pm on **Saturday, 18 February 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 1 February 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 20 January 2023.

ROAD WORKS

A section of the northbound lane of Chalmers Avenue, between Walnut Avenue and Grey Street will be closed for resealing for at least three days from **13 January**. Heavy traffic that regularly uses Chalmers Avenue will be asked to detour via Beach Road, Trevors Road and Albert Street.

NEIL McCANN
Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces

TRIENNIAL MEETINGS

- Alford Forest Reserve Board -** Tuesday 24 January, 7.30pm in the Alford Forest hall
- Rakaia Memorial Hall -** Wednesday 1 February, 7pm in the hall supper room
- Mayfield Reserve and Hall Board -** Tuesday 28 March, 7.30pm at the Mayfield hall

RECYCLING TIP: NO LIDS

With the holiday season here, you might have friends and family staying over - please help us keep our recycling ship-shape by remembering hard plastics 1, 2 and 5 for your yellow bin, and no lids of any size. Lids jam the automated sorting machine; you can recycle lids at your nearest resource recovery park, just not in kerbside recycling.



STOCKWATER

KEEP YOUR RACES CLEAR

Races need regular maintenance in summer, especially when flows traditionally drop. To help get the water through the network, races need to be cleaned of any weed growth and rubbish, like plastic containers and hedge clippings. Flow is not guaranteed, so users are advised to have an alternate water source for stock.

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