

Neil Brown, Mayor

**Learning new plays to keep
our district scoring goals**

I'm borrowing a sporting commentator's famous cliché when I say that 2022 has been a game of two halves - the first half was dominated by covid in our community and the second by big plays to return to normal.

We are almost there ... a bit of extra time is needed.

I'd like to use this opportunity to say a big thank you to our whole community for staying strong, but especially to the essential workers who kept the wheels of our district going, whether they came to work every day to a supermarket, petrol station, a farm, a medical centre or hospital.

It was not an easy first six months of the year, but light was on the horizon. We welcomed a return to maskless interactions and it was great to see people smiling again. We also held Local Body Elections, which saw the retirement of four councillors who

had devoted many years to local government. I thank them also.

The new crew is settling in for a productive term and as local body politicians they are about to become very acquainted with the controversial Three Waters legislation making its way through Parliament, and the two new pieces of legislation that will replace the Resource Management Act.

We recently re-affirmed our opposition to the Three Waters reforms, as they are currently proposed.

Water services are not one size fits all and as a council we are worried our voice, and needs, will be lost in an entity that will cover nearly all of the South Island. This is not fair to our ratepayers, who have invested many millions over the decades to keep three waters infrastructure in this district in good shape. We already have safe and affordable drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services and have longterm plans to

ensure it stays that way.

No-one disputes the need for investment in some parts of the country, but there must be a better way to achieve it.

But my Christmas message should not be hijacked by politics.

I also want to celebrate some transport projects that we have partnered with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency to help deliver. The new Walnut Avenue traffic lights are up and running, with no orange road cones in sight and few complaints.

We hope that the next project, traffic lights on State Highway 1 at the corner of Agnes Street and Lagmhor Road in Tinwald, also delivers on design and expectations.

Another future project, of course, is the second bridge, which we expect to see on the 2024-27 national land transport programme of work. A focus for council next year will be finding

funds for the work, which better connects Ashburton and Tinwald, and the whole South Island, and takes pressure off the highway and its increasing volumes of traffic.

There will likely be a fair bit of negotiation between us, the regional and national land transport committees, Waka Kotahi and Government ... and all in the same year as a General Election.

So, whichever road you are travelling on this summer, take care and come back safe.

Merry Christmas to you all.



Smartphone struggles?

If Santa is kind enough to leave a smartphone in your stocking this Christmas, you may find yourself with questions about how to use it.

The Ashburton Public Library is offering Introduction to Smart Phones courses over January as part of their Free Digital Training programme.

The two-hour course will take attendees through the basics of how to use their new devices and has no restrictions on age, however bookings are essential.

The course will run four times in January,

with afternoon sessions on 4, 11 and 25 January between 1pm to 3pm and an evening class on 18 January between 6pm and 8pm. Bookings can be made by visiting the library, calling 03 308 7192 or emailing library@adc.govt.nz.

The library has an extensive range of digital training courses planned for the new year, including topics such as Applying for Jobs Online, Digital Apps for Seniors and Creating a Website or Blog using Wordpress.

Find out more at [ashburtondc.govt.nz/
library](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz/library)

Recycle like a champion over the festive season

Council is encouraging households to be lean, green recycling machines over the Christmas and New Year period, when volumes of rubbish and recycling typically increase.

Glass bottles and jars should be rinsed clean and put in the green crate, while the yellow-lidded wheelie bin is for recycling that includes hard plastics 1, 2 and 5, cardboard and paper (but not shredded paper). Soft plastics cannot be recycled in your yellow bin.

The wheelie bin with the red lid is for rubbish and items that can't be recycled as part of the kerbside collection.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said the volume of contamination in kerbside recycling has been creeping up, with bin auditors doing their best to educate some households.

"If your recycling bin wasn't emptied, then it's because the audit team found items that can't be recycled. First offenders are left educational material, but repeat offenders go on our watch list and could even lose their bins."

“Just think before you bin or recycle it. We



are all trying to do our best to recycle what we can, ultimately to do our bit saving the planet but also to reduce the cost of transporting our rubbish to landfill."

Some common problems seen at Christmas included foil and plastic wrapping paper, ribbons, bows and tinsel being put out for recycling. "These can't be recycled, nor can things like Christmas hams or leftover food, which we regularly find in recycling bins at Christmas."

Year-round, the most frequent recycling issues are pizza boxes with leftover food in them, and lids. "Neither of these can be recycled in kerbside collections."

Go to **binitright.nz** for more information.





Rail footbridge restoration on agenda

Councillors paid a visit to Ashburton’s historic rail footbridge this week, to see first-hand how the 105-year-old structure is faring.

They will discuss a conservation management plan for the bridge early next year and consider how restoration work could be funded.

A possible source of funding is KiwiRail, which supports a rail heritage trust that could help cover some of the work; the trust encourages people to preserve and restore New Zealand’s rail buildings and equipment.

The 25m bridge crosses the main South Island railway tracks at Wills Street and was built in 1917 as part of the railway station complex. The station was demolished in 2013.

It features a bowstring design and is the only one of its type in its original location serving its original purpose. Over the years, only one of the original access ramps has been removed.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said a report about the restoration and funding options was being prepared and it was good for Councillors to see the footbridge up close.



Councillors and senior Council staff on the heritage footbridge they will be discussing next year.

“It has a special place in Ashburton’s history but is in need of some attention. That work has to be carried out in a way that preserves its heritage status.”

Heritage New Zealand lists the bridge as a category II historic place, and Council lists it as a category A heritage item in the District Plan.

The main trunk line reached Ashburton in 1874, but a proper station was only built 40

years later. A wooden footbridge was built in 1911 to connect Cameron Street, and the new iron Wills Street footbridge at Wills Street built in 1917.

The popularity of rail began to decline in the 1970s and the station was eventually closed and sold to private owners. ONTRACK, who owned the railway at the time, gifted the footbridge to Council in the mid-2000s.

RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

There is **no change to kerbside rubbish and recycling** collections over the Christmas and New Year holiday period, because they fall on a weekend. Please have your bins out on your usual day by 7.30am; please use your windstrap, no matter the weather.



The **Ashburton Resource Recovery Park** will be closed Sunday 25 December, Monday 26 December, Tuesday 27 December, and Sunday 1 January and Monday 2 January. Usual hours 8am-6pm weekdays, 9am-6pm Saturdays, 9am-5pm Sundays.

The **Rakaia Resource Recovery Park** will be closed Monday 26 December and Monday 2 January.

The **Methven Green waste facility** will be closed Sunday 25 December and Sunday 1 January.

TRIENNIAL MEETINGS

Rakaia Memorial Hall - Wednesday 1 February, 7pm in the hall supper room

Christmas and New Year holiday hours 2022-23

Date	Tinwald Pool	EA Networks Centre	Art Gallery & Museum	Ashburton Public Library	Mt Hutt Memorial Hall	Open Spaces	Administration Building
Friday 23 December	12pm - 7pm (Normal hours)	7pm Pool close 8pm Gym close 9pm Stadium close (Normal hours)	4pm close (Normal hours)	8pm close (Normal hours)	4pm close (Normal hours)	1pm close	1pm close
Saturday 24 December	12pm - 5pm	3pm close	4pm close (Normal hours)	10am - 1pm (Normal hours)	2pm close	-	-
Sunday 25 December PUBLIC HOLIDAY	CLOSED					-	-
Monday 26 December PUBLIC HOLIDAY	12pm - 7pm	CLOSED					
Tuesday 27 December PUBLIC HOLIDAY OBSERVED	12pm - 7pm	10am - 5pm	10am - 4pm	CLOSED			
Wednesday 28 December	12pm - 7pm	10am - 5pm	10am - 4pm	9am - 5pm	10am - 2pm	7.30am - 4.30pm	CLOSED
Thursday 29 December	12pm - 7pm	10am - 5pm	10am - 4pm	9am - 5pm	10am - 2pm	7.30am - 4.30pm	
Friday 30 December	12pm - 7pm	10am - 5pm	10am - 4pm	9am - 5pm	10am - 2pm	7.30am - 4.30pm	
Saturday 31 December	12pm - 5pm	10am - 3pm	10am - 4pm	10am - 1pm	10am - 2pm	-	-
Sunday 1 January PUBLIC HOLIDAY	12pm - 5pm or as numbers dictate	CLOSED	10am - 4pm	CLOSED		-	-
Monday 2 January PUBLIC HOLIDAY	12pm - 7pm		10am - 4pm	CLOSED			
Tuesday 3 January PUBLIC HOLIDAY OBSERVED	12pm - 7pm		10am - 4pm	CLOSED			
Normal hours resume	Monday 2 January	Wednesday 4 January	Thursday 29 December	Wednesday 4 January	Wednesday 4 January TBC	Wednesday 4 January	Wednesday 4 January