

## Community grants available now

Readers once braved frostbite when they visited the small Mt Somers community library, now a new heat pump makes the building toasty for both visitors and those who work there.

Council's Democracy and Engagement Group Manager Toni Durham said the library successfully applied for a \$3800 community development grant from the Council last year.

"It was a freezing old building and the volunteers were often warmer sitting outside in the sunny porch. It's a great example of Council grants making a real and practical difference."

The library is just one organisation that has benefited over the last year from a Council grant. Mrs Durham is now encouraging other groups and individuals to think about projects that could qualify for the February round of funding which opens this week.

"Many of the grants Council gives to community groups and organisations are on a smaller scale, but they make a huge difference to the people seeking them," said Mrs Durham.

"Council also gives more substantial grants, which help get major projects off the ground, for the benefit of the whole district."

The grants available in February include those for community development, biodiversity, heritage and local events. A second round of grants will open in March and include funding for regional events, trail maintenance, art projects and travel



Your club or group could be eligible for a community grant to help with a current project. Check the criteria and apply before 28 February.

costs for junior sports teams.

"In the last year, grants have been used for everything from new carpet at the Allenton Rugby Club to supporting the HYPE Youth Health Centre," said Mrs Durham. "If you are part of a group or project that provides a benefit to our community, then there's a good chance it may be eligible for one of the community grants."

Mrs Durham encourages any organisation or group that has questions or needs assistance with their application to get in touch with the Council.

Applications for the first round of grants will close at the end of February, and people can find out more and apply online at [ashburtondc.govt.nz/grants](https://ashburtondc.govt.nz/grants).

Some of the grants available include:

**Community Project Grant** - Funding for projects that maintain or enhance

residents' quality of life.

**Community Agency Grant** - Helping community organisations with their operational costs.

**Community Events Grant** - Funding for new community events or building the capacity of existing events.

**Community Infrastructure Grant** - Support for the development and maintenance of memorial and community halls, and reserve board infrastructure.

**School Holiday Programme Grant** - Support for school holiday programmes that cater for children aged 5-14 years.

**Heritage Grant** - Support for maintenance that preserves or restores a heritage building or item.

**Biodiversity Grant** - Funding for projects that aim to protect, maintain or restore biodiversity.

## Mayor opens donations for flood-hit Auckland

Mayor Neil Brown is encouraging people to be generous as Ashburton District Council establishes an Auckland Flooding Relief fund for those impacted by the catastrophic rain event in the Auckland region over the past week.

"We experienced significant floods in 2021 and the destruction caused is still fresh in our minds," said Mayor Brown.

"Aucklanders organised school fundraisers, letters of support and sent donations to Ashburton District 18 months ago. This is a nice way for us to return their kind gestures."

"We had the full support of New Zealand behind us then and we know that each small contribution we can make now will go a long way to support those who have lost homes or been displaced."

"Cleaning up and supporting recovery in a city of 1.6 million residents will be a mammoth task, and this fund is one way we can come together to show support to our fellow New Zealanders through this difficult time."

Those wanting to donate can make a deposit into the official Auckland Flooding Relief Westpac bank account (03-1592-0521970-04) that has been set up by Council.

## Hamish Riach, Chief Executive Always on guard for our own emergency

**Auckland's flooding nightmare continues to dominate the news and here in the Ashburton District we can sympathise with people and authorities in our biggest city as they get to grips with the clean-up ahead of them.**

Eighteen months ago, we were in a similar position when the Ashburton and Hinds Rivers broke their banks after record rainfall in the alps. Residents were evacuated, our roads were wrecked and the State Highway 1 bridge closed temporarily because of damage to a pier.

Recovery takes time and money, but offers a chance to review and improve.

Emergency management also involves a good amount of readiness, and that is something that's practised regularly at council – from the civil defence volunteers who come in monthly to check communication

equipment is working, to "standing up" an Emergency Operations Centre so people can rehearse their roles in an emergency.

At Council we have three shifts of staff that have volunteered to work around the clock in an Emergency Operations Centre if needed in an emergency. They are trained for their roles, which include co-ordinating the response, working with other agencies like emergency services and Red Cross, and keeping the community well informed.

In New Zealand, nearly all emergency response operates under the Coordinated Management Incident System (CIMS), which was developed from the experiences of first responders dealing with the wildfires of California in the 1970s.

Essentially, it means while each agency has its own job to do, we are able to use CIMS to work well together. Police

do their thing (like evacuating houses in the way of a fire), firefighters do their thing (like actually fighting the fire) and others find shelter for people who have been displaced – one organisation will lead and coordinate the response, with others in support.

It is a proven system that works, and can be used for all manner of hazards, from a biosecurity incursion to a public disorder incident or crime and terrorism.

So, we regularly practise our state of readiness and encourage you to do the same. Make sure you have a go bag ready with clothes and medicine needed for three days, and a store of water and food that will sustain your household in the immediate aftermath of an incident.

For situations that present an imminent threat to life or property, the national Emergency Mobile Alert system will be

activated and everyone in the affected area (with a compatible phone) can expect to receive an alert.

However, we also encourage you to sign up to Council's text message alert system, which is another way we can alert the community of important messages, from Civil Defence emergencies to water outages. Simply text your post code to 4196 – it's free – and you will get key information sent straight to your mobile phone when it's required.

Unfortunately, as our climate changes, we know we will face more adverse weather in the future – so preparation is key. Our Council website and Facebook are also a source of clear and accurate information in both peace and emergency times. Don't wait until the next flood to check out our channels.





# ADC services over Waitangi weekend

There’s a lot going on in Ashburton over the long Waitangi weekend, including the annual Multi Cultural Bite at the Ashburton Domain on Waitangi Day, Monday 6 February.

We expect a lot more traffic than normal in the domain area, so take care driving or walking during the festival’s operating hours 10am-2pm. Parking is available on both sides of Walnut Avenue.

If you need to burn off some energy during the long weekend, then check out the disc golf course at the Smallbone Reserve (access from the EA Networks Centre carpark). The centre hires discs for \$5 if you don’t have your own and will be running a two for one special over the three days.

The public holiday on Monday will see temporary changes to operating hours at some Council facilities and to some Council services, though there is no change to kerbside rubbish and recycling collections on Monday.

The Ashburton Resource Recovery Park will be open on Saturday 4 February 9am-6pm, Sunday 9am-5pm and on Monday 9am-5pm. The Rakaia Resource Recovery Park will be closed Monday 6 February.

The administration building and customer services counter will be closed over the weekend as usual, and on Waitangi Day, but you can still get in touch with us at any time if you have a problem or urgently need to contact us, as the afterhours



service will be operating 24 hours-a-day - please phone 03 307 7700.

The Rakaia Resource Recovery Park will be closed Monday 6 February.

**EA Networks Centre and Tinwald Pool**  
The centre will open as usual on Saturday (7am-7pm) and Sunday (7am-7pm) and on Monday from 10am-5pm.

Some Waitangi Day classes will run on Monday, including Aquafit at 10.15am, Revolution and Aquafit at 3.30pm, The Trip at 3.30pm. The stadium is temporarily closed while the floor is being resanded and set to re-open on Tuesday 7 February.

There’s always something exciting happening at EA Networks Centre, so keep

an eye on their Facebook page for other Waitangi Weekend activities.

**Ashburton Public Library**  
The Ashburton Public Library will be open as normal on Saturday 10am-1pm, and on Sunday 1pm-4pm, but it will be closed on Monday, Waitangi Day.

**Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum**  
The Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum will be open 10am-4pm every day over the long weekend, including Waitangi Day.

Public toilets around the district will be open daily as usual.

All Council services will return to normal by Tuesday 7 February.

## ROAD WORKS NOTICES

**Thompsons Track – current to 31 March.** Thompsons Track between Winchmore Lauriston Road and Line Road is temporarily closed for roading maintenance and reseal works. Detour available.

**Mayfield Valetta Road – current to 6 April.** Mayfield Valetta Road between Tinwald Westerfield Mayfield Road and Anama Valetta Road is temporarily closed during the day for rehabilitation. Resident access remains, detour available.

**Holmes Road – current to 17 March.** Holmes Road between Mt Hutt Station Road and Barkers Road is closed for a full road reconstruction and drainage installation. Detour options available.

**Railway Terrace East (Rakaia) – current to 28 February.** Railway Terrace East from Rolleston Street to Bridge Street SH1 is temporarily closed for work associated with Waka Kotahi’s weigh station project.

**Allens Road** – current until 8 February. Allens Road, from Carters Road to Racecourse Road, is closed while sewer mains are upgraded. A detour is in place.

**Pudding Hill Road** - current until 17 February. Pudding Hill Road, between Arundel Rakaia Gorge Road and Longsford Road, is closed for a stock underpass to be constructed. Detours are available; resident access remains.

View a map of all current and upcoming road closures in the district by going to our website [ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz)

## Ashes area in Methven cemetery's future

**An ashes scattering area and a memorial wall are among future potential projects for the Methven Cemetery.**

The cemetery has undergone a big redevelopment since high winds caused damage to trees on the eastern side of the cemetery; the trees were removed altogether, the burial area increased and a new perimeter including the Methven walkway created.

New Wellingtonia trees have been planted along the eastern boundary and native shrubs will grow to screen the walkway from the cemetery, Methven Community Board members were told this week.

The update was provided by Open Spaces manager Ian Soper, who said the new plantings and new lawn at the cemetery were establishing well and looking good.

Future plans include planting trees that will form a new border on the northern side and an area to scatter ashes. A memorial wall or berm could also be erected.

It was the community board’s first meeting of 2023 and they marked the passing of Western Ward Cr Rodger Letham with a minute’s silence as the meeting started. Board chair Kelvin Holmes said he would be remembered as a good family man and a good councillor.

The board received activity reports,

which included early details of the by-election that will now be held in the ward – nominations are expected to be called from 16 February, with voting starting 20 April.

An update of the Methven water treatment plant was also received, with staff confirming the project was on track to be completed by winter. The building to house the membrane water treatment equipment is currently under construction and should be finished late April.

The second reservoir tank has arrived by ship in New Zealand and should be installed at the plant by the end of February.

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TRIENNIAL MEETINGS

Mayfield Reserve and Hall Board

- Tuesday 28 March, 7.30pm at the Mayfield hall

LAKES OPEN DAY

A public information day focusing on the water quality and health of Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lakes, will be held on the waterfront of Lake Clearwater on **Saturday 25 February 2023**, 11am-2pm.

The event will help share the work under way to address water quality issues within the lakes and give people the chance to ask questions and learn more.

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

**Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee** - Tuesday 7 February, 9.30am

**Biodiversity Advisory Group** - Tuesday 7 February, 1pm

**Council Activity Briefings** - Wednesday 8 February, 9.30am (live-streamed)

**Audit & Risk Committee** - Wednesday 8 February, 1pm (live-streamed)

**Council Meeting** - Wednesday 15 February, 1pm (live-streamed)

**Council Agencies (6 month report presentations)** - Wednesday 22 February, 9.30am

## DRIVER REFRESHER

Age Concern, Waka Kotahi and Council are teaming up to run a refresher course for older drivers on **Friday 24 February**. The free course is classroom-based and will focus on traffic rules and safe driving practices, helping you stay on the road and independent for longer. It will run from 10am-2pm, at the Senior Centre. Another course is planned in October. To register, email [ageconcernashburton@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ageconcernashburton@xtra.co.nz).

**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