

## Learning skills to open doors to jobs

Secondary school students in the Ashburton District are making the most of training that will give them the skills to drive a forklift, make barista coffee or render first aid.

Three training blocks are being provided this month as part of the Mayors Taskforce For Jobs, a national programme helping young people into work or training.

Sixteen students from Ashburton College, Mount Hutt College and the Ashburton Christian School completed a forklift operator training session last week, and Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan shouted them morning tea to celebrate.

The students spent Friday morning at Council, working through a theory workbook and then they practised their skills on a forklift kindly loaned by Ruralco.

Ashburton College Year 13 student Lachie, 17, said he worked after school and in the holidays for a steel cutting firm that would benefit from his new forklift skills.

He was looking forward to being able to undertake new tasks, using the forklift.

ProDrive instructor Brett Cowles said many of the students at the training session already worked after school in jobs where they could use a forklift, and other students saw it as a useful skill to have on their CVs.

“At the end of the day they will get a certificate and show they have started on



their journey to learning to use a forklift, and we hope employers will keep training them as they progress.”

The students spent two hours in the Council carpark off Havelock Street taking turns to drive the forklift.

Ms McMillan congratulated the students and said she hoped their forklift skills would help them secure a job when they left school. “There are plenty of opportunities in the district and I hope you can put your new skills to work.”

The training was organised by Council’s youth coach Sharon Watson, as part of the Mayors Taskforce For Jobs programme.

She has also organised training days for other students to learn first aid and barista skills, all with the aim of helping them into jobs and taking those training costs off employers.

About \$12,000 has been provided by the Ministry for Social Development to run the three training days, which are being fully supported by Mayor Neil Brown and Ms McMillan.

The Mayors Taskforce For Jobs is a national programme that uses the mana of local mayors to open doors for young people.

## Love your parks: Tell us what you like

Residents are being asked to share what they love about their local parks and reserves, as Ashburton District Council begins work on an updated plan for managing green spaces in the district.

There are 125 public reserves and parks in the district, and the Council believes that one comprehensive management plan that reflects the community’s values will be more effective than preparing individual plans for each.

Mayor Neil Brown said the plan would ensure all the green spaces were treated consistently, though some large reserves like the Ashburton and Tinwald Domains would continue to have their own development plans as well.

“We have a lot of reserves around the district, but only seven individual management plans. This proposed master plan will make sure we maintain and protect the special values of all our reserves and parks.

“We’ll be working closely with the reserve boards that manage their own spaces already and talking to all the people who use these green spaces or live by them.”

Council is currently looking to the community for early ideas and suggestions about what they would like the reserve management plan to cover.

The plan will include details of how a park or reserve should be managed, what activities it should cater for and what facilities will be provided.

Mayor Brown said all the feedback was valuable, and should be completed by 7 July.

For more information about the plan and to provide feedback, please visit [ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay).

## Hamish Riach - Chief Executive Spotlight on our green spaces

Our hugely successful Glow in the Park event last weekend provides some good talking points for two pieces of work that we are currently seeking feedback on from the community.

The updated draft Economic Development Strategy is out for consultation until Sunday 18 June and is about Council’s role in helping create a strong local economy for those living and working in the Ashburton District, those doing business here and those visiting.

Glow in the Park, with over 17,000 visitors, is a great example of an event that attracted both residents and visitors from outside the district, boosting our reputation as a visitor destination and as an event venue.

Better marketing of Mid Canterbury as a tourism destination is one of the goals in the draft Economic Development Strategy, alongside attracting additional investment to the district and providing support for young people entering the workforce.

We’d love to hear your thoughts on the

action plan that is part of the strategy and I encourage you to take a look at the consultation document, which is available online and in paper form at Council’s Baring Square offices.

This week Council has also launched our Love Your Parks consultation, that seeks feedback about what people love about the 125 parks and reserves around the district. This is the first part in creating an overarching Reserve Management Plan, rather than lots of individual plans.

This plan is required by law and will ensure all our green spaces are treated consistently, though large reserves like the Ashburton and Tinwald Domains will continue to have their own development plans as well.

After your feedback, staff will work on creating a plan and that will likely go out for formal consultation at the end of the year. All the details of this work are online and feedback will be accepted until Friday 7 July.

The Tinwald Domain was certainly the star of last weekend’s Glow in the Park, which spread plenty of free cheer

around the district – judging by the big wave of positive comments and photos on social media.

The domain and Tinwald Plains heritage village were dressed to perfection, with plenty of other glowing attractions and activities for visitors of all ages. Thank you to EA Networks for coming on board with Council to sponsor the event, which was free to the community, and to other local businesses who also provided different levels of sponsorship.

A thank you too to all those who had a role in organising this event and while Sunday’s show was cancelled by the forecast bad weather, it was clear that most people saw it coming and visited on Friday or Saturday night.

If you attended, we’d love to hear your feedback so we can make any future events even better. You can find the survey link on [glowinthepark.nz](http://glowinthepark.nz).



# ASHBURTON GLOW

in the park

## Glow in the Park pulls the crowds!

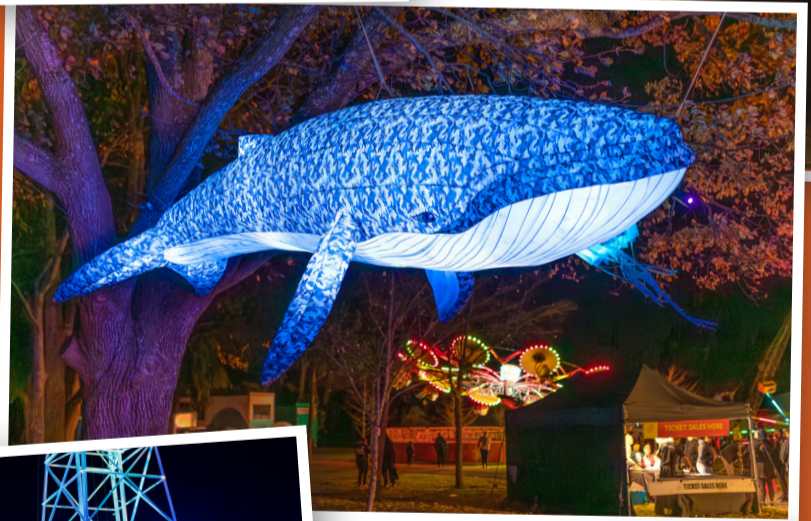
Around 17,000 people visited Tinwald Domain over King's Birthday weekend to see this year's bigger and brighter Glow in the Park.

Visitors came from near and far for the free event, put on by EA Networks and Council, with the help of local business sponsorship.

Mayor Neil Brown said it was great to see people of all ages enjoying the lighting displays, which transformed the domain and adjacent Tinwald Plains historic village into dazzling zones of light and action.

Did you attend? Take our survey at [glowinthepark.nz](http://glowinthepark.nz) and tell us what you liked!

*Photos: Jaime McLaughlan*



### 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