

Methven team ready to lend a hand

If you live in Methven, keep the afternoon of Saturday 7 October free - the Methven Community Response Team wants to show you it is ready to jump in and help in the event of an earthquake, major flood, or other natural disaster.

The CRT team was formed many years ago, but has had a new lease on life in the last couple of years with a recent call for help made during the covid pandemic lockdowns. It has a formal plan, updated regularly, and it is primed to respond to an emergency and ensure the residents of Methven survive if their town is isolated.

CRT chair Rob Markillie said there were two aims to the event on 7 October.

“The plan for the afternoon is to reinforce the message about being prepared in a natural disaster and also to showcase what Methven has available at its fingertips.

“We will have all of our operations set up and running in the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall and there will be displays about what the different services do.”

Methven can expect to be isolated in the aftermath of a major quake in the Alpine Fault – scientists say these major quakes happen every 300 years and one is overdue.

“We might be unlucky to have a natural disaster, but we are lucky with the resources our little town of Methven has.



Methven's Community Response Team includes (from left) Mac McElwain, Matt Schofield, Mary Kermode, Shane Stockdill and Rob Markillie.

“Our Community Response Team has members with a huge range of skills that can help, or arrange help, for the people of Methven until outside help can get to the town,” Mr Markillie said.

“We have a very capable and experienced group that can call on medical help, support, physical labour or searchers.

“We’re calling our event on 7 October Are You Ready, Methven? and we’ll have the local Methven volunteer fire brigade there with a truck and search and rescue gear, as well as our local Methven St John, and Methven LandSAR and Methven Red Cross.”

Council’s Emergency Management Officer Jim Henderson will also be there, telling people about Civil Defence and its role in emergencies. He will do a presentation in the hall on the magnitude 8 alpine fault that is predicted.

Mr Markillie said there would be giveaways and displays that would appeal to children and help inform adults.

“We’ll also get the Lions on board to run a barbecue because they are also a big group of volunteers that can be called into action by the community response team.”

The event will be at the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall in Methven on Saturday 7 October, 1pm-4pm.

Hamish Riach - Chief Executive Slow speed school zones to be reviewed in February

Speeds around schools have been in the headlines this week, with commentary that some motorists in Ashburton may be ignoring the new permanent 30km/h zones, especially outside of school times.

Changing engrained driving habits is hard but these slower speeds have been mandated by Government and have been in force locally since July and the start of the third school term.

Councillors decided earlier this year that permanent 30km/h zones outside urban schools would apply throughout the district, and the signs were ordered. Having variable speed zones (slow for school hours only) would have required a level of signage costing about \$10,000 for each electronic sign.

We’re aware there has been comment about the need for any restrictions outside school hours and it does feel very slow at times, but increasing the safety for everyone around our schools is at the heart of the change and that

feels like a worthy overarching goal.

It is early days for this initiative and Council has noted the commentary and feedback. We will be reviewing the situation in February next year and one possible outcome could be variable speed zones outside some schools, but that will come with the associated cost.

Getting signs to comply with the new Land Transport Rule around speed limits was important, but if it is not working locally then the review will reveal that.

Until that report is before Council, the permanent slow zones remain.

Everyone who drives on Havelock Street will be noticing the progress of Te Whare Whakatere, the new library and civic building on Baring Square East.

It’s a very busy place as many of the different work streams are coming together to be completed and at one stage last week, there were 170 workers on site.

The most common question is: When will it open? There is much to do yet internally but we remain on track for opening before the end of the year.

The new overall name for the building, Te Whare Whakatere, was gifted to Council last week by Te Runanga o Arowhenua and Council was delighted to accept it. The new name literally means The House of Ashburton and it encompasses how the building’s different parts and functions are all connected.

There have certainly been some challenges brought on by Covid and supply chain breakages, and the move itself will be a big logistical exercise, but we are really excited about the whole building. Members of the community will particularly enjoy the new library space and the wide range of new experiences and activities, and the way it flows to the council chambers and the decision-making spaces.



SHORT AND SWEET

WELCOMING WEEK CELEBRATIONS:

Tomorrow (1 September) marks National Multicultural Day and the start of Welcoming Week - Te Wiki o Manaaki. These two events provide us with an opportunity to learn about others, share our stories and invite people to showcase all aspects of themselves.

The Ashburton District Council will mark the occasion alongside Hakatere Multicultural Council and Mid Canterbury Newcomers Network with the Night Noodle Market. So if you're coming, make sure to say a warm hello to others.

FUNDING FOR EVENTS & FESTIVALS:

A fresh funding round will open in September with two grants designed to support local events and festivals. The Creative Communities Scheme (CCS) Festival Fund provides support for the arts sector still recovering from Covid, by providing a one-off funding boost for existing festivals.

The Mid Canterbury Regional Event Fund supports events that help attract visitors from outside the region and provide a benefit to the local economy.

Applications close 30 September. More at ashburtondc.govt.nz/grants

BROKEN CRATE?:

If your green glass recycling crate is broken or has seen better days, then bring it in to our Customer Services team and exchange it for a new one (no charge). Extra crates cost \$19.50.

RATES REBATES:

Our Customer Services team has been busy processing applications for rates rebate for the 2023-24 financial year. Many low income households in the district may qualify for a partial rebate and last year we processed more than 900 applications. Check our website to see if you qualify, or ring Council on 307-7700 for more info.

For the latest Council news, visit our website ashburtondc.govt.nz/latestnews

Pipe network renewals rolling on

Chalmers Avenue residents and people who use the southbound lane of the avenue will continue to experience disruption in the next four weeks while contractors lay new water pipes between Grey Street and Wakanui Road.

Heavy machinery is involved in the work and a speed restriction of 30km/h is in place along the avenue to ensure the safety of the public and contract workers.

Temporary traffic control will also be in place, including temporary lane closures, detours and parking restrictions at times. Heavy traffic will have to use the Trevors Road detour.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said the first part of the watermain renewal project began at Moore Street in May and contractors had worked their way south.

“We are now moving into the final stage of this project and we appreciate the patience of all those who use Chalmers Avenue and who have been navigating the road works over recent months.

“Replacing water pipes is an important part of keeping our drinking water network safe and reliable, and that is important for our whole community.

“We thank everyone in advance for complying with restrictions at the new work zone while we put the new pipes in and replace connections to properties.”



Westbound traffic on Wakanui Road and Grey Street will not be able to access Chalmers Avenue, though residents will still have access to their properties. Detours are in place for all other road users.

The work will continue until 30 September.

Other projects in the pipeline

Contractors will also be installing new wastewater pipes on Princes Street, in the section between Brucefield Avenue and Bridge Street.

Other wastewater renewals will happen on Allens Road (southern end) and on Williams Street.

Wastewater and water pipes will also be replaced on Elizabeth Street and Grigg Street (between Philip Street and Oak Grove) in the next few months.

Contractors and Council are working closely with Ashburton Hospital to ensure any overall disruption to the the health facility is kept to a minimum. A public liaison officer for the project has been appointed and will work from an office on the hospital grounds.

The contractor is ACL and will be ensuring access for emergency services, staff, patients, visitors and goods delivery is maintained.

The project is planned to start at the end of September and will run until April.

Helping keep NZ beautiful

Ashburton's Keep New Zealand Beautiful day is set for Saturday 16 September, 10am-1pm. Meet at 10am in the West Street carpark, opposite Subway, for a brief safety chat, and to collect bags, gloves, vests.

Even if you can spare just an hour, you are very welcome to meet our Litter-Free Ashburton team and EnviroWaste personnel. You'll be assigned an area to clear and haul it all back to the base.

October's monthly event is on Thursday 12 October, meet library corner, 1.30pm.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are usually held in Council Chambers, located at 137 Havelock Street.

Methven Community Board Meeting, Monday 4 September, 10.30am, Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Council Meeting, Wednesday 6 September, 1pm (live-streamed)

Council Activity Briefings, Wednesday 13 September, 9.30am

Audit and Risk Meeting, Wednesday 13 September, 1pm (live-streamed)

Council Meeting, Wednesday 20 September, 1pm (live-streamed)

Ashburton Water Zone Committee Meeting, Tuesday 26 September, 1pm (live-streamed)

Council Agencies, Wednesday 27 September, 9.30am (live-streamed)

CHORUS CABINET ART

There's only a week left for local artists to submit concept designs for one of five Chorus cabinets in the Ashburton district that have been chosen for a makeover.

Chorus partners with Council in the Cabinet Art Programme, with submissions welcome before 31 August. See more info at chorus.co.nz.

WORKS NOTICES

Cass Street – current. Contractors are working in the south-bound lane of Cass Street (from Walnut Avenue to Cox Street) over the next weeks installing new watermains. Traffic may be disrupted.

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.

Chalmers Avenue - current until 30 September. The southbound lane, between Wakanui Road and Grey Street, will be closed while contractors install new watermains. Detours in place.

Maronan Valetta Road - from 4-29 September. Maronan Valetta Road between Westerfield Lismore Road and Timaru Track Road will be closed for improvements.

Princes Street - from 4 September to 7 November. The section of Princes Street from Brucefield Avenue to Bridge Street will be closed for water main renewals. Resident access remains.

Wills Street - 4 September to 13 October. Wills Street from Walker Street to Oak Grove will be closed for new water and wastewater pipes to be installed. Resident access remains.

ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

A new exhibition, Nga Taonga o Hakatere: One Hundred Years of Forest & Bird, opens on Sunday at 2pm and everyone is welcome.

The exhibition features photographs by members of the Ashburton branch of Forest & Bird and gives a glimpse of our district's extraordinary biodiversity.

Enter your business now!
businessoftheyear.nz

ANZ BUSINESS OF THE YEAR 2024

Ashburton DISTRICT COUNCIL
 RíRá EVENTS

This event is being produced and managed by RíRá Events Limited, on behalf of Ashburton District Council.

5pm - 9pm
Saturday 2 September
West Street Carpark

Celebrate our multicultural community and welcome newcomers with noodles from around the globe.

FOOD VENDORS
PHOTOBOOTH
ENTERTAINMENT
LIGHTS & LANTERNS

NIGHT NOODLE market

Ministry for Ethnic Communities
 Hakatere Multi Cultural Council
 Welcoming Communities
 Ashburton DISTRICT COUNCIL

EFTPOS AVAILABLE

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 & MUSEUM

327 West Street
 10am - 4pm daily