

## War memorial heads off for some TLC

A specialist stonemason has this week disassembled the Boer War Memorial for restoration and it will be relocated to Baring Square West within the next six weeks.

Relocating the memorial, which was built in 1903 to honour those who served in the conflict and bears the names of six fallen soldiers, is part of a \$2.45 million redevelopment of Baring Square East.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said the stonemason had used special diamond cutting equipment to separate the memorial into four layers.

“Those layers were taken off site to be cleaned and restored, and then the memorial will be reassembled at Baring Square West and the layers joined together with carbon pins. The pins ensure the memorial can withstand earthquakes in the future.”

Work at the new site will begin next week, when the foundations for the new concrete plinth are poured. The memorial will be placed on the new plinth, which will have a new bluestone base stone.

The work should be finished in time for Armistice Day celebrations on 11 November.

The memorial relocation work is being funded by a \$150,000 grant received by Council as part of the Three Waters Better Off funding package.

Heritage expert Arlene Baird was onsite on Tuesday to ensure each layer was delicately removed by crane and placed on the transporter.



“The stonemason wrapped and strapped the different layers so they could be carefully lifted and transported to the workshop.

“He is also taking the opportunity to remove a shadow on part of the memorial that had previously been graffitied and cleaned. This means the memorial will be not only stronger and more quake-proof, but it will look a lot better.”

Contractors are continuing to work on other parts of Baring Square East, and are creating new paths around the arbours

(whalebones) and putting down new grass and plants. The platforms for new seating are also being installed.

Mr McCann said work was progressing well, thanks to some good weather and people would soon see plants and grass growing once again in the square.

“The area around the fountains has also been renovated and the whole space will be a welcoming spot and ideal forecourt to Te Whare Whakaterē, the new library and civic centre.”

## Neil Brown - Mayor Tough decision on aging pool

Things old and things new have been on our agenda recently, from the aging Tinwald Pool to the new Fairton Freight Hub.

Our decision to close the outdoor pool in the Tinwald Domain this summer has resulted in some passionate comment from residents, and I encourage everyone to have their say when we consult about the pool's future next year as part of the Long Term Plan.

The pool has been limping along for years, with leaks and plant failure. The summer of 2020-21 was the busiest in recent times with 3050 visitors, but the pool still ran at a \$66,000 loss - swimmers paid \$4 each, when the real cost was \$22 each. The \$18 difference was funded by general rates.

An ongoing shortage of lifeguards and an operating deficit means we have to look hard at its future. Staff are preparing a business case to redevelop the facility, but it will cost a lot of money.

The pool is 50 years old and the repairs we've been doing since 2012 have a limited lifespan. Council is also actively recruiting new lifeguards though that's been difficult with a national shortage of workers qualified or able to meet the swimming requirements.

It was a hard decision to close it for this summer, but we need to weigh the benefits against ongoing expenses for ratepayers. I know people are disappointed, but we have plans and everyone who is interested will be able to have their say.

The pools at EA Networks Centre remain open and are a great alternative. There will be no shutdown for maintenance at the centre this summer so there will always be a safe place to swim.

It was great to be invited to tour the site of the new Fairton Freight Hub this week, and there has been much progress in the past five months.

As part of the project, an asphalt area

35,000 square metres is being created near the main trunk railway line at Fairton and a new 930 metre rail siding installed. Containers will be loaded onto rail wagons and sent to ports and other parts of the country.

It is an excellent joint project between local and central government, and state and private enterprise (and spearheaded by the Wareing Group).

We were told that the new freight hub could be operational by April, ending traffic jams caused by trains shunting wagons at the existing container yard in the centre of town.

Council has given \$2.33 million as its share of the project and agreed to an additional loan, with the balance from KiwiRail, The Wareing Group, and the Government.



## SHORT AND SWEET

### SWIM SCHOOL BUSY

More than 1000 learn to swim students are taking part in weekly lessons at the EA Networks Centre this term. In the six weeks to 28 August, staff also delivered lessons to 714 children from six primary schools, as well as a range of individualised programmes to children with disabilities.

### FLYING FOX UPDATE

The unfortunate delay in the commissioning of the new flying fox in the Ashburton is hopefully drawing to a conclusion soon as we are seeing good drying conditions aiding the required compaction and dehydration of the base. Staff are quietly confident of an opening in the September school holidays.

### MASS PLANTING DAY

A community planting day is planned at Lakes Camp and Clearwater on Saturday 30 September (during the school holidays). This will focus on maintenance of existing plantings and mulch will be laid around natives previously planted. Everyone is welcome!

### RECYCLING AUDIT

Just two yellow recycling bins were removed from residents in July because of non-recyclable items continuing to contaminate the bins. The district's recycling is now being transported to Christchurch for sorting because the Timaru plant is dealing with recycling from Dunedin.

### EVENT AND FESTIVAL GRANTS REMINDER

Council reminds those planning a large regional event or festival to consider applying for the Mid Canterbury Regional Event Fund or CCS Festival Fund. Applications close **30 September**. Go to [ashburtondc.govt.nz/grants](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz/grants) for more information.

For the latest Council news, visit our website [ashburtondc.govt.nz/latestnews](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz/latestnews)



# Haere mai, new Kiwis



Ashburton Mayor Neil Brown welcomed 31 new Kiwis at a citizenship ceremony at the Ashburton Event Centre last week.

The 31 came from 15 different countries, including the Philippines, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, Ecuador and Kenya.

The group was supported by friends and family, and each was presented with their certificate of citizenship from the Mayor.

Netherby School's kapa haka group provided a Māori welcome for the new Kiwis, who stayed to share a morning tea with Councillors.

## New water, sewer mains for Elizabeth/Grigg Streets

Council and its contractor ACL have been working closely with Ashburton Hospital ahead of an eight-month project to install new water and sewer pipes along Elizabeth and Grigg Streets.

The work is planned to start on Monday 25 September and residents in the area have also been advised of the project.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said planning for the project involved making sure the work did not interfere with the hospital's vital operations.

"ACL has a dedicated full-time public liaison officer for this contract and he will work from a site office located within the hospital grounds. The liaison officer will be available for both the public and hospital as a point of contact because we need to ensure staff, emergency services, patients and visitors are not affected.

"We will be replacing both water and wastewater pipes at the same time

and using the one contractor, ACL, so disruption is kept to a minimum."

The work will start at the intersection of Grigg and Philip Streets and finish at the intersection of Elizabeth Street and Oak Grove.

Council staff and the contractor have met with hospital managers to discuss the hospital's needs and a temporary water supply will be provided at times when the water supply is turned off.

"We've also worked with the hospital closely with regards to parking and deliveries. We know the work will be disruptive to all those who use Elizabeth Street and Grigg Street, but renewing these old water and sewer mains is important work to ensure our pipelines function as they should," Mr McCann said.

A speed restriction of 30km/h will be enforced in the work area and traffic control during the project will include temporary lane closures, detours and parking restrictions.

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

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

### 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 water mains. 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 water mains. 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.

**Allens Road** - current until 11 October. Allens Road, from Middle Road to Turton Street will be closed to enable a wastewater upgrade. Residents access remains, detours will be in place.

**William Street** - current until 7 November. William Street and intersections of Kermodie and Dobson Streets, will be closed to undertake wastewater upgrading. Residents will still have access and detours will be in place.

### PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a proposal to temporarily close roads to ordinary vehicle traffic to enable the holding of a community event – Ride the Rakaia.

Road proposed to be closed:

- **Rakaia Barrhill Methven Road from Baker Road to West Town Belt**

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE ACCESS TO THE RAKAIA DOMAIN

Periods of Closure: **From 6am to 3pm on Saturday, 21 October 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 4 October 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 22 September 2023.

**NEIL McCANN**  
Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces

### ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

Come along on **Wednesday 27 September, at 6pm**, for the opening of two new exhibitions. Hear from senior curator Maryann Cowan about the incredible feat in moving the Wakanui Flour Mill across town 120 years.

Archivist Connor Lysaght will also discuss some of the special handwritten letters and diaries that have been preserved, ranging from soldiers' letters to the musings of a teenage girl in 1902.

### KEEP NZ BEAUTIFUL DAY

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.

## Public Notice Right to demand a poll on Electoral System

Notice is given under section 28(1) of the Local Electoral Act 2001, that electors of the Ashburton District Council have the right to demand a poll on the electoral system to be used at the next two triennial general elections (2025 and 2028) of the Ashburton District Council.

The choice for local elections is between the First Past the Post (FPP) and the Single Transferable Vote (STV) electoral systems. On 6 September 2023 Ashburton District Council resolved to continue to use the FPP electoral system for the 2025 triennial election. That resolution can only be countermanded by the result of a poll of Ashburton District Council electors.

#### A valid demand for a poll must be:

- made in writing;
- signed by at least 5 per cent of eligible electors of Ashburton District Council. This will require a minimum of 1308 elector signatures; and
- delivered to the Ashburton District Council office, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton by **5pm on Monday, 11 December 2023.**

Every elector who signs a demand must also set out in it his or her full name and the address for which he or she is qualified as an elector of Ashburton District Council.

For further information, please contact Phillipa Clark, Deputy Electoral Officer, phone (03) 307 7700 or email [info@adc.govt.nz](mailto:info@adc.govt.nz)



[ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz)

# Are you ready, Methven?

7 October, 1pm-4pm  
at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Meet members of the Methven Community Response Team

Free sausage sizzle!

See emergency services displays and how responders will help you in the event of a natural disaster.



### 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