

## Mayor - Neil Brown Building blocks for a sound, thriving future

I've had the privilege to be part of the opening of two impressive new buildings this week, buildings that are both important for our district: One was the new Rangitata classroom block at Ashburton College and the other was Te Whare Whakatere, the new library and civic centre.

As a former student at the college, it was a pleasure to see the modern new classrooms that will better suit teachers and students. I remember the old concrete block classrooms, that served students from around the district for more than 50 years.

The new library and civic centre will serve our community for at least the same period of time and it has been a pleasure setting up my new office. I know the building has had many visitors and the people counter in the library ticked over 7300 for the first seven days.

It has been a great project, now complete and council staff moved in, and people are coming in to have a look at what is an amazing space.

The business of council carries on, old building or new, and we are straight back into finalising the draft Long Term Plan, which will be out for consultation on 27 March.

This is our road map for the district over the next 10 years, with more detail about what will happen in the next three.

There are some big issues that we will be seeking feedback on.

Green waste – Government requires us to have a food scraps collection in place by 2027 and we are asking if residents also want this green waste collection to include lawn clippings in the same green bin.

Tinwald Pool – people are passionate about this pool but it has a lot of issues. We know what they are and the repairs required - but if we are going to spend \$3 million, do we spend the money repairing Tinwald, or build a splash and play area at the Ashburton Domain or a new outdoor pool or hydroslide at EA Networks Centre. There are several options for outdoor water play that we'll be putting to the community.

Balmoral Hall and the old Polytech site – the hall is old and still used, but a lot of money needs to be spent to bring it up to scratch to today's standards. Should we sell or fix?

Stockwater – this is our open race system taking water from the rivers and delivering it to some landowners. We have no fish screens at the river takes, which we need to comply with Environment Canterbury water take



conditions, and these come at a huge cost. Delivering water by an open race is not efficient, especially when we have irrigation pipes all around the district doing the same thing; open races are good though for environmental reasons, so we are expecting a lot of feedback on this issue.

EA Networks Centre stadium extension - Should we extend the stadium by another two or three courts. A feasibility study tells us the courts are fully booked, especially after school, so should we extend and attract even more users? We're looking at the extension in Years 4-10, and it has an estimated price tag of \$21m. We have to balance that expenditure against rate rises, so there will be good discussion on that.

On top of that, we plan to spend \$8m on our water supplies, to keep them up to national drinking water standards. We are not in dire straits, like other councils, but we need to keep on replacing old pipes. Plus we intend to spend a lot more money on fixing our roads.

Council's to-do list is long, but we will spend wisely for our future.

## SHORT AND SWEET

### WAITANGI DAY

Te Whare Whakatere, the library and civic building, will be closed on Waitangi Day, Tuesday 6 February. EA Networks Centre and the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum will be open for visitors, and the Ashburton Resource Recovery Park will also be open. There is no change to kerbside rubbish and recycling collections and the Ashburton Resource Recovery Park will be open until 6pm. See our website for full details of services on Waitangi Day.

### WATER WISELY

The Mount Somers Water Supply is on Level 3 water restrictions. Council is closely monitoring water use because of declining water levels at the intake to the supply and high consumption, and Mount Somers residents are urged to text their post code to 4196 so they can receive free text alerts about any future changes. Level 3 water restrictions allow hand-held hosing between 6pm and midnight on alternate days. Watering tips and advice on using water wisely are on our website ashburtondc.govt.nz.

### RAKAIA HUTS

The Rakaia Huts playground will be out of action for two weeks from Monday 5 February while contractors upgrade the site and equipment. The playground has been well used over the years by children visiting the huts and work zones will be fenced off while the upgrade is in progress.

### LIBRARY TOURS

Sunday is the last day to take an organised tour of the new library at Te Whare Whakatere. At least 1000 people a day have visited the facility since it opened on 22 January and library staff have been running tours on the hour - the final tour for members of the public will be on Sunday at 3pm. Library staff are happy to accommodate future group tours but these will need to be organised in advance by emailing the library on library@adc.govt.nz. The new library includes a computer Learning Lab, a Maker Space and sound studio.

## Advice sought from NIWA experts

The Lake Hood Water Quality Taskforce, of which Council is a member, is commissioning a proposal from expert water scientists about how best to deal with algal blooms in Lake Hood.

Roads, drinking water and wastewater at the man-made lake are already managed by Council, and Council has historically outsourced the management of the lake and green spaces to the Lake Extension Project Limited.

Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces Neil McCann said Council had contracted the job of managing Lake Hood to ACL from 1 July 2024.

"Council's most urgent job is to help address water quality issues at the lake and we support the work of the Taskforce in commissioning a report from NIWA (the National Institute of Weather and Atmospheric) about how best to do that.

"They have scientists who have experience and expertise in this area and we look forward to hearing what they say.



"We're optimistic about an effective management plan."

Lake Hood has been under a health warning since 5 January, because potentially toxic algae was found in canals at the lake.

Mr McCann said Council was working in conjunction with the Taskforce on a long-term plan to improve water quality.

"The NIWA report will also help us prepare an overall Lake Hood Management Plan, which will be an operational document going forward.

"Right now though, there's no quick fix and we need to understand what is best for Lake Hood, and work with experts to deal with it.

"We want people who live at the lake, and those who regularly visit, to know plans are under way. We'll be sharing the recommendations in the NIWA report with the lake community when we get it."

A weed harvester has been bought to mow lake weed and it is currently being shipped to New Zealand from Canada.

Mr McCann said weed would be mowed, collected and carted from the lake for composting.

"We think the weed harvester will be working full-time in the canals and lake for four to six months of the year."

# Latte with your literature? Come on in!

Popular coffee spot **One Ninety Nine** has relocated to the new library and civic centre, **Te Whare Whakatare**, and staff have been flat out serving coffee, other drinks and their famous cinnamon scrolls in the first few days.

Owners Gareth and Jamie Cadogan had previously been running the daytime café business off Burnett Street for the past three and a half years and are enjoying their bright, light-filled space on the ground floor of the new building.

They are open from 8am-4pm Monday to Friday, and from 10am-2pm on Saturdays.

“We’re excited to be here and looking forward to seeing all our regulars, as well as making some new ones,” Gareth said.

Council CE Hamish Riach said One Ninety Nine was offered the spot after a robust process to find the right business.

“We shortlisted a few cafes who were interested, and we believe Gareth and Jamie have the right business to complement the new library.

“We were mindful that we didn’t want to introduce more competition for existing



**One Ninety Nine cafe owners Jamie and Gareth Cadogan, with son Riley.**

coffee businesses in the area, so having One Ninety Nine already established in this part of the CBD is a win. We welcome them to the building.”

One Ninety Nine will continue to use Atomic coffee beans and sell cabinet food prepared by the couple, who also operate

the Print Room night club.

“We’ll be bringing all our favourite foods, and adding some new offerings,” Jamie said.

They have four children and 14-year-old Riley will be lending a hand with the business of making coffee.

## Board gives \$10k to support trapping

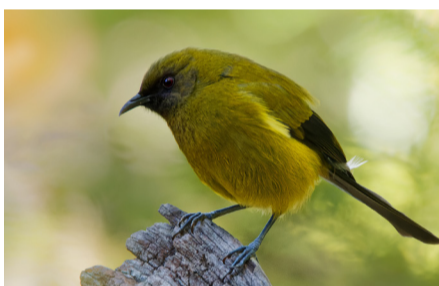
The Methven Community Board is giving \$10,000 to the Methven Lions Club to help establish a trapping library that is part of the club’s Birdsong Initiative.

People will be able to borrow traps to deal with pests in their backyards.

The birdsong project aims to bring back the birdsong to Methven and the foothills, and could include planting reserve land at the back of the Garden of Harmony with natives to attract more birds.

The community board wants to sit down with Council to establish the status of the reserve land and licensed users, so the planting plan could be progressed.

Chairman Kelvin Holmes said there was huge buy-in from the community for the Birdsong Initiative, evidenced by the number of people who turned up to a



meeting about the future of the reserve, a separate trapping workshop and the large number of responses to a Lions survey.

“The Lions had over 350 people reply to an online survey and 96 per cent of those people said ‘go for it.’”

Lions club members presented their birdsong project to the community board last year and said bird numbers and birdsong had decreased, due to less natural habitat and to predation.

Establishing a trapping library was the project’s first step and would help householders to trap pests and predators in their own backyards. Pests include rats, possums, hedgehogs, feral cats, stoats, weasels and ferrets.

The total cost of the trapping library is \$46,850, and the community board’s \$10,000 contribution from its Discretionary Grant Fund will help purchase or build a range of traps.

Lions club members would teach people how to use them and record the results.

Community board members were told that trapping technology had evolved and some traps were able to detect if a micro-chipped domestic cat was inside, and not activate. Feral cats are the main target.

The community board also gave \$5252 to the Methven Bowling Club to help pay for the installation of a shade structure.

### WORKS NOTICES

**Graham Street/McMurdo Street** - Traffic management (including one-way or full road closure) is in place at the intersection of McMurdo and Graham Streets until 29 February, as part of the SH1 improvements project. Access through the intersection will change, depending on work being done. Be prepared for a short detour, if posted.

**Walker Street** - Closed between Phillip and Elizabeth Street while contractors install new water and sewer pipes. Elizabeth Street outside the hospital is one-way (traffic running west to east). Hospital access remains.

**Maronan Road** - Traffic management is in place on Maronan Road while contractors rehabilitate a section between the Hinds River and just north of Swamp Road.

**Thompsons Track** - Closed between Braemar and Pole Roads until 15 March for road rehabilitation. Detours in place.

**Tinwald viaduct** - Closed until late February while contractors work on Waka Kotahi’s SH1 Tiwald corridor improvements project.

**Back Track and Barkers Road** - Back Track is closed between Woods Road and Highbank Cairnbrae Road from 6 February until 8 March for repair and sealing. Barkers Road to Back Track is closed from 7-13 February for maintenance and sealing.

Full closure details on our website [ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz)

### TRACK PART-CLOSURE

Mountainbike Ashburton has advised that a section of the Ashburton River trail known as “the Bender” will be closed on Thursday 8 February while contractors carry out tree maintenance.

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

**Meetings are at Council Chambers, 2 Baring Square East, unless specified. Meeting agendas are online at [ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz)**

**Council Long Term Plan Workshop**, Wednesday 7 February, 9am

**Council Meeting**, Wednesday 7 February, 1pm

**Biodiversity Advisory Group**, Monday 12 February, 1pm in Wakanui Room

**Council Activity Briefing**, Wednesday 14 February, 9.30am

**Audit & Risk Committee Meeting**, Wednesday 14 February, 1pm

**Council Meeting**, Wednesday 21 February, 1pm

### RUBBISH & RECYCLING

There will be no change to rubbish and recycling collections on **Waitangi Day, Tuesday 6 February**. If Tuesday is your normal day for collection, then please have your bins out at the kerbside by 7.30am, windstrap on.

The Ashburton Resource Recovery Park will be open on Waitangi Day from 9am-6pm.

## Community Grants & Funding

We’re seeking applications for 2024, so if your project or group would benefit, apply now!

Applications close 29 February

APPLY NOW!



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

- ✓ Community Project Grant
- ✓ Community Agency Grant
- ✓ Community Events Grant
- ✓ Trail Maintenance Fund
- ✓ School Holiday Programme Grant
- ✓ Biodiversity & Heritage Grants
- ✓ Community Library Grant
- ✓ Community Infrastructure Grant



### COUNCIL OFFICE

2 Baring Square East  
Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 8.30am-5pm  
Thursday 9am-5pm

### ASHBURTON LIBRARY

2 Baring Square East, Ashburton 7700  
Mon & Fri 8.30am-6pm, Tue-Thu 8.30am-8pm  
Sat & Sun 10am-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 (late night Wed)