

## All welcome at awards launch

Local businesses, big and small, are being invited to a launch party for the Ashburton District's Business of the Year Awards.

The free event will be at Smoke, on Tuesday 5 August from 6pm, and there'll be plenty to encourage potential entrants, including some words of inspiration from 2024 supreme winner Opuke Thermal Pools & Spa.

The 2026 awards have 14 categories and entries will open on the night of the launch party. Businesses will have until 31 October to get their entry forms in, with winners announced at a gala dinner on 20 February.

Mayor Neil Brown said the categories ranged from primary industries and environmental sustainability to retail, tourism and customer experience.

"There'll also be awards for business leaders and emerging businesses. We know businesses of all kinds make this district tick so I encourage them all to come along to the launch and find out more about the awards.

"We can get so busy working in our businesses that we forget to recognise our achievements along the way."



The 2024 Business of the Year supreme winners, Opuke Thermal Pools & Spa.

Council is partnering with event organiser Ri Ra once again to run the awards, and ANZ is back as the event naming partner.

The business awards are held every two years and a gala dinner to announce category winners and a supreme winner will be held at the Ashburton Aviation Museum on 20 February, 2026.

The aviation museum was a winner in the 2022 awards, taking top spot in the tourism category, and the gala dinner will be held in their super hangar. The

supreme winner that year was NZ Sock Co, which has turned sock-making into a science.

Mayor Brown said the awards were a great opportunity for Council to recognise and offer encouragement to the district's businesses. "We have some super operators and it's great to celebrate their success."

If you would like to attend the launch party please visit [businessoftheyear.nz](http://businessoftheyear.nz) to grab your free tickets.

## Last week to avoid doggy late fees

With just a week to go, around half of the district's 7000 dogs have been registered and the Council is giving the rest a friendly bark - fetch your form and get cracking!

Compliance and Development Group Manager Ian Hyde said it wasn't unusual to see a scramble in the final week but cautioned dog owners against leaving it

too late. "We want people to avoid any late penalties, so if your registration form has been sitting on the kitchen bench or stuck to the fridge, now is the time to jump online and get it sorted."

Mr Hyde said dog owners were increasingly enjoying the convenience of online registration, with around 56 per cent of registrations processed through the Council's website so far.

"Of course, our customer service team is ready to help anyone who doesn't have internet access or prefers to complete their registration in-person. They can also help if your dog needs a replacement metal tag."

Legally, all dogs over the age of three months need to be registered by 31 July. Registrations can be completed online at [ashburtondc.govt.nz/dogs](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz/dogs)

## MAYOR Neil Brown Essential business, as usual



The Local Government conference in Christchurch last week provided a chance for Government to repeat its message to Councils to get back to basics ... and that is largely business as usual for us here in Ashburton.

We've been told to prioritise essential services, spend wisely, invest in core infrastructure and deliver value for money.

I think these are things we have been doing in the Ashburton District, and the numbers in our Annual Plan – a public document on our website – support that.

If you look at our budget by activity, 80 per cent of it is spent on roads, three waters, rubbish, regulatory services and recreation facilities. Doing that 80 per cent will help us support another Government directive, which is to support local economic growth and development by doing the basics right!

You may also have heard the media and Government talk about capping rates and yes, rates rises do need to be managed, but not at the cost of passing a problem on to future generations. If councils gather less rates than they need to provide essential services, then levels of service inevitably reduce.

One thing clear at the conference was that Councils are in challenging

times and they sometimes have to make tough calls. Equally clear was that we are up for it, and doing our best.

From big infrastructure to consistently doing all the little things right, we need to have a solid platform for communities to live, work and play.

Another essential responsibility for Councils is civil defence, and we only have to cast our minds back to 2021 and 2022 to know the damage that floods can cause.

Being prepared is key so that we can reduce risk, be ready, respond, and recover.

## SHORT AND SWEET

### FOOD SAFETY EVENT

Want to serve food at community events? Come to a short food safety workshop at the Ashburton Library on **12 August** and learn how to prepare and cook food safely. This session is perfect for anyone wanting to serve food at local markets or festivals, and ideal for migrants, those from community groups, marae and churches - though all are welcome. The event is free and runs from 5.30pm-7pm. Get your free tickets on [humanitix](http://humanitix).

### LOCAL ELECTIONS

Thinking about standing for Council or another role in the local elections? Make a move, because nominations close at noon on Friday 1 August. Head to [voteashburton.nz](http://voteashburton.nz) to find information about how to become a candidate and who has been nominated already. Click on the Current Nominations tab and you can see the nominations already received in the various wards and mayoral race, as well as for the Methven Community Board and Braided Rivers Community Trust.

### STOCKWATER

If you received an invitation by post to take part in a survey of users of stockwater from the Brothers Intake, then we'd like to hear from you now. About half the 150 Brothers stockwater users have responded so far and the survey will be online for a few more days. A survey for members of the public with an interest in the Brothers Intake will open next month.

### NEW STAFF?

If you are welcoming new staff members to your farm crew or business, then check out Council's Welcoming Guide. It provides newcomers to the district with valuable information they need to settle - from English classes to enrolling children in schools, processing their driver's licences and community support available. Go to [ashburtondc.govt.nz/welcoming-communities](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz/welcoming-communities)





# Grants open for creative projects

Whether you’re producing a play or hosting an exhibition, groups or individuals with a local arts project can apply for financial help through the Creative Communities Scheme from 1 August.

Council administers the scheme on behalf of Creative Communities New Zealand, and this round there is a pool of about \$18,000 to distribute.

Democracy and Engagement Group Manager Toni Durham said the range of arts projects supported by Creative Communities was broad.

“In the last funding round, Mt Hutt College was granted \$733 to help put on Murder She Floats, which is their school production. The show is on for three nights at the end of this month, and one night is already a sellout.

“A school production is a big event and it involves lots of voluntary hours, as well as cost. Being able to tap into the Creative Communities scheme is a boost for all those involved.”

Other previous recipients include the Ashburton Festival of Pipe Band Music, the Hakatere Ceramics and Pottery group, the fairy walk at the Methven and Foothills



The Big Little Theatre Company had help from Creative Communities to stage Two Gentlemen of Verona.

Walking Festival and the Mid Canterbury Children’s Trust.

Funds granted for arts projects must be used on things like production costs, materials, venue or equipment hire and promotion. There’s no limit to how much you can apply for, but most CCS grants are under \$2000.

Mrs Durham said applications open on 1 August so those with an arts project should start looking to see if they might

qualify for a grant.

“The grants are administered by Council and the assessment committee includes councillors and community members. Committee members are all invested in the arts in our community and look forward to seeing your applications.”

Information about how to apply for a Creative Communities Scheme grant is available on Council’s website, under the grants and funding tab.

## PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a proposal to temporarily close roads to traffic to enable the holding of a community event - **the Hakatere Hoodle Festival**.

Roads proposed to be closed:

- **CAMERON STREET**, from East Street to Victoria Street
- **BARING SQUARE EAST**, from Havelock Street to Cameron Street

Period of closure: **From 6am until 11pm on Saturday, 13 September 2025**

Any person objecting should do so in writing by post or email to the Council, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton, by 4pm on **Monday 4 August 2025**.

**NEIL McCANN**, Group Manager Infrastructure & Open Spaces

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are at **Hine Paaka (Council Chamber)**, 2 Baring Square East, unless specified. Agendas can be found on our website.

Wednesday 30 July, **Three Waters Committee** (live-streamed), 9.30am

Wednesday 30 July, **Audit & Risk Committee** (live-streamed), 1pm

Wednesday 30 July, **Council Activity Briefings** (live-streamed), 2pm

Thursday 31 July, **Council Workshop - Gambling Venue Policy**, 9.30am

Monday 4 August, **Biodiversity Advisory Group**, 1pm

Wednesday 6 August, **Council meeting** (live-streamed), 1pm

Thursday 7 August, **Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy Deliberations** (live-streamed), 9am

Monday 11 August, **Methven Community Board**, 9am, Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Wednesday 13 August, **Council Hearings - Water Races Bylaw** (live-streamed), 10.30am

Wednesday 20 August, **Council meeting**, 1pm

Thursday 21 August, **Stockwater Transition Working Group**, 1.30pm

## WORKS NOTICES

**King and Alexander Streets, Chertsey** - Closed until 13 September while a new water treatment plant is built. The road closure does not impact school access.

**Philip Street** - Closed between Oak Grove and Grigg Street until Friday 25 July while new water pipes are installed by Rooney Earthmoving. Resident access remains.

**Tancred Street** - Closed between William Street and Chalmers Avenue from 14 July to 29 August while new water pipes are installed by Rooney Earthmoving. Resident access remains.

# Water pipes connected at Argyle Park plant



Parts of Allenton may experience low water pressure over the next three weeks as part of work to upgrade the Argyle Park water treatment plant.

The plant is currently shut down while contractors are connecting the existing bores with pipework and UV equipment that is being installed in a new building next to the existing facility on Middle Road.

The work has the potential to create low water pressure because Allenton will be serviced by other treatment plants on the Ashburton network while the Argyle Park

plant is offline. Water from the tap remains safe to drink.

Low pressure might be more noticeable in the morning, when many households are using water at the same time as people prepare for work or school; pressure may also be lower in the early evening because of high demand.

The upgrade project is an important milestone in a year-long programme to add UV disinfection at all Council drinking water supplies around the district.

The new UV equipment is on track to be fully operational by the end of August.

## LAND TENDER OPPORTUNITIES



Council is calling for tenders for a 5 year Licence to Occupy for 2.0234 hectares of land at the intersection of **River Road and Gibsons Road**, Ashburton.

The Licence to Occupy commences on 1 September 2025. Tenders must be received by Ashburton District Council on or before 4pm on 21 August 2025. Please contact commercial@adc.govt.nz for a Tender Application form or for more information.



Council is calling for tenders for a 5 year Licence to Occupy for 2.0234 hectares of land at the intersection of **Maronan Road and Winslow Westerfield Road**, Ashburton.

The Licence to Occupy commences on 1 September 2025. Tenders must be received by Ashburton District Council on or before 4pm on 21 August 2025. Please contact commercial@adc.govt.nz for a Tender Application form or for more information.

## 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 5.45am-9pm (pools 8pm Mon & Tue, 7pm Wed-Fri; gym 8pm). Sat & Sun 7am-7pm (pools 6pm, gym 6pm)

## ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

327 West Street  
10am-4pm daily (late night Wed)