

Teaming up to fix, recycle devices



Ashburton College and the Ashburton Public Library have teamed up with a charity that fixes and recycles laptops for people and families in the community who need them.

Recycle a Device (RAD) is a charity that teaches young people tech engineering skills to refurbish donated laptops, and a RAD programme will run at the college from Term 2 under the supervision of a specially-trained Ashburton library tutor.

Principal Ross Preece said the programme would be held at lunchtimes and students would gain some valuable and in-demand tech skills, then the laptops would be given to those who needed them.

“Students from any year group now have

Ashburton College Principal Ross Preece and Ashburton Public Library recycle a device tutor Sarah Jones with laptops ready for repairs and new owners.

the chance to learn how to fix laptop hardware, which is an essential skill in the current work market. It also prevents e-waste and promotes recycling.”

The Ashburton library is also running a one-day “Learn how to fix a laptop and keep a laptop” refurbishment day for Pasifika and newcomer youth.

Library manager Jill Watson said the April workshop was fully booked with 30 people and had a waitlist.

“RAD is a great venture which helps address the digital divide. Attendees will be taught how to fix a donated laptop and will take it home with them to keep at the end of the workshop.

“The library is also looking forward to delivering the Ashburton College RAD programme at the school from Term 2. We really hope other senior and intermediate schools in the district can also take up this opportunity.”

Any Ashburton College students who are interested in being part of the RAD club can sign up at the school office or via <https://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/digital>.

The library will distribute a number of these recycled devices to local families that need them commencing in July 2023.

Schools and families can get in touch with the library if they know of a person who doesn't have a laptop and needs one to facilitate learning opportunities.

Lake alert remains over Easter

The temporary health warning on Lake Hood and its canals will remain in place over Easter, with recent tests showing that potentially toxic blue-green algae is still present in the waters.

The warning by Te Whatu Ora has been in place since 16 March and people and animals, particularly dogs, should stay out of the lake and canals until it has been lifted.

Signs have been posted at the lake to alert residents and visitors, and the Easter holiday break could see more people in the area.

Exposure to the algae may cause skin rashes, nausea, stomach cramps, tingling and numbness around the mouth and fingertips.

If you experience any of these symptoms visit your doctor immediately and let your doctor know if you have had contact with the lake water.

No one should drink the water from the lake at any time. Boiling the water does not remove the toxin.

Animals that show signs of illness after coming into contact with algal mats or scums should be taken to a vet immediately.

Environment Canterbury continues to monitor the lake on a regular basis and the public will be advised of any changes in water quality. About 100 water bodies are routinely monitored over summer.

Hamish Riach - Chief Executive

Keeping up community connections

A rural road trip took Councillors and senior staff to Hinds and Rakaia last week, to see three waters projects and a range of community facilities. The trip also included a visit the historic Barrhill precinct.

The bus headed to Hinds first, where we are working to improve the resilience of the township's drinking water scheme.

Contractors have put in new water mains along Reed Street, Delamaine Street and Framptons Road and the new pipes were hooked up to the scheme on Monday night.

The work involved shutting down the village water supply from 9pm until

1am, but that won't happen again thanks to new valves that allow us to better control water in the system and shut down only the parts we need to for maintenance and repair in the future.

The night work went smoothly, and thank you Hinds residents for your patience.

Returning to town on the bus, we visited the Ashburton Resource Recovery Park where there was a good discussion about the possibility of building a new re-use shop, as the current building is well past its best.

We then headed to Rakaia, and a look at the wastewater treatment plant and the water treatment plant, and the new campervan waste station.

A visit to Barrhill, an historic precinct

just west of Rakaia, was a great way to finish the road trip and we were hosted to an afternoon cuppa in the old school house built in 1878.

Historic Barrhill village was designed by John Cathcart Wason in the 19th Century to be an English model village and to this day retains much of the architectural and landscape character of that time.

It is an extraordinary spot and well worth a visit. Council's Open Spaces team helps mow and maintain some of the grassed areas and those who live there are very proud of the whole area.

This week, roads have continued to be a main theme, with a presentation from Waka Kotahi about how they plan to execute a 10-month job on State

Highway 1 through Tinwald to install traffic lights at the intersection of Agnes Street and Lagmhör Road.

This work is all about improving connectivity for Tinwald residents, who struggle to turn onto the busy highway or have to navigate the traffic on bikes or scooters.

It was good to hear that they are already working closely with KiwiRail about key parts of the project, and we look forward to seeing the work happen quickly and being kept well informed along the way.



Taskforce lands first job



Micky Currie (centre) at her new hospital security job, supported by (from left) Sharon Watson, Philippa O'Neill (Te Whatu Ora), Neil Brown and Shaun Owers (Allied Security).

Ashburton Mayor Neil Brown visited Ashburton Hospital to meet the first local young person to land a job as part of a programme run by the Mayors Taskforce For Jobs.

Micheala (Micky) Currie, 23, is in her second week working at the hospital as part of the health facility's security workforce.

She is on duty overnight with the Allied Security team, making sure the hospital and surrounding buildings are locked and safe, and escorting staff to cars when they are leaving during the hours of darkness.

Micky said the support from taskforce youth employment coach Sharon Watson had been instrumental in her landing the job, which she was enjoying.

"The interview was the scary part and Sharon was allowed to be there in support, so it became more like a conversation."

Funds from the taskforce programme also helped Micky buy clothes she would need

on the job.

Mayor Brown said it was great to see the first placement and four others were in the pipeline.

"This programme is really important in helping young people who are not in employment, training or education into jobs that help our community tick. We know there is a shortage of labour in parts of our district and that there are young people out there who could do the work, given a chance and some training."

The Mayors Taskforce For Jobs is a national network and, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development, set up the Rural Community Resilience programme – Ashburton District Council is running a pilot programme for six months and it was launched to local employers in February.

Mayor Brown said Council was keen to hear from other employers who wanted to take part in the programme.

Want to know more? Email us on mtfj@adc.govt.nz

Alcohol ban review feedback due

There's just over one week left for people to have their say on the review of the Alcohol Control Bylaw.

As of Wednesday, 18 submissions had been received with the majority of respondents favouring an expansion of alcohol ban areas in Ashburton and Methven.

The Council has proposed to expand the alcohol ban area for Ashburton in

three locations to incorporate town growth and recent development. Another proposed change in Methven would see the ban area slightly extended to make the boundary clearer to residents and visitors.

Maps with the proposed changes and an online feedback form can be found at ashburton.govt.nz/haveyoursay.

Submissions close 5pm, Sunday 15 April.

Council hours over Easter, Anzac

Ashburton's kerbside rubbish and recycling collection service will not operate on Good Friday, 7 April, so people whose bins are normally emptied on a Friday should put them out for collection on Saturday 8 April instead.

Bins will be collected as normal the week beginning Monday 10 April.

Anzac Day is on Tuesday 25 April and there is no change to the kerbside collection.

The Ashburton Resource Recovery Park

will be closed Friday 7 April and Monday 10 April over Easter, and closed on Anzac Day Tuesday 25 April. The park will be open its usual hours 9am-5pm on Saturday 8 April and Sunday 9 April.

All Council facilities are closed on Good Friday, but you can check opening hours for the EA Networks Centre, the Ashburton Public Library and the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum by visiting our website ashburtondc.govt.nz

ROAD WORKS NOTICES

Holmes Road – current to 21 April. Holmes Road between Mt Hutt Station Road and Barkers Road is closed for a full road reconstruction and drainage installation. Detour options available.

Thompsons Track - current to 28 April. Thompsons Track, between Methven Highway and Ashburton River Road, is closed for rehabilitation work. Detours are available; resident access remains.

Allens Road - Sections of Allens Road between Middle Road and Harrison Street may be closed over the next few weeks for watermain renewal. Detours are available.

Railway Terrace East, Rakaia - current to 26 May. Railway Terrace East from Rolleston Street to Bridge Street SH1 will be closed while Waka Kotahi contractors work on a weigh bridge project.

View a map of all current and upcoming road closures in the district by going to our website ashburtondc.govt.nz

FLUSH YOUR TAPS

Some plumbing fittings have the potential for small traces of metals to accumulate in water that has been in the fitting for several hours.

Although the health risk is small, it is recommended that you run a mugful of water through your drinking water tap each morning before use to remove any metals that may have dissolved from plumbing fittings.

We recommend this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.

Neil McCann - Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces

PUBLIC NOTICE

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 – **Ashburton Car Club's Street Sprint Meeting**.

Road proposed to be closed:

- **Smallbone Drive – Robinson Street – Range Street – McNally Street**

Periods of Closure:

From Friday 12 May 7pm to Sunday 14 May 8pm 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 **3 May 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 14 April 2023**.

NEIL McCANN

Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces

PUBLIC NOTICE

MTB TRACK CLOSURE

The Ashburton mountainbike loop and river walkway will be closed for Mountain Bike Ashburton's annual 4 and 6 Hour Mountain Bike Race on **Saturday 15 April**.

The area affected is between SH1 and Melrose Road between **6am and 6pm**.

For details of the event, go to www.mountainbikeashburton.co.nz

SAVE THE DATE!

2 - 4 June

King's Birthday Weekend

Tinwald Domain

ASHBURTON

GLOW

in the park

This popular free family event is returning bigger and brighter!

Don't miss the chance to experience Tinwald Domain and the Plains Vintage Railway & Historical Museum under the colourful glow of breathtaking lighting displays.

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