

## SH1 Tinwald safety work to start

From Waka Kotahi: Contractors have delivered start work notices around Tinwald this week, advising that the SH1 Tinwald Corridor Improvements project will get under way on Monday 17 July.

### Project overview

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency is working with Ashburton District Council, iwi and KiwiRail to improve the SH1/Lagmhor Road/Agnes Street intersection and adjacent streets.

We'll be installing traffic lights, improving the existing rail level crossing on Lagmhor Road and improving pedestrian and cycling facilities. Weather dependent, we expect everything to be finished by the middle of 2024.

The project is part of the New Zealand Upgrade Programme, the Government's \$8.7 billion investment in growing communities across the country.

### What work is coming up?

During the first two weeks, we will establish our work site and commence underground service location and traffic light ducting. This work will include the use of a hydroexcavator which is a noisy operation. We apologise for any inconvenience this might cause.

### Traffic Impacts

A 30km/h speed restriction and other traffic management will be in place during



**Traffic lights will be installed at the intersection of SH1, Agnes Street and Lagmhor Road.**

construction. Please drive with care when travelling through the site, allow extra time and pay attention to signs and changes to the road layout.

Two lanes will be open to traffic for the majority of the works, with several temporary traffic management layouts installed as the project progresses. These will be communicated closer to the time.

To keep school students and other pedestrians and cyclists safe, pedestrian refuges will be maintained, along with temporary fencing sitewide. We will update you ahead of any significant

changes to the site as work goes on.

### General Information

The majority of the work will be carried out from Monday to Friday between 7am and 7pm, and on Saturdays and at night if needed. When work is required to be undertaken at night, this will be communicated to those potentially affected. Measures will be in place to minimise noise, dust and vibration levels.

Please keep an eye out for updates online and in your letterbox as the project progresses.

## Chorus calls for street art designs

### Cabinet art is back in Ashburton.

The Cabinet Art Programme run by Chorus is back in Ashburton and submissions are now open for local artists to submit their designs.

Five Ashburton cabinets have been chosen for a makeover and artists are encouraged to get their designs in before the deadline of Thursday August 31.

Chorus continues to partner with Ashburton District Council to transform graffitied cabinets into painted murals.

Chorus Community Relations Manager Jo Seddon says that it makes sense to partner with local councils, as they know their communities best.

"We are really pleased that Ashburton District Council wants to partner with us again and we're really looking forward to seeing local artists bring their creativity to life.

"We had some outstanding cabinet murals completed in the district last year, two of which feature in this year's annual Chorus Cabinet Art Calendar."

These cabinets become works of art in the streets, often telling stories about their communities.

Ashburton Mayor Neil Brown says he's very pleased to welcome the cabinet art programme back to the Ashburton district this year.

"This is a great opportunity for our community to engage and promote our talented local artists and we are excited to see the winning designs on cabinets in our streets," he said.

Designs can be submitted up until 31 August and the winning design for each cabinet will be chosen by a Council panel from entries received.

To submit a design or get more information, go to Chorus' dedicated webpage: <https://www.chorus.co.nz/community/cabinet-art-programme>



### CASS STREET CARPARK

**New fees are now in place at the pay and display carpark on Cass Street.** Parking is now \$3 a day (surcharge for cards), in line with fees and charges for 2023-24 adopted by Council recently.

## Liz McMillan - Deputy Mayor

## Toasting our local successes

**As councillors, we are often invited to attend events across the district and the past few weeks have been busy, with many different events covering the political, cultural and business spectrum – and all a pleasure to be at.**

Much of our Council business is conducted in chambers in a more formal setting, often with a lot of accompanying paperwork, so it is always great to talk in person with people about their lives, work and achievements.

It helps us gauge how our different communities are going and how Council might be able to help.

On Saturday I attended the FMG Young Farmer of the Year grand final held down in Timaru and I must congratulate all those finalists who are doing our agricultural sector proud.

The level of knowledge and enthusiasm was outstanding, and farming's future is in good hands ... especially locally.

It was a historic night at the Grand Final with Emma Poole becoming the first female winner in the history of the

Young Farmer awards.

Our own Peter O'Connor, from the Pendarves club, came a very close second place.

It was fascinating to witness the quiz live and to also see our local Agrikids Charlie Clark, Flynn Wallace and Georgia Heaven from the Mt Somers Springburn School's "Legendairy" team on stage and winning the title of AgrikidsNZ Grand Champions.

Jack Foster and James Clark, from Mount Hutt College Methven, also starred, coming in third place in the FMG Junior Young Farmers of the Year competition.

Other events I have attended over the past few weeks include the Eid Al-Adha celebration organised by our Afghan community. The evening was a family affair and there were lots of games played. The men were in charge of the cooking and serving of a delicious meal.

The Matariki market at the Marae was another great event organised by the marae komiti and it featured an array of stallholders, food and some great live music. It was a crisp, cold night but the



atmosphere was warm and toasty.

The Ashburton Society of Arts held the opening night of their annual exhibition last Monday at the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum. This exhibition always attracts a lot of visitors and is a chance to see the talent of our local artists – the work is quite stunning and there is something for everyone's taste, so get along and have a look before the exhibition ends on 28 July.

While you are there make sure you go downstairs to the two exhibitions – Puaka and the Colossal Squid.

One event I am really looking forward to is Mt Hutt's 50th celebrations in August. There are some great events planned and the big birthday weekend kicks off on Thursday 24 August with stalls, a street parade and performance by the legendary band Dragon.

The skifield is an important part of our tourism sector and deserves to be centre of attention that weekend.

# Council reinforces water concerns

The Ashburton District Council emphasised its strong opposition to the Water Services Entities (WSE) Amendment Bill at hearings last week.

Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan and Council Chief Executive Hamish Riach addressed the Governance and Administration Select Committee of Parliament, speaking to Council's latest written submission on the WSE bill.

The amendment of the bill seeks to establish 10 publicly-owned water entities to provide three waters services in place of local authorities, as part of the Government's Three Waters Reform Programme. The bill previously sought to establish four entities.

The Council's submission and presentation reinforced Council's and the community's lack of confidence in the proposed move to a centralised model for water services. It highlighted concerns about the financial analysis the reforms are based on, how the new service would perform in emergency situations and how it would integrate with other local government reforms.

It also voiced significant unease at whether the new regime would allow local perspective to be heard on the provision of three water services (drinking water, wastewater and stormwater).



Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan said the loss of direct Council and community ownership remains a key concern for the Council.

"The new form of Council shareholding remains ownership in name only – the normal benefits and obligations of shareholding ownership are completely absent in the proposed model.

"We're also hugely disappointed in the removal of the reform funding regimes and hope to see these brought back in.

"This reform is causing our staff and community to live through continued uncertainty, disruption and distraction."

The Select Committee was urged by

Council to pause the reform programme until after the 2023 national election and then delay the overall reforms for up to five years to allow the new water regulator, Taumata Arawai and councils to work together. It suggested that if changes were still required after this time, then a regionalised approach with a greater level of local input and decision making could be considered.

The Council has already committed to meeting the new standards set by Taumata Arawai by making its largest ever investment into drinking water and wastewater upgrades through its Long-Term Plan 2021-31.

## Playground, poplars on parks work list

Ten poplars are to be removed from Smallbone Reserve, and the Tinwald Domain playground will temporarily close for an upgrade, as part of parks maintenance over the winter.

Both projects begin on Monday 17 July and are being undertaken by contractors.

At the reserve on Smallbone Drive, arborists will cordon off safety zones around the 10 poplar trees to be removed. The poplars have been identified as being in a state of decline; the stumps will be removed at a later stage and new trees planted.



The whole reserve will be closed while the arborists are at work, so the green space will be off limits to disc golfers and people walking their dogs until at least Friday.

The Tinwald Domain playground upgrade

will also get under way on Monday 17 July and involve moving existing play equipment and installing some new features.

The playground will be fenced off while the work is happening, but the project should be complete by 31 July, weather permitting. Some of the work involves staining wood, so dry weather is needed.

Installation of the flying fox in the Ashburton Domain has also been held up by wet weather, as the base material that forms the ramp needs to dry out completely before artificial grass can be laid.

### PENSIONER UNITS

Two elderly pensioner single housing units, one at Methven and the other at Rakaia, have become available.

If you are in need of housing and meet the criteria please contact Council for an application form.

Applicants shall:

- Be eligible for Government National Superannuation
- Not be in full time employment/business
- Be able to care for themselves independently
- Show a housing need which cannot be met adequately elsewhere
- There is a total assets criteria (contact Council for more info)

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

**Methven Community Board**, Monday 24 July at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall, 10.30am

**Council Meeting**, Tuesday 25 July, 9am (live-streamed)

**Ashburton District Road Safety Coordinating Committee**, Tuesday 1 August, 9.30am

**Council Activity Briefings**, Wednesday 2 August, 9.30am

**Audit & Risk Committee**, Wednesday 2 August, 1pm (live-streamed)

**Local Alcohol Policy hearings**, Thursday 3 August, 9am (live-streamed)

**Biodiversity Advisory Group**, Monday 7 August, 1pm

**Council Meeting**, Wednesday 9 August, 1pm (live-streamed)

**Council Meeting**, Wednesday 23 August, 1pm (live-streamed)

### 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 – The Methven Float Parade/Lantern Parade/Ice Skating.

The parade route is as follows:

- Methven Chertsey Road, Main Street Methven (SH1), Forest Drive, Blackford Street, Lampard Street, Main Street Methven (SH1) Hall Street, Mackie Street, Kilworth Street

**Periods of closure:** From 7pm to 7.30pm on Thursday, 24 August 2023.

The period of the **full closure** (Lantern Parade and Ice Skating) is as below:

- Kilworth Street: Thursday 24 August 10am until 10pm
- Barkers Road: Thursday 24 August 4pm until 10pm

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 **9 August 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, **Thursday 27 July 2023**.

**NEIL McCANN**  
Group Manager Infrastructure Services

### WORKS NOTICES

**Allens Road - current to July.** Allens Road is temporarily closed between Carters Road and Turton Street to allow contractors to install a pump station that will complete the North West Ashburton wastewater extension. Detours in place.

**SH1 Tinwald - beginning Monday 17 July.** Waka Kotahi is undertaking safety improvements on SH1 and installing traffic lights at the intersection of Agnes Street, Lagmhor Road and SH1. Traffic management will be in place.

Take 10 for our future  
Coming Next Week

#### 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