

## Noodle Festival serves up flavour and connection

Crowds of noodle lovers descended on Baring Square East on Saturday for the Hakatere Noodle Festival - a celebration of our multicultural community and Welcoming Week.

Group Manager of Democracy and Engagement, Toni Durham, said it was exciting to see the event grow each year, but the real highlight was the strong sense of community connection it created.

As well as a wide selection of global cuisine, visitors enjoyed the *Welcoming Ashburton* display, family lawn games and the painting of a collaborative artwork, *Faces of our Community*, featuring around 75 self-portraits.



## CE Hamish Riach New Season, New Faces

**There's something about the cherry blossoms, the longer evenings, and the warmth returning – that lifts the mood across the district. Spring is a season that brings people out and brings people together.**

That spirit was on full display at the Hakatere Noodle Festival last weekend. The event was a vibrant celebration of the many cultures that now call Ashburton District home.

With a great choice of food stalls, a family zone, and a photographic exhibition sharing the stories of newcomers, it was a fantastic evening of food, fun, and connection.

Events like this remind us how diverse and welcoming our community has become and how important it is to celebrate that.

This Thursday, we'll continue that celebration with a citizenship ceremony, where we'll formally welcome new Kiwis from several different countries. These ceremonies are always a highlight – a moment to reflect on what it means to be part of this place, and to acknowledge the journeys people have taken to make Ashburton their home.

Next week kicks off the Term 3 school holidays and so the Spring What's On Guide is now available and packed with activities for kids, youth and families.

Across our Council facilities, there are 27 events and programmes designed to keep tamariki engaged and entertained.

Spring is also a time of change – not just in nature, but in our civic life. With the 2025 local elections well underway, and voting packs in mailboxes, I encourage you to all get out there and vote. Please support your friends and family to get involved too.

As winter sports wrap up and summer codes begin to gear up, our parks and reserves are also coming back to life. Whether you're out for a walk, catching up with friends, or just enjoying the fresh air, there's no shortage of ways to enjoy the season.



## SHORT AND SWEET

### REBATE CLINIC

Our Customer Service team is heading to the Rakaia Library on **1 October** (from 10am-1pm) to help residents with their rates rebates applications. Please phone 307-7700 to make an appointment at Rakaia, or in Ashburton at another time. Do you qualify? Check the criteria by visiting [ashburtondc.govt.nz/rates](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz/rates)

### NEED A JP?

Justices of the Peace are available at the Ashburton Library every Tuesday and Friday, from 12pm until 2pm. A JP is a volunteer who witnesses and certifies legal documents, such as statutory declarations, affidavits, and copies of original documents. No appointment needed.

### LEARN TO SEW

Join a beginner sewing class at the Ashburton Library and over the course of five weeks learn the skills needed to sew your own lined, sturdy tote bag. Every Wednesday, 1.30-3.30pm; first class 8 October.



### LAKE HOOD

A monitoring buoy will be deployed in Lake Hood this week to collect data on water temperature and oxygen levels, supporting trials of products aimed at reducing cyanobacteria blooms this summer. The Council is also developing a hydrodynamic model to better understand nutrient flow and how it affects algae growth.

### OAK TREES

Two diseased oak trees outside Ashburton College on Walnut Avenue will be removed during the school holidays due to advanced decay and safety concerns. Replacement trees will be planted nearby, and traffic management will be in place during the works.



# Operation Grapple talks nuclear past

A new exhibition opening this Saturday at the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum tells the story of a little-known chapter in New Zealand history of nuclear testing in the Pacific.

Photographer Denise Baynham tracked down 19 New Zealand nuclear test veterans for this poignant exhibition, which will run until 23 November. She will be talking about her work at the gallery when the exhibition opens on Saturday, at 10.30am.

In the late 1950s, the British Government conducted a series of nuclear weapons tests at Christmas Island and Malden Island in the mid-Pacific Ocean. This series of detonations was given the codename “Operation Grapple” and consisted of nine nuclear detonations between May 1957 and September 1958. The biggest of the detonations, Grapple Y, was equal to 140 Hiroshima bombs.

Two New Zealand frigates attended the series of detonations: HMNZS Pukaki and HMNZS Rotoiti. Over the course of these tests, a total of 551 New Zealand naval personnel manned these ships and their duties consisted of witnessing the



Portrait of Tere Tahi, photographed by Denise Baynham. All rights reserved.

detonation of the nuclear devices and collecting weather data as close as 37 kilometres to Ground Zero.

In *Operation Grapple: We Were There*, Denise Baynham presents portraits of 19 New Zealand nuclear test veterans. Photographed in their own homes so you can see where and who they are now, the accompanying stories about Operation Grapple are told in the veterans’ own words.

## Safer Splashing

Remediation work on the splashdeck at EA Networks Centre has been programmed after the school holidays, for the two weeks beginning Monday 6 October.

The toddler pool and the leisure pool will be closed while the old splashdeck surface is removed and a new one laid, but all other pools in the aquatic area remain open.

People and Facilities Group Manager Sarah Mosley said the splashdeck surface was being replaced by Lifefloor, a widely used product in aquatic areas.

“The work will happen during the day and also at night, and it won’t affect our learn-to-swim programme or other aquatic classes. It is in the two weeks straight after the school holidays, and we’re also going to fit in some safety improvements to floors in other wet areas.”

The original recycled rubber splashdeck surface was laid in January but has not lived up to expectations and is being replaced at no cost to Council.

“It’s disappointing, but we’re going to end up with a better surface that will perform well for years, and we’re working hard to ensure there’ll be limited disruption for users while the remediation work is done.”

However, the whole pool area will be closed on the weekend of 18 and 19 October, while aquatic staff retrain for a new international lifeguard qualification.

Ms Mosley said EA Networks Centre would be the first facility in New Zealand to fully adopt the international programme.



“We’re also going to work towards becoming a training centre for new lifeguards. For the last 25 years in New Zealand, there’s only been one lifeguarding qualification and this new international programme will really lift the standard.

“Our goal is and has always been to prevent incidents, and we’re equipping our team with new tools and skills to provide the best possible response.”

On 18 and 19 October, all aquatic staff will undertake a retraining process for the new qualification.

“We train many young people to be lifeguards and now they can use this qualification to lifeguard anywhere in the world.”

The additional training is in rescue techniques, oxygen therapy and other essential skills.

The aquatic area will be open as usual on Monday 20 October.

### ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of temporary road closures to enable the holding of the following community event.

#### ASHBURTON MARKET DAY

Roads to be closed:

- **East Street, from Havelock Street to Wills Street**
- **Cameron Street, from East Street to Victoria Street**
- **Baring Square East, from Havelock Street to Cameron Street**

Period of closure: **From 6am to 6pm on Monday 22 September 2025**

It will be an offence under the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965 for any person otherwise than under authority of an authorised permit to use the roads for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure.

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

### PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a proposal to temporarily close roads to traffic to enable the holding of the following community event.

#### MISSION MT SOMERS

Road proposed to be closed:

- **The whole length of SYMES ROAD**

Period of closure: **From 6am to 4.30pm on Saturday, 1 November 2025**

Any person objecting to the proposal should do so in writing by post or email to the Council, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton by 4pm, **Monday, 22 September 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.**

- Monday 22 September, **Methven Community Board**, 9am, Mt Hutt Memorial Hall
- Wednesday 24 September, **Council Activity Briefings** (livestreamed), 9.30am
- Wednesday 24 September, **Council Agencies - 6 month reporting**, 1pm

### ROADING NOTICES

**Line Road, Methven** - Parts of Line Road will be closed to traffic until mid-October while new wastewater pipes are installed. Tru-Line Civil is laying about 800 metres of pipe from Methven’s wastewater treatment plant west along Line Road to the township. Any road closures and detours will be signposted.

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

**Philip Street** - Sections closed at times between Oak Grove and Walker Street until mid-September while new water pipes are installed by Rooney Earthmoving. Resident access remains.

**Mason Place** - Mason Place will be closed to traffic until 31 October, while new water pipes are installed. Access for residents remains.

**Tancred Street** - Closed between William Street and Chalmers Avenue until mid-September while new water pipes are installed by Rooney Earthmoving. Resident access remains.

**Grove Street** - Closed at Wilkins Street intersection while new water mains are installed by Rooney Earthmoving. Road closures and detours expected until 31 October. Resident access remains.

**Ashburton Staveley Road** - Closed between Walkhams Road and Driscolls Road from 22 September until 28 September while a stock underpass is constructed by Harmer Earthmoving. Resident access remains, detours will be signposted.

**Tinwald viaduct** - Melcombe Street, under the Tinwald viaduct, is temporarily closed pending repairs by KiwiRail.

**Taverners Road** - Between Chertsey Road and Stanley Road. Closure to be in place daily from 6am-7pm Tuesday 23rd September to Friday 26 September. Fulton Hogan will carry out watermain installations as part of upgrades on behalf of Council. Local restrictions to apply. Residential access remains. Closure pending TMP approval.

**Dromore Station Road** - Between Stanley Road and State Highway One will be closed on Monday, 22 September 2025 from 6am to 7pm. This is so that Fulton Hogan can carry out watermain installations as part of maintenance and infrastructure upgrades on behalf of Ashburton District Council. Local restrictions to be in place as there is no other alternative route.

Full details of local road closures are on our website, [ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz)

## EXPLORE YOUR FUTURE

DISCOVER | LEARN | CONNECT

**THURSDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**  
**3.30PM - 7PM**  
**A & P SHOWGROUNDS**  
**FREE ENTRY | FREE BBQ**

#### 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)