

## Roads, drinking water big focus of 2022-23 plan

Roads are amongst our most important assets and Council is proposing a one-off \$1.7 million injection in its 2022-23 Annual Plan to catch up on maintenance in some areas.

The floods of May 2021 had a big impact on the district's roading network and since then Council has been trying to repair damage and get back to its cyclic major repair programme.

Mayor Neil Brown said using \$1.7m from forestry reserve would go a long way to repairing more roads and doing more maintenance, which would stop a cycle of temporary pothole repairs.

"We've heard very clearly that our community want roads to be a focus, so this funding would allow us to bring forward renewal of some key roads, which will help minimise future maintenance and the need to fill in the same potholes over and over."

He said the forestry reserve currently had a balance of \$5.1m, which had built up over time from the sale of forestry and some



forestry land.

"While it is unusual to allocate forestry reserve money to bring forward the major repair programme for our roading network, we felt the time is right to dip into this fund for this purpose. The forestry reserve will be left with a balance of \$3.4 million."

As part of its Annual Plan consultation,

Council is asking residents what they think of using the forestry reserve to boost roading.

Mayor Brown said Council was also asking if residents would be prepared to accept a lower level of day-to-day services if they wanted to reduce rates.

"While record inflation and things outside of our control have affected this coming

budget, reducing the level of services could lower rates. But we want to know where people see that happening as we have already trimmed this budget as much as we can, and put off a couple of capital projects."

Council says some critical work must be completed as scheduled, including upgrades to water infrastructure in Methven, Mt Somers and Rakaia.

Mayor Brown said a further complication is the impact of rating revaluations completed in 2021, which reflect significant increases in urban property values compared to rural property values.

"Despite the common misconception, a growth in property prices doesn't mean the Council collects more rates, but it does affect how the rates are distributed amongst individual properties."

The draft Annual Plan shows Council aims to collect \$44.264m in rates and its operating expenses for the 2022-23 year will be \$70.6m. The difference is made up of targeted rates and other fees and charges, and returns on its investments.

## Special challenges of this year's budget

Ashburton Mayor Neil Brown says it has been a year of challenges, with the ongoing impacts of Covid-19, recovery from the May 2021 floods, high inflation and increasing Government regulation all putting pressure on budgets and rates.

The proposed average increase for the district is currently sitting at 9.4%, although this will vary depending on area and property value.

"Just like any other business, the cost for us to purchase goods and services has risen sharply in the past year which is a major reason we've struggled to meet the 7.8% increase forecast in the LTP.

"In response we've reduced budgets for some of our day-to-day services, particularly in areas where it's likely to only have a small impact on the community."

Mayor Brown said one example is Council's decision to review opening hours at the EA

Networks Centre after data showed only a handful of people were using the facility later in the evenings.

He said such adjustments make a relatively small difference individually but add up when applied across all Council activities.

"If the community was willing to accept a reduction in the level of service in some areas, we could make deeper cuts and that's something we'd really like hear our residents' views on."

## Hamish Riach, Chief Executive Let us know your thoughts

We hope a good number of our residents will join us tonight for the first of our community meetings on the draft Annual Plan for 2022-23.

It will be an opportunity to hear from the Mayor and wider Council about the discussions and decisions taken to this point, in what is universally acknowledged as a challenging year – thanks to covid-caused price rises and inflation.

The meeting will be live-streamed in the same way that our Council meetings and other hearings have been broadcast over the past year or so, via Facebook and YouTube. There will also be a link on our [itsourplace.nz](https://itsourplace.nz) website.

People do have the ability to ask questions and staff will be keeping

an eye on the comments on both channels, passing on questions as they arise.

Three face-to-face meetings are planned next week – at the Ashburton Event Centre on Monday 11 April, at the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall in Methven on Tuesday 12 April and at the Rakaia Bowling Club on Wednesday 13 April.

Elected councillors will be at those meetings and these gatherings provide another opportunity for people to ask questions about the proposed budget and talk about their priorities and concerns.

There are other ways to be informed about the plan, which is available in full on our website and in summary form as part of the consultation document. People can also request consultation

documents be sent to them in the mail.

Making a submission can be done online or on the form that is part of the consultation document, and Council will be accepting feedback until 5pm on Friday 6 May.

All submissions will be read by both staff and Councillors, and people who want to speak to Council in person will be able to do that at hearings on 24 and 25 May.

Councillors will then consider the feedback and may alter the draft Annual Plan. The final version will be adopted in late June, before the start of the 2022-23 financial year on 1 July.



Have your  
**Say!** 2022-23  
**DRAFT  
ANNUAL  
PLAN**



**We'd like feedback on two main topics:**

### TOPIC ONE


Reviewing our day-to-day services

### TOPIC TWO

Using reserves to bring our major roading repairs programme forward

**Community Meetings:  
ONLINE**

**Thursday 7 April – 7pm**

 [itsourplace.nz](https://itsourplace.nz)

 [facebook.com/AshburtonDC](https://facebook.com/AshburtonDC)

**ASHBURTON Mon 11 April – 7pm**  
Ashburton Event Centre

**METHVEN Tue 12 April – 7pm**  
Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

**RAKAIA Wed 13 April – 7pm**  
Rakaia Bowling Club

**Have your say at  
[itsourplace.nz](https://itsourplace.nz)**



# Rakaia shares local history on new signs

Stretching your legs at the Rakaia Salmon Reserve on SH1? Follow a newly-laid path and learn about Rakaia’s special history.

Rakaia Lions Club took this on as their project to produce a series of historical signs, which tell the story of Rakaia township and its surrounding districts.

The signs were officially unveiled on Tuesday by Mayor Neil Brown, who grew up on the banks of the Rakaia River.

He said the signs added another level of interest to the reserve, which had had a major makeover with new public toilets and landscaping.

The idea for an historical walk had been on the minds of the Lions members since 2018 and co-incided with Council building new public toilet facilities at the reserve, which is a popular stop for travellers and locals alike. Rakaia’s giant fibreglass salmon is a feature of the site.

The panels cover a range of topics, from facts about the nearby Rakaia River to early inhabitants of the town and how the surrounding land is farmed. The first settlers had to navigate the tricky Rakaia River before rail and road bridges were built, and many drowned.

The first accommodation place was on the north side of the river, but Rakaia town eventually grew on the south bank. Its population today is about 1500 and local businesses mainly support the district’s productive farmers.



Council Community Services Group Manager Steve Fabish said Lions members identified the topics they wanted to cover and spent many hours sourcing the information.

“Our Council team provided support to help design the signs and also spent time collating and refining the information.

“It is a fine line between providing too much information or not enough, but the intention of the panels is to capture people’s attention and hold their interest.”

For those wanting to know more, the signs have a QR code, which links to more information and is also able to be updated.

Mr Fabish said the Rakaia Lions had generously contributed time, labour and money to the project.

“Graham Pluck and the team at Plucks Engineering Ltd built the frames; the Lions club paid for all the materials and powder coating of the frames; and John McKimmie and his very able team of Lions volunteers installed the panels.”

Council’s Open Spaces team had also improved the playground and added new landscaping.

“We are really pleased at how the reserve is looking and we hope Rakaia people will be proud of it too,” Mr Fabish said.

## RDR's fish screen is ready for public inspection

An important piece of water infrastructure for the Ashburton District will be open to the public on Sunday, so people can see a new \$17 million fish screen on the side of the Rangitata River before it is submerged under water.

The fish screen has been installed over the past year at the RDR’s intake at Klondyke and is especially designed to keep young salmon, trout and native fish from being trapped in the main diversion race.

Young fish that are swept into the intake are diverted by the fish screen back into the river, where they can continue their life journey.

Ashburton District Council is a shareholder in the company that owns and operates the RDR and councillors visited the fish screen this week, ahead of the open day.

RDR chief executive Tony McCormick showed them how water would enter the canal and pass through the fish screen, which is made up of seven cylindrical screens that rotate, and a portion of flat screen. The screen and supporting concrete infrastructure will all be under water when operational.

Councillors also saw where the young fish, including eel, would emerge and be diverted back to the river.



As part of the monitoring process once the screen is operational, some fish will be caught at the out-take and assessed to ensure they have safely made the journey.

Water is diverted from the Rangitata River for three irrigation schemes, two hydro-electric power stations and for Council’s stockwater network.

Mr McCormick said nearly \$3m had been spent on engineering design and management, which included computer modelling to ensure the fish screen would work as expected.

The open day on Sunday 10 April is free and runs from 10am until 3pm, but people need to book tickets at Eventbrite. The site is 6km from the start of Klondyke Terrace off Montalto Road. Allow 30 minutes drive time from Mayfield.

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

Pursuant to the Local Government Act 1974 and the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is hereby given that the Ashburton District Council and NZ Transport Agency, for the purpose of allowing Ashburton Returned and Services’ Association to hold **ANZAC Day** services, proposes to close the following roads to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated hereunder.

Roads proposed to be closed:

- **HAVELOCK STREET, from Park Street to East Street intersection**
- **BARING SQUARE WEST, from Havelock Street to Cameron Street**
- **SH 1 (WEST STREET), from Wills Street to Burnett Street**
- **CAMERON STREET, from West Street to Park Street**

Periods of Closure: **From 6.00am to 8.30pm and 10.00am to 12.30pm on Monday, 25 April 2022.**

Any person objecting to the proposal is called upon to lodge notice of their objection and grounds thereof in writing or email to Council by 4.00 pm, **Friday 15 April 2022**

**NEIL McCANN**  
Ashburton District Council  
Infrastructure Services Group Manager

**MARK PINNER**  
Waka Kotahi NZTA System Manager

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are at Council Chambers, 137 Havelock Street, unless specified

**Annual Plan virtual community meeting**, Thursday 7 April, 7pm (livestreamed on Facebook, YouTube)

**Annual Plan Ashburton community meeting**, Monday 11 April, Ashburton Event Centre, 7pm

**Annual Plan Methven community meeting**, Tuesday 12 April, Mt Hutt Memorial Hall, 7pm

**Youth Council meeting**, Tuesday 12 April, 4pm

**Lakes Camp and Clearwater Plan submission hearings**, Wednesday 13 April, 9am (livestreamed)

**Annual Plan Rakaia community meeting**, Wednesday 13 April, Rakaia Bowling Club, 7pm

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### 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 “Street Sprints”**.

Roads proposed to be closed:

- **SMALLBONE DRIVE, from RIVER TERRACE to ROBINSON STREET**
- **ROBINSON STREET, from SMALLBONE DRIVE INTERSECTION to McNALLY STREET**
- **WATSON STREET, from RANGE STREET to ROBINSON STREET**
- **McNALLY STREET, from RANGE STREET to the end of the street**
- **RANGE STREET, from ROBINSON STREET to WATSON STREET**

Period of Closure: **From 7.30pm, Friday 6 May 2022 until 8pm, Sunday 8 May 2022**

RANGE STREET: **From 6pm Friday 6 May 2022 until 6am, Sunday 8 May 2022**

Detours will be available on adjacent streets and these will be signposted.

This proposed closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 - Schedule 10 (11 (e)) and will be considered at the COUNCIL MEETING on **20 April 2022**.

Any person objecting to the proposal should lodge notice of their objection and the grounds for their objection in writing by post or email to the Council, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton by 4pm, **Friday 15 April 2022**.

**NEIL McCANN**  
Infrastructure Services Group Manager

### RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

#### EASTER, ANZAC DAY

**Kerbside collections** – Easter Friday collections will be collected on Saturday 16 April. No other collections will be affected over the Easter and ANZAC Day period.

**Rakaia Resource Recovery Park** – Closed 15 April, 16 April, 18 April and 25 April (ANZAC Day).

**Methven Green Waste drop-off** – Closed 17 April.

**Ashburton Resource Recovery Park** – Closed 15 April and 18 April.

**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 9.00am - 8.00pm  
Sat 10am - 1pm | Sun 1pm - 4pm

**EA NETWORKS CENTRE**  
20 River Terrace  
Mon - Fri 6.00am - 9.00pm  
Sat & Sun 7.00am - 7.00pm

**ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & ASHBURTON MUSEUM**  
327 West Street  
10am - 4pm daily. Closed Public Holidays.