

## Baring Square ready for big upgrade

Tenders will soon be called for the upgrade of Baring Square East, which involves creating a new one-way road in front of Council's new library and civic building and a major replant and renovation of the square itself.

Around \$3 million has been set aside to breathe new life into the area, which Council hopes will be better used by residents and host more public events.

Plans for the area were approved by Councillors recently and Chief Executive Hamish Riach said some of the square's original features, like the whale bones, would stay, while new paths and native plantings would be added.

"About two-thirds of the money we have put aside will go to creating the new road, with angle parking and a paved plaza entrance to the new civic building. The rest will be spent on rejuvenating the square, which will keep its oval paths and water feature.

"The natives, perennial and annual plantings are designed to give year-round colour and tie in with the work we have done in the CBD, and follow feedback from the public."

Landscape architects are working through the final details of the plan and it should go out for tender in the next few weeks.

"Ideally the upgrade of Baring Square East will align with the completion of the new Ashburton Library and Civic Centre, Te Pātaka a kā Tuhihi and Te Wharoa a Hine Paaka, which should be finished around the middle of next year."

Councillors have also approved applying for a resource consent to relocate the South African Boer War memorial to Baring Square West as part of the upgrade.

Mr Riach said resource consent was needed for the relocation as the memorial had heritage status in the District Plan.



"That means the application will be handled by an independent planner and likely to be publicly notified, so members of the community will be able to have their say on the matter."

The Boer War memorial was unveiled in 1903 to honour soldiers of the district that had died in the conflict. The red granite obelisk also commemorated the coronation of Edward VII.

Mr Riach said Council had already talked with the Ashburton RSA and the New Zealand Defence Force about how to ensure a sensitive relocation to Baring Square West, where the district's other war memorials are located.

"They have no objections and we also plan to contact the descendants of the six soldiers whose names are on the memorial."

The resource application will detail how the memorial could be relocated safely and how it would look at the new site.

It should be noted that the memorial has previously been relocated in 1978 within Baring Square from its original site.

The memorial was designed by Christchurch architect Samuel Hurst Seager following the Boer War and it was hoped that the obelisk would be continually improved over the years and would have an educational value.

The South African War was the first overseas conflict to involve New Zealand troops and was fought between the British Empire and the Boer South African Republic, who resented the British rule.

Several hundred New Zealand troops and their horses sailed to Cape Town in late 1899 to fight, where the ordeal was made much worse by extreme temperatures, disease and the Boers' guerrilla war tactics.

Of the six soldiers commemorated on the Baring Square East memorial, one was killed in action, one was accidentally killed by a horse, another died of injuries from a rail accident, two died of enteric fever and the last was killed while trying to escape from a prisoner of war camp.

The six are also among the 79 soldiers commemorated on a Boer War panel at the back of the Queen Victoria Memorial in Christchurch.

## Detour in place during rehab work

The first big roading job of the new year begins in early September, when 3.16km of Arundel Rakaia Gorge Road and 800m of Ashburton Staveley Road are rehabilitated.

Work over four sites will cost around \$1.2 million and is prior to other rehabilitation work on Barford Road, Forks Road, Mayfield Valetta Road and Thompsons Track.

A detour will be in place on Arundel Rakaia Gorge Road, from Lochheads Road to Tramway Road, from 5 September until 9 November, on weekdays from 6.30am until 7pm. Contractors who are reconstructing the road are advising motorists to allow additional time for their journey using the detour route.

Council Infrastructure Services Group Manager Neil McCann said a total of \$3.7m would be spent in the next 12 months on rehabilitating damaged roads on the network.

"The roads chosen have been identified by our roading engineers as top priority, based on their condition and the number of failures reported on them.

"We plan to rehabilitate 37km of sealed roads in the next three years, and another 23km in the following three years. Our roading network is continuously being assessed to make sure the worst roads are fixed first, given the limited money and resources we have available."

Mr McCann said that sections of Arundel Rakaia Gorge Road and Ashburton Staveley Road were at the end of their life and need to be renewed.

"They have taken a beating by the large volume of traffic that has used them over their lifetime."

## Sarah Mosley - GM People & Capability

## Our team, our purpose - why not join us?

**As the manager of People & Capability at Council, my role and that of my team, is to support and work with our managers and teams to provide the best services and places for our community members and visitors to enjoy.**

When asked why I like working for Council, my list is long. But to summarise, it's a great feeling being able to work in my desired profession in an organisation that wants to do its very best for the community.

With local body elections in early October, there will be a new group of elected members deciding our work

priorities and levels of service. There are also a number of government-led reforms that will impact our team and services that Council will provide in the future.

During the Covid-19 lockdown, our focus remained to perform all core activities, yet for those teams unable to operate like normal, their focus shifted to providing community welfare needs.

We proudly redeployed lifeguards, parking wardens and horticulturalists to assist at the Community Based Assessment Centre with full medical cleans, purchasing groceries for the elderly and dropping off prescriptions to those in need. More recently, when

faced with a significant rainfall event, our team of trained staff put on their civil defence hats and took the lead in an emergency response.

It's a great feeling being part of an organisation that achieves, delivers and provides the community so many big and little things, some of which are taken for granted.

So if you're at a career crossroads (and you like the idea of working for a community-focused organisation and our values of "do what's right, make it happen, work as one and respect every voice" align to yours) please look at our website to see what positions are available.



We might not have your perfect role available right now, but across the year, we have a number of roles suitable for people joining or rejoining the workforce.

We have summer student positions to provide university students with real life experience and we have a number of professional roles that you would find in a large city organisation.

# Satisfaction survey influenced by roads

Almost all residents that took part in the Annual Residents' Survey for Ashburton District Council perceive that the district is about the same or better as a place to live than it was three years ago.

Although Council's provision and maintenance of recreation and leisure activities and facilities, opportunities for grants and funding, community events, social services and economic development continue to be very strong areas of performance, satisfaction levels around the roading network decreased significantly.

Council's overall performance dipped by eight points to 66 per cent in 2022 compared to 74 per cent in 2021.

Chief Executive Hamish Riach said it was disappointing to see a drop in overall satisfaction.

"But we can see a clear link between how people feel about roads and our overall performance, and we're committed to addressing the issue of our battered and ageing roading network.

"Council has allocated \$1.7 million from the forestry reserve to a work programme which will allow us to rehabilitate key roads, rather than trying to hold poor sections of pavement together with short term repairs."

Satisfaction with sealed roads decreased 14 points to 24 per cent satisfaction and unsealed roads by seven points to 46 per cent over the past year. "Too many potholes" was stated as a main concern of those surveyed.

"Not only is our roading network the fifth largest in New Zealand, but it is heavily used. When you add the increasing frequency of extreme weather events into



the mix, it leaves us with a hefty challenge," Mr Riach said.

The issue isn't just confined to the Ashburton District.

"Adverse weather events are badly affecting roading networks right across the country. Water is the enemy of roads and having some of the wettest months on record is certainly taking its toll."

According to Key Research, who produced the residents' survey, councils across New Zealand have seen overall satisfaction levels trend downward over the past year.

Satisfaction with the Ashburton council's building services and council staff also dipped.

Mr Riach said those drops were likely related to the current building boom, with staff struggling to meet timeframes for consents, and council's mandates around

Covid-19 and vaccination.

Overall, residents were most satisfied with the public library service, cemeteries, and Ashburton Domain, with a significant increase noted in satisfaction with playgrounds.

Satisfaction with rubbish and recycling has improved with more than eight in 10 residents (85%) satisfied.

The 2021/22 Annual Residents' Survey was conducted on a representative cross-section of the community and was carried out in four stages throughout the year, both online and in hard copy. The sample size of the survey was 871 people across the the district with a margin of error of +/- 3.32%.

The Annual Residents' Survey can be viewed on our website, ashburtondc.govt.nz.

## Feedback on airport plan welcome until 30 August

More than 40 submissions have been received so far on Council's draft development plan for the Ashburton Airport, with the deadline for community feedback Tuesday 30 August.

Council is envisioning a more active and financially sustainable airport, with three new hangar precincts on the 100-hectare site, including a hangar-home area where people can live in the same building as their aircraft.

A drop-in session at the airport recently to share information about the development plan attracted a good crowd, reflecting the growing popularity of the facility.

The long-term plan looks at future growth and how the airport might serve the district over the next 30 years and Council is keen to get as much feedback as possible.

Of the submissions received so far, there is overall support for the draft development plan and its goals. There is very strong support (over 90 per cent of submitters) for building more recreational hangar space



Above: Around 80 people attended the drop-in day at the airport.

in the locations proposed.

While there is general support for hangar homes, views are more mixed about how many of these should be built.

Submitters also support plans to make the airport more financially self-sufficient, so it would need less input from ratepayers via a contribution from general rates.

The consultation document and submission form can be found at ashburtondc.govt.nz/airport.

### COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held in the Council Chambers, 137 Havelock Street, (unless otherwise advised).

Methven Community Board - Monday 5 September, 10.30am at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Council Meeting - Wednesday 7 September, 1.00pm (live-streamed)

Council Agencies (six-month reports) - Wednesday 14 September, 9.30am (live-streamed)

Council Hearings (Ashburton Airport Development Plan) - Wednesday 14 September, 1.00pm (live-streamed)

Council Meeting - Wednesday 21 September, 1.00pm (live-streamed)

Council Activity Briefings - Wednesday 28 September, 9.30am

Audit & Risk Committee - Wednesday 28 September, 1.30pm (live-streamed)

Council Hearings (Stormwater Bylaw) - Thursday 29 September, 9.00am (live-streamed)

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURES

Pursuant to the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is hereby given that the Ashburton District Council is proposing to temporarily close the following roads for the purposes described -

- Roads proposed to be closed:
- **EAST STREET**, from Moore Street to Havelock Street
  - **TANCRED STREET**, from East Street to Cass Street
  - **BURNETT STREET**, from East Street to Cass Street

**Purpose:** To enable the holding of a community event – Ashburton Market Day

**Period of closure:** From 7.00am until 6.00pm on Monday, 26 September 2022

**Objections:** By 4.00pm on Monday, 29 August 2022

Road proposed to be closed: **WINSLOW WILLOWBY ROAD**, from the Longbeach Road intersection to approximately 500m from the intersection with State Highway 1

**Purpose:** To enable the Ashburton Car Club to hold the Winslow Willowby Road Standing Quarter Mile Sprint

**Period of closure:** From 9.00am until 4.00pm on Saturday, 10 September 2022

**Objections:** By 4.00pm on Wednesday, 31 August 2022

**Date change:** This event and proposed road closure was previously scheduled for 3 September 2022.

**Objections:** Any person objecting to the proposals above 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 the date noted.

NEIL MCCANN  
Group Manager  
Infrastructure Services

### RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

#### WINDSTRAPS: METHVEN

Our team will be installing windstraps in the Methven collection area on **Monday 29 August**. If you have a wheelie bin without a windstrap, please put it out at the kerbside by **7.30am**, even if it isn't full. The straps help keep lids shut on windy days, even when bins blow over. They're specially designed to be undone as the bin is picked up and emptied. There's no charge for the windstraps.



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 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