

New Three Waters plan to consider

Ashburton Mayor Neil Brown says he and his councillors are keen for a discussion about how a regional water organisation could work for the district, as part of an alternate three waters reform proposed by the mayors of Auckland and Christchurch.

“The last council didn’t support the Three Waters reform and at the next council meeting I’ll be asking the new council their view, as I haven’t done this formally yet.

“We previously opposed Government’s reform of drinking water, stormwater and wastewater services as it stands at the moment, and we saw that it had divided local government around the country.

“This move by two of the mayors of the largest cities in New Zealand opposing those Three Waters reforms will hopefully get the appropriate attention of the Government.

“We are definitely up for a discussion on how a regional model could work for us and allow us to retain local ownership, and local control and input.”

The Government wants to move drinking water, stormwater and wastewater assets away from councils and instead manage them via four large water entities. Ashburton would be part of a largely South Island entity.



Ashburton's new River Crossing wastewater pump station.

The city mayors’ proposal, released this week, would maintain crucial aspects of Government’s existing plan, including the new water regulator Taumata Arowai, while maintaining local ownership, control and accountability, and allowing for meaningful roles for mana whenua.

Regional Water Organisations (RWOs), which would be unable to be sold outside local authority ownership, would have access to investment capital through a new Water Infrastructure Fund administered by central government’s own Crown Infrastructure Partners.

Mayor Neil Brown said that over the years the Ashburton council had maintained

and built up three waters assets, which had a combined value of over \$200 million.

“We believe we are in a good position for the future. Other councils may not be in the same position, but we all agree a consensus is needed to move forward in the three waters space.”

Ashburton is also one of the 30 member councils of Communities 4 Local Democracy, which is against the reforms in their current form.

For more about Communities 4 Local Democracy He hapori mo te Manapori and details of its own proposals, visit www.communities4localdemocracy.co.nz

Wastewater project ahead of schedule

Farm Road, between Middle Road and Racecourse Road, is closed until Sunday 13 November as contractors move early into the next stage of the North West Ashburton wastewater project.

Council Infrastructure Services Group Manager Neil McCann said contractors Tru-Line Civil were at least four weeks ahead of schedule, thanks to good weather and an extra work team.

“We will have wrapped up work on Carters Road by 10 November, which is well ahead of schedule, and will be working on Farm Road until 21 December.

“At this rate, contractors will be returning to work on Allens Road and the new pump station at the start of March and the whole project should be finished by the start of April. We’re really pleased with progress and this ultimately means less disruption for residents who live in the area.”

Farm Road residents who live on the section to be temporarily closed will continue to have access to their properties and be notified by the contractor of any restrictions. A detour will be available for public traffic.

Mr McCann said the contractors would move their machines to Farm Road over the next few days.

“We really appreciate everyone’s patience while the project is under way. We know it can be disruptive at times and we are continuously co-ordinating with all affected residents as the work moves around its different stages.”

Traffic management will also be in place for the Allens Road stage between Carters Road and Middle Road, from 2 March 2023.

Updates on the project are at ashburtondc.govt.nz

Hamish Riach - Chief Executive

Growing our district with a strong, diverse workforce

I’ve been enjoying hearing feedback from the annual Ashburton A&P Show, held without covid restrictions last weekend for the first time in several years.

Council was represented in a number of marquees – our own site, plus staff had input into the Civil Defence site and the displays of different cultures in the show president’s marquee.

Our Welcoming Communities programme is an important part of our workstream; newcomers who feel welcome are able to fully participate in the economic, civic and social life of the community.

Building connections between locals and newcomers means everyone feels included and knows they belong.

The presidential marquee at the show featured displays from some of the many cultures now present in the Ashburton District, from Chile, Ecuador and Fiji, to the Philippines and Afghanistan.

The Filipino community has many members particularly working in our district’s agricultural sector, and their skills, experience and energy are hugely valued, as are all the newcomers who choose to make their home here.

As a refugee resettlement centre, Ashburton also welcomes families from Afghanistan and as their confidence grows, they too will join our workforce and community groups.

Younger visitors to the Council marquee at the show spent a lot of time building and rebuilding Lego robots, while others had a go on the crosscountry ski exercise machine brought along by staff from the EA Networks Centre. Our newly-elected councillors were out and about meeting people too.

Our Economic Development team runs these outings for Council and was pleased at the number of visitors who also took the time to take part in a survey to gather information about what they liked about living in Mid Canterbury and what could be improved; this sort of unfiltered data is



always valuable.

Not far from the Council marquee, in the Safety Village, was the Civil Defence site, manned by Council staff.

The message to be prepared cannot be said too often and the display included a video showing what would likely happen in the event of a major earthquake in the Southern Alps. If you haven’t organised a grab bag (a bag with essentials to keep you alive for several days), then now’s the time to do so.

Our Civil Defence staff are often in the community speaking to clubs or groups, or going to shows, raising awareness of emergency preparedness and the need to get ready. It’s something we must plan for, while at the same time hoping we never have to use.

The next big happy event we will be attending is the annual evening to acknowledge apprentices who passed their trade exams, and they represent another group of workers we can all take pride in.



Community board gets down to business

More than 2000 native plants were put into the ground at the Methven Cemetery recently, as part of work by Council and the Methven Lions to beautify the area.

Several Sequoiadendron giganteum (Wellingtonia) trees were also planted along the eastern boundary. The cemetery has doubled in size as part of planned development, following big winds in 2021 that brought down trees on the boundary and sparked a renovation of the area.

Methven Community Board members were given an update of the work at their first meeting this week. But before getting down to business, the board elected Kelvin Holmes as chair, Richie Owen as deputy, and nominated Megan Fitzgerald to be its representative on the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Board and Allan Lock to the Methven Reserve Board.

Mr Holmes said he was aiming for a good and productive three-year term.

As part of an Open Spaces report early in the agenda, the board was told that the cemetery looked a lot different today than 12 months ago after the wind event that decimated the eastern treeline.

New lawns had come through winter well and been rolled, and the 2000 natives were planted on the eastern boundary in a bund created from leftover rubble from the tree extraction. The Methven walkway has been reinstated alongside this edge of the cemetery.

Deputy mayor Liz McMillan said the big planting day had been a success and the area was looking good. A seat donated by a past resident had also been repositioned at the cemetery.

Council staff have suggested another tree planting day next winter, using the activity to promote Arbour Day.

The community board also dealt with three funding requests, rejecting one and partially granting two others; the board



Methven Community Board members (from left) Allan Lock, Richie Owen, Liz McMillan, Rodger Letham, Megan Fitzgerald, Robin Jenkinson and Kelvin Holmes.

has an annual \$25,000 discretionary fund that it administers.

The board granted \$1178.50 to Methven Touch Rugby for bibs, balls, cones and other equipment to help grow the game in the junior space. It also granted \$2000 to the Methven Lions, who have taken over the maintenance of the bike skills park.

A request for \$7540 from Mt Hutt College to support a team going to the touch nations in Rotorua was declined, as it did not meet the criteria for the funding. The board will support their application to other funders, like the New Zealand Community Trust.

In infrastructure updates, the board was told that ACL was connecting the first of two new reservoirs to the town's drinking water scheme; a second new tank should be operational by February next year.

Negotiations are under way with contractors to carry out the remainder of the drinking water upgrade work, which includes a new membrane treatment plant and new pipelines to connect the Methven Springfield scheme.

Renewal of a sewer main between McDonald Street and Dolma Street,

through Mt Hutt College, is expected to be completed in the next week or so.

Some minor works are also being carried out at the town's wastewater treatment plant, including adding a flowmeter, dissolved oxygen monitoring and renovation of the distribution channels in the infiltration basins. The changes will allow better monitoring of the site's performance.

The board asked for clarification on the positioning of the planned gravel path alongside State Highway 77 to Opuke hot pools, wanting to know exactly where on the roadside it would be formed.

Within the community board's boundary, 60 building consents were issued from January to September, compared to 41 in 2021; the value of the work for the year to date was \$25,422,697 (compared to \$8,778,890 in 2021). The busiest month was March, when 16 consents were issued.

The community board has retained its six-week meeting cycle and will meet next on Monday 12 December, at 10.30am. The first meeting of the new year will be Monday 30 January.

Helping hand at Christmas

People attending the Christmas movie that is part of Council's Nights of Lights festival next month will be encouraged to bring an item for Ashburton's community foodbank.

Organisers are currently finalising screening rights for the movie on Saturday 17 December and it will be announced soon. People attending the movie will be able to bring along a food item that will be donated to the foodbank, which helps struggling households.

Nights of Lights gets under way on Friday 2 December, when the big Christmas tree on the East Street green will be lit up; the night in the CBD also includes entertainment.

Buskers have been organised to spread some Christmas cheer on Friday 23 December and Saturday 24 December, as last-minute shoppers do the rounds.

PUBLIC NOTICES

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST TO LEASE LAND

The Ashburton District Council seeks expressions of interest to lease some, or all, of land described below;

1. 15-35 Bryant Street, Tinwald
Area: Approximately 1 hectare

2. 20 Bryant Street, Tinwald
Area: Approximately 1.3 hectares

Both sites contain a number of sheds, as well as yard space. A lease of up to 2.5 years will be offered to the successful tenderer/s.

Interested parties are welcome to contact Council officers to arrange an inspection of the land and buildings prior to lodging a tender.

Interested parties may express their interest by completing the appropriate tender documentation which may be obtained from **Council's Commercial Property Team** at 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, by phoning Council on 03 307 7700 or by e-mailing commercial@adc.govt.nz.

Tenders are to be enclosed in an envelope labelled **"Bryant Street Lease Tender"** and are to be either delivered or posted to reach Council by **closing time of 4pm, Friday 18 November 2022**. Address for tenders: Bryant Street Lease Tender, The Chief Executive Officer, Ashburton District Council, PO BOX 94, Ashburton 7700.

The highest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.
Officer for enquiries – Michelle Hydes, Property Advisor: 027 573 0265

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

Extraordinary Council Meeting –
Wednesday 9 November, 1.30pm
(live-streamed)

Ashburton Water Zone Committee
– Tuesday 22 November, 1pm (live-streamed)

Submission deliberations for
Draft Alfresco Dining Policy and
Draft Speed Management Plan
– Wednesday 23 November, 9am
(live-streamed)

Council Meeting – Wednesday 23
November, 1pm (live-streamed)

Submission deliberations
continued – Thursday 24 November,
9am (live-streamed)

Council Activity Briefings –
Wednesday 30 November, 9am

Audit and Risk Committee –
Wednesday 30 November, 2pm (live-streamed)

RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

CANTERBURY ANNIVERSARY DAY, FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER

There is **no change to kerbside rubbish and recycling** collections on Friday 11 November and the kerbside collection will take place as usual. The **Ashburton Resource Recovery Park** will be open from 8am until 6pm, but the **Rakaia Resource Recovery Park** will be closed.

Please use your windstrap, no matter the weather!

TRIENNIAL MEETINGS

Mt Somers Reserve Board -
Tuesday 8 November, 7.30pm at Mt Somers Hall (supper room)

Tinwald Memorial Hall Board -
Wednesday 9 November, 7pm at Tinwald Hall

Greenstreet/Ashburton Forks Reserve - Monday 21 November, 7pm

Methven Reserve Board -
Wednesday 23 November, 7pm at Methven Rugby Club

Dorie Reserve Board - Thursday 24 November, 7pm

Lagmhor Westerfield Hall - Monday 28 November, 7pm

Pendarves Reserve - Tuesday 29 November, 7pm

Tinwald Reserve Board - Monday 12 December, 5.30pm

Hinds Reserve - Tuesday 13 December, 7pm