

Join us to mark King's coronation

Tree-planting events and volunteering will be the themes of the King's coronation weekend in the Ashburton District.

Mayor Neil Brown will unveil a commemorative plaque next to three new native black pines (Matai) in the Ashburton Domain at 9.30am on 6 May to mark the occasion, and a volunteer planting day will be held at the Harris Scientific Reserve from 9am-12pm the same day.

A planting day is also planned at the Hakatere Marae on 7 May, from 1-4pm.

Volunteering Mid & South Canterbury, in collaboration with the Ashburton District Council, Hakatere Marae and Ashburton Community Conservation Trust, is coordinating coronation weekend activities.

"King Charles has been a passionate supporter of the environment for six decades and so it is fitting that events here and around the world have a focus on promoting conservation and acknowledging volunteers," Mayor Brown said.

"The Matai will be planted on the edge of the Royal Lawn in the domain, and that is also a fitting spot."

Council's Open Spaces team will pre-plant the commemorative trees in an area adjacent to the central carpark. Matai grow up to 25m and produce seeds that are edible to the kereru (New Zealand pigeon).

Other royal trees in the domain include a flowering cherry that marks the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on 2



June 1955, a copper beech planted in memory of Diana Princess of Wales on 11 September 1997, and other trees to mark the 100th birthday of the Queen Mother on 4 August 2000 and to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II on 1 November 2002.

Trees were also planted in 1981 when the Queen visited Ashburton and in 2022 to mark the Queen's 70th year on the throne.

The domain ceremony will happen at 9.30am and people of the district are invited to come along. The Harris Reserve planting ends at 12pm, leaving people free later in the day to watch the coronation being televised from London from 10pm (New Zealand time).

In the United Kingdom, the weekend of celebrations includes a concert, a Coronation Big Lunch and a day of volunteering. Brits will get a public holiday on Monday 8 May, when they are being

called on to volunteer in their local area in honour of King Charles' passion for community charity.

Mayor Brown said the volunteering effort in Ashburton would centre on the Harris Scientific Reserve, Council-owned land on Lovetts Road, off Maronan Road, where indigenous kanuka trees and other rare shrubs and plants are growing.

The site is managed by the Ashburton Community Conservation Trust and is also home to insects, lizards and birds not found on farmland.

"The reserve is just a small part of land in the Canterbury plain with indigenous vegetation and serves as an educational resource for the district and a seed source for several restoration planting projects."

The planting day at the marae, on SH1, gets under way at 1pm on Sunday 7 May with a welcome and speeches.

By-election voting packs in the mail

People in the Western Ward should have been receiving their voting papers for the by-election in the mail this week.

The voting period starts on Thursday 20 April and will close at midday on Friday 12 May. Anyone can vote, providing they live in the Western Ward and are on the Parliamentary electoral roll – about 4180 electors are currently on the roll. People who live outside the area, but pay rates on a property in the ward may also qualify to vote.

The by-election is to fill a vacancy on Council created by the passing of Councillor Rodger Letham, and four candidates have been nominated.

Chief Executive Hamish Riach said people could check if they were on the Parliamentary roll by visiting vote.nz or free phoning 0800 36 76 56. "It's important that everyone who wants to vote in the by-election can vote."

Voting papers should all be delivered by 26 April, but if you don't receive your papers, please get in touch with our Customer Services team.

Voting papers can be returned by post, or into ballot boxes at Council office, Ashburton Library or the i-Hub Methven.

Changes for roads bylaw

Council is reviewing its Transportation and Parking Bylaw and is looking for feedback from the community on proposed changes, which help ensure the controls on roads and footpaths meet the needs of residents, road users and businesses.

The bylaw covers a range of issues related to our roads, like parking restrictions, one-way roads, and where heavy vehicles including stock trucks can drive and park. It was last reviewed in 2015 and a lot has changed since.

The proposed changes make the bylaw easier to read and understand, remove restrictions on speed limits as these are no longer set through the bylaw, and change some heavy traffic routes. The changes reflect changes in the roading network, like new roads or developments, and make it easier for Council to make simple changes without reviewing the whole bylaw again.

Consultation closes at 5pm on Sunday 14 May, with hearings and deliberations set down for 31 May. See the full details at ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay.

Neil Brown - Mayor Chat with our councillors

I am hoping our new chat with a councillor sessions at the Ashburton Public Library will encourage people to share their ideas and thoughts about the district we all call home.

While councillors are already out and about in their own jobs and social circles, engaging with residents, this is an informal drop-in conversation open to anyone in the community. We might not have an answer for everyone, but we sure hope we can help!

Council is trialling the sessions for four months, and in that time two councillors will be at the library every Tuesday, from 2-3pm and from 6-7pm. The library will be closed on Tuesday 25 April, which is Anzac Day, so not then.

Crs Richard Wilson and Lynette Lovett were first in the hot seats, and I'm told the conversations were wide-ranging

and that they enjoyed the experience. The next drop-in is on Tuesday 2 May.

We see these sessions as being able to have genuine conversations with people who live and work in our district. Ideally, it's not the time to report a pothole or the fact that your rubbish bin was not emptied last week – those types of customer service requests are best reported to the Customer Service team at Council.

These drop-in sessions are about hearing people's thoughts on our decisions or projects, or about issues that worry them – anything from climate change to visitor promotion, and everything in between. If you have a great idea, we want to hear it!

It also lets us share our experiences as elected members, and give some insights into Council operations, and who is responsible for what.

We have established channels for gathering feedback about policies,

plans and bylaws, including paper and online consultation forms, but we know people can sometimes be put off by the process itself.

Elected councillors are always keen to receive feedback, and we hope people take us up on this offer to chat.

People who live in the Western Ward are about to have their say in electing a new councillor to represent them at the Council table.

Rodger Letham, who sadly passed away last December, leaves big boots to fill but there is plenty of passion, and four candidates nominated, for the role.

People will be receiving their voting papers in the mail this week and these need to be returned by midday on Friday 12 May.



Attending an Anzac Day service? See where

Ashburton Mayor Neil Brown will be a guest speaker at the Anzac Day civic service at the cenotaph on Baring Square West, Ashburton.

Elected councillors will also be attending services around the district – deputy Mayor Liz McMillan will be at the Methven service and dawn service in Ashburton, while Cr Leen Braam will also be at the dawn service and the cemetery service at Ashburton.

Four civic wreaths have been ordered for the day. One wreath will be laid at Methven on behalf of the Methven Community Board and Methven community, while three will be laid at Ashburton services on behalf of the mayor and councillors, the Ashburton Youth Council and the Ashburton community.

Traffic management will be in place while the Baring Square West services are under way, with West Street/State Highway 1 closed from Havelock Street to Cameron Street from 6am until 8.30am and from 10am until 12.30pm – traffic will be detoured.

The Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum is holding a special Anzac Day event at 2pm, with an exhibition and discussion about the Westerfield Military Camp, built in 1942, and a talk about the Godley Head fort in Lyttleton, one of the most intact and extensive World War II coastal defence batteries left in New Zealand.

The RSA has organised the following commemoration services for Anzac Day and everyone is invited to attend:

6.30am Dawn Service at the Cenotaph, Baring Square West - Speaker Jo Luxton



and Ashburton RSA president Merv Brenton.

9am Ashburton Cemetery Service at the Services Plot - The service will be conducted by Lieutenant Elizabeth Walker-Rutu of the Salvation Army and guest speaker will be Squadron Leader Luke Sutton of the Air Cadets.

RSA members please assemble at the north end of the Service Personnel plot at 8.45am.

11am Civic Service and Wreath Laying at the Cenotaph, Baring Square West, Ashburton - Guest speakers will be Mayor Neil Brown, head students from Ashburton College and RSA Ashburton president Merv Brenton.

Hinds – A commemorative service will be held at the Hinds Hall at 10am.

Mayfield and Districts – Assemble 9.30am at the Panther's Rock Cafe car park for a parade at 9.45am.

At 10am, Wendy Millichamp will take a service in the Mayfield Memorial Hall, with speaker Sir Graeme Harrison. The Ashburton Silver Band will be in attendance and there will be a collection for Mid Canterbury Rural Support.

At about 11am, there will be an artillery gun salute in the Mayfield domain, followed by morning tea (a plate appreciated).

The Mayfield Golf Club is also holding a commemorative golf match; assemble 12 noon for a 12.30pm start.

Methven - Assemble at the memorial arch on McDonald Street at 9.15am, for a march at 9.30am. Service at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall at 10am, followed by morning tea in the hall. All welcome.

Rakaia - Please assemble at 10am, followed by the commemorative service at the Rakaia Community Centre at 10.15am; wreath laying service to follow.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of road closures associated with Ashburton Returned Services Association Anzac Day Ceremonies.

Roads to be closed are as follows.

- **West Steet (SH1), from Havelock Street to Cameron Street**
- **Havelock Street, from Park Street to East Street**
- **Cameron Street, from West Street to Park Street**
- **Baring Square West, from Havelock Street to Cameron Street**

Period of closures: On Tuesday 25 April from 6am to 8.30am and from 10am to 12.30pm.

NEIL McCANN

Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

Methven Community Board Meeting, Monday 1 May, 10.30am at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Council Meeting, Wednesday 3 May, 1.00pm (live-streamed)

Council Activity Briefings, Wednesday 10 May, 9.30am

Audit & Risk Committee, Wednesday 10 May, 1.30pm (live-streamed)

Council Meeting, Wednesday 17 May, 1.00pm (live-streamed)

Pizza topping for youth



Ashburton Youth Council members have tripled their numbers, and celebrated recruitment success by adding pizza to the agenda of their latest meeting.

A campaign to boost numbers has been fronted by "veteran" members Sophia, Maddie and Isabel, with videos and advertising on YouTube and social media channels, and through presentations at their school.

The first full meeting included pizza and a presentation from Emergency Management Officer Jim Henderson, who

invited them all to the AF8 roadshow, to learn about how they could help in the event of a big alpine earthquake.

Cr Russell Ellis, one of two councillors on the youth council, said it was great to see some fresh faces around the table.

"It's so good to see these teens passionate about making the Ashburton District a better place for young people too."

While the recruitment campaign is wrapping up, young people aged 12-24 can join the youth council at any time - go to ashburtondc.govt.nz to see how to join the team.

SAVE THE DATE!

2 - 4 June

King's Birthday Weekend
Tinwald Domain

ASHBURTON
GLOW

in the park

This popular free family event is returning bigger and brighter!

Don't miss the chance to experience Tinwald Domain and the Plains Vintage Railway & Historical Museum under the colourful glow of breathtaking lighting displays.

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