

Council Activity Briefings



Date: Wednesday 10 May 2023
Time: 9:30am
Venue: Council Chamber
137 Havelock Street, Ashburton

Attendees

Mayor Neil Brown
Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan (Chair)
Councillors Leen Braam
Carolyn Cameron
Russell Ellis
Phill Hooper
Lynette Lovett
Tony Todd
Richard Wilson

Executive Team

<i>Chief Executive</i>	Hamish Riach
<i>GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces</i>	Neil McCann
<i>GM Compliance & Development</i>	Jane Donaldson
<i>GM Business Support</i>	Leanne Macdonald
<i>GM People & Facilities</i>	Sarah Mosley
<i>GM Democracy & Engagement</i>	Toni Durham

Activity Reports

Time	1.	People & Facilities		Page
9:30am	1.1	EA Networks Centre	Richard Wood	4
9:35am	1.2	Ashburton Library	Jill Watson	11
9:40am	1.3	Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum	Shirin Khosraviani	22
9:45am	1.4	Customer Services	Amanda Watson	29

Time	2.	Infrastructure & Open Spaces		
9:50am	2.1	Open Spaces	Ian Soper	32
9:55am	2.2	Solid Waste Management	Hernando Marilla	40
10:00am	2.3	3Waters Projects	Hernando Marilla	42
10:05am	2.4	CBD Upgrade Project	Hernando Marilla	43
10:10am	2.5	Waters Operations	Hernando Marilla	44
10:15am	2.6	Asset Management	Andy Guthrie	46
10:20am	2.7	Drinking Water	Andy Guthrie	47
10:25am	2.8	Wastewater	Andy Guthrie	48
10:30am	2.9	Stormwater	Andy Guthrie	48
10:35am	2.10	Stockwater	Crissie Drummond	48
10:40am	2.11	Roads and Footpaths	Mark Chamberlain	51
10:45am	2.12	Contracts Awarded / Upcoming Tenders	Neil McCann	52

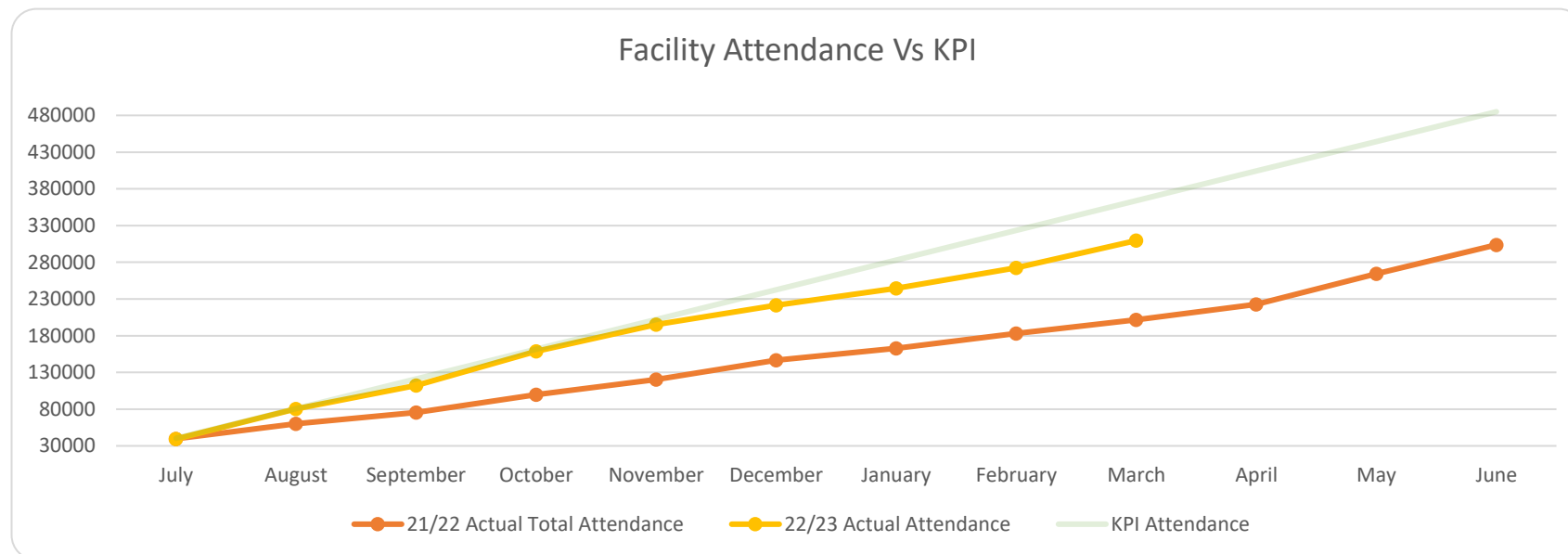
10:50am Morning tea

Time	3.	Compliance & Development		Page
11:05am	3.1	Building Services	Michael Wong	53
11:10am	3.2	Civil Defence Emergency Management	Jim Henderson	59
11:15am	3.3	Alcohol Licensing/Bylaw Monitoring & Enforcement	Rick Catchpowle	61
11:20am	3.4	Animal Control	Rick Catchpowle	62
11:25am	3.5	Environmental Health	Rick Catchpowle	63
11:30am	3.6	Planning	Ian Hyde	64
11:35am	3.7	Economic Development	Simon Worthington	65
Time	4.	Business Support		
11:40am	4.1	Information Systems	Gordon Tupper	77
11:45am	4.2	Property	Renee Julius	82
11:50am	4.3	Forestry	Terry O'Neill	86
11:55pm	4.4	Finance	Erin Register	87
Time	5.	Democracy & Engagement		
12:00pm	5.1	Communications	Janice McKay	89
12:05pm	5.2	Strategy & Policy	Mark Low	92
12:10pm	5.3	Memorial Halls & Reserve Boards	Ann Smith	97
12:15pm	Finish			

1. People & Facilities

1.1 EA Networks Centre

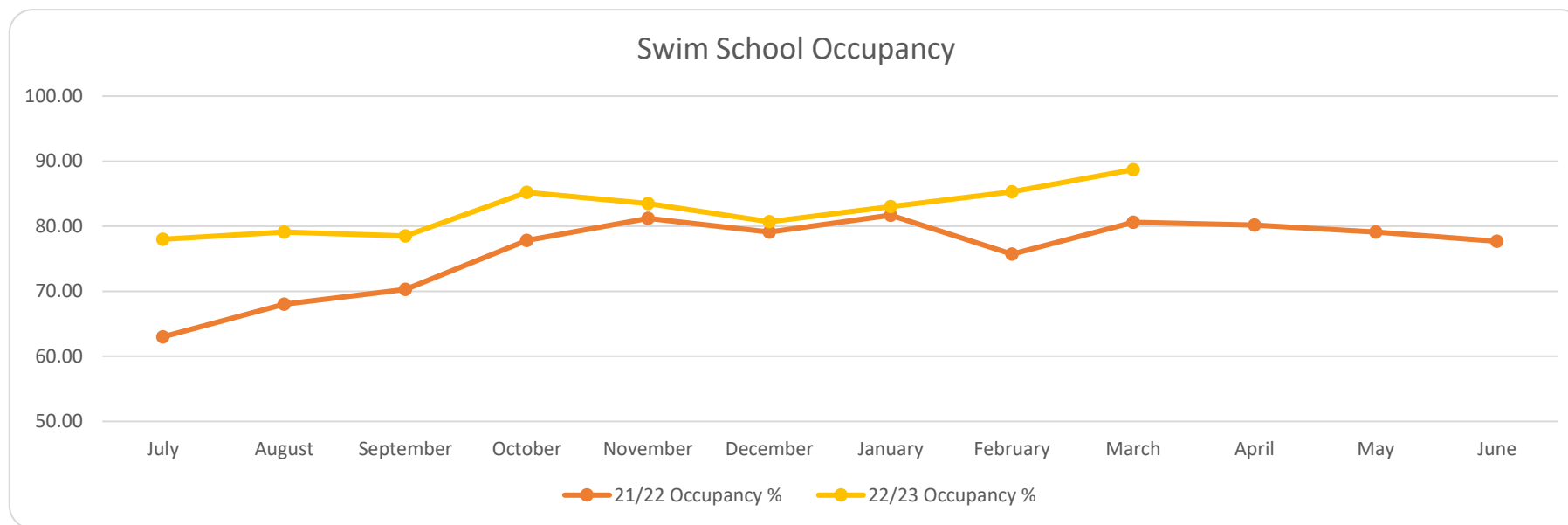
1.1.1 Facility



Comments:

- The 2021-31 LTP outlines the level of service and performance measures for EANC to be: *“We provide quality gym, pool and stadium facilities”*.
- The EA Networks Centre is well utilised with a goal of 485,000 attendees in the 2022/23 year, as per the LTP. As at 31st March 2023 EANC had 309,595 visitors, tracking below the target however the annual result is greater than the previous year. The target is unlikely to be met.
- It should be noted that no adjustment to the KPI has been factored in due to the change in facility operating hours nor the change in counting methodology – although the new method is considered an improvement on accuracy. The KPI methodology will be reviewed through the LTP process including seasonality considerations.
- The people counting system now has a full year of useful data and its reporting overall foot traffic up 62% in the YTD 2023 on 2022.

1.1.2 Swim School Occupancy

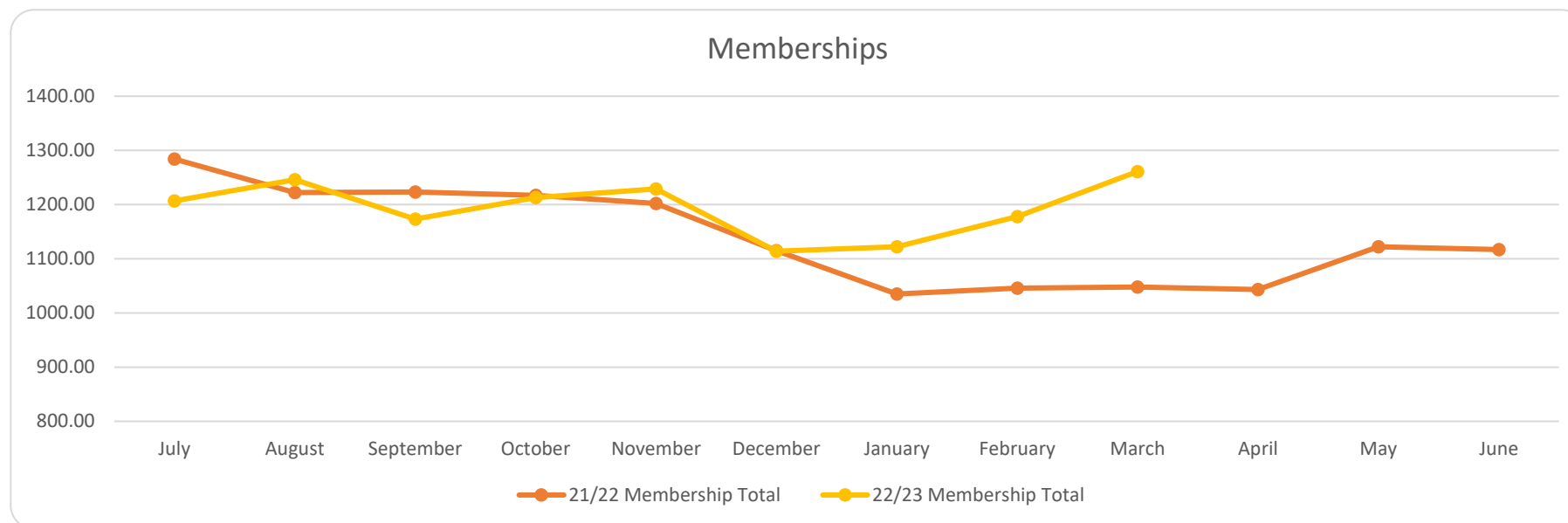


Comments:

- This graph represents the occupancy percentage of the swim school. Approximately 1,135 Learn to Swim students participated each week in Term 1
- Occupancy continues to track above the 2021/22 result year-to-date.

Note: We are not aware of any reported water-related incidents in the Ashburton District in 2023.

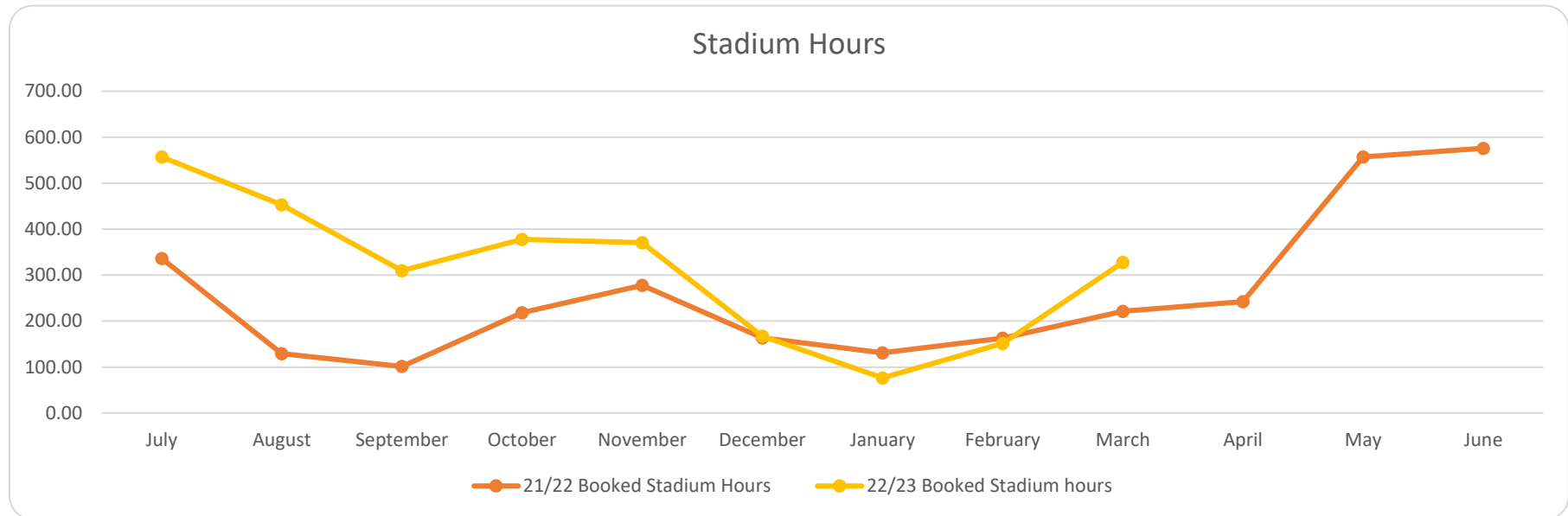
1.1.3 Memberships



Comments:

- This graph represents the tracking of EA Networks Centre memberships.
- Membership numbers are tracking strongly although its important to note that uptake of Upfront Flexi memberships remains popular making retention trends very hard to track.
- The launch of the Myzone Fitness tracking system has been well received and contributed in part to the increase in membership numbers.
- A general industry trend is for a slight increase at the beginning of winter however our district would normally experience a downturn through July/August.
- Gold Pool/Gym and lower priced Silver Membership options are the most popular purchases.

1.1.4 Stadium Hours



Comments:

- This graph represents booked stadium hours stadium by external customers and is demonstrating expected seasonal trends.
- Forecasting is showing booking hours likely to be higher than 2022 (*April forecasting 302 hours at time of writing*).
- This does not include internally run programmes, such as holiday programmes and Active Adventures.

1.1.5 Activity comments for March 2022

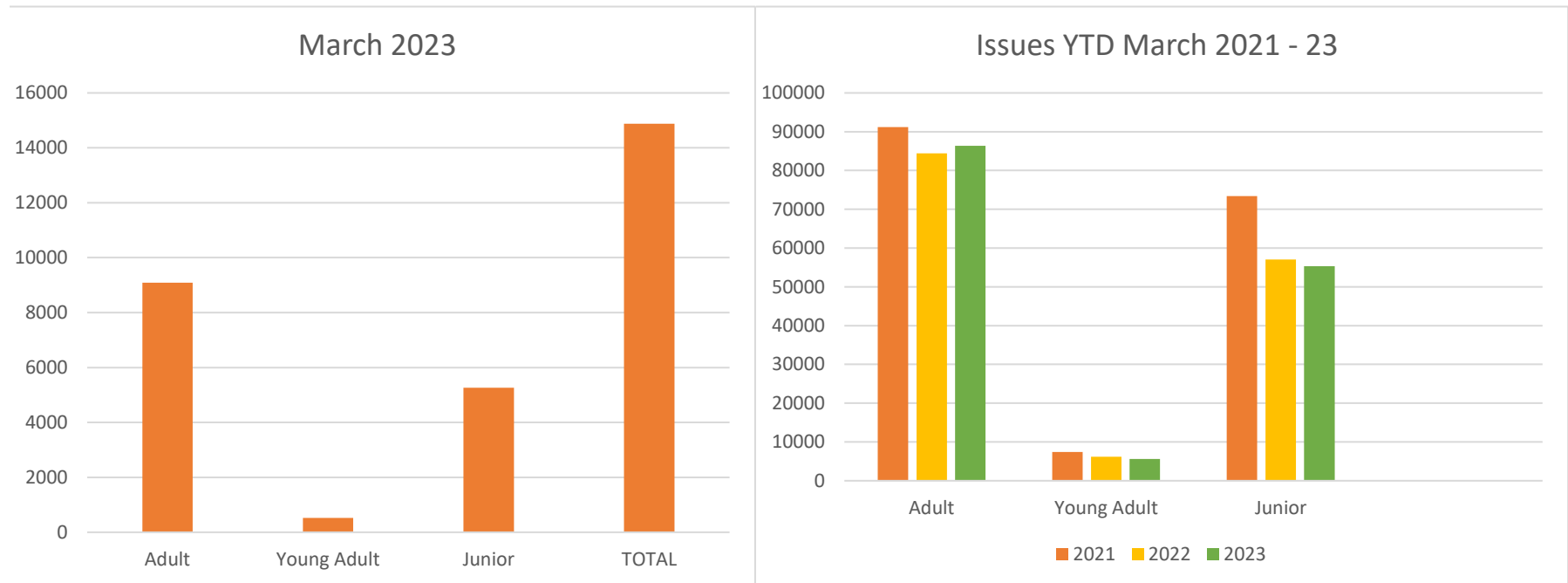
Facility	
Activity/Programme	Description
Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Utilisation Study of Recreation Facilities has been completed, officers have a final report for executive review and will be workshopped with Council in the coming weeks. Feedback to User Groups who provided input will also be undertaken. This study was completed with the support of Sport Canterbury. • The project to add a café deck and ramps has been let to a preferred contractor and officers are awaiting a timeframe for completion. • Officers continue to investigate options to support gaps left by the ceasing of the Green Prescription programme. There is a noticeable gap in the market to support those who would've previously been eligible for Green Prescription due to health or rehabilitation needs however no currently available funding exists to support restarting this. • Illness and vacancies continue to occasionally plague staffing and stretch the capacity to operate. Where at all possible we maintain service but from time-to-time adjustments are made to ensure safe operation under our guidelines. We are currently operating shortened hours in the Pool Area to manage this.
Stadium Stadium bookings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Adventures returned in Term 1 after high demand from customers, the sessions moved to fortnightly rather than weekly, and reduced to run for 2 hours rather than 3. For term1 the sessions averaged 22 children. • Sport Canterbury held their Healthy Tamariki Expo here on the 29th of March, this saw 1200 people come through the stadium to learn about different ways to support the health and wellbeing of our community's youth. • The April Holiday Programme has the highest attendance of recent (last 6 months) programmes, with 50+ attendees every day aside from the field trip days, which we cap at 40 kids. • Aoraki School Sports held a 3x3 Basketball tournament here which saw the stadium fill with students from all over Canterbury, also utilising the opportunity to let students have a go session with our pickleball equipment. • Booking utilisation during peak times continues to be strong through 2023. This includes high interest in our internal offerings, such as the School Holiday Programme, Active Adventures and the "hangout" evening programme.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pilot casual badminton programme is being trialled during the immediate afterschool time on Tuesday's to cater for specific Secondary School Aged Demand. •
Facility	
<i>Activity/Programme</i>	<i>Description</i>
Pool Aquatics activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Sport Canterbury swimming sports held here at the end of March this saw over 150 students from all over Canterbury competing. • The Ashburton Splash swim meet was held at the Centre on April 22/23, with over to 300 swimmers from across the South Island. • The Lifeguard team is currently recruiting 27 part-time hours as well as 80 full-time hours. While these positions remain unfilled we will endeavor to reduce any impact on service delivery to the public.
Fitness Centre Gym activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are undertaking additional engagement opportunities such as Pink Ribbon Day, Wellness Week Body Balance in the AAGM and Myzone May national challenge to continue to grow enthusiasm in the new Myzone system. • Cyclic renewal of equipment continues on track for install in June 2023 which will see new Crosstrainers and Treadmills installed to ensure that Customer Experience remains high. The new equipment links with the Myzone Fitness Tracking system as well as provides users a range of exertainment options whilst in the centre. They are also up to 30% for energy efficient that any other equivalent treadmill on the market.
Facility	
<i>Activity/Programme</i>	<i>Description</i>
Swim school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Swim School finished Term 1 2023 strong with a record number of 1139 students and an 89.80% occupancy rate in our last week of term. These numbers come from our preschool and afterschool lessons. • The Squad programme has had a great start to the year with meets. In one of the biggest meets of the year one of our swimmers swam in three finals events with a big personal best by seven seconds in the 1500m Freestyle coming in 6th in NZ for her age and overall 16th in NZ. Very proud of the mahi the swimmers have been putting into practice. • Over the April school holidays we offered Holiday Swim Lessons with 271 participants across a range of lessons and stroke improvement sessions

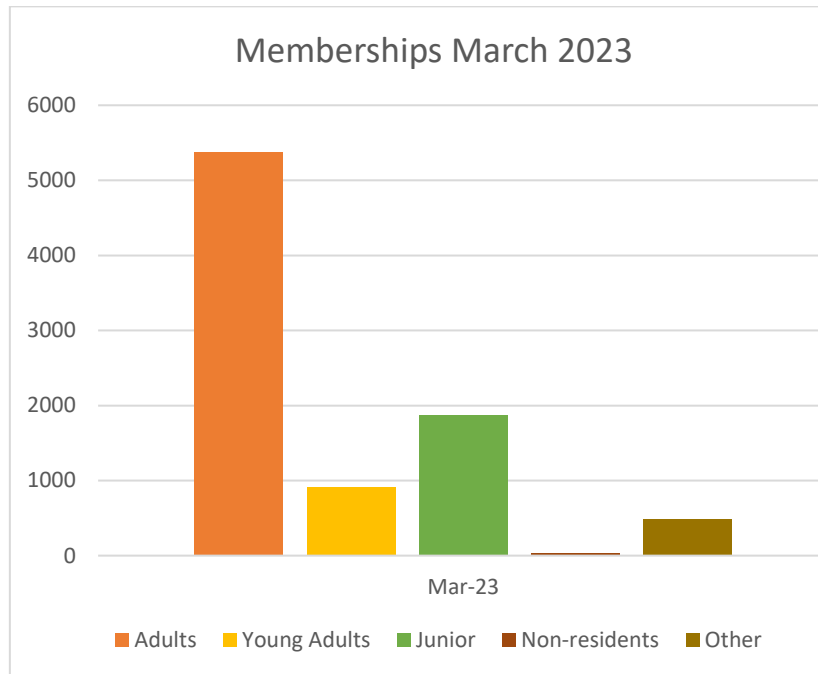
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Through the support of the Lion Foundation and Sport Canterbury our team will be looking to expand our Water Safety offering later in the year with a particular focus on offering as close to real life experiences as possible.
--	---

1.2 Library

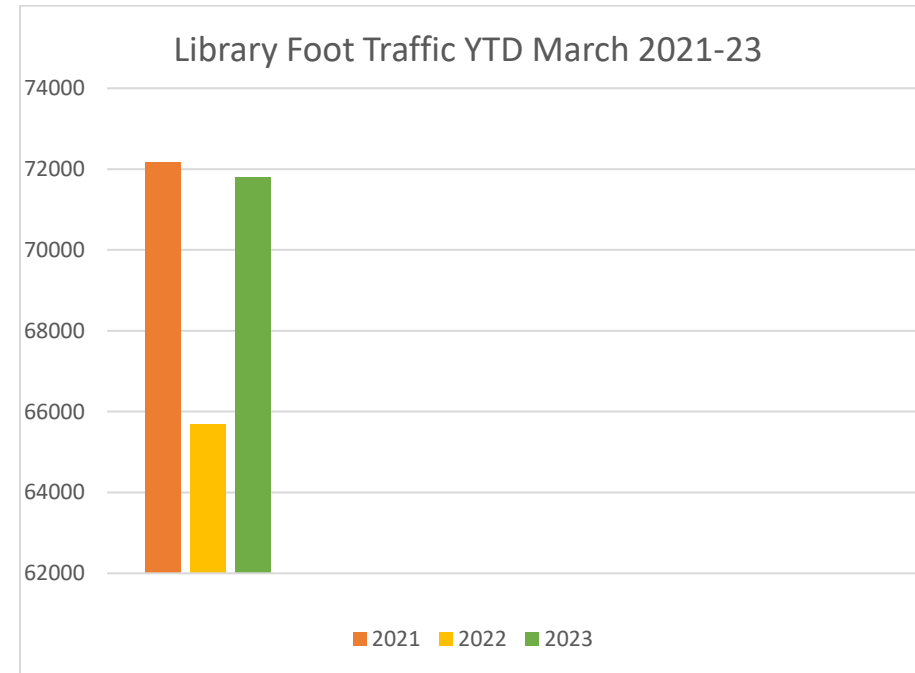
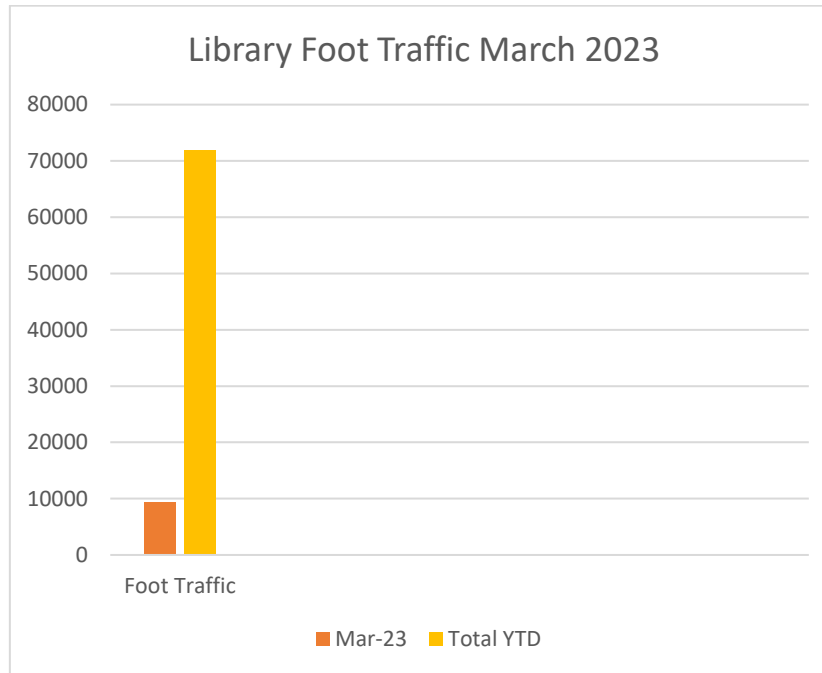
1.2.1 Issues



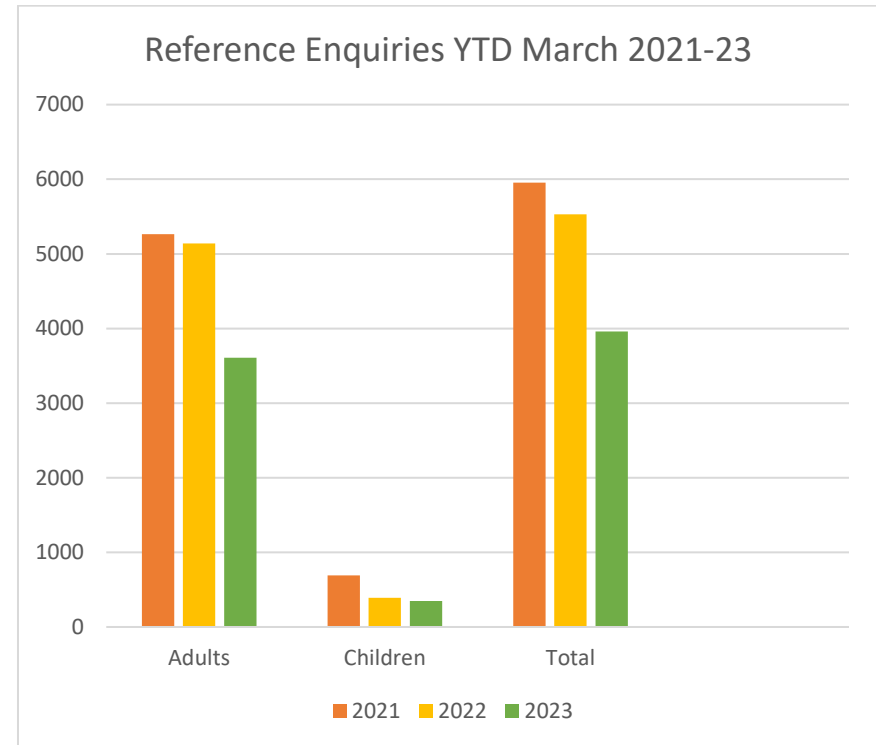
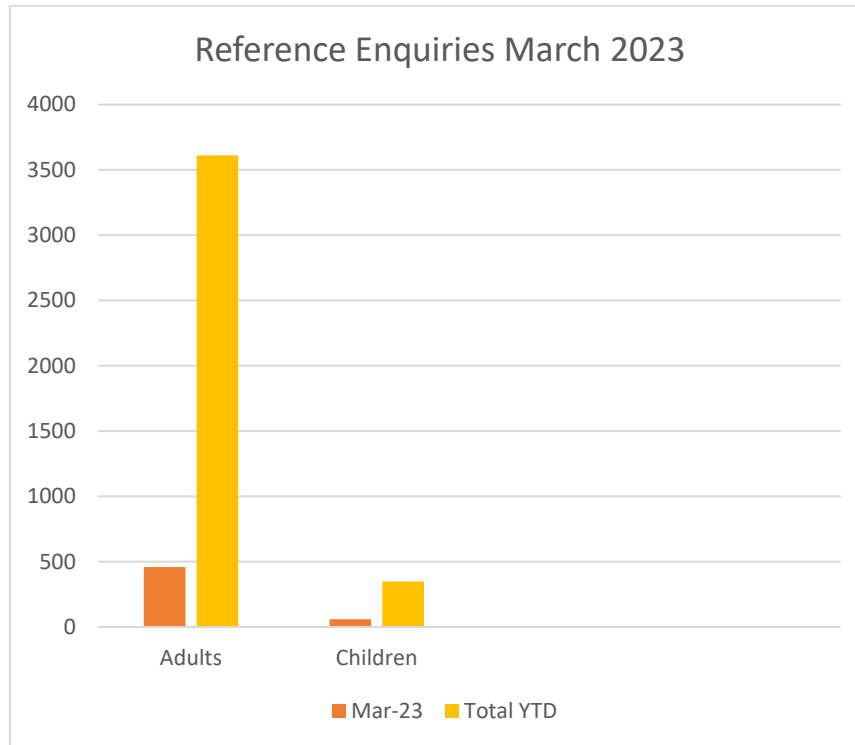
1.2.2 Memberships



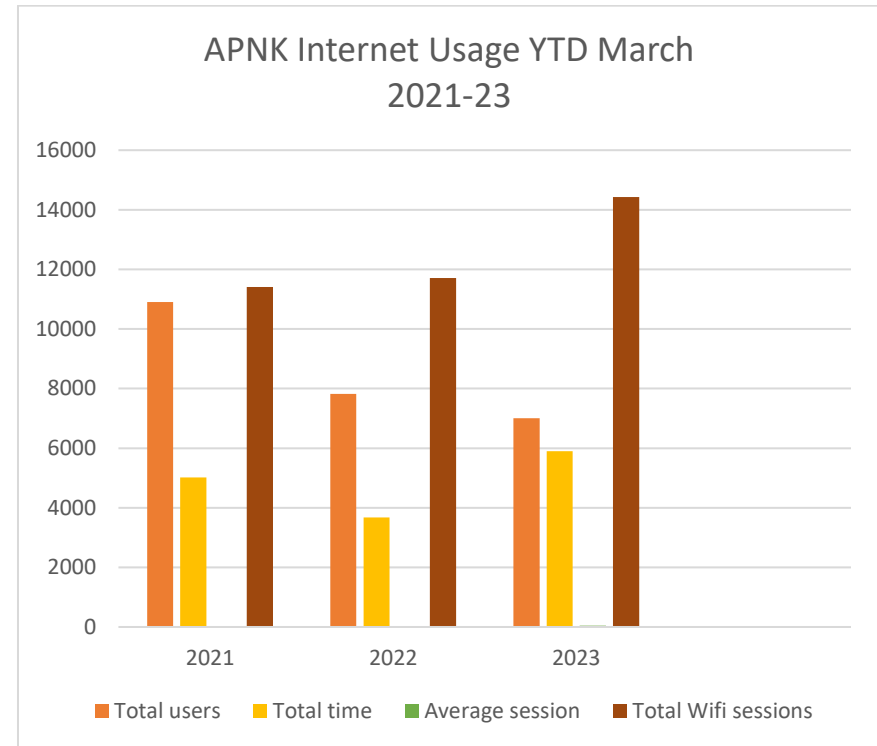
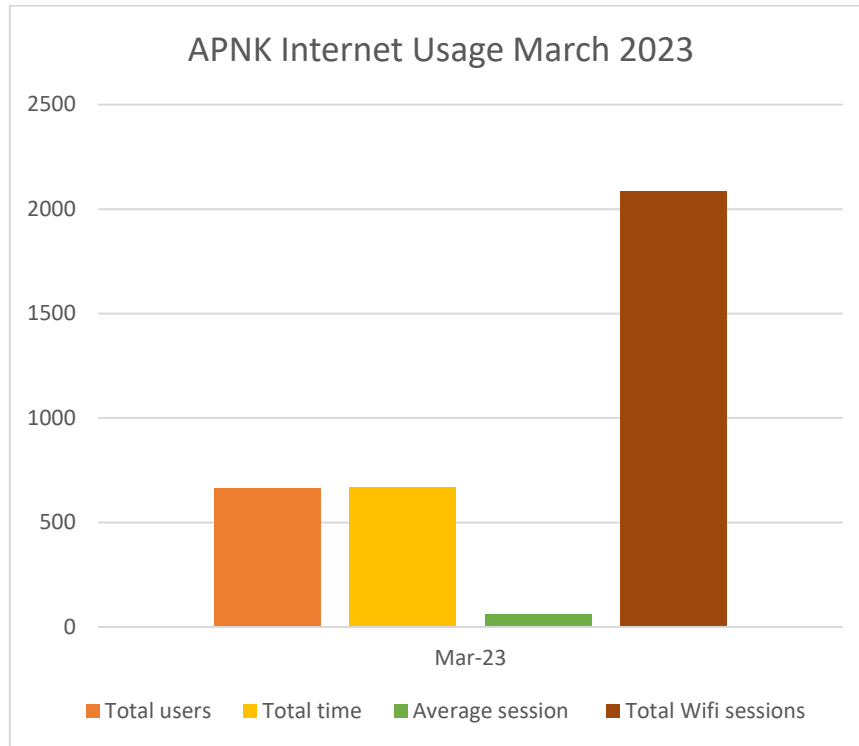
1.2.3 Library Foot Traffic



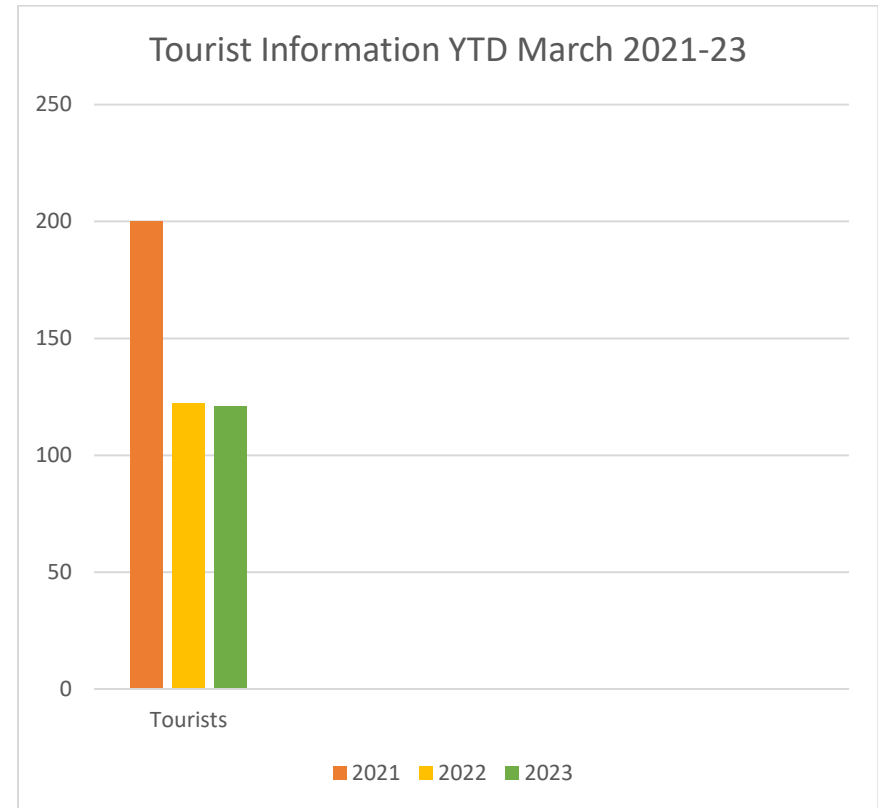
1.2.4 Reference Enquiries



1.2.5 APNK Internet Usage



1.2.6 District Tourism Information Requests



1.2.7 Activities for March 2023

Community Engagement Activities	
Activity/Programme	Description
Meeting spaces	Community use of meeting rooms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting rooms were booked by 36 groups during the period, with a total of 164 people attending. Groups who utilised meeting spaces at the library included art & creativity classes; Greg Dunne (Counsellor); speech & language therapy; individuals attending online video health consultations; meditation groups; work placement coaching services; Dementia Canterbury; English Language Services; and Timebank.
Craft & Chatter	Monthly Community Craft Group where participants bring along their own craft or do a craft supplied by the library - for all levels of ability, ages and crafts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One session was held in March, with 17 participants attending.
Presentations	Library promotion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four presentations were given during the period, with 98 attendees in total.
Book Club	Monthly community book club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The book club held one session during March, with 19 people attending.
Next Chapter	A monthly programme of literacy-based activities designed for those living with a diagnosed dementia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six people attended one session.
Elderly outreach	A programme of reading activities, crafts and looking at objects - designed to encourage older people to engage in conversation and share memories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two sessions were held. 42 participants attended from Elizabeth St Daycare and Tuarangi Home
Knitting Group	A weekly social group which encourages people to knit alongside others instead of sitting knitting at home alone, began February 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five sessions were held, 64 people attended.
Adult Paint along with Bob Ross	Using the Bob Ross painting session to introduce the library painting and drawing collection. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 session held, Six (maximum number) attendees.

Digital Access Projects	
<i>Activity/Programme</i>	<i>Description</i>
Digital Classes	<p>Digital Steps, Appy Seniors and Better Digital Futures Programmes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year a focus has been placed on scheduling a variety of courses for all ages. This includes Digital Steps (stepping up), Appy Seniors and Better Digital Futures. • The classes that were run during March were: Applying for a job online, intro to devices, google maps, staying safe online, digital photos, WhatsApp, online groceries, device help and zoom. • Lochlea outreach (over 65's): a new partnership has been formed with Lochlea Resort. This will build over time as we get to know the residents and their training requirements. Our first offering in March was a drop-in session at Lochlea Resort and 13 people attended. The residents brought their devices and the library staff helped trouble shoot issues. • WordPress website class (teens): This new class (written by the Digital Access Coordinator) teaches attendees the different elements of building a website. It ran for five weeks and another class will start in Term 2. • Total: 45 people attended digital classes during the period (15 YA and 30 Adults).
CV Help	<p>CVs, cover letters and applications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This drop-in service is available when required, with 2 people attending during this time. One came back to say they got the job. • Feedback continues to be positive from both Work and Income NZ and those accessing this service.
Device drop-in	<p>One-on-one assistance with devices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 people received assistance with their devices over the period.
Digital help	<p>One-on-one assistance with digital skills, including device and e-Book help outside of official sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance was provided to 106 people during the current period.
E-Book sessions	<p>One-on-one assistance with accessing e-Books held Tuesdays between 2pm and 3pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no one looking for assistance with e-books during the session, however, one person asked for assistance outside the official help session.
Recycle a Device	<p>Training young people to refurbish devices, diverting them from landfill and donating them to families in need</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project has been worked on for months and got the final sign off from Ashburton College. This will be an ongoing class held weekly during term time. It will be taught by Sarah Jones, Digital Access Coordinator from the library. • There is to be a standalone “fix one, keep one” session held at the library in April for Pasifika and newcomer youth. • The community has shown a lot of interest and positivity towards this project. We are now looking into whether there can be an official Ashburton location to receive local laptop donations.
Skinny Jump Wi Fi Modem	<p>Low-cost broadband</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four people accessed Skinny Jump during the period. • Ciena Jump is a programme offered by Skinny Jump which is targeted at schools. This is aimed at school students who don't have internet at home because cost is a barrier. 1 person accessed Ciena Jump in March.

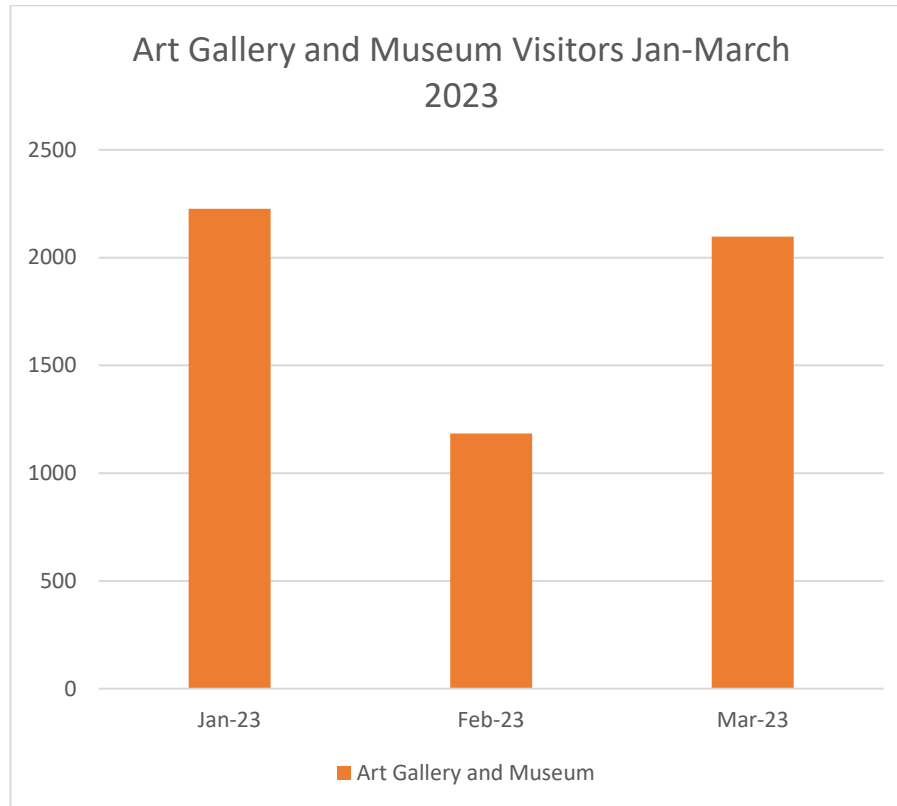
Youth Programming	
<i>Activity/Programme</i>	<i>Description</i>
VR headset	General public use of a VR headset <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 people attended during March. • A VR headset is available to those aged 13 years and older during open hours.
Dungeons & Dragons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three sessions were held during March, with 18 youth and 2 adults attending.
VR Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One session during March, with 4 youth attending.
Click Happy visual poetry workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March Mandy from Click Happy showed 27 Ashburton Borough students from Years 7 & 8 and 3 homeschool youths how to use their tablet and cell phone cameras to take photos and stylize them with apps. 4 adults were also in attendance.

Children's Library	
<i>Activity/Programme</i>	<i>Description</i>
Wriggle and Read	Movement to music for ages 0-3 (run during school term time) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four sessions were held in March, with 65 Children and 63 Adults (128 in total) attending.
Story and Rhyme Time	Stories and rhymes (run during school term time) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three sessions were held during March, with 13 children and 5 adults (18 in total) attending.
School class visits	Story and browsing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The library hosted 10 school class visits during March. • Schools that visited the library included Ashburton Christian School and Ashburton Borough School, also including a small ALP's (Assisted Learning Programmes) group from Hampstead and Ashburton Intermediate, and a visit from Hinds School and St Josephs. • 284 children and 26 adults attended, a total of 310.
Coding Club	Game development using Microsoft Makecode Arcade (Microbytes and Megabytes Coding Clubs are run during school term time) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 sessions were held in March, we had a total of 38 children attend these sessions.

Children's Library (continued)	
<i>Activity/Programme</i>	<i>Description</i>
Riff-Raff	Library reading dog <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have no data for Riff Raff this month.
Homeschool coding group	Coding sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were 3 sessions in March with 21 children and 8 Adults (29 total) attending this programme.

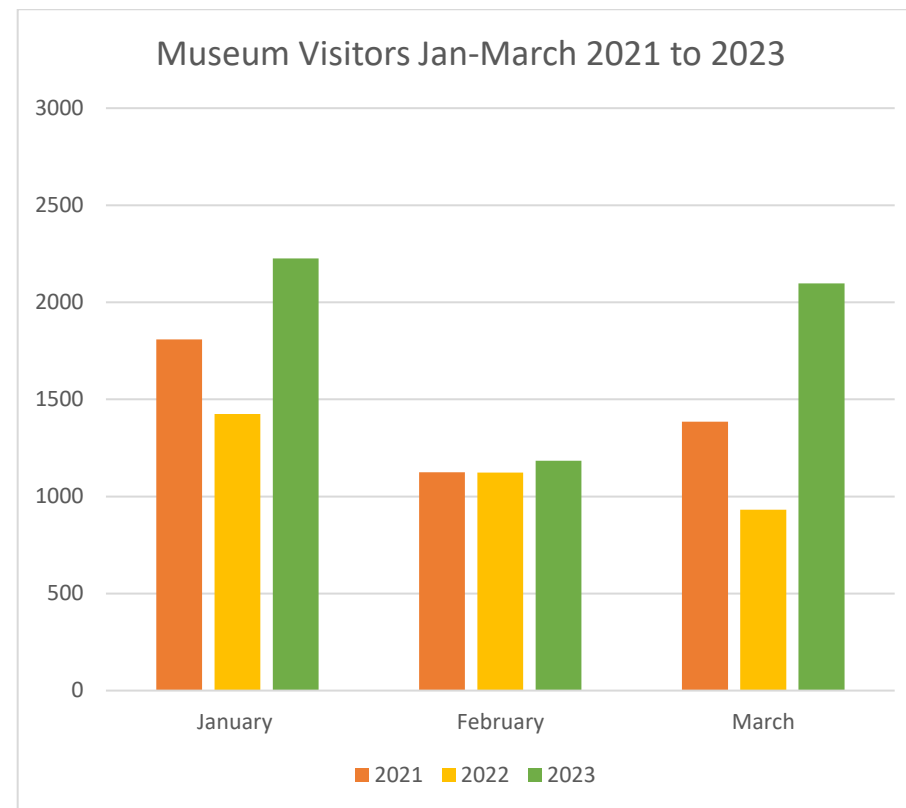
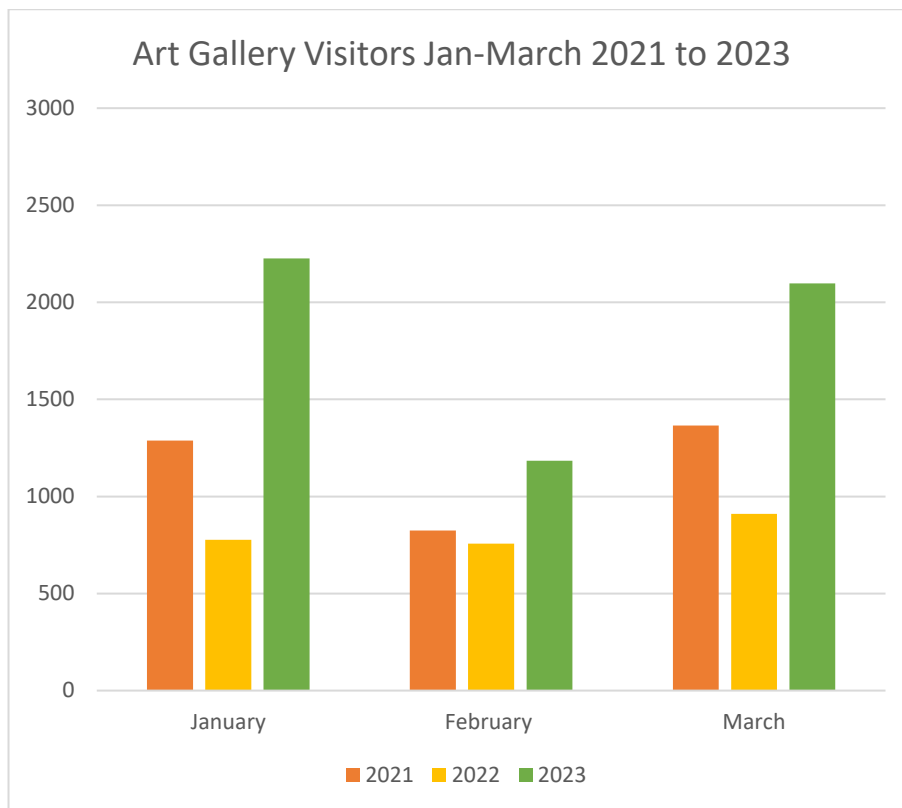
1.3 Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum

1.3.1 Art Gallery and Museum Visitors



Comments:

- Visitor numbers to the Art Gallery and Museum increased in March largely due to the well-attended ZAF23/Audrey Baldwin's THIS IS FINE, EVERYTHING'S FINE combined exhibition opening (200+ attendees), outreach activities at Mid Canterbury Children's Day and the Active Healthy Tamariki Expo (400+ participants), several talks to local community groups and on-site group tours, plus a number of school visits.



Comments:

- Visitor numbers to the Art Gallery and Museum in January, February and March 2023 exceeded the figures of the previous two years, however this is partly due to the change in recording the number of visitors to the building rather than recording museum and gallery visitors separately.

1.3.2 Activities:

Exhibitions and Displays		
Activity/Programme	Description	Date
Zonta Ashburton Female Art Awards (ZAFAA2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Now in its seventh year, the Zonta Ashburton Female Art Award exhibition presented by The Zonta Club of Ashburton in partnership with the Ashburton Art Gallery showcases the works of emerging and mid-career female artists based in Canterbury. This year, 29 finalists were selected from 74 entries for the Premier Award, and 13 entries were featured in the Young Generation Award category, for those aged 16-20 years. 	11 March – 23 April 2023
Audrey Baldwin's THIS IS FINE, EVERYTHING'S FINE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audrey Baldwin is the ZAFAA22 Premier Award winner based in Christchurch. Audrey Baldwin's solo exhibition playfully takes aim at 'grind culture', internalised capitalism and the challenges of living in a media choked society. Incorporating business jargon, toxic positivity statements and a small army of fans, she aims to provide an outlet for anxieties – both her own and those of society at large. 	11 March – 5 May 2023
Gabby O'Connor's All the Colours, All the Light	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solo exhibition by Wellington-based artist Gabby O'Connor. In the Antarctic, moisture particles in the air can freeze and act as tiny prisms, reflecting a rainbow of light that creates twinkling clouds known as 'diamond dust'. In <i>All the Colours, All the Light</i>, Gabby O'Connor uses these same principles to sculpt with light. Arranging theatre lighting gels into a large geometric form, she transforms the gallery into an immersive kaleidoscope that bathes your senses in colour. 	3 April – 26 May 2023
Westerfield Camp – The Army Marches In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During periods of World War II, New Zealanders lived in fear of attack or invasion. This exhibition explores the forgotten story of Westerfield Military Camp located 19km inland from Ashburton, established in 1942 to provide a mobile response to a feared invasion. The story of this fleeting camp has been pieced together through photographs, archival records and first-hand accounts. 	3 April – 11 June 2023

Education and Public Programmes		
Activity/Programme	Description	Date
Art Addicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AA is a weekly after school art space for children and families. Sessions encourage creative thinking and experimentation with a range of art themes, activities and materials. In March, participants explored a wide range of art materials and techniques including photomontage/collage, Sgraffito using black paint and crayons on old vinyl's, making coil pots using polymer clay and making their own overhead projections using mylar and vivids. 	1, 8, 15, 22, 29 March 2023
Kōwhai Mums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A fortnightly art group for ethnic and migrant mums and carers, as well as newcomers to <i>Hakatere</i> Ashburton, with children aged 0-5 years. This programme is delivered in partnership with Hakatere Multi-Cultural Council and Safer Mid Canterbury Newcomers Network. 	8, 22 March 2023
Filipino Cultural Awareness workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A bi-monthly workshop series of speakers who discuss the history and social customs of their culture to educate attendees and facilitate greater cultural understanding and awareness in <i>Hakatere</i> Ashburton. These workshops are delivered in partnership with Volunteering Mid & South Canterbury and Hakatere Multi Cultural Council. 	7 March 2023
Two O'Clock Tours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A fortnightly tour of one of our current exhibitions delivered by our Front of House Assistant. These 20-minute tours are a chance for visitors to gain further insight into our current exhibitions. 	12, 26 March 2023
In Colour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A monthly group that supports mental health, mindfulness, and social connection through creativity. Sessions are relaxed and art activities are guided by the interests of the group. Monthly sessions continue. 	10 March 2023
Audrey Baldwin's Artist Talk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audrey Baldwin delivered an artist talk where she gave insight into her exhibition <i>THIS IS FINE, EVERYTHING'S FINE</i>. 	11 March 2023

Education and Public Programmes (continued)		
<i>Activity/Programme</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Date</i>
Artzheimers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Art Curator and Educator delivered a programme to a group of Dementia Canterbury members based around several pieces in the AAG art collection. • In March, the group discussed works from the Zonta Female Art Award and two works from the AAG collection with a focus on urban Ashburton. 	23 March 2023
Base Youth Centre Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Programmes Co-Ordinator delivered a programme to a group of young people at Base Youth Centre, a place for young people aged 10-16 to socialise, meet new people and get creative. • In March, the group made their own sun catchers. 	30 March 2023
Mid Canterbury Children's Day Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An arts and craft activity was delivered by our Programmes Co-ordinator at the Mid Canterbury Children's Day event at the Plains Museum in Tinwald. • This event was organized by the Mid Canterbury Children's Trust. 	5 March 2023
Mt Hutt College Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Educator delivered a programme to six classes of Mt Hutt College students based around immigrants to Ashburton, including personal photos and stories. 	8-10 March 2023
Positive Aging Expo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Art Gallery and Museum stall was set up at the 2023 Positive Aging Expo at Hotel Ashburton. • Information was shared about our programmes, exhibitions, retail products and volunteering opportunities that might be of interest to older members of our community. 	9 March 2023
Lagmhor School Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Educator delivered a programme to two classes of Lagmhor School students based around the history of irrigation in Hakatere Ashburton. 	20 March 2023
Grey Power Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Senior Curator delivered a talk about the history of Westerfield Military Camp and the exhibition she curated for the Art Gallery and Museum. 	20 March 2023
Ashburton College Visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Educator delivered a programme to a class of international Ashburton College students based around Hakatere Ashburton District history. 	21 March 2023
Terrace View Retirement Village Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Archivist visited residents at Terrace View Retirement Village and shared stories and photographs about Hakatere Ashburton District history. 	27 March 2023

Education and Public Programmes (continued)		
Activity/Programme	Description	Date
Active Healthy Tamariki Expo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An arts and craft activity creating colourful sun catchers was delivered by our Programmes Co-ordinator at the Active Healthy Tamariki Expo held at EA Networks Centre. This event was organised by Kai for Kids, Sport Canterbury and several local schools. 	29 March 2023
Caption This	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout the <i>Humour Me – The Funny Side of Town</i> exhibition visitors came up with captions for a few of the cartoons that are held in the Museum’s collection. 	18 February- 19 June

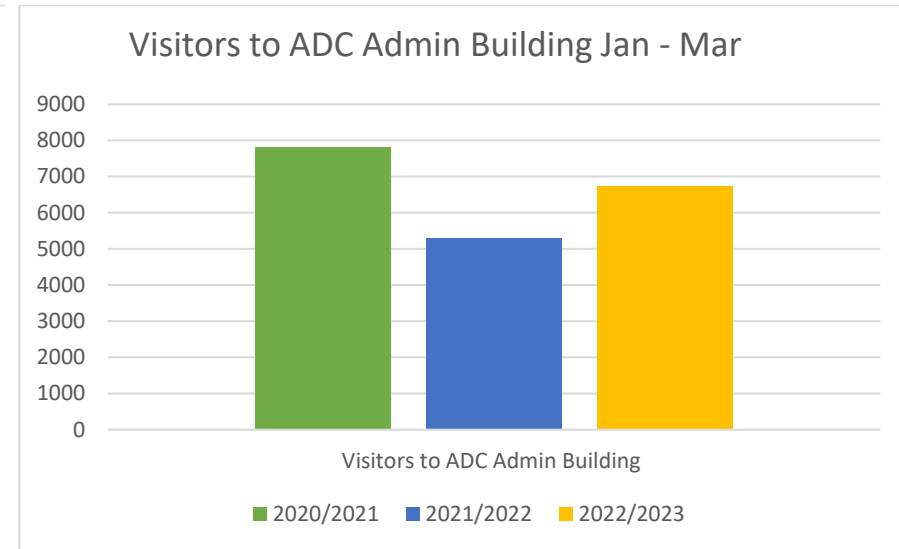
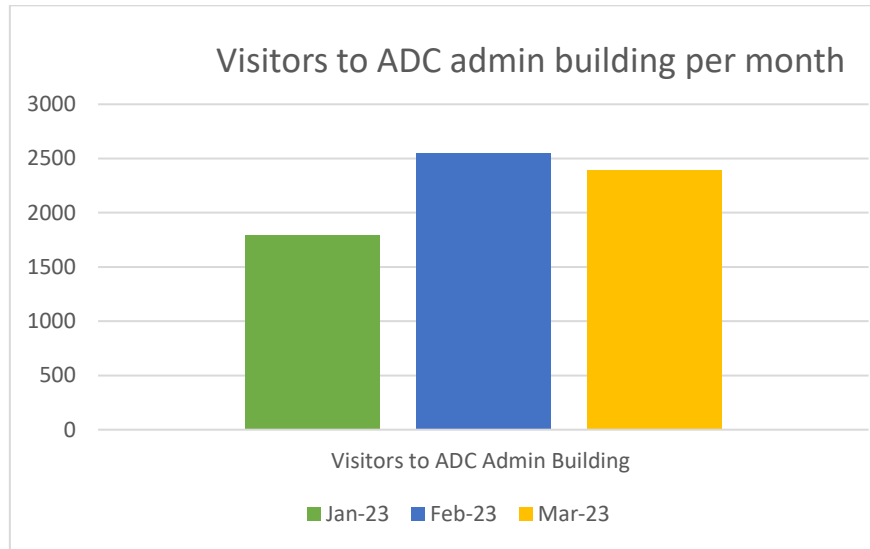
Collections and Research		
Activity/Programme	Description	Date
Research Enquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Archivist responded to 39 research enquiries in March, 27 of which were from the public. 	March 2023
Collection Development and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquisition of new items, cataloguing and rehousing projects, environmental monitoring and pest management continues. Work on uploading collection records to PastPerfect Online continues. 	March 2023
ADC Art Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff are waiting for conservation work to be completed on eights works currently undergoing treatment. 	March 2023

Media and Promotion		
Activity/Programme	Description	Date
Reviews/Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Archivist and Collections Registrar wrote four articles for the <i>Ashburton Guardian</i>’s heritage page in March about Land Girls on the Home Front during WWII, an 1896 photographic calendar of Ashburton businesses, British sculptor Eric Aumonier and his connection to Ashburton, and Cantabrian Forester ‘Toffee’ Adams. Audrey Baldwin’s <i>THIS IS FINE, EVERYTHING’S FINE</i> exhibition was featured in <i>The Press</i> and on <i>Stuff.co.nz</i> as the first of the ‘top 10 must-see exhibitions in Canterbury in April’ 	March 2023

Articles and Blog Posts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Archivist and Collections Registrar wrote four articles for the Ashburton Guardian's heritage page in February about our Sharing Histories exhibition, Hefford & Co, Samuel Butler's Mesopotamia and the W.H Rule Acme water filter. 	March 2023
--------------------------------	--	------------

1.4 Customer Services

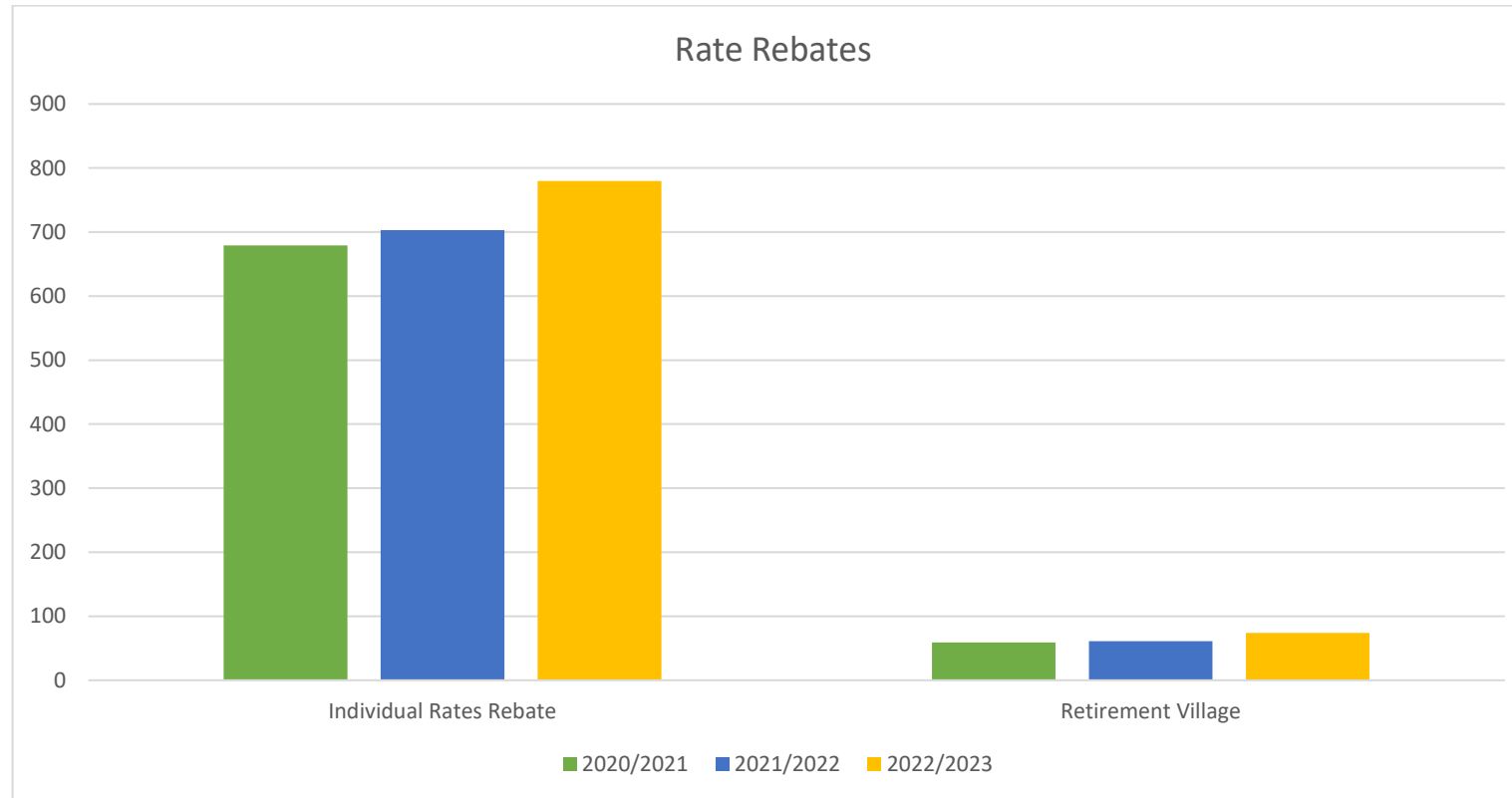
1.4.1 Visitors to ADC administration building



Comments:

- Following on from February, steady foot traffic continued during March.
- The second graph shows that visitors to the administration building for the quarter ended 31 March is much higher than in 2021/22, which was greatly affected by the Covid lockdown. Visitor levels have not yet returned to the levels seen during 2020/21, however, as more customers are choosing to complete their transactions online.

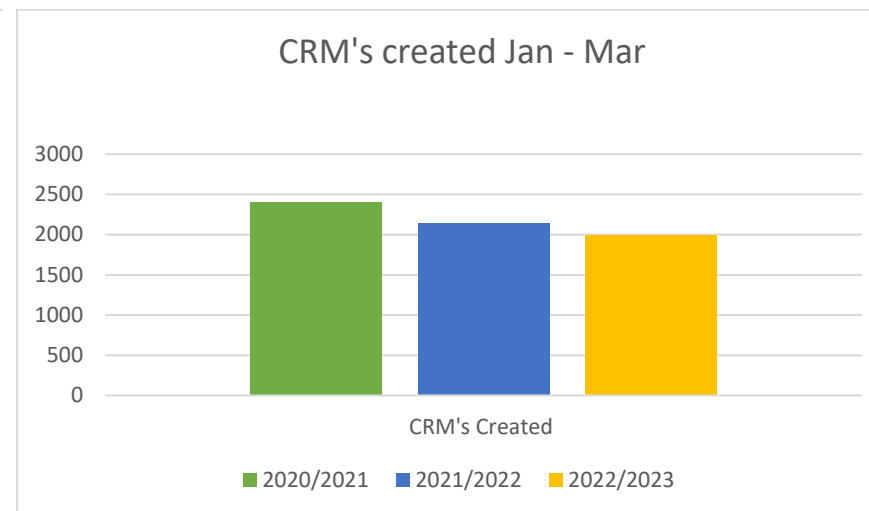
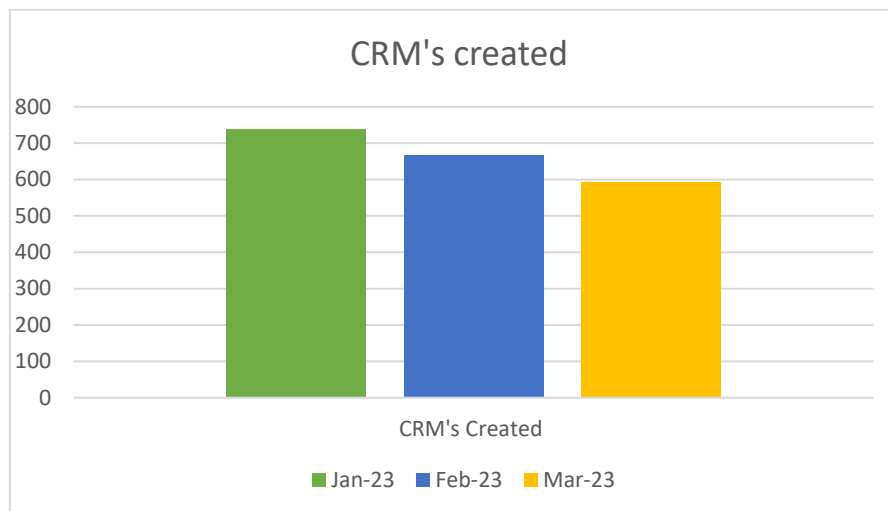
1.4.2 Rate Rebates



Comments:

- Rate Rebate Applications coming into Council continue at a steady pace for this time of year.
- Applications will continue to be received through to 30 June as some ratepayers like to have their rebate deducted from their last instalment in May.

1.4.3 CRMs Created



Comments:

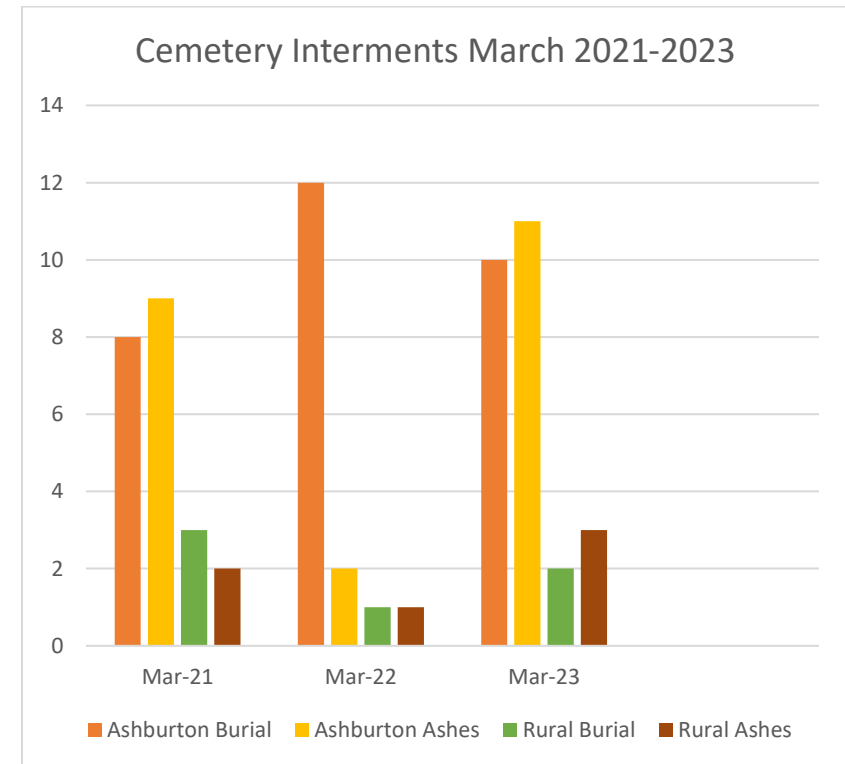
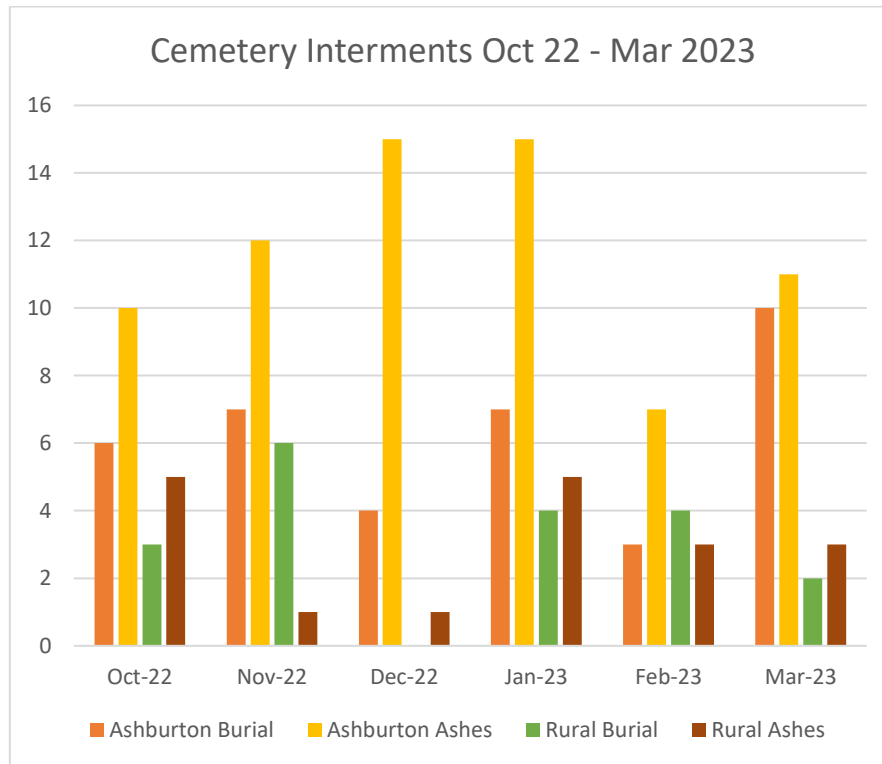
Top (8) categories	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	Previous
Assets – Water	183	174	129	496	494
Roading	138	144	156	438	407
Kerbside	170	135	127	432	420
Animals	81	70	53	204	233
Information	32	34	53	119	85
Noise nuisance	40	28	18	86	109
Trees	28	30	21	79	72
Property	18	10	16	44	46

- The highest number of CRM's received during March related to roading.
- For the three-month period to 31 March, water received the highest number of CRM's, followed by roading and kerbside collection.

2. Infrastructure & Open Spaces

2.1 Open Spaces

2.1.1 Cemeteries



2.1.2 Activities – items of importance

Cemeteries

- Late summer early Autumn continues to be busy for district cemeteries. With one third more burials than the previous year and an increase overall in ashes.
- Work commenced in April on the Ashburton Cemetery driveway rebuild / sealing project. The roading contractor, Fulton Hogan are installing curb and channel at the time of writing. They will then install soak pits and prepare the surface for sealing. It is the middle entrance at Ashburton Cemetery from Bremners Road down and around the RSA flagpole in the new cemetery then linking up with the asphalt driveway in the recently developed Seafeld Road cemetery block.
- Staff continue to have regular contact with local undertakers on various cemetery matters.
- Replacement Cemetery rubbish bins have been ordered for Ashburton Cemetery and staff will install the bins as a matter of course thereafter.
- An additional six seats are being installed at the Bremners Road area of the Ashburton Cemetery.
- Methven Cemetery is to have extra trees to be planted along walkway on cemetery side, over Autumn. An additional four seats will also be installed.
- Staff are continuing to spread mulch around the native plantings on the bund at the Methven Cemetery.

Open Space Management

- The Open Spaces management team continue to work on delivery of scheduled capital work projects, as profiled in the Long Term Plan.
- Work on Reserve Management Plans (RMPs) continues with the first draft reviewed by staff. A Council workshop was held in late April seeking Council input. There will also be a report to the Council meeting early May seeking Council approval to consult the community and seek initial feedback on items for inclusion or change to what is currently provided. Work on reserve classifications is continuing.
- Work on the updating of the Open Spaces Asset Management Plan is progressing. It is envisaged that this plan will be complete by 30 June 2023 in time to be included in the 2024-34 LTP process which is developed in the next financial year. Staff are currently populating data for future site requirements, scheduled replacements and asset renewals.
- Open Spaces Supervisors remain focused on cyclical maintenance rounds as autumn conditions and leaf fall commence in earnest.
- Assessment of the District tree stocks continues with the rural cemeteries next on the list for review.
- Biodiversity staff are now commencing work on developing the Biodiversity Strategy.
- Open Spaces has two new starters(replacements) commencing employment at the start of May.

Ashburton Domain

- Domain paddling pool is now closed for the winter.
- Staff have removed all the summer annuals as their season has passed and the winter crop will be planted out around the district in the coming weeks.
- The installation of a flying fox has commenced with soil being imported to the site to build up a ramp. Staff are now eagerly awaiting the next stage of this development, the runway installation and plantings around the tower.
- Other capital renewals or new asset additions are pending, such as the new pathway from the corner of West and Wills Streets to the Domain office, resurfacing of existing hard surfaces and services and lighting upgrades at the Grigg Street Domain entrance. A lot of work is scheduled in the coming months. Some pond plant extractions have also occurred.
- In preparation of the new pathway, there was one young tree, a Ginkgo Biloba (maidenhair tree) estimated at ten years of age, needing to be moved. It was transplanted using a treespade, about 30 meters to the west. Photo below:



Ashburton Domain (continued)

- Staff are also working with bridge providers on a replacement option for one in the Domain and one at Awa Awa Rata Reserve.
- Mowing is still continuing all over the district with growth only gradually slowing down. In warmer more sheltered areas, we are still seeing spring like growth occurring with the easily identifiable aromas of freshly cut grass present.
- The Domain spring annual bedding plants have been planted and the nursery is emptying out as plants head out around the district.
- Scheduled replacement of some roses expected to occur in June.
- Seed orders for next annual cycles in 2023/24 have been placed and staff are working through a couple of changes as a result of supply challenges.
- Another project about to kick off in the Domain is the mapping of water pipelines in the Domain.
- Various Council staff are working towards delivering a coronation planting to mark King Charles's Coronation in the Domain. The planting of three *Prumnopitys taxifolia*, native Mataī or black pine, It will occur on the morning of 6 May, with the Mayor unveiling a plaque.

General Parks and Reserves and Gardens

- Staff continue to undertake scheduled playground maintenance around the district with weekly and monthly checks being undertaken.
- Site preparations for development plantings at Awa Awa Rata Reserve are progressing. Staff now have a date of 17 May for the arrival of a collection of Rhododendrons from Pukeiti Rhododendron Gardens, a nationally renowned reserve operated by the Taranaki Regional Council.
- The old Awa Awa Rata public toilet will be demolished in the coming weeks.
- The onset of Autumn is giving the community colourful displays on the trees as leaves start to change colour. This is particularly evident on the English Beech, Oak, Ash, Liquidambar and Tulip trees.
- Planning is currently underway to apply additional canine enrichment features at the Methven dog park. Once staff have a draft plan, it will be shared with the Methven Community Board for comment prior to finalising.
- Weed control remains in full swing with weed growth remaining constant.
- Most of the current crop of annual bedding plants district wide, have been removed at the time of writing and replanting is imminent. The nursery is full of new seedlings that are ready to go and be planted out in the coming weeks.
- Street garden maintenance continues, and staff are identifying opportunities for improvement in the plantings.
- Ashburton neighborhood parks are being broadleaf sprayed. This will control unwanted species in the lawns.
- New picnic tables and a drinking fountain are about to be installed at the Ashburton North SH1 layby.

General Parks and Reserves and Gardens (continued)

- A new track has been installed in the Ashburton Dog Park small dog area. The installation of more canine enrichment features will occur in the coming weeks. In the 'all dog' area, it has also had a track installed and new earth mound sown in grass. This mound is fenced off to let grass establish. Once the land settles next year, we will then complete a track at the east end. There will also be dog agility equipment installed in this area.
- Stumps from various reserve and amenity areas have been removed and staff have been re-soiling and seeding these sites.
- Open Spaces staff assisted Biodiversity staff with a planting job at the Rakaia Gorge site, adjacent to the Rakaia River.
- Ashburton sportsfields have had fertiliser applied. This application is in line with the advice received from the NZ Sports Turf Institute following its last assessment of the fields.
- Lake Hood public toilets are to have new doors installed. They will include new and better locking mechanisms. This will solve historic issues.
- Over the past number of months there has been a lot of additions and asset replacements in a number of reserves. There have been park bench seats or picnic tables installed at Wisteria, Friedlander and Hillier Place. Seats installed at the Devon, Digby, Osborn and Tucker Street Parks.
- Staff are working through a plan to create efficiencies in watering systems around the district. The use of fitted irrigation systems and electronic controllers will ultimately deliver better solutions for the community and the plants with watering occurring in the cooler parts of the day creating water savings as well as labour savings with removing staff from having to regularly put out and take in hoses. This will also remove a potential trip hazard.
- The new Asbury Grove Playground, in Tinwald is progressing. Concept and detailed design for the new playground has been completed, and procurement is underway.

Trees

- Various stump grinding continues around the district. Locations vary from road reserves, recreational reserves and cemeteries. Usually, the sites are returned to grass so re-soiling and seeding is required to reinstate areas back to lawn.
- Replacement street trees on Redhaven Rise and Torbay Ave have been completed. Further turf reinstatement is required and will occur soon.
- In the coming months there are some more scheduled street tree removals. These are in Buchanan Street and Burton Place. Letters have been sent out to residents to inform them of the proposed works along with a timeline. These trees have caused residents issues for a long time. The replacement trees will be planted next financial year.
- Additional and new street trees are about to be planted on Glassey Drive and Woodham Drive. This will occur after residents have been notified, this is currently underway.
- We have lost one of the recently planted street trees on Burnett Street. It will be replaced this winter.

Public Conveniences

- Taylors rest area new facilities are open and working well. It has some new picnic tables installed and one reinstated.
- Work is progressing on the replacement of Rakaia Gorge facilities. Resource Consent has been granted, and procurement has concluded. Pricing is still underway for the Matariki viewing deck. All these workstreams have been occurring concurrently to expedite the project.
- The Rakaia Domain new facility is in the final planning stages with a recent meeting and regular dialogue between Council staff and representatives of the Rakaia redevelopment project and their architect on the procurement, timeline and scheduling of works.
- The replacement Mayfield facility at the time of writing is 95+ % complete in the factory with preparations for changeover onsite underway.
- Lake Camp replacement toilets are underway. The new unit, a single unisex dry vault facility has arrived at the local installers yard and will be installed as soon as ground works are complete. There will be some native plantings between the new facility and the road where the facility backs onto the Hakatere Potts Road, with a veranda and accessible access facing the Southwest. Once commissioned, there will be directional signage installed at the western area of Lake Camp to direct the public to the new toilets.
- The Hinds Domain public toilet is experiencing ongoing issues and has done for some time. Staff investigations to date have revealed that other similar solutions for this type of septic disposal are also experiencing ongoing issues with a number having already been removed and replaced. The most recent issue was around Anzac Day where there were multiple issues with the infrastructure (pumps) as well as the equipment being clogged up with baby wipes. It resulted in the facility remaining closed for a number of days. Staff have requested a professional opinion on the current state of play and possible rectifications. It is planned to include the 'fix' (currently unknown) in the upcoming AMP and LTP for funding.

2.1.3 Biodiversity

Biodiversity protection

- The Lake Camp/Clearwater Landscape Management Plan is under review as part of the 30-year long-term plan implementation. The council ecologist/biodiversity advisor is proposing to establish native shelterbelts to replace all the existing exotic shelterbelts over time. In-house discussion is ongoing on the fate of the Pinus contorta shelterbelt at Lake Clearwater Campground.
- Annual animal pest control around Lake Camp/Clearwater completed; 51 rabbits, 4 hares and 2 possums were dispatched using our approved contractor.

Biodiversity Planting

Rakaia Gorge, Area of Significant Conservation Values (ASCV) site

- Replacement planting of eco-sourced native plants to replace the old-man pine tree completed, with around 700 native plants.
- Reinstating the walking access to the Rakaia Riverbed is ongoing. Historic signage precluding vehicular access to the riverbed will be refreshed to reconfirm to the public the level of access provided.

Wakanui Beach

- Restoration planting with natives at the boundary with private farmland completed by a group of volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Saints as part of their community project. 678 natives were planted, and planting accessories were installed on the same day.

Biodiversity Community Engagement

Lake Camp/Clearwater Volunteer Day

- Wilding Pine Volunteer Day was completed on Saturday 22 April 2023 at Lake Camp/Clearwater by a mix of Council staff, Hut holders and community members with an interest in biodiversity. Over a thousand regenerating wilding pines, silver birches and other weeds were removed.

Proposed Projects (Planting and Weed control)

Harris Scientific Reserve Planting

- A coronation planting to mark King Charles's Coronation and recognise volunteers' efforts in the district is planned for 6 May 2023. This is a collaborative planting among Volunteer Mid-Canterbury, Ashburton District Council and Ashburton Community Conservation Trust.
- Awa Awa rata Reserve
- Wetland native planting around the reserve to improve the wetland ecosystem health, planned for May 2023.
- Bowyers Stream Reserve
- Replanting of the reserve section adjoining the riverbank with natives after bank repair work by ECan and Roding team, planned for May 2023.

Taylor's Stream Reserve

- Removal of sycamores around the reserve and replanting with natives is planned for May/June 2023.

2.2 Solid Waste Management

2.2.1 Solid Waste Collection and Audits – March 2023

Town/Area						Watch List						Strike 2 Pull Backs						Strike 3 Confiscations					Returned Bins	
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Methven & villages	161	169	201	229	232	258	126	131	147	168	168	160	6	9	7	8	8	12	10	10	13	14	15	15
Showgrounds Area	98	104	96	133	137	130	70	63	78	84	85	80	23	23	19	22	22	26	10	11	15	14	14	15
Extended Triangle (Allenton)	127	132	138	188	185	196	68	70	96	126	112	122	18	19	19	19	23	23	12	13	14	16	13	14
Racecourse Area	88	84	86	103	112	99	48	49	49	62	46	48	10	10	8	5	5	5	12	12	13	16	16	16
Beach Road Area	142	148	166	227	241	220	74	79	101	133	121	110	15	13	15	16	15	14	13	15	14	16	17	18
Tinwald/Lake Hood	155	160	153	201	207	210	124	96	97	124	136	149	13	13	16	16	14	16	8	8	7	9	11	10
Hampstead Area	138	135	133	128	157	158	93	92	86	87	117	126	19	20	20	20	20	22	23	23	23	21	24	26
W.Tinwald & Hinds	80	88	111	141	168	169	48	47	56	83	103	110	4	4	4	4	4	5	3	6	6	6	6	6
Argyle Park Area	95	93	86	88	105	96	54	55	53	51	66	82	6	8	7	7	7	7	6	6	7	7	7	7
E.Town/Chertsey/Rakaia	194	196	218	256	266	267	94	99	99	107	124	139	13	13	14	14	15	17	8	8	8	11	9	9
	1278	1309	1388	1694	1810	1803	799	781	862	1025	1078	1126	127	132	129	131	133	147	105	112	120	130	132	136

- The number of households on the watchlist is steadily increasing in the past 2-months. More than 100 properties are added in March. Increase is not attributed from an area but is common for all areas in the district.
- The number of Strike 2 offenders has remained trending proportional to the numbers on the watch list.
- The number of Strike 3 confiscations has remained approximately 10% of the watch in the past 6 months.


2.2.2 Solid Waste Management

- The contractor has officially requested the extension of the contract for a further two years from 31 August 2024. The awarding of the two-year extension is at the sole discretion of Council, and a report will be prepared by Officers with a recommendation being presented to Council for approval at the Council meeting to be held on 17 May.
- In 2000, the Ashburton landfill was closed, and the site capped and grassed as part of the post-closure management plan. The southwest slope faces the Ashburton River and over time has been affected by weather and water runoff. The slope needs capping remediation and fill material added to the slope to make it less steep and less prone to erosion. A Landfill Closure Management Plan has been approved by E-Can, and the works are included in the Southwest Slope Remediation contract. A contract has been awarded to Fulton Hogan to start work on Phase 1 of the plan. The plan developed 11 phases or sites to be capped.
- Council has approved a budget of \$50,000 per year for landfill closure. Staff will seek council approval for an increase in landfill closure budget in the next LTP.

2.2.3 Waste Education

- The audit team are continuing kerbside audits across the district.
- The team attended the Active Healthy Tamariki Expo at the EANC on 29 March. 580 children attended this expo where topics such as building worm farms, recycling and being smart with water were explored with the children.
- A waste station was run at the Chertsey School Fair on Saturday 1 April with over 300 people attending.

2.3 3Waters Projects

Project	Description	Progress
Methven Water Reservoir - Reliant Solutions Limited	Construction of two reservoirs, associated pipe works, valves, meters, fencing and access track. Project value is \$1.7m plus a contingency sum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of Tank No 2 is practically complete. Commissioning has started and is expected to be completed in the next 3 weeks. Structural investigation for existing concrete tank has been completed. Beca is preparing the report.
Contract WATER0220 – Supply of Membrane and Balance of Plant (BOP) for Methven and Mt Somers	The supply, installation and commissioning of membrane plants for Mt Somers and Methven.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masons Engineers NZ are working with ACL and McIntosh Commercial Construction building the Methven Membrane plant.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building construction is progressing as programmed and is on track to allow the installation of the membrane tracks in May 2023. The membrane is programmed to be commissioned by winter 2023. The Architectural and Structural drawings for construction of the Mt Somers Membrane plant have been recently issued by the design consultants (BECA).

Project	Description	Progress
Contract WAT0236 – Water Pipeline Renewals Contract	Renewal of potable water pipelines in Ashburton, Methven, Rakaia and Hinds, and the associated fittings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The contract was awarded with two separable proportions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separable Portion 1 has been completed. Separable Portion 2 commenced in McKerrow Street, Methven which has been completed. Work on Archibald Street will be delayed due to Waka Kotahi activities. It is expected that works will be completed by the end of June 2023 (total of 8 sites). Pipe laying to connect the Methven Springfield water supply to the Methven Water supply scheme was included in the contract as separable proportion No. 4. Work commenced in November and was completed in March.
Contract WWAT089 - NW Ashburton Wastewater Servicing Contract	Installation of approximately 2 kilometres of gravity pipe network on Farm Road, Carters Road and Allens Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pipe laying works in Allens, Carters and Farm Roads are complete. The laying of the in-ground storage tank on Allens Road is completed. Installation of the pump station has commenced and is expected to be completed in May 2023 as programmed.
Contract WATE0289 - Ashburton District Council Watermain Renewals 2022/2023	Watermain renewals in Ashburton, Hinds, Methven & Hakatere.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The contract period is for two (2) financial years. The contract will commence in April 2023 and finish in June 2024 The Request for Tender was advertised on Tenderlink from 7 March to 6 April 2023. Five tenders were received when the tender closed on 6 April. A report will be presented to 3 May Council meeting to award to contract.
Ashburton Wastewater Renewals 2022-2023	The sites are located in Elizabeth Street, Willis Street, Cameron Street, Princes Street, Nixon Street, Kermode Street and Willian Street in Ashburton.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tender was released 21 April 2023 Tender is scheduled to close on 19 May 2023 A Contract award report will be presented to the 7 June Council meeting Some dates may be altered due to unforeseen circumstances. Where this may affect tender submission tenderers will be informed of new dates.

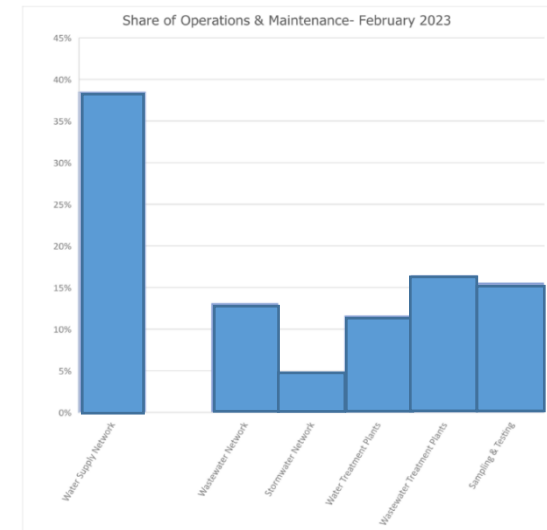
2.4 CBD Upgrade Project

- The replacement of three trees adjacent to the public toilets on East Street remains to be undertaken.

2.5 Waters Operations

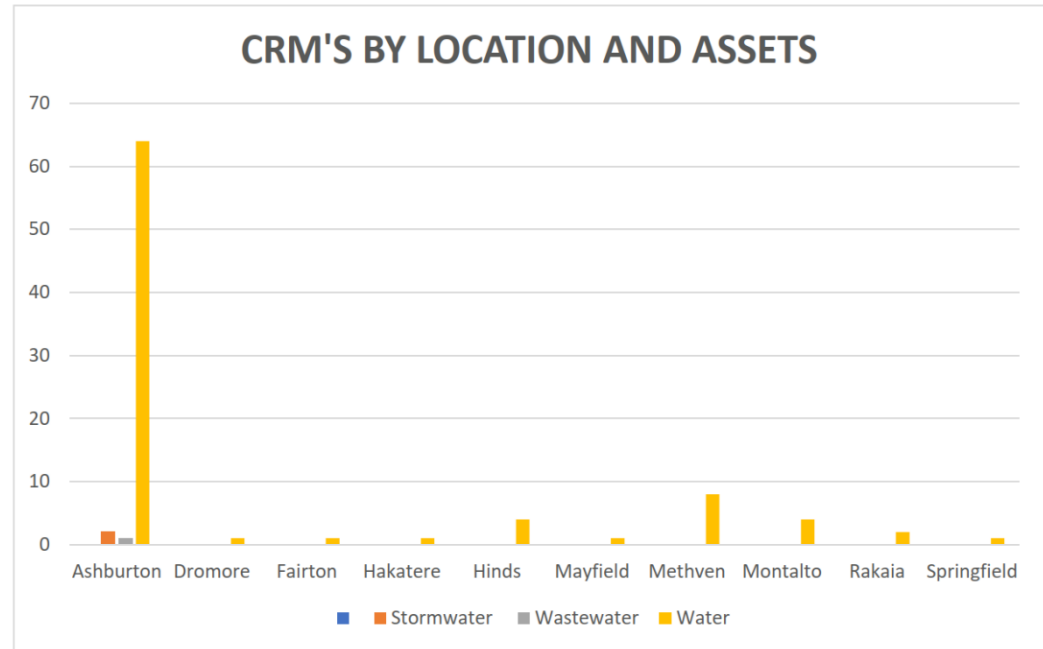
2.5.1 General Contract Management

- Thirty-eight percent of contract works are related to the operations and maintenance of the water supply network. The work includes repair of leaks, inspection of connections and water meters.
- Repair of sewer pipes, unclogging of blockages and small sewer pipe renewals make up 14% of contract works.
- Like the previous months, approximately 28% of contract works is related to ensuring that the performance of the water treatment plants (12%) and wastewater treatment plants (16%) are within operational standards.
- Sampling and testing represent approximately 16% of the contract activities.
- Only 5% of contract works is related to stormwater activities mainly unclogging of sumps and mains during heavy downpours.
- Proactive maintenance for February is mainly investigating the structural integrity of sewer and stormwater manholes.
- The contractor has been continuously proactively exercising water valves to investigate operational integrity and confirming its locations. Exercising of valves means operating a valve at least one full cycle until the valve operates freely with little resistance. Sometimes it takes several full cycles.



CRMs by Location

Location	Number	%
Ashburton	67	74
Chertsey	0	0
Dromore	1	1
Fairton	1	1
Hinds	4	5
Mayfield	1	1
Methven	8	9
Montalto	4	5
Mt Somers	0	0
Ocean Farm	0	0
Rakaia	2	2
Springfield	1	1
Hakatere	1	1
Tinwald	0	0
Total	90	100



CRMs by Category

Category	Number	%
Pipe Burst and Leaks on watermains	54	60
Water (meter, toby, connection, etc)	20	22
Blocked Sewer	0	0
Water Pressure	1	1
Sewer	1	1
Stormwater	2	2
Others	12	13
Total	90	100%

- The majority of CRMs in March are from Ashburton (74%).
- 82% of CRMs are drinking water related, of which 80% are pipe burst and leaks on the watermains.
- There is only 1 wastewater main related CRMs in March and no blocked sewers.
- There 2 stormwater related CRMs.

2.5.2 Water Sampling and Water Quality Monitoring

- The new Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand came into effect on 14 November 2022. The new standards impose more stringent sampling and reporting requirements. The changes have resulted in the number of samples that are required to be collected and the sampling frequency increasing significantly. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources available to undertake this additional sampling activities. A decision has been made that Council will discontinue providing sampling services for private water suppliers as of Friday 30 June 2023. Letters were sent out to private suppliers to advise them of the changes.

2.6 Asset Management

2.6.1 3 Waters Reform

- Officers are continuing to collate information for the Commercial and Legal RFI. This was originally due to be returned end of March but has been extended until end of April. This revised deadline appears to be achievable at this point.
- With the repositioning of the Government proposal to “Affordable Water Reform”, and in particular the news that timeframes to complete the reform have been extended until no later than 1 July 2026. It was hoped that there may be some respite to the speed of activity within the National Transition Unit (NTU) however there appears to be no slow down at this point.
- Officers attended a NTU stormwater workstream presentation on how stormwater assets will be triaged to determine which stormwater assets transfer to new entities and which remain under the control of Council. In this respect, stormwater has often been cited as the more complex of the 3 waters activities. The process proposed is well thought out and appears very efficient and should minimise officer time inputs. An interesting statistic that came out of the presentation was the results from pilot testing of the approach. This indicated that around 50% of what are currently considered stormwater assets would remain with Councils.

2.7 Drinking Water

2.7.1 Boil Water Notices

- A boil water notice (BWN) was issued for the **Mount Somers water supply** on Friday 14 April following a week of rain and a period of intense rainfall. The ultraviolet transmissivity (UVT) was low and initial observations indicated the UV treatment was non-compliant. Further and subsequent investigations confirmed that the UV equipment was functioning correctly and not compromised at any time. This allowed for the lifting of the BWN the following day once samples taken on the previous day were confirmed free from contamination.
- A boil water notice (BWN) was issued for the **Methven Springfield water supply** on Saturday 15 April following a week of rain and a period of intense rainfall. The raw water turbidity exceeded the threshold for effective UV treatment. The turbidity started to improve from Sunday morning. This allowed the follow-up testing to commence from later that Sunday. The BWN was lifted on 19 April as soon as the third clear test was confirmed.

2.7.2 Methven Fluoridation

- There is no longer any fluoride at the water treatment plant and the dosing equipment has now been turned off. Fluoride concentrations in the water supply may take a few days to reach zero.
- A reply from the Director-General of Health has been received acknowledging Council's situation and noting progress on the new water treatment facility under construction.

2.7.3 Laboratory Annual Assessment

- The annual IANZ assessment of the Council's laboratory has been confirmed for 26 May. Officers are currently reviewing and updating supporting documents and procedures in preparation for the assessment.

2.7.4 Laboratory Future

- The announced delay to the water reforms poses a decision for Council to consider soon. The Council laboratory is a Level 2 recognised lab, one of six remaining in the country. This category existed to provide water suppliers who typically needed to carry out a very limited number of tests methods (e.g. testing for total coliforms and/or E.Coli monitoring) could do so through the Level 2 recognition.
- Similar to Part 2A of the Health Act 1956, the Water Services Act 2021 (WSA), requires all water testing to be carried out by an accredited laboratory (refer relevant clause [here](#)). However, with the new legislation, level 2 recognition no longer exists. Any laboratory that held this recognition at the commencement of the WSA will retain recognition until 15 November 2024 (refer TA website [here](#)).

- Council as water supplier has no option but to use a recognised lab after 15 November 2024. Council as operator of the laboratory can make the decision to lift the status of the laboratory in order to continue to be recognised under the legislation. Officers are currently investigating what would be involved to lift the laboratory status. Once this work is complete, the matter will be brought to Council for consideration.

2.8 Wastewater

2.8.1 Rakaia Effluent Pivot

- A bucket test was carried out on the recently commissioned effluent pivot irrigator at Rakaia wastewater treatment plant. This was thought to be a formality however the results revealed that the pivot failed the uniformity part of the test. The matter is being followed up with the supplier and installer.

2.9 Stormwater

2.9.1 Mount Somers

- Beca have been commissioned to carry out the investigations into a potential cut-off drain to protect the Mt Somers Township. The output from this work will be an issues and options report covering up to three options with potential drain alignments. The report will support future discussions with E-Can.
- The total cost of the approved work is estimated at ~\$27,000 and will be funded from the rural stormwater cost centre.

2.10 Stockwater

2.10.1 General

- Mains race cleaning is continuing across the district with some parts of the network having their second or third cleaning due to the continuing wet and warm conditions. Once the frosts arrive, the weed growth will slow.
- The RDR are shutting their scheme down from 4 May to 18 May to undertake upgrade work on the fish screen. They will endeavour to maintain our stockwater supply for the duration. In preparation of the shutdown, a letter has been sent to all our stockwater users in the area advising of the shutdown and recommending alternatives be available if needed.
- New closure applications are continuing to be received from around the district.
- Following the Anama area stockwater focus group meeting on Monday 27 February a further survey of the affected parties has been carried out. The survey is to understand the extent of need for those who still require stockwater. The results are being collated and will be presented at the next Focus Group meeting in early May.

2.10.2 Scarness Weir Abatement Notice

- Beca has been engaged to assist with the retrospective consenting of the structure. This work comprises a number of tasks as follows: site visit (completed); topographical survey upstream and downstream of the site (completed); development of a consent strategy; concept design; preparation of AEE; and preparation of consent application. It is envisaged an application will be lodged on or about 12 June. The total estimated cost of the work through to lodgement is \$70,000 exc GST.
- ECan have formally advised of a change the compliance date of the abatement notice. It now requires the matter to be addressed by 20 November 2023.

2.10.3 HHWET and Managed Aquifer recharge (MAR)

- Officers from the Hekeao Hinds Water Enhancement Trust met with Council officers to progress confirming access to additional blocks of Council land and scope of MAR/ADC race sharing proposal, which is initially focussed on a supply via the Brothers intake supplied race system to convey water to the original Frasers Road MAR site. Note:- These proposals have been agreed in principle previously by Council.
- Implementing this race share would provide HHWET a supply alternative at times when the MHV networks are unavailable to convey water. The water being conveyed would be from the water allocation already made available to HHWET (and for which they already hold consent).
- This proposal requires either agreement by ECan of a water swap (to allow MAR water to be taken from the South Ashburton), or the pumping of water directly from the RDR to augment the Valetta Westerfield main race. The water swap option is favoured as it negates the need for pumping. HHWET are progressing seeking agreement of the water swap with ECan and ADC officers are confirming the implications of a trial of race sharing.

2.10.4 Applications

- A summary of the current applications is listed below:

Stockwater closures/alterations/culvert installation applications as at 26 April 2023									
PHASES									
Application ID	Location	Length*	No of properties	1	2	3	4	5	Comments
SKW/008/22	Brothers Road	12,164	17						To be completed by 2024
SKW/009/22	Forest Drive	0	1						Physical work to be completed
SKW/013/22	Back Track	4,431	10						More information sought
SKW/018/22	Rangitata Terrace Road	4,519	5						More information sought
SKW/019/22	83 Massey Road	0	2						Physical work to be completed
SKW/029/22	226 Frasers Road	609	5						More information sought
SKW/034/22	792 Lismore Mayfield Road	9,026	10						More information sought
SKW/003/23	393 Stranges Road	0	1						Physical work to be completed
SKW/004/23	384 Methven Chertsey Road	360	2						Physical work to be completed
SKW/005/23	1077 Rangitata Highway	13,023	8						Physical work to be completed
SKW/006/23	874 Barford Road	430	2						Physical work to be completed
SKW/007/23	1049 Stranges Road	4516	6						Received
SKW/008/23	1170 Ashburton River Road	9623	7						Received
SKW/009/23	384 Methven Chertsey Road	1,305	1						Received
	Phase complete		Phases:	Application received	Information gathering	Review significance and scope	Reporting and decision making	Sign off work completed and rates/GIS update	
	On track								
	Overdue								

*Note: a 0 in the length column relates to a culvert or pump service installation application - no race is being closed.

2.11 Roads and Footpaths

2.11.1 2022/23 financial year expenditure

- 83% of the maintenance and renewals budget has been spent.
- This does not include the cost for the response and repair work from the heavy rain event in July.
- The request for additional Emergency Works funding of \$2,308,317 has been approved by Waka Kotahi. The full approved cost has been claimed and paid.
- Footpath renewal expenditure is at 15%. The footpath renewal sites are under construction so most of the full budget will be spent by 30 June 2023.

2.11.2 Main areas of work

- 5,121 km of unsealed roads graded.
- 14,298 m³ of maintenance metal placed along with 29,302 m³ associated with flood repairs. A further 32,384 m³ programmed to be placed by the end of June 2023.
- 59 km of reseals have been completed.
- The main areas of focus have been ongoing routine sealed and unsealed pavement maintenance. Heavy Maintenance sites programmed for May are:
 - Maronan Valetta Road
 - Arundel Rakaia Gorge Road (near Rangitata River bridge)
 - Fords Road
 - Forest Drive
 - Pudding Hill Road

2.11.3 Sealed Road Rehabilitation

- Rehabilitation has been completed on Arundel Rakaia Gorge Road, Ashburton Staveley Road, Mayfield Valetta Road, Thompsons Track north of Line Road, Barford Road near Orchards Road and Barford Road near Hackthorne Road.
- Construction is in progress on Thompsons Track near Blands Road and also in progress on Forks Road.
- Remediation works have been completed on Ashburton Staveley Road.
- Seal widening construction has been sealed on Mayfield Valetta Road with the road marking to be painted.

2.11.4 Local road improvements and new footpaths

- New kerb and channel and footpath construction is in progress on Tarbottons Rd, Wilkin St, Grove St, Woodham Dr, Gray St, Wills St, William St, Cameron St, Havelock St, Burnett St, Tancred St and Wellington St. These sites are all under construction and working with the contractor to have sites completed as soon as possible.
- The undergrounding of the power on Racecourse Rd is now unlikely to be completed to enable the kerb and channel and footpath to be constructed in the 2022/23 year. We will keep working with EA Networks to have this completed as soon as possible.

2.12 Contracts - Upcoming Tenders

Contract/Tender	Date tendered
WATE0293 Rakaia Second Drinking Water Bore	24 March 2023
WATE0289 – Ashburton District Wastewater Renewals	21 April 2023

3. Compliance & Development

3.1 Building Services

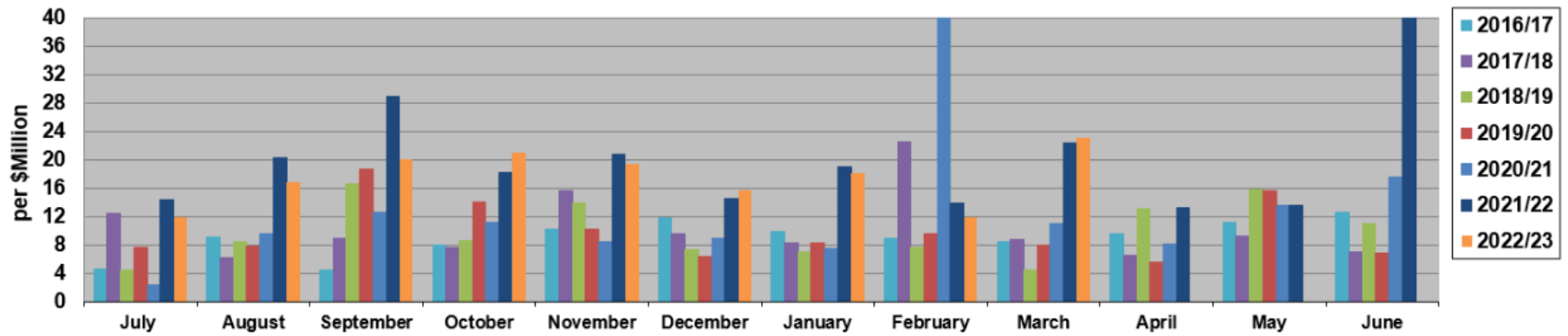
3.1.1 Building consents / amendments

Month	Building Consents				% Processed within 20 Days	Average Processing Days	Inspections Carried Out (max wait time in brackets)	CCC Issued within 20 Days
	Received	Received YTD	Issued	Issued YTD				
April	56 (74)	648 (582)	58 (59)	624 (503)	67.2%	18.9	328 (10)	100%
May	74 (98)	722 (680)	65 (74)	689 (577)	65.1%	21.1	398 (10)	96.9%
June	78 (71)	799 (751)	88 (72)	765 (649)	50%	25.8	345 (10)	100%
July	66 (76)	66 (76)	43 (64)	43 (64)	53.5%	21.7	321 (7)	98.9%
August	69 (47)	135 (123)	51 (38)	94 (102)	47.1%	21.0	358 (10)	97.9%
September	60 (75)	195 (198)	64 (86)	158 (188)	39.1%	23.0	366 (10)	97.3%
October	55 (60)	250 (258)	64 (69)	222 (257)	32.8%	22.8	368 (10)	100%
November	56 (71)	306 (329)	52 (55)	275 (312)	44.2%	24.9	361 (10)	98.3%
December	32 (38)	338 (367)	57 (53)	332 (365)	49.1%	23.1	333 (10)	100%
January	56 (61)	394 (428)	48 (46)	380 (411)	58.3%	20.8	219 (5)	100%
February	50 (51)	443 (479)	47 (59)	427 (470)	80.9%	14.3	320 (5)	100%
March	80 (110)	523 (589)	47 (96)	478 (566)	70.8%	18.9	438 (5)	100%
Note: figures in brackets are for the corresponding month during the previous year.								

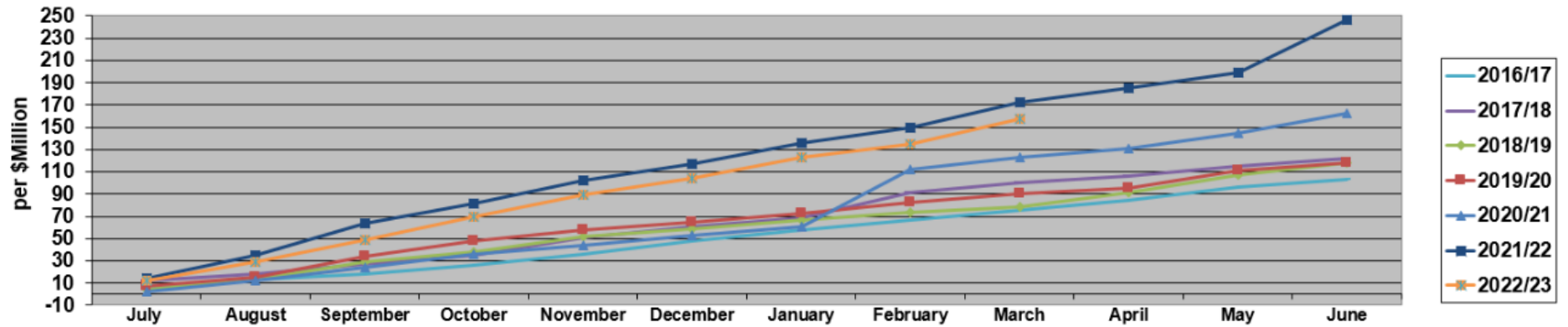
Month	BC Value of Work			
	Received	Received YTD	Issued	Issued YTD
April	\$14,905,654 (\$13,709,442)	\$210,345,548 (\$171,052,141)	\$13,295,188 (\$8,142,678)	\$176,642,118 (\$131,364,438)
May	\$13,027,570 (\$22,420,108)	\$223,373,118 (\$193,472,249)	\$15,724,521 (\$13,538,179)	\$192,366,639 (\$144,902,617)
June	\$26,608,674 (\$19,240,993)	\$249,912,942 (\$214,713,242)	\$47,342,412 (\$17,509,197)	\$237,462,951 (\$164,411,814)
July	\$19,070,838 (\$19,080,527)	\$19,070,838 (\$19,080,527)	\$11,771,787 (\$14,325,251)	\$11,771,787 (\$14,325,251)
August	\$16,279,502 (\$11,440,552)	\$35,350,340 (\$30,521,079)	\$10,711,920 (\$20,293,764)	\$22,483,707 (\$34,619,015)
September	\$21,935,138 (\$25,917,675)	\$57,285,478 (\$56,438,754)	\$20,074,812 (\$28,958,306)	\$42,558,519 (\$63,577,321)
October	\$16,760,643 (\$21,667,808)	\$74,458,481 (\$78,106,562)	\$20,484,017 (\$18,248,787)	\$63,042,536 (\$81,826,108)
November	\$23,121,793 (\$21,756,185)	\$97,580,274 (\$99,862,747)	\$19,347,252 (\$17,868,388)	\$82,822,917 (\$99,694,496)
December	\$13,811,240 (\$11,423,360)	\$111,391,514 (\$111,286,106)	\$15,729,540 (\$14,455,849)	\$98,552,457 (\$114,150,345)
January	\$15,209,792 (\$16,688,544)	\$126,601,306 (\$127,974,651)	\$18,111,744 (\$12,879,953)	\$116,664,201 (\$127,030,298)
February	\$14,353,875 (\$11,328,367)	\$145,435,181 (\$139,303,018)	\$12,253,667 (\$13,900,058)	\$128,917,868 (\$140,930,355)
March	\$17,093,386 (\$55,206,875)	\$163,205,362 (\$194,509,893)	\$23,143,790 (\$22,416,574)	\$152,927,658 (\$163,346,929)
Note: figures in brackets are for the corresponding month during the previous year.				

Month	Building Amendment				% Processed within 20 Days
	Received	Received YTD	Issued	Issued YTD	
April	26 (8)	179 (159)	16 (4)	157 (151)	100%
May	28 (21)	207 (180)	38 (25)	195 (176)	100%
June	29 (12)	236 (192)	21 (10)	216 (186)	100%
July	36 (25)	36 (25)	35 (26)	35 (26)	100%
August	32 (11)	68 (36)	24 (12)	59 (38)	100%
September	26 (14)	94 (50)	35 (13)	94 (51)	100%
October	29 (26)	123 (76)	28 (24)	122 (75)	100%
November	31 (20)	154 (96)	20 (16)	142 (91)	100%
December	22 (16)	176 (112)	24 (20)	166 (111)	95.8%
January	16 (6)	194 (118)	13 (2)	179 (113)	100%
February	33 (16)	227 (134)	40 (15)	219 (128)	97.4%
March	35 (19)	265 (153)	35 (13)	256 (141)	100%
Note: figures in brackets are for the corresponding month during the previous year.					

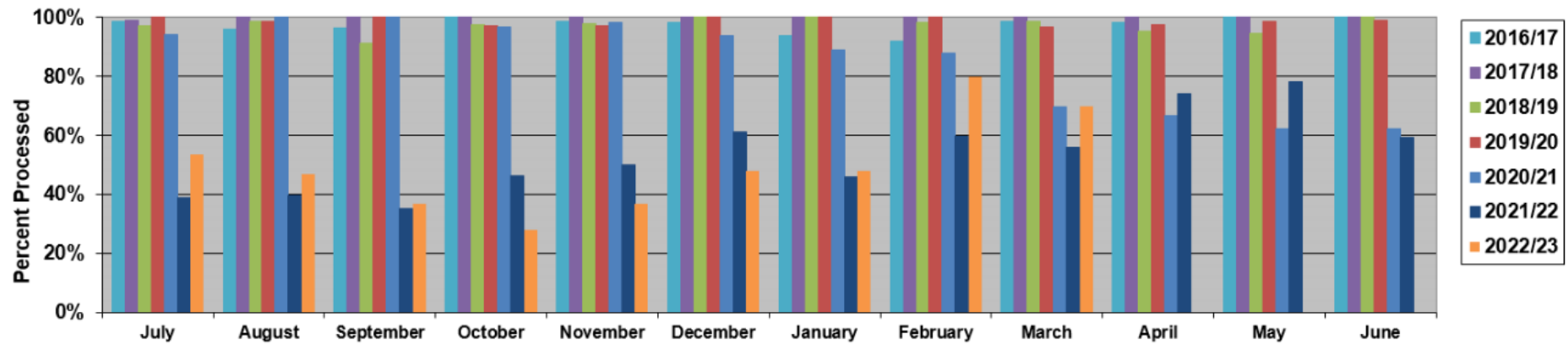
Building Consent Values By Month



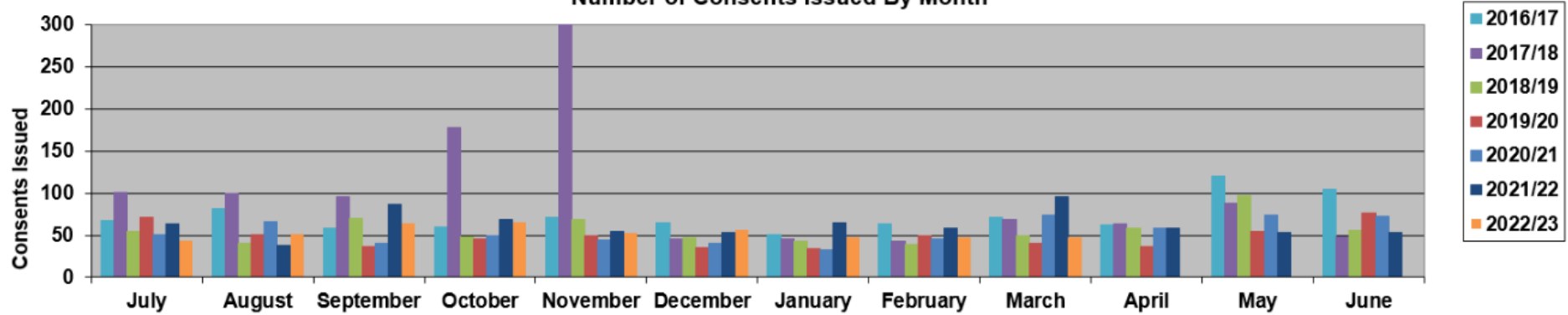
Building Consent Values Accumulating



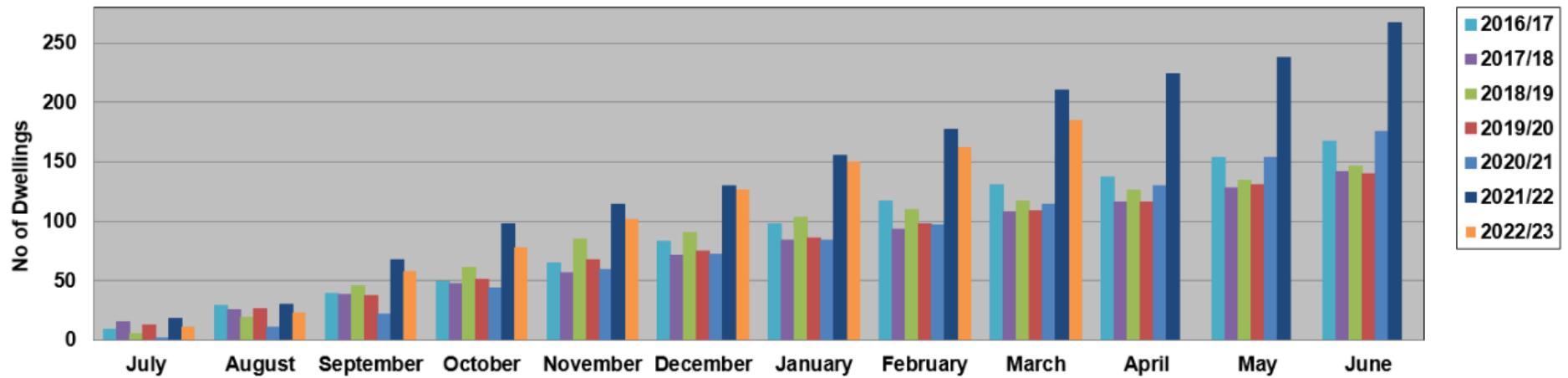
Building Consents Processed Within 20 Day Statutory Time Frame



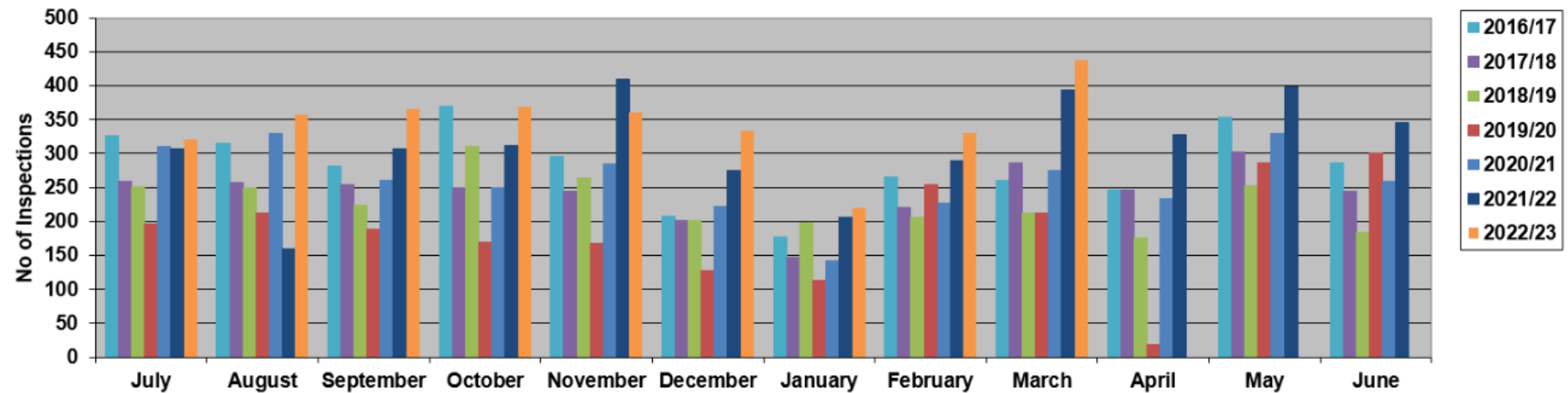
Number of Consents Issued By Month



Number of Dwelling Consents Accumulating



Number of Inspections Completed



- March continued the trend of at least one new house consent a day being received so far this year. With the changes to the glazing rules coming into effect in May there may be a similar trend for April as builders try to beat the changes.
- Processing time compliance was down a bit due to the number of inspectors we had to get out in the field to enable work to continue and this is reflected by the large number of inspections that was carried out in the month.
- Plan changes and product substitutions are still almost double last year and influence processing times as well.

3.2 Civil Defence Emergency Management

3.2.1 March 2023

- March commenced with the presentation of awards to three longstanding volunteers within Ashburton Civil Defence, marking 10 years of volunteer service. This was followed by the EMO providing an induction on Civil Defence Emergency Management to elected members and an AF-8 presentation. Planning continued for the AF-8 roadshow visit to the district on May 9 and 10, to be hosted by the Ashburton College.
- The EMO attended Childrens Day and was colocated with the other emergency services from Ashburton District. Although the weather was wet, there was still a reasonable turnout for the day.
- The Age Concern Expo also occurred during this week, with members of the Customer Services team providing cover for the EMO on the ADC display as the EMO was on bereavement leave.
- There were several in district meetings conducted with partner agencies such as ACL, EA Networks, Neighbourhood Support and rural FENZ Brigades, as well as the monthly rehearsal for the EOC Duty Watch setting up the EOC. The EMO also attended a meeting of the Mid & South Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Coordinating Committee (MSCCDEMCC) in Timaru. This committee focusses on fostering relationships with emergency services and other response agencies within the Mid/South Canterbury area. The EMO also delivered items to the Methven Community Civil Defence Team to allow them to provide a stand at the Methven A & P Show.
- The Welfare Volunteers, along with EOC Welfare Managers and the EMO conducted a short exercise setting up a Civil Defence Community Hub at Hakatere Huts. We were hosted by the local community in their Community Hall. This gave the volunteers the chance to set up stretchers, a welfare box, radios, the Broadband Global Area Network (BGAN) and a Starlink system, which proved to be the most popular “attraction” of the day. We then shared food and the EMO briefed the community on our capability and took questions. The afternoon was very successful and enjoyed by all parties with the locals being provided with a snapshot of what CDEM can offer and the volunteers enjoying the training opportunity. There are plans to repeat this exercise in other halls around the district to enhance our welfare capability.

- An Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Level two course was conducted in Waimate on 22 March, with two staff from Ashburton in attendance. This training focusses on what is expected of EOC staff in an event.
- A planning workshop for the review of the Mid/South Canterbury AF-8 Initial Response plan was conducted in Timaru in late March and later that same week a CDEM Group Workplan Workshop was conducted in Taitapu. Both of these activities allowed for the EMO to work with other regional staff on planning for events and focussing on what the workplan for the region will encompass over the next three to five years.
- The EMO received an email from Te Pae Tata, FENZ, regarding their Firebreak Policy launch, providing information regarding this new FENZ policy and also a copy of a case study conducted at Lake Clearwater. The recommendations from the case study were that a firebreak was placed on the western side of the Lake Clearwater Village, 270 m long, 10 m wide which would be mowed by the local community and have a sprinkler system installed to keep the firebreak green and free from fuel. Discussions with FENZ revealed that funding for this project had been provided by ADC, with collaboration from the local community, ECan, DOC and emergency services. It was hoped that permission from DOC was imminent, and the project would be completed soon. This firebreak will provide resilience to the community to “buy time” for the local rural fire force to deploy and fight any fire from the west.

3.3 Alcohol Licensing / Bylaw Monitoring & Enforcement

Month	On/OFF/Club new applications	On/Off/Club renewal application	Special Licence applications	Managers Certificates (new and renewal)	Temporary Authority
April	2	1	4	27	1
May	0	3	5	7	0
June	5	1	6	17	0
July	0	4	4	19	0
August	2	0	8	13	0
September	0	2	9	14	0
October	0	4	6	14	0
November	0	2	8	27	1
December	0	9	5	11	1
January	0	2	1	7	0
February	0	1	6	19	2
March	1	1	10	11	1

3.4 Animal Control

The following is a breakdown of animal control activities for the reporting period:

Month	Dogs currently registered	Known un-registered dogs	% of dogs registered	Infringements	Dogs Seized	Dogs Euthanized	Dogs rehomed	Barking dog letters sent	Reports of wandering stock
April	6557	513	92.7%	6	4	0	0	4	3
May	6590	444	93.8%	26	9	0	0	5	8
June	6953	75	98.9%	4	12	0	0	3	4
July	5097	1990	71.9%	0	4	0	0	11	7
August	6110	963	86.3%	4	10	2	2	5	3
September	6271	787	88.8%	9	5	0	2	8	5
October	6374	666	90.6%	21	13	2	0	4	3
November	6459	601	91.4%	25	10	0	2	4	2
December	6484	580	91.5%	5	16	0	1	4	8
January	6559	521	92.6%	3	5	2	1	7	6
February	6743	274	96.0%	20	9	0	2	0	2
March	6847	132	98.0%	49	8	1	0	1	3

- 22 Notices to Register Dog (NTR's) were served during March for unregistered dogs, of which all were undeclared dogs.

3.5 Environmental Health

The following is a breakdown of Environmental Health activities for the reporting period:

Month	Food Premise Verifications	Food Control Plans Audited	Mobile shops/food stall inspections	Mentoring Sessions	Hairdresser inspections
April	3	3	0	0	1
May	16	16	0	0	1
June	8	8	0	0	2
July	2	2	0	0	37
August	11	11	2	0	8
September	8	8	0	0	0
October	9	9	0	0	1
November	27	27	0	0	0
December	17	17	0	0	0
January	13	13	0	0	1
February	11	11	*74	0	5
March	9	9	0	0	1

* includes Ashburton Market Day monitoring of mobile shops and food stalls

3.6 Planning

Resource Consents	March 2022	March 2023
No. of resource consent applications decided ₁	23	19
No. of resource consents decided within statutory timeframe	23	19
Resource consent KPI Compliance (accumulating)	97.9%	98.7%
Notified/ Limited notified applications decided	0	0
Other:		
No. of 223 Certificates processed	10	9
No. of 224 Certificates processed	10	6
No. of building consents reviewed against District Plan ₂	39	19

Land information memoranda	March 2022	March 2023
LIMs Produced	91	88
LIMs Produced within 10 working days	91	88
LIMS (accumulating)	736	546

Note: The above tables show statistics for Planning Team activity over the reporting period.

3.7 Economic Development

3.7.1 Economic Development – items of importance

Economic Development

- Ongoing, officers will continue to work on projects with developers, potential investors, and stakeholders.

Specific to this period:

District Promotion

- The **development** of District Promotion Activities is progressing well, all visitor sector businesses in Mid Canterbury are being contacted to better understand their needs. Work is well progressed in getting ready for TRENZ, a pre TRENZ famil visit with 16 international buyers will take place on 8th May and Mid Canterbury's schedule in TRENZ itself is almost completed booked. This will mean that Officers will be talking to 50 buyers from around the world in structured 15 minute interviews over the three days.

Regional Skills Leadership Group (RSLG)

- Further meetings have taken place between Officers and Board Members from the Regional Skills and Leadership Group (RSLG). Officers are working to support RSLG in the development of a focussed response to the Primary Sectors Labour Market needs and the inclusion of a Primary Sector initiative in the Canterbury Skills Strategy. Workshops are being discussed for businesses in Mid Canterbury to be able to feed into this Strategy and Action Plan.

Mayoral Forum for Economic Development

- The Mayoral Forum for Economic Development met in March, the attendees agreed that many issues being faced in our respective Districts were commonly shared and a joint paper recommending a joint response has been sent to the Chief Executives Group for support. The main focus was on skills and labour shortages, immigration settings and the availability of housing to allow growth.

Note: Projects above may have the developers and investors details removed to protect their commercial interests.

3.7.2 Items of importance

Events Programme 2022/23

Council Events

- Officers have been requested to move Citizenship Ceremonies to occur during the daytime rather than in the evenings. The June ceremony will still be an evening event, but the final two ceremonies for 2023 will look to be held during the daytime.
- Plans are ongoing for Ashburton Glow in the Park 2023. Officers have secured two corporate sponsors, but another five large sponsors are required. In addition, a number of Glow Partners at \$1000 per lighting feature are also still required.
- ANZAC road closures have been approved and this event will continue as it has done in the past.
- The King's Coronation will see a tree planting occur in the Royal Lawn within the Ashburton Domain, with a plaque unveiling on Saturday 6th May. This will then be followed by a visit to the Harris Reserve to engage with local volunteers undertaking plantings at this location. The King is a big advocate for volunteering, so this event is in conjunction with Volunteering Mid Canterbury.
- Work continues progressing automation of the event application process, with officers currently reviewing the option to work with one of the Council's internal systems - TechnologyOne.

Community Events

- Rotary and RSA ran the Lest We Forget Memorial Run or Walk in the Ashburton Domain on 2 April. This event had not run the last few years due to COVID.
- The Octopus Fair was in the Ashburton Domain during Easter Weekend. This is a repeat vendor who was in town for four days of family activities such as fairground rides, shops and food.
- Little Honey Company ran a community Easter Egg Hunt in the domain on Easter Saturday and Easter Monday. People purchased an ice cream or honey from them and were given a clue sheet to begin the hunt.
- Mid Canterbury Dog Training Club ran their Flygility Tournament in the Tinwald Domain on 16th April.
- Wheels Week events for the Vintage Car Club Swap Meet and the Street Sprints are in the final stages of being permitted.

Upcoming Events and Activities

- Officers are working with the Gypsy Fair to have this event in the Ashburton Domain 22-23 April 2023. This is also a repeat vendor in town offering family activities such as fair ground rides, shops, and food.
- Officers are working with Mt Hutt to facilitate a large celebration in Methven this August. The event will be over 4 days and is part of their 50th Birthday. This event has a large focus on the centre of town rather than just the mountain, so will be a community celebration as well.
- 20th May will likely see the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) run a C-tier event on the disc golf course in Smallbone Reserve with up to 72 participants, closing this area to the public whilst the event is on.
- 20th May will see the Mid Canterbury Timebank run the inaugural “The Amazing Race Ashburton”. Challenges are all in the wider Ashburton township and will test each team's mental, physical, creative and teamwork skills.

3.7.3 Ashburton Youth Council

Ashburton Youth Council 2023

- Recruitment has been going really well; the recent recruitment drive has resulted in a number of young people joining AYC:
 - Between the March and April AYC meetings officers received 11 applications interested in AYC.
 - Since the April meeting, officers have received another 10 applications which are invited to the May meeting.
- Numbers of young people attending the April meeting grew to 9 attendees.
 - At the meeting ADC’s Emergency Management Officer presented the AF8 video and talked to the group about being prepared for an emergency event. At a future meeting we are having an interactive preparedness workshop where AYC and parents can take part.
- The recruitment campaign will end at the end of April, however, should any young people be interested in joining they will still be able to apply through the AYC web page.
- Officers met with Canterbury Youth Worker Collective to discuss how we can support our AYC youth providing us with practical information and exercises on supervision learning and supporting ideas. AYC was also invited to participate in a CHCH youth market on the 20th May, this will be tabled at the next meeting. Officers were invited to a Youth Coordinators Network meeting planned for May in Christchurch, this will be an important networking opportunity.

3.7.4 Welcoming Communities

Welcoming Communities

- Officers are working with the Ethnic Leaders Forum and Hakatere Multicultural Council about a Multicultural day for Welcoming Week in September. Officers will continue to update Councillors with progress as we move towards Welcoming Week.
- Officers attended the April Hakatere Multicultural Council meeting and participated in the draft of their business plan. The plan will have outcomes and actions that Welcoming Communities and other groups in council can support and collaborate in.
- Officers met with Red Cross NZ to discuss refugee employment and how Welcoming Communities and Red Cross can identify employers willing to take on someone and support our former refugees to understand what a kiwi work week looks like.
- Officers attended Ashburton Refugee Stakeholder meeting. At the beginning of April there will 58 active former refugees.
- Some of the original families to Ashburton are now moving to different areas of New Zealand to support children in tertiary education, different job prospects and a city environment. Safer Mid Canterbury are now working with Immigration New Zealand to choose families with younger children, so they stay and settle for longer. All former refugees left on good terms.
- Safer Mid Canterbury is now fully funded with 11 staff to support the district's former refugees, including cultural navigators and health professionals and 25 volunteers.
- The Settlement Steering Group are supporting Safer Mid Canterbury by writing to the Ministry of Social Development, highlighting that establishment grants need to be increased.
- The refreshed New Comers guide is being redeveloped with support from Citizens Advice and the New Comers Network. The refreshed guide will feature updated information to support newcomers, migrants, and former refugees who settling in Ashburton.
- The new Welcoming Plan continues to have activities and groups added to the draft.
- Officers are working internally with other teams to gather evidence from Council activities to support our application for Advanced Welcoming Communities accreditation later in 2023.

Pressure points identified for former refugees are:

- the lack of public transport;
- re-establishment grants from MSD not being insufficient for families to pay bond, rents and household needs and clothing; and
- there are no trauma (psychological) / treatment centres in Ashburton.

3.7.5 Workforce Development

Workforce Development

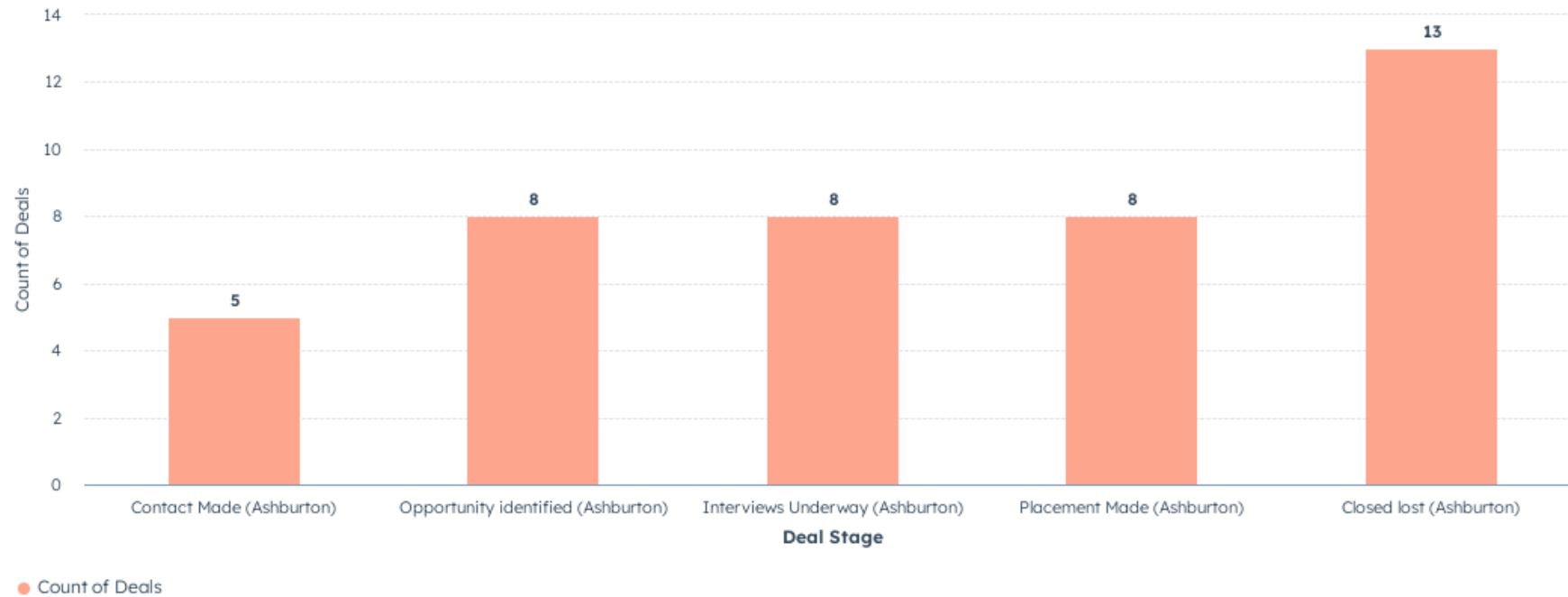
Presentation to RSLG

- Officers presented to the March meeting and discussed the inclusion of the Primary Sector into the next revision of the Canterbury Skills Strategy.
- A range of initiatives were discussed, and Officers will work with members of the RSLG Board to progress these over the coming weeks.
- Two meetings have been held to further develop the approach to improving labour market initiatives across Canterbury and specifically in Mid Canterbury. A workshop for early June is being considered that will bring employers from the Primary Sector to work with Officers and RSLG members to develop an Implementation Plan for the Skill Strategy.
- Mayoral Forum for Economic Development
- Officers hosted a meeting with Connected, Ministry of Education (MOE), Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and the Mid Canterbury Newcomers Network.
- Discussions were held regarding Youth initiatives in Canterbury including partnership evenings.
- NCEA changes that will be announced April, including zero fees, strengthening literacy and numeracy requirements and assessments, and simplifying NCEA structure.
- During the meeting it was discussed how Council, MOE, MSD, Community Organisations and Schools can work together to provide pathways for students during and after school attendance. It was agreed that everyone present should continue to meeting and progress projects that support the success of young people in the District.

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

Deal totals by stage in Ashburton

Date range: All time



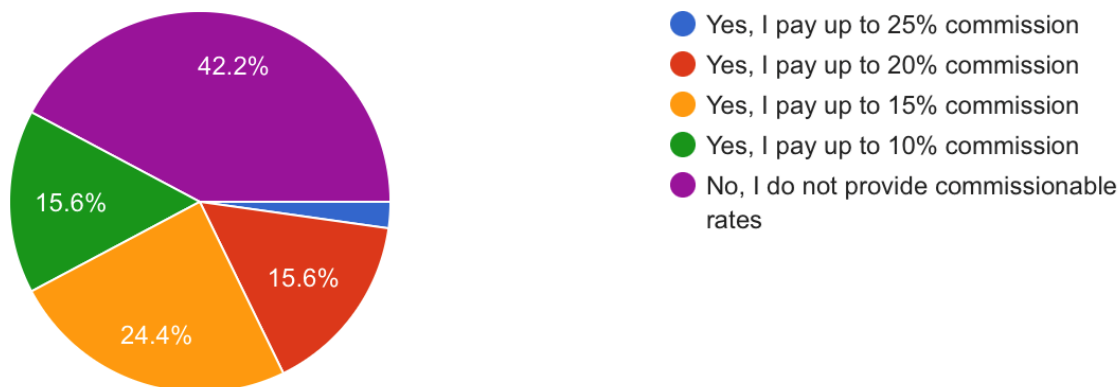
Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (continued)

- Eight placements have been made to full-time employment and another three are in pre-employment training programmes, with another five in the recruitment process. One young person is in training undertaking a level 4 certificate in Interior Design.
- The programme continues to gather pace and officers continue to develop relationships with job seekers and employers. There are now 45 employers attached to MTFJ, and 29 job seekers, with 6 of them in work and 1 enrolled in education.
- Mayor Brown came and met both the employers and the young person for the very first placement with Allied Security and the CDHB. This was received extremely well by both parties. He continues to talk about MTFJ with his business connections to encourage new employers to become involved.
- The goal is to continue the momentum to reach the target of 12 by the end of June, officers remain confident that this target will be exceeded by the end of the contractual period.
- Getting out into workplaces has seen some great engagement with employers. They are keen for anything that is going to help them employ, train and retain good people. It is important that the right matches are made so the job seekers are doing something they enjoy, because if you enjoy it, you are good at it, and if you are good at it, you will do well at it – this becomes a win for both the employer and the employee.
- 5 people have been referred to get their driving licence.
- 2 have obtained their learners, with officer acted as the reader for both tests.
- 1 person has passed their full licence.
- 2 others are booked for either their restricted or full.
- There have been a variety of barriers for job seekers with some very easy to solve and others a little more complex. The big uptake of Clearhead, the counselling service offered by MTFJ, shows a need that is now being filled.
- Licensing seems to be the ongoing challenge to getting people into work because they can't drive themselves until they have their restricted license, and then they need a vehicle to drive. Without public transport it is a huge barrier for job seekers. The Salvation Army is a good solution as they offer free lessons and have 4 cars available in Ashburton for people to learn in.

3.7.6 Visitor Promotion

Visitor Promotion

- TRENZ preparations are well advanced with 50 appointments made to meet with buyers from across the world. The three day conference in Christchurch runs from 8th May until the 11th May.
- Mid Canterbury will host a pre TRENZ Famil visit on the 8th May with 16 buyers spending the day in the region. They will be shown the Inland Scenic and the operators along the route, visit Opuke Pools, lunch at Farmers Corner and visit the Aviation Museum before heading back to Christchurch for the opening ceremony of TRENZ.
- Operator Feedback is currently being compiled and will be presented in the next Activity Briefing, so far 46 operators have been contacted.
 - Of the operators consulted with only 16 are providing commission rates that allow for sustainable international trade relationships.



- Regional marketing was the single most reported intervention that Council could do on behalf of the sector.
- Many operators indicated that they had received no or little support from Experience Mid Canterbury and were skeptical about how this would change in the future.
- An Operator get together is being planned for the end of May, this will give Operators the chance to meet Council Officers and discuss their needs and ideas. 70% of operators contacted indicated that would attend such events.
- Neat Places were commissioned to undertake content development activity, examples of the campaigns produced can be seen below.

Christchurch & Canterbury

Neat Places

Stories

Eat & Drink

Culture

Shops

Stay & Explore

To Methven & Beyond: A Weekend Getaway Guide

Methven is an outdoor playground, and thanks to some recent additions to the town scene, there's even more reason to visit this mountainside community on the western edge of the Canterbury Plains.

Words by: Johnny Gibson

Photos by: Nancy Zhou

Methven has long been the gateway to Mt Hutt, a small Canterbury rural town that dramatically increases in size come winter but is traditionally pretty quiet come summer. However, things are a changing as this alpine-inspired village has added more to its repertoire and overall appeal. If there's snow and Mt Hutt is open, then it goes without saying a day on the slopes is unbeatable. However, this guide is for the rest of the year when the ski season is not in play.

1

Early Morning Hike - Rakaia Gorge Walkway

609 Rakaia Gorge Road, Windwhist

Pack some snacks, start your trip on the right foot and reap the benefits of an early morning hike by tackling the Rakaia Gorge Walkway. This 10-km trail should take three to four hours and will lead you across farmland, forest, glaciers, carved terraces, geological sites and the old Shodoran coal mine entry, all before you reach the summit lookout point. The track starts off State Highway 72 inland Scenic Route on the edge of the Rakaia River.

2

Well-earned Lunch Buzz at Topp Country Café

45 Forest Drive, Methven

Time to head back to Methven for some much-needed lunch. Now, it's not every day you track into a café and bump into a Dorian, but at Topp Country Café you're in luck. Run by Lynda Topp, one of New Zealand's loved Topp Twisted entertainers, together with wife Donna, here you can sip a cuppa and spot a celebrity in the kitchen. The menu includes the classics and the cabaret tables for hungry eyes, but it does seem like the place is their crowd pleaser, made exclusively by Canterbury Spinroad. Whenever your sensory decisions fall, it's good to keep in mind there are usually some old fashion suggestions like writing in the cabaret too. We're looking at you, cream doughnut! And guess what? You've already hit your steps for the day!

Christchurch & Canterbury

Neat Places

Stories

Eat & Drink

Culture

Shops

Stay & Explore

How to Slow Down in Ashburton: A Guide to Elevating The Drive Through

From gua buns to boutiques, artistry and espresso, there's more to Ashburton than meets the eye. So next time you pass through this Mid Canterbury town, put your foot on the brakes and try some curated exploration. You'll leave feeling better off for it.

Words by: Johnny Gibson

Photos by: Nancy Zhou

We've all been there - coming upon Ashburton after straight road driving through rural plains and small towns. But have you ever taken the time to slow your drive-through and look under the covers of this sizeable rural township? Luckily for you, we have, and we can tell you, it's worth putting some time aside.

1

Caffeine and Much More - Triangle Espresso

Corner Cafe & 114 Victoria Street, Ashburton

Every town needs a go-to café—a place where the coffee is consistent, there's enticing fresh food and plenty of local chat. For Ashburton, this is Triangle Espresso, a stylish black box with a killer cabinet and menu. Our pick? The Special, a pour-over with best-of-burnt, smooth-tasting and mouth-tingling pepper—winning! The staff are super friendly, and its modern, stylish vibe means all the senses are filled before hitting the road again.

2

Shop with Ease for Eco and Designer Clothes

427 West Street (Simply Eco) // 248 East Street, Ashburton (Hyde Boutique)

Sometimes, you need a little retail therapy, especially after those straight roads in and out of Ashburton. Thankfully, this town has a few hidden retail gems that are well worth seeking out. Tucked away within the Ashford Village, Simply Eco champions environmentally friendly, natural and reusable products. There are cheap items in our own homes we could replace with something a little more eco-friendly, and this space, run by a mother-and-daughter team, is the perfect place to do it. They run a little e-commerce studio in the space too.

Christchurch & Canterbury

Neat Places

Stories

Eat & Drink

Culture

Shops

Stay & Explore

Mid-Canterbury Adventures & Where to Treat Yourself Afterwards

Mid Canterbury is a district well worth visiting, as there are endless tramping opportunities, thermal pools, motorsport and adventure-filled gems.

Words by: Johnny Gibson

Photos by: Nancy Zhou & Getty Images

Mid Canterbury has many stunning scenery and adventure options, from the coastal plains to the highland mountain range and river basins. To help you on your journey, we've highlighted our picks of where to head and, more importantly, where to go afterwards to reward yourself with the best in countryside hospitality.

1

The Hakatere Conservation Park, Mount Sunday Track & Panthers Rock Country Pub

89 Hakatere Heron Road (Hakatere Conservation Park) & 2006 Arundel Rakaia Gorge Road, Mayfield (Panthers Rock Country Pub)

Covering nearly 60,000 hectares of mountain country, clear rivers and tussock land, the Hakatere Conservation Park is the gem of Mid Canterbury. With such a big area, there are endless track and summit possibilities, but by just driving into the park you will be well rewarded. An easy way is Mount Sunday. The small hill summit is only a 30 min walk to the top. Once there, you'll have spectacular mountain, river and countryside views. This location was also the site of Edmon from The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers movie.

Once you've captured that movie-quality landscape shot, it's time to hit the flat back and head to a local country pub. Panthers Rock is situated in the small town of Mayfield, some what put on the map thanks to Overflow, a second-hand shop worth seeking out. At the pub, you'll be treated to some relaxed, quality service from owners Deb and Nick. Their passion for hospitality is evident in the well-crafted spaces, including the popular beer garden. Food options are plentiful and tasty as, so settle in and enjoy. Plus, you might be the one to have the next big on sighting.

2

Staveley Ice Rink & Staveley Store

244 Pymms Road (Staveley Ice Rink); 2 Burgess Road (Staveley Store)

The Staveley ice skating rink has been around since 1951 and is one of the few natural ice skating locations left in New Zealand. Unfortunately, warmer times have meant unpredictable winters and less time on the ice. However, that's not enough to stop the good folk at The Staveley Hall Society, who have been looking after the rink for the last 30 years. The team and community are on a mission to raise funds to add a refrigerated base to the rink so it can be used year-round.

73

Neat Places

Your guide to:

Ōtautahi

North

Auckland
Hamilton
Hastings
Havelock North
New Plymouth & Taranaki
Palmerston North
Rotorua
Wellington
Porirua

South

Christchurch & Canterbury
South Canterbury
Dunedin
Kaikōura
Nelson Tasman
Ōamaru & Waitaki
Southland
Wānaka

Printed Guides

Order your Neat Places printed city guides

Subscribe

Get Neat Places in your inbox

Follow



Christchurch & Canterbury

♥ Favourites

📍 Map

Search Christchurch & Canterbury



Stories

Eat & Drink

Bars

Cafés

Goods

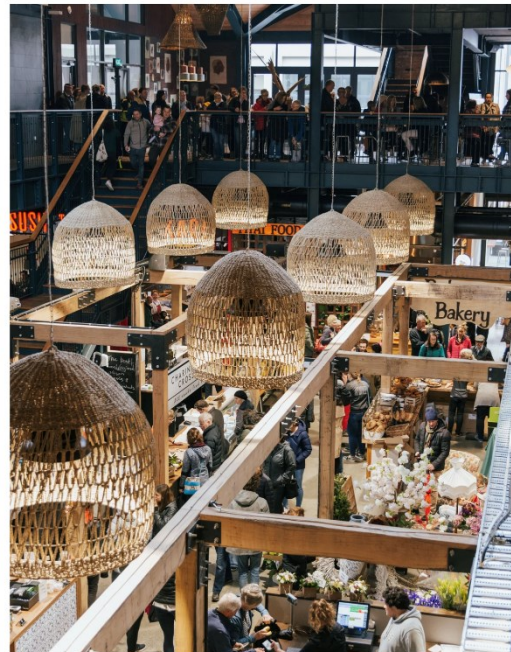
Restaurants

Culture

Shops

Stay & Explore

12 Hours Christchurch



12hr

The best things to see, eat, and do in Christchurch

Mid-Canterbury Adventures & Where to Treat Yourself Afterwards



Story

Mid Canterbury is a district well worth visiting, as there are endless tramping opportunities, thermal pools, motorsport and adventure-filled gems.

How to Slow Down in Ashburton: A Guide to Elevating The Drive...



Story

From gua buns to boutiques, artistry and espresso, there's more to Ashburton than meets the eye. So next time you pass through this Mid Canterbury town, put your foot on the brakes and try some...

To Methven & Beyond: A Weekend Getaway Guide



Story

Methven is an outdoor playground, and thanks to some recent additions to the town scene, there's even more reason to visit this mountainside

How to Spend Autumn in Christchurch Ōtautahi



Story

Put on your flannel and get ready to explore. This South Island city is teeming with the best things to do in autumn.

3.7.7 Agricultural Portfolio

Resilient Business

- Officers engaged further with NIWA, confirming their interest in the project. They have strong interest in making the climate change data accessible to farmers in a meaningful way. They see value in providing climate information at a sub-catchment level (5km x 5km resolution) and to help translate that climate information into the corresponding growing conditions.
- Officers have engaged with the Resilient Business Working Group with the additional feedback from MPI regarding the SFFF Resilient Business project proposal. After consultation with the working group, it was agreed that implementation of the latest MPI feedback would significantly undermine the outcomes sought. Changing the project to this extent was not satisfactory and it was agreed that the pursuit of MPI funding would be discontinued, and energy put into developing alternative approaches for delivering the project.
- Alternative funding structures and different approaches were considered by the working group, and it was agreed that with the ADC funding ending at the end of June, it will be difficult to confirm commitment and funding for a new approach within that timeframe.
- Officers engaged with NZ Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre about partnering within the Future Farm Systems programme. They have a project nearing the end of its first year and are looking to run a climate change and land use pilot in Canterbury. Discussions are underway to understand if there is sufficient alignment for the projects to collaborate.

Regional Skills Leadership Group (RSLG)

- In the previous Activity Report, Officers reported presenting to the Canterbury Workforce strategy refresh, which was successfully received.
- The Primary industry will be a focal area for the Canterbury Workforce strategy and will consider positive perception of agriculture, career mapping, soft skill development and may explore the possibility of a virtual reality training facility.

On-Farm Support

- MPI have recently launched a new initiative called 'On-Farm Support' which "is a free service offered by the Ministry for Primary Industries to provide on-the-ground support for farmers and growers around the country".
- The initiative involves a network of MPI personnel who will be available to come on-farm and provide support for farm planning and other MPI services.
- It is unclear at this stage what the MPI people will be doing exactly however, there is concern within industry that this service will be predetermining on-farm management responses to legislation and other agricultural issues. Officers are engaging with the regional MPI team to better understand the objectives of the initiative and how it will operate.



- We're aware farming is a complex and ever-changing business. We'll help farmers and growers to adapt to regulatory change and help connect them to expertise, tools, resources and services.
- We're focused on supporting farmers and growers to take an integrated approach to farm planning. We'll help navigate climate, water and environmental requirements.




4. *Business Support Group*

4.1 Information Systems

4.1.1 Projects

The following provides detail on a selection of team activity, typically the larger or more complex work items that are currently being work on.

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track	Within budget	Carry-over	Comments
Business Improvement and GIS						
Application enhancement and development	BAU Activity		N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>Ongoing development and business improvement within Council's ERP and other core applications.</p> <p>Current developments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning (pre-application planning)• Privacy Request Management Process• Building: Swimming Pool Inspection processes• Rates Data QA Activity• Rural Address Field Capture App• GIS Base Map Development• Management activities with solution upgrades to our GIS and ERP system• Map development to support current public consultation activities.• Budget module build review

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track	Within budget	Carry-over	Comments
Rural Aerial Imagery	July 2022	June 2023	No	Yes	No	The provider was unable to capture imagery of our rural imagery in the time allowed due to and these works will be rescheduled for next summer. These works are in collaboration with ECan and form part of a planned cyclic renewal of this asset.
Spatial Census Data Dashboard and Analysis solution	September 2021	June 2023	Yes	N/A	No	<p>Design of GIS dashboard and analysis tool to replace 3rd party system used by Strategy and Policy.</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First phase released with Population and People data. • Second phase released with Household and Education data. • Employment Data under construction, with release scheduled for May 2023. <p>This solution is available to the public via the council's website</p>

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track	Within budget	Carry-over	Comments
Systems						
Virtual Desktop Upgrade - Replacement of onsite solution to Microsoft cloud service.	January 2022	June 2023	Yes	Yes	No	All sites except Art Gallery & Museum complete. Art Gallery & Museum switch includes future service delivery of their Object Management System.
Microsoft 365	September 2020	Ongoing Activity Telephony target June 2023	Yes	Yes	No	Introduction of Microsoft 365 cloud-based application and productivity suite. The application includes Office products such as Email, Word, and Excel, but also includes other productivity applications including OneDrive, OneNote, all of which are enabled. The product offering also included SharePoint (which our document management system is built on) and Teams (multi-function communication platform including telephony). Pilot testing for our full migration to Microsoft Teams telephone system has been completed with received feedback being reviewed as part of the next phase in delivering this system. Our transfer to the SharePoint version is planned as future works.
Cyber Security	BAU Activity		N/A	N/A	N/A	Continuing assessment and solution application to reduce Council cyber security risk profile. An external penetration test is scheduled for May 2023 which will for test for weaknesses in our external facing network.

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track	Within budget	Carry-over	Comments
Library and Civic Centre - Te Pātaka o kā Tuhituhi and Te Waharoa a Hine Paaka	May 2021	October 2023	Yes	Yes	tbc	Works associated to the ICT scope and supply for new Library and Civic Centre. Items included are within and outside main contract covering areas such as network, wi-fi, audio-visual, desktop and library services.
Desktop Hardware Renewals	February 2023	September 2023	Yes	Yes	tbc	Cyclic renewal of desktop hardware for Emergency Management, Communications, Library and Art Gallery & Museum teams. First phase of procurement made and awaiting delivery.
Information Management						
Electronic document record management system (EDRMS)	BAU Activity		N/A	N/A	N/A	Continual improvement works and user support within the EDRMS system. Recent and current activity has included works in the functions of Biodiversity and Road Safety. Training of Customer Services, Building, Museum and Art Gallery teams has been completed or planned.
Physical and Digital Record Management - continuing work to identify, record, appraise and manage remaining Council physical records.	BAU Activity		N/A	N/A	N/A	Continuing and on-going activity with business teams to assess physical and digital records held by Council as part of the management of the life of that record including that of protected or permanent retention under statutory Acts including the Public Records Act and Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act.

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track	Within budget	Carry-over	Comments
						<p>Work includes the decision to retain or dispose a record based on Council's adopted retention and disposal schedule.</p> <p>A review of the current schedule is being made against the recently updated ALGIM schedule which local government uses to manage retention and disposal activity.</p>
Digitalisation of Physical Format Records	May 2022	June 2023	Yes	Yes	No	Works on Property Team lease files (approximately 700 files) is underway.
Data Management - Monitoring and Reporting	BAU Activity		N/A	N/A	N/A	Ongoing activity for service monitoring on information creation and disposal for physical and digital form, supporting current and future activity.
Data Management – Name Amalgamation	BAU Activity		N/A	N/A	N/A	Ongoing work to identify name data duplication and subsequent amalgamation of name and related activity held within Council's ERP system.

4.2 Property

Current	Brief Project Description / progress
Ashburton Business Estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two sections in stage two are on hold while potential purchasers complete due diligence. • A report will go to the Council meeting on the 17th May to consider the sale of the 7 hectare lot in stage one. • Officers are working through the details for the sale of 1.7-hectares, which is also within the undeveloped 21-hectare lot off Ashford Avenue. • In total, approximately 50-hectares of the Business Estate remains unsold, with 32-hectares sold.
Elderly persons housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out of Council's 102 available units, 91 are occupied. • Of the 11 units that are vacant, six are currently being redecorated and two are waiting to be cleaned before it can be re-tenanted. The five remaining units are in the area to be redeveloped. Four of these units are scheduled for demolition during the first phase of the staged demolition. The fifth unit is outside of phase one but is beyond refurbishing. • There are currently 30 applications on the waiting list, with 5 people wanting single units and 25 requesting double units (4 couples and 21 individuals). • 20 people on the waiting list are current residents in the Ashburton District, with 10 being from out of town. • Tenants on the waiting lists are placed in available units at the discretion of Council Officers. This will depend on their position in the waitlist, their location and the urgency of the applicant's situation. • Work has commenced on preparing for the staged demolition and rebuild of Friendship Lane.

Current	Brief Project Description / progress
Airport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council officers continue to research the NZ Airline Academy flight school proposal. The challenge is understanding the increased costs associated with maintenance and potential compliance costs. A report will come to Council once the information is to hand. • Officers continue to review and consider the TAIC report recommendations which have been made to the CAA in order to avoid a similar incident occurring. The following recommendations to CAA are particularly relevant to Council, as operator of a similar uncontrolled airport: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that managers and users of aerodromes, in particular for unattended aerodromes, understand and fulfil their responsibilities for ensuring safe operations. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Facilitating a coordinated approach with WorkSafe New Zealand, LGNZ and NZ Airports Association, among others, b. Providing training and support to aerodrome operational and management personnel, and c. Establish a positive safety culture at the aerodrome by facilitating regular safety meetings and opportunities for feedback. • CAA will be visiting Ashburton Aerodrome on 11th May 2023. This is part of a nationwide programme to review small uncertificated aerodromes and ensure adequate safety processes and procedures are in place. • Officers are looking into re-establishing the airport user group and also ensuring there is an Aerodrome Safety Coordinator across events at the airport.

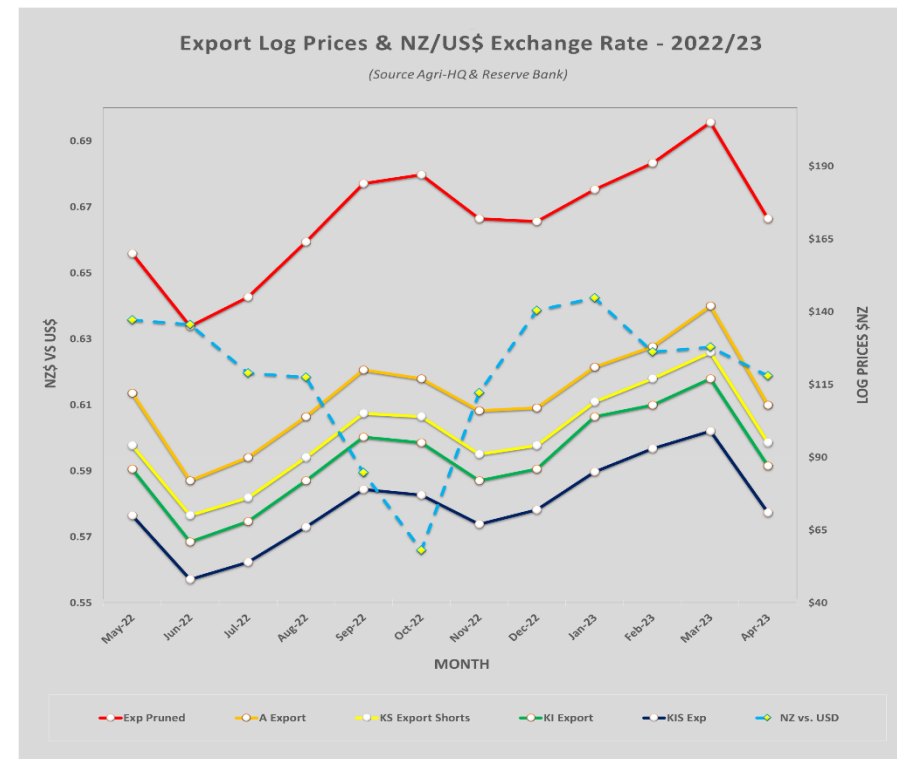
Current	Brief Project Description / progress																												
Airport (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following table provides an update of aircraft movements by month. <div data-bbox="678 284 2002 943"> <p style="text-align: center;">Aircraft Movements at Ashburton Airport</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Aircraft Movements</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Mar-22</td><td>645</td></tr> <tr><td>Apr-22</td><td>787</td></tr> <tr><td>May-22</td><td>644</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun-22</td><td>529</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul-22</td><td>354</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug-22</td><td>623</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep-22</td><td>441</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct-22</td><td>596</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov-22</td><td>508</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec-22</td><td>418</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan-23</td><td>484</td></tr> <tr><td>Feb-23</td><td>495</td></tr> <tr><td>Mar-23</td><td>423</td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div>	Month	Aircraft Movements	Mar-22	645	Apr-22	787	May-22	644	Jun-22	529	Jul-22	354	Aug-22	623	Sep-22	441	Oct-22	596	Nov-22	508	Dec-22	418	Jan-23	484	Feb-23	495	Mar-23	423
Month	Aircraft Movements																												
Mar-22	645																												
Apr-22	787																												
May-22	644																												
Jun-22	529																												
Jul-22	354																												
Aug-22	623																												
Sep-22	441																												
Oct-22	596																												
Nov-22	508																												
Dec-22	418																												
Jan-23	484																												
Feb-23	495																												
Mar-23	423																												
Medical Centre upgrades	<p>Methven</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methven Medical Centre have received the plans for the proposed internal alterations to the current building, Council staff will meet with Medical Centre to discuss the development. <p>Rakaia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Medical Centre have finalised their scope of works, they are working with a Consultant to apply for the necessary consents for their temporary building. 																												

Current	Brief Project Description / progress
Oval Pavilion – Ashburton Domain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trust is hoping to meet early May to discuss progress of the Pavilion. Subject to the outcome of this meeting, Council staff may be able to gain some traction on this. • Once the building is in Council ownership, officers will liaise further with the occupiers in order to engage contractors to complete the upgrade of the building.
Walnut Avenue Pavilion – Ashburton Domain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further contact from the Trust lawyers regarding the transfer of the Walnut Avenue building to Council. Council staff will continue to follow up progress with this.
West Street - car park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council officers have been negotiating lease terms with KiwiRail, but are yet to finalise the agreement. While these negotiations are ongoing, the carpark design is being progressed, including stormwater, so the consent application can be progressed.
Rangitata Campground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The campground will remain open until Sunday 30th April 2023 and will then close for the winter months.

4.3 Forestry

4.3.1 Forest Harvesting & Sales

- Decision made on preferred log sale offer for Wightmans Road plantation – log sale contract signed with Forest Management Ltd. Harvesting works started at the beginning of April and is expected to be completed before the end of June.
- The log sale is accessing both the domestic and the export market, some of the log types being produced include peeler logs for plywood production, sawlogs of various grades for framing, structural and packaging timber, various export log grades and also chip/biofuel for lower quality logs.
- Unfortunately, as production started the export log market “tanked” with prices dropping by 23% after rising 30% the last 4 months. The good news is that a significant proportion of the logs being produce are going to the domestic market which is stable and the profitability of this sale still looks good. Forest Management are also slowing production down with 4-day weeks so that we can ride through this price correction.



4.4 Finance

4.4.1 Projects

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track (yes/no)	Within budget (yes/no)	Carry-over (yes/no)	Comments
2023/24 Annual Plan	Current	30 June 2023	Yes	Yes	N/A	Consultation has begun on the Revenue and Financing Policy regarding Methven/Springfield drinking water. Finance along with Strategy and Policy are working through the Draft Annual Plan in preparation for adoption of the final version in June.
Debenture Trust Deed Audit	28 March 2023	04 April 2023	No	Yes	N/A	The Debenture Trust Deed audit was completed and signed off. This would normally be completed around the same time as the audit of the Annual Report audit. But due to pressure on audit services this was completed at a later date.
Sale of vehicles	Current	Unknown	Yes	Yes	No	There is 1 council vehicle and the Experience Mid Canterbury vehicle to go to Turners. A new round of procurement has commenced, with replacement priorities being assessed, and research into AOG vehicles that suitable for councils needs.
Purchase card implementation		Unknown	No	Yes	NA	The introduction of purchase cards for small miscellaneous purchases is the final part of the procure-to-pay project. Staff are working with TechOne to find a timeline suitable for

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track (yes/no)	Within budget (yes/no)	Carry-over (yes/no)	Comments
						TechOne, IS and Finance that doesn't clash with other key programmes of work.
Debt management process		Unknown	Yes	Yes	N/A	<p>Debt Collection on debtors (excluding rates), is being rolled out across the various debtor types.</p> <p>The Rates debt collection process testing has halted for the time being, as we recruit a new Rates Officer. Once this position is filled we will be in a position to test and implement the new process.</p>

5. *Democracy & Engagement*

5.1 Communications

5.1.1 Overview

- As of Thursday 27 April 2023, there are currently 47 Helpdesk tickets (internal work requests) with the Communications Team (similar to the last reporting period).
- And as of the same date, there were 32 stories delivered in the last 30 days and 61 in the last 60 days.
- This week the main Council Facebook page clicked over 10,000 followers.
- A new Digital Communications Officer commenced on April 17.
- Work in the planning phase includes Councillor Chat promotion, Road Safety awareness campaign, and consultations for the Economic Development strategy, Local Alcohol policy, Reserve Management Plan and LTP pre-engagement.
- Other work includes participation in Canterbury Mayoral Forum and other regional workstreams, requests to answer daily media enquiries, production of print and signage materials, troubleshooting and supporting staff with digital communications.

5.1.2 Planned projects

- The following table summarises planned communications projects, campaigns, or consultations in the last reporting period.

Brief Project Description	Comms start date	Estimated completion date	On track	Within budget	Comments
Ng King Gardens interpretive signage	Sep 2022	Spring 2023	Yes	Yes	Eight designed panels are currently in review with the families. Revisions to be completed mid-May and printing and installation planned for June.
Western Ward By-election	Feb 2023	May 2023	Yes	Yes	Campaign in progress, focus on voting
Ashburton Youth Council recruitment	Feb 2023	April 2023	Yes	Yes	Completed with successful uptake in several new AYC members.
Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs Rural Resilience Programme	Jan 2023	June 2023	Yes	Yes	Digital-first campaign based on events and outcomes of the programme, in progress.

Brief Project Description	Comms start date	Estimated completion date	On track	Within budget	Comments
					Collaborated with LGNZ and Te Whatu Ora to promote first placement.
Glow in the Park event promotion	May 2023	June 2023	Yes	Yes	King's birthday weekend 2-4 June
Alcohol bylaw consultation	March 2023	April 2023	Yes	Yes	Completed
Revenue & financing policy (drinking water) consultation	April 2023	May 2023	Yes	Yes	In progress
Transportation bylaw consultation	April 2023	May 2023	Yes	Yes	In progress
Time capsule – Best of Ashburton (facilities) campaign	May 2023	June 2023	Yes	Yes	About to launch
AF8 Roadshow	April 2023	May 2023	Yes	Yes	In progress
'Recycle a Device' library project	April 2023	May 2023	Yes	Yes	In progress
Kāinga Ora home ownership seminars	April 2023	May 2023	Yes	Yes	Connected Kainga Ora with library and Multicultural Council, campaign in progress
Immigrant Journeys library exhibition	April 2023	May 2023	Yes	Yes	Connected Immigrant Journeys with library, campaign in progress
Dog registrations	May 2023	June 2023	Yes	Yes	In progress
Internal work	Ongoing		Yes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intranet & newsletter communications for staff • Recruitment advertising • Facility advertising

Brief Project Description	Comms start date	Estimated completion date	On track	Within budget	Comments
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual asset (photo and image) storage improvements Website upgrades

5.1.3 Engaging Facebook posts

- Measured by posts with the highest engagement over the last 28 days, since April 27.

24 April	17 April	7 April
Father Time is not going to be happy about this...and neither are we! The broken glass panel on our clock tower has been reported to police and CCTV footage is being reviewed to see how it happened. The safety glass has fallen mostly inside the clock tower and our property team is working out how to protect things until it can be fixed. 😞	Basketball fans, small and tall, were smiling when the new outdoor court at the Tinwald Domain was officially opened yesterday. The Tinwald Reserve Board (and Council) is delighted that the local basketball community jumped on board the project too! Many thanks to the team that made it happen: Basketball Mid Canterbury, Basketball NZ, Tarbotton Land and Civil, the Lion Foundation. Happy hoopin' everyone 🏀🏀🏀	🎉🎊 We are pleased to announce Ashburton's first placement in a programme run by the national Mayors Taskforce For Jobs network. Great working with you Allied Security and Ashburton Hospital! If you're an employer and want to know more about the programme, email us 🙌mtfj@adc.govt.nz
Post impressions – 7,628 Post reach – 7,613 Post engagement – 2,215	Post impressions - 14,254 Post reach – 11,960 Post engagement – 2,083	Post impressions – 6,759 Post reach – 4,588 Post engagement - 1,112

5.2 Strategy & Policy

5.2.1 Current projects

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track	Comments
Annual Plan	30 Oct 2022	30 June 2023	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft budgets showing an average increase of 5.97%. On-track to adopt 7 June Council meeting, subject to consultation process associated with Methven/Springfield water supply Revenue and Financing Policy. Information re Annual Plan programme to be prepared for comms post adoption.
Long Term Plan 2024-34	1 January 2023	30 June 2024	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work underway or ongoing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning for early engagement LTP consultation Finalisation of Environmental scan Preparation of LTP Assumptions Preparation for Activity Management Plan preparation Review of performance measures for Council activities Project planning
Annual Residents Survey	Aug 2022	July 2023	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wave 3 survey complete with results presented through the end of year performance report. Wave 4 to commence in the latter part of financial year
Aoraki Environmental Consultancy (AEC)	Ongoing		Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers continue to meet regularly with AEC. Current topics of discussion include policy & bylaw development, stormwater consent application and stockwater race closures.
Bylaws and Policies	Ongoing		Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revenue and Financing Policy – drinking water Methven-Springfield (Council, currently consulting). Alcohol Control Bylaw (Council, consultation closed, Hearing 4 May).

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track	Comments
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation and Parking Bylaw (Council, currently consulting). • Local Alcohol Policy (planning and workshop preparation, Workshop planned 3 May).
Consultation	Ongoing		Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation currently underway for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revenue and Financing Policy – drinking water Methven-Springfield (closes 7 May). - Transportation and Parking Bylaw (closed 14 May). • Preparing for consultation on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic Development Strategy (May, June - subject to Council approval). - Reserve Management Plans (first round late May/June – subject to Council approval). - Local Alcohol Policy (approx. June – subject to Council approval).
Strategies	Ongoing			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development strategy - Workshop (Council, May). • Biodiversity Strategy – work commencing on development for later 2023. • Climate Change Resilience Plan – Action Plan – work commencing on development.
Other projects	Ongoing			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 17A Reviews – resetting the programme, including scope and approach.

5.2.3 External Submissions

The following are submissions **we will** be making:

Organisation	Submission Summary	Process	Due Date
ECan	<p><i>Draft Annual Plan 2023/24</i></p> <p>Environment Canterbury have released their draft Annual Plan 23/24 for consultation. The draft plan for 2023/24 talks about our strategy for areas including climate action, public transport, rivers and lakes, flood protection, land use, and pest plants and animals.</p> <p>Draft Annual Plan 2023/24 / Mahere ā tau tuhinga tautahi Have Your Say (ecan.govt.nz)</p>	Workshop held and submissions lodged	3 April 2023

The following are initiatives that are out for consultation that **we are considering** preparing a submission for:

Organisation	Submission Summary	Process	Due Date
MBIE/MFE	<p>Consenting Improvements for renewable electricity generation and transmission</p> <p>The Government has set a target that 50% of total energy consumption will come from renewable sources by 2035. Meeting our emissions targets will require a rapid and efficient expansion of renewable electricity such as wind and solar generation. Significant expansion and upgrade of other parts of the electricity network will also be required to enable this renewable electricity to reach customers.</p> <p>The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, alongside the Ministry for the Environment, is consulting on proposed changes to the National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation and the National Policy Statement for Electricity Transmission under the Resource Management Act (RMA). The proposals focus on strengthening the current national policy statements for renewable electricity generation and transmission to provide a consenting process that is more efficient, certain and environmentally sustainable. The proposals are expected to be technical in nature, addressing how officers will evaluate and process consents for this kind of infrastructure.</p>	In preparation	1 June 2023
Ministry of Transport	<p>Charging our Future Strategy</p> <p>NZ needs an EV Charging Strategy to provide certainty to all parties about the role government will play in supporting EV charging infrastructure. This is particularly true given:</p>	Assessing	11 May 2023

Organisation	Submission Summary	Process	Due Date
	- EV ownership is already ahead of projected levels the technological environment for EVs is dynamic.		

The following are initiatives that are out for consultation that **we are NOT** preparing a submission for:

Organisation	Name of initiative	Due date
Transport and Infrastructure Committee	Land Transport Management (Regulation of Public Transport) Amendment Bill This Government bill establishes the Sustainable Public Transport Framework for the planning, procurement, and delivery of public transport services, which addresses systemic issues affecting the sector. This new framework will replace the Public Transport Operating Model.	28 April

The following **are possible upcoming consultation** opportunities that we will consider once full details are known. The information has been provided by Taituara based on their sources from government, but they are at pains to indicate that the information is speculative until out for consultation.

Organisation	Name of initiative	Stage
Governance Admin Select Committee	Civil Defence and Emergency Management Amendment Bill Gives effect to the Trifecta Review consultation and policy development process. NEMA officials have said this is the formal consultation.	TBC
Climate Change Commission	Second Emissions Reduction Plan The second emissions budget (for 2026-3030) has been set, but the Government needs a plan to deliver on it. He Pou a Rangi Climate Change Commission's role is to provide independent, evidence-based advice on the direction of policy, taking a systems-wide view. It last provided advice like this in its 2021 report	26 April to 20 June
Presumably Environment	Climate Adaptation Bill Will introduce the legal framework for managed retreat and other climate response matters.	TBC

Organisation	Name of initiative	Stage
Not clear	Epidemic Preparedness Legislation Develop an enduring legislative framework for COVID-19 that is fit for purpose for any future pandemics.	Early 2023
Not clear	Building Amendment Bill Bill will introduce energy ratings for buildings and waste minimisation plans to support Aotearoa New Zealand's climate change goals. Learn more about the Government's proposed changes	Early 2023
Not clear	Electoral (Strengthening Democracy) Amendment Bill Bill lowers the voting age to 16, makes the Māori Electoral option continuous, and allows prisoners to vote. <i>NB – this is a Private Members Bill that is waiting first reading. Details about consultation will only be known if and when the Bill gets a first reading.</i>	TBC
Not clear	Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Cellar Door Tasting) Amendment Bill This Bill allows winery cellar doors to charge visitors for the samples of their own wine and adds an off-licence category for wineries holding an on-licence. https://legislation.govt.nz/bill/member/2022/0173/latest/contents.html <i>NB – this is a Private Members Bill that is waiting first reading. Details about consultation will only be known if and when the Bill gets a first reading.</i>	Awaiting first reading
Not clear	Housing Infrastructure (GST-sharing) Bill (New) This Bill would introduce a GST-sharing scheme to fund housing infrastructure. Effectively councils would receive 15 percent of the value of building work put in place in their local authority in the preceding year. https://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/member/2022/0154/latest/096be8ed81c6447d.pdf <i>NB – this is a Private Members Bill that is waiting first reading. Details about consultation will only be known if and when the Bill gets a first reading.</i>	Awaiting first reading

5.3 Memorial Halls and Reserve Boards

5.3.1 Activities – items of importance

Reserve Board Meetings

Rakaia Reserve Board

- Discussion about connecting to Town water supply.
- New Rugby Clubrooms project.
- Tender for Michael Street block.

Mayfield Reserve Board

- The triennial meeting was held on 28 March with Barry Austin stepping down as Chair after nine years. A new Reserve Board and Hall Committee was elected with David Greenslade as the new Chair.
- New toilets are being built in the Domain, with Open Spaces and the Board working together on this project. Update from Open Spaces this project will be starting soon.
- The Hall committee have agreed to increase the rental charge for the Memorial Hall, the last increase was in 2011.

Methven Reserve Board

- New licence to occupy agreements for users groups – Property to attend next meeting.
- Paint yellow lines in sealed car park for parking for emergency services.
- Relocation of the Queen's tree and assessment of Domain trees – Open Spaces.

Hinds Reserve Board

- After a request from Open Spaces the RB have agreed to trial rubbish and recycling bins near the public toilet area.

Mt Somers Reserve Board

- Discussion about the Remembrance Garden.
- Painting public toilets - discussion about new ablution block, talk with Property & Open Spaces.
- Playground audits for repairs – Open Spaces sending them through to Liaison Officer.

Reserve Board Meetings (continued)

Tinwald Reserve Board

- Discussion regarding the draft lease agreement between the Plains Museum Trust and the Tinwald Reserve Board.
- Relocating the stockwater race.
- Sampson Pictures are wanting permission to film a documentary project – Devils on Horses.
- New basketball courts have successfully opened.

Tinwald Memorial Hall

- Two new ovens and a fridge have been purchased using the money donated by the Tap Dancing Group.

5.3.2 Reserve Hall Board minutes

Minutes of the various Boards' triennial and subsequent meetings will become available on Council's website once they have been confirmed by the respective Boards. Council will be provided with links to the minutes and a full update will be included in future activity briefings.