

Pioneer Hall prepares for glass top

The large steel frames that will help encase historic Pioneer Hall into Ashburton's new library and civic building have been erected over the past few weeks.

The frames will hold special glass panels that will create a roof above the hall, linking the main building to the adjacent space housing the children's library, non-fiction area and equipment needed to run the complex.

Pioneer Hall, built in 1916, will become part of the children's library on the ground floor, while a glass walkway on the first floor, connecting the two buildings, will offer views down into the hall.

Its historic facade, plus a brick fire and chimney, and its external walls have been strengthened and will be renovated as it is absorbed by the new build.

Council Chief Executive Hamish Riach said encompassing Pioneer Hall into the new build had been tricky work and the builders were doing all they could to preserve and enhance features.

"It is rather unique for an historic building to be encompassed into a modern build in this way, so there have been some interesting challenges for them.

The end result will honour the past and allow it to be part of a working building well into the future."

Pioneer Hall was built 107 years ago as the headquarters of the Ashburton Hospital Board, however, this was short-lived and



Pioneer Hall's historic facade becomes part of the new library and civic building.

in the mid-1920s the County Engineers moved in and remained there until 1939.

It was then converted into Women's Rest Rooms and fulfilled this job admirably until 1971. The building was then leased to the Ashburton Historical Society and became Ashburton's first Museum (renamed Pioneer Hall).

In 1978 the museum relocated and the next few years saw it become a taxi office and from 1990 until 2004 it was headquarters for Birthright. It also served as headquarters for the Mid Canterbury branch of the NZ Historic Places Trust until 2020.

Now the steel structure in the new build is complete, contractors will move to installing aluminium frames and then the glass panels.

A birdcage scaffold has been installed inside the atrium of the hall for the glass installation, and for the installation of suspended services (like smoke detectors and sprinkler pipes).

The glass panels are each about 2.2 metres long by 1.5 metres wide. An access walkway will be installed at the northern end to provide a safe platform for maintenance staff, including those charged with keeping the glass clean.

Careers bus parking up on 20 July

The Mayors Taskforce For Jobs roadshow will hit Ashburton on Thursday 20 July, with a whole host of careers information onboard.

The roadshow coach will be parked at EA Networks Centre and contain 26 career kiosks showcasing hundreds of current careers and training videos.

Each kiosk holds the same information so that 26 people can come through the careers coach every 30 minutes.

People simply log in their cellphone number on each kiosk so that they can receive training and career-based websites to assist them via an automated text response service.

Industries that will be showcased on the kiosks include the NZ Defence Forces, SeafoodNZ, tourism, health, transport, construction, teaching, IT, real estate and other business.

The coach is coming to Ashburton as part of Council's involvement in the Mayors Taskforce For Jobs initiative, which uses the mana of mayors around the country to help young people into jobs or training.

Council's Youth Coach Sharon Watson has been instrumental in helping 21 young people into jobs since the programme started. Council has applied for a Government grant to keep it running for another two years.

One of the young people to come through the programme is Neala Bingham, a graduate accountant who now works in Council's finance team.

She was the 12th placement.

People and Facilities Group Manager Sarah Mosley said Council had been looking to fill a position in the finance team and Neala was supported by the youth coach during the interview process.

"It's really about helping young people feel more confident to move into jobs and training, and Neala came to us after finishing her study online. She has been a great find."



Carolyn Cameron - Councillor Cheers for all our volunteers

It's great to see the volunteers in our community being acknowledged recently for their tremendous good work – it's a bit like an iceberg though, with the huge majority happily flying under the radar.

A small district like ours relies heavily on the hours being put in by volunteers – we have volunteers driving people to hospital appointments in Christchurch as no adequate publicly-funded system is available, we have volunteers helping people buy their groceries, others fundraising for scholarships to give to our youth, and still others supporting the development of public infrastructure.

Two projects that fit the last category are in the news at the moment, as the Staveley ice staking and curling rink opened to the public after a big refit and a new walkway to Sharplin Falls re-opened. The hours of volunteer labour were in the many thousands.

The ice rink now has a refrigerated surface meaning having sufficient

natural ice is no longer a problem, thanks to the terrific fundraising efforts of a small but dedicated team; and the new Sharplin Falls track is the work of years of planning and collaboration, and fundraising too. Now a whole new generation can enjoy these special outdoor locations unique to our patch.

Our volunteers are also busy delivering meals on wheels for some of our most vulnerable community members, they coach sports, pick up rubbish and support young readers in schools.

Yet another group of volunteers is helping our former refugee families settle into life in Ashburton, and that role is as much about friendship and welcoming as it is about helping these newcomers start a new life.

So many people support our community and these people all need recognition and support, so when it is time for our local community honours awards later this month, look around and nominate those you see doing great work.

Council financially supports many volunteer groups and as part of the



recent Annual Plan process, we allocated nearly \$250,000 to community groups for operations and special projects. These grants ranged from money to help fun rural libraries, to a rugby club putting in a public drinking fountain and new group helping young people to manage their digital safety.

It is a pleasure to be able to support them through the grants and funding process.

While we have only just ticked off the Annual Plan, work is already under way for the next major piece of planning, the Long Term Plan 2024-34. Early engagement is about to start and this will be like a litmus test of general issues the community sees most important.

This feedback is important and will help us ask some specific questions during the consultation stage for the Long Term Plan in the early part of 2024.

Your opinions matter and help us set our priorities, so please speak up.

Early boarding call for 2024 business awards

The Ashburton District's Business of the Year Awards 2024 is preparing for take-off.

Winners in the biennial awards will be celebrated at the Ashburton Aviation Museum in February next year, but right now organisers are busy finalising the categories ahead of the awards launch on Thursday 3 August.

The launch will be at the Ashburton Event Centre, from 6pm, and is a chance for potential entrants to hear more about what's involved and what they will gain from taking part. Everyone is welcome.

ANZ is back as the main sponsor and the bank's senior manager for Mid Canterbury Michael Royston said the organisation was looking forward to once again celebrating excellence in the business community.

"We have a very diverse business community here, and this is a prime opportunity to recognise and celebrate all those doing well in the business sector."

The Ashburton District Council is teaming up again with Ri Ra Events to run the awards. Entries will open mid-August with finalists announced in December.

Category winners and a supreme winner will be announced at the gala dinner on Friday 23 February, at the



Ashburton Mayor Neil Brown (left) ANZ's Michael Royston (centre) and Owen Moore from the Ashburton Aviation Museum are all on board for the 2024 business awards.

aviation museum's huge superhangar. The aviation museum was a winner in the 2022 awards, taking top spot in the tourism category.

Treasurer Owen Moore said it was a privilege for the not-for-profit group to host the big gala dinner.

"Publicity from the 2022 awards resulted

in a lot more visitors at our aviation museum. We have some really unique and interesting airplanes and aviation history in our hangars, and it's great our volunteers can share these flying stories with a wider audience."

The 2022 supreme winner was NZ Sock Co, an Ashburton company that has turned sock-making into a science.

Managing director Euan Sparrow said the awards were a chance to reflect on the company in a holistic sense, and recognise that it had achieved a lot, while dealing with challenges big and small along the way.

"We have so many fans of our socks and it's a team effort to produce them. It was great to see all layers of our company, from management to the technicians operating the hosiery machines and packaging the socks, being recognised for their good work."

The award categories have been expanded for 2024, following feedback from the 70 entrants in the inaugural awards. Some categories break down into small or medium/large businesses.

Mayor Neil Brown said the awards were a great opportunity for Council to recognise and offer encouragement to the district's businesses.

"I know we're a modest crew in Mid Canterbury, so these awards are a perfect way to collectively celebrate the people who add to our economic success."

Read the full story on the latest news page of our website, ashburtondc.govt.nz.

For more information about the awards, go to businessoftheyear.nz

New school speed signs installed early

New 30km/h speed limit signs going up around schools in the Ashburton district will come into effect on Monday 17 July, which is also the start of the new school term.

The new zones are part of the Interim Speed Management Plan adopted by Council and certified by Waka Kotahi. The 30km/h limit will be permanent around schools in urban areas, while rural schools will have variable speed limits that apply during peak activity times in the morning and afternoon.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said contractors working for Council had been installing signs ready for the first day of term.

"A few of them are already up, but we're covering them until 17 July, when they become legally enforceable."

The new speed limits are now in the National Speed Limit Register and have been certified by Waka Kotahi.

Mr McCann said the new signs were all within about 200m of a school entrance and would be reviewed over time to make sure they were in the best location to catch the eye of road users.

"A lower limit around schools gives drivers more time to react to hazards and decreases the severity of crashes. The data we gathered prior to consulting with the community last year showed that the median speed on our urban streets was

actually about 35km/h, so it should have minimal impact on travel times.

"It will be a win for the community though and children will have safer journeys to and from school, which is what it is all about."

The changes are part of a national plan to standardise speed around schools and Ashburton is among the first councils in the South Island to make a move.

"We know these lower limits have the support of many in our community because we received 80 submissions last year when we consulted on the draft plan. Schools themselves were among those wanting 30km/h," Mr McCann said.

Local Alcohol Policy Review

The Local Alcohol Policy provides our community with a greater say over when, where and how alcohol is sold within the district.

Council feels the current policy is working well and we're not proposing any changes, but we want to hear what you think.

Visit ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay to share your feedback. Don't miss out, submissions close 5pm, Friday 14 July.

Have your Say!

PENSIONER UNITS

Two elderly pensioner single housing units, one at Methven and the other at Rakaia, have become available.

If you are in need of housing and meet the criteria please contact Council for an application form.

Applicants shall:

- Be eligible for Government National Superannuation
- Not be in full time employment/business
- Be able to care for themselves independently
- Show a housing need which cannot be met adequately elsewhere
- There is a total assets criteria (contact Council for more info)

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are usually held in Council Chambers, 137 Havelock Street.

Methven Community Board, Monday 24 July at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall, 10.30am

Council Meeting, Tuesday 25 July, 9am (live-streamed)

Ashburton Water Zone Committee, Tuesday 25 July, 1pm (live-streamed)

WORKS NOTICES

Allens Road - current to July. Allens Road is temporarily closed between Carters Road and Turton Street to allow contractors to install a pump station that will complete the North West Ashburton wastewater extension. Detours in place.

SH1 Tinwald - beginning soon. Waka Kotahi is undertaking safety improvements on SH1 and installing traffic lights at the intersection of Agnes Street, Lagmhor Road and SH1.

RECYCLING CALENDAR

Having trouble remembering if it's your week to put the yellow recycling bin out for collection at the kerbside?

No worries, we have a new kerbside collection calendar in paper form and on our website.

Check the side of your bin to see if you are Week 1 or Week 2, then check the calendar to see if it's recycling or glass, alongside your red bin. Pick up a paper copy of the calendar at our Baring Square West offices and stick it on the fridge!

COUNCIL OFFICE

5 Baring Square West
Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 8.30am - 5pm
Thursday 9am - 5pm

ASHBURTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

180 Havelock Street, Ashburton 7700
Mon - Fri 9am - 8pm
Sat 10am - 1pm | Sun 1pm - 4pm

EA NETWORKS CENTRE

20 River Terrace
Mon - Fri 6am-9pm (pools 7pm, gym 8pm)
Sat & Sun 7am-7pm (pools 5pm, gym 6pm)

ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & ASHBURTON MUSEUM

327 West Street
10am - 4pm daily