

Bigger venue for Glow in the Park

Glow in the Park will move to the Ashburton Domain for 2024.

The light show runs over King's Birthday weekend and next year will be based in the domain, where there is room to grow the event.

The 2023 Glow event attracted 17,000 visitors on just two nights, with the third cancelled because of bad weather.

Compliance and Development Group Manager Jane Donaldson said there was room in the Ashburton Domain to expand and grow the show, as the footprint of the domain is larger than the current Tinwald location.

"Plus 2024 is also a 160-year celebration of the Ashburton Domain, so it would be a nice fit to hold the popular light show there."

Glow in the Park has been held at the Tinwald Domain for the past two years; it was originally planned for the Ashburton Domain in 2020 but moved to Tinwald so visitor numbers could be better managed because of covid restrictions.

Ms Donaldson said the Tinwald site had worked well, though huge numbers this year had highlighted the need for a more central location to avoid congestion on State Highway 1 and the Ashburton River bridge.

"We asked visitors this year to take part in a survey and they were overwhelmingly positive about Glow in the Park, but said traffic management and parking could



improve.

"With thousands of people coming to see the show each night, it's always going to be busy and we'll be thinking about options like park-and-ride, where people could park and catch a shuttle to the domain. We'll be encouraging people to walk where they can too.

She said it was also exciting to showcase a new location.

"The Ashburton Domain is the jewel of the town and we're looking forward to showing it off to visitors from around the region."

King's Birthday weekend in 2024 will be from 1-3 June.

Hamish Riach - Chief Executive Looking after our water pipes is a never-ending job



Keep calm and carry on - that is always a good line to take after a general election that results in a change of government.

No matter who is in power, our residents expect clean, safe water when they turn on a tap, and that when they flush their toilets the waste is properly managed without harm to the environment.

These core operations were discussed by Council recently at one of our regular Activity Briefings - which are an opportunity for the different Council teams to present their work and answer any questions that Councillors might have.

There was a lot of talk about the amount of road works and pipe renewal projects that are going on around Ashburton and the wider district.

This is Council's bread and butter and it is never finished. We are continually renewing our drinking water and wastewater pipes, and planning for new

areas or for new plant to deliver a better service.

In the last briefing papers, I counted nine three waters projects (from building a new membrane water treatment plant at Mt Somers, to relining wastewater pipes in Hampstead). I also counted 29 other three waters projects, many related to upgrading existing water treatment plants, detecting leaks, and investigating extensions to our various networks.

In the drinking water network, the current focus is to replace old asbestos cement pipes and older polyethylene pipes, and the ones we are taking out have an average age of just over 56 years.

The wastewater pipes that we are replacing have an average age of 82 years. These old pipes are glazed earthenware and asbestos cement pipes, materials not used since the 1980 - technology and materials have

changed for the better over time.

A lot of the work is about pre-empting failures and we prioritise areas where we know poor materials have been used in the past or where there is a record of bursts or leaking in pipes.

We work with other organisations and have regular coordination planning meetings with our own roading team, Chorus, EA Networks and Waka Kotahi to try and minimise clashes, in essence sharing trenches to avoid digging up roads more than once.

Also in the briefing papers were details about the millions of dollars already spent on roading maintenance and renewals this financial year so far.

Routine maintenance and repairs following the heavy rain event are main areas of work, and now that the weather is warmer you will see more rehab on the sealed network too.

SHORT AND SWEET

BIKE SKILLS PARK

The group progressing a bike skills park in the Ashburton Domain is meeting monthly and proposals from three designers have recently been presented. Council is working with service groups to make the project happen - it will be developed near the existing bike and scooter track near the children's playground. Council's contribution is land and maintenance once it is completed.

BUILDING CONSENT

Council issued 42 building consents in September, taking the total for the year to 155 (compared to 158 last year). While consent applications eased off in September, it has allowed the building services team to cut processing times and clear a backlog of consents. Sixty-four LIMs were produced during September (compared to 50 in September 2022).

BUSINESS ESTATE

Officers are working through the details for the sale of 1.7 hectares at the Ashburton Business Estate. The land is within the undeveloped 21ha lot off Ashford Avenue. Two sections in stage one are also on hold while a potential purchaser completes due diligence. About half the business estate has been sold.

OFF THE COUCH

The Couch to Wellness programme launched this month at EA Networks Centre has attracted 16 participants, all keen to take their first steps into physical fitness over the next 10 weeks. The programme has been developed to address the gap left by the Green Prescription initiative.

TWO O'CLOCK TOUR

This Sunday's Two O'Clock tour at the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum takes a look at the exhibition of Auckland-based Iain Cheesman, who brings the act of birdwatching into the gallery. His Nurture Nature work encourages visitors to slow down and focus on details. Tour starts 2pm.

Graduates praised for growing skills



Graduates who have completed study while working to improve or gain new skills were this week recognised for their accomplishments at the Ashburton District Industry Training Awards.

Sixteen graduates had their certificates presented by Mayor Neil Brown at a special ceremony at the Ashburton Event Centre. Some 200 more in the wider district have also been involved in industry study.

The awards are supported through New

Zealand Industry Training Organisations, local businesses, the Mayors Task Force for Jobs Initiative and the Ashburton District Council.

Mayor Brown told the graduates it was not easy to hold down a fulltime job and study, though the results were worth it.

"You have all been studying and working to improve your existing skills or gain new ones and in the process, you have the support of your employer, sponsors and training advisors.

"There are wider implications for us all

because having a talented workforce is crucial to achieving long-term economic success and you will make a positive contribution."

Mayor Brown also thanked employers and sponsors who encouraged their staff to continue their training and further development.

This year's graduates gained certificates across a range of industries including health and wellbeing, health care, fitness, retail, distribution, water treatment, automotive, electricity supply and agriculture.

WORKS NOTICES

Lagmhor Road/SH1 Tinwald/Agnes Street – Waka Kotahi is installing traffic lights at this intersection so expect traffic management and delays over the coming months. The Lagmhor Road crossing will be closed for two months from 25 September.

Princes Street - from 4 September to 7 November. The section of Princes Street from Brucefield Avenue to Bridge Street will be closed for water main renewals. Resident access remains.

William Street - current until 15 November. William Street and intersections of Kermode and Dobson Streets, will be closed to undertake wastewater upgrading. Residents will still have access and detours will be in place.

Elizabeth Street (hospital end) - current. New water and wastewater pipes are being installed in this area and some roads are temporarily closed. Elizabeth Street, between Grigg and Walker, will be one-way (east to west) from early November. No street parking will be available on Elizabeth Street, between Grigg and Walker. Access to Ashburton Hospital remains; resident access remains.

Thompsons Track - current to 21 December. Thompsons Track, between Braemar and Pole Road, will be closed for road rehabilitation. Detour in place; resident access available.

Elizabeth Street - current to 12 December. Elizabeth Street, between Cross and Allison Streets, is closed for the first stage of a wastewater upgrade. Detour in place; no entry from Baker Street. Resident access remains.

Kermode Street - from 30 October to 8 December. Kermode Street, between Mona Square and East Street, is closed for a wastewater upgrade.

Forest Drive, Methven - A short section of Forest Drive, near SH77, will be closed for night work from 7pm on 6 November to 7am on 7 November so contractors can install a new watermain. There will be no access to SH77 from Forest Drive. Detours will be in place. Contingency night is 7 November.

Keep stockwater flowing



Property owners who rely on Council's stockwater are being urged to think about installing water storage tanks ahead of the predicted long, dry summer.

Letters will soon be sent to about 1100 stockwater users, recommending they consider an alternative stockwater supply because Council could not guarantee water across the entire network.

Weather forecasters say the El Nino weather conditions could result in a long, dry summer.

Property owners are also being urged to check and clean the stockwater races on their property. Council maintains the mains race network, but property owners are responsible for cleaning and maintaining races on their properties.

It is important a clear and continuous flow is maintained to ensure downstream users receive stockwater, and that there is no overflow, leakage or wastage of water.

Plastic buckets and bags, drench containers and baleage wrap are often found in races and culverts causing blockages.

Property owners trimming hedges or trees growing along the edge of a race, must make sure the trimmings don't end up in the race, and cause blockages.

Those thinking about closing or altering a race on their property must also complete the necessary application forms provided by Council prior to starting any work.

All issues regarding stockwater should be reported to Council on 03-3077700 (24/7).

Do you fancy putting pen to paper?

The Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum is hosting a pop-up activity with a difference this weekend, channelling the lost art of letter writing.

The activity is a chance for you to send letters to, and receive them from, strangers.

A custom-designed "bureau" will have everything you need to address, write, send and/or receive your letter, from ink to inspiration. Our postie will be delivering your mail across town.

This is a great opportunity to connect with others in the community and make someone's day!

This is an all ages event, and whānau and tamariki are welcome on Saturday and Sunday - drop in any time between 10am-4pm!

On Sunday between 2-3pm, the gallery will also have a calligraphy station set up in the foyer for visitors to try their hand at the art of calligraphy.

Local calligrapher Rachael Price will also be on hand to help.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are at Council Chambers, 137 Havelock Street, unless specified. Meeting agendas are online at ashburtondc.govt.nz

Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting, Monday 6 November, 1pm

Local Alcohol Policy hearings, Thursday 9 November, 9am

Hearing on coach access to Lake Clearwater hut settlement, Wednesday 15 November, 10.30am

Council meeting, Wednesday 15 November, 1pm

Methven Community Board, Monday 27 November, 10.30am at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Ashburton Water Zone Committee, Tuesday 28 November, 1pm

Council Activity Briefings, Wednesday 29 November, 9.30am

Audit and Risk Committee, Wednesday 29 November, 1pm

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