

New chapter heading for reveal

New Ashburton Library staff Jay and Ben can't wait to show their community all the cutting-edge library features when it opens to the public later this month.

The pair have joined the entire library team moving books and other resources to the new Library and Civic Centre, Te Whare Whakare, on Baring Square East. Jay and Ben have a special interest in the creative spaces and recording studio and have been unpacking new equipment and familiarising themselves with it.

Library manager Jill Watson said the move was progressing well and excitement levels were high among staff.

"We're all just really looking forward to welcoming our community into this new space. There are some lovely reading nooks, and a lot of new equipment to try out."

Jay is in charge of the library's digital programmes and will be looking after the Makerspace and the Learning Lab.

The maker space is a large room on the ground floor which will have things like Lego, sewing machines and a vinyl printer. The learning lab has 20 computers loaded with design software and games, like



Jay (left) and Ben in the library's new sound studio.

Minecraft and Rocket League.

Ben will look after the recording studio, where people can record music or podcasts, making use of the computers, keyboards and guitars that are also available.

Jill said the new creative spaces would be available for the community to use, and staff would be on hand to help them.

"We're there to help residents of all ages and abilities to use the new equipment in the library, Te Kete Tuhinga, so we hope

people will ask lots of questions and give things a try."

The last of the books have been transferred and staff have been organising these onto new shelves, and creating appealing spaces to read or watch the world go by.

The library is on track to open Monday 22 January. The whole building will be blessed at a 7am ceremony on 19 January, and admin staff are expected to move in on 29 January.

Stockwater flows under pressure

Reduced river flows and hot weather are putting pressure on Council's stockwater network, with subsequent declining flows in the race network.

Property owners on the stockwater network are advised to have in place an alternative water supply for their animals, as Council can't guarantee water delivery across the entire network.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said predictions of a hot and dry summer because of the El Nino weather pattern had been accurate.

"Our stockwater rangers are currently seeing river and spring flows dropping off significantly, and people should have water storage tanks or an alternative supply ready to use if needed.

"Now is also a good time to remind people to ensure their races are clean so that the stockwater we do have can flow freely down the races to all users. While we will do our best to get water across the network, this may be challenging, and in fact not possible in the coming weeks."

Mr McCann said unless there was significant rain in the high country, stockwater flows would stay at a reduced level.

"We thank everyone who uses the network for playing their part in keeping it functioning, especially in challenging times."



Council has set up a special text alert system so people can receive stockwater updates and advisories in the event of sudden changes – text STOCK to 4196 to receive these free alerts.

All stockwater queries must be made via the Council office on 03 307 7700 (available 24 hours a day).

Property owners and occupiers are regularly reminded to check and clean the races on their properties. Advice includes:

Water Council will maintain the main races, however as a property owner/occupier with local races running through, you need to clean these races either

mechanically with a digger or by spraying the bank edges with an approved herbicide.

It is important that a clear and continuous flow is maintained to ensure downstream users can receive stockwater. On-property culverts and bridges should be monitored to ensure they are not damaged or blocked with items such as buckets, bags, drench contains, baleage wrap etc.

All cattle/deer/pigs must be fenced out of all stockwater races and not be able to enter the race at any point except at a correctly installed drinking bay. Stock must not be able to stand in the race bed.

When trimming hedges or trees growing along the edge of a race, the trimmings must be removed immediately. Placing a gate at the nearest downstream culvert can prevent the trimmings passing through the culvert and causing blockages further downstream.

It is recommended that you implement an alternative stockwater supply on your property, such as making use of water storage tanks. Council does not guarantee the delivery of stockwater across the entire network, and should the summer be as hot and dry as predicted, this will be even more difficult.

If you are considering closing or altering a race on your property, you must complete the necessary application forms provided by Council prior to any work commencing.

SHORT AND SWEET

LAKE WARNING

Community and Public Health has issued a health warning after potentially toxic blue-green algae was found at Lake Hood. People and dogs should avoid contact with lake water as the algal bloom can produce toxins that are harmful to humans and animals. Environment Canterbury is monitoring the lake weekly and will advise of any water quality changes.

RESTRICTIONS

Properties connected to the Mount Somers Water Supply are on Level 3 water restrictions because of declining water levels at the Woolshed Creek intake gallery. This means Pattons Road properties may hose on even dates, and all other properties may hose on odd dates. Hosing may only be carried out by hand, between 6pm and midnight; no irrigation systems and wash vehicles using buckets only.

TRY A TRIATHLON

EA Networks Centre will host a Sanitarium Try Challenge on Saturday 27 January with duathlon and triathlon options. The Weetbix Tryathlon is for children 7-10+ years and the different swim, bike and run options are held in and around the recreation centre. Enter online at eanetworkscentre.co.nz.

GO DIGITAL

The library might be closed until 22 January, but did you know you can still access a huge range of eAudio and eBook titles for kids, teens and adults? It's free and all you need is your library card! Visit ashburtondc.govt.nz/digital to start browsing.

METHVEN PLAN

The Methven Community Board is calling a public meeting on Tuesday 23 January to talk about long-term plans for Council reserve land behind the Garden of Harmony and Methven Resort. The meeting will be at the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall function room, beginning at 7.30pm. The meeting is to gauge community interest in the reserve, which is also home to the historic RDR pipeshed.

Tinwald viaduct temporarily closed

The Tinwald viaduct is closed until late February as part of NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi's current work to improve the State Highway 1 corridor through Tinwald.

There is no access through the viaduct during the six-week closure period.

At the same time, Melcombe Street is down to one lane, with portable traffic signals managing vehicles, while contractors continue work on three new raised safety platforms designed to slow traffic and keep cyclists safe.

NZTA said the works would also include new kerb and channel and footpath construction, the installation of a pedestrian crossing and carriageway resurfacing.

A temporary road closure may be necessary on Carters Terrace, at the highway, but that is not yet confirmed.

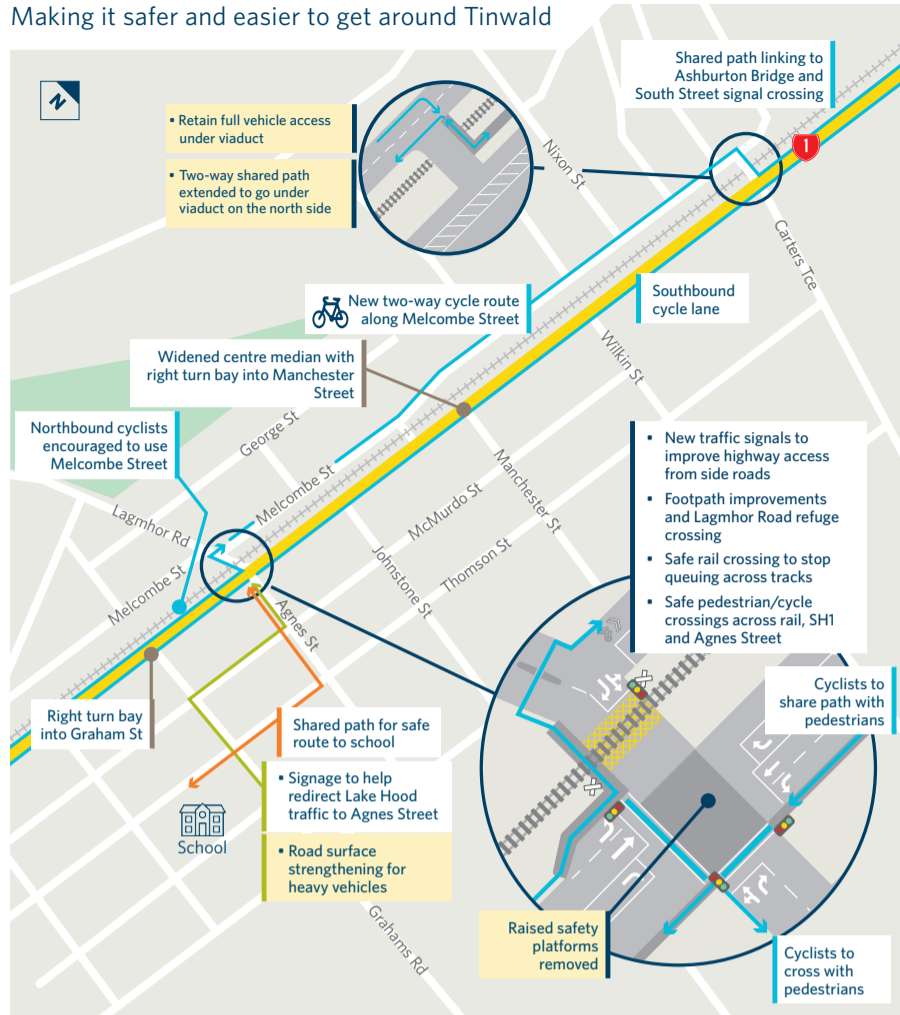
NZTA's SH1 improvement project includes new traffic signals at the intersection of SH1, Lagmhor Road and Agnes Street and they will be installed in the new year. Contractors have been preparing the intersection, installing underground services, resurfacing the highway and painting new lanes over the past months; Lagmhor Road and Agnes Street are currently controlled by stop signs and will stay that way until the new signals are installed and commissioned.

As part of improving connector roads to the State Highway signals, a temporary closure is also planned for the intersection of McMurdo and Graham Streets from 15 January to 29 February. The closure will affect only west-bound traffic and the contractors will keep access for vehicles heading towards Lake Hood; there will be no access from McMurdo Street onto Graham Street.

Detours will be in place, and resident access remains. Please be alert for changes to traffic management.

The work at this intersection includes new kerb and channel and footpath

Making it safer and easier to get around Tinwald



construction, and carriageway resurfacing.

To learn more about the Tinwald work and sign up to NZTA for updates, go to nzta.govt.nz/projects/sh1-tinwald.

Key features of the SH1 Tinwald corridor improvement project:

- Traffic from the Lake Hood area will be encouraged to use McMurdo Street and the traffic signals at Agnes Street as the safest route for turning right onto the highway.
- The northbound state highway right turn bay into Graham Street will be widened, and right turns will still be

possible out of Graham Street with some additional gaps provided from the new signals at Agnes Street.

Agnes and Thomson Street will be promoted as the safest route to Tinwald Primary School. Changes to Melcombe Street will create a safer cycle route to the Ashburton River Bridge and the rail viaduct.

Three raised safety platforms will be installed with cyclist separator strips.

The current northbound highway cycle lane will be removed and the centre flush median widened to make right turns from local streets easier and safer.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Council Workshop - Long Term Plan, Wednesday 17 January, 9am

Methven Community Board, Monday 29 January, 9am at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Ashburton Water Zone Committee, Tuesday 30 January, 1pm

Council Meeting, Wednesday 7 February, 1pm

WORKS NOTICES

Graham Street/McMurdo Street - Temporary closure planned for the intersection of McMurdo and Graham Streets from 15 January to 29 February, as part of the SH1 improvements. The closure will affect only west-bound traffic and the contractors will keep access for vehicles heading towards Lake Hood; there will be no access from McMurdo Street onto Graham Street.

Rakaia Barrhill Methven Road/Back Track Road/Barkers Road - closures until 26 January for road maintenance, stabilising, dig-outs and sealing. Detours will be marked and available; resident access remains.

Grey Street - closed between Cass and William Street from 22-24 January so contractors can install a culvert. Detours available; resident access remains.

William Street - closed until 1 February from Moore Street to Tancred Street (including intersections) so contractors can install new wastewater pipes.

Elizabeth Avenue (Rakaia) - Elizabeth Avenue, from West Town Belt to Rakaia Barrhill Methven Road, is closed until 28 January while a sewer connection for a new subdivision is installed. Detours will be available.

Full closure details on our website ashburtondc.govt.nz

KIDS DEATHLON TRIATHLON
SAT 27 JANUARY
\$25 entry fee per child
Prizes to be won!
REGISTER AT EANETWORKSCENTRE.CO.NZ

FREE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
PEST CONTROL
THUR 25 JANUARY 4:30PM
The workshop will cover ideas behind the Methven Lions' Birdsong Initiative, discussion on available funding opportunities for **PEST CONTROL** and **PLANTING** and how to set and manage trap lines within residential areas and farms.
MT HUTT MEMORIAL HALL
160 Main Street, Methven
Contact biodiversity@adc.govt.nz

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 & MUSEUM

327 West Street
10am - 4pm daily