

Local faces to promote voting

As voting papers for the Local Elections have begun arriving in letterboxes, local faces are once again fronting a campaign in the Ashburton district encouraging people to vote.

Six people, a mix of ages and backgrounds, agreed to take part in the local democracy campaign and they will appear on posters, advertising and social media during the voting stage.

Chief Executive Hamish Riach said it was good to see locals helping to get the message out.

“How better to encourage people to vote, than to highlight our own people. None of them are standing for a position, but they are keen to lend their support to the important message about voting and democracy.”

Mid Canterbury voters will elect a mayor, nine district councillors, six Braided Rivers Community Trust members and two Environment Canterbury representatives.

There is no election needed for the Eastern Ward and for the Methven Community Board, where nominations matched the seats available.

Mr Riach said residents could fill out their



voting papers and return them by post, or drop them into one of the six orange ballot bins around the district.

“If you’re returning your papers by post, then do that by Tuesday 7 October, so they reach voting headquarters in time to be counted. Otherwise drop them into one of our orange election bins right up until 12pm on Saturday 11 October.

“If you’re not sure who to vote for then there are plenty of resources on the voteashburton.nz page to help. There are candidate profiles, and videos, and a

link to the meet-the-candidate evening in Ashburton at the end of August.”

The orange voting bins are at the Ashburton Library, Ashburton District Council, EA Networks Centre, FreshChoice Tinwald, Rakaia Mobil and Four Square Methven.

If you have not yet enrolled to vote, you can still do so and cast a special vote. You can find out about special votes at voteashburton.nz, or visit Customer Services at Te Whare Whakatare any time during business hours.

WATER WORKS

Chertsey on track

Chertsey’s new water treatment plant is on track to be completed by the end of October. The existing plant is on school grounds and wasn’t large enough to accommodate new UV disinfection steps, so a new building is being constructed. The new building is currently being powered up with electricity and will need new connections to Chertsey’s bore. Extra reservoirs are also being added.

Groundwater levels

Council is still monitoring the influence of high groundwater levels on the Wilkins Road wastewater treatment plant and Ocean Farm. Inflow at the treatment plant is still significantly higher than drier months. A piezo-bore also installed at Ashbury Grove is monitoring shallow groundwater levels, and it showed that levels dropped 40cm in the month from 25 July.

Dromore WTP

Work has begun on a major upgrade of the Dromore community drinking water supply. The supply has 80 connections and the upgrade will add additional cartridge filtration and UV disinfection. The new equipment will be housed in a new block building, near the supply’s 102m deep well.

MAYOR Neil Brown

Do you want fries with that?



It’s a throwaway comment I hear sometimes, or read on social media: We get nothing for our rates.

Since you woke up this morning, Council has likely been involved in your life; flushing the toilet, using water to shower and make breakfast, and then walking, cycling, or driving to work on footpaths and roads, which are all services and assets provided and maintained by council.

If your rubbish is collected at the kerbside and if you walk in our domains and open spaces, visit the library and art gallery and museum, or swim and play sport at EA Networks Centre, then these are also assets provided and maintained by council.

Council also provides other services, like tourism promotion and economic development, and runs events for our community like Glow in the Park and the Hakatere Noodle Festival.

To say ratepayers get nothing for their rates is way wide of the mark.

Delivering good value for money will always be the aim – so that is why you often hear councils talk about

balancing affordable rates with services the community needs. We don’t always get it right but if we make a mistake, we own it and try to fix it.

There are other ways to look at it too. In Ashburton, the average high capital value household pays about \$76 a week in rates or \$305 a month, which is about the same as a monthly power bill.

Those rates give you drinking water, wastewater disposal, roads, rubbish collection, parks, libraries and a whole lot more.

Or compare rates with the taxes you pay to central government.

A recent Local Government New Zealand Infometrics report showed just how stretched councils are. For every \$1 you pay in rates, you’re paying \$10 in taxes. Yet councils own more than a quarter of New Zealand’s infrastructure and keep the essentials running: roads, pipes, parks, pools and libraries.

All councils have challenges, geographical or social, but they are all heavily invested in providing the core services their communities need to live, work and play.

SHORT AND SWEET

REBATE CLINICS

Our Customer Service team is heading to the Rakaia Library on **1 October** (from 10am-1pm) to help residents with their rates rebates applications. Please phone 307-7700 to make an appointment at Rakaia, or in Ashburton at another time. Do you qualify? Check the criteria on our ashburtondc.govt.nz/rates webpage.

TREASURED STONE

Have you seen Kura Pounamu at the Art Gallery and Museum yet? It is an exhibition presented by Te Papa and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu featuring more than 200 taonga pounamu, including some rare cultural taonga. It tells the story of this precious stone, its significance for Māori, and its enduring value from ancient times until today. The exhibition includes some 95 hei tiki, 20 mere, and four large pounamu touchstones, the largest of which weighs 170kg.

ROADING CONTRACT

Fulton Hogan Ashburton has been awarded a five-year, \$40.7 million operations and maintenance contract to look after the roading network in the Ashburton District. The new contract begins on 1 December, and involves day-to-day maintenance work around the roading network, from filling potholes until they can be permanently repaired to replacing road signs, grading of unsealed roads, weed spraying, street sweeping and ice-gritting in winter. Council has one of the five largest networks in the country, with 2,622km of roads (1,522km sealed), 188 bridges, 239 traffic islands and about 10,000 road signs.

DIGI COACHES

Need help with your phone, tablet, laptop or other digital devices? Our friendly Digi Coaches are back at the Ashburton Library to assist. Whether it’s setting up an app, troubleshooting a tech issue or learning something new, come in and sit down with a coach. They are available Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Mondays from 1-3pm.

School holidays guide is out now!

Spring into the school holidays at the end of the month, with loads of fun and activities – from searching for treasure to racing remote controlled cars and planting delphiniums in the domain!

Council’s What’s On Guide for September has the low-down on 27 events taking place at the Ashburton Library, Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum, EA Networks Centre and in our parks.

Printed copies are available at Council facilities, and you can also download a copy from our website.

Group Manager People and Facilities Sarah Mosley said the What’s On Guide had become a trusted companion for parents and caregivers in the school holidays. “This is our fourth quarterly guide and it shows all the activities that are available locally, most of them free. We’re really proud of all the fun offerings that have been imagined and brought to life these coming holidays.”

Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum

AAGM currently has an exhibition about the SS Ventnor, which sank off the west coast of New Zealand in 1902. For the school holidays, the team has created a treasure hunt around the facility where children can search for treasure and also make a treasure chest – the activity runs for both weeks of the holidays.

In the second week, children can make a ceramic vase that they take home and bake. This activity ties in with another exhibition about taonga treasure and honouring your ancestors – vases have been used over time as visual stories of the past.

Ashburton Library

The library has a numbr of events for different age groups, but takes on an F1 racing feel, with five two-hour sessions scheduled for teens to come and have a go with some remote controlled cars. The activity is free, but booking is essential, so grab some friends and sign up.

There will be four racing cars and they’ll race on a track in the event space. Circuits will be timed – may the best driver win!



Sessions are Monday 22 Sept 3-5pm, Tuesday 23 Sept 10am-12pm, Wed 1 Oct 2-4pm, Thursday 2 Oct 5.30-7.30pm, Friday 3 Oct 3-5pm.

The library team is heading to the Ashburton Domain on Wednesday 24 September on a date with delphiniums. Come along and plant some and learn about gardening.

The activity is free, but booking is required as there’s a limit of 20 places.

EA Networks Centre

There’s a spring theme for the holiday care programme, which runs on weekdays over the holidays. Activities include archery, swimming and two field trips.

The inflatable will be set up in the stadium from Friday 26 September until Monday 29 September, with set session times for those under five years.

In the pool area, you can float and watch a movie on Saturday 27 September, and there are special events organised during the holidays, like a family water safety session and sensory swim morning.

Sink a free throw at one of our basketball hoops to help raise money for Plunket, in our own version of Dunk It for Plunket.

Check out the full list of activities in the What’s On Guide, on our website.



ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a road closures to enable the holding of the following community event.

HAKATERE NOODLE FESTIVAL

Roads proposed to be closed:

- **Baring Square East, from Cameron to Havelock Street**
- **Cameron Street, from East to Cass Street**
- **Victoria Street, at Cameron Street intersection**

Period of closure: **From 11am to 11.59pm on Saturday, 13 September**

It will be an offence under the Local Government Act for any unauthorised vehicles to be on the roads.

NEIL McCANN, Group Manager Infrastructure & Open Spaces

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are at Hine Paaka (Council Chamber), 2 Baring Square East, unless specified. Agendas can be found on our website.

Wednesday 17 September, **Council meeting** (livestreamed), 1pm

Thursday 18 September, **Stockwater Transition Working Group**, 1pm

Monday 22 September, **Methven Community Board**, 9am, Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Wednesday 24 September, **Council Activity Briefings** (livestreamed), 9.30am

Wednesday 24 September, **Council Agencies - 6 month reporting**, 1pm

PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a proposal to temporarily close roads to traffic to enable the holding of the following community event.

MISSION MT SOMERS

Road proposed to be closed:

- **The whole length of SYMES ROAD**

Period of closure: **From 6am to 4.30pm on Saturday, 1 November 2025**

Any person objecting to the proposal should do so in writing by post or email to the Council, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton by 4pm, **Monday, 22 September 2025.**

NEIL McCANN, Group Manager Infrastructure & Open Spaces

TREE PRUNING

Arborists will be undertaking pruning and maintenance on protected trees outside Balmoral Hall on September 15 and 16.

Branches over the roads are being lifted and deadwood removed, and the red oak is having weight reduced on a limb over Cass Street. Please watch for work zones.

ROADING NOTICES

Line Road, Methven - Parts of Line Road will be closed to traffic until mid-October while new wastewater pipes are installed. Tru-Line Civil is laying about 800 metres of pipe from Methven’s wastewater treatment plant west along Line Road to the township. Any road closures and detours will be signposted.

King and Alexander Streets, Chertsey - Closed until late September while a new water treatment plant is built. The road closure does not impact school access.

Philip Street - Sections closed at times between Oak Grove and Walker Street until late-September while new water pipes are installed by Rooney Earthmoving. Resident access remains.

Mason Place - Mason Place will be closed to traffic until 31 October, while new water pipes are installed. Access for residents remains.

Tancred Street - Closed between William Street and Chalmers Avenue until end of August while new water pipes are installed by Rooney Earthmoving. Resident access remains.

Grove Street - Closed at Wilkins Street intersection while new water mains are installed by Rooney Earthmoving. Road closures and detours expected until 31 October. Resident access remains.

Ashburton Staveley Road - Closed between Walkhams Road and Driscolls Road from 22 September until 28 September while a stock underpass is constructed by Harmer Earthmoving. Resident access remains, detours will be signposted.

Tinwald viaduct - Melcombe Street, under the Tinwald viaduct, is temporarily closed pending repairs by KiwiRail.

Ashburton River Road and Longs Ford Road – Periodic closures until 30 September while Fulton Hogan carries out water main installations and testing as part of maintenance and infrastructure upgrades on behalf of Council.

Full details of local road closures are on our website, ashburtondc.govt.nz

WATER RACES BYLAW

Notice is given that the Water Races Bylaw 2025 comes into operation on 12 September 2025.

Copies of the bylaw may be inspected and obtained at Te Whare Whakatere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton or from ashburtondc.govt.nz

VISITING OUR DISTRICT?

Here's how we roll when it comes to recycling:

- Clean glass bottles in the green crate
- Clean hard plastics 1, 2 and 5 (no lids), and clean cardboard, paper and tins in the yellow bin
- Food waste and all other rubbish in the red bin



COUNCIL OFFICE

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

ASHBURTON LIBRARY

2 Baring Square East, Ashburton 7700
Mon & Fri 8.30am-6pm, Tue-Thu 8.30am-8pm
Sat & Sun 10am-4pm

EA NETWORKS CENTRE

20 River Terrace
Mon - Fri 5.45am-9pm (pools 8pm Mon & Tue, 7pm Wed-Fri; gym 8pm). Sat & Sun 7am-7pm (pools 6pm, gym 6pm)

ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

327 West Street
10am-4pm daily (late night Wed)