

## New plant eats up district's recycling

Kerbside recycling from Ashburton is now being sorted by a new \$3.8 million materials recovery facility (MRF) in Timaru.

The plant was officially opened this month and is operated by EnviroWaste. It receives kerbside recycling from Ashburton, as well as Timaru, Waimate, Mackenzie and Central Otago district councils, along with recycling from commercial businesses.

The plant sorts mixed plastics, aluminium and steel, and paper and cardboard and has the capacity to process five tonnes of material an hour.

Ashburton District Council sends seven truckloads of kerbside and rural recycling (an average of 22 tonnes) to the plant each week and Infrastructure Services Group Manager Neil McCann said the aim was to send more as people upped their recycling habits.

"We know from audits of kerbside rubbish bins that we could be recycling more and this new plant certainly has the capacity to deal with it."

Council has recently updated its Bin it Right booklet, which contains helpful advice about how to recycle more and minimise waste.

"Council staff visited the new Timaru plant recently and were impressed by the machinery's ability to sort the materials. It was also a good to see that kerbside recycling, done correctly, can be easily processed."

Material is loaded onto conveyors and sorted by machine and by hand, and items that can't be recycled are removed. Paper,



cardboard and other flat items move through a fibre optical sorter, and large magnets remove steel cans.

Separated materials are fed into a baler and compressed, ready to transport to markets.

EnviroNZ CEO Chris Aughton said household and commercial recycling required sorting on a large scale, but was an everyday act of environmentalism that reduced waste and kept some products and materials in use.

"Our new materials recovery facility is a piece of critical regional infrastructure that expands local recycling capabilities and supports community sustainability

solutions. It keeps valuable resources in circulation and reduces the amount of waste that ends up in landfill."

Once sorted and separated, recyclables are sent to local and international markets so they can have a second life.

Mr Aughton said plastics were transformed into new products that are used by the likes of food producers, farmers and the building industry, while glass bottles and jars were melted down to make new glass containers.

"Households are a vital link in New Zealand's shift towards a circular economy."

## Helping the fight in Blue September

**Ashburton men dealing with prostate cancer will have their exercise costs covered by the Prostate Cancer Foundation of New Zealand if they want to access weekly Prost-FIT classes at EA Networks Centre.**

The foundation has begun fully funding the customised class to co-incide with Blue September, which is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. Being active can help manage some of the common side effects of treatment for prostate cancer and speed up recovery.

The class at EA Networks Centre is held on a Monday, from 11am until 12noon, and is regularly attended by up to 10 men.

Community Services Group Manager Steve Fabish said Prost-FIT had been running for more than a year in Ashburton and as well as exercise and health benefits, the class gave the men a chance to gather afterwards for a coffee and chat.

"We have a solid core of 8-10 men coming along to this class regularly and we know they get a lot out of it. Being active helps with treatment, is good for mental wellbeing and people can share their experiences."

The Prostate Cancer Foundation announced last week that it will fully fund weekly classes. "We hope the fact that this weekly class is now more available to participants encourages more men to come along," Mr Fabish said.

## Hamish Riach - Chief Executive Second bridge case officially lodged

**Council has this week officially lodged its detailed business case for a second Ashburton River bridge with Waka Kotahi.**

That act marks a significant point in the timeline of the project, and the case for funding from Waka Kotahi/ NZ Transport Agency will go before its board in November. Between now and then, the agency's staff will be scrutinising our case and many supporting documents, and providing advice and analysis for when it is up for discussion – likely against many other important transport projects around the country.

We know how crucial this bridge is to improving connectivity not just between Ashburton and Tinwald, but for the whole of the South Island. When traffic is unable to cross the current SH1 bridge, because of a major flood, a small crash or just long weekend traffic, we see gridlock and delays.

Waka Kotahi's response to the business case will determine the next steps for Council. The business case suggests a subsidy of 62% is justified, although Council has indicated a higher subsidy rate should be applicable because the new bridge will take pressure off the current State Highway bridge and improve the connectivity of the whole South Island.

The total cost of the new bridge is estimated at \$113m in today's terms - Council has \$7.5m in its 2021-31 Long Term Plan for a second bridge.

Council has contemplated the likely scenario that between Waka Kotahi and Council's own LTP provision, there will still be a shortfall in funding that will need to be solved. Council's contribution can only change at the next Long Term Plan (2024-34) or through an Annual Plan in between – these plans must involve consultation, so Ashburton District ratepayers and community can be confident that they

will be able to have a say about any change to Council's contribution.

The cost of the project includes a bridge over the river from Chalmers Avenue to Tinwald, and a new road to Grahams Road; roundabouts are planned at South Street, Wilkins Road and Grahams Road.

We anticipate it will look something like the bridge that was built over the Ashley River (Cones Road) at Rangiora and which opened to traffic in 2015.

The detailed business case provides evidence that our need for a second bridge is a resilience issue greater than anywhere else in the region – when the State Highway 1 bridge was closed because of damage caused by the May 2021 floods, our only connection to Tinwald was severed, along with the main road freight route from Christchurch to Dunedin.

As major weather events are anticipated to become more common,



there will be an increased probability of bridge closures and, like other ageing bridges, increased potential for bridge failure.

We are not alone battling the long-term effects of wild weather on infrastructure and our thoughts are with all those flooded around New Zealand in recent storms, particularly in Nelson and Marlborough.

While local authorities there and the communities they represent face a long road to recovery, it serves as a reminder to all communities of how important it is to be as prepared as possible for such an event, from civil defence to climate-proofing important roading networks.



# Satisfaction survey influenced by roads

Almost all residents that took part in the Annual Residents' Survey for Ashburton District Council perceive that the district is about the same or better as a place to live than it was three years ago.

Although Council's provision and maintenance of recreation and leisure activities and facilities, opportunities for grants and funding, community events, social services and economic development continue to be very strong areas of performance, satisfaction levels around the roading network decreased significantly.

Council's overall performance dipped by eight points to 66 per cent in 2022 compared to 74 per cent in 2021.

Chief Executive Hamish Riach said it was disappointing to see a drop in overall satisfaction.

"But we can see a clear link between how people feel about roads and our overall performance, and we're committed to addressing the issue of our battered and ageing roading network.

"Council has allocated \$1.7 million from the forestry reserve to a work programme which will allow us to rehabilitate key roads, rather than trying to hold poor sections of pavement together with short term repairs."

Satisfaction with sealed roads decreased 14 points to 24 per cent satisfaction and unsealed roads by seven points to 46 per cent over the past year. "Too many potholes" was stated as a main concern of those surveyed.

"Not only is our roading network the fifth largest in New Zealand, but it is heavily used. When you add the increasing frequency of extreme weather events into



the mix, it leaves us with a hefty challenge," Mr Riach said.

The issue isn't just confined to the Ashburton District.

"Adverse weather events are badly affecting roading networks right across the country. Water is the enemy of roads and having some of the wettest months on record is certainly taking its toll."

According to Key Research, who produced the residents' survey, councils across New Zealand have seen overall satisfaction levels trend downward over the past year.

Satisfaction with the Ashburton council's building services and council staff also dipped.

Mr Riach said those drops were likely related to the current building boom, with staff struggling to meet timeframes for consents, and council's mandates around

Covid-19 and vaccination.

Overall, residents were most satisfied with the public library service, cemeteries, and Ashburton Domain, with a significant increase noted in satisfaction with playgrounds.

Satisfaction with rubbish and recycling has improved with more than eight in 10 residents (85%) satisfied.

The 2021/22 Annual Residents' Survey was conducted on a representative cross-section of the community and was carried out in four stages throughout the year, both online and in hard copy. The sample size of the survey was 871 people across the the district with a margin of error of +/- 3.32%.

The Annual Residents' Survey can be viewed on our website, ashburtondc.govt.nz.

## Feedback on airport plan welcome until 30 August

More than 40 submissions have been received so far on Council's draft development plan for the Ashburton Airport, with the deadline for community feedback Tuesday 30 August.

Council is envisioning a more active and financially sustainable airport, with three new hangar precincts on the 100-hectare site, including a hangar-home area where people can live in the same building as their aircraft.

A drop-in session at the airport recently to share information about the development plan attracted a good crowd, reflecting the growing popularity of the facility.

The long-term plan looks at future growth and how the airport might serve the district over the next 30 years and Council is keen to get as much feedback as possible.

Of the submissions received so far, there is overall support for the draft development plan and its goals. There is very strong support (over 90 per cent of submitters) for building more recreational hangar space



Above: Around 80 people attended the drop-in day at the airport.

in the locations proposed.

While there is general support for hangar homes, views are more mixed about how many of these should be built.

Submitters also support plans to make the airport more financially self-sufficient, so it would need less input from ratepayers via a contribution from general rates.

The consultation document and submission form can be found at ashburtondc.govt.nz/airport.

### COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held in the Council Chambers, 137 Havelock Street, (unless otherwise advised).

Methven Community Board - Monday 5 September, 10.30am at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Council Meeting - Wednesday 7 September, 1.00pm (live-streamed)

Council Agencies (six-month reports) - Wednesday 14 September, 9.30am (live-streamed)

Council Hearings (Ashburton Airport Development Plan) - Wednesday 14 September, 1.00pm (live-streamed)

Council Meeting - Wednesday 21 September, 1.00pm (live-streamed)

Council Activity Briefings - Wednesday 28 September, 9.30am

Audit & Risk Committee - Wednesday 28 September, 1.30pm (live-streamed)

Council Hearings (Stormwater Bylaw) - Thursday 29 September, 9.00am (live-streamed)

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURES

Pursuant to the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is hereby given that the Ashburton District Council is proposing to temporarily close the following roads for the purposes described -

- Roads proposed to be closed:
- **EAST STREET**, from Moore Street to Havelock Street
  - **TANCRED STREET**, from East Street to Cass Street
  - **BURNETT STREET**, from East Street to Cass Street

**Purpose:** To enable the holding of a community event – Ashburton Market Day

**Period of closure:** From 7.00am until 6.00pm on Monday, 26 September 2022

**Objections:** By 4.00pm on Monday, 29 August 2022

Road proposed to be closed: **WINSLOW WILLOWBY ROAD**, from the Longbeach Road intersection to approximately 500m from the intersection with State Highway 1

**Purpose:** To enable the Ashburton Car Club to hold the Winslow Willowby Road Standing Quarter Mile Sprint

**Period of closure:** From 9.00am until 4.00pm on Saturday, 10 September 2022

**Objections:** By 4.00pm on Wednesday, 31 August 2022

**Date change:** This event and proposed road closure was previously scheduled for 3 September 2022.

**Objections:** Any person objecting to the proposals above should lodge notice of their objection and the grounds for their objection in writing by post or email to the Council, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, by the date noted.

NEIL MCCANN  
Group Manager  
Infrastructure Services

### RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

#### WINDSTRAPS: METHVEN

Our team will be installing windstraps in the Methven collection area on **Monday 29 August**. If you have a wheelie bin without a windstrap, please put it out at the kerbside by **7.30am**, even if it isn't full. The straps help keep lids shut on windy days, even when bins blow over. They're specially designed to be undone as the bin is picked up and emptied. There's no charge for the windstraps.



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 9.00am - 8.00pm  
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