

Driver licence course needs helpers

Ashburton College is looking for volunteer drivers to sit alongside students working towards their restricted driver's licence.

The volunteers, who must hold a full licence, are being asked to give two hours a week to help senior students move from being learner drivers to restricted drivers, and principal Ross Preece says it will be life-changing for many.

"There is a car supplied so the only thing we are asking for is time, because we know that being able to drive legally helps our students get jobs and become good members of our community."

The college has funding from the Ministry for Social Development to pilot a driving programme that will be rolled out around New Zealand if it is successful. All senior students who have held their learner licence for five months can apply to do the 12-week programme – they will be matched with a mentor who will drive with them twice a week until they are ready to sit their restricted licence.

Salvation Army is delivering the course and instructor Heather Daly will ride along once a month to monitor the young driver's progress. She will undertake a mock test before the learner driver signs up for the restricted test.

Mr Preece said young people needed to practise driving after they get their learner licence, but it was hard if there was no access to a vehicle, if there was no fully-licensed driver available to sit along them, or if household funds could not stretch to cover the cost of petrol for practice drives, or the cost of the test itself.

"We are finding that the six mentor drivers we have so far have formed quite a bond with their students.



"The sad thing is that we have seven other students wanting to do their restricted but no volunteers to ride with them. We're hoping retired folk or businesses keen for their staff to do some community work might step up."

Volunteers must be over the age of 20 and have held a full licence for two years. They will need to attend a short session with the Salvation Army driving instructor to ensure they know what is expected.

The car, which is stored at the college, will be available from 7.30am until 7.30pm in the summer, and from 9am until 6pm in the winter.

Mr Preece said the college was hoping to start the new school year with a decent number of both learner drivers and mentor drivers.

"Potentially we will have 260 students in Year 12 and to be able to equip them with a restricted licence, or help them move from a restricted to a full licence, would be a huge boost to their chances of getting a

job.

"Mid Canterbury was chosen to pilot the programme as we have no public transport, so it is even more important for our young people to be able to drive safely."

Ashburton Mayor Neil Brown supports the driver programme and said having a driver's licence was important and also helped remove a barrier to employment.

"I remember learning to drive when I was a teenager and then teaching my own children, and it is a skill you need to practise. Having your restricted licence is now also something that many employers look for.

"There are no barriers now to getting your licence as they have been removed, so I encourage all students to take up the offer."

People wanting to help students should get in touch with Anne Sheehan, in the college office by phoning 03 308 4193.

Join Mark's 60km mission for Movember

Rakaia School principal and volunteer firefighter Mark Ellis is ticking over the kilometres this month to support Movember and men's mental health.

He aims to walk 60km during the month, sometimes wearing his full firefighter kit, and he is hoping others may choose to walk with him – there will be an opportunity on Wednesday 16 November, when he will be walking at the EA Networks Centre between 4pm-8pm.

He'll be wearing his firefighter kit that day and says walking for four hours will be a challenge. The kit will also help raise awareness for emergency staff, who encounter mental health issues and suicide on a regular basis.

"I decided to do Movember because mental health and suicide prevention in New Zealand needs funding urgently. Working in education and Fire and Emergency NZ, I have seen both issues.

"Everyone has a story and by raising awareness of mental health we let everyone know that it is normal to have challenges and uncertainty."

Mark said men usually grew a moustache in Movember but as he already had one, he decided on a physical challenge to show his support. People who want to support him can do so at the EA Networks Centre on Wednesday 16 November, or by going to the Movember website and donating there by searching his name <https://nz/movember.com/>

Read Mark's full story on our website.

Neil Brown - Mayor

Driving with purpose reaps rewards

The silly season has begun, and the next six weeks is a whirl of events, from acknowledging the efforts of more than 200 apprentices to lighting up the big Christmas tree on East Street and hearing submissions on Council's alfresco dining policy.

This week we also hope to hear some good news from Waka Kotahi about the re-opening of the Walnut Avenue intersections and that will provide some timely Christmas cheer as traffic flows return to normal.

With traffic lights instead of two roundabouts, our school children will find it safer to cross the state highway on their bikes or on foot, and that has to be a good thing.

Our young drivers too need support

and I am hoping that Council can help encourage a few more volunteers to help Ashburton College students working hard to move from their learner to restricted licences.

A 12-week programme pairs up experienced drivers with learner drivers and helps them prepare to take the restricted test, but the college desperately needs more volunteers so that the programme can keep going next year. If it's successful, it will be rolled out around the country.

Ashburton is a good place to try it because we don't have public transport and many jobs require workers to travel, either to the place of work or as part of the job itself. Helping students get their licences means they are much more likely to land a job and help contribute to our economy.

Also still on their 'restricted licences' are our new councillors, who are rapidly getting to grips with Council business following the Local Government Elections.

This week elected members and senior staff paid a visit to Te Pātaka a kā Tuhituhi and Te Waharoa a Hine Paaka, the new library and civic centre under construction at Baring Square East. For the new councillors, this was their first look inside the building that will meet our growing district's needs for another 50 years.

It is an ongoing challenge to keep construction costs to within the original budget, and we are doing our best to keep the project on track financially.

I look forward to the day when the scaffolding comes down and we can see how this landmark building will

sit in the space and serve its community.

It will be well placed for events like Light up the Night and other special occasions.

Next week I will be meeting with mayors around the South Island at a zone 5/6 local government conference in Nelson, and then with mayors of rural and provincial districts a few days later in Wellington.

Two topics bound to be well discussed will be the future of local government, on the back of the first draft report into Government's review for local government, and the alternate three waters plan proposed by the mayors of Auckland and Christchurch cities.



New properties in updated tsunami zones



The Ashburton District Council has released updated tsunami evacuation zones after scientific modelling showed new areas that could be flooded in some worst-case tsunami scenarios.

The modelling was commissioned by Environment Canterbury and has already been completed for many other parts of Canterbury. In the Ashburton District, the changes are relatively minor with around 10 new properties included in the revised zones. Settlements such as the South Rakaia Huts, Lower Hakatere Huts and North Rangitata Huts were already located within existing tsunami evacuation zones.

Jane Donaldson, Strategy and Compliance Group Manager, said most of the newly included area is rural land rather than homes, however the Council still encourages people who live or spend time near the coast to familiarise themselves with the updated evacuation zones.

“Coastal residents should search for their address on our website and see if any of their property is within a tsunami evacuation zone. These events are rare, so people don’t need to be alarmed, however they should have a plan for what to do if they need to evacuate.”

The Ashburton District has two tsunami evacuation zones: red and orange. The red zone is most likely to be affected by a tsunami and includes estuaries, river mouths, and beaches where a tsunami of any size could cause strong currents and surges in the water.

The orange zone is less likely to be affected by a tsunami than the red zone and includes areas of land that could be flooded in a large tsunami.

Ms Donaldson said that people in the red and orange zones need to evacuate immediately if they feel a long or strong earthquake, or receive an official tsunami warning.

“Our message hasn’t changed, if you feel an earthquake that is long or strong, get gone,” she said. “There may not be time for an official warning, so once the shaking stops, head immediately inland until you’re outside of the evacuation zones.”

Helen Jack, Senior Scientist - Natural Hazards at Environment Canterbury, said the likelihood of a tsunami being created close to Ashburton’s coast is small, and the biggest tsunami threats for the Ashburton District are those created by large earthquakes on the Hikurangi or Kermadec subduction zones (to the east and north of the North Island), the

Puysegur subduction zone (to the south of Fiordland), or by large earthquakes off the coasts of Central or South America.

“These tsunami evacuation zones represent an ‘envelope’ around many different possible worst-case tsunami scenarios,” says Ms Jack. “Most tsunamis will only affect the beach and river mouth areas in the red zone, but occasionally we may experience a larger tsunami that could inundate parts of the orange zone.”

Ms Donaldson said residents in the affected areas can expect to receive more information in their mailbox shortly and tsunami evacuation signage at coastal locations will be updated.

Ashburton Civil Defence Emergency Management will also work with coastal communities to update their local response plans as required.

“Many of our coastal settlements already have good plans for warning and protecting their communities from natural disasters,” she said. “These can include phone trees or local fire sirens, so if you live in one of these areas, make sure you know what your community has in place.”

She says as with other natural hazard information, the tsunami evacuation zones will be reflected in Land Information Memoranda (LIMs).

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

Ashburton Water Zone Committee
– Tuesday 22 November, 1pm (live-streamed)

Submission deliberations for Draft Alfresco Dining Policy and Draft Speed Management Plan
– Wednesday 23 November, 9am (live-streamed)

Council Meeting – Wednesday 23 November, 1pm (live-streamed)

Submission deliberations continued – Thursday 24 November, 9am (live-streamed)

Council Activity Briefings – Wednesday 30 November, 9am

Audit and Risk Committee – Wednesday 30 November, 2pm (live-streamed)

RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

CANTERBURY ANNIVERSARY DAY, FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER

There is **no change to kerbside rubbish and recycling** collections on Friday 11 November and the kerbside collection will take place as usual. The **Ashburton Resource Recovery Park** will be open from 8am until 6pm on Friday 11 November.

Please use your windstrap, no matter the weather!



ALCOHOL OFF LICENCE

NOTICE OF HEARING

A hearing before the Ashburton District Licensing Committee in the matter of an application by KD Kumar Investments Ltd for an off licence under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 has been adjourned until **Friday 2 December**.

Venue: Council Chambers, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

Time: 10am

RICK CATCHPOWLE
Secretary, District Licensing Committee

BUSKERS WANTED!

Council is looking for buskers to help spread some Christmas cheer around the CBD on Friday 23 December and Saturday 24 December, between 10am and 2pm. So if you are feeling the Christmas spirit and would like to share your musical skills during our Nights of Lights festival, please get in touch with us at events@adc.govt.nz

PUBLIC NOTICES

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST TO LEASE LAND

The Ashburton District Council seeks expressions of interest to lease some, or all, of land described below;

- 1. 15-35 Bryant Street, Tinwald**
Area: Approximately 1 hectare
- 2. 20 Bryant Street, Tinwald**
Area: Approximately 1.3 hectares

Both sites contain a number of sheds, as well as yard space. A lease of up to 2.5 years will be offered to the successful tenderer/s.

Interested parties are welcome to contact Council officers to arrange an inspection of the land and buildings prior to lodging a tender.

Interested parties may express their interest by completing the appropriate tender documentation which may be obtained from **Council’s Commercial Property Team** at 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, by phoning Council on 03 307 7700 or by e-mailing commercial@adc.govt.nz.

Tenders are to be enclosed in an envelope labelled “**Bryant Street Lease Tender**” and are to be either delivered or posted to reach Council by **closing time of 4pm, Friday 18 November 2022**. Address for tenders: Bryant Street Lease Tender, The Chief Executive Officer, Ashburton District Council, PO BOX 94, Ashburton 7700.

The highest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.
Officer for enquiries – Michelle Hydes, Property Advisor: 027 573 0265



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, late night Wed to 7pm