

## Sci-art adventures and war stories

From Antarctica to Westerfield and Godley Head, two events at the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum this month tell stories important to our past and future.

On Wednesday 19 April, artists Gabby O'Connor and Adele Jackson will be discussing art, Antarctica and Gabby's exhibition *All the Colours, All the Light* during an artist talk at 6pm.

Installation artist Gabby O'Connor's current research interests involve working with scientists and communities to communicate the connections between art, science, climate and place.

She has worked on many collaborative art-sci projects that connect climate change research with art audiences and wider communities. These projects have resulted in her conducting artistic and scientific research in Antarctica, inspiring works such as *All the Colours, All the Light*.

Gabby is currently completing her transdisciplinary PhD research project, *The Unseen*.

Adele Jackson is a multidisciplinary environmental artist, researcher and educator based in Ōtautahi Christchurch.

She has worked in Antarctica since 2013 in roles including base leader, conservation team field assistant, expedition photographer and nature guide.

Adele holds a PhD in Antarctic studies; her thesis examined the value of contemporary visual artists working in Antarctica. She is an adjunct researcher with the University of Tasmania and recently joined Canterbury Museum as Curator Human History with a specialism in Antarctic art and culture.

The second event is an Anzac Day kōrero, *Defending Waitaha Canterbury during WWII*, and will take place on Tuesday 25 April at 2pm.



Street artist Wongi Wilson created this mural at the Godley Head coastal battery, near Lyttleton Harbour.

The Anzac Day discussion is about Westerfield Military Camp and the Awaroa/Godley Head coastal defence battery near Lyttleton Harbour, and visitors are also encouraged to commemorate New Zealanders who have served our country by visiting the museum's new exhibition *Westerfield Camp – The Army Marches In*.

The army camp and Godley Head were constructed during the Second World War amidst a widespread fear of attack or invasion of Aotearoa itself, first by the Germans and later by the Japanese.

Our Senior Museum Curator Maryann Cowan will share the forgotten story of the Westerfield Military Camp, built in 1942 across a 162 hectare landscape located 19km inland from Ashburton, of which few physical remnants exist. The story of this fleeting camp has been pieced

together through photographs, archival records and first-hand accounts.

Godley Head Heritage Trust Historian and chair Peter Wilkins will also discuss one of the most intact and extensive WWII coastal defence batteries left in Aotearoa. In its heyday, the Godley Head fort was a self-contained community staffed by over 400 men and women.

Today, three large gun emplacements and seven military buildings remain. The site has undergone significant repair in recent years and new interpretation has been developed to improve the visitor experience, including WWII murals created by Ōtautahi street artist Wongi Wilson.

## Ready to vote in the by-election?

People living in the Western Ward of the Ashburton District are being encouraged to check they are on the electoral roll so they can take part in the by-election.

The election will be held by postal vote and voting papers will be mailed out to Western Ward electors around 20 April. Voting will close at midday on Friday 12 May.

Those who received voting papers in the 2022 Local Elections are likely to be on the electoral roll but those who are new to the ward or have recently moved, should check their details are up to date.

Electors may enrol or amend their enrolment details online at [www.vote.nz](http://www.vote.nz), by texting their name and address to 3676 or by calling 0800 36 76 56 to ask for a form to be sent. Email requests can be sent to [enquiries@elections.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@elections.govt.nz)

Voters will be able to return their ballot papers by post or drop them into orange voting bins at the Methven i-Hub, Ashburton Library or the Council building.

Nominations can be viewed on [voteashburton.nz](http://voteashburton.nz)



## Russell Ellis - Councillor

### Civic centre designed for the future

**It certainly does not seem like four years have passed since Council went to the community and asked for its thoughts about a new library and civic centre.**

That piece of consultation in 2019 drove decisions on the current building under construction, which we now know will come in about 10 per cent over budget.

It's worth noting that back then, Council's preferred option was a \$45 million mid-range building - but during consultation Councillors were given the message, loud and clear, that the community wanted a building for the

future. Do it once, do it right, we were told at the time.

As a member of the Project Control Group back then, and now, I've kept a close eye on how it's tracking. I poured over the original tender documents, and I've subjected the budget to some fairly rigorous forensic accounting.

It's fair to say we too are disappointed that we are now expecting the project to run over its current \$56.75m budget by about 10 per cent. But you can't change covid and you can't change the economy, both of which have had a major impact on the cost rise.

It is also fair to say that a \$20m

Shovel Ready Project grant from the Government during covid means no-one's rates will change because of what has happened.

We will end up with a fantastic facility and it will cost ratepayers no more than what was projected at consultation in 2019.

Those critical of the project only need look at the current Ashburton Public Library, which needs major earthquake strengthening, and the existing Council administration building, which is bursting at the seams and a long way from an ideal working space.

This is also a project that has spanned

several terms of Council and three mayors, and has been robustly debated by many local people elected by their communities to sit at the Council table.

Doing nothing has never been an option and I am excited at the benefits that the library, Te Pātaka o kā Tuhituhi and civic centre, Te Waharoa a Hine Paaka will bring for the whole district.

Our modern library, with special learning spaces, will be a place for everyone to enjoy and be proud of, and the whole of Baring Square East and the CBD in general will be regenerated as a result.



# Chat with the Councillors



**Ashburton District Councillors (from left) Richard Wilson, Liz McMillan, Tony Todd and Mayor Neil Brown will be among Councillors hosting drop-in sessions at the Ashburton Public Library from Tuesday 18 April.**

## Do you have a burning issue you'd like to discuss with an elected councillor? Or a great idea for the future of our district?

From next Tuesday you can chat with a Councillor at the Ashburton Public Library, where we'll be running weekly drop-in sessions.

The sessions will be from 2-3pm and 6-8pm, and start from Tuesday 18 April. The chats will initially be trialled for a four-month period.

Democracy and Engagement Group Manager Toni Durham said Councillors wanted to make sure they were in touch with their community.

"Some people find our submission process a bit daunting, so they don't submit on things like Long Term Plans or consultation documents, meaning our

elected members may not hear from a broad cross section in the community about the issues.

"It's important our Councillors are accessible to residents, so having them available at informal drop-in sessions will help people to reach out and connect with them."

Mrs Durham said different Councillors would be on duty each week.

"This is really about encouraging and engaging in a good discussion, and not a replacement for customer service requests that are best dealt with via our Snap, Send, Solve app or getting in touch with the customer services team.

"Come instead with your great ideas for the future of the district, or ask some key questions about why council made a decision on something that has affected you."

## Seeking your feedback on our drinking water policy

### Council has released a draft Revenue and Financing Policy on drinking water for consultation, aimed at bringing residents on the Methven-Springfield water supply into the District Water Group.

The Methven water treatment plant is being upgraded to supply both Methven and Methven-Springfield schemes, but the Methven-Springfield scheme currently funds its own scheme and sits outside the group.

The District Water Group includes Methven, Rakaia and Ashburton drinking water schemes and ratepayers connected to a Council water supply all pay the same amount to maintain or improve infrastructure.

Democracy and Engagement Group Manager Toni Durham said the Methven-Springfield supply needed to be included in the treatment plant upgrade so its drinking water met new national standards.

"The draft policy out for consultation tries to strike a balance between affordability for Methven-Springfield ratepayers and fairness for ratepayers already in the group.

"Spreading the cost of the multi-million-dollar upgrade over the entire group will have a small impact on everybody, rather than a massive impact on a few."

The consultation document will ask if people support Council's desire to have Methven-Springfield in the District Water Group, and how the new members should pay for their extraordinary water use.

Mrs Durham said while Methven-Springfield is a rural-agricultural water supply scheme it is still required to meet the Drinking Water Standards New Zealand as some of the water supplied households.

To read the full consultation document, go to our website [ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay).

Submissions close Sunday 7 May, 5pm.

## ROAD WORKS NOTICES

**Holmes Road – current to 21 April.** Holmes Road between Mt Hutt Station Road and Barkers Road is closed for a full road reconstruction and drainage installation. Detour options available.

**Thompsons Track - current to 28 April.** Thompsons Track, between Methven Highway and Ashburton River Road, is closed for rehabilitation work. Detours are available; resident access remains.

**Allens Road** - Sections of Allens Road between Middle Road and Harrison Street may be closed over the next few weeks for watermain renewal. Detours available.

**SH1/Archibald Street - upcoming.** Contractors will soon be replacing water pipes and property connections on Archibald Street, from Johnstone Street to Jane Street. Watch for detours and temporary lane closures.

View a map of all current and upcoming road closures in the district by going to our website [ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz)

## FLUSH YOUR TAPS

Some plumbing fittings have the potential for small traces of metals to accumulate in water that has been in the fitting for several hours.

Although the health risk is small, it is recommended that you run a mugful of water through your drinking water tap each morning before use to remove any metals that may have dissolved from plumbing fittings.

We recommend this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.

**Neil McCann - Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a proposal to temporarily close roads to ordinary vehicle traffic to enable the holding of a community event – **Ashburton Car Club's Street Sprint Meeting**.

Road proposed to be closed:

- **Smallbone Drive – Robinson Street – Range Street – McNally Street**

Periods of Closure:

**From Friday 12 May 7pm to Sunday 14 May 8pm 2023.**

This proposed closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 – Schedule 10 (11 (e) and will be considered at the next COUNCIL MEETING on **3 May 2023**.

Any person objecting to the proposal should lodge a notice of their objection and grounds for their objection in writing by post or email to the Council, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton by 4pm, **Friday 14 April 2023**.

**NEIL McCANN**

**Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### MTB TRACK CLOSURE

The Ashburton mountainbike loop and river walkway will be closed for Mountain Bike Ashburton's annual 4 and 6 Hour Mountain Bike Race on **Saturday 15 April**.

The area affected is between SH1 and Melrose Road between **6am and 6pm**.

For details of the event, go to [www.mountainbikeashburton.co.nz](http://www.mountainbikeashburton.co.nz)



**TAKE A STAND**  
**VOTE**  
WESTERN WARD BY-ELECTION 2023

**Vote in the Western Ward**

**Voting starts 20 April, are you enrolled?**

**Voting closes at noon, Friday 12 May. Find out more at [voteashburton.nz](http://voteashburton.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 & ASHBURTON MUSEUM

327 West Street  
10am - 4pm daily