

## Showcasing our tourism assets to the world

The Ashburton District was on show last week to more than 330 international buyers at the tourism trade show **Trenz**.

Sixteen buyers, from mainly Europe and Asia, also visited the district for a first-hand look, ahead of the show, which was held at Te Pae in Christchurch. About 1500 delegates and over 300 New Zealand tourism businesses were showcasing their products and services.

The buyers were taken on a short guided tour of the Ashburton District last Monday, travelling by bus along the Inland Route 72 to the Staveley Store, where they were treated to a Kiwi-style paper bag morning tea. They then had a chance to soak in the new Opuke Thermal Hot Pools, before heading to Ashburton and then Farmers Corner for lunch.

The group, which was accompanied by Ashburton District Council Economic Development manager Simon Worthington, then spent some time at the internationally-recognised Ashburton Aviation Museum before heading back to Christchurch.

Mr Worthington headed the district's stall at **Trenz**, where 50 appointments were pre-booked with interested parties.

Compliance and Development Group Manager Jane Donaldson said it was important for the district to have a presence at the trade show, where operators were catching up with buyers after a Covid-enforced break.



**Tourism advisor Rachel Leitch was helping the Ashburton District showcase its attractions to tourism trade buyers in Christchurch last week.**

"While the domestic tourism market is important for us, so too is the international market and there is lots of enthusiasm for affordable destinations or places to escape to. With the new Opuke hot pools open and the Staveley Ice Rink under development, we have plenty for people to enjoy."

The tourism trade buyers were reacquainting themselves with what New Zealand has to offer and purchasing accommodation, transport and activities

to include in brochures, websites and itineraries for the coming international holiday seasons.

**Trenz** is managed by Tourism Industry Aotearoa (TIA) on behalf of the Tourism Industry New Zealand Trust and chief executive Rebecca Ingram said the event would allow existing relationships to be renewed and new ones to be discovered.

She said international visitor arrivals over the past few months were sitting at around 66 per cent of pre-Covid levels and

that it might take 2-3 years before settling into a new normal pattern.

Promoting the Ashburton District to visitors became a direct Council role in February, after Christchurch NZ withdrew from its three-year contract.

Council is planning a get-together for district tourism operators at the end of the month, giving operators a chance to meet Council staff and discuss their needs and ideas.



**2-4 JUNE**  
ASHBURTON  
**GLOW**  
in the park

Save the date! This free family event is returning bigger and brighter over King's Birthday weekend! Don't miss the chance to experience Tinwald Domain under the colourful glow of our breathtaking lighting displays.

**glowinthepark.nz**

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EA networks connecting our community  
Ashburton DISTRICT COUNCIL  
Proudly supported by Courier

## Hamish Riach - Chief Executive Growing in our library space



If you needed a reminder about the growing reach of modern libraries, then the agenda from a recent Council Activity Briefing is a great place to start.

The operations report from Ashburton Public Library manager Jill Watson ran to 11 pages, covering everything from traditional book issues to a class teaching people to set up their own website and helping teens recycle laptops.

The libraries of today are dynamic places. Sure, there are books to borrow, but they are also places to meet, learn and connect.

Our library has been fortunate to host this month a national exhibition called Immigrant Journeys, and that paved the way for an organised conversation about the hijab and why it is worn.

Also this month has been a taster course for people wanting to learn the NZ Sign Language, a Saturday morning session called Craft and

Chatter, and a discussion about the use of AI (artificial intelligence).

What is ChatGPT and how we can learn about using it was one of several free sessions organised for Tech Week 2023. There was also some good advice on using smartphones and knowing how to spot a scam.

While those sessions coincided with Tech Week, they are part of regular and diverse offerings at the library.

Another new relationship has been with Kainga Ora, which ran several sessions designed to share information about home ownership products and support available to help people buy their first home.

Buying your first home can be pretty daunting, but the Government agency has lots of information that can help and it's these sorts of relationships with other organisations that make the library a real source of knowledge.

Another relationship that we're proud of is with Ashburton College, where

students have been spending lunchtimes learning how to refurbish donated laptops so they can be sent back out in the community to those who need them. The programme is called Recycle A Device.

Having the ability to do some basic laptop repairs will look great on the CVs of these young people, and might even inspire them into a career in technology.

While a lot of new things are happening in the library space, we still have our book clubs, school holiday activities, books on wheels and outreach programme for the elderly, which is aimed at encouraging older people to engage in conversation and share memories.

So if it's been a while since you visited the library, I encourage you to do so – and imagine how the facility and staff will soar even higher in their new home.

# Rob Mackle wins Western Ward by-election

Rob Mackle has been confirmed as the highest-polling candidate in the Western Ward by-election following the official declaration of results.

Electoral Officer Anthony Morton said Mr Mackle received 686 votes, followed by Hayden Tasker on 491, Lynda Topp on 432 and Carol Johns on 135.

There were nine informal voting papers returned and two left blank.

The voter return was 41.94 per cent, being 1755 votes.

The by-election was necessary following the death of Cr Rodger Letham in December.

Cr Mackle was sworn in at yesterday's Council meeting and joins Mayor Neil Brown and eight other councillors elected at the Local Elections last year.

Mayor Brown congratulated Cr Mackle on his election and said Councillors were looking forward to working with him.

"We are a hard-working team with a large work programme this year, and some important decisions regarding the future of our district coming in the next few years. He will fit right in and we look forward to having a full complement of councillors at the table again."

Cr Mackle will also be a member of the Methven Community Board, which meets next on 12 June.



Cr Rob Mackle was sworn in yesterday.

## Lake Hood water clear again

Te Mana Ora - Community and Public Health has lifted its algal bloom health warning issued for Lake Hood and its canals on 16 March.

Recent water testing at Lake Hood has shown the quantity of potentially toxic blue-green algae (planktonic cyanobacteria) in the lake has reduced and concentrations are now below levels that are of concern to public health.

Dr Cheryl Brunton, Medical Officer of Health for Te Mana Ora, National Public Health Service, says Environment Canterbury's monitoring of Lake Hood will continue on a monthly basis.

"The public will be informed if monitoring shows that concentrations have increased and there is a risk to public health again," Dr Brunton says.

**TALK IT UP TUESDAYS**

Drop by for a biscuit and a chat with a Councillor, and let us know how we can better serve our community.

EVERY TUESDAY:  
2pm - 3pm | 6pm - 7pm  
Ashburton Public Library.  
No booking required.

## WORKS NOTICES

### Melcombe Street - upcoming.

Contractors will soon be laying new water pipes along Melcombe Street, between Compton and Shearer Streets, during this time. Expect traffic management including temporary lane closures, detours, parking and speed restrictions.

### Chalmers Avenue - current to 30 June.

Contractors are laying new water pipes along Chalmers Avenue, between Wellington and Dobson Streets. Traffic management is in place on the south-bound lane. Detours are available for heavy vehicles; resident access remains.

### 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.

### SH1/Rakaia - current until 28 May.

Due to construction associated with the Commercial Vehicle Safety Centre (Weigh Station) north of Rakaia, there will be NIGHT TIME STOP/GO on Bridge Street and over the Rakaia River Bridge from Sunday 14 May, 7pm to 7am each night for approximately 2 weeks. Please expect delays of up to 15 minutes when travelling through Rakaia at night.

## 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 the Ashburton College Ball.

Road proposed to be closed:

- **Wills Street from 211a (Ashburton Event Centre, Cass Street end) to 197 Wills Street (Neumann's Tyres, East Street end)**

Period of Closure: From 7pm to 9.30pm on Friday, 23 June 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 **7 June 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 26 May 2023**.

**NEIL McCANN**  
Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces

## COUNCIL EVENTS

### ASHBURTON ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM

**Two O'Clock Tours - Indigo**  
Sunday 21 May, 2pm.

Where to start when there's so much to see? Well, the Art Gallery and Museum's Two O'Clock Tours are here to break it down! Every second Sunday at 2pm we run a 20 minute tour of one of our exhibitions, and on Sunday 21 May we will be exploring our new exhibition Indigo.

Come along at 2pm to hear our lovely Front of House Assistant Jacqui speak about the variety of works in Indigo. This is the first time that all eight artists have exhibited as a collective at the Ashburton Art Gallery, so don't miss out on gaining some insider info! Free, suitable for all ages.

### IMMIGRANT JOURNEYS EXHIBITION

**Ashburton Public Library, until 26 May.**

**Mt Hutt Memorial Hall, from 9-30 June**

Come on down and check out the Immigrant Journeys Exhibition, which is currently touring the country. Through their skills, cultural backgrounds and experiences, our recent immigrants bring a rich diversity to New Zealand.

This exhibition is an original idea of the Lady Khadija Trust in collaboration with Telling Lives and Janneth Gil Photography.

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**Chertsey Reserve Board triennial meeting**, Thursday 25 May, 7pm at the Chertsey Hall

**Time Capsule**  
— THE BEST OF —  
**ASHBURTON DISTRICT!**

**SHARE WITH US WHAT YOU THINK IS THE BEST THING ABOUT LIVING IN THE ASHBURTON DISTRICT.**

Visit any of our Council facilities and handwrite your thoughts on the provided slip.

Ashburton District Council | Ashburton Gallery | ashburton museum | EA networks centre | Ashburton Public Library | iHub | METHVEN Information

### 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