

Glow in the Park prepares to dazzle

The final sparkling details are falling into place for Glow in the Park, at Tinwald Domain next weekend.

This free, family event will run over three magical nights and has been designed to put a glow on winter in the Ashburton District, and you'll see the Tinwald Domain and adjoining historical Tinwald Plains in a new light.

The event is from 5.30pm-9pm on June 2, 3 and 4 of King's Birthday weekend and alongside the lighting displays will be food, entertainment and interactive activities.

Mayor Neil Brown said Glow in the Park was a great community event, that residents and visitors could attend for free.

"The first glow last year was a huge success and we're all looking forward to the 2023 version, which has some different features and attractions. The trees in the Tinwald Domain and the heritage buildings at the Plains Museum make a really good stage for the lighting displays and I'm looking forward to heading along myself."

Plenty of free carparking will be provided in an area off Maronan Road (just follow the signs and directions of event staff), with a separate mobility parking and a drop-off zone located directly in front of the Plains Vintage Railway and Historical Museum.

What's to see and do?

Lighting Displays:

Immerse yourself in a spectacular display



Inflatable mushrooms will provide the perfect photo stop at Glow in the Park, at the Tinwald Domain on King's Birthday weekend.

of colour and artistry - meet our glowing winged fairies, be mesmerised by the inflatable mushrooms, spot the swans that have snuck into the garden and chill in the winter igloo zone! Visitors of all ages will enjoy the range of interactive light installations!

Plains Railway & Historical Museum:

Experience the magic of light against the backdrop of the heritage village. Visit the Ashburton Fire Museum and get a peek at Mid Canterbury's firefighting past, all under the glow of decorative lighting.

Family Entertainment:

Glow in the Park is not just a feast for the

eyes! Try your hand at glow-in-the-dark bowling, cut some shapes at the silent disco and experiment with our interactive light installations. Live music will keep you grooving and smiling all night long!

Food Caravan & Dining Area:

Indulge in delicious hot food and drinks from our vendors while you soak in the surrounding atmosphere. From gourmet burgers to glowing candyfloss, you'll find everything you need to satisfy your cravings.

Come hungry and leave happy!

More highlights and an event map can be found at glowinthepark.nz

ACL not captured by reforms

The Council-owned company Ashburton Contracting Limited (ACL) has been excluded from Government's three waters reforms.

Mayor Neil Brown and Chief Executive Hamish Riach, and ACL bosses, appealed to a select committee for the exemption in February. They heard back last week that ACL and similar council-controlled organisations in the country will not be transferred to the new water entities.

Mr Riach said the Minister for Local Government Kieran McNulty, had confirmed only council-controlled organisations whose predominant purpose was for water services would be transferred to the new entities.

That means only Watercare and Wellington Water will be transferred over.

"In our case, ACL has thankfully been excluded from the reform and in fact the minister says their contracts with us will simply migrate to the new water entity.

"It is the right outcome for everyone, including all the staff who work for ACL."

ACL is owned by Council and also tenders for work in the private sector, contributing an average \$600,000 dividend to Council a year, used to offset general rates.

Council was concerned that if ACL was to lose the water and wastewater contract, ratepayers would be affected by a reduced dividend.

Tony Todd - Councillor Impressions of a first-timer

Firstly, can I say I am enjoying my first stint as a District Councillor. We have a good team working collectively for the betterment of our district.

When standing for Council, I was told there are two Council meetings a month, which of course is technically correct. However, can I list a few of the other activities we partake in: Civil Defence briefings, Budget workshops, Council Agencies reports, Citizenship Ceremonies, International Student visits, Council Activities briefings, Annual Plan workshops, Waste Management workshops, Alcohol Control Bylaw and Local Alcohol Policy (LAP). Plus, interesting trips to Clendeboye and Kate Valley.

One strategy that is just out for public consultation this week is the Draft Economic Strategy 2023-33.

This is a comprehensive document, that sets out objectives, goals and

actions we wish to achieve.

First goal, that our residents are engaged and invested in our community. Secondly, our businesses are thriving, innovative and resilient to change, and thirdly, our district is a destination of choice for locals and visitors, with great leisure, entertainment, recreational and retail activities.

I encourage all those keen to see our district thrive and grow to submit your ideas and thoughts. We need your input. Go to ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay

On Three Waters I have been, and still am, opposed to this reform of our water assets. This has been well and truly canvassed and looks set to become an election issue later in the year.

I am also concerned about the uncertainty caused by the inclusion of Te Mana o Te Wai statements in the reform legislation (these statements

refer to the fundamental importance of water as the foundation of all decision-making for freshwater management and is included in the Essential Freshwater regulations introduced by Government in 2020).

I believe this could give an unfair advantage to Maori, with only iwi and hapu able to issue Te Mana o te Wai statements. Further, this creates uncertainty as the concept has yet to be legally tested and could vary even within districts.

However, I am delighted Mr McNulty has seen sense and excluded our very own ACL from the three waters reforms. This would have been devastating for ACL and our district if this had proceeded.

The debate is now firmly an election issue that will not go away.



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Your thoughts on our economic vision?

An updated strategy designed to support the Ashburton District's economic wellbeing has been released by the Council, and feedback is being sought from the community.

Chief Executive Hamish Riach said Council already plays an important role in economic development, through initiatives like the Mayors Taskforce For Jobs and by providing things like infrastructure, but the updated strategy would see the Council more actively partnering with the community to drive new economic initiatives.

"Supporting Ashburton District's economic development is critical to the wellbeing of our community, as a strong and vibrant local economy provides our residents with more opportunities, higher wages and an improved standard of living."

Council's current economic development strategy was developed in 2017, has largely been implemented and was due for review.

Mr Riach says the updated strategy was developed after engaging with more than 30 groups, businesses and individuals over the past 18 months, and it focuses on three key areas:

Within each of these three areas, the Council has set goals and proposed actions that include everything from providing support for young people



entering the workforce, to attracting additional investment to the district and better marketing Mid Canterbury as a tourism destination.

"We think the actions we've identified are achievable and will produce real economic benefits for our district over the long term, but the updated strategy is still a draft at this point, and we want input from businesses and our residents about what we're proposing and how they see the Council's role in economic development."

Mr Riach said the strategy also acknowledges the current challenges facing the district.

"A lot has happened in the past three

years, but we're fortunate to live in a district that has been buffered from the covid storm by its strong primary sector. We need to play to our strengths while encouraging new business, new workers and new residents, because we're in a great spot.

"Ultimately, if we can get this strategy right, it will open up business opportunities and attract more investment into the district."

Submissions are being accepted up until 5pm on Sunday 18 June.

The consultation document and online feedback form can be found at ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay

New doggy agility equipment

Dogs of all shapes and sizes will soon be able to have fun on new agility equipment being installed at the Ashburton Dog Park - there are ramps, weaving poles and balance beams. Contractors have been working in the park this week and should be finished by Friday. Bring on the fun!



Survey gathers Pudding Hill water use data

Council has written to nearly 180 people or parties with an interest in the Pudding Hill stockwater system encouraging them to take part in a survey about the future of the scheme.

Council is investigating the potential closure of the stockwater intake on Pudding Hill Stream and looking to see if people who use the water can access alternative water sources.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said closing the intake would mean the closure of 220km of water races supplied by the intake.

"We've written to property owners serviced by the race system and invited them to take part in the survey. This will help identify who actually has no need for the open race system and who needs it.

"We have also written to groups interested in the history of our district, as this intake was the very first established by the Ashburton County Council in 1883 and is important from a heritage point of view."

The district's stockwater network once comprised 27 intakes and 4,000km of open races. It has reduced significantly in the last 20 years, driven by changing land use and better and more efficient alternatives to open race stockwater.

Mr McCann said the intake was also now required to have a fish screen, which had been estimated to cost around \$1 million.

"Installing the fish screen, and operating it, could be very expensive and with the future of the stockwater network uncertain Council has been reluctant to install a fish screen. Closing the intake would negate the need for a fish screen."

Mr McCann said the matter would be brought back to councillors to make a decision on whether to progress the formal closure or not.

Survey feedback needs to be in by the end of May. No letter? Contact our Customer Services team on 307-7700.

WORKS NOTICES

Melcombe Street - current to late June. 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.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

Transportation and Parking Bylaw and Revenue and Financing Policy submission hearings and deliberations - Wednesday 31 May, 9am (livestreamed)

Council Meeting - Wednesday 7 June, 1pm (livestreamed)

Methven Community Board - Monday 12 June, 10.30am, Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Council Activity Briefings - Wednesday 21 June, 9.30am

Audit and Risk Committee - Wednesday 21 June, 1pm (livestreamed)

Ashburton Water Zone Committee - Tuesday 27 June, 1pm (livestreamed)

Council Meeting - Wednesday 28 June, 1pm (livestreamed)

PUBLIC NOTICE

ALCOHOL CONTROL BYLAW ADOPTED

Following public consultation, Council adopted the reviewed Alcohol Control Bylaw at their meeting on 17 May 2023. It includes expanded Alcohol Ban Areas in both Ashburton and Methven.

The bylaw will come into operation on 1 June 2023. Until that date, the previous Alcohol Control Bylaw (as it was prior to review) will remain in effect.

The bylaw can be viewed in full on our website and copies can be inspected or obtained at the Ashburton District Council offices at 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton during office hours (Monday to Wednesday, 8.30am - 5pm, Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 8.30am - 5pm).

www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/council/policy-and-bylaws/bylaws



The much-loved tractor in the children's playground at Rakaia's salmon reserve is in the workshop for some repairs. Back soon!

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