

Water meters flag potential leaks

Council has alerted 202 property owners in the Methven, Mt Somers and Mayfield areas that they might have a water leak.

The properties have been flagged because of data collected from water meters.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said routine water meter reading had identified potential leaks at some properties where the smart meters had triggered warning flags.

“The flag simply identifies that a continuous flow of water has been recorded through the meter over a 24-hour period and that would suggest a leak somewhere on the property.

“It could be as simple as a washer in a toilet cistern needs replacing.”

Water meters have been installed at Mayfield, Mt Somers and Methven over the past few years to help reduce leaks in drinking water schemes.

Meters help identify if the leaks are in Council’s pipe networks, or on private property.

Mr McCann said any leak in private pipework was the customer’s responsibility and should be repaired as soon as possible to reduce water being wasted and to prevent damage on property and buildings.

“Sometimes the leaks are obvious, but other times you will need a plumber and some plumbing firms have acoustic leak detection equipment to help find the leak.”



Readings from new smart water meters are highlighting potential water leaks.

Letters sent to the 202 properties also included an information sheet on how to read a water meter and advice on locating leaks. A red flag doesn't necessarily mean you have a leak, but it shows there has been a continuous flow of water through the meter over a long period of time.

As a rough guide, people should allow 250 litres a day per person (to cover food preparation, showering, washing, cleaning and gardening), so a household of four would use 1000 litres a day, or 7000 litres a week.

Reading your water meter over a period of time when no water should be being used (like overnight) is a good way to see if you

might have a leak.

Council will be doing a follow-up reading at the 202 properties and advise if water use has changed.

One property owner who received a letter last week investigated his water use and found a leaking hot water cylinder, that was also contributing to a high monthly power bill.

If you want to discuss your onsite water leakage issue, or advise of any completed repairs, please contact us by email info@adc.govt.nz with the subject line “Water leak” or call customer services on 03 307 7700.

New metal tags proving pup-ular

Local dog owners have been paw-sitive about the introduction of new metal registrations tags in the Ashburton District, with over 1000 pooches registered in the first week.

Council is moving away from the plastic registration strips for a metal option that won't need to be replaced each year.

Dog registration packs have been arriving in letterboxes recently, encouraging dog owners to register their pets and working dogs before the end of July.

Compliance and Development Group Manager Jane Donaldson said the new metal tags were a great replacement for plastic.

“Each tag is printed with the registration number and as long as that remains readable, you shouldn't need to replace it. If the tag does become worn or damaged, you can simply pop into the Council for a replacement.”

Every dog over the age of three months needs to be registered and Council staff are expecting to process nearly 7000 registrations during the month of July.

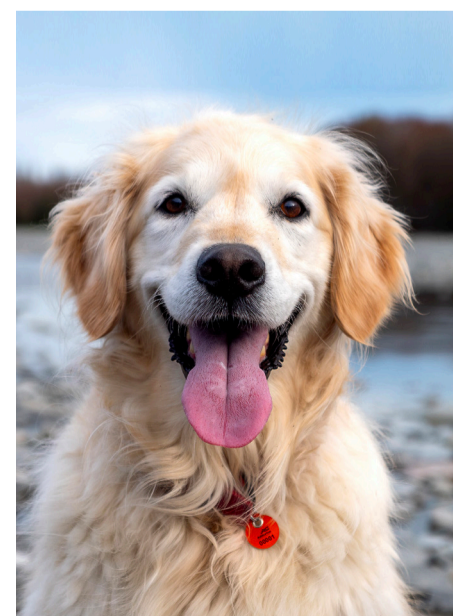
Ms Donaldson said the easiest option for dog owners was to register their dogs online and receive their new tag in the mail.

“Last year online registrations outnumbered over-the-counter transactions for the first time, so it's fantastic that people are finding the online option easy-to-use and convenient.”

Tag 0001 has already been issued and now adorns the collar of a 12-year-old dog, appropriately called Boss.

Dog registration and control fees, and charges for the 2023-24 year have risen slightly to allow for inflation.

Online registration and a full list of charges can be found at ashburtondc.govt.nz/dogs



Hamish Riach - Chief Executive Game plan set for execution

A major piece of work crosses the finish line this week when Council adopts its Annual Plan and budget for the 2023-24 financial year.

This work is not quite as exciting as the Crusaders/Chiefs game on Saturday, but it impacts the daily lives of people who live here – like having safe drinking water, somewhere to take your rubbish, and roads and footpaths to get around.

Rates will increase on average by 5.7 per cent, which is slightly higher than the 5.5 per cent we signalled for Year 3 of the Long Term Plan – a pretty good result considering inflation, interest and the current cost of living.

Much like the Crusaders, we are sticking to our game plan and tackling everything we must. We have a big work programme to get through and that includes new work like membrane filtration for the Mt Somers drinking water supply, as well as repairs and maintenance and a daily focus to deliver everyday services.

Council looks after infrastructure, assets and facilities worth about \$939 million and we estimate it will cost \$77.6m over 2023-24 to run and improve those services. As you would expect, a big chunk of the operating expenditure is on drinking water and roads.

Though Council did not consult with the community on the Annual Plan given the rate rise was so close to that forecast in the Long Term Plan, Councillors have taken on board the community’s comments about the condition of some roads – an extra \$1 million has been added for road reconstruction, taking the total transport budget (less Waka Kotahi’s contribution) to around \$13.2m.

To comply with new national drinking water standards, we are also spending close to \$3m on UV disinfectant treatment upgrades to several drinking water supplies, including Ashburton, Fairton, Mayfield, Chertsey and Dromore.

Another project that is important is the remediation of the southwest slope of the Ashburton landfill, commonly

known as Mt Ash by those who mountainbike or walk along it.

The floods of 2021 came close to exposing the landfill’s interior and so the remediation work that has already started is about shoring up the foot of the landfill closest to the river.

That involves putting in a series of concrete walls that will deflect any future floodwaters from the landfill and ensure what was dumped yesteryear will not be exposed and washed out to sea.

This is one of our smaller projects, at \$55,000, but equally important to get on and do.

The Annual Plan will be adopted by Council this week and, in a separate resolution, the rates will be struck.

This will provide the resources needed to execute our game plan.



Teens, make your own animated movie

The Ashburton Public Library is offering a Stop Motion animation workshop for teens during the school holidays and it includes a virtual session with WETA Workshop artist Kim Beaton.

The three-day workshop has sessions from 2-4pm on July 5, 6 and 7 and teens will learn to storyboard and develop characters, film and edit their own mini movies.

The workshop is aimed at teens aged 12-18, who will need to bring their own devices, like a smartphone or tablet.

Day One begins with a virtual question and answer section with artist Kim Beaton. Kim worked for Weta Workshop in Wellington and is a passionate artist and sculptor who is willing to share tips for those wanting to pursue a creative career.

She will show a quick fun way to sculpt with tin foil. After the Q&A, the workshop will work on storyboarding and creating characters.

Day Two is about filming with a free stop motion app, and Day Three deals with filming and editing.



Bookings are essential, go to ashburtondc.govt.nz/community-facilities/events.

The library is also running a Lost in

Space holiday programme, and a Matariki-themed Escape Room, in which participants have to crack the code to find the stolen star.

Designer mugs and stars

The Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum has activities on every day over the school holidays – you can create your own landscape on a designer mug, make a whetū (star), make a colossal squid using recycled materials and become part of the Great Expedition.



The designer mug activity (from July 1-11) costs \$2 and children are invited to decorate a mug using brightly coloured porcelain markers, taking inspiration from landscapes on display at the gallery – you can take the mug home and bake it for 90 minutes at 160 degrees Celsius to set the design.

Make a whetū every day until 16 July, and be part of the district's Matariki celebrations. While Matariki is celebrated by many iwi across New Zealand to mark

the Māori New Year, we also celebrate Puaka, which is the brightest star in the Orion constellation and is more visible than Matariki here in Ashburton.

Some of the activities also tie in with the mid-winter Burty Challenge, which involves challenges at the art gallery and museum, the public library and EA Networks Centre.

You can pick up challenge cards at any of our facilities.

Fans drawn to big squid at museum

The Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum is expecting its Colossal Squid exhibit to be a big hit over the coming school holidays.

The exhibit opened last week and already a host of visiting school kids have been drawn to the freaky fish feature being toured by Te Papa.

Only eight Colossal Squid have ever been scientifically reported and the exhibit reveals some fascinating facts. An interactive table has a lens from the eye of a Colossal Squid and part of a tentacle. Touchable rotating models of a squid's tentacle hook and the Colossal Squid's beak are also on display.

Check it out before **17 September!**

MHV to trial stockwater operations

MHV Water will be providing temporary stockwater ranger duties in the Montalto Hinds area, on behalf of Council, from Monday 3 July.

This temporary change could become permanent as Council reviews its stockwater delivery options for the future.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said Council was advising about 300 properties of the change.

"People using stockwater in that area should notice no difference to the service, and MHV racemen will be working alongside our Council stockwater rangers.

"Stockwater users in the Montalto Hinds area, and anywhere on the district's wider stockwater network, who want to talk to a ranger or report a problem should continue to call Council on 307-7700."

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are usually held in Council Chambers, 137 Havelock Street.

Methven Community Board, Monday 24 July at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall, 10.30am

Council Meeting, Tuesday 25 July, 9am (live-streamed)

Ashburton Water Zone Committee, Tuesday 25 July, 1pm (live-streamed)

WORKS NOTICES

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.

Allens Road - current to July. Allens Road is temporarily closed between Carters Road and Turton Street to allow contractors to install a pump station that will complete the North West Ashburton wastewater extension. Detours in place.

Fergusson Street, Rakaia - Fergusson Street (between SH1 and Tancred Street) will be closed 3-5 July. Resident access available and detours in place.

Matariki at Argyle Park

The Ashburton Astronomy Group will be holding two free Matariki public viewings this year, weather and sky conditions permitting.

Both are at Argyle Park and early in the morning, so dress warmly if you are venturing out to see the star cluster.

Viewing dates are **Saturday 1 July** and **Saturday 8 July**, from 5.45am-7am.

Alcohol policy feedback due

Time is running out for people who want to make a submission on Council's Local Alcohol Policy, which sets out how and where alcohol can be sold in the district.

The policy, created in 2017, has been working well so there are no changes proposed. But if you disagree, then now is the time to speak up.

ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay

Sod turning at SH1/Tinwald

Waka Kotahi is hosting Rangitata MP Jo Luxton and other invited guests at the blessing and first sod turning of the SH1 Tinwald Corridor project on Saturday.

The event will be held at the intersection of Melcombe Street and Lagmhor Road, beginning at 10.45am. The work involves putting in a new set of traffic lights and it is expected to take 10 months.

Last chance for park ideas

Council wants to hear your ideas for the future of the district's parks and reserves, and submissions close on Friday 7 July at 5pm.

The community's feedback will help Council create a new Reserve Management Plan.

Share what you love about our parks at ashburtondc.govt.nz/parks

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