

Bricks saved for heritage repairs

The section of brick fence damaged by a car at the Ashburton Domain last weekend was originally built in 1930, to mark the 50th jubilee of the Ashburton Borough.

The brick fence was built in three stages – West Street, from Wills Street to the Curator's Lodge; Wills Street; and the remainder of West Street to Walnut Avenue.

Police are investigating last weekend's crash and Council will lodge an insurance claim to cover the cost of having the fence repaired.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said the fence had been constructed of bricks made locally at the Crum Brothers brick kiln, which stood as an Ashburton landmark until it was demolished in 1989.

"Staff have rescued as many of the original bricks as they can and they will be used in the rebuild. The next step is to engage a contractor to do the repair and get the process under way."

The Ashburton Domain celebrates 160 years in 2024 and the green space is a key asset for the community and the venue for many gatherings, big and small. Events to mark its 160th birthday are being planned.

Archivist at the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum, Connor Lysaght, has been able to dig up some of the history of the brick



fence, following interest generated by the weekend's crash.

Back in 1928, Advance Ashburton was the driving force behind the brick wall project, with the first section built to mark the 50th jubilee of the Ashburton Borough, which was established in 1878.

The wall (referred to as the "brick fence" back then) consists of three separate sections:

- West Street frontage, from Wills Street to Curator's Lodge, was to mark the jubilee of the Ashburton Borough. Plans were proposed in April 1929, work commenced in October 1929 and the job was completed before July 1930.

- Wills Street frontage plans were proposed in March 1930, commenced about July 1930 and were completed January-February 1931.

- Plans for the remainder of the West Street frontage up to the Walnut Avenue corner were proposed in April 1932. Work commenced about June 1932 and was completed by July 1933.

After the first section was complete, the remainder of the West Street span was a mixture of macrocarpa and wire fence, and the Wills Street span was an old unsightly metal fence. Council made sure to only approve plans from Advance Ashburton for the remaining sections of the wall that fit the same style as the first.

Lynette Lovett - Councillor

Talk it up Tuesdays proving popular with ratepayers

I've been really enjoying the conversations that are part of councillors' regular drop-in chat sessions at the Ashburton Public Library.

Talk it up Tuesdays began a couple of months ago as a trial, with two councillors available Tuesday afternoons and evenings for residents, ratepayers or visitors to the district able to stop by and talk about a burning issue or matter close to their heart.

These sessions have been really constructive and for those who watch the video recordings of our council meetings, you will see different councillors bringing up items that have been raised with them on a Tuesday.

These face-to-face discussions are so valuable and the library venue is a friendly location and easily accessible. It's great to see people supporting Talk it up Tuesdays and coming directly to us, rather than voicing opinions on social media and then seeing the matter spiral

into a negative debate.

I've found the afternoon sessions are better attended. People sometimes just want to chat and tell you about what's happening in their world. Or they share ideas, concerns, compliments and complaints, and some have also provided good feedback on projects that Council has under way.

Subjects raised with me so far have ranged from potholes and roading, to why and how we provide some services. I've also spent time explaining how council works and the difference between operational and governance roles in the local government setting.

Councillors are responsible for setting the direction of the district with policies that promote economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of communities, now and into the future. We are required to prepare long term plans, and annual plans and budgets, in consultation with our community.

Council staff, under the instruction of

the Chief Executive, give effect to these policies and make sure councillors are provided with comprehensive advice and information to make good decisions.

These regular Talk it up Tuesday sessions are also a way for residents to add their thoughts to the mix. Ashburton is lucky to have a wealth of knowledge and experience among our citizens and they all generally want to make our district a great place to live, work, and play.

Your feedback, positive or negative, has been welcomed and passed on through the right channels.

I hope when this trial finishes that we find a formula that will work for all and that these drop-in sessions can continue. Personally, it has been a great experience.

Real people talking to real people, and making a difference.



SHORT AND SWEET

SUPER SURVEY:

Thank you to the hundreds of people who took part in the surveys that will help us create our next Long Term Plan. We had 942 responses and 10 people were drawn at random to win passes to the Opuke hot pools in Methven.

CEMETERY BINS:

Thirty new litter bins have been bought for the district's cemeteries, to replace the old 44-gallon drums that have served their time. The new powder-coated bins are being progressively installed.

GRAVE INFO:

A new tablet and stand have been fitted into the sexton's office at the Ashburton cemetery. It is open to the public during working hours and allows people to access the district's cemeteries database.

WASTE NOT:

The recycling bin auditors are spending more hours in Methven at the moment as bin quality has dropped off and the number of bins pulled back has increased. This could be due to the increased number of visitors in town to ski.

MT HUTT'S 50th:

The town of Methven will spend four days helping Mt Hutt skifield celebrate its 50th birthday next weekend. The event starts on Thursday 24 August with a parade and party, and music from Kiwi rock band Dragon. Council is supporting the weekend with an inflatable ice rink, and free skating on Thursday night.

PROMOTIONS:

Council's new visitor promotions advisor is Shelley Donnelly, previously the group manager of marketing and communications at Carrfields. She is part of the Economic Development team, which is now also responsible for tourism and district promotion.

For the latest Council news, visit our website ashburtondc.govt.nz/latestnews

Mayfield Domain flush with success

Mayfield's new public toilets at the Mayfield Domain have opened.

The new four-cubicle block and asphalt frontage has cost about \$277,000 and was built over the past few months to replace old concrete block public conveniences in the domain, which is managed by Council and the Mayfield Reserve and Hall Board.

The domain, off Arundel Rakaia Gorge Road, is a popular pit stop for travellers and tourists on the Inland Route.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said the new block had four modern cubicles, with access for people in wheelchairs, and there were handwashing facilities in each of the cubicles as well as at the end of the building.

"These new public conveniences add to the domain and will be welcomed by all who use them."



Construction of the new toilets at the Mayfield Domain has finished and the public conveniences are open for business.

Love noodles? Fill your tum at our night market!

Ashburton has lots of noodle lovers, based on the enthusiastic response to the Night Noodle Market planned for 2 September.

The market will be held in the centre section of the West Street carpark and gets under way at 5pm.

The event is all about delicious noodles and celebrating our multicultural community as part of National Multicultural Day and Welcoming Week, Te Wiki o Manaaki.

Mobile food vendors and nearby local restaurants are involved and noodle lovers will be able to explore Thai, Singaporean, Filipino, Japanese, Cantonese, Samoan, Kathmandu, Korean and Italian flavours.

Participating restaurants include Cleavers, Fine Lion, Kelly's, Formosa and Indian Minar.

Food trucks include Purple Dragon, Pom's Thai, Nora's Kitchen,



Sangkusta, A&F Island Taste, Black 29, Alok Kung-Fu Dumplings and more.

The event is being jointly organised by the Hakatere Multi Cultural Council and Ashburton District Council, and aims to shine a light on the different cultures, diversity and flavours that make up the district's community.

People will be able to enjoy lanterns and live music from Tyrone Schwalger while sampling the noodle dishes.

Car parking will be available at the northern and southern ends of the West Street carpark, and on nearby East Street and connecting side streets.

Funds available for festivals

Local festival organisers can now access a one-off Creative Communities Scheme Festival Fund designed to alleviate the impact COVID-19 has had on the arts sector. Ashburton District Council is administering the fund locally on behalf of Creative New Zealand.

The fund is targeted towards established festivals that celebrate the stories, life experiences, cultures, and regional identities of New Zealanders.

Applications close 30 September. Go to ashburtondc.govt.nz/grants for more.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Ashburton Water Zone Committee Meeting, Tuesday 22 August, 1pm (live-streamed)

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

ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a road closure for the purpose of allowing the **White Out Festival** (with the exception of emergency vehicles).

Roads to be closed are as follows:

- **Mount Hutt Station Road SH77**

Attention: This has now been changed to a one-way closure. Detour in place for traffic heading into Methven township.

Period of closure: **From 2pm to 11.59pm on Saturday, 26 August 2023.**

This notice of closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 - Schedule 10 (11 (e)). It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under the authority of an authorised permit to use the roads/streets for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure.

NEIL McCANN
Group Manager Infrastructure Services

ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a road closure for the purpose of allowing the **Mt Hutt 50th Celebrations Float Parade** (with the exception of emergency vehicles) for the period indicated here under.

Roads to be closed are as follows:

- **Methven Chertsey Road, Main Street Methven (SH1), Forest Drive, Blackford Street, Lampard Street, Main Street Methven (SH1) Hall Street, Mackie Street, Kilworth Street**

Closure from 7pm to 7.30pm on Thursday, 24 August 2023

The period of the full closure is as below:

- **Kilworth Street: Thursday 24 August 2023 10am until 10pm**
- **Barkers Road: Thursday 24 August 2023 4pm until 10pm**

This notice of closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 - Schedule 10 (11 (e)). It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under the authority of an authorised permit to use the roads/streets for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure.

NEIL McCANN
Group Manager Infrastructure Services

WORKS NOTICES

Chalmers Avenue – current to 20 August. The southbound lane of Chalmers Avenue, from Wellington Street to Nelson Street, will be closed while a watermain is replaced. Detours are in place.

Mackie Street (Methven) – Mackie Street, from Barkers Road to Methven Chertsey Road, is closed until 23 August while contractors replace a watermain. Resident access available, detour for other traffic in place.

Lagmhor Road/SH1 Tinwald/Agnes Street – Waka Kotahi is installing traffic lights at this intersection so expect traffic management and delays over the coming months.

Community Grants & Funding

Each year, Council helps fund community projects that make Mid Canterbury a great place to live.

We're seeking applications for the August funding round, so if your project would benefit, apply now!

Grants are open for heritage and biodiversity projects, trail maintenance and community infrastructure.

Looking to bring your creative project to life? We can help!

Whatever you're planning, your arts project may be eligible for Creative Communities Scheme funding.

We're seeking applications for projects that increase opportunities for local participation in the arts, enable young people to engage with the arts or support the diverse artistic expressions of our local communities.

We also have funding for established festivals that celebrate the life experiences, stories, cultures, and regional identities of New Zealanders.

Applications close
31 August



APPLY NOW!

ashburtondc.govt.nz/grants



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