

Date set for civic build opening

Ashburton's new library and civic centre building Te Whare Whakatere is expected to open for business Monday 18 December.

There will be a three-week transition period as nearly 150 staff from the Ashburton Public Library and Council's administration building prepare for work in the new building.

The library will close on Sunday 26 November at 4pm and reopen on Monday 18 December with new operating hours – Monday 8.30am-6pm, Tuesday-Thursday 8.30am-8pm, Friday 8.30am-6pm, Saturday and Sunday 10am-4pm. It will be closed on public holidays.

All other Council services will be available during the transition period, with a skeleton staff operating from the old administration building on Baring Square West.

Chief Executive Hamish Riach said that like any major construction project, it had only been possible to set an opening date as the complex neared completion.

"And now that we have a date to work towards, we can book in the people we need to help us physically move.

"That is a big logistical exercise because we are moving the library, and over 60,000 books, as well as all the functions and staff at the administration building."

Many of the 130 staff who usually work in the administration building will be working from other council facilities or from home, but the customer services counter at Baring Square West will be



open right up until close of business on Thursday 14 December, so residents can continue to chat with our team face to face or pay rates as they normally would.

Mr Riach said the 12 library staff would be heavily involved in relocating and setting up in Te Whare Whakatere.

"While the library will be closed for three weeks, people will still be able to access the library's digital services and eBooks, and staff will be busy planning a full calendar of activities over summer in their new home. The new library will house not only books but be a modern and creative learning space that can accommodate all its different users, and we look forward to welcoming the community into this space."

Transferring Council's computer system and information network is a major task

and work is already under way in the new building on the network connection, and the data services it supports.

An official ceremony with special guests is planned in early 2024, and the community will also be invited to celebrate.

Mr Riach said the building would be blessed ahead of a staff induction day on Friday 15 December.

"We're really excited to get to this point, because it's been a tricky build at times with covid and the shortages of staff and building materials. But this building is resilient and will serve our community well for 50 years or more, so we're delighted."

Council's contact details remain the same, though its physical address will change to 2 Baring Square East.

Phill Hooper - Councillor Popularity of disc golf booms, Tinwald's course nearly here

The installation of a nine-hole disc golf course at the Tinwald Domain is getting closer. The course has been designed by Zac Taylor from the Christchurch Disc Golf club.

A group of around 30 local disc golf addicts tested out the course with portable baskets recently and were all very happy with how it played. Anybody who drives on River Terrace regularly will know how popular the sport is in Ashburton and that matches the trend all over the planet.

In recent years, the sport of disc golf has surged in popularity worldwide, captivating the hearts of athletes and enthusiasts alike. This low-cost, accessible, and eco-friendly activity has taken flight, transcending geographical and demographic boundaries.

Disc golf courses can now be found in almost every corner of the globe, and

the sport's fan base continues to grow exponentially.

One of the key factors contributing to the sport's popularity is its inclusivity. People of all ages, skill levels, and backgrounds can participate, making it a truly universal pastime. Unlike traditional golf, which requires expensive clubs and greens fees, disc golfers need only a few discs and access to a local course.

As the sport gains prominence, a new generation of disc golfers is emerging, with one name standing out above the rest: Paul McBeth.

McBeth has become the face of professional disc golf, amassing a dedicated following through his remarkable skill and consistent dominance in tournaments. With numerous world championships under his belt, McBeth's precision and expertise on the course are

unparalleled.

But what sets McBeth apart isn't just his talent; it's also his earnings. Thanks to sponsorships, endorsements, and tournament winnings, McBeth's annual income has soared to new heights, making him one of the highest-earning disc golfers in history.

While specific figures can fluctuate from year to year, it's estimated that McBeth's earnings have reached into the millions, a testament to the growing appeal of this burgeoning sport.

As disc golf continues to expand its reach across the world, players like Paul McBeth are inspiring a new generation of enthusiasts, fuelling the sport's growth and ensuring that it remains a beloved pastime for years to come. You just never know, the next world champion could come from Mid Canterbury.



SHORT AND SWEET

COME CHAT WITH A COUNCILLOR!

Our Talk It Up Tuesday sessions are returning to the Ashburton Public Library on Tuesday 17 October. These informal drop-in sessions are from 1-2pm and you can have a talk with an elected councillor about an idea or issue that's on your mind. We'll provide the biscuits, and you start the conversation.

PEST CONTROL

Council and the Department of Conservation will be undertaking pest control (night shooting) in the Awa Awa Rata Reserve, Pudding Hill Reserve and some adjoining council and public conservation land for three nights in the period 19-31 October. Warning signs will be in place at all public entry points on days when operations are undertaken.

METHVEN'S DAY OUT

It was great to see the people of Methven who came along to two community events in the town last weekend. About 60 people visited the town's new water membrane treatment plant on Saturday morning, and about 100 people came to see the Methven Community Response Team's display of emergency services at the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall.



VOTING PLACE

There are only a few days left to vote in the General Election. EA Networks Centre is open Friday 9am-6pm and Saturday 9am-7pm. Bring along your EasyVote card for a smooth run, though you can vote without it. Check vote.nz for a full list of voting places.

Bug hotels and kanuka giveaways

As well as bees, bugs and butterflies, Council will be showcasing another 'b' at this year's Ashburton A&P show - biodiversity.

Democracy and Engagement Group Manager Toni Durham said Council staff are busy planning attractions for the Council's marquee, which would be located between the food court and the emergency services area, the same spot as in 2022.

"We're supporting the show's theme of creating a buzz with bees, bugs and butterflies - none of which are possible without healthy biodiversity."

She said the show is expected to time in nicely with the Council's draft biodiversity strategy, which should be out for community consultation if the document is approved at next week's Council meeting.

"We believe it takes a whole community working together to improve biodiversity around the district, so we'll be keen to talk to people, farmers and others about the draft strategy and hear what they think."

Visitors to the marquee will be able to talk directly with staff about the strategy and take away a free kanuka seedling, grown in the Ashburton Domain nursery. There



are 80 seedlings to give away on each day of the show, while stocks last.

Toni said the district's younger residents were encouraged to visit as well.

"We'll have all the materials needed to make their very own bug hotel, which they can decorate and take home to their garden to encourage crawlies of their own."

There'll also be a showcase of the things that Council currently does to support biodiversity, such as through its parks and reserves, and planting days.

Eco Educate will share Council's site, giving out clever recycling and sustainability tips.

The Ashburton A&P Show will be at the Ashburton Showgrounds on 27 and 28 October.

Regional event funding recipients announced

Nine Mid Canterbury events have been granted a total of \$30,600 to help attract visitors from outside the district.

It was the last round of grants from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Education's Regional Event Fund, which was set up to kickstart local events that support cross-regional tourism recovery.

There were 17 applications for funds and the successful recipients are:

- Ashburton Rowing Club, \$4000 for rowing regattas
- Hemsworth Estate, \$4000 to run Bridgerton Ball

- Allenton Rugby Football Club, \$4000 to run the Ashburton River Trail Marathon
- Mid Canterbury Vintage Machinery Club, \$3000 for Wheat & Wheels Rally
- Dynamic Gymnastics Sports, \$4000 for three events
- Ashburton Aviation Museum, \$7000 for its Militaria and Aviation Extravaganza
- Methven and Foothills Walking Festival, \$1000 for its 2024 event
- Mid Canterbury Netball, \$2400 for a senior tournament
- Multicultural Bite, \$1200 for its 2024 event

Draft Local Alcohol Policy

In July, we consulted the community on our Local Alcohol Policy.

We received a range of great feedback and in response, we're proposing to make two changes to the policy.

- ▶ Extending trading hours for licensed areas on footpaths.
- ▶ Applying the one-way door restriction across the whole district.

Do you support the changes?

Find out more and share your feedback ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay



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

WORKS NOTICES

Cass Street - current. Contractors are working in the south-bound lane of Cass Street (from Walnut Avenue to Cox Street) over the next weeks installing new water mains. Traffic may be disrupted.

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. The Lagmhor Road crossing will be closed for two months from 25 September.

Princes Street - from 4 September to 7 November. The section of Princes Street from Brucefield Avenue to Bridge Street will be closed for water main renewals. Resident access remains.

Wills Street - 4 September to 20 October. Wills Street from Walker Street to Oak Grove (including the intersection) will be closed for new water and wastewater pipes to be installed. Resident access remains.

Allens Road - current until 23 October. The Allens Road/Middle Road intersection will be closed to enable a wastewater upgrade. Residents access remains, detours will be in place.

William Street - current until 7 November. William Street and intersections of Kermodie and Dobson Streets, will be closed to undertake wastewater upgrading. Residents will still have access and detours will be in place.

Elizabeth and Grigg Streets - starting 25 September. These streets will be closed at times over the next months for new water and wastewater pipes to be installed. Access to Ashburton Hospital remains; resident access remains.

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 Car Club's Scotts Shingle Sprint.

Roads proposed to be closed:

- Le Bretons Road (from Christys Road to Denshires Road)
- Chertsey Road (2km from Le Bretons Road intersection)

Period of Closure: **From 8am to 5.30pm on Sunday 19 November 2023.**

This proposed closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 - Schedule 10 (11) (e) and will be considered at the Council meeting on 1 November 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 20 October 2023.

NEIL McCANN
Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are at Council Chambers, 137 Havelock Street, unless specified. Meeting agendas are online at ashburtondc.govt.nz

Methven Community Board, Monday 16 October, 10.30am, at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Council meeting, Wednesday 18 October, 1pm

Ashburton Water Zone Committee, Tuesday 24 October, 1pm

Council Activity Briefings, Wednesday 25 October, 9.30am

Audit and Risk Committee, Wednesday 25 October, 1pm

Council meeting, Tuesday 31 October, 1pm

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