



## SHORT AND SWEET

### READING RACE

Encourage your kids to embark on a reading adventure this summer and they could win one of five Whitcoulls vouchers! Download the Riff Raff's reading challenge form or pick up a printed copy at the Ashburton Public Library before it closes on 31 December. The challenge runs until Friday 26 January - details are at [ashburtondc.govt.nz/summer](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz/summer).

### GLACIAL TALE

The Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum is telling an interesting story of three Ashburton men tasked with cutting three blocks of clean white ice from a glacier and shipping them to New York. From Tasman Glacier to Table Service follows the adventure of Wilf Holland, Allen Kelly and Jack Pattle, and the ice used to cool drinks at a New Zealand Night. The exhibition is on until 11 February.

### KIDS' TRIATHLON

EA Networks Centre will host a Sanitarium Try Challenge on Saturday 27 January with duathlon and triathlon options.

## Neil Brown - Mayor Keeping our district growing together

The little wins make you smile as much as the big ones.

That's how it felt when I was whizzing down the new flying fox at the Ashburton Domain earlier this month. It was great to finally have the new adventure equipment up and running for our community, and every time I drive past I can see it in use.

Other projects that have also come to fruition this year have been equally satisfying for different reasons.

The former Government and the new one both agree that a second urban bridge over the Ashburton River is crucial and the bridge is now on their transport infrastructure priority list to be built in the next three years.

Methven's new water treatment plant is up and running, with the town's residents no longer holding their breath about a boil water notice every time it rains hard.

The new library and civic building, Te Whare Whakaterere, is almost there and the new library space will be a 100 per cent improvement on the leaky old building that residents and staff have had to endure in the past few years.

Our community honours in September recognised the outstanding voluntary

efforts of eight people and two organisations who have helped the Ashburton District shine - we are blessed with a community that wants to invest time and energy in our place.

The Fairton Freight Hub has made great strides and should be operational by April. This is a project that involves a private company, council, central government and agencies all working well together to get things done and move traffic jams caused by trains out of Ashburton's town centre.

In the events space, Council has put on four free and fun occasions - there was the hugely successful Glow in the Park, the noodle market, and lately our two Light up the Night Christmas events, all of which spread a lot of good cheer.

On the core business front, Council continues to renew water and wastewater pipes, and keep our roads well maintained. Our budget is much like yours and we continue to find that the dollars collected in rates don't go as far as they used to.

It's good to reflect on the wins at this time of year because much of council work is the daily task of keeping essential services running smoothly, from collecting rubbish at the kerbside to processing building consents. It is



constant and sometimes unseen.

We also do a lot of business as usual - like toilet cleaning and maintenance, mowing reserve grounds, emptying the rubbish bins, collecting the rubbish etc.

We take a lot of this work for granted but we have a dedicated team of people who do this day in and day out and they need to be commended.

As 2023 winds up, Council has begun to look at its work priorities for the next 10 years and has the roading network in its sights, so expect to hear more about this in the new year. When the draft Long Term Plan goes out for public comment, I hope you'll tell us what you think so that we can balance needs and wants.

It is the season though to enjoy family, friends and freedoms. If you are travelling afar, take care on the roads and come back to the Ashburton District safe.

*Merry Christmas  
to you all.*

## Excitement builds for move to new library

There's just over a week left to grab your holiday reads for the beach or bach, as staff at the library make final preparations for the big move to Te Whare Whakaterere, the new library and civic centre.

The library will be closed from 4pm, Sunday 31 December until it reopens in the new facility on Monday 22 January.

Inside the new building, the focus has shifted from placing bricks to placing books. The fiction and non-fiction areas on the first floor have shelving installed, and specialist equipment is starting to appear in the makerspace, performance space and sound studio.

Library Manager Jill Watson says the new library has been eagerly awaited, and staff are seeing a real buzz in the community about the opening.

"It will be great to be in a nice, new building that's dry and undamaged, but more importantly with over twice the floorspace of our old library, it will have so much more to offer our growing district."



The library's new sound studio (left) and the new makerspace are nearing completion.

Jill says the building has plenty of room for reading and studying as well as more spaces for the community to gather, play, learn and create.

"While our services have evolved over the years and technology has changed the way that people access information, the library's function as a community hub is as important as ever."

One exciting addition will be the

makerspace, equipped a vinyl printer and cutter, laser cutter, craft cutter, and various standard and heavy-duty sewing machines and overlockers. Access will be free, but crafters will need to pay for any consumables they use.

Jill says moving the library's collection of over 60,000 books, magazines and other items will be completed relatively quickly, with the rest of the three-week closure

dedicated to training staff and setting up the new facility.

Books issued before the closure won't be due back until the new library opens on 22 January, and the library's range of eBooks, eAudio and digital resources will be available 24/7 on the library website.

To find out more about the move or to browse the library's digital catalogue, visit [ashburtonlibrary.co.nz](http://ashburtonlibrary.co.nz)



# Help your guests to recycle right

Council is encouraging households to be recycling champions over the Christmas and New Year period, when volumes of rubbish and recycling typically increase.

Glass bottles and jars should be rinsed clean and put in the green crate, while the yellow-lidded wheelie bin is for recycling that includes hard plastics 1, 2 and 5, cardboard and paper (but not shredded paper). Soft plastics cannot be recycled in your yellow bin.

The wheelie bin with the red lid is for rubbish and items that can't be recycled as part of the kerbside collection.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said the holiday season often saw more contamination in kerbside recycling because visitors didn't know the district's recycling rules.

"We do things differently here so if you have family and friends staying over the holiday break then doublecheck the recycling bin when you put it out.

"If your recycling bin isn't emptied, then it's because our audit team has found items that can't be recycled."

Some common problems seen at



Christmas included foil and plastic wrapping paper, ribbons, bows and tinsel being put out for recycling.

Mr McCann said these could not be recycled, and nor could things like Christmas hams or leftover food, which are also regularly found in recycling bins at Christmas time.

Try the tear test - if you can't easily rip it, it's likely to have a plastic coating so put it in the red bin, along with plastic toy and gift packaging. If you're still not sure, check it out on [binitright.nz](http://binitright.nz).

Pizza boxes with leftover food in them cannot be recycled. Lids can be recycled at your nearest resource recovery park, but not in kerbside bins.

Mr McCann said it was good to see most residents following the recycling rules year round. "When rubbish contaminates recycling, it means the whole lot has to go to the landfill, which in turn costs ratepayers more money."

## Rubbish and recycling services

There is no kerbside rubbish and recycling collection on Christmas Day so Council will be collecting everyone's wheelie bins one day later than normal that week.

Kerbside collection services are as normal from Monday 1 January, even though it is New Year's Day.

The Ashburton Resource Recovery Park will close at 12pm on Sunday 24 December, and be closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. It will be open and operating normally from Wednesday 27 December to Sunday 31 December.

The resource recovery park will be closed on New Year's Day, Monday 1 January. The facility will be open on Tuesday 2 January and resume normal hours.

The Methven green waste dropoff will be closed on Sunday 24 December. The Rakaia Resource Recovery Park will be closed on Monday 25 December and on Monday 1 January.

## CHRISTMAS-NEW YEAR RUBBISH & RECYCLING

There is no kerbside rubbish and recycling collection on Christmas Day so Council will be emptying everyone's wheelie bins one day later than normal that week.

Collection day moves to:

Monday 25 → Tuesday  
 Tuesday 26 → Wednesday  
 Wednesday 27 → Thursday  
 Thursday 28 → Friday  
 Friday 29 → Saturday

Kerbside collection services are as normal from Monday 1 January, even though it is New Year's Day.

Please ensure all rubbish and recycling is placed at the kerbside by 7.30am on collection day.

Keep your kerbside recycling ship shape: Plastics 1, 2 and 5, newspaper, cardboard and clean tins. No lids of any size or shape.

The **Ashburton Resource Recovery Park** will be closed Monday 25 December, Tuesday 26 December and Monday 1 January.

The **Methven green waste dropoff** will be closed Sunday 24 December.

The **Rakaia Resource Recovery Park** will be closed Monday 25 December and Monday 1 January.

## 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 a kids' duathlon and triathlon at the EA Networks Centre.

Roads proposed to be closed:

- **McNally Street (from Robinson Street to McGregor Lane)**
- **Partial closure of Robinson Street and Smallbone Drive**

Period of Closure: **From 6am to 1pm on Saturday 27 January 2024 (postponement date 3 February).**

This proposed closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 - Schedule 10 (11 (e)) and will be considered at the Council meeting in January 2024, if required. Any person objecting to the proposal should lodge a notice of their objection and grounds in writing by post or email to the Council, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton by 4pm, **Friday 29 December 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](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz)

**Council Workshop - Long Term Plan,** Wednesday 17 January, 9am

**Methven Community Board,** Monday 29 January, 9am at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

**Ashburton Water Zone Committee,** Tuesday 30 January, 1pm

# Service changes over festive break

There are temporary changes to some Council services over the Christmas and New Year public holidays 2023-24.

The administration building and customer services counter at Baring Square West will close at 1pm on Friday 22 December, and open again on Wednesday 3 January. Staff are rostered on over the break to undertake essential tasks like water testing and cleaning public toilets.

If you have a problem or urgently need to contact us, please use the afterhours

service which will be operating 24 hours a day - please phone 03 307 7700.

The one change that will affect many urban residents relates to the kerbside rubbish and recycling collection.

There is no kerbside rubbish and recycling collection on Christmas Day (25 December) so Council will be collecting everyone's wheelie bins one day later than normal that week. Monday's collection moves to Tuesday, Tuesday's collection to Wednesday, and so on throughout the week; Friday's collection

will take place on Saturday.

Kerbside collection services are as normal from Monday 1 January, even though it is New Year's Day.

Public toilets around the district will be open daily as usual, and Open Spaces staff will be on deck to keep our parks and reserves looking ship shape. All services return to normal by Wednesday 3 January.

For full details of hours at all the various Council facilities, please go to [ashburtondc.govt.nz/news](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz/news) or check the handy table below.

## COUNCIL CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY HOURS 2023-24

Date	EA Networks Centre	Art Gallery & Museum	Administration Building	Ashburton Library	Open Spaces	Mt Hutt Memorial Hall
Friday 22 December	7pm pool closes 8pm gym closes 9pm stadium closes	10am-4pm	1pm close	9am-8pm	1pm close	10am-2pm
Saturday 23 December	5pm pool closes 6pm gym closes 7pm stadium closes	10am-4pm	-	10am-1pm	-	10am-2pm
Sunday 24 December	7am-3pm	10am-4pm	-	1pm-4pm	-	10am-2pm
Monday 25 December PUBLIC HOLIDAY	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Tuesday 26 December PUBLIC HOLIDAY	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Wednesday 27 December	10am-5pm	10am-4pm	CLOSED	9am-5pm	7.30am-4.15pm	10am-2pm
Thursday 28 December	10am-5pm	10am-4pm	CLOSED	9am-5pm	7.30am-4.15pm	10am-2pm
Friday 29 December	10am-5pm	10am-4pm	CLOSED	9am-5pm	7.30am-4.15pm	10am-2pm
Saturday 30 December	10am-5pm	10am-4pm	-	10am-1pm	-	10am-2pm
Sunday 31 December	10am-3pm	10am-4pm	-	1pm-4pm	-	10am-2pm
Monday 1 January PUBLIC HOLIDAY	CLOSED	10am-4pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Tuesday 2 January PUBLIC HOLIDAY	CLOSED	10am-4pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Wednesday 3 January	Normal hours resume	Normal hours resume	Normal hours resume	CLOSED FOR MOVE	Normal hours resume	Normal hours resume

Throughout the holiday period, Council will be available to contact 24/7 to report any concerns. Call (03) 307 7700 any time or visit [ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz) for more 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 & MUSEUM

327 West Street  
 10am - 4pm daily