

Heritage, art, trail grants coming

Local community groups with an upcoming project should check if they qualify for council funding, as the August round of grants is about to open.

Funds are available across three categories: Heritage, Trail Maintenance and Creative Communities.

Ashburton District Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan said the grants are a way for Council to support a range of initiatives throughout the district that help to make Mid Canterbury a great place to live.

“Earlier this year Council gave out just over \$300,000 to 87 community groups and sports teams, but there were some surplus funds in some of the grant categories that we’d also like to distribute.

“The heritage fund, for example, still has about \$16,000 in it so we’d love to see some applications for projects that aim to protect, maintain or restore heritage.”

The heritage fund supports specialised maintenance that preserves or restores the heritage state of a building or heritage item.

Ms McMillan said heritage grants given out earlier this year were helping preservation work at St Andrew’s Presbyterian Church and on the 116-year-old Catholic presbytery building on Sealy Street.

“We also allocated funds to the owners of some of our district’s special heritage



homes, like Longbeach Estate and Coldstream Homestead.”

The trail maintenance fund helps maintain and enhance local walking and cycling trails.

The Creative Communities fund is administered by Council on behalf of the New Zealand Creative Communities Scheme and will be \$17,850 – the scheme supports projects that increase opportunities for local participation and

engagement in the arts, whether you’re making a movie, producing a play or hosting an exhibition.

Applications will be open 1-31 August, and will go through an assessment process. Successful applicants will be awarded their funding in October.

To learn more about the grants, criteria and to apply, visit ashburtondc.govt.nz/grants.

Deputy Mayor - Liz McMillan

Marathon effort to reduce speed on SH77 finally pays dividends

I feel a little like an Olympic athlete who has spent four years working hard to win a gold medal.

The prize, in this case, is not a medal but NZ Transport Agency reducing the speed on SH77 outside the Opuke hot pools from 100km/h to 60km/h.

People who live in Methven, and those who visit, will feel a lot safer walking or cycling to the hot pools or the enchanted forest and local walking tracks.

It has taken a sustained effort, with the help of the wider community, to make this change. Thank you to everyone who signed the petition for a lower speed all those years ago, and who offered encouragement and support while the request made its way through the bureaucratic process.

While I haven’t been at home much in the past week to see traffic travelling slower on that part of the highway,

I’ve had lots of feedback from people saying how safe it will now be to walk that stretch.

I’ve been away this week in Auckland, at the national Welcoming Communities conference.

Ashburton District was one of a few local authorities to be a pilot Welcoming Community in 2017 and we are now regarded as a leader in the way we welcome new migrants, from around the world or other parts of New Zealand.

The conference is for elected members, like me, and for Council staff running the Welcoming Communities programme – our Welcoming Communities co-ordinator Mercedes Walkham and Group Manager Toni Durham are with me.

It’s great to learn and share our experiences about how different programmes are run and how we welcome people into the community.



Our experience is that newcomers help boost the economic and cultural vitality of a district. We’re seen as a district that is getting it done well, with our Welcoming Communities and our status as a Refugee Resettlement town.

As well as offering encouragement and advice to other local authorities getting into that space, we also gave a small presentation. It was great to hear that people all over the country often refer to our website for help and inspiration.

Mercedes has recently added a digital guide for newcomers onto the Council website and that has excellent information for those new to the district, as well as employers.

When newcomers feel they belong, it makes our society stronger, brings us closer together, and helps our economy grow. Everyone gets to be a part of everything – working, being involved in the community, and socialising.

SHORT AND SWEET

POPULAR NOODLE EVENT RETURNS

Last year’s popular noodle event will be returning with a new name and larger venue. Hakatere Noodle Festival will be held on Saturday 7 September at Baring Square East. An expanded lineup of food caravans will offer visitors the chance to sample noodle dishes and flavours from around the globe and celebrate the many cultures that make up the Ashburton District as part of Welcoming Week. Last year’s event drew an estimated 5000 people to the town centre. More details will be released soon.

A STITCH IN TIME

The Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum is running a clothing repair skills workshop on 8 September, to teach people how to fix rips, sew on buttons and mend holes in knitted sweaters. The workshop is open to those 16 years and over but limited to 15 people, who can bring items of their own clothing to work on. The workshop, from 1.30pm-4pm, will run as part of the annual Embroiderers’ Guild exhibition. Email AAGM@adc.govt.nz to book.

RESERVE PLAN

It’s the final weeks of consultation for our draft Reserve Management Plan, which is a management plan covering 121 parks and reserves across the district. The plan will help ensure parks and reserves are protected, maintained and able to be enjoyed safely by everyone. Feedback closes 4 August, for more info go to itsourplace.nz.

FREE ICE SCRAPERS

Need one of these? Pick up a free ice scraper from our Customer Services team so your windscreen can be frost-free!



New membership format at EANC

EA Networks Centre has revamped its membership options to better reflect how people are using the recreation facility.

The memberships are now a two-tier system, by area - Pool or Gym, or the popular Dual membership which provides access to both areas.

Sport and Recreation Manager Richard Wood said the memberships were more based on how visitors had been observed using the centre, and replaced previous platinum, gold and silver memberships.

“We know that quite a few people who come along to group fitness classes in the gym also like to work out in the weights room, and that people who come to aqua classes also like to swim a few laps or come swimming with their family, whanau, Tamariki.”

Pool membership includes the use of all indoor pools, aqua and pool-based fitness classes, hydrotherapy pool, spa and steam room.

Gym membership includes the use of the gym and gym-based group fitness classes, including the spinning classes.

The dual membership includes the use of all indoor pools, aqua and pool-based



fitness classes, hydrotherapy pool, steam room, gym and group fitness classes.

Fees are reduced for those committing to six months or more, and reductions also apply to seniors, students, corporates, Community Services and Hāpai Access card holders.

The new memberships are available from 5 August.

Mr Wood said the concession cards were still available for individual activities, for regular or casual users.

“But this new membership structure offers great access to our gym or pool spaces and allow members to vary their personal fitness regimes and enjoy the variety of offerings available.”

For more information about EA Networks Centre, visit eanetworkscentre.co.nz

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are at Hine Paaka (Council Chambers), 2 Baring Square East, unless specified.
Meeting agendas are online at ashburtondc.govt.nz

- Methven Community Board, Monday 29 July, 9am, Mt Hutt Memorial Hall
- Council Activity Briefings, Wednesday 31 July, 9.30am
- Audit & Risk Committee, Wednesday 31 July, 1pm (live-streamed)

WORKS NOTICES

- Walnut Avenue** - Kerb and channel renewal continues from Oak Grove to West Street. Traffic should not be affected, but watch for changes.
- Grace Ireland Drive, Methven** - Closed for subdivision development until 31 August.
- William Street** - Closed between Burnett Street and Tancred Street, from Monday 22 July to Friday 25 July, for work associated with wastewater renewals. Detours will be in place but access for residents remains.
- Tucker Street** - Closed between property numbers 5-13 from 22-26 July, so contractors can install sewer laterals and a manhole.

- Lauriston Barrhill Road** - One-way traffic from 18-25 July, between Line Road and Church Street, while electricity cables are installed.
- Peter Street** - Intersection of Peter and William Streets will be closed all day on 29 July while a power pole is decommissioned and removed.
- Graham Street** - Closed between SH1 and McMurdo Street on 29 July for road crossing repairs. Detours available.
- Bullock Street** - Closed 5 and 6 August, between Millar Avenue and Cross Street for contractors to install new connections. Detours available.

Full closure details ashburtondc.govt.nz

Unwind on our forest bathing seats




Tried out our new forest bathing seats in the Ashburton Domain yet?

There are three of these curvy wooden loungers installed around the domain, in spots where you can lie back and have views of the trees overhead.

Forest bathing has been around for centuries and literally means bathing in the atmosphere of a forest, or in our case, the magnificent domain. It's a magical way to explore nature and research has shown it's also good for your health and general stress levels.

TENDER FOR LAND AT MOUNT SOMERS



Council is calling for tenders on land on behalf of the Mount Somers Reserve Board. The tender is for a five-year licence to occupy on 37 hectares off Tramway Road, Mount Somers (outlined above).

Tenders must be received by Ashburton

District Council on or before 4pm on 12 August. The licence to occupy would begin 1 September.

Please contact commercial@adc.govt.nz for a tender application form or for more information.

It's doggy rego time!

Have you registered your four-legged friend yet?

Time's running out!

Avoid late fees by registering before 31 July

 ashburtondc.govt.nz/dogs



COUNCIL OFFICE

2 Baring Square East
Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 8.30am-5pm
Thursday 9am-5pm

ASHBURTON LIBRARY

2 Baring Square East, Ashburton 7700
Mon & Fri 8.30am-6pm, Tue-Thu 8.30am-8pm
Sat & Sun 10am-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 (late night Wed)