

Western Ward by-election confirmed

With two nominations received so far, an election is now guaranteed in the Western Ward by-election.

However, time is running out for anyone else who wants to stand, with nominations closing in seven days.

Nearly anyone can stand, as long as they are over the age of 18, a New Zealand citizen and enrolled on the Parliamentary electoral roll. Candidates don't have to live in the Western Ward, but their nominators do.

Ashburton District Council Chief Executive Hamish Riach said completed nomination forms had to be received by midday on Thursday 16 March.

"So, if you are thinking of standing, or know of someone who is, then now is the time to make sure the nomination form is completed and submitted."

Copies of the nomination form and a by-election information sheet can be found at voteashburton.nz

Mr Riach said the online candidate guide had good information for those thinking about standing.

"There is no specific job description for councillors, however as representatives and leaders of their communities, they are involved in setting policies, making regulatory decisions and reviewing council performance. People do need a passion for their community and a desire to see it do well."

The election will be held by postal vote and voting papers will be mailed out to Western Ward electors around 20 April. Voting will close at midday on Friday 12 May.



The Western Ward is known for strong voter turnouts; in the recent 2022 Local Elections, over half of the 4331 registered voters returned their papers.

Mr Riach said people who did not receive papers last October or who had moved since then would need to ensure they were on the electoral roll if they wanted to vote in the by-election.

"We have electoral rolls available at the Methven i-Hub at the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall, and at Council's main office in Ashburton and at the Ashburton Public Library, so people can check their details

if need be."

Electors may enrol or amend their enrolment details online at www.vote.nz, by texting their name and address to 3676 or by calling 0800 36 76 56 to ask for a form to be sent. Email requests can be sent to enquiries@elections.govt.nz

As in last year's Local Elections, voters will be able to return their ballot papers by post or drop them into orange voting bins at the Methven i-Hub, Ashburton Library or Council building.

A list of current nominees can be found at voteashburton.nz

Action plan for rural intersections

The results of a review of 79 rural intersections recommended by the Coroner following a fatal crash at the intersection of Mitcham Road and Hepburns Road in 2019 were presented in a report to Ashburton District Councillors recently.

The review identified 104 road control signs that were slightly damaged, worn or vandalised, and 60 intersections where vegetation affected visibility. It found that although the intersections met road safety guidelines, improvements could be made.

Replacement of existing signs, renewal of roadmarkings and trimming of vegetation is carried out as part of normal maintenance operations, however improvements such as additional signs, new roadmarkings and central islands require additional funding as capital works.

Improvements to signs have already been carried out at the site of the crash and at five other similar rural intersections.

Council will budget for additional intersection improvements as part of the 2024-27 Long Term Plan and apply to Waka Kotahi to include them as part of the 2024-2027 Land Transport Programme funding request.

Under the District Plan, no tree may be planted within 30 metres of an intersection. Vegetation encroaching over the property boundary into the road should be cut back to the boundary.

Neil Brown - Mayor

Aiming to build resilient communities

Resilience has been the key word in many conversations I've been having with other provincial and rural mayors.

We met recently in Wellington for our regular sector meeting and were stunned by the stories and photographs of Cyclone Gabrielle damage brought by the deputy mayors and councillors of Hawke's Bay regions. The mayors had stayed in their home patches to lead recovery efforts.

They will be in recovery mode for a long time and it will be hard going, especially for rural communities. Houses, farms, paddocks, livestock and orchards are all gone in some areas.

We in the Ashburton district will assist where we can - that has already included sending staff north to help those on the front line, and adopting Masterton district as part of a Local Government buddy scheme.

Our own flood relief fund for these communities now stands at \$20,300.

Prepared communities are resilient communities, and flooding is one of the most frequent natural hazards we experience in our district. Preparing for a flood includes managing the Ashburton River and making sure floodwaters can't break out and inundate the thousands of homes that have been built on its riverbanks over the years.

We know that extracting gravel from the riverbed is one tool we can use, and Council continues to work with Environment Canterbury to make sure this happens. Following the 2021 floods, we know the river will be in a vulnerable state for another five years as stopbanks are repaired and trees replanted along riverbanks.

Doing nothing to mitigate the changing climate and more frequent extreme

weather events is not an option, and more work is needed.

A second urban bridge is also part of our resilience planning - not only to connect Ashburton and Tinwald in the event the State Highway 1 bridge is broken, but to connect the whole of the South Island.

The case for the second bridge is now with Waka Kotahi but we continue to work behind the scenes to make sure it becomes a reality. I am travelling to Wellington to meet ministers to secure funding for the bridge later this month.

Roads continue to be an issue all around the country and it is clear that Government needs to look at how the building and maintenance of roads is funded, not just for the rebuild in Hawke's Bay, but everywhere. A major injection of capital is needed.

The Three Waters reforms roll on, despite widespread opposition. Last

week Chief Executive Hamish Riach and

I appeared in front a select committee to voice our concerns about how they also capture our council controlled organisation, Ashburton Contracting Ltd.

We are hoping to hear that the reforms as they are proposed will be changed or even delayed, but as always, the devil will be in the detail.

At home, our rural communities will be hosting their annual shows, with the Mayfield A&P Show this weekend and Methven A&P the next weekend.

These shows are a great chance for townies to see all sorts of farm-based activities and learn about the industry that underpins the economic success of this district.



New grants round open for March

Each year, Ashburton District Council provides funding to community groups and projects that help make Mid Canterbury a great place to live.

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

✓ Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund - Helping cover travel costs for junior sports teams participating in regular competitions.

✓ Mid Canterbury Regional Event Fund - Funding for events that help to attract visitors to our region.

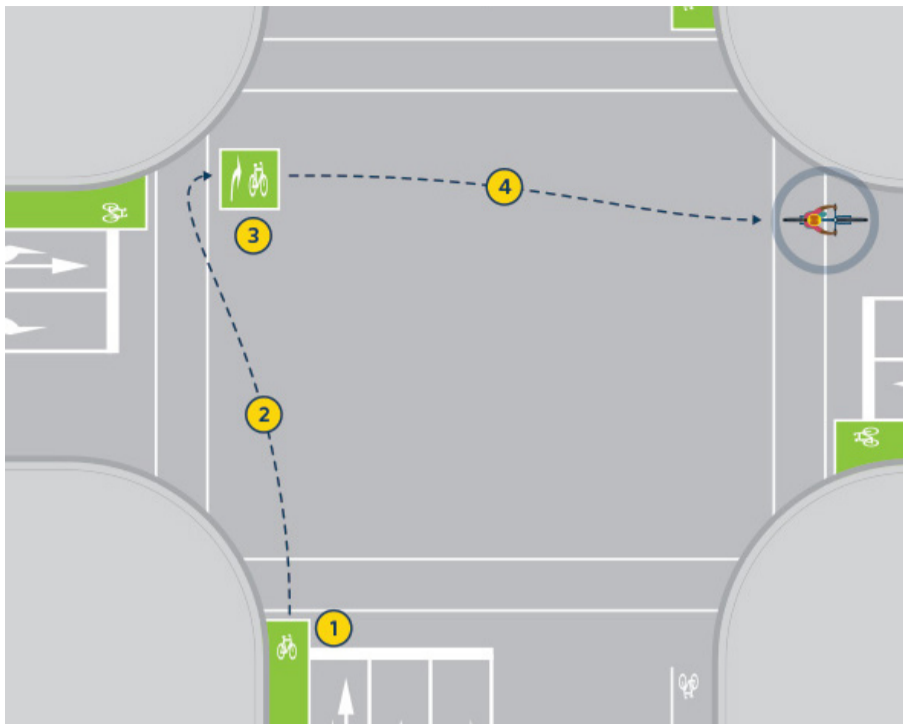
✓ Trail Maintenance Fund - Grants to help maintain and enhance, walking and cycling trails in Mid Canterbury.

✓ Looking to bring your creative project to life? Whether you're making a movie, producing a play or hosting an exhibition, your arts project may be eligible for funding from the Creative Communities Scheme.

Applications open until 31 March.

Find out more at ashburtondc.govt.nz/grants or email grants@adc.govt.nz or phone (03) 307 9646.

Safely using a hook turn



The new traffic lights at Walnut Avenue feature hook turns for cyclists because turning right at some intersections can be difficult.

Hook turns mean that you can stay on the left side of the road at all times – you don't need to move across traffic to turn right. If you don't want to use the hook turn, then stop in a safe place and walk your bike to cross as a pedestrian would.

Waka Kotahi tips for doing a hook turn

- Approach the intersection in the cycle lane or the left-most lane that goes straight ahead.
- Cross the intersection when the traffic light for going straight ahead

turns green.

- Stop in the marked area of road just before the footpath, turning to face the direction you want to go. If there isn't a marked place, stop ahead of the lane for the direction you want to go. Stay clear of crossing pedestrians and traffic that will need to pass while you are waiting.
- Cross the intersection when the traffic light for going straight ahead turns green.

Hook turns are most useful at crossroads with traffic lights. The basic idea of making a right turn in stages can also help you in other situations where you want to avoid moving across traffic.

ROAD WORKS NOTICES

Thompsons Track – current to 31 March. Thompsons Track between Winchmore Lauriston Road and Line Road is temporarily closed for roading maintenance and reseal works. Detour available.

Mayfield Valetta Road – current to 6 April. Mayfield Valetta Road between Tinwald Westerfield Mayfield Road and Anama Valetta Road is temporarily closed during the day for rehabilitation. Resident access remains, detour available.

Holmes Road – current to 21 April. Holmes Road between Mt Hutt Station Road and Barkers Road is closed for a full road reconstruction and drainage installation. Detour options available.

Railway Terrace East (Rakaia) – current to 31 March. Railway Terrace East from Rolleston Street to Bridge Street SH1 is temporarily closed for work associated with Waka Kotahi's weigh station project.

Allens Road – current until 9 April. Allens Road between Carters Road and Turton Street will be closed while the North West Ashburton wastewater system is extended and connected to the town network. Detour available.

Allens Road - Sections of Allens Road between Middle Road and Harrison Street will be closed over the next few weeks for watermain renewal. Detour available.

Seafield Road - Seafield Road, between Bremners Road and Bridge Street, will be closed on **28 March**, from 7am until 5pm to allow EA Networks to replace two poles. Detours are available.

View a map of all current and upcoming road closures in the district by going to our website ashburtondc.govt.nz

PUBLIC NOTICE

MT SOMERS RESERVE RECLASSIFICATION

Notice is given that the Ashburton District Council proposes to resolve that the Reserve for plantation purposes vested in Ashburton District Council in trust, described in the schedule and outlined in yellow below, be classified as Local Purpose (Utility) Reserve pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977. The proposed classification will more appropriately reflect the intended use of the land, which is for the Mt Somers Water Treatment Plant.

Canterbury Land District – Ashburton District Schedule:

Area (hectares) - 1.6187

Description - Reserve 4813 (New Zealand Gazette 1956 page 661).



Any person wishing to object or submit to this proposal can do so in writing no later than **7 April 2023**. To make a submission or objection or to find out more about this proposal, please contact Council's Property Team or email commercial@adc.govt.nz.

Ashburton District Council, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton 7700.
Or: PO Box 94, Ashburton 7740

PUBLIC NOTICE

GRAZING TENDER

The Ashburton District Council, on behalf of the Rakaia Reserve Board, seeks tenders to graze the land described below:

Michael Street, Rakaia

- Area 2.0234 ha approximately
- Legal Description: RES 2986 RAKAIA TSHIP-RECREATION RES

A five-year (5) year grazing licence is proposed with a commencement of 1 April 2023.

Tenders may tender by completing the appropriate tender documentation which may be obtained from **Council's Customer Services Department** at 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, by phoning Council on 03 307 7700 or by e-mailing info@adc.govt.nz

Tenders are to be enclosed in an envelope enfaced **"Rakaia Reserve Board Licence to Occupy"** and are to be either delivered or posted to reach Council by closing time of 4pm, **Friday 24 March 2023**.

Tenders for the sections close with the Chief Executive Officer, Ashburton District Council, PO BOX 94, ASHBURTON 7700.

Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Officer for enquiries – Ann Smith, Property Officer

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held in the Council Chambers, 137 Havelock Street, (unless otherwise advised).

Methven Community Board Meeting, Monday 13 March, 10.30am at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Council Meeting, Wednesday 15 March, 1pm (live-streamed)

Council Activity Briefing, Wednesday 22 March, 9.30am

Audit and Risk Meeting, Wednesday 22 March, 1.30

Ashburton Water Zone Committee Meeting, Tuesday 28 March, 1pm (live-streamed)

TRIENNIAL MEETINGS

Mayfield Reserve and Hall Board - Tuesday 28 March, 7.30pm at the Mayfield hall

For more Council news, advisories and information, and the latest stories, go to ashburtondc.govt.nz/latestnews

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