

## Retiring councillors say goodbyes

It will be a long time before Cr Stuart Wilson stops looking at potholes when he drives around the Ashburton District.

The long-time councillor retired on Wednesday after 12 years around the Council table, a lot of it spent talking about ways to improve the district's roading network.

A farmer before he was elected to Council in 2010, Cr Wilson said he might be called on to run the odd farming errand for his sons, but he and wife Betty were looking forward to driving in his vintage Morris 8 Sport to visit friends further afield.

Over the past 12 years, Council has dictated their holidays with many days spent in meetings and workshops.

"Council has been such a huge part of my life and I will miss the fellowship of other councillors and those I have worked with along the way," he said.

"I set out to improve our roads and I have tried my best. People are now beginning to realise how hard it is for local government to make their roads better when Waka Kotahi doesn't have money to subsidise the work."

Cr Wilson said he would still be keeping an interested eye on Council business, including the progress of the second urban bridge.

Other retiring Councillors to say farewell at yesterday's final meeting of the current term were Cr Angus McKay (who has served nine years), Cr Diane Rawlinson (six years) and John Falloon (three years).

Cr McKay was Mayor when the EA Networks Centre opened in 2015 and he says that landing the \$35 million project



**Retiring Councillors (from left) John Falloon, Diane Rawlinson, Stuart Wilson and Angus McKay.**

close to both deadline and budget was a highlight of his time around the Council table.

He was Mayor from 2010 until 2016, and a councillor for the Ashburton ward from 2019-2022.

He is planning to spend more time working in his private business, which cans and exports dairy milk powder from a new plant at the Ashburton Business Park.

Cr Rawlinson was first elected to council in 2016 and has served two terms. She says two bodies of work stand out for her – traffic upgrades through the Tinwald corridor and the siting of the new library and civic centre, now about half-way through construction.

As a resident of Tinwald, she looks forward to the traffic lights Waka Kotahi is now

planning at the corner of State Highway 1, Agnes Street and Lagmhor Road, and she will also be keeping a close eye on the progress of the second bridge.

She plans to expand on her work as a celebrant.

Cr Falloon is going back to his primary job, as an accountant, though he is considering learning to fish in his new spare time.

He says a change in his time that was positive for Council was the move to two-weekly meetings. Pre-covid, Council committees met separately and then as a full body over the course of a six-week cycle, but during the pandemic Councillors met every two weeks – often over Zoom – and dealt with all Council business at the same time.

The changes were retained post-Covid.

## Final days to cast your vote

Only a few days remain to vote in the Local Elections, which close at noon on Saturday 8 October.

Postal voting has closed, but voting papers can still be hand delivered to one of the district's ballot boxes – located at the Ashburton Public Library, at the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall in Methven and at Council's Baring Square West offices in Ashburton, and all will be open up until noon on the last day of voting.

If your papers didn't arrive, are damaged or you forgot to enrol to vote, you may be able to cast a special vote.

You need to be on the electoral roll to request a special vote and you will need to cast your special vote in person at Council's offices. See our [voteashburton.nz](https://voteashburton.nz) for more information.



## Hamish Riach - Chief Executive

### No let up in business during last week

**There has been no easing off of the workload for both Council and elected Councillors in this last week before the Local Elections.**

But there has been a bit of banter, especially from the four Councillors who are retiring from Local Government, as they tend to final duties. Cr Stuart Wilson, who leaves after 12 years, came to a recent activity briefing dressed in the same tweed jacket and shirt he wore to his first Council meeting in 2010 – and while he might have reminisced for a minute, the wheels of Council did not stop turning.

The agenda for yesterday's final meeting was also a typical workload, from progressing the Ashburton Airport Development Plan, to reviewing the Community Honours Awards Policy

and setting community grants. While that work was in the public arena, a mountain of reading and understanding of issues was done out of the public eye, as is often the case with council business.

So thank you to not only those Councillors who are retiring, but to all Councillors for their work this term. It has certainly been a memorable one as we negotiated a pandemic and learned to govern by Zoom, while also managing to keep the new civic library and administration building on track, and deal with historic flooding.

Early this Saturday afternoon, we will likely know who will sit around the Council table for the next three years, and who will be on the Methven Community Board.

The new councillors will be sworn in at a special council meeting on 27 October, and will have already undergone some training with Local Government New Zealand. It will be a learning journey for new councillors as they are also brought up to speed by staff on Council projects and day-to-day operations.

The campaign encouraging residents to vote in the current Local Elections is in its final days and you will have seen advertising in newspapers and on social media and radio urging people to have their say, and I hope you do.

It is not too late, though the deadline for votes to be received is noon on Saturday, so it is too late to vote by post. You can still vote by filling out your voting papers and taking them to Council's main offices in Ashburton, or the Ashburton Public Library, or to

the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall.

Voting bins will be collected just after noon on Saturday 8 October and the contents couriered to Electionz.com in Christchurch for counting. In the event of closely-contested seats, these votes may make a difference.

By the close of voting, we are expecting that at least half of the eligible 23,124 voters in the Ashburton district will have had their say.

Residents can expect to see the result on our website within a few hours of the polls closing, however the official declaration won't be made until 13 October, and the new Council will get down to business only after it is sworn in.





# New speed rules for safer travel to school

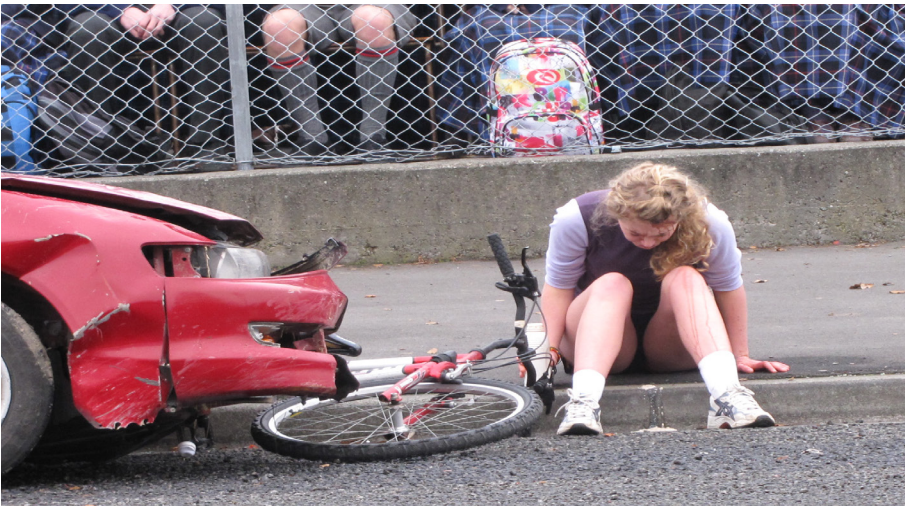
Council has been encouraged by the number of submissions to a plan that proposes reducing speeds around urban schools to 30km/h, but says the whole community needs to be on board for the safety measures to work.

Feedback is being sought on a draft interim speed management plan, which aims to reduce speed outside schools as part of a national programme, and Council also wants to manage speeds on the edges of towns where populations have increased, and in areas with a high number of pedestrians and cyclists.

Infrastructure Services Group Manager Neil McCann encouraged people to take a look at the 21 maps where it was proposed to permanently drop the speed limit outside urban schools to 30km/h.

“If adopted, it would mean parts of Walnut Avenue, outside Ashburton College, would be 30km/h, as well as parts of Creek Road, Middle Road and Belt Road. This would be a permanent speed limit in place at all times.

“The 30km/h speed limits are proposed around other urban schools where there are walking and cycling facilities, and 60 km/h speed limits at rural schools where the majority of students get to and from school by vehicle, so we want people to take a look and see what they think. We are asking all residents and parents of children at those schools, people who



The scene of a mock crash to promote road safety to Ashburton College students.

live by schools, and those who travel past schools to be part of the feedback.”

Mr McCann said slower speeds outside schools had been something the community had asked for previously and a recent change to Ministry of Transport rules meant Council could now do it. Over 40 submissions have already been received on the topic.

“It will make kids safer when travelling to school and give parents more confidence to allow their children to walk or cycle to school. Lower speeds may increase journey times by a minute or so, but they will also support safer travel and recreation for local residents outside of school times.”

Mr McCann said the Council was still

committed to improving the condition of its roads, which was a separate issue to lowering speeds on some streets.

“We acknowledge there is a lot of maintenance to be done and we have budgeted \$13.1m for our subsidised roading maintenance and renewal programme this year, with an additional \$1.7m unsubsidised funding for rehabilitation of sections of sealed roads. However, the three key things we are proposing in this speed management plan are because of the activity at school and surrounding environment rather than the roads themselves.”

Read the consultation document at [ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz); submissions close at 5pm on 16 October.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### WALNUT AVENUE RAIL CROSSING CLOSURE

Waka Kotahi has advised that the railway section of Walnut Avenue, between West and East Streets, will be closed to traffic for seven weeks until Sunday 13 November.

A pedestrian crossing will operate at the site on school days from 8am until 5pm, but outside those times pedestrians will need to use the rail footbridge about 600m south of the work area. The pedestrian crossing at Walnut Avenue will not operate during school holidays, 3-14 October.

For the duration of the seven-week closure, a temporary pedestrian refuge will be in place opposite the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum to assist crossing State Highway 1.

### PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURES

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a proposal to temporarily close roads to ordinary vehicle traffic to enable the holding of a community event – **Light up the Night Christmas Event**.

Roads proposed to be closed:

- **EAST STREET**, from Moore Street to Havelock Street
- **TANCRED STREET**, from East Street to Cass Street
- **BURNETT STREET**, from East Street to Cass Street

**Period of Closure:** From 1.00pm until 12.00am on **FRIDAY, 02 December 2022**.

Any person objecting to the proposal should lodge notice of their objection and the grounds for their objection in writing by post or email to the Council, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton by 4.00PM on FRIDAY, 14 October 2022

**NEIL McCANN**  
Group Manager Infrastructure Services

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a proposal to temporarily close roads to ordinary vehicle traffic to enable the holding of a community event – **Ashburton Car Club Gravel Bent Sprint Meeting**.

Roads proposed to be closed:

- **LE BRETONS ROAD**, from Christys Road intersection
- **LE BRETONS ROAD**, from Denshires Road South intersection
- **LE BRETONS ROAD**, from Christys Road intersection for 2km

**Period of Closure:** From 8.30am until 5.30pm on **SUNDAY, 20 November 2022**. Detours will be available and signposted.

Any person objecting to the proposal should lodge notice of their objection and the grounds for their objection in writing by post or email to the Council, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton by 4.00PM on FRIDAY, 21 October 2022.

**NEIL McCANN**  
Group Manager Infrastructure Services

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# Activities for all weather these holidays



Planning around the weather might be tricky these school holidays, but there's plenty to do inside and outside our facilities.

You can get your hands dirty at the Ashburton Public Library, which is running garden-themed activities.

The sessions run from 10.30am until 11.30am and on Monday next week they'll be making miniature forts, on Wednesday decorating a pot and planting a seed, and on Friday making a lei.

EA Networks Centre is once again running its popular holiday programme, with

activities like dodgeball and basketball, as well as painting and bingo. Field trips around Geraldine, Timaru and Ashburton are planned next week.

The disc golf course beside EA Networks Centre is a free activity if you have your own disc or frisbee. The centre hires out discs as needed and the first tee is right beside the main carpark.

The Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum also has fun and creative activities and workshops over the holidays. You can create your own pinhole camera and colour swatch, enjoy paper crafts and make miniature morsels - just drop in!

# Women-only pool sessions

EA Networks Centre will this month begin trialling sessions for women only at its swimming pools.

The sessions will run from 5.30pm until 7pm and the first will be on Sunday 16 October.

Community Services Group Manager Steve Fabish said that women would be able to experience swimming in a completely private space.

“Their reasons for seeking that privacy could be cultural or religious, or some women might just not be comfortable swimming with all genders together.

Whatever the reason, we want women to be able to come to our pools for time out and to meet other women in a welcoming and comfortable space.”

The aquatic space includes a 25m lap pool, leisure pool with lazy river, learn to swim pool, as well as a spa and steam room.

Swimmers will not be able to be seen by people using the indoor courts and gym areas.

The sessions are available to women aged 16 and over, and pool users will pay \$5 per person. The centre will provide all female staff for the sessions, including lifeguards and poolside support people.

## RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

### MONDAY 24 OCTOBER, LABOUR DAY

There is **no change to kerbside rubbish and recycling** collections on Monday 24 October and the kerbside collection will take place as usual. The **Ashburton Resource Recovery Park** will be open from 9am until 5pm, but the **Rakaia Resource Recovery Park** will be closed. Please use your windstrap, no matter the weather!



**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 9.00am - 8.00pm  
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