

## Community honours for volunteers

Eight people and two groups will be celebrated at this year's Community Honours Awards, which recognise the contributions and achievements of the Ashburton District's outstanding volunteers.

The 10, plus family and supporters, have been invited to a presentation ceremony at the Ashburton Event Centre on Monday 25 September, at 2pm.

The Mayor's Award for Public Service will be awarded to Jack Allan, Lindsay Holland, Edward Oakley and Charles Ross. These four have made a significant and sustained contribution to the district.

Mr Allan is most well known for his work with Mid Canterbury Tennis, Mr Holland as a driving force behind Bookarama, Mr Oakley as a stalwart of all things Rakaia and Mr Ross for leading the new Sharplin Falls track project.

Two Ashburton Medals will be awarded - to Val Clemens (for conservation) and to the Hakatere Marae (for community work).

Civic Awards will be presented to Thelma Bell (Multi-Cultural Bite), Cezarne Rodgers (Ashburton Cadet Unit), Michael Ross (Ashburton Railway and Preservation Society) and the Phat Bastards (fundraising mountainbikers). These awards recognise substantial service, usually voluntary or beyond normal employment, benefiting the district and its people.

Mayor Neil Brown said it was humbling to read the achievements of the 10 recipients, and of all those who had been



nominated for community awards.

"There was such a high calibre of nominees and it was difficult for the selection panel, but the 10 we have chosen have really made a difference to our district and the people who live here.

"Their dedication and volunteer work has been outstanding and they are all very worthy recipients."

Mayor Brown said the awards presentation ceremony was also open to members of the public and each recipient's achievements would be read out and acknowledged.

"Volunteers are an essential part of our community and we thank all those who work for the benefit of our district."

You can read the full citations online after the presentation ceremony.

## Residents welcome Mona Square units

A local solution for local people, based on a partnership between council and a private housing trust, is how Mayor Neil Brown sees the creation of 17 new units for the district's elderly residents.

The Haven Housing units at Mona Square were officially opened last week and replaced eight old flats believed to have been built in the 1950s that were previously part of Council's elderly person housing stocks.

Council leased the land to the Ashburton Housing and Support Trust (which operates as Haven Housing) for a nominal rent, and the trust set about fundraising and managing the build.

Mayor Brown said the arrangement was a positive outcome for the community and the new units were an asset for the town, boosting stocks of affordable housing for older residents.

Trust chair Jackie Girvan said everyone needed a place warm, safe and affordable place to call home and Mona



Square was an ideal venue for older folk because it was close to shops, doctors and other amenities.

She said the project had been a team effort, with professional services volunteering skills and local building businesses also supporting the build.

"I see how much our community has been involved and now it is a

community asset that belongs to Ashburton."

The trust owns and manages the new units and is responsible for selecting tenants.

Council provides other housing units across the district, which are designed for older residents of limited means to live independently.

## SHORT AND SWEET

### DENTAL CLINIC

Council has approved the Mt Somers Reserve Board's submission to relocate the old dental clinic from the Mt Somers School. The building will be repurposed and used as a museum in the Mt Somers Domain.

### MARKET DAY

East Street will be closed to traffic on Monday for Ashburton Market Day. Tancred Street and Burnett Street (from Cass Street to East Street) will also be closed. Detours will be in place until 6pm. It's also the opening day of Bookarama, so expect lots of traffic and pedestrians in the centre of town.

### BUSINESS AWARDS

Entries are starting to arrive for the ANZ Business of the Year Awards. Entries are being encouraged across a wide range of categories, before the closing deadline on 31 October. Winners will be announced at a gala dinner at the Ashburton Aviation Museum's super hangar in February.

### POWER DOWN

The undergrounding of power on Racecourse Road is under way. The cable jointing and associated power outages to change over to the underground supply and remove poles will continue until the end of October.

### STOCKWATER RACE CLEANING

Mains race cleaning will start to ramp up as the warmer temperatures encourage weed growth. Property owners are being asked to keep their own races clear and think about alternative water sources as the summer - and predicted El Nino weather conditions - grow near. Stockwater is not guaranteed and a hot dry summer will bring restrictions and low river flows. Alternative sources could include rainwater collection.

For the latest Council news, visit our website [ashburtondc.govt.nz/latestnews](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz/latestnews)



# Team effort keeps town beautiful

Members of Litter-Free Ashburton were delighted to have reinforcements on Saturday for their Keep New Zealand Beautiful event.

Spokesperson Bev Skates said it was a very good turnout from regulars and members of the community, including students from Ashburton College and Ashburton Intermediate School.

“We had some top litter collectors on the day and they really got stuck in. We also had great support from local business Kaipak, which provided not only people power, but extra safety vests, gloves and litter-pickers. We also want to thank the Council, Eco Educate and EnviroNZ for their support and involvement in this event.”



## 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.

**Chalmers Avenue** – current until 30 September. The southbound lane, between Wakanui Road and Grey Street, will be closed while contractors install new water mains. Detours in place.

**Maronan Valetta Road** – from 4-29 September. Maronan Valetta Road between Westerfield Lismore Road and Timaru Track Road will be closed for improvements.

**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 13 October. Wills Street from Walker Street to Oak Grove will be closed for new water and wastewater pipes to be installed. Resident access remains.

**Allens Road** – current until 11 October. Allens Road, from Middle Road to Turton Street 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 Kermode 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** – 25 September to May 2024. These streets will be closed at times for new water and wastewater pipes to be installed. Access to Ashburton Hospital remains; resident access remains.

## Get ready to Drop, Cover and Hold

Schools, businesses, families and individuals in the Ashburton District are being encouraged to take part in the New Zealand ShakeOut 2023 next month.

ShakeOut is a national earthquake drill where people are encouraged to Drop, Cover and Hold all at the same time - 9.30am on Thursday 19 October.

Drop, Cover and Hold stops you being knocked over, makes you a smaller target for flying and falling objects and protects your head, neck and vital organs.

You can prepare in advance by identifying a safe space, like under a strong table or next to an interior wall, to take refuge in a quake. Being prepared and having supplies on hand for several days is also part of advance planning.

If you are driving when an earthquake happens, pull over to a clear location, stop and stay there with your seatbelt fastened until the shaking stops.



If you are in bed, stay there.

Council Compliance and Development Group Manager Jane Donaldson said earthquakes were in the top five emergency risks for the district.

“While we can’t predict when earthquakes will occur, scientific research has shown that the South Island’s alpine fault has

a regular history of producing large earthquakes, and the next one is likely in our lifetimes.”

People who live along the Mid Canterbury coastline can also use the ShakeOut to think about what they would do in the event of a tsunami.

The district’s tsunami zones were revised last year and residents can see the evacuation zone maps online to see how they would be affected.

Council had an important role in civil defence emergency management as part of a Canterbury and national response team, she said.

“It’s important that everyone knows what to do and how to protect themselves, and these national drills help share important information. We encourage everyone who can to take part in next month’s drill. Knowing what to do can save lives.”

Sign up for the ShakeOut at [getready.govt.nz/involved/shakeout](https://getready.govt.nz/involved/shakeout)

## Couch to Wellness: New activity goals

Couch to Wellness is the name of a 10-week pilot programme starting at EA Networks Centre next month to encourage not-so-active residents to lead healthier lifestyles.

Sport and Recreation Manager Richard Wood said the free community programme is aimed at those who have not been active, for whatever reason, and would provide a space where exercise is used as a form of medicine.

“Sometimes health issues like long-term injuries, obesity, high blood pressure or diabetes can stop people being active and this regular weekly programme is about being active and incorporating mobility, stability, strength and endurance into people’s lifestyles.

“There’s also the added benefit of fostering community bonding, knowledge and just being in a really positive and inclusive environment.”

The pilot programme starts on 13 October



has been promoted to GPs and other local health and wellness providers, who can refer patients, and it is also available to anyone in the community.

“We’re happy for people to self refer as well, as we want to help as many people in our community as we can be more active,” Mr Wood said.

The programme will be delivered by qualified staff, who have experience running programmes for those dealing with cancer, respiratory conditions, and strength and balance problems.

Instructors will conduct a thorough health screening and assessment before participants join and again at the end of the programme so they can leave with personalised support and guidance.

“We’re really excited to be running this programme and helping our community break down the barriers to participation in physical activity.

“Prescribed exercise, especially in fun and positive company, can improve people’s lives.”

Couch to Wellness:

- Fridays at 9am
- Starting 13 October
- Duration – 10 weeks
- Ending 22 December
- Cost – Free

If you want to enrol in the pilot programme, contact our team at EA Networks Centre.

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

**Ashburton Water Zone Committee Meeting**, Tuesday 26 September, 1pm (live-streamed)

## MAYFIELD WATER NOTICE

Residents on the Mayfield community water supply are being asked to conserve water for a week from Monday 25 September while the township’s borehead is sealed. Water from Ashburton’s town supply will be tankered to the Mayfield water treatment plant and used to fill reservoirs that store water for the 68 properties on the rural supply.

Residents should limit their use of water to essential domestic, commercial and industrial use only. Essential use includes drinking, washing and cooking, but does not include activities like watering plants, washing vehicles or filling pools.

Sign up for free text alerts and advisories from Council by texting your post code to 4196.

### 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