

## Saving biodiversity for the future

Ashburton District Council has launched a new draft biodiversity strategy and is asking residents for feedback.

Our Natural Place was developed with the help of local ecological groups, iwi, landowners and other stakeholders. Group Manager of Infrastructure and Open Spaces, Neil McCann, says it aims to protect and enhance the district's biodiversity for the next generation.

"There are still parts of Mid Canterbury with rich biodiversity, such as in the high country, but across much of the district we have very little native biodiversity remaining, so we do need to look after what we have left."

He says that the district's biodiversity is under pressure from a range of threats including urban intensification, land-use changes, human activity, predators and climate change.

"The good news is that there are lots of people who are already tackling the issue, from volunteers at planting days, to landowners who are protecting and maintaining wetlands on their land.

"Council has also been pitching in, through the establishment of the Biodiversity Advisory Group, supporting projects such as the Harris Scientific Reserve and employing our first full-time Ecologist and Biodiversity Advisor."

Mr McCann says that restoring biodiversity across the district will take time and requires a long-term approach.

Actions in the draft strategy range from



those that are already under way to others that could take a decade or more.

"These actions are a mix of what our stakeholders believe is important, what Council wants to do, and what we're required to do under Government direction, such as the recently released National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity."

Mr McCann says staff will be at the Ashburton A&P show this Friday and Saturday to discuss the draft strategy and answer any questions people might have.

"I'd encourage anyone to stop by the Council marquee and have a chat with us about our district's biodiversity. You can grab a free Kānuka seedling for the garden and children will enjoy making their own bug hotel to take home.

"Looking after our biodiversity will require all parts of the community to work together, so we want to hear from anyone and everyone."

The draft strategy and online feedback form can be found at [ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay)

## Neil Brown - Mayor Creating our own buzz about this district's biodiversity

The spotlight is on biodiversity this week and many of you are already living and breathing its goals without realising it.

By biodiversity, I mean biological diversity – all the different micro-organisms and fungi, trees, plants and animals that live in our district.

Council has just released its first Biodiversity Strategy for public consultation and it's a draft blueprint for looking after our district's biodiversity; we will all need to work together on this and build on the good work that's already been done.

That good work includes our local ecological groups that spend their weekends planting trees, and farmers who plant native shelter belts and riparian margins, and protect wetlands.

There are many other residents with a passion for our environment, and

their projects are diverse. Some fund the work themselves, others apply to Council for biodiversity grants that can help their projects gain traction.

Just recently, Council granted \$7500 to the Lake Clearwater Hutholders Association, whose members are creating a strip of wetlands running from the foreshore of the lake to the public camping ground. Volunteers plan to plant 1716 natives.

Council also granted \$7500 to a Staveley wetland restoration project, and \$7500 to the Staveley Campsite Committee, which is making a huge effort to protect and restore 10 hectares of remnant forest at Staveley Camp.

This Friday, Councillors who also sit on the Ashburton Water Zone Committee will hold their monthly meeting at the Staveley Camp and then spend the rest of the day helping volunteers at the start of a weekend of weed wrangling.

So our community is already invested and involved in many biodiversity projects, some trying to protect indigenous biodiversity that is unique to our patch but at risk of being lost.

Farmers, whose lives depend on the land, naturally go about their daily lives knowing they must look after the natural environment that looks after them. They are actively sharing information and good practice.

So this strategy is for all of us, and has been developed in partnership with interest groups, landowners and Manawhenua. Developing the draft document has been a great learning opportunity for all of us involved and even the act of reading it will grow your own knowledge.

Join us on this important journey.



## SHORT AND SWEET

### PEST CONTROL

Ashburton District Council and the Department of Conservation are undertaking pest control operations (night shooting) in the Awa Awa Rata Reserve, Pudding Hill Reserve and some adjoining Council and Public Conservation Land for three nights in the period 19-31 October. Pests to be targeted include deer, pigs, possums, hares and rabbits. Warning signs will be in place at all public entry points on days when operations are undertaken.

### ALCOHOL PLAN

Submissions on the draft Local Alcohol policy closed yesterday with almost 30 people making feedback. The submissions will be considered by Council at hearings on Thursday 9 November, at 9am.

### LEARNING TO SWIM

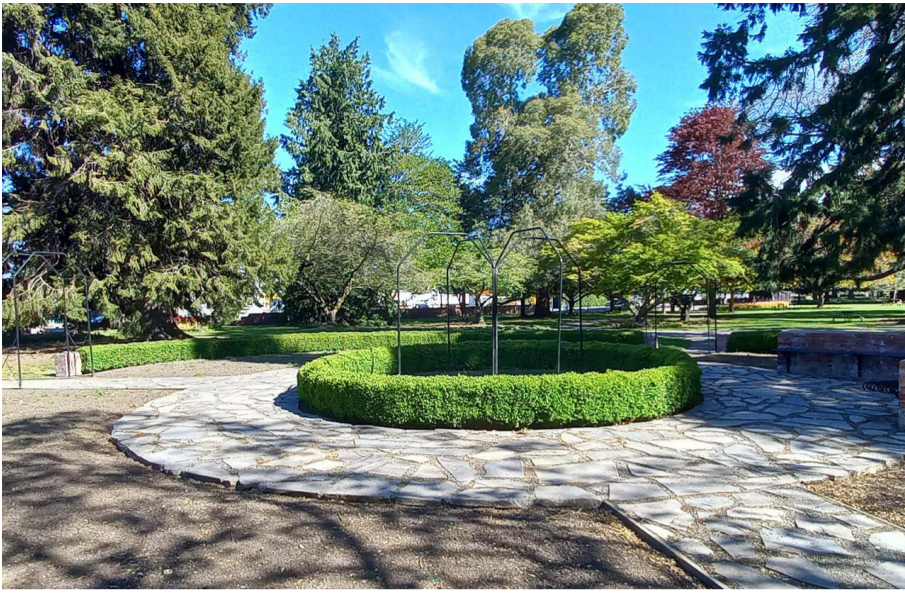
During recent school holidays, EA Networks Centre staff worked with Safer Mid Canterbury to provide swim lessons to 33 children who are part of the refugee programme. The children who attended lessons ranged in age from 5-18 years old. Many families returned back from the holidays and their children continue to make big improvements.

### RECYCLE A DEVICE

Seventy-seven young people have attended Recycle A Device Club classes in August and September; in that time 14 refurbished devices were given out (making a total of 69 since the programme started). Twenty new people have applied to the Ashburton Public Library to be added to the device waitlist.

### HOT SUMMER DAYS

Letters will be sent to all stockwater users, warning of predictions for a dry summer and encouraging them to clean their races and to prepare alternative sources of stockwater. When it gets dry and the district moves into drought-like conditions, it is very difficult to get stockwater to the far ends of the network and users should have plans in place for alternative supplies should this happen.



# Herbs make comeback at Ashburton Domain

Open Spaces staff are creating a herb garden in the Ashburton Domain, to give visitors an aromatic experience.

The herbs will be planted in a circular area, bounded by box hedging, near the domain's administration building.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said the area had previously been planted in annuals and was in the shade of a very large Elm tree.

"That tree split and had to be removed, so now the whole area has a lot more light and is much more conducive to growing herbs, which is what had originally been intended back in 1984."

Open Spaces staff unearthed the original plan, which showed herb beds in the centre of the buxus circle, and in four quadrants, and began sourcing herbs to grow there.

The domain garden has three sections

so the plans have been amended accordingly.

"Staff have sought seed to replicate the original plans and those seedlings are pricked out and growing well in one of our glasshouses. They are now hardening off in a shade house and will be planted out soon," Mr McCann said.

Varieties include marjoram, chives, celery, lemon balm, sages, thyme, mint and fennel, along with many others.

Visitors will be able to see and smell the herbs, which are widely grown by many people for cooking or medicinal purposes.

"We'll be encouraging visitors to crush a leaf that will unleash the aroma of the herb and we're thinking about how best to share other information, like how to grow herbs in your own garden and how to use them."

A refresh for the nearby rose garden is also being planned for next year.

## WORKS NOTICES

**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.

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

**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 Street (hospital end)** - current. New water and wastewater pipes are being installed in this area and some roads are temporarily closed. Elizabeth Street, between Grigg and Walker, will be one-way (east to west) from early November. No street parking will be available on Elizabeth Street, between Grigg and Walker. Access to Ashburton Hospital's various entrances remains; resident access remains.

**Thompsons Track** - current to 21 December. Thompsons Track, between Braemar and Pole Road, will be closed for road rehabilitation. Detour in place; resident access available.

**Elizabeth Street** - current to 12 December. Elizabeth Street, between Cross and Alliston Streets, is closed for the first stage of a wastewater upgrade. Detour in place; no entry from Baker Street. Resident access remains.

**Kermode Street** - from 30 October to 8 December. Kermode Street, between Mona Square and East Street, is closed for a wastewater upgrade.

## 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 the **Ashburton Santa Parade**.

Roads proposed to be closed:

- **Walnut Avenue (from SH1/West Street to Oak Grove)**
- **Creek Road (from Walnut Avenue to Queens Drive)**

Period of Closure: **From 10am to 2pm on Saturday 2 December 2023.**

This proposed closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 – Schedule 10 (11 (e) and will be considered at the Council meeting on 15 November 2023. Any person objecting to the proposal should lodge a notice of their objection and grounds for their objection in writing by post or email to the Council, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton by 4pm, Friday 3 November 2023.

**NEIL McCANN**  
Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces

## 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 the **Light Up the Night**.

Roads proposed to be closed:

- **East Street (from Tancred Street to Havelock Street)**
- **Burnett Street (from East Street to Cass Street)**

Period of Closure: **From 3pm to 10.30pm on Saturday 25 November 2023.**

This proposed closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 – Schedule 10 (11 (e) and will be considered at the Council meeting on 15 November 2023. Any person objecting to the proposal should lodge a notice of their objection and grounds for their objection in writing by post or email to the Council, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton by 4pm, Friday 27 October 2023.

**NEIL McCANN**  
Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are at Council Chambers, 137 Havelock Street, unless specified. Agendas at [ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz)

**Council meeting**, Tuesday 31 October, 1pm

**Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting**, Monday 6 November, 1pm

**Local Alcohol Policy hearings**, Thursday 9 November, 9am

**Council meeting**, Wednesday 15 November, 1pm

**Methven Community Board**, Monday 27 November, 10.30am at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

**Ashburton Water Zone Committee**, Tuesday 28 November, 1pm

**Council Activity Briefings**, Wednesday 29 November, 9.30am

# Visit Council at THE ASHBURTON A&P SHOW!

We'll be discussing how to look after our bugs, birds and biodiversity!

**GRAB A FREE KĀNUKA SEEDLING**

Chat to us about our district's biodiversity and take one home!\*

\*While stocks last.

## THIS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

KIDS, MAKE A BUG HOTEL TO TAKE HOME!



### 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