

Neil Brown - Mayor

Our second urban bridge now a key Govt transport project



Last Thursday was definitely a red-letter day for me as far as the battle for a second urban bridge over the Ashburton River is concerned.

Government announced that a bridge to be built off Chalmers Avenue would be among 14 key road transport projects in the next three years. The fact that National has also said it will build a second bridge there means that whoever is in power after the General Election in October will be building a bridge.

And that should be music to the ears of everyone who lives in the Ashburton district and those who pass through it on a regular basis to do business up and down the South Island.

I was asked if that was like winning the lottery – but this bridge has not happened by chance. It has involved years of community consultation, official hearings to designate land for both the bridge and connecting road on the Tinwald side, and countless hours and energy around Council table debating location, location and location.

Both Labour and National have now committed to building it off Chalmers Avenue, which has repeatedly emerged



as the preferred location, and it will be at no cost to ratepayers in the district. That was a little funding icing on the cake as the bridge had been in our long-term plans and we were about to begin discussing how to pay for it.

The \$113 million estimated cost is for the bridge and new road that will run south to Grahams Road. Council has already purchased most of the properties needed, and the project and location has the support of Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, which is also crucial.

It will be able to be built off-line, without major disruption, and when connected to our local roading network it will

provide a second crossing for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians. It will better connect Tinwald to Ashburton and provide the resilience we know we need, given flooding in the Ashburton River has caused the existing State Highway 1 bridge to be closed twice in the past two years.

Those closures cause disruption up and down the South Island as people and freight have no way across, so I am not the only mayor delighted that the second bridge was on the draft Government Policy Statement for land transport last week. The bridge has wider support from all the mayors in Canterbury, and I appreciate their backing.

What next? The draft policy statement is open now for consultation and everyone in New Zealand can have their say. As a Council, we will be making a submission on behalf of the whole district, supporting the inclusion of the second bridge as a key project – you too can make a submission, and it is as easy as going to our home page and clicking the link.

You can then complete a quick online survey to give your feedback, and ultimately help our district be safer and more resilient.

Happy 50th Birthday Mt Hutt Skifield!

Ashburton people are being urged to head to the hills at least once over the next four days as the town of Methven helps Mt Hutt Skifield celebrate its 50th birthday.

The party kicks off tonight with entertainment in Methven from 5pm, with a tractor parade at 7pm and a lantern parade at 7.30pm. The official opening haere mai happens at 7.45pm and then Kiwi rock band Dragon will play from 8pm.

Deputy mayor Liz McMillan will be in the crowd joining the celebrations. She came to live in Methven in 1994 to manage Ski Express and was based in the Mt Hutt office for four seasons.

"I instantly felt at home in Methven and have always loved the connection between the mountain and the town. While I don't get up to ski as much as I would like nowadays, it's still my happy place."

She said Mt Hutt skifield has had such a huge, positive impact on Methven and on the Ashburton District in general and so it was great to be part of the birthday fun.



Photo credit: Mt Hutt

"NZ Ski has invested not only in the skifield, but in Methven, and our town has grown into a multi-cultural, happy tourist spot that has in turn encouraged all sorts of visitors to check out this spectacular part of New Zealand.

"Happy birthday Mt Hutt, I say, and many more."

Friday's celebrations include the Mad

Hutters Tea Party, to be held at the Methven Rugby Club from 5.30pm, where there is an open invitation to the community and all Mt Hutt Alumni to share their stories.

Saturday features the White Out music festival and the mountain will be open on Sunday for moonlight skiing.

Council is lending entertainment support by providing an inflatable ice rink, that will be free to the public on Thursday night, then open for business from 1pm-6pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Curling is available on Friday and Sunday nights, and the rink will host a family disco on Saturday night.

"This is one way the Council is supporting Methven and the Mt Hutt celebrations, and hopefully our temporary ice rink will encourage more people to give the real thing a try at Staveley."

Some roads around Methven are temporarily closed for the opening night parades, so please follow traffic management signs if you head up, and dress warmly.

SHORT AND SWEET

SURVEY WINNERS:

We've drawn the 10 lucky winners of Opuke hot pools passes, as a thank you to the 942 people who took part in our surveys that are helping us create our next Long Term Plan. The lucky 10 are: Peter W, Chris J, Kath W, Bridget M, Zoey R, Lal M, Willy L, Suzanne S, Roger W and Karen P. The winners have been contacted.

GRANTS DEADLINE:

It's the final week to complete your application for the August round of our community grants and funding. Applications for biodiversity, heritage, community infrastructure and trail maintenance close 31 August.

CIVIC HONOURS:

Be quick if you want to nominate someone for the Community Honours Awards, as the deadline is tomorrow, Friday 25 August. These awards honour our hardworking volunteers for their selfless work.

JOBS TASKFORCE:

The Mayors Taskforce For Jobs programme in Ashburton has been extended for two years, after exceeding target and placing 21 young people into jobs or training.

F&B CELEBRATES:

Forest and Bird celebrates its 100th anniversary this year and to celebrate, a photo exhibition is to be held at the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum from 3 September. The theme for the national celebrations is "What is your legacy?"

BUSINESS AWARDS:

Entries are now open for the ANZ Business of the Year Awards. The awards are about celebrating our local success stories, and business people, and winners will be announced at a gala dinner on 24 February 2024. Go to businessoftheyear.nz for info.

For the latest Council news, visit our website ashburtondc.govt.nz/latestnews

Old rural halls ready for removal

The disused Lynnford and Maronan community halls are being offered for purchase and removal from Council reserve land.

Both halls are at least 100 years old and were once the hub of their communities – acting as places for education and recreation - but have been used little in the past decade or so.

The Maronan hall was officially closed in 2017 and the Maronan Reserve Board's administrative functions transferred to the Hinds Reserve Board. Lynnford hall followed suit in 2019.

Both are single-storey wooden buildings, with a corrugated iron roof.

Council and the Hinds Reserve Board are jointly inviting expressions of interest from parties for the purchase and removal of one or both buildings.

Democracy and Engagement Group Manager Toni Durham said parties interested in tendering for the buildings could arrange to look through the halls or find out more information by getting in touch with Council.

"It's sad that these old halls are no longer used but over the years it's been increasingly difficult to find enough money to do the major upgrading work required and so they have fallen into disrepair.

"Bringing the land under the Hinds Reserve Board has helped the situation,



but restoring the halls to the standards required for public use is not simply feasible. There may be people out there who would like to give them a new lease on life."

Tenders to remove the buildings must be made by 29 September.

The Maronan hall on Swamp Road was originally the Maronan School, built in 1921. By the end of 1922, it had a roll of 39 students but it only operated as a school for 15 years before consolidating with Hinds School.

The hall at Maronan then became the district's social hub, hosting meetings, balls, dances, euchre events and the like. It has not been used for any purpose like

this since about 2010.

Lynnford hall, on the corner of Lynnford and Boundary Roads, has a similar story. The building was built for a school in 1895 at Huntingdon and relocated to Lynnford in 1912.

The school closed in 1949, and its students went to Eiffelton, Willowby and Hinds Schools; the building became the community's hall and was used by several different clubs and for meetings and dances and other social gatherings.

When the Education Board did not require them for education purposes any longer, the land became recreation reserves and the buildings managed by community boards.

Diving into our doggie data

Bella is the most popular dog's name in the Ashburton District, according to our dog registration data.

The next most popular names were Pip, Ted, Ruby, Max, Molly, Gus, Jess, Poppy and then Sam.

About 7000 dogs live in the district and in the first month of registration in July, 5590 were registered by their owners.

Our data also revealed the most popular dog breeds, with Labradors coming out on top. The next most popular breeds were Huntaway, Border Collie, Jack Russell Terrier, Heading dog, Staffordshire bull terrier, Bichon Frise, Shih Tzu, Fox Terrier and Golden Retriever.

Council introduced longer-lasting metal registration tags this year, with owners able to receive their tags in the mail or at the Customer Services counter.

Public Notice Removal of Buildings

Ashburton District Council and the Hinds Reserve Board invite expressions of interest from interested parties for the purchase and removal of buildings from the following rural reserve land:

- The former **Lynnford Hall** building, on the corner of Lynnford and Boundary Roads, Hinds.
- The former **Maronan Hall** building, Swamp Road, Maronan.

To view either building prior to submitting a tender, please contact Garry Brown, Chairperson of the Hinds Reserve Board on 027 442 9972.

For further information on the removal of these buildings, to obtain the Tender Application Form and Conditions of Tender, or for information on how to lodge a tender, please contact Ann Smith at ann.smith@adc.govt.nz or 03 307 7700.

Tenders must be received by 4pm, 29 September 2023.

ashburtondc.govt.nz



COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are usually held in Council Chambers, located at 137 Havelock Street.

Ashburton Water Zone Committee Meeting, Tuesday 29 August, 1pm (live-streamed). Postponed from 22 August

Methven Community Board Meeting, Monday 4 September, 10.30am, Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Council Meeting, Wednesday 6 September, 1pm (live-streamed)

Council Activity Briefings, Wednesday 13 September, 9.30am

Audit and Risk Meeting, Wednesday 13 September, 1pm (live-streamed)

Council Meeting, Wednesday 20 September, 1pm (live-streamed)

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

Council Agencies, Wednesday 27 September, 9.30am (live-streamed)

CHORUS CABINET ART

There's only a week left for local artists to submit concept designs for one of five Chorus cabinets in the Ashburton district that have been chosen for a makeover.

Chorus partners with Council in the Cabinet Art Programme, with submissions welcome before 31 August. See more info at chorus.co.nz.

ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a road closure for the purpose of allowing the **White Out Festival** (with the exception of emergency vehicles).

Roads to be closed are as follows:

- **Mount Hutt Station Road SH77**

Attention: This has now been changed to a one-way closure. Detour in place for traffic heading into Methven township.

Period of closure: **From 2pm to 11.59pm on Saturday, 26 August 2023.**

This notice of closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 - Schedule 10 (11 (e)). It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under the authority of an authorised permit to use the roads/streets for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure.

NEIL McCANN
Group Manager Infrastructure Services

ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a road closure for the purpose of allowing the **Mt Hutt 50th Celebrations Float Parade** (with the exception of emergency vehicles) for the period indicated here under.

Roads to be closed are as follows:

- **Methven Chertsey Road, Main Street Methven (SH1), Forest Drive, Blackford Street, Lampard Street, Main Street Methven (SH1) Hall Street, Mackie Street, Kilworth Street**

Closure from 7pm to 7.30pm on Thursday, 24 August 2023

The period of the full closure is as below:

- **Kilworth Street: Thursday 24 August 2023 10am until 10pm**
- **Barkers Road: Thursday 24 August 2023 4pm until 10pm**

This notice of closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 - Schedule 10 (11 (e)). It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under the authority of an authorised permit to use the roads/streets for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure.

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Group Manager Infrastructure Services

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.

Mackie Street (Methven) – Mackie Street, from Barkers Road to Methven Chertsey Road, is closed while contractors replace a water main. Resident access available, detour for other traffic in place.

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.

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