

Methven's new water plant online

Methven's new water treatment membrane plant is now fully operational, which should bring an end to boil water notices after storm events.

The new \$10 million plant provides ultra filtration through new membrane filters and additional storage with two new reservoirs.

Council Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said the new plant became fully operational last Thursday, after a thorough commissioning process.

"We're really pleased with how the plant is working and handling turbid water from the river gallery, which sometimes happens when the river is in flood. We plan to also have the option to switch to the Methven-Springfield intake should that be necessary."

Water at the plant is filtered through an elaborate series of membranes, which remove 99.9 per cent of micro-sized contaminants. Water is disinfected with UV light and chlorine, and has fluoride added before being distributed via Methven's water supply pipe network.

Mr McCann said the plant will be officially opened on Friday 6 October at a special ceremony for councillors and Methven Community Board members, and the community was invited to check out the new treatment plant at an open event on Saturday 7 October, between 9am-12pm.



A row of membranes that now provide ultra filtration at the new \$10m Methven Water Treatment Plant.

The water treatment plant is on Long Fords Road, just out of Methven.

"The Saturday celebration morning is for the people of the district who use this water for their daily living and business. This is a significant improvement to the water treatment infrastructure for Methven and now, even in times of high turbidity, the plant can keep operating."

Mr McCann said contractors Mason Engineers, McIntosh Construction and ACL have done a great job, given some of the project was affected at times by COVID-related supply delays, and weather.

"We were determined to complete this plant as soon as possible and it was a bit of a moving feast as we took advantage of some pricing to make improvements, like adding a second reservoir ahead of schedule."

The old concrete reservoir is no longer used, replaced by two huge steel reservoir tanks with a combined capacity of 1128 cubic metres that will help manage peak demand.

A similar, but smaller, membrane treatment plant is currently being built for residents on the Mt Somers community water supply.

Hamish Riach - Chief Executive Road cones mean more progress on our core work

When you drive around Ashburton at the moment, you may well have noticed the many work zones that are marked out by orange safety cones.

Many of them are Council projects - Cass Street, Grigg Street, Wills Street and Princes Street are just some of the water and wastewater pipe renewal jobs that are under way.

The road cones might signal disruption to some, but in reality, they are signs of essential work in progress. From the time you get up in the morning and flush the toilet, to a drink of water before bed, Council infrastructure is in play and it is our job to make sure those services are safe and reliable.

It was pleasing to see from our annual residents' survey that 81 per cent of respondents trusted Council to do the right thing for the district and its communities - that's up from 77 per cent last year.

We measure 56 attributes in the survey, which is sent to residents selected at random from the electoral roll. Overall satisfaction with council performance was 67 per cent, slightly up from last year.

Our top performing areas remained emergency management, property information services, cemeteries, the public library, parks and the Ashburton Domain, and Council's website.

On the other side of the ledger, of those who were dissatisfied with Council, 66 per cent cited road works and potholes as the reason - and that's an area we continue to work on, with Council allocating an extra \$1m to the roading rehabilitation budget this year.

So expect more road cones, and more progress.

We are also getting closer and closer to completing the build of Te Whare Whakatere, the new Ashburton Library and Civic Centre. Included within this wonderful new facility is the historic

building Pioneer Hall.

Pioneer Hall was built in 1916 and is a heritage-listed building, so we are honouring the past by preserving it and giving it a new lease of life.

As far as we know, including a heritage building entirely within the envelope of a new building is a first in New Zealand and, from recent visits, I can tell you that it looks stunning from the inside and we can't wait to show the community and see our tamariki enjoying the space as part of the children's library area.

Council is proud to be involved in many projects with a heritage aspect, from making plans to preserve the historic rail footbridge, to protecting locally important sites like the Ng King gardens, Barrhill village and the spot of William Turton's first accommodation house on the banks of the Ashburton River.

Council also encourages others to preserve history through its annual grants and funding process.



SHORT AND SWEET

POND EDGING

Council is planning work in the Ashburton Domain, to restore the edging of the pond at the corner of West and Will Streets. Prefabricated concrete will be used to rebuild the edges up to grass level. The project will take about six weeks.

HOLIDAY FUN AT ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

There's something happening every day of the school holidays at the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum (10am-4pm). You can make a card and enter it in a competition - the winning design will be the official holiday card of the Ashburton District Council this year. Drop in and make a sparkling sun-catcher. Using natural materials, create a sun-catcher wind chime that will sparkle and chime at the same time. Take it home or add it to the giant community sun-catcher.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

In the second week of the holidays, there are three creative sessions planned: On Monday, at 10.30am, you can take part in salt painting, on Wednesday, you can make a sweet-smelling drawer sachet, and on Friday you can make a rain stick. For teens, there's journal making on Tuesday 2-4pm, and creative journaling on Thursday 2-4pm.

INFLATABLE FUN

The EA Networks Centre will have its giant inflatable up in the main pool for four days, from today (Thursday) so drop in for some water play. If you don't feel like swimming, you can shoot some hoops in the main stadium!

NEED SOMETHING TO READ?

Check out Joe Bennett's book From There to Here (at the library). The popular columnist describes the first 30 years of his life, ending with his arrival to teach at Christ's College in Christchurch. Usually, childhood and early youth are the most interesting parts of an autobiography, and the young Julian (as he was then) is no exception.

Public feedback prompts changes

Feedback from the community has driven two proposed changes to the district's Local Alcohol Policy, with a new draft policy now open for submissions.

Council initially proposed rolling over the existing policy when it first consulted the public in June, but with 42 submissions received, a number of submitters expressed their desire to see changes to the regulations.

"One of the purposes of a local alcohol policy is to give communities more say around how alcohol can be sold and consumed, so it's pleasing to see our residents getting involved," said Toni Durham, Group Manager Democracy and Engagement.

"Councillors agreed with the submitters that there's an opportunity to make the policy clearer and easier for businesses to implement."

The first of the proposed changes would see the one-way door restriction that currently applies to the Ashburton town centre and some rural areas, rolled out across the rest of the district. This would mean that patrons would not be able to enter (or re-enter) any licensed premises after 1am, while those already inside can stay until closing time.



Mrs Durham said this would see all licence holders treated equally and Council believed the change could provide safety benefits.

"For example, it removes the temptation for someone to leave a bar at closing time and drive somewhere else in the district where licensed premises are still open."

The draft also proposes an extension to the trading hours for outdoor dining areas on footpaths. Under the current policy, licensed premises can stay open until 1am or 2am, but are required to close areas on public footpaths at midnight. Under the draft policy, this would be changed to 1am to align with

the one-way door policy.

"We believe these two changes will make the policy more consistent and easier for our hospitality venues to work with, while still meeting our overall goal of minimising alcohol-related harm in the district," Mrs Durham said.

"However, this is still just a draft, and we encourage our community to take another look and let us know if we have it right."

Residents can have their say on the draft Local Alcohol Policy until 5pm, Wednesday 25 October at ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay

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 – starting 25 September. These streets will be closed at times over the next months for new water and wastewater pipes to be installed. Access to Ashburton Hospital remains; resident access remains.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are at Council Chambers, 137 Havelock Street, unless specified. Meeting agendas are online at ashburtondc.govt.nz

Council Meeting, Wednesday 4 October, 1pm

Methven Community Board, Monday 16 October, 10.30am, at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Council meeting, Wednesday 18 October, 1pm

Ashburton Water Zone Committee, Tuesday 24 October, 1pm

Council Activity Briefings, Wednesday 25 October, 9.30am

Audit and Risk Committee, Wednesday 25 October, 1pm

Council meeting, Tuesday 31 October, 1pm

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

Trusty weed wranglers wanted

Weed wranglers are wanted for a big mission at the Staveley Camp at the end of October.

The 10-hectare patch of remnant native forest need volunteers to help get rid of troublesome weeds – a weekend from 27-29 October has been planned to co-ordinate efforts to really make a difference.

Staveley camp forest care co-ordinator Gen de Spa said she was hoping for 400 volunteer hours over the weed wrangling weekend to help protect the forest and

ensure its sustainability.

"To that end, we need as many people as possible to join us and make a difference. Whether people can spare an hour, a whole weekend, or somewhere in between, by lending their precious time and energy, this wonderful patch of bush can be preserved for future generations."

Gen said it was a great chance for volunteers to connect through nature, make a positive impact and have some fun along the way.

"We'll feed them, show them the best

swimming hole in Bowyers Stream and we'll even hang the hammocks for a shady resting place."

Volunteers were needed for weeding, but also for other tasks, like taking photographs, operating chippers, keeping the kitchen tidy and organising parking.

Staveley Camp is located at 133 Sawmill Road, Staveley.

People wanting to volunteer for weed wrangling should contact Gen on 0211 345 802, or email her on gendespa@gmail.com.

Ceramics by our people

Coming to the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum on 19 October is From the Earth, an exhibition by the Hakatere Ceramics Group.

Started in 2015, the Hakatere Ceramics and Pottery Group of Ashburton is a local group of ceramic enthusiasts who aim to create a welcoming environment for those who want to learn more about the art of clay.

There will also be a display from guest artist Hannah Kidd. Local to Waitaha Canterbury, Hannah is best known for her steel framed and corrugated iron clad sculptures that depict human and animal subjects.

Are you ready, Methven?

7 October, 1pm-4pm at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

See emergency services displays and how responders will help you in the event of a natural disaster.

Meet members of the Methven Community Response Team

Free sausage sizzle!



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