

WHAT'S on

SUMMER 2025-26 **guide**



Summer 2025-26

What's on these holidays

Book at ashburtondc.govt.nz/events
Scan the QR code for available days and times.



Nau mai, haere mai, tauti mai.

Welcome to our summer guide of family-friendly activities.

Whether you want quiet time or have energy to burn, there's loads of (mostly) free stuff to do at our Ashburton District Council facilities.

Don't forget our beautiful outdoor spaces to explore.

Relax on our forest bathers in the Ashburton Domain, or bike around Lake Hood. From skateparks to gardens and walking tracks to playgrounds, there's something for everyone to do in Mid Canterbury.

Rokowhiria, Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

EA Networks Centre

Te Kete Tuhinga, Ashburton Library

Open spaces and community events



FOLLOW US!

@ashburtonpubliclibrary

@ashburtonlibrary

@AshburtonMuseum

@ashburtonartgallery

@EANetworksCentre



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Ashburton District Council
2 Baring Square East
Ashburton 7700

What's On Guide
Published November 2025

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Light up the Night

SAT 29
NOV 6.00PM

BARING SQUARE EAST

Welcome in the festive
season with our free
Christmas celebration!



Proudly supported by

hokonui

**Ashburton
Courier**



**LIVE MUSIC
ENTERTAINMENT
SANTA & ELVES
FOOD TRUCKS
LIGHTING OF
THE TREE
AND MORE**

lightupthenight.co.nz

Ashburton
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Scan the QR code to book
ashburtondc.govt.nz/events

Summer Reading Challenge for Young Adults 21 NOV – 21 JAN

 *Ashburton Library*

Fri 21 Nov - Wed 21 Jan

Our teen summer reading challenge has never been sweeter!

Is there anything better on a hot summer's day than an ice-cold Juicy?

Well, score one for free just by reading!
Grab an entry form from the library.

→ **Rangitahi/young adults, ages 13-18**

→ **Cost:** Free



Teen Create Spot

1 DEC - 31 JAN

 *Ashburton Library*

Mon 1 Dec - Fri 31 Jan

Drop by the Young Adult area of the library this summer to check out our Create Spot!

The activity changes every few days, so there's always something new to try – from bead bracelets and paper wallets to mini paper stars and wordapalooza. Swing by anytime to see what's on offer!

→ **Rangitahi/young adults, ages 13-18**

→ **Cost:** Free



The Great Santa Hunt

Santas are ho, ho, hiding all around Ashburton!
Can you find them?

17 December – 31 January

Grab an entry form from any Council facility.

ASHBURTON
GALLERY

ashburton
museum

EA networks
centre

Ashburton
Library

Lake Hood Jumping Platform

 Lake Hood Drive, Ashburton

All summer, daylight hours

Gather your mates and show off your best manu at the Lake Hood jumping platform, any time during daylight hours.

→ **Whole whānau/family**

→ **Cost:** Free



Retro T-shirt Screen Printing

1 DEC - 29 JAN

 Ashburton Library

Mon 1 Dec, 3.30pm-5pm

Fri 5 Dec, 11.30am-12pm

Thur 8 Jan, 11.30am-12pm

Thu 29 Jan, 5.30pm-7pm

Rock a unique style this summer! Pick from four retro designs and screen-print it onto a T-shirt, then use our fabric paints to make it your own.

Bring your own white T-shirt.

→ **Rangitahi/young adults, ages 13-18**

→ **Cost:** Free



Christmas Carols at EANC

1 DEC

 EA Networks Centre

Mon 1 Dec, 10am-10.15am

Join students from Hampstead School performing Christmas carols in our foyer! Celebrate the start of the Christmas season as the Mayor hangs a decoration on our tree.

→ **Whole whānau/family**

→ **Cost:** Free





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Design & Print for Young Adults

2 DEC - 12 JAN

 *Ashburton Library*

Tue 2 Dec, 11.30am-1pm

Wed 10 Dec, 10.30am-12pm

Mon 12 Jan, 3.30pm-5pm

Create your own custom artwork on our iPads with our easy-to-use drawing software. Then print your design as a sticker or vinyl transfer and apply it to your clothes or bag.

Bring your own clothing or bag to customise.

- **Rangitahi/young adults, ages 13-18**
- **Cost:** \$5 and booking required, limit of four places



Monochrome Photo Creation for Young Adults 3 DEC - 9 JAN

 *Ashburton Library*

Wed 3 Dec, 2pm-3pm

Thu 11 Dec, 6pm-7pm

Fri 9 Jan, 11am-12pm

Get creative this summer! Learn how to use apps on our iPads or your own smartphone to create a summer-inspired photo with a unique monochromatic twist!

- **Rangitahi/young adults, ages 13-18**
- **Cost:** Free





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Skate Parks

 *Ashburton and Methven*

All day, everyday

Whether you're regular-footed or goofy, there's plenty of space for all your moves at our skate parks!

Check out Methven's skate park on the corner of Bank and McMillan Streets - it features a large bowl, mini ramp and a street/transition area.

The Ashburton skate park is on the corner of West and Moore Streets, and has a range of different obstacles including quarter pipes, rails and boxes, suitable for skaters of all skill levels.

→ **Whole whānau/family**

→ **Cost:** Free



Christmas I-Spy

10 DEC - 21 JAN

 *Ashburton Library*

Wed 10 Dec - Wed 21 Jan

Can you find all 10 hidden items in our Christmas themed I-Spy display in the children's library?

→ **Tamariki/children, ages 5-12**

→ **Cost:** Free



Summer Reading Challenge for Kids

10 DEC - 21 JAN

 Ashburton Library

Wed 10 Dec - Wed 21 Jan

Brave adventurer, we need you! Read 20 library books over the summer holidays to unlock *Imaginaria* and go into the draw for one of 10 great prizes from Whitcoulls.

Pick up your entry form from Ashburton Library or download a copy from our website.

→ **Tamariki/children, ages 5-12**

→ **Cost:** Free



Festive Photo Frame

11 DEC - 24 DEC

 Ashburton Library

Thu 11 Dec - Wed 24 Dec

Ready to take an 'elfie'? Craft a fun and festive Christmas photo frame then strike a pose and capture the magic with our Instax camera.

→ **Tamariki/children, ages 5-12**

→ **Cost:** Free



Christmas Wriggle & Read

16 DEC

 Ashburton Library

Tue 16 Dec, 10.30am-11am

Join us for a special festive session filled with Christmas songs, rhymes, and bubbles! Come dressed in your Christmas outfits and get a free Instax photo by our Christmas tree.

→ **Pēpi/babies and toddlers, ages 0-5**

→ **Cost:** Free



Holiday Decorations

17 DEC - 24 DEC

 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

Wed 17 Dec - Wed 24 Dec, 10am-4pm

Get creative at our holiday craft station! Use a range of fun artistic tools and techniques to make your own festive decoration to take home.

→ **Whole whānau/family**

→ **Cost:** Free



Capture Magic Moments

17 DEC - 31 JAN

 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

Wed 17 Dec - Sun 31 Jan, 10am-4pm

View our show *Dearly Beloved* for inspiration and then delve into our box of costumes and props. Get dressed, strike a pose and make magic memories with your family and friends! Upload your photo to social media with hashtag **#dearlybelovedaagm** for a chance to win an Instax Gift Pack.

→ **Tamariki/children, ages 5-12**

→ **Cost:** Free



The Great Santa Hunt - Opening Night

17 DEC

 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

17 Dec (Opening night), 5pm-7pm

The Santas are ho, ho, hiding and we need your help to track them down.

Bring your torches and search high and low in the Museum - after dark! We'll be giving spot prizes for our best-dressed Santa hunters on the night!

→ **Whole whānau/family**

→ **Cost:** Free



Christmas Storytime

18 DEC

 Ashburton Library

Thu 18 Dec, 10.30am-11am

Join us for a special storytime full of fun Christmas stories and action songs. Perfect for little ones to sing, move and laugh along!

→ **Pēpi/babies and toddlers, ages 0-5**

→ **Cost:** Free



EANC Holiday Programme

18 DEC - 30 JAN

 EA Networks Centre

18 Dec - 24 Dec and 5 Jan - 30 Jan

Day Session (8am-3pm)

Full Day Session/Field Trip (8am-5pm)

Looking for fully supervised childcare over the holidays? Our popular programme offers Mid Canterbury families a safe and professionally organised schedule packed full of varied activities and educational fun.

→ **Tamariki/children, ages 5-12**

→ **Cost:** Booking required. Day Session: \$40, Full day session \$50, Field Trip: \$60



Creative Christmas Cards

19 DEC

 Ashburton Library

Fri 19 Dec, 10.30am - 11.30am

Forget boring shop-bought cards, yawn! Get crafty and turn your Christmas greetings into a very merry masterpiece with our festive stencil designs.

→ **Tamariki/children, ages 5-12**

→ **Cost:** Free





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Aquatic Supervision

At EA Networks Centre, your family's safety comes first. Lifeguards are always on duty but parents and caregivers play a vital role too. Here's how we keep everyone safe, guided by strict Water Safety New Zealand and Recreation Aotearoa standards.

eanetworkscentre.co.nz/aquatics/supervision



EANC Pool Party & Movie

24 Jan

 EA Networks Centre

Sat 24 Jan, 2pm-5pm

Come cool down and party it up at EA Networks Centre. We will have a PG rated film showing on our big screen above the main pool and inflatables in the water. Supervision requirements apply.

- **Whole whānau/family**
- **Cost:** Regular pool entry



Christmas Family Movie

20 DEC

 Ashburton Library

Sat 20 Dec, 1.30pm

Laughter, magic and a little bit of mischief await! Gather the family, bring your popcorn and experience the festive fun on the big screen in our event space.

- **Whole whānau/family**
- **Cost:** Free



Flying Fox

 *Ashburton Domain*

All summer, daylight hours

Race down the flying fox with a loved one under the trees in the Ashburton Domain.

→ **Whole whānau/family**

→ **Cost:** Free



Monochrome Photo Creation for Kids

22 DEC - 26 JAN

 *Ashburton Library*

Mon 22 Dec, 3.30pm-4.30pm

Wed 7 Jan, 11am-12pm

Mon 26 Jan, 11am-12pm

Come along and create a fun summer inspired photo with our iPads or your own smartphone. You'll learn how to use some cool apps and get a unique photo to take home.

→ **Tamariki/children, ages 9-12**

→ **Cost:** Free



Active Adventures

10 JAN - 21 JAN

 *EA Networks Centre*

Sat 10 Jan, 12pm-2pm

Wed 21 Jan, 10.30am-12.30pm

A child led, parent supervised session for toddlers aged 1-5 to play, explore and improve their gross motor skills with a variety of sensory and building toys, balance beams and soft play equipment.

→ **Pēpi/babies and toddlers, ages 0-5**

→ **Cost:** \$3



Clay Christmas Ornaments

22 DEC

 Ashburton Library

Mon 22 Dec, 10.30am-11.30am

Adorn your Christmas tree with your own creativity! Shape and decorate Christmas ornaments to take home with our air-dry clay, no baking required.

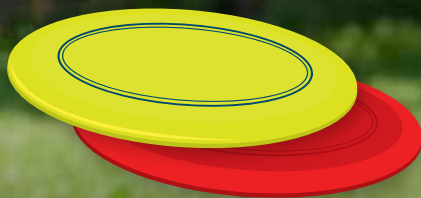
→ **Tamariki/children, ages 5-12**

→ **Cost:** Free



**TRY OUR DISC GOLF
COURSES OVER
THE HOLIDAYS**

It's free to play or you can
hire discs if you need them!



Smallbone Reserve at EA Networks Centre has an 18-hole course, with equipment hire at the customer service desk.

Tinwald Domain has nine holes, with equipment hire onsite at the Ashburton Holiday Park.



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Design & Print for Kids

23 DEC - 15 JAN

 *Ashburton Library*

Tues 23 Dec, 10.30am-12pm

Mon 5 Jan, 3.30pm-5pm

Wed 15 Jan, 10.30am-12pm

Get ready to make your own awesome designs! Use our super-easy iPad drawing apps to create your artwork, then turn it into a sticker or vinyl transfer to jazz up your clothes or bag.

Bring your own clothes or bag to customise!

→ **Tamariki/children, ages 9-12**

→ **Cost:** \$5 and booking required, limit four people per session.



Design a Love Bird

27 DEC - 11 JAN

 *Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum*

Sat 27 Dec - Sun 11 Jan, 10am-4pm

Many types of birds are symbols of love. With our exhibition *Dearly Beloved* running through the summer for inspiration, come design and make 3D card sculptures using our bird templates and materials.

→ **Tamariki/children, ages 5-12**

→ **Cost:** Free



New Year Wishes

27 DEC - 4 JAN

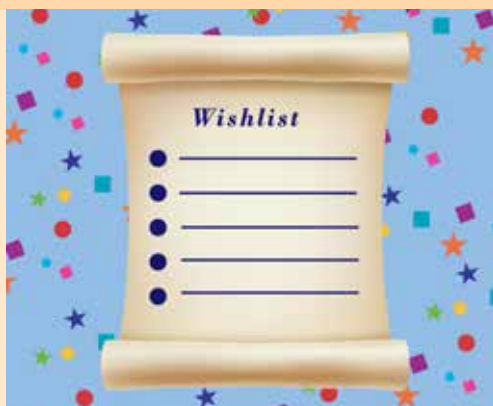
 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

Sat 27 Dec - Sun 4 Jan, 10am-4pm

Using a range of calligraphy pens and stamps, create a beautiful wish list artwork for the new year.

→ **Whole whānau/family**

→ **Cost:** Free



Sand Court

 EA Networks Centre

All day, everyday

Serve, spike and have fun this summer. The outdoor sand volleyball court at EANC is open for everyone to enjoy and totally free. Grab your friends or family and make a day of it alongside the other awesome activities on offer.

→ **Whole whānau/family**

→ **Cost:** Free but booking required



Spinning Around

27 DEC - 11 JAN

 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

Sat 27 Dec - Sun 11 Jan, 10am-4pm

Did you know that spinning tops are among the oldest toys ever discovered by archaeologists? Discover the super-old spinning top in the museum collection, and then assemble and decorate your own!

→ **Tamariki/children, ages 5-12**

→ **Cost:** Free



Creative Crafting

29 DEC - 1 FEB

 Ashburton Library

Mon 29 Dec - Sun 1 Feb

If you can imagine it, we can help you craft it! Visit the Makerspace these holidays and bring your ideas to life at our creative craft station.

→ **Tamariki/children, ages 5-12**

→ **Cost:** Free



Christmas Stained Glass Craft

23 DEC

 Ashburton Library

Tue 23 Dec, 10.30am-11.30am

Make colourful Christmas themed stained glass art to hang in your window to help spread that Christmas cheer.

→ **Tamariki/children, ages 5-12**

→ **Cost:** Free



Cake Construction

5 JAN - 31 JAN

 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

Mon 5 Jan - Sun 31 Jan, 10am-4pm

It's wedding season! Our show *Dearly Beloved* is on over January and so we're celebrating by building a mountain... of cake! Using card and other materials, help us create one very sweet, monumental sculpture.

→ **Whole whānau/family**

→ **Cost:** Free



Pawtraits

12 JAN - 25 JAN

 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

Mon 12 Jan - Sun 25 Jan, 10am-4pm

Artists often enjoy painting their loved ones, and that includes their pets!

Visit the Art Gallery to get inspired, then make your own purr-fectly whimsical animal portrait! Use cardboard to create an adorable textured 3D masterpiece.

→ **Tamariki/children, ages 5-12**

→ **Cost:** Free



Mini Mid Canterbury

 EA Networks Centre

All day, everyday

Tee off on a big (but little) adventure at Mini Mid Canterbury! Our brand new 18-hole mini golf course features miniature versions of our favourite local landmarks, making it fun for the whole family. Perfect for a sunny day out, friendly competition and plenty of laughs.

→ **Whole whānau/family**

→ **Cost:** Book your timeslot for free. Club and ball hire \$5 per person or bring your own.





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Explore Printmaking: Block Printing

14 JAN

 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

Wed 14 Jan, 10.30am-12pm

Join us for the first session in our **Explore Printmaking** series of workshops, inspired by the Print Council Aotearoa New Zealand exhibition. In this workshop we will make gift paper and cards using lino blocks and print techniques.

→ **Rangitahi/young adults, ages 13-18**

→ **Cost:** \$5 and booking required



Sharplin Falls Scenic Reserve

 Tāhekerua / Sharplin Falls Walk
90 min, 2.6 km return

All day, everyday

This track is located in Sharplin Falls Scenic Reserve in the foothills of Mt Somers and is accessed off Flynns Road in Staveley. From the car park on Flynns Road, follow the signs for Sharplin Falls.

The track is maintained by the Mt Somers Walkways Society and is a beautiful bush walk through dense beech forest, and across two bridges to the falls. It's a gentle walk with great views – pack a picnic lunch and enjoy the birdlife.

→ **Whole whānau/family**

→ **Cost:** Free





Scan the QR code to book
ashburtondc.govt.nz/events

Design a Holiday Wardrobe

19 JAN - 1 FEB

 **Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum**

Mon 19 Jan - Sun 1 Feb, 10am-4pm

Our exhibition *Dearly Beloved* is all about weddings, and after their big day, people often travel to wonderful places for their honeymoon!

Where is your dream destination for a holiday? What clothes would you wear? Unlock your inner fashionista and design your dream holiday outfit with our paper doll template.

→ **Tamariki/children, ages 5-12**

→ **Cost:** Free



Explore Printmaking: Intaglio Print

21 JAN

 **Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum**

Wed 21 Jan, 10.30am-12pm

Join us for the second session in our **Explore Printmaking** series of workshops, inspired by the Print Council Aotearoa New Zealand exhibition. Drypoint is an intaglio printmaking technique. We will scratch an image directly into a plexiglass plate and use the printing press to print a set of prints.

→ **Rangitahi/young adults, ages 13-18**

→ **Cost:** \$5 and booking required



Explore Printmaking: Mixed Media

28 JAN

 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

Wed 28 Jan, 10.30am-12pm

Join us for the third session in our **Explore Printmaking** series of workshops, inspired by the Print Council Aotearoa New Zealand exhibition. We will experiment with gelli plate and other experimental print techniques to create a concertina book.

→ **Rangitahi/young adults, ages 13-18**

→ **Cost:** \$5 and booking required



Summer in Love Wearable Arts

4 DEC - 12 FEB

 Ashburton Library

Thu 4 Dec, 6pm-7pm

Enter the world of wearable art this summer by creating your own bridal bouquet, veil, hat or garment inspired by the *Dearly Beloved* exhibit at Ashburton Museum.

Join us at the opening evening on Thursday 4 December at 6pm, where our youth librarian and the team from Eco Educate will provide you with the info and ideas you'll need to get started.

During the summer, visit our Makerspace for access to awesome resources, machines and tools that will help bring your wearable art to life. Entries close on Thursday 12 February.

→ **Tamariki/children, ages 9-12**

Create a bridal bouquet, veil or hat

→ **Rangitahi/young adults, ages 13-18**

Create a bridal garment

→ **Cost:** Free



Awa Awa Rata Reserve

📍 *McLennans Bush Road, Mount Hutt, Methven*

All summer, daylight hours

Enjoy the gardens, take a picnic and a short stroll, or a longer walk on nearby tracks for magnificent views across the Canterbury Plains.

→ **Whole whānau/family**

→ **Cost:** Free



Paddling Pool

📍 *Ashburton Domain*

All summer, daylight hours

Make special memories with your littlies at our lovely paddling pool. Shade available as well as toilets and changing rooms.

→ **Whole whānau/family**

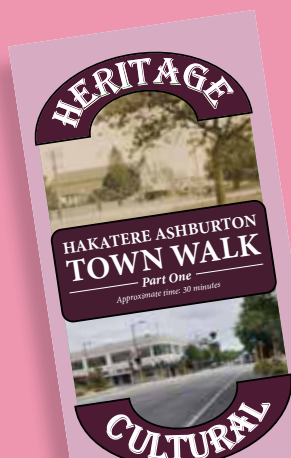
→ **Cost:** Free



Take your grandkids on a short town walk and share your memories of the past!

Check out the Hakatere mural on Cass Street, the red post box on Burnett Street that's still receiving letters, and the East Street water feature.

Two self-guided cultural walks have been created by Historic Places Mid Canterbury, and the brochures are available online or in paper form at Council.





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Opening hours

	Rokowhiria Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum	Te Kete Tuhinga Ashburton Library	EA Networks Centre
Regular hours	Daily 10am-4pm	Mon & Fri 8.30am-6pm Tue-Thu 8.30am-8pm Weekends 10am-4pm	Whole facility open Mon-Fri 5.45am-9pm Weekends 7am-7pm Pools close early Mon & Tues 8pm Wed-Friday 7pm Weekends 6pm Gym closes early Mon-Fri 8pm Weekends 6pm
Wednesday 24 December	4pm Closed (Normal hours)	1pm Closed	3pm Closed
Thursday 25 December	Closed	Closed	Closed
Friday 26 December	Closed	Closed	Closed
Saturday 27, Sunday 28, Monday 29 December and Tuesday 30 December	10am-4pm	10am-4pm	10am-5pm
Wednesday 31 December	10am-4pm	10am-4pm	10am-3pm
Thursday 1 January	10pm-4pm	Closed	Closed
Friday 2 January	10pm-4pm	Closed	Closed

Te Kete Tuhinga Ashburton Library

2 Baring Square East, Ashburton

03 308 7192

ashburtonlibrary.co.nz

EA Networks Centre

20 River Terrace, Ashburton

03 308 4020

eanetworkscentre.co.nz

Rokowhiria Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

327 West Street, Ashburton

03 307 7890

ashburtonartgallery.org.nz

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