

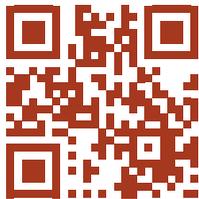


**WHAT'S**

**on**

AUTUMN 2026

**guide**



# Autumn 2026

## What's on these holidays

Book at [ashburtondc.govt.nz/events](https://ashburtondc.govt.nz/events)  
Scan the QR code to see the events available



*Nau mai, haere mai, tauti mai.*

### Welcome to our autumn guide of family-friendly activities.

There's plenty of indoor fun planned as the days get shorter and leaves fall off the trees. Some of the activities at our Council facilities over the April school holidays have an autumn theme, and others are about keeping active and warm!

Many of the activities are free, so go ahead and find ways to have fun with your whanau. Breathe in the crispy morning air and add a little play to your day outside by jumping into a pile of crunchy, fallen leaves!

**Rokowhiria, Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum**

**EA Networks Centre**

**Te Kete Tuhinga, Ashburton Library**

**Open spaces and community events**



**FOLLOW US!**

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-  @AshburtonMuseum
-   @ashburtonartgallery
-   @EANetworksCentre



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**What's On Guide**  
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# Witching Words Poetry Competition

Step into a magical world of words!

Inspired by our new exhibition *The Word Witch – Flights of Fancy*, this fun family competition invites you to create your own poem using ideas from Margaret Mahy's playful verse and David Elliot's enchanting illustrations. Pick something from the exhibition, spark your imagination, and let your creativity take flight. What magic will your words make?

Open to all ages and judged by David Elliot. Poems can be recited in person at a free public talk and event in August. Select poems will be published fortnightly in *The Ashburton Courier* newspaper from April 16 onwards.

Visit Rokowhiria Ashburton Art  
Gallery and Museum to collect  
your entry form!



Image: David Elliot, *The Word Witch, Inside Cover*, 2008/2009, mixed media illustration on paper



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## 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. Putter and ball hire \$5 per person or bring your own.



## Whimsy Leaf Hunt

**3 APR – 19 APR**

 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

**Fri 3 April - Sun 19 April, 10am-4pm**

Wander through our exhibitions and building to search for leaves with whimsical words of inspiration from 'The Word Witch – Flights of Fancy' exhibition where we see David Elliot's original illustrations from this delightful book of poems by Margaret Mahy. Use the words found to inspire your creativity. Don't forget to hand in your completed form to go in the draw for our holiday prize.

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



## Egg-static

4 APR - 6 APR

 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

**Sat 4 April - Mon 6 April, 10am-4pm**

Get creative, add your personal touch, and transform these simple shapes into meaningful decorations that bring warmth, colour, and festive cheer to any space this holiday season.

→ **Tamariki/children, ages 5-12**

→ **Cost: Free**



# CONSERVATION WEEK

20 - 26 APRIL



**Workshop on  
Pest Trapping at  
Te Whare Whakaterere**

**Thursday 23 April  
from 5pm to 8pm**



**Wilding pine/weed removal  
event at Lake Camp and  
Lake Clearwater**

**Sunday 26 April  
Meet at Lake Camp toilet block  
at 9:30 am**

## Fantastical Friend

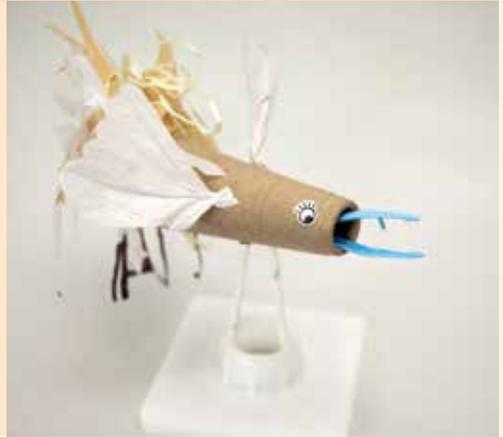
4 APR - 12 APR

 *Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum*

**Sat 4 April - Sun 12 April, 10am-4pm**

Take inspiration from David Elliot's illustrations in 'The Word Witch – Flights of Fancy' and the words found on the whimsical leaf hunt to create funky friends with our broad selection of collected materials.

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



## AV Studio Session

 *Ashburton Library*

**Various times available**

Book a session in our state-of-the-art AV Studio to bring your creative ideas to life. This is the perfect space for those interested in music production, podcasting, video editing, audio engineering, and more. Your session will be attended by a Studio Specialist who will help you learn the space, software, and techniques needed to realise your project.

Only one booking per person/group at a time. An additional session can be booked during or after the original session.

You are allowed to bring your own music equipment.

- **Rangitahi/young adults, ages 13-18**
- **Cost:** Limit of 1-6 people per group, 3 hours maximum duration.





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[ashburtondc.govt.nz/events](https://ashburtondc.govt.nz/events)

## Whimsical Words

4 APR - 19 APR

 Ashburton Library

**Sat 4 April - Sun 19 April, drop in anytime**

Celebrate the Word Witch exhibit at Rokowhiria by helping us build a giant collage of splendiferous words on our enormous witch's hat. Add your spark to the spell!

→ Rangitahi/young adults, ages 13-18

→ Cost: Free



## Paint Like a Botanical Artist

4 APR - 19 APR

 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

**Sat 4 April - Sun 19 April, 10am-4pm**

'Botanical Correspondents: Crossing time with Julia Holderness and Emily Cumming Harris' is an exhibition that travels across time. Come learn about the time and life of Emily Cumming Harris (1837-1925) and then imagine you are a 19th century painter while creating a painting at our still life art studio space in the Learning Centre.

→ Whole whānau/family

→ Cost: Free



## Bombs Away

7 APR & 9 APR

 EA Networks Centre

**Tue 7 April & Thu 9 April, 10am-12pm**

The bombing platform will be out and ready for you to display your awesome bombing skills. Participants must be able to swim a full length in the main pool competently.

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



## Flying Fox

 Ashburton Domain

**Daylight hours**

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

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



## Dragon Mask Creation

7 APR & 19 APR

 Ashburton Library

**Tue 7 April, 10am-1pm**  
**Sun 19 April, 12:30pm-3:30pm**

Ready to unleash your inner dragon? Come craft an epic dragon mask with a design from Cardboard Adventures. Make it fierce, make it funny, make it you. Bring your imagination - we'll bring the cardboard magic!

- **Rangitahi/young adults, ages 12-18**
- **Cost:** Free, booking required





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## EANC Holiday Programme

7 APR - 17 APR

 EA Networks Centre

**Tue 7 April - Fri 17 April**  
**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



## Military Vehicle Flip Book

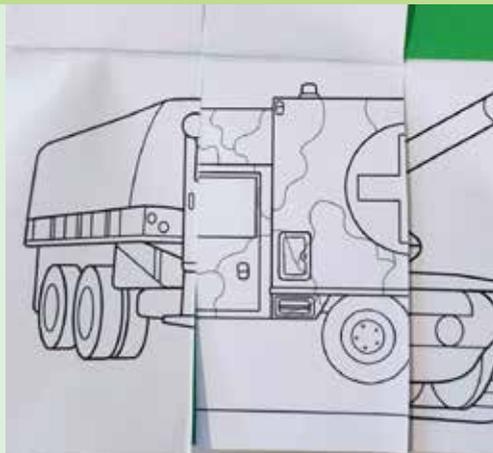
7 APR - 25 APR

 Ashburton Library

**Tue 7 April - Sat 25 April, drop in anytime**

Drop in anytime to colour, assemble, or take away your own flip book featuring military vehicles - a fun activity leading up to ANZAC Day.

- **Tamariki/children, ages 5-12**
- **Cost:** Free



## Shadow Lanterns

8 APR

 *Ashburton Library*

**Wed 8 April, 10:30-11:30am**

Create your very own magical autumn shadow lantern using a glass jar! Watch your designs glow to life and take home a cosy piece of autumn.

- **Tamariki/children, ages 5-12**
- **Cost: Free**



## Marionette Birds

9 APR & 16 APR

 *Ashburton Library*

**Thu 9 April, 10am-12pm**

**Thu 16 April 5:30pm-7:30pm**

Get hands-on in the Makerspace and design your own quirky, colourful marionette bird. Anna will guide you through creating something fun, feathery, and totally original.

- **Pre-teens, ages 9-12**
- **Cost: Free, booking required**



## Finger Puppets

10 APR

 Ashburton Library

**Fri 10 April, 10:30-11:30am**

Let your imagination wiggle! Decorate your own finger puppets, then make them dance, act, and explore.

- Tamariki/children, ages 5-12
- Cost: Free



## Pay to Play

10 APR

 EA Networks Centre

**Fri 10 April, 11am-3pm**

Did you know we have a wide range of sports you can play at the EA Networks Centre? Come along and have a go at table tennis, pickleball and badminton. All equipment provided.

- Whole whānau/family
- Cost: \$3, no booking required



## Big Fish Puppet

10 APR

 Ashburton Library

**Fri 10 April, 10am-1pm**

Make a fish that actually moves! Using a design from Cardboard Adventures, you'll build a kinetic cardboard fish puppet that's full of personality. Perfect for creators, makers and anyone who loves to tinker.

- Rangitahi/ young adults, ages 12-18
- Cost: Free, booking required



FREE

29 - 31 MAY

ASHBURTON

GLOW

in the park

Three nights of lights, food and fun for the whole family. Mid Canterbury's favourite event returns this King's Birthday weekend.



**Ashburton**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Scan the QR code to book  
[ashburtondc.govt.nz/events](https://ashburtondc.govt.nz/events)

## Playground Fitness Pop-up

13 APR

 EA Networks Centre

**Mon 13 April, 1pm-2pm**

Parents enjoy a workout while kids play with a range of soft play and toys (Active Adventures style set-up) and sports equipment under staff supervision. A great way for the whole family to stay active during the school holidays.

→ **Whole whānau/family**

→ **Cost:** \$12, booking required



## Puppet Workshop (over two afternoons)

13 APR & 14 APR

 Ashburton Library

**Mon 13 April, 2pm-5pm**

**Tue 14 April, 1:30-4pm**

### Day 1 - Concept and build

Team up with the youth librarian and some crafty teens to design and build the core parts of your puppet. It's all about creativity, teamwork and cool ideas coming to life.

### Day 2 - Customise & Characterise

Time to bring your puppet to life! Paint it, dress it, accessorise it - this is your chance to give your creation a unique personality.

→ **Tamariki/children, ages 5-12**

→ **Cost:** Free, booking required



# 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](http://eanetworkscentre.co.nz/aquatics/supervision)

ENJOY EVERY SPLASH

SAFELY!

## Holiday Swim Lessons

13 APR - 17 APR

 EA Networks Centre

**Mon 13 - Fri 17 April, 9am-11am**

Swim lessons in the school holidays are great for practising those tricky skills and a fun way to ease into a new level. The lessons run every day over the week, helping to convert practice into muscle memory.

- **Tamariki/children, ages 3+**
- **Cost:** Booking required
  - Toddlers (5 lessons) \$54
  - School-aged (five lessons) \$67
  - Individuals (per lesson)
    - 15min \$32
    - 20min \$42
    - 30min \$52



## Leaf Hog Craft

13 APR

 Ashburton Library

**Mon 13 April, 10:30-11:30am**

Turn cardboard and autumn leaves into your very own hedgehog-inspired creature! Cute, quirky, and totally fun.

- **Tamariki/children, ages 5-12**
- **Cost:** Free



## Active Adventures

13 APR

 EA Networks Centre

**Mon 13 April, 10.30am-12.30pm**

A child-led, parent supervised session for toddlers 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, no booking required



## Make a Monument

13 APR – 19 APR

 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

**Mon 13 April - Sun 19 April, 10am-4pm**

Construct and decorate your own maquette of a local monument from our unique card templates.

- Tamariki/children, ages 5-12
- Cost: Free



## Teen Box Fit

14 APR

 EA Networks Centre

**Tue 14 April, 10.30am-11.30am**

A high-energy boxing-style fitness session using pads and circuits. This class focuses on cardio, strength and coordination – no boxing experience needed and no contact sparring.

- Rangitahi/young adults, ages 10-16
- Cost: \$10



## Free Theatre Puppet Workshops

15 APR

 Ashburton Library

**Wed 15 April, 11pm-12pm & 2pm-3pm**

Join the amazing Free Theatre team for a creative puppet-making adventure! In this hands-on workshop, kids will discover puppetry traditions, learn simple techniques, and bring a puppet of their own to life.

→ **Tamariki/children, ages 5-12**

→ **Cost:** Free, booking required



## Memorials Walking Tour – Lunchtime Special

15 APR

 Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum

**Wed 15 April, 12pm-2pm**

As part of our 'In Plain Site: Memorials and their Stories' exhibition, join us for a special lunchtime walking tour exploring some of the historic memorial sites featured in the display.

Start at Rokowhiria Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum to view the exhibition and collect your map. Then stroll through central Ashburton and uncover the stories behind the people and events commemorated in our town's landscape. At each stop, our team will share insights into the memorial's origins, symbolism, and enduring significance. Whether you're a history enthusiast or curious about the stories around you, this guided trail offers a memorable way to connect our past.

→ **Whole whānau/family**

→ **Cost:** Free



## Grandparents & Grandkids Aqua

15 APR

 EA Networks Centre

**Wed 15 April, 12.15pm & 1pm**

A fun aqua session where grandparents can bring their grandkids along and enjoy moving together in the pool. This runs alongside our regular Aqua class. Children under 8 must wear a lifejacket (provided) and supervision ratios apply.

- **Whole whānau/family**
- **Cost:** Regular pool entry. No booking required



## Teen Yoga

16 APR

 EA Networks Centre

**Thu 16 April, 10.30am - 11.15am**

A fun and relaxed yoga class for teens, focusing on movement, mobility and mindfulness. Perfect for improving flexibility, balance and confidence in a supportive, non-judgemental environment.

- **Rangitahi/young adults, ages 10-16**
- **Cost:** \$10, booking required



## Monster Grabber

17 APR

 Ashburton Library

**Fri 17 April, 10:30-11:30am**

Let your imagination run wild as you craft a quirky, colourful monster creation with a fun surprise twist!

- **Tamariki/children, ages 5-12**
- **Cost:** Free



## Salmon Reserve, Rakaia

📍 State Highway 1, Rakaia

**All day, everyday**

The reserve is best known for its iconic giant salmon statue, a landmark celebrating the town and the nearby Rakaia River. Visitors can enjoy: the famous 12 metre salmon sculpture, a playground and picnic areas, walking paths, landscaped spaces and public facilities.

→ **Whole whānau/family**

→ **Cost:** Free



# CELEBRATING 2026 WORLD BIODIVERSITY DAY

**SUNDAY 24 MAY**  
**FROM 9:00 AM**

The Wakanui Beach Reserve is home to a number of rare native plants and several rare butterflies that rely on the plants for survival.

Join the volunteer planting crew for a fun and active day at beautiful Wakanui Beach



Scan the QR code to book  
[ashburtondc.govt.nz/events](https://ashburtondc.govt.nz/events)

OPENING HOURS	Rokowhiria Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum	Te Kete Tuhinga Ashburton Library	EA Networks Centre
Regular hours	<b>Daily</b> 10am-4pm	<b>Mon &amp; Fri</b> 8.30am-6pm <b>Tue-Thu</b> 8.30am-8pm <b>Weekends</b> 10am-4pm	<b>Whole facility open</b> Mon-Fri 5.45am-9pm Weekends 7am-7pm  <b>Pools hours</b> Mon & Tues 8pm Wed-Friday 7pm Weekends 6pm  <b>Gym hours</b> Mon-Fri 8pm Weekends 6pm
Good Friday 3 April	Closed	Closed	Closed
Easter Saturday 4 April	10am-4pm	10am-4pm	Normal weekend hours
Easter Sunday 5 April	10am-4pm	10am-4pm	Normal weekend hours
Easter Monday 6 April	10am-4pm	Closed	10am-5pm
Anzac Day Saturday 25 April	1pm-4pm	1pm-4pm	1pm-7pm
Anzac Day Sunday 26 April	10am-4pm	10am-4pm	Normal weekend hours
Anzac Day Monday 27 April	10am-4pm	Closed	10am-5pm

@ashburtonpubliclibrary

@AshburtonMuseum

@EANetworksCentre

@ashburtonlibrary

@ashburtonartgallery

**Te Kete Tuhinga  
Ashburton Library**

2 Baring Square East, Ashburton

03 308 7192

[ashburtonlibrary.co.nz](http://ashburtonlibrary.co.nz)

**EA Networks Centre**

20 River Terrace, Ashburton

03 308 4020

[eanetworkscentre.co.nz](http://eanetworkscentre.co.nz)

**Rokowhiria  
Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum**

327 West Street, Ashburton

03 307 7890

[ashburtonartgallery.org.nz](http://ashburtonartgallery.org.nz)

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**Library**

**ASHBURTON**  
GALLERY

ashburton  
**museum** 

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