



# Newcomers Guide

Haere mai  
ki te rohe o  
Hakaterere

Welcome to  
Ashburton  
District





Nau mai, haere  
mai, welcome.



Thank you for joining us.

This is your guide to help you  
settle in to Ashburton District.

*The district of choice for lifestyle  
and opportunity.*



# Contents

About Ashburton District	1
Getting started	3
Safety	4
Getting around	5
Education	6
Health services	7
Working	8
Ashburton District Council	9
Things to do	11
Newcomer support	18
Social services	19
Acknowledgements	20



# About Ashburton District

*Our district includes the main towns and localities of Ashburton (Hakatere), Methven (Piwakawaka), Rakaia (Ō Rakaia), Mount Somers (Te Kieke), Hinds (Hekeao) and Mount Hutt (Opuke).*

➤ Located 80 kilometres south of Christchurch (Ōtautahi), Ashburton District is in the central South Island (Te Waipounamu).

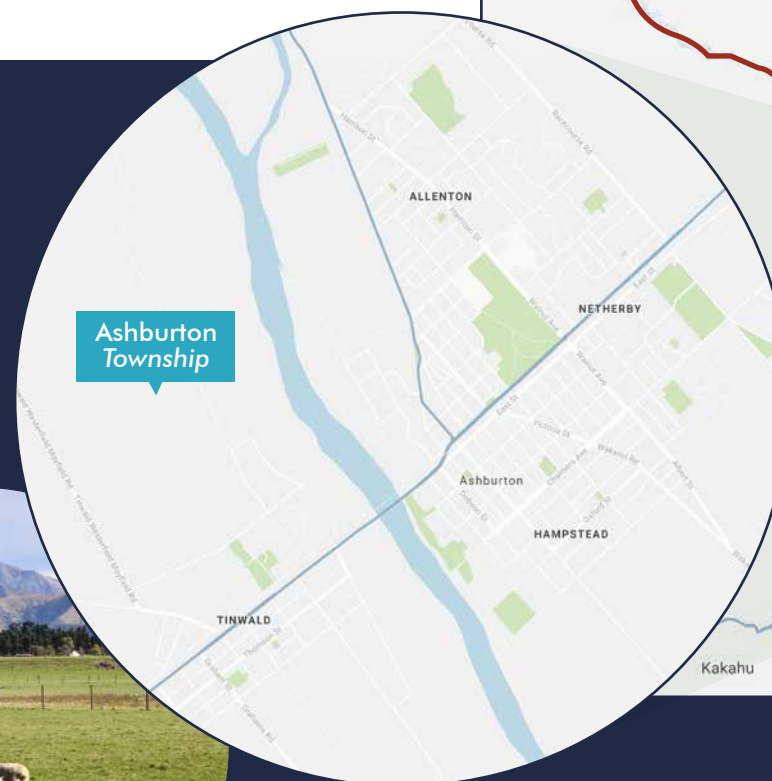
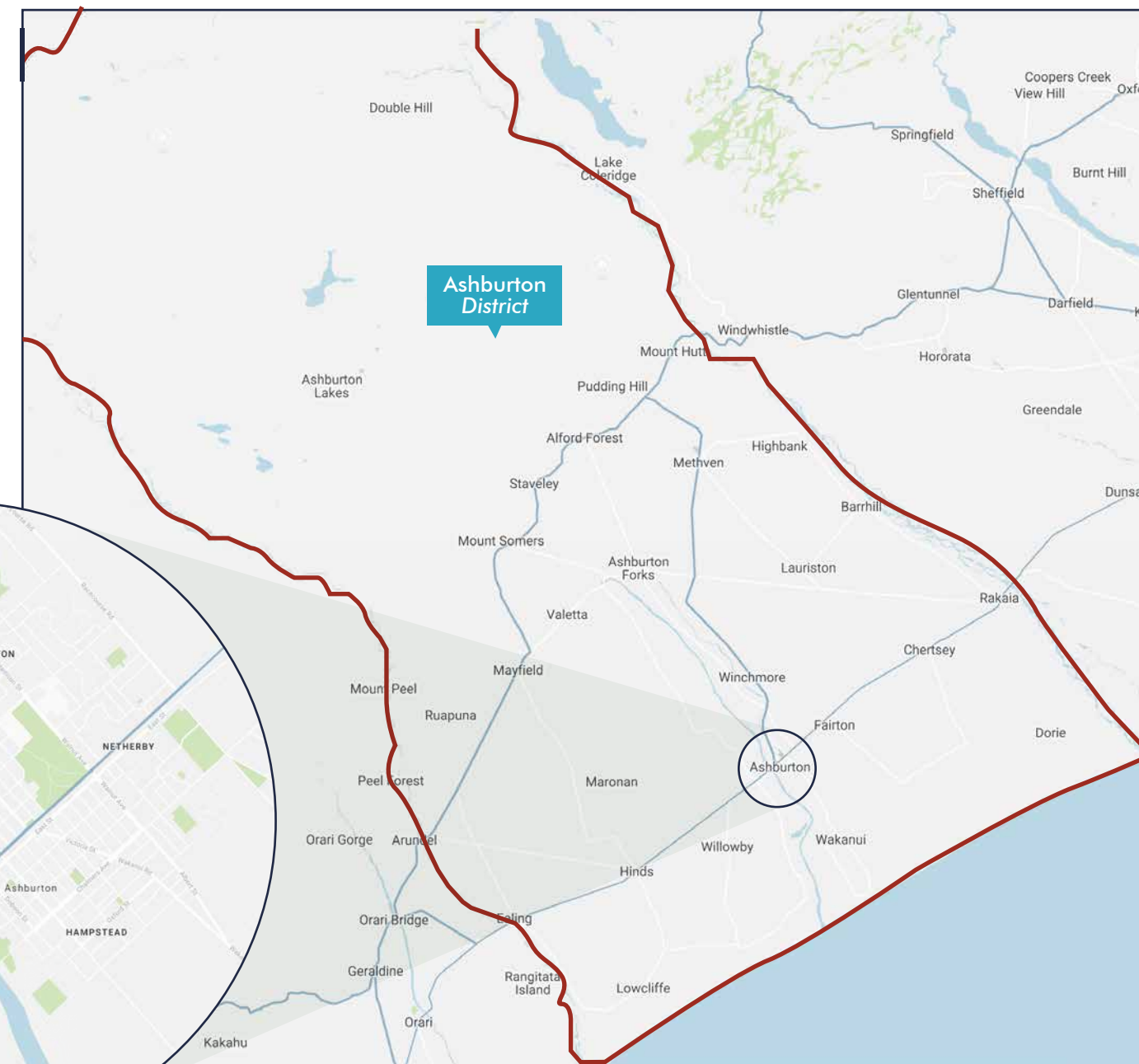
➤ The district is surrounded by the Pacific Ocean in the east, Southern Alps in the west and the Rakaia and Rangitata Rivers to the north and south respectively.

➤ The district covers around 6,175 square kilometres with a population of more than 34,000.

➤ Our population is forecast to become more multicultural and diverse, growing by some 6,500 residents over the next 25 years.

➤ Ashburton District offers over 200 sports clubs and many community and sports facilities.

➤ The iwi (Māori indigenous people) that hold mana whenua (customary authority) status in Ashburton District are Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua and Ngāi Tahu.





## Getting started

*In Ashburton District, you will find friendly neighbours, colleagues and services ready to help you.*

Here are some handy tips to get you started:

- Introduce yourself to your neighbours.
- Visit a few of our landmark attractions; Lake Hood, Mount Hutt and our high country lakes.
- Take a walk around your new neighbourhood – explore our parks, walks and reserves including the Ashburton & Tinwald domains.
- Sign up for a free Ashburton Library card - remember to take your two forms of proof of ID and evidence of your home address with you.
- Set up power and internet for your home - no need to worry about paying for water.
- Ensure you have rubbish and recycling wheelie bins and a green crate for glass recycling at your home if you live in an urban area.
- Explore different volunteering, recreation or community groups that you can join.
- Explore the New Zealand Now website: Your guide to living & working in New Zealand [www.newzealandnow.govt.nz](http://www.newzealandnow.govt.nz)

## Safety

Ashburton District is proud to be recognised as part of the Safe Communities programme. But we still recommend that you take a few steps to keep yourself, your family and your belongings safe.

Don't give your full name, address, personal details or bank account information to people that you do not know or trust, especially over the phone or via e-mail.

Consider getting insurance – most people have car insurance, contents insurance and home insurance (if they have a property).

New Zealand is one of the least corrupt countries in the world so you can safely trust our government and emergency services.



**NATIONAL EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER: 111**  
This is always a free call, and will connect you to the fire service, police and ambulance.



## Getting around

### Public transport

In Ashburton, taxis can be ordered by phone. Contact Ashburton Taxis on 03 308 2288. There is a taxi stand on Burnett Street. There is currently no public bus service operating in our district but work is underway in establishing a public transport service connecting our towns and localities. Please contact Safer Mid Canterbury on 03 308 1395 to learn more.

### Travelling around New Zealand

Bus companies provide services from Ashburton and Methven to Christchurch, Timaru and Dunedin. For further information on these services, contact the Methven i-SITE 03 302 8955 or visit [www.methvenisite.co.nz](http://www.methvenisite.co.nz)

### Before driving

You must have a driver licence. You can use an international driver licence

or permit for up to 12 months, after which you will need to get a New Zealand driver licence. The road rules are explained in the Road Code which is available at the Ashburton library, online at [www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/roadcode](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/roadcode) or you can buy one at most bookshops. Everyone in the car must wear a seat belt and

children under the age of seven must be in a car seat.

### Getting a Driver Licence

Information on getting a New Zealand driver licence can be found on the New Zealand Transport Agency website [www.nzta.govt.nz/licence](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/licence)



## Education

### Pre-school

Pre-school age children (under five years old) can be enrolled at kindergartens, playcentres and child care facilities. Between the ages of three and five, your child may be eligible for 20 hours per week of free early childhood education.

Talk to staff at your early childhood education centre to find out more.

### Primary School

There are 19 primary schools located throughout Ashburton District, ranging from large to small, town and rural. Some schools are full primary

which offer education from years 1 to 8 and others offer education from years 1 to 6 only. Children are legally required to begin primary school by age six.

### Intermediate School

Ashburton Intermediate School covers years 6 to 8 of primary education.

### Secondary School

There are two secondary schools in Ashburton District. Ashburton College is a co-educational secondary school for years 9 to 13 located in Ashburton. Mount Hutt College is a co-educational secondary school for years 9 to 13 which is located in Methven.

### Tertiary Education

Ara Institute of Technology has a campus in Ashburton offering a wide range of subjects with National Certificates and Diplomas. Other nearby tertiary educational institutes are the University of Canterbury – Te Whare Wananga o Waitaha in Christchurch and Lincoln University – Te Whare Wānaka o Aoraki, in Lincoln.



# Health services

## Hospital

Ashburton Hospital provides secondary level emergency, general surgical and maternity services with a range of inpatient, day patient, outpatient and community health services. Tertiary level care is provided by Christchurch or Timaru hospitals.

## Paramedics

Ashburton has an attended base for St John paramedics with Methven providing a volunteer St Johns service.

## ACC

The Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) provides personal

injury cover for all New Zealand citizens, residents and temporary visitors to New Zealand.

This means that if you have an accident or injure yourself, the cost of visiting a doctor may be partially covered by the government.

[www.acc.co.nz](http://www.acc.co.nz)

## Finding a General Practice (Doctors Clinic)

For regular health and medical care it is a good idea to register the whole family with a general practice. The doctors' is also known as a general practitioner, or GP. Most general practices are part of a Primary Health Organisation (PHO) which allows patients to receive cheaper doctor's visits and reduced costs of prescription medicines. You can ask your local general practice if they are part of a PHO. Children under the age of 14 years can visit the doctor for free.

## Dental health

Dental care is free for people under 18 years of age. If you are over 18 years of age you will need to pay for dental care.

## Community Services Card

People or families on low or moderate incomes and who are permanent legal residents of New Zealand may qualify for a 'Community Services Card' which make doctors' visits cheaper. [www.workandincome.govt.nz](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz)

## EMERGENCIES

**For life threatening health emergencies free phone 111 for an ambulance.**

For non-life threatening or after hours health situations phone your local (General Practice, or GP) or you can phone Healthline on **0800 611 116** to speak to a registered nurse.

Not well?

### Self Care

Grazed knee, light cough, see [healthinfo.co.nz](http://healthinfo.co.nz)

### Pharmacy

Diarrhoea, runny nose, hayfever, sore throat.

### Call your GP(24/7)

Unwell? Call your general practice for advice.

### General Practice

Non-urgent health concerns, ear pain, fever.

### Urgent Care After Hours

Feeling really sick, bad cuts, bites & sprains.

### Emergency Department

Serious accidents, chest pains or stroke, call 111.





# Working here

*There are a number of different employment industries in Ashburton District, from farming and agribusiness to logistics and manufacturing.*

## Finding a job

Most people looking for work start their job search online using websites such as [www.seek.co.nz](http://www.seek.co.nz) and [www.trademe.co.nz/jobs](http://www.trademe.co.nz/jobs). There are several recruitment agencies that may also be helpful for connecting you to available jobs.

## Employment rights

When working in New Zealand

you have certain rights, which are important to know so that you are treated fairly. [www.newzealandnow.govt.nz/work-in-nz/employment-rights](http://www.newzealandnow.govt.nz/work-in-nz/employment-rights)

## Kiwisaver

Kiwisaver is a work-based savings scheme where you, your employer and the government contribute to a savings fund for your retirement. You can

join Kiwisaver if you are a permanent resident or a New Zealand citizen. [www.kiwisaver.govt.nz](http://www.kiwisaver.govt.nz)

## Setting up a business

Establishing your own business in New Zealand is quite a simple process, and there are many resources available to support you. Check out [www.business.govt.nz](http://www.business.govt.nz) for a range of tools and templates to help you get started.

# Ashburton District Council

*The role of Ashburton District Council is to lead and represent its communities.*

The Council engages with its' communities and encourages community participation in decision-making, while considering the needs of people currently living in the district and those who will live here in the future. The following lists the range of activities and services that Council oversees.

- Building consents and information
- Cemeteries
- Civil defence and emergency management
- Dog registrations & wandering livestock
- Environmental health
- Health, food, alcohol & gambling
- Parking
- Planning guidance and resource consents
- Property information
- Rates
- Rubbish and recycling
- Roothing and footpaths
- Water services
- Library
- Museum
- EA Networks Centre (sports facility)
- Parks and open spaces
- Welcoming communities



**FIND OUT MORE AT:**  
[www.ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz)



# Things to do

## Ashburton Public Library

With free Wi-Fi available on site, Ashburton Public Library is an ideal space to research, study, read and discover. It's free to use the Ashburton Public Library.

The Ashburton Public Library provides books, magazines, DVDs and talking books for all ages, and offers access to

internet and word processing facilities. New Zealand newspapers are available in the library and international newspapers can be viewed there online. For those wanting to improve their English, language resources are also available.

Story time sessions for preschool aged children are on Thursday mornings at 10.30am — just drop in, or out as you please.

Anyone living in the Ashburton District can join the library for free. To join, you will need to bring two forms of valid identification; one must have a photo such as a driver licence or passport; and the other must be proof of your address, such as a recent bank statement.

The Ashburton Public Library is located on the corner of West Street (State Highway One) and Havelock Street, Ashburton, opposite Baring Square West.

[www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/our-services/library/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/our-services/library/Pages/default.aspx)



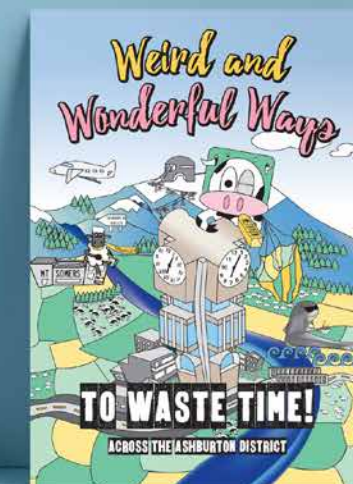
**ASHBURTON DISTRICT**  
Calendar of Cultural Events

**2020**

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
25 Lunar New Year Celebration (Celebrated By Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, East Asian Communities)	6 Waitangi Day Multicultural Bite 21 International Mother Language Day	8 International Women's Day 9-10 Holi Festival 17 Saint Patrick's Day 21 Race Relations Day	10 Good Friday 12 Easter Sunday 13 Easter Monday 25 ANZAC Day (observed April 27)
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
6-12 NZ Sign Language Week 23-24 Eid Ul Fitr Also This Month: Samon Language Week, Flores De Mayo	12 Philippines Independence Day 20 World Refugee Day	13 Matariki - Māori New Year Jul 30-Aug 3 Eid Al-Adha	12 International Youth Day 15 Indian Independence Day Also This Month: Cook Island Language Week
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
This Month: International Welcoming Week, Te Wiki O Te Reo Māori, NZ Chinese Language Week	1 International Day Of Older Persons Also This Month: Pasifika Language Weeks	13 Canterbury Anniversary Day 14 Diwali	10 Human Rights Day 10-18 Hanukkah 25 Christmas Day

The information in this calendar is presented in good faith. The names of certain events may have alternative spelling or be recognised on different dates by groups and individuals within communities. The calendar focuses on countries' national days and significant cultural events in Ashburton District. The calendar is not exhaustive of all events celebrated around the world and should be considered a guide only. You are welcome to suggest the addition of further cultural events by e-mailing the Welcoming Communities Advisor.

Welcoming Communities  
Ashburton District Council



Check out the Weird and Wonderful Ways to Waste Time Across the Ashburton District Map available from [www.wccanterbury.com/get-involved](http://www.wccanterbury.com/get-involved)





## Ashburton Museum

### History with heart

Dig into the past and discover what creates your future. Engage in educational experiences and uncover the cultural and social heritage of Mid Canterbury and Aotearoa. It's free to visit the Ashburton Museum.

-  Exhibitions
-  Events
-  Retail
-  Research

[www.ashburtonmuseum.co.nz](http://www.ashburtonmuseum.co.nz)



## Ashburton Art Gallery

**The Ashburton Art Gallery is a vibrant and growing cultural facility.**

With over 20 years of operating history, the AAG is devoted to

experimentation, innovation and engagement in art. The AAG is an independent charitable entity. It is run by a small team of five staff and 22 volunteers. It's free to visit and is housed on the top floor of the Museum and Heritage building.  
[www.ashburtonartgallery.org.nz](http://www.ashburtonartgallery.org.nz)

## Ashburton Trust Events Centre

The Ashburton Trust Events centre is the district's premier venue for live music, theatre & performance. It's a purpose built conference and

entertainment centre with a 500-seat auditorium, a function room, and green room. Visit their website to find out the current live events being performed.  
[www.ateventcentre.co.nz](http://www.ateventcentre.co.nz)





## Experience Mid Canterbury

*Experience Mid Canterbury is our tourism agency which showcases Ashburton District.*

Mid Canterbury is one of the great secrets of New Zealand, with an inspiring range of both energetic and relaxing activities. With its stunning snow-capped mountains as its backdrop and bordered by impressive braided rivers and crystal clear lakes, the scenery is so magnificent it will take your breath away.

- Skiing & snowboarding
- Adventure & wilderness
- Fishing & hunting
- Arts & heritage
- Food, drink & accommodation
- Cycling
- Golf

[www.midcanterburynz.com](http://www.midcanterburynz.com)



## EA Networks Centre

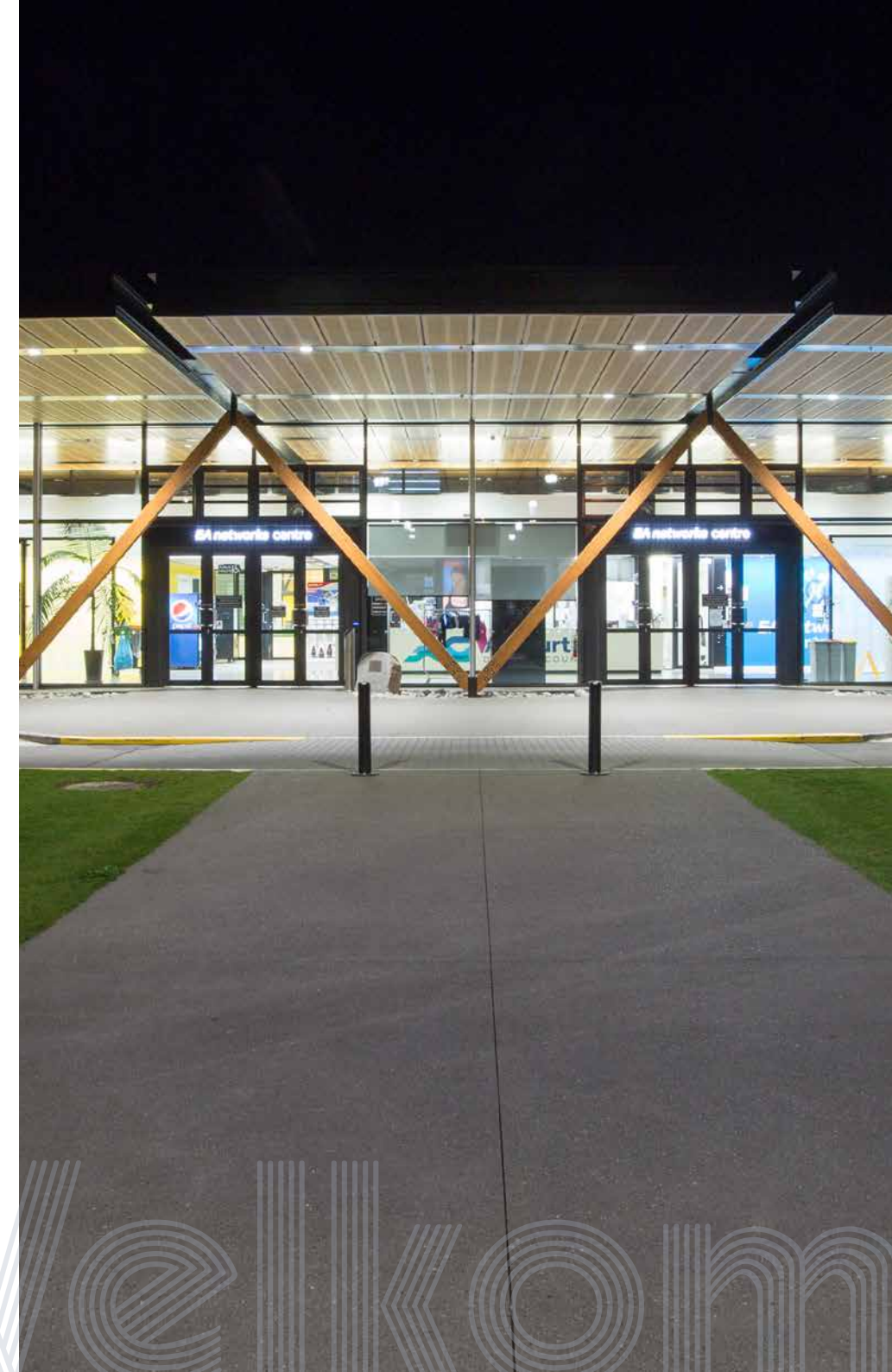
### Sports and recreation facility

EA Networks Centre is (EANC) a state-of-the-art, 8000m2 indoor sports, stadium, aquatic and recreational facility. The centre has four indoor pools, as well as a relaxing spa and steam room, four indoor courts, and two outdoor courts.

A broad range of aquatic and fitness facilities are offered, including Les Mills and spinning group fitness classes, AshSwim Swim School, Aquacise classes, and a fully equipped fitness centre featuring the latest gym and fitness testing equipment.

- Rooms for hire
- Retail products
- Eat café
- Free Wi-Fi

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







# Kamusta

## Newcomer support

### *Ezispak*

Ezispak is a free interpretation assistance service offered by Ashburton District Council service centres to help non-English speakers and staff to understand each other.  
[www.ezispak.nz](http://www.ezispak.nz)

### *English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)*

ESOL classes are available for people who want to improve their English. Education providers will have ESOL available for school children.

### *Ashburton Learning Centre*

ESOL classes for adult learners are run by the Ashburton Learning Centre. The Centre is located on the corner of Park and Havelock Streets, Ashburton.  
[www.ashburtonlearningcentre.co.nz](http://www.ashburtonlearningcentre.co.nz)

### *Hakatere Multicultural Council*

For friendly and local help with understanding life in Ashburton District, we recommend talking to the Hakatere Multicultural Council (HMC). The HMC operates the Mid Canterbury Newcomers Network. You'll find them based in Community House.  
[www.newcomers.co.nz/regions/canterbury/ashburton](http://www.newcomers.co.nz/regions/canterbury/ashburton)





## Social services

### Community House

Community House is a not-for-profit community-focused facility, which is a safe and caring environment for all. It is a hub for social services in the community and houses a community directory.

[www.communityhousemc.co.nz](http://www.communityhousemc.co.nz)

### Safer Mid-Canterbury

Safer Mid-Canterbury is the largest locally-driven provider of community services in the Ashburton District. They are a non-profit organisation that has been operating as a charitable trust for more than 25 years, providing free and confidential services that focus on a healthier, stronger and safer community for all.

[www.saferashburton.org.nz](http://www.saferashburton.org.nz)



## Acknowledgements

### Welcoming Communities

This guide is an initiative of Welcoming Communities Ashburton District. Welcoming Communities is a programme led by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment in partnership with councils in New Zealand to foster welcoming and inclusive practices for newcomers in their local district, region or city.

### Iwi

We acknowledge the support of the local iwi Ngāi Tahu, Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga and Hakatere Marae Komiti who are teaching us about how we can weave the principles of manaakitanga (hospitality) into the way we welcome our new residents. This initiative is all about making newcomers feel included and encouraging everyone to be fully connected as members of our community.

For more information:

Ashburton District Council  
PO Box 94, Ashburton 7740  
Phone 307 7700  
Email: [info@adc.govt.nz](mailto:info@adc.govt.nz)  
Website: [www.ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz)

**Disclaimer:** While every effort has been made to ensure all information is correct, Ashburton District Council accepts no responsibility for the accuracy or otherwise of the details in this guide.



Afio Mai  
Willkommen  
नमस्ते  
欢迎  
¡Bienvenido!  
歡迎  
Welkom  
ようこそ  
ي ف ك ب ا ب ح ر م



New Zealand Government

