



## Key Historical Events for the Ashburton District

DATE	EVENT
800	Pre-European. Major land and sea trade and resource centre from Wakanui. Nationally important Wakanui collection held in the Ashburton Museum.
1844	Bishop Selwyn first European at Wakanui Creek
1852	First runholders – Halls and Spaxton.
1854	Runholders Acland and Tripp
1858	Turton's accommodation house First church service Single furrow ploughed from Rakaia to Hinds and Hinds to Thomson's Track
1859	First A & P Show in Canterbury at Shepherds Bush
1864	Roads Board is established First blacksmith and lime kiln Great Ashburton Flood John Grigg at Longbeach: - tiled drainage introduced Robert Park lays out the township plan
1865	First general store - Louis Berliner Telegraph arrives Christchurch to Dunedin
1872	Canterbury Flour Mill established - Alfred Saunders
1873	First Rakaia bridge opened Banking arrives
1874	Railway arrives Combined road/rail bridge over the Hakatere/Ashburton river
1875	Post Office is opened
1876	County Council is established First systematic irrigation – Duncan Cameron
1877	First newspaper 'Ashburton Mail'
1878	Ashburton Borough Council established
1880	Ashburton Hospital opened
1881	Ashburton High School opened
1883	John Grigg exports frozen lams (Canterbury lamb)
1885	First Woollen Mill opened
1886	Scotch thistle arrives
1892	97000 acres of wheat harvested
1895	Ashburton telephone exchange opened
1896	Break up of large estates. The Highbank sale
1899	Canterbury Frozen meat Works opens at Fairfield
1902	Prohibition begins Ashburton is dry
1904	Rabbit problem New Zealand's first tractor at Ealing

	Post Office clock is installed
1906	Bird's head bounty
1910	Men's Shakespeare Club formed
1912	Ashburton Technical High School opens
1921	Electric Power Board established
1924	First electric power from Lake Coleridge to Ashburton County
1931	Opening of Ashburton road bridge. Tar sealing of East Street
1936	Start of Rangitata Diversion Race (RDR)
1939	Opening of Rakaia River road bridge
1945	Rehabilitation farms balloted for The Big snow
1951	Wool boom
1955	Ashburton Licensing Trust. Ashburton no longer dry
1965	Ashburton College opened – amalgamation of old High school and Tech High school.
1967	Opening of new Ashburton library Gravity water supply commissioned
1969	Use of 'Self Help Co-op' building for storing Museum collection
1972	Opening of first Museum 'Pioneer Hall'
1978	Erection of the 1903/4 clock tower as a centennial project
1980s	Diversification of farming – deer and dairying
1988	Formation of new district council – amalgamation of the old District and Borough Councils
1993-5	Development of Ashburton Town Centre
1995	Opening of Second Museum in old County Council Building
2014	Opening of purpose built third Museum Museum becomes a Department of Ashburton District Council Museum and Historical Society retains trusteeship of the Collection