

Skate jam to launch new street art in Ashburton

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skaters will be picking up new tricks and flips at the Ashburton skatepark on Saturday (13 April) when New Zealand's longest running learn-to-skate programme provider, Cheapskates Skate Skool are in town to help launch the park's new street art.

Renowned

Christchurch artist, Wongi Wilson is visiting Ashburton from Monday 8 - Friday 12 April creating the new artwork, which will be unveiled at the Ashburton Skate Jam event on Saturday.

His

design for the popular West Street skatepark is inspired by young people in the Ashburton community, who were invited to submit their ideas for the work at the Ashburton Art Gallery in February.

The

event is an initiative of Ashburton District Council and Safer Ashburton, with the primer paint kindly donated by Resene ColourShop Ashburton.

Ashburton Mayor Donna Favel says the new artwork will give the skatepark a fresh look with a uniquely Ashburton District touch.

"The

skatepark is a great space for young people and families to hang out and keep active. It's fantastic to see so many people making use of it on the weekends and after school, and we want to make sure it continues to be a place that everyone can feel proud of.

"As

a public space that's targeted at our young people, it's fitting that the new artwork will feature their ideas about what the district means to them. It's something they'll be able to feel part of and take pride in."

The Ashburton

Stake Jam is a free, family-friendly event. Cheapskates Skates Skool will have skate gear available for people to use, and instructors will be roaming the park offering tips and advice. The Skate Skool skaters will be showing off their tricks from 12pm-3pm.

The

Ashburton Youth Council will be on-site offering a sausage sizzle for a gold coin donation, with all proceeds going towards production costs for their recently re-vamped Weird and Wonderful Ways to Waste Time map. The map will be available to pick up from the Skate Jam.

People will also be able to meet Wongi Wilson, who's artworks are featured on a number of buildings in central Christchurch.

The
Ashburton Skate Jam will be happening from 12pm-4pm on Saturday 13
April at the Ashburton skatepark, on the corner of West and Moore
Streets.