# **Newsline Issue 589 – 7 March 2025**

# Protecting Te Waikoropupū Springs

We commissioned an independent peer review of the catchment monitoring associated with Te Waikoropupū Springs, responding to recommendations from the Environment Court following the establishment of a Water Conservation Order (WCO) for the Springs in October 2023.

Murray Close, Principal Scientist at the Institute of Environmental Science and Research, was engaged in July 2024 to conduct the review.

The review assessed current groundwater and surface water monitoring efforts within the Wharepapa Arthur Marble Aquifer recharge area with the goal of enhanced monitoring to provide early warnings of water quality changes that could impact the exceptional clarity and ecological values of the Springs.

The review highlighted the long-term monitoring of the Springs, with data spanning from the 1970s to the present. It addressed inconsistencies in analytical methods used for nitrate testing by different laboratories over the years, and confirmed the analytical method used since 2018 is robust.

The report emphasises the importance of consistent and reliable data collection for effective management decisions.

The peer reviewer considers as the agency with responsibility for implementing the WCO and the responsible statutory body, we should be responsible for conducting the monitoring programme.

The findings and recommendations from the independent peer review will inform an enhanced future monitoring programme. It will include 15 monitoring sites, and aims to generate high-quality water quality data from key land uses within the recharge area to better inform and optimise future water quality models.

This programme will play a crucial role in safeguarding the long-term health and preservation of Te Waikoropupū Springs, ensuring the protection of this Water of National Importance for future generations.

See the full report at tasman.govt.nz/independent-review-of-wco-monitoring.

# Motueka stopbanks are a go

Works are in full swing for the next phase of the Motueka River Stopbank Refurbishment project. This work seeks to build resilience and reduce the community’s risk of flooding from the river.

Sites at Parker Street and Tasman View Road are now in operation, while preparatory works involving tree felling and clearing are set to start at a site on College Street shortly.

There will be an increase in the number of trucks on the roads in the next few weeks. This is temporary but necessary – please be aware of their presence and drive carefully.

You’ll also be wondering how the elevated location of Tasman View Road factors into a river-based project. The works here are providing the source material for the stopbank sites, while also providing an improved road for everyone in the future.

The river itself won’t be affected, but if you use the riverbanks for recreation in publicly accessible areas, you may find access to sections of the stopbank temporarily restricted or closed off, so check before you make any plans.

Following the successful completion of Stage One in 2024, funding for Stage Two was approved by the Kānoa Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit, as part of the Government’s Resilient Infrastructure Fund.

The Lower Motueka River and Brooklyn Stream stopbanks are to have a 6.7km upgrade, building on the 4.8km initial stage of work.

The stopbank refurbishment on the Lower Motueka River would protect approximately 1,400 hectares of fertile and productive land, along with portions of the town itself.

For more information, visit tasman.govt.nz/motueka-projects.

# You’re the voice!

It is a local authority election year, and a hit song by John Farnham sums up the aspirations of our democratic form of local government.

“You’re the voice,” is the focus of this, the first of a series of articles focusing on providing a snapshot of the reality of being a Mayor, Councillor, or Community Board Member, and what it’s like working in a local authority.

During election time, it is very easy for candidates to make a range of promises to their local communities and the whole District.

However, successful candidates need to have a broad view of issues and recognise that decisions are made by a majority, with each member only having one vote.

The success of a local council or community board depends on how well the members all work together and make compromises if necessary.

Local Government New Zealand sums it up well. They say, “Good governance balances short-term and long-term responsibilities, and the stewardship of the organisation.”

This means focusing on the overall performance of the kaunihera (council) over the long term, how it meets community expectations and aspirations, how it fulfils statutory obligations, and how it looks after assets.

If you think you have what it takes and want more information, visit votelocal.co.nz. Nominations for candidates open Tuesday 1 July 2025.

# New reservoir for Richmond South

Another phase in ensuring we can continue to meet the demand for water in Richmond is underway.

Construction has begun on a new 2,500 square metre water reservoir at Hill Street South near Sunview Heights.

This project is designed to help improve the resilience of the water supply by providing added storage capacity, catering for the growing community in that part of Richmond.

This new addition to the water supply network will link to our Champion Road reservoir and guarantee the security of supply to this rapidly growing area of Richmond.

The site is next to the top end of Borck Creek and eventually will include a walking and cycle track alongside the stream linking it to Paton Road, although it’s still early days for this part of the project.

A few weeks ago, neighbours joined members of the construction team from Fulton Hogan and our project managers for an onsite breakfast to find out more about the new reservoir.

Construction of this 4.9-million-dollar project is expected to take about 12 months.

# Harbourmaster prizes to keep people water wise

The Tasman Harbourmaster has been actively attending summer events, gathering valuable insights through the Safer Boating survey which received 219 responses.

The survey results play a crucial role in designing and enhancing safety measures for recreational boating. Maritime NZ and Safer Boating NZ will also use the information to refine policies, improve education efforts, and promote safer boating practices across the region.

People who participated in the survey had the chance to enter a prize draw thanks to generous support from Richmond Aquatic Centre, DNA Boats, Survitec, Nelson Marine Centre, and Mārahau Marine.

The draw took place at the Richmond Aquatic Centre on Friday, 21 February. Tasman Harbourmaster Peter Renshaw hosted the event, with Maritime NZ Nelson’s Amanda Kerr drawing the winners – with assistance from Kori the Penguin.

The winners are:

* Marine VHF Radio from DNA Boats – Nicole Rhodes.
* Children’s life jacket from Survitec – Toby O’Donnell, and Peter Hartley.
* Inflatable life jacket from Survitec – Chloe Avery, and Kevin Booth.
* $50 vessel service from Nelson Marine Centre – Sarah Whittle, Robert Hewison, Carleen Hodgkinson, and Des Clark.
* Yamaha grab bag from Mārahau Marine Centre – Robert Whittle.
* Six free swimming lessons and two family passes to the Richmond Aquatic Centre – Jane Thomas.
* Richmond Aquatic Centre family pass – Barry Roach, and Cameron Welsh.

Our team will be in touch with our winners directly about receiving their prizes.

# Don’t let FOG affect your place

Do you know that your household pipes can be affected by FOG?

When you cook, fats, oils, and grease, or FOG often end up down the drain. While it may seem harmless, FOG can harden and build up in your pipes, causing costly blockages in your private plumbing.

But it doesn’t end there.

Blockages caused by FOG, also known as fatbergs, extend into our wastewater networks leading to sewer overflows. Fatbergs cause wastewater to back up resulting in overflows into private properties, streets, streams and estuaries.

FOG sticks to the walls of your pipes, narrowing the flow and eventually blocking it which in turn leads to expensive plumber’s fees for homeowners, and expensive clean-up costs on our pipe networks.

So, what can you do to help?

Let fats, oils, and grease cool, then scrape them into a container and dispose of them in your general waste.

Use sink strainers to catch food particles and dispose of them in the food waste.

Avoid using in-sink waste disposal systems.

Put coffee grounds on the garden instead of down the drain.

Small changes at home can make a big difference for your plumbing and the community. If you have any questions, feel free to contact our wastewater team for more information.

# Car cleaning can create contaminants

Washing your car at home or at a local fundraiser is a way to save money or raise money for a good cause, but it can damage our waterways.

Sending pollutants like dirt, detergent, oils, and heavy metals along with the wash water into the stormwater system that drains to our rivers and streams is toxic to fish and can harm plant life.

Keeping car wash water out of the drains and roadside gutters is a great way to keep our streams and waterways healthy. Wash your vehicle on grass or gravel so dirty water soaks into the soil, rather than into the stormwater system, or use old towels or cloths to absorb run-off.

You may think washing your own car isn’t affecting our water quality but combined with all the other cars and home DIY projects going on in the region, there can be a lot of unwanted pollutants getting into our streams.

# Motueka properties to go on the market

Investigations into the future of several of our buildings in Motueka have led to a decision to put some on the market.

The investigations were launched into potential uses of the former Motueka Library building on Pā Street when the library moved into its new purpose-built facility on Wallace Street nearly three years ago.

Elected Members decided that we would prefer to lease office space for our Motueka Service Centre and approved the sale of the Motueka Service Centre building at 7 Hickmott Place and the adjacent car park at 8 Hickmott Place.

The decision provides the opportunity for any potential purchaser of the Service Centre to lease it back to us so it can continue to function as our Service Centre.

It was also decided that the former Motueka Library and Laura Ingram Kindergarten will be put up for sale to be removed or demolished. We are also open to other options from specific users on the use of the former library building before progressing with removal or demolition.

Group Manager of Community Infrastructure Richard Kirby says putting the buildings on the market is the most prudent option. He says income generated from their sale could be used to finance other facilities in Motueka.

# Let’s go to the Positive Ageing Expo

If you’ve said, “Goodbye tension, hello pension” then we have a special event just for you!

We warmly invite you to our Positive Ageing Expo, a wonderful opportunity to explore the many recreational, health, and social services available right here in Nelson Tasman – each designed to help us embrace ageing as a positive and enriching journey.

For more than 15 years, this Expo has welcomed around 2,000 people each year – it’s a chance to connect with others and discover new community groups.

This year’s Expo will be packed with helpful services and engaging demonstrations.

Bring along any broken items, and the friendly Repair Café volunteers will help you mend them. Take advantage of free flu and Covid vaccinations, watch composting and Tai Chi demonstrations, and even get expert home heating advice – just a few of the 70 wonderful stalls waiting for you!

We’d love to see you at the Headingly Centre, off Lower Queen Street in Richmond, on Saturday 5 April, from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm.

To make it easier to attend, there will be a free shuttle service running between the Richmond eBus Interchange and the Expo every 30 minutes from 10.30 am to 12.00 pm, with the final return shuttle at 12.45 pm.

Additionally, the Motueka Community Bus will arrive in Richmond at 10.30 am and depart at 2.00 pm.

Come along, bring a friend, and enjoy a day of connection, learning, and inspiration.

# Wasp biocontrol helps halt Aussie invaders

The Sydney golden wattle (*Acacia longifolia*), native to south-eastern Australia, was introduced to New Zealand for ornamental planting and dune stabilisation.

However, this fast-spreading species poses a serious threat to our fragile dune and wetland ecosystems, particularly in disturbed and coastal areas. Each tree produces vast quantities of seeds that can remain viable for decades, allowing it to rapidly invade new environments.

It has invaded coastal areas of Tasman, particularly the Moturoa/Rabbit Island sand dunes, where it thrives right down to the high tide mark. It is highly adaptable, growing in various soil types and tolerating salt exposure.

In December 2024, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research supplied us with 150 gall-forming wasps, which were released at Moturoa/Rabbit Island to help control the spread of Sydney golden wattle. Over time, these wasps are expected to spread to other infested areas, hopefully providing a long-term, sustainable control solution.

South Africa has also struggled with Sydney golden wattle invasions, and has implemented a successful biocontrol programme. Their initiative, launched in the early 1980s, introduced two natural enemies from Australia: a seed-feeding weevil and a gall-forming wasp (*Trichilogaster acaciaelongifoliae*). These biocontrol agents have significantly reduced seed production by more than 90 percent.

Extensive research before the wasp’s release in New Zealand confirmed its high host specificity, meaning it poses no risk to native plants. Additionally, the wasps are harmless to humans. These tiny wasps (3 – 4 mm in size) lay their eggs inside the plant’s flower and vegetative buds, causing large growths (galls) to form instead of flowers and new shoots. This process suppresses seed production which reduces spread.

# Poisoned trees – we’re sick of these!

Our friends in Nelson have recently dealt with a situation of two heritage trees being poisoned, leaving them in a dying state.

We also deal with these problems in our District – and we think it’s worth urging some compassion towards these trees, many of which hold special meaning or significance to the community.

Currently, we have a protected Silver Birch that has “mysteriously” been drilled and poisoned in Wakefield.

The landowner now must have the tree removed due to failing health at their expense. These owners recently purchased the house with the expectation of having a beautiful tree in their front yard, only to move in and watch the tree – for whatever reason – slowly die.

Another notable example was the poisoning of pines in Kingsland Forest last year, costing us a substantial amount to fell and make safe as they were located above a popular track.

Throughout the Tasman District, we have 589 protected trees. Most have a few rings around their timber, and we do our best to keep an eye on them and take action if they are showing their age.

However, our job is made all the more difficult when people take it upon themselves to remedy a perceived issue with a tree – be it protected, pest, or simply too pretty.

There are significant costs to removing protected trees, having our consultant inspect the tree, applying for a resource consent to remove the tree, the arborist to fell and process the tree, as well as traffic management where required.

These costs, depending on the class of protected tree, are either paid by us, shared between us and the landowner, or solely that of the landowner.

# Dumping fish waste a dumb idea

Some people may think they’re doing the eels and local aquatic wildlife a favour by providing a free feed, but they are potentially causing ecological damage.

In the most recent case, fish frames and filleting waste have been dumped into Reservoir Creek on Hill Street in Richmond, but we’ve had reports of other fish waste dumping over the past few months.

Our Senior Resource Scientist for Freshwater and Estuarine Ecology Trevor James says when fish frames are dumped in large numbers it negatively affects the ecology of some waterways.

He says in small streams with relatively low water flows there is little dilution which is likely to affect dissolved oxygen in the creek and potentially spread disease to any other fish living in it.

Trevor says another problem is habituating any wildlife like eels, to be fed by humans because they become increasingly dependent on people, and therefore much less resilient.

But he says another growing problem is the dumping of lawn clippings and garden waste into residential neighbourhood waterways.

Trevor says a lawnmower catcher full of grass dumped into a waterway is as bad as 5 – 10 fish frames. Again, the problem is the dumped organic material starves the water of oxygen as it decomposes.

# Waste minimisation grants up for grabs

We offer grants to support creative projects that help reduce waste in Tasman.

These grants are designed for larger-scale projects, typically ranging from $5,000 to $10,000. Bigger grants are available for projects that show significant benefits. Our goal is to support the Tasman community in looking after our natural resources and tackling the growing waste problem.

To get funding, your project should focus on one or more of these waste minimisation approaches:

* Rethink how we use resources to avoid creating waste in the first place.
* Reduce the amount of waste generated.
* Reuse materials whenever possible.
* Recycle or recover materials to keep them out of landfills.

Priority goes to projects that:

* Make a real, measurable impact in reducing waste.
* Focus on waste reduction or reuse over recycling (reducing is always better).
* Introduce a brand-new waste minimisation activity or significantly expand an existing one – especially if it wouldn’t happen without funding.
* Are led by people with the skills and resources to follow through.
* Have clear goals and a solid plan to achieve them.

Want to learn more about eligibility and how to apply? Visit tasman.govt.nz/waste-minimisation-projects-grant. Funding closes 31 March 2025.

# Bikes back on buses

Our eBus has been the first in New Zealand to receive an exemption to the obstruction rule, which means a 24/7 bike rack service has returned in Nelson Tasman.

Bike racks were removed from buses across New Zealand on Friday 8 November as a precautionary measure implemented following concerns that the racks may partially obstruct bus headlights.

A working group comprising Councils, public transport operators, and NZTA Waka Kotahi staff, was set up to reach an agreed pathway to return the use of bike racks to buses. In mid-January 2025 this working group released a set of agreed conditions and steps. Our eBus fleet meets the new conditions.

A diagram was issued to public transport operators with a reference line. If the centre of the headlight is below the reference line, then the illumination is effective.

eBus mechanics drew the reference line across the headlights on our buses, which revealed that we would not be required to change our racks or buses.

# Disappointment at desert island damage

There’s a little island off Māpua toward Moturoa/Rabbit Island in the Waimea Estuary where adventurers young and old have enjoyed exploring since early last century.

That island is Bullivant Island, thought to be named after William Bullivant who was the Waimea County Council Engineer from the late 1920s until 1940s.

But recently we’ve had reports of vandalism with trees cut down, fires being lit and rubbish strewn around.

This is extremely disappointing for the local community group, Bullivant Island Restoration Project, or BIRP as it’s known. BIRP has been working hard with our Reserves team to replant the area and trap pests to restore the island to its natural state.

The group has cut down the smaller wilding pines and wattle, and stopped old man’s beard, gorse, ivy, and blackberry in its tracks. A planting plan has been instigated that has seen hundreds of trees and shrubs including Tōtara, Kānuka, Mānuka and Akeake planted.

There’s a total fire ban on the island, and visitors are asked to take rubbish with them when they leave and report any vandalism as soon as possible, so others may enjoy adventures on Bullivant Island for years to come.

# Golden Bay Community Board

In February, the Community Board had its first meeting for 2025. It was a full meeting with staff presentations on flood modelling for Tākaka, Alcohol in Public Places Bylaw Review, a request from Forest and Bird for discretionary funding for education signage, and Special Projects funding discussions.

Staff have been working hard on the flood modelling for Tākaka – this modelling allows planning for the future and keeping our current communities as safe as possible. The last modelling was done in 2010, but with the vast advances in technology, the latest modelling is very accurate and robust. The team behind the modelling are hoping to have it publicly accessible by the end of March.

The Board had a presentation about the Control of Alcohol in Public Places. Early engagement closes on Monday 10 March, with consultation open between 6 June and 7 July. The Bylaw sets out rules around the consumption of alcohol in community spaces, parks, reserves, and streets, and as always, it’s important to have your say about what happens in your community.

The Board discussed the Special Projects funding and asked the Council to release the funds so that the projects could be started. The projects are Rockville Pool, contributing towards Pākawau playground equipment, hanging basket tunnel house, upgrading the fence at the Dangerous Kitchen, and replacing the old seating and planter boxes at ITM. We look forward to seeing these projects completed.

# What’s On In Tasman

### Digi drop-in sessions

Second Tuesday of the month, 11.00 am – 1.00 pm, Tapawera Community Library.

#### Local rest homes – for residents only:

* Friday 28 March and Friday 11 April, 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm, Summerset Richmond Ranges.
* Friday 4 April, 10.30 am – 11.30 am, Metlifecare Oakwoods.
* Tuesday 15 April, 10.30 am – 11.30 am, Stillwater Lifecare and Village.

Are you having a digital dilemma? Did you know that our library staff have regular pop-ups in the community to offer digital support? Please see our website for more information: tasmanlibraries.govt.nz/digi-drop-in.

### Wellby Talking Cafés

* Tuesday 11 March, 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm, Richmond Library.
* Wednesday 19 March, 10.00 am – 11.30 am, Motueka Library.

Come along for a relaxed cuppa to start your journey connecting with others who enjoy the same things. You can pop in for a quick chat or stay for a longer conversation with friendly people.

# Newsline Notices

### Approved temporary road closures

Applicant: Tasman School Board of Trustees
Event: Muddy Buddy – fundraising event
Location: Aporo Road between Dicker Road and Baldwin Road, Tasman.
Date and time: Sunday 23 March 2025, 10.00 am – 3.00 pm

Applicant: Motueka RSA
Event: ANZAC Day Parade
Location: Pā Street, Motueka – from Bennett Street to Countdown carpark.
Date and time: Friday 25 April 2025, 6.00 am – 7.30 am

Applicant: Motueka RSA
Event: ANZAC Day Parade
Location: School Road, Riwaka – from the intersection SH6 to 12 School Road.
Date and time: Friday 25 April 2025, 8.45 am – 9.30 am

Applicant: Moutere Hills RSA
Event: ANZAC Day Parade
Location: Ranui Road, Māpua – from Higgs Road to the tennis courts.
Date and time: Friday 25 April 2025, 10.30 am – 11.30 am

Applicant: Richmond/Waimea RSA
Event: ANZAC Day Parade
Location: Queen Street – from Sundial Square to McIndoe Place. Cambridge Street – from Oxford Street to Queen Street. Oxford Street – from Wensley Road to Gladstone Road (SH6). As Queen Street will be closed the bus will have a temporary bus stop set up on Talbot Street outside PAK’nSAVE.
Date and time: Friday 25 April 2025, 10.00 am – 12.30 pm

Applicant: Richmond/Waimea RSA
Event: ANZAC Day Parade
Location: Whitby Way, Wakefield – from Edward Street/Arrow Street intersection to Whitby Road (SH6) and Wakefield car park entrance.
Date and time: Friday 25 April 2025, 9.00 am – 12.00 pm

### Find what you’re looking for with FOUND

Have you heard of the FOUND Directory? It has listings of community groups and organisations, so if you’re looking for culture, art, sport, recreation, education or welfare, you’ll find it on FOUND. You can also find facilities like halls, reserves and meeting places to book for your next event or function. Check it out at found.org.nz.

### Alcohol applications

Visit tasman.govt.nz/alcohol-notices to see the latest alcohol licence applications.

### Maritime events

Event activity: Aorere Splash (Motueka Waka Ama Club)
Date: 15 March 2025
Location: Abel Tasman National Park – start/finish in Kaiteriteri

Event activity: Rotoiti Power Boat Club 2025 Regatta
Date: 8 and 9 March 2025
Location: Lake Rotoiti (Kerr Bay)

Under the provisions of the Navigation Safety Bylaw 2024, the Harbourmaster has granted authorisations for these events. Due to navigation safety requirements, water users not involved in these events may be excluded from defined areas during these activities. Further details and any new events can be viewed at tasman.govt.nz/maritime-events.

# Council hui

Meetings will take place in person and via Zoom. For details, the Zoom link and recordings of previous meetings visit tasman.govt.nz/meetings-calendar. Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will be held at Council Chambers, 189 Queen Street, Richmond.

Joint Nelson Tasman Regional Transport Committee
Monday 10 March, 1.00 pm.

Environment and Regulatory Committee
Tuesday 11 March, 9.30 am.

Nelson-Tasman Regional Landfill Business Unit
Wednesday 12 March, 9.30 am, Nelson City Council, 110 Trafalgar Street.

Joint Committee of Nelson City and Tasman District Councils
Thursday 13 March, 9.30 am, Nelson City Council, 110 Trafalgar Street.

Motueka Community Board
Tuesday 18 March, 4.00 pm, Motueka Library, Wallace Street.

Golden Bay Rec Park Management Committee
Wednesday 19 March, 9.30am, Rec Park Centre, 2032 Tākaka Valley Highway.

Tasman District Council (Annual Plan Consultation Adoption)
Thursday 20 March, 9.30 am.

Audit and Risk Committee
Thursday 20 March, 1.00 pm. No public forum.

Animal Control Subcommittee
Thursday 20 March, 1.30 pm. No public forum.