



NEWSLINE

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tasman district council Te Kaunihera o te tai o Aorere

KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT NEWS AND EVENTS IN TASMAN DISTRICT



© Diane Chandler

Brand new boardwalk benefits all

A new shared path and boardwalk has been completed at one of our holiday hot spots, Kaiteriteri.

Thanks to a successful bid for funding from Central Government, we've built a shared path and boardwalk along Martin Farm Road from the intersection of Riwaka Kaiteriteri Road.

This new pathway and boardwalk provides improved access to this area which is extremely popular with riders heading to the Kaiteriteri Mountain Bike Park.

It gets very busy, especially during the summer months, particularly with boat owners who park their trailers at the mountain bike car park. The new boardwalk now allows much safer access away from traffic along the roadside.

The design also allows people to enjoy the estuary and its wildlife with minimal environmental impact.

This project is another huge win in terms of balancing people with the

environment, as it becomes another potential destination for eco-tourism in our region.

The local community also benefits in terms of safety as this boardwalk and footpath means walkers and riders can avoid the narrow, winding road.

Regular riders and walkers say the new safer access between the Kaiteriteri main beach and the Bethany Park area is a fantastic asset.



Before

MONEY MATTERS



New Capital Values expected in April

If you've been wondering what the latest revaluation on your home is going to be and if there will be any impact on your rates, the suspense will be building for a little longer than anticipated.

We use three-yearly rating valuations by Quotable Value New Zealand (QV) as the basis for rating properties.

In essence, it is an estimate of the property's market value as determined by the Valuer, QV, on our behalf.

These revaluations redistribute the proportion of the Council's rates that individual ratepayers must pay.

Understandably, any update or new revaluation is something that property owners await with much interest.

Before we can officially implement these new values, general revaluations must be audited by the Office of the Valuer-General (OVG).

Our data has not yet been audited by the OVG – however this is expected to happen in March.

As a result, there will be a delay in the time in which homeowners receive their notifications of new values – we expect these to be posted by the end of March and should start arriving in your letter box around mid-April.

We apologise for the slight extension to this timeframe.

All properties in a local council area are assessed at the same date. This means that the rating valuation is reached using the same process and reflects the same market trends as every other property in your area.

More information on the revaluation process can be found at tasman.govt.nz/rating-valuations.



FUTURE FOCUS



What does the future of parks and reserves in Richmond and Lakes/Murchison look like?

Tasman is lucky to have so many open spaces available for everyone to use – for recreation, a bit of relaxation, or spending some time outdoors with friends and whānau.

We're proud of the places we oversee across the District, and we want you to enjoy each visit to our parks and reserves.

The Reserve Management Plans (RMP) for Richmond and Lakes/Murchison Wards are due for a refresh, and we need your help to bring them up to date.

The first RMP for Richmond Ward was adopted in 1999, and the Lakes/Murchison Ward RMP was adopted in 2005, so it's time we reviewed these to make them fit for purpose.

This is your chance to let us know how you would like to see parks and reserves in both Wards managed in the future.

Let us know which reserves you use regularly, what you value most about them, and any changes you would like to see to the way they are used or managed.

Visit shape.tasman.govt.nz/rmp-reviews to find out more and have your say by Thursday 28 March.



U is for unity

Join us as we mark Unity Week in Tasman.

Unity Week remembers those lost in the tragic 15 March Christchurch Mosque attacks. We invite you to connect over a cup of tea or some shared food to acknowledge Unity Week 2024.

On Thursday 14 March from 10.30 am at Richmond Library and then on Wednesday 20 March between 4.00 pm – 5.00 pm at Motueka Library you can be part of our UniTea.

Over a cuppa you're invited to contribute a proverb or word message to our community garland which will be displayed in the library.

In Golden Bay, Unity Week is being marked on Friday 15 March by a potluck meal at the Tākaka Community Garden.



Call in and celebrate unity in diversity and collectively build community resilience.

Come along to the Tui Room at the Pūtangitangi Greenmeadows Centre in Stoke on Thursday 21 March at 6.00 pm for a special screening of *Together We Grow* in celebration of Unity Week. Doors open at 5.00 pm.

Bring your friends, whānau, neighbours and loved ones to discover the incredible community-led work happening across Tasman and Nelson.

Fired up about helping the community

Chances are that if there's been a major fire in the region in the past 50 years, one of our Outstanding Community Award winners will have been there to help fight the flames.

As we continue our series of meeting our community's unsung heroes, we meet Ron Heal.

Ron's connection with the Motueka Volunteer Fire Brigade, as it was known then, began in 1970 and since then he's been on the crew tackling fires across the region.

The bigger jobs include the fire at Māpua Chemical Works in the 70s, the Majestic Theatre in 1996, and the massive fire 20 years ago in buildings on High Street opposite the fire station where the flames were so big, they struggled to get the fire appliance out.

Ron has also spent five years on the committee of St John when the new station was built in Courtney Street and the new shuttle van was bought with fundraised money.

Sarah Amyes nominated Ron for his award and reckons his ability to show

leadership and professionalism is why he is such a deserving person for it.

She says he's a very humble guy who will always go the extra mile for anyone in need.

"Living in a small rural town like Motueka you will find it pretty hard to go past someone who doesn't know or hasn't heard of Ron, and they will speak so very highly of the type of man he is."

Sarah says Ron Heal is a truly valued member of our community.





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Dogs go to the buses

eBus will soon begin a trial of allowing dogs on the bus!

The Regional Transport Committee has accepted a proposal for a 12-week trial of dogs on our eBus network. The trial will begin on 1 April 2024 and take place during off-peak times.

We have looked at other Councils around the country that have recently completed similar trials and will be providing details of how it will work soon.

There will be rules, like dogs need to be muzzled or in approved carry bags or cages but we know people will have questions.

So, if you have questions, head to shape.tasman.govt.nz/pets-as-passengers to get them answered.



Richmond School rapt with safety improvements

Another road safety improvement project in central Richmond has wound up, and users love the improvements.

We've done the work to increase the safety of students travelling to and from Richmond School, and to link in with the wider programme upgrading Richmond's active travel network.

The upgrades have resulted in two new raised crossings that will slow traffic around the school while increasing the visibility of the children who use the crossings.

Footpaths have also been widened and a small number of car parks that obstructed views have been removed.

School principal Tim Brenton has welcomed the changes and is rapt with the job that's been done and says



it's so much safer for the children from the school.

Last year, we began a trial closure of Church Street during school hours using temporary bollards wheeled out daily.

The closure to through traffic during school hours ensures children can get safe access to playing fields on the opposite side of the road.

We are now investigating the options for a permanent installation but want your thoughts first.

You can fill out our quick two-question questionnaire online at shape.tasman.govt.nz/richmond-school.

William Street work fits the bill

Richmond's first Transport Choices government-funded project has wrapped up.

We worked with WSP NZ and Isaac Construction to deliver the project in the William Street neighbourhood.

Its focus was making the neighbourhood safer for children moving through the area accessing one of the many local schools and kindergartens.

It has achieved this by installing wider shared paths, asphalt raised crossings, and through the modification of intersections in the area.

Daily, there are up to 3,000 school-aged children using the area, and one of the main focuses of the project was to reduce the speed of vehicles travelling along these roads. This has been achieved with the installation of asphalt raised tables.

During the construction phase, Isaac Construction created seven asphalt raised table crossing points, 250 metres of new kerb and channel, more than 2000 square metres of new pathways/driveways, four raised concrete pedestrian refuges, and finally a dozen new pedestrian crossing lights.

Feedback from users so far has been positive with many parents welcoming the new safer environment for their youngsters travelling to and from school.



Riders brush up on cycle skills

The first couple of months of the year can be a busy time around schools with students eager to reconnect with friends and get back into the classroom.

They travel by car, bus, on foot, and with the continued development of our network of interconnected cycleways, particularly around Richmond, more are choosing to ride bikes to school.

Recently our Road Safety Coordinator Jeni Thornborough got together with Sport Tasman and Waimea College to provide a cycle skills refresher course for around two dozen international students.

Jeni says anyone choosing to ride a bike in this busy environment needs to be alert and good at reacting.

She says the first part of the cycle skills course focused on the basics like balancing, hand signals, and wearing helmets correctly, which was done in small groups in the safety of the college's back field.

Jeni says once the instructors were satisfied with their progress, the youngsters were taken out onto the surrounding streets to get practical experience and build confidence.



SUSTAINABLE STORIES

Yellow bristle grass – a threat to dairy farms



With warm and windy weather a constant during summer, it's a hard enough task to maintain perfect pastures without the threat of other pests causing unwanted damage.

Yellow bristle grass is listed as a Sustained Control Pest Plant in our Tasman Nelson Regional Pest Management Plan and is found mostly in Golden Bay and the upper Buller catchment.

Originating in sub-tropical China and spread throughout Asia and Europe assisted by humans, it also occurs as a weed in North America, Africa, Australia, and throughout New Zealand.

It is an extremely aggressive annual grass which spreads rapidly through pasture. It reduces pasture quality in late summer and autumn and cows may avoid it when in seed, leading to low pasture utilisation.

Yellow bristle grass has been spread throughout our region by road edge mowing machinery and contaminated hay and baleage harvested from local paddocks that are infested with it.

It begins growing in spring and seeding occurs from December to April. Once seed is set, it will persist in open ground and will sprout annually.

The best approach to combat the spread is to be wary of bought-in hay that may contain yellow bristle grass seeds. Ensure you check for seedlings developing at your hay barn entrance. Be careful with cultivation, resowing and pasture management.

We recommend spraying with a germination-inhibiting spray, such as TAG G2. Check out the 'controlling ground cover brochure' at tasman.govt.nz/pests-and-weeds for more information.

PARKS AND PLACES



New play equipment for the youngsters

Central Park's playground in the Meadows development in Richmond has grown.

In response to the growing number of children using the facility, the owners of the adjacent commercial buildings, the Vercoe family, have paid for an additional set of swings and a slide.



The new play equipment and soft rubber matting were installed by our reserves and facilities team and are designed specifically for under five-year-olds.

Tapping into our reserves and facilities

If you've spent a bit of time in the Tasman District – there's every chance your experience has been enhanced by the great work of our Reserves and Facilities team.

Taking a walk, celebrating an event – even finding a clean toilet when nature calls – this team is your contact for anything to do with the District's reserves, parks, public halls, cemeteries and sports facilities.

They also administer the management of Council-owned housing for older adults and are the second largest social housing provider in Tasman District.

Added to that is the management of several recreation centres and the Richmond Aquatic Centre.

Recent jobs they've been involved with have included planting a tree to honour the Coronation of King Charles III, contributing to Brightwater's new basketball court at the Wanderers Sports Club, and creating new and improved playgrounds at Pöhara, Wakefield and Berryfields.

They also support many projects carried out with the input of volunteers or

community groups and have carried out ecological restoration plantings in Kingsland Forest Park, around the Waimea Estuary, and on Rough and Moturoa/Rabbit Islands.

There's also some stuff that you might not associate with them – like fire risk management alongside stakeholders to maintain the safety of land and life during the warmer months.

As one team member puts it "We do all the cool stuff."

Knowing the scope of their work and places that these valued Council staff call their office, you'd have to say that the Reserves and Facilities team are truly outstanding in their field.



Check before you dig or build



Throwing up a new fence, putting down a driveway or path, or doing a bit of retaining work may sound like a straightforward DIY job over a few weekends, but there can be serious implications.

Throughout Tasman District, there are things called council easements, but other utility providers like power and telecommunications companies may also hold them.

An easement is a legal right of way or similar right over another owner's ground or property.

They provide the right for us to have services such as water mains, sewers, manholes, pumping mains, pumping

stations, stormwater pipes, and their associated equipment, on privately owned property.

The area covered by an easement can't be built on or obstructed.

The best thing to do before you launch into that home improvement project is to check with us about your site and the location of any buried services. Service locates are provided free of charge for private requests.

We can help with infrastructure maps, survey plans, easements on property certificates of title, on-site manholes or markers, or you can get a Project Information Memorandum.

Give us a call on 03 543 8400 to talk to our team about this.

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LAWYERS



Councillor Mike Kininmonth, Moutere-Waimea Ward



Did you know... the Tasman economy grew on average by 4.4% per year for the last 10 years. The New Zealand economy for the same period grew on average 3% per year.

Tasman has a population of 59,400, surpassing Nelson. The mean age of residents in Tasman is 48.3 years, whilst the New Zealand mean age is 38 years.

To handle all these people's expectations, Tasman District Council employs approximately 400 staff and is the second biggest employer in the District.

On average each week, these staff handle around 14,500 emails, 1,100 phone calls, plus numerous more visits to the four Service Centres.

Tasman District Council looks after over 1,900 km of roads. That's roughly the equivalent of a return trip from Richmond to Invercargill.

So that you can receive clean potable water, staff manage around 800km of reticulated water pipes. And when you have finished with it, treat your wastewater through 80 pump stations and seven treatment plants.

We have six main river catchments in our area, covering 285km of river. Plenty of space for fishing and enjoyment.

If this is not enough, Tasman District Council operates four libraries and supports another four libraries. They have 148,800 items catalogued.

I haven't even touched on our parks and reserves, building compliance, let alone the effort put into looking after our streams, drains, bridges, community events etc.

From all this, 82% of respondents to an annual survey were happy with the response to their requests.

This tells me that Tasman District Council staff do a great job, and rightfully deserve all the praise they can get. So next time you use a Council service, please remember all the effort that goes into making Tasman a great place to live.



Golden Bay Community Board

The Golden Bay Community Board met in February and had a busy agenda, with three presentations and two public forum submissions. As always, the meeting began with public forum.

The first speakers were from Friends of East Mohua who were asking for the Board's support to develop wetlands along Abel Tasman Drive. Secondly, Golden Bay Forest and Bird want to further develop and advertise the shared pathways to encourage dog walkers to use these paths, rather than our beaches, so that the shore birds can remain undisturbed by dogs. These items will be discussed at the Board's March meeting.

The first presentation was about the restoration of the Te Kakau Stream, the development of community involvement, and the growth of the project.

Port Taranaki was next with an update on the Structure Plan. The Council has

recently been seeking community feedback on the Port Taranaki Issues and Options Report. While feedback has now closed, you can read more about this work at shape.tasman.govt.nz/port-taranaki-structure-plan.

The final presentation was from the Council Reserves Team, updating the Board on past projects which included the repair of the Pōhara Tennis Pavillion, and a major upcoming project – the expansion of the Collingwood Cemetery.

It was a very positive meeting, and the Board appreciated hearing about all the initiatives and projects happening in the Bay.

WHAT'S ON IN TASMAN



Tasman Skatepark Series

- **Saturday 9 March, Richmond Skatepark.**
- **Saturday 23 March, Nelson Skatepark.**



It's time to show the world the best of what you've got in our annual Tasman Skatepark Series. This is a great chance to show off skateboard, BMX and scooting skills and compete against other contestants from around the District.

Events kick-off at 12.00 pm with registration open from 11.00 am. Helmets are compulsory. The categories are skateboard, BMX bikes/bikes and scooters, with various age groups: Girls (open), Junior (12 years and under), Intermediate (13 – 17 years) and Open (18 years and older).

Wellby Talking Cafés

- **Tuesday 12 March, 10.00 am – 11.30 am, Purpose HQ Café, Tapawera.**
- **Tuesday 12 March, 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm, Richmond Library.**
- **Wednesday 20 March, 10.00 am – 11.30 am, Motueka Library.**

Wellby Talking Cafés welcome everyone 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. There is no need to register, just turn up on the day.

Family History Friday

Friday 22 March, 10.30 am – 12.00 pm, Richmond Library.

Just starting your family tree or having trouble finding your ancestors? Want to know more about how to use Ancestry (free to use at our libraries), or what other family and local history resources are available? Drop into the Richmond Library Research Room to explore our local and family history resources. Specialist library staff will be on hand to help if needed.

Additional Family History Fridays will be held on: 19 April, 31 May, 21 June, 26 July, 30 August, 27 September, 25 October and 29 November.

Collections

Come and see some of the treasured collections Richmond Library staff are sharing in the glass cabinets during March. We would love for our community to share their collections too! We have made space in the cabinets during May for this to happen. If you have a collection you would like to share with our community, please pop into the Richmond Library or phone us on 03 543 8500 to register your interest.

NEWSLINE NOTICES



Apply for waste minimisation project funding

Our Waste Minimisation Projects Grants may be available to support your innovative waste reduction project.

They are designed to support larger-scale projects, with earlier grants averaging close to \$10,000 and ranging between \$5,000 to \$30,000, depending on the scale of the project.

The money will generally be given as a one-off grant to help groups or organisations deliver an enduring and self-sustaining waste minimisation initiative. Funds can be used for things like project set-up and/or running costs, capital costs like the purchase of tools or equipment, running costs, including wages, and monitoring and evaluation of the volume of waste diverted from landfill.

You can see full details of how to apply for this grant and check out other smaller-scale waste minimisation grants for schools, community projects and events on our website, tasman.govt.nz/waste-minimisation-grants.

Grant applications close Sunday 31 March.

Maritime events

Under the provisions of the Navigation Safety Bylaw 2015, the Harbourmaster has granted authorisations for these events.

Event activity: Rotoiti Power Boat Club, Annual Regatta
Date: Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 March 2024
Location: Kerr Bay, Lake Rotoiti

Event activity: Te Hau Kōmaru Waka Festival
Date: 6 – 15 April 2024
Location: Kaiteriteri

Further details and any new events can be viewed at tasman.govt.nz/maritime-events.

Approved temporary road closure

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 17 March 2024, 10.00 am – 3.00 pm.

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.

Golden Bay Community Board
Monday 11 March, 1.00 pm.
Collingwood Fire Station, Elizabeth Street.

Joint Committee of Nelson City and Tasman District Councils
Tuesday 12 March, 9.30 am.
Nelson City Council, 110 Trafalgar Street.

Nelson Tasman CDEM Coordinating Executive Group
Wednesday 13 March, 2.00 pm.
Emergency Operations Centre, 28 Oxford Street, Richmond.

Environment and Regulatory Committee
Thursday 14 March, 9.30 am.

Nelson-Tasman Regional Landfill Business Unit
Friday 15 March, 9.30 am.
Nelson City Council, 110 Trafalgar Street.

Motueka Community Board
Tuesday 19 March, 4.00 pm.
Motueka Library, Wallace Street.

Joint Nelson Tasman Regional Transport Committee – RLTP and RPTP Hearing
Wednesday 20 March, 9.30 am.

Audit and Risk Committee
Thursday 21 March, 9.30 am.
No public forum.