



## Waimea Community Dam proves its worth

The Waimea Community Dam is now complete and pending its official commissioning.

In early April, Waimea Water Limited successfully completed managed water releases as part of a testing programme of the two permanent large dispersing cone valves, designed to release water from the reservoir Te Kurawai o Pūhanga in dry periods.

Each of the two large cone valves has the capacity to release a flow of 10 cubic metres a second, which is about the same as a typical winter flow.

Water has already been flowing from the dam through the smaller dispersing valve since Saturday 2 March 2024, supplementing the flow over the spillway. This combined flow averted the severe water restrictions many in the District were placed under during this time.

“We’ve been through a very dry summer here in Tasman and it had got to the point where we had significant water restrictions in place. Thanks to the Waimea Community Dam, we managed to start releasing water just in time to lift most of those restrictions and prevent any more significant ones”, said Tasman Mayor Tim King.

With the dam effectively operational, there are still a number of steps before the official commissioning process is complete. This includes the full testing and certifying of the mechanical and electrical components to ensure the dam is handed over from the contractors as a full and complete project.

This is expected to take a number of months; in the meantime, the residents of Richmond, Māpua, Ruby Bay, Brightwater, Hope and Wakefield can be assured that significant water restrictions are a thing of the past.

## SUSTAINABLE STORIES



### Chasing the dragon in Richmond

Recently, our biosecurity team were called to capture a rascally reptile spotted by a member of the public around Jimmy Lee Creek in Richmond. An eastern water dragon was found lounging amongst the greenery.

On the second attempt, the team were able to secure the critter, which seemed pretty relaxed throughout the encounter.

All reasonable attempts are now being made to either find the owner or rehome the dragon.

This specimen is a female, around 60cm in length.

A semi-aquatic lizard native to eastern Australia, these reptiles can be traded legally and kept as pets in New Zealand, however they are recognised as potential pests if they establish in the wild. It is illegal to release them into the wild in Auckland and Northland.

However, it is never a good idea to release exotic pets into the wild in New Zealand – it’s a lose-lose situation for both the pet and the environment.

Many released pets are not adapted to the wild and suffer as a result. Those that thrive can detrimentally impact our environment by preying on native wildlife, spreading disease and destroying habitats.

Owners can help by keeping their pets secure at home. If you can no longer look after your exotic pets, please find someone else who can, rather than releasing them.

Our biosecurity team is always ready to respond but we appreciate the public’s help to be our eyes and ears on the ground.

**If you see an eastern water dragon in Tasman, please call 03 543 8400 or email [biosecurity@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:biosecurity@tasman.govt.nz). Details such as where, when, and pictures are very helpful.**



### A plug for our Black Valley Wetland works

Ecological and cultural benefits for Tasman’s wetland areas have been realised with our Mangatāwhai / Black Valley Wetland project, just north of St Arnaud.

Earthworks to “re-wet the wetland” took place over two weeks in March, involving the plugging and filling of areas where land had previously been drained to create productive land.

This work continued the efforts started by the Department of Conservation around 15 years ago.

“Wetlands are critical as being sponges or kidneys to not only clean the water but also hold onto it – that’s why this project is important,” Wetland Project Manager Blair Reid said.

Further enhancement was carried out through weed control, fish recovery, and sediment erosion control, with 3,284 plants planned over the next two years.

Where the drains were difficult to access by the digger, a helicopter provided a practical alternative for depositing the soil.

Our partnership with local iwi enabled some innovative approaches to the project – most notably through the use of harakeke geotextile baskets for plugging old drains.

These baskets reinforce the earth plug to ensure that it resists erosion – enabling plants to establish themselves and stabilise the plug.

“Using these baskets not only supports mātauranga but also reduces the number of helicopter trips required in future,” Blair says.

The Mangatāwhai / Black Valley project was made possible by the Ministry for the Environment’s Freshwater Improvement Fund (FIF) with in-kind contributions from the Council.

The wider FIF programme has enjoyed some pleasing successes in reaching the halfway point of this five-year programme.

So far, 21,000 hours have gone into protecting and enhancing wetlands, as well as 28,170 plants, 210ha of weed control and 82ha of pest animal control.



## Blueprints for a thriving, resilient Tasman

2024 in the environmental planning space is set to be a transformational year with the green light for four plan changes.

### Richmond on the Rise

We have adopted the Richmond on the Rise Spatial Plan, and that, with the Future Development Strategy is being implemented through a new TRMP plan change. This will mean more rezoned land for housing and business, and make it easier to build up in some of our towns. Find out more at [shape.tasman.govt.nz/richmond-on-the-rise](http://shape.tasman.govt.nz/richmond-on-the-rise).

### Water Conservation Order

Making a difference for land and freshwater are future changes to the TRMP to implement the Te Waikoropupū Water Conservation Order in Tākaka. See updates on this work at [tasman.govt.nz/takaka-WCO](http://tasman.govt.nz/takaka-WCO).

### Natural hazards

Work starts to inform a future Natural Hazards plan change covering coastal hazards and sea level rise, flooding, wildfires, earthquake faults, liquefaction, and slope instability, to ensure that our communities are resilient to natural hazards and adapt to the effects of climate change. See what we are doing with this work at [shape.tasman.govt.nz/natural-hazards](http://shape.tasman.govt.nz/natural-hazards).

### Landscapes and coastal environment

The Tasman District boasts a remarkably diverse landscape, shaped by unique geological features and natural areas. Recognising and protecting these special areas will not only preserve Tasman's distinct character, but also bring benefits to the community and future generations.

Building on previous community consultation and the input from working groups, we are now drafting Plan Change 82 – Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes, and Plan Change 83 – Coastal Environment and Coastal Natural Character, for submissions later this year.

For more information on this work, visit [shape.tasman.govt.nz/landscapes-and-coastal-projects](http://shape.tasman.govt.nz/landscapes-and-coastal-projects).

### Let's get digital

In October, the Tasman Resource Management Plan big blue books go digital with its words and maps available online anytime.



## Your Sentinel for safety on Tasman waters

The role of the Tasman Harbourmaster office is a broad one – not surprising given their area of responsibility takes in Tasman Bay, Golden Bay, the Kahurangi coast, and the region's lakes and rivers.

As well as patrolling Tasman's waters to ensure maritime rules and safety bylaws are being adhered to, they also deal with all maritime issues from removing hazards/wrecks, dangerous boating, mooring/anchoring and responding to marine oil spills.

They also maintain over 230 seasonal buoys, all other navigational safety aids and boating safety signage.

The familiar bright orange of the Harbourmaster vessel "Sentinel" can frequently be seen on the waters of Tasman Bay and at maritime events where their focus is on the safety of participants and other water users.

The Tasman Harbourmaster Office is made up of a small team based in Motueka. They include our new Tasman Harbourmaster Peter Renshaw, deputy Paul Appleby and administrative support Kelly Nicholls.

Pete has extensive experience in the waters around the Top of the South

amongst his 18 years as a commercial skipper and maritime educator.

Paul is also a commercial skipper with a background in ocean yacht racing. He has served as our deputy for the last four years.

The Harbourmaster team is always eager to connect and exchange greetings. We look forward to seeing you out on the water.

**You can contact the Harbourmaster team on 03 543 8400 or via our website [tasman.govt.nz/contact-the-harbourmaster](http://tasman.govt.nz/contact-the-harbourmaster).**



Tasman Harbourmaster Peter Renshaw

## FUTURE FOCUS



### Doggy dos and don'ts being considered

We are taking a long hard look at all the feedback we gathered during the early engagement phase of our Dog Control Bylaw Review.

During the first phase, we heard from over 800 people. This feedback is now being collated and analysed.

There were a lot of comments about where canine companions should and shouldn't be exercised with calls for bans in some areas and the establishment of dog parks in others.



A lot of discussion also focused on the responsibilities of pet owners, with calls for increased penalties for those not cleaning up after their animals and those who don't have their dogs under control.

We are now putting together a draft Dog Control Bylaw, balancing those things people want with those the community needs and this will be released for formal consultation in a couple of months.

**To see a summary of all the themes we captured during the early engagement phase head to [shape.tasman.govt.nz/dog-bylaw-review](http://shape.tasman.govt.nz/dog-bylaw-review).**

## TRANSPORT TALES



### Riders enjoy safety

Improvements to the cycle facilities at Lower Moutere are being welcomed by users.

We've set up a new separated cycle path opposite the On the Spot store at Main Road Lower Moutere. The work has a twofold purpose. It's designed for cyclists' safety and at the same time to ensure car parking is retained.

People who regularly ride through the area reckon it's a great improvement, especially for students choosing to ride to Lower Moutere School.



They've told us that it's now a much safer path. The shop is a very popular food stop often for people in a hurry and the 'No Parking on Cycleway' signs were regularly ignored.

Riders say whilst it's been quite a long time coming, to now ride on the finished path and to see the parking spaces for southbound traffic is an absolute win-win situation.

### Have a say on Salisbury Road project

Now is the time to share your thoughts on the Salisbury Road Streets for People work!

Our post-construction feedback survey is now live on Shape Tasman.

Our new extended Salisbury Road Streets for People layout has been in place for a few weeks now and people have had a chance to get used to it, so it's time for you to let us know what you think.

The survey will be open until Sunday 19 May so we can gather the views of as many people as possible. We want to know what aspects people love and what they dislike, and why.

Once that feedback has been gathered and collated, we will use it to guide us on whether there will need to be any changes or improvements in the future.

**Fill in the survey at our Richmond Service Centre, or share your views at [shape.tasman.govt.nz/salisbury](http://shape.tasman.govt.nz/salisbury).**



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## Youth Week brings young people together



'We may not have it all together, but together we have it all' is this year's Youth Week theme.

Tasman Youth Week is launching with Skate Jam at Motueka Skatepark on Saturday 18 May. The event run by Skate Nelson Bays will have lots of spot prizes, music and sausage sizzle – it's sponsored by Community Action Youth and Drugs.

There'll also be escape rooms run in our libraries, Nerf Wars in Murchison, and the Golden Bay Youth Council is holding a Reach for Wellness community event.

In Motueka, the Youth Council has the Neon Quiz Night to fundraise for their

big community event in spring while in Tapawera there will be YouThrive – A Wellness Puzzle.

Multicultural Youth Nelson Tasman is organising a movie night in the Richmond Library, with fun activities before the film and snacks during the show, while Waimea Youth Council is organising a Dungeons & Dragons session.

There will also be tips and tricks for bike care and maintenance at Tākaka Library.

You can find full details at [tasmanyouthhub.co.nz/events](http://tasmanyouthhub.co.nz/events).



## Grants help groups get things done

Community Grants are helping groups all over Tasman, and applications for this year's funding round are now open.

One successful applicant from last year was the Moutere Hills Community Centre which was fortunate to gain two grants.

From the Arts, Culture, Heritage and Museums category, \$782 was provided for the printing of a surveyor's map historical panel which proudly hangs in the Centre's foyer. They were also granted \$2,900 from the Youth and Children's category to help install a permanent community barbecue.

So, if your organisation has an exciting community project in the pipeline, a Community Grant could help make it happen. The criteria are broad and cover a range of categories including but not limited to service groups, festivals,

and sports clubs through to welfare groups, arts, culture, heritage, and environmental organisations.

We'll be looking at projects that are either Tasman-based or will help Tasman residents, meet a community need and have community support. Priority is given to projects that align with our community outcomes and can show financial support from other sources.

Groups can apply for funding to cover costs such as administration costs (limited), one-off projects, project development costs and service delivery costs.

The deadline for applications is 31 July. Find more details and apply on our website, [tasman.govt.nz/grants](http://tasman.govt.nz/grants).

## Shiny new play things for Brightwater



Exciting, shiny and new equipment has been installed at Coach Place Reserve in Brightwater.

It's part of a rolling programme of enhancing play facilities to accommodate the recent growth in the Brightwater community and was funded by Reserves Financial Contributions and not from rates.

Reserves Financial Contributions are charges paid by development, like

subdivisions and/or building, to cover costs associated with that development.

These charges help pay for roads, solid waste, sewerage, water supply, stormwater infrastructure, and in this case, reserves and community facilities.

In this upgrade, we installed a Kompan Rigel which is a large steel climbing and spinning frame, and a Wehopper mini for the younger playmates.

## Riders converge on Murchison's Four Rivers Flow Zone



Community spirit has helped build it and give it a name – at last, Murchison's new pump track is officially open for everyone to put wheel to asphalt.

The excitement was palpable among those who gathered to celebrate the big occasion late last month.

Word of the new addition had obviously spread far and wide – people from Christchurch, Rai Valley and Motueka were among the crowd of riders and supporters keen to try out the pump track.

Headed by the team from Empire of Dirt, construction on the pump track began earlier this year and has attracted plenty of interest, toil and support from the community, contractors and volunteers alike.

With everything now in place, the honour of cutting the ribbon fell to

Lakes-Murchison Ward Councillor and Tasman Deputy Mayor Stuart Bryant.

While a keen advocate for the project himself, Stuart ensured that due credit was given in his speech to those who had contributed time and expertise in bringing the plan to fruition.

In a nod to the Matakaitaki, Buller, Mangles and Matiri waterways that run through or near the Murchison township, the Four Rivers Flow Zone has been chosen from a plethora of suggestions as the name for the track, located beside the Murchison Sport, Recreation and Cultural Centre.

Thanks to everyone who joined us for this special day and a massive thanks to everyone who helped get this across the line – whether it was pushing a barrow or dropping off some kai.

## Tell us what you think of us!

An annual survey of Tasman residents' satisfaction with their Council begins on Wednesday 1 May.

The survey provides data on people's level of satisfaction with our services, and which of our decisions they approve or disapprove of.

We would urge anyone who is contacted to take part to use the opportunity to give feedback – the results help shape

the future of the services and facilities we provide to the community.

The interviews this year will be conducted by telephone – both landlines and cellphones.

We have commissioned Research First to carry out this survey on our behalf. They will contact residents from 1 May to 31 May.

Although the results of the survey are made public, individual survey respondents' details are confidential.

## Alcohol advertising at Saxton

We are seeking feedback on a proposed amendment to the Saxton Field Reserve Management Plan which will permit temporary alcohol advertising at international cricket matches held at Saxton Oval.

Under current rules, "advertising of alcohol shall not be permitted on Saxton Field, apart from price and product schedules at point of sale."

The proposed amendment allows for an exception to be made for international cricket matches with contractual sponsorship commitments.

This temporary advertising of alcohol will be permitted for the duration of the event, with the approval of the Saxton Field Committee Chair and the Chief Executives of both Councils.

The rule change will not apply to other sports or events held at venues within the Saxton Field complex.

At its April meeting, the Saxton Field Committee agreed to the proposed


amendment. It will now go out for feedback before the committee makes a final recommendation on 25 June. Final changes will be presented for adoption to the Joint Committee of Tasman District and Nelson City Councils on 9 July.

We want your feedback on this rule change to help us make a decision that reflects the views of the community.

You can provide your feedback between Monday 6 May and Friday 24 May at [shape.nelson.govt.nz](http://shape.nelson.govt.nz), search 'Saxton'.

We acknowledge that reducing exposure to alcohol advertising has long been noted as a key opportunity for reducing harm.


Through collaborative work with stakeholders and the community, our future aspiration is to develop a new policy related to the advertising of alcohol, and the proposed amendments to the Reserve Management Plan include an expectation that advertising of alcohol would be phased out by the time of the next review of this plan.



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## Councillor Jo Ellis, Richmond Ward

Two towns in our District have long-running, over 30 years in fact, sister city relationships with towns in Japan. Motueka with Kiyosato and Richmond with Fujimi Machi.

Sister cities were set up to foster the growth of a mutual understanding and long-term friendship between countries and regions, as well as the communities within them.

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to be involved in a visit by Mayor Natori of Fujimi Machi, representatives of the local council, the Superintendent of Education Mr Yajima, teachers and some students that were hosted by local families from Waimea College.

While we can connect in a heartbeat through modern technology, there is no substitute for the connections we make

in person. Not only did we share and build connections in trade, education and culture between our two towns, but we also had the opportunity to experience and build connections within our own communities through the lens of a different culture.

Fujimi Machi places great value on their relationship with Richmond and they embraced every experience enthusiastically. They were deeply moved by their welcome at Te Āwhina Marae, the re-signing of our sister city agreement, and the dedication of a seat under the cherry tree in Washbourn Gardens.

Thanks to all staff and members of the community who were so welcoming and generous. And a very special thank you to those volunteers within sister cities committees who have nurtured these relationships for the last thirty years.

Arigatō, mata aimashō.



## Golden Bay Community Board

April's Board meeting was a full one, with public forum presenters and a presentation regarding the Water Conservation Order. The public forum included a request from Chris Bennet, Golden Bay Cycle and Walkways Society, asking that the Board ask the Council to ensure that a safe shared path is installed between Pōhara and Tarakohe. Cynthia McConville on behalf of Golden Bay Forest and Bird requested a letter of support for additional signage at Rototai Beach.

Lisa Lewis spoke to the Board regarding the Water Conservation Order (WCO), requesting regular updates from the Council, action groups to work with landowners, and allocating funding to

the groups. Lisa's requests were addressed by the Soils and Land Use Team in their presentation about the WCO. The presentation was very useful, and the team have created a web page for the WCO. Along with all the technical information, this page also has the measures that the Council and landowners are taking to ensure the quality of Te Waikoropupū Springs remains at a high standard.

One important item the Board discussed was the frequency of meetings. The Board decided to change the meetings to a six-weekly meeting cycle which brings us in line with Council and Committee meetings. Our next meeting will be on Monday 20 May at 1.00 pm in Tākaka.

## WHAT'S ON IN TASMAN



### Second Hand Sunday

**Sunday 19 May, 9.00 am – 2.00 pm.**

Second Hand Sunday is a fun way for Nelson and Tasman residents to declutter and re-home unwanted household goods for free. If you have items you want to give away, simply register online before 10.00 am Friday 17 May to be included on the list of participating addresses. Print off a poster to put on your mailbox and put your items on your driveway at 9.00 am on the day. A list and map of participating addresses will be available to download from 12.00 pm Friday 17 May. Check out the map to plan your fossicking route and pick up some free second-hand items! For more information and to sign up, go to [tasman.govt.nz/shs](http://tasman.govt.nz/shs).

### Composting workshops

- **Wednesday 8 May, 4.00 pm – 5.00 pm, Richmond Library.**
- **Thursday 9 May, 4.00 pm – 5.00 pm, Motueka Library.**
- **Saturday 11 May, 1.00 pm – 5.00 pm, Tākaka Cohousing.**

Composting at home is an easy and environmentally friendly way to manage food scraps and garden waste while also saving money on waste disposal fees. Whether you're just getting started, or need a little help troubleshooting, there's something for you in these workshops. Plus, there are giveaways and prizes to be won.

No registration required for the Richmond and Motueka workshops, just show up. For the Golden Bay theory and practical workshop with local specialist Sol Margan, please register by emailing [gbsustain@gmail.com](mailto:gbsustain@gmail.com).

### Music Mix

**Saturday 11 May, 11.00 am, Māpua Hall.**

Music Mix is about opening young minds to the variety of musical styles and instruments that exist in the world. This is not just a concert, but an opportunity to connect with the performer, ask questions, and dive deeper into their music.

Brett Hallam Holland, a Tasman-based musician and music teacher, will be visiting schools in Māpua, Upper Moutere, and Tasman, and then play a show at Māpua Hall open to all. Brett is not just a performer; he's a storyteller whose songs have appeared on five albums.

There will also be another Music Mix event on 22 June in Brightwater/Wakefield with Vamos! a dynamic percussion and dance performance. We'll have more details closer to the time.

### Burn better workshops

- **Monday 13 May, 11.00 am – 12.00 pm, Motueka Library.**
- **Monday 20 May, 11.00 am – 12.00 pm, Richmond Library.**
- **Sunday 26 May, 8.00 am – 1.00 pm, Motueka Sunday Market.**

If you'd like to learn how to get the most out of your wood burner, come to one of our drop-in sessions with local home heating expert, Dave Pullen of the NZ Home Heating Association.

If you're part of a community group that would appreciate a session with Dave, contact [airaware@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:airaware@tasman.govt.nz) and we'll see what we can do.



## NEWSLINE NOTICES



### Library services

Due to an upgrade of library RFID technology and changes to our library computer system, there will be interruptions to our library services.

**Week 1:** Richmond Library closed 3.00 pm Monday 6 May – 12.00 pm Wednesday 8 May. Tākaka Library closed on Thursday morning 9 May until 12.00 pm. Our online resources will remain available during this time.

**Week 2:** Richmond, Motueka and Tākaka libraries closed on Wednesday 15 May. No access to the library app, library catalogue or e-Resources from 8.00 pm Wednesday 15 May until Friday 17 May. Libraries open on Thursday 16 May, but items can only be issued at the service desk. We suggest you visit us before Wednesday 15 May. We will not be able to place holds for you. Items will not be due between 14 and 21 May. Please do not return items on 15 and 16 May. On Friday 17 May, our services and opening hours will return to normal.

Visit [tasmanlibraries.govt.nz](http://tasmanlibraries.govt.nz) for more information.

### Keep Richmond Beautiful AGM

The Keep Richmond Beautiful AGM will be held at 3.00 pm on Wednesday 8 May in the Heaphy Room at Tasman District Council. All welcome. There will be afternoon tea and a talk by Brian Alder, project leader of Pest Free Onetahua.

### 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](http://tasman.govt.nz/meetings-calendar). Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will be held at Council Chambers, 189 Queen Street, Richmond.

**Tasman District Council (Long Term Plan Submission Hearing)**  
Wednesday 8 May, 8.30 am.

**Operations Committee**  
Thursday 16 May, 9.30 am.

**Saxton Field Committee**  
Friday 17 May, 9.30 am. Boardroom, Sports House, 142 Saxton Road East, Stoke.

**Nelson-Tasman Regional Landfill Business Unit**  
Friday 17 May, 9.30 am. Nelson City Council, 110 Trafalgar Street.

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