

NEWSLINE

PĀNUI

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From left to right: Marion Satherley, Tasman Mayor Tim King, Graeme and Eileen Thawley and Peter Carmody
Inset: Roger Tait receiving his award at a separate ceremony in Golden Bay. Photo © Golden Bay Weekly

Outstanding community contributions recognised

Several special people in our community have been officially recognised for their outstanding contributions to the people and places where they live.

The 2021 Outstanding Community Service Awards have been presented to five deserving recipients by Mayor Tim King.

The awards recognise those who have been involved in a range of voluntary activities that have benefited their community for 20 years or more.

Roger Tait is involved in many facets of the Tākaka community and has been part of the Golden Bay

Recreation Park for more than fifty years following in his father's footsteps as voluntary caretaker of the park.

With strong roots in the Māpua and Moutere Hills communities, Eileen and Graeme Thawley are deeply involved in the history of the area, they run the Moutere Hills cemetery and support the Māpua Voluntary Fire Brigade. This is actually the Thawley's second community award which means they've generously served the area for more than 40 years.

Marion Satherley's certificate recognises her part in eight Māpua community groups and organisations spanning 35-years, ranging from the local Playcentre,

Community Hall, and Business Association through to Ruby Coast Initiative Trust.

Since 1988 when he first arrived in town, Peter Carmody has been a stalwart of the Brightwater community. In the early days he ran the 'Sunday Clinic' helping men improve their reading and writing skills so they could get ahead in life. Since then, among other things, he's been heavily involved in administering and coaching sport and has initiated numerous fundraising initiatives for various causes.

If you know a worthy recipient of a future Tasman Outstanding Community Service Award, visit our website for more information.

MEET YOUR REPRESENTATIVES



Councillor Kit Maling – Richmond Ward

It's now December and I am sure people are looking forward to the summer break and a chance to spend time with family and friends, of course following protocols to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Over the past few months, the Council has been busy with a multitude of projects, and I would like to mention three key projects that will have an effect on Richmond and the District.

The Richmond Transport Business Case has been completed and needs to be approved by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency. This looks to improve traffic congestion in and around Richmond.

The draft Walking and Cycling Strategy has just gone out for public consultation. This is aimed at improving walking and cycling connections across the District. I see a lot more people cycling these days, and for every person that chooses to cycle instead of drive, it means one less car on the road. Please have your say on this important project.

Last but not least, the Council has just started consultation on future opportunities for Richmond South to provide for future growth in the area. This starts with creating a structure plan and you will hear more about this in the coming months.

I would like to wish all our residents a safe, happy and Covid-free Christmas.

Councillor Kit Maling
Richmond Ward



Early engagement planned on future accommodation options

The Council will consider its options for future accommodation in Richmond in the next Long Term Plan 2024–2034, with early community engagement next year as a first step.

Our premises on Queen Street were assessed as earthquake-prone in 2020, with a statutory deadline of 2033 to remediate the building.

A structurally safe building is a bottom line – for the safety of Council staff and visitors, and to ensure we can continue to deliver essential services to our communities following a severe earthquake.

In addition to the earthquake-prone status, the current office, which consists of four buildings of different ages, styles and configurations is at

capacity, lacking in basic facilities, and doesn't lend itself well to modern workplace conditions.

Chief Executive Janine Dowding says the earthquake strengthening work and a refit of the existing building would incur significant cost without addressing the other issues.

"It would be difficult to justify any investment for little to no return.

While the property would meet the building standards, we would still have a building with many constraints. We need to ensure a safe environment that complies with the Building Code and provides a fit-for-purpose workspace."

With many government reforms in train there is a lot of uncertainty ahead. There are opportunities

to co-locate with other agencies, share costs, and scale the Council's presence up or down in response to change.

In the meantime, we're taking a number of measures to optimise the current space until a long-term solution can be found, including remote working and more open plan where practical.

At a meeting on Thursday 25 November, the Council agreed that a long-term solution for future accommodation would be considered as part of its next ten-year plan (2024–2034).

That planning cycle is awhile away, so we'll seek early community input on the possible options next year.

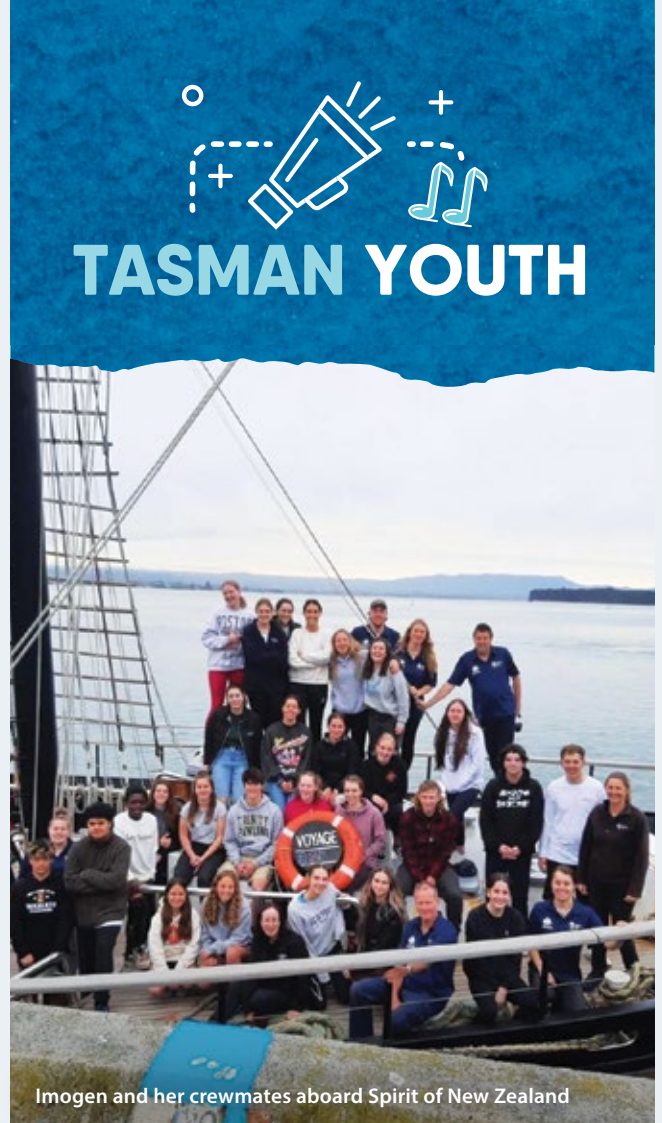
Youth encouraged to apply for grants

Motueka teenager Imogen Coleman-Mason has recently experienced an adventure that she hopes will bring her benefits that will last a lifetime thanks to assistance from a Tasman District Council Youth Leadership Grant.

The Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu student spent 10 days aboard the sail training vessel Spirit of New Zealand in Bay of Plenty in October and says it was an amazing experience. Imogen says it was a trip filled with new opportunities, and among the many highlights was a chance to swim with a pod of dolphins.

Youth Leadership Grants are for young people aged between 15 and 20, who live in Tasman District and want to pursue leadership opportunities. The scholarships are for up to \$500 each for students to participate in youth leadership opportunities, such as The Spirit of New Zealand, Outward Bound, Whenua Iti Outdoors, as well as other experiences, conferences and workshops.

Applications are open year-round and full details can be found on our website, tasman.govt.nz/grants.



Don't get the runaround when exercising your dog

One of the key responsibilities of dog ownership is ensuring your pet receives adequate exercise regularly.

In most cases, the opportunity to walk around the block or run around the park means you will also benefit from a bit of endorphin release while Rover goes a-wandering.

However, don't let that detract from your obligations.

The Dog Control Act 1996 requires you to ensure that your dog is kept under control at all times, and you take all reasonable steps to ensure your dog does not injure, endanger, intimidate, or otherwise cause distress to any person, domestic animal, or protected wildlife.

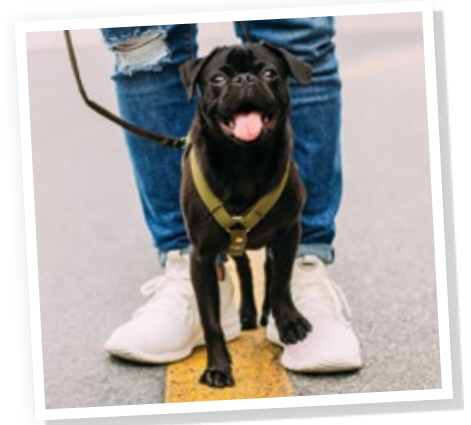
Fact: Not all people like dogs and not all dogs like other dogs.

When in popular and populated areas or known wildlife habitats use your judgement and keep your dog on a leash if:

- Your dog does not respond immediately to your commands.
- Your dog is a known predator of birds, lizards etc.
- Your dog likes to interact with humans.
- Other dogs in your vicinity are on a leash.
- There is wildlife present.
- There is likely to be toxic material in the area – such as toxic algae in riverbeds during summer months.

It's also likely that dog waste will be a consideration during exercise time – remember to bag and bin it.

Check out our website, tasman.govt.nz, for information on where you can and cannot exercise your dog in Tasman.





SUSTAINABLE TASMAN

Binned batteries burn!

Fires caused by electronic waste are a growing problem. So, to try and lessen the risk we've introduced new safe drop-off points for undamaged used batteries from electronic devices at all our Service Centres and Resource Recovery Centres across the District.

Lithium-ion (LI) batteries, like those found in personal electronic devices such as smartphones, contain hazardous materials and are a leading cause of fires in rubbish and recycling trucks and landfills.

In the past 12 months more than 20 fires caused by batteries have been recorded at the York Valley landfill, at least one battery-related fire was reported at the Materials Recovery Facility in Richmond and a battery is thought to have caused a fire in July at the Tākaka Recovery Centre.

Batteries should never be placed in recycling bins, and there's growing evidence that they should also be kept out of rubbish bins. Batteries may be damaged by being dropped into bins, or by the crushing action of the refuse hoppers, and this damage increases the fire risk.



Lithium-ion batteries come in a range of sizes from single-use button or coin batteries through to secondary rechargeable cells for a range of devices, including mobile phones, smartwatches and e-cigarettes. These batteries are also used extensively for higher-powered portable applications like power tools, remote-controlled vehicles, e-bikes and scooters, and even children's toys.

Our new free drop-off system will receive all unwanted undamaged batteries that have been removed from devices and safely dispose of them.

Mayor signs Climate Forum Charter

Tasman Mayor Tim King joined his Nelson counterpart Rachel Reese and signed the Nelson Tasman Climate Forum's Charter at a ceremony on 27 November.

The Charter sets out a shared understanding of how the Nelson and Tasman councils will work together with forum members to achieve goals and commitments for addressing climate change.

Signing the Charter as a Climate Ally on behalf of Tasman District Council serves as a reaffirmation of the Council's desire to work with community partners to tackle climate change.

It also demonstrates that we are an active participant and committed to working with the Forum as an advocate for positive climate action.



Restoring and protecting flora in Tasman

Landowners recently received news that the government is providing support to control invasive weeds like Old Man's Beard, Barberry and Banana Passionfruit Vine on native habitats within the Tasman region.

The important weed control work is being delivered by The Nature Conservancy, a global conservation organisation, on our behalf as part of the Department of Conservation's \$6 million restoring and protecting flora project, covering all of the Top of the South including Buller District.

Project DeVine Environmental Trust has been contracted to deliver weed control within the Tasman District.

We are currently prioritising sites and work is expected to get underway in 2022. We have contracted Lew Metcalf as our landowner liaison.

He says retaining the significance of Tasman's natural biodiversity is an on-going challenge and landowners need all the tools and on-the-ground support they can get to keep on top of these invasive weeds / pests.

"Old Man's Beard, Banana Passionfruit Vine and the many other weeds are invading our native habitats and within a short time they are destroying the indigenous trees and shrubs.

"Spending time and money to restore and protect these sites is

vitaly important for the region's long-term biodiversity and we envisage farmers and landowners will be keen to receive this long-awaited assistance.

"This is going to be a big 'leg-up' morale booster for everyone."



Old Man's Beard smothering a native cabbage tree

The next phase of wilding conifer control is underway

Contractors returned to work in late October after a winter hiatus and expectations are high in making an impact on the biodiversity of some of our special natural areas.

In late 2020, we teamed up with independent forestry management providers PF Olsen, to start wilding conifer control in the Mount Richmond Forest Park Management Unit, which covers around 283,000 hectares across Te Tau Ihu on private, public and conservation land.

Despite the challenging terrain, the results since the start of the project have been encouraging and noticeable.

The crew have treated over 11,000 hectares of land affected by wilding conifer infestations, totalling around \$1.45 million spent on control operations in 2020/2021.

Around 321 hectares have been treated with ground-based herbicide injection (drill and fill methods) and around 10,924 hectares with the aerial basal bark application method.

The four-year project is funded by the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme, through Biosecurity New Zealand, as well as further funding through the Department of Conservation under the Jobs for Nature Programme.

The project not only aims to remove wilding conifers from Mount Richmond Forest Park but also carry out further work to ensure they don't return.

Project Manager George Daly said that the reality is the project is going to be a long term one in order to effectively control the large-scale infestation.

However, the collaboration undertaken between parties so far had proved beneficial in reducing the spread of wilding conifers, as well as providing local employment in the Covid-affected job market.



Liquefaction information now available

We've commissioned work to assess the likelihood of seismic liquefaction in Tasman District. Liquefaction is the process which causes soil to behave more like a liquid than a solid during an earthquake.

Our new liquefaction map illustrates areas in our District according to the following liquefaction vulnerability categories:

- Liquefaction damage is possible
- Liquefaction damage is unlikely
- Very low liquefaction vulnerability.

The mapping was undertaken at a regional level ('Level A' criteria) following the Ministry for Business,

Innovation and Employment's 2017 guidance for liquefaction-prone land. It's based on published geological information as well as LiDAR ground elevation data and groundwater level data but does not include site specific subsurface investigations.

The areas mapped as 'liquefaction is possible' do not necessarily mean liquefaction will occur across all these areas. In fact, the gravelly nature of Tasman's alluvial plains are such, that incidences of liquefaction will be much more limited, but there could be "pockets" of buried fine grained sands and silts (such as an old, infilled river channel). The uncertainty of where such areas are located results in these areas being mapped as liquefaction is possible.

Estuary and coastal margins are expected to be vulnerable to liquefaction.

As a council, we are improving our knowledge about our local natural hazards and sharing that information with affected landowners and communities. While we can't control the forces of nature, we can reduce their impact by building our capacity to withstand and recover. This new liquefaction information will be used in several ways, including informing resource and building consent processes, asset management, and civil defence and emergency management.

For more information and to view the liquefaction map visit tasman.govt.nz/liquefaction.

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NEWSLINE UPDATES



KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT NEWS AND EVENTS IN THE TASMAN DISTRICT • 10 DECEMBER 2021

Covid restrictions in Tasman

Find out more about Council services and facilities under the new Covid-19 Protection Framework (traffic light system) on our website, tasman.govt.nz.

Masks are not recyclable

Millions of disposable masks are being used in Aotearoa at the moment – but where will they end up? Please remember to put them in the rubbish as they can't be recycled! It's also good to get in the habit of cutting the loops off before putting them in the rubbish, this helps to keep our wildlife safe.

Grass browning is a sign of summer

The Tasman Alliance has been fielding a growing number of calls from people concerned about what seems to be chemical over-spraying on roadsides around the District. While we do operate a spraying schedule to keep vegetation under control around the likes of roadside structures like signs, we don't treat road edges like this at all. In this case chemicals aren't to blame, it's just something that happens at this time of year. As we move into summer and daytime temperatures increase, grass against the road and footpaths tends to burn off due to heat in the road and footpaths dehydrating it. On sealed roads, we can typically expect up to 300mm of grass burn off from the seal edge while on unsealed roads up to 600mm of grass can brown off from the road edge. It gives the same appearance as chemical spraying, however grass along road edges is not chemically treated like this.



COUNCIL HUI



Under Covid-19 restrictions, meetings will take place in person and via Zoom video conferencing. Public forum presenters are required to present via Zoom. Visit tasman.govt.nz/meetings-calendar for the Zoom link.

Golden Bay Community Board

Tuesday 14 December, 9.30 am.

Full Council

Thursday 16 December, 9.30 am.

Commercial Committee

Friday 17 December, 1.30 pm. No public forum.

Motueka Community Board

Tuesday 21 December, 4.00 pm.

High demand and staff shortage prompts consents delay

Due to a combination of high demand for services and staff shortages, our consents team have had to set some realistic timeframes in order to assist planning by our customers. Along with other teams across the country, our consenting services have been affected by a shortage of experienced planners. Over 1,000 consent applications have been lodged since the start of 2021, which has presented significant challenges to our expected timeframes.

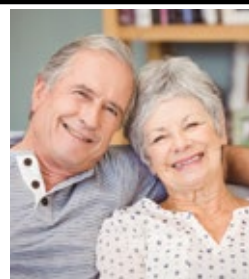
The weeks leading up to the Christmas holiday period historically see an increase in applications and duty planner requests being made to the Council as many of our customers seek information and consents before they head into the Christmas break. We are already entering the busy pre-Christmas holiday time of year with an existing backlog of applications and duty planner queries. With the current staffing constraints, we will not be able to meet all the demand prior to the Christmas break.

For anyone who lodged a consent application or requested duty planning advice after 22 November 2021, it has been logged and assigned to a planner and will be responded to in the order they were received. However, it is unlikely that these will be processed until at least 17 January 2022. Our pre-application service will also not be available over this period.

The situation is below the level of service we want to deliver and we know our community deserves. It is important to provide clarity and as much transparency as possible about our current timeframes so people can plan for and understand the potential delays. We are working hard to manage the matters within our control to reduce the impacts to our customers and we ask for your patience at this time.

Thinking ahead for peace of mind

There is no age limit. No matter what your age, the best time to plan is now. Pre-planning and pre-payment leaves nothing to chance and gives you and your family one less thing to worry about. We are here to help answer your questions



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WHAT'S ON IN TASMAN



Teddy Bears' Picnic

Sunday 19 December, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm,
Motueka Recreation Centre.

Come celebrate the day and enjoy activities for the entire family – face painting, sports games, Flossie Balloons and a visit from Santa. For more information contact the Motueka Recreation Centre on 03 528 8228.

Hivemind teen writing challenge

A mini writing competition for teens with book prizes? Yes please! Teens simply choose a writing challenge and get scribbling. Challenges include a two-sentence horror story, a story featuring Justin Bieber and bees, and more! Open to teens age 12+ from Friday 10 December – Sunday 30 January. Enter online at tasmanlibraries.govt.nz, or at your local library.

Book buzz bingo

Collect a 'book buzz bingo' card from your library or download one from our website between 18 December and 29 January. Can't collect a card? Email us at childrensteam@tasman.govt.nz and we will drop one in the post for you. Complete a line on your bingo card and collect a prize. All completed bingo cards will go in a lucky draw for a family board game. Free fun for everyone!

Richmond Writing Group's Annual 2021

Looking for small, meaningful Christmas gifts? The Richmond Writing Group has published its first ever Annual – a collection of the group's writing over the past 12 months. Collect your copy from Richmond Library for a koha that we'll donate to charity.

Last chance to provide feedback on the future of Moutere-Waimea parks and reserves

We administer 140 parks and reserves in the Moutere-Waimea Ward, ranging from small neighbourhood parks to sportsgrounds and large, multi-use spaces for playing, picnicking, camping and other leisure activities.

The draft Moutere-Waimea Ward Reserve Management Plan sets out the vision, objectives, policies, implementation and priorities for parks and reserves located within the Ward for the next ten years. It also asks questions about various aspects of our parks and reserves that you can help answer.

Chair of the Hearing Panel, Councillor Christeen Mackenzie is looking forward to getting feedback from our community about what people think of the parks and reserves in the Ward. She says for some reserves, like the concept plan for the recently enlarged Wakefield Recreation Reserve, this is the first opportunity to have a say on the draft plan and how this area can enhance community wellbeing in the future. Christeen is encouraging people not to miss this important chance to shape the future of recreation facilities.

View the draft Moutere-Waimea Ward Reserve Management Plan online at tasman.govt.nz/feedback and have your say before Friday 17 December.

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