



## Pōwhiri acknowledges first term of Te Taihu iwi cadetships

Local Government-iwi relationships in the Top of the South have taken an important step forward recently with the official launch of a cadetship programme to be run across Nelson City, Tasman and Marlborough District Councils and supported by the eight Te Taihu iwi.

Funded by tranche one of Central Government's Better Off Funding, three cadetships have been established under the Te Aka Pūkenga programme – a new initiative collectively formed by ngā iwi o Te Taihu and the three local councils.

The aim is to help increase iwi capacity by giving cadets exposure and experience working within councils and iwi organisations across the rohe.

Kelly Hayes (Tasman) and Rangī Anderson (Nelson) are the first successful candidates to take on this challenge. On Monday 18 March, the two wāhine started their term with a pōwhiri at Whakatū Marae, Nelson.

Marlborough District Council has also appointed their cadet and they will start their role in April.

Huia Rentoul (Te Arawa) was also welcomed at the pōwhiri in her role of Kaituitui Ahurea. She will liaise with Tasman and Nelson Councils for management of events leading up to Te Matatini in 2027.

Having previously worked part-time at Tasman District Council, Kelly (Ngāti Kuia, Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō) said she was excited to return and strengthen the connections she had already made.

Tasman District Council Kaihautū Renee Thomas said "Kelly will bring another layer of experience and knowledge to Council, and I hope that she gets to spend time with many across the community while on this 12-month programme."

Inset: Pictured is Rangī Anderson (Nelson City Council), Kelly Hayes (Tasman District Council) and Huia Rentoul (Kaituitui Ahurea).

## FUTURE FOCUS



### Bylaws make-over progressing

The process of shaping up a couple of bylaws before we ask for further input from you is underway.

Two areas of focus are the replacement and update of our old Public Places Bylaw and a proposal to create a new Cat Management Bylaw.

Our early engagement sure got a lot of interest, particularly the discussion around cats.

Close to 1,600 people answered our question about the main requirements for cats with 89.04 percent in support of compulsory desexing while 86.07 percent backed the idea of mandatory microchipping and 67.74 percent were in favour of registering on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register. Only 6.18 percent weren't in favour of any of these options.

This feedback will be considered alongside advice from subject matter experts and key stakeholders such as the SPCA.

In the Public Places feedback, there was wide support for continuing to

regulate footpath signs, streamline the process for buskers, require permission for collection of donations and retain commercial free zones in parks and reserves.

**You can read a full summary of feedback for both bylaws at [shape.tasman.govt.nz](https://shape.tasman.govt.nz). We expect to formally consult on the draft bylaws later in the year and we encourage everyone to make a submission at that time to let us know whether we have struck the right balance.**



## PARKS AND PLACES



### Murchison pump track set for April opening

Progress on the Murchison Pump track has been as smooth as the crafted asphalt curves themselves and at this stage we are anticipating an official opening date of Saturday 20 April.

The pump track itself was completed in mid-February, which paved the way for landscaping, establishment of the viewing platform, fencing and the installation of shade sails and picnic tables to get underway.

This is all tracking along nicely – helped in part by the ongoing sunny weather across the District and the myriad of contractors, volunteers and community members who've pitched in to date.

We just want to remind people that while we're going full tilt on the final touches, there are still contractors onsite as well as hazards like unmarked holes in the ground or rocks on surfaces that we need to keep you safe from.

We know everyone is keen to have a turn on this epic facility, but we would ask that for your own safety, please respect the signs to stay out of the area as this is still a construction site for the time being.

Along with the team at the Murchison Sport, Recreation & Cultural Centre, we'll let everyone know further details on how we'll celebrate this much-anticipated addition to the town.

**Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more information about the official opening event.**





# COOL COMMUNITIES



## Parks are places to play these holidays

There is no excuse for that age-old cry from the kids, "We're bored" these holidays.

We've joined up with the team from CLM Fitness who run the Richmond Aquatic Centre to organise four fun-filled afternoons of activities especially for our young people.

We'll also have the 'Way to Go' activities trailer with us which is chock full of equipment that will provide hours of fun.

The list includes a wide range of sports equipment like balls and bats, hula hoops, large building blocks, a giant connect four game, oversized Jenga, and even sacks for those good old-fashioned sack races.

Join the team at the following parks for a lineup of engaging games and thrilling challenges awaiting at each stop!



Stick these dates and places in the calendar.

- Tuesday 16 April, 12.00 pm – 2.00 pm, Treasure Hunt at Lord Rutherford Park, Brightwater.
- Sunday 21 April, 12.00 pm – 2.00 pm, Art in the Park at Washbourn Gardens, Richmond.
- Tuesday 23 April, 12.00 pm – 2.00 pm, Treasure Hunt at Ben Cooper Park, Richmond.
- Sunday 28 April, 12.00 pm – 2.00 pm, Amazing Race at Faulkner Bush Scenic Reserve, Wakefield.



## Nice one, Nigel

In the latest profile of Outstanding Community Service Award winners, we meet Nigel Jones.

Since setting foot in our community back in 1999, Nigel Jones has been weaving a tapestry of goodwill and dedication that's left an indelible mark on Tasman. His journey reads like a playbook of community involvement.

Nigel's love affair with rugby refereeing dates back to the '70s in the UK, a passion he's continued to nurture here in Tasman. His commitment to the sport led him to become the Referee Education Officer with the Tasman Rugby Union, a role he took on full-time after bidding farewell to teaching in 2008.

In 2015, Nigel's retirement didn't signal a slowdown; instead, he embraced new avenues of community service.

As Treasurer of the Hills Community Church in Māpua, his financial acumen has been a cornerstone of their operations.

But his impact doesn't stop there – he's also been a driving force at the Richmond Information Centre and an active member of the Richmond Lions.

In 2016, Nigel brought his warmth and wisdom to the Citizens Advice Bureau where he started as an interviewer. Today, as the Learning and Development Facilitator, he's instrumental in shaping the skills and knowledge of volunteers, ensuring they can provide the best support to our community.

Nigel's commitment to service extends far beyond the confines of his official roles.

In him, we find the embodiment of an outstanding volunteer – a beacon of generosity, always ready to give his time and energy to a myriad of causes.



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## A full itinerary for our Fujimi Machi friends

Like two old pals catching up, the value of a 30-year bond was made clear during last month's visit by a group from Richmond's Japanese Friendship Town, Fujimi Machi.

Students and chaperones from Fujimi Machi Junior High School were accompanied by a delegation from the town's Council, including Mayor Shegaru Narito, to enjoy the sights and hospitality of the wider Tasman District.

The students' visit continued a long-standing exchange relationship with Waimea College and saw them hosted by Richmond families.

During their visit, our Japanese guests also enjoyed a dinner function, a farm visit and a ferry trip between Moturoa / Rabbit Island and Māpua.

A pōwhiri (formal welcome) was held at Te Āwhina Marae in Motueka, which included a reaffirming of the Friendly Town arrangement between Richmond and Fujimi Machi that was first signed in 1994.

Thursday 21 March saw the formal dedication of a bench seat at Washbourn Gardens, next to a cherry blossom tree planted on a previous Fujimi Machi Mayoral visit.

Richmond Ward Councillor and Friendly Towns liaison Jo Ellis said as the way we meet has changed in the last 30 years, the need to maintain these kinds of relationships was more important than ever.

"While we can communicate through a screen – what we cannot do is stand next to each other, breathe in the same air and share our experiences or kai together."

In response, Mayor Narito said he hoped the ongoing relationship between Richmond and his town – located in Nagano Prefecture – would continue to blossom as the tree had done so for many years.



## Skatepark Series gets better every year

The annual Tasman Skatepark Series has wound up for another year and has been rated the best yet.

The event, held over four sessions at four local skateparks, was the ideal opportunity for youngsters to get away from in front of a screen and show off skateboarding, BMX and scootering skills.

.... And there was no shortage of skills on display with competitors displaying never give up attitudes as they tried time and again to nail that perfect trick.

The beauty of the Skatepark Series is that it is accessible to everyone. Kids don't need expensive equipment, they just need to rock up to one of the skateparks and start developing their skills.

These sports help improve balance and coordination, enhance muscle strength and endurance, and increase flexibility.

The social aspect of the sport is important too because while at the skatepark, kids connect with each other and build their community.

This year, participants were drawn from across Tasman and Nelson with one father and daughter pairing coming from Christchurch.

We are the main sponsors of the Tasman Skatepark Series working in association with Skate Nelson Bays, a subsidiary group of the Nelson Host Lions with volunteers from the local skateboarding community handling judging, emceeing, set up and health and safety.



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## We can't abide a red eared slider

This critter may look cute – but it's not! Red eared slider turtles are available through the pet trade and are commonly kept as pets (even Natureland has some).

Concerningly, there has been an increasing number of turtles spotted in the wild in Tasman lately. Most of these turtles stem from pet owners who have dumped their unwanted pets in a waterway without considering the ecological consequences – red eared slider turtles are considered to be one of the most invasive pest species in the world!

Red eared slider turtles have a distinctive red stripe behind each eye, with mature adults weighing around 1kg. These turtles are very well adapted to surviving here in Tasman. Their shell provides excellent protection from predators, and they can withstand a wide range of aquatic habitats and conditions.

Given their omnivorous diet, they could adversely impact aquatic plants, insects, eels, small fish species and ground-nesting birds. Turtles are long-lived and can lay up to four clutches of eggs per season.

Indications are that summer temperatures in parts of Tasman may be suitably warm enough for successful breeding to occur.

Our Regional Pest Management Plan lists these turtles as an eradication species in the wild. Please be a responsible pet owner and rehome your unwanted turtle – don't let it loose!

If you see a red eared slider turtle around the region, please contact our Biosecurity team at [biosecurity@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:biosecurity@tasman.govt.nz). Any turtles captured by the public will be re-homed where possible.



## Students' skills tested

Students from fifteen primary and intermediate schools from Tasman and Nelson took part in this year's Tasman Mission late last month.

Tasman Mission is a competitive event where students learn about the environment by completing fun tasks and challenges at activity stations. The team that completes more challenges and gets higher scores at each station is the overall winner.

This year, the event was hosted at Whenua Iti and brought together 33 student groups and 20 activity stations.

The young people completed challenges about water quality, pest management,

biodiversity, endangered birds, native seeds, the origin of kai and the footprint of food, upcycling, building waka, sustainable fishing and more.

Lower Moutere School (Bushies) took out the top spot followed by Birchwood School (team Hayley) in second with Māpua School (Eco Warriors) finishing third. Congratulations to these inspiring young people.

We support our schools to empower students with the knowledge and skills to make real environmental and social change which is vital for a healthier future for all.

## SCIENCE SCOOP



## Keeping an eye on soil health

For the land, for plants, or the health of people and animals, our soil team are kept busy throughout the year as they carry out many hours of fieldwork in an ongoing quest to find out valuable information about one of Tasman's key resources.

Soils are important natural assets, contributing to our environmental, economic, and social wellbeing.

Like soils themselves, there are many layers to the work. Staff say monitoring the health of the soil across all parts of the District or protecting our productive land is the most rewarding part of the job.

One example of this is the testing for heavy metal levels in orchards or market gardens – we want to make sure these results are low, so people, plants and animals won't be adversely affected.

Aligned with Regional/Unitary Councils' responsibility for monitoring and

reporting the State of the Environment in their regions, soil quality monitoring was done last year at 37 sites in Tasman. These cover a range of soil types under different land uses.

Tasman's soil monitoring programme started in 2000 and has been carried out almost every five years since.

Soil samples are tested for biological, chemical, and physical attributes related to soil functions, which can change in response to the type/intensity of land management practice.

The soil health status of each monitoring site is compared with its previous status to detect any possible improvement/degradation trends over time. This early detection and potential mitigation are crucial as soil degradation is not easily reversible, and rehabilitation can take many decades.



## Community resilience by working together



In the face of emergencies or natural disasters, the strength and preparedness of a community can make all the difference.

When families, businesses, and communities prepare for emergencies together, it makes our community stronger. When families understand and practice emergency procedures, they are better prepared to handle crises.

To address these challenges, we've partnered with businesses, community groups and agencies like Civil Defence, Fire and Emergency NZ, St John and the Wakefield Community Council to hold a Rural Resilience Expo at Higgins Heritage Park in Wakefield on Sunday 21 April from 10.00 am – 4.00 pm.

The expo is designed to activate and support safety and resilience at both family and community levels. It will cover day-

to-day safety, emergency preparedness, and long-term resilience against climate change and natural disasters.

The event is free, with optional koha/donation to the Wakefield Community Council.

Throughout the day there will be demonstrations, exercises, and resources available for individuals and businesses to enhance community resilience.

Attendees can expect valuable information, planning tools, and even the chance to win prizes. The event aims to foster collaboration and provide practical solutions for building safer and more resilient communities.

This event will have something for everyone. Bring your whānau for a fun day of games, activities and interesting speakers.

## WONDERFUL WATER



## New pipe through old cemetery

As part of our pipework renewal programme in Wakefield, we are installing a new pipe from the reservoir down to Edward Street.

The new pipeline is part of our project to futureproof the town's water supply and ensure the system is resilient in the long term. This means the pipe is being laid through the old St John's Anglican Church Cemetery.

There are 108 unmarked graves in the cemetery, so all earthworks are being closely supervised by an archaeologist.



But did you know that St Johns Church is the oldest church in the South Island and the oldest church in New Zealand in continuous use? It holds a category one rating with Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, which determines the church building to be of "outstanding historical significance."

The first service at St John's was held on 11 October 1846 with Reverend Charles Reay officiating. To reach Wakefield for Sunday services, Reverend Reay had to ride his horse from Nelson, through rivers and across the Waimea Plains.



## Supporting safer dams in Tasman

We are now asking for feedback on a new policy on how we deal with dangerous dams in the Tasman District.

The policy is a requirement of the Building Act 2004 and aims to ensure dams in Tasman are safe.

The government's regulations on dam safety come into force on Monday 13 May 2024. These provide a nationally consistent approach to dam safety and aim to reduce or remove the risk of harm to people, property, or the environment.

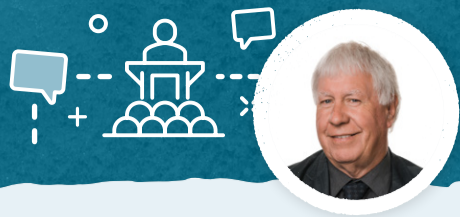
There are over 300 dams on public and private land in Tasman, so a number of residents will be directly affected by the new regulations as dam owners.

Our policy will set out what we will do if we are notified of a dangerous, earthquake-prone or flood-prone dam. It covers our regulatory and legislative responsibilities in relation to these types of dams.

**Consultation is open from Monday 1 April until Sunday 5 May. To share your thoughts, visit [shape.tasman.govt.nz/dams-policy](https://shape.tasman.govt.nz/dams-policy).**

Please note: The Waimea, Cobb and Wai-iti dams are not considered dangerous as they meet thresholds that are much greater than earthquake/flood-prone dams threshold events, as defined in the new regulations.





## Councillor Barry Dowler, Motueka Ward

It was only recently that I contributed to this paper – so, what has happened in the Ward since then?

The safety crossing on Old Wharf Road has been completed and is working well. Not only does it offer a safe place to cross the road, but it is also a speed-calming item to slow vehicles down as well. Two on Pah Street around the Parklands School area have done the same.

The walkway/cycleway between Manoy and Talbot Streets is complete, offering now, an amazing journey for both in this area. The bus stop on Wallace Street is being relocated to its final position. A covered shelter and bike shelter will be installed as well.

Next, a continuation of the walkway down Pah Street, past the Te Āwhina Marae onto Queen Victoria Street.

A boardwalk around the protected trees will be installed so they are not damaged. The walkway down Queen Victoria Street to Whakarewa Street corner, upgraded, and the missing link of the footpath on Whakarewa Street will be completed.

This is all dependent on pricing and the funding left to do this work. Thank you Transport Choices for funding this work to date.

The eBus routes will be evaluated later this year to make sure we have the bus stops in the correct places around the towns. Each stop is monitored daily to count passengers on and off. I wish to thank the users who have turned this into a great success.



## Golden Bay Community Board

The March Golden Bay Community Board meeting was held in Collingwood and began with the public forum as always.

The first speaker was from EPOD – a company that sells emergency and disaster relief pods which can be used in a natural disaster. The pods are in a shipping container and can be tailored to community needs. Part of the company's role is to support communities to find funding. The pods start at \$30,000.

Bill Wallis spoke next about the lack of a floating launching dock at Port Taroako. Bill would like the community to build a floating dock and has asked the Community Board to pressure the Council to provide this facility for the community.

Forest and Bird representative Cynthia McConville was the last speaker and she raised concerns about jet skis speeding

in and around the Waitapu bridge area and asked that signs be erected to remind people of the speed limits.

As always, these items will be discussed at the next meeting.

Items from the February public forum were discussed, the first being the Friends of East Mohua regeneration project. We have requested a report from staff to help decide the best support for the project.

A report has also been requested from the Reserves and Facilities team regarding the request for us to create and promote dog walking tracks around Tākaka as an alternative to taking dogs to the beach or river.

Public forum is a good way to bring issues to the Council and get answers and support. Golden Bay's next Community Board meeting is on Monday 8 April at the Tākaka Service Centre.

## WHAT'S ON IN TASMAN



### Positive Ageing Expo

**Saturday 6 April, 10.00 am – 2.00 pm, Headingly Centre Richmond.**

Retirement is the focus of our Positive Ageing Expo which showcases the recreational, health and social services available in Nelson Tasman to make ageing a positive experience. The Expo offers the chance to engage with groups, organisations and service providers. This year there will be more than 70 stalls, and throughout the day there will also be opportunities to try your hand at new activities and take part in demonstrations.

Age Concern will be there with an AA CarFit session. It's a free 20-minute safety check in your car to get you correctly and comfortably fitted to drive. Call Jackie on 021 195 8108 to book a slot.

### Wellby Talking Cafés

- **Tuesday 9 April, 10.00 am – 11.30 am, Purpose HQ Café Tapawera.**
- **Tuesday 9 April, 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm, Richmond Library.**
- **Wednesday 17 April, 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.

### Discover moana

**Monday 15 April – Wednesday 24 April, Tasman District Libraries.**

These April school holidays, we invite tamariki and their whānau to discover moana! Please visit [tasmanlibraries.govt.nz](http://tasmanlibraries.govt.nz) for details on our school holiday programme. From crafts and collaborative Lego art projects to a great boat-building STEM activity, these events will encourage tamariki to learn about New Zealand's marine life in a fun and engaging way.

### Tuku24 Whakatū

**Sunday 24 March – Saturday 4 May, Motueka and Richmond Libraries.**

Six weeks of events to tuku (share) our unique stories of people and place. Please visit [tasmanlibraries.govt.nz](http://tasmanlibraries.govt.nz) for information on our Tuku24 library events. We have all kinds of happenings in April including lessons on making your slides digital, marine artist Paul Deacon's works on our gallery wall in Richmond, and Wayne Greig talking about his life-long adventure in model making.

### How To Look At Art

**Tuesday 30 April, 5.30 pm, Richmond Library.**

The Suter Art Gallery's Director Julie Catchpole will be bringing a mystery item from their permanent art collection for a special show and tell for art lovers.

## NEWSLINE NOTICES



### Motueka Aerodrome feedback

The Civil Aviation Authority is currently calling for submissions or enquiries regarding the development of the Motueka Aerodrome, the infrastructure supporting it and its impact on current users. Submissions close on 26 April 2024.

Driven by another project in the area, the CAA has the responsibility of ensuring no constructed additions to the site or natural growth, i.e. trees, since 1993 will endanger any of the current aerodrome operations.

If you are interested in the CAA project, go to [tasman.govt.nz/motueka-aerodrome](http://tasman.govt.nz/motueka-aerodrome).

### TRMP Plan Change 80 – Motueka West

In response to submissions received on the above Plan Change to the Tasman Resource Management Plan (TRMP), we have prepared a summary of submissions which can be viewed at [tasman.govt.nz/trmp-pc](http://tasman.govt.nz/trmp-pc).

The call for further submissions to those received is now open and will close at 5.00 pm Friday 19 April 2024.

For more information, see the full notice at [tasman.govt.nz/news](http://tasman.govt.nz/news) or email [narissa.armstrong@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:narissa.armstrong@tasman.govt.nz).

### Still time to apply for rural sports funding

Live rural and need a little help participating in sports? The Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund offers help with travel costs for rural sports clubs and rural school teams. The fund helps young people aged 5 – 19 participate in local sports competitions. This round of funding is open until Tuesday 30 April. For more information and to apply, head to [tasman.govt.nz/grants](http://tasman.govt.nz/grants).

### Approved temporary road closure

**Applicant:** Nelson Car Club  
**Event:** Riwaka-Sandy Bay Hill Climb  
**Location:** Riwaka-Sandy Bay Road, Mārahau  
**Date and time:** Sunday 7 April 2024, 7.00 am – 5.00 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](http://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 8 April, 1.00 pm. Golden Bay Service Centre, 78 Commercial Street.

**Creative Communities Subcommittee**  
Wednesday 10 April, 10.00 am. Motueka Library, Wallace Street. No public forum.

**Nelson Tasman Civil Defence Emergency Management Group**  
Wednesday 10 April, 2.30 pm. EOC, 28 Oxford Street, Richmond.

**Joint Shareholders Committee**  
Tuesday 16 April, 9.30 am.

**Saxton Field Committee**  
Tuesday 16 April, 9.30 am. Heaphy Room, Tasman District Council, 189 Queen Street.

**Motueka Community Board**  
Tuesday 16 April, 4.00 pm. Motueka Library, Wallace Street.

**Joint Nelson Tasman Regional Transport Committee**  
Wednesday 17 April, 9.30 am.

**Strategy and Policy Committee**  
Thursday 18 April, 9.30 am.

**Community Grants Subcommittee**  
Thursday 18 April, 1.00 pm. No public forum.

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