I'M RECYCLABLE

NEWSLINE

PĀNUI 20 MARCH 2026
ISSUE 614

tasman district council | Te Kaunihera o te tai o Aorere

KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT NEWS AND EVENTS IN TASMAN DISTRICT



Lower Motueka River

River recovery programme established

We have been hard at work on Tasman's rivers since the June-July 2025 major flood events, and we have now established a programme of work covering the next 20 months that will progressively address flood-damaged areas.

Work is grouped into three broad categories of channel shaping, rock works (repairing and installing rock structures), and willow planting.

The programme is well underway, with a significant portion of early works already complete or in progress. Broadly, the programme is scheduled in several major phases:

- **July 2025 to late 2025:** Major river realignments and gravel relocation, and the first phase of rock work across most rivers.
- **Summer and autumn 2026 (current focus):** The peak period of physical works – rock repairs, new rock structures, and continued shaping – is happening now across many rivers.
- **Winter 2026:** Significant willow plantings in flood-damaged areas, and maintenance of existing willows to encourage new growth.
- **Spring 2026 to Autumn 2027:** Continuing with physical bank protection work in damaged areas – rock repairs and new rock structures.
- **Winter to Spring 2027:** Another major willow planting and maintenance programme over the winter months, with the main river recovery programme winding down in spring with completion of rock works on the more complex rivers (Motupiko, Tadmor, Upper and Lower Motueka, Wai-iti).

The specific areas we are working on include complex programmes at Dove River and the aforementioned larger rivers.

Smaller, targeted works are also planned for Tākaka, Moutere, Sherry, Wairoa and Waingaro Rivers – right down to limited intervention work at Pigeon Valley Stream.

Check out an overview of the plan, including a river-by-river summary, at tasman.govt.nz/river-recovery.

WATER WISE

Changes in the pipeline for the Redwood Valley water schemes

The first of two projects to improve the Redwood Valley water supply is gaining momentum.

Redwood Valley Rural Water Supply currently takes water from three shallow bores in the Redwood Valley/Waimea plains area, but due to changes in national water quality requirements, a permanent boil water notice was placed on the scheme last year. This was at the direction of the Water Services Authority because the current treatment plants can't be guaranteed to remove all types of harmful microorganisms.

The project will bring together two water supplies in Redwood Valley into one, with a new Water Treatment Plant to be built on River Road.



Pictured: River Road bore head.

Investigations have been done into the best treatment methods, as well as commissioning new bores. We did a survey of the current underground raw water pipe system in 2024 and then drilled two new bores to provide better raw water quality.

A $1.98 million tender has just been awarded for the replacement of the underground piping from the River Road bores to the existing treatment plants at Golden Hills Road and O'Connors Creek.

The consolidation of the two existing water treatment plants into a new one at River Road provides an opportunity to improve treatment to meet water quality requirements and allow the boil water notice to be removed. The two existing treatment plants will be modified into pump stations.

Work on the new five kilometres of underground pipes is expected to begin by July.



Water interesting summer we've had

Summer has been a game of two halves in Tasman, but as the District starts to dry out, there should be minimal disruption to water users.

Rainfall for February was a mixed bag, with many sites receiving less than half of their average rainfall for the month and other sites – particularly in the Riuwaka and lower Motueka catchments – exceeding their average for the month.

Frequent wet weather in recent months has enabled us to keep the Waimea and Wai-iti dams full.

The Cobb Dam at Upper Tākaka is 75% full, generating power at regular intervals while also keeping flushes going down the Tākaka River. Regular flows down the Tākaka River have the added benefit of increasing the flow at Te Waikoropupū Springs.

We have moved into a drier spell of weather, and the weather forecast models are suggesting that this will be the dominant weather pattern through to April. Fortunately, the harvesting of fruit and hops has started, so water demand in some areas will decline.

River flow levels at the Wai-iti have been dropping slowly but are now at a level where we have begun water releases from the Wai-iti Dam to supplement the flow.

Tasman's Dry Weather Taskforce has also implemented water restrictions for the first time this summer in February, affecting consent holders in the Motupiko and the Rainy water management zones. Water restrictions have also been extended to Waimea Dam unaffiliated consent holders.

However, we have been able to avoid restrictions for urban water users on a council water supply and affiliated Waimea Dam consent holders because of the Waimea Dam water releases. The current Waimea Dam levels are such that it would provide water for all the affiliated water permit holders for the rest of the summer season.

Check out groundwater and river flow data at tasman.govt.nz/environmental-data-portal.

FUTURE FOCUS

Chapter closed on library renovations

As anyone who has ever done house renovations will agree, it's not an easy task, and the same can be said for a library upgrade.

But the scaffolding is down, and the contractors have finished on site, so it's back to business as usual for Richmond Library after two major refurbishment projects.

A major renovation of the Queen Street building started about 12 months ago, with much of the work being done behind the walls and inside the roof and ceiling areas – the upstairs workspace for our librarians has also been improved.

The $1.3 million upgrade, funded by the Richmond Reserve Financial Contributions, began when detailed seismic assessments showed that the building needed structural strengthening to improve its earthquake safety.

There were a couple of speed bumps along the way when the huge winter storms caused rainwater to get into a part of the building.

We also took the opportunity to tackle some long-standing issues – so the library is now a safe, dry, and welcoming place for everyone.

It was also decided that while the scaffolding was still on site and the contractors were available, much of the building would be reroofed, which was funded from the library's maintenance budget.

While the work was being done, there were some closures and changes to operating hours, and we thank you for your patience and support while we worked through the project which sees a building that's now fit for purpose for years to come.



A new committee for all things outdoors and operational

As we continue our series on the functions of our Standing Committees, we turn our attention to the Environment Regulatory and Operations Committee.

Combining our former Operations Committee with the Environment and Regulatory Committee, its function is to oversee our regulatory programmes, services and activities.

It also provides governance oversight of our infrastructure services, environmental management, and operational and regulatory programmes including sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

Responsibilities include:

- Monitoring and enforcing our Resource Management Act functions
- Enforcing our other regulatory functions, such as animal control, freedom camping, or noise management
- Bylaw preparation processes, reviewing and recommending updates to bylaws and regulatory frameworks
- Planning, delivery, and maintenance of core infrastructure services and operational functions
- Considering and monitoring health and safety matters
- Overseeing and monitoring operational functions and the capital works programme

Our Animal Control subcommittee and Golden Bay Recreation Park Management Committee report to this committee.

Meetings are held every six weeks. Membership consists of all Councillors and the Mayor, with Cr Jo Ellis and Cr Celia Butler in the respective chair and deputy chair roles.

A decision has been made to establish an iwi representative position with voting rights on the committee; however, the representative has not yet been appointed.

You are welcome to join the meeting in the public gallery or, if you have an issue to raise, register to speak at the public forum. Every meeting will be livestreamed on our meetings YouTube channel.

For details on all our meetings and how you can be involved, visit tasman.govt.nz/meetings.



TRANSPORT TALES

Safer journeys supported

A central government proposal to improve the safe and efficient use of lanes and better align the rules with how people already travel has our support.

The Ministry of Transport is seeking feedback on proposals to:

- allow children aged 12 years and under to ride bikes on footpaths
- set a minimum passing gap for when vehicles pass other road users
- allow people to ride e-scooters in cycle lanes
- require drivers to give way to buses leaving bus stops
- clarify signage requirements for enforcing berm parking restrictions.

Our Transportation Manager Jamie McPherson says overall we're supportive of the proposed changes; for example, it's common sense to allow e-scooters in cycle lanes, which is already a common occurrence.

"Traffic monitoring in the past has shown cycling on some of our footpaths is quite common and likely reflects that many cyclists feel unsafe on our busy urban roads, especially near intersections."

Jamie says the proposed rule changes may increase demand for widening existing footpaths, especially near schools, so the Council would like to see financial assistance from the Government for footpath widening and better cycling infrastructure to alleviate concerns of pedestrians and provide a more comprehensive approach to managing safety and demand.

Submissions on the proposed changes close Wednesday 25 March. Have your say at nzta.govt.nz/consultation-on-lane-use-improvements.



YOUTH YARNS

Youth Grants help shape futures

"Step outside your comfort zone, appreciate the value of teamwork, take responsibility, and embrace the adventure," that's the advice of the recipient of one of our recent Youth Leadership Grants.

Miro Weiss received a $500 grant to join the Spirit of Adventure sail training ship late last year.

Miro says the best part of the Spirit of Adventure was the overall experience of life at sea.

"Seeing orca whales and a huge pod of dolphins swimming alongside the ship from the stern to the bow was unforgettable, and standing night watch under a full moon while ensuring everything was running smoothly as others slept was another highlight."

He says this experience was enriching, pushing him outside his comfort zone and teaching valuable life skills.

"Meeting thirty-nine complete strangers was challenging for me at first, but it became a very positive experience that helped me grow."

Miro says, "Being a member of that crew of 39 taught me responsibility, confidence, and the importance of working together. It completely changed my perspective on what I'm capable of achieving."

To be eligible for one of our Youth Leadership Grants, you need to live in the Tasman District, be aged between 15 and 20, and be applying to a programme, project or training which has a central focus on youth leadership.

Applications are open year-round. Find out more and apply for our Youth Leadership Grant at tasman.govt.nz/youth-leadership-grant.





COOL COMMUNITIES



Dutch friendship renewed

Bonds between the Tasman District and our Netherlands friendly town partner have been strengthened after a visit from a delegation from Westerkwartier late last month.

Formal links between the two centres were reconfirmed in 2017 when a Friendly Town Agreement was signed between Tasman and Grootegast, which has now become part of the Westerkwartier Municipality.

Tasman District's relationship with the Dutch area carries a special significance because the village of Lutjegast in the Municipality is where Abel Tasman was born.

The delegation included Mayor Ard van der Tuuk, his Assistant, Jochem Pennekamp and the former Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to New Zealand, Rob Zaagman.

The group covered a lot of ground during their relatively short trip here, including Golden Bay, where they were received with a pōwhiri at Onetahua Marae, viewed the Anaweka waka, and visited the Abel Tasman Monument and the Golden Bay Museum.

The delegation also spent time with several local businesses, visited the Waimea Community Dam and met with representatives of NMIT, Chamber of Commerce and Nelson Regional Development Agency, and included a tour of Cawthron Institute Aquaculture Centre.

The visitors also met with Elected Members and staff to discuss water management and civil defence.

Grant helps group breathe easier



A Richmond-based not-for-profit community support group has been able to invest in new equipment thanks to funding from our Community Grants scheme.

Respiratory Support Nelson runs various services, including its Better Breathers course.

These classes provide improved breathing techniques, enhanced lung capacity, and social support, along with fun and enjoyment for respiratory sufferers in our region.

The group says money from our Community Grants has been hugely important and greatly appreciated. It has allowed them to purchase additional equipment, a wireless headset microphone and a PA speaker for their trainer to use in their larger Better Breathers classes.

Alongside the four Better Breathers courses each week in Motueka and Richmond, Respiratory Support Nelson also operates a Pulmonary Rehab programme. This is for people living with: COPD, asthma, bronchiectasis, pulmonary fibrosis, or other long-term respiratory conditions.

Their Sing Your Lungs Out classes are also very popular, but it's not all about the music – they're about breathing, connection, and having fun! Singing helps strengthen lungs, lifts mood, and brings people together.

You can find out more at their website, respiratorynelson.co.nz.

To find out more about our Community Grants and how your organisation may benefit, go to tasman.govt.nz/grants. Applications open on 1 May and close on 31 July each year.

Worthy recognition for local legend

"I don't do it for the recognition" was the humble reply from one of our latest Outstanding Community Service Award recipients when told she was in line for the award.

Cheryl Elsey is truly a Golden Bay local legend. Born and educated in Tākaka, Cheryl now runs her business 'Good-to-go' with husband Ian and their family of cats. But her community service involvement is nothing short of impressive.

Cheryl has been a member of the Golden Bay Promotion Association for more than 40 years, both on the committee and as chairperson.

In the sporting world, she has a close association with the Golden Bay Swimming Club, where she was a volunteer coach for several years.



Cheryl is the founder and heart behind SANDS Golden Bay, an organisation supporting parents and families who experience antenatal and neonatal deaths.

But Cheryl's community care doesn't end there. She runs Baby Loss Awareness Week events, including the Wave of Light event at Pōhara Beach.

She created the nationwide Empty Arms support group for those with no living children, as well as organising knitters making items for premature babies at Nelson Hospital and beyond.

Her kindness extends further, and with her coffee cart, she went to farms hit by last year's floods with free coffee and cookies, as she does for firefighters at emergency scenes.

Cheryl supplies meals for those alone at Christmas and for local families after surgery or facing hardship.

There's plenty more on Cheryl Elsey's list of community involvement, and we're sure you'll agree that she deserves every bit of recognition she receives.

SUSTAINABLE STORIES



Flooding spreads pest plants across Tasman

The June/July floods last year have led to a significant increase in the spread of pest plants throughout the District.

As floodwaters moved across properties and river margins, they carried fertile plant fragments, seeds and bulbs into new areas. We are now seeing the aftermath, with numerous pest species establishing in new places.

New infestations include high-priority eradication species such as Asian knotweed and Himalayan balsam, both listed in our Regional Pest Management Plan. Other pest plants now appearing more widely include Jerusalem artichoke, montbretia, blackberry, convolvulus, old man's beard, barberry, hawthorn, horehound, Californian stinkweed, broom and gorse.

Unfortunately, we do not have enough resources to control all these flood-spread weeds, and we must focus our efforts on eradication species in our Pest Management Plan, where we can make a real difference and stop these plants from establishing in Tasman.

Asian knotweed remains a key focus. A member of the dock family, it develops an extensive underground root system that can extend for metres in mature plants. These roots are powerful enough to damage concrete foundations and infrastructure.

Infestations are currently known from the Wangapeka, Wai-iti, Motueka and Riuwaka river systems. Since last year's flooding, several new sites have already been identified.

We ask you to keep an eye out for Asian knotweed and let us know if you come across it anywhere in Tasman. Quick reporting allows our Biosecurity team to respond before plants become established and spread further.

If you want advice on how to take care of pest plants on your property, our Biosecurity team can provide advice, or you can check out the helpful guides at tasman.govt.nz/pests-and-weeds.

Get in touch with our Biosecurity team at biosecurity@tasman.govt.nz or 03 543 8400.

Bin the cups



RECYCLING TIP #5

Takeaway coffee cups, fast food soft drink cups, milkshake cups, and their lids, can't be recycled and need to go in the rubbish bin. While they may look recyclable, unfortunately they're not.

Try a reusable cup as an alternative – it's an environmentally friendly way to enjoy your drink, and lots of places in Tasman offer a discount if you bring one.

PARKS AND PLACES

Slam dunk for flood-hit communities

Wakefield Village is getting a brand-new community recreation facility, with construction beginning on a new 3x3 community basketball court.

The fully adjustable Airtime hoop will be installed at the new court in the car park next to the McGazzaland pump track on Pigeon Valley Road.

We're building the new 3x3 basketball court with full support from the Wakefield Community Council.

The project was proposed by Sport New Zealand, which has contributed $50,000 as part of an initiative recognising our communities affected by last year's storms. Their goal is to provide an asset that is used, meaningful, and long-lasting.

The solid construction ensures it can stand up to even the most vigorous basketball action, and being height adjustable means it will cater for all ages and abilities.

As part of the same initiative, Ngātimoti School and Tapawera School have also received brand-new basketball hoops and fresh line marking. These have already been installed, thanks to the support of our partners Kūmānu, Downer Group, Basketball New Zealand, and Roadmarkers NZ.

We're planning official opening celebrations next month with Mayor Tim King, potentially featuring players from the Nelson Giants, representatives from the Tall Blacks and Tall Ferns, plus giveaways and activities – a chance to celebrate and have some fun with the kids. Watch this space for details.



BOARD'S BUSINESS

Golden Bay Community Board

What does our community need to thrive, not just survive? A lead-up to the 10-Year Plan – part one.

Mohua Golden Bay's sustainability and resilience remain essential principles for future planning, reflecting local priorities and strengthening community confidence. Mohua expects greater transparency, trust, and meaningful involvement in decision-making, particularly given Golden Bay's isolated location and the need to balance connectivity with self-reliance.

There is strong support for embedding sustainability and resilience at the centre of planning frameworks. Residents want assurance that these frameworks will safeguard the natural environment while enabling practical responses to local needs, including housing and adaptation to climate-related impacts.

Mohua Golden Bay's isolation reinforces the importance of self-containment and local resilience. The concept of managed retreat also requires clearer community understanding, including how such decisions may be approached over time.

The Golden Bay Community Board is seeking initiatives that promote sustainable living, build local capability, and reduce vulnerability during disruptions. Supporting purpose-driven and community-focused businesses is an effective way to strengthen the local economy while ensuring benefits stay within the District.

Tourism continues to play a significant role in employment, despite representing a smaller proportion of overall industry activity. This highlights the need for infrastructure and business support that sustains tourism in a way that aligns with community values, environmental limits, and Mohua Golden Bay's unique location.

WHAT'S ON IN TASMAN

Motueka Repair Café

Saturday 21 March, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm, Motueka Library.

A repair café offers free repairs to reduce waste and help the environment. Bring your broken items to be assessed and hopefully repaired by a friendly team of volunteers.

Positive Ageing Expo

Saturday 21 March, 10.00 am – 2.00 pm, Headingly Centre, Richmond.

The Positive Ageing Expo will showcase organisations and services that support people aged 50-plus to live well, stay connected, and prepare for their next life stage with purpose and confidence. There will be dozens of stalls and displays, plus a range of talks and classes too. Free!

Globe trotters

Wednesday 25 March, 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm, Motueka Library.

Intrepid travellers in our community share their travel experiences through fast-paced storytelling. Please phone Motueka Library on 03 528 1047 to book your place.

Family History Friday

Friday 27 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, or what other family and local history resources are available? Drop by the Research Room at Richmond Library, and specialist library staff will be on hand to help if needed.

Wellby Talking Café

Wednesday 1 April, 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm, Tākaka Library.

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

Word savvy poetry group

Tuesdays, 10.30 am – 11.30 am, Tākaka Library.

Write poetry, read poetry, bring your favourite poem and discover new poets with other poetry lovers.



Legends of Mohua Aorere Golden Bay Tasman exhibition

Sunday 22 March, 11.00 am – 4.00 pm, Port Nelson Open Day, 39 Vickerman St.

This exhibition celebrates the proud chapter in our coastal trading history. The golden years for the Mohua Aorere ports and wharves and their scows, hookers, and steam ships. Discover this port building tale at the 125th Anniversary Port Nelson Open Day, and go into the draw to win a pictorial history book collection authored by Carol Dawber and Cheryl Win.

NEWSLINE NOTICES

Council hui

Meetings will take place in person and be live-streamed. To view live or previous meetings, visit youtube.com/@tasmandistrictcouncilmeetings. Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will be held at the Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond. For details, visit tasman.govt.nz/meetings-calendar.

Tasman District Council (Annual Plan Consultation Document Adoption)
Thursday 26 March, 9.30 am.

Golden Bay Rec Park Management Committee
Monday 30 March, 10.30 am. Rec Park Centre, 2032 Tākaka Valley Highway.

Golden Bay Community Board
Monday 30 March, 1.00 pm. Tākaka Office, 78 Commercial Street.

Nelson Tasman Civil Defence Emergency Management Group
Tuesday 31 March, 9.30 am. Emergency Operations Centre, 28 Oxford St, Richmond.

Environment Regulatory and Operations Committee
Thursday 2 April, 9.30 am.

Council Contracts and Procurement Committee
Thursday 2 April, to follow the above meeting.

Approved temporary road closures

Applicant: Dynamo Events – Cycling New Zealand
Event: Age Group National Cycle Race
Location: Kelling Road, Upper Moutere – from Moutere Highway to Neudorf Road intersection.
Date and time: 7.00 am Friday 10 April – 5.30 pm Sunday 12 April 2026. Road will be opened overnight; all residents will have access to their properties during these times.

Applicant: Richmond/Waimea RSA
Event: ANZAC Day Parade
Location: Queen Street – from Sundial Square to McIndoe Place. Cambridge Street – from Oxford Street to Queen Street. Oxford Street – from 38 Oxford St to Gladstone Road (SH6). As Queen Street will be closed, the bus will have a temporary bus stop set up on Talbot Street outside PAK'nSAVE.
Date and time: Saturday 25 April 2026, 10.00 am – 12.30 pm

Applicant: Richmond/Waimea RSA
Event: ANZAC Day Parade
Location: Whitby Way, Wakefield – from Edward Street/Arrow Street intersection to Whitby Road (SH6) and Wakefield carpark entrance.
Date and time: Saturday 25 April 2026, 9.00 am – 12.00 pm

Applicant: Motueka RSA
Event: ANZAC Day Parade
Location: Pā Street, Motueka – from Bennett Street to the Woolworths carpark.
Date and time: Saturday 25 April 2026, 6.00 am – 7.30 am

Applicant: Motueka RSA
Event: ANZAC Day Parade
Location: School Road, Riwaka – from the SH6 intersection to 12 School Road.
Date and time: Saturday 25 April 2026, 8.45 am – 9.30 am

Applicant: Nelson RSA
Event: ANZAC Day Parade
Location: Aranui Road, Māpua – from Higgs Road to the tennis courts.
Date and time: Saturday 25 April 2026, 10.30 am – 11.30 am

Easter public holiday hours and services

On Good Friday (3 April) and Easter Monday (6 April), all service centres and libraries will be closed for the day. Richmond Library will also be closed on Easter Sunday. Usual opening hours apply otherwise.

On Good Friday, rubbish and recycling collections will be one day later – Saturday 4 April. There will be no change to collections on other days.

All our Resource Recovery Centres will be closed on Good Friday, but otherwise open as normal.

The eBuses on Routes 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be running, but on a reduced timetable. Routes 5 and 6 do not run on a public holiday. When viewing the timetables at ebus.nz select the holidays tab to see the schedules.

We are always here to help when needed, call 03 543 8400 anytime.

Alcohol applications

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

Have your say on Golden Bay reserves

We're seeking ideas for a draft Golden Bay/Mohua Ward Reserve Management Plan. Shape how these parks and reserves are cared for in the future. What do you love about your local reserve? Are there things that could be improved? What would you like to see in the future? Have your say before 30 March 2026 at shape.tasman.govt.nz/gb-reserves.



HOUSE & LAND PACKAGES AVAILABLE IN MARSDEN PARK
Contact your local GJ's Nelson team today.
03 543 9502 gjgardner.co.nz
G.J. Gardner. HOMES