



What's happening with McKee Domain Campground?

There's still a question mark over whether overnight camping will return to McKee Domain Campground at Ruby Bay this summer.

We're currently awaiting the results of a detailed geotechnical investigation looking at slope stability across the reserve, including the campground area. The study will help us better understand any risks and inform decisions about the site's future use.

McKee Domain's coastal setting is part of what makes it such a special place, but it also comes with challenges. The low-lying beachfront and adjacent unstable cliffs mean the area can be vulnerable to coastal inundation and erosion during severe weather events. The reserve has experienced a number of weather-related issues over the years.

Recent lessons from the Davison Review into the Mount Maunganui landslide have reinforced the importance of carefully managing locations where natural hazards could pose a risk to people.

In response, we've reviewed known hazard-prone sites across Tasman District and confirmed that management measures are in place where needed, including monitoring programmes and Trigger Action Response Plans.

While we're confident that identified risk-to-life locations are being actively managed, we're continuing work to ensure all relevant sites and activities have been considered and that we have a clear understanding of any remaining risks and responsibilities.

We expect a decision on whether McKee Domain Campground will reopen for overnight camping to be made in early December. In the meantime, the reserve remains open during the day and continues to be a popular spot for locals, visitors and surfers to enjoy the beach and surrounding area.

FUTURE FOCUS



Rolling the dice on our gambling venues policy

We're asking for community feedback on our proposed Gambling Venues Policy 2026. If you've followed this issue over the years, you'll find the draft policy largely continues with the approach we have taken since 2019.

The policy sets the rules for venue-based gambling in Tasman, including pokie venues and stand-alone TAB venues. Our role is quite limited. We can decide whether new venues are allowed, where they can be located, and how many gaming machines can operate. Other forms of gambling, such as Lotto, casinos, and online gambling, are regulated separately.

Since we adopted a 'sinking lid' policy in 2019, the number of pokie venues in Tasman has reduced from 13 to nine, while gaming machine numbers have dropped from 166 to 129. The draft policy proposes to keep that approach in place, meaning no new pokie venues,



no additional gaming machines, and no relocation of existing venues.

The draft also includes a new proposal. While Tasman District currently has no stand-alone TAB venues, the existing policy still allows applications for them. The proposed policy would close that loophole and prohibit future stand-alone TAB venues.

The sinking lid approach aims to gradually reduce gambling-related harm in our communities. One challenge is that gaming machine profits help fund local community groups. However, despite fewer machines, community grant funding to Tasman organisations has actually increased in recent years, growing from around \$950,000 to \$2 million annually.

Consultation opens on Thursday 29 October and closes on Friday 27 November. We'd love to hear your views. Find out more and have your say at shape.tasman.govt.nz/gambling-review.

Community Associations – a shortcut between communities and Council

At 9,616 square kilometres, Tasman District covers the fifth largest area of all 67 territorial authorities in New Zealand, and the second largest area of the country's five unitary councils.

If you are living in one of our more remote areas or a smaller settlement, it's important that any distance between your concerns and the Council is only geographic.

Fortunately, a number of Community Associations have been established to support and advocate for residents in their local communities and make submissions to the Council.

Taking special interest in the Council and the Rating Act, infrastructure and issues of concern for the local community, these groups help residents connect with us to make positive changes.

These 13 individual groups include villages and surrounds of places such as Brightwater, Wakefield, Māpua and Tapawera, or broader rural areas like Motueka Valley, Moutere Hills or Nelson Lakes / Rotoiti.

Community Associations meet on a regular basis – generally monthly or bi-monthly and in the evening (Murchison is a morning exception) – at a venue that is familiar and/or central to the respective community. Your ward councillors are also regular attendees at these meetings – after all, they're part of your community too.

It's a great way to connect with others who live in your area and keep informed and connected with Council, wherever you live.

To find a Community Association near you and when they meet, go to tasman.govt.nz/community-associations. If your area doesn't have a Community Association, perhaps you might consider starting one?





Waimea College helping restore Waimea Inlet



In collaboration with the EnviroSchools programme and our own Catchment Enhancement team, a group of Waimea College Year 12 agriculture and horticulture science students recently learned how to integrate conservation values into farm management.

The 20 students spent a day on the Challies family farm, where, amongst other activities, they saw how retiring less-profitable low-lying paddocks and fencing and planting wetlands and waterways can reduce sediment, improve water quality and support biodiversity.

The group were welcomed by Ed Challies to the fifth-generation farm, where water flows from its low-lying paddocks into spring-fed Pearl Creek before entering the Waimea Inlet. Following a short walk downstream to the Inlet's large tidal estuary,

Rosalie Bennett of Tasman Bay Guardians explained migrating fish, inanga and their life cycles at the small tidal gate that enables fish passage.

After learning why native riparian planting matters, the students got to work putting trees in the ground. Most were cabbage trees, harakeke and poroporo grown by the previous year's EnviroSchools students.

The day promoted protection and enhancement of the Inlet while creating opportunities for rangatahi (youth), aligning with the Waimea Inlet Coordination Group strategic plan. With some great connections made, the hope is to do more planting again next year. Some ecosourced seedlings are already being potted up for growing in the school nursery over summer.



Meet the new battery-eating beast

It won't be winning any beauty pageants anytime soon, but our new giant battery disposal bin wasn't built to look good. It was built to tackle a growing recycling challenge.

The good news is that more people are choosing to dispose of their old batteries responsibly. The challenge is that our battery bins at the Resource Recovery Centres are getting a serious workout.

Rather than let the batteries pile up, our Waste Engineer put his thinking cap (hard hat) on and came up with a bigger, better solution. The result is a monster-sized battery disposal bin complete with clever safety features.

The need for extra protection is real. As we've seen several times in recent months, damaged rechargeable batteries can ignite unexpectedly and cause intense fires.

The first thing you'll notice about the new trial bin at the Richmond Resource Recovery Centre is its larger appetite. The wider opening means it can take bigger batteries, including those from power tools, e-bikes, and e-scooters.

It also comes with a larger-capacity built-in fire suppression system. If batteries inside catch fire, the heat automatically triggers a valve that releases water into the bin, flooding the contents and extinguishing the flames.

The new battery beast is currently being trialled at the Richmond Resource Recovery Centre. If you have old batteries ready for retirement, you can still drop them off at your nearest Resource Recovery Centre in Māiri / Motueka, Murchison, Collingwood or Tākaka, where specially designed battery disposal bins are available.



Throwing (night)shade on a woolly pest

Woolly nightshade (*Solanum mauritianum*) is an invasive pest plant originating from South America. It grows as a shrub or small tree and has a distinctive kerosene-like smell.

The plant is covered in fine, dusty hairs that give it a woolly appearance. These hairs are released when disturbed and can irritate the skin, eyes, and respiratory tract. Woolly nightshade is also known as tobacco weed due to its large, tobacco-like leaves.

The plant produces purple flowers followed by dense clusters of berries approximately 1 cm in diameter. The berries ripen from green to yellow and are readily eaten by birds, which spread the seeds to new areas.

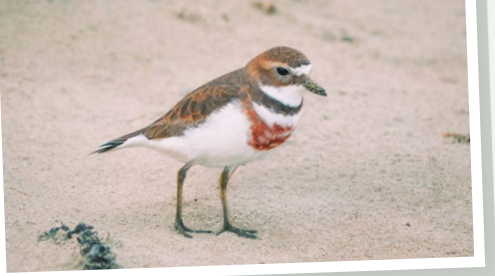
It grows rapidly and can form dense stands that suppress native vegetation. It is also allelopathic, meaning it releases chemicals into the soil that inhibit the germination and growth of other plant species.

While woolly nightshade is widespread throughout much of Tasman, populations in Golden Bay remain relatively low. Under the Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Plan, it is classified as a Sustained Control pest in Golden Bay. Occupiers in this area are required to control the plant and prevent it from producing seed each year.

When controlling woolly nightshade, Biosecurity Officers recommend wearing gloves and a dust mask, particularly when working with plants for extended periods. Seedlings and small plants can be hand-pulled or dug out.

Larger plants should be cut, and the stump immediately treated with picloram gel or alternatively sprayed with a mixture of 60ml triclopyr and 10ml surfactant per 10 litres of water.

Help protect our coastal birds this nesting season



Shorebird nesting season is here, and our coastal birds need a little extra care. In parts of Tasman District, nests and young birds are at risk from vehicles being driven recklessly on beaches.

Cars, quad bikes, and motorcycles can cause significant environmental damage. They can disturb fragile coastal dunes, crush native bird nests and threaten endangered species such as the Australasian bittern, banded dotterel and variable oystercatcher.

This is an issue communities have been raising for the past two decades, with reports covering almost every vehicle-accessible beach in Tasman. The most recent concerns have come from Kina Beach.

Beaches are legally considered roads, so dangerous driving is a matter for Police. However, damaging birds' nests with a vehicle breaches the Tasman Resource Management Plan, and offenders can be fined.

Driving on intertidal flats can also have a serious impact on marine life. Vehicles compress the surface and reduce the chances of survival for the small marine creatures that live in this important coastal zone.

Our District is home to several threatened bird species, including the variable oystercatcher, bar-tailed godwit and banded dotterel. When vehicles disturb nesting areas, adult birds may abandon their nests, while eggs and chicks can be crushed.

Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council staff are working alongside the Department of Conservation and Forest & Bird to make sure there is a consistent approach to managing reckless driving on our beaches.

You can help protect our coast and wildlife. If you see a vehicle being driven dangerously on a beach, please call us or the Police.

SENIORS' SECTION



Got something to show at the Positive Ageing Expo?



The Positive Ageing Expo will return in 2027, showcasing the wide range of recreational, health, wellbeing and social services available across Nelson Tasman that help make ageing a positive experience.

Expressions of interest are now being sought from organisations, businesses, clubs, and community groups that provide services, activities, or opportunities for older adults.

We are particularly keen to hear from exhibitors who support different aspects of people's lives, including housing alternatives, digital confidence and skills, online safety, health and wellbeing, recreation, and social connection.

Running since 2008, the Positive Ageing Expo has become a popular community event, attracting an average of 1,000 visitors each time. It provides a valuable opportunity for organisations to connect directly with older adults, their families, and carers.

The 2027 event will be held on Saturday 3 April, from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm, at the Headingly Centre in Richmond.

The expo will bring together those who support people aged 50+ to live well, stay connected, and prepare for their next stage of life with purpose and confidence.

Exhibitor registration fees are \$20 for community groups and clubs, \$75 for sole traders and government agencies, and \$100 for commercial operators.

The expression of interest form is available at tasman.govt.nz/positive-ageing-expo and applications close on 8 March 2027. Submit your expression of interest today and secure your place at one of the region's largest events celebrating positive ageing.

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Tracking Tasman's telemetry upgrade progress

Tasman's share of \$5.62 million in Government funding to upgrade early warning flood systems is being put to good use.

The project will be implemented right across the District. Earlier this year, backup monitoring equipment was installed on the lower Wairoa River to support flood management for Brightwater.

Construction of a backup monitoring site for Tākaka township is to start in November. Infrastructure will be located on the Tākaka River near Kotinga and be built above the estimated 200-year return period flood level. Digital satellite and radio will provide dual data telemetry pathways.

A flood monitoring site on the Motupiko River was upgraded in May. At this site, I-beams were driven three metres into the riverbed, as well as rock protection to boost riverbank stability.

The site, which supports the rural community near Tapawera, has two water level sensors and dual communication pathways.

A minor upgrade of an aged sensor and data logger at the Aorere River at Salisbury Bridge water level site is complete. We're also progressing a more complex upgrade of equipment at two sites on the Wai-iti River.

Joe Kennedy Manager Emergency Management says "The hydrology sites support emergency response by providing real-time information. The changing weather patterns mean the supply of robust information to assess potential impacts is invaluable".

Tasman's programme of work totals \$1,125,000, with Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit providing 60% of the funding, and the remaining 40% funded by our capital expenditure.



Major water upgrades flow in Golden Bay

There's been a strong focus on improving water infrastructure across Golden Bay this year. At the Collingwood Wastewater Treatment Plant, we've invested close to half a million dollars in a range of important upgrades. One of these improvements is a new laydown area for the large dewatering bags used when sludge is removed from the oxidation ponds.

We've also cleaned out and are replanting two of the plant's five wetland cells. These planted wetlands act as natural biofilters, helping to remove pollutants such as heavy metals, pathogens, and nutrients from treated water before it is discharged.

To further strengthen the plant's performance, new control valves have been installed to better manage water flows during periods of heavy rainfall, when pond levels can rise significantly.

There have also been major improvements at the Collingwood Water Treatment Plant. More than \$600,000 has been invested in new multi-barrier protection systems designed to further improve drinking water quality and safety, while reducing the risk of contamination in the future.

Meanwhile, at the Tākaka Wastewater Treatment Plant, we're completing a major upgrade worth more than \$2 million. A key feature of the project is a new filtration system that will improve the long-term performance of the Rapid Infiltration Basins. These basins are the final stage of the treatment process, where treated water passes through layers of gravel before soaking into the ground. By removing more of the remaining solids before the water reaches the basins, the new system is expected to help extend their lifespan and improve overall performance.

Need for speed? Go with the flow!

Tasman rivers are enjoyed by swimmers, kayakers, anglers, paddleboarders and jet boaters. Everyone has a responsibility to be aware of others and use the river safely and respectfully.

Many people are unaware that national maritime rules generally restrict vessels to five knots within 200 metres of the shore on rivers, lakes and the sea.

In Tasman, our Navigation Safety Bylaw provides a limited speed uplift (relaxation of the speed limit) in some locations.

On the Motueka River, a speed uplift applies between Tapawera Bridge and the State Highway 60 Bridge, but only when the flow at Woodman's Bend exceeds 50 cumecs. Essentially, if you feel the need for speed, go with the flow!

Whether a speed uplift applies or not, operators must always maintain a proper lookout, travel at a safe speed for the conditions, and take reasonable care around other river users.

Before heading out, check river conditions and make sure you are familiar with the applicable rules. If the Motueka River speed uplift is not in force, higher-speed boating is still available in locations such as the Shared High-Speed Activity Area at Moturoa / Rabbit Island. If in doubt, slow down.

Before launching, check river flow levels at tasman.govt.nz/river-flow and read the Navigation Safety Bylaw at tasman.govt.nz/navigation-safety-bylaw.

Big investment planned for Richmond's water network

A major project to replace ageing water pipes in parts of Richmond is being planned, with work expected to begin from the middle of next year.



The project will see water mains in William Street and surrounding streets renewed over the next four years at a cost of just under \$6 million.

Many of the existing pipes were installed between the 1950s and 1970s and are nearing the end of their working life. As pipes age, they're more likely to leak or burst, and can also cause issues with water pressure, flow and water quality.

Replacing them will help improve the reliability of Richmond's water supply and reduce the risk of unexpected outages and emergency repairs.

As part of the project, we are also proposing to replace shared service pipes that currently supply water to multiple properties. The goal is to provide each property with its own dedicated connection.

In some cases, water meters currently located within rights-of-way or on private property will be moved to the property boundary, with new service pipes installed.

Property owners affected by these changes will be contacted over the coming months and invited to provide feedback on the proposed locations of new service pipes – our project team will be available to discuss options and answer questions.

While construction is expected to start next year, the timing of work on individual streets and properties won't be confirmed until a construction contract has been awarded.

We're likely to start with George Street to provide operational efficiencies by working in conjunction with the planned road reconstruction programme, with the water main upgrades completed ahead of the associated roading works.

TRANSPORT TALES



eBus patronage continues to grow

More people than ever are choosing to travel by eBus, with September delivering another strong month of growth across the network.

The biggest gains were seen on Route 1 (Nelson – Richmond via Waimea Road), where passenger trips increased by 22 percent compared with September last year. Patronage rose from 27,808 trips in September 2025 to 33,941 trips in September 2026. Route 2 (Nelson – Richmond via Rocks Road) also enjoyed healthy growth, carrying 25,325 passengers during the month, up seven percent on the previous year.

One of the most exciting success stories came from the Wakefield service. Patronage surged by an impressive 56 percent, growing from 2,343 passenger trips in September 2025 to 3,665 this September. The increase means Wakefield is now attracting a similar number of passengers as Motueka, with both services carrying around 3,700 people during the month.

These results highlight the growing popularity of public transport across the wider region. While strong patronage on the main urban routes continues to underpin the network, the increasing use of services connecting communities such as Wakefield and Motueka shows that more residents are discovering the convenience, affordability and environmental benefits of travelling by bus.

The easiest and cheapest way to pay for your eBus trip is with a Bee Card. You can get a Bee Card from our Richmond Service Centre and Richmond and Motueka Libraries or online at beecard.co.nz.

With no worries about parking or fuel costs, and with free wifi on board, more people are discovering eBus is a great option to get around our region.



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New signs bring Richmond's hills to life

The walking tracks in the hills above Richmond continue to attract more people keen to enjoy the outdoors, and thanks to the efforts of a dedicated group of local volunteers, there's now even more to discover along the way.

For the past four years, volunteers from Keep Richmond Beautiful have been enhancing the experience for visitors exploring the area. The Reservoir Creek Walkway, stretching from shore to summit, features a plane table lookout that helps walkers identify and align the many landmarks visible around Tasman Bay.

Along the route, the group installed interpretation panels that tell the stories of early farming in the area, ancient forest survivors, and the history behind Boars Nest Corner, adding another layer of interest for those enjoying the walk.



More recently, volunteers have completed significant upgrades to the Jimmy Lee Creek Track, supported by funding from a Tasman District Council Community Grant. While working on the track, the group recognised an opportunity to showcase some of the area's fascinating geological features.

With extensive research and expert input from respected local geologist Paul Woperis, they developed five new interpretation panels that highlight the unique landscape and natural history of the reserve. The panels explain features including the Waimea Fault, the 88 Fault and the Moutere Depression, while others focus on the area's bush, birdlife and the story of Jimmy Lee Creek itself.

The new panels are now in place and already proving popular with walkers, helping visitors connect more deeply with the remarkable natural and geological history that lies on Richmond's doorstep.

Golden Bay Community Board

Community Boards across New Zealand are asking what happens once the head start and backstop processes are implemented.

The Government has received a wide range of proposals, and we suspect their variety and complexity is why it has paused the process until after the election. So, what if the current coalition is not re-elected? Either way, some reform is clearly needed.

Community Boards have largely been shut out of this process, with no seat at the table to discuss their own future. In response, they have asked the Community Boards Executive Committee to develop a policy to help structure Boards going forward.

It has made six recommendations:

- Every new unitary authority should have a local representation body covering communities of interest.
- Each body should hold the nine functions set out in the Committee's policy document.

- New unitary authorities should agree a local representation accord with each body.
- Local representation boundaries should follow communities of interest.
- Remuneration Authority settings should reflect the functions and delegations held.
- Any reduction in an agreed delegation should follow the same formal process as its original grant, including public notification and submissions.

As a remote District, and the only unitary council in New Zealand with Community Boards, we need to be at the table to ensure our voice is heard.

Over the coming months, there will be plenty of promises, policies and ideas. During this uncertain period, the Golden Bay Community Board will actively discuss what is needed to support local representation beyond the election.

WHAT'S ON IN TASMAN



Nelson Water Safety Expo

Saturday 31 October, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm, Nelson Marina.

Don't miss this opportunity to get ready for a safe summer on the water. The expo will have free safety checks, free life jacket inspections, information on locator beacons and use of marine radio, demonstrations, display boats and vessel tours, local regulations and conditions information, an inflatable life raft demonstration at 12.00 pm, a BBQ (koha), discounts on safety gear, giveaways, and prizes to be won.

How to look at art

Tuesday 10 November, 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm, Richmond Library.

Open up a whole new world of art appreciation with Suter Art Gallery curator Dr Kyla Mackenzie. Kyla will share an item from their permanent collection, providing an in-depth exploration of the piece and the broader context in which it was made.



Peter Owen's book talk

Wednesday 11 November, 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm, Motueka Library.

With an appetite for adventure, Gerry Clark sailed around New Zealand, Australia and Antarctica. He risked all and tested the limits of his endurance. Books will be available to purchase for \$26.50 each.

Second Hand Sunday

Sunday 15 November, 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 13 November 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 13 November. 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.

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.

Environment Regulatory and Operations Committee

Thursday 5 November, 9.30 am.

Joint Saxton Field Committee

Tuesday 10 November, 9.30 am.

Tasman District Council

Thursday 12 November, 9.30 am.

Proposed PC87 to the TRMP

On Friday 30 October, we will make public the decision to notify Proposed Plan Change 87 (PC87): Waimea and Deep Moutere Fresh Water Protections. The submission period starts Monday 2 November and will be open for 30 working days.

The full public notice, information on how to make a submission, and supporting documentation will be available on our website – visit tasman.govt.nz and search 'Plan Change 87'. The TRMP will be updated to show the changes online. Enquires can be emailed to tasmanrmp@tasman.govt.nz.

2026 funds for creative ideas closing soon

Our Creative Communities Scheme has funding available to help groups and individuals with arts projects in Tasman – anything from music, theatre, festivals, mural painting, outdoor sculptures, art in public spaces, kapa haka, singing, art workshops and more. Funded by Creative New Zealand, the Creative Communities Scheme is designed to support opportunities for communities to participate in the arts. Find out more and apply by Tuesday 10 November at tasman.govt.nz/creative-communities.

Alcohol applications

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

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