# **Newsline Issue 593 – 2 May 2025**

# Firewood Day is back!

We’re excited to bring Firewood Day back to Moturoa / Rabbit Island for 2025.

This popular annual event is a great way to put waste forestry wood to good use by making it available to locals who need firewood for winter.

After a few growing pains in our first year (hello, 6km traffic jam!), last year’s timed ticket system was a hit. Everything ran smoothly, and we’re sticking with that winning formula again this year.

There was an amazing response from attendees last year who were friendly, positive about the event, and grateful for the opportunity to access quality firewood with funds all going to a good cause.

Thanks to the generous support of PF Olsen, Steve Thompson Ltd, and Downer, we’re offering 200 trailer loads of seasoned firewood for $100 each. Best of all, this year’s wood is dry and ready to burn, perfect for the colder months ahead.

All proceeds will support two incredible local organisations: Nelson Tasman Hospice, which provides specialist palliative care to patients and whānau, and Nelson Women’s Refuge, who support women and tamariki affected by domestic and family violence.

When you buy a ticket, you’ll be given a time slot between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm on Saturday 10 May for contactless loading by our team.

Please note, ticket numbers are limited, there’s no entry without a ticket, and the event is open to Tasman District residents only.

Let’s keep warm and give back – grab your ticket and get your time slot at either our Richmond or Motueka Service Centre.

# Community welcomes new monitoring plan for Te Waikoropupū Springs

A well-attended public meeting in Golden Bay on Tuesday 15 April heard from scientist Murray Close about the findings and recommendations from the independent Te Waikoropupū Springs monitoring review.

The presentation outlined a comprehensive plan to track water quality in the catchment, with a strong focus on early detection of changes that could impact the iconic springs.

Murry explained that the new monitoring programme builds on years of data collection and incorporates updated methods to ensure high accuracy and early warning of water quality changes.

A key focus is on understanding how land use in the recharge area may influence nitrate levels reaching the springs. By sampling both surface water and groundwater monthly over the next year, the programme aims to fill knowledge gaps and support better long-term management of the catchment.

Highlights from the presentation included community support for the selected monitoring sites, interest in the behaviour of nitrogen from forested areas, and reassurance around low levels of heavy metals like arsenic in the groundwater.

The report has received a positive response to the role feedback had in shaping the final recommendations to the ongoing Council monitoring programme.

You can find ongoing reports and data regarding Te Waikoropupū Springs, such as water clarity, water flow, and dissolved oxygen, at tasman.govt.nz/takaka-WCO.

You can also download a copy of the Water Monitoring Peer Review and a recording of the Peer Review presentation given at the April Golden Bay Community Board meeting.

# A Dam good first summer

Through drought conditions and some hefty rainfall, the first full season of operation for the Waimea Community Dam has proven its worth and provided insight into its ongoing value to those who live and work on the Waimea Plains and adjacent reticulated areas like Māpua.

Following its commissioning in September 2024, the dam was officially opened on 7 February 2025 by Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, Mayor Tim King, Waimea Irrigators Limited Chair Murray King and Waimea Water Limited Chair David Wright.

As we’ve mentioned, the completed Waimea Community Dam is a legacy project for our region, as the first large dam built in the past 30 years, it is vital for securing the water supply for generations to come.

However, the dam’s benefit had already come to the fore during a significant dry weather period last summer when 20 percent of the reservoir was released, minimising the effects of water restrictions on residents, businesses and irrigators.

This season, the presence of the dam has continued to maintain and augment the essential environmental river flow when necessary.

Because of this, for the first time in many summers, we have been able to stave off implementing water restrictions on our urban supplies. As well as this, dam-affiliated consent holders have been able to access sufficient water for crops and pastures without any restrictions on their allocated supply.

Reservoir capacity has remained at 100 percent for most of the season, which has allowed its operator to release water for testing purposes as well as flushing flows of the Lee River.

The next 18 months will provide more data on the dam’s performance – this will offer a broader picture of how it is helping the health of the Waimea River and the aquifers it helps replenish.

# Bridge work to start

Phase one of work on the much anticipated rebuild of the Lower Queen Street bridge over Borck Creek is scheduled to start in a little over a week.

The current 14-metre-long bridge will be replaced by a new 48-metre-long structure which will allow the channel under it to be significantly widened to ensure flood water can flow away better during heavy rain.

Contractors will hit the ground on Monday 12 May for preliminary site work, and this means the road will be closed for the week.

There is a considerable network of services including water mains, wastewater pipes and telecommunication links under the old bridge that need to be moved before any heavy construction work can begin.

Vehicles travelling toward Richmond from the western end of Lower Queen Street will detour via McShane Road to State Highway 60 at Old Factory Corner, then travel into Richmond via Gladstone Road, or Bateup to Wensley Road.

Traffic entering and exiting the industrial areas off Lower Queen Street will also be able to use Lansdowne and Swamp Roads – Berryfield Drive will be closed to heavy vehicles.

The Headingly Lane intersection will be closed for the entire duration of the project so access to the lane will be via a new temporary road in Saltmarsh Place.

Traffic management will be in place for the week but there may be delays so please be patient and plan your journey accordingly.

Keep up with this project at shape.tasman.govt.nz/LQS-bridge

# Meet the planners’ drop-ins widely supported

In April, we held eight in-person community drop-in sessions across the District and one online webinar where the community could ‘meet the planners’ working on draft Plan Change 81 Urban Growth and draft Plan Change 85 Natural Hazards.

Residents were able to talk directly to the planners and technical and science staff to receive information about specific issues relating to their properties. Feedback on the drop-ins themselves spoke of the benefit of the combined consultation given the need to consider our natural hazards when planning for housing and development.

Draft Plan Change 85 Natural Hazards is currently in the early stages of the planning process, so it was encouraging to see community members attending the drop-in sessions keen to learn more about the natural hazards in their area and the potential implications for them as we work to avoid putting more people and new development in harm’s way.

Draft Plan Change 81 Urban Growth has as its overall direction increased density for towns and more homes. This includes the rezoning of land for homes and businesses for 10 years, a new medium-density zone for building up, easier rules for workers’ accommodation and papakāinga, and the modernising of some transport and central business rules.

Discussions with residents acknowledged the need to get the balance right between the need for development, securing employment opportunities, and protection of our natural and built environments.

Feedback on draft Plan Change 81 Urban Growth and draft Plan Change 85 Natural Hazards are still open until Monday 5 May. Visit shape.tasman.govt.nz.

# Looking for your feedback on our services

Our annual residents feedback survey is happening now.

Each year, we survey a random sample of Tasman residents for their feedback on a range of services we provide. We use these results to identify improvements and track the performance targets set out in our 10-Year Plan.

This year, we’re shifting from phone interviews to an online survey to help reach more people across the District. A random sample of 8,000 households will receive a postcard from Monday 28 April, with a unique link to complete the survey.

To ensure everyone has a chance to be heard, the survey will also be available on Shape Tasman. Whether you receive a postcard or not, we encourage all interested residents to take this opportunity to provide feedback.

The survey, conducted by independent research company Truwind, is designed to ensure a representative sample across age, gender, and location. As thanks for taking the time to complete the survey, you can enter the draw to win one of three $50 Prezzy Cards from Truwind.

While the overall results of the survey will be made public, all individual responses remain confidential.

If you received a postcard, please use the unique link provided to complete the survey. Otherwise, you can take part at shape.tasman.govt.nz/residents-survey from Monday 5 May. The survey is open until Saturday 31 May.

# Richmond Library upgrade set to begin

Exciting improvements are on the horizon for Richmond Library, with a $1.3 million upgrade planned to strengthen and future-proof this much-loved community hub beginning soon.

A detailed seismic assessment last year revealed that part of the building poses an earthquake risk, prompting the need for essential structural upgrades.

Alongside that, long-standing issues like roof sagging and water tightness in some areas also need to be addressed – ensuring the library remains safe, sound, and welcoming for years to come.

To minimise disruption, the work will be carefully staged. While visitors might notice some temporary changes, the library team is committed to keeping services running as much as possible. There may be a brief closure, but we’ll share more about that closer to the time.

There will be interruptions to the café, and the Constance Barnicoat Room is now closed and will remain unavailable during the upgrade.

Preliminary work is about to begin, with the main construction likely to start in the next couple of months. The full upgrade is expected to take about five months.

This important project is being funded through the Richmond Reserve Financial Contributions, ensuring our library continues to thrive as a vital community space.

# Vote on special projects for Motueka

Each year, the Motueka Community Board has approximately $55,000 to spend on special projects, and they would like your feedback on which projects to prioritise.

They have a list of around 20 projects suggested by the community last year, which they are asking you to rank in order of importance, plus there’s also the option to add in other ideas.

Visit shape.tasman.govt.nz/motueka-projects to have your say or pick up a hard copy voting form at Motueka Library Te Noninga Kumu or the Motueka Service Centre. Feedback is open until Friday 12 May.

# Ants appearing all over

Many households in Tasman are currently facing ant infestations, likely due to a very successful breeding season.

Effective ant control depends on correctly identifying the species, as different types require different treatment methods. The two most common ant invaders of homes in Tasman are white-footed house ants and Argentine ants.

White-footed house ants (pictured above left), originally from Indonesia, measure between 2.5 and 3.0 mm in length. They are black with distinctive white feet – though you’d need a magnifying glass to spot that detail.

In comparison, Argentine ants (pictured above right) are slightly smaller, ranging from 2.0 to 3.0 mm long, and are characterised by their honey-brown colouration.

If you place your hand over a trail of ants, Argentine ants will continue crawling over it without hesitation, while white-footed house ants will scatter and flee.

Find out more, including how to treat each type at tasman.govt.nz/ant-behaviour-and-control.

# Wasp biocontrols a battle in the beech

Tasman beech forests have some of the highest Vespula wasp densities in the world and we all know getting on top of them isn’t easy.

For over 10 years we have been hard at it trying to find a solution. Last year, we released a small number of an approved biocontrol agent, the Volucella inanis hoverfly, at Wainui in Golden Bay and Ronga Valley in the Rai Valley.

The adult female hoverfly enters the wasp nest and lays eggs in larval cells. Once hatched, the fly larvae feed on wasp larvae and pupae. This technique could help to manage wasp populations and bring them down to a less harmful level.

This season, we’re planning to release another batch of hoverflies in the Howard Valley. So, what’s next for Wainui and Ronga Valley? Well, that’s the tricky part – seeing if last year’s release was successful.

And why is it tricky? Well, someone has to dig up wasp nests to find out. Luckily Bob ‘the wasp whisperer’ Brown from Manaaki Whenua is up to the task along with some keen folk such as Bronwyn Billens from Manawhenua ki Mōhua.

Unfortunately, our first two nests showed no signs of Volucella, but we’ll keep looking and keep releasing. We know biocontrols are a slow burn, but when successful can be a game changer.

This work is under the umbrella of the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance and is a collaboration between Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research, Tasman District Council, Marlborough District Council, our iwi partners, and the Vespula Action Group, as part of a Ministry for Primary Industries Sustainable Farming Fund.

Support has also been provided by Manaaki Whenua’s Strategic Science Investment Fund and The Nature Conservancy Aotearoa New Zealand.

# Triple rinse for Agrecovery

Our partners at the Agrecovery Foundation are reminding people who use their services to be vigilant about cleaning the old chemical containers that are being disposed of.

Agrecovery is New Zealand’s solution for the safe disposal of unwanted agrichemicals, and the recycling or recovery of empty containers, drums and bulk plastic containers. We support the scheme with container collection sites at all our Resource Recovery Centres in Tasman District.

The system works under an industry levy where the brand owners that distribute agrichemical, animal health and dairy hygiene products take responsibility for the disposal of these products and their packaging at the end of their useful life.

But it’s vital that farmers and growers triple rinse their plastics before disposal through the Agrecovery programme.

Triple rinsing is more than a procedural step; it is the first line of defence in maintaining a safe and sustainable recycling environment. Triple rinsing also significantly reduces the risk of chemical contamination, protecting not just the environment but also every individual involved in handling these materials.

Plastic waste on farms is a growing issue and together with Agrecovery, we are offering a practical, sustainable solution.

# Honouring a lifetime of service

The final recipient of one of our 2024 Outstanding Community Service Awards is Derek “Woody” Woodcock.

For more than five decades, Derek Woodcock – affectionately known as “Woody” – has been a steadfast figure in the Motueka community, dedicating his life to firefighting and emergency response.

Woody’s commitment to the Motueka Volunteer Fire Brigade is truly remarkable. Over the past 52 years, he has consistently attended emergency callouts and weekly training sessions, setting a record for attendance and demonstrating unwavering dedication to keeping our community safe.

His experience spans everything from the light-hearted – rescuing ducks from drains and cats from trees, to the deeply challenging – responding to house fires, car accidents, and bush fires. No matter the situation, Woody has always been there to help.

Beyond emergency response, Woody has also played a crucial role in fire prevention, conducting home fire safety visits to ensure residents have working smoke alarms and providing essential fire safety advice to at-risk members of our community.

A mentor to many, Woody has trained and supported generations of firefighters, continuing to offer guidance to both current and former brigade members. His expertise and leadership have helped shape the brigade into what it is today.

In recognition of his exceptional service, Woody was honoured last year by the United Fire Brigades Association for more than 50 years of dedication. This well-deserved accolade reflects the immense contribution he has made to Motueka, despite the personal challenges he has faced along the way.

Woody’s legacy is one of commitment, resilience, and service.

# Community Grants open now

Community Grants are making a real difference throughout Tasman District – and applications for this year’s funding round are now open!

These grants support organisations whose work brings real value to our communities, enhancing well-being and helping Tasman thrive.

Last year, a number of projects received funding. The Menzshed Waimea ran a fantastic programme to help refugees and migrants build vocational skills and improve their English. Keep Motueka Beautiful received support to help restore the historic Motueka Wharf.

In Golden Bay, the Aorere Childcare and Education Charity Trust was granted funding to help develop a new early childhood centre at Collingwood Area School.

If your group has a great community project on the horizon, a Community Grant could help bring it to life. The grants cover a wide range of activities, supporting everything from service organisations and festivals to sports clubs, welfare services, arts, culture, heritage, and environmental initiatives.

To be considered, projects should meet a community need, have local support, and align with our community outcomes. Preference will be given to projects that also have financial backing from other sources.

Funding can go towards one-off projects, service delivery, project development, and some administration costs.

Applications are open now and close at the end of July. To find out more and apply, visit tasman.govt.nz/grants.

# Does your building have specified systems?

Some systems in a building, such as fire alarms or access control doors, need regular maintenance and inspections to ensure they’re working correctly. These are called ‘specified systems’.

If you have a specified system, your building requires a compliance schedule, the systems should be maintained and inspected regularly, and a Building Warrant of Fitness provided to us each year.

A compliance schedule explains the inspection, maintenance, and reporting procedures that are needed to keep each of your specified systems in good working order.

If you’re constructing a new building or altering a building in a way that affects the specified systems, we will issue (or amend) your compliance schedule.

Your Independent Qualified Person will be checking your systems; however, we are required to periodically inspect buildings with specified systems by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

These inspections are beneficial to building owners, managers and the people who use them. It also ensures that our records are up to date and contain the correct information.

If your building is selected for an inspection, you will be contacted with an appointment date and an explanation of what is involved.

Most of the work is done behind the scenes as part of a desktop audit. The on-site inspection by the Compliance Officer will be approximately 20 minutes and they require full access to the building.

There is a charge to owners, which you can see at tasman.govt.nz/fees-and-charges.

If you have any queries, please email us at bacompliance@tasman.govt.nz.

Find out more at tasman.govt.nz/commercial-building-compliance.

# Golden Bay Community Board

Tasman District Council offers various funding opportunities for Golden Bay residents and organisations. Here are some options for our community:

The Golden Bay Community Board Discretionary Fund provides low-level funding for projects, events, and initiatives in the Golden Bay area. Applications are open all year, with decisions made every month. The maximum amount for non-Board-initiated projects is $500.

There is also the Golden Bay Special Projects Fund, where community initiatives can receive up to $5,000. This is allocated once a year by the Board for projects that enhance the Golden Bay community.

The Community Grants Scheme provides assistance to Tasman organisations and community groups. Funding is available for projects that benefit Tasman residents, meet a community need, and have community support. Applications open 1 May and close 31 July each year.

The Creative Communities Scheme, which is fully funded by Creative New Zealand, supports arts and cultural activities in the community. Projects must either have broad community involvement, diversity, or support for young people.

Waste Minimisation Grants are available for waste minimisation activities, including community events, school and community projects, and waste minimisation projects.

The Catchment Enhancement Fund provides financial assistance and advice to landowners and catchment groups to achieve catchment-scale improvements in waterway and wetland health.

The Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund, which is fully funded by Sport NZ, helps rural sports clubs and school teams with travel costs, enabling young people to participate in local sports competitions.

To apply for any of these funding opportunities, visit tasman.govt.nz/grants.

# What’s On In Tasman

### Downsizing your home – Positive Ageing Forum

Monday 5 May, 1.00 pm, Age Concern, 62 Oxford Street, Richmond.

Whether you’re considering a move to a smaller home, looking to declutter, or planning for the future, this event will provide valuable insights from experts across a range of topics.

### Composting for beginners

* Tuesday 6 May, 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm, Age Concern Richmond.
* Wednesday 7 May, 10.00 am – 11.30 am, Motueka Library.

Composting at home is an easy and environmentally friendly way to manage your garden waste. It also provides a free, nutrient-rich compost you can use in your garden. Whether you’re just getting started, or need a little help troubleshooting, there’s something for you at these free workshops. Plus, there are some great giveaways and prizes to be won.

### Second Hand Sunday

Sunday 18 May, 9.00 am – 2.00 pm.

Second Hand Sunday is a fun way for Nelson and Tasman residents to declutter and re-home unwanted household goods for free. If you have items you want to give away, simply register online before 10.00 am Friday 16 May to be included on the list of participating addresses. Print off a poster to put on your mailbox and put your items on your driveway at 9.00 am on the day. A list and map of participating addresses will be available to download from 12.00 pm Friday 16 May. Check out the map to plan your fossicking route and pick up some free second-hand items! For more information and to sign up, go to tasman.govt.nz/shs.

### NZ Music Month events

Don’t miss local musicians performing at Tākaka Library in May.

Saturday 3 May, 11.00 am – 12.00 pm.

Diana Hickey will lead a sing-along session of a few New Zealand songs. All welcome, no singing experience required.

Saturday 10 May, 11.00 am – 12.00 pm.

Local musician and composer John Coulter will share “Art Making with Sound” which has musical, sound and spoken elements.

Saturday 24 May, 11.00 am – 12.00 pm.

“Hera and Friends” will perform a selection of Kiwi favourites.

Saturday 31 May, 11.00 am – 12.00 pm.

Young singer and musician Maggie Quinn.

### Wellby Talking Cafés

* Wednesday 7 May, 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm, Tākaka Library.
* Tuesday 13 May, 10.00 am – 11.30 am, Tapawera Community Library.
* Tuesday 13 May, 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm, Richmond 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.

### Community quilt project

Monday 24 March – Monday 30 June, all Tasman District Libraries.

All ages, all sewing abilities, all welcome. Pop into your local library to pick up an entry form with everything you need to know to take part in this creative community project. Our theme for this quilt is threading connections/tuia te hononga, a celebration of the connection you feel with   
Te Tauihu/Top of the South.

# Newsline Notices

### Consultation corner

We have a number of topics currently open for feedback. Visit shape.tasman.govt.nz to have your say on:

Local Water Done Well

Lower Queen Street Bridge

Reserves Management Plan

Motueka Special Projects

### Want to be the first to see Newsline?

Did you know you can read Newsline online? We put a digital version on our website and email it to those who have signed up to our mailing list. This means you should get it in your inbox before it reaches your letterbox!

Visit tasman.govt.nz/newsline and follow the link to join the mailing list.

### Find what you’re looking for with FOUND

Have you heard of the FOUND Directory? It has listings of community groups and organisations, so if you’re looking for culture, art, sport, recreation, education or welfare, you’ll find it on FOUND. You can also find facilities like halls, reserves and meeting places to book for your next event or function. Check it out at found.org.nz.

### Alcohol applications

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

### 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. Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will be held at the Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond.

Animal Control Subcommittee  
Tuesday 6 May, 1.30 pm. No public forum.

Joint Nelson Tasman Regional Transport Committee  
Wednesday 7 May, 1.00 pm.

Tasman District Council  
Thursday 8 May, 9.30 am.

Strategy and Policy Committee  
Friday 9 May, 9.30 am.

Golden Bay Community Board  
Monday 12 May, 1.00 pm. Tākaka Office, 78 Commercial Street.

Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit  
Wednesday 14 May, 9.30 am. Nelson City Council, 110 Trafalgar Street.

Saxton Field Committee (Annual Plan Hearings and Deliberations)  
Wednesday 14 May, 1.30 pm.

Joint Committee of Nelson City and Tasman District Councils  
Thursday 15 May, 9.30 am. Nelson City Council, 110 Trafalgar Street.

Tasman District Council (Fees and Charges and Development Contributions Policy Hearings)  
Friday 16 May, 9.30 am.