# **Newsline Issue 595 – 30 May 2025**

# Coming together to celebrate Matariki in our community

As winter settles in, we look to the skies to welcome Matariki, the cluster of stars also known as Pleiades. In Māori culture, the rising of Matariki, usually in late June or early July, marks the start of the Māori New Year.

This year, Matariki will be celebrated on Friday 20 June.

While Matariki has long been celebrated by Māori communities, it became a nationwide public holiday in 2022, giving all of Aotearoa a chance to come together in recognition of this important cultural tradition.

In the week leading up to the celebration and the week following, there will be a series of vibrant community events across the Tasman District, featuring performances, kai, crafts and more.

On Sunday 15 June, there’s a community planting day with Battle for the Banded Rail from 9.00 am until 1.00 pm at Research Orchard Road in Redwood Valley.

Sundial Square is the focus of kapa haka performances on Monday 16 June at 12.00 pm and 2.00 pm, and Wednesday 18 June at 10.00 am and 2.00 pm, while on Tuesday 17 June at 1.00 pm and Wednesday 18 June at 12.30 pm there are lunchtime raranga star making sessions also at Sundial Square.

On the following Saturday, 28 June, there will be star gazing and a sausage sizzle at the Wai-iti Dark Sky Reserve from 6.00 pm.

This is a special opportunity to pause and reflect, to celebrate with whānau and friends. It’s a time to honour those who came before us, acknowledge our journeys and achievements, and set intentions for the year to come.

# Motueka stopbanks work progressing

Efforts to build resilience along parts of the Motueka River have rumbled on over summer under stage two of the Motueka Stopbanks Refurbishment Project.

After a busy few months of works, we are taking a brief pause in proceedings over winter – however it’s a good chance to take stock of what we’ve achieved.

Since February, we’ve managed to complete 1km of stopbank works, which includes the completion of the Parker Street site. Significant progress has been made at our College Street site too and there is just a 100m section to be finished once we resume work in spring.

Material for the stopbanks is being sourced from Tasman View Road, improving the road while supplying essential fill.

This important work will see Lower Motueka River and Brooklyn Stream stopbanks receive a 6.7km upgrade, building on the 4.8km initial stage of work we completed in stage one.

Funding for the Motueka Stopbanks Refurbishment Project Stage Two was approved by Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit, as part of the Government’s Regional Infrastructure Fund.

This work will reduce the community’s risk of flooding from the river. The stopbank refurbishment would protect approximately 1,500 hectares of fertile and productive land, along with portions of the town itself.

We are pleased to be able to continue this work to protect homes and livelihoods, while building further climate resilience for the Motueka community.

Flood protection/resilience and associated stopbank works for Peach Island are also being progressed as part of this project.

# Learning for life – free education programmes

We believe learning should be fun, hands-on, and accessible to everyone. That’s why we offer a variety of free educational programmes for school-aged children and the wider community. Whether in the classroom, out in nature, or right here at Council, there’s something for everyone to enjoy and learn from.

Our civic education sessions help demystify local government – showing how councils work, make decisions, and how each of us can play a part in shaping our communities.

In the living world education stream, learners get their hands dirty with edible gardening, work with Biosecurity Officers on pest control, plant trees, and learn about local conservation efforts like protecting the Mōhua penguin.

Our waste education invites students to explore recycling centres or the landfill, and families can join composting workshops for practical, planet-friendly tips.

The water sessions explore how land and water connect, highlighting ecosystems, coastal biodiversity, and how urban life affects water quality, with ways we can all help protect it.

Our safety education promotes everyday awareness around emergency preparedness, road safety, and safe dog interaction.

In addition to the one-off sessions, we offer long-term programmes – Enviroschools and Climate Change Learning.

Enviroschools is a long-term, whole-school programme, where we support schools in creating their own unique pathway to sustainability. The Climate Change Programme allows students to build climate awareness and feel empowered to take positive environmental action and participate in Council decision-making.

To request a session for your school or group email us at education@tasman.govt.nz. You can also learn more at tasman.govt.nz/education.

# SolarBee deals to duckweed

It floats like a butterfly and stirs like a bee – a SolarBee that is.

A SolarBee mixer was installed on the Upper Tākaka wastewater treatment plant oxidation pond in mid-April.

The establishment of duckweed on the ponds has become a big problem due to the lack of water movement.

Our new SolarBee, which is the second unit to be used in New Zealand, pulls in water at the desired depth from all corners of the pond, providing effective mixing to a predetermined depth.

These mixing machines are designed to operate 24 hours a day on solar power, utilising digital logic for power management, and have auto-reverse, plus anti-jamming features.

The purpose of the SolarBee is to keep the water in the pond moving, reducing the growth of duckweed which smothers the pond surface and significantly reduces ultraviolet disinfection.

# Permanent boil water notices for some rural water supplies

Due to changes in national water quality requirements, permanent boil water notices are now in place for the Redwoods Valley (both supplies one and two) and the Eighty Eight Valley water schemes.

This change is required by Taumata Arowai, the Government’s water services regulator. It’s part of updated standards and policy aimed at managing the potential risk from protozoa – a type of microscopic organism that can be harmful if consumed.

Protozoa like Cryptosporidium and Giardia are not removed by chlorine and can be present in surface or shallow groundwater contaminated by animal or human waste. Since these schemes draw from streams or shallow groundwater sources that may be accessed by feral or farm animals, there’s an ongoing risk that protozoa could enter the water supply.

We want to reassure you that there has been no recent change to the quality of the water. These notices are a precaution only, based on the regulator’s risk-management expectations, not a response to a specific contamination event.

We will continue to treat with chlorine and monitor water quality as before.

Until further treatment – such as ultraviolet disinfection – can be introduced, we recommend that anyone connected to these schemes boil all water used for drinking, food preparation, brushing teeth, making ice, or giving to pets.

We understand this may be inconvenient and appreciate your cooperation as we work towards long-term solutions.

Visit tasman.govt.nz/boil-water-notice for more details. You can also learn more about national water regulations at taumataarowai.govt.nz.

# Firewood event – a burning success

The sound of log splitters will echo across Tasman District following another successful charity firewood day at Moturoa/Rabbit Island earlier this month.

Rain on the days leading up to the weekend meant the wood was a little wetter than we’d hoped for, but once split and with a few weeks of drying it will be good to burn this winter.

After a few growing pains in the first year of the event, like hello 6km long traffic jam, last year’s timed ticket system was a hit. We and our forestry partner PF Olsen decided to stick with that winning formula, which proved the right thing to do.

We are delighted that 200 tickets were sold, which means our two chosen charities, 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, get $10,000 each.

But we couldn’t have done it without massive support from PF Olsen for on-site support, Steve Thompson Ltd for two machines and operators to load trailers, and Downer who expertly handled traffic management.

For those who missed out, we hope to have another event in the coming year...

# Elections for boards taking place too

If you weren’t already aware, 2025 is a local body election year, but these elections don’t only let us choose Councillors to represent us at the Council table. In Golden Bay and Motueka, residents also get to elect Community Boards.

These Boards are separately elected advisory bodies and are not Council committees. Their main role is to represent and act as an advocate for the interests of their community.

In Motueka, the Board comprises four Board members, with three ward Councillors also sitting on it. The Golden Bay Board also has four Board members elected, plus the two ward Councillors.

Community boards consider and report on all matters referred to them by the territorial authority, or any matter of interest or concern to the community board.

Community boards maintain an overview of services provided by the territorial authority within the community and prepare an annual submission to the territorial authority for expenditure within the community.

Their role is also to communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community and take on any other responsibilities that are delegated to them by the Council.

Have you thought about standing for the Council or a Community Board? It’s a hard but rewarding role, and you’ll be making a positive difference for people and communities today and into the future.

Nominations open on Monday 7 July. Visit votelocal.co.nz/information-for-candidates for further information.

# Poutama Creek facelift completed

It may look a bit disturbed right now, but once we’ve finished and Mother Nature has had a chance to work, Richmond’s Poutama Creek will resemble the shape and form it had back in the early days.

We’ve done environmental improvements on the waterway that runs through the Berryfields community between Berryfield Drive and Jubilee Park.

This urban stream, which also serves as a stormwater channel, is home to a variety of wildlife, including inanga (whitebait), tuna (eels), and various bird species.

The work will improve the habitat for these species and people by creating a freshwater environment that resembles what was historically found at this location.

We took great care to ensure that there was minimal disruption to the resident wildlife, with the neighbourhood pukeko population thriving on eating bugs and weeds that were disturbed during the work.

Water levels and flood capacity haven’t been changed, and the re-shaped channel will look disturbed for a while until after planting – a community planting day is being planned, so watch this space for details.

A small pā harakeke will be established at the northern end after discussion with iwi, who would like to acknowledge that the area used to be a significant place for resource and food gathering.

Signage and a seating area will also be established to explain the history and significance of the area.

What we’ve created here is a better environment for our local wildlife, and a more beautiful, natural space for everyone to enjoy.

# See you later pest invader

Cockroaches are common household pests in most parts of Aotearoa, with over 30 known species present, most of which are native bush varieties that feed on leaf detritus.

In Tasman, one accidentally introduced species of cockroach that has exploded in numbers in recent years is the Gisborne cockroach.

Native to Australia, where they are known as the ‘Eastern wood runner’ cockroach, these shiny, dark brown cockroaches have a distinctive cream-coloured stripe on either side of their thorax.

They were bestowed the name ‘Gisborne cockroach’ in honour of the place where they were first recorded in New Zealand, back in the 1960s.

Gisborne cockroaches prefer to stay outside under bark or wood chips, however they will come inside if it’s too wet or too hot.

In the Tasman District over the past few months, many residents have noticed a heightened presence in their homes.

While cockroaches are only a low-level health risk, some introduced species, such as German and American cockroaches, thrive in unhealthy environments and can transmit several diseases, such as dysentery, salmonella and diarrhoea. If cockroaches contaminate your food or the surfaces you use, you could become sick.

Fortunately, the Gisborne cockroach does not spread disease. They are often seen outside on building walls at night and can fit into tiny, confined spaces such as recesses in aluminium joinery.

A range of surface contact sprays containing the active ingredient Bifenthrin will provide good control of cockroaches (and ants) and can be purchased through most hardware stores.

For more information on insect control, check out the ‘controlling pest insect invaders guide’ at tasman.govt.nz/pests-and-weeds or pick up a pamphlet at one of our service centres.

# Bring it – and save!

Did you know that bringing your own reusable cup to some cafés and restaurants in the Tasman District could score you a discount on your coffee? It’s a small action that can make a big difference!

We’re proud to be part of the growing ‘Bring It’ initiative – a nationwide movement encouraging people to ditch single-use cups and embrace reusable ones. It’s all about cutting down on waste and doing our bit for the environment.

Every year, millions of disposable cups end up in landfill. Towns and cities across Aotearoa are stepping up to go ‘single-use cup-free’ (also known as SUC Free).

The benefits of Bring It are shared all around. Cafés save money by using fewer disposable cups, customers save a little on their coffee – usually between 30c and 50c off – and the planet gets a break from all that extra waste.

We’ve been chatting to cafés throughout Tasman, and the response has been fantastic with more than 20 signed up already and the list keeps growing.

If you’re a café owner and would like to get involved, it’s easy – just flick an email to Lucy at lucy@bluemoth.co.nz.

Let’s work together to reduce waste and champion reuse in Tasman.

Check out the full list of participating cafés at tasman.govt.nz/bring-it.

# Pest traps to protect your place

Have you noticed pests making themselves at home in your backyard? Did you know you can buy a subsidised pest trap through our backyard trapping programme?

Head into one of our service centres to get yourself a:

* Victor snap trap in a wooden tunnel for rats: $15
* Trapinator trap for possums: $20
* DOC200 trap in a wooden box for stoats, weasels and rats: $50

These traps are built to provide many years of reliable service. The rat and DOC200 trap mechanisms are housed in strong wooden boxes, and our subsidy provides saving of around 50 percent on the cost of manufacturing and materials.

Thanks to the great team at the Waimea Menzshed for building the trap boxes!

Drop by your local service centre to purchase one today. There is currently a limit of one of each trap type per property.

# Richmond Library renovations begin

The $1.3 million upgrade of Richmond Library is underway!

This important project will strengthen and future-proof our much-loved library, starting with work in the Constance Barnicoat meeting room, which is currently closed to users.

For now, you probably won’t notice too many changes, but over the coming months, you might see work happening in different areas of the building. There could be a few disruptions along the way, and we’ll keep you updated as things progress.

Next up, we’ll be improving the spouting systems and fixing leaks.

A detailed seismic assessment last year showed that one part of the building needed structural strengthening to improve its earthquake safety. Alongside that, we’re taking the opportunity to tackle some long-standing issues like roof sagging and water tightness, so the library remains a safe, dry, and welcoming place for everyone.

We’re aiming for July to kick off the heavier construction work. When that begins, the library and café will need to close for up to three weeks. We’ll give you plenty of notice before then.

There may also be a time when part of the library’s collection won’t be available, and we’ll share all the details closer to the time.

This project is fully funded through the Richmond Reserve Financial Contributions, helping to ensure that Richmond Library continues to grow as a vibrant community space for all.

Thanks for your patience and support as we bring these exciting improvements to life.

# Help us plot the path to fun – what should go in the new Saxton playground?

As many of you will be aware, as part of our respective 10-Year Plans, Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council are creating an inclusive, regional playspace within Saxton Field.

This decision followed strong support from submitters regarding the inclusion of accessible play facilities within Saxton Field.

Consultation is already underway with focus groups meeting with iwi representatives, community groups and schools to hear their thoughts on what this playspace may look like and what features they would like included.

And now it’s your turn to have your say! We’re encouraging everyone to complete a short survey and help shape this amazing asset for all of Te Tauihu.

In the survey, you’ll be asked some questions about the people and groups who will enjoy the new facility, and more importantly, what types of activities, themes and apparatus should be included in the final design.

Space to spin? Bountiful BBQs? Gallons of waterplay or some special themed apparatus to make every visit memorable? There are plenty of options to consider.

The survey is open until Monday 30 June. Scan the QR code above or visit shape.tasman.govt.nz/saxton-playground.

We are extremely pleased to help bring this playground to fruition, so we’re looking forward to hearing what you think is important in creating the best playground possible.

This $1.46 million project is just over 60% funded through the Richmond Reserve Financial Contributions, with the remaining amount shared equally between us and Nelson City Council with Saxton being a shared facility.

# Golden Bay Community Board

The Community Board met in May with a full agenda. There were two public forum speakers, one applauding the Council’s decision to reverse their decision regarding the emptying of bins and provision of doggy doo bags. The importance of public health being at the forefront of decision making was stressed – provision of rubbish bins, clean toilet facilities and doggy doo bags.

The Village Green committee is being dissolved and handing back the management of the Village Green to the Council. The Board would like to thank the members of the Committee, both past and present.

There were three presentations to the Board. Marine Farmers Association presented on the environmental efforts taking place in Mohua. The Golden Bay Cycle and Walkways Society presented on the development of a safe path from Pōhara Valley through to Ligar Bay. The road is very narrow and there is increased heavy traffic which poses a risk to cyclists and walkers. The Society asked the Board to support and promote their vision to the Council.

The third presentation was from the Council’s Regulatory team on their responsibilities regarding dog control. People are encouraged to report any issues with dogs to ensure that the Council have the information needed to educate owners.

There were also five requests for discretionary funding, which was great to see. If you have a small community project which benefits the community, please get in touch – we may be able to help. It was a good meeting with lots to discuss and think about.

# Newsline Notices

### Public holiday hours and services

On the King’s Birthday public holiday, Monday 2 June, all service centres and libraries will be closed for the day. Usual opening hours apply otherwise. We are always here to help when needed, call 03 543 8400 anytime.

There are no changes to the rubbish and recycling collections. All our resource recovery centres will be 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.

### Get funding for your community project

Do you have an exciting community project in the pipeline? Community Grants help get some of our most valuable community projects off the ground, and this round of funding closes on Thursday 31 July. These grants support organisations whose work brings real value to our communities, enhancing well-being and helping Tasman thrive. 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. Visit tasman.govt.nz/grants for more information and to apply.

### Moturoa / Rabbit Island upland game bird hunt

Public access to the eastern half of Moturoa / Rabbit Island will be closed between 7.00 am – 2.00 pm on Saturday 31 May (rain day Sunday 1 June) while an organised game bird hunt takes place. The closure will include all the beachfront at the eastern end. There will be no hunting on the beach or within 100 metres of the high tide mark.

Fish & Game organises the hunt, which is permitted under the Moturoa / Rabbit Island Reserve Management Plan. For more details, contact Jacob Lucas at Nelson Marlborough Fish & Game on jlucas@fishandgame.org.nz.

### Apply for arts funding

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. Visit tasman.govt.nz/creative-communities to find out more and apply by Thursday 10 July.

### Consultation corner

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

* Reserves Management Plans – Richmond and Murchison
* Waimea River Park
* Saxton playground

### 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.

Community Grants Subcommittee  
Tuesday 3 June, 9.30 am. No public forum.

Tasman District Council (Annual Plan Deliberations)  
Wednesday 4 June, 9.00 am.

Environment and Regulatory Committee  
Thursday 5 June, 9.30 am.

Submissions Hearing (Māpua Masterplan Deliberations)  
Thursday 5 June, 1.30 pm.

Tasman District Council (Local Water Done Well Submissions Hearing)  
Wednesday 11 June, 1.00 pm.

Audit and Risk Committee  
Thursday 12 June, 1.00 pm. No public forum.

# What’s On In Tasman

### Motueka Art Group – exhibition and workshops

Sunday 1 June – Sunday 8 June, Motueka Library.

In addition to an exhibition of art by local artists (available for purchase), the Motueka Art Group is facilitating a series of eight creative workshops during the first week of June. These diverse workshops range from encaustic wax art to papier-mâché figures to a fabric collage on canvas workshop.Please visit our library website, tasmanlibraries.govt.nz, for further information. Bookings are required.

### Kantha embroidery workshop

Wednesday 11 June, 10.30 am – 12.00 pm, Tākaka Library.

Using straight running stitches to cover fabric pieces, we will turn a piece of old quilted fabric into a new and useful needle book for keeping track of sewing needles. This workshop is suitable for all levels of sewing abilities. All materials will be provided. $10 cash to the tutor, Christine Richards, on the day.

### It’s on in Nelson Tasman

To keep up with events happening across the region, visit nelsontasman.nz/events.