Port Tarakohe funding flows

After many years in the planning, the first phase of the development for Port Tarakohe has been given a boost with the Government granting a concessionary loan in a ‘like for like’ funding agreement.

The $6 million loan made possible through Kanoa, the provincial development investment group within MBIE (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment), is to be used in addition to the $6.7million we have identified to invest in the 2024/2025 year. This will allow the full phase 1 development to be completed.

The funding will be used for the development of the sheet pile wharf, enhancing and enlarging commercial marina capabilities and providing more amenities to support the growth of the aquaculture industry in Golden Bay.

This is a fundamental step in the Nelson Regional Development Agency-led Moana-nui Strategy to realise the region’s place in the national Blue Economy.

The funding will also be used to develop a ‘resilience ramp’ that in times of disaster response will enable the delivery of supply barges to cater for the Bay’s needs if other access points are cut off.

The development at Port Tarakohe has been on our radar for some years now, said Councillor Chris Hill. “It’s an opportunity to strengthen not only the Bay’s local economy but also the wider regional and national economy through ensuring our local aquaculture industry has the infrastructure required for growth.”

Resiliency and the sustainability of the Bay is at the heart of this project, said Councillor Celia Butler. “This type of funding will enable us to realise the potential value of the Port both to the resilience of Golden Bay and to a comparatively sustainable, national and regional marine industry.”

Land purchase progresses Motueka pool potential

Our recent purchase of land on King Edward Street is being welcomed as a long-term investment to benefit the Motueka community meeting the expected demand for recreational space and facilities.

In conjunction with property owner Kerry Krammer, we have come to a mutual agreement to allow our purchase of land encompassing 99, 111b and 113b King Edward Street.

A potential use of some of the land is the development of a swimming pool and recreational facilities.

Both parties acknowledge the land purchase is a significant step forward in a long-held desire to provide a community pool for Motueka, a concept that has been keenly advocated by local residents for more than 25 years.

Enabling something that will be of significant long-term value to the wider community was seen as important to Kerry Krammer in offering the land to the Council.

Further progress on the site’s future – including design, timeline and costs of development – will be subject to Tasman’s 10-Year Plan discussions and consultation with locals.

We deliberately moved away from areas in eastern Motueka that have been identified by Ministry for the Environment as being exposed to greater risk with sea level rise.

The purchased sites will be tenanted up to the point of any development taking place, therefore generating income in the interim.

We have been in touch with the current tenants and a number of stakeholders to inform them of the purchase and anticipated plans.

This purchase was aided by the Motueka Community Board which approved funding through the Motueka Reserves Financial Contributions.

We will keep the community informed of any further developments in due course.

What do you want freshwater in the Tasman region to look like?

The last few decades have seen a decline in the health and quality of some streams, rivers, groundwater, and wetlands around our region.

To improve and maintain the health of our waterbodies, we are developing new rules and regulations for land and freshwater management. At each stage of this process, we check that what we are doing lines up with what people and communities want.

First, we set the Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) areas in the Tasman region where the new rules will apply.

Then we developed draft long-term visions and values for each FMU based on your feedback.

We’ve taken those revised visions and values and created a draft environmental outcome for each of the values. We now need your feedback on those outcomes.

The draft environmental outcomes will set the direction for the new plan change and will inform targets and limits for land and freshwater use in the region, and the rules that we need to achieve them.

As the outcomes define our end goal, it’s important we get them right, and that they reflect what the people of Tasman want the region’s land and freshwater to look like in the future.

Feedback is open now and closes Thursday 30 November 2023.

Attend one of our webinars to learn more:

Tuesday 7 November, 12.00 pm

Wednesday 8 November, 6.30 pm

Wednesday 22 November, 6.30 pm

Share your feedback and find more information at shape.tasman.govt.nz/freshwater-outcomes.

Rāhui in place for part of Motueka coastline

Te Tauihu iwi have placed a rāhui across part of the Motueka coastline of Te Tauihu o Te Waka-a-Māui, because of a failure of parts of the Motueka Wastewater Treatment Plant facility which has seen seepage of treated water into the Motueka estuary.

Part of the filtration system at the treatment plant is showing signs of failure and while it is still functioning, it’s not working at peak performance.

We’re focusing on keeping the oxidation pond levels constant (to avoid an uncontrolled overflow) by pumping any partially treated wastewater to the adjacent former soakage area and allowing it to seep and overflow to the former wetland area.

The rāhui took effect at 10.00 am on Wednesday 18 October.

The rāhui covers the coastline and river mouths from north of the saltwater baths to the Riuwaka river mouth and prevents the gathering of seafood and kai in these areas, as well as swimming and entering the water.

The rāhui was a collective decision agreed by Tasman District Council and the eight mana whenua iwi of Te Tauihu, and was put in place by the hau kāinga whānau of Motueka.

Monitoring will continue and the rāhui will stay in place until levels of potential contamination are considered low enough to be safe to return to activities in the area.

Colorsteel kudos books Motueka Library another award

As well as finding a good book to read or immersing yourself in the arts and cultural opportunities available to the public, another thing to appreciate at Te Noninga Kumu Motueka Library is the amazing design.

We are extremely pleased and proud to learn that the library building was recognised nationally as the award winner of the Commercial Building of the Year at the New Zealand Colorsteel Awards recently.

Jerram Tocker Barron Architects Director Simon Hall said “the award reflects and rewards the efforts of the community, iwi and entire project team (TBC, JTB Architects, BPM Project Managers, Coman Construction and Iconic Roofing), not only for its aesthetic design and use of colorsteel, but the overall design response to context and its sustainable performance as a net zero energy use building.”

The Judges noted “the design had a complex context, use of an engaging materiality and colour reflecting its regional context, use of space and low carbon materials, and powered by solar power, resulting in an extraordinary civic building.”

This is the third big accolade for the library in recent months, following wins in the public architecture section of the 2023 NZIA Nelson & Marlborough Architecture Awards, and a merit prize in the Civic, Health & Arts Property category at the 2023 Property Council New Zealand Property Industry Awards.

As well as the accolades for its construction and design, Te Noninga Kumu continues to be a popular learning and cultural hub for the Motueka community.

Since opening in March 2022, the library has welcomed over 180,000 people through its doors. If you haven’t visited yet, why not add to that number soon?

Community buses – more than just transport

While the new eBuses seem to have grabbed all the headlines recently, there are actually a couple of other buses working busily alongside them – they are our community buses.

These are the Motueka Coastal and Wakefield Community buses and Willing Wheels in Māpua which are run under the umbrella of the Nelson Tasman Community Transport Trust, driven by a keen group of volunteers and supported by us.

The Motueka Coastal Bus has adapted its service to cover areas not on the new eBus route and now travels twice a week to Richmond via Moutere. It runs from Motueka along Main Road Lower Moutere and the Moutere Highway to the Richmond CBD and Aquatic Centre, then returns.

The Wakefield Community Bus operates on Tuesdays from Eighty Eight Valley, running through Wakefield with various stops and on to Brightwater before arriving at Sundial Square in Richmond.

Māpua’s Willing Wheels volunteer drivers use their own vehicles to take people where they need to go.

But Nelson Tasman Community Transport Trust Coordinator Anita Parkes says it is more than just a scheduled transport service. They also hire the vehicles and drivers out for community transport when not on their regular runs.

She says another exciting development is an experimental service from Tapawera to potentially connect with one of the eBus services in Wakefield.

Anita says the aim is to keep communities connected.

Contact Anita on 022 682 2373 or at ntctt.org.nz.

Māpua on the road

After months of planning and weeks of construction, Māpua’s new improved Aranui Road is now being used by riders and walkers.

This is the first Waka Kotahi funded Streets for People pilot project to be fully completed in the Tasman District.

We officially opened the new shared paths, cycle lanes and raised crossings with help from the students of Māpua School last month.

An interesting side note is that our contractor, Downer, used more than 52 tonnes of recycled concrete aggregate as fill for the new footpath. This comes from stockpiled concrete from footpath replacements, kerb and channel and other jobs that have waste concrete which is then crushed and reused.

But we’re not stopping there. We will soon be moving into the next phase of the project to gather feedback on how the new layout works.

We’ll give people a few weeks to try out the new layout. Then we will publicise and make available a new survey to provide feedback.

We want to know how people now interact with the street, and whether they think the layout meets the goal of making it safer and more convenient for people who are not in motor vehicles to get around.

This feedback will be used to inform any tweaks to the layout.

Many people will have seen we have already made some early adjustments outside Four Square and the bakery where planter boxes were removed to ease access for large delivery trucks and the disability park outside the Medical Centre is back.

Pictured above: The Māpua project team with Māpua School ‘Travel Champions’ student leaders cutting the ribbon.

Statement of Commitment signed

We have reached a milestone in our Welcoming Communities initiative with the signing of a ‘Statement of Commitment’.

A ceremony to sign the document was held on Tuesday 17 October at Greenacres Golf Club in Richmond.

This shows that as a region we are committed to achieving better outcomes for everyone, in particular for newcomers to the area. It sets us apart as an intentionally welcoming place where everyone can belong and thrive.

The Statement was signed by Tasman District Mayor Tim King, Chief Executive Janine Dowding, Kaihautū Renee Thomas as well as Multicultural Nelson Tasman’s Marie Lindaya on behalf of our supportive partners and stakeholders.

Befitting the celebratory nature of the occasion, food, music, waiata and a chance to meet new and familiar friends were highlights of the event.

It was attended by around 50 people, comprising the many different cultures that call our region home.

Since Welcoming Communities – Te Waharoa ki ngā Hapori – came to the Tasman region in 2022, we have developed many relationships with community members and organisations who share our values of manaakitanga (caring) and whanaungatanga (relationships).

We also share a vision of better-connected and more inclusive local communities. Thanks to the cooperative effort of many supporters, we are now able to move ahead with our vision.

Team effort for Wanderers’ new hoops

We recently pitched in to help Taylors Contracting Wanderers Community Sports Club’s efforts to create a space where all ages and abilities can pursue their hoop dreams in Brightwater.

A full-size basketball court complete with two new high-quality, permanent Airtime Hoops was completed during the October school holidays. The new equipment is located on the hard-court area beside the Wanderers’ clubrooms.

Wanderers General Manager Jimmy van der Colk said the courts have been underutilised since local netball was centralised to Saxton Stadium.

“Seeing families playing basketball with the old netball hoops provided the motivation needed to start rejuvenating the “wasted” space.

“Given the popularity of basketball and the minimal barriers to participation – all you need is a ball – it was a no-brainer to pursue this project.”

An opening day was held recently with Councillors, Mayor Tim King and members of the Nelson Giants basketball team present to try out the new hoops.

Also being promoted at the opening was the Girls Got Game initiative to introduce more young girls to basketball.

The adjustable height of the hoops also provides increased opportunities for wheelchair players and a number of chairs were made available for the public to use at the opening.

OneFortyOne New Zealand and NBS provided funding toward the project, while McDonald Contracting & Construction and the Council assisted with concrete works and painting of
the courts.

In addition, several keen locals volunteered to assemble the hoops and fundraise for the installation by organising quiz nights.

Jimmy said Wanderers are grateful for the local support in helping to increase and improve sporting opportunities for our local communities, creating a great asset for minimal cost.

The hills are alive and ready

It’s time to head for the hills – one of the jewels of Tasman’s recreational crown is now fully open and ready to explore.

Kingsland Forest, which is on the flanks of the Barnicoat Range and forms the backdrop to Richmond, has undergone a major transformation during the past couple of years.

Our plantation forest blocks are progressively being retired. The forest has become a very popular recreation destination for bikers and walkers. This year saw a further 25 hectares harvested with a further 34 hectares to harvest in the Reservoir Creek catchment in 12 – 15 years time. Planting with native and mixed forest species following the harvests in 2020 and 2023 is well underway.

A major weed control programme has started and over the past two planting seasons close to 50,000 native trees have been planted along with 15,000 mixed forest trees (including species such as Redwoods, Oaks and Liquidambars plus Tōtara is in this mix which of course is a New Zealand native).

Now that a good portion of the pines have been harvested, there are stunning views of Tasman Bay and Waimea Plains from almost everywhere across the hill.

There have also been enhancements and upgrades to the walking and cycling tracks on the hill and these will continue over the coming years so watch this space.

Fill your woodshed now and save!

The key to a smoke-free fire is good quality, dry firewood. This can be hard to find when winter hits, so the best time to fill your woodshed is now.

To encourage Tasman residents to get their firewood early and only burn dry wood next winter, we’re offering a $50 discount to residents who purchase a minimum of three cubic metres of firewood from any Good Wood supplier between now and 15 December 2023. There are a limited number of discounts available, so make sure you get in quick.

Simply ask for the discount when you purchase your wood from one of the Good Wood suppliers listed here. They will record your name and address and apply the discount to your purchase price.

There’s a limit of one discounted load per household. Remember to ask for seasoned wood that will be ready to burn next winter, unless you are planning to store it for another year.

You can identify dry wood by tapping two pieces together. Dry wood will make a sharp cracking sound. You could also ask to see a moisture meter reading, which should be below 25%. Cracks at the end of the wood are another sign that it is dry.

Good Wood suppliers:

Bay Firewood 027 769 6348

BuyRight Firewood 021 127 8957

Quality Firewood 027 449 0622

Richmond Wood 03 544 6473

Wholesale Firewood 027 922 9611

Yellow flag iris a red flag for pest plant control

You’ll see a lot of things bright and beautiful floating on the surface of our waterways in the coming months. But there’s one pest plant that we don’t want to float too far from your local wetland.

Yellow flag iris (Iris pseudacorus) is an aquatic perennial that grows in swampy ground and along the margins of waterways. It is listed as a ‘Sustained Control’ species in the Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Plan, and landowners are required to control and prevent spread to other areas.

It typically forms dense stands that impede water flow and can outcompete native riparian and wetland species. It can also invade and displace low-lying pasture and is toxic to livestock.

Many wetland areas with yellow flag iris were intentionally planted. Its seed is large and is well adapted for distribution in wet areas, as it can float on the water’s surface to new localities.

Yellow flag iris produces large, bright yellow flowers between October and December that are around 12cm wide.

After flowering, large green seed pods appear, containing flattened disc-like seeds. These are produced from December through to March.

Seeds that settle on stream banks and in shallow wetland margins take root and establish monoculture thickets of plants.

Plants growing over water can form rafts of floating rhizomes.

Control is best done after a period of dry weather, with the careful use of glyphosate herbicide spray.

For more information and advice, please contact our Biosecurity Team on 03 543 8400.

Councillor Trindi Walker, Motueka Ward

Although the extreme measures taken to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic, including lockdowns, reduced business activity and loss of income are now behind us, there is still the matter of how to pay for those costs. The point is that Central Government borrowed a lot of money to keep businesses and society ticking over.

The notion of returning to ‘normal’ as some prominent public figures suggested when the extreme Covid-19 emergency measures concluded, overlooked the fact that as a society we have added a huge unwelcome bill to our already stressed public credit card.

A return to ‘business as usual’ is an illusion made by well-meaning optimistic individuals seeking to maintain morale in a very uncertain and worrying time. There was nothing wrong with that. However, as a society we are now faced with paying back the very large sums of money expended during the Covid shutdowns. Notwithstanding all the lofty assurances by candidates for election to Parliament during the recent election campaign, the fact remains that there is a huge deficit in both national and local budgets that has to be paid for and made up.

Some services will have to be reduced as a matter of prudent stewardship in the short term. The ‘Long Term Plan’ means that some important projects will be deferred, but this Councillor has a good grasp of what ought to be our strategic goals and how to achieve them with your very best interests at heart.

Motueka Community Board

At the Board’s October meeting, two speakers highlighted their concern about a recent fence that had been erected at the old Motueka Wharf in Motueka Quay. The Board was pleased to be informed that staff had approved the removal of this fence following considerable community feedback. A sign advising of the potential safety concerns would remain and discussions about a potential restoration project were being led by some members of the community.

The Transport Choices project team provided an update on the Motueka projects with a follow-up workshop with Board Members on the western side projects.

Two applications, Motueka Pony Club $513.13 and Seed Hunter Tribe $700 were granted through the Board’s Discretionary Grant funding. For any community organisations specifically targeting youth in Motueka, the Board currently has a balance of $4,825 for distribution. Grants are limited to $700 per application. Further information about the Board’s available grants can be found at tasman.govt.nz/grants.

Barry Johnson provided the Board with an update on the current Mountains to the Sea programme and how the Board and community could provide feedback via the Shape Tasman website. Find out more about this work in this issue of Newsline or visit shape.tasman.govt.nz/freshwater-outcomes.

What’s On in Tasman

Second Hand Sunday

Sunday 19 November, 9.00 am – 2.00 pm.

Second Hand Sunday is back in Nelson Tasman! It’s 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 on Friday 17 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 17 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.

Wellby Talking Cafés

Tuesday 14 November, 10.00 am – 11.30 am, Tapawera Community Centre.

Tuesday 14 November, 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm, Richmond Library.

Wednesday 15 November, 10.00 am – 11.30 am, Motueka Library.

Enjoy a relaxed cuppa and 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.

Migration stories

Saturday 4 November, 1.00 pm – 3.30 pm, Motueka Library.

Come and hear first-hand accounts of the migrant experience in New Zealand in a relaxed setting over afternoon tea. Free to attend but please book your spot with Sez from Multicultural Nelson Tasman on sez@multiculturalnt.co.nz or 022 300 8896.

Author talk: Gerard Hindmarsh

Thursday 16 November, 5.30 pm, Richmond Library.

Join us to hear Gerard Hindmarsh speak about his latest book, Kahurangi Out West, the final in his trilogy of stories from the backcountry of Northwest Nelson.

Adult art and craft tasters

Monday 13, 20 and 27 November, 10.30 am – 12.00 pm, Tākaka Library.

This event runs for three weeks. Week one: yarn and needle crafts. Week two: painting crafts. Week three: paper marbling. It is free to participate but spaces are limited so please register at the Tākaka Library or by phoning 03 525 0059.

Newsline Notices

One week left for arts and festivals funding!

Our Creative Communities Scheme has funding available to help groups and individuals running arts projects in Tasman. Creative Communities provides funding to support community involvement in the arts – music, theatre, mural painting, outdoor sculptures, art in public spaces, kapa haka, singing, art workshops and more.

Creative Communities also has a new one-off funding boost available specifically for festivals. The Creative Communities Festival Fund is designed to support established festivals that celebrate the life experiences, stories, cultures, and regional identities of New Zealanders who continue to be impacted by the effects of Covid-19 in 2023.

Apply for either funding by Friday 10 November. You can find further information and apply on our website, visit tasman.govt.nz/grants.

Get Newsline emailed to you

If you prefer to read your news online, you can now sign up to receive a copy of Newsline straight in your inbox.

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

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 Council Chambers, 189 Queen Street, Richmond.

Regional Pest Management Joint Committee
Friday 3 November, 9.30 am. No public forum.

Saxton Field Committee
Tuesday 7 November, 9.30 am. Saxton Netball Pavilion, Stoke.

Operations Committee
Thursday 9 November 9.30 am.

Golden Bay Community Board
Monday 13 November, 1.00 pm. Tākaka Office, 78 Commercial Street.

Joint Committee of Nelson City and Tasman District Councils
Tuesday 14 November, 9.30 am. Nelson City Council, 110 Trafalgar Street.

Community Grants Subcommittee
Wednesday 15 November, 9.30 am. No public forum.

Enterprise Committee
Wednesday 15 November, 1.30 pm.

Strategy and Policy Committee
Thursday 16 November, 9.30 am.

Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit
Friday 17 November, 9.30 am. Nelson City Council, 110 Trafalgar Street.