

Newsline



Keeping you informed about news and events in Tasman District



Lake Rotoiti.

Air quality meeting **P.2**

Coastline review **P.3**

Community recreation **P.6**

Brightwater bridge easier for cyclists



Approaches to the Brightwater cycleway bridge have been reconfigured to create a gentler gradient. Dugald Ley, Tasman District Council project coordinator for Tasman's Great Taste Trail, says the standard now meets the public's expectations.

The rejig was prompted by significant feedback and a few minor accidents as riders attempted to cycle across what is recommended as a walking bridge. Dugald says the new configuration does not change the advice that riders should dismount and wheel their bikes across the 80m span, "but it's certainly easier to negotiate."

The design lessons have been incorporated in the Waimea River bridge, which is currently under construction near Rabbit Island. The trail will soon skirt the Waimea Estuary from Richmond, cross that 80m suspension bridge, traverse Rabbit Island and connect with the ferry to Mapua.

Work is well advanced on the trail from there to Motueka. Construction of the 25m suspension bridge at Riwaka, on the side link to Kaiteriteri and its new mountainbike park, will begin in early December 2012.

The 175km Tasman's Great Taste Trail will eventually run down the Motueka Valley to Tapawera and Kohatu, meeting the southerly path from Richmond, which will include the old Spooners railway tunnel.



Message from the Mayor

There has again been discussion in the media recently regarding rates throughout the region.

While there has been an attempt to clarify what statistics actually measure the issue should be focused on the value ratepayers receive for their rates and the efforts of this Council to balance that value against the cost.

The responsibility of this Council, and I am sure Central Government has the same focus, is to ensure there is a measurable return from the investment, rates in this case, people make in the place they call home.

Infrastructure development created by population growth and maintenance is where the majority of our rates and debt is spent. In Tasman it is usually over 70% of the annual budget. Services such as libraries, planning and environmental management, parks reserves and sports and recreation facilities, the things that celebrate and deliver on the wishes of our communities, are funded from the remainder.

A key focus for me since the amalgamation debate earlier this year has been to identify further opportunities to work more closely with our

neighbouring councils and Central Government to enhance the value derived from rates through improved services or less cost. We are also working with all of the South Island Councils as one alliance to identify the common areas where savings can be made through economies of scale, and we are succeeding.

Value for the ratepayer is the key to all our decision-making. We need to retain the remarkable characteristics of our District and with it meet the needs of our many unique communities. It is a balance all Councils have to achieve as we aim to deliver sound local governance within a cost effective envelope.

Mayor Richard Kempthorne



Getting tougher on wood burners?

Council is inviting all owners of wood burners in Richmond to a meeting on 27 November 2012 at the Waimea Club to discuss new approaches for improving air quality in Richmond.

The winter air pollution problem in Richmond is primarily caused by wood burners. The Council's air quality strategy is aimed at reducing this pollution, and in light of the number of exceedances recorded this year there is a need to discuss options with the owners of wood burners to ensure national standards can be met. This discussion will be part of the Council's review of the way it manages wood burner emissions in Richmond in order to comply with the national standards for air quality to protect people's health.

The Council is required to manage discharges to air, including those from domestic wood burners, so that there are no more than three exceedances of the air quality standard by 2016. There were 16 exceedances last winter; up from 11 and seven in the previous two years.

While the high levels of air pollution and the number of exceedances recorded in the early 2000s have been reduced, the air quality is not improving fast enough to meet the national standards. The lack of improvement in last winter's results is thought to be mainly linked to poor use of wood burners. Continuing poor air quality puts people's health and life styles at risk.

The Council has rules to prevent installation of additional wood burners and requires that non clean air models are no longer used or are replaced by a clean air model once a house changes ownership. In addition the Council works with firewood merchants' under the Good Wood scheme to make sure people can buy dry firewood or store it with enough time to dry before using it in winter.

There is also a good practice guide for operating wood burners. This brochure (available from Council or at www.tasman.govt.nz) provides good advice to help reduce the amount of smoke produced by wood burners. Council also works with EECA in offering assistance with

improving insulation to reduce energy demand and help people live in warm and dry homes.

Even with this strategy, air quality improvements are not happening fast enough. Improved operation of existing wood burners as well as stricter enforcement of the current rules will certainly help. However, it may also be necessary to consider changes to the strategy including whether older wood burners and open fires should be replaced earlier with clean air heating options.

Richmond residents are being invited to a meeting to consider wood burner management in the Richmond airshed and contribute to a debate about options for increasing the rate of improvement in air quality.

The meeting will coincide with a regular 'Meet the Richmond Councillors' meeting.

Date – Tuesday 27 November 2012

Time – 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm

Venue – Club Waimea, 345 Queen Street, Richmond.

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River works get creek back in shape

Following the flood events of last year Reservoir Creek in Richmond was in need of some urgent remedial work.

Its banks had eroded badly as a result of the increased water flows and the creek bed had been damaged. The result was that the creeks banks had become unstable and were a hazard to local properties and retaining walls.

The Council secured the required consents to not only rebuild and strengthen the banks but to also do some additional work to the creek bed. Once underway the work required the use of sediment control (to prevent a decrease in water quality down-stream), fish barriers and over pumping of water to make sure that the creeks wildlife was well looked after and the laying of additional boulders into the creeks bed to ensure its future health

"The work has now been completed and we are really pleased with how it has gone", said Utilities Asset Engineer at Tasman District Council Robert Workman. "It's good to have stabilised the creeks banks, taking away any issues that the local residents might have faced longer term, and in the process we have been able to help improve the quality of the Creek for its wildlife. There is further work to do upstream and downstream, which we will need to get new consents for, and we are hoping to make progress with that early next year".



How healthy is Tasman's coastline?

The public is warmly invited to a presentation on the ecological health of our District's coasts followed by an open discussion of the issues. The information being presented and discussed comes from a comprehensive report that has recently been published by Tasman District Council.

The report includes broad-scale habitat maps and detailed risk assessments within estuaries, beaches and dunes, rocky shores and terrestrial margins. The area covered includes the majority of Tasman's coastline, but excludes the coasts of Farewell Spit and Abel Tasman National Park (fewer resource management issues exist in these areas). This report includes significant new information from extensive fieldwork carried out in 2010-11 but also integrates information from all previous studies in Tasman District's coastal environment.

The workshop will be held on the 22 November 2012 at the Motueka Cricket Pavillion, Motueka from 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm.

Tasman District's coast is ecologically diverse with a broad range

of habitat types. It is a place of high biological diversity and high economic value. Despite these high values the vulnerability assessment identified a number of key issues:

- excessive muddiness and, to a lesser extent, nutrient enrichment of estuaries and embayments,
- elevated disease risk, particularly after heavy rain, in estuaries and embayments, for consumers of shellfish or swimmers
- habitat loss through sea level rise, and ecological change through sea temperature and acidity change,
- duneland loss through over-stabilisation,
- saltmarsh loss through historical reclamation,
- loss of the natural vegetated terrestrial margin buffer,
- habitat loss through shoreline armouring.

A copy of the report is available on the Council's website – search 'Tasman coast report'.

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Outstanding Community Service Awards

Half a dozen tireless volunteers were honoured by the Tasman District Council recently with Outstanding Community Service Awards. We wrap up our series of profiles with Valerie Scowen and George Duff.

Valerie Scowen has been involved with the Richmond Bridge Club for 24 years, including two terms as president and a fill-in role as treasurer. She is also on the committee of the Richmond Park Bridge and Croquet Club.

The Richmond Bowling Club has benefited from her services for four years. She's been the treasurer, and helped with catering and tournaments.

Valerie was raised in Christchurch, but it wasn't until she married and moved to Hokitika that "I learnt to become part of the community – and when you are part of a community you want to help it."

Richmond has reaped that generosity of spirit since she moved here in 1988. "I don't honestly know how I get into these things," Valerie says, joking that maybe she's not very good at saying "no".

She takes part in the Music Friday events. A group of classical music enthusiasts gather at St David's church on the first Friday of each month for a DVD screening (10.00 am start, and the \$4 cost includes morning tea), with Valerie helping to work the sound system.

She is also active in Richmond Ladies Probud, joining three years ago.

Golden Bay's George Duff received his award at a special ceremony in Takaka shortly before he died in August.

George had served nearly 41 years as a volunteer firefighter in the town. He rose to the rank of Station Officer, served on the executive of the Nelson Marlborough Provincial Fire Brigades Association for six years, and was an operational member of the brigade until he took leave of absence last April after his health deteriorated.

George was also Principal Rural Fire Officer for the Bay for 20 years.

His brigade tenure totalled a staggering 14,600 days (350,400 hours) of being available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

This equates to 2800 emergency incidents.

He was mentor and "Grandad" to the Takaka brigade. When he was presented with his Outstanding Community Service Award by Mayor Richard Kempthorne at the Takaka Service Centre, George's firefighting colleagues turned out in force to bestow a tribute of their own – a certificate signifying he had passed the course "for being a genuine good bastard," says his widow, Laurelee.

The whole day was "really wonderful".

The brigade was also a huge part of her life, she says. "I backed him 100% and he backed me 100% as well – for 45 years."

Nelson-born George had moved to the Bay in the late 1950s to work in the asbestos mine in the Cobb valley. When that closed he had various other jobs, included truck-driving, construction, the Golden Bay Cement Co at Tarakohe, haymaking, Lifestyle Hire and the Golden Bay refuse centre, Laurelee says.

George's funeral was attended by about 700 people, the Nelson Mail reported. The casket was carried from his house to his funeral at the Takaka fire station on a 1943 fire engine.

Rates relief for low-income homes

If your household income is less than \$23,650, you could qualify for a rates rebate. Incomes above this amount might still qualify depending on the total cost of your rates and the number of dependents living with you.

In the 2011/2012 year, more than 1700 Tasman households were successful in gaining a rebate. The maximum reimbursement for the 2012/2013 year is \$590.

Tasman District Council administers the Rates Rebate Scheme on behalf of the Department of Internal Affairs. "It's a great scheme,

especially for superannuitants," says Judith Seatter, Senior Rates Officer for the Council.

Customer Services staff at any Council office can help you to apply for a rates rebate. Please bring a copy of your rates account, plus proof of your income for the tax year 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012 – usually statements from IRD or your accountant.

Judith appealed to applicants not to try and cut corners. If the financial information is incomplete or unfeasible, the Department will return the application, creating delays.

You can download application forms and calculate your potential rebate online – links are provided on the Council webpage (www.tasman.govt.nz).

The applications deadline for this rating year is 30 June 2013.

Please note: Rates rebates are not available on a property used mainly for business, farming, commercial or industrial purposes, or a home that is not your usual residence.

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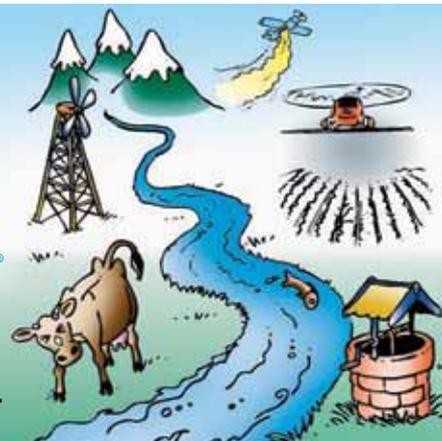
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Do you know your pest fish?

Pest fish represent a very serious threat to New Zealand's freshwater ecosystems. When populations of pest fish build up, they degrade habitats and water quality and compete with, and predate on, native fish species (including whitebait).

Since 2000, when koi carp and gambusia (mosquito fish) were first discovered in the Tasman-Nelson region, the Department of Conservation and other agencies have invested more than \$1 million in surveying, eradicating and monitoring pest fish populations. Gambusia, koi, rudd, perch and tench are included in the Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Strategy.

Twelve years of surveying has covered more than 870 sites (farm dams, ponds, drains and creeks) and detected more than 70 populations of these pest fish species. There have been more than 65 control operations including the use of the rotenone, habitat dewatering, netting, trapping and electric fishing.

The main residual populations of gambusia are in spring-fed drains near Motueka and Richmond. The other species currently being

targeted are rudd and tench in Lower Moutere with four populations to be treated.

Cooperation with the public, landowners and Fish and Game is crucial to the success of the pest fish programme. Anglers can also help prevent the spread of pest fish by not moving fish between water bodies, and washing down gear after fishing before using it elsewhere. This also reduces the risk of moving Didymo and aquatic pest plants between waterways.

Unfortunately, it appears illegal releases of pest fish are occurring into sites where they had been eradicated. The success of the programme relies on reports from the public of such illegal activities and possible new populations. There are heavy fines for unauthorised release of aquatic life into natural waterways. Sightings of pest-fish should be reported to DOC's Motueka Office Ph. 03 528 1810 or to Biosecurity staff at Tasman District Council.

Further information on pest fish and aquatic plants can be found on the DOC website (www.doc.govt.nz) and in the Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Strategy on the Tasman District Council website.



Landslide changes face of Wangapeka River

In late October 2012 there was a significant landslide into the Wangapeka River within the Kahurangi National Park. The rockfall from the 30-metre wide slip created an approximately 10-metre high dam across the river. The dam has created a 1km long lake in the valley.

The river flow, which was initially disrupted, returned to normal flow levels once the water reached the top of the dam.

The site has been visited by the Department of Conservation and engineers and a hydrologist from the Tasman District Council. The initial assessment is that the dam is safe

and is substantial enough to warrant little concern at this stage.

The initial opinion is that this is a natural event and as a result of it being so far into the park no major damage to land further downstream should occur. As the water flows over the top of the dam it will create a new natural watercourse, but this will not pose any immediate threat to landowners downstream.

As a precaution all the residents on the Council's flood warning list for the Wangapeka and Motueka Valleys were called to appraise them of the situation.

The situation will be monitored in the short term to ensure the initial assessment is correct but it is widely felt there is no cause for concern.



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Tasman's Got Talent

The search is complete and now it's up to you to cast your vote on who you think has the most talent in Tasman. 12 winning performances, from across the three regional heats, have been videoed and await your seal of approval. Over 60 different and unique acts were performed in total, with

over 120 performers involved in the region wide search. To have your say on who you think is the most deserving of the title visit www.jamonline.co.nz/tasmansgottalent and vote for your favourite. Voting closes midnight Friday 23 November 2012.

A Summer that's Hummin'

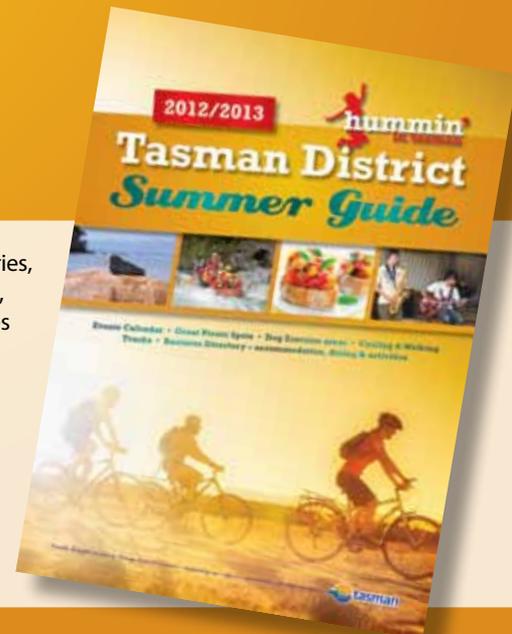
Sometimes a stranger can appreciate your own backyard more than you do. Hummin' in Tasman, the summer guide to activities in the District, might just surprise locals with the feast of natural attractions and fun activities on offer.

Cardboard boat flotillas, motorbike racing at the beach, willow basket weaving, movies under the stars – whatever spins your wheels is on the menu. Hummin' can tell you where to catch a Christmas parade, kick back to music on a vineyard lawn, or tremble to the thunder of drag racing.

In addition to the events guide, Hummin' catalogues the attractions we should never take for granted: our national parks, the best swimming (beach and river), picnic spots, boat launching ramps and ski lanes – even where to exercise the dog.

Camping spots, motorhome dumpsites, libraries, museums, recycling centres, accommodation, arts and crafts, churches – the guide canvasses the need-to-know facilities for visitors and locals alike.

Hummin' in Tasman is available at Tasman District Council offices, libraries, i-SITEs and other outlets. Pick up a copy to have ready when visitors arrive – and take a fresh look at Tasman District through their eyes.



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Resource Consent Applications

The Council has received applications for resource consent, which have been publicly notified in The Nelson Mail. The applications and supporting information may be examined in any Council Service Centre. The full public notice may be found online at Council's website www.tasman.govt.nz

Any person may make a submission on the applications in accordance with Section 96 of the Resource Management Act 1991. Submission forms are available from Council Service Centres and on Council's website. Please note that the following is an abridged advisory notice only.

Applicant: Tasman District Council.

Location: Haldane Road, Takaka.

Consent Type, Application Number and Proposal:

Takaka Wastewater Treatment Plant

Tasman District Council applied in 2008 for replacement discharge permits (resource consents) required for the ongoing operation of the Takaka Wastewater Treatment Plant. In addition, a notice of requirement was lodged in 2010 to extend the existing designation for the Treatment Plant site. No decisions have been made because the applicant has consulted further with the community and carried out additional environmental investigations. This has resulted in changes being made to the design of the proposed upgrades to the Takaka Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The amended resource consent applications and notice of requirement are now being publicly notified, as follows:

Discharge Permit (Application RM080146)

To discharge up to 700 cubic metres of treated wastewater per day (average dry weather flow) to land via rapid infiltration basins at the Takaka Wastewater Treatment Plant. The wastewater treatment plant is proposed to be upgraded, including construction of a new wetland and rapid infiltration basins, and wastewater will continue to be discharged to the existing infiltration trenches until the upgrades are complete. A 25 year term is being sought for this discharge permit.

Discharge Permit (Application RM080166)

To discharge contaminants, primarily odour, to air from the Takaka Wastewater Treatment Plant. The wastewater treatment plant is proposed to be upgraded, which will involve covering the inlet works channel, including the inlet screens, and the odorous air will be directed to an odour control treatment system. Additional aerators will be provided on both oxidation ponds to minimise the potential to release odours. A 25 year term is being sought for this discharge permit.

Notice of Requirement (Application RM100333)

To alter an existing designation (Designation D180 in the Tasman Resource Management Plan) to include additional land required for a proposed upgrade to the Takaka Wastewater Treatment Plant. A total of 1.8 hectares of additional land is sought to be included in Designation D180 on which rapid infiltration basins would be located.

Submissions due: 4.30 pm on Friday 30 November 2012.

24 Hour Assistance – Phone your local office

Richmond 03 543 8400
Murchison 03 523 1013
Motueka 03 528 2022
Takaka 03 525 0020



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Public Notices

Public Meeting – Earthquake Strengthening

The New Zealand Historic Places Trust is hosting a public meeting on earthquake strengthening for owners of heritage listed properties in the Tasman District and Nelson City areas and other interested parties.

Key speaker will be Win Clark, a leading structural engineer and Executive Officer for the NZ Society for Earthquake Engineering.

Also a speaker from the insurance industry will be present.

22 November 2012, 5.30 pm – 7.30 pm, Nelson Baptist Church, 193 Bridge Street, Nelson.

Win Clark presented to the Royal Commission into the Canterbury Earthquakes and has spoken around New Zealand on how earthquake prone buildings can be strengthened. All welcome, no booking necessary

Notice of Meeting –

Rotoiti District Community Council Inc. AGM

Annual general meeting – 4.00 pm, Saturday 1 December 2012, Rotoiti Community Hall, Main Road St Arnaud. All Welcome.

Takaka staff move

Golden Bay Service Centre staff have moved to offices at the back of the premises while options for strengthening the 1928 building are investigated.

Council Property Services Manager Jim Frater says the front part of the building meets just 15% of the standards for earthquake resistance, and the rear part 26%. Council is currently investigating options for strengthening the building.

Mr Frater has cited the need for more sheer walls, tying the roof in more securely with the walls and dealing with the parapet running across the top of the building. Councils nationwide are reviewing public and commercial buildings in light of the Christchurch earthquakes.

The seven staff in the Takaka Service Centre have relocated to three offices, connected to the old building by a covered walkway. Otherwise, business continues as usual.

"It's a lovely old building," says Nancy Heyes, Senior Customer Services Manager.

Council Meetings

Agendas and Minutes for Council Meetings can be viewed on Council's website at www.tasman.govt.nz

Engineering Services Committee

Tasman Council Chambers, 189 Queen Street, Richmond, Thursday 22 November 2012, 9.30 am. Public forum

Joint Shareholders Committee

Meeting Room, Nelson City Council, Halifax Street, Nelson, Friday 23 November 2012, 1.30 pm. No public forum

Tasman Creative Communities Subcommittee

Motueka Office, 7 Hickmott Place, Motueka, Wednesday 28 November 2012, 10.00 am. No public forum

Tasman District Council

Tasman Council Chambers, 189 Queen Street, Richmond, Thursday 29 November 2012, 10.15 am. Public forum

Beaches accessible for mobility-impaired

Nelson's two beach access chairs for the disabled are on offer again this summer, free of charge. Barbara Gould, of Nelson CCS Disability Action, says the fat-tired buggies can be booked with a phone call to the office Ph. 03 548 4479 or call in at 65 Trafalgar Street, Nelson.

The buggies dismantle into bags and fit into almost any car boot. Reassembly takes a couple of minutes. Barbara says the bags are quite hefty, so ideally should be picked up by two people.

"Once assembled, they are fantastic."

The chairs can be booked for a day, or up to a week if, for instance, the mobility-impaired person is holidaying in the area.

The \$3500 chairs were an initiative of CCS Disability Action and the umbrella group Access For All. Funding was provided by the Tasman District Council, Pelorus Trust and RE and EF Macdonald Trust. One chair was lent to the ASB Aquatic Centre in Richmond over last winter.



Hot Dogs in the summer sun

Summer is a great time for taking your dog for long walks, in the early morning or evening, not in the heat of midday. If the temperature makes you feel uncomfortable when walking your dog, imagine what he must feel like in his fur coat and bare feet on the hot ground.

It is extremely important that if you are in an area where you are in the presence of protected wildlife and birds, either on beaches or in the countryside, you must put your dog on a leash immediately.

There are designated areas in Tasman

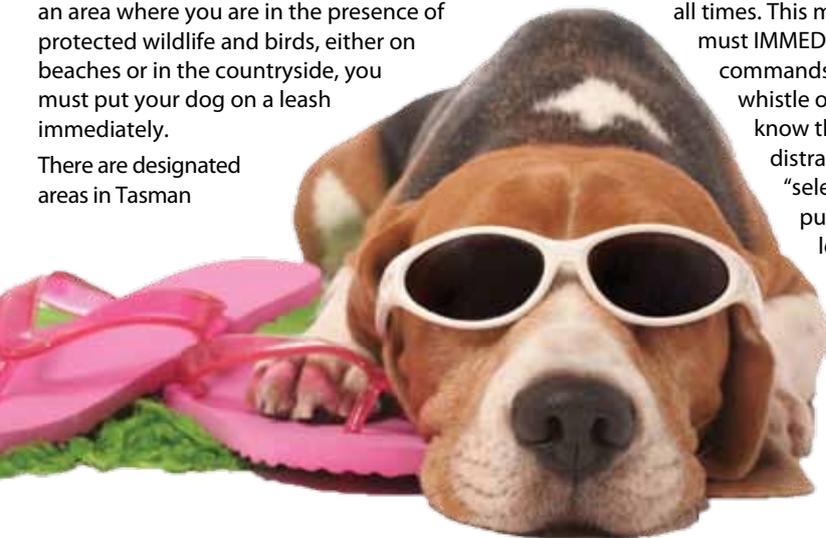
District where dogs are allowed at all times of the year, however, particular areas are declared dog free all year round with some beaches being prohibited to dogs only over the summer months. These areas are listed on the Tasman District Council's website – search 'dog exercise areas'.

All dog walkers need to be especially vigilant about keeping dogs under control at all times. This means that your dog must IMMEDIATELY respond to commands either by voice, whistle or hand signals. If you know that your dog is easily distracted and prone to "selective hearing loss" putting him on his leash in situations that may cause him to ignore you is the best advice. Where a dog sees children playing on the beach, or birds taking off, it is often too much

of a temptation and they just have to join in and chase the ball, or the bird. What your dog may see as fun can be a frightening experience for children or adults who are nervous of dogs. It is an offence to allow your dog to rush at people or to chase protected wildlife, even if the dog's motive was to play a game, not to harm.

Ensuring that your dog has adequate shelter, shade and plenty to drink is necessary at any time of year, but especially so in the hot weather. If your dog is kept indoors while you are at work, ensuring he remains cool is vital for his health and well-being. Providing adequate ventilation is essential. If he is outside, he must have shade and a good supply of water.

The heat of summer means that cleaning up after your dog is most important. Always carry a Doggie Doo bag when you take your dog for a walk, and use it. Dog owners are legally responsible for cleaning up after their dogs in any public place. For any advice or questions you may have on the care and control of your dog, call Tasman District Council Dog Control on Ph. 03 543 8400.



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