

Newsline



Keeping you informed about news and events in Tasman District



Tasman's Great Taste Trail

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Cyclists report on Tasman's Great Taste Trail

In October 2013 a cycle trail survey was posted on the Nelson Tasman Cycle Trails Trust website aimed at users of Tasman's Great Taste Trail (TGTT) and the Dun Mountain Trail (DMT) in Nelson. The research is part of an ongoing project led by Katrina Marwick, Tourism Management Coordinator at the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT) in collaboration with the Nelson Tasman Cycle Trail Trust (NTCTT) to identify and evaluate the social and economic impacts of cycle trails in the Nelson-Tasman Region.

In addition to the online survey, on selected days in December 2013 and January 2014, face-to-face surveys collected rider feedback from users of the Richmond – Brightwater and Richmond – Rabbit Island sections of TGTT. Feedback from 392 riders has been collected and collated by Katrina, with the assistance of two students from NMIT and Tasman District Council.

Cyclists were interviewed about the quality of services associated with the trail such as accommodation, signage, access to drinking water, toilet facilities and trail conditions through to whether or not cyclists had spent money while out on the trail and what services they would expect to find.

Katrina reports a 'fantastic response' to the survey with 98% of riders willing to participate. "I was so impressed by cyclists' willingness to stop and give feedback. As soon as riders realised this was their opportunity to be heard and give feedback to the Trail Trust, they were more than happy to give their time and rate their experiences. Many of them were regular cyclists who had ridden other cycle trails elsewhere in NZ and overseas."

"Around 95% of survey participants were local, with an overwhelming majority saying they are satisfied with their experience, ride sections regularly and can't wait to see the full loop completed. Feedback was very useful with constructive suggestions on areas for improvement and I will be reporting these to the Trust in February", said Katrina.

(continued page 2)

Message from the Mayor

The theme for this month's message is a widely used, but no less important, term – sustainability.

In early February we heard Government's plan regarding pest eradication to protect our native birds, particularly in the National Parks – three of which are in Tasman, from the Beech Mast, a naturally occurring event that fuels the breeding of predatory rats, stoats and possums. Whether there is agreement about the method or not, there is no time for debate as the protection and preservation of our special and unique native birds is at risk.

The other item on the sustainability, and viability, ledger is the future of Port Taranaki. We have entered into a discussion predominantly with the Golden Bay community, and while there is an ongoing debate there is also some common ground. It is agreed by the majority that Port Taranaki needs to be retained as a viable recreational and commercial community asset – how this is achieved relies on its financial viability. Inherent in this viability is its ability to survive without the support of the general ratepayer. Throughout the process there has been a number of assumptions made and

beliefs built up. Firstly, the Council is not looking for a return. Its focus is on getting back to breakeven. The discussion document that was recently created was a catalyst for ideas and dialogue, not a final Council decision, and the Council wishes to retain the Port's public benefit and recreational benefits alongside the commercial opportunities. The discussion is not over with regard to the Port's future and there remains a lot of water to flow under the wharf.

Mayor Richard Kempthorne



Cyclists report on Tasman's Great Taste Trail (cont.)

The international riders interviewed, who made up the remaining 5% of the survey, reflected Nelson-Tasman's key international markets. Australia represented the greatest proportion of internationals, while Denmark, Germany, Japan, UK, USA made up the balance.

Data shows international/domestic visitor spend is proportionally greater than local spend. The primary reason for tourists choosing Nelson-Tasman was generally not cycling, however, comments show that a cycle trip is one of the preferred mix of activities in the region. A couple from Marlborough said cycling was the primary reason for their visit. They had been to Nelson before, seen the trails and returned to ride them over a weekend.

In developing the survey Katrina collaborated with NTCTT members to research cycle surveys elsewhere in NZ and Australia. "We felt it important, where appropriate, to adopt questions from research undertaken on other trails. By doing this results can be compared, and Tasman's Great Taste Trail benchmarked against other trails," said Katrina.

Members of the NMIT Flexi Learning Team have been extremely helpful, providing ongoing technical support for the online survey and the processing of results. Student help from NMIT Tourism Management programme, Josh Coote, and Ben Jones have also been a "huge help" said Katrina.

The survey is on-going and cyclists are encouraged to complete the on-line survey on the Nelson Tasman Cycle Trail Trust website www.heartofbiking.org.nz/our-trails/trail-feedback-survey. The Trust is interested in feedback from all riders whether they be regular users of the regions two Great Rides or first time riders. The face-to-face element of the survey will be repeated periodically so that data can be captured and compared over time.

Please contact Katrina, Email katrina.marwick@nmit.ac.nz, if you would like more information on the research itself. Survey results will be reported in local media and on the Trust website over coming months.

Katrina and the Nelson Tasman Cycle Trail Trust wish to thank cyclists for taking the time to pass on their valuable feedback.



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Port Tarakohe update

Paramount within the current decision-making regarding Port Tarakohe is the continued operation of a community owned port. To achieve this it needs to be financially sustainable, well-run, provide for the recreational needs of the community, and meet the current and future needs of its commercial customers.

This has been the bottom line within all recent discussions and is the basis on which all the recent and subsequent decisions will be made.

The future of Port Tarakohe, including its continued community ownership, relies on it becoming financially sustainable, i.e. an end to general rates input. This has been a principle that has gained the most agreement from all parties involved.

It is only in recent times that the Port's finances and the true cost of operating it have been clearly understood. The past treatment of loans, the writing-off of past deficits to equity, the payment of water and power charges by others, among other factors, has seriously understated the true cost of operating the Port. In developing a true picture the Council has had to unpick the historic finances, especially the current debt. The basic controls over income and expenditure at the Port have been audited and reviewed. Agreements for the use of its facilities and services are being put in place where they have not existed previously and reviewed where they have. This work will be ongoing.

Securing sufficient income and controlling costs so that the Port breaks even has had to take priority over everything else. In doing that the Council has had to look to all the users of the Port, including public-benefit ramp users and fishers, and private-benefit wharf and marina users. As a note, despite claims to the contrary, the Council is not taking a 7%+ return on capital – it is zero over five years.

Stakeholders and the Golden Bay community have been canvassed for their views about future development at the Port and its overall strategic direction. In doing so a discussion document was used as a catalyst and, despite comments to the contrary, the 'views' within the discussion document are just that – they are not the Council's proposals. The Council will be making its own decisions once the feedback is received. However, there are a number of points the Council will be taking into account in its decision-making:

- The need for financial viability and sustainability is key, as mentioned above.
- The retention of the Port in community ownership relies on it being viable and not selling or leasing any area that risks loss of control of revenue.
- Very little capital development if any over the next five years is likely until the Port's finances are stable unless there is a sound business case – that means a commercial return on things like a weigh bridge and a crane.

It is likely there will be a Port Tarakohe advisory board with the suggested membership of the group being the Community Board Chair, Golden Bay Councillors and appropriate representatives from among the Port's users.

Feedback received already through meetings and other means echoes the view of the Council and Community Board, that there is an agreed will to ensure the Port is commercially successful as well as ensuring the public and private recreational needs of the community are retained. It is an achievable goal.

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Kina leases out for consultation

At the end of August last year the Council, with the support of a number of Tasman area residents, successfully bid for the LEH Baigent reserve on the Kina peninsula enabling it to remain in public ownership.

In return for the local support the Council agreed to undertake a public consultation process regarding a proposal to grant leases to five of the residents who contributed significantly to the purchase price approved. The leases would enable the establishment of boat sheds on a small part of the land within the reserve.

The Council has advertised its intention to grant five leases. The leases will be for a term of 35 years (less one day), at a nominal rental. The maximum size of each boat shed building will be 55m², with a maximum area of 100m² per lease.

Any building will still be subject to building and resource consent requirements. The area proposed to be set aside for this purpose is approximately 1000m² to allow for some "common land", plus space between individual lease areas.

The Council is entering the decision making process with no pre-determination. The contributors know that the grant of the leases is not assured. Persons with an interest in this issue are encouraged to make submissions in the knowledge that they will be considered fully.

Further information may be obtained by contacting Robert Cant on Ph. 03 543 8400, or via Email on robert.cant@tasman.govt.nz

A copy of this notice will be posted on www.tasman.govt.nz and can also be viewed at the Council's Service Centres. The notice will include plans showing the approximate location.



Grading gravel roads

At regular intervals the Council is required to 'grade' gravel roads. Over time gravel roads degrade – potholes and braking bumps start to appear and are made worse by rain and heavy use, ultimately making the road dangerous to drive on.

Grading is the process of smoothing out bumps and holes and also involves dragging loose gravel/road material back from the road verges so that it can help form the 'new' road surface. By reusing old material

that has migrated to the road verge the Council is also able to help keep the water table below the road surface and improve drainage.

When the grading process has just been undertaken the surface of the road can often appear soft and unstable. A few days later though, once it has dried out and been compacted, the new surface becomes very durable and stable. If you are driving on a freshly graded road please drive with care.



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Pest of the month: Ferrets, stoats and weasels – mustelids in NZ

Ferrets, stoats and weasels were introduced into New Zealand during the late 1800s to control the “plagues” of rabbits that had developed in the dryer regions of New Zealand. They are all members of the mustelid family and have a typical mustelid body shape – long and narrow, pointed head, short legs and short, blunt ears. Ferrets are the largest and have a characteristic dark “bandit” mask around their eyes. Weasels and stoats are similar in colour and appearance, but stoats are larger and have a bushy black tail tip.

Stoats are the most common of the mustelids and are found throughout New Zealand on farmland and in scrubland, forestland and in the high country. Ferrets are less common and are found in farmland, scrubland and forest margins where rabbits, their primary prey, live. Weasels are the least common and are restricted to lowland sites.

Stoats are active during the day and are often seen crossing roads or scavenging on “road kill”. They are bold hunters and regularly take prey much larger than themselves. Stoats and weasels are adept at running and climbing; stoats can travel considerable distances cross-country and have been known to swim more than two kilometres to off-shore islands, putting wildlife at risk on island sanctuaries. They need to eat frequently – up to six times a day – and have had a devastating effect on both native wildlife (birds, insects, lizards, frogs, eels) and introduced animals (mice, rats, rabbits, hares, possums and birds). Ferrets don’t climb, but prey on similar ground-dwelling species and often scavenge carcasses. They are also carriers of Bovine Tuberculosis and have contributed to its spread on farmland.

The mustelids breeding season starts in the spring (September to November), with the first litters born around mid-October. Kits are weaned at 6-8 weeks and start to disperse from home at about three months. This increase in mustelid numbers over spring and summer makes the period from late spring to early winter the best time for trapping. A whole egg is the best bait as it keeps better in the heat than other baits such as cat food, rabbit or fish. Traps should be sited along bush, scrub and stream margins, around ponds, in culverts, along the edges of farm tracks and near poultry runs. All trapping should be carried out using tunnel or box traps, which are attractive to mustelids but safe for other species and children. For more detailed advice on control techniques and trap types, please contact a Biosecurity Officer at Tasman District.



A stoat

Prolific flowering has occurred on beech trees in the North and South Island in summer this year, a feature known as masting. This will produce vast quantities of beech seed in autumn and winter, resulting in a dramatic increase in the numbers of rats and mice that feed on it, and in the number of stoats that feed on the rats and mice. By spring time, any beech seed that hasn’t germinated will have rotted away, leading to food shortages. The best remaining food source are eggs and chicks of native birds. This will threaten endangered birds such as blue ducks, great spotted kiwi, kaka, kea and rock wren as well as tui, bellbird, fantail and robins. The only feasible means of widespread control on steep terrain is the use of 1080 and the Department of Conservation has re-allocated \$15M to control predators to protect native birds.

Photo credit: LSG – Tasman District Council

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Library Pre-school Programmes

Our popular pre-school programmes are back for 2014 at Richmond and Motueka Libraries. These fun interactive sessions for under-2 year olds use songs, stories, rhymes and movement to introduce your child to the world of books and reading.

Tiny Tots runs every Tuesday, 10.00 am–10.30 am at Richmond Library.

Motueka Library's Babytime sessions run every Friday 10.00 am–10.30 am.

Meanwhile Takaka Library is offering a monthly Saturday storytime for 3 to 8 year olds starting on Saturday 1 March 2014.

All our pre-school programmes and storytimes run during term-time only. No booking is required – just turn up and enjoy.

PowerTalk at Motueka Library

Do you get tongue-tied in front of others?

PowerTalk can help you learn the art of public speaking and develop good communication skills in a relaxed and friendly environment.

Visit Motueka Library at 10.00 am on Saturday 1 March or 12.00 pm on Friday 14 March to find out more.

Family History Course at Richmond Library

If you're starting out on the journey to discover your ancestors, this two-session course is for you. Learn where to start, what resources are out there, how to record and store your family history and much more.

The course runs over two Saturdays – 15 and 22 March – at Richmond Library. Spaces are limited and bookings are essential. Phone 03 543 8500 to book your place.

Summer Reading Programme Update

By the time you read this our annual Summer Reading Programme will have wound up for another year.

400 children across the District took part in the programme.

Library staff at our four libraries prepared displays and booklists to tempt summer readers to try new authors or types of stories at each of the three required check-ins.

At each check-in children talked about their favourite books and what they were interested in or busy doing. This ranged from loving Andy Griffiths Treehouse books or Geronimo Stilton to being interested in landscaping the home garden, wanting to know more about the 1930s or how to care for a pet rabbit.

Over the next few weeks, library staff will visit school assemblies to present the children with their final reading rewards.

If you had a summer reader in your family we hope you found it a rewarding experience.

Today's readers are tomorrow's succeeders.

Most Popular Reads of 2013

It's probably no surprise that 2013's most popular author with Tasman library users was Lee Child. The man writes a great thriller and his lead character, Jack Reacher, has captured people's imaginations all over the world. In fact, Child took out the top four adult reads at your library with *A Wanted Man*, *The Affair*, *Worth Dying For* and *Gone Tomorrow*. Jodi Picoult

was in fifth place with *Change of Heart*. And the phenomenal success of *Shades of Grey* is reflected with its sixth place position.

You can see more of your most popular reads on the homepage of the library catalogue.

Your library – bringing you the best in information and entertainment

Library Book Groups

Do you enjoy meeting other people and talking about books you've enjoyed? Book groups meet regularly at Richmond, Motueka and Takaka Libraries.

And they're not just for adults. There are regular teens' groups meeting at Richmond and Motueka plus a group for 9-12 year olds at Takaka Library.

To find out when your nearest book group meets go to the featured events page on the library website www.tasmanlibraries.govt.nz.

E-audiobooks at Your Library

There's something enticing about being read to, whether it's while you're driving on a long journey, doing boring housework or just drifting off to sleep. Judging by the increasing popularity of our Talking Books you feel that way too.

Did you know that as well as borrowing books on CD you can also download e-audiobooks from the library's OverDrive e-book collection? Check it out today at your e-library connection on the library website www.tasmanlibraries.govt.nz

Check our website out for yourself at www.tasmanlibraries.govt.nz

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Public Notices

Notice of Intention to Stop Unformed Legal Road

Unformed Legal Road Between Clover Road West and The Wairoa River. At the request of the adjacent landowner, the Council is seeking to apply to stop unformed (and un-named) legal road situated near Clover Road West. A portion of the road to be stopped is recently claimed accretion to the legal road. Accretion is when a gradual build up of land occurs due to the changing nature of a river (or other waterway). The other portion of the road proposed to be stopped is unformed road which used to run alongside the river channel.

The river channel has shifted, and the unformed road, and accretion to road, is now situated some distance from the physical river.

The proposal to stop the road is part of a complex exchange intended to provide continuous public access alongside where the river is now located. If the road is stopped, the land will be sold to the adjacent landowner, who will create esplanade strips in return, thus making provision for public access and the protection of riparian values.

The overall proposal also includes an exchange of marginal strip land administered under the Conservation Act 1987 by the Department of Conservation.

For plans of the portions of the road intended to be stopped, and plans of the overall proposal, and to make any other further enquiries, please contact Robert Cant at Tasman District Council – Email robert.cant@tasman.govt.nz, Ph. 03 543 8585. Plans may also be viewed at the Richmond Office of the Tasman District Council.

Objections on the proposed road stopping should be made in writing, to the address below, and must be received no later than **4.00 pm on Wednesday 19 February 2014**.

The Manager, Property Services, Tasman District Council
Private Bag 4, Richmond

Council Meetings

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

Audit Subcommittee

Tasman Council Chambers, 189 Queen Street, Richmond,
Tuesday 18 February 2014, 9.30 am. No public forum

Full Council

Tasman Council Chambers, 189 Queen Street, Richmond,
Wednesday 19 February 2014, 9.30 am. Public forum

Engineering Services Committee

Tasman Council Chambers, 189 Queen Street, Richmond,
Thursday 20 February 2014, 9.30 am. Public forum

District Licensing Committee

Venue to be advised, Wednesday 26 February 2014,
time to be advised. No public forum

Environment and Planning Committee

Tasman Council Chambers, 189 Queen Street, Richmond,
Thursday 27 February 2014, 9.30 am. Public forum

Commercial Subcommittee

Tasman Council Chambers, 189 Queen Street, Richmond,
Friday 28 February 2014, 1.30 pm. No public forum

Community Notices

Sunflower Festival

Saturday and Sunday 8 and 9 March 2014, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm both days, Eyebright, 40 McShane Road, Richmond.

Wander through fields of sunflowers. Visit farm animals and baby guinea pigs. View vintage farm machinery. Enjoy food, music, and local art. Enter a Sunflower art competition (categories for all ages).

These are some of the attraction at the Eyebright Sunflower Festival. Eyebright and the Tasman Visual Arts group have teamed up to bring you an event that you will love.

Entry is free (gold coin donation for art exhibition).

Ph. 03 544 4977 or visit www.eyebright.co.nz for further information and how to enter the Sunflower art competition.

2014 Brightwater Wine & Food Festival

Sunday 16 February 2014, 11.00 am – 5.30 pm, Greys Vineyard, Bryant Road, Brightwater.

Brightwater Wine & Food Festival celebrates sensational sounds, wine, food, and summer. Hold onto your holiday groove, grab a friend and head to the Brightwater Wine & Food Festival, for all-day entertainment, fantastic food, and award-winning wine and beer.

No BYO alcohol, no pets.

Cost: Earlybird \$15; gate sales \$20. Tickets from Everyman Records, Avanti Cycles, Village Cycles.

Info: Ph. 021 420 220 or Email info@bwff.co.nz, www.bwff.co.nz

Dovedale Country Affair Festival

Sunday 16 February 2014, Dovedale Recreational Reserve, Dovedale Road.

This year's annual Dovedale Country Affair Festival promises to be better than ever. A real country occasion with entertainment and activities for the whole family.

Experience life in the country for a day and join in with traditional country games; marvel at the sheepdogs and shearers; learn about the lives of the early settlers with historical displays in the hall and church, and enjoy a boutique beer or glass of wine while listening to live music and entertainment.

Entry is \$2 for adults, children free.

All monies raised goes back into the Dovedale Community.

Ph. 03 543 3832, Email: evanannwin@ruralinzone.net

Notice of meeting – Richmond Community Forum

Richmond Community Forum – 25 February 2014, 7.30 pm, Tasman District Library.

Guest Speaker Mike Drummond, Corporate Services Manager, Tasman District Council.

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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