



coastal Tasman - experience our unique location

Tasman Times

July 2026

From the Chair



Typically, a report from the Chair might cover off what has been going on in the Association. This time, however, I'll leave that to the many updates and reports throughout this edition of your bi-annual newsletter.

So, open up, read on!

First up, this edition has been compiled by Anna Jefferies who has boldly stepped up to produce her first *Tasman Times*. We love seeing new energy being added into our midst. Thanks so much, Anna!

There are also many others who "step up" in some way to organise events, champion various endeavours, and tackle issues that affect our community. Sometimes facing criticism along the way, they nevertheless do the mahi with a genuine commitment to serving and strengthening our community. I've come to appreciate just how difficult it is to balance the needs and opinions of all who use and enjoy local amenities – in our 'own backyard' – and how we all really do need and appreciate motivated, hardworking volunteers.

I've gained a somewhat deeper understanding also of the occasional frustration felt by those who generously give their time and energy to improving things, only to see grass areas damaged, rubbish left behind, or facilities misused.

So how do we continue to move forward, perhaps encountering some occasional thoughtlessness, anti-social' behaviour or a different opinion? All across New Zealand, community groups like ours, and Councils, are grappling with varied expectations about how shared public spaces should be used and cared for, especially as there is such a wide variety of differences in how folks enjoy these spaces, especially in the midst of increasing populations and demands?

What do you think?

Your voice matters.

As our communities grow and change, so too do the challenges . . . but also SO DO THE OPPORTUNITIES!! Bringing fresh initiatives, open discussion, a range of perspectives, exciting energy . . . opportunities for lending a hand and making a difference!

Would you please consider serving your community through the Tasman Area Community Association!

Our AGM is coming up and with it some other opportunities. After many years of dedicated service, **David Short** is stepping down, leaving a vacancy for a new Secretary. David has been instrumental in initiating, coordinating and moving forward so many community projects . . . the latest being the riparian planting along the Tasman Stream, and helping bring about our new bus stops. His energy and commitment have left a lasting mark on our community.

Richard Clement is also retiring from the committee after many years of thoughtful and diligent service. His attention to detail has been invaluable, particularly in areas such as Emergency Management planning. Thank you so much Richard and David . . . for the enormous contribution you have made. Your time, wisdom and commitment have helped shape the Tasman we enjoy today and have set us up well for more positive progress. While we wish you well in this new season, we're also pleased to know your knowledge and experience won't be far away, should we call on it.

As these long-serving members step aside, we look forward to who may step in, bringing your ideas, skills and enthusiasm to the table. See you at the AGM.

Finally, a sincere thank you to TDC for its ongoing support through the Community Grants program. This year's grant of \$2,550 has helped fund community events, native planting, administration costs, and a significant portion of the cost of publication for this *Tasman Times*. We appreciate your support.

Ngā mihi & Cheers

Greig Caigou



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Secretary's Stuff

A Community Effort Worth Celebrating



After more than two decades with the Tasman Area Community Association, and nearly eighteen years producing the *Tasman Times*, this edition marks the beginning of my stepping back from the Communications Officer role and at this year's AGM from the committee

itself. It seems the right moment not to focus on one person, but to reflect on what our community has achieved together since the early 2000s.

When I first became involved, Tasman was already a place with strong local spirit, but communication was fragmented and many community projects relied on a small number of volunteers. Since then, the community has built a much stronger network for sharing information, organising events, and turning ideas into action. The *Tasman Times*, our email updates, and the TACA website became tools that connected residents, promoted local initiatives, and helped people stay informed about everything from community events to environmental projects.

What stands out most is how much has been accomplished through collective effort. Volunteers have maintained and improved community facilities, supported local events, advocated on regional issues, and strengthened ties between residents, businesses, schools, and environmental groups. The committee has worked consistently behind the scenes to keep these efforts coordinated and sustainable.

One of the most significant developments has been the growth of environmental restoration work in the Tasman area. Community-led planting days, weed control, pest management, and habitat restoration projects have expanded year by year. Initiatives such as the Te Mamaku Native Corridor have shown what can happen when landowners, volunteers, schools, and community organisations work toward a shared goal of restoring biodiversity and reconnecting native habitats.

The community has also shown resilience and generosity during challenging times — from storm recovery and infrastructure disruptions to supporting neighbours through emergencies and social change. Local events, fundraising activities, and volunteer networks have helped maintain the sense of connection that makes Tasman special.

Producing the newsletter since 2008 has given me a front-row seat to hundreds of these stories. The consistent theme has been people quietly giving their time: planting trees, serving on committees, organising events such as beach clean-ups, maintaining reserves, advocating for safer roads, supporting arts and culture, and helping neighbours. Those efforts rarely make headlines, but together they shape the character of our community.

I leave this role confident that Tasman remains in good hands. The strength of TACA has never been any single committee member — it has always been the willingness of local people to step forward, contribute, and care about the place we share.

David Short

Tasman Area Community Association

TACA was established in 1989 for the purpose of protecting and enhancing the well-being of the residents and the natural resources of the area. Members have the best interests of the community at heart and meet on a regular basis to discuss local issues and arrange community events. Our twice yearly publication, *Tasman Times*, reflects those discussions and events.

Committee Members:

Greig Caigou (Chair)	027 434 7567
David Short (Secretary)	021 222 5066
Marijke Caigou (Treasurer)	021 236 8119
Richard Clement	027 526 6700
Vivien Peters	027 526 6707
Steve Richards	022 163 4135
Hamish Rush	027 406 0133
Melissa Winslade	022 124 7730

Meetings: Held on the last Thursday each month, except in December, at Tasman Church, Williams Rd.



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Tasman Times Online – remember, you can always dive into this edition of *Tasman Times* and all previous issues on TACA's website! With clickable links to emails, websites, and our Facebook page, staying connected is easy as.



Find us on [Facebook](#) or on the web: www.tasmancommunity.org.nz/

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Checking traps can be a chore, but one where the burden is lightened by piwakawaka that dart around keeping you company, perching close by just inches from your face as you tend to a trap. It is a reminder of how the effort is worthwhile.

We must thank all those who contribute to the predator trapping effort.

Kina Bird Song is one of thousands of trapping groups nationwide. We have been going for just a few years, but some groups have been going much longer. Friends of Flora have celebrated twenty-five years working in the Kahurangi National Park. Since the beginning of their project Whio (Blue duck) numbers have increased markedly and Great spotted kiwi (Roroa) are now regularly captured on trail cameras in the region.

On a recent walk up to Peel Lake the cacophony of birdsong was incredible mainly from bellbird, but Tūi and Tomtit (Miromiro) were widely seen and heard. It has taken a huge effort by teams of volunteers over the years to achieve this.

Kina Bird Song currently have forty-nine registered users on Trap NZ covering Kina Peninsula and surrounding the Moutere Inlet. Trap NZ is the primary app that is used to record trapping results nationwide. It is not just about keeping a tally of catches. The data collected goes to inform strategy, help scientists and helps groups applying for funding with real evidence of their work.

If you have just a couple of traps in the back yard keeping up with entering catches on the app is important. We are grateful to all our members in their efforts, some of whom are giving up many hours of their time to check traps.



A new trap line at Te Papa Lane in Tasman has been going for a couple of months now. A fantastic community effort that is enhancing the bird song and enjoyment all the locals get from walking the tracks. Well done to all involved. A WhatsApp group amongst the locals working this trap line is proving a real success.

Residents of Tiro Kina and Tasman View, do you want to have a local community of trappers? So many of you have planted trees for the birds, and some of you are trapping already.

Please contact david@kinabirdsong.nz if you wish to coordinate your efforts and share the tasks. Kina Bird Song can provide training, lures and some of the traps needed.

All local trappers, let's meet up!

Do you want traps calibrated? Do you want lures, peanut butter, cinnamon paste, aniseed paste, rabbit Erayz jerky, plastic eggs, or Rat traps?

On **Saturday 01 August at Baigent Reserve, Kina** Tim and David will be there at 12pm.

Come along for a sausage on the community BBQ. Bring traps for repairs, containers for lures. Phones for lessons and queries on using TrapNZ.

David: 021 314 902 david@kinabirdsong.nz

Tim: 021 031 4257 info@kinabirdsong.nz

David Easton



Tasman Organic Food Club is a vibrant, member-driven community bringing wholesome, organic food to families across Tasman, Ruby Bay and the Māpua region.

Enjoy **7-day access** to a great range of organic dry and packaged goods, all through a straight-forward DIY checkout process.

Keen to know more? Email tasmanOFC@gmail.com





Kina Community Pathway Project: Local Community Creating a Safer Coastal Passage

A grassroots community initiative is gaining momentum along the Kina coastline, with local residents coming together to re-establish a safer walking and cycling pathway connecting Kina Beach Road, Kina Beach and the Kina Peninsula.

The **Kina Community Pathway Project**, supported by the Tasman Area Community Association (TACA), began with a simple vision: to provide a safer route for families, children, walkers, cyclists, visitors and elderly residents who currently share narrow roadside spaces with vehicles.

Local residents **Melissa and Sarah** have been leading the community effort, volunteering time to develop the pathway concept, building partnerships and physically working on sections of the route.

"This project is about community helping community. We want people to be able to enjoy the beauty of Kina safely while encouraging healthy outdoor recreation, stronger community connections and greater accessibility for everyone." (Melissa & Sarah)

The pathway will provide a dedicated coastal walking experience while enhancing safety, walking pleasure and enjoyment.

The project also aims to incorporate native planting, community recognition signage acknowledging supporters and contributors, seating and rest areas, and educational information highlighting the area's unique coastal environment.

Recent volunteer working bees have seen community members rolling up their sleeves, wheelbarrows in hand, line-trimming current overgrowth to help establish and define sections of the pathway. Local support has continued to grow as residents recognise the long-term benefits the project will bring to the wider community.



Beyond improving safety, the pathway is expected to strengthen community wellbeing, support local tourism and recreation, and create opportunities for future environmental enhancement projects along the coastline.

The initiative aligns strongly with national and regional goals around pedestrian safety, active transport, community resilience and sustainable infrastructure.

The project team is now inviting further support from local residents, businesses, community organisations, funding bodies and volunteers who would like to contribute to bringing the vision to life.

Community involvement is warmly welcomed.

For more information, to volunteer, or to support the project, contact Melissa or Sarah on [022 124 7730](tel:0221247730). Follow the journey on the [Kina Community Pathway Facebook page](#).

QR Code – Scan to follow the Journey (Link to our FB Page)



Enjoy Your Journey

The vision for the Kina Community Pathway is simple: a safe, welcoming and connected coastal pathway that can be enjoyed by current residents, future generations and visitors alike — a pathway built by the community, for the community.

Sarah & Melissa on the Kina Pathway





A Community Treasure

While significant progress has been made in improving and caring for LEH Baigent Reserve, a small number of issues during the past year have highlighted the importance of continuing our collective stewardship of this special place. A TACA sub-committee was therefore set up to offer ideas to address the issues and they have been working with TDC and other stakeholders to identify cost effective ways to protect and enhance this much-loved reserve.

The primary focus has been on encouraging responsible use of the reserve while maintaining its natural character and recreational value. Discussions with TDC and security specialists regarding improved monitoring to deter vandalism and improve visitor education have resulted in a recent upgrade to camera surveillance and hopefully support a positive experience for all responsible users. The reserve continues to be well used and enjoyed by many people, although there have been two recent cases of rubbish being left at the memorial BBQ area. If you see any dumping please use the Antenno app to report the type and location and preferably include a photo. TDC can then schedule clean up and whether any other action can be taken. Thanks.

The sub-committee has also developed proposals for clearer signage and submitted them to TDC who have accepted them in principle. TACA will assist with the necessary content and design and will help with installation. The aim is to create simple, positive messages that help visitors understand how they can contribute to protecting the reserve's environment. Topics include caring for sensitive wildlife habitats, responsible dog ownership, appropriate vehicle access, fire safety, and respect for this special coastal landscape.

Plans are progressing for strategic tree planting that will enhance biodiversity, provide shelter, strengthen the reserve's natural character and help protect sensitive areas from vehicle-related impacts.

TACA believes education and community involvement are keys to user respect, so please contact a committee member if you have any positive ideas or concerns about user behaviour. Through its communication channels and TDC's Antenno app, responsible users are encouraged to be the reserve's "eyes and ears", helping to share information, report concerns when necessary, and promote positive stewardship of this community asset.

TACA extends thanks to all those who have contributed their time, expertise, and support to caring for this



community reserve. By working together with TDC, local organisations, iwi, and the wider community, we are making steady progress towards ensuring LEH Baigent Reserve is a safe, welcoming, environmentally rich and enjoyable place for everyone.

There will be a working bee at LEH Baigent Reserve 9am - 12pm on Saturday 01 August

- **Help plant Pohutukawa & sand Kānuka seedlings**
- **Weed out wattle seedlings**
- **Bring gloves, a hat, water & a smile.**

Everyone welcome. Join in for a sausage at our Community BBQ at 12 pm

Kina Beach Reserve

After a busy summer at the Kina Beach campground things have been very quiet for the past several months despite the generally sunny benign weather. Increased fuel costs due to international events have been a major factor for travellers and holidaymakers. It's to be hoped that global events will soon not be adversely impacting travel.

Trapping of pests has continued however and still receives support from Kina Bird Song. Despite regular weekly catches occurring there has been a noticeable increase in birdsong in the area so efforts do appear to be successful.

For those who don't already know, the Kina Inlet Walkway is closed due to a major washout. It's uncertain whether any remedial work will be feasible.

David Short & Richard Clement



ANZAC Commemorations in Tasman



We were treated to fine weather again for the ANZAC commemoration service and a good turnout of locals. This year saw the return of the local Motueka Cadet forces parading at several other gatherings during the course of the public holiday.

We always appreciate seeing older and young people contributing to this memorial service and others volunteering their time with sound systems, musical accompaniment and thanks too for the solid contribution from the morning tea crew.

This year's keynote speaker was Mary Garner, who lives locally on Aporo Road, owning Austin Orchards with husband Murray.

Her address was about the life and times of early aviators and somewhat in response to the now regular 'fly overs' we've been treated to during our ANZAC services. To go to war in a Sopwith plane sounds incredibly risky . . . and that beginning before you even encountered the enemy!

I thought the information was very interesting to not just those who attended the gathering, so here following is the unabridged draft and longer version for local readers of the Tasman Times. It's an interesting read!



Thanks so much for sharing this with us Mary and Murray.

Greig Caigou

ANZAC SERVICE April 2026 WWI Military Aircraft



Mary and Murray Garner QSO JP.

For the past two or three years, my friend Bruce Kingan has flown over this service in his WWI replica Sopwith Pup aircraft. Rev Greig here wanted Bruce to speak today about WWI military aircraft, but Bruce prefers to be up there rather than down here speaking – hence me.

Bruce's words *"I treat flying over the services as an honour because I have had a fair bit to do with Anzacs"*. Bruce's grandfather served in WWI and Bruce was born two years after his father got home from being in a WWII prison camp for four years. Bruce again, *"Dad had his 21st birthday there so I feel quite emotional about these flights. To see the faces looking and see what it means to people on the ground"*.

I have based some of this talk in part on a little book, *Diary of an Unknown Aviator* first published in 1926. It chronicles the experiences of American aviators training and fighting with the British Royal Air Force (known then as the RFC). The diary gives a first-hand account of the fatalistic lifestyle of the pilots who often knew they would not survive the war.

History and development of aircraft

The very first powered and controlled flight was made by the Wright Bros in 1903. By the start of WWI in 1914, just 11 years later, there were hundreds of aircraft – some serviceable and some not - across multiple countries. And consider that by the end of WWI just four years later, a handful of these planes were flying in excess of 20,000 feet.

Bruce clearly remembers a moment when flying at 5000 over Mt Campbell, looking up and trying to imagine what it must have felt like to be 15,000 feet higher which is where those pilots went to work. *"It blew my mind"* he says.

continued...



There were just three main countries with a creditable number of serviceable aircraft: France, Germany and Britain. Germany had Fokkers and Britain had mainly Sopwiths and S.E 5s with Snipes later to take the place of Camels at the front

Of the Sopwiths, Pups and Camels were main ones. Bruce's replica is a Pup. The Camel was a modified version of a Pup.

These aircraft were no good side on into wind which would cause them to tip over. The pilots often needed 'wingtip assistant' when taxiing.

Diary records: *"Today I saw my first scout machine, a Sopwith Pup. It's the prettiest little thing I ever laid my eyes on. I am going to fly one if I live long enough."*

Sopwiths were very tricky to fly and were particularly bad when attempting right-hand spins. The diary again: *"An instructor with 300 hours on Curtiss's back in the US, spun a Camel into the ground and killed himself. Dealy spun into the ground the next day and before they got him buried, two Englishmen killed themselves. All in Camels and all doing right-hand spins."*

Fokkers

Fokker designed one, two and three-decker planes and he introduced the synchronous machine gun – CC gear - which could fire through the propeller blades without hitting them. Fokker's last creation in German service was the Fokker D-VII, which was so feared by the Allies. Bruce is co-owner of the 80% replica of a Fokker D7.

Every 6 months there would be an upgrade of the engines. They could out-climb all the predecessors. Diary recounts flying at 20,500 to try to outclimb a new brand of Fokkers. Could not go any higher as they were practically stalled, but the new Fokkers went right over their heads. The newest Fokkers towards the end of the war had BMW motors which surpassed the old Mercedes. They were more conventional rather than the older rotary engines.

Remember the Christmas song, Snoopy's Christmas?



The Germans were allowed to paint their aircraft in all sorts of colours. The Red Baron (WWI German flying ace) always painted his aircraft red.

Crew routines and challenges; personal stories

Learning to fly

Many of the WWI pilots went solo with only a very few hours of flying experience. Often as little as 2-5 hours. About six weeks after he started flying, our diary records: *"I am quite good at spinning, but it makes me a little sick and dizzy. I guess I'll get over that, though and I think a lot of it is due to the castor oil from the motor."*

The rotary engine Sopwiths had a "total loss oil system" which means the oil was pumped out of the spinning engine into the atmosphere because the engines had no sumps like modern aircraft.

This was one of the main reasons airmen carried silk scarves. Not to keep them warm but to wipe oil out of their faces. The scarf flying out the back of Bruce's Sopwith, belongs to its other co-owner John, handed down from John's great uncle from WWI.

Signals

No fancy communication gear in those days so pilots had to memorise a complication range of signals.

Diary: *"We fly pretty close together and have a set of signals. If the pilot in front is going to turn sharp, he drops his wing on that side. If he is going to dive steep, he holds up his arm. If he wants us to come up close or wants to call our attention to something he shakes both wings. If it is German, he shakes his wings and points and fires his guns. If he means "yes" he bobs his nose up and down and if he means "no" he shakes his wings. If we see a German and he doesn't, we fire our guns and fly up in front and point. We fly at ¾'s throttle so we can always pull up. If he has trouble and wants us to go on, he fires a red light from his Very pistol. If he wants us to follow him out of a fight, he fires a white light. If he wants to signal the other flights, he fires a green light."*

Capable of flying to 20,000 feet with no oxygen for the pilots. If the pilots passed out, they would either crash or if lucky, would come round part way through the descent and be able to recover. The diary on altitude flying: *"Gosh it is unpleasant fighting at that altitude. The slightest movement exhausts you, your engine has no pip and splutters; it's hard to keep a decent formation and you lose 500 feet on a turn."* It was freezing up there; pilots used to slap whale oil on their faces to protect against frostbite. Many crashed after their own guns hit their propellor. Later planes had CC gear, as mentioned.

Another particular problem for the RFC was they were flying over Europe where the prevailing wind is Westerly. So, they had to be very careful they didn't penetrate too far over the German lines in case they ran out of enough fuel to get home.

Parachutes

Late in the war, the Germans developed a parachute that could be used from an aeroplane. But even after they were in use, the British pilots were not allowed them.

The hierarchy worried the pilots might bottle out prematurely, rather than fight. German pilots were allowed parachutes. Clearly their superiors thought they were made of sterner stuff.

"Archie" was the name given by pilots to describe **Anti-aircraft artillery fire**. The diary: *"Archie has a funny sound. A burst near you sounds like a loud cough and as soon as you hear it you start zigzagging. When you hear it you know that burst won't hurt you – it's the one you never hear that does the dirty work. I've been out baiting Archie several times and it's great sport. You can make him waste five thousand dollars' worth of ammunition on you in no time."*

Heroism

WWI saw many notable feats of heroism over and above the daily grind of heroism which itself was barely recognised. Diary: *"[a pilot] set his tail stabiliser and got out of his seat and crawled out on the wing and got the plane out of the spin. His aileron control was jammed, and part of his wing tip was gone but he balanced it down and landed it this side of the trenches by reaching in and pulling the stick back before he hit the ground. The plane turned over and threw him into a clump of bushes."*

My reading, research, chats with Bruce have all given me a very clear picture of the astounding number of deaths from WWI pilots from just learning and practising flying in what were an increasingly diverse range of new aircraft being developed. The toll on airmen was enormous and immeasurable. The Diary: *"I can't write much these days. I'm too nervous. I can hardly hold a pen. I'm all right in the air, as calm as a cucumber, but on the ground I'm a wreck and I get panicky. Nobody in the squadron can get a glass to his mouth with one hand after one of these decoy patrols. Some nights we both have nightmares at the same time and Mac has to get up and find his teeth and quiet us. We don't sleep much at night. But we get tired and sleep all afternoon when there's nothing to do. And later....my eyes are so sore that its getting hard to write. You can't wear goggles when you are out*

hunting and the wind blows your eyelids when you sideslip or skid. And our ears are ruined forever. The sudden changes of altitude play hell with them. Going up in an elevator a few hundred feet used to affect mine. Now I dive five thousand at a crack and they ache all night".

Back then there was little recognition of the dangers faced by pilots every day. This can't have been helped by what we'd almost certainly describe today as post-traumatic stress disorder.

In one diary entry from Ira Jones (a prolific S.E 5 pilot), he describes waking from nightmares 22 times in a night and having to tie the strings of his pyjamas to the bedpost to stop him thrashing around.

We owe a lot to the sacrifice of those WWI pilots. Their bravery and courage flying in aircraft that could only be described as rudimentary with no safety standards should be never forgotten.

Kei wareware tātou. *Lest we forget.*
Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou. *We will remember them.*

Mary Garner



WHERE FAITH, SHAPES FUTURES





Our mission at TBCS is to provide a transformative Christ-centred education for Year 1-8 students, aligned with the New Zealand Curriculum.



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www.tasbaychristian.school.nz

Free transport for whānau living in Motueka, Moutere Hills and Māpua



Harvest Festival Brings Community Together

The spirit of community was on full display at Tasman Bay Christian School's Harvest Festival as families, friends, local businesses, and visitors gathered for an evening of fellowship, fun, and fundraising. Visitors enjoyed a wide range of attractions, including food stalls, hot meals, braziers and S'mores, a hay bale maze, local produce and traders, a bouncy castle, dried flower displays, and there was a community stage provided for live performances. A particular highlight was the range of preserves and puddings created by our Garden-to-Table students, alongside sustainability-related products designed and made by students as part of their inquiry-based learning.



Swimming at RAC



Explore Sports



*Middle Schools Conference in
Christchurch*



*Tasman ANZAC Memorial
Service*

We have been working hard on establishing connections with our feeder preschools and have invited them over for a Teddy Bear's Picnic. If you are at a preschool or are aware of Christian families who would like to continue with a faith-based education for their children, please ask them to be in touch with our administrator at office@tasbaychristian.school.nz or come in for a visit.

TBCS walked away with third place again this year at the Tasman District Libraries Book Quiz. The TasBay Marvels team represented our little kura well. We had the Road to Calvary event (far right) at the end of Term 1 - a culmination of a week of learning about Jesus' journey to Calvary; students unpacked a new verse each fortnight that tracked what Jesus' experiences before His crucifixion.



We aim to provide authentic learning experiences for our students to think creatively and act responsibly. Through a Social Sciences perspective, one of our themes – SUSTAINABILITY – provided opportunities for students to organise a Clothing Swap which was a great example of sustainability in action, giving pre-loved items a new home rather than sending them to landfill. The Bake Sale showed us how simple fundraising activities can bring people together while supporting worthwhile causes. Parents supported staff during the Friday lunchtime Repair Café initiative. Since we have become more or less a throwaway society as it is now easier to replace than repair, this initiative reminded our students of the value of caring for the environment.

Neetha Mudhan - Principal

Tasman Civil Defence



It's about one year since the big storm that brought trees down across several local roads and caused some property damage. It also resulted in a lengthy power cut that highlighted a known vulnerability in our Community Civil Defence Centre at Tasman Church. A brief assessment of options to improve the situation had already been made but progress was now deemed to be urgent. I therefore got in touch with the owners of the building – Tasman Bay Christian Trust and soon met with the Chairperson for a very positive discussion.

A generator can now be quickly connected and provide sufficient power. TACA, on behalf of the entire Tasman community and Nelson Tasman Emergency Management, wish to thank Tasman Bay Christian Trust for this crucial operational improvement. The Trust is also hoping to enhance power flexibility by upgrading its current solar power generation.

A Special Thank You

In late April the Governor-General was in Nelson Tasman taking part in several community events. One recognised the response by numerous organisations to the winter 2025 storms. She paid particular attention to thank those who volunteered help and I, along with the CD co-ordinators for Māpua and Motueka, received special thanks for our teams' response.

Neighbourhood Support + Civil Defence working together for the community

Community CD centres primarily provide a place of shelter and a trained team to establish who needs assistance. They then convey requirements to the Operations Centre, but this means CD volunteers are confined to the building and aren't necessarily fully aware of impacts elsewhere in our catchment. On the other hand, Neighbourhood Support (NS) operates on an individual street basis where neighbours look out for one another and not just in an emergency.

I therefore contacted the NS Community Advisor with a view to strengthening the relationship locally between CD and NS. Relevant contact details have since been exchanged to enable the CD co-ordinator to call NS street contacts (and vice versa) for the status of their street. This also means the NS contact can inform their street if the CD Centre has been activated and also improves the CD Operations Centre's understanding of degree of impact in a localised area.

Civil Defence and Neighbourhood Support already work closely together, along with other agencies such as Councils, Police and Fire Emergency NZ, and our local alignment simply enhances communication and co-ordination. If you wish to learn about NS then check their website at:

<https://www.neighbourhoodsupport.co.nz>

As a NS member you can make use of their excellent Resilience Plan template, accessible via:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yYX7KAzmI4dDefwzWUS-jnUIj_9TcNaX/view

A Civil Defence Exercise

Late in April several of our team took part in a simulated substantial earthquake centred on the faultline at 88 Valley south of Wakefield. It's fair to say that it highlighted considerable areas of weakness in the systems employed, but the point of such an exercise is to test systems and then address the deficiencies found.

For information about South Island earthquake risk and how you can prepare for such an event please check out:

<https://af8.org.nz>

Local Preparedness

Although we haven't yet needed to activate our Emergency Preparedness Plan for Tasman, the experiences gained in the last year have helped to prepare our volunteers for whenever we'll be needed again. Please check the TACA website for extensive information and assistance in preparing for whenever you may be impacted by an emergency:

www.tasmancommunity.org.nz/tasman-em

Every activity the Tasman team has been involved with has demonstrated why it's so important for each community to have a sufficient number of trained Emergency Management volunteers. People may be away from home, some could be needed for a work response (we have volunteers who would assist in a major medical response) and others may not be able to leave home or family. Each team can also be requested to assist a neighbouring one on a 24/7 basis. That's why we in Tasman and our neighbours in Māpua assisted when the Motueka team needed help last year.



We are also on standby to assist Upper Moutere and any other CD Centre if required.

We therefore continue to welcome new enquiries from those who want to be able to help our community.

Please contact me at rclement49@icloud.com or 027 526 6700 to enquire about what to expect if you become an Emergency Management volunteer.



Horton and Aporo Road 27th June 2025

Hot off the Press!

As of July 01 the name "Community Civil Defence Centre" is now going to be dropped and replaced by "Community Emergency Assistance Centre" abbreviated to EAC. The reason for this change is that the old name doesn't describe its purpose, whereas the new name precisely indicates its function.

Richard Clement

Stay informed before and during an emergency

WEBSITES

NTEM	www.nelsontasmancivildefence.co.nz/
Councils	www.nelson.govt.nz/ www.tasman.govt.nz/
Met Service	www.metservice.com/towns-cities/locations/nelson
NZTA	www.journeys.nzta.govt.nz/highway-conditions

FACEBOOK

NTEM	www.facebook.com/nelsontasmancivildefenceandemergencymanagement/
Councils	www.facebook.com/nelsoncitycouncil/ www.facebook.com/TasmanDistrictCouncil/

APPS

Antenno – TDC information is shared, and individuals can report information and upload photo evidence.
Red Cross – To guide basic first aid and help identify hazards, reduce risks and stay informed.
Geonet – Receive information on New Zealand earthquakes and other natural events.

RADIO

Nelson, Richmond and Motueka – The Breeze 97.6FM, Brian FM 105.6FM, Fresh FM 104.8FM, The Hits 89.6FM, Magic Music 99.2FM, Magic Talk 96FM, More FM 92.8FM, Newstalk ZB 1341AM, RNZ National 101.6FM or 1116AM.
Golden Bay – Brian FM 91.0FM, Classic Hits 1269AM, Fresh FM 104.8FM, More FM 92.0FM, RNZ National 101.6FM.
Golden Bay East – Brian FM 91.0FM, Fresh FM 95.0FM, RNZ National 101.6FM.
Murchison – Brian FM 105.3FM, More FM 94.1FM.
St Arnaud – More FM 94.1FM



How a Weedy Track Became One of Tasman's Most Ambitious Restoration Projects

If you've driven along SH60 recently, you may have noticed something remarkable happening on the roadside. Where wilding pines, blackberry and gorse once crowded the edge of the highway, a long green ribbon of young native forest is beginning to take shape. This is the Te Mamaku Native Corridor — a community-driven effort to link the Waimea Estuary with the Moutere Inlet through nearly ten kilometres of native plantings. The idea is simple: create a living pathway for birds, insects and people, and restore a stretch of land that had been forgotten for decades.

What's surprising is how it all began. There was no grand vision at the start, no major funding lined up. It started with something much smaller: the Dicker Track, a once popular route that had become almost impossible to use. The crown land between the Ruby Bay Bypass and the ridge had turned into a dense tangle of 20 metre pines, towering gorse and thick blackberry. Locals Michael Markert and David Short simply wondered whether something could be done.

"When we first walked it, we honestly thought, 'This is a mess — but surely it doesn't have to stay this way,'" Michael recalls. "We just wanted the track back."

When they approached TDC and NZTA, the answer was polite but clear: there was no funding available to deal with the overgrowth. If the community wanted to try, they were welcome to, but they'd be on their own. Most people would have left it there. Instead, Michael opened the Top of the South Maps website, copied a screenshot, and sketched out a rough plan dividing the land into manageable sections. It wasn't much, but it was a beginning.

Once they shared the idea with people already involved in restoration work, support began to gather. Restoring the Moutere stepped in with an initial planting of 1,800 native trees in 2022, organised by Elliott Easton. DOC Motueka added a piece of insight that changed everything. "They told us we were actually creating a native corridor between two wetlands," David says.

"That was the moment we realised this was bigger than we thought."

With a clearer plan and a cost estimate that ran into the hundreds of thousands, David began applying for major funding. To their surprise, it came. Lottery Environment & Heritage and the Rātā Foundation provided the early boost needed to get large-scale work underway; NBS and NZMCA jumped in early too. Soon, big diggers were on site, felling wilding pines and mulching the impenetrable weeds. Restoring the Moutere took on half the cleared land, and more funders joined in. Progress became impossible to miss. "At this stage we couldn't stop any longer what we have started!", Michael looks back. Drivers on SH60 began to notice the change, and the project quickly became a talking point across the district.

Volunteers became the heartbeat of the project. They turned up in all weathers, fitting plant guards on frosty mornings, pulling gorse out of guards in summer, and occasionally discovering a paper wasp nest the hard way. "The volunteers keep us going," Michael says. "Every time people show up with gloves and a smile, it reminds us why we're doing this."

Despite the tough conditions — heavy clay, dry winds and no water supply — the plantings have thrived. Survival rates remain above 90 percent, thanks to careful preparation, high-quality plants, professional planters, and strict weed control before and after planting. The deep mulch left behind after land clearing, combined with undisturbed soil, helped create ideal conditions for mycorrhizal fungi, giving the young trees a strong start.



By winter 2025, around 35,000 native trees had been planted — a milestone that would have seemed impossible when the project began. There is still plenty to do: filling gaps, extending the corridor further south with 4,000 trees planted in May 2026, and ongoing maintenance to ensure the young forest continues to flourish.

The biggest challenge, surprisingly, hasn't been funding or finding volunteers. It has been organising traffic management for felling large pines — a costly and time-consuming requirement that has tested everyone's patience. "Traffic management," David says with a laugh, "is the part no one warns you about."

The project has earned plenty of recognition, including a feature on TVNZ's One News Good Sorts. But Michael and David still smile at how it all started. "We never set out to create a huge restoration project," Michael says. "We just wanted to clear an overgrown track. Everything since then has been a bonus."

Their message to anyone thinking about starting their own restoration effort is simple: don't be put off by the scale of the idea. "Just take the first step," Michael says. "Small projects matter. And when communities get involved, those small steps can turn into something much bigger than you ever imagined."

Dana Carter: Motueka Catchment Collective & Michael Markert



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Vetlife Motueka – Complete Animal Care in Our Community

For more than 50 years, the Motueka veterinary clinic has been caring for local animals, from much loved family pets and loyal farm dogs to livestock across the wider Tasman region. What began as a small, local practice back in October 1975, originally registered on Wallace Street, is now part of Vetlife, a South Island owned, veterinarian-led practice with deep roots in the regions we serve.

We are supported by the strength of the wider Vetlife family with clinics across the South Island, including our nearby sister clinics in Māpua and Richmond. Thanks to our strong veterinary connections, our clients and patients benefit from access to an extensive pool of skills, advanced practitioners, and shared expertise. Plus, our cutting-edge equipment, training, and technology allows us to deliver gold standard care right here in sunny Motueka.

Our clinic provides complete care for all animals, from cats, dogs, and other small pets to lifestyle block animals and farm livestock. Our vets have special interests in diagnostic ultrasound, orthopaedic surgery, laser therapy and more, ensuring advanced treatment options are available close to home.

We have Dr Chris Welland, highly skilled in radiology and ultrasonography, working between the Motueka and Richmond clinics. Having his expertise on-site means faster diagnoses and better continuity of care for our patients.

For our lifestyle and farming clients, John Mace has been part of the Motueka practice for over 30 years and continues to be a trusted name, providing expert large animal care with a strong focus on preventative health and ongoing herd wellbeing. He's joined by Megan Lowther, who began her career as a dairy vet in the Waikato and now enjoys caring for both large animals and family pets from our Motueka and Māpua clinics.

When it comes to emergencies, Vetlife provides true 24-hour care. When you need it most, you'll speak directly with our on-call vet. No triage fees or call centres, just immediate, professional help.

Alongside our clinical services, we run a long-established **Puppy School every Tuesday evening**



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encompassing all three Vetlife Tasman clinics, a fun way for Tasman's newest pups to learn socialisation and behaviour skills and meet their neighbours.

We also regularly offer **giveaways and promotions** on our range of **in-clinic products**, from parasite protection to premium pet nutrition, all available on our shop floor.

Drop in anytime to chat about your pets, browse our products, or just to say Kia Ora to the lovely team!

At Vetlife Motueka, we're proud of our long-standing ties to the Motueka community and our commitment to offering comprehensive, compassionate, top-quality veterinary care for every animal, every day.



Mill Point Update

After taking our usual summer break the team re-assembled at the end of March to assess the progress or regress made at the site over the intervening few months.

The main site was in urgent need of a haircut and spraying with all the plants and grass having taken full advantage of the moist summer months to extend their growth, but the delight of the morning was the progress made on the Marsh extension with all but a very few of last year's plantings showing good established growth.

The main construction project for the next couple of months was the establishment of a safe route from the main site to the Marsh area – obviating the need to use Kina Beach Road between them which is often subject to the passage of cars at racetrack speeds! Once again, we were blessed with the provision of the necessary materials from various local donors and with a bit of hard graft and yet more shell barrowing by the stalwarts we have, I think, made a reasonable stab at a safe and durable link between the two restoration areas.



Main Site



New Link Path



Marsh Extension

At the time of penning this report the Main site has been knocked back into shape and continues to host a goodly population of regular visitors – both human and canine (under control! – the dogs that is!). An order has been placed with Westbank Nurseries – funded by TACA – for replacements to the plantings along the Tasman Stream margins that did not withstand the saltwater inundation of several high Spring tides – these will go in shortly and being salt tolerant should have more success.

Spraying and Whizzing on the Marsh site has encouraged further growth – particularly the Oi Oi's which are living up to their reputation of thriving in regular dosing of fresh water from the Tasman Stream and the occasion saltwater wash! We have discovered one unwelcome visitor in the form of a large clump of Japanese Honeysuckle. TDC have come to our aid and will be commencing an eradication programme in the coming months. Grateful thanks to Michael Wilkins the TDC Reserves Operations Manager.

So a really good 3 months' work – Thank you Team.



May Working Bee Team

Our next working Bee will be on August 01. New members are always welcome and if you enjoy good company and a satisfying couple of hours of restoration work a month come along and join us.

Tony Pearson – Working Bee Leader





Tasman Stream Project

Restoring Waterways, Connecting Communities

First Major Milestone Reached

The Tasman Stream Project has taken a significant step forward, with the first 1,040 native trees now successfully planted by a dedicated team of just under 30 community volunteers.

This achievement marks the beginning of a long-term vision to restore the health of Tasman Stream and its tributaries, improve water quality, enhance biodiversity, and create thriving riparian corridors that will benefit both wildlife and the wider community for generations to come.

The planting site, located at the corner of Horton and Aporo Roads, was selected as an ideal showcase location due to its visibility, accessibility and potential to demonstrate the positive impact that well-planned riparian restoration can have on our waterways. Over time, the trees will help stabilise stream banks, provide shade to cool water temperatures, create habitat for native birds and insects, and contribute to a healthier stream ecosystem.

A special thank you goes to David Easton, whose leadership, organisation and enthusiasm were instrumental in making the working bee such a success. From planning through to planting day, David's commitment helped ensure everything ran



smoothly and that volunteers were able to make the most of the opportunity.

The project also acknowledges the generous support of Trees That Count for gifting the first 1,000 native trees plus a generous donation of 40 Kahikatea from Trevor James, providing the catalyst for turning an exciting community vision into reality.

What made the day particularly encouraging was the strong turnout from local residents and supporters. Seeing nearly 30 volunteers working together demonstrated the enthusiasm that exists within our community for practical environmental action and local stewardship.



The next phase of the project is to work with Tasman District Council's Moutere Catchment Adviser to begin developing a Tasman sub-catchment plan. This will help identify priorities, opportunities and practical actions to improve water quality, biodiversity and catchment resilience across the wider Tasman area. Community input will be vital to ensuring the plan reflects local knowledge and aspirations.

Anyone interested in being involved in this process is encouraged to contact David Short at iamdavidshort@gmail.com



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While the first 1,040 trees represent an important milestone, they are only the beginning. The Tasman Stream Project aims to expand restoration efforts throughout the catchment in the years ahead, working alongside landowners, volunteers, community groups and funding partners.

To everyone who helped make this first planting possible—thank you. Together, we have put the first roots in the ground for a healthier, greener future for Tasman Stream.

David Short

Simply Septic

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Kevin or Murray

Ph 03 5448032

RUBY COAST NEWCOMERS SOCIAL GROUP

WHAT IS IT?

An easy way for Tasman and Māpua newcomers to socialise, make new friends and learn about the area from other 'recent' locals.

WHERE?

We usually meet at the Tasman Store and Café, occasionally elsewhere.

WHEN?

Last Friday each month, from 10 am.

An email reminder is sent.

There is NO OBLIGATION to attend!

Just come along when it suits you.

We also host occasional ad hoc 'bring a plate' social get-togethers.

CONTACT

Vivien: 027 5266707

vpeters1949@icloud.com

Richard: on 027 5266700

rclement49@icloud.com



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Moutere Catchment Group

Restoration Momentum Continues

Kia ora neighbours,

It's been a busy winter for restoration around the Moutere and Motueka catchments, with plenty happening both on the ground and behind the scenes.

Many of you may have noticed that updates are now coming from the **Motueka Catchment Collective**. We've merged our mailing lists to help keep landowners connected with restoration news, funding opportunities and events happening across our wider catchments. While the original Moutere Catchment project has wrapped up, the relationships, knowledge and momentum built over the past five years continue to drive new restoration projects across the district.



Closer to home, you may have noticed some fantastic planting projects taking shape around Tasman this winter. **Tasman Bay Guardians** have completed native restoration at two important inanga (whitebait) spawning sites—one on Field Creek beside Tasman Domain and another on the Tasman Stream near the bridge opposite the Tasman Store. Nearby, around **1,040 native plants** have also been planted along the Tasman Stream beside the Great Taste Trail by a dedicated team of local volunteers, with support from Tasman District Council, Trees That Count and Plant Guard NZ. Together, these projects are helping strengthen an important ecological corridor while improving biodiversity and building more resilient waterways in the face of future flooding.

If you're passing the Tasman Domain, take a look at the plant guards decorated by students from Tasman School—they're hard to miss! If you have a spare couple of minutes, we'd really appreciate a little careful hand weeding around the plants over the coming months. Because these are inanga (whitebait) spawning sites, herbicides aren't appropriate, and the sites shouldn't be disturbed during the spawning season, which runs from around February to May each year. Any help removing weeds before Christmas will give these young native plants the best chance to establish while protecting this important fish habitat.



Finally, congratulations to Philip and Jenny Leith, who were recently recognised by Te Uru Rākau – New Zealand Forest Service with a **Growing Native Forests Champion** award in the Trees on Farms category. It's one of only six national awards presented nationally each year and a wonderful reflection of the restoration happening throughout our region.

Thanks to everyone who continues to plant, maintain and care for our local waterways. Every tree planted, weed removed and hour volunteered helps create a healthier, more resilient catchment for us all.

Ngā mihi,

Elliot Easton



PlantGuard NZ – Built by People Who Plant Trees

PlantGuard NZ began with a simple challenge.

While coordinating the **Restoring the Moutere – Ridgetops to the Sea** project, we struggled to find a biodegradable plant guard that combined good design, durability and affordability. So David and Elliot Easton decided to develop one ourselves.

The result was **EcoShield Pro**—a New Zealand-made biodegradable plant guard designed to keep restoration costs down without compromising on performance. Before long, other landowners, catchment groups and restoration projects were asking where they could get them too, and PlantGuard NZ was born.

Since then we've expanded the range to include three practical products:

EcoShield Core – our most affordable guard and the fastest to biodegrade, making it ideal for large-scale and budget-conscious restoration projects.

EcoShield Pro – our premium fibreboard guard, designed to provide longer-lasting protection where extra durability is needed.

EcoShield Base – a biodegradable weed mat that reduces weed competition and helps young plants establish successfully.

Built by people who plant trees, our products include practical improvements that make restoration easier—such as solid side walls for better spray protection, simple assembly, and biodegradable materials that disappear naturally over time.

Supporting community restoration remains central to what we do. Each year PlantGuard NZ donates products to local environmental projects. This winter, our biodegradable weed mats and plant guards were donated to the new inanga (whitebait) spawning site plantings at Tasman Domain and the Tasman Stream restoration project featured elsewhere in this edition.



If you'd like to see our products in action, the **Te Mamaku Corridor** is a great place to start.

EcoShield Pro guards were used throughout the first two years of planting, while

EcoShield Core guards and **EcoShield Base** weed mats have

been used over the past three years. Or take a drive around the Moutere Catchment, where **EcoShield Pro** protected thousands of native plants planted between 2021 and today. You can see for yourself how the different products are performing in real restoration projects.

Whether you're planting a handful of trees beside a stream or restoring hectares of native habitat, PlantGuard NZ aims to provide practical, affordable, locally proven products to help make restoration easier.

PlantGuard NZ

NZ-made biodegradable plant guards and weed mats.

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Jester House News

There's change afoot.

If you have lived in Tasman for more than 35 years you may recognise the old cottage above that we bought in 1991 with the dream of turning it into a café. A run-down cottage on six acres of bare paddock with a creek running along the roadside.

Some of you may also remember that repainted, reimagined old cottage as a bustling café. Then who can remember the transmogrification that occurred in 2006 when we had a demolition party and removed the old café in a day and spent three frantic months rebuilding so we could open again for the summer? There's nothing like a deadline to focus your mind.

But as the saying goes, all good things must come to an end and so it is with the Jester House Café.

On 20 November 1991, we opened the doors of a quirky little 'front room' café and now coming up on

20 November 2026, exactly 35 years from the day we opened, we are closing the doors! What FUN we've had, meeting all our wonderful customers and doing our best to offer great food and genuine hospitality. We will carry on living here for our next 35 years of adventure and dreams. We'll continue to operate the Boot accommodation and further develop the extensive gardens. We're also open to enquiries for venue hire.

Further in the future, our granddaughter, Iris, has said she wants to run the café so watch this space in 2036 when she turns 18!

By the time you read this there will only be about 18 more Fridays to come and enjoy Tasman's Best Café. We strongly recommend that if you want to get your last taste of all that is great about the Jester House cafe, make a booking:

By emailing judy@jesterhouse.co.nz or phone 03 526 6742 as tables are booking up fast.

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For more information

Contact Lyndal

Tasman Golf Club

Ph 03 526 6819

Email: teeup@tasmangolfclub.com

Website: www.tasmangolfclub.com



Find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/tasmancommunity) or on the web: www.tasmancommunity.org.nz/

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Tasman Domain Open Orchard

We've all heard about the 'Cost of living crisis'. Some of us have heard of food sovereignty and local food security. But how many of you have wondered what we can do about it?

Next time you're walking or cycling through the Tasman Memorial Domain have a look around and you will see one of the answers. The Tasman open orchard offers free, local, seasonal, fresh produce that is there just for the effort of collecting it.

The first trees were planted 10 years ago, and most are now fruiting well.

The good news is that your community association, Tasman Area Community Association (TACA), has the orchard as a project this year, with a plan to expand in size and range but we need your help. We've been fortunate to receive some donations of trees from local nurseries, but we need funds to cover stakes and fertiliser and help with planting.

The concept is to 'Adopt a tree' that you can plant, care for and watch flourish over the years knowing that you are making a real difference to our local food security.

A suggested contribution of \$5.00-\$25.00 will pay for stakes and mulch and you get the pleasure of being part of a real solution.

Contributions can be made to TACA, on our donation page, reference 'adopt a tree'.

<https://www.tasmancommunity.org.nz/taca>

If you can only help with your time, that's fine too.

To get involved contact:

Steve Richards jesterhousesteve@gmail.com

Viv Peters vpeters1949@icloud.com



VOLUNTEER DRIVERS WANTED

Help Keep Our Community Connected.

The Nelson Tasman Community Transport Trust is looking for volunteer drivers to support two important community transport services:

- Weekend Coastal Bus Service: Motueka <-> Richmond, Saturdays and Sundays

- NMIT Student Transport Service: Motueka <-> Nelson, Monday to Thursday

These services help people stay connected to education, employment, essential services and their community.

Volunteer driving roles may suit retirees, semi-retired people, community-minded locals, or anyone who

enjoys helping others and has some flexibility in their schedule.

As a volunteer driver, you will:

- Make a real difference in people's lives
- Meet a wide range of people from across the community
- Be part of a supportive volunteer team
- Help reduce transport barriers in the Nelson Tasman region

No regular commitment is required - volunteers can indicate their availability and drive as often or as little as suits them. Training and support provided.

Register your interest today at coordinator@ntctt.org.nz or call 022 682 2373.

Nelson Tasman Community Transport Trust -
Connecting Communities Through Transport



Find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/tasmancommunity) or on the web: www.tasmancommunity.org.nz/

GETTING AROUND TASMAN WITHOUT A CAR

Not everyone in our patch has ready access to a car on the weekend so that's where the Nelson Tasman Community Transport Trust (NTCTT) comes in. Established in 2018, NTCTT is a volunteer-run charitable trust providing affordable, dedicated transport for our part of the district, supported by Tasman District Council and community funding.

Two services keep locals moving.

The Weekend Coastal Bus runs Motueka to Richmond every Saturday and Sunday, picking up and dropping off anywhere along the route that's safe to stop. It's popular with cyclists too - your bike travels free when booked with a fare-paying passenger. Bookings go through Motueka iSite, ph 03 528 6543.

On weekdays, the NMIT Student Transport Service runs Motueka to Nelson, Monday to Thursday, helping local rangatahi/students get to NMIT's Nelson campus while still living at home - keeping young people connected to study without the cost and upheaval of moving away.

Every trip runs entirely on volunteer driving and we're always keen to hear from new volunteer drivers, especially those free on Monday to Thursday. Drivers need to be 25 or over, hold a current full NZ licence and consent to NZ Police vetting. Training and support are provided and there's no minimum commitment.

If you'd like to find out more about riding with us, driving for us, or supporting the Trust in another way, get in touch at coordinator@ntctt.org.nz or 022 682 2373. Or visit www.ntctt.org.nz for timetables and routes.

Marriages Road Bus Shelter Reborn



A familiar Tasman landmark has been given a new lease of life with the refurbishment of the original Marriages Road bus shelter, blending local craftsmanship, artistic design and community spirit.

Many residents will remember the shelter, originally built by the Tasman Area Community Association (TACA) in 2008 to protect local school children waiting for the bus. Rather than replacing it, the decision was made to refurbish and relocate it to the new southbound Marriages Road eBus stop.



The transformation features striking corten steel artwork inspired by the native Mamaku tree fern. The design was created by local artist and designer **Adi Tait** and expertly fabricated by **Dave Willetts of Blazen Metal**, turning a practical shelter into an attractive piece of public art. As the corten steel naturally weathers, it will develop its distinctive rust-coloured finish while complementing the nearby Te Mamaku Native Corridor.

The shelter was completely refurbished before being installed on a new concrete foundation, preserving an important piece of community history while giving it a contemporary new identity.

Across the road, the new northbound shelter has replaced the former tin shed and includes a rear display of historic photographs of the locality, kindly provided by **Ruby Aberhart**.

Most importantly, the shelters support the Motueka–Nelson eBus service, which now stops at Marriages Road **four times each weekday in both directions**. As these are **request stops**, passengers should be waiting **five minutes before** the scheduled time and signal clearly to the approaching driver.

The community worked hard to secure this service, and its future depends on local support. Whether travelling to work, school, shopping or appointments, every passenger helps demonstrate its value.

Use it so we don't lose it!

For timetables and route information visit ebus.nz/routes-and-timetables, or download the Marriages Road timetable at tinyurl.com/4fesvckt.

The Nature of Trees

I've been planting more trees . . . so has everyone else it seems, including TACA. Nurseries are flat out and some trendy species have bolted out the door so fast that even leaving my 'fingers to do the walking' has not kept ahead of the rush on plants.

But I'm loving it . . . planting trees is good for the soul. An old adage goes something like this: "The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago, the second-best time is now!"

There have been some difficult moments of course. I've got a large site, giving me plenty of scope to craft the countryside, but decisions have to be made about what species work best and anticipating a future array of Autumn colours isn't easy when dealing with bare branches (even with the advantages of colourful Google images for each species). Then there's the careful process of selecting the site for all-day sun and good drainage, notwithstanding hauling plants to and fro while my wife experiments with various placements!

And all this comes before the actual digging, which even in rain-softened clay doesn't yield a goodly hole without some effort with a crowbar.

But I'm happily about these tasks for the anticipated reward of beautification, and colour, and summer shade, and the fullness of fruit in season from the various orchard species.

Planted correctly, I'm confident that the trees will do what they know to do. It is in their nature to grow . . . to produce leaves, to bear flowers and fruit, depending on their kind. Of course, all that is required for this to happen is the right conditions so that the roots go down deep and find ample nutrients of the right kind. It helps too that I stake the trees so they get off to a



good start, standing up to the westerlies that will hammer my area from now through until mid-summer. And of course there are future droughts to be mindful of . . . I can provide some 'TLC' but my trees are going to have to dig deep for moisture if they're to survive. Some might topple or get diseased as well, if they don't get what they need.

I'm sure you can appreciate all the metaphors for us that are inherent in this planting process, and the life of trees.

We need to have our roots down deep into the 'good stuff' if we are to develop as we should and withstand what life throws at us at times. To live upright we also need a firmly fixed standard. And just as a tree knows how to produce good fruit, we have in us the potential to yield an abundant life . . . fruitful to others. These are natural principles, already built-in to the system of things by our designer God.

Feed on the nutrients supplied by the Creator - study His Bible. Make Jesus your strong standard, attached to Him and ***"Christ will make his home in your hearts, as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong."*** (Ephesians 3:17)

You will produce the glorious blossom of a life well lived - according to His purpose - bringing much joy to the Master Gardener . . . and to those others who are looking on.

And bloom where you are planted!

Greig Caigou





WIO turns 40

This year Whenua Iti Outdoors celebrates an incredible milestone. Way back in 1986 our visionary founder, Hazel Nash, founded the WIO Trust with several community leaders which went on to develop the facilities and programmes you see today.

We're planning a whole range of activities and celebrations for later this year when things warm up. In the meantime, we're keen to hear from anyone who attended a WIO programme, especially in the 80's, 90's and early 2000's. If you'd like to share your story, please get in touch - info@wio.org.nz

Finalist in Sport NZ Awards

WIO's Stump & Limb Difference camp developed in partnership with the Amputee Federation NZ and Amputee Society Top of the South was nominated as a finalist in Sport NZ awards. The national awards recognise excellence in programme design, delivery and positive impact on a local community. We were honoured to be nominated in such a hotly contested category.



CEO Mark Bruce-Miller at Sport NZ's national conference



2027 Trades Academy courses available

Limited places are available on trades academy programmes, including Adventure Tourism Leadership, Manaaki Tāpoi and Uniformed Services. Programmes are fully funded by the Ministry of Education at zero cost to students from TOTSTA and WCTA partner schools. Trades Academy programmes give students a pathway to employment or further academic study.

Talk with your trades coordinator at your school or head to our website to find out more. Be quick, the funded places are limited, and these programmes often fill up quickly.

NBS provides support for local primary schools

Local primary schools are set to benefit from generous funding from NBS. The programmes are aimed at primary schools from Motueka, Moutere and the wider Tasman community. If you know of a primary school that would love to have a Whenua Iti experience in the outdoors, please get in touch with the team - info@wio.org.nz



B416 is a growing movement of parents, educators, health professionals and concerned New Zealanders calling for a minimum age of 16 for social media access.

We believe children deserve the chance to develop, learn, play, build relationships and grow their confidence before being exposed to platforms that are designed to capture attention, encourage comparison and keep users engaged for as long as possible.

This is not about banning technology. Digital literacy is essential, and technology offers many benefits. But social media is different. It is designed around algorithms, social validation and endless content, creating pressures that many young people are not developmentally ready to navigate.

Parents are increasingly concerned about the impact social media is having on children's mental health, sleep, learning, self-esteem and wellbeing. B416 exists to give those concerns a voice and to advocate for stronger protections for children online. Just as we have age limits for products and activities that carry risks for young people, we believe social media should be no different.

To learn more about the movement and receive updates, resources and event information, sign up here:

[Sign up to our newsletter](#)

