

Māpua and Districts Community Association meeting update – March 2025

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Bikes back on buses

Our eBus has been the first in New Zealand to receive an exemption to the obstruction rule, which means a 24/7 bike rack service has returned in Nelson Tasman. Bike racks were removed from buses across New Zealand on Friday 8 November as a precautionary measure implemented following concerns that the racks may partially obstruct bus headlights.

A working group comprising Councils, public transport operators, and NZTA Waka Kotahi staff, was set up to reach an agreed pathway to return the use of bike racks to buses. In mid-January 2025 this working group released a set of agreed conditions and steps. Our eBus fleet meets the new conditions.

A diagram was issued to public transport operators with a reference line. If the centre of the headlight is below the reference line, then the illumination is effective. eBus mechanics drew the reference line across the headlights on our buses, which revealed that we would not be required to change our racks or buses.

Let's talk, Tasman!

Managing the current and future levels of growth in Tasman relies on the insights and suggestions we receive from the community. However, this is often through a somewhat regulated consultation process dictated by legislation determining a process leaving little room for much else.

To make this process a bit more approachable, we recently set up Shape Tasman, an online engagement tool, enabling a great deal more information to be introduced in consultation exercises. It allows comments and more 'free flow' responses, but it is still limited to policies, programmes and projects in question.

In an effort to set up a more informing relationship with residents who wish to be involved, we have set up a page on Shape Tasman called 'Let's talk, Tasman'. Through this page, residents can sign up to receive information and contribute to the development of initiatives and projects, test our ideas, and provide early input into policies and decisions that affect Tasman communities.

This is a great way to informally contribute to the future of Tasman through discussion and sharing your views on early consideration of plans etc. It won't be every day and certainly won't be too onerous, but it will enable great insight from the very people our work is designed to benefit.

Interested? Sign up at shape.tasman.govt.nz/lets-talk-tasman.

Positive Ageing Expo

We warmly invite you to our Positive Ageing Expo, a wonderful opportunity to explore the many recreational, health, and social services available right here in Nelson Tasman – each designed to help us embrace ageing as a positive and enriching journey.

For more than 15 years, this Expo has welcomed around 2,000 people each year – it's a chance to connect with others and discover new community groups. This year's Expo will be packed with helpful services and engaging demonstrations.

Bring along any broken items, and the friendly Repair Café volunteers will help you mend them. Take advantage of Flu and Covid vaccinations, watch composting and Tai Chi demonstrations, and even get expert home heating advice – just a few of the 70 wonderful stalls waiting for you! We'd love to see you at the Headingley Centre, off Lower Queen Street in Richmond, on Saturday 5 April, from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm.

To make it easier to attend, there will be a free shuttle service running between the Richmond eBus Interchange and the Expo every 30 minutes from 10.30 am to 12.00 pm, with the final return shuttle at 12.45 pm. Additionally, the Motueka Community Bus will arrive in Richmond at 10.30 am and depart at 1.30 pm.

Come along, bring a friend, and enjoy a day of connection, learning, and inspiration.

Don't let FOG affect your place

Do you know that your household pipes can be affected by FOG? When you cook, fats, oils, and grease, or FOG often end up down the drain. While it may seem harmless, FOG can harden and build up in your pipes, causing costly blockages in your private plumbing. But it doesn't end there.

Blockages caused by FOG, also known as fatbergs, extend into our wastewater networks leading to sewer overflows. Fatbergs cause wastewater to back up resulting in overflows into private properties, streets, streams and estuaries.

FOG sticks to the walls of your pipes, narrowing the flow and eventually blocking it which in turn leads to expensive plumber's fees for homeowners, and expensive clean-up costs on our pipe networks.

So, what can you do to help?

- Let fats, oils, and grease cool, then scrape them into a container and dispose of them in your general waste.
- Use sink strainers to catch food particles and dispose of them in the food waste. • Avoid using in-sink waste disposal systems.
- Put coffee grounds on the garden instead of down the drain. Small changes at home can make a big difference for your plumbing and the community. If you have any questions, feel free to contact our wastewater team for more information.

Tee up a Rural Sport travel grant

Live rural and need a little help participating in sports? The Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund offers help with travel costs for rural sports clubs and rural school teams. The fund helps young people aged 5 – 19 participate in local sports competitions.

This round of funding closes Wednesday 30 April. Head to <https://bit.ly/2UO29lE> for more information and to apply.