



Issue 114 • 24 February 2021

Keep up to date with the latest news from Nelson City Council

Face coverings mandatory on NBus at Alert Level 1

Even though we are back at Alert Level 1, masks are still mandatory on all public transport in New Zealand, including Nelson's NBus.

When used and disposed of correctly, masks work to both reduce the risk of infected people infecting others, and help protect uninfected people from catching the virus.

Children under the age of 12 will be exempt from these requirements, as will people with certain medical conditions. Children and young people travelling on school buses are also exempt from mask requirements.

This decision was being reviewed after Our Nelson's print deadline, so please check the Unite Against Covid-19 website for the latest information.

Be kind and courteous to other passengers and drivers.

Remember to stay at home if you are unwell.

Wearing is caring. Kia mau, kia tau.



'A sanctuary for the mind': Elma Turner Library redevelopment set for next chapter

Listen to poetry, email a long-lost friend, dig deep into Nelson's history, gather for community connection, or simply sit in the sunshine beside the Mahitahi/Maitai River – a brand new library for Nelson will offer much more than just the chance to check out a book.

That vision is now a step closer after the Council voted to include a proposal for a site that will connect the City Centre to the Mahitahi/Maitai River in the 2021-31 Long-Term Plan.

This option will involve the construction of a new library on the corner of Halifax and Trafalgar Streets. Landscaping of the area will open up the Riverside Precinct, allowing people to flow through the library space to the Mahitahi/Maitai River, creating potential new spaces for recreation, food, and retail.

Council proposes to invest \$44.4 million in a high-spec building, designed to be both sustainable and resilient to climate change. A significant investment for Nelson's future, the new library will offer the community enhanced spaces for meetings, small scale performances, greater technological resources, archive facilities, activity rooms and spaces to create.

Group Manager Community Services Andrew White says the new library will support the concept of lifelong learning with an increased number of community activities, library services and programmes.

"Libraries are a place of sanctuary for the mind and closely linked to the well-being of our community. The new library will be a place for people to stop and think, read, be creative and communal. Opportunities like these, make a city a worthwhile place to live."

Mayor Rachel Reese says the aim is to provide Nelson with a facility that rivals the best libraries in New Zealand, connects our river to our city, and provides a focal point for our community.

"At their best, modern libraries offer people the chance to expand their horizons. They are a gateway to opportunity and a great equaliser for our community."

"The new library's proximity to the river means we need to manage how it will be affected by climate change, and robust analysis confirms that this site remains appropriate."

Constructed to a Five Star, Green Star sustainability standard using low carbon construction techniques, the new library will demonstrate ways in which we can sustainably develop areas of Nelson that will be impacted by climate change.

Other options considered by the Council included rebuilding the library on its current site (either with a reduced

or high specification), refurbishing the existing building, or rebuilding a new library in another part of the city.

Elma Turner Library has been in its current site, a former car showroom, since 1990, and plans to redevelop the library into a modern, fit-for-purpose community building date back more than a decade.

The Nelson community has consistently expressed support for a new library at the Riverside Precinct through previous Long-Term Plans and Annual Plans.

Further engagement with iwi, community groups, library staff, Councillors and the general public was carried out between May and December 2019, by Athfield Architects and Irving Smith Architects and via an online survey. This revealed that people felt the following components were important:

- The Collection
- A range of spaces to cater for all
- Great access and car parking
- A welcoming place to host and engage visitors
- A café
- A well serviced community room open after hours.
- A connected Nelson archive, centred around a library heritage space.
- A sustainable building demonstrative of Nelson's approach to climate change
- A community building that is connected to its landscape and surrounds
- A project that maximises the opportunity of the river.

The Council also heard that although refurbishing the existing library would cost less, this would only extend the life of the building by another 20 – 30 years with few additional benefits. A new building on a new site would be designed to serve as Nelson's main library for the next 100 years, and have the added benefit of opening up the Riverside Precinct for comprehensive, integrated redevelopment.

Council officers will now begin preliminary negotiations with Wakatū Inc, the current owners of the Halifax/Trafalgar Street site. A final decision will be made once we have received feedback through the 2021-31 Long Term Plan.



Celebrate Tē Rā o Ngā Tamariki Children's Day in Nelson

To help our community celebrate Tē Rā o Ngā Tamariki Children's Day, Nelson City Council is offering a number of free or heavily discounted children's activities, to allow all families in our region a chance to celebrate our young people.

Children's Day is a national awareness day intended to bring families together and recognise how important children are in our community.

Council's facilities are providing some special deals for those looking to get out and about in Nelson on Children's Day.

Entry to Riverside Swimming Pool will be reduced to \$1 per child all day for children and youths aged 16 or under. A leisure play session will take place between 12pm–4.30pm, and the rope swing available from 2pm–3.30pm.

Entry into Nayland Pool will also be \$1 for children and youths under 16 all day. The Aquarun inflatable will be available between 1pm–4pm and is free to use.

Children aged eight and under must be supervised by a caregiver aged 16 years or over at both pools.

Children and youths aged 16 or under can ride the railcar for free at Founders Heritage Park between 10.30am–12.30pm. There will also be a train-themed children's treasure hunt.

An array of activities – stories and games, puzzles, bubbles and even a touch of magic – will be on offer at Elma Turner Library on Halifax Street. All activities are free and there will be something for children of all ages.

Nelson Mayor Rachel Reese says: "Children's Day is a great opportunity to celebrate our tamariki. I encourage everyone to get out and enjoy our beautiful city, and make the most of the activities we have on offer."

These activities will be subject to change, in accordance with the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 guidelines at the time of Children's Day.



Stoke Youth Park calling all good ideas

If you are responsible for a bored teenager or tween, why not get them involved in a new Youth Park for Stoke?

Back in 2014, the people of Stoke told us that a youth facility was the key thing missing in Nelson's fastest-growing suburb. The area next to Stoke Memorial Hall (right next to Whanake Youth), has been earmarked as a potential location for the park. We have sought feedback on this from stakeholders, and would like feedback from the community as well.

A final decision on the park's location will be taken at the Community and Recreation Meeting on 4 March. Nelson City Council has been working with Whanake Youth and Nelson Youth Council to come up with some concept plans for this facility.

We would also like to hear ideas, especially from young people. What would you like to see in your ideal Youth Park?

shape.nelson.govt.nz/stoke-youth-park

Environmental Grants Applications

Open 1 - 26 February 2021

If you are a group or individual working to improve the health of our environment, you may be eligible for an Environmental Grant. Find out more at: nelson.govt.nz/environmental-grants



ROAD CLOSURES

Applicant: Ching Contracting Ltd
Location: Konini Street – from Kerr Street to #77 Konini Street
Gloucester Street – from Vanguard Street to Kerr Street
Event: The closure is for a stormwater and watermain upgrade.
Date and time of closure: Monday 19 April to Friday 30 July 2021, Closed between 8.00am – 4.00pm
The proposal is for no vehicle access through the work site during the above times, ordinary traffic will be detoured.
Access will be provided for residents outside of working hours and during the day when it is safe to do so, there may be delays.
Pedestrian access past the work site will be kept open whenever possible, there may be delays.
Kerr Street traffic will be detoured to Hardy Street via Oxford Street.

Feedback for proposed closures to be given by: Wednesday 9 December 2020
Email: enquiries@ncc.govt.nz
Post: Nelson City Council, PO Box 645, Nelson 7040, Attention: Gillian Dancey

For all road closure information visit: nelson.govt.nz/road-closures

Dogs on beaches

Council has received a number of complaints recently about dogs on the main Tahunanui Beach – an area off-limits to our canine friends under the Dog Control Policy and Bylaw.

Dogs can be exercised safely and legally on the Back Beach, leaving the main beach free for people to swim, picnic and relax. There are also lots of reserves, parks and public places where dogs can be exercised both on and off-lead – for maps and information go to: nelson.govt.nz/dog-owner-responsibilities

Innovating Streets – Nelson South

Join Nelson South residents to discuss Phase 2 of this project, at Nelson Intermediate School Hall on Thursday 4 March 2021, 5:30pm – 7:30pm.

Feedback will also be welcome on the Phase 1 trial.

MEETINGS	
The following meetings of the Nelson City Council have been scheduled.	
Urban Development Subcommittee 9am	2 Mar
Community and Recreation Committee 9am	4 Mar
Council meeting 9am	11 Mar
Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit 1pm	12 Mar
Joint Committee of Tasman District and Nelson City Councils 9.30am	16 Mar
Hearings Panel - Other - Rūma Waimārama 9am	17 Mar
Council meeting 9am	18 Mar
Nelson Tasman Regional Landfill Business Unit 9.30am	19 Mar
Forestry Subcommittee 1pm	23 Mar
Civil Defence Emergency Management Group - via Zoom 9.30am	30 Mar

For a full list of Council meetings go to:

nelson.govt.nz/meetings



To read the latest updates or sign up for Our Nelson by email go to: our.nelson.govt.nz



Millers Acre toilets upgrade complete

Community and Recreation Chair Tim Skinner, along with Councillors Gaile Noonan and Yvonne Bowater cut the ribbon to officially open the new toilets at Millers Acre on Friday 12 February.

There are five unisex individual toilets, along with one accessible toilet/baby changing room (open 24/7) and a men's facility featuring two urinals and a standard toilet in the cubicle.

The project received funding of \$250,000 from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's Tourism Infrastructure Fund.

"I am impressed with the design and

quality of these toilets at Millers Acre, close to the iSite and how they have made the space to do it," Councillor Skinner says.

"For people, especially if they come from Picton or Christchurch, this is the first place they come to when they get off the bus. This is something we have needed for quite a while, so now you have got seven toilets for the convenience of visitors and locals."

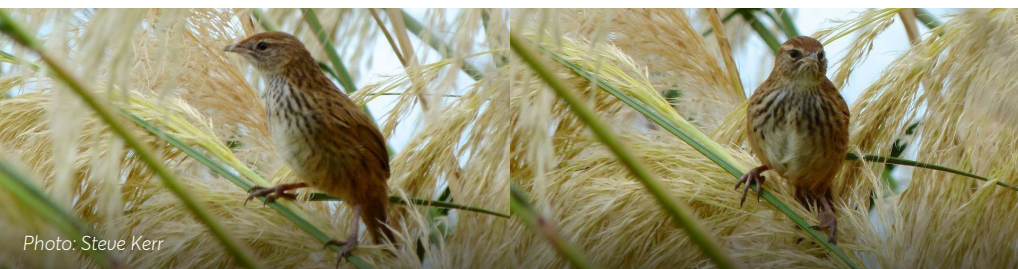


Photo: Steve Kerr

Help our fernbirds fly

The Wakapuaka Sandflats are home to the secretive native fernbird, a brown sparrow-sized bird with excellent camouflage, which is more likely to be heard than seen.

The fernbird has a conservation status of At Risk/Declining. In Nelson City, the only other populations that we know about are at the Paremata Sandflats and Kokorua Estuary, populations which are also likely to be small.

The sandflats are a popular area for walking and dog exercising, which may cause problems for the fernbirds. As fernbirds are poor flyers, emit a strong odour and inhabit low-growing vegetation it makes them easy prey for rats, stoats and cats. It can also mean they are easily disturbed by people and dogs. If you can avoid walking or letting your dog run through areas of dense vegetation where

the fernbirds may be living, it will help our feathered friends to thrive.

If you are a keen bird spotter, check out nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/fernbird to see what to look and listen out for. If you spot any fernbirds, remember to add your sightings to inaturalist.nz/ to help build a picture of where these birds are living in Nelson.

Trapping pests like rats and stoats can really help to protect species like the fernbird. If you would like to get involved in protecting our native species at locations like the Wakapuaka Sandflats by being part of a trapping group, contact our Adopt A Spot programme at:

nelson.govt.nz/environment/adopt-a-spot



Commuting Councillor Matt Lawrey beats traffic by biking to meetings

Councillor Matt Lawrey doesn't have to worry about the morning commute when he comes to Civic House for Council meetings.

There is no time spent stuck in traffic or troubles finding a park; he simply rides his bike from his house in Victory, barely raising a sweat on the largely downhill journey and arrives a short-time later at Civic House for meetings, still looking fresh.

"It's only about 10 minutes from door to door and I actually enjoy just seeing what's going on and who's around on my morning commute."

For Councillor Lawrey, who rides bikes to live sustainably, keep fit and have fun, cycling is excellent for his mental health.

"I actually find mountain biking really meditative and tend to get grumpy if I go a day or two without riding a bike," he says.

Councillor Lawrey found his passion for cycling as a child, and his passion was piqued in his twenties when he lived in Japan for three years and used a bike for most journeys. He even did a "mammoth" eight month bike tour of Southeast Asia.

Councillor Lawrey would like to encourage people to sign up for Aotearoa Bike Challenge.

"Riding a bike is good for people

and good for the planet. It's also really fun and good for your head," he says.

"Not only that but the more people we can get on bikes, the more we build the case for better cycling infrastructure, and the more liveable Nelson-Whakatū will become."

He also has some practical advice for people looking to start out riding a bike.

"Get the best bike you can and go-for-it," he says.

"Make sure the tyres are properly inflated because it can make a huge difference and, if you find a hill gets too steep, just jump off and push. There's no shame in pushing."

Aotearoa Bike Challenge

Aotearoa Bike Challenge is a fun, free competition that is all about seeing which workplaces or groups can get the most people to ride a bike for just 10 minutes or more.

Nelson City Council is challenging Tasman District Council and encourages local businesses to get involved.

To register for Aotearoa Bike Challenge go to:

lovetoride.net



Founders Heritage Park Windmill maintenance

Work has begun at Founders Heritage Park, to repair and refresh its iconic windmill.

Work to re-roof the dome, repair some weatherboards and repaint the windmill began in early February and is expected to continue through to the end of March.

On 2 March, the windmill's sails will be taken down for repainting.

The work should not have any impact on visitors to the park, but visitors are asked to be mindful of the taped-off work areas and to respect any signage.

The windmill was built in 1985, as a replica of an original that once stood at the end of Trafalgar Street, in the area now occupied by the Millers Acre Centre.

Nelson draft regional transport plans open for submissions

The draft Regional Land Transport Plan and Regional Public Transport Plan are two transport consultations that are now available for public submissions; we would love to hear from you.

Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP)

The RLTP is a critical document for Te Taihupo o Te Waka-a-Māui (Te Taihupo) or the "Top of the South Island". It is a joint plan to develop a 10 year transport vision, and has been developed between Waka Kotahi (NZ Transport Agency), Marlborough District Council, Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council.

Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP)

The RPTP details the investment programme required to help public transport play a key role in the delivery of a sustainable transport future for the Nelson Tasman region. It will combine with other key strategies to contribute to achieving carbon emission reduction targets set by Central Government.

For further details or to make a submission go to: shape.nelson.govt.nz/connecting-nelson

Climatorium progressing

Nelson's commitment to tackling the effects of climate change continues with the Council voting to explore the opportunity to develop a Climatorium in Nelson.

A Climatorium is a centre where the scientific community can come together with central and local government, industry, academics, and the community, to develop and share innovative solutions to climate change challenges.

Wakatū Incorporation believes there is an opportunity to develop a Climatorium in Nelson, potentially within the Mahitahi River Precinct, and intends to develop a business case to that effect. Council proposes to support this project by bringing together key organisations to help explore the opportunity and progress the concept. No funding has been requested from Nelson City Council at this stage. The possibility of the Climatorium being a virtual space is also being considered.

The business case follows the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in May 2020 between Wakatū Incorporation, Nelson City

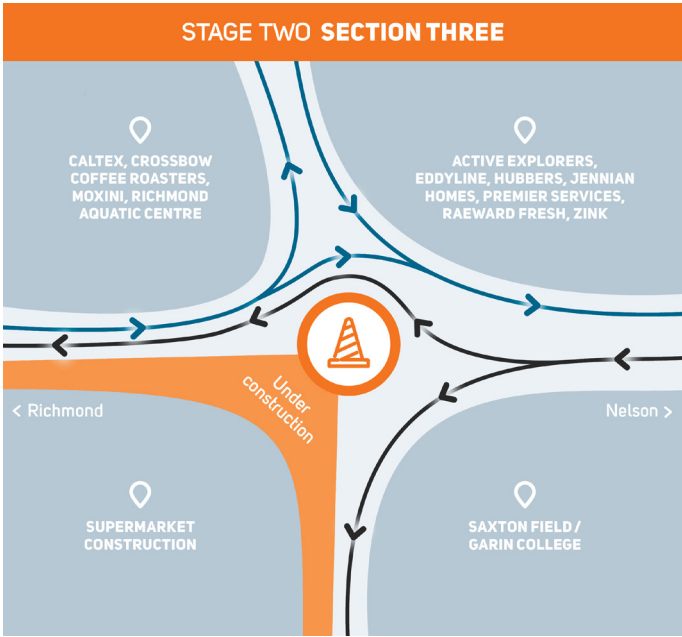
Council and four Danish organisations which pledged to explore the opportunity to create a Climatorium, based on an existing one in Lemvig, Denmark.

Mayor Rachel Reese says a Climatorium would establish Nelson as a centre of climate change solutions, and it's another sign of our region's climate change leadership.

"The Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019, and this is another step that evidences our commitment to action and collaboration.

The approach to the Climatorium is also pragmatic; it leaves various options open for this plan, including the Climatorium not being a physical space but virtual."

A meeting will now be set up with representatives from government, industry, research institutions, and the community to progress the concept further.



Section three work begins at Salisbury/Champion Road roundabout upgrade

Tasman District Council's infrastructure project has moved on to Section Three, which involves closing the corner in front of the new supermarket site.

For further details on this project go to the Tasman District Council website:

tasman.govt.nz/projects