

OUR NELSON

TŌ TĀTOU WHAKATŪ

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

Council services COVID-19 update

At the time of printing, Nelson is at Alert Level 1, meaning people are still required to wear face coverings on public transport or on a plane.

Everyone should wear a face covering while on public bus services, unless they are under 12 years old, or have a health reason for not wearing one.

People are also encouraged to wear a mask where it is harder to physically distance, for instance in shops or cafes.

For the latest COVID-19 updates on Nelson City Council services and facilities, go to the Our Nelson website.

our.nelson.govt.nz



A new library for Nelson

What extra value will the new library bring?

Great cities have great libraries; they are the cultural heart of a place, and much of what makes life in a city exciting comes from within their doors.

A new library will be a place of opportunity for Nelson. The books are of course important - Nelson's collection is the most borrowed per capita in New Zealand - but a modern library offers much more; access to technology, community spaces for gathering or performance, archiving and genealogy, a café for socialising, and educational programmes for children.

Our libraries are the great equaliser, everyone is welcome to access these services. Libraries play an especially important role for those members of the community without a loud voice; the disenfranchised, lower socio-economic groups and other vulnerable members of our community.

Libraries are a centre for education, providing vital support to schools and Early Childhood Education Centres, and a place for people to improve their literacy, knowledge of culture and civic society, access media and gather information.

They also promote equal access to technology, helping a range of people, especially older adults, feel confident and safe using technology to carry out many everyday tasks online; filling out the census, applying for their passport or accessing online banking.

Our staff do a brilliant job of providing all this in the current space, but the building is too small for our population and we regularly turn down requests for events and meetings. The new proposed library at the corner of Halifax and Trafalgar Streets would have a much larger floor space, spread across two levels. This would allow us to cater for many more visitors, as well as increase the number and variety of resources, experiences and programmes our library can provide.

The proposed new library is the cornerstone of our work with Wakatū Inc. to revitalise the Riverside Precinct. When completed, our preferred option will deliver a landmark building synonymous with Nelson. Constructed to a Five Star, Green Star sustainability standard using low carbon construction techniques, the new library aims to be a model of sustainable and resilient development that will serve our community for at least another 100 years.

How did you arrive at the cost?

Following a community engagement process in 2019, Council came up with a list of things the community and councillors wanted to see in the new library. These priorities included a range of spaces, a connected archive, a sustainable building, and a project that made the most of the riverside location. To determine the cost of such a complex proposal, Council sourced indicative costs from library projects in New Zealand, engineering consultants and liaised with Wakatū Inc. on the prospect of a land swap for the new library site.

Before detailed design is undertaken and especially with large projects, such as this one, we cannot be absolutely certain of the final cost, which is why we build appropriate contingencies (ranging from between 20 to 50%) into individual elements that determine the estimated cost. This then forms the basis of our budgets for the Long Term Plan (LTP). If our preferred option is adopted, we will be able to provide more certainty around the project's cost as we work through design phases and procurement. We have sought to provide a "robust cost" of the project from the outset, using all the information we have at this point in time.

Large scale capital projects are funded by 40-year term loans. This means we aren't adding \$44.6m dollars to the rates burden in any one year or even over the 10-year term of the LTP. This means the library project has a small annual impact on proposed rate rises over the next decade.

There are four other options for you to consider: refurbishing the existing library, building a new library on the current site, building a lower spec library on the corner of Halifax and Trafalgar, or building a new library in a different part of the City. These options do cost less but we believe they offer less benefit to Nelson, and in the case of refurbishment will only extend the life of the current library by another 20-30 years.

It is estimated that the operational cost of moving the library temporarily, which is not required if we build on a new site, will cost about \$1m a year over two years. That equates to 1% extra in rates over both years.

The benefits linked to our preferred option of building a new library on the corner of Halifax and Trafalgar Street could be substantial, and will transform the proposed site into an area that offers our community places to learn, rest, play, eat and drink. Related soft and hard landscaping will

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carve a pathway that vastly improves access from the city centre to the Mahitahi/Maitai River. Visitors to Nelson will be greeted by a stunning, architectural building that reflects Nelson's social and cultural values.

What about the risk of the river flooding and sea level rise?

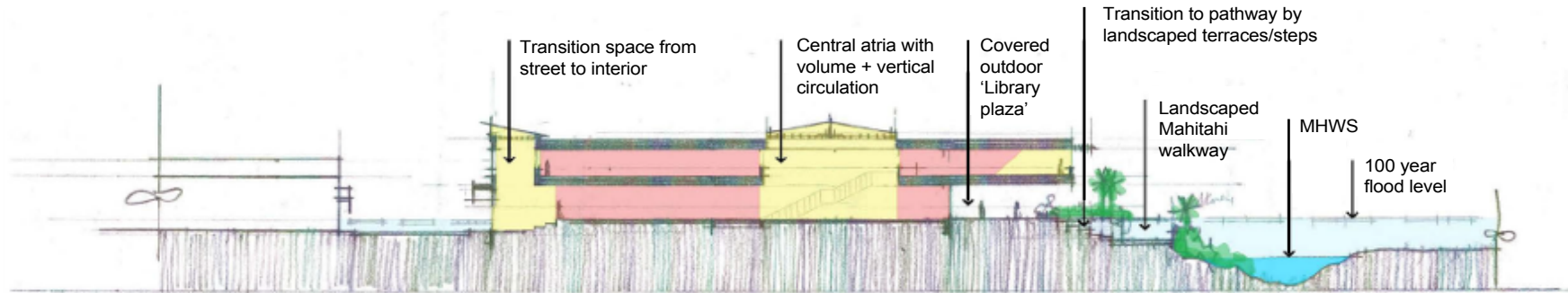
The proposed new library's proximity to the river means we need to manage how it will be affected

by flooding and climate change. Robust analysis has confirmed this site remains appropriate.

This project, including raising ground levels at the Riverside Precinct, will be considered within the context of an adaptive strategy for the low lying levels of the city centre. It is not a given that we will need to retreat from an elevated platform, except for in some of the more extreme climate

change scenarios that have been projected by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, under which the site would potentially be exposed to flood risk during the second half of next century.

Floor levels of the new library are being designed to be above future flood levels in the year 2130 and provide adaptability for further raising of the floor level to allow for 2m of sea level rise.



Riverfront site section A section cutting from Halifax Street to the river indicates the key opportunities of the riverfront precinct.

I don't use the library, why should I pay for it?

Making the library appealing to more people is one of our aims. What would bring you into the library? We would love that feedback in the form of a Long Term Plan submission.

Libraries benefit whole communities. They help create a more equal society, something we all benefit from directly or indirectly. Our home delivery and outreach services are a good example. These

services are used by many older and housebound adults in Nelson. Not only do they provide access to a wide range of resources, but also provide connection to a person who might otherwise be isolated so that they can continue to feel part of our community.

Many Council facilities are paid for by everyone, despite not being used by everyone. For instance, ratepayer money is spent maintaining our public pools, and while not everyone can swim they are an

essential part of our City being a good place to live.

Even something as simple as the wide-ranging, and occasionally mind-boggling array of events and classes posted on our noticeboard can make a real difference. How else might you find out about Nelson's thriving roller derby scene, or end up taking art classes at the Suter?

Great cities have great libraries, they are the cultural heart of a place, and much of what makes life in a city exciting comes from within their doors.

What makes a great library?

By Sarina Barron – Manager Libraries

Elma Turner Library was my library as a teenager, and it became my library again when I returned to Nelson as an adult. In the 20 years that I was away, it grew both in size and in the services it provides.

Gone are the transactional days where a library's success was measured by books checked in and out. There are the obvious changes, which came with the digital age, such as computers and Wi-Fi. But there are also more subtle changes, due to changing demographics and increased understanding of the world around us.

There is now a greater focus on celebrating our bicultural and multicultural identity, and our local history. We provide more programming and events to meet literacy needs, and we increasingly meet a need for accurate information in a 'fake news' world. Libraries have always been a place to seek shelter from the rain, but they are now also a place to play a game, create, and learn practical skills. Perhaps most significantly, the library has become a community space, where people and groups can connect with each other.

Redeveloping our central library is about more than just a bigger building. It

is about investing in a space that is able to be many spaces that will serve everyone in Nelson. It is about strengthening the social infrastructure of our community by providing room for each and every one of us to step outside of day-to-day life and do something that makes our existence less ordinary.

Public libraries struggle to explain the social role they play because we respect the privacy of our visitors. But the interactions our library staff have each and every day make me want to build ten libraries. We are on the front lines of communities and action. How this actually looks depends on the individual citizen and if you are one of the fortunate ones to not need a library, then let me reassure you that you are benefiting from its services by proxy.

People often ask what makes a great library, and I think this is the answer. The social connections which are made, the intellectual creativities which are fostered, the heritage preserved and the educational improvements all help make Nelson a more interesting, diverse, fun place to live both now and in the future.





What the Maitai Dam project can teach us about the challenges ahead

Nelson is no stranger to taking on big, ambitious projects in the hopes of securing a better future for its residents.

Surrounded by hills and with only a few small streams nearby, maintaining sufficient drinking water for its population had long been a challenge for Nelson.

The construction of the Maitai Dam in the 1980s resolved this issue, and is now a great example of how essential infrastructure can be paid for in the long-term, with the cost shared by as many of the people who will benefit as possible.

Costing \$9.7 million in 1987 (over \$20 million today with inflation) and taking three years to build, the dam was a large financial and engineering undertaking.

It also required Council to make careful considerations about the project's impact on the environment. The Mahitahi/Maitai River has always been a precious commodity for the people of Nelson, and damming it meant the river could be adversely affected.

To ensure the project also protected and enhanced the river itself, elected members, engineers, and design consultants spent four years drafting the plans for the dam to an environmental standard that was state-of-the-art for its time.

Because of the foresight, investment, and work of previous generations, the Maitai remains a bountiful source of water, recreation, and a place of great cultural importance for Nelson today. The dam's contribution to our consistent and clean water supply has allowed Council to meet growing demand in the years since.

This month, Nelson City Council will open submissions for its Long Term Plan 2021-31. Elected members and staff have been working on the plan over the past six months, and we would now love you to contribute.

With our region facing medium to long term challenges from climate change and COVID-19, one of the central questions this plan seeks to answer is how much we need to

do to help ensure future wellbeing and resilience for ourselves and generations to come. How much do we pay now in rates, and how much do we ask people to pay in the future by increasing our debt cap?

Just like the Maitai Dam, this Long-Term Plan contains a raft of projects that are funded by borrowing and are therefore paid for over a 40-year period. This means that a project estimated to cost \$1m, only adds \$40,000 to the rates burden in the first year to meet the costs of half a year's interest, rising to \$105,000 in the second year for a full year's interest, as well as loan repayments.

Council's recent proposal for a new library and development of a Riverside Precinct is another big, ambitious project hoping to create a better future for Nelson and its people. You can read more about our preferred option on page 1, and how we think it will benefit Nelson for more than 100 years.

The new library will open up opportunities for lifelong learning for everyone in our City, and will be a place where people can learn, gather, and find inspiration well into the next century.

"Like the Maitai Dam, the library would have its own unique hurdles to overcome, but if approached with the same care and deliberation demonstrated by previous generations, it could become the absolute heart of Whakatū Nelson, a place where people can learn, gather and enjoy well into the next century.

Council also proposes to spend \$449m on vital infrastructure work for transport, wastewater, stormwater, water supply and flood defences. This programme of work, which makes up 71% of our capital expenditure, includes all the projects we need to carry out to make sure our City is resilient to increases in population and the impacts of climate change. We want to know where you think we could do more in this area.

Mayor's Message

Your wellbeing, Nelson's future

The social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing of the Nelson region is at the heart of our 10-year Long Term Plan.

We have identified eight key issues, all of which are vital to a society that puts your wellbeing first: climate change; our COVID-19 response and regeneration; the balance between debt and rates; activating the Nelson City Centre; developing our community facilities and partnerships; housing affordability and intensification; protecting and enhancing our environment; and ensuring our infrastructure is resilient and can meet future demand.

Many of the challenges we face span the generations. It's about tūpuna pono – being good ancestors – protecting our region for our tamariki and future Nelsonians.

We've achieved a lot since our last Long Term Plan was finalised in 2018. We significantly upgraded our shared pathway network, we championed a wide range of environmental programmes, and have invested millions in wastewater and flood mitigation work to protect our city and the environment. This is now our chance to go even further in making Whākatu Nelson A Smart Little City.

A new library is a key project in this Long Term Plan.

A modern library is a place of opportunity. A space for people to learn, create, connect and expand their horizons – all factors closely linked to the wellbeing of our residents.

But before we make a decision on this project we need to hear from you – have we got the right option? Please take the time to tell us what you think.

The Long Term Plan consultation period opens on 22 March. This is your chance to have a say and our chance as elected members to hear from you. We need to understand what we do that is important to you, what you would like to see changed in our city, and hear your feedback on our proposals. Then we can create a plan for the good of everyone in Nelson.

Thank you for taking the time to get involved in the future of our city.



We want your submissions soon!

Every three years Council develops a Long Term Plan, which sets our region's direction for the next decade.

This time our focus is community wellbeing.

After listening to community feedback, we identified eight key issues impacting Nelson over the next 10 years.

These include; COVID-19 recovery, climate change, affordable housing, our City Centre, the natural environment, resilient infrastructure, improved community facilities including a new, modern library and balancing rates affordability with building a strong foundation for future generations.

Your feedback ensures we consider issues important to you, and that you are aware of the impact proposed activities have on rates.

Consultation opens in late March. Once open, you will be able to read more in our Consultation Document on our Shape Nelson website. This page will also direct you to where you can make a submission.

Every household in Nelson should receive a summary of the Consultation Document in the mail. The Long Term Plan is completed in June 2021, taking your feedback into consideration.

shape.nelson.govt.nz/long-term-plan-2021-2031

Councillor's Comment

Importance of proper engagement in decision making

By Councillor Tim Skinner

Every hour of our waking day, you and I make many large and small decisions for the benefit of ourselves and the wellbeing of those around us.

Yet for other things in life we can worry about the best option for days, even after seeking direction and advice from others.

Sometimes these decisions in our everyday lives are driven by emotion, or a knee jerk reaction. They may even be skewed by the pressure of what others may think, or blinkered by a "I know what's best for everyone" attitude.

As elected councillors, we make many decisions every day, large and small, and some outwardly may seem very straight forward, yet are actually quite complex, with no perfectly right answer, the more you understand the issue.

Before I came to the council, I had a large sense of social justice, community wellbeing and good old fashioned fair play. As I got older (beyond my twenties), I developed a better appreciation and desire to balance my views by seeking the experience and wisdom of others first, especially from those who have survived on this planet a lot longer than I.

I have now been a councillor for seven years, and can tell you that this outlook on what I do and stand for and how I go about forming a view hasn't changed, in fact my resolve has strengthened.

Thus, the importance of good governance, democratic process and community engagement is paramount. Even if it seems to delay a desired expediency of a project or decision.

In fact, if one skips any one of those decision elements, you haven't just made the process take a lot more time and resource in the long run. You most likely will create resentment, distrust, and ongoing battle with your fellow community, even if the outcome of the final decision would have been the same.

One must not forget, we are not elected on to the council to represent one sector of community or one platform of influence we feel we may have. Our role is to represent our entire community to the best of our ability, regardless of our own inherent views or outlook. It is also paramount to ensure we listen and respect the rest of the views of the council table, views that have also emanated from our community, from

living and engaging in the same greater overall community of Nelson.

This also applies to the many decisions that are, or should be coming to the council table agenda for democratic process. I invite you to please keep engaged with councillors and informed on the topics coming up, and to take part in consultation processes such as the Long Term Plan, regardless of whether you think you are the view of one or many to be positively or negatively impacted by a proposed decision or project.



Councillor Tim Skinner

Wet wipes are a plastic waste blind spot...





New bridge to reduce sediment in Mahitahi/ Maitai River

The construction of a new bridge on the south branch of the Maitai/Mahitahi River will improve the health of the river, and make the river crossing safer and easier for users. The bridge replaces an existing ford, which is used by 4WD vehicles accessing the upper Maitai catchment above the Maitai Dam.

Nelson City Council's Forestry Management company PF Olsen is constructing the bridge so that logging trucks accessing the upper Maitai Valley can cross the river without disturbing the stream bed and releasing sediment downstream. Work to build the bridge started during the week of 22 February and is expected to take 6-8 weeks to complete.

Impacts on people using the ford or those walking or biking the Dun Mountain Trail during the building period will be minimal.

Contractors will have a traffic management plan in place for vehicles using the existing ford

crossing during construction, allowing them to cross with relatively short notice except for times where high-risk construction work, such as lifting the bridge decks into place, is underway.

During these times, closures of around 2 - 4 hrs at a time should be expected to ensure public safety, and regular users will be kept informed about these times.

Walkers and bikers using the Dun Mountain Trail will be directed through a fenced-off laneway that will take them safely past the worksite. Signage will also be in place with contact details for the contractors involved.



Celebrating our tamariki

Nelson City Council's Tē Rā o Ngā Tamariki Children's Day events will be celebrated on Sunday 14 March, having been postponed from 7 March due to COVID Alert Level 2.

Entry to Nayland and Riverside Pools will be reduced to \$1 per child all day for children and youths aged 16 or under. The Aquarun inflatable will be available at Riverside from 2pm-3.30pm and a leisure play session will take place between 12pm-4.30pm. 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 Plan feedback supports growth provisions

In October – December 2020, Council sought feedback on the Draft Nelson Plan, with drop in sessions around Nelson as well as online and public meetings. We thank everyone who attended and provided feedback.

Council received over 300 individual items of feedback on the Draft Nelson Plan.

Growth was the key issue for submitters, who expressed strong support for the draft growth provisions, particularly around housing growth and intensification of housing.

A large proportion of feedback received was on the draft Residential zones, with the majority supporting changes to the General residential zone.

Feedback was mixed on the Medium density residential zone, with many seeking changes to the rules. For example, some were seeking less control on the coverage and building standards, while others wanted to protect access to sunlight, retain green spaces etc.

Strong support was expressed for ensuring our urban areas function well and are integrated with other services like public transport, schools, and recreation facilities.

Council also received a lot of feedback about climate change and natural hazards. Many saw the need to do more in this space but also recognised and supported the direction the draft Plan takes to anticipate change and increase resilience.

A full summary of all the feedback received is available at shape.nelson.govt.nz/nelson-plan

What happens next?

Council needs to do more analysis on a number of issues raised through the feedback process, particularly where change was sought by the community or where further information was needed to inform the details of the Plan. This analysis will go back to Councillors for final direction before being included in the next version of the Plan.

Further public engagement on the Draft Nelson Plan will be advertised once dates are confirmed.

shape.nelson.govt.nz/nelson-plan



Is it a bus? Is it a cycle lane? Help shape Nelson's future transport network

What do you think about proposed new bus routes to Atawhai and the Airport? Or a single low fare for the entire region? How about low emission buses or investment priorities for our road network?

The Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) and Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP) are currently open for public submissions, and are some of the best ways to have your thoughts heard and included in our planning.

The plans detail the investment Nelson City Council proposes to make to create a sustainable transport network throughout the Nelson Tasman region, alongside our neighbours in Tasman and Marlborough. They also outline how we intend to respond to the needs of a growing population, and improvements related to road safety.

The RPTP recognises that our public transport system must deliver value for money, maintain or improve levels of service for existing users, attract new users to improve fare revenue, and reduce overall transport-related carbon emissions.

Proposals for 2023 include a single low fare, a simplified route network to operate 7am-7pm, seven days a week, low emission buses, a regional commuter service from Motueka to Richmond, connecting on to Nelson, and an on demand local Stoke service.

For 2026, it expands to including buses every 30 minutes on urban routes between 7am-7pm, seven days a week, and a park and ride facility in Richmond.

The RLTP highlights the key transport issues facing our region in the next decade.

These include managing the increase in the number of vehicles on our roads and the subsequent effects on access and road safety; the need for road design to consider more sustainable transport options; and how our vehicle usage is affecting the environment.

Some of its recommendations include extending public transport options; improving the existing cycling network; and developing speed management plans.

Infrastructure Chair Brian McGurk says this plan will help Nelson continue its journey towards a fully sustainable transport system.

"We want to know your thoughts about our proposals. We know that the way we get from A to B will have to change if we are to meet our emissions targets, but are we doing enough to encourage people to use public transport? Do you support plans to expand the area that our bus service covers? Would a single low fare make taking the bus an even more affordable option?"

"Our growing population can place considerable demands on our roads and public transport. If you want to know how we plan to address these issues, I really urge people to read both of our plans and share their views."

Consultation closes on Wednesday 17 March, and public hearings are scheduled for early April.

To make a submission please visit:

shape.nelson.govt.nz/connecting-nelson

Kawai Street South trial update

The Innovating Streets for People trial in the area surrounding Kawai St South continues, with Council making small changes to the layout to help improve driveway access for residents.

We are now four months into the year-long trial and are pleased to have received lots of useful feedback from the community on the project. When the trial is over we plan to use this feedback to consider a permanent change to the way roads are laid out in this area.

The project, primarily funded by Waka Kotahi, came about after considerable engagement with the community, many of whom were concerned about the speed of cars using their roads as a 'rat run' instead of Waimea Road.

Speeds outside the Nelson South Kindergarten were monitored before, and after the changes were made. There has been a 37.5% reduction in speed on Kawai Street South, effectively reducing speeds on the road to 30 kilometres per hour.

Infrastructure Chair Brian McGurk says it's important to remember the project is a trial, and what residents see now won't necessarily be what happens on the street permanently.

"That's very much the idea behind the trial. It's an opportunity to see what works for the community and what doesn't. The end goal is to make the street as safe as possible for the people who live in the area, rather than those who use it instead of Waimea Road.

"Face-to-face conversations, people getting in contact, and feedback through Shape Nelson has been constructive and I am confident that once the trial is over we will have a much better understanding of what will work."

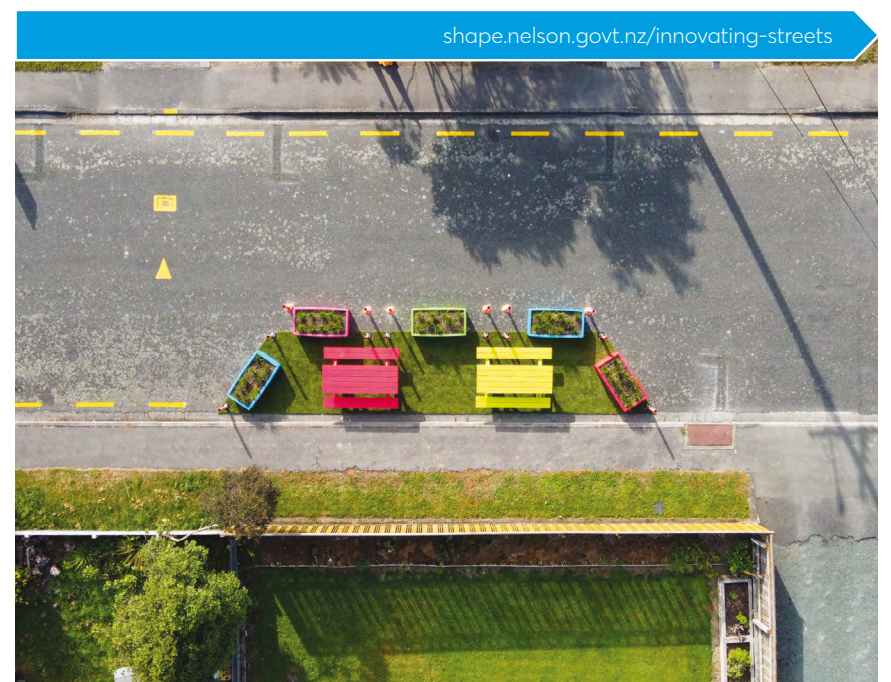
"These changes are all part of a trial that will allow us to see what works well, and what needs some extra thought when we come to consider making a more permanent change to the street. The speed reduction is a fantastic result for the project and has made the area safer for the people who live there," says Group Manager Infrastructure Alec Louverdis.

"Residents have been kept informed by newsletter and had the chance to talk face to face with project leads at a community barbecue just before Christmas. At the barbecue, much of the feedback was positive, and we were also able to take on board suggestions for improvements."

Some of the changes the community requested were able to be made straight away. This included closing gaps between the planters, which people had highlighted as a safety issue for children playing on the street.

Phase Two of the project will focus on connecting the community with schools, Victory Community Centre and the Railway Reserve, including enhancing pedestrian and cycling safety.

If you would like to provide feedback on the trial so far we would love to see you at our Phase Two community co-design drop-in session at Nelson Intermediate on Thursday 11 March from 5:30 – 7:30pm. Alternatively, you can fill in the form at Shape Nelson:





Nelson water meter round starts in April

The next residential water meter reading round starts on Thursday 1 April, and will continue until the end of May.

Please ensure that your meter box is easily accessible for the meter readers to locate and read. The meter readers are allowed to read the meters between 7am and 7pm seven days a week, including public holidays.

Our meter readers will be wearing hi-visibility vests and they also carry identification with them, which you can ask to see.

As part of the ongoing maintenance of the meters, some meters will be checked to see if they are still recording accurately, and owners will be notified if testing is required.

If your meter is not easily accessible for the readers, e.g. behind a locked fence or if you have dogs, please call our contractor on 027 286 7337, to make arrangements for the meter to be read.

All water used through the meter is charged at \$2.092 per cubic metre.

The invoices are posted out usually within two weeks of the meter being read.

Most will be due for payment on 20 June 2020, but some will be due for payment on 20 January 2021. If your account has a balance of less than \$10 or a credit of less than \$10 no invoice will be sent.

Water meter reading will continue while it is safe to do so at COVID-19 Alert Levels 1 and 2 but will not take place at Levels 3 or 4.

Anyone having difficulty paying their water invoice, should call Council's Customer Service Centre on 03 546 0200 or email enquiry@ncc.govt.nz to discuss a manageable payment arrangement.



Water supply protection zones proposed as Council seeks feedback on new bylaws



Nelson City Council has agreed to consult with the public on new bylaws for wastewater and water supply.

Changes to the existing bylaws reflect requirements of the National Environmental Standards for Sources of Human Drinking Water. This also ensures the new bylaws align with the Nelson Tasman Land Development Manual 2019 and the new Tasman District Council Water Supply Bylaw as far as practicable.

For water supply, three Water Source Protection Zones are also proposed. Activities that are allowed within each zone will be controlled and their nature will depend on the risk they present to the water supply. High risk activities will be prohibited from areas close to the intakes for the supply.

The proposed Wastewater Bylaw introduces improvements in relation to discharges from swimming pools, and also from grease, silt, and oil traps. This bylaw also aligns with the Tasman District Council Wastewater Bylaw as far as practicable.

Infrastructure Chair Brian McGurk says the health and reliability of Nelson's water supply and wastewater is critical for the future resilience of our City.

"We've seen examples of what can happen when a city does not take the appropriate steps to protect its water networks. The bylaw changes here, especially for water supply zoning, will provide the framework for ensuring we have clean drinking water and an efficient wastewater network in the years to come.

"These changes concern our entire community, so I encourage everyone to take part in the consultation."

Submissions opened on 26 February and will be open for two months.

To find out more detail and make a submission, please visit: shape.nelson.govt.nz/reviewing-bylaws

Alternatively, you can send your submission by mail to:

Nelson City Council, PO Box 645, Nelson 7040

Submissions can be hand-delivered to Nelson City Council, Civic House, 110 Trafalgar Street, Nelson or to any Nelson public library.

Or you can send submissions via email to: submissions@ncc.govt.nz

Nelson's drinking water well within safe levels for nitrates and lead

Nelson City Council has recently received a lot of queries about the quality of drinking water in Nelson, following the recent news articles about high levels of nitrates and lead in some drinking water supplies in New Zealand.

Council takes water from the Maitai and Roding Rivers, to supply areas of the city from Saxton Field to The Glen. The water supply catchments are owned and managed by Council to protect the quality of the city's water supplies. In August 2004, Council completed a \$26 million project to install a state of the art membrane filtration plant which treats both Roding and Maitai supplies. Council then chlorinates the water to provide added protection in the water supply network.

Council's water supply is fully compliant with drinking water standards and the nitrate, nitrate-nitrogen and lead levels in our water are well below the limits in the drinking water standards.

You can be assured that our drinking water supply is safe and that there is an extensive monitoring and testing regime in place to ensure that it remains so.

Infrastructure Chair Brian McGurk says Nelson benefits from having a consistent, dedicated water supply and state of the art water treatment plant.

"Our well-managed water source zone at the Maitai and Roding catchments, where full-time caretakers live on site, allow us to ensure our water sources are protected from contamination. This means we are confident that drinking water in Nelson is safe."

The latest water quality results for Council's water supply for Nitrate, Nitrate-Nitrogen and Lead are:

	Nelson Drinking Water Supply	Drinking Water Standards*
Nitrate	0.275 mg/l	50 mg/l
Nitrate-Nitrogen	0.062 mg/l	11.29 mg/l
Lead	0.00128 mg/l	0.01 mg/l

*Maximum Acceptable Value in the Drinking Water Standards New Zealand.

Please remember to flush your taps

Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water which has been standing in the fittings for several hours.

Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends that you flush a cup of water from your drinking water tap each morning, before use, to remove any metals that may have dissolved

from the plumbing fittings. This is recommended for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.



Connecting with Whakatū Nelson's past

Tours of Nelson's sites of significance, artworks, opportunities to discover your own geneological past and even an audience with Queen Victoria are just some of the Tuku 21 Whakatū Heritage Month events on offer.

Boasting more than 60 events, activities, shows, talks and adventures, Tuku 21, celebrated throughout April, is a month to share and explore Nelson's stories of people and place through its heritage.

Supported by Nelson City Council, multiple organisations and community groups host their own events and have this year incorporated COVID Alert Level resilience. This means the majority of events appearing in the Tuku 21 programme will still be able to run at COVID Alert Level 2.

Each event will be clearly marked in the programme as to what level they are still able to take place in. Last year, the heritage month programme was transformed into a virtual festival when the country went into COVID Alert Level 4.

Community and Recreation Committee Chair Tim Skinner said Tuku 21's programme was rich in diversity, with a range of events and activities to suit just about everyone.

"Make no mistake, there is no such thing as the cliché of 'boring' or 'dull' tales from the past here. The organisations and individuals taking part have put together a colourful, exciting and intriguing line up that reflects Whakatū Nelson's varied cultural and social past very well.

"Heritage is about stories; of people and how they have helped to shape the Nelson we know today. It's a great benefit to us all to know more about our shared past and how it can influence our future."

Among the new events this year is the Tohu Whenua Sites of Significance bus tour, a guided tour visiting places culturally significant to Ngāti Kuia and sharing the pūrākau/stories that go with them. The Nelson-Tasman Filipino community will share cultural performances, costumes and food at a Phillipine Cultural Celebration day and the Cawthron Institute celebrates a century with a range of special events.

Past events like the Heritage Homes and St Barnabas Churchyard Cemetery tour return, while others that couldn't go ahead last year, such as the Bowman House tour and the Queen's Quest, are back for a second chance at a first time. Near the end of the month, we remember our fallen and returned soldiers in our yearly Anzac commemorations, which will this year be augmented by a night time light art projection.

The Tuku 21 Whakatū Heritage Month programme will be out later this month.

Look out for it in our libraries and heritage facilities and on itson.co.nz.



Have you been to Eureka Park lately?

With an abundance of mountain biking trails in Nelson, Eureka Park is reopening to cater for those who prefer to move at a slower pace.

Now pedestrian only, it's a great place to go for a run or walk with the dog, or even celebrate a kid's birthday party.

Located at the top of the Brook Valley, the park now boasts some new walking trails, signage and furniture.

A large picnic table has been installed using locally felled eucalypt logs for seats, making for a perfect place to rest among the tall redwoods and regenerating natives.

Parks play an important role in creating liveable cities that add to our wellbeing.

This week, 6-14 March, is Parks Week, so, why not take some time to explore the new developments at Eureka Park? You can share your parks experience with us on social media by participating in our Parks Week Photo Competition.

Please note, while dogs are welcome at Eureka Park, they are not allowed at the adjoining Brook Conservation Reserve.





How to turn 20 trees into 200: a drizzly afternoon at Tosswill Reserve

It's a grey and muggy late summer afternoon and Adopt a Spot volunteer Jack Andrews is hoping for rain.

"I'll be expecting a rain dance later," he says before hopping between some mature titoki trees to show off the delicate, green seedlings sprouting from the earth he has worked on since 1988.

Not long before, Jack had produced the original eight page letter he wrote to Council officer Peter Grundy, his meticulous handwriting making an eloquent case for Council assistance in revitalising Tosswill Reserve.

"It was a bit unkempt when I took it on, and I was pleased to get the go-ahead. There were a lot of weed species; eucalyptus, hawthorn, privet, gorse and a whole lot of old man's beard. In the first four years, we planted a huge number of natives, over 1000 in one year thanks to a BBQ put on by Council."

The reserve has a rich history, signalled by the plaque that adorns the original entrance on Tahunanui Drive. It was formed in 1921, after Nelson landowner Arthur Tosswill gave 1.42ha of flat land just in front of his house to be used as recreation grounds. The bowls and tennis clubs were formed in 1921 and 1922 respectively, with the bowls club celebrating its centenary this year. On 4 January 1923, the Nelson Mail reported that two croquet lawns

and two tennis courts were almost complete.

During World War II, the military made cuttings at the foot of the hillside to use as dispersal bays for airplanes. The bowling and croquet clubs continued to operate throughout the war, but the tennis courts were temporarily closed by the army.

More recently, the COVID-19 lockdown brought about an opportunity to increase native planting at the reserve.

Revisiting an idea first suggested in 1995, three property owners were offered 20 natives each, to plant along the bottom of their sections adjoining the reserve. The residents then cleared a substantial amount of weeds on their own land, and planted a further 200 natives. It's a great example of how beneficial volunteer work can be; a task that would usually take several years, was instead completed in one year.

"When you give people a bit of a start, like with the 20 donated trees, it can inspire them to do much more. In this case, 20 trees turned into 200."

The Tosswill Reserve Adopt A Spot group continues to focus on weed clearance and planting, while also providing habitats for native birdlife.

To learn more, please visit our Adopt a Spot webpage:

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

Waimea Road/Clarence Drive traffic lights on

The recently installed traffic lights at the intersection of Waimea Road and the recently constructed access road (Clarence Drive) were switched on earlier this week.

The signals provide access to the new retirement village and will in the future be part of a new roading network joining Princes Drive (via Clarence Drive) to Waimea Road.

Please ensure you are in the correct lane when you approach the traffic lights if you intend to turn into

the new road.

To assist road users, there is VMS board signage in place to remind drivers approaching the intersection of the new layout.

Thank you for your understanding and please take care.

Trask Gates restoration work completed

Restoration work on the Trask Memorial Gates at the southern end of Queens Gardens is now complete.

The gates are named after previous Mayor of Nelson, Francis Reuben Trask, whose suggestion it was to build the gardens in 1887. At the time, Nelson was one of the few towns in New Zealand that did not have a public garden. The

gardens took about four years to complete and were formally opened in 1892, Nelson's 50th Jubilee year.

The recent restoration work on the gates included straightening, cleaning and repainting the metal work.





Building Consent Staffing Shortages

The Building Consent Authority at Nelson City Council is currently experiencing staffing shortages.

We are working on recruitment to fill the gaps but there is a national shortage of qualified building processors and inspectors, making it difficult to recruit qualified experienced staff.

To help us through this difficult period and to be fair to all our customers in the queue, we ask for you to take note of the following, which will help us keep delays to a minimum:

- a) Inspection bookings currently require about a week's notice in advance of a site visit. Please plan your inspections ahead of time, giving us as much notice as possible.
- b) Rather than email the consents team with queries, we'll be able to handle your application faster if you can focus on providing the information through the Simpli portal. This will reduce double handling of information and cut down on costs for your clients.
- c) Ensure all information and documents provided are complete and accurate. Council cannot alter documents even for the most minor detail.

d) Please also ensure that all submissions are named to reflect the document uploaded (e.g. Minor variation for shower, or ROW plastering, etc.) otherwise they could be missed.

We value our customers and deal with all correspondence, building consents, inspection booking, invoicing and issuing of code compliance certificates, etc., in date order to ensure fairness.

If you need help please check in the Simpli portal first to see if you have any outstanding notifications or requests for information from us.

If you need further help, please email building@ncc.govt.nz and specify in the subject heading the building consent number and outline what the issue is.

For inspection bookings, please call 546 0334 – leave a message including:

- Contact name
- Contact number
- Building consent number

- Building location
- Licenced Building Practitioner number
- Type of inspection required
- Date and time preferred.

You will generally receive a confirmation SMS/email/ call within one working day of your call.

Final inspections are dealt with differently, as all of the required documents and the application for code compliance certificate (CCC) must be submitted for the inspector to approve before the final inspection is booked. You will receive a notification from us if we require further information from you; the 20-day clock pauses until we receive and accept that information. Once all the documents are approved, we will book a slot and request confirmation that someone will be onsite at the designated date and time. While we have 20 working days to issue a CCC, we endeavour to issue before that date. Unfortunately at this time, it may be that CCCs are issued close to the 20 working days and we would appreciate you allowing for this.

Deconstruction at 23 Halifax Street – the gentle way to pull down a building

Work to deconstruct 23 Halifax Street is now almost complete.

The deconstruction process used by Council and contractors allows us to reuse many parts of the building, and is kinder to the environment. Here's a step-by-step gallery of the meticulous work that has been done so far.



For more information go to: shape.nelson.govt.nz/deconstruction-23-halifax-street



Councils join forces for Housing Preferences Survey

Nelson City and Tasman District Councils have commissioned Research First to conduct a Housing Preference survey, online and by phone, with local residents.

The survey findings will help the Councils understand people's housing preferences for the future. It collects information on what is important in choosing a place to live and explores the type of housing people would prefer to buy or rent if it were available.

These surveys will be conducted in March and April 2021. Participants in the survey will be randomly selected from residents living in our communities. If you are contacted about this by phone or email, we would appreciate it if you would take the time to complete the survey. Your

feedback is very important to us and it will help us to plan for the future of both Nelson and Tasman.

Urban Development Sub-Committee chair Judene Edgar says the survey is part of both councils' work to help provide more affordable housing in our region.

"Affordable housing is not one size fits all. From older adults living alone, to young families who are struggling to find a healthy home to rent, there is likely demand for a wide variety of different housing options. The results of this survey will help us know where to focus our

efforts as we look to encourage development."

We understand that some people may be concerned about scam calls. Research First is an independent market and social research company based in Christchurch. They conduct research on behalf of many public and private organisations around the country, including numerous local councils. You can find out more about Research First by visiting their website www.researchfirst.co.nz. If you have any queries or concerns about the survey, please contact Council's customer services on 03 546 0200.

MEETINGS

The following meetings of the Nelson City Council have been scheduled.

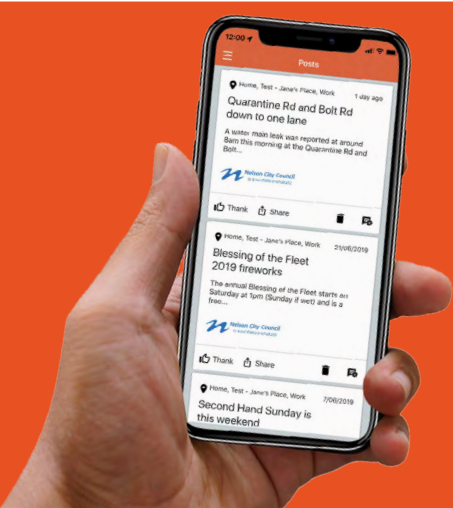
Unless otherwise stated, the location for meetings is the Council Chamber, 110 Trafalgar Street, Nelson.

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 - CANCELLED	
9.30am	19 Mar
Forestry Subcommittee	
1pm	23 Mar
Civil Defence Emergency Management Group - via Zoom	
9.30am	30 Mar
Regional Transport Committee – CANCELLED	
1.30pm	30 Mar

For a full list of meetings go to:

nelson.govt.nz/meetings

To sign up for Our Nelson by email go to:



Keep up-to-date about places and things you care about!

Recycling reminders
Emergencies
Road closures
Water outages

Send us reports and we'll get right onto it!

Graffiti
Parking
Animal control
Environmental problems

Also in Tasman and Marlborough!

Free for iOS and Android
nelson.govt.nz/apps

Pushing play on the Stoke Youth Park

Construction of the new Stoke Youth Park will begin before the end of the financial year in its new confirmed site next to the Stoke Memorial Hall.

A detailed design for the new park is underway now after Council confirmed the site and timing for the new park in a Community and Recreation Committee meeting on Thursday 4 March.

The design, along with plans for replacement car parking and any other safety concerns that may arise, will be reported back to a future Community and Recreation Committee meeting.

A youth park for the Stoke community has long been considered by Council. Community consultation has been carried out numerous times for more than a decade, and the desire for a youth facility

shone through, Community and Recreation Committee Chair Councillor Tim Skinner says.

"This has been a long time in development and involved a lot of time and effort from Council and the community to make this happen.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the design for the park and getting on with breaking ground for the youth of Stoke."

Funding of \$610,000 has been set aside for the design and construction of the youth park in the Long Term Plan 2018-28. Final costs will not be known until a detailed design process has been carried out.



Due to the uncertainty around COVID-19 alert levels please ensure you check itson.co.nz regularly for event updates.

WHAT'S ON... at a Council venue near you



Kirby Lane

Nelson Farmers Market. 8.30am – 1.30pm, Every Wednesday.

Kirby Fridays. 4.30pm – 9pm, Every Friday until 23 April.

Baseball U13 Clubs Championships. Wednesday 7 – Sunday 11 April.

Trafalgar Centre

Summer Challenge. Friday 12 – Sunday 14 March.

Bill Bailey – En Route to Normal. 7pm, Saturday 20 March.

Founders Heritage Park

Jazz on the Village Green. 1.30 – 4pm, Every Sunday 10 January – 4 April.

Urban Jungle Festival. 3pm – 10pm, Saturday 13 March.

Jazz on the Village Green – Gerry and the Atrix. 1.30pm – 4pm, Sunday 14 March.

200hr Vinyasa Yoga Teacher Training. 7am – 6pm, Friday 19 March - Wednesday 7 April, Marchfest. 12pm – 9.30pm, Saturday 20 March.

Harakeke – NZ Flax Workshop – Weave the Kete Whiri tutored by Yvonne Hammond. 10am – 4pm, Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 March.

Jazz on the Village Green – Swing Collective. 1.30pm – 4pm, Sunday 28 March.

Operation grapple – We Were There. A Photographic Portrait Exhibition of NZ Nuclear Test Veterans. 10am – 4.30pm, Thursday 1 April – Monday 31 May.

Harakeke – NZ Flax Weaving Workshop. Saturday 3 & Sunday 4 April.

Jazz on the Village Green – Moonlighters. 1.30pm – 4pm, Sunday 4 April.

Broadgreen Historic House

Closed for maintenance. 2pm Monday 15 March.

THRIVE in Business & Life. 5.30pm – 7pm, Every Thursday in March.

Open House at Broadgreen. 11am – 3pm, Monday 5 April.

Isel House and Park

Isel Twilight Market. 4.30pm, Every Thursday 15 October – 1 April.

The Tiny Room for Children at Isel House. 11am – 4pm, Open Daily Tuesday to Sunday, until 30 April.

Tai Chi for Seniors. 10 – 11am, Monday 15 March.

SpinPoi in the Park. 10 – 11am, Tuesday 23 March.

Nelson Public Libraries:

Elma Turner Library

Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9.30am – 6pm

Wednesday: 10am – 6pm

Saturday: 10am – 4pm

Sunday: 1pm – 4pm

Small Time at the Library. 10.30am, Every Monday & Wednesday.

STEM drop-in. 3.30pm, every Monday.

Device Advice. 2pm, every Tuesday & Thursday.

Junior Reading Club. 3.30pm, every Tuesday.

Library Knitters. 10am – 12pm, every Thursday.

Story Time at the Library. 10.30am, every Tuesday.

Tea & Talk. 10am, every Friday.

Justices of the Peace. 10am – 12pm, every Saturday.

Young Adult Reading Club. 3.45pm, first and third Wednesday of the month.

Junior Media Club. 3.30 – 4.30pm, Every Wednesday.

Kids Sewing Club. 3.30pm – 4.30pm, Every Wednesday.

Robotics for Kids. 3.30pm, Every Thursday.

Gardening Club. 3.30 – 4.30pm, Every Friday.

Community Corner – Toy Library. 10-11am, Wednesday 10 March.

Learn at the Library – Social Media and Entertainment. 9.30am, Thursday 11 March.

Seed Library Drop-in. 11.30am – 12.30pm, Thursday 11 March.

Learn at the Library – Be prepared in 2021. 9.30am, Thursday 18 March.

Friends of the Library Speaker. 2pm, Sunday 21 March.

STEM Writers. 1pm, Tuesday 23 March.

Learn at the Library – Research with the library databases. 9.30am, Thursday 25 March.

LEGO at the Library. 3.30pm, Thursday 25 March.

Reimagine your old shirts and table linen. 10am, Saturday 27 March.

Live Music Series: The NCMA Cello ensemble. 2pm, Sunday 28 March.

Learn at the Library – Identifying fake news. 9.30am, Thursday 1 April.

Nightingale Library Memorial

Nellie Knitters. 1.30 – 3.30pm, every Monday.

Story Time at the Library. 10.30am, every Thursday.

Device Advice at Nightingale. 2pm, every Friday.

Stoke Library

Hours:

Monday-Friday: 10am – 4.30 pm

Saturday: 10am – 1pm

Sunday: Closed

Stoke Craft Club. 3.30pm, Every Monday.

Small Time at the Library. 10.30am, every Tuesday.

Story Time at the Library. 10.30am, every Wednesday.

Device Advice at Stoke Library. 2pm, every Tuesday & Wednesday.

Learn at the Library – Heritage research. 8.15am, Tuesday 23 March.

Young Adult Reading Club. 3.30pm, Tuesday 23 March & 6 April.

Learn at the Library – Safety online for whānau. 11am, Friday 26 March.

Museums and Galleries:

The Suter Art Gallery & Theatre

Hours: 9.30am – 4.30pm Daily

Reverberation – Of Light, Land & Sea. Saturday 7 November - Sunday 21 March 2021.

Nelson Hills. Saturday 27 February – Sunday 13 June.

Gavin Hitchings: Stones of Unknowing. Saturday 13 March – Sunday 23 May.

Refinery ArtSpace

Hours: 10am – 5pm, Monday to Friday & 10am – 2pm, Saturday.

Changing Threads Contemporary Textile Fibre Art Awards. Friday 26 February - Saturday 20 March.

Nelson Jewellery Week. Friday 26 March – Sunday 4 April.

CHAINReaction: HANDSHAKES at the Refinery. Saturday 27 March – Saturday 17 April.

Nelson Provincial Museum

Hours: 10am – 5pm Weekdays, 10am – 4.30pm Weekends & Public Holidays.

Online Exhibition: Everything Was Noise and Movement. Monday 30 November – Thursday 18 March 2021

Slice of Life. Friday 13 November - Sunday 25 April 2021

Tupaia: Voyage to Aotearoa. Saturday 21 November – Sunday 30 May 2021.