

THE HUBBUB

Issue #24 – February 2008
Newsletter for Richmond Ward
– Tasman District Council

Town centre gets a facelift

After seven years of planning, work has now begun on the Richmond town centre upgrade. The start of the project was marked with the turning of the first sod by the Mayor of Tasman District, Richard Kempthorne, on Thursday 7 February 2008.

"This is a momentous occasion for Richmond," Mayor Kempthorne said.

He said the area would be a real asset for the town.

"It will provide a very attractive heart for Richmond. It's pedestrian friendly and it will be a great place for events," he said.

The contract was awarded to Fulton Hogan in November 2007, with the work scheduled to start after the holiday break to provide the least disruption to businesses and the shopping public.

The whole project will be staged to ensure businesses in the area experience minimal disruption. Business owners have been consulted and will be kept informed throughout the project.

The new town centre will feature an expansive grassed area, ideal for events and markets. It will also have a garden area with seating, new pavement, street furniture and lighting. One way traffic access will be available from Queen Street.

Sculptor Grant Palliser won a competition to design an artwork for the area. His sculpture will be lit at night and feature water bubbling about 4.5m high. It will have seven glass brick rings, each representing a water source in the district.

The development is scheduled to be completed by the end of June.



Mayor Richard Kempthorne gets work started on Richmond's new town centre.

Community and Whanau meeting

The first Richmond Community and Whanau Meeting is to be held on **Thursday 28 February 2008** at Richmond Town Hall meeting room from noon - 1.30pm.

There is currently little opportunity for community groups to network and have a voice in Richmond. Groups are, as a result, somewhat isolated. Richmond Community Forum and the Community Health Group have led discussion on trialing a Community and Whanau meeting in Richmond.

The first meeting will give an overview of existing Community and Whanau meetings and how they benefit and support community groups. If there is a desire to establish a regular meeting and a commitment of attendance, we will need to look at funding for a co-ordinator and discuss meeting times.

For further details contact Tasman District Council Recreation Adviser Mike Tasman Jones, Ph.543-8400.



Help name Richmond's new town centre

The Richmond Town Centre Development group is seeking your input to find a suitable name.

The area will become a meeting place with grassed areas, seating, pedestrian friendly access as well as facilities for concerts and events to be held. This exciting development needs a name to reflect the identity of this vision and that captures the vitality of Richmond.

We are asking the community to come up with a name that is appropriate for our town centre and captures what is special about our place and in particular this development.

So put pen to paper or send us an email with your suggestion before 30 April 2008.

As well as knowing your suggestion will live on in history, the successful name creator will be allocated \$500 to be donated to their charity of choice (must be a registered New Zealand Charitable Organisation).

The decision on the best town centre name will be made by the Tasman District Council Richmond Ward Councillors and the Mayor, with a recommendation put to full council for adoption.

Please drop off your suggestions at Tasman District Council, 189 Queen Street, Richmond, by 30 April 2008, or send your suggestions to:

**Name the Town Centre
Tasman District Council
Private Bag 4
Richmond 7031**

**Attn: Tara Cater,
or email tara.cater@tdc.govt.nz**

Please include your name and contact details with your entry.



Artist's impression of Richmond's new town square.

Annual Plan submissions

Council's draft Annual Plan will be out in early April. Public meetings will be held in the last two weeks of April and residents and ratepayers are encouraged to attend one of the meetings. Submissions on the Annual Plan close on 16 May.

Richmond's big night out - the Last of the Summer Fare

Richmond's annual street party, The Last of the Summer Fare, is happening again on Friday 29 February 2008. The evening celebrates all the good things about summer, including the wonderful food and beverages produced in this area.

This year organiser Pam Williams said she was planning an evening of "merriment, feasting and fun," with a mediaeval theme.

There will be live entertainment and mediaeval costumes, with the added attraction of a leap year promotion, being organised by Classic Hits.

"At this stage all I can tell you is it will involve a wedding ring, and that February 29 is a special day when it comes to marriage proposals," said Pam.

The Last of the Summer Fare will be in a new location, on Cambridge Street in Richmond, starting at 5.30pm. For enquiries contact Pam Williams at Richmond Unlimited, Ph 544 4898.



The Last of the Summer Fare always attracts a large crowd to the centre of Richmond.

Thieves take every opportunity offered

Community Constable Glenn Lloyd-Jones has had a busy summer in Richmond. The biggest crime issue has been opportunist thefts from cars left unlocked or with windows down, and valuables on display.

"The thieves are usually very quick, and gone before anyone sees them. It's common sense to make sure your valuables are hidden and that your car is locked," said Glenn. "It makes an easy target if the window is left open."

Liquor ban

Constable Lloyd-Jones said people should heed the Council liquor ban in force in Richmond. All alcohol is banned in central Richmond from 9pm to 7am every day. Police will stop anyone seen carrying or drinking liquor on the streets or parks between these hours.

Community patrol

Richmond's Community Patrol started in January. Volunteers on patrol have already found unsecured doors in a couple of local schools, and a fire at Easby Park. The Community Patrol volunteers operate in pairs, and cover the town and country areas around Richmond, usually on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. There are currently 25 people who have received training from the Richmond police, and are supported by Tasman District Council, Mitre 10 and Haven Realty. They patrol in a Council vehicle and can be identified by the neon vests they wear.

"They are another set of eyes and ears for the police, there to observe and report on what is going on around the town," said Constable Lloyd-Jones. Anyone wanting

to volunteer for the Community Patrol can contact Constable Lloyd-Jones at the Richmond Police Station, ph 543 9500.



Constable Glenn Lloyd-Jones

Councillor Comment

I am very pleased to be representing the people of Richmond on Tasman District Council and am finding this Council good to work with. We have a positive group of people representing the district and they bring a sound range of ideas and views to the Council table.

The issues faced here in Richmond are key to future development across the whole district.



Michael Higgins

One issue is to address the way we plan for urban development and growth. Looking to the future it makes good sense to fit more people into a fixed space comfortably. For this to be achieved we need to plan for desirable yet compact housing, with public transport options and public amenities that provide for enjoyable living. The days of the quarter acre section being everyone's ideal are gone. Many people's lifestyles now are better suited to more intensive urban design. This type of development will also enable us to preserve the productive rural land on the Waimea Plains, which is the best land for climate based production that we have. Looking forward I hope to see a reliable water supply and improved soils on these plains. I am interested in the quality of the soils we are farming on and consequently the quality of the food we are producing. There is growing international attention on the effect of reduced carbon levels in the soil, and the increasing use of Nitrogen fertilizers. These trends impact on the composition of the food we eat and the health we enjoy. It is in our best interests to understand this issue better.

A further matter for urban development is the issue of transport. Our society has grown to like the freedom of mobility that the motor vehicle brings. People have an expectation that, despite the issues the world is facing with peak oil, they will still drive private cars in the future. My expectation is that our driving habits won't change, but the vehicles we drive will. I see electric cars as the most likely next step and am following the development of the "Chevy Volt" with much interest. I am of the opinion that our development needs to accommodate the inevitable growth in car usage that will come with population growth.

Finally, as Chair of the Tasman District Council Enterprise Committee, I have been involved in considering the future of the pine forest on the foothills behind Richmond. It appears that harvesting the mature trees is the best option going forward, rather than letting them grow old and risk falling over. Provisions are in place to protect the native forest around Reservoir Creek and to avoid heavy traffic through town. It will be untidy for a while, but a better outcome.

I look forward to a productive three years as your representative and invite you to contact me if there are issues you would like to discuss.

Michael Higgins

Meet the Richmond Ward Councillors

Tuesday 26 February at 7.30 pm,
Tasman District Council Chambers, 189 Queen Street. Richmond.



Get ready for Bike Wise Week

Bike Wise Week starts on 23 February 2008 and it's a great excuse to get back on your bike and go for a ride with family and friends. Here in Richmond there's a family fun ride on Sunday 24 February, leaving from the ASB Aquatic Centre in Champion Road at 10am. Register online at www.ncc.govt.nz.

Wednesday 27 February is Go by Bike Day – ride your bike to work or school and stop for a free breakfast snack along the way. Just turn up on your bike between 7am and 9am at Village Cycles in Queen Street, Richmond.

The Bike Wise Business Challenge is also in full swing and runs until 2 March 2008 – all businesses and schools can get a team together to see who can get the highest percentage of staff or pupils to ride a bike. Ride for 2km or 10 minutes to earn points for your team. There are great prizes to be won. Visit www.bikewise.co.nz for details.

For more information on any of the Bike Wise events contact Krista Hobday, Road Safety Coordinator at Tasman District Council, ph 543 8551.

Author speaks

Friends of the Tasman District Libraries presents

Christine Fernyhough, author of *The road to Castle Hill*.

Christine will be talking about her life as a high country farmer, and her book, at Greenhough Winery, Paton Road Hope on Thursday 28 February from 7.30pm. Supper will be provided. Admission is \$20.00 (\$18 for Friends of the Library). Tickets are available from Tasman District Library and Paper Plus.