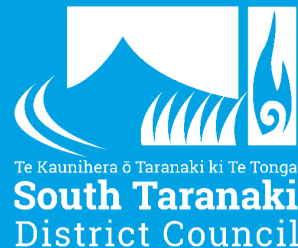


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He karere tā te Kaunihera o Taranaki ki te Tonga News from the South Taranaki District Council

Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga

Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga Open

Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga – the region's newest Library, South Taranaki isite Visitor Information Centre and art gallery was officially opened today in Hāwera, 128 years after the original Hāwera Library was built in 1896.

South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon who opened the \$15.5 million facility said the long-awaited opening realised the completion of a major milestone in the Council's Town Centre Strategy for Hāwera. "This modern, multi-functional facility, which includes a library, art gallery, AA and South Taranaki isite Visitor Information Centre, café and public toilets will provide residents and visitors with a wide range of services and bring more foot traffic right into the heart of Hāwera," says Nixon.

Nixon acknowledged it had been quite a journey which started back in December 2014 under the leadership of former mayor Ross Dunlop almost 10 years ago and reflected on the major successes that had taken place as a result.

"Since then, we've seen the completion of Campbell Lane, extension of carparks on Victoria Street, opening up of Nelson Street carpark with Korimako Lane, the massive Countdown (now Woolworths) development in the Nelson/Victoria/Union St precinct, the Foundry-Te W'anake co-working space and enterprise hub on High Street and restoration work is currently being undertaken on the old heritage building directly opposite Te Ramanui," he says.

"One of the key goals underpinning Council's Town Centre Strategy was that it would be a catalyst to drive change and to encourage private investment in the town centre – and that is what we have seen and are continuing to see happen today. So, thank you to all the officials, elected members, private investors, Bizlink and members of

the community, past and present, who had the foresight to embark on this bold plan and see it through."

Mayor Nixon also thanked key funders who contributed about 35% of the total cost including major contributions from the Government's Regional Development Fund (\$4 million) and Toi Foundation (\$2.8 million).

"Thanks to substantial external fundraising and by using the Council's long term investment fund and other reserves, there was no impact on rates to build the facility," he says.

The District's Lysaght Watt gallery is also located in the facility displaying its inaugural exhibition Tuata'i/First a showcase of contemporary artists from across South Taranaki.

Another feature of the building is a glass bust of Ruapūtahanga, a famous Taranaki Māori ancestress whom the building is named after, which stands sentinel at the High Street entrance of the facility. Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga means the beacon or signal fire of Ruapūtahanga, who would light the beacon as a signal for Iwi to meet so they could talk, share ideas and knowledge – a name which perfectly symbolises the new centre's purpose as a place for the community to meet in order to share information and gain knowledge.

Mayor Nixon thanked Ngāti Ruanui for gifting the name Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga and Ngā Iwi for their input into the blessing and design of the building's cultural elements.

"Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga will not only be a community and visitor hub. It will be a catalyst for driving change, increasing investment - both social and economic and will completely transform the town centre," he says.

Quick Facts about Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga

- The facility cost approx \$15.5 million to build.
- The overall project cost approx. \$20.1 million with additional costs such as the land acquisition, demolition of previous buildings, landscaping and professional fees farchitects, consents, engineers etc.
- 35% of the funding came from external sources.
- No impact on rates to build.

Upcoming Meetings

Public are welcome to attend

Ordinary Council

- Monday 9 December, 4pm
- Council Chambers, Administration Building, Albion Street, Hāwera

District Plan Committee

- Wednesday 18 December, 10am
- Camberwell Lounge, TSB Hub, Hāwera

Annual Report now online



The 2023/24 Annual Report and Annual Report Summary are now available at your local LibraryPlus or online to read at www.southtaranaki.com/annualreport



KING EDWARD PARK | HĀWERA

On Saturday 7 December, Hāwera's picturesque King Edward Park will once again come alive with the ever-popular Arts in the Park. Stalls with various homemade arts and crafts will be scattered throughout the park along with a variety of food trucks and entertainment. If you are looking for that perfect Christmas gift or a new piece of art, then this is just the day for you. With everything from handmade jewellery to garden art, woodturning to knitting, there is sure to be something for everyone. Music will fill the Park throughout the day from various performers and keep you entertained, as well as a kid's zone filled of fun activities and games. Have a seat, pick up something to eat and soak up the vibe.

Arts in the Park - Saturday 7 December, King Edward Park, Hāwera

Summer Blast + READ

the perfect Summer combo!

The South Taranaki LibraryPlus have an exciting summer of reading lined up with the annual children's summer reading programme, Summer Blast, as well as an adult reading programme, READ.

This year the two programmes are running alongside each other to get whanau to read together over the summer months.

"Reading for pleasure engages the imagination. Tamariki look to their whanau for guidance, so we hope by having both a childrens and adult reading programme running side by side it will encourage parents to find the time to take five and read with their children," says Senior Community Outreach Librarian Katherine Bosworth.

Summer Blast is a six-week programme designed for 5 – 12-year-olds, encouraging daily reading for at least 15 minutes and visiting the LibraryPlus three times to talk with librarians about what they have read. Tamariki who complete the programme by the end of January will receive a free book!

A range of exciting activities will be happening in each LibraryPlus during December and January, including special entertainment from Suzy Cato in January.

Register in person at your local LibraryPlus between Monday 9 December until Tuesday 24 December

READ, the adult reading programme, is about visiting the library, issuing books and completing reviews. Each time an adult borrows a book from our LibraryPlus they are automatically be entered into a weekly prize draw to win 1 of 4 Prezzy Cards.

"There is also an iPad prize which will be drawn at the end of January. To enter this prize draw adults complete a simple review card based on a 5-star rating of the book they have read," says Katherine.

Both programmes run between Monday 9 December and 26 January.

Thanks to support from South Taranaki District Council, Lysaght-Watt Trust, Normanby and District Lions Club.