



Tuia Taitonga Southlink

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

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**VOTE
2026**
LOCAL ELECTIONS

Te Hāwera Community Board by-election called

South Taranaki District Council has announced a by-election for Te Hāwera Community Board following the resignation of Board member Celine Filbee.

South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon extends his thanks to Celine for her service to the Hāwera community and her contribution during her time as an elected member.

"On behalf of the Council and the Hāwera community, I thank Celine for her dedicated service over the past nine plus years. Her commitment, care and contribution to Hāwera and the wider district have been greatly valued, and we wish her all the very best for the future."

The by-election process officially commenced on 30 June 2026 with the publication of the public notice and the opening of candidate nominations. Nominations will close at noon on 28 July

2026.

Eligible residents with an interest in representing their community are encouraged to consider standing for election. Information on candidate nominations and electoral enrolment will be available through South Taranaki District Council and the Electoral Officer. Voting documents will be delivered to Te Hāwera ward electors from 7 September 2026, with voting closing at noon on Wednesday 7 October 2026. Preliminary results will be available later that day, with the official declaration of results expected on 8 October 2026.

For more information about the by-election, nominations, or enrolment, visit www.southtaranaki.com or contact the Electoral Officer.

Upcoming Meetings

Workshop

Long Term Plan Day 4
Monday 20 July, 9am

Workshop – Head Start Pathway

Monday 20 July, 1pm

Extraordinary Council

To confirm Head Start Proposal
Wednesday 29 July, 1pm

Eltham-Kaponga Community Board

Monday 3 August, 10.30am
Mangamingi Hall, Morea Road,
Mangamingi

Te Hāwera Community Board

Monday 3 August, 4pm
Wharepuni Marae, Fraser Road,
Normanby

Taranaki Coastal Community Board

Wednesday 5 August, 10.30am
Te Kiri Hall, 2716 Eltham Road, Ōpunakē

Pātea Community Board

Wednesday 5 August, 4pm,
Hunter Shaw Building, Pātea



Unless otherwise specified, meetings are held in the Council Chamber, Administration Building, Albion Street, Hāwera.

Waverley town belt nears next milestone



Stage 2A of the Waverley Town Belt development is nearing completion, with the new car park and pedestrian footpath in their final stages of construction. The upgrades will improve access and connectivity throughout the reserve and build on previous enhancements to pathways, parking, fencing and infrastructure. The project is now preparing to enter its ecological phase, with reforestation planting scheduled to begin soon. The planting programme will support biodiversity, native restoration and the long-term vision for the Town Belt as a high-quality community green space.

Manaia hall demolition advances

Demolition of the Manaia buildings is progressing. The Town Hall building is now completely demolished and the contractor is tidying up to clear the site. Demolition of the old sports complex building is now underway.

There has been a sense of nostalgia across the community as the buildings come down, with many remembering the events and occasions held in the buildings over the years, from ballet performances and cabaret evenings to cinema screenings, weddings, and concerts and after match celebrations. Preservation has been prioritised throughout the project, with

selected timbers, seating and other materials recovered by specialist recyclers. Club memorabilia such as trophies, photos, honours and sponsors boards have been removed and passed on to community members for preservation. Timber flooring from the supper hall will be incorporated into the new building, while chattels from both buildings have been retained for re-use in Council facilities. Concrete from the demolition will also be crushed and reused on site, helping reduce project costs and waste.

Te Puna Manawa Ora taking shape in Ōpunakē

Work on Te Puna Manawa Ora continues to make strong progress, with major structural elements now in place and the redevelopment taking visible shape. Foundations have been completed for key features including the shelter, puna and rock feature, while corten steel elements and the rebuilt rock wall seating area are beginning to define the space. Sections of the rock wall have been reconstructed using stone from the original structure, helping retain a connection to the site's history. Preparation of the rain garden is also complete, with planting to commence soon.



Stark Park upgrade underway

Eltham's Stark Park upgrade has officially begun, with demolition and site preparation marking the first stage of the project. While visible activity has been limited to date, significant planning and coordination work has been completed behind the scenes to support the delivery of the upgrade. Additional improvements are also progressing, including the development of new park signage and the relocation of refurbished seating to Eltham Cemetery. Existing features, including the boundary wall mosaic artwork, will be protected during construction and assessed for future restoration.



Nominate someone for a South Taranaki Community Award

These awards only come around once every two years. Take this opportunity to nominate an individual or group deserving recognition for going beyond the call of duty.

**GET YOUR NOMINATIONS IN BY
FRIDAY 31 JULY 2026**

Nomination forms are available at your local South Taranaki LibraryPlus, the Council Administration Building, South Taranaki isite, TSB Hub, or online at www.southtaranaki.com/communityawards