



Tuia Taitonga Southlink

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

New signage helping make Hāwera parks more inclusive

A grassroots community initiative aimed at making Hāwera's public spaces more inclusive is now complete, with four Core Communication Signs installed at King Edward Park and Kōwhai Park.

The idea was seeded by Te Hāwera Community Board following conversations with Enabling Good Lives Hāwera about the challenges some neurodiverse children and adults can face when interacting with public spaces.

The signs provide a simple, visual communication tool for people who use alternative or assisted forms of communication, allowing them to express their thoughts, feelings and needs by pointing to symbols, words and images while enjoying the parks.

Working alongside TalkLink Trust, local businesses and Council staff, the Community Board helped turn the idea into reality. Council staff supported the project with te reo Māori translation work, helped identify suitable locations, and worked closely with the Community Board to ensure

the signs would be accessible and useful for local families. What began as a conversation quickly gained momentum, with local businesses stepping forward to support the project. Pam and Paula - First National Real Estate Hāwera, Precision Building, Simply Speech and Matty Neil Building fully funded the signs, while Precision Building crafted the beautiful timber frames and installed them. As a result, all four signs were donated and installed at no cost to ratepayers.

Just six months after the idea was first raised, the signs are already making a difference for local families. Te Hāwera Community Board hopes the project will inspire more community-led partnerships with some exciting new opportunities about to be made public later this week. The Board thanks Enabling Good Lives Hāwera, Council staff and sponsors for helping transform a simple idea into a lasting community resource that will help make Hāwera's parks more welcoming for everyone.



New features for Pātea Saltmarsh

Work has started on the Pātea Saltmarsh project, marking an important step in enhancing public access to this unique coastal environment while safeguarding its ecological and cultural significance. The project includes the construction of a new pathway and viewing platform, providing visitors with improved opportunities to experience and appreciate the saltmarsh without compromising its sensitive habitats.

Alongside these access improvements, the project will

deliver extensive native planting, interpretive signage, and a range of bespoke design features that reflect the identity and stories of the area. These elements are being developed in collaboration with local artists and stakeholders, helping to create a destination that celebrates the rich environmental, cultural, and community values of the site while supporting its long-term protection and restoration.

Trial roundabout proving a success in Hāwera



The trial roundabout at the Turuturu Road and Glover Road intersection in Hāwera is proving to be a success, with positive feedback from residents after just over five weeks of operation.

Installed as a trial to assess its effectiveness, the roundabout has helped improve traffic flow and has been well received by motorists using the busy intersection.

To further enhance safety and ensure the roundabout operates as intended, Council is planning to install additional traffic delineators on the southern Glover Road approach. The delineators will help prevent southbound vehicles from turning across traffic into the Bunnings car park reducing the risk of accidents and improving traffic movement through the intersection.

Turuturu Road pathway taking shape



Work on the Turuturu Road pathway project in Hāwera is progressing well, with pathway construction currently underway between the Ōhangai Road intersection and Kingsford Smith Drive.

To date, approximately 480 metres of sealed pathway has been completed, marking a significant milestone for the project. The new pathway will provide a safer and more accessible route for people walking, cycling and using other recreational transport options along the corridor.

The next stage of the project is set to get underway from the Longview subdivision, where crews will begin sealed shoulder widening and shared pathway construction. Once complete, the pathway will improve connections for residents and enhance safety and accessibility along this growing part of town. Motorists and pathway users are thanked for their patience while work is underway.

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