

New Manaia Community Facility Takes Major Step Forward

Council has reached a significant milestone in the delivery of the new Manaia Community Facility, with Clelands Construction Ltd engaged to lead the design and construction of the project.

The milestone follows the recent demolition of the former Manaia War Memorial Hall and Manaia Sports Complex, clearing the way for the \$4 million Manaia Community Facility project on the old Sports Complex site. The modern, multi-purpose facility will serve as a hub for sport, recreation and community activities for generations to come.

Following a competitive open tender process, Clelands was selected as the preferred partner based on its proven capability, delivery confidence and strong track record in community and recreational infrastructure projects. Mayor Phil Nixon welcomed the signing of the contract and the progress being made on the project.

"It's great to see this project continuing to move forward. The demolition of the old facilities marked the end of an era for



many years to come." The project will now move into detailed design and construction planning, with Council and Clelands Construction working together to refine the design, complete consenting requirements and prepare the project for construction.

Manaia, and this contract signing marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the community.

"The signing of this contract is an important step towards delivering a high-quality community facility that will serve the Manaia community for generations to come."

Clelands Construction Managing Director Michael Braggins said the company was excited to begin work on the project.

"We're excited about the opportunity to work with Council and the community on this important project.

"Facilities like this create spaces for people to connect, participate and come together. We look forward to developing a facility that delivers lasting benefits for the community and supports a wide range of activities for

Finalists announced for 2026 Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards

The finalists for the 2026 Lysaght-Watt Trust Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards have been announced.

More than 180 entries were received across this year's five categories: Open Poetry, Secondary School Poetry, Open Short Story, Secondary School Short Story, and Secondary School True Story/Research Article.

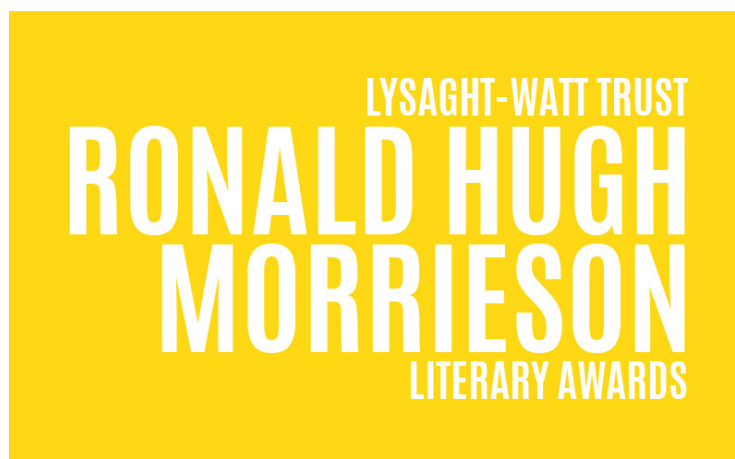
Short Story judge Tracey Slaughter said she was impressed by the quality and variety of entries received from across Taranaki.

"Turning over and returning to each piece yielded fresh surprises and revelations, and I felt the care, craft and concentrated energy you invested in each line," says Tracey.

Poetry judge Glenn Colquhoun said the standard of entries continues to rise each year.

"I don't know whether to thank everyone who entered or moan about how hard you made my job. It is the third time I've judged this competition, and the standard of the entries only continues to rise," says Glenn.

True Story judge Matt Rilkoff praised the honesty and insight shown by entrants, describing the stories as heartfelt.



"Each piece was refreshingly honest, raw and full of astute observations and vivid descriptions. These are stories told from the heart," says Matt.

Congratulations to all 2026 finalists. Reaching the finalist stage is a significant achievement and reflects the talent and dedication of local writers.

The community is invited to attend the awards ceremony at Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga in Hāwera on Thursday 22 October.

Doors open at 6.45pm, with the awards beginning at 7pm.

During the ceremony, judges will share insights into their categories and discuss the entries that stood out to them.

Anyone wishing to attend is asked to RSVP with the number attending to entries@stdc.govt.nz by Wednesday 14 October.

Upcoming Meetings

CANCELLED: Extraordinary Environment and Hearings Committee
Wednesday 21 October, 10am

Ordinary Council
Wednesday 21 October, 4pm

Eltham-Kaponga Community Board
Tuesday 27 October, 10.30am
Rotokare Scenic Reserve, Sangster Road, Rāwhitiroa

Te Hāwera Community Board
Tuesday 27 October, 4pm

Taranaki Coastal Community Board
Wednesday 28 October, 10.30am
Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration Events Centre, Tasman Street, Ōpunakē

Extraordinary Council (to adopt the 2026/27 Annual Report)
Wednesday 28 October, 1.30pm

Pātea Community Board
Wednesday 28 October, 4pm
Whenuakura Marae, 749 Pātea Road, Whenuakura



Unless otherwise specified, meetings are held in the Council Chamber, Administration

Building, Albion Street, Hāwera.



Artists, crafters and food vendors are invited to register for Arts in the Park, South Taranaki's premier outdoor arts and crafts market.

Held in King Edward Park, Hāwera, on Saturday 5 December from 10am to 3pm, the event showcases local arts, crafts, food and entertainment while attracting visitors from across the region.

Council events coordinator Hannah Hancock encourages early registration. "Arts in the Park showcases an incredible range of local talent and creativity. We encourage stallholders to register early as spaces are limited."

Finalists
Congratulations to the finalists of the 2026 Lysaght-Watt Trust Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards.

Cole Lobban
Erana Hokopaura-Watkins
Jasmin Kemsley
Kayla Malone
Koren Miller
Lauren Kalin

Lucinda Moorby
Lucy Crowley
Maria Taylor
Marlene Beech
MB Stoneman
Pip Harrison
Stuart Greenhill

Register your stall online at www.southtaranaki.com/artsinthepark or email events@stdc.govt.nz for more information.