



Is your child a dreamer? Can you see the stirrings of an artist or an inventor developing?

This summer South Taranaki LibraryPlus are embarking on a new and innovative holiday programme for 5-12 year olds to spark their imagination and set them on a road of discovery. Summer Blast is a new dynamic way of encouraging your child's learning and discovery while not being limited to just reading. Over the six week summer holidays children will have the opportunity to choose from a fun set of challenges and activities that appeal to them and then go in the draw for some fabulous prizes. Register at your local LibraryPlus, anytime from Monday 16 December.

Go to [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com), or have a chat to your local LibraryPlus staff to find out more!



# SouthLink Extra

2019 Spring edition

Newsletter for South Taranaki ratepayers and residents

## Farewell from Mayor Dunlop

It has been a privilege to be the Mayor of South Taranaki for the past 12 years.

I have been fortunate to have worked with some very special people across the district. There has been much achieved over this time, although there is always more to be done. It's great to end on a high note with so many positive things happening. The development of the Hāwera Town Centre upgrade is progressing well and the town masterplans for Waverley, Pātea, Manaia, Eltham and Ōpunakē are in place. It has been good to oversee some major improvements in our district with much better water, recreation and community facilities and the dangerous Normanby Bridge replaced with a good stretch of road. I was so pleased the TSB Trust boundary was shifted and the Trust can now support Pātea and Waverley with grants. The latest census figures are gratifying as after many decades of population decline the district's population is on the rise. We have new employment opportunities in Eltham and the Waverley Wind Farm is starting construction. Jan and I look forward to spending a bit more time with the family, though we will continue to support our great community where we can. Thanks to everyone involved in making South Taranaki a better place. He aha te mea nui o tenei ao. He tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata.

*(What is the most important thing in the world. It is people, it is people it is people.)*

Ross Dunlop



At the time of printing South Taranaki District Council election results were not known. We will introduce our new Council and Community Boards in our next issue.



~ Scale Ship ~  
**REGATTA**

KING EDWARD PARK LAKE HĀWERA  
SATURDAY 2 + SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER

Ships Ahoy! Head along to the boating lake at King Edward Park on the first weekend of November. Not only will you see the Park at its best (thanks to the Garden Festival), but you will also be able to enjoy watching Scale Ships manoeuvre around the lake. Find out more at [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com)

**7 DAYS**  
**10th BIRTHDAY LIVE TOUR**

BUY TICKETS

Don't miss out on seeing 7 Days live when they come to Hāwera as part of its 10th Birthday Tour... which just so happens to coincide with South Taranaki's 10th Anniversary of its annual Comedy Show. Call into South Taranaki i-SITE Visitor Centre, or visit Ticketek for tickets.

**7 Days Live - Thursday 21 November, 7.30pm, TSB Hub, Hāwera.**

**elektra**  
A COMMUNITY LIGHT EVENT

Elektra is a great community and family event to be held on 8 November at King Edward Park in Hāwera from 6 - 10pm. A fabulous night of fun and creativity, Elektra will light up your senses in every way – with food trucks, lighting performances, light installations and the park looking it's lit up best. One of the events within the event is a "Launch of 1000 Lanterns" – an opportunity for families and friends to launch a floating lantern onto the park lake. Find out more on [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com)  
**Elektra - Friday 8 November, 6pm, King Edward Park, Hāwera**

**Arts IN THE PARK**

KING EDWARD PARK | HĀWERA

Arts in the Park is back again this year! Don't miss South Taranaki's biggest open air arts and crafts market set within the beautiful King Edward Park. Fun for the whole family with stalls, food trucks and activities for the kids - this event is a popular one on the Summer events calendar. Register your stall online at [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com)  
**Arts in the Park - Saturday 7 December, King Edward Park, Hāwera**



## Town Centre Master Plans

At its final meeting for the term the Council adopted the Waverley, Pātea, Manaia, Ōpunakē and Eltham town centre masterplans for consideration as part of the 2021 – 2031 Long Term Plan. This means these masterplans will be considered when developing the direction and budgets for the next Long-Term Plan, which is still around a year and eight months away. Council has already started work on developing the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan and the town centre masterplans will play an integral part of that process. The 2021-2031 Long Term Plan must be finished and adopted before 1 July 2021.



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Look up South Taranaki District Council and 'like' us!

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

## COUNCIL IN HEALTHY FINANCIAL POSITION

The Council finished the 2018/19 financial year with a healthy \$5.8 million surplus before accounting adjustments\*, against a budgeted surplus of \$2.1 million, according to its Annual Report.

Council Chief Executive Waid Crockett says the surplus was partly due to the Council's Long Term Investment Fund (LTIF) which performed strongly over the year.

"Thanks to strong market conditions the LTIF did very well and returned \$10.09 million which was \$1.3 million more than we budgeted," says Mr Crockett. "After allowing for the annual drawdown and rates subsidy, at year end the Fund balance totalled \$147.09 million, up from \$143.21 million in 2017/18."

Total debt increased slightly from \$128.18 million to \$128.51 million (including \$14.91 million of internal borrowing).

Mr Crockett says each year the Council's draws an average \$5.8 million from the LTIF which provides \$3.87 million to subsidise general rates and a further \$1.93 million to service loans for specific community projects.

"In this way the LTIF has returned more than \$100 million back to the South Taranaki Community since it was started in 1997," he says. "All revenue over and above the annual drawdown of \$5.8 million is returned to the Fund to build it up for those years when it doesn't perform so well."

The Report also highlighted the steady progress made with several of Council's key priorities; the Hāwera Town Centre Strategy, earthquake prone buildings and town centre masterplans Eltham, Ōpunakē, Manaia, Pātea and Waverley.

A full and summary version of the Council's 2018/19 Annual Report can be found on the Council's website [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com)

*\* While the Council's Income Statement shows a deficit of \$3,208,000 this was due to accounting adjustments – these included any book loss on the disposal of assets (\$3,903,000) and a balance day valuation snapshot of our financial instruments.*

*On 30 June this year, our Derivative Contracts showed a loss of \$5,121,000. These are unrealised (paper) losses which have no impact on rates.*

### OTHER NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR:

- Korimako Lane opened December 2018
- Kaponga LibraryPlus was reopened after being earthquake strengthened and work started on Pātea's Hunter Shaw Building
- Pātea LibraryPlus was also reopened after a \$300,000 refurbishment.
- 79km of roads were resealed and 7km of roads were reconstructed.
- Hāwera's King Edward Park was awarded a 5th star by the New Zealand Gardens Trust making it a Garden of National Significance.
- Council's energy costs have fallen by approximately 13% compared to the previous two years.
- Council won the Tompkins Wake Award for Better Regulation and Policy at the 2019 McGredy Winder SOLGM Local Government Excellence Awards for our innovative approach to freedom camping.
- Our annual independent survey of more than 400 residents across all five South Taranaki wards found 93% of residents were happy with the overall service the Council provides.
- Council initiated a Feasibility and Initial Business Case Study into the potential development of a district Business/Industrial Park



## Hunter Shaw Reopening

Pātea's iconic Hunter Shaw building was reopened late September following \$650,000 worth of earthquake strengthening and some internal refurbishments.

The 1930s Building was closed in August 2013 after a detailed engineer's assessment found it to be earthquake prone.

The earthquake strengthening work brings the building up to 67 per cent of the New Building Standard.

South Taranaki District Mayor, Ross Dunlop says he was very pleased to see the work completed as the Hunter Shaw building is part of the unique streetscape of Pātea and of South Taranaki's heritage.

"The building is listed as a category 2 heritage item by Heritage New Zealand (previously known as the New Zealand Historic Places Trust). The aim was to keep the heritage features of the building, while bringing it up to the appropriate safety standard," says Mr Dunlop.

"Hunter Shaw was a farmer in Whenuakura who died in 1927 and generously left behind a large sum for various charitable institutions including the building of a town library," he says.

The strengthening work involved removing the floor, installing ground and structural beams, relining the internal walls and replacing the flooring. It also saw the replacement of a wind vane which hasn't been on the building since the 1950s.

Mayor Dunlop says the Council is very grateful to the Lotteries Community Facilities Fund who granted \$450,000 towards the project with the Council funding the rest.

## Work Progressing well on Waiinu Wastewater Plant



Work is progressing well on installing a new \$1 million wastewater treatment plant at Waiinu Beach.

STDC projects manager, Kobus Van der Merwe says the new

submerged aerated filter plant is proven technology, commonly used around the world.

"The new plant, which consists of 25 individual tanks, arrived by boat into Auckland early September and was transported on eight trucks to Waiinu," says Kobus. "It will take around five weeks to decommission and remove the old plant (sand filters) and install the new one. We will then need to test and commission the new plant which we expect to have up and running by mid-November."

## New Mobile Ablution Pod for Waihi Reserve



The first of four mobile, fully-contained ablution pods has been installed at Waihi Beach Reserve. Each mobile ablution pod is a 20-foot container, which has two stainless steel toilets and wash basins, two showers, a 2000 litre wastewater tank, a fresh and grey water system and a separate sink unit for food preparation. The benefit of the ablution pods is their mobility and can be sited at freedom camping and visitor hot spots.

## Do you have a swimming pool?

To meet Government requirements and the Council's Water Supply Bylaw all swimming pools in the district need to have water meters and backflow prevention devices to make sure the public water supply is protected. Council contractors have been visiting properties with swimming pools to check that a meter and backflow preventor are in place. If they aren't the devices will be installed FREE of charge at the property supply point. If you have a swimming pool and have not been contacted by the Council, we'd like to hear from you. Please contact us on 0800 111 323.

For general enquiries;

Call (06) 278 0555 or toll free on 0800 111 323

Visit [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com) today