

Southlink

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



Nominations now open for 2020 South Taranaki Community Awards

Know of a quiet achiever? Impressed by the community initiative shown by a neighbour? Does the dedication of a volunteer impress you? Get your thinking caps on because nominations are now open for the 2020 South Taranaki Community Awards - and we want to hear from you! These awards only happen once every two years, so take this opportunity to nominate an individual or a group you think deserve recognition for the work they do within the district. These awards are for individuals, groups and organisations within South Taranaki who have,



by personal leadership, inspiration, sacrifice or devotion, made a significant contribution to the wellbeing of their communities. "You could nominate individuals or groups who have shown initiative to make a difference in the community, or have dedicated their time assisting others such as a sports coach or community

volunteer or beautifying a public place for example," says co-ordinator Nicole Chadwick. The categories are:

- Volunteer - Individual
- Volunteer - Organisation

Nominations are open until Thursday 30 July. Nomination forms are available from any LibraryPlus centre, the Council Administration Building in Hāwera, South Taranaki i-SITE Visitor Centre and on www.southtaranaki.com



Next month is Plastic Free July! Plastic Free July is a global movement to help you reduce single-use plastic waste everyday at home, work and school. Are you up for the challenge? Choose to refuse single-use plastics in July (and beyond). Visit our website www.southtaranaki.com to find out more and pick up a challenge sheet. Keep an eye out in the July editions of Southlink as we go over some tips and tricks to help you out, or visit the South Taranaki District Council's Facebook page every Wednesday to watch videos of how you can live more sustainably.

Upcoming Meetings

Ordinary Council

Monday 29 June, 7pm
Council Chamber, Hāwera

Audit and Risk Committee

Wednesday 1 July, 1pm
Council Chamber, Hāwera

Eltham-Kaponga Community Board

Monday 13 July, 10am
Kaponga War Memorial Hall, Victoria Street, Kaponga

Te Hāwera Community Board

Monday 13 July, 1.30pm
Council Chamber, Hāwera

Taranaki Coastal Community Board

Tuesday 14 July, 2.30pm
Te Niho Marae, Mid Parihaka Road, Pungarehu

Pātea Community Board

Wednesday 15 July, 4pm
Hunter Shaw Building, Egmont Street, Pātea

Eltham LibraryPlus closed

Eltham LibraryPlus will be closed on Saturday 27 June while interior painting is completed. It will re-open Monday 29 June at 9am. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Eltham Municipal Building up for sale

Potential buyers have already made enquiries about the old Eltham Municipal Building, following the decision at Monday's (15 June) Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting to declare the unused building surplus and put up for sale for a nominal sum.

The Committee agreed to a recommendation from the Eltham-Kaponga Community Board that the building be offered for sale, on the condition that the buyer has the means to strengthen the building.

The former Municipal Building was closed to the public in 2018 following a detailed Seismic assessment which rated the building at only 8% of the New Building Standard. The estimated cost to strengthen and upgrade the building ranged between \$1.2-\$1.7 million with community use over the last 30 years being relatively low.

South Taranaki District Mayor Phil Nixon says he would prefer to see ratepayers funds put into buildings that are better used such as the Eltham Town Hall or on urban revitalisation projects such as the Eltham Town Centre masterplan. But while the Council can't justify spending millions of ratepayers dollars on a building which isn't used, they would prefer not to lose it either. "This is an old Council Building that has been underutilised for over 30 years. It would cost a couple of million dollars to upgrade and the Council cannot spend public money doing that when there is no community need for the building. But the Council does recognise the buildings Heritage value and wants to make it as easy as possible for anyone genuinely



interested and capable of saving it. Which is why we are offering the building at a nominal price provided the buyer has the means and genuine intention to strengthen and maintain the building." Mr Nixon, says he is confident that a buyer will be found and was heartened to hear that enquiries had already been received before the building had even been advertised. He adds that if, after 12 months, no buyer has been found for the building a report will be brought back to the Council for a decision on its future.

Tree planting in Pātea

As part of an important ecological restoration project, the Pātea Planting Trust are planting hundreds of native trees along the Pātea River Walkway and need some help! Meet at 10am on Saturday 4 July at the boat ramp on Turi Street, alongside the Pātea River. Please bring your own spade, gloves, covered-in shoes, and a drink. The native trees for this project have been gifted by South Taranaki District Council and Trees That Count.