

# Southlink

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



## Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga gets approval

*Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga*, South Taranaki's new Library, Culture and Arts Centre, took a major step closer this week with consent being granted for the project.

The decision follows a Resource Consent Hearing held on 30 June by Independent Commissioner, Alan Withy. Because the Council is both the applicant and the consenting authority, an independent commissioner was engaged to make the decision.

South Taranaki Mayor, Phil Nixon, says the decision meant work could start on the new centre within the next few months.

"The next step is to put tenders out for the demolition and construction work, and subject to the appeal period, we are ready to go."

Mayor Nixon says *Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga* is a key anchor project in the Hāwera town centre

redevelopment which will also be a big boost to the District's post COVID-19 recovery.

"It will bring more foot traffic, visitors and vibrancy to the CBD, provide enhanced community services, create jobs and economic stimulus at this crucial time and improve connectivity for both the South Taranaki community and for visitors to the District," says Mayor Nixon.

Located on the corner of High and Regent Streets, the new 1605m<sup>2</sup> building combines a number of facilities onto one site, including a bigger library, meeting rooms, public toilets, an art gallery and heritage exhibition space, i-SITE visitor centre and café.

"*Te Ramanui* won't just be a community and visitor hub, it will be a catalyst for driving change and increasing investment which we believe will transform the town centre," he says.

The building, designed by architects Warren and Mahoney, takes environmental sustainability into account wherever possible, which helps keep ongoing operational costs to a minimum.

Mayor Nixon says the Council is contributing \$4.8 million towards the facility, with \$3.2 million being sought from external funding. The TSB Community Trust has granted \$2.8 million towards the project. The Council's contribution is being loan-funded. Earnings from the Council's Long Term Investment Fund (LTIF) will be used to repay the loan over a number of years so there is no impact on rates to fund this development.

*Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga* means the beacon or signal fire of Ruapūtahanga, a famous Taranaki Māori ancestress. Ruapūtahanga would light the beacon as a signal for Iwi to meet so they could talk, share ideas and knowledge.

## You have three weeks left to enter the RHM Literary Awards

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closing date of Friday 14 August – not only will you be in to win cash prizes, but will have the added bonus of being read by big names in the New Zealand literature scene – Whiti Hereaka and Glenn Colquhoun," says Award organiser Pam Jones. Whiti Hereaka, award-winning novelist and playwright is this year's short story judge, and poet and children's writer Glenn Colquhoun is the poetry judge. Taranaki Daily News chief news director Matt Rilkoff returns to judge the research article section. Cash prizes are up for grabs, with the winner of each category winning \$500 (as well as a year-long subscription to the Daily News for the winner of the Research Article category) and the opportunity to see their work published in the finalist book.

The winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony later in the year.

These Awards honour the work of one of New Zealand's most pre-eminent authors, Ronald Hugh Morrieson (1922 – 1972), and have been an annual staple in the literary events calendar since 1987. The Awards are proudly brought to you by the South Taranaki District Council and are sponsored by Lysaght Watt Trust, Normanby & District Lions Club and the Taranaki Daily News.

Enter online at [www.rhморriesonawards.com](http://www.rhморriesonawards.com) before midnight on Friday 14 August.



## BEN HURLEY

THE STRAIGHT-OUT-OF-LOCKDOWN TOUR  
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FRI 7 AUG @ PIHAMA LAVENDER, \$40

OHANGAI SOLD OUT!

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## Upcoming Meetings

Policy and Strategy Committee  
Monday 27 July, 1pm  
Council Chamber, Albion St, Hāwera

Ordinary Council  
Monday 10 August, 7pm  
Council Chamber, Albion St, Hāwera