

# Tuia Taitonga Southlink

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



The South Taranaki District is now at COVID-19 Alert Level 2. Find out more at [www.covid19.govt.nz](http://www.covid19.govt.nz)

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The South Taranaki District is going into 'Orange' under the new traffic light system tomorrow. Find out more at [www.covid19.govt.nz](http://www.covid19.govt.nz)

## Summer water restrictions the new normal unless we conserve



For the first time in many years parts of South Taranaki will likely see water restrictions this summer, largely due to new regulations and a storm affected river catchment. South Taranaki District Council group manager of community and infrastructure services Fiona Aitken says severe weather events on the maunga during spring resulted in significant erosion and silting of the Waiaua river catchment which feeds the Ōpunakē water supply. "With heavy rainfall the river quickly becomes laden with debris and silt which clogs the intake to the water treatment plant and puts severe strain on our ability to treat and process the water." Aitken says the Council is working on plans to stabilise the area around the intake, however these won't be complete for some time, so the only option is to conserve water or introduce restrictions. In other parts of the District, new consent conditions also mean water restrictions are more likely. "We had to renew our consent for taking water from the

Waingongoro River for the Eltham Water Supply. As part of our consent conditions if the river drops to a certain level we must introduce water restrictions too - we don't have any option." Aitken says these new conditions are all part of the government's freshwater reforms which have a greater focus on preserving the health and vitality of our streams and rivers than previously. "We need to appreciate that this is the new normal, not just for South Taranaki but the whole of New Zealand," says Aitken. We are fortunate in that we've got enough water to go around, but not enough to waste. We just need people to conserve, fix leaks, use water wisely and not be wasteful. If we can do that, we can protect the health of our streams and rivers and get through summer without needing widespread restrictions.

You can visit [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com) for easy tips and tricks of how you can conserve water in the home and garden.

## Eltham Municipal Building Sold



Almost a year and a half since it was listed for sale, Eltham's historic Municipal Building has been sold to a private developer who plans to earthquake strengthen and renovate the building. The new owner, experienced property developer Dean Martin, understands the value of the building to the community and is excited about giving the old building new life. "I'm looking forward to getting stuck in and have already had engineers do some initial assessments of the exterior, although I'd expect it'll be a solid year of preparation before the major earthquake strengthening can start taking place. In the meantime, the exterior will get a fresh coat of paint in the new year." Dean says he has a local couple setting up a second hand and up-cycling business downstairs and plans to reinstate and renovate the two, two-bedroom apartments upstairs. "Anyone who wants to stop by and share a few memories, stories or maybe some old photos of the building are more than welcome." The category II listed building was built in 1911, however, since local government amalgamation in 1989 and due to the building's size, age and unsuitability, community use has dwindled over the last 30 years. In 2018 the Municipal Building was closed to the public following a detailed seismic assessment which rated the building at only 8% of the New Building Standard. The cost to strengthen and upgrade the building was conservatively estimated to be up to \$1.7 million. With such a high cost and low community use and following a recommendation from the Eltham-Kaponga Community Board, the South Taranaki District Council made the decision in June 2020 to put the building up for sale for a nominal sum, on condition that the buyer had the intent and means to strengthen the building. Eltham councillors Steffy Mackay and Mark Bellringer were particularly delighted with the sale and plans Mr Martin has for renovating. "We advocated very strongly for a suitable buyer to be found for the building and we are really pleased to have found someone with experience and a proven track record. We welcome him to the Eltham community." South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon says this was a great outcome for Eltham and the community is looking forward to seeing the progress made on strengthening and refurbishing the magnificent old building.

## Summer Community Pool Season gets green light



While the region is at orange under the new COVID protection framework, the South Taranaki District Council's free community summer pools have been given the green light to open. A relieved Recreation and Facilities Manager, Phil Waite, says the District's six free community pools in Manaia, Kaponga, Eltham, Rāwhitiroa, Pātea and Waverley will open to the public from Saturday 8 January. "We normally open these pools in mid-December, but with the uncertainty surrounding the new traffic light system, we didn't think we'd be able to open the pools at all this summer. Thankfully yesterday we received further guidance from the government that gave us the 'all clear' to open. Now that we know we can open, we need four weeks to fill the pools, get the circulation and

filtration systems operating and employ enough staff to lifeguard the pools." Waite says Council will consider keeping the pools open a bit longer to account for the delayed start but that will depend on whether enough lifeguards can be found as many tend to be students who return to university in February. From Friday 3 December, the Hāwera Aquatic Centre (which has only been operating lane swimming), will again be able to cater for recreational swimming. Under the traffic light system all Council public facilities will remain open to all visitors with the usual physical distancing, capacity limits, mask wearing and contact tracing procedures in place.

### Upcoming meetings

Ordinary Council  
Monday 13 December, 7pm  
Camberwell Lounge, TSB Hub,  
Camberwell Road, Hāwera

Novus Contracting Annual  
General Meeting  
Monday 13 December, 4pm  
Council Chamber,  
Administration Building,  
Albion Street, Hāwera



### Arts in the Park Online

With the unfortunate cancellation of this year's Arts in the Park, we offered all vendors the opportunity to promote themselves on our website. Simply head to [www.southtaranaki.com/artsintheparkonline](http://www.southtaranaki.com/artsintheparkonline) to take a virtual tour of the vendors who chose to take part!

## Council facilities at Orange

Council Administration Building / LibraryPlus Centres / South Taranaki i-SITE Information Centre / TSB Hub / Aotea Utanganui - Museum of South Taranaki  
Under the traffic light system, all Council public facilities will remain open to all visitors with the usual physical distancing, mask wearing and contact tracing procedures in place.



## New Playground

Earlier this week, the new McGuire Street Playground was completed and is now ready for kids to play on. The new \$50,000 module system boasts a new swing set, slides, softfall and a BBQ table will be installed on the concrete pad as soon as weather allows.



## New Pātea sign

The Pātea Community Board has funded a multi directional sign which has been installed at the Pātea Beach Lookout. The bilingual sign points to various towns, cities and countries and was blessed by Ngāti Ruanui kaumātua, Jim Ngarewa and Ngapari Nui.

## Taranaki Speed Review

Monday 15 November - 13 December

Waka Kotahi (NZ Transport Agency) is working toward a future where no-one is killed or seriously injured in road crashes in Aotearoa. Speed is the single biggest factor determining if you or someone you love, dies or survives a crash. That's why speeds on a number of state highways in Taranaki are being reviewed where the current speed limits may not be safe and appropriate. These roads are:

- State Highway 45 New Plymouth to Hāwera (Surf Highway)
- State Highway 44, State Highway 45 and State Highway 3 in New Plymouth
- State Highway 3 between New Plymouth and Hāwera
- State Highway 3A Sentry Hill to Inglewood.

Find out more and give your feedback at [www.nzta.govt.nz/taranaki-speed-review](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/taranaki-speed-review)



## TASTE OF TARANAKI POP-UP



### Taranaki Pop-Up

Head to the Taste of Taranaki Pop-Up in Eltham on Thursday - Sunday between 9am - 4pm until the end of January, showcasing foods and beverages from more than 20 local producers.