

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 Red on the COVID-19 Traffic Light System. Find out more at www.covid19.govt.nz

Record Rainfall Deluges District

More heavy rain forecast for this weekend

It was clean-up time this week after record rainfall fell across Taranaki over Waitangi weekend, with Coastal and South Taranaki taking the biggest hits. The exceptional rainfall caused surface flooding, road washouts, slips, damage to on-farm infrastructure and some residential properties and wastewater overflows at several locations. Damage assessments were carried out on properties where self-evacuations occurred and at Rāhotu School.



Significant damage was caused to the District's road network although all roads are now open (apart from Mid Parihaka Road where the bridge remains closed and Wingrove Road which has a massive slip). Warning signs were erected at York Street Pātea, Mana Bay, Pātea Boat ramp, Tawhiti Stream Hāwera, Middleton Bay and Ōpunakē Lake where wastewater overflows occurred. **Please do not collect fish/shellfish and plant life or come into contact with the water at these locations. The warning signs will remain in place until levels are considered safe.**

The record downpour was caused by the same front responsible for flooding and evacuation of hundreds of homes on the South Island's West Coast. South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon who'd been

visiting the coastal area on Sunday morning said he'd never seen so much rain. Over Saturday and Sunday, 191 millimetres of rain fell in Hāwera and 470mm at Cape Egmont, MetService New Zealand reported. For context, Hāwera averages 73mm in total over the entire month in a typical February, it said. Elsewhere in the region 221mm of rain fell in Stratford, 235mm in Inglewood and 219.8mm in Pātea and 485mm was recorded on Taranaki Maunga.

Mayor Nixon says there is a moderate chance of more heavy rain for the District on Saturday which would hinder clean-up work. "If we get heavy rain again this coming weekend it's likely we could get more surface flooding and slips, so please stay off the roads if possible and stay away from our streams and rivers. If you do come across flood waters, don't walk or drive through them as the water may have washed away parts of the road and may contain debris. Treat all flood water, rivers and streams as contaminated and unsafe. Heavy rain flushes contaminants from urban and rural land into waterways and we always advise people not to swim in streams/ rivers for at least three days after heavy or prolonged rainfall – even if a site usually has good water quality."

Upcoming meetings

Novus Contracting Annual General Meeting
Monday 21 February, 2pm

Ordinary Council
Monday 21 February, 7pm

Eltham Drainage Committee
Wednesday 23 February, 10am
Taumata Recreation Centre, Preston Street, Eltham

Eltham-Kaponga Community Board
Monday 28 February, 10.30am
Taumata Recreation Centre, Preston Street, Eltham

Te Hāwera Community Board
Monday 28 February, 1.30pm

Taranaki Coastal Community Board
Tuesday 1 March, 2.30pm
Ōkaiawa Public Hall, Ahipaipa Road, Ōkaiawa

Pātea Community Board
Wednesday 2 March, 4pm
Hunter Shaw Building, Egmont Street, Pātea

Unless stated, meetings are held in Council Chamber, Administration Building, Albion Street, Hāwera

Due to the limitations on these events, entry is by ticket only. Tickets are available from South Taranaki i-SITE and at Eltham LibraryPlus for Movies in the Dark - first in first served.



**SOUTH TARANAKI
SUMMER**



FRANKIE STEVENS
MITCH AND HIS GUITAR
CONCERTS IN THE PARK
WET WEATHER VENUE - TSB HUB
SUN 13 FEB - 12PM - TAIROA LODGE

SPACE JAM @ 12.30PM
FREE GUY @ 3PM
MOVIES IN THE DARK
SUN 20 FEB - ELTHAM TOWN HALL

Rates instalment due

Ratepayers are reminded that the last day for payment of the third instalment of rates for 2021/22 without incurring a penalty will be Wednesday 23 February 2022.

Creative Communities Fund Open

Do you have a community arts project that needs some funding support? The next application round for Creative Communities funding is now open and closes at 5pm on Wednesday 9 March for community-based arts activities taking place between 8 April 2022 and 8 April 2023.

Visit www.southtaranaki.com to find out more and to apply or at your local LibraryPlus. For further information call 0800 111 323 or email funding@stdc.govt.nz.

New roof for Ōpunakē Events Centre

Councillors agreed to spend up to \$400,000 to replace the Ōpunakē Events Centre's roof at the last Policy and Strategy meeting.

The aging roof, almost 20 years old, has a number of leaks and a new roof will cost between \$310,000 and \$360,000 (based on current pricing) which the Trust can't afford.

Council's recreation and facilities manager Phil Waite says if the Ōpunakē Sport and Recreation Trust is required to fund the roof replacement, they would have to 'hand over' the operations of the centre to the Council as per their constitution. Council would then need to pay for the replacement and take responsibility for the day-to-day operations and centre costs.

Mr Waite recommended Council loan-fund the new roof and increase the Trust's annual grant, which was \$60,000 per annum in 2021, to repay the term of the loan.

South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon said the Ōpunakē Events Centre was a very well used and important facility for the coastal community, but the pandemic had reduced the Trust's income when the venue wasn't able to be used.

"The Trust had quite a nest egg put aside, but Covid has eaten away a lot of the funds they had saved. The centre is a fantastic facility which fits with our vision of making South Taranaki the most liveable District and deserves our ongoing support."

Council chief executive Waid Crockett said provided the decision is approved by the full Council at its next ordinary meeting the intention was to do the work before winter.