

## COVID-19 closes several pools

If you visited the Hāwera Aquatic Centre over Saturday 19, Sunday 20 or Monday 21 February please monitor your health and get tested if you have cold or flu symptoms.

# CLOSED

**This facility is closed while staff are tested for COVID-19**

**We will re-open as soon as we are able to**

Several South Taranaki swimming pools have had to close on Tuesday after a lifeguard tested positive for COVID-19. The Hāwera Aquatic Centre, Kaponga, Manaia, Eltham and Rāwhitiroa community summer pools will all be closed until further notice.

Group Manager of Community and Infrastructure Services, Fiona Aitken, says the Hāwera Aquatic Centre, where the lifeguard and a close contact worked, has been cleaned and all staff tested. "If you or your children visited the Hāwera Aquatic Centre over Saturday 19, Sunday 20 or Monday 21 February please monitor your health and get tested if you have cold or flu symptoms or if you have been a

close contact. If you are unsure what you need to do contact Healthline (0800 358 5453) for advice."

Aitken says due to the numbers of staff having to self-isolate and wait for test results, most of the free community summer pools could be closed for the next few days if there is not enough staff available to operate them.

"The Council has been preparing for this eventuality across all its facilities and is following all Ministry of Health protocols. We will do our best to keep as many of our pools open for as long as possible, but our priority is keeping our staff and the community safe," she says.

## Extended testing hours

Testing has increased across the region with more people accessing community testing centres and GP clinics for a COVID-19 test. Testing hours have been extended and will be flexible to manage demand.

At this stage testing is only required for people who are symptomatic or you have been given public health advice to get tested. Keep an eye out on the Taranaki District Health Board website or Facebook page for any pop up events.

**Hāwera** - Monday to Sunday from 9.30am - 2.30pm.  
Location: Hāwera Hospital

**Don't forget when entering one of our facilities:**



- Scan in

- Please wear a mask

- Keep at least 1m away from others



- Cough or sneeze into your elbow

- Stay at home if you're feeling unwell



Te Hāwera Community Board funded a repaint of the Chorus box located on the corner of Glover and Turuturu Roads, Hāwera (opposite Bunnings) by local artist Dan Mills. The box was tagged and unsightly and in a prominent place - now it looks great!

## Mayor's Taskforce For Jobs Success Story

Liam Watts first visited the Mayor's Taskforce For Jobs (MTFJ) Chamber Hub in June 2021.

At that stage he had completed his Mechanical Engineering Certificate and wanted to find employment.

The Chamber Hub South Hāwera office worked with him to find a suitable employer and was able to place him at Carac Couplings in Eltham in September the same year. What a success!

Liam has now been with Carac four months and things couldn't be better. The leadership and staff at Carac took time to get to know Liam and he has responded to their great family environment and team ethic.

They have found he has an aptitude for coding and technical skills required to operate the CNC machinery and now he starts his



apprenticeship in CNC Engineering very soon.

Way to go Liam and thanks to Carac and MTFJ Chamber Hub South for their support to make this happen.

If you know a young person looking for a job call into MTFJ Chamber Hub at 109 Princes Street, Hāwera.

*The Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) is a nationwide initiative that aims to enable people under 25 to achieve long-term economic independence. The goal - that all young people under 25 years be engaged in appropriate education, training, work or other activities that contribute to their long-term economic independence and wellbeing.*

### Upcoming meetings

**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

**Policy and Strategy Committee**  
Monday 7 March, 1pm

**Te Kāhui Matauraura**  
Wednesday 9 March, 10am

**Environment and Hearings Committee**  
Wednesday 9 March, 4pm

**Audit and Risk Committee**  
Wednesday 16 March, 12.30pm

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

### 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](http://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](mailto:funding@stdc.govt.nz).



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