

New Library, Art and Information Centre, Te Ramanui, takes shape

Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga, South Taranaki's new library, art and information centre, has started to take shape with key elements of the structure having sprung up over the last four weeks.

South Taranaki District Council project co-ordinator Phil Waite, says progress is noticeable with eighteen pre-cast tilt-slab concrete panels having been erected along the eastern boundary wall, and 10 of the structural steel frames made by Hāwera engineering firm Croucher and Crowder, erected on the western side.

"The focus over the next month will be the delivery and assembly of more structural steel elements, such as roof trusses, as well as installation of the remaining concrete tilt slab walls," says Waite.

Once the building is finished around 80,000 kg of steelwork and reinforcing steel will have gone into the project and approximately 380 cubic metres of concrete.

South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon says the long-awaited project is a key part of the Council's post-COVID economic growth and Hāwera town centre revitalisation strategy.

"The new facility will transform the town centre. The modern, multi-functional, community facility will provide residents and visitors to the District with a wide range of services, information, cultural and educational resources. These include a library, art gallery, i-site visitor centre, café, and public toilets.



Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga, will not only be a community and visitor hub, but it will also be a catalyst for driving change, creating economic stimulus and increasing investment in the town centre."

To date almost \$7 million in external funding has been secured for the project with major contributions from the TOI Foundation (\$2.8 million) and \$4 million from the Government's Kānoa – Regional Economic Development and Infrastructure Investment Fund.

Rebel Business School returning to Taranaki at the end of the month

Budding entrepreneurs living or working in Taranaki will have the opportunity to attend a free ten-day business course from May 22 – June 2.



South Taranaki District Council (STDC) has partnered with the Ministry of Social Development, Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs, Venture Taranaki, Bizlink Hāwera and Fonterra to bring Rebel Business School Aotearoa back to Taranaki.

STDC Business Development Manager Scott Willson says the Business School, one of the Council's economic and social development initiatives, proved very successful the last time it was run in the region in 2021.

"Over ten days, Rebel Business School delivers twenty workshops designed to equip participants with the tools they need to start their own business. Topics include building a website for free, the quickest way to find a customer and how to start a business with no money. The course does away with

traditional thinking by replacing business plans with actionable, no-cost steps," says Willson.

The course is free to participants who need only to commit to the ten days of the course. Running from 9.30am – 2.30pm daily, the first seven days will be interactive online sessions and Hāwera will host the final three days, including a trade show of the newly created businesses and a graduate celebration.

"I'm excited by the positive local impact Rebel Business School brings. This gives anyone in Taranaki the opportunity to start a business and make money doing what they love. Participants get to turn their idea into reality and even make their first sales within ten days. After the course, there is an excellent support network in place to help people grow their businesses," Willson says. "We had some success stories last time we hosted the course and I'm sure we will see some fantastic businesses emerge again this year."

While the course is free for participants to attend, it would not have happened without the generous support of its funding partners - STDC, MSD, Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs, Venture Taranaki, Bizlink Hāwera and Fonterra.

For more information and to get involved go to: <https://www.rebelbusinessschool.nz/taranaki-may-2023.html>

Upcoming Meetings

Ordinary Council
Monday 15 May, 4pm

Risk and Assurance Committee
Wednesday 17 May, 11am

Te Hāwera Community Board
Monday 29 May, 11am
Ōhawe Hall, Ōhawe Terrace, Hāwera

Pātea Community Board
Monday 29 May, 4pm
Wai o Turi Marae, Lower Kaharoa Road, Pātea

Eltham-Kaponga Community Board
Wednesday 31 May, 10.30am
Taumata Recreation Centre, Preston Street, Eltham

Taranaki Coastal Community Board
Wednesday 31 May 2023 at 2.30 pm
Oaonui Hall, 5142 South Road, Ōpunakē

Unless otherwise specified, meetings are held in the Council Chamber, Administration Building, Albion Street, Hāwera

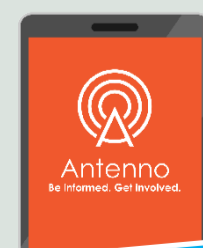
Rates due

Ratepayers are reminded that the last day for payment of the fourth instalment of rates for 2022/23 without incurring a penalty will be Wednesday 31 May 2023.

Are you eligible for a rates rebate?

There is a Rates Rebate Scheme (established in 1973 by the Government) to provide a subsidy to low-income homeowners on the cost of their rates. The maximum rebate given for 2022/23 is \$700. The closing date for applications is 30 June 2023. Are you eligible? Find out by visiting www.southtaranaki.com/ratesrebate

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