

# Tuia Taitonga Southlink

CHECK YOUR EMAIL AND  
LETTERBOXES AS  
DOG REGISTRATIONS  
ARE BEING SENT  
OUT IN THE  
NEXT WEEK



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

## Council and Volunteers Working Together for their Community



A new position at the South Taranaki District Council (STDC) is proving to be a win-win for volunteers and the District's communities.

Seven months ago, Alice Arnold was appointed as the Council's first places and spaces volunteer coordinator. Employed three days a week, Alice works alongside volunteer groups involved in public 'green' spaces (parks and reserves) to support community driven initiatives and enhance the environment.

"My role is to coordinate and facilitate volunteer community groups, helping them contribute to horticultural and outdoor projects and maintenance work across public parks and spaces in South Taranaki," says Alice. "We have many people who want to get involved and already do something on a voluntary basis in the community. I can support or coordinate their activities, particularly around health and safety requirements." With a current focus on horticultural initiatives, Alice helps by suggesting appropriate plantings for specific locations, enriching the beauty of the District's public spaces. "As the liaison between volunteer groups and the Council, particularly the Parks team, it's important to ensure the volunteer work complements the ongoing efforts of the Parks staff in the spaces and places they oversee."

In addition to coordinating volunteer activities, Alice also ensures the safety of the active volunteer groups by providing guidance on health and safety matters when needed. Some of the groups Alice is currently working with include the Pātea planting volunteers, Manaia Maara Kai (community garden), Te Paepae o Aotea student planting group, Restore Eltham (planting at Soldiers Park), the Friends of Hāwera Parks and their sub group that volunteer in Goodson Dell, Hāwera Cemetery and King Edward Park. STDC properties and facilities operations manager, Phil Waite, recognises the invaluable role Alice will play in developing strong volunteer programmes that promote civic participation and improve community well-being.

"I believe Alice's leadership will inspire and mobilise residents, growing our culture of volunteerism and community," Phil says. "This approach maximises the positive impact volunteers have and creates a collaborative partnership between community-driven projects and the Council's objectives."

Alice has a clear vision of what she wants to achieve.

"I get so much satisfaction supporting those people who want to do something positive for their community. I want to strengthen the volunteer network, streamline processes and establish a framework that nurtures a sense of pride and engagement among volunteers. I also want to ensure the longevity of volunteer efforts by actively linking individuals and groups to ongoing volunteer projects and spaces, allowing the hard work already invested to continue and thrive in the long term."

Anyone interested in participating in planting/gardening volunteer activities or seeking further information is encouraged to contact Alice on 0800 111 323.

### Upcoming meetings

Te Kāhui Mataurura  
Wednesday 7 June, 10am

Environment and Hearings  
Committee  
Wednesday 7 June, 4pm

District Plan Review Committee  
Wednesday 7 June, 6pm

Policy and Strategy Committee  
Monday 12 June, 1pm

Resource Consent RML22055  
- Hearing heard by an External  
Commissioner, Alan Withy  
Monday 19 June, 9am  
Tairoa Lodge, 3 Puawai Street,  
Hāwera

Risk and Assurance Committee  
Wednesday 21 June, 1pm

*Unless specified, meetings are held at  
the Council Chambers, Administration  
Building, Albion Street, Hāwera.*



LYSAGHT WATT TRUST  
RONALD HUGH  
MORRIESON  
*Literary Awards 2023*

### Meet the Judges Evening and Free Workshops

Meet the Judges Evening  
Friday 16 June, 6 - 7.30pm  
Hāwera LibraryPlus

Please RSVP by emailing  
[entries@stdc.govt.nz](mailto:entries@stdc.govt.nz)

### Free Judges Workshops

Saturday 17 June  
Te W'anake | The Foundry, Hāwera

- Short Story Workshop with Emma Hislop, 9am - 12noon
- Poetry Workshop with Mikaela Nyman, 1 - 4pm

These are filling up fast! There's only a couple of spaces left for each of these workshops, so email [librarycontact@stdc.govt.nz](mailto:librarycontact@stdc.govt.nz) to register.

## More South Taranaki History goes Online

South Taranaki LibraryPlus have an exciting new offering for the district's residents, which will also benefit family history researchers worldwide, says South Taranaki District Council cultural services librarian Cath Sheard.

As part of the Government's COVID-19 Relief packages, the Council secured funding to digitise around 200 books from its local history collection.

"The digitised books are available from our online catalogue. You can find a book you are interested in, open the PDF and search for names or places that interest you," says Cath. "Many PDF readers also have a read-aloud function so you can even have the document read to you."

The collection covers history from around the district, including sport's club centennials, church celebrations, and school jubilees.

Cath says the digitised histories are another great addition to the LibraryPlus' online services.

"We already offer a range of eBooks, newspapers and magazines online, and now people can also do some family



history research from the comfort of their own homes."

To join the South Taranaki LibraryPlus network simply pop into one their seven facilities or visit

[www.southtaranaki.com/libraryplus](http://www.southtaranaki.com/libraryplus)

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