



EmpowerYouth Establishes Inaugural Committee



Front Row (From the left): Lilly Paulger (Waverley), Ebony Kalin (Chair, Hāwera/Manaia), Kairo Garrett (Hāwera), Evita Morellon (Hāwera), Kaia Prince (Hāwera/Normanby). **Back Row** (From the left): Rob Haveswood (STDC), Racquel Cleaver-Pittams (Cr), Marama Mohi (Ōpunakē), Kauby Ngatai (Eltham), Kymani Parata (Ōpunakē), Mayor Phil Nixon.

Absent: Orlando Davidson (Pātea), Tom Tito-Green (Ōpunakē/Manaia), Liesa Hofstadler (Hāwera).

South Taranaki's newest youth organisation EmpowerYouth, held its first meeting in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 14 June.

Founder and chair Ebony Kalin was excited to introduce the team who got straight down to business discussing the initiatives and ideas the group wishes to explore. Working in collaboration with the Council, Ebony says EmpowerYouth aims to create a platform for young people to express their opinions, collaborate on ideas, and actively contribute to the growth and development of their District. "The EmpowerYouth committee serves two primary purposes," says Ebony. "Firstly, it acts as a youth voice for South Taranaki by establishing connections with secondary schools, sending submissions on Council projects, surveys, and events, and advocating for the concerns and ideas raised by young people. Secondly, it strives to increase youth community engagement by organising events, participating in community projects, supporting the Council's community events and working closely with schools," she says. "With the Council's support, EmpowerYouth will play a vital role in shaping a brighter future for the District, where young individuals are actively involved and contribute to their community's growth. I'm extremely excited to see what we can achieve together."

Speed Limits Around Schools to Reduce



Speed limits around schools in South Taranaki are set to be reduced following Waka Kotahi's approval of the South Taranaki District Council's Interim Speed Management Plan.

Senior policy advisor Anne Sattler says the Council had to reduce speed limits around schools as part of the Government's Land Transport Rule - Setting of Speed Limits 2022. "We are required to reduce speed limits outside 40% of our schools before 30 June 2024. We felt it made sense to consult with all schools at the same time," says Anne.

Following public consultation held in early 2023, which saw 105 submissions made, Council decided to introduce 30km/h permanent speed limits outside urban schools, and 60km/h permanent speed limits with a 30km/h speed limit during school hours outside rural schools.

"Councillors decided that consistency across the District was needed, so all urban schools and all rural schools were treated equally," says Anne. "For schools that share a boundary with a State Highway, which Waka Kotahi are responsible for, we will work with them to reduce their speed limits so there is consistency for all road users." Anne says speed management is about achieving safe and appropriate vehicle speeds on roads that reflect the road's function, design, safety and use.

"We want everyone to get home safely every time, and to feel comfortable choosing from a range of safe travel options be it driving, walking, biking, or scootering!"

Over the next 12 months the Council's roading team will progressively install signs to reflect the new speed limits.

Road Safety Changes on Camberwell Road

Following a three-month trial period, changes have been made to the traffic safety/calming measures introduced on the section of Camberwell Road outside Te Paepae o Aotea.

Council's group manager of Infrastructure Services Herbert Denton says after meeting with stakeholders and residents it was decided to reduce the number of speed cushions along the road, relocate two and remove the Stop sign at the Camberwell Road and Surrey Street intersection.

"In addition, and along with schools throughout the District, the speed limit around Te Paepae o Aotea will also be reduced to 30km per hour," says Denton. "Over the next 12 months the Council's roading team will progressively install new signs outside our schools to reflect the new speed

limits."

Denton says the issue of student road safety arose following the amalgamation of Hāwera Intermediate and Hāwera High School into a new school, Te Paepae o Aotea.

"With the new students and temporary classrooms on Bayly Park, the school was essentially dissected by Camberwell Road," he says. "Te Paepae o Aotea initially requested that Council temporarily close a section of Camberwell Road to ensure student safety as they cross Camberwell Road, however following community opposition other alternatives such as speed cushions were introduced for a trial period."

Upcoming meetings

Ordinary Council

Monday 26 June, 4pm
Council Chamber, Administration Building, Albion Street, Hāwera

Te Hāwera Community Board

Monday 10 July, 11am
Hāwera Senior Citizens Association, 81 Victoria Street, Hāwera

Pātea Community Board

Monday 10 July, 4pm
Hunter Shaw Building, Egmont Street, Pātea

Eltham-Kaponga Community Board

Wednesday 12 July, 10.30am
War Memorial Hall, Victoria Street, Kaponga

Taranaki Coastal Community Board

Wednesday 12 July, 2.30pm
Te Kiri Hall, Eltham Road, Te Kiri



National Volunteer's Week

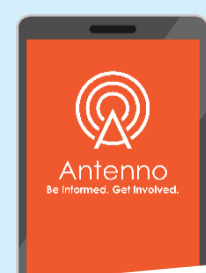
18 - 24 June

Mayor Phil Nixon and the South Taranaki District Council would like to thank all volunteers in the District for all that you have done throughout the year for our communities.



We appreciate you all!

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