

Tuia Taitonga Southlink



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

Strong Progress Made Despite Challenges



In addition, co-design teams had been established, and draft plans developed for the Waverley, Ōpunakē, and Eltham town centre upgrades and the completion of a new architecturally designed building at Aotea Utanganui – Museum of South Taranaki in Pātea.

South Taranaki Mayor, Phil Nixon acknowledged the strong progress made amid difficult economic conditions.

“As a result of global instability, rising costs and a sluggish domestic economy the Council finished the year with a modest \$768,000 budget deficit. A tight labour market and ongoing COVID-19 supply issues saw significant price increases with higher-than-expected interest rates and contractor costs, particularly in roading and construction,” he says.

Five severe weather events over the course of the year also saw \$3.4 million of unbudgeted repairs needed on the District’s road infrastructure.

Despite the volatile market conditions the Council’s Long Term Investment Fund performed better than expected and, after allowing for the withdrawal of the annual rates subsidy, finished the year at \$144.8 million.

The Annual Report also noted that satisfaction with Council services remained high with 89% of residents happy with the overall service the Council provides and 92% believing the Council is moving in the right direction. The services that had the lowest satisfaction rates were the condition of roads and animal management.

Despite challenging economic conditions, the South Taranaki District Council demonstrated significant progress on a number of key initiatives as outlined in its 2022/23 Annual Report which was adopted at Monday’s (30 October) Council meeting. The Report, audited by Deloitte, highlighted progress on Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga (the District’s new Library, Culture and Arts Centre), the South Taranaki Business Park and completion of Te W’anake/The Foundry as being particularly notable.

2023 Literary Award Winners Announced

The Lysaght-Watt Trust Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards were held on the evening of Thursday 26 October, in Hāwera. This year’s judges, Emma Hislop, Mikaela Nyman and Matt Rilkoff shared their thoughts on the overall calibre of entries, along with comments about each winning piece of work. The judges noted the works were very grounded in the South Taranaki landscape and brought Morrieson right back into the room. A copy of the finalists’ winning entries can be found in the 2023 Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards Finalist Book. You can order a copy from any South Taranaki LibraryPlus for \$5.

The winners for this year are:

Short Story - Secondary School

1st - “F***” – Catherine Hurly, Taranaki Diocesan School for Girls

2nd: “Grass Stains and Giggles” – Shaneya Patel – Te Paepae o Aotea

3rd: “Ready to Go” – Lauren Kalin – Te Paepae o Aotea

Short Story - Open Section

1st - “Run!” – Pip Harrison - Hāwera

2nd: “The Rabbit” – Bruce Finer - Hāwera

3rd: “Looking for Work”

– James O’Sullivan – New Plymouth

Poetry - Secondary School

1st: “Olden Youth” – Zoe Kruse – Ōpunakē High School

2nd: “One Question” – Aria Brophy – Ōpunakē High School

3rd: “Saturday Morning” – Bethany Gyde – Te Paepae o Aotea

Poetry - Open Section

1st: “You beauty” Maria Taylor - Stratford

2nd: “Sound” – Maria Taylor - Stratford

3rd: “Tioka and tīhi / Chalk and cheese” – For my Wairua - Pātea

Research Article

1st: “Banana Cup” – Stacey Lodge – Taranaki Diocesan School for Girls

2nd: “Homecoming” – Ella Butterworth – Sacred Heart Girls College

3rd: “Past Imperfect” – Oliver Marsh – New Plymouth Boys High

Flow Resumes to Ōpunakē Lake



Following advice from engineering consultants WSP, the process for refilling Ōpunakē Lake began on Sunday 29 October, with the gates being opened at the weir near the Waiaua Bridge at SH45. Council Property and

Facilities Manager Phil Waite says people will start to see the lake level rise slowly over the next few days.

“The refilling process will be managed with the first part to “flush” the canal. As the water level rises it will flow over the spillway on the eastern side in an effort to clean some of it, before the gate at the southern end is opened. Eventually, water will flow through the generation plant and out to sea via the channel at Ōpunakē Beach, for which it was originally designed.” Phil says it will be good to see the water flowing back into the Lake after it was stopped following the February 2022 storm, where a large part of the embankment

between the Lake and Waiaua River failed. “We lowered the lake level due to concerns that further pressure on the riverbank could result in a breach of the lake wall.” Serious erosion also occurred on other sections of the Waiaua River, particularly around the Ōpunakē Transfer Station and near Orimupiko Urupā. Council commissioned engineers (WSP) to design riverbank protection works using rock to repair the affected sections of riverbank and initial discussions have been held with some of the stakeholders affected by the erosion.

Upcoming meetings

Extraordinary Council
Full Speed Management Plan Hearings
Monday 6 November, 9am

Extraordinary Environment and Hearing Committee
Wednesday 8 November, 4pm

Te Hāwera Community Board
Monday 13 November, 11am
Normanby School, 3 Hunter Street, Normanby

Pātea Community Board
Monday 13 November, 4pm
Hunter Shaw Building, Egmont Street, Pātea

Eltham-Kaponga Community Board
Wednesday 15 November, 10.30am
Taumata Recreation Centre, Preston Street, Eltham

Taranaki Coastal Community Board
Wednesday 15 November, 2.30pm
Otakeho Hall, 10 Auroa Road, Otakeho

Risk and Assurance Committee
Monday 20 November, 11am

Te Kāhui Matauraura
Wednesday 22 November, 10am

Environment and Hearings Committee
Wednesday 22 November, 4pm

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



Arts in the Park registrations cut off

Our events team has been inundated with stall registrations for this year's Arts in the Park and we're near our limit. Get in quick if you are interested in having a stall at this year's market, as there's only a couple of spots left!
www.southtaranaki.com/artsinthepark

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