

Pātea Loop Track Complete

Pātea's new Loop Track was officially blessed by Ngāti Ruanui kaumatua on Wednesday 28 February, marking the culmination of an eight-month project as part of the Council's Pathways Programme.

The ceremony, attended by South Taranaki Deputy Mayor Rob Northcott, Chief Executive Fiona Aitken and Pātea Community Board members, celebrated the successful completion of the 5km multi-use loop pathway.

A community-driven initiative, the pathway is designed to accommodate various activities such as walking, jogging and cycling. A shorter 3.5km loop through Kent Street has also been added, which is accessible for all members of the community. Locals had already been using a part of the loop pathway frequently prior to the upgrade project, prompting the Community Board and Council to see the potential and opportunity to turn an important part of the town into something vibrant for members of the community and visitors to enjoy, while adding some new elements along the way.

Deputy Mayor Rob Northcott says the 5km track offers lots of flexibility and can be started on either York Street or Bourke's Lookout.

"The Pātea Loop Track not only enhances the recreational opportunities for the community but also reflects a collaboration



between Council, community leaders and residents towards supporting vibrant communities," he says. "I expect the track will become a hub for community well-being, providing a scenic and accessible space for everyone to enjoy."

Upcoming Meetings

Te Kāhui Matauraura
Wednesday 13 March, 10am

Extraordinary Council
Purpose: to consider a proposed District Plan change for consultation
Wednesday 13 March, 1pm

Environment and Hearings Committee
Wednesday 13 March, 4pm

Policy and Strategy Committee
Monday 18 March, 1pm

Extraordinary Council
Purpose: to review and adopt LTP consultation document
Monday 18 March, 2.30pm

Risk and Assurance Committee
Wednesday 27 March, 1pm

Ordinary Council
Wednesday 3 April, 4pm

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

Extension of Eltham Road Closure

The road closure currently in place in Eltham on King Edward Street and Rawhitiroa Road needs to be extended for another four weeks. The work is now expected to be completed by Monday 8 April.

The detour will remain in place via Anderson Road to allow access to the remainder of Rawhitiroa Road. While only a portion of the road will be closed, we

advise all traffic (particularly heavy vehicles) to continue to follow the detour to avoid having to turn around at the closed section.

The closed section of road will continue to be only available to residents who live within it, emergency services, rubbish collection trucks (Council kerbside collection will continue as normal – please have your bins ready for collection by 7.30am) and vehicles related to necessary agricultural activity (e.g. rural contractors and milk tankers).

End of season for Community Pools

Taranaki Anniversary, Monday 11 March, is the last day of the Community Summer Pools season. Get out there and enjoy the free pools this weekend. Head to www.southtaranaki.com/summerpools to see when each pool is open.

Hāwera LibraryPlus Introduces New Self Book Check In and Out Technology



Hāwera LibraryPlus is excited to introduce SmartShelf, an innovative technology that allows book lovers to self-check books in and out in a matter of seconds. It works similarly to self-service checkouts in other stores. Borrowers are able to find and take a book to the self-service checkout, scan their library card and chosen books and they're set to take them home.

Returning a book is even easier, as borrowers can simply place the books they are returning on the SmartShelf, which will automatically register the book as returned using the RFID tags inside the cover.

Council's libraries and cultural services manager Cath Sheard says that the new system is great for people in a hurry or who want to limit their interactions with others.

"Many businesses now offer self-service as an option, so we are introducing both technologies so people can get used to them ahead of Hāwera LibraryPlus moving into Te Ramanui o Raupūtahanga later in the year," says Cath.

There's no need to worry if you prefer the old school way of doing things however, as borrowers can still be served at the counter by a librarian.

"People are still able to come and see the team at the counter. The purpose of the shelf is not to reduce face-to-face contact, but to provide another easy way to check in and out books if the library staff are busy, for example".

Hāwera LibraryPlus Branch Librarian Ann-Louise Vonk demonstrating the SmartShelf book return and self-checkout system.

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