



January



February



March



April

Programme lead Leigh Honnor (left) with co-author Janet Hunt.

Biosecurity was in the spotlight at the beginning of the year with the discovery of a red-eared slider turtle in Bell Block. An invasive pest species was captured after a tip-off from a local. Elsewhere, New Zealand moved to red under the new Covid-19 traffic light system with the public urged to contact the Council via phone or email rather than in person.

The New Zealand Garden Bird Survey results showed a five-year increase in Taranaki of native birds including kererū, tūi and pīwakawaka (fantails) - reinforcing the great work of Towards Predator-Free Taranaki and the community. We kept a close eye on flood defences in February as the region was hit by heavy rain. The deluge saw 138mm of rain recorded at Cape Egmont in just four hours.

We ran a marine oil spill response exercise in New Plymouth's harbour alongside Port Taranaki, New Plymouth Underwater Ltd and iwi. We do these to ensure that if there was a real oil spill, everyone would be familiar with the equipment and the correct procedures. An ecologist was on hand to check on the wellbeing of penguins and other wildlife in the area.

Gardeners got a helping hand in the war against weeds with the release of the Weedbusters Taranaki booklet. The guide identifies weeds that need to be reported and/or removed and the best native plants to replace the 'weed-shaped hole'. There was good news for local bus users as the Government's temporary half price public transport fares came into effect.



May

Will Bowden from New Zealand Turf Management Solutions.



June



July

Director-Corporate Services Mike Nield with one of the cars.



August

The refurbishment work at Yarrow Stadium ramped up with experts laying the groundwork for a new and more resilient main pitch. We continued to build on our strong partnership with tangata whenua with the signing of a memorandum of understanding with Ngā Iwi o Taranaki and agreeing to fund two iwi-appointed and administered roles to work with the Council on the development of a Natural Resources Plan.

We released *Our Place: Taranaki State of Environment 2022*, which compiles data collected by the Council and others to outline the condition of the region's climate, air, land and water and some of the challenges ahead. The report considers what major changes in national environmental policy and legislation may mean for Taranaki, particularly in the area of freshwater management.

Our fleet went cleaner and greener with the addition of 11 hybrid and one fully electric vehicles as efforts continue to cut emissions and become more sustainable. The 12 vehicles will reduce carbon emissions by .32 tonne per year. We also joined forces with the Ministry for Primary Industries on a new biosecurity initiative to identify potential pest pathways into Taranaki and prevent incursions.

It was a bumper month for Taranaki buses, with the Connector setting a new record, big passenger increases across the whole network and a total of more than 76,650 passenger trips. Meanwhile, alligator weed was discovered in a lagoon in Waitara with work started to find out if the invasive weed had spread.



October



November



December

The Council continued its strong and prudent financial management, reporting a \$2.6m surplus as the 2021/22 Annual Report was adopted. The month also saw the return of the Yarrows Taranaki Bulls to Yarrow Stadium with the venue hosting games for the first time since 2019. Meanwhile, voting papers went out to residents for the 2022 local body elections.

The local elections saw four new faces voted onto the Council. Joining newly-elected members Susan Hughes, Donna Cram, Alan Jamieson and Bonita Bigham were returning councillors Charlotte Littlewood (pictured), Tom Cloke, David Lean, Craig Williamson, Donald McIntyre, Mike Davey and Neil Walker. Mrs Littlewood was elected Chair with Mr Walker her deputy. A kōrero was launched to get people's views on freshwater and how it should be cared for.

We recognised the fantastic work of schools, farmers, businesses and the community at the 2022 Taranaki Regional Council Environmental Awards. Some 19 environmental heroes received awards for their work. The month also saw the launch of the Transit app, making it easier to catch the bus with real-time tracking. Weekly monitoring of 40 popular swim spots across the region began for the summer, as part of the Can I Swim Here campaign.

We were delighted with the response to our Let's Kōrero community conversation about freshwater with more than 200 surveys and comments completed and submitted online and at the Stratford A&P Show (above). The data will be used as the Council continues the kōrero next year on outcomes, limits and targets as we work towards creating a Natural Resources Plan for Taranaki.

YOUR COUNCILLORS

New Plymouth Constituency Tom Cloke: tom.cloke@trc.govt.nz - Susan Hughes: susan.hughes@trc.govt.nz - David Lean: david.lean@trc.govt.nz
Charlotte Littlewood (Chair): charlotte.littlewood@trc.govt.nz - Craig Williamson: craig.williamson@trc.govt.nz
North Taranaki Constituency Mike Davey: mike.davey@trc.govt.nz - Donald McIntyre: donald.mcintyre@trc.govt.nz
Stratford Constituency Alan Jamieson: alan.jamieson@trc.govt.nz
South Taranaki Constituency Donna Cram: donna.cram@trc.govt.nz - Neil Walker (Deputy Chair): neil.walker@trc.govt.nz
Taranaki Māori Constituency Bonita Bigham: bonita.bigham@trc.govt.nz

0800 736 222
info@trc.govt.nz
www.trc.govt.nz
TaranakiRegionalCouncil