



January

Our Towards Predator-Free Taranaki programme received \$2.5 million in Government funding to more than double the size of its possum eradication zone. The original Zero Possum area in Ōākura/Kaitake was extended to the Hangatahua (Stony) River, bringing about 5000ha and 120 extra farms into scope, including the Ōkato township. It's progressing well, with more than 2500 possums removed this year.



February

Our Coastal and Marine Science team took to the skies to monitor the rocky reefs around South Taranaki. Thanks to Beck Helicopters, they were able to get a bird's eye view of the reefs and then spent time monitoring the coastal water quality and marine habitats. The tests on mussels for E. coli and norovirus help tell us the state of environment in the marine areas.



March

Our Biosecurity team was on a moth plant mission after discovering several large plants in New Plymouth's eastern suburbs. Moth plant is a prolific seeder, with each pod containing thousands of seeds easily spread by wind. Subsequent inspections and public tip-offs helped us identify and control more than 50 infestations. Moth plant is one of 16 pest plants in our Regional Pest Management Plan.



April

Artist Maryanne Shearman.

Our first PredARTor Free Showcase opened at Pukeiti and featured works of art by New Zealand artists. The exhibition raised awareness of Taranaki and New Zealand's predator-free journey with the 50 artists drawing on their personal connection to the environment and nature. Towards Predator-Free Taranaki and conservation groups hosted walks, talks and information sessions.



May

We were stoked to secure \$3.6m in funding to continue our South Taranaki and Regional Erosion Support Scheme (STRESS) for the next four years. This initiative helps hill country farmers undertake soil conservation projects, with funding coming from the Ministry for Primary Industries. Our staff run the scheme, working alongside farmers to prevent sediment going into waterways.



Bee

June

There was good news for young bus users with those aged 5-12 now able to go free on buses in the region. BEE Card holders aged 13-24 travel half price. Figures for the 2022/23 financial year showed a 27.6% increase in the number of people using buses in Taranaki with nearly 700,000 passengers on public transport provided by the Council.



July

The redevelopment of Yarrow Stadium hit another milestone with the appointment of local contractor Clelands Construction to complete the \$42m East Stand build. After the completion of below ground civil works, construction could now begin on the new stand. The overall budget for the project moved to \$79.7m from \$70m due to the impact of inflation and rising costs.



August

Our regional gardens Pukeiti and Tūpare were named in Tripadvisor's top 10% of attractions worldwide. The Travellers' Choice 2023 accolades came after so many visitors had given the gardens glowing reviews after trips to the North Taranaki attractions. In 2022/23 nearly 125,000 people visited the Council-owned Pukeiti, Tūpare and Hollard Gardens.



September

We launched two major community conversations in September as we sought views on the next steps for freshwater in the region and Better Travel Choices for Taranaki. The responses will guide how we look after freshwater and the setting of limits and targets for our waterways while the transport feedback will shape the development of the Regional Land Transport Plan next year.



October

Port Taranaki Harbour Master Tony Parr reminded boaties of the importance of carrying lifejackets as the weather started to improve and seafarers began to head out for a trip on the water. The safety campaign is urging recreational boat users to carry properly fitted lifejackets or personal flotation devices on board and follow simple rules to keep everyone safe this summer.



November

Groups and individuals who have gone above and beyond in their mahi to protect the region were honoured at the 2023 Taranaki Regional Council Environmental Awards. The winners included a project to protect 70km of coastline, an innovative solar power farm, farmers and a group who have worked to safeguard freshwater and efforts to improve biodiversity in the eastern hill country.



December

Our work to let people know if it's safe for a dip in the sea, a river or a lake ramped up for the summer with weekly Can I Swim Here? monitoring at 41 popular swimming spots. The message is for people to wait three days after heavy or prolonged rain and check our website for warnings. Water users such as boaties, kayakers and jet skiers are being reminded to Check, Clean, Dry their equipment after use to stop the spread of freshwater pests.

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