

Chairman's chat

Busy year ahead in local government

Ka mihi nui ki a koutou katoa, greetings to you all. This may be the first *Talking Taranaki* for 2022 but we're already in the thick of what will be another busy year of challenge, change and opportunity.



apace both at national and local levels. We will keep you up-to-date on significant developments.

The Council will also be stepping up engagement with the community around the implementation of the Government's Essential Freshwater rules. Please do take the opportunity to provide your thoughts and feedback. There's also

the small matter of local government elections to fit in later in the year!

And of course, we're starting our third year of life against a backdrop of COVID-19. It's

a worrying time for many right now as case numbers grow. Please, take care of each other and reach out for help if you need it. I'm confident the Council is well-prepared and has plans in place to ensure the continuation of essential services, while keeping our staff and the community safe.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge those affected by the recent heavy rain and Cyclone Dovi events. While devastating, it was heartening to see how everyone pulled together to help with the clean-up. Thank you for your mahi.

David MacLeod, Chair

Around & about the region



All go at Yarrow Stadium

Yarrow Stadium is on track to reopen for the 2022 winter sports season, with work currently underway to replace the West Stand roof. Subsoil drainage is being installed on the main pitch, ahead of laying the new GrassMaster hybrid turf. Meanwhile, work continues on the design for the new and improved East Stand.

→ tinyurl.com/yarrow-roof

Annual Plan process streamlined

The Council has agreed to follow a streamlined process for the preparation and adoption of the 2022/2023 Annual Plan. As the proposed Plan contains no significant or material differences from the 2021/2031 Long-Term Plan, no further public consultation is required. This is in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002. A separate special consultative process will be held for the adoption of fees and charges under section 36 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

→ www.trc.govt.nz/long-term-plans

Unlocking curious minds

Do you have an idea for a collaborative research project? Since 2015, Curious Minds Taranaki has helped fund 60 projects and funding of up to \$20,000 is now available for science, technology, and mātauranga research projects. Curious Minds is a Participatory Science Platform delivered by Venture Taranaki in collaboration with the Council and funded by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. Applications for the 2022 funding cycle close 21 March at:

→ www.curiousmindstaranaki.org.nz

Your Councillors

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Read the newsletter online:

www.trc.govt.nz/talking-taranaki/

Taking Taranaki forward

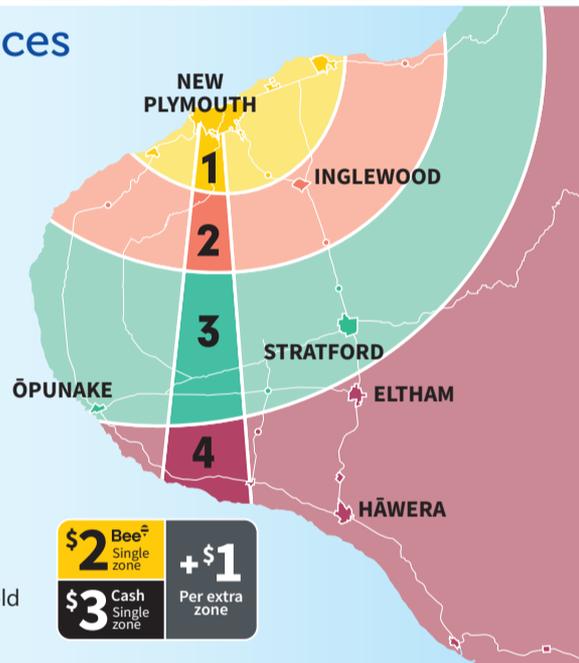
Exciting changes for Taranaki bus services

It's been an eventful start to the year for Taranaki public transport, with a new simplified bus fare system and additional regional school bus services proving popular with passengers.

As of 31 January, the number of bus fare zones in Taranaki reduced from 25 to just four. There is now a flat fare for all passengers travelling within a single zone, with an additional \$1 for each boundary crossed. That means a single journey anywhere within New Plymouth (including Bell Block and Egmont Village) is just \$2 and a trip from Hāwera to New Plymouth is just \$5, with a Bee Card.

The start of the school year saw three new school bus services introduced, spelling great news for South and Central Taranaki high school students and their whānau. Two dedicated Your Connector services run from Hāwera, one going to New Plymouth Boys' High School and Francis Douglas Memorial College and another to New Plymouth Girls' High School and Sacred Heart Girls' College. There is also a new Inglewood to New Plymouth school service while the Ōkato to New Plymouth Boys' High route has been updated.

Feedback to date has been overwhelmingly positive, with passengers appreciating the improved accessibility and simplicity.



FREE Travel

For children under 5 years (any time), WITT students (ID must be presented), NZ SuperGold card off-peak travel (9am-3pm weekdays & all day Saturday).



Caring for Taranaki

Support available for Taranaki residents affected by COVID-19

With COVID-19 now spreading rapidly through Taranaki, many of us will be affected in some way. If you or family members are unwell, we wish you a full recovery.

If you are self-isolating because you have COVID-19 or are a household contact make a plan and reach out to your networks. Think about who can safely deliver essential supplies to you. But if you are having trouble accessing food or other items call the Government's welfare support line 0800 512 337, 7 days a week from 8am-8pm.

If you employ staff or are self-employed, you can apply for Government COVID-19 financial support – this includes farmers. Go to www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19.

Over the coming weeks TDHB is running a series of rural community vaccination clinics. First, second, booster and tamariki (5 and over) vaccinations are available, as are MMR immunisations for those aged 15-30. **No bookings needed, just walk in.** The DHB's vaccination team will be happy to answer questions and talk through any concerns you may have.

For more information about regular or pop-up vaccination clinics in Taranaki, or to keep up-to-date with the situation in our region, please visit www.tdhub.org.nz.

COVID-19 rural community vaccination clinics Open 12pm to 6pm

March

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| 7 | Inglewood | TET Stadium |
| 8 | Whangamōmona | Whangamōmona Community Hall |
| 9 | Kaimata | Kaimata Community Hall |
| 10 | Toko | Toko Hall |
| 15 | Rahotu | Domain Rugby Club |
| 16 | Oaonui | Oaonui Hall |
| 17 | Ōkato | Hempton Hall |
| 18 | Pihama | Pihama Community Hall |
| 21 | Auroa | Auroa Hall |
| 22 | Kaponga | Kaponga Hall |
| 23 | Bell Block | Fred Tucker Community Centre |
| 24 | Te Kiri | Te Kiri Hall |
| 28 | Eltham | Town Hall |
| 29 | Pātea | Hunter Shaw Building |
| 30 | Mimi | Waitoetoe Hall |

Kia kaha Taranaki, we've got this.

Unite
against
COVID-19

Working with people | caring for Taranaki