

Tuia te Taitonga tāpiringa

Southlink Extra

Summer 2025



Welcome to Southlink Extra

Welcome to the first edition of *Southlink Extra* for 2025. This quarterly newsletter complements our Council *Southlink* publication, which appears weekly in the Taranaki Star and provides another way for us to keep you informed about what the Council is doing in our District.

Local Contractors Shine in transformational Waverley Revitalisation Projects

The South Taranaki District Council's town revitalisation efforts in Waverley have not only transformed the town's public spaces but also provided a significant boost to the local economy. Thanks to lead contractor Waina View Civil Ltd, the projects prioritised employing local subcontractors, showcasing the skills and resources within the Waverley community.

From the State Highway main street upgrade to enhancements at the Waverley Domain, local businesses contributed extensively to the success of these projects.

The commitment to using local subcontractors has created both economic and social benefits for the town. By sourcing services and materials locally, the projects have injected funds into the community, supported local



employment, and strengthened business networks. These efforts have also fostered a strong sense of community ownership and pride in the revitalisation initiatives.

Waverley residents can now enjoy enhanced public spaces, from safer pedestrian crossings and a vibrant café deck on the main street to scenic pathways and green spaces at the Waverley Domain. These improvements have not only beautified the town

but also made it more accessible and inviting for residents and visitors alike.

The Council extends its gratitude to Waina View Civil Ltd and all the local subcontractors whose hard work and dedication have helped make Waverley's revitalisation a reality. This collaboration stands as a shining example of how investing in local talent can deliver outstanding results for the community.

We are expecting a long, hot summer

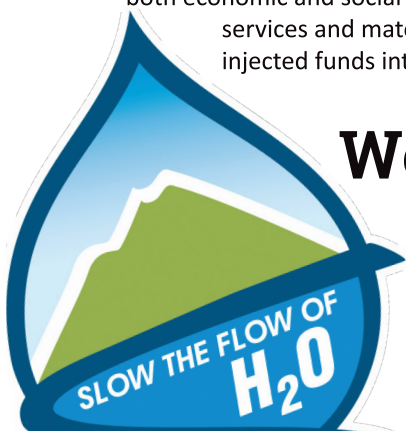
Are you doing your bit and conserving water wherever possible?

Water is a valuable resource. We do not have an unlimited amount. Trends indicate that unless we reduce consumption, demand will soon exceed supply. We need to reduce consumption and

wastage of this resource all year round to ensure continuity of supply and to keep costs down.

Find out more at

www.southtaranaki.com/waterconservation



Whakapā mai / Contact us



Call us 24/7 0800 111 323



www.southtaranaki.com



www.facebook.com/SouthTaranakiDistrictCouncil



Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga open

Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga – the region’s newest Library, South Taranaki isite Visitor Information Centre and art gallery was officially opened in Decemeber in Hāwera, 128 years after the original Hāwera Library was built. South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon who opened the \$15.5 million facility said the long-awaited opening realised the completion of a major milestone in the Council’s Town Centre Strategy for Hāwera.

“This modern, multi-functional facility, which includes a library, art gallery, AA and South Taranaki isite Visitor Information Centre, café and public toilets will provide residents and visitors with a wide range of services and bring more foot traffic right into the heart of Hāwera,” says Nixon.

Nixon acknowledged it had been quite a journey which started back in December 2014 under the leadership of former mayor Ross Dunlop almost 10 years ago and reflected on the major successes that had taken place as a result.

“Since then, we’ve seen the completion of Campbell Lane, extension of carparks on Victoria Street, opening up of Nelson Street carpark with Korimako Lane, the massive Countdown (now Woolworths) development in the Nelson/Victoria/Union St precinct, the Foundry-Te W’anake co-working space and enterprise hub on High Street and restoration work is currently being undertaken on the old heritage building directly opposite Te Ramanui,” he says.

“One of the key goals underpinning Council’s Town Centre Strategy was that it would be a catalyst to drive change and to encourage private investment in the town centre – and that is what we have seen and are continuing to see happen today. So, thank you to all the officials, elected members, private

Quick Facts about Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga

- The facility cost approx \$15.5 million to build.
- The overall project cost approx. \$20.1 million with additional costs such as the land acquisition, demolition of previous buildings, landscaping and professional fees architects, consents, engineers etc.
- 35% of the funding came from external sources.
- No impact on rates to build.

investors, Bizlink and members of the community, past and present, who had the foresight to embark on this bold plan and see it through.”

Mayor Nixon also thanked key funders who contributed about 35% of the total cost including major contributions from the Government’s Regional Development Fund (\$4 million) and Toi Foundation (\$2.8 million).

“Thanks to substantial external fundraising and by using the Council’s long term investment fund and other reserves, there was no impact on rates to build the facility,” he says.

The District’s Lysaght Watt gallery is also located in the facility displaying its inaugural exhibition Tuata’i/First a showcase of contemporary artists from across South Taranaki.

Another feature of the building is a glass bust of Ruapūtahanga, a famous Taranaki Māori ancestress whom the building is named after, which stands sentinel at the High Street entrance of the facility.

Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga means the beacon or signal fire of Ruapūtahanga, who would light the beacon as a signal for Iwi to meet so they could talk, share ideas and knowledge – a name which perfectly symbolises the new centre’s purpose as a place for the community to meet in order to share information and gain knowledge.

Mayor Nixon thanked Ngāti Ruanui for gifting the name Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga and Ngā Iwi for their input into the blessing and design of the building’s cultural elements.

“Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga will not only be a community and visitor hub. It will be a catalyst for driving change, increasing investment - both social and economic and will completely transform the town centre,” he says.



Emailed Rates Invoices

If you want to get your rates invoice directly to your inbox - email rates@stdc.govt.nz



Download the Antenno App

What are you waiting for? Just search Antenno, head to www.southtaranaki.com/antenno or scan the QR code to find out more.



Get Southlink sent to your inbox

If you want to get our weekly e-newsletter sent directly to your inbox each Wednesday - email southlink@stdc.govt.nz