

Tuia te Taitonga tāpiringa

Southlink Extra

Winter 2024



Welcome to Southlink Extra

Welcome to the Winter edition of *Southlink Extra*. 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.

Doors Open in South Taranaki Business Park

One of Council's key economic growth initiatives that started three years ago, was the development of infrastructure for a business park on Waihi Road, on the western side of State Highway 3 in Hāwera. In this issue of *Southlink Extra* we review one of the businesses that has set up in the western precinct of the Park.



UNO Windows is a large-scale aluminium window and door manufacturer, supplying end-to-end solutions for residential and commercial projects. While

they are located in Hāwera, they have a reach across the entire North Island. A family business started in 2006 by Peter Thomas, son Jonathan is co-managing director with his brother Reagan. Born and raised in Hāwera, Jonathan is proud to call the town home, citing its ease of access to everywhere.

"It is a great town with a lot to offer. You are 50 minutes to New Plymouth and then you can jump on a plane, 10 minutes to the coast and the mountain is just half an hour away."

Originally located in Normanby, UNO operated out of an 800m² factory and were filling up the yard rapidly with their materials.

"We needed to grow and get some decent sized facilities to bring it all back inside and function efficiently. It was also about future-proofing for our factory – we needed the ability to put more machinery in so we can expand our services into new markets and regions," says Jonathan. The South Taranaki Business Park was a great solution for

UNO and they were the first business to move into the South Taranaki business Park's West End Precinct in 2022. A big plus for UNO was the fact the developer CJ Mahony was willing to work with the team to customise the site to suit requirements.

"We're looking forward to seeing the results of the Council's proactive approach over coming years both in the residential and commercial sector, attracting people and businesses to town."

"It gives us the opportunity to grow, but not only that, we've got a professional image to showcase to the rest of the country – this opens up opportunities.

"Hāwera provides a perfect central location for us and this is key. We see the South Taranaki Business Park as a first-class area for growing local, and new businesses to locate their premises – rather than having to be located in pockets within residential areas across the District.

It's great to see the developer and Council working together to deliver a quality Park – the development of the roads and a purpose-built area for the region is fantastic. We're hoping it will attract more people, business, and opportunity to the region with a strong flow-on effect – more buildings coming to life means more opportunities for the local community and UNO," says Jonathan.



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High Satisfaction with Council Services

South Taranaki residents are generally happy with the services Council provides according to an independent survey.

The survey of 416 residents across all four South Taranaki wards found that overall satisfaction with the Council was high at 88%, with 89% satisfaction with the Council's core services. 90% of those surveyed felt the Council was moving in the right direction and 96% were also satisfied with the facilities provided by the Council.

The survey, which has been conducted regularly since 1993, allows the South Taranaki District Council to assess its performance by finding out from residents what they think the Council is doing well and areas where they could do better.

Services and facilities that residents were most satisfied with were the LibraryPlus Centres (98% satisfaction), Hāwera Aquatic Centre (98%), the District's sewerage system (97%), the cleanliness and maintenance of recreation centres (97%) and overall waste management (92%). The services that had the lowest satisfaction rates were the condition of roads (58%), Animal Management (74%), value for money (74%), public participation in decision making (76%) and illegal litter dumping (76%).

Council CEO, Fiona Aitken, says she is pleased with the results of the survey; however, the Council is always looking to improve the services it provides.

"Over the next three years, as part of our Long Term Plan, we've planned to increase our roading expenditure, have committed to undertaking town centre upgrades in Manaia, Eltham, Ōpunakē, Pātea and Waverley, and budgeted to increase resources in the animal management team."

"We don't always get it right, but I know how hard our staff work for the people of South Taranaki and we are continually looking at ways we can lift the bar," she says.

"It's good to know that most people think we are moving in the right direction and understand we are trying to provide the best for our communities with the resources we have."

The District-wide survey was conducted using a random selection method by independent research company Key Research over August 2023 and March 2024.

The survey results can be found on the Council's website www.southtaranaki.com under **Plans, Strategies and Reports**.



Starting 1 October 2024 **Tātari atu Taranaki ki te Tonga**
Sort it out, South Taranaki

Things are about to change with your urban kerbside recycling and rubbish collection. A new set of bins will be delivered to your property in August/September before the new collection begins in October. We're introducing a new weekly food scraps bin, and the rest of your bins will move to a fortnightly collection - but you'll find out everything you need to know in a guide that will be delivered with your new bins. Visit www.southtaranaki.com/getitsorted or scan the QR code to find out more.

Download Antenno to get weekly collection reminders!



THE GREAT COMEDY NIGHT
ELTHAM - FRI 23 AUG
HĀWERA - SAT 24 AUG

COURTNEY DAWSON | TOM SAINSBURY | WILSON DIXON

ELTHAM:
\$400 FOR TABLE OF 10 (NIBBLES INCLUDED)
OR
\$30 PER PERSON (THEATRE SEATING)

HĀWERA:
\$30 PER PERSON (R16)
CASH BAR

GET TICKETS FROM SOUTH TARANAKI ISITE & ELTHAM LIBRARYPLUS

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www.southtaranaki.com