

# Southlink

**He karere tā te Kaunihera o Taranaki ki te Tonga**  
News from the South Taranaki District Council

## 2020 Dog Splash Day - Taranaki Anniversary Day

Every dog has its day – and on Monday 9 March, the Kaponga rural swimming pool will be open exclusively for dogs for the fourth annual South Taranaki Dog Splash Day. This is a free event so come along and watch your dog enjoy a cooling dip at the pools. The entire Kaponga complex (three pools) will be open so all sizes of dogs and swimming abilities will be catered for - from those that just like to dip their paws in shallow waters to the deep-sea doggie paddler. Owners are welcome to swim with their dogs.

Dogs must be social with other dogs and wearing their current council registration tag.

This will be the last day the pool will be open before it is drained and cleaned for the season.

Kaponga pool was chosen as it offers the best array of pool sizes and depths, with easy access for dogs. A ramp made by pool staff will be placed in the main pool so that dogs can exit easily.

Don't get in the doghouse! Bring your pooch to the Kaponga

Pool, Grace Avenue, Kaponga, on Monday 9 March between 12 noon and 6 pm.

All sizes and breeds are welcome. For more information, please contact 0800 111 323 and speak to South Taranaki Social Dog Club member Susan McMillan.

For human swimming, the rural pools at Eltham, Rāwhitiroa, Pātea, Manaia and Waverley will be open, free of charge, for their final day of the season.



## Conserving Water in the Garden

### Some tips and hints for saving water

While this is the season when avid gardeners are out in force with hoses and sprinklers to keep their plants looking green, it is also when we have less water available to meet everyone's needs. While New Zealand has reasonably high rainfall throughout the year, it does not always fall in the right place at the right time.

On average, every house in Hāwera uses around 900 litres of water a day and according to the Ministry for the Environment, the garden accounts for 20% of that usage - 180 litres a day!

**Fortunately, there are a number of ways in which we can conserve water in the garden.**

**Water early in the morning or at twilight on calm days to get the most out of watering your garden.**

Avoiding windy and hot days means there will be less



evaporation, so more water will get onto your plants.

**Be sure to water the roots instead of the leaves.**

Using buckets or watering cans rather than a running hose will help to cut down the amount of water which is used. A running hose can use up to 1000 litres in an hour! Mulch can reduce evaporation by up to 70%, helping to retain moisture. Careful selection of drought-resistant plants can save thousands of litres a week. For example, native plants generally need less water than exotics. **Leave your lawns longer in the summer as it increases rooting** This will keep them greener for longer.

**Did you know?** Grass becomes dormant during periods of drought but rejuvenates naturally when winter approaches, so a dry lawn does not mean a dead one!

## Public Health Warning

The Council put out a public health notice on Friday (21 Feb) warning people against collecting food or going swimming in the Tawhiti Stream and Tāngāhoe River after being alerted to a potential fish kill in the Tawhiti Stream, likely linked to an earlier emergency at the upstream Silver Fern Farms' plant. Investigation by the Taranaki Regional Council showed this was a significant event, with more than 1,000 fish (mainly eels) dead or dying.

Heavy rain on Friday night flushed Tawhiti Stream and any impacts on the Tāngāhoe River (Tawhiti Stream flows into the

lower Tāngāhoe River) are being monitored and assessed by the Regional Council. Ngāti Ruanui has issued a rāhui. The Taranaki Regional Council's investigation is continuing. The rāhui and public health warning signs will stay in place for as long as needed.



## Public Notification – Changes to parking control restrictions – Countdown Carpark, Hāwera

The South Taranaki District Council would like to inform you that parking restrictions will apply on Council owned land within the Countdown carpark.

- All 13 parking spaces (outside the front of Marracco Café and the Post Shop entrance to PaperPlus) are time restricted to 120 minutes.

These changes come into effect as of 27 February 2020.

For more information please refer to the South Taranaki District Council's Roding Bylaw, available on our website:

[www.southtaranaki.com/Council/Bylaws](http://www.southtaranaki.com/Council/Bylaws)

at any of our seven LibraryPlus Centres, or by phoning 0800 111 323.



## Upcoming meetings

### Extraordinary Environment and Hearings Committee

To Consider a retrospective Resource Consent

Monday 2 March 1.30 pm

### Eltham-Kaponga Community Board

Tuesday 10 March 10.30 am

Taumata Recreation Centre  
Preston Street, Eltham

### Te Hāwera Community Board

Tuesday 10 March 1.30 pm

Normanby Recreation Centre  
Ketemarae Road, Normanby

### Pātea Community Board

Wednesday 11 March 4 pm

Hunter Shaw Building  
Egmont Street, Pātea

### Taranaki Coastal Community Board

Thursday 12 March 2.30 pm

Sandfords Event Centre  
156 Tasman Street, Ōpunakē

### Iwi Liaison Committee

Wednesday 18 March 10.00 am

*Unless otherwise specified, meetings are held in the Council Chambers, Albion Street, Hāwera.*

## Otahi Bridge Upgrade

Work will soon begin to install a new foot bridge across the Otahi Stream in Ōpunakē. South Taranaki District Council have contracted Bridgelt to complete this work which will start on Monday 2 March.

The new bridge will provide locals safe access across the stream to the urupa below Te Namu Pa and to the neighbouring bay.

Weather permitting, the bridge will take 2-3 weeks to construct. During this time there will be periods of closure to this area of the Ōpunakē Loop Walkway. Members of the community are invited to join local Community Board members, Councillors, Te Namu Pa trustees, Iwi and Council staff to a blessing to start this work at 9 am on Monday 2 March, meeting just below the Te Namu Pa site.