

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

## AmeriCARna on next week

Wednesday 19 February, 11.30am – 2.30pm, AmeriCARna Ōpunakē Beach.

Friday 21 February, 1.15pm – 5.15pm, AmeriCARna Hāwera CBD.

Start your engines! AmeriCARna is roaring back into Hāwera and Ōpunakē. On Wednesday 19 February, AmeriCARna heads to Ōpunakē Beach at 11.30am. Come along to check out the cars. There will be live music by Sonic Delusion, food from local vendors and community fundraisers, and the beach shop will also be open. The cars will depart at 2pm. On Friday 21 February, the convoy will head to Hāwera from Stratford (via Kaponga and Manaia along State Highway 45) and line Hāwera's CBD for the afternoon. The Town Square will be filled with live music from 'Nana & Petal' and 'Nikki Rei' and be busy with the usual market day through High Street and a free photo booth organised by Bizlink Hāwera. Cars will start arriving at 1.15pm and depart at 5.15pm. "There are close to 700 cars registered

this year – we are sure to fill the beach and streets of South Taranaki!" says South Taranaki District Council's Community Events Co-ordinator Alysha Judson. The Acceleration event will once again be held on Albion Street from 2.30pm, with cars being timed over an 80 metre sprint to the finish line. We remind spectators to be cautious and listen to all directions from volunteers and staff, and respect surrounding local businesses. "We are excited to have AmeriCARna return to South Taranaki once again. It is a great opportunity to support local businesses and see what they have on offer, all while admiring some beautiful cars. Motorists will need to take extra care on the roads and be patient, plan ahead as it may take you a little longer to get where you are heading due to road closures," says Alysha.

### Road closures during AmeriCARna:

- On Wednesday 19 February, Beach Road in Ōpunakē will be closed to all vehicles (except AmeriCARna cars). Spectators should park on a side street and walk down to the beach.
- On Friday 21 February, cars will be parked on High St (from Argyle St to Caledonia St), Regent St (from High St to Little Regent St), Union St (for 80m from High St) and in the Community Centre carpark. Albion St (from High St to Rowe St) will also be closed for the Acceleration event.

### Upcoming Meetings

Public are welcome to attend

**Risk and Assurance Committee**  
Monday 17 February, 11am

**Eltham Drainage Committee**  
Monday 24 February, 10am  
Taumata Recreation Centre,  
Preston Street, Eltham

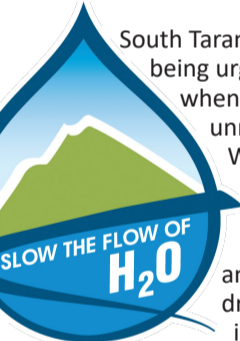
**Extraordinary Council**  
Purpose to confirm consultation options for Local Water Done Well  
Wednesday 26 February, 1pm

**District Plan Committee**  
Wednesday 26 February, 3pm

**Ordinary Council**  
Monday 3 March, 4pm

Unless specified, meetings are held at Camberwell Lounge, TSB Hub, Camberwell Road, Hāwera

## It's time to get serious with water restrictions



South Taranaki residents are being urged to get serious when it comes to unnecessary water use. With this summer's constant dry weather, river levels are lowering each day and the threat of drought conditions is looming.

South Taranaki District Council works delivery manager Rahul Sharma says that while we remain on partial water restrictions, we're asking residents to take

extra precautions so we can get through the next six weeks without having to introduce a full water ban (essential water use only). "The odds and evens system will remain in place (hand held hoses can be used at even numbered houses on even numbered calendar dates, and odd numbered houses on odd numbered calendar dates)," says Rahul. "But residents need to restrict this water use to 30 minutes in the evening." Watering of lawns is now banned, along with unattended hoses, sprinklers and irrigation systems. Using water blasters for

anything other than essential work is also not allowed – if you need to use a water blaster, please call Council on 0800 111 323 and let us know. "Please continue to check your property for leaks and fix them as soon as possible," says Rahul. "And let us know if you see a leak on the Council system too." This summer is one of the driest we've seen in seven years, with Pātea recording only 61% of typical rainfall between 1 November and 31 January while the monitoring site at Glenn Road in Kaūpokonui was even less with just 45% of the usual amount of rain.

### Third Rates Instalment Due

Ratepayers are reminded that the last day for payment of the third instalment of rates for 2024/25 without incurring a penalty will be Wednesday 26 February 2025.



### Creative Communities Scheme Open

Do you have a community arts project that needs some funding support? Applications for the South Taranaki Creative Communities Scheme are now open and close at 5pm on Sunday 9 March 2025. The South Taranaki Creative Communities Scheme provides funding assistance for community-based arts activities in South Taranaki taking place between 10 March 2025 – 10 March 2026 and meet one of the following funding criteria:

- Broad community involvement
- Diversity
- Young people

Application forms are now available online at [www.southtaranaki.com/funding](http://www.southtaranaki.com/funding), or at your local LibraryPlus. For further information, email [funding@stdc.govt.nz](mailto:funding@stdc.govt.nz) or phone (06) 278 0555 or 0800 111 323.



South Taranaki LibraryPlus is launching its first ever preschool reading adventure for tamariki under five, *1,000 Books Before School*, starting Monday 17 February. South Taranaki District Council senior community outreach librarian Katherine Bosworth says that the team is really excited to launch a programme dedicated to children under five, focusing on the importance of reading together and reading aloud. The aim of the programme is to introduce children to books and reading 1,000 books (either by themselves, or read aloud to them) before they turn five, or begin their school journey. *1,000 Books Before School* has been created to be as simple for families as possible. Children will receive stickers to encourage them on their journey for every 100 books they read. Once they have completed 1,000 books, they will receive a picture book to take home and keep.

Find out more next week at your local LibraryPlus or head online to [www.southtaranaki.com/1000books](http://www.southtaranaki.com/1000books)



Te Matatini, Aotearoa's premier Māori culture event, is coming to Taranaki on 25 February - 1 March. 55 teams from across Aotearoa and Australia will participate in a celebration of Māori culture and Māori performing arts excellence. Held every two years, it is one of the most highly anticipated events for performers, their whānau and the mass of passionate Kapa Haka fans throughout the world. Over 40,000 visitors are expected to the region. The festival is a whānau friendly, smoke and alcohol-free event where all people are welcome to come and experience the timeless tradition of Kapa Haka.

Find out more, and buy tickets from [www.tematatini.co.nz](http://www.tematatini.co.nz)

