



Local talent is to the fore in a new video promoting New Plymouth's Citylink bus service, which is operated by Transitz Coachlines under contract to the Taranaki Regional Council.

Dinnie Moeahu and his crew from New Plymouth-based Dman Entertainment take viewers on a musical bus ride highlighting the extent of the Citylink network ("Oakura to Waitara and just

about everywhere in between") and features of the service including on-board bike racks and wheelchair access, and the benefits of smart cards. The video can be seen on social media and in cinemas, with an audio-only version on commercial radio.

See the video online at bit.ly/CitylinkVideo. For information about routes, timetables and fares, go to www.taranakibus.info.

1% change confirmed for 2016/2017 financial year:

Rates to remain stable

The Taranaki Regional Council has adopted a 'no surprises' Annual Plan for the 2016/2017 financial year, confirming the direction set in the 2015/2025 Long-Term Plan adopted last year.

"The Council has a busy work programme planned for the coming year and, as outlined in the Long-Term Plan, there will be an increase of 1% in the general rates take," says the Chairman, David MacLeod.

"We believe this is among the lowest, if not the lowest, rates increase in the country this year," he says. "This continues our recent record."

The Council's rate adjustments in recent years have included: 2015/2016 – no change; 2014/2015 – 1.4% increase; 2013/2014 – 1.5% increase; 2012/2013 – no change.

"The Taranaki Regional Council is in a strong financial position with no public debt," says Mr MacLeod. "We're proud of our status as one of the lowest rating local authorities in New Zealand."

The Annual Plan 2016/2017 sets out the Council's intention to continue to:

- Work with farmers to fence and plant streambanks on the ring plain and coastal

terraces, and supply around 450,000 native plants to riparian plan holders.

- Maintain the successful self-help possum control programme and align maintenance work around Egmont National Park with Department of Conservation pest control work inside the Park.
- Advocate for Taranaki's transport interests and seek further gains following its successful advocacy for projects such as the Mt Messenger bypass, Awakino tunnel bypass, Normanby Bridge realignment and the SH3 Vickers to City upgrade.

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From the Chair

There's never a dull moment, as they say, and the middle of the calendar year brings new beginnings for many in Taranaki.

Like many other organisations, the Council kicks into a new financial year on 1 July. And as Council Chairman, it was pleasing to be able to confirm the 1% general rates rise foreshadowed in the 2015/2025 Long-Term Plan adopted last year.

These are challenging times for many ratepayers and as always, it's vital for the Council to be effective and efficient in our work. We're one of the lowest rating local bodies in New Zealand and we aim to keep it that way.

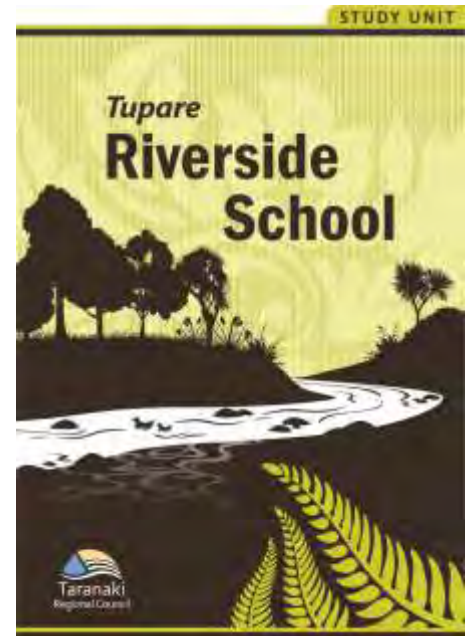
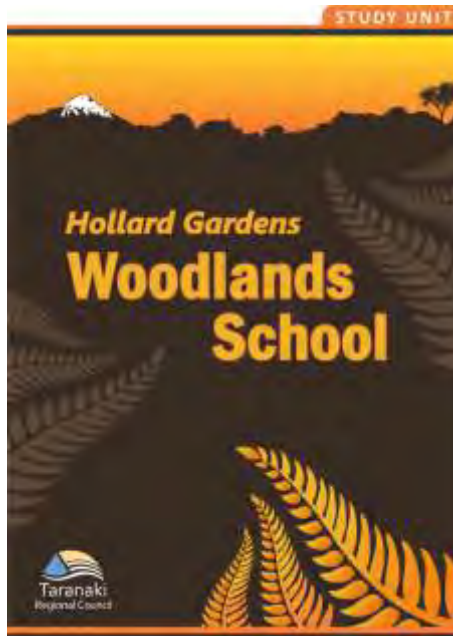
Given the current challenging times, it's gratifying to see how our dairy farmers are showing consistent support for the region's world-scale Riparian Management Programme. Once again, we're distributing hundreds of thousands of plants across the region this planting season. Congratulations are due to all farmers who are involved in this work. Protecting and enhancing water quality future-proofs our lifestyles as well as your farms.

Congratulations, too, to all those farmers and other landowners involved in our Key Native Ecosystems programme, working voluntarily alongside the Council to protect ecological jewels like wetlands and bush remnants. Good progress is being made.

Back to those new beginnings, and I sense that Waitara could be on the cusp of an exciting new era, with a proposed Local Bill on Endowment Land set to go before Parliament. This Council strongly supports the approach that has been outlined. After decades of grievance and uncertainty, it offers a positive way forward.

This Council has been working closely, and continues to work closely, with Te Atiawa and the New Plymouth District Council on this issue. Of course different people will have different views on some of the details, but I'm confident the process that's now under way will lead to a robust and enduring resolution.

David MacLeod - CHAIRMAN



The Tupare Riverside School and Hollard Gardens Woodlands School are new additions to the Council's education programme.

Region's iconic gardens are fertile ground for learning

Education programmes have been developed at all three of the Taranaki Regional Council's iconic heritage properties following the success of the first at Pukeiti.

The Pukeiti Rainforest School was established three years ago and this year it has been complemented by the Tupare Riverside School and the Hollard Gardens Woodlands School.

The three programmes offer educational activities tailored to the unique history and environment of each property, with nine to 16 activities ranging from guided walks to animal, bird and river studies in stimulating and natural learning environments.

"We've been delighted with the fantastic response to the Pukeiti Rainforest School,"

says the Council's Education Officer, Kevin Archer. "More than 80 school groups have visited over the past three years, with many schools now on their second or third visits.

"The new programmes at Tupare in New Plymouth and Hollard Gardens at Kaponga will give schools, teachers and pupils more opportunities to get out of the classroom and into some very special environments."

For more information and downloadable study units, go to www.tupare.nz, www.hollardgardens.nz, www.pukeiti.nz or email education@trc.govt.nz.

Bookings should be made months in advance to avoid disappointment. School visits are generally held between 10am and 2pm.

1% regional rates rise confirmed

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- Develop and grow bus and Total Mobility transport services in Taranaki.
- Efficiently process resource consent applications within statutory timeframes, and comprehensively monitor and report publicly on the performance of consent holders.
- Deliver its successful sustainable land management programmes, particularly in the eastern hillcountry.

- Carry out an exciting upgrade at iconic Pukeiti to maintain it as an internationally renowned heritage and amenity property, along with Tupare and Hollard Gardens.

The Council will also complete the final stage of the Lower Waitara Flood Protection Scheme upgrade to give the Waitara community the level of flood protection it deserves.

The 2016/2017 Annual Plan will take effect from 1 July. It is available online at www.trc.govt.nz or you can request a copy from the Council (phone 06 765 7127).

Biodiversity effort paying off

Key ecological treasures such as bush remnants and wetlands are being protected and enriched thanks to deepening partnerships between scores of individual landowners and the Taranaki Regional Council.

The Council is working closely with the owners of 87 of the 172 privately owned sites identified as Key Native Ecosystems (KNEs) to ensure they are protected from predators and grazing stock, cleared of pest plants and regenerated with appropriate native plants.

The work schedules are laid out in Biodiversity Plans developed at no cost by the Council in conjunction with the landowners. These plans can also support applications for funding assistance from a variety of sources including the QEII National Trust, the Taranaki Regional Council itself, District Council heritage funds, the Taranaki Biodiversity Trust and the Biodiversity Condition Fund.

“The beauty of the KNE programme is that it is totally voluntary – there are no rules or land-use controls involved,” says the Council’s Director-Operations, Stephen Hall.

“What we’ve got on both sides of the partnership – the landowner and the Council – is highly motivated people keen to see results.

“And we’re seeing good results. For example, an assessment of 27 wetlands in 2013 found an improvement in 73% that are managed with a Council-developed Biodiversity Plan, but only in 31% in wetlands not managed by a plan.”

Landowners keen to protect and improve their own bush remnants, wetlands or the like can contact the Council about adding their site to the Inventory of KNEs. If it meets the criteria and the Council and landowner also agree to develop a Biodiversity Plan, this can open the way to funding assistance for fencing and other work.

Counting publicly owned sites as well as those in full or partial private ownership, there are currently 218 KNEs covering almost 122,000



(Photo courtesy of Pat Murphy)

This gold-striped gecko, *Woodworthia chrysosiretica*, a regionally distinctive species, was found at Omata recently and released into a one-hectare KNE at Omata School.

The Council and the school have developed a Biodiversity Plan for the site and teacher Pat Murphy says pupils are excited about the project.

hectares. The Council’s biodiversity budget for the 2016/2017 year is \$1.67 million, up from \$1.41 million in the current financial year.

Interested in the KNE programme? Call the Council on 0800 736 222 and ask for Environment Services.



Walking on the wild side ...

Taranaki people have a new way to demonstrate their wild enthusiasm for the region’s natural environment.

‘Wild for Taranaki’, launched earlier this year by Conservation Minister Maggie Barry, provides a direct link between the community

and important environmental projects across the region, making it easy to offer support financially and/or as volunteers.

“We want the whole community to become ‘wild for Taranaki’ and help us achieve our goals,”

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The Chapman-Taylor house at Tupare sporting its new cedar shingles.

Tupare house roof in tip-top condition

The distinctive Chapman-Taylor house at Tupare has new cedar roofing shingles, replacing the former pine shingles that were in poor condition.

The house at the premier New Plymouth heritage property was covered with a tent-like structure in April while the new shingles were installed. The covering was removed in May to reveal the new roof.

“The Tupare ‘arts and crafts’ house and garden offers a unique visitor experience of national significance,” says Taranaki Regional Council Gardens Manager Greg Rine. “The house is an important heritage asset for Taranaki.”

“The roof replacement is part of the maintenance programme for the Council gardens and returns the house to the original standard when it was built by Sir Russell Matthews in the 1930s.”

The series of monthly Sunday afternoon High Teas held at the Tupare house will recommence in July.

The ‘arts and crafts’ movement was committed to using authentic materials and skilled crafts people. The house was initially designed by the renowned James Chapman-Taylor and built under the direction of Tupare owner Sir Russell Matthews.

The main construction was carried out during 1932 to 1935 but took 12 years to complete.

Upcoming events at the regional gardens

Upcoming events at Tupare, Pukeiti and Hollard Gardens. Events are free unless otherwise stated.

Tupare, Sunday 12 June, 2pm-4pm: Home gardening workshop – composting. How to form the basis of rich compost by recycling garden waste.

Hollard Gardens, Sunday 26 June, 10am-3pm: Woodcraft expo. See back page.

Tupare, Sunday 3 July, 2pm-4pm: High Tea (\$20 a person). Dress up in your finest and enjoy traditional High Tea in Tupare’s unique Chapman-Taylor house. Fundraiser for Mangorei School PTA. Booking essential. Tickets available at Black Bird Boutique, 148 Devon St East, New Plymouth, ph 06 759 0011.

Hollard Gardens, Sunday 24 July, 2pm-4pm: Home gardening workshop – seed-saving. The ‘how to’ guide on collecting and saving seed, in association with Taranaki Seed Savers.

Pukeiti, Sunday 7 August, 10.30am-2pm: Explorer Day – pot a plant. Bring the family for a guided rainforest walk and talk and learn about native forest systems, seedlings and their names. Then pot a plant so you can take it home and watch it grow.

Tupare, Sunday 7 August, 2pm-4pm: Home gardening workshop – winter pruning. Learn pruning techniques for ornamental shrubs and climbers.

Join in the conversation



Taranaki Regional Council
Taranaki Regional Gardens
Taranaki Civil Defence



Taranaki public transport
Taranaki schools
environment group



@TaranakiRC (Council)
@TaranakiRG (Gardens)
@TaranakiCD (Civil Defence)



TaranakiRC

Walking on Taranaki’s wild side

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says Mike Weren, Chair of the Taranaki Biodiversity Trust – the organisation behind Wild for Taranaki.

“People can become involved as friends or members of the Trust, or volunteer their time and skills, or make donations – there are many ways to help,” says Mr Weren. “See our website at www.wildfortaranaki.nz for more information.”

The Trust was formed last year by key community groups and agencies involved in the protection of native plants, animals and ecosystems in Taranaki.

It aims to support such work throughout the region by encouraging public involvement, ensuring co-ordination between groups and agencies in the field, fostering links and raising funds. The Taranaki Regional Council is a core funder of the Taranaki Biodiversity Trust and provides administrative support.

European pointers on water quality

New Zealand's freshwater bathing quality is described in terms of whether it's 'wadeable' or 'swimmable', but do people understand what that means?

Comparisons against European standards show that Kiwi tests are more stringent. Sites that are classified 'unacceptable for bathing' here could potentially be classifiable as 'excellent for bathing' in Europe.

Under criteria set out in the Government's latest National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, 41% of Taranaki's monitored freshwater bathing sites would have to be classified as 'unacceptable', mainly because of the short-term run-off contamination that typically happens after high rainfall.

That 'unacceptable' rate would drop to 12% if we applied the European standards instead, in part because they take a different view of how to interpret monitoring results but mostly because New Zealand's criteria are out of alignment with those applied throughout Europe. The differences were analysed in a paper presented to the Council's Policy and Planning Committee by the Council's Director-Environment Quality, Gary Bedford.

"When you consider the way we look at water quality versus the way Europeans look at

water quality, some interesting points emerge," he says.

"The New Zealand standards insist that monitored sites must stay within the contamination guidelines at least 95% of the time. Of the 17 freshwater bathing sites we monitor in Taranaki, five routinely meet the guidelines 92% to 95% of the time. So they're not acceptable. In Europe, they'd be more than acceptable."

Mr Bedford says that more importantly, the Europeans also apply different criteria to the levels of bacteria deemed to make freshwater safe or unsafe for swimming.

A level that is 'unacceptable' in New Zealand is at the top end of the 'good' category across Europe.

"A lot of the current public conversation around freshwater management is focused on the notion that all rivers should be swimmable," says Mr Bedford. "There needs to be clarity and precision over how you set meaningful and defensible standards to achieve 'swimmability', and how you apply them.

"If you look at how the Europeans have approached it, you can appreciate that it's a complex issue that deserves more than sloganeering."



Monitoring of the region's waterways has produced some of the best results ever.

More gains in waterways

Monitoring of the health of the region's waterways continues to produce encouraging results.

Analysis of the Council's monitoring for the 2014/2015 year includes some of the best results ever for both ecological health and measures of the physical and chemical pressures on rivers and streams.

Ecological health is assessed by studying the types of tiny insects and other macroinvertebrate species found at monitored sites and is the prime measure of waterway quality. The Council monitors 57 sites and uses records going back more than 20 years.

Twenty-two sites are showing a positive and very significant improvement, up from 15 three years ago, and another seven are showing significant improvement. Strong improvements were noted at Kaupokonui Stream upstream of Kapuni, Mangaehu River at Raupuha Rd, Punehu River at SH45, Kapoaiaia Stream at Wiremu Rd and Wataroa Rd, Mangawhero Stream upstream of Waingongoro River, Kaupokonui Stream upstream of Kaponga and Mangati Stream, Bell Block.

Meanwhile, physical and chemical measures are showing marked improvements at 10 of the 13 sites monitored. These measures include nutrient and bacteriological levels, aesthetic water quality and biological oxygen demand.

The results of this monitoring, as well as that of freshwater recreational bathing sites over the 2015/2016 summer, will be presented in a 'waterways report card' to the region later this year.



Differences between New Zealand and European standards for freshwater bathing quality have been analysed in a paper presented to the Taranaki Regional Council's Policy and Planning Committee.

Farmers value environment

Most Taranaki farmers rate the environment as one of their top priorities, according to a national survey.

Almost a third (28.4%) of Taranaki farmers surveyed put the environment as their No 1 priority ahead of life and finances. Another 47.7% rates the environment their second priority.

The findings, released in March, are from a Landcare Research survey of about 3000 rural landowners and managers across all agricultural sectors and regions, almost 5% of them from Taranaki. Key findings included:

Dairying: Taranaki had the highest percentage of respondents saying dairying is their primary land use (54.4%). No other region had more than 50% of respondents where land use was primarily dairying.

Riparian exclusion: Taranaki has one of the highest percentages of respondents who have fenced large streams in their property (91%), after Southland (95%) and Waikato (94%).

Nitrogen: 93% of Taranaki respondents adopted nutrient management planning – the highest of any region.

Phosphorus: 78% of Taranaki respondents indicated they manage phosphorus, also the highest of any region, along with Northland (78%).

Wetlands: Taranaki had the second highest percentage of respondents engaged in restoring existing wetlands. Waikato had the most.



Around 400,000 native plants are being distributed to riparian plan holders this planting season through the Council's Riparian Management Programme. Most, like these, were collected during May from one of five depots established across the region.

The Taranaki Regional Council Chairman, David MacLeod, says it's no surprise that Taranaki farmers are among the nation's leaders in their commitment to riparian protection.

"It's encouraging to see how the region's farmers continue to show consistent support for, and commitment to, the Council's world-scale and award-winning streamside fencing and planting programme," he says. "Great progress has been made to date. Farmers are continuing to fence and plant their waterways, and order plants for next season, even though these are challenging times for many."

Riparian plans now cover most of the region's intensively farmed land, including all of the region's dairy farms. 84% of streambanks covered by plans are fenced and 70% are protected by riparian vegetation.

"The 2020 target for landowners to complete riparian fencing and planting on intensively farmed land is achievable," says Mr MacLeod. "Almost four million plants have already been planted but millions more are still needed. Farmers need to plan and order in advance to make sure they secure the plants to finish the job on time."

Waingongoro River in the spotlight on national environmental website

A South Taranaki waterway whose story is 'typical of the region' has been highlighted on the Land Air Water Aotearoa (LAWA) website.

The Waingongoro River was 'river of the month' for May at www.lawa.org.nz, with a three-minute video discussing recent improvements in its water quality and biodiversity.

The video includes interviews with Daisy Noble of Ngāruahine, dairy farmer Bill Gribble, Iain Steven of ANZCO Eltham and Stephen Hall of the Taranaki Regional Council.

"In many ways, the Waingongoro's story is typical of Taranaki," says Mr Hall, who is the

Council's Director-Operations.

"It wasn't too many decades ago that wastes from dairy farming, industry and town sewerage schemes were directly discharged into waterways like this. Those days are over, thankfully, and nowadays we're seeing good improvement in long-term trends for ecological health and a wide range of physical and chemical measures.

"There's been a lot of hard work and serious investment. It's a great example of Taranaki's 'get on and do it' attitude," he says.

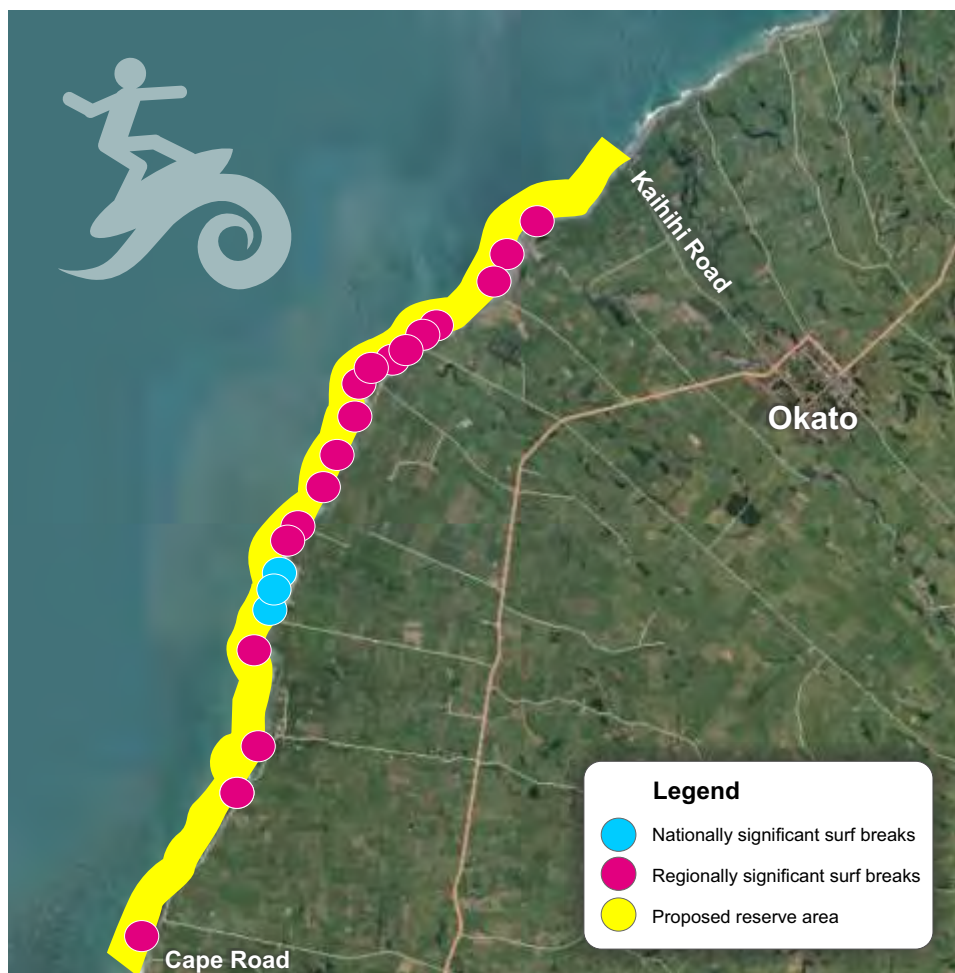
"The 162 dairy farmers in the Waingongoro catchment have fenced more than 90% of its streambanks and planted over 70%, working in partnership with the Council. And in Eltham,

the catchment's major town, the biggest industry, ANZCO, and the South Taranaki District Council have both spent big dollars to eliminate or reduce the impact of their wastewater."

Mr Hall says the Taranaki Regional Council will continue to support the efforts of iwi, rural communities, farmers and industries to build on the gains made in the Waingongoro. "There's always more work we can do."

LAWA is a partnership involving regional councils, the Ministry for the Environment, the Cawthron Institute, Massey University and the Tindall Foundation.

See the Waingongoro video at bit.ly/Waingongoro



The suggested 'surf reserve' includes a number of surf breaks that are already recognised as regionally or nationally significant.

Surf coast in line for protected status

A 16km 'surf reserve' is set to become part of a draft new Coastal Plan for Taranaki, after an oceanographer highlighted the unique way lahar fingers extend into the sea to make special surf conditions.

Dr Peter McComb suggested the stretch of coast between Kaihihi Rd and Cape Egmont was of national significance and a prime candidate for surf reserve status, because of the lahar fingers stretching into the ocean.

"This is unique in the world," Dr McComb said in a presentation to the Council's Policy and Planning Committee. "There are very few places where this occurs and it's part of what makes the surf very special in Taranaki."

The Committee voted to investigate the proposal as part of the current review of the Regional Coastal Plan for Taranaki, under which the Council develops policy which addresses the allocation and use of coastal resources.

The Council's Director-Resource Management, Fred McLay, says a draft new Plan to be presented to Councillors will give all the surf breaks in the area suggested by Dr McComb a recognised level of protection.

"This would give priority to maintaining the remote and largely undeveloped feel of the area, and adverse effects on surf breaks from any activities would have to be avoided," says Mr McLay. "This would be a very high level of protection."

Dr McComb noted to the Committee that work would be required to provide amenities and manage the adjoining area to avoid adverse environmental effects.

The draft new Coastal Plan will be the subject of informal consultation with stakeholders, which is expected to take place in September. Formal public consultation will take place next year when a Proposed Plan is publicly notified.

Taranaki Regional Council Facts File

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www.taranakiplants.net.nz
Twitter: @TaranakiRC
 @TaranakiCD
 @TaranakiRG
Facebook: TaranakiRegionalCouncil
 TaranakiCivilDefence
 TaranakiRegionalGardens
Environmental hotline: 0800 736 222
Civil Defence freephone: 0800 900 049
NP bus information: 0800 827 287
Total Mobility: 0800 868 662

REGIONAL COUNCILLORS

New Plymouth Constituency:

Tom Cloke	06 753 5586
Peter Horton	06 758 8011
Moiria Irving	021 944 809
David Lean	06 753 3325
Craig Williamson	027 687 4122

North Taranaki Constituency:

Mike Davey	06 756 7126
Roger Maxwell	06 752 3622

South Taranaki Constituency:

Michael Joyce	06 274 5800
David MacLeod (Chair)	06 278 5577
Neil Walker	06 278 7541

Stratford Constituency:

Brian Jeffares	06 765 7773
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MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings are held at the Council chamber, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, unless otherwise stated.

Tuesday 14 June, 10.30am: Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.

Monday 20 June, 10am: Executive Committee.

Tuesday 28 June, 10.30am: Ordinary Council meeting.

Tuesday 26 July, 10.30am: Consents and Regulatory Committee.

Thursday 28 July, 10.30am: Policy and Planning Committee.

Meetings calendar:
www.trc.govt.nz/meetings-calendar/

Agendas and minutes:
www.trc.govt.nz/agendas-and-minutes/

HOLLARD GARDENS

Woodcraft

Expo

Sunday 26 June, 10am-3pm

Displays of fine woodcraft from local craftsmen and women. Demonstrations throughout the day of lathe work, carving, scroll saw, pyrography and intasia. Meet members of Stratford Woodturners and New Plymouth Woodworkers Guild.

*Wood craft will be on sale. No eftpos available.
Multi draw raffle of wooden articles will be held on the day*



For more information contact Heather and Ross Vivian
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Hollard Gardens
1686 Upper Manaia Road, Kaponga
Open daily 9am-5pm, free entry
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