



## Stadium celebration

A community event on 4 May will mark the completion of the project to redevelop Stadium Taranaki. The celebration includes tours of the new East Stand, food trucks and stalls, music, bouncy castles, face painting and more. The venue, previously known as Yarrow Stadium, has been upgraded after the stands were found to be earthquake prone. Come along from 9.30am to 12.30pm and stay to enjoy two Central Football games at the stadium.



## Are you enrolled?

This year is an election year where you will choose 11 elected members to sit around the Council table. Now is the time to get enrolled so you can take part in the election; if you voted in previous local or national elections you should be enrolled but if you have moved you may need to update your details. To enrol in the October elections, head to [vote.nz](https://vote.nz). For those wanting to stand in the New Plymouth, Taranaki Māori, Stratford or the North or South Taranaki constituencies, nominations open on 4 July.



## Craig is our new Chair

We welcomed Craig Williamson as the new chair of the Council in February. Mr Williamson, who has been a councillor for 15 years, was elected at the 18 February Ordinary Council meeting and replaced Charlotte Littlewood who stood down as chair but remains on the Council. "I look forward to leading the Council as we build on the progress of the last couple of years. My focus will be on continuing the kaupapa and ensuring we work together to deliver the best possible outcomes for our community," says Mr Williamson.



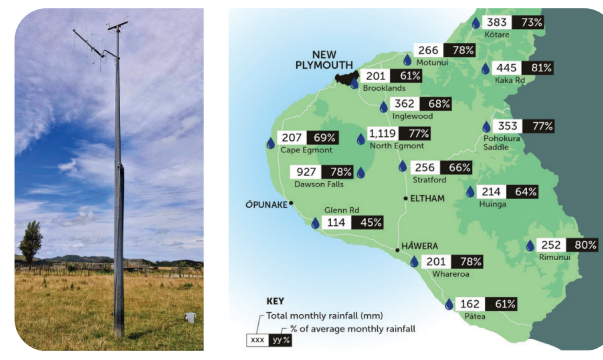
## Connector boost

Travelling between Hāwera and New Plymouth is now easier and more accessible. The Connector bus service has expanded to six return trips per weekday, with a new fully accessible bus doing two of those trips. The changes follow public consultation in 2024, where the community voiced strong support for more frequent and accessible bus services. Meanwhile, bus fares in Taranaki are set to increase from 1 July in response to a Government directive. To mitigate the rise, youth concessions for 5 to 18-year-olds have been reintroduced.



## Summer fun at gardens

It's been a spectacular summer at our three regional gardens - Tūpare, Pukeiti and Hollard Gardens - with thousands of visitors enjoying events and entertainment. One of the highlights was the Summer Jam at Tūpare in late February when more than 2,000 people descended on the garden to enjoy music and food. Around 600 folk headed to Hollard Gardens in March for the Seaside Market while Pukeiti has hosted the Yours Truly XX art exhibition and a Wellness Day. To find out what's on over the autumn and winter, head to [trc.govt.nz/gardens/whats-on](https://trc.govt.nz/gardens/whats-on)



## Weather watch

We've been keeping a close eye on the extremely dry weather conditions caused by the current La Niña weather pattern, which is particularly impacting the south of our region which has been in drought. Rainfall and river flow is variable, and this is impacting ground and surface water resources. Rainfall was particularly low in the south in February and is well below normal in western and northern Taranaki although Stratford has seen normal summer conditions. MPI has declared a drought with additional support available from Rural Support Taranaki on 0800 787 254.



## Weir removal completed

We've removed a major barrier to fish passage on the Timaru Stream at Tataraimaka in North Taranaki, opening up more than 25 kilometres of the waterway to our native fish. The Timaru Weir, which had been a barrier for more than 100 years, is now no longer preventing fish from swimming upstream. A fish recovery operation before the removal of the weir salvaged around 3,500 native fish which were safely held and then re-released once the project was completed.



## Protecting biodiversity

The results of years of fantastic mahi by volunteers, backyard trappers, farmers, students, businesses and iwi working to trap predators have been revealed by our Towards Predator-Free Taranaki team. Some 60,000 catches were recorded on trap.nz from 2019 to 2024 including 32,378 rats, 3,633 mustelids (stoats, ferrets and weasels) and 1,794 possums (not including the 5,000+ caught in the Zero Possum project). The number of predators caught has increased by 250%. This vital work is helping to protect native biodiversity.



## Busy monitoring season

The Can I Swim Here? programme has wrapped up for the season. It was a busy one with more than 800 samples collected from rivers, lakes and beaches across Taranaki to help keep you informed where to swim safely. The most checked Taranaki site on LAWA was the Merrilands Domain on the Waiwhakaho River. If you're brave enough for a winter swim, remember to avoid swimming for three days after heavy or prolonged rain. If the water looks unusually murky or smelly, it's better to wait for another day.

### YOUR COUNCILLORS

**New Plymouth Constituency** Tom Cloke: [tom.cloke@trc.govt.nz](mailto:tom.cloke@trc.govt.nz) - Susan Hughes: [susan.hughes@trc.govt.nz](mailto:susan.hughes@trc.govt.nz) - David Leart: [david.lean@trc.govt.nz](mailto:david.lean@trc.govt.nz)  
 Craig Williamson (Chair): [craig.williamson@trc.govt.nz](mailto:craig.williamson@trc.govt.nz)  
**North Taranaki Constituency** Mike Davey: [mike.davey@trc.govt.nz](mailto:mike.davey@trc.govt.nz) - Donald McIntyre: [donald.mcintyre@trc.govt.nz](mailto:donald.mcintyre@trc.govt.nz)  
**Stratford Constituency** Alan Jamieson: [alan.jamieson@trc.govt.nz](mailto:alan.jamieson@trc.govt.nz)  
**South Taranaki Constituency** Donna Cram: [donna.cram@trc.govt.nz](mailto:donna.cram@trc.govt.nz) - Neil Walker (Deputy Chair): [neil.walker@trc.govt.nz](mailto:neil.walker@trc.govt.nz)  
**Taranaki Māori Constituency** Bonita Bigham: [bonita.bigham@trc.govt.nz](mailto:bonita.bigham@trc.govt.nz)

0800 736 222

[info@trc.govt.nz](mailto:info@trc.govt.nz)

[www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz)

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