

Love Local
TARARUA

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MAYOR and
COUNCILLORS
REPORT

Council Meeting Report
31 December 2020 &
31 January 2021

MAYOR TRACEY COLLIS

"Let the winds of the Ruahine and Tararua give you strength. Let the waters of the Manawatū nourish you, for we are the pounamu of Te Tapere nui o Whatonga!"

Mayor's Report

Mayor Tracey Collis

December 2020 &
January 2021



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1 – Merry Christmas to all 2020

Christmas can be a lonely time for many of our seniors. We are blessed to have many organisations that create special events for them in each of our towns. These are so well received, and it is wonderful to be able to share in these occasions. Our volunteers are simply amazing.

The Dannevirke Community Board Christmas Tree Display was a new initiative that proved a very popular attraction. It linked in nicely to the Dannevirke Fantasy Cave that experienced an incredibly busy Christmas this year.

We also saw Father Christmas surprise the Councillors, and Staff at the Council offices during the Council Meeting. He shared his magical chocolate laden Christmas stocking with all the staff and Councillors, spreading goodwill and smiles as he went from office

Congratulations to the organisers of all our Christmas Parades which were fantastic and provided delight to many. There are many volunteer hours involved by all to make these such a success. Our communities are truly very lucky.



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Waireka Christmas Party



Elske Centre Christmas Party



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2 – 1st Battalion Charter Parade – Dannevirke

We have a relationship with the 1st Battalion that continues to grow in strength and we look forward to continuing this further into our communities. On 5th December we renewed and celebrated the Freedom of the Charter with the 1st Battalion New Zealand Infantry Regiment. This allows them the right to march with bayonets and colours flying in our towns.

We were joined by all former five mayors of the Tararua District and Mayor Alex Walker from Central Hawkes Bay. Dignitaries from the RSA and members from our Tararua District RSA's also joined us on this most formal occasion. Residents and visitors lined the streets to watch the parade which is a real sight to behold.

The 1st Battalion are always ready to serve and are currently assisting with Covid-19 isolation. Their involvement with us stretches from our Anzac and Armistice Services to having a presence at the A & P Show alongside Fire and Police. They will always be at our side, should we need them. I was particularly heartened with the young soldiers engaging with our veterans Bonny Bodley and Bob (Bukit) Hill.



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3 – Ruahine Ramblez

The Ruahine Ramblez teams gave everyone a very special gift by taking part in the Dannevirke Christmas parade. It warmed my heart watching the faces of our children and residents enjoying watching these young people march with military precision and formation in their fantastic uniforms, leading the parade.

It was a real treat and made our parade one of the best yet. They created many new marching supporters at the parade, and I am sure exposed a whole new generation to the sport of marching.



4 – Young Elected Members Conference (YEM).

The YEM was held in Lower Hutt this year. It was a great conference which covered Te Reo Māori in council what we can do and ways we can implement this into council.

Climate change and declaring a climate emergency within our community.

A talk from Stuart Crosby about bringing YEM and local government closer together.

Jenna from Cabix did a very interesting session about media and how to deal with them and the types of questions they tend to ask. Along with how to manage negative issues and informing media about news items in our communities.

On the Friday night we were treated to a talk from Ashley Bloomfield. Ashley is a genuinely nice guy. He talked about being in a back-packer hostel in Christchurch not being able to sleep, pondering over when we needed to shut the country down.

Ashley's father is from Onga Onga and he attended Dannevirke high school. He was in the hostel.

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6 - Te Ahu a Tūranga - Manawatū Tararua Highway

Tararua District Council, Palmerston North City Council and Manawatu District Council joined the team from Waka Kotahi for a site visit of the planned route of Te Ahu a Tūranga – Manawatu Tararua Highway. Dr Mark Long shared the story of the waka which sits inside the site office located at the entrance of the Manawatu Gorge. This site office will be open for the public to visit and learn more about the project. This office will house 95 staff and a strong team of 350 roading construction staff will spend 3.5m hours to build the new road on it with 200 machines and has a target of 60% local employment



This is a roading project in a special and unique environment. Over 2m plants and trees will be planted including 27km of streams. It includes 300ha of pest control on top of these plantings. 100 ha has been added to the Manawatu Reserve.

The Manawatu Gorge area is the most seismically active in New Zealand

Up to 2 million cubic metres of earth is to be dug out in massive cuttings, with the largest being 55 metres deep.

This road will be the largest roading project in New Zealand during construction and is planned to be completed by December 2024.

The new bridge and flyover that will take the road across the Manawatu River right beside the entrance to the Manawatu Gorge walk is 300 metres long and 27 metres wide. This bridge flyover will be unique in New Zealand and will be the widest and flattest deck 4 lane bridge ever constructed in New Zealand.

In 2021 and we are underway with machinery visible to those travelling the Saddle Road. This is the start of much prosperity and growth for Tararua and our time to flourish from these opportunities. Every time this road is mentioned in the media, our name is there. It is our hope that our identity grows throughout the country with this.



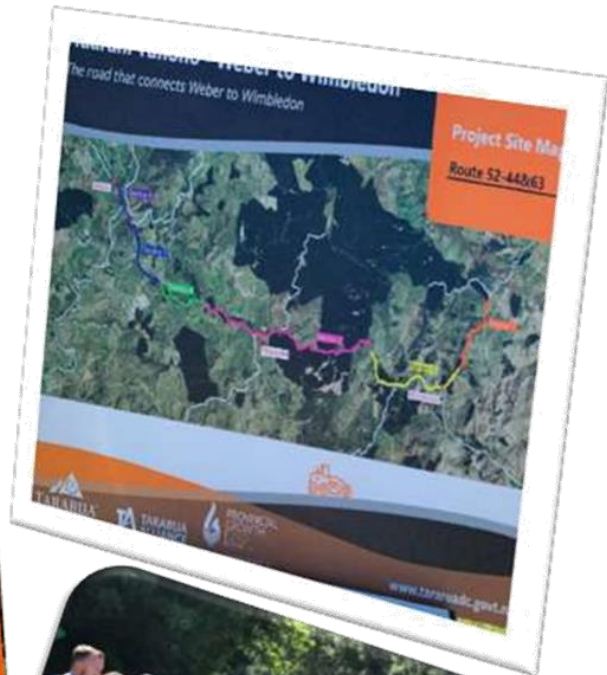
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7 - Hūarahi Tūhono – Weber to Wimbledon

It was a busy day on the 15th December with the first sod being turned on Hūarahi Tūhono - Weber to Wimbledon. We were joined by MP Kieran McNulty and Catriona McKay from the Provincial Development Unit who both turned the soil alongside our Alliance Director David Geary and Mayor Tracey Collis.

Catriona handed the signed funding contract to Chief Executive Bryan Nicholson. This was a very special day for many of us at council and throughout the district that have championed this project and helped bring it to fruition. The project was named by council, community and iwi together and translates to the road that connects Weber to Wimbledon. Shaun Morgans and Trudi Riddell from the community will sit alongside iwi on the project board. We look forward to being able to keep the community and district informed and in touch with this project. We have social outcomes with both procurement and local employment. Chief Financial Officer Raj Suppiah really bought it home to us in his speech when he said "our entire roading budget for the district is between \$13million and \$14million. So to put it in perspective the \$14million funding we have received is a life-saver for us.

It means we can give the community what it wants" Well put Raj.



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8 - Te Ahu a Tūranga – Sod Turning

Over 200 plants were planted to line the stream, the eastern bridge will cross with our local children to celebrate the turning of the first sod of Te Ahu a Tūranga: Manawatu Tararua Highway. It was very special to have the sod turning in Woodville with Hon Prime Minister Jacinda Adern, Waka Kotahi Chair Sir Brian Roche, Hon Michael Wood Minister of Transport present for the occasion. There was much media coverage which highlighted just how special this project is to us in Tararua and to the region. The best news is that the Manawatu Standard finally referred to it as Manawātū Tararua Highway.



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**Construction of Manawātū Gorge
replacement highway to begin**



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9 - Covid – Testing Stations

Pop up testing was carried out in Pahiatua, Dannevirke and Woodville and Eketahuna during the month. It is good to have these in our communities to test for any community transmission. We must always be vigilant as this is an easily transmissible virus. We remain in Alert Level 1 not Alert Level none. There has been a complacency in the use of the contract tracing app and it is good to see these numbers increasing with the case in Northland. We must all play our part in keeping each other safe.



10 - Digital Hub

It was during a Connect Tararua meeting in Wellington when we first heard the words Digital Hub and immediately it was on our wish list. To see this open and creating opportunities for our people and businesses is very gratifying for us all. Supported with funding for five years from the Provincial Growth Fund, we are truly excited about what this offers.

A range of training and equipment is available, and we encourage anyone with any tech questions to simply pop in or get in touch. During Covid, we all embraced technology in a new way, and this will continue for us all. With the nine new towers, all due to come online this year, many new residents will also now be able to utilise technology.



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11 - Manukura Farewell Memorial

Manukura - the little white kiwi Farewell Memorial
Many beautiful words were shared at the memorial from Manukura's special arrival and life.

Manukura was so much more than a bird and drew people from around the NZ and the world. She captured our hearts and became the ambassador for Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre, for kiwi, for conservation and for tourism in the Tararua District and Wairarapa.

Her story and legacy will live on teaching and inspiring people to make our planet a better place, respecting and protecting our precious wildlife and native bush. Emily Court, Manager at Pūkaha announced the new Environment and Ecology Wānanga being built at Pūkaha will be named after her.



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12 – Events Attended by the Mayor

Mayor Tracey Collis: December 2020

Committee and Portfolio Representations:

- Forestry Committee
- Weber/Wimbledon/Herbertville Committees
- Citizenship
- Civic Honours
- Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs



Date: 2020 Monthly	Event/Attendance
	Central Radio Interviews: 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 21 and 24 December Mayoral Column – Bush Telegraph
1 December	Joint Standing Committee Meeting @ Horizons Regional Council Regional Transport Committee Meeting @ Horizons Regional Council Regional Chiefs Meeting @ Horizons Regional Council Te Ahu a Turanga Partnership Panel – Guest Speaker Woodville's Districts' Vision Meeting
2 December	Dannevirke High School Meeting Strengthening Families Meeting
3 December	Tararua Reap - Safer Communities
4 December	Wastewater Network Meeting Water's Team Introduction to Chief Executive Marae and house visits to affected whanau
5 December	1 st Battalion Charter Parade, Marching Display
7 December	Dannevirke Community Board Meeting Pongaroa the Way to Go Meeting
9 December	Long Term Plan Meeting Tararua District Council Meeting
10 December	Te Apiti Manawatū Gorge Governance Group Meeting Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs Meeting Dannevirke High School Prizegiving
11 December	Te Ahu a Tūranga Sod Turning & Tree Planting Special Event
12 December	Woodville Market, Christmas Parade and BBQ Woodville: Thank You Essential Workers
14 December	Eketāhuna Community Board Meeting Tararua Agri Business Xmas meeting
15 December	Digital Spaces Afternoon Tea
16 December	Sustainable Ewe Meeting CHB Mayor Meeting with CE
17 December	Tararua Alliance Visit with CE A&P President Introduction with CE Smedley Station & Cadet Training Prizegiving

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Mayor Tracey Attendances: January 2021

Date: 2021 Monthly	Event/Attendance
	Central Radio Interviews: Radio Woodville Interviews: Mayoral Column – Bush Telegraph
5 January	World Cup League Equestrian Event – Dannevirke
12 January	Rural Leadership Meeting
13 January	Hanaita Palmer – 94 th Birthday Celebration
14 January	Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs Meeting
15 January	Margaret Parsons Meeting re Civic Awards Board
16/17 January	Eketāhuna Bush Classic 2021
18/19 January	Strategic Planning Retreat
20 January	Hūarahi Tūhono – Update
21 January	Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs Meeting
27 January	Long Term Plan Meeting Council Meeting
30/31 January	Woodville Grand Prix Motocross 2021

Thank you to the Dannevirke Year 9 and 10 students for catering our last council meeting of the year. It was absolutely superb. It is wonderful to see the talents of our youth in action and be able to support them. December is a month of celebrating youth as we attend the High School Prizegivings and share in their achievements.



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13 – Councillors Portfolio Reports for December 2020 and January 2021

Deputy Mayor: Erana Peeti-Webber

Attendance at all committee meetings as per Councillors schedule

Committee and Portfolio Representations:

- Dannevirke Community Board – Wheel Park and Multi Sport Meetings

Date: 2020	Event/Attendance
1 December	Wheel park project meeting with Staff.
2 December	Dannevirke High School Multi-sport complex meeting
4 December	Marae and house visits to affected whanau Te Kāuru - Manawatu River (Eastern) Hapū Collective Hui
5 December	1 st Battalion Charter Parade, lunch and Ruahine ramblers marching displays
7 December	Dannevirke Community Board Meeting
8 December	Bryan Nicholson Pōhiri: Mākirikiri Marae Dannevirke
9 December	Long Term Plan Meeting Tararua District Council Meeting
15 December	Community board Christmas tree display supervising Route 52 Signing Digital Spaces Afternoon Tea
18 December	Te Maruata roopu whakahaere
20 December	Community board Christmas tree display supervising
23 December	Dannevirke Multi Sport feasibility meeting via zoom
Date 2021	Event/Attendance
January	
13 January	Dannevirke Multi Sport stakeholder discussion Dannevirke Multi Sport Wheel Park meeting
18/19 January	Hanaita Palmer – 94 th Birthday Celebration Strategic Planning Retreat
27 January	Long Term Plan Meeting Tararua District Council Meeting Dannevirke Multi Sport Wheel Park Meeting

DHS student- Tama Ruaporo came to our December Council meeting. He is really interested in politics and would like to study it in the future.



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Carole Isaacson

Attendance at all committee meetings as per Councillors schedule

Committee and Portfolio Representations:

- Safer Communities
- Norsewood/Ormondville Community Liaison

Date: 2020	Event/Attendance
3 December	Strengthening Families Meeting Tararua Reap - Safer Communities
8 December	Norsewood Promotions AGM Bryan Nicholson Pōhiri: Mākirikiri Marae Dannevirke
9 December	Long Term Plan Meeting Tararua District Council Meeting
11 December	Te Ahu a Tūranga Sod Turning & Tree Planting Special Event

Date 2021	Event/Attendance
January	
5 January	World Cup League Equestrian Event – Dannevirke
18/19 January	Strategic Planning Retreat
27 January	Long Term Plan Meeting Tararua District Council Meeting

Peter Johns

Attendance at all committee meetings as per Councillors schedule

Committee and Portfolio Representations:

- Forestry: Lead
- Woodville Districts' Vision

Date: 2020	Event/Attendance
1 December	Woodville Districts Vision Meeting
2 December	Te Apiti Focus – Zoom
5 December	1 st Battalion Charter Parade
8 December	Bryan Nicholson Pōhiri: Mākirikiri Marae Dannevirke
9 December	Long Term Plan Meeting Tararua District Council Meeting
10 December	Te Apiti Governance Group
11 December	Te Ahu a Tūranga Sod Turning & Tree Planting Special Event
12 December	Woodville Lions Coast to Coast
15 December	Route 52 Meeting Digital Spaces Forestry Meeting

Date 2021	Event/Attendance
January	
18/19 January	Strategic Planning Retreat
27 January	Long Term Plan Meeting Tararua District Council Meeting

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Sharon Wards

Attendance at all committee meetings as per Councillors schedule

Committee and Portfolio Representations:

- Akitio/Pongaroa Community Liaison
- Strategy and Policy Chair

Date: 2020

26 November
3 December
5 December
7 December
9 December

Event/Attendance

Tararua Housing Hui: Tararua Health & Wellbeing Go
Strengthening Families & LMG Meeting
1st Battalion Charter Parade
Pongaroa the Way to Go
Long Term Plan Meeting
Tararua District Council Meeting

Date 2021

January

2
18/19 January
27 January

Event/Attendance

Akitio Ratepayers Assoc AGM
Strategic Planning Retreat
Long Term Plan Meeting
Tararua District Council Meeting

Kerry Sutherland

Attendance at all committee meetings as per Councillors schedule

Committee and Portfolio Representations:

- Forestry
- Works Liaison Chair

Date: 2020

5 December

8 December
9 December

10 December
12 December
16 December

Event/Attendance

1st Battalion Charter Parade
Marching Band BBQ
Ratepayer Meeting – Complaint re District Plan Issues
Long Term Plan Meeting
Tararua District Council Meeting
Te Apiti Manawatū Gorge Governance Group Meeting
Woodville Market, Christmas Parade and BB
Ratepayers Meeting = Complaints re potholes etc Dannevirke Streets

Date 2021

January

15 January
18/19 January
27 January

Event/Attendance

Ratepayer Meeting – issue regarding Alliance and Road Reserve
Strategic Planning Retreat
Long Term Plan Meeting and Tararua District Council Meeting

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Alison Franklin

Attendance at all committee meetings as per Councillors schedule

Committee and Portfolio Representations:

- Safer Communities
- Pahiatua On Track

Date: 2020

2 December
9 December

Event/Attendance

Pahiatua On Track Committee Meeting
Long Term Plan Meeting
Tararua District Council Meeting
Te Ahu a Tūranga Sod Turning & Tree Planting Special Event
Eketāhuna Community Board Meeting
Alfredton School

Date 2021

January
18/19 January
27 January

Event/Attendance

Strategic Planning Retreat
Long Term Plan Meeting
Tararua District Council Meeting

Raylene Treder

Attendance at all committee meetings as per Councillors schedule

Committee Representations:

- Eketāhuna Community Board

Date: 2020

1 December
2 December
5 December
9 December

Event/Attendance

Woodville's Districts' Vision Meeting
Dannevirke Multisport - Workshop
Pahiatua Christmas Parade
Long Term Plan Meeting
Tararua District Council Meeting
Te Aiti Manawatu Gorge Governance Group Meeting
Te Ahu a Tūranga Sod Turning & Tree Planting Special Event
Woodville Market, Christmas Parade and BBQ
Woodville: Thank You Essential Workers

Date 2021

January
18/19 January
27 January

Event/Attendance

Strategic Planning Retreat
Long Term Plan Meeting
Tararua District Council Meeting

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Shirley Hull

Attendance at all committee meetings as per Councillors schedule

Committee and Portfolio Representations:

- Makuri Community Liaison
- Pahiatua Upgrade Committee
- Economic Development Chair

Date: 2020

Date	Event/Attendance
3 December	Induction Meeting with CE, Bryan Nicholson
5 December	Pahiatua Christmas Parade & Window Competition
9 December	Long Term Plan Meeting
	Tararua District Council Meeting
11 December	Te Ahu a Tūranga Sod Turning & Tree Planting Special Event
	Southern District Bus Tour
12 December	Coast to Coast
	Woodville: Thank You Essential Workers
14 December	Alfredton School
15 December	Digital Spaces Afternoon Tea
17 December	Bush Multisport Trust Christmas Meeting & Function

Date 2021

Date	Event/Attendance
January	
18/19 January	Strategic Planning Retreat
27 January	Long Term Plan Meeting
	Tararua District Council Meeting

Comment:

December is a blur now... it was busy with some really memorable, tangible events that will 'leapfrog' the Tararua District's infrastructure and connections.

2020 will be remembered for more than just Covid 19!



Pahiatua Library books on the move for Painting

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