



Date: Wednesday 8 December 2021
Time: 1.00pm
Meeting Room: Council Chamber
Venue: 26 Gordon Street
Dannevirke

Tararua District Council

OPEN ATTACHMENTS

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Love  Local
TARARUA

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MAYOR and
COUNCILLORS
REPORT

Council Meeting Report
November & December 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

November & December
2021



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Toastmasters 40th Anniversary

Toastmasters in Dannevirke celebrated their club's 40th birthday on Saturday, 13 November. Dannevirke is one of over 1600 Toastmaster clubs worldwide.

Charter member John Robertson said the club had come a long way in its 40 years and local residents Stalky Law and Ray Chaplow from Hastings, who were among the first charter group and Mark von Dadelszen as the original sponsor, joined in the celebrations.

Toastmasters is an international world leader in communication and leadership development. It is more than just a club of fast talkers, it enables and supports its members to join international learning opportunities through the Pathways Education Programme and specific techniques that build confident, fluent speakers.

We are grateful to have such a successful organisation in our district for 40 years and are proud of the skills their members continue to develop.

Special mention was made for former Mayor, Maureen Reynolds, and several other attendees entertained, and the cake was cut as the last item for the formal event.



Chapter Members Ray Chaplow, Stalky Law and John Robertson
Photo courtesy of Bush Telegraph



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1. Armistice Day: The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO

The address that follows is from our Governor General, The Rt Honourable Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO for Armistice Day 11 November 2021. Dame Cindy and Dr Davies attended a socially distanced Act of Remembrance at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park.

Rere ana nga roimata o Hine tērā te pae o Te Riri. Huihuia mai tātau katoa tēnei te pae o Maumahara. E nga iwi, kei aku rangatira wahine ma, tāne mā tēnā tātau katoa.

I wish firstly to acknowledge our veterans and your whānau. I would also like to acknowledge: The Hon Meka Whaitiri, Minister for Veterans; Dr Shane Reti, Deputy Leader of the Opposition; His Excellency Leasi Papali'i Tommy Scanlan, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps; Air Marshal Kevin Short, Chief of the Defence Force; BJ Clark, National President of the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association; and Taranaki Whānui.

The New Zealand Defence Force, for your important contribution to global peace and security, and your service to our country and communities.

More than a century since the end of the First World War, Armistice Day continues to be recognised both internationally and here in Aotearoa New Zealand as the day on which hostilities ceased on the Western Front.

It is difficult to imagine how it must have felt for our service personnel, to hear news that the war was over. We might imagine an outpouring of joy at the Allied victory.

Bert Stokes, a twenty-three-year-old gunner of the New Zealand Field Artillery, posted in the Forest of Mormal, recalled a more muted response:

No one seemed to want to cheer when we first heard the news. We realised that soon we shall see the home shores on the horizon and that is what the armistice means to us. For most of us tired in body and mind and with memories of the tragic field of battle this momentous announcement was too vast to be appreciated at that moment.

Bert's words illustrate how hard it is to understand the profound impact of war on those who served.

Back home, thousands of New Zealanders flocked to parades and street parties. This was at the height of the 1918 influenza pandemic, and some gatherings were cancelled for fear of spreading the virus.

It is a sobering link to the present day, and I acknowledge there may be veterans and others who would have liked to have been here with us this morning, or at local commemorations, but have been prevented due to COVID-19.

Over the years, the focus of Armistice Day has broadened from its origins – connecting the end of the First World War with issues and themes of our time. Today, I want to reflect briefly on the theme of peace.



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The Treaty of Versailles was signed in 1919. The terms of peace, however, took the Allied powers four years to work out in full – as long as the war itself.

This reminds us that peace is neither an objective concept, nor a natural state. Rather, peace is a precarious balance of competing interests, perspectives, and values.

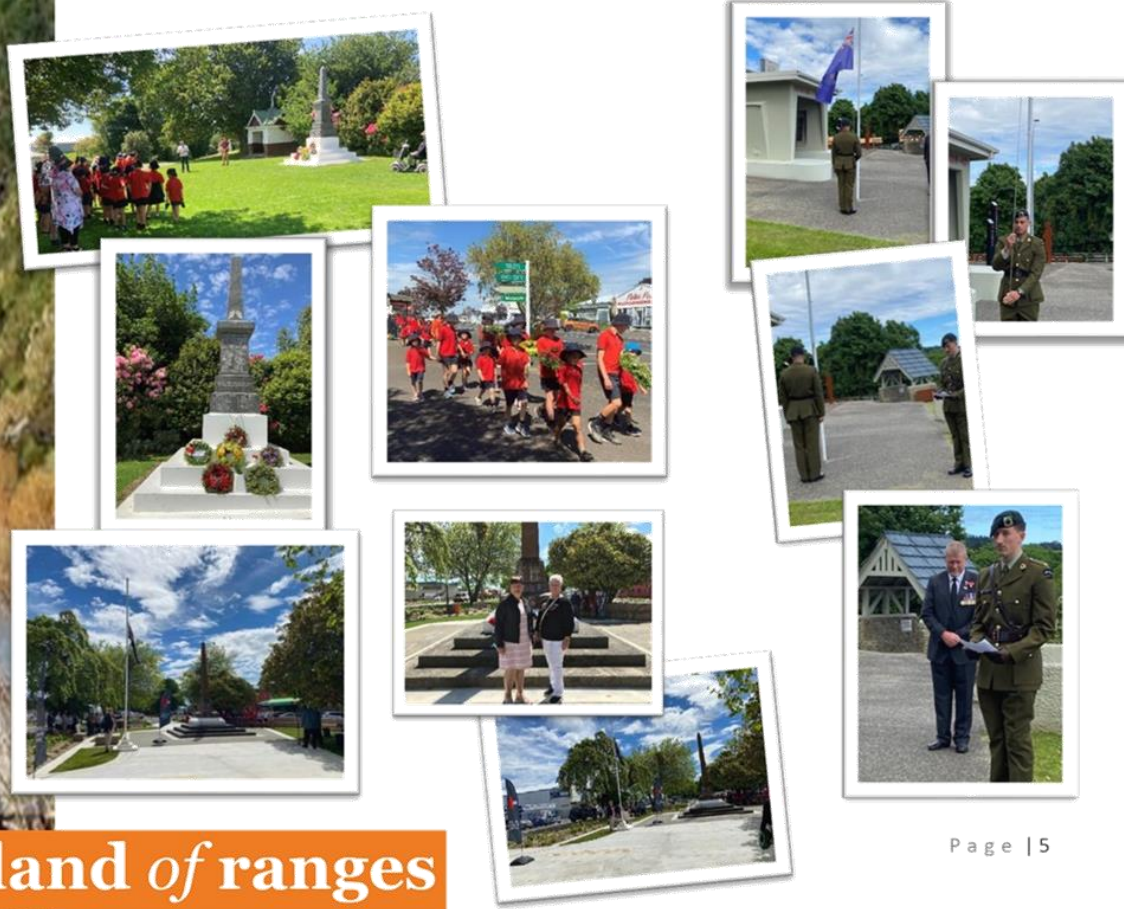
The peace following the First World War was ultimately too fragile to endure. The war led to the collapse of major empires, the birth of new nations, and the transfer of colonies between imperial powers, with consequences that continue to this day.

With the threat of COVID-19 highlighting some of the most vulnerable groups in our communities, perhaps it is also timely for us to consider that peace does not equate to wellbeing for all – and to wonder how, as a nation, we can better use the opportunities that peace provides.

On Armistice Day, we acknowledge those who have served in war, remember those who have tragically lost their lives, and reflect on the impact war has had on whānau and on civilians, throughout history.

Let us also reaffirm our ongoing, shared responsibility for peace, at home and abroad – and reflect on how it may be shaped by what we truly value as a nation.

Kia maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou.



2. Pūkaha Centre Expansion

On the 30 October 2021 Mayor Tracey along with Tararua District Council's Group Manager/Corporate Raj Suppiah and Pūkaha's Co-Chairs Georgina Morrison and Claire Matthews signed a \$1 million loan agreement between Pūkaha and Tararua District Council.



Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre will develop their Environmental and Ecology Centre, Te Waananga Taiao. Along with Council's loan, about half of the total cost of the programme is being met by Government's Provincial Growth Fund. Further contributions are expected from corporate sponsorship, grants, community fundraising and borrowing.

Pūkaha is the gem of our district and we look forward to the expansion which will include overnight accommodation for 40 people and includes a whare nui that will seat 150 and have catering facilities and whare kai seating 100.

Te Waananga Taiao will help to diversify income streams, and reduce reliance on international visitors while also increasing educational and recreational experiences for the community, schools, community groups, iwi, motorhome users and private groups. In addition, the project is expected to create up to 10 additional full-time jobs within the first five years of operating.

Besides the significant cultural importance, an important driver of the Te Waananga Taiao project is the need to grow and improve the commercial side of Pūkaha. Using the centre to provide accommodation as well as environment and educational tourism will increase visitors to Pūkaha as they will travel through and spend time and money in the Tararua District. This will benefit businesses and the community and help to strengthen the economic and social diversity of the region.

The development of Te Waananga Taiao aligns with many of Council's goals; it supports our cultural histories, it promotes our district identity, it boosts our district as a visitor destination, it supports business growth and diversity, and educates our children about the importance of climate change, nature and our beautiful flora and fauna.

We are looking forward to the positive impact of the expansion at Pūkaha and the benefits it will provide to the Tararua District.



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3. Gumboot Day – 5th November: Pahiatua

To celebrate New Zealand's Gumboot Day, Pahiatua families turned out to the Bush Multisport stadium to donate a gold coin in support of the "free kids' counselling" initiative.

This is a great cause that provides free and timely counselling for any young person who might need it. Some people say that having depression is like walking through mud – members of the township pulled on their gumboots to show their support.

Many games were played and sausages consumed but the firm favourite of gumboot throwing challenge saw Craig Monk throwing his gumboot 26 metres – the winning throw. The celebrity gumboot winner was David Jackson of the Pahiatua School - 31 metres. Mayor Tracey threw her gumboot 11 metres and then tied for a first place with Jane Tylee (East Coast Rural Support) in the hoop throwing.

Many thanks go out to Fiona Stokes from Tararua Family Services, Jess McNicol from The Trust Tararua, the sausage sizzle by Tararua Community Youth Services, Explore Pahiatua Community Committee, and the kind donations from our local Pahiatua businesses. The total funds raised was \$719.30 – a great gumboot effort.



*Some of the celebrities who competed.
Photo courtesy of NZ Herald*

4. Norsewood Festival

The weather wasn't that welcoming, but the people, stalls and entertainment were appreciated by all who attended the Norsewood festival on 6th November. The pipe band and other bands added to the atmosphere of positivity and support for a wide range of stalls. A great event and many thanks go to the organisers and sponsors.



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5. Handover of Flag for Pahiatua Town Upgrade with the Rt Hon Trevor Mallard and Kieran McNulty, MP Wairarapa

The New Zealand flag is again waving proudly from the new Sedcole Flagpole in Pahiatua. At a sunny ceremony the Honourable Trevor Mallard, Speaker of the House, gifted the flag from Parliament to the Pahiatua community.

A small crowd including committee members of Te Kohanga Whakawhaiti Marae, MP for Wairarapa Kieran McNulty, the Mayor and Councillors attended the ceremony. After speeches and blessings by the local iwi the flag was hoisted by Stuart Malins and Wilson Duff of Tararua Alliance, Mayor Tracey and Louise Powick, the Explore Pahiatua Community Committee Chair.

Thank you to the Honourable Trevor Mallard, Speaker of the House and Kieran McNulty, MP for Wairarapa, for your generosity, for listening and understanding the significance of the Sedcole Flagpole to our community and honouring that with a flag from Parliament Buildings. This gift acknowledges the significance of our flagpole and the town's rich histories.

The original Sedcole Flagpole was constructed 1901 by local landowner Henry Sedcole, the flagpole was donated for the local community to have a focal point to mark civic occasions and important events. A prominent landmark of Pahiatua following the settlement of the town in the 1880s, the Sedcole Flagpole was a marker of the maturing town, coinciding with other civic institutions in Pahiatua. It was removed in 2015 for repairs and replaced with this beautiful replica as part of the Main Street upgrade.

During the upgrade process Tararua District's roading Alliance partner, Downer, sponsored \$5000 for the foundational work of the flagpole to be built into the upgrade. This was followed with a grant of \$27,500 from Tararua District Councils Heritage Protection Reserve.

The original flagpole was donated to the family of Henry Sedcole and has been cut and made into plaques for his descendants.

The gift of our national flag portrays relationship - all the hopes, dreams and people it represents. As this flag flies over our town, may it unite all cultures and bring healing to our land.



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6. White Ribbon

Shining a Light on Domestic Violence Prevention – The White Ribbon Campaign 2021.



We would like to acknowledge our White Ribbon Ambassadors – Gary McKernon and Hannah Kingi who both are committed to making Tararua a better place to live and who dedicate many hours to White Ribbon understanding first-hand the impact of family violence in our communities. Thank you to the White Ribbon committee who work hard all year helping reduce family violence in our communities – you are unsung heroes that make a real difference.

The cutting of the ribbon to honour this campaign was bittersweet. As those gathered listened to the speeches and collected white ribbons for their lapels. The posters of the women who had lost their lives to domestic violence dotted the windows behind the speakers, and those who read their stories became teary eyed and solemn as they moved from one to the next. These stories became reminders of other women, men and children we know, who have suffered from domestic violence.

We must have conversations about what a respectful relationship looks like because taking that first step is the hardest for everyone. Most of all, it means walking with empathy, and patience alongside people and taking the time to understand the back story.

There is a domestic violence incident *every four minutes* in New Zealand and the impact on our community is far reaching. We need to unite to make change and shining a light and sharing these stories helps others understand, gives confidence to those living abuse to come forward.

We have many that will help, without judgement but with aroha.

We are all here to help.

At our November Council meeting – Councillors were asked to take the pledge and to do this publicly as an acknowledge that we are all in this together, to make Tararua a safe place for all.



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7. Driving Simulator – Woodville Library



On Tuesday 30 November Councillors Kerry Sutherland, Raylene Treder, Shirley Hull, Carole Isaacsons and Peter Johns joined myself and Grant Kauri, Owner Interface Manager, and Melua Watson, Senior Communications and Stakeholder Advisor of Te Ahu A Turanga – Manawatū – Tararua Highway, to test out the driving simulator that has recently been installed in the Woodville Library.

We were able to experience driving the new road which will enhance the Tararua District's connection to our neighbours. Once completed it is estimated that the

drive from one side of the gorge to the other will take 13 minutes.

This facility is free to access at the Woodville Library and no booking is necessary.

Many thanks to the Woodville Library and iSite staff for hosting us.

The Woodville Library opening hours are 9am -5pm Monday to Friday and is located at 45 Vogel Street Woodville.



8. Vaccinations

The Tararua District has recently reached 93% first dose, and 83% second dose vaccinated – a great achievement.

A massive thank you to Iwi, Tararua Health Group and our health care workers who have been providing vaccinations and testing services.

You have been adaptive in changing times and we truly appreciate your dedication in the fight against COVID-19.



9. Sunflowers

I have bagged up sunflower seeds for anyone that would like to sow a little brightness in their garden or the community. These are free, and available at the libraries and all the Pataki Kai throughout the district.

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10. Events Attended by the Mayor

Mayor Tracey Collis: 2021

Committee and Portfolio Representations:

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



Date: 2021	Event/Attendance
28 October	Three waters update – CE's, Chairs & Mayors – zoom
29 October	Three waters meeting – zoom Future for Local Government zoom Pahiatua Community Visits: New World and Foodflo
30 October	Pūkaha/TDC Loan Agreement signing ceremony
1 November	ELT Meeting Dannevirke Community Board meeting Meeting new staff: Regulatory Services Manager – James Single, Utilities Manager – Lee Ransom and Building Consents Admin – Horowai Puhata-Makarini
2 November	Three waters meeting – zoom
4 November	Carbon Forestry Public Meeting Regional Leadership Group Meeting – zoom
5 November	Accessing Central NZ meeting Gumboot Day – Pahiatua – Celebrity Gumboot Toss
8 November	Three waters progress meeting – zoom
9 November	Ormondville Water Tanks Meeting – Raj Suppiah Fortnightly Catch up - Mark Maxwell
10 November	Strategy & Policy Committee Meeting Economic Development & Marketing Committee Meeting Love Local Lunch – The Black Stump Dannevirke 2022 – 2023 Draft Annual Plan workshop Works Liaison Committee Meeting
11 November	Armistice Day Commemorations - Dannevirke
12 November	Sector Update – Zoom Regional Leadership Group Meeting – zoom Kieran McAnulty – Three Waters update
13 November	Dannevirke Toastmasters 40 th Anniversary Event – Speaker
14 November	Covid Meeting - Teams
16 November	Regional Transport Meeting – zoom Carbon Forestry Meeting Zoom: Entity C Mayors and CEs
17 November	Works Liaison Committee Meeting Love Local – Jessica's Fish n Chips ETS – Oliver Hendrickson
18 November	Zone Three Meeting – zoom Special Mayors/CE's zoom: Facing Covid in your Community Taranaki District Council Building Department Trades Network Evening

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Date: 2021

20 November
22 November

23 November

24 November

25 November

26 November

29 November

30 November
1 December

2 December
3 December

6 December

7 December

Event/Attendance

Tuia Wananga – zoom
Three Waters progress – zoom
Handover of Flag for Pahiatua Town Upgrade - Rt Hon Trevor Mallard
2022 – 2023 Draft Annual Plan Workshop
#LoveLocal - Arigato Mum's Sushi
2022-2023 Draft Annual Plan Workshop
Taranaki District Council Meeting
Three Waters update - zoom
Whanaungatanga me Māori – Palmerston North
Taranaki Wastewater Treatment Strategy - Priorities Workshop
Rural & Provincial LGNZ
Te Āpiti Masterplan - Final review Virtual Forum 2
Recreational Paths Fund Meeting – Woodville
ELT Meeting
Regional Transport Meeting – zoom
MTFJ – Monthly Report meeting with Fontayne Chase & Colin Yonge
Grant Kauri & Colin Yonge – Waka Kotahi – Recreational Paths Fund - ZOOM
Linda Anderson – Weber School
Joint Iwi/TDC Governance Committee Meeting via ZOOM
Regional Leadership Group Meeting ZOOM
RSA Lunch
Visit and Consultation at Herbertville and Wimbledon
Visit Waihi Falls with Carole Isaacson and Dannevirke Community Board Chair Pat Walsh
Plenary Group – Three Waters
Dannevirke Community Board Meeting
Emergency Management Joint Standing Committee
Regional Transport Committee Meeting
Regional Chiefs



Dannevirke

Armistice

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11. Councillors Portfolio Reports for November 2021

Deputy Mayor: Erana Peeti-Webber

Attendance at all committee meetings as per Councillor's schedule

Committee and Portfolio Representations:

Dannevirke Community Board – Wheel Park and Multi Sport Meetings

Date 2021	Event/Attendance
1 November	Pūkaha debate Judging Dannevirke Community Board Meeting
9 November	DMCI Meeting
10 November	Strategy & Policy Committee Meeting Economic Development & Marketing Committee Meeting Love Local Lunch – The Black Stump Dannevirke 2022 – 2023 Draft Annual Plan workshop Works Liaison Committee Meeting
11 November	Armistice Day Commemorations - Dannevirke
12 November	Kieran McNulty – Three Waters update
17 November	Works Liaison Committee Meeting Love Local – Jessica's Fish n Chips ETS Oliver Hendrickson Forestry Meeting Play Trailor Launch - Pahiatua
18 November	Mayors/chairs CE LGNZ – zoom
19 November	Dan Gordan Meeting - zoom
22 November	Handover of Flag for Pahiatua Town Upgrade - Rt Hon Trevor Mallard White Ribbon Launch - Dannevirke
23 November	2022-2023 Draft Annual Plan Workshop #LoveLocal - Arigato Mum's Sushi
24 November	2022-2023 Draft Annual Plan Workshop Tararua District Council Meeting
28 November	Woodville Radio Interview

Pūkaha Debate Judging with Deputy Mayor Erana Peeti-Webber



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Carole Isaacson

Attendance at all committee meetings as per Councillor's schedule.

Committee and Portfolio Representations:

- Safer Communities
- Norsewood/Ormondville Community Liaison

Date: 2021	Event/Attendance
29 October	Three waters meeting – zoom
2 November	Three waters meeting – zoom
7 November	Creative Communities Funding meeting
10 November	Strategy & Policy Committee Meeting Economic Development & Marketing Committee Meeting Love Local Lunch – The Black Stump Dannevirke 2022 – 2023 Draft Annual Plan workshop Works Liaison Committee Meeting
11 November	Armistice Day Commemorations - Dannevirke
12 November	Kieran McNulty – Three Waters update
14 November	Covid Meeting - Teams
17 November	Works Liaison Committee Meeting Love Local – Jessica's Fish n Chips
18 November	Zone 3 Meeting – zoom
22 November	Handover of Flag for Pahiatua Town Upgrade - Rt Hon Trevor Mallard
23 November	2022 – 2023 Annual Plan Workshop #LoveLocal - Arigato Mum's Sushi
24 November	2022-2023 Draft Annual Plan Workshop Taranaki District Council Meeting

Alison Franklin

Attendance at all committee meetings as per Councillor's schedule.

Committee and Portfolio Representations:

- Safer Communities
- Pahiatua On Track

Date: 2021	Event/Attendance
29 October	Three waters meeting – zoom
2 November	Three waters meeting – zoom
3 Nov	Explore Pahiatua Community Committee Meeting
8 November	Three waters progress meeting – zoom
10 November	Strategy & Policy Committee Meeting Economic Development & Marketing Committee Meeting Love Local Lunch – The Black Stump Dannevirke 2022 – 2023 Draft Annual Plan workshop Works Liaison Committee Agenda Meeting
11 November	Armistice Day Commemorations
12 November	Kieran McNulty – Three Waters update
16 November	Carbon Forestry Meeting
17 November	Works Liaison Committee Meeting Love Local – Jessica's Fish n Chips
18 November	Zone Three Meeting – zoom
22 November	Handover of Flag for Pahiatua Town Upgrade - Rt Hon Trevor Mallard
23 November	2022 – 2023 Draft Annual Plan Workshop
24 November	2022-2023 Draft Annual Plan Workshop Taranaki District Council Meeting
25 November	Rural & Provincial LGNZ - zoom

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Kerry Sutherland

Attendance at all committee meetings as per Councillor's schedule.

Committee and Portfolio Representations:

- Forestry
- Works Liaison Chair

Date: 2021	Event/Attendance
29 October	Three waters meeting – zoom
10 November	Strategy & Policy Committee Meeting Economic Development & Marketing Committee Meeting Love Local Lunch – The Black Stump Dannevirke 2022 – 2023 Draft Annual Plan workshop Works Liaison Committee Meeting
12 November	Kieran McNulty – Three Waters update Carbon Forestry Meeting Zoom: Entity C Mayors and CEs
17 November	Works Liaison Committee Meeting Love Local – Jessica's Fish n Chips
23 November	2022 – 2023 Draft Annual Plan Workshop #LoveLocal - Mum's Arigato Sushi
24 November	2022-2023 Draft Annual Plan Workshop Tararua District Council Meeting Three Waters update - zoom
25 November	Rural & Provincial LGNZ

Peter Johns

Attendance at all committee meetings as per Councillor's schedule

Committee and Portfolio Representations:

- Forestry: Lead
- Woodville Districts' Vision

Date: 2021	Event/Attendance
2 November	Woodville District's Vision Meeting
10 November	Strategy & Policy Committee Meeting Economic Development & Marketing Committee Meeting Love Local Lunch – The Black Stump Dannevirke 2022 – 2023 Draft Annual Plan workshop Works Liaison Committee Meeting
11 November	Armistice Day Commemorations - Dannevirke
12 November	Kieran McNulty – Three Waters update
14 November	Covid Meeting - Teams
16 November	Lawrence Yule: Carbon Forest Meeting
17 November	Works Liaison Committee Meeting Love Local – Jessica's Fish n Chips
18 November	Zone 3 Meeting – zoom
19 November	Dan Gordan Meeting - zoom
22 November	Handover of Flag for Pahiatua Town Upgrade - Rt Hon Trevor Mallard
23 November	2022-2023 Draft Annual Plan Workshop #LoveLocal - Arigato Mum's Sushi
24 November	2022-2023 Draft Annual Plan Workshop Tararua District Council Meeting

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Shirley Hull

Attendance at all committee meetings as per Councillor's schedule

Committee and Portfolio Representations:

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

Date	Event/Attendances
10 November	Strategy & Policy Committee Meeting Economic Development & Marketing Committee Meeting Love Local Lunch – The Black Stump Dannevirke 2022 – 2023 Draft Annual Plan workshop Works Liaison Committee Meeting
11 November	Armistice Day Commemorations
12 November	Kieran McNulty – Three Waters update
14 November	Covid Meeting - Teams
17 November	Works Liaison Committee Meeting Love Local – Jessica's Fish n Chips
18 November	Zone 3 Meeting – zoom
22 November	Handover of Flag for Pahiatua Town Upgrade - Rt Hon Trevor Mallard
23 November	2022-2023 Draft Annual Plan Workshop #LoveLocal - Arigato Mum's Sushi
24 November	2022-2023 Draft Annual Plan Workshop Tararua District Council Meeting

Sharon Wards

Attendance at all committee meetings as per Councillor's schedule.

Committee and Portfolio Representations:

- Akitio/Pongaroa Community Liaison
- Strategy and Policy Chair

Date 2021	Event/Attendance
6 November	Norsewood Festival
10 November	Strategy & Policy Committee Meeting Economic Development & Marketing Committee Meeting Love Local Lunch – The Black Stump Dannevirke 2022 – 2023 Draft Annual Plan workshop Works Liaison Committee Meeting
11 November	Armistice Day Commemorations - Dannevirke
12 November	Kieran McNulty – Three Waters update
14 November	Covid Meeting - Teams
17 November	Works Liaison Committee Meeting Love Local – Jessica's Fish n Chips
18 November	Zone 3 Meeting – zoom
19 November	Dan Gordan Meeting - zoom
22 November	Handover of Flag for Pahiatua Town Upgrade - Rt Hon Trevor Mallard White Ribbon Launch - Dannevirke
23 November	2022-2023 Draft Annual Plan Workshop #LoveLocal - Arigato Mum's Sushi
24 November	2022-2023 Draft Annual Plan Workshop Tararua District Council Meeting

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Raylene Treder

Attendance at all committee meetings as per Councillor's schedule.

Committee Representations:

- Eketahuna Community Board

Date 2021	Event/Attendance
2 November	Woodville District Vision Meeting
3 November	Explore Pahiatua Committee Meeting
5 November	Gumboot Day – Pahiatua – Celebrity Gumboot Toss
8 November	Eketahuna Community Board Meeting
10 November	Strategy & Policy Committee Meeting
	Economic Development & Marketing Committee Meeting
	Dannevirke Recreation Park Meeting
	2022 – 2023 Draft Annual Plan workshop
	Works Liaison Committee Agenda Meeting
11 November	Armistice Day Commemorations Eketahuna
12 November	Kieran McNulty – Three Waters update
16 November	Horizons Passenger Transport Meeting
14 November	Covid Meeting - Teams
15 November	Tararua Health & Wellbeing Meeting – zoom
16 November	Carbon Forestry Meeting
17 November	Works Liaison Committee Meeting
	Love Local – Jessica's Fish n Chips
	ETS - Oliver Hendrickson
	Play Trailer Launch
18 November	Zone Three Meeting - Zoom
19 November	Three Waters Zoom Meeting with Dan Gordon Mayor Waimakariri
22 November	Handover of Flag for Pahiatua Town Upgrade - Rt Hon Trevor Mallard and Labour MP Kieran McNulty
23 November	2022 – 2023 Draft Annual Plan Workshop
	#LoveLocal - Mum's Arigato Sushi
24 November	2022-2023 Draft Annual Plan Workshop
	Tararua District Council Meeting
25 November	Rural & Provincial LGNZ - zoom

Play Trailer Launch



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12. Wairarapa Times Age Column: Mayor Tracey Collis

November Column

Removing our local voice, or ability to advocate for the needs and aspirations of our growing district, was a non-negotiable for us in the Three Waters reform, as it is critical, we protect our local democracy. Therefore, we are extremely disappointed to have Central Government mandate the reform to take our water assets.

We knew Three Waters would be the biggest decision since the Government's 1989 reforms and these powers have again been used to force amalgamation and centralisation not only on the people of Tararua but all New Zealand.

As we assessed whether opting in or out was best for Tararua, a decision which would have allowed consultation with our people, was removed by legislation. This is not democracy for us but a demonstration of the power of a democratically elected majority government.

There is anger around our Council table with this compulsory stripping of assets. I heard Minister Mahuta's comments that opting out was about councils being misinformed and protecting their self-interest but be assured, all councillors acted in the best interests of Tararua. We work incredibly hard to deliver better outcomes for our communities and towns. Our concerns around local voice have not been addressed and as a district born from the 1989 local government reforms, we understand the critical importance of retaining this voice.

Moving forward, we must all continue to be engaged in the select committee process and ensure our voice is heard, even if it is dismissed or falls on deaf ears. It is important we all take part in this process and, if so inclined, express your views directly to our local MPs.

As we watch Covid-19 move around the country, I hold concern for the Tararua District with our low vaccination rates showing only 63.9% fully vaccinated and 82% having their first dose. The latest data from Dr Siouxsie Wiles clearly shows the vaccines are protecting people from getting Covid-19 and keeping them out of hospital. I worry as Tararua sits at the bottom of the MidCentral Health Board statistics and with 2,681 cases in New Zealand on October 25, it is possible we may see it soon. The last report I received showed 3,401 of those eligible in Tararua were not yet vaccinated, I urge these people to get vaccinated. Like many others I know our health system will be stretched when Covid-19 reaches us.

Like many others, we are working hard to attract skilled staff to key roles as demand and competition for these skills is high around the country. We have been fortunate and sometimes as a result of the changing world we find ourselves in, have had some of our own local talent return home to be closer to family, take advantage of the more reasonable housing market and it is now far easier to work remotely as we have all changed the way we operate. These local benefits are key in bringing and filling the roles available district wide.

To further fill these roles, Mayors Taskforce For Jobs "Think Rural" campaign launches this week and aims to pitch our rural life to young people around the country looking for new experiences and opportunities. "Think Rural" is a national campaign, with 23 rural districts signed up whose goal is to contribute to filling more than 1000 jobs in rural areas.

The campaign is driven by Local Government New Zealand's Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ), with support from the Ministry of Social Development (MSD). Young people have often left for overseas but with our borders closed there is much to offer throughout our own country. Think Rural plans to showcase what all our towns have to offer with welcoming communities and plenty of outdoor adventures to be had in our backyards.



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Over the past weekend, Tararua District Council has provided Pukaha Mt Bruce with a loan of \$1 million to assist the completion of their Environment and Ecology Centre, known as Te Wānanga Taiao.

Besides the significant cultural importance, an important driver of the Te Wānanga Taiao project is the need to grow and improve the commercial side of Pūkaha. Using the centre to provide accommodation as well as environment and educational tourism will increase visitors to Pūkaha as they will travel through and spend time and money in the Tararua District and Wairarapa region. This benefits our businesses and the community and helps strengthen the economic and social diversity of our region.

We are very proud of this wonderful attraction that we share in our region.

13. Wairarapa Times Age Column: Mayor Tracey Collis

December Column

Thank you to our health teams who assisted us reach 91 per cent first dose and 81 per cent second dose vaccinations in the Tararua District. Vaccination is the best preventative health measure we can take for ourselves, our families and communities.

The result of wastewater tests is updated at the end of the week show there has been no Covid-19 detected in Dannevirke or Eketāhuna so far, which is good news. More good news is that all of the three Covid-19 cases in our community have now recovered.

For many of us dealing with Covid-19 in our community is one of the most challenging times of our lives. In these fast-changing times, it can be hard to keep abreast of things, let alone plan too far ahead.

The Tararua District and MidCentral Health region are orange in the Traffic Light Protection framework. Under this new framework there will be many aspects of our lives where we will require vaccine passes, such as visiting a restaurant. This is one of the government's strategies to try and slow the spread and keep the pressure off our hospital system. This new system will take some time to adjust.

There is so much causing division within our communities and country in the past year, including Three Waters and Covid-19. Mandates appear to be the way things are now and it's important we act with compassion and empathy and know what we are doing is best for our families and the community. If respect and care are at the centre of our conversations, we can have them without the heat we are seeing in some areas.

Our businesses and many organisations have had a tough year dealing with these changes and they would really appreciate your support, so please remember 'Love Local Tararua'.

As our foodbanks prepare to assist those in need during the festive season, please consider a donation of food to those organisations who do such a lot to help fill the gaps in our communities. Covid-19 has further exposed inequities and only community spirit and kindness will see us through this pandemic. We are all connected and in this together.



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