



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

Tararua District Council

OPEN ATTACHMENTS

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Council Meeting Report
May 2021

Love  Local
TARARUA



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!"*

1 – Robin Chapman-Taylor – The Chain Maker

The Tararua District was formed during the 1989 amalgamations by stealth as a result of the many challenging discussions on our boundaries and whether we should lie in Hawkes Bay, Wairarapa or Manawatu.

Other Districts like Central Hawkes Bay joined their chains together to reflect the changes, however; within the Tararua District, this was not the case and the chains of the Dannevirke Borough Council, Woodville County Council, Pahiatua Borough Council and Eketāhuna County Council held onto their chains vigorously and to this day all remain in our local museums and Pahiatua's hang on the wall in the old council chamber.

During the struggle prior to amalgamation, many spent their funds in different ways to ensure their town was looked after. They were turbulent times and money was tight.

The Tararua District covers 432, 000 hectares and brings together the towns of Norsewood, Dannevirke, Pongaroa, Ormondville, Woodville, Pahiatua and Eketāhuna and two coastal villages of Akitio and Herbertville.

Bob Trotter was the first Mayor from 1989-1995 with no District Mayoral Chains, Mayor Bill Bly, coming from Woodville, was privileged and able to wear the Woodville Chains. Permission always needed to be sought from any of the towns and was not always granted. Mayor Maureen Reynolds sent letters to all local jewelers and started the conversation to create a set of chains for the Tararua District. Robin Chapman-Taylor stepped forward. He worked with Mayor Maureen in designing the chains and I understand the cost of these was minimal. Robin was a manufacturing Jeweler in Napier who was retired to Dannevirke with his wife Shirley.

They are beautifully crafted and although many comment on the weight, when wearing these they are balanced at the back and I never feel the weight.

There is a total of 67 Mayors in New Zealand. What Rob created, very few have had the opportunity to do and his work will remain a part of our history and New Zealand's history too.

The Tararua District is grateful for Rob's significant contribution in designing and enabling us to have a set of Mayoral chains at a price we could afford. With only 67 Mayors in New Zealand it is an incredibly rare job as a jeweler and he was proud of what he created for us.

Rob played a critical role in assisting our district to come together as one by giving us a set of chains that linked us together as the Tararua District.



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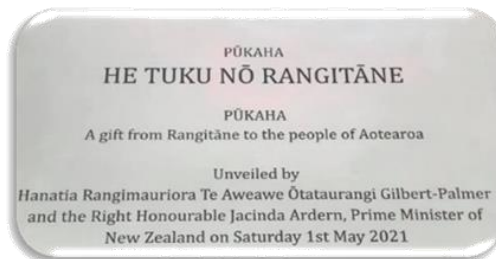
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2 – Gifting of Pūkaha to the people of Aotearoa

As part of Rangitane's Treaty settlement redress, Pūkaha sits as the most significant part remaining at the at 70 mile bush, or Te Tapere nui o Whatonga and on Manukura's birthdate (1st May) - Rangitāne o Tamaki nui a Rua and Rangitāne o Wairarapa gifted Pūkaha back to the people of Aotearoa.

The Hon Prime Minister Jacinda Adern, Hon Meka Whaitiri, MP Kieran McNulty attended, alongside many dignitaries, Kaumātua, Kuia and members of Pūkaha staff and board and the public to witness this significant event.

In Prime Minister Adern's address she so beautifully said - Rangitāne are here forever and now we are all kaitiaki of Pūkaha and Rangitāne are at the centre of the Pūkaha story.



After the very special handing over ceremony of Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre from Rangitāne to the people of New Zealand, we were invited to pour concrete for the first pile of the new Whare Wānanga being built at Pūkaha. Designed with Rangitāne and educationalists, Te Wānanga Taiao will be opening in 2022 and is a very exciting development for Pūkaha and the Tararua District.



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3 – Cultural Day: Eileen Mary

Cultural Day at Eileen Mary was a huge success. Residents were treated to waiata from Te Kura Kaupapa Maori O Tamaki Nui a Rua, music from Tom and Pete, Steve Wallace, traditional costume and dance from staff including Tonga, Cook Islands, Pacific Islands, Fiji, and India.

At Gwen Fairbrother's Memorial Concert, special mention was made of her delight with the dance on these cultural days.

Thanks to the wonderful staff for organising such a magical day for residents, friends and family to share.



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4 – Norway Day - Norsewood

Norway's national day (17 May), marks the day when Norway became a free and independent nation. In Norsewood the day is celebrated on the Sunday closest to 17 May and for more than thirty years this event has been celebrated on this day. We were joined by Graeme Mitchell, Hon Norwegian Council of New Zealand as we celebrated with costume, dance, singing and traditional food which started at Johanna's World. The Wop-Wops held a Market day and we shared the grand opening of The Norseman Blacksmith Shop.

The Scandinavian settlers and their descendants have contributed significantly to the development of the Tararua district.

In those early days the bush was dense, and the settlers braved many dangers and hardships. We acknowledge their spirit and strength, they not only managed to carve out a living for themselves but also for future generations.

Every year has a different focus and much effort is put into organising and planning Norway Day. Starting at Johanna's World where the flag is raised, we moved to St. David's Presbyterian Church where Heather Cheer shared some wonderful history. Cr. Carole and Mayor Tracey were presented a special pin to mark the 30th Anniversary of Norway Day being celebrated. These pins came from Norway.

The children of Norsewood school demonstrated dance and singing in full traditional Norwegian costume to a full house at the Old Diary Factory. Awards were presented for the best biscuits for the children's baking.

Following we headed to the Hovding Hall and heard from the Norwegian Hon. Consul Graeme Mitchell, with a message from King Harald of Norway. The traditional baking winners were announced.

There is a wonderful YouTube video about the early settlers called New Zealand's Norwegian Village.



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5 – Land Diversification Forum

We extended a very warm welcome to our guests visiting Pahiataua for the Land Diversification Forum. The results of this project were presented by Leander Archer from Ag First, as she presented the New Sustainable Land Uses for TDC report.

This project was underpinned by the findings from the early 2000 Go! Project. The Tararua District Council along with funding from Provincial Growth Fund commissioned this project to further evaluate four alternative horticultural land uses for the farmers of the Tararua District, and these crops included:

- Blueberry
- Cider Apple
- Feijoa
- Hazelnut

The scope of the project was to evaluate the topography, climate, and soils of the Tararua District to determine whether these alternative land use options were environmentally and economically sustainable crops for our farmers.

We had originally planned for this workshop to be held during NZ AgriFood Week last year, but Covid restrictions meant we had to defer that until NZ AgriFood Week 2021.



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6 – Downer Tararua Sport Awards

We gathered to celebrate our sporting success throughout the Tararua District on 7th May at the Dannevirke Town Hall.



These were our first sports awards for two years and covered the period from 1st January 2019 – 31st December 2020. We were joined by Wairarapa MP Kieran McNulty as the MC for the awards and Sport Manawatu CEO Trevor Shailer, who announced the Sport Manawatu Legend of Sport to Suresh Patel QSM, the first Tararua recipient.

Sport is an integral part of our lives in Tararua. Te Ringa Kaha Kapa Haka performed waiata at the opening of the Sports Awards and were outstanding. We wish them well at the National Competition.

Our guest speaker Kingi Kirona currently working as Kaiārahi for the Te Ahu a Turanga Alliance. Kingi spoke of his career and his passion and performance in Kapa Haka and the training to compete at Te Matatini.

It was a wonderful evening celebrating our successes, and the number of talented sports people in our community.

Thanks to Sport Manawatu for working with us and the many hours that are put into running an event of this calibre.

Congratulations to all the athletes and teams along with the outstanding winners on the night. We are very proud of your achievements and your commitment to your sporting activities.



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7 – Dannevirke Spinners & Weavers: Spin In

We celebrate the resurgence, after a 7-year hiatus of the Dannevirke Spinners and Weavers Club. The club held a “Spin In” day at the Hub so people could see their work, purchase items, and see some spinning wheels in action. Their founding members would be proud that these arts are evoking a resurgence and new passion for the craft and that they are passing on the knowledge to a new generation of weavers, knitters, crocheters, and felters, just to name a few craft hobby pastimes.



The natural vegetation dyes used on their annual dying days brings to our community a colourful unique experience. I am also aware that their annual Dye Days are world famous in Dannevirke and many locals and international visitors have been avid onlookers as they huddle, bubble and toil over their boiling coppers in McPhee Street.

We can also find our Spinners and Weavers at the A&P shows and they would not be the same without their exhibition stands, live demonstrations and offers to “have a try” at the spinning wheels. A fantastic way to showcase the members cottage work samples.



8 – Tararua Funding Information Evening

It was fantastic to be able to bring together the people who are volunteering their time to better our communities and the funding providers who come to the table to help these community projects come to life. We are so fortunate to have so many people in our communities making a difference and that really showed with the number of people in attendance.

These presentations are available for download on the council website (see link below) and include contact details for the various funding providers. Also, on the website is a link to sign up to be included in any future databases that aim to capture community funding needs and opportunities.

<https://www.tararua.govt.nz/News/Funding-information-evening-a-valuable-event-for-the-Tararua-community>



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9 – TDC Extraordinary Meeting to hear submissions on the draft Long-Term Plan and Māori Ward Vote

Tararua District votes in Māori Ward

It was a momentous day in Tararua District yesterday as Council voted overwhelmingly in favour of establishing a Māori Ward for the 2022 Local Government elections.

Representatives from both Rangitāne o Tamaki-nui-a-rua and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki nui-a-Rua spoke to the proposal and expressed the importance of the decision as a step towards fair and effective representation of tangata whenua at local government level.

“We encourage the Council and community to think positively about Māori Wards and how a brave step now can lead us to better places. We are probably world leaders now in this space so let’s keep in it that way” says Manahi Paewai, Rangitāne o Tamaki-nui-a-rua Kaumatua.

Hayden Hape of Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki nui-a-Rua expressed similar sentiment as he spoke on behalf of his grandson, saying “the decision you make today will determine the way I walk alongside your grandchildren, your mokopuna. You will be remembered for your actions today”.

The motion put to Council was: To establish a Māori Ward for the Tararua District for the 2022 election and this course of action be included in this year’s representation review for consultation with the community.

Mayor Tracey Collis said of the occasion “This makes our community representation stronger and provides a legal method for Māori engagement and for a voice in our communities. This is important given Māori make up over a quarter of our population.”

A paper will now be prepared for the June Council meeting with a proposed representation structure for public consultation once adopted.



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10 - Letters of Support, Condolences and Visits

Letters of Support

- Metalform 60 years in business and birthday celebration Letter
- Te Ringa Kapa Haka Funding Support Letter

Condolences

- Robin Chapman-Taylor - Mayor's Chains Maker - Bereavement
- Gwen Fairbrother Memorial Concert

Letters/Cards of Congratulations

- The Order of New Zealand: Tā Mason Durie
- NZ Dairy Industry Awards Wairarapa/Hawke's Bay:
 - Leon McDonald, Dairy Manager of the Year
 - Manoj Kumar and Sumit Kamboj, Share Farmer(s) of the Year
 - Tony Craig, Dairy Trainee of the Year
- Property Brokers, Tararua Sheep and Beef Farm Business of the Year 2021 Winners: Shaun and Fiona Fouhy
- Property Brokers, Tararua Shepherd of the Year: Kit Holmes
- Downer Tararua Sport Awards: Winners:
 - Supreme Sportsperson of the Year: Megan Hull
 - Sportsperson, Winner: Megan Hutt (Hockey)
 - Sportsperson, Highly Commended: Dave Buick (Shearing)
 - Coach, Winner: Pete Arnott (Squash)
 - Coach, Highly Commended: Robert Fryer (Kyokushin Karate)
 - Junior Sportsman Winner: Brodie Bennett (Squash)
 - Administration Volunteer: Kelly Gillard (Various sports)
 - Junior Sportswoman Winner: Stephanie McNair (Smallbore Rifle Shooting)
 - Official Winner: Rebecca Mahoney (Rugby)
 - Team, Winner: 2019 Tararua College Senior Prem Girls Basketball Team
 - Team Highly Commended: Tararua C Grade Ladies Squash Team

Visits and Events

- Eileen Mary Aged Care: Cultural Day
- Elske Centre: Pink Ribbon Morning Tea



Mayor Tracey & Sharron Smith
(TDC Staff Pink Ribbon Fundraiser)

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11 – Events Attended by the Mayor

Mayor Tracey Collis: 2021

Committee and Portfolio Representations:

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

Date: 2021	Event/Attendance
1 May	Pūkaha - Gifting back to the people of Aotearoa
3 May	Long-Term Plan Roadshow - Eketāhuna
5 May	Land Diversification Forum - Pahiatua Long-Term Plan Roadshow - Pahiatua
6 May	Long-Term Plan Roadshow - Norsewood
7 May	Eileen Mary Aged Care - Cultural Day Tararua Sports Awards
8 May	Dannevirke Spinners & Weavers - Spin In
11 May	Wairarapa Times Column Article Horizons Long-Term Plan meeting – Zoom
13 May	Tararua Funding Information Evening
16 May	Norway Day – Norsewood
17 May	Kainga Ora Regional Directors of Wellington meeting in Masterton
18 May	TDC Extraordinary meeting to hear submissions on draft Long-Term Plan
19 May	Te Ahu a Turanga - Manawatū Tararua Highway – Ashurst Visitor Centre Opening
23 May	Gwen Fairbrother Memorial Concert
24 May	Pink Ribbon Morning Tea - Elske Centre
25 May	Dannevirke Chamber of Commerce - Property Brokers 'After 5 Event'
26 May	Tararua District Council meeting



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12 – Councillors Portfolio Reports for April 2021

Deputy Mayor: Erana Peeti-Webber

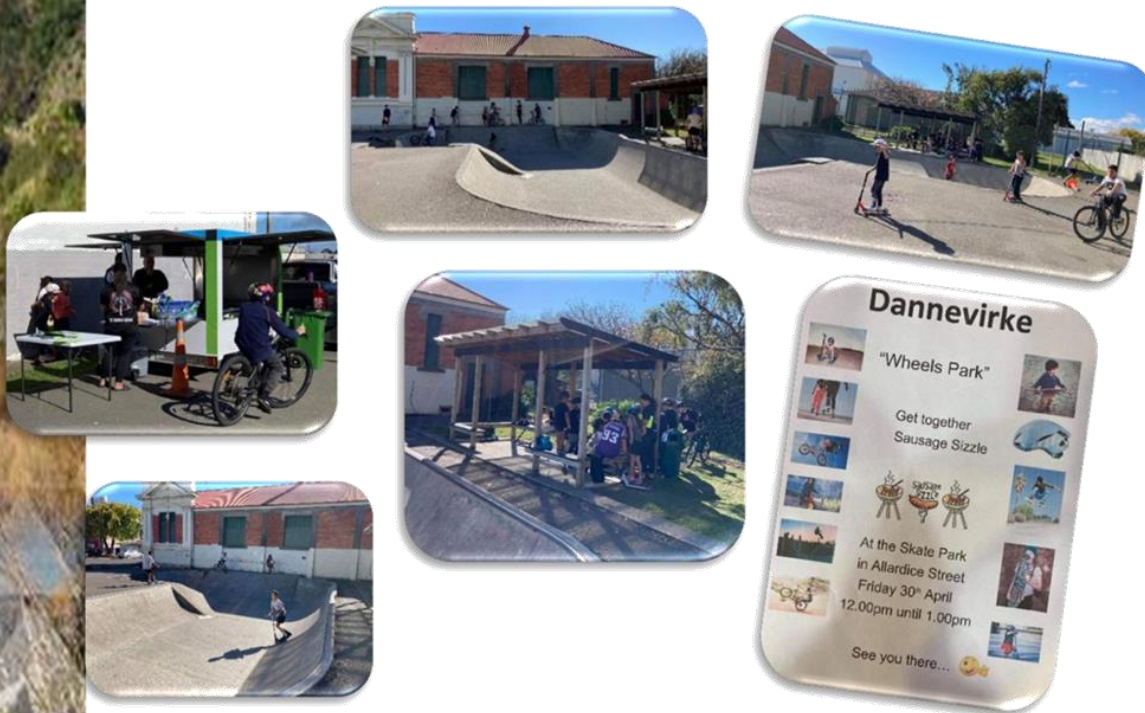
Attendance at all committee meetings as per Councillors schedule

Committee and Portfolio Representations:

- Dannevirke Community Board – Wheel Park and Multi Sport Meetings

Date	Event/Attendance
30 April	Wheels Park - Dannevirke
1 May	Pūkaha: Gifting back to the people of Aotearoa
3 May	Dannevirke Community Board Meeting
5 May	DMCI Multisport AGM
7 May	Eileen Mary Aged Care: Cultural Day Tatarua Sports Awards
12 May	Recreation meeting
13 May	Southern Trust meeting Tatarua Funding Information Evening
17 May	DMCI Multi sport workshop with Dave Allen
18 May	TDC Extraordinary meeting to hear submissions on draft Long-Term Plan
19 May	DCMI Multi sport workshop with Dave Allen in Norsewood
20 May	DCMI Multi sport steering group meeting with Dave Allen
23 May	Walk the new Highway
26 May	Tatarua District Council meeting

Wheels Park BBQ:



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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	Event/Attendance
18 May	TDC Extraordinary meeting to hear submissions on draft Long-Term Plan
26 May	Tararua District Council meeting

Carole Isaacson

Attendance at all committee meetings as per Councillors schedule

Committee and Portfolio Representations:

- Safer Communities
- Norsewood/Ormondville Community Liaison

Date	Event/Attendance
16 May	Norway Day - Norsewood
18 May	TDC Extraordinary meeting to hear submissions on draft Long-Term Plan
26 May	Tararua District Council meeting



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Kerry Sutherland

Attendance at all committee meetings as per Councillors schedule

Committee and Portfolio Representations:

- Forestry
- Works Liaison Chair

Date	Event/Attendance
5 May	Works Liaison Agenda meeting
6 May	Various meetings with Ratepayers and staff during May re LPT, Rating and Roading issues
18 May	TDC Extraordinary meeting to hear submissions on draft Long-Term Plan
25 May	Dannevirke Chamber of Commerce: Property Brokers 'After 5 Event'
26 May	Tararua District Council meeting
27 May	Chamber of Commerce morning tea - MP Kieran McNulty, Post Budget Q&A session

Peter Johns

Attendance at all committee meetings as per Councillors schedule

Committee and Portfolio Representations:

- Forestry: Lead
- Woodville Districts' Vision

Date	Event/Attendance
3 May	Long-Term Plan Roadshow: Eketāhuna
4 May	Woodville District's Vision meeting
18 May	TDC Extraordinary meeting to hear submissions on draft Long-Term Plan
19 May	Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway - Visitor Centre Opening
26 May	Tararua District Council meeting

Raylene Treder

Attendance at all committee meetings as per Councillors schedule

Committee Representations:

- Eketahuna Community Board

Date	Event/Attendance
3 May	Long-Term Plan Roadshow - Eketāhuna
5 May	Long-Term Plan Roadshow - Pahiatua Pahiatua On Track Meeting
7 May	Tararua Sports Awards
10 May	Eketāhuna Community Board Meeting
18 May	TDC Extraordinary meeting to hear submissions on draft Long-Term Plan
26 May	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	Event/Attendance
29 April	LTP consultation at Pongaroa and Herbertville
30 April	Visit to Abbeyfield, Palmerston North
1 May	Woodville District Vision Committee meeting
6 May	Strengthening Families Network meeting
12 May	Met with ratepayer and Corporate Services Manager re rates issue
18 May	TDC Extraordinary meeting to hear submissions on draft Long-Term Plan
21 May	Visit to Akitio with infrastructure team re water issue
26 May	Tararua District Council Meeting

Comment:

It is a privilege to represent a community which has to be one of the “gems in the Tararua”.

I was able to support a day of consultation with locals and our operational team looking first-hand at some of the issues related to providing infrastructure to the Akitio community.

A very important day for developing those key relationships and planning to address immediate concerns and talk about what the future plans might involve. Well done Chris and Derek - proud to be part of the team.



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	Event/Attendance
1 May	Pūkaha: Gifting back to the people of Aotearoa
5 May	Long-Term Plan Roadshow - Pahiatua
14 May	Pahiatua Upgrade Meeting
18 May	TDC Extraordinary meeting to hear submissions on draft Long-Term Plan
19 May	Meeting re: upgrade
23 May	Woodville Lions “Walk the New Highway” event
26 May	Tararua District Council Meeting

Comment:

Generosity is the theme of this month. The handing over of Pukaha Mt Bruce to Prime Minister Hon Jacinda Ardern, accepting on behalf of the Crown, by Rangitane O Tamaki Nui A Rua was a truly beautiful, emotional day. As was the emotion of local iwi as Tararua District Council agreed to a Maori Ward Councillor starting in 2022. Getting in a couple of days break saw Neal and I staying at the Ormond Street Motel in Woodville. How lucky are we to have such great facilities in our community with great hosts, thanks Joy and Mike.

The restarting up of the Pahiatua Melody Makers singing group (supported by a Creative NZ grant), Sleep Health in Aotearoa conference, JP IO training and a meeting to kick start a new Business Group in Pahiatua, all very exciting. Pahiatua ‘One Night Stand’ comedy, Lions ‘Walk the New Highway’ and Dannevirke’s Ruahine Line Dancing workshop rounded out a fantastic month!

The business of being a Councillor is to collaborate and consult with our community during our Council’s Long-Term planning phase. 70 Submissions were sent in, read, deliberated, acknowledged and some heard in Chambers.... thank you for spending that time on your district’s future.



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Wairarapa Times Age Column: Mayor Tracey Collis

In March, 33 Rural and Provincial Mayors wrote to the Government expressing concern at the free-fall closure of banks around New Zealand. The impact on elderly, rural businesses, youth and people without transport needs to be assessed before the total removal of these services. So far there has been no response or reply from the Government. In the absence of a reply, we can only assume no progress or action.

Recently I was gobsmacked to hear the announcing of the BNZ's six-month profit which had jumped 80 per cent. This came on a 98 per cent rise in profit reported by Westpac and a strong result from ANZ. These figures left a bad taste in my mouth, especially as they're leaving rural New Zealand stranded while boasting huge profits.

As our Council heads towards the conclusion of our Long Term Plan process, we're now turning our mind to the development of a much wider strategy for Tararua covering the next 5, 20, 50 and 100 years. After decades of population decline, Tararua is experiencing a perfect storm of growth drivers. Tararua's population is increasing because people are seeking out our more affordable housing, access to good facilities and recreation. Others are moving from pressured cities seeking a more balanced lifestyle. Business activity is bustling, and new businesses are opening.

A further 650 homes have benefitted from Connect Tararua's work with nine new cellphone towers built in rural areas to provide better connectivity. We will continue to look at the gaps and to achieve more equitable access by working and partnering with government and others.

Now the new Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū-Tararua Highway is underway. This will reduce our geographical barriers to the Manawatū. As a district we need to maximise this "once in a generation" opportunity and develop plans to build a district we'd all be proud to leave to future generations. This is the largest roading project in New Zealand for this period and the social procurement and outcomes are ensuring that we, as a district, capture the economic benefits which go hand-in-hand with growth.

We have three years with the Tararua District in the limelight, it is critical we maximise this opportunity to let others know who and where we are.

Following our Long Term Plan consultation, which focuses mainly on the next three years, we will start getting the thoughts from you on what our shared future might look like. This includes a district strategy, our growth strategy and a housing strategy.

The district strategy will include who we are and how we tell our story. Following our amalgamation 32 years ago, we have come together over a period of time. We understand parts of our place affiliate with Central Hawke's Bay, Manawatū and Wairarapa. Tararua is in the middle of 150,000 plus people. Covering the largest land area of these at 432,000 hectares, it is no surprise our boundaries are not well understood. When this happens and your story is unknown your towns, icons and landscape features are claimed and attributed to others which is often offensive to our local people.

In the past week on national television, Woodville is a Manawatu town, Waihi Falls are in the Wairarapa and I read Eketāhuna considers itself part of Masterton. Funnily enough I live there and that is not how we all feel.

Sadly, when Pūkaha was gifted back to the nation Tamaki nui a Rua and the Tararua District failed to be mentioned in the media. Apparently, the new Manawatū-Tararua Highway leads directly from Manawatū to Hawke's Bay in some publications and news items. Is it any wonder people don't know we exist? While all this hurts, it demonstrates we have yet to share our story of who we are. It hurts us in other ways as our services in health, education and wellbeing are split between regions too. Creating a oneness among ourselves is important to achieving a oneness of care for our people.

Being in the middle of three regions means working with others has always been our strength and we punch well above our weight. While we want growth, it will need to be managed to ensure it doesn't come at a cost we can't bear financially or environmentally.

This is an opportunity to imagine a future where all our people are achieving the goals important to them. It's an opportunity to explore big ideas, no matter how crazy they might sound, because nothing great came from thinking small.



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