

# Photography Competition

Entries close 30 September 2019

Go to [www.tararua.govt.nz](http://www.tararua.govt.nz) for more info



## Informed Voting Decisions Drive Tararua Growth

With nominations now in for candidates for mayor, councillors and community board members, it's time for our communities to feel confident in making their choice of who will represent them after voting in October.

It's vital electors make the best decisions for our district and Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) is hoping the pool of competent and passionate candidates will drive even more people to vote this year.

Now is the time for candidates and electors to learn more about what drives Tararua, with local government and local democracy fundamental to our community. Voting in these elections provides an opportunity for everyone's voice to be heard.

The mayor, councillors and community board members are elected to be community leaders and to represent the views and interests of all those in Tararua.

The local government sector plays an important role in our community and in addition to giving people a say in how their communities are run, councils across New Zealand own a broad range of community assets worth more than \$134 billion. The Tararua District Council's asset base is close to crossing the \$1 billion mark and it's important voters learn as much as they can about our district's issues and challenges in order to make informed voting choices.

Nationally, community assets include 90 per cent of New Zealand's roading network, the bulk of the country's water and waste water networks and libraries, recreation and community facilities. Across New Zealand council expenditure is approximately \$9.8 billion dollars, representing approximately four per cent of Gross Domestic Product and 11 per cent of all public expenditure.

Reading the Tararua District Council's Pre-Election Report which is on-line and available from council service centres, along with the Annual Plan and Long Term Plan are all ways to learn more of what drives council.

By attending meet the candidate's meetings voters can find out how potential candidates plan to service our community, if elected. But you must be enrolled to vote. Go to <http://vote.nz> to enrol or check your enrolment.

Voting papers will be sent out between September 20 and 25, with Friday, October 11 the last day to enrol. Saturday, October 12 is final election day, with voting closing at noon.

## Big Day For Pahiatua

Monday, September 2 is Pahiatua's big day, with work on two major projects, a future-proofed water treatment plant and a new-look town centre, commencing.

The town's new water treatment plant will be robust and fit for the future, Ara Yonge, Tararua District Council's Manager Programmes and Projects, says. The project has now reached a milestone with the completion of the detailed design.

The new treatment plant will provide Pahiatua residents with water which is above New Zealand Drinking Water Standards.

However, there are two key changes in the detailed design from that which Council had previously advised. This detailed design phase has shown both the projected project cost and the duration will increase.

However, Ara says the increased project cost is not due to "a budget blowout."

Much of the cost increases are due to the knowledge obtained during the detailed design phase, and Council intends to manage the additional costs through capital loan funding.

Additionally, the work undertaken during the detailed design phase has enabled a decrease in projected annual operational expenses for the plant.

With the overall timeframe of the project delayed, Council is now looking at May 2020 for commissioning, rather than early 2020 as previously advised.

The extended time-frame has resulted in part from an extensive design process, including peer review to ensure the plant is fit for purpose,

And the new treatment plant has been future-proofed from a capacity point of view and can cater for a 30-50 per cent population growth, with additional capacity beyond this with small modifications.

"We have worked to ensure Pahiatua's water will meet regulatory standards, now and in the future," Ara says.

Along the way the team have worked hard to understand the complex and unique character of Pahiatua's water to remove the taste, odour and discolouration issues which have been an issue for residents.

"We've worked to resolve these issues with the new plant, and we're also doing work on streamlining the current chlorine dosing regime, to keep it in the mid range so it's not noticeable to residents," Ara says. "We are upgrading and streamlining our processes to deal with these issues while the new water treatment plant is being built, including the introduction of a new chlorine analyser and flushing of the pipes to minimise the potential of residue entering the water supply.

"It is anticipated that these measures should have a good impact on existing water quality."

And Pahiatua's much-anticipated Town Centre Upgrade, also begins on September 2 with the underground construction phase of the project. Commencing at the northern edge

### How you can find information about the Town Centre Upgrade:

**In person:** Toolbox meetings with the Project Team will be a way to get everyone on the same page about the week's upcoming work. There will be feedback forms in the Pahiatua Service Centre for people to give feedback and ask questions. These will be collected once a week, on a Monday morning, prior to the toolbox meetings and responded to after collection.

The meetings will provide an opportunity for people to gather information, ask questions and give feedback.

Meetings will be held on Monday mornings from 8am to 8.30am in the Pahiatua Service Centre (136 Main Street).

**Online:** [www.tararua.govt.nz/projects](http://www.tararua.govt.nz/projects)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/tararua](http://www.facebook.com/tararua)

**In print:** The Tararua District Council publishes a full-page in the Bush Telegraph every week and project updates and news regarding the upgrade will be published here as they are made available.

**Hard-copy:** Hard-copies of project updates can be picked up from the Pahiatua Service Centre, Pahiatua Library or Pahiatua Information Centre

*If you have an urgent enquiry you can call 06 376 0110 and ask to speak to a member of the project team.*

of town, this is the first stage of a four-stage project.

Stage one of underground works is expected to take 3-4 months, with stage two of underground works commencing mid-January 2020.

Project Manager, Stuart Malins, of Tararua Alliance says while motorists will need to slow down and some roadside parking will be restricted, disruption will be minimised.

Louise Powick, a member of the project team and Pahiatua On Track chairwoman, says she is very aware of the disruption the Town Centre Upgrade will cause for businesses and the local community.

"It is really important to have a good communication plan in place to minimise any disruption as work progresses through the Main Street," she says.

"The project team has put a high priority on communication and the weekly toolbox meetings will give locals the opportunity to engage with the project team and provide valuable feedback."

Chorus are also bringing forward the upgrade of their fibre network from 2021 to coincide with the Town Centre Upgrade, with work now due to commence at the end of September. The work, on the footpath, will take between four and six weeks.

*\*Phase two of the Town Centre Upgrade, the aboveground works, will run from July 2020 to July 2021, with phase three, the final touches and plans for the future from July 2021 onwards.*

## Tararua Tourism Network Seeking Members

Helping Tararua's tourism grow and thrive is the key to a networking group which has had four meetings so far. But organisers would love more people to attend the events, Carole Wilton, manager of the Tararua i-SITE in Woodville, says.

"The aim of the Tararua Tourism Networking Group is to keep operators updated and to provide opportunities to share information," she says.

The four meetings have been held at Pukaha Mt Bruce, the New Zealand Natural Clothing Company in Norsewood, Tui Brewery HQ at Mangatainoka and the most recent at the iSite in Woodville.

"These meetings create awareness and help us to learn more about each other," Carole says.

The host businesses profile themselves

and there is also a guest speaker.

The guest speaker at the Woodville iSite was Joy Barnes, co-owner of the very successful Ormond Street Motel in the town.

"I believe Joy typifies a star," Carole says. "She and Mike have a business they have put their heart and soul into and Joy talked about great customer service and gaining repeat business."

For Joy, customer service at the Ormond Street Motel is all about old-fashioned values and 100 per cent respect for people.

"I think we've created a bit of a home away from home here and we get so much repeat business, even from overseas tourists," she says.

Reflecting that great customer service has seen the business receive four certificates of excellence from TripAdvisor in four years.

"That's huge and is gauged on how people rate you," a delighted Joy says. "Yes, this business is 24/7 but it's so rewarding and I love it."



Joy says guests at the motel also result in a win-win for other local businesses.

The next meeting of the Tararua Tourism Networking Group will be held in November at the Dannevirke Fantasy Cave at a date to be decided and new members are encouraged to attend. The group's Christmas party will be held at the Masters Hall in Pahiatua in December.