

Eltham Newsletter

Eltham Business & Professional Association

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Eltham Locals Weigh In on Future of Water Services

The Eltham Town Hall buzzed with conversation on Tuesday, 21 May, as locals gathered for a public consultation meeting on the Government's Local Water Done Well (LWDW) initiative. The session, hosted by the South Taranaki District Council, drew in a mix of residents, councillors, and Council staff, all eager to learn more and have their say.

Leading the discussion were Mayor Phil Nixon, Council Chief Executive Fiona Aitken, Vipul Mehta (Head of Business Enablement), and Herbert Denton (Group Manager of Infrastructure). Together, they walked the audience through a range of issues, from infrastructure challenges facing rural councils to the big question of whether water services should be managed locally or regionally.

The room was attentive and engaged, with thoughtful questions and open conversations flowing throughout the evening. Attendees weren't just there to listen—they came with concerns, ideas, and strong views about the future of water in their community.

"There was a loud, strong indication from everyone in the room that they prefer for us to retain and manage our own water services—as outlined in Option B," shared Councillor Steffy Mackay. "I was impressed with the conversations and questions asked and am looking forward to reading everyone's submissions."



from left: Fiona Aitken, Vipul Mehta, Herbert Denton, Phil Nixon

Those at the meeting were encouraged to submit their feedback as part of the official consultation process.

While the final decision lies ahead, one thing was clear from the evening: Eltham residents care deeply about keeping their water services local, accountable, and reflective of the community's voice.

Greyhound Visits Uplift Eltham Rest Home

Just this morning (12 June), the lounge at Eltham Care Rest Home was filled with smiles, soft pats, and gentle tail wags as two greyhounds, Annie and Ultra, made their monthly visit. They are both 3 years old, quietly wandered from person to person, soaking up cuddles and kisses.

Watching them interact with residents, heads resting gently on knees, leaning in for pats, was

a powerful reminder of how much comfort animals can bring.

The visits began in July 2024, when Mikayla Clark, a greyhound trainer, was encouraged to explore opportunities for the dogs beyond racing. At the time, she had a family member at the home and decided to give it a try.

KJ Corpus, the Activities Coordinator at Eltham Care Rest Home, welcomed the idea without



Mikayla Clark(right) and Tara Symes(middle) visiting Eltham Care Rest Home

hesitation. Since then, Mikayla, Tara, and their dogs have been returning every month, and the residents have come to look forward to it each time.

"I didn't realise how much of a reaction I would get from the residents until I'd done a few more visits and got speaking to them," Mikayla said. "I learned that most of them had a dog or two throughout their life, it just brought the memories back for them."

Both the Rest Home and the Kowhai dementia unit take part in the visits. According to KJ, the effect is visible the moment the dogs arrive, residents smile, reach out to touch them, and often share stories about their own dogs from years gone by.

Eltham Puts Up Fresh Signs Around Town

You may have noticed some quiet changes around town lately. As part of the ongoing revitalisation project, new directional signs were installed across Eltham in April, aimed at making the town easier to navigate for both locals and visitors.

The signs highlight key parks, community spaces, and public amenities, offering a clearer way to explore Eltham. They follow earlier upgrades such as the repainting of lamp posts, bollards, and bins, which brought a bit of colour and care back into the streetscape.

These improvements are part of a longer-term plan to enhance the town centre, while still keeping the familiar character and friendliness that people value about Eltham. More changes are planned in stages ahead.

The dogs vary in breed and personality, and Mikayla observes which ones naturally enjoy the visits.

"Most of them definitely do enjoy it, it means endless cuddles and pats, and the odd sneaky biscuit," "There's the odd dog that isn't a fan, but it's just trial and error to see which one loves it more," Mikayla shared.

The benefits go well beyond the moment of the visit. KJ has seen how these sessions help reduce social isolation, stimulate memory, and improve overall well-being, especially for those living with dementia.

"Pet therapy reduces anxiety and depression, lifts moods, and helps residents feel more connected," KJ explained. "It also stimulates memory and cognitive function, particularly in the Kowhai unit."

Residents also enjoy the conversations with Mikayla and Tara, who helps with the visits. These chats bring another level of interaction and warmth.

For many, it's more than just a visit - it's a moment of comfort, a connection to the past. For Annie and Ultra, it's also a new way to make a difference - one quiet, heartwarming visit at a time.





School Zone Speed Limits Changing from June

Starting June 2025, you may notice some changes around local schools—speed limits are getting an update.

Currently, all schools on local roads (not state highways) in South Taranaki have a permanent 30km/h speed limit. From June, this will shift to a time-based speed zone:

- School days only
- 30km/h from 8:15–9:00am and 2:45–3:30pm

Outside of those times, the speed limit will return to the normal road limit—50km/h in urban areas or 100km/h in rural areas.

Another key change: the reduced speed zone will now apply only directly outside school gates or entrances. Nearby streets without direct school access will revert to standard limits, unless they're part of an intersection or school cluster, where a shared-sense approach will apply.

These changes are part of a nationwide update required by Central Government, so no public consultation will be held.

For more information, contact the South Taranaki District Council: contact@stdc.govt.nz
0800 111 323

The Future Creates: Youth Art Exhibition at The Village Gallery

A colourful new exhibition is now on at The Village Gallery in Eltham, celebrating the creativity of young people from around the district.

Titled *The Future Creates*, the exhibition features artwork from Eltham Primary School students, teens from Manaia, and a large collaborative kowhaiwhai mural made by tamariki at Paepae in the Park on Waitangi Day.

The young artists worked with teachers and local artists in workshops to create vibrant and expressive pieces, now proudly on display for the public to enjoy.



Youth artists with Michaela Stoneman in front of the kowhaiwhai artwork; photo by Michaela Stoneman

The exhibition runs until 28 June. Pop in and take a look, it's a wonderful display of talent and creativity from the next generation.

What's On in Eltham: June Highlights

Youth Exhibition

3 - 28 June
The Village Gallery

Book Club

Tuesday 3 June 10:00am
Eltham LibraryPlus

Men's Health Week

Wednesday 11 June 10:00–11:00am
Eltham LibraryPlus
Free blood pressure checks available from 9:30am to 12:00pm

Casual Cuppa

Every Wednesday 10:00am
Eltham LibraryPlus

Thursday Afternoon Adventures (ages 5–13)

Every Thursday 3:30pm
Eltham LibraryPlus

Storytime (under 5s)

Every Friday 10:00am
Eltham LibraryPlus



Eltham School Reunion – Looking Ahead



One of many happy groups enjoying the reunion in Eltham

Earlier this year, nearly 150 former schoolmates returned to Eltham for the 2025 School Reunion, a weekend filled with memories, laughter, and the

unmistakable feeling of coming home.

The reunion also became a chance to give back. A raffle organised by Errol O’Byrne, with prizes donated by 24 local businesses, raised funds for the Eltham Town Hall, Rotokare Lakes Trust, Eltham Historical Society, and the Foodbank—a wonderful example of how this event continues to support the town.

Errol will be coordinating the next reunion, and he’s already gathering interest from those keen to attend or get involved.

To register your interest, email eobyrne.nz@gmail.com

Supporting Local Businesses

The Eltham Business & Professional Association (EBA) recently held a meeting with local business owners to discuss the refreshed membership structure and how the association can better support the Eltham business community.

The EBA exists to connect, promote, and advocate for local businesses - whether you’re a shopfront, a home-based startup, or an independent professional. A key focus of the meeting was to ensure membership remains affordable and accessible, especially for a small town like ours.

We’ve kept membership affordable—just \$50 per year, and packed with value:

- A welcome feature in our monthly newsletter and social media
- Opportunities to promote your business, events, or services
- Member listings in the upcoming community directory and website
- Discounts on newsletter advertising
- Priority access to local projects, speaking opportunities, and more

Advertising in the Newsletter

We’ve also updated our advertising prices to reflect our small-scale, community-focused newsletter:

Ad Size	Standard Price	Member Price
Full Page	\$60	\$50
Half Page	\$40	\$30
Quarter Page	\$25	\$20
1/8 Page	\$15	\$12

Our newsletter reaches a digital audience of over 2,000 views on social media, is sent to digital subscribers by email, and is also available in print at key local locations. It’s a great way to connect with locals and stay top-of-mind in the community.

If you’d like to join the EBA, renew your membership, or place an ad, we’d love to hear from you! Contact us at elthambizassn@gmail.com. Together, let’s keep Eltham thriving.



Thanks for your patience while the newsletter took a short break in March, April, and May. We’re back this June and looking forward to sharing more community highlights in the months ahead! If you have something to share, an event to promote, or feedback about this issue, we’d love to hear from you. Just email us at elthambizassn@gmail.com or message us on Facebook.