

# RANGITĪKEI Connect

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ISSUE 62

## FROM THE Mayor's Desk

Rangitikei fortunately suffered a low level of damage during Cyclone Gabrielle.

People have been questioning me around how they can help and asking what is Council doing to help Hawke's Bay, Tararua, Gisborne, Wairoa and other districts. We have as a Council sent a response team with our solar powered communication system to the Hawke's Bay which has been much appreciated. My thanks to Hew and Roger Dalrymple and the other companies that have trucked over vegetables and stock feed etc. One of the difficulties is still getting supplies to where they are most needed or being able to move sheep/cattle off farms. The Local Government family is working out how we can best support the affected areas. If you would like to support some of our neighbours who've been affected by Cyclone Gabrielle, the best way you can do this is by providing financial support. You can do this by donating to some of the registered charities or the Givealittle pages listed on our website home page - Supporting those affected by Cyclone Gabrielle.

Recent Council meetings have focused on putting together a draft Annual Plan to go out for consultation. That draft should be available after the Council meeting in March. The inflationary pressures on all Councils at the moment is extreme, especially in the roading and salary categories. Various reports for instance give the increased cost of repairing and rebuilding roads to be in the range of a 20-30% increase in terms of cost. This is challenging and in my view the 2.5% inflation cost that we put into place when budgeting the Long Term Plan a year ago is unachievable. Council will need to consider what rate increase is both realistic and affordable for our communities. The workshops so far have proved the difficulty of that task. What we are seeing anecdotally around the country coming out in the press is that some Councils are looking at increases well in excess of 10%, I don't believe that we will be in that position however to keep our rates affordable we may well need to review what services we provide.

Finally, the last national Census was a disaster, with a large number of people not engaging or filling out census forms. Many people either thought it was only for landowners and not for people renting or just simply unimportant. Census figures and data are incredibly important - as a Council we use this information to look at such things as housing needs, assisting in our growth planning and understanding social needs. Often people say things to me like "we need better health support or more police personnel in our district". Government support and education, health, policing and much more is planned for by using census data. Simply put, it generates money and support for Rangitikei.

**CENSUS DAY IS 7 MARCH. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE COUNTED!**

Census packs are being delivered to all households from 13 February. Please visit [www.census.govt.nz](http://www.census.govt.nz) for more information. If you have not received your packs you can contact the team this way. **Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.**

## Upcoming consultations

### Pae Tāwhiti Rangitikei Beyond Community Spatial Plan consultation

The Pae Tāwhiti Rangitikei Beyond Community Spatial Plan consultation opens next week on Thursday 9 March.

Our plan, Pae Tāwhiti Rangitikei Beyond, is the blueprint for how we want the Rangitikei district to develop over the next 30 years. As our district grows, we're making plans to grow in a way that works for our communities; with enough land available in the right places to accommodate new homes and businesses as they put down roots in Rangitikei.

To make sure this plan captures the aspirations of our community, it's important that we hear your thoughts on what we've suggested. Keep an eye out on our website and our social media over the coming week to find out how you can make a submission and let us know how you see Rangitikei growing.

### Annual Plan 2023/2024 Consultation

The Rangitikei District Council Annual Plan will also be taking place in March 2023. Watch this space for more information about when this consultation will take place and how you can submit your feedback to help shape the future of our district.



## EVENT SPONSORSHIP SCHEME

APPLY NOW!



**Applications for the Event Sponsorship Scheme close soon!**

Applications for Round 2 of the Event Sponsorship Scheme 2022/23 year closes soon on **Sunday 5 March 2023**. If you have an idea for an epic event that you want to bring to life, take a look at the funding criteria below and get your application in for 2023.

For more information, please visit [www.rangitikei.govt.nz/fundingopportunities](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/fundingopportunities)

# MARTON Harvest FESTIVAL

Join us for one of the biggest events of the harvest season!

## Sunday 26 March 2023

Sir James Wilson Park  
10am - 3pm

Special guest MC and judge for the day.  
**WATCH THIS SPACE!**

**Featuring:**

- The famous scarecrow trail
- A home brew competition
- Live music
- Free entertainment
- Great food
- A bunch of pumpkin hilarity including a pumpkin pie competition and pumpkin bowling

The Marton Harvest Festival 2023 is brought to you by:

[RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL](https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz) | [Rotary](https://www.rotary.org) | [LIONS CLUB](https://www.lionsclubs.org)

[@MartonHarvestFestival](https://www.facebook.com/MartonHarvestFestival)  
[events@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:events@rangitikei.govt.nz)

# Census is coming. Be counted.

Tatau tātou - All of us count. 7 March 2023.

Visit [www.census.govt.nz](http://www.census.govt.nz) for more information.

Census | StatsNZ  
Tatau tātou - All of us count

