

RANGITĪKEI connect

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ISSUE TEN

RANGITĪKEI LINE

Council Bulletin

Te Matapihi: Bulls Community Centre

The building was officially opened in the presence of over 200 people on 25 September, with the Māori name 'Te Matapihi' unveiled. Hon Nanaia Mahuta, Minister of Local Government, was one of the speakers, concluding with a powerful waiata. A community fun day was held on 26 September and the facility was open for general use from 28 September. The old Library on High Street and the Information Centre on Bridge Street are now closed.

The building contains bilingual signage. In keeping with the guidelines issued by Te Puni Kōkiri, Māori comes first before English. There are also a number of Māori designs throughout the building. Investigations on an alternative space for changing and preparing for events on stage continue.

New amenities for Taihape Memorial Park

At its meeting on 24 September 2020, Council agreed to commission architectural and engineering analysis of the Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand so that comprehensive cost estimates are available for both providing amenities within this historic structure as well as for bringing it up to the requirements for the current Building Code, including seismic strengthening. Council already has detailed drawings and cost estimates for a new, separate building to provide those amenities. Council will make a final decision at its meeting on 22 October 2020.

Renovations for Marton Memorial Hall



On 26 September 2020, the Minister of Regional Economic Development announced approval of \$500,000 from the refocused Provincial Growth Fund from a sum set aside for projects with immediate jobs and economic benefits as part of the COVID-19 recovery. The work will include removing asbestos, creating an additional emergency exit, electrical and heating works, installing a fire alarm, painting and enabling the ablution blocks to be wheelchair accessible.

Tutaenui Reservoir (Marton B & C Dams)

On 10 October 2020 this area will become the District's newest recreational space. At its meeting on 24 September 2020, Council considered what activities could be allowed given that currently the Dams are the source for Marton's drinking water (after treatment).

Over the past two years there has been a massive amount of replanting in natives to replace the pine trees which had been there for over thirty years.

Taihape Pressure Reducing Valve and Watermain Project

The Taihape Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) located behind Aspen Court Motel is old and requires constant maintenance. In addition, the watermain supply feed from the motel building and needs to be relocated. Council has awarded the contract to Connell Contractors for a total value of \$588,396 (GST exclusive). Negotiations have taken place with both the motel owners and KiwiRail as some of the work will be within the rail corridor.

Annual Residents Survey

Council is grateful to those 371 people who responded to the survey. It provides a very useful measure of how well Council is providing its range of services; in particular comments are used in developing improvement plans for the current year. The survey results are available on the Council website.

Proposed restriction on numbers of dogs



Council has decided to consult with the community about limiting the number of dogs at residential properties. The proposal is that the occupier of any residential property that has more than two dogs will need to apply for a permit. If introduced, it will not prevent the operation of dog breeders and dog kennels. Consultation closes on 26 October 2020.

2021-31 Long Term Plan

Council is continuing work on the Long Term Plan, using the community day at Te Matapihi as a first opportunity to get views from local residents on what they would like to see included. There has also been an opportunity for Elected Members to give their views about priorities.

Key elements to the Plan include the underpinning assumptions for the next ten years, how the various activities are to be funded, the ways in which Council will measure its performance and the strategies underpinning the management of Council's finances and maintaining and developing Council's infrastructure. These are all being progressed. The chairs of Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa, the Community Boards and the Community Committees have been invited to attend and participate.

Hon Minister Nanaia Mahuta and His Worship the Mayor Andy Watson cut the ribbon, opening Te Matapihi

FROM THE

Mayor's Desk

Friday 25 September was a milestone day for our Council – our new Bulls Community Centre was officially opened. The Minister of Local Government Nanaia Mahuta and myself jointly cut the ribbon and unveiled the plaque. The building has been named Te Matapihi Bulls Community Centre, a name that was gifted by Ngāti Parewahawaha and Ngāi Wairiki-Ngāti Apa.

On the outside carapace and in areas around the hall you will see artwork that was specifically created for our centre by Len Hetet. The pattern represents the Rangitikei land plains and the Rangitikei River.

In the centre there is a wall of fame which recognises everyone who made donations or given sponsorship towards the Centre. I want to thank each and every one of you for this.

We held an open day at the new Centre on Saturday 26 September and thankfully the weather gods were kind to us. We had hundreds of people come to take part in the Bulls, Beats and Bites. They wandered through the building and listened to the bands play in the town hall. The acoustics in the new hall are amazing!

I encourage you to go and visit this new facility which I'm sure everyone in Bulls will be proud of.

We also received the approval for funding from the Provincial Growth Fund for renovation works to the Marton Memorial Hall. This work includes the removal of asbestos, creating an additional emergency exit, electrical and heating works, installing a fire alarm, painting and enabling the ablution blocks to be wheelchair accessible. It was fantastic to be advised that we received this funding. We had also applied for funding for other projects across the District – for the new Bulls Reservoir and Scotts Ferry drainage but unfortunately we were not successful for those.

On Saturday, as part of the open day at Bulls, we started our early engagement process for our 2021-31 Long Term Plan. Loads of people engaged with us and the kids really enjoyed drawing their ideas for Rangitikei in the future. We will be present across the District at events in the next few months and will also have specific days and times where myself, councillors and staff will visit our towns and engage with you.

It's been an exciting and busy month, we now look forward to warmer weather and lots of activities happening in our District.

Ngā mihi, **Andy Watson** - Mayor of Rangitikei District.

New exemptions to building consents for some works

As of 31 August some building work no longer needs a building consent.

These changes are in addition to work that can already be done without a building consent, outlined in Schedule 1 of the Building Act.

Building consents will no longer be required for a number of projects, including certain sized carports, sleepouts, sheds, ground-floor awnings, verandas and porches. For more details please visit the Building Performance website - www.building.govt.nz

Some of the exempt work can be done without the help of a professional, while others require the involvement of a Chartered Professional Engineer or Licensed Building Practitioner. Always check with our Council to make sure your proposed building work does not have any planning implications. A resource consent may be required, and it is important that you obtain this before starting any building work.

For further information please call the Council's building team on 0800 422 522 or info@rangitikei.govt.nz.