



KŌRERO MAI



Your feedback is important. Scan this QR code to provide feedback on our services and facilities.

RANGITIKEI Connect

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ISSUE 101

FROM THE Mayor's Desk



Kia ora, On Saturday 9 November I attended the Spring Fling in Taihape, an annual event that celebrates the new season and showcases the district's rural lifestyle. The event this year doubled as a reception of the Heritage New Zealand plaque awarding heritage status to the Taihape Grandstand. I see this as one of the steps along the way for the restoration of the Grandstand, something I regard as one of the iconic grand ladies of the district.

Council has pledged, as you will be aware, \$1m as the final funder for this project and are reliant on the community fundraising to reach what will be a significant figure required to upgrade the Grandstand to earthquake strengthening legislation and to be protected from things such as fire risk. The community also needs to be definite as to what the function of the Grandstand is in terms of storage and possible alternative changing facilities for the sports field. Council had previously asked locals not to fundraise until the plan is definite but I personally think that fundraising groups can get together and consider future options. I acknowledge Andrew Coleman, the CE of Heritage New Zealand, being there on Saturday to present the plaque. Andrew is a Taihape Old Boy and was supported on the day by family members coupled with a class reunion by those who attended school with him.

Finally, most of us are familiar with the term "Shop Local". In a nutshell, it became prominent following the first COVID-19 lockdown and was about encouraging people to spend their money at local retailers and service providers. The knock-on impacts of spending money in your community shouldn't be underestimated.

When people spend money locally instead of elsewhere, they're investing in their community. Some research suggests that two thirds of money spent locally stays in a local economy. That money circulates locally through wages to staff and contractors, purchases from suppliers, providing sports clubs with much needed funding through sponsorship, or donations, and in-kind support for groups like Lions, St John's, theatre/music providers, environmental groups etc.

The Rangitikei economy is facing some strong headwinds at the moment. We're a district that is heavily reliant on the primary and forestry sectors to provide for the majority of our residents, both of which are still in recovery mode. Although dairy payouts have seen an increase from last year which is a welcome boost to the sector, sheep and beef prices remain relatively low. A downturn in the Chinese building sector means that demand for logs is weak, and the recent closure of the Winstone Pulp International mills in the Ruapehu District has had a significant impact on some of our residents as well, especially in Taihape.

The cost-of-living crisis is still having an impact. Our consumer spending growth is below the national average at 1.7 percent (nationally it's at 1.9 percent). While inflation is coming down and interest rates are starting to fall, the benefits of these things are still to be realised. Households are doing it tough, and so I appreciate the temptation to shop online, or go to one of the bigger retailers in Whanganui, Palmerston North, or further afield, and spend your money there is strong, and a convenient option for many.

However, I have found over the years that everything that I need and want is available to me in Rangitikei. I'd encourage you to have a look and see what is available on your doorstep first. Share that information with others, so that they know what's available here too. If you have a great experience with a retailer or service provider, let them know and let your friends and whānau know. These simple things can make a huge difference to businesses bottom line and give our retail sector a much-needed boost this Christmas.

To encourage residents, Council have launched the Shop Rangitikei promotion, where anyone who spends \$20 at any Rangitikei store or service provider between now and 19 December 2024 can enter the draw to win one of 8 \$100 Prezzy cards. We've had a successful first three weeks of the campaign with a total of 666 entries shopping at over 40 stores across the district. The more that we spend locally, the better it is for our community that we live and work in.

Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.

Building and Resource Consents over the 2024/25 holidays

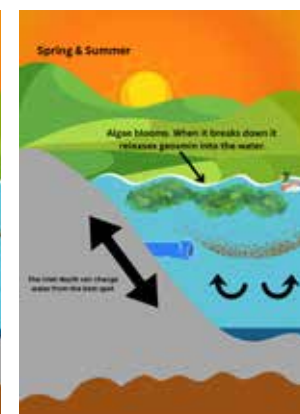
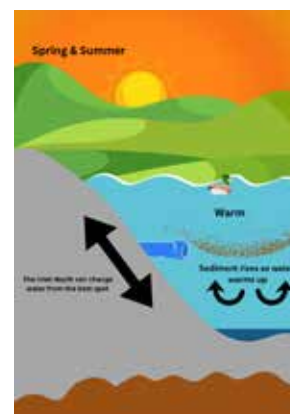
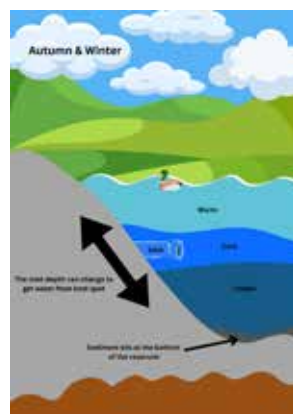
Our Regulatory team have confirmed the following days for Building and Resource Consents acceptance and processing times over the Christmas/New Year period:

Any Building Consents and Resource Consents submitted after **19 December 2024**, will not start to be processed until **13 January 2025** due to the Christmas/ New Year Shutdown period. (as per Section 7 Building Act 2004)

If you want your Building and/or Resource Consent to be processed before Christmas (barring any further information requests which stop the working day processing clock), it needs to be submitted by no later than **Thursday 21 November 2024**.

For further information contact our team on 0800 422 522 or info@rangitikei.govt.nz

Why does Marton water taste and smell the way it does?



It's that time of year again where people are noticing changes to the water that comes through the taps. The water supply in Marton sometimes has muddy taste and smell, and people often associate that with the water having dirt in it. But, the reason for the taste is actually geosmin.

What is geosmin?

Geosmin is essentially the breakdown of algae, which is more prominent in warmer months. Geosmin is in all surface freshwater sources like rivers, lakes, storage ponds and reservoirs. The smell and taste is more easily detected in warmer water.

Do we treat for geosmin?

Yes, we do impoundment control, which means we identify the best level and area to take water from by testing the PH and dissolved oxygen levels. We also dose the water with activated carbon at the inlet of the water treatment plant, which absorbs the geosmin and we then clarify the activated carbon out of the water. At the present we're fine tuning the activated carbon doses. Geosmin can be detected at very low concentrations, and certain people are more sensitive to it than others.

What can you do to help water taste better?

Chilling the water and adding ice cubes has helped some people notice a reduction in the taste and smell of geosmin. Some have also said that lemon slices and/or juice, or a drop of white vinegar can help.

We know that the water at times is not pleasant to drink, but geosmin is not harmful to people or animals, and our water is regularly tested to ensure that it meets Taumata Arowai drinking water standards.

Also, for those that wonder about the filtered water tap at Marton Memorial Hall, the filters are inspected on Monday's and Friday's by our contractors, and they will replace them if needed.



Marton Market Day is back for 2024!

- ★ 200+ stalls ★ Circus Act
- ★ Mechanical Bull ★ Mega Maze
- ★ Climbing Tower ★ Mini Jeeps
- ★ Obstacle Course ★ Play Trailer
- ★ Bouncy Castle
- ★ Bubble Ball ★ Retail Stores
- ★ Food Stalls ★ Live Music

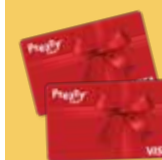
9am - 3pm | 7th December 2024
Broadway and Marton Park

FREE ENTRY

SHOP RANGITIKEI

**Spend \$20 at any store
or service provider in the Rangitikei**

between 28 October and
19 December 2024 and enter the draw
to win one of 8x \$100 prezzy cards



Scan QR Code
to enter



8 PRIZES TO BE WON OVER 8 WEEKS!

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/
shop-local-rangitikei