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ISSUE 116

Council Message

Shelter for Gumboot Alley

Through the Government's 'Better Off' funding, Council have been constructing a shelter at Gumboot Alley thanks to feedback from Taihape locals that one would be handy.

We have partnered with Taihape Area School (TAS) on the project. Our Renovation and Maintenance Technician, Danny Paddock, has been working with some keen TAS students on the shelter, teaching them building and construction skills. A couple of picnic tables will be added on completion of the job.

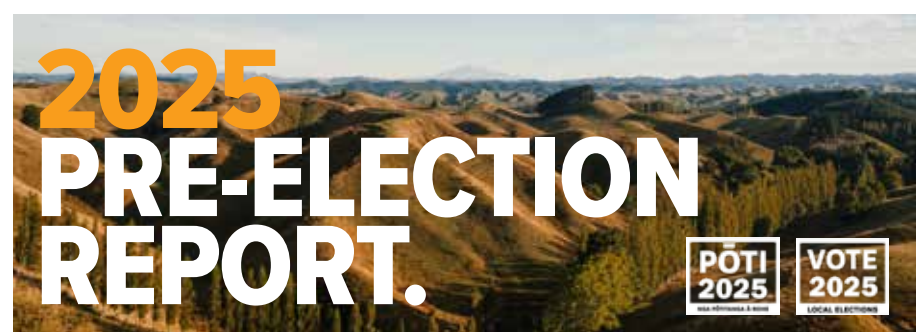
There's still a bit more work to do, but it's coming along nicely thanks to the joint effort.

Community Hubs update

It's been fantastic to see how busy our community hubs have been over the school holidays, with a variety of activities available for rangatahi and tamariki to get involved in.

Tomorrow, Friday 11 July at the Marton Community Hub, #YHQ will be holding a breakfast from 9:15am if you'd like to bring your kids down for some kai and a catch up.

Photo: Lilly Tricker wins the prize for the tallest Lego tower for July school holidays at Te Matapihi. It's 83cm tall!



Key opportunities facing the Rangitikei District

We encourage voters and potential candidates to read our 2025 Pre-Election Report to gain an understanding of the big challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for our Council and community over the next three years. Changes to the Resource Management Act, Local Government Act, and Local Water Done Well could mean significant change in how Council operates and looks going forward. All this occurring while we face challenges from climate change, aging infrastructure and ever increasing costs means we need strong partnerships and bold leaders around the Rangitikei District Council table.

In the last Local Government Election, in 2022, four of the seats on Rangitikei District Council were uncontested, this meant that the first people who put their hand up, got the role. If you've been thinking about running for Council or either of our Community Boards, and you want to lead, serve and put the community first, nominations are now open.

Local elections provide people with a chance to discuss with others what is important to them, and why. Be it friends, whānau, colleague or even opponents. There may not always be agreement on what the best approach is, or how Council is positioned, but conversation and dialogue is key to progress.

The 2025 Pre-Election Report is available on our website, and copies can be collected from any of our service centres. It may help you determine if standing in the upcoming Local Election is right for you, your community, whānau, and loved ones.

Nominations close 12pm, Friday 1 August.



Rangitikei District Council adopts Annual Plan 2025/26

At its Council meeting held on Thursday 26 June, Rangitikei District Council adopted its Annual Plan for 2025/26, and reduced the average rates rise from the 9.1% percent that was consulted on, to 7.9%.

Reducing the average rates increase by 1.2% percent equates to a \$457,763 (including GST) reduction in spend for the next financial year, without impacting Council's level of service to Rangitikei residents. The efficiencies were found through interest cost savings and revising the level of depreciation that Council is required to recover through rates.

Rangitikei District Mayor Andy Watson says that Council recognises the strain that rates rises puts on household budgets. He hailed the efforts of staff and the advocacy of elected members, who listened to the concerns of residents and worked together with staff to balance rates affordability and moving Rangitikei forward.

"This is an incredible achievement in the face of rising costs and such an expansive planned programme of work. As household costs rise, so too do Council costs. It's about balance: The work we need to do to keep Rangitikei running, delivering to the needs and desires of our community, positioning Rangitikei for economic growth and development, and maintaining affordability for ratepayers."

The Annual Plan 2025/26 confirms Council's work plan for the year ahead, which includes repairs to the Marton Swim Centre, completing the switch to Marton's new water supply, continuing the District Plan review, construction of the Calico Line Shared Pathway and beginning work on the Taihape Town Hall and Library redevelopment.

"The sheer speed and volume of change and headwind facing local government continues to put immense pressure on our progress. I appreciate all the effort that has gone into this Annual Plan, and into ensuring Rangitikei is well positioned to confidently face challenges with optimism," adds Mayor Andy.

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"Your district is calling" - nominations are open.

