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RANGITĪKEI

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ISSUE 123

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FROM THE Mayor's Desk

Elections are over – we now have a council to be inducted on 30 October.

Firstly, congratulations to all those who have stood for council. It is a huge undertaking and regardless of whether you won or not, I congratulate you. To the successful councillors and community board members, I look forward to working with you as do our staff. There will be a process to set up our community committee structure. We are still yet to work out how this structure will look and when it will be fully established, but rest assured it will be one of the first priorities.

This election has overturned Rangitīkei Māori Wards however, they will remain in place for this triennium. In my opinion this is a great pity. Our Māori Ward Councillors have contributed enormously and the Māori economy is a huge part of our district.

Most politicians in the country have said that the next three years will be tough and there's no running away from that. Our responsibility will be to work under the Government legislation to make the best sustainable choices for our district. I believe we also have a social responsibility to advocate on behalf of you all which may be a little bit contrary to the Government's Back to Basics thinking.

There are a number of projects that will be front of mind for the new council – Local Water Done Well and our relationship with Palmerston North and Horowhenua councils undoubtedly top that list but we also have the new buildings that are programmed - understanding where these fit, within the earthquake prone legislation will be important.

The new councillors will take some time to come up to speed and that's understandable but feel free to approach them and as always my door is open at any time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2025

The Preliminary Results for the Rangitīkei Local Elections 2025 are in, and incumbent Mayor Andy Watson has been returned for a fifth term.

Of the enrolled voters in the district, 49.11 percent voted (not including special votes), which is an increase on the 46 percent received in the 2022 elections. There are seven returning elected members, including Mayor Andy. The others are:

- Jeff Wong
- Fi Dalgety
- Dave Wilson
- Paul Sharland
- Coral Raukawa
- Piki Te Ora Hiroa (unopposed)

A special congratulations to our new Councillors:

- Daina Baird
- Alan Buckendahl
- John Hainsworth
- Sandra Field
- Graeme O'Fee

In the Māori Ward Referendum, voters chose to remove the Māori Wards by a margin of 156 votes.

Please note, these results are subject to change and the final results are expected to be confirmed by Friday 17 October.

The Inaugural Meeting of the Rangitīkei District Council will be held on **Thursday, 23 October 2025 at Te Matapihi, Bulls.** There will be Whakatau at 1pm, followed by the Inaugural Meeting.

PŌTI 2025 NGA PŌTITANGA Ā-ROHE

VOTE 2025 LOCAL ELECTIONS

New fence and driveway at Bulls flats.

Concrete patios for some of Taihape flats.

Community Housing improvements

Check out some of the mahi that our housing team have done, making improvements to our Community Flats over the past year.

- We've built new fences, put down a new concrete driveway and new concrete paths at several blocks of flats.
- New double glazed windows have gone into some parts of several flats and also brand new heat pumps for almost half of our units.
- We've completed various painting improvements, interior and exterior.
- Fully stripped out and renovated several flats as well.
- New carpets and vinyl flooring here and there.

The housing team are all committed to improving our flats for our tenants, and there are more plans to make some great changes in the future as well.

We are working hard and are proud of what we have been achieving, there's more work to be done, so watch this space!

Welcome to our newest citizens

This month we celebrated 28 people who have officially become Kiwis, in one of the largest citizenship ceremonies that we've held in the district!

Many of these people have lived in Rangitīkei for years, becoming valuable members of the community during that time. Thank you for making our district your home.

Have you checked out our Rangitīkei Grant Finder yet?

There's 1,161 worth of grants available to Rangitīkei residents worth $4.6 billion! A couple of the upcoming grants available that you can apply for include:

- Commemorating Waitangi Day Fund | Te Tahua Whakanui i Waitangi (Closes on 20 October).
- Community Road Safety Fund (Opens 14 October and closes 2 December).

To find out more about these funds, and others available, register at the link below and you can also get alerts when things become available.

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/rangitikei-grant-finder