

FROM THE *Mayor's Desk*

Happy holidays everyone!

As we head into the festive break, it's hard to believe how quickly the year has gone. Once again, Christmas seems to have crept up on us! It's been busy, that's for sure.

Whether you're enjoying a quiet break at home, welcoming family and friends, or making the most of everything our district has to offer this Christmas, I hope the coming weeks bring you moments of rest and relaxation.

I also want to acknowledge those who give up their time over the holiday period to support others - our volunteers, emergency services, community groups, and council staff on call and supporting our information centres. Thank you.

2025 has been a productive year for Rangitikei District Council, with plenty achieved and many milestones reached. I'm incredibly proud of the progress we've made together. Thank you to all those who took the time to engage with our work and have your say on the direction of our district in 2025.

Looking ahead, 2026 will be even bigger and busier. Council is positioning itself to respond to significant government reform while continuing to focus on what matters most locally - strong core services, resilient infrastructure, connected communities, and good value for ratepayers.

As you enjoy the holidays, please take care, especially around water and on our roads. I wish you and your whānau a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy New Year.

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



Rangitikei District Council Temporary Holiday Hours

The operating hours for our council offices, community hubs and waste transfer stations will be changing over the Christmas period.

- Council head office on High Street, Marton will be closed from 12pm on Wednesday 24 December 2025 and will reopen on Monday 5 January 2026.
- All waste transfer stations will be closed on 25 and 26 December 2025, and 1 and 2 of January 2026. Operating hours may also differ slightly outside of these days.

Community Hubs Open Days

Taihape Community Hub	Closed 25 & 26 December
Te Matapihi - Bulls Community Hub	Closed 25 & 26 December
Marton Community Hub	Closed 25 & 26 December Closed 1 & 2 January 2026

If you have an urgent issue to report, please remember you can always call us on our 24/7 phone number 0800 422 522.

Building and Resource Consenting over the Christmas/ New Year period

Any Building Consents and Resource Consents submitted after 19 December 2025, will not start to be processed until 12 January 2026 due to the Christmas/ New Year Shutdown period (as per Section 7 Building Act 2004).

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

SHOP LOCAL THIS CHRISTMAS

SHOP LOCAL RANGITIKEI

QR code linking to local shopping information.

What a year it's been!



From small community wins to big milestones in water, infrastructure, and community projects - 2025 has been a jam packed year at Council.

Here's just some of our 2025 highlights...

- Partnered with Rangitikei College and Community Leisure Management to deliver free school holiday swimming, following the closure of the Marton Swim Centre.
- Launched the **District E-Plan**, making it easier for everyone to navigate the Rangitikei District Plan.
- Consulted with you on our Gambling Venue (Class 4) Policy and TAB Venue Policy.
- Appointed Carol Gordon as Rangitikei District Council **Chief Executive**.
- Supported the launch of a free school uniform alteration service through our Community Hubs.

JAN

2025



In its first year, our **Battery Heavens** collected more than 500kgs of batteries to be recycled through our partners, E-Cycle.



Marton Youth Headquarters (#YHQ) celebrated its one year anniversary. Established to serve Marton school students, it operates out of the RSA and Citizens' Memorial Hall.

FEB

2025



Tradescantia Leaf Beetles released!

- Worked alongside Horizons Regional Council to help remove invasive weed from Tūtaenui Reservoir.
- Progressed testing work on the new Marton bore water, while supplying a water truck to residents affected by geosmin.
- Supported Marton Development Group to build a flying fox at **Sir James Wilson Park**.

MAR

2025

- Consulted with you on the future of water services delivery through **Local Water Done Well**.
- Launched **Grant Guru**, helping Rangitikei residents find funding opportunities for their community projects.
- Supported residents impacted by the liquidation of a local wheelie bin provider by partnering with Smart Environmental to clear uncollected rubbish.



- Celebrated local food and connection at the **Marton Harvest Festival**.
- Concept design delivered for the Taihape Town Hall and Library redevelopment.
- Awarded a new roading contract to Downer, using a collaborative approach to keep Rangitikei roads running smoothly.
- Consulted with you on our 2025/26 Annual Plan.

APR

2025

- Key decisions made to repair the roof of the **Marton Swim Centre**, ensuring reopening can occur as soon as possible.
- Work towards better usability and development of the green spaces in Bulls with the establishment of a Masterplan.
- Hosted the biannual **Youth Awards**, celebrating outstanding rangatahi across Rangitikei.

MAY

2025



CELEBRATE

YOUTH

- **Ngā Awa Block** in Taihape wins a silver award at the New Zealand Commercial Project Awards.
- Launched our **2025 Local Election campaign**.
- Worked hard to find efficiencies without impacting the services we deliver residents and managed to reduce the average rates rise for 2025/26 by 1.2%.



Silver Award Winner!

JUN

2025

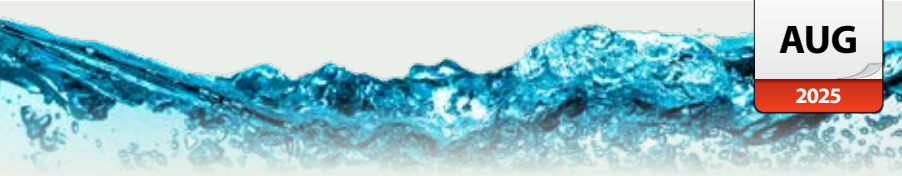


Tūtaenui Reservoir Bore site

- New trial treatment plant set up at the Tūtaenui Reservoir Bore site, marking the beginning of 4 months of rigorous testing.
- Launched a sensory play programme for neurodiverse residents, supported through our Community Hubs - **Takaro Tairongo Sensory Play**

JUL

2025



- Announced partnership with Horowhenua District Council and Palmerston North City Council to deliver savings for residents on the future delivery of **three waters services**.
- Confirmed **32 Local Election candidates**, up from 29 last election.

AUG

2025



Marton Swim Centre roof concept

- Extended the Tyrewise Programme to Taihape and Bulls waste transfer stations.
- Concept design approved for **Marton Swim Centre roof** - another step closer to reopening.
- Completed a number of upgrades to our **Community Housing** flats.
- 'Officially' endorsed kererū for Bird of the Year.

SEP

2025



We hit the streets, pounded the pavements, and told anyone and everyone who would listen to **VOTE** in the **2025 Local Elections**.



Celebrated a 49.63% voter turnout - the highest in at least the last three elections. **Thank you Rangitikei!**

OCT

2025



The new name and brand for our future water services partnership announced - **Central Districts Water**.

- Continued our progress renewing the Taihape water network, and conducted a number of tests to prepare for improvements to Taihape's wastewater network.
- Allocated \$50,000 to support Rangitikei Netball to resurface the Marton netball courts as part of a community-led project on Council-owned land.
- Launched nominations for the **2026 Rangitikei Youth Council** (*these are still open! You can apply on our website*).
- Launched our **2025 Shop Local campaign** supporting local businesses over the festive season.

NOV

2025

- Testing completed at the Tūtaenui Reservoir bore site - one step closer to better water for Marton residents. The next phase will begin in the New Year - outlining the pathway for full commissioning.
- Dudding Lake sadly struck by an unpredicted tornado.
- Supported summer trading for local businesses with another successful **Marton Market Day**.

DEC

2025



- Tenders for the Phase 1 repairs of the Marton Swim Centre opened. Tenders close 23 January, 2026.
- Rangitikei festivities in full swing up and down the district. **Meri Kirihimete from our whānau to yours.**



Welcomed 66 New Zealand citizens!