

KŌRERO MAI
We need to receive your feedback by 5pm on Friday 17 April 2026

46 High St, Marton
Private Bag 1102, Marton 4741
0800 422 522 (24 hrs)
info@rangitikei.govt.nz
www.rangitikei.govt.nz

www.visitrangitikei.nz/events

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Whilst I've already passed on thanks to everyone who assisted during the cleanup following the February storm, I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge our farmers who have been impacted by this event.

We're still assessing the damage to crops due to the strong winds, and we know that a number of growers in particular were impacted at a crucial time of their year. We're advocating for support from government agencies for our farmers to help them recover from this event.

As you may have seen, Council is also seeking assistance from NZTA Waka Kotahi to help with the repair bill of roads that were damaged during the storm, the cost which is estimated to be approximately \$2 million.

Council resolved to commit funding reserves of nearly \$600,000 for the roading repairs, and \$50,000 towards parks and reserves, with another \$70,000 committed by reprioritising expenditure in the parks and reserves budget.

This has effectively cleared out our reserves funding and leaves council in a difficult position should another significant event occur, but we recognise the importance of getting on top of the repair work now.

At the time that this Connect is being read by people, Council will be in a meeting and discussing the key projects that we know are important to our community, the Marton Swim Centre, Marton Water Strategy and the Taihape Town Hall and Library Redevelopment.

We understand the frustration of many residents due to some of the delays that we've experienced. I can say that around the Council table that there is a real determination to see these projects advanced and I'm confident that we'll be able to make some decisions that will provide residents with more information about timeframes for completion.

I'd like to pass on some congratulations. Firstly, to the organisers of Fest-a-Bull, what a wonderful event it was this year. It was great to see so many people attending, and enjoying the entertainment, food, drinks, and treats that were on offer.

Over the last week we have had a series of events highlighting 50 years of service by Marton's Op shop. Over that time over \$2m has been given back to local groups and the number of food parcels given out and the support to those in need has been incredible. My congratulations to all of the volunteers, committee people and to those that have donated goods your efforts have been extraordinary rightfully making Marton's little Op shop ranked second in the country.

Also, to the organisers of Hardpark, you did a fantastic job attracting so many car enthusiasts to Marton for your car show, and for a great cause with funds donated to the Marton Volunteer Fire Brigade. I was very impressed with some of the cars on display, and the amount of cars on show also given it coincided with AmericARNA in Taranaki.

And a special congratulations to Alistair Stewart of the Bulls Volunteer Fire Brigade, who recently just celebrated his 50 years of service anniversary. This is a significant achievement and one that Alastair should be incredibly proud of. I know how valued he is by the Bulls community and his fellow fire fighters.

The upcoming Marton Harvest Festival is always a highlight for our community, and attracts many people to our district from around the lower North Island. Unfortunately, I will not be in attendance this year because I'm going on leave and wanted to ensure I was present for some crucial Council meetings in late April and May. I have no doubt that the festival will be enjoyed by thousands of people who will see the very best of what we have to offer here in Rangitikei.

Ngā mihi, Mayor Andy - Rangitikei District Council.



COMMUNITY VOICES

Council is currently consulting on our Annual Plan & Co 2026/27 and proposed changes to our District Plan. Get a quick overview of both.

ANNUAL PLAN & CO 2026/27

This is the third and last annual plan of the current Long Term Plan 2024 - 2034.

Council is proposing an average rates increase of 6.4%, which is down from the predicted 10.75% at the start of the Long Term Plan.

This reduction has been achieved thanks to staff finding cost reductions and efficiencies.

Despite the reduced average rates increase from 10.75% to 6.4%, this will not lead to any reductions in the levels of service for residents. This is something that residents will need to consider when they submit their feedback on the plan.

The focus for Council is to make progress on Marton's new water source, improvements to the Taihape wastewater network, the Marton Swim Centre, and planning for long term growth in the district.

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/wheres-annualplan-andco

PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 3

Did you know the population of Rangitikei could grow as high as 25,000 people by 2050!

So to make sure that there's enough homes for people here, we're proposing changes to the District Plan!

What's being proposed?

- More intense housing options close to town centres in Taihape, Marton and Bulls
- Rezoning land on the edges of Marton and Bulls
- A structured plan for the Marton Northwest Development Area
- Amendments to General Residential Zone, Rural Lifestyle Zone and Subdivisions

What do these changes aim to do?

- Remove unnecessary barriers to future residential and rural lifestyle development
- Enable more efficient land use
- Provide clearer standards
- Support appropriate urban intensification

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/ppc3



Kōrero Mai
Have your say



YOUR RATES AT WORK



New mulch made from smaller trees and branches.

PARKS AND RESERVES

Following the storm in February, we ended up with lots trees and branches that got brought down by the wind.

We've turned what we could into firewood and have partnered with the likes of Bulls Rugby Club to supply them with wood for a fundraiser.

Many of the smaller trees and branches have been turned into mulch ready to be used across the district. Normally when we have to add mulch to playgrounds, we're paying for the mulch and the labour of laying it.

But now we have heaps of mulch of our own, so we can use this instead of having to buy it, and this helps to reduce some costs.



Rangatahi taking part in the Whānau First Youth Fire Safety course in Palmerston North.

WHĀNAU FIRST YOUTH FIRE SAFETY

On Saturday 14 March, rangatahi from our district attended the Whānau First Youth Fire Safety event in Palmerston North.

This initiative was driven by our Youth Council and was inspired by a fatal house fire in Rangitikei last year.

Joining forces with Fire and Emergency New Zealand, with support from Council and Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa, the programme delivered was focused on upskilling rangatahi on fire safety in their own homes, as well as helping others by doing fire safety checks and developing escape plans.

Attendees shared what knowledge they already had of fire safety, and then they were tasked with identifying hazards in places like kitchens, bedrooms, home offices and lounges.

"I learnt so much about how to keep my whānau and community safer. It was really cool to see some fire demonstrations and learn how to put out a pot of oil on fire on the stove," says new Youth Councillor, Aania Paranihi.

Rangitikei District Youth Council would like to extend their thanks to James, Justin, Tim, Anna and Pete from Palmerston North Fire Brigade, and Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa for supporting the kaupapa.

WASTEWATER

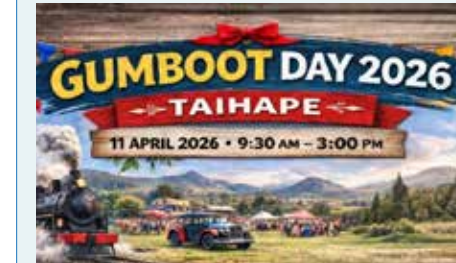
Last week, Council staff were jetting and inspecting the sewer system on Broadway between High Street and Calico Line.

This work is done to ensure that the wastewater system is working as it should be and that there are no major issues that we need to be aware of.

STORM WATER

In the stormwater space, a new pipe from Bredins Line to the Tūtaenui has recently been installed. The old pipe has been replaced with a bigger one that will increase capacity, and the location of the discharge point has changed.

Before stormwater upgrades take place, Council have to undertake flood modelling work to ensure that we can achieve hydraulic/stormwater neutrality, and that information gets passed on to Horizons Regional Council to ensure that we're compliant with the resource consent.



TAIHAPE GUMBOOT DAY

WHEN 11 April 2026
TIME 9.30am - 3pm
LOCATION The Outback, Robin and Tui Street Taihape

COST Free
Don't miss out on a true kiwi day out! Steam train ride, stalls, displays, music, and gumboot fun. Wear your gumboots and bring your whānau.



SUZUKI EXTREME 4X4 CHALLENGE

WHEN 26 April 2026
TIME 9am start
LOCATION Turakina
COST \$25 Adults / \$60 Family

The Suzuki Extreme 4x4 Challenge is back for another year! Featuring some of the best off road drivers from around the country, this attracts motorsports enthusiasts and casual watchers alike. Tickets can be purchased from the gate on the day.



MARTON HARVEST FESTIVAL

WHEN 12 April 2026
TIME 10am - 3pm
LOCATION Sir James Wilson Park, Marton

COST Free
Brought to you by Rangitikei Aotearoa. Eat, drink and celebrate with us at the Marton Harvest Festival! A lively showcase of food, crafts, music and our community in the heart of Rangitikei.



CROP SWAP MARTON

WHEN Every 2nd Saturday
TIME 11am -12pm
LOCATION Marton Community Hub
COST Free

Do you have an abundance of fruit and vegetables? Bring your garden produce, seedlings, seeds, preserves, and 'know how' and share with others in your community.



MEET YOUR COUNCIL TEAM - RAEWYN TIMMINS

My name is Raewyn Timmins and I am the Team Leader Community Hubs/ Libraries and Information centre at Rangitikei District Council. I've been in the library/information sector at Rangitikei District Council for 24 years and seen the transition from libraries to Community hubs, and many changes to the digital spaces.

I love connecting with people. With a passion for reading and history

I've recently started volunteering at the Marton museum digitising the family records.

My three mokopuna recently moved back to the district. I enjoy attending their sporting events and following their achievements.



Students from Taoroa School were the first to try the new Disc Golf course.

DISC GOLF LAUNCHED AT TAIHAPE MEMORIAL PARK

Earlier in March, students from Taoroa School had the honour of launching the new disc golf course at Memorial Park.

This project was a community led initiative, and responds to growing demand for free, accessible activities in our rural towns and villages.

Disc golf (or frisbee golf) is a free, fun outdoor activity that's easy to pick up and great for all ages. Whether you're a first-timer or keen to test your skills, it's a great way to get outside and enjoy the park.

The course has been designed to be accessible and flexible, with two course options for both beginners and more experienced players.

Next time you're passing through the park, pick up a disc and give it a go.

THE LOBBY

