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### FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

I want to thank all of those who have attended our public meetings regarding the Government proposed Simplifying Local Government reforms, and also those who have submitted their feedback to our Rangitikei at the Table survey.



As I've previously said, it is an incredibly tight timeframe that we've been given to seek your thoughts, and I commend the staff and elected members for working collaboratively over these past few weeks.

I'm saddened by the approach that the Government has taken, and I reiterate that it is very difficult for us to get anything meaningful from our residents in such a short space of time.

Council will take the community feedback and my intention is to provide a position to the Government under Head Start by 9 August.

That proposal may not be fully developed in the timeframe available, but it is important to state our position. We continue on a daily basis, like most rural councils, to argue for time and clarification around what the "backstop" process is with Ministers Watts and Bishop.

We will keep you updated with progress, so watch this space.

May and June has seen us award the final two Community Volunteer Awards to our recipients, Lowie Harrison and Gary Johnson. I was fortunate to present both with their awards at ceremonies, attended by their friends and whānau, and it was fantastic to hear from others about the work that these individuals have done for their communities.

I would like to congratulate Elizabeth Mortland for her King's Birthday Honour, where she has received a King's Service Medal in recognition of all the community work she has done in Taihape over the past 20 years. This is a significant achievement, and we're very proud to have you as part of our community.

Ngā mihi, Mayor Andy - Rangitikei District Council.

### MAJOR PROJECTS TRACKER

Wondering how our big projects are progressing? There are quite a few steps involved in getting our projects from start to finish, with Council decisions along the way to make sure we're spending money responsibly. This tracker gives you an at-a-glance update on where things are at.

Project	Proposal	Designing	Consenting	Procurement	Building
Taihape Town Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community consultation</li> <li>Council approval</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concept</li> <li>Preliminary</li> <li>Developed</li> <li>Detailed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resource (if required)</li> <li>Building</li> </ul>	(finding someone to do the job)	(this is when you see boots on the ground)
Marton Office and Community Hub	On hold since 22nd May, awaiting Council review	working through detailed design			this is a 'design & build' contract
Marton Swim Centre		working through preliminary design			contractor identified, pricing still to be agreed.
Marton Emergency Operations Centre					

**Marton Water Strategy**  
Status: Short-medium term improvement measures are being put in place while long-term options are explored.  
Read the full update: www.rangitikei.govt.nz/marton-water-strategy

### COMMUNITY VOICES

## RANGITĪKEI AT THE TABLE

#### WHAT YOU TOLD US

At the time of writing this update, we've received 312 responses to our survey asking residents how we should respond to the Simplifying Local Government reforms. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to have their say on this important topic.

Just accounting for the online responses while the paper copies are still being processed (233 of 312), this is what you're telling us:

- **84.12%** of you think we should put together a "Head Start" proposal to Central Government.
- **30.9%** believe that we should look to do a "Horizons region" amalgamation, with the next closest option, "Go Rural" amalgamation on **27.47%**.
- **45.06%** of you think local voice remains important and would like to see a representative for your town or local area on any future amalgamated council.

Of those who would like to see 'something else' done, (something different to the amalgamation options we proposed), here's what you've suggested:

- "Put south Rangitikei into Whanganui District Council and Northern Rangitikei into Ruapehu."
- "Consider Iwi boundaries and remap this way so that shared governance boundaries match."
- "I'd rather push back on Government, amalgamating with other small rural councils will help to ensure there are strong measures in place to protect local representation and ensure communities continue to have a voice."
- "All Horizons Councils with exception to Tararua plus Taranaki Councils. This gives us scale and is the absolute minimum we should be looking for in an amalgamation."

Some of you raised concerns of what the future may hold for our Rangitikei. Some of these are outlined below:

- "That Taihape will sink even further down the priority list. We already feel like the lost sibling, it feels like it will get even worse if our council area gets bigger."
- "Making sure there is regular upkeep and maintenance of our towns infrastructure and assets with a proper maintenance plan that will be efficiently followed with regular community reporting."
- "Loss of local identity, but this would be offset by a more efficient and fiscally responsible local government amalgamation."
- "The smaller towns and rural communities losing a seat at the table and the bigger centres taking priority."

Our next steps are to work through all your feedback alongside the facts and figures we have available to come up with a shortlist of options for Council to consider. A reminder that if Council decides to submit a 'Head Start' proposal, this will need to be completed by 9 August. We'll keep you informed as this work progresses.

#### MEET YOUR COUNCIL TEAM - OFF THE CLOCK

Have you had a chance to watch any of our Off The Clock episodes with Elected Members?

Off The Clock is a chance for you to better know who it is that is representing you and the community around the Council table. These are available to watch/listen to on Facebook and YouTube, and so far we have featured:

- Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson
  - Tiikeitia ki Uta Councillor Piki Te Ora Hiroa
  - Central Ward Councillor Fi Dalgety
  - Central Ward Councillor Sandra Field
  - North Ward Councillor Jeff Wong
  - Southern Ward Councillor Graeme O'Fee
- Who do you want to see interviewed next?



### YOUR RATES AT WORK



#### MARTON WATER STRATEGY - UPDATE

Following the last update in April, we told you that we've changed direction on the treatment process. But while work on the long-term option/s continues in the background, we're implementing some short to medium term options to improve Marton's water. And the good news is that the work on these options is progressing along nicely.

The new package treatment plant at Calico Line (pictured) - which treats bore water before it enters the network - was purchased in May. We've cleared space for the new plant, which will be shipped to Marton once it has been fully configured in the factory, over the coming weeks. It should be installed on site and fully operational by October 2026, in time for the summer peak demand.

Ultrasonic treatment units are currently being ordered for the Tūtaenui Reservoir and are expected to significantly reduce issues associated with summer algal blooms. These units will also be fully operational in time for the 2026 summer peak demand period.

We're developing a 'blending strategy' to optimise the water in the network, by mixing water from the Marton Water Treatment Plant and the Calico Line bore (in simple terms, making sure we're using the right mix of water sources - reservoir vs bore - at the right time).

Combined, these actions are expected to significantly improve the taste and odour issues that Marton residents have been experiencing for far too long.

We know many residents are keen to see progress on the ground, so we'll continue sharing updates as equipment arrives, installation begins, and key milestones are reached - showing you the work as it happens!

#### CALICO LINE SHARED PATHWAY

Council and contractors have begun work on the much anticipated Calico Line shared pathway, from Marton township to Ngā Tawa Diocesan School. The construction of the pathway also coincides with required water main renewals on Calico Line, allowing for better coordination of work, less interruption to residents and road users, and cost savings to ratepayers.



#### TAIHAPE WATER SHUTDOWN

A rare whole-of-town water shutdown in Taihape is to take place overnight from **Monday 29 June - Tuesday 30 June**. This will conclude Rangitikei District Council's year-long Taihape water renewals project, strengthening the town's network resilience.

The whole town shutdown is required to replace a pipe on Ruru Road, which is one of the two main feeds into Taihape.

**The water supply will be shut down on the evening of Monday 29 June from 9:00pm until approximately 1:00am on Tuesday 30 June.**

#### NOTES FOR RESIDENTS:

- Please stock up on water a head of the shutdown so that you have enough for your household overnight.
- DO NOT run your hot water cylinders dry, as this can lead to damage to your hot water system.
- There may be trapped air in pipes that comes out of the taps and makes gurgling sounds on Tuesday morning. This is normal, so leave the tap on and the air should clear quickly.
- Some air may be trapped as little bubbles, causing the water to appear slightly milky in colour. It is still safe to drink.
- The change in usual flow may unsettle some sediment in the pipes and the water may be dirty. If this happens, run an outside tap for about 10 mins to clear the line.

Council staff and contractors have replaced approximately 1.2km of concrete and steel pipes with polyethylene pipes - futureproofing the network with a lifespan of 80 to 100 years.

Other parts of the renewals work have included new water mains on Titi Street and Swan Street, renewing fire hydrants, mainline valves and smaller lateral pipes to properties located on these roads. Some tobies have also been moved for ease of access in critical periods. All this work combined is expected to significantly reduce the amount of water being lost from the network due to leaks.



#### TEA & TOPIC - CONNECTION SESSIONS

WHEN	Wednesdays
TIME	10am - 12pm
LOCATION	Marton Community Hub
COST	Free

Come along for a relaxed catch-up with tea, coffee and something sweet. Have a chat, meet others and find out what support and services are available in our community.



#### ART 4 ARTS SAKE EXHIBITION

WHEN	13-24 July
TIME	10am - 4pm
LOCATION	Te Matapihi - Bulls Community Centre
COST	Free to register

Artists and visitors are warmly invited to be part of the upcoming Art 4 Arts Exhibition in Bulls, a celebration of creativity, community, and connection! www.bulls.kiwi/events



#### 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.



#### COMMUNITY HUBS SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

WHEN	4-19 July
TIME	various
LOCATION	Taihape, Marton and Bulls Community Hubs
COST	Free

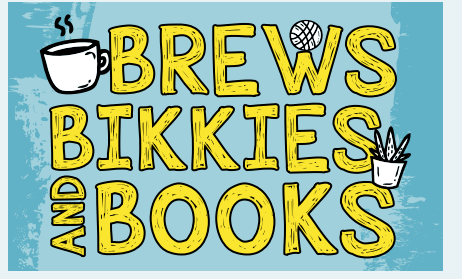
Keep the tamariki entertained with our free holiday programmes. Matariki themed crafts, Lei Making, VR, slime, puzzles and LEGO. There's something there for everyone! www.facebook.com/rangitikeicomunityhubs



#### TAIHAPE COMMUNITY MONTHLY MARKET

WHEN	Every 3rd Saturday
TIME	9am - 1pm
LOCATION	104 Hautapu Street
COST	Free

Local foods, produce, and crafts. A vibrant space that supports and connects our community!



#### BREWS, BIKKIES AND BOOKS

WHEN	1 August
TIME	10.30 - 11.30am
LOCATION	Marton Community Hub
COST	Free

Rangitikei District Youth Council will be holding their first ever youth book club meeting. All book lovers between ages 16-24yrs are invited to come along. There will be hot coffee, milo and bikkies. For more information: youthcouncil@rangitikei.govt.nz

