

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

It has been another busy month across Rangitikei, and one that has reminded me just how much our communities achieve when people come together.

Towards the end of June, I was in Taihape for a fantastic fundraising auction supporting the restoration of the historic Taihape Grandstand and the development of Hautapu River Park and the Taihape Playground. It was a wonderful afternoon that showcased the best of our district. Volunteers, local businesses, community groups and residents all got behind three local projects that will benefit generations to come. A huge thank you to everyone who organised, donated, and turned up to support the cause.

This month marks the end of an era for one of Marton's most recognisable businesses. After more than a century of serving the community, McGruers is closing its doors. For many of us, it has been the go-to place for fabrics and haberdashery for as long as we can remember. I'd like to thank the Scott family for their dedication over the past 109 years. Running a family business for that length of time is an incredible achievement, and their contribution to Marton and the wider Rangitikei community has been significant.

Road safety continues to be a priority for Council. We will be making a submission to NZTA's speed management consultation, supporting a reduced speed limit on a particularly dangerous section of State Highway 1 through Taihape. We know this stretch of road has been the site of too many serious crashes, and we believe reducing speeds is a practical step that will help keep everyone safer. If you have an interest in the proposal, I encourage you to have your say before consultation closes.

Finally, today Council is meeting to consider the next steps for the Government's proposal to amalgamate councils. I want to again thank everyone who took the time to engage with us during June on this topic. Since consultation closed, Councillors and I have spent a great deal of time reviewing the feedback received, meeting with neighbouring councils and carefully considering the options available to Rangitikei.

We are fortunate to have several possible pathways available to us. The challenge is balancing the long-term interests of our district with the short timeframes set by Wellington. Whatever decision is made, it will be one that has been carefully considered with the future of Rangitikei front of mind.

Ngā mihi, Mayor Andy - Rangitikei District Council.



RANGITĪKEI
AT THE TABLE

Council are meeting today at 10:00am and will decide whether to put forward a Head Start proposal.

This meeting is open to the public and is being livestreamed on our Facebook page, and a recording will be available on Facebook and YouTube.

If Council decides not to submit a Head Start proposal, it will move into the Government's 'backstop process'. While the Government has provided little detail about what this process will involve, recent discussions suggest it may offer more flexibility than first indicated.

Initially, councils that did not participate in the Head Start process were told they would have little influence over future local government arrangements.

More recent conversations suggest there may still be opportunities to explore alternative options through the backstop process in collaboration with the impacted councils.

It's important to remember that no immediate changes will happen as a result of these decisions. Any changes to local government structures or the amalgamation of councils are unlikely to take effect before the 2028 local government elections.

We'll continue to keep you informed as the process progresses and will let you know the outcome of Council's decision following today's meeting.



COMMUNITY VOICES

COUNCIL
FUNDING OPEN

If your project, initiative, event, or idea needs a helping hand, you could be eligible to apply for one of the below funds offered or administered by Council:

- **Event Support Scheme**
- closes Sunday 30 August
- **Community Initiatives Fund**
- closes Sunday 30 August
- **Creative Communities Scheme**
- closes Sunday 25 October
- **Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund** - closes
Wednesday 31 March 2027

For more information, please visit:
www.rangitikei.govt.nz/fundingopportunities





YOUTH RANGITĪKEI

Ready for a bit of fun? We have teamed up with Te Kai Whaka Ora - Marton Youth Trust and made a Bingo card promoting strength, kindness, and resilience. Challenge yourself to finish the whole card and be into win some epic prizes. Every square is a chance to learn, grow or make someone else's day.

Pop into the Marton Community Hub to get a card and hand back into the hub before the 24th August to be in to win a prize.

Recommended for ages 10-15.



GROUPS, CLUBS AND CODES

Find your people in Rangitikei

Rangitikei is home to a wide range of community groups and clubs - from sports teams and hobbies to creative, cultural, and social clubs. These groups are what make our communities vibrant, welcoming, and connected. We've introduced a one-stop place on our website to discover what's happening across the district and find a group that's right for you. Browse our groups at www.rangitikei.govt.nz/groups-clubs

Have a club to share? If you're part of a club or group in Rangitikei, we'd love to help others find you. Fill out the form on our website to have your club added to the page. *It's a simple way to reach more people and grow your membership.*



MEET YOUR COUNCIL TEAM - PAUL RENSHAW

Tēnā koutou katoa,

My name is Paul Renshaw, and my role with Rangitikei District Council is Manager of Emergency Management.

I am excited to return to the Rangitikei District in this role, I have previously served with the Bulls Volunteer Fire Brigade for over a decade.

While living in Bulls and Parewanui with my family a number of years ago, we suffered a total loss of home and contents during the 2004 floods. This experience, coupled with the Canterbury & Kaikoura earthquakes influenced my decision to study emergency management following a long military career.

I joined the National Emergency Management Agency and held several roles with the agency, that saw me deployed to Hawke's Bay for the response phase of Cyclone Gabrielle.



My last role was leading the national planning team which developed New Zealand's Catastrophic Event handbook, Space Weather Response Plan and the Auckland Volcanic Field Response Plan.

It is a privilege to be returning home. Following the announcement of Council's Emergency Operation Centre being constructed next to the current High Street offices in Marton, many people have been suggesting that Te Matapihi could be used instead.

I encourage those in and around Bulls to come along to tonight's Civil Defence Meeting, 5.30pm at Te Matapihi - Bulls Community Centre to find out more about the role of Civil Defence and ask any other questions that they may have.

YOUR RATES AT WORK



ROADING

A NEW GRADER FOR RANGITĪKEI ROADS

Council's roading contractors Downer NZ have added a new piece of machinery to their arsenal.

This grader from Terra CAT was received by Downer NZ at our northern depot in Taihape and has been customised for the 451km of unsealed roads in our district.

It is a significant investment in ensuring that our rural roads are kept in good order for communities.





WATER

SKERMAN STREET STORMWATER UPGRADES

It's long been known that Skerman Street has been a bottleneck for stormwater during heavy rain events, causing some issues for nearby properties.

Council have therefore linked this area to a different part of the stormwater network that has more capacity. This pipeline has also been designed to connect to a new stormwater pipe that is proposed to go down the length of Follett Street in a few years time.

This future pipe will reduce the volume and the reliance on the open drains and pipes that run through peoples properties.



BROADWAY AND HIGH STREET ROUNDABOUT

On Sunday, 19 July, contractors conducted pavement testing on the roundabout located on Broadway and High Street in Marton.

The testing has been done ahead of work that will be done on the roundabout during the summer roading renewals programme. The pavement under the road seal is still in good condition, and so only a reseal will be needed.





SKERMAN STREET RESEAL

Following the completion of a stormwater upgrade on Skerman Street, a shortage of hot mix asphalt due to a plant breakdown caused a delay on the final reseal over the area of the road that had to be dug up.

Fortunately, the plant was restored quicker than anticipated, and the reseal work was completed on Tuesday 21 July. You can read more about the stormwater project under water updates.

DOG REGISTRATIONS DUE!

Get your pooch registered before 31 July to avoid a late payment fee.





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.



WAITATAPIA WEAR-A-BULL ARTS

WHEN 27 August

TIME 6pm

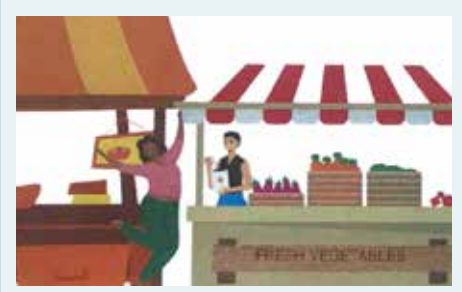
LOCATION Te Matapihi - Bulls Community Centre

COST Prices from \$15

This annual community creative arts and fashion show celebrates local artistic expression, creativity, and craftsmanship in a fun, inclusive environment.

Organised by the Bulls & District Community Trust.

www.bulls.kiwi/events



TAIHAPE COMMUNITY MONTHLY MARKET

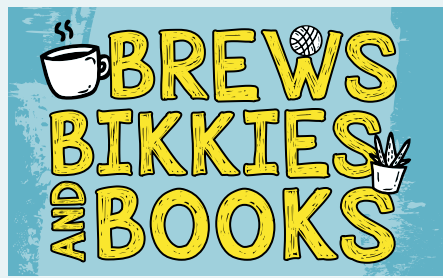
WHEN Every 3rd Saturday

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



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.



THE MUDDER - FUN RUN

WHEN 19 September

TIME 9am -1pm

LOCATION Makuhou Road, Marton

COST From \$25 kids / \$65 adults

The Mudder provides a great day out with friends, family or just by yourself. Promoting the benefits of exercise for your mental health, The Mudder is a great way to "Move your body, shift your mind."

Organised by Rangitikei Farmstay.

www.themudder.co.nz