

RANGITĪKEI CONNECT

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WHAT'S ON RANGITĪKEI?

www.rangitikei.co.nz/events

ISSUE 136

FROM THE **MAYOR'S DESK**



Like every other council in the country we wait - on national election appointments, coalitions to be formed and government directions. It is effectively a pause.

Over the last two years we have faced rapidly changing direction and new laws, many of which are not actually laws yet, but they dramatically change the future of local government. There are many but I want to talk about just the rates capping one at the moment. Government has said that local councils must comply with a maximum increase in rates of 2-4% a year from 2029 onwards. This is a blame game where local government is held accountable. I absolutely understand that it is a popular position by government, the country is hurting and rates affordability is high on the costs people are challenged with.

Prices for everything have gone up considerably - cheese, meat, fruit and vegetables, fuel etc. For our council the biggest cost is in roading and asphalt has recently increased by 45%. We will look to comply with the new law, the challenge for us as a district will be do we let our roads continue to decline, close sports fields, reduce library hours or not prepare for future civil defence events such as flooding? This is the reality that all councils face – we are not unique. In the Long-term Plan (released as a draft next year) we will ask you all essentially what are you prepared to fund or not to fund.

We have over the last few years brought cleaning and maintenance of our parks and reserves back in house to save money and to provide a better service. We have also entered into Central Districts Water to save long term on the cost increases that will be inevitable.

Many people have commented on the building work on the corner of Grey Street/High Street in Marton. It is not "the new council building" which has been paused, it is the new Civil Defence community building. Construction for this facility has momentarily paused also, while we deal with a potential issue. Someone in a previous council role many years ago had a moment of brilliance, when faced with drums of waste oil which needed disposal he or she decided to just bury them. We now have to deal with the consequences of possible land contamination. These things do come back to haunt you.

The next time I write it will be about the good news stuff – new companies wanting to set up here, the amazing Hautapu Bridges Project in Taihape and the success of the B&C Dams in Marton - all driven by amazing community support.

Ngā mihi, Mayor Andy - Rangitīkei 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 gives you an at-a-glance update on where things are at.

Project	Proposal • Community consultation • Council approval	Designing • Concept • Preliminary • Developed • Detailed	Consenting • Resource (if required) • Building	Procurement (finding someone to do the job)	Building (this is when you see boots on the ground)
Taihape Town Hall	✓	working through detailed design	○	this is a 'design & build' contract	○
Marton Office and Community Hub	On hold since 22nd May, awaiting Council review				
Marton Swim Centre	✓	✓	✓	✓	◐
Marton Emergency Operations Centre	✓	✓	◐	✓	◐

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/projects

✓ Completed ◐ In Progress ○ Not started

RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL

making this place home

COMMUNITY VOICES



OPEN FOR CONSULTATION

Control of Dog Bylaw and Draft Dog Control and Owner Responsibility Policy

We're reviewing the rules for dogs in Rangitīkei, and we want to know what you think. Most of our current dog control rules would stay the same, but we're proposing a few practical changes following feedback from our community and a review of the existing Dog Control Bylaw and Policy.

Some of the proposed changes include:

- Clearer rules around keeping dogs under control, including making sure the person responsible for a dog is capable of controlling or restraining it.
- Clarifying when you need to carry and use a leash while out with your dog.
- Requiring people to carry a suitable bag when taking their dog into a public place, so there's no excuse for leaving dog poo behind.
- Changing the rules around picnic areas, so rather than dogs being prohibited, they would be allowed provided they are kept on a leash.

We're also reviewing where dogs can exercise off-leash and where they are prohibited. We heard during early engagement that Hunterville needs an off-leash exercise area, but we haven't yet found a location that can safely and practically be designated for this purpose. Whether you own a dog or not, if you use our parks and public spaces, we'd like to hear from you.

Kōrero mai – Have your say!

Read the proposals and submit your feedback through our website.
Submissions close 5pm, Friday 16 October 2026.

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/consultations







From left to right: Hunterville School, Marton School, and Mangaweka School taking part in the wero.

WERO ACCEPTED AND DELIVERED!

Kotahi Mano Ngā Poi – the 1,000 Poi Challenge saw schools, early learning centres, businesses, community groups and whānau across Rangitīkei take part in a poi performance to celebrate the start of Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori, and create a shared moment of language, culture and connection.

The wero (challenge) was originally set to get 1,000 poi swinging in unison for more than two minutes across our district. Funding was obtained by Rangitīkei District Council through the Te Reo Towns Activation Fund, with the money spent on supplies for schools and community groups to make poi.

More than 1,500 people registered to take part across the district, including Pukeokahu School, Hunterville School and Mangaweka School, with Mangaweka students taking their poi up Mount Ruapehu on a snow day.

A community event was hosted at Rangitīkei College in an attempt to set an "unofficial world record", with over 600 people attending to take part. Combined with all those who took part at their own kura and mahi, it's estimated that over 1,500 people took up the wero. Kotahi Mano Ngā Poi was made possible through funding from Te Reo Towns, with support from Sport Whanganui, Te Kotuku Hauora and Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa.

Whatever that final number turns out to be, one thing is already certain – when we asked Rangitīkei for 1,000 poi, the district delivered a whole lot more.

YOUR RATES AT WORK





COMMUNITY

Marton Swim Centre

Our contractors, Alaska Construction & Interiors have come up with an alternative schedule for this project, due to a delay in the arrival of the steel framing for the new roof.

It means that they have been able to carry on with other work as part of the redevelopment that otherwise would have happened once the new roof structure was on.

The majority of the earthquake strengthening work has been done, and they have also been working on a foundation for the new HVAC units that will be installed.

Painting work on the pool surface will begin shortly, and the steel and roof components are due to start arriving by the end of October.

Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)

Excavation work has begun on the EOC located on the corner of Grey and High streets in Marton.

Our contractors, Maycroft, have made good progress, but a discovery of some buried oil drums and some traces of asbestos has meant they've paused the excavation work while some soil testing is done.

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/projects



Te Āhuru Mōwai Playground

Cars and playgrounds aren't exactly the greatest combination. So we're making a change at Te Āhuru Mōwai playground to put a little more distance between moving cars and tamariki. We're installing gates at each end of the driveway between the playground and the Marton RSA and Citizens' Memorial Hall, the first of which is in place now. This will make the area safe for children who use both the hall and the playground. You'll still be able to park out the back of the hall by using the northern side driveway instead.

OTARA BRIDGE CLOSURE

Otara Bridge will be closed between 7:00am and 5:00pm on Monday 28 September and Tuesday 29 September to allow contractors to conduct survey work.

This is in response to the inspections that were done in August which identified some structural damage to the bridge and has result in temporary restrictions, including a weight limit of 6,000kg.

During the closure, please use alternative routes or delay your travel until the hours the bridge will be open. We apologise for any inconvenience.

MEET YOUR COUNCIL TEAM – PĀ RIMA TAMAIPAREA-PUKI



Tēnā koutou,

Ko Pā Rima tēnei. He uri ahau no kōnei. Ko Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa, Te Ati haunui a pāpārangi, Ngā Rauru me Ngā Tūwharetoa (ki Korohe) ngā iwi.

I am the Strategic Advisor – Mana Whenua for Rangitīkei District Council. I acknowledge those who have worked in this role. My immediate predecessor: Ms Fran Pere and before her Mrs Bonnie Whatuira and Mr Lequan Meihana. Because of their work, my job is made that much easier in working with the iwi in the district.

You are welcome to come visit me. I am based at the High Street buildings in Marton but also work at various places in the district: Taihape, Hunterville, Rātana and Bulls.

Koia tonu tērā. (That's all)

Ma te Atua hei Manaaki.



RANGITĪKEI COMMUNITY FUNDING ROADSHOW

WHEN	30 September
TIME	2-5pm
LOCATION	Te Matapihi - Bulls Community Centre
COST	Free

Are you interested in applying for funding? Already involved in funding but still have questions?

This is a chance for you to hear from those in the know about what funding opportunities are available in our district.

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/community-funding-roadshow



BULLS 149TH ROSE & FLOWER SHOW

WHEN	14 November
TIME	6am - 6pm
LOCATION	Te Matapihi Bulls Community Centre
COST	Free

This much-loved and long-standing event celebrates the beauty and creativity of gardeners from across the North Island. It brings together flower enthusiasts, horticulturists, families, and the wider community for a vibrant display of colour, fragrance, and talent. www.bulls.kiwi/events

RANGITĪKEI AOTEAROA



ARTS TRAIL MANAWATŪ

WHEN	17-18 October
TIME	10am - 4pm
LOCATION	Rangitīkei, Manawatū, and Horowhenua
COST	Free

Celebrating creative talent across Manawatū, Rangitīkei, and Horowhenua. Explore open studios, watch live demonstrations, and buy original artwork directly from local makers.

www.communityarts.org.nz/art-trail-manawatu



MARTON MARKET DAY

WHEN	28 November
TIME	10am - 3pm
LOCATION	Follett Street and Broadway, Marton
COST	Free

Marton Market Day is one of the largest events in Rangitīkei and the most vibrant day in the districts calendar. Market Day takes over the town with around 200 stalls and amazing FREE entertainment - all day long.

www.rangitikei.co.nz/martonmarketday

