



FROM THE

Mayor's Desk

With the festive season fast approaching Council is nearing its close-down time. This time of the year is the time for events!

The Bulls Christmas Parade is set for the morning of Saturday 12 December followed by the Whānau Day in the park. The Marton Christmas Parade follows in the afternoon and I will be wearing the Big Red Hat. These are great events supported by the community and ones I enjoy being part of each year. This year Beth and I will be attending the Christmas Lunch, which we sponsor, in Taihape.

We alternate every year between Marton and Taihape and enjoy being part of the community on Christmas Day.

Granny's Grotto is back! 2 Main Street in Marton is the new location. Be sure to drop in during December and be wowed by the festive visual symphony that Jenny has spent endless hours putting together. This puts the district on the map with many people coming from out of town to visit the Grotto. A big round of applause for the passion and commitment Jenny has put into this.

Also a big congratulations to the Project Marton team for the recent Market Day. The day dawned bright after a week of heavy rain and the people came out to support the event in great numbers. There was a wide range of food and entertainment and exceptional crafts and wares. The day had a nice relaxing feel about it and I especially enjoyed the entertainment in the Village Green area.

I recently participated with a Council Team in the Bulls River Raft Race, held between Kakariki and Bulls, to support the Bulls Fire Brigade. We stayed afloat for an impressive 20 metres before upending in front of the press. We bowed to the crowd, acknowledged their applause, tried to reposition ourselves and made it another 5 metres before unceremoniously capsizing again. At that point we withdrew so we could be at the finishing line to congratulate the winning KiwiTech and Bulls Fire Brigade rafts. Next year we have set the bar much higher and hope to make it to the finish line in first place!

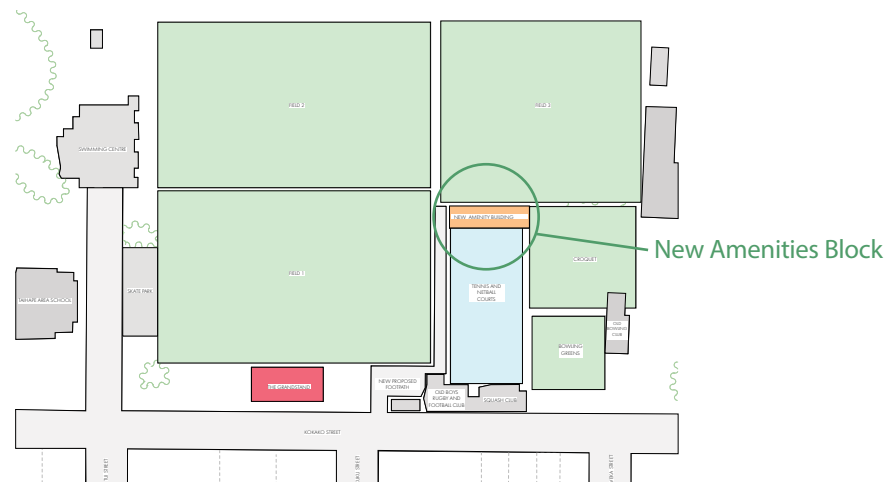
The great Rangitikei events continue into January with the Highland Games in Turakina and the Country Music Festival here in Marton. There is always a lot of activity in our district over the summer holidays – be sure to get out there and enjoy some of our local flavours.

Finally I would like to wish everybody a very Merry Christmas, take the time to spend time with family, relax and please be safe. I look forward to the exciting challenges that a new year will bring. See you back in 2021.

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



MEMORIAL PARK TAIHAPE



Decision on Amenities for Taihape Memorial Park

At their meeting on Thursday, 26 November Council made the final decision on the placement of the new amenities block on Taihape Memorial Park. The location, layout and size has been discussed over many years, with extensive consultation with groups and the public on this issue.

Council had confirmed funding for this project in the 2018-28 Long Term Plan.

The decision made by Council will see a separate amenity building, including provision for security, furniture, fitout and equipment, be located at the end of the netball courts, costing \$2.148 million. Council staff will investigate a new tennis/netball court in the vicinity of the former bowling green, as this had been identified as part of the consultation process.

During consultation on the amenities block, the community and park user groups asked for the historic grandstand to be considered for restoration. Council also agreed to include, as part of the consultation for the 2021-31 Long Term Plan, provision to investigate the grandstand's physical condition for future restoration and refurbishment. This will include seismic and structural surveys, and geo tech and conservation reports, noting there was no budget provision for this work.

Marton Rail Hub receives funding support

In November 2020, Rangitikei District Council's Chief Executive, on behalf of the Council, signed the funding contract with the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment for the Marton Rail Hub.

This was a major milestone for the project.

Once the Ministry counter-signs the agreement, Council can progress negotiations with potential suppliers for this project.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) is currently out for consultants to prepare a Comprehensive Development Plan and Resource Consent application. Council hopes to award this contract in mid-December 2020. Interested parties can find the RFP on Tenderlink.



Chief Executive Peter Beggs, signing funding agreement on behalf of Council



Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Apa Chief Executive and Mayor Andy Watson with recent graduates.

Inaugural Graduation a success

There were 10 local apprentices who recently graduated from the inaugural Rangitikei Trade and Services, held at Te Poho o Tuariki in conjunction with the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs and Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa. The graduates celebrated their success and achievements with family and friends. Thank you to all the businesses who have supported these apprentices in their training.

Renaming Marton Park

Earlier this year the Marton Community Committee asked Council to consider renaming some, or all, of Marton Park to reflect the work efforts by Mr Dick Hurn. As part of its Long Term Plan early engagement process Council asked the Marton community whether they supported Marton Park being renamed Dick Hurn Park; did not support changing the Parks name but would support renaming the rugby grounds; or remembering Dick Hurn in another way.

Council considered all the feedback received and at the 26 November Council meeting agreed to consult with the Marton Rugby Club to gauge their support for renaming Number 1 rugby field or the club rooms after Mr Dick Hurn.

Upcoming Meetings



Assets/Infrastructure Committee

Thursday 10 December 9.30am

Policy/Planning Committee

Thursday 10 December 1pm

Finance/Performance Committee

Thursday 17 December 9.30am

Council

Thursday 17 December 1pm

All meetings are open to the public, unless there are specific items which Council resolves to consider 'public excluded'. Meeting papers are available online, at least two working days before any scheduled meeting, through the Council

website or in hard copy at the libraries in Taihape, Marton and Bulls and the Marton Council office.

Any queries, please phone 06 327 0099 or 0800 422 522.

All meetings, unless otherwise specified, will be held in the Council Chamber, 46 High Street, Marton. Council meetings, where possible, will be live-streamed on Facebook.

There will be no meetings over the Christmas / New Year holidays. The next Council Meeting will be held on 28 January 2021.