

# RANGITIKEI Connect

www.rangitikei.govt.nz

46 High St, Marton  
Private Bag 1102, Marton 4741  
P: 0800 422 522 (24 hrs)  
E: info@rangitikei.govt.nz  
FB: Rangitikei/DC

ISSUE 23

FROM THE

## Mayor's Desk

**T**hank you for all your submissions to the Long Term Plan. Council spent two days last week hearing submissions in both Taihape and Marton.

The process from here is that on 9 June Council will deliberate on any changes that should be made to the LTP as a result of those submissions with a view to formally adopt the Long Term Plan on 24 June.

I attended the Suzuki Extreme 4x4 Challenge in Turakina on Sunday for the first time and was stunned at the numbers that turned out. This is a well run and significant event for our region and another example of what Rangitikei does well.

At the recent NZ Architecture Awards for the Western Region held in New Plymouth, Te Matapihi Bulls Community Centre won two awards – the 2021 Public Architecture Award and the 2021 Resene Colour Award. Congratulations to the team involved in this project, the adulations are well deserved. Te Matapihi is also a finalist in the NZ Commercial Projects Award and the winner will be announced in Auckland on 21st May, an event I will be personally attending.

Te Ahuru Mowai, the Marton Playground, has also been nominated for Playground of the Year Award - the ceremony taking place in Rotorua on 27 May. We wish Lucy Skou, Brenna O'Neill and the team all the best, they undoubtedly deserve it. Over the school holiday period we had wall to wall people using the playground. The overwhelming response is that it is a sensational feature with many people travelling from out of the district especially to experience it.

At the last Council meeting, Council voted unanimously to establish Māori Wards within the Rangitikei. This is a huge step forward for our district and relationship with iwi. What it will trigger is a Representation Review which is the makeup of the wards and how many Councillors we will have at the table. The first part of that process is to look at the number of Councillors that would be elected and who they would represent. Judging by the number of people currently on the Māori roll there would be two Māori representatives elected at large across the district. If we stayed with 11 Councillors in total that would mean that we would need to probably redraw the boundaries of our wards, if wards are to be retained. We will need to go out for consultation this year on this and my expectation is this will be October/November. Council will ultimately determine what our structure looks like and if there are objections raised then it passes to the Electoral Commission to make the determinations.

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



## Community Centre wins awards

**C**ongratulations to Te Matapihi - Bulls Community Centre for winning two awards at the Te Kāhui Whaihanga, New Zealand Institute of Architects 2021 Local Architecture Awards (Western Region) last week.

Te Matapihi, designed by Architecture Workshop Ltd was one of three winners in the Public Architecture category, with judges describing the building as a confident public community centre that fulfills the key project aspiration: to create a community centre located around a soon-to-be developed urban space. The building is noticeable for its carapace (screen metal wrapping) that elevates the building's exterior and references local river terraces and bridge. Te Matapihi is home to the Bulls Information Centre, Whare Ako - Learning Hub (library), Town Hall, public toilets, a roof top terrace with stunning views over the district for the community to enjoy. Te Matapihi also won a 2021 Resene Colour Award on the same evening.

The Local Architecture Awards honour the best new architecture in the eight regional branches of Te Kāhui Whaihanga. Each year more than 400 nominations are received with only 150 projects shortlisted. Winners at the local awards also have a chance to receive further honours at national level.

Te Matapihi is open everyday from 9am-5pm except Christmas Day. Meeting spaces and the town hall can be booked by contacting: venues@rangitikei.govt.nz

## Bridge strengthening complete

The Kuripapango Bridge strengthening works on the Taihape-Napier Road have been completed ahead of schedule and on budget.

This means the bridge will be open again to all traffic effective from Wednesday 19 May (weather dependent).

We appreciate your support during the three months of construction.



## It's time to pay your rates...

The 4th instalment of your rates is due Thursday 20 May 2021.

You can pay your rates online at [www.rangitikei.govt.nz/paymyrates](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/paymyrates)

If you need help with paying your rates please discuss this with our Rates Team on 0800 422 522.



## Thank you for your feedback!

Our consultation period has now closed. Thank you to everyone who provided us with feedback. We received 254 submissions which are now being analysed to ensure we can represent our community as best we can.

We'll keep you updated with the outcome once final decisions have been made.

**COME TO CODE CLUB!**

For more info contact:  
**Rashmi on 027 218 2284**  
[rashmi.natarajan@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:rashmi.natarajan@rangitikei.govt.nz)

**NOMINATIONS OPEN NOW! CLOSING 23 JUNE.**



**JOHN  
TURKINGTON  
FORESTRY**

2021  
**Youth Awards**  
RANGITIKEI



**WE'RE STRONGER  
TOGETHER**

**Youth  
week**

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