

# RANGITĪKEI Connect

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ISSUE 28

## FROM THE Mayor's Desk



Tēnā koe, Three Waters remains at the forefront of my mind, we need to engage as widely as possible with the district on the options.

I will be asking Council to consider a letter drop to all residents outlining the Three Waters position, the advantages and disadvantages for the Rangitikei District Council to either opt out of the aggregated model or remain in. The difficulty for us is that we are still waiting on further information from Central Government. The decision in my mind has two components – a factual component based on the information we know and an emotional component. Should we be giving away an asset that has been funded by our ratepayers, should we be giving away our decision-making powers, and what happens within our district? There is also a cultural component here. Iwi have very strong views over the guardianship of our water and resources as well as the principles of being responsible for your own waste. I am aware that the Three Waters kaupapa is certainly being debated in iwi circles at the moment. As such, I would like to think that the final Council decision is made jointly and with the advice of iwi. The Government has released their decision on where the boundaries for the four national waters entities will lie. Rangitikei is placed in Entity B along with 22 other Councils. This region includes everything north of us and to the south of Auckland including Taranaki. Notably this area does not include Wellington, Palmerston North or Manawatū as I had previously anticipated. The Three Waters decision Council makes in October will undoubtedly be the biggest decision we have ever made and probably the biggest in Local Government since the 1989 amalgamations.

Over the weekend, I will be taking part in a commemorative planting day at Hautapu River Park in Taihape where we will be planting 2000 native plants in a collective response to enhance and beautify Taihape's Hautapu River Park. This will be a fun family day with children's activities, an informative walk through the park, followed by a bbq lunch. It is another great example of how our communities and countless volunteers come together for a positive outcome.

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



BETTER DIGITAL FUTURES  
for Seniors

## Digital Essentials – Get to know your Smart Device

Our Community Service team are offering free courses for seniors who are brand-new to, or existing users of smart devices, who are wanting to learn some tips and tricks they may not know about their smart devices. These four session courses will provide learners with the essential skills they need to get online and start creating their own digital footprint. We have courses available in Taihape, Marton, Rātana and Bulls.

Those interested can register with Rashmi Natarajan, Digital Engagement Coordinator on 027 218 2248 (Mon-Fri 8-5pm) or by email: rashmi.natarajan@rangitikei.govt.nz



## Strengthening of Earthquake-prone Buildings

Council will be hosting a presentation on Thursday, 19 August 2021, which will bring together partners and stakeholders, who have an interest in the strengthening of earthquake-prone masonry buildings in town centres within the district as a stimulus to economic and social development and well-being.

Keynote speakers include Dr. Dmytro Dizhur, PhD., founder and principal of DIZHUR Consulting, an independent firm of technical engineering experts based in Auckland who are world-recognized leaders in existing masonry structures and Mr Roger Wilkinson, a practical electrician/engineer and owner/investor in residential and commercial buildings in New Zealand and Australia.

There will be ample time for participants to discuss the speakers' innovative ideas concerning new engineering techniques and how to reduce the high cost of earthquake strengthening in a Q&A session with Dr Dizhur and Mr Wilkinson.

This event begins at 9.30am in the Council Chambers, 46 High Street, Marton.

Spaces are limited, please register your interest with Jaime Reibel - Strategic Advisor for Economic Development on 0800 422 522 or jaime.reibel@rangitikei.govt.nz.

If you are unable to attend in person. This presentation will be live on Zoom. ID: 86404521006



## Marton Rail Hub project makes progress

The Marton Rail Hub project is moving forward, hitting milestones in the planning and design phases - important steps towards construction.

The development of the Marton Rail Hub was announced in early 2020 in a partnership between Rangitikei District Council, Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's Provincial Development Unit and Rangitikei Forestry Holdings.

The rail hub project will set up the Rangitikei District as a key logistical hub for the forestry industry across the Lower North Island. More than 80 jobs will be created during the construction phase and 22 full-time positions when operational.

The tender for a planning consultant was awarded to firm WSP in late 2020, in a move that allowed the rail hub project to progress towards comprehensive development planning and resource consent applications. Seven months on, the technical reports by WSP regarding the development activities are nearly complete.

A preferred layout has now been identified for the rail siding, which is now set to run perpendicular to the Main Trunk Line, located just north of Makirikiri Road.

The appeal process is also progressing for the plan change to rezone rural land to industrial to provide a framework for the development of an innovation precinct for timber processing, including a large rail yard, and a food and fibre hub for the region. An extension of three months to the contract with Central Government has been agreed to allow time to resolve the appeal and design.

For more information, please head to [www.rangitikei.govt.nz/martonrailhub](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/martonrailhub)



## Kōrero mai Have your say...



### Taihape Amenities Building Name

We're looking for ideas from the community to name the new Taihape Amenities Building and the rooms within it.

You can scan the QR code above to fill in our survey online or give us your ideas by filling the forms in at our Taihape office.

For more information contact Adina Foley, Project Manager on 0800 422 522 or adina.foley@rangitikei.govt.nz



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60 and over  
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