

FROM THE Mayor's Desk

This week I attended the 16th week of the Treaty Settlement process for Mokai Patea. The hearing was held with Ngāti Hauti at Rata Marae. These Hearings are something that I go to whenever I possibly can however there was a clash with full Council on Thursday so I could only attend half of that day.



There are several acknowledgements that I would like to make and I apologise to Mokai Patea for not making these acknowledgements in public on the marae. The first acknowledgement I would like to make is to Ngāti Hauti and Mokai Patea for not only hosting us incredibly well but also for the way that they have received me on various marae as a friend. Their hospitality is always wonderful with the respect that is given to both myself personally and the Office of the Mayor. Secondly, I acknowledge the Tribunal, under Judge Harvey, for the difficult job that they have to do. The Treaty Settlement process in our rohe is made more difficult with the landlocked land issue that is front and centre of the claim process. I also acknowledge the searching questions that the Tribunal have put to the submission process and to the Crown response. Whether or not Government will accept all of the findings of the Tribunal, it is clear to me that they are prepared to deal with the landlocked land issues. My greatest acknowledgement is to the various parties that have researched extensively the claims that they have put under the Tribunal process. It takes a certain amount of courage to be able to front an exhaustive hearing process and the research that is needed to back up the oral history of claims is extremely demanding. Mokai Patea can be thanked for putting a remarkable process to the Tribunal and Government. The last few days of the Hearings was about Crown's response to the submissions. The Crown graciously acknowledged a number of failings of the Crown in the past and our Council should do the same. The failings of the Borough Councils and County Councils of the day were illustrated on several occasions during the Tribunal process. Roads were constructed to service largely pakeha settlers and where land was needed for roading, if it was taken from iwi no compensation was made. This is a situation that we can own up to and apologise for - so I therefore give my unreserved apology for the actions of past Councils.

On Saturday night I attended the service awards night at the Marton Fire Brigade. These awards are normally an annual function but Covid last year meant that this year was a double up. The night was a celebration of 40 years of service by Paul Whitehead and 60 years of service by Paul Hudson. This is a remarkable voluntary record to a community.

The previous weekend I took part along with about 70 others in a planting day in Taihape. Around 2000 native plants were planted in the morning. The Hautapu River Park Collective made up of the friends of Taihape, Ngāti Hauti and others had successfully applied to Ministry of Primary Industries for funding to allow this to happen. My appreciation goes to the team that made the day possible and while it is unwise of me to name individuals I understand that there were weeks of prep work done by Joe Byford. The highlight of the day for me was a guided tour by Joe through the reserve looking at future development and expanding my knowledge of the old power scheme that operated there.

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



Rangitikei Destination Management planning is underway

We're on a journey to understand what the tourism and visitor economy could do for Rangitikei - our stake holders, our people and our place.

Through the Long Term Plan 2021-2031 consultation process submitters told us that they wanted to increase the Economic Development budget and supported Council to undertake the development of a Rangitikei Destination Management Plan. This plan will enable council, businesses and iwi organisations to better prepare and manage our District as a tourism and visitor destination now and into the future.

The Destination Management Plan brings together different stakeholders to develop a well-managed, sustainable visitor destination. In essence, this is about our people, our place and sharing our aroha (love) with our visitors and potential new residents.

We've started working on this plan and we want your input.

Working alongside iwi, public and private organisations, we will be holding engagement sessions that will be an opportunity to identify values for both the community and the wider Rangitikei. These sessions will show us how to define success for the community, and will outline the community benefits of a Destination Management Plan.

In the engagement sessions we will be asking:

- What are your aspirations for Rangitikei?
- What do you value the most about Rangitikei?
- What makes Rangitikei unique?
- Do you see any experience opportunities for the Rangitikei?
- What are the barriers/challenges?
- Is the Rangitikei a strong destination to live in and to visit?
- What does our Rangitikei offer that resonates with you, what do you showcase in the region to visiting friends and relatives?

Outside of targeted key stakeholder engagement there will be drop-in style public engagement sessions in September and October at various locations throughout the District. More information will be available on our Council's Facebook page, website and the District Monitor.

Can't make the public sessions?

We will have an online engagement tool available in September and encourage you to provide your input to help create a document that reflects stakeholder and community aspirations.

For more information contact: jen.britton@rangitikei.govt.nz



Vaccine bookings update

Age group	Date bookings open
50+	Friday 13 August
40+	Wednesday 18 August
30+	Wednesday 25 August
All ages	Wednesday 1 September

Once it is your time, you can be vaccinated at any time – there is no cut off.

BookMyVaccine.nz

Do you wish to apply for the Rates Rebates Scheme?

Register for myIR



Digital Drop-in
9:00- 10:00 @
Rangitikei District Libraries

Tuesdays in Taihape
(Fortnightly, starting 10 Aug 2021)

Wednesdays in Marton (Weekly)

Thursdays in Bulls (Weekly)

Fridays in Rātana Pā (Weekly)

What you'll need:
IRD Number &
an email address
(If you have, or we'll help you create one)

RANGITIKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Plumbosolvency

Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metal to accumulate in water standing in the fittings for several hours.

Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends that you flush a mugful of water from your drinking-water tap each morning before you use to remove any metal that may have dissolved from the plumbing fittings.

We recommend this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.

