

# RANGITĪKEI Connect

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ISSUE 34

## FROM THE Mayor's Desk

**T**ena koe, it would seem as though the number of people infected with Covid is going to rise considerably from all the advice we have been given.

It is in my opinion, when, not if, we have Covid cases within our district. On the weekend, I was at a local dairy and stopped outside to take a phone call, while doing this there were a stream of people going into the premises. While they had masks on, the hit rate of those scanning in was incredibly low. It would seem as though we have become complacent and it will make our lives incredibly difficult when we have local cases. Please, please take the time to scan in or record your visits everywhere you go. The rush is on to get to a 90% immunisation rate across the country which would allow families to meet up for the holidays, to be able to travel and to have some degree of normality about life.

Our District (as part of the Whanganui District Health Board) are currently tracking 4th lowest in the national vaccination statistics.

Late last week, Minister Nanaia Mahuta announced that Central Government will legislate to put in place the new water entities as part of Three Waters. It is disappointing that Councils will no longer have a say and therefore not be able to consult with our communities on this decision. We will continue to put any information relating to the Government's position on our websites and inform you as much as we can. As part of the announcement the Government has said that it has listened to Councils and needs to do some refinement around things such as rural water schemes, the governance of these entities and the work priority streams. My understanding of this is that they will work with Local Government people but do not intend to consult with Councils or the public at large.

On a happier note I attended the Taihape Volunteer Fire Brigade 2021 Honours night on the weekend. Very few of these award nights are able to proceed under Covid. However it is important that we continue to acknowledge the amount of incredible service that the volunteer firefighters give to our communities. If I total up the number of years that our brigades have given it is not uncommon to see a combined service of standing members to be in the hundreds of years.

Last week, I was one of four advisory Trustees for the JBS Dudding Trust grant application process. This is a neat job! Effectively we handed out to our respective communities around \$800,000 worth of funding. This funding enables a number of projects to be fully funded or to provide the seed funding for further work and investigations.

One of the nice things about our district is that we have space - we have an incredible play area where, even with covid restrictions, we can continue to enjoy our reserves, rivers and outdoor nature areas. With the start of the warmer weather it is a great time to get out and enjoy our amazing Rangitikei backyard.

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



## Rangitikei pitches rural life to young city-dwellers

**W**ith a growing shortage of workers, Rangitikei is taking a fresh approach to powering up their district. They're targeting young people in cities with a brand-new campaign that will sell the benefits of living in the country.

Think Rural is launching nationwide, with eighteen rural districts signed up to the campaign. Their goal is to contribute towards filling 1,150 jobs in rural areas with young people wanting to experience a new way of life. The campaign is driven by LGNZ's Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ), with support from the Ministry of Social Development (MSD).

Rangitikei District Council Mayor, Andy Watson, says he hopes that encouraging young people to Think Rural will attract a legion of keen and hardworking new recruits to the area. "If you are searching for a life with a little more adventure, a little less hustle and a bit more laughter, relaxation and pretty incredible people, somewhere where the great 'Kiwi road trip' takes place in your back yard, where the people are welcoming and diversity is celebrated, and where the streets come to life with vibrant events - We've got you! he says.

Rangitikei has 100's of jobs on offer, from accountants to physios to engineers to social workers, the range and diversity is huge. "Getting behind this innovative campaign was a no brainer! We know we have an amazing district full of work and play opportunities ready for people wanting to get out of the big centres and rediscover real New Zealand."

Each rural district has a chance to receive funding support of up to \$500,000 to aid their efforts to support youth and COVID displaced workers into sustainable long-term employment.

Wannabe rural-dwellers can find the right community for them on [www.thinkrural.co.nz](http://www.thinkrural.co.nz). The site gives the skinny on each participating town and directs people to available jobs.

For further information, please contact [james.towers@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:james.towers@rangitikei.govt.nz)

## Marton Civil Defence Community Response Plan



Civil Defence and Marton Community Committee invite groups and individuals that would like to contribute to the development of the Marton Civil Defence Community Response Plan to join us **6-8pm, Wednesday 10 November at the Friendship Hall - 7 Morris Street, Marton**. Community Response Plans (CRPs) provide localised emergency procedures and advanced preparation for various risks that we face. They are community driven plans on how the community can activate, with assistance from Civil Defence, to support one another in the event of an emergency.

Due to COVID restrictions it is important that you register your attendance. Email: [martoncc.cab@gmail.com](mailto:martoncc.cab@gmail.com) or text/call: 021 342 524. Please bring your own mask.

## Kōrero Mai Have YOUR say!

### Current Consultations

#### Local Easter Sunday Trading Policy



Council is now consulting on retaining its Local Easter Sunday Trading Policy.

Have your say by 12pm Wed 1 December.

[www.rangitikei.govt.nz/consultations](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/consultations)

#### Representation Review



Council is consulting on its "Final Proposal" for representation for the 2022 Local Government elections.

Any objections/appeals must be in by 12pm Mon 6 December.

[www.rangitikei.govt.nz/representationreview](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/representationreview)

Bit nervous or scared  
about what to do?  
Let us help



Find out more by watching:  
[Covid19.govt.nz/VaccineFacts](https://www.covid19.govt.nz/VaccineFacts)

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Government

Unite  
against  
COVID-19

## MAHI TAHI

RANGITĪKEI EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME

### We have employers looking for staff.

- Meat Works
- Kitchenhand
- Fast food restaurant
- Retail
- Process workers
- Laundry workers
- Traffic Control
- Plumbers
- And many more jobs!

### Looking for work? Looking for staff?

Mahi Tahi is a FREE SERVICE to assist in linking and funding jobseekers and employers. Let us help you be successful – get in touch with us today.

[e dana.abraham@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:dana.abraham@rangitikei.govt.nz)

**p** 021 079 1854 | **fb** MahiTahiRangitikei

LET'S KEEP RANGITĪKEI WORKING!

TE KŪWANATA O  
NGĀ WAIRIKI  
NGĀTI APĀ

MTFJ  
MAYORS TASKFORCE FOR JOBS