

RANGITIKEI Connect

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ISSUE 35

FROM THE Mayor's Desk



Tena koe, as I write this report it is pouring outside and has done so for the last couple of days. While any rain at this time of the year is appreciated, as we desperately need to build up soil moisture levels, at the moment this is the cropping window for our district. The crops being planted are vulnerable for a very short time before germination has occurred and there will be a large number of cropping farmers nervous. While I'm on the farming sector, the red meat sector driven by freezing works schedules is incredibly buoyant, dairy payments are high and virtually every sector is showing somewhere between a 20-30% increase on last year. However the cost of raw supply has also dramatically increased, the cost of freight and fertiliser in particular means that the net benefit over the last year is there but only to a slight extent.

What we are seeing now is the slow crawl southwards from Auckland of COVID. It is now in the Wairarapa, South Taranaki, Tararua and Taupo districts and it is inevitable we will be hit. The threat and risk of Covid means that a number of things have to change. We have already had a number of events cancelled throughout our region and have made the decision now that Christmas street parades are unable to go ahead this year.

There are a number of things Council can celebrate. We have been able to purchase land for the Rātana Wastewater Project which will see a land disposal of wastewater therefore removing contamination of Lake Waipu. I would like to congratulate the Council staff, Rātana community and iwi as to how they have been able to work together to make this possible and we appreciate the Government money that has largely funded this project. We would expect construction take place over the next 6-12 months.

Our planners are starting to engage with communities on spatial planning - Pae Tawhiti Rangitikei Beyond. This is an overview of our district and looks long term at where should growth occur, where we want leisure and recreational facilities, combined with how our infrastructure will be provided. If you get the opportunity to attend a community session please take it up - this is your chance to influence what the district will look like in the next 30 years.

The Marton Memorial Hall is another project in the final stages of redevelopment. Painting, redecoration, rewiring, asbestos removal and all of the other upgrades that were required are nearly complete.

On 11 November we recognised Armistice Day and I apologise that I could not be there as I was away on urgent Council business however the Deputy Mayor, some Councillors and staff attended the service held by the RSA at the Marton Cenotaph. I did attend a Memorial Service at St Stephen's Church on Sunday and this was a chance to recognise the servicemen who have given their lives not only in WWII but in all other conflicts around the world.

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

Building Consents - We're making it Simpli!

Rangitikei District Council customers can soon apply for building consents online.

The online service will allow applicants to submit their building consent applications via an online portal; respond to requests from councils online; and access and submit information throughout the building consent process.

Johan Cullis, Regulatory Manager, says making applications online will be quicker and easier.

This service offers many exciting features including the ability to track the progress of your application, to collaborate with colleagues on applications and to use the same information to apply to different councils. Rangitikei District Council will go live with this service on 13 December 2021.

The service is part of Simpli, an initiative involving 30 councils, which aims to improve the building consents process.

More information contact us on 0800 422 522 or info@rangitikei.govt.nz

simpli



Project Update - Marton Rail Hub

We are pleased to share the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) Framework Report produced for the proposed Marton Rail Hub.

The purpose of this CDP is intended to provide clarity for applicants seeking to establish industrial activities at the CDP site. Such applications will need to maintain this baseline environment or demonstrate that potential effects are well researched and potential adverse effects will be mitigated or avoided as far as practicable.

To view the Comprehensive Development Plan and for more information visit www.rangitikei.govt.nz/martonrailhub



Change to Collection of Payments for Council

The J N Taiaroa Store shop on Wharekauri Street, Rātana Pā will soon no longer accept payments for Council. Given the low number of payments occurring through this store, and increasing requirements on Council to ensure all payments to Council are clearly traceable and auditable, Council have decided to remove the option for residents and ratepayers to make payments through this store. **This change will come into effect from 1 January 2022.**

If you have any concerns about this decision or would like to discuss this further please call our Customer Experience team on 0800 422 522.



MAHI TAHI

RANGITIKEI EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME

We have employers looking for staff.

- Retail
- Bee Keeping
- Hospitality
- Traffic Control
- Plumbers
- Laundry Workers
- Fast Food Restaurant
- Process Workers
- And Many more jobs!

Looking for work? Looking for staff?

Mahi Tahī 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.

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LET'S KEEP RANGITIKEI WORKING!



Youth Council applications are now open

The Rangitikei Youth Council is open to all youth aged 13 - 24 that are affiliated to the Rangitikei District.

Youth Councillors need to be open minded, keen to learn, have good time management, want to work with the community and be responsible for deliverables for youth such as leading the Youth Awards Evening.

For more information contact kelly.widdowson@rangitikei.govt.nz or follow our Youth Council on Facebook.

Apply online at:

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/youthcouncil

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



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

