

## FROM THE Mayor's Desk

Welcome to the new year. I guess it was inevitable that we would drop back into the Red Traffic Light setting with the arrival of Omicron.

Overseas experience shows that case numbers will rapidly build to the thousands per day nationally and the restrictions of the Red setting may help to prevent our hospitals and health organisations being overrun. I, like everyone, am disappointed that events are being cancelled, events where organisations will be out of pocket and where so much preparation work has already been done. However the messages are clear and we need to support the rules. There are practical things that we can do such as having a plan as to how we as households handle such things as our shopping, checking on family and neighbours, being able to support our people with non-contact shopping and having a plan for what will happen when we need to isolate are all incredibly important.

In a more positive vein, I continue to be astounded by the great things that are taking place in all of our communities - supporting those in need, rebuilding our parks and reserves and so many other outstanding achievements. It is time that we publicly recognise some of our great people and I have asked staff to help me put on a District Honours Night. At some stage we will need to go out seeking nominations for those inaugural names.

Last week we had the reopening of the Marton RSA & Citizens' Memorial Hall. This was a refit that was funded by both Government and Council. I was stunned at what the building now looks like with the asbestos removed, new lighting and upgrades in showers and toilets – a full makeover. This was something that was long overdue and I would like to thank the number of local businesses that were part of making this happen. McIlwaines were involved in the initial building of the centre so it was fitting they were involved in the refit, Kevin Jensen our local electrician worked with Robert Gunn from Downs Group to do the electrical work and the painting was done by Dave Hurn and while Dave is not currently a resident, he is Marton through and through.

There is work being undertaken right across our district at the moment - Work on the amenities facility at Memorial Park in Taihape is continuing, with contracts let, we look forward to that work starting. The Mangaweka Bridge is nearing completion and will need opening and in Bulls the Bus Lane work is also nearing completion. We have much to be proud of.

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



### Sports clubs that call Memorial Park in Taihape home will soon have a modern changing facility.

The Taihape Amenities Building construction phase is about to kick off from 7 March 2022, and it will be completed by spring, subject to weather and Covid-19 related delays.

As per the plans, the facility will include four large changing rooms, each with toilets and showers, two smaller multi-purpose rooms, extra referee rooms, and an upstairs room looking over the tennis

courts and rugby fields.

Accessibility has been the foundation of the building design, with accessible showers and ramps for easy access. A car park and three public toilets complete this modern building that will hopefully help the sports and events groups attract more events and competitions to Taihape.



### Marton residents, it's time to conserve water

Warmer weather is officially here so it's time to start thinking about how much water we are using to avoid any water restrictions in Marton.

There are many ways to reduce the amount of water we use. Using a little less can make a big difference, it can also save you money and help the environment. The easiest way to conserve water is to think about how we use it. See our website for more handy tips to help you and your whānau conserve water.



### Marton RSA & Citizens' Memorial Hall

We are excited to announce that Stage One of our Marton RSA & Citizens' Memorial Hall Upgrade is completed.

The work involved in Stage One included reinstating the ceiling following asbestos removal, interior painting, staining of the woodwork, and refurbishing the floors. Safety compliance systems have also been upgraded, and wiring installed to allow for wifi.

**The hall is now ready for use and available for bookings.**

Future Stage Two work will include:

- Replacement of the high windows in the main hall.
- Renovations to the main bathrooms, to enable full accessibility.
- Addition of a new fire exit door from the main hall.

This work will be done while the building is open for bookings.

For enquiries and bookings, please contact Kelly Ross:  
**kelly.ross@rangitikei.govt.nz**

### Click and Collect available at all our libraries.

If you would like books, magazines, DVDs or large print contact your local library and we will pick, pack and hold at the entrance for you to collect.

- Taihape:** taihapelib@rangitikei.govt.nz or 06 388 0604  
**Marton:** martlib@rangitikei.govt.nz or 06 327 0080  
**Bulls:** bullslib@rangitikei.govt.nz or 06 327 0083



### BETTER DIGITAL FUTURES for Seniors



#### Digital Essentials – Get to know your Smart Device

4 Weekly Sessions: 10am -12pm  
Start Dates: 2 March - Marton Library  
3 March - Te Matapihi, Bulls

Taking registrations now!

Contact Rashmi: 027 218 2248 or rashmi.natarajan@rangitikei.govt.nz

**Limited seats only!**

### Get your booster, get ready

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New Zealand Government

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