

FROM THE Mayor's Desk

"E kore au e ngaro, he kākano i ruia mai i Rangitātea."

E ngā mate o te wā, e ngā rangatira o tāua rohe o Rangitikei, haere atu i te rangimārie. Kia kōrua e āku hoa e Robert kōrua ko Koro Mark, kia hora te marino, kia whakapapa pounamu te moana, kia tere te kārohirohi i mua i tōu huarahi, moe mai rā. Arohanui.

"I will never be lost, for I am a seed of Rangitātea."

To our recently departed, the two chiefs of our home Rangitikei, go in peace. To my friends Robert and your father Koro Mark, may the calm be widespread, may the ocean glisten as greenstone, may the shimmer of light ever dance across your pathway, sleep well. Greatest Love.

I attended the tangi of Robert and his father Mark Gray last week. Koro Mark and Bobby gave so much of their time to our district and district committees. I also attended and spoke on the Rakatapauma Marae to give my condolences to the wider whanau. Koro Mark was a personal friend of mine and I remember with fondness the times where we would sit on his verandah, look out over his farm and just have a chat.

The closing date for submissions to Council's Annual Plan is 9 May – this is a chance for you to have your say on what we are doing, when we are doing it and how much it's going to cost. The rates increase needed to fund the district is 7.29% and fortunately as a huge number of new homes are being built and new industry is looking to come here that will help offset this. Our southern district, especially Bulls and Marton is on an absolute roll with unprecedented growth.

I know that I harp on around the Government legislation but the Three Waters, RMA (Resource Management Act) and Future of Local Government changes occupy our time and thoughts on a daily basis. Government is still unsure in my mind as to how these changes are actually going to happen but they are currently hiring staff and making the laws to ensure that it does happen. This is the reason why I have asked for Public Meetings in Marton, Bulls and Taihape as the changes especially in the Three Waters area are not well understood, certainly not by our residents and I'm also not sure are fully understood by Government. Our Annual Plan was constructed on the basis that we will continue to provide for drinking water, waste-water and stormwater supplies. Even if the Three Waters change, we will still be providing those services until at least 2024 and my suspicion is the timelines will be drawn out even further than that.

New Zealand is slowly opening up again with the recent move to the Orange covid setting, we are seeing our Aussie mates descending on our shores and for our tourism businesses throughout NZ we absolutely welcome them back as a huge number of businesses have literally gone to the wall and people have lost their life savings over the last two years. I welcome the return to normality however we can safely get there.

ANZAC Day celebrations will be held in different ways across our district this year. Marton intends having a "year as normal" with a dawn parade but that's not going to be the case in all our towns with some having smaller scaled down services or none at all. It is incredibly important that we acknowledge the service that our RSA veterans have provided and celebrations will be a covid blend of making sure that people stay safe and our veterans aren't unnecessarily exposed to the risks of covid while recognising and remembering as always the tremendous service all our vets have given. Lest we forget.

Ngā manaakitanga, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei District.



Kōrero
Mai



Consultation for the 2022/23 Annual Plan is now open

Rangitikei District Council is committed to the future of our district and creating an Annual Plan that best serves the communities who live here, while recognising the challenges we are currently facing. To achieve this we need to hear from you - our people, about what you want and need to make this District home.

What is an Annual Plan?

The Annual Plan sets out the Council's plans and budget for 2022/23. It identifies any variations from what was planned in our Long Term Plan and the reasons for these.

Providing feedback

Our Consultation Document tells you about what Council will be doing and services it will be providing in 2022/23. It outlines our projected rates increase and explains where this will be spent.

We also highlight some of the issues and challenges we face as a District in 2022/23.

To submit your feedback, fill out the online submission form or download a printable form and send back to us.

Other ways to get more information

- Contact our Council staff by calling 0800 422 522 or contact an Elected Member
- Email us at info@rangitikei.govt.nz
- Tune into one of our live discussions on our Facebook - facebook.com/RangitikeiDC
- www.rangitikei.govt.nz/Framing2022/23

Have your say by 5pm Monday 9 May 2022



Two Māori wards confirmed for next Local Government Elections

The Local Government Commission has confirmed Rangitikei's representation arrangements for this year's local body elections, with the inclusion of two Māori wards – Tiikeitia ki Uta (Inland) ward and Tiikeitia ki Tai (Coastal) ward.

The confirmed arrangement comprises of a Mayor plus 11 councillors from five wards - two councillors elected from the Northern general ward, five from the Central general ward and 2 from the Southern General ward, and one councillor for each of the newly established Māori wards.

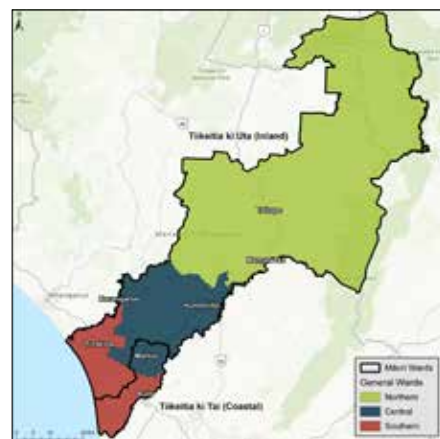
The Taihape and Rātana Community Boards are retained, unchanged.

The introduction of the Māori wards means those enrolled on the Māori electoral roll will be able to vote for candidates in the Māori wards for the 2022 local body election.

Mayor Andy Watson said "We are pleased that the Commission accepted our proposal and did not recommend any changes, our district is diverse, and the change means council will be in a better position to represent all communities. The introduction of Māori wards is an important step in enabling council to make decisions that accurately represent all views and needs."

Based on 2018 census data 26.5% of the Rangitikei population is Māori compared with a New Zealand average of 16.5%. The councillors elected on the Māori wards will represent a population of approximately 1400 each.

To find out more about taking part in the upcoming visit www.rangitikei.govt.nz/elections



Share your thoughts about how Rangitikei can be more welcoming, through upcoming community events. Each will explore different outcome areas of the Welcoming Communities programme. For venue information and more details visit our website or Facebook page.

Community workshops: Welcoming Communications, Connected & Inclusive Communities, Equitable Access

- Hunterville 28 April, 6:30pm
- Marton 3 May, 6:30pm
- Bulls 4 May, 6:30pm
- Taihape 11 May, 6:30pm
- Mangaweka 18 May, 6:30pm

Drop-in sessions: Welcoming Public Spaces

- Hunterville 7 May, 11am-2pm
- Bulls 14 May, 10am-12:30pm
- Marton 14 May, 2pm-3:30pm
- Taihape 21 May, 10am-1pm
- Small towns/settlements, online, 21 May 2pm-4pm

Business after 5: Economic Development, Business & Employment

- Bulls, 10 May 5:30pm
- Marton, 17 May 5:30pm
- Taihape, 25 May 5:30pm

Focus group: Culture & Identity

- Online 19 May, 6:30pm

Focus group: Civic Engagement & Participation

- Online 24 May, 6:30pm

