

FROM THE Mayor's Desk



I recently attended the LGNZ Rural and Provincial Sector Meeting in Wellington with other Mayors and Chief Executives in this sector.

The Three Waters presentation from Minister Mahuta and National Party spokesperson Simon Watts was incredibly interesting. My read of the Labour presentation was that legislation will be presented with pace and while the Minister acknowledged changes made to the proposed acts/laws were a result of Local Government Working Parties, in essence little has changed. The Water Services Bill has proceeded to the Select Committee stage and is open for submission. This Bill allows establishment of the new water entities and transition groups to the entities to be established in 2024. The Minister has however made recommendations on price harmonisation or the ability to put into law the principles of cross-subsidisation. This area will be referred to the Economic Regulator which is yet to be established and this need has always been a key focus for me.

Tina Porou, the iwi representative and planner based in Turangi, had earlier given a passionate iwi perspective on the Three Waters in which she advocated for local input from Councils to continue. On that basis I asked the Minister if the water entities could contract as separate companies back to the Councils to deliver services. Her answer was to take this "under advisement" – in other words either this hadn't been considered or she didn't have an answer. Regardless as to whether Council supported the Minister, people acknowledged she was passionate and working hard towards a programme.

Last week I had to Zoom into the Council meeting, passing the chair to Deputy Mayor Nigel Belsham which he handled incredibly well. I was home with a particularly nasty 'flu which seems to be doing the rounds. With 'flu and the resurgence of covid please get vaccinated. In my case I had an appointment for a 'flu vaccination and put it off - something I surely regretted later.

Elections for Mayor and Councillors take place in October and nominations open on 15 July and run until 12 August. Please consider running for Council and if you are interested either attend a Council meeting or talk to myself or a Councillor to understand what is involved or refer to the Council website for information.

The latest Bulls & District Community Trust AGM was an opportunity for Council to give recognition to a community volunteer group that has for years raised enormous sums of money for our district. They have provided events, supported us through the pandemic and are a cornerstone of the Bulls community. Thank you to Chair Helen Scully and the committee for their mahi.

The Friends of Taihape, Hautapu River Parks Collective Planting Day is scheduled to take place on Saturday 13 August at 9.30am. All are welcome – bring spades, gumboots and a smile! The day will conclude at 1pm with a BBQ.

Ngā manaakitanga, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei District



Rangitikei District Council votes to adopt the Annual Plan for 2022/23

Future-proofing the district is the driving force for the Annual Plan 2022/23 that was formally adopted at a Council meeting on Thursday, 30, June.

The trend follows that of the Long-Term Plan 2021-2031 and seeks to continue the projects and priorities originally identified.

A slight rate adjustment of 0.1% from the predicted Long Term Plan rates increase was agreed to, to enable Council to fund work to the Hunterville sporting facility; Koitiata toilet facilities and trails; and a housing survey. This takes the increase from the originally proposed 7.29% to 7.39% and will mean an average residential property increase of approximately 6.39%.

Mayor Andy Watson said "Our annual plan demonstrates our commitment to work collaboratively with local groups who are often doing the 'hard yards' by way of local working bees. The funding support pledged to these groups is an appreciation of this.

Certainly the past two years have been challenging with Covid and the government's reform and change agenda. Challenges with resourcing our capital

programme and maintenance works have lead to significant funding and work streams now having to be done in the 2022/23 year.

I appreciate the effort that Councillors and staff have gone to produce this Annual Plan." The Annual Plan will also see Council invest in assets and infrastructure and community projects including:

- Continuation of the Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation Project
- Improving the quality of Marton's drinking water
- Continuation of the Taihape Amenities Building project
- Improving facilities and customer experience at our swimming pools, parks and open spaces

The 2022-23 Annual Plan comes into effect from 1 July 2022, including fees and charges for 2022/2023 that were also reviewed as part of this process.



Council's strong vision and strategy wins approval in CouncilMARK™ report

Rangitikei District Council's strong vision and strategies to support population growth over the next decade get a tick of approval from Local Government New Zealand's independent CouncilMARK™ programme.

CouncilMARK™ is an independent assessment programme that assesses how councils are performing and is designed to support individual councils to improve the service and value they provide.

Councils receive an overall performance rating from the Independent Assessment Board, from C to AAA, as well as commentary on their performance provided by way of an assessment report after a comprehensive review process.

Since its last CouncilMARK assessment in 2019/20, and in spite of growth pressures, the Council has retained its BB rating and improved its operations in several key areas, with standouts being development of its strategic vision backed by policies and plans as well as building a strong values-led workplace culture. The full report is available on our website.

YOUR COUNCIL, YOUR SAY YOUR RANGITĪKEI

Are you passionate about making big decisions that best represent your community?

Council members are elected to represent the voices of their community by making decisions that act in their best interest.

Who can stand?

You can stand for Rangitikei District Council if you are:

- a New Zealand citizen; and
- aged over 18; and
- enrolled on the parliamentary electoral roll

We've got 20 positions to fill across the district including a mayor, general ward councillors, Māori ward councillors and community board reps.

Are you up for the task?

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/stand

COMMUNITY MOVIE

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH - TE MATAPIHI

3 AUGUST
Pride & Prejudice

7 SEPTEMBER
Mona Lisa Smile

5 OCTOBER
Blue Miracle

9 NOVEMBER
Little Women

7 DECEMBER
The Dig

FREE EVENT

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