

FROM THE Mayor's Desk



I would like to share some really neat things that have happened in our district recently - it's lovely to be able to celebrate our wins.

I recently attended the Horizons Ballance Farm Environment Awards and Rangitikei cleaned up. There is a new award that was given to the Upper Moawhango Catchment Group (under the umbrella of Rangitikei Rivers Catchment Collective) presented to Mark Chrystall and Roger Dalrymple who are the architects of not only the Moawhango Catchment but also the Rangitikei-wide river improvement groups. The major award of the night, the Regional Supreme Award went to Richard and Suze Redmayne for their farm Tunnel Hill at Turakina. They richly deserved the award having a very fine understanding of their farm, the plantings for the environment and nutrient studies etc.

On 13 July I attended a presentation given by Minister Nash in Levin where he announced two pools of funding for our district. The first one was \$2m awarded to Plentyful for the co-funding of a coatings machine in Kensington Road. This is the next stage of our journey to take waste streams from forestry and milk processing to create bio-degradable plastics. The second amount of funding went to Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa for the Harakeke Farm at Kaitoke where they received \$1.6m for their new strawberry hydroponic operation. Technically this is not in our district but will be employing a huge number of our people so congratulations are also due there.

We have been able to gain some wins around concerns regarding road maintenance budgets which are set by Waka Kotahi. As earlier reported we have had \$10m over three years stripped from our road maintenance budgets and I together with other Councils have long argued that the withdrawal or lowering of maintenance budgets will inevitably see significant reductions in our road performance. Recently there's been a ministerial announcement that they will review the funding for roading maintenance and we need to be in there boots and all in progressing these conversations.

I have a further couple of acknowledgements to make. I recently attended the Vocational Expo held at Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa in Marton. This was a chance for secondary students at our combined schools to look at what vocational careers are available to them. I was particularly taken by the construction and building programme with a near completed building and the chance to be shown around it by young people where they were incredibly proud of what they had achieved.

I would also like to acknowledge the work that Francie Elgar has done at Mt View Cemetery. I was able to spend time recently with Francie where she showed me how she has undertaken the cleaning of graves and the installation of little poppies on headstones for all of those who have served in our armed forces. This is a classic case of someone seeing a need and just getting on and doing it. We are indebted to Francie for the work she has undertaken over a number of years.

Finally, Three Waters – I would ask people to please refer to the article on the right which gives our Council's response to the Three Waters legislation.

Ngā manaakitanga, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei District

Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities STRATEGY

We're developing a Parks, Open-Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy to inform the direction we move in for the next 30-years.

The strategy will help us respond to community needs for parks, open-spaces, active recreation and sporting facilities while maximising the social, economic and environmental benefits they provide.

If you are part of a local community interest group then you may have already received a survey or phone call. Township consultation will take place soon. Keep an eye on the website or sign up to our database using the QR code.



Taihape Water Update

Maintenance work can be completed once the reservoir level reaches 100%. Thanks to a reduction in consumption, the reservoir was sitting at 91.6% on Monday 18 July and has seen a steady increase in the past week. The maintenance work includes replacing two filters and could take around two weeks to complete. Throughout this time the residents will see a decrease in the reservoir levels, but to mitigate the rapid drop in level only one filter will be replaced at a time. The public will be informed once the reservoir is full and the work is ready to begin.



Three Waters Reform RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT

Council to respond to Three Waters submission

Rangitikei District Council have resolved to respond to the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee considering the Water Services Entities Bill*, including seeking an opportunity to speak to the submission.

Council plans to reiterate its position from the submission made to Minister Mahuta on 1 October 2021, in which resident's concerns were captured and raised. These concerns include the lack of proper community consultation or engagement, the requirement for ensuring a continued local voice, addressing investment prioritisation, concerns over an expected reduction in local governance, and clarity on pricing harmonisation. While some concerns such as asset ownership have subsequently been addressed by Government following Council's submission, Council remain committed to ensuring the Rangitikei voice is heard.

Rangitikei District Council Mayor, Andy Watson, said "Council were unanimous in their approach to ensuring the voice of our community is heard by central government. The impact of this reform is considerable, and needs to be done well in order to protect the assets our community has built over several decades, and to maintain safe and effective water services".

Council's submission to the Bill will be completed by July 22, and will be shown on Council's website.

As the reform will affect most people in the Rangitikei, Council sees it as important that individual and organisations also make their own submissions to the Select Committee. You can find out more about the Bill and the submission at www.parliament.nz

If you would like to learn more about the Three Waters Reform visit www.rangitikei.govt.nz/threewatersreform

** This Bill is a stand-alone Bill that establishes 4 publicly-owned water services entities that will provide water services in place of local authorities. The Bill contains the ownership, governance, and accountability arrangements relating to those entities, and provides for transitional arrangements during an establishment period. Further Bills will consider pricing and charging arrangements including economic regulation and consumer protection regimes.*

ETŪ. STAND THIS ELECTION Nominations are now open

If you're a strong leader and communicator passionate about making big decisions for your community a role on our Council or Community Boards could be right for you.

Find out what it's like to be an elected member by downloading a copy of our candidate handbook or check out our helpful guide.

INFORMATION SESSIONS

We're hosting candidate information sessions in Taihape and Marton.

TAIHAPE

Thursday, 4 August at 4pm
Kokako Street Hall

MARTON

Thursday, 4 August at 7pm
Council's Marton Office,
46 High Street, Marton

Help shape the future of our District.
Stand for your community.



Candidate nominations
are open until
12 noon on Friday,
12 August.

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/stand