

FROM THE Mayor's Desk



Recently I attended the annual Local Government Conference in Palmerston North along with three Councillors and my Chief Executive. Very briefly in terms of Three Waters the key messages are:

1. The Government is pushing on at pace with the reforms and it acknowledges the stress it is placing on Local Government but says these things need to happen quickly and my comment is that this is closely aligned with the 3 yearly election cycle of Government.
2. The National Party has said it will repeal the legislation – it does not believe in co-governorship but says change is needed and has yet to put to New Zealand their version of change.
3. Our Council has submitted strongly to say that we are not in favour of the legislation proposed under three waters, we disagree with the lack of future community involvement and decision making along with a number of other issues that we have.

The discussion around three waters dominated the conference with virtually all Councils remaining unconvinced.

Local body nominations are now open and I encourage people to stand to either be a Councillor, Community Board member or Mayor. New Zealand is facing such a considerable change to Local Government and it is important that people understand these changes and have a voice so the answer is you either stand or if not you certainly vote.

I note that six Local Authorities have now been ordered by the Ministry of Health over the last few days to add fluoride to their potable water supplies as reported in last week's Dominion. I have spoken to some of the Mayors and they have been sent letters signalling that change. This effectively indicates that it will be a national direction throughout New Zealand and taken up presumably by the new Water Entities. The question is why six? As I understand it Christchurch City for example, which doesn't fluoridate, has not been asked to do so because of the huge costs they would be facing so it would seem as though we are being picked off one by one.

Ngā manaakitanga, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei

Building or renovating?

Rangitikei District Council staff are happy to assist with all your property enquiries regarding what consents are required, prior to building or making alterations to existing buildings.

Contact our Building Team today:
0800 422 522 | building.services@rangitikei.govt.nz

PRESENTATION

Earthquake Strengthening of Masonry Buildings in Rangitikei

Are you interested in learning about how we can futureproof masonry buildings in our town centres?

We're hosting a free presentation to share tips on earthquake strengthening and to help the public learn more about Council's role in regulating earthquake prone buildings. If you own an earthquake prone building or if you have a keen interest in masonry buildings in the district then come along to learn from the experts.

There will also be a Q&A opportunity and time for networking.

Friday 19 August from 9am – 12.30pm
Te Matapihi - Bulls Community Centre,
4 Criterion Street, Bulls

Please register your interest:

0800 422 522 or jaimereibel@rangitikei.govt.nz



Council recognised for environmental excellence at LGNZ awards

Rangitikei District Council has received a highly commended in the environmental category at the Local Government New Zealand awards. The acknowledgement comes off of the back of the Tutaenui Reservoir Restoration Project which has seen a previously unused raw water source turned into a recreation playground.

Council's Park & Reserves Manager Murray Phillips said "the project was a wonderful demonstration of what can be achieved when the community works together."

"Council staff, contractors, the Tutaenui Restoration Society, and volunteers from the wider community have all mucked in to plant in excess of 50,000 native trees and clear rogue trees and pine seedlings."

Following public interest, work began in 2018 to build tracks and revitalise the space including undertaking predator and weed control and the installing a bridge, kiosk, picnic tables and seating.

The reservoir sits 10 minutes North of Marton township and is a supply for local drinking water, prior to the completion of the project it has not been open to public use for decades.

"We know our recreation spaces contribute in making this place home and we value the role they play in our connection with our natural environment. We want to work with our communities to improve these spaces so they can continue to provide the environmental and wellbeing benefits for our district as it grows and changes," said Mayor Andy Watson.

If you're looking for something to do this weekend, head out to the reserve for a walk or a bike. Or, if you're interested in volunteering visit the Tutaenui Restoration Society Facebook page.

E TŪ. 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