

FROM THE **Mayor's Desk**

The passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, dominates our thoughts. All of us have grown up under her rule as Head of State, and there never has been a greater example of service.

As a young woman in 1953, Queen Elizabeth pledged a life-time of service to her people and she lived to fulfil that promise. First and foremost our thoughts are with her family, and we join the world in mourning her loss and pledging our allegiance to King Charles III as our new King. As Mayor I have been asked to attend our national Remembrance Service on the 26 September to add our District's voice to the commemoration.

As a reminder, voting papers will be appearing in our letterboxes over the next week, and I encourage everybody to vote. Nationally, only about 40% of people vote in local elections which is incredibly disappointing for an election which is so important for our communities. This is your chance to have a say.

Over the weekend, I attended the opening of the new Fire Station in Taihape alongside regional and area commanders, dignitaries and the wider community. My congratulations to Curly Troon as Chief Fire Officer, the brigade, and the community for their input into fundraising and design. I understand that the brigade, which also supports the Mangaweka Fire Brigade, is fully staffed with a waiting list which is a true testament to their role in the community. The new facility looks great and already local groups are asking if the new station can be used as a meeting space on occasion - a great community asset as well as an essential service.

Ngā manaakitanga, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.



Project to improve Marton's drinking water

Every year in spring and summer, the Marton dams experience algae blooms which can change the look, taste and smell of drinking water for some residents. While the treated drinking water is completely safe for consumption, we want to permanently fix this to ensure that Marton has access to consistent, high-quality water year-round.

To do this, we're planning to use groundwater instead of the water in the dams and build a new water treatment plant to replace the existing 100-year-old facility. Next month, our contractors will begin drilling a second bore hole at Tūtaenui Reserve to access the volume of groundwater we need.

If Marton residents do notice a change in their water while we are working on this fix - don't forget we have a free filtered water station outside the Marton RSA and Citizens' Memorial Hall that anyone can use.

The new bore and treatment plant are a key part of the Marton Water Supply Strategy which will be complete by the end of 2024. To stay up to date with the progress of this project, make sure to follow Rangitikei District Council on Facebook or visit our website.



Nau mai ki te Wiki o Te Reo Māori!

We're proud to tautoko this very special Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori, marking 50 years since the Māori Language Petition was presented to Parliament. This petition kickstarted the Māori language movement, asking for active recognition of te reo Māori in Aotearoa New Zealand, and for the language to be taught in schools. **Kia kaha te reo Māori!**

See more about how you can get involved at ReoMāori.co.nz

Your vote can help change the future of our district.

Make an informed decision about who you want to represent you at the Rangitikei District Council table. Learn more about who's running for Council and what they stand for by heading along to a Meet the Candidates evening near you or visiting www.rangitikei.govt.nz/elections

Youth Council - Meet the Candidates evening in Marton

5.30pm, Tuesday 27th September
 RSA and Citizens' Memorial Hall.
 Supper provided

Scotts Ferry Rural Women - Meet the Candidates evening in Bulls

7pm, Tuesday 20 September
 RSA, High Street, Bulls



If you're enrolled to vote for this year's local elections, keep an eye out for your voting papers in your mailbox from Friday 16th September.



New facility manager for Marton and Taihape swimming pools

Community Leisure Management (CLM) have been selected as the new facility manager of the Marton and Taihape community swimming pools from 1 October 2022.

The new management will bring added value to the community, with familiar faces bringing a new range of services and programmes including award winning SwimMagic swim school, the always popular aqua aerobics, birthday party packages and Friday pool parties - just in time for summer.

CLM are keen to hear from the community about what you want from them as a provider - keep an eye out for upcoming stakeholder hui to have your say on what you want to see at the pools.

KŌRERO MAI

Do you have feedback you'd like to share about our services or facilities?

We're introducing a new form to make sharing feedback easier. Make sure to keep an eye out for the QR codes located at all Council sites and facilities which you can use to provide on the spot feedback as your experience happens. We'll regularly review, assess and action your feedback, including compliments, suggestions and complaints.



REMINDER: If you have an urgent issue, please call us on our 24/7 phone number, 0800 422 522.

If you need to let us know that something needs to be repaired or another service carried out, please fill out our online Report it - Request for Service. This is monitored during office hours.