

FROM THE Mayor's Desk

Last week, we held our final Council meeting for the triennium where we farewelled Councillors Ash, Panapa, Gordon and Belsham - all of whom have served this district with distinction.

Councillor Gordon and Deputy Mayor Councillor Belsham have had the added responsibility of chairmanship of committees where their input has been invaluable. For those of us standing who may or may not be returning to the table, good luck. Congratulations to Councillors Coral Raukawa, Brian Carter, Tracey Hiroa and the incoming new Councillor Jarrod Calkin.

On 21 September, I, along with six other Mayors throughout the country, took our concerns over roading to the Board of Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency in Wellington. Mayors meeting with the Board is unusual and signified our concerns over the maintenance state of both local and national roading networks. We also questioned that successive Governments follow a three year cycle with limited long term views over roading priorities. Hopefully this meeting will result in a closer future working relationship with Waka Kotahi and the Government.

I'd like to send my congratulations to the organisers and presenters of the Bio-Polymer seminar held at Te Matapihi on 8 September. The information was well presented and painted a potentially fantastic future for our district and the environment.

Continuing with the environment focus, on 30 August at Rangitira the Rangitikei River Catchment Collective held their AGM. The number of collectives is growing and the work that they do for the environment is spectacular. Roger Dalrymple, Mark Chrystall and the team need to be applauded for their efforts.

As my last message to the community this triennium - please vote. Who represents you is imported and too often we don't engage but criticise later. Thank you all for your support during this term, it has been an honour to serve as your Mayor.

Ngā manaakitanga, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.



What is the Three Waters Reform?

The Central Government has launched the Three Waters Reform to change the way that drinking water, wastewater and stormwater are managed and delivered to the community. The Government has made the decision that the Reform will go ahead, and that it will be compulsory for all Councils.

When the Reform is complete, Rangitikei District Council will no longer deliver the three water services to the community. Instead, management will be taken over by one of the four new entities that are taking control of drinking water, wastewater and stormwater across New Zealand.

Our position

Rangitikei District Council understands and supports the need for change to how water is managed and delivered in New Zealand, however we, like nearly all Councils, have many concerns about the Reform which we have strongly voiced to Central Government. We are especially concerned that our community's voice won't be heard in such a large entity, and the lack of community involvement.

For more information about the Three Waters Reform, our concerns and the actions we have taken, please visit our website www.rangitikei.govt.nz/threewatersreform

The Three Waters Reform legislation is currently before Parliament and we will continue to keep our community informed as this develops.

Do you pay your rates by Automatic Payment?

Make sure to check your payment amount is correct to keep your rates up to date until 30 June 2023. We recommend that you review your payments and check for any rates increases at the start of the rates year to ensure your account doesn't fall behind due to insufficient funds. If you require assistance for calculating your rates, please phone our Rates Officer on 06 327 0091.

Marton and Taihape swimming pools have opened for summer!

To celebrate the arrival of the summer season, our new facility manager of the Marton and Taihape community swimming pools, Community Leisure Management (CLM), kicked off their first weekend in operation with two massive pool parties! The parties were a huge hit with the community with over 400 people attending the parties, and CLM look forward to hosting lots more fun and games over the summer months.



Want to make the most of CLM's exciting new range of services and programmes?

Head along to the Marton and Taihape pools and have a chat with the team about their award winning SwimMagic swim school, the always popular aqua aerobics, birthday party packages, or have some fun and dive into their Friday pool parties!

KEEP THE KIDS OCCUPIED THESE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS!

Bring the kids along to the Bulls, Marton or Taihape libraries this school holidays for FREE school holiday activities. From movie days and slime making, to lego groups and animal arts and crafts - the kids are guaranteed to have a great time!

Taihape library:

- Thursday 6 October
Lego from 10am to 12pm
- Monday 10 October
Slime making from 10.30am to 12pm
- Wednesday 12 October
Lego from 1pm to 3pm

Bulls library:

- Join in everyday from 2pm for lots of games, art, and storytelling.

Marton library:

- Come along between 10.30am to 12pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays for Animal Arts and Crafts



It's your last chance to vote in our local elections!

Voting for our local elections closes on Saturday 8th October at midday.

If you haven't already had your say, head on down to Taihape Information Centre/Library, Te Matapihi in Bulls, Council's main office building on High Street in Marton, or the Hunterville Village Bookshop to drop your voting papers off in-person and help shape the future of our district.

If you have not received a voting pack in the mail, you lost or damaged your voting pack, or you did not enrol to vote before 12 August 2022, you will need to cast a special vote. Special voting packs are available from the locations listed above, except for the Hunterville Village Bookshop.



Do you own an earthquake-prone building?

Join us for a free presentation on 14 October to discuss how to future proof earthquake-prone masonry buildings in Taihape. Hear from our keynote speakers as they cover the process for earthquake strengthening, outline what support is available, and discuss how earthquake strengthening and insurance cover can add to the asset value of your property.

To register, please contact Jaime Reibel - Strategic Advisor Economic Development by calling 0800 422 522 or emailing jaime.reibel@rangitikei.govt.nz

- When: 9am - 12pm, Friday 14 October
- Where: Kokako Hall, located on Weka Street (follow the road all the way to the end to the green corrugated fence), Taihape.

If you are unable to attend in person, this presentation will be live on Zoom.
Meeting ID: 825 8900 8422 - Passcode: 24615

This event is co-sponsored by the Rangitikei District Council and the Taihape Community Development Trust.

