

RANGITIKEI Connect

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ISSUE 58

FROM THE Mayor's Desk

Council has held its first meeting to induct Councillors and to outline committee structures.

There is a realisation for Councillors and staff that the workload this triennium will be far heavier than has been the case previously. The new responsibilities that Council have around Government legislation and the transition of Three Waters to separate entities, RMA reform etc is substantial. Council has decided that from now on workshops will be publicly notified and open to the general public, but not live-streamed. Standing Committees and Council meetings will also be open to the public and live-streamed.

Government is pushing ahead at pace with reforms and it has been a real challenge to meet submission deadlines to give Government our local stance. Last week, we submitted on the proposed emissions levies put on our farming practices and carbon credit forestry. These are incredibly important submissions as the reforms will affect the profitability of many farms who will be threatened with a reduction of around 20% of farm income in the sheep and beef industry. From a business perspective it is difficult to criticise farm owners selling their land for carbon credit forestry but from a social perspective the results are disastrous with less employment available which means long term schools and rural communities will be severely impacted.

The funding for roading both locally and nationally is challenging. All of us notice the potholes and decreased maintenance of our networks. This funding is principally set by Waka Kotahi grants and Government budgets. As I understand it those budgets will not be increased or reviewed until 2024, while the inflationary costs of roading per year arguably are approaching 30% per annum. There will be roads in NZ that are not reinstated after climatic events and the deterioration of local roads is sadly inevitable under this funding regime. Locally we also know that the impact of forestry harvesting is on us now as the "wall of wood" becomes a reality. We started looking at introducing a differential on roading rates for identified forestry properties in the Long Term Plan. We put that decision on hold to consult further with the sector, something that we are currently undertaking. We will add this consultation occurring now to be part of the Annual Plan consultation to give options that have been worked through with the industry.

Over the last couple of years attending school prizegiving functions has been a challenge with covid restrictions and as the community have been released from the covid prison it has been pleasing to be able to attend a number of end of year school functions recently. As part of that we have awarded Council scholarships to rangatahi at Taihape Area School and Rangitikei College for tertiary education. I am keen for Council to also look at recognising and providing for apprenticeship funding across the district and there will be more to come on this matter.

I also recently attended the Koitiata Volunteer Fire Brigade Honours Evening and took the opportunity while in Koitiata to arrive early and spend some time being shown the drainage issues from farming land through forestry and Council-administered reserve to the lagoon and sea. This is an issue that has sat on our table for years. It is complex but essentially arose from land use change permitted by Horizons. It is a pity that Horizons missed a community meeting recently looking to resolve this issue but I am hopeful that we can navigate a way forward.

Ngā manaakitanga, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.



Image: Ironstone&Clay Photography

The new playground and whānau space in Rātana is officially open!

We'd like to offer a big thank you to the Rātana community and Rātana Playground Working Party who brought this project to life and who officially opened the space for all to enjoy on Saturday 19th November.

As a proud supporter of this project, we can't wait to share this new space with the community. If you haven't already, make sure to head over to Rātana Pā to check it out!



Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Tree

To acknowledge the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, Rangitikei District Council planted a memorial tree at Marton Park last Saturday 26th November. The new tree, a Copper Beech, was planted near the site of the large Conifer tree that was recently removed due to decay.

Mayor Andy Watson and Council staff were joined by Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa and the Marton RSA for the planting, where they also unveiled a memorial plaque to remember the life and service of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

For more information about the removal of the Conifer Tree, please see our web story: Memorial tree to be planted in place of old Conifer at Marton Park.

Do you know a young person who is looking for an opportunity to make a real difference in their community?

We're looking for 18 - 25 year olds with Māori whakapapa that live in the Rangitikei District to be one of our Tuia representatives for 2023. To apply for the Tuia mentorship programme, or for more information about the programme, please email info@rangitikei.govt.nz or phone 0800 422 522.

Christmas Parades 2022

If your tamariki can't wait until Christmas, make sure to bring them along to one of the Christmas Parades taking place throughout the Rangitikei District this December!

Marton Christmas Parade

- Time: 2pm
- Date: Saturday 3rd of December
- Location: Marton Town Centre

Taihape Christmas Parade

- Time: 12pm
- Date: Saturday 3rd of December
- Location: Hautapu Street, Taihape

Bulls Christmas Parade

- Time: 10am
- Date: Saturday 3rd of December
- Location: High Street, SH3, Bulls

Hunterville Christmas Parade

- Time: 4pm
- Date: Friday 23rd of December
- Location: Bruce Street, SH1, Hunterville



join the
Rangitikei Youth Council

Applications open now for Youth Council 2023!

Applications for the Rangitikei Youth Council 2023 are open now and we're looking for new members! If you know someone aged 13-24 years old who wants to make a real difference in their community, encourage them to become a member of the Youth Council and make their voice heard.

For more information and to apply for Youth Council, please visit www.rangitikei.govt.nz/youthcouncil

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