

## FROM THE Mayor's Desk

Last week I attended Mamma Mia in Taihape – I see it even made Seven Sharp this week! This was a show that was scheduled to be done much earlier this year, and due to Covid-19 was delayed. I have sent my congratulations to all involved it was a truly upbeat and professional show. It was virtually sold out for 9 performances - which means that every man and his dog in Taihape pretty much attended.

On 21 July, I attended the AGM for the Marton Historical Committee, I was fearful that the committee may have to go into recess due to changes in the committee, but I was personally delighted and amazed at the turnout and the number of new faces that want to be part of our heritage and history, which is important to us all.

The Long Term Plan will be the most significant document that this Council has ever put in place, because of changes to population and the high volume of capital build that we have planned. This is the replacement of aged infrastructure to comply with legislation, earthquake prone building laws, and compliance with

wastewater and drinking water standards. We want to engage with as many groups and people as we can, I never turn anyone away, if you interested in meeting with me and/or our Councillors please contact me through our office on 0800 422 522 or 027 617 7668. Timings for engagements across our District will be publicised soon.

I made several comments recently about the changes the Government is looking at, for what we refer to as "the three waters space". Essentially this is where the Government is looking at amalgamation between councils for wastewater, potable and drinking water. This is likely to mean that Council's assets go to a private entity and you would be rated separately for the delivery, e.g. similar to the model for provision of drinking water in the Greater Auckland area.

The difficulty for our Council and every other council is we don't know the details of these impacts on us and so the rest of this year will be spent understanding the effect on our ratepayers.

Very shortly we will be voting in the Government elections. Part of that process seems to be the government's desire to promote the rural and regional economy through the Provincial Growth Fund (or Minister Jones's) fund. I spent a day following the Minister around while he made announcements to Manawatū,

Palmerston North and Whanganui, I am hopeful that the government will meet this month and we will be in position to make a positive announcement for Rangitikei.

The Bulls build is nearing completion and I have regularly been through the building – it is stunning! There have been questions raised around internal access points and other minor work, which are being worked through. I would like to thank everyone involved for their hard work and input, community members, Councillors, the Governance Group and Iwi who gave advice on the build and the internal fit out design. We also have a group in place to finalise the official public opening.

Lately I have heard several people talking about the cold conditions in their homes. I am aware there is a government subsidy programme that is available for some homes in our District, there are subsidies up to 90% for those that qualify, so I would urge you to consider insulation and contact the experts to see if you qualify – here is a link to more information - [www.energywise.govt.nz/tools/warmer-kiwi-homes-tool](http://www.energywise.govt.nz/tools/warmer-kiwi-homes-tool).

Ngā mihi,  
**Andy Watson,**  
Mayor of Rangitikei District.

## Upcoming Meetings



<b>Assets/Infrastructure Committee</b>	Thursday 6 August	10.30am
<b>Policy/Planning Committee</b>	Thursday 6 August	1pm
<b>Youth Council</b>	Tuesday 18 August	5.30pm
<b>Finance/Performance Committee</b>	Thursday 27 August	9.30am
<b>Council</b>	Thursday 27 August	1pm

All meetings are open to the public, unless there are specific items which Council resolves to consider 'public excluded'. Meeting papers are available online, at least two working days before any scheduled meeting, through the Council website or in hard copy at the libraries in Taihape, Marton and Bulls and the Marton Council office. Any queries, please phone 06 327 0099 or 0800 422 522.

All meetings, unless otherwise specified, will be held in the Council Chamber, 46 High Street, Marton. Council meetings, where possible, will be live-streamed on Facebook.

## RANGITIKEI LINE

### Council Bulletin

#### 2021-31 Long Term Plan

Council has formally started the process of developing the next ten-year plan. This will be a major focus of work for the next six months, and will include some early engagement with different sections of the community. Council is conscious of the need to ensure that it takes a well-being approach – as is expected by recent amendments to the Local Government Act. While the Government has signalled an interest in seeing local government take a stronger role in the delivery of social services, Council is already considering such matters as the provision of emergency housing and medical facilities.

#### Three Waters Reform

On 8 July 2020, the Government announced an investment of \$761 million to provide immediate post COVID-19 stimulus to local authorities to maintain and improve three waters infrastructure (i.e. drinking water, wastewater and stormwater) and support reform of local government water services delivery. During the month further detail has been provided, with more still to come. Accessing this funding requires signing a Memorandum of Understanding (by 31 August 2020) and an associated Funding Agreement and Delivery Plan (by 30 September 2020). The Government considers greater aggregation of drinking water and wastewater systems will improve their robustness and be more efficient.

#### Petition from Taihape Heritage Trust

At Council's meeting on 30 July 2020, the Taihape Heritage Trust presented a petition with 648 signatures requesting that the proposed new amenities for Taihape Memorial Park be constructed within the current grandstand rather than a new building. The Trust has applied to have the grandstand to be included on the Heritage New Zealand List. Council will consider the request at a later meeting.



Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand

#### Papakai Pump Station

To minimise the risk of future spills of wastewater from the Papakai Pump Station into the Hautapu River, two additional holding tanks that will intercept any overflow will be installed before the end of the year. In addition, staff are now taking a picture off the outfall each day and the electronic equipment and alarm system in the plant are being calibrated on a weekly basis.

The reported spill on 11 July 2020 was not confirmed by physical inspection or Council's telemetry systems.

#### Public Forum

During the Public Forum session at Council's meeting on 30 July 2020, Liz Rayner outlined the history of the "wheel" as Marton's town symbol, suggesting that it was more relevant than barley.

#### Renaming of Marton Park to 'Dick Hurn Park'

Council has received several letters advocating renaming Marton Park to 'Dick Hurn Park' as recognition of his services to rugby in Marton and the wider Rangitikei. Council has agreed to engage with the Marton community (through its various channels as well as the Marton Community Committee) on this suggestion.

#### Bulls Community Centre

Construction completion was delayed because of the Covid-19 response but is largely complete, including internal spaces. Some of the external works are yet to be completed, this includes the exterior carapace, the roof top deck and the parking area. The official opening will be held on Friday, 25 September.

At its meeting on 30 July 2020, Council agreed to investigate an alternative space for changing and preparing for events on stage.

#### District Plan Change – rural to industrial

The hearing for the District Plan Change started on Wednesday, 17 June 2020 and was adjourned the following day to allow further evidence to be provided to the Commissioner, Robert Schofield. That has now been uploaded to the Council's website. The Commissioner subsequently invited all submitters to make final submissions. Following receipt of those, he formally closed the hearing. A decision is expected by 20 August 2020.

## Public Notices

### Intention to Close Road to Vehicular Traffic

Pursuant to Section 342 (b) and the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is hereby given that, the Rangitikei District Council intends to consider closing the roads as listed below for the purpose of permitting Hunterville Huntaway Festival to hold The Shemozzle on Saturday 31 October 2020.

#### Roads to be closed:

Time: 6am till 6pm  
Roads: Bruce Street- portion of from State Highway 1 to Hunterville School Paraekaretu Street- portion of from the Hunterville Domain to Bruce Street

Pursuant to Section 342 (b) and the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is hereby given that, the Rangitikei District Council intends to consider closing the roads as listed below for the purpose of permitting The Taihape Community Development Trust to host the Spring Fling on Saturday 19 September 2020.

#### Roads to be closed:

Time: 7am till 3pm  
Roads: Huia Street- from 14 Huia Street to 24 Huia Street  
Kokako Street - Full Street

Any person objecting to the proposals is called upon to lodge notice of his/her objection and grounds thereof in writing, before **4pm on the 14 August 2020**, at the office of the Rangitikei District Council, Private Bag 1102, Marton 4741.

Should the Rangitikei District Council decide to close the said roads, a public notice shall be given.