

## FROM THE Mayor's Desk

**We are delighted to have received over 20 nominations for the Inaugural Community Volunteer Awards.**

The awards recognise the volunteers who always go above and beyond for our district. The panel are due to meet this week to shortlist those nominations for the Awards Evenings to be held in March at Te Matapihi. It will be a hard process given the calibre of nominations and the incredible work the nominees have done and continue to do in our district. I would like to thank all those who took the time to put nominations forward and the amount of effort that went into this. The names of the winners will be kept strictly confidential until the night. In addition to the volunteer awards that will be presented there is a special Mayor's Recognition Award that I will present on the night. Awardees will be engraved on an Honour's Board that will be placed in the foyer of the Marton Council Offices and updated bi-annually from 2025 onwards.

On Saturday 4 February I had the pleasure of attending a ceremony at Mt View Cemetery organised by the Marton RSA to acknowledge a series of unmarked graves of servicemen who returned from war and resided at Lake Alice Hospital until they died. There were a number of dignitaries present and what struck me first of all was the presentation that Barry Rankin from the RSA gave around his personal voyage in discovering the number of unidentified graves. These were military personnel who after returning from the world wars were resident at Lake Alice Hospital and basically forgotten. When they died they were buried at Mt View Cemetery with makeshift markers that over time disintegrated and those graves were effectively unnamed for many years. It was an incredibly moving story to me and I think everybody was astounded at the work that Barry had done over a number of years to in recognition of those soldiers' final resting places. Each of the 34 graves has now been suitably fitted with a military plaque. After the official ceremony I was given the opportunity to stand and listen to some of the individual soldier's stories which were fascinating. To hear these stories from the military records Barry was able to obtain was raw and emotional and as the RSA would say "lest we forget". **Ngā manaakitanga, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.**



RSA Unveiling and Blessing of unidentified WWI & WWII graves at Mt View Cemetery



## Marton Harvest Festival Scarecrow Competition

**The Marton Harvest Festival Scarecrow Competition is back for 2023!**

Registrations are open now - make sure you send in your entry form by Friday 24 February and get crafting for your chance to win a \$150 voucher.

Scarecrow entries must be placed in front of houses, schools and businesses so that they can be seen from the road and need to be able to last from 1 - 27 March. Judging will take place on March 24th, 2023.

Enter online using the QR code or email dann.ross@rangitikei.govt.nz for an entry form.



## Do you own an earthquake-prone building?

We are hosting a free presentation in Marton to discuss how to future-proof earthquake-prone masonry buildings in town. Following an introduction from Mayor Andy Watson, hear from our keynote speakers:

- Arthur Morgenstern, Company Director at Seismic Performance Ltd
- Richard White, Commercial Sales Consultant, Property Brokers Marton

They'll be sharing their insights about the process for earthquake strengthening and what support is available.

Guests are invited to stay after the event to network and to talk directly with the keynote speakers. Tea and coffee will be available during the event.

Please register your interest with: Jaime Reibel - Strategic Advisor Economic Development by calling 0800 422 522 or emailing [jaime.reibel@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:jaime.reibel@rangitikei.govt.nz)

**When: 9.30am - 12.30pm, Friday 24 February**

**Where: Centennial Park Hall, 17 Totara St, Marton**



## Apply for funding for your project, event or organisation!

The second round of funding is open for the Creative Communities Fund, Events Sponsorship Scheme and Community Initiatives Fund!

Whether you have an idea for an epic event that you want to bring to life, or a creative vision for a community-based or creative project you need help getting off the ground - take a look at the funding criteria and get your applications in for 2023.

- Events Sponsorship Scheme - **closes 5 March 2023**
- Community Initiatives Fund - **closes 2 April 2023**
- Creative Communities Fund - **closes 7 May 2023**

[www.rangitikei.govt.nz/fundingopportunities](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/fundingopportunities)



## Rates are due soon!

The third instalment of rates notices are due on Monday 20 February 2023. If you pay by automatic payment, please make sure your payment amount is correct to keep your rates up to date. If you would like your rates to be emailed to you rather than to come by post, please enter your details at [www.rangitikei.govt.nz/rates](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/rates)

To pay online or for more payment options visit [www.rangitikei.govt.nz/paymyrates](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/paymyrates)



# MARTON Harvest FESTIVAL

Join us for one of the biggest events of the harvest season!

## Sunday 26 March 2023

Sir James Wilson Park  
10am - 3pm

Special guest MC and judge for the day.  
**WATCH THIS SPACE!**

**Featuring:**

- The famous scarecrow trail
- A home brew competition
- Live music
- Free entertainment
- Great food
- A bunch of pumpkin hilarity including a pumpkin pie competition and pumpkin bowling

The Marton Harvest Festival 2023 is brought to you by:

@MartonHarvestFestival  
[events@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:events@rangitikei.govt.nz)