

# RANGITIKEI Connect

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ISSUE 63

## FROM THE Mayor's Desk

I feel as though I have made plenty of Annual Plan comments out in the public arena already so please take it as read that we need you to engage.

What I would like to talk about this week is the Three Waters legislation, and yes I know I've said this a number of times but the reality is that we, like every Council in the country, are in the dark as much as the general public is. The change in Prime Minister and Minister for Local Government has set the scene really for the Labour Government to put in place a different reform package with regard to Three Waters. The other day the Chief Executive Peter Beggs and I had a visit from Vaughan Payne who has been given the job as Three Waters Chief Executive of Entity B which is the grouping of Councils from Rangitikei north to just below Auckland. Vaughan is still waiting for information from the Minister himself. The indications are that there will be a change and if I had to bet, I wouldn't be surprised if for instance it becomes "two waters" not three which would involve the dropping of stormwater. However that is only my own personal thought. I suspect also that the Rural Water Schemes may be looked at in terms of whether they are included automatically with regard to these reforms. The delay is important to all Councils as we are struggling to work on our budgeting and staffing components going into the future so I would urge that whatever has to happen happens quickly. We have as a Council expressed serious concern to Government around the lack of detail and the reforms that are envisaged. I recently spoke to this at a NZ Parliament - Finance and Expenditure Committee which can be viewed at [www.rangitikei.govt.nz/threewatersreform](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/threewatersreform)

On 23 March we are hosting at Te Matapihi in Bulls a recognition night of the outstanding volunteers we have in our district. There have been a huge number of nominations and it's a pity that we can't recognise everybody in the first year of this. Unfortunately because of the number of people involved and interest this won't be a public walk-in event but we will be putting together news releases highlighting the stories and you will be able to watch the videos of the achievements of these incredible people on our website and social media sites following the event.

Yesterday I was in a meeting of Defence Force officials and regional roading people and they have said that the new roundabout and weighbridge will go ahead at Ohakea starting sometime in May. The reason I am raising this is because of the disruption that I see happening. What they are looking at doing is putting in a 30km/hr speed limit between Bulls and south of Ohakea and that is likely to be in place for 18 months. What I think we will see are extremely long traffic delays and I have suggested that they need some traffic management programmes that do not allow traffic to be backed up into the SH1 and 3 intersection at Bulls. I suspect also that any transport will often elect to divert at the Kakariki Road turnoff on SH1 and resume on the south of us to reconnect with SH1. The major impact of these works will be on Manawātū District Council's roads but it could well be significant for us for a very long time. This is just a heads up at this stage and I am continuing to advocate on our behalf and on behalf of the frustrated drivers who will undoubtedly follow this decision. **Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.**



## Join the Creative Communities Scheme Committee

Are you passionate about the arts in Rangitikei? Do you want to make a difference in your community?

We're looking for assessors to join the Creative Communities Scheme Committee! As a Creative Communities Scheme Assessor, you will play a crucial role in supporting local arts activities by assessing funding applications and promoting the scheme to the Rangitikei community. Nominations close on 31 March 2023. Physical copies of the nomination form are available at Te Matapihi, Taihape Information Centre, Marton Library, and Council's Office and can be returned to these locations or sent to Kezia Spence at Council Office, 46 High Street, Marton.



## Welcome new citizens!

We had a very special Citizenship Ceremony this month, as we welcomed eight new citizens from four different countries into our community including our very own staff member Karin Cruywagen and her whānau.

As an important part of the process of becoming a New Zealand citizen, the ceremony marks the official awarding of citizenship, allowing candidates to publicly declare their allegiance to Aotearoa New Zealand and for our community to welcome them on behalf of all New Zealanders.

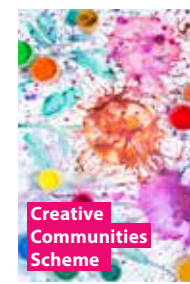
We'd like to offer our sincerest congratulations to everyone who received their citizenship this month.

## Apply for funding for your project or organisation

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

If you have a creative vision for a community-based or creative project you need help getting off the ground, take a look at the funding criteria below and get your applications in for 2023. For more information, please visit the following pages:

**Community Initiatives Fund - closes April 2023**  
[www.rangitikei.govt.nz/community-initiatives-fund](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/community-initiatives-fund)  
**Creative Communities Fund - closes 7 May 2023**  
[www.rangitikei.govt.nz/creative-communities-scheme](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/creative-communities-scheme)



## Pae Tawhiti RANGITIKEI BEYOND

Kōrero  
Mai

### Public consultation for our Community Spatial Plan is now open!

The public consultation for our Draft Community Spatial Plan, Pae Tawhiti Rangitikei Beyond, is now open and we want to hear from the Rangitikei community!

Our draft Community Spatial Plan was developed from community feedback and outlines the blueprint for how we want the Rangitikei district to develop over the next 30 years. To make sure this document captures the needs of our community, it's important that we hear your thoughts on our draft plan.

**What do you feel is most important for Rangitikei over the next 30 years?**

**How do you see Rangitikei growing?**

**What should we prioritise first?**

Making a submission is simple - you can:

- **Go online** at [www.rangitikei.govt.nz/paetawhiti](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/paetawhiti)
- **Drop off** documents at our service centres
- **Email** [info@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:info@rangitikei.govt.nz)
- **Post** to Private Bag 110 Marton 4741

Share your thoughts on our district's future by making a submission.  
Have your say by 5pm, Tuesday 25th April 2023.



## 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

The Marton Harvest Festival 2023 is brought to you by:

**RANGITIKEI** DISTRICT COUNCIL | Rotary | **LYONS** CLUB | **@MartonHarvestFestival**  
events@rangitikei.govt.nz