

RANGITIKEI Connect

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ISSUE 64

FROM THE Mayor's Desk

The inaugural Community Volunteer Awards took place on Thursday 23 March at Te Matapihi and was well attended by over 100 people. The awards were a tangible way to recognise the many hours of incredible volunteer work undertaken by people across our district.

Award recipients were as follows –

- Helen Cooper
- Joe Byford & Don Tantrum (joint award)
- Les Thurston
- Graeme Bradley
- Don Hatfull

- Felix Bell
- Danelle Whakatihi
- Barry Rankin
- Lucy Skou
- David Smith & Greg Carlyon (joint award)



Together with the Mayor's Recognition Award, awarded posthumously to Mr John Beresford Swan Dudding for the significant financial support he has provided to the district over the last few decades. My thanks goes to council staff for organising such a fantastic evening of celebration for our district.

On Monday 21 March our Youth Council met for their inaugural meeting for this triennium. The Youth Council is under the guidance and support of Kelly and Kayla and involves students from secondary



Karen Gunn from the Public Trust Office in Wellington receiving the Mayor's Recognition Award, for Mr John Beresford Swan Dudding.

schools including Rangitikei College, Ngā Tawa and Taihape Area School. The Youth Committee follows a similar process to full Council, operating under the same Standing Orders and Processes and is able to make recommendations to full Council in much the same way that our community committees and community boards do.

This year the Youth Committee will be chaired by Paloma Janse, a Ngā Tawa student. I congratulate Paloma and her committee, already they are asking searching questions on Council stances to Government direction and community initiatives.

One of the very rewarding programmes that I as Mayor am involved in is the TUIA Mentorship Programme and initiative of Local Government that all councils belong to. This involves most mayors where they select either one or two rangatahi (young māori) from their district to have a mutually beneficial mentoring relationship. This is a relationship that has benefits to me as mayor to better understand cultural and youth issues, something that I value. The rangatahi selected are also required to do 100 hours of community work of some nature in their district and attend five wananga or marae hui within the year. This year I have selected two rangatahi, Bridget Watson (no relation) and Matthew Coogan both from the Taihape area. I intend to introduce both to Council and Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa formally within the near future. **Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.**

Want to save money on your water bill?

By taking note of your water meter reading regularly between billing periods, you can become aware of any spikes in usage that may indicate a possible leak and avoid a potential surprise on your next water bill.

To help you keep track of your water usage, we suggest noting down your meter reading weekly or fortnightly. This will not only help you identify if you have any leaks on your property, but also allow you to conserve water and reduce your water bill.

If you're unsure how to read your water meter or locate your toby (water shut-off valve), we're here to help! Just give us a call on 0800 422 522.

Please note: Not all households have water meters. If you do not have a water meter, then you will only get charged within your rates if you are connected to the town supply.



Public consultation for the Annual Plan is now open and we want to hear from you!

Our Consultation Document provides the chance to have your say on the work we are planning and share your ideas on other changes you would like to see.

This year we are seeking your feedback on three key choices:

- The future of the Taihape Town Hall/Civic Centre
- The Marton Civic Centre
- A new pathway along Calico Line, from Nga Tawa Road to Marton

The proposed Annual Plan also outlines our projected average rates increase for 2023/24.

We want to hear feedback from people of all ages and ethnicities, from townships and rural communities, right across the district. Help shape our district's future. Have your say by 5pm Tuesday 25 April 2023.

To find more information about the Consultation Document and proposed Annual Plan, you can:

- Visit our website: www.rangitikei.govt.nz
- Contact our Council staff by calling 0800 422 522 or contact an Elected Member
- Email us at info@rangitikei.govt.nz
- Attend one of our community consultation sessions throughout the district

For full details please check our website www.rangitikei.govt.nz/consultations

Consultation for the draft Community Spatial Plan, Pae Tawhiti Rangitikei Beyond, is open too! Tell us how you see Rangitikei growing over the next 30 years - visit www.rangitikei.govt.nz/paetawhiti to have your say.

Want to learn more about our plans for Rangitikei?

Come along to one of our engagement events in April to learn what we're proposing in the draft Community Spatial Plan, Pae Tawhiti Rangitikei Beyond, and in the Annual Plan 2023/24.

- 11 April: **Online meeting**, 5.30pm, Zoom
- 12 April: **Taihape Community BBQ**, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Taihape Triangle
- 13 April: **Whangaehu Community Meeting**, 6pm, Whangaehu Hall
- 14 April: **Taihape Talking Table**, 11am-1pm, Taihape Main St
- 15 April: **Marton Community BBQ**, 10am-12pm, Village Green
- 17 April: **Hunterville Community Meeting**, 6pm, Hunterville Town Hall
- 19 April: **Ōhingaiti Community Meeting**, 6pm, Truck Stop
- 20 April: **Otairi Community Meeting**, 6pm, Otairi Hall

Visit our website for more information www.rangitikei.govt.nz/consultations

More electric vehicles are now charge-a-Bull in Bulls!

A brand new EV charger is now available in Bulls behind the Te Matapihi car park. This 300kW hyper rapid charger from ChargeNet is the first of its kind in the Manawatū-Whanganui area and is powered by 100% renewable electricity (sourced from wind, hydro, and solar). The previous charger located by the old Town Hall has also been moved to this space, tripling the number of charge points available. Check out the design on the charger, led by local artist Delwyn Hakaria of Ngāti Parewahawaha and Ngāti Kauwhata lineage - ka rawe! This project is proudly supported by the Rangitikei District Council, Ngāti Parewahawaha, Ngāti Kauwhata and ChargeNet.



Youth Awards nominations are open now!

We're excited to announce that nominations for the Rangitikei Youth Awards are now open! If you know an exceptional person between the ages of 12 and 24 who is affiliated with the Rangitikei District, whether they currently live, work, or attend school here, or have roots in the area, nominate them for one of the eight categories below.

These categories include:

- Marton Rotary – Leadership
- River Valley – Eco Warrior
- Hautapu Pine – Youth in Sport
- The Downs Group – Giving Back
- New World Marton – Youth for Youth
- Mahi Tahi – Youth in Employment

- Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Āpa – Youth in Apprenticeship
- Rangitikei Anglican Parish – Change Maker

Nominations are open until Friday 21 April 2023.

Don't miss this opportunity to recognise and celebrate the incredible rangatahi in our community!

For more information, visit our website www.rangitikei.govt.nz/youthawards

