

FROM THE Mayor's Desk

Talofa lava, this week is Samoan Language week, I would like to greatly acknowledge the Samoan community we have in our District.

I, like all of the Councillors, have just received the collated copy of submissions for the Annual Plan along with officer comments. Council will be using these as part of what we call deliberations, or in simple terms, deciding on whether we agree with the submissions and what we can and cannot support. Deliberations will be held on Thursday 1 June and will probably take all day. I suspect that Councillors may well ask for further information from officers before reaching a final position on a number of the requests. Councillors will also be keen to get updated positions on the costs around some of the major infrastructural programmes to have some idea as to whether they are affordable against our financial position.

Clean-up from the flood event last weekend seems to have gone reasonably smoothly. We are working on assessing costs of the damage done to our roading network. Damage comes on top of damage already caused by Cyclone Gabrielle where we are informed there are 45 dropouts on rural roads that need to be repaired. The process for these things is one of an agreed budget with Waka Kotahi and also discussions with roading contractors as to literally who is available to do this work. With the amount of damage in the North Island over recent times, all of the contractors are incredibly busy so it may well be a case of waiting for our turn.

Last week we welcomed four new citizens to the Rangitikei district. They featured people from Samoa, Ireland and India. We originally had a larger group apply but because of illness or commitments elsewhere they were not all able to attend this time. One of the nice things about having a smaller ceremony is that you actually get time to spend with the people and understand why they've come to New Zealand and what they're currently doing - and just being able to personally welcome them here. For some larger ceremonies it becomes a process rather than a personal touch.

Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.



Linda McAlister been congratulated on her citizenship by Mayor Andy Watson.

Who can help with ongoing clean up after a flood

Do you have questions specific to your property? Are you unsure if it's Council or your insurance company who you should be talking to, then give our building staff a call 0800 422 522. Due to the high volume of calls, you may have to leave a message - please make sure you leave your contact details, and we will get back to you.

If at any stage you think there is risk associated with what you are doing, then stop and get guidance.

There is great information for cleaning up your property after a flood on the National Emergency Management Agency website:
www.civildefence.govt.nz



Flooding 21 May 2023 - Johnson Street, Bulls.



Flooding 21 May 2023 - Marumaru Street, Marton.

Rangitikei District Council Chief Executive returns to Christchurch

Chief Executive Peter Beggs has tendered his resignation and will be leaving Council on 18 August 2023. Beggs, who has been in the role since 2019, is returning to Christchurch to take up a Chief Executive position with Apollo Projects.

Mayor Andy says that while Council is sad to see Peter go, they understand the motivation to grow his career and to be closer to his family and has accepted his resignation on that basis. "Peter has achieved a lot during his time with us and is regarded as having made significant progress in Council Health and Safety and Staff culture. Peter has been a key advocate for Rangitikei when it came to the Three Waters Reform and established a Project Management Office to manage key Council projects. We wish him well in his new role, and thank him for his service to our community"

Beggs says that his time being part of the Rangitikei District Council has been an honour.

"I have truly loved working for Council, and I am very proud of the huge improvements we have made for the benefit of our community, and the work of my colleagues and staff. This was not an easy decision to make, but it is an exciting career opportunity for me to lead Apollo Projects as they continue to grow, while at the same time allowing me to be closer to my partner and my children."

As the Council looks to the future, Mayor Andy says that it is an exciting time for any incoming Chief Executive.

"Rangitikei is experiencing significant growth, and is projected to reach a population of 25,000 people by 2050 - almost 9,000 more people than live here today. We have several capital projects that are coming to fruition and we are making plans that will change how our communities look in future years.

"Over the coming months, Council will look to appoint an interim Chief Executive to take over from Peter while a recruitment process is underway. We will keep the community informed about this as it happens."



Otago Bridge closure restrictions

Otago Bridge will be closed between 9:00am and 2:00pm from Tuesday 6 June to Friday 9 June, and again from Monday 12 June to Thursday 15 June.

These closures are due to repair work that will be taking place following damage to the bridge in January.

Please use alternative routes during this time.

Keep an eye on our web page for updates:
www.rangitikei.govt.nz/status/road-closures

Meeting Cancellation

The **Assets / Infrastructure Committee** meeting scheduled for Thursday 8 June has been cancelled. Any queries, please phone on 06 327 0099 or 0800 422 522.

Do you need help using modern gadgets?

Whether you need help using your mobile phone, computer, tablet, or accessing the internet - we can help!

Contact Matthew at the Bulls Learning Hub on 06 327 0083 or email matthew.patterson@rangitikei.govt.nz to book in a time to answer all your technology-related questions.

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LICENSE YOUR HOUND!
DOG REGOS NOW DUE!**

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Pay in person:
Taihape Library, Hunterville
Village Bookshop, Marton Office
and Te Matapihi, Bulls.

For more information phone our
Customer Experience team on 0800 422 522

