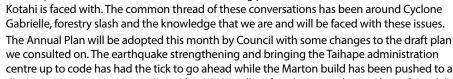
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ISSUE 69

FROM THE Mayor's Desk

Kia ora koutou, over the last few weeks I have received many requests from the rural community to look at roading damage and the concerns of the impacts of forestry. I have arranged a field trip for councillors and staff in the next fortnight to start a conversation around preventative maintenance and the funding pressures Waka



we consulted on. The earthquake strengthening and bringing the Taihape administration centre up to code has had the tick to go ahead while the Marton build has been pushed to a discussion in next year's Long Term Plan (LTP) to allow for a better understanding of our debt position and staffing needs. The Council have approved the Ngā Tawa walkway which was already in our projected budgets and we have agreed to the funding request for lighting on the Taihape Tennis and Netball courts if no other private funding is available.

This will result in a slight increase in the budget figures. Already we know that we will be facing some identified extra costs for next year from things such as roading, insurance costs and for the recruitment process for the replacement of our Chief Executive Peter Beggs following his resignation.

On Sunday I spent a few hours on some of the Taihape high country stations around Omatane on what was a perfect weather day looking at the Omatane Rural Water Supply Scheme. I would have happily paid money for the experience. The stunning scenery, beautiful bush canopy, the sight of deer running back into the tops and the condition of sheep and cattle in what has been a good growing season was spectacular. My thanks to Lance for making this happen.

My congratulations go to the many community groups working in our parks, reserves, heritage organisations and the volunteers working in our rural fire crews for your relentless work throughout our region – your community spirit makes this place home and the district is richer because of you. **Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitīkei.**

Donation made to Tararua District Council

Rangitīkei Mayor Andy Watson popped into the Tararua District Council's meeting last month to hand over a symbolic cheque as our district's contribution to help cyclone

recovery. Mayor Andy handed over a cheque for \$20,000 adding that it was "a mere drop in the bucket". "Having been through these sorts of events, it's important that the local government family bind together."

Tararua Mayor Tracey Collis says the Rangitīkei District is "very close to ours. It's got the same rural identity, the same large roading network. She says both districts have a great deal in common, with a smaller ratepayer base. We understand the sacrifice your people have made when we needed it most."



Tararua Mayor Tracey Collis with Rangitikei Mayor Andy Watson with the 'symbolic cheque'. Photo / Dave Murdoch

Otara Bridge Update

The following activities are underway this month to repair the bridge:

- Contractors commenced removal of five hangers on 6 June 2023. It is likely the five remaining hangers will be delivered to the test lab by 16 June 2023.
- The aim remains to lab test the additional hangers from the week starting 19 June 2023. Lab testing will continue for further hangers removed.
- The bridge has been surveyed. Survey information is being incorporated into our design and repair design for the buckled truss top chord is underway.

We anticipate the bridge will be open for traffic over the weekend. For more information visit **www.rangitikei.govt.nz/roads**



Thanks to the collaboration with Taihape Golf Club, Taihape
Area School, GolfNZ and the hard work from the Youth Advisory Team at RDC Community
Services the six week Golf Programme started on the 23 May has been a huge success!

With 20 signed up participants, the first session was tee'd off at the Taihape Golf course, with 16 out of the 20 showing up for the first session due to illness, it was a great turn out.

New sets of clubs have arrived to support this program and will continue to support our community by being available for use after the six week program has finished.

Cost and travel were the main factors in youth being able to participate for a lot of rangatahi who would love to have a go but couldn't due to these barriers. A conversation between GolfNZ and Taihape Area school gave the opportunity to apply for some funding through Tu Manawa Funding which has assisted in being able to run the Golf Programme.



New Toilet for Springvale Suspension Bridge

Don't get caught short! Having been successful in obtaining funding from the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment Tourism Infrastructure Fund, Rangitīkei District Council is working with Otupae Station Partnership to replace the current toilet facility by the Springvale Suspension bridge.

Starting the week 6 June 2023, the current toilet block will be moved off site so work on the site area can be completed. We are expecting a shiny new single pan dry vault Permaloo toilet which will be open for public use by the end of June.

If you are travelling the Taihape-Napier Road over the month of June, make sure you plan your drive accordingly and maybe go before you leave home!



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