

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 Kotahi is faced with. The common thread of these conversations has been around Cyclone Gabrielle, forestry slash and the knowledge that we are and will be faced with these issues. The Annual Plan will be adopted this month by Council with some changes to the draft plan 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 Rangitikei.**

Donation made to Tararua District Council

Rangitikei 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 Rangitikei 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



Taihape Youth Golf Programme Success

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, Rangitikei 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!

2am and worried?
Call our team of experienced Nurses and Paramedics. We're here to help with **FREE** health advice, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Healthline FREE health advice 24/7
0800 611 116

Healthline for free medical advice

You can contact Healthline for any questions about medication, health advice and guidance or if you're unwell and can't get to a doctor's appointment.

Freephone Healthline on 0800 611 116 to korero with a health professional, 24/7.

Visit www.healthline.govt.nz for more information.

**AVOID THE POUND
LICENSE YOUR HOUND!**

DOG REGOS NOW DUE!

Save money! Pay before 31 July 2023 to avoid a late payment fee.



Pay online:
www.rangitikei.govt.nz/dogs



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

