

FROM THE Mayor's Desk



Kia ora koutou, recently, Peter our Chief Executive has tendered his resignation to take up an appointment with Apollo Projects, a construction company based out of Christchurch. We will miss him but understand his desire to return to Christchurch for professional reasons and the need to be closer to family we understand. We wish him well and we are now focused on the recruitment of his replacement. The first stage of that has been to appoint Jackson Stone & Partners as the recruitment agency to help us with that search. On Friday I attended the John Turkington sponsored Rangitikei Youth awards held at Te Matapihi, which was an outstanding demonstration of the exceptional youth we have, congratulations to all the participants. I would like to acknowledge Rebekah Gribbon the winner of Overall Youth of the Year, your hard work and resilience is inspiring, congratulations!

Last week the Council staff organised a roadtrip for the Councillors to have a look at some of the issues we have with the Turakina Valley road conditions, and get an understanding of the investment that's needed to rectify these issues. With roading featuring heavily in the Annual Plan it is important for our Councillors to see and understand the scale of some of the issues we are facing.

I would also like to thank the large number of submitters who have engaged with us and for the valuable direction they gave as well as the staff involved in the consultation and collation of these reports.

Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.



Last week Council adopted the 2023/2024 Annual Plan after extensive community consultation with 272 written submissions and 27 verbal submissions presented at Taihape and Marton.

Council has made key decisions after listening to submissions. Firstly, Council is committed to the strengthening, compliance, heating and other improvements to the Taihape Town Hall and Administration Centre. Council has decided to refer the Marton build to the Long Term Plan to better understand the options, our requirements for staff and our debt positions. The decision to put in the footpath linking Ngā Tawa to town was challenging and ultimately made in terms of safety. The costings for that were already factored into our budgets. The additional budgetary items such as the lighting at the Taihape tennis and netball courts, if required, will bring slight increases to our budget. The average rate increase will be 9.01%. Some of the issues raised by submitters such as expanding the levels of service at swimming pools and with respect to the maintenance of some of our reserve areas will need to be a Long Term Plan discussion.

The adopted 2023/24 Annual Plan is available to view at www.rangitikei.govt.nz/annualplan2023-24

Funding secured to attend Outward Bound's Whakatipu course

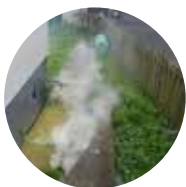


Outward Bound and The Mayors Taskforce for Jobs have secured funding to enable 14 rangatahi from MTFJ to attend Outward Bound's Whakatipu course. The Whakatipu course is for rangatahi aged 16 – 18 years old who are on vocational pathways to employment through Gateway, Trades Academy, Services Academy or who may be engaged in programmes delivered locally to help support their work readiness and transition into employment. These scholarships are available between 29th July – 5th August 2023 and are valued at \$3,496 per person which covers the full course fee for the eight day programme.

For more information on the Whakatipu programme or if you would like to nominate someone contact kkumar@outwardbound.co.nz.

www.outwardbound.turtl.co/story/whakatipu-programme

Smoke testing in Mangaweka and Hunterville



Starting this week, Council will be conducting smoke testing first in Mangaweka and then moving onto Hunterville. This is to identify any stormwater connections that should not be connected to the wastewater system. If smoke comes out of your house gutters during the testing, please do not be alarmed as it is a normal part of the process. The smoke used is non-toxic and harmless to humans, pets, and the environment. The results of the smoke testing will help us identify any problems in the wastewater and stormwater systems so we can make any necessary repairs or improvements. For more information about this process, please contact Dave Flintoff 0800 422 522.



Above: Award sponsors. Right: Overall Youth of the Year award winner Rebekah Gribbon with major sponsors John & Angela Turkington.

Rangitikei youth celebrated at the John Turkington Forestry Youth Awards

Congratulations to everyone involved in this year's Rangitikei District Council Youth Awards. This event is a great opportunity to acknowledge the fantastic young people we have in our District. We also would like to acknowledge our amazing sponsors who without their support these awards will not be possible. And the winners are...

- **Marton Rotary Leadership:** Winner - Lisa Cruywagen, Runner up - Regan Rawiri Chase
- **River Valley Eco Warrior:** Winner - Judy Sun Liu
- **Hautapu Pine Youth in Sport:** Winner - Reuben George Alabaster, Runner ups - Tara Raj and Emma Ferguson

- **The Downs Group Giving Back:** Winner - Erin Wihare, Runner up - Judy Sun Liu
- **New World Marton Youth for Youth:** Winner - Denise Pio, Runner up - Tiakina Reweti-Reid
- **Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa Youth in Apprenticeship:** Joint Winners - Dante Lye and Joseph William Coogan
- **Rangitikei Anglican Parish Change Maker:** Winner - Brylee Alex Toni Coley, Runner Up - Te Arawa Mataatua Potiki Ratana
- **Mahi Tahī – Youth in Employment:** Winner - Rebekah Gribbon, Runner up - Connor Claybourne Mātenga
- **Overall Youth of the Year Award:** Rebekah Gribbon.

Taihape Ngā Awa Block is nearly ready for kick off!

A well needed upgrade to the existing facilities the Ngā Awa Block has four changing rooms, each with toilets and showers, two smaller multi-purpose rooms, extra referee rooms, and a small commentators/observation room. The building will be fully accessible, there will be three public toilets, two of which include showers and a car park.

The opening and blessing of the facility will be confirmed later this month.



RANGITĪKEI COMMUNITY FUNDING ROADSHOW

"Come and meet with Rangitikei District Council, The Whanganui Community Foundation and DIA Community Operations to discuss funding opportunities for your community group."

MONDAY 10 JULY 2023

<p>TAIHAPE 11AM-12PM THE LOBBY 100A HAUTAPU STREET</p>	<p>BULLS 3-4PM MATAPIHI HALL 4 CRITERION STREET</p>
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