

RANGITIKEI Connect

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ISSUE 72

FROM THE Mayor's Desk



Kia ora koutou, it feels as though every Council report includes mention from me about Three Waters and the water entities. Government has now settled on 10 entities rather than four as the option and invited public and Council submissions. I submitted on behalf of Council and used the time to argue for the removal of the rural water schemes from their transition to the entity and questioned Government on detail, particularly how true regional representation will be facilitated. The reality is that Government is moving at a 'break-neck' pace to have the legislation in place before the house rises for the general election. We are truly on a set course dictated by Government.

On 24 July a presentation was held at Te Matapihi from The Office for Māori Crown Relations – Te Arawhiti. The meeting discussed the Mokai Patea treaty settlement negotiations. Mokai Patea are a grouping of four iwi – Ngāti Te Ohuake, Ngāti Hauti, Ngāti Tamakōpiri and Ngāti Whitikaupeka. Council and I will be particularly interested in the recognition of land locked lands and how they are to be accessed as for many, many years iwi have been denied any resolution on these matters. How iwi and Council work together and recognise the injustices of the past to forge future relationships is incredibly important.

Last week, I attended the Local Government Conference in Christchurch along with Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson and senior staff. This conference comes at a time where a number of Councils are questioning the approach and style of our representative body Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ). Some Councils have withdrawn their membership from the body and I feel that we are at a threshold moment. The election of the presidency will be a critical moment and the prospective nominees will be questioned around the need for change. I believe we need unity that has been challenged under "Three Waters" – we need to unite and move forward together and that will involve the need for changes in how the sector operates.

Peter Beggs (Chief Executive), Arno Benadie (Chief Operating Officer) and I met with a local contractor from Hunterville who has come up with some refinement/cost saving measures to cope with low value roading maintenance and repair on our minor rural roads. It is easy to say that there are difficulties with process and there are, but we need to find solutions. If there can be more empowerment given to local input, a greater working relationship with local farmers including the establishment of more local approved dump sites, we should at least look at these options ahead of our roading procurement. We will not get a better chance.

Finally, I attended the powhiri for the Spanish Women's Football Team in Palmerston North on 17 July. The FIFA Women's World Cup is a major world event and I hope that we as New Zealanders attend in numbers, enjoy the spectacle and support this fabulous event.

Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.



Taihape Ngā Awa Block official opening 12 August

A well needed upgrade to the existing facilities the Ngā Awa Block has been completed and is ready to be handed back to the community. The upgrade has provided 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 held on the 12th of August at 10am.

During the official opening of the Ngā Awa Block there will also be a tree planting to commemorate His Majesty King Charles the Third's Coronation.

We invite you to join us in celebrating the completion and opening of this fantastic addition to our Taihape Community.

Event Sponsorship Scheme funding closing soon!

The Event Sponsorship Scheme is a Council fund intended to support events in the district that help to develop community cohesion and reinforce economic growth. There are three main categories of events: high profile, community, or high profile community events. Applications are open to groups (not individuals) whose events take place within the Rangitikei, and that are not funded by the Rangitikei District Council ratepayers through other means.

Applications close midnight 4 August.

To apply go to www.rangitikei.govt.nz/fundingopportunities



Be Ready for Winter Bugs!

With lots of winter coughs and colds out there, it's good to be prepared.

Develop a winter plan for your whānau and employer for if you or whānau members become sick.

Build a winter kete and include:

- painkillers
- a thermometer
- tissues
- cold and flu medications
- enough food and household items for a few days
- the regular medicines you or your whānau will need.

Healthline is also a free telehealth service available if you want to talk with a health professional.

You can call Healthline on 0800 611 116 for trusted health advice, treatment and information about what to do next from nurses, paramedics, advisors, and doctors who can help with prescriptions any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

You can choose to speak with a Māori clinician if you're calling between 8am - 8pm interpreter services are available and NZ Relay support.

THE HAUTAPU RIVER PARKS COLLECTIVE

Planting Day

Calling on volunteers for Planting Day

Ngati Tamakopiri, Friends of Taihape and supporters, have joined forces to enhance and beautify Taihape's Hautapu River Parks.

This is the final of three annual plantings of 2000 native plants each, generously funded by the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI).

Come along, **9am-2pm Saturday 5 August** and be part of a fun Family Day with purpose. This year's planting will be beside the river.

Postponement Day (due to weather) Sunday 6 August

Thanks to MPI, Mokai Patea Services (MPS), for the lunch, and Mayor Andy for the sausages.

For more information 027 255 1409.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Come work for us!

Are you looking for work? Do you want to work for a family friendly and inclusive employer? We currently have a few jobs advertised on our website.

If this sounds like a place for you, check out our current vacancies www.rangitikei.govt.nz/vacancies

