

RANGITIKEI Connect

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ISSUE 74

FROM THE Mayor's Desk

Kia ora koutou, on 18 August our outgoing Chief Executive Peter Beggs left to take up his new position in Christchurch, Kevin Ross the Council appointment Interim Chief Executive took up the role on the following day. Thank you to Kevin for stepping in, it certainly makes things easy when you seem to know most of our locals, iwi and neighbouring Chief Executives. Applications closed last month to select the new Chief Executive and I have been advised by Jackson Stone, the recruitment agency, that there has been significant interest in the position.

With the upcoming national elections in less than eight weeks each political party has been parading their policies and initiatives, although it is cynical to say so there is an element of vote catching rather than attempts to deal with issues. On the 23 August, I travelled to Parliament to hear Ian McKelvie one of our MP's giving his valedictory speech as a retiring MP before the House rises. Ian's service to Local Government and then to the country has been incredibly impressive, he was the Mayor of the Manawātū District from 2002 to 2011 and then he was elected to be the National Representative for the Rangitikei from 2011 to now. We acknowledge the 21 years of service and wish him well - knowing Ian it is unlikely to be a total retirement.

Myself and Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson, attended the annual LGNZ Conference in Christchurch in July. Christchurch welcomed delegates with open arms, and it truly is a city reborn, the new conference centre is exceptional and the transformation of the central city, while not complete, is amazing. One of the more interesting sessions I attended was around Artificial Intelligence presented by Francis Valentine. AI has appeared over not much more than the last couple of years. The discussion is now not if it should happen but how it will affect us, the genie is truly out of the bottle. ChatGPT4 programmed initially in one computer language and in English can now converse in 95 languages including Te Reo and understands every known computer language and it has acquired these skills itself. What is even more scary is that it has learned to manipulate human behaviour to accomplish physical actions that it can't perform.

Government has now enacted or made into law the Three Waters legislation. The revised legislation has "stood up" 10 different water entities of which we are in Entity E made up of the Horizons Regional authorities. Who knows what will happen following the election? If National wins or forms Government in a negotiated partnership they have said that they will repeal and replace however as we don't know quite what that means all I can say is that interesting and challenging times lie ahead of us. Putting together our Council Long Term Plan in this uncertainty will be difficult.

Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.



Welcome to Interim Chief Executive Kevin Ross

Having previously completed a 26 year stretch with Whanganui District Council among a long list of other things, we are delighted to introduce Kevin Ross as the Interim Chief Executive (CE) for RDC.

Kevin first entered Local Government in 1980 as a Graduate Planner, fast forward a few years and a huge list of achievements and 2005 Kevin steps into the Whanganui District Council Deputy Chief Executive Role. For Kevin, the end result has been lots of careers rolled into one within the one organisation. Such a long career at Whanganui District Council means he's been through the tumultuous times of Te Runanga Pakaitore's much-publicised 79-day occupation of Moutoa Gardens in 1995. "That was my home during those days," he says. And he's worked with five mayors: Ron Russell; Doug Turney; Chas Poynter; Michael Laws; and Annette Main.

The role of an Interim Chief Executive is a critical one, it gives Council the time to go through a through recruiting process for the right person to fill the role, while allowing business as usual to continue.

Welcome to the Rangitikei Kevin, we are stoked to have you join us!



SH1/3 Ohakea, Manawatu-Whanganui Altered Road Layout

A new temporary roundabout and road layout will be in place on SH1/3 outside RNZAF Base Ohakea from the morning of Wednesday 30 August.

From this time, traffic accessing Base Ohakea from SH1/3 will be diverted through the new temporary roundabout onto Pukenui Temporary Rd. From late next week, all SH1/3 traffic will be diverted from the existing state highway alignment onto an additional new temporary road. This road layout shift is dependent on fine weather allowing this new road to be sealed.

Further information about this project can be found here:
www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/sh1-sh3-bulls-to-sanson

KŌRERO MAI

Do you have feedback you'd like to share about our services or facilities?

We've introduced a new form to make sharing feedback easier. Make sure to keep an eye out for the QR codes located at all Council sites and facilities which you can use to provide on the spot feedback as your experience happens. We'll regularly review, assess and action your feedback, including compliments, suggestions and complaints.

REMINDER: If you have an urgent issue, please call us on our 24/7 phone number, 0800 422 522. If you need to let us know that something needs to be repaired or another service carried out, please fill out our online Report it - Request for Service. This is monitored during office hours.
www.rangitikei.govt.nz/fixit



Have your say on Horizons Regional Public Transport Plan

Our region is home to people dotted between many diverse communities which people make connections between for a variety of reasons - visiting friends and whānau, work, education and more. The Regional Services Review is your way to let Horizons Regional Council know what new regional public transport options you want to make it easier to travel across and beyond our region.

Give us your thoughts by 11 September 2023 at www.haveyoursay.horizons.govt.nz



Our newest citizens receiving their certificates at Te Matapihi, Bulls Community Centre.

Welcome to our newest Citizens

Mayor Andy officially welcomed 13 new residents to the Rangitikei on Tuesday 29 August at a citizenship ceremony held in Te Matapihi, Bulls.

While many of our new citizens have called the Rangitikei home for some years, gaining citizenship has been an important part of them feeling like they truly belong.

Congratulations to everyone involved and thank you for choosing Rangitikei.

5 WEEK GOLF PROGRAMME

FREE EVENT

RANGATIRA GOLF COURSE
FRIDAYS | FROM 27 OCTOBER
3.30 - 5.30PM

To register call Kayla Hyland 027 316 2652 or Janette Smith (GolfNZ) 027 646 4046

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Rangitira GOLF NZ