

FROM THE Mayor's Desk



Kia ora koutou, on Sunday 17 September I had the pleasure of attending Te Matoro o te Tumuaki Tuawaru o te Haahi Rātana which was a meeting of the followers of the Rātana faith held in the Marton RSA and Citizens' Memorial Hall. This was an opportunity for the mana whenua of Marton being Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa to formally meet at a Church Service with the new Tumuaki, Sonny Tamou. The Memorial Hall was full to bursting and this was a very significant occasion for both Rātana and our iwi and I was very pleased to be able to represent Council. I attend numerous functions at Rātana and sometimes attend their Church Services in the Temple and I feel as though I am very much part of the community so it was nice to be able to sit alongside them and support them on Sunday.

At the moment all of New Zealand and Local Government are effectively in a holding pattern while we wait for the outcome of the general election. Whichever party is elected there is likely to be significant change in things such as the Resource Management Act and the provision of services within the Three Waters – wastewater, drinking water and stormwater. We are currently in the middle of a planning cycle called the Long Term Plan and the government position will be crucial to understanding what our responsibilities will be in these areas. If there is to be a change of government, which some of the media seem to predict, there will be an enormous number of changes that Council will have to work with. Often with elections, Local Government and Central Government people talk about "what can a new party or council do in the first 100 days?". This tends to be a catchphrase but in this case the first 100 days will be absolutely crucial in terms of our planning cycles. Both Council and staff literally wait with bated breath as to what their roles will be.

On top of that Council is also going through a process around who would deliver our roading maintenance contracts over the next nine years. Our contract currently sits with Higgins and while there are a limited number of contractors who would have the capacity to be able to deliver, I would love to see contracts awarded where local contractors can be part of those discussions. Being honest, the state of our roads are a huge concern to both myself and Council. The maintenance of them is dropping away and the amount of money that the government has to spend in this space is driving that change.

Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.

Kōrero
Mai



Taihape Town Hall Planning Workshop

Council is inviting Taihape Community and local facility users interested in the future design of the Taihape Town Hall to come along to this planning workshop.

- **Taihape Town Hall Planning Workshop**
- **Tuesday, 3 October 2023 - 5-7pm**
- **Kokako Street Hall, Taihape.**

We're seeking feedback on the town hall's purpose and future use, what the objectives of the building are, and what needs to be part of the scope to make sure the building will be usable for the next 50 years.

You can register your attendance through on our website, on Facebook or by ringing our Customer Services 0800 422 522.

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/news/2023/taihape-town-hall-planning-workshop



New!

New gear for Rangitikei Mixed Marshall Arts

Congratulations to Rangitikei Mixed Marshall Arts who have secured some new equipment, with funding support from Sport Whanganui and Tu Manawa!

This new equipment is a fantastic addition to the gym, which they share with Marton Boxing.



Te Wiki o Te Reo - Maori Language Week Success!

It was great to see local businesses getting behind the week and offering up free things for people who gave their orders in te reo māori!

A huge thank you to all involved, and to those people that gave it a go ka pai!

The draw for the hoodies was done Sunday 17 September congratulations to our winners.



The Daybreaker Rally comes to the Rangitikei District next weekend!

The 2023 Daybreaker Rally will be held on Friday 22 September and Saturday 23 September 2023.

The feature event of Friday will be the Ceremonial Start, which will be held in the Manchester Square in Feilding town centre with the iconic Clock Tower as the backdrop. The Ceremonial Start will include a driver signing session, driver interviews, car show featuring all competitor cars and the ceremonial start – with all rally cars going over the start ramp.

On Saturday, the rally teams will depart just prior to daybreak and head north to compete on eight gravel Special Stages in the lower Rangitikei and Manawātū districts.

The day will conclude with a publicity Super Special Stage at Manfeild followed by the official finish podium. This will be a great event to head along and watch, but please note, there will be a few road closures in place for the event.

For more details visit www.rangitikei.govt.nz/status/road-closures

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Te Matapihi School Holiday Programme

Stuck with ideas to keep the kids busy over the upcoming School holidays?

Te Matapihi Bulls Community and Events Centre have some exciting things planned! Make sure you check out what they have going on

www.facebook.com/tematapihibulls

FREE HOLIDAY FUN