

# RANGITIKEI Connect

www.rangitikei.govt.nz

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ISSUE 76

## FROM THE Mayor's Desk



Kia ora koutou, the Daybreaker Rally kicked off in Feilding on 22 September. Manawātū Mayor Helen and myself were given the incredibly important tasks of flagging the cars on their way. I was stunned at the number of spectators who came to watch the ceremonial start. People queued for the best part of one and a half hours to get the signatures of drivers like Hayden Paddon and Shane van Gisbergen.

The public interest in rallying and motorsport was amazing. The rally travelled over both Manawātū and Rangitikei roads and we are often told they are the best and most challenging rallying roads in New Zealand. The following day between 8am and midday the rally arrived in Taihape where all the cars stopped for a service session – this gave everybody the chance to have a look at the machinery and especially the scale of the work teams and pit crew have to put in. Of the 92 cars that had entered most of them had got to Taihape with only a few withdrawals. The great thing was that the rally coincided with the Spring Fling in Taihape where there were numerous stalls, displays and activities on the main streets and around the town. Spring Fling is organised annually by the Taihape Community Development Trust and is a tremendous showcase of talent and entertainment and I thank Pania and her team for making it possible. For me it was the chance to grab a hot pie, something to drink and to wander the streets talking to people and spending time looking at the rally cars.

I am writing this on the 2nd of October, the day that voting opens for the general elections. I have been to a couple of Meet the Candidates nights, listened to numerous debates and read the huge number of promises that every political party has made. Whether they will all be honoured in the outcome of the election is a moot point, however promises have been made and we can hold whoever gets into power to account. I would encourage everybody to go and vote – it is no point complaining if you don't have a say!

Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.

## Enrol. Vote. Be heard.

### Rēhita. Pōti. Whakaputaina ō whakaaro.

#### Advanced voting has opened in this year's General Election

Voting is now open and there are more than 400 voting places open today!

Find out where you can vote near you by going online to [www.map.vote.nz/voting-places](http://www.map.vote.nz/voting-places). The times and dates that voting places are open may vary. Please check the hours of your chosen voting place before you go to vote.

#### You can vote from now until 7:00pm on 14 October.

This week you should also be receiving your EasyVote card which will make voting much simpler. You don't need a reason or special approval to vote early – advance voting is for everyone.

Not yet enrolled to vote? You can enrol and vote at the same time when you head to a voting place, or enrol online before you vote. [www.vote.nz](http://www.vote.nz)



## Introducing our new community addition!

Our Waka Tākaro Play Trailer is a free resource for our Rangitikei community, to promote play and support healthy communities.

The play trailer is filled with a wide range of play equipment, including tug-of war, giant jenga, kites, parachute, balls, backyard cricket, building blocks and much more.

The trailer is a partnership between Rangitikei District Council and the Taihape Community Development Trust, made possible via the Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa fund.

Bookings can be made online or through our Community Wellbeing team.

Phone: 0800 422 522 or taihapelib@rangitikei.govt.nz to make a booking.

Please note the trailer is not for private use.

[www.rangitikei.govt.nz/waka-takaro](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/waka-takaro)



By Paul Chaffe.

## Lot's of learning and laughing in the St Johns Youth Programs

The development programmes we run for young people - ages 6 to 18 - have the right balance of education and fun. We focus on teaching first aid, health care, leadership, and life skills, but we also make sure that our youth members look forward to their time at St John.

Penguins follow a course of nine badges, each divided into main topics. For each badge that's completed, the student is awarded a colourful sew-on badge and matching certificate.

This time our students got their environment badge. This badge focuses on the conscious responsibilities we owe our surroundings and the negative impact of humans on ecosystems. Cadets usually engage in discussions and activities that will encourage positive attitudes and raise awareness of the actions we can take to preserve the environment.

The cadets received a Kowhai tree from Rangitikei District Council on the completion of their Environment badge. Congratulations to everyone involved!

[www.stjohn.org.nz/what-we-do/youth-programmes](http://www.stjohn.org.nz/what-we-do/youth-programmes)



## School Holiday Fun!

School holiday programmes held at Taihape Lobby, Marton Library and Te Matapihi have provided hours of fun for some of our local tamariki. Between making crafts and checking out virtual reality headsets there is something for everyone.

Make sure you check it out before school goes back!

[www.rangitikei.govt.nz/library](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/library)



## Petition for a Citizens Initiated Referendum.

Should the New Zealand government fund road maintenance at levels sufficient to reverse the current decline in the average age and condition of our national state highway network?

This question has been put forward by New Plymouth District Council, as part of a petition for a Citizens Initiated Referendum.

If you'd like to sign this petition and call for a referendum, you can do so at the Taihape Library, Marton Library and Te Matapihi.

Kōrero Mai



## Swimming Season has started!

**TAIHAPE SWIM CENTRE:**  
From Monday 9 October  
Mondays 6am – 6pm  
Tuesdays 8.30am – 6pm  
Wednesdays 6am – 6pm  
Thursdays 8.30am – 6pm  
Fridays 6am – 6pm  
Sat/Sun 10am – 5pm

**MARTON SWIM CENTRE:**  
From Monday 9 October  
Weekdays 6am – 6pm  
Weekends 10am – 5pm