

FROM THE Mayor's Desk



Kia ora koutou, this weekend saw the running of the 25th anniversary of the Shemozzle. The beauty of the event is that I can use the name "Shemozzle" and virtually everybody in the Rangitikei would know what I'm talking about. I have never seen so many people at the Shemozzle or any other event at the same time in the number of years I've been involved. The turnout was well into the thousands of people with, I think, in excess of 650 competitors spread across the various age groups and the shepherds Shemozzle race. It was a real thrill to be there, the weather was stunning and I got to talk to so many people from outside of the district who had travelled to this event because they'd heard about it on the national grapevine. The committee that organised it absolutely deserves full credit – it is professionally run and they had the resources to deal with any event that played out during the day. At the time of writing this I'm not aware of how the after-match function went but I'm guessing there were a few people wanting to stay in Hunterville the night to watch the All Blacks on the big screen in the park on Sunday morning.

The other event that I also attended on Saturday was the 90th anniversary of the Tutaenui Rural Women. The Tutaenui Rural Women is one of the standout franchises, if that is the correct word, for Rural Women throughout New Zealand. Membership is incredibly strong and has been for the best part of 90 years. Fiona Gower is a recent past National President. The Tutaenui Hall was full of photographs spread out over those 90 years with many of the names of early membership still being reflected in the local rural families of today. It was a real pleasure for Beth and I to be there – unfortunately juggling the clash of events meant that I had to be an early leaver.

Recently, there has been a lot of local talk around the speed and road restrictions on State Highway 1 just south of Utiku. The slumping of the road is certainly not a new event, it has been ongoing for decades. What is new is the increasing risk of a major earth movement which could cut State Highway 1 and the main trunk rail line off for an extended period. Waka Kotahi are under urgency working on the business case for both reforming and/or replacement of the section of road and a "Plan B" in case of failure. Our concern is that if there was to be a major closure of State Highway 1 that our roading network would not support a diversion locally and any diversion would probably need to be State Highways 3, 4 or potentially State Highway 2.

There has also been a lot of discussion in Taihape around the rebuild of the Taihape Area School. It is in the public arena that the Ministry of Education and School Board have asked Council if we can work with them to provide a site for the temporary relocation of the school for a period of what could well be a couple of years. It is important to note that this request has been driven by the Ministry and Board and at the moment we are not in the position to engage with the user groups of the park for instance, however we will not make any decisions without consultation with the community user groups. Our principal driver is to support education in Taihape – we intend to do all we can to make sure that the rebuild of the school is on track and that the school community is supported in any way we can.

Increasingly, I as Mayor have been asked to spend time in Wellington as part of a small select group of Mayors to sit on roading, the Future of Local Government and an interface with the new Government. While unfortunately it takes time away from some of the local Council issues it is incredibly important and certainly increases our chance of assistance from the Government. National Council's most recent meeting recommended providing regular formal updates from LGNZ to member councils. I will be providing four-monthly reports to Council on these matters. These reports provide progress updates on strategic goals and are designed to help ensure all Elected Members are across LGNZ's work and able to give feedback.

Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.



Contract for Otago Bridge strengthening work awarded

The contract for the strengthening work to the Otago Bridge has now been awarded to Riverside Construction Ltd. Manawatu District Council and Rangitikei District Council are jointly undertaking work to strengthen the bridge to restore it to its previous weight limit of 46 tonnes at 30 km/h since it was damaged earlier this year.

Riverside Construction will commence manufacturing the components between now and Christmas, and plan to be on site on Monday, 29 January 2024. Work is then anticipated to be completed by Monday, 15 April 2024. During this period the bridge will be closed between 9:00am and 2:00pm. This will allow the mail and school traffic to get through during this time.

Riverside will advise Emergency Services and work closely with them in the event of an emergency. Dates and times of closures will be advertised by Riverside in the local newspaper and on the radio. There will also be a letter drop and signage in place advising of the dates and times of the closures onsite.

The following restrictions continue to apply:

- Weight limit of six tonnes and speed limit posted on the bridge.
- One vehicle to cross the bridge at a time.
- Vehicles to travel central to the bridge.

For more information please email comms@rangitikei.govt.nz

Rates are due on Monday, 20 November!

Make sure to keep an eye on your email or letterbox for your next rates instalment notice. If you pay by automatic payment, make sure your payment amount is correct so you keep your rate payments up to date.

You can also pay online:

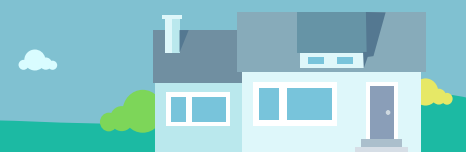
www.rangitikei.govt.nz/paymyrates

And for more payment options, visit:

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/rates

If you would prefer your rates to be emailed to you in the future, please enter your details via this link:

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/ratesbyemail



Join us for a fun and festive day in Marton!

9am - 3pm, Saturday 25th November 2023

Broadway, Follett Street and Marton Park

This year all of the market stalls will be located in the main streets of Marton, including North Broadway, South Broadway and Follett Street. In Marton Park we are creating a mini 'Inflatable World' complete with a giant slide, climbing tower, bubble ball games, ninja obstacle courses and bouncy castles for the young ones.

Entertainment will consist of 'The Biggest Little Circus' from Wellington, Japanese drums, Brazilian drums/dance and a Samoan/Pacifica dance group as well as three different bands playing throughout the day in the Village Green, plus much, much more...

[Facebook icon](https://www.facebook.com/MartonMarketDay) **MartonMarketDay**

For more info email: events@rangitikei.govt.nz