

RANGITIKEI Connect

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ISSUE 79

FROM THE Mayor's Desk

Kia ora koutou, around a month ago following the Daybreaker Rally I drove the Watershed Road to look at the road conditions. The road was in poor condition but in my opinion the rally was not the issue, the damage is deep seated. Last week Cr Fi Dalgety raised concerns to say that the Watershed Road is not suitable for 4WD vehicles, something that I doubted so again I drove the extended loop of 175km (Watershed, Koeke and Pohonui Roads and the Turakina Valley) to see for myself. Fi was right, the deterioration has been dramatic in the Pohonui and Watershed Roads in particular. How we deal with rural roads will be one of our biggest issues over the next 5 years and we will need Government's increased support.

8 November is the anniversary of the Rātana Faith with the 8th being the day on which TW Rātana had the vision and connection with the Holy Spirit in 1918. As such this is a very special day for Rātana and I attended along with a number of our new Council staff, the Church Service at the Temple. The day also gave a connection to our Council with the new Tumuaki (leader) of the Rātana Faith Manuao Te Kohamutunga Tamou, Tumuaki Tuawaru (VIII) O Te Haahi Rātana "Sonny". It is a privilege and honour to be able to attend Rātana and the upcoming birthday celebrations for TW Rātana in January will be incredibly interesting with all of the new political leaders of the country expected to be present. This may be our chance, on behalf of Rātana, to lobby for assistance at Rātana.

On 16 and 17 November, I and our Interim CE Kevin Ross will be attending what is called Zone 3 in Central Hawke's Bay. Zone 3 is where the Mayors, CEs and some Elected Members from Councils spread throughout the Central North Island meet with Ministry officials to look at local issues. The front of that conversation will involve Cyclone Gabrielle effects and how we engage with the new Government's direction (when we find out what the new direction is). I will arrive back on the 17th just in time to see the lights turn on at the new Christmas Tree on the Green Space in Marton. This 8 metre high tree has been funded by a number of local businesses and schools organised through the Marton Development Group. Congratulations to all of those involved – it will be great to see a Christmas tree once again in the main street of one of our towns.

Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.



Local Legend Bailee Hoera

On Gumboot Friday many of our people from around the District raised money for I AM HOPE, a fantastic organisation that provides all sorts of mental health services to young people (including free counselling sessions). Many of our fantastic workplaces, schools, organisations, and community groups around the district participated and raised money for our rangatahi.

One of our local legends went that extra mile - literally, Bailee walked from her house in Marton to Cairnmuir Cottage near Mangaweka, a total distance of 59km, to raise money for Gumboot Friday!

In the lead-up to the walk, Bailee drove the route she would take and started wondering if maybe she's bitten off more than she could chew. "Perhaps I should have just walked to Bulls", she says laughing. But having told some of her customers from her workplace, Moomaa Cafe and Design, she knew she had to go through with it.

She set off at 4:30am with her partner, Sam, who accompanied her for the first 10km before he headed back to get their son ready for school. Bailee was joined by her Dad in Hunterville, where she stopped to rest, and he became her safety driver for the rest of the walk. The weather played all sorts of havoc and it really was the epitome of four seasons in one day, as she was hit by a hail shower for a period of time. The only really hairy bit, she says, was the hills coming into Mangaweka. Her Dad became a spotter for her to ensure that she would be safe from oncoming traffic.

Having had friends and family impacted by mental illness, Bailee is super passionate about the cause and along the way, she got heaps of people tooting their support to her, and even received some cash donations on her trip. This spurred her on even more to complete the journey. This massive effort took a little 9 hours and 40 minutes to complete, and she has raised \$600 to go towards I AM HOPE.



Official Launch of the Marton Christmas Tree

Lock Friday 17th of November in your calendars!

We will officially turn on the lights of Marton's newest and largest Christmas Tree at 8.30pm in the Village Green.

Join us from 8pm at the Village Green for a couple of short speeches to celebrate the new tree and completion of the stage, followed by a blessing of the green space by Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa.

The tree would not have been possible without the most amazing support from our wonderful community.

Building and Resource Consenting over the Christmas/New Year period

- Any Building and Resource Consents submitted after 19 December 2023 will not start to be processed until 11 January 2024 due to the Christmas/New Year break.
- If you want your Building and/or Resource Consent to be processed before Christmas (barring any further information requests which stop the working day processing clock), it needs to be submitted no later than 21 November 2023.



Has your water started to change colour or taste?

It's summer and the water consumption in Marton is high. This means that the water levels in the Marton Dams are dropping and we experience algae blooms, and, for some residents, the drinking water has changed. While the treated drinking water that comes from the dam is completely safe to drink, we know that it can look, taste and smell a little unpleasant.

We're currently working on plans to ensure that everyone in our district has access to consistent, high quality drinking water. This includes the drilling of a new bore hole, as well as designing and refurbishing the water treatment plant. This project is the foundation of our Marton Water Supply Strategy which you can read more about on our website.

In the meantime, if you would like alternative drinking water, you can access free filtered water year-round from the Marton RSA and Citizens Memorial Hall.

If you are experiencing water changes, we would like to hear from you. Please call 0800 422 522 or fill out a Request-It form to report any changes in your area.

Rates are due on Monday, 20 November!

Pay your rates online: www.rangitikei.govt.nz/paymyrates

Or for more payment options, visit: www.rangitikei.govt.nz/rates



FREE ENTRY

Marton Market Day

is back for 2023!

9am - 3pm, Saturday 25th November 2023
Broadway, Follett Street and Marton Park

- ★ 200+ stalls
- ★ Circus Trapeze Act
- ★ Mechanical Bull
- ★ Giant Slide
- ★ Ninja Obstacle Courses
- ★ Bouncy Castle
- ★ Bubble Ball
- ★ Live Music
- ★ Delicious Food Stalls
- ★ Retail Stores
- ★ Street Entertainment

Facebook: [MartonMarketDay](https://www.facebook.com/MartonMarketDay) **Twitter:** [#martonnz](https://twitter.com/martonnz) **Website:** www.martonnz.com

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