

RANGITIKEI Connect

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ISSUE 82

FROM THE Mayor's Desk

Welcome to 2024. Everybody needed the Christmas break - the pressures that had been on staff and councillors for some time had been very high and the early feeling back this year is one of positivity, we are looking forward to the challenges of delivering the Long-Term Plan and other things such as Rooding Procurement.



Over the break Beth and I attended the Christmas Day Community Lunch in Marton put on by Marton Christian Welfare and Emily Rayner and supported by a number of sponsors. Normally I attend Christmas Day lunches in Taihape and Marton on alternate years - this year was Marton and we enjoyed being part of that.

Last week, I spent four days at Rātana which is an annual gathering of Morehu (the followers of the Rātana faith) to celebrate the birthday of TW Rātana. This year it was also a process giving recognition to the new Tumuaki of the Rātana Church. The crowds were enormous, probably the biggest gathering I've seen at Rātana for some time. Part of the reason for this was the concern nationally, from the government and coalition partners around the use of Te Reo Māori language and the questioning from the government around a review of the Treaty settlement. Prior to the government being received there were numerous speakers on the paepae essentially saying that if government went down the path of a review of the Treaty principles they would use every means they had available to fight that government position. In their view, the significant progress that has been made over the last few years incorporating Te Reo Māori into a standardised usage in some shape or form with government departments has been fantastic and they will fight to see that it is retained. That was the scene that was set ahead of the Prime Minister coming on. Mr Luxon took care to establish very quickly that this was not the intention of government - it was part of the coalition discussion with ACT and the government would not be progressing further. This conversation was fairly well received.

On 19 December, I attended Suze Redmayne's maiden speech at Parliament. This represents a new era for our connection with central government in the Rangitikei. Suze spoke incredibly well and has followed up her speech by becoming actively involved in a number of issues related to the Rangitikei. Suze is a breath of fresh air in this space.

Finally, we are working on finalisation of the Long-Term Plan Consultation document and the process we will use to engage with the community. We are looking to be able to reveal that position in February. **Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.**



Arborist work at Frae Ona Park completed

Following Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023, a large oak tree in Frae Ona Park came down into the duck pond, where it laid until a couple of weeks ago. Council contractors Able Tree Care have now removed the tree and completed some other remedial work of the area to improve the line of sight for pedestrians walking on Calico Line.

As you can see from the image, the arborist work has improved things greatly!



Aerial spraying of Rangitikei River

Horizons Regional Council will be doing aerial spraying by helicopter of the Rangitikei River during February and March.

The spraying will specifically target vegetated gravel beaches of the river between Parewanui No 2 Drain and Rangitikei River Road, Rewa.

Flying dates will vary subject to workload and flying/weather conditions.

If you require further information, please call Horizons 0508 800 800.

Southern Ward by-election

Rangitikei District Council is required to hold a by-election for the Southern Ward, following the resignation of Cr Jarrod Calkin on 7 December 2023.

Council opened nominations for the by-election on 18 January 2024. Nominations must be submitted to the deputy electoral officer/official before noon on **Thursday, 15 February 2024.**

To stand as a Southern Ward Councillor, candidates must be:

- a New Zealand citizen (by birth or naturalisation ceremony); and
- enrolled as a Parliamentary elector (anywhere in New Zealand); and
- Nominated by two electors whose name appear on the electoral roll within the respective ward the candidate is standing for.

The election will be held between Thursday, 21 March 2024 and Friday, 12 April 2024.

If you are interested in standing for Council and have any questions about the nomination process, or being a Councillor in general, please call us on 0800 422 522 or see our website www.rangitikei.govt.nz/by-election-2024-southern-ward.



Summer regional events bring in record number of visitors

Our District recently hosted five large events that brought in thousands of visitors to our district. Some of these events exceeded expectation bringing in record numbers!

The Marton Country Music Festival was an amazing success under the new ownership of Michael and Ashley Tipping. Over 600 campervans and caravans descended on Sir James Wilson Park for three days of country music. We're excited to see what 2025 brings!

The 100th Rātana Festival was held, which also commemorates the birthday of Tahupotiki Wiremu Rātana, the founder of the church and Rātana Pa. The week features nationally relevant political discussion, as well as whānau centric entertainment for visitors.

Kiwiburn took place between 24 and 29 January near Hunterville, which is styled after the Burning Man event in the United States and is the largest congregation of alternative lifestyles in the country.

The Turakina Highland Games celebrated its 159th year on Saturday, 27 January, and despite some wind and rain, still attracted a large amount of competitors and visitors. Congratulations to the organisers of the games, who have once again produced an excellent event.

NZ Gumboot Day took place in Taihape at Memorial Park also on Saturday, 27 January, with speed shearing events held on the Friday night as well. The day itself was full of activities and live music, as well as the North Island Gumboot Throwing championships.



TE MATAPIHI COMMUNITY MOVIES

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

7 February	The Walk
6 March	A tourist guide to love
3 April	Top Gun Maverick
1 May	Go Karts
5 June	The Volcano - Rescue from Whakaari
3 July	Rams
7 August	The dish
4 September	True spirit
2 October	Lift
6 November	Lady driver

FREE
EVENTS

START 2PM

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www.rangitikei.govt.nz/library



While our water levels are not critically low, we're asking everyone to make small changes to help save water!

There are some simple things will help us conserve water over the next few weeks, and hopefully reduce the possibility of water restrictions being needed.

Check out our website for conservation tips;

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/news/2024/water-conservation-january-2024

Cut your shower
by 2 minutes

