

FROM THE Mayor's Desk



Kia ora koutou, on 17 February I attended the opening of the new Taihape Hato Hone St John Ambulance Station. The new centre provides fantastic facilities for the 24 hour two-man station covering a lot of State Highway 1 and all of the Taihape community from Ohingaiti to nearly Turangi. The need for a new centre was identified many many years ago and for the last six or seven years, that I know of, the community has been raising money and preparing the arguments for Government and St John funding. Well the great news is that day arrived on Saturday, there was a huge turnout of St John staff both locally and nationally. I would like to acknowledge Sandy Rowland from Taihape St John – this has been her mission and she was the one who drove the fundraising as part of the Taihape Area Committee. Sandy, myself and the community thank you, you absolutely deserve this new centre.

At the opening there were a large number of sponsors acknowledged including Motukawa and Rimaniui Stations, the duck race organised by Matt Hobbs and supported by the community together with funding raised by the Taihape Motorcycle Club with their fun runs over the last couple of years. Harry Lazarus was the driver for the motorcycle fundraising events and the Motorcycle Club was presented with a plaque recognising their efforts by St John nationally at the opening.

I have highlighted how our various communities get behind new facilities in the district on a number of occasions and whether it's Hunterville, Taihape, Marton or Bulls each community has these publicly spirited people willing to volunteer their time and get in behind these fantastic projects. What is incredibly disappointing is that the efforts in Marton by the Tutaenui Restoration Society at the B and C Dams, which accounts for tens of thousands of hours of public work, have been marred recently by graffiti. For those people in our community who did the graffiti I would welcome the chance to have a discussion with you around how much work was put in to make these facilities what they are and if there is any way that I can work with you to clean up the mess you have left behind.

There are a couple of major Council events happening at the moment – first is the by-election to get a new Southern Ward Councillor. We have received nominations from four people for that vacancy and no doubt they will be out in the community looking to raise their profiles over the next few weeks with the final date for the election process being 12 April.

The other event is the Long Term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP), Council is looking to adopt the LTP this month so March will be dominated by in excess of 20 public meetings to discuss the implications of what Council intends to do, how it will be funded and also be able to talk about how we fit in with Government's position. We will put out a list of consultation meetings over the next few weeks and I would urge you to attend one of these public meetings or at the very least if you want to discuss certain subjects please don't hesitate to contact me. **Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.**



Above: Opening Day at the new Taihape Hato Hone St John Ambulance Station.
Left: Harry Lazarus on behalf of the Motorcycle Club was presented with a plaque recognising their efforts by St John nationally at the opening.

Southern Ward By-election receives four nominations

Nominations for the by-election closed at midday today (15 February 2024). Council's Deputy Electoral Officer, Carol Gordon advised that "four nominations were received which means there will be an election for this ward. The nominated candidates are:

- Mark **Anderson**
- David **Christison**
- Gail **Reid**
- Paul **Sharland**

In late 2023 Jarrod Calkin resigned from his role as Councillor for the Southern Ward meaning a by-election needed to be undertaken.

Voting documents will be sent to eligible voters in the Southern Ward from 21 March 2024 and voting will close at 12pm on 12 April 2024.

We encourage all those eligible to vote to make sure they do; this is your opportunity to have input into the voice at council who will be representing your community.



Regional Land Transport Plan | Mid-term review 2024

Help Horizons improve the way people and products move across the region by having your say in this mid-term review of the current RLTP.

Land transport affects everyone in the Horizons Region, so Horizons Regional Council want to hear what our communities think about our strategic direction and investment areas for the next 10 years of the plan.

Make your submission before **5pm, 11 March 2024**. As this is a public submission, you'll also have the chance to speak to your submission at our hearings in April if you choose.

haveyoursay.horizons.govt.nz/rltp2024

Kōrero Mai



Mt View Cemetery Developments

Anyone who has loved ones resting at Mt View Cemetery may be interested to know what's happening up the top of the cemetery.

Our Parks and Reserves team have been working with the local RSA and Veteran Affairs New Zealand on a new plot for those who have served in the defence forces.

Not only that, an ashes niche wall will be going in this area too for those who have loved ones cremated, with Veteran's Affairs New Zealand providing funding.

Approximately half the plot will be set aside for veterans, whilst the other half will be for the general public.

Our contractors Andrew Morris Concrete and Works have laid down an accessible path for the new plot.



Taihape Memorial Park Courts

There's been a fresh lick of paint put on the netball and tennis courts at Memorial Park in Taihape!

The surface is anti-slip, so it will help to provide players with a bit more grip and stability during games.

We must say, they're looking flash!



Do A Duathlon Series - Marton

The first of four duathlons for kids kicked off on the 14 February at Tutaenui Reservoir and is happening every Wednesday through until March 6. This is a great way to get kids active - you don't have to do them all, it's free to enter. Age groups from 5yrs to 13+ years. If your child is interested in having a go contact kym.skerman@rangitikei.govt.nz

WINNERS NOTIFIED!

Make your rates payments *Easy As!*

Our winners have been drawn for the Easy As! promotion and they have all been contacted and advised.

All up, we had 48 entries for direct debits and 65 entries for emails, which is a great take up!

Thank you to everyone who took part.