

RANGITIKEI Connect

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ISSUE 86

FROM THE Mayor's Desk



Kia ora koutou, it is with sadness that I note the deaths of two local people – Lesley Leary, the past Mayoress of Rangitikei, and Andre Mason, husband of past Councillor and Member of Parliament, Soraya Peke-Mason. Lesley and Andre have been a huge part of our district and their respective communities. My thoughts are with their families.

As has been reported earlier, there is a by-election to replace Councillor Jarrod Calkin who resigned. I thank the candidates who are standing in this election for stepping up and wish them well. Voting closes on 12 April and the successful candidate will be briefed to take an active part in our LTP deliberations. I thank the Bulls Community Committee for arranging a Meet the Candidates night recently at Te Matapihi.

For several years Council has been part of the "TUIA" programme – a Local Government New Zealand mentoring relationship between a young rangatahi and the Mayor. This year Nyssa Nepe has taken up that position. Nyssa will be formally introduced to Council at a later date. Nyssa works for Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa here in Marton and has already worked with me at the NZ Rural Games in Palmerston North as part of the powhiri process.

The Ford Ranger NZ Rural Sports Awards Dinner was held recently and Bronwyn Troon from Taihape was a recipient of the Volunteer Award for her support to schools/community and especially recognised for her leadership in the area of gumbboot throwing.

The Long Term Plan (LTP) meetings are currently being held across the district and I urge people to attend where possible, or take the time to understand what Council is proposing to do over the next 10 years and who will fund it by way of rates. The average rate rise is 11.5% which is high and will cause hardship for some people. The 11.5% increase is about average for Councils across New Zealand and reflects the increased costs and Government direction that we are being faced with. Your submissions are important and will be considered carefully before a final position is taken in June this year. Myself and Councillors are making every effort so that we can talk with as many people as possible to help with the submission process.

Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.



Southern Ward by-election closes soon

Following the resignation of Councillor Jarrod Calkin in December 2023, Rangitikei District Council is required to hold a by-election for the Southern Ward.

The voting period has been open for just over a week, and so far we've had 46 returns (as from Tuesday 2 April), which is just 1.92 percent of eligible voters.

Voting closes at noon on Friday, 12 April, so make sure you get your votes in before then.

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/by-election-2024-southern-ward



One of our newest citizens Selena Solipo (Samoa) receiving her certificate from Mayor Andy Watson.

New citizens welcomed

Last month, 11 people were celebrated at a Citizenship Ceremony held at Te Matapihi in Bulls! They have called Rangitikei home for years now, but have only just officially become New Zealand citizens.

Congratulations to all those who took part in the ceremony. And thank you for choosing Rangitikei as your home.



Why is it important to rinse your recycling? A couple of reasons!

1. Only clean items can be recycled (unrinsed recycling can cause contamination in recycled products and cause quality issues).
2. It helps to prevent wasps and bees nests forming at our transfer stations, which are hazardous for the staff and users of the facilities.

If you can do your part and rinse your recycling, it will help reduce the chances of getting stung!



Otara Bridge Update

Work on bridge strengthening is continuing. Surface preparation is complete and the contractors are welding steel plates to the bottom and top of the horizontal beam. These plates are being treated inside and outside to prevent corrosion.

The bridge continues to be closed between 9am - 3pm each day and the following restrictions still 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.

It's anticipated that it will be completed by the end of April.

WHERE'S IT @

RANGITIKEI

CONSULTATION ON OUR LONG TERM PLAN CLOSES SOON

We've had over 306 submissions so far, please make sure you have your say. Submissions close at 5pm, Sunday 7 April 2024.

WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO?

Refer to our consultation document for the full details on these three key choices.



KEY CHOICE 1 | MARTON POOL

Should we open the Marton pool all year round?



KEY CHOICE 2 | KERBSIDE COLLECTION

How do you want to roll out the kerbside collection requirements?



KEY CHOICE 3 | MARTON MAIN STREET UPGRADE

Should we revitalise the Marton Town Centre?

To find more information scan the QR code above or visit our website:

- Visit our website www.rangitikei.govt.nz
- Follow us in Facebook - www.facebook.com/RangitikeiDC
- Contact our Council staff by calling **0800 422 522** or contact an Elected Member
- Email us at info@rangitikei.govt.nz
- Attend one of our **Community Engagement Events**

WHAT ELSE ARE WE CONSULTING ON?

- Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2024/25
- Draft Development Contributions Policy
- Draft Rates Remission Policy
- Draft Revenue and Financing Policy
- Draft Significance and Engagement Policy

Marton Harvest Festival

FOOD DRINK STALLS MUSIC

Join us for a day to celebrate the incredibly talented artisans, food and beverage producers locally and regionally and to enjoy the harvest in the myriad forms it takes in our region.

Home brewing competition to celebrate Marton being the Malt capital of NZ
Giant Pumpkin and Pumpkin Pie competition | Around 150 stalls
Live music | Inflatable activities and rides for kids
Celebrity **Te Radar** to MC the day and competitions

Sir James Wilson Park, Marton
10am-3pm | Sunday 7th April 2024

