

RANGITIKEI Connect

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ISSUE 87

FROM THE Mayor's Desk

Kia ora koutou, the weather could not have been better for the Rangitikei, first the Harvest Festival was a stunner of a day, attracting huge crowds and either side of that time we had the very much needed autumn rain.

The rural community has, and is, facing challenging times with production, prices and costs and while the rain does not provide protection against these things it brings optimism, relief and hope.

The Harvest Festival was such a huge success, free entry, free attraction rides and huge crowds. Thanks Kym for the organising and thanks to the host of volunteers who made the festival the success that it was. For those fit and healthy people who on festival day rode in the Marton Rotary "Pedal for Pleasure" bike ride, congratulations and thanks to Tony Ward the principal sponsor. I guess that the prize of a La-Z-Boy chair is a great reward after what may have been an 80 km ride.

The results are in, Council welcomes Paul Sharland as the new Southern Ward Councillor. Paul comprehensively won the election and is due our congratulations, but I would also like to acknowledge Mark Anderson, Gail Reid and Dave Christison for standing. The challenge will now be for Paul to get up to speed ahead of the Council Long Term Plan deliberations that have to be made.

Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei



Scarecrow love

The Marton Scarecrow competition saw lots of creative entries this year, with RDC even getting in on the fun with our own 'Ben from Comms' creation.

We saw a lovely post on Facebook from someone about a handwritten note that they had been left on their scarecrow by a young girl. It turns out she'd left several notes to people, saying how much that she loved their scarecrows. We managed to track the girl down, Emma Ellery, who was visiting from Tauranga and we gave her a few gifts to take home with her in appreciation of her kindness. Ka pai, Emma!



Emma Ellery with her Mum, Nana and 'Ben from Comms' scarecrow.



Marton Harvest Festival success

Giant Pumpkin winner - 578kg

The Harvest Festival was a fantastic day with great feedback from the community, stallholders and food vendors who were involved.

With an estimated over 10,000 people having attended over the course of the day it was a huge success. The major attractions were the free kids activities, with the mammoth slide, face painting and balloon twisting being a huge hit, as well as the live music, the variation of food vendors and the quality of stalls.

A day like this takes a lot of man and women power to set up and a huge thanks goes out to Robert Gunn and his team from Alf Downs for the generator set up and also Dave Wilson for his help with the morning set up. The volunteer community groups that helped the set up and pack down run like clockwork were Rangitikei Mixed Martial Arts, Marton Women's Rugby team, Lions and Rotary as well as volunteers from RDC. Many hands made light work on the day!

Climate Change strategy completed

Climate change is one of the most tangible threats to our way of life that society will face in the coming decades. In order to respond to this, there is a role for Rangitikei District Council (RDC) to play our part and support our district decarbonise, adapt, mitigate and prepare for the coming challenges.

RDC used \$75,000 of Better Off Funding to complete our Climate Change strategy and action plan. Central government has set aside \$2 billion (nationwide) for councils to use to improve amenity and outcomes for residents.

We have already started with the Tutaenui Reserve Restoration Project. This is a fantastic example of 'For Community by Community' with collaboration from Council. The transformation of the Tutaenui Reserve Restoration project, from a raw water source earned a nomination at the 2022 LGNZ Excellence awards.

Climate change is a responsibility that belongs to all of us, acting today makes it better for everyone tomorrow.

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/news/2024/climate-change-strategy-completed



LONG TERM PLAN CONSULTATION HAS CLOSED

Community engagement for the Long Term Plan consultation has been the most successful in RDC history. With 453 submissions made by our community and many choosing to also speak to their submission this has been a great process. We want to thank everyone who made a submission, has chosen to speak or attended one of the many community events, it is great to have so many active voices in our communities.

What happens next?

- Council will be considering all submission points raised at their meeting on 16 May.
- If you made a submission, you will hear the result after Council has adopted the LTP at the end of June.

HEARINGS - 18 April 2024
We'll hear from you and what you think of our plans.

DELIBERATIONS - 16 May 2024
Then our Council will deliberate and make their decisions.

ADOPTION - 20 June 2024
Our Mayor and Councillors will vote to adopt the Long Term Plan.

ACTION - 1 July 2024
Our team will get on to putting the Long Term Plan into action.



ANZAC Day Services 2024

ANZAC Day on 25th April is the opportunity to honour and remember those that have served in the armed services or supported the country during the First and Second World Wars, as well as subsequent events such as the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

For 2024, there will be four dawn parades taking place across the Rangitikei District as well as other services.

The ANZAC services will take place as follows:

- **Marton** – Dawn Service and Service – 5.40am outside BJW Motors.
- **Taihape** – Dawn Parade and Service – 5.45am opposite Town Hall.
- **Turakina Cenotaph** – 10am at Turakina School.
- **Marton Cenotaph** – 2pm – Wreath-laying ceremony at Marton Park.
- **Bulls** – Dawn Service – 5.45am at the Cenotaph.
- **Bess at Bulls** – 9am up the hill at the Bess memorial on Forest Road.
- **Hunterville** – Dawn Service – 5.50am RSA Hall on Bruce Street.

We encourage everyone to join us in paying respects to our fallen soldiers and showing support for those who have served and continue to serve our country. **Lest we forget.**

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/news/2024/anzac-day-services-2024

