

FROM THE Mayor's Desk

Kia ora koutou, during a routine inspection of the Marton Swim Centre by our contractors Community Leisure Management (CLM), staff noticed that there was a failure of the roof structure.

A crack had been identified in one of the support beams during a previous inspection in May, following the conclusion of the swim season. Council staff have been monitoring the damage alongside CLM and structural engineers, and we're working on a plan to fix the issue.

Following the failure of the beam, it has caused a partial collapse of the roof. Collectively, we will now be assessing the extent of the damage, what repairs are possible, what else may need to be addressed before the swim centre is able to open for the upcoming swim season, due to start in October. The beam failure posed no threat to life due to the swim centre not being operational. It also has no impact on the gym, which is still able to be accessed by members.

As a precaution, Council have cordoned off the Hereford Street side of the swim centre, which will impact on pedestrians and people parking outside the swim centre.

Council staff will be keeping residents and swim centre users updated on any further developments that may impact on them.

Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.



A big step forward for Taihape's Town Hall and Library

At the July Council meeting Rangitikei District Council voted unanimously to appoint Maycroft Construction Limited to redevelop the Taihape Town Hall and Library, which has been closed since 2021 due to its earthquake risks. Council staff will now work with Maycroft on design proposals for the redevelopment, including some well overdue enhancements.

"We are so pleased to be able to announce the contractor to allow this building to begin its journey to redevelopment, we know the Taihape residents are keen to get moving on this project and be able to use the Town Hall and Library again, once the work has been completed," says Mayor Andy Watson.

"We will keep our community updated during the redevelopment, which will include information on Council's website so anyone interested in this project can watch progress. We will also continue to liaise with the Taihape Town Hall and Library users group, who represent the various interests of the community to ensure we're catering to multiple needs," adds Mayor Andy.

The project will see the building seismic strengthened and revitalised. Design development will start soon with construction expected to begin by mid-2025.

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Leo Westgate (C) alongside Chief Petty Officers Colin Clark (L) and Michael Miller (R).

Rangitikei District Council backing The Gumboots Band

Rangitikei District Council is proud to have provided both Creative Communities Scheme and Events funding to the Gumboots Brass and Wind Ensemble, known as The Gumboots Band. Made up of brass and wind instrument musicians between the ages of 8 and 23, the aim of the ensemble is to make music affordable and accessible to as many rural kids as possible from the wider Manawātū-Whanganui and Hawke's Bay.

It is the brainchild of Mataroa based Kathy Clark, who is originally from Australia but has called the Rangitikei home since 2017. Kathy found that music opportunities in Rangitikei were somewhat limited, with most people being interested in drums, keyboard, and guitar. Her involvement in regional youth bands in Australia through her son Colin convinced her that there was untapped potential for new brass and wind instrument players in the regions.

"This is my way of paying it forward and saying thank you to the teachers, conductors, section leaders and inspiring visiting musicians whose efforts gave Colin the opportunities to be where he is today," says Kathy. And so, The Gumboots Band was born in 2020, and which Kathy has been building over the past four years. Funding from RDC and Earle Creativity and Development Trust has been used by the ensemble to run intensive band camps in the past two years, with another band camp to take place this year.

Currently there are 25 kids in the band, with over half of them being based in Rangitikei. Through her previous North Shore connections, Kathy has been able to source world renowned tutors, such as the Musical Director of North Shore A Grade Brass Band Harmen Vanhoorne.

Leo Westgate from Taihape took up the trombone in 2023 after Kathy's son Colin came to visit his school in his capacity as a member of Navy Band. The Navy Band recently visited Waiouru as part of a Central North Island Tour, and Leo was presented with his first brass trombone.

This year's band camp is taking place in Feilding on 31 August and 1 September, and is open to kids who have some playing experience with either a brass or woodwind instrument. The cost to attend is \$80, and includes tuition, lunches, and snacks.

Anyone who is interested in learning is welcome to our traditional free concert on the Sunday, where they can find out why community banding is such an asset in any age. If you have a child that would like to attend the camp, please contact Kathy Clark by email or on 0216 89005.

KŌRERO MAI

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