

FROM THE Mayor's Desk

Kia ora koutou, last Thursday Council adopted unanimously our continued support for Māori Wards. This may mean that Council will be faced with a binding referendum in the next election. I, and our Councillors, have seen an enormous benefit in having Māori Wards.

I met briefly yesterday with Mayor Weston Kirton of Ruapehu District Council with regards the closure of the mill. Neither he nor I have any further information at this stage and like everyone else we wait for the Government's position and a final decision to be made on 7 September. I, on behalf of Council, have submitted a request to Minister Jones, Suze Redmayne our MP and the mill that Government should give assistance to the mill directly to enable them to continue to operate. I pointed out that in our district there will be over 100 people out of work as a result of the Government's inability to plan for electricity supply long term. I thank all of those who contacted Suze Redmayne or Minister Jones for continued support.

Councillors Piki Te Ora Hiroa, Fi Dalgety and Simon Loudon joined me with our Chief Executive Kevin Ross to attend the Local Government New Zealand Conference in Wellington recently. The Government presentations at Conference were very direct. "Councils should not fund social, economic, cultural and environmental issues". The question then is do we ignore economic growth to fund our future and do we ignore climate change? Do we ignore the provision of libraries, playgrounds, swimming pools etc? However I do take the point that we need to be efficient and reconsider our decisions in light of future and current cost rises.

Finally, our flags have flown at half mast this week in recognition of the death of Māori Kiingi Tūheitia Pōtatau Te Wherowhero VII on 30 August. He will be recognised as a peacemaker and acknowledged as such on both sides of the political debate.

Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.



From left to right: Tiikeitia ki Tai Māori Ward Councillor Coral Raukawa, Mayor Andy Watson, Dame Tariana Turia, Ngā Tapuae o Matangi Māori Ward Councillor (Manawatu District Council), Tiikeitia Ki Uta Māori Ward Councillor Piki Te Ora Hiroa and Rangitikei District Council Manager Mana Whenua and Community Hubs Jo Manuel.

Rangitikei District Council retains Māori wards

At its Council meeting held on Thursday, 29 August 2024, Rangitikei District Council voted to retain the Tiikeitia ki Tai (Coastal) and Tiikeitia ki Uta (Inland) Māori wards for the 2025 Local Election.

The vote was passed unanimously by Council. As Council has voted in favour, a binding referendum will be held alongside the 2025 Local Election asking Rangitikei voters if they wish to retain Māori wards for the 2028 Local Election period.

Mayor Andy Watson, who has been vocal in his support of the retention of Māori wards says that the decision demonstrates Council's commitment to being a trusted partner with Iwi and Māori. "A strong relationship with Māori is beneficial to our district, and we believe that it's in the best interests of our community that Māori wards are retained.

"Māori representation at the council table is a positive thing and not something that people should be frightened of," says Mayor Watson.

This decision is the result of the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024, which was enacted on 30 July 2024. According to this Act, Council must decide by 6 September 2024 whether to retain or disestablish its Māori wards.

The retention of Māori wards is backed by Rangitikei District Council's Te Roopu Ahi Kaa Komiti (TRAKK), who unanimously voted to recommend the retention of the wards, with Chair and sitting Tiikeitia Ki Uta Māori Ward Councillor Piki Te Ora Hiroa praising the decision following today's meeting.

"I commend our council for being brave and making the decision to retain Māori Wards in this rohe. The introduction of Māori wards doesn't weaken democracy but in fact strengthens the voice of mana whenua/tangata whenua and Māori. It is also a step forward in reflecting the makeup of the residents and ratepayers of Rangitikei!

"I would encourage people to be inclusive instead of exclusive in their thinking and would like to give you this Whakatauakī to ponder upon! Tu Koe ki te wero, noho pai I roto I te manawarau - Challenge yourself by being comfortable in the uncomfortable!" Says Piki Te Ora Hiroa. Tiikeitia ki Tai Councillor Coral Raukawa also commended the decision made by Council.

"The Treaty principles remind us of our obligations to each other: partnership, participation, and protection. By upholding these principles, we ensure that Māori representation is not just a token gesture but an integral part of our local governance."



Bulls water pump station project update

In 2019, Rangitikei District Council started a project to improve the water supply for Bulls residents, as well as future proofing for growth in the town. In 2021, we completed work on a new reservoir which is located under the old water tower.

Since then, Council has been working on boosting the water pressure for the reticulation system, which will help us keep up with demand during the summer months.

Completed work includes:

- Laying of the new inlet and outlet pipes, along with control valves.
- Installing the new quad pump (pictured)
- A hydrant connection has been added to the reservoir (for filling water tankers)
- Completing the installation of the pre-purchased standby generator onto a separate pad
- Installing the new power feed and transformer
- Installing the electrical control system and testing
- Completing the disinfection and pressure testing of all connections.

Commissioning of the new pump is expected to happen at the beginning of September.



Selling food for fundraisers?

As we near summer, you might be part of a community group/organisation that is keen to do a fundraiser like a bake sale or sausage sizzle etc. Here's some information that you need to know!

We often get queries from people involved with these types of events asking us if they need a licence (because they are selling food). In short, no you don't need a licence if your primary purpose is fundraising.

If you are selling food that is not for a fundraiser, then you will need to register with Council (because it's considered a business).

We have a few resources that you can download from our website that gives information on how to safely prepare food for sale.

Food Premises

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/services/permits-food-licensing/food/food-premises

Food Safety

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/services/permits-food-licensing/food/food-safety

www.rangitikei.govt.nz

