

FROM THE Mayor's Desk

Spring is here but it has been a challenging start to the season for our cropping farmers with the ground being incredibly wet and cold. The wet weather makes getting crops in on time difficult, and the harvest of grass silage near to impossible in places. The seasonal window for these spring operations is limited without dropping crop yields.

Government has fast tracked a number of consenting processes that will affect the Rangitikei, with three wind farms, I believe, to be under consideration and several large solar farms either going through this process or already approved. The positive is that this will trigger a number of employment opportunities, and allow greater access to electricity for industries. However the look of our districts, particularly around Marton, will change.

We are still waiting on the options and costings for the Marton pool repair, something that I see as a priority decision. As soon as that information is available, we will report on it along with the temporary options for Learn to Swim Classes for schools.

Interpreting the Government's position on the removal of the "four well-beings" (social, cultural, economic, and environmental) from Local Government responsibilities is proving challenging. We take the view that housing, swimming pools, libraries, finding jobs for people, and sports fields are core parts of our community function. Government, quite rightly, says that we need to stick to the basics, save money where we can and cut back on the nice to haves. I am attending a Local Government combined sector meeting in Wellington next month where we will hopefully gain more clarity around the Government's direction.

Some of you will have seen the recent social media promo that I was featured in by Ben from Comms. I, like everybody else, found it funny and no, I wouldn't have sworn! A good way to promote the upcoming Shemozzle taking place on 2 November in Hunterville. The Hunterville Shemozzle is one of the absolute iconic events for our district bringing in hundreds if not thousands of people and highlighting the best there is to rural life. If you haven't already been, please go and spread the word, we'd love to see you there!

Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.

Winstone Pulp International - October Update

The Ministry of Social Development has run redundancy seminars at the Winstone Pulp International (WPI) Karioi and Tangiwai mills in September.

MSD worked alongside the company and met with many workers in groups and individually to provide information on employment opportunities and financial support. Support continues to be available through Work and Income Service Centres in the region and online – see details below.

Work and Income employment information

There is a range of information on the Redundancy Support section of the Work and Income website workandincome.govt.nz

Where to look for a new job

Kimi Mahi Mai - findajob.msd.govt.nz

Search JobConnect on Facebook for information about job events and training. You can also chat to us directly about work.

Search www.connected.govt.nz for information about work and training.

Help applying for jobs

MSD can support people with CVs and cover letters and other financial help to start a new job. A benefit or payment may be available to cover expenses in between jobs.

There's also support available at:

- www.careers.govt.nz
- www.cvapp.nz
- www.seek.co.nz/career-advice

Digital programmes

Free online and digital courses can help people train for a job, get qualified and find employment that's right for them. Search digital programmes for training and job hunting on the Work and Income website www.workandincome.govt.nz

Work and Income financial support

Call 0800 559 009 for general enquiries
Register for the MyMSD online service: www.workandincome.govt.nz

Check out the online guide: Check what you might get (msd.govt.nz)

Not sure where to go for help?

Visit our Work and Income Service Centres in Marton, Ohakune, Taihape, Taumarunui, Tūrangi or Whanganui.

- **Marton**
238-248 Broadway, Marton
- **Ohakune**
Westpac Trust Complex
Goldfinch Street, Ohakune
- **Taihape**
58 Tui Street, Taihape
- **Taumarunui**
9 Marae St, Taumarunui
- **Tūrangi**
69 The Town Centre, Tūrangi
- **Whanganui**
153 St Hill Street, Whanganui



Marton Water Strategy Update

It's been a while since we've updated you on what's happening with the Marton Water Strategy, but that doesn't mean that the work has stopped.

In fact, up at the Marton Water Treatment Plant we have a trial treatment plant that has been running for twelve weeks, which is being monitored for operating efficiencies and treatment capabilities. The next step will be to move it to Tūtaenui Reservoir where the new bore has been drilled, so you may notice some mahi going on over the next few weeks in preparation for the move.

We'll be gathering data and test results from the bores to ensure we have confidence around the trial plant's effectiveness in treating the new water supply.

"Why can't you just treat the water the same way that it's treated now?"

Water from a bore is very different to the water that comes from rivers, lakes and reservoirs. It has a different mixture of minerals and suspended material than you would find in surface water which means the treatment used also needs to be different.

We have approximately eight to twelve weeks of testing of the trial plant at the reservoir to do, and once we've completed this and analysed the results, we'll be able to move forward with the upgrading works of the full-scale treatment plant.

This does mean that there will be a delay in the completion date of the project.

Construction of the new treatment system will begin before the end of this year with a goal of completing it by mid-2025. The delay will not cost ratepayers extra, as the overall budget for the project is not impacted.

The trial plant is an extra process that we've decided to take to ensure that the treatment system has been fully tested for operating efficiencies, drinking water quality, discharge water quantity and quality, including gathering a good understanding around operating costs. Once the project is complete, Marton residents will be able to enjoy a much better water supply for years to come.



Marton Festival Success

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Marton Multicultural Feast & Festival last Saturday night.

It was a wonderful event celebrating all the cultures that call the Rangitikei home.

The festival showcased cuisines from around the world, and a diverse range of cultural performances.

We hope to see you next year!



Marton Market Day is back for 2024!

- ★ 200+ stalls ★ Circus Act
- ★ Mechanical Bull ★ Mega Maze
- ★ Climbing Tower ★ Mini Jeeps
- ★ Obstacle Course ★ Play Trailer
- ★ Bouncy Castle
- ★ Bubble Ball ★ Retail Stores
- ★ Food Stalls ★ Live Music

9am - 3pm | 7th December 2024
Broadway and Marton Park

FREE ENTRY