RANGITĪKEI
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WHAT'S ON
RANGITĪKEI?
www.rangitikei.co.nz/events

ISSUE 137

FROM THE **MAYOR'S DESK**



Recently Adrian Rurawhe, former Member of Parliament and Speaker of the House, passed away. I, and the country, will miss him. For me he was a friend and a colleague, he had a passion for public service, community and his Rātana faith. Rest in Peace Adrian.

The upcoming Government elections dominate the news and may well be the closest election in many years. At local government level councils pause while we wait on which coalition will form a Government and who will get ministerial powers. Regardless who holds the power the major reforms such as the RMA (Resource Management Act), Spatial Planning and amalgamation of councils will continue to proceed at pace! Next year will be incredibly demanding on councils.

Closer to home work is underway to improve Marton's town centre. I know there have been concerns raised about the removal of trees along Broadway and I understand the disappointment of those who have enjoyed them over the years. However we also need to address the damage the roots have caused to footpaths and how we can make the town centre more attractive and accessible for all. Council's Parks & Reserves staff take incredible pride in our street centres and I am sure the plans they have as a staged approach will be fantastic. Give it time for them do their magic!

At the recent Local Government New Zealand conference special mentions were made of James Towers and Louise McCoard for their remarkable success in employment of people under the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs in both the Rangitīkei and Ruapehu districts. Congratulations also to Louise as the runner-up for the Co-ordinator of the Year. I also congratulate Alison Short the Manawatū District Councillor for winning the 2026 SuperHuman Award for service over 19 years and her particular dedication to community and health services.

All too often councils build processes are slow – consultation and planning seems to take forever. But things are swiftly progressing. The new Civil Defence Centre is rapidly being constructed, the Marton Pool rebuild is well underway and we are near construction in Taihape of the Town Hall.

Finally, it is great to see some spring/summer sun - cropping is well underway, grass is growing and the community events are happening. See you all at the Shemozzle on Saturday 31 October 2026 at Hunterville.

Ngā mihi, Mayor Andy - Rangitīkei District Council.

PACWAVE: PUTTING OUR EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO THE TEST

If you were following Rangitīkei District Council's social media on Wednesday 14 October, you might have seen updates about a massive earthquake near Peru, a tsunami heading towards Rangitīkei and coastal communities being evacuated.

Thankfully, none of it was real! It was all part of Exercise Pacific Wave 2026, a nationwide Civil Defence exercise designed to test how well we'd respond to a tsunami emergency.

And while the emergency was fictional, the work happening behind the scenes was very real. Our emergency management duty personnel received their first notification just after 4am, with the Controller, Mayor and Chief Executive notified around 5am.

By 8am, Council Chambers had been transformed into an Emergency Operations Centre, with staff coordinating the response, preparing action plans, sharing public updates and testing a new system to support emergency management operations.

Meanwhile, our Rangitīkei Civil Defence Response Team volunteers were deployed to patrol coastal areas, practising how they'd warn people about an approaching tsunami and help clear beaches. They successfully completed their patrol within two hours.

We also worked alongside welfare partners, marae, community response teams and representatives from the NZ Defence Force, Horizons Regional Council and National Emergency Management Agency.

From evacuation arrangements to medication, medical equipment and support for vulnerable residents, the questions raised highlighted the importance of being prepared.

By midday, our local exercise had wrapped up, with plenty of lessons to take away. A huge thank you to everyone who participated.

Hopefully we'll never need to put all this into practice for real. But if we do, we want to be as prepared as possible.

RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL

making this place home

COMMUNITY VOICES



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF BULLS' PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

What could the future of Bulls' parks, playgrounds and recreational spaces look like?

That's the question at the heart of the Bulls Domain and Open Space Master Plan, which was presented to Rangitīkei District Council in August and the Bulls Community Committee in October.

Developed following engagement with local sports clubs, schools, community groups, mana whenua and residents, the plan looks at how the town's existing open spaces could better serve the community, both now and as Bulls continues to grow.

One of its key findings is that Bulls already has enough open space to accommodate future growth, but many of these areas need investment to make them more accessible, attractive and useful.

The plan identifies several opportunities, including:

- **Bulls Domain:** Upgrading facilities such as changing rooms, toilets, sports courts and playgrounds, alongside improved parking and opportunities for more events.
- **Haylock Park:** Developing the park into a recreational space with playgrounds and sporting facilities, particularly for families living south of the State Highway.
- **Te Matapihi and other reserves:** Improving playgrounds, seating, landscaping and facilities to create more welcoming spaces for locals and visitors.
- **Walking and cycling:** Better connections between neighbourhoods, parks and the Rangitīkei River, including safer pedestrian crossings.

The plan also recognises the important role that community organisations already play in maintaining and developing recreational opportunities in Bulls.

Importantly, the Master Plan is a guide for future investment, rather than a list of projects that have already been approved or funded.

Its recommendations include working alongside community groups to identify priorities, explore external funding opportunities and consider projects through Council's Long-Term Plan process.

The goal is to ensure that as Bulls grows, its recreational spaces grow with it, creating more opportunities for people to play, exercise, connect and enjoy their community.

Read the full Bulls Domain and Open Space Master Plan on Council's website.

MEET YOUR COUNCIL TEAM – ERIN TOWNSEND



Kia ora tātau, ko Erin tōku ingoa. My name is Erin Townsend and I am the Manager People and Culture at Rangitīkei District Council. With a background in Financial Services, I am new to Local Government and have been working with Council for a couple of months.

I moved to the area four years ago so my three boys could grow up closer to whānau. We love the open space, and our boys are thriving enjoying everything country life offers.

I'm passionate about supporting our employees to do their best work, play to their strengths, enjoy their mahi, and serve our community. And after working remotely for the last few years, I'm enjoying getting out of my slippers and collaborating face to face with the great team at Council. Looking forward to working with you all.

YOUR RATES AT WORK



COMMUNITY

Marton Swim Centre

Work continues on the $6 million Marton Swim Centre redevelopment, with contractors making progress on several areas of the building while awaiting the arrival of the new roof structure.

Recent improvements include upgrades to the building's electrical and fire safety systems, with a new electrical switchboard, fire safety systems and exit signage installed throughout the facility.

A new emergency exit has also been installed along Hereford Street, including a footpath and retaining wall.

Inside the Swim Centre, repairs to the pool joints have been completed and the pool itself has been repainted. The newly painted surface has been covered to protect it while preparations for the roof replacement continue.

Work has also been progressing on replacing tiles around the pool edge with new slip-resistant tiles, alongside internal painting and the replacement of weather-damaged exterior cladding.

The project is still expected to be completed in time for the 2027/28 summer season, although a confirmed reopening date has not yet been set.

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/projects



ROADING

Roadworks underway on Williamsons Line

Roadworks are underway on Williamsons Line, between State Highway 3 and Makirikiri Road, with work scheduled to begin on Wednesday 21 October.

Council's roading contractors, Downer New Zealand, are carrying out pavement rehabilitation, which involves removing damaged pavement layers and replacing them with new material.

The work will improve drainage, provide a smoother and safer road surface, and help reduce the need for ongoing repairs.

What does this mean for road users?

Williamsons Line will be closed during construction hours, from 6:30am to 5:30pm, Monday to Saturday.

Access will be maintained for residents, construction vehicles and emergency services, although some delays may occur. Detours will be in place for all other road users.

Residents and businesses near the worksite can expect some noise and dust during construction. Contractors will have measures in place to help minimise disruption where possible.

The project is expected to take approximately eight weeks to complete, weather permitting.

COMMUNITY

Marton town centre improvements taking shape

If you've been through Marton's Broadway recently, you'll have noticed things are looking a little different!

Work on the town centre improvements has been progressing, with new planting, paving repairs and preparations for new seating helping to give the area a bit of a refresh.

Over the past couple of weeks, work has included:

- New planting in the reshaped garden beds
- Removal of the remaining tree stumps
- Removal of damaged kerbing around the pharmacy side of Broadway, with paving work getting underway



- Concrete foundations poured in preparation for new seating.

The improvements form part of the wider Marton Streetscape Plan, which Council adopted earlier this month following community consultation.

This work has been funded by the previous government's Better Off Funding, meaning that there is no cost to ratepayers.

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/ marton-streetscape-plan



HUNTERVILLE HUNTAWAY FESTIVAL - SHEMOZZLE

WHEN	31 October
TIME	10am -11pm
LOCATION	Hunterville
COST	Free for spectators

An iconic day of rural fun, headlined by the legendary Shepherds' Shemozzle, where shepherds and their Huntaways tackle a gruelling race.

It's a full day of action, competitions, and good old country fun for the whole family! www.shemozzle.co.nz



BULLS 149TH ROSE & FLOWER SHOW

WHEN	14 November
TIME	12pm - 3.30pm
LOCATION	Te Matapihi Bulls Community Centre
COST	Free

This much-loved and long-standing event celebrates the beauty and creativity of gardeners from across the North Island. It brings together flower enthusiasts, horticulturists, families, and the wider community for a vibrant display of colour, fragrance, and talent. www.bulls.kiwi/events



FEAST & FESTIVAL

WHEN	14 November
TIME	4 - 7.30pm
LOCATION	Marton RSA and Citizens' Memorial Hall
COST	Free

Come and celebrate Diwali at our annual Multicultural Feast & Festival!

With plenty of food and craft stalls, and live entertainment, this is a fantastic all ages family friendly event.

This event is support by Multicultural Council Rangitīkei/Whanganui, Ministry for Ethnic Communities and Rangitīkei District Council.



MARTON MARKET DAY

WHEN	28 November
TIME	10am - 3pm
LOCATION	Follett Street and Broadway, Marton
COST	Free

Marton Market Day is one of the largest events in Rangitīkei and the most vibrant day in the districts calendar. Market Day takes over the town with around 200 stalls and amazing FREE entertainment - all day long.

www.rangitikei.co.nz/martonmarketday

RANGITĪKEI AOTEAROA

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNET MARKETING *workshop*



Hosted by Saje Web Gardners, this practical workshop will give you a clear and simple introduction to internet marketing, with a focus on the key channels that can help your business get noticed and grow.

To book your spot, email info@businessrangitikei.co.nz

Free for Business Rangitīkei members. Plus ones - $25.

Brought to you by Business Rangitīkei.

9 - 11AM
THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER
Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa.
85 Hendersons Line, Marton