



RANGITIKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Making this place home.

ORDER PAPER

RĀTANA COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday, 9 June 2026
Time: 7.00pm
Venue: Ture Tangata Office
Ihipera-Koria Street
Rātana Pa

Chair: Mr Charlie Mete
Deputy Chair: Mr Jason Hihira
Membership: Ms Grace Taiaroa
Ms Ruthie Lawrence
Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa

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Locations:	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street Marton </td> <td style="width: 33%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street Bulls </td> <td style="width: 33%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape </td> </tr> </table>	<u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street Marton	<u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street Bulls	<u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape
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Notice is hereby given that a Rātana Community Board Meeting of the Rangitīkei District Council will be held in the Ture Tangata Office, Ihipera-Koria Street, Rātana Pa on Tuesday, 9 June 2026 at 7.00pm.

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AGENDA

1 Welcome / Prayer

2 Apologies

3 Public Forum

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest they might have in respect of items on this agenda.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

That, taking into account the explanation provided why the item is not on the meeting agenda and why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting, [enter item number](#) be dealt as a late item at this meeting.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The minutes from **Rātana Community Board Meeting held on 14 April 2026** are attached.

Attachments

1. **Rātana Community Board Meeting - 14 April 2026**

Recommendation

That the minutes of Rātana Community Board Meeting held on 14 April 2026 [**as amended/without amendment**] be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

MINUTES



UNCONFIRMED: RĀTANA COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday, 14 April 2026
Time: 6.30pm
Venue: Rātana ICT Hub
4 Taihauauru Street
Rātana Pa

Present Mr Charlie Mete
Ms Grace Tairaoa
Mr Jason Hihira
Ms Ruthie Lawrence

In attendance Mr Paul Chaffe, Senior Emergency Management Advisor
Ms Melanie Bovey, Heritage, Culture and Committee Support Officer

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1 Welcome / Prayer

Ms Taiaroa spoke the whakamoemati and the meeting opened at 6.30pm

2 Apologies

Resolved minute number 26/RCB/017

That the apologies from HWTM Watson and Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa be received.

Mr C Mete/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

No apologies received.

3 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

There was no change to the order of business.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number 26/RCB/018

That the minutes of Rātana Community Board Meeting held on 10 February 2026 **[without amendment]** be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

Mr J Hihira/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Ratana Community Board Meetings

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 26/RCB/019

That the report Follow-up Action Items from Ratana Community Board Meetings be received.

Mr C Mete/Mr J Hihira. Carried

7 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - April 2026

The Chair gave a verbal report noting the following points:

- He had been following up with Council over actions for the community about graffiti on the bus shelter
- There was an issue at the urupa with ornaments and items being left on graves making it difficult to mow lawns.
- There was going to be gravel laid on the road to the urupa which should improve access

Mr Mete acknowledged residents who assisted during the recent weather event, especially the local fire service, their efforts were greatly appreciated.

The board discussed the issue of the ornaments in the urupa and clarified that it was a lawn cemetery. An update to signage is requested to ensure guidelines on leaving items on graves were clear and to correct a spelling error on the current sign. Can we also request that staff inform people purchasing plots that it is a lawn cemetery to highlight this issue. Ms Bovey to follow this up.

There was discussion around graffiti on the bus shelter – Ms Bovey to follow up an RFS from the Chair regarding its removal.

Resolved minute number 26/RCB/020

That the Chair's Report – April 2026 be received.

Mr C Mete/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

8 Reports for Information

9.1 Update on Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti

Ms Taiaroa gave an update on the TRAK meeting earlier in the day:

- Recent weather events highlighted the need to identify alternative Civil Defence Centres in Rātana while the Manuao remains unavailable. A meeting between Horizons, Council, and groups in the Rātana community will be arranged to coordinate planning for any future events ensuring they were all working to one plan. The new Strategic Advisor Mana Whenua would also help coordinate in this space.
- TRAK adopted the new *Te Anga Whakahaere* and the new code of Conduct, combining the previous Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding into one unified governance document for Te Rōpū Ahi Kā.

- Councillors and Council Officers recently participated in a Northern Tour of local marae and appreciated the opportunity to attend and the wealth of information shared during the tour.
- Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa will host a visit to their business on the 4th of June.
- Kim Savage (TRAK Vice Chair) will lead arrangements for a one-day tour of Parewahawaha, Parewanui, Tini Waitara, and Rātana alongside Ms Taiaroa, Mr Mike Paki, and Ms Gaylene Nepia.
- Staff will align project naming between the TRAK and Community Board order papers, as the Rātana Wastewater Discharge to Land Project and the Lake Waipu Improvement Project refer to the same initiative. Council are progressing with this project and will provide further updates to the community as progress continues.
- Council recently submitted on the proposed national cash services standard, which aims to improve access to cash in rural communities.
- Fran Pere, Strategic Advisor Mana Whenua attended her last TRAK meeting today before commencing at the Rātana Kura next week. While a significant loss to Council, she will be a valuable addition to the kura.

Resolved minute number 26/RCB/021

That the Update on Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti be received.

Ms R Lawrence/Mr J Hihira. Carried

9.2 Community Response Plan - Ratana

Mr Paul Chaffe spoke to his report on the Rātana Community Response Plan and how the plan should work.

Resolved minute number 26/RCB/022

That the report Community Response Plan – Ratana be received.

Mr C Mete/Ms R Lawrence. Carried

9.3 Cemetery Update - April 2026

The report was taken as read. The Chair noted an issue at the urupa with unauthorised headstones being installed and items being left on graves causing issues for the urupa maintenance staff.

Resolved minute number 26/RCB/023

That the report Cemetery Update –April 2026 be received.

Mr C Mete/Mr J Hihira. Carried

9.4 Funding Schemes Update - April 2026

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 26/RCB/024

That the Funding Schemes Update – April 2026 be received.

Ms R Lawrence/Mr C Mete. Carried

9.5 Lake Waipu Improvement and Ratana Wastewater Treatment Project - Update

The report was taken as read.

1. Resolved minute number 26/RCB/025

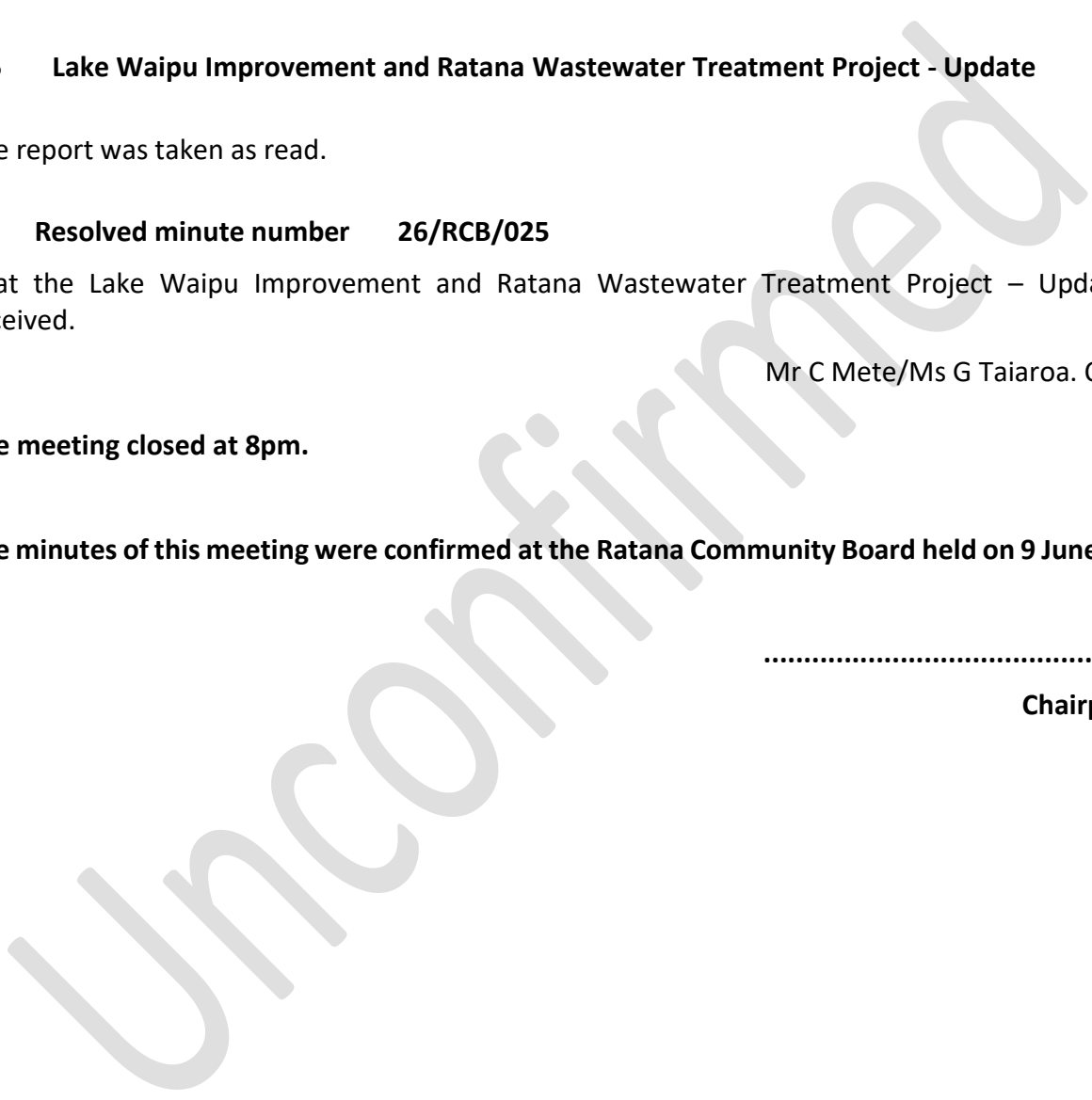
That the Lake Waipu Improvement and Ratana Wastewater Treatment Project – Update be received.

Mr C Mete/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

The meeting closed at 8pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ratana Community Board held on 9 June 2026.

.....
Chairperson



7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Ratana Community Board Meetings

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 On the list attached are items raised at previous Ratana Community Board meetings. Items indicate who is responsible for follow up, and a brief status comment.

2. Decision Making Process

- 2.1 Staff have assessed the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 in relation to this item and have concluded that, as this report is for information only, the decision-making provisions do not apply.

Attachments:

1. **Follow-up Actions Register** [↓](#)

Recommendation

That the report Follow-up Action Items from Ratana Community Board Meetings be received.

Current Follow-up Actions

Item	From Meeting Date	Details	Person Assigned	Status Comments	Status
1	5-Oct-21	<p>With regards to the Ratana Cemetery Extension: Staff to consider providing better facilities for volunteers who dig new plots.</p> <p>Update 08 Feb 22: The Board clarified that the request was for water access, for both contractors and visitors. The Board advised that they would like a water source that is aesthetically pleasing (i.e., not just a tap in a post).</p> <p>Update 09 Aug 22: The Board asked that this be reconsidered, as the owner of the adjacent farm has given verbal approval for the existing water line on his property to be used (the water does not need to be drinkable). Ms Bovey undertook to follow-up on this request. the CE will investigate options for this item.</p>	CE - Carol Gordon	This request is being investigated by the Parks Team who will look at potential options in conjunction with a similar request from Taihape residents for their cemetery. This is being done across the District as part of the Long Term Plan.	In progress
2	14-Apr-26	Graffiti on the bus shelter - can Ms Bovey please follow up on the RFS submitted by the Chair	Mel Bovey	Couldn't find the original RFS so submitted a new one - I believe the work has been completed.	Completed.
2	14-Apr-26	Issues at the urupa - signage needs replacing as it has a spelling mistake and need to better highlight info	Mel Bovey	Draft urupa sign for approval to June meeting.	In progress

ITEM 8.1

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - June 2026

Author: Charlie Mete, Chair

1. Reason for Report

1.1 A verbal report will be provided during the meeting.

Recommendation

That the Chair's Report – June 2026 be received.

9 Reports for Information

9.1 Mayor's Report - June 2026

Author: Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor

Good afternoon

1. Having just returned from a family holiday, this report will be a little disjointed with the noting of things over the last few weeks that may have already had coverage by Comms or Council. My appreciation to Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson for very ably standing in for me is foremost in my mind. While I was away our district faced the possibility of a weather declaration, the new Central Districts Water Board was put in place and major decisions were made by Council on the Marton Pool and Marton Water project. These were big decisions and I was able to Zoom in to the Council meeting on the day and support them. We now have a future with the Marton Pool and while the water strategy project is frustrating in the delay, the money spent on the new bores is not wasted and what we are wanting is the best option for treatment processes. I and Council are committed to keeping you updated on progress over the next few months. The run-up to Council on these decisions takes time and skill answering questions raised and checking that the right information is available to Councillors. It was a pity that the Harvest Festival had to be cancelled but it was the right call. Dave handled all of this incredibly well – thanks.
2. Central Districts Water is now live and will take effect 2027. I have included some photos from the establishment of the new Board and it was a pity that I was away for the powhiri to welcome the new Board. The next milestone will be the setting of what is known as the Statement of Expectations set by the Shareholder Committee representing the three Councils and Iwi aspirations and direction to the entity. The performance of the entity will be held to account through both this process and the Commerce Commission.



ITEM 9.1



3. Like so many others in our district I took part in ANZAC Day services. It is a time for us to reflect on the sacrifices made by young men and women who left our shores, so many of them not to return. My thanks to all of those who took part. The Rangitīkei has a proud military history. With Waiouru to the north of us, and Base Ōhakea and Linton Military Camp to our south, many defence force staff call our district home. We're incredibly grateful for their service to our country, and the contribution that they make to Rangitīkei. As part of the day I attended the Ohingaiti service at 10am. The young students from Hunterville School and locals read excerpts from letters sent home from the front which I found particularly moving. We will remember them.
4. Local Government New Zealand have initiated regular Zoom Meetings for members with the Minister of Local Government Simon Watts. The 17 March session was Chaired by LGNZ President Rehette Stoltz and the salient points were -
 - 200 members of LGNZ were on the call including our CE Carol and Councillor Diana Baird.
 - Minister Watts thanked the sector for their work and made the point that Senior Ministers were aware of the scale of reforms that the sector faced.
 - The Minister gave assurance that New Zealand is in a good space around fuel security.
 - He then wanted to highlight several of the reforms before engaging in a Q&A session.
 - i) Simplifying Local Government legislation
 - Consultation/Submission process now closed and under review
 - Regarding timeframes proposed at 2 years – the Minister said that several councils want Government to move with pace, so timelines are currently being reviewed.
 - There was the comment that “one size doesn't fit all” and there will be regional differences.

- Government wants to move at pace was repeated.
- ii) Rates Capping
 - Government is looking at a range-based model
 - Feedback to Government is supportive of the direction for the rates cap
 - The Minister said that final design is not there yet, but legislation should be in place before the election
- iii) Ratepayer Assistance
 - A Steering Group has been set up to look at this.
- iv) Dog Control Legislation
 - Current status is not acceptable
 - Notes the three fatalities in Northland resulting from dog attacks
 - Multi-ministers involved in this review and there will be more on this later
 - The Government is keen to work with the LGNZ sector here
- v) RMA Reform
 - Ministers Bishop and Watts are working closely on this
 - Fewer consents will be required perhaps halving the need
 - Reform process is on track
 - The reforms will help councils to meet rates cap

- Q&A Session –

- Timelines for Regional Councils? *No further comment and it had been referenced earlier.*
- Boundary issues for authorities aligned to reform? *Minister Bishop has responsibility in this space.*
- The issue of compensation to property owners over land reclassification – has this been factored into rates pegging? *No clear answer.*
- The question of the costs of audit amidst the backdrop of rates pegging? *Being looked at by Government was the response.*

5. On 21 March I attended the final tribute to 50 years of operation of the Marton OpShop - a High Tea at Rangitikei College. Over the preceding week there was a series of events celebrating this. Rangitikei is built on voluntary organisations, often started by church groups, service groups and our communities and the OpShop is a classic example of this. It has been a remarkable progression over the 50 years lead initially by Ted Calkin, Betty Corballis and Clifford Brown and carried on through Marton Christian Welfare and the current team headed by Mike O'Regan. Our community has benefitted by over \$50m worth of community support, made possible by the huge number of volunteers at the OpShop and by the gifting of the community who supply it. Recently the OpShop was named in 2nd place nationally as the Best OpShop in the country – congratulations, this is well deserved. I have included a photo of the cutting of the cake.

ITEM 9.1



6. Taihape Health Update – this has been and still is a roller coaster ride. The collaboration between Otaihape Health Trust and Mokai Patea Services to take over, by way of a longterm “peppercorn” lease, the old hospital at Taihape currently run under Te Whatu Ora initially seemed to be straightforward and a fantastic solution for Taihape and the Rangitikei. Progress has been slow but a Zoom meeting with Minister Simeon Brown in June seemed to provide ministerial direction that it should proceed quickly. Effectively he instructed officials to proceed, the key element being the sale of the buildings for \$1, roof replacement and the ground lease at the peppercorn rental. Since that time, health officials have reneged on that direction especially by asking for a huge unrealistic rental cost. I wrote to the Minister in April and have written again this week asking for an urgent meeting. I know that our MP Suze Redmayne is actively supporting us. If this is not dealt with quickly, we as a community need to take action and politicise it as loudly as possible. Jude MacDonald and Piki Te Ora Hira and all involved need our support.
7. The 2026 Ford Ranger NZ Rural Games took place in Palmerston North on 15 March. Once again a hugely successful event with many of the competitors coming from the Rangitikei. Normally I would attend the welcoming powhiri which this year unfortunately clashed with another event, however I did support the Awards Night on 13 March where Marton’s own fencer Tim Stafford was a finalist in the NZ Rural Sportsman of the Year. Tim’s year was defined by a stunning treble of major titles – the Silver Spades, the East Coast Fencing Rivalry in the USA demonstrating NZ standards on the world stage and the Golden Pliers, NZ’s premier solo fencing competition. Tim is more than a champion fencer – he is a leader and stands for skill, integrity and passion in NZ’s rural sports community. Winning the Golden Pliers twice in one decade defines a career – congratulations on your achievements Tim!

8. Last weekend I attended the 2026 Suzuki Extreme 4x4 Challenge event in Turakina. This annual event has been running since 2015 and the number of people there, I believe, was a record this year. The combination of wet weather the week preceding to make the driving obstacles difficult and two days of dry weather just prior provided a very successful mix. I can't tell you who won the event but I can say that as a parking attendant the crowds absolutely loved it and I understand that a large number of people travelled from around the country to watch, many of whom took up local accommodation options – a huge plus for our district.
9. The winners of the 2026 Community Volunteer Awards have now been notified and published on our website and social media pages. Thank you to everyone who took the time to put in nominations recognising the extraordinary work so many volunteers do within our district. Myself and Elected Members are visiting each of the 5 winners to present their awards at separate personalised ceremonies starting on 1 May. Pictures and more information will be available on our website following those events.
10. On a final celebratory note, just before I went away I attended the Ballance Farm Environmental Awards where Jarred and Bronwyn Clode and the Te Hou Farms team were named the 2026 Supreme Winners, an achievement that they should be justifiably proud of. Te Hou farms is two-thirds owned by Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa Developments Ltd in partnership with Ātīhau Whanganui Incorporation. I have included a link for further details - [Jarred & Bronwyn Clode | New Zealand Farm Environment Trust](#)



Deputy Mayor's Engagements

During the Mayor's annual leave absence, Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson attended the following engagements

- 27 March – Central Districts Water Joint Shareholder Committee Meeting with all three Councils. I attended on Zoom and Cr Fi Dalgety attended in person. These are important meetings as we continue to form our relationships with CDW and our three Councils.
- 4 April - Bulls Rugby Club 150th Jubilee
- Met with Chief Executive regularly including making the unfortunate decision to cancel the 2026 Harvest Festival due to predicted Cyclone Vaianu.
- Zoom meetings with CDEM Regional Mayors and CE's regarding potential impact of Cyclone Vaianu. This was useful in understanding Council processes and while I have confidence in them, confidence can lead to complacency and we should never be complacent when events like this arise. I am confident we have a robust system in place. I thank the Chief Executive for keeping Elected Members well informed during the weather event.
- 11 April - Gumboot Day in Taihape – thanks to the organising groups for a very well run event myself and my wife enjoyed a great day out. P.S. Thanks for the pickled onions!
- 13 April – tangi of Thomas Curtis, former longstanding member of the Te Roopu Ahi Kaa Komiti and well respected for his work on iwi matters in our district.
- 14 April – Te Roopu Ahi Kaa Komiti Meeting.
- 14 April – Rangitikei Rural Support Group meeting – discussed opportunities to work together with their significant networks in Civil Defence. This is a very well respected group with good network connections.
- 15 April – Coroner's Court Hastings – inquiry into the Cyclone Gabrielle deaths, in particular Mr George Luke who died on the Taihape-Napier Road. I attended mainly out of respect to the family and in support of our Chief Executive and Roding Manager who was called upon to give evidence.

Mayor's Engagements

March 2026

13	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Quarterly Regional Relationship meeting with NZTA</p> <p>Attended Central Districts Water Joint Shareholder Committee Meeting</p> <p>Attended NZ Rural Games Awards Evening</p>
14	<p>Attended NZ Ford Ranger Rural Games</p> <p>Attended Child Cancer Red Bucket Appeal Mayoral Challenge</p> <p>Attended Marton OpShop 50th Celebrations</p> <p>Attended Bulls RSA AGM</p> <p>Attended Alistair Stewart's Gold Star Celebration with Bulls Volunteer Fire Brigade</p>
17	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p>

	<p>Attended LGNZ zoom with Minister of Local Government</p> <p>Attended Citizenship Ceremony</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
18	<p>Attended monthly comms meeting with staff</p> <p>Attended Bulls Town Centre Projects walkabout</p>
19	<p>Attended Council Workshop</p> <p>Attended Balance Farm Environmental Awards</p>
20	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended National MPS Accelerate35 Meeting</p> <p>Attended Central Districts Field Days Event</p>
21	<p>Attended Annual Plan Public Meeting in Bulls</p> <p>Attended Marton OpShop 50th Celebrations – Function for Past/Present Volunteers</p>
23	<p>Attended Ngā Wai Tōtā Hui in Ohakune</p> <p>Attended Youth Council Meeting</p>
24	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Regional Transport Matters Regional Chiefs Fortnightly online meeting</p> <p>Attended Taihape Town Centre Projects walkabout and Annual Plan Public Meeting</p> <p>Attended RCA Forum Special General Meeting online</p> <p>Attended Taihape Wellness Development Hui</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
25	<p>Attended Community Volunteer Awards Meeting</p> <p>Attended meeting with MSD Regional Commissioner</p> <p>Attended Federated Farmers meeting with Mayors</p>

April 2026

22	<p>Attended Mokai Patea Services Kaumatua Ora Wananga</p> <p>Attended LGNZ Zoom on Fuel Crisis</p> <p>Attended Taihape Grandstand Community Meeting</p>
23	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Council Workshop</p> <p>Attended Marton Town Centre Projects walkabout</p> <p>Attended Local Government sector meeting with Ministers re fuel response</p>
24	<p>Attended Rural Communities Chapter Hui online</p>
28	<p>Attended Marton ANZAC Day Dawn Parade</p> <p>Attended Ohingaiti ANZAC Day Function</p> <p>Attended Marton ANZAC Day Ceremony at Cenotaph Marton Park</p>
26	<p>Attended Suzuki Extreme 4x4 Challenge in Turakina</p>

ITEM 9.1

28	Attended Mayors Briefing before Council with staff Attended meeting with Minister Peters at Parliament Attended logging meeting with Daran Ponter Attended meeting with Deputy Mayor
29	Attended Community Grants Committee Meeting
30	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund Meeting Attended Assets/Infrastructure Committee Workshop Attended Finance/Performance Committee Workshop Attended Central Districts Water Joint Shareholders Committee Workshop Attended Campaign Launch of surgical robot at Palmerston North Hospital

May 2026

1	Attended presentation of Community Volunteer Award to Katie Deere
4	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended presentation of Mayor's Recognition Award to Jo Rangooni Attended meeting with TUIA Rangatahi
5	Attended Regional Transport Matters Regional Chiefs Fortnightly Online Hui Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
6	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Council Meeting – Annual Plan Hearing
7	Attended Council Meeting and Council Workshop Attended meeting with FRV Chief Executive re Solar Farms Attended Manawatu-Rangitikei Federated Farmers AGM

Attachments:

1. **LGNZ four-monthly report December-March (under separate cover)**
2. **Zone 3 - March 2026 - Elected Member Report - Cr Fi Dalgety (under separate cover)**
3. **Zone 3 - March 2026 Elected Members Report - Crs Baird & Sharland (under separate cover)**

Recommendation

That That the Mayor's Report – May 2026 be received.

9.2 Rangitikei at the table: June Engagement on Simplifying Local Government

Author: Katrina Gray, Group Manager - Strategy, Community and Democracy

1. Reason for the report

- 1.1 To update the Rātana Community Board on the Government's latest direction for simplifying local government, and to ask Board members to help encourage their communities to take part in Rangitikei District Council's June engagement.

2. Context

- 2.1 The Government's [November 2025 proposal to replace regional councillors with Combined Territories Boards](#) made up of mayors has changed.
- 2.2 Following consultation, the Government has moved to a staged approach:
 - a voluntary Head Start pathway for councils ready to reorganise/amalgamate quickly; and
 - a later backstop process for areas that do not progress through Head Start.
- 2.3 The Head Start pathway is focused on structural reform. In simple terms, this means councils can propose creating new unitary authorities. A unitary authority brings together the functions of a regional council, such as Horizons Regional Council, and a territorial authority, such as Rangitikei District Council, into one organisation.
- 2.4 Proposals can cover all or part of a region, and may include neighbouring councils from different regions where that makes sense. The Government has said Head Start proposals must be submitted by 11.59pm on Sunday 9 August 2026.
- 2.5 You can read more about the May 2026 Government announcement, the Head Start pathway, and Mayor Andy's reaction below:
 - [Mayor Andy Watson Rangitikei must have a say on simplifying local government](#)
 - [Letter from Minister of Local Government, Hon Simon Watts](#)
 - [Information from DIA](#)

3. What could this mean for Rangitikei

- 3.1 The way local government is structured affects how decisions are made, how services are delivered, and how local communities are represented.
- 3.2 In his recent opinion piece, Mayor Andy Watson said the Government's direction is clear, and while the timeframe is very tight, Councillors have a responsibility to ensure Rangitikei voice is heard. Mayor Watson also noted that larger councils do not automatically mean lower rates, and that any proposed cost savings need to be understood alongside possible trade-offs.

4. June Community Engagement

- 4.1 Before Council decides what path to take, the Mayor and Councillors want to hear from the community.

- 4.2 From June, Council will be holding public meetings across the district and opening an online survey. This engagement will ask people what matters most to them, such as;
- keeping local decision-making close to rural communities,
 - protecting the local identity of Rangitikei,
 - improving council processes,
 - understanding possible costs and savings,
 - protecting local services,
 - strengthening the regional influence of Rangitikei.
- 4.3 The purpose of this engagement is to make sure people understand what is happening, why it matters, and how they can share what is important to them.
- 4.4 Public meeting dates <https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/council/local-government-reforms/simplifying-local-government>
- 4.5 Requests for additional public meetings can be made to info@rangitikei.govt.nz.

5. Role of this committee

- 5.1 The Rātana Community Board is a trusted local voice and an important link between Council and communities. Council is asking Board members to help spread the word and encourage people in their communities to have their say during the June engagement period.
- 5.2 This could include:
- sharing the material provided at this meeting
 - encouraging people to attend a public meeting
 - directing people to the online survey
 - helping people understand that this is about the future shape of local government and local voice.
- 5.3 This approach supports Rangitikei District Council's communications and engagement strategy, which recognises Community Committees and community groups as key partners who can help amplify Council initiatives and support meaningful two-way engagement with residents.

6. Supporting information

- 6.1 The Rātana Community Board will be provided with additional communications material at the meeting to distribute through their communities. Should you require additional material to support your local conversations, please contact comms@rangitikei.govt.nz

Recommendation

That the report Rangitikei at the table: June Engagement on Simplifying Local Government be received.

9.3 Update on Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti

Author: Grace Tairaoa, TRAK Member

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 A verbal report will be provided during the meeting.

Recommendation

That the Update on Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti be received.

9.4 Cemetery Update - June 2026

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 This is a standing report that will update the Board on new burials within the Rātana Cemetery between 09 Apr 26 – 03 June 26

2. Burials

There were three burials:

- 2.1 Plot 181/ Block 1/ Row 8
- 2.2 Plot 166/ Block 1/ Row 7
- 2.3 Plot 188/ Block 1/ Row 8

Recommendation

That the report Cemetery Update – June 2026 be received.

9.5 Funding Schemes Update - June 2026

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Overview

- 1.1 Council currently administers four funding schemes for the Rangitikei District, these are:
 - a. Community Initiatives Fund
 - b. Events Sponsorship Scheme
 - c. Creative Communities Scheme
 - d. Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund

2. Community Initiatives Fund

- 2.1 This is a Council fund intended to support community-based projects in the Rangitikei District that develop community cohesion and community resilience.
- 2.2 Council allocated \$30,000 to this fund annually, to be distributed across two separate funding rounds.
- 2.3 Decision was made at the Community Grants Committee meeting on the 29 April 26 to allocate the funding to the below groups:
 - Friends of Taihape Charitable Society - \$10,000
 - Brain Injury Association Whanganui - \$ 2,250
 - People First New Zealand Inc - \$1,000
 - Taihape Neighbourhood Support - \$2,250
 - Bulls & District Community Trust - Bulls Hip Hop \$ 2,000
 - Rangitikei Forest and Bird - \$989.30
 - St Margarets Mobile Art Expo - \$1,000
 - Bulls Toy Library - \$1,920
 - Gumboots Brass and Wind Ensemble - \$1,297
 - Sport Whanganui - \$1,934
 - Taihape & District Museum & Historical Society - \$ 700

3. Events Support Scheme

- 3.1 This is a Council fund intended to support events in the district that help to develop community cohesion and reinforce economic growth.
- 3.2 Council has allocated \$25,000 to this fund annually, to be distributed across two separate funding rounds.
- 3.3 Decision was made at the Community Grants Committee meeting on the 29 April 26 to allocate the funding to the below groups:
 - Bulls & District Community Trust - Wear-a-Bull Arts
 - Bulls Junior Rugby Club
 - Rangitikei Netball
 - Bulls Rugby Football Club

4. Creative Communities Scheme

- 4.1 This fund is supplied by Creative NZ and administered by Council. Applications are encouraged from community groups and individuals whose projects:
 - Demonstrate growth over time
 - Develop and support local artistic communities

- Encourage a transfer of artistic skills
 - Support diversity and inclusion
 - Projects with a youth focus are also encouraged
- 4.2 Creative NZ has allocated \$24,397.80 + GST to the Rangitikei District Council on an annual basis, and this is distributed across two separate funding rounds.
- 4.3 Decisions for round one for 2025/26 were made on the 20 May 26 and below are the successful groups.
- Developpe Studio
 - Square Edge Community Arts
 - Mataroa School
 - Opaea Marae Trust
 - Gumboots Brass and Wind Ensemble
 - The Art of Seeing Academy

5. Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund

- 5.1 This fund is supplied by Sport NZ and administered by Council. The fund is targeted at young people aged between 5 and 19 years and is open to rural sport club teams and rural school club teams with eligible members who require subsidies to assist with transport expenses to local sporting competitions.
- 5.2 Sport NZ allocated \$9,500 (+ GST) to the Rangitikei District Council on an annual basis. There is one funding round per year.

6. Further Information

- 6.1 More details about these funding opportunities can be found on the Council website (link below) and this is also where applications can be submitted:
<https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/district/community/grants-funding>

7. Rangitikei Grant Finder – Grant Guru

- 7.1 The Rangitikei District Council has joined forces with one of New Zealand and Australia’s most powerful grant search engine, GrantGuru, to deliver a free one-stop-shop grants portal.
- How it works**
- 7.2 The Funding Finder hand-picks grants and funding opportunities specific to local businesses and community groups, encompassing all government and private sector grants available. It also provides advice and top tips for finding and applying for grants to maximise the chances of receiving funding.
- 7.3 GrantGuru is regularly updated with new information and grants. It features all council grants and initiatives. It replaces the Generosity NZ portal which previously was available through the Rangitikei Community Hubs.
- 7.4 Register via the website: <https://grantguru.com/nz/rangitikei>
- 7.5 Please reach out to our Funding Specialist if you require more information about Grant Guru, Charissa Lawlor, charissa.lawlor@rangitikei.govt.nz

Recommendation

That the Funding Schemes Update – June 2026 be received.

9.6 Rātana Wastewater Discharge to Land - Update**Author:** Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive**Authoriser:** Carol Gordon, Chief Executive**1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 This update has been extracted from the Project Update report that was provided to Council.
- 1.2 It is provided here for the Board's information.

2. Project: Rātana Wastewater Discharge to Land**Project Manager:** Steve Carne**Budget:** \$8M**Reporting Period:** April 2026**2.1 Overall Project Health**

Category	Status	Previous Status	Comment
Overall Status	● Amber	● Amber	Alternative Options Report prepared and submitted to Officers for consideration
Scope	● Green	● Green	Strategy to reticulate Koitiata and discharge Rātana and Koitiata effluent via sea outfall at Koitiata was investigated and identified as an option to be included for consideration.
Schedule	● Amber	● Amber	Program to be confirmed
Budget	● Green	● Green	Budget is dependent on consideration of newly identified options and project outcomes.
Benefits	● Green	● Green	Benefits that can be achieved will be dependent on final option selection.
Stakeholder Support	● Amber	● Amber	New strategy not being discussed with the wider community and stakeholders until Council has considered Alternative Options Report

2.2 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:



- Alternative Options Report prepared and submitted to Officers

In progress:

- Alternative options to be presented to Council for consideration.

ITEM 9.6

2.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Koitiata Outfall Concept Strategy Investigation finalised	April 2026	
Stakeholder Consultation Starts	June 2026	

2.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	\$8M
Actual Spend	\$1.5M
Forecast Completion	\$9M

Variance: **Uncertain until alternative options are presented to Council for approval.**

2.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Community views and acceptance of alternative strategy	High	Early consultation re alternatives and reasons why

2.6 Further Information/Decisions that may be required of Council

Consideration of alternative options available.

Recommendation 1

That the Rātana Wastewater Discharge to Land - Update be received.

10 Meeting Closed.