

Welcome to 2026 where we are the front-line collectors of community voice, their links, their advocates, to connect to our local Council and LGNZ who directly speak to central Government on how effectively the rate-payer dollar spend is seen on our streets and in our homes. Our job is increasingly important now with this Government working to dissolve Regional Councils and put Territorial and Unitary Authorities, (District Councils such as ours), back to basics with the "Local Government Systems Improvement Bill."

Can I say again how excited I am in our Board, our strengths with significant 'people reach' throughout Taihape and the wider area, diversity of thought and experience, variety of skills, all with our communities at heart. And supported by professional staff and our long-standing Mayor.

As attached, Frances Hodgson, on behalf of Taihape Rotary, has written to our Board that the Taihape Chapter of Rotary will no longer exist beyond finalizing projects under Mana Tangata Inc. Having contributed to numerous projects over the 80yrs of their existence I thank them warmly and applaud their community spirit.

One of my measuring sticks for an effective Community Board is how fast they spend their allocated funds for the benefit of everyone. Six years on a large school's PFA where big fundraising events delivered to be spent that year; the thinking was that parents had open pockets for social events, raffles, auctions, whatever, as long as they knew the money was going to be spent on their little darlings. The same applies here; these ratepayer funds need to go into making today brighter, cleaner and more efficient.

Conversely a three-year (one TCB term), lens could be a way of delivering a bigger project for the Community. This is something our next workshop could explore with ideas coming from Talking Tables and general chats within our circles.

The recent closing of the Taihape-Napier Gentle Annie Road is a big deal for our summer-busy stations, holiday makers and weather-effected road users needing an alternative route to Hawkes Bay from the north. Keeping this road open is vital for Rangitikei's primary industry: thanks must go to our roading contractors for minimizing the closures and the great repair work they are doing.

Lastly, I find that great communication is an essential tool for governance. This quote is a goodie:

"Listen with curiosity. Speak with honesty. Act with integrity."

I promise to do my best, Gill Duncan



**Taihape Rotary**  
C/o PO Box 96, Taihape 4742. New Zealand

Club 18634- District 9940 - Chartered 1945

President Theona Ormsby- Secretary Frances Hodgson - Treasurer Wayne Stokes

17<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Mrs. Gill Duncan,  
Chairperson,  
Taihape Community Board,  
C/o Taihape Service Centre  
Taihape

Dear Gill,

Ref: Taihape Rotary Chapter

I write to you on behalf of Taihape Rotary Chapter to advise that the Taihape Rotary Chapter will officially no longer exist, but will still be operational as we finalise projects under the Rotary Club of Mana Tangata Inc.

Just to give you some background information on our present status. The RC of Mana Tangata Inc is made up of many small clubs from the southern part of the North Island – they are now chapters of Mana Tangata, as they do not have the membership numbers required by law to continue as an official club individually.

Our remaining funds, until dispersed will sit under the Mana Tangata Charitable Trust.

At the moment the Taihape chapter is in the process of vacating the cupboard in Kokako Street Hall, we request that our 5 honorary boards be placed on the walls in the Kokako Hall. Taihape Rotary has existed for 80 yrs and has been responsible for numerous projects in the community and worthy of some recognition.

We ask permission from your board for some allocated space in the Kokako Hall for our honorary boards. We look forward to your response and if necessary, we are willing to speak at your next meeting.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "F. Hodgson".

Frances Hodgson  
Secretary  
Taihape Rotary  
0272170635