



# KŌRERO MAI



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# RANGITĪKEI Connect

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ISSUE 104

## FROM THE Mayor's Desk



It finally appears summer has arrived. The cold and wet weather we had been experiencing was challenging for the rural sector - and for parents and grandparents trying to keep kids entertained for the holidays!

A huge thanks must go to Rangitikei College for lending Marton Swim Centre their pool for the summer holidays. We really appreciate the time and effort taken to make this happen. I am expecting to receive advice within the next few days as to options for council regarding Marton Pool.

As always, summer is full of events in Rangitikei which bring thousands of visitors to the district. Over the weekend, I attended the Marton Country Music Festival with record numbers of people in attendance. I believe that there were over 600 motor homes and 2500 devotees to country music at Sir James Wilson Park.

For the official opening on Saturday night for the festival, I made comment on the economic benefit that these events bring to the district - which is huge. The headline performers were the Top Twins, performing for the first time publicly in three years. They received a standing ovation before they even sang a word!

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Otari Sports Day on Saturday, but I understand that the numbers there were also impressive. This weekend, we have the Turakina Highland Games kicking off on Friday night. The Highland games are the oldest and the largest in the country, and are a great celebration of Scottish culture and heritage. It's well worth checking out if you haven't done so.

We received incredibly sad news to start the year that Dame Tariana Turia passed away on Friday, 3 January 2025. She was a trailblazer as a wahine Māori politician, who held numerous portfolios and achieved many great things for Māori and the wider communities she represented. Tariana holds great mana for her service to people and politics. She was a skilled and principled politician who could get deals done with both Labour and National, which over the years has been a rarity. I was privileged to attend her tangi at Whangaehu Marae to pay my respects to her and pass on condolences to her whānau. It was by far the biggest and most attended tangi or funeral that I have attended. She is a great loss to our region and the country. But her legacy is there for all to see and will remain for many years to come.

This coming week will also see the Rātana celebrations, which commemorate the founding of the Rātana Church by Tahupōtiki Wiremu Rātana. As always, it will be the leading political event for Aotearoa New Zealand for the New Year with the Prime Minister attending, as well as other politicians from the government, the opposition parties, and other key delegates from the district and wider region. It will be interesting to see, with the change of government, what Ministers have to say.

Late last year, Council received confirmation of funding of \$10 million to restore infrastructure in Rātana so these celebrations can cater to the growing number of visitors each year.

For those traveling across the country for summer festivities, please travel safe - and remember to be safe around our waters. Also, if you're travelling on SH1, please stop in at places like Taihape, Mangaweka, Flat Hills, Ōhingaiti and Hunterville. Talking to businesses in these places, the closure of the Desert Road has had an impact on them, so stopping in and doing a bit of shopping, grabbing a bite to eat or having a cuppa will help them. Long may this beautiful Rangitikei weather continue.

Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.

## Taihape watermain renewal into next stage

The next stage of the Taihape watermain renewal has commenced. This work will replace an old failing section of watermain pipe with a new Polyethylene (PE) pipe. This pipeline is a main feed for Taihape and reduces the failure risk for this key water pipe.

Council contractors will be installing the next section from the reserve area, where they were working late last year, down to the end of Linnet St (by farmlands). This section is on the edge of the road and is being directionally drilled.

To keep people safe there will be traffic management in place. There will still be two lanes of traffic but at times this may not be in the normal lanes. Toroa and Linnet Streets will remain open but at times will be restricted to one lane and stop/go near the intersection with SH1. Where possible, use alternative routes and avoid these intersections while work is happening. The footpaths will remain open during this work, but there may be some detours around work areas.

Work is planned to be completed in late February. Towards the end of February, moving to the new pipe will require some water shutdowns for some properties. Affected property owners will be contacted directly closer to the time by the contractor and should only be impacted for short periods.



Kōrero Mai  
Have your say



## Gambling policies open for consultation

Council is consulting on our Draft Gambling Policies from now until 5pm Monday 24 February 2025. These policies are:

- Gambling Venue (Class 4) Policy = pokies
- TAB Venue Policy = Sports and race betting

The key things that you need to know are:

1. Council's preferred options for both policies is for the status quo to remain in place (with a few minor adjustments that won't impact venues or users).
2. This means the limit of pokies in the district will remain the same, and we won't allow stand-alone TAB venues in Rangitikei.

## Do you agree with Council's preferred options? Or do you reckon we need a rethink?

Further information including the draft proposal and submission form is available from our website or from the following places:

- Council's Community Hubs in Marton, Bulls, and Taihape
- Council's Main Office in Marton
- or by calling 0800 422 522

## Making the District Plan easier to navigate

The Rangitikei District ePlan is available to users on our website, making information about zoning and land use more accessible and easier to navigate.

The ePlan is interactive, and allows users to search for specific property information relating to the District Plan. The key features that the ePlan has are:

- **Interactive maps:** View and search by address, zone, or activity.
- **Searchable content:** Easily access relevant rules, objectives, and policies.
- **Up-to-date information:** The ePlan will provide the most up-to-date version of the District Plan.
- **Property specific information:** Users can search for a particular property and automatically find all sections of the District Plan relevant to that property.

As well as property specific information, the District Plan is available in full as an eBook. The ePlan is now officially the Operative Rangitikei District Plan. This means all planning applications will be required to be submitted referencing the new provisions contained in the ePlan.

People who have questions about using the ePlan, or need assistance finding specific information, can contact us 0800 422 522 or email [katrina.gray@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:katrina.gray@rangitikei.govt.nz).

## Where's it @ Rangitikei?

2025 is here and it's a massive year of consultations.

We'll be seeking your feedback on:

- Local Water Done Well
- Annual Plan
- Waste Management & Minimisation Plan
- Marton-Bulls Wastewater
- District Plan
- 2025 Local Election

We'll be honest, it's a lot! And, this isn't everything that we have to consult on.

But don't worry, @Man is back to guide you through these ones above, and give you the information you need to decide if you want to kōrero mai (have your say)!

