



KŌRERO MAI



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RANGITIKEI Connect

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ISSUE 106

FROM THE Mayor's Desk



Well, the Rangitikei has certainly been a busy space through the start of this year and in terms of events we have had plenty. The Country Music Festival at Wilson Park in Marton saw in excess of 700 motor homes on site. My guess is this was an increase of about 150 over the previous year. This is, I think, due to two things – it is seen as a premier event on the country music circuit and the Topp Twins appearing for first time in 3 years was certainly a drawcard. Congratulations on a fantastic event! There were many other events on during January and February – the Turakina Highland Games again a standout with a record number attending and fine weather for a change. Also, Gumboot Day in Taihape, and Shearing Sport events. The standout for me was the Mokai Patea Services organisation of the Waitangi Big Day Out that ran on 6 February in Taihape. Again, an incredibly well organised and well supported event in Taihape and I thank the Councillors who turned up and gave their time as part of a Q&A session with the community.

For Councillors we are back in the thick of it. We are getting to the sharp end of decisions around Local Water Done Well and consultation on our preferred future water services delivery model will take place from March 5th - April 2nd. For staff this means an incredible amount of time comparing the costs of how we handle water services now, and what the charges could be under council's preferred model - a sub-regional organisation with Whanganui and Ruapehu District Council's. The Annual Plan consultation will come quickly after where we consider the work we will be doing in year 2 of the Long Term Plan 2024-34. We are also hoping to shortly present the community with a possible programme for the repair of the Marton Swimming Pool ahead of next season.

Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.

WHERE'S WATER @ RANGITIKEI?

Very soon, we're going to be consulting on Local Water Done Well (LWDW), and how water services will be delivered to you in the future!

We know that it's complicated and, let's be honest, not the most exciting thing in the world. So we've tried to simplify it.

The easiest way to explain it would be this:

- **Marton Water Strategy = Project**
- **Local Water Done Well = Overall governance and management of water services.**

As things are now, Council manages the governance and water services for Rangitikei residents.

If under Local Water Done Well, Council does move to its preferred arrangement, which is a combined Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) with Ruapehu District Council and Whanganui District Council, it would mean the service delivery would be managed by the CCO. That would include any projects, such as Marton Water Strategy.

For clarity, the Marton Water Strategy will be completed before Local Water Done Well arrangements have been confirmed, so it won't be impacted by the formation of a CCO.

However, any water improvement projects that are proposed after the formation of the CCO will be a joint decision.

The general feel we've had from people so far is that all they really care about is:

1. Will water come through my taps?
2. Will my toilet flush?
3. If it rains, will the drains take stormwater away?
4. Will LWDW improve the quality of the water I get?
5. And how much is this going to cost me?

But, if you scratch under the surface a bit more, there might be some other things that you want to know.

So, here's a chance to ask us questions!

What is it that you want us to answer? Email comms@rangitikei.govt.nz and we'll compile all the questions together and get answers for you that we'll post on social media and to our website.



Water Tanker
Onsite 3-6:30pm
Tuesdays and
Thursdays

Marton water update - Geosmin levels increased

As many of you will have noticed, the geosmin levels in Marton's water supply have increased over the course of this week leading to taste and smell issues.

Recent rain has brought fresh nutrients into the Tutaenui Reservoir, and coupled with sunshine and humid conditions over the past two weeks, means that fresh algae blooms have formed. As algae breaks down, geosmin is released into the water and that's what gives Marton's water its taste and smell.

Our reticulation team will continue to fine tune the treatment process of the water to make improvements, but we recognise that it can take some time for the geosmin levels to settle down. We're also reliant on rain to flush the algae out of the reservoir and cooler weather to stop algae from blooming.

With that in mind, Council will be offering residents free water from a water tank at the Marton RSA and Citizens Memorial Hall. This water will be coming from our reticulated supply in Hunterville.

- **What:** A water tanker carrying drinking water from outside Marton.
- **Where:** The Marton RSA and Citizens Memorial Hall.
- **When:** Each Tuesday and Thursday between 3:00pm and 6:30pm, starting Tuesday 18 February 2025.
- **How long:** Residents will have access to this alternative drinking water source until further notice.

Residents will need to bring their own containers to collect the water - please be patient and mindful of others. Should residents have any accessibility concerns or queries, they are encouraged to reach out to our team who will work to find a solution on 06 327 0099 or info@rangitikei.govt.nz.

We would like to thank residents for their ongoing patience regarding this issue. Marton water is safe to drink - even though it might not always taste the best. We know it is frustrating, but progress is being made towards our new water source solution.

Rangitikei Youth Council presents ANZCO Foods with certificate of appreciation

Rangitikei Youth Councillor Ani Marie Harrison presented ANZCO Foods Rangitikei Site Manager Brendan Poole with a certificate of appreciation for their kai sponsorship of the Rangatahi Village at the recent Rātana Celebrations.

This marks the second year that ANZCO Foods has sponsored kai for the celebrations, with the Youth Council volunteering their time to cook the food provided. Whānau from around Aotearoa gathered to honour Tahupōtiki Wiremu Rātana and his vision and legacy.

The Rangatahi Village at Rātana offers tamariki and rangatahi a chance to take part in traditional Māori games like kī to rahi, as well as touch rugby, volleyball, arts and crafts activities, and music.

"ANZCO is a strong supporter of numerous community initiatives, so it was great to formally thank them and share how successful the event was. Their generosity is truly appreciated by the Rangatahi Village organisers, Manuhiri, and us," says Justine Rowe, Rangitikei District Council's Tamariki/Rangatahi Youth Engagement Officer.

