



KÖRERO MAI



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RANGITIKEI Connect

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ISSUE 107

FROM THE Mayor's Desk



Our former Chief Executive Kevin Ross's resignation took effect from 28 February. I take this opportunity to thank Kevin for the skill, knowledge and compassionate style he has brought to the position. Kevin, staff, councillors and myself have appreciated working with and for you. There have been a number of complex carry-over situations that you have had to deal with, most of which are now resolved. Kevin, enjoy your retirement again and I know that there are some issues that staff will call on you for assistance with from time to time.

Transport and the deterioration of our roading network continues to keep me awake at night and there are several things I need to comment on:

- With the closure of the forestry mills at Tangiwai nearly 1000 tonnes of logs a day were being carted over the Gentle Annie Road to the Port of Napier. We successfully brought all interested parties together - being NZTA, KiwiRail, road haulage contractors, forestry owners, the Ports of Napier and the respective Councils - to send a clear and simple message, that these logs needed to go via rail as the road could not sustain the damage over a period of time associated with this cartage. I want to thank all of the parties for reaching a resolution especially KiwiRail who significantly lowered their pricing with other parties also contributing. The deal is only for one year and hopefully in that time the mills are sold, people re-employed and the logs further processed in New Zealand.
- The benefit of this discussion has also been an increased willingness from NZTA to enter into discussions around further support for the maintenance of the Gentle Annie Road.
- Forestry will continue to use the road in spite of the success of the log train and we need to continue with this fight.

Finally, a very good news story. On 11 December myself and a small group of staff and councillors travelled to the Springvale Bridge on the Gentle Annie Road to formally open a new dry vault toilet. Springvale is such a beautiful spot in our district, nearly halfway between Hastings/Napier and Taihape. Years ago the Plimmer and Williams families, who own stations in the area, put in and serviced at their own expense a long drop toilet to meet the needs of the travelling public. Their generous support over many years, and their ongoing commitment, along with support from the Rangitikei District Council, MBIE Tourism Infrastructure Fund, and the Upper Rangitikei River Catchment Group, provided an opportunity to enhance the visitor experience, as well as provide an amenity that protects the environment and ensures long-term sustainability of the location. I also wish to acknowledge local artist, Timoti Pekamu, whose artwork features on the facility.

Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.



Marton Swim Centre update

Council has engaged engineers to complete a comprehensive asset condition assessment of the entire Marton Swim Centre. The assessment included all the buildings, the pool, pipework and all associated filter and heating equipment.

The assessment identifies all asset renewals and upgrades that will be needed to get the facility to comply with current requirements, as well as upgrades needed in the medium and long-term.

Work continues with phase two of the investigations to add costs to all identified upgrades and then prioritise these upgrades. This information will be given to Council for their consideration.

Work on determining cost estimates for repairing the roof, heating and electrical services will happen at the same time to allow Council to consider potential short-term repairs to re-open the facility as soon as practicable.



Flying fox installation at Sir James Wilson Park

Some of you already know about this, but work is underway to install a new flying fox at Sir James Wilson Park!

At 30m in length, the flying fox will have two lines that people can ride down, so let the racing begin.

The majority of the funding for this has come from the Marton Development Group, with Council making a small contribution towards work that will make the upkeep and maintenance of the area easier once it's completed.

We'll have more details on when it will be open in the next few weeks.

WHERE'S WATER @ RANGITIKEI?

Rangitikei District Council prefers a collaborative approach to future water services delivery

The time has come from Rangitikei residents to provide their thoughts on Council's Local Water Done Well proposal and the future delivery of drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater.

From Wednesday 5th March, Rangitikei residents are asked to provide feedback about who should manage the district's water services in future.

At its Thursday 12 December 2025 Council meeting, Rangitikei District Council agreed on its first preference for future water services delivery, a Multi Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO) alongside Whanganui District Council and Ruapehu District Council.

Residents will also be presented with other options to consider including for water services to remain in house as they are now, and a Multi Council-Controlled Organisation with as many Councils in the Manawatū-Whanganui region as possible.

Although a regional model is forecast to save residents more money, other councils in the Manawatū-Whanganui Region have already indicated their preferences for either in-house water services delivery or collaboration with others.

For Rangitikei District Council, a collaborative approach also includes a te Ao Māori perspective and the protection of natural catchments and waterways. Rangitikei District Council are committed to carving iwi involvement in any future water services delivery model in partnership with iwi. Engagement with iwi and hapū will continue over the coming weeks and months to determine what this may look like.

With several large water improvement projects in progress in Rangitikei, there have been some concerns that Local Water Done Well will impact on these projects, such as the Marton Water Strategy which aims to improve the taste and smell of Marton's water supply. But these projects are due to be completed prior to the implementation of a new model, which is not likely to happen prior to 2028.

The consultation period for Local Water Done Well is from 5 March until 2 April, and there will be three community meetings for residents to speak to elected members about the options being presented, as well as an online webinar.

Local Water Done Well replaces the Three Waters/Affordable Water reforms of the previous government. It gives Council greater autonomy over the future of water services and how they get delivered to their residents.

Making a submission

Online: You can find the online submission form at:
www.rangitikei.govt.nz/consultations

In person: hard copies of the consultation document are available at and can be dropped off to: Council's Community Hubs in Marton, Bulls and Taihape, from the Council's Main Office in Marton or from the Council's website
www.rangitikei.govt.nz

Email: email your submission to
submissions@rangitikei.govt.nz

Post: Local Water Done Well
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street, Private Bag 1102,
Marton 4741

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/wheres-water



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We need to receive your feedback by 5pm on Wednesday, 2 April 2025

