

RANGITĪKEI Connect

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ISSUE 37

Ngā mihi Kirihimete me ngā manaakitanga mā te Tau Hou

FROM THE

Mayor's Desk

Merry Christmas everyone!

Councillors, Peter, staff and I take the opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. This year has been difficult as we all know. Covid has disrupted families, businesses have been destroyed or severely impacted and we have missed our loved ones. Tragically there have been many cases where we have not been able to farewell those who have passed on.

My heartfelt thanks to all of those agencies, organisations and volunteers who have stepped up to help. They are too many to name however I must acknowledge our District Health Board and Iwi Health Providers who have been outstanding. Unfortunately the worst may still be in front of us so please jab, scan and be kind.

In spite of these difficulties our district has moved on at an incredible pace. The new homes constructed or in planning and the new businesses wanting to be here are unprecedented. We have amazing new community facilities and parks either open or underway right throughout the district, many of which have been driven by volunteers. We all stand amazed at what Lucy Skou and Brenna Oneill have achieved in Marton and this is being replicated in all our other towns. The feeling of positiveness and vibrancy in the district is everywhere. Early in the new year we will celebrate the opening of the Mangaweka Bridge, Marton Memorial Hall, the Bulls Bus Terminal and the start of the build processes in Taihape.

My thanks to you all – enjoy the family time and travel safely.

Best wishes, **Andy & Beth Watson.**



Opening Hours for the Christmas and New Year Period 2021/2022

The Marton Office, Te Matapihi, Marton and Taihape Libraries and Information Centres, will all **close on Friday 24 December at Midday**. Normal business hours resume at all sites on Monday 10 January 2022. During the holiday period, any service requests or problems call 0800 422 522 which is answered by our call centre 24 hours a day.

Please see table for opening hours over Christmas/New Year.

	Te Matapihi - Bulls Community Centre	Marton Library / Information Centre	Taihape Library / Service Centre / Information Centre
Fri 24 Dec	9am - 12pm	9am - 12pm	9am - 12pm
Sat 25 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Sun 26 Dec	9am - 5pm	CLOSED	9am - 5pm
Mon 27 Dec	9am - 5pm	CLOSED	9am - 5pm
Tue 28 Dec	9am - 5pm	CLOSED	9am - 5pm
Wed 29 Dec	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm
Thu 30 Dec	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm
Fri 31 Dec	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm
Sat 1 Jan	9am - 5pm	CLOSED	9am - 5pm
Sun 2 Jan	9am - 5pm	CLOSED	9am - 5pm
Mon 3 Jan	9am - 5pm	CLOSED	9am - 5pm
Tue 4 Jan	9am - 5pm	CLOSED	9am - 5pm

Taihape Town Hall and Library on the move

The Taihape Town Hall and Library was closed last week due to the risk it poses to staff and the public following a detailed seismic assessment (DSA) report that Council's Chief Executive received earlier that week.

We are delighted to advise that Council has found a suitable premises to lease in Taihape so that we can continue to provide library and information centre services in the township.

You may see staff moving gear and equipment between the Town Hall and the old BNZ building at 102 Hautapu Street, our new Taihape office.

The Taihape facility received a rating of only 10% National Building Standard (NBS). The report identified that the risk to both staff and public in the event of an earthquake was high, therefore the Chief Executive has made the decision to close the site to undertake the work needed to bring the building up to an acceptable standard.

Council has been developing more knowledge of its asset portfolio to understand the condition of all its buildings, and seismic assessments were part of this work. Early indications from other the site assessments are that none of them pose the same risk as the Taihape facility. Minor works to strengthen some areas of some buildings will be required, but those buildings are assessed by engineers as safe to occupy.

Mr Peter Beggs, Chief Executive, said "I have not made this decision lightly, but my absolute priority is the safety of my staff and the public that visit and use the site. The assessment report outlined multiple structural elements that were a concern throughout the whole of the Town Hall and office space. Staff have been moved out of the site immediately and will be re-located to another site in Taihape."

Mayor Andy Watson said "The Town Hall and Library facility is a very old and iconic building in Taihape so Council will work hard to ensure any future options consider the value of this. It is important to know that the building has not been condemned, options for a long-term solution for the Taihape site will be investigated and Council will consider those in the next few months. This may include strengthening options for a new building or restoring the building – no decision has been made at this time."



We're making it Simpli!



Council customers can now apply for building consents online. The online service will allow applicants to submit their building consent applications via an online portal; respond to requests from councils online; and access and submit information throughout the building consent process. For more information contact us by email building.services@rangitikei.govt.nz

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simpli

2022 TUIA

RANGATAHI APPLY NOW!

This kaupapa is free, and focused on creating a network of support for rangatahi to help them serve their communities well. Tuia provides an opportunity to develop relationships with a diverse range of rangatahi throughout Aotearoa.

- Applicants for Tuia should:
 - Be of Māori whakapapa
 - Live in the Rangitikei district
 - Be aged between 18-25 years old
 - Be actively involved in contributing to the wellbeing of your community

Applications close 5pm, Friday 7 January 2022

For more info email kelly.widdowson@rangitikei.govt.nz

SHOP LOCAL THIS CHRISTMAS



RANGITĪKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL

making this place home