

FROM THE Mayor's Desk



Kia ora koutou, Council deliberated last month on our Long Term Plan. We firstly acknowledge a record number of submitters and thank people for their interest in Local Government and their concerns around rating positions and affordability which was reflected often in the submissions. I and Council would also like to acknowledge the huge amount of work that was done by staff in preparing an amazing document of submissions and the suggestions made in responses to submitters. Certainly one of the drivers of Council during the day was to reduce the rate burden. We are still finalising the final rates position however the indications are that rates may come down slightly on the forecast within the consultation document. In part, this has been achieved because of the lack of need to depreciate fund some of our earthquake prone Council buildings. This decision makes commonsense. Probably one of the most contentious decisions was the decision not to open the swimming pool in Marton over the winter months. To open the pool over those months would have come at considerable expense and Council has also been informed by staff that considerable money may have to be spent on the maintenance of the pool and building.

May 19th was the Rangitikei Heritage Weekend for all the museums in our district. I am a volunteer at Marton so Saturday and Sunday mornings I, like many other Marton volunteers, were needed. However in the afternoons I visited all but one of the museums in our district. My apologies to Mangaweka – I intended to be there but ran out of time with all the travelling. I will try and remedy that in the future. All of our museums are different - Marton focusses on the cottage, stables and prison jail that we have and the archival section being incredibly strong, Bulls is the museum that is open more than any other museum in our district, always available during the day for the travelling public, and has continued to grow. They now effectively have 3 sites – the main museum, the stables behind it and are working in conjunction with the old Bulls Library. Taihape is a real favourite of mine, partly because so many of the old vehicles, tractors and implements parked out the back of the museum I seem to have personally used at some stage or another in my life. Do pop in and have a look at some stage, it's fascinating. For those who are not aware the Hunterville Museum quietly sits in beside and behind the café and I spent some time talking on the Sunday before they closed with a couple of volunteers there. I guess the key message is these are the real gems of our district and I thank the museums for being open and the number of people who went out of their way to see more than one museum over the weekend.

Finally, I wish to congratulate Cr Brian Carter for being awarded a King's Service Medal (KSM) in this years King's Birthday Honours for service to Fire and Emergency NZ. Cr Carter joined the Volunteer Fire Brigade 1970 and has served over 50 years for both Marton and Bulls brigades. He is currently Chief Fire Officer for Bulls Volunteer Fire Brigade. He is one of the many excellent volunteers we have throughout our district.

Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.

Where's it @ Rangitikei - Long Term Plan Update

If you missed the Long Term Plan deliberations held on Thursday, 16 May, and would like to know what was decided upon, here's a brief summary of the three key choices that Council decided upon.

- **Marton Pool** to remain seasonal opening at this time
- **Kerbside recycling** will have a staggered introduction between 2027 and 2030
- **Marton Main Street upgrade** approved.

There's more details on these key choice decisions, and others relating to the Long Term Plan at the link below.

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/news/2024/wheres-it-rangitikei-long-term-plan-update

WHERE'S IT @ RANGITIKEI



Ngā Awa Block wins Western Architecture Award

Copeland Associates Architects have been recognised with an award at the Western Architecture Awards 2024 for Council's Ngā Awa Block building in Taihape.

The awards were held on Friday, 24 May, and the judges selected the Ngā Awa Block for the Public Architecture Award. Below is an excerpt of comments from the judges.

"Elegantly poised on multiple edges of paddock, field and tennis courts, this carefully composed building provides shelter and varied vantage points to the adjacent sporting activities. A generous verandah wraps the building edge, providing shelter, circulation and fleeting interaction between teams, whatever the outcome of the match. Robust exterior detailing sits comfortably with the joyous riot of structural colour of colonnade posts and beams. The kids can throw a ball around without limit. A considered understanding of the building's performance and energy use, as well as robust interior finishes and the best referees viewing platform in the land, contribute to a building that can make this community proud."

The Ngā Awa Block also received the Resene Colour Award, with judges saying that "the punch of colour is carried through from exterior to interior, referencing the surrounding local flora and history, helping to ground and confirm the building as a community asset."

Congratulations to Copeland Associates Architects and to Council officers, who have been involved in this project and thoroughly deserve the recognition they've received with these awards.

Meeting Amendments



The following meetings have changed since advertised on 16 May:

Marton Community Committee Meeting
Wednesday, 12 June at 6.00pm (NEW DATE)
18 Humphrey Street, Marton

Taihape Community Board Meeting
Wednesday, 12 June at 5.30pm (NEW DATE)
2 Kokako Street, Taihape

Council Meeting - Adoption of the Long Term Plan
Thursday, 20 June at 1.00pm (CANCELLED)
LTP Adoption will take place at our 27 June Council Meeting

Rātana Community Board By-Election 2024

Nominations closed for this by-election on 22 May 2024.

Whetu Hamahona has been elected unopposed to fill the extraordinary vacancy on the Rātana Community Board following the resignation of Lequan Meihana.



Kōrero Mai
Have YOUR say!

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/consultations

Draft Smokefree and Vapefree Policy 2024

Council is proposing to introduce a Smokefree and Vapefree Policy. This policy identifies locations and activities that are proposed to be smokefree and vapefree.

Have your say by 5pm on 1 July 2024



Draft Signs and Public Places Bylaw 2024

Council is proposing a new bylaw to control signs on public places, trading in public places, and other activities in public places to prevent nuisances and maintain public safety.

Have your say by 5pm on 1 July 2024



Do you qualify for a rates rebate?

Rates Rebate Scheme applications are due Sunday, 30 June 2024

If you are low-income earner, and you own a home, you may be eligible for a rates rebate. To find out if you are eligible for a rebate of up to \$750 visit:

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/ratesrebates

