

## Te Ripoata Tiamana O Te Roopu Ahi Kaa Hereturikōkā 2024

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Tena Koutou katoa,

Naumai hoki mai ano mo tenei kaupapa o Te Roopu Ahi Kaa ki te taha o te kaunihera o Rangitikei!

Just an acknowledgment from our last hui of the appointment of the Deputy Chair of Te Roopu Ahi Kaa, Kim Savage representing Parewahawaha, he tino mihi e te whanaunga mo tou tautoko.

Over the last two months our council has continued to advocate and work in a number of areas on behalf of its residents and ratepayers, tangata whenua and mana whenua.

Ongoing engagement with Iwi around council owned assets such as wastewater systems at place, advice & advocacy, and continuing to maintain and build trust which is imperative to strong, and empowering relationships. This month we have a number of new things being added into our reports which will enable Te Roopu Ahi Kaa the opportunity of having a greater understanding of the business of council.

Nationally, we have seen that the third reading of the Maori Wards amendment bill which was introduced by this coalition government has been passed. The implication of this bill will be decided upon by our council at the end of this month and is one of a number of kaupapa that are being debated throughout the motu.

Within the Te Ao Maori paradigm, things are certainly moving because of the ongoing and insidious peeling away and attack on Maori initiatives, the use and importance of Te Reo, Te Tiriti breaches and other major constitutional changes. A mihi to our collective Te Ranga Tupua Iwi who recently attended the National Iwi Chairs Forum for your kaha and representation in this space.

On a much more positive note, a huge mihi to our whanaunga in Heretaunga, who hosted the world first Maori Language and cultural festival in their rohe! a mihi to our whanau whanui who went over to tautoko this kaupapa. Ka mau te wehi!

As representatives of this rohe, we provide manaakitanga, Kaitiakitanga and rangatiratanga for all of our people but must never forget that we also belong to a wider Ao that also needs protection whether it be in the Taiao, Maturanga, or tangata space!

**He Whakatauaki!**

***Mā mua ka kite a muri, mā muri ka ora a mua***

Those who lead give sight to those who follow, those who follow give life to

those who lead

Nga mihi mahana

Piki Te Ora Hiroa

Tiamana