



MEDIA RELEASE

Ruapehu District Council

Contact: Paul Wheatcroft, Communications Manager, 027 24 33 064

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OTUNUI VALLEY ROAD NETWORK MEETING OUTSTANDING SUCCESS

Ruapehu District Council's (RDC) roading team accompanied by Councillor Marion Gillard and roading contractors GHD Ltd and Inframax were treated to afternoon tea with scones at the Otunui Hall by the local residents who turned out for the meeting on their local road network last Thursday (8th September).

The local road network meeting was the first in a series of three public meetings scheduled to provide rural residents the opportunity to meet with Council's key roading network people, provide feedback and have questions answered.

RDC Team Leader, Warren Furner, said that Council instigated holding public meetings out in local communities two years ago to improve the communication with residents in Ruapehu's rural valleys who have first hand knowledge of their local roads and are well placed to provide Council with advice on where improvements are required.

"The meeting at the Otunui Hall saw an excellent turn-out with around 20 local residents attending the meeting," he said.

"Following a short presentation on council's rural road management programme the floor was opened to local residents who asked a wide range of questions including the application of metal, road grading, the service request system, the use of mowers versus spray, overhanging trees, and others."

Mr Furner said that the residents were well informed and provided valuable feedback to council on a range of issues.

"Council encouraged those at the meeting to keep their service request calls around roading coming in as the phones were always open and firsthand knowledge from residents was the key to providing a responsive service."

"One of the major issues that residents wanted council to take up with government was on the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) plan to drop our roading subsidy by one percent a year over the next two years."

Mr Furner noted that council will be challenging the drop in subsidy with the NZTA and it was good to see the local community wanting to contribute to the argument against decision.

“The next two rural road meetings are at the Kaahu Estate Woolshed in the Whangaehu Valley on Thursday 22 September and at the Kirikau Hall on Friday 23 September,” he said.

“The council roading team is looking forward to meeting with local residents from around these areas at the up-coming meetings.”

“Anyone with any questions prior to the meetings can call Cook Te Wano at council for further information.”

DAVID HAMMOND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CJH : PRW