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# Ruapehu Bulletin

2 July 2025  
Issue No 2064

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**SH4  
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extended  
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**Tourism  
& isites  
together  
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closed for  
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rainy day  
win  
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## \$3.2 million boost for Waimarino health

A \$3.2 million government funding boost is set to transform the Waimarino Wellness Centre in Raetihi, marking a significant step forward in delivering integrated, community-led health and well-being services in the central North Island.

Chair of the Waimarino Wellness Centre, Honey Winter, says the funding – secured after sustained advocacy supported by Ruapehu District's mayor Weston Kirton – will kick-start Phase One of a long-anticipated refurbishment project.

"Mayor Kirton has been an active champion for our vision and played a crucial role in reigniting momentum with central government," said Winter.

"He helped get our case in front of the right people and made sure rural health remained a priority."

The funding, ring-fenced by the Ministry of Health, had previously stalled due to pandemic-related delays and system-wide health reforms. She said it was Kirton's advocacy, alongside community leaders, that helped push through the logjam and bring the project back on track.

Winter says the Waimarino Wellness Centre is a vision for integrated rural wellbeing, grounded in kaupapa Māori and

community aspirations. This was identified through current extensive local research by project lead Lou Bridger, including the Manawanui, Manawaroa, Manawaora E! report commissioned by Ngāti Rangi and Healthy Families (Whanganui).

### Wellness model

"This is about delivering services that reflect our people's needs – not just clinical care but prevention, education and wraparound support under one roof," said Winter.

"We're moving from a sickness model to a wellness model."

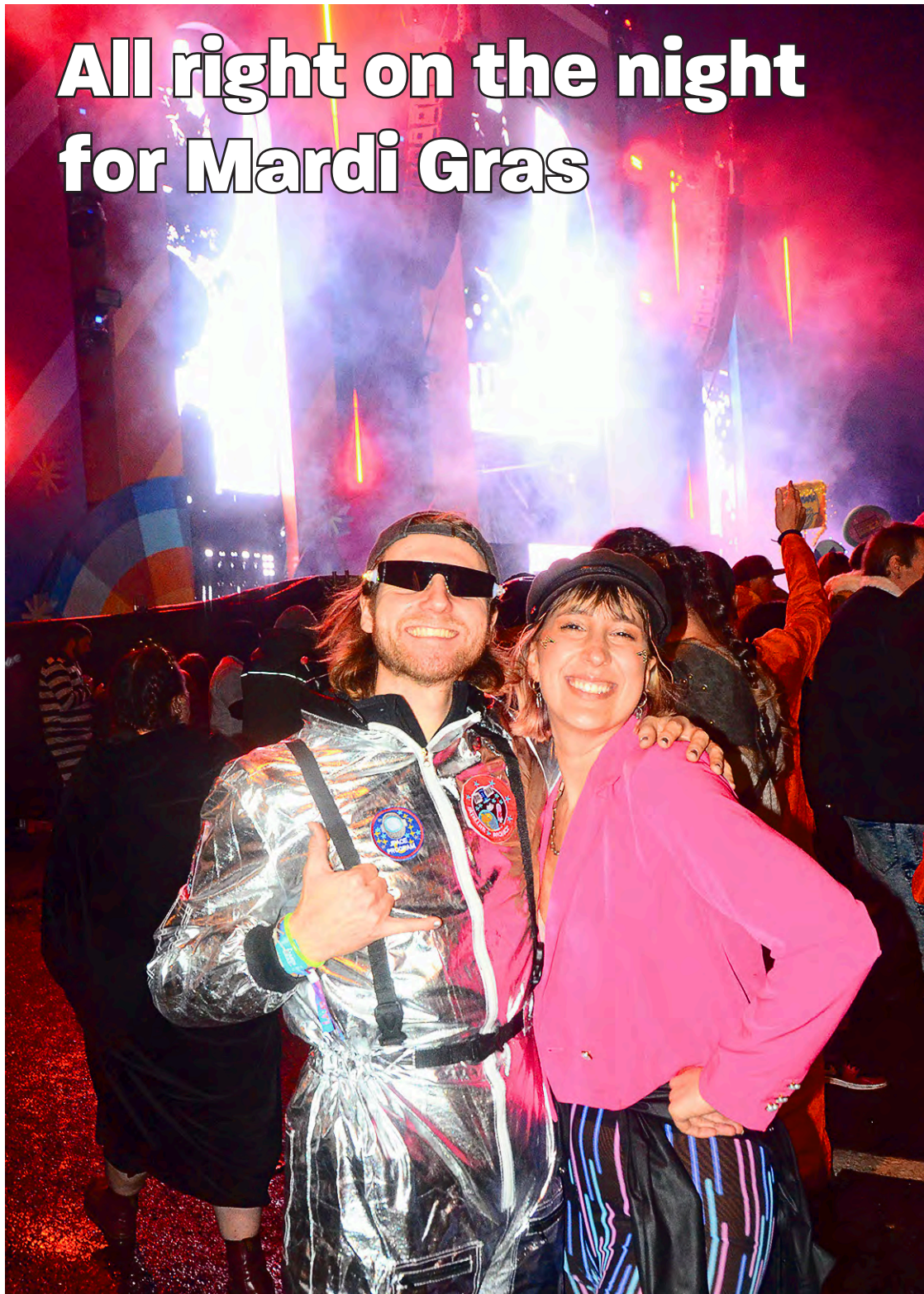
Two steering groups have now been established in partnership with Te Whatu Ora: one to oversee the building refurbishment and the other to shape

a collaborative model of care involving all health and social service providers in the area.

For a region that has endured significant economic challenges – from the closure of the local mill to seasonal employment instability and declining access to medical care – the refurbished Centre will be a much-needed beacon of hope and resilience.

Turn to Page 2

## All right on the night for Mardi Gras



Lars, at left, was part of a team of 'Aliens and Astronauts' for the Mardi Gras. He is pictured with DJ Barbara 'Bvrbwyre' who took in the Thames Street scenes after her DJ set in the the Powderkeg. It was Lars' first Ohakune Mardi Gras – he is on a working holiday from Germany, currently living in Wellington. More inside.0

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# \$3.2 million boost for Waimarino health

From Page 1

“Rural health has unique pressures. We have a shortage of doctors, a pharmacy that’s now just a depot, and people tired of repeating their stories to different services. This Centre will change that,” said Winter. Innovations already underway include investing in nurse practitioners, expanding telehealth access, and building stronger networks of community support. The upgraded facility will allow these services to operate in a purpose-built space designed for collaboration, privacy and accessibility. While the \$3.2 million will fund the first phase of the refurbishment, Winter says it’s just the beginning. “This won’t just be bricks and mortar. It’s the foundation for a more cohesive, more sustainable rural health system. We’re grateful for this government commitment and for Mayor Kirton’s continued leadership. His connection to our community and his drive to make things happen

have made a real difference.” Construction planning is now underway, with community engagement and provider input continuing to shape the next steps.

**Te Whatu Ora and community members meet in Raetihi recently: from left, Bonnie Sue, Marilyn Kairimu-Davis, Gary Davis (Kaumatua), Tracey Mitchell (RHL practice manager), Aiden Gilbert (chair Te Korowai o Wainuārua PSGE), Robyn Shearer (Te Whatu Ora deputy regional commissioner), Geoff Gwyn (Te Whatu Ora regional planning, funding and outcomes), Katherine Fraser-Chapple (Te Whatu Ora group director operations, Whanganui), Ruapehu Mayor Weston Kirton, Lou Brider (Waimarino Wellness Centre project lead), Honey Winter (Waimarino Wellness Centre chair), Elijah Pue (chief executive, Te Mātuku Iwi Māori Partnership Board), Louise Allsopp (Te Whatu Ora) and Lucy Pettit (Te Whatu Ora chief midwife).**



## Parapara closure hours extended: ends Friday

The road closure during the day on State Highway Four – the Parapara – has been extended each day, advises New Zealand Transport Authority (NZTA). “Work is progressing to repair an underslip near Otoko on State Highway 4, between Whanganui and Raetihi, with crews expecting to reopen the road next Friday 4 July,” states NZTA in a media release. The stretch of road is currently closed and to complete the work on time, the road will be closed for extended periods each day this week (from Monday 30 June). The daily closure will be in place between 8.30am and 5pm each day. No vehicles will be able to travel through Otoko during this time, with the only exception being emergency vehicles.

During works this week, access will remain for residents and workers either side of the Otoko work site (north of the Otoko worksite to Raetihi, and south of the Otoko worksite to Whanganui). From 6.30am–8.30am and from 5pm–6pm, residents and workers will be given access through Otoko and able to travel the full length of the SH4 corridor (but not able to pass through Otoko between 8.30am – 5pm). All other road users will be detoured onto SH49 and SH1 during these daytime closure hours. Outside of work hours, a stop/go will be in place until the northbound lane is reinstated. The road is also open on Saturdays and Sundays. While the closure allows for the drilling to be completed, focus will shift to the next phase of these works, to rebuild the northbound lane. Rebuilding the northbound lane will start from 7 July to the end of September. Further stop/go temporary traffic management, with delays of up to 15 minutes, is expected until the end of September. “We wish to thank all road users for taking detours and to the local businesses, residents and communities for their support during this closure period. “We know this detour will add time to journeys and we appreciate people’s understanding while this work is carried out to repair and improve the resilience of this section of SH4.”



Drilling works underway at the Otoko site. For this work, heavy machinery is positioned on the road and is being used to access hard to reach areas and drill metal bars into the base beneath the road.

### Eating out in the Ruapehu District

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**3 Rimu St Ohakune Junction Ph: 06 385 8648**  
Est in 1913, historic Kings offers an inviting menu by international chefs, a great selection of boutique wines and craft breweries including award winning Ruapehu Brewing Co beers in the fridge and on tap. See our Facebook page for what's on. Please check our open times as these will vary.

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**6 Thames St, Ohakune Junction Ph: 06 385 8558**  
Ohakune's most famous pizza restaurant, for over 37 years we have been serving Ohakune's best pizza. Come up and see us in the "Junction" at the end of the Old Coach Road and try one of our hot, tasty, handmade pizzas. Same great menu available for takeaway. Open 7 days, 4 – late. Check us out online at: [www.lapizzeria.co.nz](http://www.lapizzeria.co.nz)

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### Ruapehu Events & What's On

**JULY 2025**

<b>School Holiday Fun</b> Visit <a href="http://www.pureturoa.nz">www.pureturoa.nz</a> or find us on Facebook or Instagram @turoa.nz for up to date information.	<b>28 June - 13 July</b>
<b>Warren Miller Movie - All Time</b> Rangataua Hall. <a href="https://events.humanitix.com/alltime-rangataua">https://events.humanitix.com/alltime-rangataua</a>	<b>10 July</b>
<b>Upper Mountain Music - Knoll Ridge</b> Details at <a href="http://www.whakapapa.com">www.whakapapa.com</a>	<b>12 July</b>
<b>Catalyst Performance Agronomy B Grade (and below) Squash tournament</b> Enter via NZ Squash website or via the Ohakune Squash Club facebook page	<b>25-26 July</b>
<b>Pure Shredder</b> Visit <a href="http://www.pureturoa.nz">www.pureturoa.nz</a> or find us on Facebook or Instagram @turoa.nz for up to date information.	<b>26 July</b>

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## Putting life into longevity

You’re never too old to do some exercise, not only is it good for your health, it’s also good for your social life and that has been proven to put life in your longevity. That’s the message from Age Concern Whanganui, who run classes in Ohakune. “Our local Steady as You Go classes deliver a unique community-based exercise programme for men and women,” says Jennie Murray. The classes aim to enhance strength and balance, thereby assisting in fall prevention and enabling people to continue performing daily activities effectively. It is one of the many services of Age Concern Whanganui. Visit <https://acwhanganui.org.nz/> The physiotherapy-designed exercises incorporate elements from seated and standing yoga, pilates, strength training, stretching, balance and movement disciplines. Steady as You Go classes enhance: strength in torso, core, arms and legs; stretching, flexibility and balance; overall fitness, laughter and wellbeing.

“And they are a great way to meet new people,” says Jennie. The Ohakune Steady as You Go class is inviting new people to join them on Tuesday mornings at the Lions’ Den in Awara St. There’s a small attendance cost of \$3. Classes are from 10am-11am followed by an optional social coffee at Utopia. Raetihi also has a Steady As You Go class that meets each Tuesday at the Elder Care Village from 10am-11am. Age Concern Whanganui, a not-for-profit organisation, works to enhance the well-being of older Kiwis by providing a range of services, information, and support. Their aim is to enable people to remain independent for as long as possible, living in their own homes as part of their local community. Age Concern Whanganui is part of the Age Concern New Zealand network of councils that benefit from and contribute to the national network of information, training, and advocacy on issues and policies affecting older people.



# Visit Ruapehu to manage isites after trail

Following an eight-month trial, Visit Ruapehu will take full responsibility for operating the Taumarunui and Ohakune i-Sites from the beginning of July.

“This change is a major step forward that is improving the visitor experience by bringing together destination marketing and on-the-ground visitor services into one streamlined approach,” says Ruapehu District Council executive manager community and economic development, Pauline Welch, adding that bringing the management of the isites under Visit

Ruapehu aligns with Council’s strategic direction and core values of kaitiakitanga (guardianship) and manaakitanga (hospitality), as outlined in the region’s destination management plan, Tahia Ko Puanga.

“This integration creates a seamless visitor journey – from online trip planning to in-person support. It reduces duplication, lifts service quality and opens new possibilities such as automated bookings through the Visit Ruapehu website,” she said.

Visit Ruapehu general manager Jo Ken-

neddy said that the joined-up approach strengthens how they can connect with visitors and support local tourism operators.

“It is allowing us to maximise the use of our staff’s specialist tourism skills to deliver consistent, high-quality service that reflects our region’s values and aspirations.”

All existing i-Site staff have been offered new roles with

Visit Ruapehu, ensuring a smooth handover and continuity of knowledge and service for both visitors and locals.

“The change marks a new chapter in Ruapehu’s tourism journey – creating smarter, more connected and community-aligned services to support a thriving and sustainable visitor economy,” says Welch.

## Horizons Long-term Plan unchanged

The regional council has confirmed its 2025-26 Annual Plan – including “improved public transport services, enhanced pest control and more river management maintenance”.

A proposed amendment to the Manawātū-Whanganui Regional Council (Horizons) 2024-34 Long-term Plan, which would enable a possible sale of Horizons’ stake in CentrePort, will not go ahead.

Horizons chair Rachel Keedwell says the average rates increase of 8.8% is lower than what was in the Long-term Plan (12%) and what was consulted on earlier this year (11.3%).

A random sample of Ohakune and Raetihi properties show increases of around 10% in regional council rates.

“We have adjusted our plans for the upcoming year based on a changing legislative and policy landscape from central government and by working hard to find efficiencies in insurance, overheads and reprioritisations,” Cr Keedwell says.

“At the same time, we have stuck to what we said we would do in our Long-term Plan and retained additional funding for biodiversity, river management maintenance and public transport programmes.

“Of the 8.8% increase, about 1.6% is for targeted

public transport rates – meaning they only impact the areas where the services run – about 2.2% for biosecurity and biodiversity (0.9% of that is targeted), and about 1.3% for targeted increased river management and drainage maintenance. The remaining 3.8% reflects increased ‘business as usual’ costs.

“Exact rates increases will differ between properties and districts for a range of reasons, including targeted rates programmes and property revaluations.”

### Two issues

Council consulted on two specific issues for the Annual Plan: improving public transport in Whanganui and Horowhenua without central government co-investment, and how to pay of a loan for Horizons’ portion of works on Te Pūwaha – the Whanganui port revitalisation project.

Feedback was overwhelmingly in support of proceeding with investing in public transport (that doesn’t involve Ruapehu District) without central government co-investment, says Cr Keedwell.

While submissions were in favour of paying off the Te Pūwaha loan over 25 years, Council decided to pay the loan off over 35 years to reflect the expected life of the assets, says Cr Keedwell.

“This ensures the cost is

spread across those a wider range of people who will benefit from the assets.”

Council also consulted on possibly selling Horizons’ CentrePort shareholding, but has decided not to at this time, says Cr Keedwell.

“As the shareholding is defined in the Local Government Act as a strategic asset, Council would need to amend its Long-term Plan before a sale.

“We asked if Council should continue investigations into a possible sale and then proceed with a sale if the outcome of those investigations found a sale would be favourable for ratepayers. Proceeds would have then been invested into a managed fund.

“While Council has agreed to proceed with investigations, we have declined to approve proceeding with a sale afterwards if investigations find a sale would be favourable to ratepayers. This means Council would need to consult again before proceeding with any possible sale.”

The final Horizons 2025-26 Annual Plan, with the full details of Horizons’ work programmes, will be publicly available on Horizons’ website [www.horizons.govt.nz](http://www.horizons.govt.nz) within the next few weeks. Anyone wanting to check what their next rates invoice will look like can use the rates search tool from next week at <https://www.horizons.govt.nz/property-rates/rates-search>.

## Ruapehu up 13%

While the average regional council rates rise across the Manawātū-Whanganui will be 8.8%, more rural districts will be more, says Ruapehu’s Horizons councillor Nikki Riley.

She said for Ruapehu, some are up and others are down.

“I’m not going to sugar-coat it. I expect the true cost for our rural ratepayers to be around 13%,” says Riley.

Individual property own-



Jo Kenndy, GM Visit Ruapehu, at left, and Pauline Welch, council executive manager community and economic development. Visit Ruapehu has assumed full responsibility for isite operations uniting frontline visitor information services with destination marketing.



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### Muster Up And Move In

632 Murumuru Road, Ruatiti

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Closing the gate on Mangapurua winter damage

A new gate on the Mangapurua Cycle Trail in Whanganui National Park will create a safer experi-



Winter damage from powered vehicles makes it difficult to maintain the Mangapurua Track for trampers, says DOC. Photo supplied by DOC.

Letters

Heartfelt gratitude

To our whānau, friends, community and our kids' schools. While it may seem like a small gesture, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude. Thank you all for the karakia, hugs, love and generous koha we have received over the past two weeks since losing our home. The support has been truly overwhelming, and it has reminded us of the strength of our whānau, hapū, iwi, community. It is genuinely humbling to receive such incredible generosity, especially when our roles are dedicated to supporting the whānau of our community and the whenua we live on. Being on the receiving end of this kindness has been nothing short of extraordinary. I have meticulously noted every person who has messaged and supported in many different ways during this time. I want to acknowledge each of you, as it would truly sadden me to overlook anyone. Please know that we are so thankful for everything that has transpired behind the scenes while we truck along and return to some sort of normalcy. Our faith in the greater good remains strong, and we trust that, regardless of the challenges we face, we will always be more than ok because we live in such a beautiful place surrounded with beautiful people. Ngā mihi aroha ki a koutou Wallace-Mcleod Whānau.

ence by preventing winter damage from people using quad bikes and light utility vehicles, says Department of Conservation supervisor Joshua Kilmister. He says the gate closure affects only larger powered vehicles and the track will remain open for walking and hunting during the winter months. "In wet winter weather, larger vehicles damage track surfaces and drainage channels, affect visitor safety, and make it harder for us to manage the track for visitors. "We already close this track to cyclists each winter, and now access will also be closed to quad bikes and light utility vehicles from the Mangapurua Trig." The Mangapurua Cycle Trail is a popular destination for visitors seeking to connect with the biodiversity, history, and culture of Whanganui National Park. "We want to ensure a safe, quality experience for trampers through winter and we're asking people to leave their powered vehicles behind. This is a seasonal closure and full access will be restored in September," says Joshua. A lockable gate was to be installed south of Mangapurua Trig closing Mangapurua Track to large, powered vehicles from Monday 30 June 2025. The track will reopen in September.

Redmayne reflects: Puanga and Army community

Local member of Parliament Suze Redmayne writes about her recent Puanga experience: • It's hard to believe we're already halfway through the year. The arrival of Puanga and Matariki offered a welcome pause – a moment to reflect, reconnect and reset as we look ahead to the rest of 2025. This year I was lucky to celebrate Matariki at Tiorangi Marae, in the heart of the mighty Rangitikei, alongside my colleagues Hon Paul Goldsmith, Hon Tama Potaka, Carl Bates, MP for Whanganui, and my Youth MP, Patrick Coogan. We were fortunate to hear from Professor Rangi Matāmua, who articulated Matariki 2025 beautifully – "This year's celebration is underpinned by the theme 'Matariki mā Puanga, Celebrating Together', acknowledging the regional and tribal variations that exist when observing the Māori New Year. "Matariki mā Puanga allows us to celebrate our diversity which is a strength for us as a nation. Against the backdrop of Mount Ruapehu and amidst the warm embrace of Ngāti Rangi, we come together to remember those who have passed, celebrate who we are today and to look forward to a bright and prosperous future. "Regardless of which star you choose to mark the New Year, or the differences across the many facets of our day to day lives, and regardless of the difficulties many have faced in the last year – like the stars – let us rise as one, celebrating our diversity under the banner of Matariki mā Puanga." Last week was the final sitting week in Parliament before a two-week recess, and my colleague Carl Bates and I were pleased to make the trip back



Local MP Suze Redmayne with her Youth MP Patrick Coogan, at Tiorangi Marae.

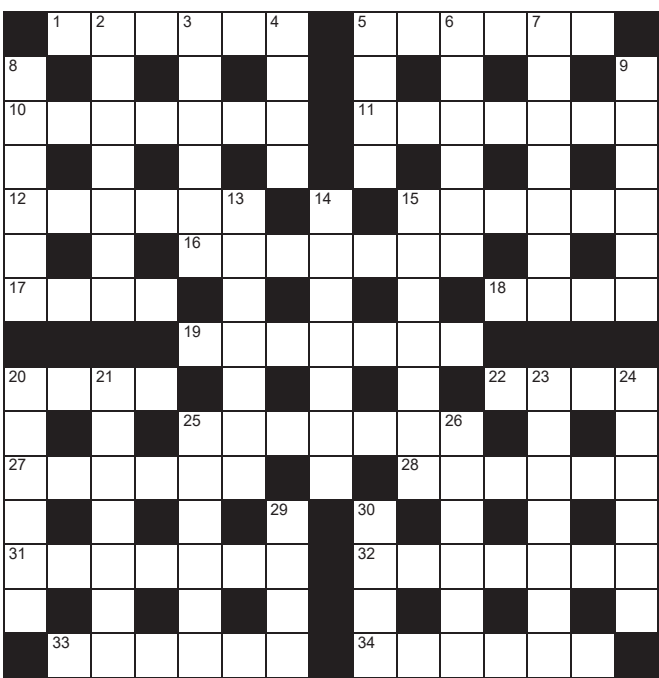
from Wellington on Tuesday evening to attend the Stakeholders Evening at the Waiouru Officers' Mess. Hosted by Colonel Lisa Kelliher, Commander of the Army Training Group, it's an annual event which celebrates the contribution of the wider community to ensuring the success of the Waiouru Army Camp. It's also an opportunity to acknowledge the vital role the camp plays in our Defence Force and our region. Waiouru Military Camp has long been a pillar of our district. Beyond its role in preparing our forces for service, the camp and its personnel are a core part of our community. They provide support with everything from disaster relief, through to mentoring local youth – they do an outstanding job. Authorised by Suze Redmayne Parliament Buildings, Wellington

THE WEEKLY WORKOUT answers for each puzzle are included on this page 808

QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

- 1. Agreement (6)
- 5. Royal dwelling (6)
- 10. Momentum (7)
- 11. Form a mental picture (7)
- 12. Light rain (6)
- 15. Give up work (6)
- 16. Routine (7)
- 17. District (4)
- 18. Encounter (4)
- 19. Ill fortune (3,4)
- 20. Stylish (Fr) (4)
- 22. Share a boundary (4)
- 25. Apprehensive (7)
- 27. Shuns (6)
- 28. Black eye (colloq) (6)
- 31. Endurance (7)
- 32. Ancestry (7)
- 33. Harsh (6)
- 34. Large cutting tool (6)



Down

- 2. Assume (7)
- 3. This one or that (6)
- 4. Assignment (4)
- 5. Compensated (4)
- 6. Commander (6)
- 7. Crt of cooking (7)
- 8. Stench (6)
- 9. Proper or correct (6)
- 13. Residue (7)

- 14. Steal (7)
- 15. Rowdy (7)
- 20. Rough (6)
- 21. Keep apart (7)
- 23. Under (7)
- 24. Soup dish (6)
- 25. Give counsel (6)
- 26. Sailors' song (6)
- 29. Cloak (4)
- 30. Charity (4)



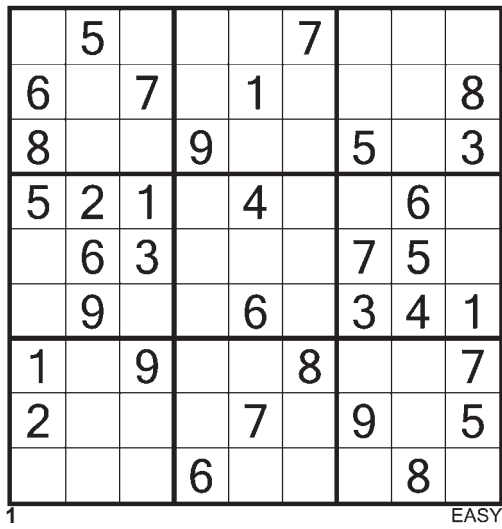
Puzzles © The Puzzle Company

THE TOP 10

- 1. Badminton horse trials, 2. Walk the Line, 3. Hungary, 4. Winders, 5. Two little ducks, 6. Eggs, 7. Van Pelt, 8. Bergamot, 9. Sheep, 10. 20th (1930).

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so every row, column and every 3x3 box contains 1-9



EASY 2

MEDIUM

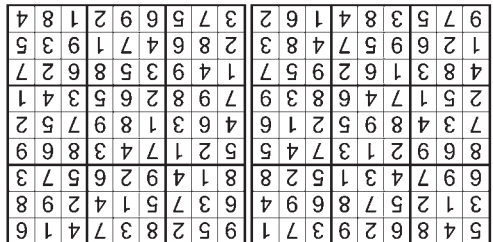
The Top 10

- 1. Jonelle Price (2018) and Caroline Powell (2024) are the most recent New Zealand winners of what equine event?
- 2. Named after a song, what is the title of a 2005 film about Johnny Cash?
- 3. Tokai wine comes from which European country?
- 4. Which British castle was badly damaged by fire in 1992?
- 5. In bingo, 22 is called out as . . . ?
- 6. Is oology the study of birds' eggs, numbers, or the occult?
- 7. In the Peanuts cartoons, what is the surname of Lucy and Linus?
- 8. What flavour is traditionally used in Earl Grey tea?
- 9. A Texel is what kind of animal?
- 10. Did Constantinople become Istanbul in the 19th or 20th century?

CROSSWORD

25. Advise, 26. Shanty, 29. Cape, 30. Alms. Coarse, 21. Isolate, 23. Beneath, 24. Tureen, 13. Remains, 14. Purlin, 15. Rancous, 20. Leader, 7. Cuisine, 8. Miasma, 9. Decent, Down: 2. Suppose, 3. Either, 4. Task, 5. Paid, Stamina, 32. Lineage, 33. Severe, 34. Scythe, About, 25. Anxious, 27. Avoids, 28. Shiner, 31. 17. Area, 18. Meet, 19. Bad luck, 20. Chic, 22. Imagine, 12. Shower, 15. Retire, 16. Regular, Across: 1. Assent, 5. Palace, 10. Impetus, 11.

SUDOKU





'Control over collaboration': govt strips Iwi Health Board power

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting  
An iwi health leader says new Government plans will strip power from iwi to shape decisions on Māori health priorities.

The co-chair of a health board representing iwi from Taumarunui to Whanganui said changes planned to Pae Ora would erase an independent health monitor role, removing crucial Māori oversight of the public health system.

Te Mātuku co-chair Te Aroha McDonnell said Health Minister Simeon Brown's amendments to the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act would undermine Māori rights to partnership and contradict equity promises.

"It's another political decision that prioritises control over collaboration."

The Minister announced plans on 14 June to scale back the authority of Iwi Māori Partnership Boards (IMPBs) over funding and service design, and remove their direct role in influencing local health services.

McDonnell said the changes would reduce iwi ability to hold the Crown to account for how well it addresses longstanding health inequities.

"It's not an isolated change in policy – it's part of a broader pattern of systematic rollbacks."

McDonnell said the changes undermined the rights of Māori to health equity and the principles of partnership, participation and protection enshrined in Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

"Te Mātuku's ability to hold the Crown accountable to its obligations is reduced," McDonnell said.

"My concern is addressing the disparities between Māori and non-Māori – our people die seven years earlier than non-Māori.

Inequitable equity

"The Government constantly states that they are committed to equity in health, but disestablishing the monitoring role of Te Mātuku contradicts that, especially when Māori continue to experience systemic health inequities.

"Having that independent monitor is what is needed right now."

Pae Ora was used in 2022 to disestablish the District Health Boards and create Health New Zealand and the now abandoned Māori Health Authority.

IMPBs are regional, Māori-led governance bodies created in 2022 under the previous Government to support the health sector to meet the needs of their communities and ensure Māori participation in health decisions.

There are 15 IMPBs around the country.

Under the previous Health Minister Shane Reti, they were tasked with a strategic commissioning role in the reformed public health system and with providing direct advice to Health New Zealand.

The work included assessing the health needs of Māori within their region, setting priorities, designing and signing off on local health plans and providing iwi oversight in monitoring how well the public health system serves Māori populations.

McDonnell said those functions would now lie with Te Whatu Ora/Health New Zealand, supported by a newly enhanced Hauora Māori Advisory Committee.

The Committee, which is created by ministerial appointment, would provide direct advice to the minister and Health New Zealand board.

The changes would relegate IMPBs to community engagement and supporting the implementation of local solutions.

Delivery focus

The Minister said the amended legislation would improve health outcomes by making sure the system was focused on delivery.

"That means better care for patients through a more connected, transparent and effective health system."

Te Mātuku is made up of representatives from

11 iwi stretching from Ngāa Rauru Kiiitahi to Ngā Wairiki-Ngāti Apa, and from Ngāti Hāua to Tūpoho.

In March, it released its inaugural strategic plan outlining priorities for the next five years to advance the health and wellbeing of Māori communities within the Te Ranga Tupua region, which takes in Whanganui, Rangitikei, Ruapehu, and South Taranaki.

The priorities were based on data and evidence collected by Hauora Māori collectives, and known Māori need.

"We identified the priorities and where and how much funding should go to specific services."

McDonnell did not expect the changes would affect resourcing for Te Mātuku.

"The operational arm is already lean. We intentionally did that to ensure that we could be independent and continue to work toward improved Māori health outcomes in our communities."

Te Mātuku would continue to advocate for better Māori health, McDonnell said.

"We will continue to ensure that the Government understands the priorities of our whānau and iwi. We will continue to push for tino rangatiratanga, mana motuhake and kotahitanga."

LDR is local body journalism co-funded by RNZ and NZ On Air

All right on the night for Mardi Gras

It was a case of it'll be all right on the night for Saturday's Ohakune Mountain Mardi Gras, after a week of less-than-ideal weather greeting the crew setting up.

Jayde Lowe, events support for the Ohakune Events Charitable Trust (OECT) said the Audiology crew did really well to deal with the conditions leading up to the event.

"The whole week was pretty challenging but the whole team did an exceptional job to make sure the people who came could have a good time."

She said the windy Wednesday was pretty bad, especially for the guys building the main stage – which was the biggest they've ever had. Thursday was very wet and on Friday, there was a lot of surface flooding. A tree fell down on the corner of Tyne and Rimu streets, which held up setting up fencing.

"But it was manageable. The crew worked hard to make sure everything was ready to go, and it was."

So far, feedback has been pretty good, said Lowe, with the accommodation providers she's talked to happy with the weekend. And other businesses seemed happy. But OECT will be having meetings with businesses and surveying festival-goers over the next couple of weeks.

Lowe said they want to hear from anyone who had problems – or good comments too – at hello@oect.co.nz.

The event wasn't sold out – with around 7400 tickets sold out of a maximum of 8000, which was a similar number to last year's event.

Last year, Ruapehu District Council's tourism spend estimate for the event was around \$1 million.

"I'm really interested to see if it's the same number or if it's increased."

They will also ask people about the earlier start and finish – 3pm to 11pm – which they trialled this year. This was done partly to help with getting people back to Waimarino-National Park on

the trains.

Festival-goers haven't let up on the costume theme for the event, with hundreds of different themed groups at the event – from old ladies in their curlers and zimmer frames, to aliens and astronauts; from jellyfish to FBI; from car racing crews to PJs. But the Bulletin camera couldn't find any Where's Wally outfits this year – usually a very popular choice.



Space sisters Tessa, left, and Eleanor have been coming in to land at their home town Ohakune Mardi Gras since the 1990s.



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RUAPEHU BULLETIN 2 July 2025 • 5



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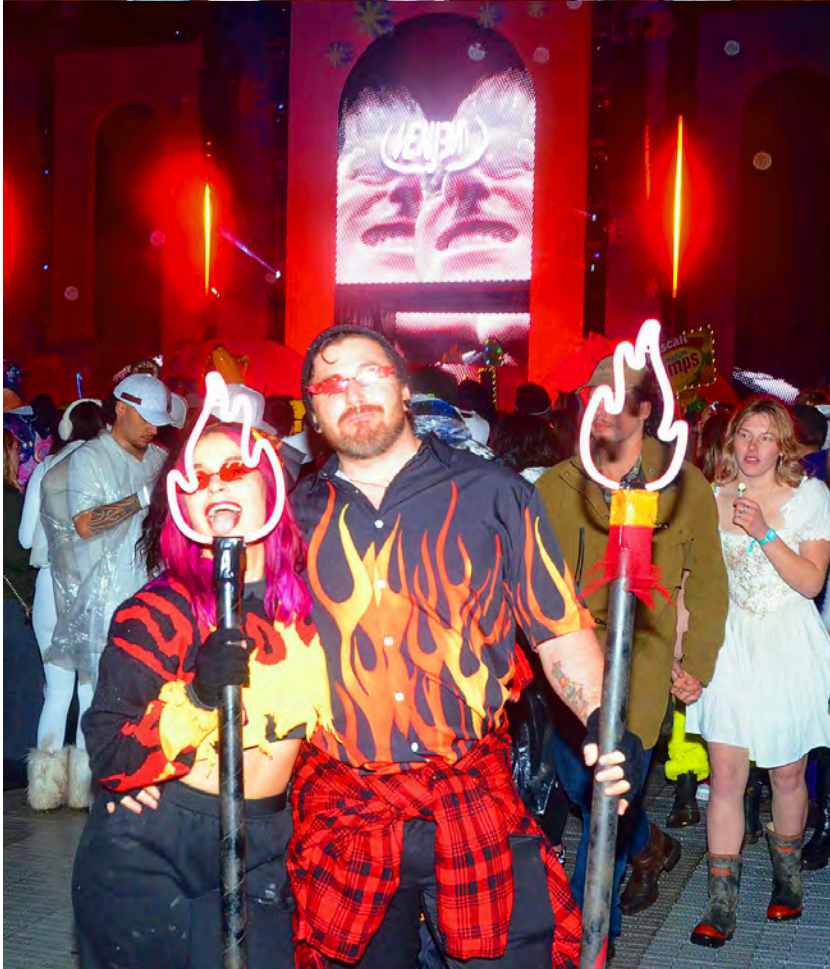
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# Ohakune Mountain Mardi Gras in pictures

The costume theme street party - started back in the early 2000s – looks to be here to stay, with lots of groups “sure going above and beyond” with their ideas.





# An energetic Ruapehu College term

Eye on Ruapehu College, contributed by staff and students

Term Two at Ruapehu College continued the energy of a strong start to the year, with students embracing opportunities in learning, leadership, culture, and the arts, says principal Marama Allen.

“From kapa haka and Smokefree Rockquest to barista training and science fieldwork, our rangatahi showed resilience, creativity, and pride in every pursuit.”

She said the term opened with a focus on cultural expression, including kapa haka rehearsals leading up to an “unforgettable inter-whānau competition”.

Art students explored printmaking with local artist Vanessa Wairata Edwards-Buerger, made even more exciting by the arrival of a large donated press.

Performing arts flourished, with students attending School of Rock, preparing for the next school production, and performing at Rockquest.

Senior students explored future pathways with Massey University visits, First Aid certification, and the WMS Leadership Academy in Hamilton. The new Inspiring Stories series also introduced students to Ruapehu alumni doing great things.

In academics, students tackled NCEA literacy and numeracy exams, delivered speeches at Manu Kōrero, and took part in a Defensive Driving Course.

Science and geography students investigated

the health of the Mangawhero River, and a group attended the Pūhoro STEM Academy event in Auckland, linking science and Mātauranga Māori.

### Sport key

Sport remained a key part of school life, with winter sports in full swing and the debut of their first girls’ football team. The Inter-whānau Cross Country brought energy and teamwork, with seven students qualifying for regional competition.

The term ended with barista training, giving students real-world skills and a confidence boost for future work.

“As the term wraps up, we celebrate the passion, effort and unity that students brought to every challenge, living the values of aroha, manaakitanga, and whanaungatanga every step of the way.

“We can’t wait to see what Term Three brings, kicking off with the Senior Ball in the first week back, the school production in the second week, and an exciting season of sports ahead,” said Marama Allen.

### From Ruapehu to mechatronics

“Just before the holiday break, we’re proud to share the latest episode in our *Inspiring Stories* series: the journey of Te Matau o Te Rangi Allen, an engineering student whose path from Ruapehu College to studying mechatronic engineering is packed with energy, insight, and inspiration,” says KJ Allen.

Rangi was a student who said yes to every opportunity available like waka ama, triathlon

training, the CACTUS programme, “you name it, he was in”.

Now, he’s studying in a field that combines mechanical, electrical and software systems and likens it to being Tony Stark: designing, wiring, and coding his own creations.

He speaks passionately about the importance of maths and physics, not just for engineering, but for life. At the same time, he encourages students who may have missed those subjects not to give up.

“It’s never too late,” he says.

“With foundation programmes and the right support, you can still pursue your dreams.”

Reflecting on his time at Ruapehu College, Rangi shares how much he misses seeing his Koro every day, which is something he once took for granted. That connection to whānau and place continues to give him strength.

“We’ve got each other’s backs,” he says. “That’s what Ruapehu taught me.”

Even through setbacks, Rangi holds tight to the Habits of Mind, especially persistence and wonderment. His advice to current students is simple but powerful:

“Don’t fear failure. Shoot for the moon. If you miss, you’ll still land among the stars. Believe in yourself, back yourself, and always strive for greatness.”

“Te Matau o Te Rangi’s story is a must-watch for anyone passionate about STEM or for anyone chasing a goal and looking for a reminder of what’s possible,” says KJ Allen.



Jellyfish floated into the Mardi Gras on Saturday, while medieval folk flocked there too.



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# Ruapehu's Horizons New voice for radio station rates up 13%

From Page 3

ers can go to <https://www.horizons.govt.nz/property-rates/rates-search> to find out theirs.

"Ruapehu retained our recently approved long term plan river management funding (and) there is an increase in possum control spend in our district, as OSPRI is handing back several zones earlier than expected. It is key to our biosecurity and to protect our herds against TB.

"Also – and this is important – instead of borrowing for long term planning, in this case the review of the One Plan and paying interest on that. Horizons is now expensing ongoing planning costs as they go and not ticking it up as long term debt. Something in my mind should have been happening years ago. So we are now paying as the work is done."

She said a huge amount of funding has been spent on public transport, new science and projects like jobs for nature over the last three terms. Some of which is Covid hangover co-funding from MBIE.

"For the rate payer that means more debt as we are required to put up the local share to match."

She said Horizons' core business funding like catchment management and SLUI has been moved to the rural ratepayer and businesses under the general rate, to make way for this additional urban spend. So, even though Ruapehu District doesn't pay a lot for public transport, the increases in other districts still has a knock-on effect here.

"The Council rating system needs a full review and all council's future spend needs a zero budgeting or ground zero approach. They need to monitor more closely their contracts and efficiency and effectiveness of the dollar spend.

"Rural ratepayers are shouldering a greater proportion of the costs for the environment, while urban get public transport and climate resilience.

"There are more urban ratepayers than rural ratepayers, so this shift in rating has added to the increased costs for our district.

"On a more positive note, Council voted to retain Centreport shareholding for our Region. The dividend from the Port helps to offset rates for our ratepayers. This is in my mind a key long term strategic asset for our Region."

After 30 years on air at Peak FM and more than five decades in radio, Geoff Anderson is handing over day-to-day hosting duties — and the ownership of the station — to broadcaster Jesse Archer, marking a new chapter for local radio in Ruapehu and Taihape.

Geoff's voice has been a familiar presence for generations of listeners, having steered Peak FM since 1995. He first joined the station shortly after it was established by Ron Jeffares in 1994, operating from a studio in Ohakune with transmitters in Raetihi and Taihape. The studio moved to the old BNZ Raetihi in 1999, where it remains today.

In 2010, Peak FM expanded significantly after The Radio Network exited the Taumarunui market, with Peak FM taking over the Classic Hits King Country Radio frequencies. This move extended the station's reach across both sides of the mountain, further cementing its role in the community.

Jesse said Geoff's shift away from daily broadcasting has prompted an outpouring of appreciation from listeners, who have shared memories and thanked him for keeping the community informed and entertained across the decades. While stepping out of the day-to-day role, Geoff isn't disappearing — he'll continue to be involved with voice work and may even pop back on air from time to time.

From Tuesday 1 July, Peak FM officially came under the ownership of Jesse Archer, who takes over the weekday breakfast shift.

Jesse is a passionate local broadcaster who began his career in 2008 as an announcer and production technician at 1XX in Whakatāne, one of the country's few remaining independent local stations. He has since worked with More FM, The Hits, and is currently the breakfast host on



Jesse Archer, left, and Geoff Anderson outside the Peak FM studio in Raetihi that also houses an art gallery. Photo by Kate Cornwall.

Lake FM in Taupō.

"From Tuesday, listeners can still expect the hourly news and sports updates that Peak FM has carried for years, along with local weather, travel info, ski reports, and other community news — plus, of course, great songs. I'd also encourage listeners to stay connected via the Peak FM Facebook page for updates and local happenings."

He says Peak FM remains proudly independent and community-focused — continuing its tradition of playing great songs and sharing local voices.



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**DEATH NOTICE**

**WHEELER Robert James**  
It is with deep sadness that we announce the loss of Rob who passed away peacefully at Papakāinga Homestead, Otorohanga on 1st July 2025, aged 85 years. Free at last from the clutches of dementia. Beloved husband and best friend of Judy, loved Dad of Joanne, Trish and Michael, Poppa of Nicole and Ella. We will be forever grateful to the staff at Papakāinga for the exceptional care, respect and love shown to Rob, especially in his last few months. As per his wishes a private cremation has been held. In our hearts and thoughts he will remain, forever loved and missed. Communications to Judy Wheeler, 57 Rangaroa Road, Taumarunui 3920.

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**Ruapehu Mayor Weston Kirton**

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**



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**SITUATIONS VACANT**



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**Application details are available from the Ōwhango School website:**  
[www.owhangoschool.co.nz](http://www.owhangoschool.co.nz)

**PUBLIC NOTICES**



**Nga Morehu o Uenuku Te Kohanga Reo NOTICE OF AGM**

Wednesday 23 July 2025, 4:30  
2 Hukaroa Rd, Raetihi

Election of officers

- Chairman
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Nau mai haere mai

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012**

**Kama Holdings Limited** have made an application to the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council for the **Renewal of an On Licence** in respect of the premises situated at 53 Clyde Street, Ohakune and known as **The Mountain Rocks Café & Bar**. The general nature of the business to be conducted under the licence is that of a **Café/Restaurant**. The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is intended to be sold under the licence are: Interior of the Premises: **Monday to Sunday - 8.00am – 2.00am the following day.**

**Exterior of the Premises: Monday to Sunday – 9.00am – 10.00pm of the same day.**

The application may be inspected during ordinary office hours at the office of the Ruapehu District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council, 59-63 Huia Street, Taumarunui.

Any person who is entitled to object and who wishes to object to the issue of the licence may, not later than 25 working days after the date of the publication of this notice, file a notice in writing of the objection with the Secretary of the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council, Private Bag 1001, Taumarunui 3946.

No objections to the renewal of a licence may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in section 131 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. This is the first publication of this notice.

**Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust July Clinics**

**By appointment/drop in**

**Personal health nurse** - appointments are available on request in Raetihi or Ohakune, contact Donna 027 491 2183 – (free cervical screening)

**SERVICES AVAILABLE**

**Kaupapa Māori mental health and addictions** (Rebecca)

Supporting/ addressing needs of tangata whaiora

Drug & alcohol intervention

Te Putanga Pukenga programme

After hours emergencies – mental health assessment & treatment team 0800 653 358

**Whānau Ora** (Tina, Darnella, Sylvia, Virginia)

Wrap around services for those with high health and social needs.

Advice and advocacy support

Support for GP practice

**Tamariki Ora** (Tina and Katherine)

Well child checks for pepe 0-5 years

Kaiawhina additional support

**Bowel Screening**

If you have any queries relating to the bowel screening project, please contact Darnella Hawira 0272 455 278, [Darnella.Hawira@ngatirangi.com](mailto:Darnella.Hawira@ngatirangi.com)

**Offices closed**

All offices will be closed on Tuesday 29 July, for staff Hauora Day (professional development).

**Appointments/More Information Contact Admin**  
Mon-Fri- 8.30am-5pm 06 3859 580/0, 0274 758 347 or email Katherine.Herewini@ngatirangi.com

**We have an AED Defibrillator available on site.**

**PUBLIC NOTICES**



**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the annual General Meeting of Raetihi Cosmopolitan Club Inc. will be held at the Club Premises 32 Seddon Street Raetihi, on

**Sunday 20th July 2025 at 6pm**

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome by President
2. Apologies
3. Stand for moment silence
4. Confirmation of Minutes – AGM 27/06/2024
5. Matters arising from previous Minutes
6. Financial report and adoption of Annual Accounts
7. Matters arising from financial report
8. Presidents report
9. Managers' report
10. Adoption of Adjunct reports
11. Most Valued Member
12. Life Membership
13. Remits
14. General Business
15. Election of Officers
16. Close of AGM

**Community and Emergency Services**

**Alzheimers Whanganui Inc** – Email [admin@alzheimerswhanganui.org.nz](mailto:admin@alzheimerswhanganui.org.nz) or for support phone 06-345 8833

**Budget Advice** – Email [waimarinobudgetservices@gmail.com](mailto:waimarinobudgetservices@gmail.com) or phone 027 259 5285.

**CCS Disability Action (Whanganui)** – Sheryl Brightwell 0800-789-654

**Child, Adolescent and Sexual Health Nurse** – 06-385-5019

**Child Youth and Family Service** – 0508-326 459

**Churches**

**Anglican**, 06-385-4957. **Baptist**, 027-206-1874. **Catholic**, 06-385-8858 or 027 606 5186. **Gospel Chapel**, 06-385-8453. **Presbyterian**, 06-388-0675 or 06-385-8708. **Waiouru** – **duty chaplain** 06-387-5599 ext 7031 or 021-493-692

**Civil Defence** – Andrew Chambers 07 895 8188, 021 247 7340

**CLAW community free legal advice**

Whanganui 06-348-8288

**Doctors: In an emergency call 111**

Ruapehu Health Ltd 06-385-4211

**Information Centres** – Ohakune 06-385-8427, Raetihi 06-385-4805

**Ngati Rangi Community Health Centre** – 06-385-9580

**Plunket Society** – Plunket Nurse 06-385-5019

**Police and Search & Rescue Emergency, call 111**

Ohakune 06-385-0100, Raetihi 06-385-4002, Waiouru 06-387-6884, Military Police 0800-50-11-22

**Red Cross** – 0800 RED CROSS (0800 733 27677)

**Rotary Club Raetihi** – Ohakune – 027-344-5669

**Ruapehu REAP** – 0800 00 REAP (0800 007 327)

**Ruapehu Maori Wardens** – Email: [ruapehumaoriwardens@gmail.com](mailto:ruapehumaoriwardens@gmail.com)

**St John** – In an emergency call 111

**Taumarunui Counselling Services**

For confidential counselling in Waimarino phone 07-895-6393

**Victim Support Contact Centre** – 0800 842 846

**Waimarino Cancer Society**

Co-ordinator 06 348 7402 or Kerri Dewson-Pratt 022 196 7355

**Waimarino Health Care Centre** – Raetihi 06-385-5019

**Waimarino Community Toy Library** – [waimarinotoylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:waimarinotoylibrary@gmail.com)

**Women's Refuge** – 0800-REFUGE 0800 73384

**Ruapehu Mayor** – Weston Kirton, enquiries to 06-385-8364 or 07-895-8188.

**Owhango-National Park Community Board:**

Anthony Gurr 021-487-742; Eddie Marsters 021-108-0279; Simon O'Neill 021-661-159; Peter Zimmer 027 479 1926; Murray Wilson 027-542-9079. Janelle Hinch (RDC rep) 022-385-8683.

**Taumarunui/Ohura Ward Community Board:**

Molly Jeffries 021-431-833; Luke Pepper 027-329-2849; Aroha Rudkin 027-873-0061; Sophie Stockbridge 020-401-11190; Oriwia Wanakore 027-222-7872. RDC rep Lyn Neeson 027-353-7907 (texts only)

**Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board:**

John 'Luigi' Hotter, 027-274-2616; Stu Robinson 021-024-07657; Kay Henare 027-924-7252; Colin Pakai 021-091-67315; Angel Reid 027-431-6327. RDC rep Rabbit Nottage, 021 111 6514.

Guidelines is published free of charge. Please help us to keep it up to date – call us if your details change, or if you see something that needs changing: 06-385-8532



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# WAIMARINO BULLETIN

VOICE OF THE RUAPEHU REGION  
Tuesday 2 July, 1985. Volume 3 No. 6

**Charisma**  
WATERBEDS  
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## Youngsters' trust fund launched

Plans for a trust fund, which is to be established to help the young people of Raetihi, were announced by film producer Larry Parr, at a charity dinner in the town last week.

The trust will be launched next month with a charity film premier of one of Larry Parr's films.

The title of the film — which will be shown for the first time in New Zealand — has not yet been released.

Once the fund is launched, raffles will be drawn weekly in the Ruapehu Hotel and all proceeds will be paid into the trust.

The trust will fund sporting, educational and other trips for youngsters of Raetihi.

Mr Parr's mother, Mrs Iris Parr, who runs the Ruapehu Hotel with her

husband Ray, stated this week that the fund would give the town's youngsters greater opportunities.

Her husband added that money from the fund would help sporting groups and individuals, who currently have to raise all their own funds to go away to compete.

It would also help finance community projects which would benefit children.

Mr Parr said he hopes to build the fund up to three or four thousand dollars in a short space of time and then continue to add approximately one hundred dollars per week.

## Children at risk

Raetihi youngsters are in serious danger while walking to the town's marae because of speeding traffic, a town councillor has stated.

At Wednesday's Borough Council meeting, Cr Bill Pehi expressed his concern over the risks faced by young children who are now walking to the marae following the commencement of a Te Kohanga Reo programme.

Cr Pehi said the danger was from speeding traffic and he asked if enough was being done to try to reduce the risk.

Mayor of Raetihi, Garrick Workman, said that the region's Ministry of Transport officer faced problems in monitoring traffic in the area.

Although the marae is within the 50 km/h speed limit area, traffic travelling

from Ohakune often continued at open road speeds "through force of habit."

"The way things are going there will be a serious accident there," he said.

Cr Pehi added that people at the marae were considering doing their own monitoring of traffic using the road.

## Still seriously ill

James Clifford of Raetihi was still in Wanganui Base Hospital's intensive care unit yesterday, where he has been since being involved in a road accident on Sunday 16th June.

Mr Clifford's condition was said to be "satisfactory."

The accident occurred when Mr Clifford was driving along the Whangaehu Valley Road at Mangamahu, near Field's Track at 10.45-11pm on 16th June.

His vehicle left the road and plunged down a sixty metre bank.

Mr Clifford is a partner with Mr Alan Brown in Raetihi furniture making company Makers Ltd.

## Sherry raises \$1,000 for Telethon

Nine-year-old Sherry Hansen was congratulated by the Mayor of Raetihi, Garrick Workman, after raising \$1,000 for Telethon this week.

Sherry ran 30 kilometres around Raetihi and Ohakune to raise the money. She was sponsored by numerous residents of Raetihi and by friends and relatives all over the country.

An aunt in Australia even sent Sherry \$50 in sponsorship money.

At Wednesday evening's meeting of Raetihi Borough Council, Mayor Workman congratulated Sherry on her effort.

Sherry's 12-year-old sister, Veronica, ran with her for 27 kilometres and other relatives also took turns at running alongside the youngster.

In April Sherry was the first girl home in the eight kilometre family fun run staged in Ohakune in aid of the Plunket Society.

Also in April she ran 27 kilometres from Waiouru to raise money for new rugby jerseys for the Ohakune Midgets' team.

Last month the youngster won the girls' standard one and standard two section at the cross country day staged at Ngamatea School.



*Another step forward for tourism*

The Ruapehu region's new information officer, Catherine Dodd, shows Swiss visitor Gertsen Alexander the large topography map in the Ohakune-based information centre.

Catherine began her new job last week and is looking forward to providing a service for visitors to the region and assisting the local community.

Before moving to Ohakune, Catherine managed a travel agency in Hawera for eleven years. She feels the experience she gained in that job will be a great help to her in running the information centre.

Catherine hopes to be able to open the centre seven days per week in the near future.

One of her first tasks will be to update the information centre's list of the region's clubs and organisations.

She asks that any organisations which would like their activities publicised should contact her.

Waimarino County Council and Ohakune and Raetihi borough councils have all contributed to funding the centre and a number of local businesses have already pledged funds to the project.

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Sherry Hansen.

NEWS  
58-681

*Your Community Newspaper*

ADS  
58-532

The news, 40 years ago today. The other pages and other Bulletins can be found at the Preserving Local History website: [preservinglocalhistory.recollectcms.com](http://preservinglocalhistory.recollectcms.com)



# Ruapehu keep Border scoreless

Ruapehu Rugby and Sports Club's senior team continued their winning way at home on Saturday, keeping the visitors scoreless. In the sometimes-pouring rain, Ruapehu ran in four tries and three conversions to win 26-0. Try scorers were: Tahataki Te Riaki (Number 14) no conversion; Aaron Wilson (No 2), Chrissy Winter conversion. Half time score 12-0 to Ruapehu; Kahl Ellers-Green (12) try, Chrissy Winter conversion; Taipari Wirepa (6) try, Chrissy Winter conversion.



ABOVE: In case anyone needed proof that the Ruapehu Mountain Men don't care about a bit of moisture. Photos: Glyn Hubbard. ACTION STATIONS: Ben Waiwai takes the ball into contact.



# Ohakune kindy gather to celebrate play box blessing

The Ohakune Kindergarten whanau gathered for their Puanga celebrations as a community to share their learning journey of Puanga and Matariki through mahi toi/art. Prior to Whaea Linda leaving in March 2024, she began this project alongside Paula Charlton to engage tamariki and whanau to learn and express themselves through mahi toi/art. Whaea Linda has continued to see this project through to fruition. "We are thankful to Whiria nga Hua for their funding so that this could happen," said Kindergarten teacher Helen Fredricksen. "We are grateful to all the artists and those that worked behind the scenes. We would like to thank Whaea Linda for sharing and guiding us so that we too could fill our kete with knowledge as kaiako. "We hope our mahi develops a love of lifelong learning through the curiosity and playfulness these Atua and Whetu shine on our tamariki."



Whaea Linda explains the Puanga play box project.

# Ohakune Squash

Last week's Ruapehu Zone interclub had all four Ohakune Squash Club teams playing in Taumarunui. Ruapehu College continued its winning way beating Taumarunui 3/1. Similarly, Turangi beat Ohakune 3/1. All teams have a bye this week. Points after the completion of round one has Ruapehu College in the lead with 35, Turangi 28, Taumarunui 22 and Ohakune 16. The following week all teams are in Turangi for the start of the second round. Week two of interhouse on Thursday saw Unsquashable beat first week leader, Dunlop, 87/77. Tecnifibre beat Karakal 89/51 and Head beat Prince 92/68. Salming got 80 for the bye. Points to date are Unsquashable 178, Tecnifibre 173, Dunlop 170, Head 156, Salming 153, Prince 148 and Karakal 119. The draw for this Thursday is 5:00pm Salming vs Karakal, 6:30pm Unsquashable vs Tecnifibre 8:00pm Dunlop vs Prince and Head has the bye. Over the weekend Jayden Bailey was runner up in the top men's division in Feilding. This coming weekend, three Ohakune players will compete in their respective grades for national titles. They will also compete as part of a Central team. The event is being held at the North Shore Squash Club with the New Zealand Open Champs running at the same time. Jayden Bailey is seeded second in the men's B grade. Madison Lee is seeded second in the women's F grade and Jessie Harding is seeded fourth in the women's E grade. It is likely several of their games will be live streamed.

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