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Mini maga

test for

eruptions

P2

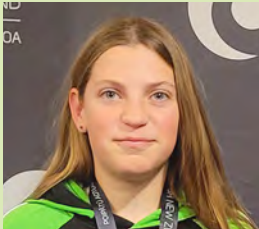


Award for

Waiouru

soldier

P3




National

squash

title for

Madison

P5



Mountain

men head

for finals

P12

Ruapehu roads recovering from Thursday storm

Ruapehu Civil Defence Controller Clive Manley says the district's local roads and water systems are recovering well following last Thursday's extreme weather.

"The Emergency Operations Centre, which was activated as a precaution ahead of the storm, was stood down at 9.30pm (on Thursday)," said Mr Manley.

"While there were a number of slips and fallen trees that closed local roads – including Raetihi-Pipiriki Road at Mangaeturoa North Road, Tokirima Road at the Ohura River bridge by Maraekowhai Station, and Roto and Saddlers Roads – our contractors have been working since first light to clear the debris."

Most affected roads had been expected to reopen by mid-morning on Friday, although Raetihi-Pipiriki Road has sustained a major slip and would take longer to clear.

Ohura Road was reduced to one lane about 5km from Ohura township, and there had been some shallow flooding near Waitangata Road close to Matiere.

Water supplies

High turbidity levels caused by heavy rainfall, along with increased water demand during the school holidays, put pressure on drinking water supplies.

"Taumarunui, Ohura, and Owango water treatment plants were taken offline during periods of peak turbidity," said Mr Manley.

However, water treatment operations were returning to normal on Friday. The Waimarino (National Park), Ohakune, and Raetihi plants continued operating throughout the event without any issues.

Mr Manley added that the district's wastewater systems were put under pressure due to the large volumes of water entering the system, but these were expected

to stabilise as water flows subside.

As of 10.30am Friday morning, Waka Kotahi NZTA reported that State Highways 43, 3 and 4 remained blocked at various points due to slips and were advising people to avoid unnecessary travel.

"With the ground still saturated and local roads likely to be fragile, drivers should take extra care, reduce speed, and watch out for surface flooding."

Mayor thankful

Ruapehu Mayor Weston Kirton said that he wanted to thank those involved in the emergency response.

"I want to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of council contractors and emergency services who worked overnight and are now busy supporting the recovery.

"I would also like to thank the Pipiriki Campground for stepping up and looking after a family who became stranded due to the road closure. It's a great example of the community showing manaakitanga and caring for others," he said.

NZTA had reported on Friday that slips closed State Highway 4 between Whanganui and Raetihi.

The Whanganui River was still high on Friday afternoon after heavy rain in Tongariro National Park and other Ruapehu areas, but was dropping substantially at Pipiriki by Friday.

MetService had predicted 100-130mm of rain for Tongariro National Park, but only 96mm fell.

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) said the Parapara would reopen this afternoon after the completion of work at the Otoko underslip.

The road between Raetihi and Pipiriki was closed at Mangaeturoa North Rd by a fallen tree and a slip.

Turning up the heat for firefighting training



A New Zealand Army emergency responder from Waiouru Station training at the FENZ National Training Centre. Emergency Responders from the New Zealand Army's 3rd Field Squadron and Emergency Response Squadron battled fires and attended patient rescue scenarios at a recent exercise in a state-of-the-art facility in Rotorua. See inside for details.



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Mini magma project aims for revolution in volcano forecasting

A new research initiative aiming to transform short-term volcanic eruption forecasting could provide earlier and more accurate science advice to emergency managers for issuing warnings and establishing exclusion zones during volcanic unrest.

Led by GNS Science volcanologist Dr Ery Hughes, the project tracks magma depth using near-real-time volcanic gas chemistry for improved eruption forecasting. The project has recently secured funding through the prestigious MBIE Smart Ideas Endeavour Fund.

The three-year project will simulate volcanic gas release by creating mini magma chambers – a laboratory and modelling approach that could unlock one of volcanology’s greatest challenges: determining how deep magma is beneath the surface in real time.

“Volcanic gases are the only part of the magma

that can reach the surface before an eruption,” says Dr Hughes.

“By recreating how those gases are released as magma rises, we can better understand what’s happening underground and give emergency managers a clearer, faster picture of eruption risk.

Warning signs

Forecasting volcanic eruptions depends on interpreting early warning signs such as earthquakes, ground deformation and especially volcanic gases. These gases carry vital chemical signatures that indicate the depth of magma. The shallower the magma, the greater the likelihood of eruption. Yet, until now, scientists have lacked the tools to extract this information from real-time gas data.

The project will use data from past eruptions to recreate the gas release process in the lab, tracking how gas chemistry changes as it rises and

interacts with water near the volcano’s summit. This will form the basis of a new model capable of estimating magma depth using near-real-time data from continuous GeoNet gas monitoring networks.

The research will be centred on Ruapehu – one of Aotearoa New Zealand’s most closely watched and potentially hazardous volcanoes – making it an ideal case study. But the model is designed to be adaptable for volcanoes worldwide.

Reliable

Beyond improving public safety, the project has clear economic benefits. More accurate and timely eruption forecasting can help reduce costly false alarms and unnecessary evacuations, while also better protecting vital infrastructure, tourism assets, and primary industries. For communities and businesses operating near active volcanoes, more reliable warnings mean fewer disruptions and faster recovery when events do occur.

“Being able to estimate magma depth from gas data in real time is a game-changer,” says Dr Hughes.

“It will help deliver faster, more accurate advice during volcanic unrest, ultimately supporting better decision-making and saving lives.”

Report from GNS Science.



Dr Ery Hughes takes volcano samples around Tongariro volcano.

Calendar call: Ōwhango Alive wants your photos

Ōwhango Alive has started work on their 2026 calendar, their “biggest fundraiser and a much-loved item within the community”.

“Each year, this calendar helps support our conserva-

tion efforts — and we’d love for your photography to be part of it,” invites Maree Surrey.

“We’re calling on locals, visitors from near and far, nature lovers and keen photographers to submit high-quality images that capture the essence of Ōwhango and the beautiful Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve.

“Whether it’s misty morning bush scenes, local birdlife, dramatic seasonal

shifts, or vibrant moments from around the village — we want to see what you see whether a first time visitor to our space or a long-time lover of a place we call home.”

The group are looking for high-resolution images (please use your camera’s highest setting); phtotos in landscape orientation – to fit the horizontal calendar format; images must clearly represent the Ōwhango

area or Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve – such as native flora and fauna; lush bush and riverscapes; snow-capped peaks and seasonal beauty; community moments and events.

Submission can be emailed before 15 August to: owhangoalive@yahoo.com.

“If you’re unsure how to send large files or need help, just get in touch — we’re happy to assist.”



Last year’s Ōwhango Alive calendar – celebrated the natural area while also raising funds for their conservation efforts. ABOVE: Pekepeke-Kiore/ NZ Lions Mane - photo Sally Lashmar. RIGHT: Pūtangitangi/Paradise shelduck ducklings - photo Peter Brennan.



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Ruapehu Events & What's On

JULY 2025

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

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Car crashes into Ohakune house

Two people had to be cut out of their car early on Sunday morning after it crashed into a holiday house on the corner of Park Avenue and Miro Street, Ohakune.

Emergency services including Police, St John Ambulance, the rescue helicopter and the Ohakune and Raetihi Volunteer Fire Brigades attended.

The alarm was raised at 6:12am.

The house was vacant at the time.

One patient, believed to be suffering from a leg injury, was flown to hospital.

Waiouru soldier acknowledged for service to Ruapehu community

Staff Sergeant Dean Cootes of Ngāti Tūmataunga, the New Zealand Army, has been awarded a Chief of Army commendation for his dedication to Waiouru rangatahi and the Ruapehu area community.

Staff Sergeant (SSGT) Dean Cootes, the range control operations officer at Waiouru Military Camp, developed and runs 360° Rangatahi Life Skills Programme for the rangatahi of Waiouru and surrounding districts.

Backed by funding from Ngāti Rangi Community Health Centre with the Whiria Ngā Hua Fund, the programme is 31 weeks long and open to youth aged between 13 to 17 years old.

Rangatahi navigate in the bush using GPS technology, triage mock emergencies with fire rescue dummies, undertake water rescues using rope, and tackle advanced first aid scenarios that push their problem-solving skills under pressure.

They cook meals in the outdoors and in the kitchen, learn practical mechanical and construction skills, operate chainsaws safely, and even host a large-scale event at Waiouru Rongomaraeroa-o-ngā-hau-e-whā Army National Marae.

When SSGT Cootes posted to Waiouru in 2020, he noticed community engagement had fallen so wanted to “bring back some manaakitanga to our awesome community”.

In 2021 he was appointed the chairperson for the newly formed Waiouru Community Committee and developed a community multi-space centre, known as The Hub.

He sought approval for the renovation, secured sponsorship, received donations, organised volunteers and project-managed the refurbishment.

“At the time there wasn’t a lot happening locally for teenagers so I developed a concept for the 360° Rangatahi programme for teens. I wanted to give them an opportunity to engage, contribute within the community and learn life skills that could make a real difference to their future.

“It’s boots-on-the-ground learning with purpose – and every step is designed to build confidence, capability, and connection. Alongside this, rangatahi give back, volunteering in ways that anchor them to their community.”

In addition, SSGT Cootes was a member of the Board of Trustees for the Waiouru Primary School and is involved with multiple junior sporting codes including rugby, swimming, softball and netball.

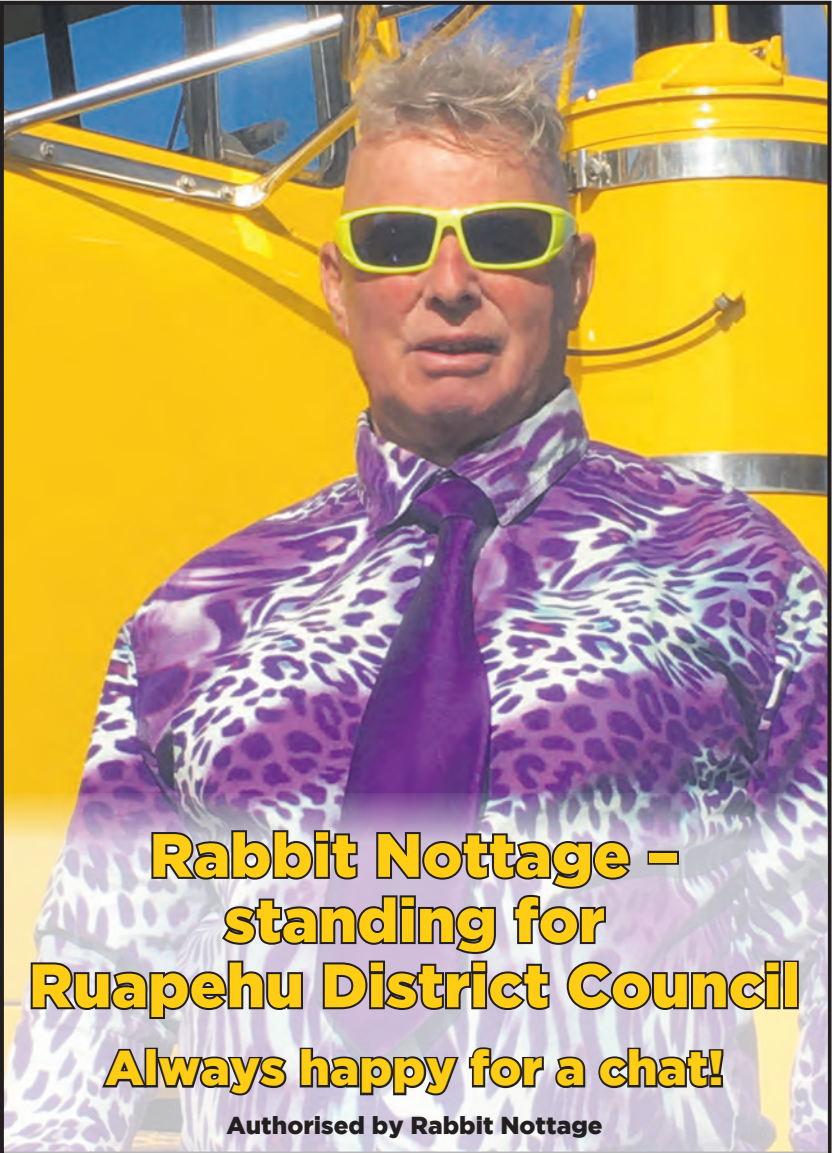
He says it is a “real honour” to receive the commendation from the Chief of Army, Major General Rose King.

“I feel the vision for The Hub has come to fruition. The 360° Rangatahi take a real pride in having it available for training.

“The rangatahi who have taken part in 360° Rangatahi have become integral members of the community, volunteering for events, becoming emergency service volunteers and mentoring new 360° Rangatahi coming through. To have them actively engage in the community beyond 360° Rangatahi is something we can all be proud of.”



A car crashed into a holiday house in the early hours of Sunday morning, trapping the occupants inside. Photo supplied.



Rabbit Nottage – standing for Ruapehu District Council

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Attending SSGT Dean Cootes' Chief of Army commendation ceremony are (from left) daughter Aria; Chief of Army Major General Rose King (holding SSGT Cootes' grandson, Khalias); daughter Kaia; partner Tania and the Sergeant Major of the Army, Warrant Officer Class One Dave Alder. Photo: NZDF.

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RUAPEHU BULLETIN 9 July 2025 • 3

Rain and rock n roll: Teen's epic ride for Māori wards

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting

Māori wards schoolboy campaigner Jack Karetai-Barrett travelled around Ruapehu on his quest to push the case for Māori wards.

With help from Raetihi resident Liz Brooker, he decided to sit out the storm last week rather than ride down the Parapara.

The 15-year-old is cycling to Wellington from his hometown of Whakatāne during his school holidays to deliver a letter to Parliament explaining why Māori wards matter.

Karetai-Barrett (Kai Tahu, Kāti Māmoe, Waitaha, Rapuwai) had hoped to deliver his message to the Prime Minister, but his request to Christopher Luxon was turned down.

"I reckon he's just scared of me," Karetai-Barrett quipped.

At 10, Karetai-Barrett helped deliver a petition to the steps of Parliament seeking to remove the provision for community polls to overturn council decisions to introduce Māori wards.

"Fast forward five years later, Christopher Luxon's decided: yeah-nah, we don't want that. I'm cycling to Parliament to say: yeah-yeah, we're having it."

Under law introduced by the coalition government, councils that established a Māori ward from 2020 without a public referendum had the option of either scrapping the ward or holding a binding public poll during the October 2025 local elections.

The legislation will spark a raft of local referenda around the country.

Labour leader Chris Hipkins has agreed to receive Karetai-Barrett in Wellington.

"I said Christopher Luxon originally because he's the prime minister but Chris Hipkins stepped up and he's happy to meet me. In my opinion, he's a way cooler guy. We'll show Christopher Luxon who's boss."

The Whakatāne High School student's message to those opposed to Māori wards was to think about it a bit more.

"There's not really any reason to oppose it. Look into it, think about it a bit more. It's such a smart thing that should be normal," Karetai-Barrett told Local Democracy Reporting.

"My message is to vote yes for Māori wards, don't get rid of them."

Karetai-Barrett arrived in Whanganui on Thursday and was back on the road on Friday morning. He plans to be on the steps of Parliament at 1pm on Wednesday, 9 July.

Karetai-Barrett's route covers nearly 900km over 11 days, cycling through small towns to avoid state high-ways and find safer cycling.

Most of the time he is cycling alone.

He walked and cycled the 87km each way from Whakatāne to Tauranga and back during the April school holidays.

The two campaigns had changed him, he said.

"It's made me a bit more resilient. On my walk to Tauranga, I didn't expect it to be as difficult as it was. At the end of the walk, I wasn't even walking anymore, I was shuffling."

He had also lost weight but gained muscle, grown an inch in height and was pressing 90kg, up from 40kg.

The journey to Whanganui through the central North Island had hit some bad weather, including "a torrential downpour and rain near hail level" and was re-routed several times but had been "pretty good" overall.

"It's been quite chill. I listen to all my rock n roll – ACDC, The Offspring, Bon Jovi – those are the main three things I listen to."

People warned him to watch out for semi-trailer trucks on the roads.

"But they're the best drivers on the road. They give me so much space. A lot of the cars aren't so kind. I skimmed my bars on someone's doors as they were coming past at 100km an hour."

Karetai-Barrett said the response from the public had been reasonable.

"When I walked to Tauranga I had lots of people saying nasty things on Facebook but I haven't seen one hate comment this time."

He has been hosted by well-wishers along the way, including Te Ao Hou Marae and Whanganui District councillor Charlotte Melser.

"I think Jack's amazing," Melser said. "It's so rare to find a rangatahi of his age with this level of conviction for a kaupapa that most people his age aren't even aware of."

Karetai-Barrett is already planning his next campaign ride – the 3000km Te Araroa trail during the summer.

He is considering physiotherapy as a career, not politics.

"Too stressful. I don't want some random 15-year-old kid biking up to see me to tell me I'm wrong."

Candidate nominations have opened around the country for October's local government elections.

Ruapehu District has Māori wards so will be holding a referendum on whether to keep them or not.

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

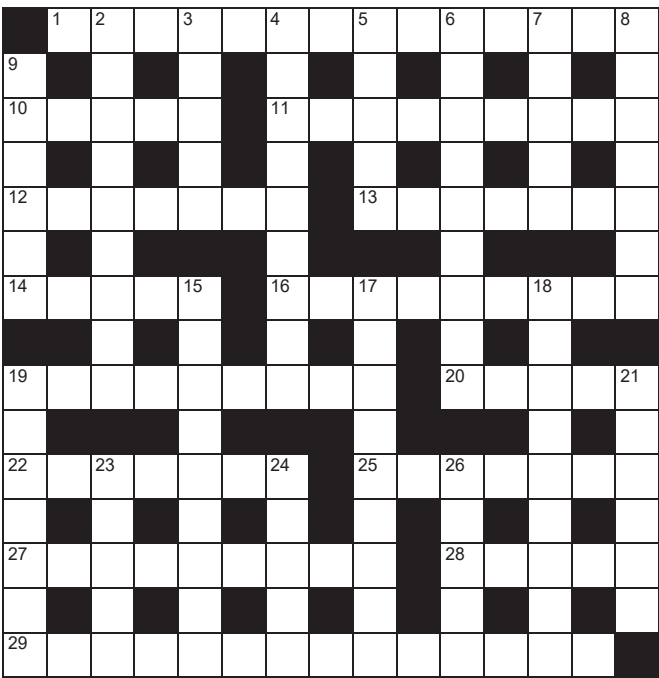


Whakatāne 15-year-old Jack Karetai-Barrett itakes a break from the storm in Raetihi, before heading to Whanganui on his way to Parliament. The cycling campaign has been supported by many well-wishers along the way. Photo: Liz Brooker.

THE WEEKLY WORKOUT answers for each puzzle are included on this page 809

QUICK CROSSWORD

- Across
- 1. Diamonds, sapphires, emeralds etc (8,6)
 - 10. Turn of phrase (5)
 - 11. Letters sent by post (colloq) (5,4)
 - 12. Type of rice (7)
 - 13. An affair (7)
 - 14. Pry (5)
 - 16. Detest (9)
 - 19. Part (9)
 - 20. Premature (5)
 - 22. Female ruler (7)
 - 25. Stance (7)
 - 27. Chit chat (5,4)
 - 28. Exposed (colloq) (5)
 - 29. Biased (14)
- Down
- 2. Downpour (9)
 - 3. Punctuation mark (5)
 - 4. Stubborn (9)
 - 5. Delay (5)
 - 6. Loquacious (9)
 - 7. Approaches (5)
 - 8. Absence of sound (7)
 - 9. Cloud type (6)
 - 15. Screw (9)
 - 17. Forthright (9)



- 18. Imaginary instrument (3,6)
- 19. Folded, wrinkled (7)
- 21. Surrenders (6)
- 23. Summits (5)
- 24. Throng (5)
- 26. Brief (5)

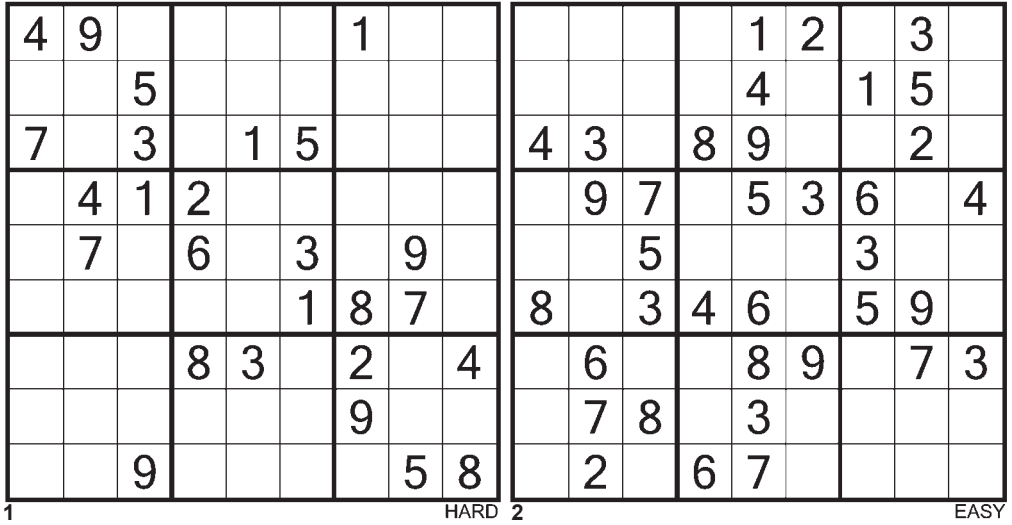


Puzzles © The Puzzle Company

THE TOP 10

- 1. Empire State Building, 2. Making or selling alcohol, 3. Tigris and Euphrates, 4. Best friend forever, 5. Has five (irregular) sides, 6. In an ocean, 7. Pac Man, 8. Jay, 9. Plum and apricot, 10. Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds.

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



The Top 10

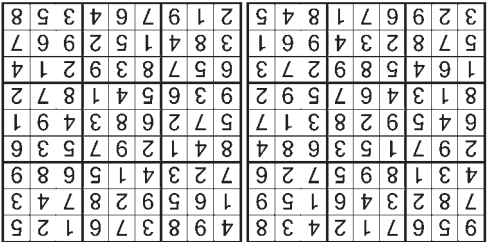
- 1. In *Sleepless in Seattle*, where do Sam (Tom Hanks) and Annie (Meg Ryan) meet?
- 2. The 18th Amendment, valid from 1919 to 1933, prohibited what in the United States?
- 3. The area known as 'the cradle of civilisation' lies between which two rivers?
- 4. What does the abbreviation BFF stand for?
- 5. Is the flag of Nepal unique because it's round, has five sides, or is an octagon?
- 6. Where would you find the sunlight zone, twilight zone, and abyssal zone?
- 7. Blinky, Pinky, Inky, and Clyde are ghosts in which 1980s video game?
- 8. What's the first name of Gatsby in *The Great Gatsby*?
- 9. A pluot is a cross between which two fruits?
- 10. Which song mentions 'a girl with kaleidoscope eyes'?

CROSSWORD

Across: 1. Precious stones, 10. Idiom, 11. Swarm, 26. Short.

Down: 2. Rainsform, 3. Comma, 4. Obstinate, 5. Stall, 6. Talkative, 7. Nears, 8. Silence, 9. Nimbus, 15. Propeller, 17. Outspoken, 18. Air guitar, 19. Creased, 21. Yields, 23. Peaks, 24.

SUDOKU



Ohakune Squash player wins Nationals grade title

Over the weekend several Ohakune Squash Club players and supporters travelled to the North Shore Squash Club in Auckland for the National Open and graded champs. Of the 10 Central players in the graded champs, three were from Ohakune, two from Turangi and one from Taihape.

Best result for Ohakune came from Madison Lee who won the New Zealand F Grade women's title beating Anna Doubell from the Eastern district 3-1. The F grade trophy was donated to New Zealand Squash by the Ohakune Squash Club in 2012 and has previously been won by two Ohakune players, Nicky Schrafft in 2016 and Poppy Dekker in 2020.

The other two Ohakune players both made it to their respective final title matches. Jessie Harding narrowly lost to Southlands Mia Mennell in a close five-setter for the E grade women's title, fighting back from 2-0 down. Jayden Bailey lost the B grade tile match for the men's B grade title to Jaiden Turton from the Waikato district.

All finals were live streamed so club members share the excitement back in Ohakune along with those who travelled to Auckland to support.

Other players from the Ruapehu region to do well was Taihape's Lily Alabaster who won the D grade women's title



Madison Lee, Ohakune's F-Grade title winner. Photo: Ohakune Squash Club.

and Turangi's Joe Waetford who was runner up in the men's F grade. Together the Central team regained the Ossie's trophy from Auckland for best performing district of the 11 squash districts.

In the Open divisions, world number three, Paul Coll from Canterbury beat Auckland's Elijah Thomas 3-0 in the men's final and Central's Kaitlyn Watts beat Auckland's Ella Lash in a close five setter in the women's final to gain her first open title.

Last week's Ruapehu Zone interclub was a bye week. This week is the start of round two with all teams in Turangi.

Week three of interhouse on Thursday saw Karakal beat Salming 89/69, Tecnifibre beat Unsquashable 90/74 and Prince narrowly beat Dunlop 74/72. Head got 80 for the bye. Points to date are Tecnifibre 263, Unsquashable 252, Dunlop 242, Head 236, Salming 222, Prince 222 and Karakal 208. The draw for this Thursday is 5:00pm Prince vs Tecnifibre, 6:30pm Unsquashable vs Head 8:00pm Salming vs Dunlop and Karakal has the bye.

Registrations for term three junior squash coaching is open. See the Facebook page for details.

Network investment and community support takes priority: local power firm

A local electricity lines company has outlined its work for the coming year, prioritising investment in its network electricity infrastructure and signalling continued community support.

Commitments from the community-owned The Lines Company (TLC) are summarised in its 2025 Statement of Corporate Intent (SCI). The document is available now, on the TLC website.

"This local ownership is key to delivering what our customers need now and in the future. We are keenly aware of the role we have in enabling our communities to thrive and businesses to operate effectively," said TLC chief executive Mike Fox.

TLC has committed \$28.5 million into the local electricity network in this financial year.

"At its core, our network must be safe and reliable, delivering great value to our customers," continued Fox.

"We know that the decisions we make today will impact our customers now and into the future. We are committed to ensuring our network is well maintained for future generations, is resilient to the effects of climate change and can accommodate future growth."

TLC has also supported a strong call from its shareholder, Waitomo Energy Services Customer Trust (WESCT) and its commitment to achieving the right balance between investment and maintenance in the infrastructure for a reliable network, meaningful discounts and strong support of communities through sponsorships, scholarships, funding Maru Energy Trust, energy hardship initiatives and community grant funding.

"We know that as electricity costs rise, it's going to be harder for some people. Our intent is to partner with others to support those who most need help," Fox said.

Effective

"We remain committed to providing free energy education seminars, aimed at helping households use electricity more effectively. Our support of Maru enables the installation of insulation and heat pumps for eligible homeowners, providing warmer drier homes and reducing electricity bills.

"We are proud of our commitment to building genuine partnerships," said Fox.

"Over the past year we have partnered with iwi and councils on several initiatives, all geared towards reducing energy hardship, reducing cost of electricity and collaboration so that collectively we deliver better bang for buck."

In February, TLC also confirmed WESCT beneficiaries would see an increase in the annual electricity discount before GST from \$5.2 million to \$6.0 million.

"This SCI hits the mark in terms of balancing investment in our assets to ensure we keep customers connected, beneficiary discounts and community support across the entire TLC network area," said Fox.



National finals players, Jayden Bailey, Jessie Harding and Madison Lee.

Turning up the heat for firefighting training

Emergency Responders from the New Zealand Army's 3rd Field Squadron and Emergency Response Squadron battled fires and attended patient rescue scenarios at a recent exercise in a state-of-the-art facility in Rotorua.

The training, at the National Training Centre, was to ensure crews from both Linton and Burnham Military Camps and the New Zealand Defence Force's Waiouru Station were certified in their respective skills. Assessors from Fire and Emergency New Zealand marked the competencies of the crews, who all successfully completed the tasks.

"Every level was assessed during the training," Sapper Matthieu Rousseau said.

"There are the two 'back-seaters', who are the team that goes into the building to do the work, then the pump operator, who's also the driver, and the Officer in Charge (OIC) who leads the truck."

The back-seater team was evaluated on whether they were safely following the correct drills, communicating clearly and following instructions. The pump operator had to show they were responding at the correct speed,

following the correct and safe driving rules, including parking in the correct manner away from smoke, and getting water to the truck.

The OIC was rated on whether they came up with a good plan, using the correct tactics and able to communicate information to other emergency responders if needed.

"Everyone performed really well, above expectations. One of the things about this trade is you never really know what you're going to turn up to. We get the information from communications, but it's difficult to know the exact scenario we will be facing," says Rousseau.

SPR Rousseau, a pump operator, is about to start his junior command course and during the exercise he was also given the opportunity to find out the challenges of the OIC role.

"It had its difficulties, but with the guidance from some of the guys who were there, the role just fell into place.

"It was a satisfying exercise and it's always great to be able to use the National Training Centre, which is world-class – there's nothing better in the country. So whenever we get to go, I'm always stoked," SPR Rousseau said.

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Raetihi pupils combine culture, collaboration and kai

A group of Raetihi Primary School pupils were among the first to ride the brand-new Te Hangāruru Trail recently, along with pupils from National Park School, following the opening of the trail.

“This beautiful new taonga, gifted by Te Korowai o Wainuiārua and the wider community, was a powerful moment for our kura,” said principal Josie Hagger.

“The awe-inspiring Mangaturuturu Awa suspension bridge and the strong sense of manākitanga made for a truly unforgettable day.”

Other adventures have featured prominently as students tackled the Mangawhero River Trail and Te Ara Mangawhero biking tracks.

“Despite the rain and unfamiliar terrain, our tamariki showed incredible resilience, grit, and teamwork. Thanks to the generous support of whānau and our wonderful partners — Sport Whanganui, Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa, and TCB Ohakune — every child was equipped and ready to embrace the experience.”

Pike challenge

The school’s William Pike Challenge programme continues to provide transformative, hands-on learning experiences that go far beyond the classroom, says Mrs Hagger.

Part of their journey is as “Kaitiaki o te Ngahere—Guardians of the Forest”

— working alongside Clodagh from the Department of Conservation.

Their conservation learning began with practical lessons around predator control and protecting precious native taonga.

“But at Raetihi Kura, William Pike is about much more than completing tasks. It is about connection — strengthening ties to their whānau, their rohe, the ngahere, awa, maunga and iwi. Through these experiences, students develop a strong sense of belonging, pride, and identity.”

As part of the challenge, they visited Tuhiariki Marae, working in the maara kai, cleaned the whare and sharing kai and kōrero with kaumātua and whānau.

“A beautiful exchange took place — seed potatoes gifted by our whānau and freshly harvested Mataroa Riwai in return.”

Technology

Pupils have also taken on technology classes at Ruapehu College, under the tutelage of Maxine Hakaraia and Duane Dixon.

Pupils produced culinary delights from Cornish pasties to creamy pasta carbonara. Their learning also embraced the spirit of Matariki mā Puanga as they prepared a shared hāngī and crafted decorated biscuits, combining culture, collaboration and kai.

Year 7 pupils worked with Mr Dixon in the digital technology suite, exploring computer design, mastering Microsoft and Google tools and building both creative and technical confidence.

“The shift to delivering Technology at Ruapehu College has laid strong foundations for our senior learners, helping to foster smooth, confident transitions as they prepare to step into secondary school,” says Mrs Hagger.

Senior pupils also attended the 25th National Young Leaders Day in Palmerston North during the term, where they were inspired by speakers such as Julia Grace, Jase Te Patu, and Georgia Lines. The theme, *Stronger Together*, encouraged them to reflect on the importance of connection, resilience, and support.

Other activities are the school during the term included an afternoon walking group, Jumping June and Pink Shirt Day and Pink



Raetihi Primary School pupils line up to be the first riders on the new Te Hangāruru trail after the opening. Photos: Raetihi Primary School.

Ribbon morning tea.

Cultural and creative experiences included a visit by “Speak Up Friend” from Co Theatre Physical, Puanga mā Matariki celebrations with kite making, weaving, traditional Māori games and shared kai; and the end-of-term disco.

Work is also going on with the school buildings – installing double-glazed windows and on the long-awaited weather-tightness project in the administration block.

Another milestone was welcoming the new iwi represen-

tative, Marilyn Kairimu from Te Korowai o Wainuiārua, to the Board of Trustees.

“Marilyn brings a deep wealth of wisdom, experience, and connection to our kura, and we are incredibly proud to have her walking alongside us. Strengthening our relationship with our iwi is not only vital for sound governance but for the cultural, educational, and spiritual wellbeing of our tamariki,” said Mrs Hagger.

Term Three will include the kura snow programme; enviro learning and maara kai.



Marilyn Kairimu.



Raetihi pupils experienced hāngī cooking at their technology classes at Ruapehu College.

Horizons calls for candidates

Horizons Regional Council is calling for people to stand for election – a key way to help to make the region a healthy environment where people thrive.

Horizons electoral officer Warwick Lampp says candidate nominations for this year’s local body elections are open and close at 12 noon on 1 August 2025.

“People with an interest in the management of natural resources across the Horowhenua, Palmerston North, Manawātū, Taranaki, Rangitikei, Whanganui and Ruapehu districts should turn their minds to filling for election,” says Mr Lampp.

“Horizons monitors and manages freshwater, biodiversity and biosecurity, provides critical flood management and climate resilience assets, manages the region’s response to natural disasters, plans

public transport services, and much more.

“It is an exciting time to stand for a seat around Horizons’ council table. There are big projects underway, a lot of central government policy change in the pipeline, work to be undertaken to enhance our region’s resilience against climatic events, and new public transport networks to be launched. Successful candidates will have the chance to shape how all of those will impact the Horizons Region for years to come.”



Horizons, which is the trading name for Manawātū-Whanganui Regional Council, has 14 seats to fill once voting opens in September, says Mr Lampp.

“Those seats include two Māori constituencies: Raki Māori and Tonga Māori. Those councillors will represent people

Turn to Page 9

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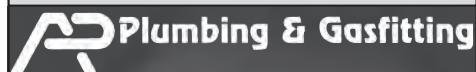


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River and rainfall monitoring network upgraded

A “significant upgrade” of the region’s environmental data monitoring network, expanding coverage and making it more resilient against weather events, has been completed.

Horizons Regional Council group manager regional services and information Ged Shirley says Horizons has delivered a wide suite of work, made possible thanks to receiving more than \$4.2 million from central government’s Cyclone Recovery Flood Resilience Co-investment Fund, to build resilience to the impacts of climate change and recover from Cyclone Gabrielle.

“A large portion of this went towards upgrading flood forecasting and communications resilience across the region, with this work delivered by our Environmental Data team,” says Mr Shirley.

“The significant spikes in traffic we get to our Envirodata website during severe weather events shows people value the data we collect and how it helps them to keep themselves, loved ones, property and stock safe from flooding.

Co-investment

“The co-investment from central government means we have delivered this upgrade work, which we had planned to do over eight years, in two years. This gives people the benefits of an upgraded network sooner than we had planned.

“Monitoring stations now have five-day standby power as a minimum, our telecommunications network between sites and our servers have been enhanced, and we are now able to receive data from sites at more frequent intervals than before.”

While upgrades were made across the region, there was a specific focus on improving coverage in Taranaki after Cyclone Gabrielle, says Mr Shirley.

“This included new and improved data monitoring sites, all river sites being made more resilient against floods, and updates to the forecasting models for three major rivers along the Taranaki coast.

“Ultimately, this work provides better situational awareness and foresight during severe weather events.”

Horizons’ environmental data network is not just used during severe rainfall events, says Mr Shirley.

“Our network is relied on by water take consent holders to ensure they know their relevant minimum flow and water use volumes during drier months.

“Various other people and groups, including researchers, schools and other councils, access our environmental data for a range of reasons.”

Alert system

This upgrade work comes after Horizons updated its flood alert system in 2024, making that system more effective in providing automated alerts in flood situations, says Mr Shirley.

“We are committed to continually making improvements to our systems, giving people improved tools to manage risk during severe weather events.”

Horizons group manager catchment operations Dr Jon Roygard says this project also involved improving some flood management assets.

“Pump stations, especially those across the Taonui Basin, had their standby power upgraded and telecommunications equipment improved.”

Other projects supported by the \$4.2 million of co-investment from central government are ongoing, says Dr Roygard.

“We are also well advanced on a regional flood vulnerability study. We hope to present the findings of the study later this year.”

To learn more about the upgrade work, and sign up for Horizons’ river alert system, see [https://www.horizons.govt.nz/flood-emergency-management/environmental-data-\(1\)](https://www.horizons.govt.nz/flood-emergency-management/environmental-data-(1)).

To view rainfall, river flow and other data collected by Horizons, see envirodata.horizons.govt.nz.



Work on part of the Region’s environmental data monitoring network included this site on Raupiu Road, off the Parapara Highway.

Army reservists to be tested in annual Waiohuru exercise

Up to 250 reservists are expected to take part in this month’s Exercise Tauwharenikau, the largest New Zealand Army Reserve Force collective field training exercise to be run this year.

The exercise, based in the Waiohuru Military Training Area, provides Reserve Force personnel with an opportunity to hone their skills and ply their technical expertise in a large-scale training activity, within different scenarios and utilising a range of capabilities and equipment used by Ngāti Tūmatauenga, the New Zealand Army.

The exercise replicates the scale and complexity of operations soldiers could encounter on overseas deployments and builds on Exercise Italy, a recent urban peacekeeping exercise conducted recently in Whanganui.

Whanganui local Corporal Ray Stewart, a section commander for 5th/7th Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (RNZIR), is looking forward to continuing his training during Tauwharenikau within more complex scenarios.

During the Whanganui exercise, his team provided security for a Forward Operating Base, patrolled streets and

provided security for ‘local’ community meetings.

Challenges included being in the centre of a confrontation between village representatives.

He says it was a realistic glimpse into security and stability operations.

“Some of the scenarios were challenging but the training is in a supportive and safe environment where we are encouraged to be put into situations we may not have experienced before.

“As a section commander my priority is to give orders based on what the commander wants achieved, manage my section and ensure they are prepared for a variety of situations,” says Corporal Stewart.

Corporal Stewart spent five years as a youth development specialist working at the Youth Development Unit (YDU) at Royal New Zealand Air Force Base Ohakea.

This included working on the Limited Service Volunteer courses for unemployed 18-24 year olds who are not studying or training, and Services Academies within secondary schools, fostering skills and values to help senior students take positive roles in society.

Another Tauwharenikau participant will be Lance Corporal Tom Oldham, a New Plymouth-based medic from Central Health Support Squadron, Defence Health Organisation. He also took part in Exercise Italy.

In Waiohuru, he’ll either be a medic as part of a section, or assigned as a detachment medic working with a commander, doctor, nurse and another medic.

“I will be furthering my leadership and clinical skills so having a perspective of the challenges and problem solving that a platoon medic faces was a great experience.”

A medical detachment is designed to triage and stabilise a patient on or near the location of their injury giving them a higher rate of survival. Once stabilised, ideally emergency services would extract them from the location to the nearest hospital.

“I’ve been learning the basics of medic roles on night parades, which allowed me to step up into the role of platoon medic. I completed my Junior Non-Commissioned Officers course last year and this has allowed me to develop those skills and put them into practice in a peacekeeping security



Corporal Ray Stewart departs the 5/7 RNZIR Forward Operating Base to patrol as part of a recent urban security exercise.

role,” says Lance Corporal Oldham.

Moving from Australia, Lance Corporal Oldham joined the NZ Army Band in 2017 playing the Tenor Horn. After serving four years the 25-year-old decided to pursue physiotherapy study and is now at New Plymouth Hospital as a qualified physiotherapist.

“A friend advised I join the Reserve Force in a medical capacity when beginning study. Since joining, I have

worked and learnt alongside doctors, nurses, medics and Reservists with a wealth of medical experience in their civilian employment that have enhanced my learning in the medical realm.

“Joining the Reserve Force has given me a family culture and support network that I wouldn’t have had, and the opportunity to continue playing with the Army Band on a part-time basis.”

Horizons calls for candidates

From Page 7

of Māori descent and bring forward Māori views and aspirations, but take an oath to serve all people in the Horizons Region.

“Candidates for those constituencies do not need to be of Māori descent. The opposite also applies, with Māori able to stand in general constituencies.

“Candidates can come from a wide range of backgrounds and hold different perspectives on a range of issues. This helps to create a variety of viewpoints around the council table after the election.”

More information about standing for election, including nomination forms, can be found online at elections.horizons.govt.nz.

People can ensure they are enrolled and their details are correct online at vote.nz.

For more specific information about the details of this election, head to elections.horizons.govt.nz or Horizons’ elections officers by emailing elections@horizons.govt.nz or calling free phone 0508 800 800.

Chapman to stand for council

Past Waimarino Waiohuru community board member John Chapman has announced his intention to stand for election to the Ruapehu District Council.

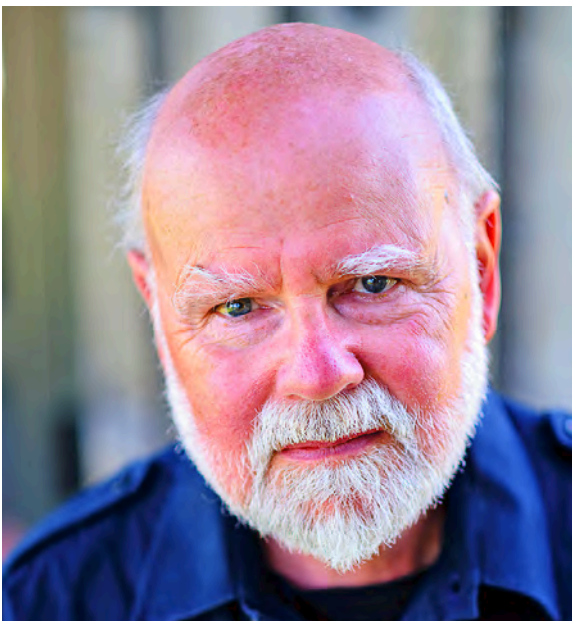
Chapman, who sat on both the National Park and Waimarino Community Boards, said: “I’m delighted to have the opportunity to once again serve my community and continue the work I began as a board member in enlarging the scope and responsibilities of our boards and pressing for a board in Taumarunui Ohura. Whilst the changes in Council’s structure at the last election brought about greater engagement with Māori and the wider community, one crucial part of our community, the rural agriculture sector, has been left out.

“I would like to see the next Council give positive consideration to the establishment of a rural ward in the district. Our agricultural sector provides the lion’s share of our local economy and, if we are

to grow as a district, then they need to have a seat at the table. That said, the recent budget blowouts have demonstrated a clear need for real-time monitoring of council expenditure by council members.

“Ruapehu District Council faces enormous challenges over the next decade in its governance of the district. The loss of jobs in the south and the closure of the Chateau in the north have negatively impacted our local economy still recovering from Covid. The challenges of rebuilding our economy and governing effectively and affordably for all our communities will take a team that will listen to our communities, work across our administration, community boards and iwi to meet those challenges. A team that, once elected, can set aside political differences and work together for the benefit of all our communities.”

More information on his candidacy is at www.jcforrdc.com



John Chapman. Photo: Barbara van der Woerd.

Taonga unveiling a highlight of Medical School 150th

By Andrea Jones

Raetihi born and raised student Antonia Hoeta was part of a special part of the Otago Medical School 150th celebrations recently with the unveiling of a kākahu (cloak) – a tohu that honours the legacy of the Medical School’s past, the achievements of the present and the hope for the future.

Upoko Edward Ellison (Ōtākou Rūnaka) was present to karakia the kākahu during the unveiling, a blessing which acknowledged the journey for this kākahu and its importance as a tohu of the 150 years’ legacy.

The kākahu, named ‘Piki ki te Paetae – ascending to achievement’, inspired by the University’s whakatauki: Ōtākou Whakaihū Waka – a place of many firsts, was unveiled by OMS Dean Professor Suzanne Pitama (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Whare).

Suzanne discussed how a kākahu is not created by accident. “It is purposeful, it is a work of art and skill. Each thread is

selected with care. It requires intention, a clear sense of what the kākahu will represent, who it is for and why it matters.”

The kākahu was designed and woven by master weaver Ranui Ngarimu (Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Mutunga) ONZM in consultation with mana whenua, alongside weavers Kapuakore Ngarimu and Waimarama Heremaia.

The body of the hand-woven kākahu is made of flax fibres, with feathers from kererū, toroa and pheasant.

Fourth-year medical tauira Antonia Hoeta (Pōneke Wellington campus) wears the kākahu (cloak) which was unveiled during the Otago Medical School 150th celebrations, with (from left) Upoko Edward Ellison (Ōtākou Rūnaka), Tūi Kent (Ōtākou Rūnaka) a staff member at the Kōhatu Centre for Hauora Māori, Dunedin School of Medicine Dean Professor Suetonia Green, Otago Medical School Dean Professor Suzanne Pitama and Professor Peter Crampton, also from Kōhatu.



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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 second publication of this notice. The first notice was published on 2 July 2025.

**WWW.
ohakune.info**

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



**OHAKUNE EVENTS
CHARITABLE TRUST**

Community Meeting - Mardi Gras

Join the Ohakune Events Charitable Trust and Audiology for a post-event catch up about Mardi Gras 2025

**Thursday 17th July, 7pm
Ohakune Council Chambers**

Open invite to all who would like to attend

**Deadline for all advertising
bookings and copy is
5pm Fridays!**

PUBLIC NOTICES



We Want to Hear From You!



We're gathering feedback from local residents and business owners to help us understand how Mardi Gras weekend went, what worked well, and how we can continue to improve.

Scan the QR code to complete the survey or check out our FB page for link

Community and Emergency Services

Alzheimers Whanganui Inc – Email admin@alzheimerswhanganui.org.nz or for support phone 06-345 8833

Budget Advice – Email 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 – Simon Osborne, Emergency Management Officer (EMO), RDC – 07 895 8188, or 027 220 0569. Simon.Osborne@ruapehudc.govt.nz

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

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

Waimarino Health Care Centre – Raetihi 06-385-5019

Waimarino Community Toy Library – 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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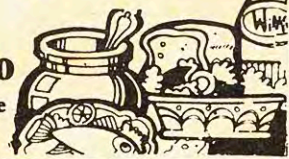
WAIMARINO BULLETIN

VOICE OF THE RUAPEHU REGION
Tuesday 9 July, 1985. Volume 3 No. 7

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Ratepayers revolt over 'shock' rise

A petition is being drawn up this week in a bid to force Ohakune Borough Council to think again over its recent rates increase which has been described as "massive" and "a con job", by ratepayers.

Residents of the town were staggered when their rates demands arrived last week. Many property owners found their bills were 50 to 60 percent higher than last year.

At the April meeting of Ohakune Borough Council, Mayor Bill Taylor told councillors that the average rate increase would be 32 percent.

However, this was qualified by the statement that the lower the valuation of a property the lower the percentage increase would be.

"There probably won't be a ratepayer in the town who will have their rates increased by the average of 32 percent," he added.

But details of how the average increase figure was arrived at did not satisfy senior citizens and young couples who contacted the Bulletin this week, enraged by 50 and 60 percent increases in their rates.

The ratepayers' petition is being organised by local businessman Ken George of the Kapai Bookshop in Goldfinch Street, who has had his residential rates bill increased by 60.2 percent.

He has sought legal advice on how to draw up the petition and will circulate it

throughout the town.

"It is getting impossible for pensioners and young people to live in this town," he said.

However, Mayor Taylor and town clerk, Mrs Edith Moore, are adamant that ratepayers were given every opportunity to voice their opposition to the increase.

At last month's full council meeting councillors confirmed the new rate, after the Mayor stated that no objections had been received to the increase agreed by the council.

However, ratepayers did not receive their rate demands until two weeks after the new rate was confirmed by council.

Although ratepayers could have worked out their individual increase, many stated they had no idea their bills were going to be so high until they received their demands — after the date for objections had passed.

Twenty cents in each rating dollar is spent on administration, a further twenty cents on wages and salaries, twenty cents on roading, ten cents on borough properties, leaving the remaining thirty cents for water supply, refuse collection, sewage, amenities and service.



The Turoa yeti congratulates Dion Taylor from Nelson — the first person to ski on the Turoa skifields this season. Dion, a Massey University student, was given a complementary day pass for being Turoa's first customer in 1985.

Ruapehu's ski slopes are open!

Seven hundred skiers took to the Turoa slopes over the weekend, with several hundred more on the Whakapapa side of Mt Ruapehu.

Both skifields had only limited facilities open, but snow on Sunday and Monday made staff on both sides of the mountain feel confident additional ski runs will be open later this week.

Turoa had two chairlifts running, one for access only, the snow only being skiable to the mid-station.

The snow pump will also be fired up soon, which should enable the beginner facilities to be opened.

On the Whakapapa field, the first and second chairlifts were open for access and sight-seeing, with the Hut Flat rope-tow and the Cinder Track Platter open for skiing.

Both the Bruce Road and the Ohakune Mountain Road are icy this week and chains are required.

Power bill reduction sought

In a bid to cut the Karioi pulp mill's power bill by several hundred thousand dollars a year, Winstone Samsung has applied to buy its electricity direct from the government.

The company is one of a

number of big industrial consumers which have lodged applications with Energy Minister Bob Tizard to by-pass the country's power boards and buy their electricity from the government.

The Karioi mill took over half the electricity supplied

by the King Country Electric Power Board last year.

Finance Minister Roger Douglas announced in his budget speech that there had been considerable concern that power boards were receiving the benefits from large industrial users with a minimum of servicing.



Sisters Julie Lilburn (left) and Teresa Hammond (nee Haitana) had each other for company in Waimarino Hospital, Raetihi last week, after having their babies just one day apart.

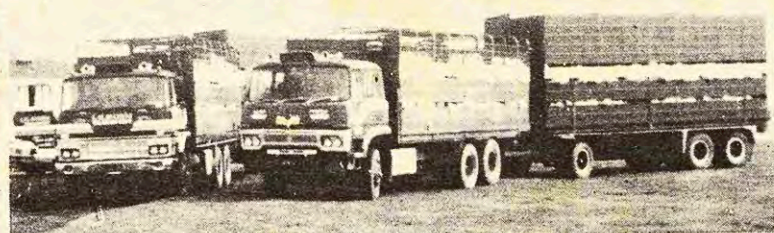
Teresa had her baby boy Christopher Henare on Tuesday 25th June in Waimarino Hospital and Julie had her daughter Lisa Maree in Wanganui Hospital the following day.

After having her baby, Julie was transferred to Waimarino Hospital to be with her sister.

Lisa weighed in at 9lbs 5ozs while Christopher was 7lbs 13ozs.

Teresa and her husband Phillip live at Tangiwai, while Julie and her husband Robert, live in Ohakune. Both girls already have one son.

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

Ruapehu off to the Seniors finals

Ruapehu Rugby and Sports Club's Senior rugby team are off to the Tasman Tanning Senior competition after their home semifinals, but not without a titanic struggle in the township and under the mountain on Saturday.

The McCarthy's Transport Ruapehu Mountain Men beat Marist Celtic with a try close to full time to snatch the 18-13 win.

They will play the Marist Knights at Spriggins Park in Whanganui, after the Knights beat Counties 14-0.

Still undefeated, for the season, home side led 10-3 at halftime at Rochfort Park, with their Northern subunion rep winger Cullen Cross having scored a try, converted by fullback Chrissy Winter who also added a penalty.

Celtic first-five Wineti McDonnell kicked Celtic's first half points, and then the 2022-23 champions began their comeback, with prop Jeremy Seal scoring a converted try.

Winter and McDonnell traded penalties for 13-13 with the clock ticking down, before Cross scored his double to send his team to their first WRFU finals day since 2022.



ABOVE: Cullen Cross heads for the try line for the winning score for Ruapehu. Photos: Glyn Hubbard.
BELOW: Ruapehu's defence was put to the test on Saturday.



Printmaking brings rangatahi and kaumātua together

Thanks to funding from Whiria Ngā Hua, a powerful intergenerational creative initiative has taken shape in the Ruapehu District, bringing together local rangatahi and kaumātua through the art of custom garment printing.

Led by 'RefleKTionS' by Ruapehu Signs, the project taught rangatahi and kaumātua how to design meaningful prints for kākahu (clothing), tablecloths, pillowcases and more — allowing participants to express identity, values, and creativity in deeply personal ways.

In December 2024, 12 rangatahi completed their designs before heading off to college. Each young person created a T-shirt featuring a self-designed print that reflected their passions, identity, and personal branding. In a heartfelt closing presentation, they shared their pepeha and gifted their custom kākahu to someone special in their lives.

"There were a lot of tears in the room," says project lead and RefleKTionS by Ruapehu Signs owner, Rae Sinclair.

"Each rangatahi stood proud and confident and the aroha they expressed through their designs and their words was incredibly moving."

Since then, attention has turned to kaumātua. Through a series of workshops, they've been learning how to use modern printing technology to bring their stories and memories to life. Whether designing for tablecloths, pillowcases, or wearable items, the results have been rich with meaning and connection.

"For many kaumātua, using the technology was a new experience," Rae reflects.

"There were tears, laughter and so many stories shared. Hearing what's special to them and turning that into something tangible was such a privilege."

The course has now supported more than 24 participants rangatahi and kaumātua alike and culminates last month with a celebration with the Whiria Ngā Hua team at Ngā Waihua o Paerangi.

For Rae, the experience has been life-changing.

"Being able to pass on my knowledge and spend real quality time with our kaumātua and rangatahi through this kaupapa is something I'll never forget."

She said the project is a shining example of what can be achieved when creativity, culture, and community come together and a testament to the transformative power of initiatives supported by Whiria Ngā Hua.



T-shirt design and print was part of the recent project.

True Team Promise means our whole team works for you.

Contact your local Ohakune Consultant or Property Manager today!

Cameron Elliot
Sales Manager – Taumarunui / Ohakune
027 542 1009

Alan Blackburn
Rural / Lifestyle
027 203 9112

Polly Ingles
Residential / Lifestyle
027 315 8368

Jenna Hovelle
Residential / Lifestyle
027 361 0167

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