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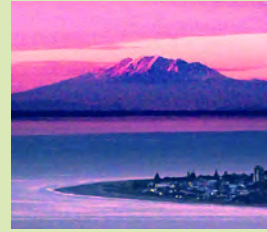
**New line
at the
Junction
P3**



**Ōwhango's
clean
water
flows
P5**



**Pyjama
gifts to
keep kids
warm
P7**



**Ruapehu,
from
Kapiti
P12**

Top to bottom at Tūroa: Whakapapa makes progress

The High Noon Express chairlift opened for skiing and snowboarding on Saturday for the first time in 2025, giving top to bottom riding at Tūroa Ski Area.

At the time of going to print, the Ruapehu ski community were nervously watching the weather as heavy rain was forecast, but also snowfalls on the upper areas of the ski fields.

On Saturday, the riding was limited to one trail, partly thanks to snowmaking from Blyth Flat down to the base.

"We are thrilled to be able to offer guests top to bottom skiing for the first

time this winter," said Jono Dean, Tūroa chief executive.

Alongside the terrain opening, key mountain facilities were opened to support the increased capacity. The Giant Café and Snowflake Big Mountain Burgers opened, providing more dining options for visitors. Adding to the celebratory atmosphere, The Giant Café featured a DJ on Saturday.

Tūroa HQ on the corner of Ayr and Goldfinch Street in Ohakune is open for pass purchases and mountain information, while online purchasing continues to be the most convenient option for securing lift passes ahead of arrival.

Whakapapa opens more

The team at Whakapapa Ski Area had the Delta Chair running from Friday, extending the slopes available.

"It's taken grit, graft, and a run of near-perfect snowmaking conditions to get here," says Whakapapa.

From Friday, intermediate to advanced skiers and snowboarders can ride from the top of the Sky Waka gondola down through the Terraces, linking into the Rockgarden, and also lap skiers' right off the Delta chair via the K-road trail.

"With temperatures dipping below -5°C wet bulb, the snowmaking team has been in full flight — while groomers have been joining the dots

Turn to Page 4



Snowboarders enjoy the riding on the High Noon Express at Tūroa on Saturday. Photo: Tūroa.

Alpine adventurers take on Ruapehu for island children



Adventurers Huw Kingston and Laurence Mote at Tūroa — one of the ski field stops on their journey from the top of New Zealand to the bottom, biking and hiking to every ski area in the country. See story Page 2. Photo: Tahlia Frew.

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Alpine adventurers in Ruapehu for epic fundraising journey

By Tahlia Frew

The Ruapehu rohe last week welcomed alpine adventurers Huw Kingston and Laurence Mote, who are currently on an inspiring 90-day journey traversing the length of Aotearoa by bike, ski and foot. Starting at Cape Reinga and finishing at Motupohue in the deep south, their goal is to visit every ski field along the way.

The pair are on a mission to raise \$75,000 for Save the Children to help build Vanuatu's first climate-resilient shipping container classroom.

"Climate change is the greatest threat facing the Pacific, with communities at the forefront of this escalating crisis. Children are particularly affected, with 3.8 million school-aged children (5 to 19 years), including 1.85 million girls, at risk

from natural disasters that threaten their education."

Their visit to the region began on the Timber Trail, which they completed the entire 85kms of before "falling into bed" at Ongarue Valley Retreat. From there, they continued to Taranaki and made their return via Whangamōmona, arriving at Whakapapa ski area just in time for some solid blizzard conditions. After the weather cleared, they managed to skin up the mountain and get in some turns, deciding to stay an extra night.

"This is what we came for."

They then continued around the maunga, hiking and skiing their way to the Tukino Ski Field area before eventually reaching Tūroa via the Round the Mountain Track. A well-timed opening of the upper moun-



LEFT: Huw Kingston rides on Te Ara Mangawhero. ABOVE: the two adventurers head up Mangawhero Terrace. Photos: Huw Kingston and Martyn Davies.



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Ruapehu Events & What's On

AUGUST 2025

Twilight Ski & Music Details at www.whakapapa.com	2 August
Pure Shredder Visit www.pureturoa.nz or find us on Facebook or Instagram @turoa.nz for up to date information.	3 August
Girls Who Shred Visit www.pureturoa.nz or find us on Facebook or Instagram @turoa.nz for up to date information.	9 August
Elvis the King and Queens of Country Royal Theatre Raethi	16 August
Waimarino Cup - Junior Interfields Registrations opening soon via Snowsports New Zealand. Snowsports New Zealand www.snowsports.co.nz	16 - 17 August
Tūroa Slopestyle Mini Shred (under 14) Visit www.pureturoa.nz or find us on Facebook or Instagram @turoa.nz for up to date information.	16 August
North Island Champs - National Points Registrations opening soon via Snowsports New Zealand. Snowsports New Zealand www.snowsports.co.nz	22 - 23 August

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tain gave them a welcome breather on the Giant Chairlift.

Laurence and Huw say they've been blown away by Ruapehu and the manaakitanga shown toward them.

"The Round the Mountain walk was magnificent and we had our first really good turns on Tūroa. Big props to Visit Ruapehu and the people who've hosted us, including Forgotten World Adventures, Ongarue Valley Retreat, Ngāuruhoe Ski Club, and Tukino Alpine Sports Club."

Huw says one of his skis lost the battle with the famed Ruapehu rock but was quickly returned to top shape thanks to TCB Ohakune.

They say the kaupapa is about more than fundraising.

"It's a journey, a celebration of ski areas and biking, a celebration of New Zealand."

Both men have been skiing for around 40 years and say the effects of climate change on ski fields have become more noticeable. Laurence notes that the shift of school holidays away from August in 1996 was the first hard hit and the most noticeable for him.

"It really does seem like it's a bit more tenuous now though. One rain event can wipe out all the pre-season base. The weather is having a much bigger impact on the season. You used to get a fall of snow, then another, then another. Now it can just wash away."

Huw adds, "In Australia, having explored the backcountry over the last 35 years, I've undoubtedly seen a rise in snow levels. Country that was regularly covered

25 years ago is now much more patchy. Even in a good year it's not as covered, and the rivers are flowing instead of frozen. It's a 3 billion dollar industry in Aussie, and you're not going to trade yourself out of that with hiking and cycling."

They hope the journey will raise awareness of climate change, especially its effects on our Pacific neighbours who are on the front lines.

Last Thursday, Huw said he shed tears when the International Court of Justice issued a powerful advisory opinion confirming that climate change is a human rights issue.

"This is massive news. This is why we are doing this journey. This is why Laurence Mote and I are doing what we are doing."

So far, they've raised AUS \$21,711 of their \$75,000 goal.

The journey has gone mostly to plan, apart from some minor navigational issues. They laughed as they recalled using their snow shovels for the first time, not in alpine conditions, but on Ninety Mile Beach, where they helped dig out a stuck truck.

"We didn't expect to need them until Ruapehu, so that was pretty funny."

Reflecting on the trip so far, they both agree that Ruapehu has been a highlight. Laurence, a South Island boy, says it's been a real treat and he's looking forward to coming back.

To follow the rest of their journey or make a donation, visit: www.huwkingston.com/alpine-odyssey-aotearoa.

Tramper rescued from Tongariro Crossing knows he had a close call

A tramper rescued from Tongariro Alpine Crossing 'knows he had a close call', police say.

The man called police at about 7.30pm on Saturday 19 July, after getting into difficulty on the crossing and realising he would not be able to make it out alone.

Senior Constable Barry Shepherd of Taupo Police Search and Rescue said it was an example of how things could go wrong quickly.

"He realised that he was not dressed or equipped at all for the harsh reality of the landscape in winter," he said.

"There had been recent heavy snowfall

with freezing conditions.

"He didn't have food with him or any extra gear for warmth or shelter.

"Luckily, he realised his error pretty quickly and called us."

Police Search and Rescue responded with a helicopter, alongside LandSAR.

Despite being extremely cold, the man was not injured and was able to walk out.

"I think he knows he had a close call," Shepherd said.

"If conditions had worsened or he had been unable to make a phone call, he'd have been in real trouble."

All Aboard! Railway Row's got a new line

By Tahlia Frew

Owning a home on a street called Railway Row, with a model train circling the entire section, might lead most people to assume its owner is a full-blown train enthusiast. But Michael Gregory, who has a background in engineering, laughs that off.

"I'm not a train enthusiast. It kind of just happened this way."

Mike has owned the Ohakune property for more than 30 years and regularly visits in both summer and winter. Originally from the Waikato, he remembers riding the miniature trains at Hamilton Lake as a kid. The seed for his own backyard railway was planted when his cousin, Trevor Powers, sent him a Trade Me listing.

"We thought, how cool would it be to have a railway track on Railway Row, with a railway house next to the railway line?"

That idea quickly grew into reality. The ride-on model train and carriages, which run on a 12-volt car battery, are now housed in part of an old truck Gregory used to camp in. The train runs laps around the property on the loop track.

Construction of the 120-metre loop used 45 tonnes of metal and 2500 battens. The project took about four months, with help from locals and businesses.

"Carl from Placemakers dropped off

some of the wood for the tracks. Steve Gray from Versatile Bobcats helped with the landscaping and also supplied the metal. Ohakune Engineering came by with a crane to help move the shed," he says.

It also couldn't have happened without his cousin Powers. "He played a massive part."

The railway has already drawn a range of visitors and riders.

"KiwiRail has popped in. Ian Heappy from the Railway Museum came for a go – he was grinning from ear to ear and said it was the first time he'd ever driven a train. Mardi Gras was hectic, I had about 15 twenty-somethings here doing laps."

Gregory says the best part is the joy it brings.

"It's just cool seeing people smile after doing a few laps."

He's also got future plans. One idea is to bring a full-sized train carriage down to the junction to use as a stage.

"There's a bit involved with health and safety," he says, "but I'm working on it."

Mike and his wife still visit regularly in both winter and summer, but they've recently listed the property as a holiday rental. It's available on Airbnb and Booking.com, and Mike says locals are welcome to get in touch if they're curious to come and check it out.



Mike Gregory says he's not a "railway enthusiast" but does have a railway line around his old railway house on Railway Row in Ohakune's Railway Junction.

No penalty for stalled Waiouru housing project

The Defence Force (NZDF) says it has not paid any penalty clauses associated with its housing project at Waiouru army base.

Penalty clauses can be paid when contractors or subcontractors sign up to projects that do not then go ahead.

The \$50 million-plus project has stalled, though both defence and Ngāti Rangī iwi consider it urgent, and the force issued a tender over a year ago for 50 new homes. No building has taken place.

The NZDF refused to tell RNZ why it was still in negotiations with the iwi over the housing. It had appeared the talks were settled before it issued last year's tender.

"Negotiations in relation to this matter remain underway. Accordingly, this information is withheld in full ... to enable negotiations to be carried out without prejudice or disadvantage," it said in a response to a request under the Official Information Act.

"The NZDF's relationship with local iwi has not changed and remains vital to our use of the Waiouru Military Training Area," it added.

It also said no penalty clauses had been paid, either related to the new builds or the retrofit upgrade of existing army rental houses.

'No reports are generated'

Defence housing and other facilities were very rundown, interfering with its military performance and leading to some personnel quitting, its own reports showed.

It had an Estate Investment Committee that "provides performance monitoring, oversight, and direction", according to its annual report.

But when RNZ asked for the latest three performance management reports by the committee, NZDF replied: "No reports are generated by the New Zealand Defence Force's Estate Investment Committee."

It repeated this in relation to its Technology Governance Committee, when RNZ asked for its latest reports, too.

A lot of the NZDF's information technology was old and needed replacing, or were in the middle of years-long projects. Funding was set aside in Budget 2025 for this.

Report by Radio New Zealand.

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www.ohakune.info



SUZE REDMAYNE

MP for Rangitīkei

Your local Member of Parliament

Please contact me for advocacy services, individual assistance or access to the parliamentary process.

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Suze.RedmayneMP@parliament.govt.nz
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RUAPEHU BULLETIN 30 July 2025 • 3

Letters

Pensioner concern

• I am concerned about the financial welfare of pensioners, low income and fixed income people and the ramifications for these people is really scary.

I live on a farm and 'do' my own septic tank stuff, my own water and my own rubbish disposal.

As a pensioner, I am really concerned about the long term financial hardship that could have dire consequences for breadline income earners.

The Ruapehu District Council needs to be aware of this. As do the voters at the up-and-coming local elections.

Helen Graaf

\$700,000 overspend

• A \$700K overspend — and why it matters to you: a \$700,000 isn't just a budget line — it's transformative. At today's property prices, it could buy two homes in Taumarunui, with enough left for fees. When the public learned about council overspending, their outrage was entirely justified.

A mayoral candidate claimed it wouldn't have happened under her watch. Yet it did, right under full council supervision. The real problem lies in the system itself.

New Zealand councils operate through two distinct arms: operations and governance. operations, led by officers and the ceo, manage day-to-day tasks. governance — our mayor and elected councillors — set strategy but are legally barred from operational oversight.

Once councillors approved the Parks and Recreation budget, the matter shifted out of their hands. Visibility was lost, but accountability remained unfairly fixed on elected officials. In truth, responsibility ends with the CEO.

Mayor Kirton's call for an independent inquiry was not just responsible, it was essential. Anything more before the facts emerge would be reckless.

What's worsened the issue is communication. The council hasn't clearly explained its structure, leaving confusion to ferment online. Social media stepped into the void, dividing residents between those demanding broader services and those wanting the basics — clean water, smooth roads, low rates.

Now, central government is stepping in.

Last week, the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill passed its first reading. It doesn't merely rein in costs — it reshapes council purpose. Gone are the "four well-beings" (social, economic, environmental, cultural). In their place: prioritise core services; enforce tight financial and performance reporting; disclose all contractor and consultant spending.

For councils, it means delivering more with fewer resources. Outsourcing is winding down. Staff must upskill. Ratepayers must recalibrate expectations.

We're entering a new era — one demanding transparency, competence, and resilience. It's time we understood how our local governance truly works.

John Chapman

MP talks winter, Govt changes affecting Ruapehu

Local MP Suze Redmayne reflects on Ruapehu District's winter business, as well as her Government's work:

• Our mighty Maunga is wearing a fresh coat of white, which is wonderful to see — a classic winter postcard for the Central North Island.

Reports of both ski fields experiencing busy school holidays have been fantastic too. Below the mountain, the recent opening of Te Hangāruru — a spectacular new section of the Mountains to Sea Cycle Trail — adds another reason for visitors to come and explore our beautiful region. It's great for tourism and for our local businesses.

Cool season crops like carrots are thriving in Ohakune's crisp climate and there was something else to put a smile on our growers faces recently — Hon Chris Bishop, Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, has announced changes for local councils, which will cut red tape and make it easier to get things done.

Our Government is committed to delivering a new, streamlined resource management system. While that work is underway, we're giving councils clear direction on where to focus their efforts — helping them avoid spending valuable time and ratepayer dollars on a system soon to be replaced. For horticulture, and the wider

primary sector, it's especially encouraging to see an extension of the restriction on notifying freshwater planning instruments for a further two years to 31 December 2027.

There was more big news for rural New Zealand last week with Minister of Health, Hon Simeon Brown, announcing a new medical school will be established at the University of Waikato as part of the Government's plan to build a stronger health workforce.

The new medical school will train 120 new doctors a year from 2028. It will have a strong focus on primary care and rural health, training doctors in communities where they are needed — with a clear pathway into general practice and regional care.

Primary care is the backbone of our health system. If we want better outcomes for patients, we need to make sure every New Zealander can see a doctor when they need to — no matter where they live.

I'll be up your way next week, and again later in August, and look forward to catching up with some of you then. As always, if you have anything you'd like to discuss please email me at Suze.RedmayneMP@parliament.govt.nz, or give Kay in my Taumarunui office a call on 07 896 8008.

Authorised by Suze Redmayne Parliament Buildings, Wellington

Top to bottom at Tūroa: Whakapapa makes progress

From Page 1

between those impressive "whales" of stockpiled snow.

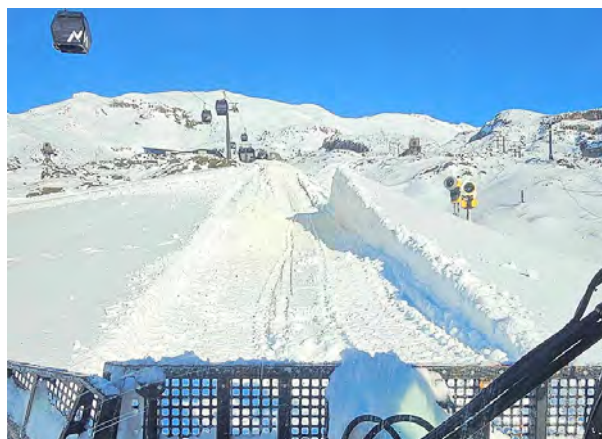
"The result is early-season terrain in "sporty mode" — a lot of fun, but requiring skill, care, and consideration."

Further down, the Rockgarden trail off the Rangatira chair is deepening and widening by the day, thanks again to snowmaking efforts.

Happy Valley beginner area has seen its biggest transformation yet this season — fully operational with the Double Happy chair and both carpets running.

"We're anticipating four more nights of excellent snowmaking conditions. We've poked our nose (or more specifically, a cat) into the Valley for the first look of 2025. It's promising, but we'll need another 25cm before the real push begins."

Weather-wise, it's a bit of a rollercoaster this week, starting with heavy rain on Tuesday and a high freezing level. The freezing level is forecast to lower on Wednesday.



Snow groomers have been busy at Whakapapa Ski area.

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

812

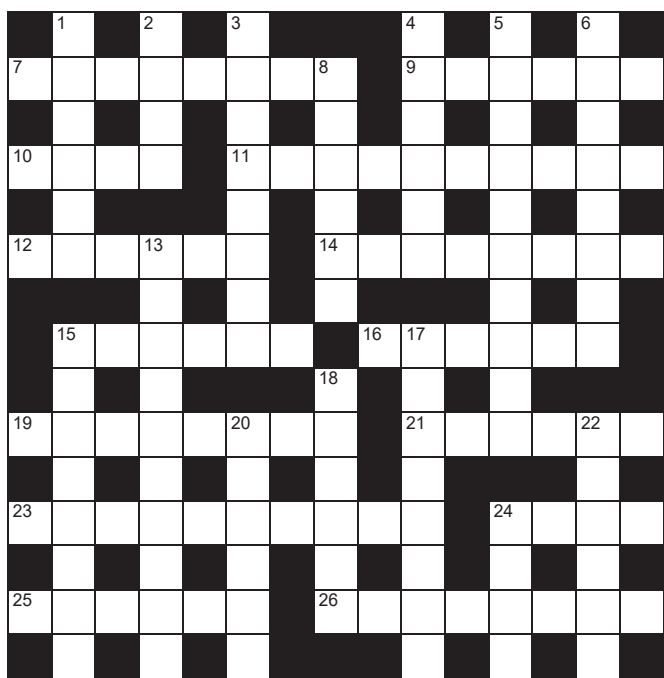
QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

- Dead (8)
- Oxter (UK) (6)
- Discover (4)
- Type of bridge (10)
- Breakfast food (6)
- Fragrant (8)
- Chalice (6)
- Industrious (6)
- Molecule (8)
- Discomfort (6)
- Back country (10)
- Rip (4)
- Fortress (6)
- Distressed (8)

Down

- Surroundings or environment (Fr) (6)
- Curve (4)
- Depict, portray (8)
- Gambling venue (6)
- Essential (10)
- Similarly (8)
- Day of the week (6)
- Replacement (10)
- Seriousness (8)
- Very large cooking pot (8)
- Pour out (6)
- Arched (6)



22. Ocean floor (6)

24. Pipe (4)



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Puzzles © The Puzzle Company

SUDOKU

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

			4			3	1	7
	4			2			9	
8	3							
				6		5		1
			9		1			
2		1		3				
							5	6
	1			9			8	
3	2	4			8			

1

HARD 2

EASY

The Top 10

- In which year did the Berlin wall come down, David Lange resign as Prime Minister, and GST rise from 10% to 12.5%?
- When sending an email, what old-fashioned term does CC represent?
- Who was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize?
- In which decade did Yuri Gagarin become the first human in space?
- Is a bodhrán a drum, a shoe, or a biscuit?
- What is the blue ball worth in a game of snooker?
- What Latin word, often heard in court, means 'elsewhere'?
- In Monopoly, how many properties can be bought but not developed?
- Other than being capitals, what do Oslo, Warsaw and Addis Ababa have in common?
- Inhabitants of which country eat the most chocolate per capita?

CROSSWORD

Decant, 20. Curved, 22. Seabed, 24. Tube.
13. Substitute, 15. Gravitas, 17. Caudron, 18.
Casino, 5. Imperative, 6. Likewise, 8. Sunday,
Down: 1. Millieu, 2. Bend, 3. Describe, 4.
26. Troubled.
23. Hinterland, 24. Tear, 25. Castle,
Goblet, 16. Active, 19. Particle, 21. Unease,
11. Cantilever, 12. Muesli, 14. Aromatic, 15.

SUDOKU

			1						2
3	2	4	6	5	8	1	7	9	
5	1	6	7	9	4	2	8	3	
6	9	8	2	1	4	5	7	3	
4	7	6	2	5	3	9	8	1	
2	1	6	9	8	7	4	5	3	
3	5	4	7	1	6	9	2	8	
1	3	2	8	9	6	4	5	7	
8	7	5	1	4	2	3	6	9	
6	4	9	3	5	7	2	8	1	

Ōwhango turns on the taps at new plant

The Ōwhango community turned out in force on 16 July to celebrate their new \$4.5 million water treatment plant, with a community day at the Ōwhango Hall.

Executive manager infrastructure, Vini Dutra, said the event was a fantastic success and a reflection of the pride the community has in its new water supply system.

“It was absolutely brilliant to see so many people including the tamariki from Ōwhango Primary School, come together to learn more about their new water treatment plant - and enjoy a free sausage while they were at it,” said Dutra.

“We’ve had some wonderful feedback from locals on how life-changing the new water supply has been. People are really noticing the difference that having a safe, reliable, and year-round water supply makes.”

Dutra said that until recently, the community was regularly impacted by precautionary boil water notices – particularly after heavy rainfall, when turbidity in the water supply meant Council had to truck in clean water.

“That’s now a thing of the past. With advanced coagulation and ultrafiltration systems, UV disinfection, chlorination and pH correction, the new plant can treat even the murkiest source water and deliver crystal-clear, safe drinking water every day of the year,” he said.

“We’ve even heard from one local resident who’s on dialysis that the new plant has made a world of difference to their quality of life – they no longer need to worry about water quality when it rains.

“That’s what this investment is really all



Ōwhango's new water treatment plant means an end to trucking in clean water.

about: improving lives.” Dutra also extended his thanks to the community for their support throughout the project and to the teams at Veolia and Filtec, along with Council staff, who helped make both the upgrade and the celebration event

such a success. “Delivering this kind of transformational infrastructure doesn’t happen without a huge team effort. Today was a great opportunity to recognise that, and to celebrate what we’ve achieved together.”

Police enjoy a quiet Mardi Gras

This year’s Ohakune Mountain Mardi Gras was a far cry from years past when there were multiple arrests, for drink driving, disorderly behaviour, cars broken into and general criminal nuisance. Instead, Police say the statistics are “well down on previous events”.

Ohakune Police Acting Sergeant Bruce Francis said Police were split into two operations – road safety and patrolling in the Mardi Gras event itself.

He said they carried out 12,466 breath tests on drivers, with six people blowing over the legal adult limit – two on the Thursday, two on the Saturday and two on the Sunday. So, six people were to appear in court facing charges.

By comparison, in 2018, nine people were arrested on the Sunday morning after the Mardi Gras.

“The message has got through,” says Francis.

Another 12 motorists faced fines and 50 demerit points for recording breath alcohol readings of between 250 to 400 micrograms.

Two people were arrested on Mardi Gras night for breaching the street alcohol ban.

One person was arrested for not appearing in court when required – on a charge not related to the Mardi Gras weekend.

Seven people were charged with not wearing a seatbelt and 46 people were charged with speeding. Four people were charged with operating a non-roadworthy vehicle and one vehicle was impounded.

Once driver who was on a suspended licence was caught and three other licences were suspended.

There were no incidents inside the Mardi Gras requiring Police intervention, said Francis.

He said the event security was “a well-oiled machine”.

The Ohakune Events Charitable Trust, which owns the event, is working through results of surveys of residents and event participants, as well as feedback from local businesses and stakeholders to prepare reports on the event, which will include improvement suggestions.

ALTOGETHER SOLD ACROSS RUAPEHU



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18 Tau Street

3 1 1

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kay.blaney@bayleys.co.nz



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7 Willow Lane

3 1 3 4

Welcome to Willow
Kay Blaney 027 480 8845
kay.blaney@bayleys.co.nz



Ohakune
5 Snowmass Drive

3 2 1

Stylish alpine getaway
Jenny Dekker 027 455 5674
jenny.dekker@bayleys.co.nz



Raurimu
18 Kaitieke Road

3 1 2

Don't miss this one!
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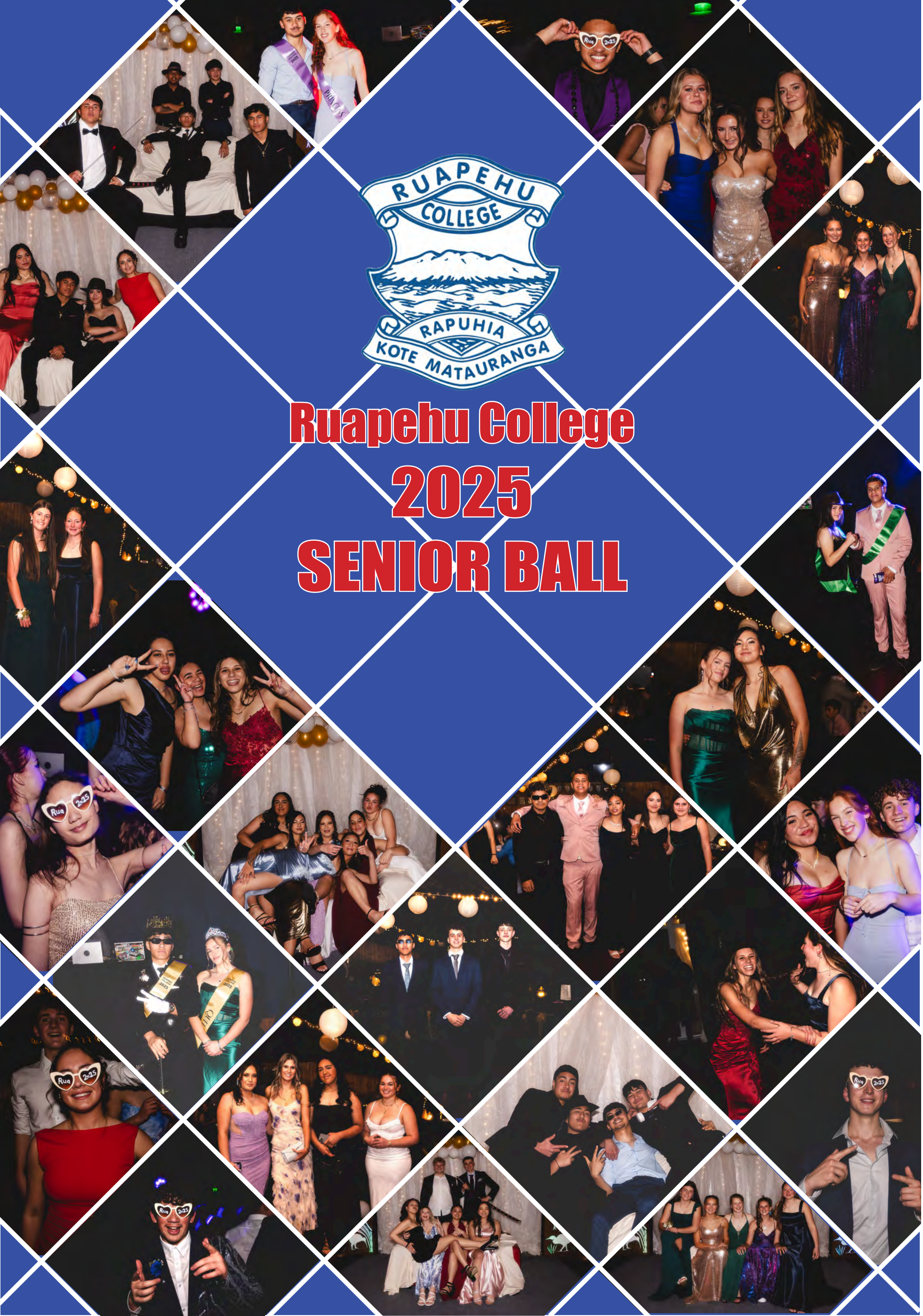
Submit your completed nomination requirements by:

- email to - elections@ruapehudc.govt.nz
- or drop-off at either Council’s Taumarunui or Ohakune office

Full enrolment details on: ruapehudc.govt.nz

Pick-up a copy of the Pre-election Report outlining the big issues facing the next Council





More than one thousand people living in the King Country, Central Plateau and Ruapehu have a brand-new toasty warm pair of pyjamas this winter, thanks to Maru Energy Trust's Kahumoe Kaupapa PJ Project.

Beginning in 2022 with 497 pairs of pyjamas donated, the PJ Project doubled in 2023 to more than 900 pairs, and last year 1067 pyjamas were distributed to people in need.

“It’s heartbreaking, but the sad reality is that there are some people in our communities - young and old, who go to bed cold,” he said.

Hanna says that Maru's focus is to support homeowners to improve homes through insulation and heating but also knows that it's hard to sleep when you're cold.

"A good night's sleep is crucial for children to excel at school and for adults to give their best each day. The PJ Project is a way for everyone to give just a little bit."

Maru co-ordinator Jo Meads was over the moon with the outcome.

"It was humbling to see pyjamas being gifted, from individuals donating a single pair to dozens of pairs from local organisations and a number of cash donations that enabled our team to buy more."

Pyjamas were distributed by local organisations. In the Ruapehu District, CKC REAP (Taumarunui), Nga Waihua o Paerangi Trust (Ohakune), Taumarunui Community Kokiri Trust distributed the pyjamas.

"Working with local organisations on distribution was the perfect way to ensure the pyjamas got to the people who need them the most," said Meads.

"At Maru, we are extremely grateful to everyone who supported us to gift a good night's sleep to whānau. Their kindness has made a real difference."

TLC works with community organisations and leaders across the network area. Mike Wikotu from Manaaki Trust works tirelessly in Taumarunui and surrounding areas. He was delighted when he picked up 287 pairs of pyjamas in various sizes from newborns to adults to give out to families struggling with the winter cold.

“Kahumoe Kaupapa is an awesome way for everyone to give just a little to families in need,” said Wikotu.

“Having a warm pair of kahumoe during the colder months helps keep our people warm at night, supports better sleep and contributes to overall hauora.”



From Page 2
Prepare

Anyone heading out into the back-country – even experienced trampers – needed to prepare for harsh conditions through winter, he said, as they could “change on a dime”.

“Particularly anyone heading out into the alpine environment should take and know how to use ice axes and crampons, and wear suitable footwear.

"Take adequate supplies, clothing and shelter, and do your planning – know what the forecast holds and if you're at all in doubt about what conditions might be like, don't go."

Department of Conservation Tongariro operations manager Libby O'Brien said the national park was a place "that demands respect".

"Temperatures are often freezing, and drop even lower at night and at elevation," she said.

"If you don't have alpine experience and the right gear, you need to think long and hard about whether you're going to be able to survive in these conditions."

"We all love being out there, but ensure you know what you're doing so you don't put yourself and others at risk by being ill prepared."

Report from Radio New Zealand.

Eye on Ruapehu College, contributed by staff and students

The return to school at Ruapehu College was buzzing with excitement after the Senior School Ball, held on Saturday 19 July. This year's theme, "Under the Lanterns", saw the hall transformed into a glowing wonderland of elegance and style.

"Students arrived in dazzling formal wear and the night was filled with laughter, joy and celebration," says principal Marama Allen.

"A well-deserved break from academic life and a chance to create lasting memories."

The Duke and Duchess of the night were David Hagley and Harmony Gembitsky-Edmonds. The Prince and Princess titles went to Gerrard Osbourne and Hannah Swift, while King and Queen of the night were Head Boy and Head Girl, Moses Hodge and Zoe Southall.

"A big thank you to our amazing Year 13 students, whose fundraising and behind-the-scenes work made the night possible. Your creativity and commitment brought it all to life!" said Mrs Allen.

"And a heartfelt thanks to Ann Stuckey, whose tireless volunteer efforts and passion continue to be the magic behind the Ball each year, we're so grateful for everything you do."

Photos from the Ball are now on the College Facebook page.

"Thank you to Holly Deadman for beautifully capturing the night. Your stunning photos truly reflect the joy and energy of the event."

ERO review

Recently, the Education Review Office (ERO) conducted a visit to Ruapehu School, engaging directly with students and a few selected parents as part of their evaluation process.

The visit was aimed to gain a comprehensive understanding of the learning environment, student wellbeing, and the effectiveness of teaching practices within the school. During their time on site, ERO representatives spoke with a diverse group of students, encouraging them to share their experiences and perspectives on the curriculum, school culture, and support systems in place. This direct engagement allowed the ERO team to gather valuable insights into how students feel about their education and the opportunities available to them.

In addition to meeting with students, ERO also

held discussions with selected parents to better understand their views on the school's performance and community involvement. Parents provided feedback on communication with teachers, involvement in school activities and how well the school supports their children's learning and development.

"The college is happy with the results of the review, which reflect the school's ongoing commitment to providing a positive and inclusive learning environment," said Mrs Allen.

The full ERO report can be found on the Ruapehu College website at ruapehucollege.school.nz, under the 'Our School' tab and then 'Education Review Office'. The document is available there for anyone who wishes to view it.

From small classrooms to big marketing dreams

This week's episode of the video series on College Alumni, introduces Catherine Pakai Dewes, "a proud Ruapehu College graduate" who is now the marketing co-ordinator at Visit Ruapehu, the regional tourism office.

Catherine reflects on how the small classroom sizes at Ruapehu College helped her build strong relationships with her teachers, making it easier to seek help and truly understand the material. Her passion for writing, strategy and design led her to marketing, a field that perfectly combines her interests.

Over the years, Catherine has seen the marketing industry evolve, especially with the rise of digital marketing. With so many businesses competing for attention, standing out has become more important than ever. She emphasises the value of foundational subjects like English and maths, noting how crucial they are not only in communication but also in virtually every field.

In her role, Catherine applies ‘Habits of Mind’ like striving for accuracy and finding humour in mistakes, helping her to maintain a positive and productive mindset. She also advises students to focus on doing something they love, as pursuing a passion will never feel like a chore.

“Catherine’s story is a must-watch for anyone interested in marketing or finding their true passion. Be sure to catch next week’s episode featuring Hezekaya Metekingi’s journey in farming.”


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 1
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View Sun 3 Aug 2.30 - 3.00pm

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RUAPEHU BULLETIN 30 July 2025 • 7

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ADVERTORIAL

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Their services cover everything from section clearing, excavation, heavy lifting, and building work, to forestry, scrub cutting, fencing, plumbing, and log splitting.

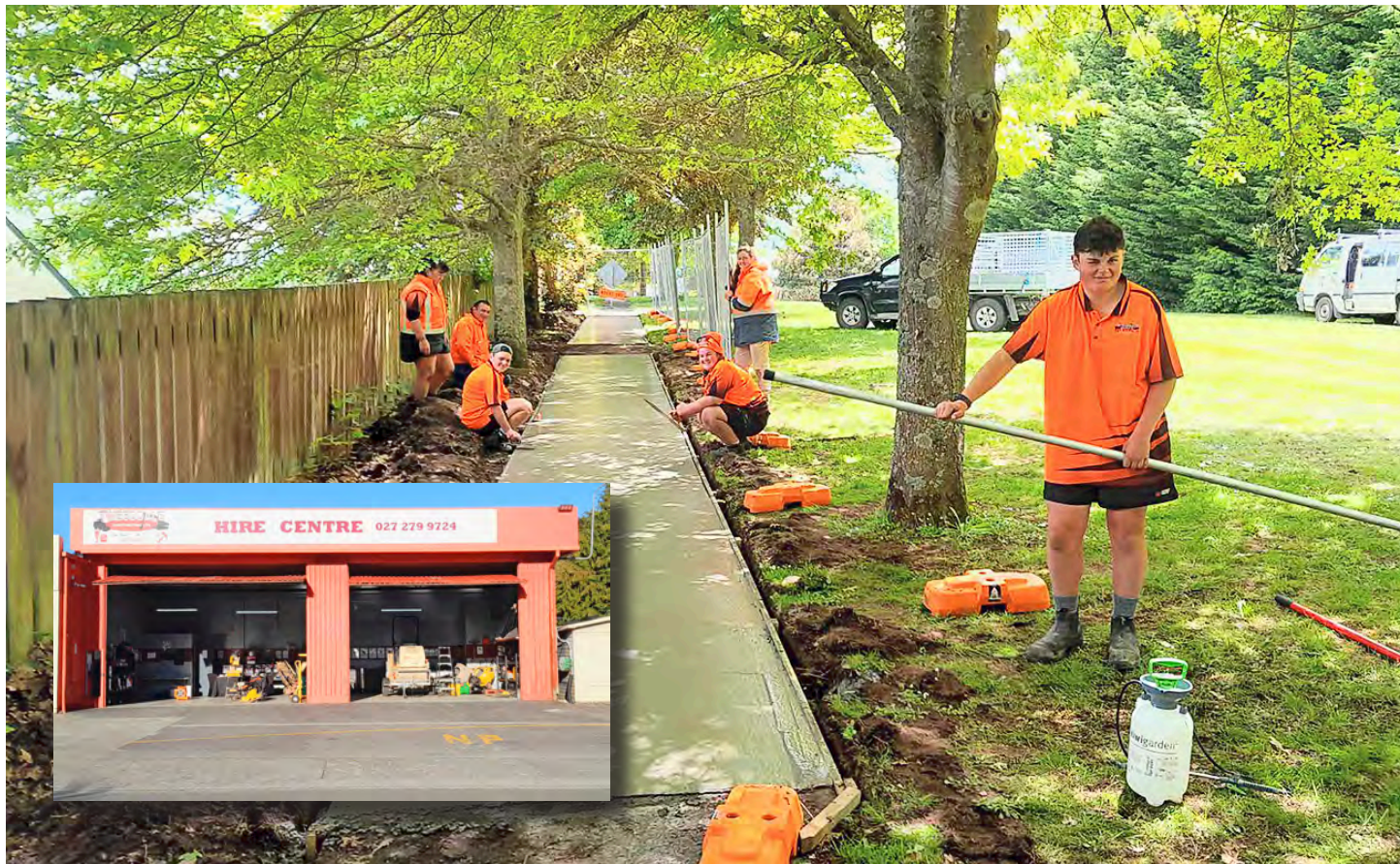
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See their advert this page.



The Tweeddale crew perfecting a concrete path pour. Inset: Tweeddale Hire's Ohakune depot.

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Ruapehu snow economy 'back in action'

The Ruapehu District's snow industry is "back in action", says the local mayor who says the District must keep building on this success.

Current mayor and mayoral candidate Weston Kirton joined Peak FM host Jesse Archer for a live broadcast from the Top of the Bruce at Whakapapa ski field to "celebrate the local snow industry and the importance of economic development in the region".

He reflected on the journey to secure government funding that enabled the continued operation of both Whakapapa and Tūroa ski fields following the collapse of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL).

"The snow industry is critical to our economy and regional tourism," he said.

"It's fantastic to see Whakapapa and Tūroa up and running again, but we must keep building on this success."

Kirton said he was hopeful for a few more snowfalls to help extend the season and encouraged people to visit the maunga and enjoy all the experiences Ruapehu has to offer – on and off the slopes.

He also stressed the need to keep building on the economic momentum generated by the ski areas.

"Council is committed to working with government and others to complete

our cycle and hiking trail networks, which are turning Ruapehu into a true year-round destination while providing much-needed economic resilience."

The election candidate also reminded people to sign the petition calling on government support to restore the iconic Chateau Tongariro Hotel.

"If you haven't signed our online Parliamentary Petition please do so and help restore this iconic building to its former glory as both a heritage treasure and major contributor to the regional economy."

The survey can be found on Council's website ruapehudc.govt.nz

Whakapapa chief executive Travis Donoghue also joined the show, saying he felt "beyond stoked" to see the ski field its stride after a few years of uncertainty.

"Around 300,000 people visit Whakapapa every year, and they're not just coming for the snow – they're also exploring the whole region. That's great news for local businesses."

Donoghue said the school holidays had been a success, with around 30,000 people enjoying snow play, skiing, sightseeing on the Sky Waka gondola, and even taking their first steps in the alpine environment.



With good weather forecast and upper mountain facilities opening at both Whakapapa and Tūroa, Ruapehu's mayor Weston Kirton is encouraging people to come up and enjoy everything the ski areas have to offer this weekend.



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PUBLIC NOTICES



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**Ruapehu Mayor
Weston Kirton**

To arrange a meeting or call back, please phone Council on 06 385 8364 or email: kay.kidd@ruapehudc.govt.nz



PUBLIC NOTICES

Raetihi Volunteer Fire Brigade AGM

Will be held at the Raetihi Fire station,
Monday 11 August 2025 at 7.30pm
11 Duncan Street, Raetihi

All current, past, hononrary and life members are invited to attend.

Drinks and nibbles will be provided.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

Krishna 2017 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 **66 Clyde Street, Ohakune** and known as **Ohakune Bar & Eatery**. The general nature of the business to be conducted under the licence is that of a **Tavern**. The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is intended to be sold under the licence are: **Monday to Sunday 8.00am – 12.00am**

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 23 July 2025.



**Te Kōhanga Reo o Mo Te Whanau
Notice of AGM**

whanau@k07i053.kohanga.ac.nz

Monday 4 August 2025 – 4pm
at 32 Queen Street, Raetihi

Agenda:

Previous Minutes
2024 Audit Report
Chairperson Report

Elections of Officers:

Chairperson
Secretary
Treasurer
Signatories
Auditors

Naumai Haere Mai

PUBLIC NOTICES

**Rangataua Hall
Committee
AGM**

Tuesday 5 August at 6:30pm
At the Hall.

All welcome.

SITUATIONS VACANT

GOVERNANCE MANAGER

RUAPEHU DISTRICT - OHAKUNE/RAETIHI/TAUMARUNUI



Who are we?

Ruapehu District Council is dedicated to creating safe, prosperous rural communities that thrive all while sustaining our beautiful environment. We are an inclusive organisation guided by our mission to improve the well-being and quality of life for our communities.

About the role

As Governance Manager you will lead the governance function across Council, supporting elected members, ensuring high-quality decision-making processes and maintaining the integrity of local democratic systems.

You'll manage end-to-end delivery of key governance services including meeting logistics, agendas and minutes, support to Chairs, responses to LGOIMA and privacy requests, Representation Reviews, and the ongoing review of foundational documents like the Standing Orders and Code of Conduct.

You'll also be Council's Deputy Electoral Officer, managing election processes, elected member induction and development, and ceremonial events. Beyond this, you'll lead the continual refinement of systems, templates, and workflows to keep pace with best practice and legislative compliance.

This is a hands-on leadership role where strong process thinking, a proactive approach, and great relationship skills are essential.

Who we are looking for

- Strong governance experience, ideally within local government, and a solid understanding of relevant legislation (LGA 2002, LGOIMA).
- Proven ability to work with elected members and senior leaders in a politically aware and professional manner.
- Excellent communication and writing skills, with a high level of attention to detail and accuracy.
- Strong organisational and process improvement skills, with confidence using digital platforms and council systems.
- Leadership experience or potential - we're open to someone stepping up into their first formal leadership role.

What we offer

At Ruapehu District Council, we provide:

- A flexible working environment that supports work-life balance.
- Competitive remuneration and learning opportunities.
- A chance to join a team of passionate staff working to make a real difference.

Experience Ruapehu's lifestyle

Located in the heart of the North Island, the Ruapehu region offers world-class outdoor experiences like the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, Whanganui Journey, and the iconic Bridge to Nowhere. For cycling enthusiasts, Ruapehu is a premier destination featuring two of New Zealand's Great Rides, the Timber Trail and the Mountains to Sea journey Ngā Ara Tūhono, alongside an extensive network of mountain bike trails. In the winter months, enjoy snow filled adventures on New Zealand's largest ski areas, marvel at alpine vistas from the Sky Waka gondola, or simply cosy up in the highest café in the country.

How to apply

To apply, please visit <https://www.ruapehudc.govt.nz/our-council/employment/current-vacancies>. Applications will remain open until a suitable is appointed. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

PUBLIC NOTICES



**Ohakune Community
Charitable Trust
AGM**

Monday 4 August, 6pm at the Matterhorn
(upstairs at the Powderkeg)

Community Update

At 7pm with a chance to meet our project leaders and hear their project plans in 2025.

With guest speakers:

Jono Dean (Tūroa)

Rachel Hoskin (Whanganui & Partners)

Travis Donoghue (Whakapapa)

Lynley Twyman (Mountains to Sea)

Jo Kennedy (Visit Ruapehu & RDC isite)

Nibbles provided. All welcome.

RSVP for catering purposes to
Secretary ohakunecct@gmail.com

**Ruapehu District Council
Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ruapehu
Boards and Committees
UPCOMING MEETING DATES**



Agendas are published on our 'Meetings this Month' page (ruapehudc.govt.nz) two working days before each scheduled meeting.
To speak at our Public Forum and share your thoughts directly with Elected Members, please contact our Governance team at governance@ruapehudc.govt.nz.

Council

10:00AM, Wednesday 13 August 2025
Council Chambers, Huia Street, Taumarunui

MEETING CONTACTS

Ruapehu District Council	07 895 8188
Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board	
Luke Pepper, Chairperson	027 329 2849
Ōwhango-National Park Community Board	
Anthony Gurr, Chairperson	021 487 742
Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board	
John (Luigi) Hotter, Chairperson	027 274 2616
Risk & Assurance Committee	
Philip Jones, Chairperson	027 499 9408



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WAIMARINO BULLETIN

VOICE OF THE RUAPEHU REGION
Tuesday 30 July, 1985. Volume 3 No. 10

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Decision this week on \$4m hotel project

A decision will be made this week as to whether a \$4 million hotel development will go ahead in Ohakune. The 80-room hotel is planned for the Turoa Alpine Village. The company behind the project, Optima International Ski Lodge Limited, has been issued a building permit, and intends making a final decision on whether to proceed with the scheme at a meeting on Thursday or Friday of this week. The project's Wellington architect, Mr Barry Millage, said at the weekend that if the developers decide to go ahead, work will begin in early September, with the hotel scheduled for completion in time for the 1986 ski season.

Fletcher Development and Construction Ltd of Palmerston North will do the construction work if the project proceeds, and the company is already busy recruiting staff for the project. The hotel scheme will create twenty new jobs. Auckland-based Optima International Ski Lodge Ltd originally applied for a tourist house premises licence in respect of the site situated at the entrance to the Turoa Alpine Village in March of this year.



Five-year-old Raetihi School pupils, Alistair Fredericksen (left) and Bryan Grossart, both dressed as clowns for a fancy dress folk dancing display held at the school on Wednesday. The display was the culmination of many weeks of practise, not only by the pupils of Raetihi School, but also the youngsters of Orautoha, who rehearsed the dances at their own school, but performed with the young Raetihi dancers at Wednesday's display. A large crowd of parents turned up to watch the display, which is now an annual event.

Businessmen meet to discuss tourism

Almost thirty businesses were represented at a meeting to discuss ideas for the promotion of the Whakapapa Skifield and surrounding area, held at the Discovery Lodge last weekend. The state of the road to the skifield and parking facilities came in for criticism at the meeting, and new development in Whakapapa Village, heliskiing and the idea of a gondola lift running from the Chateau to the Top O' the Bruce, were all discussed. The meeting was organised by Mr Mel Lee, a part owner of the Discovery development, who now hopes to arrange a visit to the area by a number of MPs, when the businessmen's proposals could be discussed further. At Saturday's meeting, chairman of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts, Mr Roger Manthel, commented on the poor road access to the skifield

and poor parking facilities. "It is well below the acceptable standard of a modern skifield," he said. Mr Manthel said there is a need for double the present parking capacity at the skifield. Mr Manthel said RAL is to ask the Government to resolve the policy of "unrealistic land development in Whakapapa Village which is stifling the development of the skifield to the detriment of the public and tourism."

He said there is an urgent need for the adoption of a new Whakapapa Village management plan. Other members of the discussion group stressed the need for development to be kept solely in National Park. Mr Bruce Dobson, from the Taumarunui County Council believes the emphasis should be on the development of National Park Village "rather than spot development all around the mountain."

Marshall Gebbie, of Buttercup Camp in National Park sees National Park as the 'natural place' for further development.

Continued on page 3

Snow caused problems

Both Whakapapa and Turoa skifields were closed by the weekend's heavy snowfalls. Both roads to the Chateau were closed for a time and skiers who made it to Ohakune were unable to take advantage of the new snow, as the Turoa slopes were closed because of the conditions.

The Desert Road was closed for most of the weekend, with the Taihape-Waiouru Road being closed on Sunday. However, conditions improved yesterday (Monday) and winter sports enthusiasts were in action on both Whakapapa and Turoa skifields.



Les Belle Boys entertain

Adrienne Clarke entertains patrons at the Ohakune Hotel during one of last week's performances at the hotel by Les Belle Boys, an all male cabaret show. The visit to Ohakune was part of a farewell to New Zealand tour, as the boys — Adrienne, his brother Stephen, Georgina Beyer and Michelle Lesley — are shortly to leave for London to start an extensive world tour. Les Belle Boys have toured the club circuit in New Zealand for two and a half years, but don't plan to return to this country for some time. Adrienne and Stephen's mother, Mrs Beverly Clarke, manages the boys and also takes care of lighting and sound while they are on stage. The boys' performance is of very high standard, claims Mrs Clarke, "and they never intend to offend anyone."

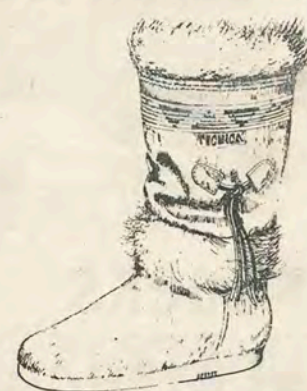
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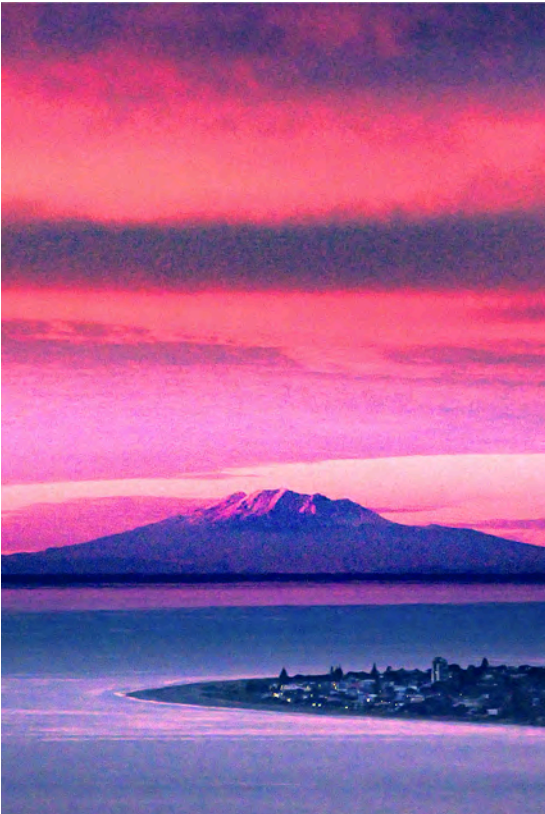
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The news, 40 years ago today. The other pages and other Bulletins can be found at the Preserving Local History website: preservinglocalhistory.recollectcms.com

Mt Ruapehu, from Paekakariki Hill

Junction bungy house for sale



Photographer Phil Butler has been taking photos of Mt Ruapehu from the Paekakariki Hill Road – around 250km away – in recent weeks as the atmospheric conditions have led to very clear air. Using a telephoto lens, the view is foreshortened, seeming to bring Ruapehu forward towards the Paraparaumu beach. Readers can find more of Phil's images of Ruapehu – and Taranaki Maunga – on his Facebook page, Photography by Phil Butler.



The old Ohakune Junction Post Office building is for sale, having been used as a ski bach for the past 35 years.

The building, erected in 1910, was once the home of New Sensations – the forerunner of AJ Hackett Bungy Jumping.

Real estate agent Kath Campbell says the building has potential as a business or holiday home, noting its commercial zoning.

Hackett and his friend Chris Allum ran their adventure tourism business, New Sensations Supply Company, from the building during the 1980s and came up with the idea of making money from Hackett's love of bungy.

Hackett and Allum told the *Whanganui Chronicle* in 2021 that their business, which sold monoskis and snowboards, had been struggling financially. Hackett had already made headlines jumping off the Eiffel Tower, and so Allum encouraged him to commercialise his thrill-seeking hobby.

The first-ever commercial bungy jumps happened during a long weekend from the old Hāpuawhenua Viaduct in September 1988, with Hackett then taking the operation to the more famous Kaurarau Bridge spot a few months later.

The Ohakune bungy site closed temporarily in 1990 after facing competition from Taupō, with New Sensations Supply Company moving out of the post office around the same time.

A group of Wellington friends bought the building for a bargain price and have for the past 35 years used it as their "ski bach". They have now decided to sell, and have listed the building with an asking price of \$319,000.

Vendor Nick Lee told OneRoof that after New Sensations closed, one of his skiing friends came across the listing and asked if he and his wife wanted join forces to buy it.

Lee, who was in his late 20s at the time, said they hadn't seriously been thinking about buying a property in the town, but thought, why not?

"We had a couple of sorties up to the mountain and decided it would be great to have a place up there, and when that came up we thought, 'oh well, let's give it a go'."

They put in a lowball offer of \$30,000 and



Ohakune's newest ski shop owners Chris Allum (left) and A. J. Hackett on top of their new premises at The Junction.

The bungy house roof, in 1988, reported on in the Bulletin.

were surprised when it was accepted.

Over the years, they have installed a shower and put bunks in both rooms so they could "jam as many of their mates in at once".

"The fittings are Post Office. Literally, we haven't changed anything other than put bunks in there and a shower in there just so it was liveable. The rest of it is pretty much how it was," Lee said.

The small red post boxes are still at the front of the house, and it's the same kitchen that the postal workers used as their tearoom.

The retro posters decorating the walls date back to when Hackett and Allum were trying to get their adventure business off the ground.

"It's quite nostalgic in some ways. We've had great times there ... It's just a fantastic little place."

However, as both couples got older and had children, they found themselves making the journey from Wellington less and less.

"We just never get there," Lee told *OneRoof*.

However, they are sure other families will enjoy it just as much as they have. "Because of its location, it's just perfect. It depends on what you want, I suppose, but we just liked the whole character of the place."

Tall Poppy agent listing agent Kath Campbell still remembers when the building had a snowboard on the roof and was home to Hackett and Allum's business.

She recalls bungy jumping off the bridge as a newlywed and getting the New Sensation's brightly painted bungy-themed apparel.

The bach had been re-roofed, had good bones and, being commercially zoned, could suit someone who wanted to run a business from it or keep it as a holiday home, she said.

The listing only went live last week, and so far she has received inquiries from both locals and out-of-towners who know the property.

"It's definitely a doer-upper, but there are people out there who love that sort of project."

Ohakune Squash

Last week's Ruapehu Zone interclub was the final round. All teams were in Ohakune. Ruapehu College needed to beat Taumarunui to maintain their overall lead. They managed a 2/2 matches draw needing games countback to get a narrow win. In the other fixture Turangi beat Ohakune 3/1 to move them up to second overall. Final overall points saw Ruapehu College maintain their lead on 65, Turangi 56, Taumarunui 53, and Ohakune 31. With the competition concluded a new club doubles interclub will start shortly.

The penultimate round of interhouse was held on Thursday with the following results: Head beat Dunlop 85/67, Salming beat Prince 81/51 and Karakal beat Unsquashable 90/73. Tecnifibre got 80 for the bye. Points to date are Tecnifibre 522, Unsquashable 489, Head 478, Karakal 459, Dunlop 449, Salming 441 and Prince 431. The draw for this Thursday is 5:00pm Tecnifibre vs Salming, 6:30pm Karakal vs Head 8:00pm Unsquashable vs Prince, Dunlop has the bye.

Locals took out the top prizes in the Catalyst Perfor-

mance Agronomy B grade tournament over the weekend. In the men's division one final Jayden Bailey narrowly beat Liam Burnard 8/11, 11/8, 11/9, 9/11, 11/9. In the women's division one final Emma Rowe beat Hana Harding 9/11, 11/4, 11/3, 11/7. Other finals results are: Men's division two Pau Taylor (Hastings) beat Archie Mills (Ohakune). Women's division two Shelley McKenzie (Turangi) beat Maire Whittle (Taihape). Men's division three Mike Trail (Squashgym) beat Ethan Watson (Kawaroa Park). Women's division three Jessie Harding (Ohakune) beat Olivia Haitana (Ohakune). Men's division four Brendon Death (Devoy Squash) beat Conrad Smith (Ohakune). Women's division four Rosalie Dowman (Ohakune) beat Milla Smith-Horne (Ohakune). Men's division five Sean Miles (Wanganui) beat Derek Fraser (Ohakune). Men's division six Quentin Sweet (Turangi) beat Brett Campbell (Wanganui). J grade girls Charlotte Marshal beat Bella Drayton. J Grade boys winner Ocean Thompson.

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