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Ruapehu rates rebate success P2



More cycle trail opens P3



Foreigners to pay to hike the Crossing P5



Reserve soldiers exercise in Waiouru P12

Four-way race for the Ruapehu mayoralty

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting

Local election nominations have closed with a last-minute flurry of nominations for seats on the Ruapehu District Council.

Nominations closed at 12 noon on Friday but were still being finalised on Friday afternoon. A public notice of the final list will be published on 6 August.

Voting will take place between 9 September and 11 October.

By mid-afternoon, incumbent Ruapehu mayor Weston Kirton had three challengers for the mayoralty.

Sitting councillors Fiona Kahukura Hadley-Chase and Lyn Neeson are joined by late entry Grant Lethborg.

Among them is Hadley-Chase, who also stands for Ruapehu mayor, a Ruapehu Māori seat and the Taumarunui-Ohura Community Board.

According to election rules, a candidate can stand for mayor and/or councillor and also for community boards but, if elected to more than one position, must choose one.

Candidates who stand for more than one board must specify which boards they are standing for, and rank each in order of priority should they be elected to more than one. This determines which position they would be elected to if successful in more than one post.



Councillors

In the general ward, 14 candidates will run for six seats. They include deputy mayor Viv Hoeta and sitting councillors Robyn Gram, Rabbit Nottage and Brenda Ralph.

The other candidates are: Elise Te Hau Whakaheke Adams; Rodger Baker; John Chapman; Gary Griffin-Chappel; Rhonda Kingston; Luke Pepper; Elaine Reed; Sophie Stockbridge; Nicoleen Wessels; Peter Zimmer.

Six candidates will stand for the three Māori ward seats. They are the three incumbents, Channey Iwikau, Korty Wilson and Hadley-Chase, and challengers Marilyn Davis, Simon Hepi and Kuru Ketu.

Elections will also be required for the council's three community boards.

For Ōwhango-National Park, there are seven candidates for five vacancies: Gail Tracey Gray; Anthony Gurr; Eddie Marsters; Simon O'Neill; Marina Van Wyk; Murray Wilson; Peter Zimmer.

Waimarino-Waiouru has 10 candidates for five places: Jesse Archer, Jonathan

Turn to Page 2

Rangers out there protecting nature



It was World Rangers Day on Thursday so DOC were giving a shout-out to the many staff in the Ruapehu District, working in two of New Zealand's national parks. Pictured is biodiversity ranger Lois Allison-Cooper – her workdays are always changing. See inside for details. Photo: Libby O'Brien.

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Ruapehu calls rate rebate scheme a success

There has been a “strong response” to the local council’s 2025 rates rebate scheme, with nearly 20% of anticipated applications already received for the rating year.

Rates team leader Michelle Austin said that, as part of a new initiative to make applications easier and save costs, application forms were sent out with rates invoices to everyone who received a rebate last year.

“We are very pleased with the early response, which shows that our efforts to make the process easier and encourage applications are working,” said Ms Austin.

“Every year, Council works hard to ensure everyone who qualifies for a rates rebate receives it and we challenge ourselves to increase the number of successful applications each year.

“Last year we processed 602 applications worth \$445,000 and, with such a good start this year, we are hopeful we can exceed that total and see even more Ruapehu whānau benefit.”

Austin noted that the maximum rebate amount has increased this year to \$805, providing greater financial relief to eligible ratepayers.

SuperGold Card holders with incomes up to \$45,000 can now receive the maximum rebate amount.

To apply, SuperGold Card holders need to include a signed copy of their SuperGold Card with their application.

She also asked ratepayers to be patient as the team works through the early surge of applications.

“The extensive changes introduced in the 2025/26 budget have required system upgrades, which is adding to our workload.

“Please be assured that our team is working diligently to ensure all applications are processed before the first instalment due date of 20 August 2025, and we are confident we will get through everything.”

Austin encouraged anyone who hasn’t applied before but wants to check their eligibility to drop by or call their local Council office, where Customer Services staff can help.



The local council’s rates team are happy with the success of a new initiative of sending rate rebate application forms out with the rates invoices of people who had applied for a rate rebate in the previous rating year. Photo: RDC.

A day to celebrate world rangers

World Ranger Day focussed on local Department of Conservation (DOC) staff on Thursday in the Ruapehu area, which includes two of New Zealand’s national parks.

“It’s World Ranger Day and we’re giving a big shoutout to our awesome rangers here at Tongariro,” stated DOC on their Tongariro social media.

“Rain or shine – and snow! – they’re out there protecting the taiao, keeping tracks and huts in shape, and sharing their knowledge with visitors.

Lois Allison-Cooper is one of the Tongariro District’s biodiversity rangers with an infectious passion

for plants and fungi, says operations manager Libby O’Brien.

“No two days are the same for Lois: she’s often seen out monitoring rare and threatened plants, looking after trap lines and she is an absolute exterminator when it comes to possums – helping to kill the best part of 1000 possums in the past 12 months!

“Lois is one of our many rangers working to protect and enhance nature in the Tongariro District.”

O’Brien says World Ranger Day was a great opportunity to bring the team together from across the district to share some kai and celebrate wins together.

“It’s also time for reflection, for us to think about rangers who have come before us and helped shape this amazing place we all love caring for.”

Internationally, World Ranger Day commemorates rangers killed or injured in the line of duty, in addition to celebrating the

work rangers do around the globe to protect natural treasures and cultural heritage.

Not all rangers are field-based and lots of conservation happens behind a desk.

The question: what does a ranger do? is asked a lot. The short answer is: “heaps”, says DOC.

The long answer involves managing threats like predators, cutting tracks, managing biosecurity risks, monitoring and reporting on population health, restoration, recreation maintenance, running Visitor Centres, research and development ... “the list goes on and on”.

Eating out in the Ruapehu District

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Ruapehu Events & What’s On

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16 August

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Fork & Flame @ Freddie’s Tasting Lounge

16 August

Visit www.pureturoa.nz or find us on Facebook or instagram @turoa. nz for up to date information.

Waimarino Cup - Junior Interfields

16 - 17 August

Registrations opening soon via Snowsports New Zealand. Snowsports New Zealand www.snowsports.co.nz

North Island Champs - National Points

22 - 23 August

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Mayoral candidate Fiona Kahukura



Mayoral candidate Weston Kirton.



Mayoral candidate Grant Lethborg.



Mayoral candidate Lyn Neeson.

Riders enjoy the trail extended to Pōkākā

Te Hangāruru – the newest section of is now fully rideable from Horopito to Pōkākā Road, with another few kilometres opened to the public on Friday.

The trail, which was initially opened in June, is now 9.1km each way, with two suspension bridges, including a breathtaking Mangaturuturu River crossing. The journey is through ngahere and alpine repo and features an underpass beneath the North Island Main Trunk Line.

“Over the next few weeks we’ll be doing a bit of fine-tuning, so if you spot anything or have thoughts – we’d love your feedback,” says Mountains to Sea trail champion Lynley Twyman.

She thanked Te Korowai o Wainuiārua for guiding the journey, as well as Impel 2010 Limited, Cheal Consultants Ltd, Ruapehu District Council, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, KiwiRail and Roam Consulting.

The trail each way features shuttle op-

tions at both ends and offers a journey through layers of kōrero tuku iho (stories passed down) and dramatic landscapes.

Te Hangāruru is dubbed an “easy-going adventure through a landscape shaped by time, culture, and connection”, linking with the Ohakune Old Coach Road in the south.

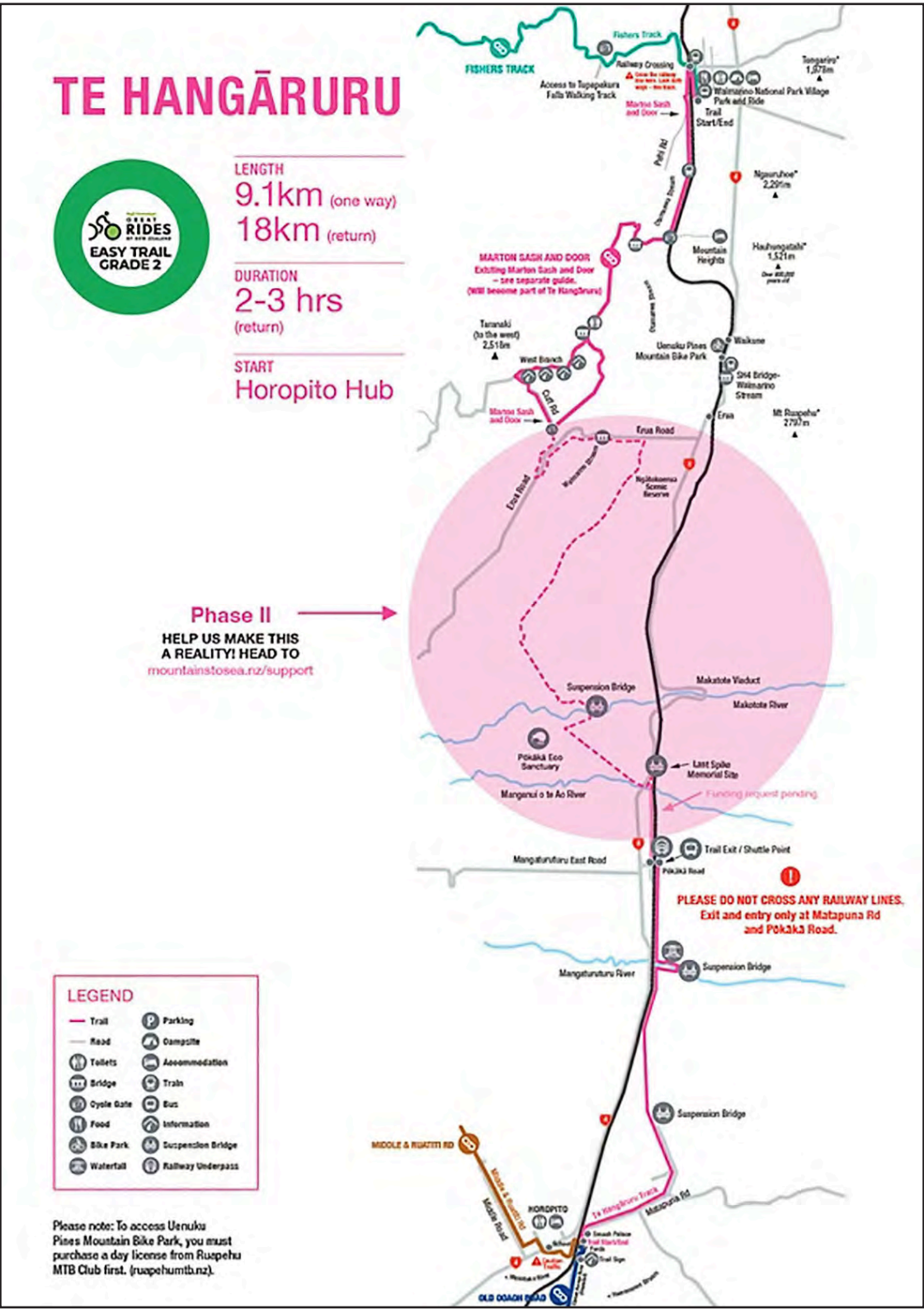
Missing link

It will eventually connect through to the Last Spike to the Marton Sash and Door tramway and Waimarino in the north – the first part of a long-awaited missing link.

The name Te Hangāruru was gifted by Uenuku and speaks to a time when this forest was alive with abundance. In the heart of the Waimarino, native birds like kākā once filled the skies so thickly that they darkened the sky – drawn by the rich food sources of towering Pōkākā trees. This was a special place for tangata whenua: a thriving ngahere, a hunting ground, and a natural gathering point between Manganui o te Ao and Tokaanu.



Trail champion Lynley Twyman, at left, and Jordana Holloway rode the new section of Te Hangāruru on Friday. Below: the new section features an underpass to get across the Main Trunk Rail line.



Foreign visitors to pay to hike the Crossing

The government has announced plans to charge foreigners hiking the Tongariro Alpine Crossing.

Prime Minister Christopher Luxon and Conservation Minister Tama Potaka announced changes to the Conservation Act at the National Party Conference in Christchurch on Saturday.

They claim the changes will “unleash growth” on conservation land, granting more business opportunities and introducing entry fees for international visitors at four popular sites.

The changes would create more concessions – permission to operate a business – in tourism, agriculture and infrastructure.

Many businesses already operate on the conservation estate, including guided walks and skifields, filming documentaries, grazing sheep and cattle, hosting concerts and building cellphone towers, but Luxon said the concessions regime was “totally broken, often taking years to obtain or renew, and leaving businesses in a cycle of bureaucratic limbo”.

He said the rules were outdated and the system would be changed to allow more jobs, growth and higher wages, with a “fresh wave” of new concessions made available.

Turn to Page 5

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CANDIDATES SPEAK

This section is set aside for letters from Ruapehu District election candidates.

Letters are limited to 300 words and the Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any letter. Priority will be given to candidates who haven't had letters published previously.

Letters will be published as space allows.

Council CEO salaries

• With local elections looming, we hear calls for good people to stand for Council. But the reality is sobering: even the most community-minded councillor enters a system where real power lies not with elected representatives, but with highly paid staff — particularly CEOs. Community Board Members can't even speak to our CEO without going through their chair.

This shift isn't accidental. It followed past corruption scandals, especially around zoning and land use, aiming to protect decisions from political interference. But now, the pendulum has swung too far.

Ratepayers who fund Councils are excluded from decisions on staffing structures, budgets, and salaries. Council CEOs are public servants, yet their pay is increasingly corporate-level. Our local CEO earns a reported \$350,000 annually — a figure unthinkable in most rural communities.

So, who sets these salaries? We're told the Remuneration Authority does, but how transparent is that process? What criteria are used? The public isn't consulted or even informed. Benchmarking against corporate pay accelerates executive salaries, while essential workers, road crews, librarians, and customer service staff stay on modest wages.

This isn't jealousy. It's a fairness issue. It's a question of democratic accountability. Ratepayers foot the bill yet have no say, and even elected officials struggle to question staff decisions. So what, exactly, are they being elected to do?

Let's be clear: this isn't a dig at individuals. Many Council executives are hardworking and care deeply about their communities. The problem lies in a system that's drifted into opacity and unresponsiveness.

We don't need more oversight bodies. We need transparency. Visibility around pay, genuine community control, and political courage to say public service must mean service.

This election should be about rebalancing the scales. Councils should work with their communi-

Letters

ties—not above them.

John Chapman, Ruapehu District council candidate

Changes to the Local Government Act

• As Mr Chapman highlighted in his letter of 30 July, the government is in the process of amending the Local Government Act of 2002. The proposed amendments will certainly change the focus required by councils to ensure they are meeting on the deliverables.

The primary policy objective of the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill is to reduce pressure on council rates by refocusing the purpose of local government; better measuring and publicising council performance; prioritising core services in council spending; strengthening council transparency and accountability; and providing regulatory relief to councils.

View the Bill online, it is an interesting read.

This will mean our region will need the councillors elected in the October elections to have a strong understanding of the expectations being asked of them. I can't imagine blow-outs in budgets of \$700,000 will be acceptable though nor should they be now.

It should never be acceptable for councillors to pass the blame back to the non-elected council staff, since councillors must be willing to stand up, be counted and fight to ensure that the ratepayers are getting full value for money.

We need a council that is serious about looking after the needs of the community with zero waste in costs, bring back more in-house operations, paying a contractor's profit margins is not value for money, zero waste in waste management, as was adopted in 2018, yet new 'rusty' bins in Ohakune have no option for recycling, and do they really enhance the look of the town? Zero waste in giving our communities the facilities they have long waited for, consultants who achieve nothing, say no more.

The decision made in October will determine how well our council ensures it is working to make the Ruapehu region financially sound with great community facilities and zero waste!

Gary Griffin-Chappel, Ruapehu District council candidate

Sell-out ladies long lunch to raise funds for rural support



Philippa Cameron, the voice behind 'What's for Smoko'.

A highly anticipated Ladies' Long Lunch, organised by the Whanganui Region Catchment Collective, completely sold out in just three days, highlighting the strong support for rural women in our region.

The event will take place at Bradleys Garden in Taumarunui, providing a backdrop for a relaxing and inspiring afternoon among women from across the rural community.

As well as lunch and company, the programme featuring Philippa Cameron, the voice behind the popular 'What's for Smoko'. The event will be hosted by Julia Jones, a respected rural advocate, who will also act as MC and auctioneer.

An auction will be held at the end of the event and proceeds from the auction will go to the Ruapehu-Whanganui Rural Support Trust, an organisation that supports rural families and farming communities during challenging times.

Ruapehu-Whanganui Rural Support Trust offers free, confidential support to rural people facing tough times on the farm — whether from adverse events, biosecurity, financial, employment, health and wellbeing or animal welfare issues. Based locally and part of a national network, the Trust connects communities with the help they need to get back on their feet. While not involved in organising the event, the Trust is honoured to be selected as the fundraising recipient.

Organisers are now calling on local businesses to get behind the cause by donating items suitable for women or making a monetary donation toward the auction or spot prizes.

All sponsors will be recognised with their logo on display at the event, and some will receive verbal shout-outs throughout the afternoon.

"This is about celebrating and supporting the women who are at the heart of our rural communities — whether they're on the land, running the business, or supporting their families through it all," says organiser Natasha Cave from the Whanganui Region Catchment Collective.

To support this event or find out more, please email Leanne.Owens@ruralsupport.org.nz

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

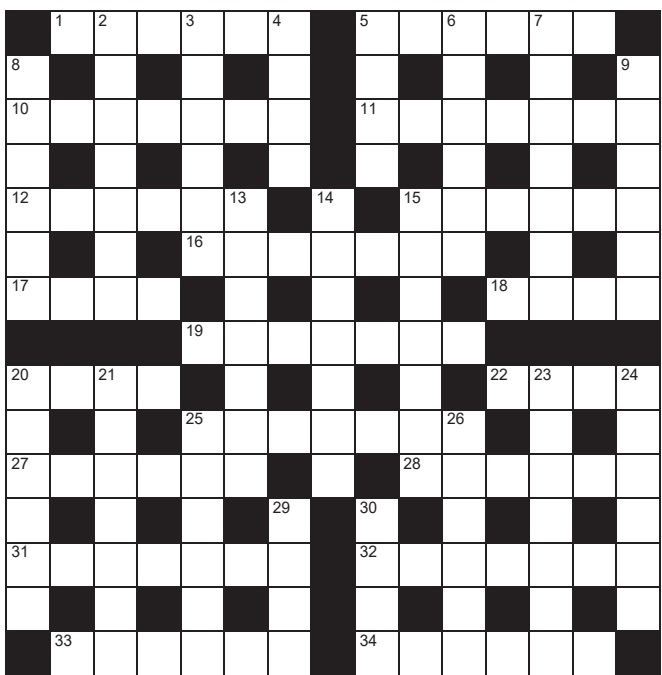
QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

- 1. Computer (6)
- 5. Choose (6)
- 10. Goes up (7)
- 11. Beguile (7)
- 12. Linger (6)
- 15. Tradition (6)
- 16. Business income (7)
- 17. Swarm (4)
- 18. Shambles (4)
- 19. Relate to (7)
- 20. Food staple (4)
- 22. Lowest of the low (colloq) (4)
- 25. Poignant, moving (7)
- 27. Uproar (6)
- 28. Stress (6)
- 31. Gun dog (7)
- 32. Remarkably typical (7)
- 33. Trickery (6)
- 34. First-born (6)

Down

- 2. Attribute (7)
- 3. Dabble (6)
- 4. Shove (4)
- 5. Pip (4)
- 6. Ancient unit of distance (6)
- 7. Chuckle (7)
- 8. Dance form (6)
- 9. Food fragments (6)
- 13. Daydream (7)
- 14. Grounded (7)



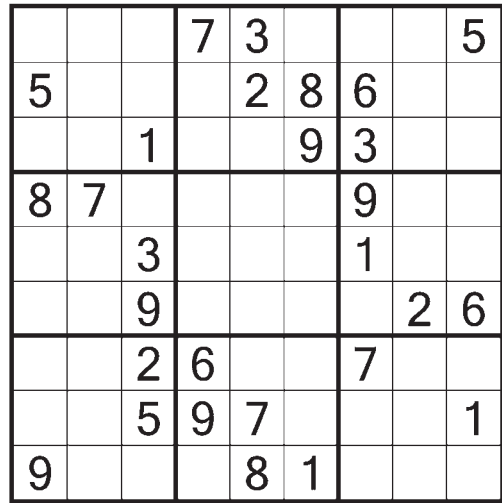
- 15. Inquisitive (7)
- 20. Reject (6)
- 21. Bloodshed (7)
- 23. A car's frame (7)
- 24. Threaten (6)
- 25. Commend (6)
- 26. Leave high and dry (6)
- 29. Move swiftly and lightly (4)
- 30. Throb (4)



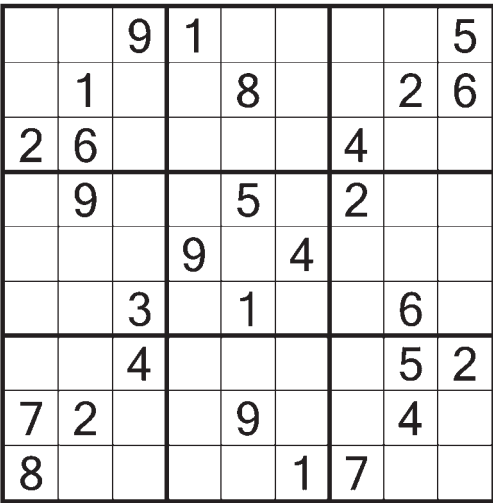
Puzzles © The Puzzle Company

SUDOKU

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



1 MEDIUM 2



2 HARD

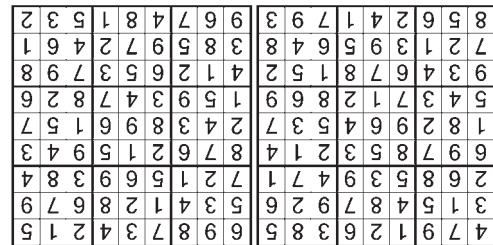
The Top 10

- 1. Dr Zachary Smith was a cowardly character in what 1960s sci-fi series?
- 2. In a game of curling, how many stones does each player throw?
- 3. The last execution to take place in New Zealand was in which decade?
- 4. "Like Scott of the Antarctic, Base camp too far away" is from what 1983 Australian song?
- 5. ISP stands for Internet Service . . . ?
- 6. What region of Spain is named after its many fortified sites?
- 7. The PH scale goes from 0 to what number?
- 8. Which swimming stroke is the second fastest after freestyle?
- 9. Which country's name means 'equator'?
- 10. What does Peter Pan lose, and then regain?

CROSSWORD

- 26. Strand, 29. Filt, 30. Ache.
- 23. Chassis, 24. Menace, 25. Praise.
- 15. Cynical, 20. Refuse, 21. Carnage.
- 8. Ballet, 9. Crumbs, 13. Reverse, 14. Centred.
- 4. Push, 5. League, 7. Chorle.
- 34. Eldest, Down: 2. Ascribe, 3. Tinker.
- 28. Strain, 31. Spaniel, 32. Classic, 33. Deceit.
- 20. Rice, 22. Scum, 25. Piteous, 27. Furore.
- Reverue, 17. Teem, 18. Mess, 19. Pertain.
- 11. Enamour, 12. Lotter, 15. Custom, 16.
- Across: 1. Laptop, 5. Select, 10. Ascends.

SUDOKU



THE TOP 10

- 1. Lost in Space, 2. Two, 3. 1950s (1957).
- 4. Reckless, by Australian Crawl, 5. Protocol.
- 6. Castle, 7. 14, 8. Butterfly, 9. Ecuador.
- 10. His shadow.

Conservation land is for conservation: FMC

Federated Mountain Clubs (FMC) says it has “significant concerns” over the government’s proposed overhaul of conservation law and access charging.

“The purpose of the conservation estate and the Department of Conservation is in its name: Conservation,” says FMC president Megan Dimozantos, responding to the government’s proposed changes to conservation law, including the introduction of access charges.

“We don’t yet know enough detail behind these announcements to signal support or otherwise. We have significant concerns about the rhetoric of uninhibited economic growth on the conservation land — that could undermine conservation values, restrict public access, and see parts of our conservation estate up for land disposals.”

On Saturday, the government announced conservation reform proposals, building on public consultation held by DOC earlier this year. FMC supports a streamlined legislative framework in principle, but strongly opposes removing the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) from the approval process for key planning documents. The NZCA is vital in ensuring decisions about public conservation land are transparent, robust, and reflect a broad range of perspectives.

“We do not support a system that concentrates decision-making solely in the hands of the Minister.”

FMC is deeply concerned about proposals that could enable the disposal or development of public conservation land — including conservation parks and stewardship land — without adequate safeguards.

“With only 40% of the estate fully protected, vast areas such as Forest Parks and Conservation Parks could be opened up to inappropriate development. FMC supports efficient concession processes, but not at

the expense of properly assessing impacts on conservation and recreation.

“We welcome the government’s commitment that Kiwis won’t be charged to access their backyard — but questions remain about how access charging will work in practice. How visitors will be identified, compliance enforced, and whether revenue will exceed costs remain unclear.

“Freedom of access for Kiwis should be protected in legislation and any revenue raised must be legally ringfenced for reinvestment in the places it comes from.”

FMC submitted on both the modernisation and access charging proposals earlier this year and looks forward to engaging further.

“While we support some elements in principle, we remain concerned about the broader direction signalled by this announcement,” says Dimozantos.

“Public conservation law exists first and foremost to protect the land — not to serve as a platform for economic growth.”

Foreigners to pay to hike

From Page 3

“Outdated rules mean we’ve got examples of modern E-bike users being turned away from potential touring opportunities because they have to be considered as proper vehicles.

Another change would see international visitors charged between \$20-40 dollars to access four popular sites — Cathedral Cove, the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, Milford Sound and Aoraki Mount Cook.

The government estimated it would bring in \$62 million a year in revenue to be re-invested in those same areas, Potaka said.

“Tourists make a massive contribution to our economy, and no one wants that to change. But I have heard many times from friends visiting from overseas their shock that they can visit some of the most beautiful places in the world for free.”

Kiwis free

New Zealanders would not be charged, with Luxon saying: “It’s our collective inheritance and Kiwis shouldn’t have to pay to see it.”

Speaking to media after the announcement, Potaka said some work was needed to determine whether someone was a foreign visitor or a New Zealander.

“When you go to the Auckland Domain Museum, you have to prove that you’re an Auckland, if you want a different price,” he said. “Ditto, with the differential pricing with the great walks.

“People from overseas pay a little bit more for great walks than New Zealanders and there’s different ways you can do that, with passports, birth certificates, all sorts.”

If the charges at the four locations were successful, they could be rolled out at other locations, Potaka said.

Fair spread

Ruapehu District’s mayor Weston Kirton said he welcomed the prospect of the extra charge, but the money must be spread fairly.

“Tongariro Crossing is a magnet for a lot of people coming from overseas,” he told RNZ.

“There are huge numbers in the summertime.

“I think this is a responsible way of actually addressing some of the urgent needs that we’ve got in our DOC estates, and our facilities and amenities, whereby the local people are having to pay for the infrastructure that we provide for overseas visitors.

“By having a levy, it will help us develop, not only the existing amenities, but perhaps improve on the many amenities that we need for our visitors in the future.”

He said maintaining camping grounds and toilets, and managing rubbish cost money.

“The rubbish they leave behind, believe it or not, is a taxation on the local people,” the mayor said.

Kirton hoped the money would not be spread but re-invested based on the local population numbers.

“We wouldn’t get our share. I think it needs to be on the volume of visitors that come into the area for obvious reasons.

“The more people that come in there, the more damage or amenities we need to create, so I hope that it’s done fairly in that respect.”

Kirton said the council should also get some of the money taken from foreign visitors to the Tongariro Crossing.



Overseas visitors may soon pay \$20-40 to hike the Tongariro Alpine Crossing.

What do you want for the future of Ruapehu?

Hi I’m Lyn Neeson.
I’m asking for your vote for Mayor of Ruapehu District in the upcoming elections.

My vision is built on:

Inclusive Leadership

Where everyone around the council table is valued and empowered to engage meaningfully with the community.

Financial Accountability

I’ve long campaigned for concentrating on core infrastructure and managing the basics right. That \$700,000 out of budget overspend wouldn’t have happened on my watch. I’m acutely aware that the rate burden impacts all sectors.

Economic Diversity

Supporting all sectors of society to thrive, from small businesses, to tourism and farming. We are a diverse district and we all need to be supported.



VOTE

Lyn Neeson
MAYOR FOR RUAPEHU

Authorised by Lyn Neeson alyn@xtra.co.nz

SHINE A LIGHT ON A LOCAL VOLUNTEER STAR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Ruapehu Citizen of the Year Awards aim to recognise the special people who through their selfless actions help to create the type of community we all want to live in and be part of. There are **two Awards** covering **northern Ruapehu (National Park, Taumarunui and Ohura areas)** and **southern Ruapehu (Waimarino-Waiouru Ward area)**.

If you know of someone who:

- **Undertakes voluntary, unpaid work** - going above and beyond the call of duty consistently for no personal gain.
- **Has made a significant contribution over an extended period of time** - unselfish sacrifice of time and resources.
- **Works for the benefit of the community** through participation in a range of activities.

Please give our volunteer heroes the recognition they deserve.

More info inc. nomination forms are available from any Council office, or online at: ruapehudc.govt.nz (see link on homepage)

***Queries: please call Kay Kidd on 07 895 8188.**



Nominations NOW OPEN

Pue back in politics: 'Let's get the mahi done'

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting

Prominent Māori leader Elijah Pue is returning to the political arena to run for the Manawātū-Whanganui regional council.

He will stand as a Pāti Māori candidate for the Raki Māori (Māori North) seat at October's local elections.

The other candidates are Jim Edmonds, Tāwhiao Te Rangi McMaster and Soraya Peke-Mason.

Jim Edmonds is the current Raki Māori councillor.

It's Pue's first bid for Horizons Regional Council, and his first time standing in a Māori ward, but Pue is no newcomer to local government.

Elected to a general ward in 2019, he served three years on Ruapehu District Council and later ran for mayor in a close-fought campaign.

Though unsuccessful, he said the experi-

ence solidified his commitment to public service.

"I felt a bit ripped off that I didn't get another go," Pue admits.

"I stood only for mayor, to show my community I was all in. And I was. I put everything into that campaign. After a break, I'm back and I'm ready. Let's get the mahi done."

Pue, 31, says over the past three years, he's continued working across iwi, health, education and whānau development.

He is currently chief executive of Te Mātuku, the Iwi-Māori Partnership Board representing iwi from Taumārurui to Whanganui in the health sector.



Elijah Pue.

He serves on a number of trusts and boards, including regional tourism organisation Visit Ruapehu, and leads the regional kapa haka entity Te Kāhui Maunga, which hosted the biggest ever national Te Matatini competition in New Plymouth this year.

Pue believes the time is right to bring his experience back into local governance.

Largest ward

The Raki Māori ward is the largest of the two Horizons Māori constituencies, stretching from Ohura down to Feilding.

"This region raised me. It taught me to tie a fencing knot, press a bale of wool, dock lambs and kill a mutton. "It trained me to chair countless hui and help lead local events, from shearing championships to calling Housie for fundraisers."

With Horizons core responsibilities in environmental management, Pue says he is determined to ensure Māori voices and kaupapa are central to decision-making.

He is a trustee for both Ngāti Rangī and Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui, giving him direct governance experience with the river settlement entities.

"The two major river catchments in this rohe – Te Waiū o te Ika (Whangāehu River) and Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River) – carry frameworks that offer environmental and climate change solutions.

"I bring understanding of how local government can work in genuine partnership with iwi. Horizons doesn't fully understand these catchments yet. That's not a criticism – it's an opportunity."

He says the pending overhaul of the Resource Management Act and diminishing references to Te Mana o te Wai make it even more critical that Māori values are reflected in council decisions.

"The government may try to sideline these frameworks, but I won't. They're not just for Māori – they're for the health of our environment and the wellbeing of all our communities."

Transport and equity

Pue highlights gaps in services across the Raki Māori ward, from transport to healthcare access.

"In Raetihi, we've got one kaumātua bus trip to Ohakune per week. There's no regular link to Whanganui, and no wheelchair-accessible option.

"My own grandmother is wheelchair-bound – we have to rely on St John to get to medical appointments."

He believes Horizons needs to rethink how public transport serves smaller, rural communities, and calls for more locally driven solutions.

Turn to Page 9

Chopper missions in June



The Desert Road was the location for one of the Greenlea Rescue Helicopter missions in June.

The Greenlea Rescue Helicopter, which serves the Coastal Bay of Plenty region, carried out 44 missions throughout June, including 26 inter-hospital transfers, three medical events, six rural/farm incidents, two motor vehicle accidents and seven miscellaneous missions.

The Helicopter was frequently seen in remote locations such as Desert Road, Whakamaru, Murupara and Cape Runaway.

The month started off with the Greenlea Rescue Helicopter being dispatched to SH1 the Desert Road for a female who had sustained serious injuries following a motor vehicle accident. The patient was stabilised on scene for approximately 50 minutes before being flown to Rotorua Hospital for further treatment.

The other missions in the month were around the southern Waikato area.



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Killing weeds and wildings a boost for economic growth: Govt

Tourism and rural businesses will benefit from Government action to eradicate invasive weeds from popular landscapes including progressing the development of world-leading early detection technology, Conservation Minister Tama Potaka says.

“The Department of Conservation – Te Papa Atawhai is New Zealand’s biggest tourism provider – conservation tourism is worth \$3.4 billion a year - but the ongoing protection of our iconic landscapes is facing significant financial and environmental challenges,” Mr Potaka says.

“Tourism is a key part of our plan to grow the economy to create jobs, lift wages and help Kiwis get ahead. Through the International Visitor Levy (IVL), we’re providing \$10 million over the next three years to ensure our popular mountains, parks, and islands, remain beautiful for years to come.”

Tongariro National Park is among the sites listed.

“In Aotearoa New Zealand, nearly two million hectares are affected by wilding pines. Without intervention, these trees can spread at a rate of five per cent per year. The cost of this to New Zealand’s nature, productivity and economy can grow exponentially over time.

“I’ve announced an extra \$3 million to the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme, led by Biosecurity New Zealand, for important control work.

“A further \$7.45 million will go towards managing other significant weeds.

“When it comes to tackling invasive weeds, taking early action is essential. IVL funding will also go towards the development and rollout of an innovative, smart software tool to detect weeds when they first invade.

Biosecurity Minister Andrew Hoggard highlighted the annual boost in funding to combat wilding pines, which threaten farmland, water catchments, and native biodiversity, while increasing the risk of wildfires.

“The Government is focused on protecting the productive heart of our economy – our rural communities. That’s why there has been significant investment into the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme, including an extra \$2 million announced in Budget and annual \$10 million baseline funding.

“Since 2016, the Government has committed more than \$150 million to the fight to contain and control the spread of wilding pines, alongside more than \$33 million contributed by partners and communities.”

“This year’s investment continues to support the people doing the work alongside Government – regional councils, Iwi, farmers, researchers, and volunteers, whose combined effort has pushed back some of the worst infestations and protected key landscapes,” says Mr Hoggard.

The funding covers work across the next three years (2025 –2028) and comes from money raised under the new \$100 International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy rate.

Chateau a drawcard: Outgoing Air New Zealand chief

Air New Zealand chief executive Greg Foran believes the Chateau Tongariro is a drawcard for visitors to the Ruapehu District.

That is according to Ruapehu District mayoral candidate Weston Kirton, who met with Foran at the recent Mayoral Forum in Auckland.

Foran and Kirton discussed the critical role domestic tourism plays in Air New Zealand’s business and how destinations like Ruapehu are key to attracting both domestic and international visitors into the region.

“We also talked about the future of the Chateau with Greg commenting on its ability to act as a drawcard for visitors.

“Greg clearly understood the value of the Chateau, not just as a building, but as a symbol of our region’s appeal with its restoration having wide-ranging benefits for tourism, employment, and the wider economy,” he said.

Kirton reiterated his call for public support of Council’s Parliamentary Petition urging Government to help

secure a pathway for restoring the Chateau.

“With the right support, the Chateau can once again be a beacon for the region

and a driver of economic prosperity,” he said.

“We’re doing everything we can to make that happen and community backing is

crucial.

If you haven’t signed the petition, please do so and encourage your friends and whanau to do so also.”



Greg Foran Air NZ CEO and Weston Kirton, mayor of Ruapehu District.

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"It's a great community," says Steve, whose three boys all gained trades in the area.

Steve is a community stalwart, regularly putting his time and machinery toward local projects.

"I love to put my hand up," he says.

His work includes assisting with construction of the Mākotuku Walkway, building the adjoining BMX track, upgrading the Blazing Hills track, projects at National Park School, and long-standing involvement with the Carrot Park.

Peggy Frew from the Carrot Park Committee says Steve has been their go-to man for more than six years.

"He works well in our team and sees what needs doing. A huge part of our great rock displays and earthworks are thanks to him, all done with a smile."

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Steve Gray has worked on various community projects, including the Mangawhero River Track.

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Pue back in politics

From Page 6

“We need basic services. Ohakune’s nearest pharmacy and courthouse are in Taihape, so better transport means access to health and justice. These aren’t ‘nice-to-haves’ – they’re essentials.”

Pue says he understands central government’s desire to rein in council spending, build infrastructure and streamline services delivery, but disagrees with how that message was relayed.

“The government wants us to cut red tape and focus on the basics. That’s fair, but the way they’ve approached local government has been abrupt and often condescending.”

He supports exploring amalgamation or shared services between smaller councils where appropriate, but not at the cost of local representation.

“I’d hate to see local government go the way of health – centralised, Wellington-led, and stripped of regional voice. We’ve seen how that is playing out. I support efficiency, but not if it silences our communities.”

Pue enters the race with the backing of sitting Raki Māori councillor Jim Edmonds, who is standing again.

“Standing was a hard decision because Koro Jim is very close whānau. But I stand with his blessing: ‘About bloody time,’ he said. His leadership has been selfless, grounded in his love for whānau, taiao and his mokopuna. It’s the kind of leadership I aspire to.”

Pue has a clear message to voters: use your voice.

“Vote. Do your research. Choose someone whose kaupapa aligns with your values. If you don’t vote, don’t complain.”

He points to the huge Māori mobilisation opposing government action like the Treaty Principles Bill, and says the same energy is needed at the ballot box.

“If we can mobilise for Toitū Te Tiriti, we can mobilise for local elections. Imagine the impact if every submitter and activist showed up to vote.”

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

Riley back at regional council table unopposed

Local government candidate nominations have closed, with 32 nominations received for Horizons Regional Council.

Horizons electoral officer Warwick Lampp says the nominations for the 14 seats exceeds the 22 received for the 2022 elections.

“We are pleased with the number of candidates, which will see elections for most constituencies, and are looking forward to seeing voting outcomes.”

“The single seats for the Ruapehu and Tonga Māori constituencies are not being contested. This means current councillors Nikki Riley (Ruapehu) and Te Kenehi Teira (Tonga Māori) are declared elected unopposed.”

This year’s candidates cover a wide age range and come from a variety of backgrounds, helping to provide people with a diverse choice when it comes to elections, says Mr Lampp.

“Candidate statements will be avail-

able next week at elections.horizons.govt.nz. We are also planning to organise time to film short videos of each candidate. These videos, which will be available on the Horizons website at elections.horizons.govt.nz, will help to give voters a better idea of what candidates stand for.”

Voting papers will be posted to all enrolled people between 9 and 22 September and completed voting papers must be received by 12 noon on 11 October, says Mr Lampp.

“Voters who do not get voting papers before 22 September should contact their city or district council.

“Voters will have more options to get their voting papers back than previous elections, with voting bins to be placed at key locations across the region. People will be able to put their completed voting papers in those bins, which will be emptied regularly, instead of having

to find a mailbox.

“With Horizons also holding a referendum on the future of its two Māori constituencies alongside council elections, it is important people take the time to fill out and return their voting papers.”



Nikki Riley.

Strong field for Māori wards

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting

There is no shortage of candidates contesting Māori wards and constituencies across the Whanganui, Ruapehu, Rangitikei and Horizons regions, with elections confirmed in most areas. Some seats will be hotly contested, with a total of 19 candidates confirmed for nine Māori seats across the four councils.

Only two Māori constituencies will go uncontested: Horizons Regional Council’s Tonga Māori (South) and Rangitikei District Council’s Tiikeitia ki Uta (Inland), where just one candidate has stood in each.

The Raki Māori (North) seat will be closely watched, with three challengers lining up against incumbent Turuhia (Jim) Edmonds. The contenders are Soraya Peke-Mason, Elijah Pue (Te Pāti Māori) and Tāwhiao McMaster. Edmonds is seeking re-election.

In the Tonga Māori (South) constituency, Te Kenehi Teira has been declared elected unopposed, retaining his seat.

Ruapehu District Council

Six candidates have been confirmed for three Māori ward seats. The three incumbents – Channey Iwikau, Kory Wilson and Fiona Kahukura Hadley-Chase – are seeking re-election. They are joined

by challengers Marilyn Davis, Simon Hepi and Kuru Ketu.

Key voting dates and information

Voting papers will be posted between 9 and 22 September to those enrolled to vote. Voting will run from 9 September to 11 October. To ensure votes count, voting papers must be posted back by 7 October or delivered to an orange ballot box by 12 noon on 11 October. Anyone who has not received voting papers by 22 September should contact their local council. Only those enrolled on the Māori Electoral Roll can vote for candidates standing in Māori wards or constituencies.

Referendum on Māori representation

Alongside the local body elections, binding referendums will be held in all four council areas to decide the future of Māori wards and constituencies.

The poll will ask voters whether the council should retain or remove its Māori ward or constituency.

Unlike ward voting, the referendums are open to all voters, whether they are on the Māori or General Roll.

Voters are being urged to check their enrolment details are up to date to ensure they receive voting papers in time.

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

Redmayne backs Crossing charge for foreigners

Fixing broken conservation laws will help grow the local economy, support tourism, and create more jobs across the Rangitikei electorate, MP Suze Redmayne says.

“The current law is strangling economic activity on a third of New Zealand’s land. Right now, it can take more than two years for local businesses to get permission to operate on conservation land – and that’s simply not good enough,” Ms Redmayne says.

“Across Rangitikei (electorate, which includes Ruapehu District), there are real opportunities to grow tourism, enhance conservation partnerships, and back local initiatives – but they’ve been stuck behind red tape and a system that too often says ‘no’.”

The Government is reforming the Conservation Act to fix the broken concessions process and make it easier for appropriate activity to get off the ground – including guided tours, infrastructure, and regional development projects.

“This is about unlocking growth, backing rural enterprise, and helping more people live and work in our region. It’s a practical, sensible change that will support the long-term future of our communities.”

“These changes strike the right balance – protecting our natural environment, while saying yes to more jobs, higher wages, and opportunity throughout Rangitikei.”



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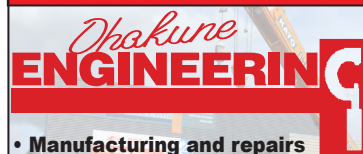
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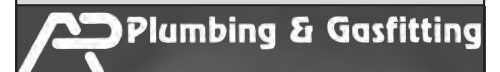


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PUBLIC NOTICES

Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

Turoa Lodge 2021 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 **10 Thames Street, Ohakune** and known as **Turoa Lodge**. 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 9am – 3am**
The application may be inspected during ordinary office hours at the office of the Ruapehu District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council, 59-63 Huia Street, Taumarunui.

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

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

This is the first publication of this notice.



Whakarato Te Rohe Pōtae

KING COUNTRY TRUST
NOTICE TO CONSUMERS, BUSINESS HOUSES AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 20 August 2025 at 4.00pm

VENUE:

Conference Room at Oreti Village Resort, 88 Pukawa Road, Pukawa, Lake Taupo.

TIME:

Our AGM will be held at 4pm followed at 4.30pm with drinks and nibbles.

AGENDA:

- Consideration and Adoption of Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting held on 28 August 2024
- Presentation of Annual Report
- Presentation of Annual Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st March 2025
- Appointment of Auditor
- Informal General Business

CONTACT:

For any queries please email: kcept@xtra.co.nz or phone Carla at Peak Chartered Accountants Ltd on 07 895 3013

Annual Reports and Financial Statements will be available from 14 August 2025 on our website: www.kcpowertrust.co.nz

Uwe Kroll - Chair

PUBLIC NOTICES



KARIOI FOREST CLOSED FOR EVENT
9 and 10 August 2025

Karioi Forest, SH49, will be closed for 9th and 10th August 2025 for the **Great Northern Classic Sled Dog Event**.

There is to be **NO ACCESS** to any part of the forest during this period.

We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your co-operation.

Keith Wood
Senior Forester (Karioi)
Phone 0274 449818
E mail: keith.wood@ernslaw.co.nz

SITUATIONS VACANT

RATES OFFICER

Taumarunui or Raetihi
30 hours per week

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

We're looking for a detail-focused and community-minded Rates Officer to support the smooth delivery of our rating functions. Working within our Finance and Strategy team, you'll play a key role in keeping our systems accurate and our ratepayers informed.

Key responsibilities:

- Respond to ratepayer enquiries ensuring responsive, solution-focused outcomes.
- Maintain and update the Rating Information Database (RID).
- Supporting quarterly rate instalments, direct debit processes and the Rates Rebate Scheme.
- Assist with arrears monitoring, reporting, and administration tasks.

Who we are looking for

You'll bring a strong administrative background and a keen eye for accuracy. You'll be confident handling data and financial systems, with the interpersonal skills to support our community.

You will have:

- Proven admin experience, ideally in a finance setting or local government.
- Strong computer skills, including Microsoft Office.
- A people-first mindset with excellent communication skills, problem-solving, and attention to detail.
- The ability to interpret policy and maintain confidentiality.

To apply, please visit <https://www.ruapehudc.govt.nz/our-council/employment/current-vacancies>.
Applications close Friday 15th August

For everything Ohakune, visit

WWW.
ohakune.info

PUBLIC NOTICES

MEETINGS

The following meetings of Horizons Regional Council (Livestreamed) will be held in the Tararua Room, Regional House, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North:

Tuesday, 12 August

10.00am Regional Council
Public Excluded (Not Livestreamed)

Wednesday, 13 August

9.30am Integrated Catchment
Committee

Tuesday, 26 August

9.30am Regional Council

Wednesday, 27 August

9.30am Audit, Risk & Investment
Committee

Should Members of the public wish to speak at Meetings, they are advised to phone 0508 800 800.

M J McCartney
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



horizons.govt.nz



PUBLIC NOTICES

**Electricity line upgrade
Information Day**

Transpower is hosting two walk-in sessions in Tūrangi to meet with anyone who would like to learn more about and discuss our mahi to upgrade the electricity transmission line between Tokaanu and Whakamaru.

Date: Monday 11 August 2025

Venue: Tongariro Lodge, 83 Grace Road, Tūrangi

Hours: Drop in to see us from 1pm-4pm and 5pm-7pm

At the drop-in session, we will:

- introduce ourselves and what we do
- discuss our mahi in your region, including maps and timeframes
- share details about the specific mahi proposed on your whenua and korero about what this means for whānau and whenua.

The information day is also an opportunity for whānau who are owners in the following whenua blocks to meet with us as we are looking to directly discuss with you the work we would like to do on your whenua:

- Part Tokaanu B2M1B
- Part Tokaanu B2M2B
- Part Tokaanu B2M6B
- Part Tokaanu B2M7B
- Waihi Kahakaharoa 8A

To set up a particular time to meet please email rsvp@transpower.co.nz, or just come along on the day. We look forward to meeting you.



TRANSPOWER

Ohakune's grass skatepark

• Back in the mid 20th century, at both Waiouru and Ohakune, courts paved with asphalt were where girls in pleated gym frocks and black stockings played netball on Saturdays and where mixed doubles in white outfits played tennis.

With the coming of Saturday shopping, these sports fell out of favour and the courts became the mecca for youngsters on roller skates, then skateboards, in-line skates, BMXs and scooters. Fathers taught their kids how to ride a bike there, and mums watched their toddlers gain confidence on the colourful plastic climbing equipment beside the skating area.

This de facto skate park at Ohakune was especially popular because it was spacious, central, close to working-class families' homes, and safely out in the open so adults could keep an eye on vulnerable kids who could exit through several openings if they felt unsafe. I watched them spending hours there on weekends and in the holidays, building up new physical and social skills.

At Waiouru in 2004, the Army built concrete jumps, rails and bowls, then took down the old netting that had gaps in it.

At Ohakune in 2024, the RDC ripped up all the asphalt paving, replaced most of it with artificial plastic grass for volleyball and basketball courts, then replaced the old easy-access wire surrounds with Alligator Alcatraz-class netting that has only one very narrow opening through it. They then removed all the toddlers' colourful modern climbing equipment.

The once-busy park has been deserted ever since. Volleyballers prefer playing at the college on real grass, and facilities for other team games are better there too.

John Chapman said the Council overspent on parks and recreation by \$700,000 last year, so I wrote to the Council to find what was the cost of making our children's park unusable. I was told "LGOIMA" could tell me in a month's time, but I might have to pay to find out.

John Archer, Ohakune

Power Outage

the lines company

Date: Tuesday 19 August *

Time: 8am to 5pm

* [alternative day Thursday 21 August]

Why?

To replace a high voltage switch necessary to keep you connected

Where?

Turoa Village, Ohakune

Thank you for your patience.

0800 367 546
thelines.co.nz

keeping you connected



Reserves hone their combat skills in annual Waioru exercise

More than 300 New Zealand Army Reserve Force soldiers from around the country have tackled sub-zero temperatures at Waioru for a crucial annual activity to ensure they are combat-ready and can integrate seamlessly into the Regular Force.

They joined more than 70 Regular Force personnel in the Waioru Military Training Area for Exercise Tauwharenikau, which wound up recently.

The nine-day combined arms collective training exercise included intelligence-driven and action-based missions based on a simulated conflict scenario centred on unrest on a fictional island in the South Pacific.

The lead unit for the exercise was New Zealand Army Reserve unit 5th/7th Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.

Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Shaun O'Connor, said the exercise prepared Army Reserve personnel to surge and embed seamlessly into 1st (New Zealand) Brigade when required.

"The work that goes into maintaining combat readiness is at the heart of what we do as an organisation, giving us the skills, tools and resilience to respond to any situation when called upon," Lieutenant Colonel O'Connor said.

"Reservists are trained to the same standard and meet the same operational levels as their Regular Force peers, and bring a valuable diverse mix of backgrounds, expertise and skillsets to the Army."

Support ready

Currently, more than 2000 Reserve Force soldiers stand ready to support the Regular Force.

Assistant Chief of Army for Reserves, Colonel Brendon Jull said the exercise proved the Reserve Force doesn't just contribute high-quality personnel to Army but was integral to delivering its operational outputs - both at home and abroad.

"The fact that the NZ Army can run this exercise while concurrently deploying close to 700 New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel to a major Australian exercise (Exercise Talisman Sabre) highlights the NZDF's ability to deliver large-scale, integrated operations across domains, services and nations."

Lieutenant Colonel O'Connor said the Reserve Force was hoping to deploy a company-sized group to the next iteration of Talisman Sabre in 2027.

"This year's Exercise Tauwharenikau was intended to replicate the scale and complexity of the kinds of operations soldiers would be likely to encounter once deployed overseas."

The exercise operated under a combat framework that included a command-and-control centre, a light infantry



Reserve Force soldiers used NH90 helicopters as part of their transport options during annual Exercise Tauwharenikau at Waioru. Photo: NZDF.

rifle company made up of three 33-soldier platoons, and combat support units including engineers, signallers, mounted armoured capability, intelligence specialists, medics and dental specialists.

The exercise also incorporated operational support from the Royal New Zealand Air Force's

(RNZAF) No. 3 Squadron NH90 helicopters and No. 40 Squadron C-130J-30 Hercules aircraft.

The exercise also featured an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) detachment from both the Army's 16th Field Regiment and the RNZAF, as well as infantry support dogs, explosive detection dogs and a mounted reconnaissance

section - the Waikato Mounted Rifles.

Reserve Force training typically occurs once a fortnight or monthly.

Reserve Force soldiers can also take part in all NZDF exercises, both nationally and internationally, based on time availability and skills required.

Grant Lethborg mayoral candidate

Joining three incumbent Ruapehu District Council elected members in a race for the mayoralty is Grant Lethborg - born and raised in Taumarunui.

He has lived all but two years in the Ruapehu District.

"This place has always been home and it's where two of my three children and all seven of my mokopuna are growing up," says Lethborg.

After finishing at Taumarunui High, he studied accountancy, then moved into farming and later became deeply involved in tourism and hospitality through purchasing the Owahango Hotel and commencing Owahango Adventures in 2009.

"Among other activities, we specialise in culturally guided journeys on the Whanganui Awa. It has also helped support rangatahi through training and employment and cultural engagement, while promoting and preserving the local heritage and identity.

He has strong ties to the sporting community, having represented King Country Seniors in rugby from 1976 to 1989, with one of the highlights facing off against the British Isles in 1977.

"I'm running for mayor because I believe the Ruapehu District Council has lost its way and it is time for fresh, grounded leadership to steer it back to focusing on what matters most that is delivering reliable core services and protecting the interests of our people.

"The yearly rate increases of up to three times the annual inflation rate must stop. It is not sustainable for ratepayers, residents, business

and farmers.

"I feel I am the right person to lead this change because I have lived the reality of our community, farmed our land, run local businesses, raised a family here and worked directly with tourism and hospitality to support local jobs and preserve our culture.

"Like many of you, I've also had to navigate through incredibly testing times including economic downturns, and the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. It hasn't always been easy, but we've endured, adapted, and survived. That resilience, built through experience, is what I'll bring to the role."

He says that if elected, he won't get distracted by politics but will focus on the tasks at hand: delivering reliable core services; practising strong financial discipline; restoring transparency and trust in every council decision; making sure all voices not just the loudest are heard and respected.

"I am not a career politician. I'm a local who has rolled up my sleeves and worked hard my whole life. I've built things, solved problems and stayed connected to our people. That's the kind of leadership Ruapehu needs right now - practical, hands-on and grounded in real-world experience, not politics."

"What sets me apart is that I have not been involved whatsoever in the decisions, mismanagement, or internal politics that have contributed to the current financial mess the Ruapehu District Council finds itself in, including the staggering \$64 million in debt and the recent overspend of

\$700,000 that remains unexplained.

"I haven't sat on Council, I haven't been part of the poor choices made behind closed doors and I don't carry the baggage of past failures.

"I come to this role with fresh eyes, a clean slate and a genuine determination to fix what's broken starting with restoring trust, transparency and fiscal responsibility.

"Together, we can move our district forward in a way that all of us, especially our tamariki and mokopuna, can be proud of."



Grant Lethborg, running for mayor.

Ohakune Squash

The final round of the Ohakune Squash Club's inter-house saw Tecnifibre narrowly beat Salming 80/78 to hold their overall lead. Prince beat Unsquashable 79/70 and Head beat Karakal by an impressive 106/61, the highest score of the round. Dunlop got 80 for the bye. Final points were very close with Tecnifibre 602, Head 584, Unsquashable 559, Dunlop 529, Karakal 520, Salming 519 and Prince 510.

There will be a two-week gap before a further round of interhouse.

An interclub doubles competition starts this week on Wednesdays. A team of eight travel to Taumarunui this week for the first round.

Last weekend several junior members travelled to Wellington for the New Zealand Secondary School competition in Ruapehu College teams with excellent results. See the College report next week for details.

True Team Promise means our whole team works for you.
Contact your local Ohakune Consultant or Property Manager today!



Scan the QR code to find us on Facebook



Cameron Elliot
Sales Manager - Taumarunui / Ohakune
027 542 1009



Alan Blackburn
Rural / Lifestyle
027 203 9112



Polly Ingles
Residential / Lifestyle
027 315 8368



Jenna Hovell
Residential / Lifestyle
027 361 0167



Ben Blakley
Property Manager
027 370 0914



Mere Haitana
Branch Administrator
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