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**St John's
winter
road
training
P2**



**Sir Tumu
calls
for Park
return
P3**



**Elvis
at the
Royal
P7**



**Study
on the
mountain
road
P12**

Water showdown: Kirton's rethink plea rejected 7-3

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting

A push by Ruapehu's mayor Weston Kirton to scrap a water services deal he says will add nearly \$1000 a year to household bills has been voted down.

Councillors at a meeting in Taumarunui on Wednesday rejected Kirton's call 7-3 for an urgent rethink of last month's decision to partner solely with Whanganui District Council.

Kirton warned the two-council water services body would cause "extreme unaffordability" and called for Ruapehu to instead join a larger partnership with Horowhenua, Rangitikei, Palmerston North and Whanganui councils to achieve better affordability.

He said the larger model would save Ruapehu water users \$3.5 million to \$5.4 million a year – nearly \$1000 per household in the first year alone.

Ruapehu was among the most economically disadvantaged districts in New Zealand, with many households "already stretched to breaking point by the cost-of-living crisis".

"All of this term we've acknowledged this reality, especially for Māori communities. Yet today, some are still prepared to back the most expensive option on the table, a position I cannot understand."

Kirton said the two-council model would almost double the Department of Internal Affairs' (DIA) affordability benchmark that water costs should not exceed 2.5% of median household income.

He also cited new information since the original 9 July decision, including a requirement from Taumata Arowai to bring forward costly wastewater treatment upgrades previously delayed for affordability reasons.



The Whanganui council had rejected price harmonisation, which would have shared costs evenly across both councils.

"There is nothing in the two-council arrangement for Ruapehu except ability to increase our debt headroom to borrow more for upgrades our people cannot afford."

Catchment together

In the public forum, Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust spokesperson Kuru Ketu said the council's role was to make decisions about water services and infrastructure, not water itself.

Making a decision on the basis of "keeping the catchment together" was "statutory overreach".

"The relationship and union of the catchment is whakapapa-based and now protected and provided for by Te Awa Tupua legislation. The catchment will remain together regardless of Local Water Done Well arrangements."

Ketu said 70% of Māori in northern Taumarunui ranked among the most deprived in the country. If people could not pay their bills, the CCO could not function.

The trust backed a larger multi-council entity for its greater borrowing capacity, cheaper debt and stronger buying power.

Deana Wilson, representing Ngāti Rangi, supported the two-council decision, highlighting iwi connection to waterways and the link between water health and community wellbeing. She said collaboration was key to finding solutions to the region's wastewater treatment challenges.

Ratepayer Marama Laurensen urged councillors to focus on practical realities

Turn to Page 2



**Birds and bats
brought to the
Mākō tuku**

Mike Maru works to install two sculptures of kākā amongst the trees on the Mākōtuku Reserve walkway in Raetihi last week. He and sculptor William Abel worked at heights to install the sculptures, which included a separate one depicting native bats. William Abel is a manufacturing jeweller from Wellington, who has property in the Raetihi area where he helps with conservation efforts. He wanted to add to the theme of birds and the bush along the river track, which already features sculptures such as the large pīwakawaka and the eels. The works were funded from a bequest from the late Jonathan Preston, who had a deep love for the town of Raetihi, especially the Mākōtuku Walkway. Graeme Berry, administrator of the bequest, said Jonathan was hugely impressed with the "huge effort the women have done there". Photo: Jude Chevin.



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Water showdown: Kirton's rethink plea rejected 7-3

Winter training for local ambulance crews

From Page 1
such as cost and community impact rather than personal or emotive views about the river.

“I don’t expect councillors to be carrying that particular responsibility. People elect you to deliver service to the community, not to use this table as a platform for your point of view or your feelings.”

Laurenson said affordability was critical in a deprived community. Without it “you don’t have the luxury of having wellbeing”, she said.

Duty
Kirton said the decision came down to a moral and financial duty.

“Do we protect our people from costs they can’t afford, or do we lock them into a model that will take money they simply don’t have?”

Councillors Brenda Ralph and Janelle Hinch backed Kirton’s position. Ralph warned higher charges would hit tenants, homeowners and businesses alike, forcing some residents to move away.

Hinch said expert advice showed larger multi-council models were the most cost-effective, and warned the two-council option could be unviable for Ruapehu and risk being overturned.

River protections were enshrined in legislation, and whakapapa to the rivers would not be severed, she said. Continuing with the two-council model would cause unnecessary hardship.

Councillor Robyn Gram originally voted to join a larger model but on Wednesday withdrew her support.

Deputy mayor Viv Hoeta stood by her original vote for the two-council CCO (council-controlled organisation). She said she valued the democratic decision already made and the partnership agreed to by both councils.

The case for affordability

was based on assumptions rather than facts, she said.

Councillor Lyn Neeson said she struggled to see how \$1000 extra would be imposed on ratepayers.

“I’m deeply concerned that the conversation over the past fortnight has put serious fear into our ratepayers that it is going to be unaffordable to live in Ruapehu.”

Neeson said all councils’ water rates would rise.

“The water improvements have to be made. They were unaffordable, that’s the reason they weren’t made. Now we have to make them.”

A higher borrowing cap, cheaper debt and more buying power were not exclusive to the larger multi-council model, she said.

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



Ambulance crews from around the region converged on the Ohakune Mountain Road last week to up their skills in alpine driving. Frontline crews from Taihape, Ohakune and Taumarunui took part in the important winter training. “The capabilities and safety features of our new Volkswagen Crafter ambulances were demonstrated across three days in snowy, muddy conditions,” says Hato Hone St John. The tests also put their Toyota Hilux response vehicle to the test. “These teams support emergency incidents at both Whakapapa and Tūroa ski fields – some of the iciest locations in the country, so this training is vital to our rural delivery. Shout out to our people in the Ruapehu area for showing such warmth in the cold.” Photo: Hato Hone St John.



Ruapehu Events & What's On

AUGUST 2025	
North Island Champs - National Points	22 - 23 August
Registrations opening soon via Snowsports New Zealand. Snowsports New Zealand www.snowsports.co.nz	
Junction Winterfest	23 August - 6 September
Winter Art Exhibition, TASCi Fundraiser, NZ Mountain Film Festival and much more. Ohakunejunction.co.nz	
SEPTEMBER 2025	
James Bond, From Russia with Love	6 September
2001: A Space Odyssey	13 September
Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid	20 September
The Sound of Music	27 September
Full details on the Theatre Facebook www.facebook.com/royal.raetihi	
Pond Skim - Whakapapa	13 September
More on this event at www.whakapapa.com	
Ruapehu Art Awards	17 September - 1 October
www.ruapehuartawards.com	
Bev Hiscox Spring Flower Show	20 September
Enquiries to Di Rout 021 657 343	
Retro Day	27 September
The Kitchen, 4 Thames St, Ohakune Junction. See Facebook page for details. #RETRODAYOHAKUNE or Ohakunejunction.co.nz	

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Eating out in the Ruapehu District

Call 06 385 8532 to list your business here

KINGS BAR & RESTAURANT	
3 Rimu St Ohakune Junction	Ph: 06 385 8648
Est in 1913, historic Kings offers an inviting menu by international chefs, a great selection of boutique wines and craft breweries including award winning Ruapehu Brewing Co beers in the fridge and on tap. See our Facebook page for what's on. Please check our open times as these will vary.	
LA PIZZERIA	
6 Thames St, Ohakune Junction	Ph: 06 385 8558
Ohakune's most famous pizza restaurant, for over 37 years we have been serving Ohakune's best pizza. Come up and see us in the "Junction" at the end of the Old Coach Road and try one of our hot, tasty, handmade pizzas. Same great menu available for takeaway. Open 7 days, 4 – late. Check us out online at: www.lapizzeria.co.nz	
LKNZ LODGE & CAFE	
1 Rata St, Ohakune	Ph: 027 257 LKNZ (5569)
Open every day. Menu includes our delicious big breakfast, creamy mushrooms, homemade soups, wedges, nachos, toasties, waffles and more ... Volcanic coffee, muffins & scones, real fruit smoothies and thick shakes. Dine in or takeaway. Onsite parking. www.lknz.co.nz	
POWDERKEG	
Bottom of the mountain road	Ph: 06 385 8888
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THE CYPRUS TREE	
79 Clyde St, Ohakune	Ph: 06 385 8857
Check out our new menu. Kiwi craft beers, boutique wines and cocktails to quench that thirst. Playroom for the kids, foozball, air hockey and spaces to keep the kids entertained. Spectacular mountain views. A great place for casual get togethers or special occasions. Open every day.	
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- Do you need to speak to someone about concerns with cognitive issues
- Do you need the support of someone who understands dementia
- Are you caring for someone with dementia
- Do you just require some information about dementia

Our Support Coordinator will be in Raetihi
Wednesday 27 August 2025
10.30am - 12.00pm

If you would like to make an appointment
Please contact Mary: Ph 022 694 4978

Ruapehu Whanganui councils sign off joint water plan

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting
Ruapehu and Whanganui District Councils have adopted a joint plan for managing drinking water, stormwater and wastewater services in the two districts under a new two-council delivery model.
The Two-Council Water Services Delivery Plan, adopted

by each council last week, will be submitted to central government by the 3 September deadline as part of the Local Water Done Well reforms.
If approved, a jointly owned Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WS-CCO) could be established by mid-2026 and fully operational by mid-2027.

The WS-CCO will take over water service delivery in both districts.

The plan follows the councils' decisions in July to form a two-council WS-CCO, intended to keep decision-making over water services and assets local while meeting national requirements to improve water quality and address infrastructure investment shortfalls.

Ruapehu District Council chief executive Clive Manley said the plan provides a roadmap for delivering high-quality water services in the two districts.

"Council officers will now work together to deliver on our implementation plan to create a WS-CCO that will deliver the best outcomes for our community with affordability at the forefront of our considerations," he said.

Ruapehu District Council also agreed to transfer urban stormwater assets outside

road corridors to the new entity once it is established.

Whanganui District Council chief executive David Langford acknowledged the work behind the plan.

"I want to thank staff of both councils who have worked tirelessly under tight timeframes to prepare this plan. At the same time, thanks to our operational teams, who continue to deliver high-quality water services across both districts every day," he said.

Once the plan is approved by Government, an establishment team will be appointed and a vision and values agreed for the new entity, embedding a Te Awa Tupua approach.

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



Call for Tongariro National Park to be returned to Māori

By The Hui, Ta Ao Māori News
The ariki of Tūwharetoa, Sir Tumu Te Heuheu Tūkino VIII, is calling for the return of Tongariro National Park and other taonga to Māori.

He says the tuku of the area to the Crown by his ancestor Horonuku in the 1880s has not been received or treated the way it was intended.

In an exclusive interview with *The Hui*, Te Ao Māori News, Tā Tumu says the intention of the tuku was "to bring our people together, to bring the Crown and Māoridom together."

"But also to ensure that the Tongariro Maunga was well protected. And by doing that, the Crown wasn't in support at that time in his request. So they declared the National Park over the taonga."

In 1894, Tongariro National Park was established – the first for Aotearoa, and only the fourth such park in the world.

The Crown then began a process whereby the scale of the original 2640-hectare tuku became a 25,000-hectare land block vested solely in the Crown.

As a result, the authority of Ngāti Tūwharetoa over their involvement, guardianship and protection of their taonga was, and continues to be, greatly reduced, says Sir Tumu.

In 1993, the park became the first area to be inscribed on the World Heritage List under the revised criteria describing cultural landscapes. Tā Tumu was part of those discussions.

He says the iwi of the region recognise that the area is important to the whole country.

"Its importance is for the motu, so our responsibility is beyond our tribal rohe."

"We can just look out the window at this World

Heritage site that we're trying to make sure is protected appropriately. And this is where the Crown has a role to play if the maunga is returned. You know, the tuku has been achieved, not only for Tūwharetoa, but for all the other iwi as well. And the aspiration is that the Crown will actually support and facilitate."

Tā Tumu says despite repeated attempts to discuss their aspirations, the Crown has been unresponsive.

"The relationship has never improved, if I can put it that way. It's a tone that we continually bring forward in the hope that the Crown will, at some stage, do what's right ... Doing what's right is about working collectively for the benefit of our people. The unity with the Crown and with our people, it will never change."

But he continues to believe they will find a way forward.

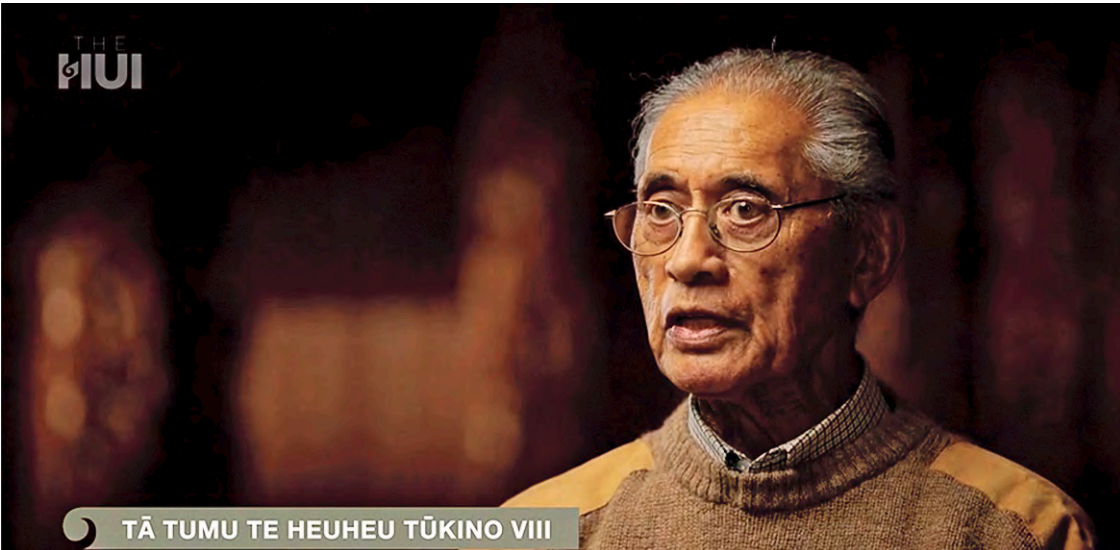
"I have to say yes, as difficult as it might be at this stage. But the Crown is there not only for itself, for Parliament, but also for the people. It has a role in that area. Tūwharetoa and the other iwi will continue to pursue what is appropriate for the maunga. And hopefully, at some stage, the Crown will concede. And agree to work together with Tūwharetoa. The Prime Minister was due to travel here to touch base, but I haven't seen him yet."

He has been "disappointed" by the current government's attitude to Te Tiriti.

Tā Tumu, who is in his eighties, has been unwell. "I had a fall some time ago. The results of that fall are still with me. In other words, the pain continues."

He believes the battle for Tongariro will be his last great fight.

The ariki says if the Crown refuses to engage, they will head to the courts.



Sir Tumu Te Heuheu Tūkino VIII – calls for the return of Tongariro National Park to Māori.

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Credibility

I am pleased that the Ruapehu District Council have managed to get our water aligned with Whanganui. It makes sense as we are all in the same catchment area.

It is also a small step in the right direction as I see the RDC merged totally with Whanganui. RDC no longer have the numbers to warrant a let's stand alone regardless of cost attitude.

Whanganui have just posted a 2.2% rate hike, the lowest in Australasia and it shows what can be achieved when you have a mayor with strong leadership skills and in there for the right reason. He is ably assisted by a CEO with the same attributes. Contrast that with what we have currently in the Ruapehu you couldn't put them in the same paddock let alone the same room.

Ruapehu's mayor Weston Kirton seems pleased to announce a rate hike of 9% as if that is some sort of win. Kirton is stalling on explaining what happened regards the \$700,000 budget blowout – that's a question that in fairness to all the candidates and all the voters, needs answering before the election. Kirton has time to claw back some semblance of credibility prior to the election by answering that question, to ignore it will be at his own peril.

Jim Shore
Editor's note: this letter is abridged.

Overspend

Ruapehu district farmers are disgusted to learn their council intends borrowing money to cover an overspend – a bit like putting the grocery bills on the mortgage.

Ruapehu District Council blew its parks and reserves budget by \$700,000 in the previous financial year and has decided to cover this unbudgeted spending by borrowing.

That will leave ratepayers to pick up the tab for this slack performance – not just paying back the loan but also the interest. Add that to rates increases already projected.

It's one bad decision after another.
It's all very well for the mayor to brush it off by ordering the council's senior management team to conduct an internal review of their own bad and lazy habits. Insult on insult, ratepayers will also pick up the cost of bringing in an external consultant to help with this review.
I strongly suspect we'll just get a lot of

blather and spin-doctoring from the whole exercise.

Heads should be on the chopping block at Ruapehu District Council for this.

The last thing farmers and other ratepayers need is a general rate increase to cover the costs of council borrowing money to pay for council overspending.

A parks and recreation overspend ... if it weren't so serious for ratepayers, it sounds like a script for the US sitcom of the same name.

If farmers need to borrow money from a bank, we can't simply defray the cost by hiding behind a legislative power to rate others.

Having the power to tax other people comes with responsibility and duty of care – a duty which this council doesn't appear to take seriously.

It's not good enough for the council to meekly mutter 'whoopsy, we made a mistake' and brush it under an expensive ratepayer-funded carpet. They should be tightening their belt and reducing this year's operating expenses by \$700,000 to cover the overspend.

If that means letting go of staff, then it should be a few higher-paid staff at the top of the food chain, so that there is less impact on actual council work delivery.

Robert Gray, president, Federated Farmers Ruapehu

Ruapehu District Council replies

Tightening our belt and reducing spending is exactly what council is doing.

Since the overspend was identified, Council staff have acted swiftly to reduce costs.

This focus by staff on finding savings and cost optimisation across the organisation, means the additional borrowing has been largely offset.

Thanks to these efforts, our unaudited draft year-end financials indicate Council's debt position at 30 June is tracking in line what was forecast in the Long-Term Plan.

It is important to note that it was Council staff – who are also ratepayers – that raised the red flag.

They have been proactive in seeking answers and in implementing stronger systems to prevent a recurrence.

It is also noted that the additional expenditure incurred, while unbudgeted in 2024/25, was

Letters

not unnecessary or wasted cost but delivered some important maintenance and community outcomes.

Council is also committed to maintaining the rates revenue increases in line with those consulted in the Long-Term Plan.

Council has been transparent throughout. The investigation is being conducted in public, with independent oversight, and a detailed report presented to, and accepted by the Risk and Assurance Committee.

Final audited Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2025 are scheduled to be adopted in October 2025.

This has been an all-of-Council effort that reflects our commitment to accountability and responsible stewardship of ratepayer money.
Quentin Speers, executive manager finance

Trying

I would like to thank Mayor Weston Kirton, councillors Hinch and Ralph, Māori Ward candidate Ketu and ratepayer Marama Laurenson for trying to get council to change its mind about going with the most expensive water option of joining with Whanganui alone in favour of joining a larger and much cheaper four or five council model.

Despite the overwhelming more expensive evidence against the two-council model, councillors Neeson, Hoeta, Gram, Iwikau, Hadley-Chase, Wilson and Nottage stuck with their emotive Whanganui-alone model.

Their core arguments revolved around that "money isn't everything", it's all unaffordable (so let's go with the most expensive option), it was being anti-democratic for bringing the issue back to the table (when council's standing orders allow it) or it was embarrassing with Whanganui Council, who couldn't care less about Ruapehu ratepayers.

Unfortunately, Councillor Hinch is not standing in the up-and-coming election but Mayor Kirton, councillor Ralph and Māori Ward candidate Ketu are. Please be wise and give your votes to the candidates who genuinely care about the financial wellbeing of all of the people in the Ruapehu district.
Helen Graaf.

Lotto win in Raetihi

A Lotto player has won \$19,575 on their ticket bought in Raetihi in the draw on Saturday night. They are one of 13 players to win the Second Division prize.

The player also won Powerball Second Division, taking their total winnings to \$27,564. The winning ticket was sold at Four Square Raetihi.

Bats in the Makotuku trees



A steel sculpture depicting native New Zealand bats is something to spot on Raetihi's Makotuku Walkway. See story Page 1. Photo: Jude Chevin.

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

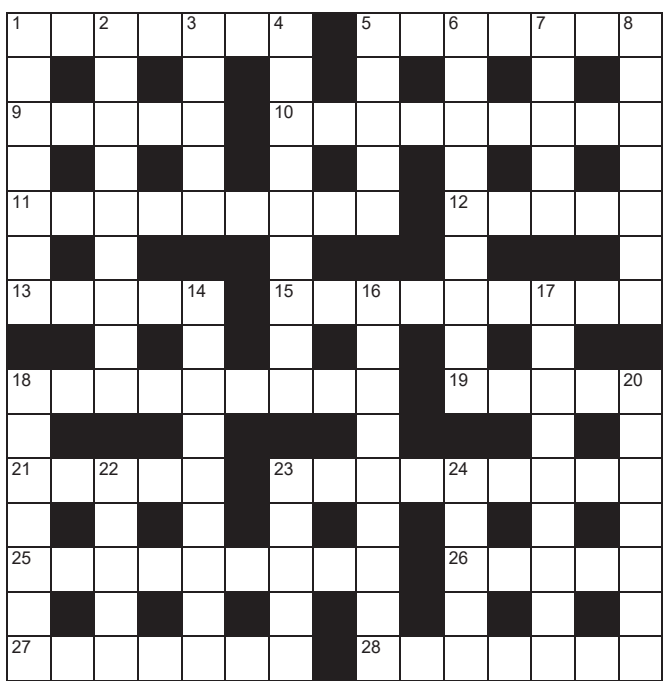
QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

- 1. Smouldering (7)
- 5. Worrier (7)
- 9. Relative (5)
- 10. Determine (9)
- 11. Reckless (9)
- 12. The whole amount (5)
- 13. Descend (5)
- 15. Out of bounds, forbidden (3-6)
- 18. Buyer (9)
- 19. Obscene (5)
- 21. Spanish red wine (5)
- 23. Good journey (Fr) (3,6)
- 25. Gruelling (9)
- 26. State one's view (5)
- 27. Climbing frame (7)
- 28. News (7)

Down

- 1. Outdoor timepiece (7)
- 2. Defeat (9)
- 3. Bungling (5)
- 4. Alluring (9)
- 5. Concentrate (5)
- 6. Certainty (4,5)
- 7. Braid (5)
- 8. Knots (7)



- 14. Practice session (9)
- 16. Two weeks (9)
- 17. Seclusion (9)
- 18. Low rooftop wall (7)
- 20. Pierces (7)
- 22. Snow leopard (5)
- 23. Ecstasy (5)
- 24. Egg-shaped (5)



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Puzzles © The Puzzle Company

THE TOP 10

- 1. Whooping cough, 2. 15, 3. Peach and plum, 4. Longer (about 1.15 miles), 5. Sailor, 6. Rooster, 7. Steven Spielberg, 8. The Taj Mahal, 9. Hamilton, 10. Brass.

SUDOKU

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

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

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

2 EASY

The Top 10

- 1. Is pertussis usually called bronchitis, whooping cough, or earache?
- 2. How many pieces does each player have in backgammon?
- 3. A nectarine is a cross between which two fruits?
- 4. Is a nautical mile longer or shorter than a land mile?
- 5. Astronaut comes from Greek words meaning star and ... ?
- 6. Which animal is on the jerseys of many French sports teams?
- 7. Which film director appears in *The Blues Brothers* as a clerk?
- 8. What did a Mughal emperor order built in 1631 to house the tomb of his wife?
- 9. *My Shot* and *The Room Where It Happens* are songs from which musical?
- 10. A brazier is a smith who works with what material?

CROSSWORD

Ounce, 23. Bliss, 24. Ovoid. 17. Isolation, 18. Parapet, 20. Skewers, 22. Plait, 8. Tangles, 14. Rehearsal, 16. Fortnight, 4. Glamorous, 5. Focus, 6. Sure thing, 7. Down: 1. Sundial, 2. Overpower, 3. Inept, 26. Opine, 27. Trellis, 28. Tiddings. 21. Rioja, 23. Bon voyage, 25. Punishing, 15. Off-limits, 18. Purchaser, 19. Gross, Ascertains, 11. Impetuous, 12. Total, 13. Lower, 10. Niece, 9. Fusspot, 5. Smoking, 1. ACROSS: 1. Smouldering, 5. Worrier, 9. Relative, 10. Determine, 11. Reckless, 12. The whole amount, 13. Descend, 15. Out of bounds, forbidden, 18. Buyer, 19. Obscene, 21. Spanish red wine, 23. Good journey, 25. Gruelling, 26. State one's view, 27. Climbing frame, 28. News.																	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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9	8	5	1	7	3	4	2	6	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
3	6	7	8	4	2	9	5	1	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
2	1	4	6	5	9	3	8	7	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

Power firm wins innovation award

A local power company has won the Innovation Award at the 2025 Energy Excellence Awards, and the company's chief says they are "fizzing" with pride at the achievement.

The Lines Company's game-changing use of helisaw technology to keep trees away from powerlines has earned them the Innovation Award; alongside partner Lakeview Helicopters, who own the saws.

"Together with Lakeview Helicopters, we're transforming vegetation management with helisaw technology," said chief executive Mike Fox.

"Using saws suspended from helicopters, we're trimming trees near power lines faster, safer and more cost-effectively than ever before."

In rugged, remote terrain, this innovation reduces risk to arborists and ground crews, saves time and protects communities from outages and fire hazards.

"It's a game-changer for the electricity and forestry sectors – keeping power flowing and people safe," said Fox.

Brad Williams, CEO of Lakeview Helicopters is proud to bring this technology to New Zealand.

"It's proven to be safe, reliable and cost-effective; transforming the way we manage trees, not just for the energy sector, but for other sectors as well," said Williams.

TLC's commitment to staff wellbeing also earned them a spot as a finalist for the Wellbeing Award.

"While we didn't win this award, we're extremely proud of our wellbeing programme that was co-designed with staff. It provides a holistic approach to staff wellbeing that supports lifestyle, growth and community and truly redefines what it means to care.

"We've been on our wellbeing journey for six years. Today we have a thriving team, a 43-point improvement in employee net promoter score and a workplace where people love to work. It is only with happy and energised staff that we can deliver our very best for our customers.

"Our congratulations to the team at Powerco for their win in this category," said Fox.

The annual industry event recognises achievement, innovation and excellence throughout the energy sector.



Helisaw technology is a game changer for managing vegetation.



The TLC team is fizzing over winning the Innovation Award at the 2025 Energy Excellence Awards. From left, TLC staff: Romay Rundgren, Yvette Ronaldson (Waitomo Energy Services Trust), Bella Takiari-Brame (TLC board chair), Michelle Polglase (Ara Ake general manager of projects delivery), Jill Searancke, Jason Gaukrodger, Minister Shane Jones (Associate Minister of Energy), Craig Donaldson, Mike Fox (TLC chief executive), Simon Batters, Kerry Fabrie, Liam Foster and Gerhard Buitendach.

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

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NEW LISTING



Ohakune 13 Ruapehu Road

Lifestyle property with mountain views!

For sale by Auction, 12pm Fri 12 Sept (unless sold prior) Bayleys Whanganui, 158 Wicksteed Street, Whanganui.

Step into a unique slice of Ohakune's history with this versatile lifestyle property, home to the town's very first carrot washing shed. Set on 1.8 hectares (more or less) of flat, fully fenced land, this is an exceptional opportunity to secure space, infrastructure, and stunning views - all just minutes from the Ohakune town centre.

bayleys.co.nz/2900808

1.88 ha 3 1 1

Auction (unless sold prior) 12pm, Fri 12 Sep 2025

158 Wicksteed Street, Whanganui

Jenny Dekker 027 455 5674

jenny.dekker@bayleys.co.nz

BARTLEY REAL ESTATE LTD, BAYLEYS, LICENSED REAA 2008



SOLD

Rangataua 34 Kaha Street

6,617 sqm 3 1 2

For Sale

Antony Greenfield 021 102 3594

antony.greenfield@bayleys.co.nz

BARTLEY REAL ESTATE LTD, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008

Home, workshop and opportunity!

Set on a generous 6,617sqm (more or less) flat section, this versatile property offers a unique blend of residential living and rural outlook in the peaceful village of Rangataua, just 6km from Ohakune. The property features a solid, three-bedroom bungalow representing a great starting point with scope to renovate and add value. The standout feature is the massive 18m x 10m (more or less) workshop.

bayleys.co.nz/2900783



SOLD

Ohakune 96B Mangawhero Terrace

3 1 1 1

For Sale

Jenny Dekker 027 455 5674

jenny.dekker@bayleys.co.nz

BARTLEY REAL ESTATE LTD, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008

Affordable opportunity!

Tucked away on a private rear section, 96B Mangawhero Terrace offers great value for first-home buyers, downsizers, or savvy DIYers looking to add their touch. This three-bedroom home features open-plan kitchen, dining, and living warmed by a woodburner - perfect for those chilly Ohakune nights. Outside, you'll find an easy-care section with a carport, garden shed, and room to potter or relax.

bayleys.co.nz/2900799



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At Bayleys, we know the land because we were raised on it. We live and breathe this region, deeply connected to every hectare, from the productive hill country to the fertile flats. We understand it like the back of our calloused hands.

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Spring is traditionally the busiest time of year in real estate, but the smart ones list early. Getting your property to market now means beating the seasonal rush and giving it the best chance to shine while buyer competition builds.

Our marketing campaigns are sharply targeted, our reach is national, and our results speak for themselves. From sheep and beef to dairy, horticulture, or lifestyle, Bayleys brings the horsepower to take your property to market and get it sold.

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#1

RURAL REAL ESTATE BRAND

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Elvis has left the building better than before

The 48th anniversary of the passing of the ‘King’ was marked at the Royal Theatre in Raetihi on Saturday night, when audiences were treated to a light-hearted, crowd-pleasing Elvis tribute show. With the swivel of his hips and the flash of a rhinestone jumpsuit, ‘Elvis’ lit up the stage at The Royal Theatre.

Elvis was brought back to life with humour, energy and plenty of crowd interaction.

“There may not have been the bright lights of Vegas, but it was clear that ‘Elvis’ had done his homework — delivering strong vocals, silk scarves and a few gyrations, he kept the audience clapping, laughing, and sometimes swivelling along,” said Abigail Bitoun on behalf of the Theatre Trust.

The night was also about celebrating the reopening of The Royal Theatre itself. After months of dedicated restoration, the 110-year-old venue was unveiled with its newly-refurbished auditorium, showcasing carefully repaired interiors, upgraded insulation throughout the walls, fully restored lighting fixtures, and a ceiling renewed by striking detail in gold.

The last screening at the theatre was the first James Bond movie “Dr No.” Since then, the theatre has been closed and the builders and decorators and painters have taken over.

The Theatre Trust applied for funding from the Lotteries Commission to completely refurbish the auditorium and was granted \$100,000 to do the job.

In the last three months the inside of the theatre has been relined and completely redecorated. There is new lighting and the walls have been relined to provide

better sound production and insulation to improve the warmth of the theatre. The heat pumps are still there. A new colour scheme provides refreshed decor but retains the historical feel of the building.

“In spite of all the recent updates to the theatre, keeping a building like this alive takes a lot of work and the Royal’s next phase is to update the stage’s lighting and the sound system,” says Abigail.

“This has been a real team effort,” said a member of the volunteer committee.

“Countless hours of work have gone into the restoration, our chair has worked tirelessly hunting down grants in order to make this all possible. Everything we do is driven by a love of our community and the belief that Raetihi deserves a venue like this.”

After the event, audience members left buzzing, commenting on the performance but also on how good it felt to have a warm and welcoming theatre for live entertainment.

With its long history and a fresh new chapter beginning, The Royal Theatre is stepping back into the spotlight as a gathering place for the community.

“Elvis has left the building, but in Raetihi he reminded us of how meaningful it is when people come together.”

In September there will be a film month including some old favourites like the second Jame Bond movie “From Russia With Love” so there will be plenty of opportunities to experience the new-look Royal Theatre, going strong since its beginning in 1915.

Keep an eye on future issues of the *Bulletin* for updates on what’s next at The Royal Theatre.



The King at the Royal: an Elvis impersonator was the star on Saturday, meeting a group of Theatre Trust fans.



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

TASCI film for funds

What better way to raise funds for a ski club than to show a movie about skiing from the legendary Warren Miller production house?

Tūroa Alpine Ski Club Incorporated (TASCI) is holding a fundraising film night this month (see advertisement this issue), featuring *Warren Miller 75*. The title refers to the 75th-anniversary film in the long-running Warren Miller Entertainment series of ski and snowboard films. The film celebrates the milestone with a focus on both established snowsports legends and emerging athletes, showcasing breathtaking scenery and action from around the world.

“75” takes viewers to various locations, including Canada, Colorado, Utah, Finland, Japan, Austria, and New

Jersey, highlighting diverse snowsports experiences. The film features a mix of established stars like Shaun White, Jeremy Jones, Danny Davis, and Toby Miller, alongside rising talents.

It includes 10 all-new segments, delivering over 80 minutes of action, scenery and storytelling.

The movie night fundraiser at the Matterhorn is sponsored by La Pizzeria, Ohakune.

Ski training

The TASCI programme in Ohakune provides introductory ski and snowboard training for children and adults in the Waimarino area. The programme focuses on introducing participants to the sport and potentially equipping them with skills

Turn to Page 9

Creative Communities

Grant Funding applications now OPEN

If you are involved with any activity or project that increases participation in the arts or culture at a local level you may be eligible for grant funding support. For more info: (inc. application forms) see Council’s website: ruapehudc.govt.nz (or use the QR code) or call Candice on 07 895 8188.



Anderson Memorials: Honouring Families for Over a Century

When the time comes to honour a loved one, Anderson Memorials has the skills, equipment, and care to help families create lasting tributes.

Founded in 1914 by Andrew Peter Anderson (AP), the business has been serving Whanganui, Manawātū, Rangitikei, Wairarapa and South Taranaki for more than 110 years. Today, Tony Anderson leads the family business, continuing the legacy of craftsmanship and compassion. Tony takes pride in helping families and ensures his team stays highly skilled and qualified. Anderson Memorials has been part of the Master

Monumental Masons Association (NZMMA) since its beginnings, with Tony's great-grandfather LP one of the founding members.

All work is carried out locally, with the head office in Whanganui and additional offices in Feilding and Palmerston North. Families are welcome to visit the stores to get guidance in choosing the right memorial for their loved one.

The craft has been handed down through generations, evolving with new methods and technology. Early memorials were shaped with hammers, chisels, and hand-drawn lettering.

Today, the team uses advanced tools such as a CNC Autoblaster for precise engraving, while still relying on traditional skills when restoring older pieces in cemeteries.

Materials have also changed over time. While marble was once common, granite is now the preferred choice.

"It's an exceptional natural stone available in many colours from quarries around the world," Tony explains.

"It can be shaped into both traditional and modern designs and its durability means gilding

or paintwork lasts much longer than on marble."

Reaching 111 years in business is a remarkable milestone. Tony believes the key lies in a mix of qualified tradesmen, quality materials, and genuine care for families.

"We are here to help people through a difficult time and support them in finding closure after a bereavement," he says.

With Anderson Memorials, families can trust their memories will be honoured with quality and respect.



Andersons 1st truck 1929, from left, George Ealman, Nelson, Andrew Peter, Jack Check.



Andersons Memorials have transformed these headstones in Raetihi.



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Letters

Candidates write

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.

Ruapehu rural wards

• When the Council restructured to include Māori wards, it opened a rare window, one that only comes around every six years in local government. It was the perfect moment to also create a rural ward. But that opportunity was missed.

The agricultural sector comprises 21% of our local economy, worth 13.4 million dollars. Our farms contribute the lion's share of our rates. Rural wards ensure that rural communities have dedicated representation on the council, which can be particularly important for areas where the population density is lower and might be difficult for a rural candidate to get elected without a dedicated ward. Bringing the voice of our largest industry sector to the table would be of enormous benefit to the Council.

Rural communities face distinct issues, including limited access to public transport, slower internet connectivity, fewer healthcare services, and infrastructure that often lags behind our townships. These challenges require tailored solutions, not one-size-fits-all policies. A rural ward would empower elected representatives who understand these realities firsthand, enabling more responsive

governance and equitable resource allocation.

Moreover, rural residents are stewards of the land. They manage farms, forests, and conservation areas that sustain the district's economy and environment. Their perspectives on land use, climate resilience, and sustainable development are crucial to shaping Ruapehu's future. Without a rural ward, these insights risk being sidelined.

Creating a rural ward strengthens democracy. It ensures that council representation reflects the geographic and demographic diversity of the district. When people see their communities represented, they're more likely to engage with local government, fostering trust and participation.

Ultimately, a rural ward isn't just about fairness — it's about building a council that truly serves all of Ruapehu. By giving rural communities a seat at the table, we honour their contributions and invest in a more inclusive, balanced, and resilient district. It takes a team to govern Ruapehu.

John Chapman

Water decision

• On Wednesday 13 August, seven councillors voted in favour of joining with Whanganui in establishing a two-council controlled organisation (CCO) for our water infrastructure. Each councillor made their decision for different reasons, but all with the community's best interests at heart.

Throughout this process we have carefully listened to advice from staff and independent experts, weighing the short, medium, and long-term implications. We are confident that the decision made is the most appropriate for our community. This has now been debated and voted on twice, with every councillor independently considering the enormity and consequences of the choice before

us. This was democracy in action — and it was the right decision.

A two-council CCO gives our community an equal 50% say in how the organisation is structured and run, rather than a small 25% voice in a larger body where Ruapehu would be the smallest and most isolated member. We also share strong historic, cultural, and whānau ties with Whanganui, through both our councils and our river.

Some have suggested that larger organisations automatically deliver greater savings, through bulk purchasing or contractor access. But those opportunities are not exclusive to size — and in fact, working closely with Whanganui while retaining flexibility to partner with other neighbours may well work to our advantage.

The urgency of our water challenges cannot be overstated. Four wastewater plants require upgrades, with expired consents that could not be addressed until 2033 under current affordability constraints. Under the new CCO model, however, we will have the ability to borrow responsibly, with Whanganui agreeing that our wastewater plants will be the first priority. This will mean an increase in water rates sooner rather than later, but importantly, it will likely be cheaper in the long run, as we avoid the heavy impact of inflation. By 2027, the CCO should be fully operational: ratepayers connected to water will pay water rates directly to the CCO, while their council rates will decrease as the targeted water rates are removed.

This is a significant step for our community, one made with careful thought, robust debate, and a clear eye on both present needs and future generations.

Viv Hoeata, Lyn Neeson, Rabbit Nottage, Robyn Gram

Trapped on cable car

Three people and two dogs were rescued after a private cable car broke down above the Whanganui River on Sunday.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand services and police were called to the scene along Whanganui River Road around 5pm.

“Three people and two dogs are trapped in a private cable car that suspends above the river,” a Fire and Emergency spokesperson told 1News at the time.

The group has since been brought to safety.

TASCI film

From Page 7

applicable to the winter sports industry. TASCI offers heavily subsidised packages including lessons, equipment rental, and lift passes.

The TASCI ski programme is beginner-focused, introducing them to the basics of skiing and snowboarding. TASCI heavily subsidises the programme, making it accessible to the local community.

The programme aims to develop skills beyond introductory levels, potentially leading to employment in the winter sports industry.

For more information, visit the TASCI Facebook page or go to the fundraiser and talk to one of the committee.



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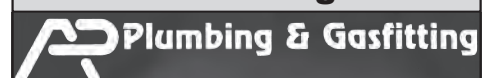
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PUBLIC NOTICES

Raetihi Ohakune Garden Club

Sunday 24 August

Making Floral Art

New members welcome.

Contact Di 021 165 7343.



Lyn Neeson for Mayor

Inclusive Leadership
Financial Accountability
Economic Diversity

Please phone if you want a chat
07 896 7659

Authorised by Lyn Neeson

PUBLIC NOTICES

Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012
Ruapehu Brewing Ltd have made an application to the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council for the **Renewal of an Off Licence** in respect of the premises situated at **27 Goldfinch Street, Ohakune** and known as **Ruapehu Brewing**. The general nature of the business to be conducted under the licence is that of a **Bottle Store**. The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is intended to be sold under the licence are: **Wednesday to Sunday – 1.00pm – 7.00pm**

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 only publication of this notice.

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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



Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngati Rangi School Board Elections

Parent Election Results Declaration

At the close of nominations, as the number of valid nominations was equal to the number of vacancies required to be filled,

I hereby declare the following duly elected:

Morgan Chaana
Te Riaki Whare
Wikohika Peter

Staff Representative

At the close of nominations as there was only one valid nomination

I hereby declare the following duly elected:

Kaire Mareikura

Signed

Kay Sutton, Returning Officer

PUBLIC NOTICES

Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

Miro Street Liquor Limited has made an application to the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council for the **issue of an Off Licence** in respect of the premises situated at **8 Miro Street, Ohakune** known as **Liquorland (Ohakune)**. The general nature of the business to be conducted under the licence is that of a **Bottle Store**. The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is intended to be sold under the licence are: **Monday – Sunday 9.00am – 10.00pm**.
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 issue of a licence may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in section 105(1) of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.
This is the second publication of this notice. The first notice was published on 13 August 2025.

BUSINESS NOTICES

NEED ADVICE?



Contact the CAB on 07 878 7636 or email: tekuiti@cab.org.nz

PUBLIC NOTICES

REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT PLAN 2021-31 (2024 Review) and REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT PLAN 2022-32 (2025 Variation)

Notice is given, under section 108 of the Land Transport Management Act 2003, that Horizons Regional Council formally approved minor variations to the Regional Land Transport Plan 2021-31 (2024 Review) and Regional Public Transport Plan 2022-32 on 25 March 2025.

Copies of these documents are available to view as follows:

- www.horizons.govt.nz
- from Horizons' offices in **Palmerston North** (11-15 Victoria Avenue), **Whanganui** (181 Guyton Street), **Marton** (19 Hammond Street) **Woodville** (116 Vogel Street)
- by calling Freephone 0508 800 800.

M J McCartney
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



horizons.govt.nz



The Royal Theatre Raetihi
Community Entertainment

23 Seddon Street
Raetihi 4632

Come and see the theatre & Notice of Annual General Meeting

Theatre Royal (Waimarino) Charitable Trust
Saturday 30 August 2025 at 4.00pm
Being held at The Royal Theatre, Raetihi
23 Seddon Street, Raetihi

The trust welcomes all to come and see the newly refurbished auditorium at the theatre and our vision for the future, the theatre will open at 3.00pm for viewing **AGM at 4.00pm**

Agenda

Welcome / Karakia
Apologies
Acceptance of 2024 minutes
Matters arising
Financial report / Draft
Matters arising from the financial report
Acceptance of financial statement
Chairpersons report
Matters arising
Vision / Direction of the theatre
New Trustees. Committee members
Election of Officers, Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary.
Any other business
Meeting close
Anyone wanting any information on becoming a trustee, committee member or volunteer
Please email to theatreroyalraetihi@gmail.com
or call the number below.
Contact Gary on 021 319968

PUBLIC NOTICES



Āti Hau-Whanganui Incorporation

Nominations to the Committee of Management

Āti Hau-Whanganui Incorporation advises that nominations to the Committee of Management are required to be received at the Āti Hau-Whanganui Incorporation Office, P O Box 4035, Whanganui by 4pm on Tuesday 30th September 2025.

Three (3) places are required to be filled due to Committee of Management members retiring by rotation.

This appointment will be for a period of three years.

The Committee of Management are elected by Shareholders and are responsible for setting the strategic direction for the Incorporation. They are also responsible for monitoring how the strategy is being implemented.

While you are not required to be a shareholder of the Incorporation to stand, your application must be accompanied by a nomination from a shareholder or representative of a shareholder.

The candidate must include a recent digital photo and a personal statement of no more than 300 words explaining why they are seeking election onto the Committee of Management, as well as their relevant skills and expertise.

A nomination form will be available on the Āti Hau-Whanganui Incorporation website **www.atihau.com** or alternatively, **contact the office on 06 3487213 or email office@atihau.com**.

Paul Maguire, Secretary
PO Box 4035, 35 Drews Avenue, Whanganui

PUBLIC NOTICES

Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

Ohakune Brewers Ltd have made an application to the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council for the **Variation of an On Licence** in respect of the premises situated at **17 Goldfinch Street, Ohakune** known as **Big Mountain Mead, Big Mountain Burgers**. **The Variation of Conditions refers to the following: That the licenced area be extended to include the adjacent site formerly occupied by Kombi Coffee.**

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: **Wednesday to Sunday: 10.00am – 10.00pm**
The application may 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.

For everything Ohakune, visit
www.ohakune.info

Wild goat hunting competition returns

Wild goats are in the sights of the Department of Conservation (DOC) and the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA) as they announce the return of the National Wild Goat Hunting Competition – a nationwide initiative to raise awareness of the environmental and agricultural damage caused by wild goats.

Running from 1 August to 26 November 2025, the competition encourages hunters and landowners across Aotearoa New Zealand to tackle the growing wild goat population.

Wild goats are prolific breeders and pose a serious threat to native biodiversity and farmland. This competition is a practical and rewarding way for communities to contribute to conservation efforts while enjoying the outdoors.

Already, ten landowners have registered their interest with the competition to get help reducing wild goat numbers on their land. Many are motivated not just by wild goat control, but by the opportunity to support conservation.

Doug Jacobs, an NZDA member, took part in the 2024 competition with a focus on hunting responsibly on private land.

“I put up a light-hearted post on our local (social media)

page,” Doug says. “I mentioned the DOC/NZDA National Wild Goat Hunting Competition, my NZDA membership, and the protections that come with it. I also talked about the Landowner Assist process, which helps set clear ground rules between hunters and landowners.”

The Landowner Assist process, developed by NZDA, with input from DOC, Federated Farmers, and Forestry Owners Association, provides a clear framework for safe and respectful hunting on private property. It covers access boundaries, carcass disposal and meat handling — ensuring transparency and trust. Landowners can view the Landowner Assist document online via the National Wild Goat Hunting Competition website to see how it works and what to expect.

Doug’s post caught the attention of a landowner dealing with wild goats crossing over from a neighbouring property.

“We met up and went through the Landowner Assist document together,” Doug explains. “We covered where I could hunt, what to do with the carcasses, and how we’d handle the meat. It was all very straightforward.”

The landowner later told Doug that without

the professional framework provided by NZDA and the Landowner Assist documentation, they wouldn’t have responded at all. That trust and clarity made all the difference.

Just a week later, Doug had four goat tails to submit for the competition, nine kilograms of salami on the way, and plans for a few hearty curries.

“It was a rewarding experience,” he says. “Not just for the meat, but for the connection it built and the contribution to managing a local wild goat problem.”

The National Wild Goat Hunting Competition is about more than just hunting — it’s about protecting native ecosystems, supporting farmers, and encouraging responsible community involvement.

This year, the competition has the private landowner category open again. Landowners who register can be paired with vetted NZDA hunters and go in the draw to win over \$3200 worth of prizes from Bushnell and Hunting & Fishing NZ Ltd.


The hunter categories also have prizes, including gear from Hunting & Fishing NZ, thermal monoculars from Nocpix, a tent from



Goats are in the sights of hunters for a nationwide competition.

M.I.A, binoculars from Bushnell, freeze dried meals from Real Meals, a wild goat hunt with the NZ Hunter crew, and more —over \$70,000 worth of prizes.

“We want to see wild goat hunting become a regular feature in the hunting calendar,” says Mike Perry, wild animals manager at DOC.



Rabbit Nottage - standing for Ruapehu District Council

Always happy for a chat - maybe about waters & overspends!

Authorised by Rabbit Nottage

SITUATIONS VACANT

ADVENTURE HOSTS WANTED!



As one of New Zealand’s leading tourism operators, we pride ourselves on giving all of our guests an unforgettable experience – with our mantra being to treat them as we would guests in our own homes.

So ahead of our upcoming season (Oct-May) we’re hiring for the following **host** roles:

TOUR GUIDES
SAFETY CONDUCTORS
BUS DRIVERS
FOOD HEROES/LUNCHIES

We have full and part time roles available with full training provided. For more detail visit the career page www.fwa.co.nz/careers. And if you’re passionate about our special part of othe world and keen to join our talented and friendly team, please send your CV and cover letter to: careers@fwa.co.nz



Jess drops in

Jess Hotter, world champion freeride skier, dropped in to her home town ski area – Tūroa – last week to enjoy a bit of fresh powder. Photo: Pure Tūroa.

Geography and skiing on the maunga

Eye on Ruapehu College, contributed by staff and students
Ruapehu College's Level 2 Geography students headed for the hill for a field trip along the Ohakune Mountain

Road last week, where they conducted research at five different locations.
They investigated altitudinal zonation by collecting data at various elevations and examining how environmental



Ruapehu College geography students headed up the Ohakune Mountain Road last week to investigate altitudinal zonation. Photo: Ruapehu College.

factors change with increasing altitude, explains social science teacher Conor Whitehead.

Students gathered a range of data, including tree height, soil depth, erosion and dominant plant species.

"They were fortunate to have beautiful weather and the snow at two of the sites provided a welcome distraction."

Students will now begin presenting their findings as part of their upcoming assessment task.

Skiing going

Ski Academy officially got underway last week and there was plenty of excitement as students finally got the chance to hit the slopes. The programme was meant to start earlier in the term, but the first week was cancelled due to bad weather and the week after brought strong winds that closed the upper slope and limited time on the snow.

"Still, the students showed real tenacity," said Meredith Wilson, ski academy teacher.

"Last week brought a huge turnaround, with perfect weather and a fresh dumping of snow just beforehand, which made for ideal conditions for skiing and boarding. There was a noticeable jump in energy and everyone made the most of their time on the mountain.

"They definitely made up for lost time and it was clear they were loving every minute of it. Students carved up the slopes, building confidence, and enjoying the chance to be out there with their friends in such incredible conditions."

Celebrating Ann Stuckey

The College celebrated a truly inspiring milestone, the 30th anniversary of teacher Ann Stuckey's arrival at the school.

"For three decades, Ann has graced our halls with her unwavering support, teaching both visual arts and mathematics, and nurturing countless students along their educational journeys," says principal Marama Allen.

"Ann's dedication goes far beyond the subjects she teaches. Her genuine kindness, warm humour and caring spirit have created a bridge between students and whanau, past and present, fostering connection, trust and a sense of belonging. The fact that her new students were joined



Ann Stuckey, pictured 30 years ago when she joined the Ruapehu College staff.

in the celebration by former students speaks volumes about the lasting impact she has made across generations.

"We honour Ann not just for her consistency and professionalism, but for embodying the heart and soul of our school community. Her classroom has always been more than a place to learn. It's a space where creativity blossoms, challenges are met with encouragement, and each individual feels seen and supported."

Kataraina's story – from uncertainty to purpose in nursing

The College features alumna Kataraina Hakaraia this week in its video focus on past pupils, who left school uncertain about her future, but chose to follow her passion to ultimately becoming a nurse working in both intensive care and paediatrics.

She shares how coming home reminds her of the strength and connection of small-town life and how foundational skills like English and communication are critical in her work. Kataraina also opens up about failure, growth and finding confidence through hard work and determination.

With a strong belief in continuous learning and Habits of Mind like empathy and a growth mindset, Kataraina proves that you don't have to have it all figured out, you just need to be willing to learn and back yourself.

Kataraina's story is a must-watch for anyone considering a career in healthcare.

PropertyBrokers

Raetihi 15A Ballance Street



Designed to delight

This well-insulated, double-glazed and renovated 2010 home offers comfort, warmth and a flexible living space in a thoughtfully designed layout. Featuring an open plan living and kitchen area, spacious bathroom with a luxurious spa bath that leads through to the drying room. On the other side of the lounge is a cozy bunk room and a separate office that opens onto a sunny deck - perfect for working from home or relaxing outdoors. Bi-fold doors off the lounge opening up to a large Macrocarpa deck with a sunken fire pit and views of Mount Ruapehu in the distance, a great place to entertain. Upstairs two separate bedrooms with elevated views.

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