



Scientists converge for eruption meet P2



Chateau petition presented P3



Artists win Ruapehu awards P9



Ruapehu NISSSC success P16

RDC condemns contractor staff aggression

Ruapehu District Council is calling out the aggression directed at workers from its community and recreational facilities contractor Green by Nature, seemingly sparked by misinformed views about the recent budget overspend, as completely unacceptable.

Executive manager infrastructure Vini Dutra said several Green by Nature staff have faced verbal abuse while carrying out routine maintenance.

"The abuse has been serious enough to be reported to Police and it must stop immediately," he said.

Dutra emphasised that contractors had no role in Council's spending decisions.

"Much of the unbudgeted work was undertaken by other suppliers, not Green by Nature.

"Targeting these crews is unfair and misguided."

He added that the ignorance and misunderstanding behind these attacks is especially frustrating given Council's successful recovery from the overspend – without adding any debt burden to ratepayers – has been widely publicised.

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At left, Dean Hosking operations manager Green by Nature with Council infrastructure executive manager Vini Dutra, who said that any aggression toward Council or contractor staff is totally unacceptable. Photo: RDC.

George's War: A personal story of survival, memory and legacy



Sue Heydon welcomes a group of Museum staff and guests to the opening of her exhibition about her father's experience as a prisoner of war. Photos: National Army Museum.

A powerful new installation, *George's War*, has opened at the National Army Museum in Waiouru, bringing to light the remarkable and harrowing journey of New Zealand soldier George William Heydon, who endured more than four years as a prisoner of war during World War II.

The exhibition created by his daughter Sue Heydon, is the culmination of extensive research over six years starting in 2019. Drawing from archives across New Zealand, Britain, Germany, Greece and Austria, together with visits to his former POW camps in Austria and Slovenia, the installation explores both the historical context and the deeply personal cost of war.

"This installation is my attempt to understand how it

was for him to experience this level of deprivation for so long," Sue said.

"George rarely talked about what he had experienced, perhaps reluctant to bring into the daylight events which haunted him in his dreams. He died on 17 February 1963, as a result of his experiences, when I was ten."

George William Heydon enlisted on 27 June 1940, despite being deaf in one ear. He married in November of that year before departing New Zealand in December with the 20th Battalion. By early 1941, George and his division were deployed to Greece. Vastly outnumbered, the Allies fell back under German assault and on 29 April

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RDC condemns staff aggression

From Page 1

“Even the Taxpayers’ Union, normally a strong critic of local government, has applauded Council’s response.” Council’s resolution of the overspend without new borrowing and all supporting information is available to the public, says RDC.

“Anyone wanting the full story can read the detailed reports, view Risk & Assurance Committee meeting videos and see Council’s media releases on our website,” Dutra said.

The next phase of Council’s investigation involves examining staff and supplier decisions and will be overseen by an independent specialist appointed jointly by the mayor and the chair of the Risk & Assurance Committee to maintain transparency and community confidence.

“Our staff and contractors are also local residents and ratepayers,” Mr Dutra added.

“They work hard for this community and deserve respect, not abuse.”

The Royal Theatre, Raetihi
Community Entertainment

The Sound of Music

Saturday 27 September – 7pm
\$15 Supper included. Bar available.
www.facebook.com/royal.raetihi

Ruapehu Events & What’s On

SEPTEMBER 2025

Way Back Wednesday **24 September**
Retro vibes on the slopes! Dress up in your best throwback ski gear and enjoy 50% off a day pass. For more information see WHAKAPAPA.COM/EVENTS

Follow the Pro Session **25 September**
Meet at the top of the Sky Waka at 2pm and join one of our Whakapapa pros for a tour of their favourite runs. For more information see WHAKAPAPA.COM/EVENTS

Retro Day **27 September**
The Kitchen, 4 Thames St, Ohakune Junction. See Facebook page for details. #RETRODAYOHAKUNE or ohakunejunction.co.nz

The Sound of Music **27 September**
Full details on the Theatre Facebook www.facebook.com/royal.raetihi

Adaptive Festival **26-28 September**
Whakapapa Adaptive Festival running over 3 days. For more information see WHAKAPAPA.COM/EVENTS

Rogue Run Event **29 September**
A fun competition for the whole mountain community. (Weather back-up: Oct 1–2). For more information see WHAKAPAPA.COM/EVENTS

Freeride Event **30 September**
Take on Bilbos in our very first Rogue Run! For more information see WHAKAPAPA.COM/EVENTS

OCTOBER 2025

NZ Mountain Film Festival **1 October**
Matterhorn Restaurant, upstairs at the Powderkeg, Ohakune Junction. See Ruapehu Bulletin for details. ohakune.info or ohakunejunction.co.nz Fundraiser for Predator Free Ohakune

The Ladylike Movement **4 October**
Visit www.pureturoa.nz or on Facebook/Instagram [@turoa.nz](https://www.instagram.com/turoa.nz) for up to date information.

Ossies Open tournament **3 & 4 October**
Enter via NZ Squash website or via the Ohakune Squash Club facebook page.

Ohura Open Day & Sculpture Unveiling **5 October**
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Eruption conference: what they’ll be talking about

Ruapehu 30 years on: A Volcano Science and Risk Management Workshop – the conference planned for this weekend, includes two public talks at 6.30pm on Saturday evening at the Ohakune Primary School hall.

The first is ‘The 1995-1996 Ruapehu eruption - an overview’, by Brad Scott (Volcanologist, Earth Science NZ (formally GNS Science):

- The episode of eruptive activity in 1995 and again in 1996 from Mt Ruapehu was to be the largest volcanic eruption in New Zealand since 1945. This was the first time modern NZ was exposed to widespread volcanic ashfall and prolonged eruptive activity. The public and sectors like agriculture, aviation, electricity, health, transport, water supplies, emergency management, National Park authorities (DOC), skifield operations and monitoring scientists all had to adapt quickly.

For many, the 1995 eruption of Mt Ruapehu is seen as the 23 September explosion; shooting ballistics (flying rocks) into the sky with plumes of hot ash and steam and lahars flowing into the Whakapapa skifield. However, this likely started in Dec 2024 when Te Wai ā-moe (Ruapehu Crater Lake) heated to over 50°C, one of the hottest ever recorded temperatures. In June-July 1995 small eruptions destroyed a data logger installation at the outlet of the lake. The next phase of eruptions started on 18 September when lahars destroyed a bridge on the Round the Mountain track and yet another lahar producing eruption on 20 September. Scientists visited the lake on the 21st. This activity set the scene for the iconic explosion on 23 September.

Multiple explosive eruptions through the crater lake slowly removed the lake (September–October). October 11-12 and 14 saw the climax of the 1995 phase, when under the cover of darkness very large explosive eruptions generated ash charged plumes that deposited volcanic ash across significant portions of the eastern North Island. New Zealand’s first significant ashfalls since 1945 damaged crops, water supplies, roads and power were all disrupted. Some animals died because of ash ingestion and fish in



Jim Gardner had a front row view of the 23 September 1995 eruption, capturing several frames of the first days of activity. See his story in this issue.

local rivers were affected. The eruptions also forced flight cancellations, airport closures, and rerouting of flights.

Smaller explosive eruptions generating minor ashfall continued through October and November. The Crater Lake was removed totally in early October but was starting to reform by late November as activity declined.

The 1996 portion of the eruptive episode was to start in March 1996, when an

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George’s War reflects on WWII prison experience



Burnt matchsticks represent the days that George Heydon spent in prisoner of war camps in Sue’s exhibition at the National Army Museum.

From Page 1

1941, George was among 7000 captured at Kalamata.

He spent four years and four days as a prisoner of war under German command, enduring hunger, exhaustion, disease, and the daily threat of death. Liberated in 1945, George returned to New Zealand that September to reunite with his wife and begin a quieter life in Kaiteriteri, Nelson. He died in 1963, his health permanently damaged by his wartime experiences.

The display features a series of frames, each space carrying a burnt matchstick, each one representing a day in captivity – four years and four days. The clear plastic frames are lit from above, casting shadows on the wall, reminiscent of prison windows. The exhibition also features a line of boxes of soil – each one collected by Sue from the sites of the prisoner of war camps. It also features a slide show display of photos of the prisoners through the War.

George’s War is on display at the National Army Museum until May next year. For more details see www.armymuseum.co.nz.



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John Chapman
For Ruapehu District Council.

www.jcforrdc.com

Authorised by: John Chapman Makotuku Farm Raetihi 4573

Ruapehu hands over Chateau petition

Ruapehu District Council is celebrating the successful submission of their Parliamentary Petition to Save the Chateau Tongariro Hotel, which was formally presented to Parliament last Tuesday, by Rangitikei MP Suze Redmayne.

Ruapehu's mayor Weston Kirton – a candidate in the upcoming election – thanked Redmayne for her support and the 15,469 people from across New Zealand and overseas who signed the petition.

He also acknowledged Ruapehu iwi Uenuku chair Aiden Gilbert and the Members of Parliament who showed their support for the Chateau petition including the Minister for Conservation Hon Tama Potaka, Barbara Kuriger MP for Taranaki-King Country, and Carl Bates MP for Whanganui.

"This petition is a major milestone in the journey to restore the Chateau," said Mayor Kirton.

"The widespread support shows how deeply people care about saving this iconic building and ensuring it remains the heart of Whakapapa and supporting the regional economy.

"Everywhere I go, someone shares a

story or memory connected to this remarkable place," he said.

Kirton noted that the petition has brought forward credible investors with the expertise and financial capacity ready to undertake the full restoration of the Chateau and the revitalisation of Whakapapa Village.

"All we need now is a clear Government pathway to resolve any regulatory hurdles or other issues so investors can get on with the job and unlock the opportunities a restored Chateau offers," he said.

Before its closure, the Chateau generated around \$10 million a year in direct economic benefit to the Ruapehu District and the central North Island.

"Restoration of the Chateau aligns with the Government's tourism development goals by driving high-value visitor growth, creating regional jobs with training opportunities, and preserving New Zealand's cultural heritage," Kirton said.

"The public support is clear, the investors are ready, and the benefits are national. We now look forward to Government providing the leadership and clear pathway needed to make this vision a reality."

Power firm reports on year of change

Considerable change with the local electricity reticulation company is a feature of its 2025 annual report.

The Lines Company released its report for the financial year ended 31 March 2025 last week.

"The Annual Report highlights our significant achievements, financial performance and strategic initiatives over the past year. It offers our shareholders, stakeholders and customers valuable insights into the company's performance," states Mike Fox, chief executive.

"The past year has seen considerable change within TLC and across the energy sector. The strategy introduced at the beginning of the year is being implemented throughout all areas of the business.

"TLC continues to put its people first by creating a supportive and safe work environment," said Fox.

"The company is transforming its staff culture and was a finalist in the Energy Excellence Awards for its wellbeing programme.

"We built strong and genuine partnerships with councils, iwi organisations, other electricity distribution businesses (EDBs) and community groups. We progressed several projects that improved resilience of marae and community centres, delivered additional solar initiatives, improved the health of homes and provided funding for smaller community groups that play a pivotal role in community cohesiveness."

He said the company continued to make a difference to the community it serves by

investing \$256,000 in its sponsorship programme and provided \$122,000 towards energy hardship funding.

"This investment reaches grass roots communities."

The company has increased funding for its initiative, Maru Energy Trust, to \$450,000 to support more people in installing insulation and heat pumps, "helping make homes warmer and drier".

"We have a strong focus on exceptional asset management demonstrated by the \$22 million investment into our network to improve reliability of electricity supply to our customers.

"We're proud of our innovative approaches to vegetation management, pioneering the use of a helisaw to keep trees away from powerlines and developing a scalable and transferable system to gift savings from home and business solar schemes to people struggling to pay their bills," continued Fox.

"Our helisaw initiative won the 2025 Energy Excellence Innovation Award recently."

TLC continues to move the dial on replacing an array of manual and digital systems with a digital platform that will integrate and modernise TLC's information management systems and business operations, providing better service to customers.

TLC is 100% community owned by its shareholder WESCT (Waitomo Energy Services Customer Trust). WESCT beneficiaries received a return of \$6 million over two discounts for the 2025 financial year.



Uenuku chair Aiden Gilbert, Weston Kirton, Rangitikei MP Suze Redmayne and Taranaki-King Country MP Barbara Kruger at the handover of the Parliamentary Petition to Save the Chateau outside the Beehive. Photo: RDC.

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RUAPEHU BULLETIN 24 September 2025 • 3

Letters

PNTC '76 Intake

• Fifty years! Where has the time gone?

We are organising a reunion/get-together for the Palmerston North Teacher's College 1976 intake to take place on 17-18 January 2026.

The venue is Sheffield Street Palmerston North. Kick off 2pm. The event is self-catering, a barbecue will be available. The venue has a swimming pool and playground so we can all pretend we're still young.

Husbands, wives, partners welcome as are other year groups if you wish, no one will be on the door.

Check out "Palmerston North Teachers College 1976 Intake" on Facebook, or phone Paul 028 404 5293. See you there.

Paul Andersen-Gardiner
Right to petition

• The mayor of Ruapehu District has no business running a petition on Mt Ruapehu's ski-field assets. That mountain is part of Tongariro National Park, which is Crown land administered by the Department of Conservation and sits within the Treaty of Waitangi settlement process.

Let's be clear: the village and ski-field infrastructure at Whakapapa have never had the proper consent of mana whenua. They were built under Crown-imposed arrangements that ignored iwi rights. The covenants tied to the mountain have been broken and the legality of many structures is questionable at best.

Despite this, the mayor is promoting a petition as though council has authority over these assets. At many of the key meetings about the fate of the Chateau, the mayor was not even an invited attendee. That fact alone exposes the truth — he has no standing in these decisions.

What we are seeing is political grandstanding, plain and simple, timed neatly to coincide with elections. It misleads

the public into thinking local government can influence Treaty land, when in reality petitions cannot override iwi authority or Crown obligations.

The settlement process will return the mountain to iwi. Ngāti Hikairo, a hapū of Ngāti Tūwharetoa, are the mana whenua of that backyard. They, not the mayor, hold the authority that must be respected.

The Chateau is not the mayor's to decide over. No amount of signatures changes that.

George O'Connor Patena

Weston Kirton replies

Ruapehu District Council fully acknowledges and respects the central role of iwi in any future decisions about the Chateau Tongariro Hotel. The petition was never intended to suggest that Council holds any authority over the Chateau or its assets. Its sole purpose was to highlight the significance of this nationally iconic building to our district's economic, cultural, and historical wellbeing, to give voice to the many thousands of people who do not want to see it lost, and to urge the Government to create a pathway for its restoration.

Council has always recognised that any future for the Chateau must be determined by iwi with the Government and potential investors or developers. Other than advocating for the importance of the site and its heritage, Council will have no role in those decisions.

Like the more than 15,500 people who signed the petition, I believe the loss of the Chateau would be a significant blow to Ruapehu's future aspirations, including those of iwi. Restoration can offer opportunities for employment, tourism, and cultural expression that align closely with iwi aspirations for economic development and the celebration of their whakapapa and connection to this special place.

Weston Kirton, Ruapehu mayoral candidate

Ōwhango to mark Rivers Day

Ōwhango Alive – the group of conservation volunteers – will Celebrate World Rivers Day with a planting session and a guest talk on Sunday 28 September and they invite members of the community to take part.

The event begins at 10:00am at the Whakapapa River bridge in Ōhinetonga Scenic Reserve, where volunteers will plant 130 native trees along the river margins. This hands-on effort continues the group's long-standing mission to restore and protect the unique biodiversity of the Whakapapa catchment.

From 11:00am, the gathering will move to the Ōwhango Domain Pavilion, where guest speaker Tyler Jarman, biodiversity advisor for Horizons Regional Council, will share insights into river health, native species and practical ways

communities can support local ecosystems.

"World Rivers Day is a chance for us to give back to our awa and celebrate the role rivers play in our lives," says the Ōwhango Alive committee.

"Planting trees strengthens the riverbanks, provides habitat for wildlife, and ensures future generations can enjoy a thriving natural environment."

The event is family-friendly, and all are welcome to attend. Volunteers are encouraged to bring sturdy footwear, gardening gloves and a spade if possible. Parking is available at both locations and the event will go ahead rain or shine.

Those interested can RSVP by emailing owhangoalive@yahoo.com or by marking "Going" on the group's Facebook event page.



Ōwhango Alive volunteers at a past planting day. They will gather at the Whakapapa River bridge on Sunday for more conservation work. Photo: Ōwhango Alive.

Ohakune Squash

The Waimarino Squash Club in Raetihi hosted the third round of the Ruapehu junior Tecnifibre series on Sunday. Club members proudly showed off their newly refurbished bar and kitchen area. All visitors were impressed.

The series continues to be popular with just over 30 entrants. Whilst targeting the Ruapehu region, any players can enter with a player from Hunterville participating this time. It was pleasing to see good even draws with several close five-setter matches. Ben Lee (Ohakune) won the top division again but was pushed to five sets against Jack Richardson (Hunterville) in his final. Ashton Smith (Ohakune) won division 2, Royce Waetford (Turangi) won division 3, Charlotte Marshall (Ohakune) won division 4, Winter Cockburn (Turangi) won division 5, Liam McDonough (Raetihi) won division six and Tiana Leahy (Ohakune) won division seven. No round this Sunday as several juniors are away at the National age group champs in Auckland at the Henderson club. The following Sunday's round

will be in Turangi.

Round five of the Ohakune Squash Club inter-house on Thursday had some close results – Dunlop narrowly beat leaders Tecnifibre 92/90, Karakal also narrowly beat Prince 88/85 whilst Head had a convincing 105/76 win over Salming and Unsquashable got 80 for the bye. Points with two rounds left are: Tecnifibre maintains its narrow lead on 470, Karakal 447, Dunlop 444, Head 443, Unsquashable 410, Salming 409 and Prince 389. The draw for this Thursday is 5:00pm Dunlop vs Head, 6:30pm Salming vs Prince, 8:00pm Unsquashable vs Karakal and Tecnifibre has the bye.

Entries for the Ohakune Ossi's open for the weekend of 3-4 October continue to come in with entries closing on Sunday. With numbers already over 70 it is expected that some games will need to be scheduled for Raetihi.

Entries are also open for all divisions of the club champs that will start after the current round of interhouse finishes in early October.

THE WEEKLY WORKOUT

answers for each puzzle are included on this page

820

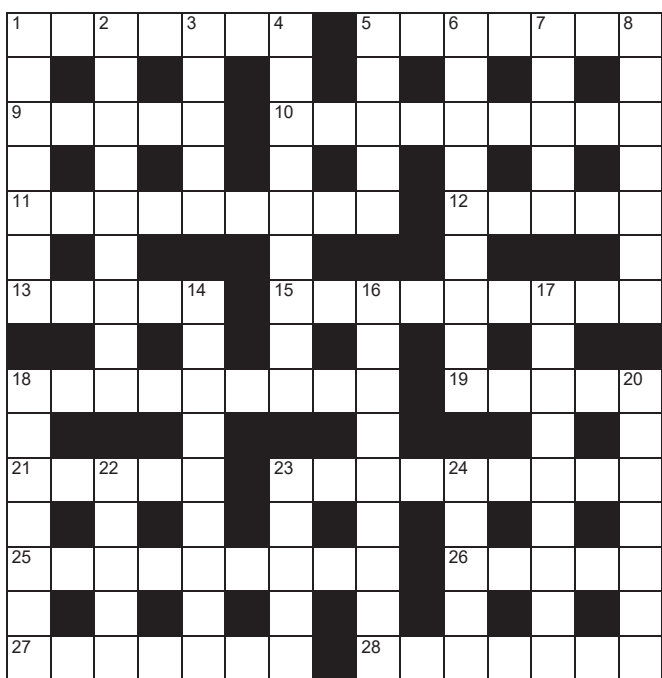
QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

1. Compact newspaper (7)
5. Irony (7)
9. Book of maps (5)
10. No.9, in northern hemisphere (5,4)
11. Intolerant (9)
12. Military decoration (5)
13. Sorrow (5)
15. Already claimed (6,3)
18. Wailing sound (9)
19. Fragment (5)
21. Small and elegant (Fr) (5)
23. Cobbler (9)
25. Chronicle (9)
26. Pollex (5)
27. Harass (7)
28. Ghost (7)

Down

1. Buying and selling (7)
2. Pen (9)
3. Beginning (5)
4. Indigestion (9)
5. Prance (5)
6. Recalls (9)
7. Trophy (5)
8. Exhaust (7)
14. Lucky (9)
16. Spectators (9)



17. German city (9)
18. Inner circle of a government (7)
20. Hard-wearing (7)
22. Member of court panel (5)
23. Fast-moving (5)
24. Unit of measurement (5)

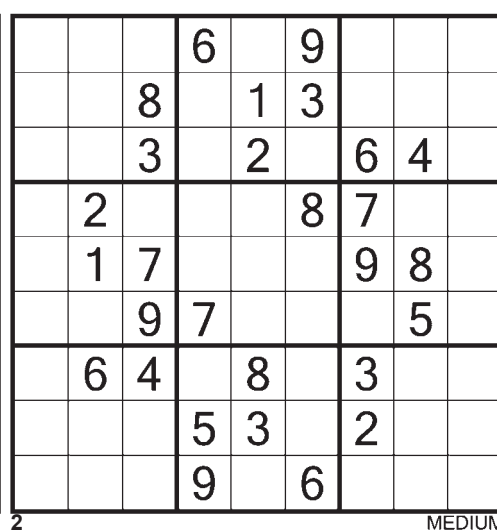
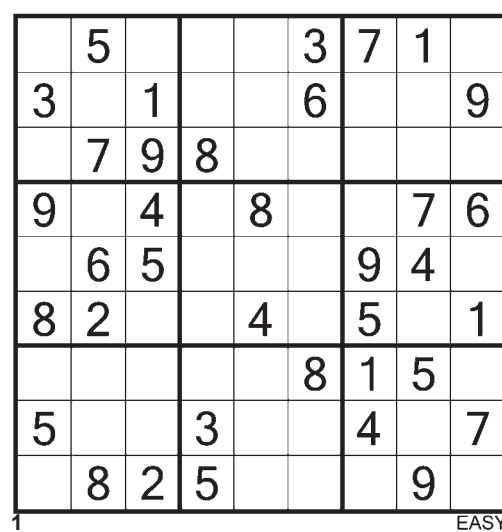


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SUDOKU

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



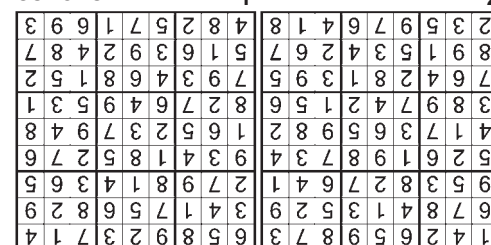
The Top 10

1. Which 1975 hit song starts: *I used to be a rolling stone*?
2. What is the term for formation of a clot inside a blood vessel?
3. How many rooms in Cluedo have room in their name?
4. How many biblical plagues were there?
5. If Bruce Wayne lives in Gotham City, where does Clark Kent live?
6. Earth's diameter at the equator is 12,756km. Which planet has a diameter almost 12 times greater?
7. A tube containing coloured glass reflected by mirrors is called ... ?
8. Osteoporosis is caused by a lack of which essential element?
9. New Zealand won one gold at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. What sport was it in?
10. Which 1933 film finishes with the line: "It was beauty that killed the beast"?

CROSSWORD

Across: 1. Tabloid, 5. Sarcasm, 9. Atlas, 10. Scrum half, 11. Impatient, 12. Medal, 13. Grief, 15. Spoken for, 18. Caterwaul, 19. Shard, 21. Bijou, 23. Shoemaker, 25. Narrative, 26. Thumb, 27. Torment, 28. Spectre.
Down: 1. Trading, 2. Ballpoint, 3. Onset, 4. Dyspepsia, 5. Strut, 6. Rememberers, 7. Award, 8. Muffler, 14. Fortunate, 16. Onlookers, 17. Frankfurt, 18. Cabinet, 20. Durable, 22. Juror, 23. Swift, 24. Metre.

SUDOKU



Eruption conference: what they'll be talking about

From Page 2

island was noted in the new crater lake – lava extrusions. A lahar followed a landslide event on 21 April in the Whangaehu Valley. A strong explosive eruption occurred on 17 June, depositing volcanic ash across Taupō, Rotorua and Te Puke. Noisy explosive eruptions followed and were frequently heard 100-200km away. On 15-16 July the strongest activity since 17 June occurred producing ash clouds and local ash fall. Activity declined through August-September and by October 1996 water was once again ponding on the crater floor as a new lake formed.

Abstract for second part of talk by Harry Keys

• The 1995 phase of the eruption was a significant test of volcanic risk management on the volcano for all involved. A range of volcanic hazards became very apparent during 1995-1996. Some serious near-miss events occurred over that time and during subsequent eruptions which involved park visitors and staff of various agencies and companies. Many

aspects of volcanic risk management were refined based on the 4 Rs – reduction, readiness, response and recovery.

Significant improvements were made by GNS Science/GeoNet in volcanic monitoring and eruption detection. DOC worked closely with GNS during subsequent upgrading of warning systems and helped to evaluate their effectiveness. GNS also led the introduction of volcanic hazard zones which incrementally became the basis for more robust management of visitor access during periods of increased volcanic unrest or uncertainty. But volcanic risk remains as long as people enter the hazard zones.

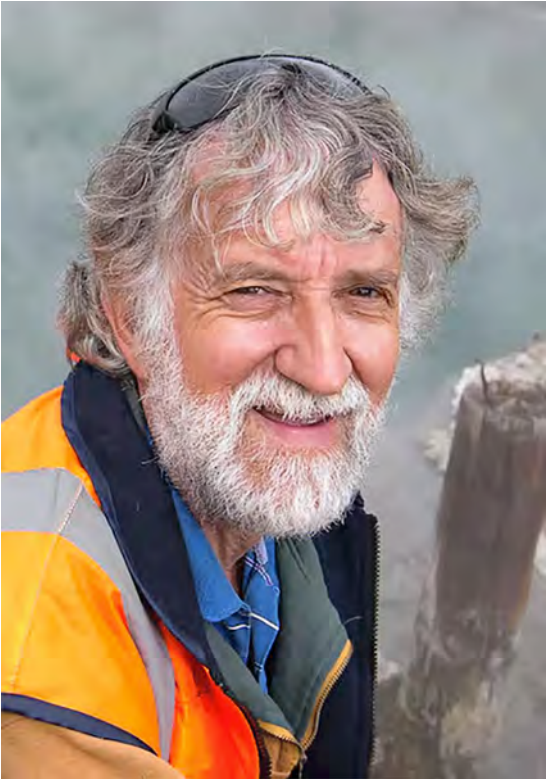
The 1995-1996 eruptions emptied Te Wai ā-moe/Crater Lake and deposited 7.6 metres of tephra across the lake outlet, creating a dam when the lake refilled above the new (then still buried) overflow level in early 2006. The response to the 1995-1996 eruption continued actively to 2007. This was one of the most controversial periods in the history of Tongariro National Park as government,

iwi and other stakeholders debated short- and long-term risks, conservation and cultural values, and appropriate actions to take other important legacies of the 1996-2007 period include the safe outcome,

inter-agency preparedness, the Central Plateau Volcanic Advisory Group, and built-infrastructure – namely a bund and a more resilient road bridge at Tangiwai.



Dr Harry Keys, pictured not long after the 1995-96 eruption sequence.



GNS scientist Brad Scott, Vulcanologist. Photo: Rotorua Daily Post.

Retro time all over again



Are you ready? Got your outfit sorted? Got your gear ready? Organisers are set to rock n roll at Tūroa and Ohakune Junction on Saturday 27 September. Watch out for the Retro Police on the mountain—spot fines (the fun kind!) are up for grabs during the day. Be in to win amazing spot prizes courtesy of Tūroa, Head, Marmot, Scott, Vuarnet, TCB, SLR, Ski Shed, Ohakune Hot Tubs, Powderkeg, La Pizzeria, and more at the Retro Party, 3–7pm at The Kitchen in the Ohakune Junction. Live music + DJs, great food + drinks and interactive games including Retro air guitar & the infamous chocolate eclair eating competition! Fun times for the whole family.

DON'T WORRY
BE happy.



25

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Jim Gardner recalls his experiences as a witness to the 25 September 1995 eruption of Mt Ruapehu, when he was custodian of the University of Auckland Ski Club lodge at Iwikau Village (abridged):

On the Thursday before the eruption I along with a mate took a walk with our skis from the Far West T-Bar to the crater. We were met with grey mud-coated snow at the crater rim and constant steam discharges. In the lake itself were occasional eruptions of mud-like material with lots of steam, like large dirty geysers. We realised then that the grey mud around the crater rim was probably from a very large 'geyser' and thought it prudent to return to the ski field.

On the Friday, as normal, the hut filled up, especially as the weather forecast for the weekend was for blue skies and warm temperatures. The snow conditions were also perfect. At breakfast on 'Eruption Saturday' a few people asked whether I thought it safe to go up to the crater. My advice, based on what I saw on Thursday, was that it probably was not a good idea, as you never know when the crater will spew out hot mud.

Later in the day every turn was like spreading warm butter. From about 1:30pm up on the Far West T-Bar this process had just started to begin due to the higher altitude. My mate, the same one from the crater expedition on Thursday, and I started skiing into the Black Magic area. It was a fantastic afternoon, and we were not alone, soon the queue for the T-Bar was quite long and the loading area was completely full. It stayed this way until 4pm with the last ride up. Naturally we took one last run down Black Magic and then made our way back to the UASC hut.

Approaching 4:40pm we got to the hut and into the dining/living room for a beer and share stories about the skiing. The room is one long row of windows that face the mountain. Just after 5pm a guest exclaimed that there was a large steam plume. I said 'oh yeah, it's a little larger than normal, but it's being doing that for the last week or so'. Then someone yelled out 'HOLY F**K' – there was a massive

I quickly got my camera gear, including some cheap telephoto lenses and started to take photos. I noticed that up by the crater the snow was turning black and then realised that a lahar was coming down the mountain. The lahar split into two streams above the Far West T-Bar, with one running down the T-Line and the other running into the main gully of Black Magic. It took less than a minute for the flow to run down the T-Line; around 60-80km/h. The lahar ran directly over the loading area, where I was standing about an hour beforehand. Had the eruption occurred an hour earlier there would have been casualties on the ski field - it would have been hard to outrun the lahars, especially if you were busy ripping it up in Black Magic.

Over the next 15 to 20 minutes the ash and steam cloud over the mountain slowly dissipated and moved eastwards. At that point some of the weekend warriors decided that they wanted to leave and maybe almost half of the visitors left.

Sunday was once again a sunny day with blue skies. From memory, the ski field was shut, and more people left. Later in the afternoon, maybe around 3pm there was an eruption and a plume of grey-black ash shot directly upwards, but was smaller than the Saturday eruption. At the end of the day there was just an RAL staff member and me left.

Overnight I took a look towards the crater. I could see orange sparks coming out from the crater, but it was too dark to take photos. At dawn and I could see the eruptions as they were occurring and there was enough light to start taking photos. Every few minutes there was an eruption that ejected columns of black ash. The eruptions seemed to intensify to the point where the ash columns were as wide as the top of the mountain. Once again there was absolutely no noise. I could see large rocks the size of cars flying through the air, sometimes rocks the rise of buses – often with a stream of smoke following behind. I contacted my parents to let them know that I was okay. It turns out that my father contacted the IZB radio station in Auckland and I ended up getting a phone call from either Layton Smith or Paul Holmes and was live on the radio reporting what I was seeing.

The eruptions continued to grow in size and frequency and my last lodge mate had decided to leave. By now the mountain was pushing out a massive steam plume that was reaching about 10km. I started to pack up my things, make the lodge ready for being closed up and put out the rubbish. I then realised that I was one of the last people on the mountain and an RAL staff members said that the evacuation order had



David Baguley, one of the climbers who was caught out in an ash cloud above Whakapapa Ski Area in 1995. "You can see the sun cap (with sides) under my helmet which meant I was unaffected by the crater lake mud which rained down on us heavily after the eruption." He said he was unable to wash the sulphur smell from his outdoors gear. "The police wanted us to be flown to Hamilton to check us for ash inhalation, but there was none of that."
Photo: Jim Gardner.

been sent, and that I was to get off the mountain as fast as possible. They offered me a lift down. I grabbed my pack, locked the door and rode down the mountain in the back of an RAL ute. I crashed the night in the RAL staff quarters and on Tuesday hitched rides back up to Auckland.

After a few weeks I was back at the mountain – the ski field, with new snow, reopened but underneath was a layer of ash. That was also an experience – sliding nicely on white snow, and then suddenly decelerating akin to braking on the grey ash contaminated snow.

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for Ruapehu District Council

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Economy
Environment**



A portrait of Robyn Gram, a woman with short, curly grey hair, wearing glasses and a blue top. She is standing outdoors with a body of water and trees in the background.

Authorised by Robyn Gram, 158 Golf Road, Taumarunui
027 389 1912 robyn@buvihegram.co.nz



The 1995 eruption lahar jumps over the loading ramp at the Far West T-Bar. Jim Gardner was standing there just over an hour beforehand, along with about 60 to 70 others. Photo: Jim Gardner.

Fiona Hadley-Chase, Ruapehu mayoralty candidate

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting
Fiona Kahukura Hadley-Chase is seeking a second term for Ruapehu District Council, standing again in the Māori ward and making a second bid for the mayoralty.

She is also contesting seats on the Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board and the Taihape Community Board for Rangitikei District Council.

Hadley-Chase says her focus is on open communication, encouraging people to share their opinions, and ensuring all parts of the district are represented well.

“If I get the opportunity again, this will be my second term (on council),” she said.

“The first one was really a lead-in to ensure that we had good representation at the table and that our Māori wards would be able to be sustainable. I’m standing again to ensure that the legacy moves on.”

She says she is guided by her kuia, her mother and aunties, and by the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, tika and pono, and the values of her

hapū and iwi.
Māori ward councillors don’t just represent Māori voters, she says.

“When you are elected as a Māori ward councillor you are elected to represent the entire community – all of Ruapehu, not just Taumarunui, not just Kāhaki but every single person that resides in Ruapehu.”

Her top priority, she says, is ensuring that all voices are heard and that “everyone gets along”.

Hadley-Chase is concerned about what she sees as stagnant economic development in Ruapehu, where agriculture and tourism remain the two dominant sectors.

She says there is also a need to strengthen health and education services.

“We need to ensure that the people who live here are well, are well educated and receive the health services that they deserve.”

She believes a lack of understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Te Awa Tupua and te ao Māori remains

a challenge for council and the wider community.

“We have three Māori ward councillors and all three of us bring different gifts, but also the same gift and that is experience and knowledge in mātauranga of te ao Māori.”

Hadley-Chase is also concerned about water policy, particularly the impact of new legislation on communities. She says Te Mana o te Wai should be a guiding principle, but government changes were undermining that.

“With the water services bills and Local Water Done Well, there are complications that are going to impact water users in general and may drive up rates to the point where people could be rated out of their homes.”

Hadley-Chase is a trustee of Mōrero Marae in Taumarunui and is active at her other marae. While she is strongly engaged with her hapū and iwi, she says her accountability extends to all.

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



Fiona Hadley-Chase.

The Chosen Ones: a team built on vision and determination

At 14 years old, Manaaki Bell-Morehu found himself at a basketball tournament where he spent much of the time on the bench, watching others play while his own game time was limited. It was a moment that could have left him disheartened, but instead it sparked something powerful: a vision to create his own team, where he and his mates could take the court together, learn together, and take on new challenges as one.

That vision became “The Chosen Ones”.

More than just a name, it represents Manaaki’s belief in backing yourself, choosing your own path, and bringing others with you along the way. Together with his coach Mya, who he personally asked to lead the team, Manaaki carefully selected each player. They

chose boys from across the regions of Whanganui, Ruapehu, Dannevirke, and Palmerston North – friends Manaaki has grown up with and teammates he has played alongside in the past. Each one was chosen not only for their skills on the court, but for the trust, friendship, and energy they bring to the game.

“Never compare your life to anyone else’s. There’s no comparison between the sun and the moon-they both shine when it’s their time. Our time to shine is right now,” says Manaaki.

The team is preparing to debut at the HoopNation Classics, a tournament that brings together some of the country’s most passionate young players. For Manaaki and his friends, the experience will be both a test and a celebration, a chance to show what determination, self-belief and

whanaungatanga can create.

Behind this journey is the support of a small but close-knit community. From raffles, sausage sizzle stalls, and fundraising efforts, to the many hands who have helped along the way, Manaaki and his whānau are deeply grateful. Every ticket bought, every sausage eaten, and every word of encouragement has played a part in helping this dream become a reality. Groups such as Ngāti Rangi and the Whiria Ngā Hua kaupapa have also encouraged Manaaki to dream big, showing him that with the right support, anything is possible.

Anyone in the community who feels able to support the team further, whether through sponsorship, koha, or other contributions is asked to contact Manaaki.



Manaaki Bell-Morehu – hasn’t waited for a chance to shoot – he’s made his own opportunity. Photo supplied.

BAYLEYS



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Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council: Raki Māori candidates

Jim Edmonds

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting Musterer, shearer, fencer and community leader, Jim Turuhia Edmonds is seeking a second term in Horizons Regional Council's Raki Māori seat.

At 76, the Golden Shears winner has dedicated his life to whānau, hapū and iwi, and is determined to have Māori voices heard at council.

Edmonds (Ngāti Uenuku, Ngāti Tūwharetoa) has a long record of leadership. He has served on



Jim Turuhia Edmonds. Photo: Moana Ellis.

the Ātihuā-Whanganui and Morikau Incorporations, the Federation of Māori Authorities, the Waimarino and Ruapehu councils, and chaired Raetihi Marae. He was also a cultural adviser to Winstone Afforestation.

Born at Raetihi, he was raised on his mother's land at Ruakākā in the Manganui-o-te-Ao valley.

"We had to break in the horse and learn to ride it – or walk. Half the house had a floor, the other half was dirt. If you were hungry, you were lazy – that's what Nan used to say. We lived off the land."

Hunting in the bush as a teenager, he remembers distributing his catch to people along the way home.

"No fridges in those days – it was all shared out."

Leaving school at 16, Edmonds worked on farms, mustering, shearing and fencing on stations that would later return to iwi. He went on to manage several large farms and was appointed to the boards of Morikaunui and Ātihuā, where he spent more than three decades helping to recover and develop ancestral land.

"The dream was to do something for our people – to extract the best value from the land, but improve the asset and leave it better than when we found it."

In 2018 Edmonds was honoured with the Waimarino-Waiouru Citizens Award. His citation recognised his quiet service – mowing

lawns at the Raetihi Māori cemetery, delivering firewood and food, fixing fences and supporting kaumātua and whānau in need.

"Wai – we need good water, and to get rid of wastewater so it doesn't contaminate anything else. Forestry – if you're cutting trees, know where the ends are going. Infrastructure – we need good transport hubs to move kai to sale. Flooding and climate change – with science and mātauranga we can alleviate the impacts."

"It's mountains to the sea, a holistic view."



Elijah Pue.

What we do in one rohe can help another. It's a huge job and things are always changing, but it's rewarding."

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

Elijah Pue

By Moana Ellis – Local Democracy Reporter

Elijah Pue is making a political comeback, standing as a Te Pāti Māori candidate for the Raki Māori seat on Horizons Regional Council.

It is his first time contesting a Māori ward, but Pue served on the Ruapehu District Council in 2019 and ran for mayor three years later.

Though unsuccessful, the experience strengthened his commitment to public service.

"I felt a bit ripped off," he admits.

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

At 31, Pue also brings experience from across iwi, health, tourism and kapa haka.

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

He serves on Visit Ruapehu and leads Te Kāhui Maunga, which hosted this year's record-breaking Te Matatini competition in New Plymouth.

Pue says Horizons has an opportunity to work in genuine partnership with iwi on major river catchments and climate challenges, and he is determined Māori voices are central to decision-making.

"Local government is the perfect springboard for positive change. It's where real impact starts."

The ward covers communities from Ōhura to Feilding, including Pue's hometown Raetihi.

"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 hui and help lead local events, from shearing championships to calling Housie for fundraisers."

As a trustee of Ngāti Rangi and Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui, Pue brings governance experience with major river settlement entities.

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

He warns that government reforms risk sidelining Māori values.

"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."

Pue highlights service gaps across the constituency, particularly in transport.

"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."

He supports efficiency in local government but rejects centralisation.

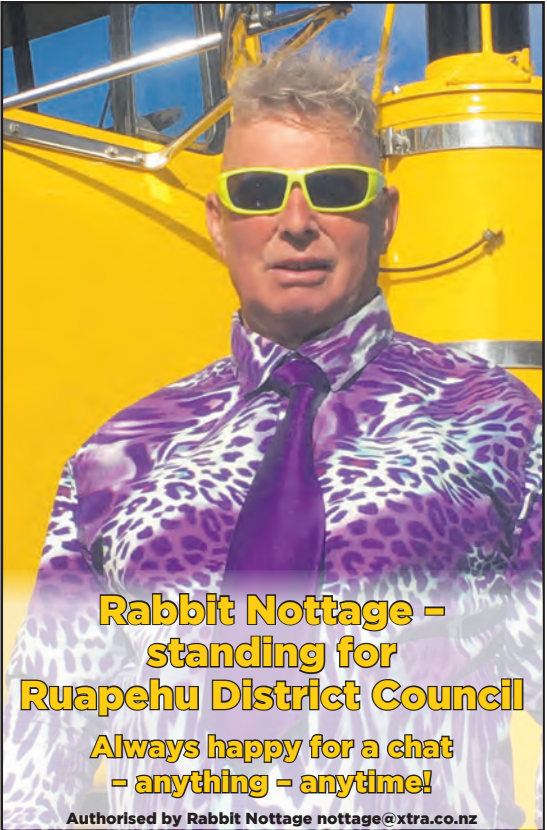
"I'd hate to see local government go the way of health – centralised, Wellington-led, and stripped of regional voice. I support efficiency, but not if it silences our communities."

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

Vote
Colin Pakai
for
Waiouru-Waimarino
Community Board
Ruapehu District Council
Local Body Elections 2025

I have lived in Waiouru for many years. I worked in the Waiouru Military Camp for over 50 years in various roles (Machine Operator-roading, Plumber, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor). My last role being Facilities Site Maintenance Supervisor for NZ Defence Force. I have considerable knowledge and experience regarding infrastructure. If I am re-elected onto the Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board, I aim to continue using my knowledge and experience, in order to get the best outcomes and value for money for all ratepayers in the district.

Authorised by Colin Pakai, 29 State Highway 49, Waiouru



Authorised by Rabbit Nottage nottage@xtra.co.nz

Luke 
Pepper

for Ruapehu
District Council

Authorised by Luke Pepper - chillipeppers@xtra.co.nz



Southern artists feature in Ruapehu awards

Several southern Ruapehu artists were among the prize winners at last week's opening of the Ruapehu Art Awards, held in Taumarunui Memorial Hall, including Kate Hartmann of Ohakune, who's work 'Tākohu' won the 2D award.

Ruapehu sculptor James Cannon took away the Premier Award.

Over 250 entries from all over the country filled the hall.

Judges Graham Moeller, Richard Aslett and Caroline Peacocke said they were blown away by the huge variety of art on show, making their job even harder!

'Manu Kārearea' by James Cannon of Taumarunui won the 3D Open Category as well as the Premier Award. "Crafted from local scrap metal, this sculpture transforms discarded materials into a striking tribute to New Zealand's majestic falcon. One man's junk is another's treasure!"

'Tākohu' by Kate Hartmann of Ohakune won the 2D Ruapehu Theme Category. "Tākohu means mist or vapour and this painting captures different impressions of parts of the mountain being shrouded by the clouds and of water vapour misting and drifting across the rock faces. River sand from the Mangateitei which flows down from Ruapehu has also been used as a material to give texture and connection thematically."

In the 2D Open Category, two artists received equal awards. Ohakune's Marama Groot's oil painting 'Hill we used to run down' and Michael Barker's watercolour of 'The Italian Garden' at the Hamilton Gardens.

Taumarunui Art Teacher Kathryn Davis won the Photography Award for 'Roman Holiday'. "A shop window in Rome selling nostalgia combined with graffiti and a passerby reflected in the window." The judges liked the unusual shape of this piece and how the framing complimented it perfectly.

The Fibre Art Award went to Ann Weir for 'Skiable Snow on Ruapehu'. This wet and dry felted work is 100% local alpaca fibre. The artist says "Alpaca fibre is warmer than wool, hypoallergenic, flame resistant and thermo-regulating –perfect for ski or après ski apparel."

Also in the Fibre Section, Ohakune's Merrilyn George's quilt 'Reflection' won the Ruapehu District Residents' Award. "Reflection is multifaceted in this quilt: a stamp on relationships with land, a mathematics term in Māori design. Koiri-koru

patterns symbolise self-reflection and nurturing. Visceral joy is found in mathematics of natural and manmade patterns – reflection sparks transformation. There is always another way to look at an issue."

Winner of the Junior Artist Award was the aptly named Art King, Ohakune, for 'The Forgotten Bridge', "An oil painting of a small forgotten bridge hidden by bushes and a crashing river."

Runners Up in the Junior Section were 'Apples' by Zaynub Chida, 'No Words' by Hawaiki Kydd, 'Walls that Whisper Prayers' by Joana Perez, and 'NZ Native Bird' by Ryland Chase.

In the Young Adults Section prizes were divided between several categories. Olive Galea won the YA 2D Open Award with 'The Hidden Life of Trees'. "A mixture of acrylic paint, water colour, pen on canvas. The closer you look, the more you see." Young Adults Open 3D went to 'Significance' by Safiyyah Patel. The YA Photography Award went to 'Nandena' by Grace Birkett and YA Photography Runner Up to 'Scarlett Serenade' by Le Shae Turanga Tai, both from the Taumarunui High School 'Wonderland' photography programme.

The Exhibition is open to the public 10am to 3pm daily until Tuesday 30 September.

The winners

Premier Award and Open 3D Award: 'Manu Kārearea' by James Cannon. 2D Ruapehu Theme Award: 'Tākohu' by Kate Hartmann. 2D Open Award 1: 'The hill we used to run down' by Marama Groot. 2D Open Award 2 (equal to award 1): 'The Italian Garden' by Michael Barker. Photography Award: 'Roman Holiday' by Kathryn Davis. Fibre Art Award: 'Skiable Snow on Ruapehu' by Ann Weir. Ruapehu Residents Award: 'Reflection' by Merrilyn George. Young Adults Open 2D: 'The Hidden Life of Trees' by Olive Galea. Young Adults Open 3D: 'Significance' by Safiyyah Patel. Young Adults Best Photograph: 'Nandena' by Grace Birkett. Young Adults Runner Up Photograph: 'Scarlett Serenade' by Le Shae Turanga Tai. Junior Artist Winner: 'The Forgotten Bridge' by Art King. Junior Artist Runner Up: 'Apples' by Zaynub Chida. Junior Artist Runner Up: 'No Words' by Hawaiki Kydd. Junior Artist Runner Up: 'Walls that Whisper Prayers' by Joana Perez. Junior Artist Runner Up: 'NZ Native Bird' by Ryland Chase.



Artist Kate Hartmann with her winning work Tākohu. Photo supplied.

Advertorial

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The MTF Taupō team, from left, Jen Jones, Susannah Cowan and Teresa Waller.

In a world dominated by call centres and impersonal online lenders, it's easy to feel like you're just another number.

"But in the Ruapehu District, from Raetihi to Taumarunui, we believe your financial journey deserves a personal touch," says MTF Taupō franchise owner Susannah Cowan.

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Susannah said this commitment is reflected in more than 155 five-star Google reviews for their exceptional customer experience.

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RUAPEHU

26 September 1995

BULLETIN

VOICE OF THE RUAPEHU REGION

Thousands witness Ruapehu eruption



Ruapehu blasts midday Monday. Picture by Kelly Layton, taken from halfway up the Ohakune Mountain Road.

No civil defence alert declared

No civil defence emergency had been declared at the time of going to press last night as a result of the Ruapehu eruption.

However as a precautionary measure the local civil defence headquarters has been activated as a precautionary measure.

A meeting of emergency services and community organisations was held in Ohakune at midday yesterday to assess the potential dangers to the community arising from the eruptions.

Due to the increased activity on Mt Ruapehu the alert level for Ruapehu was raised to Level 4 which means that there has been a significant change to ongoing activity with a hazardous local eruption in progress. It is stressed however, that this hazard is at this stage confined to the upper mountain area itself and there was at the time no danger from direct volcanic action on local communities.

Possible risk to local communities could arise from the deposition of ash from the eruption, stated Civil Defence staff.

The wind was taking the ash to the east into the Kaimanawa Ranges crossing the Desert Road on

its way. If the wind shifted then local communities could be put at risk, said CD. The ash was already causing problems with traffic on the Desert Road and could continue to cause problems by interrupting the national power supply as it settles on lines and insulators.

A recommendation was made to Transit New Zealand to close the Desert Road (SH1) as a potential hazard from ash to motorists existed. Because of the risk of lahar it was recommended that State Highway 49 between Waiouru and Ohakune be closed at night.

A close watch was being maintained on community water supplies to ensure that they are not contaminated by ash. Residents of the areas surrounding the mountain are urged to keep a supply of bottled water for use in the event of water supplies becoming contaminated.

Residents should also refresh their memories of civil defence procedures which are contained at the back of the phone book.

Properties within a 30 km radius of the mountain with an independent water supply are advised to

disconnect their tanks to avoid pollution by ash.

Precautions

Members of the public are also urged to take all precautions to ensure their own safety in the vicinity of the mountain and not to put themselves or emergency services at risk. The public will be kept informed through the media on a regular basis on any further developments concerning this eruption, promised CD staff.

The following areas of Mt Ruapehu have been evacuated: the Whakapapa skifield, all ski lodges on the Whakapapa side of the mountain, Turoa Ski field and Tukino Skifield. All people are advised to stay off the mountain. The road to the Top of the Bruce and Ohakune Mountain Road are closed.

A decision was to be made at 1600 hours last night as to whether to evacuate parts of Whakapapa Village adjacent to the river as a precautionary measure.

CASINO NIGHT

Black Jack, Roulette, Poker...

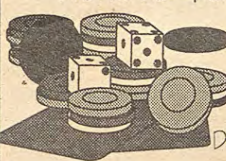
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Tickets \$50 per person



**SEPTEMBER
29th**

Dress-Black Tie/Cocktail

The Powderhorn Chateau

Bottom of Mountain Rd, Ohakune Junction.

Ph 385 8888

Ruapehu Bulletin — the Positive Paper

The news, a few days after the 1995 Mt Ruapehu eruption. The other pages and other Bulletins can be found at the Papers Past website.

Redmayne supports Chateau petition

Local MP Suze Redmayne reflects on receiving the save the Chateau petition:

• Last week I had the privilege of receiving a petition with more than 15,000 signatures to save the Chateau Tongariro and later in the day it was formally tabled in the House. The strong turnout of signatures speaks volumes.

For generations, the Chateau has been a place where families have celebrated milestones, visitors have marvelled at the views, and kiwis have proudly displayed their heritage. It's an important part of our district – great for jobs, great for economic development and growth.

Buildings left idle decay quickly, while those lived in and loved continue to thrive. My hope is to see the Chateau operating again as a great hotel, welcoming guests from near and far. Achieving this, however, requires careful navigation of iwi partnerships, Department of Conservation land management, and concession arrangements to ensure future investment is viable. Behind the scenes, significant work is being done and I want to acknowledge my colleagues Hon Tama Potaka, Hon Louise Upston, Barbara Kuriger and Carl Bates for their on-going efforts.

I also want to acknowledge Ruapehu's mayor and the tremendous work he has put into this important issue, as well as Te Korowai o Wainuiārua chairman Aiden Gilbert of Uenuku for his continued presence and advocacy.

The petition will help to ensure the Chateau remains front of mind, but more importantly, it is a symbol of the strong community voice calling for action. I will continue to keep you updated as we work toward a solution for our iconic building.

Last week was a busy one in Parliament, the final sitting week before two weeks of recess. Alongside the petition to save the Chateau Tongariro, Parliament also passed an important piece of legislation – the Climate Change Response (Emissions Trading Scheme Forestry Conversions) Amendment Bill. More commonly known as the Farm-to-forest Ban Bill – this one is close to my heart and I'm really pleased to see it across the line.

The Bill restores much-needed balance by safeguarding food production, strengthening rural communities and giving foresters the certainty to keep investing with confidence. At its core, it recognises the vital contribution food and fibre producers make to our economy, while ensuring forestry continues as a sustainable and complementary land use. This legislation will take effect in October 2025, though the legislation applies to any land purchased after 4 December 2024.

As always, if you have anything you'd like to discuss, please feel free to drop me a line. Email me at Suze.RedmayneMP@parliament.govt.nz, or call 07 896 8008. You can also follow me on Facebook at facebook.com/SuzeRedmayneMP.

Kiwi adventures on screen

A screening of the best in adventure filmmaking with a handpicked selection from New Zealand's only home-grown Mountain Film Festival is on next week at the Matterhorn, Ohakune Junction.

Each year, the NZ Mountain Film Festival Charitable Trust presents one of the world's premier mountain film festivals, attracting filmmakers from across the globe celebrating stories of skiing, climbing, kayaking, mountain biking and more. The festival also features powerful films on environmental issues and mountain culture – designed to both inspire and inform.

Showing on Wednesday will be the 'Pure NZ Night' – a collection of seven short films.

Pedals To Powder Nick Kowalski, NZ. Two women cycle to every ski field in Aotearoa – uncovering a hidden world of independent ski culture.

All in or Nothing Gordon Duff, NZ. Up against 120 riders with full support crews, a young MTB Rally athlete only has himself to rely on. Best Documentary

Riverbound - The Storybook Has Just Begun Dylan Gerschwitz & Deane Parker, Yak, a former pro kayaker now paraplegic, takes on Class 3 rapids in the Upper Buller Gorge. Festival Spirit Award

As One - The MHS Adventure Racing Team Louie Burger. This uplifting documentary follows nine Motueka

Turn to Page 13



Peddalling to powder is one of the stories on screen at the NZ Mountain Film Festival local screening next week.



Chateau Tongariro under construction, 1929. Almost 100 years on, the future of the iconic building is still not sorted.

VOTE

Lyn Neeson

MAYOR FOR RUAPEHU

standing for you
STRAIGHT UP

Experience Common Sense Honesty



Authorised by Lyn Neeson alyn@xtra.co.nz

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Election 2025: Ruapehu District Council general ward

We presented a set of questions to candidates and asked for a profile of themselves. Some chose to answer the questions, some chose to provide a profile, and some chose to provide both:

Elise Adams

Tēnā koutou kātoa
My primary school years were in Auckland and Wellington before returning home, on my father’s side, to Taumarunui. I was educated at Taumarunui High School and started my working life here, I’m married to Correy and we have five tamariki and 12 mokopuna.



Elise Adams.

My whānau and I moved to Wellington in 2002, returning home at the end of 2020, with my work making me a long-distance commuter until February 2024, when I returned home fulltime.

My career includes experience in the public, private and not-for-profit organisations in sectors including social development, education, membership associations, veterinary, arts and publishing.

I’ve held roles from customer service to operations, programme management to chief executive and served on numerous boards including the Project Management Institute of New Zealand, Australasian Society of Association Executives and school boards – including the recent opportunity as new board chair for Ngakonui Valley School.

As a first-time candidate for the Ruapehu District Council I have a local heart yet outsider clarity. The Ruapehu is a beautiful region and like others we also have our challenges.

Returning home the biggest challenges I see are economic development resulting in long term inequality, ongoing impact of climate change that is at our front doors and the core services and infrastructure differences which exist between our communities within the region.

For council there are too many strategies – when this happens everything is up for consideration and competition and ultimately people are left feeling like it’s a win-lose – so how do we get to a win-win? This is the reason I stand for council.

Now is the time for a strategy that sticks, where we can achieve short and long-term wins and ultimately encourage collaboration not competition.

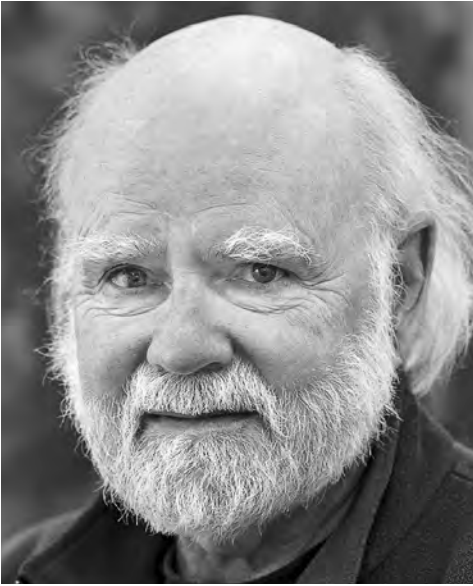
Ngā mihi nui, Elise

John Chapman

Ruapehu faces tough choices. Rates are rising, infrastructure is aging and some communities are growing while others decline. We need leadership that’s honest, realistic, and focused on long-term wellbeing—not short-term politics.

I’m not campaigning to spend more or less — I’m campaigning to spend smarter. Ratepayers deserve transparency: where the money goes, why it’s needed, and what value it delivers. That starts with auditing council spending, cutting waste, and pausing vanity projects that don’t serve core needs.

If we do invest more, it should be in essentials:



John Chapman.

roads, infrastructure and community spaces that build resilience. But we can’t rely solely on rates. We must pursue government funding, partner with iwi and local businesses, and support community-led initiatives. Collaboration is key.

Tourism is growing, but it must benefit locals too. That means shared infrastructure, sustainable planning, and marketing that reflects our values—not just our scenery. Council should support local operators and ensure tourism growth doesn’t strain our environment or communities.

Zero waste is a worthy goal, but we’re not doing enough. Council must lead by example, invest in regional solutions, and empower households and businesses to reduce waste through education and incentives.

Balancing diverse communities means listening first, then acting with fairness. One-size-fits-all doesn’t work here. We need tailored solutions, shared leadership, and open communication.

I’m standing for council because I believe in team-based leadership, clear communication, and practical solutions. My campaign is built on transparency, collaboration, and a commitment to Ruapehu’s future. If you want a councillor who tells the truth, asks tough questions, and works with—not above—the community, I’m ready to serve.

Gary Griffin-Chappel

The most important issues for the Ruapehu District are, effective fiscal management, providing the services expected within the means of the rates received. Ensuring that the Waters done well CCO is set up, so the outcomes do not drastically

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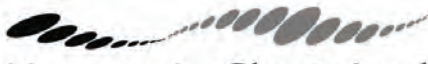


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Election 2025: Ruapehu District Council general ward

increase the cost to ratepayers. Review service contracts to ensure they are fit for purpose, bring them to local solutions through local suppliers so our rates aren't paying large company profits. Whilst ensuring the contracts are fit for purpose without the need for additional out of contract charges.

The Council's spending needs to be in line with the rates received, through effective budgeting and managing day-to-day business, a full review of the long-term plan by councillors, to lower costs in core services, ensuring the longevity of assets through correct maintenance will release funds



Gary Griffin-Chappel.

to fulfil our communities' aspirations, with a fair and equitable view across the region so one town isn't weighted more than any other. By providing better community services, expanding tourism opportunities, through collaborative partnerships, sponsorships and external funding will see communities thrive. E.G. the all-year pools in Raetihi, will benefit health, wellbeing and year-round employment can be externally funded in this way.

Review waste management to improve the service provided, developing new business opportunities through emerging and existing technologies to create new products from recyclables, creating local jobs and an additional revenue stream to council, removing pink bags to wheelie bins, and fortnightly collections will provide cost savings.

Develop better business partnerships to support youth into work, through apprenticeship schemes, working with the colleges in the region and investigate bringing a branch of UCOL into Ruapehu so our youth don't have to leave to further their education.

After years of the same, if you want change you must be bold and vote for it!

Branda Ralph

I am a local who is striving for a better District. Our economic struggle in these times affects everyone. There are some areas Council can certainly help.

We need to keep basics happening like our roads, maintain them to stop major issues to prevent huge costs. Keeping the culverts and cut outs clear to make sure the surface water is running in the right place and not causing major blow outs like it has

done in other events.

As Councillors we need to make sure that our CEO and staff are providing us with the best service possible. Also keeping an eye on our contractors and making sure they provide us with the best service possible as this is one of Council's biggest expenditure area.

They need to be accountable and transparent. Our tourism is important however, we need to ensure we don't get over enthusiastic with projects we can't afford.

Affordability: that's where Council staff need



Brenda Ralph.

to provide the expertise and information needed. Councillors need to disseminate and question the budgets.

The fees and charges need to be accurate and not be over inflated.

My other values are to keep rates low as possible. In the past three years council have made some mistakes but I am confident that with good governance our Council will make good for the ratepayers.

Kiwi films

From Page 11

High students on a wild, 40-hour adventure racing from their West Coast home.

Spirit of the West Pedro Pimentel, NZ. Set against New Zealand's wild West Coast, this film captures the spirit of the Old Ghost Ultra—where community, resilience, and grit collide in a transformative celebration of people and place. Community Spirit Award

Rakiura Solo Michael Beckmann, NZ. A tough solo hike around the 130km North-West Circuit on Stewart Island/Rakiura. Beyond the challenge, what makes this island truly special is its rich wildlife.

Waiaototo Josh Morgan & Jasper Gibson, NZ. This film tells the story of a traverse across the Southern Alps through packraft, skis and tramp-ing. Starting at the Matukituki, the route went via Tititea, the Volta Glacier, and the Waiaototo, to the Tasman Sea. Best NZ Made Film.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

Raetihi Ohakune Garden Club

Sunday 28 September - 1.30pm

Visit a local garden
New members welcome.
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PERSONAL NOTICES

INTERMENT OF ASHES - JOHN TUCKER GOULD

A short ceremony to inter John's ashes will be held at 11am on Saturday 4th October 2025 at Ohakune Cemetery Lakes Road, Ohakune. This will be followed by light refreshments at The Lions Den, 3 Arawa St, Ohakune.

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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

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



Agendas are published on our 'Meetings this Month' page (ruapehudc.govt.nz) two working days before each scheduled meeting.

Risk & Assurance Committee

10AM, Friday 3 October 2025
Online

Ruapehu District Council

10AM, Wednesday 8 October 2025
Online

MEETING CONTACTS

Ruapehu District Council

07 895 8188

Risk & Assurance Committee

Philip Jones, Chairperson

027 499 9408

PUBLIC NOTICES

Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

No8 Restaurant & Bar Ohakune Limited has made an application to the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council for the **issue of an On Licence** in respect of the premises situated at **55 Clyde Street, Ohakune** known as **No8 Restaurant & Bar**. The general nature of the business to be conducted under the licence is that of a **Restaurant**. The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is intended to be sold under the licence are: **Monday to Sunday 10.00am – 12.00am (midnight)**.

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 first publication of this notice.

Community and Emergency Services

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

Budget Advice – Email waimarinobudgetservices@gmail.com or phone 027 259 5285.

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

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

Child Youth and Family Service – 0508-326 459

Churches

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

Civil Defence – Simon Osborne, Emergency Management Officer (EMO), RDC – 07 895 8188, or 027 220 0569

CLAW community free legal advice

Whanganui 06-348-8288

Doctors: In an emergency call 111

Ruapehu Health Ltd 06-385-4211

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

Ngati Rangi Community Health Centre – 06-385-9580

Plunket Society – Plunket Nurse 06-385-5019

Police and Search & Rescue Emergency, call 111

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

Red Cross – 0800 RED CROSS (0800 733 27677)

Rotary Club Raetihi - Ohakune – 027-344-5669

Ruapehu REAP – 0800 00 REAP (0800 007 327)

Ruapehu Maori Wardens – Email: ruapehumaoriwardens@gmail.com

St John – In an emergency call 111

Taumarunui Counselling Services

For confidential counselling in Waimarino phone 07-895-6393

Victim Support Contact Centre – 0800 842 846

Waimarino Cancer Society

Co-ordinator 06 348 7402

Waimarino Health Care Centre – Raetihi 06-385-5019

Waimarino Community Toy Library – waimarinotoylibrary@gmail.com

Women's Refuge – 0800-REFUGE 0800 73384

To update your details call 06-385-8532

Deadline for all advertising bookings and copy is

5pm Fridays!

PUBLIC NOTICES

Waimarino Golf Club AGM 2025

Wednesday 22 October 6.30pm
at the Golf Club

The new constitution is to be voted on.
This can be found on ruapehugolf.co.nz

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Applications close: Tuesday 30 September

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF TENDER OF ABANDONED LAND



Under conduct of the Registrar of the District Court at Taumarunui at the request of the Ruapehu District Council and in exercise of the power of sale contained in the provisions of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, the Ruapehu District Council offers by public tender the property listed below: -

Whanui Street, Matiere

Valuation number: 0622031300

Section 3 Block X Town of Matiere and being all the land contained in Certificate of Title TN90/12 approximately 1214 square metres more or less. The property is situated at Whanui Street, Matiere and is within the territory of the Ruapehu District Council.

Whanui Street, Matiere

Valuation number: 0622030900

Section 9 Block IX Town of Matiere and being all the land contained in Certificate of Title TN90/7 approximately 1214 square metres more or less. The property is situated at Whanui Street, Matiere and is within the territory of the Ruapehu District Council.

Titi street, Matiere

Valuation number: 0622031600

Section 6 Block X Town of Matiere and being all the land contained in Certificate of Title TN105/267 approximately 1214 square metres more or less. The property is situated at Titi street, Matiere and is within the territory of the Ruapehu District Council.

TENDERS CLOSE 4pm, Thursday 9th October 2025.

Tender documents are available by contacting Debt Management Central (DMC), on 0508 436 269; dmc@mw.org.nz, DMC, DX PA84005, Feilding or from <http://www.debtmanagementcentral.org.nz>

Tender documents and all enquiries are to be submitted to DMC the agent for the Local Authority.

Late tenders will not be accepted.

This notice is authorised by:

Clive Manley
Chief Executive
Ruapehu District Council
14th August 2025



Publishing Editor:

Robert Milne – robert@ruapehubulletin.co.nz

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Ruapehu's success on the NISSSC snow

Eye on Ruapehu College, contributed by staff and students

A group of students took part in the 2025 North Island Secondary Schools Skiing Competition (NISSSC) from 15-17 September. The event featured both skiing and snowboarding events, including giant slalom and slopestyle and was hosted on Tūroa ski field.

“After a hiatus since 2019, this year’s competition was extra special for our students,” said teacher Meredith Wilson.

“Students competed on Monday and Tuesday last week in very challenging weather conditions, demonstrating great determination and positive attitudes.

“An extended and heartfelt thank you to the students who represented our college in both racing and slopestyle events. A special thanks also goes to the Tūroa Ski and Ride School for supporting our Snow Academy training and to the many volunteers who helped make the event possible.”

Ruapehu College achieved some excellent results from the competition: Koda Hoyle won 1st

place in the Junior Boys Ski Giant Slalom, with Kobe Learmonth placing 5th. In Slopestyle, Koda and Kobe also placed 2nd and 3rd. Senior Boys Emmerson Lark and Mica Hoyle achieved 1st and 2nd in Slopestyle, with Emmerson also finishing in the Top 8 in the Slalom event alongside Fletcher Parker. In snowboarding, Milla Smith-Horne and Hana Harding placed 3rd and 4th in the Junior Girls Giant Slalom, and Zoe Southall secured 2nd in the Senior Girls category. Milla also placed 2nd in the Junior Girls Snowboarding slopestyle.

The teams also had strong finishes, including 2nd place in the Team Ski Event and 4th in the Team Snowboard Event.

The College congratulates all the team members: Hana Harding, Zoe Southall, Koda Hoyle, Mica Hoyle, Milla Smith-Horne, Emmerson Lark, Bella Drayton, Fletcher Parker and Kobe Learmonth.

“Special thanks to Lila Doolan and Ruamai Brown for their invaluable work behind the scenes, and to Dempsey Transport for their safe and flexible service throughout the season.

“The entire Ruapehu College community is proud of our competitors. Your efforts and achievements on the mountain are truly commendable,” said Meredith Wilson.

Students build a house

Students who signed up to the building course have wrapped up the year by finishing a fully-completed house build, which is now up for sale as well as last year’s house build.

Now in its third year, the building course is delivered by AGC Training and Industry and led by local Pipiriki tutor Jay, giving students hands-on experience across all stages of construction. From foundations and framing to roofing and flooring. On completion the students gain a New Zealand Certificate in construction trade skills (carpentry) level 3.



Ruapehu College success on the snow: from left, Fletcher Parker, Koda Hoyle, Emerson Lark, Kobe Learmonth and Mica Hoyle. Photo: Ruapehu College.

Throughout the programme, students have gained essential trade skills including the safe use of hand and power tools, estimating project costs, understanding health and safety requirements and more. Their hard work this year has resulted in both a finished home and a strong foundation for entering the construction industry.

Many students secure apprenticeships with local builders after completing work experience placements during the course which is a testament to the program’s focus on practical skills, strong industry connections, and real employment outcomes

Report from Helena Burns

Squash representatives

Ruapehu student Hana Harding and coach Matthew Laurenson travelled to Cairns, Australia at the end of August to take part in the test series against state teams from Queensland and New South Wales. Hana competed in the Junior Girls Team, while Matthew Laurenson took on a key coaching role for both the junior and senior boys teams.

Despite facing some challenging matches in

the heat of the Aussie courts, Hana played some beautiful squash, securing a couple of well-earned wins and gaining valuable experience. The New Zealand squads performed strongly, overcoming both Queensland and New South Wales to retain the state trophies in both singles and doubles. However, the overall Trans-Tasman trophy went to the Australian team this year.

“We are incredibly proud of Hana’s achievements and look forward to seeing what she accomplishes next on her sporting journey. Ka pai, Hana!,” said principal Marama Allen.

Holiday time

“We would like to wish all our students and whānau a safe and happy school holiday. Take this time to rest, recharge, and enjoy time with loved ones,” says principal Marama Allen.

“As the end of the year quickly approaches, next term will be a busy one filled with important events, learning milestones and celebrations. We look forward to seeing everyone back refreshed and ready to finish the year strong.”



Squash experience: Hana Harding and Matthew Laurenson.

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Raetihi 164 Seddon Street



Mortgagee Auction

This property is being sold by way of mortgagee auction without vendor warranties in an “as is, where is” condition. The three-bedroom home is situated on a large, 1552m2 (approx.) elevated site conveniently located close to the Raetihi Shopping village. The property includes a large double garage and established trees. Buyers are advised to conduct their own due diligence. A sale will be sought on Auction Day so don’t miss this opportunity to grab yourself a good-sized family home. Contact Polly or Jenna to register your interest
AUCTION: 1pm; 23 October 2025
(will not be sold prior)
1 Goldfinch Street, Ohakune
Property Brokers Ltd Licensed REAA 2008 | pb.co.nz

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Mortgagee Auction 1.00pm, Thu 23rd Oct, 2025, Property Brokers Ohakune, 1 Goldfinch Street Ohakune, 4625
View Sat 27 Sep 11.00 - 11.30am
Web pb.co.nz/OHU211625

Polly Ingles
M 027 315 8368

Jenna Hovelle
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