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Ruapehu

Bulletin

15 October 2025

Issue No 2079

P: 06 385 8532 E: ads@ruapehubulletin.co.nz



NZ's top snow instructor

P2



Past Ohakune mayor passes

P4



Retired councillor thanked

P5



Adaptive festival a first

P12

Kirton still mayor, two new councillors, Māori wards stay

Weston Kirton has been returned for a second term in his second stint as mayor of the Ruapehu District, well ahead of his rival, ex-councillor Lyn Neeson.

Final results are expected on Thursday, but preliminary results had Kirton on 2330 votes, ahead of Neeson's 1341. Newcomer Grant Lethborg scored 1001 votes and councillor Fiona Hadley-Chase on 369.

Kirton served as mayor for two terms from 1995 to 2001 and stood again in 2022.

He said he expected a tight race for the mayoralty.

"We did our best to present ourselves well and we ran a pretty clean campaign," Kirton told media.

"We put our policies out and it sounds like the people can resonate with that."

"There was a bit of rubbish around on Facebook and the like, but you just get on with it."

Neeson chose not to stand for council, concentrating on the mayoralty, so is now gone from the Ruapehu District Council.

Hadley-Chase also stood for a spot on the Māori Ward but missed out there too, attracting 152 votes, behind Channey Iwikau (192 – elected), Korty Wilson (193) and Kuru Ketu (251).

She misses out on the Taumarunui-Ohura Community Board too, although the final count could possibly see this change. She just misses out with 319 votes, while Oriwia Wanakore – elected at the moment – has just 333 votes.

In the Ruapehu general ward, incumbent councillors Rabbit Nottage (472), Robyn

Gram (501), Viv Hoeta (482) and Brenda Ralph (427) are joined by newcomers Luke Pepper (799 – top of the votes) and John Chapman (471).

Māori Ward to stay

Ruapehu District has chosen to keep its Māori Ward for at least the next two terms, with 2022 voting in favour and 1932 opposed.

Newcomer Emma Young has topped the poll for the Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board, with 249 votes, ahead of current chair Luigi Hotter on 223. Other existing members also stay: Colin Pakai (235), Kay Henare (23) and Stu Robinson (209).

Ohwango-National Park Community Board has incumbent member Peter Zimmer topping the poll (114 votes), followed by other incumbents Murray Wilson (89), Anthony Gurr (67) and Eddie Marsters (66). They are joined by newcomer Gail Tracey Gray (83).

RDC reports that preliminary results for the Ruapehu District Council elections would be delayed due to significantly higher than expected voter turnout on the final day.

Electionz.com was processing almost double the number of votes received in 2022, with approximately 55,000 ordinary votes being processed on one day alone.

The final results are expected on Thursday 16 October, once all special votes have been verified and counted.

"Electionz.com is working as quickly as possible while maintaining accuracy. Special votes have not been included in either progress or preliminary results," reported RDC.

Izaac's southern snow success



Young Ohakune skier Izaac Wu in competition action this season. See Page 12 for details. Photo: Ross Mackay, Snow Sport New Zealand.

BRINGING GREATER ENERGY TO THE RUAPEHU DISTRICT



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RUAPEHU BULLETIN 15 October 2025 • 1

Ruapehu well represented on regional council

Ruapehu District has two residents and one ex-resident on the Manawatu-Whanganui Regional Council (Horizons).

The preliminary results for the Horizons Regional Council election show that Elijah Pue is successful in winning the Raki Māori Regional Constituency, with 1903 votes as at Monday – more than double that of the next highest-polling candidate, Soraya Peke-Mason.

Ruapehu District's one member on the Regional Council is Nikki Riley, re-elected unopposed.

Also winning a seat is Ben Fraser, Ohakune resident, who wins one of the two Whanganui Regional Constitu-

ency seats. As at Monday, he had 5294 votes, behind Alan Taylor on 6228 votes but over 800 votes ahead of the next-highest polling candidate, Martin Visser.

By late Monday, the vote on the Māori Wards referendum saw the vote to keep the Wards slightly ahead: 35,547 to keep the wards and 35,424 opposed.

An earlier count had the vote to ditch the wards ahead by an equally small margin.

There were 7773 blank votes for the referendum, with some calling for a new referendum claiming that many people did not see the option as it was on the last page of voting pages.

Progressive election results for Horizons Regional Council, including the Māori constituencies referendum, are now available online at www.horizons.govt.nz.

Horizons electoral officer Warwick Lampp says the results are only progressive, showing a snapshot of results so far.

"Approximately 85 percent of votes have been counted," says Mr Lampp.

"Preliminary results may differ as more votes are counted. A final declaration of results is expected to be ready later next week."



Nikki Riley.

Meg is instructor of the year

Nineteen-year-old ski and snowboard instructor Meg Hoyland has been named 2025 NZ Snowsports Instructor of the Year at a national awards event held in Queenstown last week, recognising her contribution to snow sports instruction in Aotearoa.

Meg, hometown Whitianga, was nominated by her colleagues from Tūroa Snow School and selected from a strong field of candidates across the country. As part of the selection process, she had to submit a short video sharing her teaching life at Tūroa.

The announcement was made in front of a packed audience of athletes, instructors and supporters at a special ceremony celebrating excellence in the snow sports industry.

Meg's journey began on the slopes of Tūroa, where her family spent holidays and sparked her early love for skiing. After attending Mercury Bay Area School and completing Year 13 at Mount Aspiring College in Wānaka, she began teaching during

holidays and went on to pass her Level 2 Ski Instructor Exam in 2023.

Following a season teaching in Japan, Meg joined the Tūroa Snow School full-time in 2025. Known for her vibrant energy, dedication to the Tūroa Parks and ability to connect with young tamariki, Meg quickly became a favourite among students and peers alike. This season she also achieved her Snowboard Instructor Level 1 and Park Certificate.

Meg returned to Ohakune after the awards ceremony to wrap up the season and is now preparing to head to Switzerland for the Northern Hemisphere winter.

"I've been blown away by the support – from my TASCi students, parents of kids, to teachers at Ohakune Primary School, Tūroa management and the teaching team – all reaching out to say congratulations," said Meg.

"It's been an incredible way to end the season."



Meg Hoyland – New Zealand's snow instructor of the year 2025. Photo supplied.



Elijah Pue.

The Royal Theatre, Raetihi
Community Entertainment

The Tavern (R16)
POSTPONED TO 24 OCTOBER
– 7.30pm – \$15
Fundraiser for Ruapehu Rugby

Double Up (R18)
Stand up comedy & open mic for budding comedians
Thursday 16 October – 7.30pm – \$25
\$15 Supper included. Bar available.

Ruapehu Events & What's On

OCTOBER 2025

Double Up - Comedy 16 October
Royal Theatre, Raetihi

The Tavern Movie 24 October
Royal Theatre, Raetihi

NOVEMBER 2025

Renegade Muster 15 November
#mountainstoseanz Ruapehu NZ, Discover Whanganui, Dept of Conservation

DECEMBER 2025

Raetihi Christmas Carnival 13 December
Seddon St, Raetihi from 9am. Contact Kay on 027 924 7252 for stalls.

JANUARY 2026

Mahi Aroha - DoC Summer Programme 1 - 30 January
For further information: www.tongariro.org.nz.

The Goat Adventure Run 17 January
Have you Goat what it take? www.thegoat.co.nz

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LINK YOUR EVENT TO **EVENTFINDA** FOR FREE



Ben Fraser.

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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 Thursday to Monday, 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
For over 35 years, The Powderkeg has been serving up exceptional food and service in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. Whether you're enjoying a sunny afternoon on our spacious balcony or indulging in our weekly specials like Sushi Fridays and Smokehouse Sundays, there's always something to look forward to. Join us for an unforgettable dining experience and follow us on Instagram @ powderkegbar for the latest updates and mouthwatering offers! Monday to Thursday, Matterhorn Breakfast 7 – 10.30am and Powderkeg 3pm till late. Friday – Sunday Powderkeg 7am till late.

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, foosball, 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.

UTOPIA CAFE
47 Clyde St, Ohakune Ph: 06 385 9120
Open 7 days from 8am – 3pm for all day breakfast and lunch. NOW SERVING HAVANA COFFEE. A cosy memorable atmosphere with a great range of cabinet food and beverages, Frappé and smoothies. Vegan/Gluten-free options for both savoury and sweet are available. Speedy free Wi-Fi! A perfect place for everybody!

Ready to get to work after re-election, says Kirton

Re-elected Ruapehu mayor Weston Kirton says he is looking forward to leading the Ruapehu District for the next three years following a robust election campaign.

“I would firstly like to thank my wife Annette and my family for their ongoing support.

“I would also like to my fellow mayoral candidates, Grant Lethborg, Lynn Neeson and Fiona Kahukura Hadley-Chase, for a fair and competitive campaign,” said Kirton.

“Putting yourself forward for election isn’t easy and I want to pay tribute to everyone who stood this year. The fact that our voter turnout was 50%, one of the highest in the country, is a testament to the strength and vibrancy of our local democracy.”

The mayor-elect thanked voters for their support and pledged to work in the best interests of everyone in the District.

“While we’ve had some tough times recently, this election result shows that our communities can see the progress we’ve made and our focus on moving things

forward. The community has spoken: they want a Council that is united and focused on results.”

Looking ahead, he identified several key priorities.

“We have some thorny issues ahead of us, including ensuring the new water entity with Whanganui is as affordable as possible. I will also not give up on the Chateau or the timber mills until we see real progress.”

He also confirmed plans to discuss his core campaign pledges with Councillors, including not voting for any rates increase over 5% and his proposal for new rural wards.

Kirton plans to nominate a deputy mayor after the final results are declared and once he has had the opportunity to speak with all elected councillors.

“We live in the best little part of the world, and I believe our best days are ahead of us,” he concluded. “With a united Council focused on making things better, we can and will make real progress for the District.”

Ruapehu activates emergency centre

Ruapehu District Council activated its Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) on Monday, as a precaution as the current heavy rain front moves through the District.

A 4:00pm update from the regional Civil Defence headquarters in Palmerston North confirmed that the heaviest rainfall is passing over the district now.

Most of the effects were being felt in the north of the Ruapehu District.

As at midday Tuesday effects to roads were:

- Hohotaka Road is starting to slip and might wash out.
- State Highway Four is closed at Water Fall Hill – possibly from Ongarue turn-off.
- State Highway 43 is to be closed.
- NPCC about to close the Waitaanga.
- Ongarue-Waimiha Road is closed.
- Only way north at present is via the Punga.
- Flooding on Taupo Road by Marae.
- Slips on Kawautahi Road, Okahukura Saddle, Marsack Road.

In Taumarunui, the river walkway was closed as the Whanganui River had

breached its banks near Victory Bridge.

“There is potential for breaches in other low-lying areas - please exercise extreme caution,” stated RDC.

RDC said it had been in contact with river communities and coordinating with its key contractors and other local response agencies.

People were asked to avoid any unnecessary travel.

If travel is necessary, take extreme care and watch for surface flooding, debris, and changing conditions.

Report any local issues to Council on 07 895 8188.



The Whanganui river breached its banks, flooding the river walkway.



Mayor-elect Weston Kirton and his chief supporter, his wife Annette.



Community Sponsorship



Ernslaw One is proud to give approximately \$15,000 to local community groups as part of our commitment to the area in which we work and live.

2025 - 2026

Sponsorship requests are now open!

Who can apply?

Funding is available for local groups who provide a positive contribution to our community.

How can i apply?

Email enquiries@ernslaw.co.nz to request an application form and return the completed form to the same address.

How does Ernslaw One decide who will receive sponsorship and to what value?

We have three main focus areas:

- Education
- Health and Wellbeing
- Environment
- Successful applications typically receive between \$50 - \$500.

Applications close on Friday, 7 November 2025

All applicants will be notified by 10th December 2025

Community groups who benefitted in the last year

Ruapehu Health, Ruapehu Cricket Club, Local Wild Food Challenge, Raetihi Promotions Charitable Trust, Blazing Hills Run, Walk & Obstacle Event, Ohakune Primary School Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Volcano Vibe Collective, Te Ara Tupua Charitable Trust - The social pou of Te Korowai o Wainuiārua, Raetihi Christmas Carnival - Raetihi Promotions Charitable Trust, Ohakune Senior Citizens Club Inc, Ohakune School, Ruapehu Māori Culture Festival - Raetihi Primary School, Tūroa Alpine Ski Club Incorporated [TASCI], Ruapehu College Girls Squash Team and the Boys Squash Team, Rangataua Community Hub - Under the umbrella of Ohakune Community Charitable Trust, Waimarino Agricultural & Pastoral Assoc., Taihape Area Dressage Group, Ruapehu Indoor Football Association, Waimarino Community Toy Library, The Laurenson Trust, Waimarino Museum Society Inc., Manaaki Long Term Athlete Development, Kahui Maunga Basketball, Ruapehu College Equestrian Team.

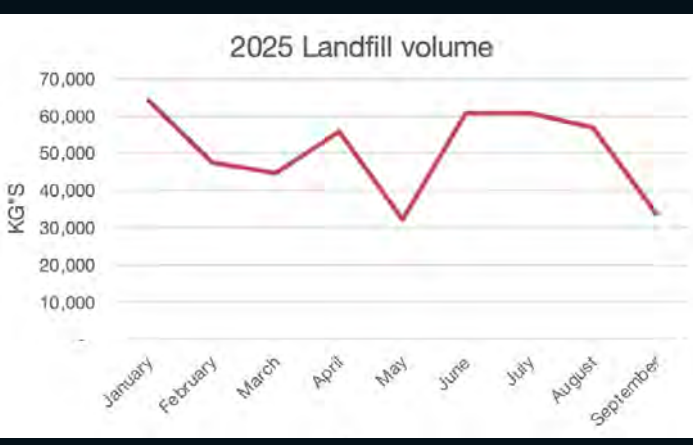
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- Weight diverted 13,391kg

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Oh oh oh, Ohakune!



Ruapehu District Council candidate Rabbit Nottage made it to the top of a list of "the best, worst and weirdest local election hoardings" on The Spinoff website. "A colorful (sic) billboard features a man in bold sunglasses, a purple leopard-print suit, and tie". The Spinoff says he's a man who knows his colour wheel, "with the plummy purples of his tie and shiny (1) leopard print (2) shirt popping beautifully against the egg yolk yellow of whatever the hell that is behind him (choco éclair tank?)." "I can find no evidence of any kind of "New Zealand's Sharpest Town" rankings anywhere in the world." "What is precisely where it should be is "Chocolate Eclairs" – right between Mountain Biking and Snow Fire & Ice. Find me a better trifecta of policies anywhere," says Alex Casey.

Letters

Thank you voters

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the people of Ruapehu for placing their trust in me to serve as one of your councillors. Your support is both humbling and energising, and I'm committed to honouring it with transparent leadership, collaborative problem-solving, and a clear-eyed focus on the challenges ahead.

This campaign was never a solo effort. I want to thank my partner and family for their unwavering support, patience, encouragement, and belief in the importance of honest leadership, which has kept me grounded and focused. I couldn't have done this without them.

This election wasn't just about one candidate; it was about a community choosing how we move forward together. I want to acknowledge and sincerely praise the other candidates who stood for election. Each brought their own strengths, ideas, and passion for our district. Running for public office is never easy, and those who put themselves forward deserve our respect. Their voices enriched the conversation and helped voters see the range of possibilities for Ruapehu's future.

As we begin this new chapter, I'm committed to working not just for those who voted for me, but for everyone in our district. I believe in a council that listens, learns, and leads with integrity. That means continuing to engage with all residents, and drawing on the wisdom and experience of those who didn't make it to council this time – because good ideas don't stop at election results.

Thank you again for your confidence.

John Chapman

Obituary: John Tucker Gould, past mayor of Ohakune

John Tucker Gould, a previous mayor of the Ohakune Borough, died peacefully on 4 August at the Mary Doyle Retirement Village, Havelock North, aged 91 years.

He was born in Te Awamutu and was the eldest of Max and Beryl Gould's six children.

The family moved from Ngaroma to Ohakune in 1940 when his father took over his brother's bakery.

He was educated at Ohakune Primary, Ruapehu College, New Plymouth Boys High School and Otago University where he qualified as a biochemist. He worked for a short time for the Wheat Research Institute in Christchurch.

He then came back to Ohakune to take over the management and ownership of the Ohakune bakery. This endeavour led to his involvement in Quality Bakers NZ Ltd at a national level and across the Asia Pacific region.

John Gould believed strongly in community service and became a member of the Ohakune Jaycees. As a result of the Jaycees looking for community projects, he and fellow members, developed an awareness of just how much needed to be done if Ohakune was to prosper and survive.

This led to his election onto council and his eventual position as mayor of Ohakune, a position he held from 1969 to 1981.

During his tenure, Ohakune benefited from a new sewerage scheme, improved roading and projects that promoted it, as New Zealand's Carrot Capital. Winstone Pulp Mill was set up in Karioi and Alex Harvey Industries was persuaded to invest in what became Tūroa Ski Fields.

Commitment to the baking industry led to John Gould's resignation as mayor and a move to Hamilton, then Auckland and Sydney before eventually retiring to Havelock North.

He was awarded a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) in 2000 for services to the baking industry and community.

In later years he became involved in Rotary and served as a board member for Presbyterian Support East Coast. The epitaph on his tombstone reads "Service Above Self", an epitaph the family feels is entirely appropriate for a man who spent much of his life serving his community in one form or another.

"For Dad, Ohakune remained his spiritual home. It was a town he was incredibly proud of. It was Ohakune, facing his beloved mountain that he chose as his final resting place," said his daughter Raewyn on behalf of the family.

He is a brother to Joanne, Helen, Christine, Michael and Lincoln. Loved and loving husband of Eunice and fondly remembered by Ellen. Loved and respected by his daughters, stepchildren, their husbands and partners, Raewyn and Leo, Jude and Bob, Susan, Darren and Sue, Erin and JP. Proud Grandad to his 10 grandchildren and their partners, and his eight great-grandchildren.

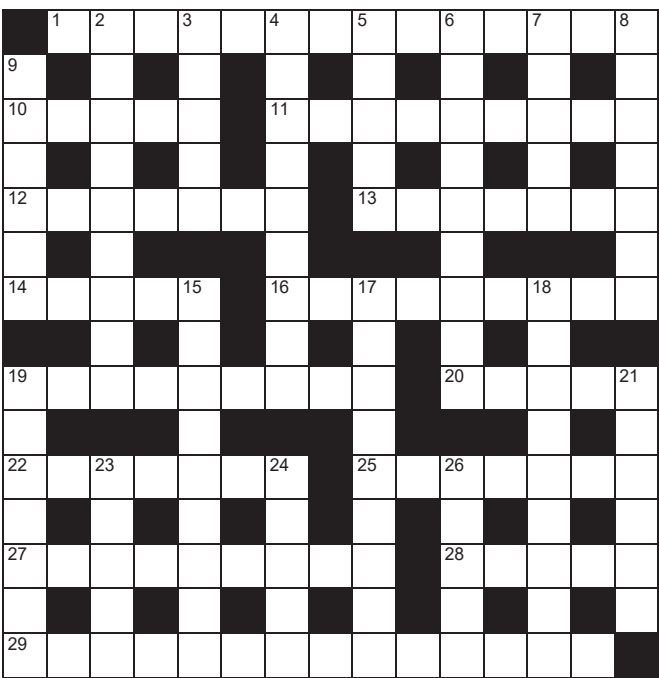


John Gould, ex-mayor of Ohakune Borough.

THE WEEKLY WORKOUT answers for each puzzle are included on this page 824

QUICK CROSSWORD

- Across
- 1. Forms of creative activity for an audience (10,4)
 - 10. Proportion (5)
 - 11. Discard (4,5)
 - 12. Word formed from initial letters (7)
 - 13. Last in line (7)
 - 14. Unnamed object (5)
 - 16. Spying (9)
 - 19. Opponent (9)
 - 20. Enthusiastic (5)
 - 22. Training meeting (7)
 - 25. Mythical sea creature (7)
 - 27. Without thought or preparation (9)
 - 28. Halt (5)
 - 29. Black box (aircraft) (6,8)
- Down
- 2. Blackmail (9)
 - 3. Scowl (5)
 - 4. Advise in favour (9)
 - 5. Point of dispute (5)
 - 6. Pretentious, ostentatious (9)
 - 7. African animal (abbr) (5)
 - 8. Ceremonial staff (7)
 - 9. School absentee (6)



- 15. Environmental propaganda (9)
- 17. Medical emergency worker (9)
- 18. Make worse (9)
- 19. Forsake (4-3)
- 21. Blush (6)
- 23. Plain clothes (5)
- 24. Detection instrument (5)
- 26. Happen again (5)



Enjoy WordFit puzzles? Magazines available from www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

THE TOP 10

- 1. Glenn Miller, 2. Moosemousse, 3. One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, 4. Satellite, 5. Shooting
- 6. At the Copacabana, 7. 50,
- 8. Sulphur, 9. Donkey, elephant, 10. Sunflower.

SUDOKU

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

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

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

The Top 10

- 1. Which band leader was killed in a 1944 plane crash in the English Channel?
- 2. What is the largest member of the deer family, and a dessert?
- 3. Jack Nicholson is a patient in a mental hospital in what 1975 Oscar-winning film?
- 4. In astronomy, what is a celestial body in the orbit of a larger one?
- 5. Natalia Rooney the only New Zealander to have won an Olympic medal in dressage, judo, or shooting?
- 6. In a song, where was Lola a showgirl?
- 7. How many points is a bullseye worth in darts?
- 8. What element, symbol S, was known in ancient times as brimstone?
- 9. Which animals are the symbols of the US Democratic and Republican parties?
- 10. What type of flower did Vincent van Gogh paint repeatedly in 1887-88?

CROSSWORD

- Across: 1. Performing arts, 10. Ratio, 11. Cast aside, 12. Acronym, 13. Endmost, 14. Thing, 16. Espionage, 19. Contender, 20. Eager, 22. Seminar, 25. Memento, 27. Offhanded, 28. Cease, 29. Flight recorder. Down: 2. Extortion, 3. Frown, 4. Recommend, 5. Issue, 6. Grandiose, 7. Rhino, 8. Sceptre, 9. Truant, 15. Greenwash, 17. Paramedic, 18. Aggravate, 19. Cast-off, 21. Redden, 23. Muff, 24. Radar, 26. Recur.

SUDOKU

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



Kirton thanks Hinch for dedicated Ruapehu service

Retiring Ruapehu District councillor Janelle Hinch, who did not seek re-election at the local body elections, has received praise from mayor-elect Weston Kirton.

“On behalf of Council and the wider Ruapehu community, I want to sincerely thank Janelle for her outstanding service over the past two terms,” said Kirton.

“As one of the district’s youngest councillors, Janelle brought fresh energy and perspective to the role, making a valued and lasting contribution to our work and decision-making.

“By stepping forward at a young age and serving with commitment and integrity, Janelle has shown

other young people that they too can represent their community and make a real difference,” he said.

Kirton added that as a local business owner in Ohakune, Janelle brought firsthand experience of the challenges and issues faced by small businesses to the Council table, ensuring these voices were heard and considered in decision-making.

During her time on Council, Janelle represented Ruapehu on the Visit Ruapehu Board and previously served as the Council representative on the Ōwhango–National Park Community Board.

“Janelle’s commitment to our District and her ability to connect with a wide range of people has been a real asset.”

Kirton added “We wish her every success in her future endeavours and thank her for her dedication to our communities.”

Mayor-elect Weston Kirton has paid tribute to Councillor Janelle Hinch, who did not seek re-election, saying she has made a valued and lasting contribution to Council over the last two terms.

New fishing season open

With the new fishing season having kicked off earlier this month, anglers across New Zealand are set for what promises to be an outstanding year on the water.

Fish & Game’s chief operating officer Richie Cosgrove says recent river inspections have revealed trout in exceptional condition throughout most catchments.

“The fish we’re seeing are in particularly good condition for this time of the year – exactly what anglers want to encounter when they head out tomorrow,” Cosgrove says.

“We’re coming off the back of one of the best seasons many anglers can recall in years, and this is shaping up to be another cracker.”

The absence of major winter floods in most regions has enabled fish to maintain excellent condition after the spawning season. Recent flooding in the top of the South Island may have had some localised impact on fisheries there though we’ve had reports of good winter fishing in affected areas.

“With no significant disruption over winter, fish have been able to put on condition quickly and we’re certainly

set up superbly for the 2025-26 season,” Cosgrove says.

While the fishing season officially opened on 1 October across New Zealand, there are some regional variations for the opening of some waterways, so anglers are encouraged to check the regulations for the area where they’re planning to head out.

“Fishing is not just an excellent opportunity to catch your own healthy free-range kai, but it’s recognised internationally for its positive impact on mental health and wellbeing,” Cosgrove says.

“Angling is also great for socialising with friends and family and supports the economy. And with several days still left in the school holidays, I’m sure there are plenty of parents wanting to see their kids get outside, off their screens and engaged in some healthy outdoor activity.”

Fish & Game expects to sell around 140,000 licences this season, with approximately 10 per cent purchased by international visitors keen to experience New Zealand’s renowned fisheries.

Licences are available online at fishandgame.org.nz



Sharna Brown pictured with son Ryker (2 years old). (ReWild Snap & Share: The Fish & Game Licence Photo Competition winner).

Property Brokers

Taumarunui 166 Saddler Road

Open Day



Riverside rural

Set amidst the picturesque rolling hills of Taumarunui, 166 Saddler Road presents a rare opportunity to embrace the best of country living. If you’re seeking a peaceful rural block, a retirement haven or a character-filled rural getaway, this impressive property delivers on every front. Positioned on 22.19 ha (more or less) of flat to gently contoured land, there is ample space for farming or equestrian pursuits, calf rearing, and boundless accommodation potential. The spacious family home is spread over two storeys and offers five bedrooms and two bathrooms.

5 2 2

Tender closes 11.00am, Wed 5th Nov 2025, Property Brokers Taumarunui, 27 Hakiaha Street

View Sat 18 Oct 10.00 - 11.00am
Web pb.co.nz/TUR193535



Alan Blackburn
M 027 203 9112

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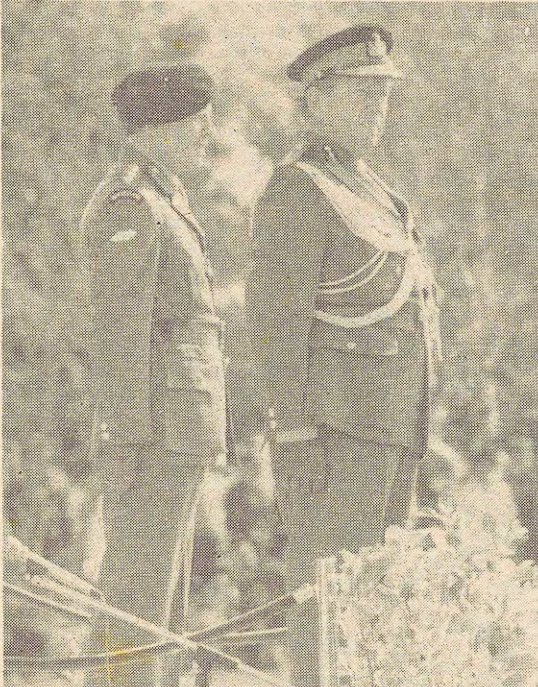
VOICE OF THE RUAPEHU REGION
Tuesday 15 October, 1985. Volume 3 No. 21

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Army farewells Governor General



Guns fire a 21-gun salute in the Feu-de-Joie, a rare military ceremony, performed only on royal or vice-regal occasions.



The Governor General, Sir David Beattie, reviewing soldiers of the Army Training Group, accompanied by Commander ATG, Colonel B. Meldrum.

The retiring Governor General, Sir David Beattie, was given an official army farewell on Friday at an impressive parade at Waiouru Military Camp.

Accompanied by Lady Beattie, Sir David inspected soldiers of the Army Training Group by Landrover, and reviewed the march past in slow and quick time.

Later in the parade the Feu-de-Joie, a rarely seen military ceremony, resounded across the parade ground. The ceremony, which originated as a display of new weapons before the time of Queen Elizabeth I, consisted of three series of seven rounds fired from 105mm Pack Howitzers, and several rifle volleys.

After three cheers by the more than 800 soldiers on parade, his Excellency said how much he enjoyed visiting Waiouru Military Camp.

and thanked the soldiers for the parade.

Earlier in the day Sir David and Lady Beattie visited HMNZS Irirangi.

At Irirangi Sir David and Lady Beattie were given a 10-man sea-going royal guard. Irirangi was given special dispensation for this as it is not a sea-going ship.

A large crowd of locals and visitors watched the parade, which took place in ideal conditions.

The Governor General and Lady Beattie also enjoyed a number of social events before they left Waiouru on Saturday morning.

At a formal dinner on Friday evening many of the Army General Staff were present.

Ruapehu Radio switches off

After final live broadcasts from the Martini Giant-Man Triathlon and the Waimarino Rescue Day events on Saturday, Ruapehu Radio finished their broadcast at 5pm.

The station has been broadcasting for three months, providing music, community information, snow reports and job lines.

"The big highlight of course was the radiothon, which was such a good weekend — we never thought we'd get the \$40,000 — we thought if we could leave the Waimarino having raised \$30,000 we'd have done our bit for the community," said

station manager, Dave Campbell.

Dave said there will definitely be Ruapehu Radio next year, but he is uncertain what form it will take.

Radio New Zealand's 2ZW station in Wanganui has an application before the Broadcasting Tribunal to build an FM repeater in Raetihi.

If this is approved, 2ZW will be heard clearly in the Waimarino all year.

Ruapehu Radio may be permitted to take over the repeater for the winter. Discussion between Radio New Zealand and Ruapehu Radio will have to be carried out before a decision is made, Dave said.

BANK BIRTHDAY



Ohakune Trusteebank Manager, Aubrey Dodd, with prizewinners in the bank's colouring-in competition.

Raetihi and Ohakune branches of Trusteebank Wanganui celebrated their 21st birthdays on Friday.

The banks provided wine and birthday cake for customers and balloons for the children.

Ruapehu Radio broadcast live from both branches and winners of the Trustee-

bank colouring-in competition, published recently in the *Bulletin*, were presented with their prizes, while on the air.

The winners were: Juniors — 1st Veronica Richards, 2nd Rebekah Ingram, 3rd Nicole Bergersen. Seniors — 1st John Greenwood, 2nd Vanessa Roach, 3rd Shanika Perera.

Full maternity service at Waimarino Hospital soon

Waimarino Hospital should be providing full maternity services again soon, according to local area health board representative, Dorothy Scarrow.

The hospital has not been able to supervise deliveries over the past few weeks because of staff sickness, and has offered only after-care services.

Ohakune's Dr Perera withdrew his services for a time because he felt relieving midwives could have been found in the local area.

Mrs Scarrow said that negotiations had been going on last week with three local

midwives and one, Mrs Pam Kennedy of Karioi, is to take part in a midwifery refresher course at Wanganui Base Hospital. When that is completed she will work part-time with two other midwives to provide a 24-hour maternity service.

Sister Longcroft, matron of the hospital, said she was "hopeful" that the hospital would be available for deliveries again from 21 October.

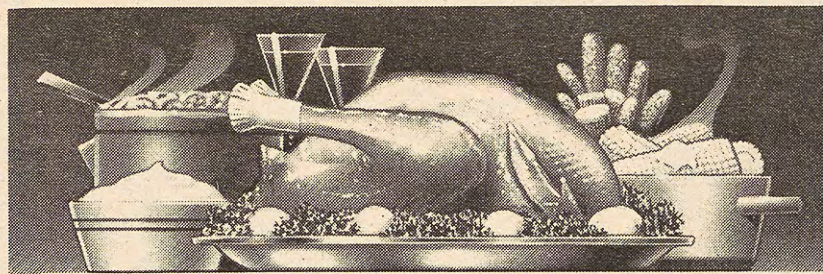
In the meantime the hospital will continue as an after-care unit and expectant mothers should discuss their delivery arrangements with their doctors, said Mrs Scarrow.

Delivery units are available in other parts of the region, at: Waiouru, five days a week, Taihape, seven days, and Wanganui seven days.

With the arrival of recruited midwives from England in January a full-time person should be appointed, Mrs Scarrow said.

Dr Perera meantime, was pleased that maternity cases were to be fully covered again.

"I am happy and relieved that local people have the service again, and that we managed to find midwives in the local area," he said.



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Power firm seeks trainee line mechanics

The local electricity company has announced the opening of applications for its next intake of trainee line mechanics.

“We want local talent—recent school leavers, graduates or those seeking a hands-on, community-focused career—to consider a future with The Lines Company,” says chief executive Mike Fox.

They are recruiting three new trainee line mechanics: two positions based in and around Taumarunui, and one in the Ohakune area.

“Successful applicants will have the opportunity to learn from experienced professionals, develop valuable skills and contribute directly to the communities in which they live and work. TLC is committed to fostering a supportive environment where trainees can thrive; we offer excellent training, career development and a strong sense of team spirit,” says Fox.

Fox said the company “unashamedly” wants to hire locals as line mechanic trainees, as well as into other roles.

“We’re looking for passionate, motivated individuals who enjoy working outdoors, value teamwork and want to make a positive impact in their community,” said Fox.

“Our trainee programme is the perfect launchpad for a rewarding career.”

Applications are now open and will close on Monday 10 November 2025. For more information and to apply, visit our careers page: <https://www.thelinescompany.co.nz/about-us/work-for-us/>



Photo montage of trainee line mechanics, from left: Aaron Wilson (2025 intake), Hayden Kanters (2023 intake) and Riddick Rangitonga (2025 intake). Hayden is on the verge of becoming a fully qualified line mechanic.



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Big tools need a big shed!

On the outskirts of Raetihi, born and bred local Dale Haitana is building a big shed. His business, Haitana Earthworks, needs a big shed to house his big tools of trade, a 14-tonne track machine, a 14-tonne wheel digger, and a 10-tonne tip bucket trailer.

Having worked in the earthmoving industry for over 30 years, Dale brings not only the big tools to the job but also a wide range of knowledge and professionalism to every aspect of the jobs he undertakes.

Haitana Earthworks, over the years, has been involved in many of the larger roading contracts within the district and can handle these larger projects, such as roading, farm work, and drain laying, to smaller jobs such as constructing driveways and preparing shed sites.

Dale and his partner Carina McNie, who runs a native plant nursery on their 50-acre lifestyle block, are also passionate about their local community and have donated countless hours to initiatives such as the clean-up and regeneration of the Makotuku Walkway in Raetihi.

This dynamic pairing of Dale's expertise in earthmoving and Carina's knowledge and supply of native plants also means they should be your first point of call for any landscaping projects.

Haitana Earthworks is located at 129 Ruatiti Road in Raetihi. Give Dale a call on 027 289 4404 to discuss how they can help you with your next project.



Dale Haitana's business is big on machines and experience. Photo: Kate Hartmann.

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A passion for cars leads to own business

Daniel Norris has always had a passion for cars and all things mechanical and Ruapehu Motors in Raetihi is dedicated to servicing and repairing all types of motor vehicles.

Leaving school at the age of 15 in Hamilton, there was only one option for Daniel: an automotive apprenticeship. Like most young mechanics, his dream was to one day own his own workshop. As fate would have it, 15 years later, that opportunity arose when Toyota vacated the dealership at 1 Valley Road in Raetihi.

Having worked at Toyota for the previous few years, Daniel was familiar with the site and knew he wanted to continue living and working in the local community. So, he took a leap of faith and invested in his own workshop and business. You can find Daniel at Ruapehu Motors, between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. If he's busy, you may meet his father there, who lends a hand when required.

Daniel has a broad range of experience and ability across various makes and models and a keen interest in the industry.

Ruapehu Motors offers a full range of services, which includes the completion and issuance of Warrant of Fitness, servicing and mechanical repairs of vehicles (including European models), and the fitting and balancing of wheels and tyres. Ruapehu Motors can also assist with emergency pick-up and towing of vehicles in the local area.

Ruapehu Motors is located at 1 Valley Road in Raetihi, and Daniel can be contacted by phone on 027 863 7454 or via email at ruapehumotors@gmail.com.



Daniel Norris – his passion for cars has led to him owning his own business. Photo: Kate Hartmann.

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PUBLIC NOTICES



HUI HAPORI COMMUNITY MEETING

Living Waters Medical invites you to a health hui!

Monday 20th October
4pm - 6pm
28 Queen Street, Raetihi



Nau mai, Haere mai!

TŪWHARETOA MĀORI TRUST BOARD Annual Hui

The Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board gives notice of its Annual Hui for the year ended 30 June 2025 to be held at the Tokaanu Marae on Saturday 6 December 2025, commencing at 10:00am (registrations open at 9.30am).

Beneficiaries may request copies of the Trust Board's annual report and financial statements by contacting the office on (07) 386 8832 after 14 November 2025. Hard copies of the annual report and financial statements will also be available at the Annual Hui.

Rakeipoho Taiaroa
Chief Executive Officer

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Tamahaki Council of Hapu Incorporated Society AGM

Sunday 2 November 2025
11:00am

Tamahaki Office, 19 Ward Street, Raetihi

Agenda:

- Opening of meeting
- Apologies
- Confirmation of quorum
- Previous annual general meeting minutes
- Chair annual report
- Treasurer annual report
- Election of officers
- Urgent general business
- Closure

For any enquires contact Chairman
Robert Williams 0272 522 433

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This role focuses on quality assurance, deadline management, responsive coordination, and professional minute-taking to support the integrated approach of governance, community development, and emergency management functions.

You'll actively support the Governance Manager in delivering professional governance services across Council, Committees, and Community Boards.

The position requires flexibility to work 35 hours per week, including evening Community Board meetings (every 6-8 weeks), and occasional availability for urgent governance requirements. The role supports our integrated Community, Governance and Resilience team approach to building thriving, resilient communities.

Skills and experience:

- Proven administration experience in meetings, agendas, and document management
- Accurate minute-taking (meetings are recorded for reference)
- Strong attention to detail and proofreading
- Experience with purchase orders, expenses, and social media/website updates
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Highly organised and able to manage multiple priorities calmly
- Proficient with Microsoft Office and digital platforms
- Flexibility to work evening hours for Community Board meetings
- Understanding of the importance of accuracy and confidentiality in governance processes
- Full NZ driver's licence

This is a fascinating role that supports the effectiveness of local democracy. You'll never be bored and will have plenty of opportunities to keep learning.

If this sounds like you, apply through our website:
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OHAKUNE CATCH-UP



with Suze Redmayne, MP for Rangitikei and Carl Bates, MP for Whanganui

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Super Early Bird passes have landed for the 2026 winter season. Snag your pass now for just \$499 and lock in those mountain days for less. Youth and student deals sweeten the drop while kids under 10 and over 75 ski free! Be quick, sale ends 14 Nov 2025.

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26

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Izaac's southern snow success



Izaac Wu, successful young Ohakune skier. Photo: Snow Sports NZ.

Ohakune skier Izaac Wu has returned from his winter stint based at Wanaka with a haul of medals and lots of skiing experience. He won 2nd place in Treble Cone mini mountain junior free ride competition. In the 2025 Cardrona Freestyle nationals, he placed 3rd in skier cross (first time podium in this event); 3rd in slopestyle; 2nd in halfpipe; 2nd in rail jam; and 2nd overall in U12 ski boys. "Considering there are more competitors from overseas than in the past few years, we think he's done a very good job!" says his Dad Erny. The family acknowledges the support for Izaac from TCB for providing him protection gears and boot fittings services, Jones Brothers (Doogs Drinkwater) for skis and ski boots, and Vight from Taiwan for goggles. They also thanked the teachers at Ohakune Primary School, especially the late Ali Whale, who helped him to keep up his school work while he got four days a week on snow training during the whole season. They also thanked all the community for supporting his pre-season fundraising.

Adaptive festival a first



Despite the mixed bag of weather, adaptive athletes and support crews came together for lessons, sledding, a fancy-dress race and a special film night at Lorenz's Bar and Cafe for the Whakapapa Adaptive Festival. "From first-ever ski lessons to shared moments in the snowplay area, the maunga made space for everyone," reported Whakapapa. "Confidence grew, friendships formed and a strong community stood behind it all." Whakapapa Ski Area says it is on the path to a more accessible future and is already looking ahead to the next festival in 2026. Photo: Whakapapa Ski Area.

Property Brokers

Ohakune 22B Lee Street



A little bit of magic

22B Lee Street is the perfect piece of real estate for anyone looking for a holiday haven or someone looking for an investment property. Renovated 6 years ago, featuring two bedrooms plus an additional mezzanine floor, the place blends modern comfort with rustic charm. The open-plan kitchen and living area is graced with gabled ceilings, creating a sense of spaciousness that is both welcoming and warm. Having two bathrooms, both with a shower and toilet, is a real bonus when the extra family members come to stay.

2 2
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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

3 1 1 1
Mortgagee Auction 1.00pm, Thu 23rd Oct, 2025, Property Brokers Ohakune, 1 Goldfinch Street Ohakune, 4625 View Sun 19 Oct 11.00 - 11.30am Web pb.co.nz/OHU211625

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