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Raetihi church ready to reopen
P2



Eruption in a syringe
P4



last of the southern skiing
P5



Speedy kids for cross country
P11

Council staffer turned councillor named as Ruapehu deputy

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting

Ruapehu mayor Weston Kirton has chosen second-term councillor Brenda Ralph as his new deputy mayor.

Ralph will be appointed at the first meeting of the Ruapehu District Council on Wednesday in Taumarunui.

The inaugural meeting will be held at Ngāpūwaiwaha Marae, followed by a swearing in ceremony at the council chambers.

Ralph succeeds to the deputy mayoralty from councillor Viv Hoeta, who held the role for the previous three years. Hoeta has also been re-elected to the council for a fourth term.

Before Ralph's election as a councillor



Second-term councillor Brenda Ralph has been chosen as the new deputy mayor of Ruapehu District Council. Photo Supplied.

in 2022, she worked at the council for 18 years, including as compliance manager. She has also been an active member of Performing Arts Taumarunui.

The deputy mayor holds responsibilities when the mayor is unavailable, including performing all the mayor or chairperson's duties and powers.

Kirton told Local Democracy Reporting he chose his deputy mayor following discussions with councillors.

At least three councillors put themselves forward for the role, citing either their strong vote counts or the view that the deputy mayor should come from the southern part of the district, given that the mayor is from the north.

Kirton said the position was not linked to where the councillor lived or who received the most votes.

"I chose the deputy mayor based on who I think can work alongside the mayor and is available on a day-to-day basis for this role of responsibility. I've chosen someone who can relate to my way of thinking, who I think can work with me."

"Brenda is experienced, with three years as a councillor under her belt, and we worked pretty well together over the last three years," said Kirton.

Convention

It had been the convention that the deputy was appointed from the other end of the District to the current mayor, since the first triennium of the Ruapehu District Council in the late 1980s, when Garrick

Turn to Page 2

Six second hot saw cut sees Jordan win first ever World Championship



Ruapehu's Jack Jordan takes 6.30 seconds to 'hot saw' through a log and win the timber sports world championship.

New Zealand's country's top axeman, Jack Jordan from Ruapehu, has won the Stihl Timbersports World Championship individual event in Milan, Italy (Sunday morning NZ time) for the first time.

Jordan went one better than his frustratingly close second place finish at last year's event.

In the 12-strong field, Jordan was jostling for the top spot in a battle for first and second with legendary Australian Brayden Meyer, right up until the last of six disciplines, the volatile Hot Saw (super-powered chainsaw).

It was a Hot Saw hiccup that cost Jordan the title last

Turn to Page 12

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Council staffer turned councillor named as Ruapehu deputy

From Page 1

Workman, from Raetihi at the time, had Weston Kirton, from the north, as his deputy.

Kirton said he would share other responsibilities around the table.

He was pleased that other councillors interested in the deputy mayoralty had stood back “graciously”.

“There was a lot of goodwill, and I’m grateful to people for being respectful, standing back and recognising there were others who were also interested in the role.

“I can sense this is going to be a great council and that people will respect each other enough to get on with the job.

“There is a diverse range of skills and mindset around the table. I’m getting vibes that we want to work together as a team and we’re keen to get on with the job of representing our community.”

The nine members elected after voting in September and October are, in order of most votes, Luke Pepper, Rabbit Nottage, Robyn Gram, Viv Hoeta, John Chapman and Brenda Ralph. The Māori Ward councillors, in order of most votes, are, Kuru Ketu, Channey Duncan Tūroa Iwikau and Korty Wilson.

The council will appoint a member of the council to each of its three community boards. The appointments are made to balance elected community representation with council oversight and co-ordination.

Councillor Gram will be appointed to the Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board; councillor Pepper to Ōwhango-National Park and councillor Nottage to Waimarino-Waiouru.

The appointments align with each councillor’s community, enabling them to draw on local knowledge and established community relationships.

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



Ruapehu Events & What's On

NOVEMBER 2025

Pirate Ship Launch 8 November
Carrotland Adventure Park

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

DECEMBER 2025

Raetihi Christmas Carnival 13 December
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JANUARY 2026

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Raetihi church ready to reopen

After earthquake strengthening at St Mary’s Church in Raetihi, parishioners will hold a reopening service on 11 November.

“We were lucky enough to secure funding for (the work) from the David Luke Bequest (funds for heritage Churches in the style of St Mary’s),” said parishioner Jane Sherrett.

“Ironically, the law around earthquake strengthening changed just as the job was completed, but at least we know the risk is greatly reduced.”

She said Kobus Senekal and crew did a great job on the repairs.

While the building was closed the opportunity was taken to restore and polish the floors.

The parishioners also held a working bee with Ohakune Primary School’s William Pike Challenge children, planting 52 of Carina McNie’s shrubs in Sustaina-grow plant protectors into the church’s wetland rehabilitation area.

Alongside the church refurbishment project, the vicarage house has been undergoing a transformation, including adding a new wood burner and work to ensure the house meets Healthy Homes standards.



TOP: St Mary’s Church is ready to reopen after earthquake strengthening. ABOVE: Children were among the volunteers who helped with planting out the St Mary’s Church wetland rehabilitation area. Photo supplied.

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Three storms in five months: \$4m damage, plus cost of latest Ruapehu District event

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting

Ruapehu District Council says ratepayers could face a recovery bill of more than \$1 million local share after three major weather events in five months left widespread damage across the district.

Council infrastructure manager and Civil Defence response manager Vini Dutra said the first weather event in June caused \$2.23m in damages and the second in July was costed at \$1.9m.

“Damage and repair costs for this most recent event will also be in the millions of dollars,” Dutra said.

“We were still working through repairs from the July weather event, with around 100 sites yet to be completed.”

He said the council had been expecting NZTA funding approval for this work within the next two to three weeks.

“Even with an increased Funding Assistance Rate (FAR) from NZTA to support recovery works, Ruapehu ratepayers will still need to contribute a significant local share – potentially more than \$1 million across the three storm events.”

The council would work to unlock funding from “all possible sources” to reduce the financial pressure on Ruapehu ratepayers.

Dutra said roading contractors and communities had done “a brilliant job” reopening 24 roads over a few days.

“It has been an amazing effort.”

Dutra said NZTA’s emergency funding arrangements allowed remedial work to reopen the network, but permanent solutions require detailed engineering assessments and costings.

“Although this takes longer, it means council and NZTA can make informed decisions about whether to replace damaged assets like-for-like or invest in greater long-term resilience.”

Roading crews made good progress over the weekend reopening local roads after last week’s storm and flooding, which caused extensive damage to roads, bridges and other infrastructure.

Access restored

Access to all townships had been restored before the weekend. Ruapehu civil defence controller Clive Manley said there were no isolated communities, but many roads remain in a fragile condition.

Council engineers have been assessing the scale of the damage, with repair work focused on restoring access to at least one lane.

Reinstating reliable road access was the top priority for rural residents, particularly farmers whose livelihoods depend on dependable transport links, Manley said.

Floodwaters caused around 80 percent of the roading damage, leaving behind cracking, slumping, heavy silt deposits, logs, debris, and numerous slips and dropouts.

With most roads now reopened, Manley urged motorists to take extreme care.

“There will be heavy vehicles and repair crews operating across the district, specifically around Ōhura and Matiere.

“We’re asking people to drive cautiously and to be patient as some repairs will take time to complete, and with more rain forecast next week, the risk of new slips remains,” he said.

Ruapehu Civil Defence was continuing to keep a close watch on any forecast bad weather and preparing accordingly. Rain forecast later in the week will be monitored closely.

The Taumarunui River Walkway alongside the Ongarue and Whanganui Rivers was badly damaged in the flooding with large sections of the track through Nga Huinga / Cherry Grove washed away.

People were being asked to take extra care if walking by the damaged trail and to keep a close eye on children near the washed-out sections.

The electric barbecue at Nga Huinga / Cherry Grove had gone underwater and should not be used until it has been certified as safe.

The walkway was originally built with support from Government funding grants and the council would look at what support is available to rebuild the damaged sections.

Road access to the Timber Trail and Timber Trail Lodge has now been reestablished for residents and commercial operators.

Welfare support still available

Dutra said the council was continuing to provide welfare support and had been checking up on people and communities.

Requests for support were now around how the council could provide more practical assistance such as with clean-up efforts.

People have been allowed to dispose of flood-damaged household material at no cost at the Taumarunui Transfer Station, with around 18 tonnes of household flood waste dropped off so far.

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



The Taumarunui River Walkway was built with the support of government grant funding. Ruapehu District Council will investigate whether further financial support would be available to help with the rebuild. Photo supplied.



Flooding on the Ōhura River. Photo: Supplied/Manawatu-Whanganui emergency management group.

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Eruptions in a syringe: experiments aimed at predicting Mt Ruapehu's moods

By Kate Newton, for Our Changing World, RNZ
Want to make your own Ruapehu? Vinegar and baking soda won't cut it here. Instead, you'll need andesite rock (crushed), some crater lake fluid (very acidic) and some gases (volcanic).

Heat your ingredients to 200° Celsius in a shiny, titanium pressure vessel and take frequent pressure, temperature and fluid samples. After 40 to 50 days – if you're lucky – you might arrive at your lab one morning to discover an eruption has taken place overnight, ejecting a small amount of fluid and bits of crushed rock and ash into a waiting syringe.

This will be very exciting.
"I know when something good has happened," volcano seismologist Dr Oliver Lamb says, "because I'm sitting in my office over there and I can see Lucjan and Geoff walking past, really excited, like kids in a sweet shop."

All three – Oliver, hydrothermal geochemist Dr Lucjan Sajkowski and senior volcanologist Dr Geoff Kilgour – are researchers based at Earth Sciences New Zealand's Wairakei Research Centre.

The cluster of buildings lies just north of Taupō, right next to the Wairakei thermal plant and less than 100 kilometres away from the real object of the researchers' interest: Mount Ruapehu – the North Island's highest point, and New Zealand's largest active volcano.

It's been just over 30 years since the first of the large 1995-96 Ruapehu eruptions, which grounded planes, caused power outages, and covered large areas of the region with ash.

There has been one smaller eruption since, in 2007, which flung rock into the air that crushed a mountain hut, injuring a climber sheltering there.

Monitoring and modelling of volcanoes has advanced

greatly since 1995, but we still can't look into Ruapehu – or any volcano – to see exactly what's going on.

So instead, Lucjan, Oliver and Geoff have recreated Ruapehu in the lab, hoping that the changes they observe in the lead-up to a syringe eruption might help them someday predict when the real thing is going to blow.

Thin crust

Ruapehu sits within the Taupō Volcanic Zone, which forms part of the Taupō-Hikurangi subduction system. Beneath, the Pacific plate dives beneath the Australian plate, stretching and thinning the Earth's crust and causing the many volcanoes and earthquakes that have shaped this part of the North Island.

Ruapehu is an andesite stratovolcano: a rough cone shape made up of alternating layers of ash and lava flow from successive large eruptions, with a crater lake – Te Wai ā-moe – at the summit. The andesite is the key to Ruapehu's explosiveness. It has a relatively high silica content, making the rock 'stickier' and therefore harder for gases to escape than some other types of rock.

Within the volcano, there's hot magma deep below, which sometimes moves upwards. This shallower magma then heats the rock and fluid under the crater lake. In quiet periods, the volcano's hydrothermal system lets gas and hot liquid seep from vents into the lake. But one theory as to why Ruapehu erupts is that, as the temperature rises, a mineral seal may form in these vents, behind which pressure builds and builds.



Dr Lucjan Sajkowski stands next to a glass cabinet housing Earth Sciences New Zealand's new geothermal process simulator. Dr Lucjan Sajkowski in the lab at the Wairakei Research Centre. Photo: Claire Concannon, RNZ.

When Ruapehu erupts, there's often no, or very little, magma involved, Oliver says.
"It's just the eruption of supercritical, super-hot gas and water coming out of the system because of the seals breaking."

They believe the seal formation happens because some minerals form solids as the temperature rises, rather than dissolve – like limescale forming inside a kettle.

Recreating this cycle of heating, mineral precipitation, seal formation, pressurisation and finally bursting, hinges on a large, shiny piece of equipment set up in Earth Sciences New Zealand's experimental hydrothermal geochemistry lab. A series of titanium containers, pumps, ovens and tubes allows the team to flow heated, pressurised fluid through rock over a long time to see what happens.

Turn to Page 12

Letters

Surgery where?

• I hear talk of a second doctor's surgery in Raetihi, and I have to ask, 'is it to enhance or compete?'

Surely Ohakune would benefit more if it was there, especially if an xray facility is included? Just a thought. Any ideas?

John Riding

THE WEEKLY WORKOUT

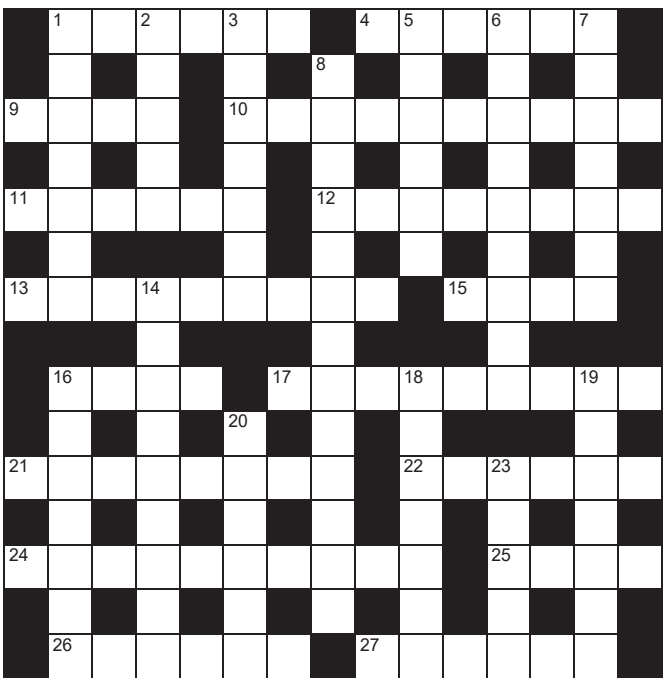
answers for each puzzle are included on this page

826

QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

- 1. Drink (6)
- 4. German submarines (1-5)
- 9. Cycle (4)
- 10. Planned meeting (10)
- 11. Stroke (6)
- 12. For ever (8)
- 13. Divided (9)
- 15. Just (4)
- 16. Stretched tight (4)
- 17. Bearing of 45 degrees (9)
- 21. Type of pasta (8)
- 22. Ridiculous (6)
- 24. Exaggerated comical drawing of a person (10)
- 25. Singe (4)
- 26. Stay (6)
- 27. Against (L) (6)



Down

- 1. Copy (7)
- 2. Musical note (5)
- 3. Coffee maker (7)
- 5. Pager (6)
- 6. Edge (9)
- 7. Stroll (7)
- 8. Informal (13)
- 14. Worship (9)
- 16. Hardship (7)
- 18. Swing for

- acrobats (7)
- 19. Exceed (7)
- 20. Find (6)
- 23. Dismisses (5)

THE TOP 10

- 1. The Bank of England, 2. Sleepwalking, 3. Pamplona, 4. To forgive divine, 5. Gulliver, in Gulliver's Travels, 6. Lionel Richie, 7. A Russian nuclear submarine, 8. November, 9. Fish, 10. Hypertension.



Puzzles © The Puzzle Company

SUDOKU

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

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

1

EASY

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

MEDIUM

The Top 10

- 1. What British institution is found in London's Threadneedle Street?
- 2. What is somnambulism better known as?
- 3. Which Spanish city holds a festival where bulls run through the streets?
- 4. Complete the saying: "To err is human . . ."
- 5. Who, in a 1726 novel, visits an island called Brobdingnag?
- 6. Who went solo in 1982 after fronting The Commodores for 12 years?
- 7. In the 1990 film *The Hunt for Red October*, what is Red October?
- 8. N is represented by what word in radio communications?
- 9. What type of creature is a dace?
- 10. Abnormally high blood pressure is usually called . . . ?

CROSSWORD

Across: 1. Imbibe, 4. U-boats, 9. Bike, 10. Rendezvous, 11. Carass, 12. Eternity, 13. Separated, 15. Fair, 16. Taut, 17. Northeast, 21. Macaroni, 22. Absurd, 24. Caricature, 25. Char, 26. Linger, 27. Versus.
Down: 1. Imbibe, 2. Breve, 3. Barista, 5. Beeper, 6. Advantage, 7. Saunter, 8. Unceremonious, 14. Adulation, 16. Travail, 18. Trapeze, 19. Surpass, 20. Locate, 23. Sacks.

SUDOKU

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

Suraya bags Parkrun milestone

Ohakune's Parkrun event, every Saturday morning, all year, passed another milestone on Saturday when Suraya Thomas became the 1000th person to choose the run for their first time.

The Mangawhero River Track Parkrun Ohakune officially launched mid-last year.

"By the very nature of Ohakune we attract a solid core of local participants and a significant number of visitors to town," says Jennie Murray from Parkrun Ohakune.

She was presented a 'world famous in Ohakune' chocolate éclair and a bag of local carrots.

"While our visiting participants, who come to enjoy the pretty trail along the Mangawhero River, travel from all over New Zealand and many from around the world, Suraya has run the majority of her 43 park runs around the Manawatū region primarily in Whanganui and Palmerston North.

"Parkrun is not a race but a community event, many participants enjoy chasing personal bests and, in Ohakune, Suraya may not have set a PB but certainly distinguished herself being the first female home and importantly our 1000th first-timer," said Murray.

"Parkrun is a welcoming, inclusive, and positive community event for people of all abilities, from walkers to elite runners and a super team of volunteers: wouldn't happen without them. Parkrun is free and open to everyone."

The Mangawhero Riverwalk Parkrun Ohakune meets every Saturday at the bottom end of Ayr St at 7.50am for an 8am start.



Suraya Thomas was the 1000th first-timer at the Ohakune Parkrun.

Whakapapa last ski slopes to close

Whakapapa wrapped up their winter season on Saturday – complete with Hawaiian shirts in the sunshine in Te Heu Heu Valley. It was the last ski resort still operating in the Southern Hemisphere. Neighbouring Tūroa had hoped to open on the weekend too, but the damage from last week's heavy rain was too much for the crew to repair trails down to the High Noon Express drive. "Due to the rain we've already received (on Thursday) and the forecast for more this evening, it's unfortunately not possible for us to rebuild below the top of the Giant chair to allow access to The High Noon Express," reported Tūroa. "We share your disappointment, as we were really looking forward to one last day on the slopes for the 2025 winter season." They offered a free snowplay area at the base – carting a truckload of snow down from the upper slopes. Photo: Whakapapa.



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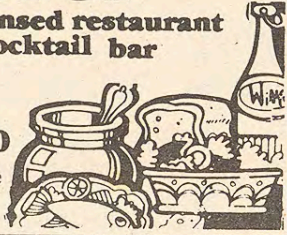
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BULLETIN

VOICE OF THE RUAPEHU REGION
Tuesday 29 October, 1985. Volume 3 No. 23

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Ruby Parker's 100 years



One hundred years old this Wednesday, Ruby Parker (centre), enjoys a joke at her family party on Saturday. Also pictured is her eldest son Reg and daughter Ruby.

About 100 members of Ruby Parker's family from all over New Zealand and from Australia and Norfolk Island, helped her celebrate her birthday on Saturday night.

Five generations, including several four-generation families, enjoyed a banquet, while between courses, sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters, related memories of their lives with Ruby.

Ruby was showered with presents including a \$100 note from the family, and telegrams came from David Lange, Jim

Bolger and Peter Tapsell.

On Wednesday, the actual day of her birthday, there will be open house at Ruby Parker's house between 11am and 4.00pm, for her friends who would like to wish her well.

Ruby Parker came to New Zealand from Australia in 1910 and lived in Dannevirke, Taihape and Rangataua before moving to Raetihi in 1927. Ruby still lives in the house in Raetihi which she and her family moved into in 1927.

Ruby's husband, Alfred Parker, died in 1974 aged 89.

Amalgamation fire still burns

The district council amalgamation issue continued its rocky road at a special meeting of the Waimarino County Council last Thursday night.

The meeting was called as a result of a Karioi Riding meeting the preceeding Sunday, at which ratepayers demanded that the county council reject the representation formula of five representatives from the county, four from Raetihi Borough and four from Ohakune, and get a better deal for the county based on the Local Government Act.

In a long, prepared speech Cr John Martin said he felt that negotiations over amalgamation had been rushed and this had placed an unacceptable burden on the steering committee.

"We should admit our error and rescind and renegotiate."

He said that the meeting he had called the preceeding Sunday was the first ratepayers' meeting to be held on the subject of amalgamation.

"If any other councillor has not informed their ratepayers, I think that is shocking," he said.

He argued that the council had not followed the Local Government Act in negotiating amalgamation. He quoted the section which states that council "shall have regard to the population, rateable value and area of each ward, and such additional factors as the council considers relevant," and said that he believed this had not been followed.

He presented a formula

based on population, land value and total rates paid, which, he said, should give the county seven representatives, Raetihi three and Ohakune four.

The calculations were based on the fact that, while the three populations are not dissimilar, the county has 88 per cent of total land value and 43 per cent of rates paid, which when averaged gives the 7-3-4 result.

However he was opposed by Cr Jones who noted that other councils had compromised and the county had to do likewise.

"We are going into a marriage that has to work — unless we contribute as the others have done we will not be successful."

"I believe the 5-4-4 formula was the best we could negotiate," he said.

Chairman Bruce Berry said that every councillor had sincerely tried to do their best for the county.

"Councillors on the steering committee did have regard to the Local Government Act and decisions were made according to it."

"To suggest otherwise reflects on the integrity of councillors," he said.

After a sometimes tense debate the council voted four to three to accept the steering committee formula of 5-4-4.

Crs Berry, Jones, Bennett and Heindold voted for it and Crs Martin, Whale and McCoubrie against.

The three local councils will meet Brian Elwood, chairman of the Local Government Commission, this evening.

RANGATAUA MEETING

Rangataua ratepayers met on Saturday evening and formed a committee to monitor the proposed sewerage and water scheme.

The committee of seven will work with the county to safeguard ratepayers' interests.

County councillors John Martin, Malcolm Whale and Ian McCoubrie attended.

The committee is Messrs J. Lewin, chairman, T. Warmington, secretary, R. Hoadley, R. Davies, P. Griffin, P. Scarfe and Mrs J. Evans.

Next winter's first snowfall?



Passers-by ran for shelter on Saturday as snow and cold winds chilled the Waimarino.

Residents of Waiouru through to Ohakune got a shock when they woke up on Saturday morning to find that a late snowfall had whitened the world.

Waiouru weather forecaster John Standish said the cold snap would be short

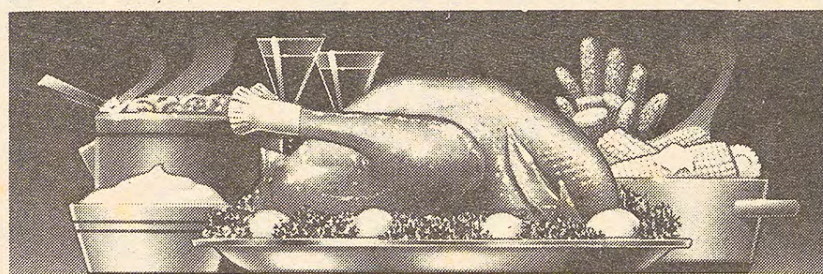
and sharp as already on Saturday pressures were rising.

The cold snap was caused by a high pressure area to the south running into a low to the north bringing a cold southerly flow.

Mr Standish measured five cms of snow lying on the ground at Waiouru, significant for the time of the year

as ground temperatures are warm.

Snow however is not too unusual in October. In 1982 there were seven days of snow and five days in 1968. Over the past 20 years snow has fallen on an average of just under two days a year, though this figure is weighted by a few heavy years.



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Third place and two category wins for power firm

A local power firm’s line mechanic team placed third overall at this year’s Annual Connection in Christchurch — and took out two category wins along the way.

“This is the third time in three years that we have made a podium finish, following our win in 2023 and second place last year,” said The Lines Company chief executive, Mike Fox.

“It is a huge achievement and a testament to the skill, teamwork and commitment of our people.”

He said the TLC crews work in some of the most challenging conditions in Aotearoa and it is fantastic to see them recognised as among the best line mechanics in the country.

“I’m incredibly proud of the mahi they put in every day to keep our customers connected — and of the dedication they showed in preparing for the competition,” said Fox.

“Indeed, the recent weather event we had across our network area showed the skill, dedication and brilliant ingenuity to solutions that are a hallmark of all our line mechanics.”

The team won two individual competition categories - hardware install and overhead conductor install, as well as third place overall.

“Sixteen EDBs (electricity distribution businesses)

competed this year, so placing third overall is no small feat,” said Fox.

“The event was expertly delivered — even with the added challenge of high winds and wild weather that forced several programme changes through the event.”

Having the country’s top line mechanics in town was fortunate when the severe weather came rolling through the South Island on Thursday. Several teams, including the TLC team, offered to stay on to help with the response in the hardest hit network areas.

“I want to acknowledge the rest of our people at TLC who kept things running smoothly back home while the team was training and away at the comp,” said Fox.

Over the three days of Annual Connection each team completes a series of different activities designed to test their technical knowledge, on-the-job skills, and health and safety practices as well as testing how crew members work together to solve problems, install equipment and deal with emergencies.

“The competition was fierce,” said Mike.

“Our congratulations to Top Energy and Omexom for their first and second placings.”

The event is run annually by Connexis, and this year was co-hosted by Orion, Connetics and EA Networks.

Quiet night for Ruapehu as weather impacts ease

Ruapehu Civil Defence Controller Clive Manley says the district experienced a quiet night on Monday, with the worst of the predicted weather failing to eventuate.

“We’re pleased to report only a few minor issues overnight, including some downed trees and small slips, which were cleared promptly.

There have been no reports of flooding,” said Mr Manley.

The strong wind watch for southern Ruapehu has now been lifted, and the heavy rain watch over northern Ruapehu expired at 4.00am.

Manley said civil defence teams and

contractors were “very happy to have had a quiet night” and thanked everyone who remained on standby throughout the event.

“As people get out and about today, we ask that they continue to take care on the roads.

“Our local roading network is still fragile from the recent weather events and repairs are ongoing from the earlier weather events,” he said.

“If you’re planning longer distance travel, please check the NZTA Journey Planner before leaving.

For any local road issues please call into Council on 07 895 8188.”

Fire at Waiouru Military Training Area

A fire broke out at the Waiouru Military Training Area during a regular training activity on Monday last week, sparked from a live firing exercise.

A New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) spokesperson said the fire broke out in the southern region of the Waiouru Military Training Area around 11pm Monday.

“The current estimated size of the fire is 230 hectares. The fire is moving to the east and poses no risk to State Highway 1,” the spokesperson said at the time.

Three New Zealand Defence Force emergency response crews were on the scene, with an additional team from Lin-ton Military Camp.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) also attended with two helicopters carrying out air operations.

FENZ also had additional rural fire-fighters and helicopters on standby to support if required.

The NZDF spokesperson said no personnel had been injured.

They said in addition to liaising with FENZ, Defence was communicating with properties close to the southern boundary of the training area with regards to any livestock.

NZDF praised its crews for working in “extremely difficult” conditions.

Army training group commander, Colonel Lisa Kelliher praised the efforts of the combined fire crews and the 50 personnel involved, when interviewed by the Manawatu Evening Standard.

“Weather conditions, including strong north-westerly winds, made conditions



The Lines Company (TLC) team, from left: Matthew Tamaira (team coach), Mike Fox (chief executive), Jared Murrell (general manager service delivery), Brayden Crown (team member), Hayden Kanters (team member), Adam Saunders (team member), Jordan Hughes (team member) and Kevin Orr (team manager).

BAYLEYS



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Clyde Street cutie

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Rangataua 20B and 20C Kaha Street

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Fire at Waioru Military Training Area

extremely difficult for the fire crews, both on the ground and in the air.

“Through the concentrated and co-ordinated response of the NZDF and FENZ personnel the fire was extinguished by mid-Tuesday afternoon.”

Crews remained on site afterwards undertaking ground perimeter patrols with thermal cameras to ensure no hot spots remained.

“Two contracted helicopters remained on site to support the patrols until Tuesday evening.

“It’s estimated that the fire burned 320 hectares of tussock and grass within the training area.”

No one was injured in the fire, and Kelliher said exercises involving low-risk firing recommenced that afternoon.

“Live-firing training is essential to maintain the combat capability of the New Zealand Army. This activity can, and does, result in fires.

“Fire safety plans are essential to minimise the extent of such fires, as is effective alignment between both the NZDF and FENZ. This was shown in the efforts of all parties involved.”

She said higher-risk live firing exercises were on hold pending further assessments due the ongoing weather conditions.

Students release rock album

Class of 2024 music students Hunter Anderson, Will Barlow and Ambrose Demchy (formerly known as ‘Out Of Order’) have released an EP of rock music on Spotify.

A band that began in Y10 and involved seven members at one stage, developed their craft over their time at Ruapehu College.

Picking up a regional Smokefree Rockquest title on the way (2023) with Tarn Hoyle on vocals, then taking on new songs with Elishka Aitken in 2024 - ‘Out Of Order’ had a mentoring session with Jon Toogood (Shihad), later taking their material to Brooklyn Audio in their Peka Peka studio to record with producer Scott Wylie.

As Ambrose, Will and Hunter embarked on their respective university journeys - work began in the background to polish and finish ‘of the youth’, the first EP from their collective: Greystars.



RUAPEHU Summertime BULLETIN

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RUAPEHU BULLETIN 29 October 2025 • 9

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ALISON MAREE WHALE
A big thankyou for the support and love shown to us when we lost Alison so suddenly. At this difficult time, your visits, baking, meals and accommodation were so much appreciated and such a comfort. Jason & families.

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DEATH NOTICES

DEADMAN DOUGLAS ROBERT (BOB): Born 2.10.1938, passed away peacefully on 23.10.2025. Loved husband of the late Margaret, father of Stuart, Phillip and Andrea, and father-in-law to Cate. Bobby to Logan, Kellie and Morgan, Brittney, Emma and Malcolm, Aimee, and Libby. Loved G.G. to Atlas, Luna, Oliver, Halo and Penny. Special thanks to the staff at Bupa Liston Heights and Vision West for their care. All welcome to join us to celebrate Bob's life at Founders Chapel of Remembrance, 117 Rickit Street Taupo on Monday 3rd November at 1.30pm. Service will be live streamed refer to www.livenz.tv to view. *Communications c/- PO Box 940, Taupo. Taupo Funeral Services Ltd.*

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Waimarino Budget Service AGM

56 Seddon Street, Raetihi
Monday 10th November 2025 at 5.30pm
Enquires to waimarinobudgetservices@gmail.com

Paraweka Marae Notice of Annual General Meeting

Date: Saturday 29 November 2025
Time: 1.30pm – 3pm
Venue: 2527 Pipiriki Raetihi Rd, Pipiriki 4576

Agenda:

- Mihimihi/Karakia
- Apologies
- Registration verification
- Minutes of previous AGM
- Annual and Financial report
- Proposal to amend 2 clauses in the Charter being: clause 1, Charter, 1.4 Legislation and; clause 5, Governance, 5.1 composition of the Paraweka Marae Trustees
- Election of Trustees
- General Business
- Karakia Whakamutunga 3 Trustee vacancies by way of rotation and seat vacancy. Trustees up for rotation have the ability to be re-elected

Enquiries to the Secretary Janie Revell, including requests for proxy forms, nomination forms, and zoom link to: paraweka.marae.secretary@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

ROAD CLOSURE – RAETIHI CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL & PARADE SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER 2025



PURSUANT to Schedule 10, Section 342 of the Local Government Act 1974 notice is hereby given that the Ruapehu District Council will close the below roads for the following event:

Event: Raetihi Christmas Carnival and Parade 2025
Road Closed: Seddon Street between Ward Street and Duncan Street
Date: Saturday 13 December 2025
Time: 7:00am to 3:00pm
Detour Available: Via Queen Street and King Streets

Any person objecting to the proposal is called upon to lodge notice of their objection and grounds thereof in writing before 4.00pm on Friday 21 November 2025 at the office of the Council at Private Bag 1001, Taumarunui 3946 or info@ruapehudc.govt.nz



Ruapehu College Senior Prizegiving Nau mai Haere mai

We warmly invite you to join us in celebrating the achievements of our students

Friday 31 October at 11.30am

Refreshments will be served following prizegiving.

All welcome

PUBLIC NOTICES

Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

CNZ 1 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 **73 Clyde Street, Ohakune** known as **Osteria Ohakune**. 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 second publication of this notice. The first notice was published on 22 October 2025.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

Ruapehu Distillery Limited has made an application to the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council for the **issue of an Off Licence** in respect of the premises situated at **8 Kowhai Crescent, Ohakune** known as **Ruapehu Distillery**. The general nature of the business to be conducted under the licence is that of a **Bottle Store**. The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is intended to be sold under the licence are: **Monday to Sunday 11.00am – 7.00pm**. The application may be inspected during ordinary office hours at the office of the Ruapehu District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council, 59-63 Huia Street, Taumarunui. Any person who is entitled to object and who wishes to object to the issue of the licence may, not later than 25 working days after the date of the publication of this notice, file a notice in writing of the objection with the Secretary of the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council, Private Bag 1001, Taumarunui 3946.

No objections to the issue of a licence may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in section 105(1) of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. This is the second publication of this notice. The first notice was published on 22 October 2025.

PUBLIC NOTICES

RUAPEHU ANGLICAN PARISH INVITES YOU TO

ST MARY'S CHURCH REOPENING SERVICE

with Bishop Justin Duckworth
10am Sunday Nov 9, 2025
130 Seddon St, Raetihi

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Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust November Clinics

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Personal health nurse - appointments are available on request in Raetihi or Ohakune, contact Donna 027 491 2183- (free cervical screening)

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Robert Milne – robert@ruapehubulletin.co.nz

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Advertising Deadline 5pm Friday

Morgans on show next month

The Morgan Sports Car Club is organising a short tour of the North Island in November, taking in the Ruapehu District and Ohakune.

Most of the participants will be staying at the Powderhorn in Ohakune on the evening of 4 November.

“We will have around 20 cars of various ages and models participating. As our tour is in November we have decided to also donate to the Movember Men’s prostate charity,” said organisers.

Club members plan to display their cars at the Powderhorn from 5pm to 6.30pm.

“If any of the members of the public would like to make a donation to the Mo-

vember charity, we could provide a ride in one of these unique cars.”

The Morgan Motor Company was founded in 1910 in Malvern UK. The factory still operates today at the same site using the same buildings.

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A line-up of Morgans at one of the New Zealand club's regular rallies.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Tongariro District Weed Control

6 November until 28 February 2026

The Department of Conservation, Tongariro District Office, wishes to advise the public that it intends to carry out weed spraying in Tongariro National Park, Tongariro Forest Conservation Area, Ngatokoerua Scenic Reserve, Rangataua Forest Conservation Area and various smaller reserves administered by the Department of Conservation Tongariro District.

Weed control will be by spraying using hand-gun, knapsack or aerial application using helicopters. Work is planned to start on 6 November and will continue intermittently as weather and resources permit until end of February 2026.

The target species are Wilding pines, Broom, Gorse, Darwin's barberry, Old man's beard, Marram grass, Heather and various other invasive weeds.

Further information can be obtained by contacting:
Danial van der Lubbe
Principal Ranger Biodiversity
Department of Conservation
Tongariro District
Ohakune Field Base
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Orautoha hosts speedy primary cross country runners



And they're off! Some of the younger runners start their cross country run at Orautoha.



Mason Kristiansen, Flynn Macleod and Oscar Moody head for the line.



A mix of schools represented in one shot. Photos supplied.

Ohakune Primary School's cross country runners narrowly edged out Raetihi in the placings at the Waimarino Inter-school cross country competition, hosted by Orautoha School on Monday 20 October.

The event had been postponed from the previous week, due to a poor forecast.

Ohakune saw four runners take first in their respective age groups, including Year 8 boys, along with six runners taking second or third place.

Raetihi Primary School had two first places, plus six second and third places.

Next was Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngāti Rangī, with two firsts, a second and a third.

Orautoha had a first and a second and a third, while Kakatahi also had one first, a second and a third.

Waiouru had two seconds.

Results

Senior girls, year 8; 1st Puti Wikohika, TKKMONR; 2nd Keisha McDonough, Raetihi; 3rd Molly Booth, Kakatahi

Senior boys, year 8; 1st Kace Morrison, Ohakune; 2nd

Jayden Varley, Ohakune; 3rd Israel Metekingi, Raetihi

Intermediate girls, year 6&7; 1st Ariana Perkins Topine, TKKMONR; 2nd Everly Kristiansen, Ohakune; 3rd Kauri Horne, Raetihi

Intermediate boys, year 6&7; 1st Bear Soverel, Ohakune; 2nd Te Onewa Hawira, Ohakune; 3rd Aj Bartlett, Orautoha

Junior girls, year 4&5; 1st Bella Cranston, Ohakune; 2nd Hana Pilbrow, Ohakune; 3rd Courtney Lee, Ohakune

Junior boys, year 4&5; 1st Hunter Adams, Orautoha; 2nd Bryce Wright, Waiouru; 3rd Cruze Hawira, Ohakune

Year 2&3 girls; 1st April Journeaux, Raetihi; 2nd Amohia Pakinga-Henry, TKKMONR; 3rd Kori-lee Hagley-Tutauha, Raetihi

Year 2&3 boys; 1st Art King, Ohakune; 2nd Kere Turua, Waiouru; 3rd Michael Donaldson, Raetihi

Year 1 girls; 1st Sophie Journeaux, Raetihi; 2nd Kida Scarrow, Orautoha; 3rd Billy Thomas, TKKMONR

Year 1 boys; 1st Beau Webb, Kakatahi; 2nd Ted Stratton, Kakatahi; 3rd Manu Winiata, Raetihi

Predicting Mt Ruapehu's moods

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The heart of the action is the pressure vessel, a chunky bit of metal with crushed Ruapehu andesite inside it.

"We crush rock to increase the surface area," Lucjan says.

"If we had a big chunk of rock, which we could have, everything would take just much longer. But because we are crushing it, there is so much more opportunity for interactions of the fluid with rock. Then we don't have to wait for 10 years; we can wait just for a month."

Crater Lake fluid

The fluid they use has the same chemical make-up as the crater lake fluid at the top of Ruapehu, and every day they take a 24-millilitre sample of fluid from their lab system for testing.

Once the experiment is over, they can also retrieve and examine the rock to see if any minerals have appeared from reactions with the fluid.

Along with the daily fluid samples, they take temperature measurements every five minutes and collect pressure data every second.

They've so far had three syringe eruptions.

The idea is that the data collected each time will build a picture of the geochemical and other changes that indicate a brewing eruption, ahead of the event.

"We hope that there are going to be specific signatures of this in the fluid that we can see, like, 'oh, the seal is starting to be created', which will help us to say, 'It's coming'," Lucjan says.

Extrapolating what they learn in the lab to the real Ruapehu is the ultimate goal, and still a long way off, Oliver Lamb says.

But the theory links with evidence from real eruptions. In 2007, rocks blasted from the crater lake were found with yellow sulfur-rich minerals jamming up their pores.

"We can't be 100 percent sure where exactly it came from," Oliver says.

"It could have probably come from the top of the lake, where there's no seal, or it could have come from deeper ... but we see this evidence of the sulfur filling all these pore spaces that fluid could otherwise move through."

The team has just started a new experiment, this time with an additional sensor, called a piezoelectric transducer, that's of particular interest to Oliver.

Quakes

While Lucjan focuses on the geochemical processes and changes that precede an eruption, Oliver's interest lies in the geophysics, especially volcanic earthquakes. There are seismometers on the mountain that continuously monitor for any movement, but the signals can be hard to interpret.

"One of the big problems we have in volcano seismology is that we have these unrest episodes at volcanoes like Ruapehu and Taupō that don't lead to eruptions, but sometimes these signals can actually look identical to what's been seen in the past before an eruption," Oliver says.

An example of that is Ruapehu in 2022. For months, seismometers picked up a series of 'drumbeats' and 'tremors' that made researchers believe that the volcano was going to erupt. They lifted the alert level, but nothing happened.

The piezoelectric transducer is equivalent to a tiny microphone, attached to the titanium cylinder containing the andesite rock and volcanic fluid.

"What that's doing is listening for tiny, tiny micro-cracking and we're measuring these tiny, tiny waves," Oliver says.

"And essentially, that's the link between this experiment and what we're measuring at the volcano with the seismic activity and the earthquakes."

The volcano is continuously monitored, and the team hope that what they learn from these experiments can help them better interpret data gathered before past eruptions.

Ultimately, the idea is to combine all the signs and signals together – geochemistry clues, seismic movements, crater lake level and temperature changes – to further develop their model of Ruapehu's inner workings.

One day, they hope to accurately predict – with enough warning – real volcanic activity.

In the meantime, they're waiting patiently for the next lab-grown eruption.



Action before the eruption in September 1995. Photo: Jim Gardner.

Hot saw redemption for Jordan: wins first ever World Championship



Ruapehu's Jack Jordan is the 2025 timber sports world champion.

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year – but this time, under immense pressure, he calmed his nerves and the high-powered machine to perform a personal best time (6.30 seconds) on the saw and win his first individual world championship crown.

"It was tough all day – a dog fight all day. But I knew it was going to be. And leading up to this competition I didn't train too much on the chopping events, I just focussed on my weaker events and they were the three events that I won today, so really happy that the targeted training paid off and yeah, came away with the gold," says Jordan.

It was the 28-year-old Ruapehu farmer's third appearance at an individual World Championship – the more traditional, long-form format across six different wood-chopping and sawing disciplines. Jordan has already won the faster-format Stihl Timbersports World Trophy competition (knock-out format over four disciplines) three consecutive times.

Jordan joins the sport's illustrious company of Jason Wynyard and David Bolstad as the only other Kiwi to ever win the coveted Timbersports World Championship individual title.

Jordan finished the competition just four points ahead of Meyer with Poland's Szymon Groenwald third.

Jordan earned the right to be the sole New Zealand representative in the individual competition at these World Championships after he topped a 10-strong field at the NZ National Stihl Timbersports finals in March this year.

The New Zealand team finished just out of the medals in 4th place in a 15-strong field at the same event a day before Jordan's individual competition. Australia, Sweden and Poland finished 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively, which was also a seventh consecutive team victory for the 'Chopperoos'.

New Zealand last won the World Championship teams title in 2017.

The team event involves teams battling against each other in a knockout format across four disciplines: Stock Saw, Single Buck, Underhand Chop and Standing Block Chop.

NZ Stihl Timbersports World Championship Team 2025: Jack Jordan, Taumarunui; Cleveland Cherry, Tokoroa; Quintin Fawcett, Masterton; Chris Lord, Otorohanga.

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