



Riley challenges regions plan
P2



Rānana's Hāmāma returned
P3



20 years of Raetihi Christmas dinners
P5



Heading for the hills for funds
P11

Govt wants Ruapehu-Whanganui water price spread

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting

The Government has approved a joint water plan for Ruapehu and Whanganui but says the incoming water entity must investigate spreading charges across both districts to help address Ruapehu's affordability challenges.

In a letter to council chief executives Barbara McKerrow (Whanganui) and Clive Manley (Ruapehu), Secretary for Local Government Paul James has directed the new Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WS-CCO) to look at harmonising water prices.

His expectation was set out as the Department of Internal Affairs formally signed off on the joint Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) under the Government's Local Water Done Well reforms.

The approval allows the Whanganui and Ruapehu district councils to establish a shared WS-CCO to deliver drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services for about 25,000 connections. Water assets will remain in public ownership.

James warned the DIA would monitor the new WS-CCO's pricing strategy and its impact on projected water services charges for Ruapehu district.

"In order to access the benefits of increased scale and mitigate affordability issues faced by Ruapehu District, my expectation is that you will continue exploring options available to you including price harmonisation and the potential to join with other neighbouring councils and groupings," James said.



"The [DIA] is available to assist with these discussions and support the investigation of further grouping options."

Whanganui has pushed firmly for the new water services entity to adopt non-harmonised "local pricing", while Ruapehu has consistently said harmonisation was essential to ease its significant water-cost pressures.

Price harmonisation would create a single, uniform charge for all customers across the two districts. It was rejected by the Whanganui council to protect its water users from cross-subsidising higher costs in the Ruapehu district.

The new entity will also be required to examine "potential future collaboration with other entities" to access the benefits of scale and help address Ruapehu's affordability challenges, James said.

The DIA will also monitor delivery of the projects required to achieve regulatory compliance.

Affordability pressures

Ruapehu mayor Weston Kirton said he welcomed the DIA's recognition of Ruapehu district's "unique affordability pressures".

"While these expectations are not conditions of the WSDP approval – and the plan does not require price harmonisation or joining with others in the short term – it

Turn to Page 2



Katie earns national long drive title

Katie Dixon – long drive champion. Photo supplied.

Local athlete Katie Dixon has wrapped up a successful season on the XDL Long Drive circuit, earning several regional titles and finishing the year as the New Zealand Women's Champion.

Dixon recorded wins at the Christchurch, Northland and Taranaki Regional events, placed third at the Auckland Regionals, and finished fourth at the North Island Championships. She also secured the South Island Championship title, helping cement her position at the top of the national standings.

Her consistent results throughout the season led to her being named the New Zealand Women's Long Drive Champion. As part of the title, Dixon will receive a sponsored trip to compete at the Asia Cup next year.

Dixon has also been appointed captain of the Long Blacks women's team and will lead the squad at their next event, the Trans-Tasman Clash scheduled for mid-December.

Outside of competition, Dixon aims to contribute to the sport's development, particularly by encouraging growth in the women's and junior divisions. She is also exploring the possibility of hosting a long drive event in the Waimarino area, with hopes of establishing the Central North Island Regionals locally.

Katie says she is pleased with her season and is looking forward to both competing internationally and helping foster greater participation in the sport.



ALTOGETHER BETTER

BRINGING GREATER ENERGY TO THE RUAPEHU DISTRICT



06 385 0170 | bayleys.co.nz

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

‘Not elected for this’: Riley challenges regions plan

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting
Mayors were not elected to provide regional oversight on environmental regulation or to design a new regional council model, Horizons Regional Council chair Nikki Riley says.

A Government proposal to swap elected regional councillors for mayors could undermine democratic representation, she says.

“While the mayors in our region are capable people, they were not elected – and did not campaign to be elected – on the understanding they would be responsible for regional environmental oversight, or that they would be responsible for delivering a reorganisation of local government services across the region.

“Horizons councillors act as a strong voice for our communities and the environment, and stripping away this layer of governance could weaken local representation.”

Mayors had recent experience with reorganisation work under the Local Water Done Well scheme, but delivering a similar piece of work for all council functions would be challenging, she said.

“Any change to the regional council model should be in collaboration with regional and unitary councils who have experience delivering key services on a regional scale.”

The Coalition Government yesterday proposed replacing regional councillors with mayoral-led panels, or Combined Territories Boards (CTBs), in what could be the biggest local government shake-up in 35 years.

The Government is also reviewing regional council roles to decide which responsibilities stay local, are cut or centralised.

Māori representation

Riley told Local Democracy Reporting the proposal would remove both mana whenua and female leadership from regional local government.

Under the proposed model, regional constituencies, including Māori constituencies, would be eliminated. Mayors on the CTB would represent voters from both Māori and general rolls.

“At Horizons, we have seen the benefits of having Māori representation around the table. If the Boards are implemented before the next local government elections, we would also see no female leadership at this level of democracy in our region.”

However, Riley – newly elected to her first term as chair of the Manawātū-Whanganui regional council – said discussion on the proposed reform could open the door to resolving entrenched issues and lift outcomes for local communities.

Much of the complexity in local government came from the legislation it operates under, she said.

“I applaud this government for recognising that and for trying to fix it through its resource management reform programme.

“Getting this fix right will create a strong future for regional service delivery and, if done well, create an



Horizons Regional Council chair Nikki Riley says a Government proposal would remove Māori and female leadership from regional local government.

environment where we can achieve even more with our communities through collaboration, thanks to enabling legislation.”

New Zealand’s 11 regional councils are responsible for resource management, including flood protection, air quality, public transport, pest control and civil defence.

They were created through the 1989 local government reforms, which replaced more than 700 local bodies and the functions of the former county councils.

Under the proposal, the mayors of each region’s district and city councils would form 11 panels to lead and govern regional council business, and draft long-term plans to reorganise council structures.

The Government has also proposed alternative options

of appointing Crown Commissioners to the CTB or regional councils short-term, either with limited powers or full control.

CTBs must develop a reorganisation plan within two years, subject to Government approval

If a CTB fails to produce a robust plan, a Commissioner can be appointed to draft it.

Connected

Riley said communities must be connected to the organisation that delivers their important regional environmental services.

“There needs to be democratic accountability for regional decision-making, given the impact it has on people’s lives and livelihoods.”

Independent research showed that delivering critical public services at a regional scale was best for the economy, environment and safety.

“Many of the functions Horizons delivers – flood management, civil defence, pest control and more – are best delivered at a regional scale. There are also environmental benefits to regional delivery.”

There were multiple examples of this in the Horizons region, including recent emergency management work in Ruapehu and the recent suite of flood protection projects completed in Manawātū, Palmerston North, Rangitikei, Horowhenua and Whanganui.

Riley said it was disappointing the Government did not engage meaningfully with the regional council sector before announcing its plans.

The best results would come from col-

laboration with central government, mana whenua, local government and others, and any changes must be delivered in a way that minimises disruption to service delivery, she said.

“The last thing we want is for service delivery to decline throughout the proposed reform, given the benefits of our work to the environment, the economy, and the people in our region.”

Horizons welcomed the consultation period on proposed changes, running until 20 February 2026.

“Under this proposal, Horizons will retain its responsibilities for some years. There is still a lot of water to go under the bridge before any proposal is legislated and implemented.

“We are also actively working on the risks this proposal may present regarding long-term planning and contracting of services.”

In announcing the proposal on Tuesday, RMA Reform Minister Chris Bishop said local government was not serving New Zealanders well.

“Local government is meant to serve communities, not confuse them. But right now, the system is tangled in duplication, disagreements, and decisions that defy common sense.

The reforms will strip out duplication in the system, standardise processes, and drive down complexity and compliance costs, he said.

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

Govt wants water price spread

From Page 1

makes clear that ensuring the WS-CCO can deliver the most affordable water services possible must be a key priority,” Kirton said.

“We know that many of our communities face significant challenges in being able to pay for basic services.”

Kirton said the immediate focus was on establishing the entity in a way that embeds Te Awa Tupua values from the outset.

These values are set out in the Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Act 2017 and centre on recognising the Whanganui River and its tributaries as a living, indivisible whole, safeguarding its mana and ecological health, and ensuring decisions are made in partnership with the communities connected to the Awa.

“Establishing the WS-CCO in a Te Awa Tupua way now will put us in a strong position to ensure that any potential future larger entity continues to balance local voice with the benefits of scale,” Kirton said.

Whanganui Mayor Andrew Tripe said the DIA’s approval “gives us the certainty to move ahead together”.

“We’ve chosen a model that balances keeping decision-making as local as possible within our shared catchment and providing benefits of greater scale while at the same time reflecting the values of Te Awa Tupua,” he said.

“It is important to both councils that the health of the river and the wellbeing of our communities guide our choices and sit at the centre of the WS-CCO from the beginning.”

Tripe and Kirton did not answer questions from Local Democracy Reporting on the DIA direction, including:

- Would Whanganui council be open to reconsidering price harmonisation or was local pricing a bottom line?
- Could future reform push the WS-CCO toward a larger entity or broader regional model where harmonised pricing becomes inevitable?
- If harmonisation was pursued, would

Whanganui expect Ruapehu to contribute more transitional funding or seek central government support?

The councils issued a joint statement on Wednesday, saying they had not yet had an opportunity to discuss the acceptance letter.

“Both Ruapehu and Whanganui district councils are focused on delivering on our commitment to work together and establish the WS-CCO within the tight timeframe set out in the approved Water Services Delivery Plan.

“While the expectations outlined by the Secretary for Local Government, Paul James, are not conditions of their approval of the WSDP, they will form part of future discussions between the councils.

“Both councils look forward to working through these and any other matters that may arise as part of the WS-CCO establishment process.”

In July, the Ruapehu council voted 6-4 and Whanganui voted 8-5 in favour of the two-council model.

At the time, Whanganui said the entity would operate on non-harmonised “local pricing”. This meant residents would be charged only for the cost-of-service delivery in their own district, while still benefiting from a share of the savings gained through scale.

The joint Whanganui-Ruapehu plan was assessed by a panel of senior representatives from funding agencies, the Commerce Commission, the Water Services Authority, the DIA and an independent observer.

The new entity is expected to be operating by July 2027. Until then, Ruapehu and Whanganui will continue to run their own water services, with DIA set to monitor the WS-CCO’s development quarterly from next year.

The Secretary’s acceptance letter and the approved WSDP are available on both councils’ websites. The Plan Assessment Report will be published on the DIA website.

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

Ruapehu Events & What's On

DECEMBER 2025

Raetihi Christmas Carnival13 December

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

Christmas in the Park23 December

Christie Park, Ohakune from 5pm.

JANUARY 2026

Mahi Aroha - DoC Summer Programme1 - 30 January

For further information: www.tongariro.org.nz.

The Goat Adventure Run17 January

Have you Goat what it take? www.thegoat.co.nz

For all your ski board and bike rental needs

TCB

Ski, Board & Bike

Cnr Ayr St & Goldfinch St, Ohakune

06-385-8433 tcb.nz

FOR MORE DETAILS, GO TO

OHAKUNE.INFO OR RUAPEHUNOW.CO.NZ

IT'S FREE TO LIST SO PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU

HAVE AN EVENT COMING UP ...

ADS@RUAPEHUBULLETIN.CO.NZ

LINK YOUR EVENT TO EVENTFINDA FOR FREE

2 • **RUAPEHU BULLETIN** 3 December 2025

Rānana's Hāmama returns home

After 40 years of dialogue, Hāmama, the tekoteko (carved human figure) representing a Ngāti Hine tupuna, was formally returned to Rānana Marae by the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa on Saturday 15 November 2025.

Hapū descendants, Whanganui iwi and community members gathered to celebrate the historic homecoming of their ancestor. Since being acquired by the Dominion Museum in 1912 from J Thompson, Hāmama has been part of the national collection for over 100 years.

“As a hapū, we have been in discussion and negotiation with Te Papa for the return of our tupuna for such a long time. Seeing him removed from the van and carried onto our marae was incredibly emotional for us as a hapū, and for all who were present on the day,” said Dr Rāwiri Tinirau, Director of Te Atawhai o Te Ao and Chair of the Rānana Marae Reservation Trust.

Carved in the 1870s–1880s, the tekoteko once stood at the apex of Huriwhenua, the whare rūnanga that stood at Kahotea, at Rānana on the Whanganui River. The whare rūnanga was commissioned by Taitoko Te Rangihuiwinui (Major Kemp) and given the carving style of Hāmama, it is presumed that he was carved by Hori Pukehika and Te Ture Poutama.

Hāmama remained misidentified as being from Upper Mohaka Hawke’s Bay, until a chance encounter in 1986, when Ngāti Hine descendant Rachel Tinirau and her whānau visited the National Museum to view taonga. Instantly recognising the distinct Whanganui carving style of the tekoteko — notably his bulbous eyes, bent legs, and five fingers holding the tongue — she knew he belonged to Whanganui.

Further kōrero amongst hapū members, along with historic photographs and research, confirmed that the carving was

indeed the tekoteko from Huriwhenua. Over the next four decades, letters and requests from the Whanganui Māori Trust Board, Rānana Māori Committee and Rānana Marae Reservation Trust sought the return of Hāmama.

“The reason Te Papa was created was because we (Māori) were on the outside looking in — we had a distant relationship. There was a very privileged class of representation, which was a similar experience to what was happening throughout the world at that time,” said Kaihautū Māori Co-Leader of Te Papa, Arapata Hakiwai.

In 2019, Hāmama was returned to Whanganui through a long-term loan agreement between Te Papa and the Whanganui Regional Museum, as part of Ngā Wai Honohono – Bound by Water exhibition. Dr Tinirau and the team at Te Atawhai o Te Ao reignited the repatriation process as part of the Whakamanu Research Project, and the pathway to bring Hāmama home to Rānana was able to progress.

“We’re really grateful to Te Atawhai o Te Ao and Dr Rāwiri Tinirau, as part of the Whakamanu Project, for undertaking the provenance research. Provenance research in museums is really important. It’s sad to say that many of the histories of taonga in museums — tērā pea, kei te moe tonu ō rātou hītori, ō rātou whakapapa — and that’s because there really hasn’t been the commitment to actually address that,” said Arapata Hakiwai.

“I want to mihi to all of you—all those before you, all those iwi, all those hapū, all those whānau, all those experts and artists, and all those we as the Museum have learned from over the years. You have helped us change from the kind of museum we once were, to the Museum we strive to be today: one that does not seek to hold, but a museum that seeks to send home,”



Dr Rāwiri Tinirau speaks from the paepae at the return of Hāmama - Rānana Marae.

said Te Papa chief executive Courtney Johnston during the return ceremony. Te Papa has a commitment in conducting provenance research and reconnecting people with their taonga.

As part of Hāmama’s homecoming, Te Papa also gifted a mere pounamu, named ‘Te Hokinga Mai’, in recognition of this significant event.

“To see the wishes of our people fulfilled, and for Hāmama to now take his place in our wharepuni Te Morehu here at Rānana, has been an auspicious occasion—one that opens the door for the return of many more of our taonga who are yearning for home,” said Dr Tinirau.

Reforms will be welcomed – if it delivers savings: Kirton

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting

Ruapehu’s mayor Weston Kirton says the Government’s regional council overhaul will be welcomed by local communities – but only if the reforms genuinely reduce costs and boost efficiency.

“Local government wants and needs greater efficiencies and lower rates and if the reforms can deliver these outcomes they will be welcomed,” Kirton told Local Democracy Reporting.

Kirton believes territorial authorities can take on more work if properly resourced, but would require solid support.

He said many Ruapehu ratepayers saw Horizons Regional Council as remote, with rates which did not flow back to or benefit the district.

District and city mayors forming a Combined Territories Board (CTB) could help improve understanding of the functions of the regional council, and bring accountability back to a local level, with mayors speaking on both district and regional matters, he said.

Kirton, who first entered local government in 1986, is serving his second mayoral stint after holding the top job for two terms from 1995 to 2001.

In between, he served two terms as a Horizons regional councillor and was re-elected mayor in 2022.

He said there was no direct consultation with Ruapehu District Council before the proposal announcement, but the Government’s intentions were well signalled.

The plans require mayoral panels to design a reorganisational plan within two years of being established. Drawing lessons from water reform, this would be a chance



Turn to Page 15

100% HOME

APPLIANCES TAUMARUNUI



... with any
Fisher & Paykel,
Beko or Haier purchase over \$499

Interest free and AfterPay terms available
* Conditions apply, ask in store for details

**CRACKING CHRISTMAS
DEALS ON**

- * Small Appliances
- * Bikes & Scooters
- * Toys
- * Beds & Bedding
- * BBQ's
- * Lawnmowers
- * Guitars
- * Washing Machines
- * Refrigerators
- * TV's
- * Computers
- * iPads and Tablets

and we **SERVICE ALL APPLIANCES**

137 Hakiaha St, Taumarunui
07 895 7348 or 0800 10 70 90
www.100percent.co.nz

Promotion runs from 1 December 2024 until 3 January 2025



Need advice on the area, activities or even the weather, call or stop in and see the team for firsthand knowledge.

Free phone: 0800 647 483.
Email: isites@visitrुapehu.com

Ohakune: 9am-4pm
24 & 31 December: 9am - 3pm
54 Clyde Street.
OHK: 06 3858427

Taumarunui: 9am- 4pm
24 & 31 December: 9am - 3pm
Railway Station, 116 Hakiaha Street.
TAU: 07 895 7494



Cancer support is here

Support for cancer sufferers is available in the Waimarino – that was the important message from the team from the Cancer Society when they visited Ohakune recently.

“We visited to share information about the support we offer to individuals following a cancer diagnosis,” said Jane Burgess, Society manager of people and culture.

“Although our office is located an hour away, our team is committed to making regular visits to your area.

“Please note that we are not automatically notified when someone receives a diagnosis, so we encourage you to contact us directly if support is needed.”

The free services include:

- Support person: a dedicated support worker who can meet with you to discuss what to expect in the coming weeks or months and connect you with relevant services.
- Volunteer drivers: We now have three volunteer drivers in the area who are available to assist with transport to appointments, both locally and further afield.
- Massage therapy: A massage therapist is available once a week to help relieve pain, stress, and tension.
- Health promotion: our health promoter is available to attend community events to provide SunSmart education and resources, including sunscreen and shade equipment such as gazebos.



The Cancer Society's full team, from left, Jane Bilderbeck, supportive care co-ordinator; Rachel Pedley, centre administrator; Kate Booth, transport co-ordinator; Megan Baldwin-Holly, health promoter; Jane Burgess, manager of people & culture; Fatima Khanzada, volunteer co-ordinator; Belinda Pilcher, events co-ordinator.

Letters

Fire beliefs

• After reading about the Tongariro fires over the past three weeks consuming approximately 2800 hectares, I am surprised no one has spoken out on the cause of the fire yet.

The statue, carved tree trunk positioned at the start of the Tongariro crossing, is supposed to protect the Park from damage re fire etc.

As we have witnessed, it has clearly not done a good job.

May I suggest why? according to the written word, especially for them that have not read it, it says “the Earth is the Lord’s and the fulness thereof” (reference Exodus 9:29, Deuteronomy 10:14, Psalms 24:01, 1 Corinthians 10:26).

So if we require protection over our lands, it maybe needful for us to heed what is written in Exodus 20, and Deuteronomy 5, “thou shalt have none other gods before me, thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth, thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them, for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me”.

Well, here is the matter, do we want peace and

prosperity in our lives, or will we ask idols to protect us?

Everyone adult, child has the right to decide for him/herself.

This question will not go away, thank you for reading to the end.

Ben Mitchell

Water hard truths

• In approving the joint Ruapehu-Whanganui Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP), the Secretary for Local Government has made it clear that the new Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation (WS-CCO) is expected to explore options for price harmonisation and for joining with other councils to address Ruapehu’s serious affordability issues.

This expectation should come as no surprise. Delivering financially sustainable water services is at the heart of Local Water Done Well.

Without price harmonisation and the benefits of larger scale to drive down costs, the Ruapehu-Whanganui WSDP simply will not meet this fundamental test. Many Ruapehu water users will be unable to afford their future water bills.

Financial analysis undertaken during last year’s decision-making process showed clearly that a two-council WS-CCO with Whanganui alone would be significantly unaffordable for a large proportion of Ruapehu households.

DIA’s own assessment of the WSDP projects that Ruapehu water charges will rise by 91% over

the next ten years. In reality, the increase is likely to be even higher because the WSDP is based on outdated Long-Term Plan (LTP) cost estimates that have proven far too low. For example, the Ohakune Water Treatment Plant was budgeted at around \$4.5m in the LTP but the final cost was over \$10m. Ohwango’s plant was costed at around \$2.5m but ended up exceeding \$4m.

For Ruapehu, protecting community wellbeing starts with providing water services that people can actually afford. And the key to achieving water affordability for Ruapehu is clear: price harmonisation and joining with others to gain the benefits of increased scale.

John Chapman

Region water

• The letter from Ron Frew (*Ruapehu Bulletin* 12 November 2025) raises a very good question about what are the serious health consequences of swimming in local rivers.

We should also ask ourselves what the consequences are of discouraging a new generation of enjoying life outdoors because of this minuscule health risk but gives them the ability to save themselves or someone else at a river or beach. Should they instead continue to glare at social media on their phones with the associated mental health consequences?

I say the risk is minuscule, because I previously asked a health official around the council table about the risk. The answer provided was this: the targets set are for the immunity level of a young

child or those with a very low immune system that happen to swallow lots of water while swimming.

Teenagers and adults should not be discouraged and if the river is not running clear, don’t drink it. Commonsense stuff.

At that time, the health official also reported there were no known health cases in the Whanganui area. River catchment groups are already water testing with government funding for the same thing. The test Horizons do is just once a week, not in real time, so it’s not going to be relevant when you want to go for a swim.

What, therefore, is the point? More ratepayer funding wasted with no benefit. Maybe all the wasteful spending is why the Government has decided to shakeup regional councils.

Horizons have failed to deliver a workable regional plan that was notified in 2007 and has been in the courts ever since, wasting millions of ratepayers’ money and there is still no outcome 18 years later. If those tens of millions had been invested directly into catchment improvement instead of legal and planning costs, we would all be better off.

To highlight how ridiculous Horizons has become, they even have their own departments taking enforcement action against each other. Dysfunctional.

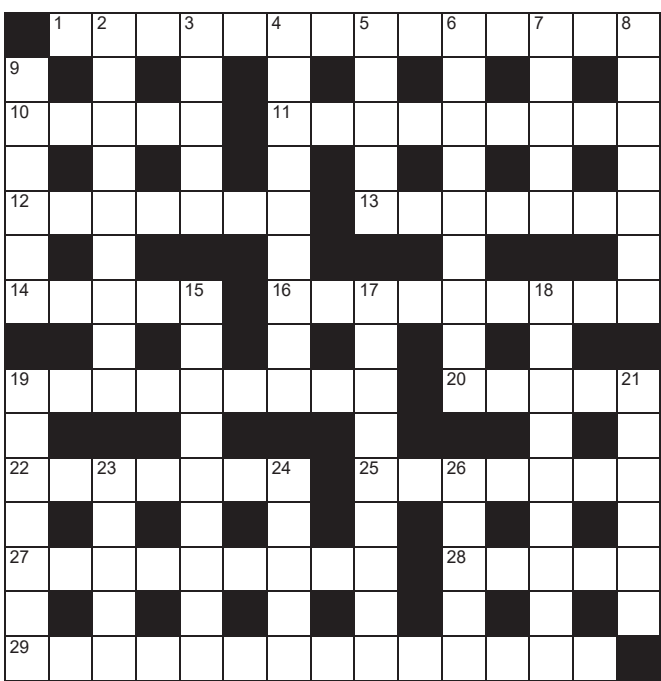
I can see why Government lost the confidence in what regional council delivers and their purpose.

Bruce Rollinson

THE WEEKLY WORKOUT answers for each puzzle are included on this page 829

QUICK CROSSWORD

- Across**
- 1. Very close, friendly (colloq) (5,2,7)
 - 10. Command (5)
 - 11. Oppress (9)
 - 12. Thick fog (colloq) (3,4)
 - 13. Degenerate (7)
 - 14. Unearth (3,2)
 - 16. Card game (9)
 - 19. Change shape or appearance (9)
 - 20. Search through hurriedly (5)
 - 22. Begin again (7)
 - 25. Speak ill of (7)
 - 27. Laundry room (9)
 - 28. Confess (3,2)
 - 29. Captives (9,2,3)
- Down**
- 2. Showy garden shrub (9)
 - 3. Collector’s item (5)
 - 4. Italian appetiser (9)
 - 5. Weary (5)
 - 6. Pioneer (9)
 - 7. There it is! (Fr) (5)
 - 8. Term of endearment (7)
 - 9. Lethargic (6)
 - 15. Edible green nut (9)
 - 17. Unbounded (9)



- 18. Viral infection (9)
- 19. Vomit (5,2)
- 21. Excused (6)
- 23. Popular fast food (5)
- 24. Ceasefire (5)
- 26. Cool and distant (5)



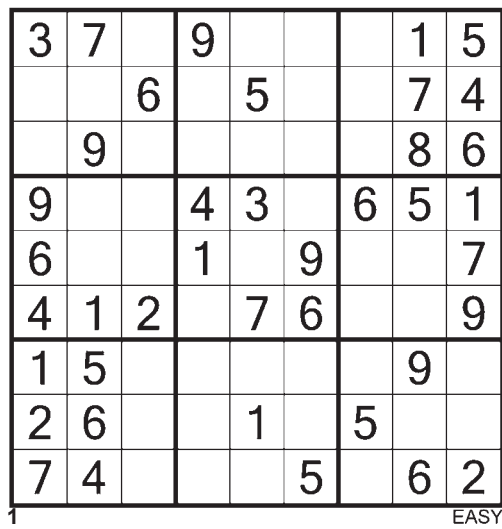
Enjoy WordFit puzzles? Magazines available from www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

THE TOP 10

- 1. Six (one in 1992, two in 2018, three in 2022)
- 2. Superior, 3. Vogue, 4. Ramadan, 5. Jupiter, 6. America Online, 7. Beagle (Snoopy’s breed, Darwin’s ship), 8. Invertebrates, 9. Liqueurs, 10. Red.

SUDOKU

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



EASY 2

MEDIUM

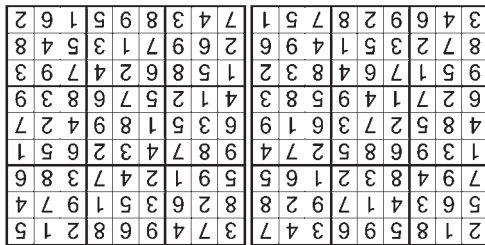
The Top 10

- 1. New Zealand has how many Winter Olympic medals: two, four, or six?
- 2. Which of the five Great Lakes is last, alphabetically?
- 3. Gene Kelly, Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, dance on air: these lines are from which Madonna song?
- 4. The month during which Muslims fast during daylight hours is called . . . ?
- 5. The Great Red Spot is a long-lived storm the size of Earth, on which planet?
- 6. AOL was a leading internet company in the 1990s. What does AOL stand for?
- 7. What animal links Snoopy and Charles Darwin?
- 8. What are animals with no backbone?
- 9. Benedictine and Chartreuse are what type of alcoholic drink?
- 10. Titian, named after the Italian artist, is a shade of what colour?

CROSSWORD

- Across: 1. Thick as thieves, 10. Order, 11. Tyrannise, 12. Pea soup, 13. Deviant, 14. Dig up, 16. Solitaire, 19. Transform, 20. Rifle, 22. Restart, 25. Washhouse, 28. Own up, 29. Prisoners of war.
- Down: 2. Hydrangea, 3. Curio, 4. Antipasto, 5. Tired, 6. Innovator, 7. Voila, 8. Sweetie, 9. Torpid, 15. Pistachio, 17. Limitless, 18. Influenza, 19. Throw up, 21. Exempt, 23. Sushi, 24. Truce, 26. Aloof.

SUDOKU



Raetihi Christmas dinner again after 20 years

This Christmas season, Raetihi stalwart Angel Reid has cooked again for 150 people – and at 70 years old, she insists she wouldn’t have it any other way.

This year’s free community Christmas dinner on Tuesday (2 December) took an unusual form: a drive-through hāngi. It marked the 21st time Reid has prepared the annual feast, despite having formally bowed out last year.

“Last year I announced it would be my last Christmas dinner after 20 years,” she said. “My kids told me I should give it up because I had too much on my plate. But three or four months later I thought, I can’t give it up. Why stop something that’s just so good? I couldn’t find it in my heart to finish it.”

For two decades the community dinner has been a much-anticipated Christmas Day gathering, offering what Reid calls “full-blown sit-down dinners” for all-comers.

“It had nothing to do with your circumstances or if you were broke,” she said. “It was just about community and bringing people together for a lovely meal and to enjoy each other’s company on Christmas Day.”

Reid was born in Raetihi and has lived there all her life. She is a lifeguard at the pool, part of the team behind the annual Christmas parade, a member of the Raetihi Museum board, and served on the Waimarino-Waiouru community board for the past three years.

Missionary

The idea for the dinner took root 21 years ago after a missionary trip to Manila, where she spent three weeks in a poverty-stricken neighbourhood working alongside a former Raetihi locum known locally as Dr Jo.

“It was very, very depressing,” she said. “But I didn’t realise how hard it hit me till I got home.”

Stopping in Sydney on the way back, she heard about a friend’s work in a Christmas Day soup kitchen.

“That opened up my eyes and when I got home I went to my church and talked to them about

setting up our first free community Christmas dinner.”

The first event was small – just Reid, her husband Jeffery, her daughter and son-in-law in the church kitchen.

“For the first three years, because it was new, there was hardly anyone turning up. The first year there was 25, the next year 45 and then 65 the following year. I lost count after that.”

As the numbers climbed, so did the workload.

“When we were getting to 80 or 90 – after about five years – I thought shucks, I can’t cook a roast dinner for that many in our little oven.”

The menu was ambitious: “full ham on the bone, mutton, chicken and stuffing, with all the trimmings – vegetables, three or four lots of salads and of course steamed pudding.”

Hāngi added

To keep up, she introduced hāngi, shifting some of the work outdoors.

Reid began with a traditional hāngi pit but eventually moved to a hāngi cooker donated by Raetihi Primary School. These days, she prepares at least 150 meals every year.

Presentation has always mattered. At The Centre Baptist Church, tables are covered with white cloths, topped with candles, flowers and Christmas decorations. Chairs are tied with bows, a nativity scene takes pride of place and every guest receives a present.

“I have a lot of help from the community now,” she said. “But I’m fussy as to who can help – just because it’s a community dinner doesn’t mean you can slap it together. I want everything looking classy, right through to the dressing of the tables.”

She has largely self-funded the dinners, setting aside \$20 a week in Pak’nSave’s Christmas Club



Angel Reid celebrated her 21st free Christmas Community Dinner – a hāngi served drive-through style at The Centre Baptist Church in Raetihi.

and gratefully accepting koha from locals.

“People would see my ad in the paper and ring up and ask if I’d like a mutton. Or they would ring up to book their place and donate something. The vet and the fire brigade donated a ham on the bone every year. What I didn’t get donated, I’d purchase out of my Christmas Club account.”

Holding this year’s dinner earlier than usual was

to help ease pressure during the busiest time of the season. The event was also simpler: a hāngi-only feast, served drive-through style.

“It’s hāngi with all the trimmings – pork, mutton, chicken, vegetables, stuffing and steam pudding.”

Reid is already looking ahead.

“Next year, I’m considering moving it to a mid-winter Christmas dinner.”



NEW LISTING

Ohakune 1 and 3 Tiffany Place

Rare dual-residence - exciting opportunity!

Offering a unique opportunity to secure two adjoining dwellings, an impressive property - perfect for extended families, joint buyers, or savvy investors seeking flexibility and passive income. The first home is a spacious two-storey residence featuring four bedrooms, two bathrooms, a cosy wood burner, and a small balcony to enjoy peaceful outlooks. Thoughtful landscaping surrounds the home, and a single garage completes the package.

bayleys.co.nz/2900848

513sqm 7 2 4

Deadline Sale (unless sold prior)

2pm, Wed 17 Dec 2025

16 Goldfinch Street, Ohakune

Jenny Dekker 027 455 5674

jenny.dekker@bayleys.co.nz

BARTLEY REAL ESTATE LTD, BAYLEYS, LICENSED REAA 2008

NEW LISTING

Ohakune 109 Miro Street

Well-priced classic on Miro Street

Welcome to 109 Miro Street - a solid, classic-style character bungalow offering timeless appeal and everyday comfort. With three bedrooms and one bathroom, this well-priced gem is ideal for families, holiday makers, or smart investors seeking a standout property in a sought-after Ohakune location. Set on a sunny, easy-care section, the home includes a single garage plus a carport, giving you great storage and parking for vehicles, bikes, and all your adventure gear.

bayleys.co.nz/2900850

490sqm 3 1 1

Asking Price \$399,000

Jenny Dekker 027 455 5674

jenny.dekker@bayleys.co.nz

BARTLEY REAL ESTATE LTD, BAYLEYS, LICENSED REAA 2008

Ex Dragon's Tooth tests combat engineers in Waiouru

Over the course of a two-week period, engineers from the New Zealand Army built concrete bunkers, blew up bridges, established safe drinking water sources and conducted significant search patrols across the Waiouru Military Training Area.

It's rare for combat engineers to take part in activities and exercises where they can employ a wide range of their capabilities in one fell swoop, but Exercise Dragon's Tooth allowed them to do just that.

Fifty sappers from 2nd Field Squadron, 2nd Engineer Regiment (2ER) took part in a range of tasks, including working with logistics personnel to transport and build fortified concrete bunkers.

Officer Commanding 2nd Field Squadron, Major Cameron Allan, said this was an excellent opportunity to practice the logistic support requirements of engineers in the field.

"Development of force protective infrastructure to keep our soldiers and equipment safe in hostile environments is an essential task for engineers," he said.

"Using heavy, pre-cast concrete panels for this design highlights the significant logistic support that engineer operations often require."

Another crucial capability tested in the field was the engineers' ability to find and provide safe, potable water to the deployed contingent, which was done by drawing water in the vicinity of Lake Moawhango in the training area and treating it on site.

"Environmental health officers provide us the technical assurance that the water we engineers produce is high quality, free from pathogens and safe for consumption," Major Allan said.

"This capability is called on frequently for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, both domestically and internationally in our region and further afield."

Another success for the team was a highly technical demolition of a five-tonne tactical steel kitset bridge in the training area that had reached end of its life.



A combat engineer guides a NZ Army MHOV (Medium Heavy Operating Vehicle) over a newly-built bridge in the Waiouru Military Training Area

This involved carefully and strategically placing up to 83 kilograms of charges and 120 metres of detonating cord designed to cleanly cut through the steel, which resulted in the bridge being cleared out of the way by the explosion.

"We attacked the bridge using multiple methods, using moulded charges to clean cut through the cross-section and smaller, strategically placed charges to destroy key structural components," Major Allan said.

They also constructed a three-tonne medium girder bridge that was able to support a variety

of military vehicles, including a new 35-tonne wrecker.

The Royal New Zealand Air Force's No 3 Squadron was brought in to link up with the engineers for a number of tasks, practicing extraction of engineers by day and night aboard NH90 helicopters – crucial components for future joint operability.

Explosive detection dogs were also employed throughout the exercise, utilised alongside new uncrewed aircraft systems to help clear a six-kilometre route in the training area, and in a simulation

of a significant medical evacuation.

"Exercise Dragon's Tooth tested Combat Engineers across the breadth of their support to combat operations – from conducting searches, bridging, demolitions, and water production, to hazardous tree felling, Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear surveying and force protection – our sappers demonstrated their incredible skill sets, and the vital role Combat Engineers play in combined arms operations."

BAYLEYS



Ohakune 46A Foyle Street

Low maintenance, private and practical!

Discover effortless living in this tidy three-bedroom, two-bathroom home, perfectly designed for those wanting comfort without the upkeep. Double-glazed and warmed by a gas fire, it offers cosy and efficient living all year round. A carport and secure lock-up store cupboard add extra convenience for gear, bikes, or holiday equipment, making it an ideal lock-up-and-leave property.

bayleys.co.nz/2900847

300sqm 3 1 2

Asking Price \$515,000

Jenny Dekker 027 455 5674

jenny.dekker@bayleys.co.nz

BARTLEY REAL ESTATE LTD, BAYLEYS, LICENSED REAA 2008

Māori voice at risk under mayoral panel plan says Pue

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting
Newly-elected Māori constituency representative Elijah Pue says the Government's plan to replace elected regional councillors with panels of mayors raises serious concerns for Māori representation.

Under the proposed model, regional constituencies – including Māori constituencies – would be eliminated. Regional councillors would be replaced by mayors on Combined Territories Boards (CTBs), who would represent voters from both the Māori and general rolls.

The proposal document released on Tuesday says the mayoral panels will also be responsible for implementing any Treaty settlement commitments currently administered by regional councils.

Pue said standing committees established through Treaty settlements would remain, but Māori seats and appointed Māori representatives would disappear.

"That does bring into question the rest of the Treaty obligations," he said.

Pue was elected to Horizons Regional Council's Raki Māori (Māori North) constituency in October's local elections.

A binding local referendum held at the same time delivered a clear majority to retain the council's Māori constituencies for the 2028 and 2031 elections, locking in guaranteed Māori representation for the next nine years.

Referendums were required nationwide on whether to have Māori wards and constituencies after the Coalition Government reversed legislation passed by the previous Labour Government. Forty-two councils – 37 territorial and five regional – held polls in October.

At the time, Pue said the Horizons poll result created opportunities for long-term planning and leadership.

"The key thing is bringing a Māori perspective to the table," he said in October.

"This is about saying: with your hand on one handle of the basket and mine on the other, we can flourish together and protect our environ-



Elijah Pue, elected to Horizons' Raki Māori constituency in October, says eliminating Māori seats risks undermining key Treaty commitments. Photo Supplied.

ment for future generations. The decisions we make today will impact on our mokopuna born tomorrow and in generations to come."

Confusion

Announcing the proposal on Tuesday, RMA Reform Minister Chris Bishop said the current system was not serving New Zealanders well.

"Local government is meant to serve communities, not confuse them. But right now, the system is tangled in duplication, disagreements, and decisions that defy common sense."

He said the reforms – the biggest for local government in 35 years – would strip out duplication, standardise processes, and drive down complexity and compliance costs.

Pue agreed that the system needed to be simpler but doubted the proposed model would achieve that.

"I agree there is need for change. I am for reform and for doing things better. But I'm not convinced that means removing councillors and replacing them with a mayoral panel. I do not believe that necessarily simplifies the system."

Turn to Page 13

Ruapehu initiative aims to combat adult loneliness through 'human time'

A new not-for-profit initiative, 'Human Time', is being developed in the Ruapehu region to address one of Aotearoa's quietest social issues, adult loneliness and disconnection.

Founded by Ōwhango resident Josh Thomson, Human Time provides structured, non-clinical companionship and support sessions for adults who are feeling isolated, grieving, neurodivergent, or simply in need of genuine human connection.

"Human Time is about presence, not solutions," says Thomson.

"It's for people who don't need therapy, but who would deeply benefit from consistent, caring human company."

Raetihi Christmas Parade plans all go

Plans are well under way for the annual Raetihi Christmas Parade and Market Day, to be held on Saturday 13 December.

Entry forms for competitions for the best wreath, tree and float are still available from the Raetihi Info Centre. Entrants are reminded that to claim prizes for the competitions a bank account needs to be put onto the form.

This year the organisers have a photo competition that will be displayed at Angel Louise and Coach Caffé from Monday 8 to Friday 12 December – entry forms are available at both shops and need to be put into the entry box before 5pm on 12 December.

Other features of the day will be stallholder competitions and a local band playing during the day.

Sessions will offer options such as Walk & Talk, Quiet Companionship, Help with Errands, and Creative Activity Time, giving adults a safe, dignity-based space to reconnect with another person in a way that feels natural and grounded.

Unlike counselling or medical appointments, Human Time is designed to complement existing mental health and social services, filling the gap between therapy and social isolation, particularly in rural communities like Taumarunui, Ōwhango, Ohakune and Raetihi, where opportunities for social support can be limited.

Community consultation and pilot programme

Human Time is now entering a public consultation and service design phase, inviting professionals and residents across the Ruapehu District to share their insights and experiences through a short online survey and a series of local focus groups to be held through December and January.

These focus groups are aimed to bring together community members, health and social service providers, and potential participants to help shape the structure, values, and accessibility of the service.

"Feedback gathered will directly inform the design of Human Time's three-month pilot programme, set to run from 1 March – 31 May 2026. The pilot will test session models, and training frameworks.

"We're not trying to replace therapy or social work," Thomson explains.

"We're building something alongside them, a human-first bridge for those who just need company, understanding, and time."

Residents, health professionals, and community workers are encouraged to take part in shaping this project by completing the questionnaire or registering interest in the upcoming focus groups. www.humantime.nz/survey

Contact: Josh Thomson, Founder, Human Time 021 828 231 kiaora@humantime.nz www.humantime.nz Ōwhango, Ruapehu District Instagram / Facebook: @humantimenz



Josh Thomson.

ON THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER

WIN A SHARE OF \$2000

WORTH OF VOUCHERS
FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES
PLUS 10 XMAS HALF HAMS

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS
WITH US THIS THURSDAY!

SPEND \$100 AT NEW WORLD OHAKUNE
FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!

TO ENTER, WRITE YOUR DETAILS ON THE RECEIPT AND DROP IN THE BOX AT CHECKOUT.
WINNERS DRAWN TUESDAY 9TH DECEMBER AND WILL BE CONTACTED BY PHONE. PRIZES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT RANDOM.

COVERS

53 Clyde St, Ohakune Phone 58-915

UPHOLSTERY

- Cars • Furniture
- Boats • Tarpaulins

IMPORTED

- Cane Furniture • Brassware
- Floor Rugs • Handcrafted Lampshades

(Latest Curtain Fabric Samples)

WAIMARINO

BULLETIN

VOICE OF THE RUAPEHU REGION
Tuesday 3 December, 1985. Volume 3 No. 28

HURLSTONE

Earthmoving Limited

PLANT HIRE OR
CONTRACT

Specialists in Land
Development, Drainage,
Roading Construction &
Ready Mixed Concrete.

Phone 58-083 Ohakune

Army chief visits exercise

Officer and Regular Force Cadets may be feeling sore and exhausted after 10 days of 'war' in Takrouna, their final exercise before graduation.

The army's Chief of General Staff, Major-General John Mace, visited the cadets at the exercise and stayed with them for two nights.

A total of 163 cadets took part, including three females in the senior officer cadet class.

The exercise was the final opportunity for the senior class to consolidate what

they had been taught during their year of training, with the added chance to command.

By changing round every 48 hours every officer cadet had the opportunity to command.

The junior officer cadets had the opportunity to develop their field skills, at the half-way point in their cadet training, and regular force cadets could practice the field skills which are required of infantry soldiers.

Major-General Mace said his visit had given him a better idea of the value of the exercise, and that it must continue.



Army Chief of General Staff, Major-General Mace, chats with cadets about Takrouna exercise, from left: officer cadet Mark Chapman, regular force cadets Grant McHenry and Shaun Maddox.



Patrick Cooper receives a cheque for \$414 from Eileen Hammond. Looking on from left: John Triggell, John Hammond, John Schrier and Bob Hammond.

Milk loss Patrick's gain

Milk producers and delivery contractors in the Waimarino coped with the milk strike in some innovative ways last week.

On Thursday, delivery contractors John Triggell and Fred Collett collected milk from producers Owen and John Hammond, Pat Goldfinch, Bob Hammond and Alan Whale.

They did their usual rounds, John to Raetihi and Ohakune and Fred to Rangataua and Waiouru, giving away milk to those who

came out, and asking for donations for disabled skier, Patrick Cooper.

Patrick is hoping to compete in the World Skiing Championships for the Disabled next year, and is trying to raise money.

John Schrier, of Rendezvous Dairy, also collected milk from Bob Hammond and gave it away in his shop in return for donations for Patrick.

Most people gave very generous donations, often more than the milk was worth. However, there were some who took lots of milk

and didn't give anything, said Mr Schrier.

Patrick was presented with \$414 on Friday and Fred Collett said he was still expecting big donations from Winstone Samsung Industries Ltd and from Army Training Group, Waiouru.

Patrick said he was very grateful for the donations and for everyone's hard work.

Producers and delivery contractors were angry about the strike and said there would have been milk available if the Raetihi Pastured Milk Supply Co. Ltd had not been shut down earlier this year.

Early last week milk producer Alan Whale, in an attempt to get something back, employed Wanganui Aero Works Ltd to spray his farm with the milk and on Monday night, Lisa Patterson sprayed 2500 litres over his Ruapehu Road farm.

It is the first time that milk has ever been sprayed back onto a farm in the Waimarino, said Mr Whale and the first time there has been a shortage of milk in the area since the war.



A Wanganui Aero Work helicopter sprays milk over Alan Whale's farm during the milk strike last week.

Ruapehu search

Yesterday morning 44 search and rescue volunteers were still searching for John Brough, 11, of Raetihi, lost on the rugged south western slopes of Mt Ruapehu.

John was in a party of eight scouts and two adults who spent Saturday night in the Mangaturuturu Hut.

On Sunday morning, after the party walked to Lake Surprise, it was realised that John was missing, and one of the adults walked to Turoa Ski-fields to raise the alarm.

Meanwhile the other adult and three of the scouts went back to the lake to look for him, but he could not be found.

A search later on Sunday by six volunteers failed to find the boy and search and rescue teams from Ohakune, Taihape, Taumarunui and Wanganui were mobilised.

At midday Monday the boy had still not been found.

Council leaders still trying

Attempts by the three local councils to reach agreement on a new Waimarino district council by the 1 December deadline set by the Local Government Commission continue to stumble.

At a recent Waimarino County Council meeting Cr John Martin's notice of motion to rescind the previously agreed formula of five representatives from the county and four each from Raetihi and Ohakune boroughs was unanimously passed.

Ohakune and Raetihi Borough meetings since then have taken note of the county decision but have decided to try to go ahead with the various proposals for amalgamation anyway.

Last night, after the Bulletin went to press, Ohakune Borough representatives on the amalgamation steering committee met and invited their opposite numbers from Raetihi Borough and the county to attend.

Before the meeting Ohakune Mayor Bill Taylor said his council intended to move

ahead to formalise the last of their proposals for amalgamation and send them to the commission.

These were transition arrangements — whether amalgamation was to follow local body elections or to take place at the same time, finance — the establishment of a joint banking and accounting system, and staffing.

These proposals were not to include the share of administration costs which each council would pay and which Mr Taylor maintained was not part of the preliminary negotiations.

He said he was disappointed that procedures which had appeared to have been agreed to had been thrown into doubt.

"At first Ohakune was the most reluctant about amalgamation, but having gone into it we were wholehearted about it."

"We will put in the proposals we have agreed to and we believe Raetihi will join with us and then we will see what happens."

• Continued page 2

MOBILE CURTAIN SHOWROOM

Our mobile curtain showroom and experienced home consultant Mrs Dixie Ander is regularly in your area. For a completely free of charge and no obligation visit contact Wanganui 57-778 (collect) or the Raetihi Hotel 54-016. We can advise on all aspects of home decoration, all our work is guaranteed and remember to enquire about our special offers on all customer orders.

PHONE NOW FOR AN APPOINTMENT



148 Guyton St, Wanganui
Open Saturday Mornings



NEWS
58-681

Your Community Newspaper

ADS
58-532

High-achieving electronics technician is Soldier of the Year

Ariana Blackwood first visited the Waiouru Military Training Area as a scientist testing the river water. She loved the environment so much she enlisted in the New Zealand Army and, six years later, has been named NZ Army Soldier of the Year 2025.

Ever since she was young, Corporal Ariana Blackwood knew she'd chase a hands-on career; outdoors, away from the routine of an office-based nine-to-five, and has now found herself shaking hands with the Chief of Army reflecting on her military career so far.

"I had so many nerves going into the event and had these feelings of imposter syndrome – in my mind I just felt that I have been doing my job. Honestly, it was such a surprise when I got called by my Officer Commanding and Squadron Sergeant Major to even be told I'd been nominated in the first place," said Corporal Blackwood.

"But then when I heard my citation read out at the awards it felt like a bit of an "oh wow, I have done quite a bit this year" moment. Then to hear Chief of Army and others say I deserved it just felt incredibly special."

Having grown up in Whakatāne before moving with her family to Palmerston North where she attended Freyberg High School, a career in the Army wasn't Corporal Blackwood's first mission after finishing her studies.

"I actually went to Massey University to study Environmental Science and Ecology and ended up getting what was then my dream job as a research assistant focusing on freshwater and biodiversity. I knew I wanted to be working outdoors and have a hands-on career."

That position ended up introducing her to military life, with her research regularly taking her into the Waiouru Military Training Area to analyse the waters of the Moawhango River.

"I just fell in love with the training area. Even just driving past the rifle ranges and seeing soldiers on their pack marches and drills – I just remember thinking at the time how cool that must be."

In 2019, aged 24, Corporal Blackwood enlisted into the NZ Army. After completing the All Arms Recruit Course, she posted to Trade Training School, where she commenced her apprenticeship as an Electronics Technician – a vital trade responsible for the maintenance and repair of over 200 specialised electronic and optical systems across the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF).

"I just wanted to try something completely new, and with everything around us becoming more and more digitised, and technology rapidly taking over large parts of warfare, it was just an area that I felt was right for me."

Her citation for the honour stated that she has set a "shining example of what right looks like to all ranks, displaying unwavering adherence to Ngāti Tūmataunga, the New Zealand Army's ethos and values".

It added that her "relentless pursuit of excellence in all that she undertakes, along with her determination to overcome challenges, demonstrates her drive and commitment to achieving her high professional standards."

Her career in uniform to date has included numerous honours, including being nominated as top soldier and top sportsperson for 2nd Combat Services Support Battalion, named top soldier and sports person for 2 Workshop Company and was selected for the Chief of Army's forum for International Women's Day earlier this year.

Corporal Blackwood has also consistently achieved high fitness and soldiering standards, including gaining entry to the Army's famed "100-club" for fitness testing. For females, this requires running 2.4 kilometres in under 10:05 and completing 36 uninterrupted press-ups.

She's currently posted to Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles as an Electronics Technician, and earlier this year deployed with the New Zealand Combat Team to Exercise Diamond Run and Talisman Sabre in Australia, which she said was "the next best thing to a real-world deployment".

Giving back to the Army, and to the next generation of soldiers is something that is on her radar.

"In the shorter-term I'd love to do some coursing that would enable me to be a crew commander of a recovery variant of our NZ Light Armoured Vehicles. But beyond that, I'd love to think I might get a posting to The Army Depot, or a role where I can help instruct our junior soldiers, which is something I love doing."



Corporal Ariana Blackwood – NZ Army's top 2025 soldier.

Summer power discount for some customers

Customers in the northern part of The Lines Company (TLC) network will receive their share of a \$3.9 million electricity discount before Christmas or in January. However, customers in the south receive no discount.

The money makes up the first payment from the total \$6.9 million (GST inclusive) payment to Waitomo Energy Services Customer Trust (WESCT) customers paid out this financial year. The discount payment will appear as a credit on December or January electricity retailer accounts.

Southern area customers received a rebate from King Country Trust, which holds the funds from the sale of King Country Electricity.

TLC chief executive Mike Fox said he was very pleased the company was able to return a healthy discount to the Trust despite

the significant investment necessary to make the network stronger and more resilient.

"This year, we're investing \$28.5 million in the network to make sure our assets are in good condition and that our communities stay connected and are ready for the future."

"At TLC however, it's not just about delivering safe and reliable electricity to our customers," continued Fox. "We have also heavily invested \$2m over the past four years in providing a range of partnership, sponsorship, training, and scholarship programmes to community organisations and local individuals."

"We're completely committed to Maru Energy Trust and to investing in new technologies which will benefit the wider community in the long run. We have a lot of things on the go in the community space as well as doing our core work," Fox said.



XPRESS AUTOMOTIVE Christmas Light Competition

Prize

1st Prize – \$500
2nd Prize – \$250
3rd Prize – \$150




Raetihi, Ohakune & Rangataua

To register your home, message our Facebook page Xpress Automotive, visit us in store at 9 Seddon St, Raetihi or send us a text to 021 077 4907


Registrations close 7 December
Houses will be listed for public viewing on 8 December

For everything Ohakune, visit
www.ohakune.info





Raetihi 2025 Christmas Carnival



Saturday Dec 13 9 am
Christmas Parade 1 pm

Floats, competitions, the fabulously decorated Christmas wreath and tree, food and market stalls, live music, kids games and prizes with the amazing Spinning Genie.

The theme this year is *Kiwiana Christmas*.
raetihichristmasparade@gmail.com





magazine

designer clothing

OUTLET STORE
Sizes 10-26
All seasons, all occasions

87 Hautapu Street, Taihape
(06) 388-1168
magazineclothing.co.nz

Paul's Tyres

& ALIGNMENTS

"No tyre too BIG or too SMALL – we'll do them all!"
"FAST, FRIENDLY SERVICE"

25 Tui St, Taihape – 06 388 0003
Open Monday - Friday 7.30am – 5pm
After hours 027 388 0003
paulstyres2024@gmail.com



Serving Ruapehu, Waimarino and the Rangitikei

- Read-i-mix concrete
- Troughs • Dog bowls

BYFORDS



Read-i Mix Ltd

06-388 2008 office@byfordsreadimix.co.nz

Est. 2013

BLUSH FLORIST

& CONFECTIONARY

www.blushflorist.co.nz
Ph: 06 3881419
email: tbyford@xtra.co.nz



Taihape's go-to spot for your wardrobe

The Magazine Designer Clothing experience in Taihape is about helping you find your perfect style, no matter your size, age or the occasion you're shopping for.

"We stock a stunning range of flattering and feminine, contemporary looks in sizes 10 – 26, with 10 stores across New Zealand," says Jan Bond from the Taihape store.



Anna's Homestore & Gifts

Pepper & Me Wham Bam! Ham Glaze \$12.99	Pepper & Me Al Pistachio Creme \$16.95	Pepper & Me Sweet Sesh Oil \$12.99
---	--	--

Mon - Fri 9:00am - 5:00pm Sat - Sun 10:00am - 4:00pm
73a Hautapu Street, Taihape Ph: 06 388 1158



Jan Bond welcomes customers to the Taihape Magazine outlet store.

EVENTS

DECEMBER 2025 Taihape Christmas Parade Taihape Community Christmas Lunch	13 December Christmas Day 25 December
JANUARY 2026 Marton Country Music Festival (ticketed) Kiwiburn Hunterville (ticketed) Turakina Highland Games The Taihape Shears The event will be held in Taihape and is a key part of the selection process for the New Zealand team for the 2026 Golden Shears World Championships in Masterton	16 – 18 January 21 – 26 January 24 January 24 January
FEBRUARY Rangitikei Shearing Sports Fest-a-Bull - Bulls	early February 28 February
MARCH CampFest Bulls Rangitikei Adventure Race Nth Island Secondary Schools Champs (ticketed)	6 - 8 March 21 March
APRIL Marton Harvest Festival & Pedal 4 Pleasure Suzuki Extreme 4x4 Challenge	12 April late April

Expert instore stylists work with customers to "really understand your needs and ensure you look and feel fabulous every time you shop" with them.

The Magazine Taihape Outlet Store offers a mix of relaxed daywear, polished evening options and special-occasion pieces across sizes 10–26. The range spans all seasons, from easy everyday essentials to standout styles suited to events.

"Shoppers will find pieces that softly skim the body, clean modern lines with room to move, and a considered palette that feels both fresh and timeless," says Jan.

The selection includes versatile jackets, knitwear, summer dresses and more tailored designs, all chosen for comfort, confidence and contemporary style.

Known for its warm, welcoming atmosphere and shape-focused approach to fashion, the Magazine Taihape Outlet Store has become a go-to destination for those looking to elevate their wardrobe with thoughtful, well-crafted design.

Deadline for all advertising bookings and copy is 5pm Fridays!

It's important that we get your ad booking and copy in on time, so that we have time to check it, plan the best layout and work on producing a better paper for you!

HIGH COUNTRY CLOTHING

RECEIVE A \$20 VOUCHER

WHEN YOU SPEND \$100

CONDITIONS:
Available in store only. Vouchers issued in store can only be redeemed in store. Limit of one voucher per transaction. Voucher promotion until 4 December 2025. Cannot be redeemed for cash. The \$20 voucher is issued after a qualifying purchase and cannot be redeemed on the same transaction in which it is earned. How it works: Spend in \$100 increments and receive a \$20 voucher (e.g. Spend \$200, get a \$40 voucher.)

FRED HAMMER & CO

1998 LTD



NOW SELLING

TAIHAPE

- MODERN URBAN DESIGN
- LEVEL ENTRY
- LOW MAINTENANCE
- CLOSE TO TOWN

ENQUIRE TODAY!

Ph: 027 4824 389 - 06 388 0406
fred_hammer@xtra.co.nz

TAHAPE

Off road ride for funds marks 20 years



Over 450 people headed for the hills to explore two iconic high country stations on the weekend. Photos: Sam Fletcher.



More than 130 4WD vehicles with around 460 passengers and drivers headed for the hills to explore two iconic sheep stations, while raising funds for the Moawhango community and school on the weekend.

The convoy travelled across both Erewhon and Springvale stations taking in some spectacular views at 1200m above sea level, a combined 6400 hectares of stunning landscapes, rich history, and panoramic views.

“The sun shone all day, vibes were high and the sense of community and connection was evident everywhere you looked. We love being part of such a great event and community,” said Jaqui, one of the event organisers.

“This year was particularly special as we were celebrating 20 years of this fundraising 4WD. We gave all our guests a special key ring memento as well as a bumper sticker as part of the celebration.”

The rally finished up at Ngamatea woolshed and shared a feast of local lamb, venison, pork and quinoa salads.

“This event is loved by young and old, rural and city folk and we love the community connection it creates.”

The carefully planned route was aimed to cover as much of the farms as possible with stops to take in the spectacular views including the Rangitikei River “from bridge to bridge”.

A stop at the top of the Springvale Plateau was for lunch while taking in sweeping views — from MounGANUI Station to the south, across to Mount Ruapehu and the Kaimanawa Ranges to the west, then north toward Ngamatea and the Kawekas, and east toward Otupae and Mangaohane Stations and the Ruahine Ranges.

Later, a stop at an old rabbitier’s hut was to hear stories and local history shared by Alistair Maclean and Jim Halley, offering a unique glimpse into the region’s past.

PLUMBING SUPPLIES

We stock a large range of plumbing supplies, including spouting, downpipes, Marley fittings and sumps.

We also stock bute fittings, flexi hoses, sediment filters, toilet cistern inlet valves, S traps and more...

Mon - Fri 7:00am - 5:00pm Sat 8:30am - 12:00pm
123 Hautapu Street, Taihape Ph: 06 388 9136

MY BOOKSHOP TAIHAPE

Stationery - Books - Cards - Gifts - Toys

Catherine Renwicks
Owner / Manager

83 Hautapu Street, Taihape 4720
Ph: 06 388 0105
Email: contact@mybookshoptaihape.co.nz

06 388 1211

07 895 8110

TRX700 FA5

\$18,500 excl GST

**Great Deals on Demo Bikes!
Fixed Price on Servicing!**

ALL OVER THE REGION

ALTOGETHER BETTER

06 928 9599 | 98 Hautapu Street, Taihape

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

Curls' love brings curtains and blinds service

Many reasons attract people to relocate to our region, and arguably the greatest reason of all was the one that brought Dean "Curls" Curley to Ohakune: love.

Packing up his life and business into his wagon three years ago, Dean has wasted no time establishing 'Curls Curtains and Blinds' as a trusted local business offering a personalised quality service.

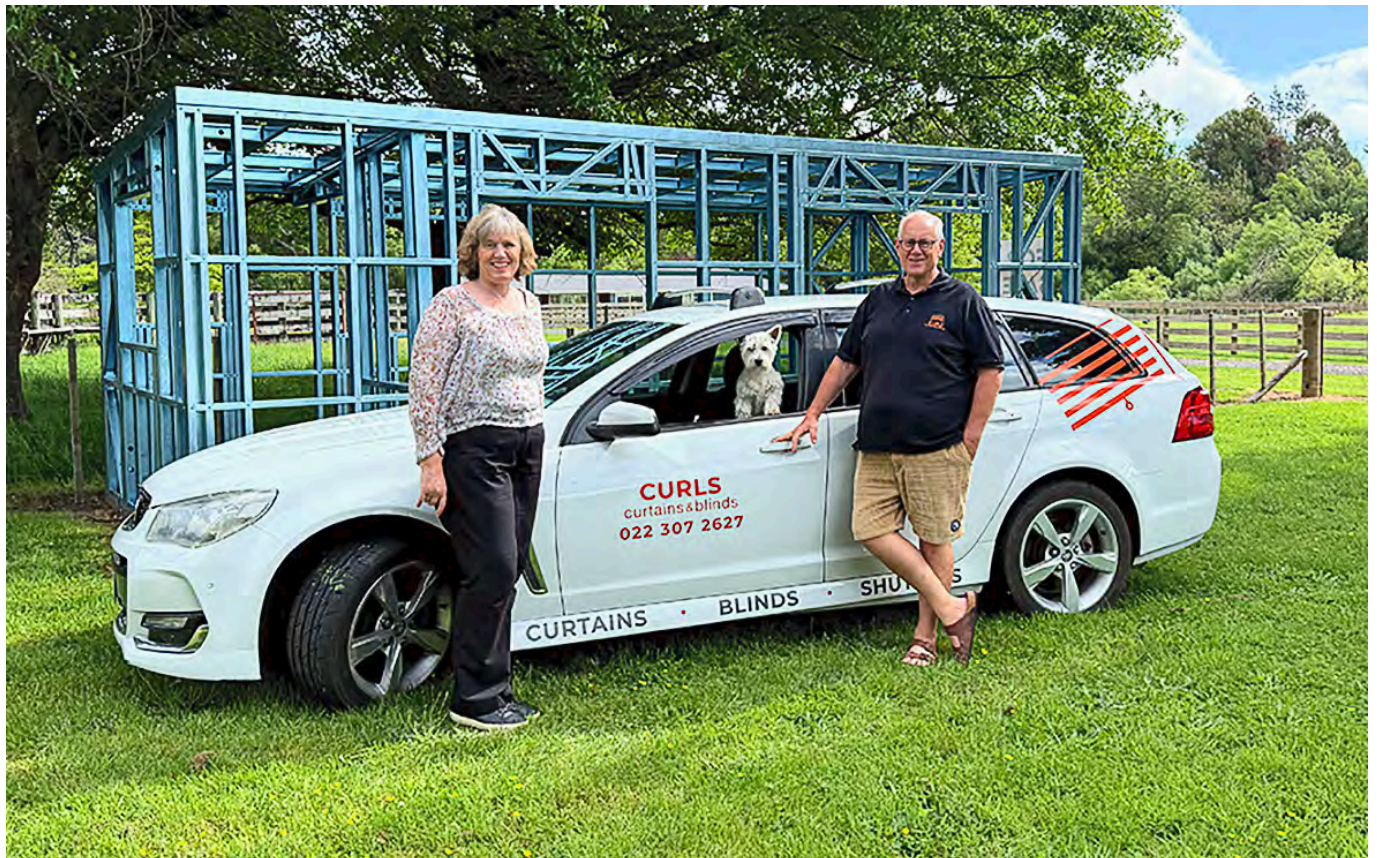
Dean learned the trade from his father as a youngster and has extensive knowledge of window treatments. He advises on everything from drapes versus blinds to fabric and hardware choices. Dean provides personalised service from consultation to installation, setting him apart from competitors. He ensures clients' needs are met throughout the process.

Dean's wife, Gail, has been volunteering for over 10 years on the St John committee and a shared belief in supporting his local community led Dean to join her in Ohakune.

Dean also supports local businesses by contracting a local seamstress to manufacture all his curtain orders. The beauty of this approach is that the completion of an order is much faster than other suppliers can offer, with Dean generally able to turn around an order in two to three weeks. Curls Curtains and Blinds also offer free installation to local residents.

Curls Curtains and Blinds can advise on all types of window coverings, including vertical and venetian blinds, roman blinds, interior and exterior shutters, curtains, drapes, and a wide range of fabrics and hardware.

Dean offers a free measure and quote consultation, so give him a call today to discuss how your windows may benefit from a Curls Curtains and Blinds treatment. Dean can be contacted on phone 022 307 2627 or via email at curlscnb@gmail.com.



Gail and Dean 'Curls' Curley: love brought the business to town.

Landscaping

RFL
LANDSCAPING • EARTHWORKS
027 241 3412

RICHARD FLEURY
027 241 3412

DIPLOMA IN LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Ph 027 241 3412

EARTHWORKS LANDSCAPING

- Drainage
- 5T/3T Diggers
- Road Roller
- All Concrete Work
- Concrete Cutting

Curtains & Blinds

CURLS
curtains&blinds

FREE MEASURE & QUOTE

Custom Quality Curtains,
Blinds, Shutters & Steel
Kit Set Frames

curlscnb@gmail.com

Find us on facebook
@curlscurtainsandblinds

Ph 022 307 2627

Building Supplies

PlaceMakers

FOR YOUR BUILDING PROJECT & DIY NEEDS

MON to FRI – 7.30am – 5pm
SAT 9am – midday

Ph 06-385 8414

Septic Tank Work

Bennett's Septic Tank Cleaning Services

Septic tanks, water tanks,
grease traps.

Call us for fast efficient
service.

Phone Chris 06-388-0452

Ph 06 388 0452

Tree & Garden Services

Treeshape Ltd
Tree & Garden Management

Garden maintenance & landscaping
Tree care and removal
Landscape design and installation

Over two decades of experience in commercial
and private tree & garden management

Fully qualified and insured

Contact us today for a free consultation or
estimate – email treeshapeltd@gmail.com

Ph 021 951 962

Gib Fixing & Plastering

MANAWATŪ DRYWALL
BUILDING YOUR DREAMS ONE WALL AT A TIME

GIB FIXING & PLASTERING SERVICES
Reliable. Affordable. High-Quality Finish.

No job too big or small – residential & commercial.
Skimming • Stopping • Repairs • New Builds •
Renovations

Call Bryce Cox 021 170 3893
Email: manawatudrywall@outlook.com

Free quotes • Prompt service • Satisfaction
guaranteed

Ph 021 170 3893

Property Maintenance / Cleaning

RUAPEHU COMMERCIAL CLEANING & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE LTD
Commercial | Residential Property Cleaning | Maintenance

- General Cleaning
- Property Maintenance
- Carpet Cleaning
- Water Blasting Services
- Floor polishing/buffing

For a free no obligation quote call:
RAY 021 886 509 or MAURICE 021 078 2419
Or visit: www.rccpml.co.nz

021 886509 or 021 0782419

Hire

Why buy it ... hire it!
TWEEDDALE HIRE

NEW LOCATION
Next to BP Ohakune
Open Monday – Friday 8am – 4pm
Saturday & Sunday CLOSED. Hire by arrangement
P 027 2799 724 E ohakunehire@xtra.co.nz

CHECK OUT OUR EXTENSIVE RANGE OF HIRE EQUIPMENT. SEE OUR WEBSITE
WWW.TWEEDDALE.CO.NZ

PARTY HIRE: floodlights, tables & chairs, heaters, spit roasters, wheelie bins, chafing dishes, crockery & cutlery, dehumidifier, flute & wine glasses, universal food cooker, portaloos & showers, 3-section marquee, horse float.

Heat Pumps

Choose the best heat pump designed to heat your home

Call us for a service and clean of your heat pump

MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC HYPERCORE

Free quotes. Interest Free Terms available.
Total 5-year Warranty. Q Card. ohakunetv@xtra.co.nz

Ohakune TV Electrical

Ph 06 385 8700

Land development

VERSATILE BOBCATS LTD

Bobcat+Truck Hire
Section clearing
Driveways Formed

For All Your Land Development Requirements

Topsoil available

Contact Steve Gray Free Quotes

Ph 027 685 4854

Electrician

Are you looking for an electrician who:
- Turns up on time?
- Keeps his promises?
- Offers efficient service & sound advice?

Then call Jake Fah at

Mountain Electrical

REGISTERED ELECTRICIAN
Ohakune – Raetihi – Rangataua –
Horopito – National Park – Whanganui

Ph 021 770 123

Marquee Hire

FOR THE BIG JOBS:
digger hire, cherry pickers, pumps, wood splitters, generators, car trailers, post hole borers, furniture trailer, concrete equipment, rollers & compactors, portable trencher

Ph 06 387 5022

The best for learners, says Bates

By Carl Bates, Member of Parliament for Whanganui

• Visiting schools is an awesome part of our role as local MPs. Recently, Suze Redmayne and I had the opportunity to visit Ohakune Primary School. As part of these visits, I always take the opportunity to check in with principals and teachers on the implementation of structured numeracy and literacy. Seeing students engaged in both these areas reinforces the value of the changes the National-led Government has made.

Evidence of the success of these changes was confirmed over the last month in a recent report released by the Education Review Office (ERO), which showed the Government's decision to mandate structured literacy and introduce structured mathematics was the right one. The key finding was that student engagement and ability improved across all learners as a result of these approaches.

ERO found half of primary school teachers report students' English and mathematics have improved compared to last year. Parents agree, with over three quarters reporting better progress

in both English and maths. So do students, with around 75 per cent saying they are getting better in those subjects, 95 per cent say they find English interesting and 86 per cent think the same for maths.

Many of our primary schools in provincial New Zealand, including Ohakune Primary School, are what is referred to as 'full primary' because they include intermediate students as well. Last week, data was released from a nationwide maths acceleration trial for Year 7 and 8 students who needed extra support. Students made, on average, a year to two years of progress in just 12 weeks in developing fundamental maths skills.

Even more encouraging was that students learning under the new curriculum also saw improvement. Those learning an hour a day of maths and using high quality resources, also made, on average, a full year's progress in just 12 weeks.

These are outstanding results.



MP Carl Bates visits Ohakune Primary School during a recent tour of schools.

As parents, we want our children to succeed and seeing them gain a world-class education is vitally important.

Credit goes to all our teachers as they work through the implementation of these significant reforms to the curriculum and teaching practice. Teachers should be heartened to see the results like the above coming through.

As we rapidly move towards Christmas, it is time to reflect on the year that has almost passed and look forward to 2026. It has been a privilege again this year to

represent my electorate in Parliament and something I do not take for granted.

With an Election in 2026, I was recently confirmed by the National Party to stand again as the candidate for Whanganui (including South Taranaki, Stratford and now Ruapehu too). Over the coming months I will continue to work hard to earn your support.

For now, from my family, Candice, Angus, Logan and Bonnie-Ann to yours, we wish you a very Happy Christmas, and all the best for the New Year.

Māori voice

From Page 6

He said he had expected amalgamation to be more likely than what was proposed this week.

"This has come from completely left field. No one knew this was going to be proposed. We were all guessing what reform could look like – we heard of this proposal for the first time on Tuesday."

Pue said the 2023 report He piki tūranga, he piki kōtuku on the Future for Local Government "gave no indication that reform like this should occur or was necessary".

The independent panel, with decades of experience in local government and public sector leadership, spent two years examining how the system needed to evolve over the next 30 years. None of its 17 recommendations for "a radical overhaul" anticipated the current proposal, Pue said.

"There is now a level of uncertainty as to what it means moving forward. I am feeling for Horizons and regional council staff up and down the motu.

"In this time, when the country is responding to economic, social and environmental challenges, is now the right time for us to be moving the deck chairs – or should we be working to get the basics right?

"Or are they saying you can't be trusted, get out of the way and let us do it?"

Pue said that until told otherwise, councillors would continue to focus on "getting the job done".

"We've got community outcomes to achieve, services, monitoring and publicly owned assets to see to, an environment to care for and an electorate to represent."

The proposal is out for consultation until 20 February, with legislation expected to be introduced mid-next year and passed in 2027.

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



Experts ~ at your service

Engineering

Ohakune ENGINEERING

- Manufacturing and repairs
- Access equipment hire
- Engineering supplies
- BOC gases
- 20T & 50T crane hire

29 Burns St, Ohakune.
027 473 0188 Mark or 027 444 2058 Bruce
Email: sales@ohakune-eng.co.nz

Ph 06 385 8952

Farrier

Farrier

Available for all
hoof care

Hot & Cold Shoeing
Bare Foot Trimmings
Hoof Repair

Phone Ian 027 410 9782

Carpet Cleaning

ChemDry
Drier. Cleaner. Healthier.

WANGANUI
CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
24 HOUR FLOOD CALLOUT

We specialise in stains, odours and hard to clean carpets and fabrics.
P.U.R.T - Pet Urine Removal Treatment
cdwanganui@outlook.co.nz
www.chemdry.co.nz
Wanganui & Ruapehu Regions

0800 22 78 22

Property Managers

Property Care Done Better

- ✓ Airbnb Cleaning
- ✓ Linen Supply
- ✓ Airbnb Management
- ✓ Property Maintenance
- ✓ Gardening
- ✓ Handyman Service + MORE

Gstar Stays
RUAPEHU
Locally owned & operated

Whether it's your home, investment or short stay rental, trust **GSTAR Stays** to keep it looking its best, inside and out!

027 511 1200 info@gstarstays.nz

Ph 027 5111 200

Plumber

Plumber Dan

Meet Gene, your trusted local Ohakune-based plumber, servicing your region, specialising in all things plumbing.

From everyday maintenance to those more pressing urgent jobs, Gene has you covered.

Highly recommended by your local residents, commercial clients and the community.

Call us today to enquire or book a job!
office@plumberdan.co.nz

Ph 021 635 517

Ohakune Landscape Supplies

- Huge range of Pebbles
- Builders mix
- Mulch
- Sand
- White chip
- Bark
- Topsoil
- Pavers
- Pea Straw
- Bagged Garden Fertilisers
- Rail & Mac Sleepers

~ Call to arrange supply ~ FREE loan trailer ~
~ eftpos available ~
Email: Ohakune.landscape@gmail.com

Ph 0800 926 315

Earthworks

HAITANA EARTHWORKS

14 tonne digger
14 tonne wheel digger
Tip truck
Supply of metal, scoria and boulders

Farm work, section & driveways, rock walls

Ph 027 289 4404

Gas Fitting

Plumbing & Gasfitting

Cut down on your power bill.
Go gas hot water & heating – supplied and installed.
Call for a consultation.

Phone Denise 027 482 7488 or
Email
accounts@aplumbingandgas.co.nz

Ph 06 343 6866

Auto Services

AUTO SERVICE CENTRE

Repco
BRIDGESTONE

Authorised Holden Service Centre

Full workshop services for all vehicles, wheel alignments, computer diagnostics, warrant of fitness inspections, parts, batteries, engine oils.

84 Clyde Street, Ohakune
After hours 027 448 4080
autoservicecentre@hotmail.co.nz

Ph 06 385 9222

Plumbing / Drainlaying

B&M PLUMBING LTD

- Plumbing & Drainlaying
- Pumps - sales, servicing & installation of all pumps
- Fires & Solar
- 5 Ton Digger with Augers, Ditchwitch & Tip Truck

"Your local Registered Certifier"

B&M PLUMBING LIMITED
Call Brian 027 436 1075
Email: bmfred@xtra.co.nz
Master Plumbers Representing Excellence

Ph 06 385 4718

Auto Services

RUAPEHU MOTORS

Locally owned and operated by mechanic Daniel Norris.

WOF \$75 car, \$45 trailer

Ruapehu Motors
Cnr Seddon St and Valley Rd, Raetihi.

For enquiries, please phone Daniel

Ph 027 863 7454

Upholsterers

Westlorne

- Furniture Upholstery
- Vehicle Upholstery
- Tarpaulins • Canvas & Leather
- Shade sails • Saddlery

Factory, SH49, Tangiwhai, Ohakune.
Mobile 0274-467-289 Fax 06-385-8483
email: westlorne@xtra.co.nz
www.westlorne.co.nz

Ph 06 385 8487

FOR SALE

TANK SPECIALISTS, water or septic. Delivered price quoted. Buy direct. Ph 0800-487-633.

PUBLIC NOTICES

RAILWAY MUSEUM & OP SHOP. Open 10am-2pm Thursday - Sunday. 62 Thames St, 100m past Railway Station. Sponsored by The Ski Shed.



Ruapehu Mayor Weston Kirton
To arrange a meeting or call back please phone Council on 06 385 8364 or email: kay.kidd@ruapehudc.govt.nz



PUBLIC NOTICES

Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

Ohakune Brewers Limited have made an application to the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council for the **Renewal of an On Licence** in respect of the premises situated at **17 Goldfinch Street, Ohakune**, known as **Big Mountain Mead/Big Mountain Burgers**. The general nature of the business to be conducted under the licence is that of a **Tavern**. The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is intended to be sold under the licence are: **Wednesday – Sunday: 10.00am – 10.00pm**.

The application may be inspected during ordinary office hours at the office of the Ruapehu District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council, 59-63 Huia Street, Taumarunui.

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

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

This is the second publication of this notice. The first notice was published on 26 November 2025.

BUSINESS NOTICES

Ohakune Health Hub
In pain? Let us help.

Experienced care in Osteopathy, Physiotherapy, Massage and Acupuncture – effective treatment for:
- Musculoskeletal pain - headaches & concussion - post-operative recovery - and much more.

ACC registered | 77-79 Clyde St, Ohakune
Book online: www.ohakuneosteo.co.nz

OnRope Arborists
Ruapehu District Tree Services

Felling, topping, pruning, dangerous tree removal. Qualified, experienced and fully insured. Ron: 022 1954 799

BUSINESS FOR SALE



the gym Ohakune
Ohakune Gym For Sale
For more information contact Sam & Savannah on 027 721 0960

PUBLIC NOTICES

Waimarino Health Shuttle

Need to get to a health appointment in Whanganui?

Book on 0800 266 547

Bookings must be made 24 hours in advance.
Contact us between Monday to Friday 8.30am and 3.00pm



Free Legal Advice Clinics
Raetihi Chambers
44 Seddon Street, Raetihi
Wednesday between 10am – 2pm
10 December 2025
Ngāti Rangī Community Health Centre
Maungārongo Marae, 36A Burns Street, Ohakune
Thursday between 10am – 2pm
11 December 2025
To book an appointment, call or email us with your name and contact phone number
Community Legal Advice Whanganui (CLAW)
Phone Reception 06 348 8288 press option 1
Email – claw@claw.co.nz

Ohakune & Waimarino Returned Services Assoc.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 4 December, 6pm
Raetihi Cosmopolitan Club,
Seddon St, Raetihi
(Previous AGM of 20 November postponed)
All welcome.

PUBLIC NOTICES



Large Scale Demolitions

The Defence Ammunition Depot Waiouru, Defence Munitions Management Group will be conducting large scale demolitions in the vicinity of the southeastern base of MT Ruapehu west of Desert road between 10am and 5pm from Tuesday 25 November to Thursday 27 November 2025, and again, from Monday 1 December to Thursday 4 December 2025.

Loud explosions may be heard during these times for anyone in the surrounding area.

All questions can be directed to:
Denis Wanihi – DMMG, Defence Munitions Management Group 06 387 5411



NGĀTI HĀUA

REMINDER

PĀNUI / NOTICE OF
Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust
Hui-Ā-Tau 2025

Nau mai e te iwi!

Saturday 6 December 2025 at 10am
Ngāpūwaiwaha Marae, Taumarunui

Online capability to attend Hui-ā-Tau will be available to registered members. A link will be forwarded after you register your attendance to: Info@ngatihaua.iwi.nz

The Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust (Trust) gives notice of the 2024-2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) commencing at 10am on Saturday 6 December 2025 at Ngāpūwaiwaha Marae, Taumarunui.

AGENDA

10am Karakia and Mihimihi
Apologies
AGM Minutes held 7 December 2024
Matters Arising from Minutes
Financial Reports for the period 2024/2025
Appointment of Auditor
Chairperson's Report
Trust Update
General Business
Karakia whakamutunga

Noon Lunch

Contact: Maxine Ketu, Pouārahi
07 895 5966 or 0800 AWA HAU
Email: info@ngatihaua.iwi.nz
Website: www.ngatihaua.iwi.nz
Facebook: Ngāti Hāua Taumarunui

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of intention to grant lease over Taumarunui Reserve (Taumarunui Domain)

Notice of intention to grant lease over Recreation Reserve pursuant to section 54 (1)(a) and section 54 (1)(b) of the Reserves Act 1977

Pursuant to section 54 (1)(a) and section 54 (1)(b) of the Reserves Act 1977, the Ruapehu District Council proposes to grant a ground lease to the Taumarunui Districts Sports Club Incorporated on Recreation Reserve at 33 Turaki Street, Taumarunui known as the Taumarunui Domain. The proposed lease will permit the club to operate a sports club from the Domain.

The proposed lease will be for a maximum term of 15 years (an initial term of five years, with two further renewal terms of five years), and is for an area of ground approximately 5,400m², contained in part of the legal description Lot 1 DP 20591 Block X Taumarunui Native Township, known as the Taumarunui Domain.

Any person wishing to make a submission or objection to this proposal may do so in writing to: Proposal to Grant Lease – Taumarunui Domain, Ruapehu District Council, Private Bag 1001, Taumarunui 3946 or send an email to: consultation@ruapehudc.govt.nz

Submissions or objections must be received by Council by 5pm on Friday 30 January 2026.



Te Whiringa Kākaho

REMINDER

PĀNUI / NOTICE OF
Inaugural Hui-ā-Tau 2025
Te Whiringa Kākaho o
Ngāti Hāua Trust

Nau mai e te iwi!

Saturday 6 December 2025 at 1pm
Ngāpūwaiwaha Marae

Online capability to attend Hui-ā-Tau will be available to registered members. A link will be forwarded after you register your attendance to: Info@ngatihaua.iwi.nz

The Te Whiringa Kākaho o Ngāti Hāua Trust (Trust) gives notice of the inaugural Te Whiringa Kākaho o Ngāti Hāua Trust 2024-2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) commencing at 1pm on Saturday 6 December 2025 at Ngāpūwaiwaha Marae, Taumarunui.

AGENDA

1pm Karakia and Mihimihi
Apologies
Financial Report 2024/2025
Appointment of Auditor
Chairperson's Report
Trust Update
General Business
Karakia whakamutunga

Contact: Maxine Ketu, Pouārahi
07 895 5966 or 0800 AWA HAU
Email: info@ngatihaua.iwi.nz
Website: www.ngatihaua.iwi.nz
Facebook: Ngāti Hāua Taumarunui

For everything Ohakune, visit
www.ohakune.info

CLASSIFIEDS Deadline 5pm Friday.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ĀTIHAU-WHANGANUI INCORPORATION NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 2025



Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of shareholders of the Āti Hau Whanganui Incorporation will be held at the **Whanganui Racecourse, Purnell Street, Whanganui on Friday 5th of December 2025 commencing at 9am.**

Registration from 7.30am and closing at 10.30am.

AGENDA

1. Karakia
2. Mihimihi
3. Apologies – written
4. Committee of Management

To fill 3 (three) vacancies:

Whatarangi Murphy-Peehi has retired by rotation and does not seek re-election.

Shar Amner and Sarah Rae have retired by rotation and seek re-election.

Nominations have been received from Charles Chadwick, Kiritahi Firmin, Jonelle Hiroti-Kinane, Debbie Hyland, Hayden Potaka and Charles Taituha.

5. Board and CEO Report
6. Financial Report
7. Te Āti Hau Trust Report

8. Dividend

To adopt the recommendation of the Committee of Management: That a dividend of 60 cents a share be paid in December 2025 pursuant to section 259 (1) (c) of Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.

9. Appointment of Auditors

Silks Audit are re-appointed pursuant to section 277(2) of Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.

10. Appointment of Share Valuer

Silks Audit Ltd be appointed Share Valuer, pursuant to s278 of the Act.

11. Kaumātua Grant

To approve a Kaumātua grant of \$50 to kaumātua for travel costs associated with the Annual General Meeting. Payment to be by direct credit

12. Te Āti Hau Trust Grant

That pursuant to s259(1d) of the Act a grant be made to Te Āti Hau Trust of \$325,000 for the 2025/2026 financial year for its charitable purposes.

13. Minutes: 6th December 2024 Annual General Meeting

Postal Voting

Shareholders may cast a postal vote by completing and sending the Postal Voting form to the Secretary. Postal Votes must reach the Secretary no later than 9.00 am on Wednesday 3rd of December 2025.

Proxies

The Constitution permits shareholders who are unable to attend the meeting to appoint a proxy. No person shall vote as attorney or proxy at the meeting unless a copy of the power of attorney or notice of appointment of proxy properly completed is lodged at the office of the Incorporation no later than 9.00 am on Wednesday 3rd of December 2025.

Paul Maguire, Secretary

There's only 3 issues until Christmas!

Do you want to get a Christmas & New Year message into the Ruapehu Bulletin?

You can say a big 'thank you' to your local customers and at the same time to tell them your opening times over the holiday period or anything special you might be running during this time.

The last issue for 2025 is 17 December.
First issue for 2026 is 21 January.

Call Jude now to book your space 0274 993697

Ruapehu Bulletin

Deadline for all advertising bookings and copy is

5pm Fridays!

It's important that we get your ad booking and copy in on time, so that we have time to check it, plan the best layout and work on producing a better paper for you!

Ohakune Squash awards

Ohakune Squash Club members scooped up six awards at the recent Squash Central 60th jubilee and 2025 awards evening.

“It was a hugely successful evening for our members who claimed six awards on the night and Chase getting to cut the 60th jubilee cake,” said a Club member.

Ohakune’s winners were: Ashton Smith most improved junior; Grace Rowe best new coach; Matt Laurenson best club/school coach and best overall coach; Chase Haitana personality of the year; Liam Burnard representing the team of the year

The awards were presented by New Zealand’s squash legend Dame Susan Devoy.



Ashton Smith with Dame Susan Devoy. Photos ryanmedianz.



Matthew Laurenson with Dame Susan Devoy.



Chase Haitana with Dame Susan Devoy.



Grace Rowe with Dame Susan Devoy.

Reforms will be welcomed – if it delivers savings: Kirton

From Page 3

to expand shared services and embed safeguards like affordability, Kirton said.

Expertise

He rejected concerns that mayors lack the expertise to oversee regional functions such as freshwater management, environmental regulation and flood protection.

Unitary council mayors already held these responsibilities and district mayors oversee functions closely aligned with regional roles, he said.

“In all cases they are supported by staff who are subject matter experts who provide the necessary advice to make informed decisions.”

On environmental oversight of areas such as water quality, catchment management and biodiversity, Kirton said governance relies heavily on technical advice regardless of the structure.

“[Specialist staff] translate detailed scientific, regulatory, and operational information into clear advice, outline risks and opportunities, and recommend evidence-based options”.

The removal of elected regional councillors would not compromise democratic representation, he said. With good engagement and transparency, community voices could be heard.

“Having fewer elected representatives does not mean communities receive lesser representation. What matters is the quality of governance, the clarity of roles, and the strong support systems around elected members.”

Māori voices

The proposed reforms remove regional Māori seats, relying on mayors to represent both Māori and general roll communities.

Kirton believed formal Māori representation would provide “the strongest foundation for meaningful

participation”.

“However, it is ultimately for iwi and hapū across the region to determine how they wish to organise and express that collective voice.”

Māori representation in Ruapehu was strong, with three Māori Ward councillors and a Māori councillor elected to a general ward seat, and Te Tiriti o Waitangi was a core pillar of the council’s strategic and operational framework.

“We have invested significantly in building genuine partnerships with iwi and hapū.”

These and similar arrangements in neighbouring districts ensured mayors had a direct understanding of iwi and hapū perspectives, he said.

With those partnerships protected, he was confident Māori voices would continue to be heard and influential.

Kirton was aware of concerns, particularly for smaller districts, about population-weighted voting but said voting rules had yet to be decided.

One vote

His preference: “There should be one vote per council – any advisory roles should be non-voting.”

Most councils in the Horizons region represent rural areas which share many priorities including land and water management, resilience, infrastructure investment and sustainable economic development, he said.

“This collective rural voice provides a natural balance to the interests of the larger urban centres.”

Kirton said he expected the mayoral panel model to foster collaboration and collective thinking.

“We have shared interests and shared challenges, and this interdependence will help ensure that decision-making reflects the needs of the whole region.”

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

Ohakune 73a Arawa Street



Your retreat awaits

Welcome to your dream escape in the heart of Ohakune - where adventure meets comfort. This low maintenance beautifully presented 3 bedroom plus mezzanine chalet offers the perfect blend of cozy alpine charm and contemporary living, ideal for families, holidaymakers, or anyone looking for an investment property. The open plan kitchen and living area with a wood burner for the winter nights has an inviting atmosphere. The two bedrooms downstairs are both double with their own wardrobes. Upstairs has the third bedroom and the spacious mezzanine area that works well for the extra guests.

3 2 1

For Sale \$349,000
View By appointment
Web pb.co.nz/OHU216891

Polly Ingles
M 027 315 8368
Jenna Hovelle
M 027 361 0167

Raetihi 52 Seddon Street



Live in business opportunity

In the main street of Raetihi this commercial building has been renovated to a 4-bedroom apartment upstairs with offices down. The upstairs living has been double glazed, and includes polished wooden floors, modern kitchen & bathroom as well as an ensuite off the main front bedroom. The entire upstairs provides comfortable living for someone who is looking for a home and income opportunity. Because of fire regulations the building would need to be a sole owner occupier/property manager accommodation upstairs with associated business downstairs. Alternatively, you could investigate turning the entire building into a full residential use.

For Sale By Negotiation
View By appointment
Web pb.co.nz/OHC216487

Polly Ingles
M 027 315 8368
Jenna Hovelle
M 027 361 0167



Join in the spirit of giving this festive season!

Help us to **Pack a Bus** full of new gifts, toys, toiletries, and non-perishable food items for local families in need this Christmas by dropping donations at the collection bins at Ohakune Property Brokers and The Cyprus Tree before Friday 12th December.

- When:** Monday 1st - Friday 12th December 2025
- Where:** Property Brokers, 1 Goldfinch Street, Ohakune 4625
The Cyprus Tree, 79 Clyde Street, Ohakune 4625
- What:** Bring along a donation of any non-perishable food item or a new gift for a child of any age to help us Pack the Bus