



Whakapapa is set for anyone keen to explore the Tongariro National Park's volcanic landscape, NZ's only UNESCO Dual World Heritage site. Walk one of the marked trails or soak in the views by riding the Sky Waka gondola to 2,020m and settling in at Knoll Ridge chalet, New Zealand's highest café.

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mighty
MAUNGA



Movement, connection and adventure for Ruapehu's events trust

Best-known for hosting the winter Ohakune Mountain Mardi Gras, the Ohakune Events Charitable Trust has been building up its set of events, taking over several summer sports challenges.

"This summer will be a huge celebration of movement, connection and adventure across Ruapehu," says Emma Young, the new chair of the Trust.

"Our sports events sit at the heart of the season, bringing people together from across Aotearoa to experience the wild beauty of our region."

The Goat and The Kid

Beginning the season is two of the area's most iconic events.

The Goat, in January, is an approximately 20km mountain adventure run from Whakapapa to Tūroa, travelling across rugged volcanic terrain, weav-



The Goat competitor Mercedes Sanchez with a "kid". Young potential goats will be able to take part in a trail run – The Kid – in January.

Turn to Page 28

Join The Herd



The GOAT
Adventure Run
The Original Tongariro

The KID
Adventure Run
Tongariro

Mt Ruapehu | Whakapapa → Tūroa
17th January 2026
Have you Goat what it takes?

Movement, connection and adventure

From Page 27

ing through valleys, and taking in sweeping views of the maunga Ruapehu. The mix of technical sections, steep climbs and fast runnable stretches creates a challenge that runners return for year after year.

“The Goat is more than a race. It is an unforgettable journey across the flanks of Mt Ruapehu and a day that always brings people together in the best possible way.”

Alongside it, The Kid Adventure Run gives tamariki their own space to shine. The 3.2km course creates the perfect moment for young people to feel proud, brave, and part of something bigger. It gives young runners their own chance to experience the buzz of race day and cross a finish line they can be proud of.

Together, The Goat and The Kid set the tone for a summer filled with adventure, achievement, and community spirit.

Tussock Traverse and Ring of Fire

Later in the season is one of the most anticipated weekends of the year. Tussock Traverse and the relaunched Ring of Fire are taking place on the same weekend in March, turning Ruapehu into the centre of trail running in Aotearoa. Hundreds of runners, walkers, supporters and whānau will arrive to explore and experience the remarkable volcanic landscapes that make this region so special.

Tussock Traverse offers four distances to suit every level of adventurer to find their wild on the trails of the Tongariro National Park. Participants can choose from the 6km, 12km, 21km, or 32km options, making it an event that truly welcomes everyone. The Family Pass has become a favourite and is a perfect way for whānau to share a summer outdoor challenge together. From experienced trail runners to first timers, Tussock Traverse is all about connection, movement, and discovering new confidence on the trails.

Ring of Fire brings a different kind of intensity. With the 100km solo, 100km relay for teams of three, and the 60km solo, it offers a powerful challenge for those ready to push themselves across sweeping ridgelines and dramatic volcanic landscapes.

“There is an incredible sense of anticipation around its return and the energy building in the ultra community has been huge,” says Emma.

The courses do not pass through the fire affected areas but participants will catch glimpses of the landscape that was impacted.

“It is a quiet reminder of the strength of our whenua and the mahi of those who protected it, adding another layer of meaning to an already iconic event.”

“Together, Tussock Traverse and Ring of Fire will create an unforgettable weekend filled with energy, pride, and the wairua of the maunga.”

Be Part of the Journey

Behind every start line, finish arch, aid station and cheering crowd is an incredible group of volunteers. These events simply would not happen without the people who give their time to support them. Volunteering is a rewarding way to be involved.

“You get to meet new people, be part of the action, and help showcase our region.”

“If you would like to join the crew this summer, you are warmly invited to email us at hello@oect.co.nz.”



Eleanor Milne heads up the Silica Rapids towards the Ohakune Mountain Road.

VOLCANIC ULTRA 60KM, 100KM & RELAY

RING OF FIRE

RUAPEHU | NEW ZEALAND

27-29 MARCH 2026

VOLCANIC ULTRA 60KM, 100KM, RELAY

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Merino: the official base layer for Ruapehu's alpine trail events

Opus Fresh, Ohakune's merino apparel company, is in partnership with Ohakune Events Charitable Trust as the official base layer provider for Ruapehu's alpine trail running events – The Goat, the Tussock Traverse and the Ring of Fire.

"When tackling the demanding volcanic slopes of the Tongariro National Park, you need gear that works as hard as you do," says Janelle Hinch from Opus Fresh

Racers face intense physical exertion and rapid environmental shifts—from exposed ridgelines to sheltered valleys, often within minutes.

"The weather up there doesn't mess around; Ruapehu's swift and unpredictable weather changes makes specific safety gear compulsory for event participants. Opus Fresh supplies key items that meet these essential checklist requirements."

Their adventure race kit includes possum and merino gloves and branded beanie – offering essential warmth, crucial for extremities if the weather turns – and a custom-printed merino base layer that provides a natural climate control system for your body; insulating when it's frosty and venting to release excess heat efficiently when you're steaming up those epic climbs. It expertly manages moisture by wicking sweat away from the skin as vapor, keeping you drier for longer and preventing that nasty,

hypothermia-inducing chill.

"For alpine runners, this adaptability is unparalleled, allowing the garment to work through every phase of the race, and still look good at the après adventure event," says Janelle, who's company makes all its apparel in New Zealand.

"By gearing up with Opus Fresh, you are investing in must-have additions to your mandatory gear list, ensuring you are prepared for whatever the mountain throws at you, all while championing New Zealand made."

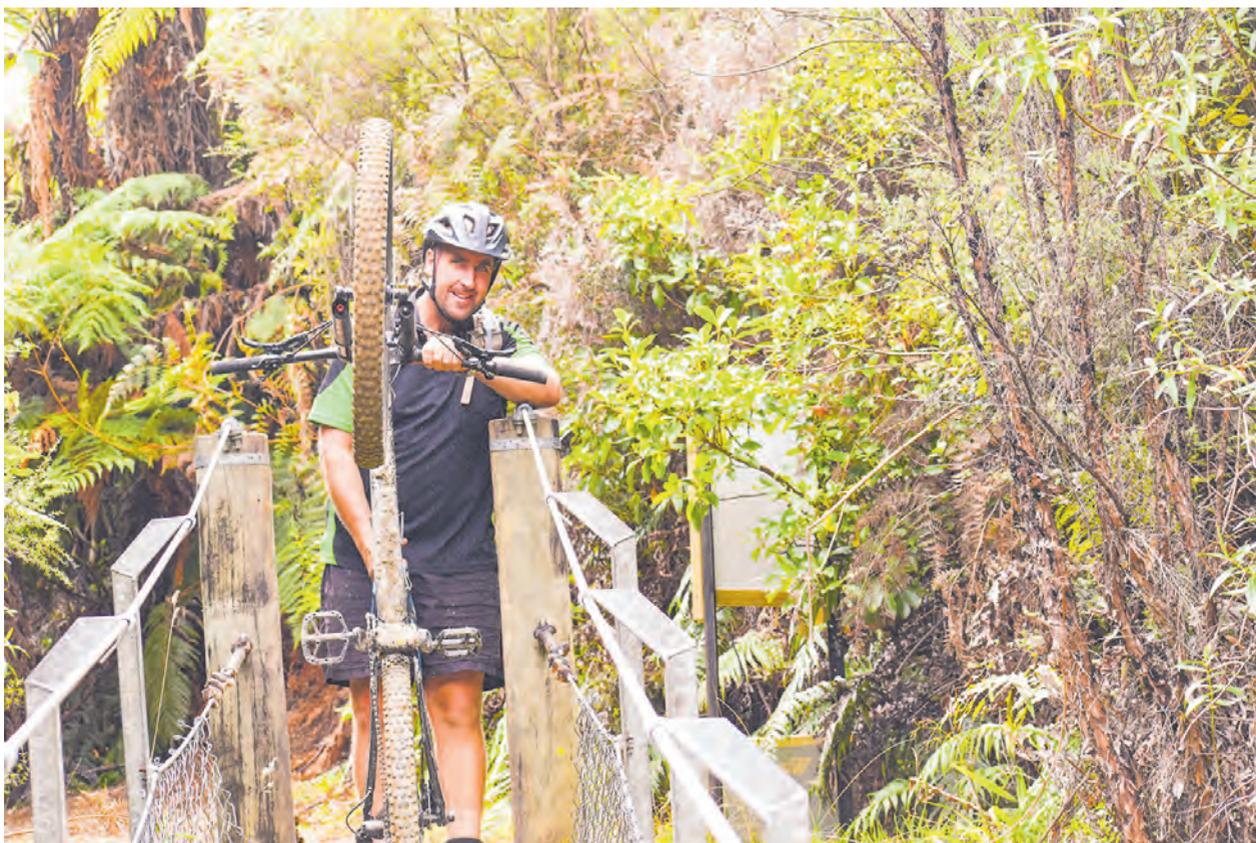
Visit opusfresh.com or Opus Fresh HQ at the Ohakune Railway Station to buy your official race merch today.



Tussock Traverse x Opus Fresh official merino merchandise.

A graphic advertisement for Opus Fresh Apparel Co. The background is a light blue sky with a mountain range in the distance. In the foreground, three people are running on a rocky trail. The text "DESIGNED FOR STYLE." is at the top in a curved font. Below it is the "Opus Fresh" logo in a large, black, cursive font. Underneath the logo is "APPAREL CO." in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below that is a horizontal line, followed by "ESTD. MMXII" in a small, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the graphic is "MADE FOR ADVENTURE." in a curved font. At the very bottom, there is a black bar with the text "OPUSFRESH.COM" and "OHAKUNE RAILWAY STATION" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

A banner for the Tussock Traverse event. The background is a photograph of three people (two women and one man) running on a trail, with their arms raised in celebration. The text "FIND YOUR WILD" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif font across the top. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for "TUSSOCK TRAVERSE" with a green leaf-like graphic. In the bottom center, the text "28 MARCH 2026" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif font, followed by "TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK" and "6KM | 12KM | 21KM | 32KM" in smaller, white, bold, sans-serif font. In the bottom right corner, there is a QR code with the text "ENTER TODAY" below it.



Ben Adam – raised on the River – is not just in business to help people enjoy the Whanganui National Park and experiences like the Mangapurua Track to the Bridge to Nowhere – he lives those experiences himself.



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RAETIHI & MT RUAPEHU



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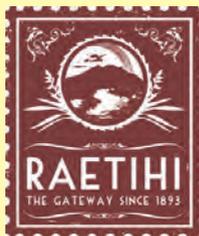
Raetihi: Delight in a warm welcome

More than a gateway...

Make Raetihi your base these holidays while you explore or just enjoy a slower pace of life. Cycling, walking, art displays, history, local crafts, beautiful farm land are just some of the features you can experience here. It has been welcoming visitors and locals since 1893 and long before, as well as providing a gateway to the Whanganui River and Pipiriki. Ohakune, National Park Village/Waimarino and Horopito are within easy driving distances so Raetihi is the perfect place to begin your next adventure.

Check out our website for events hosted by Raetihi Promotions Charitable Trust including the Christmas Carnival; Raetihi Wild Food Challenge; Waimarino Art Awards and Raetihi Gutbuster.

**www.
raetihi.nz**



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RAETIHI GUT BUSTER SATURDAY 18 APRIL 2026



• 88km
• 52km
• 20km

• 21km
• 5km

RAETIHI-GUTBUSTER.COM

Run, ride, ramble in Raetihi

Ride Holidays Raetihi Gutbuster is launching a brand new ride for its 2026 event – the Raetihi 88 – a one-way ride along the length of the Whanganui River Road to Pipiriki and then up to Raetihi.

“This new ride will be one to remember and a real challenge for the legs and lungs,” says Raetihi Gutbuster committee member Cathy Rogers.

“We are putting this in place in response to many requests for an even longer ride than the 52km route.

“Our 14th Gutbuster event, on April 18, 2026, will also have the 52km Classic ride, the 20km Valley Spin, the Waipuna half marathon run and the fun-packed 5km Raetihi Rambler run/walk, which also has the teams option and prize for the best dressed team.

“Based at the Waimarino Museum, Seddon Street, Raetihi – our range of road bike, mountain bike, ebike, run or walk events

offers something for people of all ages and levels of fitness or experience,” she says.

The Gutbuster isn’t just about the challenge; it’s also about having fun, bringing people together and showcasing heartland New Zealand with stunning scenery in both the Ruapehu and Whanganui districts on display.

Organised by the Raetihi Promotions Charitable Trust, the event couldn’t happen without extensive community support and the Trust is able to give back by way of donations to the schools and groups that help out on the day.

“The Ride Holidays Raetihi Gutbuster is a great way to cap off the autumn schools holidays and everyone who registers will receive a bag of local vegetables and a medal upon completing their event,” says Rogers.

All event details are on www.raetihi-gutbuster.com.



Riding to and from Pipiriki is one of the many options for the Raetihi Gutbuster. Organisers have added an 88km option for 2026.



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Blazing Hills Trail Race & OCR to ignite adventure

Donna, Hania and the Blazing Hills team are thrilled to announce the return of the Blazing Hills Trail Race and Obstacle Course Race (OCR), set for Saturday 14 March 2026.

Now entering its third year, the event has quickly become a highlight on the regional calendar, celebrated for its vibrant atmosphere, multi-discipline challenges and family-friendly spirit.

This year's edition promises even more adventure, combining scenic trail runs with adrenaline-pumping obstacle courses in the heart of the Ruapehu District. With options for all fitness levels, participants can choose from: trail

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Happy starters in the last Blazing Hills event.



SAT 14 MARCH 2026
RAETIHI, RUAPEHU

TRAIL RUN / WALK
4KM | 6KM | 11KM | 21KM

OBSTACLE COURSE RACE
1.5KM | 3KM | 7KM | 10KM
Triferno (3KM, 7KM & 10KM)



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RUAPEHU SNOW BULLETIN

Published by Ruapehu Media Ltd

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Home of Ruapehu's only locally owned weekly
community newspaper. Established 1983.

Publishing Editor: Robert Milne – robert@ruapehubulletin.co.nz
Advertising/Features: Jude Chevin – ads@ruapehubulletin.co.nz

Blazing Hills Trail Race & OCR adventure

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run/walk – 4km, 6km, 11km, and 21km; Obstacle Course Race – 1.5km, 3km, 7km, and 10km, including the signature Triferno challenge.

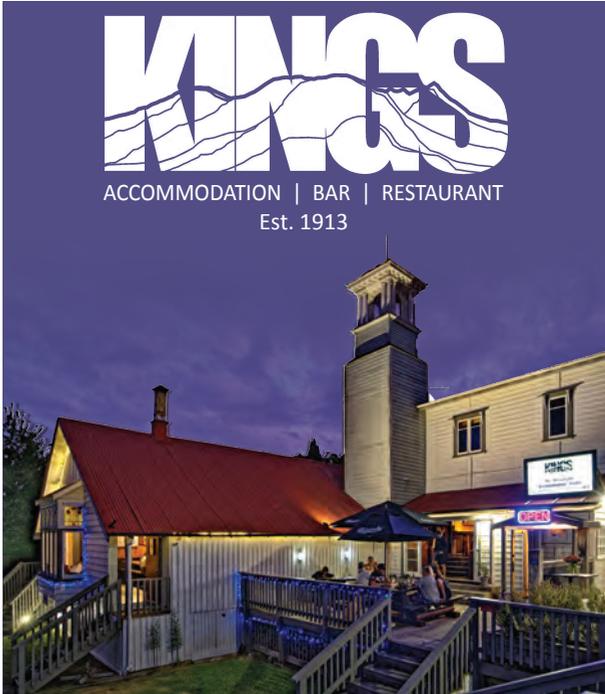
Competitors will traverse breathtaking landscapes while tackling natural and manmade obstacles designed to test both physical and mental endurance.

Beyond the races, Blazing Hills offers a festival atmosphere with local vendors, delicious food, country hospitality and activities for the whole family. Every participant will receive a commemorative medal and race swag, while top finishers in each category will be awarded prizes.

Registration is now open. Early bird pricing is available until 12 January 2026.

For more information, to register, or to explore sponsorship opportunities, visit www.blazinghills.nz.

“Join us at Blazing Hills 2026 – unleash your adventurous spirit and scorch the hills!”



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Mahi Aroha - time to 'get naturing'



Jordana Holloway bikes on the new Te Hangāruru. A visit to the new trail is one of the Mahi Aroha programme events, on 16 January.

From art auction to overnight jetboat hikoi – the Central North Island summer programme will connect people to nature in January 2026.

Following are the trips and dates on offer:

6 January – Te Mātāpuna Wetland Wander

Join local Project Tongariro conservation legends for a wander around the southern shores of Lake Taupō's wonderful wetlands – Te Mātāpuna.

8 January – Love Blyth Hut

We are off to show Blyth Hut some 'love' and give it a tidy up – with some historical and botanical chit-chat on the way up to this special place.

9 January – Ōwhango Alive Predator Trap Building

Build your own predator trap to help protect native flora & fauna in your backyard!

10 January

Mt Tihia Tramp

Come on an adventure! Join us for an off-the-beaten-track

tramp to Mt Tihia.

Ngā Roto-o-Rangataua Hikoi

Join Ngāti Rangi Kaihonohono a Rohe Fred Clark on a guided easy stroll around Ngā Roto-o-Rangataua, formerly known as Ohakune Lakes Scenic Reserve.

Motutere Bay TOP 10 Trap Building Summer Programme

Let's bring back the native birds and help them thrive in your backyard. Join Predator Free Taupō for a fun hands-on workshop where you'll learn how to build a rat trap tunnel.

11 January

Kinloch Bring back the Birds Backyard Trap Building Workshop

Nature Art with Sue Graham: Fine Feathered Friends - NZ Native Birds

Discover the art of watercolouring with expert guidance from Sue Graham of Wildwood Gallery at Tūrangi ArtWorks!

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Planning an adventure, day trip, or weekend away?

Whether you're here or heading out, the teams at the Ruapehu isites in Ohakune and Taumarunui are your go-to for local advice, bookings, and everything you need to explore the region.

Or, start your journey online anytime at visitruapehu.com – your one-stop guide for all things Ruapehu.

In person or online – we're here to help you experience more.

Drop in to the isite Visitor Information Centres or ring to speak with our staff at one of the locations below:

Ohakune isite Visitor
Information Centre
54 Clyde Street

Taumarunui isite Visitor
Information Centre
116 Hakiaha Street

Phone: 0800 647 483

Email: isite@ruapehudc.govt.nz



www.visitruapehu.com

Mahi Aroha - time to 'get naturing'

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Nature Art with Sue Graham: Wild Waterways

Discover the art of watercolouring with expert guidance from Sue Graham of Wildwood Gallery at Tūrangi ArtWorks!

12 January

Ohakune Old Coach Road Historic Walk

Join us for a Heritage Walk and Talk as we meander along the Old Coach Road, one of NZ's most significant examples of roading engineering from a by-gone era when roads were built by hand.

Investigation of Freshwater Macroinvertebrates with Kids Greening Taupō

Discover the Hidden Creatures of Our Streams! Dive into the secret world beneath the water's surface at the Taupō Library.

14 January – Ngahere at Night (#1)

Join Department of conservation (DOC) at the Ōwhango Pavilion to hear about some of our fascinating nocturnal creatures!



New Zealand's native bats hang around near Ōwhango. Learn about them at a session on 14 January.

16 January

Okupata Caves Trip (#1)

Wade through an underground stream beneath the cover of darkness, and among the labyrinth of caves home to glow worms, unique limestone formations and the native cave wētā. Experience the stillness of the underground world and squeeze through gaps via the glow of torchlight.

Te Hangāruru Kaitiaki

Keen to kaitiaki? Nau mai, haere mai, join Te Korowai o Wainuiārua, Ngā Ara Tūhono - Mountains to Sea and Project Tongariro whānau as we continue to remove some of the more invasive pest species from the newest cycleway in the Ruapehu.

Canvas for Conservation

Nature in focus: an afternoon of art and impact. Join us for an inspiring afternoon celebrating the launch of the Project Tongariro Legacy Circle, co-hosted with the Geyser Community Foundation, who manage our endowment fund.

17 January

Sika Foundation - Kaipo River Swing Bridge Heli-hike

Experience conservation in action with the Sika Foundation!

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Open 7 days from 8am – 3pm for all day breakfast and lunch. Now serving Havana Coffee. A cosy memorable atmosphere with a great range of cabinet food and beverages, Frappé and smoothies. Vegan/Gluten-free options for both savoury and sweet are available. Speedy free Wi-Fi! A perfect place for everybody!

RAETIHI

ANGEL LOUISE CAFE

Seddon St, Raetihi Ph: 06 385 4976
Open 7 days a week. Monday – Friday 7:30am – 2:30pm and Saturday – Sunday 8am – 2:30pm. All day breakfast, coffee and lunch from 11am till 2pm. A fine selection of homemade baking and cabinet food. On site and out catering a specialty with individually designed menus to suit your needs and budget. Wiki & Adrian welcome you to our cafe.



Ohakune's destination cafe!

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Great garden bar for those beautiful summer days.

**Cnr Tyne St & Mangawhero Tce,
at the start of the Ohakune Mountain Road
cycle & walking trails
Ohakune Junction 027 395 0296**

To include your business in this listing, please contact us 0274 993697 or ads@ruapehubulletin.co.nz

Mahi Aroha - time to 'get naturing'

From Page 39

Now in its sixth consecutive year, the Sika Foundation Heli Hike offers a rare opportunity to experience the heart of the Kaimanawa Forest Park from a whole new perspective.

Great Lake Trail - Waihaha to Waihora Bike Ride

An opportunity to experience one of the more remote sections of the Great Lake Trail, featuring towering volcanic cliffs, spectacular views, a hidden waterfall, and a secluded bay.

19 January – Wairakei Golf + Sanctuary & Gallagher Insurance Kiwi Burrow Tour (#1)

Enjoy a guided tour around the unique Wairakei Golf + Sanctuary and the Gallagher Insurance Kiwi Burrow, with Save the Kiwi, Greening Taupō, Takahē Recovery, and the Department of Conservation.

20 January

Craters of the Moon Exploration

Join us for a guided walk around the fascinating geothermal landscape at Craters of the Moon.

Wairakei Golf + Sanctuary & Gallagher Insurance Kiwi Burrow Tour (#2)

Enjoy a guided tour around the unique Wairakei Golf + Sanctuary and the Gallagher Insurance Kiwi Burrow, with Save the Kiwi, Greening Taupō, Takahē Recovery, and the Department of Conservation.

21 January

'Whionui & the wild wai' tamariki holiday session

Join Project Tongariro Waimarino environmental educator Liz Brooker as she shares Whionui & tTe Wild wai a new book set on the Manganui-a-te-Ao and written especially for tamariki of the Ruapehu.

Ngahere at Night (#2)

Join Department of conservation (DOC) at the Ōwhango Pavilion to hear about some of our fascinating nocturnal creatures!



Utopia Cafe

Utopia Cafe ... a place for everyone to enjoy a break, a coffee made by our lovely baristas, or a meal made with perfection.

Open from 8am till 3pm

CHECK OUT OUR RANGE OF PLANTS, POTS AND GIFTS NOW AVAILABLE!

47 Clyde St, Ohakune 06-385 9120
Follow us on Facebook www.utopiacafe.co.nz

22 January

Invasive Freshwater Gold Clams Presentation

Join us for a fun, interactive session on freshwater gold clams and learn how you can protect our lake from this invasive species.

Wairakei Golf + Sanctuary & Gallagher Insurance Kiwi Burrow Tour (#3)

Enjoy a guided tour around the unique Wairakei Golf + Sanctuary and the Gallagher Insurance Kiwi Burrow, with Save the Kiwi, Greening Taupō, Takahē Recovery, and the Department of Conservation.

24 January – Kaimanawa Alpine Adventures Waipakihi River Heli-Hike

The Waipakihi River Heli-Hike offers a rare opportunity to experience one of the most spectacular valleys in the Kaimanawa Ranges from a completely new perspective.

25 January – Kiwi Avoidance Training Ōwhango

Kiwi avoidance training is the best practice option to ensure your dog will be less likely to pursue and harm wild kiwi, and is required for any dogs taken into Tongariro, Erua, and Rangataua forest hunting areas.

30 January – Tieke Kāinga Overnight Hiko

This trip is a once in a lifetime opportunity to immerse yourself in the rich and diverse histories of the Whanganui awa as shared by mana whenua of the middle reaches.

31 January

Kiwi Avoidance Training Raetihi

Kiwi avoidance training is the best practice option to ensure your dog will be less likely to pursue and harm wild kiwi, and is required for any dogs taken into Tongariro, Erua, and Rangataua forest hunting areas.

Sika Foundation Whio & Kiwi Aversion Training Taupō

The Sika Foundation is proud to support the protection of our nationally endangered Blue Duck (Whio) through the Whio Protection Programme.



Honeycomb Kitchen

A hidden gem in the heart of Ohakune serving delicious food made with love. From our in-house baked sweets, fresh sandwiches and tasty salads to our flavour-packed menu grilled to order. Chat to us about our catering options, or grab a packed lunch for your adventures in the wonderful Ruapehu. See your beautiful smiles in-store!

TUESDAY - SATURDAY
8 AM - 3 PM

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Call to save the shed

Project Tongariro held a field trip to see the No2 chairlift drive station at Whakapapa, built in 1956, and talk about the plans to save the building from being demolished and to maintain it as a historic site. "The stone masonry is a work of art with stone blocks crafted out of the local volcanic rock," says PT. Currently the building sits with DOC as a redundant structure. There appears to be solid support among the mountain community for its preservation.



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— TONGARIRO —
National Park Villages

nationalpark.co.nz

Waimarino villages: adventures since 1887

Home to three active volcanic mountains, and iconic and majestic landscapes, Dual Heritage Tongariro National Park has attracted adventurers of all ages since 1887.

With wide-open spaces, some of the best hikes in the world and must-see natural wonders, Tongariro National Park is the perfect destination for families, couples and explorers seeking adventure, fun and an escape into nature.

The villages of Waimarino-National Park, Whakapapa, Rau-rimu and Erua lie at the heart of this volcanic wonderland. They offer a choice of accommodation to suit all styles and budgets from family-friendly units to backpacker hostels to luxury suites and boutique lodges. You will also find an exceptional range of places to eat and drink, exciting activities and essential services. Everything you need to stay and play at New Zealand's first National Park.

Things to see and do: Ride above the clouds on the Sky Waka on an active volcano; Hike the world-famous Tongariro Alpine Crossing; Experience true isolation as you journey through deep canyons and ancient forests along the Whanganui River; Push your limits on the Mountains to Sea Cycle Trail and the local biking trails. Over 400km of trails to discover including the rush of riding the hills and native forest of Marton and Sash Door, Timber Trail or Fishers Track; Traverse ancient lava flows and wander along glacier streams to the Instagram-worthy Taranaki Falls - no filter required! Absorb the stark beauty and magical colours of a volcanic landscape with our family friendly trails.



The Tongariro Alpine Crossing – the jewel in the crown for the Waimarino Villages.

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Ruapehu Events



JANUARY 2026

Mahi Aroha - DOC Summer Programme 1 – 30 January

Join us over the 2025/26 summer for the Mahi Aroha/Summer Programme that showcases and celebrates the Central Plateau's stunning natural and historical treasures. For further information: www.tongariro.org.nz or phone 027 628 8009.

The Goat Adventure Run 17 January

The Goat is an exhilarating adventure run from Whakapapa to Tūroa on the Round the Mountain track, traversing the western slopes of Mt Ruapehu. The 20-kilometre (approx.) course has over 1,000 metres of vertical ascent and covers amazing terrain, challenging you at every step. Make it a family affair and bring your under-16-year-olds along for the weekend to enter them in The Kid, a fun-filled 3.2km adventure run held in the afternoon. Have you Goat what it takes? www.thegoat.co.nz

FEBRUARY 2026

Waimarino A&P Show 21 February

Home to one of New Zealand's oldest grandstands and with Mt Ruapehu as a stunning backdrop, the historic town of Raetihi hosts the annual A&P show. Supported by the local community the annual event is over 100 years old and features equestrian, miniature horses, dairy, beef, highland cattle plus sideshow entertainment for the whole family. Contact info@waimarinoshow.com

Waimarino Sheepdog Trials 27 – 28 February

The Raetihi Collie Club held its first trial in 1918. The four courses; zigzag, straight hunt, long head and short head and yard courses are all held on adjoining properties along the Parapara Highway. These courses are of championship standard and a good test to all competitors. Over the years the club has been well represented in National and Island level championships. Contact Secretary – Roger Suckling 027 897 1610.

MARCH 2026

Blazing Hills Trail Run/Walk 14 March

Following on from the success of 2025 this event will encompass four hill country farms with the start/finish line along the Mangaeturoa South Road, Raetihi. It will be for all age groups with 3km, 6km, 9km and 20.5km events. As the name suggests, there will be a good degree of hill country in the courses, with the exception of the 3km event which will be run along the valley floor. www.blazinghills.nz

Waimarino 103rd Rodeo 21 - 22 March

Friday night 14 March – 6pm LOCAL EVENTS ONLY. Food Stalls on grounds. Gate Prices Adult \$20 Children under 14 \$5 (Under 5 FREE) Family Day Pass \$45. Rodeo Start time 8am. Secretary: Cathy MacLean 06 385 4636 or 027 240 1090. Email: c_d_maclean@xtra.co.nz. Raetihi Rodeo Grounds, Parapara Highway

Ring of Fire 27-29 March

Ohakune Events Charitable Trust brings the Ring of Fire to the Tongariro National Park! Offering 60km, 100km solo and 100km relay (teams of 3). The location is awe-inspiring, the atmosphere will be exhilarating and the Ruapehu region will be pumping! Where legends are forged. www.rof.co.nz

Tussock Traverse 28 March

Ohakune Events Charitable Trust brings the Tussock Traverse to the Tongariro National Park! Offering 6km, 12km, 21km, and 32km options. The location is awe-inspiring, the atmosphere will be exhilarating and the Ruapehu region will be pumping! Find your wild! www.tussocktraverse.co.nz

MARCH 2026

Raetihi Wild Food Challenge 28 March

The Local Wild Food Showcase builds on the culinary adventure founded by Kiwis Bill and Sarah Manson. To be held at the Raetihi Cosmopolitan Club. Designed to showcase the resourcefulness of people living in communities where wild food is available. For more information email: localwildfoodchallenge@gmail.com

APRIL 2026

Ohakune Beer Festival 4 April

The Ohakune Beer Festival is back again in 2026. Held at Kings in Ohakune Junction. See the Facebook page for details of this year's event.

Raetihi Gutbuster 18 April

Fun, family friendly, challenging cycle ride or run/walk on the fully sealed Raetihi to Pipiriki Road. Central Plateau, New Zealand. Great spot prizes, no speeches. www.rideruapehu.com

MAY 2026

Fresh Direct Ohakune Carrot Carnival 30 May

Back again in 2026 in the Ohakune Junction – a fun family day with stalls, entertainment and competitions. If you are keen to have a stall, provide sponsorship or require more information visit our email us at: ohakunecarrotcarnival@gmail.com

Vintage & Classic Auto Show 31 May

Back again for 2026 at the National Park school grounds, Waimarino. Fun for all – BBQ station * Best of Show Awards * Coffee & Cake * Raffles 9am to 1pm, followed by the Ruapehu 'Mountain' Run, open to all attendees. Email: autoshow.at.the.park@gmail.com for more information.

JUNE 2026

Ohakune Mardi Gras TBC

Back again for 2026 to the Ohakune Junction. See [AudiologyTouring](https://www.audiologytouring.com) or the Ohakune Events Charitable Trust Facebook pages for details.



Photo: Raetihi Christmas Parade – Barbara van der Woerd

**DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
FOR MORE DETAILS, GO TO
OHAKUNE.INFO**

World award for ridgetop chef

Jack Cashmore from The Chef's Table at Blue Duck Station was awarded an "Excellent One Knife" award for representing excellent culinary skills.

"It's an incredible and well-deserved achievement being recognised in The Best Chef Awards," says Blue Duck Station owner Dan Steele.

"We're so proud to see your talent celebrated on the world stage."

The Chef's table – a restaurant perched on top of a ridge with stunning views over the rugged hills of Blue Duck Station and the mountains of Tongariro National Park – also features in the TV series *A New Zealand Food Story* with Ben Bayly, where meets some of Ruapehu's passionate growers, producers and restaurateurs.

"Food experiences are a big part of what attracts visitors to destinations and showcasing Ruapehu's offering through the TV series is a fantastic way to share stories of our people and place," says Jo Kennedy, general manager of Visit Ruapehu.

The Ruapehu region has a rich grower's history, market gardening, fertile volcanic soil and is home to the carrot capital of NZ – Ohakune.

"Working with Ben and his incredible team has been a boost for our communities and a unique opportunity to invite viewers to come and explore Ruapehu's emerging food story," adds Kennedy.

The chef and TV presenter says he loved his time in the region when filming earlier in the year.

"The vast and majestic Ruapehu region, there is no place in

New Zealand that compares to its beauty. I fell in love with it as a kid as Whakapapa is my home ski field," says Bayly.

The episode is on TVNZ+.



Jack Cashmore – world award-winning chef.



EXPLORE, ENJOY & PROTECT NATURE

JANUARY 2026

Interesting and thought-provoking activities and experiences for the whole family!

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Photo: Visit Ruapehu



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

ENTER TO WIN!!!

PRIZE VALUED AT OVER \$1000

Simply email your answers to: ads@ruapehubulletin.co.nz to go into the draw!

Question 1: What is the length of the Te Ara Mangawhero bike trail.

Question 2: What is the longest distance running event in the Ruapehu district.

Question 3: Complete the phrase "Plan a visit"
(Hint - it's in an advertisement)

Provide your name, phone and email with your answer.

All correct entries will go into the draw to win!

Entries must be received by Thursday 12 February. Prize drawn on 14 February 2026.

PRIZE INCLUDES: Ohakune Hot Tubs voucher for two; two nights accommodation at Rocky Mountain Chalets (subject to availability); dinner at No. 8 Restaurant; entry to the National Army Museum; Whakapapa Sky Waka ride; Tongariro Crossing Shuttles transport to Tongariro Alpine Crossing (conditions apply) and Kune Shuttles ebike hire (or normal bike) including shuttle to Ohakune Old Coach Road / Te Hangāruru & a Vertigo climbing session.

Unless advised, your email address will be added to our online subscription to Ohakune.
info

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Ruapehu Bulletin



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GUTBUSTER FUN: the annual Raetihi Gutbuster includes a less-serious option including fancy dress. See page 33 for information.

RUAPEHU SERVICES

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