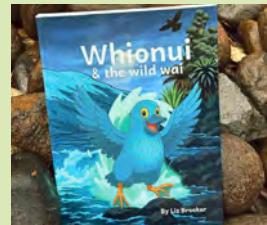




Kris Vine
comes
home for
top job
P3



Whio star
in local
story book
P4



Plan to
save
chairlift
building
P5



Island
nation's
big guns in
Waouru
P7

Emotional day as Ngāti Hāua Treaty settlement becomes law

LDR Local Democracy Reporting

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting

Emotion ran high at Parliament on Thursday as central North Island iwi Ngāti Hāua watched their Treaty settlement pass its final reading, closing a nine-year chapter in their fight for recognition and redress.

For Ngāti Hāua, it was a day decades in the making. Nearly 200 iwi members were in the House as their Treaty settlement, Te Pua o te Riri Kore, was formally enacted into law.

The legislation marks the culmination of negotiations over redress for historical breaches of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Outside Parliament, Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust chair Graham “Tinka” Bell said he was emotional and happy.

“The biggest thing for me, understanding law, is that we will have legal muscle. Mā te ture te ture e patu. Only the law can defeat the law.

“So, I’m exhilarated. I’m really happy for our families. I’m thrilled to bits and I’m thinking of our tūpuna and all those who fought to get us here.”

Deputy chair and WAI claimant Lois Tutemahurangi said she was “absolutely ecstatic we’ve finally got here”.

“And I’m feeling happy that so many of our iwi have turned out to tautoko our kaupapa.”

Breaches

Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations Minister Paul Goldsmith said it was a significant day for both the Crown and Ngāti Hāua.

“Through this settlement the Crown acknowledges its historical breaches of the Treaty, returns 64 culturally significant sites, and provides \$19 million of financial redress.

“The legislation also provides statutory pardons for Te Rangiātea and Mātene Ruta Te Whareaitu, who were tried under martial law in 1846, meaning they were deprived of protections that would have been their right at a civilian trial.

“These pardons remove their convictions, recognise their mana and honour their legacy within Ngāti Hāua for



Ngāti Hāua iwi members carry their loved ones to Parliament for the final reading of their Treaty settlement. Photo: Te Kakenga Kawiti-Bishara.

future generations.”

Statutory pardons

Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust pou tiriti/treaty negotiations manager Aaron Rice-Edwards, said they were at Parliament with “heavy hearts”.

“This legislation also includes statutory pardons for two of our tūpuna, who were treated unjustly by the Crown in 1846.”

Mātene Ruta Te Whareaitu and Te Rangiātea were tried under martial law and treated with

“exceptional harshness”.

“Caught up in land disputes in the Heretaunga Valley, both were sentenced by court martial for acting in rebellion against the Crown. The Crown now acknowledges that this was a travesty of justice,” Rice-Edwards said.

Te Rangiātea was imprisoned for life and died in November 1846 in state care. Te Whareaitu – the brother of the great fighting chief Tōpīne Te Mamaku – was executed by hanging on 17

September 1846.

“We commemorate and honour these tūpuna and this legislation reaffirms their mana and restores their reputation in the public record. Rire rire hau pai mārire.”

History recognised

Goldsmith said recognising history was vital to restoring the relationship with Ngāti Hāua.

“The redress provided by the Crown will

Turn to Page 2

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Settlement milestone to mark end of 'long, hard road' for Ngāti Hāua

From Page 1

contribute to the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of Ngāti Hāua for future generations," he said.

"It was a privilege to welcome Ngāti Hāua back into the House ... and to share this moment as we look toward a future shaped by a strengthened relationship."

Ngāti Hāua, centred in Taumarunui, has about 2500 members.

On the steps of Parliament, pou tiriti/treaty negotiations manager Aaron Rice-Edwards said his feelings were mixed.

"Most people get to this stage and feel mixed emotions. It's been a hard road for our people and we've lost a lot of our good leaders on the way. But yes, [it's] a celebration to get this important milestone."

Not done yet

"There's a lot in there. We packed in there as much as we could for our people. But the work's not done yet. This is really just the start of the next part of the journey – and looking forward to that."

"We're turning the kei (stern) of our waka to our future and start imagining what that looks like now we've got some resources and some access to our whenua again."

Te Pou Tupua of Te Awa Tupua and iwi historian Turama Hawira also reflected on mixed emotions.

"Today is a day to celebrate but I'm thinking about the old people. Most of all it's a day to remember those who paved the pathway and paid the ultimate, and honour them."

"But kua kōrero te kōrero. Ahakoa te aha, me pai te kore ki te korekore rawa. [The story has been told. No matter what, it's better to have nothing than nothing at all.]"

Trustee Joey Allen said the settlement marked a major moment for the iwi.

"All the mahi that's been done over the years since I



Ngāti Hāua members gather on the steps of Parliament, ready to witness the third and final reading of their Treaty Settlement on Thursday.
Photo: Ngāti Hāua.

was little, this is what it's all about: getting our settlement, getting over the line. E tū ngā hapū ngā iwi o Ngāti Hāua."

Trustee Louise Wahapa said she felt both sadness and

excitement.

"I'm looking forward to going back to our marae and strengthening our hapū."

Iwi members said they were pleased to be in Wellington to witness the moment.

"I'm feeling awesome today," Willie Huch said. "It's a powerful day to be Ngāti Hāua."

His sister Moira said: "I'm very happy to be here and glad that it's done. Mauri ora, whānau."

Mitch Roderick-Hall said she was proud.

"I'm really proud for our mokopuna and our people who waited a long time for this to happen. I miss our Nan, miss our old people but kei konei mātou hei whawhai tonu ake [we are here to fight on]."

Redress

A copy of Te Pua o Te Riri Kore, the Ngāti Hāua Deed of Settlement, is available online at: Te Tari Whakatau - Ngāti Hāua.

The redress package includes \$20.4 million in financial redress, a \$6 million cultural revitalisation fund, and the return of 64 culturally significant sites.

Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust received a mandate from the iwi in 2017 to negotiate a Treaty settlement with the Crown, signed an agreement in principle in 2022, and initiated a deed of settlement in 2024.

The deed was signed at Ngāpūwaiwaha Marae in Taumarunui on 29 March last year.

Following the third reading, the bill goes to the Governor-General for Royal Assent, becoming the Ngāti Hāua Claims Settlement Act.

Once the legislation is enacted, settlement assets – including land and cash – will transfer to Te Whiringa Kākaho o Ngāti Hāua Trust.

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

Ruapehu Events & What's On

FEBRUARY 2026

Waimarino A&P Show 21 February
For further information contact: info@waimarinoshow.com.

Waimarino Sheepdog Trials 27-28 February
Contact Secretary – Roger Suckling 027 897 1610.

MARCH 2026

Blazing Hills Trail Run/Walk 14 March
Contact www.blazinghills.nz.

Waimarino 103rd Rodeo 21-22 March
Secretary: Cathy MacLean 06 385 4636 or 027 240 1090. Email: c_d_maclellan@xtra.co.nz, Raetihi Rodeo Grounds, Parapara Highway

Ring of Fire 27-28 March
See www.rof.co.nz for more information

Tussock Traverse 28 March
See www.tussocktraverse.co.nz for more information

APRIL 2026

Waimarino Golf Club Centenary Tournament 3-5 April
For more information www.ruapehugolf.co.nz

Ohakune Beer Festival 4 April
For more see [@ohakunebeerfestival](http://ohakunebeerfestival.co.nz) or www.kingsohakune.co.nz

Junction Easter Market 4 April
Contact Jennie on 0210 236 0065 for stall and information.

Taste @ The Kitchen 4 April
See thekitchenohakune.nz for details.

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Community and Emergency Services

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

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

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

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

Child Youth and Family Service – 0508-326 459

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

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

CLAW community free legal advice: Whanganui 06-348-8288

Doctors: In an emergency call 111. Ruapehu Health Ltd 06-385-4211

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

Ngati Rangi Community Health Centre – 06-385-9580

Plunket Society – Plunket Nurse 06-385-5019

Police and Search & Rescue Emergency, call 111

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

Red Cross – 0800 RED CROSS (0800 733 2767)

Rotary Club Raetihi – Ohakune 06-385-5466

Ruapehu REAP – 0800 00 REAP (0800 007 327)

Ruapehu Maori Wards – Email: ruapehumaoriwardens@gmail.com

St John – in an emergency call 111

Taumarunui Counselling Services: For confidential counselling in Waimarino phone 07-895-6393

Victim Support Contact Centre – 0800 842 846

Waimarino Cancer Society: Co-ordinator 06 348 7402

Waimarino Health Care Centre – Raetihi 06-385-5019

Waimarino Community Toy Library – waimarinotoylibrary@gmail.com

Women's Refuge – 0800-REFUGE 0800 73384

Ruapehu Mayor – Weston Kirton, enquiries to 06-385-8364 or 07-895-8188.

Owhango-National Park Community Board:

Peter Zimmer - Chairperson 027 479 1926; Gail Gray - Deputy Chair 027 434 6599; Anthony Gurr 021 487 742; Eddie Marsters 021 108 0279; Murray Wilson 027 542 9079; Luke Pepper - (RDC Rep) 027 329 2849

Taumarunui/Ohura Ward Community Board:

Molly Jeffries, Chairperson 021 431 833; Sophie Stockbridge, Deputy Chairperson 020 401 11190; Johnny Dryden 027 573 4726; Brian Portland 027 558 5585; Oriona Wanakore 020 498 4088; Robyn Gram (RDC Rep) 027 389 1912

Waimarino-Waipoua Community Board:

John (Luigi) Hotter - Chairperson 027 274 2616; Stu Robinson - Deputy Chairperson 021 024 07657; Kay Henare 027 924 7252; Colin Pakai 021 091 67315; Emma Young 027 347 1457; David (Rabbit) Nottage - (RDC Rep) 021 111 6514

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Kris Vine comes home for top job

Ruapehu College's new principal, Kris Vine, has come home to take up the top job at his old school, having grown up in Waipu and attending the College for Year 9 and 10.

He comes from an assistant principal role at Shirley Boys High School in Christchurch, having been at the school for eight years.

Vine was supported at the Powhiri on Wednesday with a support contingent from Shirley Boys in attendance.

He rose from a position as Dean at the school to be assistant principal. He led the school's rugby programme and coached the school's first XV.

Rugby has been a big part of his life, having played at Ruapehu College, before moving to Rotorua Boys High School, choosing there because of its rugby programme, as well as its golf programme – another sport he is passionate about.

After High School, he studied at Massey University in Palmerston North, completing a bachelor of sport and exercise, with a minor in mathematics.

He then completed his teaching diploma online through Victoria University.

One of his old Rotorua teachers invited him onto the staff, where he worked as a teacher aide while finishing his diploma.

Kris Vine's wife, Temara, is from Rotorua and is a veterinarian. They have one son, Arthur, who is three.

He says he can snowboard but isn't expecting to be able to spend much time on the snow here, although he is looking forward to getting Arthur onto the snow. Temara is a keen skier so is looking forward to living at the town that is closest to Tūroa Ski Area.

But rugby is still a passion and Vine will be talking to staff, parents and members of the community to see what support there is for boosting the College's rugby programme.

"Sport is a great way to engage with kids, so I'm keen to work on that."

Vine says he's still keen on golf but has less opportunity to play regularly now – although he did play on Sunday at Waimarino.

His golf skills led to a novel experience when he and Temara were travelling around Europe – they represented New Zealand at the world mini-golf championships in Croatia.

The couple spent 10 months travelling around Europe before they headed to Christchurch for work.

The players selected for New Zealand had to pull out and the Vines were invited to apply – at short notice.

"It was much more serious than we were anticipating."

Vine said they finished roughly in the middle of the pack.

"But we beat the Aussies."

Vine says he is looking forward to continuing the great work that his predecessor, Marama Allen, has achieved for the school – highlighted by the increasing school roll, which is now at 270 pupils. In years gone by, the roll had got down as low as 180.



Kris Vine with his very happy parents, Maggie and Steve. Photo: Kerren Dixon.



Kris Vine, at centre, was welcomed to Ruapehu College at a powhiri on Wednesday. New staff and a "big year 9 intake" were also welcomed.



Kris Vine wears a korowhai that was presented by past principal Marama Allen. Photos above, Robert Milne.

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Letters

Faceless water campaign

Over the last couple of weeks, a wholly anonymous lobby group (WALG) has appeared in our Ruapehu news feeds.

This faceless campaign is seeking our support to change the three-waters decision made by our duly elected Council members not once, but twice in 2025.

Last week according to the WALG our, "tamariki fear loss of rubber ducky time due to unaffordable bath water".

I'm sorry, but seriously? How long did it take ChatGPT to dream up this pile of rubbish for your propaganda purposes?

Dear WALG, if you had actually been following this great debate, or as I refer to it as "The Bachelor - Three-Waters Edition", we were never, ever, going to end up securing a first-choice rose.

Based on [apparently] best guess predictions, over the last four years report after report has been written to convince our regional nearest and dearest that we, the mighty Ruapehu, could bring value to their CCO harem.

With our ailing infrastructure and water rates charges already tipping the 2.5% DIA affordably threshold, what have we actually got to offer any prospective marriage?

While the dream relationship would include price harmonisation, one look at our books and this was never going to be in any pre-nup.

I would like to suggest the WALG maybe spend their time attacking those who actually have the power to fix the problem.

Regardless of CCO, the increasing cost of three-waters provision to our small, rural communities was never going to be solved by a Council who is constantly flirting with their debt ceiling.

In short, no matter where you look, there is simply no more pūtea for us to give.

Instead of using ChatGPT to rehash en-dash littered propaganda, which was last year's news, I suggest the WALG focus their attention on Wellington and those with the money and power to truly support rural community wellbeing.

Liz Brooker

Editor's note:

We have received material from 'Affordable Water Ruapehu' – the anonymous group that the writer refers to.

Our policy is that we do not publish letters, etc., from anonymous contributors. We will consider publishing letters to the editor under a pseudonym, but only if a valid reason is given for not providing a name, or names. If we agree that a valid reason has been provided, we still require names and addresses, for our files.

Softening

With reference to the Council's reply to my letter 21 January 2026 ('Emergency waste'), regarding the emergency works pamphlet that was received through the rural delivery mail.

I feel the Council should have just said through a press release "The storm damage done to the region could cost up to \$14million".

The Council then should have stated that even though the cost is up to \$14million dollars, ratepayers would not be responsible for the whole account.

The Council should have advised the ratepayers that the majority of the storm damage costs is funded through central Government and insurance.

It is my estimate that the net cost to the rate payers, because of the recent storm damage will not exceed \$1.2million.

Is the Council, by not informing the rate payers of the above facts, softening up the rate payers for a higher than anticipated rates increase?

Phillip Harvey

Liz shares her whio story



Liz Brooker shares her new storybook, 'Whionui and the Wild Wai', in the Library. Photo: Ruapehu District Libraries.

Ruapehu's libraries welcomed Liz Brooker, Raetihi resident and Waimarino environmental educator for Project Tongariro, for an "engaging, fun and fact-filled children's programme" one morning in each of Taumarunui and Ohakune libraries over the holidays, said librarian Fiona Thomas.

Liz has just finished writing her yet-to-be published children's picture book *Whionui and the Wild Wai*, which is set in the Tongariro National Park on the Manganui-a-te-Ao River.

"With vibrant illustrations featuring our maunga, native and exotic wildlife and even some cameo appearances of known local identities, the story follows the adventures of a lost baby blue duck, or whio, as she navigates flood waters, polluted and hazardous streams, predators and fire ravaged landscape to be reunited with her family," explains Fiona.

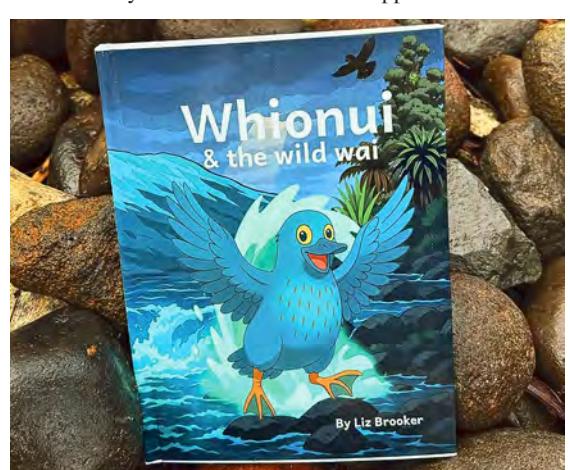
"The children not only enjoyed Liz's lively reading of her book – and the novelty of it being set in such a familiar and identifiable landscape – but also her special 'guests' – real but stuffed whio, duckling and stoat, and a soft toy selection of birds and pests (some with sound button noises, including the whio) all which featured in her book."

"Liz had the children and their caregivers – and the librarian! – enthralled with her extensive knowledge, fuelled by her evident passion, for each species and their peculiarities and how predators, pests, hazards and pollutants endanger or

impact the natural environment and with particular relevance to our own district.

"She even presented a collection of different types of rock and stone and shared information about them as well.

"Liz does not have an official publication date for her book yet, but Ruapehu Libraries will be sure to hold copies of this locally based treasure once it happens."



Liz Brooker's children's book will be in Ruapehu libraries.

THE WEEKLY WORKOUT

answers for each puzzle are included on this page

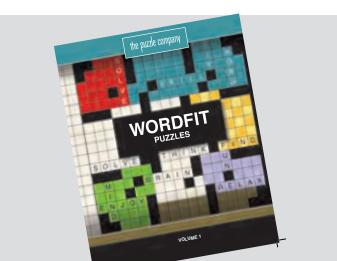
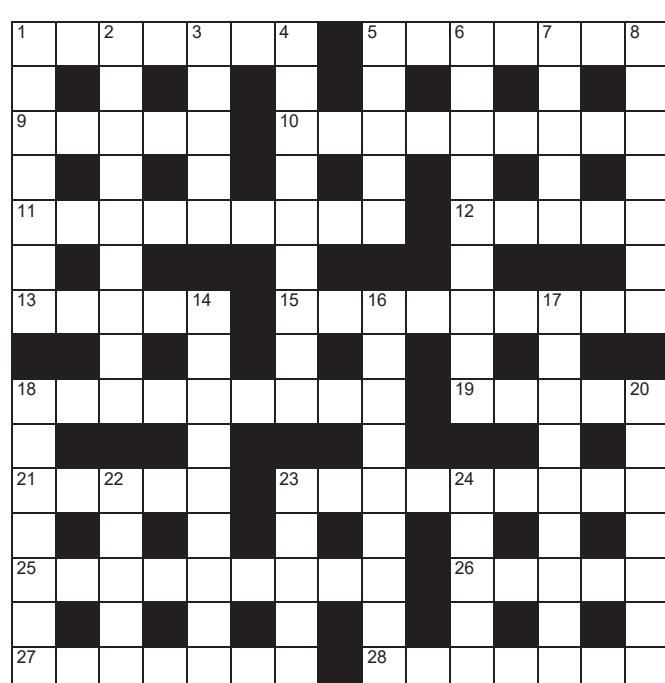
QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

1. Antagonistic (7)
5. Grilled cheese sandwich (7)
9. Bouquet (5)
10. Intervene (9)
11. Wharfie (9)
12. Ski run (5)
13. Raising agent (5)
15. Correction (9)
18. Popular spaghetti dish (9)
19. Steam bath (5)
21. Distressed (5)
23. Genesis (9)
25. Bird also known as a shag (9)
26. Frighten (5)
27. Compensation (7)
28. Drain (7)

Down

1. Rumour (7)
2. Delay or block a project or discussion (9)
3. Stupid and silly (5)
4. Complex (9)
5. Chart (5)
6. Direct opposite (9)
7. Snares (5)
8. Component (7)
14. Balancing wire (9)
16. Vigorous (9)
17. Clarify (9)
18. Doorman (7)
20. Add to, enlarge (7)
22. Tear (5)
23. Edible legumes (5)
24. Relating to the nose (5)



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THE TOP 10

Giraffe, 9. Made a will, 10. Statler and Waldorf, 1. Hastings, 2. Dusty Springfield, 3. Raoul Amundsen, 4. Catherine Zeta Jones, 5. Dan Aykroyd Loader, 6. The Silk Road, 7. John Lee Carrol, 8

SUDOKU

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

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

The Top 10

1. Which New Zealand city was originally named Hicksville?
2. *I Only Want to Be with You and I Just Don't Know What to Do with Myself* were 60s hits for which British singer?
3. Who was first to reach the South Pole?
4. Who has appeared in *Chicago*, *Ocean's Twelve* and two *Zorro* films?
5. Who was the first Kiwi to win an individual swimming Olympic gold medal?
6. What was the ancient trade route between China and the Mediterranean?
7. Who wrote *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*?
8. The okapi is the closest relative of what animal?
9. A testatrix is a woman who has done what?
10. In *The Muppet Show*, who are the two crotchety old men who heckle the show from their box?

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

Plan to save Whakapapa ski lift building

Project Tongariro is calling for the No 2 chairlift drive station building at Whakapapa to be saved from removal.

At their annual general meeting weekend in November, PT members set off on a field trip to visit the building.

At the site, trip leader Mark Davies explained the history and significance of the building, while Murray Wilson, who has a keen interest in the topic, added information.

Once part of Ruapehu's original ski-field infrastructure, the drive station is now a redundant structure under Department of Conservation management, which means it is earmarked for removal.

Attention was drawn to the craftsmanship of the stone masonry, carefully shaped blocks of local volcanic rock and to current discussions about protecting the building's heritage values and securing its future.

Project Tongariro is advocating to the Department of Conservation and will take on the 'restoration project' if the building is moved off the redundant structure list, and is lodged with the Historic Places Trust, and if this occurs, then will begin fundraising.

Mark also referenced a detailed conservation report during his talk: No.2 Chairlift Building, 1956 Whakapapa Conservation Report for the Department of Conservation.

The report is available to download at www.tongariro.org.nz/news under AGM Field Trip: No.2 Drive Building.

History

The drive building was constructed at the base of the Staircase slopes, by Paul

Brugger, who came to New Zealand with the Swiss ski lift construction team. Brugger also built the rock supports for the top bullwheel of the No 1 chairlift.

The No 2 Chairlift or Knoll Ridge Chairlift operated for the first time in the winter of 1956. It was 1.6km long, from the foot of the Staircase at 1760m to the top of Knoll Ridge at 2245m.

In summer of 1956/57 The No 2 chairlift was cut in half, creating two shorter lifts that could be operated independently. A bullwheel was installed at the top of the shortened No 2 lift (Waterfall chairlift) and the former mid-station converted into a return terminal.

Work also began on the construction of a new drive station for the No 3 lift (Knoll Ridge chairlift).

On 4 February 1957, during a fierce electrical storm the No 2 drive station was struck by lightning and gutted by fire, but the stone walls were left standing.

Work on the No 3 lift came to a halt.

Rebuilding the drive and getting the No 2 lift operational for the winter became the priority.

By May, the damaged No 2 drive containing the machinery room, a workshop and an office had been rebuilt to the same footprint utilising the original rock walls. The burnt out 50hp motor was under repair. New winding gear imported from Switzerland arrived in June, allowing the Waterfall chairlift to operate during the 1957 season.

In 1962, the No 2 drive was replaced by

a new drive. The original drive became a workshop/storeroom.



No 2 Chairlift in the winter of 1975. Damage caused by the 1975 lahar led to the old stone drive having a new lease of life. It was reinstated and back in action for the winters of 1975, 1976 and 1977. DOC Collection.

In 1975 the bullwheel for the Staircase T-bar and the Waterfall chairlift drive were undermined by the lahar of April 1975. The original No 2 drive building was reinstated and operated during the 1975, 1976 and 1977 winters until a brand new lift was built.

In 1978, a new double chairlift replaced the old No 2 lift up through the waterfalls with a new drive station built out of the lahar path.

The No 2 Chairlift drive station has a complex and an interesting history bound up with the pioneering years of 1950s, the start of the modern ski lift era at Whakapapa.

It operated as the drive station for the No 2 chairlift for a total of only nine winters – during two different periods.

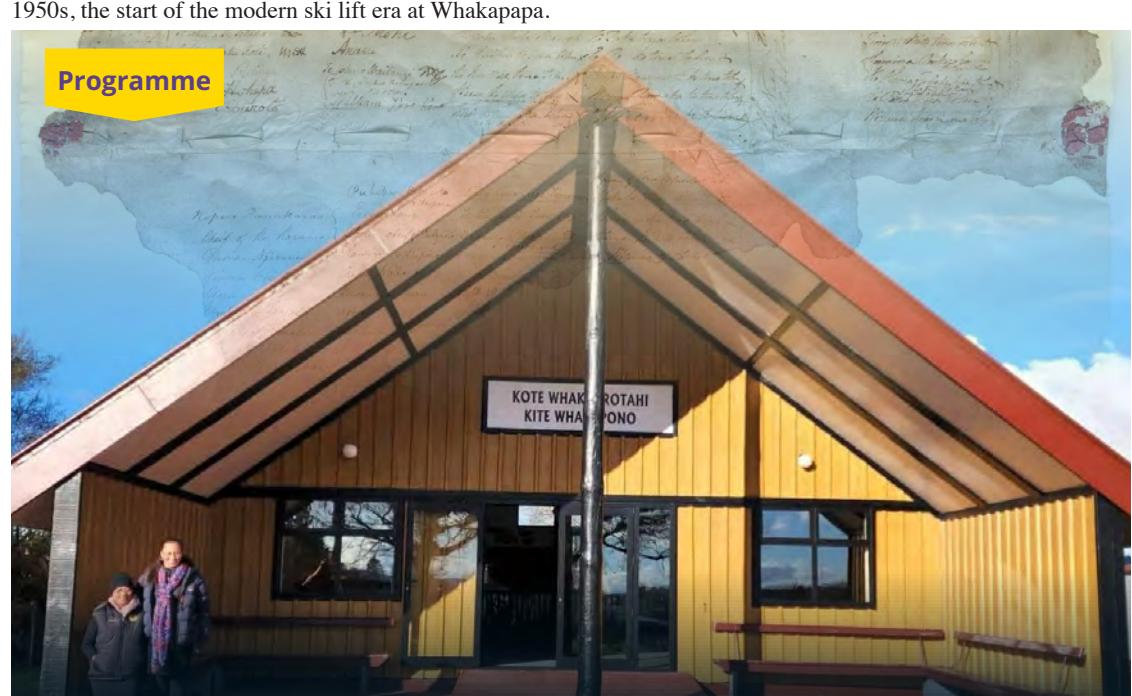
Jim McComish of the Ruapehu Ski Club wrote "Many of us, who had become keen amateur stonemasons after splitting tons of rock for the building of the [RSC] Lodge, were most interested in the stone building housing the drive station of this chairlift. This was stonemasonry at its best. It was built by one of the chairlift construction boys, a Swiss named Paul Brugger. He also made a very good job of losing a finger while working with the stone."



Project Tongariro members inspect the old chairlift building at Whakapapa.



Ski instructors including Michel Molard, Dec Daly, Alan Morand and Les Guilford jump off the roof of the stone building during the period it was not in use as a drive station (winters of 1963 through to the end of the winter of 1974.) John Ball Collection, 1969.



Te Ra o Waitangi 2026 Kote Whakaorotahi Kite Whakapono

Fri 6 Feb 2026

Raetihi Marae, 48 Ohakune-Raetihi Rds, Raetihi

8.30am	Hikoi mo te Tiriti whānau walk	10.15am	Korero from our Chinese community whānau
9.30am	Hikoi mo te Tiriti whakatau onto Raetihi Marae to open the day	10.30am	Ruapehu Māori Catholic Club
9.30am	Trading commences for all stalls	11am	Entertainment by Harmony showdown
9.40am	Hauora step class with Heleni Misiloi	12noon	Entertainment by Philly
10am	Orautaha School Kapa Haka	1.00pm	Entertainment by Harmony showdown
		2.00pm	Whakakapi te kaupapa



**Raetihi
Marae**



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Waiouru hosts 30th-year Singapore Thunder

Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Defence Zaqqy Mohamad visited the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) troops participating in Exercise Thunder Warrior (XTW) in Waiouru last week.

First held in 1997, XTW is an artillery live firing exercise conducted at the Waiouru Military Training Area. This year's edition is taking place from 14 January to 14 February, involving more than 420 personnel from the 244th (244SA) and 24th Battalions (24SA), Singapore Artillery.

During the visit, Zaqqy observed the integrated battalion live firing involving the Singapore Self-Propelled Howitzer (SSPH), and supported by the Weapon Locating Radar and Field Artillery Meteorological System (FAMS). He commended the SAF personnel.

"I am heartened to see the commitment of our SAF service personnel, training and performing well in a challenging operational environment. The safe and successful conduct of the exercise and today's live firing demonstrates the competence

and operational readiness of our SAF, and especially so our NS units," he said.

Earlier, Zaqqy also had a call with New Zealand's Associate Minister for Defence, Chris Penk. Both parties reaffirmed the close and long-standing defence relationship between Singapore and New Zealand. They discussed ways to deepen defence cooperation in line with the recent upgrading of bilateral relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, including in the areas of unmanned systems and supply chain resilience. Zaqqy also expressed appreciation for New Zealand's steadfast support for the SAF's training.

He said both defence establishments interact extensively through exercises, cross-attendance of courses, visits and professional exchanges, including under the ambit of the Five Power Defence Arrangements and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus.

"These interactions strengthen people-to-people ties and have fostered mutual trust and understanding between personnel in both armed forces."



Minister Zaqqy (second from left) observing the impact area of the Singapore Self-Propelled Howitzer (SSPH) live firing from the observation post.



SSPHs participating in the live firing exercise at the Waiouru Military Training Area, New Zealand.

Desert Road to close nights

The Desert Road – State Highway One – is to be closed overnight between Sunday 15 February and Monday 9 March, for road works (weather dependent).

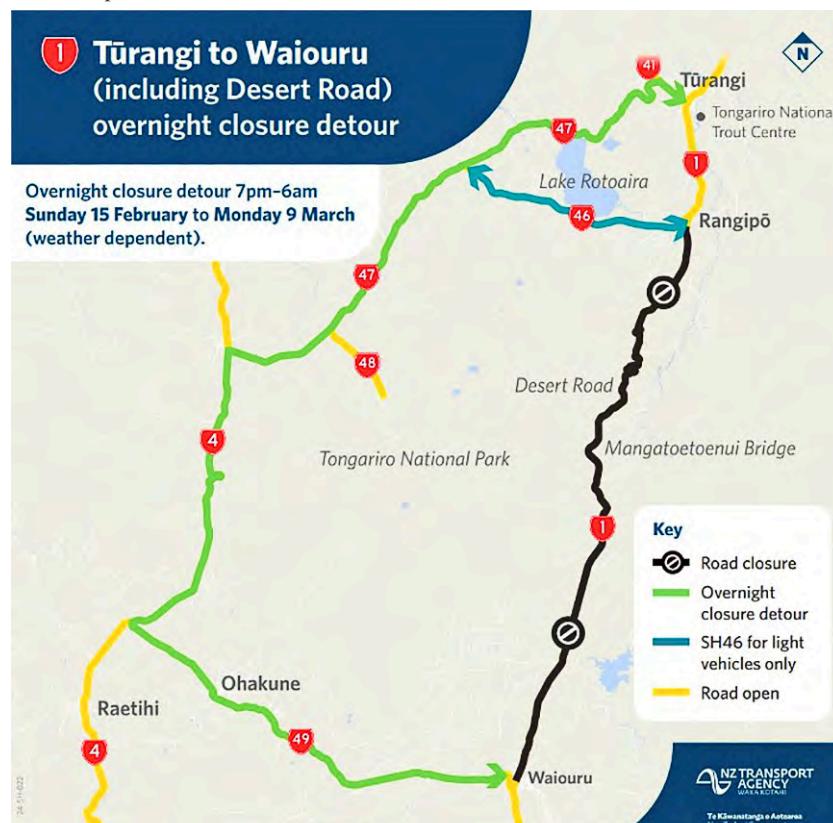
Updates will be available on NZTA's Journey Planner and Facebook pages, as well as electronic message boards in the area: NZTA Journey Planner www.journeys.nzta.govt.nz/journey-planner; or www.facebook.com/nztawbop.

"Closures here are needed to complete final surfacing in the area known as the Three Sisters because the narrow, winding road can't safely accommodate asphalting machinery and stop/go traffic management," explains NZTA.

Three consecutive southern sites spanning a total of 3.5km are affected: Mangamate, Outrere Hill and Mangatoetoeui.

During the overnight closures, the recommended detour is via SH41, SH47, SH4, SH49 and back to SH1 in Waiouru, and vice versa. Those travelling on this alternative route will need to bear in mind that it adds approximately 35 minutes to journeys.

As well as this T2W rebuilding work being completed under closures, there's a significant amount of general road maintenance happening at various sites on the Desert Road during the summer works season.



Deadline for all advertising bookings and copy is

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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!



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Transpower, the owner and operator of the national grid, is carrying out important maintenance at the Mataroa substation and its connecting lines.

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The map here shows areas likely to be affected by this outage, and your power retailer should notify you to confirm if your power will be affected.



Preparing for the power outage

Making sure you're prepared for a power outage can be a huge help. For some useful tips, visit transpower.co.nz/plannedoutages

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(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.

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**Waimarino
golf
Sunday
results**

Many golfers enjoyed the beautiful sunshine on Sunday. Results: Twos: Tane North – 17. Winners: Tom Spry +2; Jason Bishop even; Goldie Edmonds -1 (on countback); Eileen Gotlieb -1 (on countback); John Eades -2. Presidents' update: the Club Presidents played their match in Rangitīkei, halving with their opponents. 6-6. Pennants: 18 holes played in Marton, lost 7.5-1.5.

Club update: twilight golf is on Thursdays – tee time 4pm -5pm. 7 February is Club opening day. All welcome to come and play. Haggles will now be held on Saturdays starting at 12 pm, beginning 7 February.

The Club's Centennial is being held this Easter weekend – entries close on 28 February.

Ohakune

Squash

Competitive squash is back up and going for 2026.

Over the weekend, Central Juniors played Eastern Juniors on Saturday in Dannevirke. Ohakune was very well-represented in the Central team, making up seven of the squad of 18 age-graded boys and girls. Hana Harding (U19 playing well above her age grade), Grace Rowe (U17), Jessie Harding and Elise Drinkwater (U15), Madison Lee and Casey Shields (U13) and Sam Barlow (U15 boys) competed well against a strong Eastern squad. Grace, Casey and Madison all had two wins and Jessie had one win. Hana, Sam and Elise competed strongly against much higher graded opponents. Eastern ended up with the overall win 19-12.

Interbusiness starts this week with the limit of 18 teams of five already registered. You don't have to be a member to participate. Some teams may still need reserves. Let Matt know if you want in.

Draw for this Thursday – 5:30: Hulk vs Spider-Man, Monsters Ink vs Ironman, Black Widow vs Deadman Carrots; 6:45: Daredevil vs Deadpool, Doctor Strange vs Thor, Avengers vs Wolverine. 8:00: Tohunga Boasts vs Captain America, Deadman Logging vs Captain Marvel, 100 Watts vs Under Construction.

Ohakune is also hosting a doubles tournament this weekend on Saturday. Let Matt know if you want to enter as entries don't close until after interbusiness on Thursday.



School's problem trees removed

Mike Maru works from the top removing an elm tree on the boundary with National Park School in Waimarino. The tree, on the boundary, was removed from the top down with branches lowered with ropes, to avoid damage to nearby buildings. The tree was one of six trees – a mix of elms and lawsons, were all removed for safety reasons. The smaller branches were chipped, to provide mulch for the school's gardens. Larger logs were cut up for firewood. Photo: Rabbit Nottage.

Ruapehu Bulletin

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A 'hakere' at the Centre in
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at approximately 1pm. For
further information contact
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**Deadline
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PUBLIC NOTICES

Junction Easter Market

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For stall space, please contact
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Centennial Celebrations

3-5 April

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Office Closed

All offices will be closed Friday 6 February for Waitangi
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Appointments/More Information Contact Admin
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PUBLIC NOTICES

Ruapehu District Council

Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ruapehu

Boards and Committees

UPCOMING MEETING DATES



Agendas are published on our Public Portal two working days
before each scheduled meeting.

To speak at our Public Forum and share your thoughts directly
with Elected Members, please contact our Governance team
governance@ruapehudc.govt.nz

Ruapehu District Council

10AM, Wednesday 18 February 2026

Council Chambers, Huia Street, Taumarunui

MEETING CONTACTS

Ruapehu District Council	07 895 8188
Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board	021 431 833
Molly Jeffries, Chairperson	027 479 1926
Ōwhango-National Park Community Board	027 274 2616
Peter Zimmer, Chairperson	027 499 9408
Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board	
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PUBLIC NOTICES



**HINENGAKAU MAATUA
WHANGAI
NOTICE OF ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING**

Thursday, 26th February 2026

Commencing at 3:30pm

- 1 Opening/Karakia
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Minutes of Previous Annual General
Meeting
- 4 Chair Report
- 5 Financial Audit Accounts
- 6 Appointment of Auditor
- 7 General Business

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WAIMARINO BULLETIN

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Local search team to train

It was decided at a meeting in Raetihi last week that training for a locally-based search and rescue team was likely to begin within the next month.

The meeting, instigated by Raetihi Mayor Garrick Workman, arose out of a feeling that local searchers with specialised local knowledge were not used in a Mt Ruapehu search before Christmas.

During the meeting, Sergeant Brett Jones from the Taihape Police, Ian Thurston, search advisor from Taihape and Bruce Jefferies, chief ranger at Tongariro National Park Headquarters, told of the roles of their organisations in search and rescue.

Ruapehu College teacher and instructor for the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council, Graeme Brebner, said that there had always been a list of search and rescue volunteers kept at the Ohakune Police Station.

It was decided that those who wished to train for search and rescue should put their names forward, and training by Graeme Brebner would begin as soon as possible.

Trevor Dyke, president of the Taihape branch of the NZ Mountain Safety Council, told the meeting not to let lack of experience prevent them from training.

"Through the mountain safety council, we can help you — we're here, make the most of us," he said.

Sergeant Jones said he was "delighted" at the response to the meeting and believed that Mr Brebner's list of potential searchers would be invaluable.

Sergeant Jones said that more local people with knowledge of the mountain area were not used in the recent search for lost Raetihi boy John Brough because they were not trained in search and rescue techniques.

"Now is the time to get organised for search and rescue," he said.



Cathie Searle, 9, from Ohakune and Daniel McGregor, 7, from Raetihi, show off their skills during swimming classes at the Raetihi Baths.

Big splash in Raetihi

Swimming instruction at the Raetihi Baths has been a huge success with local youngsters this summer.

Over 50 children have taken advantage of the learn to swim pro-

gramme which has been organised by the Raetihi Swimming Club. Four instructors have trained the children over the two weeks of the programme, and have had help from parents, some of whom are planning to try for their instructors' certificates.

President of the swimming club, Barbara Dobson, said that their aim is that after the course older children would be able to swim a width, and younger children, some three-years-old, would have water confidence.

No more milk for Rangataua

There will be no more milk deliveries by contractor Fred Collett to homes in Rangataua and along State Highway 49A from Whangaehu Valley Road to Ohakune and residents will have to buy their milk in town.

This follows a complaint by a Rangataua resident to the Palmerston North district office of the NZ Milk Board about the quality of milk delivered.

Mr Maurice Riddle, area manager for the office, said that Mr Collett kept milk unrefrigerated at his home from the time he finished Waiouru deliveries at around 8.00pm until delivery to

Rangataua the following day and this was not acceptable.

This situation started just before Christmas when the milk board opened a cool store at Waiouru. Formerly Mr Collett went to the cool store at Raetihi to collect his milk and delivered to Rangataua on the way to Waiouru.

Mr Collett was told he needed a cooler for the milk, to deliver it after his Waiouru run or stop delivery.

"I am not prepared to install a cooler to sell nine crates of milk in a good week, and going after Waiouru is not on, especially in the winter," he said.

Councillors agreed that the cost of tarsealing was too great to be considered before the end of the financial year but Cr Oliver suggested that patching could be done.

On the subject of tree protection Cr Oliver suggested that historic trees might be a matter for the Historic Places Trust, and Cr Whale said there were already town planning provisions to protect important trees.

Council resolved to ask Mr Lythgoe to prepare a list of important trees in the area, and to congratulate him for his interest.

The matters were referred to the council's works and town planning committees.

Jaunty jigs on the watering can

Eighty-year-old Douglas Gourd, with his British Airways-labelled watering can and British Legion cap, is visiting Ohakune again.

Douglas, who is believed to be the only musical watering can player in the world, plays the instrument by blowing down the spout which is connected by rubber hose to pipes set in the side.

Douglas is probably the oldest coach driver in England, driving tourists around telling them about the history of Devon and Dartmoor.

Douglas leaves his home in Bishopsteignton, Devon, every year to visit his daughter Doris Beasley and son-in-law Derek and family in the New Zealand summer. He has managed to avoid a British winter for some years now.

He is interested in herbs and natural healing and tells of a woman who could not walk who was treated with an embrocation he had made and in a week "she could dance a jig."

Mr Gourd plays several other musical instruments, such as the harmonica, and with his amiable temperament and his stock of jokes and stories told in a rich, Devonian accent, he can keep you amused for hours.



Devonian Mr Douglas Gourd, the only known watering can player in the world, will cheer you up with tunes and jokes.

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Tyler Davies gets air on his mountain bike, and (at right) air at Tūroa Ski Area. Photos supplied.

Tyler's rise in cycle sports continues

A young Taihape rider is rising fast up the ranks in competition biking, after moving south to Mount Aspiring College in Wanaka a year ago.

The move came after six years of boarding at Huntley School in Marton, where the love of mountain biking continue to grow using the school grounds track.

Tyler's mum Rowena said ex-assistant principal Gareth Woods, now at a school in Christchurch, spent many hours supporting the children's sports events through triathlon and road cycling in Whanganui.

Rowena says 2026 is a great start to Tyler's mountain biking journey.

Tyler turned 14 last December and this year is going into the 2026 Crankworx Downhill event in the U17 category in both Christchurch and Rotorua.

He is riding a Zerode G3 bike – from a New Zealand-owned business. He is sponsored by RNDM goggles and has been doing training with Treadmark NZ in Queenstown across Cardrona and Skyline and Coronet mountain bike park.

Rowena mentions that he had a lot of help from Ben Wiggins and the team at TCB in Ohakune.

"The ups has its downs – due to Tyler's sharing his time in North Island, his train-

ing time is also cut in half ... but he is eager to show what he can accomplish," says Rowena.

She said 2025 was trial and error – including the introduction of clip-on cycle shoes.

"He did events having only used his clips few times, such as the Oceania at Coronet and School MTB Nationals in Methven, but we are hungry for better placement and know can achieve more."

Tyler has achieved top 10 in several national events from his ever first comp on his Giant trail bike at the age 11; North Island Title School MTB in Rotorua and at National School Mountain Bike championship at Christchurch Adventure Park.

He is also an all-rounder kind boy, committing to other sports such as rugby and cricket. And he just scored 2nd place Division 2 at last week's 2026 Wanaka Junior Championship.

Tyler is from a well-known Taihape family – his Grandad and Lola Tweeddale have one of the oldest family-owned commercial beekeeping businesses in New Zealand, established after the war in 1945.

"They both are great supporter of Tyler's academic progression and sports," says Rowena.



About 12-month prescriptions

From 1 February, some people may be eligible for prescriptions covering up to 12 months of medicines.

At Ruapehu Health Limited, 12-month prescriptions will not be issued routinely.

Why?

Medicines need regular review to make sure they are:

- still working
- not causing harm or side effects
- right for your current health

Longer prescriptions can mean fewer check-ins with your care team, which may increase the risk of missed changes in your health.

Safety and equity matter

Not everyone finds it easy to access care or get clear information about medicines. Issuing very long prescriptions without safeguards can make these inequities worse.

What this means for you

- Prescription length is a clinical decision, based on safety
- In some stable cases, longer prescriptions may be considered
- Regular reviews remain an important part of good care

If you have questions about your medicines or prescription length, please talk with your clinician.



Ruapehu
Health Ltd

What this means for you

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If you have questions about your medicines or prescription length, please talk with your clinician.

True Team Promise means our whole team works for you.

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