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Raetihi hosts Waitangi unity P3



Rangatahi go under water P4



Mangapurua Track reopens after slip P5



Crossing warnings ignored P7

Govt won't rule out Chateau demolition – Kirton reiterates: it must be saved

The Coalition Government won't rule out demolishing or "decommissioning" the Chateau Tongariro, despite a petition led by the local mayor to save and restore the historic building.

Ruapehu's mayor Weston Kirton has welcomed the Government's response to his written submission in support of Council's Parliamentary Petition to Save the Chateau Tongariro Hotel, describing it as encouraging but that he would like to have seen more ambition and commitment to securing the future of the iconic Chateau Tongariro Hotel.

"I'm pleased the Government has confirmed a transparent, time-bound process to engage with iwi and investors about restoring and operating the Chateau as a hotel again," Kirton said.

"That commitment matters, and it reflects what the community, iwi, and the tourism sector have been calling for."

However, Kirton said it was concerning that demolition or decommissioning remain options, despite strong and credible interest from proven investor-developers.

"This is a \$100 million-plus restoration project with enormous economic upside – new jobs, training and specialist skills, regional growth, iwi partnership and the protection of one of New Zealand's most significant heritage buildings. With that level of opportunity, demolition should not be treated as a fallback position."

Lease change

Kirton also questioned the Government's statement that it is not proposing changes to policy or lease settings under current conservation legislation.

"That position feels premature given the current review of the National Parks Act 1980 and the Conservation Act 1987 as part of a broader reform of how public conservation land is governed, managed and used," he said.

"Government has publicly signalled that conservation law reform is about enabling more appropriate economic activity on public conservation land – including making it easier to obtain concessions for tourism and infrastructure, reducing unnecessary red tape, and supporting jobs and growth in the regions.

"The Chateau is exactly the type of project the Government says it wants: heritage protection, iwi partnership, regional economic development, and tourism growth – all in one. In that context, changes to policy and lease setting should not be ruled out before the process has even been completed."

He said if Government is determined to work within existing legislation, it should be prepared to be a long-term financial partner in the project.

"The Crown is already carrying significant holding costs. Co-investment –

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Raetihi Marae hosts Waitangi day of unity



Kim Young, at left, talks about his market gardening family's local history, supported by his wife Emma and interviewed by the day's emcee Elijah Pue. Photo: Christiane TeRiaki.

The Raetihi Marae Trust wanted to "do something for the community" for Waitangi Day and, judging by the numbers and many happy faces, they succeeded beyond expectations.

Around 500 people attended Te Ra o Waitangi event – Kote Whakaarotahi Kite Whakapono – "a place for contemplation, faith, and insight".

The day was planned to be an inclusive event for the whole community, explains Marae chairman Brendon Morgan.

Recognising Chinese heritage

"We wanted to showcase the Chinese community of

the area," says Brendon.

"The Chinese families have been here for generations and make up the fabric of the community as much as Māori and Pakeha."

Kim Young – a member of one of the big market gardening families of the district – was interviewed during the day, by emcee and Marae trustee Elijah Pue.

The idea was to share the stories of the generations of families who have worked on the lands, the Young whānau arrival and their connection to the community.

Other Marae trustees involved were Viv Hoeta, who

Turn to Page 3



The SUMMER

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National Park School welcomes back new principal

Monday’s pōwhiri was a highly emotional one for Gaylene Edmonds (Ngā Iwi Morehu) as she was formally welcomed back to the region as the new National Park School tumuaki (principal).

Te Korowai o Wainuiārua board chair Aiden Gilbert said whānau were pleased to be able to welcome Gaylene back to Waimarino and looked forward to her adding value not only to the school, but to the history of the area.

“She has come to us with a lot of skills and we look forward to her using these pūkenga to help lead and guide our tamariki and mokopuna.

“In terms of her plan for the education of our young ones at Waimarino, we are looking forward to the year ahead.

“Nau mai, haere mai, welcome to our rohe.

“May you plant your feet and enjoy your journey as you continue to make yourself part of the community and learn more about the landscape and hapū and Iwi of the Waimarino Block.

National Park School Board chair Nalini Dewan said Gaylene brings strong leadership experience, professionalism, and a genuine commitment to working in partnership with students, staff, families, and the wider community.

“The Board is pleased to welcome Gaylene as the new principal of the school.

“She has already demonstrated a thoughtful and collaborative approach, and the Board is confident she will build positive, respectful relationships across the school community.

“We look forward to working closely with her as she leads the school into its next chapter and strengthens the connections between the school and its community.”

Following the pōwhiri Gaylene thanked her staff, the Iwi and wider community for the warm welcome she has received.



National Park School board member Andrea Messenger (left) and student Nina Ward (right) join Te Korowai o Wainuiārua whānau and the Waimarino community in welcoming their new tumuaki Gaylene Edmonds (centre) at her pōwhiri on Monday.

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_maclean@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](https://www.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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LINK YOUR EVENT TO EVENTFINDA FOR FREE

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Ruapehu District

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Est in 1913, historic Kings offers an inviting menu by international chefs, a great selection of boutique wines and craft breweries including award winning Ruapehu Brewing Co beers in the fridge and on tap. See our Facebook page for what's on. Please check our open times as these will vary.

LA PIZZERIA

6 Thames St, Ohakune Junction Ph: 06 385 8558

Ohakune's most famous pizza restaurant. For over 35 years, we've been serving Ohakune's best pizza. Come up and see us in the "Junction" at the end of the Old Coach Road and try one of our hot, tasty, handmade pizzas. Same great menu available for takeaway. Open 7 days, 4pm – late. www.lapizzeria.co.nz

LKNZ LODGE & CAFE

1 Rata St, Ohakune Ph: 027 257 LKNZ (5569)

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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. **Waiouru** – 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@ruapehudc.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 Rangī 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, Waiouru 06-387-6884, Military Police 0800-50-11-22
Red Cross – 0800 RED CROSS (0800 733 27677)
Rotary Club Raetihi - Ohakune – 027-344-5669
Ruapehu REAP – 0800 00 REAP (0800 007 327)
Ruapehu Maori Wardens – 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 – waimarintoylibrary@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; Oriwia Wanakore 020 498 4088; Robyn Gram (RDC Rep) 027 389 1912
Waimarino-Waiouru 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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Raetihi Marae hosts Waitangi day of unity

From Page 1

looked after the vendors as well as the kaumatua; Polly Kareko Condon organised the kapa haka food, and Heleni Misiloi led the hikoī and the steps class.

Brendon said the event had been months in the planning, with financial support from the Marae and Te Manatu Taonga.

Annual event

He said the Trust decided, after a recap of the

day, to make it an annual event at the Raetihi Marae.

The day included 17 stalls including kai, arts and crafts and information stands.

There was also a steps class to help promote Hauora (health) that was enjoyed by young and old.

The Hauora hikoī started at the Mākōtuku Bridge, following the Mākōtuku walkway to the beginning of the native bush entrance, then turned and headed to the marae where the arrival of the

hikoī, mihi whakatau and karakia opened the day of celebration.

Among the vendors were organisations raising funds for their activities, including Waimarino Shears, Jacqui Haitana raising funds for Steelie Hammonds rugby trip to Japan, and Te Pāriha o Raetihi Temepara (temple) restoration project.

The vendors included Kim Young and Sons kai cart and veges; Charm Thai food; Monica Battersby's eggs; Damien MacDonnell's venison;

slushies with Chaana-Jaye, Daryl, Ihaka and Ngatiria; Berry Sweet Strawberries; and Sylvia Dickson selling wooden kai boards.

There was also the Te Kāhui Kaumātua morning tea, with something sweet, something savoury, bric a brac Rongoā Māori (traditional healing), raising funds for their trip to Rarotonga this year.

There were also iwi expo spaces, from Ngāti Rangī, Nga Tangata Tiaki and Ngaporo Waimarino Forest Trust.

Govt won't rule out Chateau demolition

From Page 1

as Government has done with other major heritage restorations — would demonstrate real commitment and help unlock private investment.”

He said the message from Ruapehu, the tourism sector and the thousands of petition signatories is clear.

“This is a project of national significance with regional benefits that extend far beyond Ruapehu.

“Restoration of the Chateau would be a major win demonstrating leadership in heritage protection, effective partnership with iwi, while unlocking regional economic growth and employment.”

Government response to petition

In the Government Response to the Petition document, the Government says the building requires considerable investment including strengthening and restoration to make it fit for use as a hotel once more.

“The Department of Conservation has been caretaking and securing the building at a significant annual cost since the lease ended in early 2023.”

It is estimated that annual cost is about \$2 million.

“The Minister of Conservation (Tama

Potaka) has directed the Department of Conservation to engage with interested commercial parties and Iwi regarding the terms for restoration and operation of the Chateau as a hotel once again.

“We have committed to a transparent, time-bound process. The Department of Conservation is engaging with Iwi and investors.”

Potaka intends to seek requests for proposals from parties “to fund strengthening and restoration of the Chateau as a hotel” in early 2026.

“The responses to the request for proposals will identify the commercial viability of restoring and operating the hotel.”

He said the Government is not proposing to “carve the Chateau out of the National Park”.

“The Government has not taken any options off the table: demolition, decommissioning, or restoration via a private operator are all potential options.”

“The Government does not recommend that any changes are made in response to this petition. This is because the Government response outlined above means that the recommended changes are not necessary or are already provided for.”



The Chateau Tongariro – an iconic feature of the Tongariro National Park landscape and a Category 1 Historic Place. Despite this status, the Government won't rule out possible demolition of the much-loved building.

We're fixing the basics and building the future.

Carl Bates MP
National Party Candidate for Whanganui
incl Ruapehu - South Taranaki - Stratford



Authorised by Carl Bates, 200B Victoria Avenue, Whanganui.

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21 FEB

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Family Games start at 11:30am and lolly scramble to follow.
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RUAPEHU BULLETIN 11 February 2026 • 3

Letters

Government's fault

• Phillip Harvey's suggestion that Council produced an emergency works pamphlet as some kind of psychological conditioning exercise for a future rate rise is as fanciful as it is unfair. To believe that basic communication with rural households is "softening up" the public requires either a very dim view of local democracy or a very generous view of the government's proposed rate-capping policy. Perhaps that is the real purpose of his letter.

Long before I became an elected member, I held a simple belief: rates and taxes are the price we pay for a functioning, civilised society. But that price should never push households into hardship. Too many in Ruapehu are already at breaking point — not because this Council has been reckless or extravagant, but because successive governments have refused to fund the national infrastructure they expect local communities to maintain.

Instead of confronting that long-standing failure, the current government has chosen the easier path: blame local authorities. Rate-capping is being marketed as a cure for supposed council excess, when the real issue is the structural underfunding of local government over decades. It is politically convenient to point the finger at councils; it is much harder to admit that Wellington has shifted responsibility for essential services onto rating bases that were never designed to carry them.

Rural districts like ours are being asked to do the impossible: maintain roads, water networks, and community infrastructure with no meaningful revenue tools beyond rates. Unlike many other councils, Ruapehu has no significant alternative income. Unless central government provides the supplementary funding that is standard across the OECD, rate-capping is nothing more than punching down, a slogan masquerading as policy.

Ruapehu is not a profligate authority. As a newly elected member, I have found staff to be prudent, disciplined, and deeply committed to maintaining levels of service under

immense financial constraint. I understand the frustration households feel about rising rates. But writing to the *Bulletin* will not change the arithmetic. Without central government support, rates will continue to rise until capped with a drastic loss of services.

If Mr Harvey wishes to influence that reality, he might consider writing not to the *Bulletin*, but to his Member of Parliament, Suze Redmayne. That is where the real decisions lie.

John Chapman, RDC councillor

High cost water

• While I agree with Liz Brooker in her letter in last week's paper that the Government should be doing far more to support communities like ours, I do not agree with her version of events that led Ruapehu to be locked into a high-cost two-council water arrangement with Whanganui.

The reason Ruapehu now faces water bills significantly higher than necessary is simple. Councillors Neeson, Hoeta, Gram, Iwikau, Hadley-Chase, Wilson and Nottage voted to partner solely with Whanganui, rejecting a larger four- or five-council model that was clearly shown to be much cheaper.

The financial analysis presented to the previous council showed Ruapehu households could be paying around \$1000 less under the larger model, along with substantially lower establishment costs for the water entity itself.

The involvement of Whanganui mayor Andrew Tripe and supposedly "independent" consultants (who are now employed to set the new Ruapehu/Whanganui model up), the misalignment with Te Awa Tupā and the mayoral ambitions of councillors Neeson and Hadley-Chase further clouded what should have been a straightforward affordability decision.

From an affordability perspective, the Whanganui-Ruapehu two-council water model is indefensible and mayor Kirton did an admirable job in attempting to get the then council to make a decision based on the evidence. Credit to those who continue to keep this issue firmly in the public eye.

Brett Cran, Ohakune

Inland living doesn't stop underwater training



A group of Waimarino young divers train at a Rotorua pool, learning to scuba dive before heading out for open water dives. Photo: Ngāti Rangī.

Living well-inland in Aotearoa hasn't stopped a group of Waimarino students from Te Hoata and He Poutama Rangatahi learning to scuba dive, over the past few weeks.

The group has been attending an open water scuba diving course in Rotorua.

"Rangatahi (youth) learning to dive gain more than an adventurous skill, they build confidence and a strong connection to the ocean, rivers and lakes," says Ngāti Rangī, who organised the course.

"Diving enables them to gather kai safely and sustainably for their whānau, marae and community. Learning to dive strengthens cultural practices and

food sovereignty. It also opens employment pathways in aquaculture, marine tourism, fisheries and environmental monitoring and research.

"Scuba training fosters understanding of underwater conservation, encourages kaitiakitanga and interest in marine biology and research science.

"Socially diving builds teamwork, trust, communication and resilience as safety depends on working together. Overall scuba diving supports cultural identity, career development, environmental stewardship and growth for the rangatahi.

"And best of all - they had great fun along the way."

THE WEEKLY WORKOUT

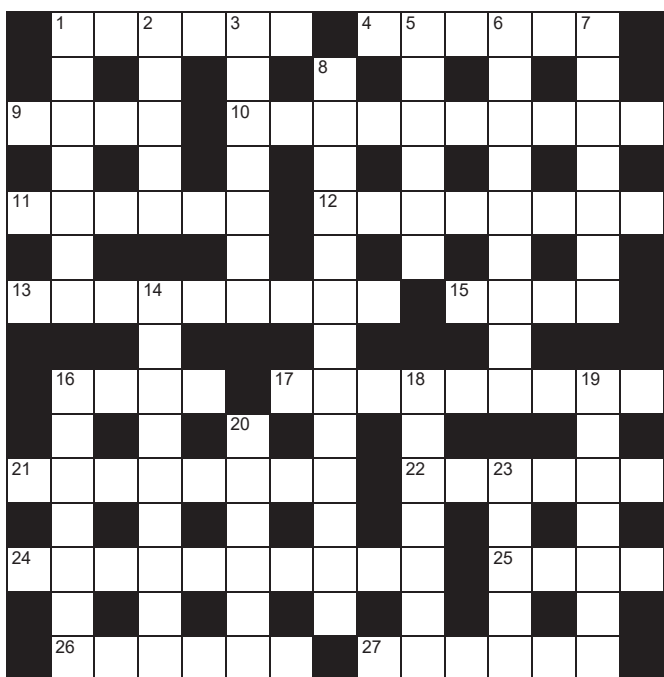
answers for each puzzle are included on this page

836

QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

1. Pale colour; crayon (6)
4. Gripping tool (6)
9. First class (1,3)
10. Of questionable authenticity (10)
11. Stays (6)
12. Frozen dessert (3,5)
13. No longer needed (9)
15. Invoice (4)
16. Peace deal (4)
17. With the order reversed (L) (4,5)
21. Nice (8)
22. Tuft of hanging threads (6)
24. Ancestral chart (6,4)
25. Style, flair (4)
26. Motor (6)
27. Knowledgeable (6)



Down

1. Endorse (7)
2. Paces (5)
3. Noble, lofty (7)
5. Pantry (6)
6. Skill (9)
7. Breakwater (7)
8. Cinema film (6,7)

14. Incessant (9)

16. Throb (7)

18. Radical (7)

19. Custodian (7)

20. Deep gorge (6)

23. Specifications (abbr) (5)



Puzzles © The Puzzle Company

SUDOKU

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

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

1

HARD 2

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

EASY

The Top 10

1. *Shakes all over like a jellyfish* is a line from which Queen song?
2. What is the crime of killing one's brother?
3. What is a West Indian ballad or song, with a topical theme?
4. In mythology, which youth fell in love with his own reflection?
5. In which Italian city is there an opera house called La Scala?
6. Who drop-kicked a goal to give the Springboks victory in the 1995 Rugby World Cup?
7. In *Thunderbirds*, what is the name of Lady Penelope's chauffeur-butler?
8. The Admiral Benbow inn appears in In which classic Victorian novel?
9. New Zealand's giant buttercup *Ranunculus lyallii* is better known as what?
10. Which two films were released on the same day in 2023 and remained linked?

CROSSWORD

23. Specs.
18. Extreme, 19. Steward, 20. Canyon,
picture, 14. Unceasing, 16. Pulsate,
5. Larder, 6. Expertise, 7. Seawall, 8. Motion
Down: 1. Promote, 2. Steps, 3. Ekked,
tree, 25. Eian, 26. Engine, 27. Versed.
versa, 21. Pleasant, 22. Tassel, 24. Family
13. Redundant, 15. Bill, 16. Pact, 17. Vice
10. Apocryphal, 11. Corset, 12. Ice cream,
Across: 1. Pastel, 4. Pliers, 9. A one,

SUDOKU

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

Mangapurua Track reopens

The Mangapurua Track has reopened and passable, following an earlier slip that blocked access from Whanganui River to the Bridge to Nowhere.

“Following a slip on the bluff section between the Bridge to Nowhere and the Mangapurua Landing, assessments have been completed and follow-up safety actions and maintenance carried out,” explained Mountains to Sea trail champion Lynley Twyman.

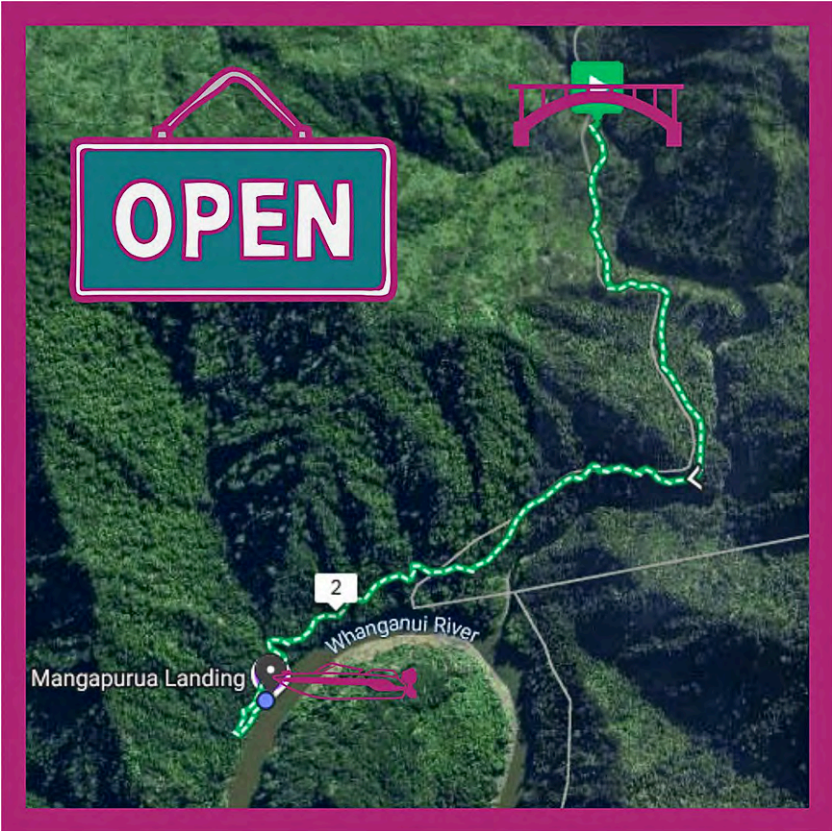
“A short section of the track is narrower than usual, so please take extra care. Orange mesh marks trail damage only (it is not a safety fence) and cyclists must dismount where signposted.

“Conditions can change — please always check our Trail Status page before you travel.”

She said they are excited to welcome walkers and riders back through this special part of the trail.



Ken Haworth at the skip that blocked the Mangapurua Track at the bluff section in January. Photo: Whanganui River Adventures.



Horizons celebrates establishment of field horsetail weevil

A plant pest widespread in the neighbouring Rangitikei District is also found in the Ruapehu District, but a new bug introduced by the regional council is starting to make a difference, says Craig Davey, Horizons environmental manager.

They have released the bug, field horsetail weevil, to help control the pest plant.

Horizons Regional Council recently inspected sites where field horsetail weevil had been released and are happy to find signs the weevil has established itself.

Davey says the establishment of these weevils is another positive step towards managing field horsetail in the region.

He said pest plants can easily move across districts but once they’re established, can be difficult to remove.

“We identified they have survived the winter season by finding an adult weevil at the site alongside larvae within stems of field horsetail,” says Davey.

“Using this weevil as a biocontrol agent is a first in the world for field horsetail.

“We are excited to have been part of the Rangitikei Horsetail Group’s efforts to

pave the way for managing field horsetail in Aotearoa New Zealand.”


Davey says the pest is a threat to the agricultural sector.

“Field horsetail invades pasture, spoils bailage and stock won’t graze it, it’s a real nuisance.


“Field horsetail is a difficult pest plant to manage as methods such as removal or herbicide work for a short period of time.



The weevil saving farmers' pastures. Turn to Page 8



TRANSPOWER



POWERCO

SUNDAY
15 FEBRUARY
2026

PLANNED POWER OUTAGE | 9AM TO 4PM

Taihape, Waiouru
& surrounding areas

Why will the power be out?

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

For this work to be completed safely and quickly, the substation has to be turned off.

We know there is never a good time to be without power and apologise for the inconvenience this may cause. We have worked with Powerco, your local lines company, to find a suitable time and date.


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

Contact us

Email us at communications@transpower.co.nz or phone 04 590 7000 for more information. You can also call your power retailer.



Electricity outage area

*These are illustrative areas only.

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@visitruapehu.com.

Ohakune: 9am-4pm
54 Clyde Street.
OHK: 06 3858427

Taumarunui: 9am- 4pm
Railway Station, 116 Hakiaha Street.
TAU: 07 895 7494



RUAPEHU BULLETIN 11 February 2026 • 5

RUAPEHU Summertime BULLETIN

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Operator ignores Crossing warning



Almost 600 hikers ignored weather warnings for the Tongariro Alpine Crossing on Saturday. Photo: Facebook.

A tourism operator is alleged to have ignored weather warnings and transported several bus loads of hikers to the crossing, another operator has complained.

The operator posted on social media the reason why they cancelled their shuttles.

“We got our morning update showing excessive winds. This warranted DOC to place a hazardous weather warning,” stated the shuttle operator.

“Unfortunately, one operator ignored this and transporter a total of 13 full buses to the Tongariro Alpine Crossing.

“In addition many of those on the shuttle had dropped off several friends at the start.”

They claimed that at 930am a total of 585 hikers were recorded.

“It started as a bright, calm day but the wind and cloud ... picked up.

“What is most concerning is how unprepared people are and that one operator exploited the other operators cancelling in clear breach of concession safety rules.

“Our manaaki rangers really did a good job of informing those determined to go and its really disappointing how rude

some visitors were to those operators who cancelled.

“Our pledge is safety it’s not about the money as some believe we care for your safety and enjoyment.”

A tourist who booked for that day said he “did not mind at all that our trip was cancelled”.

“I have a fair bit of experience of hill walking in the UK but not of conditions here so it is pleasing to see that some operators at least are prepared to advise and cancel accordingly.

“I would rather find a low-level walk than struggle in adverse weather and potentially become a rescue statistic.”

Most replies to the post were supportive of the operator and were thankful that they had put safety first.

However, there were some who thought people should be free to make their own choices, while one said the weather reports were unreliable. But in reply, some also posted photos of the lenticular clouds capping Mt Ngauruhoe – a clear sign that bad weather including high winds is coming.

Business resetting for success

In Ohakune and Taumarunui, local businesses are the lifeblood of the community, says economic development manager Kim Treen, who has invited a group of organisations to set up a ‘business reset’ programme.

“From the mountain’s peak to the main streets, your grit keeps the region beating. But being “busy” shouldn’t mean just running in circles. If you are working harder than ever but revenue isn’t growing as expected, it is time for a strategic reset,” says Treen.

She says the 90-day Business Reset programme is a “high-impact, one-day workshop designed specifically for established businesses ready to move from frustration to focus”.

“This is a powerhouse collaboration with serious “street cred,” bringing together Bizezi Ltd, Lisa’s AI Cafe, Ruapehu District Council, Ngāti Rangī, CEDA, and the

Regional Business Partner Network (RBPn).

“By combining the digital tools of the Bizezi App with the expertise of Lisa’s AI Cafe, you will audit your business model and use human-guided AI to pinpoint exactly where to sharpen your focus.

“You won’t just leave with ideas; you will walk away with a clear 90-day action plan and 2–3 immediate moves to lift your revenue.

“This is a rare opportunity to access top-tier strategy right here in the district.”

The workshop costs \$400 + GST, but for qualifying businesses, co-funding of up to 75% is available through the RBPn.

“Our communities thrive when our local businesses thrive. Give your business the momentum it deserves at Te Pae Tata (Ohakune) on 5 March or the Taumarunui RSA on 6 March.”

PLANNED POWER OUTAGE

Ohakune, Raetihi, & surrounding areas

9:00AM – 4:00PM

SUNDAY 1 MARCH 2026

Why will the power be out?

Transpower, the owner and operator of the national grid, along with your local lines companies Powerco and The Lines Company, is carrying out important maintenance at the Ohakune substation and its connecting lines.

For this work to be completed safely and quickly, the substation has to be turned off.

We know there is never a good time to be without power and apologise for the inconvenience this may cause. We have worked with Powerco and The Lines Company to find a time and date that is least inconvenient.

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.

Contact us

Email us at communications@transpower.co.nz or phone **04 590 7000** for more information. You can also call your power retailer.

Key

- Electricity outage
- Ohakune substation

**These are illustrative areas only.*

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

Ruapehu Funders Forum

Looking for funding for your project or organisation?

The Funders Forum brings key funders together in one place to help you understand what they’re looking for – and maximise application success.

- Hear directly from funders about priorities and criteria
- Understand how funding decisions are made
- Ask questions about eligibility and timelines
- Build relationships that strengthen funding applications

Monday 2 March - 10am to 3.30pm
Powderhorn, 194 Mangawhero Terrace, Ohakune

Tuesday 3 March - 10am to 3.30pm
RSA, 10 Marae Street, Taumarunui

Queries: call Kim Treen 027 506 3141

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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.
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TONGARIRO CROSSING SHUTTLES

Ruapehu Bulletin



Weevil saving pastures

From Page 5

"Herbicides aren't effective against field horsetail because they don't reach the full extent of the root system to properly kill the plant.

"Small root fragments can lead to a new population.

"Field horsetail is most commonly spread through contaminated gravel and by water (e.g. flooding).

"It's so persistent and tricky to control, leading to loss of productivity and increased pasture management costs on farmland.

"The good news is the weevils should help us manage the plant."

Weevils bore into and feed inside the stem, which kills everything above them. The adults then lay eggs and the larvae once hatched eat down the stem through to the rhizomes (roots), which help to effectively kill the plant.



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Spike in Taupō fishery offences prompts rules reminder



Fishing on the shore of Lake Taupō. Photo: DOC.

Department of Conservation (DOC) Taupō Fishery Rangers say they’ve seen a concerning rise in people breaking the rules when fishing for trout in the Taupō Fishing District during the peak summer period.

The spike in peak summer trout fishery offences amounts to four times what it was for the same period last summer.

“There has been a concerning increase in people breaking the rules, which can have serious consequences for the fishery,” says Steve Doughty, compliance lead for DOC in the Taupō District.

“Anglers fishing without a valid licence was a common problem. Every angler must have a valid Taupō District fishing licence, which directly funds the ongoing management and protection of this special fishery.”

DOC manages the Taupō Fishing District as a sustainable wild trout fishery, attracting thou-

sands of anglers each year. Fishing regulations are in place to protect the future of the fishery, with a team of DOC Fishery Rangers patrolling the fishery to ensure everyone follows the rules while fishing local lakes and rivers.

Steve says the Taupō trout fishery is well-known globally and an entire section of the DOC website is dedicated to it – including information on the need for a valid licence, how to obtain one, and the fishery regulations.

“Other offences included using prohibited tackle, using more than one fishing rod per person, fishing within 200m of a marker pole at a stream or river mouth, as well as more technical licence-based offences such as non-family members fishing on family licences.

“These offences were often due to people not familiarising themselves with the regulations, being in a rush to get on the water and go naturing through fishing, or just ignoring the

regulations and hoping not to get caught.

“Those caught breaking the rules face formal warnings and fines of \$400, and their fishing gear may also be seized,” Steve Doughty says.

During the holiday peak of December 2022 and January 2023, a total of 21 Taupō fishery offences were detected. There was a reduction for the same period in 2023-2024, with half that number of offences. But this season (summer 2025-2026) Fishery Rangers dealt with 40 offences – nearly four times the same period prior.

“The fishery is regulated for good reason,” says Steve. “DOC staff urge people to make sure they have a valid Taupō District fishing licence before they start fishing. Importantly, anglers should read and understand the fishing regulations.

“That way they can enjoy their fishing, secure in the knowledge they are supporting this magnificent wild trout fishery.”

PUBLIC NOTICES

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE – RING OF FIRE 2026



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

- Event:** Ring of Fire Alpine Ultra Trail Run 2026
- Roads:**
- o Friday 27 March 2026 from approximately 8:00AM to Sunday 29 March 2026 at approximately 3:00pm Thames Street from the intersection of Mangawhero Terrace to the far end of the Turoa Lodge car park for the purpose of the Ring of Fire event hub.
 - o Saturday 28 March 2026 from approximately 3:00AM to 8:30AM from the intersection of Old Station Road, the Ohakune Mountain Road will be closed to all non-event related traffic.
 - o Saturday 28 March 2026 from approximately 7:00PM to 8:00AM from the intersection of Old Station Road, the Ohakune Mountain Road will be closed to all non-event related traffic.
 - o While the above closures are provisional due to the traffic management plan having not received regulatory approval, the Ohakune Events Charitable Trust does not anticipate that they will change.

Date & Time: 8am on Friday 27 March to 3pm on Sunday 29 March 2026

Detour signage will be in place.

Any person objecting to the proposal is called upon to lodge notice of their objection and grounds thereof in writing before 4pm on Wednesday 11 March 2026 at the Office of the Council at Private Bag 1001, Taumarunui 3946 or info@ruapehudc.govt.nz.

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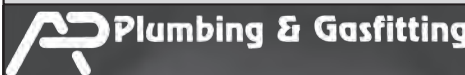


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PUBLIC NOTICES



Advisory Notice

Exercise Bayonet Walk

The Combat School, Land Operations Training
Centre, New Zealand Army, will be conducting
Exercise Bayonet Walk from Saturday 7 March
until Sunday 14 March 2026.

The exercise will be based in and around
Kaimanawa Forest Park.

The exercise will involve up to 30+ soldiers.
Personnel will be operating by vehicle and on
foot, carrying weapons as part of their training.
Blank firing will occur.

Members of the public should not be alarmed
by the presence of military personnel or vehicle
movement during this period. All activities are
conducted in accordance with New Zealand
Defence Force safety procedures. NZ Police
and DOC have been informed of the activity.

For further information, please contact:

Wing Sergeant Major
WO2 Matt Wade
Combat School, Waiouru Military Camp,
Ruapehu Rd, Waiouru, NZ
021 2977249

PUBLIC NOTICE

ABANDONED VEHICLES POSSESSION NOTICE

To the persons registered under part 17 of the Land Transport Act 1998 in respect of the vehicles described below
impounded from within the Ruapehu District pursuant to Section 356A of the Local Government Act 1974.

Vehicle ID	Make/Model	Colour	Location	Last Known Registered Owner
CSC938	2005 Nissan Pulsar 1.8 Q Sedan Auto Saloon	Gold	40 Main Road, Waiouru	Chris Wilson
MWK457	2001 Suzuki Ignis Hatch 1.3 5Dr Hatchback	Blue	38 Main Road, Waiouru	Jamie Lee Trevathan

If you do not claim the vehicle within ten (10) working days, Council will sell/dispose of the vehicle. To claim your
vehicle, contact Ruapehu District Council on 07 895 8188 or 06 385 8364.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**Roadside
Herbicide
Applications**



Asplundh will carry out seasonal roadside
herbicide applications to weed trees growing on
the rural road reserve in both the Rangitikei and
Ruapehu districts between November and March.
A spray plan is available for viewing on request.

For further information, please contact
planning@asplundh.co.nz

**An Extraordinary
General Meeting of
Raetihi Y Ahu Whenua
Trustees, Owners and
Beneficiaries**

Saturday 28 February 2026, 10am (NZ time)

Raetihi Cosmopolitan Club
32 Seddon St, Raetihi

AGENDA:

1. Karakia
2. Apologies
3. Financial Report
4. Finalisation / Update on dividend distributions
5. Matters arising:
 - a. Update on Lease Agreement
 - b. Consideration of 2 hectares reserve to be set aside for future development
 - c. Feedback on grants proposal
 - d. Election for two replacement Trustees

Any enquiries to: Gordon Cribb - email:
gtribb@gmail.com

SITUATIONS VACANT



**Hey kids – need
extra pocket money?**

The Ruapehu Bulletin requires Wednesday
morning deliverers in Ohakune.

Phone Robert or Jude on 06-385-8532.

SITUATIONS VACANT

WATER SERVICES MANAGER



About the role

As Water Services Manager, you will lead the delivery
of drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services
across the Ruapehu District. This role is responsible for
ensuring safe, reliable and compliant water services
that support the health, wellbeing and resilience of our
communities.

You will oversee day-to-day operations delivered
through contractors, guide asset management and
capital and renewals planning, and ensure compliance
with regulatory and legislative requirements. Working
closely with staff, contractors, iwi partners, elected
members and the wider community, you will provide
clear leadership and communication, particularly during
incidents, outages or periods of change.

This role also plays an important part in supporting
Council through ongoing water services reform, helping
to maintain strong systems, accurate asset information
and continuity of service.

Who we are looking for

We're looking for a capable and community-minded
leader with experience in water services, infrastructure,
or a related regulated environment. You'll bring a
practical understanding of operational service delivery,
asset management and contractor oversight, along
with the ability to balance long-term planning with day-
to-day decision-making.

Just as important as your technical skills is how you
work with people. You'll be someone who builds trust,
communicates clearly, and works collaboratively with
a wide range of stakeholders. You'll have a strong
commitment to health and safety, customer service,
and continuous improvement.

You will also bring:

- Leadership experience in infrastructure or essential services
- Knowledge of drinking water, wastewater and stormwater networks (or a strong willingness to develop this)
- Experience managing contractors, budgets and compliance requirements
- Sound judgement and confidence responding to operational issues and incidents
- Strong communication, relationship-building and problem-solving skills

A relevant tertiary qualification (or equivalent
experience) and a full current NZ driver licence are
required.

Applications will be assessed as they are received so,
please apply today if interested. Applications can be
made through our website www.ruapehudc.govt.nz.



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Raetihi Marae hosts Waitangi day of unity



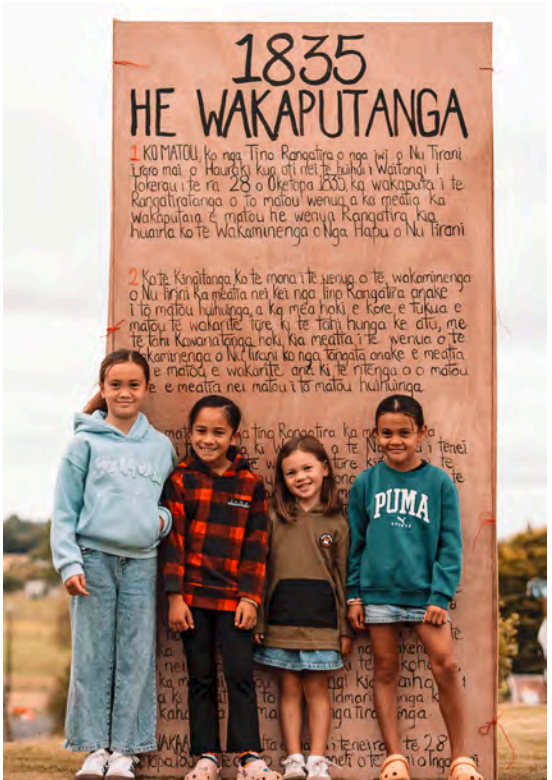
Sharing the good times, from left, Elijah Pue, Rongomaitawhiri Ah-Ching and Brendon Morgan.



A hiko for hauora (health) started the Waitangi Day celebrations at Raetihi Marae. Photos: Christiane TeRiaki, Valley Road Creative.



Enjoying the steps class, from left, Esther Taiaroa, Moana Tainui Beveridge and Tina Bishop.



From left, Rangitakina Brown, Kori-Lee Hagley-Tutauha, Ngamu Brown and Jahzeel Brown with the display from Matiu Haitana hapu, explaining a different view of the history of the Treaty and the 1835 Declaration of Independence.



Members of the Ruapehu Māori Catholic Club perform a haka.

Year of impact for rescue chopper



The Greenlea Rescue Helicopter at Tūroa Ski Area. Photo supplied.

The Greenlea Rescue Helicopter has once again proven to be a vital lifeline for communities across the Central Plateau and Lakes region, says Olivia Martinovich, the Trust’s communications co-ordinator.

In 2025, the Greenlea Rescue Helicopter crew carried out 519 missions, responding to emergencies ranging from serious medical events and accidents to search and rescue operations in remote and challenging environments.

“Behind every mission is the generosity of donors, sponsors, and supporters who make it possible for the Greenlea Rescue Helicopter to take off at a moment’s notice,” says Martinovich.

“Thanks to the community’s support, the rescue crew of highly skilled pilots, air crew officers, and critical care flight paramedics were able to deliver urgent

medical care to patients when every minute mattered.”

A year of impact

- 519 missions completed in total in 2025
- 34 patients transported to hospital for urgent care
- 21 patients transported following motor vehicle accidents
- 114 rural, remote, or search and rescue operations completed
- 271 inter-hospital transfers undertaken
- 79 miscellaneous missions carried out.

“Behind every statistic is a person in need – this overview highlights a few of the missions the Greenlea Rescue Helicopter crew flew throughout 2025,” says Martinovich.

On 18 January the Helicopter was dispatched to Mount Tauhara for a male who was critically injured during a fall. The patient was airlifted to Taupo Hospital for further medical treatment.

On 28 March the Helicopter was tasked to Tongariro National Park for a male who was experiencing a serious medical event. The patient was stabilised for approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes before being flown to Rotorua Hospital for further treatment. The rescue helicopter returned to the area a few days later for a female who was experiencing a serious medical event on the Tongariro Crossing. The patient was treated on scene by onboard paramedic for approximately an hour before being transported in a stable condition to Taupo Hospital for further medical care.

On 10 May the Helicopter was dispatched to the Kai-manawa Forest for a male who had sustained serious injuries following a fall. The patient was winched from the remote location and transported to Taupo Hospital for further treatment.

On 4 September the Helicopter crew attended to an injured skier at Turoa Ski Field. The female patient had sustained serious injuries whilst skiing and required treatment on the scene before being airlifted to Waikato Hospital for further treatment.

On the afternoon of 9 October the Helicopter was tasked to Waimiha for a male who was experiencing a serious anaphylactic reaction. The patient was treated on scene and flown to Waikato Hospital for further treatment. Just over a week later, the Helicopter was dispatched to another anaphylactic patient at Turangi Airfield. He was stabilised on scene and flown to Rotorua Hospital where he could receive further care.

On Saturday afternoon, 27 December the Helicopter flew to Tongariro National Park for a male who had slipped and sustained injuries while hiking. He was flown to Rotorua Hospital to receive further treatment.

In the early hours of Wednesday morning, 31 December the Helicopter was dispatched to Waitetoko to assist a woman and her dog who had become lost in the bush and had been missing for quite some time. The crew were able to locate the pair using night-vision goggles. Due to the challenging terrain, a winch extraction was required, and the missing woman and her dog were winched out and transported in a stable condition to receive further medical assistance.

“Each of these missions represents a life touched, a family supported, and a community strengthened. So, thank you for donating to the Greenlea Rescue Helicopter, you have helped make these missions possible.”

“Every donation helps ensure that your rescue crew stays mission-ready all year round. Donate today to keep your rescue helicopter flying in 2026 – because you never know when you or a loved one might need it - <https://give.rescue.org.nz/event/greenlea-rescue-helicopter/donate>”



2026

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