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Ollie & Felix speed champs P12



Calling all hill blazers P3



New fire truck for NP Brigade P6

Affordability 'central to foundations' of new water organisation

Ruapehu's mayor, Weston Kirton, says commitments to affordability and equitable pricing will be embedded in the foundational documents of the new two-council Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WS-CCO) being established with Whanganui District Council.

Kirton confirmed that the mayors of both councils have agreed affordability principles should be clearly reflected in the key governance documents of the WS-CCO, including its Constitution and the Statement of Expectations, which will guide the focus and performance of the Board of Directors (yet to be appointed).

"Both Mayor Andrew Tripe and I recognise that many Ruapehu water users have genuine concerns about future water costs," Kirton said.

"The Water Services Delivery Plan forecasts increases of around 92% over a ten-year period and that has understandably created anxiety in our communities."

Kirton acknowledged that community campaigns have called on Council to withdraw from the two-council arrangement in favour of larger WS-CCO models that projected lower costs.

"While we recognise those concerns, Council is legally committed to establishing the two-council model.

"What is important is how we set it up – and we are doing that together with Whanganui in a way that directly addresses affordability."

He said both councils are united in their commitment to ensuring pricing is managed fairly across the two districts and that overall costs to connected water users and ratepayers are carefully considered.

In approving the Water Services Delivery Plan, Secretary for Local Government Paul James made clear his expectation that Ruapehu and Whanganui continue exploring options to mitigate affordability pressures, including price harmonisation and the potential to join with other neighbouring councils or groupings.

Future expansion

Kirton said both councils are entering the establishment phase with those expectations firmly in mind.

"We have agreed that the set-up of the WS-CCO will not rule out future expansion or price harmonisation between the districts," Mayor Kirton said.

Turn to Page 6

Service Animals Honoured on Purple Poppy Day



Lisa Ross pictured with Kathy (right) and Ian Cummings Clydesdale, King, at the National Army Museum Purple Poppy Day commemoration.

A crowd of several hundred people gathered at the National Army Museum in Waiouru last Tuesday to honour the service and sacrifice of those who could not speak for themselves — New Zealand's military animals.

The annual Purple Poppy Day commemoration featured a memorial service followed by a compelling demonstration by New Zealand Defence Force military working dogs and their handlers, showcasing the skill, discipline and partnership that underpin their vital roles.

Speaking at the service, NZDF Military Working Dog Capability Manager Alan Inkpen described military working dogs as "one of the most adaptable, capable and quietly indispensable assets of the NZDF."

"Across our bases, our borders and our operational environments — both at home and abroad — military working dogs provide specialised

skills essential to keeping our people safe," he said. "They are far more than companions or tools. They are highly trained partners, force multipliers and, in many cases, lifesavers."

Throughout New Zealand's military history, a wide range of animals have served alongside personnel — including horses, camels, donkeys, dogs, pigeons, turtles, chickens and goats. They carried troops into battle, transported the wounded to safety, delivered vital messages, guarded camps, and provided comfort and companionship in the most challenging of circumstances.

Purple Poppy Day is now internationally recognised as a day of remembrance, acknowledging the enduring contribution of animals in military service.

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Mangateitei Road Bridge decision

At the Ruapehu District Council's meeting on February 18 in Ohakune, Norman Young, supported by Bruce Cranston from Ohakune Engineering and neighbouring farm owner Mike Wills, asked councillors when they could expect some action on addressing the dangerous state of the Mangateitei Rd Bridge. Issues with the bridge have been known to the council for more than five years. Back in 2021, Mayor Cameron was quoted as saying, "In the case of the Mangateitei Rd Bridge, this is a significant issue as it is the only option for the local growers, farmers and forestry who rely on it, and supply produce nationwide and for export, including 20% of New Zealand's carrots and potatoes." Council's statement in response below, with Mayor Kirton personally undertaking to maintain communication with the Young family.

- Council understands and is sympathetic to local farmer and transport operator concerns.

- A solution is a land transport priority

- It is in the current LTP for 2027/28 which we are committed to

We have been working as quickly as possible within our financial constraints to and the need to work with partner agencies notably NZTA and KiwiRail.

Background

Council had prioritised replacement

of both the Mangateitei Rd and the Ruapehu Rd rail over bridges as part of 2021/24 LTP. At the time Council had budgeted \$1.2m for our local share toward a total \$4.6m replacement cost for both bridges. Mangateitei Rd bridge was scheduled to be built first however safety issues associated with the deterioration of the Ruapehu Rd bridge saw work start on this first. The intention for was construction to start on Mangateitei Rd bridge immediately after completion of Ruapehu Rd. Unfortunately bridge construction was impacted by COVID era inflation with bridge build costs increasing by 38% over the period. The significant cost escalations required Council to reschedule the timing of Mangateitei Rd.

Current situation

Mangateitei Rd is currently scheduled in the LTP for 2027/28 (year 4) budgeted at \$5m (more than the original build costs for both bridges). Council has been investigating the feasibility of a rail level-crossing as a cheaper alternative. Kiwirail has a preference for bridges over rail level-crossings and requires Council to 'give-up' a crossing to gain one. We do potentially have an option to do so but we are still working through this process. No final decision has been made on whether the replacement will be a bridge or a level-crossing. Council is committed to the 2027/28 replacement window.



The Mangateitei Road/Rail bridge, built in the 1900's, is in need of a major upgrade.

Crossing transport operator suspended

A company providing visitor transport to and from the Tongariro Alpine Crossing has had its DOC concession suspended for two weeks after ignoring a Hazardous Weather Warning.

On 7 February 2026 the tourism operator transported more than 100 visitors over multiple bus trips to the Tongariro Alpine Crossing track start despite a Hazardous Weather Warning based on NIWA weather

forecasting – an action which potentially put lives at risk.

The incident breached the terms of the company's concession agreement with the Department of Conservation for its operations within Tongariro National Park.

Anyone wanting to use public conservation land to run a business or activity must get permission from DOC in the form of a concession. Failing to comply with concession conditions may result in permission to operate being revoked by DOC.

DOC Tongariro operations manager Libby O'Brien says the decision to issue the company a two-week suspension was not taken lightly.

"All operators have agreed, as part of their concessions, not to operate when a Hazardous Weather Warning has been issued for the Tongariro Alpine Crossing. This is for the safety of our visitors and ceasing operations is not optional.

"Despite having been warned last year after a similar breach, this operator chose to knowingly violate the terms of its concession and put lives at risk."

"This is the only company to have breached the condition, and its actions are unfair to all the other operators following the rules and working to keep our

manuhiri safe."

Hazardous Weather Advisories are issued by NIWA and can be triggered by high wind speeds, low temperatures, heavy rainfall and snow.

"The Tongariro Alpine Crossing is a world-famous naturing experience attracting visitors with a range of experience levels. We know some of these people will assume conditions are safe if a shuttle operator is willing to drop them off," says Libby.

"It is a challenging hike even in good conditions and can be deadly in poor weather. Conditions can change quickly, and the Hazardous Weather Advisory gives the best prediction of what might happen during the day."

DOC and the transport operators have a duty of care to the visitors who come to Tongariro, with safety the highest priority.

"This is the first time we've taken this kind of action, but we're sending a firm message to operators they need to abide the rules and put the safety of visitors first."

The transport operator will have operations in Tongariro National Park suspended for two weeks from Monday 9 March 2026 to Sunday 22 March 2026 (inclusive). Other transport providers are operating as usual.

Ruapehu Events & What's On

MARCH 2026

Royal Theatre Movies, starts 7pm **March**
James Bond Goldfinger 7 March
Mary Poppins Disney Classic 14 March
The Great Race 21 March
A Fist Full of Dollars 28 March

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

Taumarunui Arts Centre Easter Exhibition **3 - 6 April**
Contact Myra r.c.artcentre@gmail.com, via messenger at Taumarunui Arts Centre on Facebook or phone 021 1692 052.

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.

Raetihi Gutbuster **18 April**
See raetihi-gutbuster.com for details.

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3 Rimu St Ohakune Junction Ph: 06 385 8648

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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)

Open every day. Menu includes our delicious big breakfast, creamy mushrooms, homemade soups, wedges, nachos, toasties, waffles and more ... Volcanic coffee, muffins & scones, real fruit smoothies and thick shakes. Dine in or takeaway. Onsite parking. www.lknz.co.nz

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Bottom of the mountain road Ph: 06 385 8888

For over 35 years, The Powderkeg has been serving up exceptional food and service in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. Whether you're enjoying a sunny afternoon on our spacious balcony or indulging in our weekly specials like Sushi Fridays and Smokehouse Sundays, there's always something to look forward to. Join us for an unforgettable dining experience and follow us on Instagram @ powderkegbar for the latest updates and mouthwatering offers! Open daily 7am till late

THE CYPRUS TREE

79 Clyde St, Ohakune Ph: 06 385 8857

Check out our new menu. Kiwi craft beers, boutique wines and cocktails to quench that thirst. Playroom for the kids, foosball, air hockey and spaces to keep the kids entertained. Spectacular mountain views. A great place for casual get togethers or special occasions. Open every day.

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47 Clyde St, Ohakune Ph: 06 385 9120

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Work planned for Bridge to Nowhere

Important works are scheduled to take place on the Bridge to Nowhere from 16 March and are expected to run for approximately 10 days. During this time, crews will be carrying out essential structural and maintenance work.

To allow this work to be completed safely, the bridge will be closed outside of set hours.

It will be open daily between 11.30am and 2.30pm to allow riders and walkers to cross for pick up at Mangapurua Landing.

The track from Mangapurua Landing to the Bridge to Nowhere will remain open. Visitors are asked to plan their trip accordingly and ensure they cross the bridge within the open hours.

Ohakune Squash

Ohakune Squash Club Interbusiness is well underway with a trial week and three rounds completed.

Results from round one: Deadman Carrots beat Monsters Inc 14-4, Black Widow beat Hulk 14-3, Ironman beat Spiderman 17-1, Deadpool beat Thor 14-4, Wolverine beat Doctor Strange 17-1, Daredevil beat Avengers 12-8, Captain America beat Captain Marvel 12-7, Tohunga Boasts beat 100 Watts 14-3, Under Construction beat Deadman Logging 14-3. Round Two: Under Construction beat Deadman Carrots 11-8, Ironman beat Captain Marvel 17-2, Black Widow beat 100 Watts 11-3, Monsters Inc beat Doctor Strange 17-0, Deadpool beat Spiderman 14-5, Daredevil beat Hulk 14-5, Wolverine beat Deadman Logging 15-3, Thor beat Captain America 14-5, Avengers beat Tohunga Boasts 12-6. Round Three: Doctor Strange beat Under Construction 11-6, Deadman Carrots beat Deadman Logging 17-1, Ironman beat Captain America 14-5, Deadpool beat Captain Marvel 17-1, Black Widow beat Tohunga

Boasts 12-6, Daredevil beat 100 Watts 14-4, Wolverine beat Monsters Inc 15-4, Thor beat Spiderman 14-3, Avengers beat Hulk 14-4.

Points to date: Pool One – Ironman 48, Deadpool 45, Thor 32, Captain America 22, Captain Marvel 10, Spiderman 9. Pool Two – Daredevil 40, Black Widow 37, Avengers 34, Tohunga Boasts 26, Hulk 12, 100 Watts 10. Pool Three – Wolverine 47, Deadman Carrots 39, Under Construction 31, Monster Inc 25, Doctor Strange 12, Deadman Logging 7.

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

The club AGM will be Monday 9 March at 7pm. All committee positions are nominated and elected at that meeting. The club is keen for any new committee members.

Local Artist – New Zealand Painting and Printmaking Awards



A significant fixture on the national arts calendar, the New Zealand Painting and Printmaking Awards opened in Hamilton on Saturday night. Local Ohakune based artist Kate Hartmann and her piece “6:00 pm” was selected as a finalist in the awards alongside 61 other artists from the 350 entries submitted. The exhibition hosted by the Waikato Society of the Arts reflects the depth and diversity of painting and printmaking in New Zealand today. From bold material experimentation to explorations of identity, place and memory, the works exhibited demonstrate both technical mastery and conceptual ambition. Kate says, “This painting is special to me not least because it

was the first significant artwork I’ve created since moving to my new home in Ohakune. It was a purging if you like of what I experienced and was running away from in the main centres – a disconnection, division and fracturing of community. To have my work acknowledged and selected to sit alongside other outstanding work from around New Zealand is an absolute honour”. The main print award was presented to Graham Hall for “The 14th Station of the Cross. The Ascension” and the main painting award went to Brett A’Court “Kahu-Manu Aute”.

The exhibition will be on display at Artpost Gallery until March 14, 2026.

Left is Kate Hartmann’s entry into the NZ Painting and Printmaking Awards

Unleash your adventurous spirit and scorch the hills!

Calling all adventurous spirits, register now for an action-packed day to - Run. Walk. Climb. Swing and Sweat!

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

Now entering its third year, the event has quickly become a highlight on the regional calendar, celebrated for its vibrant atmosphere, multi-discipline challenges and family-friendly spirit. This year’s edition promises even more adventure, combining scenic trail runs and adrenaline-pumping obstacle courses in the heart of the Ruapehu District.

With options for all fitness levels, participants can choose from:

Trail Run/Walk – the 4km Spark, the 6km Burn, the 11km Blaze and 21km Trail Heaven.

Obstacle Course Race – the 1.5km Mini Flames, the 3km Firestarter, the 7km Fireball and Flamehunters Team, and the 10km Firestorm, including the signature Triferno challenge, three races in one day.

Competitors will traverse breathtaking landscapes with the option to tackle natural and manmade obstacles designed to test both physical and mental endurance. Beyond the races, Blazing Hills offers a festival atmosphere with local vendors, delicious food, country hospitality and activities for the whole family. Every participant will receive a commemorative medal and race swag, while top finishers in each category will be awarded trophies.

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



Stacey Swift, Nicole Jaquiere, Jess Gilbert, Kate Berry, Leah Sims



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Triferno (3KM, 7KM & 10KM)





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Letters

Paying more and more

• While we are still reeling from Council's decision last year to impose the most expensive option for three waters on our ratepayers, our Council last week surprised again with its decision to fund three gateway signs for the Ohakune community.

The community group championing the gateway signs for five years and without any community contribution asked RDC to pay. It was an apparently an unbudgeted item and will be debt funded without any consideration to repayment. This means all Ruapehu District ratepayers will be paying the carrying costs of interest forever as well as the on-going cost of maintenance.

It seems remarkable while we are reminded that Council has no money with high debt levels that other projects should be relegated for consideration in the next Long-Term Plan, the signs nice-to-have project should be afforded such priority over many other core projects that languish through lack of funding.

We also hear that our government frowns upon nice-to-have projects and this decision may not help when council makes approaches for funding assistance.

I understand that one consent was running out of time, but then there has been five years for the community to address the matter. The other thing that occurs to me is that smaller communities have been able to do their own gateway signs at their own cost and by volunteers and do their own maintenance.

I have no issue with the community group advocating for their cause but am critical of Council making decisions which are loading up unnecessary costs to ratepayers. Traditionally Council has been fiscally prudent.

Murray Wilson, National Park Village



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The "Raetihi 88", a new ride for the 2026 Gutbuster lineup

A new ride to challenge the brave has been added to the Ride Holidays Raetihi Gutbuster's lineup of events for this year. The Raetihi 88 will start just off SH 4, ride along the beautiful Whanganui River to Pipiriki then start the challenging climb for the finish in Raetihi. Entrants will be taken by shuttle to the start of the route to avoid unnecessary traffic on the narrow River Road.

"This new ride will be a ride to remember and a real challenge for the legs and lungs. We are putting this in place in response to many requests for an even longer ride than the 52km route," says Raetihi Gutbuster committee member Cathy Rogers.

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

"We are keen to see more teams competing for the "Best Dressed" title and prize in the 5km option so get your sports team, work mates or family together, add some crazy costumes and join the fun.

"Based at the Waimarino Museum, Seddon Street, Raetihi our range of road bike, ebike, run or walk events offers something for people of all ages and levels of fitness or experience," she says.



Raetihi Gutbuster competitors from 2025.

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

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

"If you are keen to help or have a stall, please contact us via the website."

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

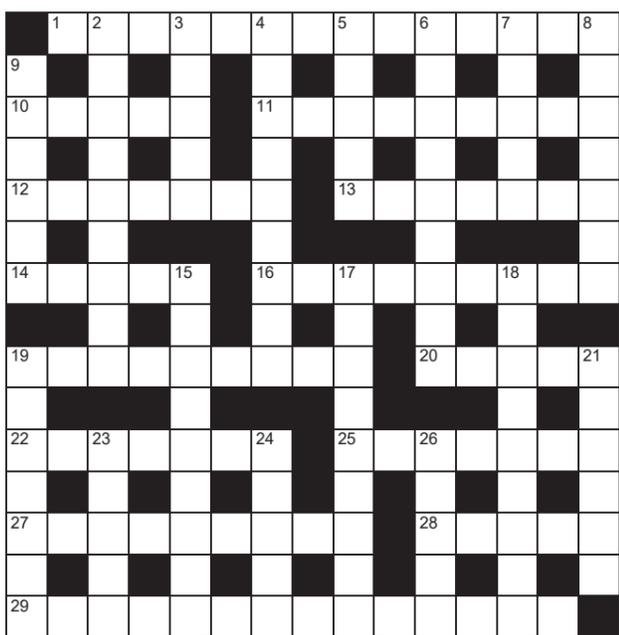
All event details are on www.raetihi-gutbuster.com so check it out and we look forward to seeing you in April.

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

QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

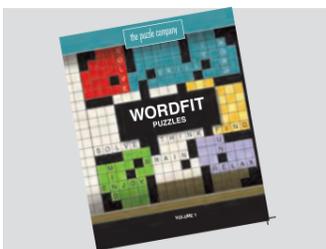
- By the shortest and most direct route (2,3,4,5)
- Protective garment (5)
- Appear again (9)
- Stress (7)
- Drastic reorganisation (5-2)
- School group (5)
- Climax (9)
- Go right ahead (2,2,5)
- Annotations (5)
- Hard worker (colloq) (7)
- Organise (7)
- Wash kit (6,3)
- Measure of liquid (5)
- Formal close to a letter (5,9)



Down

- Bully (6-3)
- Capital of Vietnam (5)
- Account (9)
- Calm spot (5)
- Arrangement of people or things (9)
- Hopping mad (5)
- Spire (7)
- Of milk (6)

- Blind (9)
- Sluggish (9)
- Before birth (9)
- Discrimination (7)
- Metal pin (6)
- Farewell (Fr) (5)
- Jewish scholar or teacher (5)
- Sovereign (5)

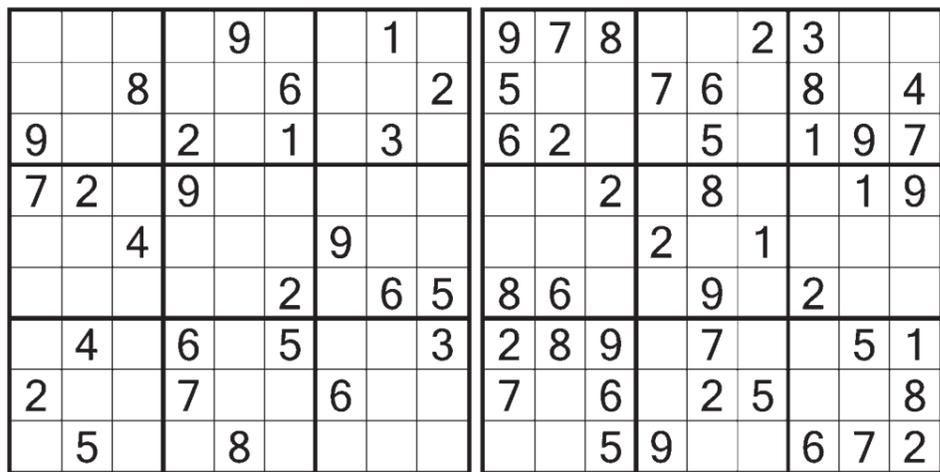


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Puzzles © The Puzzle Company

SUDOKU

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



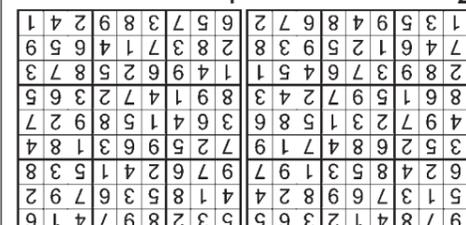
The Top 10

- When a cow stands up, which legs does it get up on first?
- Is a mongo a crossbred animal, a style of African haircut or a monetary unit of Mongolia?
- Did Sean Connery ever win an Oscar for best actor?
- Which cocktail is named after a beach in southeast Cuba?
- What is New Zealand's second-oldest university, after Otago?
- Which TV show celebrated 60 years and 10,000 episodes in 2020?
- New Zealander Allannah Currie was a member of which 1980s British band, named after cartoon strip characters?
- Which species is the shark in *Jaws*?
- Relating to power, what does MW stand for?
- Who was murdered outside his Miami Beach home in 1997?

CROSSWORD

21. Skewer, 23. Adieu, 24. Rabbi, 26. Ruler.
17. Lethargic, 18. Antenatal, 19. Bigotry,
8. Steeple, 9. Lactic, 15. Sighless,
Chronicle, 5. Oasis, 6. Formation, 7. Irate,
Toilet bag, 28. Litre, 29. Yours sincerely.
20. Notes, 22. Gaffer, 25. Arrange, 27.
14. Class, 16. Culminate, 19. Be my guest,
11. Resurface, 12. Tension, 13. Shake-up,
Apron, 10. Apron.

SUDOKU



THE TOP 10

10 Gianni Versace.
Twins, 8 Great white/White pointer, 9 Megawatt,
5 Canterbury, 6 Coronation Street, 7 Thompson
(but he did win best supporting actor), 4 Daquiri,
1 Hind legs, 2 A monetary unit of Mongolia, 3 No

Horizons completes regional flood vulnerability assessment

A regional flood vulnerability assessment, giving a high-level overview of potential flood risk for more than 50 population centres across the region, has been presented to the regional council.

While the southern Ruapehu District is not amongst the highest-risk areas, there is still potential for flooding.

In Ohakune, 449 to 731 buildings could be impacted by flooding. This is 15% to 24% of buildings in Ohakune that could be impacted. Out of the 52 settlements in the Horizons Region, Ohakune ranks 14th for the number of buildings affected, and 17th for the percentage of buildings within a town settlement affected.

In Raetihi, 209 to 280 buildings could be impacted by flooding. This is 11% to 15% of buildings in Raetihi that could be impacted by flooding.

Out of the 52 settlements in the Horizons Region, Raetihi ranks 23rd for the number of buildings affected, and 27th for the percentage of buildings within a town settlement affected.

Waiouru is ranked 38th out of the 50 towns and settlements and Waimarino National Park is ranked 49th.

Rangataua is ranked 51st of 52 for the number of buildings affected and 42nd for the percentage of buildings within a settlement affected.

Last week, Horizons Regional Council received a summary of the assessment and its findings.

Horizons chair Nikki Riley said that the assessment was “enlightening” and something that would be discussed “again and again” for years to come.

Deputy chair Fiona Gordon said it is the first flood vulnerability assessment to this level.

“It’s really front and centre now ... It is complex and it will take us some time to digest, older and newer councillors alike.”

Scenarios such as a 1-in-100-year flood were run, with temperature and geographical variables being altered in some tests based on climate change predictions.

Preparing the region for the impacts of climate change through accurate data and sufficient funding was seen as “critical to our purpose”, Horizons councillor Alan Taylor said.

Taylor told Local Democracy Reporting, “society’s willingness to

fund what the future is likely to throw at us is also an unknown, yet highly likely to be an underestimation of what is necessary” to properly protect the region.

Horizons group manager catchment operations Dr Jon Roygard says the assessment gives Horizons its first high-level regional overview of relative risk from flooding, with 52 population centres ranked in terms of modelled risk.

River connections

“The Horizons Region is home to many large river catchments. We know people connect to rivers throughout the region for a range of reasons, and population centres and businesses have been built around waterways.

“This connection to rivers does heighten risk from flood events. While we have done some flood modelling before, this assessment fills the gaps where there was no modelling done previously. This allows comparison at a high level about relative flood risk for population areas.”

The findings follow a logical pattern, with flood scenarios increasing in severity in areas with more clustered buildings and population bases, says Dr Roygard.

“This is why Palmerston north and Whanganui rank first and second, respectively, in modelled risk when it comes to this assessment.

“The assessment also looks at the proportion of an area which would be exposed. For example, the assessment modelled nearly half of Levin’s population being exposed to flooding in a 0.5% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood event. That is why Levin ranks highly in terms of modelled risk.”

Given the assessment is at a high level, people should not use the findings to assess their individual property risk, says Dr Roygard.

“It is important to note the modelling used was not calibrated against previous actual floods, and the contribution of stormwater networks to alleviate flooding was not considered. The second point is especially important for some areas which rate highly for modelled risk in this assessment, such as Levin.

“Actual flooding could be quite different to what was modelled in the regional assessment.

“We also already have modelling

Turn to Page 7



Flooding in Cherry Grove, Taurarunui in October last year

Live Music at The Kitchen

Live music nights at the Kitchen up at the Junction in Ohakune are proving to be a real hit with the community. Long standing supporter of the arts in all forms, Paul Stieglbauer, has generously turned over his venue to regularly showcase and support local musicians. The acoustic nights being a collaboration between the Kitchen and local group, Root Note Collective.

Katie Westermeier, Manager of the Kitchen says about live music nights, “We really wanted to create something that feels intimate and relaxed where locals and out-of-towners can come in, have a drink, share a table and properly listen”. The Valentines Day edition held recently achieved that goal, a full house of happy couples, young, the old and families all enjoying the atmosphere and quality selection of brews available. Founding member of the Root Note Collective, Luke Blackwell is an accomplished musician having played solo and in bands over the past 20 years. With a distinctive folk flavour to his music, Luke performs original songs about life experience. Songs which are deliberately metaphorical, allowing listeners to connect and layer over their own experience with the melodies and lyrics. Luke’s creative process is playful and experimental

allowing the ideas to flow and consolidate. Luke played a couple of sets on Valentines Day alongside other talented local musicians Dave Sims, Lisa Hutchinson, Rhiannon Philpott, Steve Gray and Pete Cleary. The music was of a high standard, with a good mix of recognisable classics and originals. Luke says, “Having a safe welcoming space in which to play live music has been invaluable and given creative people in our community a place in which we can all come together.”

Live music nights have now become a regular fixture at the Kitchen, with a Block Party edition planned for March, Kiwi Music Month in May and a Winter Solstice Edition in June. Katies says, “It’s been such a nice way to bring the community together and give local musicians a space to shine. It’s honestly been one of those things where you can feel the energy in the room shift, it’s infectious, light and warm, and there’s just an easy vibe that fits the Kitchen so well.”

Make sure you follow the Kitchen and Root Note Collective on their social media channels to ensure you don’t miss upcoming live music editions. [thekitchenohakune.nz](https://www.thekitchenohakune.nz)



Luke Blackwell performs at the Valentine's acoustic showcase

Crater Lake temp is stable

The temperature of Te Wai ā-moe (Ruapehu Crater Lake) has remained relatively cool since August 2025, reports GNS. The current temperature is now around 18°C.

“We continue to measure low to moderate volcanic sulphur dioxide (SO₂) gas emissions, and low levels of volcanic tremor,” said Geoff Kilgour, duty volcanologist.

“These observations are consistent with minor volcanic unrest. The Volcanic Alert Level remains at 1 and the Aviation Colour Code at Green

In late 2025, GNS reported that the temperature of Te Wai ā-moe had risen to about 17°C.

“Following past temperature cycles, we expected the lake temperature to continue to rise. However, since then, the lake

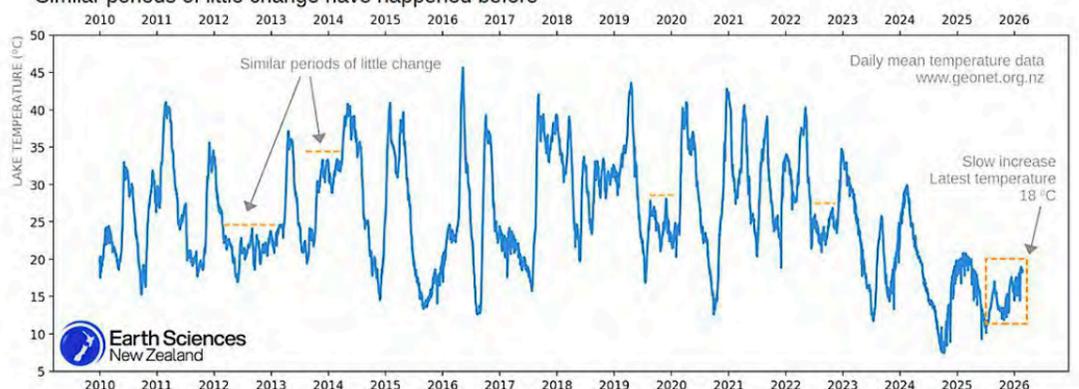
temperature has fluctuated between about 14 and 19°C.

“This shows only a modest level of change, which is subtle, but not unusual compared with the last 16 years of observations. The data indicates that the flow of relatively hot fluid has been reduced over the past few months.”

He said when compared to historical measurements, this has happened in 2012-13, 2014, 2019 and 2022.

“Despite the relatively low flow of fluid into the lake from below, we are still recording similar levels of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) gas emissions, which indicates that the hydrothermal system remains open. Volcanic tremor remains weak and when we consider all the observations, we interpret the current activity to be low-level, consistent with minor volcanic unrest.”

Since mid-2025, lake temperature has increased only 8 °C
Similar periods of little change have happened before



Daily mean temperature of Te Wai ā-moe (Ruapehu Crater Lake) since 2010. The steady-fluctuating lake temperature seems to be of a similar magnitude to periods in 2012-2013, 2014, 2019, and 2022 (data from <https://tilde.geonet.org.nz/>). Daily mean temperature of Te Wai ā-moe (Ruapehu Crater Lake) since 2010. The steady-fluctuating lake temperature seems to be of a similar magnitude to periods in 2012-2013, 2014, 2019, and 2022 (data from <https://tilde.geonet.org.nz/>).

Back to 4WD for National Park Brigade



The Waimarino - National Park fire brigade celebrating their new AWD truck. Photo: National Park Fire Brigade.

It's back to four-wheel-drive capability for the National Park Volunteer Fire Brigade, with Fire and Emergency NZ providing them with a Volvo Type 1 truck.

The all-wheel drive (AWD) vehicle can handle various terrains and challenging environments, such as gravel, snow and mud, as well as the open road.

It is capable in tight, winding spaces and steep climbs. The brigade lost its previous 4WD truck in 2017 and has had a 2WD as an interim ever since.

The new Volvo is a permanent replacement.

Fire and Emergency region manager Bruce Stubbs said the truck had good manoeuvrability and power, which would help the brigade respond to the areas it needed to.

"The new truck will be a valuable asset to not only crews but to the communities they serve," Stubbs said.

National Park Volunteer Fire Brigade chief fire officer Marilla Swift said the crew of 17 was "totally stoked" with the new truck.

"New trucks don't come our way often but we are over the moon to get this one," Swift said.

"Our brigade doesn't normally have call numbers that would qualify us to receive a brand-new truck but our location means that we have the need for this very specialised appliance.

"Waimarino, where the National Park Fire Brigade is based, is the highest town on the North Island, situated at the base of Ruapehu and most significantly responds to Whakapapa Ski Area.

"It will make a really big difference to how we respond and the confidence that we will have to get out of the door and do what we need to do, especially in winter."

She said the brigade was busy in winter, with an increase in weather-related call-outs and visitors.

The geography, profile of risks and responsibility of the large Whakapapa Ski Area were reasons it was "critical" for National Park to have the new truck.

"Whakapapa has the longest ski season, operating for five months of winter and a further five months over summer. Visitor numbers can be up to 6500 people on a peak winter day, which is huge.

"It's really important that we can get up there when we need to, which includes the numerous occasions when the road is only open to 4WD vehicles.

"We're always aware that when conditions are at their worst, in some respects, the risks are at their highest."

Iwikau Village, at the base of the ski area, could accommodate 1500 people who stayed in woodburner-heated huts when the weather was bad, Swift said.

The large number of visitors meant there was an increased risk of medical events and fire.

The snow and the increased traffic volume on the road could also result in motor vehicle crashes, Swift said.

"Often, when the conditions are marginal, that's when we get more accident call-outs," she said.

"A couple of years ago, there was a motor vehicle accident on the ski road. Police, ambulance and fire [crew] were all sitting at the bottom because none of us had 4WD vehicles and it wasn't safe to go up with 2WD.

"We don't want to be in that situation, we want to be able to help people when they need it, so this truck definitely gives us better capability to do that more easily and safely."

Whakapapa Ski Area was the district's most important economic asset, she said.

"Local businesses are reliant on visitors coming to the mountain. Among the assets we respond to are the snow factory, the Skywaka [New Zealand's longest gondola] and the stunning Knoll Ridge Cafe."

Stubbs said the decision to provide the truck was made before the two devastating fires at Tongariro National Park last year.

Swift said an AWD truck would not have made a difference in that instance because crews accessed the fire from the road and no trucks went off-road.

"While we might be first on scene, when it comes to vegetation fires, the specialist rural brigades who respond to these types of incidents have 4WD utes and smaller AWD trucks that are more effective off-road – vegetation fires are their speciality," she said.

The brigade was used as a trial station for the prototype of the new truck a few years ago.

The trial period meant the crew was already familiar and competent with the truck but a recent weekend of training was a necessary refresher, Swift said.

Stubbs said the station's former 2WD truck would go to another station but it had not yet been decided which one.

"Fire and Emergency New Zealand is implementing a long-term investment plan to replace trucks, as well as investing in maintenance and repairs to the current fleet," Stubbs said.

"Our firefighting truck fleet is an important asset and Fire and Emergency is investing more than \$20 million per year over the next three years upgrading the fleet."

Swift said it had been worth the wait to receive the new "state-of-the-art" truck.

"It's a really amazing truck and we feel very lucky to have it," she said.

"With the mountain roads, ski area and Iwikau Village on our doorstep, we're confident we will put it to good use."

This article is published courtesy of the Whanganui Chronicle.

Forgotten Fauna Student Hui – Horizons Regional Council Enviroschools

On Tuesday 24 February Horizons Regional Council collaborated with partners to hold their biggest ever Forgotten Fauna Student Hui in Taumarunui. Many of the schools attending are part of the Enviroschools Kaupapa which aims to foster a generation of people who instinctively think and act sustainably through connection, creativity and action.

The Forgotten Fauna Student Hui brought together 130 students from 11 schools across the Ruapehu district. Students explored topics such as Predator

Free initiatives, native bats/pekapeka, rare invertebrates, and lizards/mokomoko, and also enjoyed relaxing rock painting activities. Students also heard from and were connected with members of the Horizons biodiversity team plus DOC, Ruapehu DC, MPI On Farm Support, NZ Landcare Trust, Whanganui Region Catchment Collective, and Green by Nature.

The afternoon wrapped up with fun games organised by Sport Whanganui and a BBQ lunch sponsored by New World Taumarunui.



130 students from Ngakonui Valley School, St Patrick's Taumarunui, Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Taumarunui, Ohwango School, Orautoha School, Ohakune Primary School, Matiere School, Taumarunui Primary School, Manunui School, Tokirima School and Ongarure School are pictured above.

One killed in Erua crash

One person has died after a three-vehicle crash on State Highway 4 in the settlement of Erua on Sunday night.

Emergency services were called to the scene in the Ruapehu District just after 11pm. One person died at the scene. Another person sustained critical injuries, and four others minor.

The Serious Crash Unit examined the scene and enquiries were ongoing.

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Affordability 'central to foundations'

From Page 1

"That flexibility is significant. It enables the WS-CCO to explore opportunities to achieve greater scale and improved affordability over time."

Andrew Tripe agrees.

"We will embed clear expectations around exploring equitable pricing and responsible financial management from the outset. That is essential to giving our communities confidence in the new entity," says Tripe.

"We are now looking forward to the next phase – establishing the new water services entity in a way that is

transparent and future-focused. Getting the foundations right at the beginning will be critical to its long-term success," said Mayor Kirton.

"Both Ruapehu and Whanganui are committed to building a water organisation that is cost-effective, responsible, and focused on the wellbeing of our communities."

Kirton said both councils will continue to work collaboratively and keep their communities informed as the establishment process progresses.

Horizons completes regional flood vulnerability assessment

From Page 5

for some areas, such as Palmerston North and Feilding, which is more detailed than what the regional flood vulnerability assessment provided.

“The regional flood vulnerability assessment gives us a broad overview of relative risk from 0.5% (AEP) flood events – also known as 1-in-200-year flood events – and we would need to do further work to get more detailed information.

“The risk rankings are there to help to inform strategic planning, and cannot be used to assess things such as insurability of properties.”

Decisions

The assessment will help Council to make decisions on where investment could be made into flood resilience works in the future, says Dr Roygard.

“Having this regional assessment will provide important information for Council’s decisions during the upcoming Long-term Plan process, as they identify priorities for future flood resilience activity.”

The assessment also highlights the importance of regional councils working with district and city councils on flood resilience to ensure models are as accurate as possible, policy responses are aligned, and flood resilience work is done in tandem, says Dr Roygard.

“We are already doing this ... through projects such as the joint works programme in parts of Ruapehu District. District

and council staff did have input into the regional flood vulnerability assessment.”

If people do have concerns about their flood risk, Horizons’ District Advice team can help, says Dr Roygard.

“The District Advice team provides natural hazards information to the public and councils in our region. The most common advice sought is around the risk of flooding to guide development.”

The regional flood vulnerability assessment was one of a range of projects Horizons was able to complete after receiving more than \$4.2 million from central government’s Cyclone Recovery Flood Resilience Co-investment Fund, to build resilience to the impacts of climate change and recover from Cyclone Gabrielle, says Dr Roygard.

“Other funded projects include upgrades to Horizons’ environmental data monitoring network, improvements to flood forecasting systems, and work on options to reduce flood risk to people and property throughout the Pohangina-Oroua catchment.”

For more information on the study, see <https://www.horizons.govt.nz/flood-emergency-management/regional-flood-vulnerability-assessment>.

To contact Horizons’ District Advice team, either use the enquiry form on the Horizons website or freephone 0508 800 800.

Local artist on show in Raetihi



Local artist Marama Groot pictured with her pieces which will be on display at Volcano Vibe.

On show now at Volcano Vibe Collective in Raetihi is an exhibition of 21 paintings by talented local artist, Marama Groot.

Currently in her final year of a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) at Massey University, Marama has always been destined for a career in the arts.

Making her first painting sale at the age of 11 years to her Ohakune Primary School teacher, the late Alison Whale, Marama went on to gain scholarships for painting, photography and sculpture whilst at Ruapehu College.

Honing her skills and techniques over the past few years at university in Wellington, it is obvious, viewing the works, that Marama’s home region, Ruapehu, is central to the work thematically.

Predominantly painting from memory, her work shifts with ease between abstraction and figuration. A deep personal connection to the landscape and, in particular, the act of walking through it is a key element in her

process.

Working in oil paint, layers are built up, paint is dripped, scraped and reworked, revealing traces of time, movement and process. Akin to walking without direction, Marama moves through layers of paint until landing somewhere both familiar and strange.

“In the remote places I walk, I am both a part of an unfathomable vastness and profoundly alienated. It’s as if all that exists is tiny details and vast distances, where my own scale, the middle ground, is erased.

“My paintings are elegies for what can be lost, for memory, landscape, a quiet kind of mourning for the ecological. But there is a comfort there too, in the knowledge that the earth will continue long after us.”

Marama Groot’s exhibition is on show now at Volcano Vibe Collective, 45 Seddon Street in Raetihi, from 1 February to 30 April. Volcano Vibe Collective is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

ADVERTORIAL

Ruapehu Distillery – “Taste the adventure in every sip”



Susan Delaney outside her new purpose-built distillery building.

By Kate Hartmann

There was plenty of moisture flowing both outside and inside when Ruapehu Distillery held its opening celebration on 13 February, with over 30 locals undeterred by the weather attending. Susan Delaney, founder and head distiller, opened by greeting those assembled and thanked the many locals and businesses that have supported them over the past four years in helping to establish the distillery. The tasting room, dominated by the beautiful, shiny copper pot still named Nigella, reflects the values Susan exudes, down-to-earth, friendly, and straight-up. A keen mountain biker and skier, Susan wanted her passion for the outdoors to be seamlessly integrated into her business. “A day can start with a ride through forest single track, flow into checking fermentations and monitoring still temperatures, and finish with an afternoon on the slopes or a bike into Tongariro National Park.”

Tastings of the first offering from the distillery, the Straight Up Carrot Gin, were attractively displayed, glasses enhanced with a circle of dried orange representing the rising moon over Ruapehu, which features on the label, designed by Kim Hill.

“On the nose, the Straight Up Carrot Gin is juniper forward, followed by

coriander seed and a subtle citrusy sweetness. The juniper that defines gin is balanced by the coriander seed, but what really makes this drink special and sets it apart is the combination of earthy sweetness from the carrot and orange peel with added warmth and complexity from the horopito (NZ native pepper tree). It’s a well-balanced drink that is big enough to hold its own in a negroni, with tonic, or as Susan prefers – sonic – a mixture of soda and tonic. Personally, I see myself enjoying it either neat or in a martini”, says Kate.

Susan uses a vapour distillation process in her copper pot still, Nigella, in which the botanicals are suspended in the vapour path to gently extract the oils, imparting bright, nuanced flavours. Susan has set out to create a spirit that captures a sense of place, the wild mountain air, volcanic soils, breathtaking lunar moons, and a dash of the unexpected, and I believe she has done just that. Looking forward to tasting the next offering from Ruapehu Distillery, which Susan assures me is not too far away.

Ruapehu Distillery is located at 8 Kowhai Crescent in Ohakune. Tours and tastings can be booked online through the website: <https://www.ruapehudistillery.com/tastings> or via a phone call on: 021 216 5265.

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Ohakune Primary School welcomes two new teachers

Ohakune Primary School has welcomed two new teachers to staff in 2026, Sean Crotty and Caroline Tatere. We asked them a couple of questions to find out a bit more about them:

Sean Crotty

What drew you to Ohakune?

To me, Ohakune has always been about peace and connection. It's a place that has been quietly calling me for the past eight years. Every visit has left me with wonderful memories whether it's bluebird days snowboarding at Tūroa, chatting with new people on the chairlifts, enjoying peaceful bush walks, or connecting with locals in the evenings. There's something special about the balance here. The outdoors, the community, and the slower pace of life. When the opportunity arose to join Ohakune Primary School, it felt like the right time to answer that call and make the move permanent.



Sean Crotty

Tell us about your teaching background

I've recently moved from Tauranga Moana, where I have been teaching since 2014. My journey began with two years teaching in Auckland, followed by nine years at Arataki School and then a year at Otamarākau School before making the decision to relocate to Ohakune. The majority of my experience has been with Year 5 and 6 students, an age group I really enjoy working with. I love supporting students as they grow in independence, confidence, and responsibility. After doing thorough research into Ohakune Primary School and the opportunities it offers students, I felt a strong alignment with the way I enjoy teaching hands-on learning, strong relationships, and meaningful experiences both inside and outside the classroom.

What do you enjoy outside of school?

I grew up next to the golden sands of Pāpāmoa, so being close to nature has

always been important to me. I enjoy fishing, swimming, and wakeboarding, and I'm a keen cricketer who is beginning the transition from player to coach, supporting young people to get involved and develop their skills. I also appreciate a good coffee, bush walks, and days on the mountain with friends. You'll often see me walking my dog, Basil, around town or along the Mangawhero River. I feel incredibly lucky to be here and I'm really looking forward to becoming part of the Ohakune community both in and out of the classroom.

Caroline Tatere

What drew you to Ohakune?

We were drawn to Ohakune for the rural lifestyle and strong sense of community. My husband moved down halfway through last year, and our two boys and I joined him this year — it has been so nice to have our family all back together



Caroline Tatere

again. We love the outdoor lifestyle here, especially for the boys, who are keen hunters and happiest when they're out in the country.

Tell us a bit about your background and interests.

We've recently moved from Taupō, where I mainly taught Year 7 and 8 students. It's lovely that we can still head back there from time to time, as the boys are big fans of water sports and spending time on the lake.

Originally, I'm from north of Gisborne and grew up in the farming world. Before teaching, I worked in the agricultural industry. As a family, we love getting outdoors, whether that's on the lake or out hunting, although these days my husband and I often find ourselves as the taxi drivers and videographers! Life is busy with two active boys, but we wouldn't have it any other way.

Busy start to College year!

EYE ON RUAPEHU COLLEGE, CONTRIBUTED BY STAFF AND STUDENTS

Ruapehu College began the new school year with a special pōwhiri, bringing together students, new enrolments, whānau, and staff. This year's ceremony had particular significance as it introduced the new principal, Kris Vine, a former Ruapehu College student. Mr. Vine expressed his deep honour at returning to the college where he was once a student, and his commitment to building upon the existing foundations of the school.

The first few weeks of the term have been anything but quiet! Students have already dived into a full slate of activities, excursions, assessments, athletics day, and swimming sports which has set the tone for the year ahead.

New records were set at this year's Swimming Sports at Raetihi Pools. These records apply to Raetihi Pools from 2023–2026. Waiouru records remain unchanged.

Congratulations to our new record holders:

Melody Ritchfield – Junior Girls Backstroke (1 length)
Molly Aitken – Intermediate Girls Freestyle (3 lengths)
Amelia Deadman – Intermediate Girls Breaststroke (1 length) and Medley (3 lengths)

Hannah Swift – Senior Girls Freestyle (1 length) and Butterfly (1 length)

Rebekah Swift – Senior Girls Freestyle (3 lengths) and Breaststroke (1 length)

Georgia Smith – Senior Girls Medley (3 lengths)

Chase Renata – Junior Boys Freestyle (3 lengths) and Breaststroke (1 length)

Ezekiel Paytner – Intermediate Boys Freestyle (3 lengths) and Backstroke (1 length)

Mica Hoyle – Senior Boys Freestyle (1 length)

Sam Rowe – Senior Boys Butterfly (1 length)

Well done to all students who took part.

Year 13 students started the year showing leadership by fundraising for their ball with a Valentine's Day bake sale.

Sports are strong: Waka ama training (land-based and water practices in Whanganui), Volleyball every Wednesday in Whanganui, basketball starting, and

football season approaching. Our HOD of PE, Miss Bam, held a coach muster, highlighting our reliance on whānau support for rangatahi success.

Level 2 and 3 Agriculture and Horticulture students recently gained valuable, hands-on learning experience on a local farm. The NCEA senior students assisted Andy Bennett with lamb drenching, learning the ins and outs of animal health management while gaining practical experience.

We are proud to announce the introduction of a new welding class this year, taught by Duane Dixon. Duane's dedication to teaching has established a professional and secure setting where students can effectively acquire welding skills.

As the term progresses, we look forward to sharing more of the exciting developments and achievements of our students. We encourage all whānau and community members to stay engaged with school life and support our students' journeys. Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.



Above: Level 2 & 3 Agriculture and Horticulture students; Left: swimming sports with new records being set at Raetihi Pool; Below left: learning welding skills; Below: Year 13 Valentine's bake sale fundraising for the ball.



Ruapehu Bulletin

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BUSINESS NOTICES

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

PUBLIC NOTICES



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



PUBLIC NOTICES

Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 Nishva & Dhyan Enterprise Limited has made an application to the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council for the **renewal of an Off Licence** in respect of the premises situated at **72 Seddon Street, Raetihi** known as **Raetihi Four Square**. The general nature of the business to be conducted under the licence is that of a **Grocery Store**. The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is intended to be sold under the licence are: **Monday to Sunday 7.00am – 8.00pm**. The application may be inspected during ordinary office hours at the office of the Ruapehu District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council, 59-63 Huia Street, Taumarunui. Any person who is entitled to object and who wishes to object to the issue of the licence may, not later than 25 working days after the date of the publication of this notice, file a notice in writing of the objection with the Secretary of the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council, Private Bag 1001, Taumarunui 3946. No objections to the issue of a licence may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in section 105(1) of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. This is the first publication of this notice.

BUSINESS NOTICES

Ohakune Health Hub
In pain? Let us help.
Experienced care in Osteopathy, Physiotherapy, Massage and Acupuncture – effective treatment for:
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Septic tanks, water tanks, grease traps.
Call us for fast efficient service.
Phone Chris on 06-388-0452.

PUBLIC NOTICES



Free Legal Advice Clinics
Raetihi Chambers
44 Seddon Street, Raetihi
Wednesday between 10am – 12pm
11 March
Ngāti Rangī Community Health Centre
Maungārongo Marae, 36A Burns Street, Ohakune
Wednesday between 1pm – 3pm
11 March
To book an appointment, call or email us with your name and contact phone number
Community Legal Advice Whanganui (CLAW)
Phone 0800 00 36 36 Email – claw@claw.co.nz

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 at governance@ruapehudc.govt.nz.

Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board 6PM, Thursday 5 March 2026 Miriamā Community Centre, 10 Miriamā Street, Taumarunui	
Ruapehu District Council 10AM, Wednesday 11 March 2026 Emergency Management Centre, 27 Buddo Street, Waimarino	
Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board 6PM, Thursday 12 March 2026 Council Chambers, Ayr Street, Ohakune	
Ōwhango-National Park Community Board 6PM, Tuesday 17 March 2026 Emergency Management Centre, 27 Buddo Street, Waimarino	
Risk & Assurance Committee 11AM, Thursday 19 March 2026 Taumarunui War Memorial Hall, 149 Hakiāha Street, Taumarunui	
MEETING CONTACTS	
Ruapehu District Council	07 895 8188
Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board Molly Jeffries, Chairperson	021 431 833
Ōwhango-National Park Community Board Peter Zimmer, Chairperson	027 479 1926
Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board John (Luigi) Hotter, Chairperson	027 274 2616
Risk & Assurance Committee Philip Jones, Chairperson	027 499 9408

For everything Ohakune, visit
www.ohakune.info

PUBLIC NOTICES



OHAKUNE EVENTS CHARITABLE TRUST
Annual General Meeting
Join us at the
Ohakune Events Charitable Trust AGM
Monday 16 March 2026, 5.30pm
The Matterhorn, upstairs at the Powderkeg
An open invitation to all members of the community who would like to attend.



DECLARATION OF RESULT OF ELECTION
Whakarato Te Rohe Pōtae
DECLARATION OF RESULT OF ELECTION
I hereby declare the result of the election held on Thursday 26 February 2026 for the election of two trustees for the King Country Trust to be as follows:
Candidate
GREENSLADE, Sandra 482
JACKSON, Melissa 486
PEPPER, Luke 496
There were no informal votes, 24 invalid votes and 3 blank votes recorded.
I therefore declare Melissa JACKSON and Luke PEPPER elected.
Dated at Taumarunui, 26 February 2026
Ben Roser, Returning Officer
Independent Election Services Ltd
for King Country Trust
phone 0800 922 822

Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust
March Clinics
By appointment/drop in
Personal health nurse - appointments are available on request in Raetihi or Ohakune, contact Donna 027 491 2183 – (free cervical screening)
SERVICES AVAILABLE
Kaupapa Māori mental health and addictions (Rebecca)
Supporting/ addressing needs of tangata whaiora
Drug & alcohol intervention
After hours emergencies – mental health assessment & treatment team 0800 653 358
Whānau Ora (Tina, Darnella, Sylvia, Virginia)
Wrap around services for those with high health and social needs.
Advice and advocacy support
Support for GP practice
Tamariki Ora (Tina and Katherine)
Well child checks for pēpi 0-5 years
Kaiāwhina additional support
He Puna Ora (Toni-Renee)
Building capability and knowledge within māmā, using mātauranga Māori as a solution to support change. Improve the well-being of children by addressing the needs of māmā and strengthening the whānau environment. Every Monday, 11am – 2pm at Te Pae Tata.
Bowel Screening
If you have any queries relating to the bowel screening project, please contact Darnella Hawira 0272 455 278, Darnella.Hawira@ngatirangi.com
Tamariki day
We are hosting Tamariki Day on Sunday 8 March from 10am – 2pm at the Makotuku Domain (the Raetihi park). Bring your tamariki along for an exciting, action-packed day of games and activities.
Appointments/More Information Contact Admin
Mon-Fri- 8.30am-5pm 06 3859 580/0, 0274 758 347 or email Katherine.Herewini@ngatirangi.com
We have an AED Defibrillator available on site.

PUBLIC NOTICES

The Royal Theatre, Raetihi
Movie Month
James Bond Goldfinger
PG – Saturday 7 March
Mary Poppins
Disney Classic – PG – Saturday 14 March
Doors open 6pm, movie starts 7pm
Bar available. \$15. Supper included
Bring this advertisement with you and win a spot prize



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

SITUATIONS VACANT

SENIOR MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT
Hybrid. Full time



This is a key leadership position within our finance team, offering strategic input, oversight of a small team, and the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on long-term community outcomes. You'll partner with leaders across Council to drive smart financial decisions and ensure we always understand our financial position.
What you'll do:
• Lead monthly, quarterly and annual reporting
• Support Annual Plan and Long-Term Plan processes
• Partner with managers on budgets and forecasting
• Provide clear financial advice to ELT and Elected Members
• Maintain strong financial models and systems
• Support audit, compliance, GST and FBT requirements
• Monitor performance and recommend corrective action
What you'll bring:
• CA qualified (or equivalent)
• 3+ years' accounting experience
• Local government experience preferred
• Strong budgeting and annual reporting experience
• Advanced Excel and financial systems skills
• Confident communicator who can influence and challenge constructively
• Detail-focused with strong knowledge of legislation and compliance
How to apply
To apply, please visit <https://www.ruapehudc.govt.nz/our-council/employment/current-vacancies>. Applications close Friday 13th March 2026

Waimarinon A&P Show Results

Jon Preston Pavilion produce shed

Champion Cut Flower: Eileen Rowe; Champion Floral Art: Jo Hiscox, Most Points Cut Flowers: Angel Joyce; Champion Bloom: Rita Hammond; Champion Dahlia: Rita Hammond; Champion Rose Bloom: Cecilia Roke; Champion Pot Plants: Claire Hyland;

Most Points Dahlias: Angel Joyce; Champion Shrubs & Trees: Maisy Hammond; Most Points Roses: Angel Joyce; Most Points Overall for Flower Show: Angel Joyce; Winners of the 2 raffles were: Cash prize of \$100, Andy

Fleury; Gardner Box, Rhonda.

A big thank you to the three judges who judged the flowers and for help received from various people and also a big thank you to Lisa Frew for the organisation of the Produce Shed.

WDFW trophy for home industries, Rachael Hyland; Angela McCoubrie Photography trophy, Lisa Frew; Schools challenge trophy, Raetihi School. Lots of entries especially from the schools/children! Thank you to helpers, garden club and sponsors!

Horse & gift lamb

Guess combined weight of 3 lambs, Keith Robertson, 146.2 (actual weight 146.71kg)

Summary of main results

Flat Classes: Champion Novice Pony, Amber Auret/FN Yogi Bear; Reserve Novice Pony, Milla Smith-Horne/MSH Turoas Princess; Champion Open Pony, Amber Auret/FN Yogi Bear; Reserve Open Pony, Milla Smith-Horne/MSH Turoas Princess; Champion Novice Horse, Brenda Palenski/Go You God Thing; Reserve Novice Horse, Sacha Rennie/Nothing Unusual; Champion Open Horse, Brenda Palenski/Go You God Thing; Reserve Open Horse, Sacha Rennie/Nothing Unusual; Champion Recreational, Bella Drayton/Nature's

Willow; Reserve Recreational, Abbie Drayton/Jippy Ki Yay; Supreme Champion, Amber Auret/FN Yogi Bear; Hunter Jumping: Champion Pony Hunter, Pheobe Rickard/Galazy Little Nut Brown; Reserve Pony Hunter, Isla Carver/Galaxy Masterpiece; Champion Hack Hunter, Abbie Drayton/Jippy Ki Yay; Reserve Hack Hunter, Stella Williamson/B&W Bow n Arrow; Bowater Cup, Lucy Terry /Sir Jackson; Waimarino Pony Club Challenge Cup, Abbie Drayton/Jippy Ki Yay; Enda McFadyen Memorial Cup, Katie Peacock/Imperial Mint; Auburn Cup, Sophie Dickson/Penny Royal GNZ; W Coleman Cup, Abbie Drayton/Jippy Ki Yay.



From left: Jeff Drayton, Bella Drayton on Nature's Willow, judges, Abbie Drayton on Jippy Ki Yay and Desarie Drayton. Bella won Champion Recreational and Abbie won Reserve Recreational, Champion Hack Hunter, W Coleman Cup and the Waimarino Pony Club Challenge Cup.



Ellie McCoubrie - one of the youngest participants at last Saturday's A&P Show

Thank you to our amazing sponsors

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Shane Windle	Janet Scarrow	Mike Maru

A massive thank you to our hard working committee and volunteers

Taumarunui Arts Centre – calling all artists

Taumarunui Arts Centre is holding an Exhibition this Easter to showcase many local artists' best works for the enjoyment of our own community as well as visitors to the area over the four-day holiday period. We will collate and display your art, and look after it for the four days, all you need to do it bring it in on Tuesday 31 March from 10am to 5pm (or by private arrangement). Selection of artwork is at the committee's discretion. We invite all artists to submit one or more pieces in any medium, on any theme.

Please contact Myra on r.c.artcentre@gmail.com, via messenger at Taumarunui Arts Centre on Facebook or phone 021 1692 052. Cost is \$15 per piece. The Exhibition will be a fundraiser for renovations to the Arts Centre building, which is located on the main street opposite Jasmynes Cafe.

Entry to see the Easter Exhibition will be by (optional) koha, with every donation receiving an entry into the lucky draw for a local gift basket. Raffles will also be available for a trailer load of firewood or a print by painter Raewyn Vanstone. Tickets are \$5 each.

We are also on the lookout for new members for the Ruapehu Community Arts Council. Our committee manages the Taumarunui Arts Centre building and activities. We welcome any who are interested in supporting the community and/or local arts, you don't need to be an artist or crafter. We meet no more than once a month, and have occasional exhibitions, events and working bees. Please contact Myra or come and join us for a chat at the Easter Exhibition.



Art will be on display at the Taumarunui Arts Centre over Easter Weekend.

Jones boys place in Climbing NZ National Speed Championships

Rangataua brothers, Felix (age 12) and Ollie Jones (age 10), are proving to be rising stars in the sport of competitive speed climbing. Competing recently at the Climbing New Zealand National Speed Championship held in Mount Maunganui. Spending a week before the event practicing, it paid off in their placings and personal bests on competition day. Felix taking his time from 13 seconds, down to 8.859 seconds for his final climb, gaining a podium finish in 3rd place. Ollie starting at 49 seconds, taking his time down to 27.605 seconds on his final climb, with a podium finish in second place.

The two-day climbing festival brought together the nation's best, from emerging youth athletes to seasoned open and masters' competitors, highlighting the depth and future of New Zealand speed climbing. Sport climbing and competition have grown

in popularity in recent years. As a spectacle of adrenaline, precision, and explosiveness, sport climbing became an Olympic event in Tokyo in 2020; and in Paris in 2024, speed climbing made its debut.

The Jones boys have been climbing since they were big enough to fit into a harness, around 4 years of age. Climbing is a family affair with parents Kate and Sean also enjoying the sport, so much so that they've even built a bouldering wall at home for training! The boys mostly train at Vertigo Climbing in Ohakune, where there are weekly 'club nights' on Friday evenings. There, the boys have been taught by multiple fellow climbers, in particular Jeremy Hammer, previous owner of Vertigo Climbing, who gave them years of valuable tips and encouragement that the family is forever grateful for. The boys' love for the sport continues to grow, and perhaps one day

we may just see the Jones brothers standing on a podium at a future Olympic Games.



Ollie Jones (right)

Felix Jones (left)



The 10m high speed climb

Movie month at the Royal Theatre

March is Movie Month at the Royal Theatre in Raetihi. Beginning on Saturday, 8 March, a different movie will be screened at the theatre each Saturday for the rest of the month.

First up on 7 March sees the return of Sean Connery as James Bond in the third Bond movie, "Goldfinger". Hailed by many as the best Bond movie, the film features Honor Blackman as Pussy Galore and includes the deadly antics of Oddjob, Goldfinger's trusty manservant.

The second movie scheduled for 14 March is the Disney classic "Mary Poppins", with Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke. This old favourite looks great on the big screen and has something for everyone.

Following on from that is the fast-paced comedy "The Great Race" with Tony Curtis, Jack Lemmon and Natalie Wood. One of the highlights is the greatest pie fight ever. Screening on 21 March, it features a spectacular car race like no other.

Finally, on 28 March, Clint Eastwood is back in the classic western "A Fistful of Dollars". The man with no name rides into town to settle the dispute that is dividing the whole community. Short on dialogue but big on action, this is the film that made Clint Eastwood the star he was to become.

Each movie begins at 7pm and as is usual at the Royal, supper is included, and the bar will be open.



Thank you

The teams at Transpower, Powerco and The Lines Company would like to thank the good people of Ohakune, Raetihi and surrounding areas for their patience during the planned power outage on 1 March.

Ngā mihi

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