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Ruapehu Bulletin

P: 06 385 8532 E: ads@ruapehubulletin.co.nz



**Ruapehu
funding
forum
P2**



**New
top ATG
soldier
P3**



**Rabbit's
topless
winners
P5**



**Taihape
disc golf
tee-off
P7**

Health shuttle still going strong 15 years on

The Waimarino St John Ambulance Health Shuttle service that provides transport for Waimarino folk to appointments with a wide range of health services in Whanganui and Palmerston North, has clocked over 15 years in service.

The Health Shuttle was first introduced in 2011 with the backing, hard work and generous donations of the local community and businesses to close the gap for those who may have difficulty in travelling the distance to appointments.

Thanks to the dedication of local St John volunteers, it has transported hundreds of local people to vital hospital and health related appointments.

“St John Health Shuttle service is an essential community service and provides transport for people who have health related appointments with doctors, specialists, outpatient appointments, dentist, orthodontist, optician, podiatry, mental health or any health-related appointment,” says Shuttle

committee member Chris Berry.

Health Shuttle service users include elderly people or those with mobility or health problems, many of whom find going to a medical appointment without assistance a real challenge.

But it's available to anyone to use – such as people who otherwise might be able to drive to their appointment but are advised not to drive afterwards.

People are able to take a support person, such as a family member, with them.

“As a charitable organisation, St John relies on local volunteers and the area is supported by a great team of volunteers who provide their time to assist those in the community,” says Chris.

“Volunteers pick passengers up from their homes, deliver them to their appointments and then return them home.”

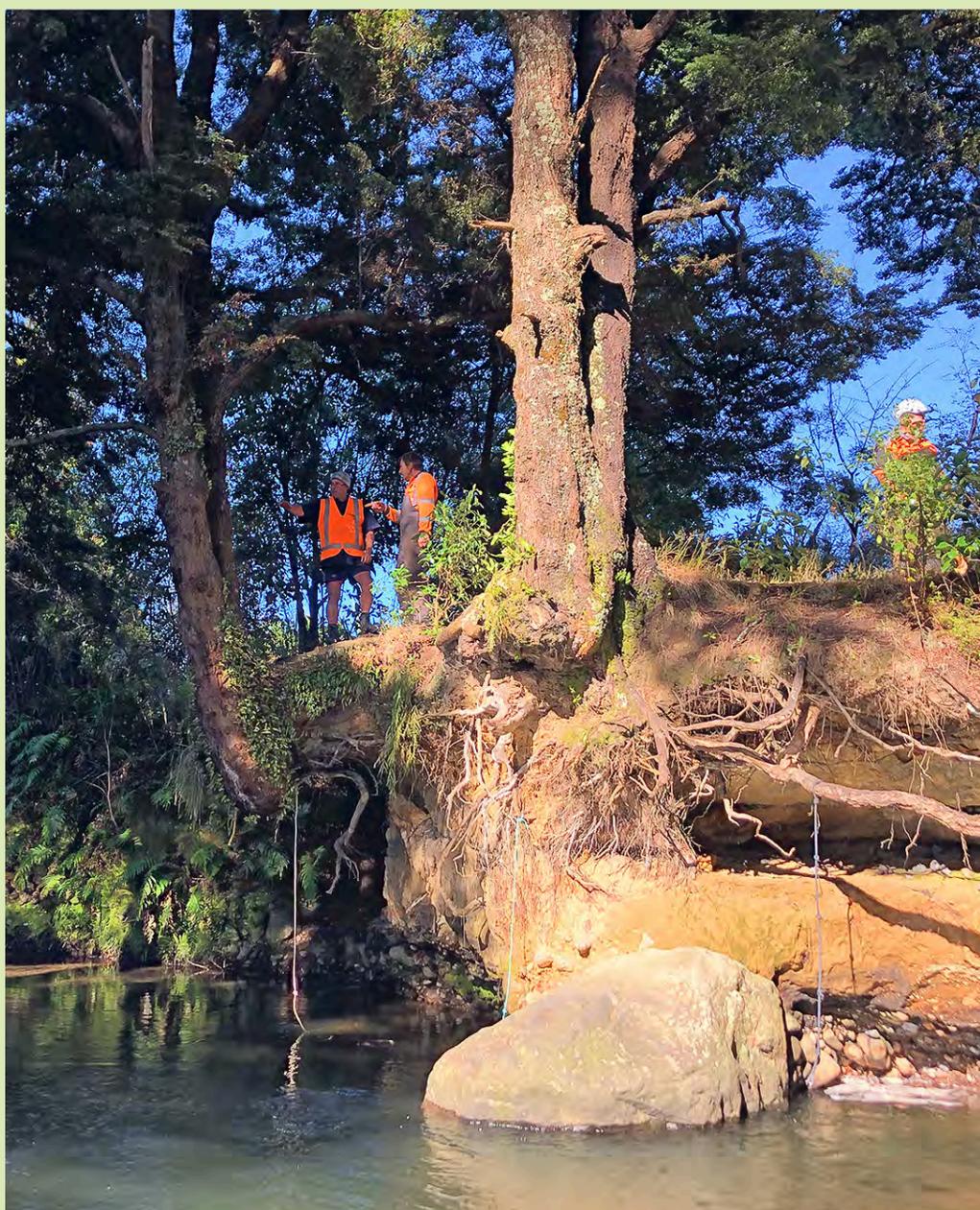
People who use the service are asked to provide a koha to help cover the costs of

Turn to Page 2



Ian Tavendale and Nikki Williams – volunteer shuttle drivers.

Precarious beech trees removed



Two beech trees jutting out over the Mangawhero on the Mangawhero River Track have been a curiosity for walkers for decades – but no longer, after contractors removed the trees that had been deemed too dangerous. Swimmers had hung ropes from roots under the overhang and the river had recently been scouring out the bank underneath the trees. Photo supplied.

AUTUMN ALERT

THE MARKET IS MOVING, DON'T MISS OUT.

BAYLEYS

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

As the Ruapehu landscape turns to rich hues of orange, red and gold, buyer enquiry strengthens across the region. Autumn is a strategic time to be on the market, with motivated purchasers planning ahead to secure homes before winter. Listing now gives your property strong visual appeal, access to engaged buyers, less competition than peak summer, and momentum leading into winter demand.

Altogether Better to make smart property decisions this autumn.

Bayleys Ruapehu

06 385 0170 | 16 Goldfinch Street, Ohakune



Marianne Kavanagh, Debra Kingston from Whanganui Community Foundation and Kim Treen (RDC) at the Ohakune community funding session. Photo: Kate Cornwall.

Funding in the Ruapehu community

Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 March were important days for community groups across the Ruapehu District, with a special two-day event bringing together a wide range of organisations that fund local projects.

Ruapehu District Council's business development manager, Kim Treen was excited to bring funding opportunities together, breaking down barriers to funding for our local community groups.

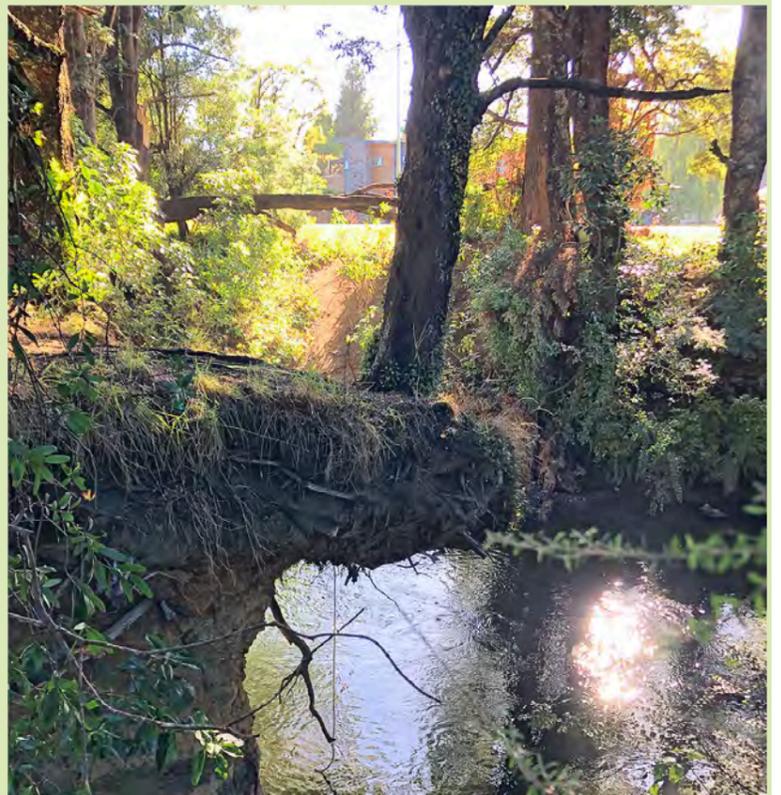
The event was held first in Ohakune for southern Ruapehu, and then in Taumarunui for northern Ruapehu needs. This ensured that community organisations across the district had easy access to the same information and opportunities.

Across both days, funders presented their strategic priorities, explained the grants they offer, and outlined the types of initiatives they are keen to support. Community groups were able to discuss their ideas, ask questions, and explore how different organisations might help bring their projects to life.

For smaller organisations in particular, the chance to speak directly with funders helped demystify the application process and build confidence in seeking support.

"Events like this strengthen the Ruapehu community by helping local groups access the knowledge, connections, and support they need to make a real difference."

Beech trees removed



The iconic hanging beech tree on the Mangawhero River has been removed (above). A positive effect of the removal is the creation of a new view of the river (below). Photos supplied.



Ruapehu Events & What's On

MARCH 2026

Royal Theatre Movies, starts 7pm 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.instagram.com/ohakunebeerfestival) 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.

Taihape Gumboot Day 11 April
For more information follow us: [@facebook.com/GumbootDayNZ](https://www.facebook.com/GumbootDayNZ) [@instagram.com/taihapegumbootdaynz](https://www.instagram.com/taihapegumbootdaynz)

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

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ADS@RUAPEHUBULLETIN.CO.NZ
LINK YOUR EVENT TO EVENTFINDA FOR FREE

Eating out in the Ruapehu District

Call 06 385 8532 to list your business here
or email ads@ruapehubulletin.co.nz

KINGS BAR & RESTAURANT

3 Rimu St Ohakune Junction Ph: 06 385 8648
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)
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

POWDERKEG

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 GYPRUS 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.

UTOPIA CAFE

47 Clyde St, Ohakune Ph: 06 385 9120
Open 7 days from 8am - 3pm for all day breakfast and lunch. Serving Havana Coffee. A cosy memorable atmosphere with a great range of cabinet food and beverages, Frappé and smoothies. Vegan/Gluten-free options for both savoury and sweet are available. Speedy free Wi-Fi! A perfect place for everybody!

Health shuttle

From Page 1

running the Health Shuttle.

"Volunteering is immensely rewarding for many people and our local drivers enjoy the opportunity to help their community," says Chris, who adds that they currently have nine volunteer drivers but are always keen to have more.

Driver Ian Tavendale said he volunteers because he's retired and "want to help the community, because it's a long way to the hospital."

He said he does about 2-3 trips a month, while other drivers do more.

"It just depends on whether you're avail-

able. I tend to work at other jobs that tie me up at times."

"It's certainly a good service."

Nikki Williams had just returned from a trip to Palmerston North.

"Why am I a volunteer? Because I think it's great service."

"Everyone's very dedicated and basically, you put your whole day aside to do it because you just don't know how long an appointment could take."

Nikki, Ian and Chris want more people to know that it's available and open to anyone to use.

Preparing soldiers for challenging times the top priority for new Army training commander

More than 25 years after he stepped off the training ground at Waiouru Military Camp to begin his career, Colonel Ed Crow is now himself leading the New Zealand Army's forge of soldiers.

The Army Training Group (ATG) is responsible for overseeing most of the NZ Army's individual training, equipping soldiers and officers from New Zealand and partner nations with the knowledge and skills required to win land-based operations.

Originally from the Banks Peninsula

community of Okains Bay, Colonel Crow has served with the NZ Army, Ngāti Tūmataunga, for more than 25 years.

He graduated from the New Zealand Commissioning Course in 1999 and first joined the Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps.

"As a 20-year-old I did not fully understand what I was stepping into when I joined the Army and moved to Waiouru. But reflecting on it, I can see the community, lessons and resilience forged in those early years have served me well throughout



Colonel Ed Crow at Waiouru's Army Marae: back at Waiouru after training as an officer in 1999. Photo: NZDF.

Global wool brand visits local farms

The owners of Danish footwear company Glerups have travelled from their headquarters in Denmark to the central North Island, visiting the farms where the wool used in their products begins its journey.

The team spent time at Papanui in Hunterville, Timahanga Station, and Tawanui Station near Raetihi, meeting farming families and seeing first-hand how ZQ-certified wool is grown and managed.

While the wool ends up in products sold internationally, Glerups emphasises that its relationship with growers is central to its brand. For the Danish team travelling from their headquarters, the trip was about exploring the origins of their wool story.

"Our wool doesn't start in a factory, it starts here, on incredible New Zealand farms like these," Jesper Glerup, son of founder Nanny Glerup, said.

"Meeting the growers face-to-face helps us understand the work, care and pride that goes into producing New Zealand wool."

Angus Street, CEO of The New Zealand Merino Company, said the visit highlights the growing importance of transparency

and long-term partnerships in the wool sector.

"It's easy to talk about supply chains from a distance, but when a company travels all the way from Denmark to sit around a farm table in Hunterville or Raetihi, that says something," Street said.

"It shows how much they value the relationship and the quality of the fibre being produced in New Zealand."

Street said the visit also comes at a time of renewed global demand for New Zealand's food and fibre sector exports.

"New Zealand's meat and wool export revenue is forecast to grow to \$13.2 billion this year, showing the global demand for our products," he said. "Strong, long-term partnerships between growers and international brands are critical to maintaining that reputation."

As global consumers increasingly ask where their products come from, farm-level engagement is becoming more important across the natural fibre industry.

For the growers involved, the visit was also an opportunity to showcase North Island farming systems and the standards behind New Zealand wool production.

my career."

His most recent postings have been in the culture and strategy branches of Army General Staff in Wellington, which he said increased his awareness of the bigger strategic picture and the Army's future challenges.

But he's excited to get stuck into camp life again and this will be his eighth year at Waiouru during his career.

"I am acutely aware of the shifting strategic environment and the rapid advances in modern warfare. Ensuring our soldiers, from new recruits through to our warrant officers and officers, are safely prepared for these emerging challenges will be my central focus."

Colonel Crow has held a wide range of command, technical, staff and training appointments across 1st (New Zealand) Brigade, Army Training Group in Waiouru, Army General Staff, and both Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) and Joint Forces New Zealand.

He has deployed to Afghanistan, East Timor, Sudan and South Sudan. During the Covid-19 response, he spent nearly a year as task group commander over the NZDF deployment to the Managed Isolation and Quarantine facilities in the North Island.

He was more recently the deputy commander of the NZDF contingent to the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Colonel Crow has taken over as Commander ATG from Colonel Lisa Kelliher, who has posted to Canberra as the NZDF's new Defence Adviser.

"I've been privileged to have had opportunities to serve New Zealand and command our soldiers in a broad range of operational environments, each with unique challenges that will give real purpose to my new role in the Army's training system," he said.

Colonel Crow also paid tribute to outgoing ATG Commander, Colonel Lisa Kelliher, who is now the Defence Adviser to Australia.

"It's humbling to have assumed command from Colonel Kelliher, who happened to be a platoon commander of my own basic training here in Waiouru and later my senior national officer in South Sudan.

"Lisa's leadership of the Army Training Group and Waiouru Military Training Area has certainly left us well-prepared and in a strong position for the future."



Alzheimers Whanganui

Services in the Waimarino

- Do you need to speak to someone about concerns with cognitive issues
- Do you need the support of someone who understands dementia
- Are you caring for someone with dementia
- Do you just require some information about dementia

**Our Support Coordinator will be in Raetihi
Wednesday 25 March 2026
10.30am - 12.00pm**

**If you would like to make an appointment
Please contact Mary: Ph 022 694 4978**

We're fixing the basics and building the future.

Carl Bates

National Party Candidate
for Whanganui



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



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



Letters

Signs times

• Murray Wilson raises concerns about Council's decision to complete the Ohakune gateway signage project, but his account leaves out key facts, including his own involvement.

Ohakune is a nationally recognised tourism and recreation destination, yet its three main entry points have no clear, high-quality gateway signage. For a town whose economy relies heavily on visitors, first impressions directly influence local business and tourism spending. Strengthening our sense of arrival is not a "nice-to-have"; it is part of supporting economic activity across the district.

The project has been developed over five years by the Ohakune Governance Group, with professional design work and supplier time contributed at no cost as a local investment. Importantly, this work began while Murray Wilson himself was a councillor. At no stage during that period did he raise objections to the project's purpose, design, or funding pathway.

The project was advanced in good faith because it had confirmed funding through the Department of Internal Affairs' Better Off Fund, which was specifically intended for community wellbeing and placemaking initiatives. With the change of government, that funding was withdrawn and redirected to Three Waters, leaving the project without the support it had been promised.

This is not a case of a community group suddenly "asking RDC to pay". The project was already fully designed, consulted on, consented, and ready for installation. Council was faced with a simple choice: abandon a project years in the making, with consents expiring and significant community contribution already invested, or complete it as a capital item, like any other long-lived asset.

It is fair to debate priorities, but it is inaccurate to suggest this project displaced core infrastructure or was pushed ahead of others. It was already at its final stage. Allowing the consents to lapse and discarding years of work would not have been fiscally prudent.

Completing the gateway signs supports local identity, strengthens our tourism economy, and honours the contribution already made

by the community. The only thing that changed was the government's withdrawal of the funding that had originally been allocated for exactly this kind of project.

John Chapman

Tree names origins

• When European settlers landed on these shores and found strange new plants, they named them after similar European plants; beech, pine, flax. And when Polynesians arrived from the tropical Pacific, they did the same.

Pandanus or 'whara' did not grow here, but our swamp flax and Astelia provided similar fibres essential for sailing and for making clothing, so they were named hara-keke (creaking pandanus) and pu-wharawhara (bundles like pandanus).

Porcupine fish or 'tōtara' on coral reefs had sharp-pointed (tara) scales that opened out (tō) when they puffed up, and there are several NZ trees with sharp-pointed leaves named after them.

Seaweed that hung down in streamers from rocks were 'limu' or 'rimu,' giving us our 'sea-weed tree.'

'Nuka' is an old Pacific word meaning 'wound,' and 'nukanuka' is a Pacific Island plant with medicinal properties, plus hard wood suitable for fighting. Hence our manuka and kanuka trees.

When I was a teacher in Fiji in the 1970s I went for a walk in the jungle with two young lads, and a couple of bright red 'apples' fell at my feet after one of them hurled a stick up into a tree; "Kavika sir." That was my introduction to the Malay Apple hardwood tree, which Austronesian voyagers spread all over the tropical Pacific. In our colder climate we have the kahikatea, covered in red berries at ground level, and kahikatoa, an alternative name for mānuka. A fighting staff of that wood was often anointed with an enemy's red blood.

Only a few tree names like koromiko, horopito, hinau and puriri are indigenous, while many names, like pō-nga, can be traced right back 5000 years to Taiwan, so when we go naming trees in our forests, we are often time-travelling back several millennia. (temarareo.org)

It would be good if we could make this information, and more, about our trees widely known to those visiting our region.

John Archer

Rural KiwiSaver changes to be fast-tracked

Suze Redmayne, Ruapehu and Rangitikei's MP, discusses KiwiSaver changes:

• The Government is fast-tracking changes to KiwiSaver that will benefit farmers, farm workers and defence personnel across the country.

Since 2010, Kiwis have been able to withdraw from their KiwiSaver account to assist with the purchase of their first home – provided they live in it.

However, workers in service tenancies such as farm workers, defence personnel, clergy and some teachers and police officers in rural communities have effectively been locked out of first home ownership because their jobs require them to live in employer-provided housing.

I'm really pleased to have played a part in bringing about this change.

It was Tirrell, our stock manager at 'Tunnel Hill' who brought to my attention how unfair the current legislation was. He wanted to get on the property ladder and had a good portion of the deposit for a first home in his KiwiSaver, only he wasn't allowed to use it as he was working and living at Tunnel Hill.

This wasn't an isolated case. I knew many others across Rangitikei, were in the same situation and it's what motivated me to put a Member's Bill forward in November 2024.

If you work hard and save hard, you should be able to get ahead – no matter who you are, where you live, or what you do for a job.

I'm delighted Finance Minister Nicola Willis and Commerce and Consumer Affairs Minister Scott Simpson are now going to pick up this work as a Government Bill, and I'm grateful for their support and advocacy.

The Bill will make two main changes.

Firstly, it will exempt those in service tenancies from the requirement to live in their first home dwelling for at least six months when they purchase it with their KiwiSaver funds.

Secondly, it allows a KiwiSaver member to withdraw funds to buy a farm through an entity they are a majority shareholder in. The current law states a farm must be purchased in their own name – but a farm is usually owned by an entity because it is both a business and a home.

This change reflects the commercial reality of modern farm ownership. It will help young farmers put down roots, invest in their futures, and continue contributing to an industry that fuels our entire economy.

These are targeted, practical changes that will make the system fairer and more reflective of the way people live and work, while still maintaining KiwiSaver's core purpose. National is fixing the basics and building the future of our primary sector – and country.

Ohakune Squash

Ohakune Squash Club's Interbusiness round 4 results: Wolverine beat Deadman Carrots 12-6, Avengers beat Black Widow 11-7, Ironman beat Hulk 12-6, Deadman Logging beat Doctor Strange 11/7, Tohunga Boasts beat Daredevil 14-5, Deadpool beat Thor Captain America 15-3, Spiderman beat Captain Marvel 14-4, Hulk beat 100 Watts 14-4, Under Construction beat Monsters Inc 13-8.

Points to date: Pool One – Ironman 71, Deadpool 61, Thor 42, Captain America 25, Captain Marvel 25, Spiderman 24. Pool Two – Avengers 49, Daredevil 47, Black Widow 44, Hulk 43, Tohunga Boasts 14, 100 Watts 14. Pool Three – Wolverine 63, Deadman Carrots 57, Under Construction 56, Monster Inc 36, Deadman Logging 23, Doctor Strange 19. Weekly non-member bonuses and new member bonuses to date are all added in. Note that subs must be paid by this Thursday for 5 point bonuses to be added in.

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

Entries are rolling in for the Ruapehu Cleaning & Property Maintenance B grade tournament for the weekend of 20/21 March.

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

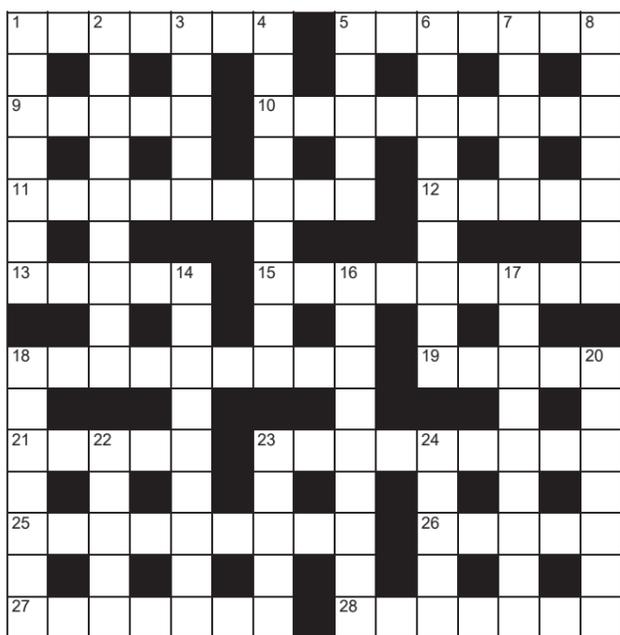
QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

1. Financial supporter (7)
5. Puku (7)
9. Pip fruit (5)
10. Extremely strict (9)
11. Distinctive characteristic (9)
12. Scope (5)
13. Sunday meal (5)
15. Beyond value (9)
18. Gracefully (9)
19. Diving apparatus (5)
21. Damages (5)
23. Gloomy (9)
25. Puzzling (9)
26. Fierce stare (5)
27. Unruly (7)
28. Unlimited (7)

Down

1. Strew (7)
2. Children's home (9)
3. Strain (5)
4. Walkway for VIPs (3,6)
5. Light meal (5)
6. Having no scent (9)
7. Bird-like (5)
8. Yearns (7)



14. Alter (9)
16. Group of US universities (3,6)
17. Itemise (9)
18. Morally correct (7)
20. Replies (7)
22. Replenish (5)
23. Weeps (5)
24. Stiff (5)



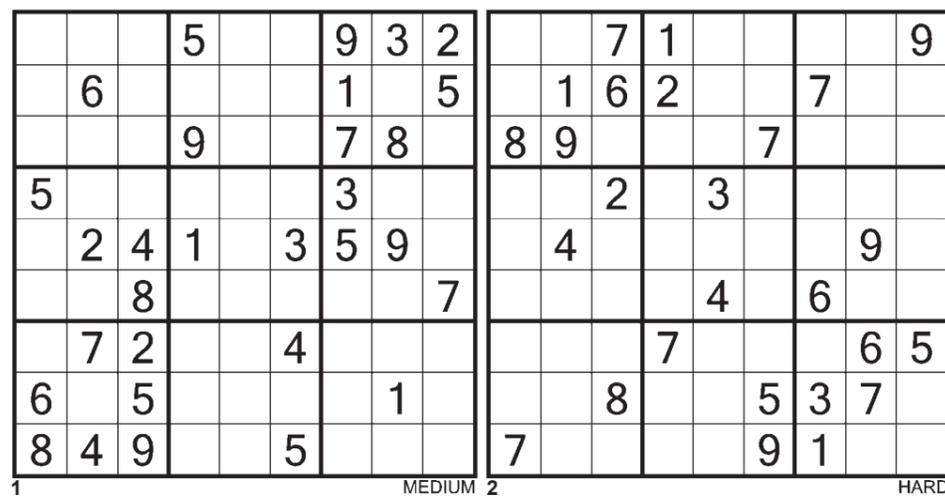
Puzzles © The Puzzle Company

THE TOP 10

1 Kina, 2 Three, 3 Amy Johnson, 4 Pulp Fiction, 5 Fear of sitting in the dark, 6 Thomas Edison, 7 Ruby Tuesday, 8 1950s, 9 Fish, 10 Rimu.

SUDOKU

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



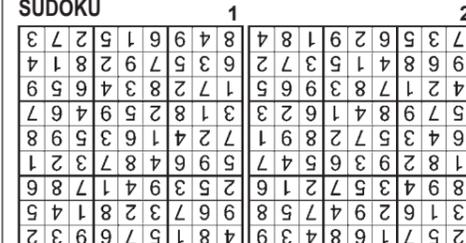
The Top 10

1. What is the Māori name for the spine-covered sea urchin?
2. How many balls are used in billiards?
3. Which female flew solo from England to Australia in 1930?
4. What was Quentin Tarantino's follow-up to *Reservoir Dogs*?
5. Is achluophobia a fear of pregnant women, insects, or darkness?
6. Which US inventor described genius as "one per cent inspiration, 99 per cent perspiration"?
7. Which female name and day of the week combine in the title of a Rolling Stones single?
8. The TV series M*A*S*H was set in the Korean War, in which decade?
9. What type of food is Bombay duck?
10. Which New Zealand tree is also called a red pine?

CROSSWORD

Across: 1. Sponsor, 5. Stomach, 9. Apple, 10. Draconian, 11. Trademark, 12. Range, 13. Roast, 15. Piteless, 18. Elegantly, 19. Scuba, 21. Harms, 23. Cheerless, 25. Confusing, 26. Glare, 27. Lawless, 28. Endless. Down: 1. Scatter, 2. Orphanage, 3. Sieve, 4. Red carpet, 5. Snack, 6. Odourless, 7. Avian, 8. Hankers, 14. Transmute, 16. Ivy League, 17. Enumerate, 18. Ethical, 20. Answers, 22. Renew, 23. Cries, 24. Rigid.

SUDOKU



Counting the tops: Rabbit finds a winner

Councillor Rabbit Nottage counts bottle caps, with help from Glenys Fowle, one of the entrants to the competition to save bottle caps from going into the kerbside recycling bins. Rabbit says even though many lids have the recycling symbol on them, they can't be put through the current recycling system as they can clog up the machines. He thanked the many people who entered the competition, that was aimed to encourage people to keep their lids out of their recycling. The winning entry was over 2000 lids, from Indi Taylor. Second was 636 from Glenys Fowle and third was Pax King, with 193. Rabbit said he is going to the recycling centre in Hamilton to better understand the recycling process and plans to report back to council on the issues. Photo supplied.

January chopper missions

The Greenlea Rescue Helicopter, which serves the Central Plateau and Lakes region, carried out 36 missions throughout January.

The missions included 19 inter-hospital transfers, two medical events, seven rural/farm incidents, two motor vehicle accident and six miscellaneous missions.

The Greenlea Rescue Helicopter was most often seen in Taupo with 9 inter-hospital transfers, Rotorua with five inter-hospital transfers and Taumarunui with four inter-hospital transfers.

The month started with the Helicopter being dispatched to Turangi for a male who sustained injuries while kayaking after a significant fall over an 8-metre waterfall. He was treated on scene by the onboard Critical Care Flight Paramedic before being airlifted to Rotorua Hospital for ongoing treatment.

Later that afternoon, the Greenlea Rescue Helicopter flew to Taumarunui Hospital after being tasked to assist a female suffering from a medical event. She was airlifted to Waikato Hospital to receive ongoing care.

On Wednesday afternoon, 7 January, the Helicopter was tasked to Rotorua Hospital for a female suffering with chest pains. The patient was flown to Waikato Hospital to receive further care.

On Friday evening, 9 January, the Helicopter was tasked to Taupo Hospital for a

female in serious condition. She was flown swiftly to Rotorua Hospital to receive ongoing care.

On Sunday evening, 11 January, the Helicopter was tasked to Taumarunui Hospital for a female who had sustained injuries following a fall. She was flown to Waikato Hospital for further treatment.

On Monday evening, 12 January, the Helicopter was dispatched to Lake Rotoiti for a female who had sustained injuries following a fall. She was airlifted to Rotorua Hospital after receiving treatment on scene.

On Monday morning, 19 January, the Helicopter was tasked to Turangi for a male who had sustained serious injuries. He was stabilised on scene and flown to Rotorua Hospital for further care.

On 30 January, the rescue helicopter was tasked to Tongariro National Park for a male who had sustained injuries following a fall. He was treated on scene before being airlifted to Waikato Hospital to receive ongoing care.

The month ended with the Greenlea Rescue Helicopter dispatched to Otukou for a male who had sustained serious injuries following a motor vehicle accident. He was stabilised on scene before being flown to Waikato Hospital to receive further advanced care.

Support for the Helicopter can be made at <https://give.rescue.org.nz/event/greenlea-rescue-helicopter/donate>







Extra funding to protect your land.

We've increased SLUI grant rates for most work types, so you get even more benefit for your buck.

If you're planning fencing, planting, or other hill country projects, contact your LMA or visit our website to find out how your farm could benefit.

Call 0508 800 800 or visit
horizons.govt.nz/managing-natural-resources/land



horizons.govt.nz





Education Grants and Scholarships are OPEN
for eligible uri.

Closing date 31 March 2026.

EDUCATION GRANTS:

covers course fees for uri enrolled in:

- Secondary school
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Rescue chopper marks Women's Day

International Women's Day on Sunday, the Greenlea Rescue Helicopter recognised the vital contributions women make on-board the rescue helicopter and the wider community. As part of this celebration, Air Crew Officer/Paramedic Zoe offers a glimpse into a day in her life.

Her skills and dedication are central to ensuring life-saving missions can happen every day, often in the most challenging conditions. As both a paramedic and air crew officer, she acts as the pilot's second set of eyes and ears while also supporting the critical care flight paramedic during missions.

Her day begins with checking the aircraft fuel and oxygen levels, followed by making sure all the medical and rescue equipment is in the aircraft and secured. She then meets with the pilot to discuss weather, flight conditions, aviation notices relevant to the shift, and any aircraft or base duties needing attention.

Whether her shift starts at 7am or 7pm, Zoe prepares early so she's ready to respond the moment a call comes in.

Each day brings different scenery, different people, and different challenges – something Zoe knows well. The variety within the role offers constant opportunities to use and develop a wide range of skills.

One constant is ongoing training. With no day ever the same, the crew must remain prepared for the unknown. On quieter days without callouts, they will “spend the day undertaking either some medical or crew training and completing inventory checks”.

In 2025, the Greenlea Rescue Helicopter completed 519 missions.

The Trust thanks Zoe and all the exceptional women working onboard the rescue helicopters.

“Their impact is profound, contributing to life-saving work that touches hundreds of families each year.”

The Greenlea Rescue Helicopter relies on generous donations to help fund its life-saving missions. Readers can donate to the local rescue helicopter at <https://give.rescue.org.nz/event/greenlea-rescue-helicopter/donate>



Zoe, one of many women working on rescue helicopters around New Zealand. Photo: Greenlea Rescue Helicopter.

Taihape disc golf is live



Haydn, Zac and Phil from Discshop – builders of Taihape's new disc golf course. Photo: Discshop.

Disc golf has arrived in Taihape, with the construction of a new course at the Nga Awa Block at Memorial Park.

In just six days, the build crew of three – Haydn, Zac, and Phil from Discshop – turned this challenging terrain into “a very cool, 100% complete 9-basket, 18-tee course.”

The course is designed to get the local community hooked.

“Expect giant trees, raised baskets, and gentle elevation,” says Discshop.

“It’s fun, accessible and features the global debut of our ‘Proto-Tee Pads’.”

The course is designed from the ground up to be safe, cost-effective and easy to install and relocatable if needed.

“These are a world-first—we will continue to develop these once we see how they perform.”

For those looking for a challenge, they have added “epic” temporary tee locations throwing in the same direction as the green layout.

“Some of these holes would be at home on some of the best courses in the country. They are landscaped and ready to play right now.”

Once more budget has been allocated and demand is there, they plan to be back to install these permanently.

They thanked Ezra and Braedyn for showing up Saturday to help, and to Hautapu Rural Supplies and Taihape Engineering for their support in this project.

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Stuart Shaw obituary; councillor, counsellor, environmentalist, activist, rescuer

A well-attended memorial service was held in the Anglican Church to farewell Stuart (Stu) Shaw, a much loved and valued member of the Ruapehu District.

He was elected to the Ruapehu District Council in 1986, serving until 2007. Ratepayers saw him as someone they could go to knowing they would be listened to, and their concerns followed up.

Ruapehu's mayor, Weston Kirton, said he had at times been the top polling candidate for Council – even though his campaigning tended to be limited to a hand drawn A4 'poster' in his place of business. He noted that Stu always had the courage to stand up for what he believed in and was a friend to many in their times of need.

Stu's loves were his family, his faith, his community, and the environment – four values forming the foundation of his adult life.

A loving husband and parent, Stu is survived by his wife Peg, three sons and multiple grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Stu established and for many years

ran the Manunui Service Station, providing a much-valued service for the community.

His Christian beliefs were an important part of his life. In 1993 he became a lay minister in the local Anglican Parish and district, actively serving the parish and community for 26 years – helping in many ways, never seeking personal recognition.

He supported young people as a Scout leader, encouraging and supporting them to develop positive interests, confidence in themselves, and lifelong skills.

Stu was both a volunteer ambulance driver and member of the King Country Search and Rescue and, in 1975, established the NZ Mountain Safety Committee.

The environment was Stu's other passion, stretching from his boyhood on the family farm at Taringamotu, to the end of his long, busy life.

Stu was an intrepid mountaineer and bushman, and a founding member of the Taumarunui Tramping Club. He was a qualified bushcraft instructor passing on his knowledge and skills to benefit

the environment.

For many years Stu was a member of the King Country branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Society. He was involved with the Native Forest Action Council and Tongariro Forest Park Promotion Committee, two initiatives that helped lead to what is today recognised as the Tongariro Forest Park.

He was also one of the staunch activists whose protests in the 1970s were key to saving 1000-year-old podocarp trees from being logged and led to the establishment of the Pureora Forest Park. This marked a major shift in New Zealand conservation, moving from exploitation to protection, and resulted in what is today recognised as one of the 'finest rain forests in the world' (Wikipedia).

The Te Peka reserve was perhaps the project dearest to Stu's heart. With the support of the Tramping Club, he set up the Te Peka Land Care group to nurture and enhance Te Peka as a community taonga. Together with the help of Community Service workers, the group enhanced and protected the developing bush and established walking tracks and



Stuart Shaw – Ruapehu District Councillor for over 20 years.

picnic tables, to develop what is said to be one of the town's 'scenic gems'.

Stu never sought public recognition or reward, but his community noted it anyway. In 2019, Ara Poutama Aotearoa (Department of Corrections) awarded Stu their Kaitiaki award for 'exceptional commitment to their value

of kaitiakitanga (care of the environment). And in 2023 Stu received the Northern Ruapehu Citizens Award for his contribution to so many aspects of his community.

Stu's family expressed their thanks for the kind messages shared on Facebook at the time of his passing.



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Still time to sign up for Blazing

The team organising the Blazing Hills trail run event on Saturday have reported that they have around 300 athletes signed up – many of them from out of the area – but there is still plenty of space for locals.

“The wait is almost over – Blazing Hills 2026 is this week,” says Donna Journeaux.

“Get ready to conquer hills, tackle epic obstacles and soak up an unforgettable day on the exclusive trails of Ruapehu.

“Whether you’re hitting the trails on the

4km, 6km, 11km or 21km trails, or braving the fiery options on the OCR (obstacle course racing) 1.5km, 3km, 7km, 10km, this is your final call to get prepped, get pumped and get excited,” says Donna.

The event is held on private farmland off the Mangaeturoa South Road, Raetihi.

Registrations and check-in will be at The Centre in Raetihi, from 3.00pm to 7.00pm on Friday, with the event kicking off from 8.00am on Saturday.



Competitors head off on the Blazing Hills trails. Photo: Blazing Hills.

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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



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

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

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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

OE CT

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.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012
Nishva & Dhyam 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 second publication of this notice. The first notice was published on 4 March 2026.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Waimarino Health Shuttle 

Need to get to a health appointment in Whanganui or Palmerston North?

Book on 0800 266 547

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

MEETINGS

The following meeting of Horizons Regional Council, previously advertised as Public Excluded, will now be open to the public:

Tuesday, 17 March
1.00pm Regional Council (Livestreamed)

M J McCartney
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



TAIHAPE VETERINARY CLUB (INC)
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is given that the **79th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of members of the TAIHAPE VETERINARY CLUB (INC) will be held at the Powderhorn Chateau, Ohakune on Thursday 19 March 2026 commencing at 6pm.

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To apply, please visit <https://www.ruapehudc.govt.nz/our-council/employment/current-vacancies>.
Applications close Friday 13th March 2026

Waimarino is first rodeo for 2026

The Waimarino Rodeo is the first of the new season for New Zealand and entries are looking very good with outstanding numbers and competitors attending, says committee member Cathy McLean.

"It will be a full, packed weekend with two full rodeos – one on Saturday and one on Sunday.
"There are sideshows and retail stalls, food stalls to suit all tastes."
New Zealand's top competitors will be there and up and coming juniors will also be performing
"Our local junior Rylee Mallalieu from Ruanui Station is NZ's junior steer rider for 2025/2026, who will be competing at Waimarino."
"A big thank you to all our sponsors who, without them, this event could not go ahead."
Stock is provided by contractors WFL Bucking Bulls, D McConnell bulls, C Potts, time event stock, Bybs Gibson time event stock, Rodney Limmer Horses Waimarino Club Horses, Whitelocks Horses, Kim Young & Sons steers.
"Without their continuing support and continued training of the stock, these events could not happen."
"And finally, to our committee and supporters – a special thanks for all your hard work and time given freely to keep this great event happening."
Local night is Friday night starting at 6pm, with barrel racing and local steers.
"Anyone with steers that we could use would be appreciated – please contact Shane 027-485-9527
"We welcome you all to our great event next week – 21 and 22 March and hope to see you all there," invites Cathy.

Waimarino golf

On Saturday 28 February the Waimarino Gold Club's pennant team faced off against Rangitikei at home under beautiful skies with a few of the matches going down to the last couple of holes. The team managed to secure a 8.5-0.5 win.
The win on Saturday puts the team in second place.
In conjunction with pennants a haggie was run. With the format being stableford. Results are: 1st Scott Irwin 40 points; 2nd Geoff Leahy 39 points (on countback); 3rd Kimberley Warbrick also on 39 points.
NTP was won by Geoff Leahy
The Club thanks Kaylene and Amoa for the side spread and service; Jerry and volunteers for the course presentation.
Last Thursday was the Club's final night of Twilight Golf for the season.
"A big thank you to Kaylene for her unwavering support throughout the season and to Jerry for taking care of the cards each week," said a Club spokesperson.
"We also sincerely thank our generous sponsors: New World, Youngs Gardens, Josh Hooper, Cody Scarrow, Brad Berry, Hayley and Ruapehu Brewing Company for helping make Twilight Golf possible.
"Thank you to everyone who has supported and been part of the Twilight Golf community this season. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday for the final night."
Saturday report
"It was a great day out on the course Saturday with a fantastic turnout for our Haggie," said the spokesperson.
The day also marked the 1st round of Club Championship Qualifying.
"We were also privileged to be joined by our visitors from the NZ Army, who added to the atmosphere and competitiveness of the day.
"The course provided a solid test for players, with conditions making for an enjoyable and competitive round as everyone looked to put a good score on the board for qualifying.
Format was Nett, and the results are: 1 Piha Smith 66; 2. Kimberley Scott Warbrick Irwin 67; 3. Kawai 71 (CB); 4. Geoff Leahy 71; 5. Margaret Pikari 72; 6. James Turipa 72. NTP: Geoff Leahy. Twos: Aiden Gilbert.
This week the Club hosts the NZ Services as they contest their Championships. Players will be taking on a huge challenge, competing over 36 holes a day.
"We wish all competitors the very best of luck for the week ahead."

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WAIMARINO BULLETIN

VOICE OF THE RUAPEHU REGION
Tuesday 11 March, 1986. Volume 3 No. 39

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Amalgamation compromise

Councillors from the three Waimarino councils accepted a compromise agreement on amalgamation last night at a combined meeting.

Amalgamation is to be delayed until 1 April 1988 though legal aspects will be started now.

Mr Brian Elwood, chairman of the Local Government Commission, faced hard bargaining from councillors, particularly from the Waimarino County Council.

Earlier in the day he had been presented with a paper from the county council which asked for a "stay of proceedings" on amalgamation because of economic problems facing farmers, plus the impact of G.S.T. and local authority wage increases, and which also set out "anticipated costs for amalgamation."

At the evening meeting however Mr Elwood said he thought those costs were not realistic.

"You could unite tomorrow and not have costs one dollar more than running the three separate councils," he said.

Earlier in the meeting Mr Elwood pointed out that the proposed Waimarino district council was too small for the commission's liking and was still likely to suffer inefficiencies.

"But I supported that concept because of the community of interest and because I thought there was genuine support."

He said that if there was not that support then the commission would be compelled under law to look at larger proposals.

Bruce Berry, chairman of the Waimarino County Council, said ratepayers had come to council with their fears.

"We want to give them clear assurance that we are embarking on something which will be to their benefit."

"We do not challenge the concept of a district council — we ask for a moratorium."

Raetihi Mayor Garrick Workman said that many people wished the councils would resolve the amalgamation issue.

"I have mentioned the possibilities of exploring wider proposals but I have been persuaded it is in our best interests to proceed."

Ohakune Mayor Bill Taylor said the Ohakune Borough Council wanted union and saw no reason why it could not go ahead although they appreciated the county's view.

Mr Elwood's suggestion of a delay until 1 April 1988 if all councils agreed to amalgamation was accepted.

"We could put all the legal formalities together but delay implementation until then — this will allow the county to get through this financial year," he said.

Problems arose with this proposal when councillors discussed the sharing of administration costs, which had been the major stumbling block all along.

After great debate this issue was resolved on the basis of the proportion of rate income collected by each authority, Raetihi 20 per cent, Ohakune 37 per cent and Waimarino 43 per cent.

Desert fair attracts big crowds



The drum major of the 7th Duke of Edinburgh's own Gurkha Rifles, 2nd battalion pipe band, leads the band at the Desert Fair on Saturday. The band's marching and playing impressed the large crowd.

Local clubs will soon receive the benefit of what has been described as the most successful Desert Fair ever, with about \$10,000 raised for pre-school children.

With Saturday a brilliantly fine day about 7500 people turned out for the Waiouru fair.

Lieutenant John Hatton, promoter of the fair, said the public's support was greatly appreciated.

"The local community showed their support to the fullest extent," he said.

Lieutenant Hatton said that most businesses and clubs had very lucrative sales.

"We are already selling sites for next year's fair," he said.

Highlights of the day included the Special Air Service helicopter and parachuting displays, an RNZAF Skyhawk simulated air-strike and the Hong Kong-based Gurkha pipe band.

From raffle sales it is evident that people came from as far away as Warkworth in the north and Wellington in the south.

Soon after 4pm the crowd left and the stalls were packed away. Later in the day the ground was spotless thanks to the Regular Force basics recruits from the Waiouru training depot, who cleaned up the rubbish.

Next year, Lieutenant Hatton said the fair will be bigger and even better, with the public address system problems sorted out and better toilet facilities.

Halley's Comet over the Waimarino

Halley's Comet was clearly visible in the skies above the Waimarino during the early hours of last Saturday morning according to one observer.

Former Bulletin editor, Dennis Beytagh of Ohakune, said that he first saw the comet in a clear night sky at 3.45am "to the left of the rising moon and just slightly above it."

It was clearly visible to the naked eye without a telescope or binoculars and was easily identifiable by its long 'tail' pointing away from the moon (see diagram).

"It was unmistakable

and quite unlike anything else in the sky that night... I watched it until it gradually faded and finally disappeared at about 5.15am as the sky became lighter," he said.

"What surprised me was that it was so high above the eastern horizon. I had been expecting to see it much further down in the sky but it was about a hand's span (the distance between outstretched thumb and small finger at arm's length) above the horizon when I first saw it and about two hand spans (40 degrees) when it faded into the morning light.

"The length of the 'tail' appeared to be nearly twice the diameter of the moon while the 'head' was fuzzy-looking and didn't have the sharply defined outlines of two nearby stars."



05:00/8.3.86

Dennis Beytagh's sketch of his view of Halley's Comet on Saturday morning.

Ohakune water scheme

Ohakune's water supply, described by the Health Department as "probably New Zealand's most potentially dangerous water supply," is to be upgraded with a new water treatment plant.

The Ohakune Borough Council have accepted in principle a proposal by consulting engineers, Payne Sewell Ltd, and asked that they submit the \$490,000 proposal for approval to the Health Department.

The council accepted the proposal at a special meeting of full council last Wednesday when consulting engineer Tom Payne answered questions on his firm's proposals.

Principal Inspector of Health, Don Cairns, from Wanganui, also attended the meeting.

Mr Cairns told councillors that recent bacteriological samples taken from the

water showed increasing levels of pollution.

Ohakune water has received the lowest E grading, in the last two five-yearly grading exercises by the Department of Health.

In their proposal to council, Payne Sewell Ltd reported an "unquestioned need" for disinfection against microbiological organisms and said chlorine gas for disinfection and caustic soda for Ph correction would be required.

Their report recommended a wood stave reservoir which has a guaranteed life of 20 years, as opposed to a concrete tank which would have a longer life, but would cost more than twice as much.

The council is entitled to a 37 per cent subsidy based on population at the last census.

The next finance and administration committee meeting is to decide where to find the remaining \$300,000.

NEWS 58-681

Your Community Newspaper

ADS 58-532

The news, 40 years ago. The other pages and other Bulletins can be found at the Papers Past website, paperspast.natlib.govt.nz

Watch out around power lines: power advice

The Lines Company (TLC) is reminding contractors, farmers and rural communities to look up and keep clear of overhead power lines, following recent incidents involving agricultural equipment coming too close to the network.

TLC has received reports of bales being stacked underneath power lines, increasing the risk of contact — particularly when people climb on them or machinery is operating nearby.

“When it comes to electrical safety, there is no room for error,” says Simon Batters, general manager people and safety.

“You don’t have to touch a power line to be seriously injured or killed. Electricity can jump from lines to nearby equipment or objects.”

Nearly every worksite has overhead lines and TLC is urging everyone working near the network to:

- Stay at least four metres away from overhead power lines.
- Avoid storing materials underneath or near lines.
- Treat all downed lines as live.
- Stop work if there is any doubt.

If equipment comes into contact with a power line, keep well clear. Operators should stay inside the vehicle and call TLC immediately.

“Our priority is simple — ensuring everyone makes it home safely to their whānau,” said Batters.

For advice or to report a concern, contact 0800 367 546 or visit thelinescompany.co.nz.



Working near overhead powerlines can have serious consequences. Photo supplied by TLC.

Looking after blue duck – right here at home

March is Whio Awareness Month and it’s all about one very special bird that lives right here in our backyard – the whio, also known as the blue duck.

The whio (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos*) is found only in New Zealand. You might even recognise it from the \$10 note. But there are now fewer than 3000 left in the wild, which means they need our help.

What makes whio so special?

Whio are not like your average duck. They don’t live on ponds or lakes. They live in fast-flowing rivers and streams, like the Whakapapa River.

They have: blue-grey feathers that blend in with river rocks, bright yellow eyes; a special soft-edged bill that helps them scrape insects off stones in rushing water.

If whio are living in a river, it usually means that river is clean and healthy.

The threats they face

Whio are tough birds, but they struggle against introduced predators like stoats and rats. These predators attack eggs and chicks, which makes it hard for whio numbers to grow.

That’s why predator control is so important.

Local volunteer group, Ōwhango Alive, has been working since 2011 to protect native wildlife in the Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve and along the Whakapapa River.

What started as just a few people and a handful of traps has grown into a strong team of volunteers running hundreds of traps.

They’ve now trapped thousands of predators, helping give whio and other native birds a better chance to survive and raise their young.

They also run working bees, help educate kids about conservation, and bring the community together to look after our special places.

You don’t have to be an expert to make a difference. You can: support local predator control; keep rubbish out of rivers; tell others about whio; donate or volunteer with Ōwhango Alive or other conservation groups.



Whio are under threat but local conservation groups are working hard to make a difference. Photo: Rachel Anderson-Smith.



Whio ducklings on the Mangatepopo River. Photos: Liz Brooker.

True Team Promise means our whole team works for you.

Contact your local Ohakune Consultant today!



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