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Horse muster back on P2



Rare plant thrives after fire P3



Iwi signs Govt plan P8

It's Rodeo & Shears time!

Ruapehu faces 9% rates hike: 'hard choices ahead'

Ruapehu District councillors have voted to maintain an average rate rise of 9% for 2026/27 in line with the current ten-year 2024/34 Long-Term Plan rate commitments.

Chief executive Clive Manley said maintaining the 9% average increase over the past three years has been extremely challenging, with Council facing rising costs, reduced Government funding support, and significant local government reforms.

"Since the Long-Term Plan was adopted, core costs have increased well above the assumptions we originally made, dramatically changing Council's financial landscape," he said.

"To keep the increase at 9%, Council has had to carefully juggle its work programme each year.

"This has included deferring some projects, maintenance and depreciation spending, leveraging capital subsidies where available, and identifying operational savings while still maintaining services for the community."

Manley said maintaining the services and commitments outlined in the Long-Term Plan – along with accommodating new Council decisions – would otherwise have required a rates increase closer to 15%.

"Council was able to keep the increase at 9% by deferring some planned maintenance, limiting some increases in service levels, taking advantage of higher

Turn to Page 3

Blazing Hills: a rugged but beautiful run



An obstacle course was added to one of the Blazing Hills trail run event options on Saturday, complete with a spectacular water slide. Photo: Blazing Hills.

The 2026 Blazing Hills Run, Walk & Obstacle event was "an absolutely amazing day", perfectly capturing the spirit of the community, says organiser Donna Journeaux.

"This event is a true reflection of what can happen when locals pull together with passion, energy and heart.

"This year we welcomed 385 entries, and the atmosphere from start to finish was nothing short of electric. Our volunteers, supporters and wider community once again proved how awesome they are, stepping up to help us host an event we can all be proud of.

"A huge thank you goes out to our sponsors, whose generosity and belief in Blazing Hills make days like this possible.

"We're incredibly proud of what we achieved together and grateful for everyone who played a part in making the 2026 event such a success.

"And we have a huge thank you to all the landowners."

Greg Witika says "being the new kid on the block", initially brought in to help take the load off Hania Aitken who had done a tremendous job putting the OCR side together the previous year he had "the unique opportunity to witness firsthand the incredible power of community".

"Our dedicated obstacle marshals, in particular, were nothing short of amazing. Their commitment to ensuring participant safety and enjoyment was evident, and each brought their unique backgrounds and skills to the table, enriching the kaupapa of manaakitanga by making sure each participant left them in a better state than they arrived."

He said the rugged but beautiful trails of Raetihi provided the perfect backdrop for this exciting event.

"Blazing Hills was more than just a sporting event – it was a celebration of community, resilience, and the power of teamwork and I'm proud to have been a part of it."

AUTUMN ALERT

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Kaimanawa horse muster to go ahead after funding uncertainty

By Jimmy Ellingham, RNZ

This year's muster of Kaimanawa wild horses in the Central North Island will go ahead after the Department of Conservation backed down from plans not to fund it.

That decision's been welcomed by a champion of the horses, who said they were at risk of getting culled if numbers weren't controlled with an annual muster.

The department said it was targeting a population of about 300 horses, which was more than 200 fewer than the number roaming military-owned land in the Central Plateau.

Kaimanawa Legacy Foundation founding board member Kelly Wilson said it and fellow charity, the Kaimanawa Heritage Horses Welfare Society, were approached by DOC a few weeks ago, saying this year's muster was to happen in late March but if the charities wanted it to go ahead they'd have to fund it.

"[This] put us into quite a predicament because, obviously, it's really high priority that we keep the herd at a sustainable number, because as it escalates the risk of culling as a management tool becomes higher," Wilson said.

"But, obviously, with no notice to be able to come up with that kind of budget is almost impossible. The musters cost anywhere from \$80,000 to \$130,000, depending on how many horses are moved from the mountains and there was real concern that this year a muster wouldn't be happening."

The charities negotiated with DOC, which offered a couple of compromise deals, before discussions with its director-general resulted in the department agreeing to pick up the tab for a "mega muster" in April, as well as using immunocontraception – fertility control – on 50 horses.

Wilson said this year's muster would aim to remove 149 horses from the mountains, leaving about 400.

If horse numbers weren't managed, they'd hit 1100 in three years.

If the department hadn't changed its mind about funding the muster, Wilson wasn't sure the charities would have found the money for it.

"The problem with raising that money is that we're also in the time period where we are actively fundraising to help save horses.

"Kaimanawa Heritage Horses fundraisers during this time to support welfare cases and Kaimanawa Legacy Foundation is fundraising to support initial handling subsidies, which can be a deal breaker for someone considering rehoming a horse, because having a \$1000 subsidy towards the horse's training cost can be a make or break for a potential owner looking to save a life."

Last year 226 were taken and it was a "mammoth task" to find homes for that many, a task that would be hard to repeat, Wilson said.

For now, the charities were focused on rehoming horses from this year's muster.

Applications for horses closed in early April and so far there had only been five, Wilson said.

DOC's Taupō operations manager Dave Conley said details for this year's muster, such as cost, weren't fully finalised, but he confirmed the department would fund it.

"The Kaimanawa Wild Horse Advisory Group will meet later this week to finalise the planning and operational components of the muster," he said.

That group included the charities, iwi and the Defence Force. "DOC originally declined to fund this year's muster due to internal budget reprioritisation and recent shifts in conservation focus and funding priorities," he said.



Spectacular Kaimanawa horses, but numbers are climbing. Photo: Helen McLean-Knight.

"This has changed because we are now considering an approach that would allow a muster to proceed this year while potentially eliminating the need for one next year."

That included piloting the use of contraceptives for horses.

Conley said no decisions had been made about future musters.

"The department initiated a population

management programme in 1995 to maintain the Kaimanawa wild horse herd at a sustainable level and minimise impacts on rare and threatened plant species in the Moawhango Ecological Zone.

"The long-standing population target is 300 horses, which is considered sufficient to maintain genetic diversity in the horse herd."

The horses had lived in the area for more than a century.

Ruapehu Events & What's On

MARCH 2026

Royal Theatre Movies, starts 7pm
The Great Race 21 March
A Fist Full of Dollars 28 March

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 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 @instagram.com/taihapegumbootdaynz

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

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Trust breaks ranks with Mardi Gras promotor

Three successive years of Mardi Gras event losses, combined with a frustrating year of trying to obtain financial transparency from promotor Audiology, has seen Ohakune Events Charitable Trust (OECT) conclude their event management contact.

This was not the only shock announcement at the OECT 2025 AGM hosted at the Powderhorn Chateau on Monday night, which also saw Trust chair Emma Young share her intent to resign.

In presenting the OECT annual report she said that over the last year the OECT had been working through a number of matters specifically relating to the governance and administration of the Ohakune Mardi Gras event.

"As Trustees we have legal duties under the Trust Deed and relevant legislation, including the Charities Act and Trusts Act, to ensure that the affairs of the Trust are managed with appropriate transparency, accountability and oversight.

"As owners of the event, we acknowledge the work of the contractors, suppliers, sponsors and volunteers who play a role in delivering the event each year and their efforts contribute to creating an experience that continues to attract visitors to the region and support the local hospitality and tourism sectors.

"However, in the process of reviewing the financial information relating to the 2025 Mardi Gras event, we identified that the accounts relating to the agreement with Audiology Touring Ltd had not been fully reconciled since the first Audiology-run event in 2018."

Ms Young said having sought legal advice and following discussions with the Trusts chartered accountant, without an ability to obtain the necessary information and appropriate oversight, the OECT

Trustees could not confidently fulfil their responsibilities under the applicable legislation.

"As matters currently stand, despite multiple requests to Audiology we don't have sufficient access to the financial records, documentation or operational information required."

When asked from the floor whether Mardi Gras would be cancelled for 2026, OECT Trustee Stu Robinson was non-committal, preferring to state the Trust is currently considering future arrangements for the event.

"Obviously we want to have a massive event like Mardi Gras this year, that would be awesome, but we don't actually have anything officially signed off with anyone and we know it's very, very time sensitive."

In standing down, Young said her replacement will be found at an extraordinary meeting of the scheduled for 20 April where Trustees will consider and appoint new members to the Trust.

"My decision to step away from the trust has not been made lightly and without many tears.

"Serving in this role has been both a privilege and a great responsibility.

"I remain incredibly proud of the work that has been undertaken to support the Trust's events and the community they serve and I sincerely hope that the many hours invested during my time in this position have helped ensure the Trust remains strong and well positioned for the future."

Expressions of interest are now being sought from community members interested in becoming trustees of the OECT.

Anyone wishing to express their interest can contact the Trust via email at hello@oect.co.nz.

Anxiety rises over Ruapehu's water plan

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting
Ruapehu mayor Weston Kirton says the district must proceed with its planned two-council water organisation with Whanganui, despite fears that household charges could rise by 92 percent within eight years.

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

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

A 92 percent increase has been forecast in a Government agency assessment of the joint water services delivery plan for the Whanganui and Ruapehu district councils.

The councils are to establish a shared water services council-controlled organisation (WS-CCO) responsible for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure.

The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) assessment said households in Ruapehu could see water charges rise from an average of \$2061 per year to \$3954 over the next eight years under the projections.

The forecast has triggered concern among residents and community campaigners, some of whom have urged the Ruapehu council to abandon the plan in favour of a larger regional model to spread costs more widely.

Affordability anxiety

Kirton said the projected increase had "understandably created anxiety in our communities".



The plan states overall affordability for both districts, compared with median household income, is projected to drop from 2.2 percent in 2024/25 to 2.7 percent in 2033/34.

However, for Ruapehu's urban community – which excludes farming communities and the Waiouru township – affordability is expected to drop from 3.4 percent to 4.9 percent of median household income, almost double the DIA's affordability benchmark of 2.5 percent.

In contrast, residential properties in Whanganui are expected to pay \$1407 per year, equivalent to about 1.7 percent of median household income.

The two councils initially considered partnering in a larger Manawatū-Whanganui grouping and progressed a partnership of three with Rangitikei.

However, Rangitikei opted to work with Palmerston North and Horowhenua.

Last July, Ruapehu council voted 6-4 against joining a proposed multi-council water services entity with Palmerston North, Horowhenua, Rangitikei and possibly Whanganui, despite staff advice the larger grouping could save the district about \$38.7 million over seven years.

Instead, councillors opted to pursue a smaller partnership with Whanganui, which had yet to confirm its own approach to future water services.

Kirton opposed the move, saying modelling showed water charges would be significantly higher under the two-council option.

In August he urged councillors to reconsider, warning the decision could cost residents up to \$1000 more a year and push water charges beyond the DIA's affordability benchmark.

His call was rejected 7-3.

Embedding commitments

Kirton said Ruapehu and Whanganui would attempt to address affordability concerns by embedding commitments around fair pricing in the governance documents for the new organisation, including its constitution and statement of expectations for the yet-to-be-appointed board.

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

Tripe said the councils would embed clear expectations around equitable pricing and responsible financial management from the outset.

"That is essential to giving our communities confidence in the new entity," Tripe said.

Secretary for Local Government Paul James, who approved the joint plan, told the two councils they should continue exploring ways to reduce affordability pressures.

Possible options included harmonising water charges across the two districts or expanding the organisation in future to include other councils.

"That flexibility is significant," Kirton said. "It

enables the WS-CCO to explore opportunities to achieve greater scale and improved affordability over time."

The two-council arrangement has drawn criticism from some residents.

An anonymous social media campaign page Affordable Water Ruapehu said the projected increases could have serious consequences for Ruapehu's economy and workforce.

It said the two-council model could become a "direct handbrake" on the district's tourism sector if costs rise as forecast.

"If water bills rise to levels well beyond affordability, as current projections indicate, the district will struggle to attract and retain the workforce tourism depends on," the campaign page said.

"Workers cannot be expected to relocate, or stay, in a district where basic services like water are unaffordable."

It said holiday homeowners would also feel the impact, warning that large increases in fixed water charges would add significant costs to properties occupied only part of the year.

Those costs could be passed on through higher accommodation prices, potentially making the district less competitive against other destinations.

"The two-council WS-CCO with Whanganui is shaping up to be a financial disaster for Ruapehu, with water charges becoming unaffordable for most households," the campaign page said, urging residents to "demand affordable services".

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

Speargrass surprise revealed after Tongariro fires

The blackened, fire-charred ground at Tongariro has revealed some unexpected good news, with DOC ecologists discovering a surprising abundance of a threatened plant species.

Normally hidden amongst dense tussock, flax and mānuka scrub, the Volcanic Plateau speargrass has been exposed by the fire-cleared landscape, following extensive fires in late 2025.

DOC technical advisor and botanist Paul Cashmore says although the plant was known in the area, its abundance wouldn't have been understood without the fires.

"It's a welcome side-effect of these fires, discovering a new stronghold for this Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable species.

"It clearly can survive a fire and we expect to see it increase even more over the next few years while there is less competition for light from taller growing vegetation."

The speargrass is just one of the surprises ecologists came across in their post-fire assessments.

Wetlands were only partially impacted by the fire with many wetter areas remaining unburnt.

Cashmore says the fires burned very quickly with

varying levels of impact on the different habitats present across the approximately 3000-hectare burn zone.

"One of our memorable experiences in the field was walking into a completely intact stand of Hall's tōtara, with a chorus of native birds including toutouwai/robin!

"Remnant patches of vegetation like this act as refuges where flora and fauna have survived, which can assist with natural recolonising of the burnt area."

Cashmore says despite the optimistic outlook, there's still plenty of work to be done.

"We'll continue working closely with Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro to monitor and act, particularly where it comes to weeds and deer."

Visitors can help by staying on the tracks, says Cashmore.

"Walking on the burnt area can introduce new threats like weeds and can directly affect the recovery of slow growing alpine plants.

"So, if you're keen on naturing in this World Heritage listed landscape, we ask you to respect the 10-year rāhui by keeping off the firegrounds and sticking to the marked tracks."



Ecologist Paul Cashmore with a Volcanic Plateau speargrass. Photo: DOC

Ruapehu rates hike

From Page 1
emergency roading funding, and finding operational efficiencies," he said.

He noted that the deferred work is not being cancelled but will instead be completed at a later stage.

"These projects have simply been repathed to help manage affordability pressures at this time."

Manley said staff had also presented options for a lower rate increase, but Council was not prepared to pursue that option due to the potential downstream impacts.

While the changes to the work programme are not subject to formal consultation, Manley said Council will hold its usual community information sessions and welcomes feedback from residents.

The mayor, Weston Kirton, said he had challenged Council to consider whether a lower increase was possible and encouraged ongoing community discussion about the

future of council services.

"While I respect Council's decision to maintain our Long-Term Plan commitment of a 9% increase, we will need to make some hard decisions about future services," said Kirton.

"From next year, while Council will no longer provide water services, users will be seeing on-going increases in water charges."

"Some tough choices will need to be made to ensure we can continue providing essential services while remaining mindful of our communities' ability to pay."

Kirton said the upcoming 2027-37 Long-Term Plan will likely be one of the most significant reviews the Council has ever undertaken.

"I strongly encourage all ratepayers to understand the issues and take part in the conversations about the services they want - and what they are prepared to pay for."

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STIHL SHOP

Pest management across the region up for discussion

The regional council – that includes Ruapehu – is seeking feedback about how pest management is handled, including if the right types of species are being managed and the things the region values are being protected.

Horizons Regional Council biodiversity, biosecurity and partnerships manager Craig Davey says the launch of the biosecurity discussion document is a key part of the review of the Regional Pest Management Plan.

“The plan sets out how we, together with iwi and

hapū, landowners and other partners, tackle pest issues across the Horizons Region. It’s the bridge between the Biosecurity Act and local action on the ground,” says Davey.

Decade review

“The current plan came into effect in 2017, and we must start a review after a decade. Now is an excellent time to review the plan, as the current one was created when budgets, possible control methods, and pest species present in the region were different.”

The discussion document is a resource that people can use to learn more about how pest management currently works in the region, says Davey.

“This includes explanations about how Regional Pest Management Plans work, how they translate to actual pest control work, and how changes in our region – for example, the changes in land use – have impacted pest management.

“Part of the discussion document involves asking for feedback on our wider biosecurity approach, including if we are focusing on the

right kinds of pests, how involved we should be in on-the-ground pest management work, and if Horizons should be involved in controlling feral animals such as deer.”

People have until 30 April to provide feedback, which will be used to inform the draft Regional Pest Management Plan and develop a broader strategic biosecurity approach for the Horizons Region, says Davey.

More information is at haveyoursay.horizons.govt.nz/rpmp.

Letters

Bringing more tourists

• Our District Council has approved \$50,000 to tell Ohakune visitors that they have arrived here.

Couldn't they spend us ratepayers' money in a better way? Wouldn't a better option be paying off some of the RDC's \$61 million debt that is costing us ratepayers millions in interest payments annually?

Or advertising our remote beauty cheaply on the internet like the Manawatu District is doing, so that we persuade more visitors to come? Or sprucing up some of our existing attractions, like our barricaded and Astrourfed skatepark, our ragworty and storm-rutted Te Ara Mangawhero and our denuded Mangawhero walkway?

Or with Turoa in its twilight years as a ski field thanks to accelerating global climate extremes, would it perhaps be better to spend the money using Turoa's facilities to establish more tourist attractions: a flying fox from the High Noon, guided scientific and cultural hikes from High Noon down to Karioi, or to the Desert Road? High altitude glamping? Lord of the Rings-themed adventures, anniversaries, weddings?

And promoting complementary lower-altitude LOTR activities? This must be the only major LOTR filming region not making a million dollars or so every week from Peter Jackson's billion-dollar promotion of it.

Urban North Islanders are facing imminent rationing of petrol at skyrocketing prices, as well as fewer and prohibitively expensive overseas flights, with ever-more humid summers and a looming world recession in the longer term.

“Cool Ruapehu” will be a near-at-hand and affordable holiday option for them to come to in their EVs, and there are many more income sources that could be developed in this region to help us pay for that \$2000 rise in our water rates. You can find the details here. (tinyurl.com/ruatours)

John Archer

Local road rebuild

Contractors dig deep on Goldfinch Street in Ohakune, to remove soft material before replacing it with a better base, to improve the road that has been in a poor state for several years. The main contractor, Jilesen Contracting from Taumarunui, has taken on local contractors to help with the project. Locals have often commented that they would like the opportunity to be part of local works for Ruapehu District Council. Following the Goldfinch Street project, the team will move on to the Dreadnought Road that links Ohakune with Rangataua, to carry out similar work.



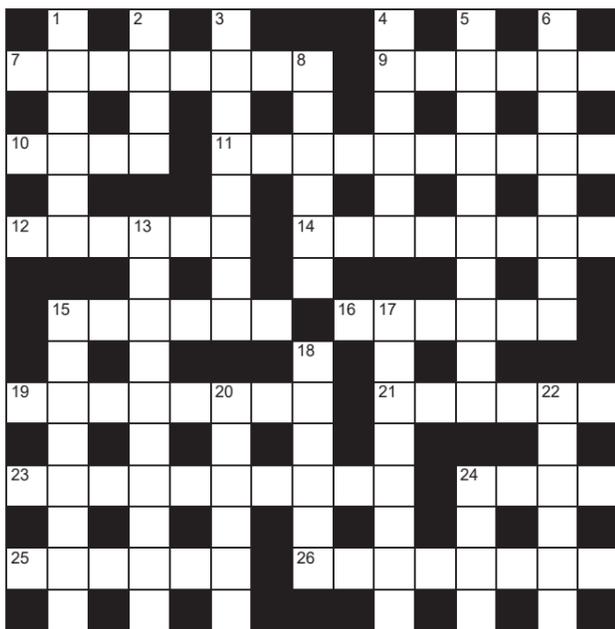
THE WEEKLY WORKOUT answers for each puzzle are included on this page

842

QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

- 7. Side on (8)
- 9. Attack from concealed position (6)
- 10. Join (4)
- 11. Demoralise (10)
- 12. Spin around (6)
- 14. Accent (8)
- 15. Mark of disgrace (6)
- 16. Become smaller (6)
- 19. Relating to ships or shipping (8)
- 21. Exile (6)
- 23. Simultaneous (10)
- 24. Trim (4)
- 25. Neutralise (6)
- 26. Tuition (8)



Down

- 1. Quirk (6)
- 2. Pack of cards (4)
- 3. Reverie (8)
- 4. Cosmetics (4-2)
- 5. Lapse of normal standards (10)
- 6. This symbol: * (8)
- 8. Method (6)
- 13. Nobleman (10)
- 15. Experienced (8)
- 17. Inveterate (8)

- 18. Although (6)
- 20. Vocation (6)
- 22. Powerful (6)
- 24. Sharp feeling of regret (4)



Puzzles © The Puzzle Company

THE TOP 10

- 1 Barbara Kendall, 2 Australia, 3 Hairdressing, 4 The Shipping News, 5 The Swingers, 6 Harvey Wallbanger, 7 5%, 8 Cheers, 9 Corsica, 10 Wallace & Gromit.

SUDOKU

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

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

HARD 2

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

EASY

The Top 10

1. Who is the only New Zealand woman to have competed at five Olympic Games?
2. Mount Kosciusko the highest peak in which country?
3. In what area of fashion did Vidal Sassoon become famous?
4. Which 1993 novel of E Annie Proulx was made into a 2001 film with Kevin Spacey as protagonist R G Quoylye?
5. Which New Zealand band had a hit with *Counting The Beat*?
6. What cocktail is made from vodka or gin, Galliano and orange juice?
7. Under MMP, what share of party vote is needed to qualify for parliamentary seats?
8. “Where Everybody Knows Your Name” was the theme for which TV series?
9. Napoleon was born on what island?
10. A Grand Day Out was the first film for which animated pair?

CROSSWORD

- Down: 1. Oddly, 2. Deck, 3. Daydream, 26. Training.
- Across: 7. Edgeways, 9. Ambush, 10. Link, 11. Dishearten, 12. Gyrate, 14. Emphasise, 15. Stigma, 16. Shrink, 19. Nautical, 21. Banish, 23. Concurrent, 24. Pare, 25. Negate.
22. Strong, 24. Pang.

SUDOKU

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

75th ANNUAL
WAIMARINO RODEO

20 - 22 March
2026

A record line-up for Waimarino Rodeo

This weekend's Waimarino Rodeo is setting up to be a cracker, with record numbers of cowboys and cowgirls signing up to show off their rodeo skills on Saturday and Sunday.

Waimarino is usually the last rodeo of the season, but by a quirk of calendaring, this year's is the first of the 2026-27 season

"Waimarino follows the finals held at Waikouaiti last weekend, which means a lot of riders have to travel up from the South Island (near Dunedin) for our event,"

says Rodeo secretary Cathy McLean.

In most years, riders head to Waimarino as their last chance for points before the national finals.

"But this year a lot are heading here to gain points for a head start in the new season - they're on a roll after the nationals.

The record entries include 50 signed up for the team roping events; 110 across the barrel races; 33 in the horse events - saddle bronc and bareback; 33 in the second divi-

Turn to Page 6



There's 110 entries into the barrel races at this weekend's Waimarino Rodeo. Photo: Lynette Vallely.



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20TH - 22ND MARCH 2026
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6PM

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NIGHT

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MARCH 8AM

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Raetihi Showgrounds

75th ANNUAL WAIMARINO RODEO

20 - 22 March 2026

From Page 5

sion bull ride; 34 in the open division and second division bareback and saddle bronc.

There's also 52 juniors across all events signed up.

"It will be a full, packed weekend with two full rodeos – one on Saturday and one on Sunday," says Cathy.

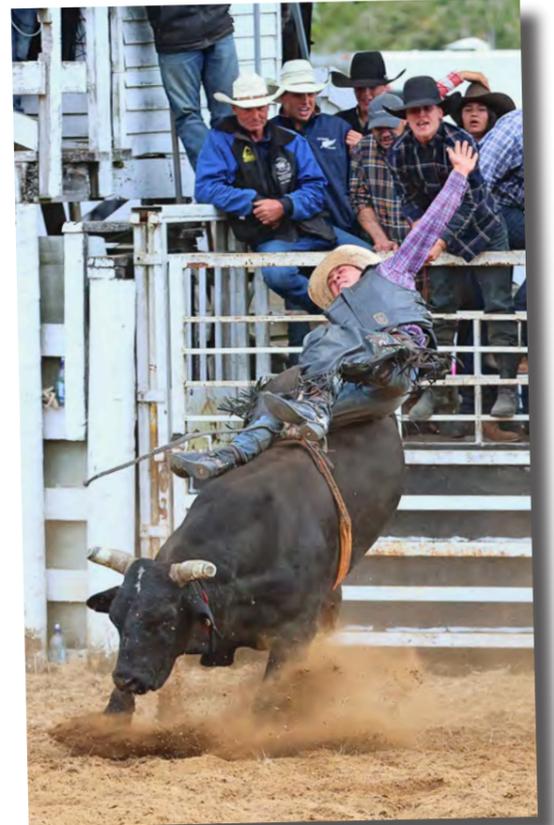
"There are sideshows and retail stalls, food stalls to suit all tastes."

Local junior Rylee Mallalieu from Ruanui Station is NZ's junior steer rider for 2025/2026, who will be competing at Waimarino.

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Past saddle bronc action. Photo: Glyn Hubbard.



The bull ride is always popular with spectators.

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this event could not go ahead."

Stock is provided by contractors WFL Bucking Bulls; Daniell McConnell bulls; Clayton Potts, time event stock; Bybs Gibson steer wrestling and team roping; Rodney Limmer Horses, Waimarino Club Horses, Whitelocks Horses, Kim Young & Sons steers.

Local night is Friday night starting at 6pm, with barrel racing and local steers.

The *Bulletin* has been covering the Rodeo since 1983, staying in contact with Cathy McLean over that time. We asked her how long she had been involved in the Waimarino Rodeo.

"Since 1974," she said. "I used to compete in the barrel races."

We asked how she got to be on the committee.

"That was because of my husband (Doug McLean) – who was on the committee and a pick-up rider."

She said the rodeo committee has been basically the McLean, Hall and Windle families, with current president Shane the third Windle to fill the role.

"But there's new young ones – all locals who used to compete – who are now coming on board."

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75th ANNUAL WAIMARINO RODEO



Saddle bronc, above left, and bull ride. Photos: Lynette Valelley.

PROGRAMME

20 & 21 March 2026
8am start

- TEAM ROPING 1ST SPLIT
- ROPE & TIE 1ST SPLIT
- STEER WRESTLING 1ST SPLIT
- TEAM ROPING 2ND SPLIT
- 2ND DIVISION BULL RIDE 1 SPLIT
- 2ND DIVISION BARE BACK
- 2ND DIVISION SADDLE BRONC
- 2ND DIVISION BARREL RACE
- JUNIOR BARREL RACE
- 2ND DIVISION BULL 2ND SPLIT
- JUNIOR STEER RIDE
- NOVICE STEER RIDE
- 2ND DIVISION BREAKAWAY ROPING
- JUNIOR BREAKAWAY ROPING

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- OPEN BREAKAWAY ROPING
- OPEN BAREBACK
- ROPE & TIE 2 SPLIT
- OPEN SADDLE BRONC
- OPEN BARREL RACE 2ND SPLIT
- STEER WRESTLING 2ND SPLIT
- TEAM ROPING 3RD SPLIT
- OPEN BULL RIDE

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Waiouru horse sculpture plan needs more money

This year marks 150 years since a farmer found tracks of the Kaimanawa horses, with a bronze sculpture planned to commemorate the sesquicentennial.

Kaimanawa Heritage Horses Welfare Society are fundraising to commission artist Matt Gaudie to sculpt a bronze Kaimanawa stallion to be sited in Waiouru, next to the National Army Museum on State Highway One.

Elder Jenks (QSM), KHHWS Patron hopes that by commemorating the horses with a sculpture that the "public will also be educated about the Kaimanawa's ongoing plight and the need to re-home the horses that are mustered every year".

The sculpture is also intended to honour the profound contribution horses made to New Zealand's early development from when they first arrived in the country just over 200 years ago.

Kaimanawa Heritage horses are descended from a mix of horse breeds and are symbolic of the early horses who were a vital part of developing New Zealand transport, agriculture, industry, communication, recreation and public services.

Matt Gaudie says he's also lucky to have a special connection to the horses – as the official New Zealand Army Artist from 2004 until 2015.

While training in the military zone in Waiouru, Matt experienced the special bond that is formed between the soldiers and the Kaimanawas from living alongside each other. His idea for the sculpture comes from a poignant memory: while on a platoon march he remembers being watched from high up on a hill by a single, alert and inquisitive stallion who was majestically watching out for the mares and foals.

Several of Matt's fellow soldiers have died in the line of duty so he intends for this sculpture to "also be a personal memorial to the fallen soldiers from my Army iwi"

Currently, a minimum of \$50,000 is urgently needed if the planned official public unveiling date in early December 2026 is to be met. KHH are still seeking a major sponsor but would also appreciate any donations from the public.

History

While travelling through the Kaimanawa Ranges on 15 March 1876, Moawhango landowner Robert Batley wrote in his diary

"saw tracks of stray horses on the range, was at the head of Moawhango, also at the head of one of Rangitikei streams". The entry, although unassuming, is historically significant. This was the first documented evidence of the Kaimanawa horse's existence. One hundred years later, in the 1970's, Robert Batley's grandson, Tony Batley, worked tirelessly to save the Kaimanawas from near extinction.

"I guess horses have served men for many hundreds of years and some of us feel that there should be places where they can roam free," says Batley.

New Zealand academics and historians such as Professor Tom Brooking have lamented the "unsatisfactory level of understanding of the horse's key role in our history".

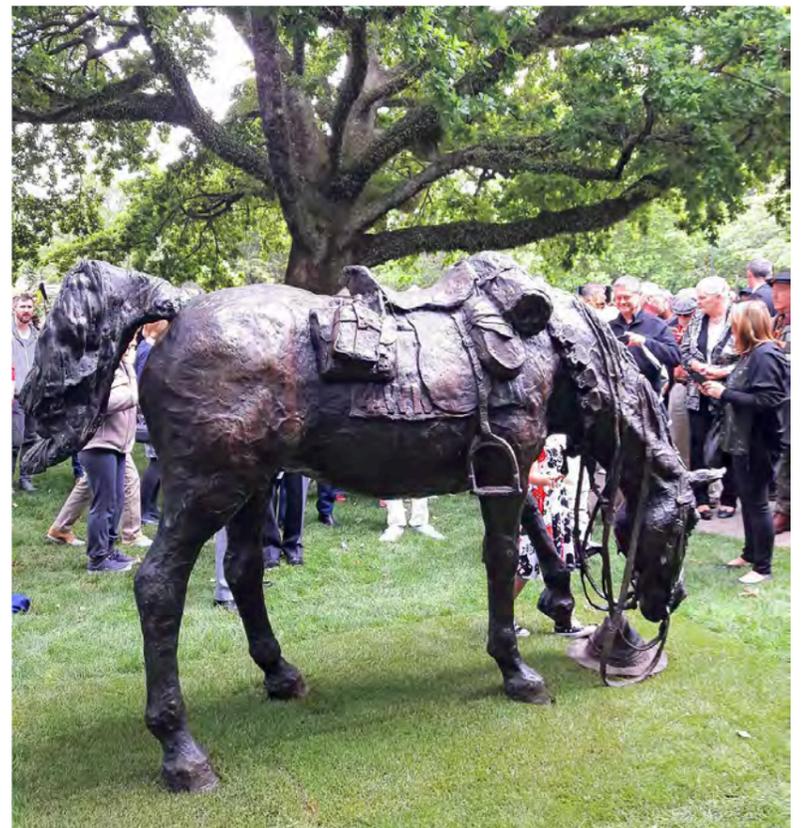
The Kaimanawas are the last significant remnant of historic free ranging horses in New Zealand and they have had a continuous presence in an unmanaged landscape for 150 years.

In 2025, the United Nations General Assembly declared, for the first time, that 11 July would be "World Horse Day" to celebrate the role of horses and to tackle the challenges they face.

KHH are grateful to have received support from mana whenua, Ngāti Rangī for the sculpture to be installed. KHH are also grateful to have received grants from the Ruapehu District Council and support from Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board, DOC, NZDF, and the National Army Museum.

The sculpture will be elevated on a tussock knoll providing good visibility for drivers travelling in both directions. For those wanting to stop and enjoy a selfie or learn more about the horses and history, the sculpture will be accompanied by an interpretation panel and park bench.

To date KHH have re-homed over 1500 horses. The mustered horses are highly intelligent and adaptable. They can be trained in every activity and discipline of horse sports frequently ending up in pony clubs, riding clubs, equestrian centres, trekking businesses, riding for the disabled, and even therapy organisations. They compete in dressage, jumping and eventing, in fact, every discipline except for thoroughbred racing.



The war horse sculpture, by Matt Gaudie.

Ngāti Rangī's plan to hold Crown agencies to settlement commitments

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting
Ruapehu iwi Ngāti Rangī has launched a new framework with 11 government agencies to advance relationships promised under its Treaty settlement with the Crown.

The Terms of Reference for the initiative, known as Te Kōpae, were signed at Tīrorangi Marae in Karioi last week, marking exactly eight years since Ngāti Rangī and the Crown signed the deed of settlement Rukutia Te Mana on 10 March 2018.

Helen Leahy, pou ārahi/chief executive of the iwi trust Nga Waihua o Paerangi, said the collaboration would spearhead the restoration of a cultural, environmental, economic and social base.

"Te Kōpae literally is a nest of connection. It's bringing together all of the Crown agencies that signed up to relationships through Rukutia Te Mana, to work collectively with the iwi ... to meet the aspirations of our uri and our wider community."

Leahy said an Auditor General's report last year revealed that every government agency audited had difficulty delivering on settlement commitments.

"It's not a relationship that comes easily and what we've found is that when you separate government departments into individual sector silos, it's very difficult."

Agency accountability

The aim of Te Kōpae was to create accountabil-

ity across agencies while strengthening the relationship promised in the settlement.

"We want to get accountability from each individual agency.

"Let's not wait for another eight years before we start the work that was committed to in 2018."

Leahy said the settlement included a Crown apology acknowledging it had failed to honour the partnership with iwi under te Tiriti o Waitangi "with the respect and integrity the iwi deserved".

"That apology set a new pathway for what we are signing today."

The agencies are Te Puni Kōkiri, the Ministry of Justice, the Department of Corrections, the Ministry of Education, Oranga Tamariki, New Zealand Police, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, the Ministry of Social Development, Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People, and Regional Public Service Commissioners.

The Ministry of Health and Health New Zealand are interested in joining the initiative, and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development



Government agencies sign a new collective framework to work collaboratively with Ngāti Rangī. Photo: Moana Ellis. Representatives of 11 Government agencies at Tīrorangi Marae in Karioi. Photo: Moana Ellis.

has committed to participate under the upcoming Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport.

Collaboratively

Regional Public Service Commissioner for Manawatū-Whanganui, Darlene Rastrick, said the

agreement signals a commitment from government agencies to work together with Ngāti Rangī rather than in isolation.

"We've got agencies that are signed up today ... to work collaboratively and think about common interests and how can we work collectively and



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Ngāti Rangī's plan to hold Crown agencies to settlement commitments

better to improve outcomes for the people of Ngāti Rangī," Rastrick said.

"My role as regional public service commissioner is to convene across agencies ... to make sure they are meeting the needs of iwi, that they are at the table, that they're doing everything they need to do."

Leahy said the initiative comes as Ruapehu communities face mounting pressures, including job losses from the closure of the WPI mills, challenges facing the ski industry, and reductions in government services.

She pointed to the 2022 closure of the Ohakune District Court, the cancellation of a proposed 44-home Kāinga Ora housing development in 2024, and the ending of several government-supported

programmes including Jobs for Nature and Māori Trade Training.

Leahy also said funding for Ngā Tini Whetu intensive family support and the Manaaki Hauora community health partnership is set to end in June this year.

Population too small?

"The Auditor General stressed that settlements are intended to create long-term relationships, not just one-off redress delivery.

"However, if the Crown since settlement cuts services, advises us that our population is too small or that they are locked into contracts with larger regional providers who purport to represent us, then we will find ourselves in a position with little hope."

NZ Police assistant commissioner iwi, community and partnerships, Timothy Anderson, said the framework would help strengthen early intervention work aimed at keeping people out of the criminal justice system.

"I think something like this can only be positive in terms of the way that we engage with Ngāti Rangī, in partnership with the Crown."

Anderson said Police were already involved in a number of programmes focused on prevention.

"It's about engaging with people at an early stage to keep them out of trouble."

Tomairangi Mareikura, chairwoman of Ngāti Rangī post-settlement governance entity Te Tōtarahoe o Paerangi, said the initiative was intended to generate momentum.

"Eight years ago, when we all signed up to what we thought was going to be an innovative and exciting mechanism, we really hoped for some action," she said.

Mareikura said Te Kōpae was designed to bring agencies together to create solutions that would benefit local communities.

"We know our rohe is geographically somewhat isolated and we're a small iwi, but we have some really big challenges.

"The goal from today is ... to move forward so that we can work together collectively with these agencies to really change lives on the ground."

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



St Patrick's turns green

There were many shades of green worn at St Patrick's Church in Raetihi at the weekend for the special Mass of celebration for an early St Patrick's Day.

Father Trung Nguyen paid tribute to the people of Raetihi for keeping the Church in good order and a special tribute to the ancestors, the early settlers, and those who worked tirelessly to fund

St Patrick's Church in Raetihi hosted a special mass on the weekend. Photo: Ruapehu Catholic Church.

raise and build the 'new' Church opened in 1923 after the 1918 Raetihi Fire had razed the earlier building.

People travelled from Whanganui and Dannevirke, one of whom was married in the Church on the day 55 years ago.

Pastoral co-ordinator Merrilyn George said people spoke highly of the hospitality, singing and the welcome given.

This coming weekend the Parish will be celebrating St Joseph's Day in Ohakune.



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Contact: annajohndesigns@icloud.com or 021 121 8072.



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



Special General Meeting

Ohakune & Waimarino Returned Services Association

Thursday 26 March 2026, 6pm at the home of Mark Taylor, Railway Rd, Raetihi.

Agenda: changes to RSA constitution to comply with incorporated societies act 2022.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

Ruapehu Rugby Football & Sports Club Inc have made an application to the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council for the **Renewal of a Club Licence** in respect of the premises situated at **Rochfort Park, Raetihi Road, Ohakune** known as **Ruapehu Rugby & Sports Club**. The general nature of the business to be conducted under the licence is that of a **Sports Club**. The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is intended to be sold under the licence for this area are: **Monday to Sunday: 12.00pm – 12.00am**.

The application may 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 renewal of a licence may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in section 131 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. This is the only publication of this notice.

SITUATIONS VACANT



Centre Manager Position

Nancy Winter Early Childhood Centre is recruiting for a new Centre Manager.

Enquiries to nancywintercentre@xtra.co.nz by 23.03.2026.

PUBLIC NOTICES

The Royal Theatre, Raetihi
Movie Month

The Great Race

An amazing comedy – PG **Saturday 21 March**

A Fist Full of Dollars

Clint Eastwood – M **Saturday 28 March**

Doors open 6pm, movie starts 7pm
Bar available. \$15. Supper included



Bring this advertisement with you and win a spot prize

One Plan – Plan Amendment 6 Amendments to the One Plan

Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council (Horizons) gives notice that, in accordance with sections 55 and 581 of the Resource Management Act 1991, the One Plan has been amended on 12 March 2026 to implement requirements from the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (amended December 2025) and the National Planning Standards. These changes involve amending a mandatory provision, adding new national policy statements and national environmental standards, and updating existing national policy statements.

As required under sections 55 and 581, Horizons has made these amendments without using the standard RMA Schedule 1 process.

The One Plan, as amended by Plan Amendment 6, can be freely accessed on the Horizons website at the following link:

<https://www.horizons.govt.nz/publications-feedback/one-plan>

It can also be viewed during normal office hours at the Regional Council offices. Dated 12 March 2026

M J McCartney
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



horizons.govt.nz



PUBLIC NOTICES



Whakarato Te Rohe Pōtae

PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETINGS ON SPECIAL OWNERSHIP REVIEW REPORT

On 16 February 2026, the Trust issued a Special Ownership Review Report on whether the Trust should proceed with the sale of its remaining 24.98% shareholding in King Country Energy Limited (KCE) to NZX-listed Contact Energy Limited (Proposed Transaction) or retain its shareholding.

Notice is hereby given that that the Trust will hold three public meetings held at:

Ohakune: Powderhorn Chateau – 194 Mangawhero Tce, Ohakune, on 26 March 2026, 6.30pm

Turangi: Oreti Resort – 88 Pukawa Road, Pukawa on 27 March 2026, 9.30am

Taumarunui: RSA – 10 Marae Street, Taumarunui on 27 March 2026, 1.00pm

The business of these public meetings will be to hear submissions received on the Special Ownership Review Report, including the Proposed Transaction.

A copy of the written submissions received by the Trust may be inspected on the Trust's website www.kcpowertrust.co.nz from 19 March 2026.

Notice is hereby given that that the trustees of the Trust will hold a further public meeting on the final decision to be made on the Special Ownership Review Report, including the Proposed Transaction.

The public meeting will be held at RSA, 10 Marae Street, Taumarunui on 27 March 2026 at 4.00 pm.

Dated: 16 March 2026



OHAKUNE EVENTS CHARITABLE TRUST

Trustee Expressions of Interest

The Ohakune Events Charitable Trust is seeking expressions of interest for four Trustee positions to be elected at an elections meeting on April 20, 2026.

OECT delivers a portfolio of events that promote the Ruapehu district and support our local community, including The Goat, Tussock Traverse, Ring of Fire, Carrot Carnival, and Mardi Gras.

We welcome interest from people who are passionate about the district and can contribute to the governance and future direction of the Trust.

To register interest, scan the QR code to complete the Expression of Interest form.



For further information please email hello@oect.co.nz

CLASSIFIEDS

Ohakune B&B gains gold award

SITUATIONS VACANT

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER

Part time. Thursday & Friday 8.30am to 5pm
Ohakune



We are looking for an exceptional part time Customer Services Officer for our Ohakune Office. This position is for 16 hours per week, working on Thursdays and Fridays.

A typical day working within our team will include:

- Attending to compliance enquiries, animal control, alcohol or rating requests.
- Lodging customer service requests – potholes, slips or roaming dogs.
- Issuing and returning library books.

You will need:

- Experience in customer service role
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Be competent in the MS Office programs with the ability to adapt to online tools and systems
- Local geographical knowledge of the Ruapehu District

If you are looking for an opportunity to make a difference, we would welcome your application of interest.

Applications will be assessed as they come in, so if you are interested, please apply today via our website www.ruapehudc.govt.nz/our-council/employment/current-vacancies

For everything Ohakune, visit www.ohakune.info

Two Rivers Bed and Breakfast in Ohakune has been awarded a Gold Rating from Qualmark, New Zealand tourism’s official quality assurance organisation.

Scott and Ula purchased their luxury B&B, Two Rivers Ohakune, in July 2024.

They said that with three boutique bedrooms, the established business was already going great.

Having spent years working in IT consultancy, Scott and Ula were new to the hospitality industry and needed a benchmark to understand where they were. In February 2025, Two Rivers was assessed by Qualmark and received a rating of 4 stars plus and a silver business/sustainability rating. With a background in environmental science, Scott has a vision to take the business into the eco-luxury area. Scott and Ula set about restoring the Mangateitei riverbank, removing invasive species and planting locally grown natives, thanks to Carina’s Nursery in Raetihi.

Receiving a silver rating was seen as an initial success. However, more work has been done on the eco side of the business, with a new roof to support a recent order for a significant solar system, EV-charging, and batteries.

At review in March 2026, Qualmark have reassessed the status of Two Rivers and rated it as Gold. They now join TCB and the Powderhorn as Gold rated businesses, all awarded in the last year.

Two Rivers is largely a summer operation, attracting guests from all over Europe and North America. They come to Ohakune to tackle the Tongariro Crossing or enjoy some of the shorter walks/rides around the Ohakune Mountain Road.

Scott and Ula said they firmly believe in the summer potential of Ohakune and its growing tourism market. They’re investing in Two Rivers to support the potential of Ohakune and the wider Ruapehu area. The profile of guests arriving is changing and it’s great to see the responses of them to our local area and community.



Scott and Ula Tansley at their Two Rivers B&B – now a gold-standard tourism business.

ONLINE DELIVERY OPEN FOR ORDERS!

SLOTS AVAILABLE FROM WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH



FREE DELIVERY FOR THE FIRST 3 MONTHS!

OHAKUNE

RAETIHI

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Arts, first aid, sports and the Timber Trail at the College

Eye on Ruapehu College, contributed by staff and students

Year 12 students recently completed a three-day Basic and Outdoor First Aid course through their Physical Education programme, making the most of both classroom learning and practical scenarios outdoors on the school field and Mountain Road loop track.

Funded by STAR to support learning and upcoming PE trips, the course was highly engaging and a lot of fun thanks to tutor David from Safety 'n Action. Students gained 10 Unit Standard credits while also learning practical skills that will benefit them in future employment and everyday life.

Arts

Year 11 Visual Arts students visited Lake Rotokura on 2 March, where Matua Fred shared kōrero about the cultural history of the area, along with stories and knowledge of rongoā (medicinal plants).

The following day, the same class, joined by Year 11 music students, met with Papa Jerome Kavanagh at Karioi Domain for a taonga pūoro (musical instruments) session before returning to Lake Rotokura for photography and drawing to inspire their visual artwork.

"Experiences like these are made possible through the dedication of staff who work hard to organise rich, meaningful opportunities for students," said Tamzyn Te Riaki.

"We extend our sincere thanks to Matua Fred, Papa Jerome and the supporting parents who helped make these special days possible."

Riding the timber trail

The Year 12 PE students completed the iconic Timber Trail over two days recently. The undertaking challenged the group's endurance, teamwork and problem-solving abilities as they navigated rugged terrain and dense forest. The trail included suspension bridges and steep climbs, demanding both physical fitness and mental resilience.

"Ultimately, the experience offered more than just a rigorous outdoor workout, it instilled a strong sense of achievement in every student who finished the pathway," said Helena Leary.

"It has been a truly fantastic start to the college year, marked by incredible energy and engagement across all areas of school life."

"Our students have already immersed themselves in a wide range of learning experiences from gaining essential first aid certifications and participating in inspiring cultural trips, to competing in sports tournaments and enjoying inclusive community events."

"None of this happens by chance. Behind every successful activity, every engaging lesson, and every supportive moment are the teachers and staff who give their time, creativity, and care to make these opportunities possible."

"Our dedicated team is already working hard to plan an exciting line-up of upcoming initiatives, trips, and programmes designed to broaden horizons and build valuable life skills. Their commitment ensures our college continues to be a safe, inclusive, and nurturing

place where every young person is supported to grow and thrive."

Sevens rugby

Sports co-ordinator Talia Ruki recently facilitated the participation of two students, Violet Soverel and Vanessa Ashford-Wallis, in a 7's rugby tournament with Whanganui Girls' College. The girls competed confidently against strong teams including Whanganui High School, Manukura and Otemon High School from Japan, gaining valuable experience along the way.

"A big thank you to Sosi and the Whanganui Rugby team for organising the event, Whanganui Girls' College for the opportunity, and Ross Wallis for providing transport and support," said Talia Ruki.

Volleyball successes

The college volleyball teams are off to an incredible start this year, demonstrating skill, determination and fantastic teamwork.

"Both the girls' and boys' teams have been achieving great success in recent matches," said coach Chenille Bouskill.

"Their commitment during training is clearly paying off and we look forward to seeing their continued progress as the season unfolds."

Soccer scrimmage

The recent "soccer scrimmage" was "a tremendous success", boasting an exceptional turnout of students from all year levels, says Tahlia Ruke.

"This practice session provided a wonderful, inclusive environment for students to socialise, exercise and hone their skills. The high level of participation clearly reflects the school community's strong enthusiasm for soccer, and we anticipate a fantastic season ahead."

All abilities athletics

The Piwakawaka Unit was also invited to the All Abilities Athletics Day at Cooks Gardens in Whanganui on 11 March – "a fantastic event".

"Students had an absolute blast taking part in a variety of activities including high jump, relays, the egg and spoon race, shot put and javelin," said Tahlia Ruke.

"It was a beautiful day, and seeing our students alongside tamariki from other schools, participating, encouraging one another, and most importantly having fun, was truly special."

She said a major highlight was watching students work together as a team.

"For many, this was their first experience of teamwork in this kind of setting. Being surrounded by familiar friends and their wonderful "superheroes" made the day even more meaningful, boosting confidence and strengthening everyone's sense of belonging."

The College thanks their sports co-ordinator Talia, Sarah from Sport Whanganui, and Ohakune BP for new hats, "which not only looked great but made it easy to spot our students!"

"Days like this are powerful reminders of the importance of inclusion, teamwork, and community support. We are incredibly proud of all our students."



TOP: Year 12 Ruapehu College students support each other to learn first aid skills. ABOVE: Ruapehu students gathered at Lake Rotokura recently to hear about cultural history from Matua Fred. Photos: Ruapehu College.

Ohakune Squash

The final round of the Ohakune Squash Club's inter-business results are: Daredevil beat Black Widow 11-7, Wolverine beat Under Construction 12-7, Deadman Carrots beat Doctor Strange 17-1, Avengers beat 100 Watts 17-0, Deadpool beat Ironman 13-7, Tohunga Boasts drew with Hulk 10-10, Monsters Inc beat Deadman Logging 11-7, Thor beat Captain Marvel 14-5, Spiderman beat Captain America 14-4.

Final points with all new member bonus points added in are: Pool One – Ironman 81, Deadpool 74, Thor 57, Spiderman 38, Captain Marvel 33, Captain America 29. Pool Two – Avengers 67, Daredevil 64, Hulk 54, Black Widow 51, Tohunga Boasts 50, 100 Watts 14. Pool Three – Deadman Carrots 76, Wol-

verine 75, Under Construction 64, Monsters Inc 47, Deadman Logging 32, Doctor Strange 20.

This Thursday is a committee working bee in preparation for the Ruapehu Cleaning & Property Maintenance B grade tournament that will be run over Friday and Saturday. There is a full field of around seventy entries. The following Thursday an interhouse competition will start for club members only. There are around ninety showing interest so far, let Matt know if you haven't already.

In a tournament over the weekend in Hawera, Hana Harding won women's division one with sister Jessie fifth. Olivia Gray won women's division two. Other results saw Derek Fraser second in men's division six and Scott Fraser third in men's division four.

True Team Promise means our whole team works for you.

Contact your local Ohakune Consultant today!



Scan the QR code to find us on Facebook



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