



STRANGE DOG
print | digital | retail

06 385 9320 | info@strangedog.design

Ruapehu Bulletin

25 March 2026
Issue No 2098

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



Govt moves on Chateau future
P3



Shears success
P5



Raising the flags
P7



Blazing the Raetihi hills
P11

Kiwi come home: Taonga return to ancestral forest after 30-year effort

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting

In the cool, green cathedral of native forest within the Ruapehu district's Karioi Rāhui, the call of the kiwi continuing to return.

Last week, local iwi Ngāti Rangi welcomed home 10 taonga Western Brown Kiwi at Tiorangi Marae, before releasing the juvenile birds into forest at Rotokura and Rangataua – whenua their ancestors roamed a generation ago.

It marks the first step in a major translocation effort that will see 40 kiwi returned to iwi whenua over the coming year.

For those involved, the moment has been



Ten juvenile kiwi were released to Ngāti Rangi whenua - the first of 40 in a major translocation effort. Photo supplied.

decades in the making.

"There were kiwi within the Karioi Rāhui before," said Helen Leahy, pou ārahi of Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust. "But in 1996 the numbers were so small that they were no longer considered viable."

What followed was a long, deliberate rebuilding – not just of bird numbers, but of relationships. Local iwi worked alongside Ngāporo Waimarino Forest Trust, Ngāti Hikairo, Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari and others to strengthen fragile populations through shared breeding and genetic diversification.

The original founding kiwi were introduced to Maungatautari in 2005.

"Different birds were shared across sanctuary sites to help keep populations more genetically viable and diverse," Leahy said.

That collaboration is now bearing fruit.

The birds released in the Ruapehu district last week are descendants of the small founding group – just eight pairs and three chicks – whose lineage has been carefully nurtured over two decades.

Abundance

Today, more than 3000 kiwi live within the predator-free sanctuary at Maungatautari, itself home to over 730 species.

From that abundance, the next phase was

Turn to Page 2

Waimarino Rodeo 'best ever'



Klaydon Ward in action in the Open Bull ride at the Waimarino Rodeo on Saturday – winning the event with a top score of 82.5 points. The event has been dubbed the "best ever" by organisers. See inside for more. Photo: Robert Milne.

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

Taonga return to ancestral forest after 30-year effort

From Page 1

always clear: return.

“We’ve built up a gene pool and the genetic diversity within that gene pool,” said Wiki Papa, of Pöhara Pā, who travelled with the birds from Maungatautari.

“The aim was always to build a thriving kiwi population and then share the taonga with iwi in other spaces.”

Leahy acknowledged the leadership of Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari, Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust, Save the Kiwi and Te Papa Atawhai in their work to protect and grow the kiwi population, and then support their release to safe places in the wild.

More than 600 kiwi have been translocated across the motu in the past three years alone. For Ngāti Rangī, this return carries particular weight.

“It’s been a big, special day for our people – it’s been terrific,” said Fred Clark, kaihonohono a rohe/environmental and relationship advisor for Ngā Waihua o Paerangi.

“This first Ngāti Rangī-led kiwi translocation marks a milestone achievement that has been an aspiration of our people for many, many years – probably a few generations.”

Clark said the first foundation kiwi for Maungatautari were from Ngāti Hikairo, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, and the second group were from the Waharangi block in the Waimarino area, provided by the Ngāporo Waimarino Forest Trust and Pipiriki township.

The third group came from Taranaki to widen the gene pool and strengthen the genetic profile.

“All the Western Brown Kiwi that are

in Maungatautari are descendants of those foundation birds.

“The manu that have come back to us today are descendants of the whenua who are returning home as per their genetic profile.”

Facilitators

Clark said Ngāti Rangī wanted to remember those who facilitated the mahi and the first engagement – “the likes of Uncle Don Robinson, Uncle Paora Haitana (Uncle Baldy), Uncle Boy Cribb and Aunty Geraldine Taurerewa”.

Looking to the future, three local rangatahi – Lucas Kumeroa, Tairaroa Haddon and Kino Haitana – are already training to become certified kiwi handlers, part of a wider effort to ensure the iwi can sustain and protect the population into the future.

“That’s the vital point,” Leahy said.

“We need predator control and safe environments – but we also need tāngata tiaki, people who know how to work with these birds.”

Leahy said the impact of possums, cats, rats, ferrets and stoats had been relentless.

“Our journey together with Te Papa Atawhai must continue to focus on the vital importance of pest management, of trapping, to retain the vigilance that is required for survival.”

In the ngahere and at Tīrorangi Marae, the mood is one of quiet pride and determination.

“It feels like we’re doing the job of our tūpuna,” Papa said.

“They gifted these kiwi for future generations. Now our tamariki get to experience this. Being part of this is going to be etched in their memories.”



The taonga kiwi were released back into the region from where their ancestors were taken a generation ago. Photo: Moana Ellis.

Kiwi forever

This week marks 20 years since the start of Ngāti Rangī’s Kiwi Forever conservation leadership programme – a milestone Leahy says reflects decades of leadership in kaitiakitanga.

“I mihi to Uncle Keith and Aunty Mercia Wood, who have been such pivotal champions of the kiwi over these last two decades, teaching young people to respect and uphold the principles of kaitiakitanga.

It’s really fitting that we are celebrating in style like this, with 10 manu coming back to us.”

Clark says the first release signals something even broader: a reconnection after generations of separation from land and taiao.

“There’s always been a stirring within our people that we should return to the teachings of our old people – to look after our environment, and particularly our taonga

species.”

It is also a reaffirmation of iwi-to-iwi relationships, with Ngāti Rangī working alongside Ngāti Korokī Kahukura, Ngāti Hauā and Ngāti Raukawa – mana whenua of Maungatautari – to share knowledge and strengthen conservation efforts across rohe.

As the kiwi disappear into their new sanctuary, the murmur of karakia mingles with bell-like native birdsong.

Clark says Ngāti Rangī

is fully committed to successful kiwi restoration on its whenua.

“We are serious about reconnecting our tuakana the kiwi to te taiao, and leading kiwi restoration activities throughout our rohe.

“Our focus is the whole taiao, but our taonga kiwi are the catalyst.”

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

Ruapehu Events & What’s On

MARCH 2026

Royal Theatre Movies, starts 7pm March
A Fist Full of Dollars 28 March

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.facebook.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.

For all your ski board and bike rental needs

T C B

Ski, Board & Bike
Cnr Ayr St & Goldfinch St, Ohakune
06-385-8433 tcb.nz

FOR MORE DETAILS, GO TO OHAKUNE.INFO

IT’S FREE TO LIST SO PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU
HAVE AN EVENT COMING UP ...
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 CYPRUS TREE

79 Clyde St, Ohakune Ph: 06 385 8857
Check out our new menu. Kiwi craft beers, boutique wines and cocktails to quench that thirst. Playroom for the kids, foosball, air hockey and spaces to keep the kids entertained. Spectacular mountain views. A great place for casual get togethers or special occasions. Open every day.

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!

Carrot Carnival canned

Ohakune’s annual Carrot Carnival has been cancelled for 2026.

Ohakune Events Charitable Trust announced the decision on Monday.

“This decision has been made by the organising committee due to unforeseen circumstances, and it has not been made lightly,” stated the Trust.

“We know how much this event means to our community, our growers, our sponsors, our stallholders, and everyone who looks forward to being part of the day.”

The Trust thanks their sponsors, stallholders, vendors, contractors,

volunteers and supporters.

“The energy, effort and pride you bring each year is what makes the Carrot Carnival such a special event for Ohakune.”

OECT has promised refunds for sponsors and stallholders who had already paid for this year’s event.

“While this is not the outcome we had hoped for this year, Ohakune Events Charitable Trust remain committed to the future of the Carrot Carnival and look forward to bringing it back,” concluded the unnamed Trust spokesperson.

Community and Emergency Services

Alzheimers Whanganui Inc – Email admin@alzheimerswhanganui.org.nz or for support phone 06-345 8833
Budget Advice – Email waimarinobudgetservices@gmail.com or phone 027 259 5285.
CCS Disability Action (Whanganui) – Sheryl Brightwell 0800-789-654
Child, Adolescent and Sexual Health Nurse – 06-385-5019
Child Youth and Family Service – 0508-326 459
Churches: Anglican, 06-385-4957. Baptist, 027-206-1874. Catholic, 06-385-8858 or 027 606 5186. Gospel Chapel, 06-385-8453. Presbyterian, 06-388-0675 or 06-385-8708. Waiouru – duty chaplain 06-387-5599 ext 7031 or 021-493-692
Civil Defence – Simon Osborne, Emergency Management Officer (EMO), RDC – 07 895 8188, or 027 220 0569. Simon. Osborne@ruapehudc.govt.nz
CLAW community free legal advice: Whanganui 06-348-8288
Doctors: In an emergency call 111. Ruapehu Health Ltd 06-385-4211
Information Centres – Ohakune 06-385-8427, Raetihi 06-385-4805
Ngāti Rangī Community Health Centre – 06-385-9580
Plunket Society – Plunket Nurse 06-385-5019
Police and Search & Rescue Emergency, call 111
Ohakune 06-385-0100, Raetihi 06-385-4002, Waiouru 06-387-6884, Military Police 0800-50-11-22
Red Cross – 0800 RED CROSS (0800 733 27677)
Rotary Club Raetihi - Ohakune – 027-344-5669
Ruapehu REAP – 0800 00 REAP (0800 007 327)
Ruapehu Maori Wardens – Email: ruapehumaoriwardens@gmail.com
St John – in an emergency call 111
Taumarunui Counselling Services: For confidential counselling in Waimarino phone 07-895-6393
Victim Support Contact Centre – 0800 842 846
Waimarino Cancer Society: Co-ordinator 06 348 7402
Waimarino Health Care Centre – Raetihi 06-385-5019
Waimarino Community Toy Library – waimarinotoylibrary@gmail.com
Women’s Refuge – 0800-REFUGE 0800 73384
Ruapehu Mayor – Weston Kirton, enquiries to 06-385-8364 or 07-895-8188.
Owhango-National Park Community Board:
Peter Zimmer - Chairperson 027 479 1926; Gail Gray - Deputy Chair 027 434 6599; Anthony Gurr 021 487 742; Eddie Marsters 021 108 0279; Murray Wilson 027 542 9079; Luke Pepper - (RDC Rep) 027 329 2849
Taumarunui/Ohura Ward Community Board:
Molly Jeffries, Chairperson 021 431 833; Sophie Stockbridge, Deputy Chairperson 020 401 1190; Johnny Dryden 027 573 4726; Brian Portland 027 558 5585; Oriwiva Wanakore 020 498 4088; Robyn Gram (RDC Rep) 027 389 1912
Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board:
John (Luigi) Hotter - Chairperson 027 274 2616; Stu Robinson - Deputy Chairperson 021 024 07657; Kay Henare 027 924 7252; Colin Pakai 021 091 67315; Emma Young 027 347 1457; David (Rabbit) Nottage - (RDC Rep) 021 111 6514
Guidelines is published free of charge. Please help us to keep it up to date – call us if your details change, or if you see something that needs changing: 06-385-8532

Government backs Chateau Tongariro restoration as mayor welcomes 'win'

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting



The Government is backing the restoration of the Chateau Tongariro, launching a formal process to find private operators to revive the historic hotel.

Ruapehu mayor Weston Kirton says the step recognises strong public support for saving the iconic building. "It's been a snail's pace to get to this point, however we'll take it as a win," Kirton said.

"The government has recognised the costs associated with pulling it down, demolishing it, and they've recognised the will of the local community and the nation's interest in this."

Kirton said there was already strong interest from potential investors, both domestically and internationally. Some were "champing at the bit".

Conservation Minister Tama Potaka announced on Thursday that a Request for Proposals (RFP) opened on 18 March, seeking experienced operators to restore and run the long-closed hotel and associated buildings at Whakapapa Village in Tongariro National Park.

The move signals a clear preference for restoration after the Government had been weighing options for the building's future, including demolition.

Potaka said restoring the Chateau would help ensure the area continued to attract visitors while supporting local businesses and tourism across the wider region.

Commercial, conservation balance

"We are looking for proposals that balance commercial viability with conservation values, respect for mana whenua aspirations, and the unique character of Tongariro National Park."

The Chateau Tongariro has been shuttered since February 2023, when former lessee Malaysian-owned

KAH New Zealand closed the hotel. The building has since deteriorated.

Potaka said the Chateau remained a significant part of New Zealand's tourism identity.

"The Request for Proposals (RFP) ... invites interested parties to put forward plans that recognise both the heritage significance of the Chateau and the cultural importance of Tongariro National Park.

"The Chateau is a landmark many New Zealanders have visited for holidays to school trips and international visitors experiencing Tongariro for the first time."

Kirton said the Chateau had previously accounted for about 30 percent of the district's hotel bed nights and was central to tourism and employment.

"It provides an avenue and a base for tourism, on top of our ski fields, gondola and walks. I can see a bright and happy, positive future for the Chateau."

He said he would be seeking a timeline from the minister on a potential restoration plan, but warned that attracting private investment would require stronger government settings.

Certainty of tenure

"Anyone putting investment into this building needs to have certainty of tenure. The government has a huge part to play to attract any investor."

Kirton said people with balance sheets are willing to submit their plans and proposals for the hotel restoration. "We're talking about high-end hotel people."

"There is a lot of interest from overseas and within the country."

"They'll be excited the government is promoting the Chateau as a destination that still has relevance."

Kirton said one or two investors had already engaged locally. "One has seen the place several times and done



The historic Chateau Tongariro.

require significant investment.

"A five-star hotel from scratch can cost around \$100 million, but refurbishing an existing heritage building would add

including statutory, environmental and heritage obligations.

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

Weekend Waimarino Rodeo 'best ever' event

The Waimarino Rodeo on Saturday and Sunday was the "best ever" says Club committee secretary Cathy MacLean, with record entries, perfect weather, a great crowd and no frost.

While there were lots of cowboy bowlines, the event went off pretty much without a hitch.

"Each year it's getting bigger, says Cathy, who added that there were no animal injuries.

But there were some cowboy injuries – two concussions, a broken wrist, an injured ankle and a dislocated shoulder.

One of the concussions was to cowboy Jonty Bellermy on Sunday who, until then, was having a great rodeo.

"He had broken open in the second division bull ride on Sunday morning, so qualified for the Open in the afternoon," says Cathy. 'Breaking open' is when a competitor gains over a certain amount of prize money in an event.

"When he rode in the Open on Sunday afternoon, he made the time (8 seconds). He knocked himself out but won it!"

Cathy said the vets, MPI and Animal Welfare were all impressed with the event and happy with the health of the animals.

Around 30 Club members helped run the event, along with several friends of members.

"We're really lucky – everyone and anyone will come and help Shane (Windle – club president)."

She thanked the Ruapehu Junior Rugby Club for manning the gates at the event, St John Ambulance, and the Raetihi Fire Brigade who helped at the Friday night locals event.

While she hasn't tallied up the costs this year, last year's

Turn to Page 6



Evan Raynor and his wife were among the many past rodeo competitors among the spectators on Saturday. The Whanganui horse trainer was very active in rodeo in the 1960s.

We're fixing the basics
and building the future.

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

National
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



RUAPEHU
OUR GREATER OUTDOORS

i site

Mutch bounces back for big shears win in Raetihi

Scotland international and southern Hawke's Bay farmer Gavin Mutch bounced back from his so-near-so far week at the World Championships in Masterton, to win the A-grade show title the Waimarino Open championship at Raetihi on Saturday.

The winner of the World title in Masterton in 2012 and the Golden Shears Open title there three years, Mutch was third and runner-up respectively in the events going for the double on 7 March.

Now 46, Mutch's win on Saturday was his fourth of the season, second at Raetihi, and 34th in 24 seasons of Open-class shearing in New Zealand, but he has won more than 100 Open titles in a global career that has seen victories in at least 12 countries.

It was his 13th final this season, which has included five second placings and three third placings.

Regularly the pacemaker, Mutch was just third to finish the 20 sheep in a four-man final, in which Te Kuiti shearer Jack Fagan, finishing in 15m 48.92s, was the only one to go under 16 minutes.

Welsh shearer Gethin Lewis was next-off, in 16m 1.98s, and Mutch clocked 16m 6.3s, had the better quality and beat Fagan by almost 1.3pts.

Taumarunui shearer Taelor Tarrant won both the Senior final and the second Te Whiringa Senior Circuit final, each over 12 sheep each, taking him to 10 wins this season, and 13 in the grade, including this year's Golden Shears Senior title.

Northland shearer Toa Henderson stayed close to home in Northland to win the Open title at the Warkworth A and P Show, on his sixth consecutive winning weekend.

He said he might travel south again next weekend to the Waitomo Caves Sports ahead of his bid to complete a back-to-back Golden Shears-New Zealand Shears

double in Te Kuiti after Easter.

More than 150 shearers competed throughout the weekend, 91 of them at Raetihi, where 31 lined up in the Open class.

RESULTS from the Waimarino Shears at Raetihi, on Saturday, March 21, 2026:

Open final (20 sheep): Gavin Mutch (Scotland/Dannevirke) 16m 06.03s, 57.452pts, 1; Jack Fagan (Te Kuiti) 15m 48.92s, 58.746pts, 2; Gethin Lewis (Wales) 16m 1.98s, 58.999pts, 3; David Gordon (Masterton) 17m 3.09s, 59.005pts, 4.

Senior final (12 sheep): Taelor Tarrant (Taumarunui) 12m 1.75s, 46.672pts, 1; Kaivah Cooper (Napier) 12m 46.2s, 48.143pts, 2; Duncan Adams (Scotland) 13m 57.55s, 48.794pts, 3; Dylan Young (Gisborne) 14m 33.02s, 52.317pts, 4.

Te Whiringa Senior Circuit final (12 sheep): Taelor Tarrant (Taumarunui) 12m 26.61s, 46.081pts, 1; Kaivah Cooper (Napier) 13m 20.31s, 48.933pts, 2; Duncan Adams (Scotland) 15m 2.03s, 51.769pts, 3; Dylan Young (Gisborne) 14m 40.78s, 51.873pts.

Intermediate final (6 sheep): Michael Buick (Pongaroa) 8m 18.44s, 29.922pts, 1; Lachie Cameron (Pohangina Valley) 8m 30.27a, 31.181pts, 2; Luke Marsden (Taumarunui) 8m 40s, 32.833pts, 3; Peter Hogarth (Scotland) 8m 33.31s, 35.499pts, 4.

Junior final (4 sheep): Kingston Pue (Raetihi) 7m 33.74s, 27.424pts, 1; Cam Henson (Woodville) 7m 59.64s, 29.232pts, 2; Ashlin Swann (Wairoa) 8m 6s, 29.3pts, 3; Rebecca Dickson (Feilding) 9m 8.88s, 37.944pts, 4.

Novice final (2 sheep): Ngahua Salmond (Te Kuiti) 6m 4.66s, 28.733pts, 1; Will Stuart (Feilding) 7m 46.55s, 31.328pts, 2; Alexis Young (Gisborne) 7m 3.16s, 34.158pts, ; Cleveland Pue (Raetihi) 8m 1.14s, 38.057pts, 4.



Gavin Mutch, winner of the Waimarino Shears Open final on Saturday, pictured as third placegetter in the World Championships final in Masterton on 7 March. Photo, Pete Nikolaisson.

Gutbuster numbers steady

Ride Holidays Raetihi Gutbuster entries are coming in steadily but organisers want to see more in the 5km run/walk event.

"Our entries in this event, on 18 April, are well down on last year so we need people to sign up, both individual or team entries," says Raetihi Gutbuster committee member Cathy Rogers.

"The fun part of entering as a team is finding a wacky fancy costume, as that may win you the prize for "The Best Dressed Team" and give everyone something to smile about."

She said the 5km is also a great distance for children, families and those people who are getting into their fitness routine or even waiting for friends or family to compete in one of the other events.

If biking is your preference but not long distances, the 20km ride is the perfect option as a fun, family-friendly ride to enjoy the Gutbuster's welcoming spirit.

It is also for a good cause as the Raetihi Gutbuster is run by Raetihi Promotions Charitable Trust and donations are made to schools and groups in the community

that help out with the event.

"The Gutbuster couldn't happen without the support from our communities' businesses, organisations and local people who step forward to help in so many ways, and we greatly appreciate all they do that contributes to the success of the day," says Cathy.

"This year we have changed the 5km route slightly so check it out on the website, www.raetihi-gutbuster.com, and have some practice round the streets of Raetihi."

The other events in the Raetihi Gutbuster are the new 88km road ride, the iconic 52km road ride and the half marathon run.

"We'd also love to have some more food stalls as there was great demand last year for the delicious local product so if you are keen to help or have a stall, please contact us via the website.

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

COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Kanorau Koiora Taketake - Indigenous Biodiversity Community Grant

&

Pūtea Hapori Urupare Āhuarangi - Community Climate Response Fund

Applications open Monday 23 March to Friday 1 May, 5pm

For everything Ohakune, visit

**www.
ohakune.info**



APPLY NOW

Scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit www.horizons.govt.nz under Grants and Sponsorships to apply



For more information visit www.horizons.govt.nz or freephone Horizons on 0508 800 800



Weekend Waimarino Rodeo 'best ever' event

From Page 3

event cost around \$137,000 to run.

A big cost is freight and hire of the stock – including \$6000 for the big bulls.

Cartage and hire alone costs around \$20,000 for the event.

She thanked the many sponsors that make the event possible.

Cathy said the arena ground held up well and competitors were very happy that there was no frost, as has been the case in some years.

She said many of the competitors camp at the grounds, so a frost can affect their experience just a little.

The announcer for the event was Neville Clark, a “well-renowned stock agent and polo cross commentator”, who kept the crowd entertained and informed.

“He knows a lot of the stock so can add a lot to the commentary.”

Cathy said there were many old rodeo stalwarts in the crowd, including Evan Raynor, from Whanganui, who was a top competitor in the 1960s.

Officials on the day were: Shane Windle, Cathy MacLean, Jason Haitana, Donovan Morris, Ben Webb, Buzz Bouskill and Cam Wenn.



Rhondine Long heads for the win in the Open Barrel Race at the Waimarino Rodeo on Saturday. Photo: Robert Milne.



Clayton Buchanan on his winning ride in the Open Bareback on Saturday. Photo: Robert Milne.



Darryl McPherson in winning form in the Open Saddle Bronc. Photo: Robert Milne.



Team roping action. Photo: Glyn Hubbard.

Saturday rodeo results

Local Senior Barrel Race: 1st Siene Ros-siter, 2nd Ratapu Konui, 3rd Miki Bates. Junior Barrel: 1st Snider Rewiti, 2nd Tyler Konui, 3rd Ariana Dempsey. Murray Dette: Tye Blake, Victor Yates Jnr; Rylee Mallilieu, Junior Rurehe. 2nd Divisions Bull: 1st Cash Parsons and Jonty Belleby, 3rd Chase Parsons. Junior Barrel: 1st Hannah Haugh, 2nd Scarlett Harbourne, 3rd Tay Yates-Rauner. 2nd Barrel: 1st Andrea Harbourne, 2nd Kiera O'Neill, 3rd Danielle Lanigan. Novice Steer: 1st Locki Bergman, 2nd Hiona Mills, 3rd Rylan Wakelin. Junior Steer: no placing. Junior Breakaway: no placing. 2nd Breakaway: 1st Brooke Atkinson, 2nd Kristine Stead, 3rd Liv Oliver. 2nd Bareback: 1st Brendon Omsby, 2nd Geroge Menzies, 3rd Tauroa Taute-Collier. 2nd Saddle Bronc: 1st Ernest Huata, 2nd Riki Jones, 3rd Chad Ormsby. Team Roping: 1st PJ Randell, David Randell, 2nd Will Potts, Klay Lanigan, 3rd Patrick McCarthy, Broc Maki. Steer Wrestling: 1st Brad Lanigan, 2nd Klay Lanigan, 3rd Jessie Tauariki. Rope & Tie: 1st Buster Tauariki, 2nd Broc Maki, 3rd Will Potts. Open Barrels: 1st Rhondine Long, 2nd Maria Minta Pryor, 3rd Cheyenne Church. Open Breakaway: 1st Lylah Wood, 2nd Lani Jackson, 3rd Amelia Knowles. Open Bareback: 1st Clayton Buchanan, 2nd Zack Taylor. Open Saddle: 1st Darryl McPherson, 2nd Reece Valos, 3rd Ross Dowling.

Trophies: Ross Brown Memorial, Aaron Church Jnr. Neil Wiggins Memorial Zac Taylor. Samara Windle, Open Barrel Race, overall weekend Minter Maria Pryor. Baldwin Trophy 2nd div George Menzie.

Sunday rodeo results

Open Bull: 1st Jonty Bellemy, 2nd Rylee Ward, 3rd Klayden Ward. Open Bareback: 1st Zac Taylor. Open Saddle Bronc: 1st Reece Valois, 2nd Darryl McPherson, 3rd Ross Dowling. Open Rope & Tie: 1st Aaron Church Jnr, 2nd Will Potts, 3rd Andrew Jamieson. Open Steer Wrestling: 1st Aaron Church Jnr, 2nd Bradley Lanigan, 3rd Bodi Mason. Open Team Roping: 1st Angus Smith-Graeme Purves, 2nd Will Potts- Klay Lanigan, 3rd Lani O'Sharn- Lani Jackson. Open Breakaway: 1st Cheyenne Church, 2nd Ariana Halley, 3rd Brooke Atkinson. Open Barrels: Maria Minta Pryor, Brooke Atkinson, Jenny Atkinson. Junior Barrels: 1st Hannah Haugh, 2nd Lovalla Harbourne, 3rd TeKahu Guilde-Church. Junior Steer: no placing. Novice Steer: 1st Netana Pepene-Rurehu, 2nd Bruce Fletcher, 3rd Hiona Mills, Kingston Taite-Dewes. Junior Breakaway: 1st Hannah Haugh. 2nd Division Bareback: 1st George Menzies. 2nd Division Saddle Bronc: 1st Benjamin Meredith & William Tisdale. 2nd Division Barrel: 1st Danielle Langian, 2nd Amelia Knowles, 3rd Andrea Harbourne. 2nd Division Breakaway: 1st Brooke Atkinson, 2nd Kristine Stead.

Baldwin Trophy 2nd Division Rough Stock, George Menzie. Wiggins Trophy Open Rough Stock, Zac Taylor. Ross Brown (Rope ties steer wrestle); Aaron Church Jnr. Don Windle Memorial 2nd Division Bull; Jonty Bellemy. Samara Windle Memorial Open Barrel; Minta Maria Pryor.

Tussock Traverse and Ring of Fire set to ignite the mountain

The volcanic landscapes of Tongariro National Park will once again echo with the footsteps of trail runners this weekend, as two iconic events make their much anticipated return – the Tussock Traverse and the Ring of Fire Ultra.

Set beneath the towering slopes of Mt Ruapehu, the weekend promises an unforgettable journey through one of New Zealand’s most dramatic natural environments, where alpine desert, tussock basins, and rugged backcountry trails combine to create a world-class trail running destination.

Event organisers say the festival is about far more than racing.

“Running on Ruapehu is a unique experience,” said organisers.

“You’re moving through landscapes that feel almost otherworldly, wide open volcanic plains, alpine valleys and remote trails where you feel the scale of the mountain around you. It’s not just about the finish line, it’s about the journey across the maunga.”

Tussock Traverse

On Saturday 28 March, runners and walkers will head into the wide-open volcanic landscapes of the Tussock Traverse, one of New Zealand’s best-loved alpine trail events.

First established more than two decades ago, the Tussock Traverse has long been a rite of passage into trail running and mountain adventure. While the event was set to celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2024, consecutive cancellations in 2024 and 2025 put those celebrations on hold. Now, as it returns, this year marks the 20th running of the event, a meaningful milestone that reflects both its enduring legacy and the resilience of the community behind it.

Participants can choose from several distances: 32km run / walk; 21km run / walk; 12km run / walk; 6km run / walk (or 6km family event).

The longer routes traverse spectacular terrain between Mt Ruapehu, Mt Ngauruhoe, and Mt Tongariro, climbing through windswept volcanic desert before reaching the dramatic viewpoint of Tama Saddle.

From there runners descend past the stunning Taranaki Falls before returning to the finish beneath the slopes of Ruapehu.

“The Tussock Traverse is one of the most scenic trail

runs in the country,” organisers say.

“You’re running through a World Heritage landscape with incredible views in every direction. It’s the perfect event whether you’re an experienced trail runner or taking your first step into the mountains.”

Ring of Fire – the ultimate Ruapehu Challenge

Also beginning on 28 March, the Ring of Fire Ultra offers runners an even greater test, a journey around Mt Ruapehu itself.

Following much of the legendary Round the Mountain Track, the race loops through alpine meadows, lava fields and remote backcountry valleys in a true circumnavigation of New Zealand’s largest active volcano.

The event has grown rapidly since its introduction in 2016 and now includes several distance options: 100km Ring of Fire Ultra; 60km Ring of Fire Ultra; 100km Team Relay.

For the ultimate challenge, the 100km Solo Ultra allows competitors 28 hours to complete the full circuit around the mountain.

“The Ring of Fire is one of those bucket-list runs,” organisers said.

“To run around Ruapehu is something truly special. It’s tough, it’s raw and it’s incredibly rewarding.”

Runners face constantly changing terrain, from rugged alpine ridgelines and beech forest to remote volcanic plains where the scale of the mountain dominates the horizon.

“Every section of the course feels different,” organisers added. “You can be running through tussock one moment and deep forest the next. It’s a true adventure run.”

Together, the Tussock Traverse and Ring of Fire create one of New Zealand’s most distinctive trail weekends, attracting athletes from across the country and overseas.

Past winners of the Ring of Fire include notable ultra-runners such as Sam Clark, who set a course record over the previous long-distance format, and Courtney Pratt, winner of the women’s ultra. With the introduction of the new 100km event this year, a new chapter begins, as athletes set their sights on fresh course records and new milestones on the maunga.

But organisers say the spirit of the weekend goes beyond competition.

Junction flags raised by volunteers



Old and ragged flags that had been hanging from posts at the Ohakune Junction for over a year are now gone, with new ones replacing them. The Junction Mahi Ngatahi group thanked Keith Martin and Sean Crotty, along with Paul Stieglbauer, who put up the new Ohakune flags at the Junction on Saturday. The new flags have been sponsored by local businesses, through the Ohakune Community Charitable Trust. Photos supplied.

VOLCANIC ULTRA 60KM, 100KM & RELAY



RING OF FIRE
RUAPEHU | NEW ZEALAND

27th - 29th MARCH 2026



ENTRIES OPEN NOW

ONE MOUNTAIN. ONE WEEKEND. TWO ICONIC EVENTS.



TUSSOCK TRAVERSE

28th MARCH 2026

ENTRIES OPEN NOW



Show gift lamb thanks

The Waimarino Agricultural and Pastoral committee has thanked local farmers who supported the February event through its gift lamb initiative.

Local farmers are asked to donate a lamb to the show, which are displayed for the day and then judged by Campbell Harding, local stock agent for PGG Wrightson.

This year's winner was McCoubrie Estate.

The lambs are then sold and all proceeds go towards the show and maintaining the grounds and fixed costs such as rates and insurance.

"The Show included the gift lamb competition about six years ago as a way to get the farmers back to the show, primarily it wasn't about raising funds," said a committee

spokesperson.

"It was more about getting farmers' votes through the gate and initiating a little friendly rivalry between the districts farmers.

"If you are keen to support the show and get in on next year's competition, please call or text Graeme Fraser on 027 664 2551 and register your interest for next year."

For 2026 there were 20 lambs donated.

"We thank our very hard working and generous farmers for taking the time to select one of their finest lambs, then bring it into the show.

"With the lamb market having a strong turn around this season, the gift lamb competition sponsored by Ruapehu

Whanganui Rural Support Trust raised a staggering \$5654.06.

"The committee would also like to thank Graeme Fraser who spends hours on the phone rallying the farmers up and also his sons, Ben and Stanley who have helped him out over the years."



Ohakune Squash

Over the weekend the Ohakune Squash Club hosted the Ruapehu Cleaning & Property Maintenance B grade tournament, with over 70 participants including a big group from Otorohanga and Turangi.

In the men's top division Chris Brewer from Katikati beat local player Matthew Laurenson 11/5, 11/3, 11/7 in the final. In the women's top division final Korina Brown from Turangi beat local player Emma Rowe 11/3, 11/5, 9/11, 11/5 in the final. In other finals: Men's division two - Ben Lee (Ohakune) beat Hayden Brown (Turangi), women's division two - Grace Rowe (Ohakune) beat Paige Drinkwater (Ohakune), men's division three - Shane Christie (Turangi) beat Connor Gainfort (Turangi), women's division three - Georgia Smith (Ohakune) beat Elise Drinkwater (Ohakune), men's division four - Rawiri Lefty McKenzie (Turangi) beat

Joe Waetford (Turangi), women's division four - Sandra Christie (Turangi) beat Molly Aitken (Ohakune) on a three-way countback, men's division five - Derek Fraser (Ohakune) beat Jeff Drayton (Ohakune), men's division six - Mike Ferrier (Otorohanga) beat Willie Aitken (Ohakune), junior division - Keisha McDonough (Ohakune) beat Eva Hovelle (Ohakune).

Interhouse starts up this week on Thursday club night. Over a hundred members have entered and have been split into eight teams of 13. Rather than having to limit numbers or move to two nights, Raetihi will host two teams each Thursday. Draw for this Thursday is at Ohakune: 5:00pm Unsquashable vs Salming, 6:30pm Karakal vs Tecnifibre, 8:00pm Head vs Dunlop and at Raetihi at 6:30pm Prince vs Stellar. Team captains will be in touch or find more details on Facebook.

Love gardening?

The Ohakune Raetihi Garden Club is welcoming new and prospective members.

"If you are thinking of joining you are most welcome to come along to our monthly meetings to see what goes on," says member Di Rout.

She said meetings are generally held on the last Sunday of the month (although sometimes on a Saturday). Meetings are advertised in the *Bulletin* for the dates and times.

"At our monthly meetings we have a

raffle and a small competition, which may consist of the best flower, small posie or whatever is in season in that month."

The Club carries out garden tours, they have guest speakers, and workshops, and also participate in the A&P show, the Spring show and the Raetihi Christmas Parade.

"We also have a wealth of knowledgeable gardeners that have been working the local soil for many decades; this is great for new gardeners getting ideas and inspiration."



Experts ~ at your service

Web Tech Design

Hi, my name is **KATHY**

I provide digital administration, **web design, & tech support** to small business

if it's online, or could/should be I'm a great person to talk to :) hello@howcanihelp.co.nz

www.howcanihelp.co.nz

Ph 0210 56 76 70

Carpet Cleaning

ChemDry
Drier. Cleaner. Healthier.

WANGANUI

CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

24 HOUR FLOOD CALLOUT

We specialise in stains, odours and hard to clean carpets and fabrics.

P.U.R.T - Pet Urine Removal Treatment
cdwanganui@outlook.co.nz

www.chemdry.co.nz

Wanganui & Ruapehu Regions

0800 22 78 22

Building Supplies

PlaceMakers

FOR YOUR BUILDING PROJECT & DIY NEEDS

MON to FRI - 7.30am - 5pm
SAT 9am - midday

Ph 06-385 8414

Concrete Services

MCP

MCP TAUPŌ - MORE THAN CONCRETE

Taupō's No.1 Concrete Service

Locally owned and family-built, MCP Taupo delivers quality concrete solutions you can trust.

From house slabs and driveways to commercial floors and civil works — concrete done right.

✓ Free site check & quote ✓ Full prep, pour & finish
✓ 800+ projects completed

Strength in Every Pour - Built Right from the Ground Up

www.mcptaupo.co.nz
Email admin@mcptaupo.co.nz | 800 Rakaunui Rd, Taupo

Jasper 027 840 2222 | Norm 027 511 1166

Engineering

Ohakune ENGINEERING

- Manufacturing and repairs
- Access equipment hire
- Engineering supplies
- BOC gases
- 20T & 50T crane hire

29 Burns St, Ohakune.
027 444 2058 Bruce 021 0389288 Alan
Email: sales@ohakune-eng.co.nz

Ph 06 385 8952

Note:
Call Jude to book this space for next week.
Only costs **\$34.87^{+GST}** each week for 50 weeks, in colour!
Other options available.
p: 06-385-8532
e: ads@ruapehubulletin.co.nz

Septic Tank Work

Bennett's Septic Tank Cleaning Services

Septic tanks, water tanks, grease traps.

Call us for fast efficient service.

Phone Chris 06-388-0452

Ph 06 388 0452

Hire

Why buy it ... hire it!

TWEEDDALE HIRE

NEW LOCATION

Next to BP Ohakune

Open Monday - Friday 8am - 4pm
Saturday 9am - 12pm. Sunday CLOSED
P 027 2799 724 E ohakunehire@xtra.co.nz

CHECK OUT OUR EXTENSIVE RANGE OF HIRE EQUIPMENT. SEE OUR WEBSITE

WWW.TWEEDDALE.CO.NZ

PARTY HIRE: floodlights, tables & chairs, heaters, spit roasters, wheelie bins, chafing dishes, crockery & cutlery, dehumidifier, flute & wine glasses, universal food cooker, portaloos & showers, 3-section marquee, horse float.

Tree & Garden Services

Treeshape Ltd
Tree & Garden Management

Garden maintenance & landscaping
Tree care and removal
Landscape design and installation

Over two decades of experience in commercial and private tree & garden management

Fully qualified and insured

Contact us today for a free consultation or estimate - email treeshapeltd@gmail.com

Ph 021 951 962

Land development

VERSATILE BOBCATS LTD

Bobcat+Truck Hire

Section clearing

Driveways Formed

For All Your Land Development Requirements

Topsoil available

Contact Steve Gray **Free Quotes**

Ph 027 685 4854

Electrician

Are you looking for an electrician who:

- Turns up on time?
- Keeps his promises?

- Offers efficient service & sound advice?

Then call Jake Fah at

Mountain Electrical

REGISTERED ELECTRICIAN
Ohakune - Raetihi - Rangataua - Horopito - National Park - Whanganui

Ph 021 770 123

Marquee Hire

FOR THE BIG JOBS: digger hire, cherry pickers, pumps, wood splitters, generators, car trailers, post hole borers, furniture trailer, concrete equipment, rollers & compactors, portable trencher

Ph 06 387 5022

Applications now open for green grants

Horizons Regional Council is inviting applications for two annual funding programmes that support community-driven environmental initiatives.

The Kanorau Koiora Taketake – Indigenous Biodiversity Community Grant and the Pūtea Hapori Urupare Āhuarangi – Community Climate Response Fund provide support for groups leading local environmental action. Iwi, hapū, schools, catchment care groups and landowner groups who can apply for resources to help bring their projects to life and deliver meaningful benefits for the environment.

Horizons chair Nikki Riley says every year Council is impressed by the range of applications received.

“We are committed to supporting and enabling our communities to fulfil their aspirations for their local environment. I strongly encourage anyone who meets the criteria to apply.”

The Kanorau Koiora Taketake – Indigenous Biodiversity Community Grant supports projects that improve indigenous biodiversity and involve community, ideally incorporating mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) where possible. This is the sixth year that the fund has been available.

“Last year Horizons allocated funds to 32 new projects, supporting a range of projects from the community that focus on pest animal and plant control, and wetland and forest restoration,” says Cr Riley.

“We also had several schools receiving funding to sup-

port school-led initiatives in conjunction with community groups, encouraging stronger community connections and purpose.

“These initiatives show how community-led biodiversity projects can strengthen biodiversity while fostering deeper connections between people and place.” Cr Riley says this year,

Horizons has refined the impact areas for the Pūtea Hapori Urupare Āhuarangi – Community Climate Response Fund to ensure it better meets the needs of communities across the region.

“The updated focus areas now include building resilience planning, strengthening access to essential resources such as water, energy and food, and supporting nature-based solutions that enhance ecosystems, restoration efforts and sustainable farming systems.

“These projects highlight the creativity and commitment within our region and demonstrate how targeted support can help communities turn great ideas into meaningful climate action.

“Interested community groups can find out if they are eligible for funding and support by visiting our website where they’ll find the guidelines and criteria for each of the grants.”

For more information and to apply for either of these grants visit the Horizons website <https://www.horizons.govt.nz/about-our-region-and-council/grants-and-sponsorship/biodiversity-grants>.

Gutbuster numbers steady

Ride Holidays Raetihi Gutbuster entries are coming in steadily but organisers want to see more in the 5km run/walk event.

“Our entries in this event, on 18 April, are well down on last year so we need people to sign up, both individual or team entries,” says Raetihi Gutbuster committee member Cathy Rogers.

“The fun part of entering as a team is finding a wacky fancy costume, as that may win you the prize for “The Best Dressed Team” and give everyone something to smile about.”

She said the 5km is also a great distance for children, families and those people who are getting into their fitness routine or even waiting for friends or family to compete in one of the other events.

If biking is your preference but not long distances, the 20km ride is the perfect option as a fun, family-friendly ride to enjoy the Gutbuster’s welcoming spirit.

It is also for a good cause as the Raetihi Gutbuster is run by Raetihi Promotions Charitable Trust and donations are made to schools and groups in the community that help out with the event.

“The Gutbuster couldn’t happen without the support from our communities’ businesses, organisations and local people who step forward to help in so many ways, and we greatly appreciate all they do that contributes to the success of the day,” says Cathy.

“This year we have changed the 5km route slightly so check it out on the website, www.raetihi-gutbuster.com, and have some practice round the streets of Raetihi.”

The other events in the Raetihi Gutbuster are the new 88km road ride, the iconic 52km road ride and the half marathon run.

“We’d also love to have some more food stalls as there was great demand last year for the delicious local product so if you are keen to help or have a stall, please contact us via the website.

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



Experts ~ at your service

Tree Felling & Firewood

JK CONTRACTING
ON-SITE TREE FELLING & FIREWOOD SPECIALISTS

TURN UNWANTED TREES INTO VALUABLE FIREWOOD

- Tree felling
- Wind-thrown & hung-up trees
- Section clearing
- 6T tip truck services
- Dangerous & dead trees
- Hedge & shelterbelt work
- 6T & 1.7T diggers
- On-site firewood processing

Professional - Reliable - Local Service
Free quotes - Fully insured
Covering the wider Ruapehu district

Phone Jack 027 314 7095

Ohakune Landscape Supplies

- Huge range of Pebbles
- Mulch
- Bark
- Pea Straw
- Builders mix
- Sand
- Topsoil
- Bagged Garden Fertilisers
- Rail & Mac Sleepers
- White chip
- Pavers

~ Call to arrange supply ~ FREE loan trailer ~
~ eftpos available ~
Email: Ohakune.landscape@gmail.com

Ph 0800 926 315

Property Maintenance / Cleaning

RUAPEHU COMMERCIAL CLEANING & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE LTD
Commercial | Residential Property Cleaning | Maintenance

- General Cleaning
- Property Maintenance
- Carpet Cleaning
- Water Blasting Services
- Floor polishing/buffing

For a free no obligation quote call:
RAY 021 886 509 or MAURICE 021 078 2419
Or visit: www.rccpml.co.nz

021 886509 or 021 0782419

Curtains & Blinds

CURLS
curtains&blinds

FREE MEASURE & QUOTE

Custom Quality Curtains, Blinds, Shutters & Steel Kit Set Frames

curlscnb@gmail.com

Find us on facebook
[@curlscurtainsandblinds](https://www.facebook.com/curlscurtainsandblinds)

Ph 022 307 2627

Plumber

Plumber Dan
Plumbing, Drainage, Gas & Building

Looking for a dependable local plumber in your area?
Count on our skilful local Ohakune plumber for all your maintenance plumbing requirements. Whether it's a leaking pipe or a blocked drain, we deliver quality service with fair pricing in the Ohakune & surrounding areas.

Don't hesitate, get in touch with us today!
office@plumberdan.co.nz

Ph 021 635 517

For everything Ohakune, visit

www.ohakune.info

Earthworks

HAITANA EARTHWORKS

- 14 tonne digger
- 14 tonne wheel digger
- Tip truck
- Supply of metal, scoria and boulders

Farm work, section & driveways, rock walls

Ph 027 289 4404

Gas Fitting

Plumbing & Gasfitting

Cut down on your power bill. Go gas hot water & heating – supplied and installed. Call for a consultation.

Phone Denise 027 482 7488 or
Email accounts@applumbingandgas.co.nz

Ph 06 343 6866

Auto Services

AUTO SERVICE CENTRE

Repco
BRIDGESTONE

Authorised Holden Service Centre
Full workshop services for all vehicles, wheel alignments, computer diagnostics, warrant of fitness inspections, parts, batteries, engine oils.

84 Clyde Street, Ohakune
After hours 027 448 4080
autoservicecentre@hotmail.co.nz

Ph 06 385 9222

Plumbing / Drainlaying

B&M PLUMBING LTD

- Plumbing & Drainlaying
- Pumps - sales, servicing & installation of all pumps
- Fires & Solar
- 5 Ton Digger with Augers, Ditchwitch & Tip Truck

“Your local Registered Certifier”

B&M PLUMBING LIMITED
Call Brian 027 436 1075
Email: bmfred@xtra.co.nz

Ph 06 385 4718

Auto Services

RUAPEHU MOTORS

Locally owned and operated by mechanic Daniel Norris.
WOF \$75 car, \$45 trailer

Ruapehu Motors
Cnr Seddon St and Valley Rd, Raetihi.

For enquiries, please phone Daniel

Ph 027 863 7454

Upholsterers

Westlorne

- Furniture Upholstery
- Vehicle Upholstery
- Tarpaulins • Canvas & Leather
- Shade sails • Saddlery

Factory, SH49, Tangiwai, Ohakune.
Mobile 0274-467-289 Fax 06-385-8483
email: westlorne@xtra.co.nz
www.westlorne.co.nz

Ph 06 385 8487

Raetihi's Blazing Hills obstacle race in pictures

Photographers Glyn Hubbard and Tegan Mochan captured hundreds of images of happy, but sometimes muddy faces at the Blazing Hills event in the hills near Raetihi recently. Results are available online at <https://barefootspport.bbtiming.com/event/1314/results>





IN MEMORIAM

SUE, CYRIL POI JONG: in loving memory of our brother and uncle. Passed away 13 March 2019. Forever in our hearts and memories, a workaholic, now seven years have passed, you must have caught up on your well deserved rest now. Your loving sisters - Colleen, June and Joan. Brothers in law Tom & Bob. Nieces and nephews, Mike, Brendon, Karlene, Lisa, Daryn, Sophie, Jodie, Dylan Connor, Xavier and Hannah.

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD LOGS 4 SALE. Pine logs and mixed logs, 5 ton or 2.5 ton truck loads. Call/TXT Keith 021 055 4794

WATER TROUGHS, cattle or sheep. Different sizes. Delivered price quoted. Ph 0800-487-633.

FUNERAL NOTICE

EVELYN COOPER 30.06.1935. With sadness and heavy hearts we share that Evelyn Cooper passed away after a short illness. Her Memorial Service will be at 1pm on Friday 27 March at St Johns, corner of Rata and Ayr St, Ohakune followed by afternoon tea. All welcome.

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



Ohakune Raetihi Garden Club AGM
Sunday 29 March - 2.30pm
Makotuku River walk and local garden tour at 1pm.
New members welcome. Contact Di 021 165 7343.

BUSINESS NOTICES

Ohakune Health Hub
In pain? Let us help.
Experienced care in Osteopathy, Physiotherapy, Massage and Acupuncture – effective treatment for:
- Musculoskeletal pain - headaches & concussion - post-operative recovery - and much more.
ACC registered | 77-79 Clyde St, Ohakune
Book online: www.ohakuneosteo.co.nz



Premium Ruapehu Lowline Angus x Jersey branded beef, raised locally in Raetihi.
Once You Taste It, You'll Understand
Tender, marbled, full of flavour – calm handling and stress-free transport for the best taste.
FREE LOCAL DELIVERY
Renē: 021 24 24 211 www.ruapehulowlineangus.co.nz

The Royal Theatre, Raetihi
Movie Month
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

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



PUBLIC NOTICES



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



PUBLIC NOTICES

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.

MODELS & PHOTOGRAPHER WANTED
World of WearableArt Entry
Ruapehu-based wearable art designer Anna John is seeking a model (female, bra size 10D or smaller, or slim male) and a photographer/videographer for a World of WearableArt Bizarre Bra competition entry.
No modelling experience needed – traditional modelling requirements do not apply, bra size is the only criteria. Indoor shoot must be completed before 12 April 2026. Compensation negotiable.
Contact: annajohndesigns@icloud.com or 021 121 8072.

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



ISSN 1170-1676 (print)
ISSN 1178-7406 (online)
Published by Ruapehu Media Ltd
Phone (06) 385 8532
56 Clyde St, Ruapehu Colab office, Ohakune.
Ruapehu's only locally owned weekly community newspaper. Established 1983.
Reaching homes every Wednesday in Ohakune, National Park, Raetihi, Waiouru and surrounding rural areas.
Publishing Editor:
Robert Milne – robert@ruapehubulletin.co.nz
Advertising Rep:
Jude Chevin – ads@ruapehubulletin.co.nz
Printed by NZME, Auckland
Advertising Deadline 5pm Friday

PUBLIC NOTICES

Calling stall holders – spaces still available
Junction Easter Market
Thames Street, Saturday 4 April
10am - 2pm
Please contact Jennie 0210 236 0065

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE – RING OF FIRE 2026
Pursuant to the Local Government Act 1974, Section 342, Schedule 10 notice is hereby given that the Ruapehu District Council will close the below streets for the following event:
Event: Ring of Fire Alpine Ultra Trail Run 2026
Roads:
• **Friday 27 March 2026** from approximately 8am to Sunday 29 March 2026 at approximately 3pm Thames Street from the intersection of Mangawhero Terrace to the far end of the Turoa Lodge car park for the purpose of the Ring of Fire event hub.
• **Saturday 28 March 2026** from approximately 3am to 8:30am from the intersection of Old Station Road, the Ohakune Mountain Road will be closed to all non-event related traffic.
• **Saturday 28 March 2026** from approximately 7pm to 8am from the intersection of Old Station Road, the Ohakune Mountain Road will be closed to all non-event related traffic.
• **While the above closures are provisional due to the traffic management plan having not received regulatory approval, the Ohakune Events Charitable Trust does not anticipate that they will change.**
Date: 8am on Friday 27 March to 3pm on Sunday 29 March 2026
Detour: For Thames Street is available via Rimu and Tyne Streets. There is no detour available for Ohakune Mountain Road. Detour signage will be in place.
It shall be an offence under the regulations for any person otherwise than under authority to use the street for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure.
Any queries please contact Council on 07 895 8188.

PUBLIC NOTICES
Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012
DGK Enterprises Limited has made an application to the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council for the **issue of an On Licence** in respect of the premises situated at **68 Clyde Street, Ohakune** known as **Magic Chilli**. The general nature of the business to be conducted under the licence is that of a **Restaurant**. The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is intended to be sold under the licence are:
Monday to Sunday 11.00am – 9.00pm
The application may be inspected during ordinary office hours at the office of the Ruapehu District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council, 59-63 Huia Street, Taumarunui.
Any person who is entitled to object and who wishes to object to the issue of the licence may, not later than 25 working days after the date of the publication of this notice, file a notice in writing of the objection with the Secretary of the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council, Private Bag 1001, Taumarunui 3946. No objections to the issue of a licence may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in section 105(1) of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.
This is the first publication of this notice.

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!

For everything Ohakune, visit www.ohakune.info

HURLSTONE

Earthmoving Limited

PLANT HIRE OR CONTRACT

Specialists in Land Development, Drainage, Roding Construction & Ready Mixed Concrete.

Phone 58-083 Ohakune

WAIMARINO BULLETIN

VOICE OF THE RUAPEHU REGION
Tuesday 25 March, 1986. Volume 3 No. 41

NEW & USED CAR LOANS now available from:



'Exercising options'

Ohakune Primary School principal Bill Taylor has resigned to pursue a career in writing. He has been principal of the school since he came to live in Ohakune seven years ago. His retirement from a full-time career in teaching takes effect from the end of the present Term 1.

During the past seven years Bill Taylor has made a significant contribution not only to the development of the school but also to the local community and the range of childrens' literature in New Zealand.

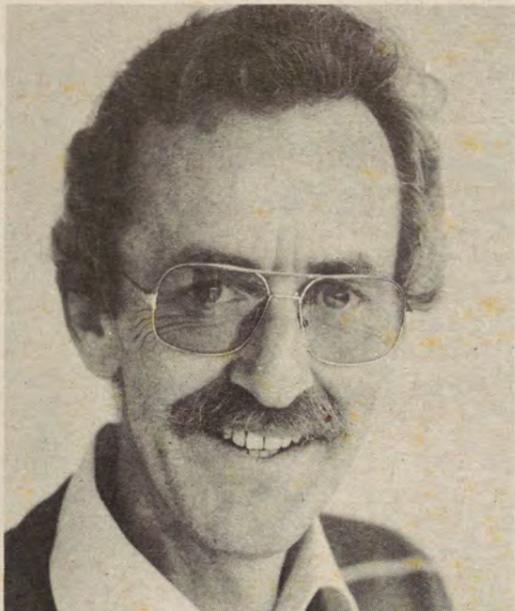
As mayor of Ohakune for five of those years he has played a leading role in local authority deliberations. This during a period which has seen many changes.

Ohakune has achieved very real growth — the value of building permits has averaged over \$2 million each year — and the town has gained for itself international recognition as a tourist centre providing excellent skiing facilities and other outdoor activities.

Bill Taylor's appointment as principal and election to the Ohakune Borough Council coincides almost exactly with the establishment of the Turoa Skifield. Also during his term of office as mayor there's been the 'Giant Carrot' issue and, more recently, the amalgamation issue.

In his other capacity, as an author of childrens' books, he has now completed four titles. Three of these were written during a 9-month period last year while he was on a bursary-sponsored sabbatical!

He had been awarded the \$8000 Choysa Bursary for Children's Literature in February 1985 following the success of his first book: 'Pick Up, Pack Up and Off' published some two years earlier.



Bill Taylor

Last year he wrote: 'Summer of Lions'; 'Shooting Through' and; 'Possum Perkins'.

All were written in response to his realisation that, as a primary school teacher for 30 years, children in this country didn't have available to them a wide enough variety of New Zealand literature with which they could identify.

One of Bill Taylor's many interests while he was principal was the staging of school plays involving as many children as possible either in the cast itself or in the back-stage production team. 'Snow White and the Twenty-seven Dwarfs' was just such an example!

Most of the plays, written by Bill Taylor himself, were adaptations of traditional stories and included: 'Cinderella' and 'Midsummer Night's Dream'.

His decision to change careers 'mid-stream' has been because: "I simply do not have the time to spend working at two full-time

commitments. I'll be staying in Ohakune, I'm making myself available for some part-time relieving teaching and will possibly be standing for the Mayoralty again at the next local body elections later this year. But beyond that...?"

Reminded that when last interviewed by the *Bulletin* about his future intentions following his success with the Choysa awards he had said: "I'm keeping my options open," he said last week: "I'm now exercising those options."

"But I am going to miss the contact I've had with schools, with children and with teachers over the last 30 years or so. Their friendship has meant a lot to me... free-lance writing can be a lonely career."

Ohakune Primary School's deputy-principal Moreen Hancock will probably fill in as acting principal — as she did last year during Bill Taylor's sabbatical leave — if no permanent appointment is made by the second term.

THE AMALGAMATION ISSUE

Last week was 'crunch time' for the three local authorities in the Waimarino area so far as the amalgamation issue is concerned.

The three councils — Waimarino County Council, Raetihi Borough Council and Ohakune Borough Council — have until 8 April to report back to the Local Government Commission their decision as to whether they will join each other in a Waimarino District Council or seek an alternative.

The three local authorities called meetings last week to make their final decision and put their borough and county seals on the draft scheme for the proposed amalgamation.

Their decisions were not unanimous. One council approved the draft scheme unanimously, another approved it subject to some minor alterations and the third rejected it by a 4-2 vote on a show of hands.

At a Special Meeting last Wednesday night the Raetihi Borough Council unanimously approved the draft scheme and will be writing to the Commission to inform them of the decision.

"We are quite happy to accept the draft scheme," said Raetihi Mayor Garrick Workman. "We've debated it for many months on end now and we feel it couldn't be improved."

At their full meeting on Thursday night the Waimarino County Council agreed to the scheme in principle subject to some minor alterations.

These included a change in the distribution of rural and urban ridings within the ward system and a change

relating to the formula on which the proportion of rates collected by each council is assessed.

The Ohakune Borough Council, at their full meeting on the same night (Thursday), voted by a 2-1 majority to decline the draft scheme of amalgamation.

The meeting, attended by only six of the borough's nine councillors — Crs Goddard, Hammond and Horne were absent — decided not to give the Borough Seal of approval to the draft scheme.

Crs Sue and Hays voted to approve the draft scheme but Crs Brannigan, Gould, Wiggins and Wright voted to reject it.

As a result of the Ohakune Borough Council's decision a letter was prepared for the chairman of the Local Government

Commission, Mr Brian Elwood, explaining the grounds on which the proposal for the union of the three total authorities in the Waimarino had been declined.

These included the following:

1. The proposed scheme does no more than preserve the status quo under a new title and in a manner that makes eventual development of satisfactory local government in this area exceptionally difficult.

2. The draft scheme confers little advantage on, specifically, the citizens of Ohakune and, in general, the people of the proposed district.

3. The concept of district is not reflected in the draft proposal. It represents a

cont'd page 21

Busy weekend ahead

The Waimarino will be expecting its annual influx of Easter visitors this coming weekend and several local businesses are gearing up in anticipation of this, the first tangible evidence of the 1986 ski season.

Tongariro National Park staff will also be out in force during the coming weekend which is one of the busiest of the year for trampers, climbers and other visitors to the central plateau.

Rangers will be patrolling the Park to ensure the safety of visitors and to check that the 'no-hunting' restriction is enforced.

In Ohakune, National Park, Raetihi and Waiouru accommodation houses —

hotels, motels, hostels and motor camps — are preparing for a "busier than usual" weekend while food shops and dairies are ordering increased supplies of milk and bread to meet the increased demand.

Traditionally the ski shops in Ohakune and National Park are featuring sales throughout the weekend (see advertisements in this edition) of last season's gear including skis, poles, clothes, gloves and goggles.

Owners of ski chalets and holiday homes in the area as well as members of club huts on the Whakapapa Skifield will be making their annual pre-season pilgrimage to make sure that everything is ready for the opening of the 1986 ski season.

Bulletin hosts budding journalists



Last week ten pupils from Raetihi Primary School and their teacher, Jennifer Godfrey, visited the *Bulletin* offices in Ohakune to see how a newspaper is produced. The Raetihi pupils are entering the annual 'Front page' competition run by Wellington's 'Dominion'.

All Roads Lead to...
ROY TURNER SKI SHOP

HUGE EASTER SALE
— SALE —
The Shop for all the Family

Buddo Street, National Park Ph 757

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

Big bro denies World champion little bro chance to defend title

Not all sibling rivalries come to axe blows – but this one does: reigning world champion, Ruapehu’s Jack Jordan has been denied the opportunity of defending his world title in Europe later this year after being beaten by his big brother at the Stihl Timbersports Nationals recently.

New Zealand’s sole representative at the end-of-year world champs is determined by whoever wins the national title at the Rural Games in Palmerston North, and this year

39-year old Shane Jordan pipped his younger sibling of 10 years, Jack, at the final hurdle.

In a repeat of last year’s competition ending, it all came down to the last of six Timbersport disciplines, with the two brothers even on points once again after five rounds going into the hot saw (super-charged chainsaws) event.

“All I knew going into the hot saw was that I had to put up a really good time and try and put the pressure

back on Jack and, lucky enough for me, it all worked out pretty good,” said Shane Jordan.

“Jack’s pretty hard to beat at the best of times, and so yeah, definitely pretty good yesterday to get one over the top of him.”

So, Shane Jordan now looks forward to being New Zealand’s individual competitor at the World Champs in Stuttgart, Germany in October, doing what Jack did to him at last year’s Nationals – snatching victory in the final moments.

“I could see he was hurting at the end of it all and I felt his pain so I didn’t talk to him too much,” said Shane.

“It’ll take him a day or two to process it all, but he’ll certainly be on my side when our NZ Team heads over to try and get that world championship.”

Jack Jordan – attempting his fifth nationals title in a row – will still go to those championships for the international

teams event as part of NZ team, plus he is also confirmed to defend his Stihl Timbersport World Trophy in June in Hungary (a short form, high intensity format that he’s won the last three years in a row), but the weekend’s result was still a tough one for him.

“It’s a lot of pressure that comes with this single today that qualifies us to go overseas. If you have a bad day here it can really muck-up your Timbersports season. But that’s what also gives you the competitive edge to make sure you are up for it. There’s a fair bit on the line. This year it went Shane’s way – and I’m really happy for him,” said Jack.

The younger Jordan didn’t leave the Rural Games empty handed though. He was crowned the Supreme Rural Sports Award winner for the second time at the Ford New Zealand Rural Sports Awards last Friday night.

Property Brokers ^B

National Park 44-46 Raurimu Road

Tender






Unlock tourism or accommodation potential

A rare freehold opportunity on 22,951sqm (more or less) of land, comprising multiple buildings with a combined floor area of approximately 550sqm, located in a recognised tourism and outdoor destination. Constructed in the 1950s and historically used for outdoor education and group accommodation, the buildings requires renovation. This presents a genuine value-add and repositioning opportunity for investors or developers seeking to create tourism accommodation, staff housing, a lodge, retreat facilities, or other commercial ventures (subject to approvals).

Tender closes 3.00pm, Thu 16th Apr, 2026, 27 Hakiaha Street, Taumarunui
View By appointment
Web pb.co.nz/TUC224532



Cameron Elliot
M 027 542 1009

Property Brokers Ltd Licensed REAA 2008 | pb.co.nz



Shane Jordan, centre, pipped his world champion brother, at left, in the timber sports nationals recently. Photo supplied.

True Team Promise means our whole team works for you.

Contact your local Ohakune Consultant today!



Cameron Elliot
Sales Manager
Taumarunui/Ohakune
027 542 1009



Alan Blackburn
Rural/Lifestyle
027 203 9112



Polly Ingles
Residential/Lifestyle
027 315 8368



Jenna Hovelle
Residential/Lifestyle
027 361 0167



Jody Milham
Residential/Lifestyle
027 426 4322



Mere Haitana
Branch Administrator
06 385 4466



Ave-Elise Adams
Property Manager
027 370 0914



Scan the QR code to find us on Facebook



Property Brokers ^B

Proud to be here

pb.co.nz

Property Brokers Ltd Licensed REAA 2008
Q022738

14 • RUAPEHU BULLETIN 25 March 2026