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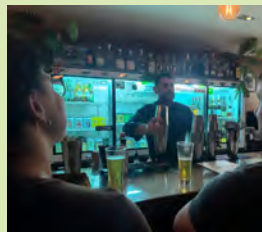
Old Station Road, Ohakune. Phone 06-385-8444



Health bus team P2



Milestone for iwi lands P5



Taste, beer and markets P10



Young guns shear teddies P13

'Hamstrung' RDC sets wish list for tougher dog control powers

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting

Ruapehu's mayor Weston Kirton says dog control laws are failing communities and leaving authorities unable to act decisively after attacks.

Ruapehu District Council is calling for sweeping changes to dog control laws, including stronger powers.

"Council would welcome additional powers to deal with dangerous or menacing dogs," Kirton said.

"The community is understandably very frustrated. If there is a dog incident, they expect council to be able to act quickly and decisively and often we are hamstrung."

Kirton said the reforms must strike a balance between enforcement and community responsibility, but stronger legal tools were essential to restore public confidence and improve safety.

The Government said last week it would overhaul the Dog Control Act following a series of serious dog attacks, including the death of a woman in Northland.

In response, RDC said reform is urgently needed, with Kirton describing the existing legislation as "not fit for purpose."

"If owners of dogs involved in an attack on a person want to keep the dog, the threshold of evidence needed to obtain



a destruction order is a very high bar," Kirton said.

"The Courts require statements from affected parties and often people do not want to get involved."

Kirton told Local Democracy Reporting the council was doing what it could with the resources and tools available.

"Dogs are a community issue, and we need the support of the community to be able to fully utilise the regulatory powers that we have."

Local government issue

The Ruapehu mayor raised the issue at this week's Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Zone 3 meeting, where councils discussed practical changes they want included in the review.

He wants the review to reduce the dog holding period from seven days to five, allowing councils to process impounded animals more quickly.

He also wants the disqualification period for irresponsible owners extended from three years to 10. Council officials say

Turn to Page 3

From storm to stillness: volcanic trail runs go well



Kieran Adams in the lead in the 32km Tussock Traverse trail run on Saturday – one of several trail options that included a 100km ultra run around Mt Ruapehu. Photo: Photos4sale.co.nz.

Heading into the Ring of Fire trail run last weekend, organisers were closely monitoring the weather, with winds of up to 100km/h recorded at Whakapapa and severe systems moving across the country.

"We had contingency courses prepared and were ready to adapt if needed, but we were incredibly stoked to be able to deliver the event on the full original courses," says

Jayde Lowe, race director.

After a challenging lead-in with severe weather across the region, race morning delivered an exceptionally beautiful day. While there were still some winds around Tukino, overall conditions were calm, clear, and ideal for racing.

Runners began under a sky full of stars, with the Milky

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AUTUMN ALERT

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New mobile health bus partnership for direct care announced

The Waka Hauora Mobile Health Bus, launched by the Robert Bartley Foundation in 2020, has partnered with Whanganui Regional Health Network (WRHN) to make primary health care services more accessible – especially for those facing barriers such as isolation, distance, cost, or illness.

The bus has been bringing healthcare directly to the wider community – that includes the southern Ruapehu District – offering immunisations, free health and cancer screenings, school-based services, and access to a range of clinical health services supporting greater uptake across communities throughout the Whanganui region.

“A key focus of the Foundation’s work is supporting people affected by cancer and helping bring preventative and community-based health services to those who need them the most,” says Foundation chair and manager, Sarah Bartley.

“We continue to fundraise to maintain the bus and to support our latest initiative – purchasing a dedicated vehicle for the Cancer Society to use in transporting patients to their treatments, supporting practice visits and ongoing care, and strengthening community outreach.

“The bus creates a visual statement when it arrives in our communities, signalling that health professionals and partners are available to meet our people in their backyard to explore and progress a range

of wellness strategies, such as skin lesion checks, vaccinations, cervical screening, and bowel screening kits.”

WRHN chief executive Jude MacDonald said they welcome opportunities to connect with critical friends who appreciate that the health system needs to respond differently if we are going to keep people well.

“It takes all sorts of partners to increase our reach and our effectiveness. Having the Whanganui Eye Care Trust chair interested and engaged in our collaborative strategies was a highlight. Alan Mangan has worked with WRHN for many years as a GP, and it’s a pleasure to have him alongside us as we share strategy and find ways to deliver more accessible and community focused care models,” says MacDonald.

“This is an opportunity to expand the use of the Health Bus and provide community services with another pathway to reach those most in need. The bus is made available to non-profit organisations and community-focused health providers, offering a private treatment room, a spacious hospital bed, storage for necessary medical supplies, and a small waiting area.

“We are excited to extend our partnerships and continue Dad’s legacy of giving back to the community that he cherished so much,” says Bartley.

“For more information and to help keep the bus keep moving, please visit the Foundation’s website – www.bartleyfoundation.org.”



From left, Alan Mangan, Avon McDonald, Ann Bartley, Sarah Bartley, Jude MacDonald, pictured with the Waka Hauora Mobile Health Bus – set to provide health services around the region including the southern Ruapehu District.

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Ruapehu Events & What's On

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.

Junction Easter Market 4 April
Market stalls, games, music – Thames St, 10am-2pm. Jennie 0210 236 0065 for info.

Ohakune Beer Festival 4 April
For more see @ohakunebeerfestival or www.kingsohakune.co.nz

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
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Plans to revive Ohakune Mardi Gras

The Ohakune Mountain Mardi Gras is back on the events calendar for 2026, after an earlier announcement that it had been cancelled for this year.

A new company, Boost Ohakune, has partnered with Audiology – the company

that has run the event for the past eight years – to return the event to the calendar.

They have announced the date as Saturday 4 July, with the lineup announcement and ticket sales going public this month.

Community and Emergency Services

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Budget Advice – Email waimarinobudgetservices@gmail.com or phone 027 259 5285.
CCS Disability Action (Whanganui) – Sheryl Brightwell 0800-789-654
Child, Adolescent and Sexual Health Nurse – 06-385-5019
Child Youth and Family Service – 0508-326 459
Churches: Anglican, 06-385-4957. Baptist, 027-206-1874. Catholic, 06-385-8858 or 027 606 5186. Gospel Chapel, 06-385-8453. Presbyterian, 06-388-0675 or 06-385-8708. Waiouru – duty chaplain 06-387-5599 ext 7031 or 021-493-692
Civil Defence – Simon Osborne, Emergency Management Officer (EMO), RDC – 07 895 8188, or 027 220 0569. Simon.Osborne@ruapehudc.govt.nz
CLAW community free legal advice: Whanganui 06-348-8288
Doctors: In an emergency call 111. Ruapehu Health Ltd 06-385-4211
Information Centres – Ohakune 06-385-8427, Raetihi 06-385-4805
Ngati Rangi Community Health Centre – 06-385-9580
Plunket Society – Plunket Nurse 06-385-5019
Police and Search & Rescue Emergency, call 111
Ohakune 06-385-0100, Raetihi 06-385-4002, Waiouru 06-387-6884, Military Police 0800-50-11-22
Red Cross – 0800 RED CROSS (0800 733 27677)
Rotary Club Raetihi - Ohakune – 027-344-5669
Ruapehu REAP – 0800 00 REAP (0800 007 327)
Ruapehu Maori Wardens – Email: ruapehumaoriwardens@gmail.com
St John – in an emergency call 111
Taumarunui Counselling Services: For confidential counselling in Waimarino phone 07-895-6393
Victim Support Contact Centre – 0800 842 846
Waimarino Cancer Society: Co-ordinator 06 348 7402
Waimarino Health Care Centre – Raetihi 06-385-5019
Waimarino Community Toy Library – waimarintoylibrary@gmail.com
Women's Refuge – 0800-REFUGE 0800 73384
Ruapehu Mayor – Weston Kirton, enquiries to 06-385-8364 or 07-895-8188.
Owhango-National Park Community Board:
Peter Zimmer - Chairperson 027 479 1926; Gail Gray - Deputy Chair 027 434 6599; Anthony Gurr 021 487 742; Eddie Marsters 021 108 0279; Murray Wilson 027 542 9079; Luke Pepper - (RDC Rep) 027 329 2849
Taumarunui/Ohura Ward Community Board:
Molly Jeffries, Chairperson 021 431 8333; Sophie Stockbridge, Deputy Chairperson 020 401 1190; Johnny Dryden 027 573 4726; Brian Portland 027 558 5585; Oriwia Wanakore 020 498 4088; Robyn Gram (RDC Rep) 027 389 1912
Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board:
John (Luigi) Hotter - Chairperson 027 274 2616; Stu Robinson - Deputy Chairperson 021 024 07657; Kay Henare 027 924 7252; Colin Pakai 021 091 67315; Emma Young 027 347 1457; David (Rabbit) Nottage - (RDC Rep) 021 111 6514
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RDC sets wish list for tougher dog control powers

From Page 1

repeat offenders often replace seized dogs and continue problematic behaviour.

Stricter rules around breeding and kennels were also required, Kirton said.

Councils were concerned about unregulated breeders flooding the market with multiple litters marketed as “pure breed” dogs without proper documentation, often at lower prices.

Kirton said breed classification remains a contentious issue. He is pushing for a review of Schedule 4, which lists dogs considered menacing by breed, with suggestions to include American Staffordshire Terriers and XL Bullies.

Training and care influence

However, he said council officials acknowledged breed-based rules have had limited success, and had noted a dog’s behaviour was more strongly influenced by training and care.

There were also practical challenges in classification, including disputes from owners and the use of DNA testing to verify breed.

The council and others would instead look to gather better data on breeds involved in attacks and rushing incidents to inform decisions.

Other suggestions focus on tightening control measures. These include mandatory standards for fencing and containment, particularly for large or powerful dogs, and increasing infringement penalties to deter irresponsible ownership.

Some councils had already begun pursuing unpaid fines through debt collection and seeking owner disqualification after repeated offences, Kirton said.

The review could also introduce mandatory reporting of dog attacks by health professionals, including ACC, emergency departments and GPs.

Weekly treatments

Kirton said councils currently receive only a fraction of reports, despite anecdotal evidence from doctors treating dog bites on a weekly basis.

He said he would support a national system for dog registration fees to ensure consistency across regions, as well as the creation of a DNA database for classified dogs to help identify animals involved in attacks.

Councils were also seeking stronger powers to retain and destroy dangerous dogs, and clearer legal language, such as replacing discretionary terms like “may” with enforceable “must” provisions.

He would also support stronger rules around persistent barking, mandatory parvovirus vaccinations for puppies, and expanded authority to seize dogs from restricted breeds.

Last week councils champion LGNZ said an overhaul of dog control legislation was “much needed”.

LGNZ president Rehette Stoltz said no one should have to feel unsafe in their own neighbourhoods and dog control rules as they currently stand are not sufficient.

“Dangerous dogs are intimidating and affect people’s



Ruapehu mayor Weston Kirton wants stronger powers for his council to deal with dangerous or menacing dogs. Photo: RNZ.

sense of safety. It’s clear we need to reform our dog control laws to better protect communities,” Stoltz said.

LGNZ said councils require proactive powers. This includes being able to intervene earlier when aggressive dogs pose a risk to public safety, strengthening

powers through bylaws to require fencing and desexing where required as preventative measures, and changes that enable better information sharing between key agencies.

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

Petrol from sprouts

Waimarino vegetable growers are joining forces with a national fuel company on a trial to create combustion engine fuel from reject vegetables, starting with Brussels sprouts, but later adding carrots, parsnips and potatoes.

“It’s really a no-brainer,” says a local grower.

“We’ve always got excess sprouts because, let’s be honest, hardly anyone likes them, so why not put them to good use and help with the current fuel crises?”

The process is very simple – similar to fermenting any fruit or vegetable and then distilling it for vodka. But with the addition of a patented process that is being scaled up, instead of producing alcohol, the end product is a flammable liquid containing a mixture of hydrocarbons including alkanes and cycloalkanes with chain lengths of C4 to C12.

The process may also be able to produce diesel, which

could be used to power growers’ own tractors and other equipment.

Potential trademark issues are currently being researched, but the working titles for the veggie fuel are: BPetrol for the sprouts, Carrtex for the carrot zoom juice, Spudiesel from the potatoes and ParZap for the parsnips.

There are no plans to use swedes for fuel as it seems even combustion engines don’t like them.

There are very few potential drawbacks – apart from the smell of exhaust emissions from vehicles burning the sprouts gas.

“Some people with very good olfactory senses say that it smells of post-Christmas dinner flatulence,” says Aaron Richards-Sole.

The first commercial volumes of the fuel are expected to start flowing on 1 April.

Kiwi caught on camera a Pureora milestone

A rare kiwi has been captured on a trail camera in the northern Pureora Forest’s Waipapa block – the first recorded sighting of the species in the area for more than 25 years.

Department of Conservation’s Maniapoto operations manager Graham Kimber says the bird was filmed by a trail camera set up as part of a non-toxic trial to test a new sausage bait being developed to control introduced predators.

A time stamp on the footage shows the bird was filmed at about 4am on 25 February, on a camera located in the southern part of the Waipapa Block.

The kiwi is thought to be a western brown kiwi, and it’s the first live



A trail camera has captured a rare sight in the Pureora Forest – a western brown kiwi. Photo: DOC.

Turn to Page 12

1926-2026

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Waimarino Golf Club

Waimarino Golf Club – Open Day 1927

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One hundred years of Ruapehu Golf celebrated

Waimarino Golf Club is celebrating 100 years of golf in the southern Ruapehu District this weekend.

"From humble beginnings in 1926, the Waimarino Golf Club has stood as a testament to resilience, community spirit and the enduring love of the game," states the Club.

The celebrations start on Friday with a golf haggie from 10am, followed by a gathering at the Clubhouse for drinks and a meal.

On Saturday, the 18-hole Jubilee Tournament tees off at 9.30am; followed by a 9-hole tournament at 11.30am.

There's reunion photos at 4.45, before the evening celebrations including a meal, welcome, formalities and music.

Sunday's programme has an ambrosia tournament and a casual meal in the afternoon.

The club began in 1926 under the leader-

ship of president PC Murray, who served until the end of 1927, alongside the Club's first captain, HA Penn. In 1928, PC Murray stepped into the Captain's role while H Fulton assumed the presidency.

"What followed was not simply the development of a golf course, but the building of a community."

The Club was created out of the joining of two clubs, the Raetihi Golf Club and the Ruapehu Golf Club (Ohakune/Rangataua).

The Ruapehu Golf Club had 22 members and they played on a nine-hole course on a Lakes Road Farm. Raetihi Golf Club was slightly bigger at 31 members and played on Ciochetto's farm on George Street in Raetihi.

The course opened with 10 holes, expanding to 12 sometime after.

The 1930s Great Depression had an impact on the club, resulting in a decreasing membership and a hold was placed on

Turn to Page 5



The winning Waimarino team, 1931.

Veggie faces sign revived



The faces sign featuring the "big five" vegetables at the Ohakune Carrotland Park has been replaced and improved, thanks to support from Jamie Proud from NZR Real Estate. Pictured trying out the face places is, from left, Tony, Tony, Peggy, Tony and Tony (image digitally altered). Tony was visiting the Carrot Park in Ohakune to check out sights for his wedding ceremony at the Park to his fiancè Toni. Another new development at the Park is the installation of a round-about for wheelchair users. Workers have prepared the base for the device in recent days and the device is due to be installed about 8 April. Funding for the attraction has come from Lotto and other sources.

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

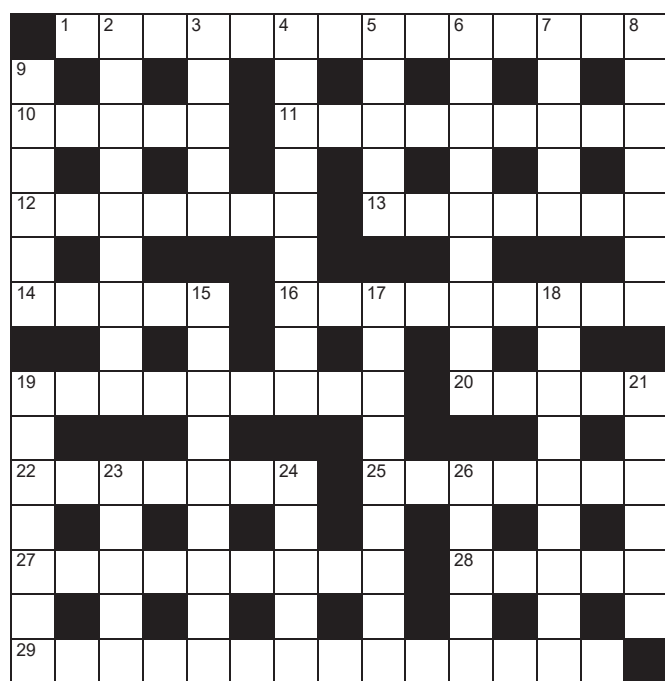
QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

- 1. Clandestine (colloq) (5-3-6)
- 10. Criminal fire-setting (5)
- 11. Variety of pea (5,4)
- 12. Breathes in (7)
- 13. Coupons for admission (7)
- 14. Grind teeth together (5)
- 16. Mooring place (9)
- 19. Robot (9)
- 20. Exclusive news report (5)
- 22. Responded (7)
- 25. Spray in a can (7)
- 27. Exactness (9)
- 28. Propel (5)
- 29. Abattoir (14)

Down

- 2. Become discouraged (4,5)
- 3. Declare invalid (5)
- 4. Aide (9)
- 5. Finger (5)
- 6. Appalling (9)
- 7. Style of film or book (5)
- 8. Retort (7)
- 9. Audacious (6)
- 15. Make ineffective or powerless (9)



- 17. Shipping box (9)
- 18. The study of sound (9)
- 19. Regarding, in connection with (7)
- 21. Steal (6)
- 23. Stadium (5)
- 24. Move aimlessly (5)
- 26. Broadcasting apparatus (5)



Enjoy WordFit puzzles? Magazines available from www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

Puzzles © The Puzzle Company

SUDOKU

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

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

1 EASY 2

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

MEDIUM

The Top 10

1. Blackstar was the final album by which singer, released two days before his death in 2016?
2. What health-related measure was introduced to New Zealand schools in 1937?
3. What word describes two words which sound the same but are spelled differently?
4. How many hills was Rome built on?
5. Which bird is on the \$2 coin?
6. Which boxing promoter was famous for his electrified hairstyle?
7. Is a sextile part of a circle in astrology, a type of erotic Roman artefact, or a person aged in their 60s?
8. Who sculpted the famous bronze statue known as The Thinker?
9. Where is home to Yogi Bear?
10. Ally Wollaston and George Bennett are the 2026 NZ champions in what sport?

CROSSWORD

24. Drift, 26. Radio.
 Acoustics, 19. Apropos, 21. Pillar, 23. Arena,
 9. Darling, 15. Hamstring, 17. Container, 18.
 5. Digit, 6. Atrocious, 7. Genre, 8. Riposte,
Down: 2. Lose heart, 3. Annul, 4. Assistant,
 Precision, 28. Drive, 29. Slaughterhouse,
 20. Scoop, 22. Reacted, 25. Aerosol, 27.
 14. Gnash, 16. Anchorage, 19. Automaton,
 11. Sugar snap, 12. Inhaler, 13. Tickets,
Across: 1. Cloak-and-dagger, 10. Arson,

SUDOKU

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

Milestone for iwi lands marked

An important milestone for the forests and conservation lands of Te Korowai o Wainuiārua (TKoW) whānau has been reached with the inaugural hui of the Ngātokoerua Strategic Advisory Committee.

The co-management group has been established under the Te Korowai o Wainuiārua Claims Settlement Act 2025, recognising the deep cultural, historical and environmental significance of the area to the iwi of Tamakana, Uenuku and Tamahaki.

The Minister of Conservation formally appointed members nominated by both TKoW and the Crown.

Kurataiaha (Kura) Wanikau-Tūroa and Hayden Tūroa were nominated by the TKoW Board, while the Department of Conservation's Central North Island operations director Damien Coutts and Whanganui District operations manager Sandy Woodhead were appointed as Crown representatives.

Wanikau-Tūroa said the formation of the committee signalled an exciting opportunity for whānau to work in partnership with the Department across the management of conservation lands between Waimarino and Horopito.

"This is a momentous occasion for our iwi.

"After 150 years of being labelled as rebels, and our tūpuna fighting so hard for

our settlement, we are now visible again on our lands in a meaningful relationship with the Department of Conservation.

"For me personally, I remember those who walked this journey before us, those who helped create where we are today as iwi and as whānau. I acknowledge and salute them.

"The taonga they spoke of the whio, kiwi, pekapeka, dactylanthus, and our waterways, will be held in the highest esteem on our whenua, forever."

At its first meeting, the committee unanimously appointed Wanikau-Tūroa as Chair.

He said the establishment of the group represents an important step forward for the iwi.

"For our whānau of Tamahaki, Tamakana and Uenuku, this moment carries deep historical meaning.

"The return of visibility and responsibility for these forests reconnects our people to places of ancestral significance, including the nearby kāinga of my tūpuna, Te Peehi Tūroa.

"It is also a time to acknowledge those who are not here to witness this day.

"I think of Baldy Haitana, Boy Cribb, Geraldine Taurerewa and the many others who walked this path for many years.

"The legacy they leave will guide us as we work to ensure our ngahere and awa continue to flourish for future generations."



Members of the Ngātokoerua Strategic Advisory Committee, from right, Te Korowai o Wainuiārua representatives Hayden Tūroa and Kurataiaha (Kura) Wanikau-Tūroa was joined by the Department of Conservation's Central North Island operations director Damien Coutts and statutory manager – Central North Island Karen Rainbow beginning their inaugural hui under the shadow of Te Pou Tūpuna o Tūroa at Waimarino (absent was Whanganui District operations manager Sandy Woodhead). Photo supplied.

Museum marks Army Day

Army Day was on 25 March, with the National Army Museum wishing the New Zealand Army a happy birthday.

On 25 March 1845, the Militia Act passed into law creating the 'New Zealand Military Forces' and in 1860 the first regular force was created. The title of 'New Zealand Army' was formally adopted in the 1950s, and in 1994 the NZ Army became 'Ngāti Tūmatauenga'.

A unique blend of British and Māori heritage, Ngāti Tūmatauenga is the NZ Army; an iwi created by, with, and for the state. Afforded the title by Sir Charles Bennett, DSO, the last Commanding Officer of 28 (Māori) Battalion, the warrior ethos of the NZ Army heavily draws from Te Ao Māori, the Māori world view.

The NZ Army is considered a world-class, combat-ready land force and has been involved in several international conflicts, including the Second Boer War, World War I and

World War II, the Korean War, the Malayan Emergency, Indonesia–Malaysia Confrontation, the Vietnam War, and more recently in peace-keeping operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Personnel have been deployed in various roles across the world including Egypt, the Middle East, South Sudan, South Korea, and Antarctica.

The NZ Army culture is based on the values of Tū Kaha (courage), Tū Tika (commitment), Tū Tira (comradeship) and Tū Maia (integrity). It embraces diversity, shared experience, and strives to be a force for all New Zealanders, embraced in Te Ao Māori.

"Here at the National Army Museum Te Mata Toa, we are proud to tell the stories of the New Zealand Army and to hold the taonga from its long and battle-worn history. So, to all past and present soldiers of the NZ Army, thank you for your service," stated the Army Museum.

100 years of Ruapehu Golf

From Page 4

development.

Just as things were beginning to recover, World War II was declared – the young went away to fight and left their wives and parents to run farms and businesses, impacting membership hard. Club land was leased to market gardening.

The course was also utilised as a weekend training location for The Home Guard.

After the war, by the late 1940's the economy was improving and plans for an 18 hole course and a new clubhouse were developing.

Membership in 1954 stood at 156 members.

In 1955 the Club purchased the Makaranui School with 1.5 acres. The school building served as a clubhouse for 22 years until the new clubhouse was built in 1962.

The clubhouse was extended and the upper level built on in 1976.

The 1990's saw even further growth – twilight golf became popular with a more informal style of golfing with 'fun' tournaments.

Farming had saved the day over the years and sheep

were still on the course in 2001, then removed.

The main source of income, after the removal of the sheep, since 2000 was the increase of the green fee intake, due to tourism.

The Club's early years were sustained by a handful of determined volunteers whose commitment and perseverance laid the foundations for the century we celebrate today.

Purchased in 1879 by 19th-century land purchaser and settler John Booth, the area carries a layered and significant history. At one time, it housed the first Horse Regiment, and one of the country's earliest racing tracks.

Waimarino is not the first golf club in Aotearoa – but is the highest golf club in the country.

Memories of Waimarino include the distinctive hot wire that once circled every green – a practical solution while sheep grazed the course to keep the rough and fairways playable.

Financial support from past and present members has been central to the Club's survival – whether through donations, machinery, hands-on labour, or countless voluntary hours.



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TE MATA TOA

Whānau learning across all ages at Ōrautoha

A day of intergenerational whānau learning quickly became the highlight of term one for tamariki at Ōrautoha School.

Facilitated by Te Ara Tupua, the social pou of Te Korowai o Wainuiārua, the children hosted kaumātua of Uenuku, Tamakana and Tamahaki, spending the day sharing some of their mahi at the school.

This included kōrero about their five-year wetland restoration project, the success of their pest trapline led by Braxton Scarrow, and demonstrations of the augmented reality app 'Te ahikā tukuiho o Wainuiārua'.

Te Ara Tupua trustees Lesley Edmonds, Tina Wallace and Kura Wanikau-Tūroa were joined by fellow trustee and Te Korowai o Wainuiārua board chair Aiden Gilbert, sharing historical kōrero about tūpuna (ancestors) from the Manganui-a-te-Ao.

School tumuaki (head teacher) Vanessa Pehi said the day was a powerful opportunity to reconnect, bringing generations together through shared learning and whakawhanaungatanga (establishing

relationships).

"I have always wanted to have a day of connecting and learning, so to finally be able to all come together and make it happen has been something very special.

"For some of us, it's actually been a long time since we've all caught up.

"Our kaumātua are always welcome back here anytime they like, the door is open for all of you, and if you choose to send your moko here, it's even better. We would love to have them."

Supported by Department of Conservation community ranger Clodagh Costello and Horizons' kaitohutohu waimāori - freshwater advisor Reece Taylor, a clear highlight of the day was the intergenerational planting of 20 rākau from Carina's Native Nursery.

"We need to do this more often and not just here at Ōrautoha either. We have our babies up at Raetihi, Ohākune and at the College," Mrs Pehi said.

"I know it's a big job to get around to all these places, but I'm sure they'll love having a day together just like this as much as we have."



Young and old gathered at Ōrautoha last week for a day of shared learning. Photo: Liz Brooker.

Pacific partners welcomed ahead of 1 (NZ) Brigade Skill at Arms

For the first time, soldiers from His Majesty's Armed Forces of Tonga have deployed to NZ to compete in the NZ Army 1st (NZ) Brigade's prestigious Skill at Arms competition in Waiouru - marking a significant milestone in regional military cooperation.

Soldiers from Tonga, Fiji, and Australia were formally welcomed by 1st (NZ) Brigade at Linton Military Camp before moving to Waiouru for final competition preparations. The international teams will compete alongside ten New Zealand teams, in what is regarded as one of the Army's most demanding and respected competitions.

Over three days, Skill at Arms is designed to push soldiers to their lim-

its, testing endurance, teamwork, and leadership under pressure. Competitors navigate 13 challenging skill stands, covering approximately 20 kilometres on foot carrying 30 kilograms of equipment, with minimal rest and limited rations.

Captain Mikaele Feao of Tonga emphasised that taking part is about more than just the competition, it builds relationships amongst South Pacific partners both now and for the future.

Lance Corporal Timothy MacPherson of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces reinforced this sentiment, highlighting the concept of 'matavuvale' (family) and strengthening relationships between Fiji, NZ, Australia and

Tonga.

"I was pleased at how helpful and transparent New Zealand was in helping us prepare for the competition. They took us through each of the stands so we know what to expect. They've really looked after us and shared their skills with us."

Colonel Mike van Welie, Commander 1st (NZ) Brigade said in his welcome that forging deeper relationships in the region is vital as we continue to face a challenging and deteriorating strategic environment.

"The threats to our nations are too much to weather alone, but together we can harness our individual strengths and secure our region."



Captain Mikaele Feao of His Majesty's Armed Forces of Tonga and Lance Corporal Timothy MacPherson of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces are welcomed to Waiouru.

ADVERTORIAL

Ruapehu beef breeder raising happy animals



Dr Rene Haerberli and his happy cattle. Photo supplied.

A beef farmer near Raetihi says he is committed to producing "truly exceptional meat" from well-bred animals "living a quality life, while minimising our environmental footprint".

Dr Rene Haerberli, a trained veterinarian, is director of Ruapehu Lowline Angus, ensuring the animals live stress-free lives.

Transportation times are minimised and they are driven gently and on familiar trucks when the time comes to be delivered to the abattoir, says Haerberli.

Ruapehu Lowline Angus manages around 100 animals, grazing on farms around Raetihi, "living a quality life with minimal environmental footprint".

The Lowline Angus was bred from the Aberdeen Angus in Australia, with the goal of producing a smaller, superior-quality beast that requires less feed, thereby lowering its environmental impact. The Ruapehu Lowline Angus breed is a cross between a purebred Lowline Angus and a

purebred Jersey.

"Crossing these two breeds creates a hybrid animal, well-suited to our region and producing one of the best beef meats in the world," says Haerberli.

The Angus beef is celebrated for its rich, succulent flavour that is both robust and well-balanced with consistently tender cuts of meat. The natural grazing habits of the cattle contribute to the development of a distinctive, full-bodied flavour profile.

The well-distributed marbling enhances the tenderness of the meat, ensuring a juicy, mouth-watering texture with every bite.

In addition to their range of beef cuts, Ruapehu Lowline Angus also offers a selection of ready-made products including lasagnas, pulled brisket and a range of pies.

Ruapehu residents - or anyone anywhere in New Zealand - can order quality beef cuts directly from the website and have them delivered to the door. Speciality cuts of beef can also be arranged on request.

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Electricity network theft: a deadly crime with real consequences

The Lines Company (TLC) is warning the public that theft and tampering with electricity network equipment is not just a property crime – it is an extremely dangerous act that can kill, put households at risk and disrupt planned work programmes across our network.

TLC's general manager service delivery Jared Murrell says the consequences can be severe and immediate.

"Theft of our network equipment is not victimless. Damage left behind can put our crews and the public at risk long after the thieves have gone," says Murrell.

"But the most serious consequence is that electricity can kill. Someone cutting into the wrong cable can be killed on the spot."

Murrell says the theft of earth connections is especially dangerous because it can create hazardous electrical conditions in connected homes.

"When earthing is compromised, appliances and metal surfaces that should be safe can become live, and electrical faults may not clear the way they are designed to. That increases the risk of electrical fires and electric shock to unsuspecting people in homes."

He says too that customers feel the impact when planned works must be delayed at short notice.

"The growing number of incidents is putting pressure on our resources and costing our community a lot in replacement and operational time," said Murrell.

"Our customers – people and businesses, prepare for planned outages. When our teams arrive on site and find cables or equipment stolen, we often can't safely proceed. That means we have to reshuffle crews, rebook outages and, in some cases, delay other planned work."

Murrell explains that in one case, theft at a single site forced the company to reschedule the initial job and six subsequent jobs because they couldn't be done until that first job was finished.

"This domino flow-on effect caused disruption to 456 customers, said Murrell.

"It's very frustrating for our teams when they get to site to do a job and find they can't proceed; and extremely



This complex work site takes several weeks to prepare – building concrete plinths and vaults, trenching, installing transformers, laying network cabling, fitting termination kits and other equipment – so it cannot be prepped and completed within a single outage day. That means sites are often left behind security fencing overnight. In the foreground of the photo, a cut aluminium cable (with little scrap value) can be seen protruding from the ground, where it had been connected to the transformer; and additional cabling and termination kits were also stolen from other trenches. Cutting into any buried cable can result in instant death – you cannot tell whether a cable is live just by looking at it. Thieves are putting their lives at risk for very little return.

frustrating for customers who prepare for a planned outage only to have the day change, on the day, because some of our equipment has been stolen."

Two thefts at the same site in a single week left TLC facing significant duplicate labour and rework costs – far outweighing anything the stolen, electricity-sector-specific equipment could be sold for.

"That's money we would much rather be investing into strengthening and upgrading the network to keep our customers connected," says Murrell.

In the past six months, TLC has reported nine incidents of criminal

activity to Police for follow up. Most incidents are aluminium wire which has very little scrap value, and other equipment, from work sites, depots and vehicles.

TLC is asking anyone who sees suspicious activity around power poles, open trenches, substations, cabling or work sites to report it to Police immediately.

"Keep well clear of any downed lines or damaged equipment and always treat electrical equipment as live – do not touch it."



Raurimu 35 Kaitieke Road

Country charm

Nestled in the peaceful landscape of Raurimu, this charming cottage offers privacy, character and a relaxed country lifestyle. Surrounded by nature and set away from the rush of town living, it provides a tranquil retreat, with National Park Village approximately 6km away for year-round outdoor pursuits and adventure. The cottage offers four comfortable bedrooms providing plenty of space for family and guests. The open-plan kitchen, living, and dining area forms the heart of the home, creating a relaxed space for everyday living.

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Ohakune 7 Cordyline Place

Sophistication on Cordyline

Positioned in the sought-after Snowmass subdivision, this standout executive-style home offers comfort, space and quality in a fantastic location. Designed for easy living and entertaining, the home features a generous open-plan living, dining and kitchen area that is beautifully light-filled and finished with high-quality fixtures and fittings throughout. The stylish kitchen, along with scullery, forms the hub of the home, while a heat pump and cosy gas fire ensure year-round comfort.

bayleys.co.nz/2900871

458_{sqm} 4 1 2

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20 years of business being taken care of

This Easter marks 20 years since TCB opened its doors in Ohakune, initially selling skis and snowboards and associated snow equipment, then later adding bikes with the growth of the area's cycle trails.

Ben Wiggins, together with his parents Mike and Vicki as partners, saw an opening for a new style ski business in Ohakune and that's when the TCB (Taking Care of Business) concept came to fruition.

Ben had been involved with his parents in skiing and boarding since he was 18 months old and yelling "faster Dad faster", while riding in his dad's backpack.

At 3 he was greeting and chatting with customers in his parent's ski business in Ohakune; at 10 he was working in the rental department and after leaving college at 18, he was the retail manager in his parents' ski and dive shop in Auckland.

He gained industry qualifications as a dive assistant, for ski and board tuning, repairs, specialist boot fitting plus

business and rental management.

After another seven years in Ski, Board and Dive retail, Ben spent several seasons working at different resorts around the USA; he then returned to work in ski wholesale in NZ before returning to his favourite mountain, Mt Ruapehu.

That's when the big steps were taken to open his own specialist Ski and Board shop in the heart of Ohakune, and TCB Ski & Board was born.

The business grew exponentially over those first few years, with a vision to help turn Ohakune into a biking destination and working with locals to make that happen.

In 2009 when John Key announced the cycleways concept throughout NZ, The Ohakune Old Coach Road was the first cycle trail opened in NZ and TCB had already established Ohakune as a biking destination.

Double the offer

Over the summer of 2009/2010 TCB doubled the retail, rental and workshop space for biking and skiing and renamed TCB Ski Board and Bike as the business continued to grow.

TCB then introduced full suspension bikes and 40 "mountain full suspension" e-bikes to their 200 bike fleet, which has enabled an even larger diversity of riders to enjoy riding all our local trails.

Now with a summer and winter trade, TCB is one of Ohakune's major retail employers with a team of 20 in the winter and 10 in the summer.

When you hear Ben Wiggins on the radio saying, "best service, best value and a passion for what we do" you could ask yourself, "what is that all about?" A visit to TCB Ski, Board and Bike will be sure to convince you that they have something going on in there.

While this will be their 20th year in business, TCB has garnered an enviable reputation with both locals and visitors as a fun place to visit, with exceptional customer service and professional advice on all their specialist brands.

In 2020, 21, 22 and 23 TCB was recognised by Trip Advisor when they were awarded special "Travellers Choice" status as being in the Top 10% Worldwide for their service.

In 2025 TCB was awarded Gold status from Qualmark



Father and son doing the business – getting the shop ready to open.

for a Sustainable Tourism Business and Visitor Service. The award was also recognised with a letter from Louise Upton, the Minister of Tourism.

Can't miss

You can't miss TCB... if you drive out of the New World car park, you'll see the snowboarder and skier mounted on top of the roof and a line of bikes outside, and you can almost drive into the front door... That's where the fun begins, a very cheery greeting comes before excellent professional advice on anything to do with skiing, boarding or biking.

It's not just a one-man band either, James Foubister and Thomas Pryde have a huge amount of industry experience in boot fitting, ski and snowboard selection and they all have the same passion as Ben for customer service.

Mya Dempsey is their expert in the clothing and accessories department, Jarad Vincent, Ruby Pearse and their team look after ski rentals, with Matt Manning heading up the bike workshop.

Roger Byers is in the office looking after TCB's IT.

You will also find Ben's dad Mike (they

call him Pa!) hanging out at TCB to give knowledgeable advice (and stories), train the new team each season and keep them all on their toes.

TCB stock specialist brands that suit the Ruapehu conditions, plus they can always be seen out enjoying the gear they sell.

"That's the TCB difference – we actually ski and ride what we sell, not just talk about it," says Ben.

Boot lab

Another specialist area is the TCB Boot-Lab, with the very latest in boot technology to enhance the fit for any snowboard, ski boot or walk boot. Their "Boot Doctor" orthotics were developed at TCB and are now sold worldwide.

With the "Boot Doctor" foot analysis machine, "Boot Doctor" silicon pad moulders and Technica infra-red boot shape machine, Ben, James, Thomas or Mike can offer over 150 years of expert boot fitting experience. The many "happy" feet that walk away from TCB every year bare testimony to their expertise.

With rentals, the TCB team do go out of their way to make sure you have the right

Turn to Page 10

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ARCADE

Ruapehu art trail exhibition starts this Easter

Looking for something to do on a bad-weather day or a recovery day during Easter and the school holidays? There's art on show from this weekend at the Adventure Highway Ruapehu Art Trail Exhibition at the Whakapapa I Site.

Located behind the Chateau on the road to the Whakapapa ski fields, before the road begins its climb up the mountain, the centre is full of geological displays, infographics, and information about activities.

The Art Exhibition will feature many leading Ruapehu artists, showcasing a wide variety of work. The exhibition winds through the I-Site, including its theatre and auditorium.

Exhibiting Artists

Merrilyn George — Multi-award-winning Ruapehu Artist, nationally and internationally acclaimed for her fabric art.

James Cannon — Multi-award-winning Ruapehu Artist and frequent winner at the Ruapehu Art Awards, which attract artists from across New Zealand.

Regan Hoban — Ruapehu Artist and frequent portraiture prize winner, including the 2023 Ruapehu Art Awards People's Choice Award.

Mark Tyrrell — Multi-award-winning Ruapehu Artist; 2025 People's Choice winner for Morepork Lullaby; 2024 Waimarino Art Awards winner (Landscape Ruapehu Sunset and Everyday Life The Crossing).

Sarath Surendran (Freddie) — Ruapehu Artist and Waimarino Art Awards People's Choice winner.

Paula Charlton — past organiser of the Waimarino Art Awards and multi-award-winning Ruapehu Artist with wins across both the Waimarino and Ruapehu Art Awards.

Marama De Groot — Rising Ruapehu Artist and winner of the 2025 Ruapehu Art Awards Open 2D Prize.

Charlie Cannon — Ruapehu Artist and emerging talent, son of the now well-known James Cannon, launching his own creative career.

Kelly Graham — Ruapehu Artist known for soulful, vibrant work that is consistently popular

with visitors.

Maureen Tupaea — Ruapehu Artist specialising in abstract work with exceptional intuitive colour composition. A community favourite now returning to the spotlight after time focused on family.

Fred Gordon — Part-time Ruapehu resident and ceramics expert. Now in his eighties, Fred has taught ceramics at university level and held dozens of exhibitions in the United States across both 2D and ceramic mediums.

Kate Hartman — new to Ruapehu, a well-known and established artist from the Kāpiti Coast. A warm welcome to Kate as she joins the Ruapehu Artist community.

Ring of Fire and Tussock Traverse – more pictures



ABOVE: 3.30am start at the Ohakune Junction for event organisers.
BELOW: Competitors in the 12km and 6km Tussock Traverse at the pre-race briefing.
Photos: Liz Brooker.



Ring of Fire 100km winner, Michael Lea. Photos: Photo24sale.co.nz



Kirsty Gilmour – fastest female in the 100km ultra.

Kiwis ENJOY SUMMER FOR LESS

With local's pricing at just \$15 for kids and \$29 for adults, ride the gondola, take in the views and enjoy a cruisy day up the maunga these school holidays, without the big spend.

WHAKAPAPA MT RUAPEHU

whakapapa.com/summer

Hop off at the Junction this Easter Saturday

Get ready for a full day of entertainment for all ages due to ‘hop off’ (pun intended), at the Junction this Easter Saturday, 4 April.

Beer o'clock

Hopping up the hill to Ohakune Beerfest – all this exercise will mean you are primed for sampling the hoppy goodness on offer – you will experience, as Stu Robinson from Kings puts it, “a continuous flavour explosion in an iconic setting.”

Now in its fifth year, Beerfest Ohakune has become a much-loved fixture on beer aficionados’ calendars.

“We have worked hard to pack many experiences into

one mini beer festival, and we continue to improve and grow it each year,” Stu says.

“The punters always tell us this event punches way above its weight”.

This year, the craft brewery lineup includes Mount Brewing Co. from Mount Maunganui, The Beer Engine from Titahi Bay in Porirua, Lads Brewing Company, Roots Brewing Co. from Whanganui and of course, the local

Ruapehu Brewing.

Expect a great selection of brews available to try, and for the beer geeks, the opportunity to use all those cool words like sparging, fermentation and flocculation with the brewers. Beer festivals are always a great format to discover and sample brews you might not otherwise have an opportunity to.

Andy Henshaw from Roots Brewing has promised to “have a rummage through the cellar and bring some surprises”, and Ruapehu Brewery’s Chocolate Eclair Stout, dessert in a glass, and the brand-new Raspberry and Lime Sour will be available to taste.

And not to worry if you’re all hopped out, there will be a range of beer alternatives available, including a feijoa gin, alcoholic lemonade and Hawkes Bay Brewing Company’s Peach Bomb, plus two cider offerings.

To keep everyone fed, a speciality menu has been developed that will be available

at Kings Café, offering a slow and low barbecue menu and small dishes like pulled pork soft shell tacos and American or German style hot dogs.

A continuous programme of musical entertainment will also contribute to the festival atmosphere, starting with local duo Lisa and Simzy, followed by Papamoia Band, *The Agents* and ending with local band *Tight, Tight, Tight* from ten to midnight.

As Andy Henshaw from Roots Brewing says, “We have been coming to Beerfest since its inception, and it is our favourite festival of the year. The vibe, the iconic venue, the people, the food. It’s such a great way to try a variety of high-quality beer at a relaxing, chill event.”

If you are looking to be entertained this Easter Saturday, then the Junction Ohakune is the place to be. Whether you are hopping up the hill or hopping down the hill, or better still, both, you won’t be disappointed with a full range of events on offer.



Live music features at the Ohakune Beer Festival.



Best beers from around the nation are up for tasting.

OHAKUNE BEER FESTIVAL

EASTER
SATURDAY

APRIL 4TH

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COMPANY

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BREWING

BREWERY & TAPHOUSE

Family friendly 2-5pm
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CapTIMs

Live Music 2pm-Midnight
Low & Slow
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Scan the code for tickets
www.humanitix.com
or buy direct from Kings Ohakune

20 years of business being taken care of

From Page 8

fit and the right equipment. Every ski and board is tuned each time it goes out so everyone can enjoy the best day skiing or boarding.

The TCB team get down on their knees to personally measuring feet to fit warm boots and setting up fully tuned K2 skis or boards, you know they take a real pride in making sure everything is going to be great on the mountain.

They even take the gear out to your car for you ... and they’ll take them back when you return!

When it comes to having your own skis or board tuned, the TCB professional service continues.

Within their new workshop, their Montana Robot Crystal Glide machine, Reichmann GTS Pro edge tuning machine, Reichmann Digital Wax machine, Ben and the team know that personal tuning with their precision equipment is the only real option for TCB customers.

“Being able to alter the stone structure for the snow conditions, the pressures on the base to get the required finish and the style of ski or board, are all personal requirements we do for each and every customer” says Ben.

Biking experience

Specialist bike mechanic Matt Manning has over 30 years’ experience and holds Shimano and Bosh certificates. Matt provides a specialist and professional service.

Every TCB rental bike is cleaned and serviced each time it goes out, so you know you will have the best possible riding experience.

TCB also works in with Dempsey’s

shuttles to provide transport to the many bike trails around the Ruapehu region, seven days a week.

For 20 years, TCB Ski Board and Bike has been providing sponsorship to many local entities, charities and events and is involved in many local organisations, all just part of “supporting local”.

TCB has a long history of working with local accommodation providers, restaurants and bars to promote the town and wonderful region.

Their iconic “Ultimate Ski board and Bike sale” every Easter has proved to be a great drawcard to bring many people to the district.

“20 years! Doesn’t time fly by when you’re having fun!” says Ben, Vicki and Mike.



Mish, loyal staff member at the start of the business, gets into a tricky spot to paint.

Hop off at the Junction this Easter Saturday

To market, to market

Festivities kick off at 10:00 am with the Easter Market, transforming Thames Street into a showcase of local cottage industries. The market will be busier than last year, says organiser Jennie Murray.

There will be over 20 stalls with hand-made, hand-foraged and hand-grown items.

“I love markets that focus on funky handmade, home-grown, foraged or up-cycled goodies,” Jennie says.

“We have arts and crafts, food, plants, soaps, potions, lotions, trinkets, heirlooms, books, antiques, clothing and homewares.”

Massages and beard trims will be available to keep shoppers limber and tidy.

Local buskers will provide entertainment.

Jennie reminds visitors that many stallholders run this as a side-hustle and may not have card facilities, so bring some old school cash for those not to miss bargains. To keep everyone fuelled up, a coffee cart will be on-site for caffeine cravings.

And it wouldn't be Easter without chocolate eggs and games for the children. The market wraps up at 2:00 pm.

If you still have the kids in tow, hop up the hill to Kings for Ohakune Beefest. More on this event later. Going at this time is good for families. Between 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm, Beefest will be family-friendly, with lawn games for children.



A wide range of stalls are headed to the Junction Market on Thames Street.



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EASTER SAT 4 APRIL

10AM - 2PM

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Contact Jennie 0210 236 0065

Refined Taste

Back down the hill at The Kitchen, a more refined scene awaits. From 4:00pm, the free-entry Taste event begins.

This year it promises “peak spirits meet urban eats”, which aims to bring the rugged beauty of the Central Plateau and the heart of the city together for one exclusive night of flavour.

Now in its fourth year, Taste brings back legendary mixologist Dan Felson of Crumpet Wellington, who will

be taking over the Kitchen bar with a range of cocktail concoctions—(try saying that after a few!)

Joining him is Ohakune's Susan Delaney from Ruapehu Distillery, ready to talk you through the unique Straight Up Carrot Gin.

Insiders recommend the Carrot Gin in a Negroni or, as Susan prefers, with ‘Sonic’ a mix of tonic and soda.

Of course, Taste isn't just about beverages; foodies will savour a range of tapas-style dishes crafted to accompany the cocktails, all highlighting local ingredients.



Dan Felson from Crumpet Bar in Wellington shakes up cocktails at Taste at The Kitchen.

TASTE

@ THE KITCHEN

SAT 4 APRIL

RUAPEHU

DISTILLERY

OHAKUNE, NEW ZEALAND

Crumpet

Congratulations to TCB on 20 years!

Log blocks toilet



The Clyde Street Ohakune toilets were temporarily closed on Friday while a fallen tree, brought down by high winds, was removed and a safety assessment of the building was undertaken.

Contractors removing the tree said that there was no damage to the toilet block roof – not even a scratch on the iron.

They said the tree was hung up amongst other trees, which made extraction more difficult but it meant the brunt of the impact was not on the building.

A bike rack next to the block was damaged.

A beech tree broke off 203 metres above the ground level in high winds on Friday. Photo: Ruapehu District Council.

Kiwi caught on camera a Pureora milestone

From Page 3

member of its species identified in northern Pureora since 2000.

Kimber says the appearance of the bird is a welcome surprise – and a reward for the hard work of the DOC team who manage species and predator control in the forest.

“We did not expect to have this bird crop up on a camera,” Kimber says.

“Any native birds in Pureora forest face ongoing threats from stoats and ferrets, and ground-dwelling birds like kiwi can also be attacked and killed by dogs.”

Expert DOC staff who have assessed the video believe it is a young bird that has now reached more than 1kg – meaning it’s probably large enough to fend off a stoat. Without capturing and examining the bird, its gender remains unknown.

“To have this bird emerge is very encouraging for our team and the volunteer groups also contributing to conservation in Pureora,” says Kimber.

“We’re rapt our ongoing efforts, including the use of 1080 to control predators, appear to be working. We’re taking this

bird as a promising sign we need to keep the pressure on these predators to protect our taonga species.”

Anyone naturing in Pureora Forest Park – including those in the Pureora Hunting Competition – is urged to report any kiwi sightings to DOC, by calling 0800 DOC HOT. Video and photographs are valuable, as are GPS co-ordinates of where the bird is found or a description of its location.

Hunters taking dogs into the forest should ensure they are trained to avoid kiwi.

The trial in Pureora is part of DOC’s research work to develop a 18g meat sausage for targeting stoats and feral cats. 50 trail cameras were in place to monitor introduced predator and non-target species’ interactions with the non-toxic bait. Previous studies have shown the sausages are highly attractive to feral cats and stoats but not to most native species like kiwi, nor to deer.

People with permits to take dogs into Pureora Forest Park are urged to put their dogs through kiwi avoidance training.



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Teddy shearing brings in the young ones

The recent Waimarino Shears wasn't just about young – and old – guns testing their skills against their rivals. It also featured a "Teddy Bear Shear" for tamariki aged six and under.

The Waimarino Shears partnered with Reflektions by Ruapehu Signs, the Deadman and Ioannidis whānau, Kim Young and Sons, Tarere Station, and Berry Farm Partnership to host the "Teddy Bear Shear".

Twenty young participants took part, each receiving a gift pack of goodies, a shearing singlet, and ribbons to mark the occasion.

Teddy bear shearing is a popular children's event at New Zealand agricultural shows, notably the Golden Shears, designed to foster young interest in the shearing industry. Children mimic professionals, using wooden handpieces to "shear" fluffy toys, often running, catching, and preparing them just like real lamb shearing competitions.

Children practice proper form, such as making long strokes with wooden, bladeless handpieces, on teddy bears. Judges teach technique and positioning, making it an educational and fun experience for participants.

Some events serve as fundraisers for local schools and community organizations.

The event is highly regarded and often a highlight for many families involved in the agricultural sector.



The youngest 'young guns' showed their skills at the recent teddy bear shear at the Waimarino Shears. Pictured are young guns Frankie Mochan and Hope Hiroti. Photo: Suraya Hollands.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

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 second publication of this notice. The first notice was published on 25 March 2026.

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Ruapehu Mayor Weston Kirton

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Raetihi Chambers
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Ngāti Rangī Community Health Centre
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PUBLIC NOTICES

MEETINGS

The following meetings of Horizons Regional Council (Livestreamed) will be held during **April 2026** in the Tararua Room, Regional House, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North, unless otherwise advised:

Tuesday, 14 April
 10:00am Strategy & Policy Committee

Tuesday, 21 April
 9.30am Regional Council

Should Members of the public wish to speak at Meetings, they are advised to phone 0508 800 800.

M J McCartney
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



PUBLIC NOTICES

Ruapehu District Council
Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ruapehu
Boards and Committees
UPCOMING MEETING DATES



Agendas are published on our Public Portal two working days before each scheduled meeting.

To speak at our Public Forum and share your thoughts directly with Elected Members, please contact our Governance team at governance@ruapehudc.govt.nz.

Extraordinary Risk & Assurance Committee
 11AM, Thursday 16 April 2026
 Taumarunui War Memorial Hall, 149 Hakiha Street, Taumarunui

Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board
 6PM, Thursday 23 April 2026
 Emergency Management Centre, 26 Buddo Street, Waimarino

Ruapehu District Council
 10AM, Wednesday 29 April 2026
 Council Chambers, Ayr Street, Ohakune

Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board
 5PM, Thursday 30 April 2026
 Taumarunui War Memorial Hall, 149 Hakiha Street, Taumarunui

MEETING CONTACTS

Ruapehu District Council	07 895 8188
Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board	021 431 833
Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board	027 274 2616
Risk & Assurance Committee	027 499 9408

Mangamingi Pa Trust AGM

Rapana Paora Whanau Trust AGM

Reureu 1 Sub 20A Trust AGM

Mangamingi Farm Trust AGM

Saturday 16 May 2026 – 10am
 Mangamingi Pa, Ohakune Road, Raetihi

Agenda:
 Karakia
 Apologies
 Minutes of last AGM
 Annual Financial Report
 Matters Arising
 Chairmans Report
 General Business

SITUATIONS VACANT



Hey Raetihi kids – need extra pocket money?

The Ruapehu Bulletin requires Wednesday morning deliverers in Raetihi.

Phone Robert or Jude on 06-385-8532.

Ohakune Squash

Results from the first round of Ohakune Squash Club night inter-house produced some close results. Dunlop ever-so-narrowly beat Head 96/95, Salming beat Unsquashable 100/91, Tecnifibre beat Karakal 110/94 and Stellar beat Prince 104/87. Draw for this Thursday is at Ohakune: 5:00pm Head vs Stellar, 6:30pm Unsquashable vs Dunlop, 8:00pm Tecnifibre vs Prince and at Raetihi at the new start time of 5:30pm Salming vs Karakal.

Letters

Kiwi and pests

It is great to read that with the assistance of Ngāti Rangī, after some 20 years kiwi are to return to the Rangataua Forest. Then night tours might return.

However, the success of this venture rests totally with Ngāti Rangī to ensure that there is consistent and adequate pest (including dogs) control – that maybe an uphill battle long term for them.

David JE Holland

CHURCH NOTICES



EASTER SERVICES

Good Friday – 10am
 Easter Saturday – 10am

St Mary's, 130 Seddon St, Raetihi
 ALL WELCOME

PUBLIC NOTICES

HAVE YOUR SAY

Annual Plan 2026/27 - Land Transport Bylaws & Policy - Speed Management Plan



Council is seeking feedback on its up-coming 2026/27 Annual Plan, new Land Transport Bylaws and Policy, and a Speed Management Plan for rural schools.

1. Annual Plan 2026/27
 Share your views on next year's work programme and targeted average rates rise. Help start the conversation on the 2027-2037 Long-Term Plan - Big challenges ahead mean some tough choices about future services.
Engagement open from Mon 30 Mar to Mon 4 May.

2. New Roading Bylaws
Traffic & Parking Bylaw 2026 - covers traffic safety, parking rules, and temporary road controls.
Stock Movement on Roads Bylaw 2026 - covers droving, stock crossings, and roadside grazing. These replace the elapsed Land Transport Bylaw.
Consultation open from Mon 30 Mar to Mon 4 May.

3. New Roads and Roads Reserve Policy
The Use of Council Roads and Road Reserve Policy replaces the 2017 Land Transport Policy. It covers how Council manages temporary use of roads and road reserves including permitted activities and on what conditions.
Feedback open Mon 30 Mar to Mon 4 May.

4. Speed Management Plan - Rural Schools
 Council is lowering speed limits on roads outside six rural schools across the district inline with Government legislation and proposing permanent speed limit changes on some approach roads to school zones.
Consultation open Thu 26 Mar to Mon 11 May.

More information:
 More info including engagement documents see Council's website: ruapehudc.govt.nz - or pick up from your local Council office - or come along to one of our Community Engagement Meetings.

- Community meetings:**
- Raetihi** - Wed 1 April - 5.30pm
 Baptist Church Hall, 14 Seddon Street
 - Waimarino (National Park)** - Wed 8 April - 5.30pm
 Emergency Management Centre, Buddo St
 - Taumarunui** - Wed 15 April - 6.00pm
 Memorial Hall, Hakiha Street

Due to Easter, the deadline for all advertising bookings and copy for next week is

5pm Thursday!

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VOICE OF THE RUAPEHU REGION
Tuesday 1 April, 1986. Volume 3 No. 42

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Jim Bolger is National Party's new leader

King Country MP Jim Bolger has become the new leader of the Opposition after 14 years in Parliament.

Mr Bolger was elected to the King Country seat in 1972, became Minister of Fisheries in 1978 and later as Minister of Labour was one of the architects of the voluntary unionism legislation.

When contacted by the *Bulletin* Mr Bolger said that the leadership gave him new responsibilities in relation to the party caucus and to party workers. He expected to take a leading role in developing new policy in the run-up to the next election.

"I would anticipate servicing the electorate in the same manner as in the past — I served it before as a busy Minister of Labour and I do not anticipate any difficulty maintaining contact," he said.

President of the Raetihi-Ohakune branch of the National Party, Ian Enright,



Mr Bolger

was delighted when told by the *Bulletin* of the news of Jim Bolger's elevation to the leadership.

"He is an extremely good Member of Parliament for us and he has done an awful lot of good for us," said Mr Enright.

Mr Enright said that Mr Bolger met with constituents in Raetihi and Ohakune every six weeks when he had time for the average person to see him and get problems ironed out.

He believed Mr Bolger would still do the same now that he was the leader of the Opposition.

"Even when he was Minister of Labour, which is probably one of the most time-consuming jobs, and with his huge electorate, he still managed to serve us all," said Mr Enright.

Local club at Hui Aranga



Some of the Ruapehu Maori Catholic Club who impressed a large crowd with their dress rehearsal at Maungarongo Marae last week: from left, Decardia Pakinga, Anne-Marie Chung, Mario Mareikura, D. J. Condon and Sharleszane Mareikura.

Amalgamation proposal accepted but Ohakune has reservations

The three Waimarino local authorities have agreed to support a draft scheme for the proposed Waimarino district council.

This follows a change of heart by the Ohakune Borough Council at a special meeting last week.

A week earlier Ohakune had voted to abandon efforts to amalgamate with other local councils and to seek a wider union, possibly with Taupo or Taumarunui authorities.

Ohakune councillors were

particularly concerned that the proposed scheme preserved the status quo and gave little benefit to Ohakune or the rest of the district. They also saw Ohakune as being disadvantaged by the 5:3:3 division of councillors in the proposed scheme.

However, at last week's special meeting, chaired by Raetihi solicitor, Godfrey Harvey, Ohakune councillors changed their decision and supported the draft scheme, though with reservations.

After two adjournments

during which they discussed the issue in private, they decided to endorse the draft scheme on condition the representation formula was altered to give Ohakune four instead of three members.

They also asked that the selection of mayor in the interim period be decided by the Local Government Commission.

Mayor Bill Taylor said that Ohakune's draft scheme would be similar to that of Raetihi and the Waimarino County except in those two points.

In a letter accompanying their draft scheme Mr Taylor added a rider to the effect that the Ohakune Borough Council wished Waimarino union to be seen as a stepping stone to a wider amalgamation.

He also said it would not be easy to set up a unit of local government of such restricted constitution.

Over Easter the Ruapehu Maori Catholic Club culture group travelled to New Plymouth to join nearly 4000 people taking part in Hui Aranga.

This cultural weekend which is religiously based has been going since 1946

and the local group has been attending since that time.

Culture competitions were held in midget, junior and senior levels, and there were also oratory and sports events.

A week earlier at Maungarongo Marae a large crowd was thrilled by the dress rehearsal of the local club.

Black snow this winter?

Scientists working with the meteorological office in Wellington have predicted a marked change in the colour of snow this winter.

This will be caused by the tail of Halley's Comet which is now known to contain large amounts of dust as well as ice.

As the earth passes closest to the comet the tail will have a catalytic effect on snow falling in the southern hemisphere, particularly in New Zealand.

It is expected that the colour of snow will range from silver-grey through to coal-black.

Concern has already been expressed about the effect that non-white snow might have on tourism and it has been suggested a white dye might be used on Mt. Ruapehu.

The meteorological office has predicted that this 'dirty snowball effect', as it is being called, will show up around 1 April and continue through much of the winter.

Xmas raffle proceeds for Patrick



Presenting Evelyn Cooper with a \$100 cheque for her son Patrick are from left, Bob Norling, Val Parkes, Ken George, John Schrier, and Marguerite Greenwood, representing the Ohakune business community. The \$100 cheque comes from the Christmas raffle which was run by the business people. The money will support local skier Patrick Cooper who is overseas preparing for the World Skiing Championships for the Disabled to be held in Sweden in April.

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From storm to stillness: volcanic trail runs go well

From Page 1

Way stretching across and Mount Ruapehu silhouetted in the background. After the conditions the day before, it was a special moment to be able to send everyone off safely and confidently on the full course.

“From there, the day continued to deliver. Conditions remained fantastic, and it was incredible to see runners making their way around the maunga throughout the day.”

The event had a strong completion rate across all distances. In the 100km solo event, just 13 of 84 runners did not finish, while all 26 relay teams successfully completed the course. In the 60km event, only 2 of 88 runners did not finish.

There were no major injuries reported, with only the usual cuts, scrapes, sprains and bruises you’d expect from an event of this nature.

The event ran through to the final finisher, who crossed the line at 7:33am on Sunday, more than 27 hours after the 4:00am Saturday start.

“It was also awesome to see strong local involvement. Two of our top local “Goat” runners, Ben Swift and Alex Gilbert, teamed up for the relay as part of Dumb & Dumber & Dumberer, alongside Scott Mouat of Otorohanga and their wider support crew. It was a pretty special team effort to see out on course.”

Local runner Sean Jones also stepped up to tackle the 100km, completing it in 19:55:58, which we’re incredibly proud of.

The event also attracted runners from eight countries, including New Zealand, Australia, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Japan, the Philippines, and New Caledonia, bringing people into the region and contributing to the local economy.

“Like any event, there are always things we take away and improve on. We’ve already identified a few areas to strengthen for next year and are working on systems

to support that.

“What stands out most is the people. We simply couldn’t do this without our volunteers, crew, and participants. A special shout out to our incredible marshals out on course, many of whom stepped in and stayed beyond their planned shifts to help cover gaps and ensure runners were safely supported.

“To our tail-end Charlies who journeyed the course behind our runners, offering support every step of the way, and to the dedicated crews at our main aid stations at Waitonga Falls, Tukino, the Chateau, and Massey University Alpine Club, their effort and commitment were absolutely incredible.

“The support across the weekend was something really special.”

Michael Lea was first home in the 100km solo, in a time of 13 hours, 7 minutes and 6 seconds; followed by Jamie Hareb in 13:20:32; then Peter Knight in 13:27:20.

More than 80 runners set off on the 100km ultra, with 71 finishing and another 13 pulling out at Tukino – in times ranging from 6:27:31 to 9:21:25.

First home in the 61km ultra was Reuben Vowden in 7:08:36; followed by Pim De Monchy in 7:39:35; then Loc Dehan from New Caledonia in 7:44:08.

In the 100km ultra relay, “Three Good Legs Between us” – Cameron Gavin, Paul Lenihan and Hamon McKay were first in 11:10:26. Second was “Harder Hills Tuesday” – Robbie Hammond, Sam Beale and Rhys Johnston in 11:51:16. “Dumb & Dumber and Dumberer” – Ben Swift, Alex Gilbert (from Ohakune) and Scott Mouat were third in 11:54:29.

In the Tussock Traverse, first home in the 32km run was Kieran Adams in 3:03:10; 2nd Arley Marshall 3:12:48; 3rd Matt Backler 3:13:55.

Full race results are at <https://my.raceresult.com/389736/results>



Ring of Fire 100km ultra relay winners “Three Good Legs Between us” – Cameron Gavin, Paul Lenihan and Hamon McKay in the centre. At left, second was “Harder Hills Tuesday” – Robbie Hammond, Sam Beale and Rhys Johnston. Third was “Dumb & Dumber and Dumberer” – Ben Swift, Alex Gilbert (from Ohakune) and Scott Mouat, at right. Below: runners head off on the 12km Tussock Traverse course. Photos: Liz Brooker.



Ring of Fire 100km winners, from left, Michael Lea and Kirsty Gilmour – fastest male and female. At rear is one of the relay team winners.

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