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Ruapehu Bulletin

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New Ohakune signs: design on show

A recent article about the decision by the Ruapehu District Council to confirm funding for replacement gateway signs for Ohakune has prompted readers to ask what they will look like (see digital image below).

The project for new entry signs for Ohakune was initially proposed at a public consultation meeting at Labour Weekend 2020 as part of a larger project initiated by the Future Ohakune Governance Group ("GG") to revitalise Ohakune CBD and town environs.

Bruce Stockwell and Christine Hickman of Ohakune Governance outlined the purpose and scope of the project and provided background on the design and conceptual elements proposed for the gateway signage at the RDC's meeting in February.

The Group has representatives from Ruapehu District Council, Ngāti Rangi and the Ohakune Community Charitable Trust (Previously Ohakune 2000).

The project was advised and documented by external consultants, Boffa Miskell

engaged by RDC.

A second consultation was held in 2022.

In a memorandum to the RDC presented in February, the GG reiterated that the public rated the development of a comprehensive Wayfinding Strategy / Signage for Ohakune as a priority and the finalisation of design and installation of new entry signs as priority first phase of that strategy.

Ariki Creative Ltd, of Christchurch was engaged, in conjunction with Ngāti Rangi, to develop a sign design incorporating the principal elements of Ohakune including Ngāti Rangi Iwi culture and history, rail, agriculture and timber industries and relationship to Mt Ruapehu.

The GG said Ngāti Rangi collaborated closely with Ariki Creative Ltd in the sign design. The Te Reo wording has been approved by Ngāti Rangi cultural committee. The sign design was supported at the last public consultation, says the GG.

There is now some urgency to the

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The design of the proposed gateway signs for Ohakune, to be built near the Carrot Park on Rangataua Road, near the swimming baths on Ohakune-Raetihi Road, and on Tohunga Road near Old Station Road.



LA fire truck still touring NZ

Four of the team travelling around the North Island in a 1960's Los Angeles fire truck.

A 55-foot (17 metres) long ladder truck from the Los Angeles Fire Department has been regularly touring New Zealand over the past 35 years, including a visit to Ohakune at the end of March.

The fire engine was a regular vehicle in the fundraising

Variety Bash tour of New Zealand and, since the end of the Bash, the team that were regulars on the truck have toured for about a week each year since.

The team is a bunch of mates – Peter and Derek Drum-
Turn to Page 2

AUTUMN ALERT
THE MARKET IS MOVING, DON'T MISS OUT.

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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.

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Ōwhango students step up for Whio Awareness Month

Last week saw Ōwhango Alive volunteers, Mark, Kim and Sally, gather at the Ōwhango Pavilion in the Domain, to celebrate the Whio Awareness month of March, with Ōwhango Primary School students.

Over 60 students, in their respective house groups, attended, joined by Department of Conservation rangers Lily and Lynn. The school embraced the occasion with enthusiasm, who were all encouraged to wear blue.

"There certainly were some creative outfits and vibrant face painting on display," said Maree Surrey from Ōwhango Alive.

"We were especially impressed by the students' knowledge and curiosity. Their understanding of predators, trapping and conservation efforts was outstanding, and their eagerness to learn more made the experience even more rewarding."

After Ōwhango Alive volunteers Mark, Kim, and Sally shared their insights, the groups headed out to check three traps around the tennis court area.

Excitement quickly built when the traps revealed two rats and a stoat—clear evidence of the importance of ongoing pest control. Then Sally led the students in a two-minute bird count, practicing quiet observation.

Their focus paid off, with plenty of birdlife heard and seen – an encouraging sign and testament to the positive impact of 12 years of trapping work in the Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve.

They also discussed the harmful effects of litter on

wildlife. Sally shared a sobering example: a bird's nest made from natural materials mixed with plastic weed mat, which had tragically entangled and killed the nesting bird. This sparked a strong response from the students, who were dismayed to find a significant amount of litter around the otherwise pristine tennis court area.

With great enthusiasm, they set out to clean up, collecting a large bag of rubbish including plastics and bottles.

The visit wrapped up with a powerful message of care and responsibility for the environment. The students' passion, teamwork, and commitment to protecting their local wildlife left us feeling hopeful for the future.

Letters

Sign to save

At the request of the originators of the Big Carrot (The Ohakune Growers Association) it has been decided that the Ohakune - Where Adventures Begin, sign by Paul Beckett should be returned to close to its original site where it is more visible to passing motorists and the public.

Thanks to Elayne Mott and Philip Sutton for restoring this sign to its original brilliance.

It is hoped by the original promoters of the Big Carrot and the Carrot Park Trust that this restoration will mean that the new Ruapehu District Council sign will not be at the Carrot Park but placed further along Rangataua Road so that the Carrot Park is not cluttered with signage.

John Archer expressed a very widely held view as to the unnecessary extravagance of ratepayers going a further \$54,000 into debt to tell people that they have arrived in Ohakune.

Our sign will do that at no cost to ratepayers.

Ron Frew, chairman, Ohakune Carrot Park Trust



Children from Ōwhango School check a trap near the Ōwhango tennis courts. Photo supplied.

Ruapehu Events & What's On

APRIL 2026

Taihape Gumboot Day 11 April
For more information follow us: @facebook.com/GumbootDayNZ @instagram.com/taihapegumbootdaynz

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

MAY 2026

Vintage & Classic Auto Show 31 May
For more information email autoshow.at.the.park@gmail.com

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T C B

Ski, Board & Bike
Cnr Ayr St & Goldfinch St, Ohakune
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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

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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

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LA fire truck

From Page 1

mond, Ewan Ross, Vern Peri, Dave Shorter and Tom Sharplin – of rock and roll fame.

He jokes that he sings to the other team members at night so they don't snore.

The crew arrived in Ohakune, to stay at the Powderhorn Chateau – one of their favourite stops. They had travelled through the Forgotten Highway to Whangamomona Hotel – another favourite stop.

When they left Ohakune, they were

headed across the Gentle Annie to Napier.

The 1960 Seagrave fire truck was gifted to the City of Auckland by the mayor of Los Angeles in 1990, in return for two kiwis for the LA zoo.

The fire truck had initially been part of the Auckland Museum of Technology. But later, some of the team took it on as the Museum no longer had space to house the truck under cover.

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

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.

Ōwhango-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 4276; 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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Ohakune Council office hours cut

Ruapehu District Council is cutting the opening hours of its Ohakune office, with the office set to open at 8.30am instead of 8.00am from Monday 13 April.

Customer services manager Stephen Barnard said the change would deliver both staffing efficiencies and cost savings, while having minimal impact on residents.

“The updated hours bring the Ohakune office into alignment with our Raetihi office, giving us greater flexibility in how we manage staff across both locations,” he said.

“As part of our ongoing work to review levels of service and identify cost savings, this small adjustment will reduce staffing requirements by

five hours per week – or 260 hours per year.”

Barnard said Council had carefully assessed the potential impact on the community before making the change.

“An audit of customer activity between 8.00am and 8.30am showed very low usage.

“Over the course of a month there were just two cash transactions recorded, along with

minimal use of library services during that time.”

“We are confident that opening slightly later in the morning will have limited impact on residents while helping Council operate more efficiently and keep costs down.”

All other office hours and services will remain unchanged.

Ohakune signs

From Page 1

project because Waka Kotahi approval for the project expires after 2 years on 10 September 2026.

“We have converted the design to a CAD program to enable laser steel plate cutting for the sign steel plate base, incorporating the mountain profile with assistance from CAD designers in Ohakune and Ohakune Engineering Ltd,” writes GG chair Christine Hickman and Bruce Stockwell.

“We have secured the recovery of the wooden beams from the old road bridge over the main truck line on Ruapehu Road and incorporated advice from Speedy Signs Ltd of Whanganui.”

The pair said they regard the project to be “shovel ready” subject only to funding.

Councillors voted to approve the unbudgeted debt-funded capital expenditure of \$54,000 plus GST in the 2026/2027 Financial year for the Ohakune Gateway Signs Project subject to ensuring engineering compliance from the start; a fixed price contract; early permit applications; community engagement on design through public consultation at spatial plan open days.

Councillors authorised the executive manager infrastructure to commence delivery of the project in the current financial year in accordance with the approved scope.



The much-loved old Ohakune sign – removed from near the Big Carrot partly because it was in a bad state of repair. Members of the Carrot Park Trust recovered the sign and restored it and it now stands at the rear of the car park.



The old sign on Raetihi-Ohakune Road – in need of replacement.

A hundred years of golf yarns



Attendees at the Waimarino Golf Club centennial on Easter weekend get together outside the clubrooms. Photo: Jude Chevin.

A fun weekend of golf, good food and catching up with old friends and more golf made up the Waimarino Golf Club’s centennial celebrations on Easter weekend.

Friday saw a good number of people arrive for the haggie, followed by a casual evening catchup. Saturday saw the more formal 18-hole tournament followed by a 9-hole tournament. (results and golf photos are on the Facebook page).

At 5pm the formalities began, with a group photo then a move into the club house. Matt Mills acted as MC for the evening and presented the Club with a commemorative trophy, a restored rule book from 1928 and vintage set of golf clubs – some real treasures from the past.

John Hammond spoke about the contributions of life members, and President Aiden Gilbert spoke about how it takes a community to keep a Club going.

The oldest active members present, Jill Martin and Tom Spry cut the spectacular custom-made cake.

“This was followed by a fabulous meal and much talking and reminiscing,” said Club spokesperson Karen Grimwade.

On Sunday an Ambrose tournament was held, followed by another great meal thanks to club member Steve Gray and his assistant Linda Walker.

The weekend took over a year to plan and it was a real team effort. The Centennial Committee did most of the organising; Kaylene Crossan, Karen Grimwade, Alan

Murdie, Steve Gray, Eileen Gotlieb, Brent Ingles and Koos Beukes – along with MC Matt Mills who also acted as starter for the tournaments.

Many others contributed: Amoa Hawira organised T-shirts, Louise Beukes did flowers, Andy Entwisle managed the draw and, along with Alan Murdie, the prize lists, Jerry Jordan (greenskeeper) had the course looking mint. “So many other club members helped with mowing, tidying trees and the endless work required to keep a golf course looking great. There are a great group of people who do this work ceaselessly and we could not keep the course going without them,” said Karen.

The Club also thanks sponsors: Di Pritt sponsored the stunning cake made by Gaye McQuarrie; Karen Grimwade put together the commemorative booklet, Jude Chevin helped Karen with the pre-print production of the booklet. Food for the Sunday meal was sponsored by Matt Mills and Wilcox, and prizes were sponsored by Pania Mowatt, Anna Sayers, John Eades and Andy Entwisle.

“It was fabulous to see so many old faces back for the weekend and to have so many happy golfers enjoying themselves play that great game,” said Karen.

“To top off the weekend, we were blessed with perfect autumn weather which could not have been better for golfing.

“The Club looks in good shape for the next 100 years.”

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NATIONAL PARK SCHOOL GROUNDS 9AM - 1PM
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National
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Artists strengthen Arts Advisory Group

Local artists Deb Brock (Taumarunui) and Kate Milham (Ohakune) have joined the Ruapehu District Council's Mayoral Arts Advisory Group as artist representatives, helping build stronger connections across Ruapehu's creative sector.

The newly-established Arts Advisory Group has been created to strengthen the relationship between Council and the district's creative community, while identifying opportunities to integrate arts and creativity into Council projects, public spaces, and community initiatives.

Council representative John Chapman said both artists bring a wealth of experience, strong community ties, and a passion for supporting local creatives.

"Deb and Kate each bring deep local connections, strong creative practice and a real commitment to sup-

porting artists, groups, and community-led arts across our district," he said.

Deb Brock has deep roots in Taumarunui and a long history of community involvement, alongside an active mixed-media and ceramic practice.

She also brings valuable experience in securing funding and supporting grassroots arts initiatives.

Kate Milham, now based in Ohakune, holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting and has decades of creative experience.

She has successfully run a gallery, built strong arts networks, and developed programmes that connect and support artists.

Cr Chapman said both artists will be actively engaging



From left, Councillor John Chapman, artist Deb Brock, mayor Weston Kirton and artist Kate Milham. The appointment of local artists to Council's Art's Advisory Group is helping strengthen connections to the local creative sector, says Chapman.

Letters

End rodeo

• Once more the *Ruapehu Bulletin* eulogises a spectacle of animal cruelty with headlines such as 'Waimarino Rodeo: Best ever'.

It is certainly not the 'best ever' for the unwilling animal participants. Last year undercover footage revealed that a bull died in the arena, yet the carnage is allowed to continue.

In July this year the cruel past-time of greyhound racing will be banned in New Zealand because of unacceptable injury and death rates.

Rodeo needs to join it in the dustbin of history.

Dr Michael Morris

Veggie fuel

• It was heartwarming to read your excellent story about the initiative of local veggie growers to help solve our various gas crises in the *Bulletin* (1 April 2026).

We would like to support this worthy initiative by investing and encourage all locals to do so. Please publish contact details for the spokesperson, A R Sole.

PS: It was also interesting to read about the potential black snow on the front page of the 1986 edition you carried in today's paper.

John Sandford

Editor replies: readers are advised that the opportunity to invest in the Brussels sprouts gas project expired at 12 noon on Wednesday 1 April ;)

Oil wars

• It is 114 years since New Zealand geologist Frank Holmes discovered the oil in Arabia.

It is 111 years since New Zealand soldiers joined in an invasion of the Middle East that enabled us to steal that oil. We failed miserably and our empire had to persuade Bedouin Arabs to do the job of defeating the Ottomans for us, in a war financed by Zionist bankers.

It is 106 years since our empire's RAF started bombing women and children in Arab villages each time their men rose up to stop our empire from stealing their oil. Thanks to those carpet-bombing campaigns, New Zealand got very cheap oil for the next fifty years.

It is 76 years since heavily armed godless Zionists from Europe invaded Palestine where religious Jews, Christians and Muslims lived and worked together harmoniously, and massacred every last person in several villages. Thousands more apostate Jews arrived, many of them from the USA, supported by billions of dollars annually from the US government. They have progressively deprived indigenous Palestinians of their land and lives. This great nakba is now almost complete.

It is 73 years since the British and US governments conspired to replace Iran's democratically elected government with a brutal dictator. Approximately 38 million have died in the Gulf region since then as a consequence of US blockades and wars there.

It is 40 days since Westerners restarted the massacre of women and children across the region in another flare-up of the oil wars that New Zealand soldiers helped ignite when they invaded Turkey

on 25 April 1915.

So can we please hear none of that hypocritical propaganda about "our glorious Gallipoli dead" at memorial services this month. Prayers asking forgiveness for the massacre of so many innocent villagers in our oil wars will be more honest. (tinyurl.com/matengahinu)

John Archer

Difficult decisions

• As we begin community consultation on the proposed rates increase and the difficult decisions ahead, it is important that we start from a shared understanding of the challenge facing Ruapehu. This is not the result of wasteful spending or poor choices. It is a structural problem built up over many years, and one that small rural districts across New Zealand are now struggling with.

Ruapehu is home to around 14,000 people, yet we host more than a million visitors every year. Those visitors rely on our roads, water systems, public toilets, emergency services and the basic infrastructure that keeps this district functioning. They are vital to our economy and identity, but the cost of maintaining the infrastructure they use does not fall on them. It falls almost entirely on our ratepayers.

Successive governments have known that rural districts with small rating bases cannot sustainably maintain infrastructure built for national and international tourism. They have known the local government funding model is outdated and inadequate. Yet long-term, reliable support has not been provided.

This is why we now face high rates: not be-

cause of extravagance, but because we have been required to fund essential infrastructure without the support that should accompany those responsibilities. Costs that, in many countries, would be shared between local and central government have been pushed onto communities least able to absorb them.

Public scrutiny of spending is welcome, transparency is essential, but we must be honest about scale. Cutting minor costs will not solve a structural funding gap measured in millions. It risks distracting us from the real drivers of rates increases and the real choices ahead.

There is also the possibility that, after the next election, central government may impose rate-capping. Without alternative funding sources, this would not reduce the cost of infrastructure. It would simply limit our ability to pay for it, leading to reduced services, deferred maintenance, and long-term deterioration of the assets our communities rely on.

This consultation matters. We need to hear what services you value, what you are prepared to prioritise, and what trade-offs you believe are acceptable. Ruapehu is not a wealthy district and many households are already under strain. Asking them to shoulder the cost of infrastructure used by a million visitors each year is not sustainable.

Our community deserves honesty about the funding model and the advocacy required to fix it. Over the coming months, I will listen carefully, be transparent about the numbers, and continue pushing

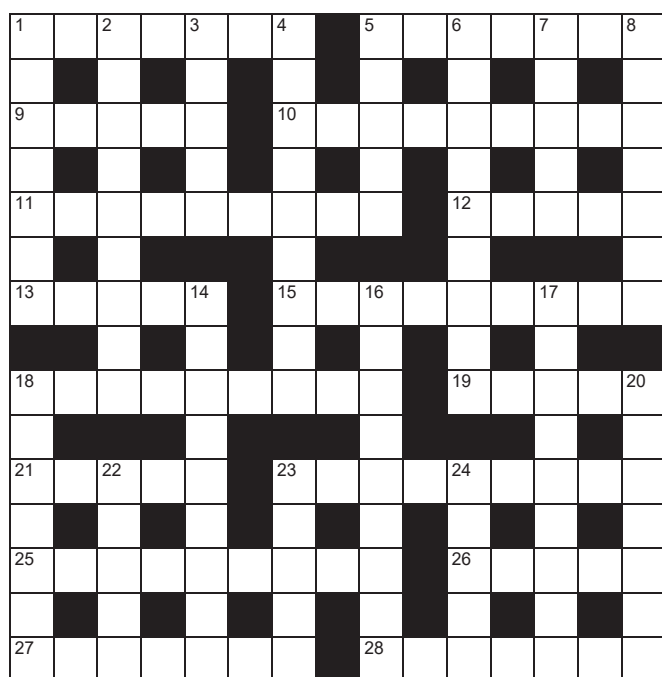
John Chapman, Ruapehu District Councillor

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

QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

1. Early writing material (7)
5. Toilet (7)
9. Audibly (5)
10. Producing a good profit (9)
11. Exact (2,3,4)
12. Vision (5)
13. Marketplace or square (5)
15. Moved, affected (9)
18. Bribe (9)
19. Claw (5)
21. Protective garment (5)
23. Lawyer (9)
25. Overalls (9)
26. Friend (colloq) (5)
27. Stop from happening (7)
28. Scans (7)



Down

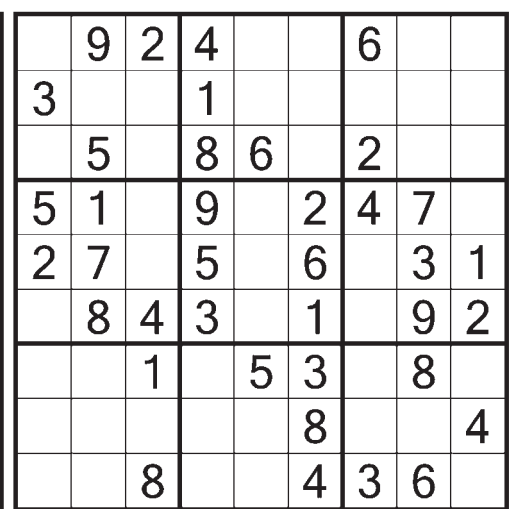
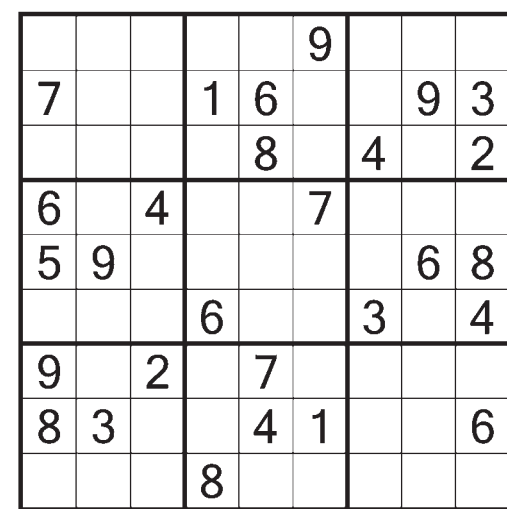
1. Thick fog (colloq) (3,4)
2. Prone (9)
3. Raised strip of land (5)
4. Redemption (9)
5. From around here (5)
6. Fleeting (9)
7. Cake topping (5)
8. Thrown out, expelled (7)
14. Weaken (9)
16. Inability to move (9)
17. Card game (9)
18. Style of comedy (5,2)
20. Anxious (7)
22. Scope (5)
23. Perspire (5)
24. Preside over (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



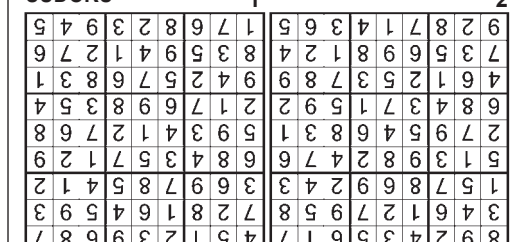
The Top 10

1. What does the M stand for in the radio abbreviation FM?
2. How many medals did New Zealand win at the 2026 Winter Olympics?
3. Which sport features a jerk?
4. Which comic-strip hero inspired the invention of ankle tags for criminals?
5. Which is the South Island's largest lake?
6. Whose departure from Genesis led to Phil Collins becoming lead singer?
7. Mike Shepherd and his 1971 Holden Kingswood appear in which NZ TV series?
8. The song *I Have Confidence* is from which musical?
9. Is hypocaust a violent tropical storm, a type of paint-stripper or a Roman heating system?
10. What do the songs *Diamonds Are Forever*, *Nobody Does It Better*, and *Writing's on the Wall* have in common?

CROSSWORD

- Down: 1. Pea soup, 2. Prostrate, 3. Ridge, 4. Salvation, 5. Local, 6. Transient, 7. Cing, 8. Ejected, 14. Attenuate, 16. Paralysis, 17. Solitaire, 18. Stand up, 20. Nervous, 22. Range, 23. Sweat, 24. Chair.
- Across: 1. Papyrus, 5. Latrine, 9. Auld, 10. Lucrative, 11. On the nail, 12. Sight, 13. Talon, 21. Apron, 23. Solicitor, 25. Dungarees, 26. Amigo, 27. Prevent, 28. Surveys.

SUDOKU



THE TOP 10

1. Modulation, 2. Three (two silver, one bronze), 3. Weightlifting, 4. Spiderman, 5. Lake Te Anau, 6. Peter Gabriel, 7. The Brokenwood Mysteries, 8. The Sound of Music, 9. Roman heating system, 10. Bond film theme songs.

From the Himalayas to Waiouru – Army Reserves offer new perspective for banker

Westpac banking specialist Prabhakar Mishra grew up in the northern Indian province of Uttarakhand, which sits on the southern slopes of the Himalayas and borders Tibet.

The climate is incredibly varied and temperatures can drop to freezing levels, but the Auckland still found sleeping outdoors in the Waiouru Military Training Area in the central North Island one of his biggest challenges during New Zealand Army Reserve Force training.

Private Mishra joined the Reserves in November and Waiouru served up plenty of unpredictable weather conditions typical of the unique alpine desert environment.

The trainee soldiers were exposed to a variety of physical challenges exacerbated by the weather, and they learned to adapt and build resilience under adversity.

Although he has been exposed to similar weather conditions in the past, living outdoors with at times no shelter, was daunting, he says.

“I was quite out of my comfort zone living outdoors, especially with the extreme weather. The way I overcame this challenge was to be committed to the task at hand and remain focused.

“Every soldier is very proud to be serving and carrying that pride helps you move forward. It’s a flow of energy that filters down through us all and I remind myself I have to keep pushing forward as I am now a soldier.”

Christmas graduation

Private Mishra graduated a week before Christmas, a landmark in his new way of looking at life.

He moved to New Zealand when he was 20, intending to become a New Zealander.

He often thought how best he could protect his family, especially after his daughter was born three years ago, he says.

“I looked at different ways I could do this and while I was researching, I read that the NZ Army says they protect those who can’t protect themselves. This inspired me to join the Reserve Force.”

His training continued over January where he spent three weeks at Waiouru learning infantry skills with a variety of weapons systems, casualty care and field communications.

Private Mishra is now a member of 3rd/6th Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, which comprises the Northland, Auckland and Hauraki

companies.

Each Reserve Force infantry company has its own training programme in line with its battalion training focus.

Weekend training

Company-level training typically occurs one weekend a month with platoon level training occurring every two weeks on average.

Each year Reserve Forces from around New Zealand take part in Exercise Tauwharenikau, which is supported by Regular Force elements. This exercise is in addition to regular training activities on weekends and at night parades.

Reserve Force soldiers can also take part in all New Zealand Defence Force exercises, both nationally and internationally, based on time availability and skills required.

As a Westpac banking specialist for three years, he has nine personnel in his team.

He had a fresh eye on things when he returned to work.

“I had clarification of the big picture and could think strategically around that. Using different types of communication to help pull people together within a team have been some of the techniques I’ve learnt while training for my role in the Reserve Force.

The life-changing experience of Army training changed his perspective, he said.

“I appreciate life more now than before, I am comfortable pushing myself beyond my limits and I am already applying some of the NZ Army core values into my work and civilian life, especially commitment and integrity.”



Private Prabhakar Mishra – inspired to join the Army Reserves on hearing the Army aims to protect those who can’t protect themselves.



Private Prabhakar Mishra says his training in the NZ Army Reserve Force has given him a new perspective on how to approach life.

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Linklater bursary applications open

Horizons Regional Council has opened applications for the Don Linklater Memorial Bursary.

To honour the contribution made to the Manawatu-Whanganui region and to local government by the late Don Linklater, Horizons Regional Council Chairman 1989-2000, Horizons is offering a bursary for university study.

The bursary, which can be split across up to four recipients, aims to support students studying in areas relevant to some of Horizons Regional Council’s work.

Students can be studying either internally or extramurally, in areas such as resource management, environmental planning, and environmental engineering and modelling with particular emphasis on river and drainage basin dynamics.

Horizons councillor Hamish Easton says the bursary is a great way of supporting and encouraging students while at the same time investing in the future management of our natural resources.

“These students will be gaining valuable knowledge ready to deal with our long-term environmental challenges.

“It is crucial that we do what we can now to grow our knowledge base. It will help to build resilience of our communities and the environment, which benefits everyone.”

To be eligible, applicants must be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident studying full-time in 2026, at either undergraduate or postgraduate level.

Applicants must be from the Horizons region. However, they may be studying elsewhere in New Zealand.

One of the four bursaries will be considered based on meeting the eligibility criteria and their iwi/hapū connection to the region.

Anyone interested in applying for the Don Linklater Memorial Bursary can get an application form from www.horizons.govt.nz/about-our-region-and-council/grants-and-sponsorship.

Applications close at 5pm on Thursday 23 April.

Need advice on the area, activities or even the weather, call or stop in and see the team for firsthand knowledge.

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Public asked for views on park plan

The plan which guides the Department of Lands and Survey in its management of Tongariro National Park is being reviewed and submissions from the public are wanted.

The present plan was adopted in 1977 but with many changes and pressures on the park, including one million visitors a year, there are many unresolved questions.

It is hoped that as many people as possible will have their say on how the park should be managed.

To help the public a set of five statements which set out the planning issues and options for the park have been published.

The statements cover ski-fields and skiing, Whakapapa Village, natural values, access and recreation. They are available from offices of the department or from park ranger stations at 50 cents each or \$2 a set.

The statements point out that the new management plan will be designed to provide a range of opportunities for use of the park. Where conflicts arise priority will be given to protecting natural features and values.

"The appropriateness of any new or expanded activity or development will be determined by its impact on the natural environment and/or visitors rather than its popularity or perceived economic benefit."

"The park cannot cater for all recreational demands and difficult choices and decisions will have to be

made to exclude some activities."

The statement on skiing and ski-fields points out that the park contains the only North Island skiing resource, which is a legitimate recreation activity.

"However, the point must be stressed that the fact that the national park is the only suitable venue for an activity does not give that activity automatic priority. The primary objective is the protection of national park values."

It is suggested that the 22 per cent growth rate in skiing in the period 1979 to 1982 will continue, both from overseas and domestic sources, despite the below-average snow years of 1983 and 1984.

The department supports the upgrading of the Bruce Road to a sealed, dual-lane carriageway, at a cost of \$1.7 million.

However a private investor is promoting a gondola transport system from Whakapapa to Iwikau and indications are that, should this go ahead, use of the Bruce Road would have to be restricted to make this system financially viable.

All three ski-fields are discussed, and Tukino, in particular, gets a lot of space as an expanding area with various growth options.

A visitor levy for services provided by the department to concessionaires and licencees in the park, is under consideration.

•Continued page 2

Local couple wed 60 years



Cutting their 60th anniversary cake at the Ohakune Club are Alma and Frank Mischewski. Looking on is the only other surviving member of their wedding party, Jack Pettersen who was groomsman in 1926.

Friends and family from near and far gathered at the Ohakune Club on Saturday to celebrate the diamond wedding anniversary of Frank and Alma Mischewski.

The couple were married in Ohakune 60 years ago yesterday at the old St. Joseph's Catholic Church, which is now the Ruapehu Lion's Den.

The only surviving member of their wedding party, Mrs Mischewski's brother, Jack Pettersen, came from Napier for Saturday's celebration. Mr Pettersen was groomsman at the 1926 wedding.

Both Mr and Mrs Mischewski have lived in Ohakune since 1909. Mrs Mischewski's family moved from Dannevirke to the Ohakune Junction in that year, and Mr Mischewski and his family came from Inglewood to live in Old Station Road, Ohakune.

They married after about seven years of courtship. They had four children and now have 11 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Staff quarters expanded House burnt

Work has recently begun on the \$1.5 million renovation and extension of staff quarters in Whakapapa Village.

The two buildings of Tongariro and Long Lodge are being completely rebuilt inside and both will be greatly extended, said the manager of the Chateau, Carl Braddock.

Every staff room will now have a double bed, its own shower and toilet and will be

substantially larger than before.

Tongariro Lodge will have 30 units and Long Lodge three or four.

Renovations, which are being carried out by a Hamilton firm of builders, began four weeks ago and work is due to be completed by late June.

Other improvements at the hotel this year have included astro-turfing the tennis courts and re-paving the balcony at the Chateau.

Maintenance is being carried out on the roof of the hotel at present.

Mr Braddock said he is looking forward to a 'booming winter' after a summer which has not been good.

"New Zealanders have not been mobile in our area at all this summer," said Mr Braddock.

There is still a large percentage of New Zealanders staying in the hotel but not as many in the previous three summers in which he has been manager, he said.

A Waiouru camp house was almost totally destroyed by fire early yesterday morning.

Two appliances from Waiouru were called to the Carr Crescent house at about 6.15am. Two Ohakune appliances also attended the fire.

The cause of the fire is believed to be a domestic heater which overturned, said Major Brian Stewart.

The sole occupant of the house received slight burns to her arms and was in Waiouru Base Hospital on Monday morning for observation.

Major Stewart said it was likely the house would be pulled down as it was irreparable.

Earthquake shakes Mt Ruapehu

A relatively large localised earthquake was recorded at the summit of Mt Ruapehu last week.

The 'quake measured 3.5 on the Richter scale but was not felt at the base of the mountain.

A spokesman at headquarters of Tongariro National Park said it was the first major localised 'quake since 1984. Earthquakes which are recorded on the seismograph in the park are usually centred elsewhere, he said.

The spokesman said it was pleasing to see the early warning system picked the earthquake up and did everything it was supposed to do.

Motorists caught

Fifty vehicles were stopped at check-points around Ohakune over Easter weekend.

Of those stopped, nine drivers were breath-tested and seven are facing possible court prosecutions.

Motorists were stopped between 11pm and 1.30am and officers came from Wanganui, Turangi and Waiouru for the check.

Traffic sergeant Ron Buchanan from Taumarunui said check-points such as this can happen at any time.

Ohakune garage celebrates 1st birthday



Kelly Swain, daughter of Cedar Service Station co-owner Warren Swain, cuts the first birthday cake at the early-morning champagne breakfast last week.

Ohakune's Cedar Service Station's first birthday was celebrated in style last week with a champagne breakfast.

A large band of well-wishers braved wintery weather in their nighties and pyjamas to enjoy a champagne breakfast.

Mechanic Gary Tansley showed unexpected talents as chef, cooking many rations of bacon, eggs and sausages for surprised motorists.

The competition for the best night attire was won by Fiona Mills, Wayne Gunnell and Craig Greenwood.

Co-owners of the station, Warren Swain and Bruce McDonald, thanked the business community and everyone else for giving them a good first year to celebrate.

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

If it weren't for your gumboots where would ya be?

It's time to celebrate the Skellerup, or regail in your Red Band, or whatever brand of boot you pull on your pegs to keep out the water.

It's NZ Gumboot Day next Saturday at the Gumboot capital of the world – Taihape.

Organisers have something special lined up this year – a steam train arriving in the afternoon, bringing around 300 visitors from Paekākāriki just for Gumboot Day!

Each passenger will be given a specially-made Gumboot Day passport to collect stamps as they explore Taihape and all the fun on offer.

A very important notice from the completely-official-not-at-all-made-up Gumboot Police: anyone found without gumboots may receive an on-the-spot fine. But don't panic, fines are payable in interpretive dance, an enthusiastic sing-along, or your most convincing farm animal impression.

Refusal to comply may result in public cheering, questionable choreography and possibly a crowd joining in.

“So really, it's in your best interest to just wear the gumboots. You've been warned.

Wear your gumboots and bring the whānau – there will be fun for the whole family – barrel train (for the kids), flash cars, vintage and farm machinery, agricultural displays, food and market stalls, karaoke and live entertainment, pipers and highland dancers.

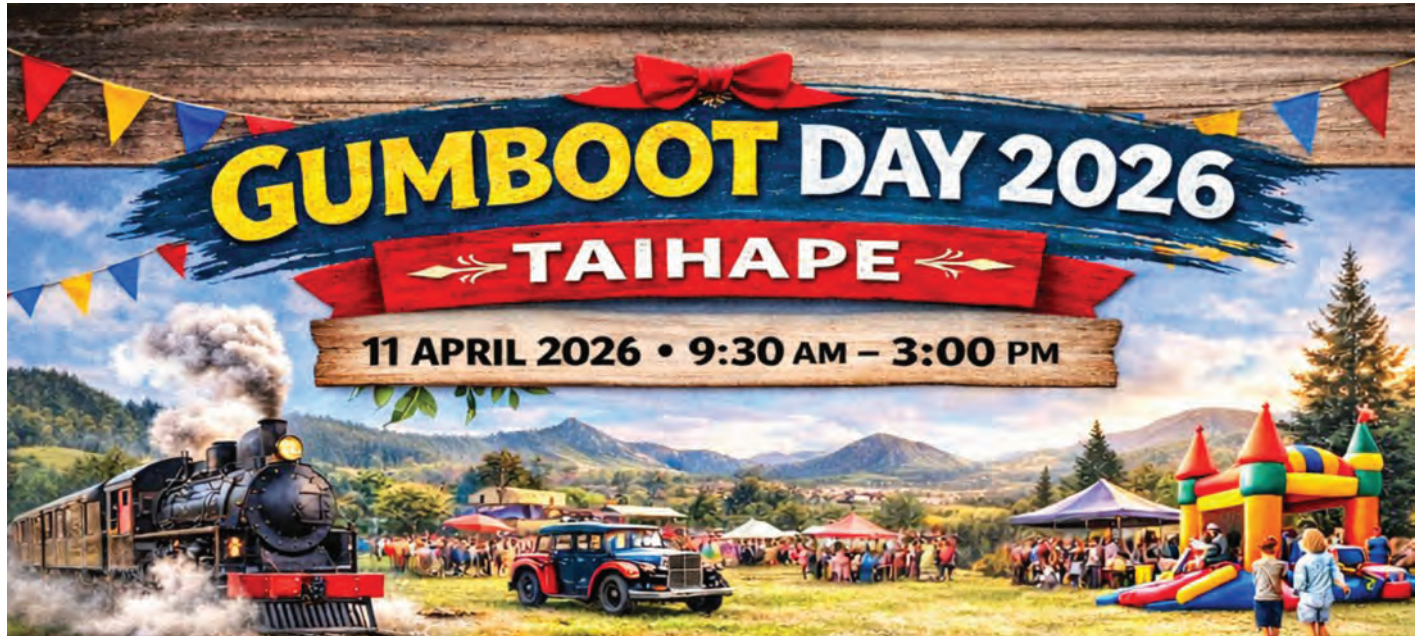
Gumboot fun will feature novelty races, egg and spoon race, lolly scramble dunking machine and of course, gumboot throwing.

Gumboot art will be on display – face painting, jugglers, bouncy castle, stalls, shop window displays, scavenger hunt, tour of Taihape walk, and the museum will be open.

Leading up to the day is a round-town Gumboot Scavenger Hunt.

It's started already but there's still time – it runs until the end of Gumboot Day, 11 April.

All ages can play, simply visit at least five of the below locations, scan the QR code and answer a simple question and you're in the



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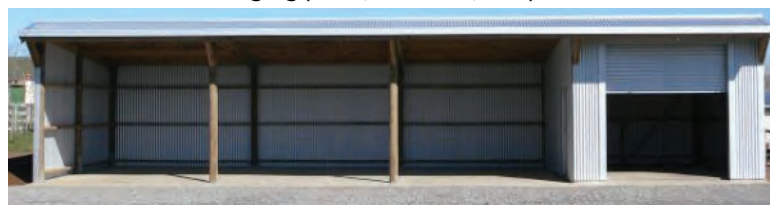
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Cause of massive Tongariro fire confirmed

Report from Radio New Zealand:

A vehicle losing its rear wheel and dragging its undercarriage along the road sparked the fire which swept through 3000 hectares of Tongariro National Park in November.

A fire investigation report released under the Official Information Act describes witnesses seeing a vehicle with no left rear wheel being pushed on State Highway 47 by three people.

About 50 metres away a fire was quickly growing, which a member of the public called in just after 3pm, 8 November last year.

"The fire size was noted at around the size of two cars and quickly grew to as big as a house, with flames up to 2.5m tall, then very rapidly, by three-to-five minutes, it was the size of a large farm implement shed," specialist wildfire fire investigator Grant Detheridge-Davies said in his report.

"After the 111 call was terminated, it was estimated the fire to be almost a football field in size."

The vehicle in question was discovered parked in a layby on the opposite side of the road, hidden from sight, about 400m from the specific fire origin area.

"When found the vehicle did have four wheels fitted. However, the left-hand rear wheel was not fitted correctly and there was significant damage to the underside of the vehicle."

Detheridge-Davies said inspection of the road showed marks consistent with an item being dragged across the surface from about 60m before the specific fire origin area and then on for approximately 320m.

"The use of a magnet and metal detector confirmed the presence of metal filings and steel pieces in and around these drag marks, most showing they had been subjected to high temperature."

Based on physical evidence gathered at the scene, witness statements and photographs, Detheridge-Davies concluded the probable cause of the blaze was the "wheel, contacting the road surface creating hot metal sparks setting roadside vegetation on fire".

The specific ignition area of the fire was narrowed down to the edge of a drain on the side of SH47 where "dry tussock vegetation and rubbish had built up".

Detheridge-Davies said once the grass was ignited the fire spread quickly to other dry fuels.

"On the day of the fire, scrub fuels had an extreme fire rating. This along with a 15km/h wind recorded at National Park enabled the fire to increase in intensity and rate of spread, becoming a high intensity and fast-moving fire."

"A witness described the fire as the size of a car, but quickly spread to the size of two rugby fields by the time the brigade arrived."

Accidental

Detheridge-Davies concluded the fire was accidental.

Remarkably, documents show a second fire was sparked in the same area in similar circumstances just 30 days later.

A second fire investigation report released under the Official Information Act, describes how a trailer breaking an axle sparked a 300 hectare fire



Left-hand rear wheel showing damage to the underside and evidence of metal components being subjected to high temperature. Photo: Fire and Emergency / supplied

on 8 December.

Also penned by Detheridge-Davies it said FENZ received a 111 call to several vegetation fires on Volcanic Loop Highway SH47 at 1.10pm.

"An overflying helicopter reported the fire as over an 1/2-hectare in size and growing. Due to fire conditions a 3rd alarm [was raised] and a request for three helicopters was transmitted."

Motorists travelling north on SH47, between

State Highway 48 and Mangapopo reported seeing a camper van towing a trailer travelling South towards Waimarino, "the towed trailer was emitting large number of sparks onto the side road from what appeared to be a major mechanical fault".

A motorist who saw smoke and came across a number of fires on the roadside called 111.

The first arriving Fire and Emergency appliance

Turn to Page 9



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Tongariro fire

From Page 8

and passing police officers confirmed at least four fires started on the roadside over about 850m.

Once tussock on the side of the road was ignited the fires grew quickly and merged. Detheridge-Davies concluded the fire

was sparked accidentally.

“The probable cause of the fire was a trailer being towed by a camper van having a flat tyre then breaking an axle, resulting in the underside of the trailer contacting the road surface creating hot metal sparks setting roadside vegetation on fire.”



Fire damage at Tongariro National Park. Photo: Fire and Emergency / supplied

Robin in town park: sign of trapping success



A toutouwai (robin) was spotted in Jubilee Park in Ohakune recently – a sign of success for trapping group.

A native toutouwai (robin) was spotted in Jubilee Park recently, by Predator Free Ohakune member and environmental expert Kerry Oates.

“I played some calls from my phone to see if there were two, but no, just one bird, that never called,” said Kerry. “I suspect it’s a juvenile female that is dispersing post-nesting season (this season’s fledgling).”

“She probably won’t stay without other robins present,

but at least they are looking.”

He said seeing the robin makes the effort that Predator Free Ohakune is putting in worthwhile.

“It’s why we are doing this.”

“Our long-term plan is to make a safe corridor from the National Park, through town linking to Ohakune Lakes, Rangataua Ecological Reserve etc ... to see threatened species moving through the zones.”



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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

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



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



SITUATIONS VACANT

TE KOROWAI O WAINUIĀRUA

GROUP ADMINISTRATOR / IWI REGISTRAR
20 HOURS PER WEEK \$31,800 PER ANNUM

Te Korowai o Wainuiārua is seeking an organised and proactive Group Administrator / Iwi Registrar to ensure the smooth day-to-day operation of our tari in Raetihi. This is a key operational role providing administrative, governance and systems oversight across our group entities.

This role is critical to maintaining strong organisational performance, ensuring governance integrity, managing financial administration and upholding compliance across our Post Settlement entities.

Our ideal candidate will be highly organised and detail-oriented with:

- strong administrative and organisational capability
- experience managing records and document filing systems
- financial administration experience (Xero)
- high attention to detail
- strong communication and mahi coordination skills
- an ability to work across multiple systems, priorities, and organisational entities
- cultural competency, integrity and the ability to build trusted, mana-enhancing relationships

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 5PM, 22 APRIL 2026

For more information, a copy of the job description or to submit your application email: pieta@tekorowaiowainuiaruwa.co.nz

Junction abuzz with Easter events



The Ohakune Junction was buzzing with activity on Saturday of Easter weekend, with three separate events for people to enjoy in the sunshine. Above: the successful Junction market day with around 20 stalls; below – the beer festival at Kings; and bottom – Taste at the Kitchen which included a chance to try Ohakune's newest product, carrot gin, with Sue Delaney. Photos: Liz Brooker, Jude Chevin and supplied.

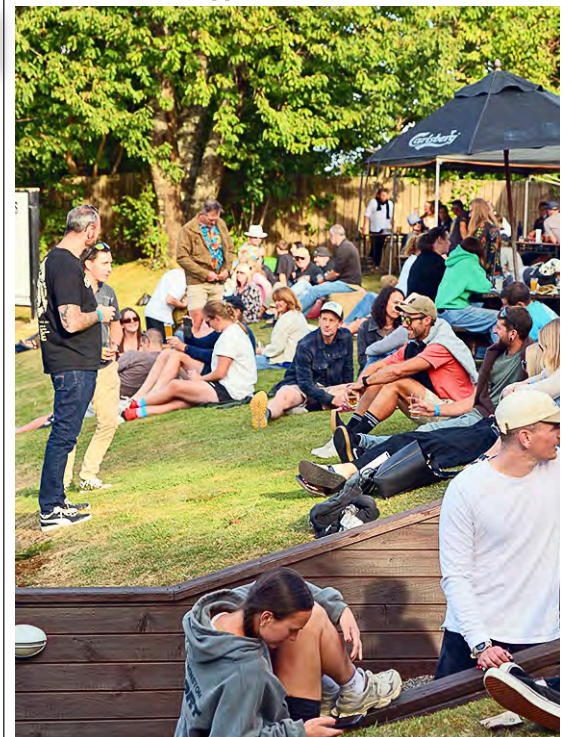
PUBLIC NOTICES

Creative Pilot Workshop

Local female students aged 16–18, focused on visual thinking and hands-on design. A relaxed, interactive session with limited spots (15–20 participants). Session is 60-90 minutes.

Participants will receive snacks and drinks, plus a gift as a thank-you.

Contact vizeq@icloud.com for more details



WHANGANUI RIVER ENHANCEMENT TRUST

Call for Funding Applications

Formed in 2002 as an agreement between Whanganui District Council, Ruapehu District Council and Genesis Energy, the Trust's objective is to promote and encourage the enhancement of the waters and catchments of the Whanganui River. The Trust is now calling for funding applications for Whanganui River Enhancement Projects (Environmental and Social).

For this funding round the Trust will give priority consideration to applications for innovative environmental projects that help contribute to the health and wellbeing of the Whanganui River Catchment.

Specific criteria apply. Application forms are available from:

- Whanganui District Council Office: 101 Guyton St, Whanganui - 06 349 0001
- Ruapehu District Council Office: 59-61 Huia Street, Taumarunui - 07 895 8188.

Applications close 9th May 2026.

For further information, please contact: Nicole.Tawhiri@genesisenergy.co.nz

Application forms to be forwarded to: **Whanganui River Enhancement Trust c/- Nicole.Tawhiri Genesis Energy Private Bag 36 Tūrangi Or via email to: Nicole.Tawhiri@genesisenergy.co.nz**

Artists strengthen Arts Advisory Group

From Page 4 with Ruapehu's creative community.

"Deb and Kate will be reaching out to creatives, art groups, galleries, venues, and others across the district to gather ideas and help shape how Council can better support the arts.

"We encourage anyone involved in the creative sector to support the Arts Advisory Group kaupapa by sharing your ideas and being part of lifting the profile and role of arts in Ruapehu.

"If you're part of Ruapehu's creative community, keep an eye out for upcoming posts and updates — or get in touch directly.

"The Arts Advisory Group is keen to hear from anyone involved in the arts, whether you're an individual creative, part of a group, or simply interested in supporting the sector," he said.

Contact Cr Chapman on 021 137 59 52 or email: john.chapman@ruapehudc.govt.nz

Looking to the Future Have Your Say



Annual Plan 2026/27 : Future Services : New Roding Bylaws New Road & Reserve Use Rules : Rural School Speed Management

Council is seeking community feedback on our 2026/27 Annual Plan - and starting the conversation on the next 10-year Long-Term Plan (2027-2037).

With the loss of water services, sector reform, rates capping, affordability and other challenges we are facing one of the most significant planning periods yet.

These challenges mean we'll need to make some tough decisions together about:

- What services we keep
- What we might reduce or do differently
- What we may need to stop

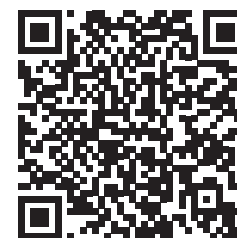
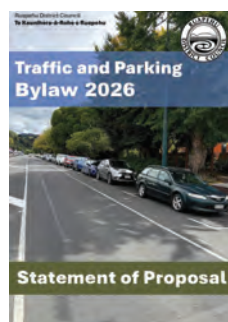
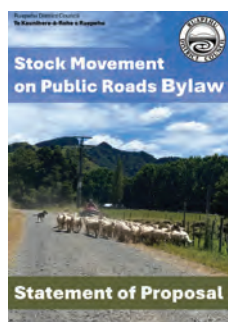
We're also seeking your feedback on proposed new Bylaws and Policies on:

- Stock movement on roads
- Parking and road use
- New road and road reserve use rules
- Rural school zone speed management



More info and having your say:

You can get more detail on these issues via our website: ruapehudc.govt.nz where you will also find online Feedback Forms or pick-up the supporting documents from your local Council office.



[Link to website info](#)

Community hui:

Bring your questions and thoughts to a community engagement hui.

WAIMARINO (N.PARK)

Wednesday 8 April - 5.30pm
Emergency Management Centre,
Buddo Street.

TAUMARUNUI

Wednesday 15 April - 6.00pm
War Memorial Hall,
Hakiaha Street.

Hear about what's ahead, ask questions, and have your say!

Big effort from young TRYathletes

Palmerston North turned on a blue-sky day as more than 1400 tamariki – including around 15 Waimarino kids – descended on Ongley Park for the Sanitarium Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon last month.

Children aged 6 to 15 splashed, pedalled and ran their hearts out at the multisport event, cheered on by crowds of whānau and friends.

Adding star power to the local line-up were Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon ambassadors and Kiwi sporting legends, Olivia Shannon, Megan Hull, and Scott Harpham, who spent time cheering on participants and handing out medals.

Sanitarium NZ general manager Michael Barton said Palmerston North had once again turned out in force for the iconic event.

“Now in its 33rd year, the TRYathlon has become a beloved tradition in the community and we’re proud to host an event that gives kids of all abilities the chance to try something new, build confidence, and most importantly, have fun.”

The TRYathlon event kicks off with the swimming leg, followed by cycling and running. Kids are grouped by age and gender, ensuring everyone can participate at their own pace in a supportive, non-competitive environment.

After crossing the finish line, participants are awarded TRY medals by sporting heroes.

Families can relax and enjoy activities, food stalls, and sponsor giveaways.

The day wraps up with prize-giving and closing ceremonies, where there’s plenty of celebration and encouragement for every participant’s efforts.



Tryathletes from Ohakune Primary School, Van Gray and Art King.

Ohakune Squash

Round two of Ohakune Squash Club interbusiness from last week had Dunlop beat Unsquashable 107/95, Tecnifibre beat Prince 110/59, Head beat Stellar 117/89 and at Raetihi Karakal beat Salming 111/88. Points after two rounds: Tecnifibre 220, Head 212, Karakal 205, Dunlop 203, Stellar 193, Salming 188, Unsquashable 186 and Prince 146.

Draw for this Thursday is at Ohakune: 5:00pm Dunlop vs Karakal, 6:30pm Head vs Prince, 8:00pm Stellar vs Salming and at Raetihi at 5:30pm Tecnifibre vs Unsquashable.

A series of workshops called Activators for Squash Stars is being co-ordinated by NZ Squash aimed at coaching for coaches

who will help with their Squash Stars programme for beginning juniors. Matthew Laurenson ran the first of these nationwide at Ohakune for the Ruapehu region last week. Ten took part, all from Ohakune. Ohakune’s junior Squash Stars programme runs next school term.

The annual fixture between Ohakune and Taihape is scheduled for Wednesday 15 April in Taihape. Sign up at the club or let Matt know.

Currently also looking for players interested in playing in the Round the Mountain interclub teams competition for this year. This usually involves teams from Ohakune, Taumarunui, Turangi, Waiouru, Raetihi and Taihape.

Property Brokers

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 Hakiha Street, Taumarunui

View By appointment

Web pb.co.nz/TUC224532



Cameron Elliot
M 027 542 1009

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