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Ruapehu Bulletin

15 April 2026
Issue No 2101

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Call for bike trails info P2



Superman versus a moa? P5



Raetihis Gutbuster for fun P9



Taihape throws a Gumboot Day P12

Unanimous support for speed limit drop on Mountain Road

A call to lower the speed limit on the Ohakune Mountain Road in the area from the Junction to past the Ngāti Rangi offices has gained more support, with Ruapehu District's councillors backing a recommendation unanimously at their last meeting.

The councillors were presented a report on a recommendation from the Waimarino Waiouru Community Board to lower the speed limit in the area to 30km/h.

The Board chairman, Luigi Hotter, had presented a report to the WWCB sharing the community concern regarding speed management at the entrance to the dual World Heritage Park, "specifically the section from under the Railway Bridge (before the entrance to Railway Row) through to the start of Ohakune Mountain Road".

The Board called for staff provide them with a progress update including "indicative timeframes and funding pathways".

At their last meeting, RDC members were presented a report prompted by the community board, from Tasha Paladin,

RDC's executive manager community, governance and resilience.

"Community Members and Ngāti Rangi have raised ongoing concerns about vehicle speeds in the area that serves as the gateway between Ohakune Township and Ohakune Mountain Road – the primary access to Tongariro National Park, a dual world heritage site," stated Paladin.

"This is a relatively short but critically important stretch where township activity meets the beginning of the mountain road corridor.

"This area experiences a high concentration of pedestrians, cyclists, children and visitors, particularly during ski season and peak tourism periods. The concern has been compounded by the increasing popularity of the Te Ara Managwhero shared trail, which has brought a growing number of walkers and cyclists entering and exiting the Ohakune Mountain Road corridor near the Ngāti Rangi office."

Turn to Page 2



The area that needs a lower speed limit - between the yellow dots, according to the Community Board.

Wilderpeople reunion invite for iwi



Korty Wilson, Ngāti Rangi, enjoys spending time with movie director Taika Waititi at the reunion for the Hunt for the Wilderpeople team.

The recent reunion for the crew that put together the hit film *Hunt for the Wilderpeople* included a surprise invitation for people from Ngāti Rangi iwi.

"Every now and then something truly wonderful happens," says Ngāti Rangi, who said the "wonderful moment" was the celebration of ten years since *Hunt for the*

Wilderpeople first showed.

"In recognition of the manaakitanga of Ngāti Rangi at the time of the filming; the producer reached out to us to attend the ten-year celebration," said Ngāti Rangi.

"We gave them their cultural induction at the Powder-

Turn to Page 2

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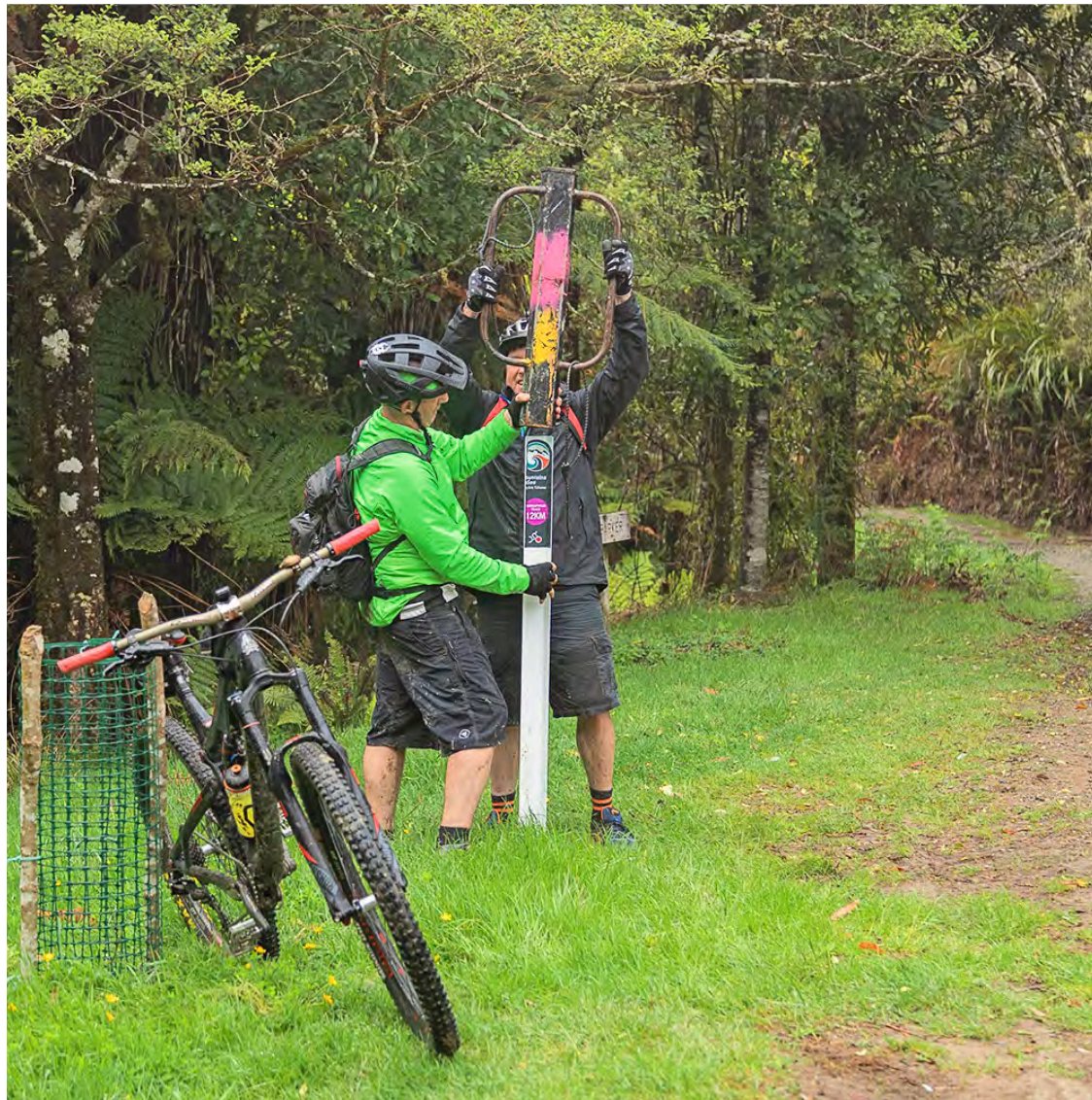
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Supporters of Mountains to Sea – Ngā Ara Tūhono install trail markers. Photo supplied.

Call for cycle trails info

Mountain bike riders using the Mountains to Sea – Ngā Ara Tūhono are asked to let the Trust know if they find any issues on the local trails.

“Everyone can play a part in looking after it,” says Lynley Twyman, trail manager.

She said it is a community-led Great Ride that is a key part of the community – “connecting people, places and stories from Mt Ruapehu to the Tasman Sea”.

Guided by the Ngā Ara Tūhono Charitable Trust, and delivered alongside iwi, council, DOC and community partners, the trails are cared for by the very communities they pass through, says Twyman.

“It’s more than a trail — it’s a shared space that supports recreation, wellbeing, local pride and regional opportunity.

“If you have a question, notice something that needs attention, or would like to get involved as a volunteer, we’d love to hear from you. Please get in touch via our website — together we can keep the trails safe, welcoming and thriving for everyone.”

Twyman has asked that the Trails contact number be included in the *Bulletin* Guidelines Column each week, so that people can easily contact them with any information or issues.

Ohakune Mountain Road speed drop supported.

From Page 1

She said the trend is expected to continue as the trails profile grows, but added that it was not proposed that the speed reduction would apply to the whole Mountain Road.

She said vehicles are accelerating early due to the visible 80km/h sign, creating a high-risk mixing zone with pedestrians, children and cyclists.

“Potential solutions may include speed tables, visual narrowing, gateway treatments, improved pedestrian crossings, and lighting improvements.”

She said RDC has “existing project briefs” relating to the concerns.

“This project covers site investigations,

option development, public engagement, and design recommendations (estimated cost: \$50,000).”

In supporting the Board’s call, RDC councillors voted to “Direct staff to investigate and progress a temporary speed restriction of 30 kilometres per hour from the Old Station Road entrance to Tongariro National Park through to the start of Ohakune Mountain Road, including any requirements under the Land Transport Act 1998 and the Speed Management Plan under the Land Transport Bylaw, and report back to the Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board with indicative timeframes and any approvals required”.

Ruapehu Events & What's On

APRIL 2026

Raetihi Gutbuster 18 April
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Wilderpeople invite

From Page 1

horn,” says Goldie Akapita of the start of filming in the southern Ruapehu area.

“Straight after the kōrero delivered by Kory, myself and Hikoi Te Riaki a few of them went across to mihi to the river.

“I explained there was a bell that rang at our marae 7 in the morning and 7 in the evening. Was delighted to hear they would have karakia on-set every day 7am-7pm to tune into the bell,” said Goldie Akapita.

Taumarunui-Hamilton bus route

From Page 3

acknowledged the impact but said alternatives were limited.

“While options such as enhancing the Te Kūiti Connector service have been explored, improvements are constrained under current funding arrangements through the New Zealand Transport Agency’s Low Cost / Low Risk programme for the 2024-

2027 period.”

The statement said it was not in a position to introduce a replacement for the discontinued service and said there was “no scope” for immediate changes to existing public transport routes.

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

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, 0800 00 36 36

Doctors: In an emergency call 111. Ruapehu Health Ltd 06-385-4211

Information Centres – Ohakune 06-385-8427, Raetihi 06-385-4805

Mountains to Sea – Ngā Ara Tūhono – Lynley Twyman, Trail Manager, +64 21 403036

Ngāti Rangī Community Health Centre – 06-385-9580

Plunket Society – Plunket Nurse 06-385-5019

Police and Search & Rescue Emergency, call 111

Ohakune 06-385-0100, Raetihi 06-385-4002, Waiouru 06-387-6884, Military Police 0800-50-11-22

Red Cross – 0800 RED CROSS (0800 733 27677)

Rotary Club Raetihi – Ohakune – 027-344-5669

Ruapehu REAP – 0800 00 REAP (0800 007 327)

Ruapehu Maori Wardens – Email: ruapehumaoriwardens@gmail.com

St John – in an emergency call 111

Taumarunui Counselling Services: For confidential counselling in Waimarino phone 07-895-6393

Victim Support Contact Centre – 0800 842 846

Waimarino Cancer Society: Co-ordinator 06 348 7402

Waimarino Health Care Centre – Raetihi 06-385-5019

Waimarino Community Toy Library – waimarinotoylibrary@gmail.com

Women's Refuge – 0800-REFUGE 0800 73384

Ruapehu Mayor – Weston Kirton, enquiries to 06-385-8364 or 07-895-8188.

Owhango-National Park Community Board:

Peter Zimmer - Chairperson 027 479 1926; Gail Gray - Deputy Chair 027 434 6599; Anthony Gurr 021 487 742; Eddie Marsters 021 108 0279; Murray Wilson 027 542 9079; Luke Pepper - (RDC Rep) 027 329 2849

Taumarunui/Ohura Ward Community Board:

Molly Jeffries, Chairperson 021 431 833; Sophie Stockbridge, Deputy Chairperson 020 401 1190; Johnny Dryden 027 573 4726; Brian Portland 027 558 5585; 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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'Simply madness': Mayor slams axing of 'vital' Taumarunui-Hamilton bus route

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting

Ruapehu's mayor Weston Kirton has labelled the decision to scrap the combined Taumarunui-Hamilton Route 25 hospital shuttle/public transport service as "simply madness".

He warns it comes at the worst possible time for communities already under pressure.

"It is simply madness to remove a successful service at a time when demand is increasing, and people need affordable transport more than ever."

Kirton described the move as a "kick in the guts" for Taumarunui and surrounding communities that rely on the service.

Operated by BUSIT, Route 25 has functioned as a joint initiative between Te Whatu Ora Waikato and Waikato Regional Council, allowing spare seats on hospital shuttles to be used by public passengers.

The service will end on 26 June, with a smaller, health-only shuttle planned to replace it.

Public passengers will instead need to use InterCity bus services or make other arrangements.

Kirton said that while he supports improvements to hospital transport, removing the public component would have serious consequences.

"This service has become much more than a health shuttle. It is a vital public transport link for Taumarunui and the communities of Te Kūiti, Ōtorohanga and Kihikihi.

"Removing the public transport option simply does not make sense and could not have come at a worse time amid an international fuel crisis and ongoing cost of living pressures. People are already doing it tough."

Kirton said the service provides a convenient, reliable and cost-effective alternative that people rely on.

"For many, driving to Hamilton is simply not affordable."

A key strength of the service was its same-day return, which Kirton said is critical for users. The InterCity service did not offer same-day return.

The Route 25 service departs Taumarunui before 8am, arrives in Hamilton around 10.30am, and returns at 3pm, giving passengers about four hours in the city before arriving home by 6pm.

"That same-day flexibility is critical," he said.

"Whether it's attending appointments, shopping, visiting whānau, or accessing services not available locally, the ability to travel to Hamilton and return the same day is hugely important."

Return impossible

Kirton said the InterCity alternative makes a same-day return impossible, requiring an overnight stay and adding costs

many cannot afford.

"At \$56, a one-way adult fare on InterCity is more than double the \$24 cost with a Bee Card on Route 25. Gold Card holders are free on Route 25 while they would pay \$53 on InterCity. This highlights just how important this service is for affordability."

Kirton said demand for the service was rising, with Taumarunui i-Site staff reporting Bee Card enquiries had doubled in the past month as fuel prices climb.

"Rural New Zealand does not have the same access to public transport or the same ability to benefit from Gold Card schemes.

Kirton also raised concerns about the capacity of the proposed replacement shuttle.

"When I spoke to passengers this morning, there were already 18 hospital travellers booked, plus additional walk-ups and public transport users.

"If the replacement service is a 12-seater, as suggested, it won't even meet current hospital demand.

"While some improvements or adjustments to the service may be needed, scrapping a well-used, growing inter-regional public transport link is the wrong decision."

Kirton said concerns were shared by the Waikato Regional Transport Committee, whose chair had written to Waikato Regional Council seeking answers about the planned cancellation.

A Waikato Regional Council spokesperson said the move was necessary to better meet patient needs and ensure safety.

He said the Route 25 Taumarunui service was introduced in 2020 as a vital link for patients travelling long distances to Waikato Hospital for specialist care.

"Over time, an agreement was reached to allow members of the public to use spare seats while maintaining priority for patients. This created a combined public transport and health shuttle long-distance service," he told Local Democracy Reporting.

The service is fully funded by Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora, with fares collected from public passengers via the Bee Card system returned to the health agency.

Over the past two years, the organisations had each reviewed the effectiveness of the model.

"Feedback from health patients, iwi and community representatives has been clear that the current 40-seat bus is not well suited to people with health needs."

Concerns were also raised about safety and the challenges of mixing general passengers with vulnerable health travellers on long-distance journeys.

In response, Health NZ had decided to withdraw funding from the current combined service and move to a dedicated health shuttle service.

A statement from the regional council



Ruapehu Mayor Weston Kirton with passengers travelling to Hamilton on the Route 25 bus from Taumarunui on Thursday. Photo: supplied.

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Superman, a Moa, and a message

By Karen Hughes

What happens when Superman comes face to face with one of Aotearoa's most iconic extinct species? The answer lies in a surprising 1973 comic book that will enjoy the spotlight at Whanganui Regional Museum's next Taonga o te Marama /Object of the Month talk.

At 12.15pm on Friday 17 April, kaiāpai taonga / curator, images and manuscripts, Sandi Black, will discuss *The Last Moa on Earth*, a story published in DC Action Comics in July 1973, and written by Cary Bates. Blending classic superhero drama with a powerful environmental message, the comic imagines a dramatic encounter between Superman and the last surviving moa.

Set partly in Taranaki, the story follows a hunter who unknowingly causes the extinction of the final moa, before attempting to reverse his actions. When a mysterious egg hatches, Superman is drawn into a battle with a creature transformed by strange forces — a lost species that ultimately wants to return home.

While the premise may seem far-fetched, Sandi says the comic reflects a very real moment in history.

"This story was created during a time when environmental awareness was rapidly growing. Beneath the action and spectacle is a clear warning about humanity's impact on the natural world — a message

that still resonates today."

Published in the 'Bronze Age' of DC Comics, when social and political themes became more prominent, the story echoes the concerns of its time — from pollution to species extinction. The author Cary Bates often wrote about pollution and nuclear war and his messages cautioned his audience to be aware of their environmental impact. The central idea of the moa story remains strikingly relevant: unlike Superman, we cannot undo the damage once it's done.

Visitors attending the talk will gain insight into the cultural context of the comic, its connection to New Zealand, and the enduring role of popular culture in shaping conversations about conservation.

The original comic is currently on display in the Museum's Moa Gallery, offering visitors a rare chance to see this unusual intersection of global pop culture and local natural history.

Taonga o te Marama/Object of the Month is held on the third Friday of every month and offers a fresh way to connect with the Museum's collections. Each session follows a popular 15-minute lunchtime format.

Attendance is free and open to all. No booking is required. Koha to support the Museum's ongoing heritage preservation work is warmly welcomed.



DC Action Comics Vol.36 No.425, July 1973 is on display in the Moa Gallery at Whanganui Regional Museum. Photo: Karen Hughes, Te Puni Tiaki Taonga o Whanganui/Whanganui Regional Museum.

Ruapehu back in top rugby competition

The Ruapehu Rugby and Sports Club is back in the Division One competition — previously known as the Premiers.

Ruapehu's second division team won the Challenge Shield in 2025 but, with their decision to field a Division One team, they won't have a team to defend this title.

Their new-look Division 2 side had been designated as the holders for their first game against

fellow fresh opponents Counties at Rochfort Park in Ohakune.

However, low playing-group numbers have seen Ruapehu pull out of Division 2 to focus on having a full-strength squad for their return to Division 1.

The first weekend saw them face a bye, so their first game will be against Ratana, at Ratana, at 2.45pm on Saturday 18 April.



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Council is seeking community feedback on our 2026/27 Annual Plan - and starting the conversation on next year's 10-year Long-Term Plan (2027-2037). As we face one of the most challenging planning periods yet we need your input to make some tough decisions 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, and Rural school zone speed management.



More info: Scan the QR code, see: ruapehudc.govt.nz or drop-by your local Council office



Local newspaper advertising is alive and well right here in Ruapehu

There is a lot of talk about the demise of newspapers, following the explosion of on-line media. But local community newspapers like the **Ruapehu Bulletin** reach as many people as they always did. With the cacophony of information through electronic media, our readers like to pick up their **Bulletin** and read about the people and places in their community.

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Power firm sets out long-term strategy

The electricity lines operator that serves most of the Ruapehu District, including Ohakune, has released its 2026 Asset Management Plan (AMP), outlining how it will continue to invest in its network to “support reliable supply, resilience and future growth across the King Country, Central Plateau and Ruapehu regions — keeping customers connected”.

The AMP sets the strategic direction for how The Lines Company (TLC) plans, maintains and develops its electricity network, ensuring investment decisions align with customer expectations, industry best practice and the company’s purpose of growing communities with energy — while building enduring assets that serve today’s customers and future generations.

Chief executive Mike Fox says the 2026 AMP reflects a year of preparation and planning, focused on strengthening foundations for the future.

Right work, right time

“This plan is about doing the right work at the right time, for the right reasons — so our communities can rely on us today and into the future,” says Fox.

“It’s also about intergenerational equity: making disciplined capital investments now to maintain and build assets that deliver value for current customers while not unfairly shifting cost or risk to future customers. Our strategic focus is on resilience, affordability and collaboration.”

At a high level, the 2026 AMP prioritises:

- Targeted, long-term investment in the network, considering the financial impact on customers for every dollar spent
- Improving the condition of poles, lines

and other equipment to lift overall network reliability

- Creating additional capacity to meet customer demand as homes and businesses grow

• Strengthening resilience across the network to minimise outages and support faster restoration following severe weather events

- Continuing to improve how TLC plans, monitors and manages network assets

• Targeting investment to areas that matter most to customers, while reducing the highest network risks.

Changing sector

The plan also reflects a rapidly changing electricity sector, with increased collaboration across Electrical Distribution Businesses (EDBs) to improve efficiency, share expertise and deliver value for customers.

“Working more collaboratively across the sector helps ensure every dollar we invest delivers better value for the communities we serve,” Fox says.

“While new technologies such as solar and distributed energy are emerging, their uptake across TLC’s network has not yet placed material pressure on the network. This provides TLC with valuable time to learn from other EDBs, plan carefully, manage critical risks and strengthen resilience — particularly important for a rural network as we experience more land conversions into forestry, creating more vegetation related outage risk.

“That planning window allows us to be deliberate and disciplined, focusing on resilience and reliability so our customers can have confidence in the value that TLC



TLC invests in its network to support reliable supply, resilience and future growth.

delivers,” says Fox.

The AMP is designed to give customers, stakeholders and regulators confidence in TLC’s ability to manage the network — now and in the future — while remaining firmly grounded in its role as a community owned business.

“We’re proud of the work our people are doing and

the direction we’re taking. This plan shows how we’re positioning TLC to support our communities for the long term — growing communities with energy and keeping you connected,” Fox says.

The 2026 Asset Management Plan is available on The Lines Company website.

ADVERTORIAL

Introducing Noah Harto

Noah Harto’s connection to the Ruapehu region runs deep. Born and raised in the area, she has an intimate understanding of the people, the landscape, and the lifestyle that define our community. “Property is never just about a house — it’s about people, their stories, and their future,” she says. That perspective shapes her approach at Bayleys Ohakune, where she guides clients with expertise and care through some of the most important decisions of their lives.

Noah’s background spans data analysis and sales, giving her a balanced skill set that blends analytical insight with strong communication. “I love being able to look at market trends and pricing strategy, but equally, I focus on clear, honest advice,” she explains. This approach allows her to provide advice that’s both evidence-based and tailored to each client’s needs, whether they’re buying their first home or selling a family property. With whakapapa and a farming upbringing, Noah understands the local market intimately and is passionate

about helping first-home buyers and local families secure their homes in the place they’ve always called home.

Beyond real estate, she serves on the Ruapehu Youth Council Board, contributes to local kaupapa Māori initiatives, and balances her life with rugby, competitive ski racing, and qualifications as a lifeguard and ski instructor. “These experiences have taught me resilience and focus, qualities I bring to every client interaction,” she says.

Clients working with Noah can expect dedication, practical guidance, and genuine care. Supported by Bayleys’ nationwide network, she ensures every transaction is handled smoothly, transparently, and with confidence. “I want my clients to feel prepared and supported every step of the way,” she adds. With her combination of skills, local insight, and commitment to her community, Noah Harto is proud to become a trusted partner in property across Ruapehu.



Noah Harto





021 233 9701
noah.harto@bayleys.co.nz

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Atihau farmers win environment award

Jarred and Bronwyn Clode of Te Hou Farms have been named the Horizons Regional Supreme Winners at the Ballance Farm Environment Awards, recognised for their leadership in large-scale dairy farming that combines strong commercial performance with exemplary environmental stewardship.

Te Hou Farms, a 1324ha (1200ha effective) property, is two-thirds owned by Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa Developments Limited in partnership with Ātihaui Whanganui Incorporation. The operation includes a 530ha dairy platform supporting 1650 cows alongside a 600ha drystock property.

This integrated system enables the farm to rear 1200 beef calves annually and grow 120ha of maize silage, creating a largely self-contained operation with strong biosecurity and reduced exposure to market volatility.

Judges praised the Clodes' leadership and management capability across the complex operation: "Excellent working relationships and involvement in decision-making across all levels within the business."

They also highlighted the operation's highly analytical approach to management:

"Data driven decision-making is used to guide and implement strategy, with strong use of experts and technology to optimise productivity across the business."

The judging panel also recognised the positive workplace culture created by the management team.

"Management model a culture of work-

life balance, health and safety, and personal development."

Te Hou Farms takes a highly strategic approach to land stewardship. Minimum till and strip till techniques are used to protect soil structure, while fertiliser is applied precisely to match soil type and land capability.

Judges noted the business has a clear commitment to protecting natural resources.

"There is a clear focus on, and investment in, managing soil resources to minimise environmental impacts, including research projects and the strategic use of dairy effluent."

Environmental sustainability is a core pillar of the operation. The farm features 27ha of retired riparian and wetland areas planted with native trees and shrubs, which help filter sediment and nutrients before they enter waterways while enhancing biodiversity.

Jarred said the success of the business reflects years of hard work and shared ambition.

"The business and property mean a lot to us, we have achieved some big milestones here setting the business up to what it is achieving today. We are very success driven."

Other awards for the couple are: the Ballance Agri-Nutrients Soil Management Award Hill Labs Agri-Science Award Norwood Farming Efficiency Award DairyNZ Sustainability and Stewardship Award Bayleys People in Primary Sector Award FMG Risk Management Award WaterForce Safe Water Recognition Award

Jarred and Bronwyn will join fellow Regional

Supreme Winners from across the country to be considered for the Gordon Stephenson Trophy at the Trust's National Showcase in Christchurch in

July 2026. The recipient of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy becomes the 2026 National Ambassador for Sustainable Farming and Growing.



Jarred and Bronwyn Clode of Te Hou Farms. Photo supplied.



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Raetihi Gutbuster a community affair

"It's not too late to enter". That's the message from Ride Holidays Raetihi Gutbuster co-ordinator Cathy Rogers as the event is just days away.

"We have a good number of entries already but there is still room for more, especially in the 5km event.

"The Gutbuster is this coming Saturday and, for most categories, entries don't close till then. The exception is the 88km ride, with entries closing tonight," she says.

The Raetihi Gutbuster, a ride, run, walk event organised by the Raetihi Promotions Charitable Trust, is based at the Waimarino Museum in Seddon Street, Raetihi.

Five events make up the Gutbuster – an 88km road bike ride which is new this year, the classic 52km bike ride, the 20km bike ride, a half-marathon run and a 5km run/walk with the "best dressed team" option.

Everyone who registers receives a bag of vegetables that have been donated by local growers.

"It is so encouraging to see how our communities – businesses, Council, schools and organisations – are supporting the Gutbuster with sponsorship, goods and people power," says Cathy.

"We couldn't do this without the amazing volunteers who have worked for weeks, or months, and then more who come on Saturday to help bring the event together.

"This is true heartland New Zealand culture at work and I am so appreciative of everyone who is involved," she says.

Registrations will be at the Raetihi Information Centre from 4pm to 8.30pm on Friday and then starting at 7am on Saturday morning, until 9.30am.

"The Ride Holidays Raetihi Gutbuster is a great way to cap off the autumn schools holidays and for more information, go to www.raetihi-gutbuster.com."



It's all about having fun at the Raetihi Gutbuster. Photo: 2025, Glyn Hubbard.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

Opera at Taihape
Andrea Chénier
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for more information.
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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	
Molly Jeffries, Chairperson	021 431 833
Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board	
John (Luigi) Hotter, Chairperson	027 274 2616
Risk & Assurance Committee	
Philip Jones, Chairperson	027 499 9408

PUBLIC NOTICES

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE –
RAETIHI GUT BUSTER 2026



PURSUANT to Schedule 10, Section 342 of the Local Government Act 1974 notice is hereby given that the Ruapehu District Council proposes to close the below roads for the following event:

Event: Raetihi Gut Buster 2026
Road: Seddon Street, Raetihi - between Duncan Street and Ballance Street

Date: Saturday 18 April 2026
Time: 8.00am to 16:00pm (4pm)

Detour available: Via Duncan Street, Queen Street and Ballance Street

It shall be an offence under the regulations for any person otherwise than under authority to use the street for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure. Any queries please contact Council on 07 895 8188.



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

For everything Ohakune, visit

www.
ohakune.info

Ohakune Squash

Round three of the Ohakune Squash Club interbusiness from last week had Head narrowly beat Prince 95/92, Karakal beat Dunlop 106/93, Tecnifibre beat Unsquashable 104/93 and Salming beat Stellar 110/97. Points after three rounds: Tecnifibre 324, Karakal 311, Head 307, Salming 298, Dunlop 296, Stellar 290, Unsquashable 279 and Prince 238.

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

Over the weekend a large group of Ohakune players took part in the Wanganui B grade tournament. Best results came in the women's divisions. The top three slots in women's division one were all from Ohakune. Lily Alabaster beat Paige Drinkwater in the final with Olivia Gray third. In women's division two Tegan Mochan beat Elise Drinkwater in the final. Chase Haitana was runner up in the boys division. Best results in the men's divisions saw Liam Burnard at third in division one, Hana Harding played in the men's third division and was third, Sean Drinkwater was third in division five.

PUBLIC NOTICES



OHAKUNE EVENTS
CHARITABLE TRUST
Extraordinary Meeting
Confirmation of Trustees

Monday 20 April, 5pm
at RDC Council Chambers, Ohakune.

All members of the public welcome.

Ngā Waihua o
Paerangi Trust
April Clinics

By appointment/drop in
Personal health nurse - appointments are available on request in Raetihi or Ohakune, contact Donna 027 491 2183- (free cervical screening)

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Tamariki Ora (Tina and Katherine)
Well child checks for pēpi 0-5 years
Kaiawhina additional support

He Puna Ora (Toni-Renee)
Building capability and knowledge within māmā, using mātauranga Māori as a solution to support change. Improve the well-being of children by addressing the needs of māmā and strengthening the whānau environment. Every Monday, 11am – 2pm at Te Pae Tata.

Bowel Screening
If you have any queries relating to the bowel screening project, please contact Darnella Hawira 0272 455 278, Darnella.Hawira@ngatirangi.com

Flu vaccination clinic dates
Wednesday 15, Friday 17, Wednesday 22 & Tuesday 28 April - 11am – 1pm.
Tuesday 21, Thursday 23 & Wednesday 29 April - 5pm – 6.30pm.

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WAIMARINO BULLETIN

VOICE OF THE RUAPEHU REGION
Tuesday 15 April, 1986. Volume 3 No. 44

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Forest track at Ohakune for disabled

A forest track, especially designed for disabled people, young children and others whose movement is restricted, was officially opened in Ohakune on Saturday.

Rimu track, which begins and ends near the Ohakune ranger station, is believed to be one of the first of its type in New Zealand national parks.

The track was opened by Arthur Bates, chairman of the Four Friends Trust which helped pay for building the track. He was assisted by Valmai Timmo of Ohakune who later toured the track in her wheelchair.

Mr Bates explained that the Four Friends Trust grew out of the tragic deaths of four members of the Wanganui Tramping Club in the Mt Cook region in 1977.

The trust was set up by the tramping club in their memory to promote the love, enjoyment and respect for the New Zealand outdoors.

"This particular project grew from an idea by the late Bill Cooper of blessed memory, who was one of the foundation stones of recent developments this side of the mountain," he said.

Mr Bates said that it was important to remember that all sections of the community have equal rights to enjoy the tonic of the wilderness, including the aged, infirm and young school and kindergarten groups.

Tongariro National Park chief ranger Bruce Jefferies said the building of the track had led park staff to think again about what national parks were about.

"We have had to think and talk about the natural values of the park a little more," he said.

He praised the voluntary work of members of the Wanganui Tramping Club, Ruapehu Lions and Navy personnel from Auckland, and also the efforts of Dennis McDonnell, park foreman at the time, and of senior ranger Lisle Irwin and his staff.

The Mayor of Ohakune, Bill Taylor, offered the thanks of the Waimarino people and the wider New Zealand community for the track. He said that access to the national park for the most disadvantaged of the community was very valuable.

Kevin Hackwell, member of the Tongariro-Taupo National Park and Reserves Board, said the track was one of the best he had been on in native forest.

After the opening the many park rangers present gave fascinating commentaries on the track as those attending strolled round.

There are panels along the track which illustrate the natural processes of the forest.

The walk is short and level, yet provides a wide range of trees and other plants without the need to climb mountains!



Arthur Bates, chairman of the Four Friends Trust, and Valmai Timmo of Ohakune open the Rimu Track on Saturday.

Family kite day soon

Kites, big and small, plain and gaudy, simple and complicated, will be flying over the Waimarino soon when a family-fun kite day is held.

The kite day will be on Saturday 17 May, the middle weekend of the school holidays.

Members of the New Zealand Kite Fliers' Association have been invited to attend the kite day and will bring some outstanding kites. The community-fun project is sponsored by the *Waimarino Bulletin* and organised by Cliff Marks, a member of the association.

Over the next couple of

weeks articles will be published in the *Waimarino Bulletin* giving ideas on how to build kites. Local bookshops are being encouraged to have books available on kite-making.

There will be prizes on the day for the residents of the Ruapehu region in categories such as biggest kite, smallest kite, most original kite, and

best home-made kite. Allowance will be made for the age of builders and fliers.

The kite day is sure to attract great interest from both participants and observers. So come on budding kite fliers — get building!

Further details will be published in the public notices column of the *Waimarino Bulletin*.

Hui Aranga success

The Hui Aranga attended by the Ruapehu Maori Catholic Club at Francis Douglas College in New Plymouth over Easter was a wonderful success.

Vera Wilson said the hui was held in very good spirit and the liturgy on Good Friday was fantastic. It told the story of Whiti and Toho, two local prophets, in relation to the stations of the cross.

She said the weather was lovely, the mountain, Tara-

naki, was kind to them, and all had a wonderful time.

Results involving the Ruapehu group were: Friday - 2nd in choir; midget class, 3rd in action song and poi, 2nd in haka. Saturday - rugby, Ruapehu were runners-up; on Saturday night, in the junior sections of the competitions, 2nd in action song, 3rd in poi; senior, 1st in action song and poi; oratory, Mark Cribb, 5th former at Ruapehu College, won junior men, and Hera Willis won junior women, Agnes Mareikura 3rd in senior women. Quiz, 2nd.

College report evening

Ruapehu College is holding a report night for parents on Wednesday 23 April.

Senior reports were issued on 4 April and junior reports will be sent home with students on 22 April.

The evening will be organised in the following way:
•6.00pm — tea with hapu and whanau teachers in whanau areas, parents please bring a plate;
•7.00pm — AGM of Ruapehu College PTA in the hall;
•7.30pm — discussion of reports with teachers in hall.

It is hoped that all parents will come to the evening to meet their children's hapu and whanau teachers in a friendly atmosphere.

It is also the chance to discuss students' progress in their studies so far this year.

Raetihi pool enclosure underway

Fund-raising for the enclosure of the Raetihi Pool is about to begin.

A pool enclosure committee which was formed at a meeting last week, will meet again this week to decide details of the fund-raising campaign.

Chairman of the committee is Lance Langdon, secretary Mike Hogan, and treasurer Shirley McDonough. Committee members are Steve Hawira, Cynthia Binzegger, Rhona Te Huia, Keith Kui junior and Wendy Davis.

Lance Langdon, who has worked hard to get the committee together, said he was delighted at the response from the meeting and is looking forward to getting the fund-raising going.

There were 25 people present at last Monday's meeting, including the Mayor of Raetihi, Garrick Workman.

Sharp eyes find chainsaws



Two local boys, Thomas Hemara (left) and Erin Hawira, found out last week that doing the right thing earns the gratitude of others.

Warren Swain, co-owner of Cedar Motors in Ohakune, gave them each a reward for their information which led to the recovery of chainsaws stolen from the garage in February.

The boys had been walking along

Ayr Street when they caught sight of the chainsaws in the hedge. They immediately told Thomas's father who went to the garage and asked if the chainsaws were those which had been stolen.

Warren said that he and co-owner Bruce McDonald were very grateful to the boys and wanted to offer them some recognition for their good deed.

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148 Guyton St, Wanganui
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Taihape throws another Gumboot Day

Taihape's Gumboot Day dodged the weather warnings and went ahead in glorious weather on Saturday, bringing together hundreds of locals and visitors alike.

"A huge thank you to everyone involved, it was an amazing event. From the steam train to home industries, the awesome karaoke singing, yummy kai, beautiful items for sale in stalls, barrel train for the kids, a very tall man juggling, shearing sheep and everything in between," says one of the organisers.

"I've been hearing amazing feedback from locals and those who travelled far and wide!"

Part of the day was the Gumboot Day Home Industries competition, with 185 exhibits entered.

"This was an outstanding turnout and a truly special milestone as our first competition in five years. The quality, creativity and effort across every section was inspiring to see.

"A huge congratulations to all of our trophy winners. Your dedication and talent shone through and you should be incredibly proud of your achievements."

Awards: Large Historic Trophy Winners: W.N. Anderson Esq; Most points Sections A to H, Sue MacArthur. Ediriweera Cup, Most outstanding needlework, Robyn Horton. Handcraft and Needlework Trophy, Most points in machine made article, Carolyn Richards. Pukekaka Cup, Most points in knitting, Sue MacArthur. Jenny Abernethy Cup, Homespun wool class, Jenny Abernethy. Pinenga Plate, Most points in Jams, Pickles and Preserves, Sandra Spier. Sims Cooper Cup, Most points in home cooking, Lorraine Dickie. J Webb Cup, Most points in Agriculture, Monique Garnett. Infield Cup, Photography, John Gerrie. C.O. Mortland Esq Floral Art Section, Most outstanding exhibit, Shona Campbell. Bellamy Haitana Whanau Cup, Most points in children's section, Ruby Boyer.

Organisers thanked volunteers Helen Cooper, Robin Horton, Wendy Morris, Jan Byford, Leslie Down, Pania Winiata, Veronica Yardley, Dr Katarina Gray-Sharp, Vanessa Witt, Ali Fargher, Jenny Abernethy, D ebor a Toal, Pub Charity, and so many others who gave their time and energy to make this event possible."

A popular social media post was from Connor Gainfort, Property Brokers agent, who moved around the festival, interviewing many and varied people with his special gumboot microphone.

"It was good to interview so many people today ... too many to put in one video.

"What a turn out, what a day!"



Some of the crew on the Steam Incorporated train that brought a few hundred people to Taihape for Gumboot Day. Photos supplied.



Connor Gainfort interviewed allcomers on Saturday, including stallholders, St John Ambulance, fundraisers, kids, long-term residents – and a man walking on stilts.



Gumboot wearers had plenty of nosh options at Gumboot Day. Photo Elisabeth Bunn, Bayleys.



Sandra Spier, one of the home industries trophy winners.

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Sales Manager
Taumarunui/Ohakune
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