

Ruapehu Bulletin

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Iconic sign returned
P3



Makotuku track flood damage
P3



Gallipoli soldiers' voices heard
P4



Ohakune's Land-locked lighthouse
P12

Mayoral relief fund set up for Ōhura recovery

Ruapehu District Council has set up a Mayoral Relief Fund in partnership with the Te Awa Community Foundation to support recovery efforts in Ōhura township and surrounding areas following the recent flooding.

The local State of Emergency for Ōhura was lifted on Sunday, with the Civil Defence response transitioning from response into recovery.

The public can donate to the Fund through a direct link on Council's website: ruapehudc.govt.nz to the Te Awa Community Foundation. All funds raised will go directly toward response and recovery activities.

Ruapehu's mayor Weston Kirton said that establishing the Fund meant they could move forward with critical recovery tasks and respond to people with the most urgent needs.

"Having a Mayoral Relief Fund allows us to focus on immediate recovery needs such as pumping out septic tanks and clearing debris to keep people in their homes.

As recovery progresses, Council will continue to prioritise areas of greatest need, particularly where other forms of assistance may not be available for such things as assisting with repairs to uninsured properties, replacing essential household, and providing other basic necessities.

Kirton said it was critically important for residents to come forward and complete a needs assessment so support can be targeted effectively from the appropriate agencies.

"Ōhura is a community facing immediate and significant challenges, and we want to ensure we can maximise funding

sources and target it to where it will make the biggest difference," he said.

Kirton also encouraged anyone in a position to help to consider making a donation.

"Every contribution will have a direct impact, helping families return to their homes and begin rebuilding as quickly as possible."

State of emergency lifted

Civil Defence resources from Council and partner agencies were to shift from response activities to supporting recovery and rebuilding.

While the most urgent needs have reduced, the impact on the community remains significant and recovery will take time, says RDC. The focus is now on helping residents clean up and get back on their feet.

Welfare support, information and assistance remain available and people are encouraged to come forward and discuss their needs. Agencies will continue working closely with the community to ensure support is targeted where it is needed most.

Some Ōhura residents have "lost everything", after floodwaters swept through the town a week ago, says Clive Manley, RDC civil defence controller.

Flooding cut off the town, forcing some locals to escape in chest-high waters in the early hours of last Sunday morning.

About 50 homes were damaged by flooding, he said, and six were uninhabitable.

"Any individual homes affected is huge to that person, so when you've got water in that's literally destroyed all your furniture, your whiteware, your belongings, it's major for you.

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We will remember them

Corporal Mark Keelty, New Zealand Army Band, plays the Last Post at the Anzac Day Civic Service at the National Army Museum in Waiouru on Saturday. The service was one of eleven around the Ruapehu District, including the traditional dawn parades at Waimarino (National Park), Raetihi and Waiouru Military Camp. See more photos Page 6. Photo: Robert Milne.

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Mayoral relief fund set up for Ōhura recovery

From Page 1

“That was where the six are impacted... some have lost everything and are in alternate accommodation.”

The council has installed de-humidifiers to dry out sodden carpets and floors, and was pumping out septic tanks, Manley said.

Extensive road repairs were needed to fix slips throughout the network.

The council was currently assessing the cost of the damage from the deluge and recovery required, said Manley.

During the past week, residents have scraped sludge and silt from their homes, and others have searched for animals that disappeared in the floodwaters.

“[Some farms have] lost access through slips and fences damaged, and there was stock loss as well,” Manley told Radio New Zealand.

“There has been loss and there has been hardship to them as well.”

“Just getting out and getting to a safe place was extremely harrowing for them, and we were very fortunate everyone was unharmed.

“There were cars lost and there were people trapped in cars on the night, but there was no-one that was injured, which was really great.”

The recent severe weather event caused significant flood damage to Ōhura township and surrounding areas.



Ruapehu Events & What's On

MAY 2026

Vintage & Classic Auto Show 31 May
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Ruapehu Bulletin

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Call for storm damage information

The Ruapehu-Whanganui Rural Support Trust (RWRST) is asking all farmers and rural landowners across the Ruapehu Region to complete the Rapid Rural Damage Assessment (RRDA) following last week's weather event, as efforts continue to understand the full extent of damage across the district.

RWRST has heard first-hand from farming families

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about the toll the event has taken on rural properties, infrastructure and day-to-day operations. Washed-out tracks, damaged culverts, affected bridges and destroyed fence lines have added pressure to many rural households as they head into winter.

“We ask farmers to complete the RRDA, whether the impact on their property has been severe or relatively minor. Every response helps build a clearer picture of the scope and scale of the damage across the Ruapehu Region and helps strengthen the case for targeted support where it is needed most,” says Ali Kydd, Trust co-ordinator.

He said the floods not only impacted Ōhura but the wider surrounds and also the Ruatiti Valley.

Edie Neill, RWRST Trustee points out that “even if the damage on your property

seems manageable, your response still matters.

“Every assessment helps build the bigger picture of what farming families and rural communities across Ruapehu are dealing with. By taking a few minutes to fill it out, you're not only helping your own property be counted, you're also helping your neighbours and supporting the wider rural community.”

All information collected through the RRDA is only made available to RST, CDEM and MPI and will only be used to understand the scope and scale of the weather event.

Anybody struggling to use the RRDA can call 0800 787 254 for help.

The form can be accessed via the QR Code here, or at <https://arcg.is/Oe1yy>



Slips have damaged several rural properties after the 19 April floods. The local rural support trust has asked farmers to let them know if they have damage. Photo supplied.

Iconic Ohakune sign returned to original location



Volunteers pictured with the Ohakune "Where Adventures Begin" sign, from left: Dave Hammond with Maddox, Maisie and Lincoln, Richard Milne, Peter Hammond, Peggy Frew, Ron Frew, Daniel Pearson., Joel Hammond and Frank Taylor.

A group of volunteers from the Ohakune Growers Association got stuck in on Monday to return the iconic "Ohakune, Where Adventures Begin" sign to its original location beside the highway and near the Big Carrot.

Ron Frew, from the Growers Association, said that the growers were responsible for the original sign being installed in the 1980s.

He said the sign was removed in recent years, but was restored by Ohakune Carrot Park Trust member Elayne Mott and Phillip Sutton, and put up at the back of the Carrot Park car park, away from the main road.

Mr Frew said he initially accepted the move, but had since changed his mind after discussions with other local

vegetable growers as well as ex-grower Peter Hammond, who was one of the people instrumental in installing the Big Carrot, as well as the sign.

There had been discussion in the community about the sign being away from the main road, following the decision by the council to support a project to install new entrance signs for the town.

Mr Frew said the growers did not have an issue with the other signs, but felt the "adventures" sign should be reinstated and the new southern approach sign be installed further along Rangataua Road.

Mike Wiggins, chair of Ohakune Promotions Association in the 1980s, said the Adventures sign, built by Paul Beckett, was based on the logo designed for the Association.

Floods damage Makotuku Track



Volunteers Kieran Martin and, at the back Rocky Horne, work on securing a section of the Makotuku Track. Photos: RPCT.

The floods on 19 April have damaged the Makotuku Track in Raetihi, stripping out metal in some sections and also undercutting a section of concrete footpath.

However, volunteers have already been on the job, fencing off dangerous areas and shoring up the concrete path.

Ruapehu Promotions Charitable Trust said the Ruapehu District Council has "been really helpful" and are hoping that RDC will reimburse RPCT for their expenses.

"At the moment we are repairing as much as we can,

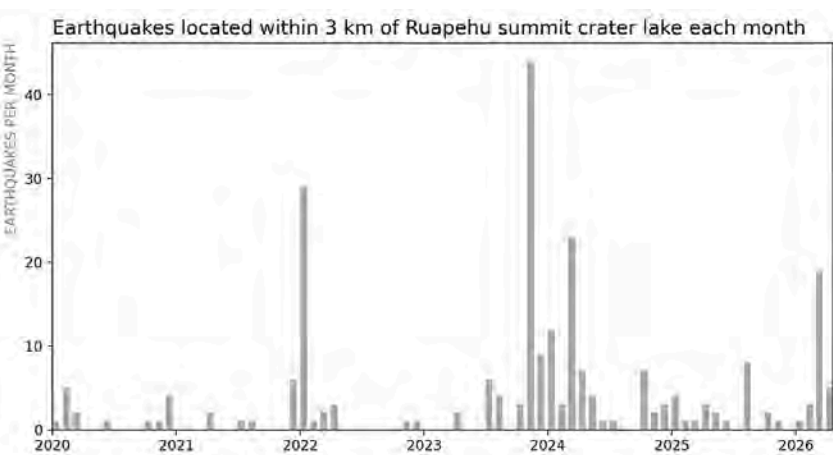
especially the planting. It will be a long process," said a RPCT spokesperson.

"It is a temporary measure whilst we liaise with council for a permanent solution. At the moment it feels that part bordering the river is in jeopardy from flood erosion.

"We are getting more and more floods unfortunately." Posts have been installed to stop a 9-metre long concrete path from collapsing.

"There is some movement and even though there are cordons stopping people from walking on it.

Ruapehu Crater Lake temp steady, more quakes



Plot of the number of earthquakes observed within 3km of the Ruapehu Crater Lake over the past six years, with notable increases in seismicity also occurring in January 2022, November 2023, and March 2024.

Since the last Ruapehu update in February, Mt Ruapehu's Crater Lake temperatures and gas emissions have remained stable, reports GNS.

"We have observed a small increase in seismic activity under the summit from mid-March to early-April. No noticeable change has been observed in Crater Lake composition. The Volcanic Alert Level at Ruapehu remains at Level 1 and the Aviation Colour Code at Green."

GNS's last update on observed volcanic activity at Ruapehu was in late February 2026. Since then, Te Wai ā-moe (Ruapehu Crater Lake) temperatures have remained relatively stable, fluctuating between 17°C and 21°C.

"Gas output, measured by our sulphur dioxide scanners and airborne gas flights, has seen low to moderate emissions in line with long term trends," says Cam Asher, duty volcanologist

Since mid-March, scientists have started to record a sequence of small earthquakes below the Crater Lake.

"As these are very small, we have only been able to locate 22 events, but many smaller, unlocatable events have been recorded by our seismographs within 2-3 km of the lake."

Asher says earthquakes below Crater Lake are not uncommon, with notable activity in January 2022, November 2023, and March 2024. The current earthquake activity peaked between 24-26 March and has since declined. Earthquake activity in this area is persistent, but variable in rate. No other changes in seismic activity have occurred.

A recent water and gas sampling of Crater Lake occurred in April, and multiple sulphur slicks were observed across the lake from upwellings in the northern vent area (underneath the lake), ranging from the more-common yellow streaks to less-common dark grey. Sulphur slicks are commonly seen above the northern vent area. Analysis of the water and gases collected from the lake indicates that the chemistry is following trends established since 2022.

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Gallipoli survivors speak again

The words of WWI soldiers can now reach across the century and be heard in a new audio exhibition at the National Army Museum Te Mata Toa in Waiouru.

The National Army Museum Te Mata Toa has announced its partnership with *Voices of Gallipoli on The Bad Luck Battalion* — “a landmark audio work” bringing the eyewitness accounts of three Gallipoli survivors to New Zealand audiences in a form never before possible: on their phones, on demand, anywhere.

The *Bad Luck Battalion* draws on the verbatim testimonies of Henry Lewis, John Skinner, and George (Sonny) Skerrett (Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Māmoë) — three soldiers of the Otago Infantry Battalion who landed at Anzac Cove on 25 April 1915. Their stories are in their own words — adapted by playwright Arthur Meek from the original recordings made by Maurice Shadbolt, and performed by a cast of New Zealand actors. The work is introduced by broadcaster Jack Tame.

Museum visitors can encounter excerpts of the work through an in-gallery installation at the National Army Museum, launched on Anzac Day 2026, then access the full 30-minute audio experience on their own devices by scanning a QR code. The complete work — available at

badluckbattalion.vog.care — combines the intimacy of listening with the freedom of mobile, placing the voices of these men directly into the ears of a new generation.

“This isn’t about nations or armies, or the glorification or condemnation of war,” says creator Arthur Meek.

“It’s about individuals — from our world, in a different time, recounting their lived experience of an unprecedented — and hopefully never to be repeated — experience of hell on earth. We promised we would remember — *The Bad Luck Battalion* is a powerful way to keep our word.”

The Otago Battalion suffered catastrophic losses at Gallipoli. Within two weeks of the landing on Anzac Day 1915, fewer than 80 fit men remained from a regiment of over 1200.

“Some people said we were the bad luck battalion,” Skerrett recalled. “We were, we really were.”

The *Bad Luck Battalion* is available now. The in-gallery installation launches at the National Army Museum Te Mata Toa, Waiouru, for Anzac Day 2026.

Meek, a New Zealand playwright based in the UK, will appear on the Old Front Line podcast with military historian Paul Reed for Anzac Day 2026.



National Army Museum marketing manager Nic Bennett views the new exhibition that brings to life the voices of Gallipoli soldiers. Photo: National Army Museum.



Waimarino Fire Brigade members and supporters at the official renaming of their fire station. Photo: Liz Brooker.

Waimarino Fire Station name change marked

An afternoon of fun for the kids and celebration on Sunday marked the official return and renaming of the Waimarino Volunteer Fire Brigade with their crew of community volunteers and whānau.

“Big thanks to QFF (Qualified Fire Fighter) John Eley for digging up every historical record that he could to write about the history of the Waimarino Fire Brigade,” said Waimarino Fire Chief Marilla Swift.

Prior to 1955, fire prevention and control for the Waimarino township was managed by informal groups of residents or through government forest management channels.

The Tongariro Fire District was established in 1940 under the Forests Act 1921-22. The Tongariro Forest Officer was empowered to require “any male person over the age of 16” to assist in extinguish-

ing a fire. Records indicate the Forest Service maintained some fire engines in the area through this period. Also, residents of the local Waikune Prison also assisted with fires.

The first formal beginnings of the Waimarino Volunteer Fire Brigade as a standalone entity begin on 15 March 1955 with the establishment of the Urban Area of Waimarino as a Secondary Urban Fire District under the Fire Services Act 1949.

In 1957, the land comprising the station’s current location was transferred to the Waimarino Urban Fire Authority.

Some time after, notwithstanding the Brigade’s official 1955 establishment name and land registry records, the Waimarino Urban Fire Authority began to be known as the “National Park Fire Brigade” as the

Turn to Page 9

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

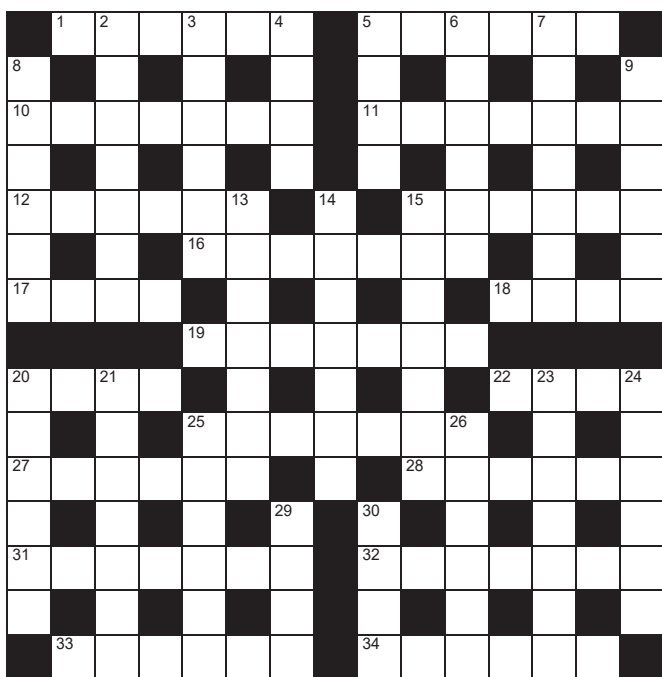
QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

- 1. Damned (6)
- 5. Give evidence (6)
- 10. Face to face (Fr) (3,1,3)
- 11. Vivid red (7)
- 12. Halo around the sun (6)
- 15. Simple (6)
- 16. Act of betrayal (7)
- 17. Search (4)
- 18. Small land mass (4)
- 19. Measure of sound (7)
- 20. Prejudice (4)
- 22. Alien sightings (4)
- 25. Vine (7)
- 27. Whinnies (6)
- 28. Remember (6)
- 31. Inspect (7)
- 32. Glassworker (7)
- 33. Ebb (6)
- 34. Break apart (6)

Down

- 2. Boost (7)
- 3. Learned person (6)
- 4. Shallow food container (4)
- 5. Part of foot (4)
- 6. Traditional headdress (6)
- 7. Alcoholic drinks (7)
- 8. Expels (6)
- 9. Erase (6)
- 13. Debts (7)



- 14. Sailor (7)
- 15. Always (7)
- 20. Old car (colloq) (6)
- 21. Give energy to (7)
- 23. Delicate (7)
- 24. Annual pay (6)
- 25. Option (6)
- 26. Stay (6)
- 29. In this place (4)
- 30. Donkey’s years (4)



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

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

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

1 HARD 2 EASY

The Top 10

1. “So true, funny how it seems - always in time, but never in line for dreams . . .” begins which 1983 hit single?
2. Where was New Zealand’s first permanent lighthouse built?
3. What was the nickname of William Cody, the American showman?
4. Which batsman got out after scoring 299 against Sri Lanka in 1991?
5. What is the name for a duck-shooter’s shelter?
6. Is an impi the Asian release of a 1970s Hillman car, a body of Zulu warriors or a mischievous sprite in stories by the Brothers Grimm?
7. Which alphabet is made from just dots?
8. What is found on the periodic table?
9. What is a natterjack?
10. A human has seven neck vertebrae. How many does a giraffe have?

CROSSWORD

25. Choice, 26. Remain, 29. Here, 30. Ages. Banger, 21. Animate, 23. Fragile, 24. Salary, 13. Arrears, 14. Mariner, 15. Forever, 20. Arch, 6. Turban, 7. Spirits, 8. Evicts, 9. Delete, 2. Upsurge, 3. Savant, 4. Dish, 5. Sunder.

31. Examine, 32. Glazier, 33. Recede, 34. UFOs, 25. Creeper, 27. Neighs, 28. Recall, 17. Seek, 18. Isle, 19. Decibel, 20. Bias, 22. Carmine, 12. Corona, 15. Facile, 16. Treason, Across: 1. Cursed, 5. Altest, 10. Vis a vis, 11.

SUDOKU

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

THE TOP 10

1 True, by Spandau Ballet, 2 Pencilcase Head, 3 Buffalo Bill, 4 Martin Crowe, 5 Maimai, 6 A body of Zulu warriors, 7 Braille, 8 A list of chemical elements, 9 A toad, 10 Seven.

'It's beautiful': Ohakune families find a place to call home

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting

Ten Ngāti Rangi whānau moved into new homes in Ohakune last week and on the weekend following the blessing of a 10-house development aimed at easing local housing pressure (see Ruapehu Bulletin, 22 April).

Caregiver Racheal Brown was to move into Korokio last Friday with her six-year-old daughter and her mother, who is 72.

She visited their new home for the first time on Tuesday.

"I'm excited, I'm scared, I'm happy. All of that," Brown told Local Democracy Reporting.

"It's beautiful. It has three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a huge laundry and wet room, a kitchen/dining room and open-plan lounge, a washing machine, a dryer, fridge and dishwasher.

"It has heating – an air-conditioner and double-glazed windows. No heating was on but it was warm inside – even though it was snowing on the Desert Road."

Brown said she has been living with her mother for the past five years. Her mother had lived in the same Housing New Zealand house for more than 30 years.

"It's only two bedrooms, but we've had multiple people living here – up to seven adults and a couple of kids. Wherever we could find the space, that's where we slept.

"We used the garage, and in winter time it was freezing. You'd come inside and have to sleep in the lounge. It was very cramped, very crowded."

Another young mother shared her excitement about her new home.

"I'm excited to have a space for my baby and myself – a place to call home. We love that."

One young mum was looking forward to moving in with her children after

spending two years living with their great-grandmother and other whānau.

The homes were developed specifically for Ngāti Rangi uri in response to acute local housing pressures – an issue Dryden says remains unresolved.

"As an iwi, we are deeply concerned by the shortage of affordable housing for our whānau, within our own rohe. In 2024, we stepped up ourselves and funded four homes in Ohakune because our people could not wait."

Dryden said government support had been critical.

"Continued government backing will be essential if more whānau are to access homes like these."

Ngā Waihua o Paerangi pou ārahi (chief executive) Helen Leahy said the development followed years of shifting policy settings that disrupted earlier housing plans.

"Over the last five years we have negotiated fit-for-purpose solutions with a range of agencies that included emergency housing, social housing, papakainga housing, worker accommodation and transitional housing.

"However, as government modified the policy levers, these opportunities were no longer available to us."

Leahy said those shifts had tangible impacts on the community, with some whānau forced to leave the region.

Housing need in the rohe was "dire", with whānau facing rents of \$800 a week for a three-bedroom home.

"As a consequence, whānau are living in inadequate and insufficient housing. They are couch-surfing, they are living in cars, their health suffers.

"We carry those experiences with us into Korokio. It drives our determination to do better for our families," Leahy said.

The development opened the door to a

wide range of possibilities and potential, including the opportunity to establish a reo-speaking street, create a māra kai, introduce street karakia, or foster a culture of shared care.

"The opportunities are truly exciting," Leahy said.

Ka Uruora partners with iwi across the country to deliver housing, supporting projects from planning through to completion. Chair Jamie Tuuta said the project demonstrated the effectiveness of iwi-led housing initiatives, while also underscoring the scale of unmet demand nationwide.

"Iwi know their people, they know their housing chal-

lenges, and they know what solutions will work. Korokio shows the power of iwi-led housing when the right partnerships and investment are in place."

Tuuta said demand for warm, dry, affordable housing remained high across the country.

"Projects like Korokio prove what is possible – but they also remind us how much more could be achieved if iwi-led housing initiatives received sustained and adequate investment."

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

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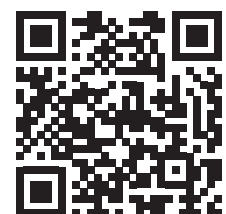
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A dawn whakanoa ceremony marked the opening on Sunday 19 April of 10 new iwi-built homes in Ohakune. The homes were developed specifically for Ngāti Rangi uri in response to acute local housing pressures. Photo: Robert Milne.

How are we doing?

- Council provides a wide range of services that our communities rely on every day.
- Our annual **Level of Service Survey** is an important way for us to understand how satisfied you are with these services and how we can do things better.
- Please take a quick minute to scan the QR code, share your feedback, and help shape the services we deliver for you.
- Alternatively, you can also find a link to the survey on our website homepage: ruapehudc.govt.nz



Anzac Day services: We will remember them



A frosty morning greeted those attending the Raetihi Dawn Service, which included the march to the Raetihi Māori Cemetery, followed by the march to the Parapara Road Cemetery. Photo: Ngāti Rangī.



Soldiers on parade at the Ohakune Civic Ceremony. Photo: Ngāti Rangī.



Representatives from Ngāti Rangī iwi ready to lay wreaths at the Ohakune War Memorial Gates. Photo: Ngāti Rangī.



Members of the Kotuku International Youth Choir sing their 'Anzac Hope Song'.



Daniel Tizzard-Close from the National Army Museum sings the poem In Flanders Fields.



Ruapehu College student Sam Williams recites the poem Pastures Green.



Students from Waiouru Primary School read the poem Anzac Day.

Speed kills: joint campaign to slow drivers down

It's no surprise that driving at higher than posted speeds limits increases the risk of death or serious injury, not only to drivers, but everyone around them, says Horizons Regional Council road safety co-ordinator, Val Overweel.

"Speed affects the severity of all crashes. Even when speed doesn't cause the crash, it will most likely determine whether anyone is killed, injured, or walks away unharmed from that crash."

To address the ongoing concern, Horizons Regional Council, District Councils, New Zealand Police, New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) and ACC are collaborating throughout April and May as part of the 'Better Together' campaign, to deter people in the Police Central Districts region from driving above the speed limit.

Overweel says, "as a community we must not tolerate this dangerous behaviour of driving above the speed limit. When people choose to speed, they're putting not only themselves, but their passengers and other people on the road at risk."

The Better Together campaign urges drivers to take a simple but powerful step: drive within the speed limit – "it's a limit, not a target".

During April and May, people will be reminded through advertising and education of the consequences of speeding, which will be supported by Police enforcement activities.

Manawatu road policing manager, Andy Reid, says "everyone should expect Police to enforce anytime, anywhere on our roads."

"There's no excuse for speeding. If you're driving above the speed limit, expect the appropriate enforcement action to be undertaken. It's not worth putting yourself and others at risk of death or serious injury."

Overweel adds, "It's on drivers to make the decision to keep themselves and others safe on the road. Road deaths from excess speed have torn families apart. Together we can make everyone safer on the roads, but we need your help to do so."



High speed will increase the chance of injury or death, even if speed wasn't the cause of the crash, says the Better Together campaigners.

Letters

An El Niño spring

• Dr Jim Salenger says El Niño conditions are likely to prevail in New Zealand by early spring. So, prepare for weather extremes: frequent frosty nights in winter, southerly storms in spring, then intense hot dry air masses moving across from central Australia in summer.

El Niño conditions favour heavy snow accumulation on the southern slopes of Mount Ruapehu, so during this El Niño year, Turoa is expected to maintain a deep snow base well into spring.

Every autumn now, we see our Mangaehu glacier imitating the Cheshire Cat, reminding us that Turoa is averaging 6% less snow every year due to global warming. Nevertheless, strong El Niños of past years have given skiers plenty of snow; for instance, the 2023 El Niño saw Turoa recording 257 cm. (But in the La Niñas of 2024 and 2025, only 46 cm and 80 cm respectively)

However, don't count your chickens before

they're hatched. Thanks to the Trump war and our missing-in-action PM, diesel and petrol could become rationed and very expensive for the second half

of this year. It may be worth organising Friday evening Auckland and Wellington ski trains from July until October.

And remember ... one swallow (or shining cuckoo) doesn't make a summer. El Niño events rarely persist beyond a year. Expect 2027 snow conditions to be neutral (90 cm) or La Niña (35 cm). And remember that La Niña conditions frequently last for two or three consecutive years.

For long-term commercial prosperity, and for full employment of our tamariki, Ohakune must be the opening to a new world in practice, not just in empty words on wastefully expensive billboards. There are a dozen untapped tourist and industrial opportunities here that could generate enough income to reduce our rates and pay off the RDC's \$68 million debt within councillors' lifetimes.

John Archer

Ohakune squash

Last week's Ohakune Squash Club's inter-business results saw Karakal score the highest score this round with a 119/61 win over Prince, Tecnifibre beat Dunlop 101/90, Salming beat Head 109/95 and Stellar beat Unsquashable 102/89.

Points to date: Tecnifibre 519, Karakal 514, Salming 504, Stellar 489, Dunlop 482, Unsquashable 474, Head 474 and Prince 376.

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

Several players competed in the River City tournament over the weekend with some excellent results. Best in the men's was a division five win to Scott Fraser. Emma Rowe won the women's division one. Hana Harding won the women's division two with Lily Alabaster third and, in

the third division, Jessie Harding won with Grace Rowe runner up. Fiona Fraser was third in the fourth division.

The Squash Stars programme for beginning juniors starts up this week on Wednesday after school. Several have registered. Recent data from Squash New Zealand showed that Ohakune was well ahead in terms of numbers of financial junior members, currently at 58. Next in the Manawatu/Taranaki region was New Plymouth on 43 and then Taihape at 36. Only six clubs nationally had more.

The Ohakune Team heading to Inglewood this weekend to defend the districts Graded Champs trophy is Men - B grade Jayden Bailey, C grade Archie Mills, D grade Jason Haitana, E grade Simon Barlow, F/J Chase Haitana. Women - B grade Diana Cranston, C grade Lily Alabaster, D grade Jesse Harding, E grade Bella Drayton, F/J grade Eva Hovelle.

HORIZONS SPEED TEST ANSWERS:
1. 90km/h; 2. The maximum speed that you can travel is 100km/h; 3. 20km/h; 4. This is a safe and comfortable speed to drive around the curve ahead - this is in good driving conditions. The arrow shows which direction the curve goes; 5. Pull over as soon as it is safe to let following vehicles pass; 6. The road is busy, windy, bumpy, narrow, wet or icy. It is raining, windy, foggy or bright sunlight.

Are you up to speed? Test your road rules knowledge



1. What is the speed limit on the open road when you are towing a light trailer?

2. What does this sign mean?



3. On the open road, a school bus has stopped on the other side of the road to let children off, what speed must you slow down to?

4. What does this sign mean?



5. If you are travelling slow and holding up traffic, what must you do?

6. What are some examples of when you would need to go below the posted speed?

Every year people die in speed-related crashes. Remember the faster you go the more likely you are to be killed or seriously injured if you crash.



Answers on Page 9.

From robots to kiwi, paddling to dagging at the College

Eye on Ruapehu College, contributed by staff and students

Digital Technology

Year 9 Digital Technology students learnt about robotics and programming at the end of the Col-



Across all three Ruapehu College waka ama teams, performances reflected the effort that had gone into training beforehand, with steady improvement and strong teamwork shown in the way each crew approached their races. Photos: Ruapehu College.

lege's first term.

Working in small groups, they built and assembled Lego robots before moving on to programming them using a block-based coding system. Students then programmed their robots to navigate a maze created with tape in the classroom. This involved testing their code, identifying and fixing errors and refining their programs until the robots could complete the challenge. The project helped develop skills in computers, problem-solving, and teamwork while introducing key concepts in coding and engineering design.

Report by Tamzyn Te Riaki Aghort/horticulture

The Ruapehu College NCEA Level 2 and 3 Agriculture and Horticulture class are completing various practical farm visits as part of their assessments.

"They need to develop practical skills that will enable them to safely handle and treat different livestock classes as well as being able to identify healthy and unhealthy behaviours," says teacher Matt Laurenson.

"Some of the practical skills they will develop on this course are drenching, vaccinating,

dagging, sorting, dipping, spraying and moving stock. They will also develop an understanding for why these tasks are so important for the health of the livestock and how to ensure your farm is successful.

"This course is made possible thanks to the huge support we have from our amazing community and the local farmers who allow our students to come out and learn hands-on skills. The farmers also answer any questions from the students and talk them through the processes they take on the farm and why the tasks they are completing are vital for the success of the farm."

Kiwi Forever

A group of Year 12 students took part in a week stay at Tiorangi Marae through the Kiwi Forever programme in Term One, where they spent time learning in a shared environment that combined conservation work, cultural understanding, and group responsibility.

The experience unfolded as a series of activities and discussion, with students gradually becoming more familiar with both the setting and expectations of the marae, explains teacher Meredith Wilson.

While there, students were involved in practical environmental work connected to the protection of native species, alongside gaining a broader



Local farmers have stepped up to give Ruapehu students a taste of rural working life.

awareness of sustainability and the role people play in maintaining local ecosystems. Their learning developed through participation and observation, with an emphasis on working together and contributing in small but meaningful ways.

Time at the marae also provided an opportunity

Turn to Page 10



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Divers take the plunge to keep tabs on trout

Fish & Game New Zealand has wrapped up another season of drift-diving surveys, with staff kitting up in wetsuits and snorkels to glide down more than 100 rivers nationwide, including the Rangitikei, in a bid to understand the health of the country's trout populations and freshwater.

The surveys are a cornerstone of Fish & Game's monitoring programme, providing data on trout abundance that directly informs catch limits for anglers but also an opportunity to check the health of New Zealand's rivers.

"Our staff are in the water assessing water clarity, habitat quality, aquatic insect populations and the abundance of indigenous fish," said Fish & Game New Zealand chief operating officer Richie Cosgrove.

"Together, that gives us a broad and reliable picture of overall river health."

Each year, Fish & Game staff drift and glide down hundreds of kilometres of rivers throughout the country, compiling data that feeds into the management of sports fish populations on behalf of New Zealand's

140,000 fishing licence holders. There are very few organisations who do this and none more extensively.

"Trout require the cleanest water of any freshwater species in the country, which makes them an excellent indicator of river health," Cosgrove said.

"When trout are thriving, it tells us the waterway is in good shape. When they're struggling, it's often a sign that something is wrong upstream.

"This work is what underpins our ability to advocate effectively for healthy rivers and lakes," Cosgrove said.

Drift diving is one of several monitoring methods used by Fish & Game, alongside electric fishing, spawning surveys, acoustic surveys, eDNA testing, and angler surveys.

Hamish Carnachan Fish & Game officer, said F&G do other river survey work in the Ruapehu region's rivers, and have worked with local iwi on these, but it is not drift-diving work.

Fish & Game staff drift diving on the Rangitikei River.



Waimarino fire celebration

From Page 4

town itself became known as National Park.

In 1978, the National Park Volunteer Fire Brigade was created under the Fire Service Act 1975. The Fire Service Act 1975 was replaced by the Fire and Emergency New

Zealand Act 2017.

In December 2024, National Park Village was officially renamed to Waimarino and on 26th April 2026, National Park Volunteer Fire Brigade celebrated their official name change back to Waimarino Volunteer Fire Brigade.



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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.

Ōwhango-National Park Community Board
6PM, Tuesday 5 May 2026
Ōwhango Domain Pavilion, Ōwhango

Ruapehu District Council - Hearings
10AM, Tuesday 12 May 2026
War Memorial Hall, 149 Hakiaha Street, Taumarunui

Ruapehu District Council - Hearings
10AM, Wednesday 13 May 2026
Council Chambers, Ayr Street, Ohakune

Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board
RESCHEDULED: 5PM, Thursday 14th May 2026
Miriamia Community Centre, 10 Miriamia Street, Taumarunui

Extraordinary Risk & Assurance Committee
11AM, Monday 18 May 2026
War Memorial Hall, 149 Hakiaha Street, Taumarunui

Ruapehu District Council
10AM, Wednesday 27 May 2026
War Memorial Hall, 149 Hakiaha Street, Taumarunui

MEETING CONTACTS	
Ruapehu District Council	07 895 8188
Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board	
Molly Jeffries, Chairperson	021 431 833
Ōwhango-National Park Community Board	
Peter Zimmer, Chairperson	027 479 1926
Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board	
John (Luigi) Hotter, Chairperson	027 274 2616
Risk & Assurance Committee	
Philip Jones, Chairperson	027 499 9408

SITUATIONS VACANT



Hey kids – need extra pocket money?

The Ruapehu Bulletin requires Wednesday morning relievers.

Phone Robert or Jude on 06-385-8532.

For everything Ohakune, visit www.ohakune.info

PUBLIC NOTICES

The Royal Theatre, Raetihi
Community Entertainment

Goodbye Pork Pie (PG)
Saturday 2 May – 7pm – \$15

Supper included. Bar available.

Mangamingi Pa Trust AGM
Rapana Paora Whanau Trust AGM

Reureu 1 Sub 20A Trust AGM

Mangamingi Farm Trust AGM

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

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



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
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Or via email to:
Nicole.Tawhiri@genesisenergy.co.nz

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012
Robins Nest Bistro Limited has made an application to the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council for the **issue of an On Licence** in respect of the premises situated at **37 Seddon Street, Raetihi** known as **Robins Nest Bistro**. The general nature of the business to be conducted under the licence is that of a **Restaurant**. The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is intended to be sold under the licence are:
Wednesday to Sunday 5.00pm – 10.00pm

The application may be inspected during ordinary office hours at the office of the Ruapehu District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council, 59-63 Huia Street, Taumarunui.

Any person who is entitled to object and who wishes to object to the issue of the licence may, not later than 25 working days after the date of the publication of this notice, file a notice in writing of the objection with the Secretary of the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council, Private Bag 1001, Taumarunui 3946.

No objections to the issue of a licence may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in section 105(1) of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

This is the first publication of this notice.

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
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Angican, 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

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

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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.

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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 11190; 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

Guidelines is published free of charge. Please help us to keep it up to date – call us if your details change, or if you see something that needs changing: 06-385-8532

Eye on Ruapehu College

From Page 8

for students to engage with aspects of tikanga Māori in a natural and ongoing way.

“Rather than being centred on specific events, this understanding grew through shared routines, interactions, and the collective experience of staying in the space,” says Wilson.

“Students became more aware of the importance of respect, co-operation, and community as part of daily life in this setting.

“By the end of the programme, students had built a deeper familiarity with both environmental and cultural perspectives, along with a stronger sense of connection to one another. The overall experience contributed to their development in a steady and reflective way, leaving them with a broader understanding that extended beyond the classroom.”

Waka Ama

Towards the end of Term One a group of students travelled to Rotorua to take part in the Secondary Schools Waka Ama Nationals, where they competed across three divisions: Under 16 Mixed, Under 16 Boys, and Under 16 Girls.

Chaana Morgain said the trip involved a combination of preparation, travel, and competition, with students working together throughout to manage the demands of the event and support one another as teams. During their time, students took part in a series of races that required co-ordination, endurance, and focus.

“Across all three teams, performances reflected the effort that had gone into training beforehand, with steady improvement and strong teamwork shown in the way each crew approached their races.”

Weather conditions became a significant factor as the event progressed, eventually leading to a shortened programme.

“Students adapted to the changes and made the most of the time available on the water.

“Overall, the trip was a valuable experience for all involved, combining competition with shared responsibility and team development.”

Volleyball

The volleyball season recently came to an end, with both Ruapehu teams showing steady improvement in their skills and overall understanding of the game.

“Weekly travel to Whanganui provided regular competition, where teams worked together and achieved consistent results across the season. It was a great season and I enjoyed coaching them and developing their skills,” said coach Chenille Bouskill.

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VOICE OF THE RUAPEHU REGION
Tuesday 29 April, 1986. Volume 3 No. 46

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Big turnout for Anzac Day

Anzac Day was commemorated throughout the Waimarino at services in Waiouru, Raetihi and Ohakune.

About 300 soldiers, families, RSA members and other civilians attended a dawn parade at Army Training Group, Waiouru. The commander, Colonel Graham Birch, addressed the parade.

Later in the morning, nearly 100 people gathered at Waiouru's Army Museum for a service taken by Padre McKenzie, while curator of the museum, Lieutenant Steven Stanford gave the address.

Navy personnel from HMNZS Irirangi, along with scouts, cubs, guides, brownies and RSA members, paraded at a mid-morning service in Ohakune. Irirangi has the freedom of Ohakune Borough.

Lieutenant-Commander Richard Jackson, commanding officer of HMNZS Irirangi, addressed the crowd of about 100 as did Mayor of Ohakune, Bill Taylor.

Lieutenant-Commander Jackson told the crowd that New Zealand is strengthened by the spirit of Anzac. He said the spirit grew from our fundamental values.

Parish Priest of the Ohakune Catholic Church and Waiouru's Army Chaplain, Reverend Neal Wilson offered prayers at the service.

Raetihi's Dawn Parade attracted the largest number of people for many years.

The number was boosted by the attendance of members of 4 Supply Company of Army Training Group, Waiouru, who have been offered the Freedom of the Borough of Raetihi.

Guest speaker at the service, held in the Waimarino RSA Hall, was Major Ian Juno of 4 Supply Company from Waiouru.

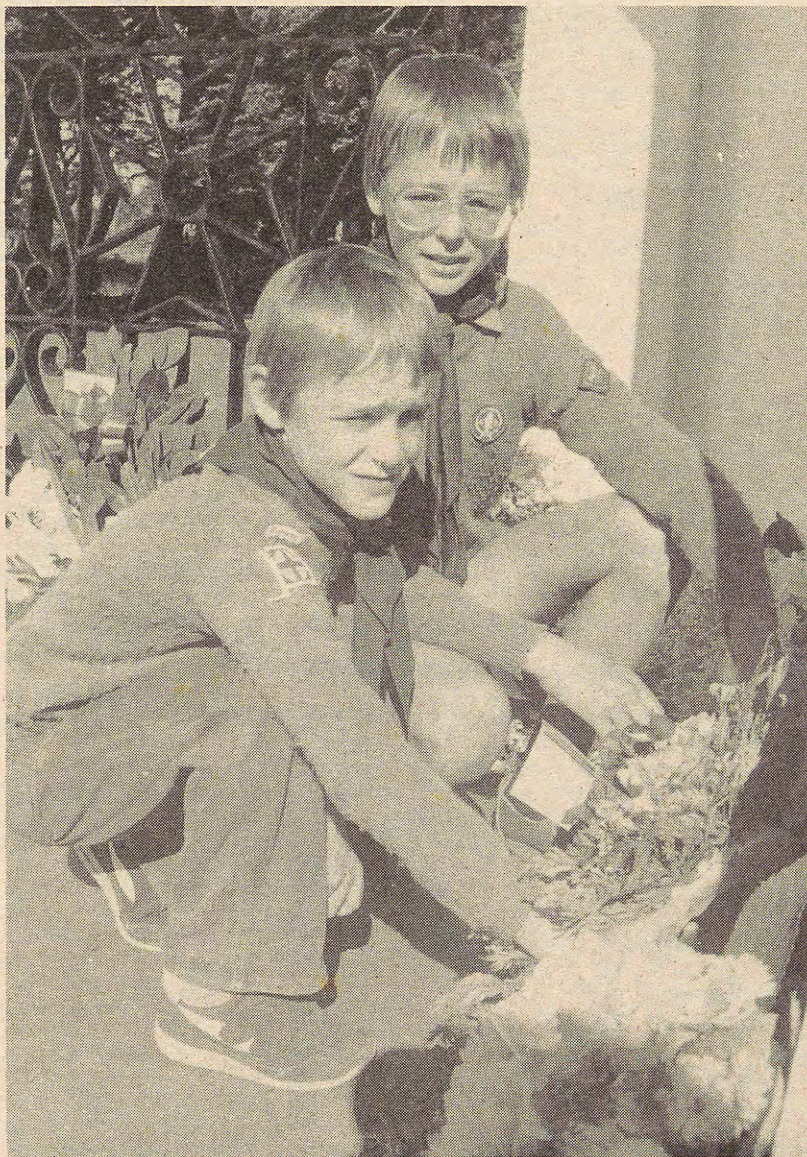
The president of the RSA, Trevor McCoy welcomed those in attendance and the Mayor of Raetihi, Garrick Workman spoke to the gathering.

Presbyterian minister, Reverend Don Bater and Anglican minister, the Reverend Father Bob Peck offered prayers at the service.

The parade marched with the Waimarino Brass Band to the Maori Cemetery, where the Raetihi Cub group formed a guard of honour. Members of the Maori Battalion placed wreaths there.

"Today New Zealanders still cherish freedom and democratic government, we still seek justice and the rule of law, and underlying it all we still acknowledge the Christian ethic and the responsibilities of the individual. Of course these are fragile and vulnerable ideals easy to debate but difficult to protect.

After the parade, the group returned to the Waimarino hall to enjoy rum and coffee together.



Nine-year-old cub Adrian Fetzer, and his brother Peter, 12, who is a scout, lay a wreath at Ohakune's Memorial Gates during Friday's Anzac service.

Ruapehu college has new principal

Ruapehu College pupils gave an impromptu Maori welcome to newly appointed principal, Ian Meredith, at their assembly yesterday morning.

Mr Meredith was appointed principal of the school on Saturday by the college's board of governors.

Pupils of the college's Maori Cultural Group performed two welcome haka, Toia mai and A utaina, welcoming their new principal into the hall.

A traditional call or karanga was made by Mrs Vera Wilson, and pupil Maxine George. Judy Kumeroa, president of the Student Council, replied.

Mr Meredith was clearly moved by these and other Maori songs which were completely unrehearsed.

Mr Meredith is the first old boy of Ruapehu College to become principal.

Weekend of Crime

Local businesses were hit hard in a spate of thefts and vandalism in Raetihi and Ohakune over the weekend.

On Sunday night, a large amount of property was taken from Ohakune Sports and Gifts, and clothing was taken from Little's Fashion in Goldfinch Street.

An attempt was made to enter the Rendezvous Dairy in Goldfinch Street but it was not successful. Locks were broken in the attempt.

In Raetihi, there were two incidents of wilful damage on Saturday night. Stones were thrown through the window of Prices Raetihi Pharmacy and the wooden gates were removed from the sale yards in Seddon Street. They were then burnt on a bonfire at the entrance to the sale yards.

Police are appealing to anyone who can help them with these incidents to contact them.

Raurimu train excursion popular

Something of the old romance of rail was revived for nearly 300 passengers on the Ohakune to Raurimu excursion on Saturday morning.

Four vintage carriages owned by the Railway Enthusiasts' Society, two regular cars, a guards van

and a diesel engine, clacked their way over some of New Zealand railway's most spectacular engineering works.

The viaducts, the Hapua-whenua old and new, the Taonui and Makatote, and the Horopito Deviation, provided excitement and numerous photographic opportunities.

The highlight of the trip however was the famous Raurimu Spiral. The train rolled and creaked its way round the great looping curves which quickly and efficiently bring it down 215 metres elevation between National Park and Raurimu.

Round the corner at the beginning of the first spiral

tunnel photographers jumped from the train to catch the entry to the tunnel. They then sprinted to the top of the hill to meet the train as it completed its upward loop.

Catherine Dodd of the Ruapehu Region Information Centre, organised the Ohakune arrangements, in cooperation with Auckland's Railway Enthusiasts Society.

Siggy Bauer in the lead in New York

Just before we went to press news of Siggy Bauer came through.

At midday yesterday the Raetihi runner was 20 minutes in the lead in a 1000 mile ultradistance race in New York.

He was said to be running strongly.



Passengers on the excursion train get off at Raurimu for a look around.

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Anzac Day rugby loss for Ruapehu

By Jared Smith, Whanganui Rugby
McCarthy's Transport Ruapehu faced McCrean Scanning Counties at their home ground for an historic Anzac Day game, losing 45-15 at Macnab Domain.

In front of a bumper crowd for Club Sponsors Day on the long weekend, both sides were determined to secure what could be a crucial maiden win in the lower points table race to avoid relegation after the Trevor Olney Cup round.

But the key difference is the fresh Counties squad have several incumbent and former Steelform Whanganui players in key positions – bringing all their strength, timing and guile to the fore.

With over 100 representative games, halfback Lindsay Horrocks had the ball on a string in the first half to put his forward pack in the right channels to cause havoc, led up front by prop Jonty Bird (nine rep games) and speedy hooker Jack Yarrall (23) who scored a hat-trick and a double respectively.

Midfielders Opetini Dryden and Tim Goodwin impressed working off the momentum, Goodwin overcoming a wayward start with his goal-kicking to slot five conversions.

Down 24-0 approaching halftime, a Ruapehu squad who are bleeding a lot of fresh-faced teenagers, clawed

their way back with two tries on either side of the break for 24-10, before the home side reasserted themselves as the game was reduced to 13 vs 14 at one stage after yellow cards for a range of offences.

Ruapehu are missing former Whanganui prop Gabriel Hakaraia (55 games), injured in their last preseason game, who could have potentially kept Bird and Yarrall honest, while their sole-remaining former rep player Kahl Elers-Green (seven) moved back from the midfield into halfback to try and counteract Horrocks.

Prop Ezekiel Anderson put in a long work shift, winger Rangihareroa McLeod scored a good try on top of a series of strong runs, while reserve back Tei Ponga Te Huia unveiled a strong kicking game to give his side some territory late in the final quarter.

It has been a big ask for Ruapehu to come back to this grade for the first time since 2023, but regardless of which team finishes in seventh place at the end of the first round, assistant coach Sheldon O'Hagan said they can only improve for ongoing campaigns.

"We've got a lot of young 18 and 19-year-olds in their first season of Premier rugby so it's all learning, definitely.

"You could see the experience on their side compared to our young fellas, but it was positive in that second half – kept fighting and didn't go away."

Lighthouse for the Carrot Park



Despite being as far away from shipping lanes that you probably can get, the Ohakune Carrot Park now has a lighthouse, which appeared at the Park on Monday afternoon – built and installed quietly by Wayne Gunnell, builder of the Pirate Ship that was installed last year.

PJ project helps meet rising winter need for local whānau

Maru Energy Trust has launched its 2026 Kahumoe Kaupapa – PJ Project, inviting the community to help gift a warm, comfortable night's sleep to local whānau across The Lines Company (TLC) network region.

Last winter, the PJ Project delivered 1424 pairs of brand-new winter pyjamas through trusted community organisations across the King Country, Central Plateau and Ruapehu. The kaupapa has grown year on year—from 497 pairs in 2022, to more than 900 in 2023, just over 1000 in 2024, and nearly 1500 last year. Now, Maru is aiming to make 2026 even better.

"Going to bed warm matters for health, learning and wellbeing—especially for children and older people," says Maru team leader Renee Parkes.

"A warm pair of pyjamas can make a meaningful difference to sleep quality and overall hauora during the colder months."

Maru Energy Trust's core work is helping households create warmer, drier homes—through practical support like insulation and heat pumps.

"The Kahumoe Kaupapa – PJ Project wraps around that mahi as a simple, way to extend the same warmth beyond the home.

"The need for practical support continues to rise, with growing numbers of people reaching out for help through community service organisations," said Parkes.

"Many households struggle; even the basics—like new winter sleepwear—can be out of reach."

Community partnerships are central to the PJ Project's success. Each year local organisations help ensure pyjamas reach those who need them most.

Lucretia Goodwin of Taumarunui Community Kokiri Trust says that having a warm pair of kahumoe during the colder months helps to keep whānau warm at night, to support better sleep and contributes to overall hauora.

"With the current state of our society - fuel increases

and increased living costs, unemployment, high rents, poor state of housing, homelessness and the need for emergency housing, it is a struggle for whānau to even put kai on the table," said Goodwin.

"The Trust is proud to support this kaupapa, and we know our whānau are more than appreciative of the support given by Maru Energy Trust."

The project is powered by generosity, from individuals donating a few pairs to businesses and groups contributing dozens of pairs and cash donations that allow Maru to purchase even more.

Maru is calling on the community to get involved by donating new winter pyjamas or contributing funds toward bulk purchases. With the average cost of winter PJs ranging from \$12-\$40 (depending on age group), every contribution helps.

In 2025, donations from community members, businesses and individuals topped \$15,000. This year, Maru hopes to build on that momentum.

The Lines Company (TLC) established Maru Energy Trust in 2018 and remains its primary funder, currently contributing \$450,000 annually to help make homes warmer and drier. TLC and Maru staff back Maru's PJ Project every year. This year proceeds from staff raffles, donations and other initiatives meant over \$5300 went toward purchasing PJs for those who need them most.

Across TLC's network, many communities sit at the highest end of the Deprivation Index, and income levels reflect that: about 21% of households average about \$54,000, compared with just 1% at approximately \$77,000.

How to support the Maru PJ Project: Donate new winter pyjamas: King Country REAP office in Taumarunui (115 Hakiha Street); donate via Maru Energy Trust: 03-0449-0011383-000 (Reference: Your name, Code: PJ Project); get your workplace team involved, contact Maru on 0800 808 901 to find out how.



Essie is wrapped in winter warmth—part of Maru Energy Trust's PJ Project helping whānau sleep warmly through the colder months.

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