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# Ruapehu Bulletin

6 May 2026  
Issue No 2104

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



**100 years of power lines**  
P2



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P3



**100th Park Run**  
P4



**Kura kids help with kiwi release**  
P8

## Brand new Maungarongo wharekai opened

Ohakune iwi Ngāti Rangi opened their new wharekai Hohourongo last week – 26 April, the first significant build on Maungarongo marae in Ohakune in nearly 40 years.

Around 200 people attended, including the head of the Rātana Church, paramount chiefs of Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Muatūpoko iwi from Levin, and representatives from Taranaki, who performed the dawn blessing.

“It was a beautiful day,” Che Wilson of Maungarongo marae said.

“It was amazing to have so many of our whānau return and to have so many people from around the country,” Wilson said.

The old dining room – built over 100 years ago – when the marae was first registered in 1926.

Ngāti Tui-o-Nuku are the residing hapu

of Maungarongo marae.

The kitchen was condemned but the dining part is retained at the bottom of the marae, for extra space when needed.

“It’s in the flood zone, so you’re not allowed to build a new building, but you are allowed to keep that building up,” says Wilson.

“So, we’ve done minimal touch-ups for that and then had to move to a different location for the new build. Kept the same name.”

The indoor areas can accommodate about 400 people and the main area of the marae was closed for three years during the construction.

“It’s a living marae, so you can’t close down everything,” Wilson said, explain-

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Carvings at the entrance to the Hohourongo Wharekai were carved at Te Ao Hou marae in Whanganui. Photo: Robert Milne.

## Toughest kids line up in Raetihi



Ruapehu College students not only helped as marshals for the Tough Kids, they got stuck into some of the challenges including the water slide. Photo: Robert Milne.

Close to 350 tamariki from primary schools and kura across the Ruapehu and Rangitikei as well as local home-school students converged on Raetihi on Friday to take part in the annual Waimarino Tough Kids races.

Ohakune Primary School took out the coveted Toughest School trophy for the 6th time

The Sport Whanganui organisers thanked the school volunteers, Bayleys Ruapehu, Raetihi Volunteer Fire Brigade and Ruapehu Rural Fire Brigade, student marshalls from Ruapehu College, and Raetihi Primary School who provided food.

### Results

Toughest School: Ohakune Primary School.

Year 3&4 Boys: 1 Keve Turua, Waiouru School; 2

Thomas Berry, Ohakune; 3 Luca Cribb-Barrow, Waiouru School. Year 3&4 Girls: 1 April Journeaux, Raetihi Primary School; 2 Lani Vanbelle Drisen, Ohakune; 3 Amohia Pakinga, Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngāti Rangi. Year 5&6 Boys: 1 Cruze Hawira, Ohakune; 2 Whetumairangi Burke, Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngāti Rangi; 3 Reale Richards, Ohakune. Year 5&6 Girls: 1 Hana Pilbrow, Ohakune; 2 Kobie Roache, Baines School; 3 Bella Cranston, Ohakune. Year 7&8 Boys: 1 Bear Sovereil, Ohakune; 2 William Peach, Baines School; 3 Jack Lilburn, Ohakune. Year 7&8 Girls: 1 Everly Kristiansen, Ohakune; 2 Merical More-Tait, Ohakune; 3 Kauri Henare-Horne, Raetihi Primary School.

### As the Ruapehu landscape turns to rich hues of orange, red and gold, buyer enquiry strengthens across the region.

Autumn is a strategic time to be on the market, with motivated purchasers planning ahead to secure homes before winter. Listing now gives your property strong visual appeal, access to engaged buyers, less competition than peak summer, and momentum leading into winter demand.

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# AUTUMN ALERT

THE MARKET IS MOVING, DON'T MISS OUT.

**BAYLEYS**

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# 100 years of electricity celebrated

For a century, The Lines Company (TLC) and its predecessor have played “a quiet but essential role” in everyday life across the King Country and surrounding regions, says the company as they celebrated the centenary recently.

“From the earliest days of local electricity supply to today’s modern network, TLC’s story has always been about people,” says chief executive Mike Fox.

The company was officially formed in April 1999, taking over the operations of King Country Electric Power Board, following New Zealand’s electricity industry reforms.

“The people who built it, maintained it, governed it and believed in it. Generation after generation, they have shaped an organisation grounded in service, responsibility and long-term thinking.

“A defining feature of (their) history is its enduring community ownership. For 100 years, the network has been owned by the people it serves — ensuring decisions are made with long-term wellbeing in mind and that benefits flow back to customers and communities, not distant shareholders.”

On Thursday 30 April, exactly 100 years to the day since locals gathered in a hall in Ōtorohanga for dinner to celebrate the arrival of electricity – people who have been part of the journey came together to mark this significant milestone, reconnecting, sharing stories and acknowledging the collective contribution that has shaped the organisation across generations.

The predecessor company was King Country Electric Power Board.

Over time, TLC has navigated significant change in the electricity sector, “while staying true to its purpose: delivering safe, reliable and affordable electricity and investing in resilience for the future”.

“That consistency has seen TLC recognised as a trusted performer and a sector leader, with a strong focus on customer outcomes and community value.”

Fox says TLC’s success is inseparable from the people behind it.

“One hundred years of keeping the lights on, yes — but far more importantly, one hundred years of serving our communities, of connecting people and of quietly enabling everyday life to happen.”

As TLC reflects on its first century, it does so with gratitude — to those who laid the foundations, those who carried the organisation through times of change, and those who continue the work today.



Having served 36 years on the TLC Board from 1968 to 2004, Russel Aldridge was asked to cut the TLC 100-year cake.

# India FTA is good news for the region

By Carl Bates, MP for Whanganui

It was wonderful to attend the renaming ceremony for the Waimarino Volunteer Fire Brigade over Anzac weekend. Established in 1962, the brigade has provided outstanding service to the local community. This continues under Chief Fire Officer Marilla Swift and her team.

It was especially pleasing to see a good turnout from the local community at the ceremony. I thanked members of the WVFB for their service and for the important work they do to make their community safer.

Driving around the Ruapehu District, as I travel to events such as the renaming, reminds me how much of our economic activity comes from the productive sector. It is also a reminder of how important the revenue that our farmers, horticulturalists and primary producers get from exporting our products to the world is to New Zealand’s economy.

This is quite topical given that during the 2023 election campaign, National committed to negotiate a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India. Many people said it could not be done. On Monday 26 April, it happened: Trade and Investment Minister Hon Todd McClay and Indian Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal signed the FTA between our two countries at a ceremony in New Delhi.

The results from this FTA will be hugely positive across our entire region. Indeed, the India FTA is a once-in-a-generation step forward for New Zealand exporters into a market of 1.4 billion people. This will deliver significant gains for exporters, cutting or eliminating tariffs on more than half of New Zealand exports to India – creating growth and jobs at home.

We often forget that one in four New Zealand jobs is tied to trade. By signing this FTA, we are setting businesses up to succeed, boosting Kiwi jobs and enabling economic growth – and that means more money in Kiwis’ pockets.

The forestry sector has expressed optimism. The Forest Owners Association has welcomed the signing, noting that wood and wood products are already New Zealand’s largest goods export to India. This gives them a strong base to build from and is again positive for our region.

Add in products like sheep meat, wool, mānuka honey, kiwifruit, apples, bulk infant formula and high value dairy preparations and the widespread benefits of this FTA become evident, both across our region, and nationwide.

Since we came into Government, exports have grown by more than \$17 billion. Growing trade is the key to growing New Zealand’s economy. This is part of National’s plan to fix the basics, create more jobs, lift wages, and put more money in Kiwis’ pockets. All of which will assist in our focus on building the future.

## Eating out in the Ruapehu District

Call 06 385 8532 to list your business here or email [ads@ruapehubulletin.co.nz](mailto:ads@ruapehubulletin.co.nz)

### KINGS BAR & RESTAURANT

3 Rimu St Ohakune Junction Ph: 06 385 8648  
Est in 1913, historic Kings offers an inviting menu by international chefs, a great selection of boutique wines and craft breweries including award winning Ruapehu Brewing Co beers in the fridge and on tap. See our Facebook page for what’s on. Please check our open times as these will vary.

### LKNZ LODGE & CAFE

1 Rata St, Ohakune Ph: 027 257 LKNZ (5569)  
Open every day. Menu includes our delicious big breakfast, creamy mushrooms, homemade soups, wedges, nachos, toasties, waffles and more ... Volcanic coffee, muffins & scones, real fruit smoothies and thick shakes. Dine in or takeaway. Onsite parking. [www.lknz.co.nz](http://www.lknz.co.nz)

### POWDERKEG

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### THE CYPRUS TREE

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

### UTOPIA CAFE

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## Ruapehu Events & What's On

### MAY 2026

**Royal Theatre Movies, starts 7pm**  
Beatles A Hard Day's Night (G) 29 May  
King Kong (1976) (PG) 30 May  
Elvis Presley Jail House Rock (G) 31 May

**Vintage & Classic Auto Show 31 May**  
For more information email [autoshow.at.the.park@gmail.com](mailto:autoshow.at.the.park@gmail.com)

### JUNE 2026

**Royal Theatre Movies, starts 7pm**  
Bruce Lee Way of the Dragon 20 June

### JULY 2026

**Royal Theatre Movies, starts 7pm**  
American Graffiti (M) 4 July

**Mardi Gras 4 July**

**Tūroa Opening Day 4 July**  
See [www.turoa.com](http://www.turoa.com) for details

**Whakapapa Opening Day 4 July**  
See [www.whakapapa.com](http://www.whakapapa.com) for details

**Matariki 10 July**

### AUGUST 2026

**Royal Theatre Movies, starts 7pm**  
Smash Palace (R16) 15 August

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IT'S FREE TO LIST SO PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT COMING UP ...  
[ADS@RUAPEHUBULLETIN.CO.NZ](mailto:ADS@RUAPEHUBULLETIN.CO.NZ)  
LINK YOUR EVENT TO [EVENTFINDA](http://EVENTFINDA) FOR FREE

## Community and Emergency Services

**Alzheimers Whanganui Inc** – Email [admin@alzheimerswhanganui.org.nz](mailto:admin@alzheimerswhanganui.org.nz) or for support phone 06-345 8833  
**Budget Advice** – Email [waimarinobudgetservices@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 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](mailto:ruapehumaoriwardens@gmail.com)  
**St John** – in an emergency call 111  
**Taumarunui Counselling Services:** For confidential counselling in Waimarino phone 07-895-6393  
**Victim Support Contact Centre** – 0800 842 846  
**Waimarino Cancer Society:** Co-ordinator 06 348 7402  
**Waimarino Health Care Centre** – Raetihi 06-385-5019  
**Waimarino Community Toy Library** – [waimarintoylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:waimarintoylibrary@gmail.com)  
**Women's Refuge** – 0800-REFUGE 0800 73384

**Ruapehu Mayor** – Weston Kirton, enquiries to 06-385-8364 or 07-895-8188.  
**Owhango-National Park Community Board:**  
Peter Zimmer - Chairperson 027 479 1926; Gail Gray - Deputy Chair 027 434 6599; Anthony Gurr 021 487 742; Eddie Marsters 021 108 0279; Murray Wilson 027 542 9079; Luke Pepper - (RDC Rep) 027 329 2849  
**Taumarunui/Ohura Ward Community Board:**  
Molly Jeffries, Chairperson 021 431 8333; Sophie Stockbridge, Deputy Chairperson 020 401 1190; Johnny Dryden 027 573 4726; Brian Portland 027 558 5585; Oriwia Wanakore 020 498 4088; Robyn Gram (RDC Rep) 027 389 1912  
**Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board:**  
John (Luigi) Hotter - Chairperson 027 274 2616; Stu Robinson - Deputy Chairperson 021 024 07657; Kay Henare 027 924 7252; Colin Pakai 021 091 67315; Emma Young 027 347 1457; David (Rabbit) Nottage - (RDC Rep) 021 111 6514  
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## Musters a win for nature and Kaimanawa horses



Mustering in the southern part of the range of the Kaimanawa horses is a key part of the management of the herd. Photo: Kaimanawa Legacy Foundation.

An intense week of musters in the Waiouru Military Training area has seen 58 wild Kaimanawa horses rehomed and nearly 100 mares given contraceptive treatment – but there’s still more to do this year.

The Kaimanawa Wild Horse Advisory Group supports the management of the herd to protect the fragile ecosystems unique to the area and keep the wild horses healthy. The group consists of multiple iwi, animal welfare experts, rehoming groups, environmental advocates, the Department of Conservation (DOC), and the New Zealand Defence Force.

DOC principal ranger Nina Manning says there are additional musters this year to help get the herd back to a more sustainable level for the future.

“We have completed two musters over the Anzac period, and we’re looking to do another one in June.

“The muster at the new southern yards went incredibly smoothly, which is a testament to the huge amount of work the DOC team and contractors have done to design and prepare them.

“These yards allow mustering of the southern horses over shorter distances, reducing stress on the horses and costs of flying time – and they’re permanent, so the benefit will continue in years to come.”

Immuno-contraceptive treatment of mares has continued, with the ultimate goal of slowing herd growth in the wild. However rehoming efforts remain critical to both herd health and the environment.

Carolyn Haigh of rehoming group Kaimanawa Heritage Horses says the use of immuno-contraception represents an important step toward improving welfare outcomes for Kaimanawa horses.

“It’s helping to reduce the number of animals facing uncertain futures while supporting more sustainable herd management.

“From our perspective, this muster has also demonstrated encouraging progress in rehoming, with a strong community response ensuring many horses will continue to transition into safe, long-term homes.

“While there is still work to be done, these combined efforts reflect a growing commitment to balancing conservation with compassionate, practical solutions for the horses.”

The Kaimanawa wild horse herd descends from domestic horse releases as early as 1870, and ranges across subalpine habitat within the military training area.

The Kaimanawa Wild Horse Advisory Group works with a goal to keep the wild herd to approximately 300 horses to maintain herd genetic diversity and health while still protecting sensitive ecosystems.

## Government chips in for Ōhura flood recovery

The Government has promised \$50,000 to the Ruapehu District Council mayoral relief fund, to support those impacted by flooding in Ōhura.

Mayor Weston Kirton thanked Emergency Management Minister Mark Mitchell for the funding saying it would make a meaningful difference to the community as it continues its recovery.

“We are really grateful for the Government’s contribution. This funding will make a huge difference in helping our Ōhura community get back on its feet,” Kirton said.

Kirton also acknowledged Minister Mitchell for visiting Ōhura the morning after the flood to see the impacts firsthand and speak directly with residents.

“That visit meant a lot to the community. It showed a genuine understanding of the scale of what people are dealing with and the support they need,” he said.

“The Mayoral Relief Fund allows us to respond quickly to urgent needs and support families as they clean up, repair, and rebuild. This contribution strengthens our ability to do that.”

Kirton said recovery would take time and encouraged anyone in need of support who has not yet come forward to do so, and those who are able to consider contributing to the Fund.

Details on making a donation to the Ōhura Mayoral Relief Fund can be found on Council’s website [ruapehudc.govt.nz](http://ruapehudc.govt.nz) or Facebook page.



Emergency Management Minister Mark Mitchell talking with first responders in Ōhura the day after flash flooding swept through the township causing widespread damage. From left, FENZ volunteer Tina Bevan, Taumarunui Ōhura Community Board deputy chair Sophie Stockbridge, Emergency Management Minister Mark Mitchell. Photo: RDC.

We’re fixing the basics  
and building the future.


**Carl Bates MP**  
National Party Candidate  
for Whanganui

incl Ruapehu - South Taranaki - Stratford

**National**

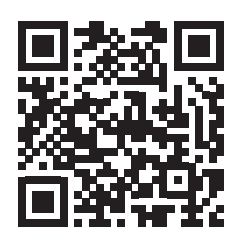

Authorised by Carl Bates, 200B Victoria Avenue, Whanganui.





# 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](http://ruapehudc.govt.nz)

# 100 for their 100th

# New Maungarongo wharekai opened



The first Ohakune Parkrun in June 2024.

Ohakune has set a goal to have 100-plus runners, joggers or walkers participate in the 100th consecutive Parkrun on the Mangawhero River Track on Saturday morning.

“Back in June 2024 when the Ohakune 5km officially became a Parkrun we had 73 finishers at our launch event and, for the next 18 months, we averaged around 30-35 athletes every week” said Flora Cave, one of the Ohakune Run directors.

“In December we received the most amazing and unexpected news from FB group Runs With A Barcode, when we were awarded the 2025 North Island parkrun of the Year and also 2025 parkrun bridge of the year!” Flora said.

Long weekends and accolades attract many parkrunners who travel to experience our beautiful high-altitude course and our swing bridge, unique to Parkrun globally and, in the last few months, our numbers have swelled beyond 50, peaking on the Easter weekend with 93 athletes.

“Parkrun is not a race, but we thrive on challenges so with our 100th parkrun coming up we are inviting locals and visitors alike to help us achieve our goal of 100 or more crossing the finish line,” said Flora, “see you on

Saturday and bring your mum too.”

The Mangawhero River Track Parkrun, Ohakune meets in the park at the bottom of Ayr St Ohakune at 7.45 am for briefings ahead of an 8am start.

Register once at parkrun.co.nz and you can go to any parkrun event, any weekend. It is free for everyone, forever.

When the Mangawhero River Walk parkrun, Ohakune was launched in June 2024 it marked the 50th active venue for parkrun in Aotearoa New Zealand. Today, parkrun is one of the fastest growing community activity events in New Zealand, volunteer-led every Saturday by 1,100+ hi-viz heroes, at 70 locations, for close to 15,000 participants who finish a timed walk, jog or run over 5km.

Our Ohakune team embrace the principles of parkrun globally as being positive, welcoming and inclusive, there is no time limit and no one finishes last. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Having registered once and received your personal barcode, you can participate in any of the 2,500 parkruns spread over 23 countries around the world.

From Page 1

ing that the marae’s health centre and the kōhanga reo still operated.

He said Maungarongo has been the busiest marae in the region.

“When you have to close the marae, you’re then reliant on other marae to look after you when you have tangihanga.”

“Without them, we wouldn’t have been able to farewell our loved ones in the best way possible.”

Carvers from Te Ao Hou marae in Aramohe completed the carvings for the front of the new Hohourongo wharekai and the artwork inside.

Two bells are exhibited in the carvings, paying homage to Mere Rikiriki, a Māori prophetess of Ngāti Apa and teacher to Tahupōtiki Wiremu Rātana and Te Māreikura, Wilson’s great-grandfather.

“Some of the gifts that she gave to Te Māreikura included two bells. One bell to sustain the wairua [spirit], and one bell to sustain the kikokiko, the physical.

“Those two bells in the carving, the physical bells, which came from Parewanui – they’re still at home. They were retired some time ago and the kai bell will probably go on display in the wharekai at

some stage.”

The last significant build on Maungarongo marae was the meeting house in 1988.

Since then, Ngāti Rangi had been fundraising for the new Hohourongo wharekai, Wilson said.

A total of \$100,000 was approved from Oranga Marae for a feasibility study for the planned wharekai, and an additional \$1,922,757 for the build.

Oranga Marae was set up by Te Puni Kōkiri and the Department of Internal Affairs in 2018 to support numerous marae projects around the country through annual grant applications.

Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust manager Deana Wilson said the wharekai construction was part of a five-year strategic plan, created in 2021.

It also involved numerous annual wānanga, launching two waiata books and a whakapapa book, documenting marae history, developing a marae engagement plan, and a papakāinga development plan.

“What we have achieved has been through the efforts of our whānau and wider whānau,” Deana Wilson said.



Ngāti Rangi and guests celebrate their new Hohourongo dining hall in Ohakune last week. Photo: Ngāti Rangi.

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

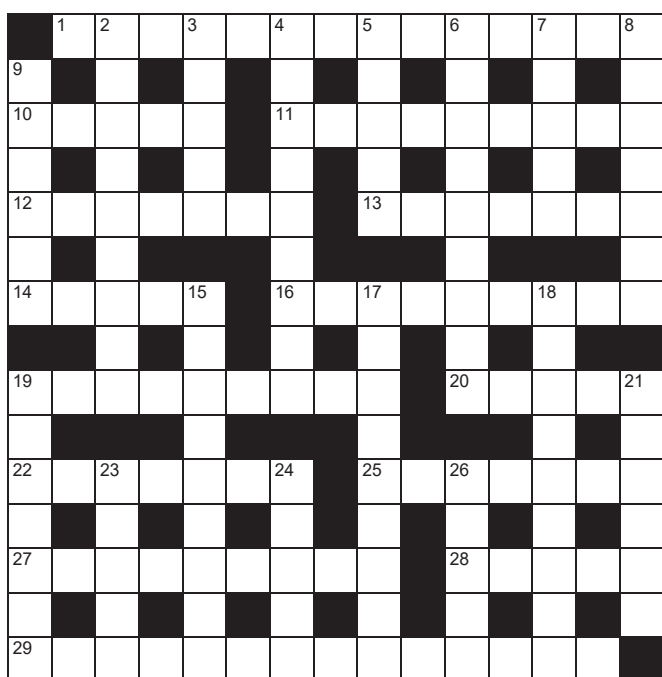
### QUICK CROSSWORD

**Across**

- 1. Tallboy (5,2,7)
- 10. Tedium (5)
- 11. Massacre (9)
- 12. Traveller (7)
- 13. Trade ban (7)
- 14. Beginnings (5)
- 16. Confident (9)
- 19. Botanical tree garden (9)
- 20. Sailboat (5)
- 22. Suffering mal de mer (7)
- 25. Equilibrium (7)
- 27. Bargain, haggle (9)
- 28. Burning (5)
- 29. Rotating firework (9,5)

**Down**

- 2. Cellular pattern (9)
- 3. Move in an arc (5)
- 4. Watchful (9)
- 5. Shroud (5)
- 6. Verbal dispute (colloq) (4-5)
- 7. Cross the threshold (5)
- 8. Miser (colloq) (7)
- 9. Central linked computer (6)
- 15. Napkin (9)
- 17. Whole note (music) (9)



- 18. Performance pay (9)
- 19. Highly poisonous element (7)
- 21. Balance unsteadily (6)
- 23. Feeling of anxiety (5)
- 24. Military fabric (5)
- 26. Dog restraint (5)



Enjoy WordFit puzzles? Magazines available from [www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz](http://www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz)

Puzzles © The Puzzle Company

### SUDOKU

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

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

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

### The Top 10

1. Rediscovered in Fiordland in 1948, what had been assumed extinct for 50 years?
2. In which 1989 film does Joanna Lumley play Shirley's old school friend?
3. The medal table at the 2026 Winter Olympics was topped by which country?
4. Which road sign was introduced to New Zealand in 1956?
5. "Wheatfield with Crows" is thought to be the final painting by which artist?
6. The skill of fine handwriting or penmanship is called . . . ?
7. Barbara Millicent Roberts is the full name of which inanimate female?
8. What legal-sounding name is given to a temporary mast rigged at sea?
9. What is the Māori name for the New Zealand honeysuckle?
10. Who were the four members of The Monkees?

### CROSSWORD

- Across:** 1. Chest of drawers, 10. Ennu, 11. Slaughter, 12. Voyager, 13. Embargo, 14. Roots, 16. Assertive, 19. Arboretum, 20. Yacht, 22. Seaside, 25. Balance, 27. Negotiate, 28. Affre, 29. Catherine wheel.
- Down:** 2. Honeycomb, 3. Swing, 4. Observer, 5. Drape, 6. Argy-bargy, 7. Enter, 8. Scrooge, 9. Server, 15. Serviette, 17. Semibreve, 18. Incentive, 19. Arsenic, 21. Teefer, 23. Angst, 24. Khaki, 26. Leash.

### SUDOKU

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

### THE TOP 10

- 1 The takahē, 2 Shirley Valentine, 3 Norway, 4 Give Way, 5 Vincent van Gogh, 6 Calligraphy, 7 Barbie doll, 8 A Jury mast, 9 Rewarewa, 10 Davy Jones, Mike Nesmith, Peter Dinklage, and Micky Dolenz.

## Ngāti Rangī graduate



Frances Lomas-Horomia recently graduated from the Whānau Ora Level Five Diploma Programme and was chosen to present the valedictorian speech at the graduation ceremony. In the correspondence inviting her to present the speech, the course presenters said “this acknowledgment reflects your exceptional dedication, commitment and growth throughout the Whānau Ora Diploma programme. You have consistently demonstrated academic excellence, cultural integrity, and leadership qualities that embody the values of whanaungatanga, manaakitanga and kaupapa Māori practice”. In her speech, Frances said “I stand here today with increased confidence, with a stronger voice, and with a deeper sense of responsibility as a leader within my community. I have learned that leadership is not about standing in front, but about standing with - with our people, our whānau, and our kaupapa”. Photo supplied.

## Ōwhango wants your best shots

Ōwhango Alive, the local conservation volunteer group, are seeking donations of photos for their 2027 Calendar. “This is an important fundraiser in support of the work to protect the local flora and fauna,” says Ōwhango Alive. “The theme is the same as previous years, photos in and around the Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve.” Their preferred format is landscape – at high resolution, to support high quality print production. “Sometimes we can use a portrait format photo for our collage page or it may be able to be cropped, but it would have to be a higher resolution to make this possible,” says the group.

## Building confident committees: workshop planned for you



The idea of serving on a club committee can put some people off. Sport Whanganui is offering workshops to help with that. Photo: Sport Whanganui.

If you’ve ever been asked to join a committee, or wondered what roles like chairperson, secretary, or treasurer involve, Sport Whanganui has a workshop for you.

“Whether you’re new to a committee, stepping into a leadership role, or just want to help meetings run more effectively, our workshops are designed to make governance easy to understand and practical to apply,” says Sport Whanganui chief executive Tania King.

She says the workshops are aimed at helping people on sports club committees, trusts, or organisations to feel more confident about their roles.

“Governance committees hinge on people willing to step up and take on specific roles, but it can be daunting if you’ve never done it before.

“Our workshops cover everything from the basics of how a board or committee works, to specific roles like chair, secretary, or treasurer. We can also come to you and run a session just for your group, which is

great for new members or refreshing your team’s approach.”

Workshops are held regularly throughout the year. Coming up next in the Ruapehu district are: Governance Essentials, Ohakune, Thursday 14 May; Committee Roles 101, Ohakune, Thursday 4 June.

“Ultimately our vision is for active, healthy and connected communities,” says Tania.

“Supporting clubs to have good governance systems in place helps to create safer, stronger environments for people to participate in their chosen sport or recreational activity.”

A full list of planned workshops for the year is on the Sport Whanganui website at [www.sportwhanganui.co.nz/governance-support](http://www.sportwhanganui.co.nz/governance-support).

Anyone interested in attending any of the sessions can sign up via the website or contact Sport Whanganui at [info@sportwhanganui.co.nz](mailto:info@sportwhanganui.co.nz) or 06 349 2300 for more information.



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- Committee Roles 101, Thursday 4 June

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# Chinese Embassy staff visit Ruapehu pet food factory



Minister-Counsellor Zhang from the Chinese Embassy with Ruapehu's mayor Weston Kirton at the King Country Pet Food factory near Taumarunui.

Chinese Embassy officials, including Minister-Counsellor Zhang Xinyu, last week visited the Chinese-owned King Country Pet Food processing plant near Taumarunui.

The \$100 million-plus state-of-the-art plant manufactures premium pet food kibble for markets around the world and represents a major investment in the Ruapehu district.

Ruapehu's mayor Weston Kirton accompanied the group, saying it was a privilege to meet with senior Chinese Embassy representatives and to support King Country Pet Food.

"King Country Pet Food is a world-scale manufacturing facility and a critically important economic asset for Ruapehu that aligns strongly with our primary sector strengths," he said.

"As production ramps up, there are growing opportunities for Ruapehu and regional producers supplying premium ingredients such as meat, grains, vegetables and honey – areas where our farmers, growers and primary producers excel."

Kirton said the scale of production required to meet international demand also created wider economic opportunities, particularly in logistics.

"The volume of product being moved also presents the possibility of better utilising the Taumarunui rail yards and the North Island Main Trunk line to transport large numbers of containers efficiently," he said.

Kirton added that the discussions during the visit also touched on Ruapehu's tourism sector and the potential to attract more visitors from China.

"One of the points discussed was that unlocking this opportunity depended on having key visitor infrastructure, particularly suitable accommodation.

"This highlighted that without the higher-end accommodation that was previously offered by the Chateau, Ruapehu is missing out on both the quality and quantity of visitors we need to grow our tourism sector," he said.

"The Chateau provided around a third of Ruapehu's commercial visitor beds, with a significant proportion used by international visitors during the summer months. These beds have not been replaced.

"Getting the Chateau back online is essential if we are to attract high-value international markets such as China and support sustainable, year-round jobs and investment," said Kirton.

Minister-Counsellor Zhang noted that the scale of China's outbound tourism market presented strong opportunities for Ruapehu.

"There are many Chinese tourists who would value what Ruapehu has to offer," she said.

Kirton said the visit reinforced the strong connections between international investment, primary sector production, infrastructure, and tourism in driving Ruapehu's economic future.

# Two Tongariro huts join booking system for 'winter naturing'

Waihohonu and Mangatepopo huts in Tongariro National Park can now be booked for winter adventures, with each operating as a serviced hut until the next Great Walk season begins.

Part of the Tongariro Northern Circuit, the two huts (and Oturere Hut when the rebuild is complete) will no longer be first-in, first-served through the off-season. They can be booked from 1 May to 30 June now, and will be bookable for 1 June onwards from 21 May, when bookings for the Tongariro Northern Circuit open for next season.

Principal ranger Jenny Hayward says it means trampers no longer need to carry a full tent and sleeping mat in case the hut is full.

"There's a big difference between snow camping and having a cozy night in a hut. Having a booked spot means you'll fall safely on the side of a cozy night."

Serviced huts have mattresses, untreated water supply and toilets. The Tongariro huts have fireplaces, and firewood may be provided – check the DOC website for details. Cooking facilities are not provided so visitors should bring their own.

Hayward says winter adventures can suit a range of abilities, so long as people are prepared for the conditions.

"It's less than 2km from the road-end to Mangatepopo Hut, so it's a great entry-level adventure for colder weather. And with your space booked in the hut, you know you won't be squished into a corner for a miserable night."

Bookings are now open for the period 1 May to 30 June 2026. Bookings for the Tongariro Northern Circuit Great Walk for next season open on Thursday 21 May.

Visit the DOC website for full hut information and to book.



Northern Circuit huts can now be booked outside the Great Walks season. Photo: DOC.

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

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# Network investment and community impact up front for power company

The Lines Company (TLC) has released its 2026 Statement of Corporate Intent (SCI), outlining “a clear focus on investing in a safe, resilient electricity network” while continuing to “deliver meaningful benefits for the communities”.

The SCI sets out TLC’s priorities for the 2026–27 financial year, guided by its purpose of growing communities with energy and its four strategic goals that prioritise people, partnerships, making a difference and building a strong network. The document is now available on the TLC website.

“Being 100% owned by the Waitomo Energy Services Customer Trust (WESCT) on behalf of its beneficiaries means the assets are built for the benefit of today’s beneficiaries but also generations to come,” says chief executive Mike Fox.

“Every decision we make is about delivering long term value for our customers and our region.

“This SCI is more than a set of targets — it’s our commitment to building a network and an organisation that supports thriving, resilient communities today and for generations to come.”

## Network focus

A central focus of the 2026 SCI is continued investment in TLC’s electricity network, much of which was built before the 1970s and requires ongoing renewal to ensure safety, reliability and affordability.

“We’re investing carefully and deliberately to strengthen resilience, respond to climate impacts and support future growth, while balancing costs for customers and ensuring fairness across generations,” said Fox.

Through its asset management and capital programme, TLC is focused on improving network performance, completing its resilience planning, optimising substations and introducing new technology — including an advanced distribution management system — to restore power more

quickly and improve safety across the network.

“We know rising energy costs are putting pressure on families,” said Fox.

“Delivering meaningful discounts is one way we help ease that pressure, while also continuing to invest in the network that keeps people connected.”

Community support remains a key pillar of the SCI, with TLC continuing to invest in energy hardship initiatives, community funding, sponsorships and its long-standing support of Maru Energy Trust, which helps eligible homeowners access insulation and heat pumps for warmer, drier homes.

“Making a difference means turning empathy into action,” Fox said.

“Supported by our shareholder WESCT, we work alongside iwi, councils and community partners to reduce energy hardship, unlock external funding and deliver solutions that genuinely improve people’s lives.”

The SCI also reinforces TLC’s role as a regional economic enabler, with a strong emphasis on collaboration — both locally and across the electricity sector — to reduce duplication, share capability and deliver better outcomes for customers.

“Our community ownership is our greatest strength,” said Fox. “It means the benefits of our investments, partnerships and innovation stay local. By working together — with our shareholder, our partners and our communities — we can deliver more impact, more efficiently, for the people we serve.”



The focus for The Lines Company’s planning is its lines network.

# Cleaner winter air starts with good wood, says HMW

As fireplaces are lighting up more often on these cooler days, Horizons Regional Council (Horizons Manawati-Whanganui) is reminding communities to burn only good wood this winter and to dispose of rubbish safely and legally.

Horizons environmental scientist Harold Barnett says burning green or wet wood, using an unswept chimney, or operating a wood burner incorrectly, can emit gases and smoke that carry small particles into the air.

“These gases and minuscule particles can affect our health, causing irritation, worsening allergies and asthma, and even contributing to serious health conditions like heart and lung disease.

“On top of this, burning certain items can emit more harmful particles into the air than others,” he says.

“National and regional rules make it illegal to burn waste oil, rubber, vehicle components, treated or painted timber, agricultural waste, and PVC plastics.

“Burning rubbish can also annoy your neighbours, preventing them from enjoying the outdoors. This is why we recommend people recycle, compost, or take waste to the transfer station, instead of burning it in their backyards.”

Barnett says wood burners or fireplaces older than 15 years should be checked periodically by an expert to ensure they are safe.

“It’s also important to have your chimneys swept regularly to help keep your fire burning safely and efficiently during winter.

“When starting your fire, use plenty of dry kindling and keep the air control open for at least 30 minutes when adding fresh logs, says Barnett.

“Stack split, dry wood loosely in the firebox to allow air circulation, and do not overload logs before the fire gets going.

“By practising these tips, you’ll enjoy the warmth of the bright, swirling flames and red glowing embers of a good fire, while keeping smoke and thus your impact on air quality to a minimum.”

Turn to Page 9

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# Te Kura kids help with Rotokura kiwi release

Children from a local kura helped with the release of several kiwi into the Rotokura area, near Karioi, last week.

The children, from Te Kura Kaupapa o Ngāti Rangī, helped carry the birds to their release sites – where potential burrows had been found.

“One of the key principles of Tiwaiwaka (healing the mauri of the whenua) is the recognition that we are not

the centre of the universe but we are part of it,” says Ngāti Rangī’s Pa McGowan.

“All living creatures are our brothers and sisters and we are the potiki, the last born. Papatūānuku is our mother. We must care for them.

“Today, there was no clearer image of this thinking than our tamariki ... taking part in the release of kiwi back into Rotokura.”

Since March 2025, Ngāti Rangī have met regularly with the Save the Kiwi Foundation and Te Papa Atawhai – Department of Conservation, who are supporting Ngāti Rangī in leading kiwi restoration efforts at Karioi Rāhui.

“This initiative is crucial for reestablishing our presence and responsibilities in the area. We are planning several key components for kiwi restoration, including:

- Diversifying the genetic profile of kiwi populations in our rohe by sourcing kiwi for translocation and release into Karioi Rāhui.

- Engaging in research projects focused on kiwi restoration, which will include annual kiwi call surveys.

- Training Ngāti Rangī members to become certified kiwi handlers.

- Participating in national kiwi hui and related events to share knowledge and strengthen networks.

The iwi says their planning meetings have yielded several successful outcomes, such as:

- Securing a Ngāti Rangī concession with Te Papa Atawhai (DOC) to release 40 kiwi into Karioi Rāhui over a 14-month period, with plans to extend the concession for a decade after that.

- Including Karioi Forest in a research project that examines the effects of harvest operations on western brown



Amohia Pakinga, left, and Te Huiatahi Gillies-Clark help with taking a kiwi to its new home in the Rotokura Rāhui area. Photos: Sjahrne Haitana-Nesbit.



Sjahrne Haitana-Nesbit, left, and Jenny Collie. Jenny is from Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari, who started as a volunteer.

Turn to Page 9



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# Kiwi release

From Page 8

kiwi populations, scheduled for launch in 2027.

• Establishing a meaningful long-term relationship with mana whenua and executives from Sanctuary Mountain Mangatautari, based on the principles of whakawhānaukatanga and mana motuhaketia te taiao.

The Sanctuary have committed to supply kiwi to meet the concession requirements; provide training opportunities for Ngāti Rangī uri to become certified kiwi handlers; support training initiatives with accommodation when available.

The iwi recently sent four Ngāti Rangī uri to the National Kiwi Hatchery in Rotorua for a kiwi egg candling course (a method for testing an egg to see if it is viable), and all received certificates of completion. This is a prerequisite for kiwi handler training. Those who participated were T'leya Wood, Waata Te Riaki, Lukas Kumeroa and Fred Clark.

# Toughest school for the sixth time



The Ohakune Primary School Tough Kids team – awarded the Toughest School for the sixth time on Friday. Photo: Sport Whanganui.



An Ohakune runner flies to the finish.

# Cleaner winter air starts with good wood

From Page 7

Barnett says over the next few years, subject to funding approval, Horizons will conduct investigative monitoring in various towns and cities to improve its understanding of winter air quality in the region.

“We currently have two gazetted airsheds ... Taumarunui and Taihape. Our monitoring in these areas provide us with insight into the local air quality, but we

lack knowledge of the state of air outside of these towns.

“Last winter, we were able to do some spatial monitoring of particulate matter in Woodville and are about to begin surveying in Palmerston North this winter.

“This work will help us identify hot spots of poor air quality, if any, in areas we don't regularly monitor,” says Barnett.

“The data we collect will inform future decision-making on the management of air quality in the Horizons Region.”

Communities can check out Horizons' existing air quality monitoring data for Taumarunui and Taihape at [lawa.org.nz](http://lawa.org.nz).

People can also learn more about air quality in the Horizons Region at [www.horizons.govt.nz/managing-natural-resources/air](http://www.horizons.govt.nz/managing-natural-resources/air).



Sarah Demchy hits the soapy mud at the end of the water slide.



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Tender, marbled, full of flavour – calm handling and stress-free transport for the best taste.

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

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**Waimarino Health Shuttle**

Need to get to a health appointment in Whanganui or Palmerston North?



**Book on 0800 266 547**

Bookings must be made 24 hours in advance.  
Contact us between Monday to Friday 8.30am and 3.00pm



**Ruapehu Mayor Weston Kirton**

To arrange a meeting or call back, please phone Council on 06 385 8364 or email: [kay.kidd@ruapehudc.govt.nz](mailto:kay.kidd@ruapehudc.govt.nz)



**PUBLIC NOTICES**



**Free Legal Advice Clinics**

**Raetihi Chambers**  
44 Seddon Street, Raetihi  
**Wednesday between 10am – 12pm**  
**13 May**

**Ngāti Rangī Community Health Centre**  
Maungārongo Marae, 36A Burns Street, Ohakune  
**Wednesday between 1pm – 3pm**  
**13 May**

To book an appointment, call or email us with your name and contact phone number  
**Community Legal Advice Whanganui (CLAW)**  
Phone 0800 00 36 36 Email – [claw@claw.co.nz](mailto:claw@claw.co.nz)

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Hui a Hapu Ngati Hineraro Karanga Mai**

Sunday 17 May, 10am  
105 Seddon Street, Raetihi

Ki nga uri o Toitaha  
Haweā

Ihakara rangiahua  
Takana rangitauria  
Agenda:

Assert the mana of Ngati Hineraro

Contact Damion McDonnell on 0272044 987

**Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust May 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)

**SERVICES AVAILABLE**

**Kaupapa Māori mental health and addictions** (Rebecca)

Supporting/ addressing needs of tangata whaiora  
Drug & alcohol intervention

After hours emergencies – mental health assessment & treatment team 0800 653 358

**Whānau Ora** (Tina, Darnella, Sylvia, Virginia)

Wrap around services for those with high health and social needs.

Advice and advocacy support  
Support for GP practice

**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 Ngati Rangī Health Centre.

**Bowel Screening**

If you have any queries relating to the bowel screening project, please contact Darnella Hawira 0272 455 278, [Darnella.Hawira@ngatirangi.com](mailto:Darnella.Hawira@ngatirangi.com)

**Flu vaccination clinic dates**

Flu vaccinations are available throughout the month.

**Appointments/More Information Contact Admin**

Mon-Fri- 8.30am-5pm 06 3859 580/0, 0274 758 347 or email [Katherine.Herewini@ngatirangi.com](mailto:Katherine.Herewini@ngatirangi.com)

**We have an AED Defibrillator available on site.**

**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 second publication of this notice. The first notice was published on 29 April 2026.

**Ridgway helped create national park - obituary**

By Dave Scoullar

A satisfying achievement for Ridgway Lythgoe, who died on 18 April, was helping create the Whanganui National Park which opened in 1987.

Work for the then proposed park started before he went to Pipiriki in 1984 as a Lands and Survey ranger, but it gathered momentum and he became increasingly involved with frequent trips to Whanganui including getting support from Whanganui River Scenic Board members.

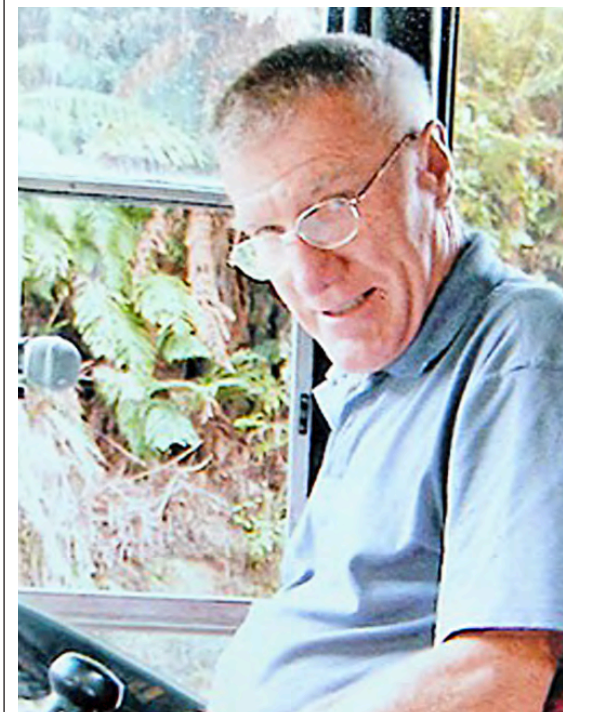
Developing the Aramoana Walkway, opened in 1986, was another achievement and he was disappointed when DOC closed the walkway in 2001 because of slips and the instability of the hillside, making maintenance uneconomical, along with the problem of not being able to get a long-term lease.

Ridgy moved to DOC in Whanganui in 1987 and later became the Whanganui field centre manager. This maintained his links with the awa, along with his active role with the Friends of the Whanganui River, the Whanganui Tramping Club and the Whanganui Summer Programme, on which he was a well-known figure behind the wheel for many bus outings.

A dedicated globetrotter, Ridgy travelled extensively in Europe, Asia and Africa, visiting more than 100 countries. He went to both the South and North Poles, wintered over in Antarctica and crossed the Sahara Desert twice by Landrover.

Originally a Hutt Valley boy, Ridgy was drawn to the Tararua Ranges and made his first tramp there with his older brother, aged 16. He twice completed Schormann-Kaitoke (SK) trips – a demanding task which involves covering all the tops of Tararua Ranges from north to south over a weekend. He also climbed all the 1500ft peaks in the Tararuas in a single weekend.

Trained as a motor mechanic, he was an instructor at Outward Bound and a ranger at Ohakune as well as Pipiriki before ending his working life with DOC. Ridgy died in Whanganui aged 81 after a lengthy illness.



**Ridgway Lythgoe drove the bus on many Whanganui Summer Programme trips.**

**Raurimu Rambler railcar ride**

Another train is coming down the tracks – the Raurimu Rambler – on Sunday this coming weekend.

“Experience one of Ruapehu’s most iconic engineering wonders with a special heritage rail trip on the legendary Raurimu Spiral,” states the publicity for the event.

RM31 Tokomaru – a veteran railcar – will be in the Central Plateau for the return journey from Ohakune to Raurimu. The railcar is owned by the Pahiatua Railcar Society.

“It’s the perfect bite sized adventure for families, locals, and rail fans wanting a taste of vintage travel.”

For questions, contact [bookings@railcars.co.nz](mailto:bookings@railcars.co.nz).

**For everything Ohakune, visit**  
**www.ohakune.info**



# RUAPEHU SNOW BULLETIN

**Winter 2026 – 4,000 copies**

**Deadline for bookings 25 May – Copy deadline 8 June**

**Book all four issues – Winter (June) 2026, Spring (September) 2026, Summer (December) 2026 & Autumn (March) 2027**

**Distributed across the North Island through Information Centres, DOC offices, sport & activity stores and more. Also available in bars, restaurants & accommodation providers around the Ruapehu area.**



**See your advert online...**  
The Snow Bulletin will also be listed on  
**www.ohakune.info**

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## Ohakune Squash

An Ohakune Squash Club team travelled to Inglewood over the weekend to defend the district's Graded Champs trophy. Best individual results came from Jason Haitana, winning the D grade men's title, Jessie Harding winning the D grade women's title and Olivia Gray, winning the women's C grade title.

Diana Cranston was runner up in the B grade women, Eva Hovelle was runner up in the F/J grade women and Bella Drayton was third in the women's E grade. The three overall titles meant there was a count-back with Waitara Squash who had also scored three titles.

The rest of the Ohakune teams results meant they convincingly defeated Waitara to bring the trophy back for another year.

The three title holders now go on to compete at the National Graded Champs for individual titles and be part of the Central team to try and win the overall district trophy. This year it is being hosted by the Devoy Squash and Fitness Club in the Bay of Plenty district in conjunction with the Open Senior National Championships over the weekend of 3-5 July.

In the penultimate round of inter-house, Karakal continued their winning form beating Unsquashable 109/77 and take the overall lead. Also in good form with a 128 total out of a possible 130 against Dunlop's 81 saw Stellar climb to second overall. Head beat previous leaders Tecnifibre 104/88 and Prince had their first win beating Salming 112/97.

Points to date are Karakal 623, Stellar 617, Tecnifibre 607, Salming 601, Head 578, Dunlop 563, Unsquashable 551, and Prince 488.

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

Next week will be the annual Waimarino Squash Club versus the Ohakune Squash Club challenge.

The Squash Stars programme for beginning juniors started last week on Wednesday after school with over thirty registered including one traveling across from Tūrangi. Seven coaches helped out.

Around the mountain interclub started this week on Tuesday with teams from Tūrangi, Raetihi, Taumarunui x2, Ohakune and Ruapeu College.

May leagues are also up.

## Closer game for Ruapehu at home

By Jared Smith

Byfords Readimix Taihape slogged their way to a tough Northern derby away on Saturday over Ruapehu, 17-12.

In the first top grade game played at Ohakune's Rochfort Park since 2023, Taihape brought

a light reserve bench with them as their club tries to balance numbers across two teams and were under pressure as the home side received a seven-point penalty try while prop Ezekiel Anderson also dotted down.

However, showing their signature resolve, the

defending champions rallied with a try from skipper and flanker Jack Kinder, who along with prop Te Uhi Hakaraia was facing their old club for the first time, as well as tries from second-five Cyrus Tasi and reserve Xzaviyah Ralph, with first-five Dane Whale adding one conversion.



Ezekiel Anderson dots down for Ruapehu on Saturday. Photo: Glyn Hubbard.

## A warm welcome to Alexis Gault

ADVERTORIAL



New Property Brokers Agent - Alexis Gault

There's a new face in local real estate, and for many in the Ruapehu community, she may already feel like a familiar one.

Alexis Gault has recently joined Property Brokers, bringing with her a calm, thoughtful approach and a genuine care for people that sits at the heart of everything she does. Having made the Ruapehu region home in 2018, Alexis has deepened her connection not only with the land, but in the creative and close-knit community that makes this place remarkable.

Her path into real estate hasn't been a straight line – and that's exactly what makes her approach so grounded. With experience across wellness, education, small business, and the luxury hotel world, Alexis has developed a natural ability to listen, understand, and connect with people from all walks of life.

For her, real estate is about much more than facilitating a sale. It's about guiding people through significant moments with clarity and care, while delivering the level of focused attention required to achieve the best possible outcome. Particularly passionate about helping people find homes that support their lifestyle, wellbeing and sense of balance, Alexis

is there to ensure they feel supported, informed, and at ease throughout the journey.

Those who meet her will quickly notice her effervescent, warm and steady presence – the kind that brings a sense of calm enjoyment to what can often feel like a stressful process. This alongside her professionalism ensures every step of the process is handled thoroughly and thoughtfully.

Outside of real estate, Alexis is deeply woven into the fabric of the community. You might find her teaching a yoga class, quietly helping behind the scenes with the Waimarino Art Awards, or spending time with family and friends enjoying the region's natural beauty with a hike, bike and the occasional cold plunge.

Property Brokers is proud to welcome Alexis to the team, recognising in her a rare combination of sincerity, strong communication, and a commitment to delivering both a seamless experience and a quality result. She brings both heart and professionalism to every interaction and is committed to continue building lasting connections within the community. Perhaps one of them is with you.'



## Welcome, Alexis Gault

Alexis offers a thoughtful, people-first approach to real estate, combining genuine care with a strong focus on achieving the best results for her clients.

Since moving to New Zealand in 2011 and settling in the Ruapehu region in 2018, she has embraced both the lifestyle and community, building meaningful connections along the way.

With a diverse background in wellness, education, luxury hospitality, and customer service, Alexis brings a calm,

professional presence and a natural ability to understand what matters most to each client.

More than just facilitating a sale, she acts as a trusted guide - supporting clients from the first conversation through to settlement, ensuring a smooth, informed, and stress-free experience.

Driven, approachable, and detail-focused, Alexis is committed to delivering strong results while building lasting relationships.

Contact Alexis for your appraisal today

**Alexis Gault**

Residential/Lifestyle Sales Consultant

022 054 3510 | alexis.gault@pb.co.nz

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**Property Brokers**