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Ruapehu Bulletin

3 June 2026
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Maunga Karakia P2



Star compass unveiled P3



Whangaehu agreement debated P7



Junction market day goes ahead P12

Rates, reserves and bus cuts in Horizons budget 4.7% debate

By Rebecca Hogan

Tensions ran high around the council table as Manawātū-Whanganui regional councillors debated this year's rates increase, weighing up individual wants and needs versus those of the wider community.

Horizons Regional Council agreed on a 4.76% rates increase on Tuesday last week for its 2026-27 budget and year 3 of its current long term plan. The final figure will be announced by 30 June.

Despite warning ratepayers of a potential 9% increase in earlier predictions, councillors worked through numerous workshops to ensure the increase was below 5%.

To make these savings, Horowhenua and the new wider regional passenger transport bus service have been left on hold until 2027 – year one of council's upcoming long-term plan.

These delays to regional and district bus services were not warmly welcomed by some councillors and those within the community, but the overall consensus was that money had to be saved.

The council cut proposed additional spending on projects and refrained from adding new work programmes in some areas and it agreed to remove 13 new job roles it had set out in its long term plan.

Ratepayers, however, narrowly avoided a 5.1% increase as councillors spent nearly two hours debating how to fund projects they had agreed to earlier in the meeting – either through council reserves or higher rates.

Waterways preservation

Earlier in the meeting, Horizons agreed



to provide financial and technical support to iwi, hapū and councils involved with both Ngā Wai Tōtā and the Te Tāhoratanga strategic document.

The council agreed \$100,000 per year would be provided to support the development and implementation of the Te Tāhoratanga document, and roughly \$150,000 per year would be needed to fund two part-time roles at Ngā Wai Tōtā.

Councillor Elijah Pue said Horizons' commitment to the preservation of waterways contributed to a preservation of culture and community that would otherwise continue to decay without support.

"Every decision made upstream is a decision for everyone downstream."

The council voted to fund Tuesday's motion through reserves so as to avoid rate increases, and it planned to reassess how these ventures were funded in its next long term plan.

Councillor Jono Naylor said there was little difference between the two funding mechanisms, as in the end, reserve funds still came from ratepayers.

Naylor said funding through general reserves was a "chicken" approach to funding council matters and lowered public transparency.

He said he wasn't labelling councillors as chicken, or calling them non-transparent

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Temple blessed before repairs

A large crowd gathered for the blessing at the Ratana temple in Raetihi on the weekend. At centre is Manuao Te Kohamutunga Tamou, head of the Ratana Church. Photo: Liz Brooker.

Mōrehu, whānau and the wider community gathered on Monday for a whare whakamoemiti (thanksgiving) and site blessing at the historic Rātana Temple in Raetihi ahead of restoration work beginning on Wednesday.

The six-month construction project follows nearly a decade of planning and fundraising after Bertz (Roberta) Williams first shared her vision of restoring the iconic whare (see story, Page 9).

Travelling from Rātana, Āpotoro Robbie Williams was joined by Manuao Te Kohamutunga Tamou, Tumuaki Tuawaru (VIII) o Te Hāhi Rātana, and the brass band Ngā

Reo for the service, which saw the temple filled beyond capacity and more than 50 whānau gathering outside to take part.

Following whakamoemiti, Ms Williams' daughter, Waipuna Ratapu-Williams turned the symbolic first sod to mark the beginning of the restoration project.

The last major repair of the temple was in the late 1980s when builder Brian Te Whatu, was joined by Marie Ponga, Ngakoata (Larry) Ponga, Lina Rongonui, Pat Rongonui, Bobby Ruben, Olive Te Whatu, Sonny Te Whatu, Bill Thompson and Mina Williams.

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Horizons councillors debate 4.7% budget

From Page 1

ent, but felt they had put such emphasis on reducing rates that they had to either be strict or there were no rules at all.

Naylor was critical of fellow councillor Fiona Gordon who had sought council's approval for funding from reserves to go toward the development of regional spatial planning and natural environment planning.

"We either make a principal decision to do nothing or we do it all and make the principal decision to put the rates up by 10%," Naylor said.

Gordon said uncertainty and changes as a result of government reforms were all the more reason for the regional council to ensure clear plans for the future of the region's environment, waterways and people were invested in.

"To me as a regional councillor, if we aren't putting resources into these planning matters, what purpose are we really serving this council and our community?," Gordon said.

The council did not vote in favour of Gordon's suggestion.

The 4.76% rates figure outlined for next year could change, but at this stage the savings allowed for greater investments in Whanganui passenger services, a new Ashhurst school bus service and additional possum control measures.

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



Horizons regional councillor, Jono Naylor, was vocal at the most recent meeting in Palmerston North. Photo: Warwick Smith / Manawatū Standard.

Regional Council rates savings

The Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council (Horizons) has outlined the impacts of its rates increases.

Horizons says the 4.76% average rates increase allows for:

- Contracted inflation only
- Depreciation increases for additional assets
- Changes to Kiwisaver contributions
- Whanganui Passenger Transport service improvements
- Organisational electronic contents management project recovery
- Additional possum control
- The new Ashhurst school bus service
- Offset by savings in reduced Infrastructure Insurance premiums.

Savings

Savings have been made by making the following changes to Year 3 of the 2024-34 Long-term Plan:

- Delay the implementation of new bus services, saving \$1m.
- Remove and reconsider the following roles as part of the 2027-37 Long-term Plan: new transport team leader role from the Transport team (\$60,000); new Senior Mātauranga role

from the Science team (\$100,000); new senior scientist – natural hazards role from the Science team (\$112,000); new Social Scientist role from the Science team (\$100,000); new Senior Policy Advisor role from the Policy team (\$100,000); new Iwi Advisor role from the Policy team (\$90,000); two new Compliance Officer roles from the Compliance Monitoring team (180,000); new Senior Compliance Officer role from the Compliance Monitoring team (\$100,000); new Principal Advisor role from the Compliance Monitoring team (\$112,000); new Investigator role from the Compliance Monitoring team (\$90,000); new Consents Planner role from the Consents team (\$75,000); new Biosecurity Officer role from the Biosecurity team (\$100,000).

Previous planned spending to be cut:

- Natural Hazards research and monitoring from the Science activity (\$50,000);
- Land research and monitoring from the Science activity (\$50,000);
- NPS-Indigenous Biodiversity work from the Policy activity (\$100,000);
- Additional spend for EPlan work from the Policy activity (\$20,000);
- Additional spend for the Integrated Catch-

ment Management project (\$100,000);

- Additional spend for Totara Reserve (\$50,000);
- Additional spend for Pest Plant Biocontrol programme (\$100,000);
- Additional spend for Priority Habitats work (\$50,000);
- Additional spend for Environmental Grants within the Sustainable Land Use Initiative (\$100,000);
- Use of reserves from the Climate Change reserve to fund the Regional Climate Risk assessment (\$100,000);
- Use of General reserves to fund the Horowhenua Wetland maintenance work (\$100,000);
- Use of reserves in line with funding policy to fund the Regional Pest Management Plan review (\$150,000);
- Reduction in the proposed additional spend for Possum Control in the Biosecurity activity (\$100,000) from a \$250,000 increase down to \$150,000 increase; and
- The proposed additional spend of \$100k for Spatial Planning work was brought forward from Year 3 of the 2027-37 Long-term Plan to Year 2, so there no increase this Annual Plan.

High winds close transfer station

Ohakune's rubbish transfer station was closed on Monday due to high winds. A skip bin was provided outside the facility for people needing to drop off pink rubbish bags.

Iwi returns order to season ceremonies

Local iwi Ngāti Rangi has marked the revival of the Hautuku ceremony Te Maru o te Tau at their annual Maunga Karakia at the top of the Ohakune Mountain Road on Thursday.

It was the fifth of five ritenga (customary practice) observed throughout the year – four acknowledging the seasons and the fifth to release (tuku) by farewelling loved ones who have passed in the past year, and by letting go of any unwanted energy to start the new year afresh.

In recent years, the five ritenga have been observed as one. As knowledge is revived, the ritenga are returning to their original order in the hope that they will help whānau of Te Taiuru reconnect to te taiao (the environment) and the natural rhythms of nature.

Te Maru o te Tau is conducted at sunset

during the full moon phases of the last lunar month of the year, signalling the start of winter wānanga during the Pō Roa o Takurua (the long nights of winter).

The ritenga began by acknowledging Koro Ruapehu, before turning to the fire, where each person was invited to release unwanted energy by placing a rau (leaf, frond).

At the western edge of the maunga, as the sun set, the names of loved ones who have passed were called out to send them on their journey to Te Whata nā Maru and te pō. There, they will become stars during Te Tahī o te Tau, the pre-dawn Hautapu.

Finally, back at the fire, Te Maru o te Tau was brought to a close.

"Ko te Kāhui Maunga te mātaupuna o te ora – Together we understand that the mountain clan is the source of our origin and wellbeing."



ABOVE: facing towards the sunset, the names of loved ones who have passed are called out. BELOW: placing a rau on the fire is done to release unwanted energy. Photos: Ngāti Rangi.



Ruapehu Events & What's On

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 for details

Whakapapa Opening Day 4 July

See www.whakapapa.com for details

Matariki 10 July

AUGUST 2026

Royal Theatre Movies, starts 7pm

Smash Palace (R16) 15 August

Winter Art Exhibition 23 Aug - 6 Sept

Paul Stieglbauer - paul@4thames.co.nz

SEPTEMBER 2026

Retro Day 26 Sept

Paul Stieglbauer - paul@4thames.co.nz

Waimarino Art Awards 26 Sept - 10 Oct

See WaimarinoArtAwards.org.nz for more information

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Iwi unveils star compass to teach young astronomers

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting

A traditional Māori star compass built to teach the next generation how to read the skies and live by the stars has been unveiled at a Ngāti Rangī kura in Ohakune.

The whana tongitongi Te Tatau o Rongonui, a traditional star compass or kāpehu whetū used across Polynesia as a forecasting and navigation tool, was opened at dawn on Thursday at Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngāti Rangī.

The project was led by Ngāti Rangī celestial researchers Riwaru Tihema and Rauroha Brown and designed according to traditional Ngāti Rangī narratives and astronomical knowledge.

“To be honest, I’m absolutely overwhelmed,” Brown said after the dawn ceremony.

“We built this kāpehu whetū, this whana tongitongi, at the kura so we could teach the next generation of astronomers. It creates another inside-outside classroom environment and why not be out in the elements, in the taiao?”

The whana tongitongi is a replica of ancient open-air star compasses still found in Tahiti and Hawai’i.

“The majority of their compasses are primarily rock and stone, built in the shape of a square or diamond. You can easily put the cardinal points on each corner.”

Pou (posts) will be erected around the new whana tongitongi, aligning with geographical and celestial markers. The structure measures seasonal time using the rising and setting of stars, the moon and the sun.

Brown said the star compass was both a time marker and a forecasting tool that would help whānau reconnect with environmental knowledge and traditional food-gathering practices.

Like a GPS

“The reason you would establish one of these whana tongitongi is they’re pretty much like a GPS, a phone or a usb [drive] – a memory holder and resource for delivering information, telling you when to plant, when to hunt. Like a how-to-sustain-your-life app.

“You just have to know how to read it. Once you understand it you can start applying it to your gardening and your hunting and fishing, because it will tell you the optimum time to gather or harvest.”

Tihema and Brown are part of a collective of researchers from Taranaki, Whanganui and Rangitīkei, gathering traditional knowledge linked to Puanga, the star marking the Māori new year.

Helen Leahy, pou ārahi/chief executive of Ngā Waihua o Paerangi, said Tihema first proposed building the star compass in 2022, with work beginning the following year.

The project involved cross-referencing manuscripts and kōrero with Ngāti Rangī kaumātua and stakeholders to design a star compass grounded in kōrero tuku iho.



“The intention was for whānau to learn and live by the stars – learning about ceremonies, tuna heke, timings around maara kai, bird and fish migration, moon phases and the age-old practice of looking to the environment for education,” Leahy said.

“They wanted to teach whānau the skills required to read, understand, implement and uphold traditional passing of knowledge from generation to generation; to maintain balance in a way that promotes wellness.”

Brown said ancient open-air astronomical observatories exist throughout Aotearoa, including several in the Waimarino and Waiouru districts. Their locations and functions were not common knowledge.

They reflect sophisticated astronomical observation systems that guided agriculture, seasonal planning and spiritual life.

“It is the same universal concept,” Brown said.

One nearby site on the outskirts of Ohakune contains large stone alignments and astronomical structures, including a water mirror – a stone basin that is filled with water to act as a reflecting telescope.

“The teachings from there, we’ve incorporated into this space here at our kura. It is a similar design – and now we’re passing the mātauranga over to our tamariki,” Brown said.

Kura tumuaki (principal) Pikimai Ouknider said the opening marked the beginning of sharing years of research directly with students.

“Te Kura Kaupapa Māori, being a puna mātauranga (well of knowledge) for Ngāti Rangī, is a beautiful thing where everyone is able to connect to kōrero tuku iho, taonga tuku iho.

“Having the whana tongitongi Te Tatau o Rongonui actually in the kura has taken the level of mātauranga up a notch.”

Ouknider said passing knowledge from parents to children was “succession in the making”.

“Now is an appropriate time to bring forth all that tuku ihotanga. It’s so valuable, not just for our tamariki but the future wealth of Ngāti Rangī itself.

“We’re ready. Our kids are ready. They’re born into this wānanga. All we have to do is awaken it inside them.”

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



The whana tongitongi is similar to those used across Polynesia as a forecasting and navigation tool. Photo supplied.



Ngāti Rangī researcher Rauroha Brown with the whana tongitongi, or traditional star compass, built at Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngāti Rangī in Ohakune. Photo: Moana Ellis.

Classic cars converge for alpine meet



More than 50 classic cars parked up at the National Park School for the annual Alpine Vintage and Classic Autoshow on Sunday – a fundraising event for the school’s Term 3 ski programme. The event combined classic vehicles including a Rolls Royce, Ferraris, hot rods, a Chevrolet camper van, Volkswagens, Fords including an Escort rally cars and other iconic marques. Inset: One of the organisers, Andrea Messenger. Photos: Jude Chevin.

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National Party Candidate
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Unanimous support for home security for some HMW councillors

Amalgamation responsibilities

• Bruce Rollinson's letter makes a bold claim: that 26 elected members should personally produce the technical analysis required for the Government's amalgamation process. It sounds tidy, but it is not how local government works, and Mr Rollinson knows that better than most.

He served multiple terms as a Horizons Regional councillor, earning around \$52,000 per year under the Remuneration Authority determinations of the time. Horizons councillors were never expected to write statutory reports, financial models, or legal assessments. They governed. Professional staff and external specialists carried out the technical work. That is the same model he now criticises.

It is also worth noting that the "26 elected members" he refers to includes 14 community board members, who do not form part of the governing body and have no statutory role in producing amalgamation analysis. Suggesting they should collectively replace policy analysts, lawyers and financial modellers is not realistic, and certainly not something Horizons ever attempted during his tenure.

The \$50,000 he labels a "splurge" is also misrepresented. The amount is up to \$50,000, it is a cap, not a target, and the work may cost half that. Because it is debt-funded, the cost is spread over multiple years rather than landing on ratepayers in a single hit. That is prudent financial management of a one-off requirement imposed from Wellington.

It also matters that this is the first amalgamation process in 30 years. There is no modern template, no off-the-shelf analysis, and no existing work councils can simply reuse. The Government requires formal, evidence-based assessments, and if councils fail to provide them, they are instructed to redo them, usually at greater cost.

Ratepayers deserve accuracy. They also deserve consistency. It is difficult to reconcile Mr Rollinson's current argument with the governance model he participated in for years, where external expertise was routinely commissioned because responsible councils rely on specialist advice.

This is not about "competence" or "will". It is about meeting statutory obligations imposed by central government. Pretending otherwise may make for a sharp letter, but it does not help the public understand what is actually required of their councils.

John Chapman

By Rebecca Hogan

As a response to the growing trend of elected officials being threatened, Horizons Regional Council has voted in a home security allowance.

The council unanimously agreed to the allowance last week, a scheme which could cost up to \$77,000.

If councillors were found to be facing a substantial threat through a centrally outlined safety risk assessment, they could access up to \$4500 for the purchase and installation of home security, and another \$1000 in any year for monitoring and callouts.

"Giving councillors the ability to apply for this is the right thing to do," said councillor Elijah Pue.

Whether members accessed the allowance was their business, not that of the council or the public, he said.

Chair Nikki Riley said it would be "extraordinarily unlikely" for all 14 councillors to be eligible or have the desire to request security systems, but having the option was necessary.

Riley acknowledged if that unlikely scenario eventuated it would cost up to \$77,000 and need to be included within the long term plan.

Based on concerns the Remuneration Authority received from councils throughout the country, from 1 July this year elected officials could access the allowance, which was already available to members of central government.

The Remuneration Authority provided a health and safety risk assessment, enabling an impartial assessment of whether councillors

Turn to Page 5



Through the Remuneration Authority, regional councillors are eligible for a grant of up to \$5500 for the installation of home security systems and the upkeep of them. Council chair Nikki Riley said it was "highly unlikely" all 14 councillors would seek this allowance or be eligible for the security systems. Photo: Warwick Smith, Manawatū Standard.

Mountain clubs get stuck in for Whakapapa clean up

Around 110 volunteers from the Ruapehu mountain clubs converged on Whakapapa on Sunday to help clean up the slopes before the start of the 2026 snow season. "It was great to see so many volunteers giving up their time to make a positive difference and there was a real sense of pride seeing the amount of rubbish collected and removed from the mountain," said a Clubs spokesperson. "Every bag filled was a small contribution towards keeping our maunga healthy, clean and beautiful." They thanked Debbie Evans and the RMCA executive team for organising the event and Samuel Fletcher and the team at New World Ohakune for supplying the post-working bee barbecue. Photo supplied.



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

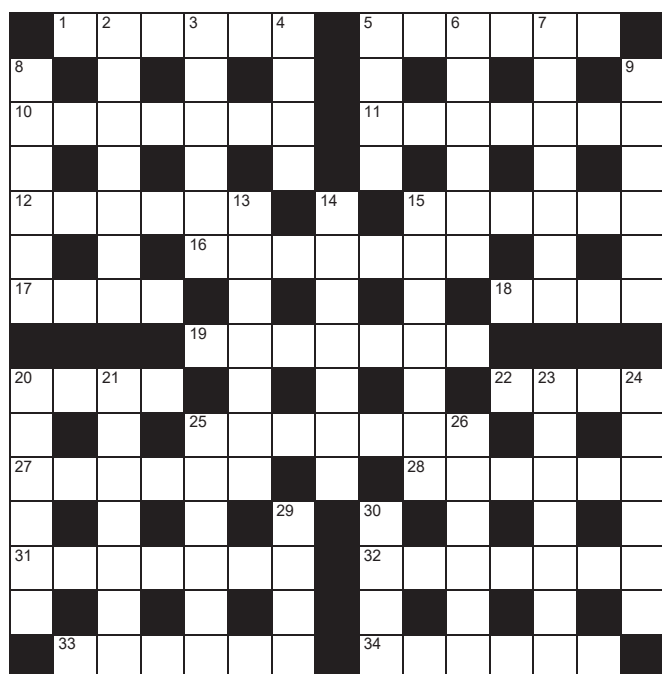
QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

- 1. Perfect world (6)
- 5. Small packet (6)
- 10. Surgical pincers (7)
- 11. Romantic (7)
- 12. Bottom of the ocean (6)
- 15. Higher in rank (6)
- 16. Considered (7)
- 17. Implement (4)
- 18. Vend (4)
- 19. Decree (7)
- 20. Arrears (4)
- 22. Excludes (4)
- 25. Order to appear in court (7)
- 27. Intelligence (inf) (6)
- 28. Extreme fear (6)
- 31. Staying power (7)
- 32. Oblivious (7)
- 33. Hold together (6)
- 34. Scabbard (6)

Down

- 2. Twister (7)
- 3. Favour (6)
- 4. Too (4)
- 5. Kill (4)
- 6. Shut (6)
- 7. Controversial, inflammatory (7)
- 8. Counteract (6)
- 9. Relating to the stars (6)
- 13. Deceitful (7)



- 14. Traditions (7)
- 15. Navigation instrument (7)
- 20. Cease (6)
- 21. Boastfulness (7)
- 23. Side by side (7)
- 24. Filter (6)
- 25. Try, struggle (6)
- 26. Staid (6)
- 29. Nemesis (4)
- 30. Swear (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

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

EASY 2

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

MEDIUM

The Top 10

1. In the *Lord of the Rings* films, who played Gandalf?
2. Which band had hits in 1984 with *Relax*, *Two Tribes* and *The Power of Love*?
3. Which Russian composed the 1812 Overture?
4. Which New Zealander co-wrote and starred in the Australian television satire *The Games*, about the Sydney Olympics?
5. Is podzol a medication for acne, a fungal disease of bean and pea crops or an infertile acidic soil?
6. Who wrote the novel *A Journey To the Centre of the Earth*?
7. What disaster hit Poverty Bay in 1988?
8. What is the title of Christchurch's new city centre sports stadium?
9. What was New Zealand's new constitutional status in 1907?
10. What is the final event in a decathlon?

CROSSWORD

25. Strive, 26. Sedate, 29. Bane, 30. Cuss.
Desist, 21. Bravado, 23. Abreast, 24. Screen,
13. Devious, 14. Customs, 15. Sextant, 20.
6. Closed, 7. Emotive, 8. Offset, 9. Astral,
Down: 2. Tomado, 3. Prefer, 4. Also, 5. Slay,
33. Cohere, 34. Sheath.
28. Terror, 31. Stamina, 32. Unaware,
20. Debt, 22. Bars, 25. Summons, 27. Smarts,
16. Reputed, 17. Tool, 18. Sell, 19. Dictate,
11. Amorous, 12. Seated, 15. Senior,
Across: 1. Utopia, 5. Sachet, 10. Forceps,

SUDOKU

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

THE TOP 10

- 1 Ian McKellen, 2 Frankie Goes to Hollywood,
3 Tchakikovsky, 4 John Clarke, 5 An infertile acidic
soil, 6 Jules Verne, 7 Cyclone Bola, 8 Te Kaha, or
One New Zealand Stadium, 9 Dominion,
10 1500 metres.

Ruapehu urged to keep talking on reform options

Strong community turnout at public meetings in Ohakune and Taumarunui to discuss the Government's Simplifying Local Government Head Start pathway and possible amalgamation options has provided valuable insights for Council, says the mayor, Weston Kirton.

"It was great to see people coming along to be part of the conversation on Ruapehu's future," said Mayor Kirton.

"People were able to hear about the information available so far, discuss potential amalgamation options, ask questions, and have their say on what was important to them."

Kirton said it was clear from the feedback received that there are a wide range of viewpoints people want taken into account.

"These included everything from access to health services, river catchments, iwi boundaries, links to the maunga, economic connections, splitting the district, and communities of interest amongst other things.

"The wide variety of 'lenses' through which people view their affiliation to neighbouring areas means there is no clear and obvious winner in any direction that everyone would all agree on."

Kirton said that while Government has set out criteria under which it will assess any proposals, there are still many unknowns.

"What we do know is that the potential changes being discussed are significant and will shape the future governance, representation, services, infrastructure, and boundaries of our district for

many years to come."

He said it was stressed at both hui that Ruapehu has a number of pathways open to it.

Kirton said that every option will have pros and cons, which will come with trade-offs for local voice, representation, cost, and how closely decisions reflect local needs.

Today, Wednesday 3 June Council will have a presentation from consultants Morrison and Low outlining possible opportunities, benefits, challenges, and costs associated with options which could be considered.

"Any future arrangement supported by Council would need to deliver clear and measurable benefits for Ruapehu communities," said Kirton.

"From my viewpoint this must mean protection for effective local representation, local voice and identity, and economies of scale with clear cost benefits."

Following the Council meeting, Council intends to seek further public feedback through a community survey on the identified options.

"The survey will not be a binding poll but will help inform any amalgamation proposals we might put to Government before the 9 August deadline.

"It should also be noted that any final decisions ultimately sit with Government, who could choose to override Council's and the community's wishes."

Council's Wednesday meeting will be livestreamed via Council's website at ruapehudc.govt.nz and the community is encouraged to listen in.



Ruapehu resident Peter Pitts speaks his mind at the Ohakune meeting.

Waimarino elders' stories in project to premiere on Friday

Untold stories of the Waimarino community will be shared during the premiere of a new documentary and book project in Raetihi.

Whenua Whispers brings together the stories of 12 people from the region, aiming to preserve their histories for future generations.

It uses interview footage and written narratives to explore identity, whenua and the deep and binding connections within Waimarino.

Writer and director George Potaka said he wanted to gather stories from people who were in their latter years.

From stallion trainers to possum furriers and recipients of the New Zealand Order of Merit, the interviewees largely drew on memories of child-

hood and growing up.

Potaka tried to capture the experiences of Māori and Pākehā in the region.

"You can see the split between Māori and Pākehā. The Māori did similar stuff, they had fun and games, eeling and crayfishing. And then you get to the Pākehā side and theirs was based mainly around work.

"Breaking in the land and that ... there was quite a good contrast, but then in between you've got the half-castes, who were walking both lines.

"It's really cool, and the stories are really, really interesting."

The premiere is at the Raetihi Royal Theatre on June 5 from 4-6pm, with doors opening at 3.30pm.

Councillors' security

From Page 4

required such measures at their homes.

Councillors were to provide documents such as police reports, formal complaints and media references, as well as evidence of targeted harassment, physical intrusion, and online to offline escalation.

Funding options were not discussed at the meeting.

Within the report to council, it outlined that any claims made within the first year would be funded through reserves or an overspend of the budget would need to be acknowledged.

Council voted against a clause which would have required members to pay back their allowance if they were in their first term.

This was viewed to be too difficult to financially manage by some councillors around the table.

The security equipment was not the responsibility of the council, but of elected members, and the systems would remain the property of councillors once they had left office.

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

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HMW approves Whangaehu partnership funding by slim majority

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting

Horizons Regional Council has approved funding of nearly \$350,000 a year for a statutory partnership board and its work to improve the health of the Whangaehu River catchment.

Councillors were sharply divided in a closely-contested vote, with the proposals scraping through 7-6 after lengthy debate.

Ngā Wai TōTā o Te Waiū and the Te Waiū-o-Te-Ika framework were established under the Ngāti Rangi Claims Settlement Act 2019 as a statutory iwi-council partnership for the Whangaehu catchment.

The board is responsible for developing and implementing Te Tāhoratanga, a health and wellbeing strategy for the river system.

Under the legislation, Horizons is required to provide administrative and technical support for the board and must also “endeavour to accommodate” unbudgeted resource requests.

Council officers sought approval on Tuesday for administrative funding (\$97,300), strategy development costs (up to \$100,000) and two part-time support roles (\$150,000), totalling nearly \$350,000 a year through to 2028.

Ngā Wai TōTā o Te Waiū chair Che Wilson told the council the Whangaehu catchment was a rare river system and the only example of its kind in the country. The river was traditionally used for healing and was an access route for migratory fish.

“Ngāti Rangi led the establishment of this arrangement for the Whangaehu. We did this because the system wasn’t looking after the river,” Wilson said.

“Even with our contributions over

many, many decades, our pleas for better river management were ignored.”

Wilson said the framework Te Waiū o te Ika would seek to change this while still encouraging good, sustainable use.

“We want to get on with the job,” Wilson said.

Biologically dead

Raki Māori (Māori North) councillor Elijah Pue said parts of the river system were now considered “biologically dead” because of historic water diversion and acidity issues.

At least 26 tributaries of the Whangaehu along key waterways in the Rangitikei catchment had been diverted through 22 intakes, with flows in some places reduced by up to 100%.

“The result has been the loss of freshwater sources for communities like Karioi,” Pue said.

Horowhenua councillor Hamish Easton said the funding request seemed “very, very excessive”.

He asked what the council was explicitly required to provide under the legislation.

Several councillors questioned the long-term cost to ratepayers and sought clearer budget detail.

Palmerston North councillor Jono Naylor said he had heard a lot from councillors about cost to ratepayers and not much about benefit.

“The point is to improve the river – for the sake of the river, but also for the sake of those people who live and farm and do whatever else they do in that catchment.

“It seems that we only want to do what we absolutely legally have to and not an inch more. I don’t hear about that when we talk about other stuff around this table.”



Horizons Regional Council has narrowly agreed to fund statutory partnership board Ngā Wai TōTā for its work to improve the health of the Whangaehu River catchment. Photo supplied.

He said it concerned him that this approach “only ever comes up” when the council considered mana whenua initiatives.

“If we only did what we were legally required to do, there’d be no SLUI, there’d be no flood protection, there’d be no drainage schemes, there’d be no buses.

“Sometimes, the best thing we can do is work with a whole community,

including mana whenua, to deliver the very best outcomes for the river and for the people.”

Chair and Ruapehu councillor Nikki Riley said the challenge for her community at home was bearing the cost.

She cautioned that the council was under scrutiny.

“We are in the public eye, being watched – particularly as Horizons is losing its mandate in the foreseeable

future as a regional council.”

However, she supported the work of Ngā Wai TōTā as having “immense value”, and backed funding the secretariat and the development of Te Tāhoratanga.

Riley joined councillors Jono Naylor, Elijah Pue, Te Kenehi Teira, Bruce Gordon, Fiona Gordon and Wiremu Te Awe Awe in supporting the funding.

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

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New outage portal promises clearer power outage updates

The Lines Company (TLC) will soon be launching a refreshed 'power outage portal' – a modern, web-based outage portal that will make it easier for customers to get real-time information about planned and unplanned outages when they need it most – is promised by a local electricity company.

The new portal – which will be live on Tuesday 16 June – will provide live outage status updates and maps, improved performance during high-demand events such as storms and a clearer view of restoration progress, says The Lines Company (TLC). The aim is to help customers "quickly understand what's happening (including when maintenance work is planned) and what to expect next".

The new platform would also reduce manual handling for internal teams.

"We know how important it is to stay connected when the power goes out," says TLC general manager digital, Craig Hackett.

"This refresh gives customers a faster, clearer and more dependable way to find outage information – especially during severe weather, when lots of people are looking for updates at the same time."

Customers who can't access digital channels, or who prefer not to use the portal, can still call TLC for help. Automated outage updates are available by phone and the team will continue to take calls and fault reports.

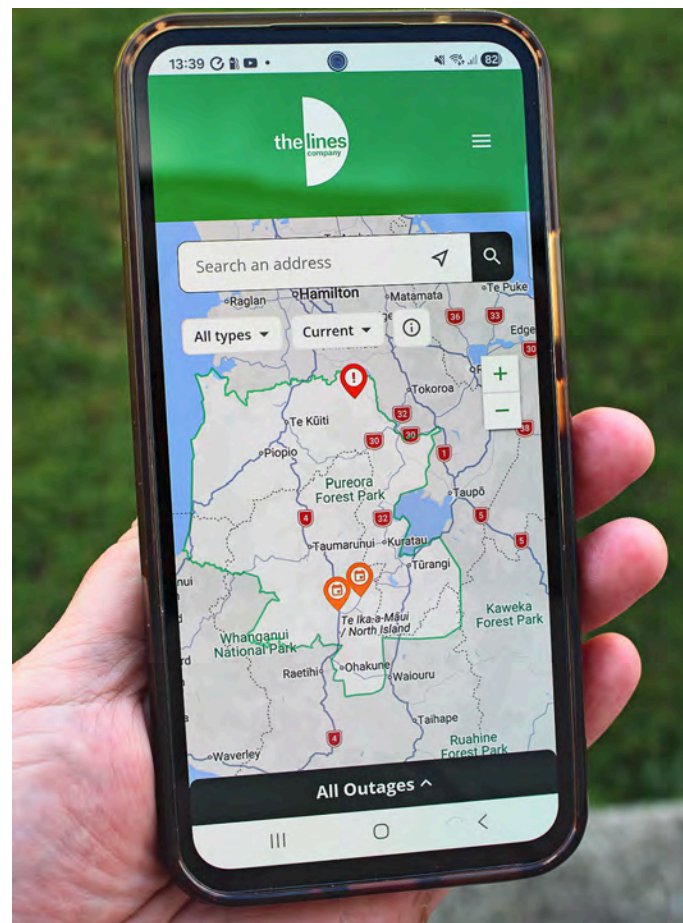
"The new Outage Portal is an early,

tangible example of our shared services partnership with Counties Energy in action," says Hackett.

"Just five months into the partnership, this initiative shows how collaboration can deliver practical outcomes for customers quicker than working in isolation. Adapting Counties Energy's proven platform for the TLC network has saved time and cost for TLC, while improving service delivery for our community."

Once the portal goes live, customers can access the Outage Portal via the TLC website.

"We encourage customers to check the portal first for the latest power outage status and updates.



The Lines Company's new outage portal displays outages in a geographic format with colour-coded locator pins for planned and unplanned projects, as well as showing current outages. Customers can toggle map features on and off to view the information most relevant to them.

Mangapurua Track winter closure

A section of the Mangapurua Track is closed from Tuesday 2 June for the winter, to allow time for preparation work and planned trail upgrades. The Mangapurua Track is expected to reopen by Labour Weekend as weather, track conditions and maintenance progress allow.

Significant bridge replacement work is

planned this year across both the Mangapurua and Kaiwhakauka sections to help improve safety, resilience and the long-term Grade 3 Great Ride experience.

The Kaiwhakauka Track remains open, but users are asked to plan carefully, check conditions and take sensible caution. Ruatiti Road is currently under

repair, so access options are limited until it reopens.

All other trail sections are open as normal.

Full details, including access information, bridge project updates and hazard reporting are on the Mountains to Sea trail status page.



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Temple towers to come down after works blessing

After nearly a decade of planning and fundraising, restoration work on the historic Rātana Temple in Raetihi will begin this week, marking a major milestone for Te Pāriha o Raetihi and supporters across Aotearoa.

A community blessing was held at the site on King's Birthday, 1 June, before restoration work started on Tuesday with the demolition of the temple's two towers.

Aroha Williams said the project had been driven by years of determination, generosity and belief in the kaupapa.

"In 2017 it was the dream of my sister Bertz to fully restore our Whare Whakamoemiti.

"Through a chance meeting and then incredibly generous and ongoing support of Auckland architects Christina van Bohemen and Aaron Sills, we are now actually ready to begin."

Originally a gothic church built by Māori Methodists in the 1920s, it was later gifted to the Rātana movement and converted into a temple and opened in 1926.

Tahupōtiki Wiremu Rātana, the founder of the Rātana movement, named the temple Taku Whare Tuatahi (My First House). The centenary of this opening will be in 2026.

Williams said whānau and supporters had worked for years to raise funds for the restoration and preserve the iconic building.

"While we are still fundraising, being able to start building has only been made possible through the generosity of whānau from around

Aotearoa and the world.

"Whether through a raffle ticket, a donation, or a koha, everyone has played an integral part in helping turn the dream of Bertz into reality."

The project had been awaiting building consent before restoration works could begin. The work will be led by Mōrehu builder Piha Smith of Kaihanga in Raetihi.

Williams said the whakamoemiti at 11am on Monday acknowledged the many people who had contributed to the project and celebrate the start of restoration works.

"We want to sincerely thank everyone who has supported us. From the bottom of our hearts, we are so grateful for your generosity, your koha, your aroha and your belief in this kaupapa."

Once the towers are demolished, the temple will be lifted and moved to the paddock behind, allowing work to begin on the new foundations.

Williams said the restoration represented both the preservation of an iconic and architecturally significant building and the ongoing revitalisation of Raetihi.

The restoration has also received major support from the Awhero Nui Charitable Trust, Four Regions Trust, Jon Preston Trust, Ruapehu District Council through the Better Off fund, Te Puna Tahua – Lottery Grants Board and the Whanganui Community Foundation.

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The Ratana band provided the music for the blessing ceremony at the Temple.



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Council holds fire on merger

Raetihi Borough Councillors have decided to delay consideration of a letter from Brian Elwood, chairman of the Local Government Commission, on amalgamation of the three Waimarino local authorities.

The letter outlined proposals for amalgamation and suggested that one final effort should be made to reach agreement.

The Mayor, Garrick Workman, said at the Raetihi Borough Council meeting last week that it would be better to discuss the letter at the council's next meeting after the Waimarino County Council had made their decision.

"It's not that we are hinging our decision on what the county do or do not do, but I am personally losing enthusiasm for our proposal," he said.

Mr Workman said that no authority would be better off with the present amalgamation proposals, and may be significantly worse off in the short term.

Cr Cornwall said that polls taken recently in areas

where amalgamation was about to take place showed the public were not very interested.

In the light of these polls he said that the concern expressed for ratepayers in the amalgamation debate might be misplaced because they couldn't care less.

Mr Workman said it would be a pity if amalgamation of some sort lapsed completely. Mr Elwood's letter was to be distributed to councillors.

Ohakune Borough Council have already discussed Mr Elwood's letter and accepted most of his proposals.

However Ohakune Councillors wanted the representation formula changed to give them four members instead of three, against three for Raetihi and five for Waimarino County.

Later in the meeting Raetihi councillors decided to go into committee to discuss the 1986-87 estimates, a newsletter to Ngapakihī ratepayers and a Health Department report concerning the property of a borough ratepayer.

Hurlstone's cut back on staff

Earthmoving contracting company Hurlstone's are reducing their work force by 11 men in a winter retrenchment.

The company's general manager Lance Lampport said that some of these workers had been employed on a casual basis and had been aware of the seasonal nature of their work.

He said that Hurlstone's share of the rail electrification project was slowing down for the winter and the big roading contract north of Raetihi was nearly finished.

Mr Lampport said that rumours that Hurlstone's were closing down completely were untrue.

"The Ohakune branch is a very important part of our operation and we see ourselves very much identified with the community here," he said.

Mr Lampport said that when summer came the company would begin winding up its operations again.

Meantime several of Hurlstone's former employees have found other work and some are to work on Turoa Skifield.

Raetihi numbers up

The release of provisional figures from the March census should give heart to Raetihi.

Raetihi borough population has increased between 1981 and 1986 from 1247 to 1294, a 3.7 per cent rise.

Waimarino County population however, shows a light drop from 1453 to 1449.

The figure for Ohakune borough has yet to be released.

In other parts of the Bulletin circulation area National Park numbers show a decline from 261 to 216, a 17.2 per cent loss. Owhango showed a slight increase from 219 to 223.

The population for Waiouru, which has no standing as a local authority, is included in Rangitikei County. However because of its size a figure for the camp will be released later.

Ruapehu shelter 'winterised'



On a perfect sparkling day near Mt Ruapehu's crater lake recently solar panels on Dome Shelter were lowered for the winter. MWD radio technician Barry Hishman, and park assistant Simon Gardner de-ice the panels with park ranger Paul Dale in the foreground. Through the winter ice builds up to twice the seven-metre length of the shelter and three metres on top.

(Photo: Lester "Snow" Bain.)

Fire brigade fundraising going well

Fund-raising by the Ohakune Volunteer Fire Brigade to help them buy hydraulic cutting equipment is going well.

Already \$1300 in donations have come in since last week giving them a total of \$3400 out of the needed \$10,590.

Deputy fire chief Ben Goddard said local businesses were right behind the project for which fire staff were very grateful.

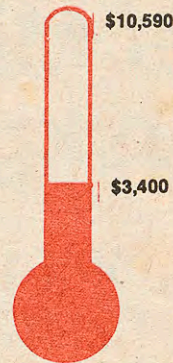
However he said that they still want more articles for the auction on Saturday 14

June and asked that everyone check their trailers before going to the tip.

On Sunday 8 June firemen will be driving around Ohakune in a fire engine carrying out a house to house collection.

Mr Goddard said the fire chief Max Martin was looking for the highest bids to scrub people's backs in a donated bathtub, with a donated brush, so watch out!

And don't forget the Ohakune film premier on Thursday 12 June.



The barometer is rising. Keep it up!

Raetihi constable talks on crime

A public meeting to look at ways of overcoming petty crime in Raetihi was suggested by Constable Trevor Pullen when he spoke to Raetihi Borough councillors last week.

He was speaking to the council meeting about Neighbourhood Support and Neighbourhood Watch Groups which were proving successful in cities.

He said that these groups were of less relevance in rural areas because the conditions they set out to correct, such as neighbours not knowing each other, were not present in the country.

"Many country people are related, know their neighbours well and know about what is going on," he said.

Constable Pullen said that in Raetihi about 80 per cent of arrests were for offences committed under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. Most burglaries took place between 11pm and 2am and were often not planned but were spur-of-the-moment efforts after hotels closed.

He also said that most offenders were aged between 15 and 25 and he was concerned about the amount of alcohol and cannabis available to young people.

Family

It was important people realised that crime was a community problem. Family and friends often knew of offenders but did nothing about it.

"The Police are just the medium for the community to act against those who offend against society's rules," he said.

In the end it was the community which had to act and assist the Police.

"Often there is no real family concern in this area which saddens me."

The Mayor, Garrick Workman, commented that with the very wide district for which Constable Pullen was responsible it was unfortunate that there was only one policeman.

"This must be the busiest one-man station in the country. It is ridiculous that it should continue," he said.

The Mayor said he would continue to push for the reinstatement of a second constable in Raetihi.

Council decided to take the initiative and call a public meeting to discuss ways of counteracting offences by young people.

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

History beckons for Hungary-bound Jack Jordan

History beckons for two Kiwi Timbersports athletes in Budapest, Hungary this weekend, including Ruapehu's Jack Jordan.

Top Kiwi axeman Jack will attempt to become the first four-time champion of the Stihl Timbersports World Trophy event, while Aussie-based Kiwi, Ashleigh Marsh, will represent New Zealand at the first ever Stihl Timbersports Women's World Championship.

King Country farmer Jack Jordan is heading off to Europe in a rare four-peat world title bid having won the last three Stihl Timbersports World Trophy events against the top 16 axemen on the planet. Jordan's last victory in Milan, Italy was not just a personal best time for 29-year-old Jordan, it was a new world record of 52.53 seconds.

The Stihl Timbersports World Trophy format is like the 20/20 cricket of international wood chopping. It is a quick

fire event with four disciplines back to back (no rest in between) suited to competitors with superior fitness and endurance as they make their way through knockout stages to the final showdown.

Jordan – who's also the current NZ Rural Sports Person of the Year Supreme Award winner – is under no illusions he'll have an even bigger target on his back this year.

"It'll be interesting for sure returning to Europe as the three-time defending champion, but I intend to use that to my advantage and back myself with my fit-

ness and technique and bring that four-peat world title back home."

Jordan's World Trophy event is scheduled for Sunday morning NZ time.

Matthew Gower from Taranaki completes the three person NZ Timbersports Team. Gower will compete in the Stihl Timbersports Rookies (Under 25) World Championship that will take place on Saturday morning NZ Time, just before Marsh takes to the stage in the Women's World Championship.



Jack Jordan in action in Milan, Italy. He is competing on the weekend to try to continue his world-beating record.

Kings weekend market day proves popular



Kate and Jack Purcell brought their KP Studios wares to the market day at the Ohakune Junction on Sunday, with Del Taylor and Jennie Murray. With the cancellation of the Ohakune Carrot Carnival, Jennie and others decided to organise their own market day, calling up a range of people who had taken part in market days in Ohakune in the past. Several businesses and groups answered the call, making a small but successful event. Below: Mark Taylor demonstrates a game he has created, to Leni Philpott.



Ohakune squash

Second week interhouse results saw Dunlop, Tecnifibre and Stellar maintain their winning form. Dunlop beat Unsquashable 100/94, Karakal beat Salming 108/96, Stellar beat Head 107/90 and Tecnifibre beat Prince 116/82. Points to date see Stellar leading with 225, Tecnifibre close behind on 223, Dunlop 202, Unsquashable 201, Salming 198, Karakal 189, Head 185 and Prince 169. This Thursday there is a break with Turangi travelling to Ohakune for an inaugural whole club challenge.

Over the weekend some players travelled to the Levin Open with good results. Sean Drinkwater was runner up in the men's fourth division with Liam McDonough third. Paige Drinkwater was third in the women's Open whilst Kirsty Litt won the women's first division and Keisha McDonough won the women's second division.

June leagues are out. The final matches in the Round the Mountain Interclub competition occurs this week. All six teams are playing at Ohakune. Points to date have Ohakune leading with 50, Ruapehu College 42, Turangi 38 Taumarunui two 25, Waimarino 23 and Taumarunui one 18.

Property Brokers

Ohakune 56 Burns Street



Breathtaking location

An inviting three bedroom log style chalet offers a unique lifestyle opportunity perfect as a holiday retreat or a permanent home. Set on a substantial 1,897sqm (more or less) section with great subdivision potential, the property enjoys a prime location beside the serene Mangawhero River and boasts a breathtaking view of Mount Ruapehu. Inside, the open plan kitchen, dining, and lounge area is warmed by both a woodburner (on wetback) and a heat pump, ensuring comfort year round. Two bedrooms and the bathroom plus an extra toilet are conveniently located downstairs, while a generous mezzanine upstairs currently sleeps six.

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View By appointment
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