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Ruapehu Bulletin

10 June 2026
Issue No 2109

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



Fourth world title for Jack
P7



Licence prize for trophy photo
P2



Vandals trash Ruapehu towns
P3



Raetihi temple on the move
P9

Tūroa now fully locally-owned

Tūroa Ski Area is now run by a 100% locally owned company, following the completion of the ownership transition and the Crown exiting its shareholding in the business.

“It’s a significant milestone for Tūroa and provides long-term certainty for the future of the mountain,” says sole director of Pure Tūroa, Cam Robertson.

As part of the transition, the company’s shareholding structure has been simplified, providing “a clear and stable ownership platform” for the future.

“The original founder shareholders remain strong supporters of Tūroa and will continue to be involved at a consultancy and advisory level,” says Robertson.

“Greg Hickman and Dean Schmidt were instrumental in getting PTL off the ground and helping make it the success it is today,” said Robertson in reference to other original shareholders.

“Their contribution has been invaluable, and we’re really pleased they’ll continue to support the business in an advisory capacity.”

He said the Crown’s 25% shareholding was bought out as part of the ownership transition, adding that “the specific terms and value of the transaction are commercially sensitive”.

Ski hire purchase

“We’ve also recently completed the purchase of the rental side of the SLR business, which will operate from Tūroa HQ in Ohakune.

“The acquisition significantly increases the size and quality of our rental fleet, including a much larger range of premium and performance skis.”

He said this winter will be a transition year as they integrate the operation.

Turn to Page 5

Raetihi’s Karaitiana Horne performs at a weekend of MX extremes



Karaitiana Horne in action at Himitangi on the weekend. Photo: Andy McGechan, www.BikesportNZ.com

It was a case of contrasting extremes at the 63rd annual New Zealand Motocross Grand Prix at Himatangi at the weekend, which saw Raetihi’s Karaitiana Horne take the women’s title.

With rain and mud testing the junior grade riders on Saturday and then harsh sun testing the senior grade riders in a different way the fol-

lowing day, the huge phalanx of riders who had entered certainly needed to bring their ‘A game’ to cope with the various challenges that arose.

“It was a sharp contrast for riders to face damp and treacherous conditions on Saturday, and then we had to impose a delay for racing early on Sunday for safety reasons, until the blinding

sun rose high enough to be out of the riders’ eyes. Rain hats and umbrellas on Saturday, sun hats and sunscreen on Sunday. Who would have figured on that?” said host Manawatu-Orion Motorcycle Club president Brad Ritchie.

Raetihi’s Karaitiana Horne was again the **Turn to Page 2**

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IN BRIEF

Pulp mill still on the market

The Karioi Pulp Mill and Tangiwai Sawmill are still for sale, advises Winstone Pulp International general manager Mike Ryan.

He said they are in discussion with a number of potential buyers, who were looking at a range of uses for the site.

The mills closed down in October 2024, with WPI partly blaming skyrocketing electricity costs.

Ryan said the site still retains caretakers staff as well as security.

Steam train adventure

Seats sold out for the 4 July Mainline Steam 'Ruapehu Mountaineer' – a train trip from Plimmerton (north of Wellington) to Ruapehu. The trip features climate-controlled carriages, panoramic windows, a licensed café and an open-air viewing platform, then coach transfers from Ohakune up to Whakapapa to explore, including a ride on the Sky Waka. The steam train later travels to Waimarino/National Park, before returning to Plimmerton.

MX winner

From Page 1

stand-out individual in the women's racing, alongside Halcombe's Indie Allison. Horne finished 2-1-1 in the senior women's grade, while Allison posted a 1-2-3 scorecard on Sunday to settle for overall runner-up.

The 63rd annual New Zealand Motocross Grand Prix had originally been scheduled to run at its iconic home at Woodville in January, but that meeting fell victim to a torrential onslaught of rain, turning the track and pits area into a quagmire.

Also in the winners' list was Raetihi's Richard Horne (Veterans, Over-35).

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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Taupō photo competition winner hooks a season licence

Years of dedication to the pursuit of trophy trout underpin this year's overall winner in the Taupō fishery photography competition.

The image submitted by experienced trout angler Karl Sawyer shows him proudly holding a huge rainbow trout caught at Lake Otamangakau, within the Taupō Fishing District.

Karl has been fishing the Taupō area for 30 years and says he enjoys the challenges and opportunities the fishery provides.

"Every year is different, it's never boring. This fish was the largest I've caught in over 20 years on Lake Otamangakau, and it was worth every bit of effort," says Karl.

Department of Conservation principal ranger fisheries Mark Venman was impressed with Karl's photo during the judging.

"It's a stunning fish, it's really something special, and you can see the feeling straight away in Karl's face."

The trophy-focused photo will appear on the printed plastic wallet cards for the upcoming 2026/27 Taupō fishing season. Six other winning photographs will be used on the DOC website to illustrate different licence categories.

Trout fishing is a popular 'naturing' activity across the Taupō area and contributes to individual wellbeing, connection to nature, exercise, and kai.

Mark says the photo competition reminds them of the variety of people who make up the angling community.

"Photos show people of all ages and experience levels, using a variety of fishing techniques, all unified by their enjoyment of the Taupō fishery."

All winners will receive a Taupō season fishing licence for the 2026/27 fishing season, which begins 1 July 2026 and runs through to 30 June 2027.

Taupō fishing licence fees remain unchanged from last year.

Taupō fishing season licences for 2026/27 will go on sale on 24 June. All licences can be purchased online at

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Karl Sawyer with his trophy Otamangakau rainbow trout. The photo is also a winner, taking out the Taupō angling photo competition.

www.doc.govt.nz/FishingLicence.

Details of fishing regulations covering the Taupō Fishing District can be found on

the DOC website - Rules and regulations

– what you need to know.

Ex-Ruapehu art teacher wins major award

Richard Lewer – an ex-Ruapehu College art teacher – was named as the winner of Australia's Archibald art prize recently, with his portrait of fellow-artist artist Iluwanti Ken.

A six-time Archibald finalist, Lewer's painting was chosen from 1034 entries this year.

He said he's already spent the \$100,000 prize money five times over in his mind, but he plans to make his dream of having a painting studio at the back of his Melbourne house a reality.

The award has drawn a lot of praise but also some criticism, with the view that he did the wrong thing by painting a portrait of Iluwanti Ken, a friend he's known for years through the Australian art scene, on Country.

Many Australians seem to find Indigenous people – "where they live, and how to actually interact with them" to be quite confronting, says Lewer.

Lewer's portrait of Ken for the Archibald Prize was not a cultural misstep, he says, but "a carefully thought thing" intended to shine a light on an artist he believes



A cropped version of Richard Lewer's portrait of his friend Iluwanti Ken – winner of the 2026 Archibald Prize.

deserves more national recognition.

"You are able to paint an Indigenous person, if you've got a relationship or a friendship, or you feel like you need to do that. But go to Country, be involved, help where you can."

Lewer grew up in Hamilton and completed his fine arts degree at Elam in 1992, with his first job as an art teacher at Ruapehu College.

He writes about a painting completed in 2021, of Mt Ruapehu from Ohakune:

"My first job after art school was teaching art at Ruapehu College. I celebrated my first day at the Ohakune pub with the locals. In class the next day, my students said 'Mr Lewer, Mr Lewer, we saw you passed out outside the pub, what were you doing?'"



Richard Lewer.



Richard Lewer's painting of his time in Ohakune. (cropped).

Vandals hit public facilities: call for info

The local council is calling on residents to help protect community facilities following a spate of vandalism across the district

over the King's Birthday long weekend. Public toilet facilities in Taumarunui, Waiouru, Raetihi, Para Para and Ohakune

all suffered damage, including blocked sinks, broken cubicle doors, damaged toilet seats, hand dryers and soap dispensers, graffiti, and the theft of toilet paper.

Council may be forced to lock or close some facilities at certain times, which is something we would prefer to avoid."

What's important? Kirton calls for amalgamation views

Ruapehu's mayor Weston Kirton wants residents to complete Council's amalgamation survey before it closes at 9pm on Tuesday next week, 16 June.

The survey is part of Council's work to better understand what matters most to Ruapehu communities and their priorities as Council considers possible responses to the Government's Simplifying Local Government Head Start pathway.

Kirton said the Government's reform programme could result in significant changes to local government boundaries as well as structures, representation, and services.

"These are significant changes that would shape the future of our district for many years to come," he said.

"That's why it's important that Council understands what our communities value most and what they want us to take into account as we assess potential options."

Kirton said recent public meetings in Ohakune and Taumarunui highlighted the wide range of factors people consider important.

"People spoke about everything from local representation and decision-making through to health services, economic connections, river catchments, iwi relationships, links to the maunga, and community identity.

"What became clear is that there is no single option that everyone agrees on.

Every potential arrangement comes with trade-offs, which makes it even more important that we hear from as many people as possible."

Kirton said the survey is not a binding poll but will provide valuable information to help inform any proposal Council may choose to submit to Government before the 9 August deadline.

"Council has a responsibility to carefully consider the opportunities, challenges, costs, and benefits of any option. Community feedback is an important part of that process."

Kirton said residents can complete the survey either online or using a hard-copy form.

Hard-copy surveys are printed in the *Ruapehu Bulletin* and the *Taumarunui Bulletin* as well as being available from Council offices in Taumarunui, Ohakune and Raetihi, while online responses can be completed via Council's website.

"Time is short, so I would encourage people not to leave it until the last minute. If you want your views considered, please take a few minutes to complete the survey before it closes."

For more information, to complete the survey online, or to access background information on the Government's Simplifying Local Government reforms, visit ruapehudc.govt.nz.

Walkways and reserves were also damaged by motorcycles.

Candice McNaught, RDC manager community and recreational facilities said vandalism of community facilities had been increasing, costing ratepayers thousands of dollars in repair bills.

"Council has invested significantly in upgrading and improving facilities across the district to support our communities and visitor economy. It is frustrating to see those investments damaged through senseless acts of vandalism," she said.

"Repairing vandalism diverts money away from other community priorities and, if this behaviour continues,

McNaught said RDC was asking the community to be vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour around public facilities.

"If you see vandalism taking place, or have information that could help identify those responsible, please contact Council. Even small pieces of information can make a difference."

"Protecting these facilities is a shared responsibility. By reporting vandalism and suspicious activity, residents can help reduce repair costs and ensure these facilities remain clean, safe and welcoming for everyone."

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact Ruapehu District Council on 07 895 8188 or submit a report through the Antenna app.



The local council is calling on residents to help protect community facilities after a spate of vandalism across the district over the King's Birthday long weekend left ratepayers facing thousands of dollars in repair costs.

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RUAPEHU SNOW BULLETIN

Priceless newspaper! Winter 2025

Your guide to winter at Ruapehu

Diego Chapman Mora enjoys his first ski for 2025, on the first weekend of the Whakapapa season, and the first weekend of skiing for the new owners of the field, Whakapapa Holdings Limited. The Company gave away free ski passes for Happy Valley on their opening days.

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Letters

Puffer fish and seaweed trees

I have been constantly up and down the new bike and hiking track in our UNESCO park looking for educational, scientific and cultural features where small, inconspicuous and cheap QR codes could be placed to attract more and more money-spending visitors to it. And after looking at the appearance of many plants, and at the names Polynesians newly arrived from Tahiti or Rarotonga gave them, I began to think like them.

There was a fish on their coral reefs that protected itself by puffing up, thus opening (tō) its sharp-pointed (tara) scales. So when they found trees with sharp-pointed leaves sticking up, they called them puffer fish trees, or tōtara.

The spreading, overlapping fronds of a grove of tree-ferns with dead fronds below them would have reminded them of approaching death and everlasting darkness. So they were nicknamed Pōnga, becoming dark.

3000 years ago, ancestors of the new arrivals had sailed from the Philippines to the Solomons, Samoa and Tonga with the word lumot for moss clinging to rocks, and limu for similar rock-hugging seaweeds. The later generations migrating to the Tahitian and Rarotongan Islands lowered their tongues slightly and called seaweed rimu. So, when they saw trees with long dangling green ribbons, they called them seaweed trees.

Bellbirds have a “ko-mako” call, so were given that name, and their favourite winter food (kai) was tasty little berries on the pennantia, so they called that tree kaikōmako. There is grove of about 20 of these trees on the loop track a kilometre north of the campsite, but you go there at your own risk: rainwater has carved ruts, some six inches deep, down the middle of about 50 metres of our \$300-a-metre beginners' bike trail that never had any gutters built beside it, nor any maintenance. Tourists, and tour companies, have been complaining.

If you want QR tags for your trees, go to waonui.org
 John Archer



Water damage on Te Ara Mangawhero.

THE WEEKLY WORKOUT answers for each puzzle are included on this page 854

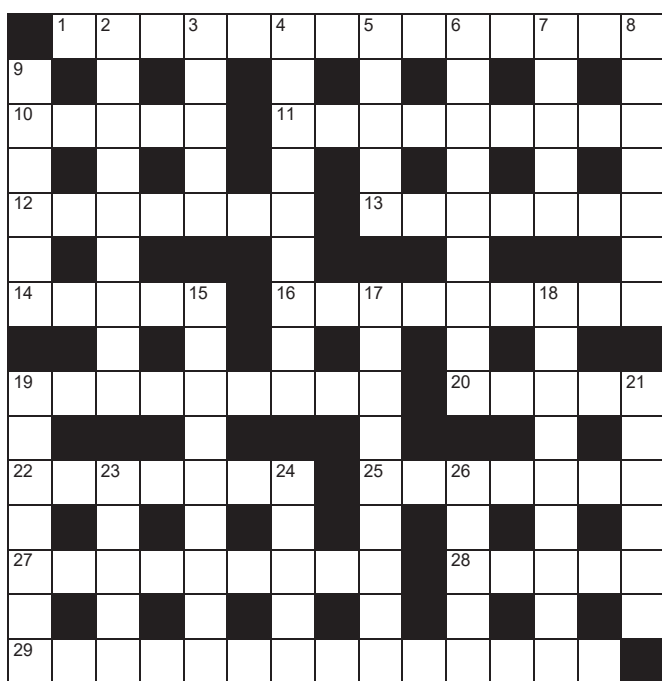
QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

1. Soldiers held captive (9,2,3)
10. Speck (5)
11. Chewing gum flavour (9)
12. Deficiency of red blood cells (7)
13. Add sugar (7)
14. Velocity (5)
16. Complaint (9)
19. Contaminant (9)
20. Indications (5)
22. Gesture of respect (7)
25. Boating event (7)
27. Make up (9)
28. Intended (5)
29. Cowardly (7-7)

Down

2. Be vaguely familiar (4,1,4)
3. Vapour (5)
4. Longing for the past (9)
5. Stinks (5)
6. Us (9)
7. Midriff (5)
8. Entourage (7)
9. Quagmire (6)
15. Chicken leg (9)
17. Arbitrate (9)
18. Bad dream (9)



19. Largest ocean (7)
21. Barely adequate (6)
23. Jewish teacher (5)
24. Pine (5)
26. Person who plays online (5)



Enjoy WordFit puzzles? Magazines available from www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

Puzzles © The Puzzle Company

SUDOKU

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

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

The Top 10

1. Who are the only two New Zealanders to have won a F1 race?
2. The Industrial Revolution began in which century?
3. What type of snake appears on the crown of Egyptian Pharaohs?
4. What was first officially flown from Auckland to Dargaville in 1919?
5. Which legendary bird cremates itself and rises from its ashes every 500 years?
6. Who was Wayne's sidekick in *Wayne's World*?
7. Who was captain when the All Blacks won the World Cup in 1987?
8. Cryptography is the study of what?
9. What is a sliding Japanese latticed door covered with white paper?
10. In which Lloyd Webber musical do Pearl, Dinah, Rusty and Greaseball appear?

CROSSWORD

Across: 1. Prisoners of war, 10. Ounce, 11. Spearmint, 12. Anaemia, 13. Sweeten, 14. Speed, 16. Grievance, 19. Pollutant, 20. Signs, 22. Curtsey, 25. Regatta, 27. Fabricate, 28. Meant, 29. Chicken-hearted. **Down:** 2. Ring a bell, 3. Steam, 4. Nostalgia, 5. Reeks, 6. Ourselves, 7. Waist, 8. Retinue, 9. Morass, 15. Drumstick, 17. Intervene, 18. Nightmare, 19. Pacific, 21. Scanty, 23. Rabbi, 24. Yearn, 26. Gamer.

SUDOKU

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

Auto show drives community support for National Park School

The National Park Business Association has announced that its annual Alpine Vintage & Classic Auto Show, held on Sunday 31 May in the National Park School grounds in Waimarino, saw an increase in classic cars on show, as well as raising funds for the National Park School.

Now in its fourth consecutive year, organisers say the event continues to grow in popularity, attracting vintage and classic vehicle enthusiasts from across the region.

This year's event welcomed more than 70 vehicles on display, with over 50 vehicles officially entered into the people's choice competition.

"Visitors enjoyed a fantastic day of motoring history, community spirit, market stalls, food vendors, and family-friendly entertainment," says Andrea Messinger from NPBA.

People's choice winner was Michael Howard's 2000 Dodge Challenger; 2nd place – Craig Morrison, 1971 Rolls Royce Silver Shadow; 3rd place – Graeme Stratford; 1948 Ford Coupe.

"The event has become an important fixture on the local calendar, bringing together residents, visitors, businesses, and supporters in a celebration of both automotive heritage and community fundraising," says Andrea.

National Park School's new principal, Gaylene, has made a significant impact since joining the school. Her enthusiasm, commitment and proactive approach to building relationships within the wider community have been instrumental in strengthening local connections and



At the auto show, from left, Devotion Lefoe, Brooklyn Pyper Fredrickson, Dean Horiti, Gaylene Edmonds (principal), Abby Messenger, Anika Dewan, Jazz Blackman, Ruapehu mayor Weston Kirton, Levi Lewis and Euka Willing. Photo: NPBA.

supporting initiatives that benefit students. "Gaylene has done an outstanding job getting to know our school, our families, and our wider community.

"Her passion for creating opportunities for our students has been evident from day one and we are grateful for her support of events such as the Vintage and Classic Auto Show."

Funds raised from the event will directly support National Park School's Ski Programme, a ten-week programme held during Term 4. The programme helps students learn skiing and snowboarding from an early age, helping them develop confidence, resilience, outdoor skills and a lifelong appreciation for the mountain

environment. The National Park School PTA thanks all vehicle owners, market stallholders, volunteers, sponsors, and attendees who contributed to the success of the event.

"The support from our community continues to amaze us. Every dollar raised helps provide opportunities that many of our students may not otherwise have access to. The ski programme is a highlight of the school year and an experience that creates lasting memories for our tamariki."

Planning is already underway for next year's event, with organisers looking forward to welcoming even more vehicles and visitors back to Waimarino in 2027.

Tūroa now fully locally-owned

From Page 1

"But we're excited about the opportunities it creates to further enhance the guest experience both on and off the mountain."

Robertson said they are supporting visitation to the wider Ruapehu region through a partnership with the Ohakune Events Charitable Trust and Audiology Touring for this year's Ohakune Mardi Gras.

"Every ticket holder will receive a complimentary Tūroa day pass, representing more than \$1 million worth of lift passes being put back into the event and the region.

"The initiative is designed to encourage visitors to return, experience the mountain, and enjoy everything Tūroa, Ohakune and the wider Ruapehu region have to offer."

Core operations

While there will be no changes to core mountain operations this winter, Robertson says it's an opportunity to reflect on how far Tūroa has come over the past few years.

"And the incredible support we've received from our staff, community, iwi, partners, local businesses, guests, the Crown, and many others who have helped make this possible.

"We're incredibly proud to reach this point and are excited about what lies ahead as we continue investing in the future of Tūroa and



Pure Tūroa takes over SLR ski hire for winter 2026.

the wider Ruapehu region.

"With winter well and truly arriving, temperatures dropping, and opening day fast approaching, there's a real sense of excitement around the mountain.

"We've got a fantastic team in place, some great improvements completed over summer, and are looking forward to welcoming guests back for what we believe will be an outstanding season."

Government loans

Robertson said PTL did have Government loans in place (\$3.05m at the time of the purchase).

"However, these have now been fully settled as part of the recent share buyout and ownership restructure.

"The Government is no longer a shareholder and PTL no longer carries any Government debt.

"The transaction has simplified the ownership structure and provides a clear platform for the company to continue investing in the future of Tūroa and building on the progress made over recent years."

Asked if PTL is still operating under a 10-year concession, Robertson said yes, but that they were also planning to apply to extend that in the next year or so.

Kirton questions road safety measures following deadly long weekend

By Rebecca Hogan

A tragic King's Birthday road toll has Ruapehu's mayor questioning whether automated road safety measures are being positioned where communities need them most, to reduce fatalities and crashes.

The holiday road toll reached seven over the long weekend; marking the worst King's Birthday road toll since 2016. The deadliest incident occurred on State Highway 1 near Waiouru early on Monday morning where three people died.

Ruapehu mayor Weston Kirton brought this tragedy to the Horizons Regional Council regional transport committee meeting on Tuesday, where NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) presented its annual report.

Kirton questioned NZTA over its decision to not install speed safety cameras at the site of the deadly crash on the Desert Rd, and to instead decide to install two automated cameras at different spots in the region.

"We lost three lives over the weekend on the Desert Road – is it fair to say priority should be given to high risk locations where fatalities take place on a regular basis?", asked Kirton.

NZTA's director of regional relationships Linda Stewart told Kirton 17 sites were selected for the installation of these cameras around the country based on collective data from speed and technical assessments.

While acknowledging the "exceptional serious crashes" over the long weekend, Stewart said NZTA couldn't comment on specifics from the Desert Road tragedy or how it could have been prevented while the investigation was ongoing.

Stewart explained that locations for the automated systems were selected partially from speed surveys, which revealed 15% of all vehicles at the selected sites were travelling over or significantly higher than the speed limit.

Work had been completed for the installation of the new average speed safety cameras between Sanson and Foxton on SH1, with camera poles and cameras to be installed and active from the beginning of October this year.

Funding had also been secured for cameras to be installed and functional from October on a key route between Bulls and Hunterville.

Regional police had been consulted during the selection of these sites, with Stewart highlighting the SH1 site between Sanson and Foxton had been selected based on the high level of police already deployed along this road to try and keep drivers speeds down.

Police were said to be supportive of the two sites in the Horizons region as it meant police resources could be reduced at these known hotspots and redeployed at other locations of interest.

Based on national statistics from the Ministry of Transport, Manawatu/Whanganui had the third highest number of fatal crashes in 2025 alongside Canterbury with 32 people having died in the region.

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

Noah Harto

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WAIMARINO BULLETIN

VOICE OF THE RUAPEHU REGION
Tuesday 10 June 1986. Volume 4 No. 2

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Raetihi PD centre proposal

A periodic detention and resource centre will be set up in Raetihi if suitable premises can be found.

The aim will be to provide support and activities for offenders as alternatives to jail sentences and fines.

The establishment of such a centre received wholehearted support from Justice and Labour Department representatives at a meeting in the Waimarino County chambers last week.

The district probation officer from Taihape, Mr Tony Ellis, said he was concerned about the lack of support services in the area for young offenders and the unemployed.

"There are no local body groups and service clubs to call upon for support. Local people are disadvantaged by the lack of facilities in the area," he said.

Under the new Criminal Justice Act there were provisions for retaining offenders in the community where they would be supported, instead of fining or jailing them.

"The act makes provision for the release at mid-term of anybody serving a prison sentence, but this must be to an approved programme and it is virtually impossible around here to get anything in the way of a programme," said Mr Ellis.

Bill Emerson, regional probation manager from Wellington, said that programmes can be set up for young offenders which give the courts alternatives to sending people to prison.

"We can provide equipment, we can provide a supervisor and some funds," he said.

The establishment of the centre is being promoted by locally-based committee, Te Puawaitanga o te au Marama, chaired by Darcy Mills of Raetihi.

The group is a sub-committee of Kotahitanga Church Building Society which is a non-political, non-racial, all-denominational group.

The society has sub-committees around the country helping people in difficulty and creating programmes to assist them.

General secretary of the society, Paul Ropata from Bulls said the society had a hall in Raetihi which might be available as the periodic detention centre.

The society ran a youth club in Raetihi about 10 years ago but it lost support.

However, after consulting with members of the society after the meeting, he reported that the hall was to be sold because of the society's financial commitments in other areas.

But the society is still willing to help the committee establish the centre.

The society now needs to find a hall or building in Raetihi to rent for the centre.

Labour department representatives from Wanganui, Mr Bob Kenworthy and Mr John Bennett, said finance would be available for trainees at the centre, providing they were all registered as unemployed.

Funds and grants for numerous organisations may also be available.

A local person would be needed to act as a trustee for the funds and it is hoped a local solicitor or accountant would provide this service.

• To page 11.

Juniors plant for Arbor Day



Junior pupils of Ohakune Primary School plant a shrub outside their classroom for Arbor Day. The three youngest, from left Catherine English, Charlene Reihana and Beau Pidgeon, all five, did the planting.

Brigade fund-raising going well

Ohakune Fire Brigade members are thrilled that fund-raising for new rescue cutting equipment will be almost achieved by the end of this week.

Support from locals, businesses, and out-of-town people continues to be overwhelming. The brigade is most appreciative for

donations, gifts of items for auction and other efforts.

This week sees the major fund-raising activities. The Ohakune film premiere of *Police Academy III* is only 48 hours away now. The film will be screened at the Ohakune Kings Theatre on Thursday on 12 June at 7.30pm.

The film will be followed by a wine and chicken evening and mystery auction in the old F.C.O.S. shop between the BNZ and the chemist.

Tickets are \$10 and available from Johnny or Alan Nation at Skiers Inn phone 58-152, or Aubry Dodd,

Trusteebank Wanganui phone 58-154. Hurry as there are only a limited number of tickets left.

The monster auction begins at 10am on Saturday 14 June at the Ohakune shopping centre, in the old F.C.O.S. shop and in the carpark in front.

There will be a demonstration of the Holmatro rescue cutting equipment after the auction.

Items for auction are still urgently required. So search through your attics and car sheds and contact Johnny Nation at Skiers Inn or Aubry Dodd to have your items collected.

Brigade members ask you to join them on Thursday night and Saturday morning to support the fire brigade and help them to help you.

Check the classified advertisements in this edition of the *Bulletin* to see the

Big Prize to Raetihi man

A Raetihi man has won first prize in a nationwide NZ Police Centennial Trust Lottery worth more than \$150,000.

Mr Keepa Makatea bought the winning ticket from Dowman's Four Square supermarket in Raetihi for \$10. At the end of May he was glancing through a newspaper and noticed the winning number in the lottery looked like his.

"I just about fell over," he said when talking to the *Bulletin* yesterday.

It was the first big thing he had ever won in his life.

Mr Makatea lives in a rented house in Raetihi with his 11-year-old daughter, Christina, who attends Raetihi Primary School.

The pair are travelling to Auckland by bus tonight to make a difficult choice among the five big prizes which are offered.

Sierra Cosworth and a Telstar TX5 together valued at \$150,000; Ford farm equipment, including two tractors, a truck, a ute and a car, valued at \$164,000; a \$110,000 McCrae home and land to the value of \$40,000; a \$150,000 yacht; or a cruiser valued at \$160,000.

Mr Makatea has lived in Raetihi for much of his life. He has been back in Raetihi about six months helping "Joker", Mr Makatea's

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

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Ruapehu axemen claim world titles in Hungary

'The best axeman on the planet' – Ruapehu District farmer Jack Jordan – set yet another world record on his way to achieving an incredible four-peat of the Stihl Timbersports World Trophy at the event in Budapest, Hungary on the weekend.

He was joined in success by Matthew Gower from Whangamomona – also in the Ruapehu District – who snatched victory by just five hundredths of a second in the final discipline to win the Stihl Timbersports Rookies (Under 25) World Championship – his first ever world title.

The World Trophy format that Jordan won for the fourth straight time 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 set a new world record of 50.84 seconds – smashing his previous

World Trophy record time of 52.53 seconds set in Milan, Italy two years ago.

The 29-year-old is also the current Stihl Timbersports World Champion and the NZ Rural Sports Person of the Year Supreme Award winner. He beat 16 of the world's top axemen from 16 different countries to claim his latest historic feat.

"I feel great, it's great to be able to come over here and succeed. It's been tough going, all the training you put in at home, you sometimes wonder what it's for when you have no competition.

"To get over here and put on a performance like that, I'm extremely happy about it. There was a lot of pressure in that final.

"Five years ago, no one knew about me so hopefully I can keep on doing it, I'm really grateful to be able to come over here and win these events so let's hope I can continue doing so," says Jordan.

Gower, aged 23, set four national records and a personal best across the five timbersport disciplines in the rookies world championship format against 12 other competitors. The title came down to the very last of those disciplines with Gower pipping Australia's Awa-tea Moore Barrett by just 5 hundredths of a second in the technical spring-board event.

"It hasn't fully sunk in yet, but I know all the boys and family at home are watching," says Gower.

"It's been an honour – I'm



Ruapehu's Jack Jordan wins again at Budapest. Photo: Stihl Timbersports.



Matthew Gower from Whangamomona in action at Budapest. Photo: Stihl Timbersports.

honestly lost for words. It feels so good to know everyone is watching at home and I wouldn't (have) been able to do it without the supportive community I have back at home. It was definitely worth the trip, it's been amazing."

The qualified diesel mechanic with a passion for hunting who also works on the family's Whangamomona farm, has represented New Zealand in age group tournaments for the past five years, and also won the NZ Rookies championship for the first time last year.

The other piece of history achieved by the NZ Timbersports team in Budapest was Aussie-based Kiwi, Ashleigh Marsh, competing in the first ever Stihl Timbersports Women's World Championship.

Marsh, hailing originally from Westport who has been living and competing in Australia for the last 10 years, finished just off the podium in fourth place in a 10-strong field contested over four individual timbersport disciplines.

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Power analyst awarded research scholarship

Dr Muhammad Ali – a network analyst for the local electricity reticulation company – has been named the Asset Management Council (AM Council) Asset Management Research Scholar for 2026 – a competitive award recognised across Australasia.

Dr Ali's research topic, Asset Criticality Modelling in Electricity Distribution Networks, will help strengthen how asset criticality is assessed – improving understanding of where failures would have the greatest consequences and supporting clearer prioritisation of investment and operational effort for the greatest risk reduction and customer benefit.

The scholarship provides funding for practical, workplace-based research that advances asset management and delivers benefits to both the recipient's organisation and the wider community. The project will run for approximately 12 months.

Dr Ali was announced as the 2026 Research Scholar at the AMPEAK26 conference. The AM Council is a peak industry body for asset management in Australasia, supporting the profession through capability development, knowledge-sharing and recognition of excellence.

The Lines Company (TLC) says the research directly supports ongoing improvement work, including strengthening their approach to criticality modelling to enable more transparent, evidence-based decisions about network vulnerabilities, public safety and reliability outcomes, and long-term prioritisation.

"We're very proud of Ali's achievement. He invested significant time preparing a strong application and progressed through multiple interviews as part of the selection process," said TLC general manager network Gerhard Buitendach.

"Having extra dollars to further our research means TLC customers realise benefits in terms of reliability and service.

"This research will be incorporated into TLC's asset management practices so that we can build better network connection for our customers," said Dr Ali.

"It will help us pinpoint where a failure would cause the biggest impact, so we can focus our spending and day-to-day effort on the areas that will reduce risk the most and deliver the greatest benefit for customers.

"This scholarship directly supports the work we are doing through TLC's Development and Delivery Plan, particularly our focus on improving our criticality approach as part of delivering sustained improvements to the network," said Buitendach.

"Strengthening our modelling helps us make more transparent, evidence-based decisions about where the network is most vulnerable, what matters most for public safety and reliability, and how we prioritise improvements over time so that we deliver what is best for customers."



Dr Muhammad Ali secures the Asset Management Council (AM Council) Research Scholarship for 2026 - a competitive award recognised across Australasia.

Ohakune squash

Last Thursday Turangi travelled to Ohakune for an inaugural club challenge. After several close battles Turangi took the trophy back with them after winning 10/8 overall. This week round three of inter-house continues with the following draw: at Ohakune, 5:00pm Dunlop vs Karakal, 6:30pm Head vs Prince, 8:00pm Stellar vs Salming and at Raetihi at 5:30pm Tecnifibre vs Unsquashable.

On Tuesday last week all six teams played in Ohakune for the last of the first round matches of the Round the Mountain interclub competition. Ruapehu College beat Taumarunui Two 3/1, Ohakune beat Taumarunui One 4/0 and Raetihi beat Turangi 3/1. Points after round one are Ohakune 64, Ruapehu College 53, Waimarino 44, Turangi 41, Taumarunui Two 28 and Taumarunui One 24.

On Sunday Ohakune hosted the fourth round of the Central District Prince series for beginning juniors. In the division one final, local Charlotte Marshal beat Winter Cockburn from Turangi.

In the division two final Mokoia Whiripo from Taihape beat Ocean Thomson from Ohakune. Chase Haitana from Ohakune beat Carmen Armstrong from Whanganui in the division three final and Ohakune's Reef Thomson beat Colt Deadman in the fourth division final.

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Raetihi Temple on the move

The iconic Raetihi Rātana whare whakamoemiti has been the talk of the town since restoration work began last Wednesday.

The building's rotting bell towers have been demolished ahead of Brittons House-movers lifting the main body of the temple and moving it 25 metres back from the site.

Once new foundations have been completed, the whare will be returned to its original position in the coming weeks.

Along with the rotting towers and piles, paint cans and rollers from earlier restoration efforts were found inside the building.

Koro Robert Williams was one of many in the community who joined the previous efforts to preserve this historic building.

"There's a lot of whānau who have helped with the renovations over the years.

"I think during the last one I was the youngest one there. I probably would have been about 50.

"All week I have been thinking of those guys.

"Here I am, back again one more time with a new crew."

Nothing was going to stop the 79-year-old helping out Mōrehu builder Piha Smith, from Kaihanga and his team with last week's site preparation.

"After all these years, our whare whakamoemiti is going to be protected for the generations to come.

"My moko are not going to have to turn around in 10 years' time and do it all again like we have had to over the years.



Raetihi's temple is on the move, under the watchful eye of Koro Robert Williams (centre). Photos: Liz Brooker.

"With the ongoing support of our community, both here and internationally, our icon will be pristine once again."

Along with eight years of community fundraising support the restoration project has also received significant donations from the Awhero Nui Charitable Trust, Four Regions Trust, Jonathan Preston Trust, Ruapehu District Council via the Better Off fund, Te Puna Tahua – Lottery

Grants Board and the Whanganui Community Foundation. Now 90-percent funded, a final push is being made to ensure the restoration can be completed.

The Te Pāriha o Raetihi are currently running wood raffles on their social media page facebook.com/tepariha-oraetihi and koha can also be made via givealittle.co.nz/cause/teparihaoraetihi



One of the tower domes is removed before the tower is dismantled.



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PUBLIC NOTICES



Nga Morehu O Uenuku Te Kohanga Reo

Notice of AGM

Wednesday 24 June, 4.30
2 Hukaroa Road, Raetihi

Election of officers

- Chairman
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Nau mai haere mai

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Notice of Special General Meeting and Special Resolution to approve proposed amendments to Trust Deed for Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui

Public notice is given to adult members of Whanganui Iwi that a Special General Meeting and vote by ballot to approve a Special Resolution is to be held as follows:

Pūtiki Marae, Whanganui
Sunday, 19 July 2026 at 10am

Agenda: To consider proposed amendments to the Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui Trust Deed and vote by ballot on a Special Resolution to:

- (a) approve the amendments to the Deed of Trust for Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui (Trust Deed) as set out in the proposed Amended and Restated Trust Deed to be dated 26 July 2026; and
- (b) resolve that the amendments to the Trust Deed which relate to matters under the Māori Fisheries Act 2024 (and the related consequential amendments to the constitution of Whanganui Iwi Investments Limited) are for the collective benefit of Whanganui Iwi.

The proposed amendments arise from Tuia Te Taura Here (the Trust Deed review), together with additional amendments to ensure consistency with the Trusts Act 2019 and the Māori Fisheries Act 2004.

An information booklet and ballot (voting) papers will be sent by 19 June 2026 to all Adult Registered Iwi Members currently on the Whanganui Iwi Register held by Ngā Tāngata Tiaki. **If you do not receive a pack by email or post, please contact the Ngā Tangata Tiaki office by email at office@ngatangatatiaki.co.nz or by phone on 0800 292 88782.**

Adult members of Whanganui Iwi who are not presently registered with Ngā Tāngata Tiaki may request an information booklet, ballot paper and iwi registration form by contacting the Returning Officer, Election Services, by email at info@electionservices.co.nz or by phone on 0800 922 822 within 10 working days of this public notice.

Voting by ballot on the Special Resolution will be open from 19 June 2026 and will close at midday on 19 July 2026, and full voting instructions are contained in the information booklet. Votes on the Special Resolution may be cast either:

- (a) online, in accordance with the instructions contained on the ballot paper; or
- (b) by post, by sending the completed ballot paper to the Returning Officer at the address specified on the ballot paper (postal votes will be accepted by the Returning Officer up until 22 July 2026 if the envelope containing the ballot paper is date-stamped by NZ Post on or before 19 July 2026); or
- (c) in person, by placing the completed ballot paper either in the ballot box at the office of Ngā Tāngata Tiaki (between 9.00am on 19 June 2026 and 5.00pm on Friday 17 July 2026) or in the ballot box that will be located at the Special General Meeting at Pūtiki Marae on Sunday 19 July 2026 (votes at the SGM must be cast by midday on that day).

Copies of the current and proposed amended Trust Deed are available online at www.ngatangatatiaki.co.nz or hard copies can be viewed or obtained at the office of Ngā Tāngata Tiaki at 357 Victoria Avenue, Whanganui. Copies can also be posted on request.

If you have any questions or need support with the voting process, please contact our office directly.

Nāku noa, nā
Sheena Maru, Chairperson, Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui

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

Deadline for all advertising bookings and copy is 5pm Fridays!

It's important that we get your ad booking and copy in on time, so that we have time to check it, plan the best layout and work on producing a better paper for you!

For everything Ohakune, visit www.ohakune.info

What's important if Ruapehu merges with other councils?



The Government wants to reduce the number of councils and has given us until early August to put forward our preferred option(s) for who we would like to merge with. If we don't put forward a proposal Government has said they will decide for us. Before Council decides on any preferred option(s) we want to hear what is important to our communities. This survey will help Council understand your priorities as we consider potential amalgamation options.

1. What matters most when you think about how local government should work for Ruapehu? Rank from 1 (matters most) to 6 (matters least):

- Lower costs and rates over time
- Keeping decisions close to our towns and rural communities
- A strong rural voice in regional decisions
- Reliable delivery of core services (roads, water, waste)
- Effective environmental and catchment management
- Strong Treaty partnerships and meaningful relationships with iwi and hapū

2. Given the Government's direction is set, what approach do you think Ruapehu should take? Select from the following:

- Take the lead now and shape our own arrangement through the Head Start pathway
- Wait and let central government determine our arrangement after the 2028 elections
- Not sure yet
- I need more information first

3. If Ruapehu moves towards amalgamation or a new unitary authority structure, what viewpoint should councillors prioritise most when weighing up the options? These are the four factors being used to assess each option. Please rank them from 1 (matters most) to 4 (matters least).

- Environment and place** - keeping catchments and rivers intact, and respecting iwi areas of interest, so water, land and environmental limits can be managed well
- Communities and economy** - grouping areas with similar needs and real connections in how people live, work and trade
- Financial sustainability** - building a council with the scale to deliver services affordably and stay financially strong
- Fair representation and workability** - making sure no community is drowned out, and the new council can be governed effectively

4. What are your biggest concerns about possible changes to council structures? Please select up to three.

- Losing local voice and representation
- Greater distance from decision-makers
- Higher costs or rates
- Changes to service quality
- Impact on existing Treaty partnerships and Iwi/Hapū relationships
- Loss of local identity
- Impact on environmental and catchment management

- Impact on the visitor and tourism economy
- Other (please tell us)

5. Whatever happens with reform, what is most important to protect for Ruapehu?

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6. Is there anything else you'd like Council to know as we consider our options?

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7. Thinking about the services and facilities Council provides, which are most important to you and your household? Please select up to five.

- Roads, footpaths and transport connections
- Rubbish, recycling and waste minimisation
- Parks, reserves and outdoor sports grounds
- Libraries and community facilities (e.g. halls)
- Customer service (front desk, phone, online requests and enquiries)
- Swimming pools and recreation facilities
- Emergency management and resilience
- Environment and catchment management
- Building consents
- Resource consents
- Environmental health (food premises, alcohol licensing, business licences)
- Economic development and tourism support
- Support for community events and arts
- Cemeteries
- Animal control and bylaws
- Other (please tell us)

8. Why are these services important to you? You might think about things like access, opening hours, quality, who delivers them, or how decisions about them are made.

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Questions 9 & 10 are optional to help us understand how views differ across our district.

9. Which part of Ruapehu do you mainly live in?

- Ōhura and surrounding areas
- Taumarunui and surrounding areas
- Ōwhango and surrounding areas
- Waimarino Village and surrounding areas
- Ohakune and surrounding areas
- Raetihi and surrounding areas
- Waiouru and surrounding areas
- Other rural area in Ruapehu (please tell us)
- I don't live in Ruapehu but have an interest in the district

10. Which age group are you in?

- Under 25
- 25 to 44
- 45 to 64
- 65 and over
- Prefer not to say

Drop your completed survey into Council by Tuesday 16 June

Why the short timeframe?

The Government has only given councils until early August to develop and submit any amalgamation proposals.

Before any decisions are made, Council needs to assess potential options, understand the opportunities and challenges of each, hold discussions with possible partner councils, and hear what matters most to our communities.

To allow time for this work, completed surveys must be returned to your local Council office in Taumarunui, Ohakune, or Raetihi by Tuesday 16 June.

Need another survey form?

Additional hard-copy survey forms are available from all Council offices.

Prefer to complete the survey online?

Simply scan the survey QR code.



or see: ruapehudc.govt.nz



Want to know more?

For information on the Government's Simplifying Local Government reforms and the work Council is undertaking, visit: ruapehudc.govt.nz



Ruapehu rugby back to winning ways

Ruapehu Men's Rugby team returned to winners on Saturday at Rochfort Park, dispatching Hunterville 41 points to nil.

The previous week should have been Ruapehu's first game in the Championship group but their opponents Marton failed to show up. So Ruapehu picked up the Challenge Shield without playing.

Saturday's game was described as a

physical contest in the rain, with both teams working hard throughout. Ruapehu held firm defensively and did not concede any points.

Tries: Mat Hammond, Ahikaa Kara (2), Kahl Elers-Green (2), Te Orangi Te Riaki (2). Conversions: Jack Pettersson (3)

This week they meet Pirates in Whanganui, 1pm kick-off at Spriggens Park.



Ahikaa Kara heads to the try line. At right, with ball in hand is Sheldon O'hagan, with Jim Rowe and Archie Harding in support. Photos: Glyn Hubbard.

Raetihi's Ratana Temple on the move



LEFT: the temple's towers are dismantled. RIGHT: the main part of the building is jacked up ready for the move. See story Page 9. Photos: Liz Brooker.

True Team Promise means our whole team works for you.

Contact your local Ohakune Consultant today!



Scan the QR code to find us on Facebook



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