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Ruapehu Bulletin

17 June 2026
Issue No 2110

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



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P2



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Federation model proposed: Ruapehu remains but districts unite

Ruapehu's mayor Weston Kirton believes a federation model of local government could provide the answer to the Government's proposed Simplifying Local Government reforms by delivering the efficiencies of larger councils while protecting local representation and identity.

The Government is seeking proposals from councils for new unitary authority arrangements aimed at reducing the number of councils across New Zealand. Its objectives include stronger financial resilience, greater economies of scale, more effective service delivery, and simplified governance.

Kirton said early feedback from Ruapehu District Council's survey shows that affordability and retaining local voice and identity are the two issues of greatest importance to local communities.

"People understand the need to find efficiencies and keep future rates increases as low as possible, but they also want to maintain their local identity and the ability to elect people who understand and advocate for their communities," he said.

"The challenge is finding a model that delivers both."

Kirton said a federation model could

achieve this by merging councils operationally to gain economies of scale while retaining existing district boundaries, local elected members, and district mayors.

"Under this model, councils would share services and operate as part of a larger unitary authority, reducing duplication, management layers and planning requirements. This would help deliver the efficiencies the Government is seeking.

'People understand the need to find efficiencies and keep future rates increases as low as possible, but they also want to maintain their local identity.'

"At the same time, each district would retain a mayor and local elected members, ensuring local decision-making remains connected and accountable to local communities."

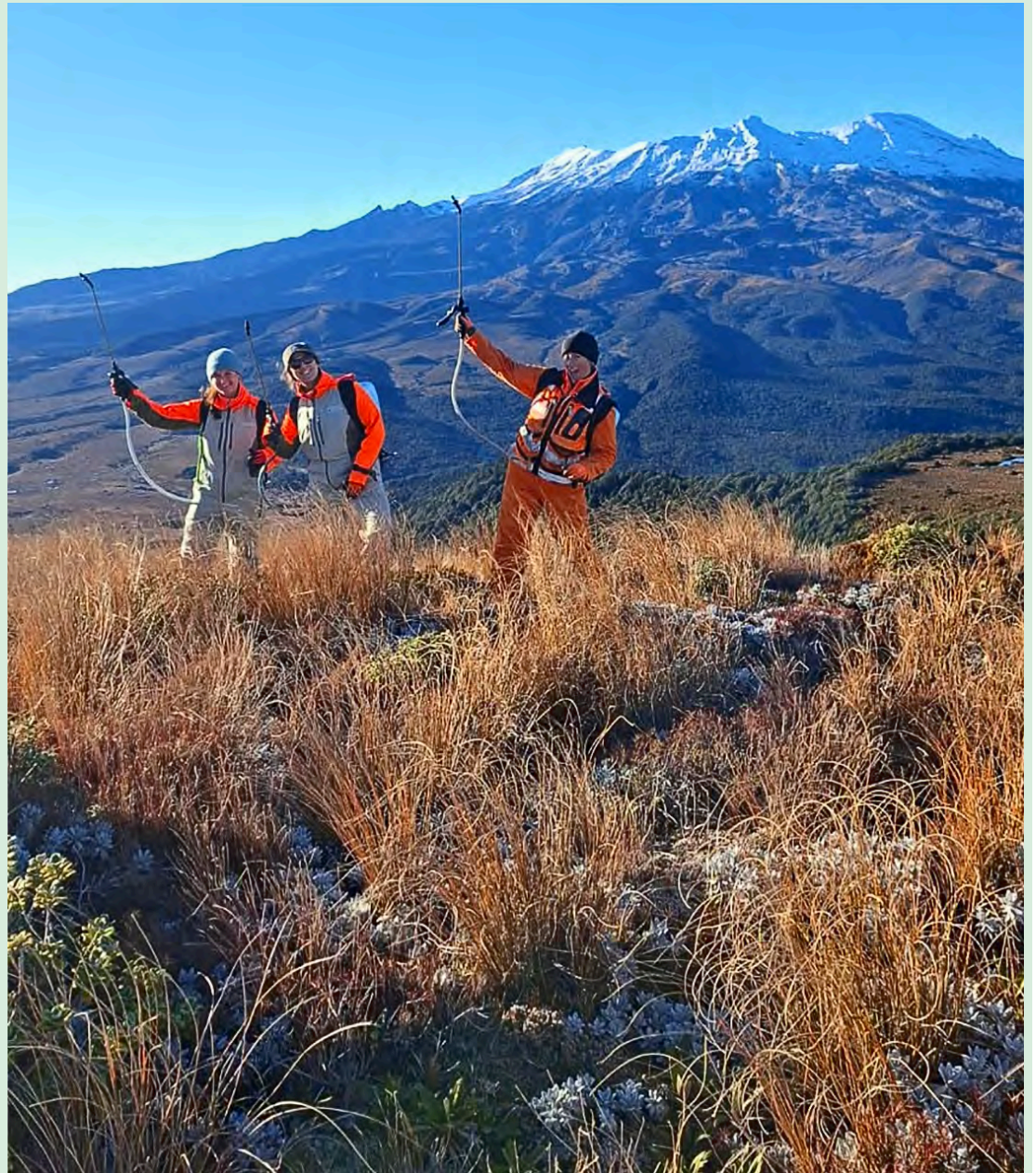
Under the proposal, district mayors would represent their communities at the unitary authority level on the basis of 'one mayor, one vote'.

"This approach ensures every district has an equal voice around the regional table regardless of population size. It protects local representation while allowing councils to work together on larger regional issues such as transport, planning, resource management, infrastructure, and catchment management."

Kirton said the model would also pro-

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Heather hammered



A team of Department of Conservation rangers flew to the top of Hauhungatahi last week to carry out heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) control work, helping protect slow-growing alpine plants from being smothered by this introduced species. DOC says that while heather beetles do a great job suppressing this plant at lower elevations, it's a bit too cold for them to munch away up there. With clear skies, incredible views across the maunga, and plenty of laughs, it was a pretty special day out, said the rangers, who added that there were no chemicals in their packs when they did the 'Ghostbuster' poses. Photo: DOC.

BRINGING GREATER ENERGY TO THE RUAPEHU DISTRICT

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Eruptions recollections: time to share stories

Ruapehu locals who remember the 1995-96 eruptions at Ruapehu are invited to a community gathering this Saturday, 20 June 2026, at Maungārongo Marae in Ohakune.

Thirty years on, the event will bring together locals, whānau, researchers and scientists who witnessed and studied the eruptions to reflect on the significant impact to the region.

Running from 2-4pm, the event — *Recollections of Ruapehu* — will open with a mihi whakatau at 2pm before inviting attendees to share their personal experiences, stories and memories of the 1995-96 eruptions.

Community members are encouraged to bring photos, videos, artworks, and memorabilia connected to the eruptions. Scientists involved in monitoring Ruapehu during the 1995-96 activity will also be present to share insights and reconnect with those who lived through the events.

Brad Scott Emeritus Volcanologist at

Earth Sciences NZ, who was there during the eruptions and studied their impacts, says that people further away from the volcano in Bay of Plenty and on the east coast in Hawke's Bay, Gisborne and Manawatū-Whanganui regions bore the brunt of the ashfall.

"These regions had significant impacts to their agriculture and horticulture industries, as well as disruption to aviation, and we'd love to hear from people in this area with memories of these eruptions."

Those unable to attend in person or who wish to contribute digital material can send items to ruapehurecollections@gmail.com.

To continue the day of reflection and learning, the public is also invited to a 6pm evening talk, where scientists who were present during the eruptions will share their firsthand accounts, discuss the science behind the activity and explore how the eruptions shaped Aotearoa's response to volcanic activity. This event is for anyone interested in volcanoes or who want



Mt Ruapehu eruption, 1996. Photo: Robert Milne.



Dr Harry Keys.

to learn more about the impacts of these Ruapehu eruptions.

The event is supported by Ngāti Rangī, Earth Sciences NZ, Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai, Natural Hazards Commission Toka Tū Ake, Joint Centre for Disaster Research, and Natural Hazards and Resilience Platform Te Pae Tūroa, all working together to increase community knowledge and strengthen the response to volcanic activity.

Federation model

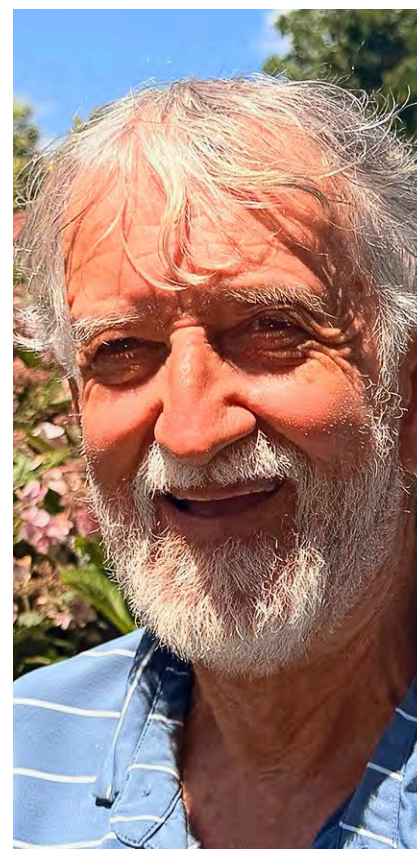
From Page 1

vide greater certainty for communities wanting to retain existing representation arrangements, including Māori Wards where councils have chosen to maintain them.

"The Government has made it clear it wants simplified local governance, stronger capability, and better value for ratepayers. The federation model offers a practical way of achieving those objectives without sacrificing the local identity, representation, and community connections that people value.

"It provides a pathway to lower costs and stronger regional collaboration while ensuring communities continue to have a genuine voice in decisions that affect them."

Kirton said he has been discussions with other mayors and there is strong interest in the federation model in response to concerns about the loss of local voice and identity under full amalgamation.



Brad Scott.

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 - 2 Oct

See WaimarinoArtAwards.org.nz for more information

For all your ski board and bike rental needs

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Cnr Ayr St & Goldfinch St, Ohakune
06-385-8433 tcb.nz

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LINK YOUR EVENT TO EVENTFINDA FOR FREE

Eating out in the Ruapehu District

Call 06 385 8532 to list your business here or email ads@ruapehubulletin.co.nz

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

LKNZ LODGE & CAFE

1 Rata St, Ohakune Ph: 027 257 LKNZ (5569)

Open every day. Menu includes our delicious big breakfast, creamy mushrooms, homemade soups, wedges, nachos, toasties, waffles and more ... Volcanic coffee, muffins & scones, real fruit smoothies and thick shakes. Dine in or takeaway. Onsite parking. www.lknz.co.nz

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Bottom of the mountain road Ph: 06 385 8888

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THE CYPRUS TREE

79 Clyde St, Ohakune Ph: 06 385 8857

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Open 7 days from 8am - 3pm for all day breakfast and lunch. Serving Havana Coffee. A cosy memorable atmosphere with a great range of cabinet food and beverages, Frappé and smoothies. Vegan/Gluten-free options for both savoury and sweet are available. Speedy free Wi-Fi! A perfect place for everybody!

Letters

Culverts

• In the 1940s, when I was a kid at Mangamahu, a grader kept our gravel roads highest in their centre, while bike-riding "roadmen" kept the stormwater drains clear of mud and made sure that the culverts running under the road were kept unblocked. This maintenance ensured that stormwater did not run down the road and scour out the gravel.

Similarly, tracks built in Tongariro National Park by DOC contractors or staff also have stormwater drains and small wooden culverts to take those waters across to the track. In my 50 years of hiking, I have never come across a scoured-out DOC track.

Te Ara Mangawhero is heavily advertised as a Grade 2 track, which is described as being an easy route for beginners, occasional cyclists, and families, with a wide, smooth and predictable surface like compacted gravel and only gentle climbs. And indeed the lowest and highest sections of the track through our world heritage forest do fit this description.

But raised centres, stormwater drains and culverts are almost entirely absent on the trail's central 2 kilometre section through grassland; the trail is steep and narrow, with totally unexpected scoured-out channels that trap beginners' front wheels

and cause them to fall, thus endangering their health and also endangering the safety of businesses whose profitability relies on continuing to get money from tourists who are beginner cyclists.

In the absence of any work being done over the last 18 months by any of the many groups with a finger in our million-dollar ecotourism pie to finish the track to a safe and healthy Grade 2 standard, I offered to strap a shovel onto my bike and become a culvert-installing roadman for the track myself. But I was told that "Health and Safety" rules made that illegal.

We do indeed live in cloud cuckoo land.
John Archer

Next government

• At the recent Fieldays, Labour was the only major Political party not represented by way of a booth/stand.

Mr Hipkins brushed this off by saying "we found the best engagement we got was when we were out and about walking around".

Come on Mr Hipkins, this is an election year, and I don't believe your explanation for not having a stand/booth is a correct one.

And this is a party who wants to be the next Government.

Phillip Harvey

How did Ohakune get its name?

The name Ohakune is constructed from the phrase 'E oha, Ka oha he Ohakune ki te ao' or in English 'An opening to a new world'.

For millions of Lord of the Rings fans, the volcanic peaks and moon-like landscape around Ohakune have transported them to Middle Earth in Peter Jackson's movies; to the terrifying sides of Mt Doom and the craggy rocks of Emyn Muil.

And when you learn the origins of the Ohakune name, that could hardly be more appropriate.

Season four of the Radio New Zealand podcast Nau Mai Town was launched last week, telling the story behind Aotearoa's Māori place names so that readers can get to "know my town".

The podcast title works phonetically as both a welcome in te reo Māori and an explainer in English. The new season begins in Ohakune, the carrot capital of the world and doorway to the winter wonderland of Tongariro National Park.

"I know the difference between carrots," says Kory Wilson, of the Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust.

"Here in Ohakune – or not just in Ohakune, but below Mt Ruapehu – the carrots are sweeter."

Take that, Pukekohe.

Wilson grew up in Ohakune, in the shadow of Mt Ruapehu, a maunga she

refers to as Koro. It's like a grandfather to her. And when she takes podcast host Justine Murray up the mountain she begins a karakia as soon as they arrive, acknowledging the age-old mountain and Murray as a manuhiri (visitor).

Wilson does much the same at the start of every ski season, asking the mountain "his permission for us to be on here".

While the main iwi in the region is Ngāti Rangī, Che Wilson, Kory's brother, says they're not described as mana whenua. The mana whenua in this region is Papatūānuku – the earth itself.

Founded

Ohakune was founded in 1895, focused on milling the timber, farming the land, and growing those sweet carrots in the rich volcanic soil in the central North Island. There was also once an Ohakune Junction or Ohakune East, where the railway station sat – and still sits – on the main trunk line. The railway arrived in 1908.

The name Ohakune, however, goes back much further. The name is constructed from the phrase 'E oha, Ka oha he Ohakune ki te ao' or in English 'An opening to a new world'. That phrase or whakataukī (proverb) stems from the rapid changes in environment you get amidst the area's dramatic landscapes.

"When you're on the mountain and you descend down to where Ohakune Junction



Kory Wilson at the top of the Ohakune Mountain Road. Photo:RNZ.

is, as you come out of the bush, you enter into an open swampland, grasslands," Che says.

"And so you enter into a new world. And Ohakune means an opening to a new world."

And the equally sudden changes in climate.

"You'll understand that transition between two worlds, especially if it's bad weather in Ohakune and you go up the hill, up Koro, up to the mountain and it's beautiful, a clear bluesky day... Because

they're both microclimates means that you enter into a new world."

The name hasn't always been so clearly understood, however. In 2019, the New Zealand Geographic Board proposed putting a macron over the O, which would translate that letter as "the

place of" and hakune as "to be careful". The meaning of the name would have been changed with the addition of a single stroke. But the local iwi corrected them and the plan was dropped.

This article is republished from Radio New Zealand.

Community unites to preserve heritage and build for the future

Two of Taihape's dedicated community organisations are joining forces with local rugby clubs to host a major fundraising auction that celebrates both the district's rich heritage and its future development.

Friends of Taihape Charitable Society and the Taihape Grandstand Restoration Committee have partnered with Taihape Rugby Club and Utiku Old Boys Rugby Club to deliver a dual fundraising auction from 4.00pm to 7.00pm on Saturday 27 June at the Utiku Old Boys Rugby Clubrooms.

The event will support two significant community projects – the restoration of the historic Memorial Park Grandstand and the continued development of Hautapu River Parks, one of the district's most ambitious volunteer-led environmental and recreational initiatives.

The Taihape Grandstand has been at the heart of community life since 1924. Designed by architect Oscar Albert Jorgensen and constructed by local builder Henry Hesketh, the grandstand has welcomed generations of rugby supporters, A and P Show visitors, school groups, and community events.

Today it remains one of Taihape's most recognised landmarks and is listed as a Category 2 Historic Place.

While the grandstand itself remains an iconic feature of Memorial Park, the changing rooms and facilities beneath the structure are outdated. Future plans include carefully restoring the heritage features of the grandstand while upgrading to provide modern changing rooms and public toilets.

The other project is positioning Taihape as a destination for accessible recreation and a strong connection to its natural protected environment.

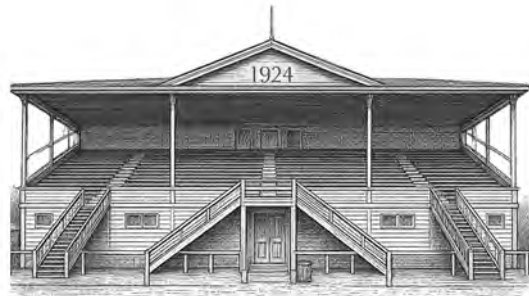
Since 2019, Friends of Taihape volunteers have worked alongside Ngāti Tamakōpiri, Rangitikei District Council, local businesses, contractors, and funding partners to restore and enhance the native reserves stretching from

Papakai Park to Memorial Park along the Hautapu River.

Their work has transformed neglected areas into the growing Hautapu River Parks network, creating public access to native bush, walking tracks, reserves, and recreational spaces. The project protects rare podocarp forest containing mature kahikatea, tōtara, and mataī trees.

Volunteers have planted more than 7000 native trees, removed invasive willow species from approximately 3.5 kilometres of the Hautapu River, rebuilt Papakai Park, and are currently constructing a network of five pedestrian bridges that will connect around 12 kilometres of tracks. Friends of Taihape also supports local schools through pest trapping and environmental education programmes, works alongside MSD and Corrections rehabilitation initiatives, and continues to maintain and improve community assets throughout the reserve network.

Items to be auctioned include an alpine hunting package; other outdoors packages; a wide range of locally donated products and services; an All Black jersey; All Blacks match tickets; and meat packs. The items add up to more than \$15,000 in value.



Taihape's rugby grounds grandstand built in 1924. Plans to restore the structure are being supported by a community fundraising effort.

We're fixing the basics and building the future.

Carl Bates MP
National Party Candidate for Whanganui

incl Ruapehu - South Taranaki - Stratford

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

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

Free phone: 0800 647 483.
Email: isites@visitruapehu.com.

Ohakune: 9am-4pm
54 Clyde Street.
OHK: 06 3858427

Taumarunui: 9am- 4pm
Railway Station, 116 Hakiha Street.
TAU: 07 895 7494



Ruapehu College art on show, sports success & open night

Eye on Ruapehu College, contributed by staff and students
A recent Year 11 Visual Art exhibition celebrated student learning and creative expression at Ruapehu College.
The project involved an exploration of Lake Rotokura, where students learned about its cultural and historical significance from local iwi member Fred, as well as an investigation into places of personal importance.

The showcased artworks and workbooks reflected deep cultural understanding and personal narratives, providing students an opportunity to confidently discuss their inspirations with the community.
The event also highlighted the valuable ongoing support and knowledge shared by local iwi members.

Yr 8 open night

Ruapehu College held its annual open evening for prospective Year 8 students and their whānau on 2 June. The event allowed families to explore the kura, meet staff, and learn about available opportunities.

Visitors toured various learning areas, gaining insight into school life while engaging with staff and students.

"We sincerely thank the community members for attending and our dedicated staff for their hard work. We look forward to welcoming these students into our college community in the future," said teacher Dave Sims.

Piwakawaka unit

In a recent publication the College incorrectly acknowledged The Lines Foundation for the donation of the new trampoline for their 'Power Kids'.

"We would like to correct this and extend our sincere thanks to

the Ruapehu Lions Club for their generous donation. We apologise for the error and are incredibly grateful to the Ruapehu Lions Club for their contribution to our Piwakawaka students," said a College spokesperson.

Sports roundup

Rugby Ruapehu College players Vanessa Ashford-Wallis, Violet Soverel and Rhythm Clair continue to represent the school in a combined rugby team with Whanganui Girls' College. In a recent hard-fought match, the team fell 29-17 to Whanganui High School.

The Under 15 rugby team has excelled this season. After a narrow 38-36 loss to Rangitikei, the boys secured a dominant 90-7 win in their rematch. Against Cullinane College, the team followed an earlier 58-31 victory with a hard-fought 31-31 draw last Tuesday.

The Under 18 rugby boys have worked hard throughout the season and are now preparing for their finals match this week.

"Their commitment, determination, and teamwork have been evident both at training and on game day, and we wish them all the best," said a College spokesperson.

Cross Country Ruapehu College athletes represented the school at the Whanganui Secondary Schools Interschool Cross Country event recently. Results included: Puti Wikohika - Placed 2nd in Year 9 Girls 3km; Braydon Herewini - Placed 10th in Year 9 Boys 3km; Liam McDonough - Placed 5th in Junior Boys 3km; Rebekah Swift - Placed 10th in Senior Girls 3km; Sam Williams - Placed 6th in Senior Boys 4km; Connor Anderson - Placed 15th in Senior Boys 4km.

Ruapehu student Olivia Gray was recognised as Squash New

Zealand's Most Improved Player for the month of May.

"This is a fantastic achievement and a reflection of Olivia's dedication and hard work in the sport," says coach Matthew Laurenson.

Equestrian Abbie Drayton triumphed at the North Island Secondary Schools Two-Day Eventing Championships in Taupō recently.

Representing Ruapehu College in a combined team with Napier Girls' and Taranaki Diocesan, Abbie rode Jippy Ki Yay to win the dressage phase and finish first overall with clear jumping rounds.

Their combined squad also secured the Overall School Team title.

The College also extend congratulations to Milla Smith-Horne for her outstanding success in the Whanganui Show Hunter Group series. Milla earned both the Country and Me Cat C and the Venture Build Cat C Equitation Series titles this season.

"This is an impressive feat and we are very proud of her accomplishments," says principal Kris Vine.

Ruapehu's Junior A1 netballers fought hard in a close 25-22 loss to WCS Senior B. Despite the defeat, the team displayed great resilience and teamwork against an experienced side.

The Junior A2 team secured a 22-18 win over Wharekura A, moving to the top of the table. Their victory was a result of strong court-wide effort and commitment throughout the match.

The Ruapehu College basketball team showed great growth throughout a season of challenges and successes. The players developed their skills and teamwork, celebrating hard-earned victories while learning from tough losses. They finished their season on a high, travelling to Whanganui on 5 June and defeating Rangitikei 79-34.



Ruapehu College's cross country competitors.



Abbie Drayton - success in equestrian events.



Vanessa Ashford-Wallis and Violet Soverel, Ruapehu rugby reps.

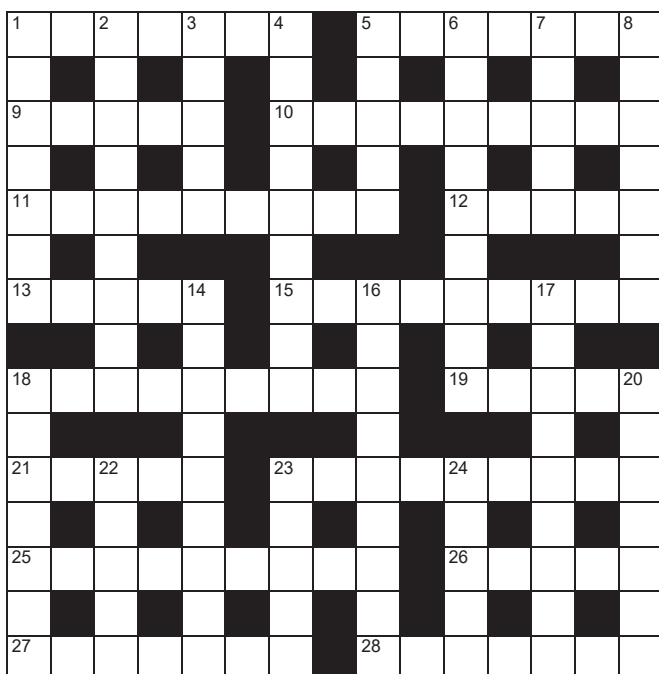
THE WEEKLY WORKOUT

answers for each puzzle are included on this page

QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

1. Skinny (7)
5. Swimmers (7)
9. Lakes, in Scotland (5)
10. Appear again (9)
11. Majority view (9)
12. Brush (5)
13. Eighth letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
15. Embroil (9)
18. Janitor (9)
19. Attitude, beliefs (5)
21. Popular fast food (5)
23. Towards the back (9)
25. Immunise (9)
26. Final letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
27. Inhibit, curb (7)
28. Constrict (7)



Down

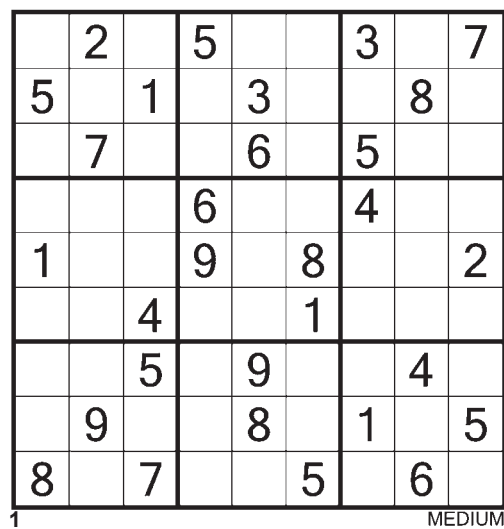
1. Request (7)
2. Skilled story teller (9)
3. Squander (5)
4. Standard for comparison (9)
5. Foundation (5)
6. Rotating gate (9)
7. Make happy (5)
8. Spire (7)
14. Quality (9)
16. Unchanging (9)
17. Distasteful (9)
18. Teller (7)
20. Nourish (7)
22. Sailboat (5)
23. Wanders (5)
24. Incorrect (5)



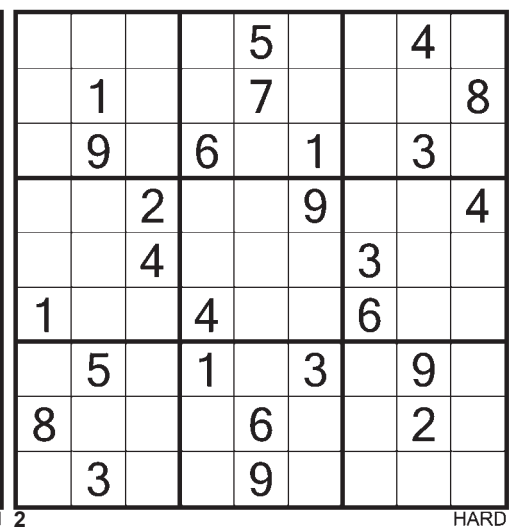
Puzzles © The Puzzle Company

SUDOKU

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



MEDIUM 2



HARD

The Top 10

1. What stinging thing is the ongaonga?
2. Who wrote *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*?
3. Skibo Castle in Scotland was the scene of which singer's wedding in 2000?
4. In which sport do competitors use a hoop, ball, clubs, ribbon and rope?
5. What do you suffer from if you have halitosis?
6. In *Bambi*, who is the fawn's rabbit friend?
7. Which sport is featured in the 1993 film *Cool Runnings*?
8. Svetlana Savitskaya was the first woman to go where?
9. In which decade did Jesse Owens set a long-jump record that would remain unbroken for 25 years?
10. In Robert Browning's poem *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*, where did the rats make their nests?

CROSSWORD

22. Sloop, 23. Roams, 24. Wrong.
17. Abhorrent, 18. Cashier, 20. Sustain,
8. Steeple, 14. Attribute, 16. Permanent,
4. Yardstick, 5. Basis, 6. Turnstile, 7. Elate,
Down: 1. Sollicit, 2. Raconteur, 3. Waste,
28. Tighten.
25. Inculcate, 26. Omega, 27. Repress,
19. Ethos, 21. Sushi, 23. Rearranged,
13. Theta, 15. Implicate, 18. Caretaker,
10. Resurface, 11. Consensus, 12. Sweep,
9. Lochs,
Across: 1. Scrawny, 5. Bathers, 9. Lochs,13. Resurface, 11. Consensus, 12. Sweep,10. Resurface, 11. Consensus, 12. Sweep,19. Ethos, 21. Sushi, 23. Rearranged,
25. Inculcate, 26. Omega, 27. Repress,28. Tighten.

SUDOKU

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

THE TOP 10

- 1 New Zealand tree nettle, 2 Douglas Adams,3 Madonna, 4 Rhythmic gymnastics, 5 Bad breath,
6 Thumper, 7 Bobsledding, 8 In space, 9 1930s
(1935), 10 Inside men's Sunday hats.

Horizons to change farm consents process after court appeals

Horizons Regional Council is moving to implement consenting pathways for existing intensive farming activities in the region, after the release of a decision on Plan Change 2.

The decision, released by the Environment Court on 10 June 2026, follows the interim decision which was released on 9 December 2025.

Plan Change 2 was introduced to improve how the One Plan manages existing intensive farming activities in target water management sub-zones. It was subsequently appealed to the Environment Court by several parties. The final decision responds to those appeals.

Horizons group manager strategy, regulation and science Dr Elizabeth Daly says it is great news to have the decision from the court.

"This decision provides a consenting pathway for existing intensive farming activities. This gives more certainty for those farmers, Horizons and other affected parties," says Dr Daly.

"Council will be taking steps to make the plan operative once the appeal period ends. Appeals can only be made to the High Court on points of law.

"Since the release of the interim decision, we have been working with other

parties involved in the appeal process to address issues raised by the court in its interim decision. Staff across Horizons have also been preparing as much as possible ahead of the full decision.

"We will amend the provisions in accordance with the court's directions, with a view to preparing for the plan change to be made operative and are looking forward to working with farmers and growers across the region to implement the plan.

"Communication about the decision and implementation including the need to apply for consent and the timeframes for doing so will be made available.

"In the meantime, there is good information on our website which people can access to learn more about Plan Change 2. This section of the website will be updated in due course."

For more information about Plan Change 2, see <https://www.horizons.govt.nz/publications-feedback/one-plan-reviews-changes/plan-change-2>. A link to that webpage is also available via the front page of the Horizons website.

Background

The One Plan contains provisions to manage nutrient leaching to water by intensive farming land uses. However, the provisions did not work as intended

in practice as a result of two external factors which arose once the One Plan became operative:

There were ongoing changes in the Overseer model which meant farm systems that could have met the cumulative nitrogen leaching maximums using the Overseer version that was used to originally develop the maximums could no longer do so when modelling was done with an updated Overseer model. This was the case even if nothing

has changed in the farm's practice in real terms.

Changes in case law required the provisions to be applied in a way that may not have been anticipated when the One Plan was prepared. Directive policies to achieve or not exceed the cumulative nitrogen leaching maximums made it very difficult to grant consent in circumstances where the limits were not met, even though the rules are

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Brigade marks volunteer week



It's National Volunteer Week (14 to 20 June) – a good time to acknowledge all kinds of volunteers who make the community tick. One such group is the Ohakune Volunteer Fire Brigade whose effort and the time goes into running the Volunteer Fire Brigade and generally serving the local and surrounding communities in numerous ways. "It is not just attending fires, vehicle accidents and various emergency incidents – there is also a huge amount of behind-the-scenes work that must be done," says a Brigade member. "There is training to plan and run, Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) courses to attend, there is a large amount of paperwork/computer work that needs to be done – plus keeping the station, the gear and the vehicles stocked up and in good order. Good work everybody who is in, and supportive of the Ohakune Brigade, including members, their families, friends and employers.

Don't get caught in the cold!

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- Stack wood loosely for even burning
- Open air control for 30 mins when adding wood



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- Block air to base of fire
- Damp down fire after use
- Burn rubbish or treated wood

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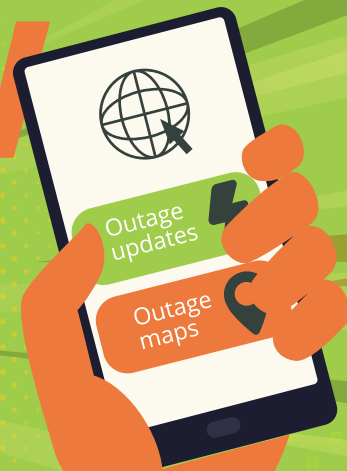


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Diego Chapman Mora enjoys his first ski for 2025, on the first weekend of the Whakapapa season, and the first weekend of skiing for the new owners of the field, Whakapapa Holdings Limited. The Company gave away free ski passes for Happy Valley on their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

**Let's tell our visitors
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Mountain Rd headache for county

The Waimarino County Council is facing problems over its administration of the Ohakune Mountain Road.

Until this year the National Roads Board has paid the whole cost of construction, maintenance and snow clearing on the road.

The Waimarino County took over the road on the understanding that its rate-payers would not have to pay for it.

From this year however the NRB will no longer permit the use of its subsidy for snow clearing which means the county has to find the money.

Bruce Road

According to Waimarino County Councillor John Martin, the issue is confused by the way snow clearing is financed on the Bruce Road leading to Whakapapa Skifield.

"There the Department of Lands and Survey have entered the fray as a roading authority and are clearing snow with taxpayers' money whereas we have to find the means of payment for the Ohakune Mountain Road."

"We can ask AHI to pick up the cost but on the Bruce Road no concessionaires have to pay," he said.

Manager of Turoa Skifields Mr Tony Wright said that with a skifield to run it was obvious that AHI would pay if they had to.

"But frankly I don't see why we should bear the total cost," he said.

The Ohakune Mountain Road is classified as a legal county road and as such is the responsibility of the Waimarino County. There is debate over the status of the Bruce Road however which further clouds the issue.

The Taumarunui County Council have disclaimed all responsibility for the Bruce Road following a decision by its legal advisors that the road is private. However other legal opinion, by the Ministry of Works and Development and Department of Lands and Survey, suggests the road is public. The Crown Law Office is to make a judgement on the matter.

Bruce Jefferies, Tongariro National Park chief ranger, points out that although Lands and Survey has accepted responsibility for snow-clearing and management of Bruce Road and that concessionaires do not

contribute, skiers do pay something in the \$5 per car parking fee.

The day fee for Turoa Skifield is \$27, six dollars more than Whakapapa, but there is no additional car parking fee. Mr Jefferies suggests that part of this fee will be a contribution to snow clearance on Turoa car parks, though not the access road.

Mr Jefferies said that Waimarino County took over the road when it was fully funded but now had to face the fact that the rules had changed.

"The question I would like answered is why do the Waimarino County Council wish to maintain control of the Ohakune Mountain Road," he said.

He said that the NRB allocation to the Waimarino County for the Ohakune Mountain Road excluding anything for snow clearing, was \$144,000 more than that given to the Department of Lands and Survey for the Bruce Road which included a road with similar length of unsealed surface.

Meanwhile Waimarino County councillors have held an unsuccessful meeting with the Taumarunui County representatives in an effort to use the latter council's heavy traffic bylaw to authorise a toll on the Ohakune Mountain Road. This bylaw however could not be used and other methods have to be sought.

Road control

Road control on the Ohakune Mountain Road which has in the past been carried out by the Department of Lands and Survey is in limbo at present. Ohakune senior ranger Lisle Irwin is in a difficult position in that the Waimarino County Council has yet to give park officers authority to carry out control.

"Normally by this time we are up and running but we cannot even hire staff until we know what is happening," said Mr Irwin.

When it snowed over Queen's Birthday Weekend park officers had no authority to take any action should a dangerous situation have developed.

The situation was unchanged during yesterday's snow storm according to Mr Irwin.

Cr Martin said that Waimarino County Council was preparing submissions on the Mountain Road problem to take to the NRB.



Hannah Cameron, 7, left and Awhina Cameron, 5, of Ohakune in Jubilee Park, yesterday enjoying the snow.

Hurrah, it's snowing!

Children throughout much of the Waimarino took to the streets yesterday celebrating a day off school caused by the snow.

Snowmen popped up everywhere and some adults were even seen playing in the snow.

Snow fell throughout the region on Sunday night and residents awoke on Monday to a land blanketed in white.

Icy conditions caused havoc on the roads for a while and the Desert Road was closed on Sunday night and Monday morning.

Several vehicles slid on ice and there were some minor accidents. A truck was stuck on State Highway 49 for five hours during the night.

Snow on both sides of Mt Ruapehu drifted in high winds. About 15 centimetres settled in the Turoa carpark yesterday morning, not enough to open the field but a good build-up to early July opening, said Tony Wright, Turoa manager.

About two cms fell around the Chateau.

Waiouru's weather forecaster, John Standish said yesterday that there were eight cms of snow in Waiouru. He said conditions should ease slowly, and that snow would probably stop falling by Monday night. He said temperatures would remain very cold for several days with hard frosts.

Hot time promise

A top class cabaret to raise funds for "Chills Off", the Raetihi Pool enclosure project, is to be held this weekend.

The cabaret, is on at the Raetihi Primary School hall on Saturday and will include the "Misfits" band from Taumarunui, plus a live floor show, which is guaranteed to be entertaining.

It is believed that the floorshow will be performed by local people but is

likely they will be well-disguised. Chairman of the "Chills Off" committee, Lance Langdon said many hours of practice had gone into the performance and the choreography was excellent.

Snacks will be on the tables throughout the cabaret and a supper will be served during the night. Drinks will be served to tables by waiters and all refreshments and supper are included in the price.

The evening is being held to raise funds needed to enclose the Raetihi swimming pool so that it can be used throughout the year. At present it is only warm enough to be used at the height of the summer.

Tickets are strictly limited and should be bought soon. Details of price and time of the cabaret are in the classified section of this week's Bulletin.

Auction earns Brigade surplus

Saturday's auction organised by the Ohakune Volunteer Fire Brigade to raise money for life-saving hydraulic cutting equipment was a marvellous success.

A huge crowd enjoyed a beautiful morning and everything that local people had fished out of their attics and sheds was sold. They also munched on toffee apples and sizzled sausages, bought cakes, jams and clothes, and lots of other items at stalls.

About \$7000 was raised at the auction which, including \$1800 from the stalls outside the F.C.O.S. building, brought the grand total to about \$15,000.

This amount is more than the \$10,590 required to pay for the Dutch Holmatro cutting machine and fire chief Max Martin said a hydraulic shear would be bought in addition to equipment already planned. The use of any money left over would be discussed this week, he said.

Last Thursday a highly successful film premiere was held followed by a wine and chicken evening. Around 220 people turned up and had a really good time. The short film on Turoa, which many had not seen, was popular said Mr Martin.

Money taken at the premiere and the auction supplemented fund-raising through raffles, working bees and donations in a great show of community togetherness.

Mr Martin thanked the community for their very generous response which he said was "out of this world".

Snow and ice close several local schools

Ruapehu College, and Ohakune and Raetihi Primary Schools were closed yesterday due to hazardous road conditions.

The school bus depot advised that no buses would be running because of slippery conditions.

National Park school was also closed as their boiler which heats the classrooms was not working. It is believed the boiler broke down due to the very cold conditions.

Although eight cms of snow fell in Waiouru, the school there still opened.

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

'There's a lot of confidence' Bates told

By Carl Bates, Member of Parliament for Whanganui
"There's a lot of confidence."

That was the comment from a vendor from our region at Fielddays last week. As record crowds poured through the gates at Mystery Creek, the mood was buoyant and exhibitors were kept busy.

Spending two days at Fielddays gave me plenty of time to talk with a whole range of our farmers, producers and growers, as well as people directly supporting and connected to the rural sector. Overwhelmingly they were appreciative of having a supportive government that backs farmers and our rural communities, and of our recent announcements demonstrating this. Two conservation announcements stand out.

Some of Ruapehu's most important conservation work is happening not behind park gates, but on private land. This matters in a district like ours, where farming, native biodiversity and landscape protection often go hand in hand. Many landowners are doing the hard work of protecting bush, wetlands and other significant areas on their properties, and they deserve support for it.

Doubling the core funding for the QEII National Trust is such a positive step to support this work. Established in 1977, the Trust works with more than 5000 landowners to protect more than 180,000 hectares of private land and, once a covenant is registered, it remains in place even if the property is sold.

The Trust has not had an increase in its base funding

since 2015. More funding will help it take on more covenants and better support the ongoing work that landowners do to look after these areas for the long term.

This is especially relevant in our wider region. The Horizons Regional Council area has the fourth-highest number of covenants in the country, covering more than 10,000 hectares of farmland. Federated Farmers have welcomed the increase, saying it will help more farmers protect biodiversity and natural habitats on their land.

Protecting special places on private land is one part of the picture. Another pressing issue for Ruapehu is the spread of wilding pines.

Another hot topic during Fielddays among Ruapehu farmers was the Budget 2026 funding for wilding pine eradication which is clearly welcome news. Particularly around Tongariro National Park, which is recognised for both its outstanding natural features and its cultural significance.

Part of that funding will come from the International Visitor Levy. Given how important tourism is to the Ruapehu district, it is a sensible use of the levy to help protect the landscapes that draw visitors here in the first place.

The rural sector is in good heart. Export earnings from primary production for 2025-26 are tipped to be a record \$64.3 billion, up six percent on 2024-25. The National-led Government is investing in the sector, including funding important conservation measures. We are committed to fixing the basics and building the future.



Carl Bates, local MP, listens to farmers at the Fielddays. Photo supplied.

Horizons consents process

From Page 5

written to provide for this to be considered.

This resulted in very few existing intensive farm land uses being able to meet cumulative nitrogen leaching maximums.

Plan Change 2 proposed key changes:

- Update nitrogen leaching limits outlined in Table 14.2 using improved Overseer modelling data.

- Create a clearer and more practical process for farmers to get resource consents if

they couldn't meet the table within targeted water management sub-zones.

- Emphasise the use of good farming practices.

These changes aimed to ensure better regulation and help achieve water quality goals.

Plan Change 2 was publicly notified in April 2021. Four appeals were made to the Environment Court, and several parties joined or withdrew from the legal process.



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Alpine Crossing numbers well down; cap still considered

Following a summer of poor weather and two fires, the number of people hiking the Tongariro Alpine Crossing was well down on previous years.

The Department of Conservation has reported that 71,000 did the Crossing in the period 1 October to 30 April.

The previous year saw 94,000 in 2024-25 and 108,000 in the summer before that.

The Department of Conservation believes poor weather and fires are to blame for a drop in the number of people doing the Tongariro Alpine Crossing this season.

A short-term rāhui was placed on parts of Tongariro National Park late last year after two fires burned thousands of hectares, followed by a 10-year rāhui on the general area to give it time to recover – but not the track itself.

The track had sustained some fire damage which has since been remediated.

Despite the drop, DOC is still considering a future cap on bookings.

DOC Tongariro operations manager Libby O'Brien said that before Covid-19, the visitor numbers were getting a little bit out of hand.

"We had some really negative impacts on the track and on the crossing," she said.

"We had some time where people weren't able to walk the track while the fire was raging and while we made sure that the infrastructure was up to scratch."

She added that the weather had also played a significant part in the drop.

"We had about 30% of days over the summer season where people weren't able to walk the crossing."

DOC has no hard-set cap on visitor numbers but estimates it may not be sustainable to have more than 155,000 annual single-direction trips on the crossing.

A report also recommended that limits, such as a potential cap,

might need to be considered if more than 2000 people did the crossing in a single direction in a day.

DOC said this had only happened once, on 30 March 2024, and added that an online booking system can "nudge" people towards "quieter days".

The agency said limits may be considered if there is a rolling five-day average of more than 1500 people.

Its website states the findings of the report will be used to develop a framework to manage visitor impacts.

"We will continue to monitor visitor numbers and impacts, which will enable us to respond to any changing demands or new issues. This could include a future cap on bookings or other interventions depending on the challenges at the time."

A sustainable visitor management project came into effect in 2022, which O'Brien labels a success.

"This has been an opportunity to educate our visitors, keep everybody safe, and just make sure everyone who is coming to do the crossing is having a safe and enjoyable experience," she said.

The project has delivered "behaviour-change campaigns", according to DOC's response to the OIA, to target visitors with key information about preparedness and cultural significance.

Trained Manaaki Rangers, supplied by an iwi contractor, also welcome visitors with key messages at the track ends, from Labour Weekend to 30 April.

O'Brien said that over the past couple of decades, there has been a steady increase of visitor numbers "putting pressure on the conservation and cultural values of the area, and also the infrastructure".

She said pressures were around waste management, congestion, toilets, environmental damage, and in some cases, a "lack of respect for the cultural significance" of Tongariro.

O'Brien said being able to tell visitors the cultural significance of why Tongariro is so special "helps them to be able to look after the place and our infrastructure - to do things like use the toilets instead



Despite lowering numbers, DOC is still considering a cap on daily hikers. Photo: Visit Ruapehu.

of going to the toilet on the side of the track".

"Again, it makes not only the mana whenua a little bit more comfortable around those visitor numbers, but it also helps those visitors to all have a good experience," she said.

With acknowledgements to Azaria Howell and the New Zealand Herald.



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Notice of AGM
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2 Hukaroa Road, Raetihi
Election of officers
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• Secretary
• Treasurer
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Tongariro Taupō Conservation Board
Notice of Meeting
Date: 25 June 2026
Venue: Department of Conservation Office
37 Motutaiko St, Taupo 3330
Public Forum: 1.00pm to 1.30pm
Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and engage with the Board during the public forum.
If you wish to attend the meeting or address the Board, either in person or online via MS Teams, please contact Tania Burley to receive an agenda and online link on:
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PUBLIC NOTICE

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Notice of Special General Meeting
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This is an opportunity for whānau to contribute to the future direction of our Marae and assist with important governance decisions that support the aspirations and wellbeing of our people.
Date: Saturday, 11 July 2026
Time: 11.00am – 1.00pm
Venue: The Centre, 14 Seddon St, Raetihi
Zoom link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87403237943?pwd=yiAiB6EjzRDOID7IbuAASRwZlECoYq.1>
Passcode: Mtkm1

Agenda:
• Appointment of one additional Trustee
• Update on bridge and Wharekai projects
Nominations:
All nominations must be received in writing no later than 14 days prior to the SGM, being Saturday, 27 June 2026.
For further information or to submit a nomination, please email The Secretary at: motekatoamarae1@gmail.com

Ruapehu District Council
Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ruapehu
Boards and Committees
UPCOMING MEETING DATES
Agendas are published on our Public Portal two working days before each scheduled meeting.
To speak at our Public Forum and share your thoughts directly with Elected Members, please contact our Governance team at governance@ruapehudc.govt.nz.
All meetings are livestreamed and can be found on the Ruapehu District Council website under the Agendas & Livestream icon on the main page.
Ruapehu District Council
10AM, Wednesday 24 June 2026
War Memorial Hall, 149 Hakiha Street, Taumarunui
Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board
5PM, Thursday 25 June 2026
War Memorial Hall, 149 Hakiha Street, Taumarunui
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING:
Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board
12PM, Friday 26 June 2026
Online
MEETING CONTACTS
Ruapehu District Council 07 895 8188
Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board 021 431 833
Molly Jeffries, Chairperson
Ōwhango-National Park Community Board 027 479 1926
Peter Zimmer, Chairperson
Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board 027 274 2616
John (Luigi) Hotter, Chairperson
Risk & Assurance Committee 027 499 9408
Philip Jones, Chairperson

For everything Ohakune, visit
www.ohakune.info

CLASSIFIEDS Deadline 5pm Friday.

BUSINESS NOTICES



Saturday 20 June

at The Centre, Seddon St until 1pm

For stall info phone Angel 0274 316 327
Only \$10 per stall – third Saturday of each month

HAVE YOU GOT AN EVENT you want to tell the community about? Contact us here at the Bulletin on 06-385-8532.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES



Ngā manga iti, ngā manga nui e honohono kau ana hei Awa Tupua.

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 Tāngata 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

Power firm a finalist for Distributor of the Year

A local electricity company has been named as a finalist in the Distributor of the Year category, sponsored by Axos Systems, for the 2026 New Zealand Energy Excellence Awards.

“This marks the first time TLC (The Lines Company) has entered the category and we’re humbled at making the finals, alongside fellow distributors Counties Energy and PowerNet,” says chief executive Mike Fox.

“We’re absolutely thrilled to be recognised as a finalist, especially in our first year entering this category, said Fox.

“Distributors across the country are doing an incredible range of work to build resilient, sustainable networks and partner with their



Working with community partners Tīrorangi Marae to build resiliency hubs, makes a tangible difference to communities.

communities to deliver practical, grassroots outcomes.”

He said the entry highlights TLC’s focus on “delivering lasting impact” for its customers and communities through four key strategic priorities. Central to this is the company’s community ownership model, which ensures a long-term, local focus.

“What sets us apart is our relentless focus on doing what’s right for our community,” said Fox.

“It keeps us grounded in who we’re here for and drives us to deliver reliable, future-focused services.”

He said the recognition reflects the collective effort of TLC’s people across the business, from field teams through to support functions, all working together to deliver for customers every day.

TLC also submitted an entry in the Community Initiative of the Year category, with its commitment to supporting local communities through its Power it Forward programme.

“While we didn’t make the finals in this category, we know from many sectors in the community that this programme creates meaningful impact where it is needed most.”

The NZ Energy Excellence Awards recognise innovation, leadership and excellence across New Zealand’s energy sector.



Replacing end-of-life airbreak switch is an integral part of network maintenance to keep our customers connected. Pictured, the team is working on a 33kV line in the National Park area.

Nau mai, haere mai ki ngā kōrero! Come and share your

Recollections of Ruapehu

Saturday 20 June 2026

2 - 4pm

Maungārongo Marae, Ohakune

Mihi whakatau
2pm

Join us as we reflect on the 1995-96 eruptions of Ruapehu maunga. Share your memories and experiences, alongside other community members and scientists who studied the eruption sequence. All welcome!

Bring your photos, videos, eruption-inspired artworks, and other memorabilia!

If you can't make it in person on the day, or have items for digital display, Email: ruapehurecollections@gmail.com.



Waiouru water woes wane

A 'Do Not Drink' water notice for Waiouru was lifted on Friday, after being publicised on Thursday.

The notice was due to levels of aluminium in the water above the maximum allowable.

The notice was announced as lifted at 3.30pm on Friday.

NZDF said on Monday that results from another round of water quality testing were received on Sunday showing aluminium levels all continue to meet the drinking water standard at all locations.

"While still compliant, the aluminium levels at Currie Cres have increased since Thursday's sample. This is probably due to lower turnover in this isolated section of the network. Fire crews flushed water from hydrants in Currie Cres yesterday morning as a precaution," stated NZDF.

"Our water source, Waiouru Stream, has been added to the list of sampling locations. This water is untreated and the results reflect the natural background levels of aluminium in the environment."

Drinking water had been made available for collection

at Z petrol station, Waiouru Primary school, Community Shopping Centre Carpark, National Army Museum, The Plateau (front grass area), grass verge intersection of Thornton Terrace and McKinnon Crescent.

Test results had identified that the aluminium level at the Waiouru water treatment plant was 4.058 mg/L, over the drinking water standards or Maximum Allowable Value (MAV) of 1.0 mg/L.

Power supply issues caused the treatment plant to behave abnormally overnight on Tuesday and the plant was shut down early on Wednesday morning. Water samples were taken and sent away for external testing.

The aluminium is likely to have originated from a treatment additive called poly aluminium chloride, which helps to bind small particles in the water so that they can be removed in the sand filters. The water treatment plant was fully flushed to get rid of any contaminated water, and was run overnight to produce water to fill the reservoir.

Operational parameters that are continuously monitored had returned to normal and the power supply was re-established.

Crater Lake sees slight increase in heat flow and gas output

Since the last update in late April, Mt Ruapehu has continued to show low-level unrest, characterised by persistent small earthquakes beneath the summit area, minor fluctuations in Te Wai ā-moe (Ruapehu Crater Lake) temperature, and variable but generally low-to-moderate gas emissions, reports GNS.

Volcanic activity remains within the range typical for minor unrest. The Volcanic Alert Level therefore remains at Level 1.

Lake temperatures have remained stable for the past four months (18–21.5°C), with short-term variability driven by weather and diurnal effects, reports Yannik Behr, duty volcanologist.

A gradual warming trend has been evident since mid-May, also seen in a slight increase of heat flux from a low of 40 MW on 10 May to a high of 200 MW on 31 May. Persistent upwelling and sulphur slicks continue to be observed during sampling visits.

Gas output has been low to moderate, and measurements show slight increases

in SO₂ and H₂S. Recent water sampling indicates minor changes, including a slight decrease in pH and shifts in Mg/Cl ratios, suggesting a small increase in magmatic fluid input. These changes remain modest relative to long-term trends.

Seismicity remains low-level but persistent, with small earthquakes beneath the summit and surrounding areas. A continuing sequence of repeating earthquakes beneath the summit (>700 events) is ongoing with most too small to be accurately located. Tremor levels are weak, with a brief increase observed in early June.

"Observations are consistent with a dynamic hydrothermal system and intermittent input of volcanic gas and heat," says Behr.

The Earth Sciences New Zealand Volcano Monitoring Group and National Geohazards Monitoring Centre will continue to closely monitor Ruapehu for any changes in activity. We will provide further updates when information becomes available or the status changes.

Ruapehu winter break package launched

A new partnership between Intrepid Travel and Whakapapa, Mt Ruapehu launches this winter season to help showcase Ruapehu's winter experiences.

The campaign, supported by Visit Ruapehu, will target Australians as well as the domestic drive market around Auckland. The Ruapehu Winter Break package invites visitors to discover one of New Zealand's best winter destinations and the unique volcanic landscapes of Tongariro National Park.

"The package is primarily targeted at the Australian market who are looking for simple ways to enjoy the incredible winter offering of Whakapapa and Ruapehu," says David Coles, destination product manager for Intrepid New Zealand DMC.

It is suitable for skiers of all abilities and non-skiers alike.

"Our guides will pick guests up from Auckland, get them down to Whakapapa Ski Area and help with all lift passes and lessons. It's a great option for solo travellers, couples or families looking for a hassle-free few days in

the mountains," says Coles.

Laura Wilkinson, guest and sales manager, Whakapapa, Mt Ruapehu recently attended the Sydney Snow Travel Expo to engage with the Australian market and shares her enthusiasm for this new partnership.

"At Whakapapa, we believe the maunga has a special way of bringing people together, and we're thrilled to partner with Intrepid Travel to share that experience with a wider audience. This package creates an easy and enjoyable pathway for guests to discover the magic of Whakapapa, Mt Ruapehu, whether they're first-time snow visitors or returning to reconnect with the mountain."

Helping support local tourism providers develop new products and foster industry collaborations is an important role of Visit Ruapehu.

"It's incredibly fulfilling to see all this come to fruition with initial discussions around this winter partnership taking place earlier this year," says Mahalee Guieysse, PR and trade manager, Visit Ruapehu.



Some of the Intrepid Travel crew during an earlier Whakapapa visit, from left, Ruth Fenton, David Coles, Anastasia Neugebauer (now in Germany), Joy Semme (currently on maternity leave) and Mahalee Guieysse from Visit Ruapehu.

Ohakune squash

Results from last week's Ohakune Squash Club's interhouse saw Salming beat previous leaders Stellar 108/95, Tecnifibre took over the lead by beating Unsquashable 107/84, Head beat Prince 106/97 and Karakal beat Dunlop 98/93. Points to date: Tecnifibre 330, Stellar 320, Salming 306, Dunlop 295, Head 291, Karakal 287, Unsquashable 285 and Prince 266.

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

Over the weekend several players competed in a Taihape doubles tournament. Best results from Ohakune players came from Jason Haitana and Diana Cranston who won the top mixed division, Ray and Laura Double were runners up in the second mixed division and Ashton Smith teamed up with Lucas Watson from New Plymouth to win men's division three.

Also on Saturday Turangi hosted a one-day tournament where Emma Rowe won the women's first division.

A points update for the round the mountain Tuesday night mixed interclub has Ohakune 75, Ruapehu College 57, Turangi 55, Waimarino 50, Taumarunui One 39, Taumarunui Two 33. Next Tuesday all six teams are playing in Ohakune starting 6:30pm, visitors welcome.

Ruapehu attack from the start to beat Pirates

In the Whanganui Rugby Union Championship, the keenly-anticipated game was at Spriggens Park and Challenge Shield holders Ruapehu did not disappoint, attacking from the outset and eventually securing a 36-14 win over RockGas Whanganui Pirates to sit clear on top of the table.

HT: Pirates 7 – Ruapehu 19; FT: Pirates 14 – Ruapehu 36. Tries: Tahatika Te Riaki; Kahl Elers-Green; Te Orangi Te Riaki; Ezekiel Anderson; Rangihaereroa McLeod (2); Conversions, Jack Pettersson (2); Logan Blackburn.

Home game this weekend against Utiku 1pm kick off.

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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