

# RUAPEHU SNOW BULLETIN

Priceless  
newspaper!  
Winter  
2026



*Ohakune extreme skier Jess Hotter jumps with joy during a visit to her home hill – Tūroa – last season. Jess is a world-champion freeride skier and usually spends her time travelling the world, skiing for photo shoots, but she's taking a year off for 2026 to recover from surgery before she gets back into life on snow. Photo: Aden Simons.*

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# Old nurses home now a wellness retreat



**Snowy Waters, settled in the Raetihi hills.**

## From Page 25

to experience deep relaxation in a sensory-reduced environment designed to calm the nervous system and encourage mindfulness.

Recognising the growing demand for holistic wellbeing experiences, Sandy Waters, who has owned the property since June 2006, has curated a diverse programme of therapeutic services by collaborating with other talented local women. Equine therapy with Heidi will offer participants the opportunity to work alongside horses in guided sessions that foster emotional awareness, confidence, communication and personal development.

Reiki sessions with Laura are available for guests seeking relaxation, balance and stress relief. Complementing these services will be guided breathwork, helping participants harness conscious breathing techniques to improve focus, emotional regulation and overall wellbeing.

Therapeutic Qi Gong, an ancient Chinese practice, is a holistic mind/body/spirit practice using gentle movement, breathing and meditation. Offered by Sharon, alongside her energy practices and workshops, all aim to realise better body functions, assisting with detoxification, anatomical alignment, inner calm and self-awareness.

Stress reduction through art workshops with Paula can calm the nerves and help to move the mind into a focused flow that provides respite from anxiety and worries.

The rebrand reflects a growing societal shift towards preventative health, self-care, and holistic wellness. By bringing together a variety of complementary therapies in a tranquil setting, the retreat hopes to attract both local visitors and wellness travellers from across New Zealand. As Phoenix Rise prepares to welcome its first guests under its new identity, the relaunch signals not just a new business direction, but a commitment to helping people rise, renew, and reconnect all within the amazing setting that is the Ruapehu.

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ADVERTORIAL

# Strong wool finds its feet again



**Buyers are rediscovering the advantages of strong wool as a natural product, pleasing hill country farmers.**

For around two decades, strong wool was the poor relation of the farm system — valued in theory, but barely worth the cost of getting it off the sheep’s back. Many growers shored their flocks at a loss and quietly wondered if the fibre had a future at all. That mood is shifting, and quickly.

Strong wool prices have staged a genuine recovery. The Fusca Strong Wool Indicator has risen more than 130% since mid-2022, and at the end of May the best crossbred fleeces broke \$7 a kilogram clean for the first time since around 2011 — a 15-year high. Industry figures now describe prices in the fours, fives, and even sixes as the “new normal,” a turnaround that is tipping more than \$200 million a year back into farm revenue.

The reasons are part scarcity, part renewed demand. New Zealand’s national flock has fallen from around 70 million sheep in 1982 to roughly 23 million today, so there is simply less strong wool reaching the auction floor. At the same time, buyers here and overseas are rediscovering a natural, renewable and biodegradable fibre — in carpet, insulation and clothing — at a moment when sustainability genuinely matters.

Closer to home, the appreciation for good New Zealand wool has never gone away. Ohakune’s own Opus Fresh Apparel Co has long championed all wool, with a number of its garments crafted from strong wool and made right here in the central North Island. It is a reminder that the value in a fleece grows when consumers fully understand the value of the fibre.

After years in the wilderness, strong wool is back on firmer ground — and for the hill country farmers who stuck with it through the lean times, that is welcome news indeed.

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6KM • 12KM • 21KM • 32KM

# Tūroa team gearing up

The Tūroa team is gearing up with final testing on processes and equipment, leading up to the planned opening on 4 July.

“Snow guns are mostly in place and/or are being moved into position,” says marketing manager James Simpson.

“We are waiting for consistent cold temps to fully fire them up.”

He said all departments are ready; staff inductions, training and assessments are underway or completed; the Alpine Cafe has already had a couple of open weekends, “so the crew there are adapting to systems and smoothing out processes ahead of the school holidays”.

James said the company’s season pass sale has gone well.

“We saw a strong pickup and we continue to sell a decent volume now, which is unusual for this time of year and a good sign for the 2026 season.”

He said the new Pioneers Club – an offer to people who took up the three-year extension to their obsolete Life Passes – had “an excellent uptake”.

“Given it’s a new programme, it will continue to develop over time.”



*Tūroa’s teams are primed for the 2026 season. Storms in April and May had them working on their de-icing skills. Photo: Tūroa.*



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# Hungry? Rush in to see Angus and Sara

“My old man ran McDonald’s for over 35 years, so you could say I was born into the game,” says Hungry Rush proprietor Angus Rush.

“There’s even a photo of me at 10 months old, chilling in the bath with a McD’s paper hat on.”

By eight he was already flipping patties and racking fries.

Wife Sara – award-winning barista – and he spent 15-plus years at Maccas, both in franchise and corporate, before shifting gears into Kiwi hospo.

“I became GM of Lone Star NZ and later, Mum, Dad, Sara and I bought Lone Star to Whangārei. We grew it, smashed it, and after selling up, we knew one thing: it was time to do our own thing.”



**Angus Rush – ready to feed the hungry in a rush.**

That’s how The Hungry Rush was born. It started in Whangārei as a full-blown food truck passion project, a place where they brought together the best Kiwi classic food, “done properly, no shortcuts, no mucking around”.

“Then life throws you a curveball and next thing you know you are packaging up and in four weeks we moved the whole family to Ohakune. What a trip!

“The special thing about this move is we are coming home to a place that the Rush family have been since the early 1900s. From farmers in Raetihi, to worked on the ‘Bridge To Nowhere’ and owning a local bicycle shop ... it’s time to continue the family legacy.

“So now, The Hungry Rush has found its new home in Ohakune. Fresh mountain air, good people, and plenty of hungry bellies to feed.

“Our mission hasn’t changed: we’re here to serve up the food we all grew up on, the way it’s meant to be ... fresh, New Zealand local, handmade and straight-up delicious.

“So pull up, grab a feed, and dig in! We got you.”

For more info, go to [www.hungryrush.co.nz](http://www.hungryrush.co.nz).

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# Adventure events continue

From first chair to last run, winter is a season of adventure in Ruapehu, connection and unforgettable moments, with the spirit of adventure continuing long after the snow has melted, thanks to a bunch of adventure events.

The Ohakune Events Charitable Trust (OECT) is excited to open registrations for three of the region's popular outdoor events, offering adventures for all ages and abilities across the spectacular landscapes of Tongariro National Park and Mt Ruapehu.

Kicking off the season is The Goat Adventure Run on Saturday 23 January 2027. Widely regarded as one of New Zealand's most iconic mountain running events, The Goat challenges participants to journey 19-ish kilometres from Whakapapa to Tūroa across the slopes of Mt Ruapehu. With volcanic terrain, stunning views and an unforgettable atmosphere, it remains a bucket list event for runners from across the country.

For younger adventurers, The Kid Run takes place on the same day. Designed for children aged 5 to 16 years, this fun and supportive event encourages young people



**Turn to Page 37** Ruapehu offers a selection of fun and challenging trail adventures.

## BAYLEYS



**Ohakune 7 Cordyline Place**

## Sophistication on Cordyline

Positioned in the sought-after Snowmass subdivision, this standout executive-style home offers comfort, space and quality in a fantastic location. Designed for easy living and entertaining, the home features a generous open-plan living, dining and kitchen area that is beautifully light-filled and finished with high-quality fixtures and fittings throughout. The stylish kitchen, along with scullery, forms the hub of the home, while a heat pump and cosy gas fire ensure year-round comfort. The home offers four well-sized bedrooms, all with wardrobes, including a master suite complete with its own ensuite. Step outside to a large deck, perfect for outdoor entertaining or simply relaxing while taking in the spectacular mountain views.

[bayleys.co.nz/2900871](http://bayleys.co.nz/2900871)

458<sub>sqm</sub> 4 2

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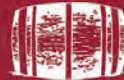
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# Call for adaptive volunteers

A call has gone out from Whakapapa Ski Area, looking for volunteers who want to help “make the mountain accessible to everyone”.

The snow school is looking for people to help instructors and their adaptive clients.

“Volunteers are a vital part of the Whakapapa Adaptive Programme,” says the snow school.

“They help create opportunities for people of all abilities to experience skiing and snowboarding with the support, equipment and guidance they need.

“Without volunteer support, we couldn’t continue to grow the programme or support as many adaptive guests each season.”

Volunteers support guests and instructors, but do not independently instruct. A typical volunteer day varies depending on lesson schedules and weather, and may involve supporting lessons from 1 to 6 hours.

Volunteers work alongside trained adaptive instructors to support guests on and off snow. This may include: assisting during adaptive lessons; helping guests around the base area; supporting adaptive equipment setup; providing encouragement and a positive experience; assisting during adaptive events and programmes.

Volunteering is flexible, with availability chosen week to week. While there is no minimum commitment, support during weekends in August and September is especially valuable.

Online volunteer training is through Snowsports New Zealand (SSNZ), with on-snow training sessions on 25 and 26 July.

Volunteers should be comfortable skiing or snowboarding the mountain independently, have a positive attitude and a willingness to learn.

Volunteers are not paid, but they can earn a refund on their season pass, depending on hours worked.



**Charlie Gilbert gets some air on his sit ski, with help from his Dad, Alex. Whakapapa’s adaptive programme provides opportunities to “make the mountain accessible to everyone”. Photo: Robert Milne.**

ohakunehottubs.co.nz

Enjoy your own private open air hot tub at the foothills of Mt Ruapehu. The crackle and smell of the wood fired hot tub will surely relax you after your day’s activity in and around Tongariro National Park.

# Ruapehu ski lobby group wound up

The Ruapehu Skifields Stakeholders Association – the lobby group that was formed in the wake of the demise of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts – is to be wound up.

“A big thank you from the RSSA team to the many thousands of passionate members who have supported the RSSA over the past three years,” said past chair Jason Platt.

The group mainly represented ski lift life pass holders, who lost access to the Whakapapa and Tūroa ski lifts with the sale of the two ski areas.

“There have been legislative changes affecting clubs and organisations such as RSSA, requiring all such groups to update their constitutions and re-register,” says Platt.

He said the committee has decided not to re-register, and the RSSA ceased to continue as an official society from 31 March 2026.

All remaining funds have been donated to the National Park Primary School in Waimarino to help promote local skiing.

“The RSSA fought the good fight on behalf of our members, exploring every avenue through advocacy, diplomacy and legal action. But in the end, we could not match the might of MBIE and the Crown, who had already pre-determined RAL’s fate,” claims Platt.

“RSSA said from the start that ‘we are just guests on this Maunga’ and repeatedly warned that the concessions were the biggest issue and that the process was seriously flawed.

“Three years on, and \$52 million of taxpayers’ money later, it is no surprise that iwi, after repeatedly warning the Crown, were forced to take matters further with two separate High Court judicial reviews regarding the validity of the ski field concessions (heard earlier in June).

“Let us all hope that a resolution and path forward can be found.”

He said it has been both an incredible and frustrating journey for many of the RSSA committee and members, who gave a great deal of their time and expertise freely to try and keep the ski fields in community ownership, respect iwi wishes and ensure a long-term future together.

“RSSA still feels sadness for the many thousands of recent New Zealand mum-and-dad Life Pass holders who not only lost their money, but also their sense of close connection with the Maunga, through no fault of their own.”

On-site location photographer  
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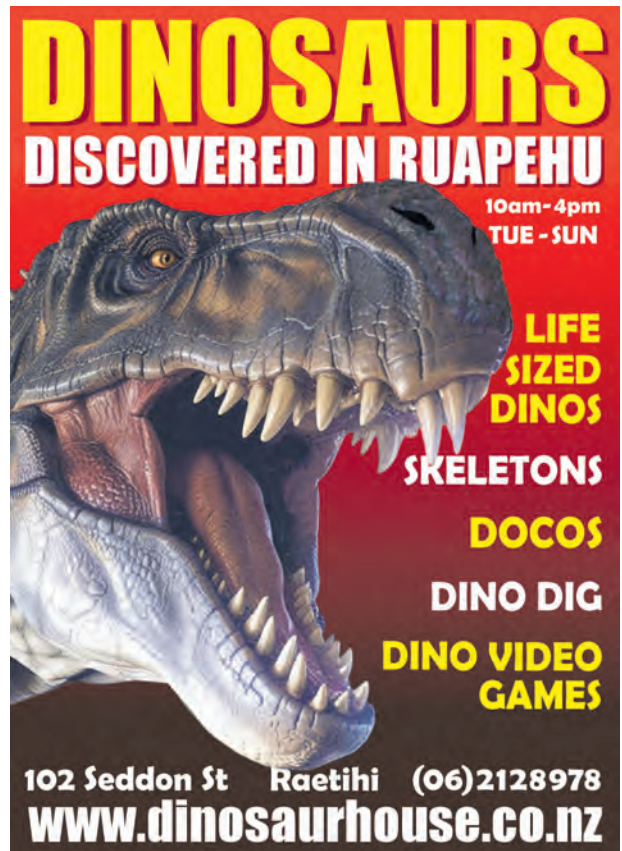
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# HAVE YOU GOAT WHAT IT TAKES?

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Whakapapa to Tūroa • Mt Ruapehu

SCAN FOR MORE INFO



# Mountain water & carrots go into new gin

*Susan Delaney, founder and head distiller of Ruapehu Distillery in Ohakune, pictured with one of her guests during a tour of her business that has been four years in the making. They're standing next to 'Nigella' in the tasting room – a beautiful, shiny copper pot still. Tastings include the first offering from the distillery, the Straight Up Carrot Gin. "On the nose, the Straight Up Carrot Gin is juniper forward, followed by coriander seed and a subtle citrusy sweetness. The juniper that defines gin is balanced by the coriander seed, but what really makes this drink special and sets it apart is the combination of earthy sweetness from the carrot and orange peel with added warmth and complexity from the horopito (NZ native pepper tree)."*



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# Adventure events continue

From Page 31

to get outdoors, challenge themselves and experience the excitement of event day in a safe and welcoming environment.

The adventure continues on Saturday 20 March 2027 with Tussock Traverse. Set within the breathtaking landscapes of Tongariro National Park, Tussock Traverse offers scenic adventure trail running distances of 6km, 12km, 21km and 32km. Whether you're taking your first steps into trail running or looking for your next challenge, there is a distance to suit every participant.

Beyond the finish lines, these events generate significant benefits for the wider Ruapehu community, attracting visitors

from throughout New Zealand and overseas, supporting local businesses and showcasing the region as one of the country's premier outdoor recreation destinations.

From first time trail runners to experienced mountain adventurers, Ruapehu's 2027 event season offers something for everyone. We look forward to welcoming participants from across New Zealand to experience the landscapes, community spirit and adventure that make this region so special.

For the latest event news, entry information and announcements, follow the adventure: Facebook & Instagram: @oectnz | @thegoattongariro | @tussocktraverse\_nz

## Ruapehu rally returns



Rallying round Ruapehu returns. Photo: Geoff Ridder.

The North Island Rally Series Returns to Ruapehu after 26 years in August this winter.

The Taumarunui Rally (Round 4) on 8 August 2026 offers drivers 145kms of special stages, blasting around classic King Country public gravel roads last used in 1999 as a New Zealand Rally Championship round.

After a hiatus of 26 years, the Hawkeswood Mining North Island Rally Series is able to return to these incredible gravel roads – Ruapehu District's finest special stages and based in the Taumarunui township with a strong focus on supporting the local community.



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**Ohakune 100 Ruapehu Road**

**Quaint railway cottage**

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964<sup>sqm</sup> 3 1

**Asking Price** \$585,000  
**Kay Blaney** 027 480 8845  
 kay.blaney@bayleys.co.nz  
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7,942<sup>sqm</sup> 4 3

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**Ohakune 10/76 Ruapehu Road**

**Whalefield estate**

Whalefield Estate is a secure, gated subdivision located on Ruapehu Road at the edge of Ohakune township. This established development caters to both permanent residents and holiday homeowners. With such an enviable location and generous land area, this is truly a place to build your alpine dream.

1.0275<sup>ha</sup>

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bayleys.co.nz/2900878

# Beneath Ruapehu skies: local iwi restores ceremony

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting

Scores of Ngāti Rangi whānau gathered at the edge of the mountain at the top of the Ohakune Mountain Road to call out the names of loved ones who had died over the past year earlier in June.

As the sun disappeared to the west of Ruapehu, the emotional ceremony at Tūroa skifield marked the revival of Hautuku as the central North Island iwi reinstated the traditional ceremony Te Maru o te Tau.

The ancient seasonal ritual had not been formally observed for some time.

The ceremony unfolded beneath cloudy skies as the light faded across the maunga, with karakia, remembrance and ritual combining to mark both an ending and a beginning, farewelling those who had passed while preparing the living for the



**Ngāti Rangi iwi gathered at the base of Tūroa Ski Area recently, to seek a blessing from their Koro (Mt Ruapehu) for the coming ski season. Photo: Moana Ellis.**

Turn to Page 46

## BAYLEYS



### Ohakune 99 Clyde Street

#### Clyde Street cutie

Step back from the street and back in time with this picture book cottage in the heart of Ohakune. Sitting behind a white picket fence with its bullnose verandah and red front door, you'll feel at home before you even step inside. The property would make an idyllic first home or holiday home.

[bayleys.co.nz/2900836](http://bayleys.co.nz/2900836)

3 1 2

**Asking Price** \$345,000  
**Antony Greenfield** 021 102 3594  
[antony.greenfield@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:antony.greenfield@bayleys.co.nz)  
**Noah Harto** 021 233 9701  
[noah.harto@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:noah.harto@bayleys.co.nz)  
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### Ohakune 23A Lee Street

#### Nestled amongst charm

This charming, cosy, two-storey chalet is tucked away from the road in a secluded spot surrounded by mature trees. With its warm and inviting ambiance, it offers the perfect retreat for those seeking privacy and a serene connection to nature. Inside, the chalet features an open-plan lounge and kitchen area.

[bayleys.co.nz/2900740](http://bayleys.co.nz/2900740)

1 1

**Asking Price** \$330,000  
**Kay Blaney** 027 480 8845  
[kay.blaney@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:kay.blaney@bayleys.co.nz)  
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# EATING OUT IN RUAPEHU

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**3 Rimu Street, Ohakune Junction Ph: 06 385 8648**

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

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

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### THE CYPRUS TREE

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## BACK FOR 2026 IN OHAKUNE

DATES AND VENUES WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE  
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# Ruapehu – the heart of

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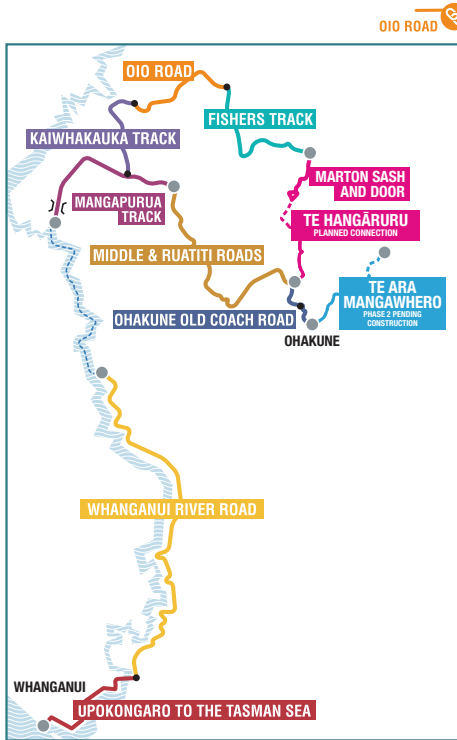
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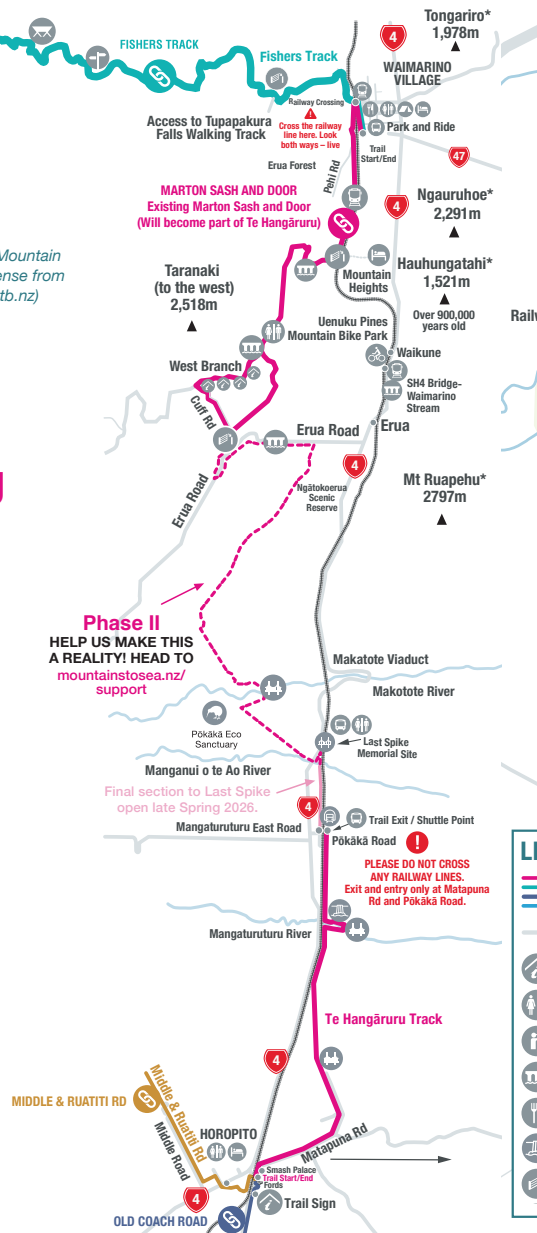
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## FISHERS TRACK

GRADE  
3

LENGTH  
27 km

DURATION  
2-3 hrs

## MARTON SASH AND DOOR

GRADE  
3

LENGTH  
18 km

DURATION  
2-3 hrs

## TE HANGĀRURU

GRADE  
2

LENGTH  
11.1km  
(one way)

DURATION  
1.5 hrs  
(return)

Discover more exciting sections of Mountains to Sea – Ngā Ara Tūhono. Over 300kms of connected trails from Ruapehu to Whanganui. Also check out our sister Great Ride – Timber Trail NZ.

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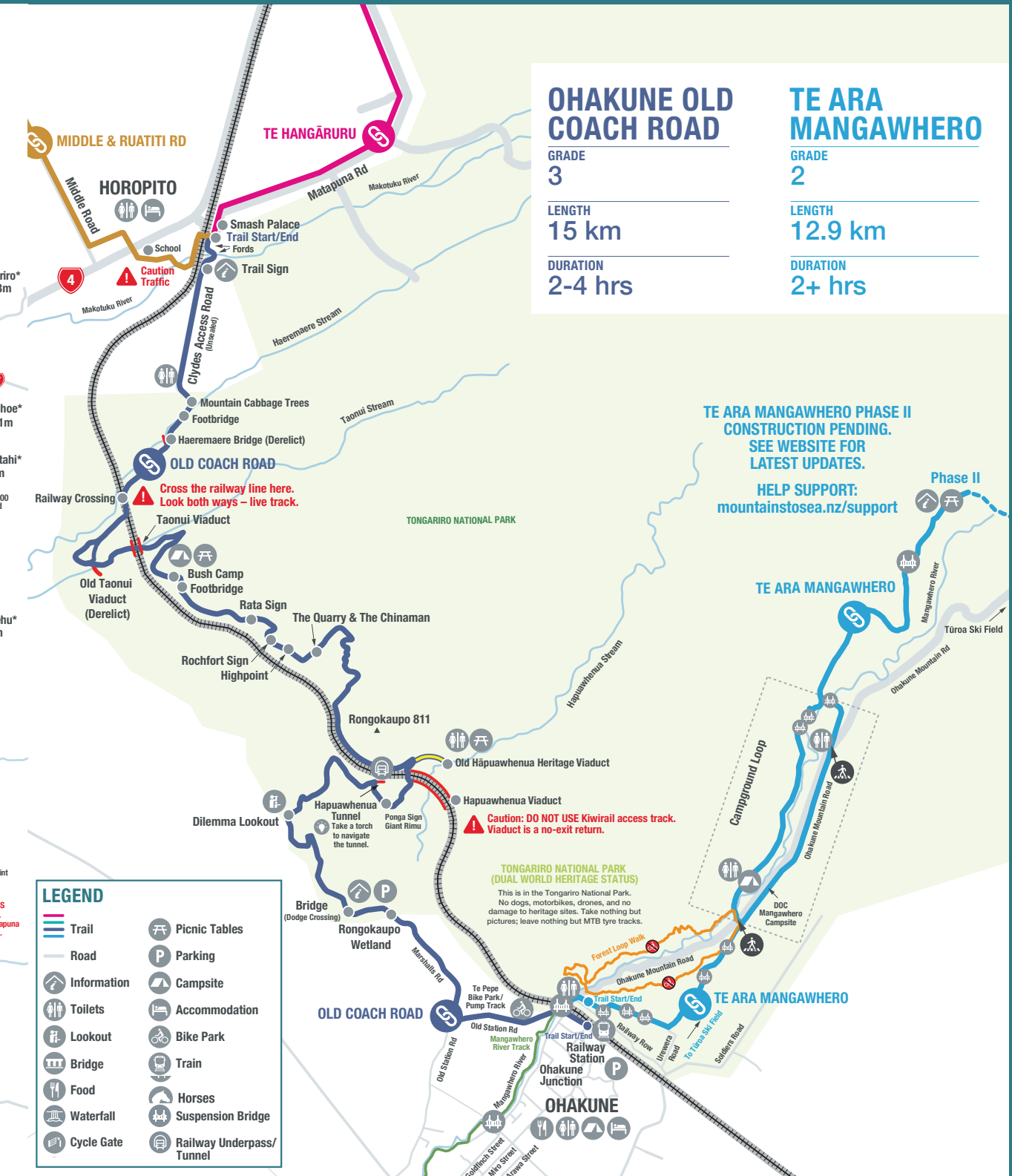


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Mountains to Sea  
Ngā Ara Tūhono





# Ruapehu Events

## JUNE 2026

22  
MON

### Corona Happy Hours

Starting 22 June. Ease into the afternoon with Corona Happy Hour at Lorenz's Bar & Cafe running daily from 2:30pm with specials on Corona, Michelob Ultra and Mateus Rosé.

## JULY 2026

SAT

### Fork & Flame

**Selected Saturdays, July to October.** As the sun sets over Mt Ruapehu, Freddie's comes alive with an exclusive alpine dining experience. Guests will enjoy a thoughtfully curated multi-course menu showcasing bold New Zealand flavours and seasonal local ingredients, all served in the warm and inviting atmosphere of Tūroa's mountain restaurant. Visit [www.pureturoa.nz](http://www.pureturoa.nz) or find us on Facebook or Instagram @turoa.nz for up to date information.

SCHOOL  
HOLS

### School Holiday Fun at Whakapapa

Saturday 4 July: Face Painting, Meet Koha, Scavenger Hunt (Always On), Photo Comp (Always On), Colouring Comp (Always On), Sunday 5 July: Face Painting, Meet Koha, Backcountry Awareness with BCA, Saturday 11 July: Face Painting, Sunday 12 July: Meet Koha, Face Painting, Monday 13 July: Meet Koha, Face Painting, Sunday 19 July: Meet Koha, Face Painting. More on these events at [www.whakapapa.com](http://www.whakapapa.com)

11  
SAT

### Pure Shredders

The next generation of riders takes centre stage at Pure Shredders, a fun and welcoming freestyle event for skiers and snowboarders aged 14 years and under. Held in the Alpine Meadow Park, the competition encourages creativity, progression and confidence, making it ideal for both first-time competitors and experienced young jibbers. With a relaxed atmosphere and plenty of encouragement, it's the perfect opportunity for kids to challenge themselves and make new friends on the mountain. Visit [www.pureturoa.nz](http://www.pureturoa.nz) or find us on Facebook or Instagram @turoa.nz for up to date information.

11  
SAT

### Peaks & Beats with Aperol

Aperol takes over Knoll Ridge Chalet for an afternoon of music, mountain views and drink specials. More on this event at [www.whakapapa.com](http://www.whakapapa.com)

11  
SAT

### Yakima on the Mountain

Find Yakima in the base area showcasing their smart transport solutions for your next snow adventure, with the latest products and spot prizes up for grabs. More on this event at [www.whakapapa.com](http://www.whakapapa.com)

17  
FRI

### Happy Valley Rail Jam

Hit the rail and box line, throw down your best tricks, and be in to win great prizes thanks to IHI Syndicate and Dragon. Open to all ages, with a \$10 entry fee payable on bib collection. More on this event at [www.whakapapa.com](http://www.whakapapa.com)

17  
FRI

### Warren Miller Movie Night

Join us in Lorenz's Bar & Café for a free screening of the latest Warren Miller film, SNO-CIETY. Food and drink specials available from 4pm, with the movie starting at 5pm. More on this event at [www.whakapapa.com](http://www.whakapapa.com)

21  
FRI

### Bay of Plenty/Waikato Champs

Contingency 28 August. More on this event at [www.whakapapa.com](http://www.whakapapa.com)

## AUGUST 2026

8  
SAT

### Taumarunui Rally

Rally Taumarunui returns in August 2026! Join us for a thrilling day of rally action through the heart of the King Country. Follow the Rally Taumarunui page for updates leading up to the big day. #RallyTaumarunui2026

9  
SUN

### Girls Who Shred

Designed to inspire more women and girls to enjoy terrain parks – a free coaching and social event for female skiers and snowboarders looking to build their confidence in the park. Open to riders of all ability levels, the day focuses on learning new skills, meeting like-minded people and having fun in a supportive environment. Participants must hold a valid day or season pass, be able to comfortably ride the Giant Chairlift, know how to turn and stop, and wear a helmet. Riders aged 10–14 are welcome when accompanied by a parent or guardian. Visit [www.pureturoa.nz](http://www.pureturoa.nz) or find us on Facebook or Instagram @turoa.nz for up to date information.

## AUGUST 2026

30–2  
SUN-WED

### NI Primary & Intermediate Schools Champs

NZ's premier primary and intermediate ski champs, giving young racers a fun, safe and supportive alpine racing experience. More on this event at [www.whakapapa.com](http://www.whakapapa.com)

TBC

### Mountain Film Festival

Come and see the award winning selection of films from the NZ Mountain Film & Book Festival. This year's festival venue and date tbc. Sponsored by Ruapehu Bulletin & Cheal

23/8  
to 6/9

### Winter Art Exhibition

A visual art exhibition showcasing Ruapehu artists in Ohakune. Venues: La Pizzeria, The Kitchen, The Cyprus Tree, Frank's, Powderkeg, Freddie's & Nook. Contact Paul at [paul@4thames.co.nz](mailto:paul@4thames.co.nz) for more information.

## SEPTEMBER 2026

5  
SAT

### Rangatira Retro

Hosted by Rangatira Alpine Sports Club, this Dual Slalom race welcomes competitors of all ages and abilities across a range of ski and snowboard categories. More on this event at [www.whakapapa.com](http://www.whakapapa.com)

5  
SAT

### Rail Jam – Winter Vibes

Get ready for one of the biggest freestyle events of the season as The Rail Jam returns to Tūroa. Beginning at 1pm, the competition features an open jam format where riders showcase their best tricks before the top eight progress to head-to-head knockout heats. With a live DJ, incredible prizes and an electric atmosphere, this is a must-see event whether you're competing or spectating. Helmets are compulsory.

10  
THURS

### Navy Intershops & Air Force Champs

More on this event at [www.whakapapa.com](http://www.whakapapa.com)

11-13  
FRI-SUN

### Adaptive Festival

A celebration of inclusive snow sports where people of all abilities come together on the mountain. More on this event at [www.whakapapa.com](http://www.whakapapa.com)

12  
SAT

### Navy Club Champs

More on this event at [www.whakapapa.com](http://www.whakapapa.com)

19  
SAT

### Ngauruhoe Trophy Race

Contingency 20 September. More on this event at [www.whakapapa.com](http://www.whakapapa.com)

21-23  
MON-WED

### NI Secondary Schools Ski & Snowboard Champs

An awesome three day event for North Island Secondary School Skiers & Snowboarders, with a mixture of racing and freestyle events held at Tūroa. Disclaimer: Tūroa events are subject to snow and weather conditions. Visit [www.nisscc.nz](http://www.nisscc.nz) or Facebook North Island Secondary Schools Skiing Competition. Email [nisscc.snowsports@gmail.com](mailto:nisscc.snowsports@gmail.com)

26–2  
SAT-FRI

### Waimarino Art Awards

Celebrating art and photography talent across the region. The Annual awards are a showcase and place to buy too. Exhibition Viewing Times 27 Sep - 2 Oct, 11am - 2pm days and 6-9pm nights. WEEK OF WORKSHOPS: \* Puoro, \* Geli Printing, \* Ecstatic Art & Dance, \* Kahu Aroha, \* Paint & Collage, \* Paint & Sip, \* QuickDraw! \* Pottery Animals, \* Pyrography. All details on [www.waimarinoartawards.org.nz](http://www.waimarinoartawards.org.nz). Contact Annie 021 638 800

# Events



## SEPTEMBER 2026

26  
SAT

### Peak 2 Powderkeg Triathlon Tūroa

Celebrating its 30th year, the legendary Peak to Keg adventure race remains one of Ruapehu's most iconic events. The four-stage challenge takes competitors from the summit of Tūroa Ski Area to the Powderkeg below Mt Ruapehu, combining endurance, teamwork and plenty of mountain spirit. Participants can enter as individuals or teams of three, with team entries requiring at least one female competitor. [www.powderhom.co.nz](http://www.powderhom.co.nz)

26  
SAT

### Tongariro Juniors Club Race

Contingency 27 September More on this event at [www.whakapapa.com](http://www.whakapapa.com)

26  
SAT

### DJI Demo Day

Experience the mountain through a new lens as you trial the latest DJI camera technology. Capture your own Whakapapa adventure, and keep the footage from your day on snow with some spot prizes up for grabs. More on this event at [www.whakapapa.com](http://www.whakapapa.com)

TBC

### Raetihi Wild Food Challenge

The Local Wild Food Challenge builds on the culinary adventure founded by Kivis Bill and Sarah Manson. To be held at the Raetihi Cosmopolitan Club. Designed to showcase the resourcefulness of people living in communities where wild food is available. Contact: [grayway423@gmail.com](mailto:grayway423@gmail.com)

## OCTOBER 2026

3  
SAT

### Retro Day

A celebration of everything retro and spring in Ruapehu. Break out your dads old one piece or your old fluoro pants because the Retro Police will be out and about handing out fashion fines that could win you and your outfit some stunning prizes. Fun and games for the whole family including Chocolate Eclair eating, Air Guitar and Carrot Bag Toss at The Kitchen, 4 Thames St, Ohakune Junction. See Facebook page for details. #RETRODAYOHAKUNE

3  
SAT

### Waimarino Cup/North Island Champs

Contingency 4 October. More on this event at [www.whakapapa.com](http://www.whakapapa.com)

5  
MON

### Whakapapa Freeride Festival

Contingency 5-8 October. More on this event at [www.whakapapa.com](http://www.whakapapa.com)

10  
SAT

### Pond Skim - Whakapapa

More on this event at [www.whakapapa.com](http://www.whakapapa.com)

17  
SAT

### Ohakune Fashion Show

Showcasing winter fashion with a fun local fundraising event, held at the Matterhorn Bar & Restaurant. Local, recycled and fashion on show. A great night out. See [Ohakune Fashion Show](#) on Facebook for details.

**DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.  
FOR MORE DETAILS, GO TO  
OHAKUNE.INFO**

Disclaimer: Whakapapa events are subject to snow and weather conditions Visit [www.whakapapa.com](http://www.whakapapa.com) for up to date information. Tūroa events are subject to snow and weather conditions. Visit [www.pureturoa.nz](http://www.pureturoa.nz) or on Facebook/Instagram [@turoa.nz](https://www.instagram.com/turoa.nz) for up to date information.

# RUAPEHU ACCOMMODATION

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## RUAPEHU SNOW BULLETIN

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# Beneath Ruapehu skies:

From Page 39

new year ahead.

The sunset gathering was part of a wider effort by Ngāti Rangī to restore five ancestral ritenga (seasonal rituals) connected to the Māori lunar calendar, the environment and the changing seasons.

“This is a kaupapa that’s just been revived – this will be the first time that we’ve done Te Maru o te Tau,” kaikarakia (prayer leader) Neha Kaire said.

“The Hautuku is the fifth ritenga (ritual) of five seasonal ritenga throughout the year.

“It acknowledges our mate (departed) that have passed over the last year.”



At the western edge of the mountain, iwi members called out the names of loved ones who had died during the past year. Photo: Moana Ellis.

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# local iwi restores ceremony

Kaire said the revival aimed to help whānau reconnect with te taiao and the natural rhythms of the environment.

Held during the full moon phase of the final lunar month of the Māori calendar, Te Maru o te Tau signals the beginning of Pō Roa o Takurua – the long nights of winter – and the start of winter wānanga.

According to Ngāti Rangi narratives, Hautuku helps guide the spirits of the recently deceased on their journey to Te Whata nā Maru, a platform in the western sky, and into te pō, where they later become stars during Te Tahī o te Tau, a pre-dawn Hautapu ceremony associated with the Māori new year.

As flames flickered against the darkening mountain, participants were invited to release unwanted energy by placing a rau (frond) into the fire, symbolically clearing themselves to enter the new year afresh.

The ritenga began with karakia acknowledging Ruapehu before whānau stepped forward one by one to take part in the ritual.

Kaire said the revival represented an important cultural reconnection for

Ngāti Rangi.

“Now that we’ve identified the five ritenga, we’re putting them back in order. For us, that’s big. It’s really big in terms of remembering to remember the ceremonies our tūpuna used to observe.

“And it’s awesome that we’re getting to do this in the afternoon, at the time when our tūpuna would have done it,” Kaire said.

For many years, Ngāti Rangi has held maunga karakia at dawn at the top of the Ohakune Mountain Road to mark the opening of the mountain’s winter season.

But this year’s Hautuku ceremony represented a return to older practices that had gradually fallen out of formal observance.

Helen Leahy, pou ārahi/chief executive of Ngā Waihua o Paerangi, said the iwi’s five traditional seasonal rituals had, in recent years, been amalgamated and observed together.

However, following last year’s national Matariki mā Puanga broadcast from Tiorangi Marae at Karioi, Ngāti Rangi began restoring all five ceremonies to their traditional sequence.

“Some of these ritenga will be revived over time and we will take slow, deliberate steps,” Leahy said.

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



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