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22 July 2026
Issue No 2115



Public access
move for
Whakappapa
River
P2



Redband
art from
Rangatahi
summit
P3



Winter
wellness
packs
delivered
P5



Ratana
Church
move
milestone
P12

Is Ruapehu back? Whakapapa snow season start much improved

The start of the snow season for Whakapapa Ski Area has been “phenomenal”, says operations manager Jarrett Gauci, thanks to improved snowmaking, some great weather and customers having more confidence in Mt Ruapehu.

After a very warm June, Gauci says he was feeling a bit pessimistic about the season.

“But we got cold temps towards the end of June and into July and, with improvements in our snowmaking, we were able to open Happy Valley with three to four days of consistent snowmaking.”

They opened Happy Valley – with very good snow cover – on 8 July, in the first week of the school holidays. Natural snow has added to the base.

Whakapapa has also had some great weather through the holidays – with only one closed day.

Gauci said the Matariki weekend was really good, with around 17,000 visitors over the three days.

“The numbers that we did for that weekend were incredible and support that we felt from our guests was something we really appreciate.”

“The support we received from the local community and the guests – all around, up and down the North Island, it’s phenomenal.”

Asked if they are seeing increased support for Whakapapa, Gauci said there’s a lot of different elements, but he agrees that it feels like “Ruapehu is back”.

After the uncertainty of RAL receivership and the fallout, Whakapapa and Tūroa have been able to offer confidence again.

“We’re here and we’re not planning to go anywhere.”

“We’re back and we’re operating as we should and ... our future isn’t in question.”

“I’d like to think that that kind of confidence flows into the community, they start to feel more confident about investing.”

He said it’s the first time in a number of years that they have had organic growth in season pass sales.

The company has added around 20 state-of-the-art snowmaking guns, which produces more snow, for longer, than the old guns.

“They make a huge difference, especially for their ability to work in marginal temperatures. They just run more consistently, and then when the temperatures are good, the amount of snow that they can create is quite extraordinary, really.”

He said they can produce around 25-30% more snow than the older guns.

Almost all of the guns in Happy Valley are the new type, which adds quality snow on top of the snow factory product.

Gauci said they had the snow factory running from May, which meant they could open the new Snowland area, for snow play, sledding and tubing, at the end of May. The snow factory can make snow in almost any conditions.

Snowland has proved very popular, he says, with very good numbers of customers.

“We were really proud of it. Whenever you launch a new product, there’s always going to be a level of uncertainty about how it’s received.”

He said they wanted to be able to accommodate more guests, but also to provide a very good product.

“We wanted a bigger area, be able to sell more tickets and offer more people a place to play.”

“In June, even though it was a small capacity and we struggled with warm temperatures and rain, we had consistently good bookings, and then once the school holidays arrived, it went off like off like a cannon. It was incredibly popular.”

“Probably one of proudest things I’ve had to be a part of in my career, I’d say is getting to see that product come to life and come to fruition and yeah, the school holidays, it was phenomenal, the kind of numbers we had that was amazing.”

With the departure of CEO Travis Donoghue, Gauci and other department heads have taken on more responsibilities, with Whakapapa Holdings Limited director Dave Mazey taking on some of the day-to-day chief executive roles.

Gauci said the company will look for a replacement CEO later in the year, after the results of the judicial review of the ski field sale process are known.

“We’re back
and we’re
operating as
we should.”



Kobe Learmonth competes in the School Holidays mini shredders competition. WHL says renewed confidence in the ski area has led to more commercial partnerships, including sponsors to allow more events to be hosted at Whakapapa. Photo: WHL.

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RUAPEHU BULLETIN 22 July 2026 • 1

New permanent public access to the Whakapapa River celebrated

A significant milestone in protecting public access to New Zealand’s outdoors was celebrated on Wednesday.

Minister for Hunting and Fishing, Hon James Meager, joined project partners for the opening of a newly-created public access point to the internationally renowned Whakapapa River.

Through the purchase of a riverfront property on Stone Jug Road, near Ōwhango, Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game has secured permanent public access by establishing legal easements and esplanade strips. What was once inaccessible is now protected in perpetuity, ensuring New Zealanders can enjoy the river for fishing, swimming, kayaking, tramping and other outdoor recreation for generations to come.

The opening ceremony brought together representatives from Ngāti Hāua, the Outdoor Access Commission, the Department of Conservation, neighbouring Fish and Game Councils, local community members, and project partners who have helped make the project a reality.

Guests were welcomed onto the property by representatives of Ngāti Hāua, who provided a moving whakatau acknowledging the significance of the whenua and the awa, and the importance of protecting and caring for these taonga for future generations. The welcome set the tone for a day centred on partnership, shared stewardship and a commitment to ensuring people can continue to connect with this special place.

Minister for Hunting and Fishing, James Meager acknowledged the outstanding work Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game had done to make the project possible.



Minister for Hunting and Fishing James Meager (left) and Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council Chair Nigel Juby (right) at the Whakapapa River, Stone Jug Road. Photo Beau Jarvis-Child/Auckland Waikato Fish & Game

“As Minister, these are the exact sorts of projects I encourage and want to see more of. Access to our rivers and outdoor areas is part of who we are as New Zealanders, and projects like this help ensure those opportunities are protected not just for today, but for the future.

“I believe this initiative provides a model that could be replicated across New Zealand.”

Innovative approach

Auckland Waikato Fish and Game chief executive David Klee said the project represented an innovative approach to securing permanent public access.

“Public access is one of New Zealand’s greatest outdoor traditions, but it cannot be taken for granted. Opportunities to secure access are becoming increasingly rare as properties change ownership and long-standing access

Turn to Page 4

Horizons Unitary Council: Low marks for maintaining local voice

By Rebecca Hogan, Local Democracy Reporter

From the top of Ruapehu, to the coastlines of Horowhenua and over the ranges to the Taranua district, a Horizons Unitary Council would do the job of eight councils.

Representing roughly 221,610 people, this Head Start pathway would consolidate the long-term and annual plans, infrastructure planning and financial strategies of seven councils and a regional council.

Australasia advisory firm Morrison Low Advisory presented the Horizons mayoral forum with independent modelling on how a unitary model for the region could look and how this model stacked up against the local government reform criteria.

There are five key criteria proposals to the Government, due 9 August, must fulfil. Number four on the list was the new structure needed to preserve a strong local voice.

From the advisory firm’s modelling, the Horizons unitary model scored weakly on the maintaining local voice criteria.

The report found local wards and boards could partly protect local voice, but the scale and diversity of the region meant it would be difficult for a single council to reflect all local identities, hear local interests, and maintain the same connection between elected officials and their communities.

“The region includes very different communities, large urban and rural contrasts, and several areas with only limited connection to the wider regional system,” read the independent report.

Variations in socio-economic deprivation across the region were also highlighted as an issue in maintaining local voice and needs, with a large difference in deprivation between Manawatū and Ruapehu districts given as an example.

The unitary council would need to manage “fundamentally different social needs” across districts, while ensuring other societal variations within the region, such

as rural and urban needs and diverse age groups, were managed too.

The report highlighted deliverability, another Government-set criteria under Head Start, as an area where the Horizons model also scored poorly.

Complex

Acknowledging not all councils and communities supported amalgamating into a single model, and the sheer size of the region, the report found that progressing the unitary council and it delivering success could be “complex”.

Another layer of complexity comes with the commitment future council models must make to maintaining existing relationships with iwi, mana whenua and agreements of the past and present under the Crown.

There are around 35 iwi groups across the Horizons region, with the report highlighting that around 23 of these groups are at different negotiation stages with the Crown, and rely upon mutual co-operation with councils.

The report added “iwi relationships matter for deliverability because iwi engagement is not a one-off transition task” and councils relied upon iwi for planning, infrastructure, governance and much more.

This unitary model was just one option currently being considered by the region’s seven mayors and their respective councils as a potential replacement for their current council structures.

Bernie Wanden, Horowhenua District mayor and chairman of the mayoral forum, explained the report didn’t advocate for a unitary pathway but it allowed the entire region to work and plan from the same data.

The mayoral forum would meet in August, ahead of the Head Start deadline, after presenting this modelling to their respective councils.

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

Ruapehu Events & What’s On

JULY 2026

Whacky Winter Art Exhibition

July-August

Volcano Vibe - contact Barbara for more info 027 829 8973

AUGUST 2026

Rally Taumarunui

8 Aug

Follow the Rally Taumarunui page for details. #RallyTaumarunui2026

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

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See WaimarinoArtAwards.org.nz for more information

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Budget Advice – Email waimarinobudgetservices@gmail.com or phone 027 259 5285.

CCS Disability Action (Whanganui) – Sheryl Brightwell 0800-789-654

Child, Adolescent and Sexual Health Nurse – 06-385-5019

Child Youth and Family Service – 0508-326 459

Churches: Anglican, 06-385-4957. Baptist, 027-206-1874. Catholic, 06-385-8858 or 027 606 5186. Gospel Chapel, 06-385-8453. Presbyterian, 06-388-0675 or 06-385-8708. Waiouru – duty chaplain 06-387-5599 ext 7031 or 021-493-692

Civil Defence – Simon Osborne, Emergency Management Officer (EMO), RDC – 07 895 8188, or 027 220 0569. Simon. Osborne@ruapehudc.govt.nz

CLAW community free legal advice: Whanganui 06-348-8288, 0800 00 36 36

Doctors: In an emergency call 111. Ruapehu Health Ltd 06-385-4211

Information Centres – Ohakune 0800 647 483, Raetihi 06-385-4805

Mountains to Sea – Ngā Ara Tūhono – Lynley Twyman, Trail Manager, +64 21 403036

Ngati Rangi Community Health Centre – 06-385-9580

Plunket Society – Plunket Nurse 06-385-5019

Police and Search & Rescue Emergency, call 111

Ohakune 06-385-0100, Raetihi 06-385-4002, Waiouru 06-387-6884, Military Police 0800-50-11-22

Red Cross – 0800 RED CROSS (0800 733 27677)

Rotary Club Raetihi - Ohakune – 027-344-5669

Ruapehu Budgeting Service Ohakune. Budgeting License No 119423. Email: Ruapehubudgetingservice@gmail.com or call Justin on 0211-735-767

Ruapehu Maori Wardens – Email: ruapehumaoriwardens@gmail.com

Ruapehu Neighborhood Support Groups – Email: Ruapehuneighborhoodgroup@gmail.com or call Justin 0211-735-767

Ruapehu REAP – 0800 00 REAP (0800 007 327)

St John – in an emergency call 111

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Waimarino Cancer Society: Co-ordinator 06 348 7402

Waimarino Health Care Centre – Raetihi 06-385-5019

Waimarino Community Toy Library – waimarinotoylibrary@gmail.com

Women’s Refuge – 0800-REFUGE 0800 73384

Ruapehu Mayor – Weston Kirton, enquiries to 06-385-8364 or 07-895-8188.

Owhango-National Park Community Board:

Peter Zimmer - Chairperson 027 479 1926;Gail Gray - Deputy Chair 027 434 6599; Anthony Gurr 021 487 742; Eddie Marsters 021 108 0279; Murray Wilson 027 542 9079; Luke Pepper - (RDC Rep) 027 329 2849

Taumarunui/Ohura Ward Community Board:

Molly Jeffries, Chairperson 021 431 833; Sophie Stockbridge, Deputy Chairperson 020 401 11190; Johnny Dryden 027 573 4726; Brian Portland 027 558 5585; Oriwia Wanakore 020 498 4088; Robyn Gram (RDC Rep) 027 389 1912

Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board:

John (Luigi) Hotter - Chairperson 027 274 2616; Stu Robinson - Deputy Chairperson 021 024 07657; Kay Henare 027 924 7252; Colin Pakai 021 091 67315; Emma Young 027 347 1457; David (Rabbit) Nottage - (RDC Rep) 021 111 6514

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Raukotahi Rangatahi Summit brings Whanganui youth together

By Nicolas Schneyer

Over 80 rangatahi between the ages of 12 to 18 years gathered for the Raukotahi Rangatahi Summit from 16-19 July, an annual gathering that has brought young people together for more than 20 years.

For 2026 the summit was hosted by Ngāti Rangi and Maungārongo Marae with the support of Ngāporo Waimarino Forestry Trust.

The name itself carries the weight of the kaupapa. As Ngā Waihua o Paerangi chief executive Helen Leahy explains: “raukotahi means to come and go, not as a singular identity but as one who is a culmination of all those who were before you, all those that stand at your side and all those who will follow after you”.

It marks the passage from rangatahi to rangatira, from childhood into adulthood. The summit’s early foundations were grounded in a desire to support youth with the cultural, social, environmental and professional skills to lead the iwi into the future.

The summit draws its participants from along the length of the Whanganui River and beyond, mai Te Kāhui Maunga ki Tangaroa; gathering rangatahi connected by a shared genealogy. They came from Kaikohe, from Palmerston North, from Pipiriki and Parikino, from Hawera. For some rangatahi, arriving in Ruapehu carried an added thrill: the excitement of seeing snow for the first time.

Over the four days, they participated in a range of workshops and experiences designed to strengthen their sense of identity and belonging. There were workshops in taonga pūoro (traditional Māori musical instruments), toi whakaahu (creating designs on Redband gumboots), and whakapiwari (jewellery making); giving rangatahi space to build creative skills while deepening their cultural understanding. Others spent time on Koro Ruapehu; hearing the pūrākau (stories) about the mountain from their guides Korty Wilson and Fred Clark, biked the iwi-led mountain trail, Te Ara Mangawhero; or took part in māra kai, gaining practical skills in cultivating kai and processing meat while building a fuller grasp of mātauranga Māori and the responsibilities of caring for the whenua.

Alongside these practical skills, the summit made room for reflection. Through creative expression and journaling, rangatahi were encouraged to explore their identity, their strengths, their values, and their personal aspirations. The aim, organisers say, is to help rangatahi step into adulthood with a clearer sense of who they are, better equipped for the challenges their generation will inherit, environmental change chief among them. That awareness extended to political engagement, with sessions featuring local leadership: Hiria Hancy; Maro Preston; Tāwhiao McMaster and MP Carl Bates.

The highlight after the celebration dinner on Thursday night was a performance by local legend, singer-songwriter Brutha Rodz (Rodney Te Tawhero), who has rocketed to national fame with the viral success of his hit song *Heart of a Lion* and its te reo Māori adaptation *Manawa Raiona*.

Day three involved a haerenga (journey) from Waimarino through to Ruatiti and Te Poutahi; culminating in a wananga on tātai whetu (indigenous astronomy).

For many rangatahi, the value of the summit was immediate: the chance to spend time together. Across games, walking the catwalk in kakahu Māori, waiata practice or munching out on venison in a barbecue lunch; rangatahi had the chance to strengthen their love for their whānau, hapu iwi; to learn some new skills; and understand their relationship as stated in every pepeha, Ko Ruapehu te Maunga.



A first-time visit to the snow for some was a featured of the Raukotahi Rangatahi Summit last week. Photo: Nicolas Schneyer.



ABOVE: Toi whakaahu – creating designs on Redband gumboots – was a part of the summit. Photo: Ngāti Rangi.



RIGHT: Moving on the catwalk wearing kakahu Māori, Photo: Ngāti Rangi.

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Letters

Ruapehu, a grandfather?

• I would like to commend Ben Mitchell (15 July) for courageously stating what many Pakeha trained in our society's 'left-brain-only' way also think. This schooling made individuals very good at using their brain's left hemisphere to think consciously in a step-by-step literal way.

However, our species' long-term survival has been maintained because, in our brains' right hemisphere, we have also evolved a collective unconscious way of thinking. This enables an entire society to intuitively associate complex long-term survival truths with vivid metaphorical images that the scientist Carl Jung called "archetypes".

Societies that flourished for many thousands of years had learnt the great ecological truth of remaining at one with their environment, at one with their mountain's storm-diverting and water-storing heights, story-holding peaks and abundant forests, and at one with their river's food-giving waters and sheltered terraces.

The whole-brain upbringing of Aborigines, American Indians(sic), Chinese villagers and Polynesians/Māori enabled them to relate emotionally to these abstract ecological facts by collectively visualising their mountain as a protective patriarch and their river as a nurturing mother and, in return, caring for them as lovingly as if for their grandfather and their mother.

Consequently, the ecosystems that nurtured each of these societies remained in an ecologically balanced state for thousands of years.

But the English/US military-industrial culture is a pirate one — invade, massacre, asset-strip, move on, repeat: Ireland, India, North America, Australia, Te-Ika-a-Maui, the Boers, Gallipoli/Arabia, Venezuela.

In order to get farmers, fighters and factory-hands to robotically carry out their ecologically-suicidal demands, the robber barons have educated only the left half of their minions' brains: reading, writing and arithmetic, with Bible stories mistaught as literal fact.

Similar destructive city-army societies of past eras have collapsed after about 300 years. The British empire collapsed in the early 20th century,

and the US empire is disintegrating after only 250 years. When it goes, so will our Pakeha society.

You will find Ruapehu's status explained very clearly in Che Wilson's song, here. (tinyurl.com/koro-e)

John Archer

• In rural communities, the services that matter most are often the ones that operate quietly and reliably in the background. Our libraries are a prime example of this steady, dependable presence. They are one of the few public facilities that remain consistently open, consistently staffed, and consistently welcoming, regardless of weather, season, or circumstance. That reliability is not accidental; it is the result of a core service delivered well.

Raetihi's library shows what this looks like in practice. It is far more than a place to borrow books. It is a genuine multi-purpose hub: a council service centre, a post office, a parcel collection point, a space for digital access, and a warm, safe environment where people know they will be treated with respect. For many residents, it is the most accessible doorway into council services. For others, it is the only reliable place to print documents, get help navigating online forms, or simply connect with someone who can assist.

In towns like ours, these functions are not "extras". They are essential. A library is one of the few public spaces where anyone, regardless of age, income, or background, can walk in without needing to buy anything or justify their presence. That matters in a rural district where isolation can creep in easily and where social infrastructure is thin on the ground.

As councils across the country face difficult decisions about budgets and priorities, it is worth recognising the services that quietly hold communities together. A well-run library punches far above its weight. Raetihi's facility demonstrates how a core service, delivered with professionalism and community focus, can anchor a town and support its wellbeing every single day.

Our library is not just a building. It is one of the strongest pieces of social infrastructure we have.

John Chapman, RD councillor

Public access to the Whakapapa River

From Page 2

arrangements disappear."

"Recognising the significance of this property, Auckland Waikato Fish and Game purchased the land through its Angler Access Fund with the specific purpose of securing permanent legal public access to the Whakapapa River. Once the easements and esplanade strips had been established, the balance of the property could be sold, allowing the investment to be recycled into securing the next access opportunity."

"The Stone Jug Road project was delivered at no cost to Fish and Game licence holders. The property was purchased using externally sourced revenue and donations secured through the Auckland Waikato Fish and Game Angler Access Fund, demonstrating how partnerships and innovative funding can create lasting public benefits without drawing on licence revenue."

Klee said the innovative funding model ensured that every dollar invested had the potential to create multiple permanent public-access opportunities over time.

"This is about creating a legacy. Rather than simply purchasing land, we are investing in permanent legal access that will remain in place forever, regardless of who owns the surrounding property in the future."

He said the project's success reflected the willingness of many organisations to work together towards a common goal.

"We are incredibly grateful for the support and collaboration of Ngāti Hāua, the Outdoor Access Commission for their funding and technical support, the Ruapehu District Council, neighbouring Fish and Game Councils, and everyone else who contributed to bringing this project to fruition.

Chief executive of the Outdoor Access Commission, Dan Wildy, said, "We want to thank Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game for what

they've achieved here. This is a lasting contribution to public access — and it's not just anglers who'll benefit, but anyone wanting to experience the Whakapapa River.

"This isn't just about access here at Stone Jug Road — it's proof of what's achievable elsewhere. People around the country can look at this and see a real, workable model for getting similar results."

Klee echoed those sentiments, noting that the Stone Jug Road project demonstrated the potential for a national contestable public access fund to help secure strategically important access opportunities across New Zealand.

"Strategic opportunities to secure permanent public access often arise with very little notice. Having a dedicated national contestable fund would allow organisations to move quickly to secure these opportunities before they are lost forever.

"Stone Jug Road is proof that this model works. A relatively modest investment has secured permanent public access to one of New Zealand's iconic rivers, creating a legacy that will benefit generations of New Zealanders. There is enormous potential to replicate this approach throughout the country."



Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game CEO David Klee (left) and Fisheries Officer Matt Osborne (right) installing a new Angler Access sign at Stone Jug Road. Photo Beau Jarvis-Child/Auckland Waikato Fish & Game

THE WEEKLY WORKOUT

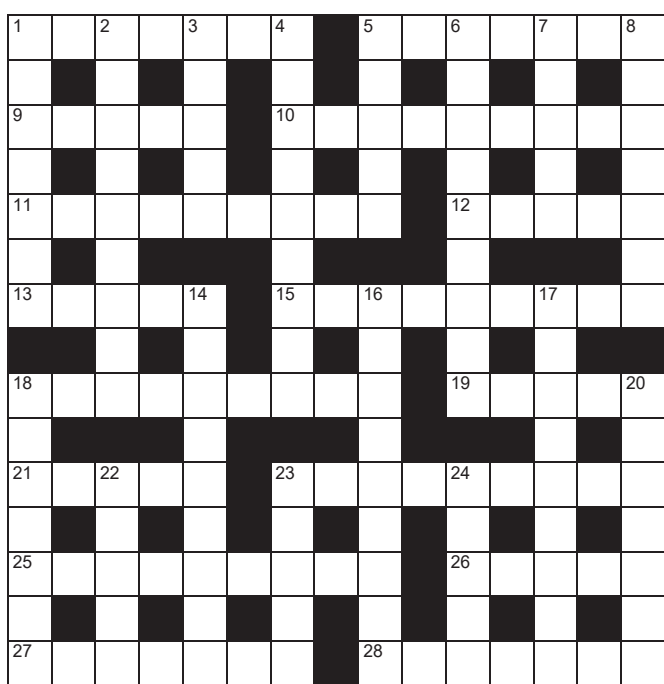
answers for each puzzle are included on this page

860

QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

- Print (7)
- Government taxes (7)
- Hawaiian greeting (5)
- Low grade (5-4)
- Triple (9)
- Small dog (5)
- Drive back (5)
- Free, not occupied (9)
- Study of words and their origin (9)
- Abandon (5)
- Indian side dish (5)
- Outward behaviour (9)
- Sincere (9)
- Earthy pigment (5)
- Idea (7)
- A long time ago (colloq) (4,3)



Down

- Adhesive dressing (7)
- Life story (9)
- Infuriated (5)
- Controversial issue or situation (colloq) (3,6)
- Bronze medallist (5)
- Made fun of (9)
- Style (5)
- Barren (7)
- Care for (4,5)
- Imbalance (9)
- Engaged (9)
- Hearing distance (7)
- Reap (7)
- Stupid and silly (5)
- Reverie (5)
- Scent (5)

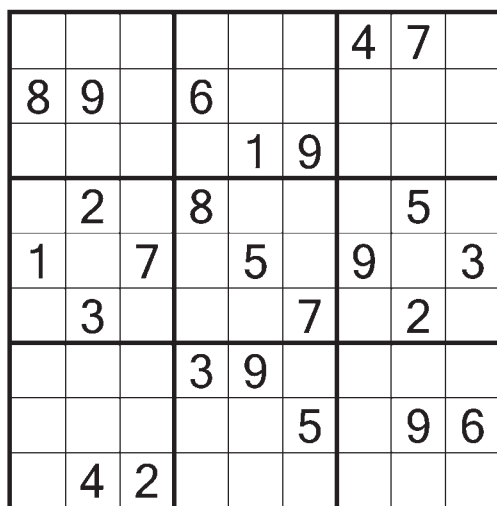
THE TOP 10

- 1 Ian Ferguson, 2 Alfred, 3 Bore, 4 Fanta, 5 Untouchable Girls, 6 Romania, 7 Wear it, 8 Tommy, 9 Napoleon, 10 Stewart Island.

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SUDOKU

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



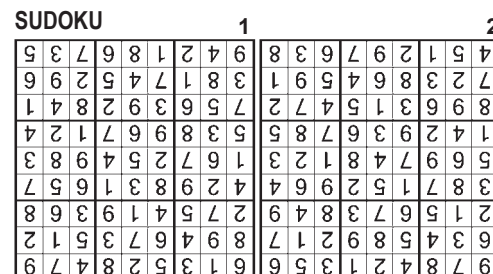
The Top 10

1. Who won three gold medals for New Zealand at the 1984 Olympics?
2. What is the name of Batman's butler?
3. Homeowners dread Anobium punctatum. What is it more commonly called?
4. Which drink, popular in Europe since the 1940s, was bought by the Coca-Cola company in 1960?
5. In a New Zealand song, who is stropky and aggressive, "we'll take over the world"?
6. Nicolae Ceausescu was president of which country from 1974 to 1989?
7. What would you do with a dhoti - eat it, wear it or smoke it?
8. In a Kenny Rogers song, who is the Coward Of The County?
9. Who said "An army marches on its stomach"?
10. Port Pegasus is on what New Zealand island?

CROSSWORD

- Across: 1. Publish, 5. Tariffs, 9. Aloha, 10. Third-rate, 11. Threefold, 12. Corgi, 13. Repel, 15. Availability, 18. Etymology, 19. Ditch, 21. Raita, 23. Demeanour, 25. Heartfelt, 26. Ochre, 27. Theorem, 28. Year dot. Down: 1. Plaster, 2. Biography, 3. Irate, 4. Hot potato, 5. Third, 6. Ridiculed, 7. Flair, 8. Sterile, 14. Look after, 16. Asymmetry, 17. Betrothed, 18. Earshot, 20. Harvest, 22. Inane, 23. Dream, 24. Aroma.

SUDOKU



Puzzles © The Puzzle Company

Winter wellness packs delivered to support local whānau

Winter Wellness Packs have been delivered to households across the King Country, Central Plateau and Ruapehu, providing practical support to whānau who could use an extra hand this winter.

The packs were distributed through The Lines Company's Power it Forward: Winter Wellness programme, which combines practical winter essentials with Power it Forward credits on power bills, to help ease both household and electricity costs during the coldest months of the year.

The initiative was made possible through nominations from the community and the support of local iwi and community partners, who helped identify households where the packs could make a meaningful difference.

"It is also a practical example of what TLC's community ownership makes possible, with value being returned directly to local whānau through winter support and Power it Forward credits," says Kyle Barnes, TLC general manager community and innovation.

"We know there are people who quietly do it tough, and often they're first noticed by neighbours, teachers, friends, workmates or extended whānau.

"Power it Forward was created to turn that local care into practical help, and we're grateful to everyone who took the time to put someone forward."

The packs included groceries and food vouchers, energy-saving items and household essentials, alongside credits for power bills to help households manage winter electricity costs.

Barnes acknowledged the partners who supported the programme including a Te Kuiti appliance store, Te Nenehenui, Ngāti Rangī, Kokiri Trust, Ngāti Maniapoto Marae Pact Trust and a Te Kuiti supermarket that donated items or money and provided staff to help distribute the packs. She also acknowledged the electricity retailers involved.

Recipients thanked the programme for the support that was "both practical and deeply appreciated".

Ayla of Ohakune was very grateful for the support. "Thank you so much for making winter a little easier for me and my children."

Several TLC staff also used their Volunteer Day to help with the distribution, working alongside community partners to make sure the packs reached households respectfully, safely and where they were needed most.



Ayla of Ohakune, at left said she was extremely grateful to TLC for her Winter Wellness pack. She is pictured with Katherine from Ngāti Rangī who assisted with the deliveries.

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RUAPEHU SNOW BULLETIN

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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.

Snow Bulletin is out now!

Pick up a copy around the Ruapehu district.

Next issue is out in Spring. Call us today to book your space – 0274 993 697.

Brutha Rodz turns heartbreak into a message of hope

Brutha Rodz (Ngāpuhi, Te Ātihaunui-a-Pāpārangi, Te Kāhui Maunga) has opened his heart in a recently-released deeply personal and emotional waiata titled *Mokemoke*.

Since its release, the reggae waiata has begun finding its way into the hearts of listeners across Aotearoa. While the story behind it is deeply personal, its message is one for everyone to hear and find comfort in: you are not alone, you are loved and your presence in this world matters.

The song was written during the COVID lockdowns after Brutha Rodz lost his niece, who died by suicide. Unable to leave Auckland to attend her tangihanga, he feared he wouldn't have the chance to say goodbye. He was ultimately able to return home for his niece's tangihanga, an experience that stayed with him and shaped the song.

"When I finally saw my niece, I broke. I didn't know how else to process it except through music," says Brutha Rodz.

'Mokemoke' is what rose out of this heartbreak, a waiata about hope and a reminder to check in on the people around us, to ask for help when we need it, and to never underestimate how much one conversation can matter. Brutha Rodz says talking openly about his own grief is part of the kaupapa.

"If sharing my story helps just one person feel seen, or gives someone the courage to ask for help, then the waiata has done what it was meant to do."

The song was co-written with Maria Mclean (Te Rarawa, Ngāti Kuri, Te Aupōuri, Ngāti Kahu, Ngāpuhi) from Papa's Pack and Rei (Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Pākeha) during a Precise roots reggae songwriting wānanga in Pukehina.

"Once I started to share my feelings of mokemoke and opening up, the song seemed to write itself and 90 minutes later it was complete," says Brutha Rodz.

The music video visualises 'Mokemoke' and carries the same feeling. Filmed inside an empty theatre at Due Drop Events Centre in Manukau, Brutha Rodz performs to rows of vacant seats as a tribute to those who are no longer with us, while offering aroha to the whānau and communities they leave behind.

"Mokemoke is more than just another one of my waiata. It was born from a stage of grief but it is carried with aroha for my niece, my whānau, and everyone who needs to know they aren't alone," says Brutha Rodz.

If you, or someone you know wants help and support, reach out to the free helplines in Aotearoa:

- Aoake te Rā - A free service providing support and manaaki to people who have lost someone to suicide. Visit www.aoketera.org.nz
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- Lifeline 0800 543 354 (0800 LIFELINE)
- Youthline 0800 376 633, free text 234, webchat at youthline.co.nz, DM on Instagram @youthlinenz, WhatsApp message on 09 886 5696
- Samaritans 0800 726 666
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- Visit mentalhealth.org.nz/helplines for a wider list of helplines.



Brutha Rodz – singing from the heart.

'We're going to be here forever': Māori councillors on local government reform



Māori councillors across Ruapehu, Rangitikei, Whanganui and the Manawatū-Whanganui region see a rare opportunity to rethink how local government works for Māori. Photo supplied.

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting

The Government's fast-tracked local government revamp has sent councils scrambling, with rates, debt and the risk to local voice dominating public debate.

But Māori councillors across Ruapehu, Rangitikei, Whanganui and the Manawatū-Whanganui region see a rare opportunity to rethink how local government works for Māori and build governance structures that outlast political cycles.

Ruapehu's youngest councillor backs amalgamation "if it's done properly", saying Māori have always adapted to changing governments.

"I'm not opposed to the reforms, because all they're doing is changing the face of an entity that we've been dealing with for ages," says Māori ward councillor Kuru Ketu.

The Government has instructed councils to explore larger councils or unitary authorities, with initial Head Start proposals due by 9 August.

Ketu says reform should be guided by whakapapa, shared landscapes and cultural connections rather than council boundaries.

"Nothing's off the table. We need to be cemented in something that's not artificial.

"Instead of asking what council we should go with, we need to focus on long-term, consistent and well-grounded relationships."

One option is a unitary authority centred on Te Kāhui Maunga, the headwaters of the Whanganui, Waikato, Whangāehu and Whakapapa rivers.

"For many of us, that reference point has allowed us to remove the noise around local council boundaries, population and rating base, and metropolitan versus rural.

"It's where we can ground ourselves as a starting point and then move out from there."

Hoeta agrees

Fellow councillor Viv Hoeta agrees.

"We have at last been given the opportunity to look at what is important for us. We have an opportunity to create something that our tamariki and mokopuna will benefit from and be able to add to, not be stuck with a future debt and fight."

Hoeta sees a chance for iwi around the maunga to collectivise for "a stronger voice".

"Iwi need to be at the table now as all councils have signed agreements with settled iwi around the maunga."

She says a new system must honour those agreements and be resourced to make sure the commitments "are given the mana they deserve".

"My only concern is for small communities like Raetihi, Ohakune, Pīpīriki, Kāhaki and Ōhura that may get lost, so we need to ensure that we are at that decision-making table and we are represented."

Whanganui Māori ward councillor Julie Herewini says amalgamation offers "an opportunity to design something better" for Māori representation, with Te Awa Tupua providing "the anchor" for any new governance model.

She says bringing some regional decision-making "closer to home" would allow the wellbeing of the Whanganui River and its people to be at the forefront of decisions.

Herewini acknowledges there is a risk amalgamation could reduce the numbers of Māori represented at the table across the rohe. But she says councils would still be responsible for engaging with iwi and hapū and upholding Treaty settlement commitments.

"I see the potential for Māori voice and influence at decision-making tables to increase, if we do this right."

Herewini says iwi and hapū are fundamental to shaping any new council structures because they have an inter-generational investment in ensuring communities and the environment flourish "for our tamariki mokopuna".

Pue supports reform

Horizons Regional Council Raki North (Māori North) councillor Elijah Pue backs the reform agenda, saying reducing the number of councils could ease pressure on ratepayers and improve service delivery.

He believes amalgamation is "a huge opportunity to rethink everything" – including whether councils are delivering the right services in the first place.

Treaty settlement obligations give iwi an opportunity to help reshape local government so it better reflects their aspirations, he says. The greatest risk is that political decisions during the reform process leave iwi out of the conversation or disrupt existing co-governance arrangements.

Pue says Māori wards should be retained in any setting.

"They're not to be feared; they are to be embraced."

Horizons Raki South (Māori South) councillor Te Kenehi Teira says any reform should be used to "increase Māori voices in local government", but he is unconvinced that will happen unless Māori wards are retained and built into any new governance structure.

Teira says iwi and hapū should help design the new system from the outset, warning some districts could end up with little or no representation under larger councils. Māori ward councillors, he says, could help ensure those communities continue to have a voice.

Rangitikei Tiikeitia ki Tai (Coastal) Māori ward councillor Coral Raukawa says the reforms are an opportunity for Māori to help shape the new system, with Māori wards included "as a given".

However, she says the outcome will depend on the final amalgamation model and warns Māori representation could be at risk in areas where voters rejected Māori wards in the 2025 referendums.

In the Horizons region, this included Rangitikei, Horowhenua, Tararua and Manawatū. Waitomo and Taupō, which lie partly within the Horizons region, were also against with only Whanganui, Palmerston North and Ruapehu backing Māori wards.

Whatever form local government eventually takes, Ketu believes success will depend on creating institutions capable of lasting generations.

"This might work for the next five years, but is it going to be right in 50 years and 100 years and then 1000 years?

"Our view is long-term. It's not about just a three-year political cycle.

"People ask why are you working with that minister? He's the minister now, but we'll work with the next one and the next one and the next one, because we're going to be here forever."

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



Ruapehu Māori ward councillor Kuru Ketu says one option is a unitary authority centred on Te Kāhui Maunga, the headwaters of the Whanganui, Waikato, Whangāehu and Whakapapa rivers. Photo supplied.

Treaty relationships undermined by Mana Whakahono U-turn, says Ngāti Rangi

On 10 March 2018, the Ngāti Rangi Claim Settlement Act was passed with an apology that stated: “It is with profound remorse that the Crown admits that it has not honoured Ngāti Rangi’s partnership with the Crown under te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi with the respect and integrity that you deserve”.

The apology was directly followed with a commitment from the Crown “to rebuild our relationship based on te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles”.

The recent reversal of policy commitments to Mana Whakahono-ā-rohe breaches this commitment through disrespecting the developments iwi have achieved in negotiating agreements with local government.

The Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill, reported back to Parliament on Monday 20 July, as introduced, would have protected and preserved Mana Whakahono ā rohe agreements. Instead, Cabinet axed the agreement in response to recent lobbying; a reaction, which significantly undermines the settlement process, says the iwi.

“Ngāti Rangi has been working with Ruapehu District Council; Horizons Regional Council; Whanganui District Council and Rangitikei District Council; on creating a formal role in planning decisions ; as given expression in Mana Whakahono-ā-rohe” said Te Tōtarahoe o Paerangi chair, Tomairangi Mareikura.

“The point of our mutual negotiations was that

we were determined to work together with local government in a spirit of co-operation; to guide our relationships including around planning, consenting, monitoring, and environmental management.

“We appreciated the opportunity to work collegially with our partner councils; on areas of collaboration such as cultural heritage protection, local government participation, climate resilience, and data sharing.

“It defies belief that with one stroke of the pen, lobbyists can influence government to overlook the value of relationships with iwi, and in doing so, act in a way which privileges one group of New Zealanders over another”.

“Just three weeks ago, another new law was

passed, The Game Animal (Herds of Special Interest) Amendment Bill, which unashamedly prioritised ‘recreational’ hunters over those who seek to protect conservation values and give expression to kaitiakitanga,” said Ms Mareikura.

“It is a tragic indictment on our political system when special interest groups are exerting undue influence over fair and just policy-making.

“Ngāti Rangi is both dispirited and demoralised that processes we entered into in good faith are being treated with such callous disregard.

“It feels like another disillusioning blow to the Treaty relationship when the Crown fails to uphold the commitments and responsibilities that it has entered into with iwi”.

Energy partnership delivers first major milestone

Five months ago, The Lines Company and Counties Energy announced a Shared Platforms and Services Partnership built on a simple idea: achieving better outcomes for customers faster and more efficiently, through shared capability.

“We’re pleased to share the first tangible result of that partnership,” says TLC chief executive, Mike Fox.

TLC’s new Outage Portal has been developed using Counties Energy’s Outage Hub – “a proven

platform that was adapted for our network and customers”.

“Rather than building a solution from scratch, we were able to leverage existing expertise and proven technology across two organisations.

“The result is a modern, customer-focused outage platform that provides real-time information, improved reliability and a better experience for TLC communities when they need it most.”

He says the partnership meant that they could

focus resources where they create the greatest value for customers.

“This is exactly the type of outcome we envisioned when we announced our partnership earlier this year,” said Counties Energy chief executive, Judy Nicholl.

“It brings together the strengths of two organisations, enables teams to learn from one another and proves that collaboration can deliver real benefits in months rather than years.”

“Beyond the outage portal, our partnership model is scalable and transferable,” said Fox.

“The same principles that enabled this project can be applied to other initiatives and potentially across other electricity distribution businesses. In fact, since launching our Outage Portal earlier in June, we’ve received interest from other EDBs wanting to learn more about how such an approach can benefit them



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New Horizons website improves services, info access

A new website launched last week gives residents of the Manawātū-Whanganui Region access to services, information and online tools.

Horizons Regional Council media and communications manager Jono Galuszka says the redevelopment was needed as the previous website, launched in 2016, was hosted on a platform that is no longer supported.

“While we had some ability to manage the previous website on the old platform, we were at risk of the website going down. As our website is most people’s main way of accessing our information and services, we needed to address this risk.”

The previous website served Horizons and its communities well, but the way people find and use information online has changed significantly during the past decade, says Galuszka.

“Over time, new functionality and changes were added to the previous website to meet emerging needs. However, the platform reached the point where it could no longer provide the flexibility needed to continue improving the online experience.

“The new website gives us the ability to continue improving online services while making information easier for people to access.”

The website has been restructured around the information people most often look for when using Horizons’ services, says Galuszka.

“People use our website for many reasons, including checking river levels and environmental information, paying rates, finding public transport information, applying for consents, and keeping

updated with council projects.

“The updated structure brings information together in a clearer way, helping people to find the information they need more easily. There is also a more consistent experience across the new website, with clearer navigation and a layout that works across phones, tablets and desktop computers.”

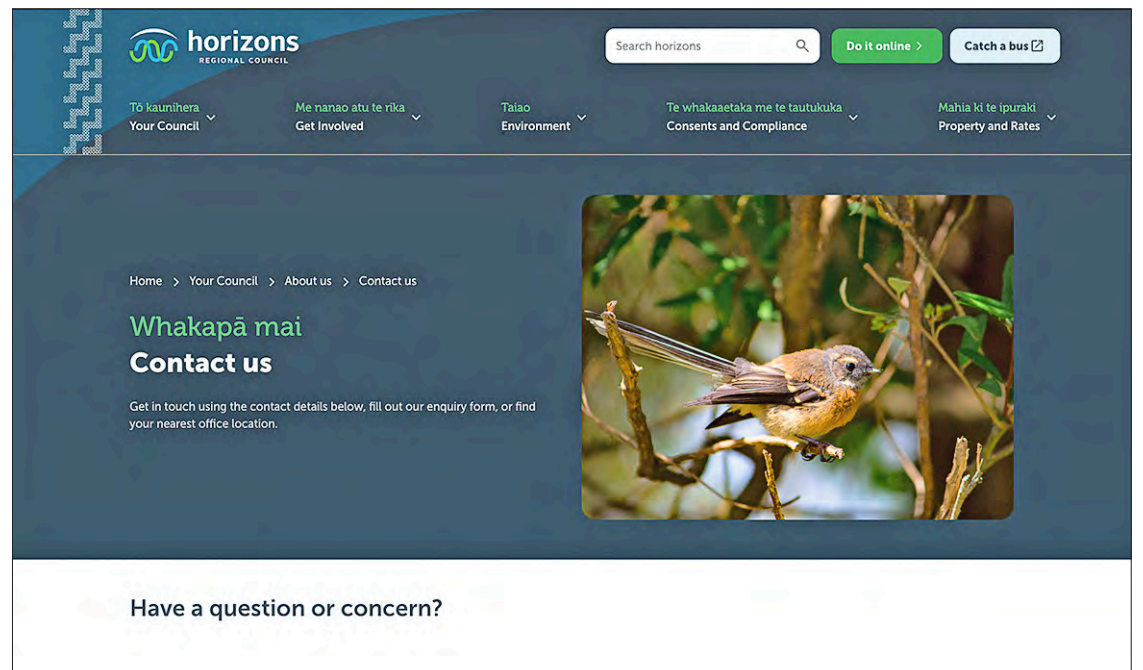
The new platform also gives Horizons more options to improve online services over time, says Galuszka.

“This allows staff to continue making improvements and introduce new tools when they are needed, making it easier for users to interact with us online.”

Horizons held a full open tender process for the website redevelopment project, with New Zealand company Effect selected to design and develop the website and support ongoing improvements to Horizons’ digital services, says Galuszka.

“Over the past year, the Horizons website received 301,021 website users and 1,906,274 page views, demonstrating the important role online information plays in connecting people with council services.

“We will continue to make improvements to



HMW has allocated half a million dollars for a new website, designed to cope with new function

content and functionality to ensure the website meets people’s needs into the future.”

People who have feedback about the website can use the feedback form on the Horizons website: <https://horizons.govt.nz/your-council/about-us/contact-us>

The website redevelopment project was consulted on as part of the Council’s 2024-34 Long-

term Plan. Funding of \$500,000 was allocated to the project, which included establishing the new Manawātū-Whanganui Emergency Management (mwcdem.govt.nz) and Connect – Horizons Regional Transport (goconnect.org.nz) websites. The project was well underway before central government’s Simplifying Local Government announcements.



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Community invited to help shape the future of Council services

Ruapehu residents and ratepayers are being asked to tell the council what services matter the most. The District Council is undertaking what it calls the most comprehensive review of its levels of service ever carried out.

The review will help shape Council's 2027–2037 Long-Term Plan and ensure services remain sustainable and aligned with community priorities and local government reform, says the mayor, Weston Kirton said the review comes at a time of significant change for local government.

"This is the first time Council has reviewed every service we provide in this level of detail," said Kirton.

"We know the environment we're operating in is changing rapidly. The Government is proposing to cap future rates increases while also progressing its Simplifying Local Government reforms. At the same time, councils across New Zealand continue to face rising costs for delivering services and maintaining infrastructure.

"The transfer of water services has also reduced the income available to help fund Council's operations, while many overhead costs remain. Council also needs to consider the impact of rising water charges, alongside rates, when assessing what is affordable for households.

"Those changes mean we need to be thinking

now about what Council should look like in the future, rather than waiting until financial pressures force decisions on us."

Kirton said the review is about making sure Council delivers the services that matter most to the community while living within what the district can afford.

"Our goal is to strike the right balance between keeping rates affordable and providing services that our communities genuinely value.

"We're asking some fundamental questions that we've never asked before. Should Council be doing this activity at all? If the answer is yes, then to what degree should we be doing it?"

"Some services may be essential. Others may be able to be delivered differently, at a lower level, by someone else, or perhaps not at all. We want the community's views before we make those decisions."

He said every service has a cost.

"If we choose to invest more in one area, there is less available to spend somewhere else. That's why it's so important we hear from as many people as possible."

Feedback is open from today, Wednesday 22 July, until Friday 7 August.

Residents can complete the surveys online at ruapehudc.govt.nz or pick up printed copies from their local Council office.



CLASSIFIEDS

Deadline 5pm Friday.

Phone 06-385-8532.
Email: ads@ruapehubulletin.co.nz

FOR SALE

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Ohakune Raetihi Garden Club
Sunday 26 July - 1pm
New members welcome.
Contact Di 021 165 7343.

PUBLIC NOTICES
Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012
Ohakune Food Barn Limited has made an application to the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council for **Renewal of Off Licence** in respect of the premises situated at **12–14 Goldfinch Street, Ohakune** known as **New World Ohakune**. The general nature of the business to be conducted under the licence is that of a **Supermarket**. The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is intended to be sold under the licence are: **Monday – Sunday: 7.00am – 9.00pm**. The application may be inspected during ordinary office hours at the office of the Ruapehu District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council, 59-63 Huia Street, Taumarunui.

Any person who is entitled to object and who wishes to object to the issue of the licence may, not later than 25 working days after the date of the publication of this notice, file a notice in writing of the objection with the Secretary of the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council, Private Bag 1001, Taumarunui 3946.

No objections to the issue of a licence may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in section 105(1) of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

This is the first publication of this notice.

BUSINESS NOTICES

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Ruapehu Mayor Weston Kirton

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



PUBLIC NOTICES

MEETINGS

The following meetings of Horizons Regional Council (Livestreamed) will be held during **July–August 2026** in the Tararua Room, Regional House, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North, unless otherwise advised:

Wednesday, 29 July
9.30am Integrated Catchment Committee

Wednesday, 12 August
9.30am Strategy & Policy Committee

Tuesday, 25 August
9.30am Regional Council

Wednesday, 26 August
9.30am Audit, Risk & Investment Committee

Should Members of the public wish to speak at Meetings, they are advised to phone 0508 800 800.

M J McCartney
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



PUBLIC NOTICES

RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATION
APP-2006012018.03 by Winstone Pulp International Limited

Winstone Pulp International Limited (WPI) previously applied for a replacement consent for discharges associated with the former pulp mill operations at its Karioi site under APP-2006012018.02. During the processing of that application, the proposed future use of the site changed. WPI has now lodged a new resource consent application for the proposed future wood processing operations described below.

The application seeks resource consent for:

- The discharge of up to 750 m³/day of condensate wastewater associated with the proposed wood processing operations. The condensate will pass through a constructed wetland before being discharged to the Whangaehu River via the existing discharge infrastructure.
- Land disturbance associated with the construction of the wetland, involving approximately 17,146 m² of land and approximately 20,441 m³ of cut and fill.

A term of 20 years, with a 10 year lapse period is sought for both consents. The site is located at 1002 State Highway 49, Tangiwai.

APP-2006012018.03 is notified pursuant to section 95A of the Resource Management Act 1991. All information relating to the application and the consents sought can be viewed here

<https://horizons.govt.nz/consents-and-compliance/publicly-notified-consents/app-200601201803-winstone-pulp-international-limited>

Submissions close on **Thursday 20 August 2026.**

M J McCartney
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



PUBLIC NOTICES

PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE FOR SILVER FERN RALLY 2026

Pursuant to the Local Govt. Act 1974 Sec 342 Schedule 10 notice is hereby given that the Ruapehu District Council for the purpose of holding Silverfern Rally 2026 is proposing to close the following roads:

Thursday 3 December 2026 01:25PM to 05:55PM – full closure:

- Turakina Valley Road, from 7544 Turakina Valley Road to 1km from its intersection with Tangiwai Station Road

Friday 4 December 2026 07:25AM to 11:55AM - full closure:

- Kaitieke Road, 200m from the intersection with SH4 to 200m from its intersection with Oio Road

Friday 4 December 2026 07:50AM to 12:20PM - full closure:

- Kawautahi Road, 200m from its intersection with Oio Road to its intersection with Hikumutu Road
- Hikumutu Road, from its intersection with Kawautahi Road to 874 Hikumutu Road

Friday 4 December 2026 09:05AM to 01:35PM - full closure:

- Opotiki Road, 200m from its intersection with SH4, continuing along Ararimu E Road and Otunui N Road
- Kururau Road, from its intersection with Otunui N Road to 200m from its intersection with Wanganui River Road (SH 43)

Friday 4 December 2026 09:50AM to 02:20PM - full closure:

- Roto Road, 100m from its intersection with SH 43 to Huia Road
- Huia Road, from Roto Road to its intersection with Ohura Road

Friday 4 December 2026 11:10AM to 03:40PM - full closure:

- Ohura N Road, 200m from its intersection Ohura Road to Waikaka Road
- Waikaka Road to Mangakahikatea Road
- Mangakahikatea Road to intersection with Munday Road and Ohura Mokau Road
- Ohura Mokau Road to Matiere Road
- Matiere Road to Oniao Road
- Oniao Road, 200m from its intersection with Mokauiti Road

Detours will be in place.
Resident access: Controlled road closure points will be in place throughout the event period as stated above. Resident access to properties within the closure area will be managed by traffic management staff.

Any person objecting to the proposal is called upon to lodge notice of their objection and grounds thereof in writing before 5pm on Thursday 20 August 2026 at the office of Ruapehu District Council at Private Bag 1001, Taumarunui 3946 or info@ruapehudc.govt.nz.

For everything Ohakune, visit www.ohakune.info

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WAIMARINO BULLETIN

VOICE OF THE RUAPEHU REGION
Tuesday 22 July 1986. Volume 4 No. 8

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Majority like tourists survey finds

In June and July 1984 Erica Steele interviewed 212 Ohakune residents, one from each permanent household, to find out what people thought of the effects of tourism in the town.

The report, which formed part of the thesis for her Master of Arts in recreation administration at Victoria University of Wellington, was sponsored by Turoa Skifields.

Her report is now finished and the main results suggest that Ohakune people think the benefits of tourism outweigh the disadvantages.

Ms Steele suggests that there is a need for coordination of different interests in Ohakune. She suggests that a fulltime worker could be employed by the borough council to monitor and balance the interests of tourist developers, residents, businesses and community organisations.

"Such a person could increase communication between interested groups in the town, promoting understanding between hosts and tourists... through arranging such activities as group exchanges, home hosting and to market Ohakune as part of a region with many activities to offer."

These comments are particularly relevant with regard to the finding that 31 per cent of surveyed residents thought there should be more guest houses in town.

Ms Steele said that increased communication leads to greater understanding.

"There is already evidence of this with the Ohakune carport, which involved people from all sides of town, the cobblestoning of the Junction area through a joint effort between businesses and the borough council and the sponsorship of my research by Turoa Skifields."

The main results of the study support the view that the social impact of tourism is positive, at least as perceived by Ohakune's permanent residents.

- Residents whose occupations were considered to be directly related to tourism were more likely to perceive the impact of tourism as positive than those whose occupations were not.

- Residents who were in the 25-55 year age group had more favourable perceptions of tourism than those under 25 years and over 55 years of age.

- Nearly half the respondents thought that Ohakune should attract more tourists.

- Increased building and business growth were cited as the most important benefits to tourism, while traffic congestion and dangerous drivers during the ski season were the most important disadvantages.

- Residents had a tendency to view the benefits of tourism as more important to the town than to themselves personally.

- Most residents agreed that tourists should be encouraged to visit Ohakune during the summer, and that more tourist activities should be encouraged.

- Additional facilities for tourists that residents felt were most needed included a sports centre, an indoor swimming pool, nightclubs and upgraded roads, and a surprising 31 per cent thought there should be more guest houses.

- The majority of residents felt that AHI Turoa Skifields had had a positive effect on Ohakune.

A copy of the complete thesis is in the Ohakune Library.

Chains a problem

Ohakune Borough Councillor Mike Wiggins told council last week that during the recent icy weekend many vehicles ignored the council by-law forbidding chains in the borough.

"Last weekend they were everywhere and there was not much you could do about it because of the condition of the mountain road,

and the fact that chains were required from the ranger station," he said.

Mayor Bill Taylor said that the by-law was policed through the Ministry of Transport traffic officer but given the bad weather, checking on snow chains could not have been a high priority.

"However we should let the traffic officer know if we see it," he said.



TVNZ director Monique Oomen enjoys a joke with Siggy Bauer last week during the filming of the Close Up documentary.

Siggy filmed for TV

Siggy Bauer, the Waimarino's world-famous ultra-distance runner, is to be on national TV this Thursday.

A film crew from the TVNZ current affairs programme, Close Up, filmed and interviewed Siggy last week in Raetihi and Ohakune.

In the programme he talks about his life and the difficulties he has had in sustaining himself as a world-class athlete without lucrative sponsorships.

He is also filmed running up the beautiful Ohakune Mountain Road.

Siggy last ran in May in the gruelling 1000-mile Sri Chinmoy track race in New York. He was placed second to American Stewart Mitelman who broke Siggy's 11-year world record.



Cameraman David Paul has Siggy in his sights as the ultra-distance runner jogs up the Ohakune Mountain Road.

Empty Ohakune shops to reopen soon?

The former FCOS shop in the Ohakune Shopping Centre between the BNZ and the chemist, which has been closed for over a year, may soon reopen.

Ohakune Shopping Centre Ltd, which owns the Goldfinch Street premises, has recently recovered the lease to the shop which has been held by Elders Pastoral Ltd since its takeover of FCOS.

The directors of the shopping centre were concerned that such a prominent shop in the centre of Ohakune

remained closed and have tried hard to have it working again.

Part of the problem was the relatively high rent on such large premises. Commercial rents are calculated on cost per square foot. This has been solved by dividing the area into four separate boutique-style shops of different sizes, plus a coffee bar on the mezzanine floor. One of the shops is considerably bigger than the others and leads into the rear warehouse area.

Originally, double doors connected FCOS with the chemist shop next door.

These will now be reopened to allow shoppers to circulate comfortably through five shops and the coffee bar without going outside.

The good off-street parking outside the shopping centre also makes for pleasant shopping.

So far one of the shops has been let and another is a distinct possibility.

Bruce Wilde, maintenance manager for the shopping centre, says that every endeavour is being made to open the shops by the August school holidays, although that has yet to be confirmed.

INSIDE
SKI
GUIDE
'86

Audacious break-in shakes officer

A burglar committed an audacious crime last week when he broke into an occupied office last week.

Catherine Dodd, the Ruapehu Region Information Officer, was working late in the Waimarino Bulletin office at about 9pm on Monday when she heard the sound of shattering glass at the rear of the building.

"I was absolutely petrified to be honest. I just made two quick phone calls and sat there with my knees knocking," she said.

Catherine was sitting on the other side of a room divider working at a computer and the intruder probably did not know she was there.

Her two phone calls, to her husband Aubry and the police, were also probably not heard by the offender because the Bulletin phones are the new push-button type and are almost silent.

When Aubry Dodd drove to the rear of the Bulletin building and shone his lights on the back door the intruder must have taken fright and decided to leave. He grabbed the cash box from the adjoining information centre and walked past Catherine and out the front door.

It was then that Catherine recovered her courage. He must have thought she was after him because he raced down Goldfinch Street, rattling the cashbox as he ran.

Meanwhile Ohakune police constable John Fraser was running around into Goldfinch Street but the man had disappeared.

Police enquiries are continuing into the burglary and theft of the cashbox which contained about \$90. The cashbox was found by a member of the public in Old Station Road the following day.

The offices of solicitors Harris, Tansey and Harvey, next door to the Bulletin, were also broken into about the same time and a small amount of money was taken.

Catherine said that looking back on the incident, it was very frightening.

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

NEWS
58-681

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Youngsters shred at Tūroa



Young skiers and snowboarders shredded their way round the Alpine Meadow on Saturday, in an "open jam" format, with tricks on the rails judged for the chance to win prizes sponsored by TCB Ohakune and IGI Syndicate, Photo: Pure Tūroa.

Ohakune squash

Over the weekend Central Squash ran competitions to see who would represent Central at the national graded teams in September. Ohakune Squash Club entered eight of the ten possible divisions. Three teams won their division and will go on to the team nationals. Both the men's and women's F/J grade teams will travel to Kerikeri whilst the B grade women's team will travel to Hamilton. Both men's and women's E grade divisions were won by Turangi in Hawera with the women's team only narrowly beating Ohakune in the final. Ohakune's D grade and E grade teams finished fourth in their tournaments. The C grade women finished third at Palmerston North as did the D grade women in Levin.

This Thursday's club night sees the start of a business house competition. Five people are needed per team. Let Matt know if you have a team or if you want to join a team.

Entries have been flowing in for the doubles tournament scheduled for next weekend. Entries can be made on mysqhash.

Moving milestone for Ratana Church refurbishment



After six weeks of mahi, builder Piha Smith of Ngā Kaihanga in Raetihi (second left) and Koro Robbie Williams watch the whare whakamoemiti return to its original site.



Following a two-hour move covering just 15-metres, the Rātana Temple is lowered onto its new foundations by the Britton Housemovers team.



Third-generation house mover Paul Britton (right) led Monday's relocation of the Rātana whare whakamoemiti ahead of new joists and bearings being installed this week. Photos: Liz Brooker.



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